

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site Name:** Bagthorpe Meadows
District: Ashfield
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Local Planning Authority: Ashfield District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 469519 **Area:** 6.34 (ha) 15.66 (ac)
SK 472519
SK 477519

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000** SK 45 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** 23.03.1995

Other Information:

The site has been extended. This citation has been revised to include the scientific interest of the extension.

Reasons for Notification:

Bagthorpe Meadows, lying on the Middle Coal Measures of west Nottinghamshire, comprise one of the few areas in the county which still retain plant communities characteristic of unimproved neutral hay meadows of the English Midlands. The meadows principally support two grassland types. The most extensive is a nationally declining neutral grassland community, whilst the second type is an acidic grassland community characteristic of northern and eastern Britain, but which is rare in the East Midlands. Traditional management, together with a complex geology of sandstones, shales and limestones, has resulted in a rich and varied botanical interest.

The meadows are characterised by the high frequency of the grasses common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and herbs such as black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, common cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

A range of other notable meadow species occur, some of restricted distribution in Nottinghamshire. These include hairy lady's-mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis*, pale sedge *Carex*

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Bagthorpe Meadows (cont...)

pallescens, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, bitter-vetch *Lathyrus montanus*, cowslip *Primula veris*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

Where the soils are particularly acidic, species such as pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta* are characteristic. Conversely where the soils are markedly calcareous the grassland can be dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*.

In some meadows there is a faint ridge and furrow topography. Wet areas in the furrows add to the botanical diversity of the site providing suitable conditions for species such as cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, oval and carnation sedges *Carex ovalis* and *C. panicea*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, compact rush *Juncus conglomeratus* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*.