

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: BUSH WOOD AND HIGH WOOD

DISTRICT: Bridgnorth

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Bridgnorth District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 708825

Area: 100.93 (ha.) 249.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 138

1:10,000: SO 78 SW and SO 68 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Reasons for Notification:

The Coal measures plateau of south-east Shropshire, dissected by tributaries of the Severn, is a comparatively well wooded part of the county. Woods occur mainly in the stream valleys, and several areas retain a high degree of scientific interest. These woods occur on geological strata and soils similar to those of the Wyre Forest, a few miles to the south, and this is reflected in the flora and fauna. However, because of this geographical separation, the Wyre Forest is treated as a separate site.

Bush Wood and High Wood form a large block of woodland on the clays and sandstones of the Coal Measures. Most of the woodland is sessile oak *Quercus petraea* high forest, but mixed deciduous woodland with alder *Alnus glutinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* occurs in the stream valley. The streamside flora is particularly rich, and includes wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, alternate-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and the uncommon moss *Hookeria lucens*.

The ground flora of much of the wood is characteristic of acid soils, and consists of bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*, creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* with smaller quantities of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*.

Small marshes occur near the stream, adding diversity to the site. The wood is also of ornithological interest.