

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 15 February 1991 / Updated: May 2005

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Redgrave and South Lopham Fens

5. Map of site included:**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no***b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

52° 22' 34'' N

01° 00' 42'' E

7. General location:

Nearest town/city: Bury St Edmunds

The site straddles the Norfolk /Suffolk border, west of Diss.

Administrative region: Norfolk; Suffolk

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 127

Min. No information available

Max. No information available

Mean No information available

10. Overview:

The site is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires, such as dry birch woodland, scrub and carr, floristically-rich fen grassland, mixed fen, wet heath and areas of reed and saw sedge. The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

1, 2, 3

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Ramsar criterion 1

The site is an extensive example of spring-fed lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation.

Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. This spider is also considered vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

Secretariat Comment: for Criterion 2 the scientific species names has to be included in the next update.

Ramsar criterion 3

The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires.

Secretariat Comment: for Criterion 3 the scientific species names has to be included in the next update.

13. Biogeography:

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

Soil & geology	acidic, basic, sand, clay, alluvium, nutrient-rich, nutrient-poor, sedimentary, limestone/chalk, maerl, peat
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley, floodplain
Nutrient status	eutrophic, mesotrophic, oligotrophic
pH	acidic, alkaline
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral, mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Wattisham, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/wattisham.html) Max. daily temperature: 13.4° C Min. daily temperature: 5.8° C Days of air frost: 48.3 Rainfall: 573.8 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1635.2

General description of the Physical Features:

No information available

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

No information available

16. Hydrological values:

Sediment trapping, recharge and discharge of groundwater, flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks, maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	0.8
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	35.2
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	37.6
W	Shrub-dominated wetlands	12.6
Xp	Forested peatland	12.6
9	Canals and drainage channels	1.2

18. General ecological features:

Part of the site exhibits a classic zonation of vegetation types, characteristic of valley mires. Dry marginal woodland is replaced by floristically-rich fen grassland, dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. This grades into a mixed fen vegetation community and areas dominated by reed and sedge, notably saw sedge *Cladium mariscus* in the valley bottom. Sandy ridges protrude into these zones and support damp, heathy vegetation. Most of the fen communities are prone to invasion by willow and locally this has developed into dense scrub and carr.

19. Noteworthy flora:**Assemblage.**

The site supports a diverse assemblage of plant species and is internationally important because it supports *Molinia caerulea* meadows and *Cladium mariscus*-dominated chalk fen.

20. Noteworthy fauna:**Species Information****Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Invertebrates.**

Dolomedes plantarius (Endangered (RDB 1); Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended)

21. Social and cultural values:

Aesthetic
 Aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds, willows, seaweed)
 Archaeological/historical site
 Conservation education
 Current scientific research
 Livestock grazing
 Non-consumptive recreation
 Tourism

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+

Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Research	+	
Collection of non-timber natural products: (unspecified)	+	
Cutting of vegetation (small scale/subsistence)	+	
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Flood control	+	
Transport route	+	+
Domestic water supply		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

24. Factors adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)			
			On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Dredging	1		+		+
Eutrophication	1		+		
Pollution - fertilisers	1			+	
Pollution - pesticides/agricultural runoff	1			+	

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Eutrophication - Catchment nutrient-loading hoped to be investigated to address eutrophication.

Pollution - fertilisers - Catchment nutrient-loading hoped to be investigated to address fertiliser pollution.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI / ASSI	+	

NNR	+	
Land owned by a NGO for nature conservation	+	+
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
ESA	+	+
SAC	+	

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:**Flora and Fauna.**

Vegetation, bird and invertebrate surveys/monitoring carried out by SWT.

English Nature has been funding research into the ecology and monitoring of *Dolomedes plantarius* through its Species Recovery Programme.

Work carried out to improve understanding of the fen and its hydrology.

28. Current conservation education:

Currently used by schools but mostly by naturalists and local inhabitants. A visitor centre has been constructed and is in regular use for educational activities and displays for groups and visitors. The restoration programme for the site has been designated as an EC demonstration project.

29. Current recreation and tourism:**Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.**

Low level of usage by tourists, more in the summer months. The visitor centre is available and is holding regular events to encourage visitors to the site. The site is grazed by Konik ponies that have proved popular with visitors.

30. Jurisdiction:

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

31. Management authority:

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

32. Bibliographical references:**Site-relevant references**

Aspinwall and Company (1992) *Redgrave and stage II study; Data collection and analysis*. Essex and Suffolk Water, Chelmsford.

ECUS (1995) *Ecological studies towards the restoration of Redgrave and Lopham fen*. Ecological Consultancy of the University of Sheffield, for Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Ashbocking

Humphries, H (1994) *Redgrave and Lopham Fens Restoration Project: Hydrological and Environment Impact Assessment*. National Rivers Authority, Peterborough

Jerram, R (1992) *The Waveney–Little Ouse fens: A survey of fen vegetation communities*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Jo Parmenter Ecological Associates (1997) *Redgrave and Lopham Fen NNR Report on the fen vegetation monitoring programme*, August 1997

Smith, H (2001) *Fen raft spider recovery project: a decade of monitoring. Part 1: Report for 1991–1999; Part 2: Report for 2000; Part 3: The status and conservation of the fen raft spider Dolomedes plantarius at Redgrave and Lopham Fen National Nature Reserve, England*. English Nature Research Reports, No. 358

Stewart, NF (2004) *Important stonewort areas. An assessment of the best areas for stoneworts in the United Kingdom*. Plantlife International, Salisbury

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