

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire (South) **Site name:** Dunsby 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 085260 **Area:** 54.7 (ha) 135.2 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 130 **1: 10 000:** TF 02 NE

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

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

**Other Information:**

1. The boundary of the site has been modified at renotification by a partial deletion to exclude a conifer plantation.
2. The stream course on the western edge of the wood is included within the site.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Dunsby Wood is an example of wet ash-maple woodland, especially characteristic of the calcareous soils of the Midland Clay Belt. It is one of a group of ancient semi-natural woodlands lying on the Kesteven Plateau. Such woodlands are increasingly threatened by modern forestry and agricultural practices.

The woodland canopy is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre* and pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, all grown from former coppice. A large stand of wild cherry *Prunus avium* occurs in the north-east corner and wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* is common along the southern edge of the wood. High forest, dominated by pedunculate oak, occurs at the western end of the wood, where the soil is more acidic.

A rich shrub layer is present, including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, midland hawthorn *C. laevigata*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field rose *Rosa avensis* and guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*.

The woodland floor is generally wet, with the exception of two well-drained areas where bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* are dominant. Meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* occur in the very wet areas and, elsewhere, other characteristic plants include early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, wood cont...

## **Dunsby Wood (cont...)**

anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*, water avens *Geum rivale* and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. Rather more uncommon plants include small teasel *Dipsacus pilosus*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and thin-spiked wood-sedge *Carex strigosa*.

Dunsby Wood is also very rich in fungi, with over 120 species having been recorded.