

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: FROG END MEADOW

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

SITE REF: 15 W6F

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 650635

Area: 1.5 (ha.) 3.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138

1:10,000: SO 66 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Frog End Meadow is a traditionally managed hay meadow near Tenbury Wells. It lies on neutral soils derived from the underlying Old Red Sandstone. This is a type of herb-rich neutral grassland, characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, which is now nationally restricted. In addition to the characteristic meadow species a number of plants more typical of woodland also occur. The site also includes wetter areas dominated by rushes *Juncus* spp.

The dominant grasses in the sward are red fescue *Festuca rubra*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and crested dog's-tail. Characteristic herbs of traditional hay meadows that are also present include cowslip *Primula veris*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. The meadow also has several species which are locally uncommon in Worcestershire such as dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

A particular feature of this meadow is the presence of a number of species more typical of woodlands. Wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and bitter-vetch *Lathyrus montanus* are abundant throughout the meadow. Other woodland species include common twayblade *Listera ovata*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and bugle *Ajuga reptans*.

The woodland species within the site make it most unusual in the context of the county since it contrasts with other hay meadows to the south where woodland species are largely absent.

Some small wetter areas occur in the eastern part of the site. These are dominated by jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* with some compact rush *Juncus conglomeratus*. Other species associated with the damper conditions include lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*.

The meadow is surrounded by hedges which contain pollarded trees of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* sp.