

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: MONKWOOD GREEN

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS SITE REF: 15 WRX

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, Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 800603 Area: 7.5 (ha.) 18.5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138 1:10,000: SO 86 SW, SO 76 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
Site boundary altered (reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:  
Monkwood Green is an area of permanent rough pasture lying on heavy clay-loam soils to the north-west of Worcester.

The site has been selected as a damp, acidic species-rich grassland of a kind which has become scarce in Worcestershire. Much of the grassland is slightly acidic and dominated by tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and fescues *Festuca* spp. These grasses are associated with herbs such as bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, grass vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*. Some areas of more neutral grassland are also present, with species such as crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and timothy *Phleum pratense*. The western part of the site is damper than the east, with a greater predominance of tufted hair-grass and rushes *Juncus* spp. There are a number of active ant-hills, particularly in the drier grassland, which support herbs such as wild thyme *Thymus praecox* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

The site contains a few small areas of dense scrub dominated by western gorse *Ulex gallii*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and dog rose *Rosa canina*. Of special importance is the presence of petty whin *Genista anglica*, which is more usually found on heaths and moors. This plant, known from only one other site in Worcestershire, here supports an uncommon moth *Coleophora genistae*. The conservation value of the Green is further enhanced by the presence of a pond and a small number of trees including pollarded crack willow *Salix fragilis* and black poplar *Populus nigra* which is uncommon in the county.