

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Great Casterton Road Banks

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 006084 **Area:** 0.39 (ha) 0.96 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 141 **1: 10 000:** TF 00 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1959 **Date of Last Revision** 1968

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision** -

Other Information:

The eastern end of the site is owned by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This small site is a representative example of calcareous grassland in South Lincolnshire, developed on soils derived from Eastern Jurassic Limestone, and is notable for its populations of three regionally rare plants.

The scattered patches of open grassland are mostly dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, with tall herbs such as sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia*, hedge-bedstraw *Galium mollugo* and field scabious *Knautia arvensis*. In shorter turf, characteristic species such as wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and quaking-grass *Briza media* occur.

Areas of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* provide shelter, together with scattered ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

This is the only site in Lincolnshire for sulphur clover *Trifolium ochroleucon*. Two other regionally rare species, greater broom rape *Orobancha rapum-genistae* and perennial flax *Linum perenne* spp. *anglicum* also occur here.

Common lizard has been recorded from this site as well as several of the butterfly species typical of calcareous grassland. Ecological studies of insects associated with rock-rose have been carried out here.

