

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: LINBY QUARRIES

DISTRICT: GEDLING

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

Local Planning Authority: GEDLING DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 535 523                      Area: 38.73 (ha.)                      (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120                      1:10,000: SK 55 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1982                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site is the best remaining area of mixed calcareous scrub in Nottinghamshire and is of Regional importance.

Biology

The Linby Quarries are a fine example of a disturbed limestone area which has been recolonised naturally by vegetation over many years and which shows the successional stages of this colonisation. The early stages in the succession are present in the western quarries where a series of colonisation stages from bare rock to tall scrub occur. Notable among these communities is the presence of calcareous scrub which shows an unusual diversity for a north Midlands locality, and includes such plant species as spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, dogwood *Swida sanguinea* and buckthorne *Rhamnus catharticus* among many others. Other features of interest in these western quarries are small areas of calcareous grassland and also a number of calcareous flushes, pools and marshes. The succession of vegetation types is continued in the quarries to the east, south and north where the scrub has developed into woodland. In the north, parts of the woodland are characterised by plant species indicative of ancient woodland, such as small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*. These plant communities may be the result of the survival there of areas of primary woodland which have escaped quarrying. Additional interest is provided by the presence of a varied breeding bird community.