

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 15 MAY 1987

COUNTY: SOMERSET SITE NAME: HOLME MOOR AND CLEAN MOOR

DISTRICT: TAUNTON DEANE

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, Taunton Deane Borough Council

National Grid Reference: ST 095260 Area: 4.0 & 6.8 (ha.) 9.9 & 16.8 (ac.)  
ST 087252

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 181 1:10,000: ST 02 NE SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Holme Moor and Clean Moor support a range of habitats associated with high water tables. Swamp and calcareous flush plant communities with a very restricted distribution in Somerset are present. Further diversity is provided by areas of marshy grassland and broadleaved semi-natural woodland.

The two moors are situated on the north facing slope of the upper reaches of the Hillfarrance Brook and are the sources of springs fed by base-rich and nutrient poor ground water. The water table remains high throughout the year and waterlogged humic soils have developed in both areas.

A species-rich calcareous flush community of the Black Bog-rush – Blunt-flowered Rush type occurs in its only known Somerset location at clean Moor. This community is dominated by Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Other species typical of wet conditions include Tawny Sedge *Carex hostiana*, Flea Sedge *C. pulicaris*, Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, Marsh Lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* and Meadow Valerian *Valeriana dioica*. Orchids are well represented with Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and Southern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*. Clean Moor is one of the few Somerset sites where Long-stalked Yellow Sedge *Carex lepidocarpa*, Few-flowered Spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, Petty Whin *Genista anglica* and Parsley Water-dropwort *Oenanthe lachenalii* occur. Mosses associated with this community include *Scorpidium scorpioides* and *Ctenidium molluscum*.

Holme Moor is one of the very few sites in the county which support a species-poor swamp community dominated by Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* with Purple Moor-grass, Carnation Sedge, Blunt-flowered Rush, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, Common Marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre* and Hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*. Many of the calcareous flush species present at Clean Moor occur at the margins of this community. Holme Moor and Clean Moor are the only known Somerset stations for Broad-leaved Cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium*.

Marshy grassland dominated by Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* occur on both sites. Other species typical of wet conditions include Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, Ragged-Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, Common Sedge *Carex nigra* and Hairy Sedge *C. hirta*.

The two moors support areas of broadleaved semi-natural alderwood dominated by Alder *Alnus glutinosa*. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Aspen *Populus tremula* and Wild Cherry *Prunus avium* also contribute to the canopy. Understorey species include Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* and Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. An unusual feature of the ground flora is the abundance of Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*. Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* and Narrow Buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* are also present.