

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: BIRMINGHAM PLATEAU
GRASSLANDS, 7. BERRY MOUND
PASTURES

DISTRICT: BROMSGROVE SITE REF: 15 P1Z

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Bromsgrove District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 094776 Area: 11.84 (ha.) 29.26 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 139 1:10,000: SP 07 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 22.2.94 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Berry Mound Pastures are situated in north Worcestershire on the southern edge of the Birmingham conurbation approximately one kilometre north-east of Hollywood. They overlie Mercia Mudstones of the Triassic Period, and are managed as horse grazed pasture.

The special interest of the site lies in the diversity of the semi-natural grassland sward. The vegetation conforms to the mesotrophic (neutral) grassland characterised by crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, with variation from the meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* sub-community to the heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community in different pastures. Intermediates of the two sub-communities are also present.

Characteristic species of the meadow vetchling sub-community include common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, red clover *Trifolium pratensis*, hairy sedge *Carex hirta*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, lesser hawkbit *Leontodon taraxacoides*, great burnet *Sanguisorbia officinalis* and sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*.

Characteristic grasses of the heath-grass sub-community include frequent common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, with sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*. Calcifugous (acidic) species present include sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, trailing tormentil *P. anglica*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, field woodrush *Luzula campestris*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and lady's-mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis* spp. *vestita*.

The site includes a stream and a small pond, and the central pasture has a mire community which conforms to the soft rush *Juncus effusus* and common marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* community. This shows zonation from reed grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, through tall herb areas, dominated by meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, hoary willowherb *E. parviflorum*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, to rush *Juncus* spp. zones and grazed margins. Locally uncommon species present include bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, water crowfoot *Ranunculus hederaceus*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and the moss *Calliergon cordifolium*.

Invertebrates present include meadow brown *Maniola jurtina*, gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus*, small skipper *Thymelicus flavus*, 5 spot burnet moth *Zygaena trifolii*, and 6 spot burnet moth *Zygaena filipendulae*.