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### Ep151 Knightsland Wood (11.4 ha) TL 515010

This large ancient wood has a canopy comprising Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with occasional areas of tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) standards have been planted throughout. The wood lacks any extensive shrub canopy, but does include scattered Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), found towards the margins. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), which has a strong affinity with ancient woodland, is also found. Along the southern margin grows Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), a plant associated with calcareous soils. Under more open canopy areas tussocky Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) exploits a damp substrate. Amongst the ground flora, a large population of Early-purple Orchids (*Orchis mascula*) is of particular note. Other species in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Cowslip (*P. veris*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*).

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

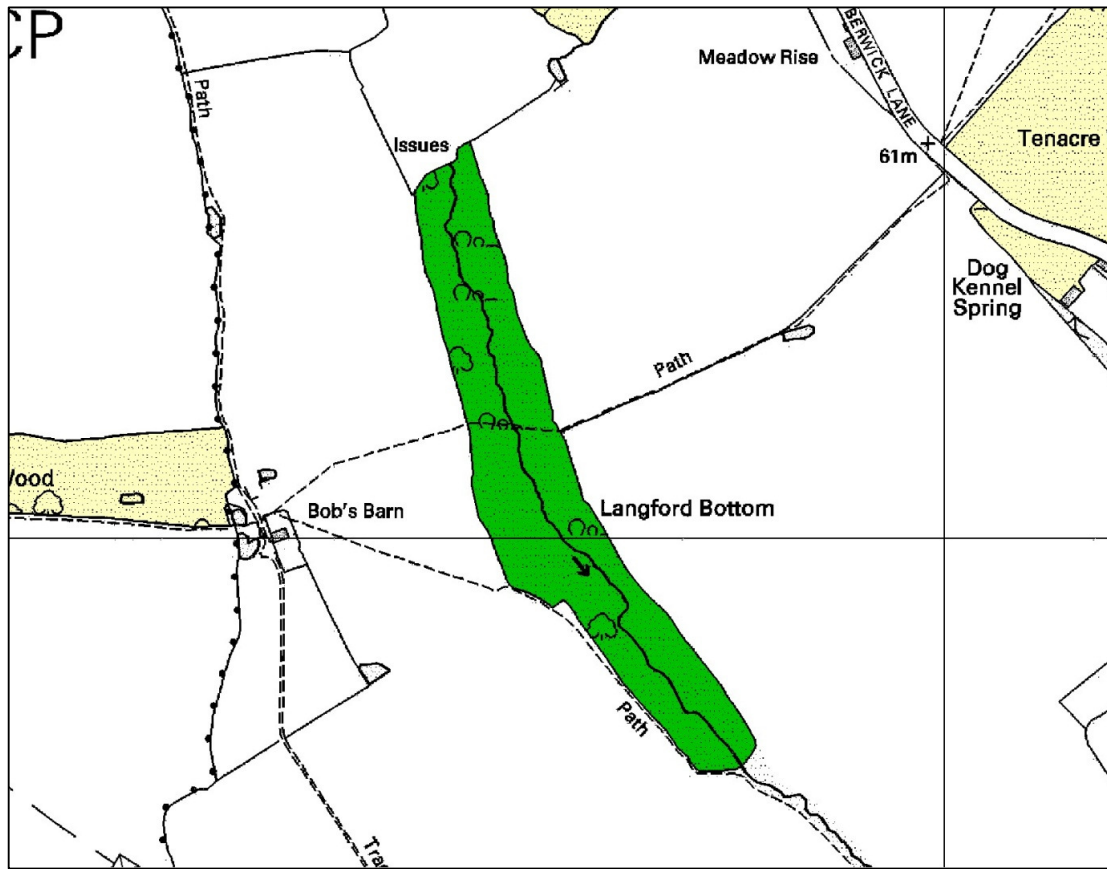
#### Rationale

This site displays an exceptionally rich floral with many species indicative of ancient woodland.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep152 Langford Bottom (4.5 ha) TQ 516990**

To the south, the canopy of this wood comprises scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards (mainly around the wood edge) over tree-sized coppice of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) also frequent. The central section of the wood has undergone some replanting with broadleaved species, mainly Pedunculate Oak with some Aspen (*Populus tremula*). The northern part of Langford Bottom is, like the southern area of the wood, dominated by tall Ash coppice with Hornbeam and Field Maple coppice towards the wood margins. The ground flora comprises a carpet of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and frequent Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) also present.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

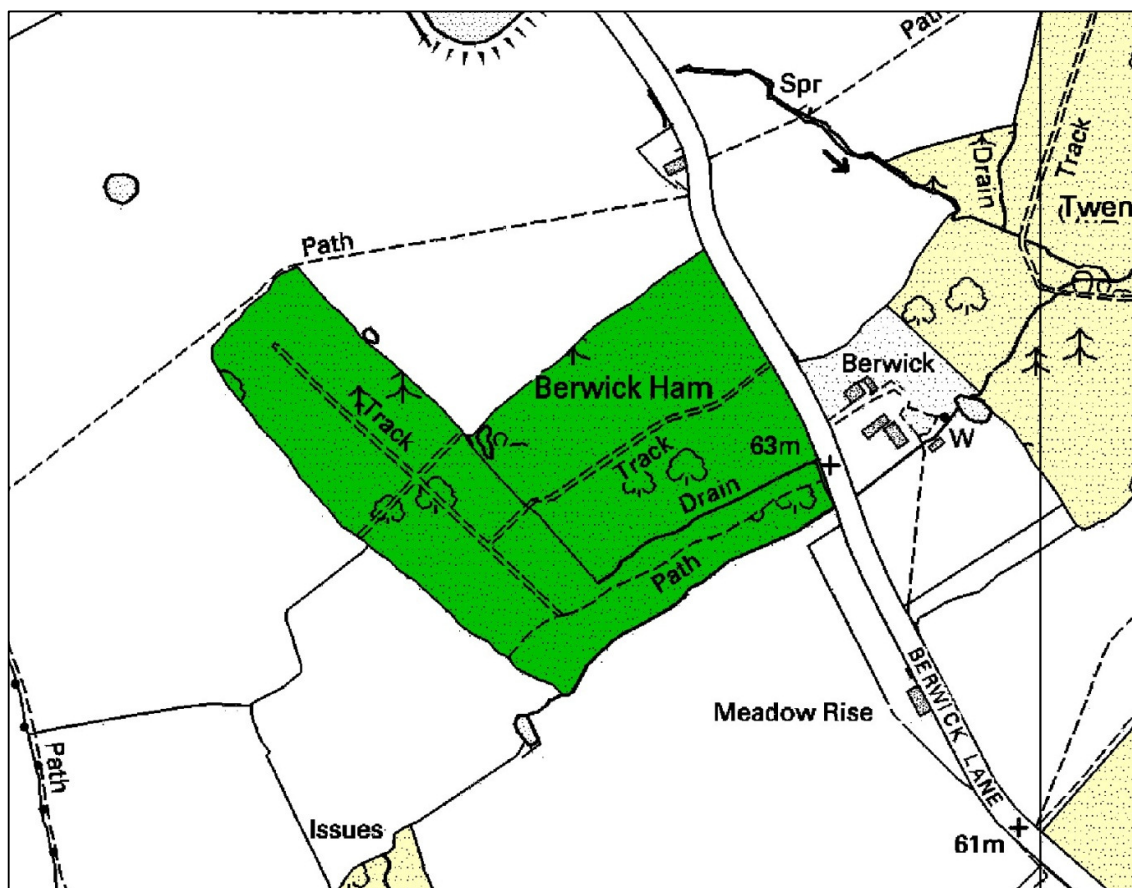
#### **Rationale**

Although not shown on Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 and not included in the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, this is almost certainly ancient woodland, as witnessed by its flora, structure and landform. It is shown on the tithe map of 1839 in its current shape.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1996

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep153 Berwick Ham (6.5 ha) TQ 516995

This wood has been replanted with many trees including Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Pine (*Pinus* sp.). However, there is Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. Much dead wood covers the ground under a dense shading canopy. There is virtually no shrub canopy, and the ground flora has extensive patches of Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) and scattered patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Common Nettle typically occurs on soils where there has been nutrient enrichment characteristic of secondary woodland habitat. The presence of Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) is particularly interesting. It is usually, but not exclusively, associated with ancient woodland. It does, however, require woodland that has been established for a long time so the original wood here is very old, if not technically ancient.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

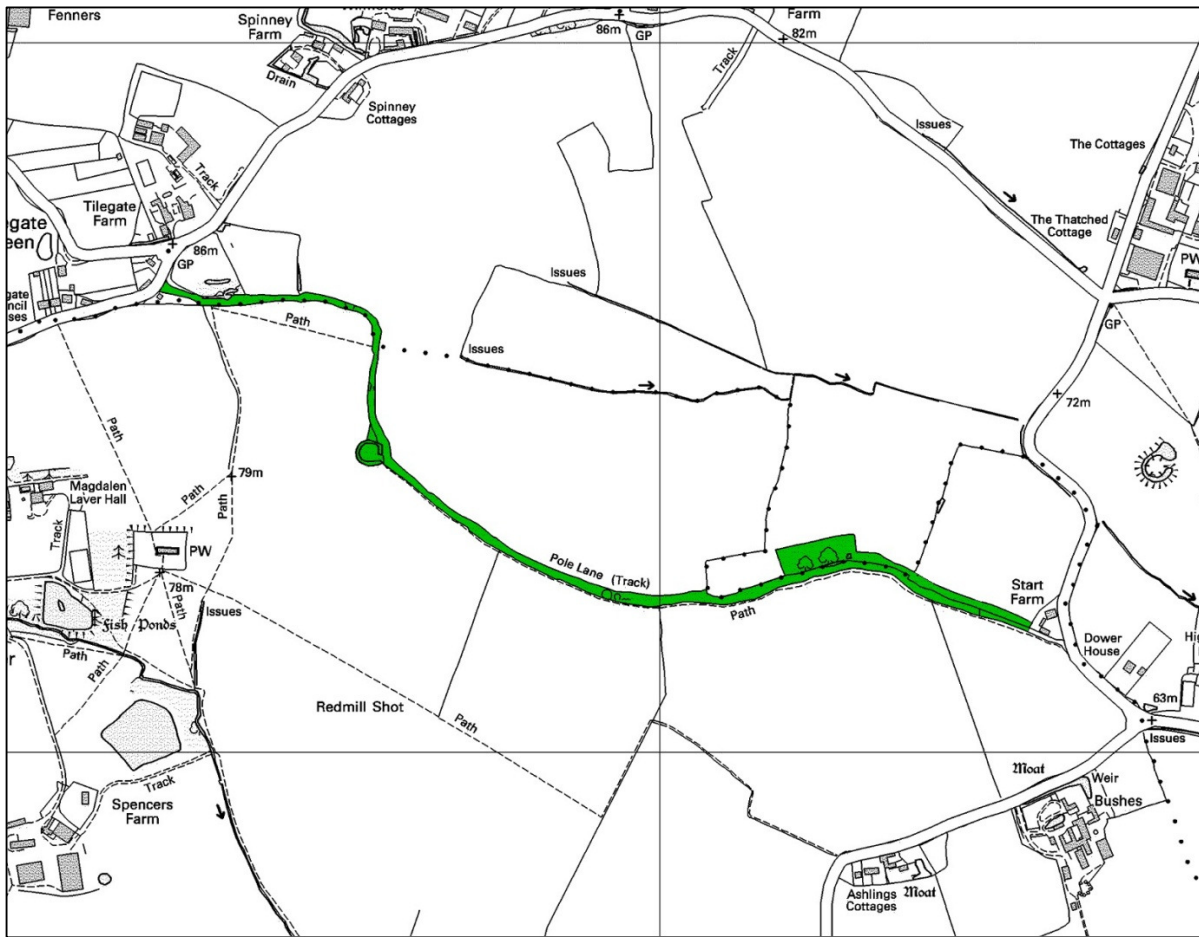
**Rationale**

This woodland retains the same outline as it appears on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map. The structure indicates recent secondary wood planting with remnants of an older woodland structure, though not definitely ancient in origin. Located near to Twentyacre Wood (Ep160), of ancient origin, Berwick Ham adds a significant block of wood in this arable area of Stapleford Tawney.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep154 Pole Lane (2.5ha) TL 519084

Pole Lane is approximately 1.5 kilometres long running from Tilegate Green to High Laver. This long green lane exhibits a varied hedge structure. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice form a shading canopy over some sections, whilst Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) characterise the lower hedgerow structure. Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), both species of base-rich soils, are also found in the shrub layer along the lane. Amongst the ground flora, Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is very common throughout the entire length of the lane, but other species recorded include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

Towards the western end of the lane is a circular mound and ditch structure: a mill mound of post-medieval origin. The mound has much Hawthorn scrub.

#### BAP Habitats

Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes

#### Selection Criteria

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

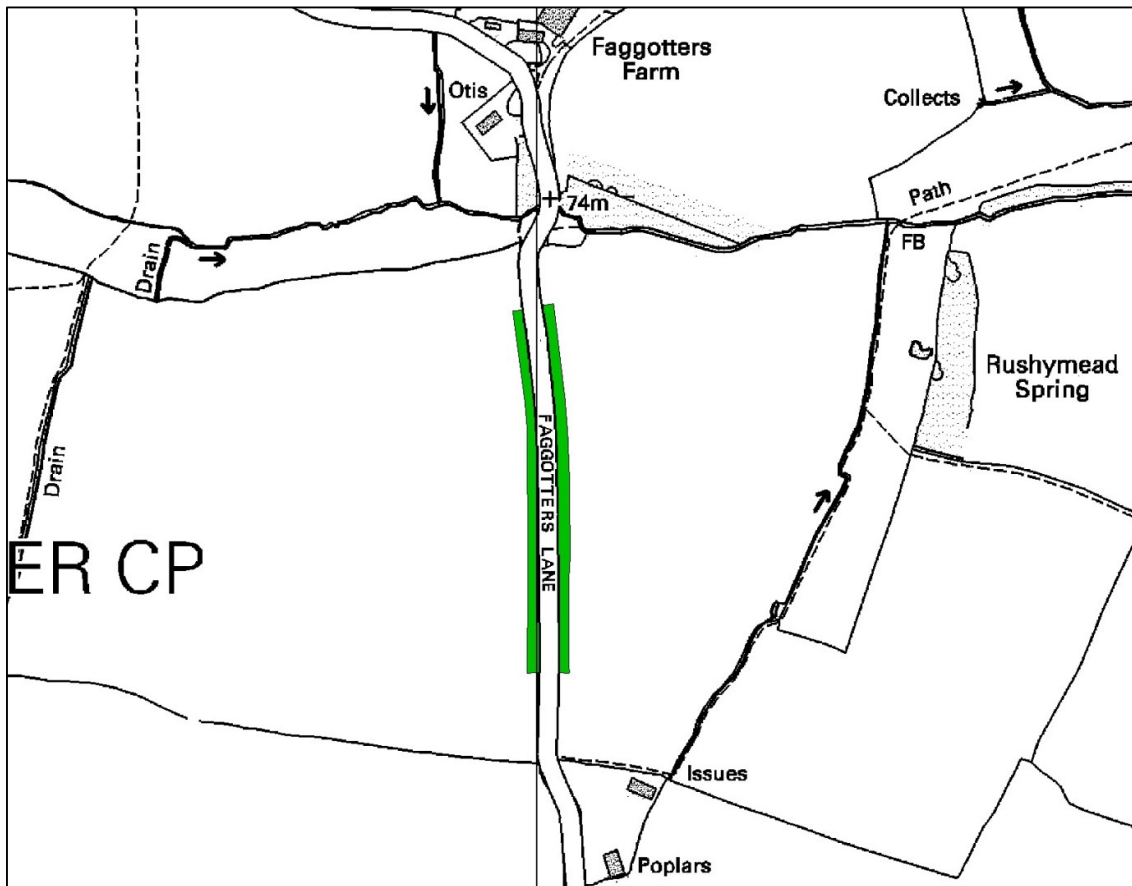
**Rationale**

This is a long green lane that has over the centuries been an important route between parishes, and has additional historical interest in the mill mound. These trackways provide valuable connective corridor habitat for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep155 Faggotters Lane Verges (0.1 ha) TL 519095**

The base-rich (calcareous) nature of the soil in this part of the district is reflected to some degree by the floristic composition along these verges. Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) are very common along both sides of the road, whilst Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) are also present.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

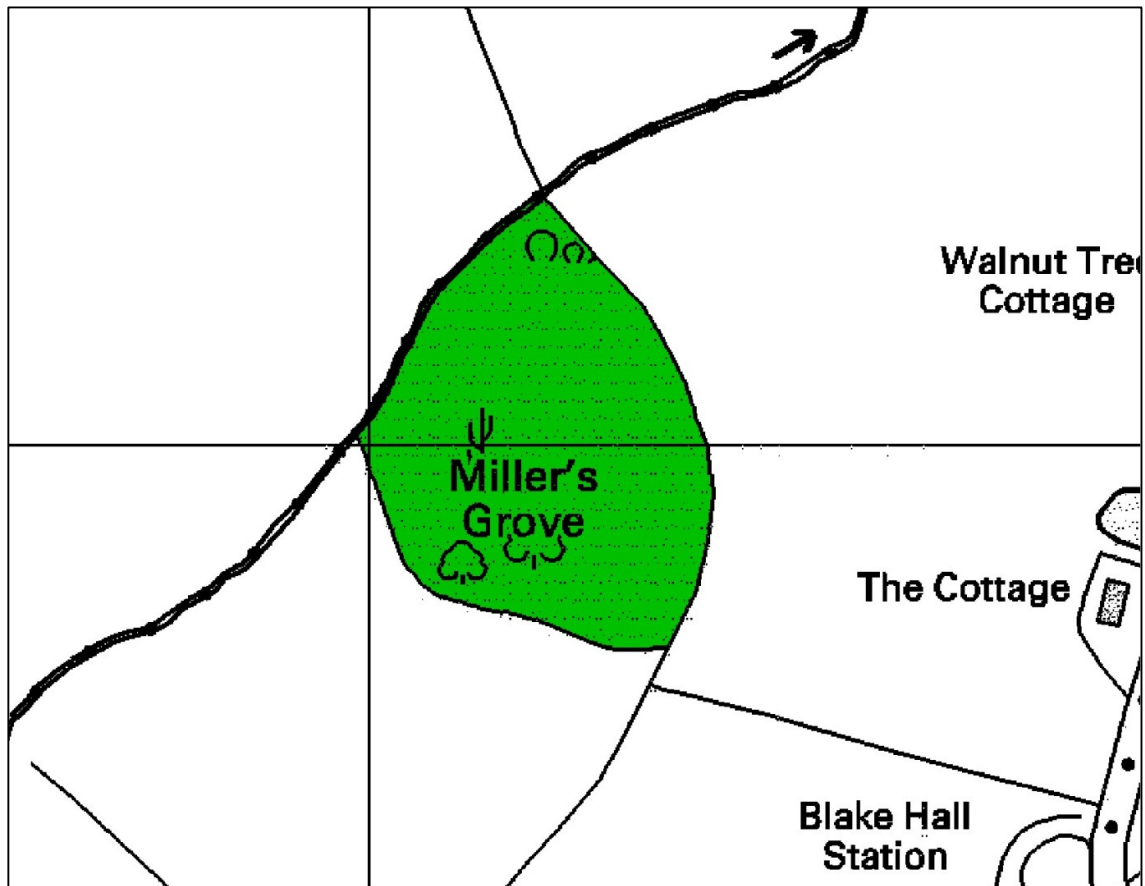
#### **Rationale**

This site could arguably be selected under criterion HC12 Lowland Calcareous Grasslands, although this is primarily aimed at grasslands developing on hard chalk substrates rather than the unusually base-rich chalky boulder clay that occurs here. However viewed, the site represents a scarce plant community within Essex.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep156 Miller's Grove (2.3 ha) TL 520040**

Miller's Grove is located just within the extreme eastern boundary of Ongar Great Park, a medieval deer park dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. This broadleaved woodland slopes north-westerly down to a small stream. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice dominates most of the high canopy with interspersed Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards resulting in a dense shading canopy with relatively little vegetation or ground flora beneath except for occasional patches of Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). Areas of Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) allow more light penetration and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) exploits this. Towards the stream Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) grows along with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) is found very locally on the eastern edge of the wood.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

#### **Rationale**

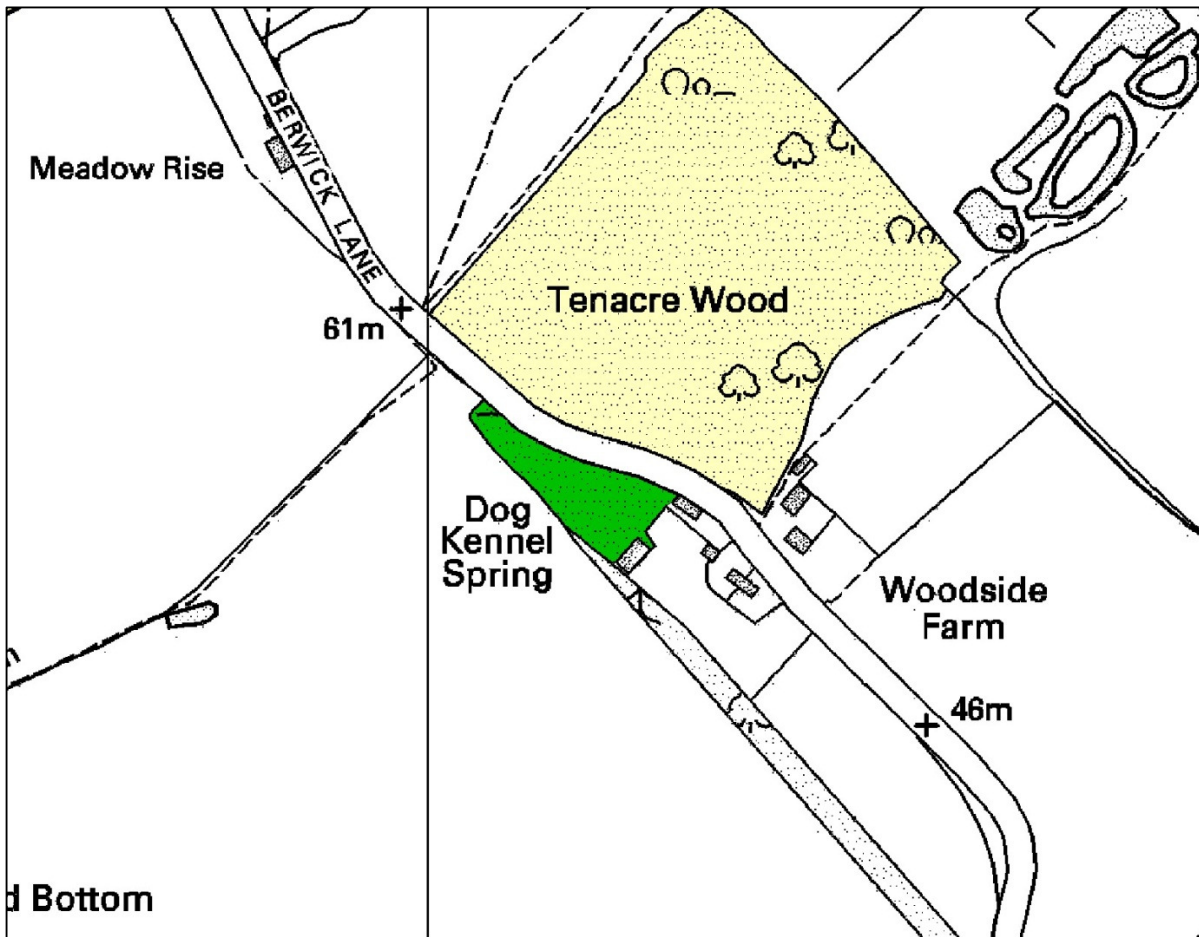
Although within the boundary of the medieval Ongar Great Park, this woodland has no apparent historic links to the ancient Park landscape. However, it has a coppice with standards structure with a native species composition, making it valuable woodland habitat in the modern arable landscape surrounding it.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### Ep157 Dog Kennel Spring (0.4 ha) TL 520992

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) characterise Dog Kennel Spring. The ground flora includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) but lacks the Bluebell component found in Tenacre Wood (Ep159) located across the road from this site.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

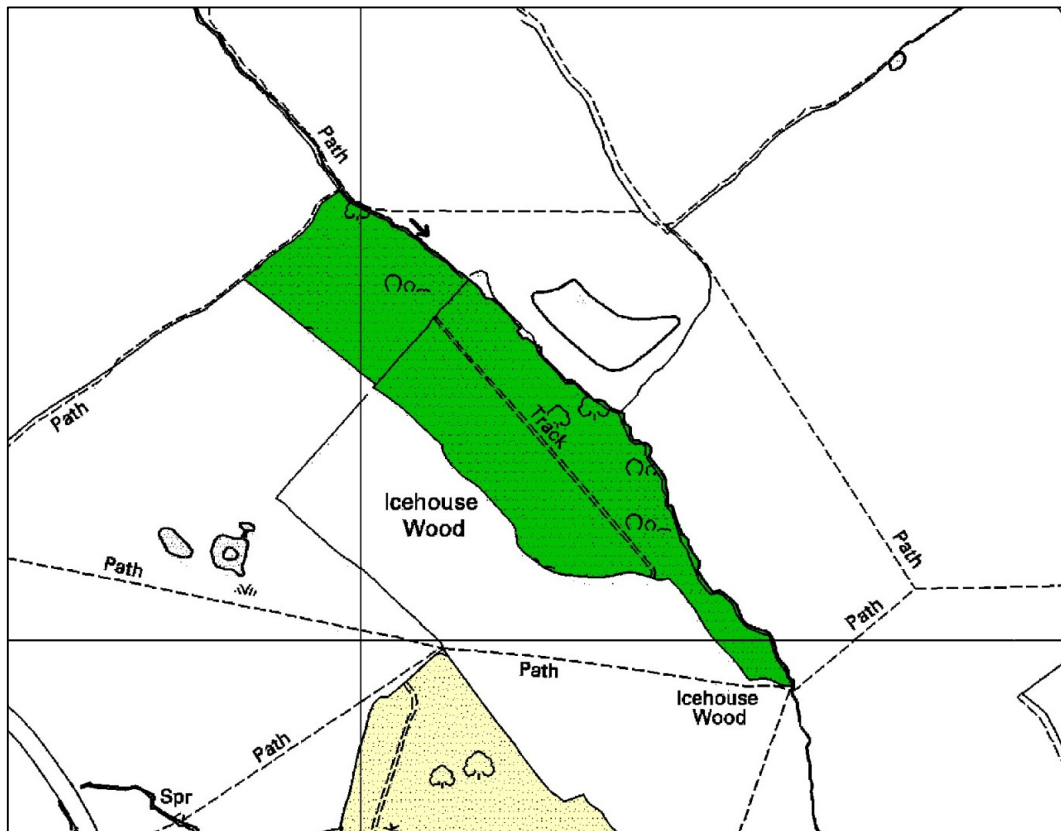
#### Rationale

This small fragment of woodland complements the larger woodland, Tenacre Wood, providing additional habitat in the near vicinity. Dog Kennel Spring and Tenacre Wood both appear on the Chapman & Andre map of 1777, and whilst Tenacre is accepted as ancient the later history of Dog Kennel Spring is uncertain.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep158 Icehouse Wood (5.7 ha) TL 521001**

Chapman & Andre's map 1777 shows Icehouse Wood and Twentyacre Wood (Ep160) as parts of a larger woodland called Brick Kiln Wood. Subsequently, part of this larger wood between Twentyacre and Icehouse Wood was permanently cleared. The present day wood has a steep sided stream forming the boundary along the eastern edge of the Wood. This broadleaved wood contains distinct woodland types, the main body comprising Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. Towards the stream valley, there is an open low shrub canopy with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The extreme south of the wood has Hornbeam coppice with very little ground flora beneath. In contrast the northern section of the wood has Hazel coppice with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), and a far more luxuriant ground flora thrives with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), ferns (*Dryopteris* spp.) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

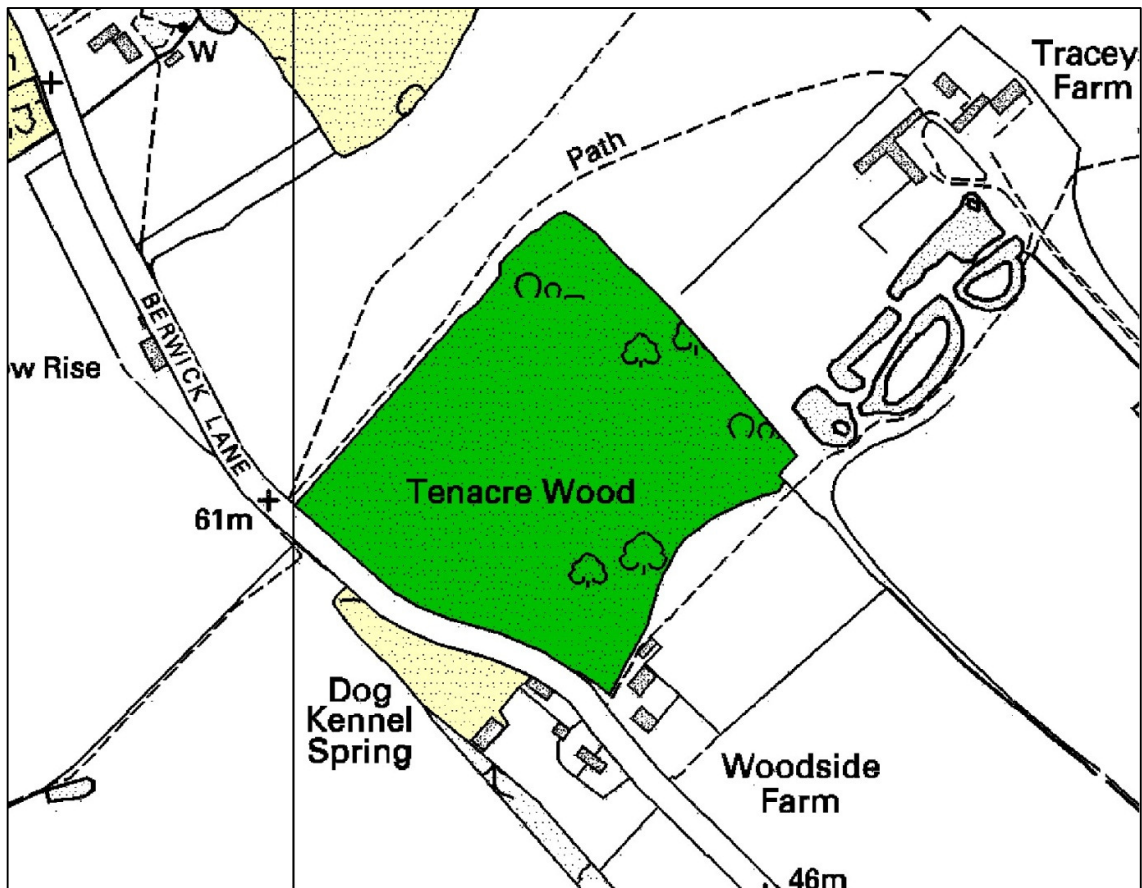
#### **Rationale**

Icehouse Wood is not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, but field evidence supports the claim that it is at least derived from a modified ancient woodland site.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep159 Tenacre Wood (4.4 ha) TQ 521993**

