

COUNTY: KENT            SITE NAME: GIBBINS BROOK

DISTRICT: SHEPWAY

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

Local Planning Authority: SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TR 117385      Area: 16.6 (ha.) 41.0 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 189      1:10,000: TR 13 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981      Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This area of marshy grassland on peaty soils has developed from an acidic valley bog and still retains many features characteristic of a bog. The site is also notable for its invertebrates, particularly moths.

The marshy grassland contains patches of relict bog vegetation such as purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, bog moss *Sphagnum* species, heath-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* and bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. The cessation of grazing and increased nutrient inflow from the surrounding farmland have probably contributed to the change in character of this site.

Another important feature of the site is the alder carr. The ground flora contains a number of fen plants, including opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* and yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus*.

On the sandy soils in the east there is dry acidic grassland with bracken and gorse. In places around the perimeter of the site there are hedgerows of oak, birch and hawthorn. The site also contains a small pond and stream.

The invertebrate fauna is varied and includes two local moths; the white-barred clearwing *Synanthedon spheciformis*, recorded from the alder carr, and the silver hook *Eustrotia uncula* which is associated with the marshy grassland.