



Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

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Partnership:

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Site Name: Higher Fence Wood Meadows

Site Ref: 64NW04

Approved: 01 October 2008

Area (ha): 8.76

Date written/last updated: 24 February 2009

Grid Ref: SD638472

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts:

Ribble Valley

Parishes:

Bowland-with-Leagram

Description:

The site comprises two species-rich traditionally managed hay meadows associated with Higher Fence Wood Farm. The fields and farm are located to the east of Long Knots limestone reef knolls and approximately 3km south west of Dunsop Bridge.

The two meadows are similar in character. Species present throughout the swards include Yellow-rattle, Marsh-marigold, Meadowsweet, Autumn Hawkbit, Common Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling, Selfheal, Sneezewort, Bush Vetch, Common Mouse-ear, Common Sorrel, Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Buttercup, Red Clover, White Clover, Ribwort Plantain and Tufted Vetch. No one grass species is dominant and those present include Creeping Bent, Crested Dog's-tail, Meadow Foxtail, Red Fescue, Rough Meadow-grass, Rye-grass, Timothy and Yorkshire-fog.

The meadow to the east also supports occasional Common Bird's-foot-trefoil along with locally frequent Common Eyebright. Rough Hawkbit and Common Cat's-ear occur rarely in the north-east corner.

In addition the meadow to the west supports frequent Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil along with locally frequent Ragged-Robin. Lady's-mantle occurs rarely. A depression in the centre of this field is flushed with water and supports abundant Marsh-marigold, Soft-rush and Creeping Bent along with frequent Meadowsweet, Marsh Foxtail and Marsh Horsetail.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Grassland (Gr3)

Other Information/Comments: