

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE **SITE NAME:** RHOS FIDDLE

DISTRICT: SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: Shropshire County Council, South Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 208853 **Area:** 66.127 (ha.) 163.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 136, 137 **1:10,000:** SO 28 NW, SO 28 SW
SO 18 NE, SO 18 SE

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

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

Other Information:

Registered as a common under the Commons Registrations Act, 1965.

Description:

Most of the moorland of Clun Forest has now been reclaimed for agriculture. Rhos Fiddle is the most extensive remaining area, and consists mainly of heathland with wet flushes and a shallow pool.

The heathland is dominated by common heather *Calluna vulgaris*, but bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* are significant components of the vegetation. There are also extensive areas of acidic grassland, in which the main species are common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* and heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*. In damper areas ribbed sedge *Carex binervis*, a characteristic moorland species, occurs.

The site also includes wet flushes which are dominated by bog moss *Sphagnum spp* and soft rush *Juncus effusus*. Other species present include common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and hare's-tail cotton-grass *E. vaginatum*, bog-bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and bog violet *Viola palustris*.

Gorse *Ulex europaeus* scrub adds to the diversity of the site.