



Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI

Cambridgeshire

*Notification under section 28C of the Wildlife
and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)*

Issued by English Nature's Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Area Team on 11 February
2003

Contact points and further information

English Nature's Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Area Team issue this notification package. Our address for correspondence is:

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Your contact point for enquiries relating to this notification is **Zak Hawkes**.

A second document (*Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI - supporting information*) is available on request from the address above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI.

The date of notification of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI is 11 February 2003

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This package explains why Eversden and Wimpole Woods is being renotified and extended by English Nature as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 1.2 Eversden Wood is an ancient coppice woodland of a type rare in lowland England previously notified as an SSSI in 1954 and 1984. It is now known to be a nationally important site, which supports a maternity roost for the rare barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*.
- 1.3 The annexes to this package comprise the legal papers that detail the interest and the management required to maintain that interest. You have a right to make representations or objections to this notification. Part 3 of this package explains how to do this.
- 1.4 English Nature's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners, managers, and other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not considered likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

2. The legal background

- 2.1 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI is notified under section 28C of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). The site is an extension to the existing Eversden Wood SSSI, which was notified for its ancient woodland communities in 1984.
- 2.2 Barbastelle bats are rare and protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive
- 2.3 Part 8 of this notification package contains the following legal documents required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended):
 - a citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*)
 - a statement of views about management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*)
 - a list of operations requiring English Nature's consent (*Annex 3*)
 - a map identifying the land subject to this notification (*Annex 4*).
- 2.4 This notification has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as follows:
 - owners and occupiers must give English Nature notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*;

- owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify English Nature within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes;
- it is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna;
- other public bodies must consult English Nature before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.

If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact English Nature at the address shown at the beginning of this notification package.

3. Making representations

- 3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about this notification. Any representations or objections should be made in writing by 11 June 2003 to English Nature's Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Area Team at the address shown on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.
- 3.2 The Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Area Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Council of English Nature within nine months of this notification. If you wish to emphasize any of your objections or representations to Council in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Council meeting. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Council of English Nature may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification.
- 3.3 English Nature has a policy of openness and is bound by the Environmental Information Regulations 1992, that provide a legal right of access to environmental information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We do, however, respect people's privacy and there may be valid reasons why certain details of objections or representations may be kept confidential. Please indicate clearly, which (if any) part(s) of your objection you wish us to keep confidential and why. If we cannot agree to your request for legal reasons, we will contact you to explain why and give you the opportunity to withdraw and/or re-submit your representation.

4. Reasons for notification

- 4.1 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI is notified for its nationally important maternity roosts of the barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*. Eversden Wood is an important ancient semi-natural woodland of a type now localised in extent, and rare in lowland England.

- 4.2 The barbastelle bat is one of Britain's rarest bats. Several winter hibernation sites are known in caves, mines and other cave-like places, but only six main maternity roosts have been found in the UK, this is the sole recorded maternity roost in Cambridgeshire.
- 4.3 This species is protected on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), on Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive.

5. Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs

- 5.1 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods, which collectively includes 'The Belts', 'Twidlams Corner' and 'The Gloucesters'), connected by a belt of shrubby vegetation. The site is set in rolling, mainly arable countryside, with a loose patchwork of landscape features including copses, green lanes, ancient woods and parkland. A number of other woodland SSSIs are located in the vicinity of this site including Kingston Wood & Outliers and Hayley Wood which is just over a kilometre to the northeast but there are no records of the bats using this site.
- 5.2 To allow clear definition, the SSSI boundary follows the outer margins of the woodlands and shrubby belt. Where there is a defined ditch or bank on the outside edge then the boundary also follows the outer margin of these features. The site includes a number of paths and tracks.
- 5.3 The boundary includes all known tree roosts for bats in Wimpole Woods, with sufficient suitable woodland habitat to provide for any additional roosting sites which may be required. The belt of shrubby vegetation between Eversden Wood and Wimpole Woods is included as it is an important bat 'flight path' and used for foraging. The southern boundary of 'The Belts' has been drawn to exclude woodland with a younger age class distribution of trees. This also accords with management compartment boundaries recognised by The National Trust who own this part of the site. The open agricultural fields between the two main woodlands have also been excluded as these are not known to be used by the bats.
- 5.4 This is the only SSSI in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire where one of the special interest features is a very rare bat species. The nearest site also notified for its barbastelle bats is Paston Great Barn SSSI in northeast Norfolk

6. Management of the SSSI

- 6.1 This notification includes a statement of views about management of the SSSI that English Nature considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest at *Annex 2*. Different management may be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. The statement is intended to explain how we can work with and support owners and managers in continuing to achieve positive management of the SSSI.

