

Site Notified to Secretary of State on 6 November 1987

County: Devon **Site Name:** Beaford Moor

District: Torrington

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

Local Planning Authority: Devon County Council, Torrington District Council

National Grid Reference: SS 580147 **Area:** 31.6 (ha) 78.1 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 180 **1:10,000:** SS 51 SE, NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Beaford Moor is an important remnant of a type of wet heathland restricted to North Devon and Pembrokeshire. It supports many heathland invertebrates including two rarities.

Lying at an altitude of 175 m, the Moor rests on shales of the Crackington Formation of the Carboniferous Culm series, and the soils consist of heavily gleyed clays overlain by varying depths of humose or peaty subsoil.

The site is dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and western gorse *Ulex gallii* as sub-dominants. Characteristic associated plants include bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella* and the local pale butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*. Willow *Salix* spp. bushes are scattered over the site.

A rich invertebrate fauna has been recorded including marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinea*, small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene*, the nationally rare hoverfly *Microdon mutabilis* and the nationally scarce crane fly *Limnophila pulchella*.