

Grazing at Horden Sewage Treatment Works

In 1998, as part of mitigation for a new sewage treatment works at Horden an area of Magnesian Limestone Grassland, identified during ecological surveys, was translocated to a prepared donor site located nearby. The translocated grassland adjoins existing remnant grassland and scrub forming an area of approximately 1.5 ha.

Historically the grassland site has been subject to an annual hay cut until 2007 when winter grazing was initiated using the regional [Flexigraze](#) scheme.



Highland Cattle Grazing the Site in 2008



**Cattle grazing the site
over Winter 2009-10**

Surveys from 2003, 2008 and 2009 have been carried out to determine the botanical interest and monitor the effects of site management.

The latest surveys have shown that although fewer plant species were recorded overall, all quadrats sampled apart from one comprised more species than five years ago. This includes eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp), common milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), common fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*). Six quadrats contained at least 50% more species with one of them containing almost double the number of species when compared with 2003.

Future management of the site will involve the removal of encroaching gorse and hawthorn scrub and continuation of grazing with cattle to prevent re-growth of scrub.