

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Willoughby 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 473713 **Area:** 0.52 (ha) 1.28 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 47 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is owned and managed as a county trust nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

This meadow is the best example of the permanent unimproved neutral grassland once common over Lincolnshire Middle Marsh boulder clay. Well over one hundred species have been recorded from its small acreage. Surrounded by hedgerows, this field is still managed by the traditional means of taking a hay crop followed by grazing. Two small ponds are located at the field's edge.

The turf is dominated by red and meadow fescues *Festuca rubra* and *F. pratensis* along with sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. Others amongst the twenty-seven different kinds of grass present are quaking grass *Briza media* and heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*. Herbs are abundant within the sward. Typical species present are cowslip *Primula veris*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. Most numerous of the three orchids present is the green winged *Orchis morio*. Rarer plants known to occur are adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris* agg.; as a meadow plant, this latter species is more characteristic of upland areas. A large patch of sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica* occurs towards the southern end.