

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Moorgreen Meadows SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 483146

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 **1:25,000:** SU 41

Area: 14.06 (ha) 34.76 (ac)

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

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

Other Information:

Minor boundary amendment made in 1982 to exclude route of the M27 motorway.

Reasons for Notification:

Neutral meadows and alder *Alnus* wood flanking a small tributary of the River Hamble on the Bracklesham Beds of the Hampshire Basin. The meadows lie on alluvium and clay with thin deposits of peat. The sward comprises at least 17 co-dominant herbs and grasses and is of exceptional scientific importance for its populations of marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza*. In particular the site includes a geographically isolated population of the Northern Marsh Orchid *D. purpurella*, the nearest other localities being in Wales, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. The plants grow in close juxtaposition to four other species of the genus *Dactylorhiza* - early marsh orchid *D. incarnata*, common spotted orchid *D. fuchsii*, heath spotted orchid *D. maculata*, subspecies *ericetorum* and southern marsh orchid *D. praetermissa*. Hybrids between the five species occur in every combination and the site can thus be regarded as a 'hot bed' of micro-evolution.