

**Site Name:** Oridge Street Meadows

**County:** Gloucestershire

**District:** Forest of Dean

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Gloucestershire County Council; Forest of Dean District Council

**Ordnance Survey  
1:50,000 sheet:** 162

**National Grid reference:** SO793278

**Notification date:** 10 January 2019

**Area:** 2.62 ha

#### **Reasons for notification:**

Oridge Street Meadows is of special interest for its nationally rare species-rich lowland meadow grassland.

#### **General description:**

Oridge Street Meadows SSSI consists of three small species-rich lowland meadows to the south of the village of Corse in Gloucestershire. Very few good quality examples of these grasslands remain in Gloucestershire.

The meadows lie at about 30 metres above sea level, but out of the nearby River Severn floodplain. Two of the meadows lie south of a minor road, with the third to the north directly opposite. The soils are typical argillic pelosols derived from rocks of the Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic era.

Characteristic grasses include common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*. Common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, cowslip *Primula veris* and common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* are frequent. Notable species include green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. There are recent records of adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* in the fields.

Species which indicate a calcareous influence include upright brome *Bromopsis erecta*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and fairy flax *Linum catharticum*. There is also a small population of great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

The hedgerows that surround and divide these fields are diverse and contain dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, field maple *Acer campestre*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, English elm *Ulmus procera*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and some mature oak *Quercus robur* trees.

Butterflies and day-flying moths are common, including six-spot burnet *Zygaena filipendulae*, ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*, meadow brown *Maniola jurtina*, marbled white *Melanargia galathea*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus* and large skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus*.