

# Lowland Meadows of Redcar and Cleveland



The second large field has a solitary Ash tree in the middle. The steep, undulating slopes are covered with wildflower-rich grassland and are also regularly grazed by cattle. Grazing is the traditional practice that created lowland meadows and it helps control invasion by rough grasses and noxious weeds.

Wildflowers to look out for – Buttercup, Cat's-ear, Common sorrel, Bird's-foot trefoil, Harebell, Yarrow, Red Clover:



Once the cattle have been taken off the field the wildflowers have a chance to grow and flower; but they are shorter stemmed than usual.

From Boosbeck Road head west on Cleveland Street. After passing behind garden allotments the footpath passes through a number of fields, three of which contain wildflower-rich grassland.



The footpath runs diagonally across the first field, with the wildflower-rich grassland found mainly to the right on a steep slope. To the left of the path, close to the entrance to the field is a smaller area with Cowslips. Cattle regularly graze this field and the ease of identifying plants will depend on the amount of grazing as well as the time of year.

The cover of Gorse bushes across the slope has been a problem in the past, shading out the grassland wildflowers, but they are now controlled by the farmer.

Wildflowers to look out for - Agrimony, Betony, Buttercup, Cat's-ear, Common Sorrel, Cowslip, Common Knapweed, Oxeye daisy, Pignut, Red Clover, Violet, Harebell, Bird's-foot-trefoil.

Many different kinds of toadstool are found in old meadows and pastures that have not been 'improved' by the addition of artificial fertiliser. One such group are the wax-cap fungi. Three different species of wax-cap fungi were found in this pasture, Scarlet Wax-cap, Snowy Wax-cap and Blackening Wax-cap (below - named because it slowly changes colour to black as it ages).



The third field is no longer grazed, but is cut once a year in late summer. This means the wildflowers and grasses are more easily seen. In early summer the lacy white flower-heads of Pignut will be visible. Look out also for distinctive meadow grasses Sweet Vernal Grass and Crested Dog's-tail. Some of the wildflowers found in the other fields may also be seen here.



To Skelton

Boosbeck

To Lingdale

## Key

-  Start of Walk
-  Cleveland Street (Route)
-  Wildflower Meadow



▲ Common Sorrel



▲ Cowslip



▲ Red Clover



▲ Harebell



▲ Pignut



▲ Common Knapweed



▲ Sweet Vernal-grass



▲ Crested Dog's-tail



▲ Meadow Vetchling



▲ Common Bird's-foot-trefoil



▲ Betony

**Please keep to the public footpath**