

County: North Yorkshire **Site Name:** Keasden Moor

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

Local Planning Authority: Craven District Council

National Grid Reference: SD 725664

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 98 **1:10,000:** SD 76 NW

Area: 10.2 (ha) 25.2 (ac)

First Notified: 1989 (April)

Description:

Keasden Moor is of special interest as the only known site for the marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* in the Yorkshire Dales. This is a nationally rare species and occurs here on the northern edge of its range in Britain. This site is particularly important as many other northern localities have been lost since 1930 by drainage or unsuitable management.

Marsh gentian is typically associated with relatively open areas of wet heathland dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bog moss *Sphagnum* spp. Patches of this habitat occur here on gently sloping moorland amongst a mosaic of acidic and marshy grassland, which have an abundance of wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, heath rush *Juncus squarrosus* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Rushes and sedges are locally abundant on the slopes where flushing occurs and gorse *Ulex europaeus* favours the steeper slopes.

A small pond provides an additional feature of interest. It is surrounded by soft-and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus effusus* and *J. acutiflorus* with common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, marsh willowherb *Epilobium palustre*, sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica* and lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*.