

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: SEVERN VALLEY  
GRASSLANDS, 7. AVENUE 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 829302

Area: 0.50 (ha.) 1.24 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 83 SW

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:

Avenue Meadow is located on level ground in south Worcestershire immediately to the north of the Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border at the south west edge of the village of Corse Lawn. The meadow is in the central undulating plain of the Severn Valley and overlies Mercia Mudstones of the Triassic Period.

The special interest of the site lies in the diversity of the semi-natural grassland sward which has been maintained by traditional hay cutting, with aftermath grazing. This mesotrophic (neutral) grassland is characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The meadow flora is typical of the meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* sub-community, with frequent common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, lesser trefoil *T. dubium*, spring sedge *Carex carophyllea*, and glaucous sedge *C. flacca*. However the presence of upright brome *Bromus erectus* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* in patches indicates a transition to the lady's bedstraw sub-community. Tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea* is frequent on damp ground.

Locally uncommon species present include frequent green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Of particular interest is corky-fruited water dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, a nationally scarce plant, which is rare in Worcestershire and occurs here close to the northern limit of its distribution.

The meadow is bounded on three sides by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedges, with occasional blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and rose *Rosa* spp., and on the fourth side by a stream.