

NORTHYORKSHIRE: SEIVE DALE FEN

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Local Planning Authority: North York Moors National Park (Ryedale District Council)

National Grid Reference: SE 855877

Area: 10.4 hectares 26.7 acres

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1:50,000: 100

1:10,000: SE 88 NE

First notified: 1983

Description

The site extends along the western slopes of the rather steep valley of Dalby Beck and is bounded on the west by forestry plantations.

Whilst fen vegetation extends over most of the site, there are also areas of woodland and dry grassland. The fen is fed by springs, many of which are covered by vegetation and have a slightly bulging profile. Blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* dominates much of the area, particularly on drier slopes where purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* is the main associate. There are species-rich communities where bryophytes such as *Philonotis calcarea* are plentiful and here bog rush *Schoenus nigricans* is locally dominant. Constituent species include tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*, flea sedge *C. pulicaris*, common sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, marsh arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* and grass of Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*. Other notable species include bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, great sundew *D. anglica* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. There is a colony of marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza* spp. and the marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* also occurs.

Between the conifer plantations and the fen there is a strip of dry grassland dominated by bent *Agrostis* sp. red fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. Herbs include salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. At the northern end of the valley a woodland strip of oak *Quercus* sp., ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* adjoins the grassland. The ground flora here includes dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and barren strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*. On the lower slopes there is a wet alder *Alnus glutinosa*/willow *Salix* spp. carr and alders border the Beck along the length of the site.

Other Information

This is a new site.