

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Terrace Hill Pasture

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 795309 **Area:** 11.75 (ha) 29.03 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 129 **1: 10 000:** SK 73 SE

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 calcareous old pasture in Leicestershire, and is representative of sward on calcareous soils in central and eastern England.

Biology:

Old pasture occupying the slopes of a large undulating field which in part has been previously quarried and is studded with pits and mounds. To the north the grassland is developed on soils derived from the Jurassic Marlstone rock bed while, to the south, they are derived from clays of the Middle Lias series. The sward is dominated by sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, and contains such typical plant species of calcareous soils as meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, musk thistle *Carduus nutans*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. A small stream rises from a spring along the southern boundary of the site and is associated with an area of marsh containing such characteristic plant species as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and marsh arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris*. Additional interest is provided by the variety of insects, including butterflies, which utilise the site.