

# CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>Dalton and Lindal Mining Area</b>	<b>SITE REF:</b>	<b>B-SD27-08</b>
<b>Planning Authority</b>	Barrow Borough Council	<b>District</b>	Barrow
<b>Review Status</b>	Confirmed	<b>Review Date</b>	18/12/1997
<b>Survey Status</b>	Surveyed	<b>Survey Date</b>	Sep 1997
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SD 237 758	<b>Area (ha)</b>	178.04

## Site Description

The old haematite mines of the Dalton/Lindal area are found over an area of approximately 200 hectares of improved farmland on limestone overlain by boulder clay. The largest pits consist of holes revegetated with scrub, some with pools in the bottom. There are also several caves.

Most of the holes are grazed by sheep and cattle except where too steep or overgrown. Some have already been used as landfill sites and there is an outstanding planning permission for additional landfill. In this large area of improved farmland the scrubby hollows provide good shelter and nesting sites for birds but no records are available. Footpaths skirt the top edges of a few pits but there is no public access.

Lindal Moor (SD245 767) is an area of scrub (11ha) over undulating ground with deep hollows, shaft entrances and disused railway tracks with semi-improved grassland amongst the main areas of scrub.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is dominant in the scrub with locally frequent blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). Young ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are also common with occasional willow (*Salix* spp.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) forms an underscrub. Under dense canopy there is bare ground but elsewhere there are scattered ferns, ivy (*Hedera helix*), and false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) with occasional enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanum*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). In open areas amongst mine spoil of jumbled rocks with rich bryophyte growth wild thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) and wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) can be found.

Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) has been recorded in Lindal Moor and there are reliable reports of a bat roost there.

Henning Wood at SD 245763 is a small area (1.5ha) of ancient broadleaved woodland adjoining Lindal Moor and was viewed from a footpath. It is predominantly ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with occasional wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*). A boundary hedge and bank on the western side supports blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanum*) and enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*). Within the wood there is little understorey. The field layer is dominated by grasses with bare soil in places and occasional bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) and wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

The pit at SD 237754, also viewed from a footpath, has herb-rich neutral/calcareous grassland on thin soils, containing crested dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with wild thyme, bird's foot trefoil, (*Lotus corniculatus*) hairy hawkbit, (*Leontodon hispidus*), fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*) and autumn gentian (*Gentianella amarella*). A tiny pool in the same pit has sparse marginal vegetation including hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

Some of the other pits for which access permission was denied were surveyed in 1984. The best areas were at SD 236755, 236753 and 238753. The survey indicates varied scrub dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with blackthorn, ash and dog rose (*Rosa canina* agg.). Several pools contained marginals and aquatics and the whole area was judged to be excellent for birds and good for amphibians. Some herb-rich grassy banks showed limestone influence with fairy flax, carline thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), wild thyme and mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). Glaucous sedge (*Carex flacca*) was also present.

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<b>Owner</b>	Private		
<b>Guidelines for Selection</b>	<b>Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (Old Guidelines pre 2008)</b> H10.1: Listed types of artificial habitat H9: Mosaic Sites		

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