



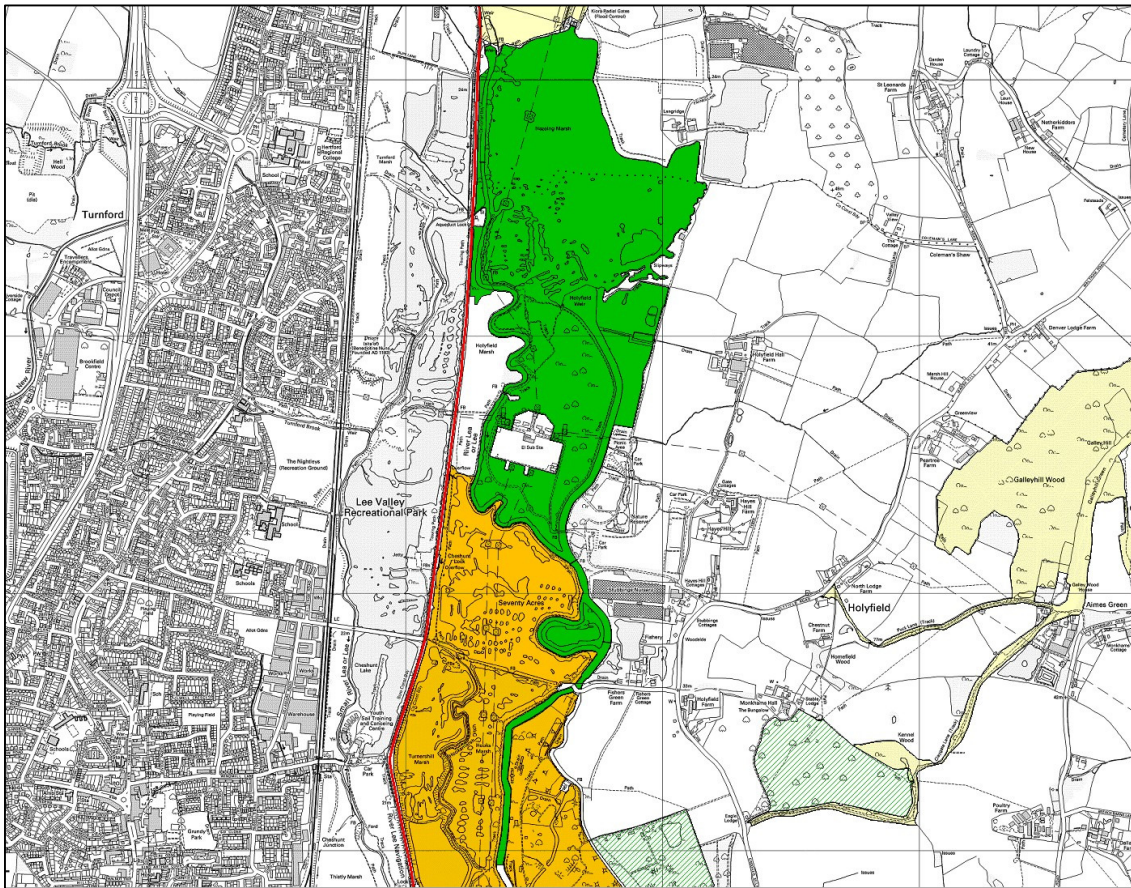


**APPENDIX 2**

**REGISTER OF EPPING FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES**

**KEY**

	Target LoWS
	Other Adjacent LoWS
	Potential LoWS
	SSSI



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### Ep1 Lee Valley South (113.9 ha) TL 373035

This Site is part of the Lee Valley Regional Park and forms a natural extension to the Turnford and Cheshunt Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the south. The Lee Valley South LoWS principally consists of woodland, scrub, grassland and waterways in the Fisher's Green area, and Holyfield Lake to the north. The area has been sensitively landscaped to provide an attractive recreational area comprising converted gravel workings flooded to create natural habitats for a wide variety of freshwater fauna and flora

Surrounding an electricity sub station is an area of grassland, scrub and trees. Willow (*Salix* spp.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are very common here with some very large coppiced Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) near to the river. Other areas have dense or scattered scrub with ruderal patches within. Among the many shrub species recorded are Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). A few small glades are found within the wood and scrub. These are areas of dry grassland with a species mix including some indicative of underlying calcareous soil conditions. The herb flora includes Agrimony (*Agrimony eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) and Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*).

The River Lee and the channel south of Holyfield Weir exhibit a varied marginal and emergent flora. The extensive stands of Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) fringe the channels. Many other species recorded include Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*).

The importance of this Site needs to be viewed in terms of its location with a wetland complex of regional importance along the lower Lee valley, including a complementary series of LoWS within Hertfordshire, immediately to the west. Scarce birds such as Kingfisher and Water Rail breed, numerous ducks and other

waterfowl breed and/or over-winter (e.g. bittern near Fisher's Green) and where associated wetland habitats (wet woodland, areas of swamp and reedbed) provide a rich habitat for invertebrates, within which dragonflies and damselflies are particularly notable.

**BAP Habitats**

Eutrophic Standing Waters, Wet Woodland (UK)

**Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-component mosaics

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

SC5 - Notable Bird Species

**Rationale**

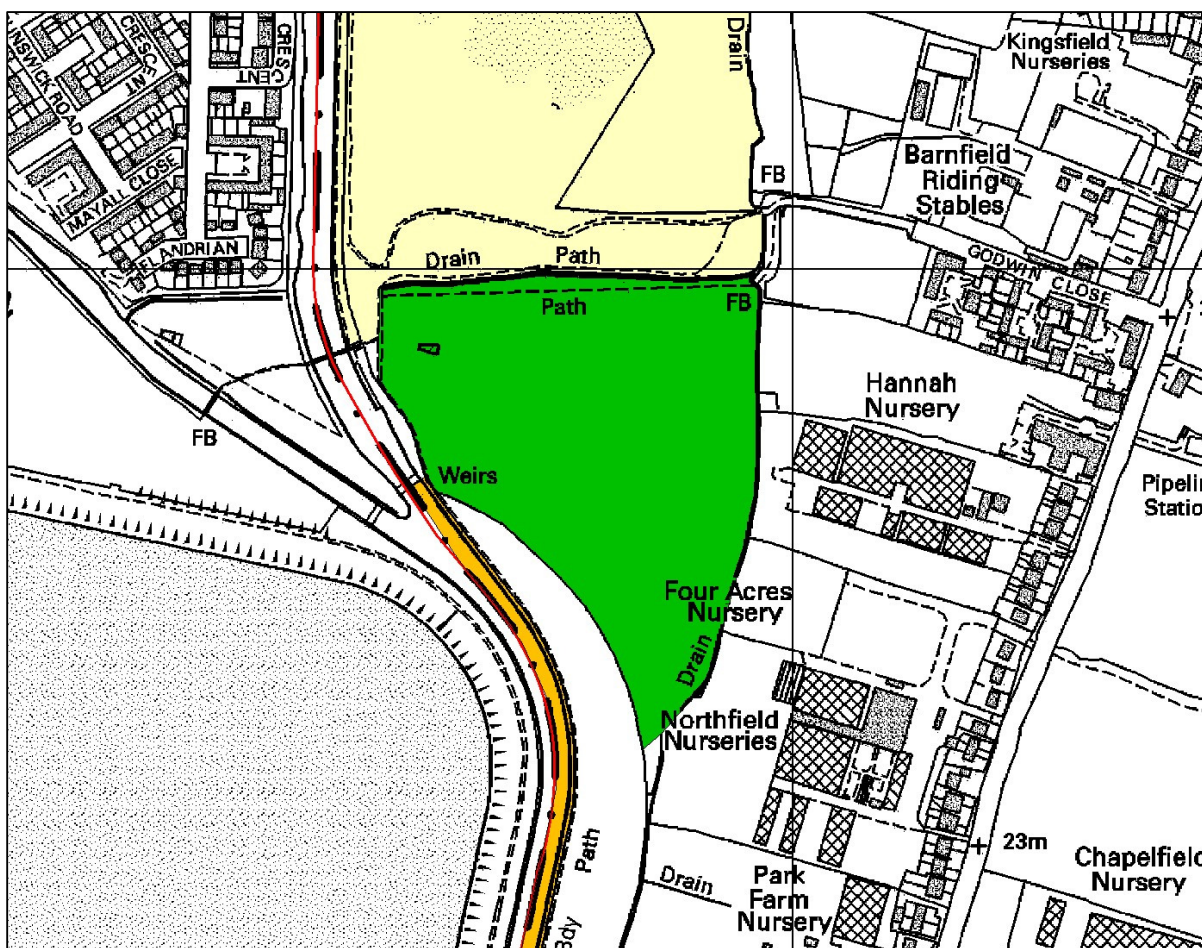
Large habitat complexes such as this could qualify for inclusion within the LoWS network under several criteria, including importance for its bird populations, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic mammals (Otters and Water Voles), wildlife corridor function and swamp communities.

This extensive site provides much additional and extremely valuable habitat next to Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI that are of national importance for over-wintering and breeding birds. The site is also in a living landscape network through the Lee Valley and links with Lee Valley Central (Ep5) and Lee Valley North (Ep14).

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (additional watercourse included)



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### Ep2 Northfield Marsh (7.0 ha) TQ378978

This pasture is a remnant of the River Lea floodplain grassland, much of which has been lost to development in the lower reaches of the valley. The site is wettest along the eastern half, where a large stand of the Essex Red Data List plant Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) is particularly notable, within an area of Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) swamp. Elsewhere, damp and seasonally flooded areas are characterised by the presence of Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*). The drier grassland is principally False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*).

During 2009, Lapwings were seen in display flight over a central shallow pool, but it is not known if breeding is attempted or successful, given the almost unavoidable trampling threat from grazing cattle. The area is used by hunting Barn Owl, with Sand Martins known to feed over the pasture. All three of these birds are included on the Essex Red Data List as threatened or declining breeding species, especially in non-coastal areas.

#### BAP Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC10 – River Floodplain

SC1 – Vascular Plants

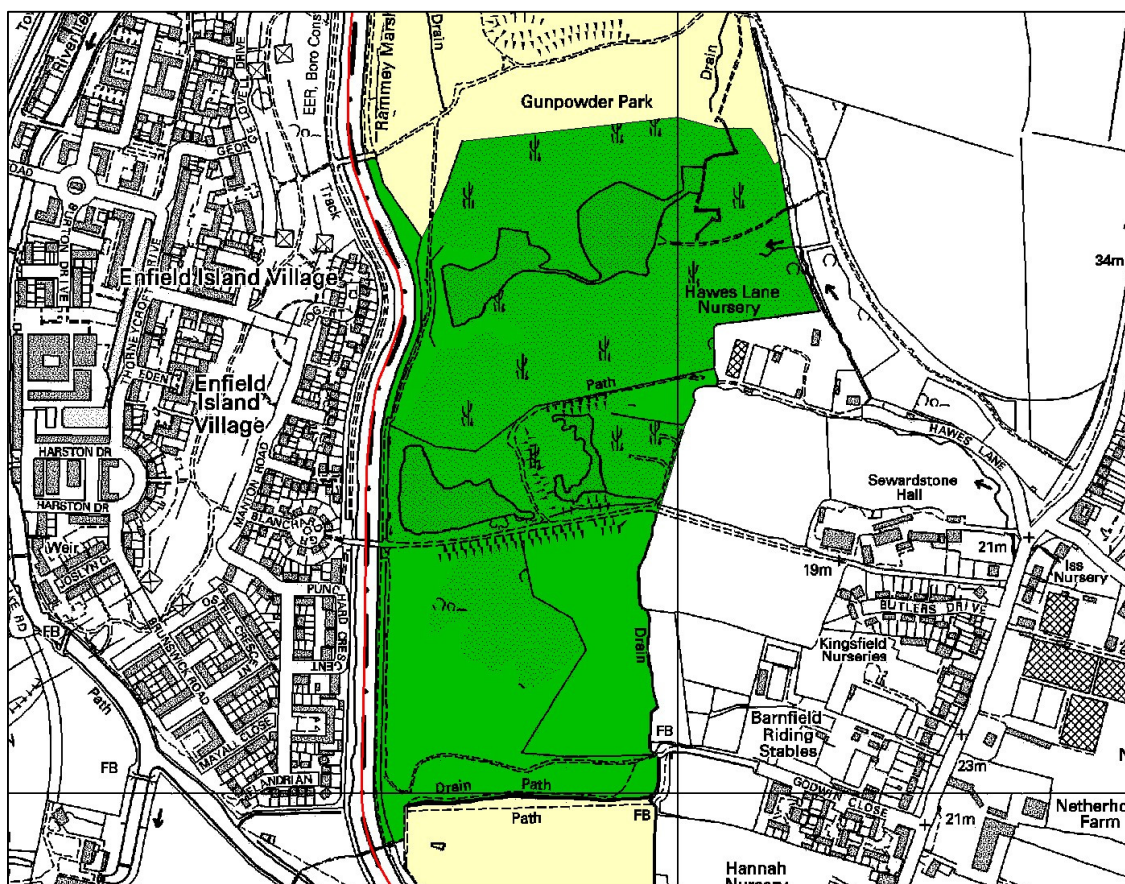
**Rationale**

This site represents a small section of remnant River Lea floodplain grassland that has been virtually entirely lost from this lower part of the river valley. It also supports a very significant population of a scarce Essex Plant.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep3 Sewardstone/Osier Marshes (29.1 ha) TQ378983

This site comprises a mosaic of wet willow woodland (a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat), patches of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), tall herb fen, rough grassland and scattered scrub. The extensive wet willow woodland of Osier Marsh supports the Nationally Scarce (Nb) Musk Beetle (*Aromia moschata*), the larvae of which feed on the wood of large, old willow trees. Woodcock and Long-eared Owl (an Essex Red Data List breeding bird) are occasional visitors to this area, whilst more open areas of scrub, reed and tall herbage support more typical breeding birds, such as Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler. The wet woodland flora includes several locally rare and Essex Red Data List species, including Hart's-tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Southern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*).

#### BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC3 – Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on non-ancient Sites (Wet Woodland)

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

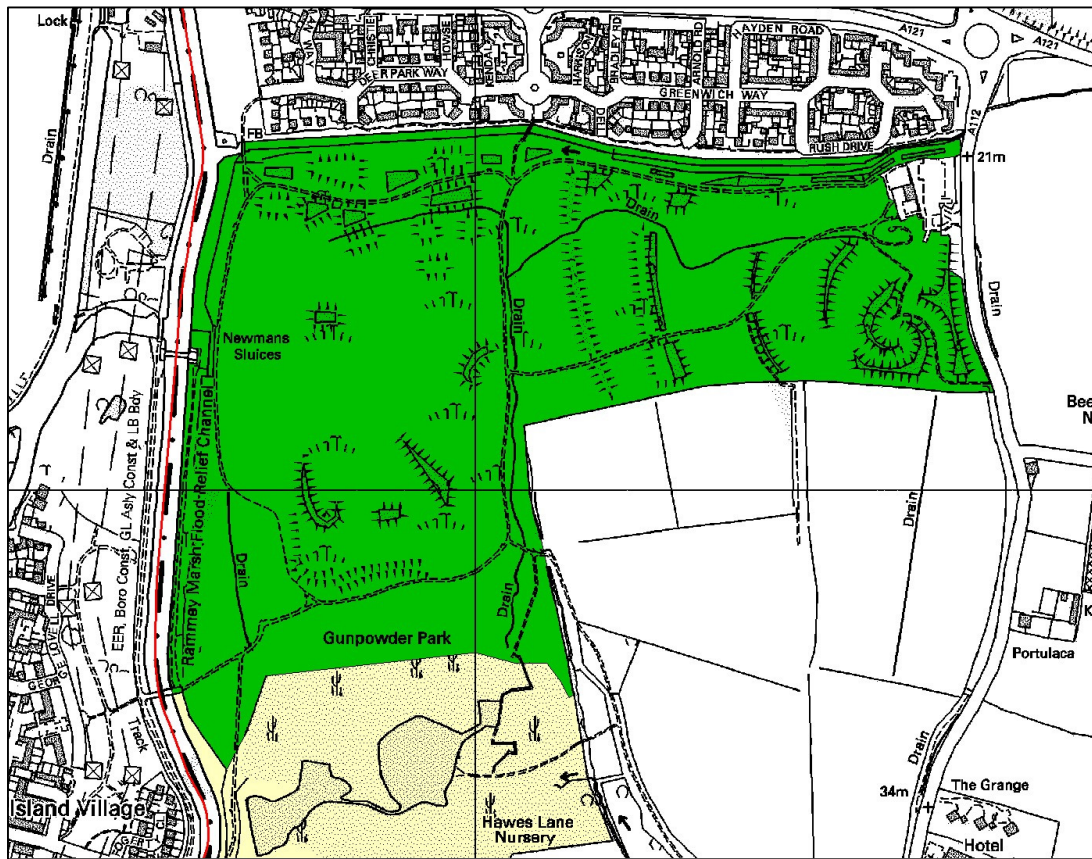
#### Rationale

Osier Marsh comprises a significant area of wet willow woodland. The remainder of the site has an intricate mix of lakes, reedbed, scrub, tall herb fen and rough grassland that makes for a valuable wildlife habitat.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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#### **Ep4 Gunpowder Park (43.5 ha) TQ378990**

This extensive area of rough grassland, scattered scrub and ditch habitats comprises the re-landscaped site of former ammunition works. Although a good deal of high quality brownfield invertebrate habitat was lost during the decontamination of the site, an important invertebrate fauna is now re-establishing itself here. The wide variety of grasses, herbs, trees and shrubs, provides a varied foraging habitat for invertebrates, birds and mammals. Recent survey work has revealed the presence of at least 11 nationally rare Red Data Book invertebrate species, covering spiders, flies, bugs and bees, along with 66 species included within the draft Essex Red Data List. Several of these were new to Essex when recorded and for one species of fly (*Clytiomya continua*) its discovery in 2003 was the second record for Britain.

The extensive area of rough grassland supports a locally very important population of breeding Skylark, an Essex Red Data List breeding species. Whilst Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)-filled ditches support Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler. The site should provide an important countryside experience for residents of the nearby Waltham abbey and other urban areas.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Brownfield Sites (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria:**

HC27 – Post-industrial Sites

SC19 – Important Invertebrate Assemblages

#### **Rationale**

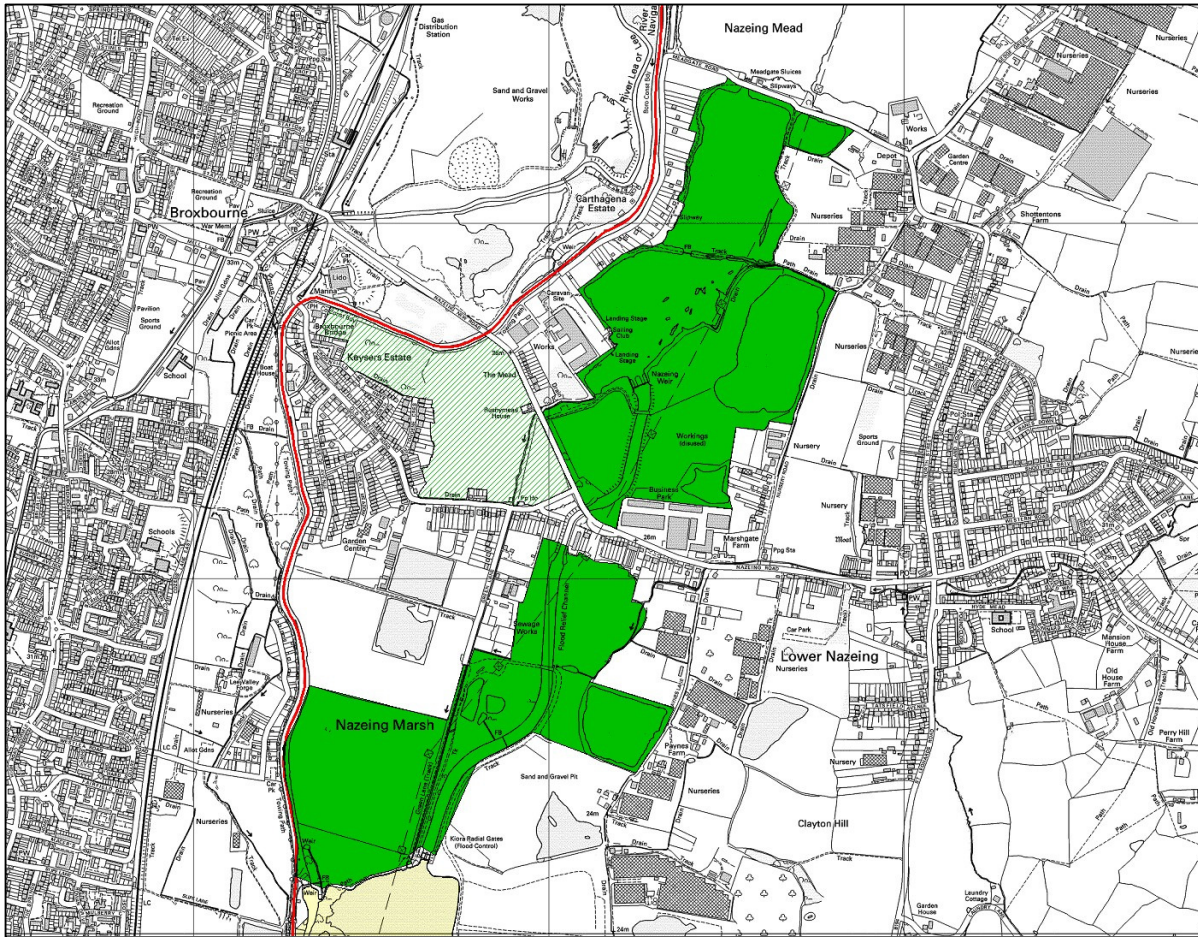
Although heavily re-landscaped, the re-designed site still retains some of the characteristics of post-industrial brownfield land and has an important invertebrate assemblage associated with it.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992 – although as part of a very different site

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### **Ep5 Lee Valley Central (83.8 ha) TL 382062**

Located in the Lee Valley Regional Park, this site comprises two main areas, Nazeing Meads (to the north) and Nazeing Marsh. It comprises part of a regionally important chain of wetland habitats along the lower Lee valley, including a series of SSSIs and also complementary LoWS within Hertfordshire immediately to the west. This complex of sites is of great importance for its over-wintering wildfowl and other wetland birds, aquatic invertebrates (most notably dragonfly and damselfly populations) and wildlife in general utilising the mosaic of terrestrial habitats as a wildlife corridor through an otherwise intensively used and built-up landscape. As well as the principal aquatic habitats, the Site supports areas of scrub and rough grassland.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Eutrophic Standing Waters, Wet Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-component mosaics

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

SC5 - Notable Bird Species

SC6 – Exceptional Populations of Common Bird Species

#### **Rationale**

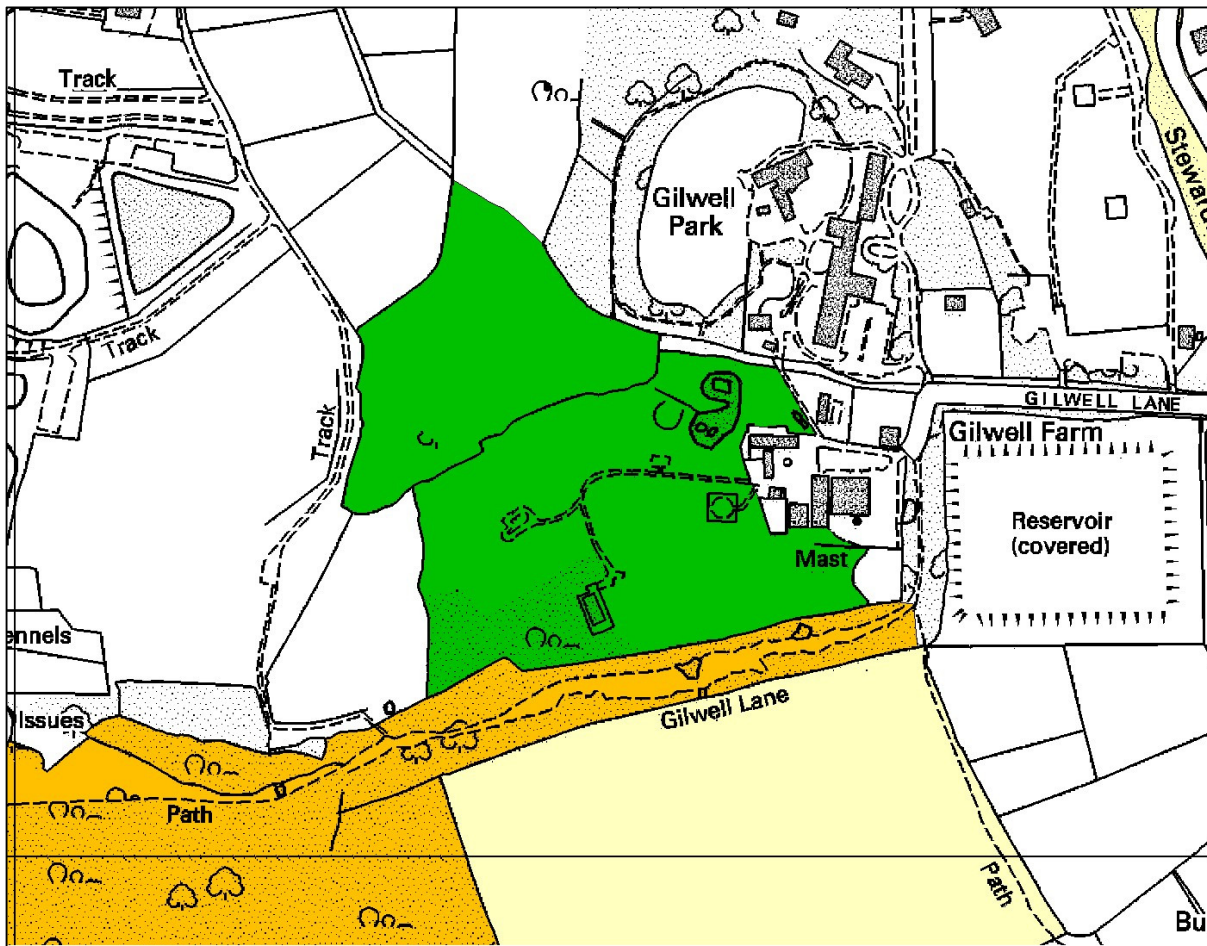
Large habitat complexes such as this could qualify for inclusion within the LoWS network under several criteria, including importance for its bird populations, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic mammals (Otters and

Water Voles), wildlife corridor function and swamp communities. The site is also in a living landscape network through the Lee Valley and links with Lee Valley North (p14) and Lee Valley South (Ep1).

