

County: Humberside

Site Name: Wyedale

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

Local Planning Authority: Beverley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 920353

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106

1:10,000: SE 93 NW

Area: 12.5 (ha) 30.9 (ac)

First Notified: 1986

Description:

Wyedale comprises a small chalk dale incised in the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds. Both the north and south-facing slopes remain uncultivated and support a rich flora, being invaded by hawthorn scrub due to lack of grazing.

The dale slopes support large populations of Pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis* common spotted *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and twayblade *Listera ovata* orchids. Such orchid-rich grassland is very unusual on the northern chalk.

The floristically-rich turf includes many characteristic species including harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, crosswort *Galium cruciata*, lady's bedstraw *G. verum*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, hoary plantain *Plantago media*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, cowslip *Primula veris*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. Grasses include sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, downy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red and sheep's-fescue *Festuca rubra* and *F. ovina* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

The valley bottom grasslands in Wyedale, whilst not of intrinsic nature conservation interest in themselves, are included in the SSSI by agreement with the owner for management reasons.