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Ep81 Bell Common/Ivy Chimneys (24.2 ha) TL 455013

This mosaic site consists of old established grassland, secondary broad-leaved woodland, scrub and freshwater habitat. The soils are generally well drained and acidic and the primary ecological value of the site lies in its grasslands, some of which support a rich, acid-tolerant flora.

Ivy Chimneys Meadow/Pylon Field TL 454011

This area comprises species-rich acidic grassland, characterised by the scarce Mat Grass (*Nardus stricta*) and Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), along with Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*).

Western Road Grassland TL 456013

This grassland area is particularly significant for the presence of Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), thought at one time to be extinct in Essex and now known from only a few, but increasing, number of sites. Other noteworthy species include Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*).

Bell Common TL 452013

This is an area of semi-improved acidic grassland and secondary broad-leaved woodland and scrub, with a pond in the north-east corner. Grass species of acidic conditions are secondary to Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and other coarse species. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is dominant in the wooded areas, which typically have a sparse, species-poor ground flora. The pond is a well balanced aquatic habitat of considerable value. Aquatic, emergent and marginal plants include Common Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-*

aquatica), Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), Greater Spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*). The pond supports a good population of damselflies and dragonflies.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

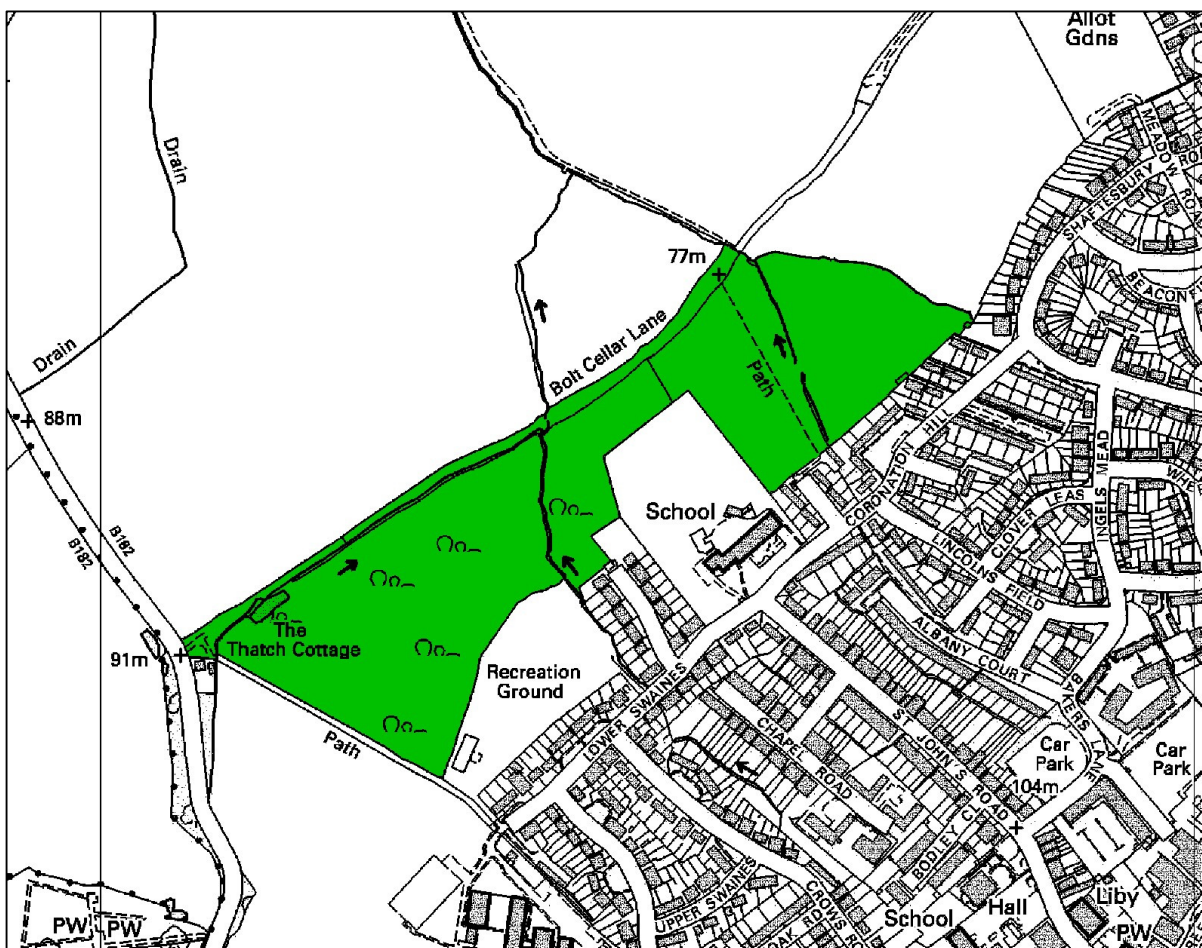
Rationale

This old established grassland site has several indicators of acid soil conditions. Areas of woodland and scrub add to the interest of the habitat mosaic but should be considered as of lesser importance.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep82 Swaines Green (10.2 ha) TL 455026

Swaines Green is a mosaic of grassland, scrub, young broad-leaved woodland, hedgerows and the adjacent length of an ancient green lane (Bolt Cellar Lane). Some of the site's grassland has been lost to scrub, with both dense and scattered scrub occurring.

In the grassland, the most widespread grasses include Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). An indication of its age and relatively unimproved state is the abundance of Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), particularly to the east of the adjacent school. Other species of interest include Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). The presence of ant hills provides a further indication of the undisturbed, unimproved nature of the remaining grassland.

Bolt Cellar Lane and the other hedgerow features around the site add to the habitat diversity. Several plants of ancient woods and green lanes have been recorded: Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) are the dominant scrub species and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is dominant in the young woodland and also present in hedgerows. There is no mature woodland on the site.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows, Lowland Meadows (UK)

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

Selection Criteria

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

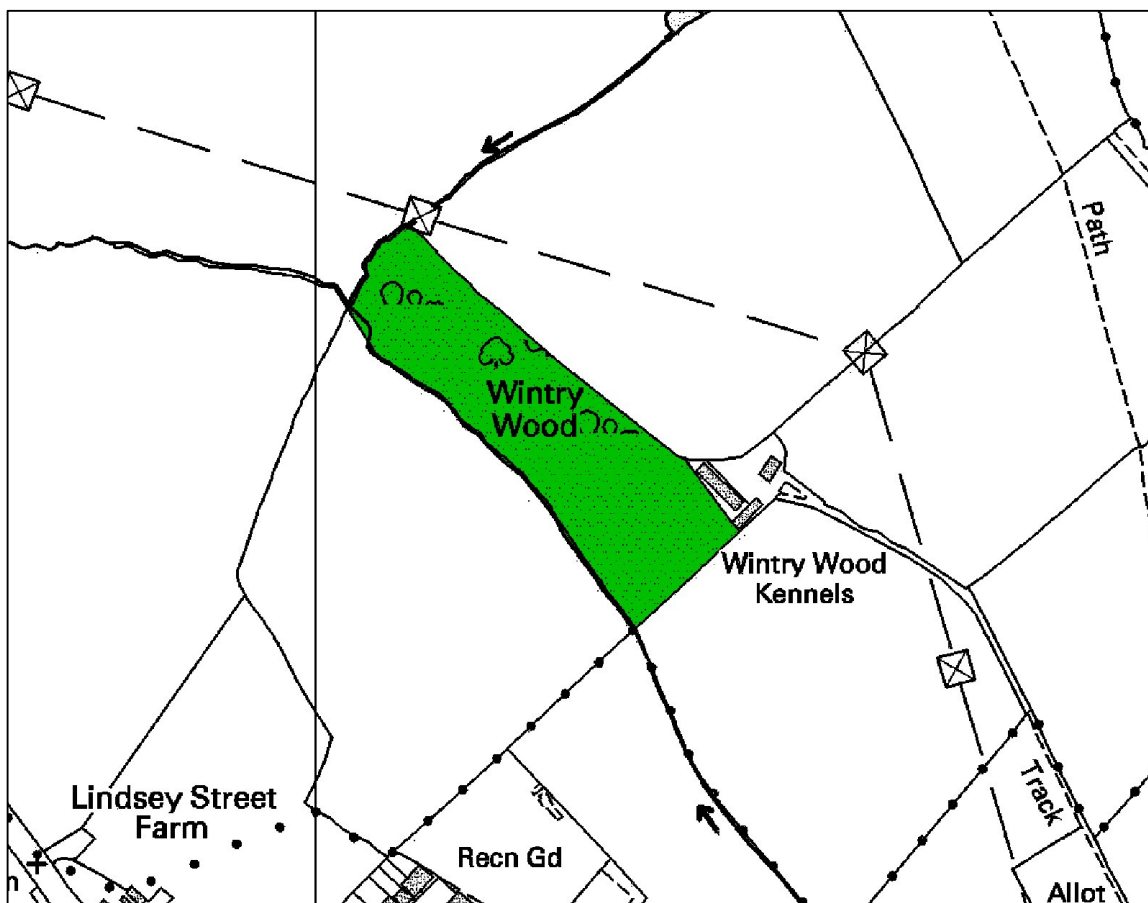
Rationale

The grassland vegetation falls within the MG5 *Centaureo-cynosuretum* NVC grassland type covered by the Lowland Meadows UK BAP habitat definition. In common with other green lanes in the district, Bolt Cellar Lane is likely to be an ancient feature.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1998

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep83 Wintry Wood, Lindsey Street (2.2 ha) TL 461034

This site primarily consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. There is also both mature and coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The understorey is sparse, consisting of occasional Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). There is a sparse, species-poor ground flora, with much bare ground and leaf litter. However, the indicator species Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) are present.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

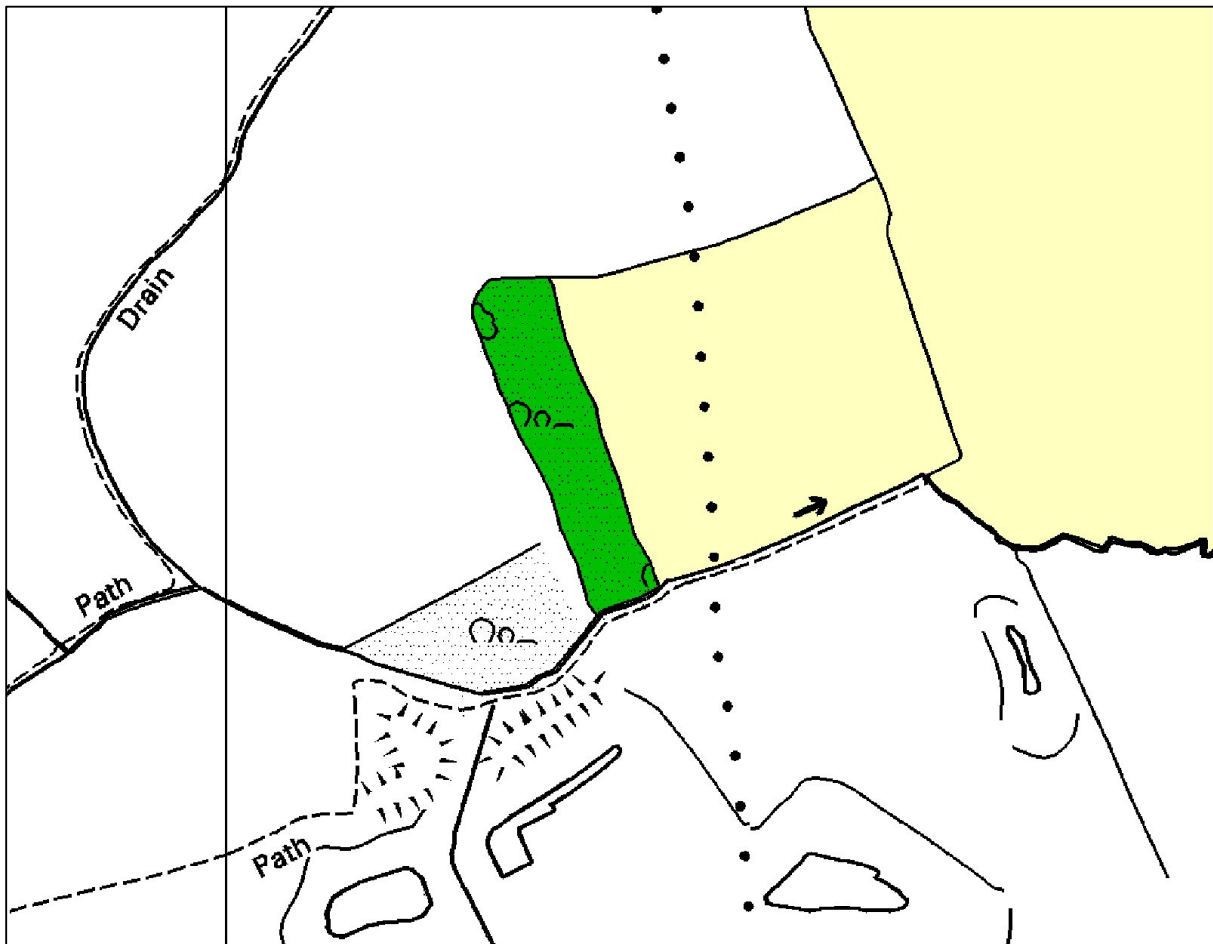
Rationale

The site does not appear in the Ancient Woodland Inventory but is present on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. The presence of large earthbanks and ditches along the western and northern edges of the wood indicates that this site may be ancient woodland. If this is not the case, the site would qualify as a LoWS under Criterion HC2 (Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites).

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep84 Blunts Farm Wood (0.9 ha) TQ462996

This is thought to be a small ancient wood, not recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex. It has abundant Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with occasional standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Plants indicative of ancient woodland include Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the understorey, locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with some Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

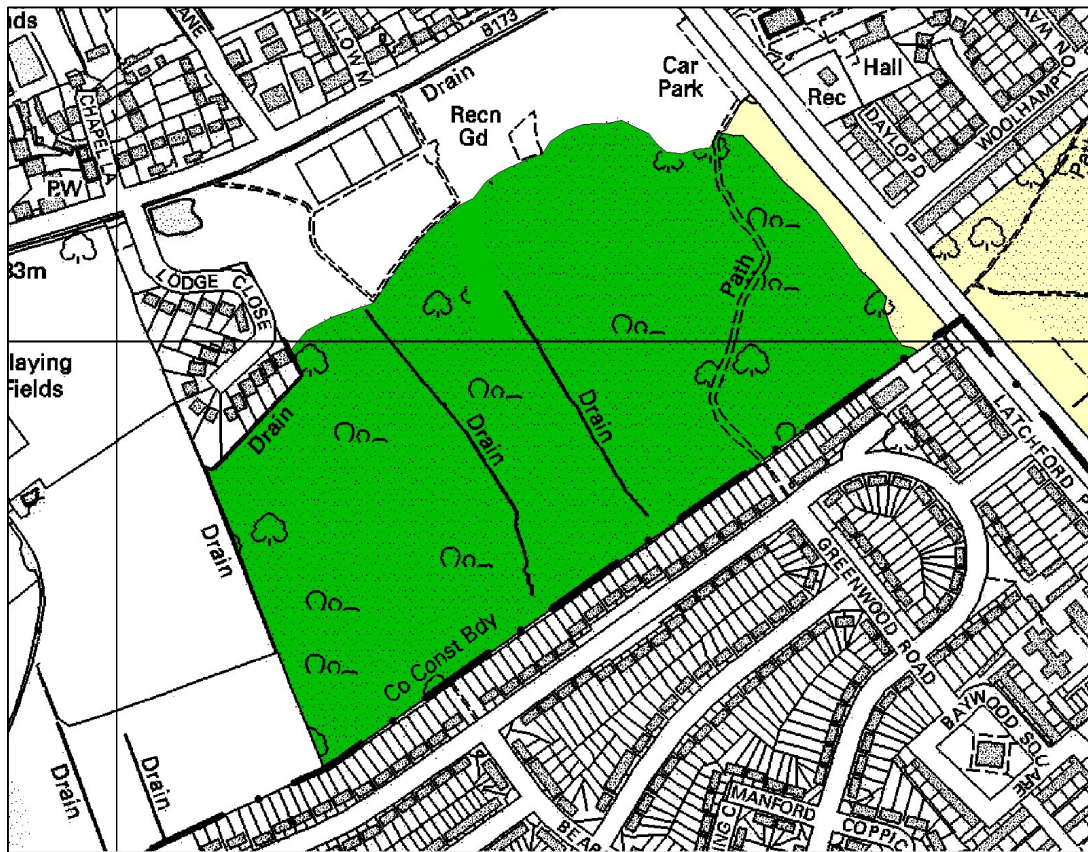
Rationale

Although the site is not included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, it has a species composition and structure typical of such woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep85 Chigwell Row Wood (14.2 ha) TQ463929

This ancient wood is a detached fragment of Hainault Forest and has the characteristics of many woods in the area, with much Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) under a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Sub-canopy trees include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.), with frequent Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion. The resulting dense canopy is suppressing the ground flora, with few species other than Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) attaining any great abundance. Ancient woodland indicators include Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), with other typical species being Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). Detailed surveys of invertebrates have revealed many interesting species, including a fungus gnat that may be new to science.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep86 Chigwell Heath and Wood (9.7 ha) TQ465930

The majority of this site lies to the east of the A1112, but it also includes a narrow strip of acid grassland to the west which was formerly included within the Chigwell Row Wood LoWS. This western strip comprises acid grassland sward characterised by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), which is being invaded by species of more nutrient-rich neutral soils, such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). The southern end of the strip has one of the strongest populations of Common Lousewort (*Pedicularis vulgaris*) in Essex. Other notable species include Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*).

The land to the east of the road is probably an old enclosure of Hainault Forest land, comprising a mix of heathy grassland and wood to the north and a more neutral soil scrubby meadow to the south. The woodland might be tentatively regarded as ancient although it is shown on 1881 Ordnance Survey maps as open ground with scattered trees, possibly an indication of woodland clearance for pasturage. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is occasional, along with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and frequent Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). A typical ground flora of sandy soil woods includes Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

The acid grassland close to the road has abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and is particularly notable for the presence of two Essex Red Data List plants : Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*) (known from only three sites in Essex) and Petty Whin (*Genista anglica*). Other species of interest include Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*), Oval Sedge (*Carex ovalis*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium*

saxatile), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*L. pedunculatus*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

The southern section of scrubby grassland is species-rich, although it apparently lacks any of the notable heathy grassland species noted above. The grass sward is a mix of Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). The most abundant herbs are Grass Vetchling, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), docks (*Rumex* spp.) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland, Species-rich grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

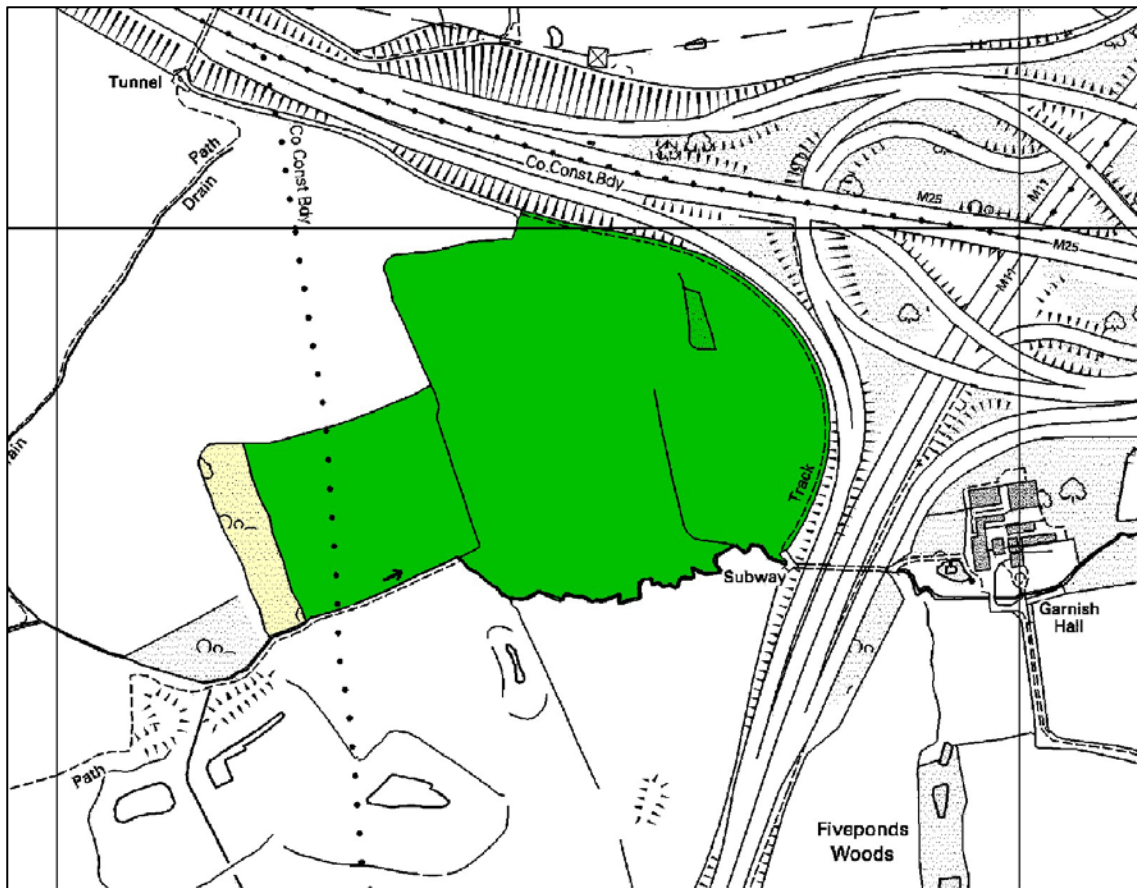
Rationale

The woodland component provides a valid habitat extension to Hainault Forest and helps link it to Chigwell Row Wood to the west. The heathy grassland areas support notable populations of several rare Essex plants, whilst the more neutral grassland provides complementary habitat within the mosaic.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (part)

Reviewed: 2009 (extended)



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Ep87 Blunts Farm (17.2 ha) TQ465998

This site comprises sparsely vegetated, hummocky ground to the north of a small stream. An extensive area of similar habitat to the south of the stream was destroyed by re-profiling the whole site during the summer of 2009 and the fate of the LoWS identified here is unknown. This site displays the habitat features that make such land rich habitat for invertebrates, such as variable terrain with sparse vegetation cover, an abundance of yellow-flowered Asteraceae (Daisy family) plants, patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub and a generally diverse flora. Deadwood habitat is also present here in the form of fallen trunks and branches close to the northern boundary with the M25. A large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) here supports a population of the Nationally Scarce ant *Lasius brunneus*, whilst fallen dead wood supports specialists of this habitat, including the digger wasp *Psenulus pallipes* and the cuckoo-wasp *Trichrysis cyanea*. Significant records include the Essex Red Data List spider-hunting wasp *Anoplius nigerrimus*, whilst a good range of butterflies and bumblebees has also been recorded.

BAP Habitats

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK)
Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC27 – Post-industrial Sites

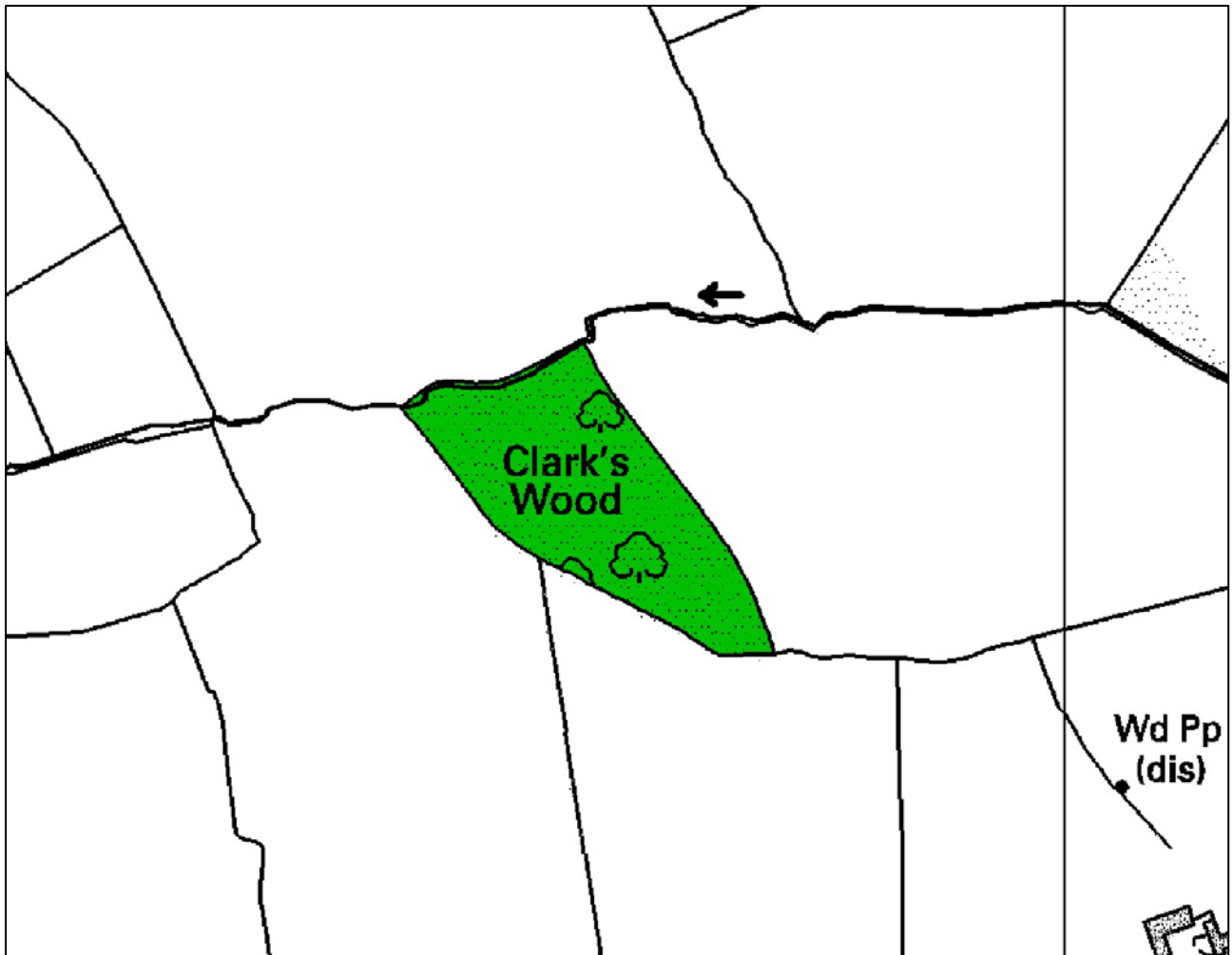
Rationale

Whilst only a limited knowledge of the invertebrates currently exists, the site possesses many of the habitat qualities that make brownfield sites rich and valuable habitats for invertebrates.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep88 Clark's Wood (1.2 ha) TQ467954

This small ancient wood has a typical composition for the locality, with abundant Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) in the understorey. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep89 Ash Wood/High Wood, Stonnard's Hill (4.0 ha) TL 470024

High Wood (to the north) is Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with, unusually, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) confined to the woodland edge. There is almost no understorey aside from some Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora is species-poor, most of the ground being covered in leaf litter, with small patches dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) in damper areas. There are several small woodland streams, a pond and, on the northern edge of the wood, a large earth bank.

