

COUNTY: WEST SUFFOLK SITE NAME: TRUNDLEY AND
WADGELL'S WOOD, GREAT THURLOW

DISTRICT: ST EDMUNDSBURY

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

Local Planning Authority: BOROUGH OF ST EDMUNDSBURY

National Grid Reference: TL 694500 Area: 80.0 (ha.) 197.6 (ac.)
 TL 698515

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 1:10,000: TL 65 SE, TL 64 NE,
 TL 75 SW

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

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

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Trundley and Wadgell's Woods contain a substantial area of ancient, semi-natural woodland as well as several later additions. The woods lie on a plateau of chalky boulder clay soils overlain in places by a thin layer of loess and sand. Much of the ancient wood consists of old coppice with standards, whilst the more recent woodland contains a variety of high forest and plantation types.

The areas of ancient woodland not modified by replanting consist mainly of the Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Maple *Acer campestre* type with Hazel *Corylus avellana* also abundant. There are smaller areas of Ash, Hazel wood and some restricted areas of Elm *Ulmus spp* invasion, though much of the latter has now died. Old standard trees, mostly Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, are found throughout. Other shrub species include Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and Wild Apple *Malus sylvestris*.

The ground vegetation of the ancient woodlands is dominated by Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and Brambles *Rubus spp* with Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus* locally abundant. Oxlips *Primula elatior* are found throughout the wood along with plants such as Wood Avens *Geum urbanum* Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa* and Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*. Species characteristic of ancient woodland include Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, Yellow Archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* and Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*.

Some areas of ancient woodland have been clear-felled and replanted in recent times with a variety of broadleaved/conifer mixtures. Much of the conifer is being thinned out and elements of the original underwood and ground flora have survived and are re-establishing themselves. Other smaller areas, especially in Ganwicks Wood, have

retained their standard trees but have been underplanted with conifers. Again these have been kept well thinned and much of the original woodland vegetation has survived.

The older secondary woodland in Trundley Wood has a similar composition to that of the ancient wood, but the more recent plantations are rather less diverse. Within Wadgell's wood there are areas of Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and in the Trundley complex there are areas of mixed Larch *Larix decidua*, Sycamore and other species. These comparatively recent plantations lack the more specialised woodland plants though species such as Dog's Mercury have successfully established themselves.

Both woods possess a network of wider, grassy rides which are dominated by Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Rough-stalked Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* and Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. These support a number of other plant species including Oxlip, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. The wood edges and some ride margins are regularly trimmed to form dense hedges which provide additional habitat and support shrub species such as Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana* not found in the interior of the woods.