

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

SITE NAME: ENGLEMERE POND

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

Local Planning Authorities: Bracknell Forest District Council

National Grid Reference: SU905685

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 175 **1:10,000:** SU96 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1973 **Date of Last Revision:** 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 25.59 ha 63.23 ac

Other information: This site was formerly included as part of Windsor Forest SSSI and is included in the Minute of Intent signed by the Crown Estate Commissioners and the Nature Conservancy in 1972. It is managed for informal recreation and nature conservation by Bracknell District Council.

Description and Reasons for Notification

A large pond surrounded by a wide fringe of reedswamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*. Away from the open water the reedswamp grades into an interesting plant community typical of base-poor conditions. The transition from open water through base-poor wetland to dry ground is an exceptionally good example of this type of habitat which is relatively scarce in the lowlands.

The species present in the reedswamp include bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp., sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, spike-rush *Eleocharis multicaulis*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and bog St John's wort *Hypericum elodes*. Cotton grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and lesser reedmace *Typha angustifolia* are locally dominant. The western margin of the pond exhibits a transition into swampy woodland carr dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The open water plant community is relatively species-poor with much bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, but the invertebrate community is of considerable interest with a rich dragonfly Odonata fauna. The reedswamp supports an interesting community of breeding birds, including reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, sedge warblers *A. schoenobaenus* and reed buntings *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

The site includes a catchment area of secondary woodland, large pine *Pinus sylvestris*, birch *Betula pendula* and oak *Quercus robur* on acid soils, together with a small fragment of heathland.