

COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE/
LINCOLNSHIRE

SITE NAME: RYHALL PASTURE AND
LITTLE WARREN VERGES

DISTRICT: RUTLAND/SOUTH KESTEVEN

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

Local Planning Authority: RUTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL, South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 027 135	Area: 7.6 (ha.) 18.8 (ac.)
TF 010 143	4.5 (ha.) Lincs
TF 029 136	3.1 (ha.) Leics

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 130	1:10,000: TF 01 SW
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Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –	Date of Last Revision: –
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Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983	Date of Last Revision: –
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Other Information:

A new site.

Reasons for Notification:

The site combines one of the best remaining examples of semi-natural limestone grassland in Leicestershire with adjacent species-rich roadside verges in Lincolnshire. The grassland type is representative of swards developed on soft limestones in eastern and southern England.

Biology

Ryhall Pasture lies on a north-west facing slope and has developed on soils derived from the Jurassic Upper Lincolnshire Limestone. The sward is characterised by the predominance of tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, upright brome *Bromus erectus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, with quaking grass *Briza media* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* also frequent. The rich herb flora is notable for the abundance of such typical species as clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, cowslip *Primula veris* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. The adjoining roadside verge also exhibits a rich calcareous flora characterised by the abundance of knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and *C. scabiosa* and by the occurrence of such plant species as rockrose *Helianthemum chamaecistus* and the knapweed broomrape *Orobanche elatior*. Adjacent hedges are rich in shrub species and the site provides suitable habitat for a range of insect species characteristic of grassland and woodland edge.