

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER    SITE NAME: LITTLE BYEFIELDS  
MEADOW

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,  
Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 745490                      Area: 1.29 (ha.) 3.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150                      1:10,000: SO 74 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975                      Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Little Byefields meadow is a species-rich lowland meadow situated on the flanks, of the northern foothills of the Malvern hills.

It lies on base rich soils, derived from the limestones of the Silurian series. Once common in this part of Herefordshire meadows like this have largely disappeared due to changes in agricultural practice.

The grasses of the meadow are dominated by species such as meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* is also present.

The herbaceous flora is very diverse, and contains such characteristic plants as the greater and lesser knapweeds *Centaurea scabiosa* and *C. nigra*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca* and ladies bedstraw *Galium verum*.

In wetter parts of the meadow, meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis* and creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia* are common species.

Amongst other plants found in the meadow are meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata* and frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride* both of which are uncommon in this part of Britain.