

File ref:

**County:** Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Newhall Reservoir Meadow

**District:** Newark

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Newark District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SK 662546 **Area:** 0.74 (ha)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 65 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1972 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

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

**Other Information:**

**Reasons for Notification:**

The site comprises one of the best remaining examples of calcareous clay grasslands in Nottinghamshire, and is representative of grassland developed on calcareous clay soils in Central and Southern England.

**Biology:**

The basal border, slopes and top of this raised, covered reservoir have developed grassland communities of unusual botanical interest. The grass sward on the well-drained slopes and reservoir top is dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*. This community is characterised by the abundance of plants such as cowslip *Primula veris*, hayrattle *Rhinanthus minor*, restharrow *Ononis repens*, hoary plantain *Plantago media* and locally, hairy violet *Viola hirta*. The basal borders of the reservoir are generally less well drained, and here the sward is characterised by the abundance of adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, twayblade *Listera ovata* and spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. The site is especially notable for the abundance of the herb species present in the sward and for the variety of its orchid populations, several species of which are uncommon in the East Midlands.