

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER      SITE NAME: MIDLAND PLATEAU  
GRASSLANDS, 8 TEDDON FARM

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER                      SITE REF: 15 P23

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 716737                      Area: 3.80 (ha.) 9.39 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138                      1:10,000: SO 77 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 31 March 1995                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
New site.

#### Description and Reasons for Notification:

Teddon Farm is situated in north Worcestershire, one kilometre to the south-west of the dispersed village of Far Forest, Rock. The two fields lie on a north facing slope of a small stream valley overlying the juncture of the Highley Beds of the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures and the Red Marls of the Old Red Sandstone. These give rise to neutral to acidic soils.

The special interest of this site lies in the diversity of the semi-natural grassland sward which has been maintained under traditional management by hay cutting and light grazing. The dominant vegetation is mesotrophic (neutral) grassland characterised by common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, a type which is nationally scarce and declining. Both fields conform to the heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community, and the site is one of the largest remaining blocks of this habitat in the area.

The western field is currently managed by light grazing, and is dominated by common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. Frequent herbs include cowslip *Primula veris*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, bugle *Ajuga reptans*, pignut *Conopodium majus* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. The damper spring-line seepages have glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

Hay is taken from the eastern field and the grassland sward contains characteristic species including frequent yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*.

Other herbs occurring are common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchii*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, bugle, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devil's-bit scabious and betony *Stachys officinalis*. Both fields have the locally uncommon lady's mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis* ssp. *vestita* and adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.

An additional feature of value is that several of the field boundaries are formed by species-rich hedges with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hazel *Corylus avellana*.

The invertebrate fauna includes small skipper *Thymelicus flavus*, meadow brown *Maniola jurtina*, and ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* butterflies and the chimney sweeper moth *Odezia atrata*.