

File ref:

County: Hampshire
Heaps SSSI

Site Name: Micheldever Spoil

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Winchester City Council

National Grid Reference: SU 520440

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 185 **1:25,000:** SU 54

Area: 31.12 (ha) 76.90 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1982 (pt), 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Part Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust nature reserve by agreement with the owner.

Reasons for Notification:

Nineteenth Century chalk spoil heaps, derived from railway cuttings, and now exhibiting various stages of colonisation by a range of plant communities. The site is of quite exceptional botanical importance. About 150 species of plant were recorded in a survey in 1969, but this is certainly not exhaustive. Most species appear to have been recruited from adjoining or nearby downland habitats but others have evidently colonised from a distance. The whole plant assemblage remains in a condition of ecological flux. Of particular nature conservation interest is the occurrence of many rare or local plants. Thrift *Armeria maritima* occurs in a totally atypical habitat. There are exceptionally large populations of fly orchids *Ophrys insectifera*.