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep6 Gilwell Park South (8.5 ha) TQ384963

Since 1919 this area of old parkland has been owned by the Scouts Association and now houses its national headquarters. Whilst heavily used for recreational activities, the parkland as a whole supports a good variety of wildlife. The area identified as a Local Wildlife Site comprises an area of less well used old parkland which features a large number of veteran Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees. These, in turn, support a good population of the Nationally Scarce ant *Lasius brunneus*, which is restricted to arboreal nests in large, old trees, usually oaks. Such trees are likely to be of importance for other invertebrates, as well as offering opportunities for roosting bats in any splits and holes.

The northern meadow retains a species-rich sward but is generally mown for amenity use and outdoor activities, although the lower slope to the north remains uncut. The Essex Red Data List Yellow Vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*) has been recorded from here, although its current status is uncertain. The sward comprises a mosaic of Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and clovers (*Trifolium* sp.).

#### BAP Habitats

Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK)

Species-rich Grassland, Veteran Trees (Essex)

### **Selection Criteria**

HC4 – Wood-pasture and parkland

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

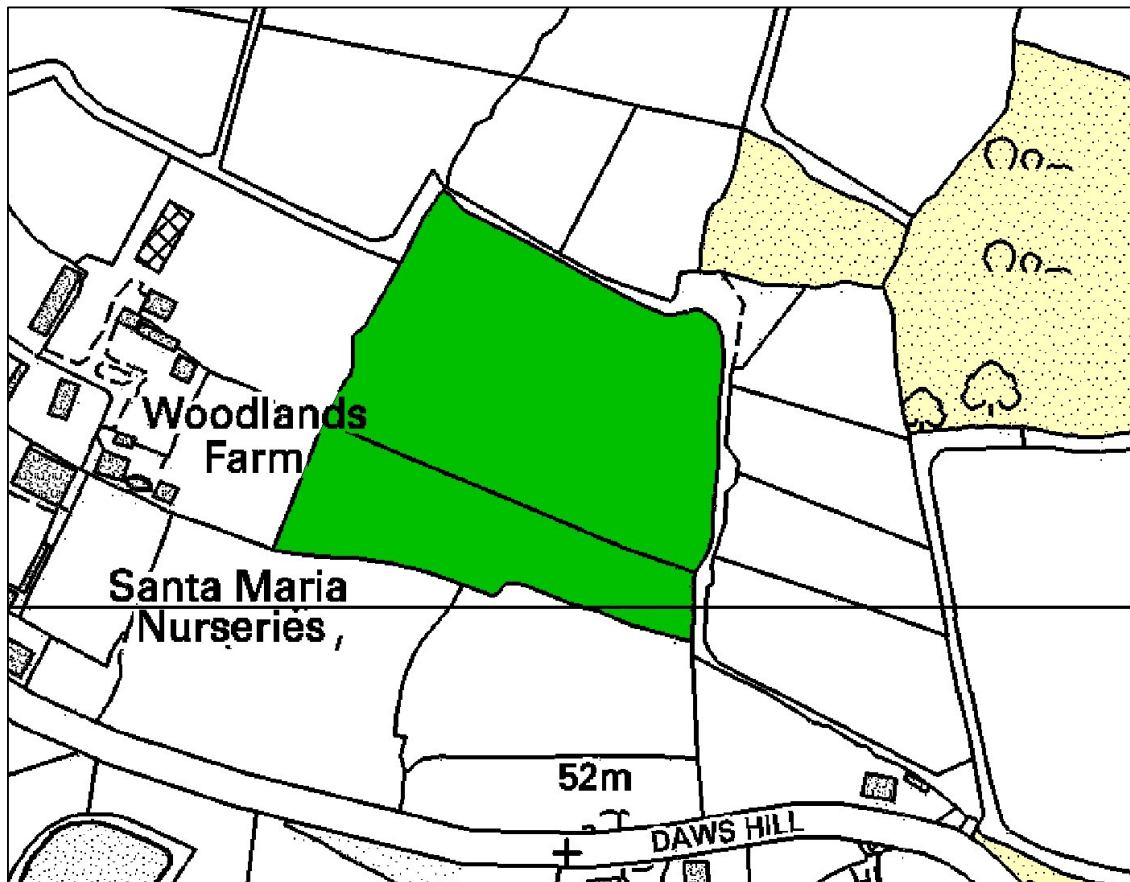
### **Rationale**

It is considered that the northern field represents a modified form of the MG5 *Centaureo-cynosuretum* NVC grassland, which could be improved with a less rigorous mowing regime. The southern area is one of the less disturbed areas of old parkland within Gilwell Park, with very mature oak trees.

### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992 (northern field only)

**Reviewed:** 2009 (southern parkland added)



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#### **Ep7 Woodlands Farm Meadow (2.8 ha) TQ384970**

This site comprises old hillslope grassland. It does not appear to be intensively managed, although some horse-grazing is evident in the narrow southern strip. Lack of management is allowing for the spread of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) through a sward otherwise characterised by the presence of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*). In the past, Cowslip (*Primula veris*) and Peppercorn (*Silaum silaus*) have both been recorded from here. These are both plants indicative of old, relatively unimproved grassland sites.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Meadows (UK)  
Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

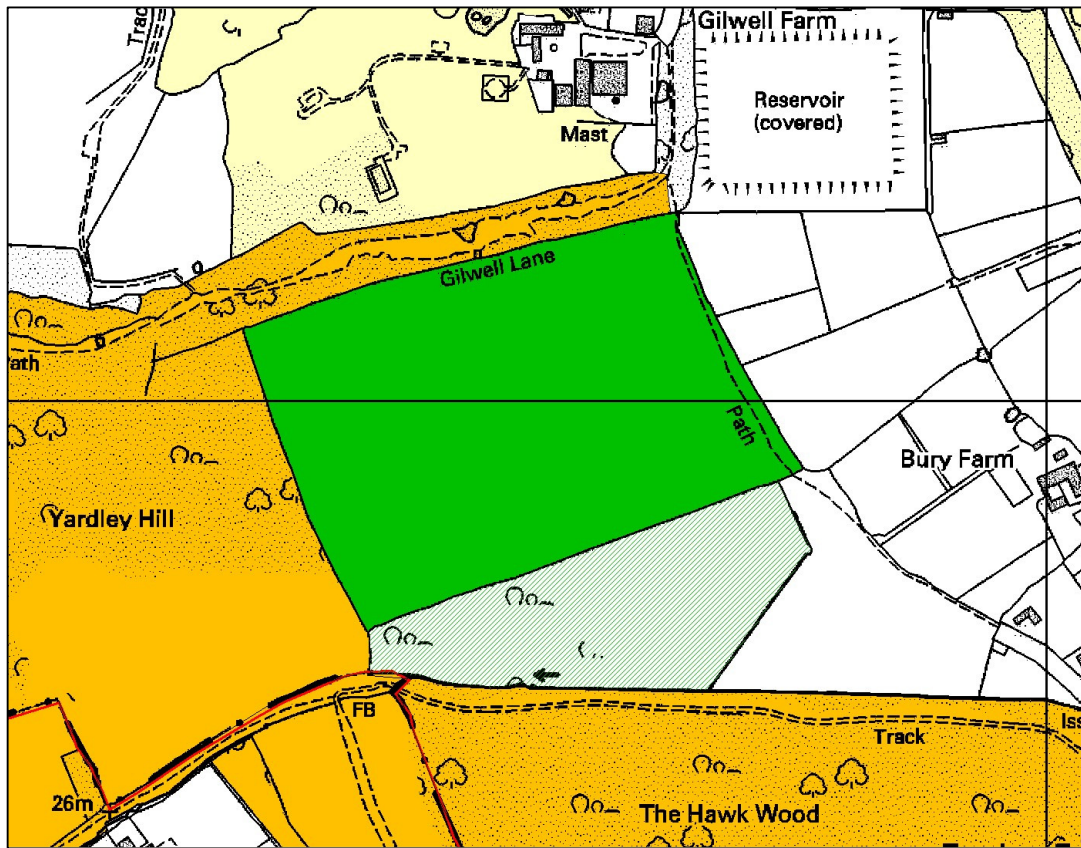
#### **Rationale**

It is considered that this field represents a modified form of the MG5 *Centaureo-cynosuretum* NVC grassland, although it is evolving into a coarse False Oat-grass sward due to recent lack of sufficient management pressure.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep8 Yardley Hill Meadow (10.1 ha) TQ385959

This dry, neutral to acid grassland hillslope complements the adjacent Yardley Hill grassland and scrub within Epping Forest SSSI. The meadow is dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), but also includes a wide variety of other grasses, including Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.). False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) is becoming locally frequent, indicating management issues relating to intensity of grazing and mowing. A large number of herbs are present, although often at low density. Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is frequent, with lesser amounts of Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). Of note are Pepper-saxifrage (*Silva silaus*) and Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*).

#### BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC9 – Other Neutral Grasslands

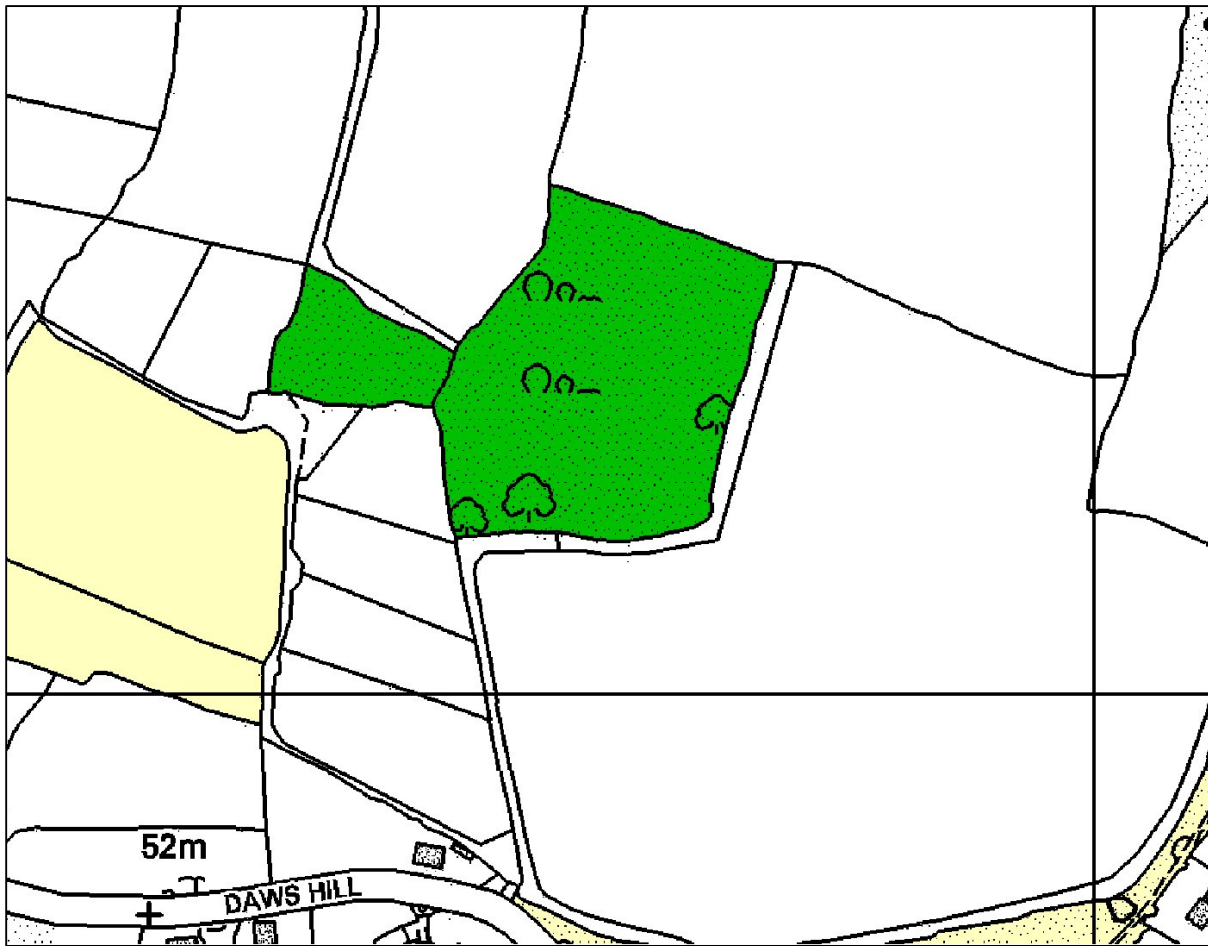
#### Rationale

Known past history and the species assemblage suggest that this is old grassland. Its floristic diversity should encourage a variety of invertebrate populations.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep9 Wood, South of Barn Hill Wood (2.8 ha) TQ387971**

This is an old, though doubtfully completely ancient, piece of hilltop woodland, perhaps representing estate landscaping super-imposed on a semi-natural site. The original canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) has been modified by the planting of numerous Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and hybrid Lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*). The ground flora includes abundant Ivy (*Hedera helix*), itself usually a sign of a more recent origin, but also includes several plants that are indicative of ancient woodland sites. These include Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Early Dog's Violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

#### **Rationale**

Whilst fully ancient status may be difficult to prove, the site nevertheless qualifies under Criterion HC2.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1996

**Reviewed:** 2009



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#### **Ep10 Barn Hill Wood (0.7 ha) TQ387974**

Barn Hill Wood is thought to be a small remnant of ancient woodland. It has a canopy of mainly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). A rather dense and scrubby understorey of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is rather suppressing the ground flora, although typical species such as Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) occur sparingly. Management to diversify the wood's structure would be beneficial.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

#### **Rationale**

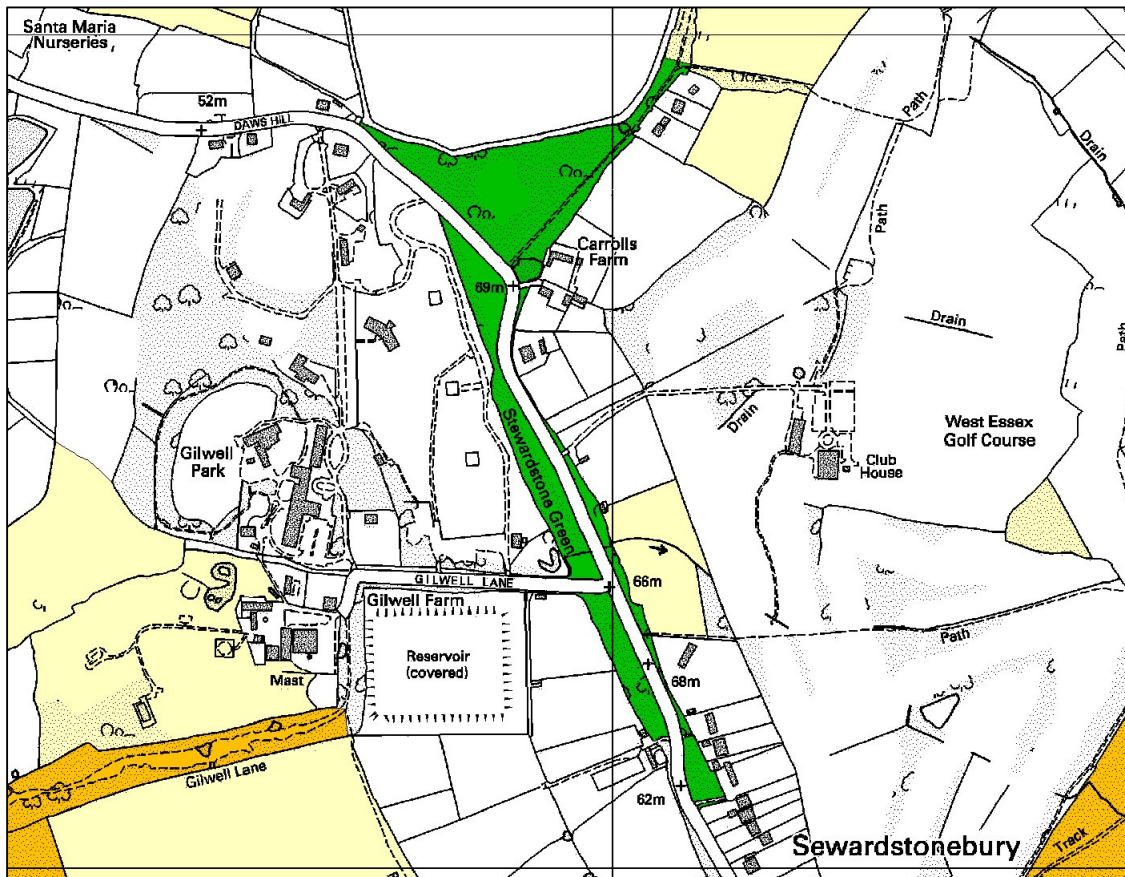
The flora and structure of this wood suggests an ancient origin.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1996

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### Ep11 Sewardstone Green (6.3 ha) TQ388965

Woody species comprise Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) with large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards on the old boundaries to the green. The developing woodland flora includes Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Areas of marshy grassland support Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Yellow-flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and rushes (*Juncus* spp.).

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics  
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

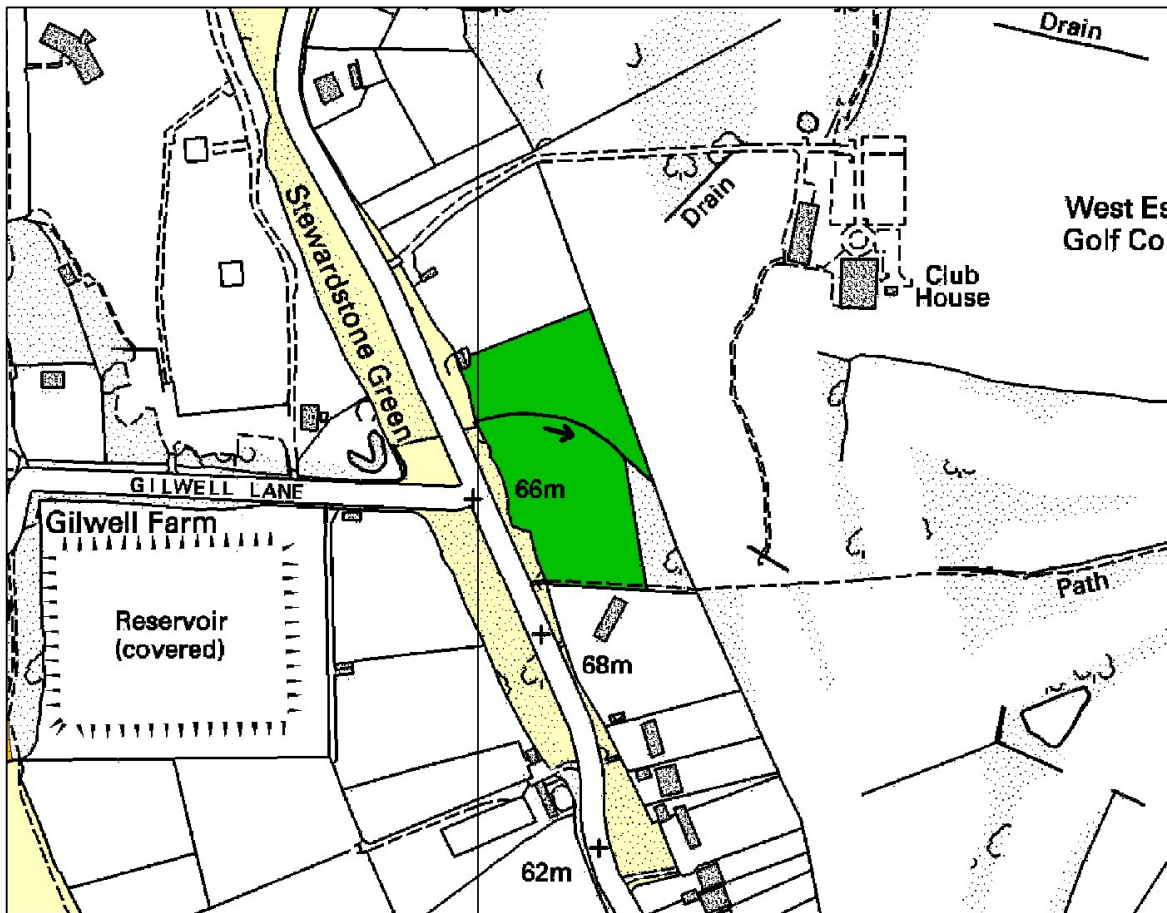
#### Rationale

Sewardstone Green provides good ecological connectivity between Epping Forest SSSI to the south and a cluster of Local Wildlife Sites to the north, as well as being of interest in its own right as a mosaic of old grassland, scrub and young secondary woodland. Associated ditches and pools add to the habitat diversity.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### Ep12 Sewardstone Green Paddocks (1.6 ha) TQ390963

Landform and species-richness suggest that these two horse-grazed paddocks are old grasslands that have not been ploughed or significantly agriculturally improved. The flora includes a large number of different grasses, including Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Characteristic herbs include Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

#### BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

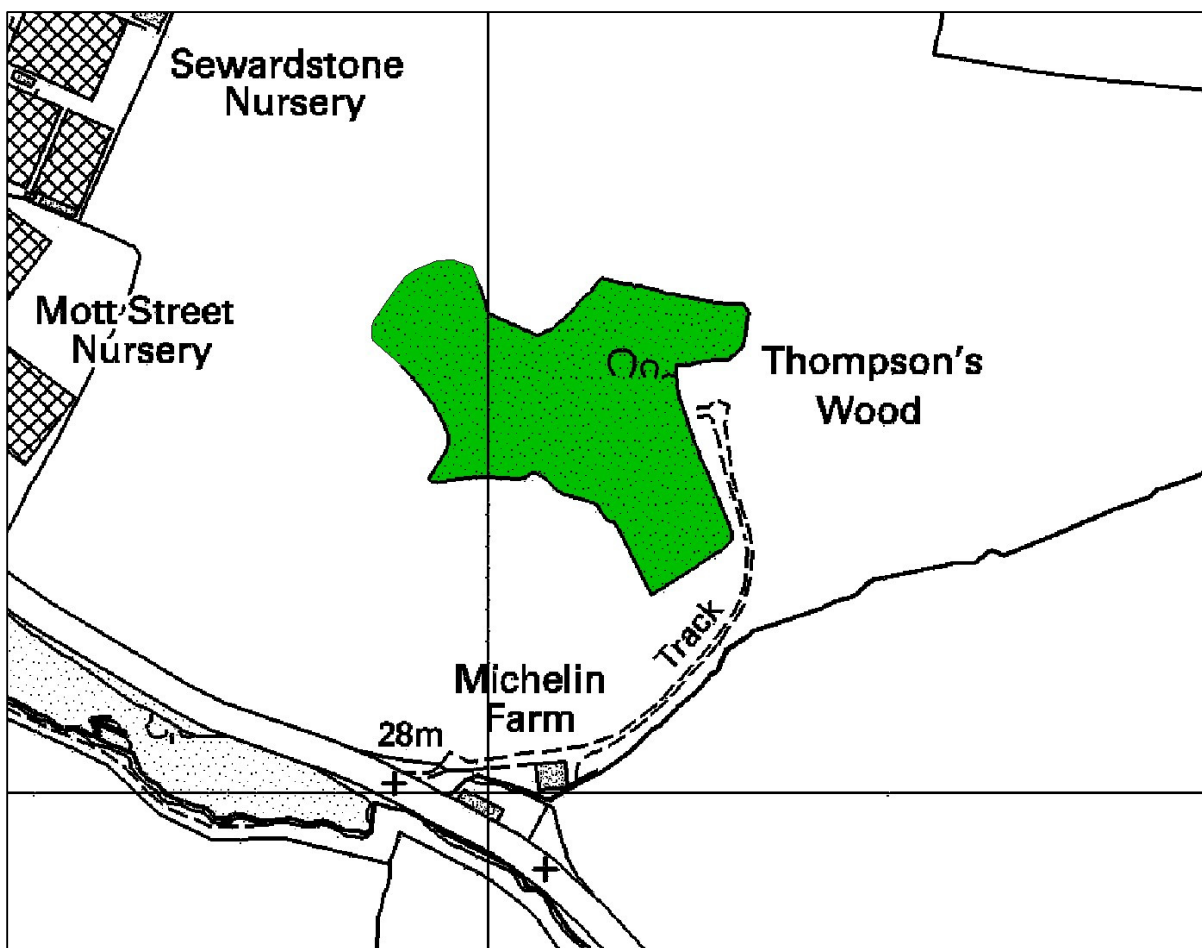
#### Rationale

The landform and species-richness both suggest that these are old grasslands. Their species richness should prove attractive to a range of invertebrates.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep13 Thompson's Wood (1.8 ha) TQ390981**

