

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Sea Bank Clay Pits

**District:** East Lindsey

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

**Local Planning Authority:** East Lindsey District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TF 558740 **Area:** 16.8 (ha) 41.5 (ac)  
TF 555748  
TF556750  
TF 533793  
TF 530802

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 57 SE, TF 57 NW & TF 58 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1959 **Date of Last Revision:** 1968

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Other Information:**

The pits are either owned or leased as nature reserves by the Lincolnshire & South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

The Sea Bank Clay Pits comprise a series of isolated flooded clay workings of varying size, depth and topography which now support uncommon aquatic plant communities characteristic of the slightly brackish, eutrophic (nutrient-rich) water in addition to extensive reedbeds and a rich marginal wetland flora. The pits were excavated in 1953 to provide material for the repair of the sea wall between Mablethorpe and Chapel St. Leonards on the Lincolnshire Coast. The pits are also important for breeding, wintering and passage birds. They are known to support a rich aquatic invertebrate fauna, notably beetles, including several nationally scarce species and others new to the County.

The water plant communities of the pits are characterised by fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, lesser pondweed *P. pusillus*, horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, algae of the genus *Enteromorpha* and two nationally scarce species: brackish water crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii* and soft hornwort *Ceratophyllum submersum*. Superimposed upon this basic suite of species are variations such as the local dominance of Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis* and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. In addition there is abundant amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and rigid cont.....

### Sea Bank Clay Pits (cont...)

hornwort *C. demersum*. Large stands of common reed *Phragmites australis* occur as a broad margin, especially at Huttoft. Associated with the reedbeds are sea clubrush *Scirpus maritimus*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, reedmace *Typha latifolia* and false fox and greater pond sedges *Carex otrubae* and *C. riparia*.

Large colonies of common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* occur at Wolla Bank in marshy ground. Here, the flora clearly reflects a brackish influence since wild celery *Apium graveolens*, sea couch *Elymus pycnanthus*, saltmarsh rush *Juncus gerardii* and sea arrowgrass *Triglochin maritimus* are present.