

File Ref: WCS/182

COUNTY: Cambridgeshire

SITE NAME: L-Moor, Shepreth

DISTRICT: South Cambridgeshire

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

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 385475
TL 388473

Area: 6.1 (ha) 15.07 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 154

1:10,000: TL 34 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1:1969

Date of Last Revision: 1971

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision:

Other Information:

The area to the west of the railway is a nature reserve of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust.

The area to the east and the adjacent brook have been added to the site at the 1986 revision.

Reasons for Notification:

L-Moor holds floristically diverse and rich grassland communities which have largely developed on calcareous alluvium. The grassland types represented on the site are scarce in Cambridgeshire and are rare in the country as a whole.

The dryer grassland contains a range of calcicole herbs such as Horseshoe vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*) and Felwort (*Gentianella amarella*). Cowslips (*Primula veris*) are particularly abundant.

These dry areas grade into damp grassland dominated by Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) where typical wet-loving herbs such as devils-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*) occur. Areas of tall herbs and a small marsh of sedges (*Carex* spp) rushes (*Juncus* spp) and Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia caerulea*) form other interesting grassland communities on the site.

The adjacent chalk stream supports a good range of aquatic plants including four species of Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp) and Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*).

The site has been recognised as of high value for its invertebrate life. Scattered areas of scrub, adjacent hedgerows and trees further enhance the general wild life value of the site.