

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: ALLSCOTT SETTLING PONDS

DISTRICT: The Wrekin

SITE REF: 15WGD

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, District of the Wrekin Council

National Grid Ref: SJ 598128

Area: 49.9 (ha.) 123.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126 & 127

1:10,000: SJ 51 SE, SJ 61 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1963

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site boundary modified (reduction and extension)

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Allscott Settling Ponds are a series of water-filled lagoons of various sizes and depths, which receive water from the adjacent sugar factory. They support a bird community of county importance.

In addition to the open water habitat which occupies the settling lagoons, there are extensive areas of grassland, tall herb and scrub vegetation. The site includes a length of the River Tern. Although particularly noted for overwintering birds, Allscott Settling Ponds are also important for the diversity of the breeding population. Fifty seven species breed regularly. These include little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, shoveler *Anas clypeata*, little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*, turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, sand martin *Riparia riparia*, six species of warbler and yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*. For reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* this is a locally important site. Species which breed here less regularly include redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Regular winter visitors include twenty five species of wader and nineteen of wildfowl. The most abundant of these are lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, teal *A. crecca*, shoveler and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*.

The bird population at this site has been studied for over twenty five years, and is better known than that of any other locality in Shropshire.