

**From:** parish clerk <[parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:55 PM

**To:** Ecology <[ecology@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ecology@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Stockbridge Meadows, Melbourn

Good afternoon

Melbourn Parish Council would like to discuss the possibility of designating Stockbridge Meadows in Melbourn as a Local Nature Reserve.

We have been working with agencies to ensure we have the correct documentation etc in place but I would appreciate you confirming what is needed from Cambridgeshire County Council to enable this designation to proceed.

Please do let me know what you need to support this.

Many thanks

Abi Williams

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10/01/24

Hi Abi

Apologies for the delay in responding.

Both the County and South Cambs District as 'Principal Authorities' can delegate powers under the National Parks & Countryside Act 1949 to Parish/Town Councils to designate Local Nature Reserves.

There are a few criteria that need to be met for the site to be designated as a LNR, such as who owns the land (needs to be a local authority not privately owned), is it accessible for the general public to use, what wildlife interest does it have and can it be used for educational purposes.

More information can be found [here](#)

Please let me know if you would like ourselves or the district to lead.

Regards

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11/01 – request for advice sent to ██████████ – Natural England

Thank you for the response ██████████ and congratulations on the new role. It is very kind of you to help us through this process.

I contacted Cambridgeshire County Council and they have responded as attached – asking if we would prefer County or District to delegate the powers. I have had a quick read around but can't find anything that educates me as to which is best, and indeed, if there are any advantages / disadvantages going either route?

Would you be able to let me know if we should have a preference!

Many thanks

Abi