



**Oridge Street Meadows SSSI
Gloucestershire**

***Notification under Section 28 of the Wildlife
and Countryside Act 1981***

Issued by Natural England's West Midlands Team on 10 January 2019

Contact points and further information

This notification document is issued by Natural England's West Midlands Team. The address for correspondence is:

Natural England
West Midlands Team
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2NP

Telephone: 0208 026 0938

Email: Peter.holmes@naturalengland.org.uk

Online: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/oridge-street-meadows>

Your contact point for specific enquiries relating to this notification is Peter Holmes

A second document (*Oridge Street Meadows SSSI - supporting information*) is available on request from the address above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI.

The date of notification of Oridge Street Meadows SSSI is: **10 January 2019**

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This document explains why Oridge Street Meadows is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Oridge Street Meadows SSSI, covering an area of 2.62 ha, is nationally important for its species-rich lowland meadow grassland.
- 1.2 Oridge Street Meadows is located west of the River Severn in Gloucestershire and is the best example of species-rich lowland meadow grassland in this area.
- 1.3 The annexes to this document comprise the legal papers that detail the interest and the management required to maintain that interest. You have a right to make representations or objections to this notification. Part 3 of this document explains how to do this.
- 1.4 Natural England's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners and managers, as well as other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not considered likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

2. The legal background

- 2.1 Oridge Street Meadows SSSI is notified under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 2.2 Part 8 of this notification document contains the following legal documents required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
 - a citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*);
 - a statement of Natural England's views on the management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*);
 - a list of operations requiring Natural England's consent (*Annex 3*); and
 - a map identifying the land subject to this notification (*Annex 4*).
- 2.3 This notification has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as follows:
 - owners and occupiers must give Natural England notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*;
 - owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify Natural England within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes;
 - it is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna; and,
 - other public bodies must consult Natural England before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.
- 2.4 If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact Natural England at the address shown at the beginning of this notification document.

3. Making representations

- 3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about this notification. Any representations, including those supporting the notification, or objections should be made in writing to Natural England's West Midlands Team by **10 May 2019**. Representations can be sent by post, e-mail or online to the addresses shown on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.

- 3.2 Natural England's West Midlands Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. If there are no unresolved objections, approval to confirm the notification will be considered by an appropriate Natural England Director within nine months of this notification.
- 3.3 Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Board of Natural England within nine months of this notification. If there are unresolved objections, confirmation of this notification is likely to be considered at the Board meeting provisionally scheduled for September 2019. Please note the desirability of the notification (for instance, for socio-economic reasons) will not form part of the Board's decision. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board of Natural England may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification. In reaching its decision the Board will consider whether, in light of the objections and representations received, Natural England remains of the opinion that the site is of special scientific interest. If you wish to emphasise any of your objections or representations to the Board in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Board meeting. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board of Natural England may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification.
- 3.4 Natural England will accept correspondence relating to unresolved objections up to seven days prior to the Board meeting at which the confirmation is due to be considered. Correspondence received after this date will only be presented to the Board in very exceptional circumstances and you will be expected to provide justification as to why there has been a delay in providing the information. The decision whether this information will be submitted to the Board is entirely at Natural England's discretion. The reason that there is a seven day cut off is to allow Board members sufficient opportunity to consider all of the issues and read all the relevant paperwork before they meet to take their decision.
- 3.5 Natural England has a policy of openness, which reflects our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This legislation provides a legal right of access to information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We will assume, therefore, that your representation or objection can be made publicly available unless you indicate with clear and valid reasons which (if any) part(s) of these you wish to be excluded from this arrangement. However, you should be aware that the requirements of the legislation may mean that we cannot comply with your request that this information be withheld. We do, however, respect people's privacy and will take all reasonable steps to consult you before reaching a decision on disclosure of the information.
- 3.6 As an individual with an interest in Oridge Street Meadows SSSI, your information will be stored and processed on a computer database that will be operated within the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act, the data controller is Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. For more information, please see the *SSSI notifications privacy notice* at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notices/site-of-special-scientific-interest-notification-privacy-notice> or request a copy from the address on page 2 of this document.

4. Reasons for notification

- 4.1 Oridge Street Meadows SSSI is of special interest for its nationally important:

- **Species rich lowland meadows**

The site supports a nationally rare type of species-rich lowland meadow grassland. 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 four species of orchid and pepper saxifrage *Silene saxifraga*. This grassland is a type of 'lowland meadow' which is included in the Government's list of priority habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England¹

5. Site boundaries

- 5.1 The boundary has been drawn to include land supporting the features of special interest and those areas required to ensure the long-term sustainability of these features.
- 5.2 Oridge Street Meadows SSSI consists of three fields. The boundary of the SSSI is marked by hedgerows and fence lines. See *Annex 4* for detail of the SSSI boundary. Further clarification of the precise location of the boundary of the SSSI can be obtained from Natural England's West Midlands Team at the address on page 2 of this document.

