

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** High Barn, Oxcombe

**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 322767 **Area:** 8.2 (ha) 20.3 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 37 NW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1966 **Date of Last Revision:** 1970

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

#### **Other Information:**

High Barn is included in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

#### **Description and Reasons for Notification:**

The unimproved chalk grassland covering the slopes of this dry valley is one of the best remaining examples of a species rich chalkland community once widespread over the Lincolnshire Wolds. The steepness of the valley sides has precluded the cultivation to which the surrounding area has been subject. The continuation of grazing at High Barn has perpetuated the site's botanical interest.

The differing aspects and lengths of turf of the three slopes introduce considerable variation to the overall local dominance of upright brome *Bromus erectus*, tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, sheeps fescue *Festuca ovina*, quaking grass *Briza media* and meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratensis*. The south-west facing slope has an abundance of wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, basil thyme *Acinos arvensis*, stemless thistle *Cirsium acaule*, pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

Amongst the typical chalk grassland plants frequent over the whole site are greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*.

The site is also notable for its abundance of butterflies.