

COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: FRISBY MARSH

DISTRICT: MELTON

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

Local Planning Authority: MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 686 174

Area: 10.53 (ha.) 26.01 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 129

1:10,000: SK 61 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains some of the best remaining areas of marsh in Leicestershire and is representative of marsh in Central England.

Biology

Frisby Marsh comprises a complex of wetland habitats, grassland and woodland. Spring-fed marshes have formed on both sides of a small ash wood. These marshes are dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus*, blunt-flowered rush *J. subnodulosus*, greater pond-sedge *Carex riparia* and greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*, and possess an exceptionally rich flora including such characteristic plants as marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*. Adjacent lies a relict ox-bow lake derived initially from the R. Wreake but now reduced to two pools and a channel draining north-eastwards to the river. The pools themselves contain yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea* while the fringing reedswamp is dominated by the common reed *Phragmites australis*. Adjacent, on slightly higher ground and along the line of the drainage channel, the reedswamp is replaced by marsh characterised by the abundance of *C. riparia* and reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*. This plant community includes watercress *Nasturtium officinale*, fool's watercress *Apium nodiflorum* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.