

CUMBRIA COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

SITE NAME:	Sandford Mire	SITE REF:	E-NY71-11
Planning Authority	Eden District Council	District	Eden
Review Status	Confirmed	Review Date	10/11/2006
Survey Status	Surveyed	Survey Date	Aug - Sep 2006
Grid Reference	NY 727 171	Area (ha)	21.10
Site Description			
<p>Sandford Mire is a low-lying area, north of Sandford village, close to the River Eden SSSI, and has a disused railway line running along its northern boundary. The site contains substantial areas of mire (closest to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) community M25c) and rush pasture (NVC M23) mosaic, and also contains ditches, newly created scrapes and a small pond fringed with dense reed beds (NVC S4) which grade into tall herb swamp (NVC S25), extending along part of the railway embankment. The site is also important for breeding snipe.</p> <p>The mire is relatively species-rich at the eastern end and along the northern edge close to the pond, with frequent purple moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>), marsh pennywort (<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>), marsh thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), occasional to frequent marsh violet (<i>Viola palustris</i>), tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>), greater bird's-foot trefoil (<i>Lotus uliginosus</i>), rushes, occasional fen bedstraw (<i>Galium uliginosum</i>), marsh bedstraw (<i>Galium palustre</i>), ragged robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>), rare wild angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>) and common valerian (<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>).</p> <p>The ditches generally have little associated vegetation other than soft rush (<i>Juncus effuses</i>) and small amounts of common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), but Mire Sike contains a good range of vegetation including water mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>), lesser spearwort (<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>), yellow flag iris (<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>) and water forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>). The recently created scrapes contain water but have little associated vegetation as yet.</p> <p>The presence of snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) is of particular note. These birds over-winter in good numbers and between 2 - 14 pairs have been recorded as breeding here in the last few years. Other breeding birds recorded include oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), lapwing, (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) curlew (<i>Numenius arquatica</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>), meadow pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>), mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), sedge warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>), willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>) and moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>). The value of the mire for birds is considerably enhanced by its location so close to the River Eden SSSI; which includes the nearby Ormside Hall mire.</p>			
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Owner	Private		
Guidelines for Selection	<p>Cumbrian Wildlife Sites Criteria for Selection (Old Guidelines pre 2008)</p> <p>H4.1: Bog and mire indicative of listed NVC communities</p> <p>S4.10: Sites supporting listed declining species</p>		

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