

## **Glenmead/West Bold Hillside – Species**

This area opposite the village of Walkerburn has been farmed for over 300 years and there is evidence of agricultural activity back to the Iron Age. On Shiel Craig there is the site of a “D” shaped fort. Along the Plora Burn there are two scheduled ancient monuments: an earthwork and enclosure and the site of Plora Burn Tower House. There is also evidence of an old village which was populous as late as 1775.

Over the past 30 years, the land has been grazed by sheep, beef and dairy cattle with low stocking levels. Since 2001, government grants have assisted the both farms to become organic, restore old dykes, plant hedges and small woods, develop wetland areas and ponds, and maintain species rich and herb rich grassland with grazing restricted seasonally. No shooting or fishing has been permitted.

On three sides this land is surrounded by blanket conifer forest and this has made its wildlife and landscape value even more significant.

144 vascular plant species have been identified in addition to 24 faunal species. Juniper, Ragged Robin, Adder and Common Frog are Scottish Borders priority species and are all present.

Wildflower/Herb species noted are: Harebell, Sorrel, Plantain, Hawkbit, Eyebright, Tormentil, Self-Heal, Wild Thyme, Fairy Flax, March Thistle, Creeping Buttercup, Greater Bird’s Foot Trefoil, Sneezewort, Devi’s bit scabious, orchids, Water mint, lesser Spearwort, Marsh wound wort, Wild angelica.

Invertebrate species noted are : Peacock, Meadow Brown, Green veined white, Ringlet, Seven-spot ladybird, Common green grasshopper, Grasshopper ssp, Crane fly, Harvestmen, Ant ssp, spider ssp

Birds noted are: Buzzard, Kestrel, Heron, Wren, Curlew, Lapwing, Grey Partridge, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Whinchat, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Yellow Hammer, Fieldfare (winter), Redwing (winter), Redpoll (winter), Oyster Catcher, Nightjar, Meadow Pippit, Starling, Wood Pigeon, Carrion Crow, Swallow, Cuckoo, Tree Sparrow, Nuthatch, Barn Owl and Dipper as well as a host of finches, robins and other common species.

Brown Hares and Badgers are in evidence across the area. Rabbits are in evidence on the lower fields. Stoats and weasels who both can be seen hunting in the fields and both use the dry stone dykes for hunting and for their dens.