

COUNTY: NORFOLK SITE NAME: SHALLAM DYKE MARSHES, THURNE

DISTRICT: GREAT YARMOUTH

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

Local Planning Authority: Broads Authority

National Grid Reference: TG 399165 Area: 70.42 (ha.) 173.94 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134 1:10,000: TG 31 NE, TG 41 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: 1993

Other Information:
A new site.

Description:

This site consists of an area of grazing marsh situated on alluvial clays in the lower reaches of the River Thurne. The semi-improved pasture is seasonally wet and the tussocky grassland, together with lack of disturbance, provides ideal nesting conditions for several wetland birds and the site is considered to be the most important area of grazing marsh for waders in Broadland. A network of clearwater drainage dykes is also present and which provide habitat for nesting wildfowl and a range of water plants including several uncommon species.

Lapwings are the most abundant nesting waders but there are also notable populations of redshank, oystercatcher and snipe. The reed-fringed dykes provide suitable cover for the nests of shoveler, tufted duck, gadwall, mallard and mute swan.

A variety of water-plants are present in the dykes including frog-bit *Hydrocharis morsusranae*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, stoneworts *Chara spp* and the rare water soldier *Stratiotes aloides*. Emergent plants are well-represented and include bulrush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris* and the locally uncommon flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*.