

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: BYTON & COMBE
MOORS

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 364634

Area: 17.88 (ha.) 44.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137, 148

1:10,000: SO 36 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part of the site is registered as a Common.

Reasons for Notification:

One of the few large areas of marsh grassland with associated woodland carr habitat remaining in Herefordshire.

Byton & Combe Moors occupy the site of a former glacial lake in the valley of the River Lugg in north west Herefordshire.

Its marshy grassland is dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* and rough-stalked meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. In the wetter areas and water courses species such as great reedmace *Typha latifolia*, great pond-sedge *Carex riparia* and reed-grass *Glyceria maxima* are abundant. Other notable plants include bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, both now local in Herefordshire.

The area is an important wetland site for birds in Herefordshire, with species such as mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, teal *A. crecca*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and curlew *Numenius arquata* which breed as well as overwinter on the site.