

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Clumber Park

District: Bassetlaw

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

Local Planning Authority: Bassetlaw District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 628742 (centre) **Area:** 526.59 (ha) 1301.20 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 67 SW, SK 67 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** 27th May 1999

Other Information:

This site has been extended and the boundary amended.

Reasons for Notification:

One of the largest areas of mixed habitat in Nottinghamshire, Clumber Park supports extensive areas of lowland acid grassland, heath and mature deciduous woodland characteristic of the English North Midlands. An exceptionally rich beetle fauna is associated with mature timber and dead wood habitats and the park is notable for its breeding bird communities.

Clumber Park comprises an extensive area of mature deciduous and mixed woodland, heathland, scrub, unimproved acid grassland, marsh, streamside and lake development on soils derived largely from the Sherwood Sandstone but also locally from glacial and alluvial deposits. The areas of deciduous woodland comprise mainly pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, sessile oak *Q. petraea* and silver birch *Betula pendula*, with an admixture of other tree species, over a ground flora of bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* is also present in small amounts. Stands of mature mixed woodland are characterised by beech *Fagus sylvatica*, pedunculate oak and sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, while extensive areas of silver birch *B. pendula* scrub also occur.

Adjacent to the River Poulter and the lake, stands of alder *Alnus glutinosa* dominate low-lying ground, together with a diverse range of trees and shrubs including ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, downy birch *Betula pubescens*, sallow *Salix cinerea* and aspen *Populus tremula*. Here the ground flora is characterised by lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. At the lake margins, the alderwood gives way to more open sedge-marsh, whilst downstream, extensive fringing cont...

Clumber Park (cont...)

reedswamp occurs characterised by common reed *Phragmites australis*, greater pond sedge *Carex riparia* and bulrush *Typha latifolia*. Clumber Lake itself is notable for its colonies of short-leaved water-starwort *Callitriche truncata*.

Also present are extensive areas of acid grassland dominated by wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* in a plant community which contains heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Locally, the grassland contains heather *Calluna vulgaris*, and small areas of true heath comprising a mixture of *D. flexuosa*, *C. vulgaris* and bell heather *Erica cinerea*.

To the north-east of the site lies an area of open acid grassland characterised by the abundance of sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and silver hair-grass *Aira caryophyllea*. This floristically rich community contains herbs characteristic of sandy, somewhat base-rich soils including shepherd's cress *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, common stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*, hoary cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea*, field mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense*, buck's-horn plantain *Plantago coronopus* and viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*.

Clumber Park is notable for a diverse invertebrate fauna, but particularly a rich saproxylic beetle fauna characteristic of a long continuity of the mature timber habitat and an abundance of standing and fallen dead wood. An impressive number of nationally rare and scarce species occur, including the bark beetles *Ernoporus caucasius*, which is strongly associated with lime, *Prionychus melanarius* and *Microscydmus minimus*, beetles primarily associated with the decaying heartwood of mature oaks, and *Corticeus unicolor*, a darkling beetle associated with bracket fungi on trees, especially birch.

A diverse breeding bird community includes nightjar, woodlark, redstart, hawfinch, water rail and gadwall as well as a wide variety of commoner bird species typical of woodland, heath and marsh. Its wintering bird populations are also of interest with good numbers of mallard, gadwall, tufted duck and pochard.

The park is important for other invertebrate and animal groups which provide additional interest. There is a rich assemblage of spiders associated with areas of grass-heath, along with a diverse lepidoptera fauna which includes scorched carpet *Ligdia adustata*, broad bordered bee hawk *Hemaris fuciformis* and angle-striped sallow *Enargia paleacea* moths. The diversity of habitat within the park provides rich feeding grounds for a diverse assemblage of bats which include the whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, Natterer's bat *M. nattereri* and noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*, all of which have a restricted distribution within the county.