

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: TREFONEN MARSHES

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 246265

Area: 9.23 (ha.) 22.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 22 NW, SJ 22 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

A series of base-rich marshes and areas of dry Carboniferous limestone grassland in the valley of a tributary of the River Morda. Some of the damp areas beside the stream have developed into alder woodland.

The flora of the marshes is exceptionally rich, and includes several scarce species including globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, grass of Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, marsh hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*, broad-leaved cotton-grass *Eriophorum latifolium*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and yellow sedge *Carex lepidocarpa*. In one small marsh, tufa has accumulated where lime-rich water flows through a community with a high proportion of mosses. Both tall and short marsh vegetation are present. The areas of tall vegetation are dominated by rushes -- mainly jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* and hard rush *J. inflexus* and horsetails, including water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and marsh horsetail *E. palustre*. The areas of short vegetation are dominated by mosses and a range of grasses and sedges, and have a particularly varied and interesting flora.

The site also includes areas of dry base-rich grassland which have developed on the valley sides. These are dominated by a range of grasses and sedges, including common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*, spring sedge *Carex caryophylla* and glaucous sedge *C. flacca*. Plants found in these communities include autumn lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, wild basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.