

## Natural England (formerly English Nature)

### Langcliff Cross Meadow SSSI and SAC, Slaidburn, Lancashire

Design: English Nature / Duncan Ross Ltd

#### Project Brief:

Design and construction of land drainage system to regulate ground water content to specified areas with the specific aim of promoting supporting processes for the regeneration of endangered plant species.



#### Project Overview

Duncan Ross Ltd worked with English Nature to design and install a drainage system for the Langcliff Cross Meadow SSSI, which lies within the Forest of Bowland AONB and is considered to be one of the best examples of the few remaining species-rich meadow grasslands in the county. The work was required to regulate the moisture content of the Meadow subsoil in order to promote the regeneration of endangered grass and herb species.

Due to the sensitive nature of the environment and the area's SSSI status, the drainage scheme was designed and implemented with the specific objective of causing minimum disruption to the ground and avoid harm to the area's sensitive micro-ecology and in particular its terrestrial microbial habitats. With this objective in mind an essential element of the scheme involved careful removal of surface grasses and vegetation for reinstatement on completion.

Following detailed surveys the following works were undertaken to optimise sub-soil moisture levels:

- Careful removal of 1,600m<sup>2</sup> of existing grasses.
- Installation of 2,660m of piped drainage with provision for connection to existing peat drains.
- Construction of a large soakaway .
- Due to the sensitive nature of the environment, the drainage work was designed and implemented specifically to cause minimum disruption to the ground and on completion all 1,600m<sup>2</sup> of the original grasses were re-laid.