

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: BARNSTONE RAILWAY
CUTTING

DISTRICT: RUSHCLIFFE

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

Local Planning Authority: RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 741355 Area: 1.7 (ha.) 4.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 129 1:10,000: SK 73 NW, SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 Date of Last Revision: –

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site, a narrow, steep-sided disused railway cutting in the Lower Lias of south-east Nottinghamshire, supports the largest known population remaining in Britain of a nationally scarce moth. This species, considered vulnerable to extinction, is presently known only from four other sites in the country, hence the conservation and appropriate management of the cutting provides the best opportunity of retaining the moth in Britain. The site also supports a significant assemblage of notable and local insects, particularly beetles, moths and flies, which are characteristic of limestone grassland and wetlands of eastern England.

The cutting is a mosaic of long grassland and scrub. The former is dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, amongst which occur abundant black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, quaking grass *Briza media*, field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, hoary ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, and rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* are the commonest scrub species. Pools and a flowing ditch at the south-eastern end of the site comprise the wetland habitats in contrast to the dry grassy slopes. Reedmace *Typha latifolia* occurs in a tall fen vegetation with false fox sedge *Carex otrubae*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and hard and jointed rushes *Juncus inflexus* and *J. articulatus*.

Date Notified: 22 February 1988