

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Strawberry Hill Heaths

District: Mansfield

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

Local Planning Authority: Mansfield District Council/Nottinghamshire County Council

National Grid Reference: SK 568604 & SK 580603 **Area:** 31.51 (ha) 77.86 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 56 SE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989 **Date of Last Revision:** 1991

Other Information:

The boundary has been slightly amended.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

These two areas of heath, situated on the eastern outskirts of Mansfield, comprise an important remaining part of the formerly extensive dry acid lowland heathland of Central Nottinghamshire. Lowland heathland is a nationally rare habitat.

The open heathland is dominated by ling *Calluna vulgaris*, wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* or bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, or supports a mixture of these. Bell heather *Erica cinerea* and pill sedge *Carex pilulifera* are locally frequent. Lichens are conspicuous with *Cladonia floerkeana* and *C. chlorophaea* most abundant but also including *C. portentosa*, a typical heathland species which is very uncommon in Nottinghamshire. Mosses such as *Campylopus introflexus* and *C. pyriformis* are also important components of the dry heath plant community. Lower lying and damper areas may support mat grass *Nardus stricta*. Common gorse *Ulex europaeus* and broom *Cytisus scoparius* form occasional patches of scrub.

Strawberry Hill is topped by a woodland composed almost entirely of sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. Birch *Betula pendula*/sessile oak woodland has invaded the surrounding heathland giving rise to stands of varying age and density. These areas appear to be especially rich in fungi. Among the many recorded are several species of *Amanita* and *Russula*.

The fauna of these heathlands is yet to be studied.