

**County:** Hereford & Worcester      **Site name:** Wylde Moor, Feckenham

**District:** Redditch

**Site ref:** 15 WVF

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Hereford & Worcester County Council  
Redditch District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SP 011603      **Area:** 11.3 (ha) 27.9 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000: 150      1:10,000: SP 06 SW

**Date notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1981      **Date of last revision:**

**Date notified (under 1981 Act):** 1986      **Date of last revision:**

**Other information:**

Part of the site is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust.

Site boundary modified (reduction).

**Description and reasons for notification:**

Wylde Moor, Feckenham lies in the valley of the Brandon Brook to the south of Feckenham village. The site is all that remains of a once extensive area of wetland known as Feckenham Moor, most of which has been drained and reclaimed for agriculture. The high water table and underlying base rich Keuper Marl and alluvium have led to the development of deep fen peat and associated marsh and fen vegetation. The site is of special interest because this habitat is very rare in the county. The margins of the site support a drier species-rich grassland.

Much of the site is covered by marshy grassland dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* and blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* in association with other characteristic wetland plants such as water figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, great reedmace *Typha latifolia*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. The presence at this inland site of sea club-rush *Scirpus maritimus* is unusual. In places a tall fen vegetation occurs, in which common reed *Phragmites australis* is dominant. A small fringe of damp alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland has developed at the northern edge of the site.

Peripheral parts of the marsh have been grazed by cattle and support a species-rich, damp neutral grassland. Here a variety of rushes particularly soft rush *Juncus effuses* and grasses such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* are dominant. The grassland includes common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and, in the drier areas at the southern end of the site, populations of adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and cowslip *Primula veris*.

The site includes a number of pools with bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and the stoneworts *Chara hispida* and *Tolygella* sp. Twelve dragonfly species have been recorded from the site, including the emperor dragonfly *Anax imperator*, the four-spotted libellula *Libellula*

*quadrimaculata* and the black-tailed skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* and is therefore one of the best sites for dragonflies in the county.

This is one of the few sites in the county where snipe *Gallinago gallinago* still breed, albeit in small numbers. It also supports a large population of reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and other breeding birds associated with fen vegetation. The scarce grasshopper *Tetrix subulata* with a south-eastern distribution is found here at the north-western limit of its British range.

The conservation value of the site is enhanced by areas of scrub, old hedges and deep, waterfilled ditches which surround and traverse it. There are many hedgerow trees including several pollarded crack willows *Salix fragilis*.

Notification Date: 11 July 1986