

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: BROTHERIDGE  
GREEN 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 830410

Area: 3.68 (ha.) 9.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 84 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

**Other Information:**

Part of the site is owned by the Worcester Nature Conservation Trust and managed as a nature reserve.

**Reasons for Notification:**

The site consists of five small meadows and an orchard lying close to the disused railway line from Upton-on-Severn to Malvern. They form a series of unimproved meadows which are becoming increasingly rare both in Worcestershire and nationally in lowland Britain.

They have been traditionally managed for hay and show a range of plant communities rich in species and typical of meadows of this type.

Three major types can be recognised: a) areas dominated by grass species with abundant sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea* and quaking grass *Briza media*; b) herb-rich areas dominated by yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and lesser knapweed *Centaurea nigra*; c) sedge-dominated damper areas with an abundance of carnation sedge *Carex panicea* and meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. A number of plants indicative of a long history of hay management are also present. These include adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*.

Surrounding the meadows are some very fine old hedgerows with a rich variety of shrubs and trees. These provide excellent nesting habitat for many species of bird including green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, yellow hammer *Emberiza citrinella*, corn bunting *E. calandra* and long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*.