

County: South Yorkshire

Site Name: Broughton Far Wood

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

Local Planning Authority: Glanford Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SE 960106

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 112 **1:10,000:** SE 91 SE

Area: 16.9 (ha) 41.7 (ac)

First Notified: 1957*

Date of Revision: 1985

Description:

Far Wood is part of an extensive block of commercial woodland in the Broughton area, and includes, in the northeast corner Clapgate Pits, an old quarry with a rich limestone flora. The site lies largely on clay overlying limestone, but there are also localised pockets of blown sand.

The woodland canopy is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and oak *Quercus robur*, accompanied by other species including small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, field maple *Acer campestre* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*. Planted conifers such as larch *Larix decidua*, pine *Pinus sylvestris* and spruce *Picea* sp., are locally prominent. The shrub understorey is particularly rich, with spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus* and hazel *Corylus avellana*. The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, other species including enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* occur where the soil is sandier.

Areas of open grassland in the quarry are dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and upright brome *Bromus erectus*, but there is also herb-rich limestone grassland containing rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, wall germander *Teucrium chamaedrys*, marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, wild basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, horse-shoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* and twayblade *Listera ovata*. Heath sedge *Carex ericetorum* is also recorded. Part of the quarry has been planted with conifers and these now form a dense scrub with natural regrowth of ash, oak and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

Other Information:

1. Part of the site was formerly notified as Clapgate Pits SSSI, but during the 1985 revision it has been extended to include Far Wood. Far Wood itself was first scheduled in 1957, but not renotified in 1963, possibly because of commercial forestry practices.
2. See also Broughton Alder Wood to the south of the present site and separated from it by a commercial plantation.

* Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.