File ref:

County: **Lincolnshire** **Site Name: Bardney Limewoods, Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey, East Lindsey**

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

Local Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council/East Lindsey District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 120730 **Area: 539.4 (ha) 1332.32 (ac)**

Comprising:

Site	NGR	Area	OS (ha)	OS 1:10.000 1:50.000	Date notified 1949 Act	Date notified 1981 Act	Date of last revision
College Woods	TF 121755	49.77	121	TF 17 NW			23/3/95
Great West and Cocklode Woods	TF 105765	51.20	121	TF 17 NW	1968	1985	23/3/95
Hardy Gang Wood	TF 094750	26.87	121	TF 07 NE, SW	1976	1985	23/3/95.
Hatton Wood	TF 165750	36.93	121	TF 17 NE, SE	1968	1985	23/3/95
Little Scrubbs and Ivy Woods	TF 144744 TF 145736	28.96	121	TF 17 SW			23/3/95
Newball Wood	TF 085765	57.59	121	TF 07 NE	1968	1985	23/3/95
Scotgrove Wood	TF 130704	29.20	121	TF 16 NW, TF 17 SW	1959	1985	23/3/95
Southrey Wood	TF 131680	69.39	121	TF 16 NW			23/3/95
Stainfield Wood	TF 122730	123.77	121	TF 17 SW	1976	1985	23/3/95
Stainton and Fulnetby Wood	TF 078785	65.72	121	TF 07 NE	1976	1985	23/3/95

cont.....

Bardney Limewoods, Lincolnshire (cont...)

Other Information:

Of the 10 woods 7 are included in "A Nature Conservation Review". The SSSI has been extended to include more woods with extensive stands of small-leaved lime.

Reasons for Notification:

Britain's greatest concentration of woodlands dominated by small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* occur in the Bardney Forest area of Lincolnshire. They exhibit a species composition believed to have been prevalent in lowland Britain in the Atlantic Period: some 5-8000 years ago. Management of these sites as coppice or high forest has continued since at least the 11th century.

In addition to extensive tracts of pure small-leaved lime, other canopy forming species are ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and birches *Betula pendula* and *Betula pubescens*. Where a greater depth of sandy drift over the underlying clays imparts strongly acidic conditions sessile oak *Quercus petraea* is typical. Trees and shrubs with a preference for more lime-rich soils also occur and include wild cherry *Prunus avium*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and field maple *Acer campestre*. The shrub layer includes hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and Midland hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*. A feature of low lying areas with a permanently high water table is the dominance of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and the ground flora is particularly rich in mosses, including *Sphagnum* species.

The ground flora of the sandy acidic soils is locally dominated by lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*. Also present are hairy woodrush *Luzula pilosa*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, heath speedwell *Veronica officinalis* and slender St. John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*. Increased proportions of clay in the soil lead to wet areas in which water avens *Geum rivale*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* and woodruff *Galium odoratum* are abundant. At least two of the woods support the greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and the bird's nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*.

The limewoods are well known for their moth and butterfly populations which still include white admiral, dingy and grizzled skippers, purple and brown hairstreaks, bee hawk moths and many other scarce moth species. Vertebrates include badgers, four species of bat and breeding woodcock and nightingale. Some of the most important heronries in the county are found in these woods.