

Notification Date: 18 February 1986

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: DINMORE HILL WOODS

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER, SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE SITE REF: 15 WQA

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

Local Planning Authority: HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL,
Leominster District Council/South Herefordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 512516 Area: 153.2 (ha.) 378.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 149 1:10,000: SO 55 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1952 Date of Last Revision: 1975

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

Other Information:

Part owned by Hereford & Worcester Council and managed as a Country park. Site boundary alteration (extension & reduction).

Reasons for Notification:

An extensive area of mixed native broadleaved woodlands overlying rocks of the Old Red Sandstone. It forms one of the largest continuous blocks of deciduous woodland in this part of the county.

The soils which range from acid to alkaline and from wet to dry give rise to a diverse woodland structure. Most of the upper plateau is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* woodland. In some areas this is associated with field maple *Acer campestre* and in others with ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Other species include hazel *Corylus avellana* and the locally rare wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*. In the woodland on the slopes, ash tends to become more dominant, often in association with birch *Betula pendula* on the drier areas and alder *Alnus glutinosa* in the wetter areas. In the south eastern part of the site is an extensive area of wild cherry *Prunus avium* and ash with a hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hazel understorey.

The variety of soils give rise to a similarly diverse ground flora which includes bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, great butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, stinking iris *Iris foetidissima* and spurge laurel *Daphne laureola*.

The woods have a rich fauna which includes fallow deer *Dama dama*. They provide an excellent habitat for birds that breed in woodland such as buzzard *Buteo buteo*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* and tree creeper *Certhia familiaris*.