

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: CLUNTON COPPICE

DISTRICT: South Shropshire

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

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, South Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SO 342805

Area: 23.06 (ha.) 57 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137

1:10, 000: SO 38 SW

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:

A remnant of the oak coppice which was formerly abundant in this part of Shropshire. Like most of the broadleaved, semi-natural woods remaining in this area, Clunton Coppice is situated on a steep slope and has an acid, comparatively infertile soil.

The wood is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, with well scattered birch *Betula* spp. and, locally, hazel *Corylus avellana*. Other tree species present are holly *Ilex aquifolium* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*.

The ground flora consists of species which are characteristic of acidic soils, such as wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. A notable species, the oak fern *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, which is scarce in Shropshire also occurs.

The western mosses *Dicranum majus* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* are present in some abundance.