

County: North Yorkshire **Site Name:** East Heslerton Brow

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

Local Planning Authority: Ryedale District Council

National Grid Reference: SE 926757

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 101 **1:10,000:** SE 97 NW

Area: 40.7 (ha) 100.57 (ac)

First Notified: 1954 *

Date of Revision: 1984

Description:

East Heslerton Brow lies on the north-facing escarpment of the Yorkshire Wolds and is unusual physiographically with a complex of spurs and small valleys which are the result of land-slipping.

The slopes support a chalk grassland community dominated by red rescue *Festuca rubra* with abundant hairy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens* and meadow oat-grass *A. pratensis*. Other components of the sward include yellow oat *Trisetum flavescens*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, quaking grass *Briza media* and carnation sedge *Carex flacca*.

Many typical herbs occur on the site including rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, and, notably, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*. This site is also rich in orchids which include twayblade *Listera ovata*, fragrant *Gymnadenia conopsea*, pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, frog *Coeloglossum viride* and bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*.

The grassland has been extensively colonised by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

Other Information:

During the 1984 revision the boundary has been extended.

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