Ash Wood is Sycamore with both coppiced and uncoppiced Hornbeam. There is little Pedunculate Oak. The understorey consists primarily of old Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice stools. The ground flora is species-poor, much of the ground being covered in leaf litter, with patches of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Bracken in less shady areas. However, the indicator species Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pendulous Sedge and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) are present. A small stream runs through the centre of the site, adding to the habitat diversity. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood habitat and some standing dead trees.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

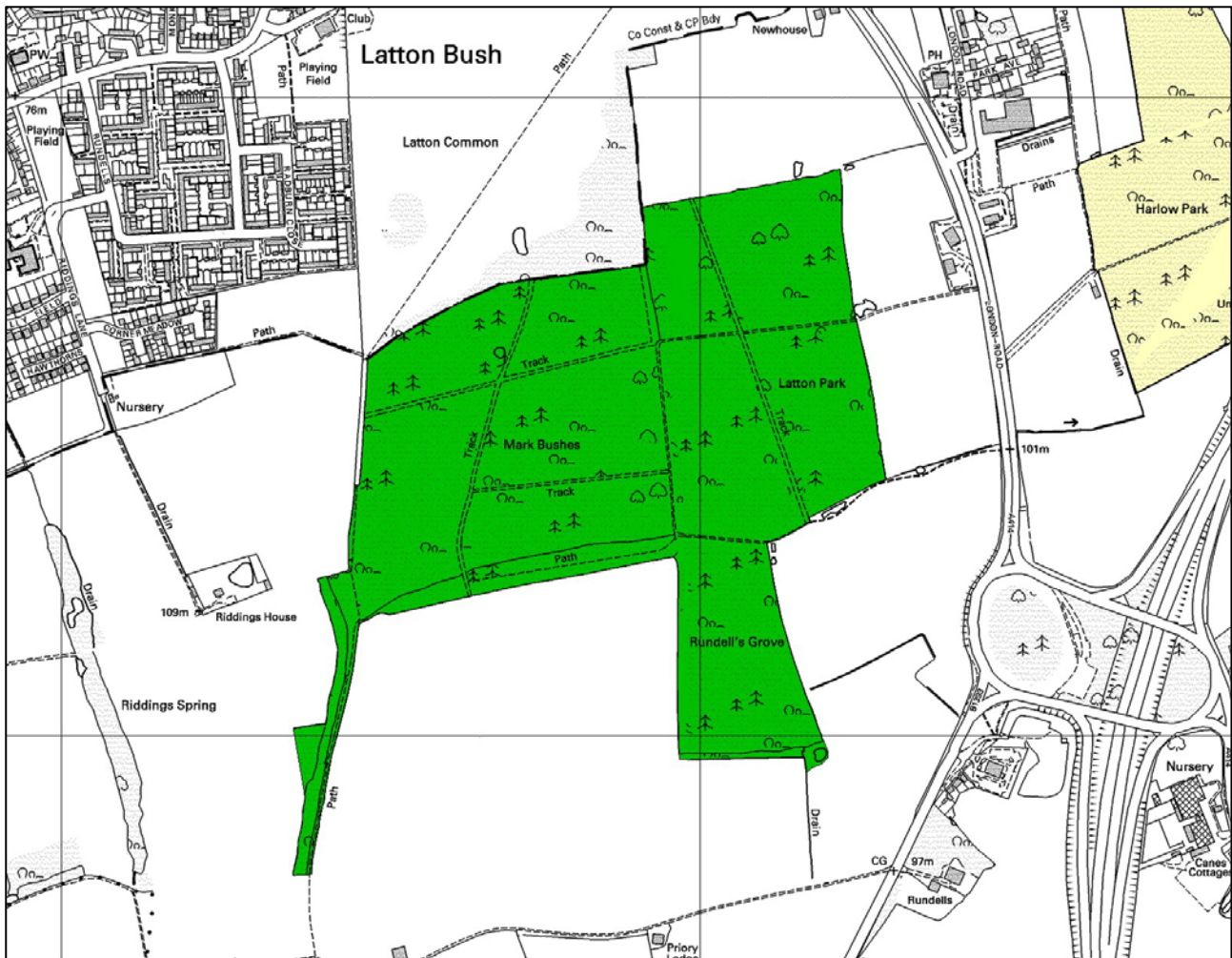
Rationale

Both woodlands are considered to be a modified form of the NVC W10 (*Quercus robur* – *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) type woodland, covered by the UK BAP listed above. The status of the woods is uncertain, with some parts at least suggesting ancient origins. They have been selected here under the broader remit of the broad-leaved woodland criterion.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep90 Mark Bushes Complex (46.9 ha) TL 468073

Mark Bushes and Latton Park are contiguous ancient woodlands bordering on Harlow District. Both have been heavily replanted, but retain their boundary earth bank and ditch systems.

Latton Park has been largely replanted with blocks of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) to the south, with some Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The northern section retains a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), typical of the ancient woodlands in the district. A sparse ground flora, due to heavy shading by the dense tree canopy, is largely dominated by grasses. There are several glades and ponds and a large amount of fallen dead wood.

Mark Bushes has been largely replanted with Scots Pine and Norway Spruce to the south and has a mixed canopy of conifers and deciduous trees to the north, including Pedunculate Oak, Hornbeam Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There is little understorey. There are some large veteran oaks along the eastern edge of the wood. Much of the ground layer is dominated by bare earth and leaf litter, with grasses and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) locally dominant. There is a good amount of fallen dead wood and some standing dead trees.

The southern edge of Mark Bushes is not ancient woodland. The eastern half is spruce over a well developed understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The western half is Pedunculate Oak, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam, Hazel and occasional spruce.

Rundell's Grove, to the south of Latton Park, is a mosaic of several non-ancient woodland types. The greater part is spruce plantation, but the south-east corner is occupied by an area of open broad-leaved woodland dominated by large, mature Pedunculate Oak with Hazel and Field Maple and a ground layer largely dominated by Bramble. In the north, there is an area of scrubby woodland dominated by Field Maple, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Hazel with occasional Pedunculate Oak over a grass dominated ground flora.

The wooded strip running south from the south-west corner of the site is a mixture of Pedunculate Oak, spruce and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a good understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and a ground flora that includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

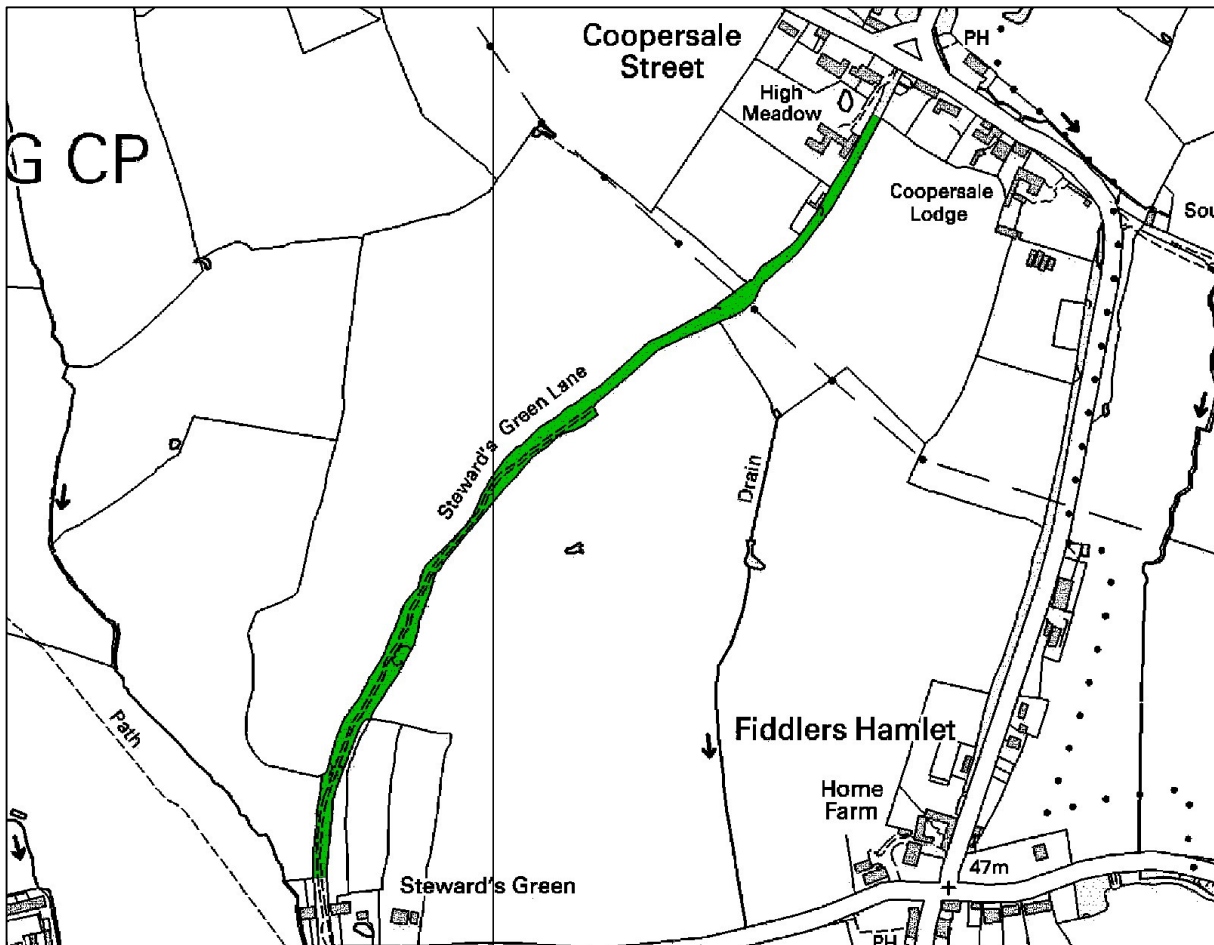
Rationale

The greater part of this site appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Contiguous non-ancient woodland has been included in the LoWS as supporting habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (site extended to include Rundell's Grove and the southern edge of Mark Bushes).



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Ep91 Steward's Green Lane (1.1 ha) TL 471014

This site is a narrow green lane consisting of a track bordered by species-rich hedges and narrow strips of scrub. There are at least thirteen woody species present, including Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), Wild Plum (*Prunus domestica*), Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The ground flora consists of typical woodland species, including Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Included within the site is a thin triangle of mature woodland adjacent to the southern end of the lane, representing additional semi-natural habitat.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows (UK)

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

Selection Criteria

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

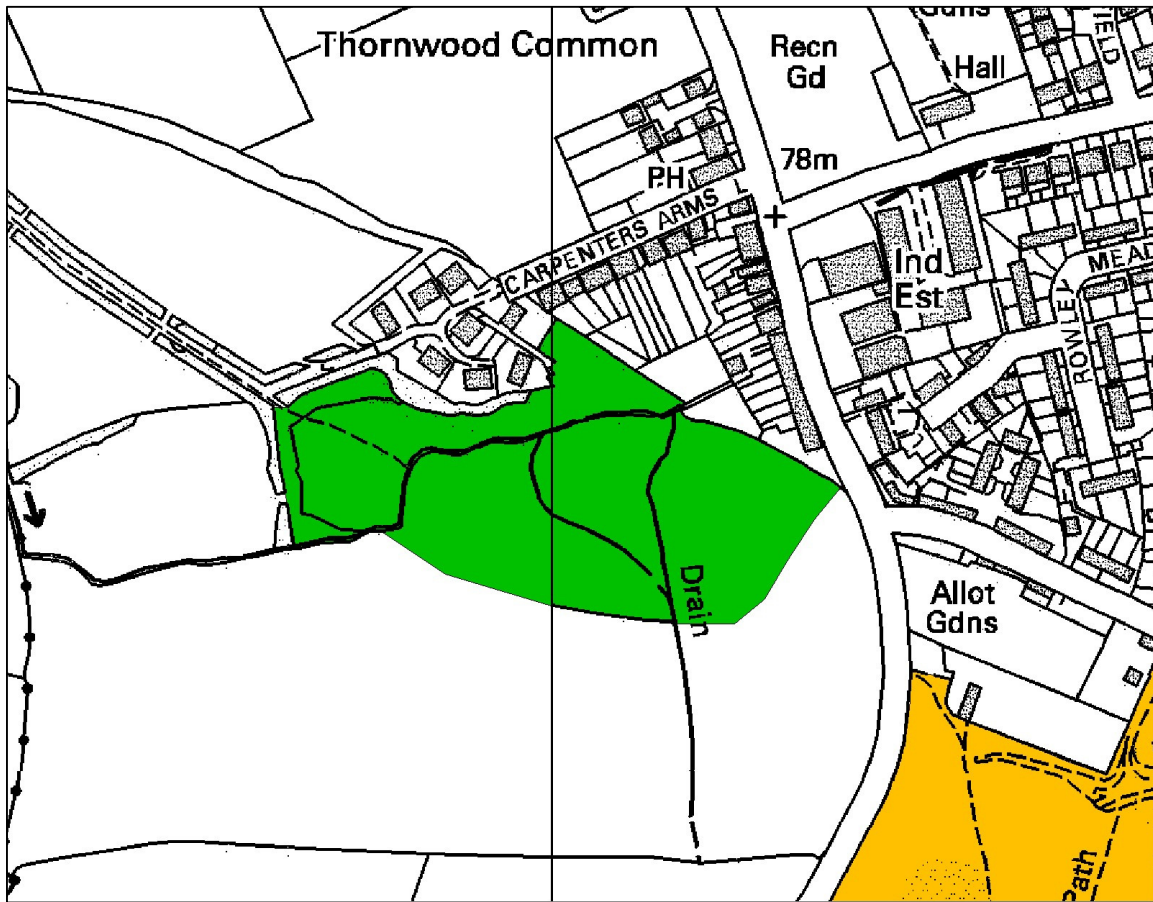
Rationale

In common with other green lanes in the district, this site is likely to be an ancient landscape feature.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep92 Thornwood LNR (3.4 ha) TL 470044

This site is specifically designated as a flood storage area for the protection of the adjacent village of Thornwood, but has been created in such a way as to create valuable grassland and wetland habitat. It consists of a meadow, a flood bank, part of a small tree-lined stream, ditches and ponds. The species-rich grassland includes notable plants such as Quaking Grass (*Briza media*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). The ponds are dominated by Common Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), with a good variety of other wetland species such as Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), several different willowherbs and sedges.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

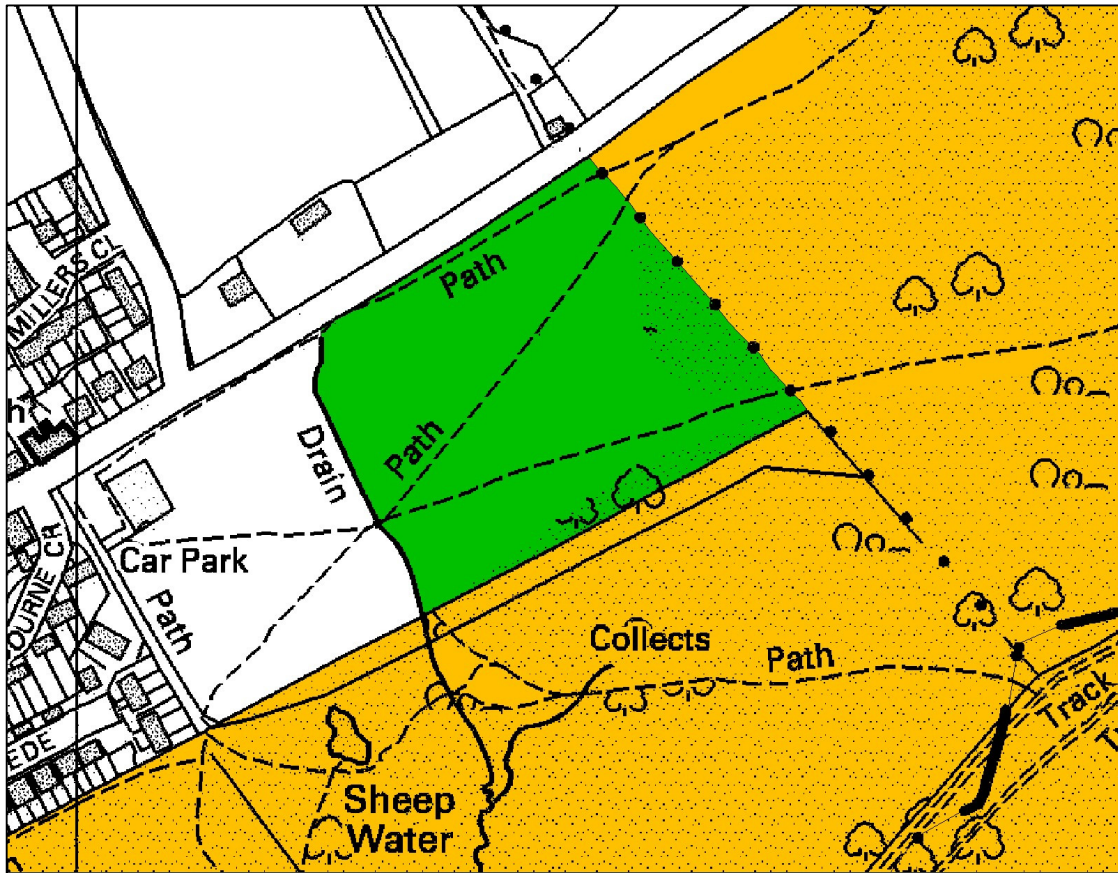
Rationale

This site has been created to support a variety of habitat types in a small area, which will benefit a wide range of fauna, including butterflies and dragonflies. The environmental education value of this LNR, both in terms of a “teaching resource” and also how engineering and ecological desires can be usefully combined.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep93 Hainault Forest Meadow (3.4 ha) TQ472936

This species-rich grassland has a grass sward characterised by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) with a small amount of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) is also present, this being a declining Essex Red Data List plant of damp grasslands. The flora also includes Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Oval Sedge (*Carex ovalis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.).

This meadow has affinities with the MG5 Lowland Meadows UK BAP habitat and also the MG9 Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) grasslands.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

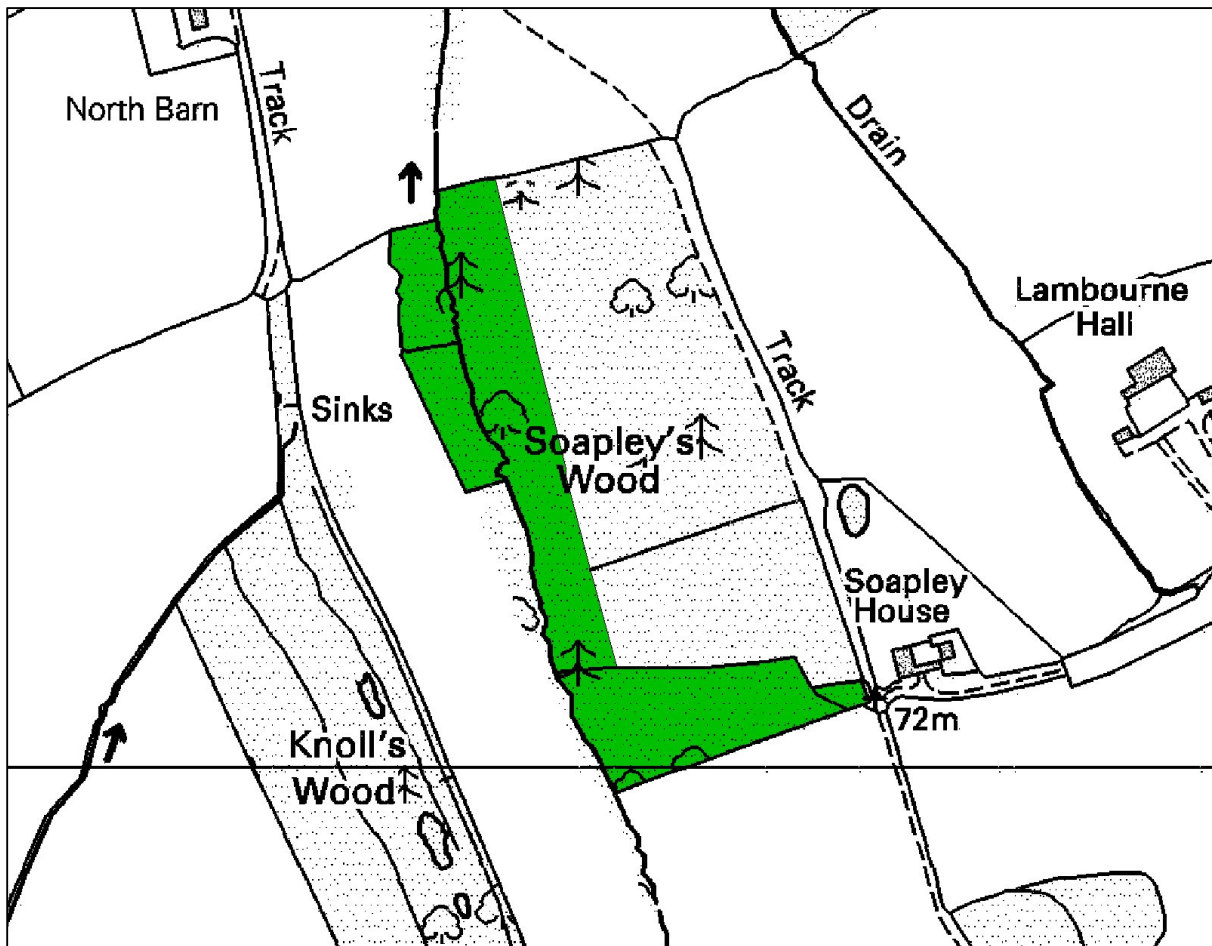
Rationale

The species-rich sward includes species indicative of old, unimproved swards. Parts of the site have affinities with the MG5 vegetation community but this would need more detailed survey analysis.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep94 Soapley's Wood (2.0 ha) TQ474961

The whole of this wood was erroneously identified as ancient woodland during the 1992 SINC review. However, the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 shows only a strip close to the stream to be ancient and this is clearly demarked on the ground by the distribution of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), which are abundant close to the stream but quite absent elsewhere, with a very sharp dividing line. The whole site has been extensively replanted with Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), but the native canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and willows (*Salix* spp.) persists.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

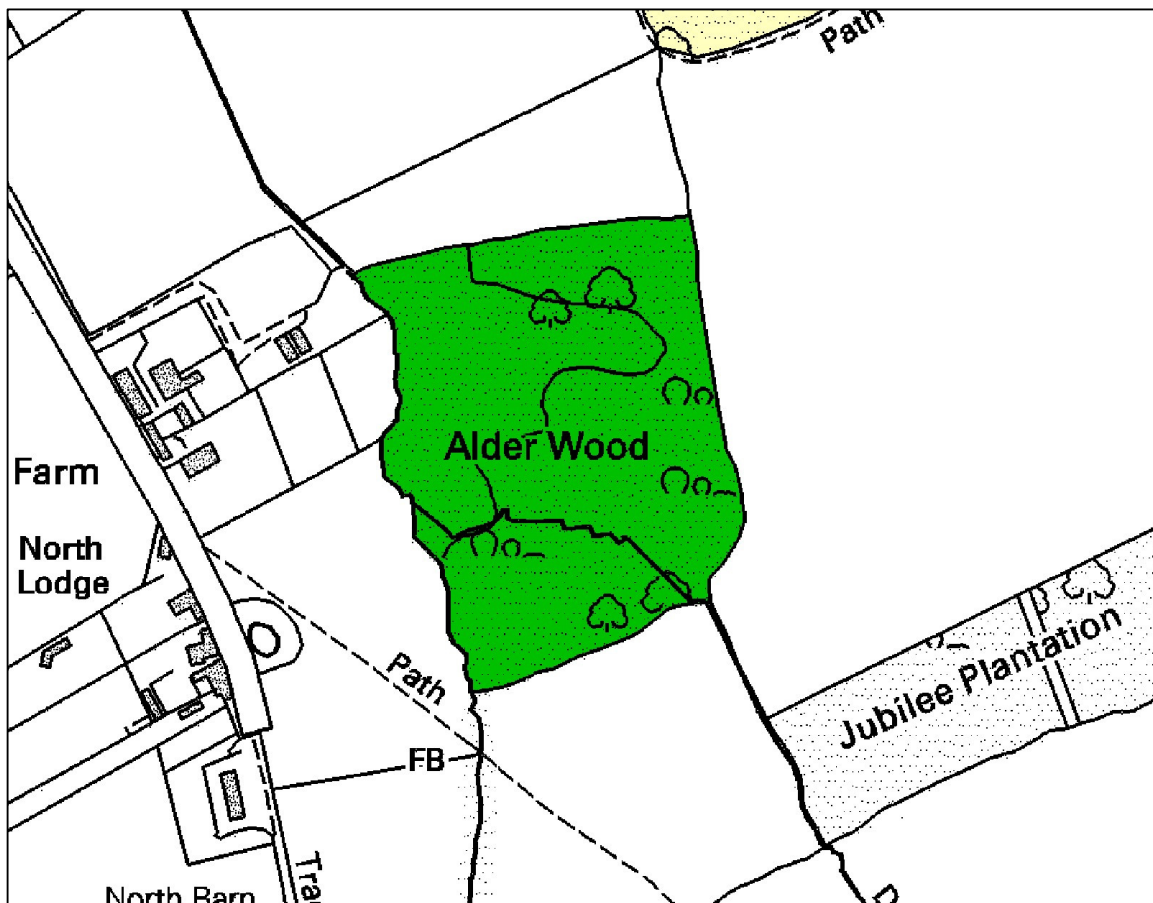
Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (reduced in size)



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Ep95 Alder Wood (3.8 ha) TQ474966

The higher, eastern and southern parts of this wood are ancient, with the lower, wetter ground to the north-west being of more recent origin. This wet woodland has a canopy of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and some willow (*Salix* sp.). The marshy ground flora includes Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*). The ancient woodland sections have a mixed canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) into which Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is invading. Here, the ground flora has abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), along with Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC3 - Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

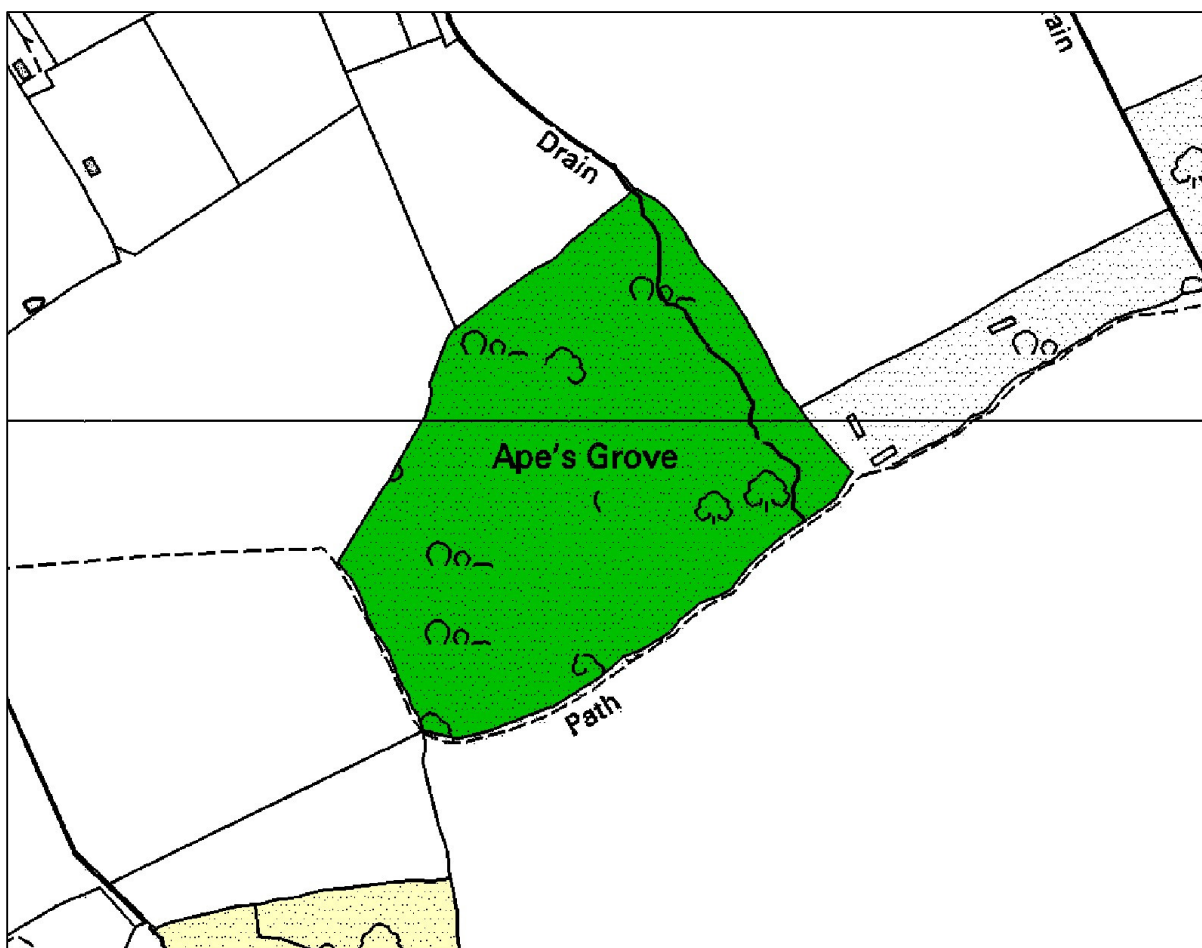
Rationale

The majority of the site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a structure typical of such woods. The wet Alder/willow wood conforms to the UK BAP Wet Woodland habitat type.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep96 Ape's Grove (6.0 ha) TQ476969

This ancient wood has a mixed canopy of mainly well-spaced old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with lesser amounts of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), with an understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora, which also includes Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and ferns (*Dryopteris* spp.).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

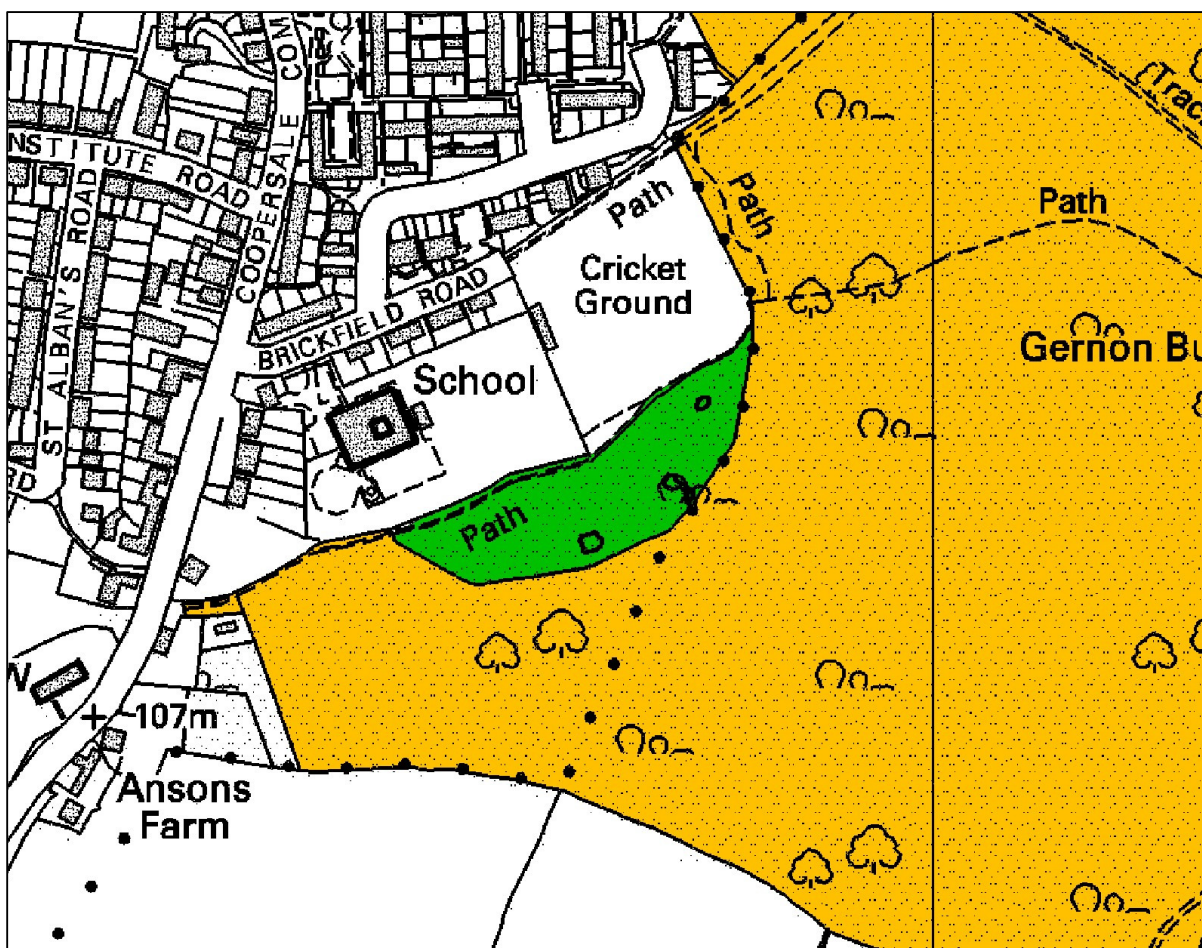
Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep97 Gernon Bushes, West (1.0 ha) TL 478026

This small woodland site is contiguous with Gernon Bushes SSSI, located on the western edge of that area of ancient woodland. The main tree species are Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with some willow (*Salix* sp.) around ponds. The ground flora is species-poor, with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) dominant in lighter areas and leaf litter and bare ground in shadier spots. Ash saplings are locally frequent. There are three small ponds (dry in summer 2009). This site forms supporting habitat to the adjacent ancient woodland SSSI and forms part of the Essex Wildlife Trust's Gernon Bushes Nature Reserve.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

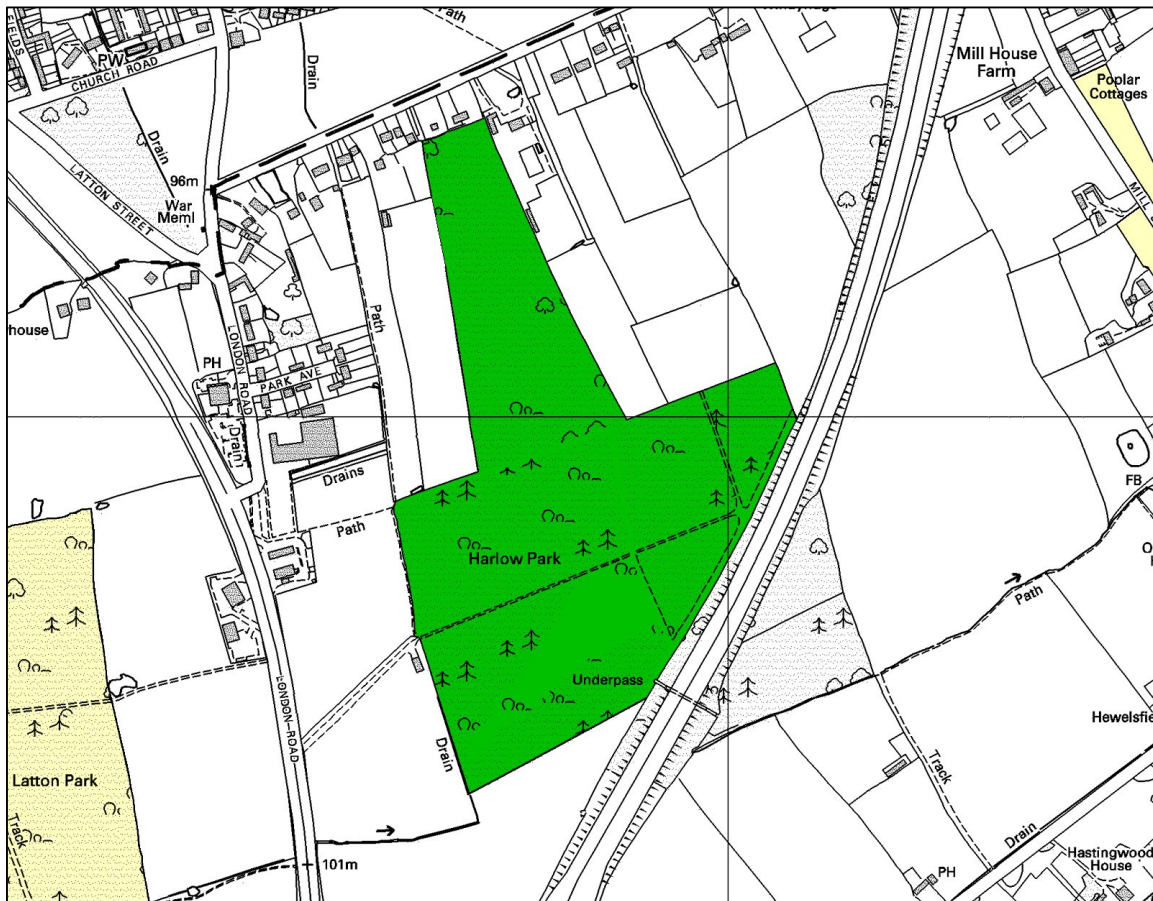
Rationale

This LoWS is taken to fall within the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland UK BAP habitat type. Unlike the adjacent SSSI, this site is not recorded as ancient woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep98 Harlow Park (19.5 ha) TL 478077

This compartmentalised ancient woodland has been extensively replanted with Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) in its southern section, with only the northern half retaining a broad-leaved canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice forming an understorey. To the south, the canopy is a mixture of spruce and oak, with Hazel and, locally, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) forming a patchy understorey. Throughout the wood, the ground flora is species-poor and sparse, consisting largely of patches of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and grasses among larger areas of bare earth and leaf litter. Notable ground flora species are more or less restricted to paths and rides, and include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). There is a large amount of fallen dead wood and several standing dead trees.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

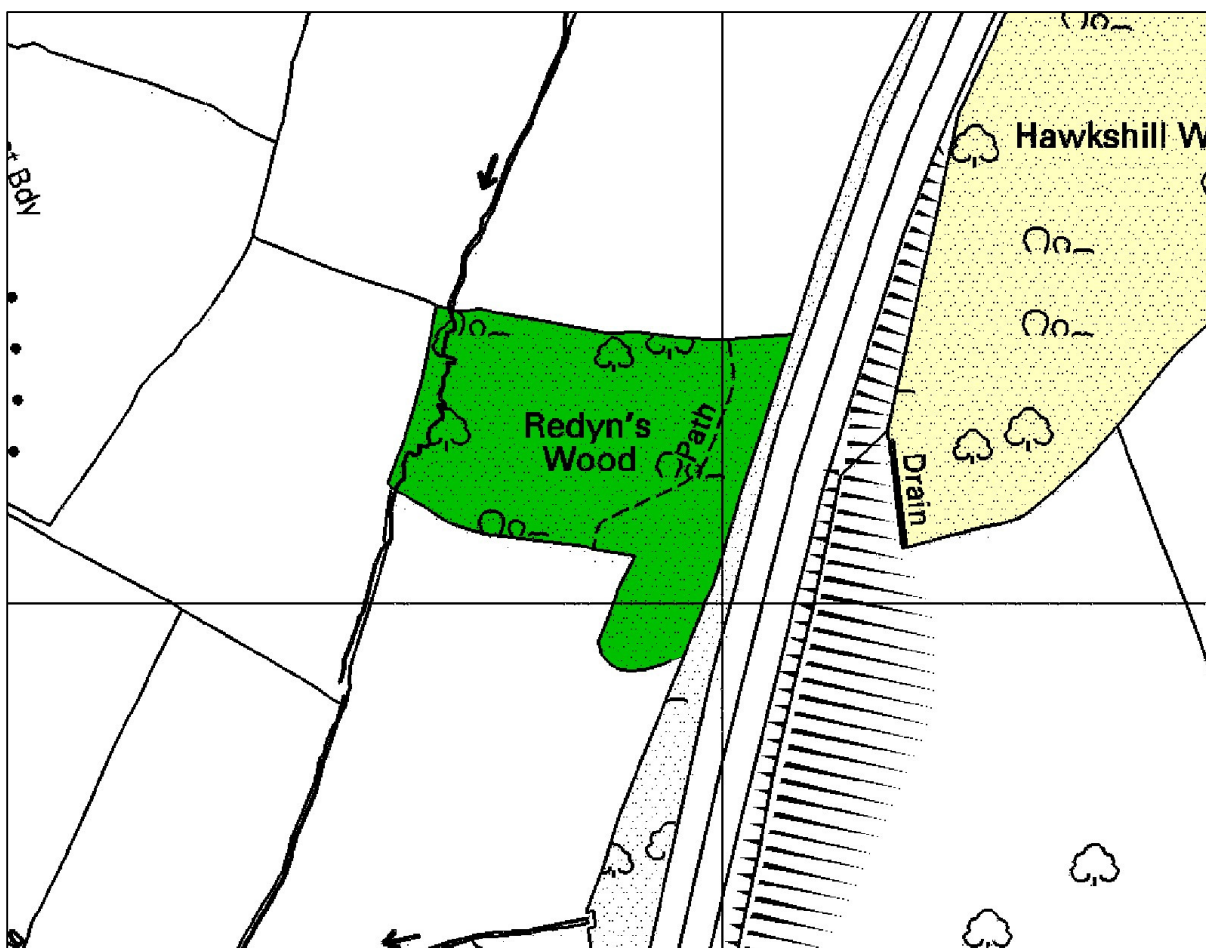
Rationale

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, with the semi-natural parts of the wood displaying a flora and structure consistent with that status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep99 Redyn's Wood (2.9 ha) TL 479021

This ancient woodland is an example of almost pure Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with scattered Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The overgrown coppice canopy has shaded out much of the ground flora, except in clearings, where Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is frequent. There is no understorey. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood and several standing dead trees.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

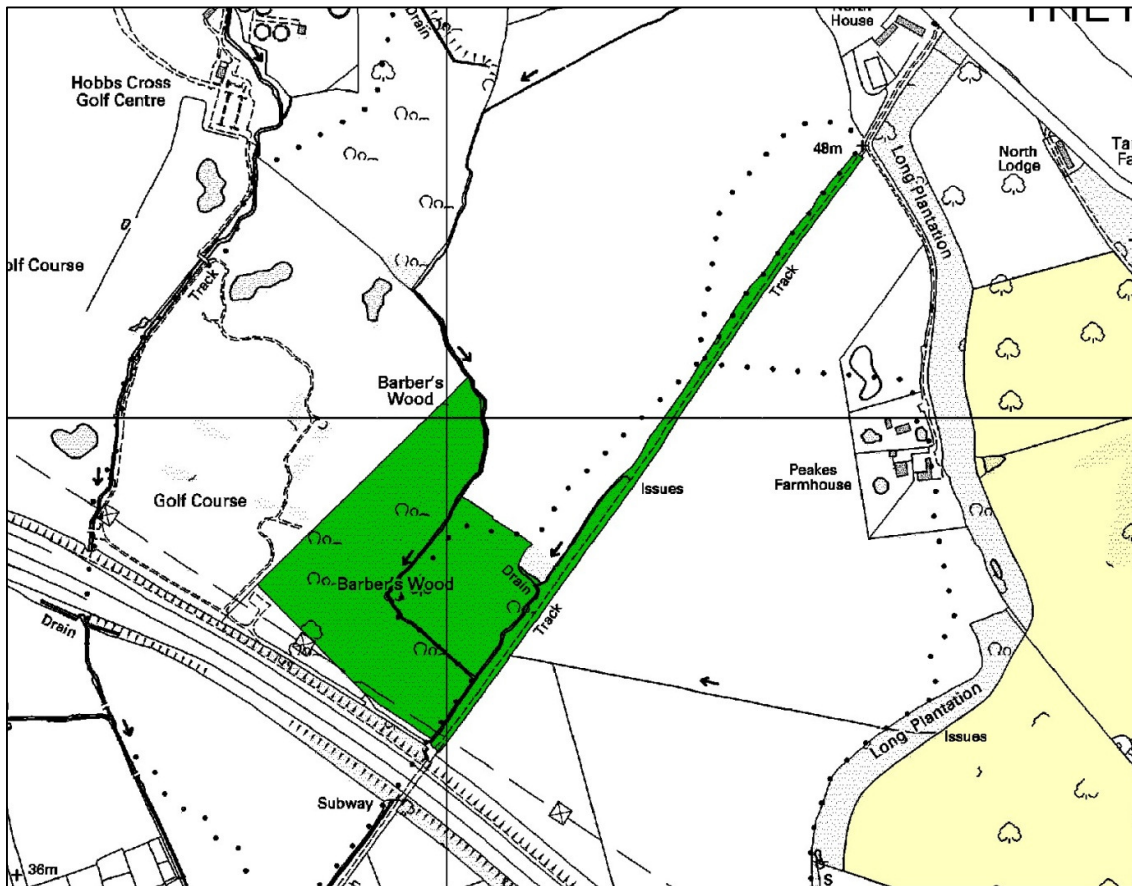
Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep100 Barber's Wood and Lane (8.4 ha) TQ 479999

Apart from a small area of recent loss close to the M25, this wood's outline remains the same as it did when recorded in the Ordnance Survey map of 1881. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice provides the main structural component in this ancient woodland. However, various combinations of trees dominate different parts of the wood: Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) are locally dominant in the central area whilst the southern corner has been replanted with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with areas of scrubby Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) growing nearby. Other shrub species present include Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

There are many areas devoid of much ground flora, particularly under the dense shading canopy. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) occur where there is greater light penetration. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) forms locally frequent patches, and the ancient woodland indicator Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) is also found. The diminutive plant Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) occurs in damp patches close to the stream, which adds to the habitat diversity.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

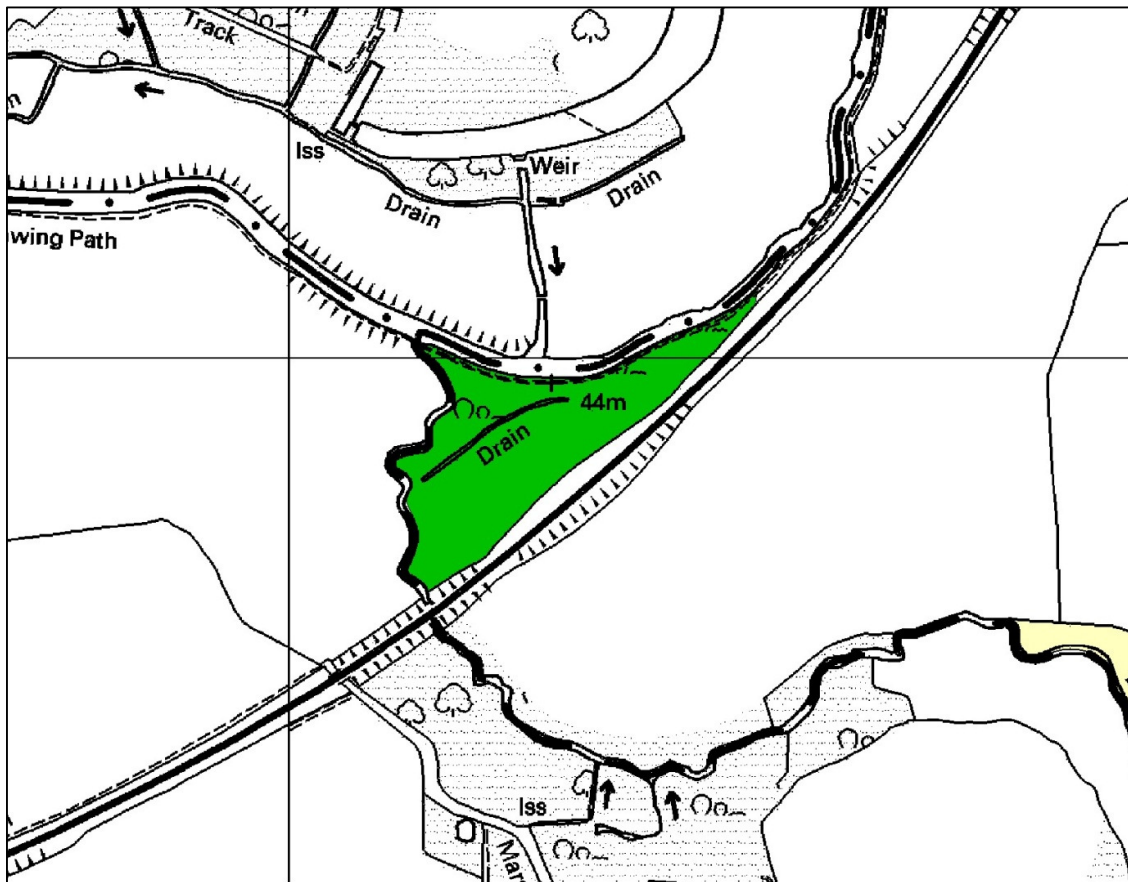
Rationale

This wood exhibits a flora and physical structure typical of ancient woodlands and the site is included within the county Inventory of ancient woods. The lane provides some degree of habitat connectivity with the adjacent parkland of Hill Hall and is of interest as an ancient feature in its own right.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (green lane added)



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Ep101 The Hermitage (2.0 ha) TL 481129

This site is herb-rich grassland with scrub bordered by woodland to the west. The eastern end of the site has a dense scrub comprising Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The central area is a mix of open rabbit grazed grassland in between Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub. This dry grassland supports a flora characteristic of calcareous grassland including Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *minor*), and Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*). Other species recorded include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). The woodland and scrub to the west generally comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice along with Hawthorn and Elder scrub over a ground flora with much Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

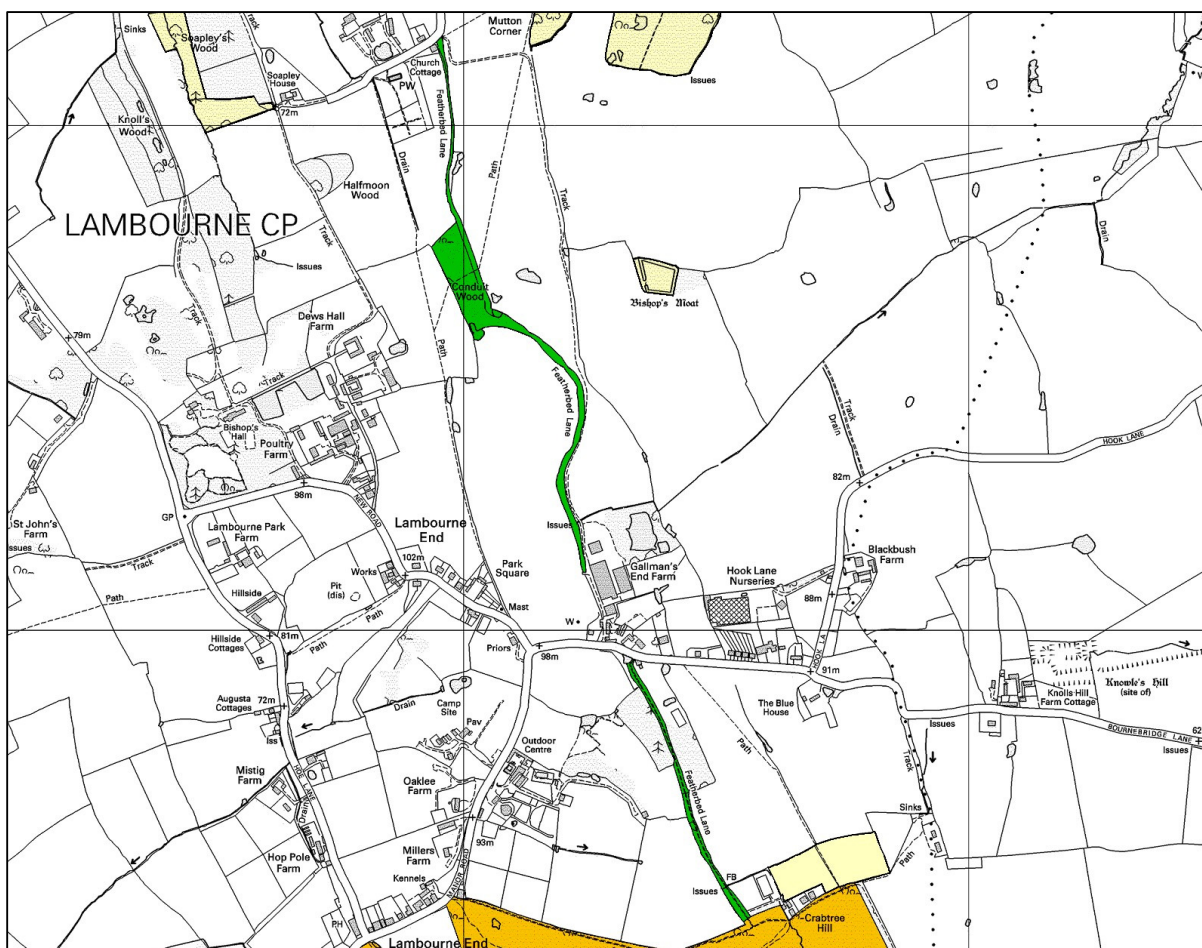
Rationale

This site has an important assemblage of species of slightly calcareous soils. The site is deemed to fall within the neutral soil grassland criterion HC11 rather than the Lowland Calcareous Grassland Criterion because it is located on chalky boulder clay rather than solid chalk substrate.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep102 Featherbed Lane (3.0 ha) TQ481952

