

**COUNTY:** SHROPSHIRE **SITE NAME:** STOCKING MEADOWS, ORETON

**DISTRICT:** Bridgnorth

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Shropshire Bridgnorth County Council, Bridgnorth District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SO 653802 **Area:** 1.78 (ha.) 4.42 (ac.)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 138 **1:10,000:** SO 68 SE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** – **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

A new site.

**Description:**

A group of three fields which, together, make up one of the best examples of traditionally managed, unimproved pasture in Shropshire.

The sward is composed of a number of grasses, no single species of which is dominant. These include common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Locally, sedges, mainly carnation sedge *Carex panicea* and spring sedge *C. caryophyllea* are abundant.

The flora is exceptionally rich, and includes several uncommon species, including adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, twayblade *Listera ovata* and lesser butterfly orchid *Platanthera bifolia*. Other characteristic, but less scarce, plants include cowslip *Primula veris*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and, locally, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*. To damper areas, lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis* occurs.