

County: Humberside

Site Name: Millington Wood and Pastures

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

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 850545

Area: 335.4 (ha) 828.8 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106

1:25,000: SE 85

First Notified: 1954*

Extended: 1962*

Date of Revision: 1986

Description:

Millington Wood and Pastures, which are of both geological and biological interest, cover an exceptionally fine system of deeply incised dry valleys in the chalk karst of the Yorkshire Wolds. Dry valleys are a major feature of the chalk karst, and this system is the finest in England being deeply cut, branching, undisturbed and complete in a small area. Head deposits and slope morphologies are well preserved and there is a complex of springs at the valley foot.

Much of the valley system is occupied by unimproved chalk grassland exhibiting a range of community types on the varying slopes and aspects. Tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* is dominant over much of the site, although this is generally held in check by grazing, and is accompanied by finer grasses. Common grassland herbs are widespread, with local abundance of characteristic chalk species such as dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*, rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and thyme *Thymus praecox*.

The springs in the valley bottom give rise to calcareous marsh communities containing narrow-leaved water-parsnip *Berula erecta*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, hoary willow-herb *Epilobium parviflorum*, water cress *Nasturtium officinale* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.

Lily Dale is occupied by Millington Wood, now largely a mixed plantation, but containing a small area of apparently ancient ash woodland indicated by the occurrence of wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, ramsons *Allium ursinum*, large campanula *Campanula latifolia*, woodruff *Galium odoratum*, water avens *Geum rivale*, wood melick *Melica uniflora*, primrose *Primula vulgaris* and early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Other characteristic woodland herbs, such as lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* and nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, persists in the plantations, and the woodland as a whole is probably botanically the richest in North Humberside.

Greenwick Dale and parts of Tun Dale and Scoar Dale, included for geological reasons, have been afforested.

Other Information:

1. During the 1986 revision the boundary has been amended by both extension and deletion.
2. Millington Pastures has been identified as a site of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review for its karstic landform features.

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