

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Great Bowden Borrow Pit

District: Harborough

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

Local Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 743898 **Area:** 2.61 (ha) 6.44 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 141 **1: 10 000:** SP 78 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd.

Reasons for Notification:

An unusual Leicestershire example of a tall fen plant community characteristic of base-poor soils. This community is uncommon in the Midlands.

Biology:

The site comprises a long-disused railway borrow pit dug in clays of the Jurassic Low Lias series which has developed on unusual marsh flora. The plant community is dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* with cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* occurring abundantly while Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, bulrush *Typha latifolia* and the bog moss *Sphagnum squarrosum* are also present in the community. The site is also a regular feeding ground for snipe.