

COUNTY: SUFFOLK SITE NAME: TUNSTALL COMMON

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority: SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 378549 Area: 35.25 (ha.) 87.10 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156 1:10,000: TM 35 SE
TM 35 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Boundary change at re-notification.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Tunstall Common is a fragment of the once extensive 'sandlings' heath of coastal Suffolk and is a good example of this dry lowland heath type. Substantial losses of lowland heathland have occurred in the Sandling area and elsewhere in lowland England.

Most of the site is dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris* but Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* occurs locally especially in stands of young heather and on heather to grassland margins. Mature and degenerating stands of heather support a variety of heathland, lichens and mosses. Impoverished acid grassland characterised by Common Bent and Sheep's Fescue grasses occurs to the north, west and south but is subject to invasion by gorse and bracken which now occupies substantial areas. Pine scrub originating from adjacent plantations has invaded part of the eastern boundary.