

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Titchfield Haven SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Fareham Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SU 539035

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 **1:25,000:** SU 50

Area: 131.44 (ha) 324.79 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1959 **Date of Last Revision:** 1979

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

86.23ha form the Titchfield Haven Local Nature Reserve, owned and managed by Hampshire County Council; 12.55ha are owned and managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust.

Reasons for Notification:

Titchfield Haven was formerly the estuary of the River Meon, which receives most of its water from the chalk. Tidal water is excluded by one-way tidal valves and the former estuary is an extensive freshmarsh, the river being flanked successively by large reed *Phragmites australis* beds and wet, unimproved meadows dissected by drainage ditches and further diversified by pools, 'flashes' and patches of fen. In addition, extensive 'scrapes' have been constructed.

The area is an important resort for surface-feeding duck, with winter populations of 2,000 wigeon *Anas penelope*, 1,500 teal *Anas crecca*, and smaller numbers of other surface feeding ducks. It possesses a rich wetland breeding bird community including bearded reedlings *Panurus biarmicus* and large populations of reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and sedge warblers *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

The flora embraces elements characteristic of a wide range of wetland habitats including calcareous fen, fen meadow, brackish marsh and salt marsh.

There are probably no more than ten comparable sites on the south coast and these are collectively vital pre-migratory feeding localities for some species of wetland birds, besides supporting a fauna and flora now highly restricted in distribution in England.