

County: Devon **Site Name:** Brocks Farm

District: Teignbridge

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

Local Planning Authority: Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council

National Grid Reference: SX 842758 **Area:** 1.5 (ha) 3.7 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 191 **1:10,000:** SX 87 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – **Date of Last Revision:** –

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

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site consists of a single herb-rich field supporting a grassland community with a restricted distribution in Britain and one which is now very scarce in Devon. The field supports the largest known colony of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* in the county.

The field lies on a very gentle slope running down to a tree-lined stream to the north-east. It has clayey soils, moderately freely draining, and lies over the Bovey Beds.

The sward is characterised by frequent common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, although a wide variety of other herbs and grasses typical of neutral grassland are also present, such as meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, spring-sedge *Carex caryophyllea*, flea-sedge *C. pulicaris*, quaking-grass *Briza media* and heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*. Several large colonies of corky-fruited water dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, a nationally-uncommon species, occur.

The field is particularly notable for its orchids, especially for several thousand individuals of the green-winged orchid, a very local plant in Devon. Other species to be found are heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, southern marsh-orchid *D. praetermissa* and two species with a restricted distribution in Devon, common spotted-orchid *D. fuchsii* and early marsh-orchid *D. incarnata*.

Site Notified to Secretary of State on 17 November 1986