

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER      SITE NAME: WINDMILL HILL

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

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,  
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 070472      Area: 6.3 (ha.) 15.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150      1:10,000: SP 04 NE

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

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

Other Information:

Owned by Worcestershire Trust for Nature Conservation and managed as a nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

The site lies on a west facing slope overlooking the river Avon. It is the largest and most important area of unimproved calcareous grassland on the Rhaetic limestone in Worcestershire and is noted for its rich flora.

The main grasses on the slopes are tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and erect brome *Bromus erectus*. On the flatter areas at the top of the slope sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, meadow oat grass *Avenula pratense* and quaking grass *Briza media* are more typical.

These grassland communities contain many characteristic flowering plants such as stemless thistle *Cirsium acaulon*, purging flax *Linum catharticum* and autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*.

The site is noted for its orchids which include twayblade *Listera ovata*, pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*.

There is some scrub colonisation of the grassland mainly hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra*.