

File ref:

**County:** Hampshire

**Site Name:** Hazeley Heath SSSI

**Local Planning Authority:** Hampshire County Council Hart District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SU 753583

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 186      **1:25,000:** SU 75

**Area:** 177.10 (ha) 437.62 (ac)

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1979      **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1982      **Date of Last Revision:** -

**Other Information:**

Registered and confirmed as common land with common rights of grazing and estovers.

**Reasons for Notification:**

Hazeley Heath occupies a north-west/south-east ridge of Bracklesham Sands capped by plateau gravel and is in the Hampshire sector of the Thames Basin. The heath embraces a wide range of heathland plant communities including acid grassland and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* on less leached soils; heather *Calluna vulgaris*/bell heather *Erica cinerea* dry heath; *Calluna*/purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*/cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* 'humid' heath; and extensive dense monospecific stands of gorse *Ulex europaeus*. Wet heath and incipient bog plant communities occur around and below a spring line on the easterly-facing slopes of the common. The Callunetum has been locally modified by fire and subsequent *Molinia* domination, whilst birch *Betula* colonisation is widespread.

Though it possesses no unique features, the site is notified because it comprises a relatively large tract of heathland which is a habitat with distinct national scarcity value: it moreover exhibits a great variety of heathland plant communities related to topography, soils and land use.