

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Quarley Hill Fort SSSI

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

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 263424

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 184

1:10,000: SU 24 SE

Area: 4.72 (ha) 11.66 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 15 February 1990

Date of Last Revision: –

Confirmed: 13 November 1990

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Quarley Hill comprises an elevated chalk hill crowned by a hill fort dating from the Middle Iron Age, on the Upper Chalk, at the extreme eastern edge of Salisbury Plain. The ramparts of the fort and the adjacent north-facing slope support herb-rich chalk grassland whilst the centre of the fort is dominated by a mixed scrub community.

The site is grazed by cattle and this maintains the short grassland dominated by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* and stemless thistle *Cirsium acaule*. The rich herb complement includes such typical chalk-loving plants as felwort *Gentianella amarella*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* together with several rather less common species including abundant chalk milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, bastard-toadflax *Thesium humifusum* and a relict proportion of juniper *Juniperus communis*.