

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: PREES BRANCH CANAL

DISTRICT: North Shropshire

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 49 7337

Area: 2.185 (ha.) 5.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 43 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Shropshire Conservation Trust. Boundary alteration (reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

A disused canal which has a variety of wetland habitats and a rich flora and fauna, and which demonstrates a range of successional stages.

Much of the site consists of reedswamp dominated by reed-grass *Glyceria maxima*, lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, or branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. Floating leaved communities also occur, dominated either by yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, floating pondweed *Potamogeton natans* or the uncommon frog-bit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, which is unusually abundant at this site.

Submerged aquatic plants include small pondweed *Potamogeton pusillus* and hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*.

Short marsh vegetation has developed in one area where grazing and trampling by cattle occur. Here, the flora includes tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, unbranched bur-reed *Sparganium emersum*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* and nodding bur-marigold *Bidens cernua*.