

Notification date: 6 July 1990

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: BRADWELL MEADOWS

DISTRICT: HIGH PEAK

SITE REF: 15 WM3

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

Local Planning Authority: PEAK PARK JOINT PLANNING BOARD, High Peak Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 177807 Area: 0.9 (ha) 2.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 110 1:10,000: SK 18 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1990 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Bradwell Meadows are located on the eastern outskirts of the village of Bradwell. The eastern flank of the Carboniferous Limestone massif lies to the west, with the shale grits of Abney Moor to the east. Bradwell Meadows lie between these two contrasting rock types, on the Millstone Grit series which is overlain here with fine loamy soils. These grasslands are among the very few remaining unimproved hay meadows in the Peak District.

Throughout the site there is a complex pattern of grassland types which exhibit a considerable variation in species composition. The swards are classified as neutral grasslands although there are local influences which produce patches of a more calcareous nature, with species such as hoary plantain *Plantago media*. This may be due to the influence of imported limestone with which the drystone field boundaries are constructed.

The most abundant grasses are crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*. The neutral grassland indicator species cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata* and rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* are abundant together with a wide range of other herbs such as oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, black medick *Medicago lupulina* and meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*.

The two fields that make up this site differ in supporting two distinct neutral grassland communities. The western-most field is characterised by common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*. The eastern-most field is characterised by meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, with additional species including the locally uncommon adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and changing forget-me-not *Myosotis discolor*.