

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** HARDWICK WOOD

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** South Cambridgeshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 354575

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 154                      **1:10,000:** TL 35 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1954                      **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

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

**Area:** 16.9 ha 41.7 ac

**Other information:** Hardwick Wood is a nature reserve of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust.

#### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

The ancient core of the site is ash-field maple woodland containing both oxlip *Primula elatior* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*, a woodland type which is nationally restricted in distribution to small parts of Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex where the oxlip and primrose woods overlap in their range.

The oldest parts of the wood have a canopy of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* with an understorey of hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus* spp. and scattered field maple *Acer campestre*. The more recent woodland contains much ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and some wych elm *Ulmus glabra*.

The ground flora is largely dominated by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and contains interesting plants such as early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*. Rides in the wood provide additional habitat diversity.

The adjacent bridleway provides a narrow 'buffer' to the wood and contains a population of a nationally restricted plant.

The wood is bounded by agricultural ditches.