

Date Notified: 25 September 1990

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Newbald Becksies

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 918371

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

Area: 2.0 (ha) 4.9 (ac)

First Notified: 1990

Description:

Newbald Becksies, situated on the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds near North Newbald, comprises a mosaic of habitats with a rich flora ranging from base-rich bryophyte flushes, areas of marsh, wet and neutral grassland to tall-herb fen vegetation. These habitats have developed around the springline along the base of the chalk slope. The site is important as one of the best remaining examples of flush and wetland communities in north Humberside where such habitats are rare.

The base-rich flush communities associated with the spring line are dominated by several mosses including *Drepanocladus revolvens*, *Acrocladium cuspidatum*, and *Climacium dendroides*. They also support common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, long-stalked yellow-sedge *Carex lepidocarpa*, carnation sedge *C. panicea*, glaucous sedge *C. flacca* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*. The uncommon bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and early marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* also occur.

Areas of marsh occupy substantial parts of the site. These are dominated by stands of jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*, hard rush *J. inflexus* and brown sedge *Carex disticha*. Marsh valerian is abundant in these wet areas together with fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and populations of orchid *Dactylorhiza* spp., including early marsh-orchid and common spotted-orchid *D. fuchsii*.

The site also includes areas of wet grassland with abundant marsh hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

The wet grassland grades into drier neutral grassland areas with various grass species including sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and quaking-grass *Briza media*. Other species of note include great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, common twayblade *Listera ovata*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*.

The tall-herb fen, consisting mainly of great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* with meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* form a wide band on the lower slopes of the site in the vicinity of the watercourses which traverse the site.

The drier areas above the springline support semi-natural woodland in which ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* are the main canopy species.