

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: SEVERN VALLEY
GRASSLANDS, 14 DORMSTON
CHURCH MEADOW

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 986576

Area: 1.21 (ha.) 2.99 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 95 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:

Dormston Church Meadow is located in the east of the central Worcestershire plain, within the village of Dormston. The meadow overlies a medieval ridge and furrow system and lies on the Lower Lias clays of the Jurassic period, giving rise to neutral soils.

The meadow conforms with the mesotrophic (neutral) community characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and is typical of the lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* sub-community. The sward is diverse, particularly on the ridges. Abundant species include meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, lady's bedstraw, cowslip *Primula veris* and glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*. A calcareous influence can be seen in the presence of meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratense*, hoary plantain *Plantago media*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*.

The flora near the edges of the meadows has an unusual woodland element which includes bugle *Ajuga reptans*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, lord's-and-ladies *Arum maculatum* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*.

The meadow is bounded on two sides by hedges dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.