90. Dersingham Bog

Geographical Coordinates: 52°49'N 0°29'E **Area:** 159ha

Location: About 10km northeast of the town of King's Lynn (a few

kilometres east of The Wash Ramsar site), in the county of

Norfolk, eastern England.

Date of Ramsar Designation: 12 September 1995

Other International Designations: None

National Designations: Site of special scientific interest

Principal Features: The largest and most intact acid valley mire in the East Anglia region of England. It is believed to have developed at the foot of an ancient coastal cliff-line, bordered sea-wards by reclaimed saltmarshes, and now lies on shallow peat at the base of the steep scarp slope. The mire vegetation is characterised by *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Sphagnum* mosses and the cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. Wet heath dominated by *Erica tetralix* occupies a narrow zone between the mire itself and dry heath dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* and *Pteridium aquilinum* on steeper slopes. Dry heath in turn grades into woodland with *Pinus sylvestris* and *Betula pendula*. The site supports an important assemblage of wetland plants, including several scarce mosses and liverworts associated with mire and wet heath. Wetland invertebrates are well represented and include a number of Red Data Book species, including the moths *Choristoneura lafauryana*, *Buckleria paludum* and *Yponomeuta rorrella*; several flies and the water beetle *Enochrus isotae*. The site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding birds, including *Tadorna tadorna*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Numenius arquata* and *Tringa totanus*. (Criteria 2a,2b).

Conservation Issues: Land uses at the site include habitat/nature conservation. No other information provided.