

County: North Yorkshire/West Yorkshire **Site Name:** Fairburn and Newton Ings

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

Local Planning Authority: Selby District Council, Leeds City Council

National Grid Reference: SE 453275 **Area:** 93.8 hectares 231.7 acres Selby
74.3 hectares 183.7 acres Leeds
168.1 hectares 415.4 acres Total

First Notified: 1984

Description:

Fairburn and Newton Ings, in the Lower Aire Valley just north of Castleford consist of former ings along the river which have become permanently flooded in part as a result of mining subsidence, so as to form a series of interconnected permanent water bodies. Marginally there are extensive areas of marsh and wet pasture dissected by dykes, which together with farmland, provide a mosaic of different habitats.

There is a diverse wetland flora. In places the open water is fringed with beds of reedmace *Typha latifolia* with associated bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, nodding bur-marigold *Bidens cernua* and trifid bur-marigold *B. tripartita*. Aquatic plants include the pondweeds *Potamogeton berchtoldii* and *P. pectinatus* and rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*. In the marsh areas golden dock *Rumex maritimus*, sweet flag *Acorus calamus*, water violet *Hottonia palustris*, tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, wood club-rush *Scirpus sylvatica* and mud rush *Juncus gerardii* occur amongst the more common marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and yellow flag.

The site attracts large numbers of birds and is particularly noted for its wintering wildfowl and for the variety of migrants. Within the last ten years the number of gadwall (67), shoveler (420) and mallard (3094) have each exceeded 1% of the national population and the number of whooper swans (106) exceeds 1% of the north-west European population. Over 200 bird species have been recorded including red-necked and slavian grebes, long-tailed duck, and birds of prey including hobby and peregrine, all of which occur regularly. Over 75 species of bird breed here.

The site is also of interest for its butterflies which include small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*, specked wood *Pararge aegeria* and brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*.

Other Information:

1. The site lies partly within the Fairburn Ings Local Nature Reserve which was declared in 1957 under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. The Reserve is managed jointly by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds with the County Councils for West and North Yorkshire and the National Coal Board.
2. A Wild Birds (Fairburn Ings Sanctuary) Order was made in 1980, Statutory Instrument No. 401.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Fairburn and Newton Ings

OLD1004115

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	The introduction of grazing and changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4	The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood and turf.
12	The introduction of tree and/or woodland management+ and changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg rivers, streams, springs, ditches, dykes, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
15	Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16a	The introduction of freshwater fishery production and/or management and changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
20	Extraction of minerals, including shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil and subsoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials adjacent to any water bodies or water courses.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26	Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage the soil or vegetation.
28	Introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

+ including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.