

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: POOLHAY MEADOWS

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 829308 Area: 2.75 (ha.) 6.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150 1:10,000: SO 83 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Two ancient hay meadows with a rich flora which includes several plant species that are scarce in the County.

The northernmost field is the wetter of the two. This is reflected in the species present, such as soft and hard rush *Juncus effusus* and *J. inflexus*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. A particular feature of this meadow is the abundance of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*.

The southern meadow has fewer green-winged orchids but contains other species of great interest. It is one of the few meadows in Worcestershire where the great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* is an abundant species, and the only known site in Worcestershire for the meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. Other species in some abundance are saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

A wet ditch with associated plant communities and species-rich hedgerows add considerably to the overall nature conservation value of this site.