

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Brantingham Dale

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 949311

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106 **1:10,000:** SE 93 SE & SW

Area: 15.9 (ha) 39.2 (ac)

First Notified: 1986

Description:

The site known as Brantingham Dale occupies the head of the dry valley above Brantingham village. The slopes with predominantly north-westerly and south-easterly aspects support a mosaic of species-rich chalk grassland amid extensive areas of scrub invasion and young woodland. In a recent (1982/83) comprehensive botanical survey of chalk grassland in the Yorkshire Wolds, Brantingham Dale was one of 11 sites (6 in Humberside) rated as of the highest botanical value overall.

The grassland areas, maintained as short-turf by rabbit grazing, are dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* with a notable abundance of rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. Other species of frequent occurrence include quaking grass *Briza media*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, felwort *Gentianella amarella* and rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*.

Where ungrazed, the grassland is generally rank and dominated by false oak-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Dense scrub, mostly hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* has developed over much of the site, and there is now young woodland of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and silver birch *Betula pendula* in places. There is also a small area of mature ash woodland where the ground flora includes wild strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, herb bennet *Geum urbanum* and sanicle *Sanicula europaea*.