

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: KINOULTON MARSH
AND CANAL

DISTRICT: RUSHCLIFFE

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

Local Planning Authority: RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 678 305

Area: 2.94 (ha.) 7.26 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 129

1:10,000: SK 63 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site includes some of the richest marsh and open water habitats remaining in Nottinghamshire and is representative of wetland plant communities on relatively base-rich soils in Central and Eastern England.

Biology

To the south and east of the site occurs an area of neutral grassland developed on soils derived from the clays of the Jurassic Lower Lias. The sward is characterised by the abundance of red fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, and by the wide range of grasses and forbs present, including cowslip *Primula veris*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, spiny retharrow *Ononis spinosa* and, in damp areas, adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*. In the centre of the site the grassland grades into grazed marsh. Around its drier margins the marsh community is characterised by the abundance of tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, hard rush *J. inflexus*, marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre* and skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*, while in wetter areas the community contains abundant lesser water-parsnip *Berula erecta*, celery-leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* and tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*. Parsley water-dropwort *O. lachenalii* and Cyperus spurge *Carex pseudocyperus* also occur. Open water and emergent wetland plant communities have developed in association with a pool at the eastern end of the marsh and along a short stretch of the Grantham Canal which forms the site's northern boundary. At the water's edge and in shallow water the plant community is characterised by the presence of great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, water forget-me-not *Myositis scorpioides*, gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, *Oenanthe fistulosa*, *Berula erecta* and water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, while in deeper water the emergent vegetation comprises stands of branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, bulrush *Typha latifolia* and, locally, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*. The open water of the canal possesses a rich aquatic flora including Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, lesser pondweed *P. pusillus* and curled pondweed *P. crispus*. The diversity of wetland and terrestrial habitats present provides suitable feeding and breeding conditions for a wide range of birds, amphibia and insects.