

**County:** Humberside      **Site Name:** Eastoft Meadow

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Boothferry Borough Council

**National Grid Reference:** SE 786142      **Area:** 0.8 (ha) 1.9 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 112      **1:10,000:** SE 71 SE

**First Notified:** 1985

**Description:**

Eastoft Meadow is a small herb-rich hay meadow on shallow alluvial soil over-lying Keuper Marl. The grassland is characterised by a mixture of red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking grass *Briza media* with hairy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, meadow grass *Poa pratensis* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

The herb flora includes abundant great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and, less commonly, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. Of particular note is the occurrence of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, burnt-tip orchid *O. ustulata* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, species which have declined markedly in eastern England with the ploughing out of old grasslands.

The botanical interest of the site is dependent on the maintenance of traditional management by hay cropping without the addition of artificial fertilisers.