

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Swallow Wold

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: TA 168048 **Area:** 4.2 (ha) 10.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 113 **1: 10 000:** TA 10 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This Valley is a glacial melt water channel cut in the Wold chalk with deposits in the north of bedded sands. It is now the most extensive of the Northern Chalk Grasslands in North Lincolnshire with two orchid species not found elsewhere in the County.

The frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride* is found in the short turf of sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* together with stemless thistle *Cirsium acaule*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* and quaking grass *Briza media*. One south facing slope is remarkable for the quantities of autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella* and kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and for the numbers of common blue butterflies.

Taller grasses like tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and upright brome *Bromus erectus* dominate in small areas containing scarce herbs including dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and betony *Stachys officinalis*. These provide food for the abundance of butterflies and at least two species of grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus* and *Chorthippus parallelus*.

Scattered scrub of gorse *Ulex europaeus* developed on leached soil provides structural diversity to the vegetation and breeding sites for linnets.