

County: Humberside

Site Name: Belshaw

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

Local Planning Authority: Boothferry Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 768059

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112

1:10,000: SE 70 NE

Area: 0.2 (ha) 0.5 (ac)

First Notified: 1988

Description:

Belshaw comprises a short length of land along a disused railway line which is important because it supports a colony of greater yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus angustifolius*. This nationally rare plant receives special protection under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Once widely distributed, this species is now known to occur at only six localities in Great Britain; five in England (Greater London, Surrey and Humberside) and one in Angus, Scotland.

The greater yellow-rattle occurs here within a remnant of neutral grassland dominated by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* together with herbs such as great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*.

In damp areas common reed *Phragmites australis* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* are invading the grassland and there is some development of shrubs including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and roses *Rosa* spp., along the tracksides.