COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE SITE NAME: MATLOCK WOODS

DISTRICT: WEST DERBYSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, West Derbyshire District

National Grid Reference: SK 296593, SK 296580 Area: 18.45 (ha.) 46.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119 1:10,000: SK 25 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:
Matlock Woods are one of the best examples in Derbyshire and the Peak District of ash-elm woodland with their typical association of shrubs and ground flora. The age, structure and species composition of these woods strongly suggests that they are a remnant (although modified) of the ancient woodland cover of the limestone dales. They are particularly important for having the largest population in the area of the two native lime trees, small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and large-leaved lime *T. platyphyllos*. These trees occur both as true species and as a wide range of naturally occurring hybrids. The age variation is also very wide, some of the limes being over 200 years old. Lime occurs largely on the steepest slopes particularly on cliffs and among limestone outcrops and is frequently associated with yew *Taxus baccata*. Wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*, an uncommon species in Derbyshire, has been known from Hagg Wood since
1860.

The ground flora includes a number of locally uncommon species notably stinking hellebore *Helleborus foetidus*, Solomon's seal *Polygonatum multiflorum* and wood fescue *Festuca altissima*.