

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: DERRINGTON MEADOW

DISTRICT: Bridgnorth

SITE REF: 15WL9

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, Bridgnorth District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 608908

Area: 13.0 (ha.) 32.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138

1:10,000: SO 69 SW

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:

This site is one of the few unimproved, traditionally managed, hay fields remaining in Shropshire. It is situated on Devonian rocks to the north of Brown Clee, and consists of the southern half of a large field, the northern part of which has been agriculturally improved.

Like several other neutral grasslands in Shropshire, Derrington Meadow supports vegetation which is characterised by the grass crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The sward is dominated by grasses, the most abundant of which are common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Among the most abundant herbs are ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and birds's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. Less common species include pale sedge *Carex pallescens*, bitter-vetch *Lathyrus montanus*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. There is a large population of meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale*.