

File ref:

**County:** Lincolnshire **Site name:** Fulsby Wood

**District:** East Lindsey

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

**Local Planning Authority:** East Lindsey District Council

**National Grid Reference:** TF 256614 **Area:** 111.4 (ha) 275.3 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000:** 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 26 SW, TF 26 SE

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

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

#### **Other Information:**

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

Fulsby supports a rich flora characteristic of ancient acidic oak woodlands on the fen-edge sands and gravels of mid-Lincolnshire, and is the largest wood of its kind in the county. Traditional management and a mosaic of dominant tree species on a wide range of soil types and drainage, together with several ponds, shaded gravelly streams, marginal earthworks and broad rides, have resulted in a great diversity of communities. The wood is notable as the only Lincolnshire site for a nationally rare member of the lily family and for the population of wood ants *Formica rufa*.

Most of the woodland is of the lowland hazel-pedunculate oak type found in association with birch *Betula spp.*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. Abundant bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, ramsons *Allium ursinum* and lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* are a feature of the herb layer. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is associated with primrose *Primula vulgaris*. Apart from locally abundant bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* there are uncommon ferns. Four species of *Dryopteris* include scaly male fern *Dryopteris affinis* and hard fern *Blechnum spicant* is present.

Where the sandy soils are flushed or seasonally wet, coppice alder *Alnus glutinosa* becomes dominant associated in places with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and the typical carr shrubs red currant *Ribes rubrum* and raspberry *Robus idaeus*. In wetter areas tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* are abundant.

Marginal patches of heavy clay soils support wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and field maple *Acer campestre*. Associated with broad rides and ditches are foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, climbing corydalis *Corydalis claviculata*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*.

