

File ref:

**County:** Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Mother Drain, Misterton

**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 767955 to SK 786947 **Area:** 3.81 (ha) 9.41 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 112 **1: 10 000:** SK 79 SE, NE

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 15.09.1993 **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Other Information:**

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Mother Drain is a drainage channel running parallel to the River Idle on the edge of the North Nottinghamshire Carr Lands. The site supports an exceptionally rich invertebrate fauna, which includes notable assemblages of dragonflies and water beetles, and a rare moth.

Mother Drain is situated in the alluvial flood plain of the tidal River Trent near its confluence with the River Idle. The site has affinities with both Trentside habitats further upstream in the County, and also with acid fen communities of the North Nottinghamshire Carr Lands to the west. Its invertebrate interest derives from its good water quality and the botanical and structural diversity of its open water, emergent and bankside communities.

Open water communities of common aquatic plants occupy the central bed of the channel. These are flanked by stands of robust emergent species such as common reed *Phragmites australis* and greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*. The steep bank shows a gradation from wet fen vegetation at the water's edge to drier tall herb and grassland communities further up the banks. The wetter areas are characterised by common meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, while meadow cranesbill *Geranium pratense*, greater burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and common valerian *Valeriana officinalis* are common components of the drier bankside communities. In addition sand leek *Allium scorodoprasum* occurs here in its only Nottinghamshire locality.

The site supports an exceptional assemblage of dragonflies and damselflies. Fourteen species have been recorded as breeding, with a fifteenth regularly noted at the site. cont...

### **Mother Drain, Misterton (cont...)**

Three of these -variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum*, hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*, and black darter *Sympetrum danae* - are of nationally notable status, and a further three - banded agrion *Calopteryx splendens*, brown hawker *Aeschna grandis*, and four - spotted chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* - are at the northern edge of their normal range in Britain.

The range and abundance of the water beetle fauna at the site is exceptional for this type of water body. It includes seven nationally scarce species, *Rhantus grapii*, *Dytiscus circumcinctus*, *Cercyon convexiusculus*, *Cercyon ustulatus*, *Chaetarthria seminulum*, *Hydraena testacea* and *Limnebius nitidus*.

The marsh carpet moth *Perizoma sagittata*, whose larval foodplant is common meadow-rue, occurs on the drainsides. This rare species is restricted to a small number of fenland sites in the English Midlands and Mother Drain is its only known breeding locality in Nottinghamshire.