COUNTY: NORFOLK SITE NAME: DAMGATE MARSHES, ACLE

DISTRICT: BROADLAND

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

Local Planning Authority: BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TG 413097 Area: 63.9 (ha.) 157.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134 1:10,000: TG 41 SW, TG 40 NW

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

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

Other Information:

Description:
These grass marshes south of the River Bure (and east of Acle) are one of the richest areas of traditionally managed grazing marsh and dykes now remaining in Broadland and are a nationally important wetland site. They lie on fen peats and alluvial clays and are summer-grazed by cattle and cut for hay. Their nature conservation importance is concentrated principally on the aquatic flora and fauna of the dykes which support a wide range of water plants, including several uncommon species in the relatively nutrient-poor waters. There is a great diversity of aquatic invertebrates including several species of dragonflies.

Many of the ditches along the peaty margin contain a community typified by broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, water-violet *Hottonia palustris* and the nationally scarce whorled water-milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*. The nationally scarce fen pondweed *Potamogeton coloratus* and flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton friesii* are also well represented within these peaty ditches. Away from the margins, on the clay soils, the ditches tend to be dominated by the nationally scarce water solider *Stratiotes aloides*.