

COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: CROFT PASTURE

DISTRICT: BLABY

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

Local Planning Authority: BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SP 510958

Area: 6.53 (ha.) 16.13 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 140

1:10,000: SP 59 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 includes unusual Leicestershire examples of acidic mixed grassland which has affinities with certain of the breckland grasslands of eastern England.

Biology

A thin, open turf has developed on sandy soils associated with outcrops of igneous syenite. The sward is dominated by common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, while its open nature allows an unusually large number of annual and biennial herbs to flourish. Species of clover and trefoil are well represented and include hare's-foot clover *Trifolium arvense*, knotted clover *T. striatum*, slender trefoil *T. micranthum* and subterranean clover *T. subterraneum*, while other herbs include wild onion *Allium vineale*, hoary cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea*, Guernsey clary *Salvia verbenaca* and birdsfoot *Ornithopus perpusillus*. Additional interest is provided by a stretch of the upper River Soar which flows through the site. The river here is a semi-natural, moderately fast-flowing stream possessing a characteristic marginal vegetation which includes common club-rush *Scirpus lacustris*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, water chickweed *Myosoton aquaticum* and pink water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*.