

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 18 NOVEMBER 1994

COUNTY: SOMERSET SITE NAME: HARDINGTON MOOR

DISTRICT: SOUTH SOMERSET

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

Local Planning Authority: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, South Somerset District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 515130 Area: 8.7 (ha.) 21.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 194 1:10,000: ST 51 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1994 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Owned by English Nature (Nature Conservancy Council for England)

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is an example of agriculturally unimproved, species-rich, neutral grassland of a type which has been reduced significantly in extent in the recent past and is now rare in Britain including Somerset.

The site is located on a south facing slope on neutral or slightly calcareous clay soils derived from the underlying Fullers Earth and Forest Marble strata.

The sward is dominated by grasses which include Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Quaking-grass *Briza media* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. A special feature is the abundance of the grass *Gaudinia fragilis* which is present as a major constituent of the sward at only four sites in Britain. There are a large number of herb species present including abundant Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio*, Betony *Stachys officinalis*, Dyer's Greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, and Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*. The nationally scarce Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* also occurs. Other species of note include Greater Butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.