

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Dole Wood

District: South Kesteven

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

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 092162 **Area:** 4.25 (ha) 10.5 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 01 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1968 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Part of the site is a county trust nature reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

Situated on the Kesteven plateau, almost at the junction with the South Holland Fens, this oak wood has a structure and biological diversity which clearly indicate its ancient origin. It is managed as coppice-with-standards. The non-calcareous gleys support a ground flora significantly different to that found on the base-rich soils of other South Lincolnshire woods.

The central core of the wood is coppiced hazel under fine pedunculate oak standards. The ground flora is diverse with ramsons *Allium ursinum*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, sweet woodruff *Galium odoratum*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and sanicle *Sanicula europaea* forming extensive patches between areas dominated by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* or bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. Woodland grasses include wood melick *Melica uniflora*, wood millet *Milium effusum* and giant fescue *Festuca gigantea*.

A wide peripheral area has a mixed woody component with wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* forming the canopy with mature wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and maple *Acer campestre*. The shrub layer has both common and midland hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and *C. laevigata*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*. Where the soil is wetter and more acidic the herbs are characterised by wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. In the east there is a stand of coppiced small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*.

The wood is an important site for birds and includes breeding Great Spotted Woodpecker and Tree Creeper. The site has detailed records for molluscs and species found include those confined to ancient woodland.