

County: Lancashire **Site Name:** Standridge Farm
Pasture

District: Ribble Valley

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

Local Planning Authority: Ribble Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SD 733534 **Area:** 4.46 (ha) 11.02 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 103 **1:10 000** SD 75 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – **Date of Last Revision:** –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 14 May 1998 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

1. This is a new site.
2. The site lies within the Forest of Bowland AONB.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Standridge Farm Pasture lies at an altitude of between 225–250 m OD, approximately 2.5 km north-east of the village of Slaidburn. The site consists of an unimproved enclosed herb-rich flushed pasture on a north-facing slope. The underlying Bowland Shales give rise to base-rich conditions and impeded drainage, which results in much spring-fed flushing of the slope with ground water. Standridge Farm Pasture is one of the few remaining unimproved herb-rich pastures present in this part of Lancashire. This vulnerable habitat has become increasingly scarce nationally and has been largely destroyed in Lancashire due to agricultural intensification.

The site supports a mosaic of flushed mire and neutral grassland communities. The flushed mire community is characterised by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, quaking grass *Briza media*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, carnation sedge *C. panicea*, glaucous sedge *C. flacca* and jointed-rush *Juncus articulatus*, with bird's-eye primrose *Primula farinosa*, globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, grass-of-Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*. Round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* is occasionally present in more acidic flushes.

The grassland communities are characterised by sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, with greater burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, saw-wort

Serratula tinctoria, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*.