

SITE NAME: MATTISHALL MOOR

COUNTY: NORFOLK

DISTRICT: BRECKLAND

Status: SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) NOTIFIED UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)

Local Planning Authorities: Breckland District Council

National Grid Reference: TG028116 **Area:** 5.49 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50000: 132 **1:10000:** TG 01 SW

Date Notified (under the 1981 Act): 2001

Reasons for notification:

Mattishall Moor is an area of species-rich calcareous valley fen and marshy grassland, situated in mid-Norfolk on the southern slopes of the Tud valley. The site, together with 14 other SSSIs in Norfolk, forms one of the main geographical distributions of the internationally important *Schoenus nigricans* - *Juncus subnodulosus* community. Nationally, the community is almost entirely restricted to East Anglia and North Wales. Fens of this type are now extremely scarce in the cultivated lowlands.

General description:

The site supports the same type of fen vegetation as the nearby Badley Wood SSSI, 1.5km to the west. Together the two sites represent the remaining fragments of the once much more extensive Badley Moor, which occupied a large area of the valley up to the nineteenth century. A diverse and species-rich fen community occurs in the centre and north of the site, including areas supporting abundant black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Nationally scarce and locally uncommon species are present here, including narrow-leaved marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*, fen pondweed *Potamogeton coloratus*, early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, flea sedge *Carex pulicari*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, flat sedge *Blysmus compressus* lesser water-plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides*, broad-leaved cotton-grass *Eriophorum latifolium*, and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*.

Along the southern boundary of the site, the fen grades into wet marshy grassland. This area supports abundant purple moor-grass, along with ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, marsh pennywort, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuschii* and marshmarigold *Caltha palustris*.

Wet alder woodland and scrub is present along the northern margins of the site, while scattered willow and hawthorn are present in the open fen. The site supports reed bunting and regularly records wintering snipe.