

Silverines Meadow



Location & Access

OS: 122 • GR: TF 259 787 • 5.90ha

(14.70 acres) • Freehold 1986

Habitat type: Grassland

The meadows are situated on the south side of the village of Goulceby (although in Asterby parish). The main access is on the north side of the Goulceby-Scamblesby road from which a gate leads into the reserve at grid reference TF 259 787. Cars may be parked on the roadside. It is also possible to enter the reserve at the southern end of Goulceby village via a rough track, though as this can be very wet and muddy after rain it is advisable to use the main access. Visitors are requested to keep to the edges of the reserve and to any mown paths, especially before hay time.

Description & Management

From the Red Hill reserve high on the chalk escarpment to the east you can look down towards Silverines Meadows set amid the small hedged fields that still survive on the Spilsby Sandstone soils around Goulceby. The flora includes cowslip, great burnet and devil's-bit scabious and some of the other plants found on clayland meadows, but, unusually, it also has a great abundance of the silvery-white meadow saxifrage (could this be the origin of the picturesque name Silverines?), a localised plant of sandy soils. An additional attraction is a small marsh traversed by a stream where there are southern marsh-orchid, common spotted-orchid, kingcup,

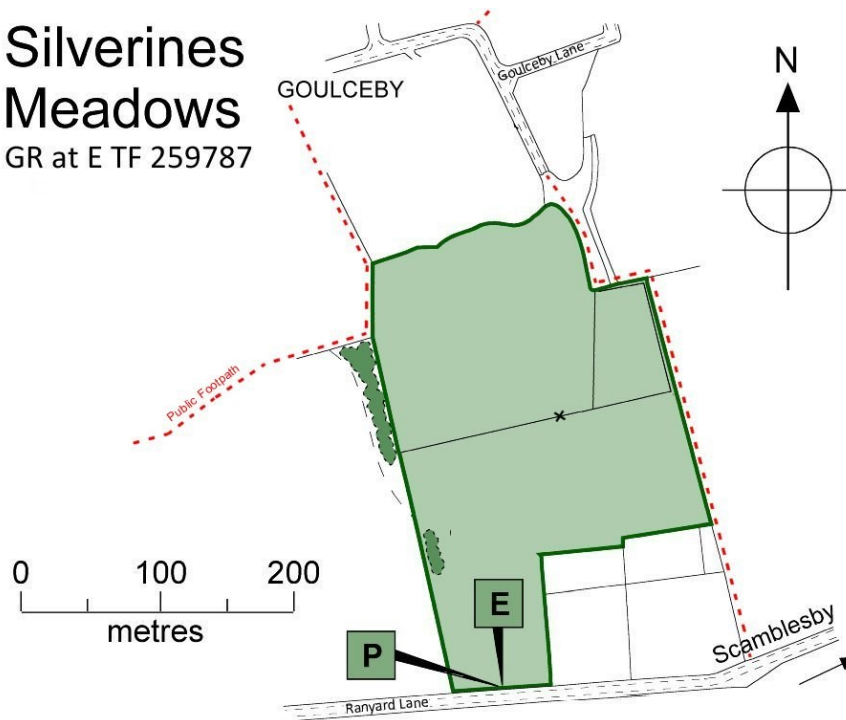
ragged-robin and water avens. Snipe frequent the marsh, and the large hedges support whitethroat, lesser whitethroat and other hedgerow birds.

The meadows are sometimes cut for hay with aftermath grazing, but in most years they are let for summer grazing only.



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GR at E TF 259787



- P Parking space
- E Entrance
- H Bird Hide