

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: HILLS AND HOLES AND  
SOOKHOLME BROOK, WARSOP

DISTRICT: MANSFIELD

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

Local Planning Authority: MANSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 555 678,  
SK 543 667

Area: 29.14 (ha.) 72.0 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120

1:10,000: SK 56 NW, SK 56 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1982

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains some of the finest remaining limestone and base-rich flush plant communities in Nottinghamshire and is of Regional importance.

Biology

The site contains very fine examples of calcareous grassland and rock surface plant communities developed on soils, spoil and rock derived from the Permian Lower Magnesian Limestone. Plants of the limestone rock community include such typical species as rue-leaved saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites* and thyme *Thymus drucei*, while the limestone grassland is characterised by upright brome *Bromus erectus*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. The grassland community includes populations of such plants as rock-rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus*, dyer's greenweed, *Genista tinctoria* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, together with several species of orchids. The limestone grassland community is complemented by adjacent neutral loam grassland containing such species as lady's mantle *Alchemilla vestita*.

The site also includes examples of calcareous stream and base-rich flush communities along the Shirebrook and Sookholme Brook. These communities are characterised by plant species such as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, flea-bane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, and contain a number of plant species which are uncommon in the East Midlands.