



Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

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Partnership:

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Natural England

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Site Name: Hoardsell Meadow

Site Ref: 63NW06

Approved: 08 September 1993

Area (ha): 4.46

Date written/last updated: 01 June 2003

Grid Ref: SD638384

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts: Ribble Valley
Parishes: Longridge

Description:

The site comprises a neutral grassland hay meadow and a small area of adjacent pasture situated immediately north-east of Knowle Green alongside Cowley Brook.

The meadow is species-rich and lies on a south facing slope with damp hollows here and there. The sward is dominated by crested dog's-tail, sweet vernal grass, meadow fescue, common sorrel and meadow buttercup. Yellow-rattle, pignut, red clover, cuckooflower, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear, Yorkshire fog and ryegrass occur frequently. Occasional species include betony, common bird's-foot-trefoil, rough hawkbit, lady's mantle, great burnet, selfheal and field wood-rush whilst ragged-robin, marsh marigold, bugle, oxeye daisy, common bistort and bluebell occur rarely.

The adjacent pasture slopes steeply down below the southern boundary of the meadow. Species present include frequent rough hawkbit, common knapweed, betony, mouse-ear hawkweed, pignut and devil's-bit scabious together with occasional great burnet, meadow vetchling, selfheal, common bird's-foot-trefoil, pignut, bugle, cat's-ear, bluebell, heath speedwell, quaking grass and field woodrush. Patches of scrub (mainly hawthorn and gorse) and scattered trees (mainly alder and ash) are also present in the pasture.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Grassland (Gr3)

Other Information/Comments:

The site is in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Lowland hay meadow is a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.