

County: Humberside **Site Name:** Burton Bushes

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

Local Planning Authority: Beverley Borough Council **National**

Grid Reference: TA 010393

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 107 **1:10,000:** TA 03 NW

Area: 12.04 (ha) 29.75 (ac)

First Notified: 1968 **Revision Date:** 1982

(Under 1949 Act)

Description:

This oak woodland is known to exceed 200 years in age, and evidence suggests that it is of natural origins (Boatman, 1971). It is considered a good example of the woodland characteristic of Holderness Till soils. The undisturbed nature of the soil profile is an important feature of the site.

The woodland canopy contains about 50% oak (mainly *Quercus robur*), with a range of other tree species including birch *Betula pubescens*, field maple *Acer campestre* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*. The understorey is well developed and dominated by holly *Ilex aquifolium*.

As a result of cattle grazing, the woodland floor has in recent years become either grass-dominated or largely bare, but there are remnants of its rich herb flora with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. The latter is present as an epiphyte on some of the older tree trunks.

The perimeter of the woodland has a parkland appearance, probably as a result of past grazing pressure.

Reference:

Boatman, D. J. (1971), Burton Bushes: An Ecological View.
Hull Natural History Society Bulletin, 3(2), 8–14.

Other Information:

1. The boundary has been modified.
2. This is Common Land which was grazed by cattle until fenced by Beverley Borough in autumn 1980 with a Countryside Commission grant.