File ref:

County: **Lincolnshire** **Site name: Horbling Fen**

District: **South Kesteven**

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 154353 **Area:** 17.06 (ha) (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 13 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 16 June 1999 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

A new site listed in the *Geological Conservation Review* (GCR).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Horbling Fen is situated on agricultural land about three kilometres east of the village of Horbling in Lincolnshire. This site contains sediments deposited between the end of the last Ice Age and the present day, and provides a record of the inundations of the sea during this period.

Horbling Fen is important for studies of Flandrian sea-level changes. The sequence present includes a palaeosol developed on fluvio-glacial sand and gravel, dated at 3750± 70 Before Present. The overlying peat development is dated, towards the middle (c.0.52m OD) at 3,010±80 BP. Pollen in the upper parts of the peat include members of the Chenopodiaceae -*Plantago maritima* (sea-plantain), *Artemisia* (mugworts), *Armeria maritima* (thrift) and *Triglochin* (arrow-grass), indicating the onset of salt marsh conditions. A transgressive overlap of high tidal marsh deposits is evident from the overlying silts. The site is important as it represents the extreme landward extension of Wash VI clastic sediments, recording the largest Flandrian sea-level rise in the area.

The site has considerable potential for future research using stratigraphic and micropalaeontological studies to assess one of the most recent marine transgressions in the region and to correlate the inferred sea-level changes with numerous local archaeological finds.