

County: Humberside

Site Name: Hoddy Cows Spring

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

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TA 182738

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 101 **1:10,000:** TA 17 SE

Area: 1.9 (ha) 4.7 (ac)

First Notified: 1984

Description:

Hoddy Cows Spring is a wet pasture on boulder clay through which a base-rich spring arises from the underlying chalk. The area occupied by the spring itself is very small, and consists of a tussocky fen community with an abundance of mosses, and a great diversity of flowering plants. Despite its very small area, this is a site of particular interest in North Humberside, being one of only four sites known in the area displaying a species-rich fen flora. Species of note include several local rarities; for example bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, knotted pearlwort *Sagina nodosa* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*.

The surrounding wet pasture includes several species of sedge *Carex flacca*, *C. otrubae*, *C. panicea*, as well as a variety of the herbs of wet grassland such as cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, water cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.

The pasture is crossed by a stream which contains whorl-grass *Catabrosa aquatica*, floating sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* and small sweet-grass *G. declinata*.