

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 20 OCTOBER 1986

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: HULLAND MOSS

DISTRICT: West Derbyshire

SITE REF: 15 WMV

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, West Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 250462

Area: 2.7 (ha.) 6.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 24 NW, SK 24 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The site is located to the east of Ashbourne in the south of the county, on the junction between Millstone Grit and Bunter Sandstone. It is an example of lowland bog and heath with areas of dry oak *Quercus* sp. wood and wet alder *Alnus glutinosa* wood. The flora includes a number of species which are local or rare in lowland Derbyshire. Most other examples of these habitats in the county have been reclaimed for agriculture.

The moss has formed where the porous Bunter Sandstone overlies the impervious Millstone Grit. This has resulted in a seepage line along the junction giving rise to a bog with a deep layer of peat. This is covered by abundant bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. with bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, marsh violet *Viola palustris* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*. In the wetter areas marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* are abundant. Past drainage has resulted in the drying out of part of the site and the consequent development of dry heath with gorse *Ulex europaeus* and dwarf furze *U. gallii* and small areas of heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

On parts of the site open woodland has developed. The wetter areas are dominated by alder with grey willow *Salix cinerea* whilst the drier are dominated by pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and birch *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*. The ground flora of the damp woodland includes mountain fern *Thelypteris limbosperma* and narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana*. The clearings in the drier woodland are colonised by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris* with bramble which at this site is mainly *Rubus scissus*.

A number of small pools in the boggy area have within them a number of insects particularly beetles and bugs *Hemiptera* which prefer acidic conditions. They are more commonly found in the upland areas of the county and are unusual at lower altitudes.