Date Notified: 11 December 1990

File ref: SE 20/3

County: South Yorkshire **Site Name: Pye Flatts Meadows**

District: Barnsley

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

Local Planning Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 274052 **Area:** 2.2 (ha) 5.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 110 **1:10,000:** SE 20 NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1990 **Date of Last Revision: –**

Other Information:
This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:
These three meadows are established on loamy brown earths overlying the sandstone, coal seams and ironstone bands of the Lower Coal Measures, where they outcrop at this exposed, hilly location, 180 m above sea level, 8 km to the west of Barnsley.

They contain a uniform and mature stand of neutral haymeadow grassland, the best of a number of known scattered examples in the locality.

The dominant grasses are sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Others occur less frequently and are indicative of its special interest – quaking grass *Briza media* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

While plants such as ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, hardheads *Centaura nigra*, and yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* are abundant and provide an attractive feature in the landscape, others such as adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and common eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa*, are less easily found, but help to confirm the nature conservation value of the site. The diverse list of plant species suggests the present plant cover is a product of a long period of consistent traditional agricultural management.