

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: MOSELEY COMMON,
PEMBRIDGE

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

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,
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 379581 Area: 5.43 (ha.) 13.42 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 149 1:10,000: SO 35 NE

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

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

Other Information:
New site.

Reasons for Notification:

Moseley Common lies alongside the Curl Brook in West Herefordshire. It is one of the few areas of marshland in the county to have survived the effects of modern agricultural improvements and drainage. The botanical interest of the site has been known since the 19th Century. Over 120 plants have been found on the site, including a number of species now rare or uncommon in Herefordshire.

The wetter low lying parts of the marsh are dominated by sedge communities, with lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, bottle sedge *C. rostrata* and star sedge *C. echinata* the dominant species. Other plants associated with these communities are yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre*. Bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella* and marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, both rare species in Herefordshire, occur where bare peaty soil is exposed.

In the less wet parts of the marsh, rushes become more abundant with soft rush *Juncus effusus*, hard rush *J. inflexus* and conglomerate rush *J. conglomeratus* being the main species. Other plants occurring here include sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, creeping jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. The rarer species include bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*.