

# CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

<b>SITE NAME:</b>	<b>High Ground Meadow</b>	<b>SITE REF:</b>	<b>E-NY70-44</b>
<b>Planning Authority</b>	Eden District Council	<b>District</b>	Eden
<b>Review Status</b>	Confirmed	<b>Review Date</b>	24/02/2010
<b>Survey Status</b>	Surveyed	<b>Survey Date</b>	24/02/2010 18/06/2008
<b>Grid Reference</b>	NY 711 043	<b>Area (ha)</b>	2.55

## Site Description

Greenside Farm lies to the southwest of Ravenstonedale on the narrow strip of low ground between the Howgills Fells to the south and Crosby Garrett Fell to the north. The holding lies against the foothills of the Howgills an altitude of around 280m asl.

Sites of conservation interest nearby include County Wildlife Sites Hag Mire (which includes a lowland meadows Grassland Inventory site) 0.7km to the northeast, Coupland Sike and Breakyneck Scar (herb rich limestone grassland) 0.8km northeast, Greenside Tarn and mire 0.6km north, High Wood (woodland on limestone pavement) 1.6km northeast and Ravenstonedale Churchyard (also a Grassland Inventory site - upland hay meadow). Other Grassland Inventory sites include a lowland meadow 0.5km to the southwest. SSSI include Ash Fell Edge (limestone calcareous grassland) 2.1km to the east, Ash Fell, a large upland site to the north and Bowber Head and Piper Hole Meadows 1.7km to the southeast.

The interest value of site is a species rich upland hay meadow. The meadow is a very narrow field sloping to the northeast, supporting National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type MG3 sweet vernal grass - wood crane's-bill (*Anthoxanthum odoratum* - *Geranium sylvaticum*) upland hay meadow. The sward is quite lush with frequent meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratense*), Timothy *Phleum pratense*, rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) and sweet vernal grass. Other species at lower cover include common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and yellow oat grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) with crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) both rare. Herb cover is high at 50% with frequent pignut (*Conopodium majus*), wood crane's-bill, meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). Other species include occasional great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and rare yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), changing forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*).

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<b>Owner</b>	Private
<b>Guidelines for Selection</b>	<b>Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (New Guidelines 2008)</b> Gr1: Old established semi-natural grasslands.

**Print Date: 02/07/2010**