

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Grimsthorpe Park

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 022197 **Area:** 114.5 (ha) 282.9 (ac)
TF 034200

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 01 NW, TF 02 SW

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

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

Other Information:

The boundary of this site has been modified at renotification by both an extension and partial deletions.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This is probably the best remaining example of ancient parkland in Lincolnshire. A deer park was present at Grimsthorpe in the mid 16th century and part is thought to date from the 12th century. The ancient and mature trees support more than 250 species of beetle, including a nationally rare species and several more of restricted distribution in Britain. Hollow trees provide roosts for a number of species of bat, which feed over the unimproved grassland in the park. Continuity of the parkland habitat is provided by areas of younger and maturing oaks.

The dominant tree is pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and there is wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre*, avenues of horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and scattered hawthorn bushes *Crataegus monogyna*.

The site lies partly on boulder clay and partly directly on the Lincolnshire limestone and these changes are reflected by the ground vegetation. This is largely rough unimproved pasture, dominated by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, wood small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Herbs such as pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and betony *Stachys officinalis* are locally frequent.

Additional interest is provided by several disused stone quarries which have a rich limestone flora including purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*,

marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*
and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*.