

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: MORTON POOL AND PASTURE

DISTRICT: Oswestry

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Oswestry District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 301239

Area: 3.72 (ha.) 9.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:

1:10,000: SJ 22 SE, SJ 32 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for notification:

This site consists of a small pool, the damp woodland surrounding it and adjacent pasture field.

The chief interest of Morton Pool is the fen and carr vegetation around it. The dominant species are alder *Alnus glutinosa* and sallow *Salix cinerea* with yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*, reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and sedges, including lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis* and tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*, in the field layer. Uncommon plant species in this habitat include bird cherry *Prunus padus*, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and marsh fern *Thelypteris thelypteroides*.

The damp peaty pasture west of Morton Pool is exceptionally rich in flowering plants, and is one of the best examples of damp grassland in Shropshire. The vegetation is dominated partly by sedges (mainly carnation sedge *Carex panicea*), partly by rushes, notably blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* – an uncommon species in Shropshire – and in places by grasses. These include quaking grass *Briza media*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Among the uncommon plants present are early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, bristle club-rush *Isolepis setacea* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*.