

**County:** Lincolnshire

**Site name:** Little Scrubbs Meadow

**District:** East Lindsey

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

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

**National Grid Reference:** TF 147744

**Area:**

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50 000: 121

1:10 000: TF 17 SW

**Date notified (Under 1949 Act):**

**Date of last revision:**

**Date notified (under 1981 Act):** 1988

**Date of last revision:**

**Other information:**

The majority of the site is a nature reserve managed by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation.

**Description and reasons for notification:**

Little Scrubbs Meadow is an outstanding example of an unimproved neutral grassland, supporting plant communities typical of calcareous clay and loam soils. Such grassland communities are now rare in the East Midlands as they are particularly vulnerable to agricultural improvement.

A wide range of grasses occurs within the site, including red fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and locally abundant tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and velvet bent *Agrostis canina*. Associated herbs include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, field woodrush *Luzula campestris*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*.

The wet soils support several sedges such as lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*, distant sedge *C. distans*, pale sedge *C. pallescens* and carnation sedge *C. panicea*. Herbs typical of the wetter areas include sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* and water avens *Geum rivale*. An unusual feature for this area is the presence of purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*. Drier areas support plants characteristic of loamy soils, such as lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba* and yellow oat grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

The meadow is an important stronghold for the populations of two butterflies now very scarce in Lincolnshire and its scrubby margins attract nesting nightingale.

Date notified 27 May 1988