

County: Lancashire **Site Name:** Silverdale Golf Course

District: Lancaster

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

Local Planning Authority: Lancaster City Council

National Grid Reference: SD 472755 **Area:** 0.65 (ha) 1.6 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 97 **1:10 000** SD 47 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 26 March 1998 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

1. This is a new site.
2. The site lies within the Arnside/Silverdale AONB.
3. The site is subject to a Limestone Pavement Order made under Section 34 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Silverdale Golf Course lies at an altitude of 30 m OD, approximately 1 km east of the village of Silverdale. The site consists of a westerly facing ridge of carboniferous limestone with thin, calcareous soils and surface exposures of rock. It supports a moderately species-rich unimproved, calcareous grassland habitat.

The site supports a species-rich calcareous grassland community characterised by blue moor-grass *Sesleria caerulea*, quaking grass *Briza media*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon pratense*, with glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* and spring sedge *Carex caryophyllea*. The abundant forbs present include limestone bedstraw *Galium sternerii*, lady's bedstraw *G. verum*, eyebright *Euphrasia* sp., common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, wild thyme *Thymus vulgaris* and mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*. The diversity of the site is further enhanced by species suited to the very shallow soils abutting the rock outcrops and within rock crevices, such as spring sandwort *Minuartia verna*, wall lettuce *Mycelis muralis* and wall-rue *Asplenium ruta-muraria*. A small amount of secondary woodland and scrub is scattered throughout the grassland. The calcareous

grassland habitat supports locally important butterfly populations. Pearl-bordered fritillary and northern brown argus (both nationally scarce) are known to breed.