

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Calceby Marsh

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 398772 **Area:** 10.8 (ha) 26.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 37 NE, TF 47 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

This site is described in "A Nature Conservation Review".

Reasons for Notification:

Calceby Marsh is of national importance as an outstanding example of a base-rich marsh. This habitat type typically follows the distribution of calcareous springlines and streams, in this case Calceby Beck, a Lincolnshire Wolds chalk stream. Such areas of base-rich marsh are becoming increasingly scarce in the county, as elsewhere in England, through the effects of drainage and other agricultural improvements.

The site consists of 3 areas of marshland, each differing slightly in its species composition, surrounded by tussocky neutral grassland which is of value to breeding snipe and lapwing. A small stream, fringed by alders *Alnus glutinosa* and willows *Salix spp.*, runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

The base-rich marsh communities are locally dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, hard rush *Juncus inflexus*, jointed rush *J. articulatus*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and blunt-flowered rush *J. subnodulosus*. The wetland areas are further characterised by marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza majalis spp. praetermissa*. Parts of the southern area may have developed on peat rather than silt, with species such as bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. In the wettest areas, where shallow standing water is present, tubular water dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa* and marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* occur.

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Calceby Marsh Continued.....

Over past years, Calceby Marsh has been very well surveyed for moths, and at least 4 notable species have been recorded here. The site is one of the few stations in the county, outside the Cambridgeshire Fens, where the marsh moth *Athetis palustris* occurs.