

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE    SITE NAME: SWEENEY FEN

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 Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 275250                      Area: 1.21 (ha.) 3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126                      1:10,000: SJ 22 NE, SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

The site is managed as a reserve by the Shropshire Trust for Nature Conservation.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Sweeney Fen is a small area of base-rich marsh and fen which has developed adjacent to a limestone stream. A thin deposit of peat has accumulated.

Much of the fen consists of tall vegetation dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* and rushes, with abundant meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. The rushes are mainly sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and the uncommon blunt-flowered rush *J. subnodulosus*. Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* are locally abundant.

Drier areas support shorter grassland vegetation in which lady's-mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis*, cowslip *Primula veris* and hoary ragwort *Senecio erucifolius* are found. The uncommon globeflower *Trollius europaeus* also occurs in the wetter grassland alongside the stream.