

COUNTY: AVON

SITE NAME: UPHILL CLIFF

DISTRICT: WOODSPRING

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

Local Planning Authority: AVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Woodspring District Council

National Grid Reference: ST 318583 Area: 19.8 (ha.) 48.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 182 1:10,000: ST 35 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1952 Date of Last Revision: 1971

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

Other Information:

Scheduled area increased in 1984 Revision.
Site excludes Uphill Church and grounds.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site consists of species-rich calcareous grassland and rock-face situated on Carboniferous Limestone. Steeper banks and knolls in the grassland have a flora which includes Salad Burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata* and Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. There are small colonies of Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio*, Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera* and Pyramidal Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*.

Thin soils associated with rock outcrops support Wild Thyme *Thymus drucei*, Wild Clary *Salvia horminoides* and Wall-pepper *Sedum acre*.

Uphill Cliff is an outstanding locality for rare plants. A number of species listed in the British Red Data Book of Vascular Plants are associated with stony grassland along the cliff-top and ledges. These include Somerset Hair Grass *Koeleria vallesiana*, and Honewort *Trinia glauca* which are largely confined to the Somerset/Avon borders, and Goldilocks *Aster linosyris* of which there are now only 8 colonies in Britain.

Other rarities include Rock Hutchinsia *Hornungia petraea* and Curtis's Mouse-ear Chickweed *Cerastium pumilum*.

The site is of considerable entomological interest, and several local species of butterfly and Weevil (Curculionoidea) have been recorded.