

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Scotton Common

District: West Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 870985 **Area:** 15.3 (ha) 37.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 112 **1: 10 000:** SK 89 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:** 1968

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

One of the few extant areas of lowland heathland once prevalent over the cover sands of north-west Lincolnshire, Scotton Common's range of habitats support a succession of communities rich in species.

The open areas of dry heathland are dominated by hair mosses *Polytrichum* spp. and *Cladonia* species of lichens. The grass heath with wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* typically includes heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, mat grass *Nardus stricta*, heath grass *Danthonia decumbens* and the locally scarce heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*. The heathers *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix* and *Erica cinerea* are found in association with purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* and the heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*. Both the adder *Vipera berus* and the common lizard *Lacerta vivipara* are frequent in these areas.

The creeping willow *Salix repens* is found in the wetter parts along-side species scarce in the county-deer grass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, heath-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* and marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*. The two hundred species of moth include three nationally scarce species. Further invertebrate interest is provided by the range of beetles found in the site's two ponds.