

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Woodhall Spa Golf Course

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 210643 **Area:** 5.15 (ha) 127.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 26 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The extensive roughs of Woodhall Spa Golf Course represent fine examples of heathland communities once widespread over glacial sands and gravels in this area. A rich flora dominated by heathers includes plants now limited in distribution nationally and an exceptional lichen community.

In dry areas two species of heather *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea* predominate interspersed with acid grassland of wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, brown bent *Agrostis canina*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*. Herbs typical of sandy soils include hoary cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and heath speedwell *Veronica officinalis*. Damper areas with purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* also support marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* at one of its very few known sites in the county. Lichens include Iceland moss *Cetraria islandica*, here close to the south-eastern limit of its range in Britain.

Poor drainage in the north-western corner has resulted in wet heathland characterised by plants scarce in the county - cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Sphagnum* species of moss.

Gorse scrub, reedbeds and part of an ancient oak-birch woodland provide diversification of habitat. The wood includes alder *Alnus glutinosa* and hazel *Corylus avellana* and, in the ground flora, lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, smooth sedge *Carex laevigata* and hard fern *Blechnum spicant*. Wet areas are rich in bryophytes.

