

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: SEVERN VALLEY
GRASSLANDS,
8 NAPLETON 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 860486

Area: 1.08 (ha.) 2.67 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 84 NE

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:

Napleton Meadow is located in central Worcestershire immediately south east of the village of Kempsey. It is a former horse paddock which is now managed as a hay meadow. The meadow is in the central undulating plain of the Severn Valley and overlies Mercia Mudstones of the Triassic Period, which give rise to neutral soils.

The special interest of the site lies in the diversity of the semi-natural mesotrophic (neutral) grassland characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The vegetation is typical of the meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* sub-community, with frequent common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and betony *Stachys officinalis*. Other characteristic species of neutral grassland include lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*.

Locally uncommon species present include an abundance of dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.

This site supports a colony of common blue butterflies *Polyommatus icarus*.