

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Benscliffe Wood

District: Charnwood

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

Local Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SK 514127 and SK 515123 **Area:** 10.1 (ha) 24.9 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 129 **1: 10 000:** SK 51 SW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Benscliffe Wood contains outcrops of siliceous rocks which support one of the richest Saxicolous lichen floras in the East Midlands.

More than thirty species of lichen have been recorded from a small area, all of them growing on pre-Cambrian rocks of the Maplewell Series which are subjected to varying degrees of shading from the surrounding woodland and scrub. Eleven species are rare in Leicestershire, including *Umbilicaria polyphylla*, *Cetraria glauca*, *Fuscidea cyathoides*, which has only been recorded three times in the county, *Cladonia uncialis*, which is confined to the Charnwood area, and *Cladonia luteoalba* which is at the south-eastern limits of its British range in Benscliffe Wood.