

# FIELD NAME: RASHY

FIELD NAME CLASSIFICATION: WILDLIFE / LANDUSE

Field-names can help give us an idea of how the countryside looked in the past. Scots *rashes* are rushes and so it follows that the Rasy Field describes a wet field covered in rushes. The rushes may have been harvested to be strewn on the floor, used for stuffing mattresses or making rush light candles. As agricultural land was improved damp areas were drained and enclosed with drystone dykes. In this way Rashey Field was transformed from the rough pasture shown on the OS maps in the 1850s to meadowland or permanent grass shown on later maps. Although the field has now been drained the field-name reminds us what the land was like before the land was improved.

The field named The Bents has a similar meaning where Scots bents describes coarse grass growing near the sea or on moorland. Unlike Rasy Field the agricultural improvements here have only been partly successful as sedges and rough grass still grow in wet areas adjacent to the seashore on The Bents.



Rushes thrive in damp places.

