

Site Name: Fineshade Field

Site Code: E1570

Status: LWS

Other Designations:

Grid Reference: SP979982

Area (ha): 2.45

District: East Northamptonshire

Site History:

01/04/2019 PWS

08/01/2020 LWS

Habitats present

Broad Habitat: Grassland

Reason for Designation:

Fineshade Field is within a key area of the county for adder with evidence of breeding found during the surveys in 2019. It therefore, meets the criteria to be a LWS.

Site Description:

06/06/2019

A reptile survey was conducted in the northern field by RPS (ecological consultants) to form part of a planning application for a timber lodge holiday park. Seven visits were made to the site in April, May and June 2019.

Two adult adders were recorded on 24th May 2019 and a sub-adult adder was found on 5th June 2019, indicating that breeding takes place in the area. Although all the adders were found on the verge along the side of the fields, it is likely that they use the neighbouring fields as well. In addition to the adders, the wider survey area had a peak count of 16 slow worms and five common lizards, for both species different life stages were found suggesting that breeding occurs on the site for these too. The fields are occasionally grazed and are not floristically diverse. The northern field was also the subject of a NVC survey. It is dominated by Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) with White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*). Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is also abundant in places.

In Northamptonshire the adder's range is very limited. They are only found in a few places, with the Fineshade area (at the northern tip of the map) a particular hotspot.

Map:

