

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Stanford Park

District: Harborough

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

Local Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 587793 **Area:** 20.76 (ha) 51.29 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 140 **1: 10 000:** SP 57 NE

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

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site contains the richest assemblage of lichens in Leicestershire. The diversity of lichen species is most unusual for a locality in central eastern England.

Biology:

Stanford Park comprises old parkland containing avenues of oak *Quercus robur* together with groups and scattered specimens of large elm *Ulmus* sp., hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, field maple *Acer campestre* and other broad-leaved trees in an area of pasture land. The lichen flora is exceptionally rich for an East Midlands locality being particularly notable for lichen species living on the bark of old and mature trees. Notable species include *Cyphelium sessile*, *Pseudovernia furfuracea*, *Lecanora chlarotera*, *Lecidea limitata*, *Pertusaria flavida*, *P. pertusa*, *Calicium viride* and *Physcia tribacea*. Old stonework within the site is also important and here *Ochrolechia turneri*, *O. yasudae* and *Lecanora badia* have been recorded. In total the site has yielded fifteen species of lichens not known to occur elsewhere in Leicestershire.