

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** WANSFORD PASTURE

**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:** TL 06999

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 142                      **1:10,000:** TL 09 NE

**Date Notified (under 1949 Act):**                      **Date of last revision:**

**Date Notified (under 1981 Act):** 1985                      **Date of last revision:**

**Area:** 3.2 ha 7.9 ac

**Other information:** This is a new site on the Cambridgeshire Schedule at the 1984 revision.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

Wansford Pasture supports two main grassland types, notably a species-rich flush and Jurassic limestone grassland. These grassland types are now nationally scarce and are particularly uncommon in Cambridgeshire.

The site is located on a south-facing slope. The upper part overlies an outcrop of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone with beds of the Upper Estuarine Series exposed below. Springs and a flush occur at their juncture.

The flush holds a wide range of wet-loving plants, including some species which are uncommon in the county. Blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* is a dominant species. Typical herbs occurring in the flush are ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*. Sedges recorded include common sedge *Carex nigra* and distant sedge *C. distans*. Of particular note is the presence of marsh arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris* and bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*. The locally scarce broad blysmus *Blysmus compressus* also occurs both on the flush and on better-drained parts of the site.

The limestone grassland supports typical herbs and grasses, including salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, cowslip *Primula veris* and crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*.

The rich flora on the site has been maintained through management by grazing, with an absence of fertiliser and herbicide use.

Additional habitats on the site include boundary hedgerows and a stream.