File ref:

County: **Leicestershire** **Site name: Harby Hill Wood**

District: **Melton**

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

Local Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 762284 **Area:** 18.45 (ha) 45.58 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 129 **1: 10 000:** SK 72 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises ash-sycamore woodland, grassland and spring-fed marshes. The woodland is notable for its colonies of wild daffodil.

Biology:

Harby Hill Wood lies on a west-facing scarp slope formed by clays of the Jurassic Middle and Lower Lias capped by the Middle Lias Marlstone Rock Bed. The wood itself, which is probably not ancient, is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra* and is notable for containing colonies of wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. A number of springs issue from the scarp within the woodland and have given rise to plant communities containing such characteristic species as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* and great horsetail *Equisetum telmateia*. To the south of the wood lies an area of species-rich dry grassland. This is intermediate in character between neutral and calcareous grassland and contains such diverse plant species as sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, musk thistle *Carduus nutans* and wild thyme *Thymus drucei*.