

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** BRACKLAND ROUGH

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

Local Planning Authorities: East Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 632699

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 153 **1:10,000:** TL 66 NW

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

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

Area: 9.4 ha 23.2 ac

Other information: This site is a nature reserve of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification

A damp valley woodland, the site holds stands of alder *Alnus glutinosa*, a woodland type rare in Cambridgeshire and becoming scarce throughout its natural range in lowland Britain.

The alder occurs here in a near-natural situation as dense mature coppice. Much of the wood is, however, dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with crack willow *Salix fragilis* and silver birch *Betula pendula* scattered throughout.

The ground flora in the wetter areas of the wood is characterised by tall fen species including reed *Phragmites australis* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Herbs such as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* and yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus* also occur.

The woodland provides a particularly valuable habitat for birds. Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* and garden warbler *Sylvia borin* have bred as well as many other commoner woodland species. In addition the site is likely to be of value for its invertebrate life.

The site is bounded by watercourses.