

County: Lancashire **Site Name:** Langcliff Cross Meadow

District: Ribble Valley

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

Local Planning Authority: Ribble Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SD 726517 **Area:** 5.3 (ha) 13.1 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 103 **1:10 000** SD 75 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – **Date of Last Revision:** –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

1. This is a new site.
2. The site lies within the Forest of Bowland AONB

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Langcliff Cross Meadow lies approximately 1g km to the east of the village of Slaidburn and at an altitude of 190 m OD. It represents one of the best examples of the few remaining species-rich meadow grasslands in the county. This nationally scarce and vulnerable habitat has, in Lancashire, been almost completely destroyed by agricultural intensification so that a site displaying such a high diversity of grass and herb species and containing many plants representative of unimproved meadows, is regarded as being of very great importance in the county context.

The community is a variant of the ‘northern haymeadow’ type and contains a total of 19 grass species, co-dominated by sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, with crested dog’s-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and downy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens* frequent within the sward. The local occurrence of quaking grass *Briza media* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* along with spring-sedge *Carex caryophylla* indicate pockets of more base-rich conditions.

The grassland is herb-rich throughout and includes many species characteristic of old meadows such as pignut *Conopodium majus*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, smooth lady’s-mantle *Alchemilla glabra*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

The diversity of species found within the site is increased by the presence of a wet area at the eastern end of the field which supports marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and floating sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*.