

COUNTY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: BUSHLEY MUZZARD,
BRIMPSFIELD

DISTRICT: COTSWOLD

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

Local Planning Authority: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Cotswold District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 944133

Area: 1.13 (ha.) 2.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 163

1:10,000: SO 91 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. New site. Formerly known as Watercombe Marsh.

Reasons for Notification:

The site is one of a small number of marshes found in the Cotswolds and is of particular importance for its species richness and the presence of several uncommon plants.

Two distinct patches of marsh occur in poorly drained areas where water is retained over impervious Fuller's Earth and landslip materials. Dominant plant species are jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*, hard rush *J. inflexus* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* but the main interest of the site is its overall species diversity. Eight species of sedge have been recorded, in particular an abundance of star sedge *Carex echinata* and the scarce yellow sedge *C. lepidocarpa*. Also abundant are flat sedge *Blysmus compressus*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. There are a number of orchid species including early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* and hybrid marsh orchids *D. fuchsii x incarnata* and *D. fuchsii x pratermissa*.

The marsh areas are surrounded by permanent pasture consisting of unimproved calcareous grassland typical of the Cotswolds and some semi-improved grassland.