

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Potter Hanworth Wood

District: North Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: North Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 070670 **Area:** 32.0 (ha) 78.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 121 **1: 10 000:** TF 06 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 **Date of Last Revision:**

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

Other Information:

The site is mentioned in 'A Nature Conservation Review'.

Reasons for Notification:

Adjacent to the now drained fenland of the Witham Valley, Potter Hanworth Wood is characterised by the dominance of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*. Historically, the site is known to have been continuously wooded and its long management as coppice-with-standards, combined with the variation in soil texture and drainage, has resulted in outstanding plant and animal communities.

There are pure stands of lime in the north; elsewhere it is mixed with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, birches *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and aspen *Populus tremula*. Wild service trees *Sorbus torminalis* are found in the body of the wood. The lime-rich soils of the massive bank along the eastern edge support field maple *Acer campestre*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare*. Hazel *Corylus avellana* forms the shrub layer in the wood's interior.

Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* dominate the woodland floor in the north. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is abundant in the east, whilst yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* is prolific throughout. Typical of the acidic areas are hairy woodrush *Luzula pilosa*, slender St. John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*, heath speedwell *Veronica officinalis* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. Pockets of rich soil support moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*. Rarer plants of the ground flora are herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium* and small teasel *Dipsacus pilosus*.

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Potter Hanworth Wood (cont...)

Amongst the numerous moths recorded is the rare Poplar Lutestring *Tethea or.*

The wood supports a breeding bird community characteristic of ancient woodlands including Woodcock, Tree Creeper and Greater Spotted Woodpecker. It also contains a small heronry.