

COUNTY: SURREY SITE NAME: MOOR PARK

DISTRICT: WAVERLEY

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

Local Planning Authority: WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SU 868458 Area: 17.096 (ha.) 17.53 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 1:10,000: SU 84 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1976 Date of Last Revision: –

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

Other Information:

Part of this site is a nature reserve managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.
The boundary has been altered by deletion of a large part of the old SSSI.

Reasons for Notification:

This site supports an alder carr, a nationally rare habitat, with the only example in the county of a deep water alder swamp. The alder carr is situated in the valley bottom of the River Wey, on river alluvium, while to the east there is a steep bank of Lower Greensand (Folkestone Beds), which is freely drained, and therefore adds to the diversity of the vegetation on the site.

The wetland is dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* with some crack willow *Salix fragilis*. The swamp, to the north-east of the site is dominated by common reed *Phragmites communis* although other wetland species such as great pond-sedge *Carex riparia*, bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* and common reed-mace *Typha latifolia* also occur there. A range of other wetland species occur around the swamp, including marsh violet *Viola palustris*, opposite leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and hemlock water dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*. Where the soil is less waterlogged ash *Fraxinus excelsior* becomes frequent with a shrub layer of sallow *Salix caprea* and elder *Sambucus nigra*. Common nettle *Urtica dioica* is frequent here, along with ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis* and town hall clock *Adoxa moschatellina*.

As the land to the east gets higher and progressively drier so the vegetation changes. Silver birch *Betula pendula* and hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* at the foot of the slope give way to pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* further up, with an understorey of holly *Ilex aquifolium* and birch. Here the ground flora is sparse with some wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*.