

File ref:

County: **Leicestershire** **Site name: Sheepy Fields**

District: **Hinckley and Bosworth**

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

Local Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 332025 **Area:** 5.3 (ha) 13.09 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 140 **1: 10 000:** SK 30 SW

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

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains some of the best remaining examples of neutral grassland in Leicestershire and is representative of hay meadow plant communities developed on neutral soils in the English Midlands.

Biology:

Sheepy Fields comprise two hay meadows developed on soils derived from post-glacial river terrace deposits. The sward is characterised by the abundance of sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and ribwort *Plantago lanceolata*. There is a rich assemblage of herbs including lady's mantle *Alchemilla vestita*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, hayrattle *Rhinanthus minor*, meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, and cowslip *Primula veris*. Additional interest is provided by an area of marsh which contains such typical plants as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*.