

Date Notified: 17 February 1989

File ref: SE 43/5

County: West Yorkshire

Site Name: Hook Moor

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 434355 **Area:** 1.7 (ha) 4.2 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 105 **1:10,000:** SE 43 NW

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

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site comprises five sections of roadside embankment of the A1 at the Hook Moor junction, 2km south of Aberford. It lies within the band of Magnesian Limestone running north-south through this part of northern England.

These embankments provide ideal habitat conditions for the nationally rare thistle broomrape *Orobanche reticulata*, here present in relative abundance. The open grassland communities are unmanaged, thus allowing the field thistle *Cirsium arvense* on which this species of broomrape is parasitic, to grow unchecked. A diverse mixture of rough pasture and ruderal species also occur in the sward including ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

The distribution of the thistle broomrape has been considerably reduced through modern agricultural practices to a few sparse localities in West and North Yorkshire. Consequently it is considered to be a nationally endangered species. It appears erratically from year to year and on most sites has been found to occur as isolated individuals on permanent pasture. Recently Hook Moor has emerged as being one of the top two sites in Britain due to its unusual abundance of this species.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Hook Moor

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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 and changes in the mowing or cutting regime.
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 tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould or 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).
20	Extraction of minerals, including sand and gravel, topsoil and subsoil.
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 on the site.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features, including clearance of large stones or loose rock.
26	Use of vehicles likely to damage or disturb the flora.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage the flora.

* '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.