

**COUNTY:** NORTHAMPTONSHIRE    **SITE NAME:** COLLYWESTON QUARRIES

**District:** East Northamptonshire

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

**Local Planning Authority:** East Northamptonshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TF 004038

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 141                      **1:10,000:** TF 00 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1955                      **Date of Last Revision:** 1970

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 6.32 ha 15.6 ac

**Other Information:** The site is now administered as a nature reserve by the Northamptonshire Trust for Nature Conservation. The area of the site has been reduced.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

An area of rough grassland on the site of a former limestone quarry representing the largest example of this type of vegetation in Northamptonshire. Grassland developed on the Jurassic (Oolite series) limestone is confined to the Cotswolds and a discreet part of the East Midlands.

The sward is species-rich, dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* with downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens* and quaking-grass *Briza media*. Among the locally uncommon herbs present are Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, wild thyme *Thymus drucei*, rock rose *Helianthemum chamaecistus*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*. Parts of the site are remarkable for the abundance of knapweed broomrape *Orobanche elatior* and pyramidal orchid *Anacampestris pyramidalis*.

More than one hundred flowering plant species have been recorded from the site.

Good populations of several species of butterfly and a characteristic invertebrate fauna are present. There are additional geological features of interest.

Re-presentation of details approved by Council. Re-typed August 1999.