

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Bratoft Meadows

**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 484640 **Area:** 2.2 (ha) 5.8 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 46 SE

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** -

#### **Other Information:**

The site is included in a 'Nature Conservation Review'. The site is owned and managed as a county trust reserve called Heath's Meadows.

#### **Reasons for Notification:**

The best example of species rich neutral grassland in North Lincolnshire. One of the remaining areas of permanent grassland not dominated by plants associated with chalk and limestone.

Two adjacent fields which border the Cowcroft drain are divided by a high hedge of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with fine specimens of pollarded crack willow *Salix fragilis*. Both are managed as hay meadows and are grazed after cutting. They are dominated by sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis* and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and a rich sward includes betony *Stachys officinalis*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, cowslip *Primula veris*, adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. Wetter areas have cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. The southern field has abundant green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*.

A third field separated from the others by a narrow strip of improved pasture is dominated by the same grasses as the other meadows and, like them includes yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. It is cut for hay.

The site as a whole attracts large numbers of butterflies and 18 species of terrestrial mollusc are recorded.