Tenacre Wood is ancient woodland, almost wholly neglected, with a range of coppice species forming distinct compartments. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice dominate, with only the occasional standard of non-native Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A sparse shrub layer is found beneath the densely shading high canopy trees and includes Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground vegetation is typified by locally abundant areas of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), but also includes Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

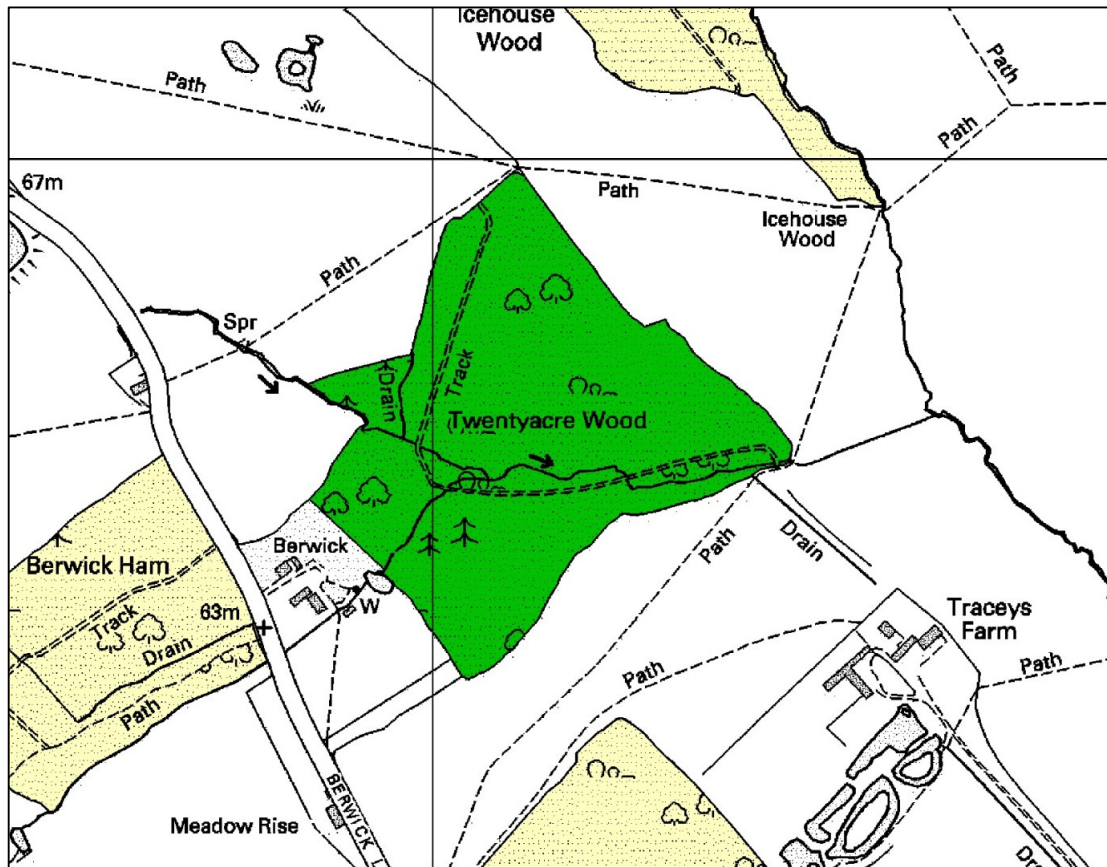
#### **Rationale**

Tenacre Wood is listed as ancient in the Essex Inventory and the flora and structure supports this status.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep160 Twentyacre Wood (8.4 ha) TQ 521997**

Twentyacre Wood lies either side of a deep incised stream channel, an easterly flowing tributary of the River Roding. Chapman & Andre's 1777 map of Essex shows Twentyacre Wood and Icehouse Wood (to the north) as parts of a larger woodland called Brick Kiln Wood. The woodland primarily has Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) dominant throughout along with localised areas of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, but several other tree species including Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with Birch (*Betula pendula*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and interspersed conifers occur. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a tree associated with ancient woods, also occurs. The ground flora includes abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with frequent patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Other recorded species include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica Montana*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

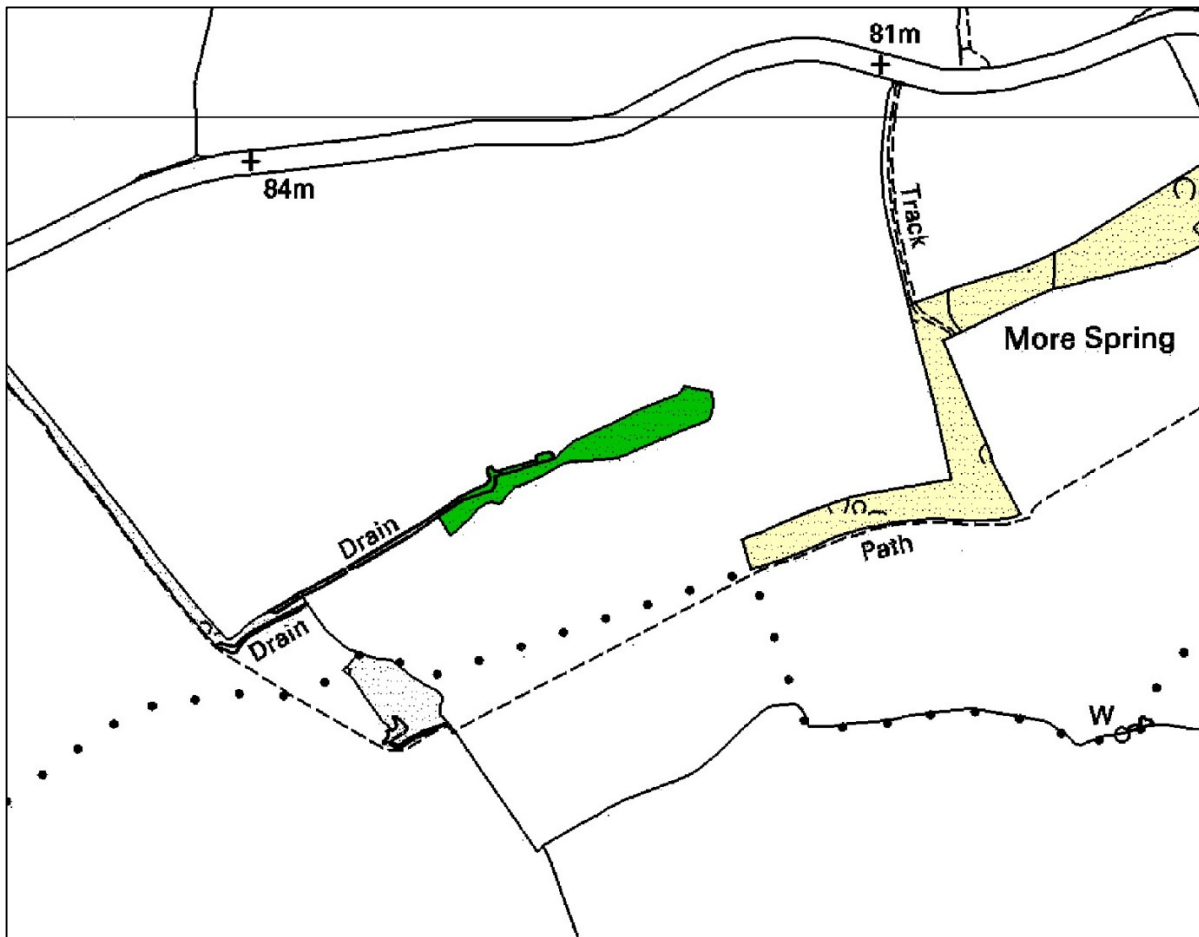
#### **Rationale**

This woodland, although it has been replanted with various tree species, retains the characteristic species and structure of ancient woodland habitat.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep161 More Spring West (0.4 ha) TL 524107**

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) are the main components of this narrow strip of woodland. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is frequent in the shrub canopy layer. The ground flora is dominated by Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), but there are localised patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) also. Ivy (*Hedera helix*), a species more typically found in secondary woodland is also frequent.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

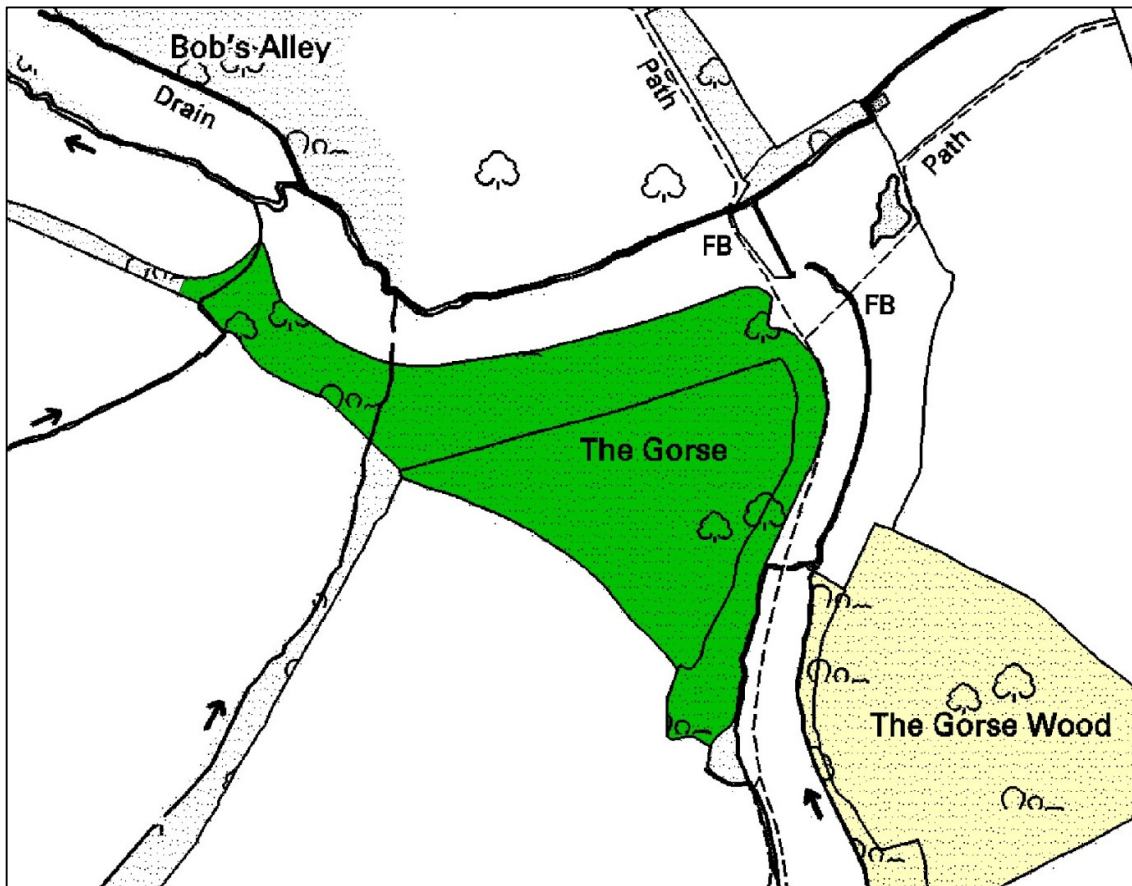
#### **Rationale**

The status of this wood is uncertain. It possesses a good coppice and standard structure similar to that of nearby More Spring (Ep163) with Hornbeam as the main tree species. This structure is in keeping with that typical of several ancient woods in Epping Forest District. However, the presence of widespread Ivy is usually held to be indicative of recent woodland conditions, although it does occur in several ancient areas of wood-pasture reverting to more typical woodland close to Epping Forest.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep162 The Gorse (5.0 ha) TL 524125

A substantial bank separates this site into two distinct areas of the woodland. An outer narrow band of woodland has a mixed canopy comprising Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards with areas of planted Poplars (*Populus* sp.) and Pines (*Pinus* sp.). A substantial scrub layer of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) shades a ground flora that includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*). In contrast, the large triangular shaped area is planted with Grey Poplar (*Populus canescens*) with some Ash, Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Field Maple with Hazel, Elder and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) forming a low shrub canopy. Grassy rides through the wood are dominated by False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) with other species present including Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*).

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

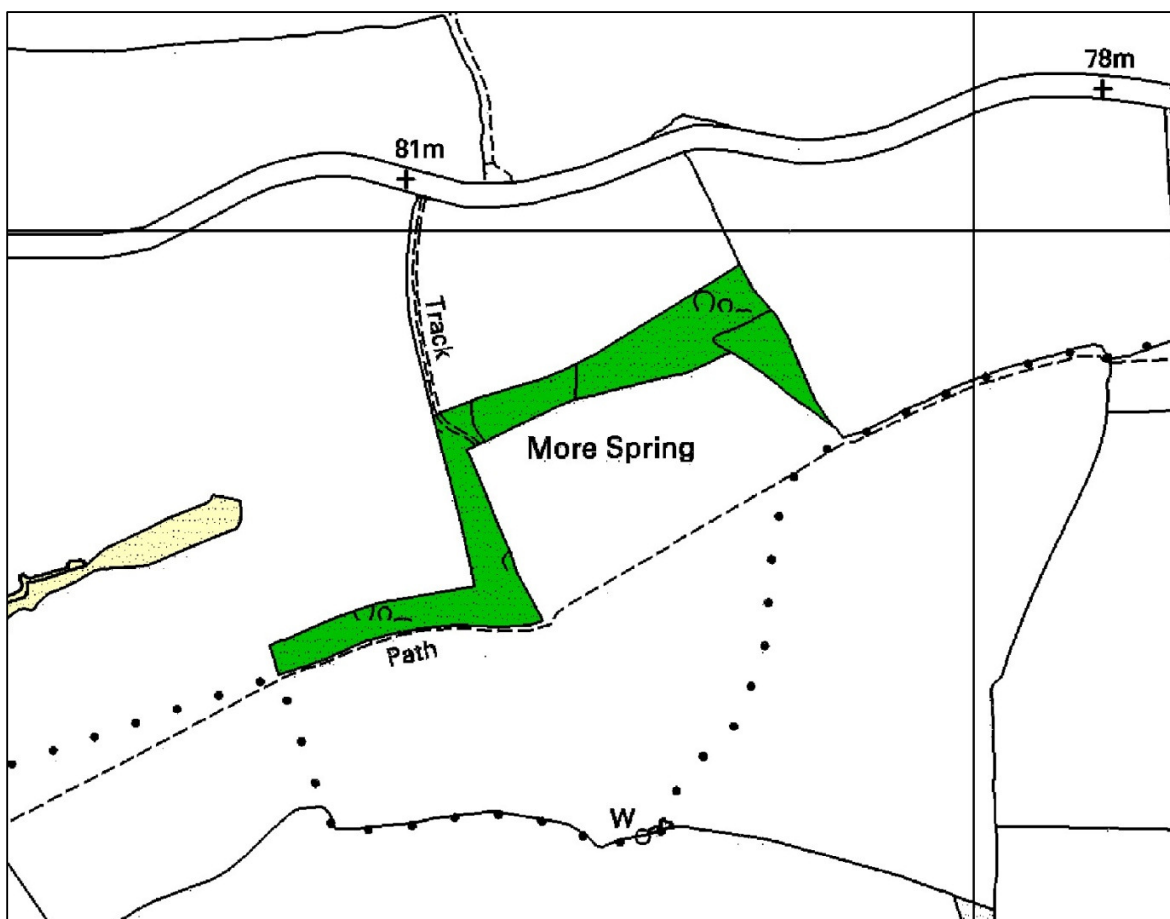
#### Rationale

This wood may have some ancient elements, but its status is uncertain. As a mixed broadleaved woodland, it falls within the scope of the UK BAP habitat and also complements the adjacent LoWS The Gorse Wood.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### Ep163 More Spring (1.6 ha) TL 527109

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards typify the canopy of this linear broadleaved wood. An understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) shades the ground flora. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is most prominent in the ground flora whilst Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) form localised patches. Other plants in the ground flora include Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

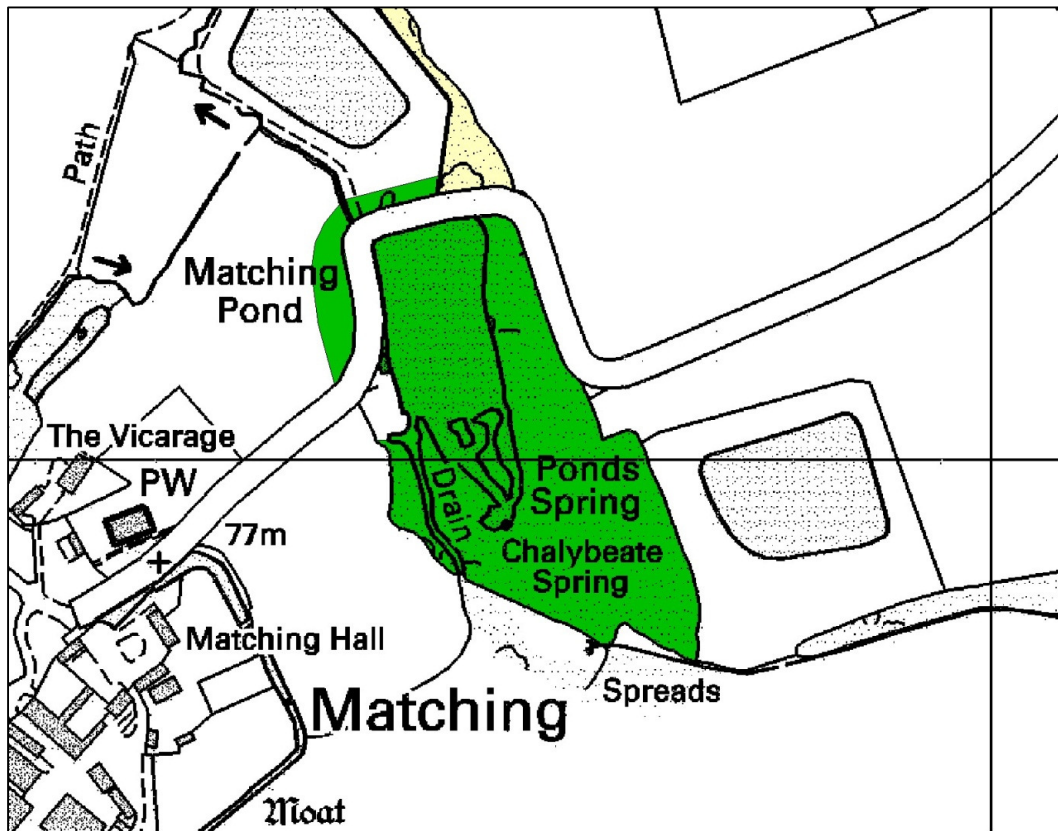
#### Rationale

The status of this wood is uncertain. It possesses a good coppice and standard structure with Hornbeam as the main tree species. Similar to More Spring West (Ep161), the structure is in keeping with that typical of several ancient woods in Epping Forest District. A species-poor ground flora is enhanced by the presence of Bluebell and Primrose.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep164 Chalybeate Spring (3.0 ha) TL 527120**

This site comprises dry woodland, damp woodland (Ponds Spring), which contains a Chalybeate spring feeding an adjacent lake, and Matching Pond. To the east of Ponds Spring very tall Grey Poplar (*Populus canescens*) dominate over a scattered Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) shrub layer. The area to the south is a dense tangle of vegetation with small islands in amongst surrounding shallow water. High canopy Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice in the shrub layer is found on the drier islands. The waterlogged ground is dominated by Willows (*Salix* spp.). The water table is generally high and has resulted in a ground flora which includes Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) and Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*). A row of six substantial veteran Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*) are found to the north of the road.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC3 – Other Priority Habitat Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC6 – Veteran Trees

#### **Rationale**

Wet willow woodland is an unusual and infrequent habitat of the district. The site also forms part of a corridor of habitat with The Gorse Wood (Ep165) and The Gorse (Ep162).

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (veteran oaks added)





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### **Ep165 The Gorse Wood (4.5 ha) TL 527123**

The central area of this wood is dominated by a high canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. Several other species are present, including Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), providing a diverse structure to this site. There has been much planting of Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) along the southern edge of the wood. Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are found under the Hazel coppice especially on the west side. Other plants of the ground flora include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

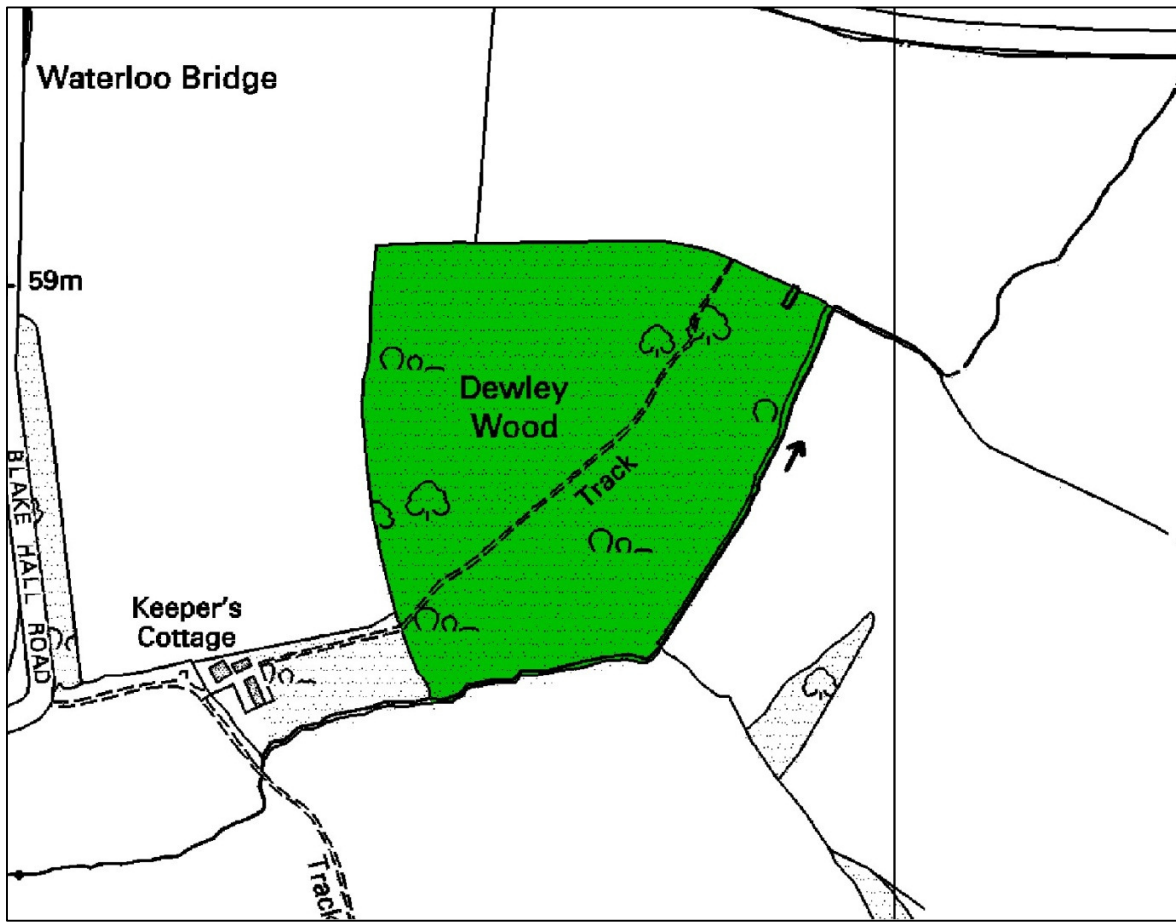
#### **Rationale**

This is a relatively large piece of secondary woodland that exhibits a varied canopy structure, within the definition of the UK BAP habitat listed above. It also forms part of a corridor of woodland habitat with The Gorse (Ep162) and Chalybeate Spring (Ep164).

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep166 Dewley Wood (6.4 ha) TL 528045**

This large ancient wood contains a canopy of predominantly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards scattered throughout and a few planted conifers close to the Keeper's cottage. Densely shading Hornbeam coppice on the eastern margin of the wood has excluded ground flora from colonising. The scattered tree canopy allows low Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) patches to establish in many areas. Other parts of the wood where there is good light penetration to the ground have Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) or Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

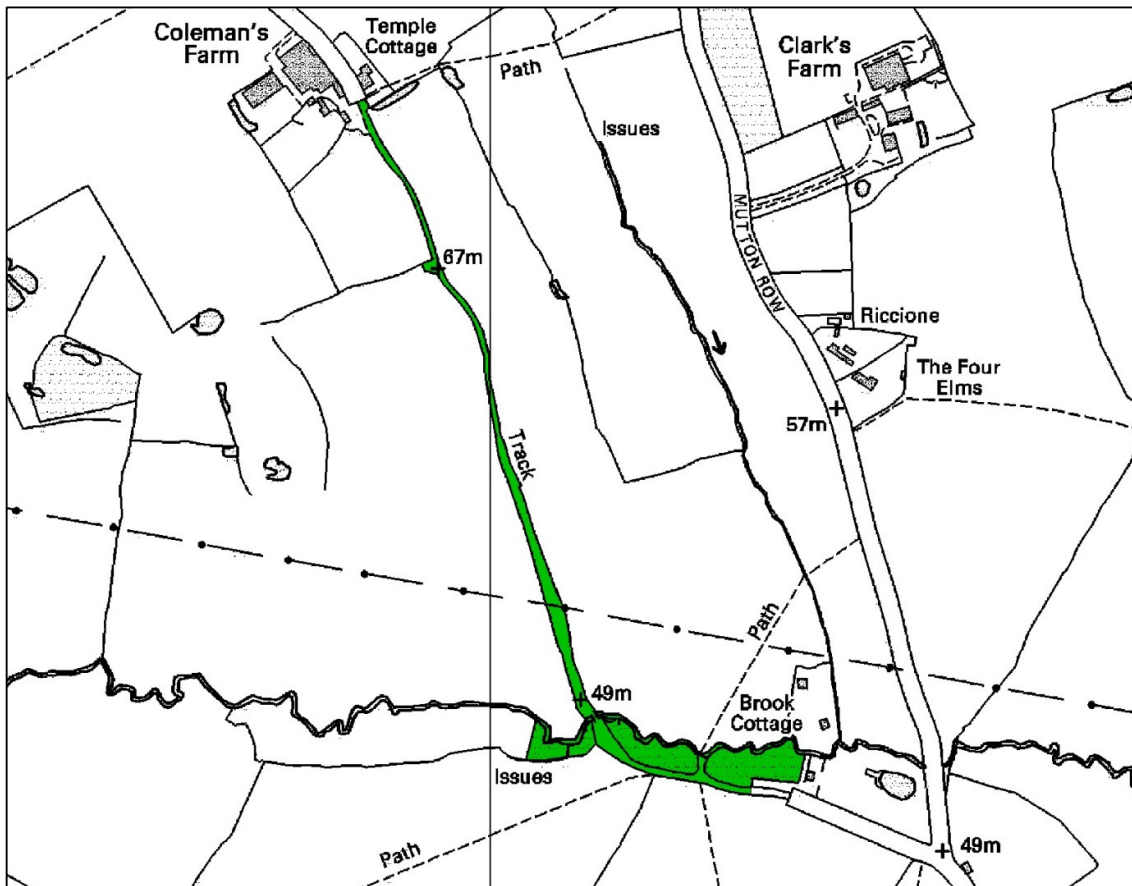
#### **Rationale**

This site is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and, despite the poor ground flora, has a general structure and composition that reflects this status.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep167 Coleman's Lane (1.1 ha) TL 530015

This site is located by a small stream tributary of the River Roding north east of Stanford Rivers. The site comprises an area of broadleaf plantation, old woodland and a green lane running north to meet Toot Hill Road. The far westerly part of the woodland has several Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) pollards and large coppice stools with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel are found this southern woodland block and tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards line the track in this area. The green lane has several pollards of Pedunculate Oak and Hornbeam along with large specimens of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple and much Hazel.

