



Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

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Partnership:

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Natural England

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Site Name: New Laund Hill

Site Ref: 64NE02

Approved: 08 September 1993

Area (ha): 40.01

Date written/last updated: 01 August 2004

Grid Ref: SD650468

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts:

Ribble Valley

Parishes:

Bowland-with-Leagram

Description:

The site comprises a limestone reef knoll near Whitewell in the Hodder valley, supporting a mosaic of limestone and neutral grassland. The knoll rises to 229m and is managed as pasture. The interest lies in the limestone grassland which occurs in patches on rock outcrops and associated shallow soils throughout the site.

The limestone grassland is species rich and supports a variety of plants characteristic of NVC types CG2 (*Festuca ovina-Avenula pratensis*) and CG10 (*Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Thymus praecox*).

Species recorded include eyebright, wild thyme, fairy flax, mouse-ear hawkweed, rough hawkbit, marsh hawk's-beard, harebell, great burnet, selfheal, common bird's-foot-trefoil, hairy lady's-mantle, pignut, common milkwort, cowslip, bulbous buttercup, devil's-bit scabious, heath speedwell, common dog-violet, glaucous sedge, spring sedge, carnation sedge, flea sedge, heath-grass and quaking grass.

Some ash trees and hawthorn scrub, a relic of former semi-natural woodland, occur along northern slopes.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Grassland (Gr1)

Other Information/Comments:

The site is in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Lowland calcareous (limestone) grassland is a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.