

COUNTY: LINCOLNSHIRE

SITE NAME: MAVIS ENDERBY VALLEY

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 365672

Area: 15.4 (ha.) 30.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 122

1:10,000: TF 36 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Mavis Enderby Valley has been formed by a beck cutting through the porous Spilsby Sandstone to the underlying impermeable Kimmeridge Clay. On the steeper sides species-rich unimproved grassland has been maintained by sheep grazing. The poorly-draining valley floor to the south has developed as a marsh alongside the beck. In the north, associated with the spring-line, is a series of alder carrs each with a different species composition.

The dry acid grassland of the slopes is dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. Typical herbs are mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* with the locally scarce meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata* a feature. The most abundant mosses of a well-developed community are *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Calliargon cuspidatum*. Where sandstone is exposed, species scarce in the East Midlands have colonized. This is the only known Lincolnshire site for *Racomitrium heterostichum* and *Lophocia ventricosa v ventricosa*. A whole series of badgers setts is located both along the sandstone exposure and in the woods.

On the spring-line the marsh is dominated by tufted-hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, rushes *Juncus* spp. and flote grass *Glyceria fluitans*. These are associated with cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and brookline *Veronica beccabunga* with some opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* adjacent to the stream. The common-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* has spread since the area was fenced. Snipe breed and water rail visit this area.

The series of woods along the stream are wet valley alder with acid valley alder on the higher slopes. Sand Hill Covert has an open canopy with sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* co-dominant with coppiced alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The ground flora is characterized by nettle *Urtica dioica* and great willow-herb *Epilobium hirsutum* and includes the opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and a variety of ferns. Burrows Hill Covert has alder together with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and crack willow *Salix fragilis* and large areas of the herb moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*. Other woods are notable for marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*, giant horsetail *Equisetum telmateia* and narrow buckler fern *Dryopteris carthusiana*.

The close juxtaposition of a number of habitats makes the site valuable for a wide range of fauna, small mammals, lepidoptera and dragonflies in particular. It is of County importance for its breeding birds, especially summer migrants and those associated with the woods – sparrowhawk, kestrel, woodcock, turtle dove, tawny owl, greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers and tree pipit.

Date Notified: 13 September 1988