

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Saddington Reservoir

District: Harborough

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

Local Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 664911 **Area:** 18.83 (ha) 46.53 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 141 **1: 10 000:** SP 69 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 10.03.1999. **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Saddington Reservoir supports an important assemblage of nationally notable beetles associated with a diverse range of undisturbed wetland communities, particularly swamp and wet willow woodland, habitats which are now scarce in Leicestershire.

The site supports an important wetland beetle fauna and an unusually rich assemblage of beetles which are nationally scarce in their occurrence. This fauna is characteristic of undisturbed wetland habitats with widely fluctuating water levels and large quantities of litter and fallen dead wood. Species such as the ground beetles *Bembidion clarki*, *Bembidion fumigatum*, *Pterostichus anthracinus* and rove beetles *Carpelimus lindrothi*, *Platystethus nodifrons*, *Gnypeta ripicola* are associated with the sparsely vegetated shoreline of the reservoir. Flood debris and decaying organic litter along the water margins support other notable species such as the water beetle *Cercyon convexiusculus* and *Helophorus nanus*, the ground beetles *Pterostichus gracilis*, *Agonum livens*, *Acupalpus consputus* and rove beetle *Dochmonata clancula*. Large mature specimens of crack willow *Salix fragilis* along the reservoir shoreline support a notable beetle fauna associated with dead wood including the nationally scarce *Atheta basicornis*, *Eledona agricola* and *Gyrophana lucidula*.

The expanse of eutrophic open water grades into an important mosaic of wetland habitats. Sparsely vegetated muddy margins appeared during times of low water, characterised by a flora of amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, intermediate water-starwort *Carllitriche hamulata* and more locally, Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, thread-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* and pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. Plants with a restricted distribution in the county occur here and cont....

Saddington Reservoir (cont...)

include fine-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica*, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum* and narrow-leaved water-plantain *Alisma lanceolatum*.

More extensive areas of emergent swamp and marsh vegetation occur landwards. Dense stands of reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* dominate, together with reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, greater pond-sedge *Carex riparia* and yellow iris *Iris pseudocorus*. These communities gradually form a thick understorey within permanently wet carr woodland composed mainly of *Salix fragilis*. A flora typified by water mint *Mentha aquatica*, woody nightshade *Solanum dulacra*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, also characterises the woodland floor, along with large volumes of fallen dead wood and leaf litter.

An area of damp course grassland dominated by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and, occasionally, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* provides valuable overwintering habitat for the riparian beetle fauna and supports a nationally notable beetle *Carabus monilis*, a species typical of damp alluvial grassland.