

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Swaby Village

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 392777 **Area:** 3.5 (ha) 8.6 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 37 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1966 **Date of Last Revision:** 1970

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is a County Trust nature reserve under the terms of a management agreement.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This glacial overflow valley supports two habitats now scarce in Lincolnshire - floristically diverse, lime-rich marsh and unimproved chalk turf. The marsh borders a stream bisecting the valley floor and the interest of the grassland is increased by the terraced nature of the slopes.

Amongst the dominant tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* are typical chalk herbs including salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. The shorter finer turf of sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* has abundant mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, purging flax *Linum catharticum*, stemless thistle *Cirsium acaule* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. A feature of the north facing slope is the number of common spotted and pyramidal orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* amongst small and devil's bit scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and *Succisa pratensis*. Scattered hawthorn scrub provides structural diversity and sheltered conditions favourable to some fifteen species of butterfly.

Hard and jointed rushes *Juncus inflexus* and *J. articulatus* dominate the marsh providing cover for breeding snipe. Greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* are all abundant. The wet conditions favour orchids and the marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*.