

# CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>Flimby to Maryport Coast</b>	<b>SITE REF:</b>	<b>A-NY03-06</b>
<b>Planning Authority</b>	Allerdale Borough Council	<b>District</b>	Allerdale
<b>Review Status</b>	Confirmed	<b>Review Date</b>	22/03/2000 27/11/2009
<b>Survey Status</b>	Surveyed	<b>Survey Date</b>	11/10/1999 23/06/2009
<b>Grid Reference</b>	NY 028 358	<b>Area (ha)</b>	23.38

## Site Description

A coastal site with of a large area of species-rich coastal grassland. Strandline vegetation occurs along the shingle beach. The site is criss-crossed by a network of public footpaths and is well used by the general public.

Species-rich coastal grassland covers much of the site. Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) is abundant along with frequent cock's-foot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The grassland is particularly herb rich with abundant common cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), kidney vetch (*Vicia cracca*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). Frequent species include creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*), bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), restharrow (*Ononis repens*), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus mino*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and sea radish (*Raphanus maritimus*). Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*) are occasional. Great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) are rare.

The nationally rare purple broomrape (*Orobanche purpurea*) is locally abundant. Maryport Harbour provides the most northerly known site for this species which otherwise has a southern distribution. This site is also important for the small blue butterfly because of the abundance of its food plant, kidney vetch. The small blue has suffered severe decline in several parts of the country, and in Cumbria is now restricted to only 3 sites.

Along the strand line marram grass (*Ammophila maritima*) is abundant along with frequent sand couch (*Elytrigia juncea*). Other frequent species include sea radish (*Raphanus maritima*), sea mayweed (*Tripleuspertum maritimum*), sea sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex prostrata sens.str*). Occasional species include sea-kale (*Crambe maritima*), kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), restharrow (*Ononis repens*), buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*) and sea campion (*Silene uniflora*). Sea beat (*Beta vulgaris*), yellow-horned poppy (*Glaucium flavum*) and prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*) are rare.

The site is adjacent to Maryport Harbour SSSI which is also noted for the nationally rare purple broomrape (*Orobanche purpurea*) and the Cumbrian rarities common broomrape (*Orobanche minor*) and pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). The site is being proposed as a Local Nature Reserve and may include part of the Wildlife Site boundary.

**This form may contain privileged and confidential information. Permission must be obtained from Cumbria Wildlife Trust before reproducing or divulging information contained on this form to any party not directly in receipt of the form from the copyright holders.**

<b>Owner</b>	Cumbria County Council
--------------	------------------------

# CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>Flimby to Maryport Coast</b>	<b>SITE REF:</b>	<b>A-NY03-06</b>
<b>Guidelines for Selection</b>	<b>Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (Old Guidelines pre 2008)</b> H7.1: Shingle communities H7.6: Coastal or dune grassland S1.4: 1+ species listed in EC Habitat and Species Directive S6.6: Sites with any butterfly species of county importance		

*Print Date: 02/07/2010*