

**Site name:** Bradbourne Mill Meadows **County:** Derbyshire

**District:** Derbyshire Dales

**Status:** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

**Local Planning Authority:** Derbyshire Dales District Council, Peak District National Park Authority

**National Grid reference:** SK 199524 **Area:** 6.86 ha

**Ordnance Survey sheet:** **1:50,000:** 119 **1:10,000:** SK 15 SE

**Notification date:** 23 November 2011

#### **Reasons for notification:**

Bradbourne Mill Meadows SSSI is a nationally important site for its lowland meadows. The grassland consists mainly of the nationally scarce National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type MG4 meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* – great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* grassland and the nationally rare NVC type MG8 crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* grassland.

#### **General description:**

Forming a north-western outlier of the Trent catchment on silty alluvial soils some 160m above sea level, Bradbourne Mill Meadows SSSI supports important examples of unimproved seasonally-inundated floodplain grassland communities which have been greatly reduced in extent across much of England. These communities are distinguished by an assemblage of species closely associated with regular hay meadow management on damp floodplain soils.

The two meadows lie close to the village of Bradbourne and are bisected by the Bletch Brook, a tributary of the River Dove. The meadow vegetation is characterised by an abundance of red fescue *Festuca rubra*, meadow foxtail, and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* with other grasses including sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. These grasses are accompanied by a range of characteristic herbs including an abundance of great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, with ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, lady's-smock *Cardamine pratensis*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*.

Of note is the additional presence of a wet grassland community, comprising small stands on more permanently wet soils below slopes flushed by springs and seepage lines. This retains a similar species composition to that described above, but is further characterised by the presence of frequent marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* and water avens *Geum rivale*, with the moss *Calliergon cuspidatum* prominent and the locally uncommon brown sedge *Carex disticha* also present. Locally, this vegetation grades into wetter stands of vegetation dominated by slender-tufted sedge *C. acuta*.