

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Muckton 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 382812 **Area:** 16.7 (ha) 4.13 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 38 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1953 **Date of Last Revision:** 1959

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

Other Information:

The site is owned and managed as a nature reserve by the County Trust.

This site was deleted from the Lincolnshire schedule in 1959 and is now notified as a new site under the W & C Act 1981.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Muckton Wood is a fine example of primary woodland on boulder clay at the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* is an unusual feature which replaces the typical oak/ash canopy with hazel understorey in areas where there is sub-surface water movement towards Muckton Beck.

The area is managed as hazel coppice-with-standards. A well-developed shrub layer includes hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. Wood margins have abundant field maple *Acer campestre* with aspen *Populus tremula*. Brambles, *Rubus spp.* dominate part of the ground flora but do not exclude herbs, including those indicative of ancient woodland. Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* is abundant in one area. Wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, woodruff *Galium odoratum* and moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* are found throughout, while bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* is almost confined to the massive woodbank along the western edge.

Other species interest is in the ferns, including the soft and hard shield ferns *Polystichum setiferum* and *P. aculeatum* and in wet areas characterised by meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*.

The site supports one of the largest heronries in the county with over 30 breeding pairs. Other breeding birds including greater spotted woodpecker, treecreeper and an abundance of warblers.