

Date Notified: 5 Sept 1990

County: Humberside

Site Name: White Carr Meadow

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

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 787457

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106

1:10,000: SE 74 NE

Area: 1.1 (ha) 2.7 (ac)

First Notified: 1990

Description:

White Carr Meadow is a small damp hayfield situated on alluvial gley soils overlying Triassic Mercia Mudstones and glacial drift adjacent to the Pocklington Canal near Bielby. The meadow is important as one of the best remaining examples of unimproved, species-rich damp neutral grassland in North Humberside and is maintained by traditional management for hay. Such meadows, which were formerly widespread, are now restricted in distribution due to agricultural improvement, particularly drainage, reseeding and the use of artificial fertilisers.

The grassland sward consists of a diverse assemblage of forbs, grasses and sedges with meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* being particularly abundant.

Other species occurring within the meadow include bugle *Ajuga reptans*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, cowslip *Primula veris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, hairy sedge *Carex hirta* and cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*.

Of particular note is the widespread occurrence within the meadow of pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, a species with a restricted distribution in Humberside.