

County: Lancashire **Site Name:** New Ing 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 788505 **Area:** 2.04 (ha) 5.04 (ac)

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

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 30 November 1992 **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:

New Ing Meadow lies at an altitude of around 125 OD in the valley of a small tributary of the River Ribble, approximately 1.25 km north of the village of Bolton-by-Bowland. It represents an important example of one of the few remaining herb-rich hay meadows typical of this part of Lancashire. This vulnerable habitat has become increasingly scarce nationally and has almost been completely destroyed in Lancashire due to agricultural intensification.

The plant community, which is remarkably uniform throughout the site, is co-dominated by sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. In addition, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus* sub-sp. *hordeaceus* form common components of the sward. Although not particularly diverse a characteristic range of herb species is well represented within the community including great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*. The presence of species typical of old meadows such as pignut *Conopodium majus*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, common bistort *Polygonum bistorta* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla glabra* indicate a general lack of agricultural improvement. The site is considered to be representative of the *Bromus hordeaceus* sub-sp. *hordeaceus* sub-community of the *Anthoxanthum odoratum*–*Geranium sylvaticum* community as described in the National Vegetation Classification.

The interest of the meadow has been maintained by a traditional form of management including annual cuts for hay followed by aftermath grazing by cattle. Occasional dressings of slag in the past has resulted in the suppression of sedges *Carex* spp. This is a common feature of many grasslands in north Lancashire.