

Report on the Biodiversity of 'ASDA' field, Burringham Road

Land

The soil type is Crannymoor series – 'Very acid, well drained, sandy soils' (ref: Soils and their use in Northern England, Soil Survey Bulletin no. 13 1984). These soils are classified as moderately droughty for most crops and very droughty for grass. Agriculturally, this soil is not capable of average yields in 'normal' years and in most years summer rainfall is inadequate for cereals and potatoes. In most seasons it is **not** economic to grow an agricultural crop.

This land type is more frequently being left uncropped in the rotation. Due to the acidic nature of the soil, nutrient deficiencies are common including manganese and boron deficiencies. This requires frequent crop spraying

Site limitations

The fairly narrow width of the field boundary makes this area of land practically difficult to farm with present day large machinery. Spraying that needs to be done is always problematic as there are boundaries both East and West where spray drift must be avoided. As the prevailing wind direction is from the West, there are times when we cannot treat the field.

Leaving the land set-aside is also not viable or desirable from a biodiversity point of view, as there is a continual problem with rabbits which severely graze the field.

Biodiversity

The land type is the same as that around Carisbrooke Manor care home, so biodiversity-wise it will be similar. The cropped field has low biodiversity owing to many years of farmers using broad-spectrum herbicides as the moderately-yielding crops offer poor competition to arable weeds.

Conversion of the arable area to garden use will greatly increase the biodiversity. Many residents are taking note of the need to increase biodiversity in their gardens by sowing wildlife areas of rough grass – occasionally with wild flowers.

Conclusions

- the area of land is at best only moderate to poor for cropping, given the soil type and narrow width for farm machinery
- animal and plant biodiversity is low due to the cropping history
- a change of use to domestic use will greatly increase the biodiversity
- government policy is to increase biodiversity in the environment (various schemes)

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I have been involved in several Environmental Schemes to create biodiversity areas in the N.Lincs area.

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