

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: FLINTSHAM &
TITLEY POOLS

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

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,
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 318589, SO 325595 Area: 19.34 (ha.) 47.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 148 1:10,000: SO 35 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969 Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Titley Pool is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the Hereford & Radnor Nature Trust. Boundary alteration (reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

Flintsham and Titley pools form one of the largest and most important complexes of open water in Herefordshire which has very little of this habitat. It represents one of the major wetland ornithological sites in the county.

Although the pools have been modified they are considered to be glacial in origin. The margins have a rich diversity of plant communities. These vary from tall fen vegetation with species such as great reedmace *Typha latifolia* and water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* to swamp vegetation with panicled sedge *Carex paniculata* and soft rush *Juncus effusus*. Of particular interest is a colony of the locally rare bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* in Flintsham Pool.

The woodland around the pools is mainly dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willows *Salix caprea* and *S. alba* with some birch *Betula pendula* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*.

In the winter the pools provide a refuge for large numbers of waterfowl including mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, teal *Anas crecca*, widgeon *Anas penelope*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*. The carr margins also provide an important habitat for siskins *Carduelis spinus* and red polls *Acanthis flammea*. In the summer the marsh and fen vegetation on the edges of the pool provide suitable breeding cover for warblers such as willow warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, black cap *Sylvia atricapilla* and Chiff chaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and the shy and elusive water rail *Rallus aquaticus*.