COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE SITE NAME: BARDON HILL

DISTRICT: NORTH-WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

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

Local Planning Authority: NORTH-WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 461 130 Area: 13.2 (ha.) 32.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 139 1:10,000: SK 41 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1931 Act): 1983 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:
The site comprises a remnant of the once extensive Charnwood Forest heaths, including both heathland and woodland, possessing an interesting invertebrate fauna.

Biology
Bardon Hill is formed from intrusive rocks of Pre-Cambrian age and with an altitude at its summit of 278 m represents the highest point of Charnwood Forest. On its lower slopes lies an area of broadleaved high forest characterised by the dominance of mature oak *Quercus robur*, together with birch *Betula verrucosa* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, and by the abundance in the ground vegetation of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* and bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus*. Higher up the slope the broadleaved woodland is replaced by a plantation comprised mainly of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. At the summit of the hill lies a mosaic of heath, acid grassland, rock outcrops and scrub oak. This area is characterised by the abundance of wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and heather *Calluna vulgaris*, and by the presence of heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, heath rush *Juncus squarrosus* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. This site possesses considerable invertebrate interest having an exceptional spider fauna numbering at least 133 species, including the rare spider *Tetrilus macrophthalmus*. Of additional interest is the lichen flora which contains a number of upland species characteristic of siliceous rocks.