

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 29 JULY 1986

COUNTY: DURHAM

SITE NAME: KILMOND SCAR

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

Local Planning Authority: TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: NZ 028134

Area : 4.5 (ha.) 11.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 92

1:10,000: NZ 01 SW

First Notified: 1963\*

Date of Revision: 1986

#### Description:

Kilmond Scar is a prominent south-facing scarp formed by rocks of the Upper Carboniferous Limestone formation, which although partially quarried in the past, support an interesting range of scree, rock-ledge and crevice, grassland, scrub and immature woodland vegetation.

On the shallow drought-prone soils of rock ledges, crevices and scree, open vegetation with a well developed moss layer is developed, which contains a rich assemblage of drought tolerant annual and perennial species, including biting stonecrop *Sedum acre*, hairy rock-cress *Arabis hirsuta*, rue-leaved saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites*, parsley piert *Aphanes arvensis* and lamb's lettuce *Valerianella locusta*.

Deeper limestone soils support grasslands in which common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* are prominent components, and a wide range of calcareous grassland species, including rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, thyme *Thymus praecox*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and purging flax *Linum catharticum* are also present. Blue moor-grass *Sesleria albicans*, which has a northerly distribution in Britain, is a frequent component of such grasslands, while other species of a southerly distribution, including saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, common dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and perennial flax *Linum anglicum* are also represented. Such grasslands therefore have closer floristic affinities with the grasslands of the Magnesian Limestone of Counties Durham and Tyne and Wear, rather than the Carboniferous grasslands found elsewhere in North Yorkshire and County Durham. In less heavily grazed situations, taller grassland occurs containing cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and common hedge-bedstraw *Galium mollugo*. Locally, on drift soils, neutral grassland occurs including crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris*.

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and rose *Rosa* spp. are widely scattered through the grassland, in places forming closed scrub. Locally there is also immature ash woodland developed over an understorey of hazel *Corylus avellana* and a ground layer which contains woodland herbs such as cuckoo pint *Arum maculatum*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

#### Other Information:

During the 1986 revision the site boundary has been amended by both addition and deletion.

\* Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.