

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** FURZE HILL

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

Local Planning Authorities: South Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 554485

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 54 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1954 **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 4.8 ha 11.9 ac

Other information: A boundary modification has been made to exclude areas of arable land.

Description and Reasons for Notification

The site holds fragments of grassland characteristic of the Breckland of East Anglia holding both acidic and calcareous components. This is a rare example of sandy habitat in the county and represents a south-western outlier of the Suffolk Breckland.

The area comprises three steeply-banked glacial mounds of deep sandy gravel, with large flints and some deposits of chalky drift. The grassland is dominated by common bent *Agrostis tenuis* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Herbs include dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, rock-rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus* and meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*.

The site is additionally noted for the presence of a number of rare and locally uncommon plants which include hoary cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea* and on the calcareous areas, pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, maiden pink *Dianthus deltoides*, Dyers greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and the grass, purple-stem cat's-tail *Phleum phleoides*.