

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** SOUTHORPE PADDOCK

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Peterborough City Council

**National Grid Reference:** TF 084022

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 142                      **1:10,000:** TF 00 SE

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1986                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 1.75 ha 4.3 ac

**Other information:** This is an addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule.

**Description and Reasons for Notification**

Southorpe Paddock holds a limestone grassland community of a type which is nationally scarce. This site represents one of the very few examples of unimproved grassland on the Jurassic Limestone of eastern England.

The limestone grassland is dominated by the grasses upright brome *Bromus erectus* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. A range of typical limestone plants are present including purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium* and dropwort *Filipendula ulmaria*.

Local variations in drainage and soil within the site have also favoured the development of damp neutral grassland. This is characterised by the presence of plant species such as fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*.

Mature hedgerows are included within the site boundary, and these are of additional wildlife value.