**RISLEY MOSS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (SAC, SSSI, LNR), WARRINGTON**

The Reserve is divided into two main sections; Woodland paths accessible to the public and Mossland which is fragile and dangerous and restricted to Ranger-led walks.

Two **monads** were visited on the signposted Nature Trail and the plants observed were determined and recorded.

The recording began in 1km square **SJ6692**, to the North and North-east of the Visitor Centre.

**MIXED OAK/ASH WOODLAND**

The ‘oak/ash’ woodland was originally planted up with oak, ash and elm in the 1850s for timber and game for timber and game-bird shooting, with the rhododendron introduced as cover for the birds.

**SJ6692**

**Trail**

**Many-flowered Rose** *Rosa multiflora*

**Dog Rose** *Rosa canina*

**Guelder Rose** *Viburnum opulus*

**Rough Meadow-grass** *Poa trivialis*

**Meadow Vetchling** *Lathyrus pratensis*

**Bramble** *Rubus fruticosus agg.*

**Daisy** *Bellis perennis*

**Broad-leaved Willowherb** *Epilobium montanum*

**Greater Plantain** *Plantago major*

**Ground Ivy** *Glechoma hederacea*

**Red Clover** *Trifolium pratense*

**Wood Avens** *Geum urbanum*

**Meadow Buttercup** *Ranunculus acris*

**Cleavers** *Galium aparine*

**Common Nettle** *Urtica dioica*

**Yorkshire Fog** *Holcus lanatus*

**Pond**

**Yellow Iris** *Iris pseudocorus*

**Common-spotted Orchid** *Dactylorhiza fushsii*

**Water plantain** *Alisma plantago-aquatica*

**Gypsywort** *Lycopus europaeus*

**Soft Rush** *Juncus effusus*

**Remote Sedge** *Carex remota*

**Wood Forget-me-not** *Myosotis sylvatica*

**Germander Speedwell** *Veronica chamaedrys*

**Water Figwort** *Scrophularia auriculata*

**Crested Dog’s-tail** *Cynosurus cristatus*

**Floating Sweet-grass** *Glyceria fluitans*

**Caltha** *Caltha*

**Nuttall’s Waterweed** *Elodea nuttalli*

**Branched Bur-weed** *Sparganium erectum*

**Trail**

**Field Rose** *Rosa arvensis*

**Rhododendron** *Rhododendron*

**Common Vetch** *Vicia sativa*

**Rowan** *Sorbus aucuparia*

**Silver Birch** *Betula pendula*

**Pedunculate Oak** *Quercus robur*

**Sessile Oak** *Quercus petraea*

**Hybrid Oak** *Quercus rosacea*

**Hawthorn** *Crataegus monogyna*

**Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica*

**Snowberry** *Symphoricarpus albus*

**Ramsons** *Allium ursinum*

**Herb Robert** *Geranium robertianum*

**Holly** *Ilex aquifolium*

**MOSSLAND CONSERVATION AREA**

Risley Moss is one of the last remaining fragments of the lowland peat bog system that once covered large areas of South Lancashire and North Cheshire. Such fragments are rare habitats and peat bog restoration has been underway at Risley Moss for several decades, resulting in the re-establishment of sphagnum mosses and cotton grasses over large areas of mossland.

**Observation Tower**

**Common Cottongrass** *Eriophorum angustifolium*

**Prickly Sow-thistle** *Sonchus asper*

**Bittersweet** *Solanum dulcamara*

**Lesser Trefoil** *Trifolium dubium*

**Hawkweed sp.** *Hieracium*

**Creeping Thistle** *Cirsium arvense*

**Spear Thistle** *Cirsium vulgare*

**Perennial Rye-grass** *Lolium perenne*

**Common Ragwort** *Senecio jacobaea*

**Cat’s-ear** *Hypochaeris radicata*

**Foxglove** *Digitalis purpurea*

**Trail**

**Yellow-rattle** *Rhianthus minor*

**Cowslip** *Primula veris*

**Ribwort plantain** *Plantago lanceolate*

**Common Knapweed** *Centaurea nigra*

**Cock’s-foot** *Dactylis glomerata*

**Wet woodland**

Wet woodland is a transition zone between the wetter peat bog and the drier woodland and grassland. It is very important as it supports the high water levels in the adjacent peat bog. The habitat is a mosaic of damp loving ferns, tussocky hair moss, bog forming sphagnum and water seeking Alder and Willow.

**Trail**

**Rough-stalked Feather Moss** *Brachythecium rutabulum*

**Bank Haircap** *Polytrichastrum formosum*

**Flat-topped Bog Moss** *Sphagnum fallax*

**SJ6691**

**Buckler Fern** *Dryopteris sp.*

**Skullcap** *Scutellaria galericulata*

**Cut-leaved Crane’s-bill** *Geranium dissectum*

**Alder** *Alnus glutinosa*

**Goat Willow** *Salix caprea*

**Burdock sp.** *Arctium sp.*

**Broad-leaf Dock** *Rumex obtusifolius*

**Pond**

**Hogweed** *Heracleum sphondylium*

**Small Sweet-grass** *Glyceria declinata*

**Male fern** *Dryopteris filix-mas*

**Clustered Dock** *Rumex conglomeratus*

**Black Bryony** *Dioscorea communis*

**Trail**

**Meadow Foxtail** *Alopecorus pratensis*

**Meadow Crane’s-bill** *Geranium pratense*

**Sheep Sorrel** *Rumex acetosella*

**Raspberry** *Rubus idaeus*

**Rosebay Willowherb** *Chamerion angustifolium*

**Maple sp.** *Acer sp.*

**Mini-moss**

Once part of the wider mosslandthe dried-out area of bog had become covered in scrub and birchregeneration. In 2010 work began to remove the scrub. Ditches were then blocked by dams in order to retain the water on site which would prompt the peat bog restoration process. Sphagnum mosses are growing again and Cotton grasses are beginning to colonise.

**Purple Moor-grass** *Molinia caerulea*

**Veronica sp.** *Veronica sp.*

**Celery-leaved Buttercup** *Ranunculus sceleratus*

**Common Duckweed** *Lemna minor*

**Lady fern** *Athyria filix-femina*

**Yellow Archangel** *Lamium galeobdolon*

**Hairy Sedge** *Carex hirta*

**Horsetail sp.** *Equisetum vulgaris*

**Ash** *Fraxinus excelsior*

**Trail directions:** [www.trekkingbritain.com](http://www.trekkingbritain.com).

***Monad:*** *a single 1km Ordnance Survey grid square, used for biological recording or sampling purposes. NBN*

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