The ground flora is equally rich with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) typically found in a streamside location, with Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) nearby. This site has a considerable number of other species of interest including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood-sedge (*Carex remota*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites  
HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites  
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

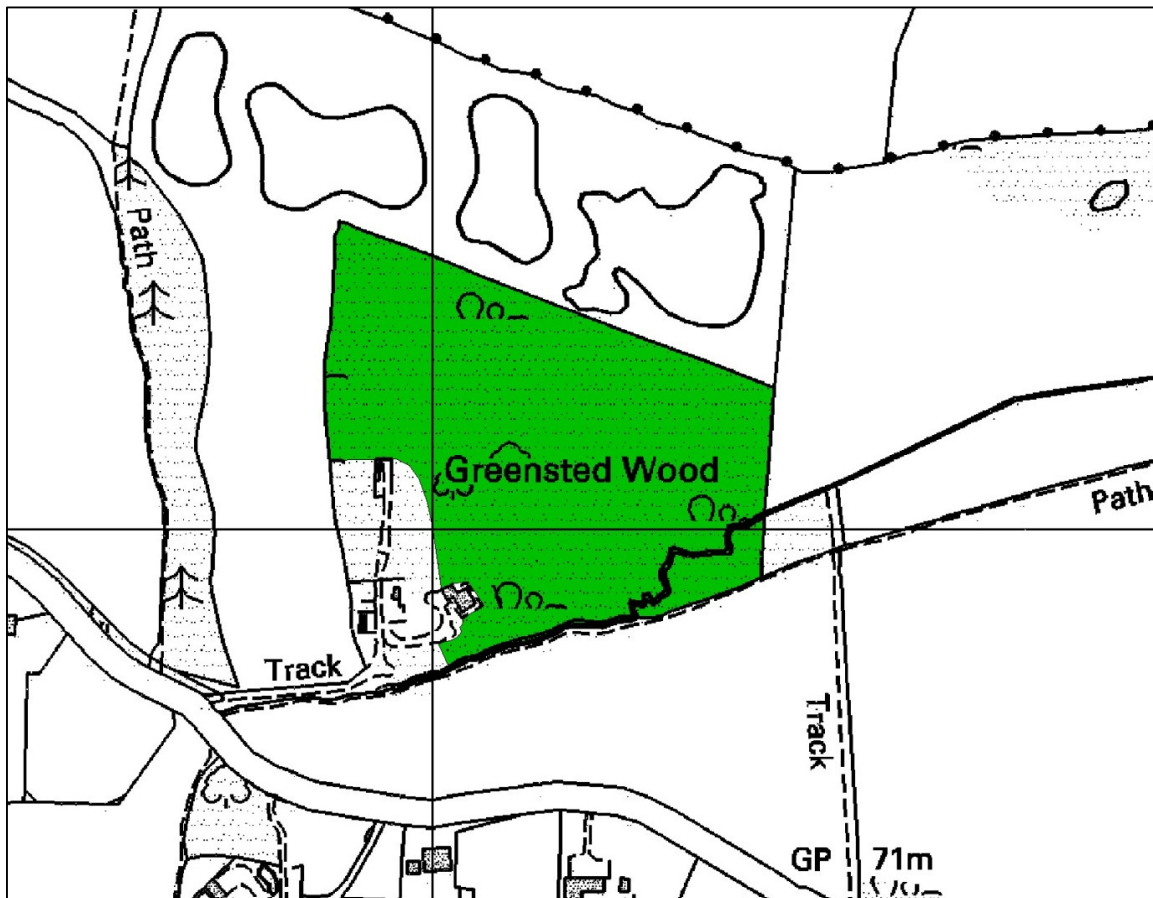
**Rationale**

The coppiced woodland and green lane are almost certainly ancient. For a small site it exhibits excellent structure and is very species-rich.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1996

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep168 Greensted Wood (4.0 ha) TL 530030**

This wood consists almost solely of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Any shrub layer is mostly confined to the southern margins of the wood. Species include Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). A central area has Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). The lack of a shading canopy allows Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) to dominate much of this area. The presence of much Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*J. inflexus*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) indicates localised damp soil conditions, compared to the remainder of the wood.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

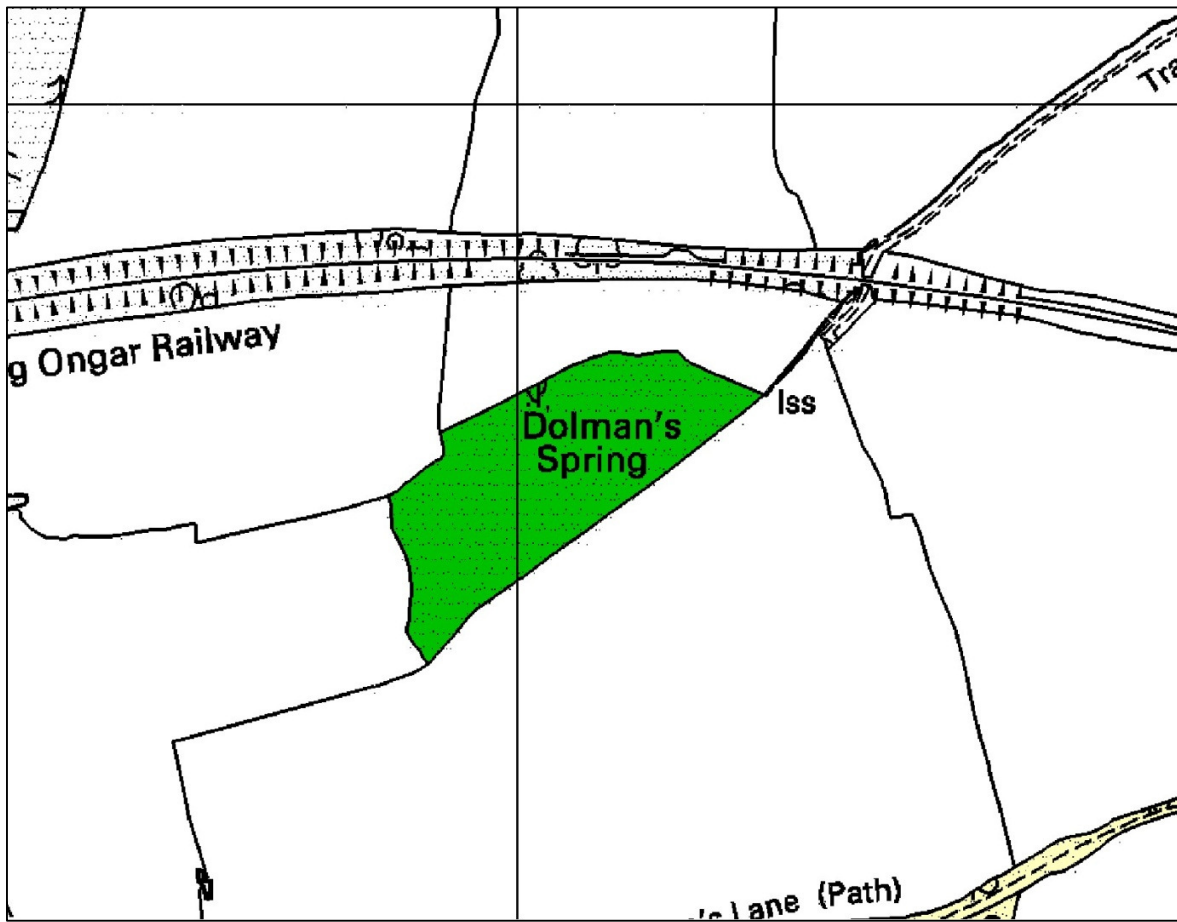
#### **Rationale**

This wood included in the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and the abundant hornbeam coppice provides field evidence to support this status.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (boundary with adjacent buildings amended)



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### **Ep169 Dolman's Spring (1.6 ha) TL 530037**

This broadleaved wood primarily comprises a canopy of mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) interspersed with Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). The central area is more of a tangle of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The western part of the site has some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice confined mainly to the wood margins. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is found in the shrub canopy throughout the wood. The ground flora is generally species poor with areas of bare leaf litter or conversely dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Species of interest present include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

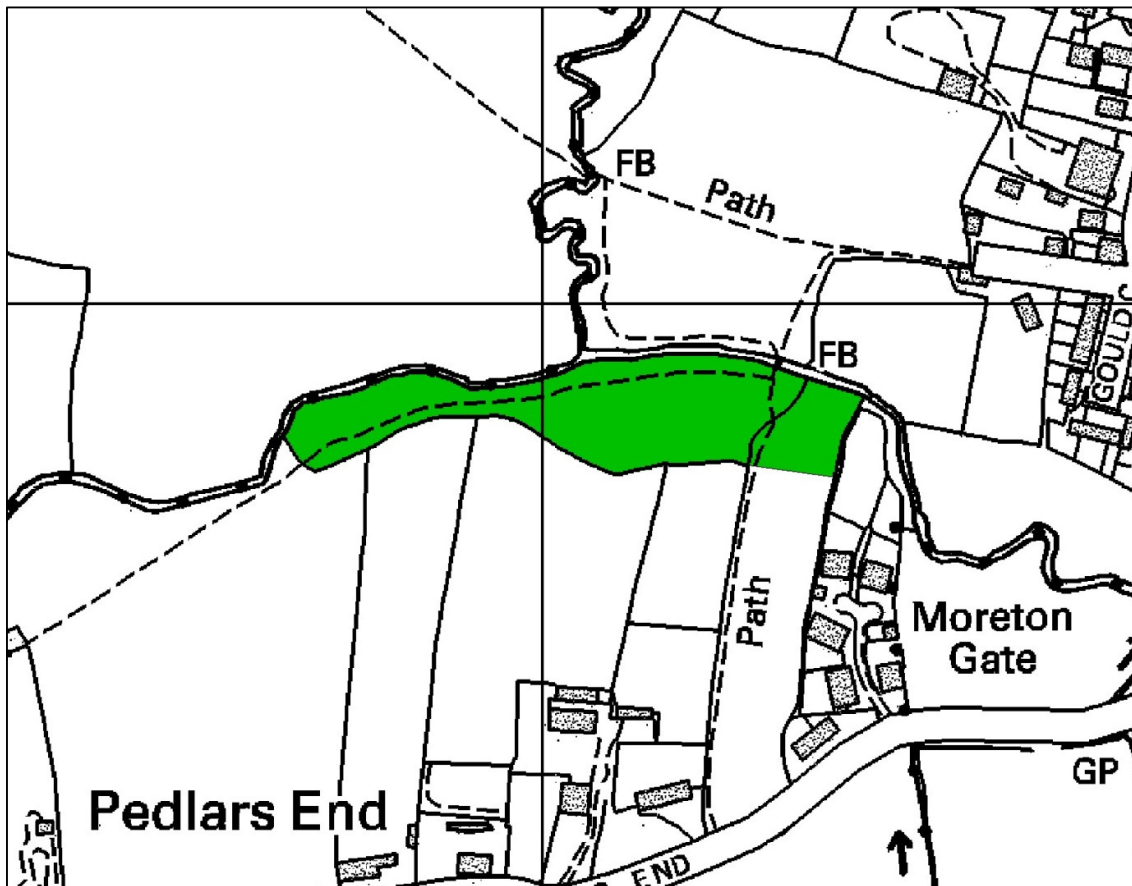
#### **Rationale**

This wood may be ancient, but is selected here under the broader remit of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland UK BAP habitat and associated criterion.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep170 Dorkings Farm Meadow (1.0 ha) TL 530069**

Dorkings Farm Meadow is located south of Cripsey Brook to the west of Moreton village. It is bounded by dense hedges with Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Willows (*Salix* spp.). The meadow is dominated by tall swards of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), but other grasses present include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The damp nature of the site is reflected by Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) being found throughout this grassland. This species does however avoid permanently waterlogged ground. Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) are prominent species throughout the meadow. Others recorded include Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

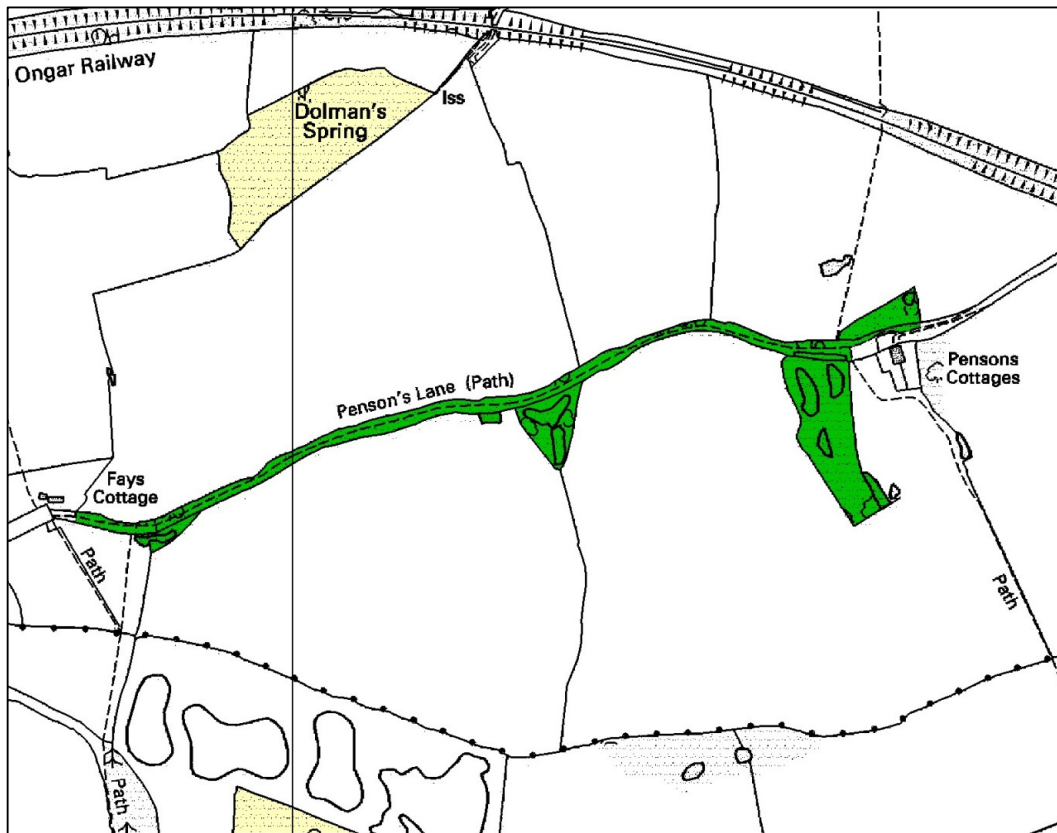
#### **Rationale**

This is an old pasture that has not been subject to any significant improvement by way of fertilizing or drainage. The damp soil conditions suit a range of plant species, and the long grass sward of the site is valuable habitat for many invertebrates.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep171 Penson's Lane (2.4 ha) TL 532035**

An ancient green lane of some 900 m in length, Penson's Lane forms part of the Greensted Country Walk. Apart from the hedge lined track, there are in addition small wooded areas. Tree and shrub species along the main track include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a species strongly associated with ancient woods, is present towards the west end of the track. The wooded block near the eastern end of the site has a Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak standards. This structure gives way to young Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and a scattered Hawthorn shrub layer. A varied ground flora is found throughout and includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites  
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

#### **Rationale**

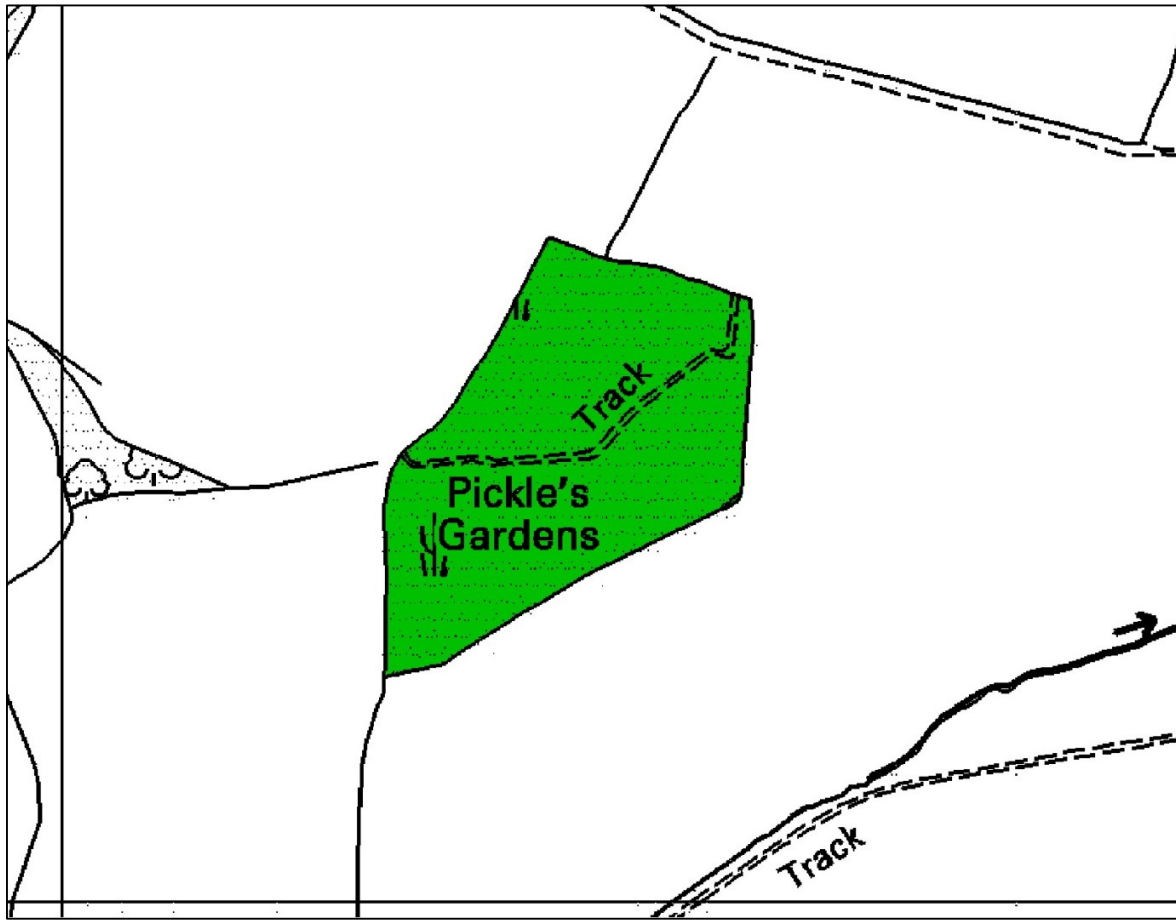
Penson's Lane is a particularly diverse linear habitat. The area of Hornbeam coppice may be a small fragment of ancient wood, in which case criterion HC1 would apply.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### **Ep172 Pickle's Gardens (2.3 ha) TL 532042**

This wood has a canopy comprising a mix of broadleaved species including Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice. Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) forms a sub-canopy in places, whilst much Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is found throughout the shrub layer, though Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), more typical of ancient woodland, also grows here. Though more commonly found as a standard, a few coppiced Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*) are present near the south west margin of Pickle's Gardens. The ground flora is dominated throughout by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). However, Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) have also been recorded.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

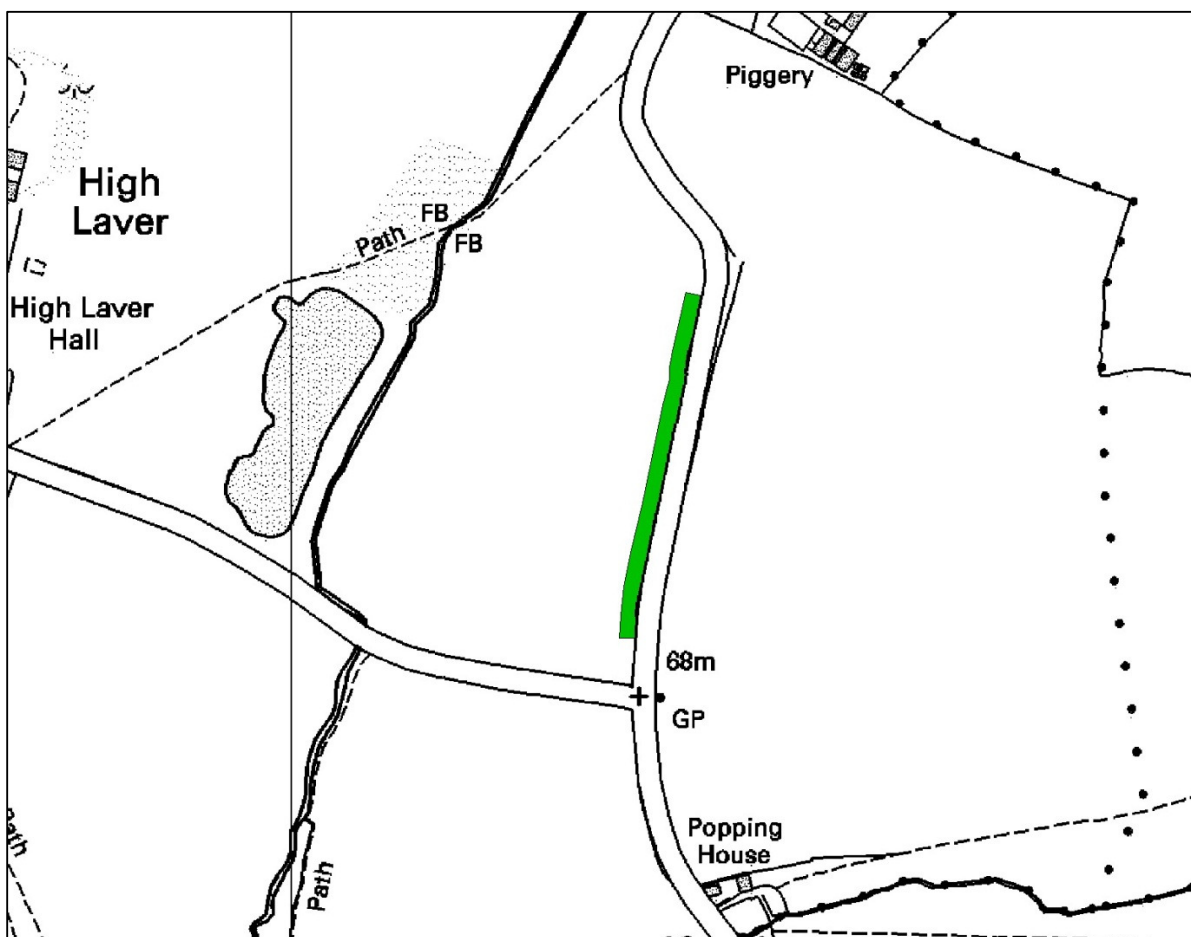
#### **Rationale**

Though classified as secondary woodland, Pickle's gardens does have some species typically found in ancient woods. If demonstrated to be ancient, criterion HC1 would apply.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep173 Watery Lane Verge, High Laver (0.1 ha) TL 532086**

Located on the west side of Watery Lane, this road verge is approximately 250 metres in length. Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*) is the most prominent herb and occurs throughout most of the length of the verge, whilst Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), a herb of dry infertile, calcareous grassland is found more locally. Other, more common species include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

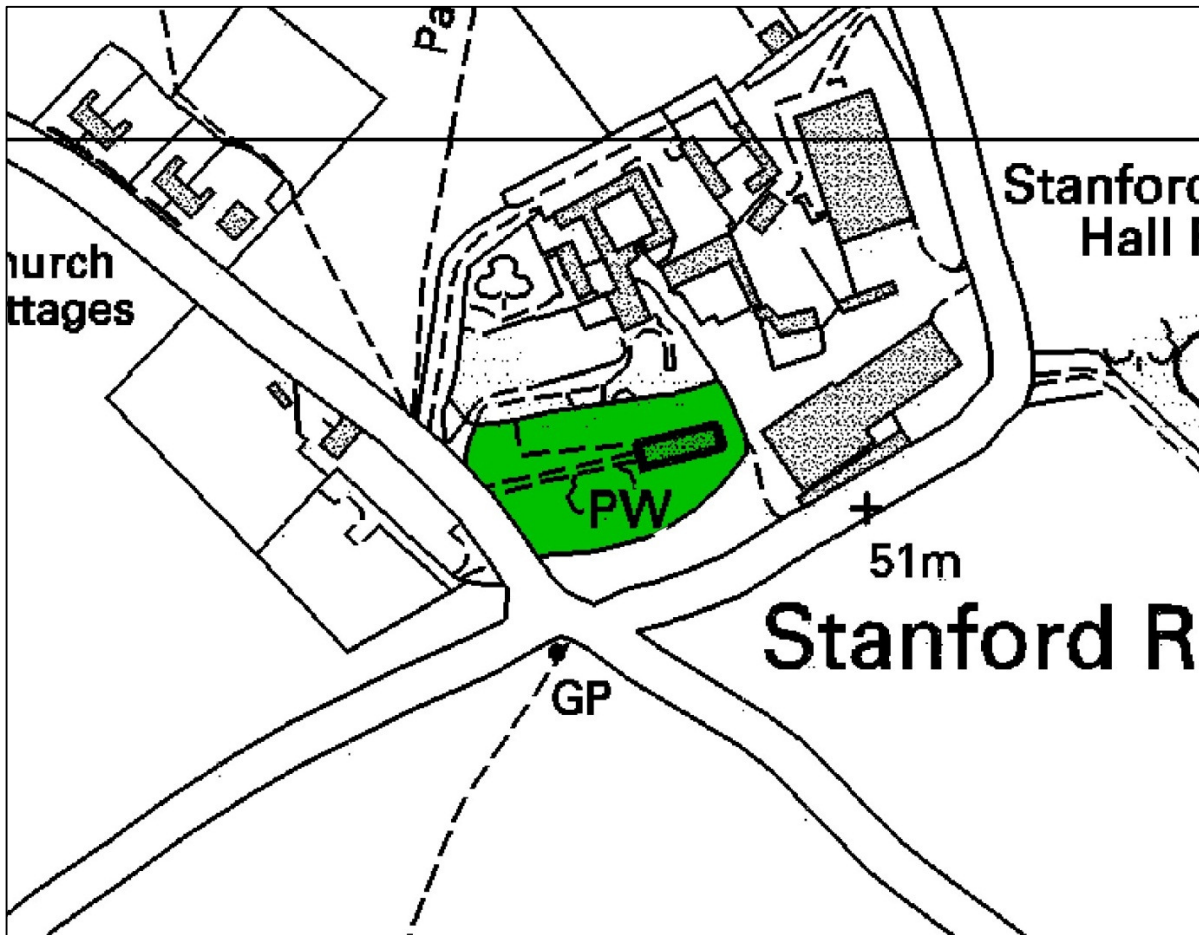
#### **Rationale**

Although supporting plants characteristic of calcareous grassland on hard chalk substrates, this chalky boulder clay verge is selected via the broader remit of the species-rich grassland criterion.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep174 St. Margaret's Churchyard, Stanford Rivers (0.5 ha) TL 533008**

A good diversity of grass species have been recorded from this churchyard, including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) as well as Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), a species usually found in relatively infertile grassland. Several other species of interest are present including Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

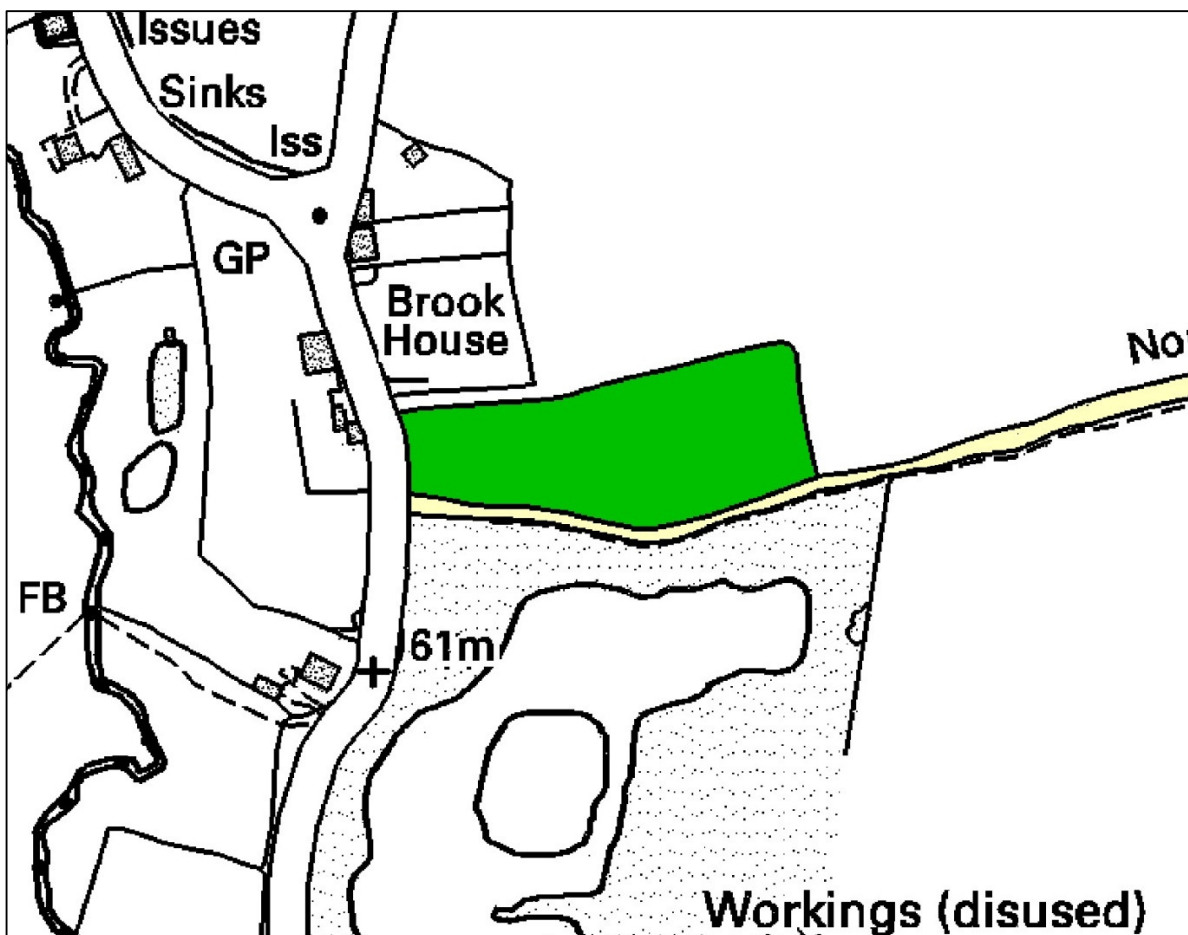
#### **Rationale**

This is an important piece of old, unimproved and species-rich grassland. Further survey work may show it to belong within the MG5 NVC grassland types covered by the UK Lowland Meadows BAP habitat.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep175 Crispins Meadow (0.8 ha) TL 534076**

Located at the west end of North Lane (Ep178), this is a small paddock currently heavily horse-grazed. Herbs recorded include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) amongst a sward of, Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). Previous surveys noted the presence of Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) (a scarce plant in Essex) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), but their current status at the site is uncertain.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

