

County: North Yorkshire **Site Name:** Bishop Wilton Poor Land

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 778558

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 105, 106 **1:10,000:** SE 75 NE

Area: 2.1 (ha) 5.2 (ac)

First Notified: 1988

Description:

Bishop Wilton Poorland consists of a small, low-lying hayfield situated on Lacustrine Clays overlying Triassic Mercia Mudstones approximately 7 km north north-east of Pocklington. The meadow is important as one of the best examples of unimproved, species-rich, damp neutral grassland in North Humberside and is maintained by traditional management for hay. Such meadows which were formerly widespread are now restricted in distribution due to modern agricultural practices, particularly reseeding and the use of artificial fertilisers.

The grassland sward consists of a varied mixture of grasses and herbs with no single species being especially dominant. Grasses such as meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* are all common, as are herbs such as great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, cowslip *Primula veris*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*.

Of more restricted distribution within the meadow are species such as devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and, of particular note, meadow barley *Hordeum secalinum*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. The latter group of species all have a restricted distribution in the British Isles and are uncommon in Humberside. The abundance of the uncommon adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* within the meadow is a particularly notable feature.