

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: BEVERCOTES PARK

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

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

Local Planning Authority: BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 701 709

Area: 9.26 (ha.) 22.87 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 120

1:10,000: SK 67 SE, SK 77 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best examples of semi-natural mixed ash woodland in Nottinghamshire and is representative of ancient woodland developed on relatively base-rich clay soils in Central and Eastern England.

Biology

Although somewhat modified by recent silvicultural management the site remains a fine example of a mixed ash wood developed on soils largely derived from the flaggy sandstones and clays of the Triassic Keuper Waterstones. The wood is dominated by standard and coppice ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with frequent silver birch *Betula verrucosa*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and some pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*. The understorey consists of hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, dogwood *Swida* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, in association with an extensive development of woody climbers and ramblers such as honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, black bryony *Tamus communis*, rose *Rosa* spp. and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. The ground vegetation is characterised by the dominance of tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, and includes a rich herb flora containing many species typical of ancient woodland such as primrose *Primula vulgaris*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, broad helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*. A notable feature of the site is the presence of a steep sided, narrow, wooded valley cut through the waterstones by a surface stream. Such features, locally called 'dumbles', are now uncommon in their original woodland setting in the East Midlands. At Bevercotes Park the dumble slopes carry the characteristic woodland plant community while marshy areas alongside the stream in the valley bottom are frequently dominated by the opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*.