

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Silverines Meadows

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 260789 **Area:** 6.4 (ha) 15.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 27 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

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

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site provides a good example of a gradation of unimproved grassland types from those typical of dry, sandy soils through to a base-rich marsh community. These habitat types are now scarce in the East Midlands as they are particularly vulnerable to agricultural improvement.

The areas of dry grassland are dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca rubra* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, together with sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*. Many herbs typical of sandy, freely-draining soil are present, including mouse ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, common cat's ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, field woodrush *Luzula campestris* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Outcrops of Spilsby Sandstone contain small pockets of soil which support early hair-grass *Aira praecox* and the calcifuge moss *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

The flushes and marshy areas are dominated by soft, jointed and blunt-flowered rushes *Juncus effusus*, *J. articulatus* and *J. subnodulosus*, in association with abundant meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, water avens *Geium rivale*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*. The wettest areas are characterised by water and marsh horsetails *Equisetum fluviatile* and *E. palustre* with fool's watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*. cont.....

Silverines Meadows Continued.....

There are large populations of common spotted and southern marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *D. praetermissa* in addition to 5 species of sedge *Carex* sp., typical of the poorly-draining conditions.