

Notification date: 23 March 1987

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: CARVER'S ROCKS

DISTRICT: SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WMH

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, South Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 330227

Area: 16.7 (ha.) 41.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 128

1:10,000: SK 32 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The site lies at the southern end of Foremark Reservoir. It consists of a number of habitats developed on an acid soil over sandstones of the Millstone Grit series. These include open water, eutrophic marsh, carr, oak *Quercus* sp. – birch *Betula* sp. woodland and heath which support any plant and animal species of restricted distribution.

A small part of the central area of the site is an old marsh which now surrounds the southern tip of Foremark Reservoir. The margins of the open water are colonised by branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* and bristle club-rush *Isolepis setacea*. The marsh is dominated by soft-rush *Juncus effusus* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, with common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and water-cress *Nasturtium officinale* locally abundant.

The marsh is surrounded by developing grey willow *Salix cinerea* and alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr with alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*. Under the alder carr, the ground flora consists mainly of moss carpets of *Polytrichum* spp. and *Sphagnum* spp. with abundant narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana*. In the wet areas, the plants of local importance include distant sedge *Carex distans*, marsh fern *Thelypteris thelypteroides*, rough horsetail *Equisetum hyemale*, common broomrape *Orobranche minor*, ivy-leaved bellflower *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*.

The carr grades through a drier form of woodland with bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* into pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and silver birch *Betula pendula* woodland. Above this there is an area of heath with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and scattered heather *Calluna vulgaris*.

The invertebrate fauna is extensive and diverse. It includes two nationally rare species; the digger wasp *Pemphredon morio* and the millipede *Cylindroiulus londinensis*, as well as nationally uncommon moths, beetles, hoverflies and sawflies, many associated with marshes and some indicative of ancient woodland.