

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: BANGROVE WOOD

DISTRICT: WEST SUFFOLK

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

Local Planning Authority: ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TL 930722      Area: 18.25 (ha.) 45.08 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144      1:10,000: TL 97 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Bangrove Wood is a good example of ancient woodland on clay soil. It is mostly former coppice-with-standards, supporting a wealth of characteristic woodland floor herbs.

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Hazel *Corylus avellana* are the most abundant tree and shrub species. The Ash and Field Maple have grown up from coppice stools to become large, multi-stemmed trees. The hazel has also grown from coppice stools and in some places is starting to become moribund as a result of lack of management. Oak *Quercus robur* standards are abundant over most of the wood.

Several other shrub species occur, notably Wild Cherry *Prunus avium* and the Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*. The ground vegetation is typical of an ancient woodland on clay soil in this area of Suffolk. Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is the most abundant species with Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg taking over where more light penetrates the canopy.

Amongst the many other plants are Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Common and Pale Wood Violets *Viola riviniana* and *V. reichenbachiana*, Early Purple Orchids *Orchis mascula*, Sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*. Many of the plants found in the ground vegetation of this wood are confined to ancient woodland and are absent from even well-established plantations.

Bangrove Wood used to contain a large stand of Elm *Ulmus* sp. which was felled following an attack of Dutch Elm Disease. This area has been replanted with Oak, Ash, Field Maple and Wild Cherry. The ground vegetation is currently dominated by Brambles but it is hoped that it will recover following canopy closure.