File ref:

County: **Nottinghamshire** **Site name: Wellow Park**

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: SK 683671 **Area:** 136.24 (ha)

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

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 the largest remaining example of ash-wych elm woodland in Nottinghamshire, and is representative of semi-natural woodland developed on somewhat base-rich clays in the North Midlands.

Biology:

A fine example of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland developed partly on a north-west facing slope on soils derived from the Triassic Keuper Waterstones and partly on fairly level ground on soils derived from the Triassic Keuper Marls. On the slope, the woodland is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wych-elm *Ulmus glabra* and small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* with a shrub layer characterised by the abundance of hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and sloe *Prunus spinosa*. The ground vegetation is locally dominated by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, but is very diverse containing a large number of plants indicative of ancient woodland including ramsons *Allium ursinum*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, primrose *Primula vulgaris* and giant bellflower *Campanula latifolia*. On higher, more level, ground to the south the original woodland is representatived by a species-rich scrub which has developed following a felling operation. Re-growth of *Tilia cordata* is a notable element of this scrub as are occasional groves of wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*. A number of small watercourses and drainage ditches occur on the site. On the slopes certain of the watercourses have been colonised locally by the opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, while on the higher, level ground drainage ditches are used as breeding sites by amphibia. Additional interest is provided by the numbers and variety of wintering bird species, the quality of the breeding bird community and the diversity of the invertebrate populations.