

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: MUTLOWS ORCHARD

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 & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL, Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 798398 Area: 1.05 (ha.) 2.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150 1:10,000: SO 73 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 Date of Last Revision:

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

An old orchard, from which most of the fruit trees have gone, which has the finest population of wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* in Worcestershire. This part of Britain, on the Gloucestershire-Hereford and Worcester border is one of the centres for this attractive plant. Changes in agricultural practice have resulted in disappearance of many of these sites, those remaining are consequently important both locally and nationally.

The grassland of the orchard is dominated by meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, and quaking grass *Briza media*. In addition to wild daffodil the associated herb flora in the meadow is characteristic of grassland where hay making followed by grazing has been the traditional management. Such associated plants include cowslip *Primula veris*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*. In the lower damper parts of the meadow species such as bistort *Polygonum bistorta* and parsley water dropwort *Oenanthe lachenalii* occur.