

County: Devon

Site Name: Tor Royal Bog

District: West Devon

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

Local Planning Authority: West Devon District Council
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Devon County Council

National Grid Reference: SX 605722 **Area:** 58.0 (ha) 143.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:202 **1:10,000:** SX 67 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969 **Date of Last Revision:** 1976

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

Other Information:

The site lies in Dartmoor National Park.
The site boundary has been amended.

Description:

Tor Royal Bog is one of the best examples of blanket mire in Devon, and is an important representative of such mires in South West Britain.

The site lies on the granite massif of Dartmoor at an altitude of c. 390 m and comprises a discrete area of grazed blanket mire edged by unimproved acidic grassland. The mire is dominated by hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and the bog moss *Sphagnum papillosum*. Altogether, seven species of *Sphagnum* have been recorded on the site, including the now uncommon and declining *S. imbracatum*, once the dominant peat-forming species in the British Isles. Other plant species characteristic of the mire community are bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, deer sedge *Scirpus cespitosus* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. A water course flows south-eastwards through the centre of the site, and at its southern end it is associated with mire characterised by an abundance of soft rush *Juncus effusus* and bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp., and by the presence of lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, round-leaved crowfoot *R. omiophyllus*, marsh violet *Viola palustris* and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*.

Of additional interest are the drier peripheral areas which comprise unimproved acidic grassland. Here, the herb flora includes lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*.