

County: Humberside

Site Name: Cleatham Quarry

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

Local Planning Authority: Glanford Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 940015

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** SE 90

Area: 5.6 (ha) 13.8 (ac)

First Notified: 1986

Description:

Cleatham limestone quarry, near Kirton-in-Lindsey, is cut into rocks of Jurassic age which form a north-south ridge bordered by the Trent Valley to the west and the Lincoln Clay Vale in the east. The quarry, no disused, supports an excellent example of limestone flora developed in an artificial situation.

The quarry has a flat floor, with numerous small spoil heaps, and steep sides, some supporting scree slopes.

Species-rich limestone grassland occurs on steep banks and flat terraces. It is dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* together with species such as greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, ploughman's-spikenard *Inula conyza*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, and abundant pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

The quarry floor and spoil heaps are sparsely vegetated but have a diverse flora including fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, thyme-leaved sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris* and mouse-ear hawkweed. Despite rabbit grazing, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub, and dog rose *Rosa canina* are encroaching.

A number of uncommon plant species occur at the site. These include tall broomrape *Orobanche elatior*, bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, blue fleabane *Erigeron acer* and pyramidal orchid.

The invertebrate fauna is particularly rich, including, notably, butterflies such as ringlet *Aphantopus hyperanthus*, large skipper *Ochlodes venatus*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus* and wall *Lasiommata megera*. The rare chalk carpet moth *Scotopteryx bipunctaria* is found here at its most northerly known station in Britain.