

Date Notified: 31 May 1991

County: Humberside

Site Name: Hewson's Field

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

Local Planning Authority: Boothferry Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 785995

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** SK 79 NE

Area: 0.48 (ha) 1.19 (ac)

First Notified: 1991

Description:

Hewson's Field represents one of the few remaining fragments of neutral unimproved grassland in the intensively farmed landscape of South Humberside. Despite its small size, it is managed as a single agricultural unit, being separated from adjacent arable land by tall hedges and from adjacent fields by a ditch and hedge. The field has been managed traditionally for hay and pasturage.

The grassland comprises a mixed sward with meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and meadow barley *Hordeum secalinum*. Herbs are locally abundant and include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and cowslip *Primula veris*. The occurrence of the herbs pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, burnet saxifrage *Sanguisorba officinalis*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* and the adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* are particularly characteristic of unimproved lowland neutral grassland.