

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 19 OCTOBER 1999

COUNTY: REDCAR & CLEVELAND SITE NAME: LOVELL HILL POOLS

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

Local Planning Authorities: REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL, Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit

National Grid Reference: NZ 596189 Area: 9.2 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: Sheet 93 1:10,000: Sheet NZ 51 NE

First Notified: 1999

Other Information:

Great crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*, is specially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Lovell Hill Pools is set within an undulating, well-wooded agricultural landscape to the north of the North York Moors. The site supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies and damselflies.

The pools owe their origin to mining subsidence, and comprise a series of shallow water bodies fringed by swamp vegetation, damp neutral grassland, willow carr and scrub. The intimate mosaic of habitats provides sheltered breeding and feeding sites for flying insects in general and *Odonata*, dragonflies and damselflies, in particular. The following species are known to breed at the site; azure damselfly *Coenagrion puella*, variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum*, common blue damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*, large red damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*, blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura elegans*, emerald damselfly *Lestes sponsa*, southern hawker *Aeshna cyanea*, common hawker *Aeshna juncea*, four-spotted chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*, ruddy darter *Sympetrum sanguineum* and common darter *Sympetrum striolatum*.

The variable damselfly is scarce nationally and is found here on the northern-eastern edge of its range. This species prefers ponds with abundant emergent vegetation, and numbers have declined nationally in recent decades.

Other invertebrates of restricted distribution in north-east England, present on the site, include the dingy skipper butterfly *Erynnis tages*, a pondskater; *Gerris lateralis*, and a water spider; *Argyroneta aquatica*.

The pools and surrounding habitats also support populations of both great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* and smooth newt *T. vulgaris*.