



Heath's Meadows—The Nurse Winifred Heath Memorial Reserve

Location and Access

OS: 122 • **GR:** TF 484640 •
5.50 hectares (13.50 acres) • Freehold
1969

Habitat type: Grassland

The meadows are situated some 2 km (1.25 miles) south-west of Burgh-le-Marsh at Bratoft Ings. Access is from Ings Lane via a gate that leads into the first small corner meadow. There is room at the roadside for parking one vehicle. An alternative access (suitable for wheelchairs) is available by way of a footpath leading off Ings Lane on the north side of a small bungalow. Please keep close to the hedgerow through the access field, which does not belong to the Trust.

Research into the ecology of ancient meadows is carried out at the reserve by English Nature in cooperation with the Trust. Special experimental areas are pegged out during part of the year and these should not be entered.

The reserve is named after Nurse Heath of Nettleham in recognition of her

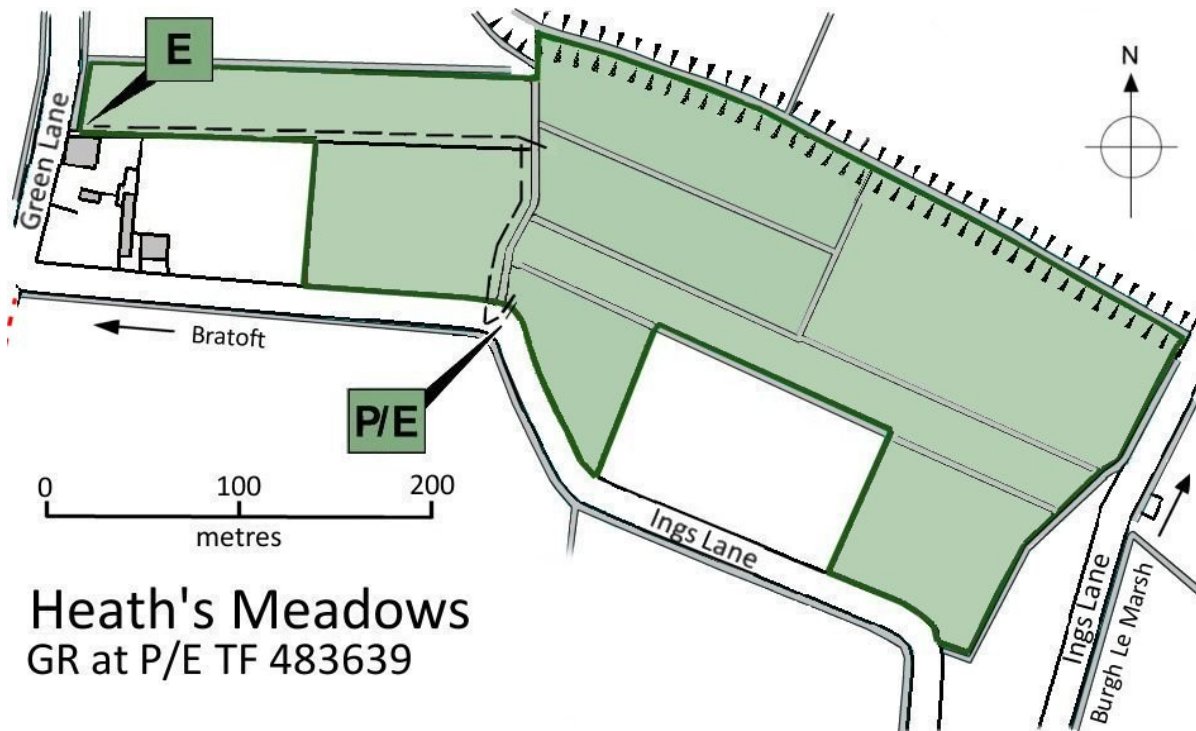
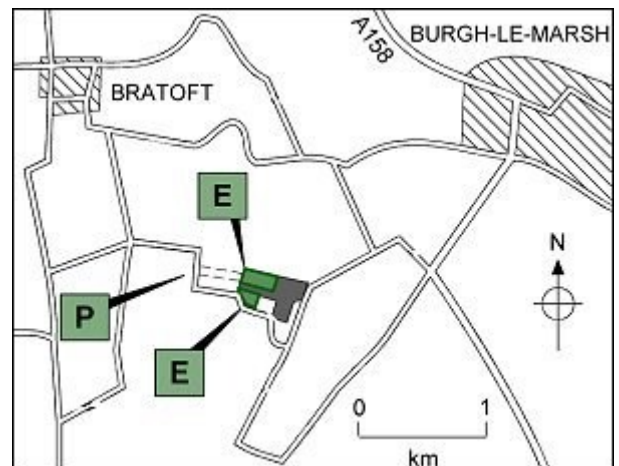
services to the Trust. A memorial stone by the sculptor Richard Devereux was placed on the reserve in 1991.

Visitors are requested to keep to the edges of the fields and avoid trampling as much as possible, especially before hay time.

Description and Management

Bratoft Ings (an old Scandinavian word meaning meadow or pasture) are still divided into small fields, mainly meadow or pasture, with big hedges containing oak and willow trees. Each of the Trust's meadows has somewhat differing plant communities reflecting past differences of grazing, mowing and manuring treatment. They contain a wealth of grassland flowers: cowslip, the now rare green-winged orchid, spotted-orchid, adder's-tongue, great burnet, saw-wort, dyer's

greenweed and devil's-bit scabious. This rich flora is maintained by continuing the traditional management of hay cropping and grazing. The hay is sold to a local farmer and the meadows are let for grazing from August to November. The Trust also owns some adjoining pasture, which is grazed by cattle during the summer months.



Heath's Meadows
GR at P/E TF 483639

P Parking space **E** Entrance **H** Bird Hide