

File ref:

County: Lincolnshire **Site name:** Hoplands 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 459717 **Area:** 14.4 (ha) 35.6 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 122 **1: 10 000:** TF 47 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1966 **Date of Last Revision:** 1970

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

Other Information:

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

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Situated on the northern side of a shallow valley on the poorly draining boulder clay of the Lincolnshire Middle Marsh, Hoplands Wood is one of the best remaining examples of oak/ash ancient woodland in north Lincolnshire. It is characterised by a local abundance of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and a mosaic of tree species perpetuated by a long history of woodland management promoting both high forest and coppice-with-standards. This favours a rich and varied ground flora and breeding bird community.

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* occur throughout as standards and old coppice. Wych elm *Ulmus glabra* is concentrated on the eastern side of the wood where hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, rare in Lincolnshire, is found. Field maple *Acer campestre* is on marginal pockets of lime-rich soil. Coppiced hazel *Corylus avellana* is within a species-rich shrub layer of dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, goat willow *Salix caprea*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is locally abundant. Elsewhere brambles *Rubus spp.* are found with bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and male and broad buckler ferns *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *D. austriaca*. Uncommon plants include herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*, broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, and soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and woodruff *Galium odoratum* all occur in quantity. cont...

Hoplands Wood (cont...)

Of two hundred species of moths recorded the Buttoned Snout *Hypena rostralis* is notable. Breeding birds include woodcock, tawny owl, greater spotted woodpecker, tree creeper and four species of warblers.