

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Skendleby Psalter Banks

District: East Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 441716 **Area:** 1.0 (ha) 2.5 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 47 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1966 **Date of Last Revision:** 1968

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

Other Information:

The site is a County Trust Nature Reserve under the terms of a Management Agreement.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The species-rich unimproved grasslands of Skendleby Psalter Banks represent one of the best examples of a habitat now rare and fragmented in Lincolnshire. The abundance of plants restricted to these steep north-facing slopes of a dry valley cut into the eastern Wolds by glacial meltwaters is maintained by traditional management of sheep grazing.

Upright brome *Bromus erectus* is the dominant grass species in an open sward which also includes sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, quaking grass *Briza media* and wood false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. A Lincolnshire Wolds grassland feature - abundant field scabious *Knautia arvensis* is found with a large population of the semiparasitic yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and red bartsia *Odontites verna*. Typical herbs present include salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, cowslip *Primula veris*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Four species of orchid occur on the Banks: twayblade *Listera ovata*, pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, bee *Ophrys apifera* and common spotted *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. The aspect and generally tall vegetation provides suitably humid conditions for the growth of mosses like *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*.