

File ref: SE 34/4

County: West Yorkshire **Site Name:** Linton Common

District: Leeds

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

Local Planning Authority: Leeds City Council

National Grid Reference: SE 384465 **Area:** 0.7 (ha) 1.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 104 **1:10,000:** SE 34 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Reasons for Notification:

Linton Common lies 1km south-west of Wetherby on the south facing valley slopes of the River Wharfe where it cuts through Permian Magnesian limestone.

The site comprises an unimproved fragment of the former common and supports a representative example of limestone grassland which is a rare habitat in West Yorkshire.

Only eight unimproved Magnesian limestone grasslands of over 1 ha. in extent are known in the county and this site is one of only two stations in the county for a nationally rare plant species.

Two main zones can be recognised within the grassland community. The first of these occupies the northern half of the site and is dominated by upright brome and tor grass. Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and thistles *Cirsium arvense* and *C. vulgare* are the principal herbs with occasional giant bellflower *Campanula latifolia*.

In the second zone, occupying the southern half of the field, upright brome is again dominant with tor-grass, meadow oat-grass, quaking grass, crested hair-grass and carnation sedge *Carex flacca* occurring widely in the sward. The herb flora is more diverse and includes salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, restharrow *Ononis repens*, common St. John's wort *Hypericum perforatum*, common rock-rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus* and cowslip.

Plant species of very local distribution in the county occur including the pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and squinancy wort *Asperula cynanchica*.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Linton Common

OLD1004167

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	The introduction of grazing and changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4	The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning and changes in the pattern or frequency of burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including shrub, herb, hedge, fungus and turf.
12	The introduction of tree and/or woodland management+ and changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
20	Extraction of minerals, including topsoil, subsoil, and lime.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26	Use of vehicles likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage soil or vegetation.
28	The introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practices.

* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

+ including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.