

**County:** Lancashire

**Site Name:** Eaves Wood

**District:** Lancaster

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Lancaster City Council

**National Grid Reference:** SD 466763

**Area:** 51.5 (ha) 127.3 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 97

**1:10,000:** SD 47 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1963

**Date of Last Revision:** 1979

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984

**Date of Last Revision:** 1984

**Other Information:**

1. The site is listed in "A Nature Conservation Review", edited by D. A. Ratcliffe (1977), Cambridge University Press.
2. Red squirrels, a protected species listed under Schedule 5 of the above Act are resident.
3. The boundary of the site has been revised by a minor deletion.
4. The site is within the Arnside-Silverdale A.N.O.B.
5. *Sorbus lancestransis* is listed in the British Red Data Book – "Vascular Plants".

**Reasons for Notification:**

Eaves Wood is situated on a Carboniferous limestone hill north of Silverdale. The limestone reaches a height of 84 m O.D. on Castlebarrow Hill and outcrops at many places in the wood. There are some areas of limestone pavement but most have been damaged in the past. The shallow soils consist of rankers, rendzinas and calcareous brown earths and support a lime-loving vegetation.

The wood consists mainly of northern calcareous hazel-ash woodland with smaller areas of upland sessile oak woodland and sessile oak-ash-lime woodland (Jubilee Wood). A wide variety of shrubs and woody species are present, including the wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and the very rare whitebeam *Sorbus lancestransis*, most of which regenerate freely. The woodland is largely secondary in nature. It is dominated by ash and oak with hazel and yew in the understorey, but has been much modified and diversified by previous management: beech, larch and pine have been extensively planted and are well naturalised. Jubilee Wood is an exception and is dominated by small leaved lime with oak, ash and patches of wych elm. It is of particular interest as one of the only two extensive examples of this stand type in Lancashire, the other being in Cringlebarrow and Deepdale SSSI. The presence of so much small leaved lime suggest that this is the oldest part of the wood which has probably never been completely cleared.

The prime interest of this site, however, lies in the richness and diversity of the herbs with an outstanding assemblage of rare and uncommon plants. Amongst these, mountain melick, yellow star of Bethlehem, yellow bird's-nest, dark red helleborine, stinking helleborine, fingered sedge and abundant lily-of-the-valley occur together with the more typical flora characteristic of limestone woodland. Small glades and clearings provide a habitat for spring cinquefoil.

Over 250 fungi have been recorded too, and a variety of animal life including the wood ant, the bug *Issus muscaeformis* in its second British site (the other being Gait Barrows NNR) and the brown snail *Zenobiella subrufescens* which is quite widely distributed in western Britain but it usually associated with primary woodland. Red squirrels, a protected species, are resident in the woods.