

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: HODNET HEATH

DISTRICT: North Shropshire

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 620262      Area: 38.6 (ha.) 95.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 127      1:10,000: SJ 62 NW

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

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

Other Information:  
New site.

Reasons for Notification:

A small remnant of the heathland which was formerly more extensive in North Shropshire.

The site is predominantly wet heath, but areas of dry heath and secondary woodland occur. There are also a number of ponds.

The heathland is dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, with abundant cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and locally dominant purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. The uncommon deer-grass *Trichophorum caespitosum* occurs in these heathland communities. In wetter places characteristic bog plants such as sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and hare's-tail cotton-grass *E. vaginatum* occur. Wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* is dominant in the drier areas.

The heathland is surrounded by woodland, all of which is believed to be secondary, and most of which is dominated by birch *Betula pubescens*. Alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* is present in some damper areas.