

COUNTY: KENT            SITE NAME: LYNSORE BOTTOM

DISTRICT: CANTERBURY/SHEPWAY

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

Local Planning Authority: CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL, Shepway District Council

National Grid Reference: TR 160480            Area: 70 (ha.) 172.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 179, 189            1:10,000: TR 14 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951            Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985            Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This is a good example of a traditional coppice-with-standards woodland containing a variety of tree species. Ash-maple and pedunculate oak-hornbeam stands are the main woodland types on the eastern side of the valley. On the western slopes there is ash and sweet chestnut coppice, both with pedunculate oak standards. The site is also noted for the presence of several uncommon plants, particularly the lady orchid *Orchis purpurea*, a species restricted in Britain to Kent.

The eastern woodlands, Fryarne Park Wood and Mill Bank, are the most varied. Hazel and ash are the most common coppiced species on the chalk soils of the lower slopes with ash and hornbeam on the clay-with-flints soils of the upper slopes. Pedunculate oak and beech standards are present throughout. Other species include birch, field maple, whitebeam and shrubs such as wayfaring tree.

The western part of the site, in Atchester Wood, is more uniform. Here either sweet chestnut or ash, both as coppice, are the most common trees. There are also some oak standards and the occasional birch, willow or hornbeam. Part of this area has been felled and replanted with larch and beech. Some oak standards have been retained and there is also some regrowth of other species.

The ground flora of all these woods is varied and includes several plants considered to be indicative of woods that have had continuous tree cover since mediaeval times, such as yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*. Many uncommon plants also occur including wood vetch *Vicia sylvatica*, herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, Solomon's seal *Polygonatum multiflorum* and goldilocks *Ranunculus auricomus*. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and brambles *Rubus fruticosus* are the commonest plants.

The woods are also important for breeding birds including tawny owl, grasshopper warbler and hawfinch. The area is also noted for the high numbers of nightingales.