This long lane, incorporating Conduit Wood, provides ecological connectivity between the woods of Abridge and Lambourne with Hainault Forest to the south. The southern section, close to the Forest includes some large pollards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with the hedges comprising a good deal of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Of particular interest in the ground flora is Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*), a much-declined Essex Red Data List fern. Elsewhere, an ancient woodland flora exists, with a good deal of Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), along with Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

Additional species of note in the otherwise similar northern section are Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Woodsedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). Conduit Wood may be a modified ancient wood, with locally abundant Bluebell and Hazel coppice, but is otherwise old Hawthorn scrub under Pedunculate Oak standards.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

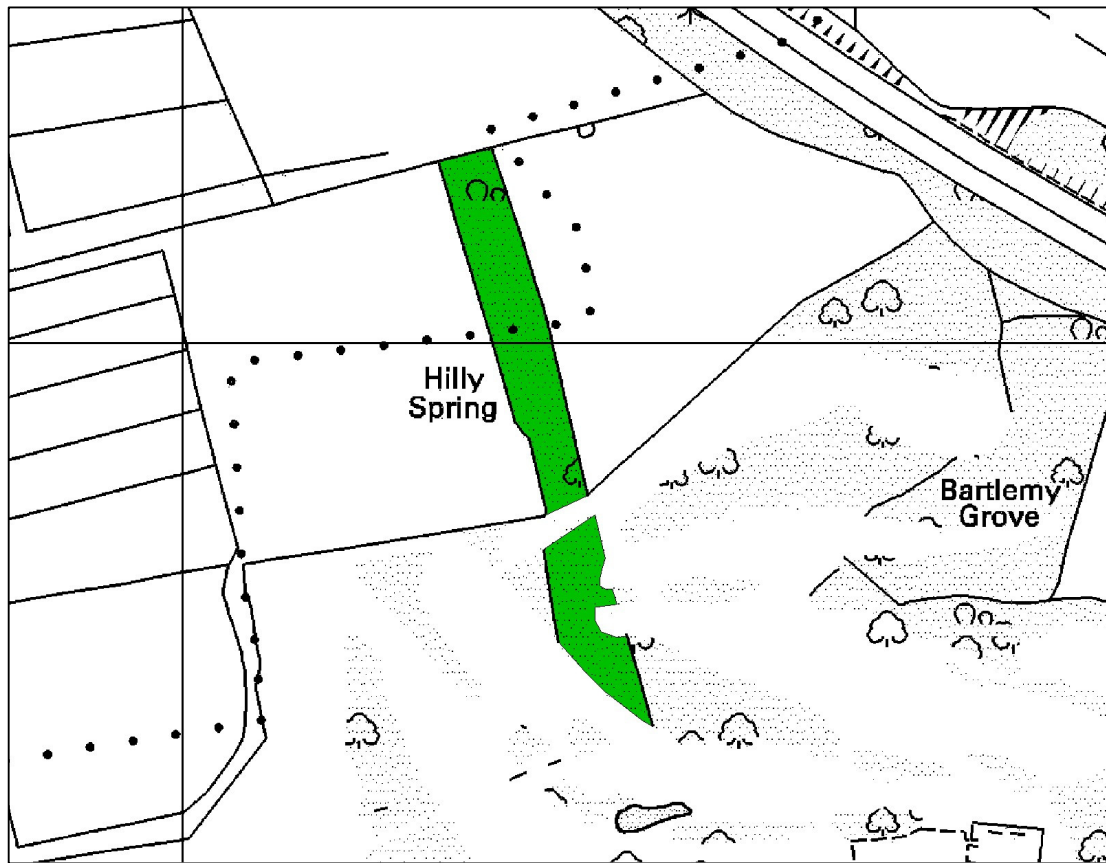
Rationale

The lane forms a link between Hainault Forest and a cluster of ancient woods around Lambourne End.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (southern section)

Reviewed: 2009 (northern addition)



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Ep103 Hilly Spring (1.5 ha) TQ482989

Hilly Spring is an ancient wood of mainly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with only a little Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). A stand of Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) is of interest, as an uncommon tree in Essex, seldom found in any great quantity. There is an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Although seemingly devoid of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), the ground flora does include several other ancient woodland indicators, including Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), although Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) are the main species.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

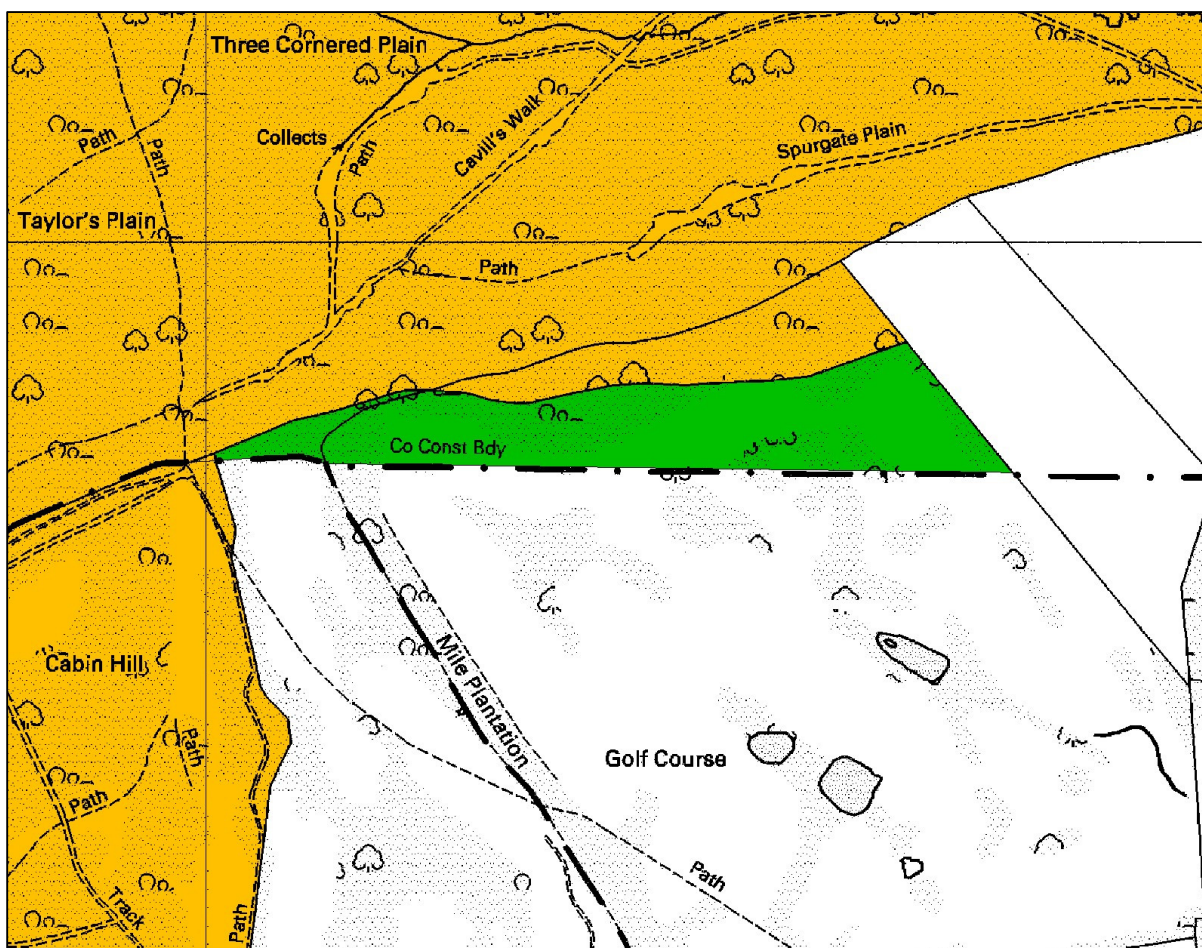
Rationale

The site is largely included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods. The southern section has been erroneously omitted from the inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (southern section added)



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Ep104 Hainault Forest Golf Course (4.6 ha) TQ483938

This is a small section of a large golf course that mainly spreads across the boundary between the London Boroughs of Havering and Redbridge, where it is also a Wildlife Site. The course as a whole is of importance for its acid grassland and oak-birch woodland and these habitats occur in the small Essex section. Rough areas of grassland have abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), with other characteristic species being Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*).

The woodland conforms to NVC type W10, being an oak-birch wood on sandy soils. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) are both widespread, with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). As is often the case with such woods, the ground flora is not species-rich, being co-dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

The woodland component conforms to the W10 NVC woodland type, covered by the UK Mixed Deciduous Woodland BAP, whilst the grassland component has a flora characteristic of unimproved acid grassland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep105 Bishop's Moat (0.5 ha) TQ483957

This curious site appears to be a moated ancient wood. It may, at some time in the past, have supported a building in the rather scrubby western part of the interior, but there is no trace of this evident on the ground nor on Ordnance Survey maps of 1880. The main body of the wood comprises old coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) in the understorey. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is present in the tree-line hedgerow bounding the large, deep moat. The ground flora has abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) (itself indicating prior human occupation) in the scrubby western section.

BAP Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

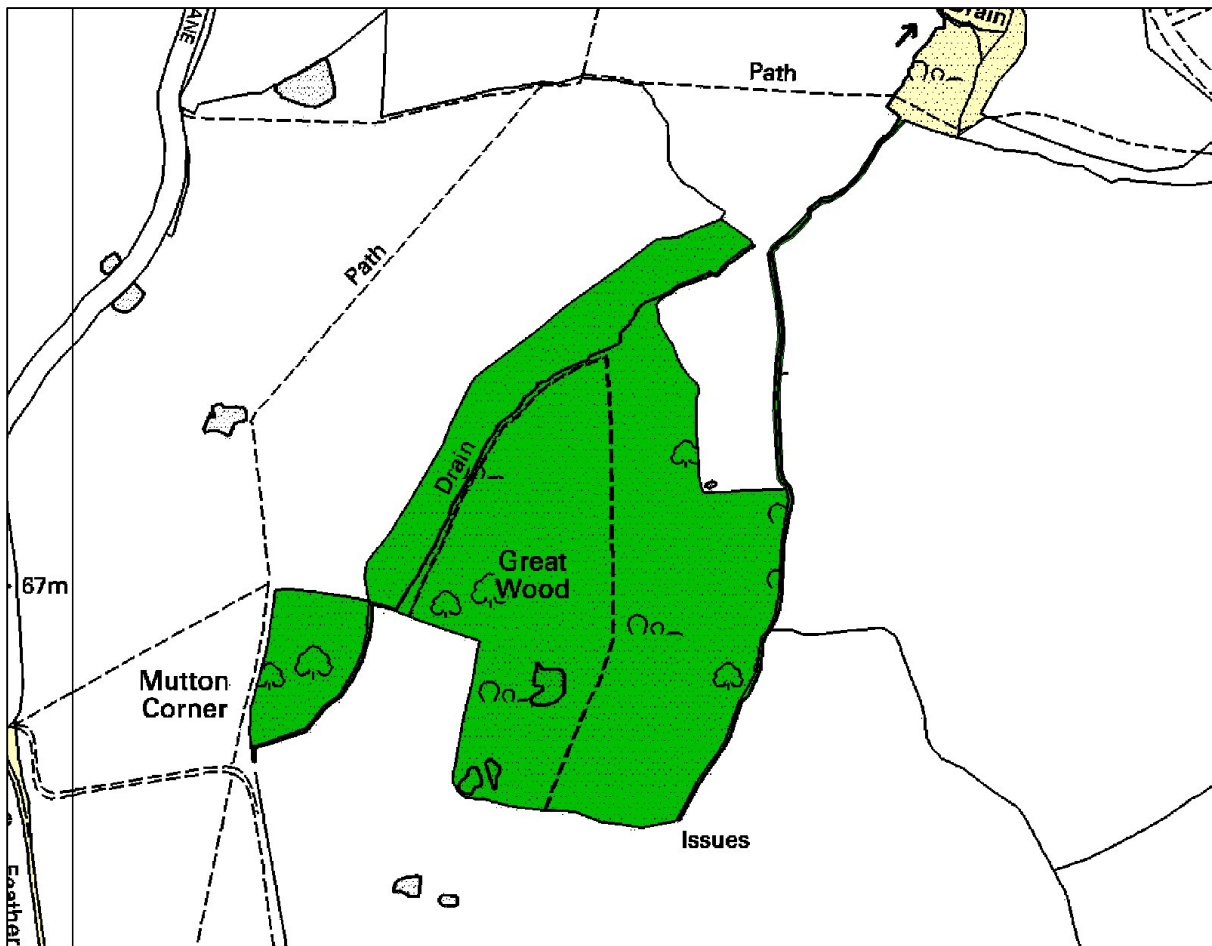
Rationale

Although the site is not included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex (because of its small size) it has a species composition and structure typical of such woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep106 Great Wood and Mutton Corner (9.0 ha) TQ483963

Great Wood is a diverse ancient woodland, with much old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice throughout, although dominating along the eastern and north-western margins. Standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are more frequent centrally, along with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora contains a good number of ancient woodland indicators, including Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). Also present are Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Mutton Corner is a broadly similar piece of woodland, with old Hornbeam coppice and standards of Pedunculate Oak and Ash over abundant Bluebell and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Also included within this LoWS is the large hedgerow connecting it with Foxburrow Wood to the north-east. The southern part of this hedge is probably a former boundary of Great Wood, left as a hedge when the adjacent field was created from woodland felling, whilst the northern section appears to have formerly been a double hedge line or narrow strip of woodland. The hedge is species-rich, with Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Pedunculate Oak, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Ash, Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hornbeam, Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Hazel.

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

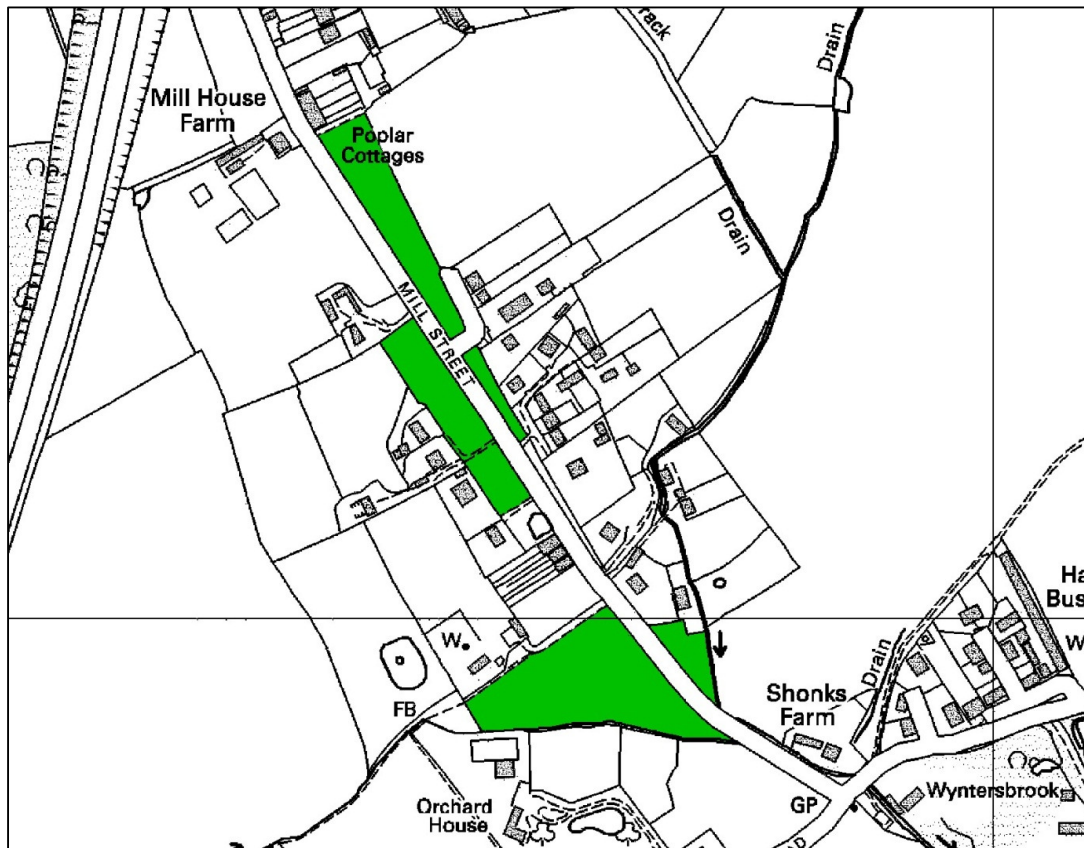
Rationale

The site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods. The hedgerow forms an ecological connection with Foxburrow Wood to the north and may, in part, be formed from the former boundary of Great Wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (linking hedgerow added)



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Ep107 Mill Street Green (3.3 ha) TL 485081

This site comprises several small blocks of grassland either side of Mill Street. The southernmost part of the Site is the most species-rich area. Here, a wide range of grasses is found including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Amongst the herb flora are Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) and Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Common Knapweed and Red Bartsia are conspicuous species occurring in the linear grassland blocks to the north.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland meadows

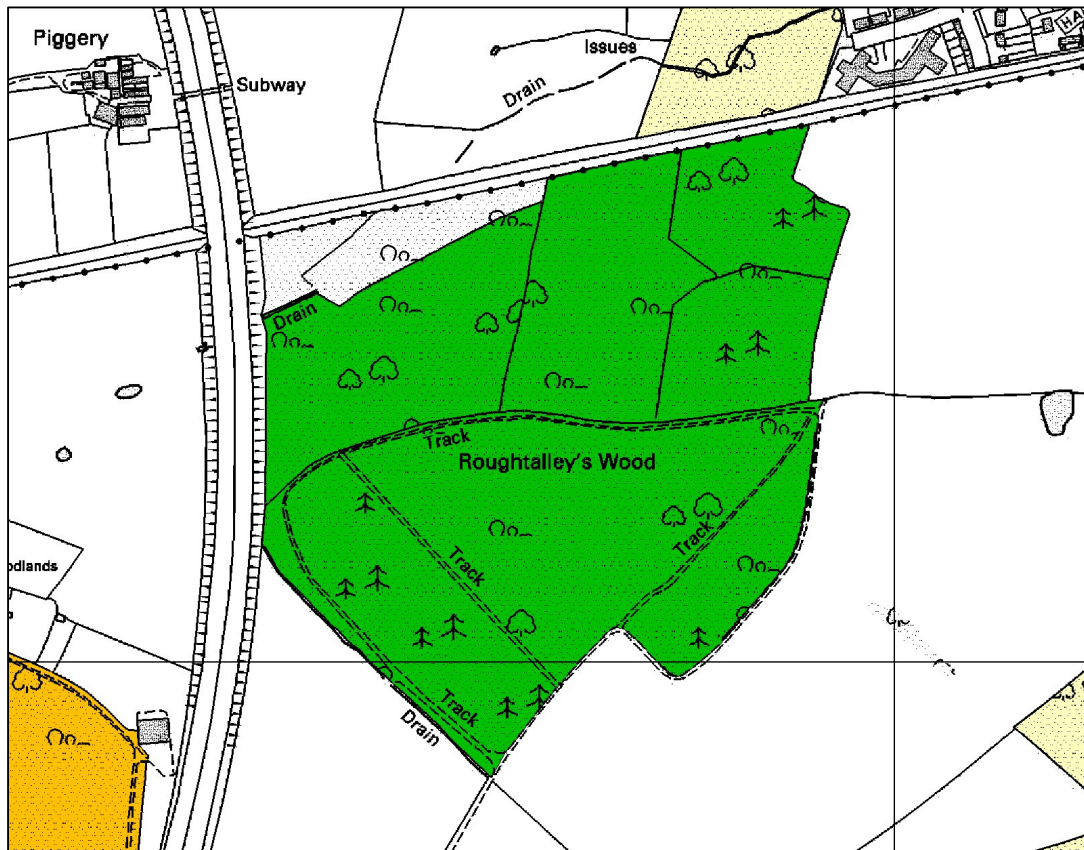
Rationale

These areas of grassland do not appear to have been subjected to any considerable improvement by enrichment of soil nutrients. Consequently, the essential qualities of an older grassland structure, allied to the MG% NVC grassland type covered by the UK Lowland Meadows BAP, have been retained. The southernmost grassland is particularly characteristic, exhibiting a diverse mix of grasses and herbs.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep108 Roughtalley's Wood (22.2 ha) TL 486032

The canopy of this ancient woodland is dominated by conifers and Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Q. petraea*) standards interspersed throughout. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is locally dominant in areas, whilst other species present include birches, both Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Silver Birch (*B. pendula*). The ground flora reflects the acid nature of the soils. Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) is a low growing herb of infertile acidic soils and Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), requires permanently or seasonally wet acid soils. The habitat is also suitable for the moss *Sphagnum denticulatum* that generally favours acidic, nutrient poor conditions. Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), an Essex Red data List species, occurs in more freely draining areas of the woodland. Other species of the wet areas in the woodland include Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Bog Stitchwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1- Ancient Woodland Sites

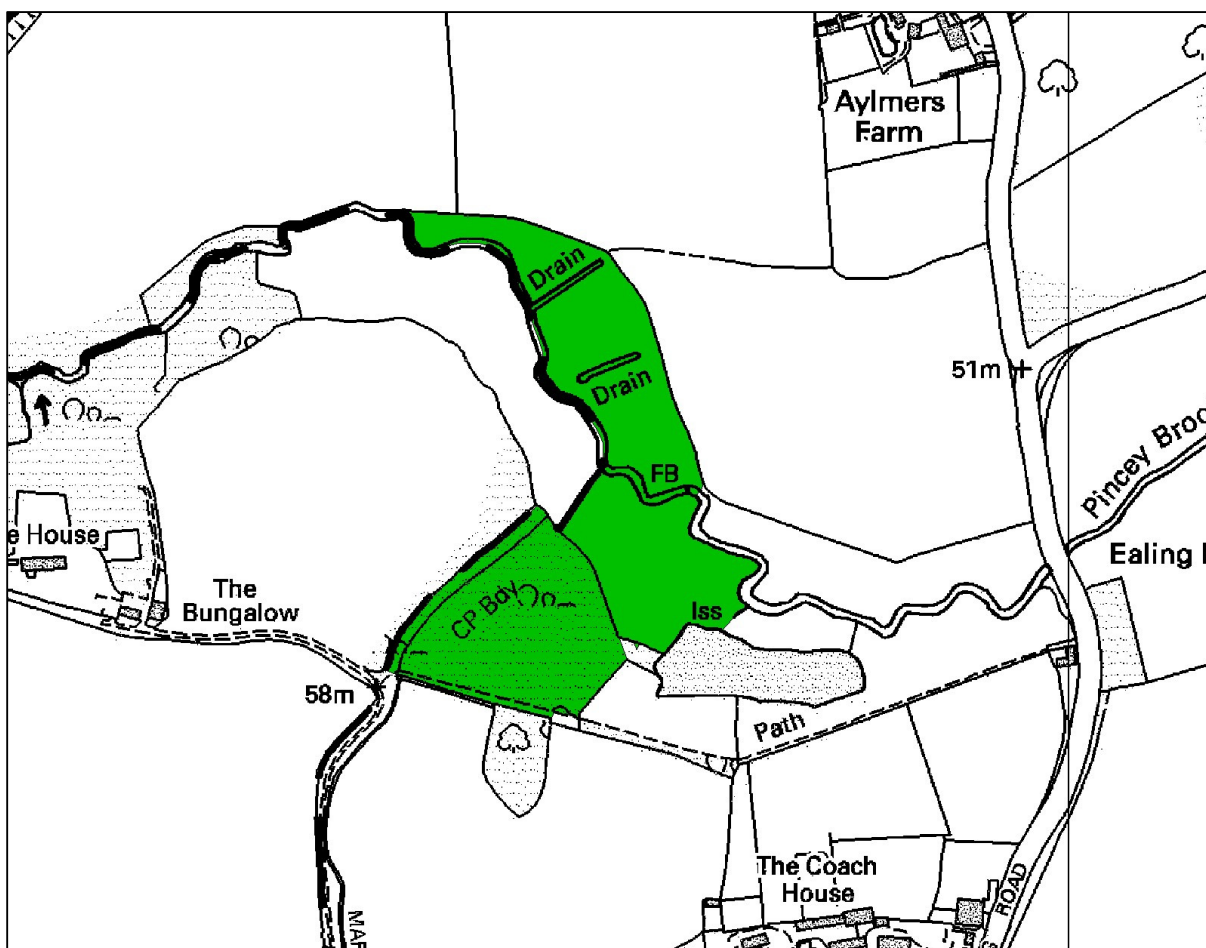
Rationale

Although replanted, this ancient woodland is most important for its ground flora, and in particular the acid conditions of the underlying soils, which support an interesting suite of species. It is a modified form of the W10 NVC woodland type covered by the UK BAP listed above.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep109 Pincey Brook Meadows (4.0 ha) TL 487126

The southern section of this site is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but this is erroneous, as can be seen from the Ordnance survey 6" map of 1884 where it is illustrated as mainly open fields and shallow pits. Only the lane forming the north-western boundary of this unit is arguably ancient wood (along with some woodland over the border in adjacent Harlow district). Here, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is the main tree species, whilst Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) occurs as scattered trees in the more open areas. The ground vegetation comprises grassland and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub.

