

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: GOSBECK WOOD

DISTRICT: MID SUFFOLK

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

Local Planning Authority: MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 147557      Area: 21.7 (ha.) 53.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: TM 15 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Gosbeck Wood is an ancient coppice-with-standards site with small additions of well-established secondary woodland. It lies on a plateau of calcareous boulder clay soils with pockets of sand. The wood contains a complex mosaic of stand types and is a good example of the type of ancient woodlands found in central Suffolk. The ground flora is typical of woods of this type and locality, and includes several uncommon species.

The main tree communities present are wet ash-maple woodland, pedunculate oak-hazel-ash woodland and lowland hazel-pedunculate oak woodland. There is also a small area of pedunculate oak-hornbeam woodland and numerous clones of Aspen *Populus tremula*. Giant coppice stools are evidence of a long tradition of coppice management which has recently been re-introduced after a period of neglect.

Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is generally dominant but Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*, Creeping Soft-grass *Holcus mollis* and Bramble *Rubus spp* are locally abundant as is Ivy *Hedera helix* in the area of secondary woodland. Notable species include Spurge Laurel *Daphne laureola*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and Hairy Woodrush *Luzula pilosa*.

The woodland rides are at present narrow and overshadowed, but Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and a few other grassland species persist on them.