

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Red Hill  
**District:** East Lindsey  
**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

**Local Planning Authority:** East Lindsey District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TF 264807 **Area:** 3.0 (ha) 7.4 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 28 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1951 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

**Other Information:**

A Local Nature Reserve. Part owned, part leased and wholly managed by the County Trust.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

This site includes one of the only two Lincolnshire permanent chalk grassland areas which survives on an escarpment too steep for cultivation. Adjoining species rich grassland is associated with an old quarry with an exposure of red chalk which gives the site its name.

The turf is typically dominated in parts by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* in association with lime, requiring plants like salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, marjoram *Origanum vulgare* and burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Plants scarce and diminishing in the county which are found here in abundance are eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*, yellow rattler *Rhinanthus minor*, basil thyme *Thymus arvensis*, rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, bee orchid *Ophrys apifera* and pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

The vetches support good numbers of butterflies, including the common blue. This is one of the few sites in the county where kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* occurs on the chalk. Several studies of the invertebrate populations confirm high density and diversity, particularly of leaf hoppers and spiders. Detailed records include over 50 species of beetle, 40 species of bug and 15 species of land snail.