

Cleveland

Pinkney And Gerrick Woods

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

Local Planning Authority: Langbaugh District Council.
North York Moors National Park

National Grid Reference: NZ 708138

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1: 50,000: 94
1: 10,000: NZ 71 SW

Area: 62.7 acres 25.4 hectares

First notified: 1954* Date of revision: 1987

Description Date of renotification: 20/3/87

Pinkney and Gerrick Woods is an area of deciduous woodland on the steep slopes of Kilton Beck. It is of importance as one of the few ancient woodland sites in Cleveland which remains in a largely semi-natural condition.

The woodland canopy consists mainly of oak (*Quercus petraea* type), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) with locally abundant sycamore (*Acer pseudo-platanus*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) whilst damp soils support alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Field maple (*Acer campestre*), here close to its northern limit of distribution in Britain, wych elm, (*Ulmus glabra*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*) are also present. The shrub layer is well developed, including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) as well as sparsely distributed blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

The ground flora comprises an intricate mosaic of plant communities which reflect local variations in soil conditions. On well-drained slopes creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) are dominant with broad buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and, locally, wood melic (*Melica uniflora*). More base-rich soils support dog's mercury (*Mercurialis nerennis*), bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), giant fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*). Wood barley (*Hordelymus europaeus*) and bearded couch (*Elymus caninus*) are widespread but only locally abundant. Wet areas beneath alder dominated by tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) also support malefern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*) and many of the species typical of the wood as a whole. Discrete flushes are characterised by great horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), marsh hawk's-beard (*Crepis paludosa*) and meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), whilst on the banks of small streams there is an abundance of opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and large bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*). Blackthorn is encroaching upon small clearings dominated

by meadowsweet and rushes (*Juncus spp.*), with wild angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and common marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*).

Other Information

During the 1987 revision the boundary of this site has been amended to include land not previously notified*

*Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.