

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** HOUGHTON MEADOWS

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** Huntingdonshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 293717

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 153                      **1:10,000:** TL 27 SE

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 4.5 ha 10.8 ac

**Other information:** This is a new addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule. Part of the area is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire Wildlife Trust.

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

These ridge-and-furrow meadows hold neutral grassland communities of a type now rare in Cambridgeshire and declining nationally. They are akin to the calcareous pasture type which is geographically restricted to the south of the country.

Characteristic plant species include lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*, cowslip *Primula veris* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*.

The rich variety of broadleaved herbs also includes common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and meadow crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*.