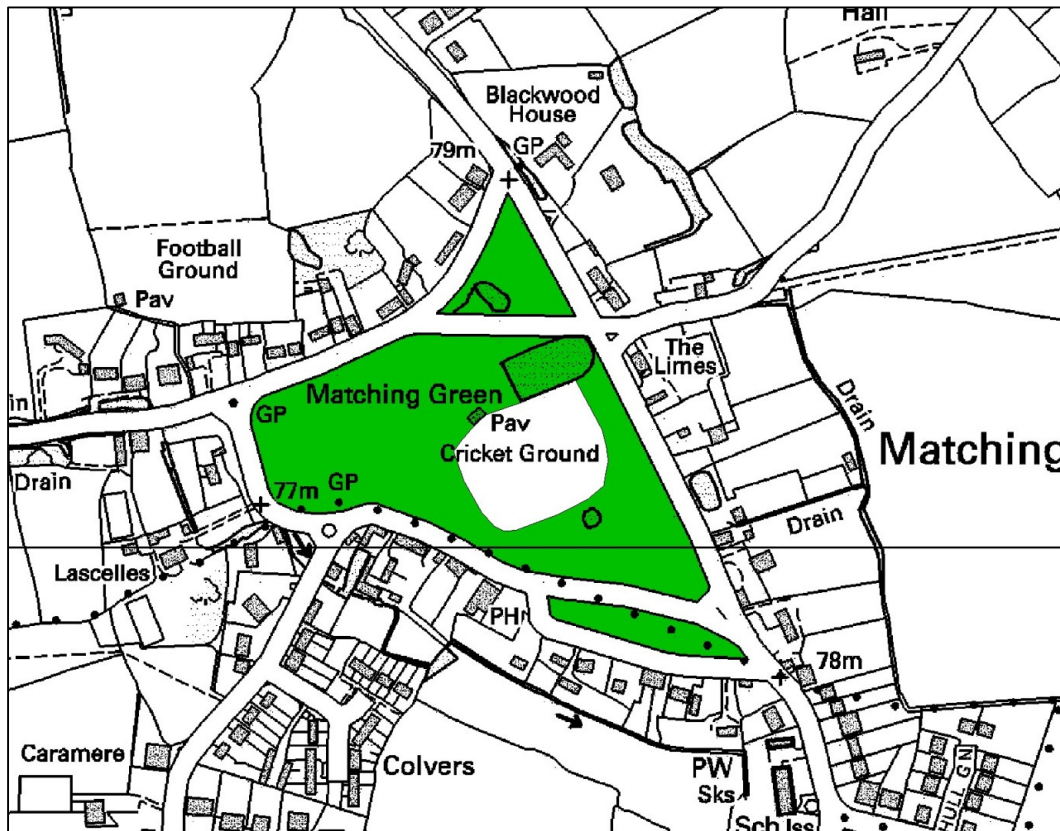
#### **Rationale**

Unimproved meadows and pastures such as this are increasingly scarce habitats in Essex. It is believed that this sward falls within the definition of the Lowland Meadows MG5 NVC grassland type, although it is being heavily modified by intensive horse-grazing.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep176 Matching Green (5.1 ha) TL 534110**

Matching Green is a large, but fragmented, ancient village green. The sward retains a wide variety of grass species including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and, notably, Quaking-grass (*Briza media*). The diversity of this grassland is highlighted by the presence of Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) favouring damper parts; Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) found widespread on the freer draining areas and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) preferring the well drained, more acidic soils. The pond to the south of the cricket pitch has an extensive cover of Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and the rare Essex plant Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) is well established here.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

#### **Rationale**

Matching Green is a large and species-rich grassland and displays a floral diversity that has now been lost from most Essex village greens due to “improvement” or inappropriate management. It is selected via the neutral soil grassland criterion rather than that covering calcareous grassland on the basis of its underlying geology i.e. chalky boulder clay rather than solid chalk.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep177 Gunnets Green (1.2 ha) TL 534126**

This green lane, located to the north-east of Matching, has a varied structure. The southern half the track is lined with hedgerows either side, but the north half comprises narrow bands of woodland bordering the track. A small stream follows the track for a very short distance but adds to the overall habitat diversity. A diverse assemblage of trees and shrubs includes Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) and Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) are some of the other woody species recorded. The flora includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows (UK)

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

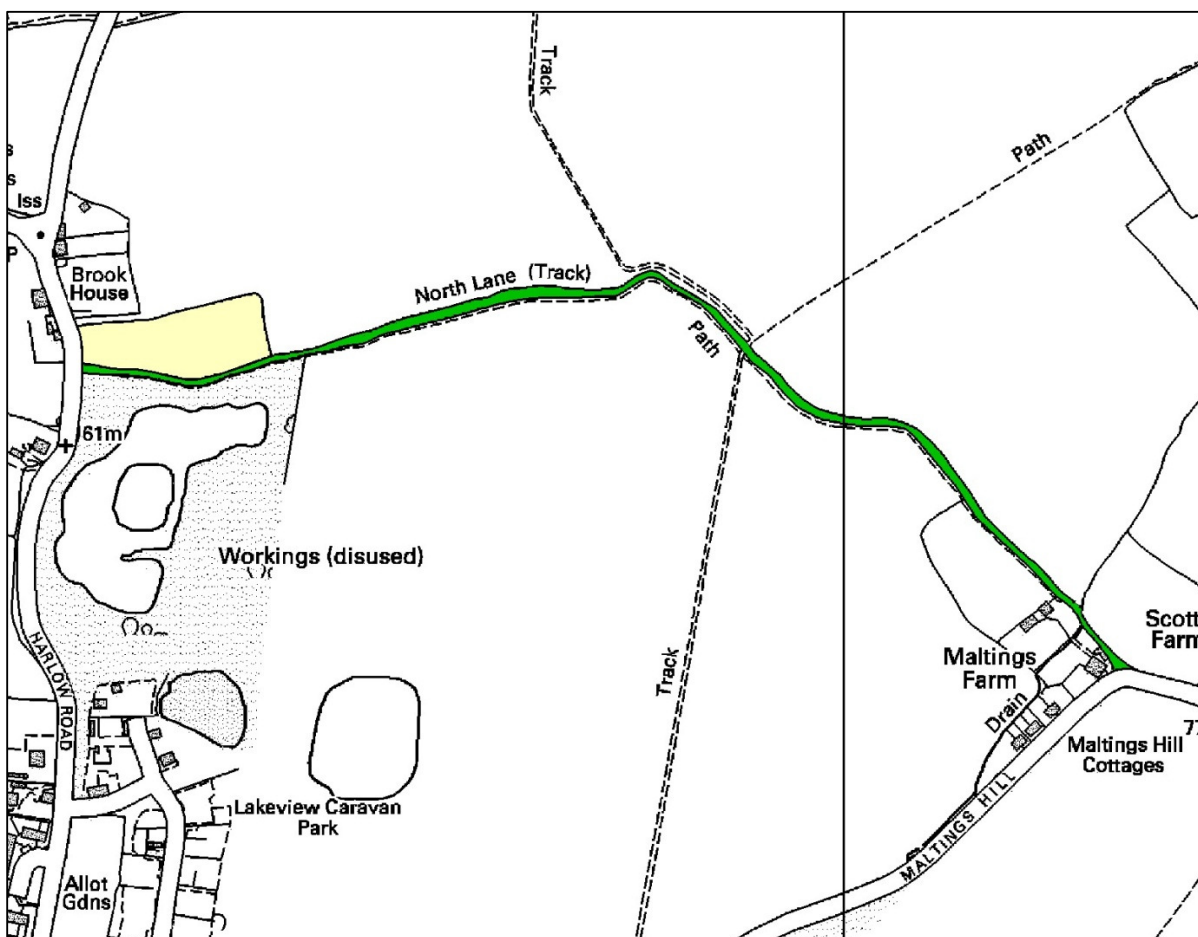
#### **Rationale**

This diverse green lane has areas of linear woodland as well as typical hedgerow sections and is an ancient landscape feature.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep178 North Lane (0.7 ha) TL 537076**

This ancient green lane extends for approximately 900 metres east of Crispins Meadow LoWS. Many tree and shrub species are found along the trackway, including Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*) and Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) are among the shrubs found along this lane. The ground flora has frequent patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), being tolerant of the shady conditions. Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) are additional ancient woodland indicators to be found here.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows (UK)

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

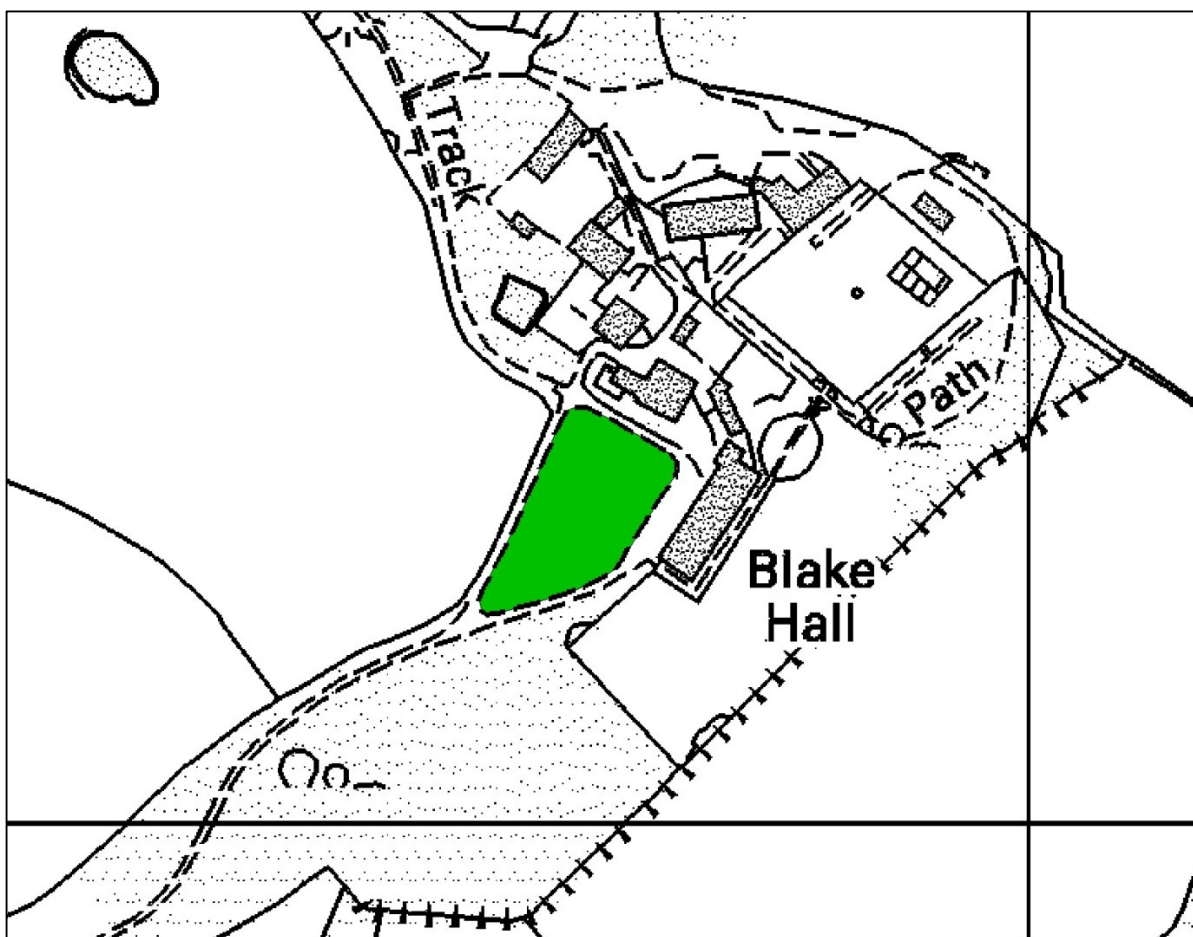
#### **Rationale**

With many fragmented hedgerow habitats throughout the rural landscape, these intact green lanes are extremely important linear wildlife corridors.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep179 Blake Hall Meadow (0.3 ha) TL 538051**

This species-rich meadow is located within the grounds of Blake Hall. The grass sward includes Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), a species typically found in old grasslands. Among the herb species that have been recorded are Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*) and Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), an Essex Red Data List species confined to neutral unimproved grassland.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

#### **Rationale**

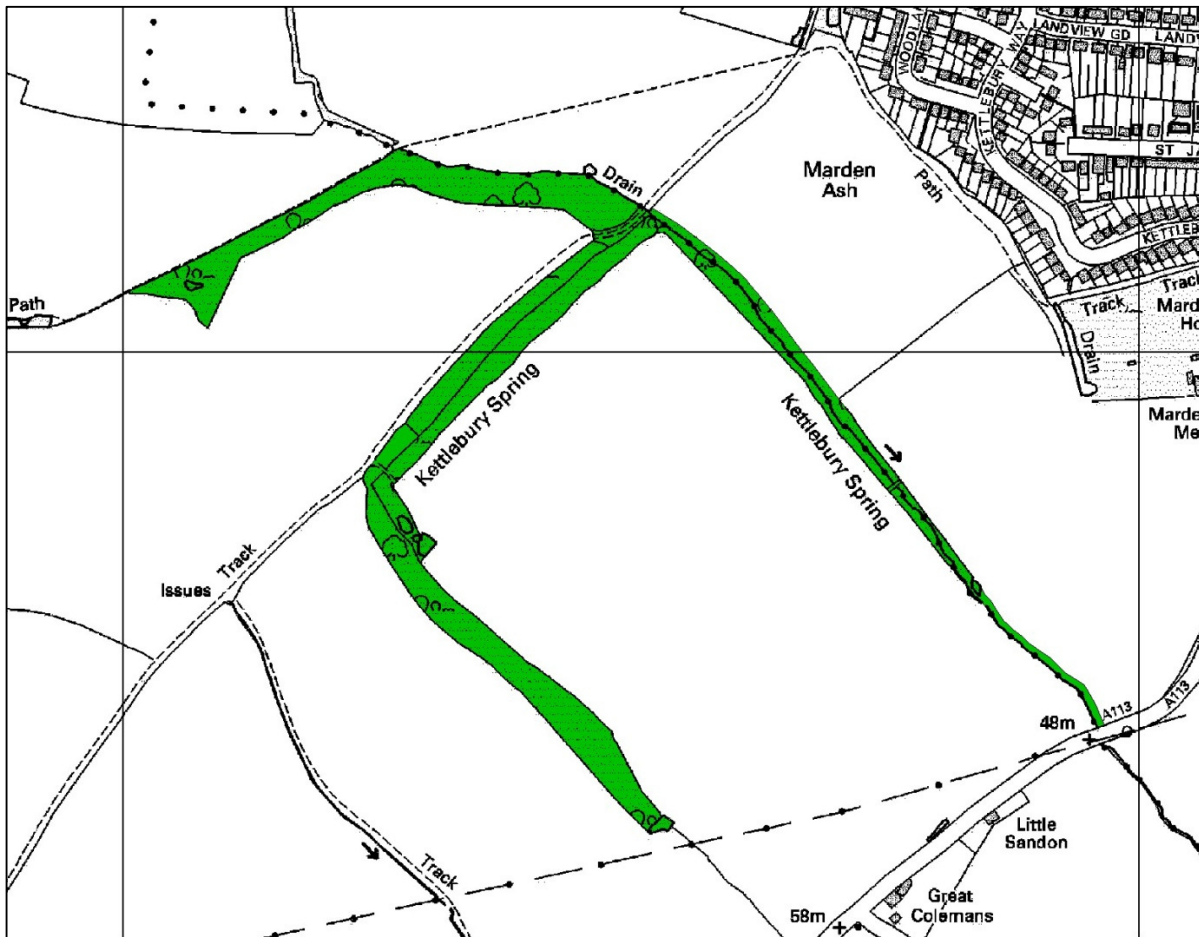
Old grassland sites are now rare within the district and throughout Essex due to improvement of many sites by addition of fertilisers resulting in soil nutrient enrichment. Where they survive these unimproved grasslands support some of the counties rarer flora. This site may represent a modified form of the UK Lowland Meadows BAP habitat, but is selected here under the broader remit of the general species-rich grasslands criterion.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### Ep180 Kettlebury Spring (5.3 ha) TL 544020

Kettlebury Spring is an extensive linear broadleaved wood comprising four lengths, each around 500 m in length. Each arm is largely Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with frequent Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) most frequent in the northernmost arm. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) occur as sub-canopy/shrub layer species, along with Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a tree strongly associated with ancient woodland, also occurs here.

The ground flora varies along the different limbs of woodland. One part has patchy Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Ivy (*Hedera helix*), but includes the very rare (in Essex) Greater Butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*), an Essex Red Data Listed species that has seen a drastic decline in the county. Other areas beneath the Hornbeam have carpets of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Where there is higher light penetration reaching the ground, Bramble and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) can dominate. Other herbs of interest recorded include Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

#### 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

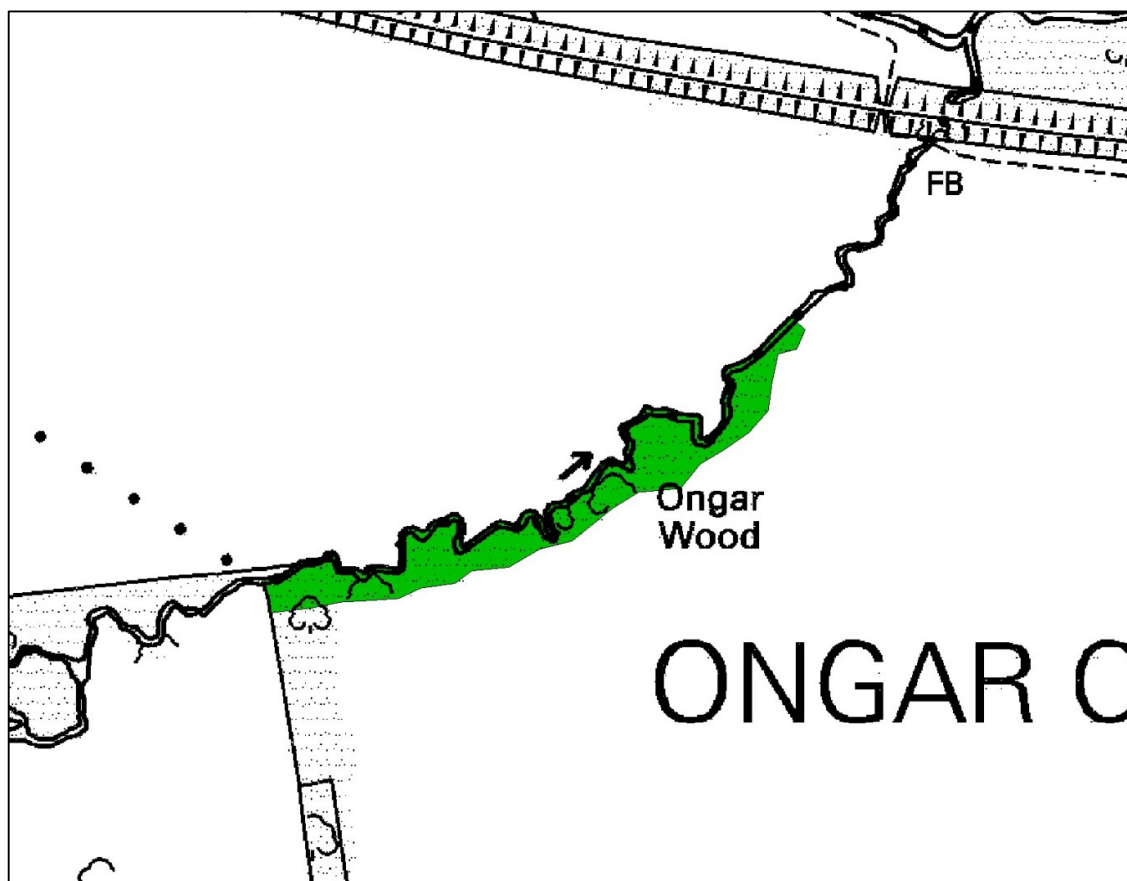
### **Rationale**

Kettlebury Spring still retains the irregular shape and has remained unaltered since it was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1881. However, it is not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex. The presence of a good coppice structure and the high number of species indicative of ancient woodland tends to suggest that it is largely, if not entirely, ancient.

### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep181 Ongar Wood (0.7 ha) TL 544033**

Ongar Wood is a small fragment of woodland on the south side of Cripsey Brook, west of Chipping Ongar. The Ordnance survey map of 1881 shows that it was approximately twice the area that it now is, the southern half having been grubbed out during the twentieth century. The structure includes several coppiced trees and shrubs including Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). A few tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are interspersed in the canopy. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub is frequent throughout the wood, while the less common Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) is also found. The ground flora has patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Where there is greater light penetration to the woodland floor, Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) flourishes.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

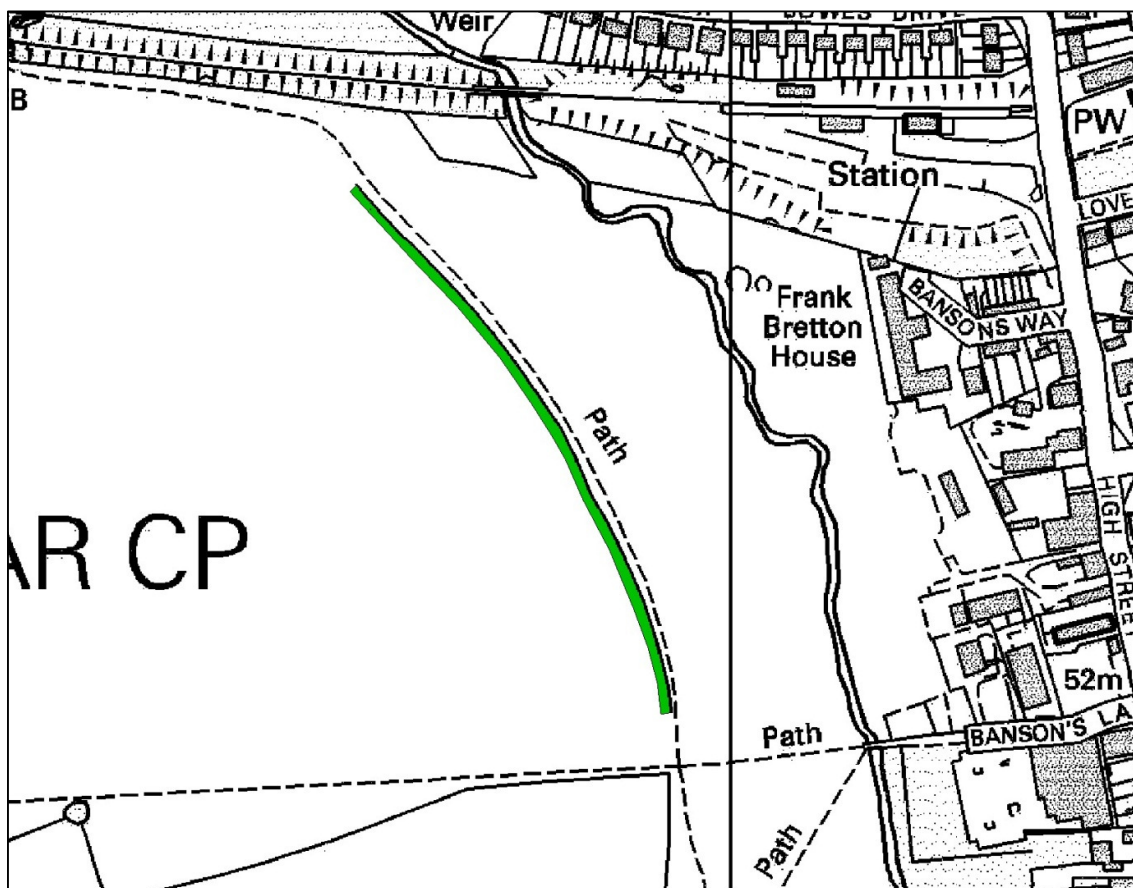
#### **Rationale**

This woodland is not recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex. However, it does exhibit a good canopy and understorey structure consistent with that status and is therefore considered to be a small surviving remnant of ancient wood.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep182 Ongar Oaks (0.2 ha) TL 548032**

This site comprises a line of thirteen veteran Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees located along the route of a public footpath through arable fields to the west of Chipping Ongar. There are twelve living trees and a single dead one. Apart from being important historical and cultural landmarks in the countryside, veteran trees are also of great ecological importance. As they age trees become physically damaged, decay hollows and trunk cavities may form and bark may be lost in places. Trees can tolerate many of these natural ravages and not be detrimentally affected. As a result many and varied ecological niches are created in them. They provide valuable habitat as roost sites for bats, and each individual tree can harbour many species of invertebrate. They can become important habitat for lichens, mosses fungi and epiphytic plants. Even dead veteran trees have considerable ecological value because of their slow rate of decay.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Veteran Trees

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC6 – Veteran Trees

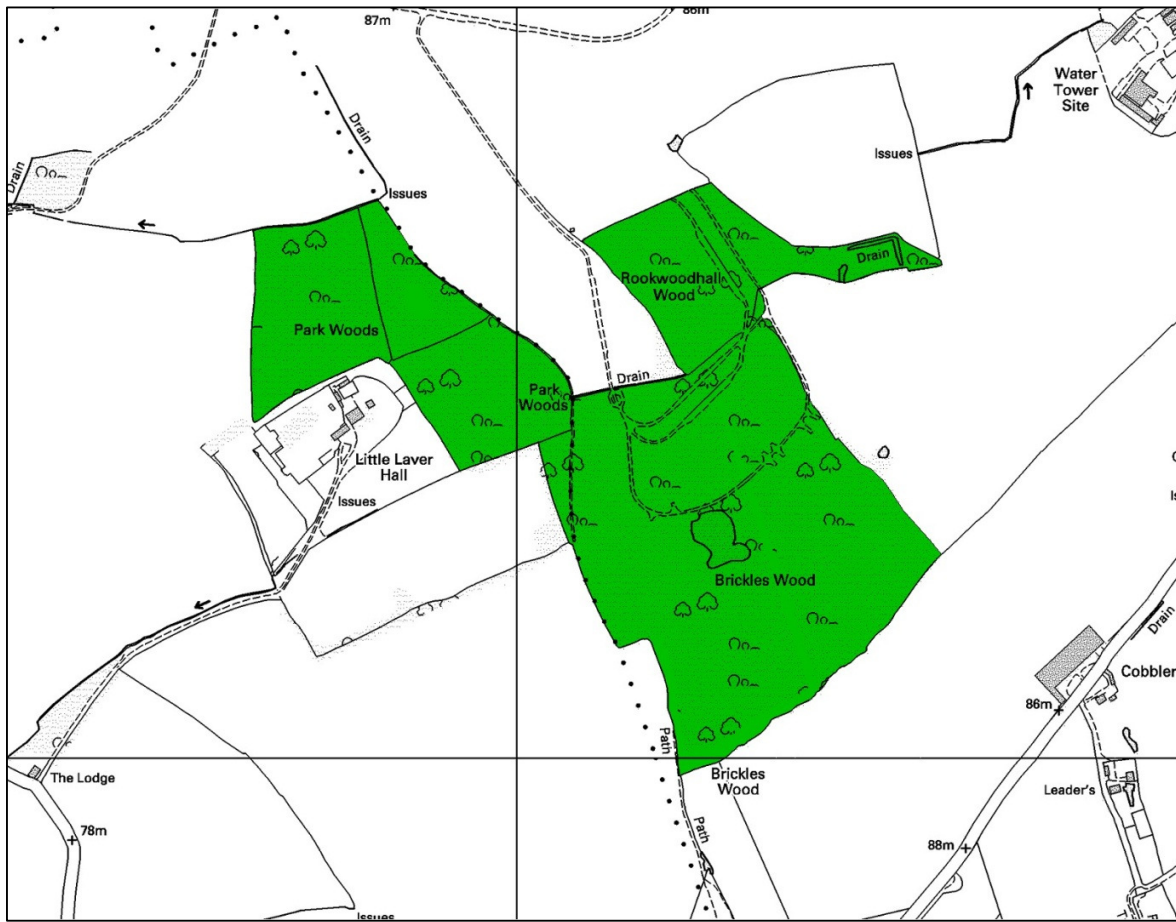
#### **Rationale**

Whilst Epping Forest district contains a large number of veteran trees scattered across the countryside, this row represents a valuable resource due to the close proximity of each tree allowing for ecological interactions between each tree and its associated flora and fauna.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### Ep183 Brickles Wood Complex (30.1 ha) TL 551103

This is the largest woodland complex in the north part of Epping Forest District. It comprises the ancient compartments of Brickles Wood, Rookwoodhall Wood and most of Park Woods, with an area of recent woodland between the two Park Woods sections. The canopy contains predominantly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice throughout much of the wood. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) are the other principal component species. The shrub layer includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). The density of the ground flora varies depending upon the degree of shading. There are infrequent patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) beneath the very dense shading of the old Hornbeam coppice. The wood floor has some damp zones where Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) are found. Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) dominates other localised damp areas, particularly in Rookwoodhall Wood. Other species of interest in this large woodland are Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*). Of particular note is the rare Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*) an Essex Red Data List species that generally favours calcareous soils, found in a relatively open situation near the edge of the wood.

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

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

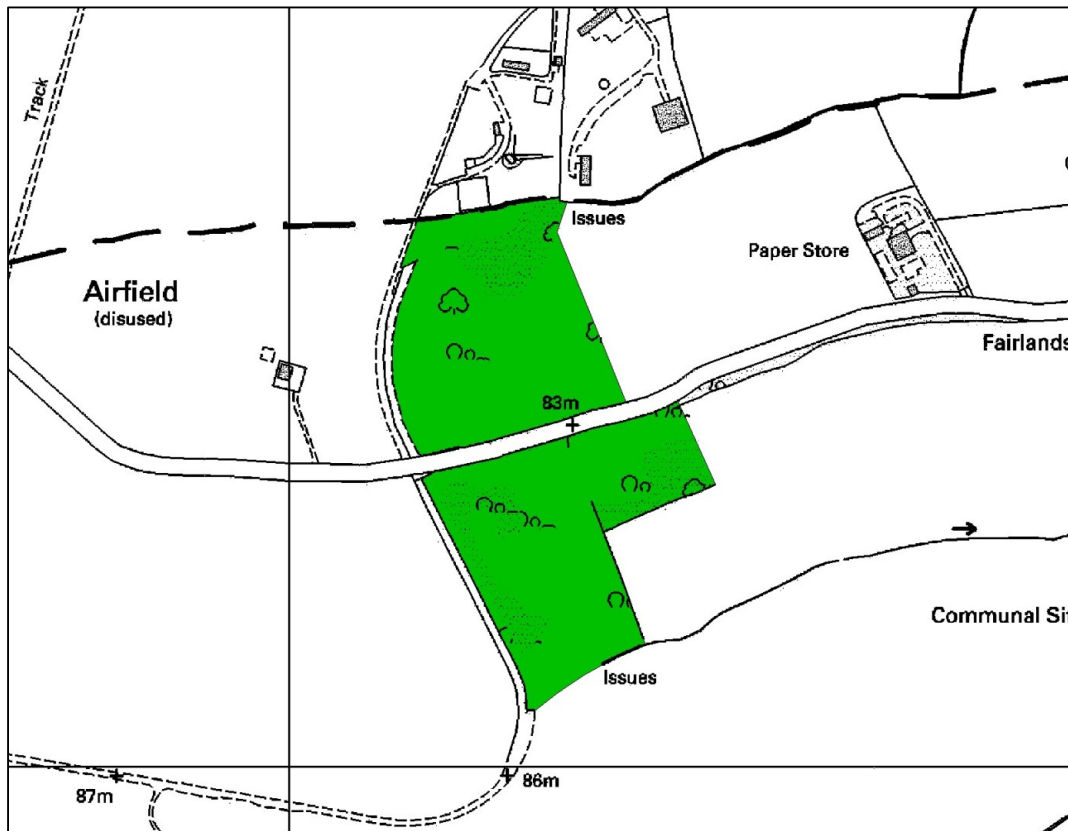
**Rationale**

The majority of the site is ancient with only a small portion of non-ancient woodland habitat. Its ancient status is indicated by the ground flora, structure and other physical characteristics. The more recent broadleaved woodland forms an integral part of the wood as a whole.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep184 Matching Airfield Mosaic (7.8 ha) TL 551112**

This site lies approximately 1 kilometre to the east of Matching Green on disturbed ground previously used for airfield buildings and hangars. Much of this site is a mosaic of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominated scrub with some Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and grassy glades in between. North of the road, the eastern part of the site is dominated by dense Willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), and Hawthorn. Secondary woodland has developed to the south of the road. Here, Field Maple forms a sub-canopy with tall Hawthorn. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are also lesser components. The contrasting habitat structure supports a diverse range of plants. Tall Melilot (*Melilotus altissimus*) is abundant in the grassy glades. Several species of particular interest are recorded including Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*) and Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11- Other Neutral Grasslands

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

#### **Rationale**

This site is a complex mosaic of unmanaged habitat. It not only has an interesting flora, but is excellent habitat for nesting and foraging birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (habitat on eastern side added)



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### Ep185 Enville Wood (3.5 ha) TL 553091

The site is neglected ancient woodland with a canopy comprising Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a sub-canopy of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and some Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are scattered throughout a shrub canopy layer that also has Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), a species usually confined to ancient woodland.

