

COUNTY: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

SITE NAME: QUEESTMOOR
MEADOW

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

SITE REF: 15 W6K

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 305522

Area: 1.4 (ha.) 3.4 (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): 18.3.92

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
New site.

Reasons for Notification:

Queestmoor Meadow is situated a few miles south of Kington in Western Herefordshire. The neutral to mildly acidic 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 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 cowslip *Primula veris*, ox eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. In addition there are several species which are locally uncommon, such as dyers' greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and moonwort *Botrychium lunaria*, which is known from only one other site in Herefordshire.

A small stream flows across the south-west corner of the meadow. The banks support meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus*.

The site is bordered on two sides by mixed hedgerows composed of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre*.