

COUNTY: WILTSHIRE      SITE NAME: LITTLE GRUBBINS MEADOW

DISTRICT: NORTH WILTSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: NORTH WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
Wiltshire County Council

National Grid Reference: ST 831773      Area: 3.0 (ha.) 7.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 173      1:10,000: ST 87 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975      Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

One of the best herb-rich limestone grasslands in Wiltshire. Although known to have been ploughed in part in 1841, the site has a well developed sward rich in herb species.

Upright brome *Bromus erectus* is the dominant grass, with crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking grass *Briza media* conspicuous. The sward is herb-rich with oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* widespread.

Grassland overlies ridge and furrow on the flatter areas, presumably on deeper soils. The ridge and furrow probably dates from the 19th century, with this part of the site recorded as arable in 1841.

A large colony of the green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* is associated with the area of ridge and furrow. Adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* has been recorded, whilst cowslips *Primula veris* are abundant on the steeper slopes.