

Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths SPA:

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

SITE NAME: SANDHURST TO OWLSMOOR
BOGS AND HEATHS

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

Local Planning Authorities: Bracknell District Council, Berkshire County Council

National Grid Reference: SU844628

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 175 **1:10,000:** SU86 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 85.44 ha 211.12 ac

Other information: Part of this site is managed as a public open space by Bracknell District Council.

Description and Reasons for Notification

An area of wet and dry heathland and mixed broadleaved/coniferous woodland, supporting a rich and varied fauna and flora.

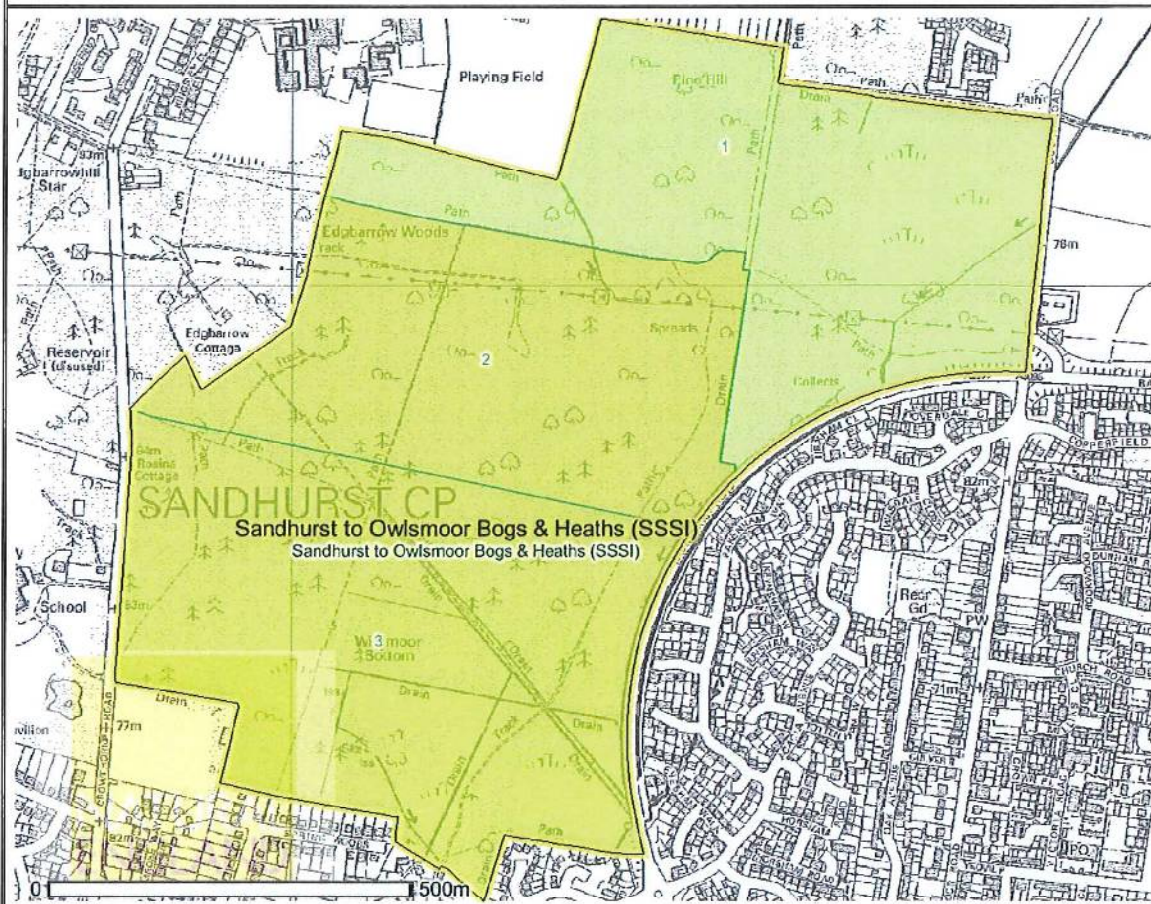
Together with the nearby Broadmoor Bottom complex this site forms the largest and most important area of heathland remaining in east Berkshire and is particularly important for its wet heath community dominated by cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*.

The site includes a shallow, spring-fed valley mire of outstanding importance which supports an extremely interesting flora including round and long-leaved sundews *Drosera rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*, white beak sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and several other plants which are rare in the county, as well as populations of rare and localised insects.



Nature on the Map

My Map



© Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100022021. © Crown copyright. Licence number 100022432.

© Natural England 2007. This page was produced from the Nature on the Map website at 30/03/2011 04:51:12

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ★ Natural England Offices | □ Sites of Special Scientific Interest |
| □ Selected Sites of Special Scientific Interest | □ Natural England Regions |
| □ SSSI Live Management Agreements | □ Natural England Area Teams |
| □ SSSI Unit condition - last updated 17 Mar 2011 | □ Scotland, Wales and Ireland |
| | □ Ordnance Survey background mapping |
| | □ England |
| ■ Favourable Condition | |
| ■ Unfavourable Recovering | |
| ■ Unfavourable no change | |
| ■ Unfavourable Declining | |
| ■ Part Destroyed | |
| ■ Destroyed | |
| ■ Not Assessed | |

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Thames Basin Heaths

Unitary Authority/County: Bracknell Forest; Hampshire; Surrey; Windsor and Maidenhead.

Site description: The Thames Basin Heaths SPA is a composite site that is located across the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire in southern England. It encompasses all or parts of Ash to Brookwood Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, Bramshill SSSI, Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI, Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI, Chobham Common SSSI, Colony Bog and Bagshot Heaths SSSI, Eelmoor Marsh SSSI, Hazeley Heath SSSI, Horsell Common SSSI, Ockham and Wisley Commons SSSI, Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths SSSI and Whitmoor Common SSSI.

The open heathland habitats overlie sand and gravel sediments which give rise to sandy or peaty acidic soils, supporting dry heathy vegetation on well-drained slopes, wet heath on low-lying shallow slopes and bogs in valleys. The site consists of tracts of heathland, scrub and woodland, once almost continuous, but now fragmented into separate blocks by roads, urban development and farmland. Less open habitats of scrub, acidic woodland and conifer plantations dominate, within which are scattered areas of open heath and mire. The site supports important breeding populations of a number of birds of lowland heathland, especially nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and woodlark *Lullula arborea*, both of which nest on the ground, often at the woodland/heathland edge, and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*, which often nests in gorse *Ulex* sp. Scattered trees and scrub are used for roosting.

Together with the nearby Ashdown Forest and Wealden Heaths SPAs, the Thames Basin Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support important breeding bird populations.

Size of SPA: The SPA covers an area of 8274.72 ha.

Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex 1 species	Count and season	Period	% of GB population
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	264 churring males – breeding	1998/99	7.8%
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	149 pairs – breeding	1997	9.9%
Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	445 pairs – breeding	1999	27.8%

Non-qualifying species of interest: Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (all Annex I species) occur in non-breeding numbers of less than European importance (less than 1% of the GB population).

Status of SPA:

Thames Basin Heaths was classified as a Special Protection Area on 9 March 2005.

This citation/map relates to a site entered in the Register of European sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number..... UK
Date of registration..... 9 MARCH 2005
Signed.....
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs