

**COUNTY:** LINCOLNSHIRE      **SITE NAME:** PORTER'S LODGE MEADOWS

**DISTRICT:** SOUTH KESTEVEN

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

**Local Planning Authority:** South Kesteven District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SK 962196      **Area:** 9.5 (ha.) 23.4 (ac.)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 130      **1:10,000:** SK 91 NE

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1988      **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

**Description and Reason for Notification:**

This site is a fine example of a traditionally-managed grassland, supporting plant communities typical of calcareous clay and loam soils. Such grassland communities are becoming increasingly rare, both in the East Midlands and nationally, as a result of agricultural improvement.

Porter's Lodge Meadows comprise two fields enclosed by mature hedges with hedgerow trees. The eastern field has ridge and furrow topography and is bordered by an ancient semi-natural woodland, Tortoiseshell Wood, on two sides.

A wide range of grasses occurs within the site, including common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. Occasional perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and quaking grass *Briza media* are also present within the sward. The western field slopes towards the south and near the bottom of the slope the vegetation shows a transition towards a more calcareous grassland community, dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. The change in the grassland community reflects that in the underlying geology, as the oolitic limestone, overlain by boulder clay over much of the site, is nearer the surface in this area.

Herbs present within the site include common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, cowslip *Primula veris*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, spring sedge *Carex caryophyllea*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, lady's-bedstraw *Galium verum*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis*. The undulating topography of the eastern field is accentuated by the presence of herbs such as water avens *Geum rivale*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* which occur on the less well drained soils of the furrows.

A number of meadow and pasture plants which now have a restricted distribution occur within the site. These include pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

Additional interest is provided by the presence of a small pond adjoining Tortoiseshell Wood. The open water habitat supports plants such as broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*.

