

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: BROADWAY 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 107368 & SP 114363 Area: 15.12 (ha.) 34.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SP 13 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site. Part owned by the National Trust and part by the Broadway Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Broadway Hill on the northern scarp of the Cotswolds and another site on the slopes of nearby Bredon Hill are the only two sizeable areas of oolitic limestone grassland remaining in Worcestershire. Such grassland once covered much of the Cotswolds but, with the changes in livestock management, this habitat has become scarce there.

The site, consisting of two separate areas of grassland, is important because its past management has resulted in a close turf, with a rich variety of characteristic grasses and herbs. This is in direct contrast to nearby Bredon Hill and many other Cotswold sites, where the lack of continuous grazing has resulted in the development of herb communities and scrub colonisation.

The grassland is mainly dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and red fescue *F. rubra*, with erect brome *Bromus erectus* and tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Quaking grass *Briza media*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and timothy *Phleum pratense* are also present in the sward.

The herb community is dominated by plants which favour the close grazed sward. Typical of these are stemless thistle *Cirsium acaulon*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, thyme *Thymus praecox*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. Of particular interest is the presence of clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*; its only known site in Worcestershire.

In recent years both chalk-hill blue *Lysandra coridon* and small blue *Cupido minimus* butterflies have been recorded on the site, undoubtedly due to the presence of their food plants kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*. The site is noted for a number of other butterflies including the marbled white *Melanargia galathea*.