

SITE NAME	NORTH WOOD
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	SO781770
LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)	N/A
DATE OF LISTING	19.12.07
DISTRICT COUNCIL (s)	Wyre Forest
PARISH	Kidderminster Foreign
TOTAL AREA	19.93 ha
LENGTH IF LINEAR	N/A
LWS HABITAT	ASNW – Broadleaved Woodland
NATIONAL BAP HABITATS	Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland
OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE	Flowing water
NATIONAL BAP SPECIES	No information
OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE	wood ants (<i>Formica rufa</i>), brown hare, bilberry, large-leaved lime, goldenrod, hard fern

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This wood lies on the west-facing slopes above the Severn north of Bewdley. It is steeply incised by two brooks and numerous gullies. The varied topography and geology (red marls with sandstone and limestone and productive coal measures) have given rise to an unusually wide range of different woodland communities for a wood of this size. The Severn Valley railway forms the west boundary of the wood.

Habitat/Vegetation Description:

The canopy throughout the wood is dense and predominantly not more than 40 years old though it thins towards the south enabling a richer field-layer to flourish though giving way to dense thickets of bramble and bracken at the southern end with no clear delineation of the woodland boundary. The W10 *Quercus robur- Pteridium aquilinum- Rubus fruticosus* woodland dominates the plateaux between the brooks and gullies with a canopy of hybrid oak and occasional rowan, cherry and small-leaved lime over a shrub-layer of holly, hazel and common hawthorn and a field-layer dominated by bramble and bracken though with scattered and locally frequent W10 associates such as cow-wheat, honeysuckle, goldenrod, wavy hair-grass and hairy wood-rush. On the lower slopes above the brooks and gullies the W10 woodland is replaced by W8 *Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis* woodland with a canopy dominated by ash with some large-leaved and small-leaved lime, field maple and wild service over a more diverse shrub-layer with wayfaring tree, yew, wych elm, young beech and sycamore. The ground-flora beneath the ash canopy is dominated by dog's mercury with bluebell, wood speedwell, wood melick, common dog-violet, wood avens and wood false-brome.

Over the coal measures the W10 woodland shows stages in transition to the W16 *Quercus spp.-Betula spp.-Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland on the risers though with a complete transition to typical W16 woodland only on the riser above the southern of the two brooks. Here bilberry and wavy hair-grass are frequent with *Polytrichum commune*, wood sage, cow-wheat, broom, creeping soft-grass and sweet vernal-grass.

Gravelly flushes above the brooks and in the dingles are dominated by pendulous sedge beneath canopies of ash and alder typical of the W7 *Alnus glutinosa-Fraxinus excelsior-Lysimachia nemorum* woodland.

Good dead wood habitat is provided by trees toppling on the steeper slopes.

North Wood

Do not scale from map. For accurate plan refer to GIS.

Scale 1:7500

