

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Goslings Corner

District: East Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 142753 **Area:** 9.9 (ha) 24.5 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 121 **1: 10 000:** TF 17 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Goslings Corner lies in the Bardney Forest area of Lincolnshire, close to several other woodlands dominated by small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, collectively known as the Central Lincolnshire Limestone SSSI. The lowland variant of maple-ash-lime woodland, a rare and threatened habitat type, which occurs in Goslings Corner is not well represented in the existing SSSI, apart from small stands in Wickenby and Newball Woods.

The woodland has a coppice-with-standards structure, with standards of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* over coppiced ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, small-leaved lime, hazel *Corylus avellana*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and field maple *Acer campestre*. Other trees and shrubs, some indicating mildly calcareous conditions, include common and Midland hawthorns *Crataegus monogyna* and *C. oxyacanthoides*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, goat and grey willows *Salix caprea* and *S. cinerea*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and dog and field rose *Rosa canina* and *R. arvensis*.

Goslings Corner, although small, has a very rich ground flora, with the dominant species reflecting variations in soil moisture and base status. In the wettest areas, water avens *Geum rivale* tends to become dominant, whereas in the areas where the soils are more freely drained, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* are frequent. Associated plants include ramsons *Allium ursinum*, goldilocks *Ranunculus auricomus*, bugle *Ajuga reptans*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, barren strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and common dog violet *Viola riviniana*. The soils are slightly more acid along the western edge of the wood

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Goslings Corner (cont...)

and species such as lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and hairy wood rush *Luzula pilosa* occur here.

Other notable plants include greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, bird's-nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis* and broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*.