

COUNTY: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER      SITE NAME: BISHON MEADOW

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER      SITE REF: 15P6G

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,  
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 427 436      Area: 6.42 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 149      1:10,000: SO 44 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 6.2.92      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
New site.

#### Description and Reasons for Notification:

Bishon Meadow is situated a few miles west of Hereford. 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 watercourses and areas of marshy grassland.

The sward contains a number of grasses, the dominant ones being crested dog's-tail, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. The rich herbaceous flora includes meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, cowslip *Primula veris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, spiny restharrow *Ononis spinosa*, pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*.

The areas of marshy grassland occur adjacent to a seasonally wet pond and drainage ditches and are subject to winter flooding. They are dominated either by sedges such as lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, hairy sedge *C. hirta* and false fox-sedge *C. otrubae* or rushes *Juncus* sp. Associated with the sedges and rushes are species such as water mint *Mentha aquatica*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum* and yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*. The nationally scarce orange foxtail *Alopecurus equalis* occurs here at one of only four locations known in the county.

The Yazor Brook flows along the southern boundary of the site and supports aquatic species such as watercress *Nasturtium officinale*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* and water speedwell *V. anagallis-aquatica*. A ditch, heavily overshadowed by trees and shrubs, also forms the eastern boundary.

The meadow supports a diverse invertebrate fauna which includes a nationally scarce hoverfly *Neoscia geniculata*.