

**County:** Humberside

**Site Name:** Crowle Borrow Pits

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Boothferry Borough Council.

**National Grid Reference:** SE 790105

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 112

**1:10,000:** SE 71 SE

**Area:** 4.8 (ha) 11.9 (ac)

**First Notified:** 1986

**Description:**

Crowle Borrow Pits lie either side of the embankment of a disused railway line and include a variety of habitats including alder carr, scrub, fen and open water in which several locally uncommon plant species occur.

Much of the north-east sector of the site consists of wet alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland with a ground flora of sedges *Carex riparia*, *C. otrubae*, *C. elata* and ferns *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *D. dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*. Willow *Salix cinerea* scrub, whilst widespread, is particularly dense in the north-west sector. Less dense areas have a fen ground flora, including in one instance the nationally rare marsh fern *Thelypteris thelypteroides*.

Purple small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens* is dominant over much of the fen with greater pond-sedge *C. riparia* and rushes *Juncus* spp., including the blunt-flowered rush *J. subnodulosus*. There is a rich herb-flora including wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, water-mint *Mentha aquatica* and water figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*. A wetter area of fen includes tufted sedge *C. elata*, saw-sedge *Cladium mariscus*, reed *Phragmites australis*, amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and reedmace *Typha latifolia*.

Several small ponds exist within the fen and scrub and contain aquatic and marginal species such as water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, spike rush *Eleocharis palustris*, yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, marsh yellowcress *Rorippa islandica* and brookweed *Samolus valerandi*.