

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: LONG MEADOW, THORN

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

SITE REF: 15 WRJ

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 015553

Area: 5.1 (ha.) 12.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SP 05 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Owned and managed by Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust as a nature reserve.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Long Meadow is an ancient hay meadow lying on alluvial soils alongside the Piddle Brook in central Worcestershire.

The meadow is dominated by grasses such as meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, meadow brome *Bromus commutatus* and soft brome *B. mollis*. On its northern side a south facing bank has developed a rich mixed scrub community which includes spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, purging buckthorn *Rhamnus cartharticus* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. This bank with its scrub communities provides cover for an extensive badger sett.

The meadow has been selected as a species rich neutral grassland characterised by plants such as cowslip *Primula veris*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and green winged orchid *Orchis morio*. It has over 190 species of flowering plants including, as well as those mentioned above, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* an indicator of ancient, undisturbed grassland.