

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: CHESTERFIELD CANAL

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

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

Local Planning Authority: BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 722 821, SK 762 944      Area:33.1 (ha.) 81.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112, 120      1:10,000:

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –      Date of Last Revision: –

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site, a 20 km stretch of canal between Retford and Misterton in north Nottinghamshire, supports a nationally uncommon aquatic plant community characteristic of the brackish, eutrophic (nutrient-rich) water. The flora includes a number of nationally scarce species. The presence of this brackish water community, over 50 km inland, is of particular interest.

The canal's water plant community is characterised by water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nutallii*, fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, perfoliate pondweed *P. perfoliatus*, brackish water crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii*, short-leaved water starwort *Callitriche truncata* and algae of the genus *Cladophora*. Two of the site's rarities, *Potamogeton x lintonii* and *Nitell mucronata*, each achieve local abundance. Superimposed on the basic community are variations such as the local abundance of Canadian water weed *Elodea canadensis*, amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and small and lesser pondweeds *Potamogeton berchtoldii* and *P. pusillus*.

The rich marginal vegetation is locally dominated by reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, common reed *Phragmites australis*, and greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*. Great water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* and greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata* also occur.

Date Notified: 22 December 1988