

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: WOLVERTON WOOD AND
ALCASTON 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 468872 Area: 80.29 (ha.) 198.4 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137 1:10,000: SO 48 NE

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
New site.

Reasons for Notification:

Much of the scarp woodland of Wenlock Edge has been reforested with conifers. The largest remaining area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is at Wolverton Wood and Alcaston Coppice. This site, and the other native woods on Wenlock Edge, have some similarities with Tick Wood, which is situated on the same geological formation.

Wolverton Wood and Alcaston Coppice are structurally and floristically diverse, and have several different woodland stand types. Much of the woodland on the scarp is characterised by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* with sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and locally abundant small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*. This type of ash/wych elm woodland, in which sessile oak occurs, is confined to Silurian limestones and calcareous shales in Shropshire and Herefordshire. Ash, hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre* also occur, the plateau woodland consists mainly of sessile oak with hazel.

The field layer consists partly of species characteristic of base-rich soils, such as yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, woodruff *Galium odoratum*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and partly of plants of acidic condition, for example greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* and creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*.

Several uncommon plant species have been recorded. These include wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*, lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*.

Within the wood there are small, long-disused quarries and hollow trackways.