

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: HONEYPOT WOOD

DISTRICT: Breckland

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

Local Planning Authority: Breckland District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 932144 Area: 9.03 [ha] 22.31 [ac]

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 132 1:10,000: TF 91 SW

Date Notified [Under 1949 Act]: 1969 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified [Under 1981 Act]: 1984 Date of Last Revision: N/A

Other Information:

The wood is subject of a Tree Preservation Order [1979].

Reasons for Notification:

A good example of an ancient, coppiced, ash-maple wood on calcareous soil. The wood has a vigorous shrub layer which includes species such as Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Willow *Salix caprea* agg. as well as smaller shrubs such as Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. There are some standard trees, mostly Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash.

The long history of continuous coppicing has favoured the development of a rich ground vegetation, which is dominated by Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and includes many plants typical of ancient woodlands including: Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, Broad Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Twayblade *Listera ovata* and Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*.

The rides, although many of them were concreted in the Second World War, provide suitable conditions for other species, notably Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Water Avens *Geum rivale* and Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre*. In all, 208 plant species have been recorded from this wood.