

County: Humberside

Site Name: Messingham Sand Quarry

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

Local Planning Authority: Glanford Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 913035

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** SE 90 SW

Area: 49.9 (ha) 123.3 (ac)

First Notified: 1987

Description:

Messingham Sand Quarry is a mosaic of habitats of an area initially worked to exploit the coversand deposits, but recently managed to create open water, wetland and woodland, with some re-establishment of the natural heathland vegetation. The site is particularly important for its insect fauna, and also supports a diverse breeding bird community.

Much of the site is occupied by open water (flooded sand workings) and associated fringing stands of reed *Phragmites australis* and reedmace *Typha latifolia*. The wetland plants include, most notably, pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*, a plant of local and decreasing distribution in Great Britain.

On the restored land both broadleaved and coniferous woodland has been planted. In more open areas, grassland and heathland communities are developing. The latter contain species such as heather *Calluna vulgaris*, petty whin *Genista anglica*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and heath dog violet *Viola canina* characteristic of the coversand heathlands once widespread in this area.

Thirteen species of dragonfly have been confirmed breeding which constitutes an outstanding assemblage at this latitude. The very rare scarce-vapourer moth *Orgyia recens* occurs, and this site may represent the strongest population of this species in the British Isles. Numerous other nationally or locally rare moths, beetles and bugs have been recorded.

Over 140 species of birds have been recorded on the site, of which about 60 are known to have bred regularly, including great-crested grebe, teal, shoveler, tufted duck, ringed and little ringed plover, nightingale and a colony of about 25 pairs of reed warbler.

Other Information:

Much of this site is managed as a nature reserve by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.