

COUNTY: HAMPSHIRE

SITE NAME: ALRESFORD POND SSSI

Local Planning Authorities: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Winchester City Council

National Grid Reference: SU 593331

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 185 1:25 000: SU 53

Hectares/Acres 29.31/72.42

Date Notified (1949 Act): 1951

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Alresford Pond is a relatively large, shallow calcareous lake formed in the headwaters of the River Arle in the late 12th century as a balancing lake for the River Itchen Navigation. The lake is bordered by extensive fen vegetation, including large reed *Phragmites australis* beds which have gradually encroached into the former open water, whilst the main water body is now shallow and extensively dominated by dense Mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*. The lake as a whole supports a rich aquatic plant community.

It possesses notably large breeding populations of Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and Sedge Warblers *A. schoenobaenus* and other wetland birds; and relatively large autumn and winter numbers of surface feeding and diving duck (e.g. maximum recorded numbers 1970–1976: 200 Coot *Fulica atra*, 800 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, 270 Teal *A. crecca*, 83 Wigeon *A. penelope*, 45 Shoveler *A. clypeata*, 28 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, 64 Pochard *A. ferina*).

Similar eutrophic lakes are rare in chalk stream valleys and Alresford Pond is considered to be the best example within the county.