

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Bramshott and Ludshott Commons
SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SU 857345 **Area:** 380.62 (ha) 940.52 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 **1:25,000:** SU 83

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1978 **Date of Last Revision:** –

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

Other Information:

Part owned by the National Trust, part by the Ministry of Defence. Registration as a common confirmed, with common rights of grazing, blackstump, whitestump, estovers and turbary.

Reasons for Notification:

Despite extensive colonisation by birch *Betula* and Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Bramshott and Ludshott Commons support extensive tracts of mature heathland vegetation dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea*, dwarf gorse *Ulex minor* and common gorse *U. europaeus*. The area is mostly on free-draining soils derived from the Sandgate Beds and soils are generally podzolic. Where soil nutrient status is higher, or where intensive burning has excluded the heather, a grass/bracken *Pteridium* association occurs, usually with varying densities of birch and some areas of gorse *U. europaeus*. Despite birch and pine encroachment, the site as a whole represents one of the best remaining examples of open heathland in the western Weald and supports populations of a number of specialised heathland vertebrates, including the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*, woodlark *Lullula arborea*, stonechat *Taxicola torquata*, nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and hobby *Falco subbuteo*. The site includes the hammer ponds and associated valley beech *Fagus*/oak *Quercus* woodland of Waggoners Wells. The woodland includes areas of ancient trees and probably includes fragments of primary woodland. It is rich in epiphytic lichens, with at least 87 taxa present, including a number of rarities, almost all of which are characteristic of ancient woodland.