COUNTY: OXFORDSHIRE **SITE NAME:** WOODEATON WOOD

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

Local Planning Authorities: South Oxfordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SP450112

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 164 **1:10,000:** SP51 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 **Date of Last Revision:** 1977

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 14.1 ha 34.9 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

Woodeaton Wood is an intact relic of the ancient Shotover Forest. It is noted for the occurrence of several locally uncommon plant species. The site, which lies on a gentle west-facing slope, is an example of coppice-with-standards woodland typical of the calcareous soils prevailing in areas where the sandy Corallian beds lie against the poorly drained Oxford Clay. The coppice consists of ash, hazel and field maple with standards of oak and, locally, ash. Other trees include aspen, wild cherry and goat willow, together with some introduced hybrid poplars and Norway spruce. The diverse shrub layer includes calcicoles such as spindle, wayfaring tree and traveller's joy.

The field layer contains wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, ransoms *Allium ursinum*, goldilocks buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*, sanicle *Sanicula vulgaris*, sweet violet *Viola odorata* and early wood violet *V. reichenbachiana* among carpets of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*.

Woodeaton Wood supports some plants which are very uncommon in Oxfordshire, including water avens *Geum rivale*, the hybrid between water avens and wood avens *Geum* x *intermedia*, meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale*, stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*, wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*, herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and greater wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*.