

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE/
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

SITE NAME: DYSCARR WOOD

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW/ROTHERHAM

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

Local Planning Authority: BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 581871 Area: 18.51 (ha.) 45.72 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120 1:10,000: SK 58 NE

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

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

Other Information:

Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by the Nottinghamshire Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd.

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best examples of a calcareous ash-wych elm wood in Nottinghamshire and is representative of semi-natural woodland on limestone soils in the English North Midlands.

Biology

A fine example of an ash-wych elm wood developed on soils derived from the Permian Upper Magnesian Limestone. Over most of its area the wood is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, together with birch *Betula pendula*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and oak *Quercus robur*. The understorey contains abundant hazel *Corylus avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* together with field maple *Acer campestre*, dogwood *Swida sanguinea*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and sloe *Prunus spinosa*. The ground vegetation is characterised by an abundance of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, together with a range of herbs indicative of ancient woodland including sweet woodruff *Asperula odorata*, ramsoms *Allium ursinum*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum* and wood melick *Melica uniflora*. Of particular interest is the presence of the gladdon *Iris foetidissima* at one of its most northerly British stations. A number of small watercourses cross the site and the water table is very close to the surface. Where the soils are wet there is a change to woodland dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa*, together with crack willow *Salix fragilis*. The shrub and ground layer vegetation is similar to that of the ash-wych elm wood but locally meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* dominate the ground vegetation. To the north-east of the site the wood gives way to grassland, marsh and scrub. Wetter areas are dominated by *Filipendula ulmaria* and *Eupatorium cannabinum* in a marsh community which includes marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and common yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*. Additional interest here is provided by the occurrence of a large number of small pools. The diversity of habitats present provides ideal conditions for varied breeding bird, amphibian and insect faunas.