

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: RABBIT WOOD

DISTRICT: WYCHAVON

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Wychavon District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 958578

Area: 15.94 (ha.) 39.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150

1:10,000: SO 95 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

An area of ancient primary woodland, whose recorded history goes back to the Norman period when it formed part of the Royal Forest of Feckenham, which covered much of this part of Worcestershire.

The woodland lies on heavy clay soils and is largely dominated by pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* but includes other species such as birch *Betula pendula*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, aspen *Populus tremula* and field maple *Acer campestre*.

The shrub layer is mainly dominated by hazel *Corylus avellana*, which was formerly coppiced, but also contains a wide range of other native species including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, spindle *Euonymus europeaus* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare*.

The ground flora is rich and varied and includes a number of species uncommon in this part of the West Midlands, such as herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, great butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and common twayblade *Listera ovata*.