

COUNTY: SUFFOLK SITE NAME: RIVERSIDE HOUSE MEADOW,
HASKETON

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority: SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL, Suffolk Coastal District
Council

National Grid Reference: TM 245503 Area: 1.49 (ha.) 3.68 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156 1:10,000: TM 25 SW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1993

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Riverside House Meadow is a floristically rich unimproved meadow. The number of such traditionally managed herb-rich meadows has been greatly reduced in recent decades and remain under threat from changes in agricultural practice. The site supports a typically high number of grasses and herbs.

The sward is dominated by meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Eleven other grass species typical of unimproved meadows have been recorded, such as quaking grass *Briza media* and sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

Fifty-two plant species other than grasses have been recorded in the meadow including a large number of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*. Herbs characteristic of this community include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. The presence of meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* in patches indicates areas of poorer drainage and adds variety to the grassland.

The meadow is on a gentle north-facing slope and situated on slowly permeable neutral to calcareous soils. It is managed traditionally with a summer hay cut and the aftermath is sometimes grazed.