



# Kingsthorpe North Meadows & Meadow View Marsh LWS

**Site N1401**  
**Grid reference: SP735644**  
**Size: 4.45ha**

**Site D726**  
**Grid reference: SP735647**  
**Size: 1.61ha**

## Kingsthorpe North Meadows

### Introduction

The site was surveyed in 2011 to give an update from the previous year following the introduction of a management plan. Following a late cut the previous year a noticeable difference was observed, with wildflowers much more abundant across many of the fields.

Field 1; The dry section above the marsh is probably the best species rich section, with frequent knapweed, sorrel and birds-foot-trefoil.

Field 2; This was less species rich with frequent welshed thistle and abundant false oat-grass. Patches of abundant creeping thistle were present towards the ash tree.

Field 3; Frequent creeping thistle at the entrance, but also abundant ladies bedstraw and frequent other herbs. False-oat grass, is abundant in this section alongside frequent birds-foot-trefoil, meadow vetchling, sorrel and lesser stitchwort. Creeping thistle becomes less abundant away from the entrance, but is still occasional across the field alongside nettle and ragwort. Common knapweed is locally frequent. It is still the coarser grasses such as false-oat grass that dominate the sward and a number of young creeping thistle plants are starting to come through.

### Great Burnet



Field 6; A generally species poor grassland, dominated by false-oat grass, nettle and cleavers. The main interest was along the old ditch line, which was totally dry, with frequent meadow vetchling and lesser stitchwort. The other side of the ditch, was a generally species poor tussocky grassland with frequent false oat-grass. Nettles are dominant along the river bank. The site is potentially good for small mammals but may benefit from a cut every few years.

Marsh; This area continues to improve now it has been cut and the new dam has ensured that it has remained wet through a very dry summer. Wetland plants such as meadowsweet, skullcap and water forget-me-not were all frequent and patches of great burnet were present at the wetland edge.

### Interesting species

Butterflies were common across the site including abundant small skippers and frequent meadow browns and small whites, as well as numerous grasshoppers and crickets.

### Meadows

The site forms a lowland meadow habitat, and is the target for our new *Inspiring Meadows* project. Flower-rich lowland meadows have suffered a 97% national decline in the last 70 years, and are Northamptonshire's most threatened wildlife habitat. They are important habitats for a wild variety of plants as well as other species such as butterflies, bumblebees and hares.

The *Inspiring Meadows* project is working to restore priority meadow sites across the County through offering surveys and management advice as well as funding practical work. The project will help meet targets set out in the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Recommendations for management

Species rich grassland relies on management to stop it becoming overgrown with scrub or coarse grasses, whilst conversely over-management can lead to the loss of wildflowers.

Annually cut grasslands and marsh area. Ragwort pulling and thistle control are also recommended. See Management plan for more details.

Field 1 and the south of field 2 could be further enhanced by the introduction of green hay – Bugbrooke or Kingsthorpe Meadow Reserves could be potential sources. However, it would be worth seeing how they progress naturally following the re-introduced management.

**For further advice on managing this site or for additional information on Local Wildlife Sites see [www.northamptonshirebiodiversity.org](http://www.northamptonshirebiodiversity.org) or contact Matt Johnson.**



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## Species List

Species	Abund.	Species	Abund.
Meadow Brown	Y	Ground-ivy	LA
Small Copper	Y	Hard Rush	LF
Small Skipper	Y	Hawthorn	O
Small Tortoiseshell	Y	Hemlock	R
Ash	O	Hogweed	O
Barren Brome	R	Knotgrass	R
Black Bent	R	Lady's Bedstraw	F-LA
Blackthorn	O	Lesser Stitchwort	F
Bramble	LF	Marsh Foxtail	R
Cleavers	F-LA	Marsh Ragwort	R
Cock's-foot	F-LA	Meadow Buttercup	O
Common Bent	A	Meadow Foxtail	F
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	F	Meadow Vetchling	O-LF
Common Chickweed	R	Meadowsweet	R
Common Couch	LF	Pedunculate Oak	R
Common Hemp-nettle	LF	Perennial Rye-grass	LF
Common Knapweed	O-LF	Prickly Lettuce	O
Common Mouse-ear	O-LF	Red Fescue	F-LA
Common Nettle	O-LF	Ribwort Plantain	F
Common Ragwort	F	Rosebay Willowherb	LF
Common Sorrel	F	Rough Chervil	R
Common Vetch	O	Silverweed	LF
Cow Parsley	LF	Smaller Cat's-tail	F
Crack-willow	R	Smooth Hawk's-beard	O
Creeping Cinquefoil	O	Sweet Vernal-grass	O
Creeping Thistle	F-LA	Tufted Hair-grass	F
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	O	Turnip	O
Dandelion	O	Upright Hedge-parsley	O
False Oat-grass	A-LD	Wall Barley	LF
Field Bindweed	O	Wall Speedwell	R
Field Scabious	O	White Clover	F

Germander Speedwell	O	Wild Teasel	F
Goat's-beard	O	Yarrow	O-LF
Greater Plantain	O	Yorkshire-fog	F

## Marsh area

Species	Abund.	Species	Abund.
Green-veined White	Y	Hard Rush	F
False Oat-grass	F	Gypsywort	O
Common Knapweed	O	Water Forget-me-not	LF
Common Mouse-ear	O	Water Chickweed	O
Tufted Hair-grass	F	Redshank	R
Great Willowherb	A	Timothy	O
Water Horsetail	F	Meadow Buttercup	O
Red Fescue	F	Creeping Buttercup	A
Meadowsweet	F	Common Sorrel	F
Common Hemp-nettle	F	Wood Dock	O
Cleavers	F	Salix	Y
Marsh-bedstraw	F	Water Figwort	F
Reed Sweet-grass	A	Skullcap	O
Yorkshire-fog	F	Common Ragwort	O
Jointed Rush	O	Marsh Woundwort	F
Soft-rush	F	Lesser Stitchwort	F
Hard Rush	F	Smooth Tare	LF

## Abundance;

*D = Dominant*

*A = Abundant*

*F = Frequent*

*O = Occasional*

*R = Rare*

*(L = locally, Y=present)*