

COUNTY: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

SITE NAME: MANTLES HEATH

District: Daventry

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

Local Planning Authority: Daventry District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 597553

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 152

1:10,000: SP 55 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955

Date of Last Revision: 1970

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision:

Area: 14.0 ha 34.6 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

Mantles Heath is one of a localised group of ancient woodlands of a type uncommon in Northamptonshire, lying mainly on acid soils derived from Northampton Sands and Upper Lias clay. The western part of the site overlies calcareous and poorly-drained Boulder clay and has a contrasting vegetation.

The mature stand is a representative example of acid pedunculate oak-hazel-ash woodland but past management has modified both the canopy and shrub layer. The unplanted woodland on Boulder clay represent a heavy soil variant of the 'upper slope' stand type and is floristically rich.

The typical ground flora of the drier soils comprises creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, red campion *Silene dioica* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.

Several plants uncommon in the county are recorded, eg wood vetch *Vicia sylvatica*, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and slender St John's wort *Hypericum pulchrum*.

Re-presentation of details approved by Council. Re-typed August 1999.