

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Rush Furlong

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

Local Planning Authority: Boothferry Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 780003

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** SE 70 SE

Area: 0.48 (ha) 1.20 (ac)

First Notified: 1985

Description:

Rush Furlong is an unfenced strip of hay meadow on base-rich Keuper Marl soils. It is a relict of the Isle of Axholme strip-farming system under which the land was divided into many small individually owned and separately farmed strips with few well-defined field boundaries.

The main grasses present are red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking grass *Briza media*, with hairy oat *Avenula pubescens*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat *Trisetum flavescens* and, locally, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. Herbs are prominent, including rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, cowslip *Primula veris* and yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*.

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation, and is cut for hay on an annual basis.