

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Blackbrook Reservoir

District: North-West Leicestershire/Charnwood

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

Local Planning Authority: North-West Leicestershire District Council/
Charnwood Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 458174 **Area:** 38.6 (ha) 95.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 129 **1: 10 000:** SK 41 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Blackbrook Reservoir lying on the northern fringe of Charnwood Forest, supports a most unusual marginal plant community unique to the English Midlands and reminiscent of that found in a few sites in northern England.

The water is mesotrophic, derived from the admix of acid base-poor Precambrian rocks of the Blackbrook series and the more fertile base-rich Triassic and glacial deposits.

Mesotrophic water bodies are unusual in England. The community of marginal and aquatic plants at Blackbrook reflects this trophic status. Influenced by its disjunct geographical position this community generally contains the scarce elements of its northern counterparts but some of the more common northern or acid species are absent. The uncommon thread rush *Juncus filiformis* grows in great abundance at Blackbrook where it is at its most southern locality. The unusual mix of species also includes small water-pepper *Polygonum minus*, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum*, floating club-rush *Eleogiton fluitans*, shore-weed *Littorella uniflora* and the pond water crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. Species which reflect a more southerly or base-rich influence are trifid bur-marigold *Bidens tripartita* and lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*.

The reservoir is stocked with brown trout but also supports crayfish *Austropotambius pallipes*. It is isolated from populations of the alien American crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, the carrier of a fungal spore which has devastated populations of the native crayfish. The reservoir has locally important flocks of wintering wildfowl and supports breeding great crested grebe and little grebe.