

COUNTY: Suffolk

SITE NAME: MOAT FARM MEADOWS, OTLEY

DISTRICT: SUFFOLK COASTAL

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

Local Planning Authority:

National Grid Reference: TM 222565

Area: 3.2 (ha.) 7.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156

1:10,000: TM 25 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): N/A

Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: N/A

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site consists of two of the best remaining unimproved, calcareous and neutral grassland meadows in Suffolk. Traditionally cut for hay the site is species rich and supports a wide range of grasses and herbs. As well as representing one of the rarer grassland communities in which green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* is abundant, the meadows also contain one of the largest populations in Suffolk of meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale*.

The grass sward contains a mixture of grasses including meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Flote-grass *Glyceria fluitans* and various rushes and sedges *Carex hirtii*, *C. flacca* and *Juncus effusus* are dominant in wetter areas. Amongst the more notable herb species present are meadow saffron and green-winged orchid. Other notable species include adder's tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, twayblade *Listera ovata*, cowslip *Primula veris*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis* and ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.

Outlying parts of the site contain small areas of secondary woodland and scrub and the two meadows are divided by an old banked hedge.