

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER      SITE NAME: SALT MEADOW, EARL'S  
COMMON

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

SITE REF: 15 WSZ

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,  
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 962591

Area: 2.9 (ha.) 7.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 95 NE

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 alteration (reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Salt Meadow is an ancient hay meadow on neutral, loamy soils overlying the Lias clays of central Worcestershire.

It has been selected as an example of neutral grassland with a number of locally uncommon species.

The meadow contains a variety of grasses representative of neutral hay meadows. These include quaking-grass *Briza media*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Characteristic herbs include adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*. Of particular interest is the presence of saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, plants which are uncommon in other neutral hay meadows in Worcestershire. A small, lower-lying part of the meadow overlies a clay soil and has damp-loving species such as soft rush *Juncus effusus* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, a plant uncommon in Worcestershire, is frequent along the uncut edges of the meadow.

The surrounding old hedges include wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and field maple *Acer campestre*.