

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Narborough Bog

District: Blaby

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

Local Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 549979 **Area:** 9.49 (ha) 23.47 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 140 **1: 10 000:** SP 59 NW, SP 59 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1956 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation.

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains one of the largest natural reed-beds in Leicestershire together with areas of wet woodland and meadow.

Biology:

The central feature of Narborough Bog is a reed-bed dominated by the common reed *Phragmites australis*, but which is now less wet than formerly and is becoming invaded by plant species such as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, stinging nettle *Urtica dioica*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and cleavers *Galium aparine*. North of the reed-bed lies an area of wet woodland dominated by crack willow *Salix fragilis* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, and which includes such understorey species as alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, field maple *Acer campestre*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, dogwood *Swida sanguinea* and sloe *Prunus spinosa*. An exceptionally rich lepidoptera fauna has been recorded from this area of wet woodland and the adjoining reed-bed, including several species scarce in Leicestershire. To the south of the site lies an area of wet meadowland which retains a characteristic grazed-marsh flora which includes southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*. Additional interest is provided by the variety of wintering and breeding birds utilising the site.