

File ref:

County: Leicestershire **Site name:** Burbage Wood and Aston Firs

District: Hinckley and Bosworth/Blaby

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

Local Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council/
Blaby District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 453941 **Area:** 52.01 (ha) 128.51 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 140 **1: 10 000:** SP 49 SW, SP 49 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1956 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best remaining examples of ash-oak-maple woodland in Leicestershire and is representative of semi-natural woodland developed on the clays of eastern England.

Biology:

Burbage Wood and Aston Firs have developed on rather poorly-drained soils derived from the underlying Glacial Boulder Clay. The woodland canopy is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus robur* and contains some wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and English elm *Ulmus procera*. The shrub layer is dominated by hazel *Corylus avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, but also includes field maple *Acer campestre*, privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, dogwood *Swida sanguinea* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. The ground vegetation is characterised by an abundance of honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, and includes a large number of plant species typical of semi-natural woodland such as sweet woodruff *Asperula odorata*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, water avens *Geum rivale* and several species of woodland orchids.