

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: SEVERN VALLEY  
GRASSLANDS, 2 QUARRY  
FARM MEADOW

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS

SITE REF: 15 P5K

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 751613

Area: 0.71 (ha.) 1.75 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 76 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 15 March 1994

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Quarry Farm Meadow is located in West Worcestershire just over a kilometre north of Martley on a west facing steep slope. The grassland has been managed as a traditional hay meadow. It overlies Wenlock Limestone and is therefore unusual in the context of the Severn Valley in that it is calcareous and supports a calcicole (lime-loving) flora, which is especially rich towards the top of the bank.

The vegetation conforms with the calcareous grassland characterised by upright brome *Bromus erectus*, with sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* abundant. Characteristic species of calcareous grassland such as quaking grass *Briza media* and field scabious *Knautia arvensis* occur frequently, with fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, salad burnet *Sanguisorbia minor*, common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* and yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata*.

Locally uncommon species found within the meadow are bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, greater butterfly-orchid *Plantathera chlorantha*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, wild liquorice *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, and common restharrow *Ononis repens*. A strong colony of a locally rare plant, cut leaved selfheal *Prunella laciniata* occurs on the higher ground.

The site is bounded by tall species-rich hedgerows and wood edge which is dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and spindle *Eunonymus europaeus*.