

**County:** Hampshire                      **Site Name:** Waltham Chase Meadows SSSI

**Local Planning Authority:** Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council

**National Grid Reference:** SU 564149

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 196      **1:25,000:** SU 51

**Area:** 6.38 (ha) 15.76 (ac)

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

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

**Other Information:**

**Reasons for Notification:**

The site comprises a group of unimproved neutral meadows, at present cut for hay. Collectively they represent one of the best examples in the county of dry neutral unimproved pasture.

The flora is rich and includes a number of species now scarce or local, through habitat loss, such as: green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, callous-fruited water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and cowslip *Primula veris*. The rich and varied flora supports a rich invertebrate fauna, including, for example, 20 species of butterfly recorded in recent years.

This type of habitat is now exceedingly rare in Hampshire and, indeed, in south-east England as a whole.