

CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

SITE NAME:	Stoneygill Meadow	SITE REF:	E-NY50-05
Planning Authority	Lake District National Park	District	Eden
Review Status	Confirmed	Review Date	09/12/2010
Survey Status	Surveyed	Survey Date	August 2008
Grid Reference	NY 583 089	Area (ha)	7.8
<p>Site Description</p> <p>Stoneygill Farm lies just west of the M6 motorway between Shap and Tebay at an altitude of around 230m asl. The holding comprises pastures and meadows along Birk Beck and is backed to the west by the higher ground of Birkbeck Fells Common.</p> <p>Nearby sites of conservation interest include Lake District High Fells SAC (adjacent to meadow on north side), Asby Complex SAC 0.5km east. Bousefield Farm Meadows and Verges County Wildlife Site is 1.9km to the east. Grassland Inventory sites include upland calcareous grassland 1.8km northwest and 2.5km east.</p> <p>The main feature of interest is a species rich hay meadow with additional features of flushes, base rich wetland and species rich bank. The meadow is a Grassland Inventory site for both upland hay meadow and lowland meadow.</p> <p>A large hay meadow centred on a knoll, sloping downward in all directions from the centre. The sward is a relatively homogeneous MG5 crested dog's-tail – black knapweed (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – <i>Centaurea nigra</i>) lowland meadow. The sward is made up from common bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and crested dogs tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>) with meadow and creeping buttercups (<i>Ranunculus acris</i> and <i>R. repens</i>), yellow rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>), red and white clovers (<i>Trifolium pratense</i> and <i>T. repens</i>), eyebright (<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg) with frequent autumn hawkbit (<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>) and occasional great burnet (<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and black knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>).</p> <p>Other areas of interest include flushed slopes grading to rush mires along Birk Beck with yellow rattle, eyebright, carnation and oval sedges (<i>Carex panicea</i>, <i>C. leporina</i>), rough hawkbit (<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>), betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>), harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>) and black knapweed. The sharp flowered rush dominated mires (M23a) occur in mosaics with short sedge swards, together supporting greater bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), marsh bedstraw (<i>Galium palustre</i>), great burnet (<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and eyebright. Rush mires in the south east corner are wetter with marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>), greater bird's-foot-trefoil, sneezewort (<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>) and meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>).</p> <p>There is a small but rich area of calcareous wetland comprising short sedge and bryophyte mires (M10b) and purple moor grass dominated wetland M26. M10b supports quaking grass (<i>Briza media</i>), tawny sedge (<i>Carex hostiana</i>), five flowered spike rush (<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>) and bird's eye primrose (<i>Primula farinosa</i>). The M26 stands support purple moor grass with quaking grass, marsh hawk's-beard (<i>Crepis paludosa</i>), fen bedstraw (<i>Galium uliginosum</i>), bog asphodel (<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>), bird's-eye primrose, great burnet and some bog moss (<i>Sphagnum species</i>).</p>			
<p>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.</p>			

CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

Owner	Private	
Guidelines for Selection	Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (New Guidelines 2008) Gr1 areas of established semi-natural grasslands of at least 0.5ha that support stands of NVC type MG5 crested dog's tail – black knapweed (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – <i>Centaurea nigra</i>) grassland.	
	Herb cover – 40%	
	Frequency of indicator species	
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Occasional
	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>	Frequent
	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Frequent
	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Frequent
	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Occasional

Print Date: 24/08/2011