

**County Wildlife Site
(Ref No: 2140)**

Site Name: David Hood's Meadow

Parish: Suffield

Grid Reference: TG241311

Area: 1.3 ha

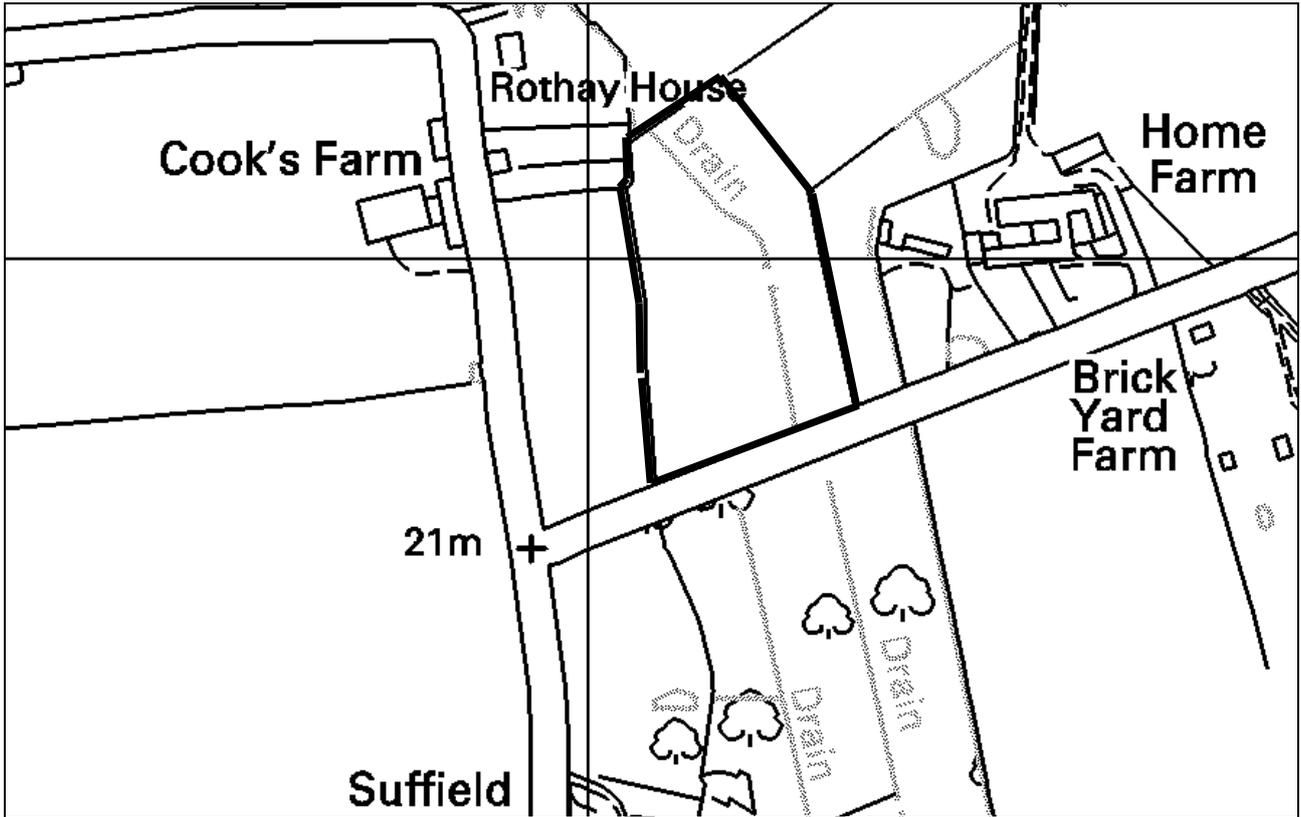
Site Description:

A species-rich meadow, with patches of impeded drainage; the south is wetter than the north, where the site shows evidence of being relatively free drained and slightly acidic in places. The site is divided by a stream that has been over-deepened in the past and supports water vole. A gravel track provides informal access across the field and one area of impeded drainage has been deepened into a scrape. The south, north and west boundaries of the site have tall, mature hedges, composed largely of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) there are also a number of mature oaks (*Quercus robur*), with ivy (*Hedera helix*) occurring as a climber. Harts tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) is rare near the hedge.

The margins of the scrape are dominated by marsh foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), with lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), floating sweet grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and sharp flowered rush (*Juncus actiflorus*) also common. Small sweet grass (*Glyceria declinata*) also occurs occasionally. Other marginals include flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), occasional water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), patches of greater bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and rarely, bog stitchwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*). Lesser water parsnip (*Berula erecta*) also occurs frequently in the scrape. To the south of this area are a number of shallow, wet hollows where marsh foxtail is abundant. Water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) is rare in these hollows and meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) occasional, as are white clover (*Trifolium repens*), crested dogs tail (*Cynosaurus cristatus*) and brown sedge (*Carex disticha*). Amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibian*) is abundant in patches. Toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*) and spike rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) occur in some hollows; marsh willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*) occurs occasionally. To the south, the damp soils support meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and large patches of fleabane (*Pulicaria dysentrica*). Southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis praetermissa*) is frequent here, as are lesser spearwort and bog stitchwort, sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and lady's smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). Scattered scrub in this area includes bramble (*Rubus* agg.), oak (*Quercus robur*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) near the stream. Scrub is scattered and not encroaching rapidly.

North of the scrape, the grass is tall and rank, with Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) abundant. This part of the site is generally drier and vegetation associated with the damp hollows largely absent, although meadowsweet occurs rarely. Ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) is also rare in this part of the site and on the site as a whole. Other species that occur rarely in area 2 include hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*) and common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) is abundant on this part of the site, as is meadow buttercup. Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is occasional here, cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) is rare and there are occasional clumps of false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) against the hedge.

Water figwort (*Scrophularia aquatica*) occurs along the stream, alongside great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), southern marsh orchid, hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), hawthorn, dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).



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