

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER    SITE NAME: CRUMPTON HILL WOOD

DISTRICT: MALVERN HILLS                      SITE REF: 15WPW

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

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

National Grid Reference: SO 760489                      Area: 1.5 (ha.) 3.8 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 150                      1:10,000: SO 74 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975                      Date of Last Revision: 1975

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1988                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is one of a series of woodlands occupying ridges of Wenlock Limestone to the north of the Malvern Hills.

Crumpton Hill is an ancient broadleaved woodland which shows evidence of past management as coppice with standards. It is particularly rich in tree and shrub species having over 20 species recorded. The canopy is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* with small numbers of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and downy birch *Betula pubescens*. The understorey is especially well developed, and is remarkable for the abundance of wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis*. Hazel *Corylus avellana* is also abundant, together with smaller amounts of holly *Ilex aquifolium*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, aspen *Populus tremula*, field maple *Acer campestre*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

The ground flora is typical of base-rich woodlands, with dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, woodruff *Galium odoratum*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*. Of special importance is the presence of violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata* a very scarce plant in Worcestershire.