

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: SHERWOOD FOREST
GOLF COURSE

DISTRICT: MANSFIELD, NEWARK & SHERWOOD

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

Local Planning Authority: MANSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL, Newark & Sherwood District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 587617

Area: 62.5 (ha.) 154.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120

1:10,000: SK 56 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site, lying on the Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds of Central Nottinghamshire, in close proximity to other smaller areas of heathland, contains one of the largest blocks of lowland heathland in the County. As such it represents a substantial example of a nationally rare habitat type which was formerly extensive in this part of Nottinghamshire and supports a number of uncommon plants and animals.

The heathland is varied in character with ling *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* or wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* dominating, according to location. Frequent associated species are mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*. There are occasional small stands of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* but, unlike several other Nottinghamshire heathlands, this is not an important component of the vegetation. Whilst much of the heathland is open in places there are young stands of silver birch *Betula pendula*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and some Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. The lichens *Cladonia floekiana* and *Icmadophila ericitorum* are frequent and several heathland fungi have been recorded with the crimson *Hygrocybe mineata* particularly frequent.

The site is especially notable for the occurrence of the scarce stag's-horn clubmoss *Lycopodium clavatum* in its only known Nottinghamshire location and western gorse *Ulex gallii*, an uncommon plant in the County and on the eastern edge of its range, occurs here.

The invertebrate fauna of this site, whilst not comprehensively studied, appears rich with several typical but local species such as green tiger beetle *Cicendela campestris*. The area provides suitable breeding habitat for whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* and nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, both of which are known to occur.

Date Notified: 11 December 1987