

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire/ Humberside **Site name:** Misson Line Bank

District: Bassetlaw/Boothferry

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

Local Planning Authority: Bassetlaw District Council/Boothferry District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 715961 **Area:** 20.97 (ha)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 112 **1: 10 000:** SK 79 NW

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 contains some of the best remaining examples of eutrophic open water, marsh and base-poor fen communities in Nottinghamshire. The plan communities are representative of fenland systems in Eastern England.

Biology:

Misson Line Bank contains fine examples of wetland plant communities of unusual diversity and species richness developed in association with a series of old borrow pits. To the north-east of the site, on peaty soils overlying strata of the Triassic Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl, is an area of wet grassland and fen characteristic of somewhat base-poor conditions. Drier areas are dominated by tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and soft rush *Juncus effusus*, while wetter soils are characterised by lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, slender tufted sedge *Carex acuta*, cotton grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*. In the centre of the site occur a series of water-filled borrow pits excavated from Keuper Marl. Areas of marsh at the water's edge are characterised by common spike rush *Eleocharis palustris*, grey club rush *Scirpus tabernaemontani* and soft rush *J. effusus*, and contain such plants as tufted forget-me-not *Myosotis caespitosa*, tubular water dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, and lesser water plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides*. In deeper water the marsh is replaced, locally, by reedswamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*, lesser bulrush *Typha angustifolia* or bulrush *T. latifolia*. The aquatic community of the larger pools contain abundant broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, fennel pondweed *P. pectinatus*, Canadian water weed *Elodea canadensis*, alternate water milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum*, and the liverwort cont...

Misson Line Bank (cont...)

Ricciocarpus natans, while a plant of less frequent occurrence is the various-leaved pondweed *P. gramineus*.

To the west of the site occurs a strip of neutral grassland dominated by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and tufted hair grass *D. cespitosa*. This rough grassland is a favoured butterfly feeding area and the site as a whole has a rich fenland insect fauna. Additional interest is provided by the variety of the breeding bird population using the site.