

File ref:

**County:** Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Eakring and Maplebeck Meadows

**District:** Newark

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Newark District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SK 705622 **Area:** 16.3 (ha) (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 66 SE, SK 76 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

**Other Information:**

Part of the site is owned by the Nottinghamshire Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd and managed as a nature reserve.

**Reasons for Notification:**

The site comprises one of the best remaining neutral grasslands in Nottinghamshire and is representative of grassland developed on alluvial soils in Central and Southern England.

**Biology:**

A fine example of species-rich neutral grassland developed on damp, occasional wet, soils derived from river alluvium overlying clays of the Triassic Keuper Marl. The swards are dominated by grass species such as sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, with sedges such as greater pond-sedge *Carex riparia* locally abundant. Characteristic plants of this community include great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and, in wetter areas, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*. In drier areas cowslip *Primula veris* and Goldilocks *Ranunculus auricomus* are locally frequent. To the west of the site Penny Pasture Common contains areas of neutral marsh. Generally, the sward dominants include tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus* in a rather acid sward, but locally, spring fed marshes are characterised by celery-leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* and water-cress *Nasturtium officinale*. Additional interest is provided by the variety of breeding bird species using the site, including mallard, snipe, lapwing, sedge warbler and reed bunting, and also by the variety of birds using the site for feeding and roosting.