

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: MICKFIELD MEADOW

DISTRICT: MID SUFFOLK

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

Local Planning Authority: MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 143632      Area: 1.72 (ha.) 4.25 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: TM 16 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1961      Date of Last Revision: N/A

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

Other Information:

Nature Reserve owned by Royal Society for Nature Conservation and managed by Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site consists of a small meadow managed on traditional lines which supports a species-rich unimproved neutral grassland flora of a type formerly widespread in Suffolk before the advent of modern farming methods. There is a good variety of grasses and herbs, including Fritillaries *Fritillaria meleagris*.

The grass sward is species-rich with Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, False Oat-Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Timothy *Phleum pratense* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* as the dominant grasses. Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* is frequent together with other herb species including Pepper Saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*. The meadow is noted for its population of Fritillaries which are frequent in the northern part of the meadow (about 4,000 plants in 1979). They are increasing in number.