

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** New England Valley

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 325734 **Area:** 5.6 (ha) 13.8 (ac)

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

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

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This site contains one of the largest stands of wet valley alderwood in Lincolnshire. Nationally, woodland dominated by alder over a large area is rather scarce since many such stands have been lost through drainage.

The woodland is situated in a deep glacial overflow valley which cuts through the porous Spilsby Sandstone to the impermeable Kimmeridge Clay beneath, producing a well-defined springline along the valley side.

The ground below the springline is wet and largely dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* with scattered ash and a shrub layer of willows *Salix* spp. The field layer is essentially shaded marsh vegetation with characteristic species such as wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, greater tussock-sedge *C. paniculata*, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, red current *Ribes rubrum* and the uncommon black current *R. nigrum*.

Above the springline, the dry acidic soil supports stands of scrubby woodland dominated by sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and much dead and dying wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* beneath.

A small side valley leading to the Blackhill Spring contains stands in more acidic alder woodland. Here birch, *Betula* spp. replaces ash in the canopy and the ground flora is dominated by creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage and broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata*.