

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: QUEBB MEADOW

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

SITE REF: 15 W8H

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 302521

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

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 148

1:10,000: SO 35 SW

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:

Quebb Meadow is situated a few miles south of Kington in western Herefordshire. The neutral soils are derived from the underlying Old Red Sandstone. This site has been selected as a herb-rich neutral grassland, characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, a type which is now nationally restricted. The diversity of the meadow is enhanced by the presence of small streams and a marshy area, dominated by rushes *Juncus* spp.

The sward contains a number of grasses, the dominant ones being crested dog's-tail, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. The rich herbaceous flora includes devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, cowslip *Primula veris*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*. In addition, there are several species which are locally uncommon, such as greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and pale sedge *Carex pallescens*.

The area of marshy grassland is dominated by jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* and sharp-flowered rush *J. acutiflorus* associated with greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*. Marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, a species rare in the county, is also present.

Small streams flow along three sides of the meadow. For the most part these are heavily shaded by overhanging trees and shrubs, but in places support water mint *Mentha aquatica* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*. The mixed hedgerows surrounding the site are composed of hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and elder *Sambucus nigra*. Along the southern edge is a belt of alder trees *Alnus glutinosa*.