

County: Devon **Site Name:** Arlington

District: North Devon

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

Local Planning Authority: Devon County Council, North Devon District Council

National Grid Reference: SS 608405, SS 609395 **Area:** 45.3 (ha) 111.9 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 180 **1:10,000:** SS 64 SW, SS 63 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

A new site. Owned by the National Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Arlington is important for its rich lichen flora with many rare species. It also supports a good assemblage of invertebrates, including national rarities.

Lying within an altitude range of 100 m to 180 m the parkland has a mainly south-westerly aspect and the underlying Devonian slates provide a thin, well drained soil. The most important trees here include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus* spp., and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. The parkland slopes more steeply towards the valley bottom where the river Yeo flows in a southerly direction via a large lake. A dense carr has formed around the northern end of the lake with willows *Salix* spp., and alder *Alnus glutinosa* dominating the canopy. Further downstream there is an additional area of carr with ash, oak and hazel *Corylus avellana* becoming more frequent. There are several large, mature oaks here, some of which have collapsed, and there is an abundance of well-rotted trunks and limbs.

The diverse conditions of the ancient parkland and willow carr provide for a rich lichen vegetation with some rare western and old-forest indicator species. Of particular note here is the development of *Cetrelia olivetorum* and *Heterodermia obscurata* which is the best in south-west England. Also important is the presence of *Teloschistes flavicans*, one of only two localities for this species in Devon outside the southern coastal area. Rare species include *Bombyliospora pachycarpa*, *Pannaria conoplea*, *Parmelia lacinatula*, *Sticta dufourii* and *Lecidea carrollii*. The Lobarion community is well represented and the site is also noteworthy for an abundance of *Usnea articulata*.

Amongst the invertebrate fauna are two nationally scarce beetles *Chrysolina haemoptera* and *Pterostichus oblongopunctatus* and several local beetles including the rhinoceros beetle *Sinodendron cylindricum*, *Biphyllus lunatus*, *Cerylon ferrugineum* and *Pediacus dermestoides*. The nationally rare high brown fritillary butterfly *Argynnis adippe* and the local snail *Zenobiella subrufescens* have also been recorded.