

File ref:

**County:** Nottinghamshire      **Site name:** Thoresby Lake

**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 630703      **Area:** 58.13 (ha)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 120      **1: 10 000:** SK 67 SW

**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 contains fine examples of dry acid grassland, acid-loam grassland, marsh and reedswamp plant communities which, together with an area of open water comprise one of the best mixed habitat assemblages on base-poor soils in Nottinghamshire.

#### **Biology:**

Thoresby Lake itself is an artificial lake lying in the valley of the River Meden, while the semi-natural vegetation on the valley sides has developed on soils derived from the underlying Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds. The sandier soils are characteristically acid and the remaining grasslands are dominated by wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* in association with heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. In some areas these grasslands have developed a typical tussock and, locally, heather *Calluna vulgaris* is a component of the sward. In the area of Deer Park to the east of the lake pasture-land occurs which possess a plant community characteristic of acid-loam soils, and this community includes abundant pignut *Conopodium majus*, ribwort *Plantago lanceolata*, sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria* and bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. At the lake's edge the emergent community comprises stands of branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, bulrush *Typha latifolia*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, and greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*. In places, particularly along the south shore, this community changes to species-rich marsh and includes such characteristic plants as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis* and large bitter-cress *C. amara*. Locally in deeper water the marsh changes to reedswamp dominated by stands of the common reed *Phragmites australis*. Additional interest is provided by the numbers and variety of wintering wildfowl and by the population of breeding waterfowl which utilise the margins and open water of the lake.