

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** MADINGLEY 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 401596

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 45 NW, TL 35 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1959 **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

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

Area: 15.2 ha 37.5 ac

Other information: This woodland has been the location of much woodland research and educational use by the University of Cambridge.

Description and Reasons for Notification

Madingley Wood is an example of the ash-maple woodland type characteristic of the chalky Boulder Clay of eastern England.

The western sector of the wood is of ancient origin whilst the eastern half is of relatively recent origin thus providing valuable opportunities for study into colonisation processes and historical ecology generally.

The older primary woodland holds standards of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and field maple *Acer campestre* being common. Old hazel *Coryllus avellana* coppice, and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* dominate the shrub layer.

The secondary woodland holds a mixture of elm *Ulmus* sp. and ash with a shrub layer of elm suckers and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

The ground flora is typically of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*-bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* type. The woodland has also been noted for its moss flora.

The site is of particular educational and research value in view of its long association with the University of Cambridge.