

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** THRILOW PEAT HOLES

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 450475

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 44 NW, TL 44 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1958 **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

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

Area: 10.4 ha 25.7 ac

Other information: A boundary amendment has been made.

Description and Reasons for Notification

The Thriplow Peat Holes hold remnants of relic fen and alder carr habitats which are now very restricted both nationally and especially locally.

Such overgrown fen and alder carr communities are characteristically rich in invertebrate life and ponds and ditches within the site further enhance this value.

The vegetation of the alder carr is characteristically alder *Alnus glutinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and willow *Salix cinerea*, together with guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. Herbs include common reed *Phragmites australis*, herb Bennet *Geum urbanum* and herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*. The ferns broad buckler fern *Dryopteris austriaca* and male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* are common.

The site is additionally of historical interest, the botany having been recorded for over 300 years. Past records have included sundews *Drosera* sp. and butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* which are characteristic of acid soils. More typical fen species which have been recorded are the bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, grass of parnassus *Parnassia palustris* and the great fen sedge *Cladium mariscus*.