

File ref:

**County:** Hampshire

**Site Name:** Gilkicker Lagoon SSSI

**Local Planning Authority:** Hampshire County Council, Gosport Borough Council

**National Grid Reference:** SZ 609978

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 196      **1:25,000:** SZ 69

**Area:** 4.12 (ha) 10.18 (ac)

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

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

**Other Information:**

**Reasons for Notification:**

Gilkicker Lagoon represents a rare habitat in Britain, where there are relatively few saline lagoons. It is a relict of a former defensive moat which in turn is thought to have been partially derived from an ancient fleet extending parallel and to the rear of the apposition beach of Gilkicker Point. The Lagoon is linked to the sea by an intake through the shingle beach separating it from the sea. It usually maintains a salinity comparable to that of the sea water in the Solent. Saline lagoons characteristically experience large variations in water chemistry and other environmental parameters, and thus support a specialised flora and fauna. The flora of Gilkicker lagoon comprises three species of charophytes (one, *Lamprothamium populosum* being a national rarity), green alga *Enteromorpha* species, and tassel pondweed *Ruppia maritima*. The invertebrate fauna includes at least 10 species of molluscs and 3 species of Coelenterata (anemones and allied groups). This assemblage is relatively rich and includes 5 national rarities, one of which the Colenterate *Nematostella vectensis* is the only British marine invertebrate to be included in the appropriate Red Data Book.\*

\*The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Invertebrate Red Data Book (IUCN 1983) documents vulnerable and endangered species.