The key quality of this site is as a series of grasslands either side of the Pincey Brook. The northern arm is a mosaic of rough False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) grassland, sedge-beds and tall herb fen vegetation, where Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Comfrees (*Symphytum* spp.) are all locally frequent. The grassland immediately south of the brook is closely horse-grazed.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Fen Vegetation, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)
Species-rich Grasslands, Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC14 – Lowland Fen Vegetation
HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

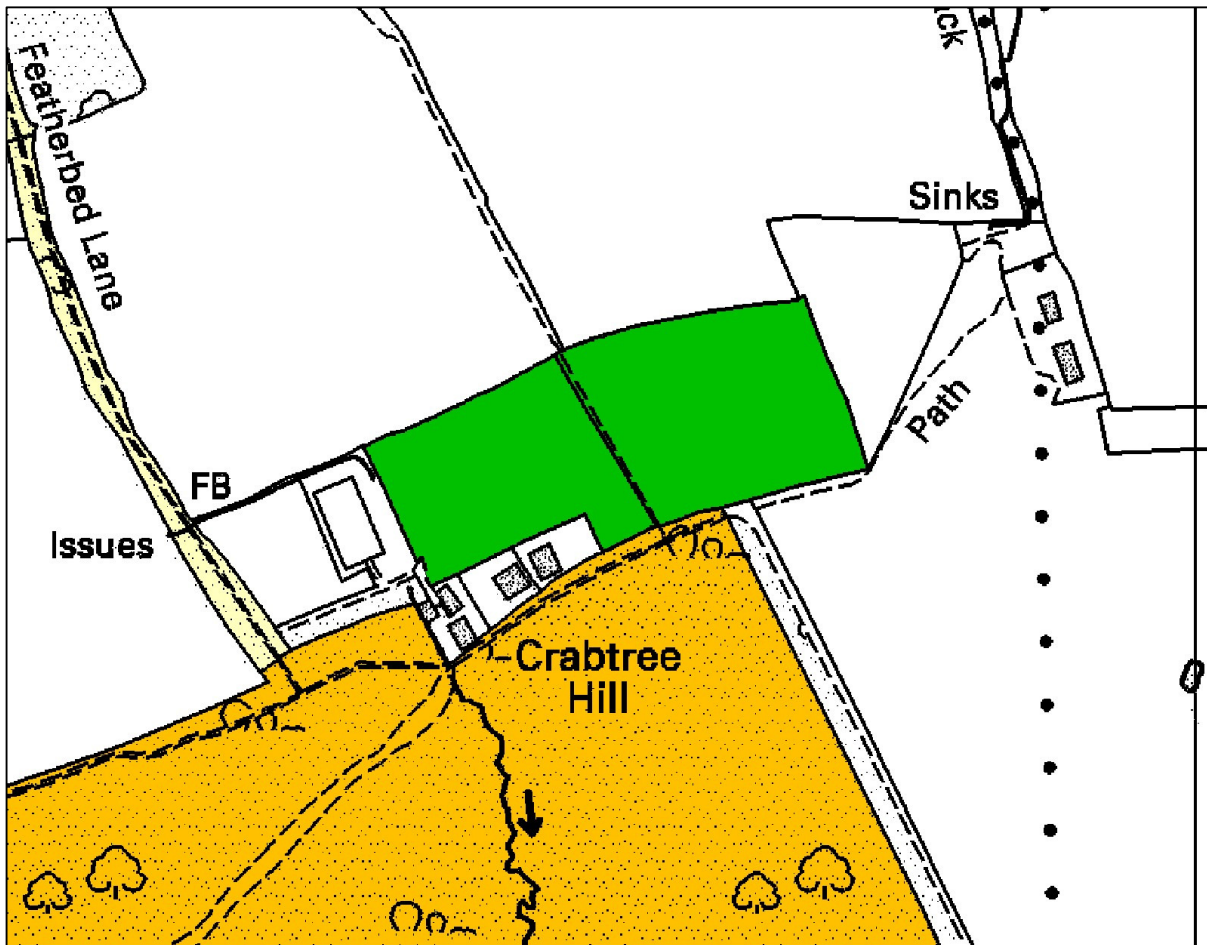
Rationale

The ancient woodland component of this site is minimal but contributes to a mosaic of habitats, including damp streamside grassland and fen, dry grassland, scrub and scattered trees. The streamside grasslands are perhaps rather small to contribute much to the UK floodplain grazing marsh BAP but do comprise characteristic habitat that has largely been lost from many Essex stream valleys.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (southern part)

Reviewed: 2009 (northern extension added and site re-classified)



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Ep110 Crabtree Hill Paddocks (1.9 ha) TQ487945

These two horse paddocks comprise relatively unimproved neutral to acid soil grassland in which Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) is abundant, with lesser amounts of Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The herb flora includes Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) have both been recorded in the past, as indicators of old, unimproved grassland, but their current status within the site is uncertain.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

These paddocks are intermediate in character between a neutral and acid soil grassland, but have been placed within the HC11 Criterion. Their known history and flora suggests that they are old grasslands.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (included third paddock to the west)

Reviewed: 2009 (reduced in size)



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Ep111 Foxburrow Wood (4.2 ha) TQ487968

The majority of this site is ancient woodland, with a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and a little Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and a scrubby understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Ground flora plants indicative of ancient woodland include Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), amongst widespread Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*).

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 (small section at southern end)

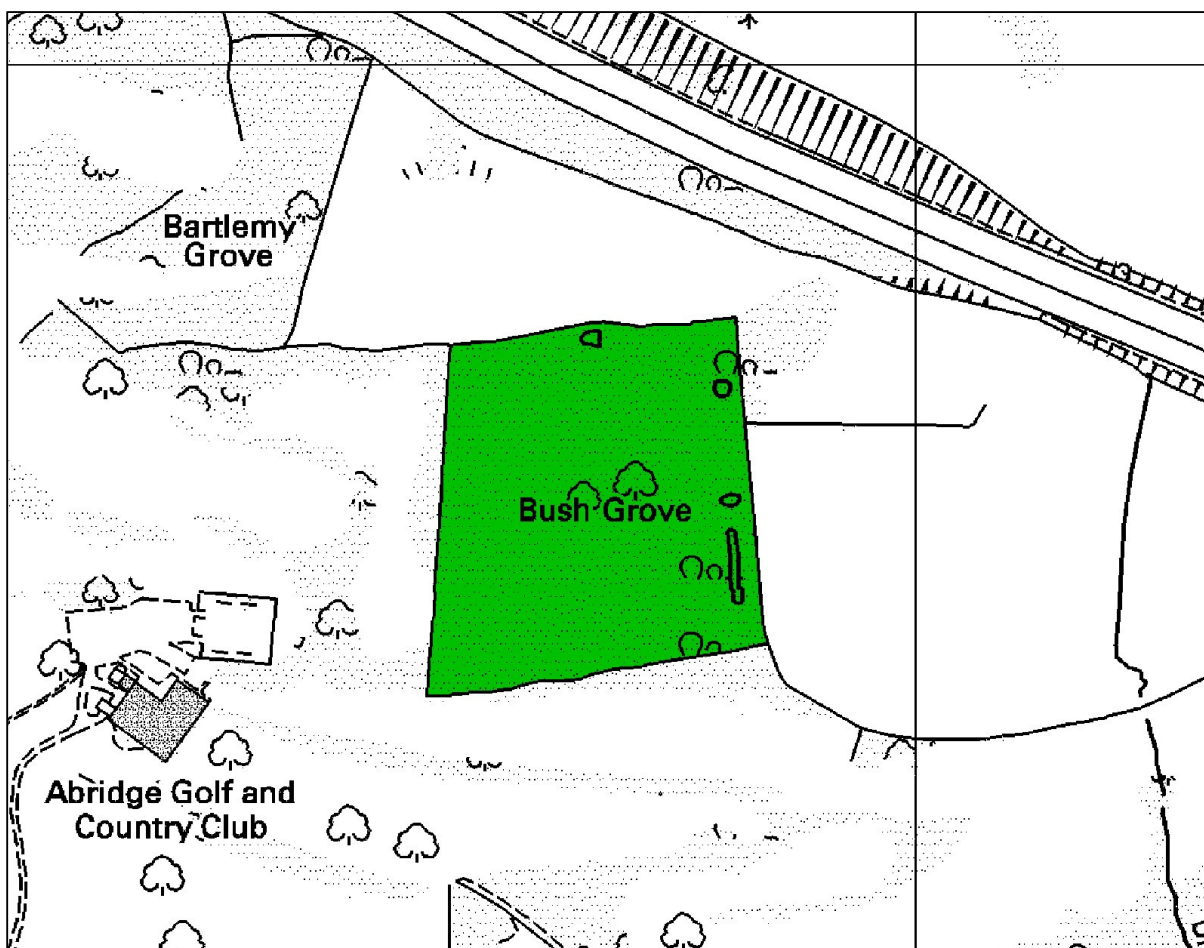
Rationale

The majority of the site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods. Non-ancient woodland at the southern tip provides additional habitat which complements this.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep112 Bush Grove (4.3 ha) TQ487987

Bush Grove is thought to be ancient, although it is not included within the current Inventory for Essex. It comprises old coppice of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with some old stools of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) is locally frequent along the northern and western boundaries, whilst the understorey also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Numerous ancient woodland indicators has been recorded from within the ground flora, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), with other characteristic species being Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

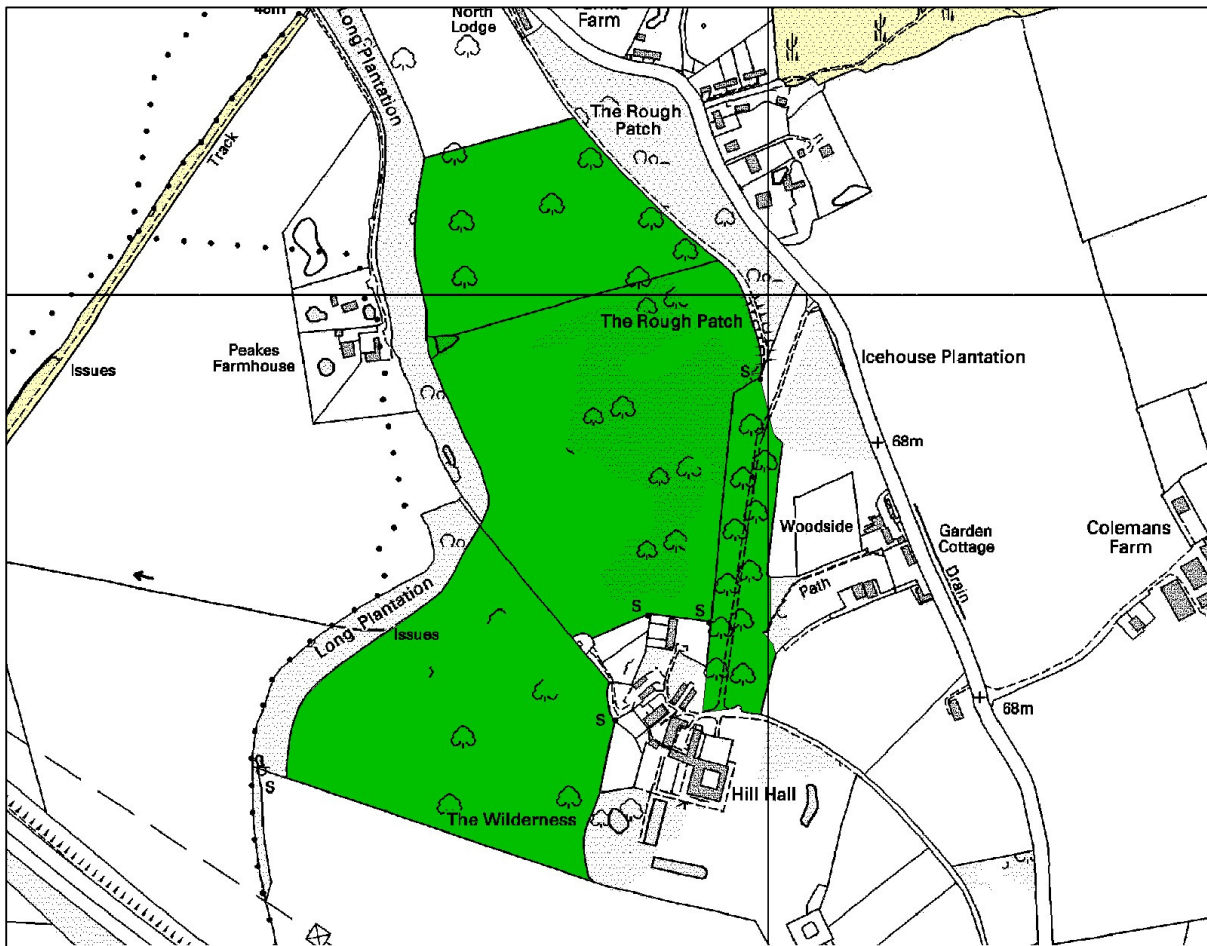
Rationale

Although the site is not included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, it has a species composition and structure typical of such woods. If demonstrated to not be ancient, it would still qualify under Criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep113 Hill Hall Park (25.4 ha) TQ 487997

This site has been selected on the basis of it being a large, intact area of ancient parkland, with veteran trees over pasture grassland. The Site includes an avenue of trees leading up to the house. Such parkland habitat is known to support a characteristic suite of fauna, including invertebrates associated with old and veteran trees, bat roosts in these trees and birdlife associated with both woodland and grassland habitats. It is this characteristic blend of habitat niches that has led to a specific UK BAP habitat designation. The land has been occupied by a significant house since the 12th century. The grounds are also a Registered Historic Park and Garden (Grade II) covering over 50 hectares in total, substantial parts of which were designed by Repton in 1791.

BAP Habitats

Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

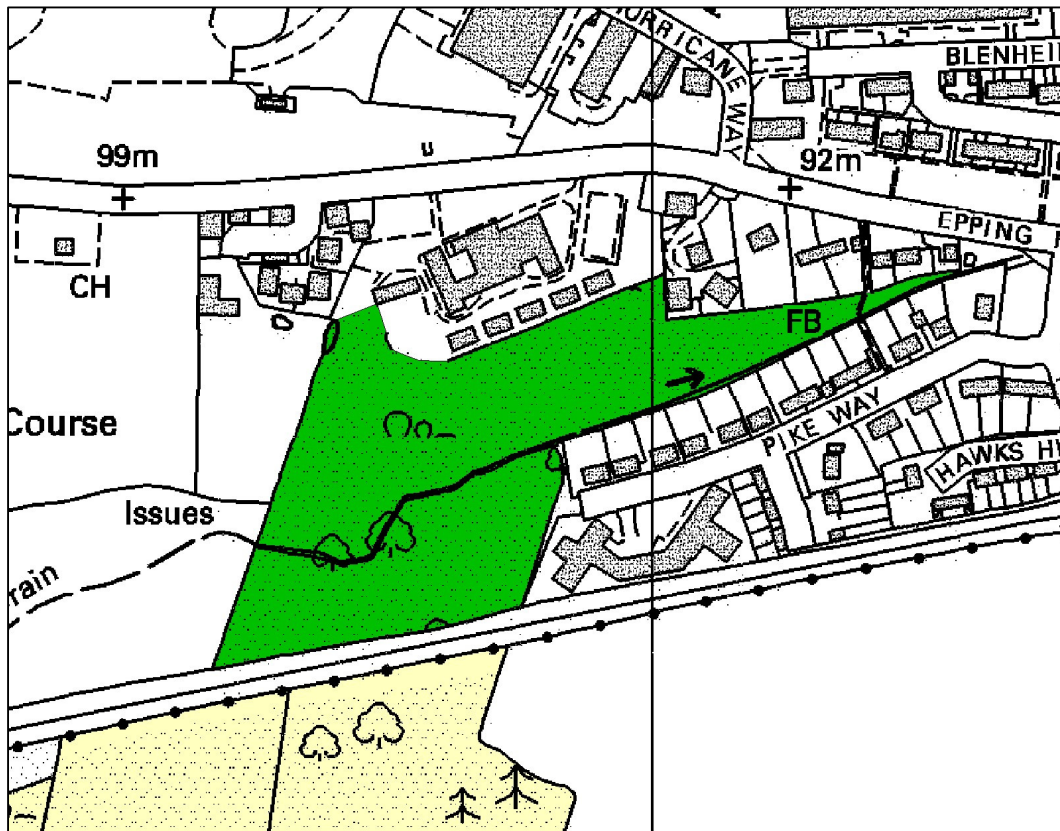
Rationale

Old parklands present a unique and threatened suite of habitat niches, including scattered old trees that include dead wood habitat for invertebrates. This site is one of the more significant parklands in the district.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep114 Roughtalley's Wood LNR (3.4 ha) TL 488036

Roughtalleys Wood was split into two parts by the Epping to Ongar railway extension constructed during the 1860's. This site comprises ancient and recent woodland habitat. The southern part of the reserve has a mix of tree and shrub species, including Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and standards, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are found in the shrub canopy. In contrast, the northern part of the site has more open areas with wet grassland, ponds and ruderal, along with planted broadleaf tree species. A wide variety of herbs grow due to the differing habitat types. These include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), this latter species preferring damp soils. Two orchid species, Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) and the rare Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), an Essex Red Data List species, have also been recorded from this site.

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

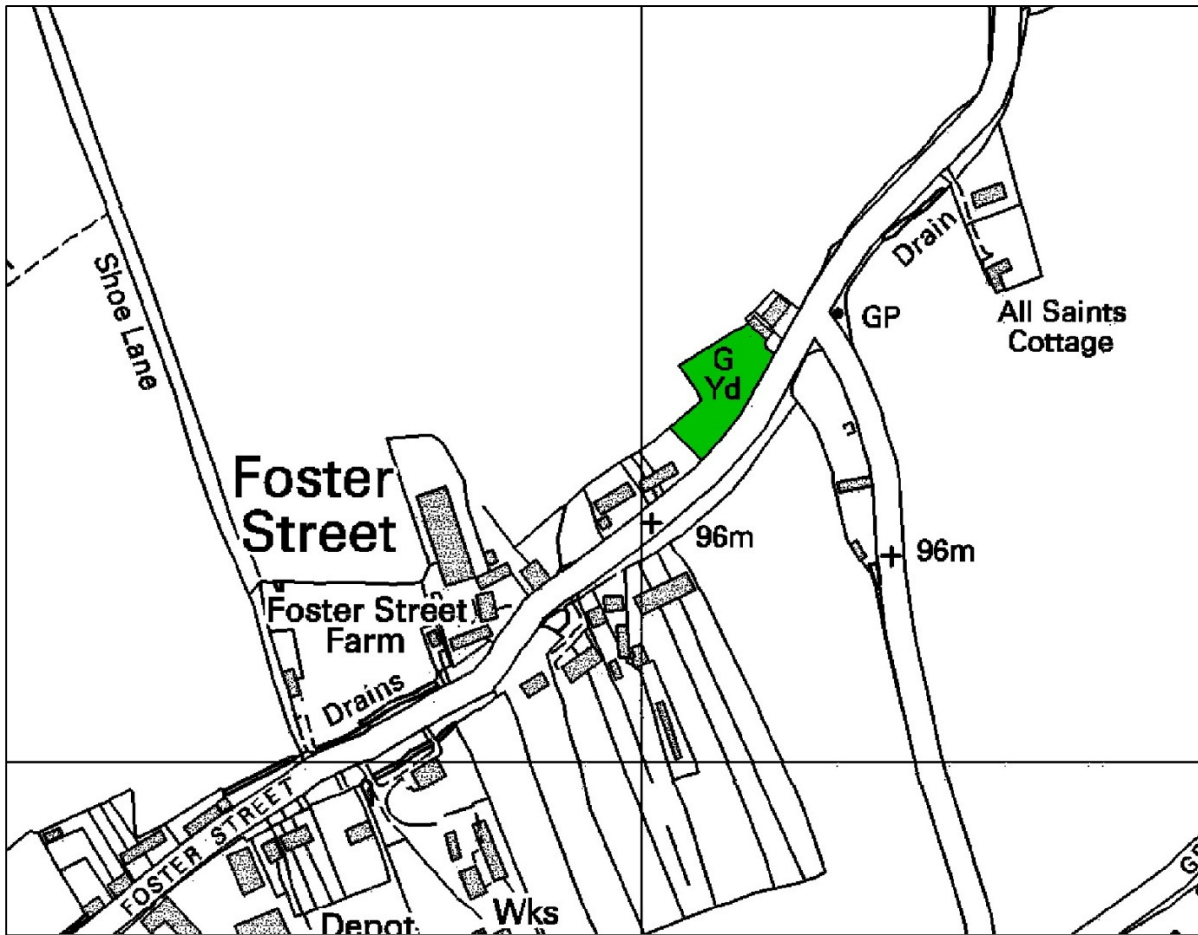
Rationale

This site is largely ancient woodland, with the area of more recent wood providing a habitat extension.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (site separated from Roughtalley's Wood Ep108 and secondary woodland added)



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Ep115 Foster Street Burial Ground (0.3 ha) TL 490092

This small, historically important graveyard retains the characteristics of old, unimproved grassland. An avenue of Yew (*Taxus baccata*) trees forms a shaded area towards the front of the graveyard, behind which is the grassland component of the site. Among the grass species recorded are Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). A varied herb flora includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Primrose (*P. vulgaris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

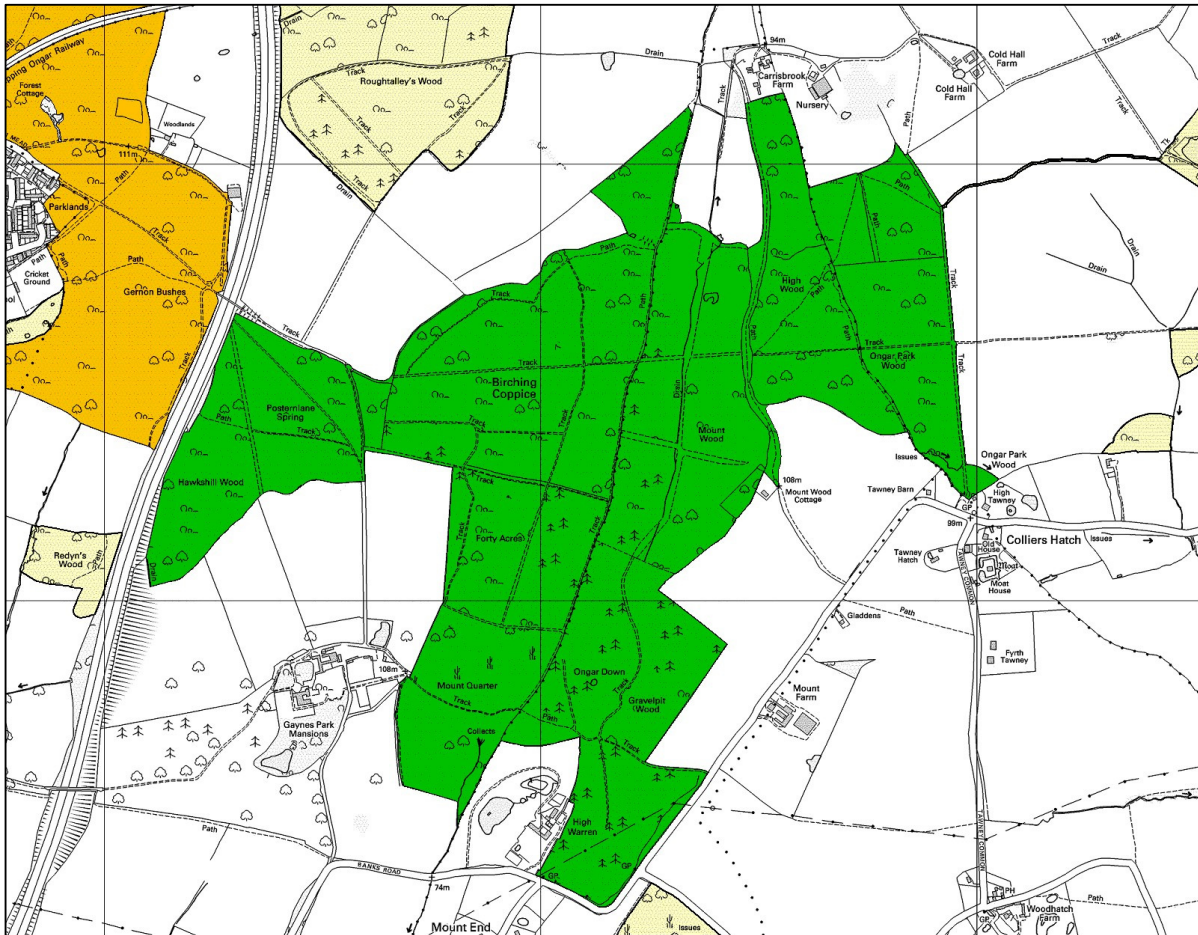
Rationale

This site provides a remnant of old grassland in a historically important cemetery. More detailed survey work may show it to belong within the MG5 NVC grassland type, for which Criterion HC9 (Lowland Meadows) would be applicable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep116 Birching Coppice Complex (138.2 ha) TL 491023

This site comprises Posternlane Spring, Hawkshill Wood, Birching Coppice, Mount Wood, Forty Acres, Mount Quarter, Ongar Down, Gravelpit Wood, High Warren and Ongar Park Wood.

Hawkshill Wood and Posternlane Spring are adjoining woodlands, though with differing composition. Within Hawkshill Wood, dense Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice dominates with a few Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) trees scattered throughout. An area of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice is found on the western edge bordering the M11. The ground flora is dominated by low growing Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). In contrast, Posternlane Spring has a Hornbeam/Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) composition with scattered Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) that gives way to a Sweet Chestnut and Oak dominant section towards the east side. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominates much of the ground flora. Flora found along the rides includes Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*).

Much of the central woodland blocks of Birching Coppice, Mount Wood, Forty Acres, Mount Quarter, Ongar Down, Gravelpit Wood and High Warren comprise plantations with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Silver Birch. Some of the internal wood banks still retain coppiced Hornbeam as a probable remnant of the former composition prior to replanting.

High Wood has a high canopy of Hornbeam coppice, with some Silver Birch coppice and standards found in the central area, whilst further to the south, Hornbeam coppice dominates. The northern part of Ongar Park Wood has Silver Birch coppice and standards and some Pedunculate Oak over a Bracken dominated ground

flora. The southern section has tall Hornbeam coppice forming a densely shading canopy with very little shrub layer or ground flora. Adjoining to the east of High Wood is Ongar Park Wood. This block was once part of a much larger wood of the same name and included the northernmost woodland block of Ongar Park Woods (Ep129) to the east, now surviving as an isolated feature in amongst arable fields. The wood was within the boundary of Ongar Great Park, one of the earliest deer parks dating back to the 11th century.

Bracken is dominant beneath many of the plantation blocks, but the ride flora alludes to the underlying acid nature of the soils. Several species of interest are to be found in the ground flora of these woodland blocks including two grasses of particular note: Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) found on the free draining areas beneath the canopy and Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) abundant along some of the open rides on acid soils that remain at least seasonally wet. Also found along the rides in wet rutted areas are Water-purslane (*Lythrum portula*) (an Essex Red Data List species), Tormentil, Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*). Other species of interest recorded from this site include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*).

