

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Tattershall Old Gravel 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 196595 **Area:** 14.4 (ha) 35.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 15 NE, TF 25 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Tattershall Old Gravel Pits support some of the best examples of the aquatic plant communities of nutrient-rich open water systems in Lincolnshire. The site comprises a series of isolated flooded old sand and gravel workings of varying size, depth and topography which, in addition to a rich aquatic flora, also support a varied marginal community and extensive reedbeds.

The water plant communities of the pits are characterised by spiked water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis* and stoneworts *Chara* spp. Superimposed upon this basic suite of species are variations such as the local dominance of amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium*, water moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*, water violet *Hottonia palustris*, mare's tale *Hippuris vulgaris*, yellow water lily *Nuphar lutea* and broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*. A county rarity, blunt-leaved pondweed *P. obtusifolius*, also occurs in some quantity. Other aquatic plants which occur within the pits are fan-leaved water crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*, rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, unbranched bur-reed *Sparganium emersum*, needle-spike rush *Eleocharis acicularis* and the floating thallose liverwort *Riccia fluitans*.

Associated with the marginal reedbeds is a rich wetland flora comprising cyperus sedge *Carex pseudocyperus*, greater pond sedge *C. riparia*, water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*, lesser reedmace *Typha angustifolia* and greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*.

Adjacent unworked land comprises dry birch/oak woodland and freely draining unimproved acidic grassland grading, where wet, into marshy areas and birch/willow carr. Localised patches of poorly draining ground are characterised by sharp flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*, purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, marsh speedwell *Veronica scutellata*, common meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*, marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*. Several mosses typical of acidic soils are present, including the bog mosses *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *S. palustre* and *Polytrichum commune*.