

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Wilsford Heath Quarry

**District:** North Kesteven

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

**Local Planning Authority:** North Kesteven District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SK 985415 **Area:** 15.8 (ha) 39.0 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 130 **1: 10 0000** SK 94 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1968 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Other Information:**

**Reasons for Notification:**

A disused limestone quarry with semi-natural deciduous woodland and species rich grassland.

**Biology:**

Much of the site contains semi-natural deciduous woodland dominated by oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, with a shrub layer of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus* and a variety of other species of shrub. The ground flora in the dense woodland is quite sparse with species such as male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. Another important habitat is the limestone grassland with tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* being typical grass species present. There is a variety of herbs in the grassland including bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*, silverweed *Potentilla anserina* and perforate St. John's wort *Hypericum perforatum* as well as a number of species now uncommon in the East Midlands and some orchids. Much of the quarried areas are dominated by scrub of hawthorn and ash.