The ground flora reflects the neglected and dense nature of the canopy. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is abundant under the shading canopy and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) are also frequent throughout. There are only occasional patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), but there are other species characteristic of ancient woodland including Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

#### Rationale

This wood has a flora and structure typical of ancient woods in Essex and is included within the Essex inventory of ancient woods.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009





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### Ep186 Little Wood (3.5 ha) TL 553091

This ancient wood had suffered severe storm damage during 1987, with the central and southern sections losing many trees. The wood currently reflects this former damage with these areas replanted with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Old Hornbeam coppice only survives on the wood margins in this area. The central area has some old Field Maple and Ash coppice, but it is in the north of the wood that any significant amount of Hornbeam remains. The shrub canopy comprises Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) dominates much of the ground flora. There are occasional patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

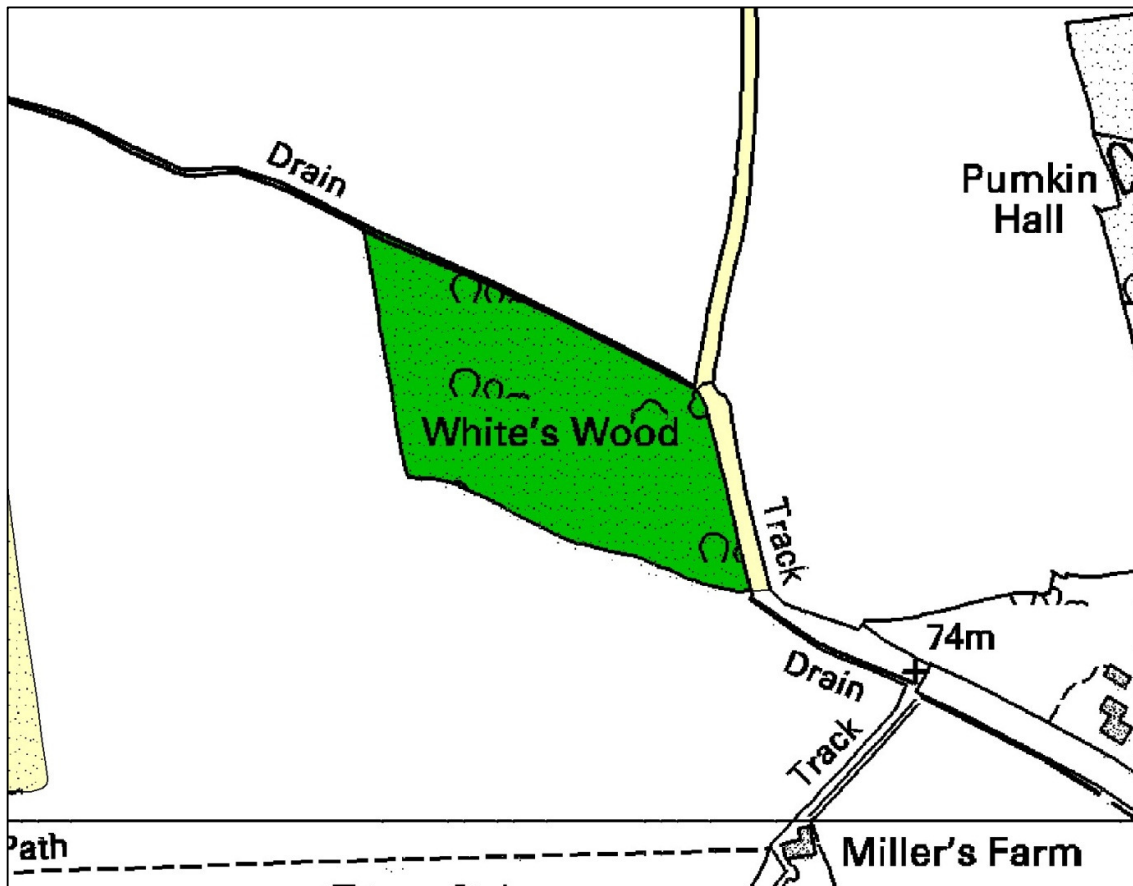
#### Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a flora and original structure consistent with that status.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep187 White's Wood (1.8 ha) TL 556092**

Located at the southern end of Blackcat Green Lane (Ep188), this ancient wood contains a high canopy with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with few Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, beneath which Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) form a high sub-canopy. A shrub layer canopy comprising Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) including Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) forms another strata to the structure. There is no ditch or bank on the southern side of this wood indicating that the woodland once extended further. The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), but there are patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) is prominent amongst the ground flora in early spring.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

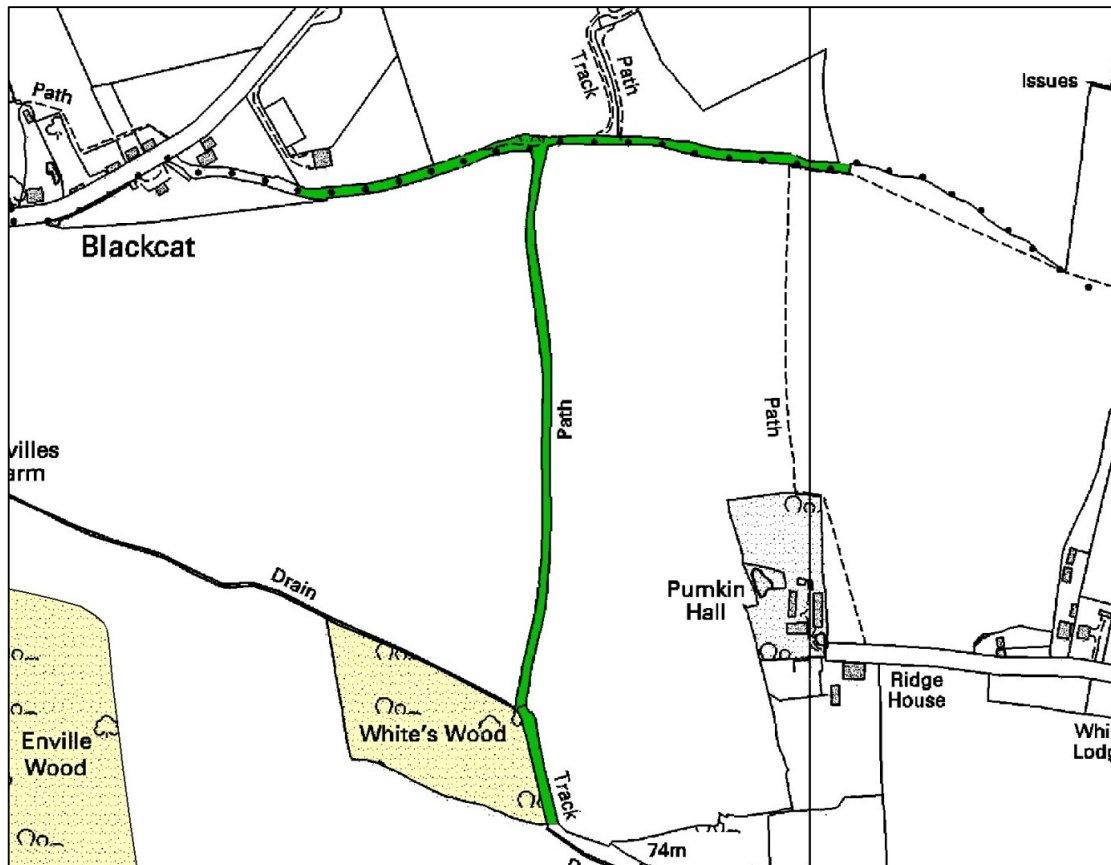
#### **Rationale**

This wood is included within the Essex ancient Woodland Inventory and has a typical ancient woodland composition.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep188 Blackcat Green Lane (0.9 ha) TL 557096**

This ancient lane runs adjacent to the east side of Whites Wood (Ep187). It is lined by substantial species-rich hedges which include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) as the tallest trees. Many other tree and shrub species are present, including Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland Hawthorn (*C. laevigata*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora contains woodland and grassland species forming a diverse mix including Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Primrose (*P. vulgaris*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

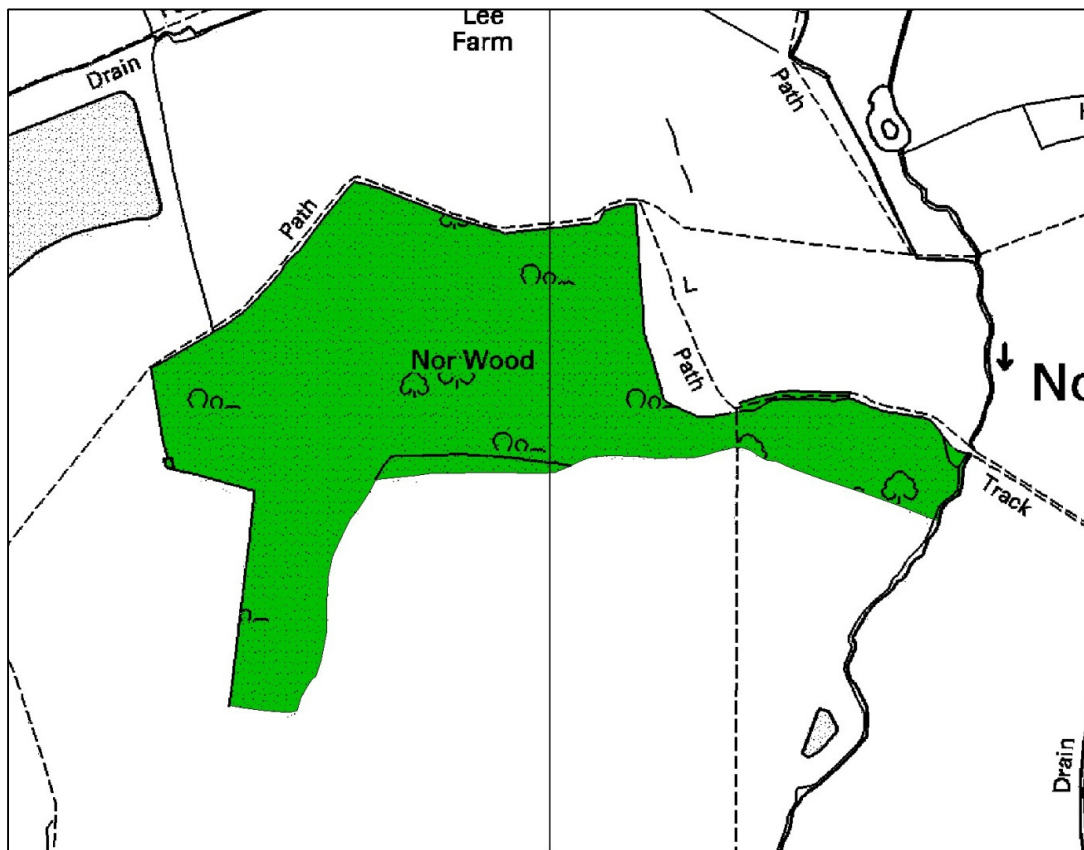
#### **Rationale**

Although there are many old trackways throughout the district, relatively few retain a good structure and diversity of flora. These characteristics are important in the modern landscape.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep189 Nor Wood (9.2 ha) TL 559085**

This woodland is mostly dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with some pollards, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) is found in the extreme south of the wood. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a strong indicator of ancient woodland, is also present. The shrub canopy includes Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and the less common Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). A clearing bisects the wood from north to south. Under a scrub layer of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) the ground flora is typified by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Species of particular interest include Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

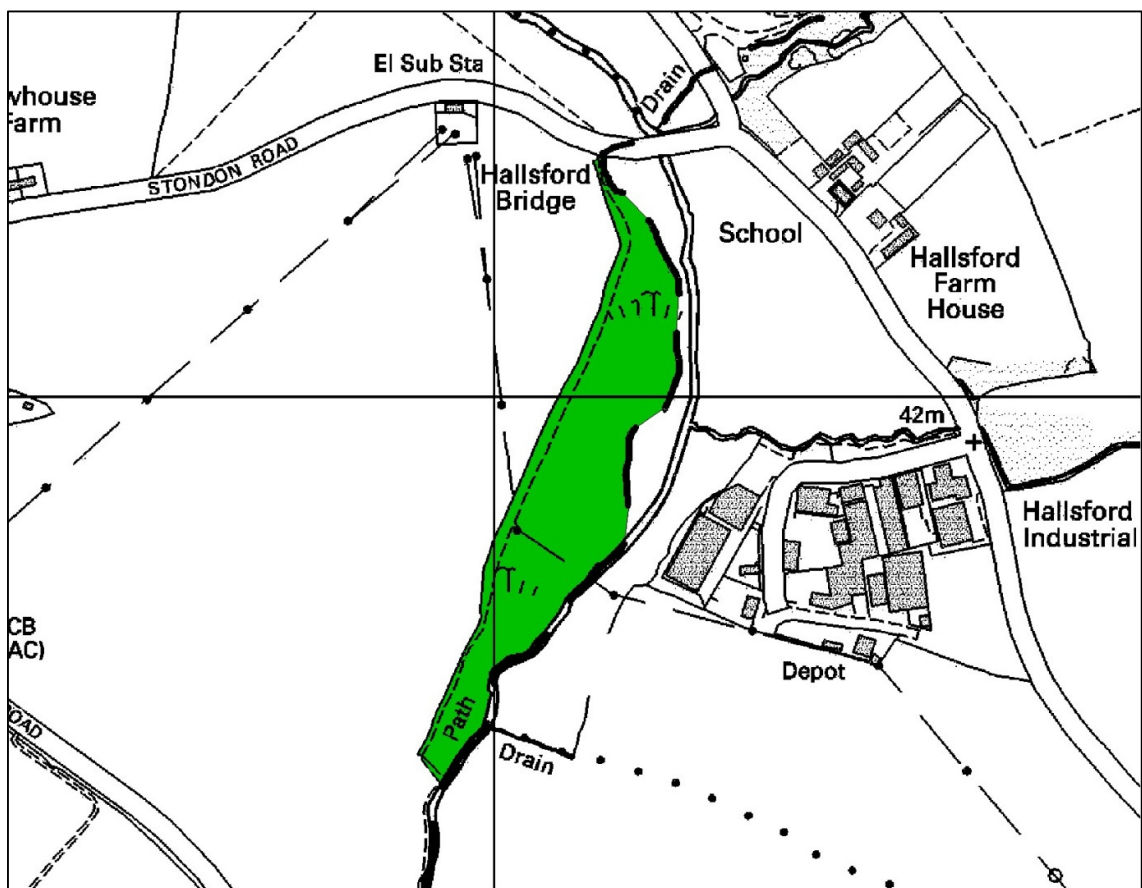
#### **Rationale**

This woodland exhibits a very good ancient woodland structure, with a varied canopy height and increased light penetration to the ground that promotes a richer ground flora.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep190 Hallsford Bridge Meadow (2.8 ha) TL 560019**

Although this site is thought to have undergone previous disturbance from a former sewage works site, it is now a mosaic of habitat comprising species-rich grassland scrub and some tall herb ruderal vegetation. The hedgerow bounding the west side of the meadow has a diverse species composition including Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species.

Much of the grassland in the central and north of the site has an abundance of Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) with lesser amounts of Cut-leaved crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*). A variety of other herbs are found including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) and Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*). The southern part of the site is dominated by a taller grass sward with False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominating. However the extreme south part of the grassland has Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and a localised patch of Creeping Yellow-cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*) (an Essex Red Data List species of varied habitat type, but intolerant of competition). A bank lined with scrub slopes down to a lower ruderal dominated shelf towards the River Roding. Amongst Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), other species such as Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) grow in the damper conditions.

The site is known to support significant invertebrate populations, with 18 species of butterfly recorded annually and the White-legged Damselfly inhabits the adjacent river and most likely foraging over the site. This is a very localised species in Essex.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

SC20 – Notable “flagship” Macro-invertebrates

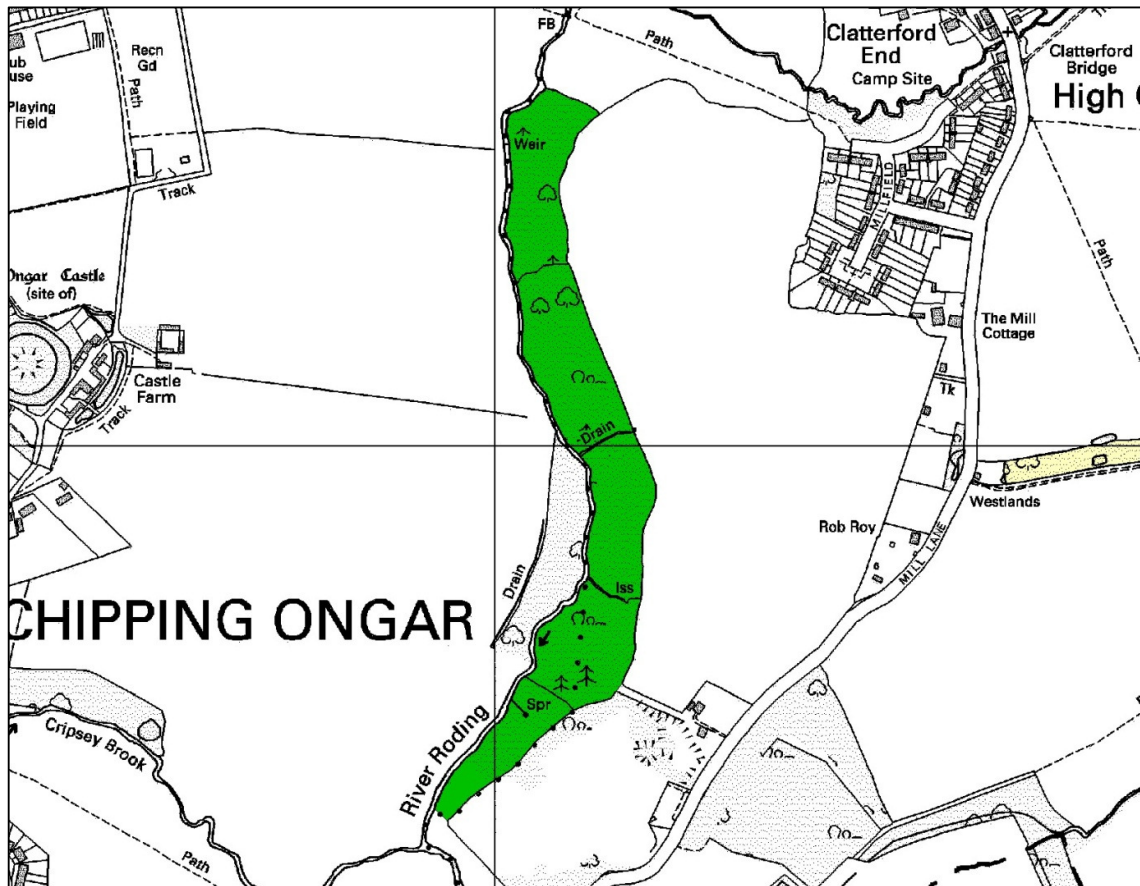
**Rationale**

This site provides a wide range of habitat conditions on a small scale, with modified stream floodplain grassland, species-rich grassland, scrub and hedgerow components. This habitat diversity supports a wide range of butterflies and other invertebrates.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep191 Clatterford End Plantation (6.8 ha) TL 561029**

This long, narrow site lies along the course of the River Roding between Chipping Ongar and High Ongar. The site has a variety of plantation stands throughout. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Cricket-bat Willow (*Salix alba* var. *caerulea*) are mainly found on the lower slopes near to the river. These areas often have widely spaced trees over a tall ruderal with abundant Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) along with smaller stands of Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in the damper zones. The Other areas have been planted with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Lime (*Tilia. x europaea*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice is found within the site, but particularly on the eastern margins. The ground flora of the upper slopes includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*).

### **BAP Habitats**

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-Component Mosaics

#### **Rationale**

This site has several component habitat types that together form a substantial and diverse area of interest for wildlife. These include areas of lowland fen, small stands of reed, wet woodland (albeit with planted willows), ancient hedgerow boundaries and broadleaved woodland.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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**Ep192 Anchor House Paddock (0.2 ha) TL 561119**

This site comprises a small, secluded grassland on the northern border of the district. The grass sward includes False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). There is some Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub encroachment spreading into the main grassland from the west side. This is relatively species-rich grassland that includes Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*).

**BAP Habitats**

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

**Selection Criteria**

HC9 – Lowland meadows

**Rationale**

This grass sward appears to have affinities with the MG5 NVC grassland type that is the focus of the UK BAP Lowland Meadows habitat.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### **Ep193 Abbess Roding Hedgerows (1.2 ha) TL 565114**

This site comprises a series of species-rich hedgerows and an arable field margin at the base of one of them. Woody species include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*). The rare Black-poplar (*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*), an Essex BAP species and Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species is also found in this hedgerow. Beneath the hedges on low sandy banks, Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) can be found. Of additional and considerable interest is the margin of the arable field where Night-flowering Catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*), ERDL and included in the Vascular Plant Red Data List for the UK, is locally frequent. This plant has declined markedly throughout the country particularly since the 1950's due to the increased use of herbicides and pesticides. The field margin also supports Round-leaved Fluellen (*Kickxia spuria*) and Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), which although not uncommon are always under pressure in these vulnerable habitats.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Cereal Field Margin (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

SC1 – Vascular Plants (Night-flowering Catchfly)

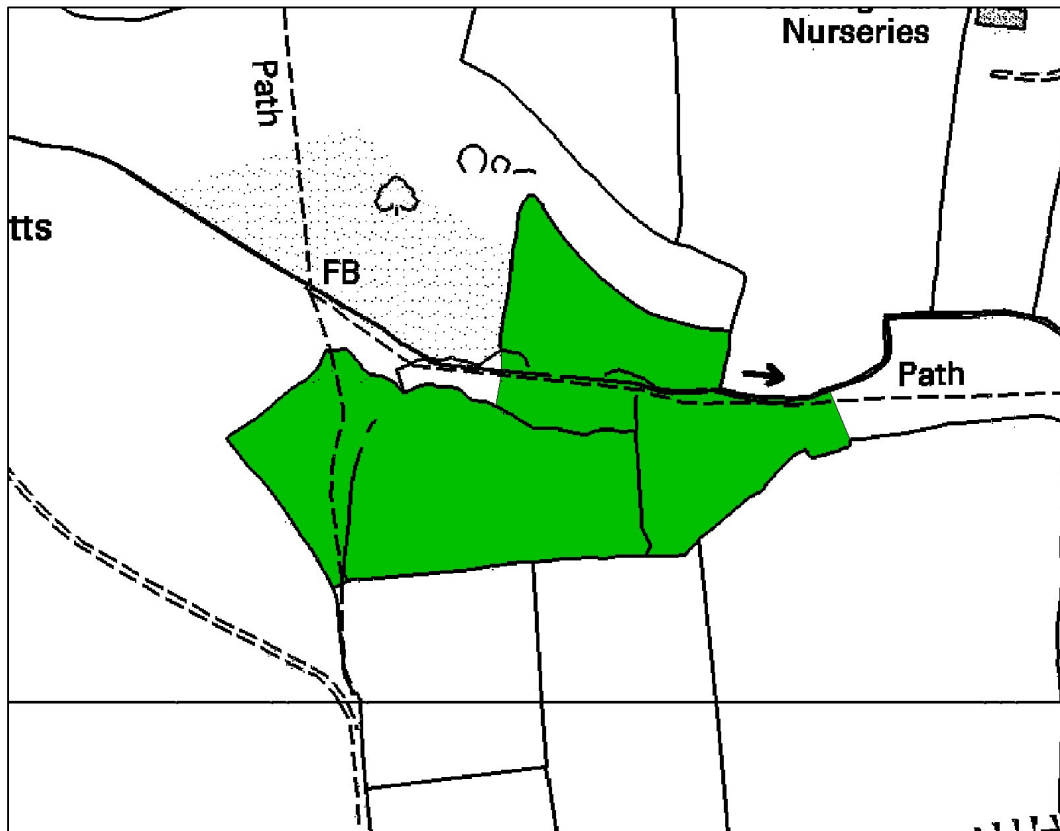
**Rationale**

This site combines species-rich hedgerows and important arable plant species. The hedgerows have good species diversity and the native Black-poplar is only rarely found in the district. In addition there are very few arable field margins that display several interesting species, the majority being eradicated by the spraying of the arable crops. This is a very precarious and vulnerable habitat.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep194 The Moors (3.1 ha) TL 566071**

The Moors comprises grassland fields and a marshy swamp divided by thick hedgerows with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) amongst the main woody species. The marshy area includes extensive stands of Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*) with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) found throughout. Other species characteristic of the underlying wet substrate include rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*). However, of significant interest is the presence of Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*), an Essex Red Data List species, now rare in the Essex countryside.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Lowland Fens (UK)

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC14 – Lowland Fen Vegetation

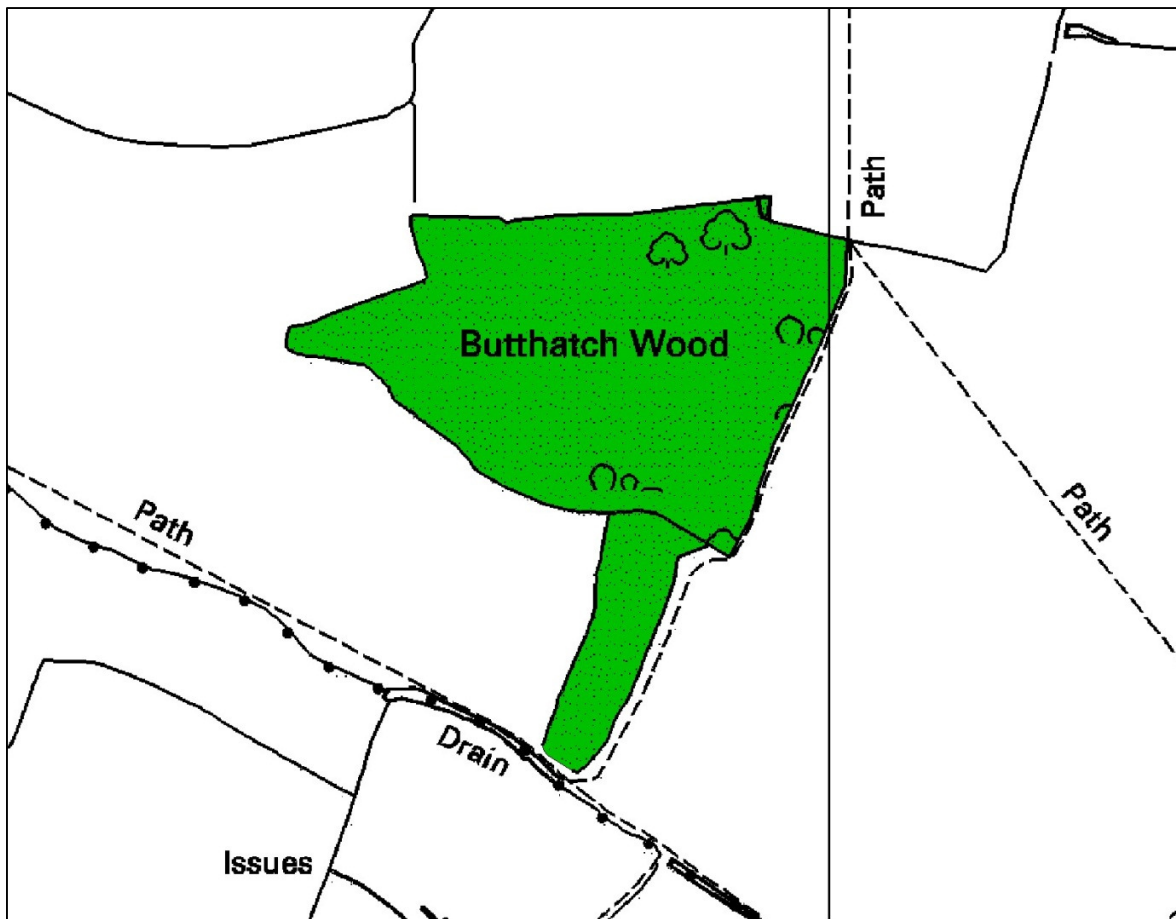
#### **Rationale**

Sites with extensive sedge and reed stands have become particularly uncommon throughout Essex due to drainage and improvement. Therefore, even relatively small surviving poorly drained sites such as this are especially important.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep196 Butthatch Wood (4.3 ha) TL 568095**

Dominated by old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards, this wood also contains several species indicative of ancient woodland including Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and includes other ancient woodland species including Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Of particular interest is the far western edge of the wood where Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam standards form a different canopy structure to the rest of the wood. Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) is found only in this particular part of the wood.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

