

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER  
MEADOW

SITE NAME: DAGNELL END

DISTRICT: REDDITCH

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,  
Redditch District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 052692

Area: 2.1 (ha.) 5.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 139

1:10,000: SP 06 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site is owned by the Redditch Development Corporation and managed by the Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust as a nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

Dagnell End Meadow is an area of ancient permanent pasture lying in the valley of the River Arrow. It represents one of the last surviving areas of such pasture in this part of Worcestershire.

The Meadow is, for the most part, dominated by grasses characteristic of old pasture such as meadow foxtail, *Alopecurus pratensis*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking grass *Briza media*. In the wetter parts of the pasture species such as marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* become more abundant. In the drier parts typical meadow herbs such as meadow pea *Lathyrus pratensis*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca* and lesser knapweed *Centaurea nigra* occur. The wetter areas include marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. Less common species, some of which are present in large numbers, occur throughout the meadow. These include spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, southern marsh orchid *D. praetermissa*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, ladies mantle *Alchemilla vestita* and tubular water dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*.

The meadow is bounded by water courses connected with the River Arrow. Their margins are rich in riparian plants such as yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* and bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and white willow *Salix alba* occur along their banks.