

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Langtoft Gravel Pits

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 114110 **Area:** 30.4 (ha) 75.1 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 11 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:**

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Langtoft Gravel Pits comprise a complex of flooded sand and gravel pits of varying size and depth which support plant communities characteristic of calcareous, eutrophic water. Few other open water bodies in the county have developed such a fine example of this marl community.

The water plant communities of the pits are characterised by spike water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, lesser pondweed *P. pusillus*, small pondweed *P. berchtoldii*, broad-leaved pondweed *P. natans*, Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis* and stoneworts *Chara spp.* Other plants which achieve local dominance in some of the pits include rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*, fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* and algae of the genus *Enteromorpha*.

The marginal vegetation is largely characterised by fen species such as blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, common club-rush *Scirpus lacustris*, bulrush *Typha latifolia*, lesser bulrush *T. angustifolia*, reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and common reed *Phragmites communis*.

A band of willow scrub *Salix spp.* borders most of the pits creating a continuous wooded cover between the adjacent water bodies, enhancing their secluded nature. The scrub supports large numbers of passerines, particularly warblers.