

SITE NAME: Normanby Meadow **COUNTY:** Lincolnshire

DISTRICT: East Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council
Lincolnshire County Council

National Grid Reference: TF026893 **Area:** 4.18 (ha) 10.33 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** TF 08 NW

Date Notified (under 1981 Act): 12 November 2002

Reasons for notification:

Normanby Meadow is an important area of unimproved neutral grassland in north-west Lincolnshire, supporting an example of a nationally rare grassland type which has a restricted distribution in the East Midlands. The relevant National Vegetation Classification community is *Alopecurus pratensis* – *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

General description:

Located adjacent to the River Ancholme, the site lies on seasonally-inundated clay soils overlying chalky till deposits within the Trent Vale to the north of the City of Lincoln. This traditionally managed area of hay meadow supports a flower-rich grassland community typically associated with flood-plain situations and which has been greatly reduced in extent across much of England. At Normanby Meadow this plant community is characterised by an impressive and varied abundance of herbs including great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, common bistort *Persicaria bistorta*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, lesser stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, hairy sedge *Carex hirta*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*. Of particular note is the occurrence of a range of plants characteristic of unimproved meadows but now scarce in the county, such as pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

A diverse range of grasses is also a feature of the grassland sward within the meadow. Red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* all feature strongly, together with quaking grass *Briza media*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and meadow barley *Hordeum secalinum* in varying amounts.

Other information: **This is a new site and lies within the North Lincolnshire Coversands and Clay Vales Natural Area.**