

COUNTY: HAMPSHIRE

SITE NAME: BADDESLEY COMMON SSSI

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authorities: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Test Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 396215

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 185 1:25,000: SU 32

Hectares/Acres: 38.30/94.64

Date Notified (1949 Act): 1979

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (1981 Act): 1982

Date of Last Revision: 1982

Other Information:

Not registered as common land. Areas of improved or species-poor grassland have been deleted from the SSSI. The greater part of the SSSI is now owned and managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust as a nature reserve.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises an extensive valley bog together with associated damp acidic grassland, heathland and developing woodland over Bracklesham Beds in the Hampshire Basin.

Emer Bog is an excellent example of an ungrazed valley bog with a rich flora and fauna which includes most typical bog species. The main elements of the bog vegetation include tall stands of Reed *Phragmites australis* and a shorter mixed association of sedges (especially White Sedge *Carex curta*, Bottle Sedge *C. rostrata* and Star Sedge *C. echinata*), with notable quantities of Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and Bog Bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, together with Marsh Violet *Viola palustris* and Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*. The bog grades downstream into mature alder carr and upstream into heathland, heavily invaded, and partly planted, with pine, birch and scrub.

The invertebrate fauna of the bog and heath is of considerable interest and very large numbers of moths have been recorded.

To the south and west of Emer Bog, the site includes remnants of former common land, now acidic grassland dominated by Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, but with a rich flora, including Petty Whin *Genista anglica*, Dwarf Gorse *Ulex minor*, Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum* and Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*.