

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Stonesby Quarry
District: Melton
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 812251 **Area:** 2.99 (ha) 7.39 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** SK 82 NW

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 includes some of the best remaining areas of limestone grassland in Leicestershire, and is representative of swards developed on soft limestones in central and eastern England.

Biology:

The site of former quarry working of the Jurassic Lower Lincolnshire Limestones Stonesby Quarry has developed a semi-natural vegetation comprising primarily grassland and scrub. Areas of limestone grassland are dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus*, tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, and cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, together with abundant quaking grass *Briza media*. The grassland is rich in herb species, characteristic constituents including autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, cowslip *Primula veris*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, woolly thistle *C. eriophorum*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata* and pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. Parts of the site have been invaded by scrub dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.