

COUNTY: KIRKBY GRIVES **SITE NAME:** NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: Ashfield District Council

National Grid Reference: (Area 1) SK 498554
(Area 2) SK 495555
(Area 3) SK 493546

Area:	(Area 1)	15.6 ha.	(38.6 ac.)
	(Area 2)	3.7 ha.	(9.2 ac.)
	(Area 3)	3.0 ha.	(7.4 ac.)
	Total	22.3 ha.	(55.2 ac.)

Description:

The site has one of the finest remaining limestone 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, rock and aggregates derived from the Permian Lower Magnesian Limestone. The variation in soil structure, aspect and slope on this site has resulted in the development of a range of calcareous grassland and rock surface plant communities of exceptional species richness. The calcareous grassland communities are characterised by such plant species as greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, cowslip *Primula veris*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, rockrose *Helianthemum chamaecistus* and a variety of orchid species, several of which are rare in Nottinghamshire. On more loamy soils the sward takes on the character of neutral grassland and contains such species as betony *Betonica officinalis* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla vestita*. Additional interest is provided by adjacent areas of floristically-rich woodland.