

COUNTY: KENT            SITE NAME: TANKERTON SLOPES

DISTRICT: CANTERBURY

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

Local Planning Authority: CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TR 121673      Area: 2.3 (ha.) 5.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 179      1:10,000: TR 16 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

This is a new site.

Reasons for Notification:

This site supports the largest single population of the large umbellifer hog's fennel *Peucedanum officinale* in Britain, a nationally rare plant confined to a few coastal localities in Essex and Kent.

The north-facing slopes are composed of London Clay and support a tall herb community, dominated by hog's fennel, together with some areas of neutral grassland where the most frequent species are meadow barley *Hordeum secalinum*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*. Associated herbs include spiny restharrow *Ononis spinosa*, smooth tare *Vicia tetrasperma*, grass-leaved vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*. The last species is scarce in Kent. Halophytes, such as lesser sea spurrey *Spergularia marina*, are also present.

The fauna of Tankerton Slopes has not been documented although the nationally rare moth *Agonopteryx putridella*, whose larvae feed exclusively on the leaves of hog's fennel, has been recorded from the site.