Staffordshire Ecological Record SBI Report

Staffordshire Ecological Record

95/87/34

Site Name: **Brough Park Fields Country Park**

Locality Type: **Improved grassland {B}**

Grid Ref.: SJ983574

GB Vice-County: Staffordshire

Civil Parish: Leek (Staffordshire Moorlands, Staffordshire, England)

Keywords

Keyword	Details	Date
Original Recorder Code	201028	no date

Conservation Status

Status	Details	Date
Local Nature Reserve		2004

Biotopes (Habitats)

Code	Habitat	Area
A102	Woodland: plantation	1.88
A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural	0.56
A2	Scrub	
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved	1.38
B5	Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland	0.75
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved	2.38
C3	Tall herb and fern: other tall herb or fern	0.69
F21	Marginal/inundation: marginal	0.50
G1	Open water: standing water	0.63
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge	

Dimensions

Dimension	Value/units
area	8.8ha

Contacts

Role	Date	Contact
field surveyor	1999	Smith, Mr John R.
landowner	1999	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
manager	1999	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Site Description

Source: **Smith, Mr John R., 1999**

Summary: Brough Park Fields is a country park in the Moorlands district, situated north of Leek town. The park comprises fish ponds, amenity grasslands and play areas. A small northern section is being used for nature conservation, containing a broad spectrum of habitats.

The woodland section, positioned on a north facing slope, is a mixture of mature semi-natural woodland with plantation along its boundaries. This woodland contains beech, sycamore, pedunculate oak, silver birch and alder. All frequently recorded. Rowan, ash, crack willow, rowan, white willow and horse chestnut are occasional.

Holly, hawthorn and rhododendron are frequently present in a scattered shrub layer with occasional hazel, cherry laurel, grey willow, osier, dog rose, dogwood, goat willow and elder.

The ground flora reflects poor diversity with many ruderal and grass species and very few woodland indicators. Creeping soft-grass, bramble and wavy hair-grass are abundant with frequent yorkshire fog, cock's-foot, rosebay willowherb, raspberry and great willowherb. Honeysuckle, male fern and red campion are occasional.

Fields west of the woodland are poor semi-improved and surrounded by intact hedgerows.

A small field directly north of the woodland contains a variety of species, the most notable being yellow rattle, selfheal, fleabane, devil's-bit scabious, sneezewort, common knapweed, meadow vetchling, ribwort plantain and meadow buttercup. Within the field are several patches of marshy grassland abundant in sharp flowered rush, meadowsweet, wild angelica, valerian and creeping buttercup. The grasses recorded within these two areas include meadow foxtail, tufted hair-grass, sweet vernal-grass, perennial rye-grass and timothy.

An area of disturbed ground is situated east of the pond where meadowsweet is abundant with frequent colt's-foot, water mint, ragged robin and hogweed. Carnation sedge, fleabane, marsh harsetail, creeping buttercup, common reed and creeping thistle are occasionally recorded.

Surrounding the pond is a dominant mixture of reed canary-grass, bulrush and purple loosestrife.

The most notable aspect of the site is the mature standing dead wood and log piles which are abundant in the woodland section. This form of management provides an invaluable habitat for invertebrates which then encourages other wildlife to the area.

Bibliography

described **SWT (1999)**
The SBI Resurvey of Staffordshire Moorlands 1998 - 2000 (Sites Surveyed in 1999); Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Sandon, Stafford

described **SNCT (County Survey) (1984)**
The Phase 1 Survey of Staffordshire - 1978-1984; Staffordshire Nature Conservation Trust, Sandon, Staffs.

Subsites

95/87/34	**Fowlchurch (west of)**
95/87/42	**Ball Haye Gardens (north of)**

Species List

Rock Names and Rock Unit Terms based on the Rock Classification and Rock Unit Lexicon © BGS, 2002
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