

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: SHELVE POOL

DISTRICT: SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

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, South Shropshire District

National Grid Reference: SO 335979                      Area: 10.84 (ha.) 26.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137                      1:10,000: SO 39 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1953                      Date of Last Revision: 1963

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Unlike the Meres of North Shropshire, Shelve Pool is man-made, and is possibly a relic of lead mining which was formerly carried out in this area of Shropshire.

It is of particular interest for its reedswamp and fen communities. Common reed *Phragmites australis* is dominant over much of the southern margin, and also in an area on the north side. The western end and much of the northern margin of the pool have an extensive fringe of nutrient-poor fen of which bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, bog-bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* are important components, although varying in abundance spatially. Bog moss *Sphagnum* spp., the mosses *Acrocladium cordifolium* and *Aulacomnium palustre*, and the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* are also abundant.

There are extensive areas of sallow *Salix cinerea* carr and of tall damp grassland, mainly on the southern side of the pool.

Grassland to the north of the pool is exceptionally species-rich and contains several uncommon species, including dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, needle furze *Genista anglica*, bitter vetch *Lathyrus montanus* and sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*.

The site includes a length of fast-flowing stream and a flush which has a rich flora including butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*, flea sedge *C. pulicaris* and fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*.