

**COUNTY:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** WEAVERLEY & SAND WOODS

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

**Local Planning Authorities:** Huntingdonshire District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TL 226542, TL 232538

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 153                      **1:10,000:** TL 25 SW

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1958                      **Date of Last Revision:** 1972

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1983                      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 76 ha 187 ac

**Other information:** Boundary modification.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

The woodland is ancient in origin and of the ash-maple type which is restricted to lowland England and is a declining habitat. The site is of additional interest for the influence and range of the underlying geology. It straddles a number of geological formations from ill-drained boulder clay and Jurassic clays to free-draining Lower Greensand. Few other ancient woods in Cambridgeshire possess this variation in terms of geology.

The woods are essentially a mixture of coppiced ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, coppiced field maple *Acer campestre* with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards and hazel *Corylus avellana* predominant in the shrub layer. Elm *Ulmus* spp. has invaded parts of the wood.

The ground flora is typically of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* with early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Rides and clearings in the wood support their own characteristic flora which includes plants such as the common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Some uncommon species are present in the wood including herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and pignut *Conopodium major*.