

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER

SITE NAME: BUSHY HAZELS &
CWMMA MOORS

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Leominster District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 286511

Area: 29.54 (ha.) 73 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 148

1:10,000: SO 25 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1969

Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Cwmma Moors is owned by the National Trust.

Reasons for Notification:

Bushy Hazels and Cwmma Moors are two adjacent blocks of ancient primary woodland occupying a damp site on loamy soils derived from the Old Red Sandstone series. They form part of the national series of woodlands in Britain. They were selected as representing wet mixed deciduous woodland characteristic of this part of the Welsh borders.

The woods are calcareous hazel-ash woods *Corylus avellana-Fraxinus excelsior* with locally abundant alder *Alnus glutinosa*. Other associated species are oak *Quercus robur* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* which are well represented, the latter having been seriously affected by dutch elm disease in recent years. The two woodlands display differences of past management. Bushy Hazels consists of relict coppice, most of the larger timber trees having been removed in the past; Cwmma moors on the other hand, having a relatively dense canopy cover dominated by the native tree species already referred to.

The understorey and shrub layers are well developed in certain areas but not in others. The ground vegetation is rich and varied; bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus* is particularly abundant in Bushy Hazels whilst dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and wood garlic *Allium ursinum* dominates large areas of the rest of the woodland. Other notable species present include herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and common twayblade *Listera ovata*. Several small streams flow through the woodland. Of these only the one on the south-western boundary has developed characteristic wet woodland flora dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa*. In this area species such as meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* occur.