

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE. NAME: MORLEY BRICK PITS

DISTRICT: EREWASH

SITE REF: 15 WMX

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, Erewash Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 389418

Area: 1.9 (ha.) 4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000:

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site formerly known as Morley Moor. Site boundary alteration (reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

The site consists of a series of flooded pits, originally dug for clay and which now contain acidic water colonised by a range of plants and animals several of which are becoming rare in Derbyshire.

A number of species of local distribution in Derbyshire occur here. The open water community includes water violet *Hottonia palustris*, and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and the unusual hybrid horsetail *Equisetum arvense x fluviatile* = *E. x littorale* are found in the marsh.

The fauna of the acid ponds includes several water beetles which are also local in Derbyshire. Some of these are more typical of the acid uplands in the north of the county, whilst others are more indicative of fen communities.

Around the open water are communities of tall fen with reedmace *Typha latifolia* which merge into willow carr. This gives way to drier woodland composed of oaks *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea* and birches *Betula pubescens* and *B. pendula* with willows *Salix* spp., hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.