

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: UPPER WELSON  
MARSH

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 292515

Area: 2.02 (ha.) 5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 148

1:10,000: SO 25 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part of the site is owned by Hereford & Radnor Nature Trust and managed as nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

An area of marshy grassland and fen which although small is remarkable for its rich flora which contains a number of species which are uncommon or rare in this part of the Welsh borders.

The site is dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and a number of different sedges *Carex* spp. Among the less common plants that occur are butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, petty whin *Genista anglica*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*. One of the most interesting plants present is the globe flower *Trollius europaeus*, a species characteristic of the upland areas of northern Britain, and here found at one of its most southerly sites in the country.

The marshy grassland is bordered on its northern edge by wet alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodlands, which in its higher and drier areas carries sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. The ground flora of this woodland is also rich and includes wild columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*, a species which again is uncommon in Herefordshire.