

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Coulters Dean SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SU 747192

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 197 **1:25 000:** SU 71

Area: 1.91 (ha) 2.69 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Coulters Dean is managed as a nature reserve by an Agreement between the owner and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust.

Reasons for Notification:

Coulters Dean is a small area of chalk grassland on a west facing fold in the South Downs escarpment and is of considerable scientific interest because (a) its flora has been recorded at intervals since 1914; (b) its flora and invertebrate fauna are very rich compared with that of the generally north-facing escarpment of the South Downs. The flora includes remarkably large populations of horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, rampion *Phyteuma tenerum*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata* and other species characteristic of ancient chalk grassland. At least 11 species of orchids occur. There is a diverse invertebrate (especially butterfly) fauna for the size of the site, including a population of the nationally rare Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina*.