

**County:** Hampshire **Site Name:** The Moors, Bishop's Waltham SSSI

**Local Planning Authority:** Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council

**National Grid Reference:** SU 561169

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 185 **1:25,000:** SU 51

**Area:** 27.5 (ha) 67.9 (ac)

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

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

Boundary altered in 1984 to exclude a garden and orchard from the site.

**Reasons for Notification:**

Unimproved wet meadows, draining to a central pool with associated mature alder *Alnus* carr, occupying a small alluvial basin in the headwaters of a tributary of the River Hamble. The site supports a species-rich and ecologically diverse flora including many local or rare plants confined to unimproved, damp meadows. It is probably the richest site of its kind in the Hampshire Basin. It lies near the junction of the Chalk and Reading Beds and is fed by a series of springs which may yield water of differing base status since the vegetation of the meadows exhibits an interesting juxtaposition of acid and basic elements.

The central alder carr, which is characterised particularly at its junction with the pond by greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*, gives way to a mosaic dominated respectively by greater pond sedge *Carex riparia* (on wetter areas); purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* tussocks; a creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* association; and very locally a fescue *Festuca* dominated sward. Marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza* species occur widely in all these communities and a variety of genotypes are probably present. Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* occur locally, in juxtaposition to populations of marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* among tussocky *Molinia*.