

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Rainworth Heath

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 590590 **Area:** 13.55 (ha)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 55 NE

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 areas of wet and dry heath in Nottinghamshire, and is representative of heathland in Central and Eastern England.

Biology:

Rainworth Heath is possibly of considerable antiquity and possesses good examples of both wet and dry heathland. The wet heath community is developed in association with a spring line which issues from strata of the Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds. The community is dominated by dwarf shrubs, in particular heather *Calluna vulgaris* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, and by grasses and rushes, notably purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*. Boggy pools occur which contain cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and patches of bog moss *Sphagnum* spp. The wet heath is surrounded by more extensive areas of dry heath characterised by *C. vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and tussocks of *D. flexuosa*. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, mat grass *Nardus stricta* and sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* are common components of this community which supports a diverse invertebrate fauna.