

Notification Date: 23 September 1988

COUNTY: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

SITE NAME: MICKLEFIELD
MEADOW

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS

SITE REF: 15 W2H

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Malvern Hills District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 813384

Area: 1.3 (ha.) 3.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 83 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Micklefield Meadow is a traditionally-managed hay meadow to the south east of the village of Welland. It lies on predominantly neutral soils derived from the underlying Keuper Marl. It has been selected as an outstanding example of a nationally scarce type of neutral grassland. This site is particularly important as a substantial part of it also contains a number of species more typical of calcareous grassland. Only a few such meadows remain in the county.

The dominant grasses in the sward are crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*. Herb species include cowslip *Primula veris*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*.

The central part of the meadow contains a number of additional species more typical of calcareous grassland with upright brome *Bromus erectus*, meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratensis* and glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* frequent in the sward. Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* is abundant and other calcicole (lime loving) herbs include fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. This community is most unusual in the county. Only one other known site – Salt Meadow – has a comparable flora.

A particular feature of this meadow is the abundance of saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, a species uncommon in Worcestershire. Other locally uncommon species that occur include adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, grass vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*.

The meadow is bordered by old hedges which contain a variety of tree and shrub species including pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, field maple *Acer campestre*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*.