

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Wickenby Wood

District: West Lindsey

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

Local Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 080827 **Area:** 43.0 (ha) 108.0 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 121 **1: 10 000:** TF 08 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1976 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Forest Nature Reserve.

Mentioned in 'A Nature Conservation Review'.

Reasons for Notification:

The most extensive and finest examples of ancient lime woodland in Britain occur in the Bardney Forest of Lincolnshire. Wickenby Wood is an example outlying from the central group of limewoods and it is notable for its uniform wetness and alkaline soil. It therefore represents an important aspect of the range of variation of this nationally scarce woodland type.

Areas are dominated by small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, willows *Salix* spp. are locally common and there are large amounts of maple *Acer campestre* associated with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. The more acid areas are typified by a canopy of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash with hazel *Corylus avellana* forming the understorey. Wild service *Sorbus torminalis*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* are all associated with the alkaline soils.

The ground flora is dominated over large areas by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* though in the west it is replaced by blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. There are six species of orchid including the bird's nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*. The scarce herb paris *Paris quadrifolia* is associated with bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, primrose *Primula vulgaris* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*. The wet rides are particularly species rich with sedges, rushes and plants typical of wet clay such as ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and purple loose-strife *Lythrum salicaria*. cont.....

Wickenby Wood (cont...)

The non-flowering plants have been well documented and the wood is notable for the variety of fungi. Breeding birds include the typical woodland species of woodcock, tree creeper and nightingale. Amongst the numerous species of moth recorded is the nationally local and restricted Light Orange Underwing *Archiearis notha*, occurring here because of the abundance of aspen *Populus tremula*.