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

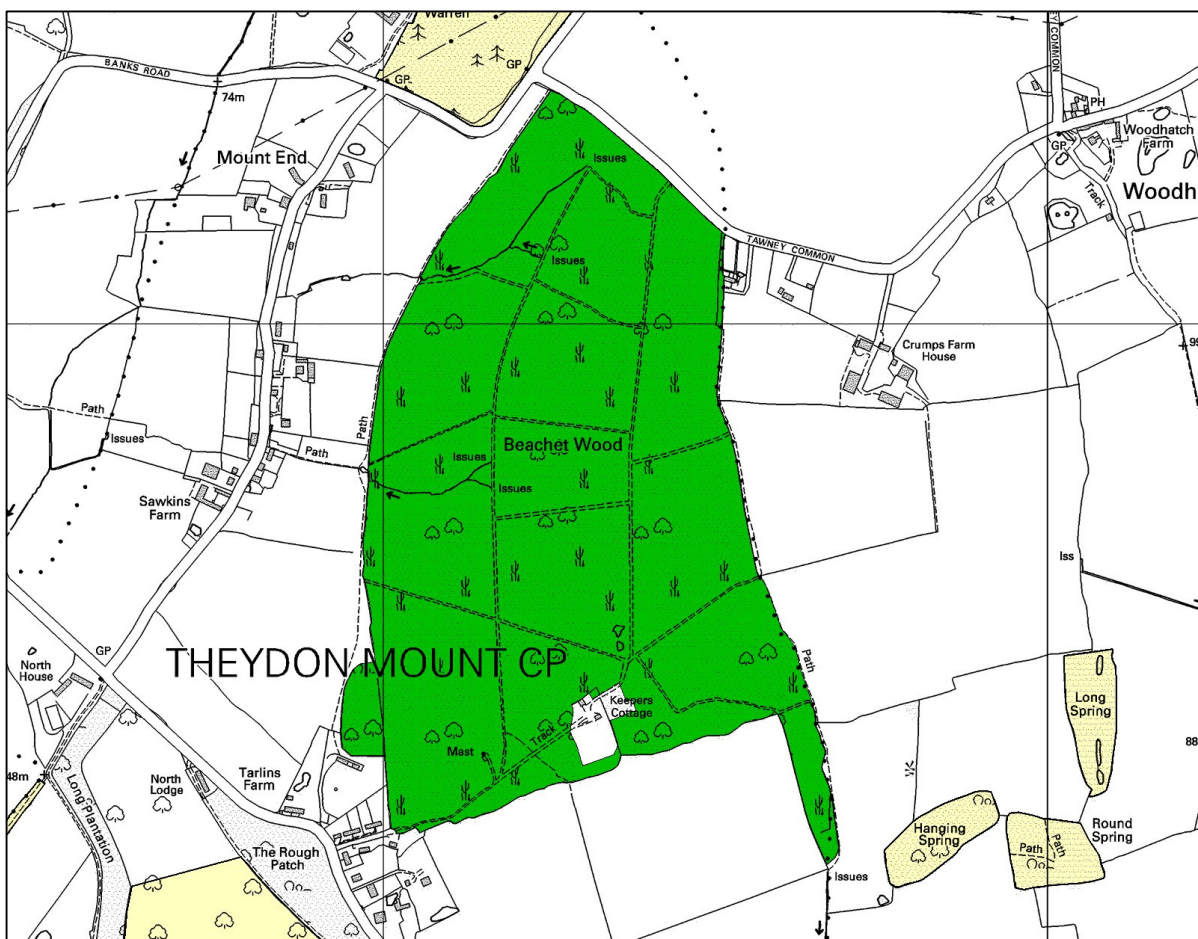
Rationale

This is the largest block of ancient woodland Local Wildlife Site in the district, with this ancient status confirmed by the flora, physical characteristics and documentary evidence.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (minor amendments)



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Ep117 Bechet Wood (51.2 ha) TL 492007

This large ancient wood contains extensive Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice mixed with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards. Elsewhere, Birch (*Betula* sp.) woodland has a ground flora dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with species of interest including Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The western edge is incised by several small streams supporting a rich aquatic flora and adding to the overall woodland habitat diversity.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This is a large ancient wood, extending valuable wildlife habitat south of the Birching Coppice Complex (Ep116) and retaining a good native species coppice with standards structure.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep118 Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR (3.5 ha) TL 495045

This site was created in 1989 and combines practical flood defence with the creation of a biodiverse habitat from former arable land to good effect. The meadow has also been developed as a wildlife habitat comprising a wet flood meadow. A central pond area has developed a diverse wetland flora. This wet marshy area is surrounded by a species-rich dry grassland sward, whilst tree and shrub planting has occurred on the slopes.

The species of the wet areas includes locally dominant stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*) and Yellow-iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) are among a diverse suite of species also found in this central marsh area. Some particularly rare species to Essex have also been introduced including Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*) a species originally introduced to a site in Epping Forest has also been introduced to this site. The dry grassland slopes have a varied mix of grasses such as Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). A variety of herbs are found on the drier grassy slopes including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). Grass Snakes have been introduced to this area and other reptiles and amphibians may well be present.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Fens, Reedbeds (UK)

Reedbeds (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

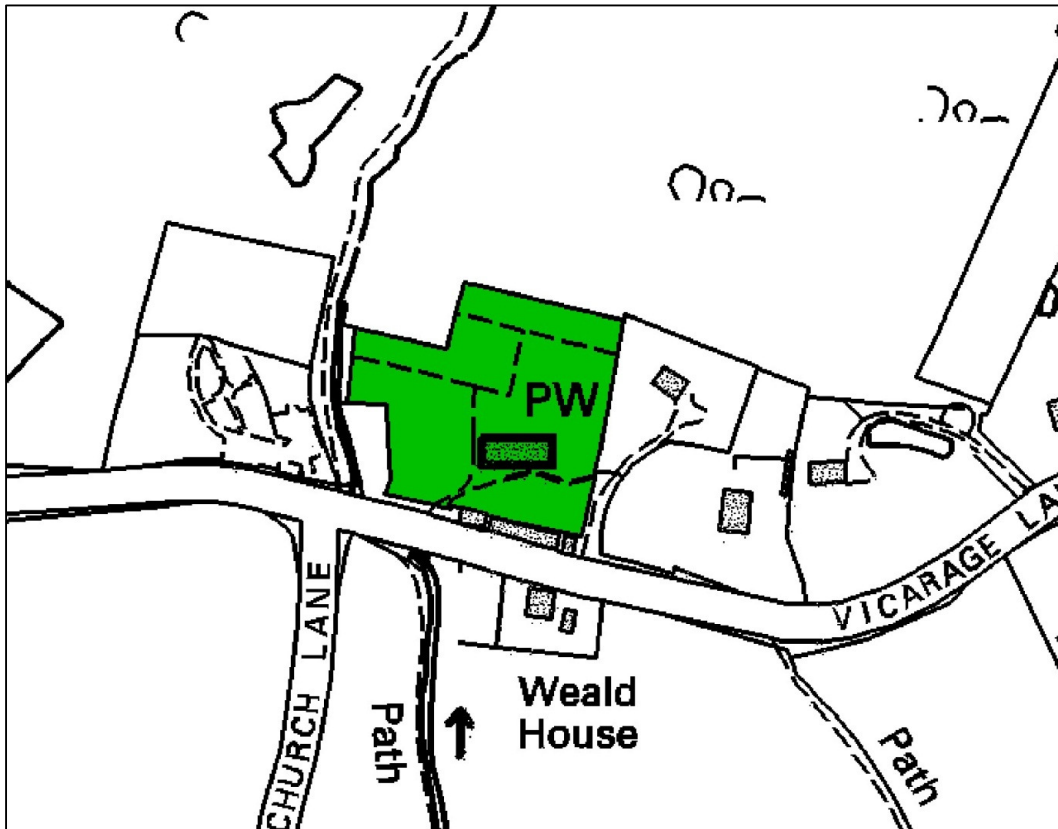
Rationale

Although essentially man-made, the site has developed to support a diverse range of habitats within a small area that support reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. The area of reedbed is modest in terms of the Essex and UK BAPs but it is a scarce habitat type in the district, especially away from the Lee valley.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1998

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep119 St. Andrew's Churchyard, North Weald (0.8 ha) TL 495052

This churchyard has been managed by Countrycare since 1993. The grass sward exhibits a variety of species including Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). The influence of moderately calcareous soils is reflected in Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) found locally near the church. Other species amongst the species-rich grassland include Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), found in a damper part of the churchyard, Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

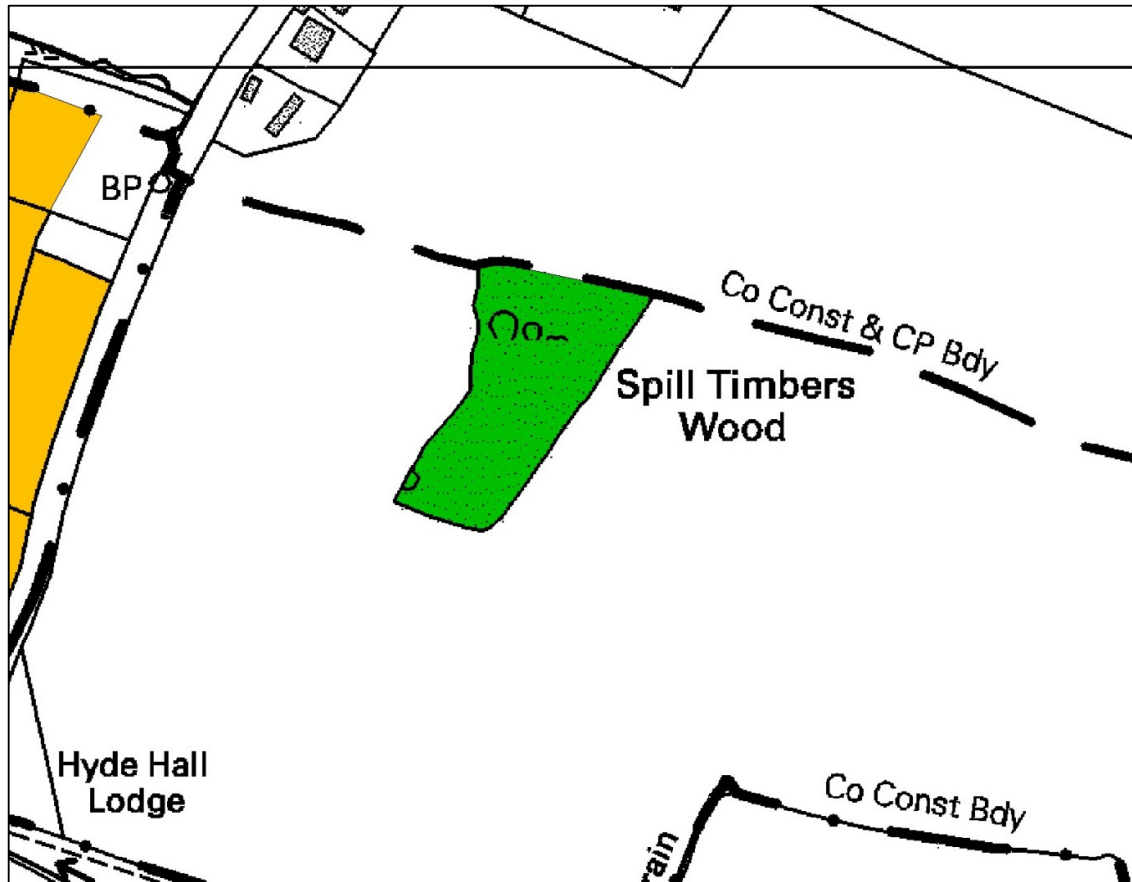
Rationale

As with many churchyards, this site is a relict piece of ancient grassland which has retained a species-rich sward. There has been a decline in the number and quality of such grasslands throughout the county in recent decades. Consequently, these old grassland sites are extremely important habitats.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep120 Spill Timbers Wood (0.9 ha) TL 495158

A large woodland is clearly shown to have existed during at the time of Chapman & Andre's survey of 1777, while the present outline has remained unchanged at least since the Ordnance Survey series 1881. The general composition is of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with interspersed Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. A small area is dominated by old Sycamore coppice (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A scattered shrub canopy comprises mainly Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), but also includes Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and some Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) dominates the ground flora, though Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are also present in localised patches.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

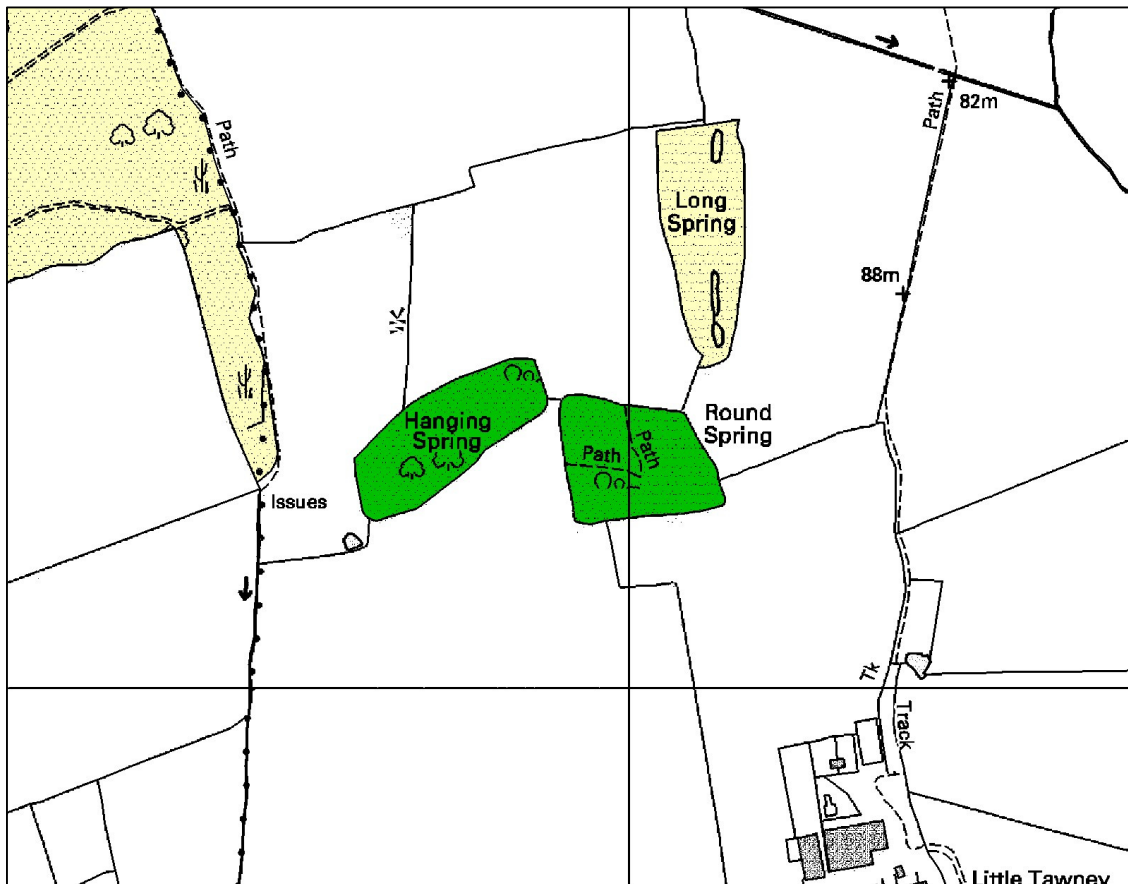
Rationale

The flora and physical characteristic of this wood suggest that it is ancient, but it is too small to have been considered within the county Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep121 Round/Hanging Springs (2.6 ha) TL 499002

Hanging Spring is not recorded as ancient woodland, but contains several indicators which suggest this status. The canopy is mainly neglected Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The shrub layer with scattered Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is mainly found around the edges of the wood. The ground flora has abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and frequent patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Other species recorded include Three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Round Spring is located to the east side of Hanging Spring. Hornbeam, Ash, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are all found as coppice, with occasional Pedunculate Oak standards. Dog's Mercury is frequent in the ground flora vegetation.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

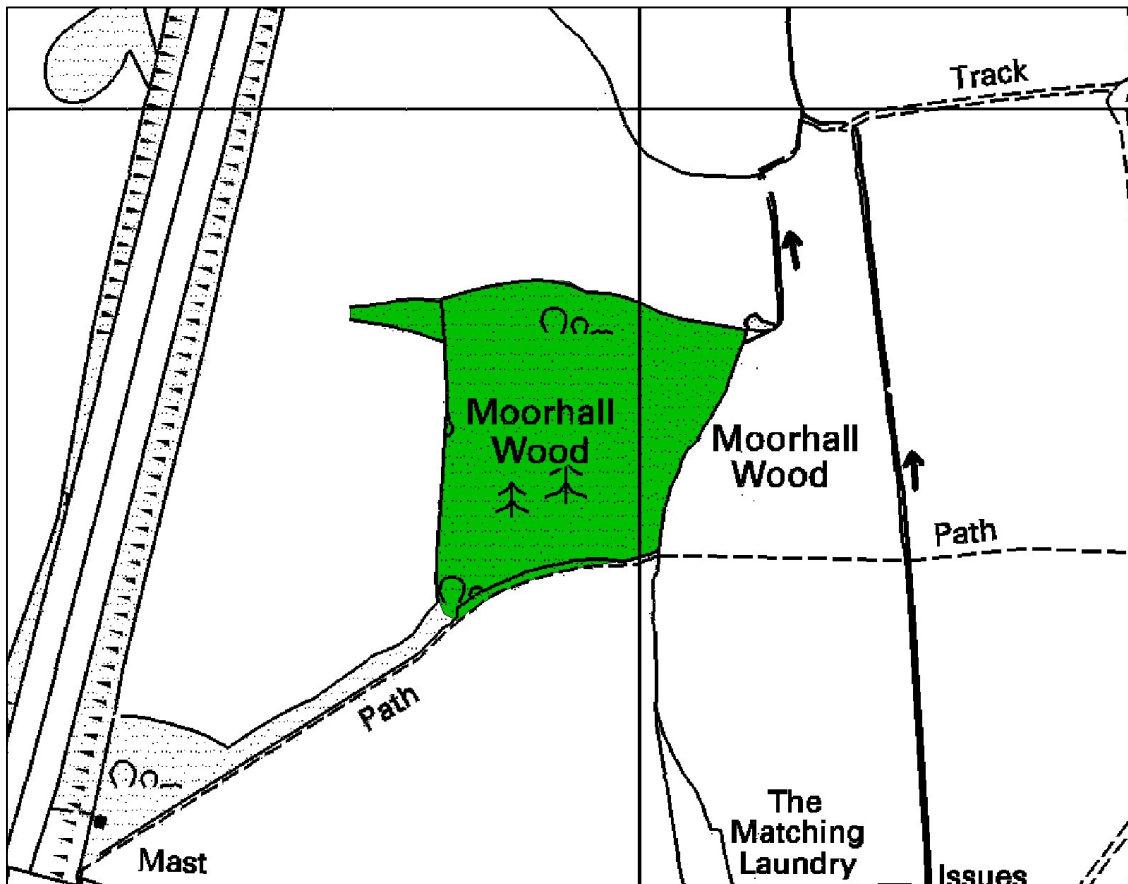
Rationale

These two woods possess the structure and a diverse ground flora that suggests the woods may be ancient. Even if they are of more recent origin, the composition falls within the scope of criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep122 Moorhall Wood (2.3 ha) TL 499118

This broadleaved woodland has a canopy dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with occasional Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) stools and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards. The most interesting part of the wood is the north-western corner where several Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) coppice stools are found. This tree is usually associated with ancient woodland. Near to this is some old Sycamore coppice. Amongst a varied shrub layer canopy with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is some Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), an introduced shrub that was widely planted in woodland as game cover. The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with concentrations of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), but also includes Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

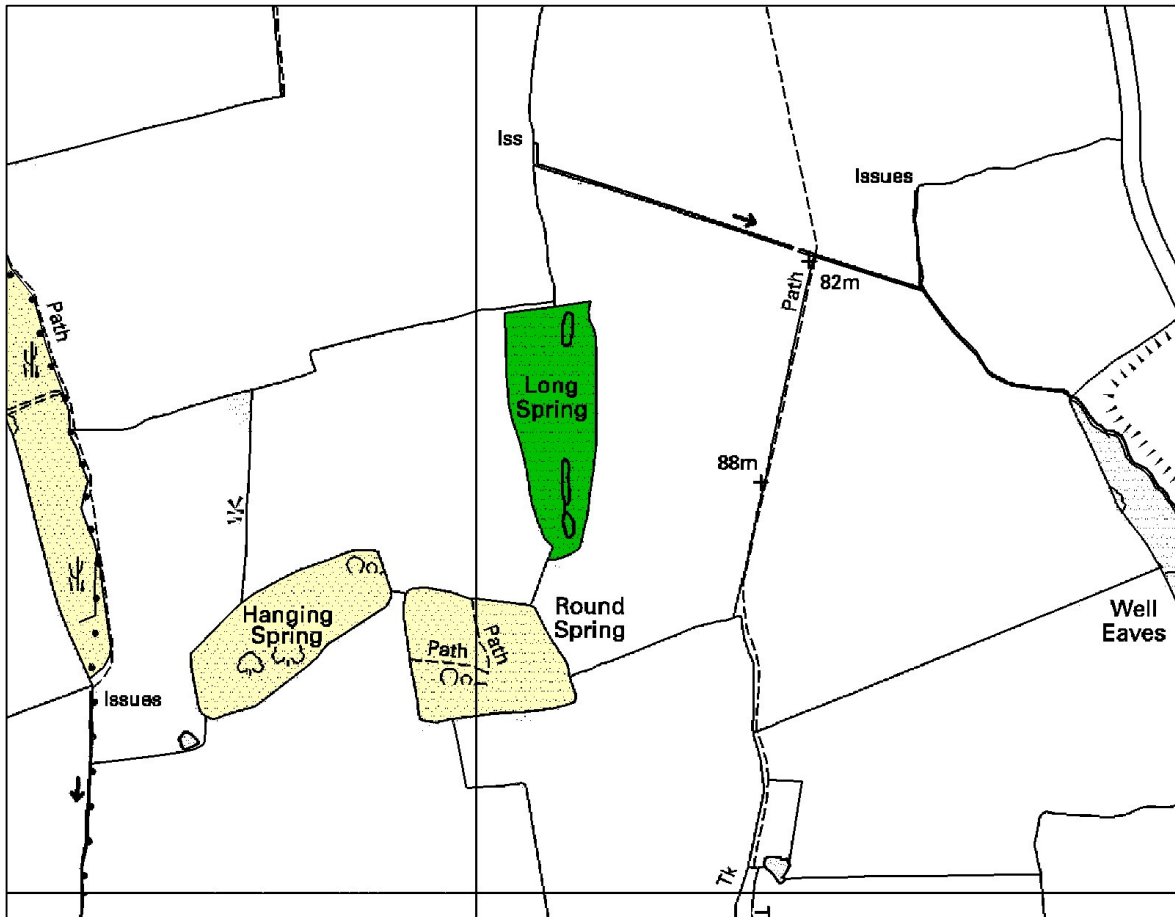
Rationale

Although not listed as ancient woodland within the Essex Inventory, the abundant Hornbeam coppice and Bluebells, plus the presence of Small-leaved Lime all suggest that it is. If not ancient, the site would still qualify for inclusion as a LoWS under criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep123 Long Spring (1.3 ha) TL 500003

Long Spring is a broadleaved wood with a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice throughout and a lesser amount of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. A scrubby understorey of mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) shades a ground flora of chiefly Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) grows under the more shady conditions whilst where there is greater light penetration, patches of Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), a species characteristically found in woodland habitat, are found.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

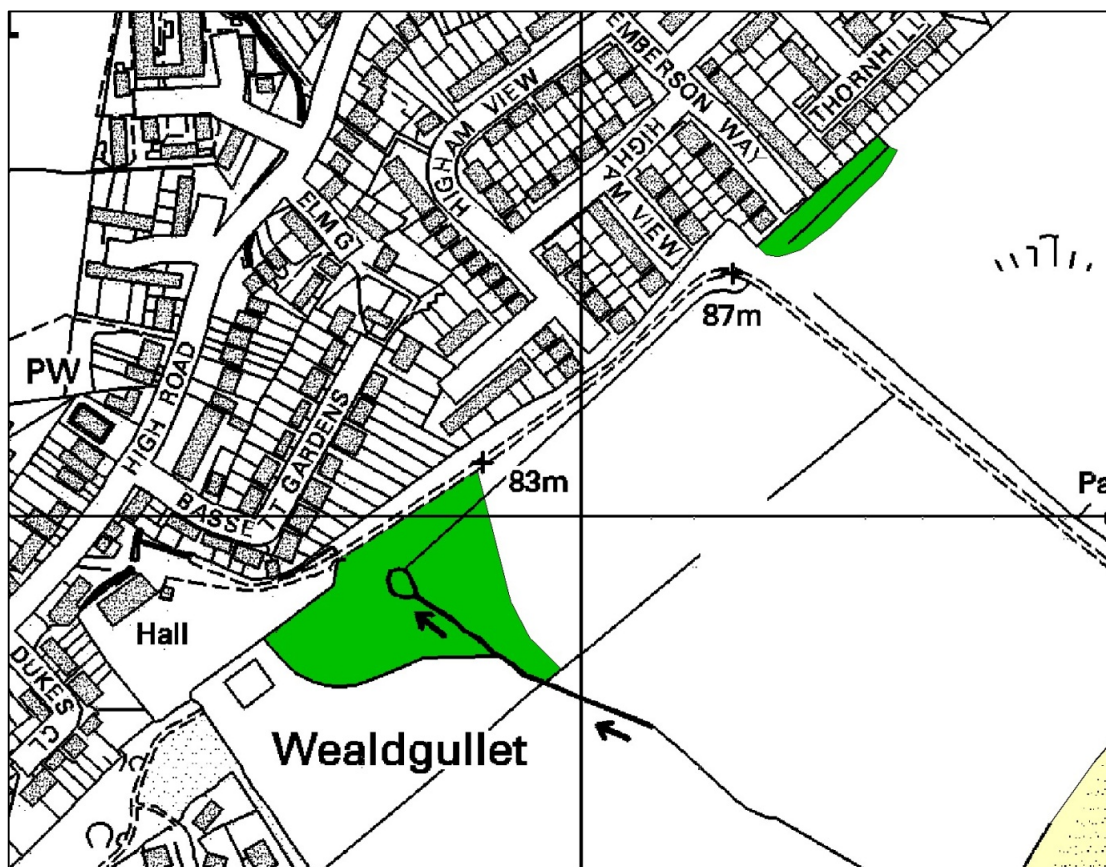
Rationale

This woodland is part of a cluster of small wooded blocks including Round/Hanging Spring (Ep121). There is an element of doubt as to whether or not this wood is ancient. If it is, criterion HC1 would apply.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep124 Weald Common LNR (1.2 ha) TL 500040

This site, located to the south east of North Weald Bassett, comprise two meadows created in 1996 as part of a flood defence for the village and later declared a LNR in 2004. Despite the primary aim of flood alleviation, the opportunity to create a diverse wildlife habitat was incorporated into the scheme. The grassland is characterised by a range of species including Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). The wet areas of the meadows and drains exhibit a wide variety of species. Cyperus Sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Sweet-flag (*Acorus calamus*) and Waterplantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and several rushes (*Juncus* spp.) are recorded from these areas of the site.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC31 – Urban Sites