- 6.2 This notification also includes a list of the operations requiring English Nature's consent at *Annex 3*. Some of the operations may already be taking place and where they do not cause any damage they will be given consent. We will work with landowners and managers to agree lists of such existing and planned activities, which can be approved.
- 6.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from English Nature. However, other public bodies are required to consult English Nature before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- 6.4 In particular, we recognize the important roles of the owners and managers of the land in managing this site. We will work with them to develop means to secure the sustainable management of Eversden & Wimpole Woods SSSI.

7. Supporting information

- 7.1 The detailed information, which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI, is available on request from the address on page 2 of this paper.

8. Legal Documents

- 8.1 Attached at *Annexes 1 - 4* are the legal documents, which are required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Annex 1

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification package.

Site name: Eversden and Wimpole Woods

County: Cambridgeshire

District: South Cambridgeshire

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

Local Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council.

National Grid reference: TL 345531/TL 340525

Area: 66.48 ha

Ordnance Survey sheet: 1:50,000: 154

1:10,000: TL 35 SW

Date notified (under 1949 Act): 1954*

Date of last revision: 1970*

Date notified (under 1981 Act): 1984*

Date of last revision: 11 February 2003

Reasons for notification:

Eversden Wood is an important ancient semi-natural woodland of a type now localised in extent, and rare in lowland England. The habitats present also support a nationally important summer maternity roost for the barbastelle bat, *Barbastella barbastellus*.

General description:

The site is located close to Wimpole Park, and comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods).

A colony of barbastelle bats use trees as roosts in Wimpole Woods. These trees are used as a summer maternity roost where the female bats gather to give birth and rear their young. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.

A total of six bat species have been recorded at this site, the other species being the pipstrelles *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and *P.pipistrellus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus avritus*, Natterer's *Myotis nattereri* and noctule *nyctalus noctula*

Eversden Wood is a species-rich example of ancient ash *Fraxinus excelsior*- field maple *Acer campestre* - dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* woodland, and one of the largest remaining sites of this type on the Cambridgeshire chalky boulder-clay.

The woodland is predominantly relict coppice of ash and field maple over an under-storey of hazel *Corylus avellana*, with aspen *Populus tremula*, birch *Betula* sp and small-leaved elm *Ulmus minor* also locally dominant.

The ground flora is characterised by dog's mercury and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and the damp soil conditions are reflected in the local abundance of associated plants such as

meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. Many herbs typical of old woodlands are present including yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and the nationally scarce oxlip *Primula elatior*; a species largely confined to damp chalky boulder-clay woods of eastern England. Other locally uncommon plants represented include herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, and, particularly on the drier wood banks, pignut *Conopodium majus* and hairy wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*.

The woodland rides provide additional habitat diversity and support herbs such as ragged-Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and false fox-sedge *Carex otrubae*.

Other information:

The site has been extended to include important woodland roosting and foraging habitat of the barbastelle bat, a very rare species in the UK. All species of bat are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Annex IV of the European Community Habitats and Species Directive. The site is within the West Anglian Plain Natural Area.

(Note: * refers to Eversden Wood only)

Annex 2

Views About Management

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification package.



Views About Management

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4) as amended.

A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Eversden and Wimpole Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This statement represents English Nature's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. English Nature has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation. English Nature's written consent is still required before carrying out any operation likely to damage the features of special interest (see your SSSI notification papers for a list of these operations). English Nature welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

Those parts of the woodlands important for roosting barbastelle bats should be maintained by a regime of minimum management with little disturbance. In particular all identified tree roosts should be retained intact and left to develop naturally. Sufficient suitable trees must be left throughout the surrounding woodland to provide additional roosting sites should these be required by the bats.

The roost would benefit from being within an extensively managed pastoral landscape that provides appropriate commuting routes and foraging areas to support the bat population.