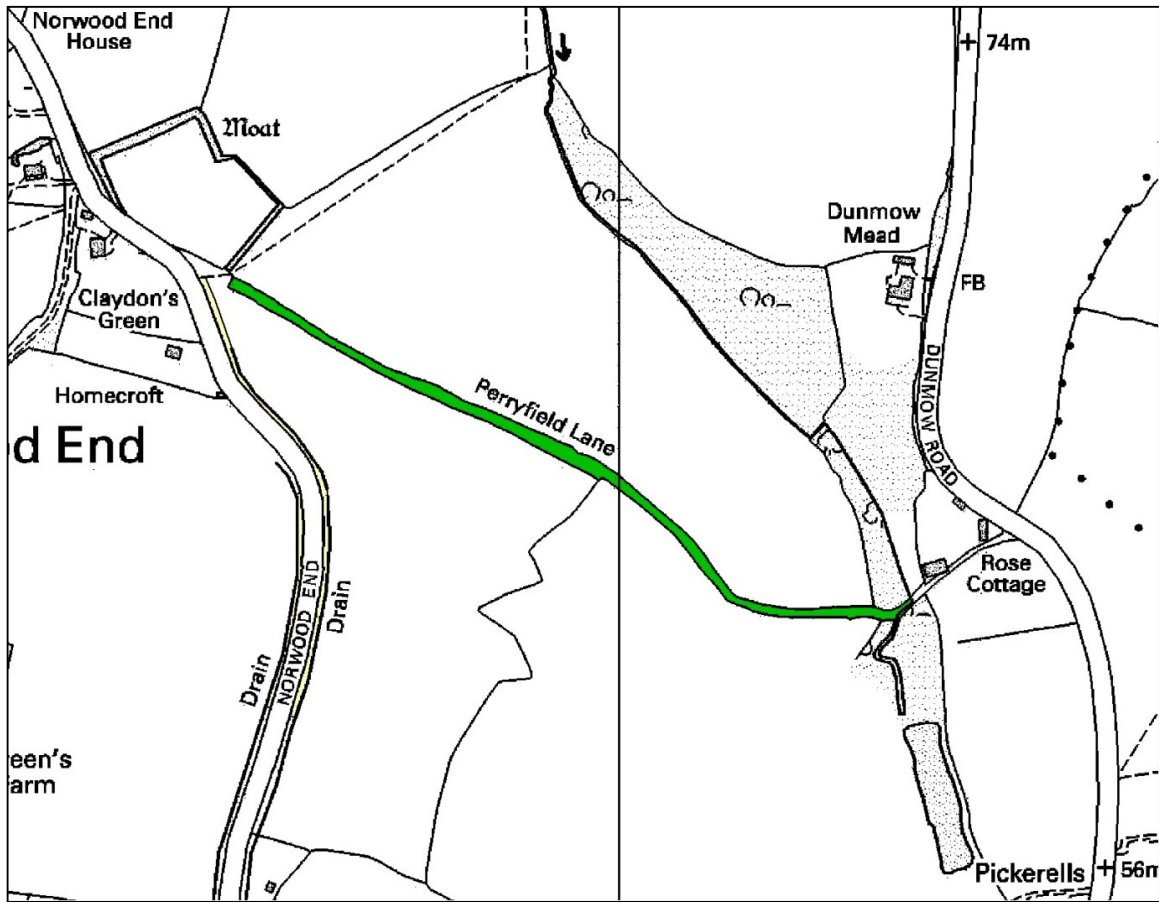
#### **Rationale**

This woodland exhibits typical characteristics of ancient woodland structure with a good flora.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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#### **Ep197 Perryfield Lane (0.5 ha) TL 569084**

Perryfield Lane has a good coppice structure including Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Other shrubs and climbers found along this track include Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*). A varied ground flora includes Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Cowslip (*P. veris*), and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) in the shadier areas. Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) is also fairly common along this lane.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

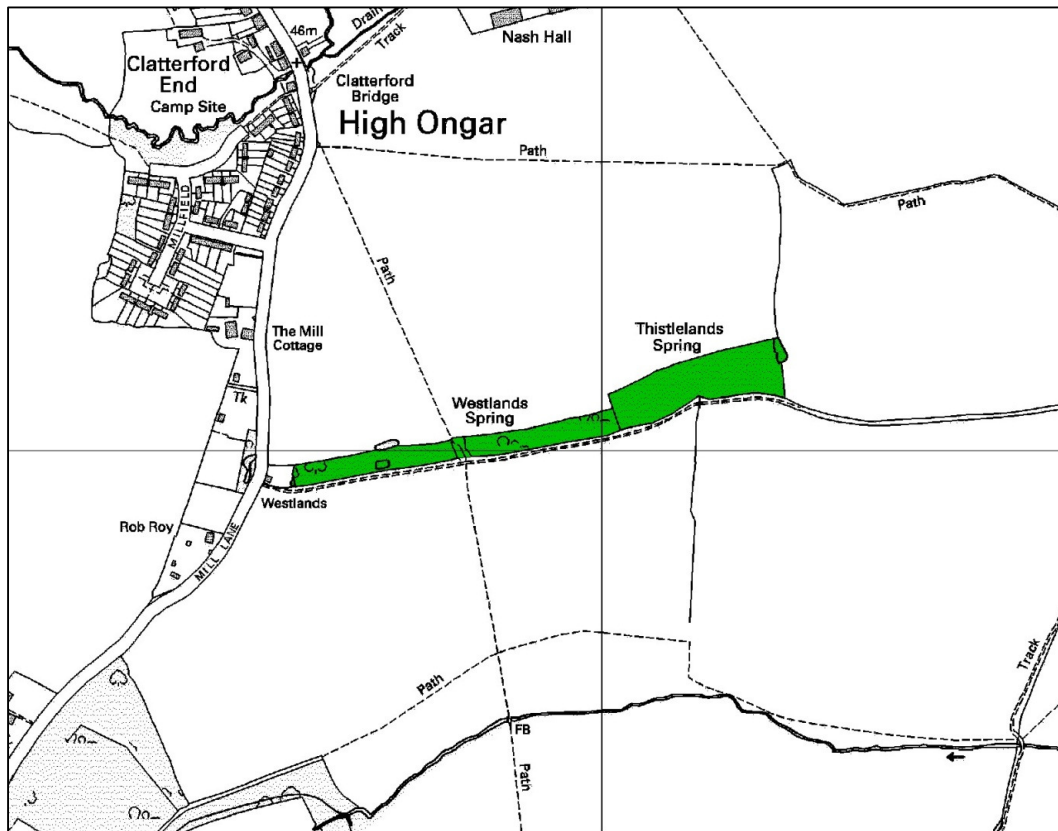
#### **Rationale**

Historic lanes such as this provide sanctuary to ancient woodland flora and fauna and also form important wildlife corridors in an otherwise arable landscape.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep198 Westlands Spring/Thistlelands Spring (2.4 ha) TL 570030**

Westlands Spring is a linear ancient wood, adjacent to, and of similar composition to Thistlelands Spring, containing a canopy of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The understorey comprises Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) over a ground flora containing Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

Thistlelands Spring forms a contiguous habitat, with a canopy typified by Hornbeam and Ash coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak standards. The shaded ground flora includes several species indicative of ancient woodland including Bluebell, Dog's Mercury and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*). Clearings allow less shade-tolerant species such as Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) to flourish.

#### **BAP Habitats:**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

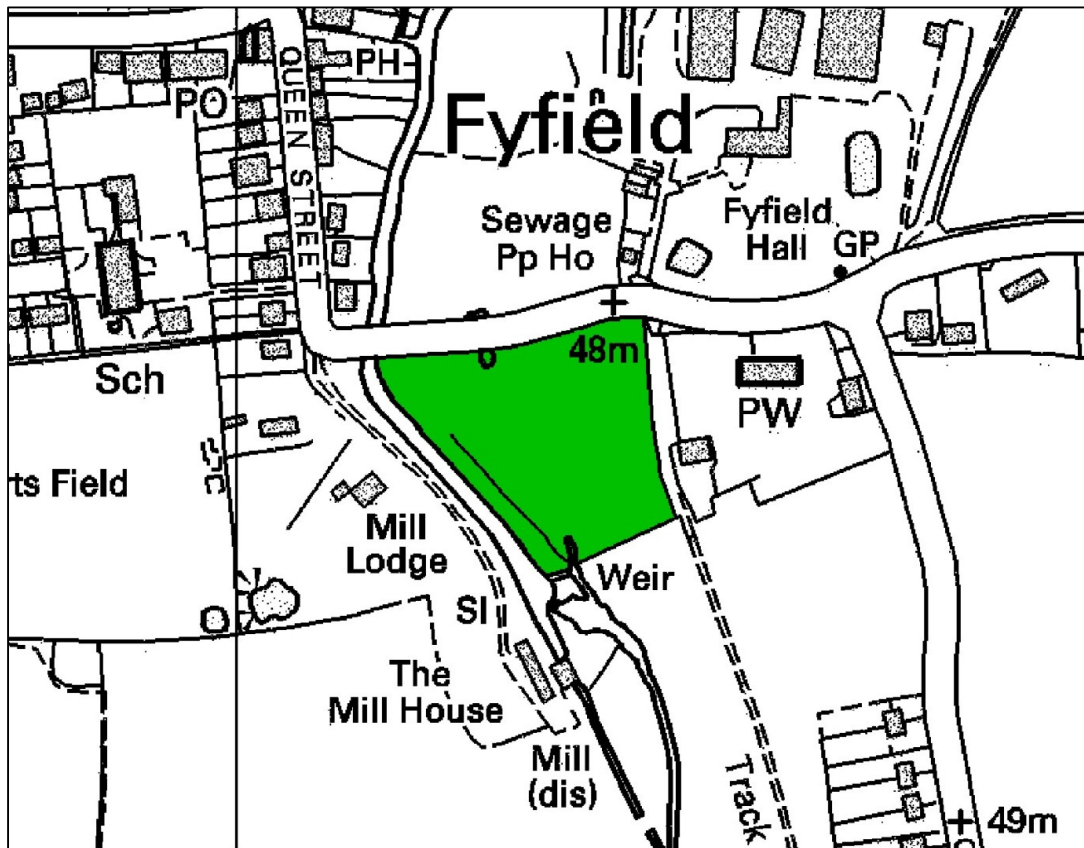
#### **Rationale**

These two woodlands located to the south east of High Ongar are the only ancient semi-natural woodland habitat in this part of the district. They exhibit structural and species diversity typical of ancient woodland.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep199 Fyfield Mill Meadow (1.1 ha) TL 571067

Located on the east side of the River Roding floodplain at Fyfield, this is a meadow of contrasting wet and dry grassland habitats. A band of dry, relatively species-poor grassland borders the east edge of the meadow. The grass sward here includes Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Down slope there is a gradual transition to a very wet/waterlogged habitat. The transitional zone is marked by stands of Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), and includes other plants such as Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*). Extensive stands of Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) marks the permanently wet central area of the site. Of particular interest here is Pink Water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*), a scarce Essex Plant, generally restricted to the muddy edges of standing water.

#### BAP Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK)

#### Selection Criteria

HC10 – River Floodplain

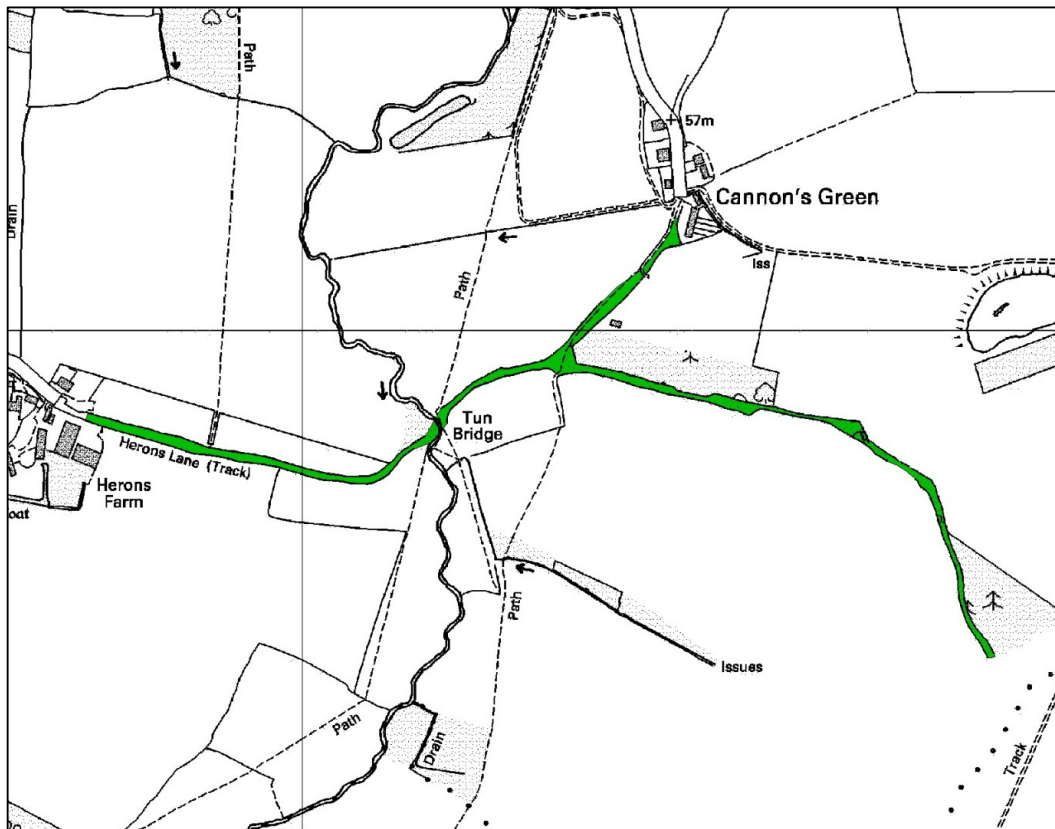
#### Rationale

This meadow is part of the floodplain of the River Roding. Many of these floodplain habitats have been lost or improvement in drainage has converted them into dry grassland. Therefore any surviving habitat of this kind is very valuable in both a district and county context.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep200 Cannon's Green Lanes (1.5 ha) TL 573059**

This complex of ancient lanes lies close to the Hedge Rows and Whitney Wood ancient woods. Many woody species occur in the hedgerows, including Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) but also Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and, in the ground layer, Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*). Whilst the lane extending south-eastwards towards the old airfield is rather overgrown (being impassable to humans) and floristically less rich, its value as a strip of mature "ancient woodland" and scrub should not be under-estimated for birds and insects. The rich woodland flora of the northern section includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*). Grassier areas support Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) and a variety of other grassland herbs, often reflecting the wet nature of the track.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

#### **Rationale**

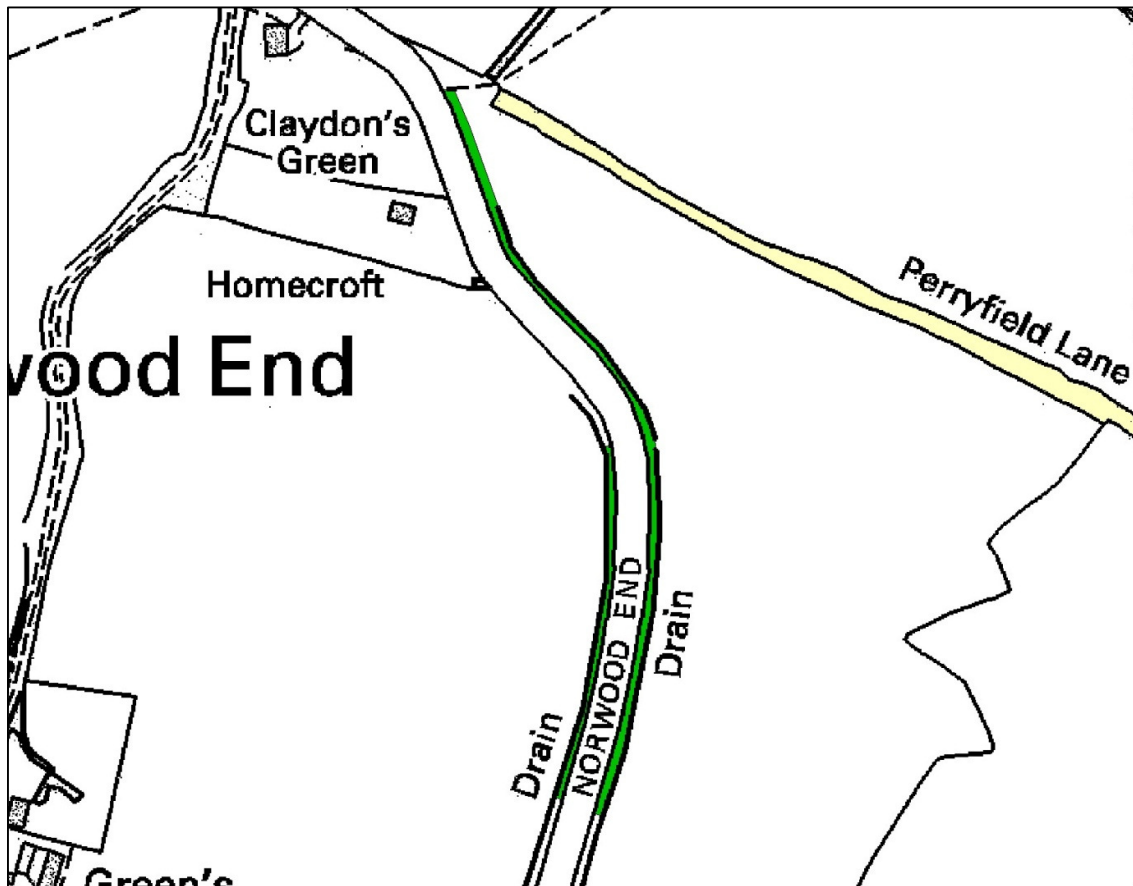
This ancient green lane network survives in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the district, helping to provide a wildlife corridor between extant blocks of woodland.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1996

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### **Ep195 Norwood End Verges (0.2 ha) TL 567083**

The roadside verge habitat exhibits a species-rich and diverse assemblage. Amongst a diverse grass mix are three that are of particular interest. These are Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Quaking-grass (*Briza media*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), the latter two particularly associated with unimproved infertile grassland. Frequent amongst the herb flora are Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*). Other species also recorded along this verge include Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), Primrose (*P. vulgaris*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*). The floristic assemblage is generally characteristic of chalky boulder clay soils.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

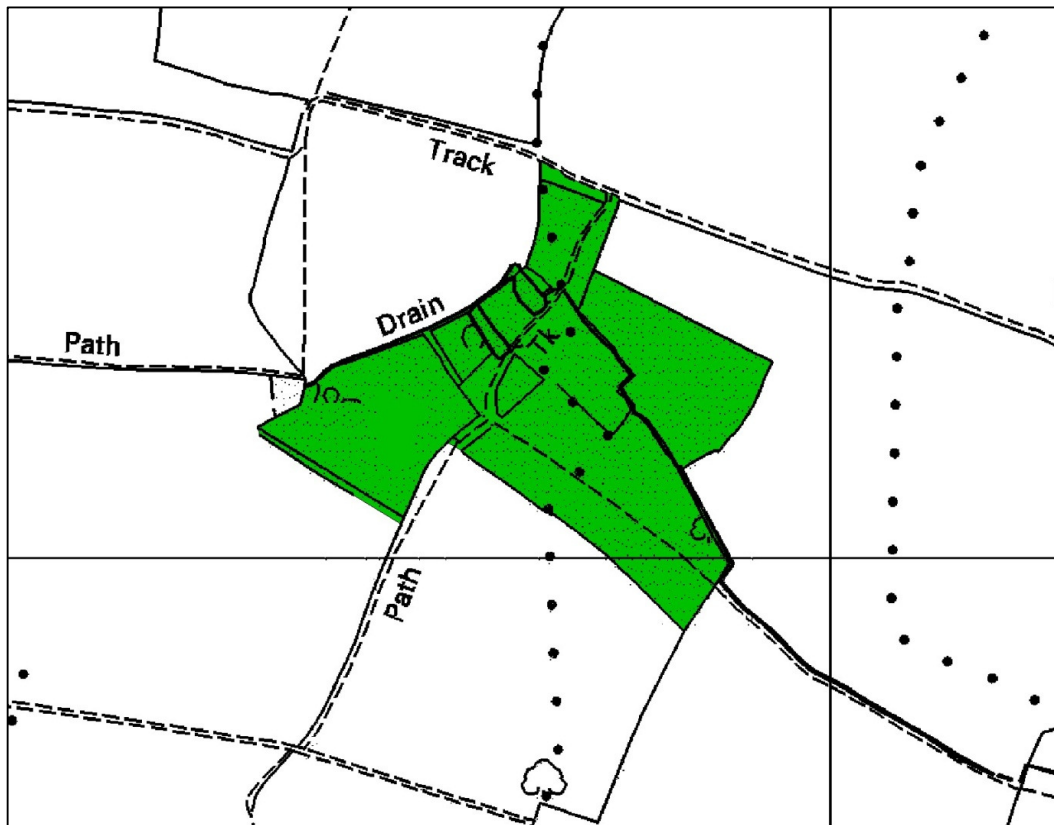
#### **Rationale**

This verge may have affinities with the MG5 NVC grassland type covered by the Lowland Meadows UK BAP habitat but is here selected using the more broad-based species-rich clay grasslands criterion. The road verge provides an example of species richness and diversity that would have once been common in most lowland meadows, but improvement has resulted in the loss of these habitats.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep201 Birds Green Mosaic (3.7 ha) TL 578091**

This site comprises blocks of woodland, scrub and ponds joined by small areas of neutral grassland. The woodland component includes Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) over a moderately scrubby understorey of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Much of the ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Sedges such as Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Woodsedge (*Carex sylvatica*) occur in the damper parts within the woodland. The secluded meadows are characterised in part by Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) mixed with a wide variety of other herb species including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*). The ponds are shaded and contain a restricted number of species, including Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC28 – Small-Component Mosaics

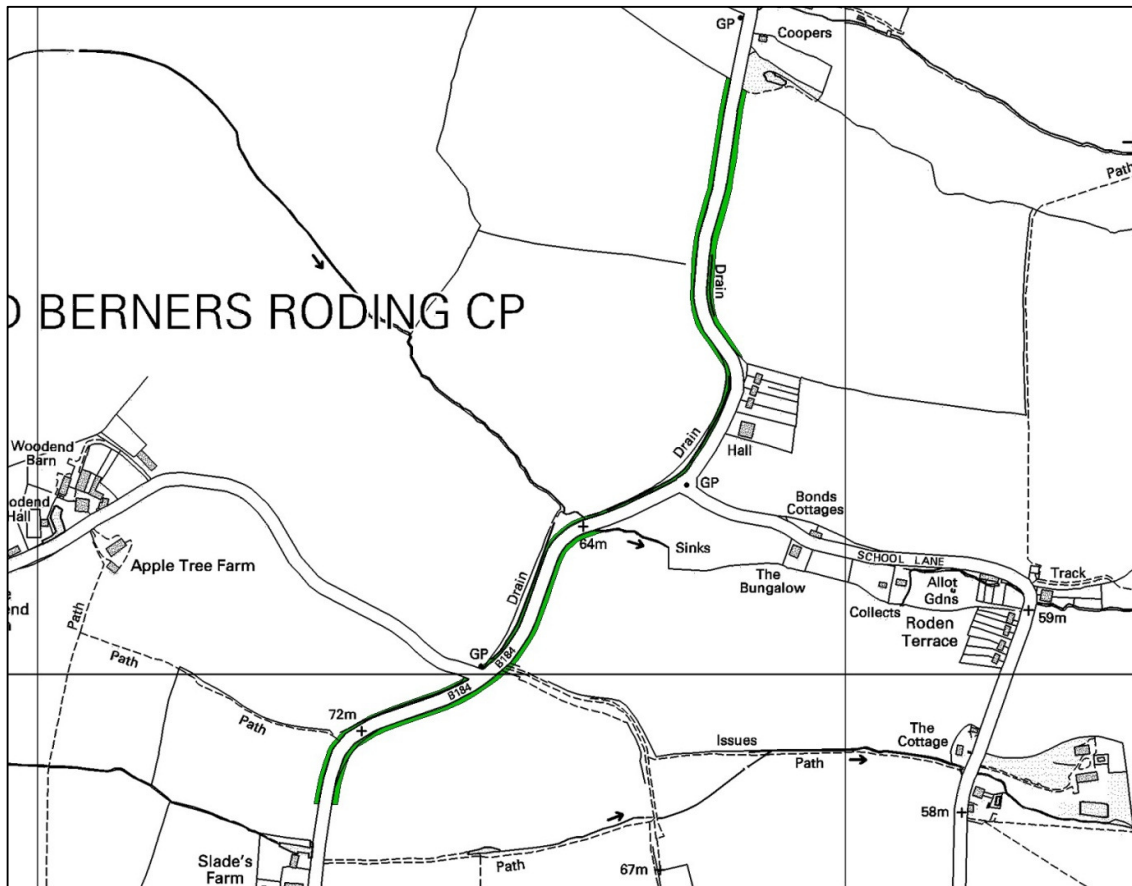
#### **Rationale**

This site may have originated from species-rich meadows that are succumbing to invasion by scrub. The resultant mosaic is an interesting mix of habitats, but management will be needed to prevent the loss of the grassland component.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep202 Beauchamp Roding Verges (1.2 ha) TL 578102**

These roadside verges extend along both sides of the B184. This site exhibits localised areas of particularly species-rich flora. A mix of grass species including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) occurs throughout. Amongst the herb flora are Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*). Several of these species are characteristic of base-rich soils.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

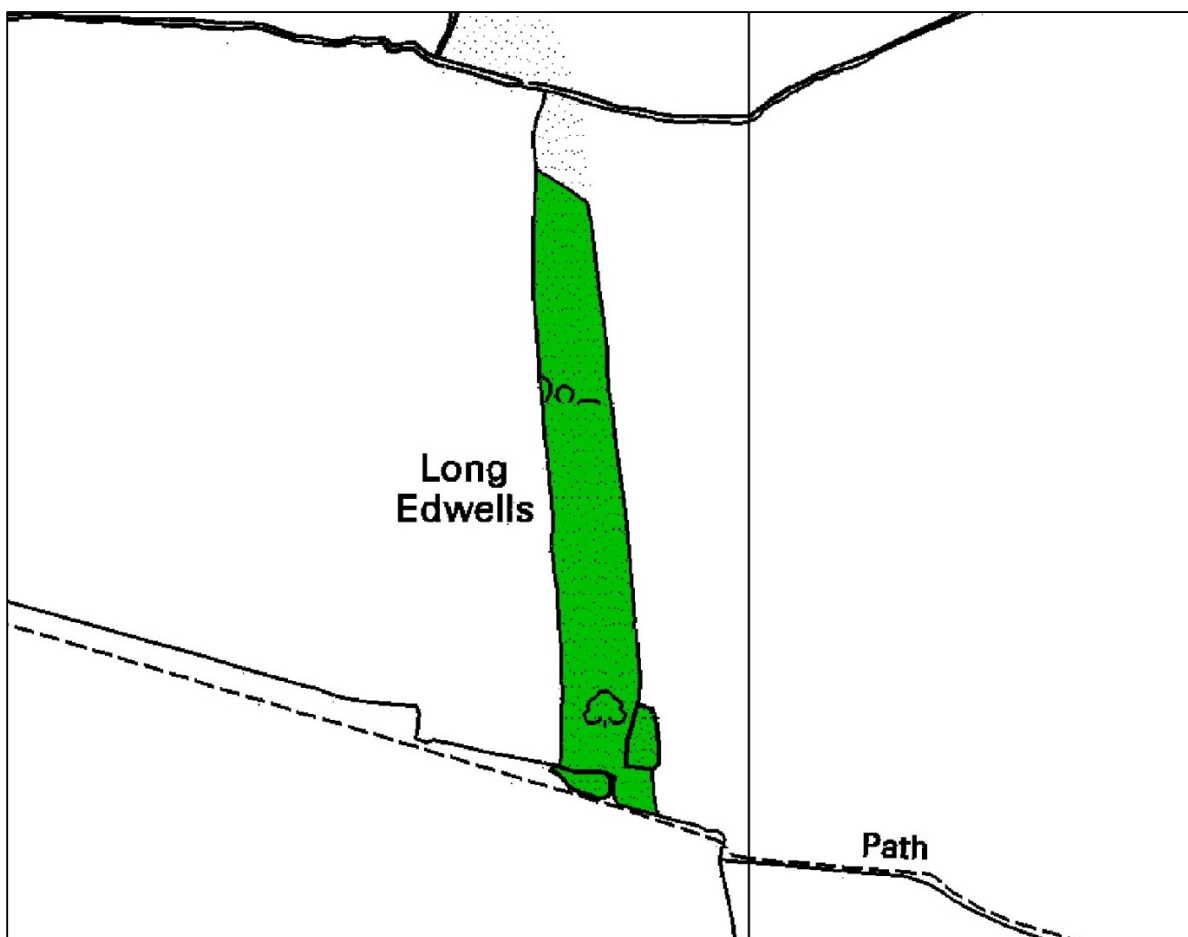
#### **Rationale**

The grassland here may fall within the scope of the UK BAP habitat Lowlands Meadows (NVC community MG5) but is selected here under the broader remit of the species-rich neutral grassland criterion. More detailed survey work would be required to determine whether or not this is an MG5 grassland remnant.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009 (parts of verge deleted)



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### **Ep203 Long Edwells (1.2 ha) TL 579023**

This narrow wood contains a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards over an understorey of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards dominates the north part of the wood and some Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice is found on the wood margins. There is a very sparse ground flora beneath the Hornbeam. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) are the most common species to be found. However, there are very small patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

