

File ref:

County: **Leicestershire** **Site name: Priors Coppice**

District: **Rutland**

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

Local Planning Authority: Rutland District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 831052 **Area:** 27.89 (ha) 68.91 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1: 50 000: 141 **1: 10 000:** SK 80 NW, SK 80 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1973 **Date of Last Revision:** 1981

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

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises one of the best remaining ash-maple woods in Leicestershire, and is representative of semi-natural woodland developed on clay soils in Central and Eastern England.

Biology:

A fine example of an ash-maple wood developed on rather poorly drained soils, derived from glacial boulder clays and from clays of the Jurassic Upper Lias. The wood is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus robur*, with some wych-elm *Ulmus glabra* occurring locally. The shrub layer contains frequent field maple *Acer campestre* and hazel *Corylus avellana*, while the ground vegetation is characteristic of ancient clay woods containing a diverse flora which includes plants such as wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, wood forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*.