

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Honington Camp

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: SK 955423 **Area:** 1.2 (ha) 3.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** SK 94 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

A listed Ancient Monument.

Reasons for Notification:

The earth banks and central portion of this iron age fort support a rich limestone flora with species which are scarce and decreasing in the county. Where there is shelter from the wind, especially along the south facing banks, the area is a sanctuary for butterflies.

Biology:

The banks are dominated by tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and upright brome *Bromus erectus*. These are typical of base-rich soils and are found with yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and quaking grass *Briza media*. Herbs associated with this kind of grassland are also concentrated on the banks where common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, cowslip *Primula veris* and harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* occur. Members of the pea family, some of which are food plants for common blue butterflies, include kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, horse-shoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* and common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. In one area there is a well established colony of pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris* which is only known from one other site in the county.

In level areas where coarse grasses like cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and tall oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominate, there are nevertheless some interesting herbs like wild carrot *Daucus carota*, field scabious *Knautia arvensis*, and greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa* and these are areas favoured by insects including grasshoppers. Six species of land snails have been recorded.