

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** GODMANCHESTER EASTSIDE  
COMMON

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** Huntingdonshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 270716  
TL 270713

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 153                      **1:10,000:** TL 27 SE

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

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

**Area:** 28.4 ha 70.1 ac

**Other information:** This is an addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule. This site is registered Common Land.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

The site consists of two areas of neutral grassland separated by a dismantled railway line. The main grassland types which are represented are known as calcareous loam and calcareous clay pasture types and both are of restricted extent and distribution throughout the British Isles and in the East Midlands region.

The large field to the south of the disused railway line contains prominent ridge-and-furrow features and many anthills. The sward is locally dominated by tussocks of hard rush *Juncus inflexus* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, but fine grasses are predominant over large areas. A large number of grass species are present on both parts of the site -of particular note are crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, quaking-grass *Briza media* and meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratense*.

Characteristic herbs include Devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*. Of particular note is the presence of meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata* and trailing tormentil *Potentilla anglica* on the bank to the north of the old railway. The adjacent small hay meadow represents a flood meadow type of grassland and holds a different range of plants including patches of brown sedge *Carex disticha* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

The grassland is bordered by hedgerows and ditches and further habitat features include two ponds which are of additional wildlife value.