

Date of Renotification: 28 July 1992

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: WIVETON DOWNS

DISTRICT: North Norfolk

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: North Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TG 023433

Area: 0.62 (ha) 1.5 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 133

1:10,000: TG 14 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1959

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Other Information: The boundary includes two GCR sites, Wiveton Downs and Blakeney Esker. GCR BLOCK: Pleistocene/Quaternary of East Anglia

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Wiveton Downs (known to geologists as the Blakeney Esker) is a classic landform of outstanding importance for teaching, research and demonstration purposes. Its genesis as an esker or crevasse-fill deposit has long been the subject of debate and research. Its overall morphology is particularly clear, showing a sharp ridge form, while its internal structures are demonstrated in several gravel pits.

Exposures of sands and gravels show bedding indicative of both tunnel- and open-flow conditions, as well as facies variation between the high-energy flow of the central area of the ridge and lower energy domains of the marginal zone. The relationship of the ridge feature to the surrounding till plain can also be seen both morphologically and sedimentologically: flowing water cut into the till before the gravels were deposited.

Wiveton Downs is part of a suite of landforms comprising, in addition to the till plain, various kaans, kame terraces, outwash plains and a tunnel valley. It is unusual to find such a wide range of features, most of which have exposures, in such close proximity particularly in southern England.