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### Ufd96. Audley Park Pastures (9.5 ha) TL 527385

This site ranges from dry grassland through to wet pasture, sedge beds and swamp adjacent to The Slade stream. The drier land supports abundant Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Timothy-grass (*Phleum* sp.) and Oval Sedge (*Carex ovalis*\*). In damper areas Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*\*) and Marsh Horsetail (*Equisetum palustre*\*) occur. In the wettest area, Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) dominates. Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) has been recorded from land immediately to the west of Place Pond, although it is not known if it persists here. This area now comprises a rather tall but interesting swamp vegetation characterised by Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Pond-sedges and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). The northern boundary of the site supports many ancient oak trees, which may be of interest for their invertebrate populations and would repay closer investigation.

**LoWS Selection Criteria:** HCr11, HCr14

**Condition and Management Issues:** Maintenance of a high water table is important in maintaining the marshland flora.

**Date of first designation:** 1994

**Date of last revision:** 30/09/2007