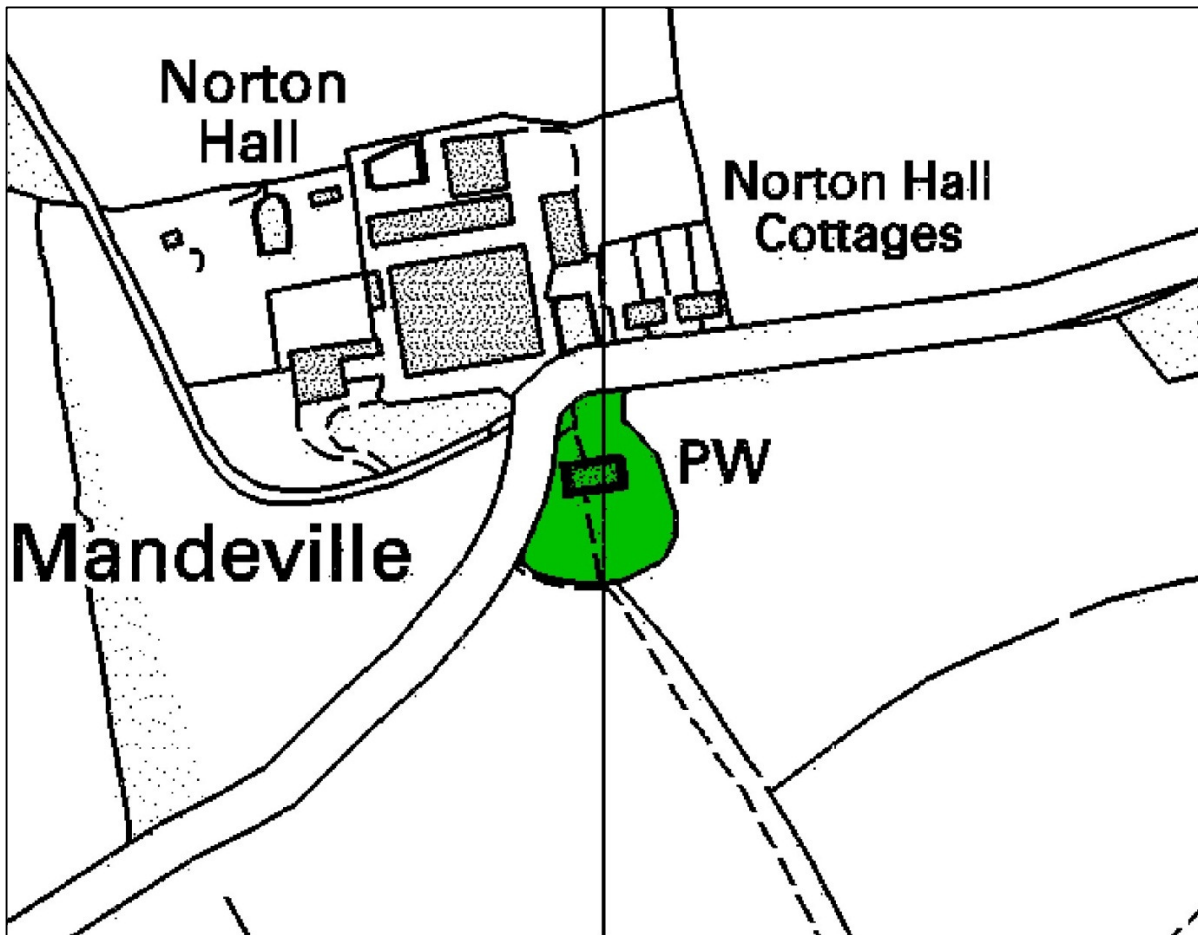
#### **Rationale**

Long Edwells is thought to be of ancient origin, but is too small to be shown on the county's Ancient Woodland Inventory. It is important in being one of only few woods in this part of Epping Forest District.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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#### **Ep204 Norton Mandeville Churchyard (0.3 ha) TL 579045**

Norton Mandeville Churchyard is a well maintained mown grassland with selected areas on the west and east sides of the yard left as a long grass sward for conservation. Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) are frequent. Other species close to the church include those of moderately calcareous soils characterised by Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*); this latter species comprising a basal rosette of leaves is particularly successful under the close mowing regimes of many churchyards on base-rich soils such as the underlying chalky boulder clay here.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC9 - Lowland Meadows

#### **Rationale**

This small churchyard exhibits a flora characteristic of old grassland that probably lies within the variation shown by the MG5 NVC grassland type that is the focus of the UK Lowland Meadows habitat BAP.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep205 Chevers Hall Meadow (1.7 ha) TL 582037**

This meadow grades from moist to dry soil conditions resulting in a good mix of grasses and herbs. The site supports a variety of grasses, with abundant Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and several other species including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and the rarer Quaking Grass (*Briza media*) has been recorded from this site. The herb flora includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

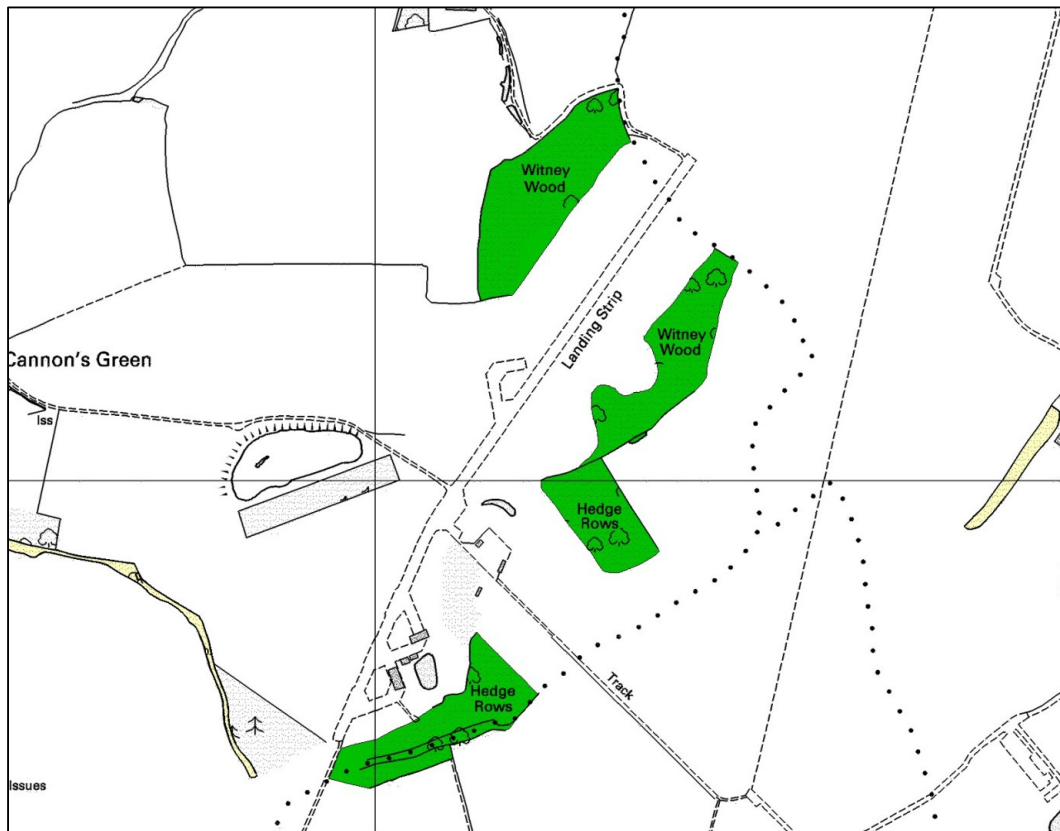
#### **Rationale**

This meadow exhibits a diverse range of species characteristic of unimproved grassland. Many grasslands have been subject to improvement with the consequent loss of many sites of interest.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep206 Witney Wood and Hedge Rows (8.0 ha) TL 583060**

These blocks of woodland comprise the remnants of one very much larger ancient wood mostly grubbed out in the twentieth century, presumably to accommodate the war-time airfield. The main composition of these woods is Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice interspersed with tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a tree strongly associated with ancient woodland, is found in the northern block of Witney Wood. The shrub canopy varies in cover density between areas, but is mainly of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with the less common Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) also recorded. Similarly, the ground flora comprises scattered patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Other ground flora species recorded include Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

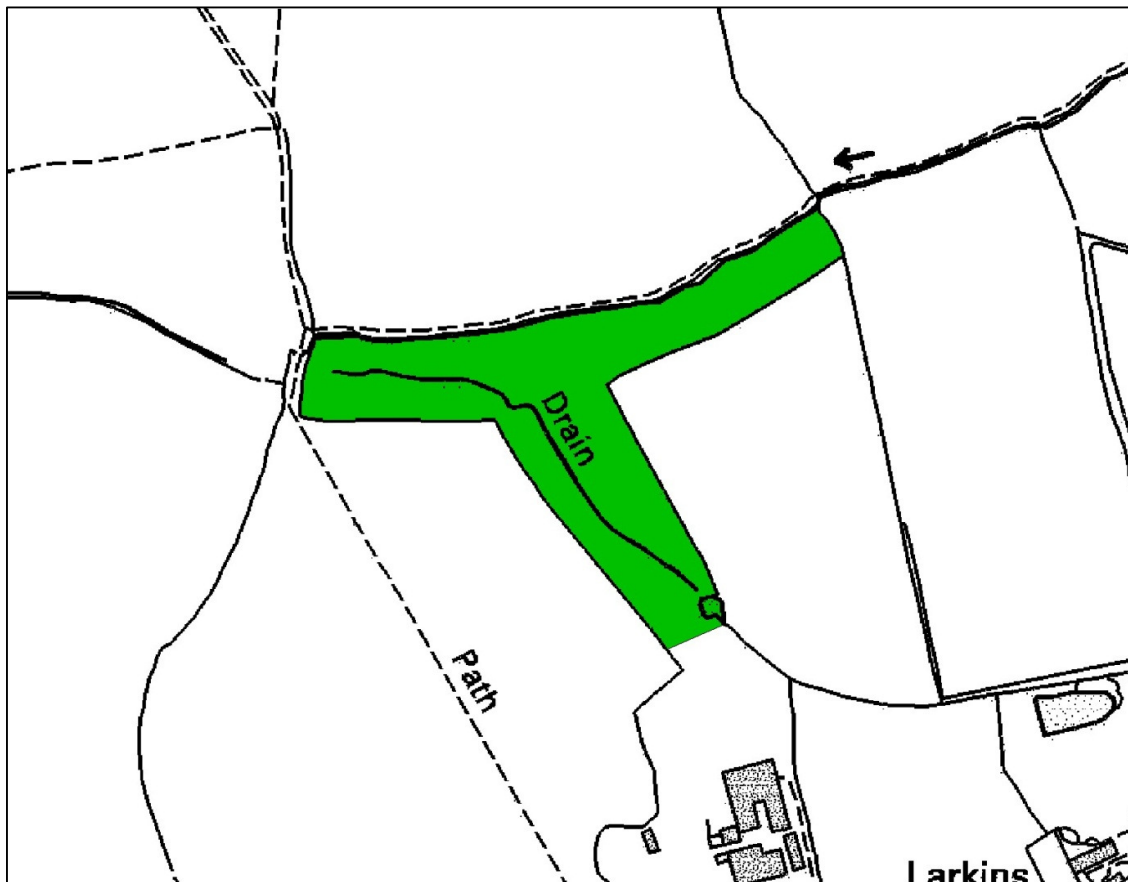
#### **Rationale**

These fragments accord with mapped old woodland and their structure and flora indicate that all sections are probably ancient, even though the southern section of Hedge Rows is not included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep207 Sparks Farm Marsh (2.0 ha) TL 585026**

This site comprises relatively unimproved grassland on damp, neutral soils. The grass sward includes Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and some Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). A Sweet-grass (*Glyceria* sp.) is locally frequent along a wet runnel that crosses the site. The flora includes Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), which is today a rare and declining plant in Essex and is included within the draft Essex Red Data List. Other plants that indicate old, unimproved grassland conditions are Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*). Such grasslands are a rare habitat and are likely to support a range of associated, scarce invertebrates.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

#### **Rationale**

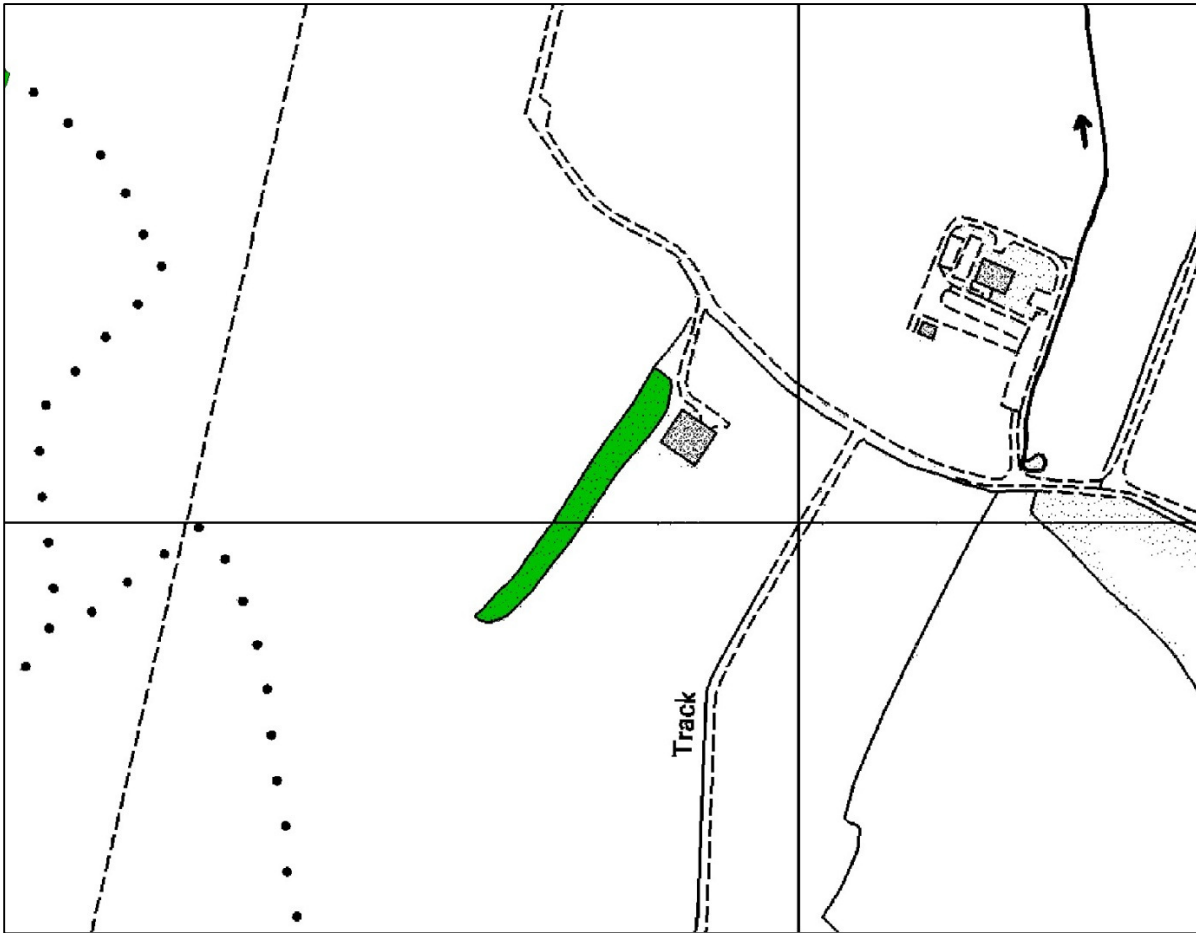
The flora of this site is indicative of old, unimproved damp grasslands and survives as a species-rich grassland.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -





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### **Ep208 Wood, Willingale Airfield (0.3 ha) TL 588060**

This narrow strip of woodland is located at the edge of the old Willingale Airfield and is thought to be a small fragment of ancient wood. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice are the major components, whilst other trees include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is found as the principal shrub canopy species throughout the wood. Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) dominate localised areas of the ground flora; however, there are patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Other ancient woodland herb species present include Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

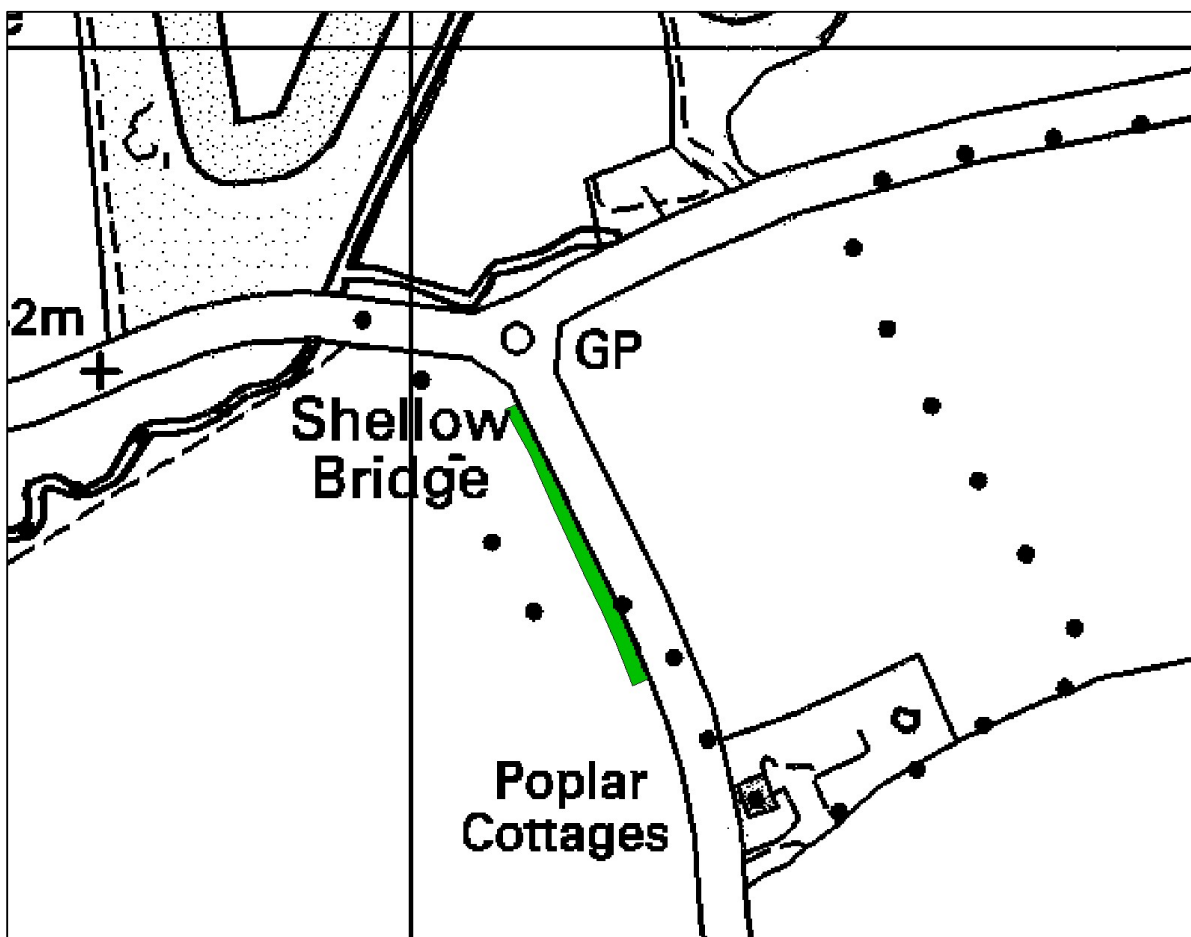
#### **Rationale**

The structure and composition of this woodland site suggest that it is of ancient origin.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### **Ep209 Dukes Lane Verge (0.05 ha) TL 590088**

This road verge supports a population of the Nationally Scarce plant Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), a species generally confined to chalky boulder clay and nationally restricted to East Anglia and the East Midlands. The particular significance of this site is that it lies towards the south-eastern limit of the species' core distribution in Essex (and towards the southern limit of its national distribution).

#### **BAP Habitats**

#### **Selection Criteria**

SC1 – Vascular Plants

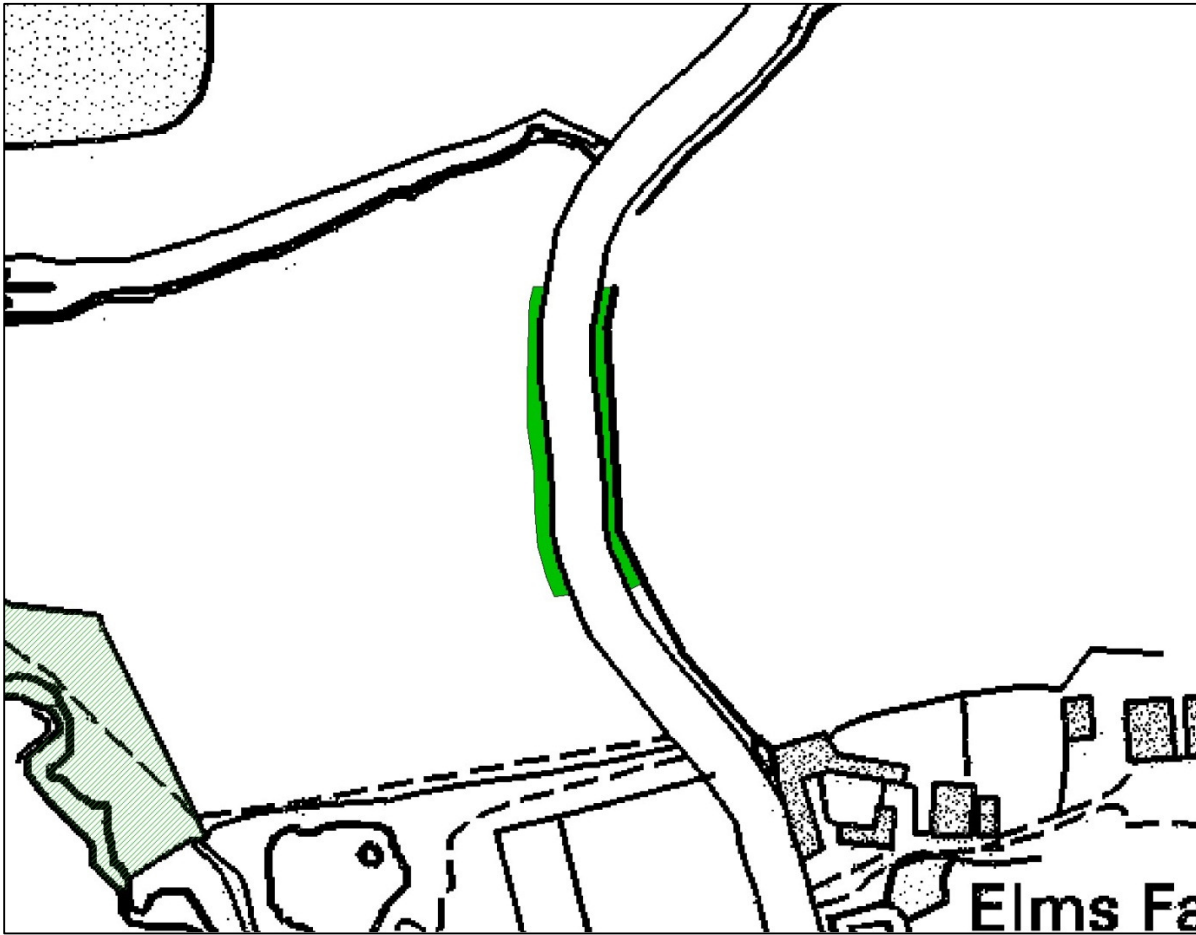
#### **Rationale**

Sulphur Clover is a much declined Nationally Scarce plant of chalky boulder clay. Conservation of this site will help to maintain the limits of its current national distribution.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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### **Ep210 Ongar Road Verges (0.09 ha) TL 592093**

These road verges support a population of the Nationally Scarce plant Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), a species generally confined to chalky boulder clay and nationally restricted to East Anglia and the East Midlands. The particular significance of this site is that it lies towards the south-eastern limit of the species' core distribution in Essex (and towards the southern limit of its national distribution).

#### **BAP Habitats**

#### **Selection Criteria**

SC1 – Vascular Plants

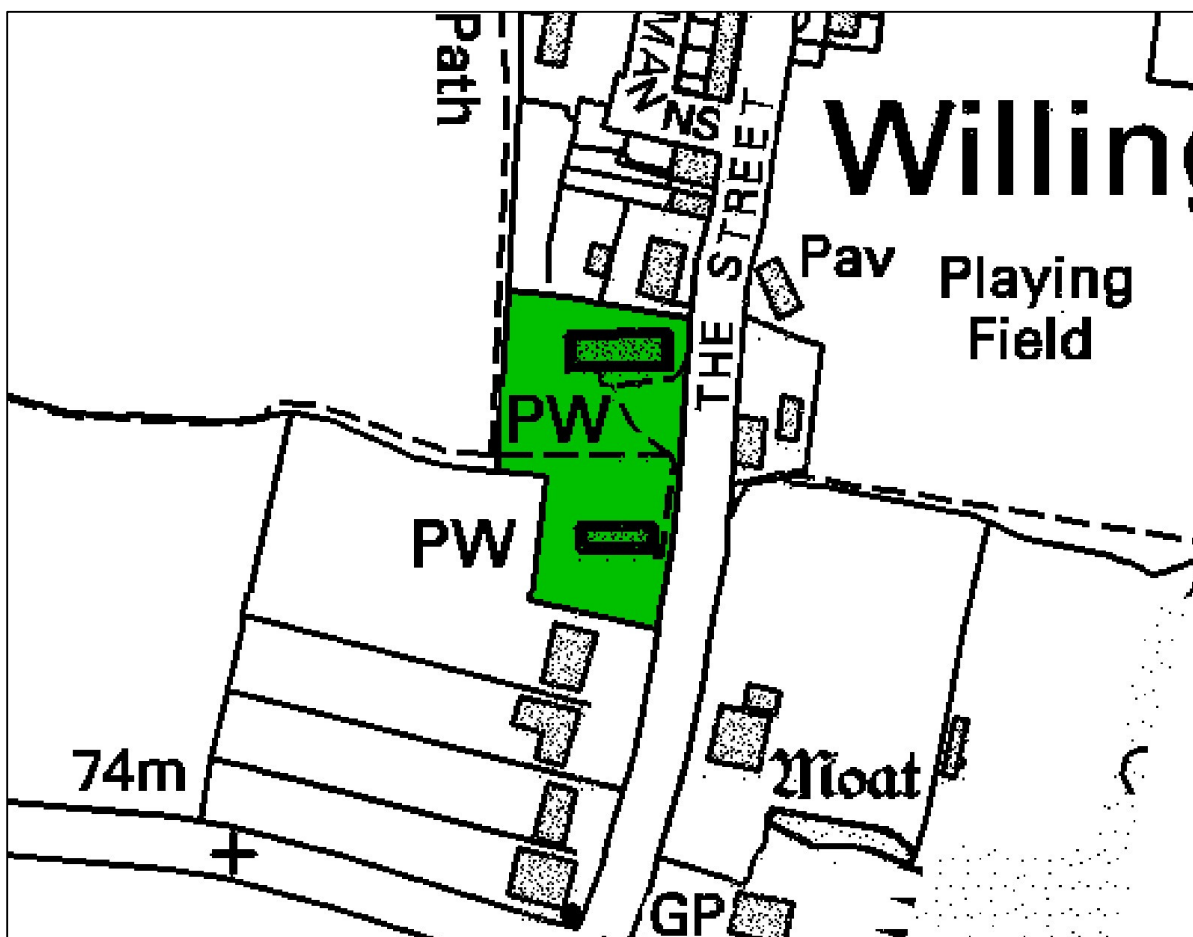
#### **Rationale**

Sulphur Clover is a much declined Nationally Scarce plant of chalky boulder clay. Conservation of this site will help to maintain the limits of its current national distribution.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep211 St. Andrew's/St. Christopher's Churchyards, Willingale (0.5 ha) TL 596073

The grassland surrounding these two ancient churches is likely to be of a similar antiquity. The grassland comprises a mix of various species including Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) is found in patches throughout the grass. A diverse range of other herbs is also present and includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*). The latter two species are indicative of underlying base-rich soil conditions. Pellitory-of-the-wall (*Parietaria judaica*), a perennial herb of dry sunny sheltered areas, is found by the church boundary wall.

#### BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

#### Rationale

Churchyards are important refuges for flora generally confined to old grasslands.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### **Ep212 Elm Cottage Green Lane (1.0 ha) TL 600090**

Running for approximately 1 km east of Elm Cottage, this ancient green lane is lined by hedges and trees of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The western end of the lane has a very wide grassy track with low hedges that narrow to become tall hedge with trees for the remainder of the lane. The ground flora contains a diverse species mix and includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*) with Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

Hedgerows (UK)

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC8- Hedgerows and Green Lanes

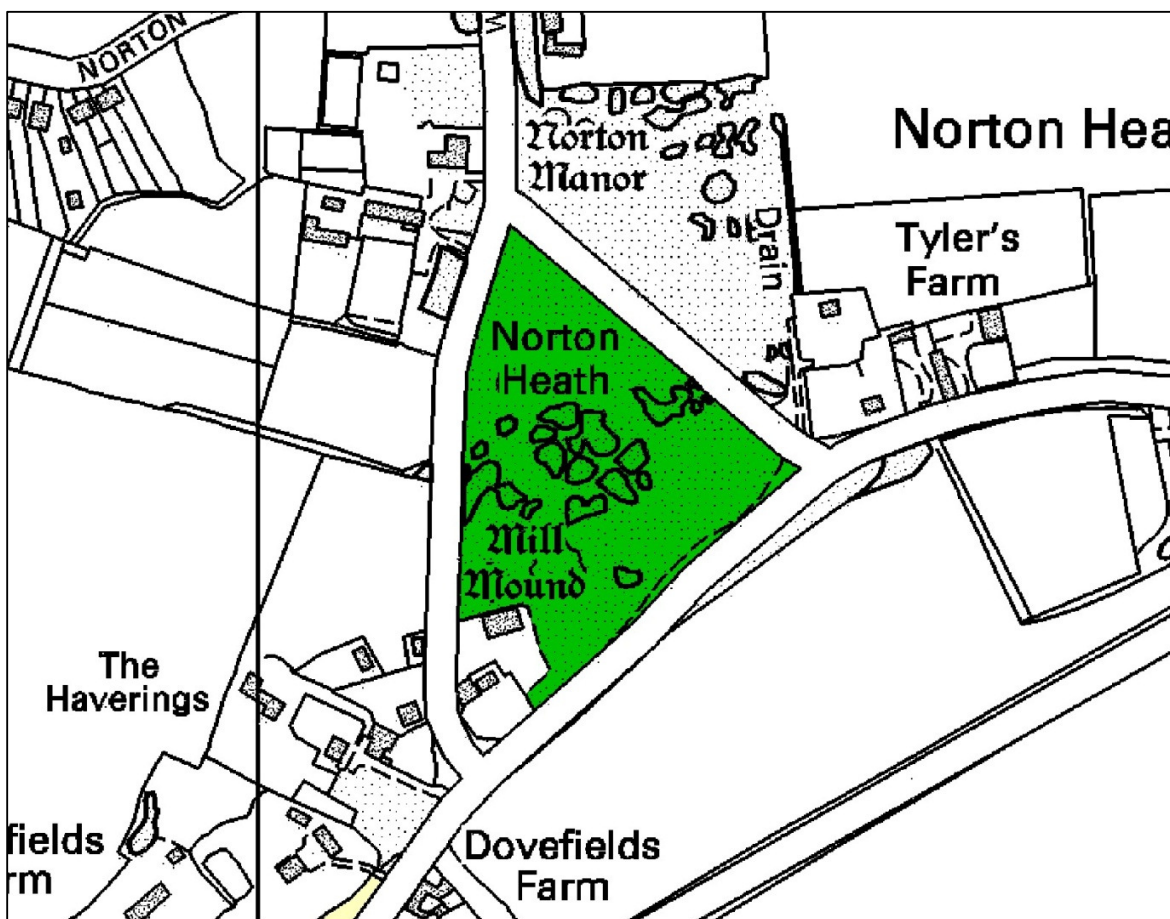
#### **Rationale**

This is one of a group of three Local Wildlife Sites (with Ep216 and Ep222) where ancient trackways retain a well developed hedgerow structure and provide wildlife corridors helping to connect areas of woodland and aiding wildlife dispersal through the countryside in general.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep213 Norton Heath (2.2 ha) TL 601042

Topographically, this site has many shallow ponds and hollows resulting from former gravel extraction. A high canopy secondary woodland now covers most of this site although management is rightly aiming to restore much of the heathland that used to occur here. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) dominates the canopy with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) scattered throughout. Some trees have recently been felled, resulting in significantly improved light penetration to ground level and stimulating the re-establishment of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*). The densely shaded areas beneath the canopy are generally dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and many patches of Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), but Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) can also be found. Many of the hollows are not permanently but likely seasonally water filled habitats, supporting Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*). Of considerable interest in one such hollow is the presence of the mat-forming perennial Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) an Essex Red data List species, now very rare in the county.

