

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Broughton Down SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 289332 **Area:** 44.7 (ha) 110.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 184, 185 **1:25,000:** SU 23

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1979 **Date of Last Revision:** –

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

Other Information:

Approximately half of the site is owned by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust and managed as a nature reserve.

Boundary altered in 1984 to exclude an area of improved pasture.

Reasons for Notification:

A mainly north-east-facing chalk escarpment exhibiting a succession of chalk vegetation seral stages from open, grazed chalk grassland, through scrub of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, to mature beech, ash and yew woodland. The chalk grassland turf includes areas intensively grazed by rabbits. There is an abundance of ant mounds characterised by a distinctive flora dominated by early forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*. Although the chalk grassland flora is not consistently rich in species, the site as a whole includes a large assemblage of plants characteristic of thin chalk soils, including a population of the comparatively rare field fleawort *Senecio integrifolius*.

The insect fauna includes colonies of chalk carpet moths *Scotopteryx bipunctaria*, silver spotted skipper *Hesperia comma* butterflies (in each case probably the only remaining Hampshire colonies), the Essex skipper *Thymelicus linceola* (the only known Hampshire colony), and Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina*

The site includes important examples of almost the complete range of chalk habitats, with the exception of juniper *Juniperus* scrub, which is represented by only a few bushes.