

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** SOUTHORPE ROUGHS

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

Local Planning Authorities: Peterborough City Council

National Grid Reference: TF 073032

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 142 **1:10,000:** TF 00 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 9.7 ha 23.9 ac

Other information: This site is a new addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This old quarry site supports limestone grassland communities of the type associated with Jurassic limestone. Jurassic limestone occurs in a narrow belt across the country stretching from Gloucestershire to Lincolnshire. In Cambridgeshire Jurassic limestone is restricted to the Peterborough area and examples of this limestone grassland type are consequently very rare within the county.

The grassland communities are characterised by the presence of the grasses tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*. Other characteristic herbs include common rockrose *Helianthemum chamaecistus* and dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*.

Of particular note is the presence of the nationally rare spotted cat's ear *Hypochoeris maculata* and the pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*.

Additional areas of scrub and tall herb enhance the value of the site for invertebrates, most noticeably butterflies.