This small ancient wood has a canopy dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), although Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is also present in good quantity. The scrubby understorey is mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) but also includes Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) present in the ground flora.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

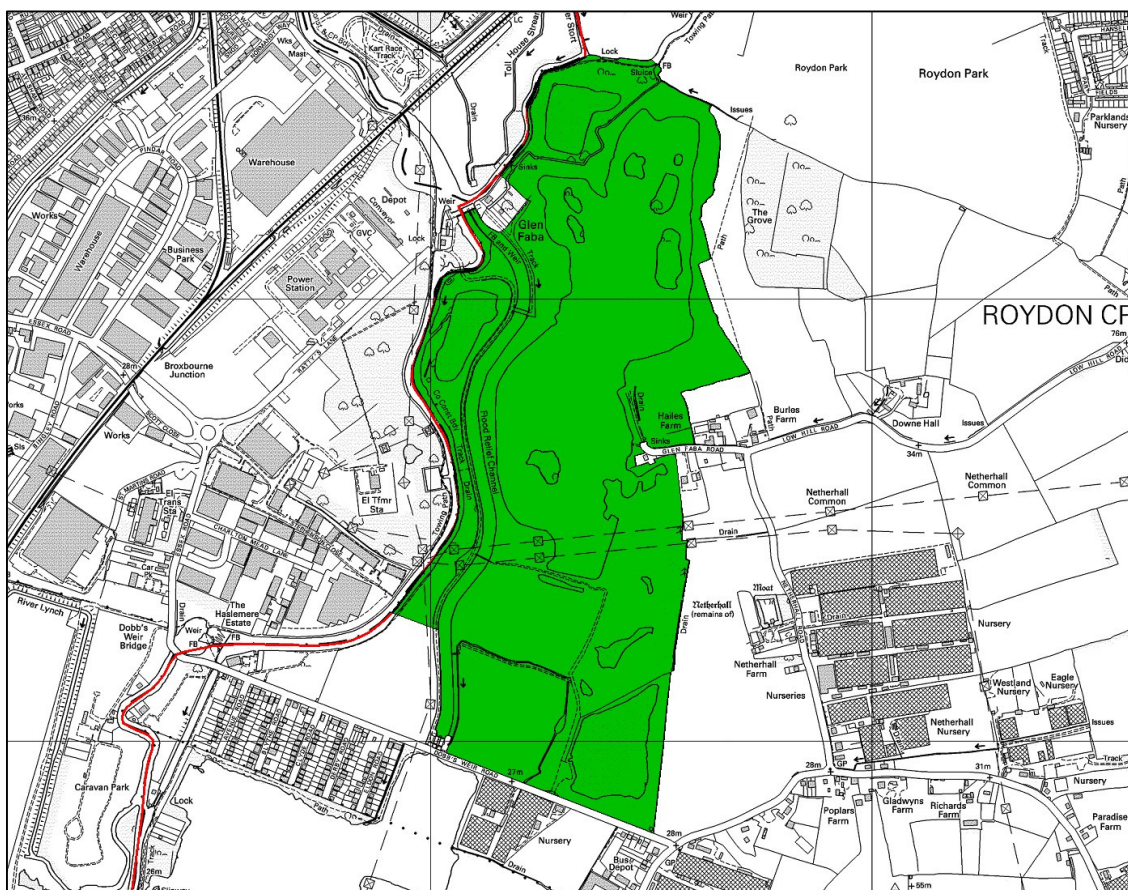
#### **Rationale**

The flora and physical characteristics of this site suggest that it is ancient woodland. Whilst small, it is one of a cluster of old/ancient woods on the western flanks of Epping Forest.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep14 Lee Valley North (63 .6 ha) TL 393086**

This Site is at the northern end of a series of important wildlife sites, including SSSIs and other LoWS, including a complementary series of sites within Hertfordshire, immediately to the west. The main feature of interest within this complex is the series of lakes, which provide breeding and/or over-wintering grounds for a wide range of wildfowl and other wetland birds, with Kingfisher being a significant species along the valley complex as a whole. Aquatic habitats also support a diverse population of dragonflies and damselflies, other aquatic invertebrates and Water Voles.

Secondary habitats include areas of scrub and rough grassland, which add to the habitat diversity and help support an equally diverse range of birds, invertebrates and mammals,

#### **BAP Habitats**

Eutrophic Standing Waters (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-component mosaics

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

SC5 - Notable Bird Species

SC6 – Exceptional Populations of Common Bird Species

#### **Rationale**

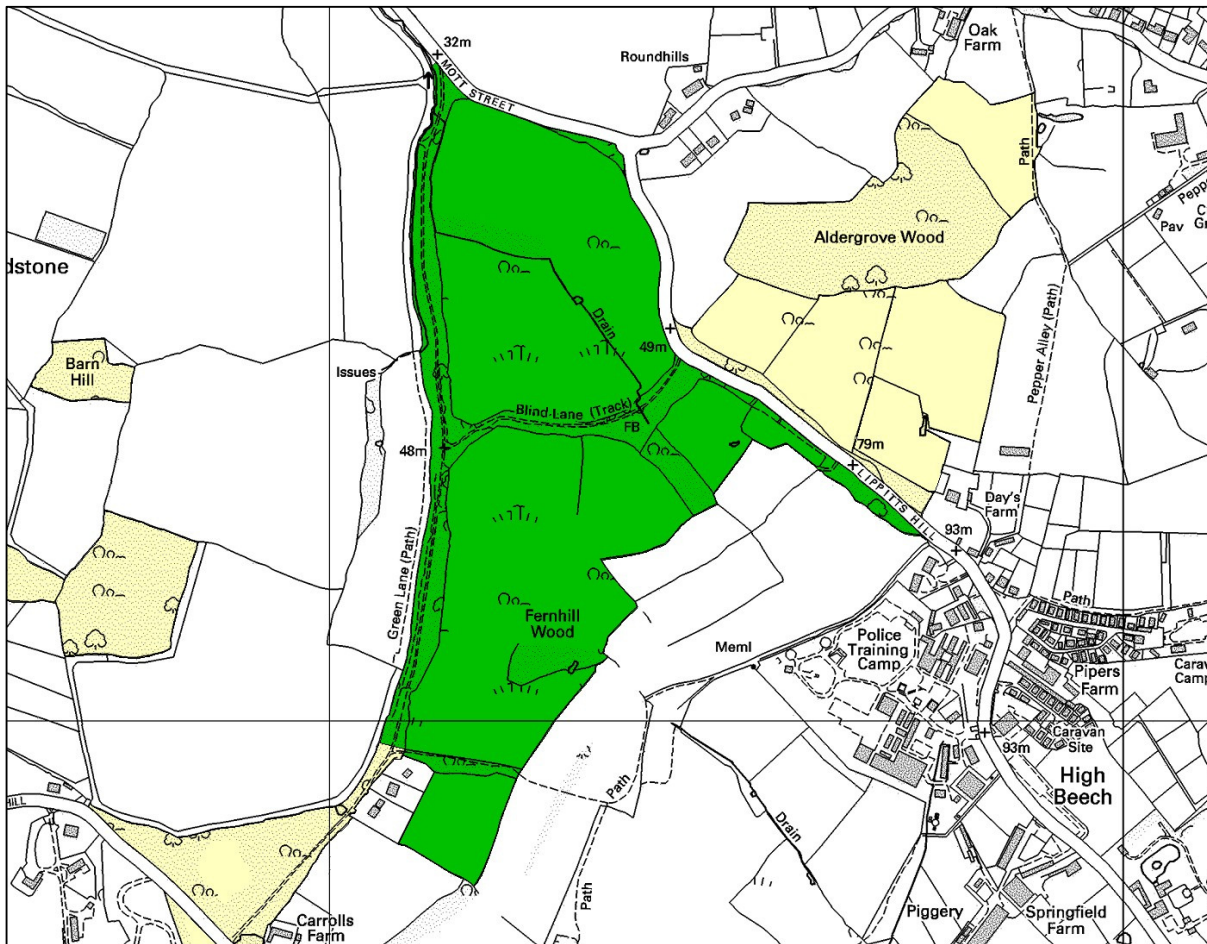
Large habitat complexes such as this could qualify for inclusion within the LoWS network under several criteria, including importance for its bird populations, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic mammals (Otters and Water Voles), wildlife corridor function and swamp communities.

The site is also a living landscape network through the Lee Valley and links with Lee Valley Central (Ep5) and Lee Valley South (Ep1).

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep15 Carroll's Farm Complex (26.7 ha) TQ393973

This site comprises ancient green lanes, two small blocks of ancient wood, old hillside grassland and an area of recent, but species-rich grassland. The ancient lanes and woods have a rich flora. The trees and shrubs include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) (including pollards within Fernhill Wood), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Rose (*Rosa* agg.), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*). The Nationally Scarce ant *Lasius brunneus* has been recorded from the large boundary oaks. The equally diverse ground flora comprises False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Wood Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*).

The old, cattle-grazed grassland surrounding Fernhill Wood has a very diverse flora that should help to support a wealth of invertebrates. Characteristic species include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Marsh Thistle (*C. palustre*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). Of particular

note are damp areas supporting Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

The two northernmost fields, known as “True Loves”, are recent grassland and herbage derived from former arable land. They have developed a curious vegetation in which an exotic Michaelmas Daisy (*Aster* sp.) is prominent, with patches of Bush-grass (*Calamagrostis epigejos*, an Essex Red Data List species) and Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*) amongst a sward of Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), vetches (*Vicia* spp.) and Buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.). A small population of Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) is of note. Developing scrub of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) add to the habitat diversity but should not be allowed to dominate the fields. Although a curious mix of introductions and natural regeneration, this vegetation should provide important foraging habitat for invertebrates, mammals and birds, particularly as it is closely associated with the older grasslands of Fernhill. Singing Grasshopper Warblers have been regularly heard from the True Loves fields in recent years and may have bred here. This is a scarce Essex visitor for which breeding is rarely confirmed.

### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows, Lowland Meadows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Species-rich Grasslands, Ancient Woodland, Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes (Essex)

### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes  
HC9 – Lowland Meadows  
HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands  
HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

### **Rationale**

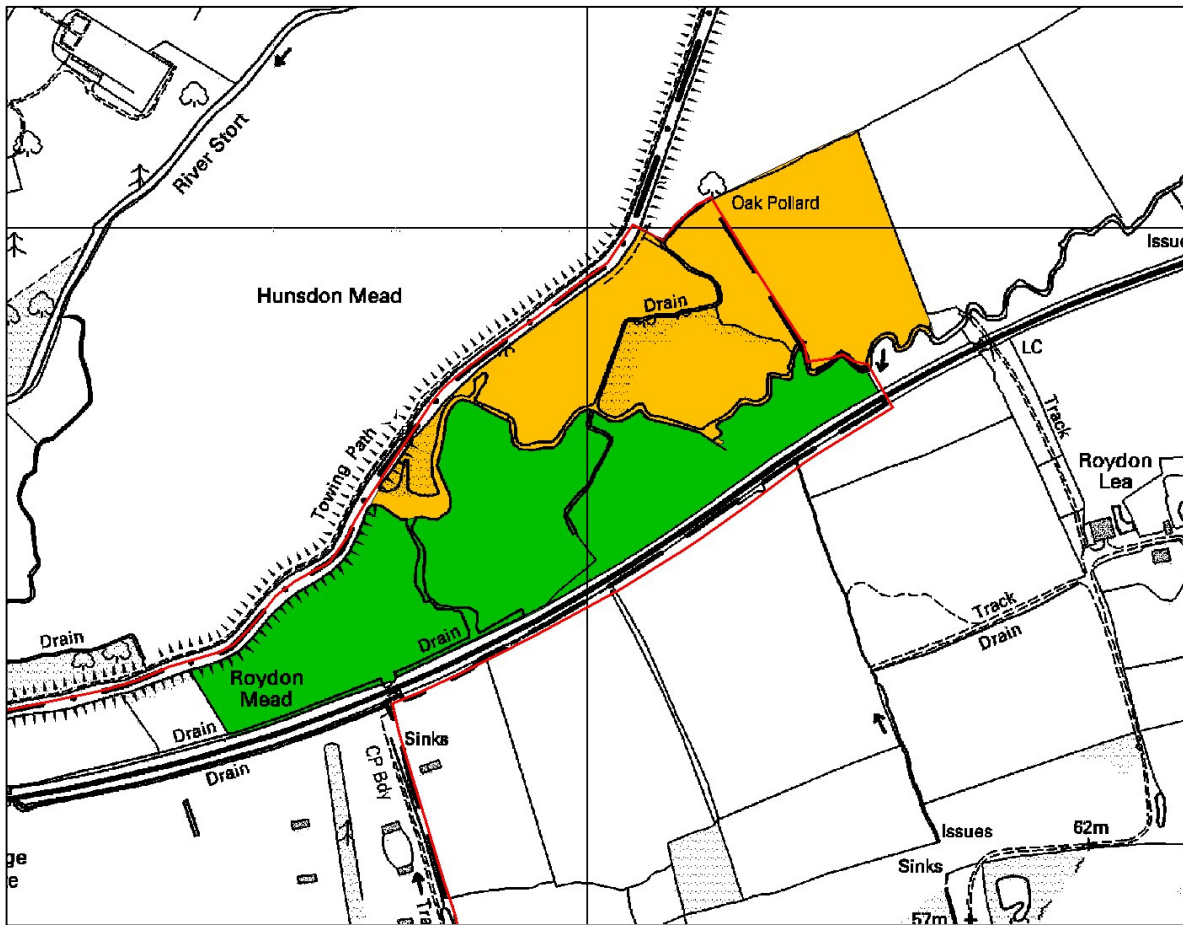
The areas of ancient woodland and hedged lanes plus old grasslands all have diverse and characteristic species assemblages. These are likely to support important invertebrate assemblages. Woodland along Lippitts Hill is effectively ancient habitat and provides ecological connectivity with other LoWS to the north. The “Trueloves” fields provide additional habitat for birds and invertebrates in intimate association with the ancient habitats to the south.

### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992 (Fernhill Wood and Blind Lane Complex)

**Reviewed:** 1998 (Grassland areas added)

2009 (Sites amalgamated, with “Trueloves” and Lippitts Hill woodland strip added)



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#### **Ep41 Roydon Mead (7.9 ha) TL 419106**

This group of damp meadows lies adjacent to the River Stort Navigation and is crossed by a number of ditches. The fields are not especially species-rich but do contain Meadow Brome (*Bromus commutatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) together with Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), an Essex Red Data List species. The ditches provide additional botanical interest and habitat value, with stands of reedy species and associated wetland herbs, including Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Blue Water-speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*). Parts of the site are subject to flooding. Wet, unimproved meadows of this type are rare in Essex.

The site lies adjacent to Hunsdon Mead SSSI.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK)  
Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC10 – River Floodplain

#### **Rationale**

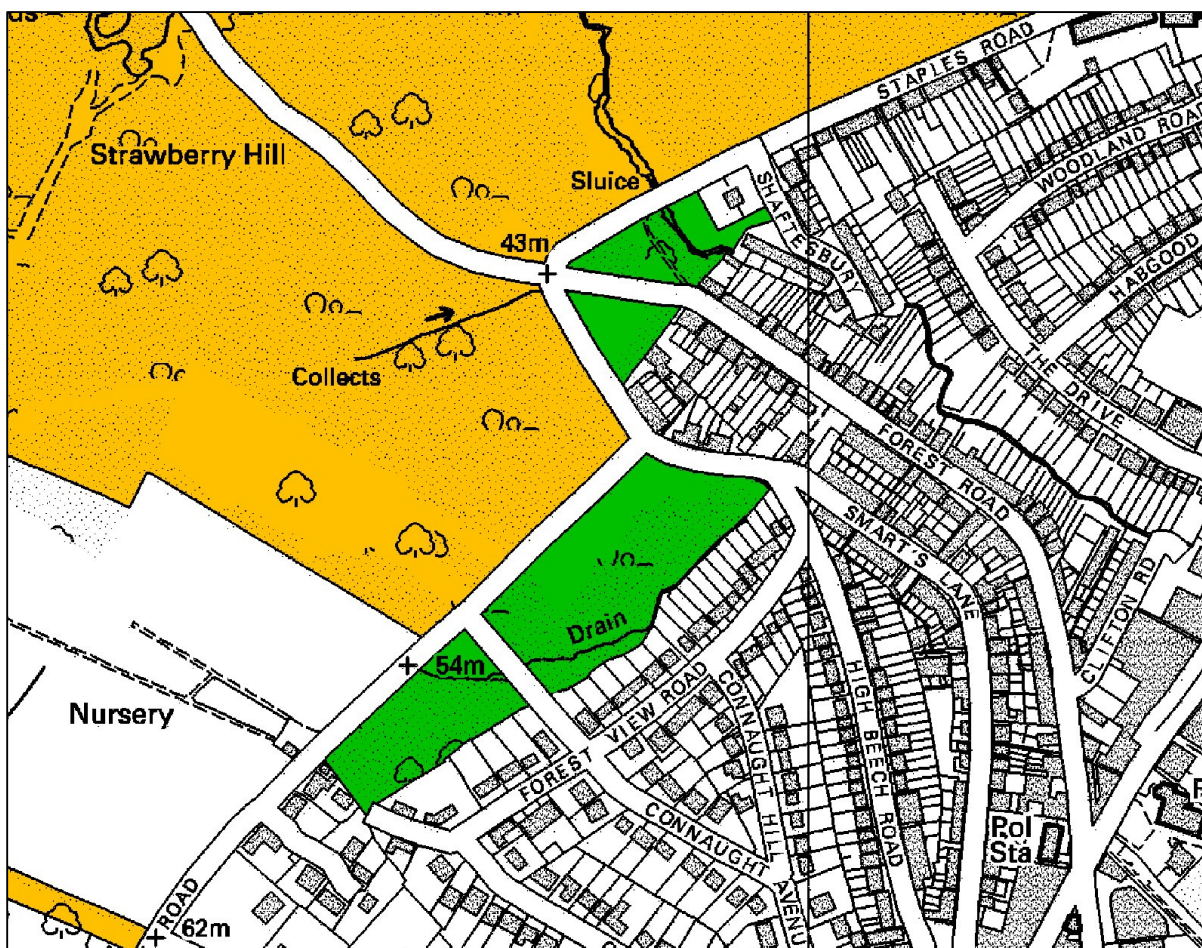
This is an area of floodplain grassland subject to seasonal inundation.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (northern section (4ha) removed following its inclusion within Hunsdon Mead SSSI)





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### Ep42 Loughton Woods (3.5 ha) TQ419964

These four sections are thought to be detached fragments of Epping Forest, not included within the SSSI or Ancient Woodland Inventory. At the south-western end, the canopy is of mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) over Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), whilst the adjoining section has a more diverse composition, which also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and Yew (*Taxus baccata*). As is often the case with former wood-pasture, the ground flora is rather sparse, with locally abundant Ivy (*Hedera helix*), but also includes Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). This section includes an area of damp grassland, which is not especially species-rich but does include the Essex Red Data List Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*), along with Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

The two northern sections of wood also comprise Hornbeam, including pollards, and Pedunculate Oak over Holly and Ivy. The ground flora is more diverse, including Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge, Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Creeping Soft-grass and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

#### BAP Habitats

Wood-pasture and Parkland/Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Woodland Pasture/Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

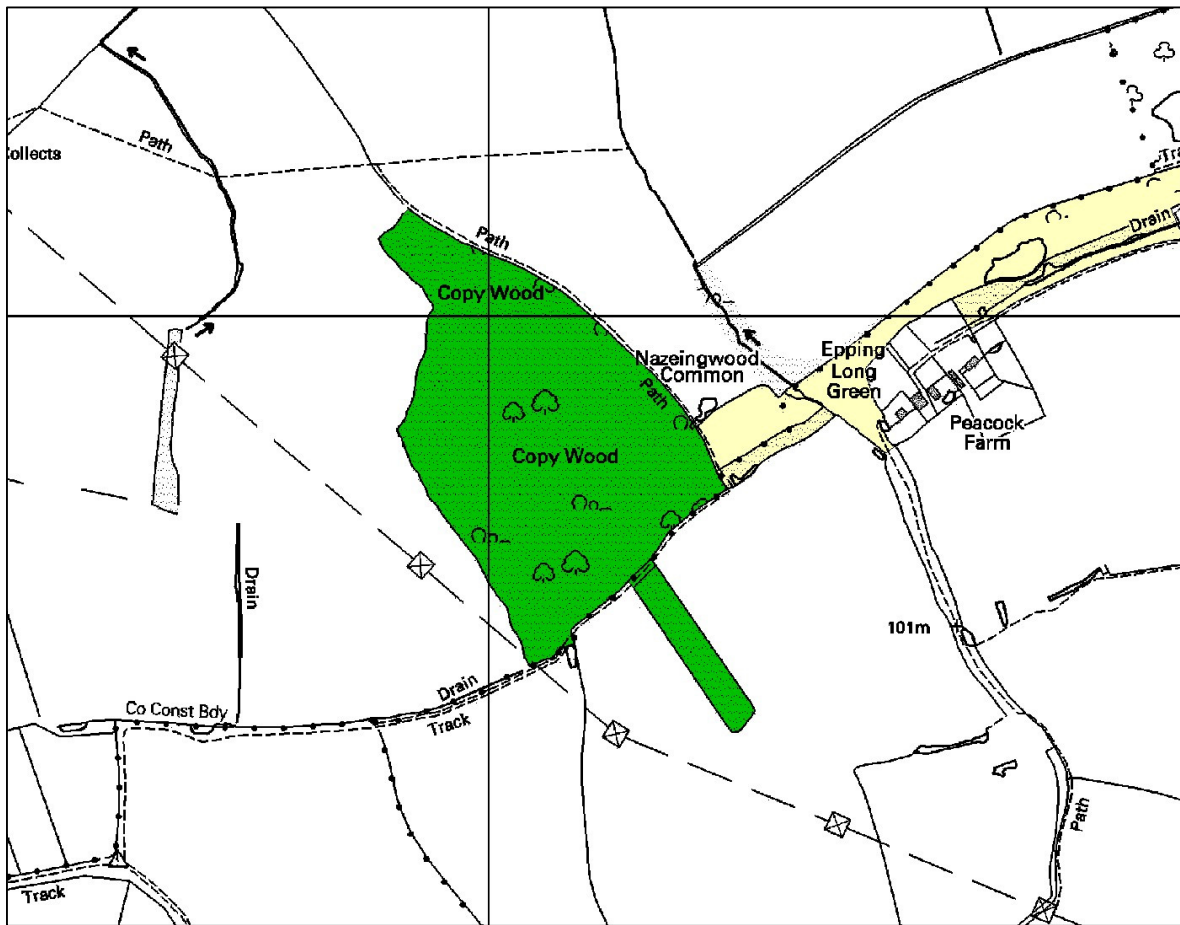
**Rationale**

These are ancient sites, regardless of whether viewed as fragments of former wood-pasture or as ancient woodland in its stricter sense. The small areas of grassland are included as complementary habitat, typical of wood-pasture “lawns”. The UK wood-pasture BAP includes sites no longer subjected to grazing pressure.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep43 Copy Wood (9.1 ha) TL 421048**

This ancient woodland comprises two distinct canopy types - Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards in the north and suckering English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) with Pedunculate Oak in the south. The south-western corner of the wood has a very sparse canopy, encouraging a richer understorey and ground flora. Ancient woodland species include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

This site lies at the western end of a wildlife corridor formed by two green lane LoWS (Epping Long Green West (Ep55) and Epping Long Green East (Ep67)). This corridor runs along the Galleyhill Ridge.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

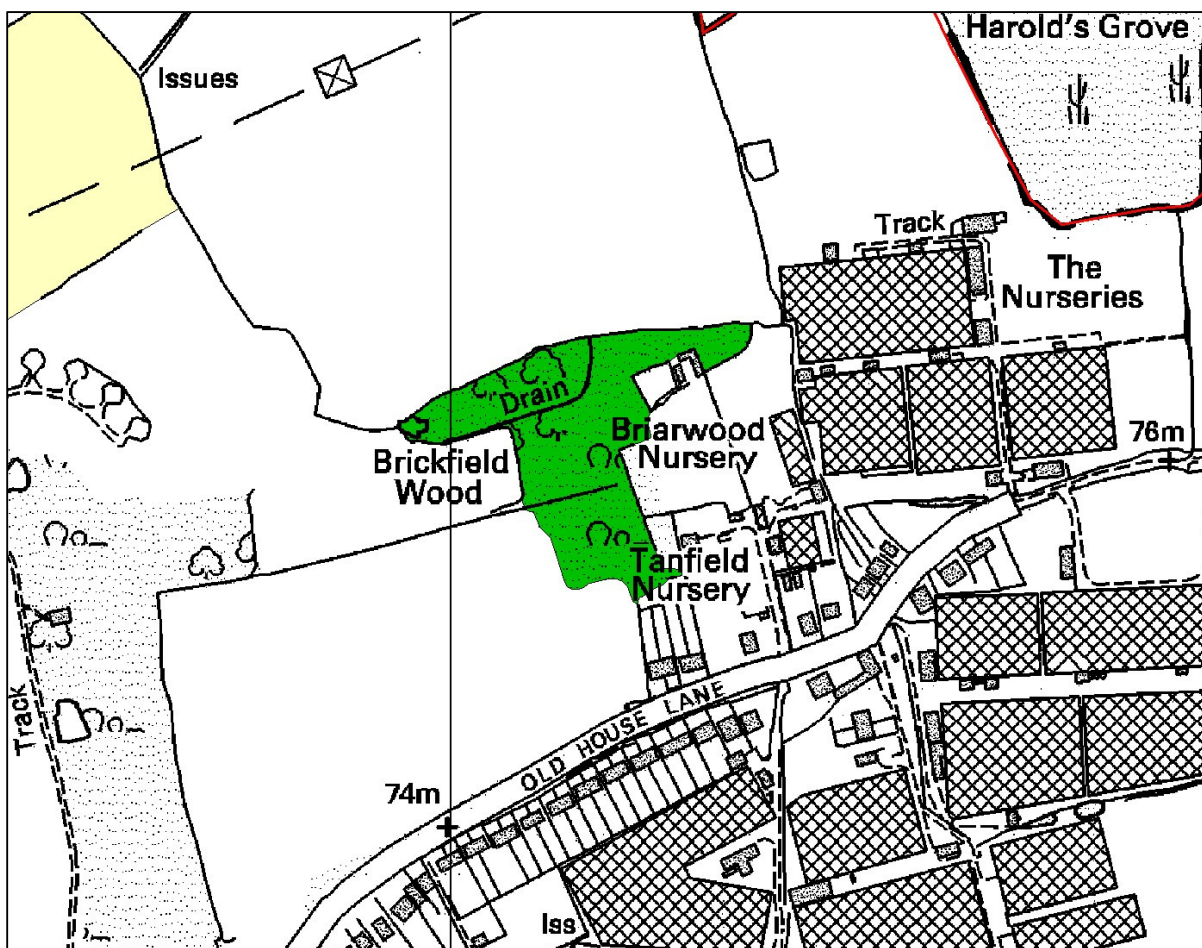
#### **Rationale**

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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#### **Ep44 Brickfields Wood (1.5 ha) TL 421087**

The woodland canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with both coppiced and uncoppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The sparse understorey consists of occasional Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora is not species-rich, but includes locally abundant Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). There is a large amount of fallen dead wood habitat.

