

COUNTY: PEAK DISTRICT, DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: LEE FARM  
MEADOW, TIDESWELL

DISTRICT: WEST DERBYSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WM8

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

Local Planning Authority: PEAK PARK JOINT PLANNING BOARD, West Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 131785

Area: 1.5 (ha.) 3.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 17 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Lee Farm Meadow lies between Tideswell and Peak Forest on the Carboniferous Limestone plateau of the Peak District. It is a species rich hay meadow having seventy four species of flowering plant and a number of bryophytes; a high number for small hay meadows generally, and exceptional for the Peak District where traditionally managed hay meadows on limestone are now rare.

The site lies on the limestone, but is more or less covered with windblown loess deposits which are not only less calcareous, but have also become leached. The flora reflects these conditions with calcicolous (lime-loving) species with deep roots penetrating to the underlying limestone and plants preferring more acid conditions growing on the leached loess. The sward of this meadow is dominated by relatively low growing grasses. Amongst these are a wide range of plants including the nationally rare limestone bedstraw *Galium sternerii* as well as adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Typical of the leached soils are mountain pansy *Viola lutea* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Some species common in the limestone dales but now uncommon on the plateau are present in this meadow, notably early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, common twayblade *Listera ovata*, field scabious *Knautia arvensis* and cowslip *Primula veris*.