

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Candlesby 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 461682 **Area:** 1.81 (ha) 4.48 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 46 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is owned and managed as a county trust nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

One of the best remnants of the once extensive chalk grasslands of the South-east Lincolnshire Wolds. Together with surrounding scrub and broad-leaved woodland, the site provides an excellent example of the sequence of change to a mature system.

Biology:

The ash woodland, which contains some sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, is edged by scrub merging into open grassland forming an amphitheatre with the exposed chalk cliff.

Herbs growing in association with woody species include false brome *Brachypodium sylvatica*, black bryony *Tamus communis*, hound's tongue *Cynoglossum officinale* and twayblade *Listera ovata*. Finches and warblers are well represented and include garden warbler and lesser white-throat.

The dominant species in the grassland are tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, and meadow oat *Avenula pratensis*. There are extensive areas of marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, perforate St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris* and burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Plants scarce in the East Midlands include bladder campion *Silene vulgaris*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. Orchids include pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, common spotted *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and bee *Ophrys apifera*. Butterflies are present in large numbers and 17 species of mollusc have been recorded.