6. Management of the SSSI

- 6.1 Landowners and managers are critical to the ongoing management of the SSSI. Natural England aims to foster the best possible relationship with those managing the land so that its biodiversity can be conserved whilst also securing wider benefits. This notification includes a statement (*Annex 2*) of the management that Natural England considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest. Different management may be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. It provides a guide for discussions with owners and managers on action to achieve positive management of the SSSI.
- 6.2 Owners and occupiers will require consent before undertaking some operations in the SSSI. This notification includes a list of operations requiring Natural England's consent in *Annex 3*. The basis for the selection of these operations is set out in the Supporting Information document. Some operations may already be taking place and where they do not cause any damage they will be given consent. We will work with landowners and managers to agree lists of such existing and planned operations which can be approved.
- 6.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from Natural England. However, other public bodies are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- 6.4 In particular, we recognise the important roles of the owners and managers of the land in managing this site. We will continue to work with them to develop means to secure the sustainable management of Oridge Street Meadows SSSI.

7. Supporting information

- 7.1 The detailed information, which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI (*Oridge Street Meadows SSSI – supporting information*), is available on request from the address on page 2 of this document.

8. Legal documents

- 8.1 Attached at *Annexes 1 - 4* are the legal documents, which are required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

¹ Under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Annex 1

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document

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*.

Annex 2

Views about Management

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.



Views About Management

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4) as inserted by
Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Natural England has a duty to inform the owners and occupiers of land within the **Oridge Street Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** of its views on how to manage the habitats and species of interest for nature conservation. This statement sets out our views on how the SSSI's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced.

Please be aware not all of the management principles outlined in this statement will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. There may also be other management activities, not outlined here, which could be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

Also be aware that this statement does not provide consent for any of the 'operations requiring Natural England's consent'. You need to have written consent from Natural England if you want to carry out any of those operations. Natural England welcomes discussion with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the habitats and species of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

Neutral hay meadows and pastures require active management if they are to retain their conservation interest. In order to maintain a species-rich sward, each year's growth of vegetation must be removed. Otherwise the sward becomes progressively dominated by tall and vigorous grasses that, together with an associated build-up of dead plant matter, suppress less vigorous species and reduce the botanical diversity of the site.

In neutral hay meadows, the above objective is traditionally achieved by closing the fields to stock in the autumn and cutting the resultant growth as hay, usually in early July. The precise timing of the cut depends on local factors, including past management and current weather conditions, but should be after ground-nesting birds have fledged their young and any short-lived, characteristic plants have set seed.

The aftermath is then grazed in late summer/autumn. Aftermath grazing is important for maintaining a species-rich sward, both through controlling competitive grasses and through hoof-prints providing suitable sites for seedlings to establish. Heavy poaching must be avoided, however.

On land managed as pasture, the conservation objectives are achieved by grazing. The precise timing and intensity of grazing will vary according to local conditions and requirements (such as the type or availability of stock or the needs of individual plants or animals of conservation concern) but should aim to keep a relatively open sward without causing excessive poaching. Light trampling can be of benefit by breaking down leaf litter and providing areas for seed germination.

Any surrounding, well-managed hedgerows may considerably add to the habitat in providing shelter for invertebrates. The application of pesticides including herbicides or fertilizers would be damaging but periodic dressings of well-rotted farmyard manure and occasional dressings of lime may be acceptable.

Regular and careful maintenance of surface drainage including ditches and drains can be necessary to prevent adverse changes in the plant species composition of the sward. Deepening of surface drainage should be avoided.

The principles set out above describe the broad management requirements of the habitats for the long term. At the time of notification, the northern field (north of the road) is recovering from being ploughed. Whilst it remains in a recovery phase, the management principles may need some tailoring to meet the particular circumstances at the time. For instance, this could include one or more hay cuts each year in the first few years, with or without periods of grazing, to aid the establishment of species characteristic of lowland meadows. If grazing is to take place during the recovery phase, then particular attention will need to be given to its timing and intensity.

Date notified: 10 January 2019

Annex 3

List of operations requiring Natural England's consent

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of **Oridge Street Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England and may require our consent.

It is usually possible to carry out many of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities, please contact your Natural England Area Team who will give you advice and, where appropriate, issue consent. Please help us by using the 'notice form' (provided at notification and available on request) to ask for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible the Area Team will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, thereby enabling consent to be issued. To proceed without Natural England's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
1.	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2.	Grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3.	Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4.	Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).
5.	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6.	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7.	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8.	Burning.
9.	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
10.	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal (including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
11.	Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungal fruiting-body, leaf-mould or turf.
12.	Tree and/or woodland management and alterations to tree and/or woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition, removal of fallen timber).
13a.	Draining (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b.	Modification to the structure of water courses e.g. streams, springs, ditches, including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, regrading, damming or dredging.
13c.	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
14.	Alterations to water levels and water tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage operations.
15.	Infilling or digging of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
20.	Extraction of minerals including hard rock, topsoil, subsoil and spoil.
21.	Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting, or regrading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22.	Storage of materials.
23.	Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26.	Use of vehicles or craft.
27.	Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest.
28a.	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

Notes

- i. This is a list of operations appearing to Natural England to be likely to damage the special features of the SSSI, as required under section 28 (4) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- ii. Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another authority separate consent will not be required from Natural England. However, other authorities are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- iii. Any reference to 'animal' in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish, or invertebrate.

Date notified: 10 January 2019

National Grid Reference: SO793278

Annex 4

Map showing the land notified

This is a legal document on which you have a legal right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

