

**County:** East Riding of Yorkshire    **Site Name:** Skipsea Bail Mere

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

**Local Planning Authority:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**National Grid Reference:** TA 162155    **Area:** 43.85 (ha)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 107    **1:10,000:** TA 15 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act)** 1 May 1998

**Other Information:**

New site. A Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Skipsea Mere Bail consists of an area of agricultural land lying immediately north west of the village of Skipsea, and twelve kilometres south south west of Bridlington. The interest lies in the lake deposits underlying below the fields and can be accessed by auger or borehole.

Skipsea Bail Mere is important for the interpretation of the vegetational history of the northern part of the Holderness coastal plain. The organic deposits which have infilled the basin contain a pollen and macrofaunal record that extends from the Devensian Late Glacial (around 13 Ka BP) through to historic times.

Of particular importance within this pollen record is the presence of *Trapa natans* (water chestnut). The present limit of this species in northern France and its presence in Holderness provides evidence to support a post-glacial climatic optimum with summer temperatures at least 2°C higher than at present.

Skipsea Bail Mere is an important site for the study of climatic and vegetational change since the end of the last glaciation. As such, it has great potential for future study.