The site has added significance in that it lies in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the district.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

If proven to be ancient woodland, the corresponding Essex BAP applies.

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

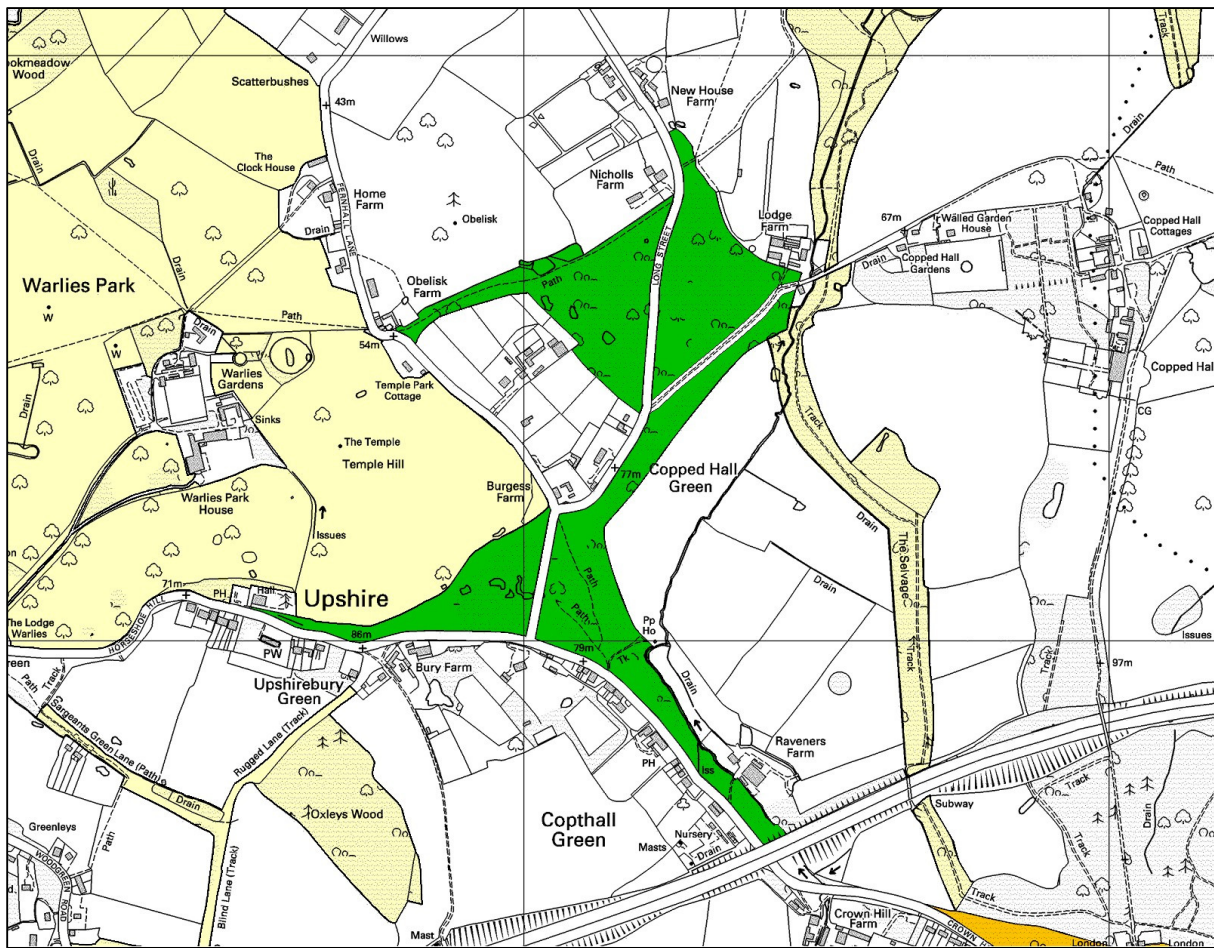
#### **Rationale**

The HC1 ancient woodland criterion might apply to part of this site. It would, in any case, be too small to be illustrated on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, but the site fully qualifies under criterion HC2.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (extended at southern end).



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### Ep45 Copped Hall Green (21.4 ha) TL 422016

Copped Hall Green is a large mosaic of woodland, plantation, grassland and ponds. It includes Copped Hall Green itself, woods and grassland near Copthall Green and other woods close to Lodge and Nichols Farms. The woodland mainly comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice and an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is locally dominant over a species-poor ground flora with frequent Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). There is a large amount of dead wood habitat on the woodland floor.

The grassland is generally characterised by neutral soil species, with some damper areas supporting Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Coarse grasses such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) are dominant. Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) has been recorded.

This site lies adjacent to several other LoWS and provides a link between them. These are Warlies Park (Ep30), Oxleys Wood Complex (Ep32), Rookery Wood (Ep46) and The Selva (Ep47).

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

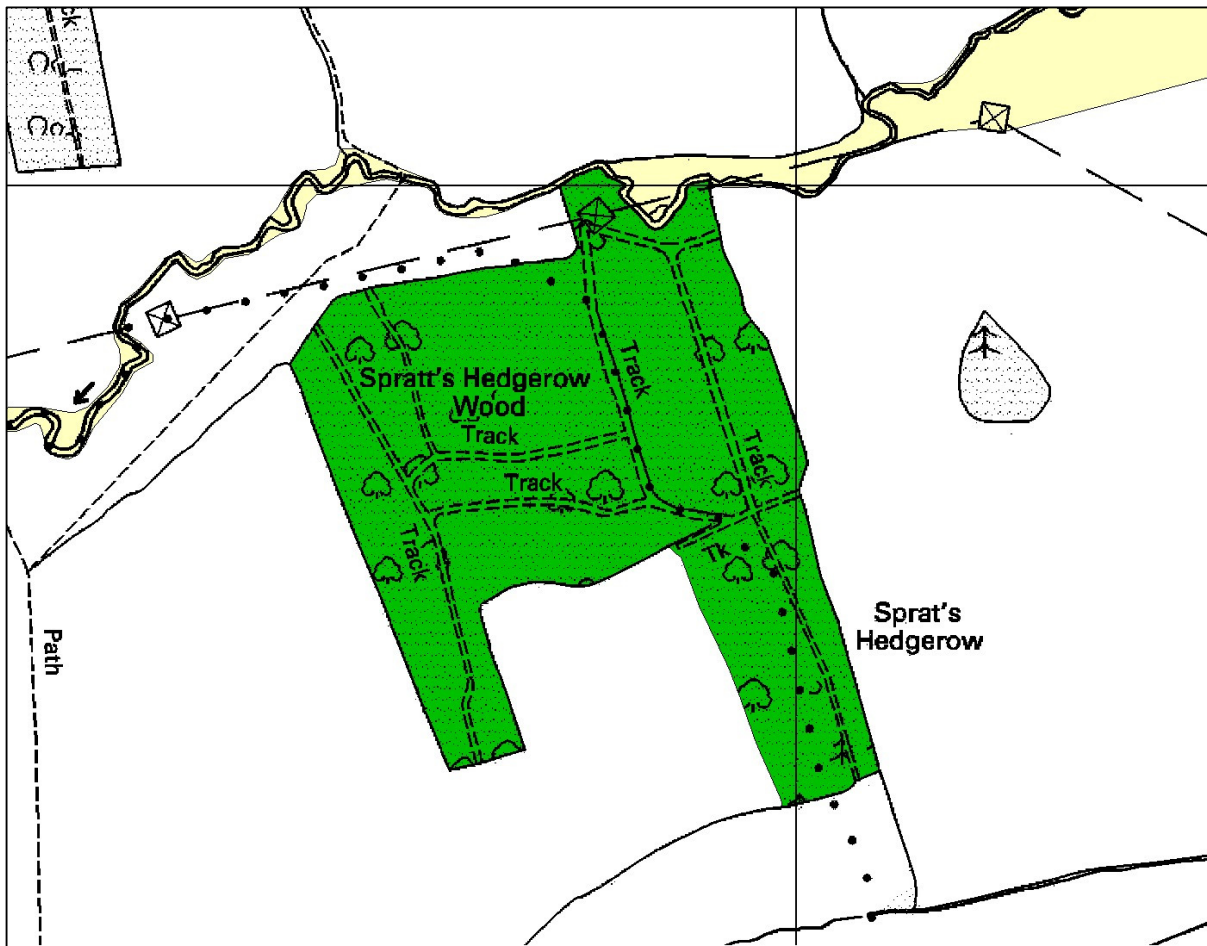
**Rationale**

The woodland areas fall within the remit of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland UK BAP. The grassland areas are likely to be long established grassland, having existed continuously over an extended period as part of Copped Hall Green. The wildlife corridor function of this Site should also be noted.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep51 Spratt's Hedgerow Wood/Sprat's Hedgerow (10.4 ha) TL 428028

Spratt's Hedgerow Wood is an ancient wood, consisting predominantly of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and little understorey aside from the Hazel. Areas of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Hornbeam coppice have a better understorey including Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora is species-poor but includes abundant Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). There is a network of grassy woodland rides and a large amount of fallen dead wood. To the south-east, Sprat's Hedgerow forms a narrow limb of woodland, now largely replanted with Poplars (*Populus* sp.) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). In the north-east corner, an area of recent woodland provides connectivity with the Cobbin's Brook LoWS.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. Being largely ancient woodland, this site is particularly significant among the group of sites.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

**Rationale**

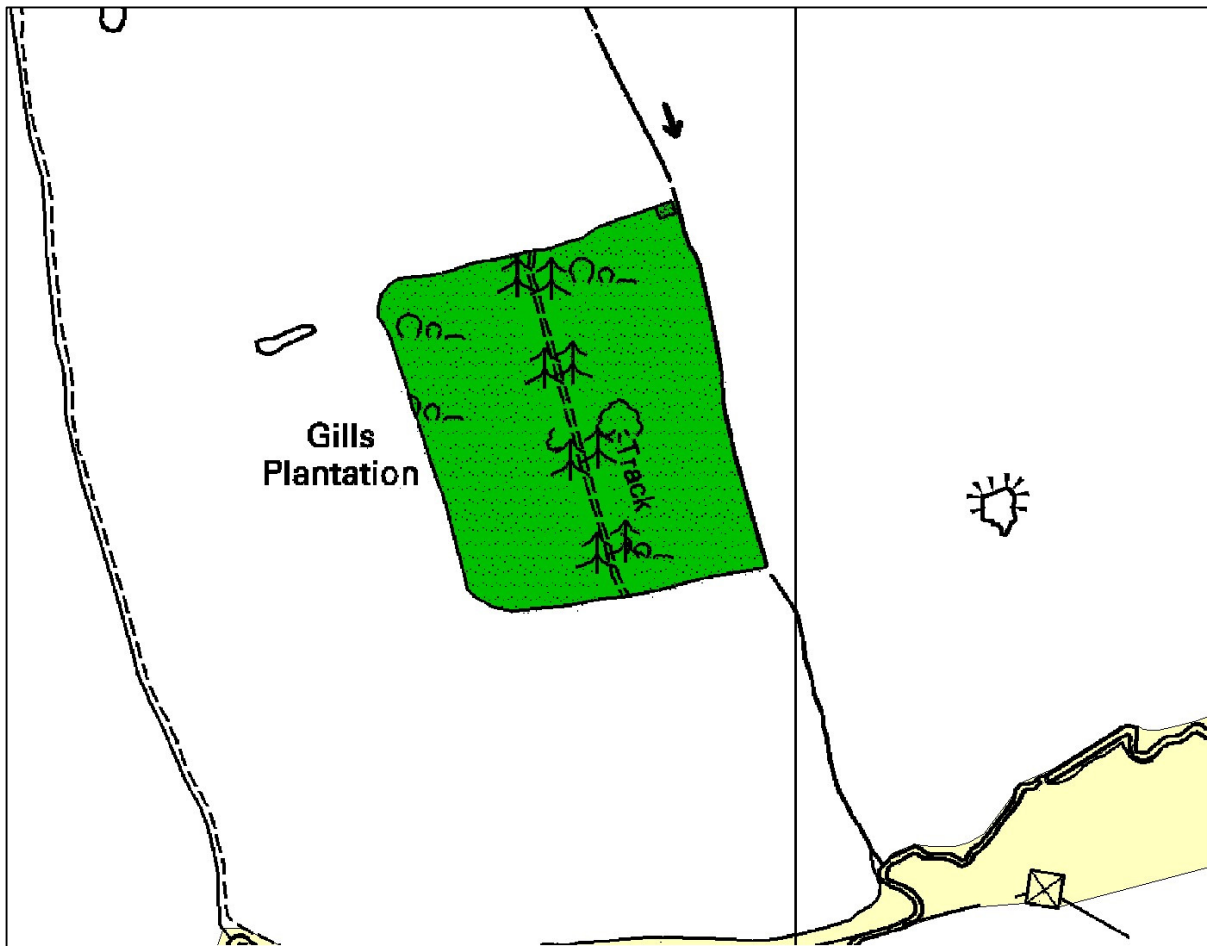
The majority of this woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (with the exception of part of its south-eastern arm and the north-eastern corner). Non-ancient parts of the site provide integral habitat extensions and connectivity with adjacent LoWS.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### **Ep52 Gills Plantation (3.9 ha) TL 428033**

Gills Plantation contains a very high frequency of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). A grassy ride running north-south through the centre of the wood is lined by Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). The ground flora is species-poor and its extent is limited by the dense shading beneath the Hazel coppice. This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

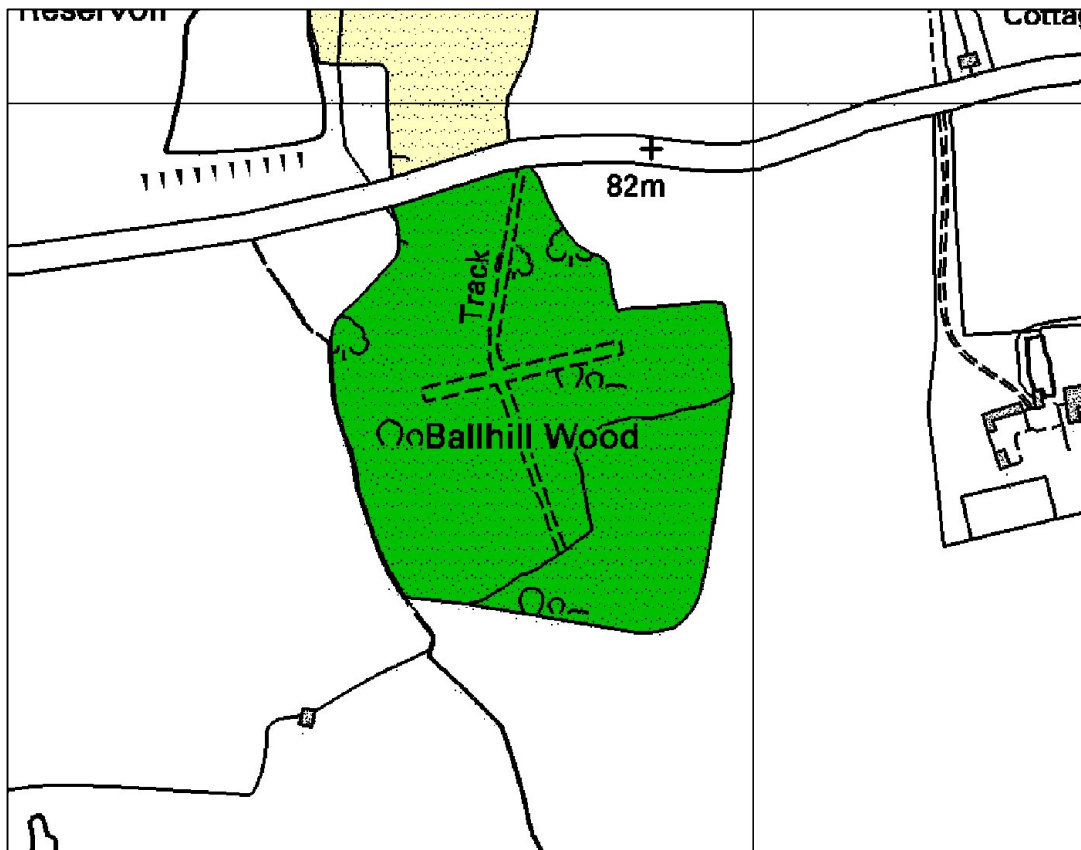
#### **Rationale**

This wood conforms to the W8 NVC woodland type, covered by the UK Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland BAP.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep53 Ballhill Wood (4.54 ha) TL 429038**

This ancient woodland site consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. It lies directly south of Nabhill Grove (Ep54) and contains a greater density of coppice stools than its northern counterpart. It also contains some fine mature oak specimens. The western side of the wood is planted with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Larch (*Larix decidua*), whereas the eastern part has more Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The understorey is limited to small localised areas of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ancient woodland indicators Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) occur in the ground flora.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. Being ancient woodland, this site is particularly significant among the group of sites.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland

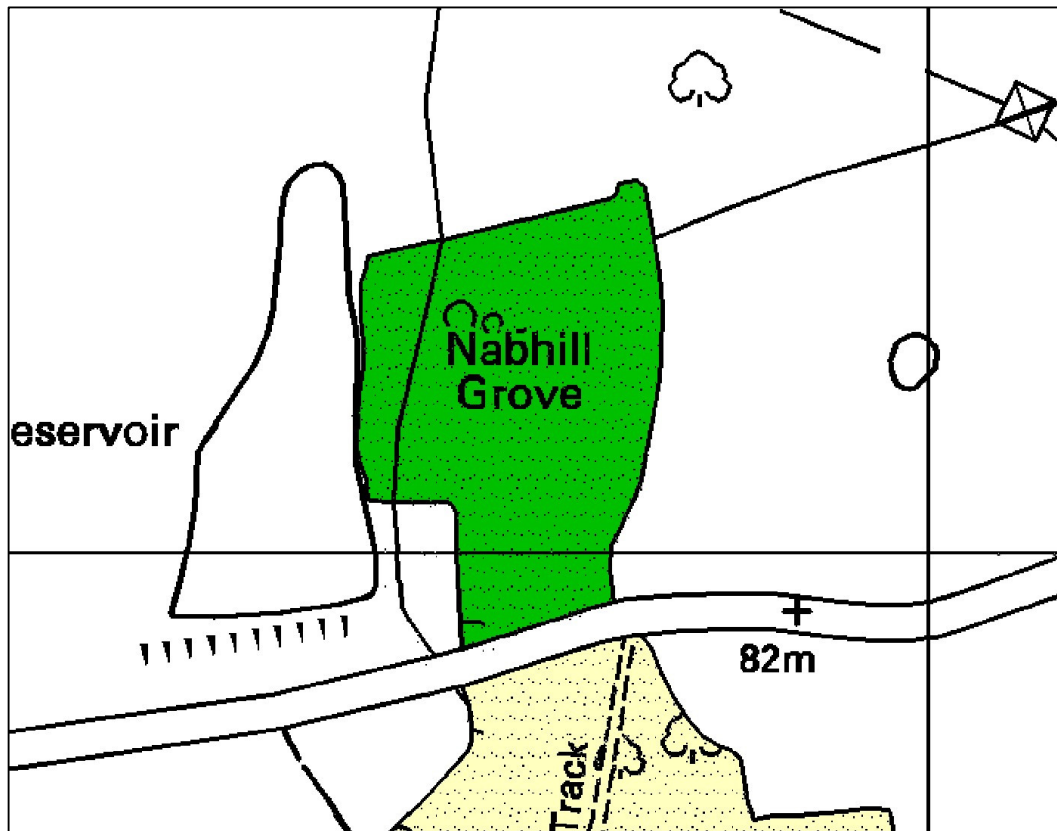
#### **Rationale**

This wood appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has indicator species present within the flora.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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#### **Ep54 Nabhill Grove (2.04 ha) TL 428041**

This is ancient oak woodland with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice in the process of being invaded by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There are some stands of fine mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) in the west, while the east side is largely occupied by Sycamore and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Throughout the wood, there is little or no understorey aside from young Sycamore. The ground flora is largely dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), but also includes the indicators Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The wood is bounded by massive earthbanks.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. Being ancient woodland, this site is particularly significant among the group of sites.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

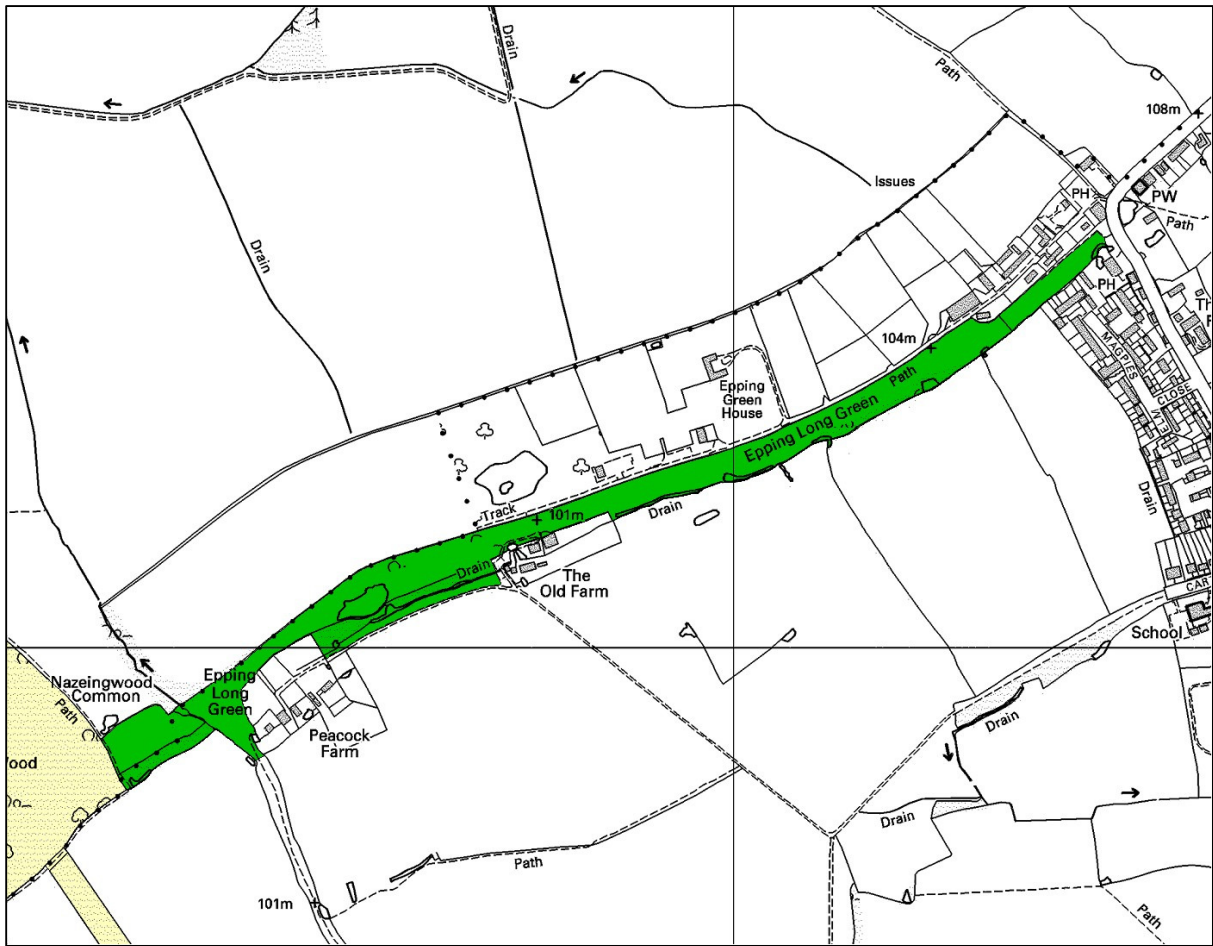
#### **Rationale**

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has several ancient woodland indicator species. The large earthbanks are another indication of its antiquity.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep55 Epping Long Green West (6.3 ha) TL 432053

The core of this site is an ancient green lane consisting of a footpath and broad strip of grassland bordered on both sides by ancient hedgerows, with several ponds. Typical species include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), in addition to coarser grasses. Unusually, Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*) has been recorded for this site, a plant normally found in coastal grasslands in Essex. The lane is lined by outgrown hedges consisting of thorny species and trees, the latter including Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*). The ponds are populated by Flote-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) and other wetland species. A meadow at the western end of the Site (which is not part of the Forest land as is the rest of the lane) is relatively species-rich and includes Sweet Vernal-grass, Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*).

