

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER      SITE NAME: HEWELL PARK LAKE

DISTRICT: BROMSGROVE

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,  
Bromsgrove District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 010690      Area: 21.28 (ha.) 52.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 139      1:10,000: SP 06 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971      Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site forms part of the grounds of H M Borstal at Hewell Grange. The Worcestershire Trust for Nature Conservation manage part of the site as a nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

A shallow artificial lake surrounded by ornamental woodland lying in the grounds of Hewell Grange.

The lake margin has extensive areas of reed *Phragmites australis* particularly in its northern section. A narrow fringe of alder *Alnus glutinosa* occurs along the south west and north east banks. These margins also contain vigorous colonies of the locally distributed sweet flag *Acorus calamus* and yellow loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*.

The woodlands surrounding the lake are mainly 19th century plantings and have some fine specimen trees within them. The ground flora, although only moderately rich does include the violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*. This wood is an important resource for birds. The open canopy provides a particularly good habitat for woodpeckers and all three British species are known to have bred. Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* are also found here.

The lake also has considerable ornithological importance in a local context. The reed beds support one of the largest colonies of reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* in Worcestershire. The lake and its margins provide attractive breeding habitats for a number of waterfowl, particularly the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. The island which is dominated by the white willow *Salix alba* provides an important refuge for bird life on the lake.

The lake is also interesting for its amphibians and reptiles. The eastern margin of the lake is noted for grass snakes *Natrix natrix*.