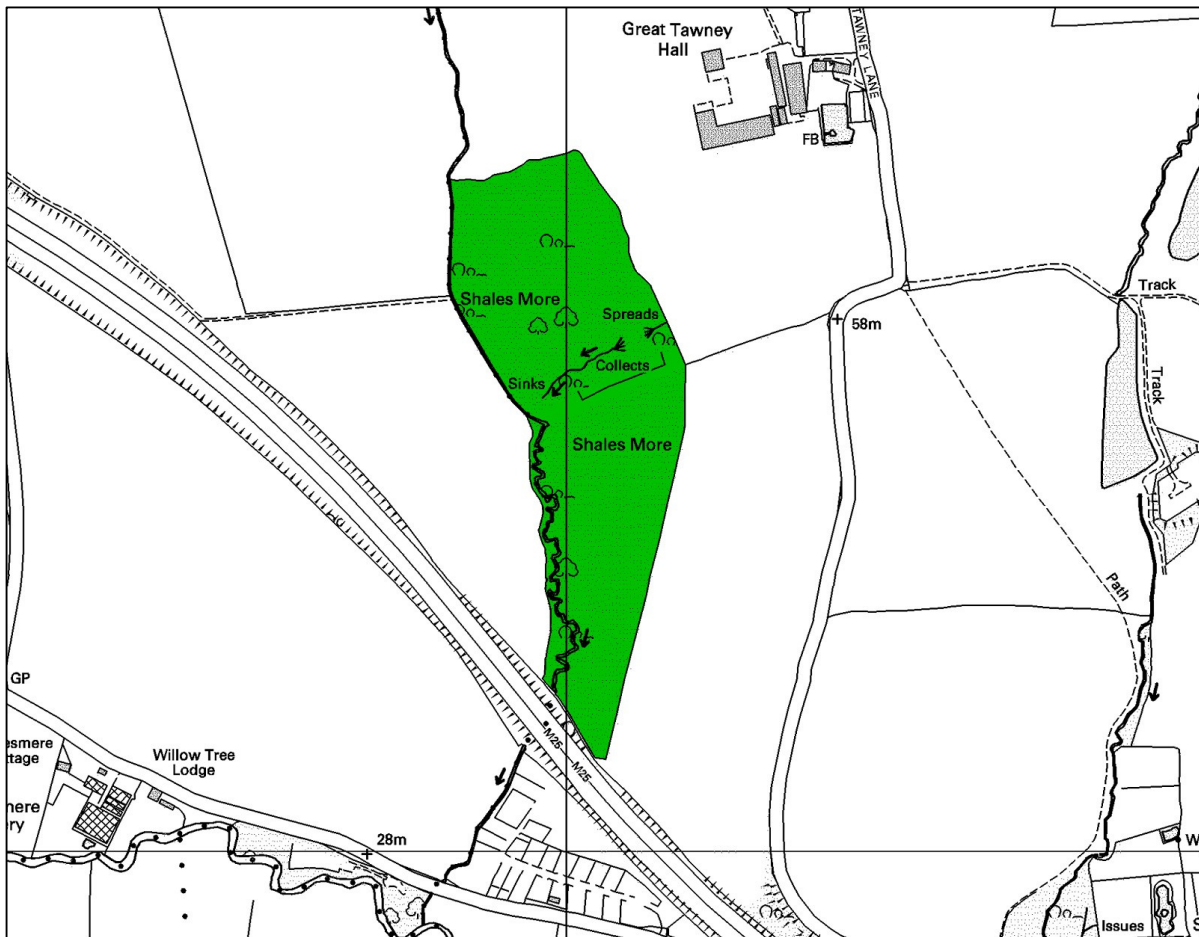
Rationale

This is a created site that serves not only a practical function, but enhances the local environment on the urban fringes of North Weald Bassett. The site has been developed for its wildlife potential, recreation and educational value for local residents.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep125 Shales More (10.9 ha) TQ 500985

This mainly ancient woodland is bisected by a narrow ride. A small area of secondary wood has established on the extreme southern edge. With a westerly aspect, the woodland slopes down to a stream which forms part of the western boundary. The ancient wood comprises a mixed canopy of predominantly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) carr of both standards and coppice near the streamside and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice found upslope. The ground flora typically contains Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) under a scrubby understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is also found in the ground flora of the drier areas. Forming a ground flora distinct from the rest of the wood, Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) are characteristically found in the poorly drained Alder carr. In addition, very localised patches of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) an Essex Red Data List species are found. A number of interesting mosses and liverworts have been recorded from here.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

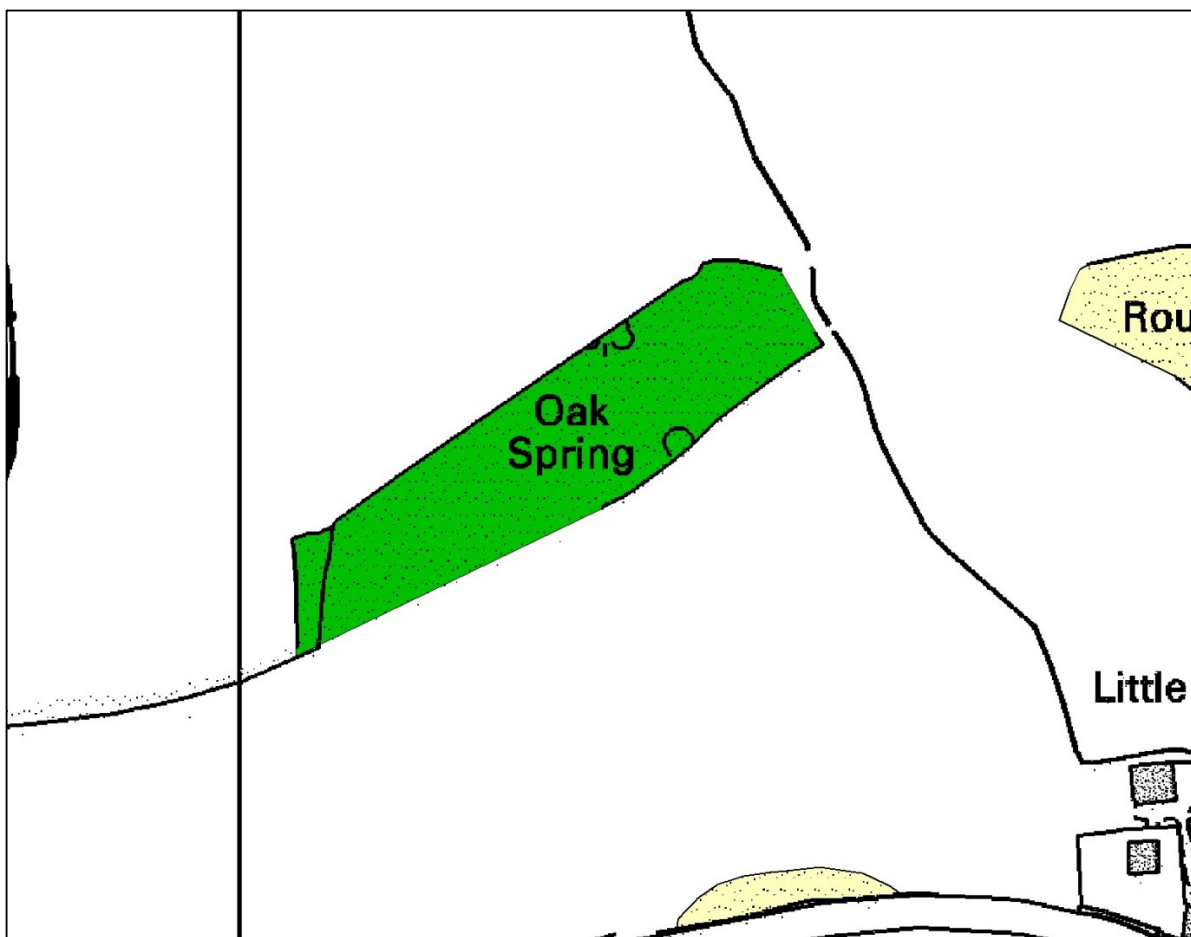
Rationale

The wood is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has a characteristic flora. Furthermore, streamside Alder carr is a scarce woodland type in Epping Forest District, and therefore provides a valuable habitat type. The marshy lower slopes of the woodland support a range of important floral species.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep126 Oak Spring (1.7 ha) TL 502154

This ancient woodland has a rather open, "high forest" structure and has seemingly been heavily thinned and disturbed. The majority of the canopy comprises an open canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with older Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice on the wood margins. At the south-western end, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is frequent. To the south is a less modified stand of Hornbeam trees-from-coppice. The ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) with a few Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) recorded.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

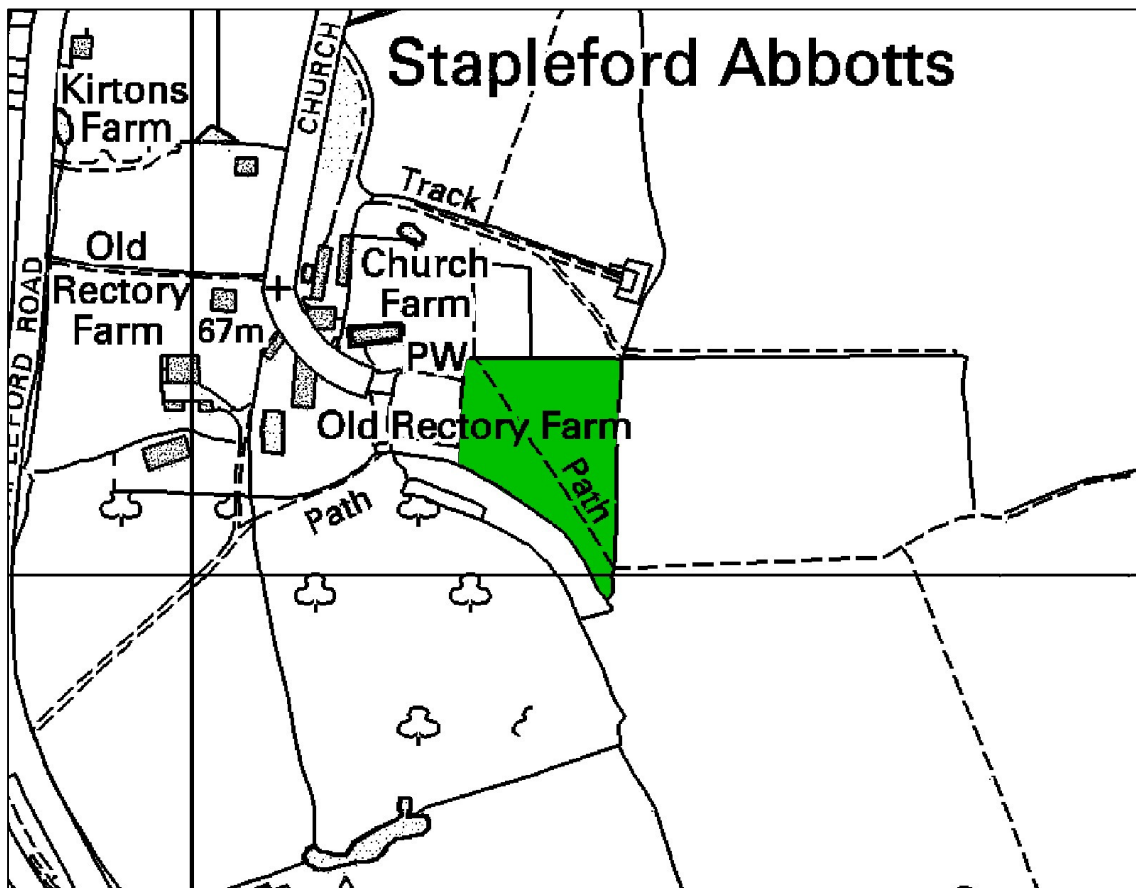
Rationale

The flora and structural composition suggest that this wood is ancient, although too small to appear on the ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep127 Stapleford Abbots Meadow (0.7 ha) TQ501960

This is a damp, species-rich meadow adjacent to the churchyard. The grass sward is characterised by the presence of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and some Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), with abundant Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and locally frequent Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). Such species-rich old grasslands are a particularly scarce resource in this part of the district, where intensive agriculture and equestrian activities tend to dominate the land use, leading to those remaining grasslands being highly improved and less species-rich.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows
HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

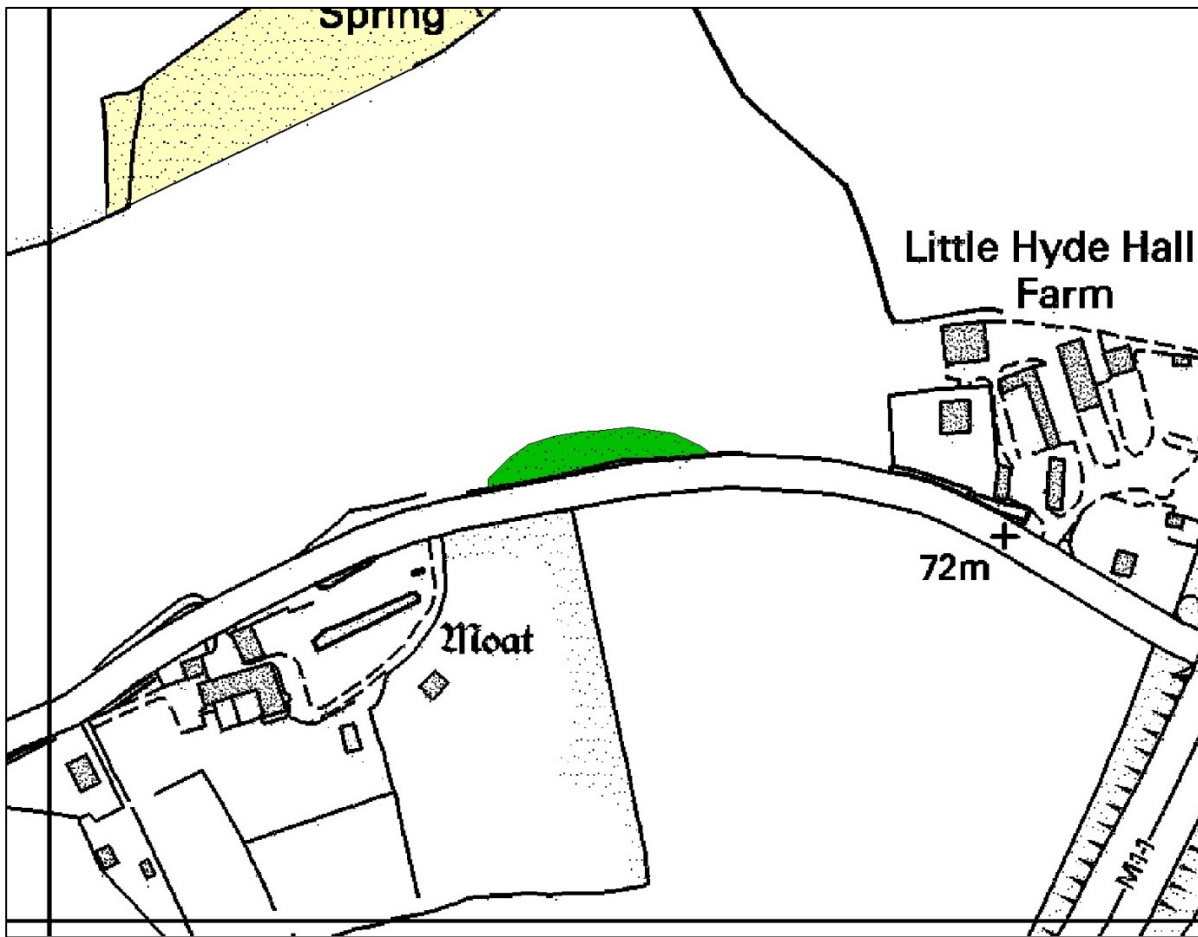
Rationale

The majority of the site conforms to the MG5 NVC grassland type covered by Criterion HC9. Where Tufted Hair-grass predominates, this represents a different species-rich grassland community.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep128 Little Hyde Hall Wood (0.2 ha) TL 502152

This small woodland has a composition of mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) standards with some coppice. The roadside bank area is characterised by Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), whilst Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) is found at the eastern end of the woodland. The ground flora has sparse Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) patches and also includes Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This woodland clearly identifiable on Chapman & Andre's map 1777 has essentially remained unchanged in its outline. It is possible that this is a fragment of ancient woodland. If demonstrated to not be ancient, criterion HC2 would be applicable and the wood would remain a LoWS.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep129 Ongar Park Woods (6.8 ha) TL 503027

This site comprises three separate blocks of woodland and a hedge line. The majority of the northernmost wood and the hedge are surviving remnants of a once much larger wood that was grubbed out around 1950 and converted to the farmland we see today. These and Ongar Park Wood (part of the Birching Coppice Complex (Ep116) were historically part of the same woodland lying within the boundary of Ongar Great Park, one of the earliest deer parks dating back to the 11th century. The two additional woodland blocks although within the boundary of the former Ongar Park Wood are probably of recent origin but may represent ancient woodland that was converted to parkland but then reverted to a more typical woodland structure.

The northern wood has a varied composition with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) / Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) coppice and standards, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) / Hazel and Silver Birch/ Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The very eastern end of the site is recent woodland with very scattered Pedunculate Oak standards over a Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) dominated ground flora. The ancient wood ground flora is much more diverse with abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and many other species including Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Creeping-jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) and Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) confined to a damp pond depression in the south-west corner of the wood.

The hedge forming the ghost outline of the former Ongar Park Wood exhibits old Hornbeam coppice. This species-rich hedge also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak, Hazel, Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

The central woodland is bounded by a ditch on two sides and by a stream on its eastern edge. Tall Alder dominates the eastern margins of the wood. The remainder is a mix of Hornbeam and Hazel coppice with Silver Birch. A more open structure exists in the north part of the wood. Here, young Aspen (*Populus tremula*) grows near a tangle of Bramble and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

The southernmost woodland has much tall spindly Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Hornbeam coppice and Birch (*Betula* spp.). Pedunculate Oak and Ash also occur in the high canopy. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) forms a patchy shrub canopy. The ground flora is mainly Bramble and Bracken, but species of interest as ancient woodland indicators include Yellow Pimpernel and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

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
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

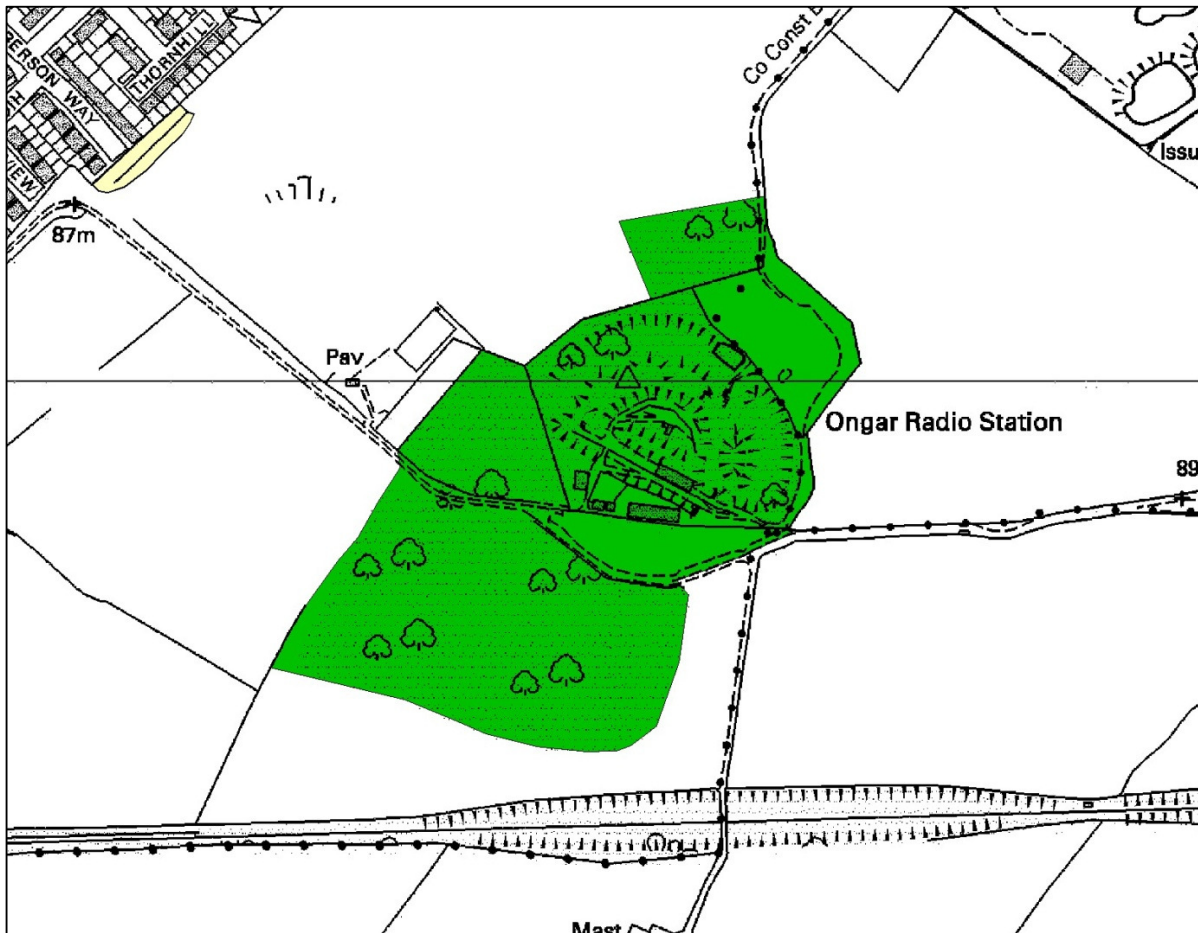
Rationale

These woods and “ghost” hedge boundary feature are remnants of a very historic landscape feature and have cultural as well as ecological value as ancient woodland and hedge bank habitat. Areas of more recent woodland provide habitat extensions to these small remaining fragments.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (‘Ghost’ ancient wood hedge bank added)



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Ep130 Ongar Radio Station (10.8 ha) TL 504039

Ongar Radio Station was built by Marconi/Cable & Wireless in the 1920's on an area of high ground to the east of North Weald Bassett, thereby encapsulating an area of old grassland before agricultural intensification of grasslands had begun. The site is now derelict and over the years has gradually become engulfed by secondary woodland and scrub. The woodland component comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). A small central area of grassland exhibits characteristics of a moderately acidic grassland with a species composition including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and abundant Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*). The woodland is surrounded by areas of short rabbit-grazed, and tall sward rough grassland. A variety of herbs have been recorded including Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small Component Mosaics

Rationale

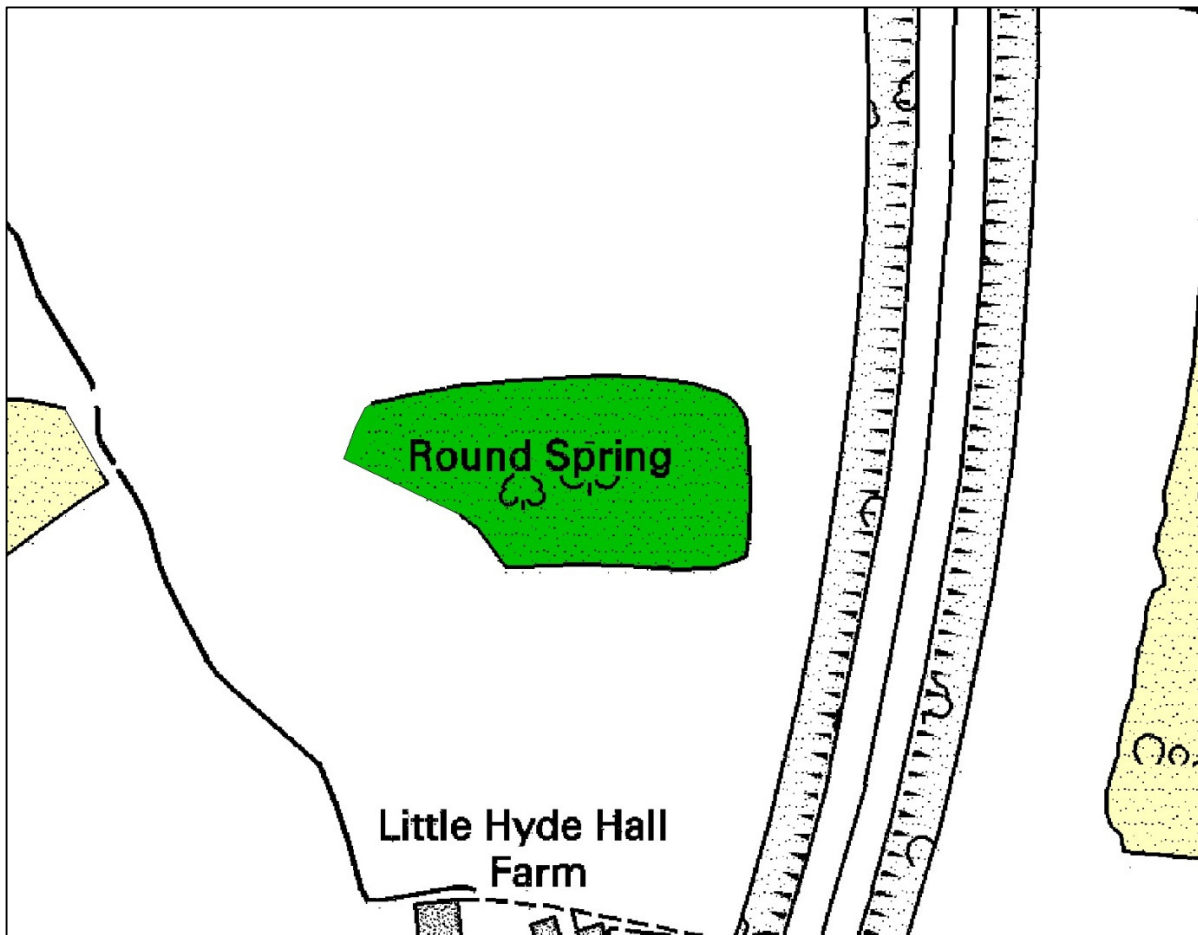
One of the key qualities of this site is that it comprises old grassland, even though it lacks some of the scarce indicators of such habitat. This implies that an above average suite of more "cryptic" species such as

fungi, mosses, liverworts and invertebrates may well be present. The mosaic of grassland, scrub and maturing woodland is a positive quality, but ongoing management will be needed to ensure that the wood and scrub components do not dominate.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep131 Round Spring (1.4 ha) TL 504154

This ancient wood remnant comprises abundant Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) tree-sized coppice stools, with occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. A small area of Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) is found on the south side of the wood. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is frequent in the shrub layer, whilst the ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with localised patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) present.