For parts of the site where conservation of the overall habitat is determined to be a primary objective there may be several different ways in which the woodland can be managed to best conserve its value – by promoting an appropriate woodland structure, by ensuring regeneration and by looking after the things that make it special. The following notes give broad views on a range of regimes that may be appropriate.

A diverse woodland structure with some open space, some areas of dense under-storey, and an over-storey of more mature trees (which may be the standard trees under a coppice-with-standards regime) is important. A range of ages and species within and between stands is desirable.

Some dead and decaying wood such as fallen logs, old hollow trees or old coppice stools is essential for providing habitats for fungi and dead wood invertebrates. Work may, however, be needed to make safe dangerous trees where they occur in areas of high public access.

Open spaces, either temporary gaps created by felling or coppicing or more permanent areas such as rides and glades, benefit other groups of invertebrates such as butterflies. They should be of sufficient size to ensure that sunny conditions prevail for most of the day. Rides and glades may require cutting to keep them open.

Felling, thinning or coppicing may be used to create or maintain variations in the structure of the wood, and non-native trees and shrubs can be removed at this time. Wet woodland by streams and other water-bodies is often best left undisturbed. Normally, successive felling, thinning or coppicing operations should be spread through the wood to avoid too much disturbance in one area. However, where there is open space interest (e.g. rich butterfly populations) adjacent plots may be worked to encourage the spread of species that are only weakly mobile.

Care should also be taken to avoid sensitive times of the year for bats and breeding birds. Work should be avoided when the ground is soft, to prevent disturbing the soil and ground flora.

Natural regeneration from seed or stump re-growth (as in coppice) is preferred to planting because it helps maintain the local patterns of species and the inherent genetic character of the site.

Deer management and protection from rabbits or livestock are often necessary. Whilst light or intermittent grazing may increase woodland diversity, heavy browsing can damage the ground flora and prevent successful regeneration.

Where they are a threat to the interest of the wood, invasive introductions such as *Rhododendron ponticum* or Himalayan balsam should, where practical, be controlled.

Date notified: 11 February 2003

Annex 3

List of operations requiring English Nature's consent

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification package.

Operations requiring English Nature's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) as amended

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of **Eversden and Wimpole Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult English Nature, and may require our consent.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities please contact the Conservation Officer named in this package who will give you advice and where appropriate issue a consent. Please help us by using the enclosed form to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible the Conservation Officer will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable consent to be issued. To proceed without English Nature's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

Standard Reference Number	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and reseeded.
2	The introduction of grazing.
3	The introduction of stock feeding.
4	The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime.
5	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weed-killers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, or other harmful or toxic substances, including timber treatment chemicals in or near bat roosting areas.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8	Burning or incineration of materials, including in or near bat roosting areas or flight paths.

- 9 The release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
- 10 Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal (including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control, and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
- 11 Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including any tree, shrub, herb, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould, turf, etc.
- 12 Tree and woodland management, introduction of tree and woodland management and alterations to tree and woodland management, including planting, pruning and tree surgery, felling, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition and removal of fallen timber.
- 13a Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
- 13b Modification to the structure of watercourses (streams, drains), including their banks and beds, as by realignment, re-grading, damming or dredging.
- 13c Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
- 14 Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
- 15 Infilling or digging of ditches, drains, pools, marshes or pits.
- 20 Extraction of minerals, including topsoil, subsoil, chalk and spoil.
- 21 Destruction, construction, removal or re-routing or re-grading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hard-stands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
- 22 Storage of materials, including in or near bat roosting areas or flight paths.
- 23 Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
- 24a Modification of natural or man-made features.

- 24b Infilling of pits.
- 26 Use of vehicles, craft, machinery or other devices likely to produce noise, fumes or heat, including near to bat roosting areas or access points.
- 27 Recreational or other activities likely to cause danger or disturbance to the features of interest including the bats.
- 28a Introduction of and changes in game or waterfowl management and hunting practices.

Notes:

- i. This is a list of operations appearing to English Nature to be likely to damage the special features of this SSSI, as required under section 28 (4) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended).
- ii Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another authority, separate consent will not be required from English Nature. However, other authorities are required to consult English Nature before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- iii Any reference to animal in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish, or invertebrate.

Date notified: 11 February 2003

National Grid reference: TL35301L3425

Annex 4

Maps showing the land notified

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification package.

{insert map here}