

## KNETTISHALL HEATH

This Suffolk County Council Country Park in Breckland displays classic vegetation stripes developed on **periglacial patterned ground**. The small car park at the western end of the site (TL 944807) is about 200m from the areas of patterned ground.

In Breckland Chalk is overlain by a thin layer of sand and gravel. During the last cold phase of the Devensian (about 15 000 years ago) the surface layers were subjected to seasonal freezing and thawing and, in a process called cryoturbation, the sand and gravel was mobilised into patterns, leaving chalk in between. These patterns tend to be roughly circular on level ground, and linear on gentle slopes.

Today at Knettishall Heath these are picked out by stripes about 4m wide of contrasting vegetation, growing on the sand/gravel and the more chalky areas. They are best seen in the field immediately to the south of the road and east of the Peddars Way footpath, where they run down-slope towards the River Little Ouse.

