

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Tetney Blow Wells

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: TA 320007 **Area:** 14.9 (ha) 36.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 133 **1: 10 000:** TA 30 SW

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

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

Other Information:

The site is managed as a county trust reserve by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Tetney Blow Wells consists of reedbeds together with base-rich fern and swamp vegetation associated with the calcareous water of four large artesian springs. These physiographic features, known locally as blow wells, were once numerous in East Lincolnshire, occurring where water under pressure escapes from the chalk through weakness in the overlying boulder clay to reach the surface. Ground water abstraction has led not only to the drying-out of many blow wells in the area but also the agricultural reclamation of their associated wetland habitats.

The water plant communities of the blow wells are characterised by common duckweed *Lemna minor*, ivy-leaved duckweed *L. trisulca*, stoneworts *Chara* spp. and common water starwort *Callitriche stagnalis*. All of these species are typical of nutrient-rich, eutrophic waters. In addition, several other aquatic plants including canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, water-violet *Hottonia palustris* and water moss *Fontinalis antipyretica* are present.

Large stands of common reed *Phragmites australis* occur around the margins of the open water and also under areas of willow *Salix* spp. scrub. Associated with the reedbeds are lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, water figwort *Scrophularia aquatica* and bitter-sweet *Solanum dulcamara*.

Additional interest is provided by areas of dense willow scrub and the neutral grassland cont...

Tetney Blow Wells (cont...)

surrounding the blow wells. The grassland becomes more marshy in character where it merges with the emergent vegetation, supporting plants such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and both compact and hard rushes *Juncus conglomeratus* and *J. inflexus*.