

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: SEVERN VALLEY  
GRASSLANDS, 11 DEAN BROOK  
VALLEY PASTURES

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

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, Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 942605

Area: 4.31 (ha.) 10.65 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 96 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:

Dean Brook Valley Pastures lie on the central Worcestershire plain to the south of Goosehill Wood, near Himbleton. The two larger pastures overlies a medieval ridge and furrow system, and also contain anthills of the yellow meadow ant *Lasius flavus*. The soils are poorly drained and overlies alluvium and Lower Lias clays of the Jurassic Period.

The special interest of these pastures lies in the diversity of the semi-natural grassland sward. The vegetation is mesotrophic (neutral) grassland characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The flora on the higher ground is typical of the lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* sub-community, with glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaulon*.

The western field nearer the stream has a herb-rich flora, which includes cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, cowslip *Primula veris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*.

Locally uncommon species occurring throughout are dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, common meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum* and common restharrow *Ononis repens*.

There is a strip of scrub along the northern boundary of the two pastures containing hawthorn *Crataegus monogynus*, with blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The west pasture is bordered by the brook on its southern side, and the remaining boundaries are hedges dominated by hawthorn, with blackthorn, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and roses *Rosa* spp.