

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: MONEWDEN MEADOWS

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority: SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 228572      Area: 3.29 (ha.) 8.13 (ac.)

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

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Nature Reserve belonging to the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation.

Reasons for Notification:

This site which consists of three floristically rich old meadows is probably the best remaining example of unimproved calcareous clay and neutral grassland remaining in Suffolk. It supports a wide range of grasses and herbs including Meadow Saffron *Colchicum autumnale* and Fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*.

The sward is dominated by Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Crested Dog's-Tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. The herb flora which is exceptionally diverse, includes such notable species as Meadow Saffron, Fritillary, Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio* and Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*. Other Species characteristic of this type of grassland include Cowslip *Primula veris*, Ox-eye Daisy *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, Hay Rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, Twayblade *Listera ovata*, Adder's Tongue Fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and Pepper Saxifrage *Silaum silaus*.

The Daffodil *Narcissus van Sion* is present as an introduction. One meadow includes a small area of very old fruit trees.