

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: WAYLAND WOOD

DISTRICT: Breckland

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

Local Planning Authority: Breckland District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 925 996 Area: 33 (ha) 81 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144 1:10,000: TL 99 NW

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

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

Other Information:

This site is a Norfolk Naturalist's Trust Reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

Wayland Wood is one of the largest woods in South Norfolk, containing entirely semi-natural stands and is still managed under a traditional coppicing system. The structure is coppice, with standards on wet calcareous boulder clay and a rare stand-type, bird cherry–alder wood is present. The diverse flora is typical of ancient woodland and includes one national rarity.

Oak *Quercus robur* is the dominant standard tree with scattered ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and silver birch *Betula pendula*. The coppice under an open canopy consists of hazel *Corylus avellana*, bird-cherry *Prunus padus*, willow *Salix caprea*, ash, hornbeam *Carpinus betula* and field maple *Acer campestre*. Some very large coppice stools are present. Yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* is very abundant with water avens *Geum rivale*, bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, common twayblade *Listera ovata* and the rare yellow star of Bethlehem *Gagea lutea*.

The rides are generally narrow and overshadowed but where the light penetrates, a variety of species occur, including bugle *Ajuga reptans* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*.

A wide variety of birds breed in the wood, including woodcock, lesser spotted woodpecker and nuthatch.

The wood has historical and legendary associations and a recorded history going back to the Domesday Book.