

File ref:

County: Nottinghamshire **Site name:** Kirton Wood

District: Newark

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

Local Planning Authority: Newark District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 707684 **Area:** 18.57 (ha)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 120 **1: 10 000:** SK 76 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1972 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:** -

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best remaining ash-wych elm woods in Nottinghamshire, and is representative of semi-natural woodland on clay soils in the North Midlands.

Biology:

A fine example of an ash-wych elm wood developed on a gentle east-facing slope formed primarily from the stiff clay soils of the Triassic Keuper Marl. The wood is characterised by the dominance of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and, locally, oak *Quercus robur*, and contains a rich shrub community of which hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, field maple *Acer campestre*, dogwood *Swida sanguinea* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare* are the most abundant components. The ground vegetation is dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, but contains a diverse flora including such typical species of ancient clay woods as wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, sweet woodruff *Asperula odorata*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, ramsons *Allium ursinum* and early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*.