

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: ASTON INGHAM  
MEADOWS

DISTRICT: SOUTH HEREFORD

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, South Hereford District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 689240 Area: 5.18 (ha.) 12.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 162 1:10,000: SO 62 SE

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

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

Other Information:  
New site.

Reasons for Notification:

Two unimproved neutral hay meadows of a distinctive type characterised by the presence of green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*. They are considered the finest known example of this type of habitat surviving in Herefordshire.

The grassland is dominated by characteristic grasses such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*.

The meadow has a rich and varied flora. Typical plants include yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, lesser knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*. Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, a local species and an indicator of ancient grassland, is also present. Green-winged orchids occur in large numbers as does the common-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

The meadows are bordered by species-rich hedgerows. These and a small area of wet woodland and scrub contribute to the overall value of the site.