

File ref: (L) SD 47/3

County: Lancashire **Site Name:** Cringlebarrow and Deepdale

District: Lancaster

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

Local Planning Authority: Lancaster City Council

National Grid Reference: SD 498753 **Area:** 49.8 (ha) 123.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 97 **1:10,000:** SD 47 NE, SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1979 **Date of Last Revision:** –

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

Other Information:

1. The site supports red squirrels, a protected species listed under Schedule 5 of the above Act.
2. The site is within the Arnsdale-Silverdale AONB.
3. The boundary of the site remains unchanged.

Reasons for Notification:

Cringlebarrow and Deepdale Woods are situated mainly on the west facing side of a Carboniferous limestone ridge, rising to a height of 122 m OD, west of Yealand Redmayne. They consist mainly of northern calcareous hazel-ash woodland which is the characteristic woodland type of the area, but also contain the most extensive sessile oak-ash-lime woodlands known in Lancashire. This is a rare woodland type in the county, the only other example being in Eaves Wood SSSI. Collectively they provide the best example in the county of these two woodland types managed as high forest, on what is believed to be an ancient woodland site. Within the hazel-ash woodland the presence of limestone pavement and yew woodland adds diversity of interest to the site.

Most of the woodland is high forest, having been singled from former coppice with sessile oak standards. The ground flora is mainly dominated by blackberry and dog's mercury but contains a wide range of herbs including the rare fingered sedge and yellow star of Bethlehem. The presence of extensive woodland containing small leaved-lime, growing here near its northern limit in Britain, suggests that the woodland has a long history and has never been completely cleared.

The site also contains a complex of limestone features of outstanding importance. Deepdale is a fine example of a 'doline', a natural depression in the limestone, and is the only one remaining intact in the area. Deepdale Pond used to contain water but now is occupied by a small bog being colonised by willows. The steeply sloping limestone pavement on the Cringlebarrow ridge is largely intact and is dominated by yew accompanied by a variety of shrubs forming dense thickets in places. The grykes contain a wide range of plant species characteristic of limestone pavement which is so extensive as to be highly rated nationally, and includes such species as dark red helleborine and lily of the valley.

Further interest is added by the variety of animal life in the woodlands, including the red squirrel, a protected species, badger, and the wood ant which is nearing the northern limit of its distribution.