

Notification Date: 14 September 1987

COUNTY: HEREFORD & WORCESTER SITE NAME: DUMBLETON DINGLE

DISTRICT: LEOMINSTER/WYRE FOREST SITE REF: 15 WQE

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,
Leominster District Council/Wyre Forest District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 705704 Area: 51.9 (ha.) 128.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138 1:10,000: SO 77 SW, SO 76 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1961 Date of Last Revision: 1971

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part owned and managed by Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust as a nature reserve. Site boundary alteration (reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Dumbleton Dingle is an area of mainly ancient broadleaved woodland occupying a steep-sided tributary valley of the River Teme in north-west Worcestershire.

On the shallow upper slopes of the valley sides where the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures have given rise to slightly acidic soils, woodland dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and silver birch *Betula pendula* is present with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* in the ground layer. Most of the woodland, however, occupies the steeper, lower slopes where outcrops of limestone and marl have given rise to a more base rich soil. Here the canopy is more species-rich, and is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and alder *Alnus glutinosa* with small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* and yew *Taxus baccata*. The scarce large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos* occurs here at one of its few stations in the county. Beneath the canopy relict hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice is present over much of the site. The ground flora includes the scarce angular Solomon's-seal *Polygonatum odoratum*. The lichen flora is unusual for the region, being particularly rich and having a number of less common species such as *Lecidea cinnabarina* and *Pertusaria coccodes*; both species of old woodland.

Past coal mining has given rise to areas of disturbed ground which now support neutral grassland and open woodland with heathland species such as heather *Calluna vulgaris*, gorse *Ulex europeus* and bracken. Other features of interest include a basic flush, with plants such as toad rush *Juncus bufonius*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.

The site is important for breeding birds which include woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, tawny owl *Strix aluco*, nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. The site also supports a rare weevil, *Acalles roboris* and a scarce snail, *Zenobiella subrufescens*.