

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Kirkby Moor

**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 225625 **Area:** 74.6 (ha) 184.3 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 26 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1966 **Date of Last Revision:** 1968

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

#### **Other Information:**

The site is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the Lincolnshire & South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

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

Kirkby Moor is an extensive area of heathland over fen-edge sands and gravels showing a gradation from acid grasslands and dry dwarf shrub in the north to wet heath and marsh with open water in the south. The wide range of habitats support diverse populations of plants and animals, many of which are scarce and declining in the county. Particularly notable are the aquatic and non-flowering plants, the dragonflies and the breeding bird community.

The freely draining acid soils are typified by either heather *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* or wavy hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. Common centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, trailing St. John's wort *Hypericum humifusum* and, on the north-eastern limit of its distribution, the eyebright *Euphrasia anglica* are found associated with these and bare soils are colonised by lichens including nine species of *Cladonia*. Kirkby Moor is rich in invertebrates, with the bog bush cricket *Merioptera brachyptera* being one of seven species of *Orthoptera* that have been recorded.

The wet areas are dominated by cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*, and the marshes by rushes *Juncus* spp. and sedges *Carex* spp. The flora is notable for marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza* spp., marsh violet *Viola palustris*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, common cotton grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and bogbeam *Menyanthes trifoliata*. Several county records for fungi have been made in areas of *Sphagnum* mosses.

Woodland and open water support a wide variety of breeding birds including tree pipit, cont...

### **Kirkby Moor (cont...)**

woodcock, green woodpecker and great crested grebe. The scarce variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum* is one of twelve species of damselfly. The invertebrate records for the site include twenty-three species of butterfly and over two hundred moths. Breeding vertebrates include frogs, toads and four species of reptile. Five kinds of bat have also been recorded.