

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: BROOME HEATH PIT

DISTRICT: South Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TM 348 917 Area: 5.64 (ha) 13.94 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134 1:10,000: TM 39 SW TM 39 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): N/A Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1995 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site. GCR Block: Pleistocene/Quaternary of East Anglia

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This pit contains the only remaining exposures in the Broome Terrace. This is an old river terrace which has a surface about 3 m above the flood plain of the modern River Waveney. The pit exposes silt lenses within a sand and gravel sequence indicating a depositional environment of a braided river channel with a backwater areas. Other features within the section include perecontemporaneous ice wedge casts and cryoturbation, indicating subglacial depositional conditions.

The silt lenses have yielded plant remains of a tundra environment as well as molars of *mammuthus primigenius*. Associated with the “artic” flora are themophilous taxa which are likely to have been reworked from older Hoxnian Interglacial deposits. This association indicates that the Broome Terrace was deposited during the Wolstonian glacial stage.

The dating of these deposits and their relationships to the higher and older Homersfield Terrace (Anglian age) makes this an important site for interpreting the stratigraphy of this area and thus of southern England in general.