Already, 10 species of dragonfly and damselfly have been recorded, comparing favourably with ponds within the wet heathland of Epping Forest. The total of 9 Orthopterans (grasshoppers and allied insects) is also notable for an Essex wet heathland site. The 19 species of butterfly recorded so far includes the Small Copper and Purple Hairstreak.

#### BAP Habitats

Lowland Heathland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)  
Heathland (Essex)

**Selection Criteria**

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

SC20 – Notable “flagship” Macro-invertebrates

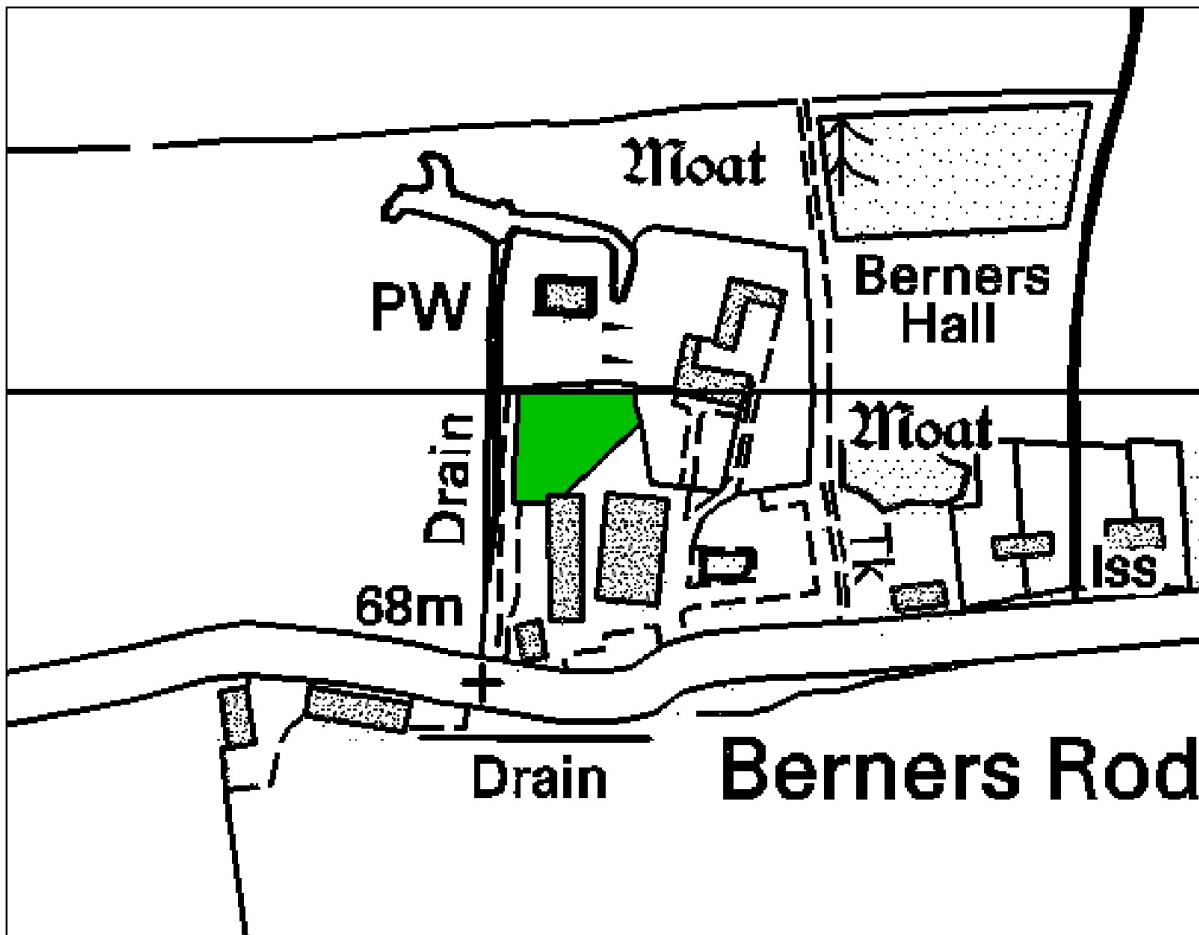
**Rationale**

Whilst the woodland and heathland components are both UK BAP habitats, there is a clear case for the restoration of the wet heathland habitat that formerly occurred here at the expense of some of the woodland cover, so that this site is selected under the heathland criterion alone. A thinner and much-reduced tree canopy still has something to offer the wildlife of this site, providing habitat for some of the many significant insects recorded here..

**Review Schedule**

**Site selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### **Ep214 Berners Roding Church Meadow (0.1 ha) TL 602099**

This small secluded grassland lies directly south of Berners Roding Churchyard. Although the site is not very specie-rich, it nevertheless has a floristic composition indicating that it is a fragment of old grassland. Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) is abundant throughout most of the grass sward. Other species present include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). The north margin is dominated by a narrow band of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) indicating some localised soil enrichment.

#### **BAP Habitats**

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

#### **Rationale**

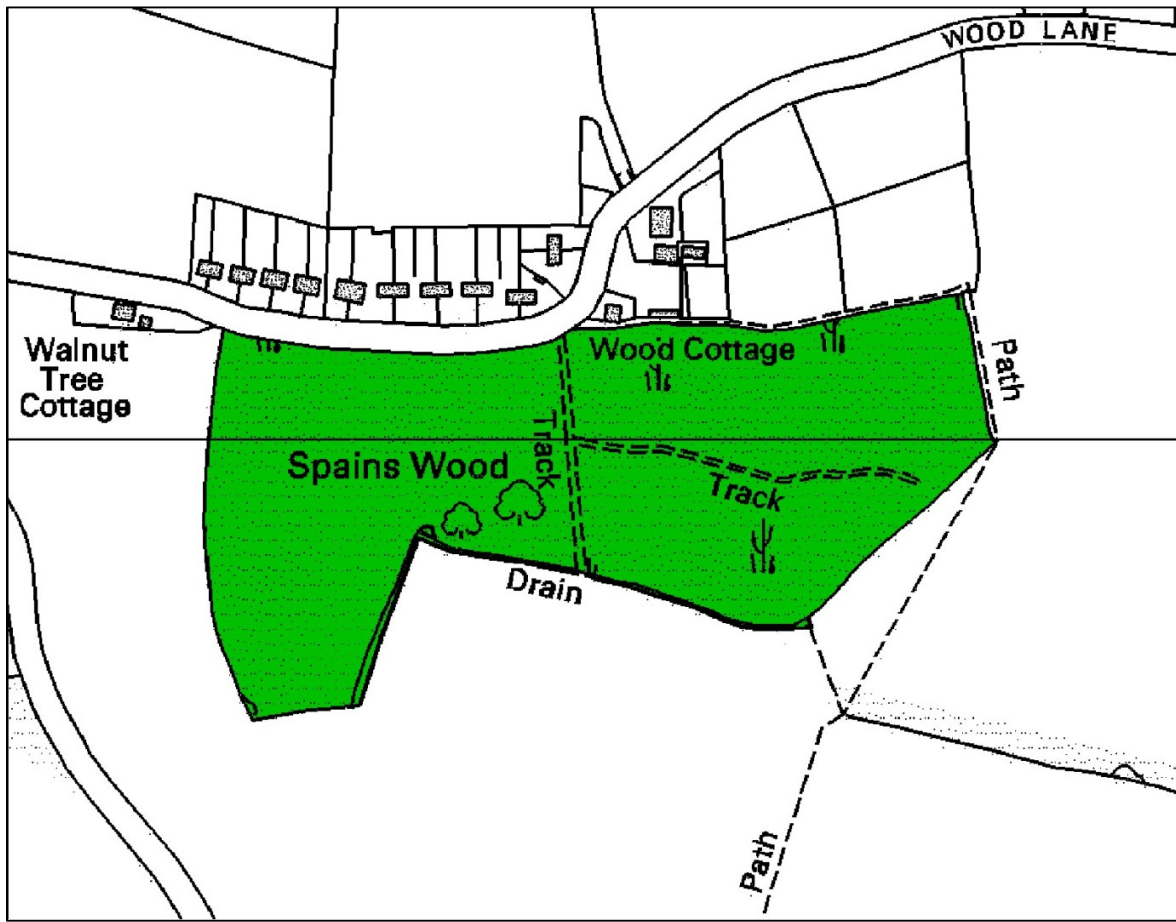
Very few areas of old unimproved grassland now survive in the district, and in particular land in the north-east of the district is mostly under arable cultivation. Therefore, small remnants of old grassland such as this site are important refuges for flora and fauna.

#### **Review Schedule**

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -





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### **Ep215 Spains Wood (6.5 ha) TL 604069**

Spains Wood is an ancient wood with a canopy comprising tall Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) forming a dense shading canopy. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a species with a strong affinity to ancient woodland, is also present. Beneath the shaded areas the ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) forming an extensive low growing layer. The central area of the wood has a more open canopy that includes Ash and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There are still many Bramble patches, but the increased light penetration to the ground allows for greater diversity of the ground flora and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) occupy this niche.

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

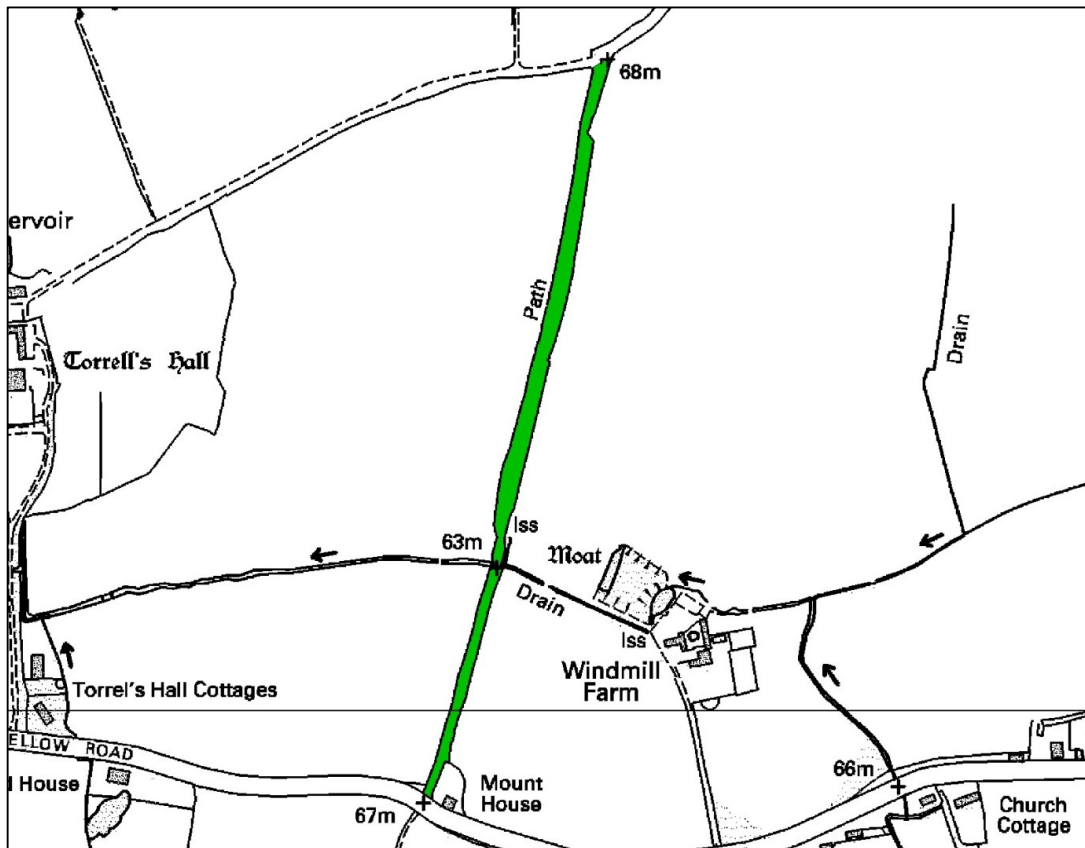
#### **Rationale**

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a flora and structure consistent with this status.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep216 Windmill Farm Green Lane (0.8 ha) TL 604082

Running north from Shellow Road, this ancient green lane is lined by hedges and trees. The southern part is fairly narrow, but widens out into woodland bands either side of the track. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is most common along the track. Other species include Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) are also recorded from the lane. The flora also includes the climbers Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and Black Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*), both species being generally found on base-rich soils. The ground flora is dominated in many parts of the track by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), but species of particular interest present include Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

#### BAP Habitats

Hedgerows (UK)

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

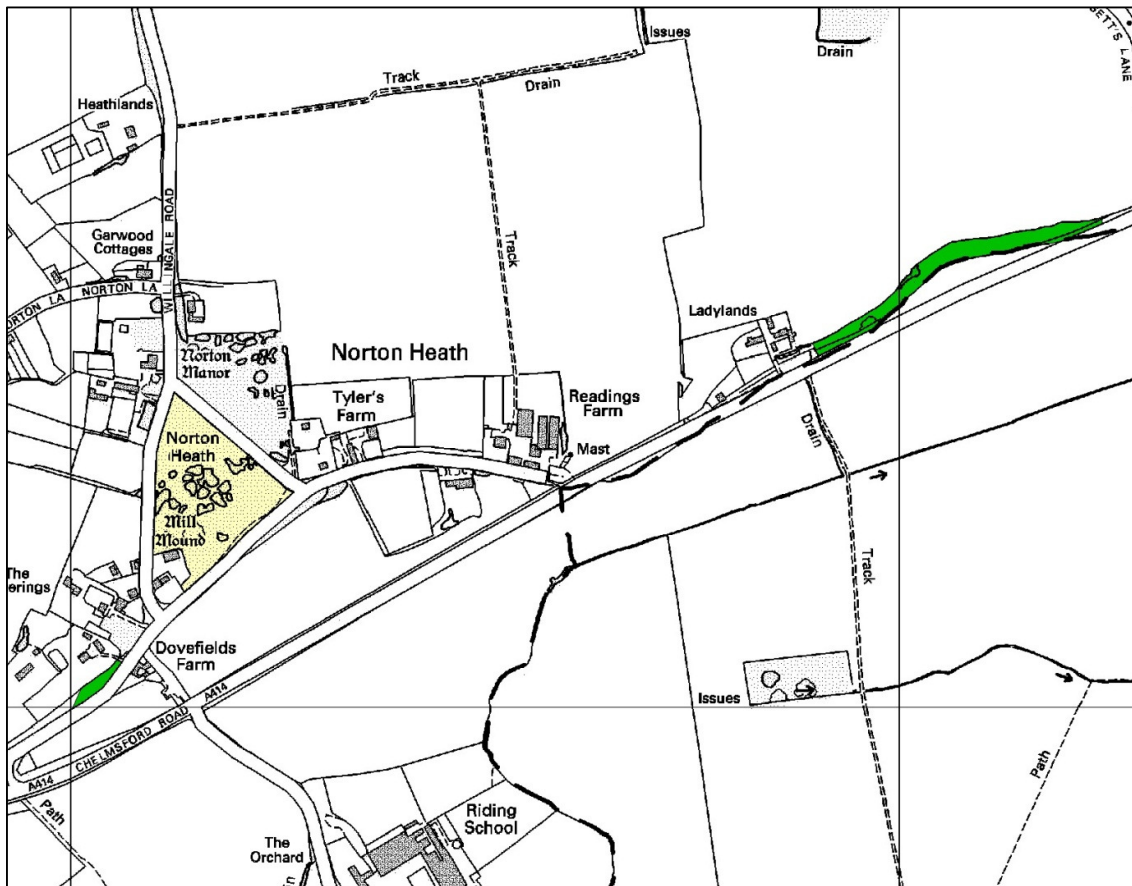
#### Rationale

This is one of a group of three Local Wildlife Sites (with Ep216 and Ep222) where ancient trackways retain a well developed hedgerow structure and provide wildlife corridors helping to connect areas of woodland and aiding wildlife dispersal through the countryside in general.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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### Ep217 Norton Heath Verges (0.8 ha) TL 606042

This site comprises two separate areas that form part of the old A414 road. The west part is a small verge by Dovesfields Farm. The larger area just north of the new A414 road line is a short section of hedgerow and grassland on the boundary with Brentwood Borough.

Despite being only a small piece of grassland, Dovesfields Farm verge is particularly species-rich. The grasses include frequent Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), with a very localised damp zone characterised by Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). A varied herb flora includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), the latter more usually associated with calcareous grassland. The site also supports three other scarce species: Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), the latter being an Essex Red Data List.

The section north of the new line of the A414 is lined by well developed hedgerows. Woody species include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Hawthorn, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The enclosed grassland exhibits a rich and diverse flora. Herbs include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) and Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*).

#### BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands

#### Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

SC1- Vascular Plants (Devil's-bit Scabious)

**Rationale**

Road verges are often the last refuges of species-rich grassland over much of Essex and these verges typify what has been lost from local meadows and pastures.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 2009

**Reviewed:** -



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### Ep218 Bonsgrove/Lucas's Lane (2.7 ha) TL 608054

The extreme southern part of Bonsgrove is the only area of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) structure. This is over a ground flora of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*); species expected to be found in an ancient woodland. The remainder of the woodland has a structure of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), many of which are dead. Beneath this canopy is a tangle of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) scrub. Dog's Mercury still dominates the ground flora, but there are patches of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

Lucas's Lane is approximately 800m in length, comprising a wide variety of tree and shrub species including Pedunculate Oak, Field Maple together with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and, less commonly, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). A species diverse ground flora includes Dog's Mercury, Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

#### BAP Habitats

Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

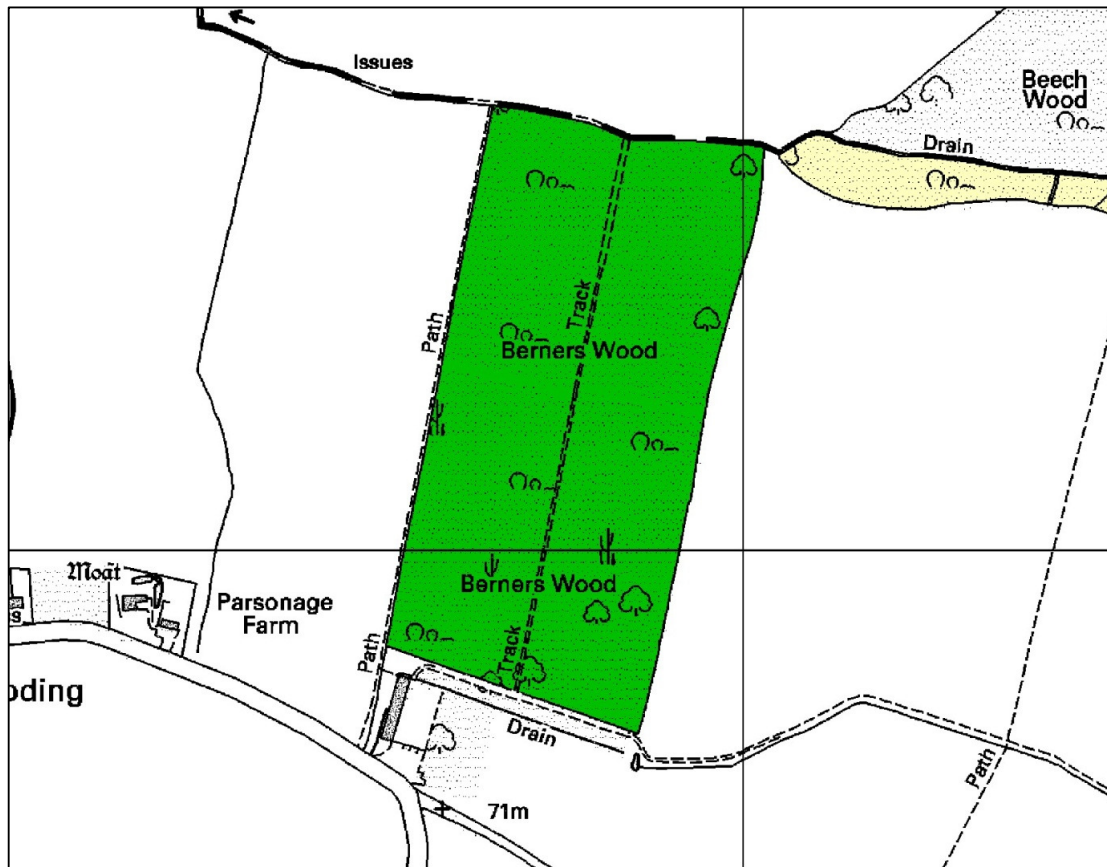
**Rationale**

Bonsgrove is listed within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a structure and flora consistent with that status. The lane provides additional woodland habitat and wildlife corridor function.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009



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### Ep219 Berners Wood (11.1 ha) TL 608101

Berners Wood is an ancient wood with a canopy dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in both coppice and standard form with a sub-canopy of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The northern part of the wood has Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards forming a very scattered open canopy beneath which are Hazel, Field Maple and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ancient woodland indicator Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) is also present. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is found throughout the woodland in the ground flora, while there are also frequent patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The ground flora also has several other interesting species including Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*).

#### BAP Habitats

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

#### Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

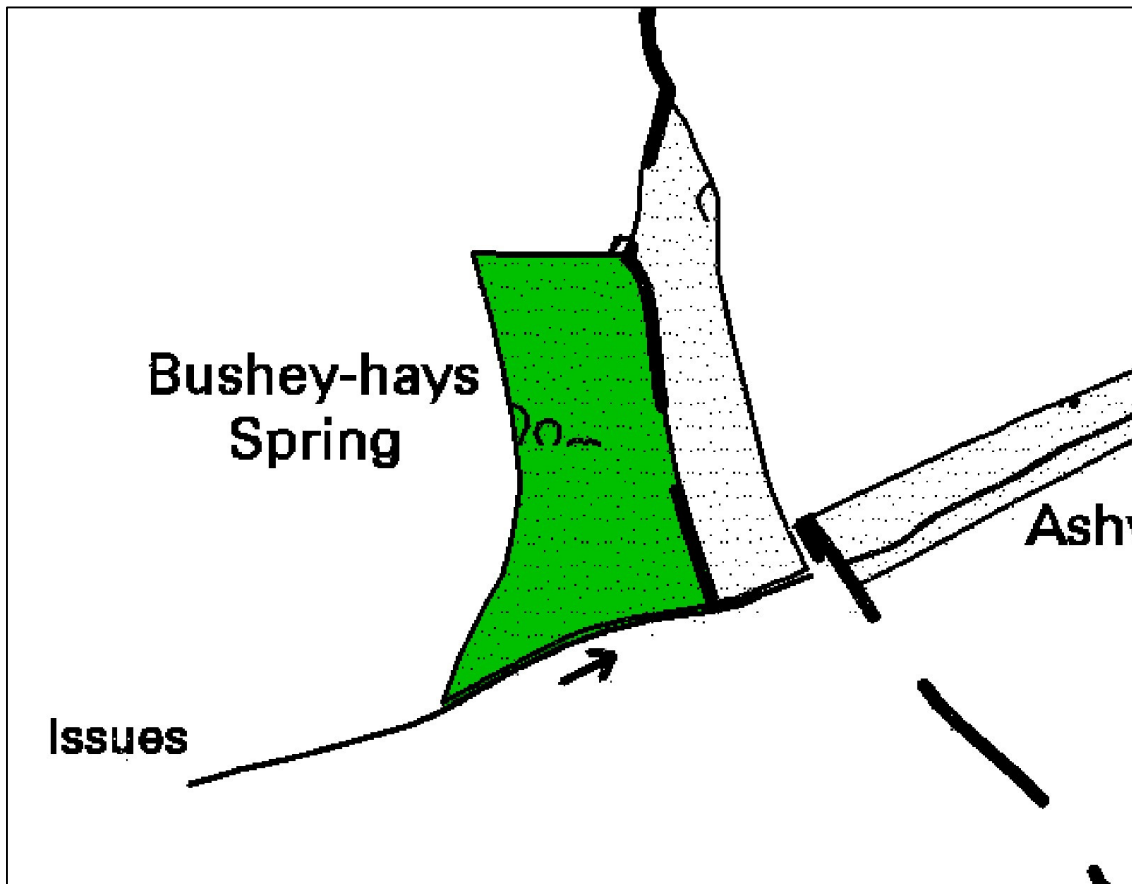
#### Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a structure and flora consistent with this status.

#### Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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#### **Ep221 Bushey-Hays Spring (0.9 ha) TL 616084**

Bushey-Hays Spring straddles the boundary of Epping Forest District and Chelmsford Borough. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards form the canopy of this ancient wood. The scrub layer comprises Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) over a ground layer dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Other species recorded include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*).

#### **BAP Habitats**

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

#### **Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

#### **Rationale**

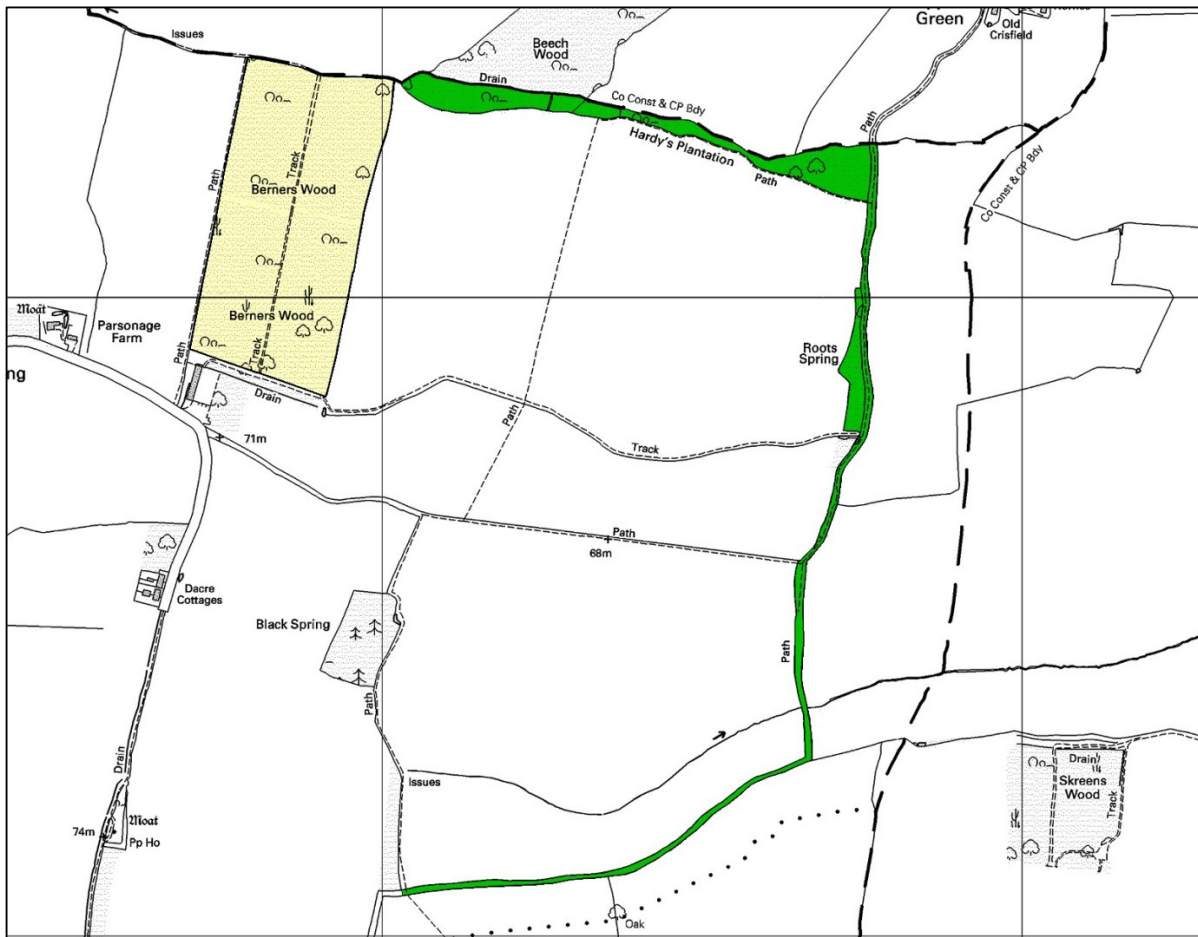
This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a structure and flora consistent with this status.

#### **Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009





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### Ep222 Hardy's Plantation/Roots Spring/Green Lane (4.6 ha) TL 617101

Hardy's Plantation is a narrow ancient wood located on the boundary with Uttlesford District. It is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with frequent Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with a scrub layer of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is also present. Much of the ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Other species of interest in this section include Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Roots Spring comprises a small, narrow wood of Pedunculate Oak standards with some Hornbeam coppice and an understorey of scattered Field Maple and Elder. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is present in this small wooded area.

The green lane comprises a tree-lined bridleway dominated by Field Maple with frequent Pedunculate Oak and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and some Ash coppice. Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Elder and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) are amongst the variety of shrub species encountered bordering the track. The track has been consolidated by the introduction of chippings and there has been some re-profiling of the track to facilitate vehicular access. The ground flora recorded includes Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Goldilocks Buttercup and Primrose.

### BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows (UK)

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

**Selection Criteria**

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

**Rationale**

The ancient status of these features is confirmed by their flora and physical characteristics.

**Review Schedule**

**Site Selected:** 1992

**Reviewed:** 2009