

File ref:

County: **Leicestershire** **Site name: Coalville Meadows**

District: **North-West Leicestershire**

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

Local Planning Authority: North-West Leicestershire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 447151 **Area:** 6.2 (ha) 15.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 129 **1: 10 000:** SK 41 SW, SK 41 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best examples of neutral grassland developed on somewhat leached clay soils in Leicestershire and is representative of such grassland swards in Central and Eastern England.

Biology:

Coalville Meadows have developed on soils derived from the clays of the Triassic Keuper Marl. The grassland is generally rather poorly-drained being dominated by tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. Although there is some variation, the herb flora is essentially typical of relatively base-poor clay soils being characterised by plants such as pignut *Conopodium majus*, betony *Betonica officinalis*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and mat grass *Nardus stricta*. Nevertheless the grassland is essentially neutral in character and includes such typical meadow species as saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis*.