

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: CUCKOOPEN 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 538800

Area: 28.4 (ha.) 70.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 137

1:10,000: SO 58 SW, SO 57 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1965

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site boundary amended in 1983.

Reasons for Notification:

A mixed deciduous woodland on base-rich soil which has developed over Old Red Sandstone. Three types of woodland occur, each dominated by different species as follows:– (i) ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*; (ii) pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* with hazel *Corylus avellana* and over a small area (iii) alder *Alnus glutinosa*. There are also areas of scrub and secondary woodland, for example on the site of the abandoned farmstead known as Cuckoopen.

The ground flora includes thin-spiked wood sedge *Carex strigosa*, herb paris *Paris quadrifolia* and alternate-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* beside commoner woodland plants such as moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*.

The steeply incised stream valleys add to the diversity and interest of the site, and provide a habitat for ferns, mosses and liverworts which do not occur elsewhere in the wood.