

COUNTY: HUMBERSIDE **SITE NAME:** BISHOP WILTON DEEP DALE

Status: Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid References: SE 818562

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106 **1:10,000:** SE 85 NW

Area: 43.4 ha 107.1 ac

First Notified: 1954

Date of Revision: 24 March 1986

Description

Bishop Wilton Deep Dale is a chalk grassland site in a dry valley-complex exhibiting a variety of aspects. Tor Grass (*Brachiopodium pinnatum*) is local dominant, interspersed with patches of finer grasses such as sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), red fescue (*F. rubra*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), quaking grass (*Briza media*) and sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). Typical chalk herbs which are locally frequent include harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), glaucous sedge (*Carex flacca*), eyebright (*Euphrasia nemorosa*), lady's bedstraw (*Galim verum*), autumn gentian (*Gentianella anarella*), mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), purging flax (*Linum catharticum*), burnet saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), cowslip (*Primula veris*), salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) and thyme (*Thymus praecox*). In general the south and east facing slopes are richer than the north or west facing ones; north facing slopes are characterised by pignut (*Conopodium majus*), with sweet vernal-grass, field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) and barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*).

The grassland is used for intermittent cattle grazing and scattered hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is widespread, whilst dense, well grown hawthorn is present as a game covert in one locality.

Bare chalk along cattle paths and in a small chalk pit is colonised by parsley piert (*Aphanes arvensis*), whitlow grass (*Erophila verna*), dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*), mouse-ear hawkweed, thyme and thyme-leaved speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*).

Other Information

During the 1986 revision, the area notified has been reduced to exclude plantations on former grassland.

*Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949