

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: GRIMLEY BRICK PITS

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS

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, Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 840605

Area: 18 .69 (ha.) 46.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 86 SW, SO 85 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955

Date of Last Revision: 1971

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Boundary alteration (extension).

Reasons for Notification:

Grimley Brick Pits consist of a number of old clay workings on the banks of the River Severn.

The pits contain a wide range of wetland habitats, including willow and alder carr, sedge and reedmace swamp, open water, mixed tall fen vegetation and wet neutral grassland. They remain wet because of the seasonal flooding of the river and impeded drainage.

The resultant wetland plant community contains a number of species rare in the county including the golden dock *Rumex maritimus* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*.

The northern pit is particularly important for its insect fauna with 9 species of dragonflies recorded including the red-eyed damselfly *Erythroma najus* and the black-tailed skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*, both extremely local in Worcestershire.

All the pits are locally important for their wintering wildfowl. They also support a rich breeding community, which includes the kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, six species of tit, eight species of warbler and all three native woodpeckers. The northern area also contains the only surviving heronry in Worcestershire.