

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** KINGSTON WOOD AND
OUTLIERS

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

Local Planning Authorities: South Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 325540

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 153, 154 **1:10,000:** TL 35 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 49 ha 111 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

Kingston Wood and Outliers is an example of the ash-maple ancient woodland type which is characteristic of the chalky Boulder Clay of eastern England. It is one of the largest and most intact Medieval coppice woodlands in the county, and as such the trees and associated plant and animal communities probably have their origins as far back as the original wildwood. The distribution of trees, and other plants, therefore, largely represent the natural response of these species to natural environmental conditions. Additionally, the scientific value of the woods is enhanced by the existence of plant records dating back over 300 years.

The woodlands are predominantly of coppiced ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and field maple *Acer campestre* over small coppice of hazel *Coryllus avellana*. Standard oaks *Quercus robur* are also present. The shrub layer includes species such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lantana*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

The ground flora is typically of the dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*-Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* type. Other herbs include the nationally restricted oxlip *Primula elatior*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium* and the early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*.

Additional diversity is provided by the network of rides with herbs such as wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and wood sedge *Carex sylvatica* and by the adjacent stream on the northern boundary.