

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: FRIEZELAND GRASSLAND

DISTRICT: ASHFIELD

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

Local Planning Authority: ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 476 506 Area: 3.67 (ha.) (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120 1:10,000: SK 45 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1982 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains one of the best sedge-rich marsh and bryophyte lawn plant communities in Nottinghamshire and is of Regional importance.

Biology

Developed on soils derived from clays and sands of glacial origin and subsequently disturbed by clay workings the variation in soils and soil moisture present on the site has given rise to an interesting range of habitat types. Neutral marshes, some sedge-rich and including common sedge *Carex nigra*, yellow-sedge *C. demissa* and oval sedge *C. ovalis*, and others comprising a bryophyte lawn, have developed in the moist depressions. Characteristic plants of this community include marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and water pepper *Polygonum hydropiper*. Better drained land adjacent to the marsh has developed a rich neutral grassland community typical of clay soils. These swards are notable for the abundance of adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Along the eastern margin of the site and on higher ground elsewhere the swards are of the dry acidic type being characterised by such grasses as common bent *Agrostis tenuis*, mat grass *Nardus stricta* and heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*, and include such typical herb species as heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*.