

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: NEW INN 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 & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL, Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 758493

Area: 2.5 (ha.) 6.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 74 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

New Inn Meadow is a very good example of a rich hay meadow arising from a long continuity of management for hay with aftermath grazing. Haymeadows such as this were once common in Worcestershire but have now become extremely scarce there owing to changes in agricultural practice.

The dominant grasses are meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. The rich flora includes cowslip *Primula veris*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, meadow pea *Lathyrus pratensis*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and black medick *Medicago lupulina* all of which are abundant. Both green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* and fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* are found in the meadow, the latter being scarce in this part of the county.

There are one or two wetter areas in the lower part of the meadow, where meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and soft rush *Juncus effusus* occur, adding to the floristic interest.