

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Cribbs Lodge
Meadows

District: Melton

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

Local Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 899188 **Area:** 4.41 (ha) 10.89 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** SK 81 NE, SK 91 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd.

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains some of the best examples of species-rich neutral grasslands in Leicestershire and is representative of grassland on clay soils in the English Midlands. The site is included within the 'Nature Conservation Review'.

Biology:

Cribbs Lodge Meadows, developed on soils derived from glacial Boulder Clays, comprise two ridge and furrow meadows separated by a disused railway line. The sward is characteristic of neutral clay soils and is dominated by sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*. The herb flora includes such typical plants as adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, hayrattle *Rhinanthus minor*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and a colony of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*. Additional interest is provided by the presence within the meadows of two field ponds and their fringing vegetation.