The site links Epping Long Green East (Ep67) with Copy Wood (Ep43), these three LoWS forming a wildlife corridor along Galleyhill Ridge, lying parallel to that of Cobbin's Brook (Ep48), which lies approximately two kilometres to the south.

#### BAP Habitats

Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

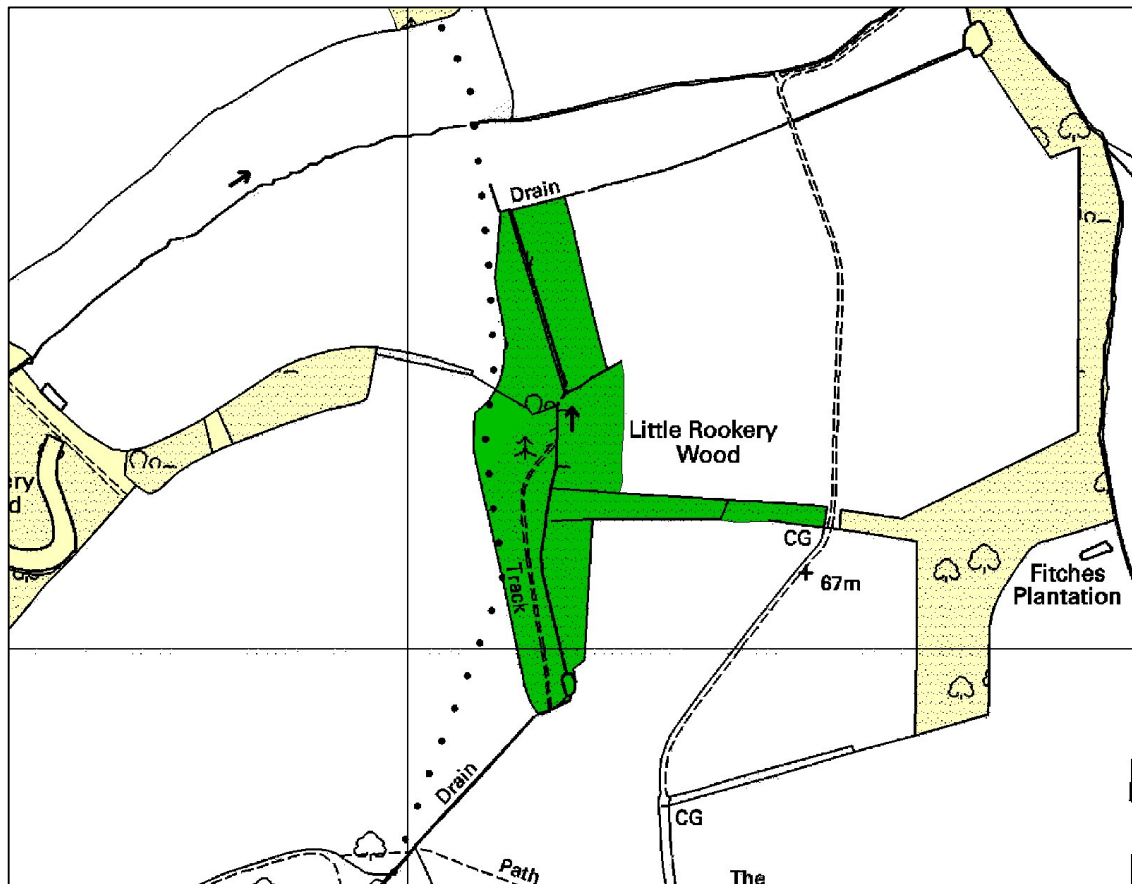
**Rationale**

The site provides habitat connectivity between adjacent LoWS. Epping Long Green is part of the Forest land connected with Epping Forest itself and is an ancient feature.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep56 Little Rookery Wood (3.97 ha) TL 431022

Little Rookery Wood is Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland with its canopy trees more or less closely spaced, the woodland canopy being most dense in the south. The central part supports a small area of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. The site has a patchy understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) (the latter locally dominant) are present among a more or less sparse ground flora. There is some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in the north and much young Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Several grassy rides run through the wood. The more open eastern arm of the wood includes larger oaks with a scrubby understorey and a ground flora dominated by grasses.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

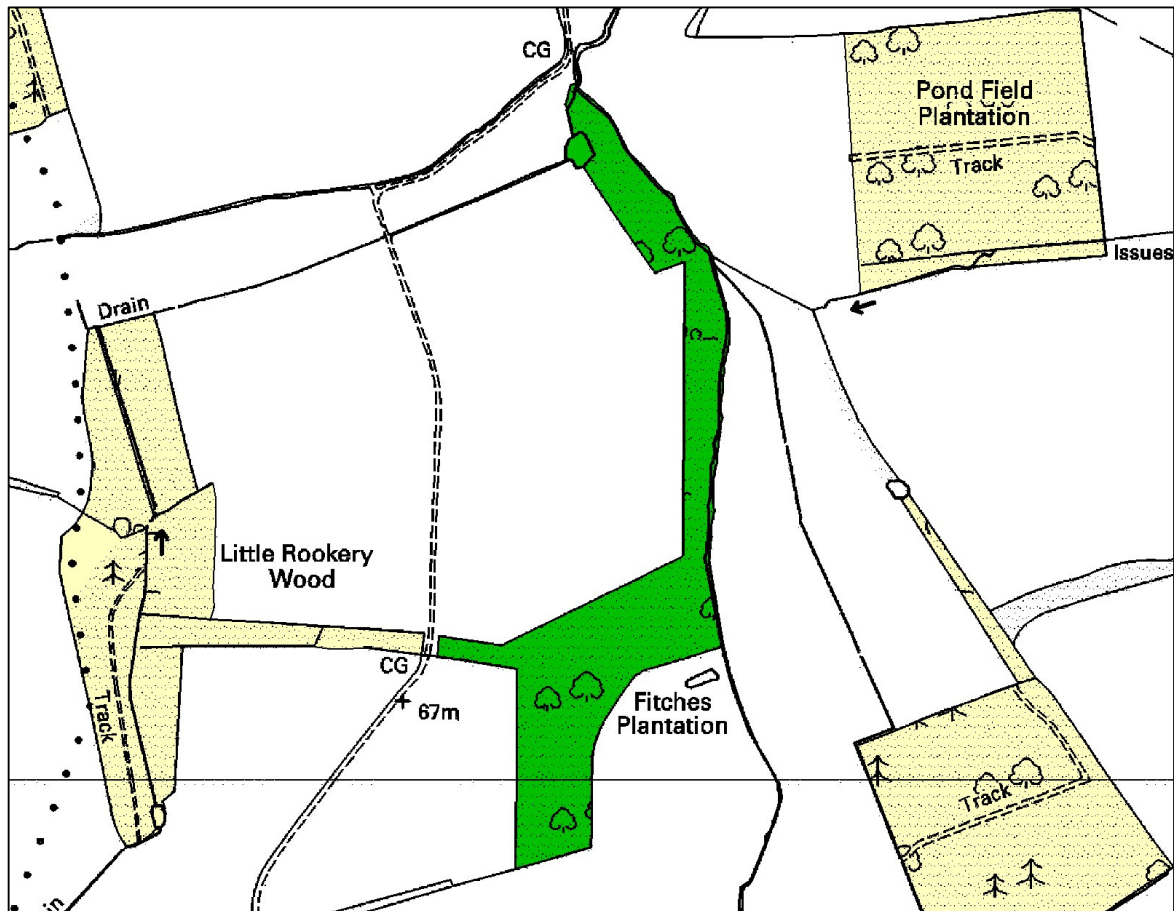
#### Rationale

This woodland type falls within the scope of the UK BAP for Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep57 Fitches Plantation (3.7 ha) TL 434022**

This site consists of a block of woodland with a linear strip of woodland running away to the north. The vertical structure is unusually good for a modern British woodland, with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) dominant over an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elm (*Ulmus* species), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and young Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The ground flora is sparse and species-poor, being largely dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), with Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) very locally dominant. There is a small pond at the northern end of the site.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

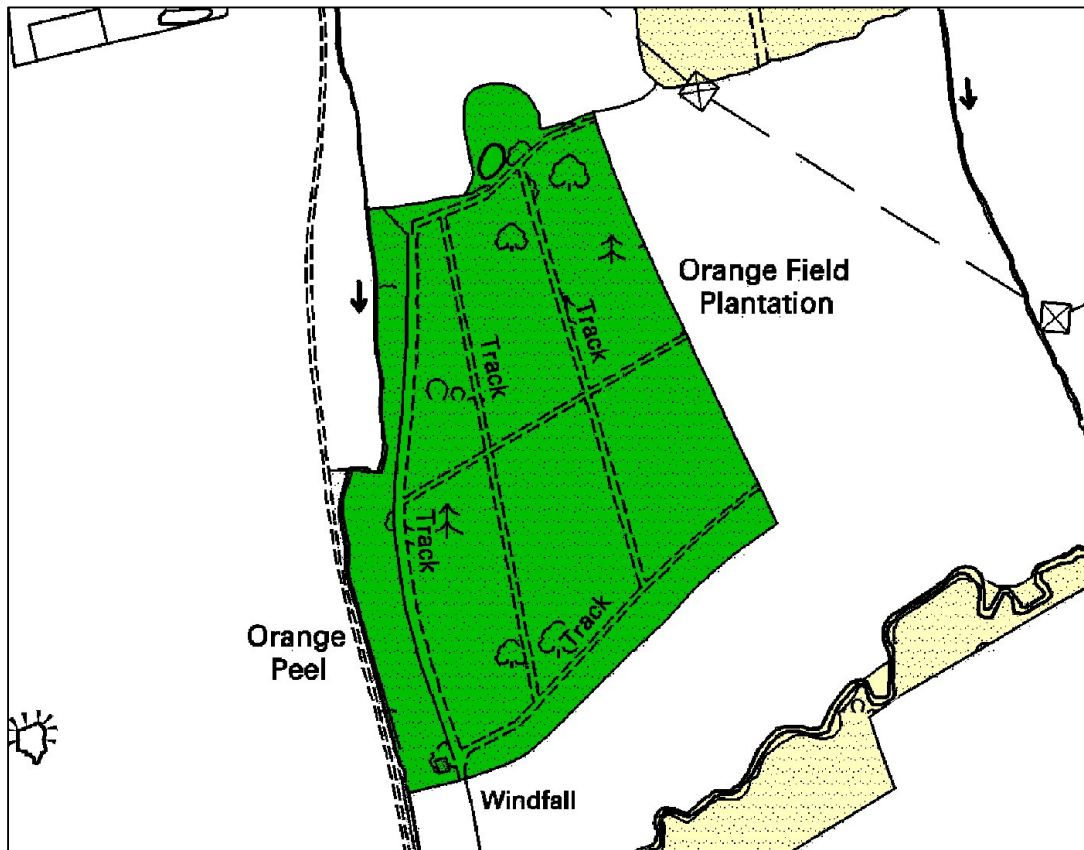
#### **Rationale**

This woodland type falls within the scope of the UK BAP Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland habitat.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### Ep58 Orange Field Plantation/Orange Peel (9.0 ha) TL 435035

Orange Field Plantation is a varied woodland site. It includes an even-aged plantation of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) with no understorey and a ground layer dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Some more open areas, including some fine mature oaks, have a well developed understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) with Bramble and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) below. Elsewhere is a shady Oak woodland with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and an area of planted poplars (*Populus* sp.) at the northern end. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Larch (*Larix decidua*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) are also present. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) occur in the species-poor ground flora. A number of grassy rides divide the wood into nearly equal compartments and there is a small pond within the northern edge of the wood. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood. Orange Peel is an adjoining piece of open wood comprising Pedunculate Oak over a grassy ground layer.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK).

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites.



**Rationale**

The majority of the site falls within the W8 Ash-Field Maple NVC woodland type that is included within the UK BAP habitat listed above. The remainder of the woodland has been included in the LoWS as supporting habitat.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep59 Barnaby Way Wood (1.8 ha) TQ435932**

This small, partly ancient strip of woodland is also of some geomorphological interest in terms of the steep stream gully it occupies. Its urban location also makes it an ideal site for community involvement and environmental learning. The ancient canopy comprises some large Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), including pollards, along with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). Invasion by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) should be tackled before it takes over the whole wood.

The ground flora is diverse and includes several ancient woodland indicators. Typical species include Hedge Garlic (*Alliaria petiolata*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Fringes of mown grassland around the perimeter could be managed to improve the woodland edge with some scrub planting.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC31 – Urban Sites

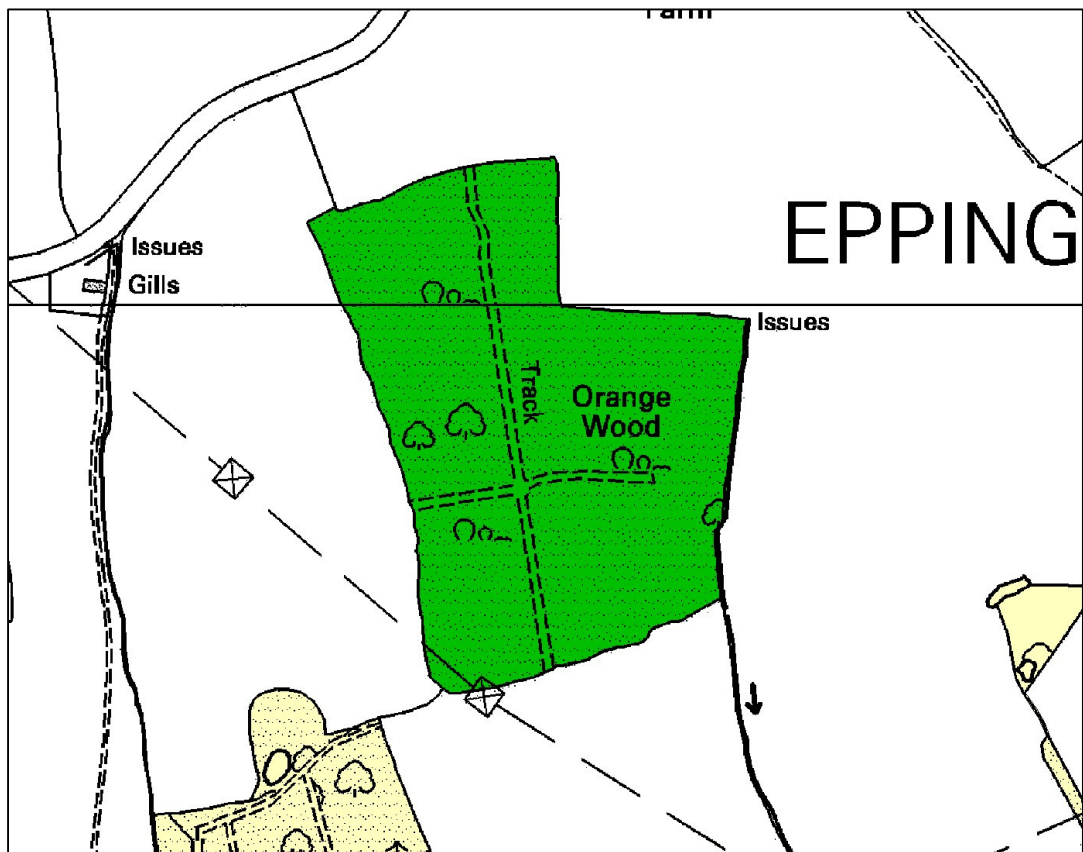
**Rationale**

The role of this site as an urban woodland is probably of greater importance than its status as a strip of ancient woodland. It has great potential for community involvement and environmental education on a small scale.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep60 Orange Wood (7.0 ha) TL 436039**

This site is Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland with a low density of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. There is Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) throughout, including a large number of young plants, together with mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). There is little understorey and the ground layer is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and leaf litter. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is present. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood. The site is split into compartments by grassy rides.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. Consisting partly of ancient woodland, this site is particularly significant among the group of sites.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

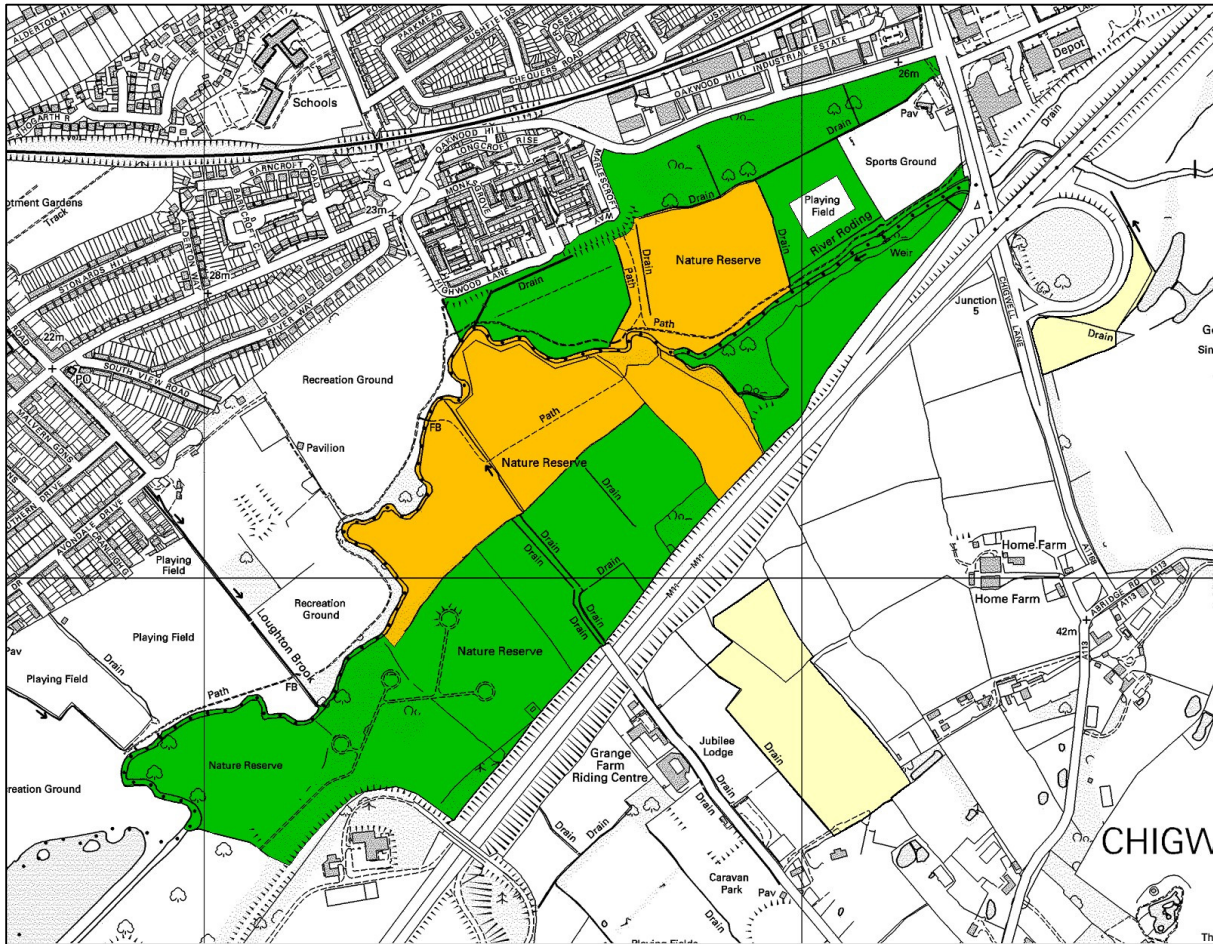
#### **Rationale**

The western section of this woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. It is considered likely that the whole site is ancient woodland.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep61 Roding Valley Meadows (44.2 ha) TQ437951**

The lower reaches of the River Roding at Loughton supports one of the largest intact stretches of species-rich river floodplain grassland in Essex. The core of this floodplain has been designated the Roding Valley Meadows SSSI and this Local Wildlife Site provides a significant extension to this nature conservation site, much of which is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve.

The grasslands include relatively dry meadows with much Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). Damper areas support Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), pond-sedges (*Carex* spp.), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

Hedgerows and scattered blocks of woodland and scrub add to the habitat diversity. Survey work in 2009 recorded the Nationally Scarce (Nb) White-letter Hairstreak butterfly on the reserve for the first time and also yielded the first Essex record for the small, nationally rare digger wasp *Crossocerus congener*. Both of these records came from the environs of the mature scrub woodland at the northern end of this LoWS.

