

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** CARLTON WOOD

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

Local Planning Authorities: South Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 654530

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 65 SE

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

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

Area: 10.3 ha 25.5 ac

Other information: This is a new addition to the Cambridgeshire Schedule.

Description and Reasons for Notification

Carlton Wood is ancient and semi-natural and holds one of the finest of the few hornbeam stands in the county. In addition both the hornbeam and ash-maple stands are of a nationally uncommon variant containing oxlip *Primula elatior*.

The woodland is predominantly former coppice-with-standards of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre* and hazel *Corylus avellana* with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* is locally common. Ancient coppice stools of both hornbeam and ash are present.

There is a rich ground flora. Oxlips are locally abundant and a good range of other typical ancient woodland species are recorded including early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.

A wide ride is present and this provides a valuable habitat for many 'woodland edge' herbs and grasses and is likely to be of additional value for invertebrates.