

County: Gloucestershire

Site name: Upham Meadow & Summer Leasow

District: Tewkesbury
Wychavon

Site ref: 15WL6

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
Gloucestershire County Council
Wychavon District Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council

National grid reference: SO917375

Area: 104.0 (ha) 257.0 (ac)

Ordnance survey sheet: 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 93 NW

Date notified (Under 1949 Act):

Date of last revision:

Date notified (under 1981 Act): 1991

Date of last revision:

Other information:

New site.
Common Land.

Description and reasons for notification:

This site lies adjacent to the River Avon on the Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester border. Upham Meadow is managed as a hay meadow and the Summer Leasow is managed as pasture grassland which is subject to restricted common grazing rights. The semi-improved neutral grassland is subject to annual winter flooding and is notified primarily for its breeding waders and over-wintering populations of waders and wildfowl. The site also retains significant botanical interest.

The relatively large size, high water table and lack of disturbance are important features of this site which supports nationally important numbers of breeding waders, with redshank (*Tringa totanus*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) regularly breeding there. Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) also breed regularly on the site.

Ditches and wet areas provide suitable breeding habitat for reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), sedge warbler (*A. schoenobaenus*), reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) and mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

The site is also important for overwintering waders and wildfowl which use the site to feed and roost. It regularly supports large numbers of lapwing, dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) and up to 2000 golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*). In some winters nationally important numbers of Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) use the site.

Other species that are regularly present in winter, but in smaller numbers, are snipe, redshank and curlew.

Although the site has undergone some agricultural improvements through the use of fertilisers and herbicides it still retains elements of a flora typical of wet neutral meadows. The site has one of the largest populations of the nationally scarce narrow-leaved water-dropwort (*Oenanthe silaifolia*) in Britain. Other species include crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*). The site also includes one of only three locations in Gloucestershire for the nationally scarce mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*).