

**County:** Humberside

**Site Name:** Leven Canal

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Beverley Borough Council

**National Grid Reference:** Western extremity TA 056449    **Area:** 22.8 (ha) 56.3 (ac)

Eastern extremity TA 106449

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 107

**1:25,000:** TA 04/14

**First Notified:** 1962 \*

**Date of Revision:** 1986

**Description:**

The 5 kilometre length of the Leven Canal was cut in 1802 across the marshes and meres of the Hull valley. Following drainage of surrounding marshland it provided a refuge for wetland plants and now supports an important remnant of this once much more widespread vegetation (Crackles, 1968). The Canal is fed by calcareous springs supplying water of a very high quality.

The canal sides and banks show a zonation of emergent fen species, including large stands of the common reed *Phragmites australis* and common clubrush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, together with purple small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens*, narrow small-reed *C. stricta* and hybrids, (see Crackles, 1977), blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, brown sedge *Carex disticha* and bottle sedge *C. rostrata*. There is a wide range of aquatic plant species including arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*, yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, white water-lily *Nymphaea alba*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* and broad-leaved pondweed *P. natans*.

**References:**

Crackles, F. E. (1968). Some Plant Associates of the River Hull Valley. East Yorkshire Field Studies, 1, 13-24.

Crackles, F. E. (1977). Biosystematic and taxonomic studies of populations of *Calamagrostis stricta*, *C. canescens* and their hybrids. M.Sc. Thesis. University of Hull.

**Other Information:**

1. Part of the canal is used as a stew-pond for rearing trout.
2. During the 1986 revision the SSSI boundary has been slightly extended.

\*Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.