

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: RUSHCLIFFE GOLF COURSE

DISTRICT: RUSHCLIFFE

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

Local Planning Authority: RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 544281

Area: 19.2 (ha.) 47.42 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 129

1:10,000: SK 52 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains some of the best examples of calcareous and neutral grassland remaining in Nottinghamshire and is representative of species rich grassland on calcareous loam soils in Central and Eastern England.

Biology

The site, which forms part of Rushcliffe Golf Course, lies on the north-east facing slope of a scarp ridge formed on a succession of limestones, shales and clays of Lower Jurassic and Upper Triassic Age. The species-rich grassland is developed on the fairways and roughs of the golf course and varies in character in response to variation in management and soil type. Much of the grassland has swards typical of neutral soils and is characterised by the abundance of Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and common bent *Agrostis tenius*, and also by the occurrence of such forbs as betony *Betonica officinalis*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Locally, the swards become distinctly acidic in character; here plants such as wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and trailing tormentil *P. anglica* occur. Over substantial areas however, the sward is characteristic of calcareous soils. Here tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* dominates a species-rich sward which includes saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, cowslip *Primula veris*, bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*. Additional interest is provided by areas of mixed scrub which are valuable for the variety of species of breeding birds they support. The variety and numbers of passage and wintering birds are also important.