

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Laxton Sykes

District: Newark

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

Local Planning Authority: Newark District Council

National Grid Reference: Area 1 SK 735656 **Area:** 15.0 (ha) 37.0 (ac)
Area 2 SK 735661
Area 3 SK 713674

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 76 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:**

Other Information:

The site forms part of the Laxton Estate which is of national historical importance as an area where the medieval open field system of farming continues to be practised.

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises some of the best remaining neutral grasslands in Nottinghamshire and is representative of grasslands developed on the Midland clays.

Biology:

The long, narrow grassland strips (the sykes) adjoining certain of the open fields, continue to be managed as traditional grasslands for hay and occasional grazing and are fine examples of species-rich neutral grasslands developed on heavy clays of the Triassic Keuper Marl. The sward is characterised by a wide variety of grass species of which amongst the most abundant are sweet-vernial grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, soft brome *Bromus mollis*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus mollis* and quaking grass *Briza media*. The sykes contain a diverse herb flora including such typical plants as cowslip *Primula veris*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, hayrattle *Rhinanthus minor* and, in wetter areas, lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.