

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: OAKLEY POOL

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 893606 Area: 5.9 (ha.) 14.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150 1:10,000: SO 86 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972 Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site consists of a pool surrounded by reedswamp, fen and grassland.

The pool appears to have been formed by subsidence following underground brime extraction and is thought still to be extending due to continued subsidence. Besides common reed *Phragmites australis* the marginal vegetation includes meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, great reedmace *Typha latifolia*, great and lesser pond sedges *Carex riparia* and *C. acutiformis* and great hairy willow-herb *Epilobium hirsutum*. The submerged plants includes the locally uncommon hornwort *Ceratophyllum submersum*.

The secluded nature of the area provides a valuable breeding site for a number of birds including the reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* which has a large breeding colony in the reedswamp. The margins of the pool also provide secure breeding areas for little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* pochard *A. ferina* and ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*. Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* breeds in the tall vegetation at the north end of the pool. The site is regularly used for bird ringing and other ornithological research, which adds to its scientific importance.