

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: UPTON WARREN  
POOLS

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 935672

Area: 42.57 (ha.) 105.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 96 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Boundary alteration (reduction and extension).

Reasons for Notification:

Upton Warren SSSI consists of a series of shallow pools of different origins.

The northern and southern pools are the results of subsidence associated with salt extraction. The middle pool is a worked out gravel pit. The southern pools are significantly saline due to brine seepage from underground.

The land which surrounds the pools consists of permanent pasture, fen and neglected grassland. The River Salwarpe and the Hen Brook run through the site, and a number of pollarded crack willows *Salix fragilis* line their courses.

The principal importance of the site is its ornithological interest. The pools provide an important habitat for wintering and passage waterfowl and wader species. The bare mud and saltmarsh of the southern pools are particularly important in this respect.

The pools also have good breeding bird communities with over 60 species recorded including mute swan *Cygnus olor*, tufted duck *Anthya fuligula*, ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* and little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

The site has considerable botanical importance. The halophytic (salt loving) plants round the southern pools represent one of the few inland areas of saline vegetation in Britain. These include such plants as sea spurrey *Spergularia marina* and reflexed poa *Puccinellia distans*, species more usually found at the coast.

The fen and wet grassland areas also support many other interesting plants including spotted and southern marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *D. praetermissa*, together with their hybrids. Apple-scented mint *Mentha rotundifolia* is also a feature of these areas.