

County: Humberside

Site Name: Flamborough Railway Cutting

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

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TA 195707 **Area:** 1.6 (ha) 4.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 101 **1:10,000:** TA 17 SE

First Notified: 1986

Other Information:

Description:

The site notified as Flamborough Railway Cutting consists of a shallow chalk quarry lying west of the Bridlington to Scarborough railway line, together with the west bank of the adjacent railway cutting, both of which support a rich chalk flora.

The quarry floor supports a mosaic of well-vegetated areas with patches of bare chalk chippings, which display the seral stages of colonisation. The site supports a variety of grasses including quaking grass *Briza media*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, upright brome *Bromus erectus* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, together with typical chalk herbs such as kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, and burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. However, it is for its orchid populations that the quarry and railway cutting are principally valued: five species of orchid have been recorded including fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, bee orchid *Ophrys apifera* and large numbers of pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.