

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Cross Drain

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 149152 to TF 172123 **Area:** 7.0 (ha) 17.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 11 SE, TF 11 NW, TF 11 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1991 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Cross Drain represents one of the best remaining areas of open water typical of fenland in an area where no fenland remains. It is notable for supporting an exceptional beetle fauna including 2 national rarities and a diverse aquatic flora including nationally scarce plants.

Cross Drain occupies a length of ditch dug into the peat, and flows slowly over a gravely, sandy bed. The mesotrophic water has a rich flora typical of relict fenland, including locally rare species such as lesser water plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides* and various-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton gramineus*, also nationally scarce species such as fen pondweed *Potamogeton coloratus* and needle spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*. Other aquatic species include narrow-leaved water plantain *Alisma lanceolatum*, greater bladderwort *Utricularia vulgaris* and fine-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica*.

The drain's fauna is outstanding in that it holds more than 20% of all British water beetles, including the nationally rare *Hydrochus ignicollus* and *Agabus undulatus*, both typical of relict fen habitat.

Data on submerged aquatics and invertebrates reflects the relatively low nutrient status and unpolluted nature of the water, exceptional in an arable environment.