

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Redgate Woods and Mansey Common

District: Newark

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

Local Planning Authority: Newark District Council

National Grid Reference: Area 1 SK 677598 **Area:** 74.0 (ha) 180.5 (ac)
Area 2 SK 685607

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 65 NE, SK 66 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises some of the best remaining examples of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland and neutral grassland in Nottinghamshire, and is representative of woodland and grassland developed on the Midland clays.

Biology:

REDGATE WOODS: A fine example of an ash-elm wood developed in part on stiff clays of the Triassic Keuper Marl. The variation in past management together with the range of soil type, slope and aspect present is reflected in the diversity of the stand types and variation in shrub and field layer vegetation. Characteristically, the semi-natural stands are dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and silver birch *Betula pendula* although, locally, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* is common. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare* are the most frequent shrubs, while the ground layer in some areas is dominated by honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and in others by bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus* or dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. The ground vegetation is very diverse, including a wide range of typical ancient woodland species. Additional interest is provided by the presence of species-rich glades and by the quality of the breeding bird populations.

MANSEY COMMON: A good example of species-rich neutral grassland characteristic of rough pasture developed on stiff clay soils. The sward is dominated by tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* with Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* cont....

Redgate Woods and Mansey Common (cont...)

also common. Typical plants of this community are lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, betony *Betonica officinalis*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. Additional interest is provided by the adjoining section of Dumble; a narrow, steep-sided, wooded valley which possesses a ground flora similar to the flushed slopes of ancient woodland.