

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** GREAT WILBRAHAM COMMON

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 535576

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 55 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 26.0 ha 64.2 ac

Other information: This is an addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule.

Description and Reasons for Notification

Great Wilbraham Common supports neutral grassland communities of the calcareous loam grassland type. This is a type that is now rare in Britain. Only fragments are known to persist, chiefly as small areas of common land. This site is one of the largest remaining species-rich grasslands in Cambridgeshire.

The sward is characterised by the presence of such grasses as white bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. Other characteristic species include quaking-grass *Briza media*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* and salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*. A number of locally uncommon species are also present. They include purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, felwort *Gentianella amarella*, meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* and sulphur clover *Trifolium ochroleucon*.