

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: TINDALL WOOD, DITCHINGHAM

DISTRICT: South Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TM 327935

Area: 41 (ha) 101.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134

1:10,000: TM 39 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): N/A

Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Tindall Wood is one of the largest hornbeam woods in the county and is considered representative of the type. It is an ancient woodland situated on poorly drained south Norfolk boulder clay which is overlain in places by sandy loam. Surrounded by a massive woodbank and ditch, the wood mainly supports Hornbeam and Oak with Ash, Maple and Hazel. Several uncommon species are found in the ground flora which indicate that the woodland may be primary.

The dominant stand-type is pedunculate Oak–Hornbeam woodland with a structure of coppice-with-standards. Standard trees are of Oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*. The coppice layer is overgrown and is mainly Hornbeam with scattered Ash, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus* and Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata* are frequent shrubs on the heaviest soils where there is also a rich ground flora. Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is dominant with Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris*. Other species include Wood Melick *Melica uniflora*, Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima*, Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. The ground flora of lighter, more acid soils is dominated by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg with Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.

Other stand-types are represented by fragments of wet valley alderwood and invasive elm woodland. The coppice structure has been lost in parts of the wood and has been replaced by high forest of Oak, Ash and Hornbeam.

Wide rides have been cut through the wood and marshy grassland has developed. The rides are dominated by Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* with Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.