

# Citation

**County:** Leicestershire

**Site name:** Groby Pool & Wood

**District:** Hinckley and Bosworth

**Site ref:**

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

**National grid reference:** SK 521 083      **Area:** 29.39 (ha) 72.62 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey sheet:** 1:50,000: No 140      1:10,000: SK 50 NW

**Date notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1956      **Date of last revision:** 1981

**Date notified (under 1981 Act):** 1983      **Date of last revision:**

## Other information

### Description and reasons for notification

The site comprises a complex of habitats and includes fine examples of alder wood, dry and wet grassland, marsh, reedswamp and open water. The plant communities are representative of those developed on neutral or slightly acid soils in the North Midlands.

#### Biology:

Groby Pool is considered to be the largest natural expanse of water in Leicestershire, created by a natural 'dam' of igneous syenite. The northern and western margins of the pool support fine stands of common reed *Phragmites australis* while to the north-east the marginal vegetation is more diverse and includes lesser bulrush *Typha angustifolia*, round-fruited rush *Juncus compressus*, great pond sedge *Carex riparia* and reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima*. The plant communities of the open water are characterised by the presence of fennel-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, broad-leaved pondweed *P. natans*, yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* and horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*. To the north and west of Groby Pool, on alluvial soils, the fringing marsh grades into wet woodland dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and which contains oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, crack willow *Salix fragilis* and hazel *Corylus avellana*. The ground flora is characterised by the abundance of opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and *P. australis*, and by the large number of plant species typical of wet woodland such as dewberry *Rubus caesius*, hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* and valerian *Valeriana officinalis*.

To the north of the site, on both sides of a stony, clean-water stream, a grassland community typical of slightly acid, loamy soils has developed on clays of the Triassic Keuper Marl. This community is characterised by the abundance of such grass species as common bent *Agrostis capillaries*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, and by the presence of such herbs as pignut *Conopodium majus*, betony *Betonica officinalis* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla vestita*. By contrast grassland to the north-east of Groby Pool developed on siliceous soils is characterised by the presence of bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, red spurrey *Spergularia rubra* and thyme *Thymus drucei*.

Additional interest is provided by the numbers of wintering wildfowl which utilise the site, the variety of the breeding bird community and by the diversity of the invertebrate fauna.