

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SITE NAME: CLIPSTONE HEATH

DISTRICT: NEWARK AND SHERWOOD

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

Local Planning Authority: NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 594 625 Area: 4.5 (ha.) 11.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 120 1:10,000: SK 56 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Clipstone Heath comprises an important area of the once much more extensive dry acid lowland heathland of central Nottinghamshire. Nationally, this habitat has greatly declined in extent in the face of agriculture, forestry, development and neglect and so the conservation of remaining areas dominated by dwarf shrubs has assumed the highest priority. On this site, the heath, which has formed on the Bunter Pebble Beds, grades in tussocky unimproved acid grassland and both habitats possess many plants characteristic of the freely draining sandy soil.

Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bell heather *Erica cinerea* co-dominate the heath and for both species there is a wide range of age of plants including abundant regeneration in open areas. Associated with the dwarf shrubs are sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* and wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. The latter species dominates the grassland part of the site where it occurs with mat grass *Nardus stricta* and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*. Other plants present include pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, heath speedwell *Veronica officinalis* and field woodrush *Luzuli campestris*. Characteristic heathland mosses occur in addition to *Cladonia* species lichens.

Date Notified: 7 May 1987