

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Kingerby Beck Meadows

District: West Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 052936 **Area:** 4.7 (ha) 11.6 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 112 **1: 10 000:** TF 09 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is a representative example of a traditionally-managed neutral grassland, supporting plant communities typical of calcareous clay and loam soils. Such grassland communities are now rare in the East Midlands, as elsewhere in Britain, as they are particularly vulnerable to agricultural improvement.

Kingerby Beck Meadows once comprised three fields, but now the old boundaries are marked by remnant hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedges. The site is bordered to the south by Kingerby Beck and is otherwise enclosed by mature hedges.

A wide range of grasses occurs within the site, including sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, meadow-barley *Hordeum secalinum* and tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Associated herbs include common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, bulbous buttercup *R. bulbosus*, cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, cowslip *Primula veris* and yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*.

The species composition of the site tends to vary with soil drainage. In the northern-most field where the soils are freely-draining, plants characteristic of loamy soils, such as glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule* and pignut *Conopodium majus* occur. In the southern-most field, the soil tends to be heavier, supporting herbs such as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*.

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Kingerby Beck Meadows (cont...)

Two plants of a restricted distribution, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride* and adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgare*, occur within the site.