

County: Humberside

Site Name Beckhead Plantation

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

Local Planning Authority: East Yorkshire Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 816537

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 106 **1:10,000:** SE 85 SW

Area: 3.67 (ha) 9.07 (ac)

First Notified: 1968 (Under 1949 Act) **Revision Date:** 1982

Description:

Whilst clearly of plantation origin, this woodland nevertheless demonstrates many of the characteristic features of a northern ash woodland on chalk. The canopy is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with some wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, field maple *Acer campestre* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. Alien species such as spruce *Picea abies* and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* are present in limited numbers, whilst the naturalised sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* is rather more common. The understorey contains a good variety of shrub species including hazel *Corylus avellana*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, gooseberry *Ribes uva-crispa* and fly honeysuckle *Lonicera xylosteum*.

The calcareous nature of the brown earth soil overlying chalk is reflected in the rich ground flora. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is locally dominant, and enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, herb bennet *Geum urbanum*, twayblade *Listera ovata*, common dog-violet *Viola riviniana* and early dog-violet *V. reichenbachiana* are all widely distributed. Baneberry *Actaea spicata*, an uncommon species, occurs here.

Other Information:

The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust.