

File ref:

County: Hampshire **Site Name:** Coombe Wood and The Lythe SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SU 749346

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 **1:25,000:** SU 73

Area: 42.1 (ha) 104.02 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:** -

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

Other Information:

Part (The Long and Short Lythes) owned by The National Trust. Improved pasture excluded from the SSSI in 1984.

Reasons for Notification:

The site includes a series of 'hanger' woods on the Wealden Upper Greensand escarpment, an oak/hazel wood on Gault Clay, with intervening streamside meadows. The hanger woodlands include a wide range of structural types, including examples of mature beech *Fagus* wood, beech/ash *Fraxinus* wood and mixed woodland dominated by hazel *Corylus*/ash coppice. These woods support a relatively rich calcareous ground flora with substantial populations of green hellebore *Helleborus viridis* and violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*. The hanger woods also possess a rich bryophyte flora, mostly epiphytic on the older trees.

The site contains examples of most of the woodland stand types which occur within the naturally important woods associated with the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay of the western Weald.