SITE NAME	WASSELL WOOD
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	SO795774
LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)	N/A
DATE OF LISTING	26.03.08
DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)	Wyre Forest
PARISH	Kidderminster Foreign
TOTAL AREA	32.52 ha
LENGTH IF LINEAR	N/A
LWS HABITAT	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
NATIONAL BAP HABITATS	Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland
OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE	Grassland
NATIONAL BAP SPECIES	None recorded
OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE	Scaly male fern

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

An Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland site on a south-east facing hill west of Kidderminster. An ancient hill fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies at the top of the hill outside the north boundary of the site.

The underlying geology is lower mottled sandstone over the majority of the wood, Clent breccia to the north with an area of Breccia gravels in the south-west, giving rise to clay soils on the hilltop and sandy soils on the hill slopes.

Habitat/Vegetation Description:

This is a deciduous woodland site although not entirely native – some non-native species are prominent, especially in the east due to past planting and invasion – particularly sweet chestnut and sycamore. However, native species are abundant in the wood also, including hybrid oak, small-leaved lime, rowan, silver birch, yew, cherry and ash; there are few trees in excess of 100 years old in the wood. As is common of woodlands in the district, hazel, hawthorn and holly dominate the shrub-layer.

On the sandy soils of the hill slopes are found species such as wood sage, greater stitchwort, wood sorrel, yellow pimpernel, honeysuckle, bluebell and foxglove; this shows affinities with the National Vegetation Classification community W10 *Quercus robur- Pteridium aquilinum- Rubus fruticosus* woodland. On the clayey soils of the hilltop is found the more base-rich woodland community W8 *Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis* woodland, characterised by the presence of species such as dog's mercury, wood speedwell, wood avens and false wood-brome.

Wassell Wood

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

Scale 1:7500

Ridgestone Rock

Pekket Rock

Jacob's Ladder (Path)

Path

Track

The Mount

Crofton Park

Trimpley Green

161m

HALLS FARM LANE

Issues

Pigstyehill Coppice

Habberley Valley

Yew Tree House

Rose Cottage

Track

144m

Path

White Cottage

Hall's Farm

Earthwork

Wassell Wood

The Barn

Wassell Wood House

HOARSTONE LANE

Path

93m

Golf Course

Track

Marsh

Path

Hoarstone Farm

64m

Golf Course

Tk

Tk

Track

57m

Car Park

Path

Grey