### **BAP Habitats**

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fens, Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC10 – River Floodplain

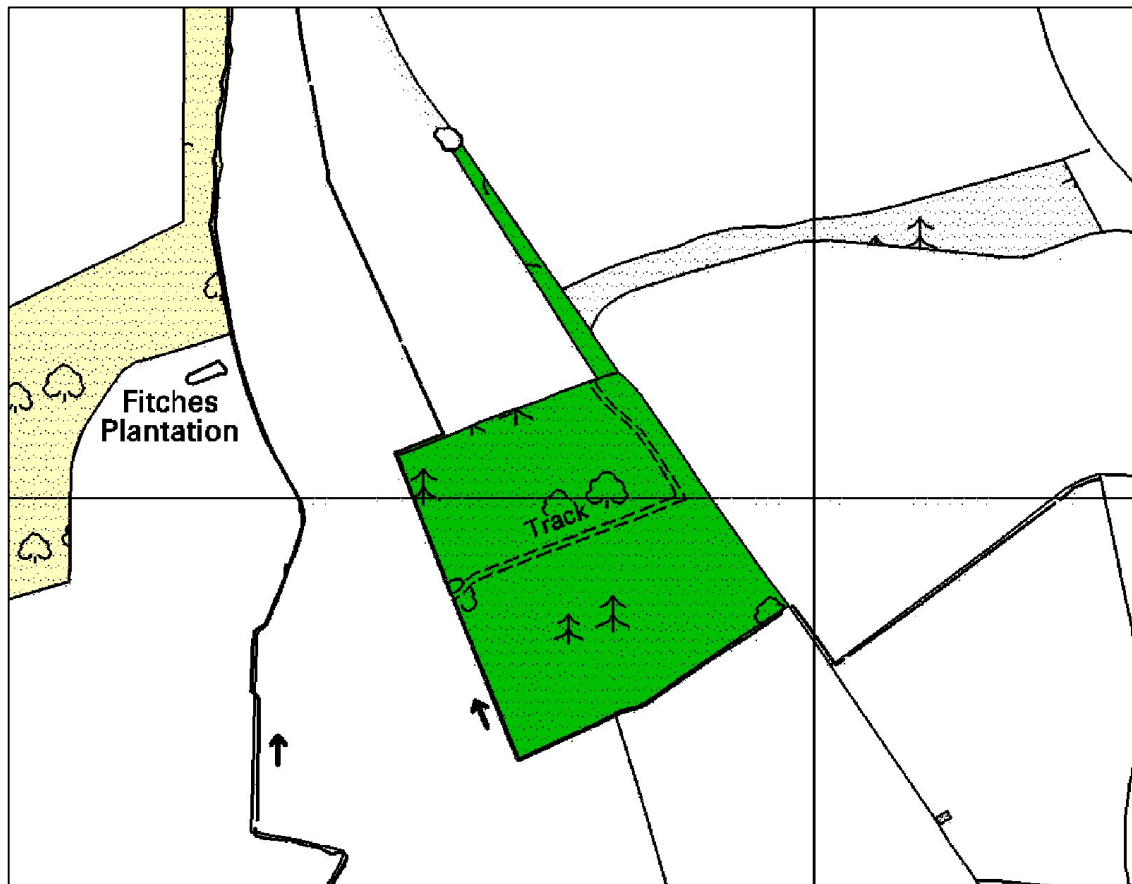
**Rationale**

The key feature of this site is the river floodplain grasslands and fen areas, whilst small blocks of woodland, hedgerows and other small-scale features add to the overall habitat diversity.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep62 Wood East of Fitches Plantation (4.2 ha) TL 438020**

This wood consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with some areas of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and some areas in which Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice forms a patchy understorey with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The vertical structure is unusually good for a modern British woodland. The site includes some open areas where mature canopy trees (mainly Ash) have died. There is some Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The ground flora is species-poor and sparse and largely dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). There is some fallen dead wood habitat. The northern arm of the site consists of a dense band of woodland with Pedunculate Oak and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) below.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

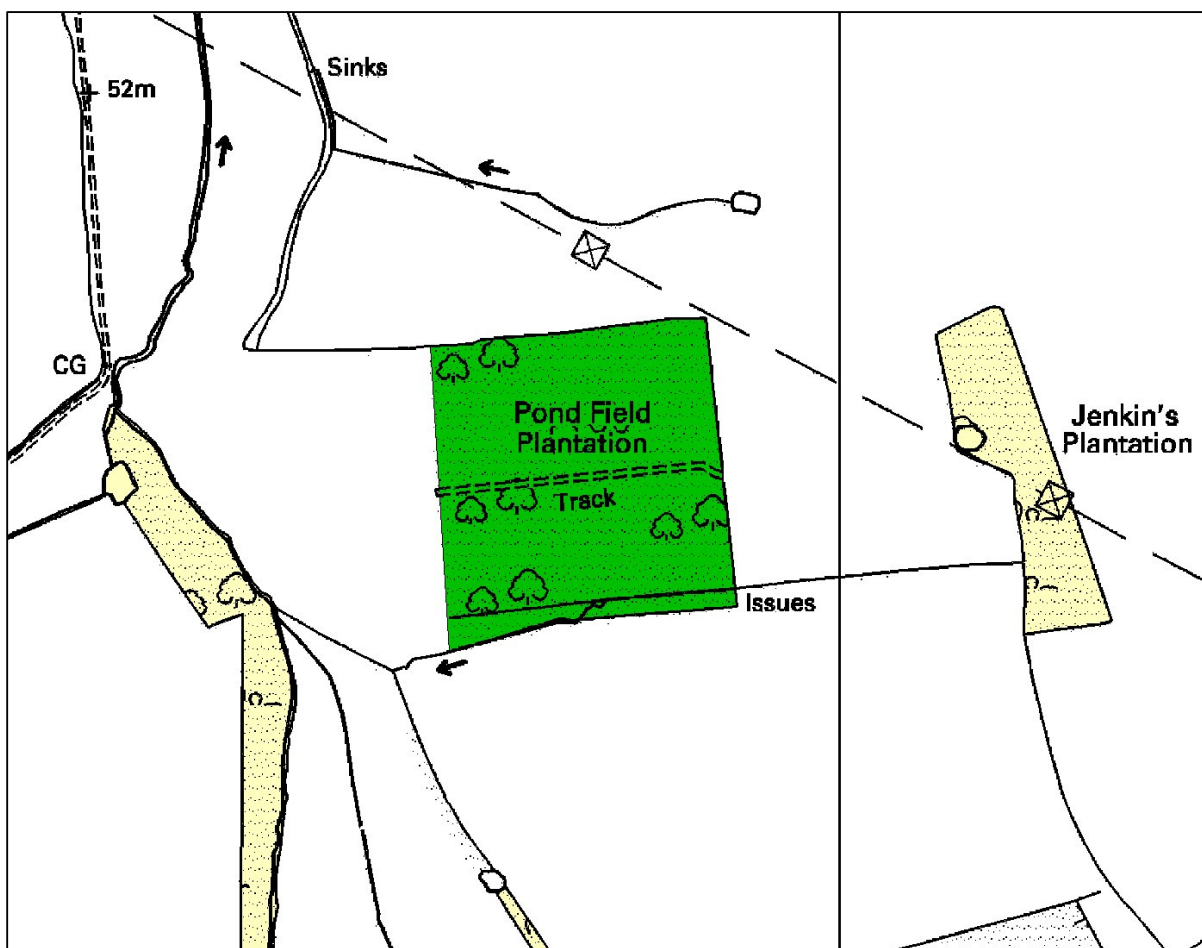
#### **Rationale**

This woodland falls within the W8 Ash-Field Maple NVC woodland type that is included within the UK BAP habitat listed above. This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep63 Pond Field Plantation (4.2 ha) TL 438025**

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) dominates the open woodland canopy, with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice below. There is good evidence of canopy regeneration, with numerous young Ash trees, but young Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is locally dominant. The ground flora is largely dominated by Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), reflecting the open nature of the tree canopy. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is present. This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

#### **Rationale**

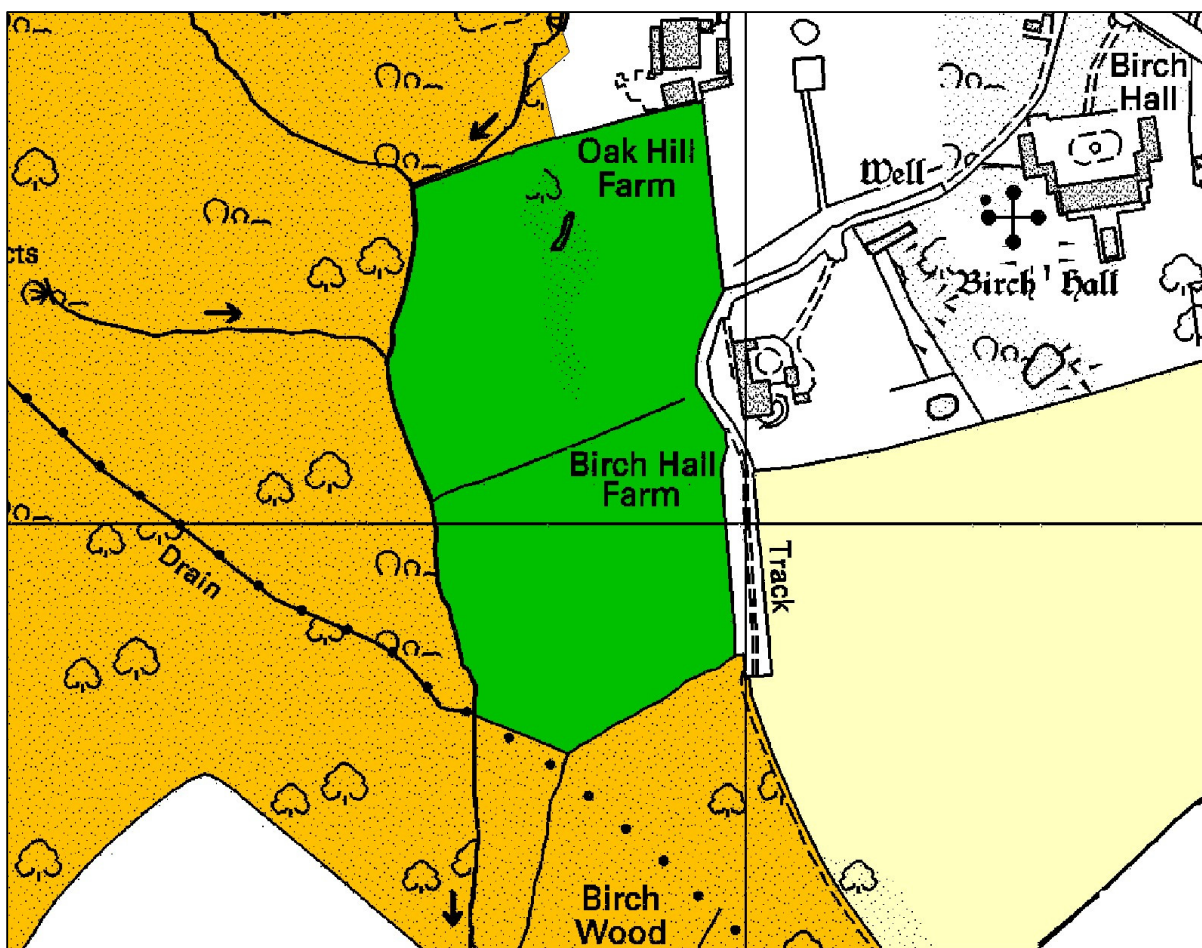
This woodland falls within the NVC W8 (*Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis*) type community covered by the UK BAP listed above.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -





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#### **Ep64 Birch Hall Pastures (6.2 ha) TQ438990**

These two pastures comprise dry to damp, species-rich unimproved grassland on the eastern flank of Epping Forest. The diverse grass sward comprises abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), with lesser amounts of Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Meadow Fescue (*Festuca pratensis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.). The equally diverse herb layer includes Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*L. pedunculatus*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). Large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) in the bounding hedgerows support populations of the Nationally Scarce ant *Lasius brunneus* and the invertebrate value of the whole site is likely to be high, with butterfly populations also significant. This site is likely to provide good foraging habitat for some dead wood invertebrates nesting within the two adjacent deer sanctuary LoWS Theydon Bois Deer Park East and West.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

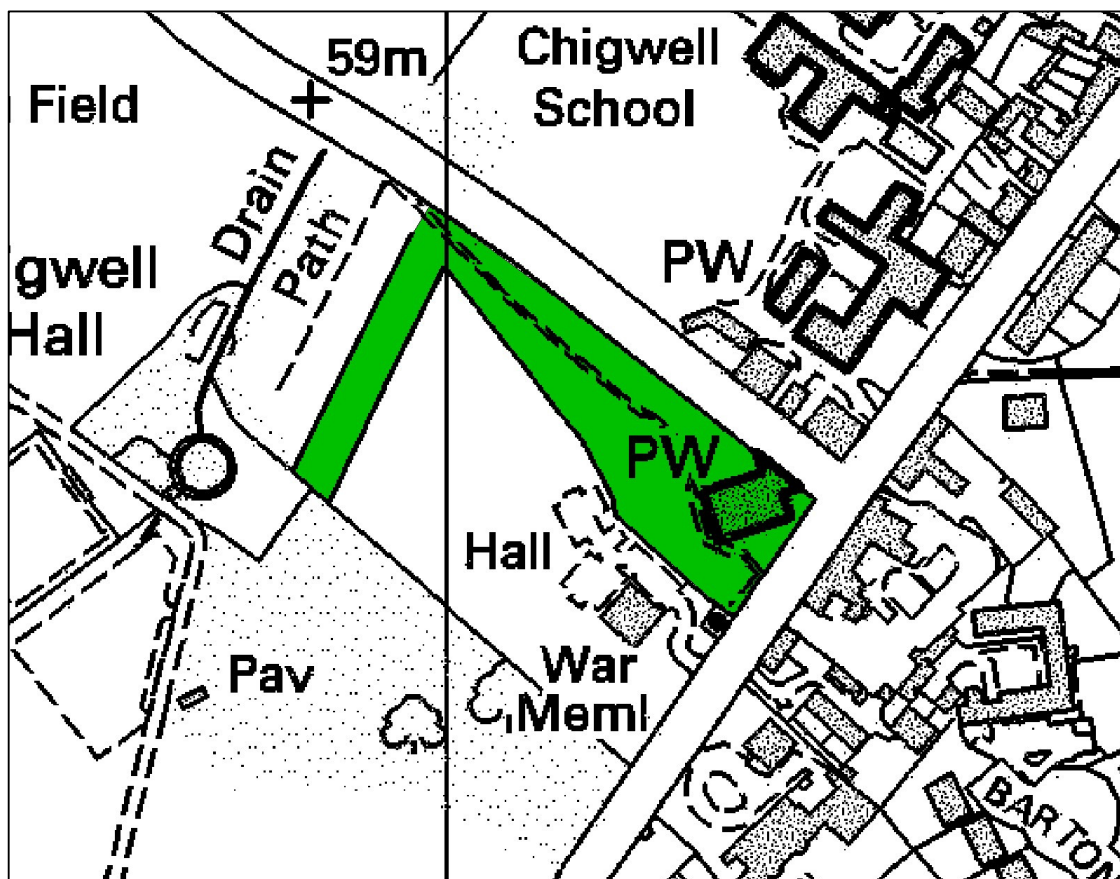
**Rationale**

Cuckooflower and Creeping Jenny are generally indicative of a lack of agricultural improvement, which in turn, is likely to indicate good invertebrate populations associated with the site.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep65 St. Mary's Churchyard, Chigwell (0.8 ha) TQ439938**

This urban churchyard retains areas of relatively unimproved dry acid grassland and other species-rich meadowland. Characteristic grasses include Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), with Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) also locally frequent. Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) occurs in damper areas, with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) also present. Dry, sparsely vegetated ground is of note for the large nesting aggregation of the Nationally Scarce (Na) solitary bee *Andrena fulvago* (an Essex Red Data List species).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)  
Heathland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands  
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

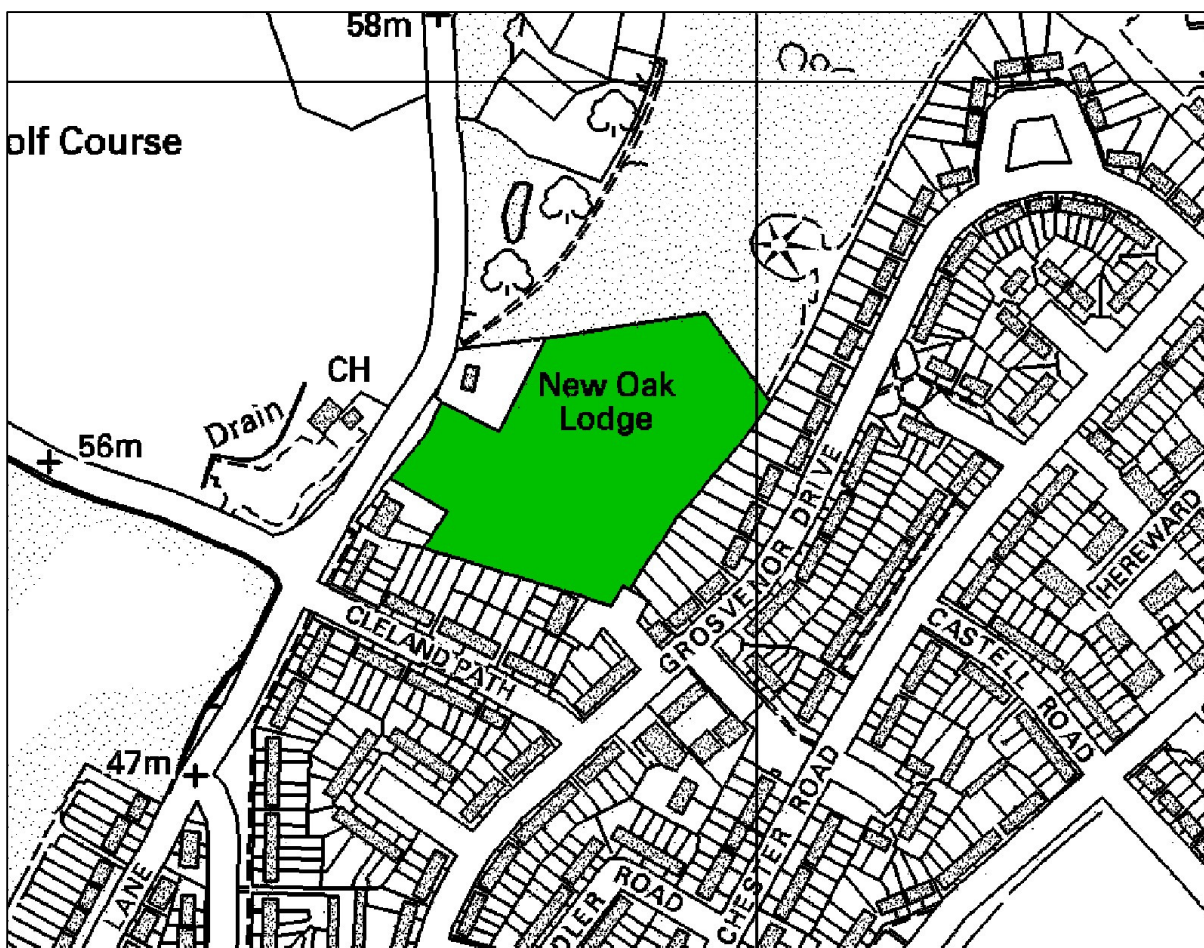
#### **Rationale**

The site supports a flora typical of largely unimproved, dry sandy and neutral soils.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (reduced in size)



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### **Ep66 Home Mead LNR (1.8 ha) TQ439978**

This is a small but very diverse Local Nature Reserve on the northern edge of Loughton, which provides a rich natural environment for local residents in an urban location. The woodland component has a varied canopy of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with an understorey of Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Woodland ground flora includes Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

A central grassy glade is equally diverse and is of note for a small population of Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and also Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*). Typical species include Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

HC31 – Urban Sites

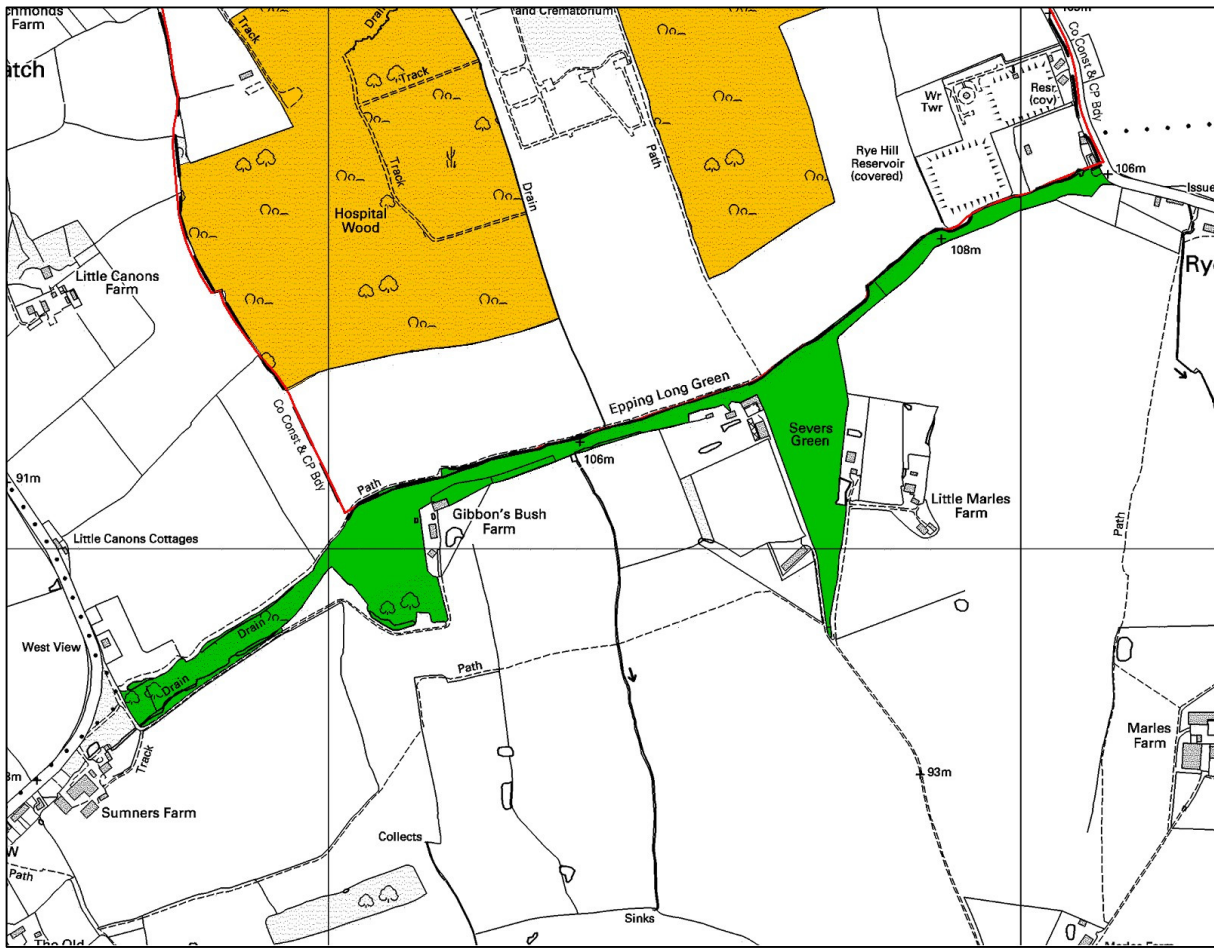
**Rationale**

The small area of acid grassland as a glade in mixed deciduous woodland is an interesting mosaic of habitats and its status as an urban LNR makes it an important site for environmental education and community involvement.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep67 Epping Long Green East (9.1 ha) TL 445062**

This site consists of an ancient green lane and contiguous areas of woodland and grassland. The green lane consists of a broad strip of semi-improved neutral grassland and a footpath, bordered on both sides by ancient hedgerows. The grassland is dominated by coarse grasses and has a reasonable diversity of herb species, such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The hedges are outgrown and consist of thorny species and trees, the latter including Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*). A small wood at Gibbon's Bush Farm consists of Ash over a Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) understorey. The species-poor ground flora is dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and grasses.

The lane opens out to include a larger swathe of grassland at Severs Green and grassland and broad-leaved woodland at Gibbon's Bush Farm. Severs Green is grassland showing no evidence of significant agricultural improvement. It has a reasonable diversity of species, including Common Knapweed and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*).

This site provides a partial link between other green lane and woodland LoWS (Epping Long Green West (Ep55) and Copy Wood (Ep43)) along the Galleyhill Ridge, forming a wildlife corridor parallel to that of Cobbin's Brook, which lies approximately two kilometres to the south. It is part of the Forest Land of Epping Forest even though significantly detached from the Forest itself.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

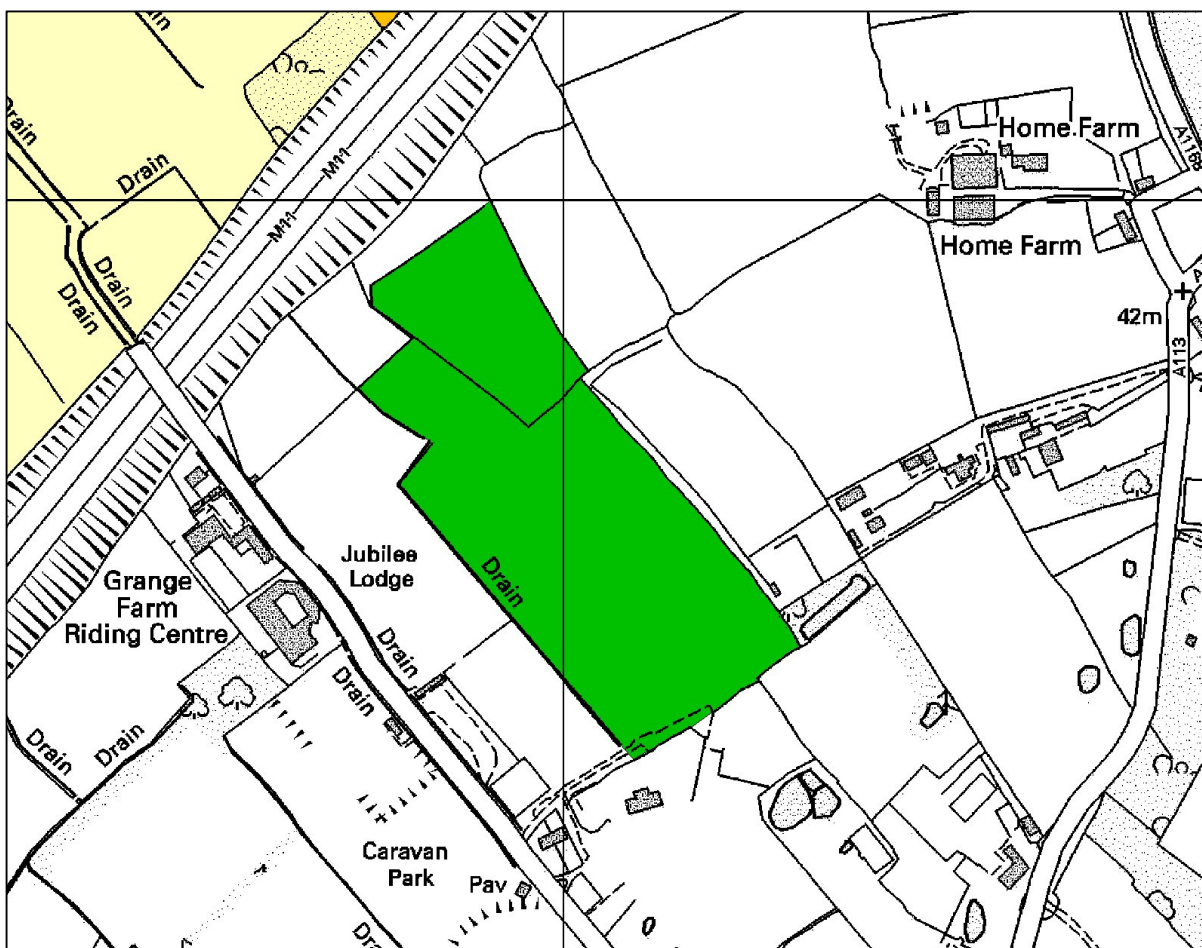
**Rationale**

Epping Long Green is an ancient landscape feature which has an ecological interest in its own right as well as providing habitat connectivity between adjacent LoWS.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (minor boundary revisions)



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### **Ep68 Grange Farm Grasslands (6.3 ha) TQ440947**

This site comprises reasonably species-rich but rather scrubby grassland, which has survived amongst a block of improved and amenity grassland and ongoing residential development. The sward comprises abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), with Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) in damper areas. The herb layer is very diverse although few species attain any great abundance. Characteristic species include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Vetches (*Vicia* spp.), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.). A pond within the site supports Great Crested Newts and the grassland and hedgerows provide important terrestrial habitat. Maintenance of this mosaic of grassland and scrub will also benefit invertebrate communities and enhance the potential for nesting birds and reptiles.

### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

SC15 – Great Crested Newts

### **Rationale**

Great Crested Newt populations need good quality terrestrial habitat associated with breeding ponds, which this site provides. The species-rich grassland might, in places, have affinities with the MG5 lowland

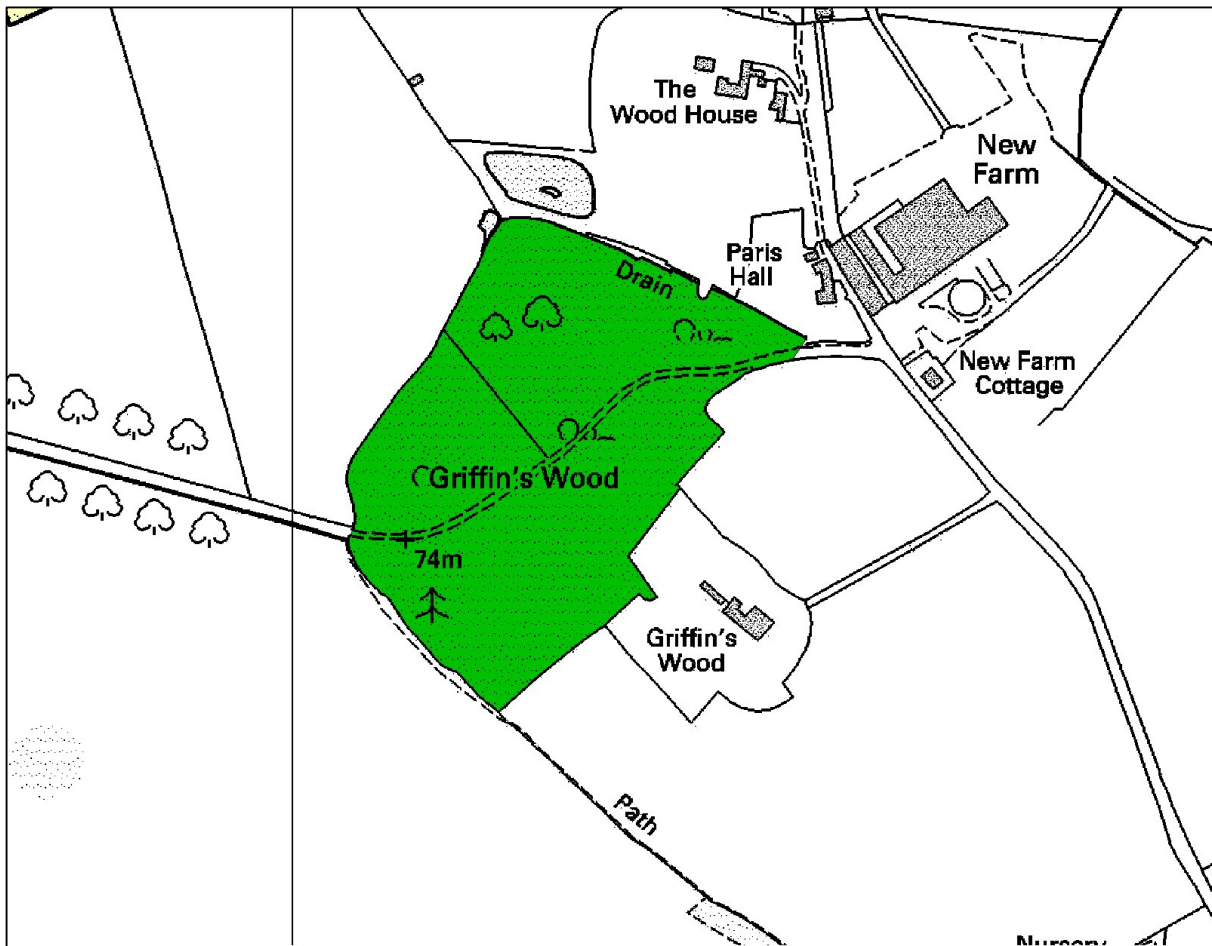


meadow NVC community, but regardless of this, the flower-rich sward is likely to be an important resource for invertebrates.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep69 Griffin's Wood (6.2 ha) TL 441015**

This ancient wood contains uniformly distributed Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards. The wood includes a large number of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) trees as standards, coppice and saplings, particularly concentrated around the lower north-eastern slopes. There is no understorey apart from that provided by young Sycamore. The ground flora is sparse and species-poor, but includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) throughout the wood, together with Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) in localised pockets. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood. A small pond in the northern corner supports Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. Being ancient woodland, this site is particularly significant among the group of sites.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

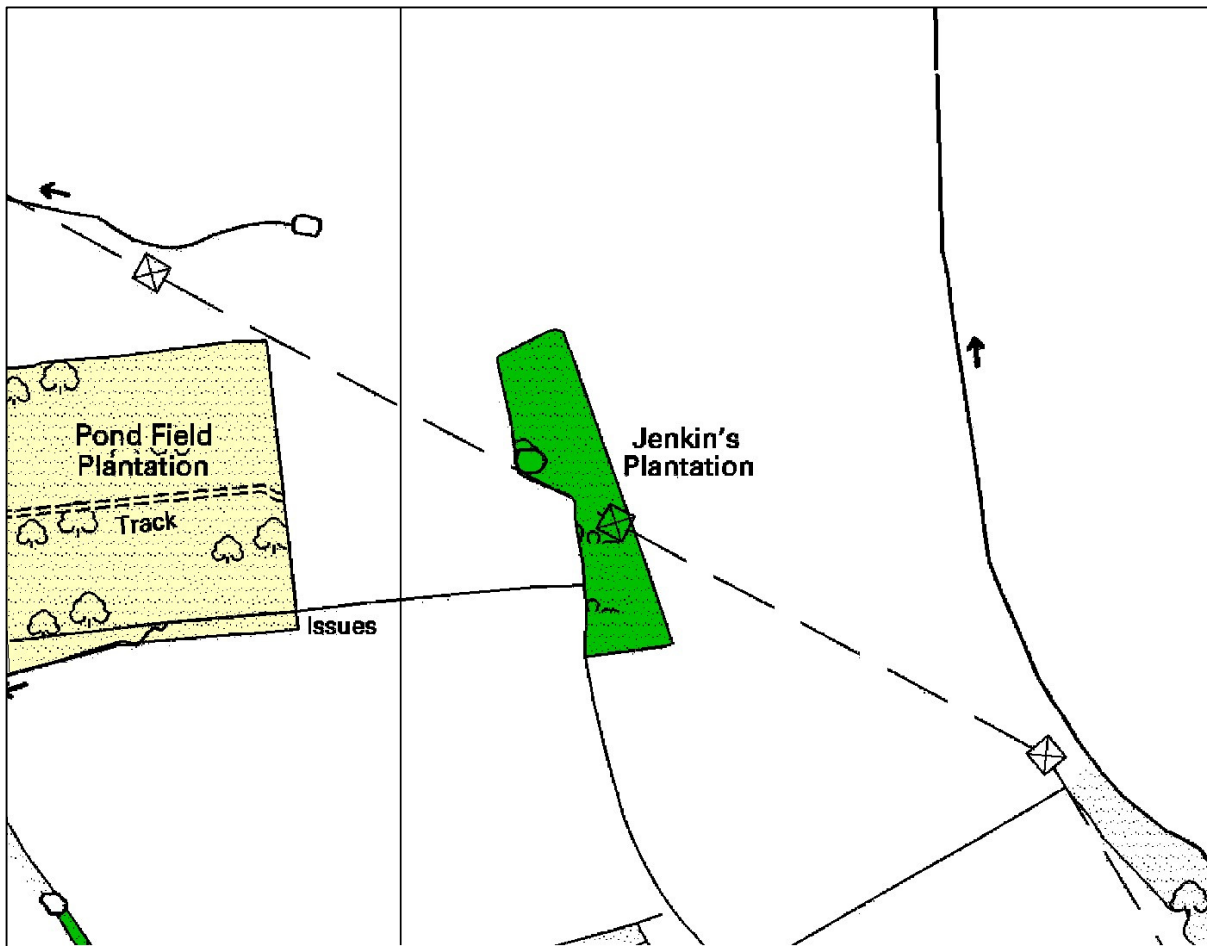
**Rationale**

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a flora and structure consistent with that status.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep70 Jenkins's Plantation (1.2 ha) TL 441025

Jenkins's Plantation is a small woodland site with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) generally dominant in the canopy and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) largely restricted to the woodland edge. There is also some Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), along with a small number of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice stools. There is an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground flora is largely dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is present. A pond on the western side has clear water and a healthy plant life, including Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). There is a small sedge bed, including Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) and False Fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*) beside the pond.

This site is one of a group of more than a dozen woodland LoWS on and around Copped Hall Estate, providing ecological value in an otherwise largely arable landscape. The ecological value of each individual wood is enhanced by the close proximity of its neighbours.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

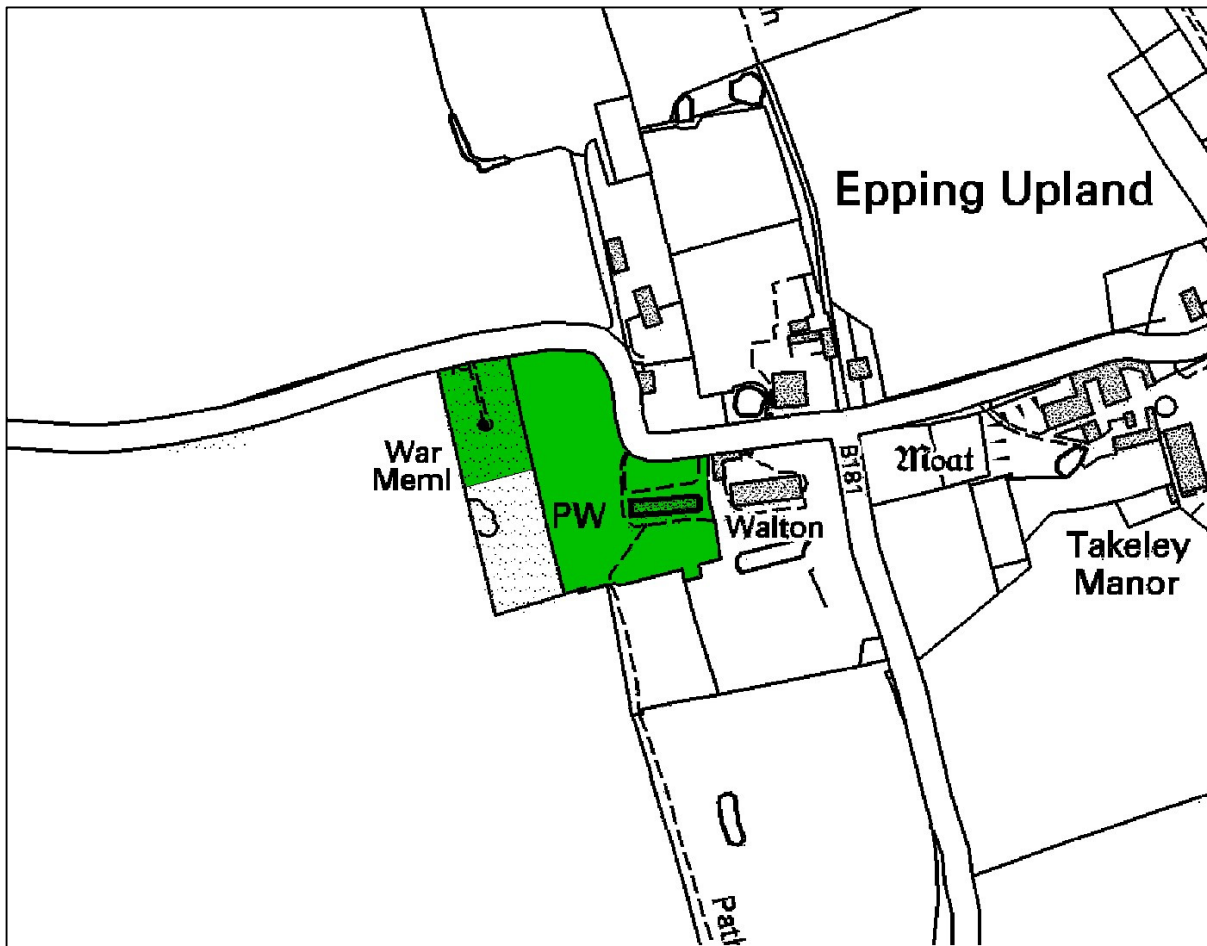
**Rationale**

This woodland falls within the NVC W8 (*Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis*) type community that is covered by the UK BAP listed above.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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**Ep71 All Saints' Churchyard, Epping Upland (2.7 ha) TL 44044**

This small site comprises unimproved grassland with scattered trees. The grassland has a wide range of meadow plant species, being left undisturbed in some areas to promote wild flowers. Noteworthy species include Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*). Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *minor*) has also been recorded. The presence of established ant hills indicates the undisturbed nature of the grassland. Trees include Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Lime (*Tilia* sp.).

**BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

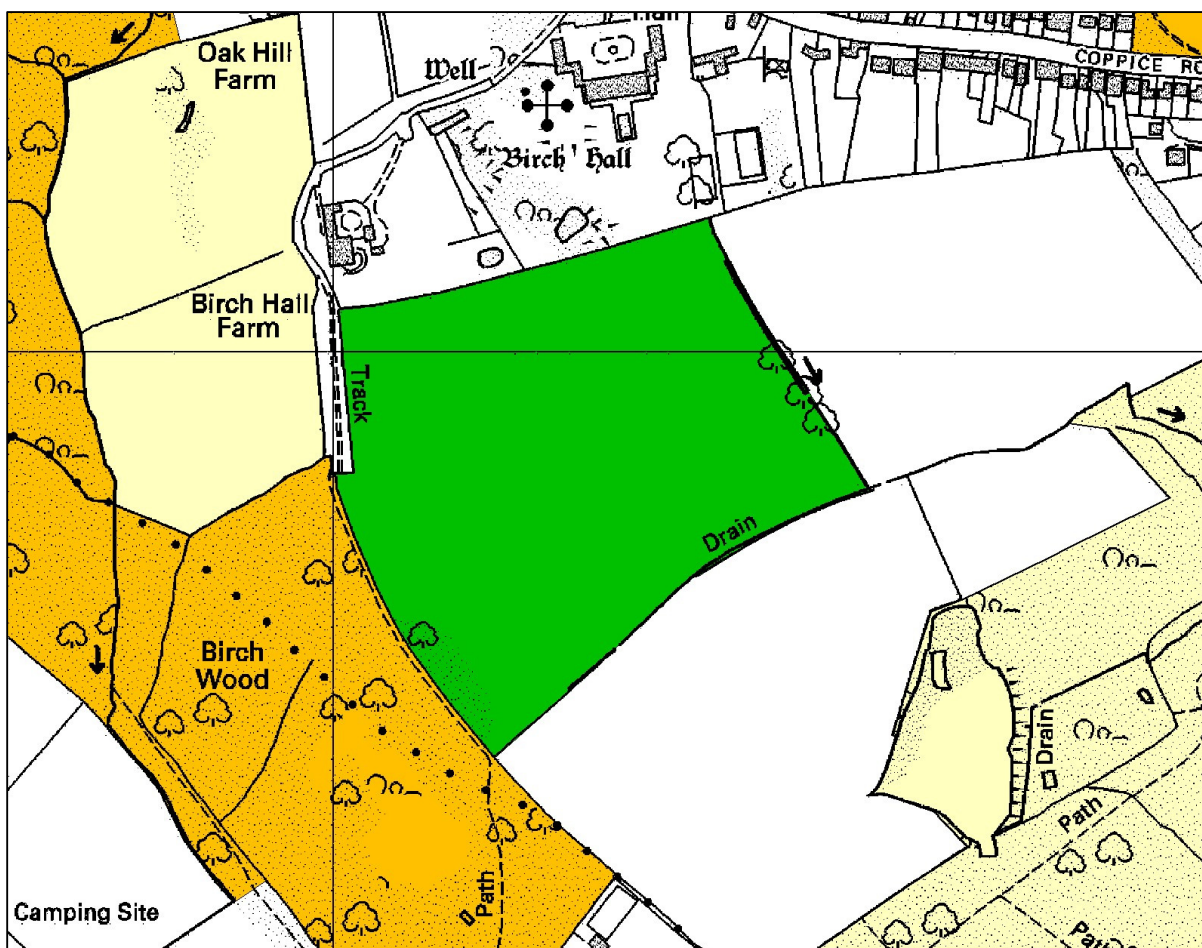
**Rationale**

The site is likely to be long established grassland, having existed continuously over an extended period as part of the church grounds. Several old grassland indicator plants have been recorded from here.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (adjacent meadow excluded from LoWS due to incorporation in domestic garden; name of site changed to reflect exclusion of meadow)



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### **Ep72 Theydon Bois Deer Park West (9.5 ha) TQ442988**

This part of the Deer Sanctuary has been selected on account of the large number of veteran Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees, with much dead wood and fallen timber providing excellent habitat conditions for a range of invertebrates that are dependent on such wood for nesting and feeding sites. The trees are known to support populations of the Nationally Scarce ant *Lasius brunneus* and also the Essex Red Data List digger wasp *Crossocerus cetratus*. Some of the trees were also assessed as having high potential to support bat roosts, with excellent bat foraging habitat provided by the park in general, the adjacent Birch Hall Pastures LoWS and Epping Forest itself.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK)  
Veteran Trees (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC6 – Veteran Trees

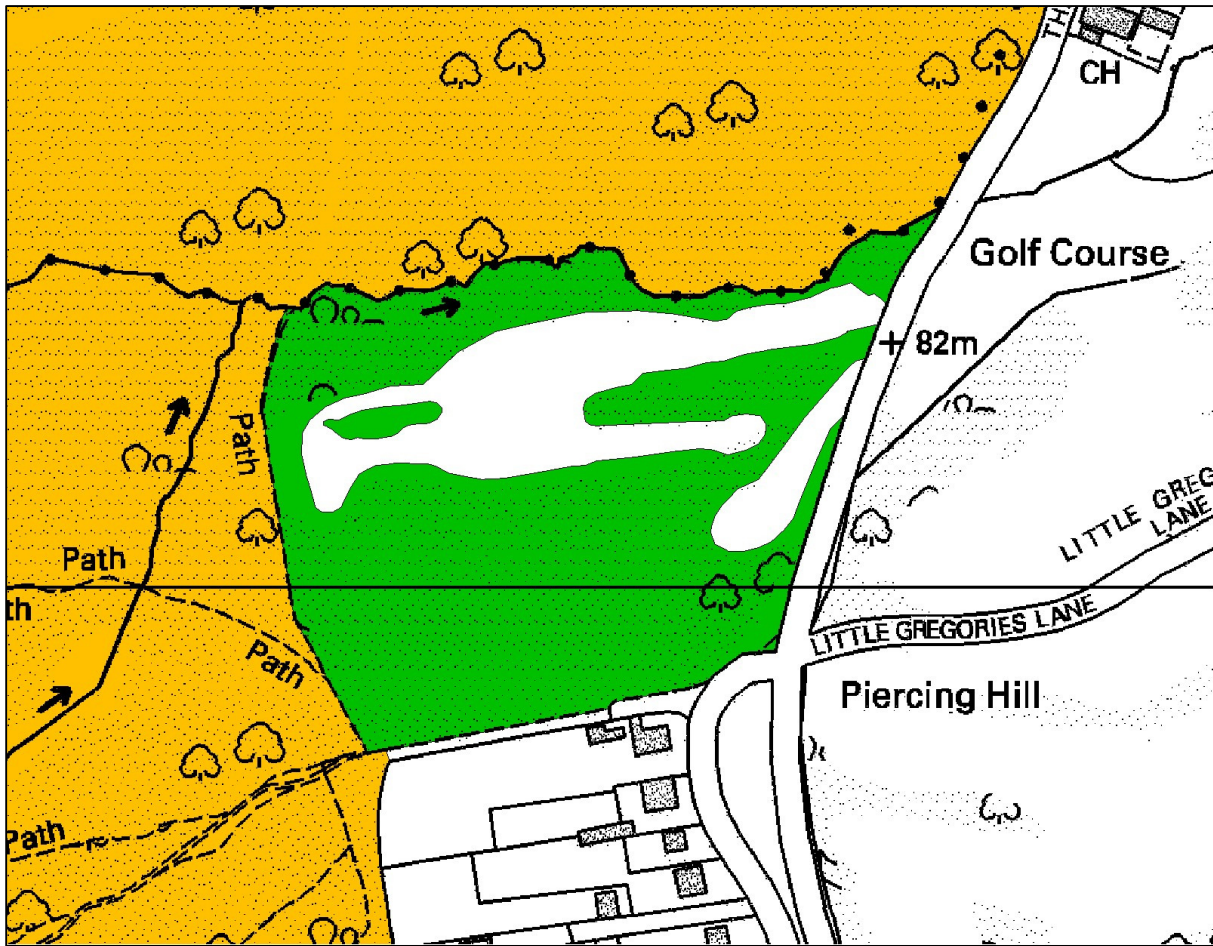
#### **Rationale**

This part of the deer sanctuary has a large number of veteran oak trees, including a good deal of dead wood habitat.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep73 Piercing Hill Wood (5.0 ha) TQ444000**

This site was erroneously identified as ancient woodland within the 1992 SINC Review, although it is better described as being derived from scrubby heathland on the fringes of the ancient Forest. It now comprises a small block of acid oak-birch woodland (NVC community W10) surrounding fringes of acid grassland and managed sections of the golf course). The canopy currently comprises a mix of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), which a good deal of invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and some planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The ground flora is typified by Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

### **Rationale**

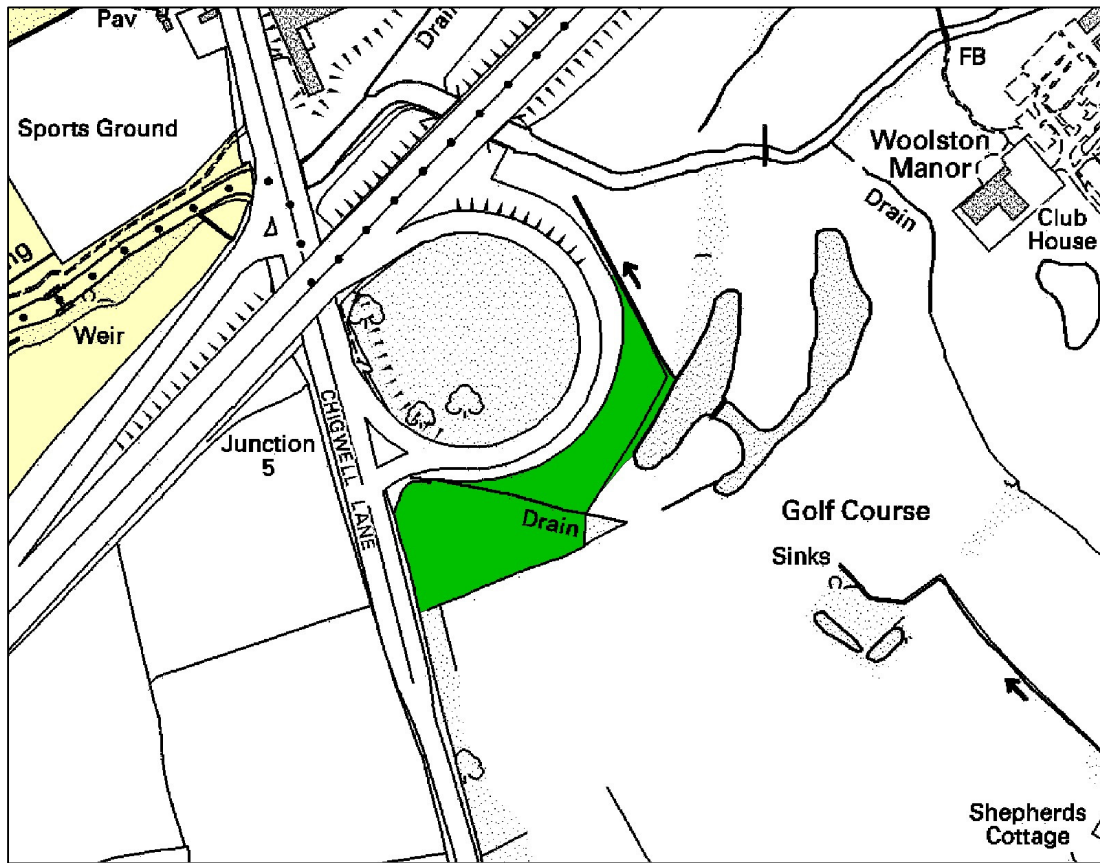
A canopy of oak and birch are defining qualities of W10 NVC woodland, which is one of the key components of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland UK BAP habitat.

### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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#### **Ep74 Lady Patience Meadow (1.6 ha) TQ445954**

This small area of swamp and tall herb fen is suffering from a decrease in water levels and subsequent spread of scrub and rank vegetation such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*). Species of note in the flora include Slender Tufted-sedge (*Carex acuta*) (an Essex Red Data List plant that has undergone great decline in recent years), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) and Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), amongst Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*). The invertebrate fauna has not been extensively searched, but it is known to include several species associated with marshland, including the hoverflies *Pyrophaena rosarum*, *P. granditarsa*, *Metasyrphus latifasciatus* and *Helophilus hybridus*.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Fens (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC14 – Lowland Fen Vegetation

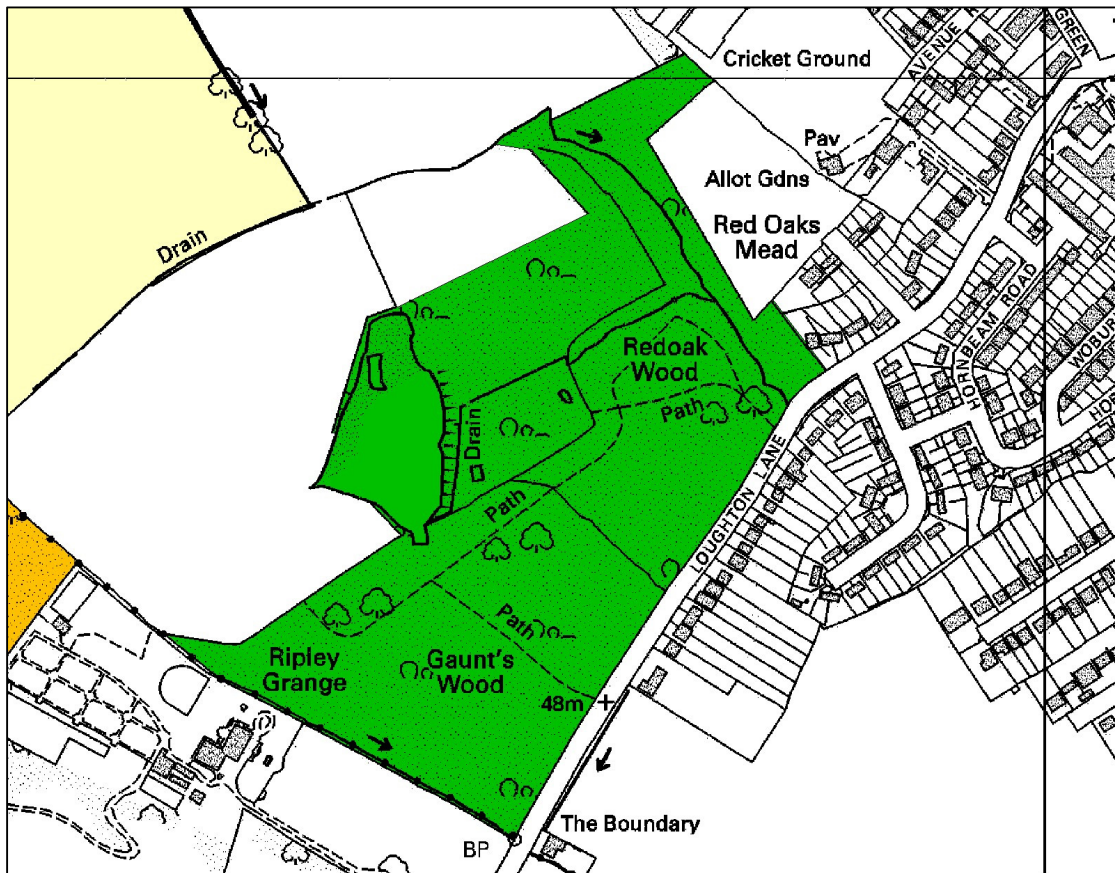
#### **Rationale**

Although drying out, this site still supports a range of scarce and declining plants that are associated with tall-herb fen vegetation.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep75 Theydon Bois Deer Park East (14.5 ha) TQ445986

This site comprises the mainly ancient woodland of Redoak and Gaunt's Woods, plus recent secondary woodland and a small lake. The two ancient woods are heavily fenced in order to prevent access by the deer herd in the open park and, as such, are now both densely overgrown with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub. They comprise canopies of overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Hornbeam, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). More recent woodland within the park is subjected to deer browsing and comprises a mix of these standard trees with some Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub over a grassy ground cover. The adjacent lake supports a small stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and, as well as providing a watering place for the deer, adds to the overall habitat diversity.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Reedbeds (UK)  
Ancient Woodland, Reedbeds (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

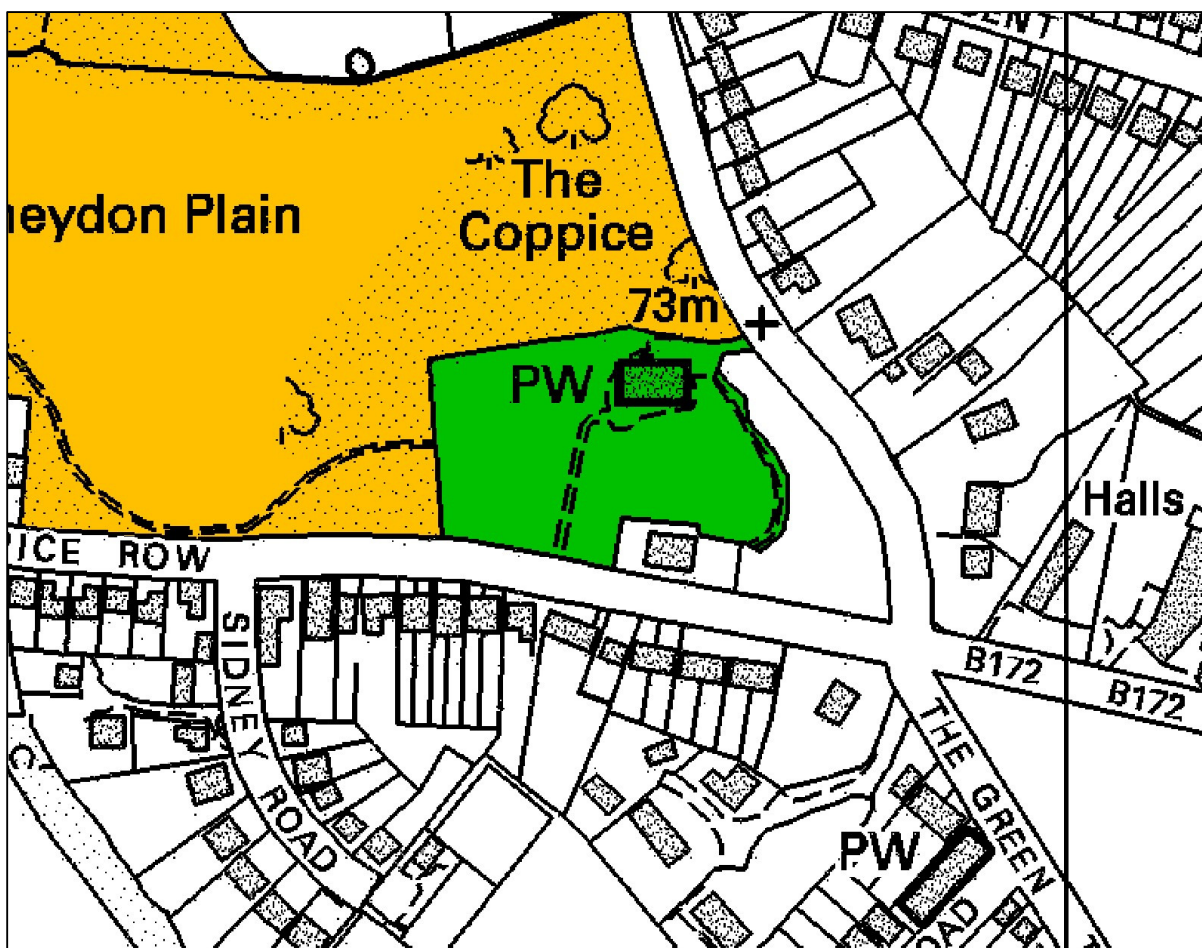
#### Rationale

The key feature of this site is the ancient woodland, but the additional extent of recent woodland, lake and reedbed adds to the overall wildlife interest of the area.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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#### **Ep76 St. Mary's Churchyard, Theydon Bois (1.0 ha) TQ448992**

This churchyard comprises a significant piece of largely unimproved acid grassland with a large population of the Essex Red Data List plant Betony (*Stachys officinalis*). Also of note is Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) amongst a sward of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) is found in damper areas in the spring.

The periphery of the yard also supports a surprisingly varied woodland flora, with Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) being of particular interest, it being a plant more common on base-rich soils in the north-west of the county. Other woodland plants present include Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)  
Heathland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

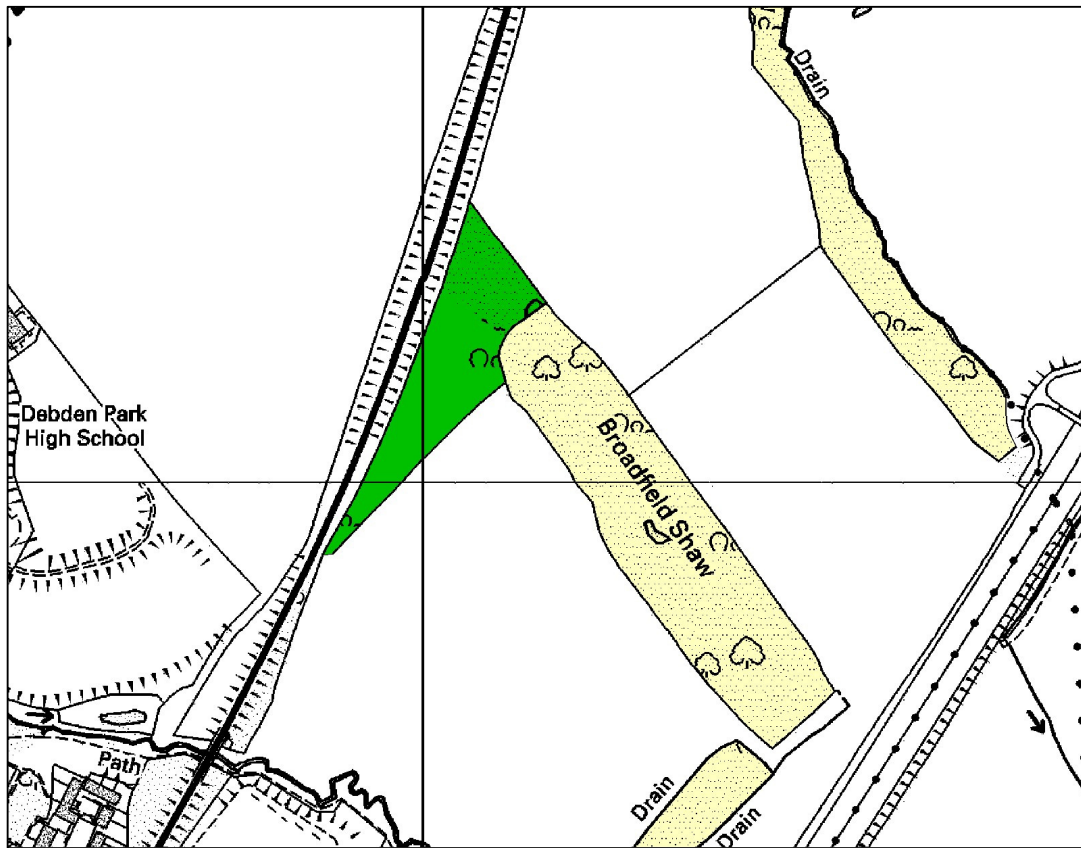
**Rationale**

The sward contains many species indicative of unimproved acidic soils.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (boundary corrected)



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### **Ep77 Broadfield Shaw Grassland (1.4 ha) TQ450970**

This small piece of scrubby grassland comprises the corner of a field cut off by the construction of the adjacent railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Ordnance Survey maps of 1882 show a scatter of mature trees in this area, indicating that the land was probably not in arable cultivation even at the time it was severed from the main field. It is therefore presumed to be grassland of at least 160 years old. There are still a few very large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees present at the eastern end, with many more sapling oaks spreading out from the adjacent Broadfield Shaw. This, along with the Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) spreading from the adjacent railway line means that the old grassland, within which Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) is of note, is under threat. The rough acid grassland sward also includes Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)  
Heathland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

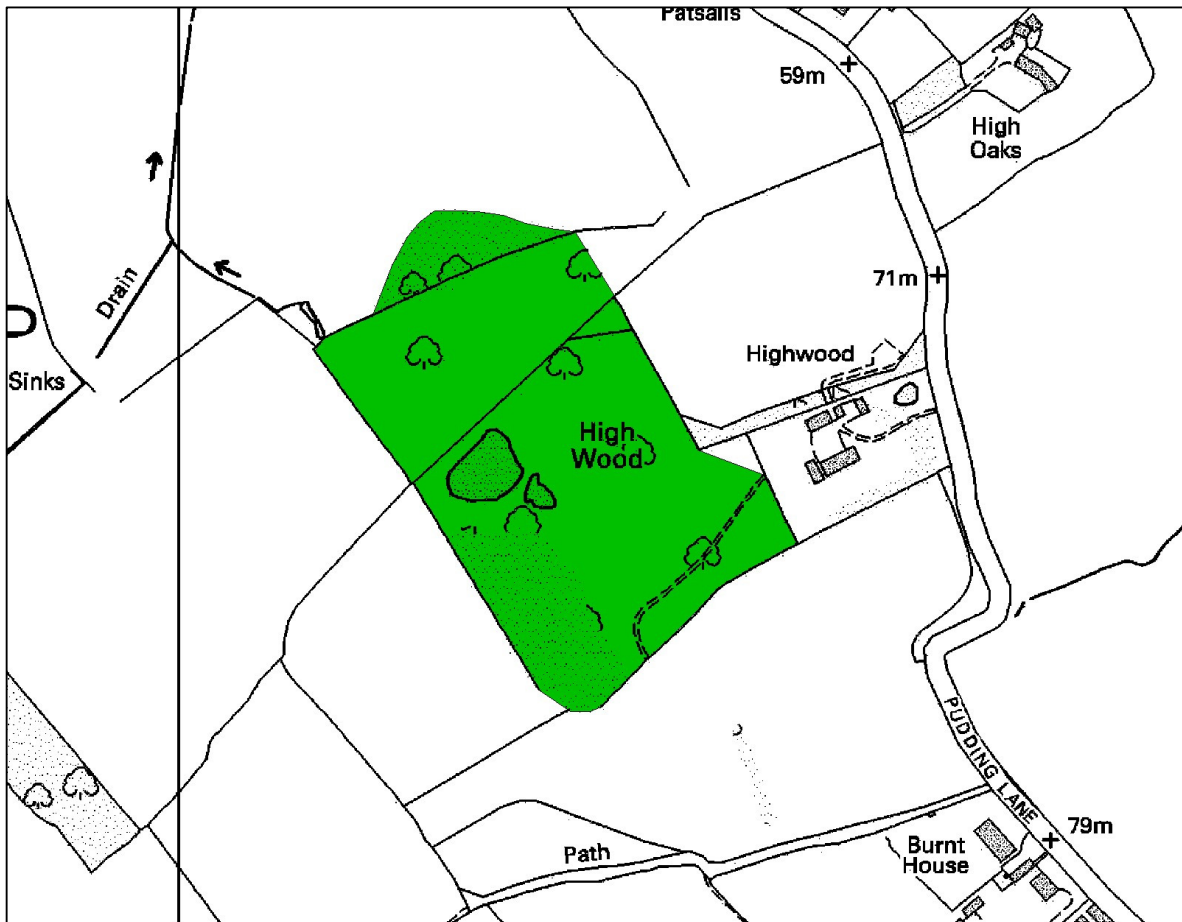
#### **Rationale**

The sward has species characteristic of acid grassland (e.g. an abundance of Common Bent and the presence of Sheep's Sorrel), along with scarce Essex species, such as Tormentil.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep78 High Wood (7.4 ha) TQ452945**

This site comprises the remains of an ancient wood, comprising the majority of its boundary features, two blocks of extant woodland and an intervening parkland area thought to comprise standards from the former wood. The canopy trees are mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), over an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), with a ground flora dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), although Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) survives in places. Whilst parkland habitats can have significant wildlife interest, when derived from ancient woodland by clearance of the understorey, restoration to woodland may be the preferred option.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

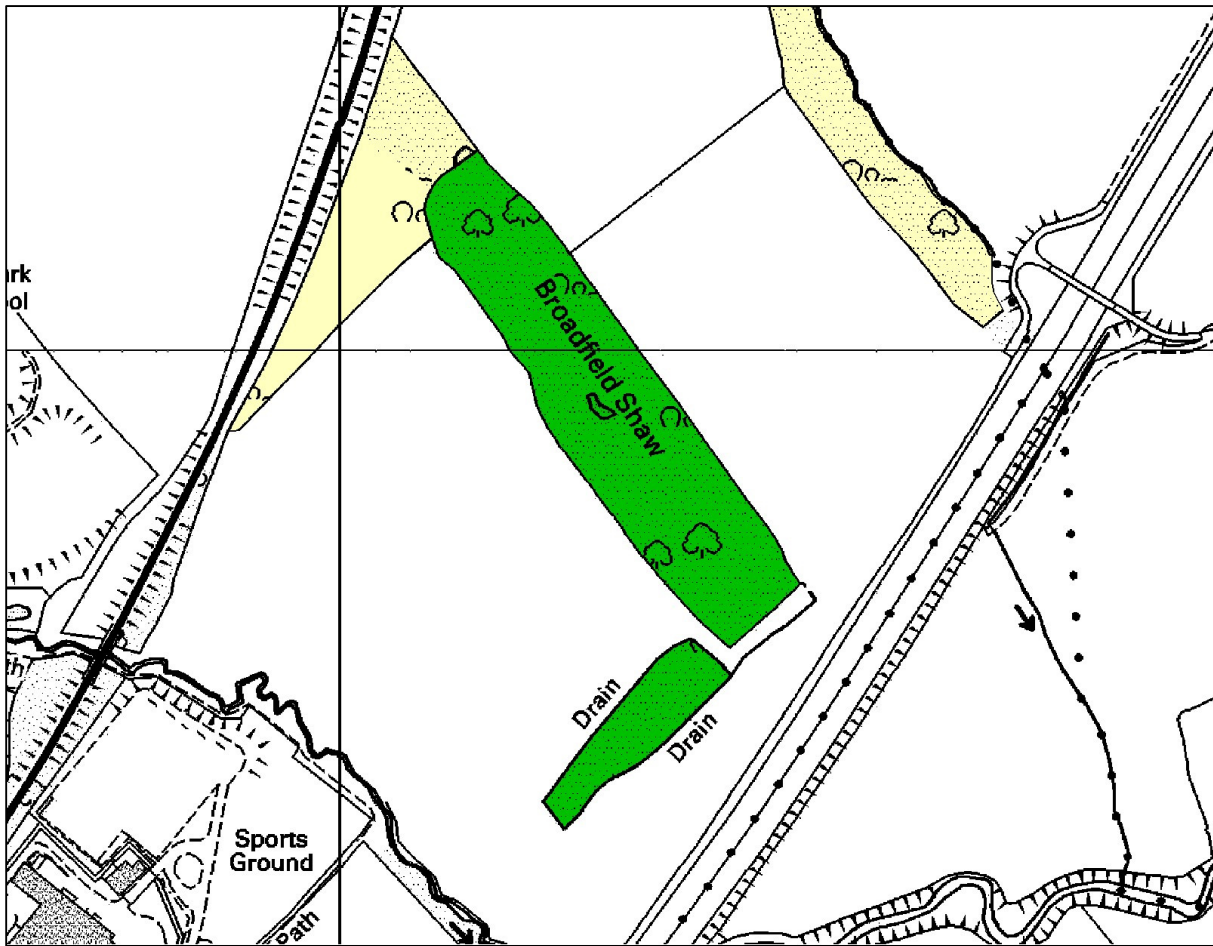
#### **Rationale**

Although suffering from recent degradation, it is held that this remains an ancient woodland site.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (significantly enlarged)



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### **Ep79 Broadfield Shaw (3.7 ha) TQ452968**

This ancient wood comprises old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The understorey and ground flora includes several plants indicative of ancient woodland conditions, including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), old Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

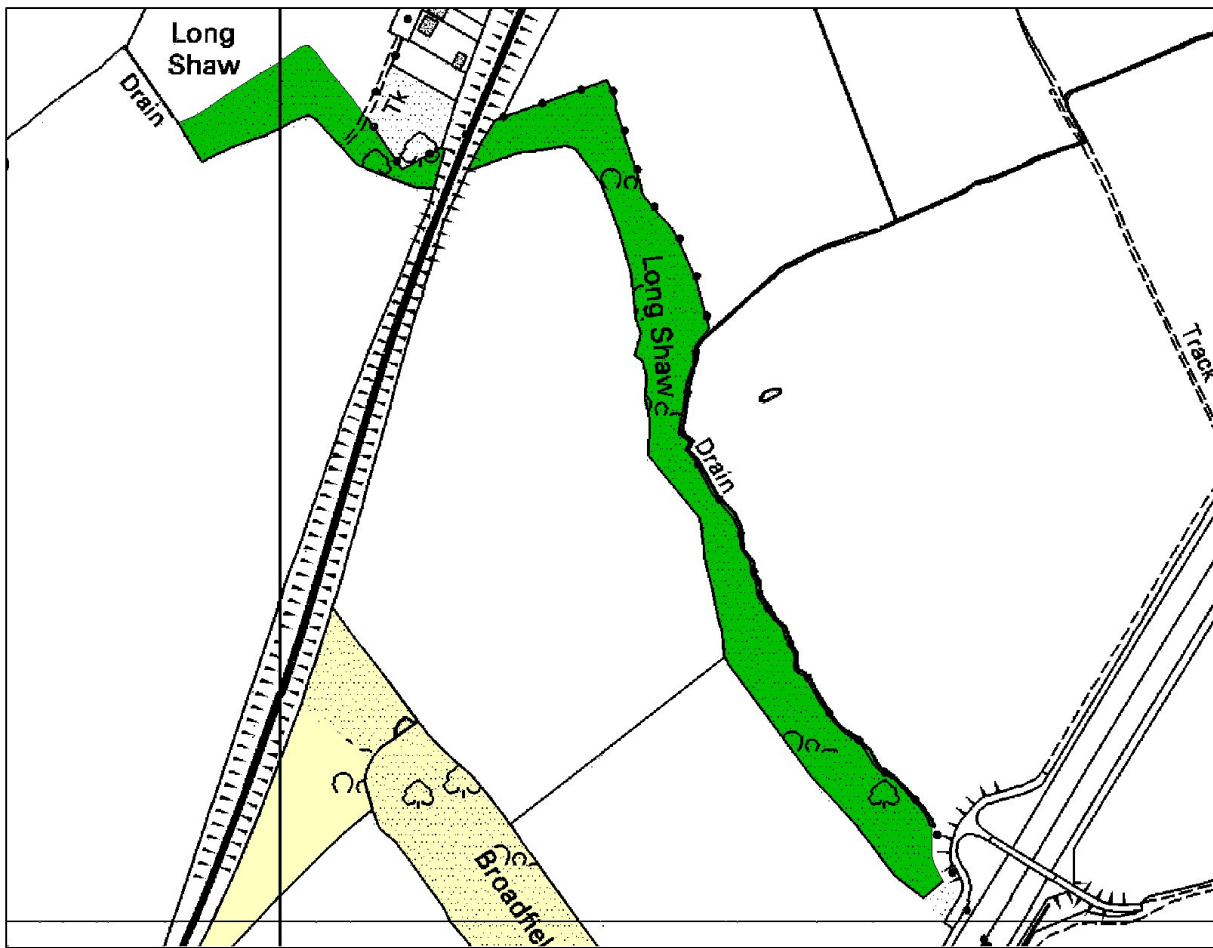
#### **Rationale**

The site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep80 Long Shaw (3.3 ha) TQ452973**

This streamside ancient wood has a very rich flora. The canopy mainly comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with an understorey of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The ground flora includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

#### **Rationale**

The site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009