

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: BLODWEL MARSH

DISTRICT: Oswestry

SITE REF: 15WG3

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Oswestry Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 264234

Area: 0.6 (ha.) 1.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 22 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

A small but exceptionally rich area of fen pasture on base-rich peat, in a low-lying area west of the limestone outcrop of Llyncllys Hill. This is one of a range of small, peaty grasslands in north-west Shropshire.

Most of the vegetation consists of marshy grassland in which several species are equally prominent. These include grasses and sedges, such as red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common sedge *Carex nigra* and carnation sedge *C. panicea*, and a range of broad-leaved species, including knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Wetter hollows support tall fen vegetation in which sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, common reed *Phragmites australis* and branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* are abundant.

In common with certain other sites in north-west Shropshire, Blodwel Marsh supports a population of globe flower *Trollius europaeus*, a species which is absent from the rest of the county. Other plants present include sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, common twayblade *Listera ovata*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, and the less common southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* and pale sedge *Carex pallescens*.