

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Sapperton & Pickworth Woods

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 031336 **Area:** 27.2 (ha) 67.2 (ac)
TF 030342
TF 030346

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 03 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Sapperton North, Sapperton South and Pickworth Woods are three ancient semi-natural woodlands which have developed on the heavy soils of the Midland Clay Belt. The woods contain representative examples of wet-ash-maple woodland and acid pedunculate oak-ash-hazel woodland, characteristic woodland types of the Kesteven Plateau. Such woodlands are increasingly threatened by modern forestry and agricultural practices.

All three woods have a coppice-with-standards structure, principally of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* standards with neglected hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre* coppice. A rich shrub layer is present within the site, including common and Midland hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and *C. oxyacanthoides*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, aspen *Populus tremula* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

The woodlands have a rich and varied ground flora, reflecting local variations in soil moisture and base status. The more acidic areas are characterised by bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. Where conditions are more base-rich, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* or rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis* are locally dominant. Other characteristic plants include bugle *Ajuga reptans*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea*

lutetiana, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, barren
cont....**Sapperton & Pickworth Woods (cont...)**

strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, primrose *Primula vulgaris* and common dog violet *Viola riviniana*.

Rather more uncommon plants, typical of these woodland types are early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium* and greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*.