BAP Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)
Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

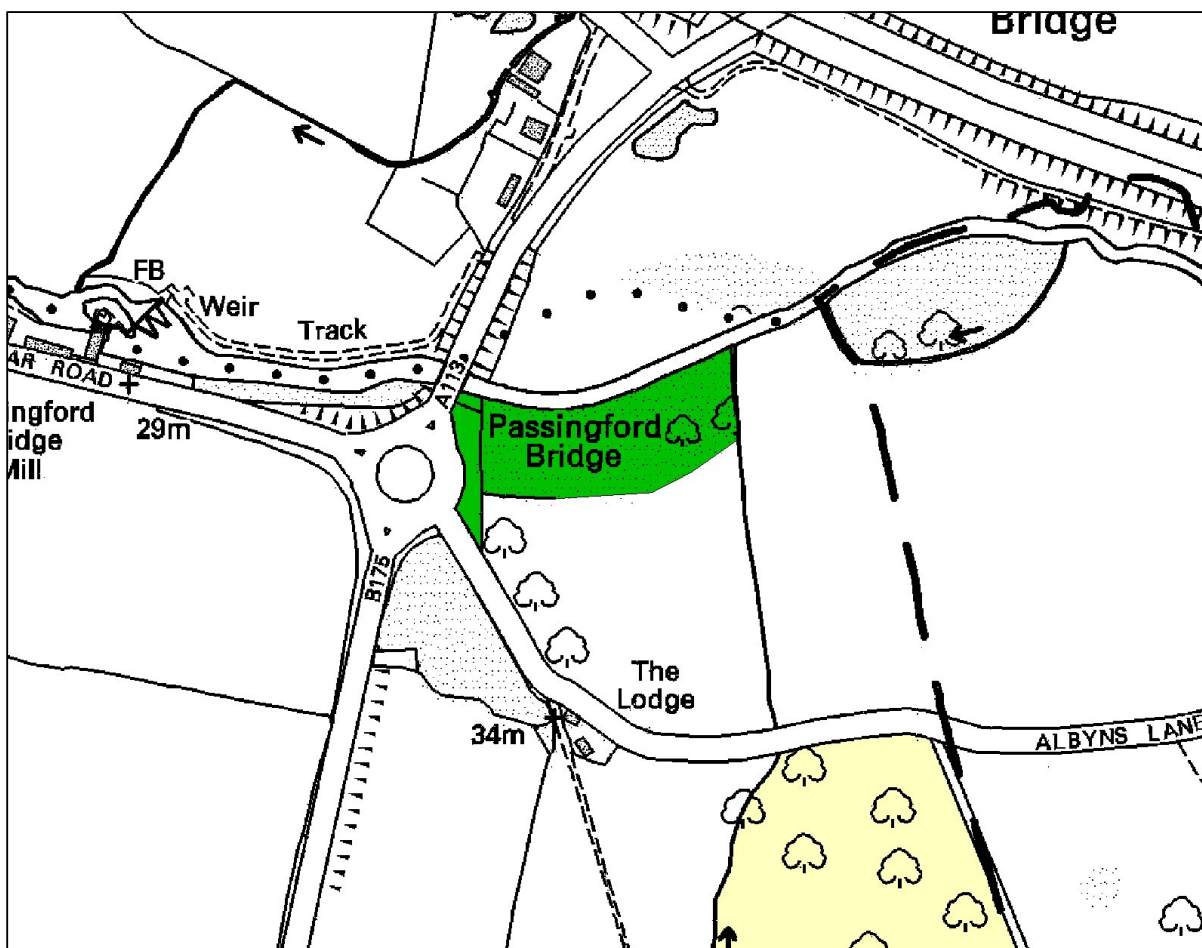
Rationale

The flora and physical structure of this wood suggest that it is a small ancient woodland fragment, too small to be included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep132 Passingford Bridge Wood (1.1 ha) TQ504973

This small wet woodland has, for the district, a significant stand of old Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) trees, along with Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) and White Willow (*S. fragilis*) over pond-sedges (*Carex* sp.), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Comfrey (*Symphytum* sp.) and Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*). A specimen of what is thought to be Purple willow (*Salix purpurea*) close to the road requires verification. This is a scarce Essex shrub.

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodlands (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC3 - Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

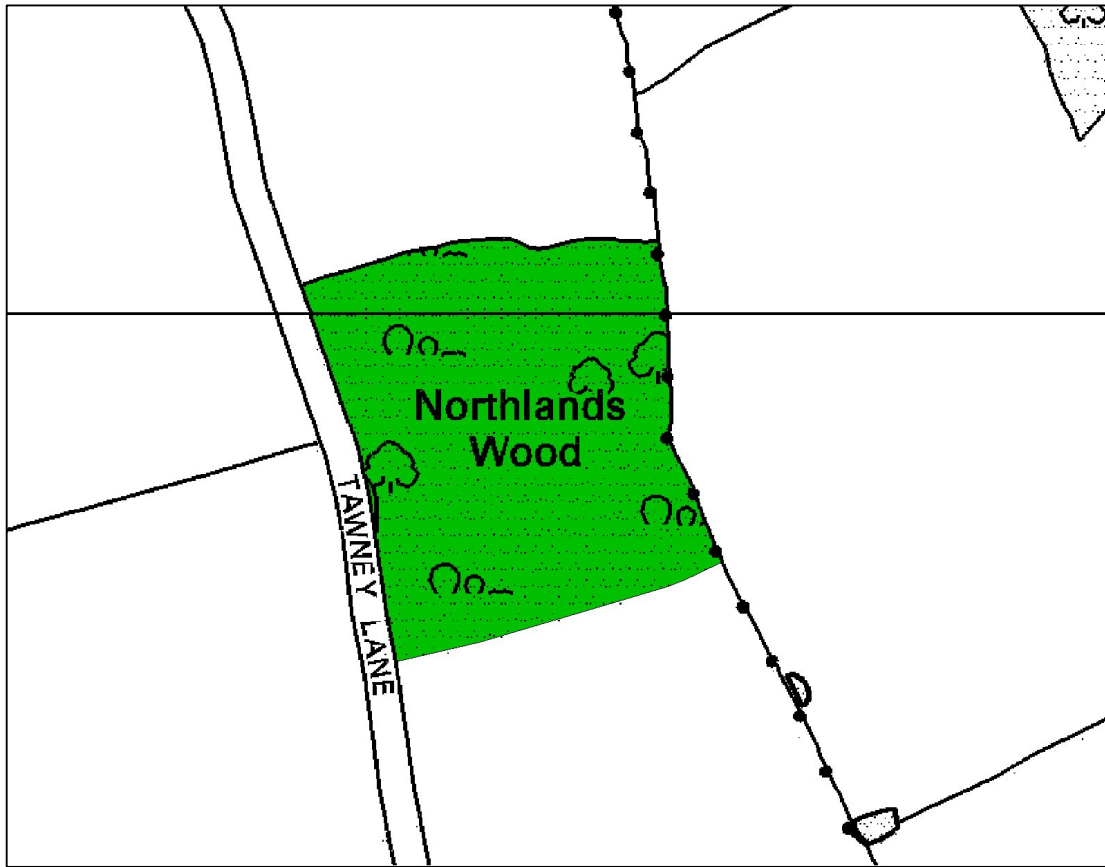
Rationale

Alder and Willow wood is a scarce resource in Epping Forest District. This example exemplifies one of the vegetation types covered by the UK habitat BAP.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep133 Northlands Wood (2.9 ha) TL 505009

This ridge-top broadleaved woodland contains a canopy dominated by coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and scattered Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) with almost no understorey or shrub layer. Of particular interest are Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) trees and many regenerating saplings found in the south east corner of the wood. A somewhat sparse ground flora throughout contains Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), except for the eastern and southern margins of the wood where Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is frequent.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

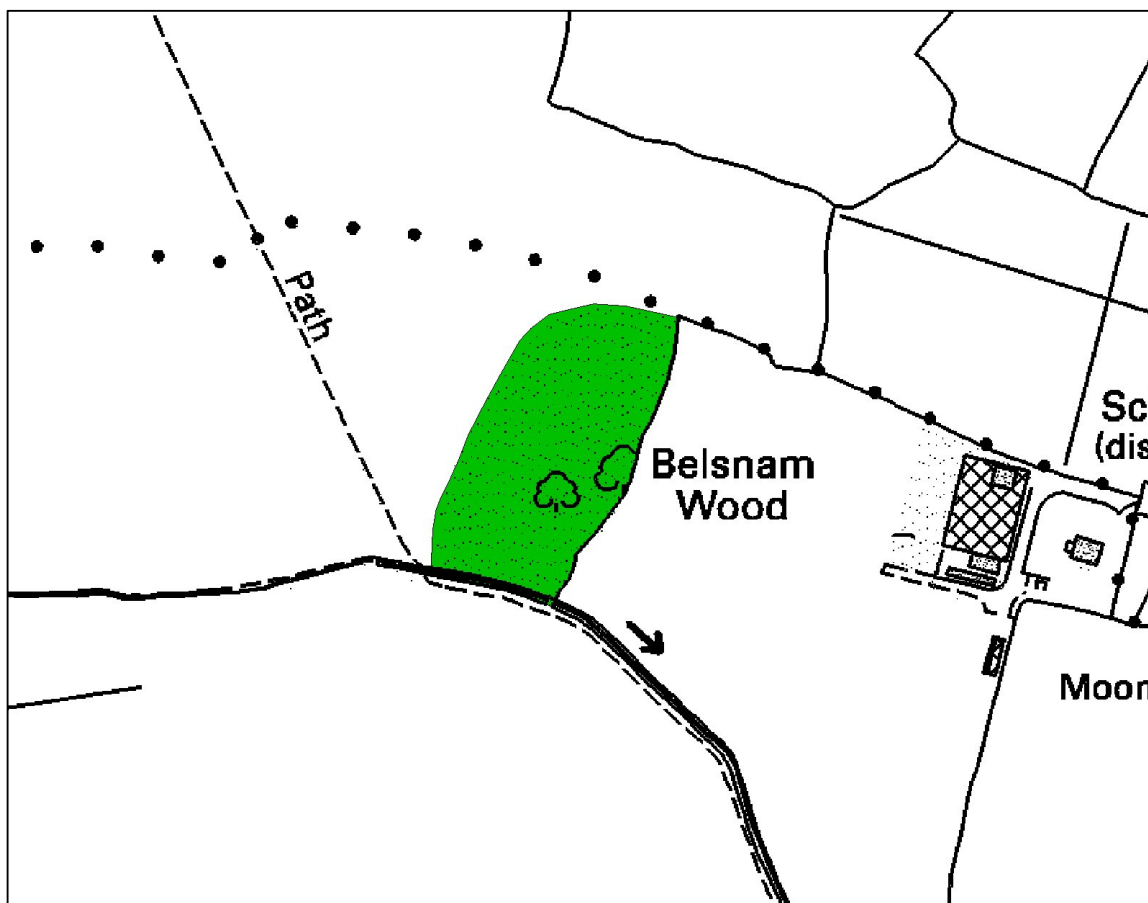
Rationale

Although not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, the general structure, flora and in particular the presence of Wild Service-tree, which has a strong affinity with ancient woodland, suggests that it might be. Chapman & Andres map 1777 also shows a block of woodland in the vicinity of Northlands Wood, further supporting this ancient status proposal.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep134 Belsnam Wood (1.1 ha) TL 506086

This small neglected ancient wood survived into the twentieth century as a larger block before much to the west side was grubbed out. The remainder of the wood comprises a canopy of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) coppice with Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). These form a high shrub canopy where Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) overtop in places to create a sparse high canopy. A tangled ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) along with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) where the ground is more open. The flora of most interest is found in the south-east corner beneath Ash. Here ancient woodland indicators Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) are recorded.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

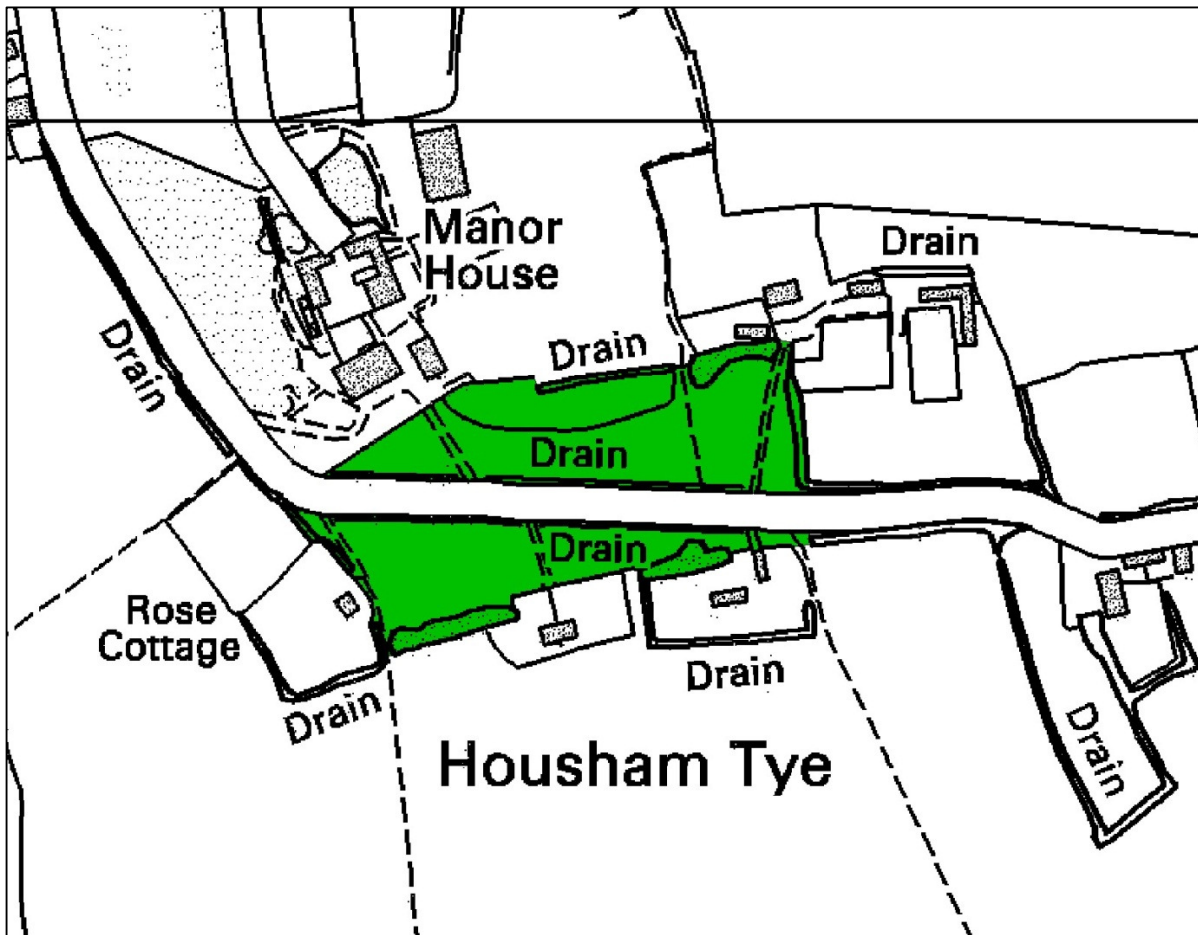
Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, a status which is supported by the flora and physical qualities of the wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep135 Housham Tye Green (2.2 ha) TL 506108

A wide variety of grass species have been recorded from this old village green, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Bent-grass (*Agrostis* sp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). The herb flora exhibits species such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) a species most typical of less fertile soils.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

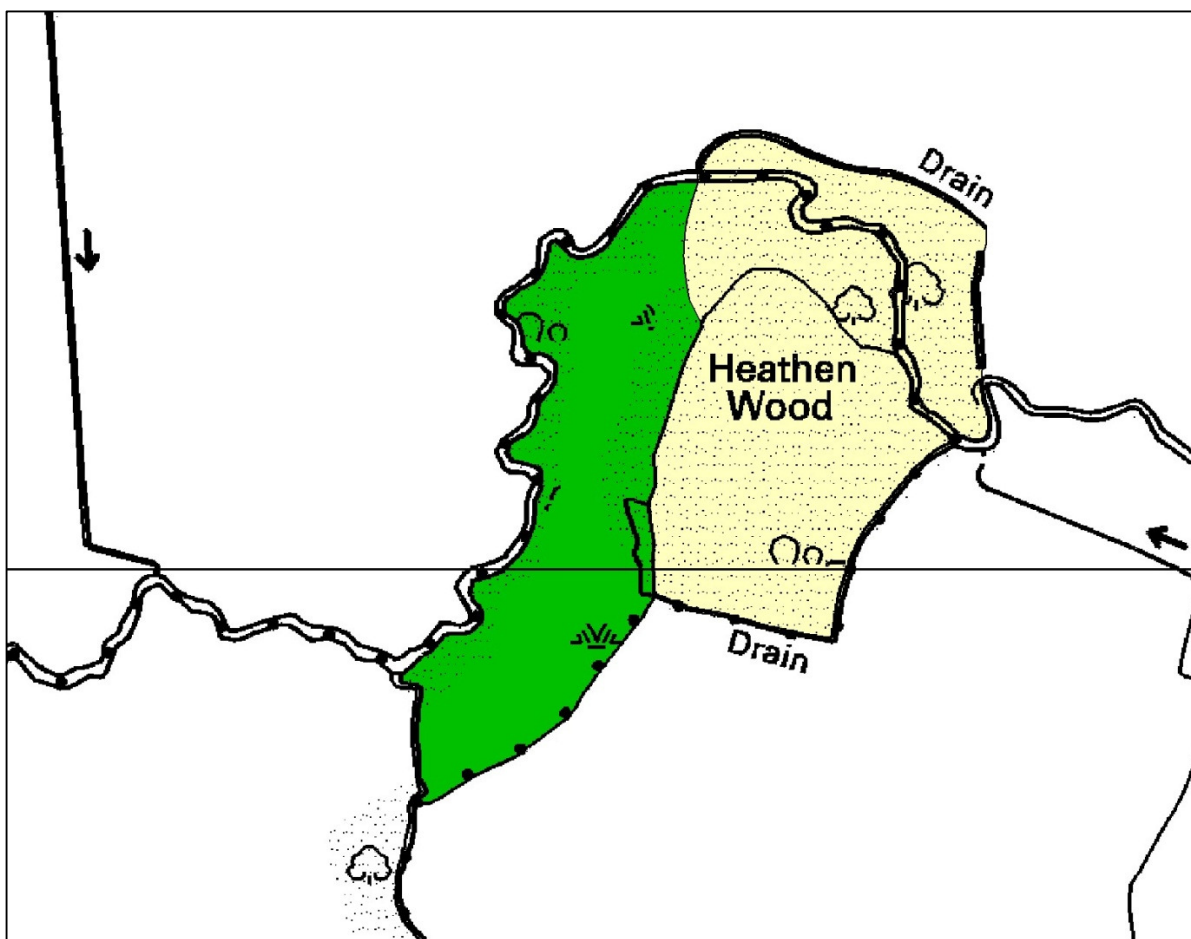
Rationale

The vegetation composition of this old grassland indicates that it has affinities with the MG5 NVC grassland type (*Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* grassland), which is the focus of the UK BAP Lowland Meadows habitat. This "typical hay meadow" is a rare and declining grassland habitat throughout England.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep136 Heathen Wood Marsh (2.4 ha) TL 506130

This site on the west side of Heathen Wood (Ep139) and on the south side of Pincey Brook is a secluded habitat bounded along the stream by dense scrub and young Willows (*Salix* spp.). The central swamp area comprises stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), whilst Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) dominates where a drier substrate exists. Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) has also been recorded from this site.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Fens (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC14 – Lowland Fen Vegetation

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

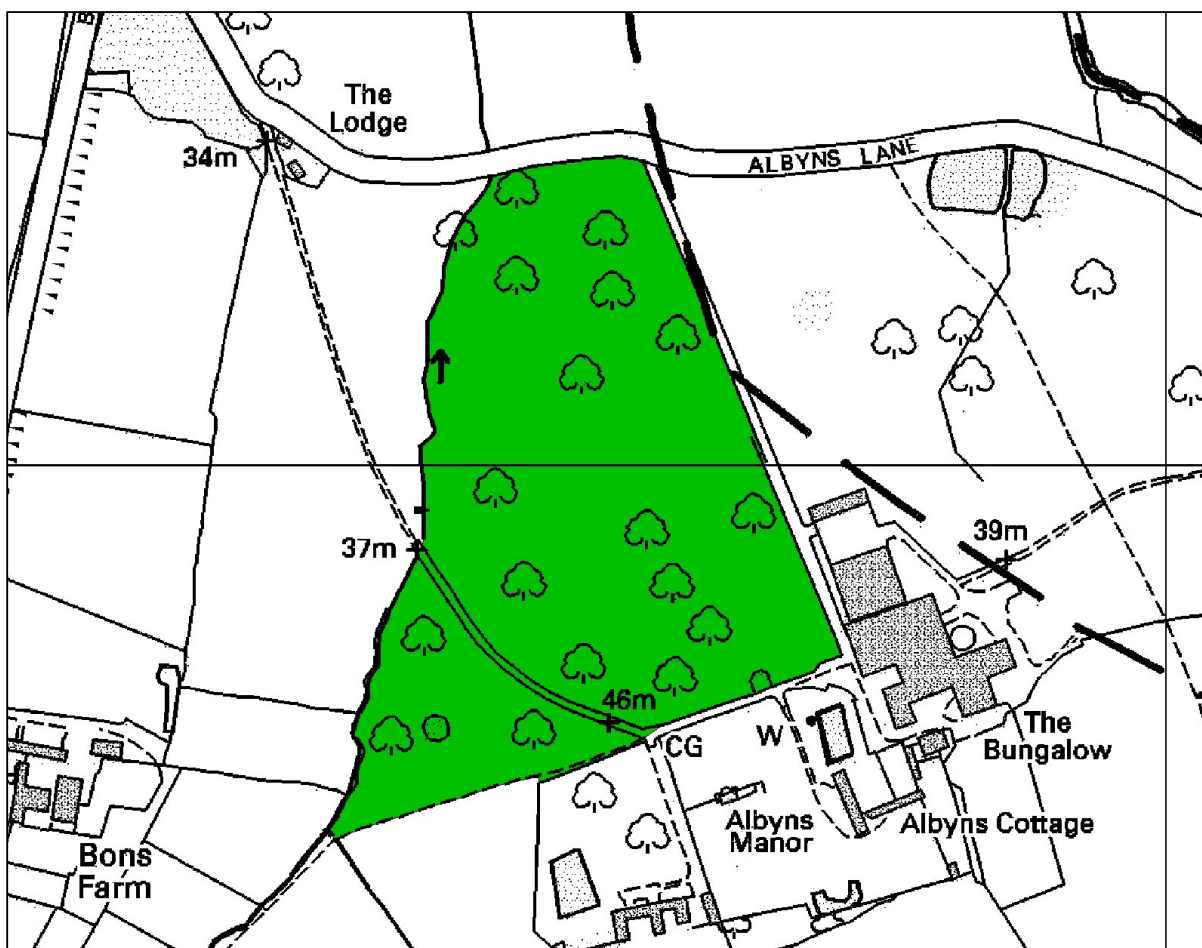
Rationale

This swamp habitat with a small reed stands is part of a larger mosaic of habitat that includes Heathen Wood (Ep139) to the east. The thick scrub vegetation provides ideal habitat for nesting and foraging birds, whilst the swamp and ruderal is important for many invertebrate species.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep137 Albyns Parkland (8.1 ha) TQ506969

This site has been identified on account of the collection of large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees, including large pollards. The ground cover is relatively improved cattle pasture of modest conservation value.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

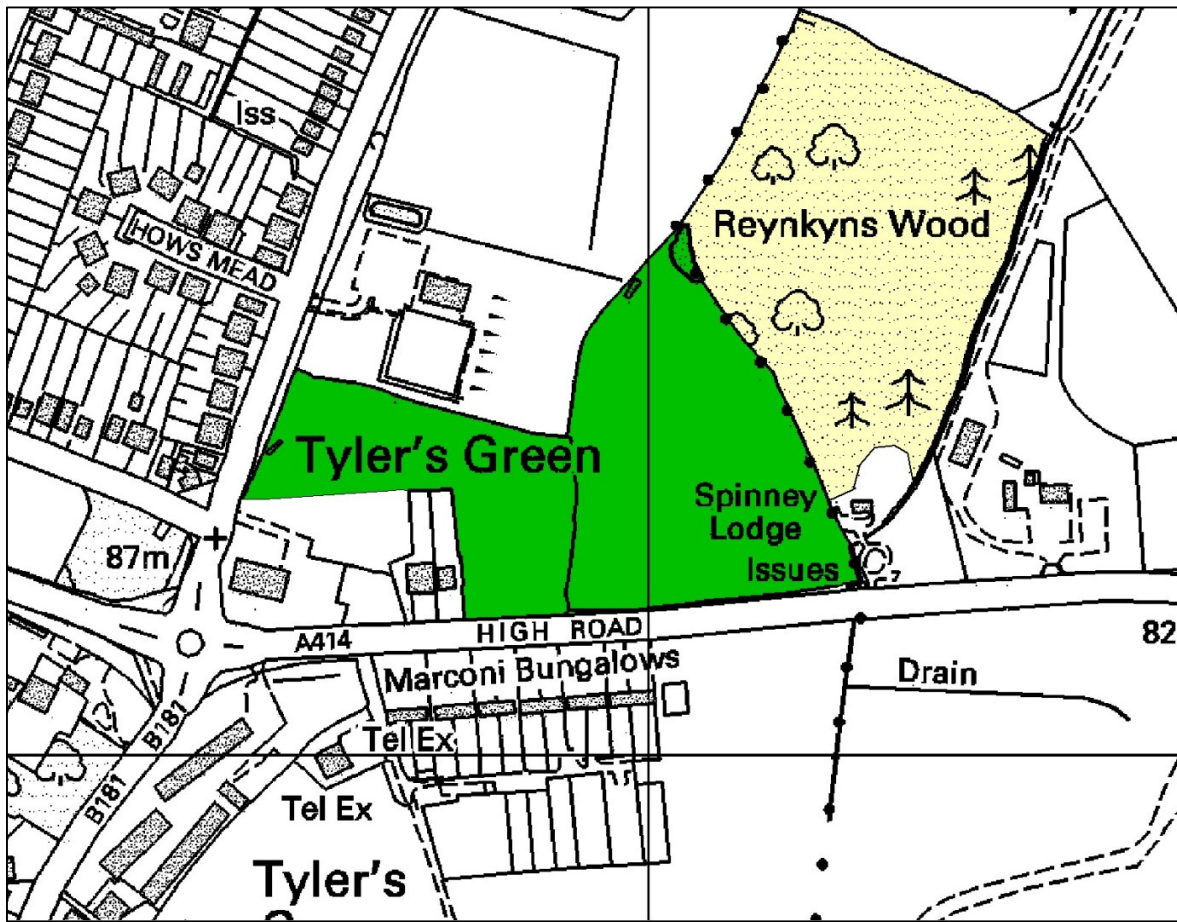
Rationale

The key quality of such parkland is often the age and interest of the parkland trees, rather than the grassland underneath and this is the case here, where invertebrate interest in the trees is the key factor.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep138 Tylers Green Grasslands (3.3 ha) TL 508051

This site comprises two damp grassland meadows with a complex structure of wet areas grading into drier habitat. The drier sward has a very diverse grass mix including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). The very wet zones are characterised by the local dominance of Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*). The general damp character of this site is highlighted by the many species associated with these conditions, including Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*). In addition, the western meadow has extensive patches of Common Bistort (*Persicaria bistorta*), an Essex Red Data List species, now confined to only a few sites in the county. The drier grassland is characterised by species such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

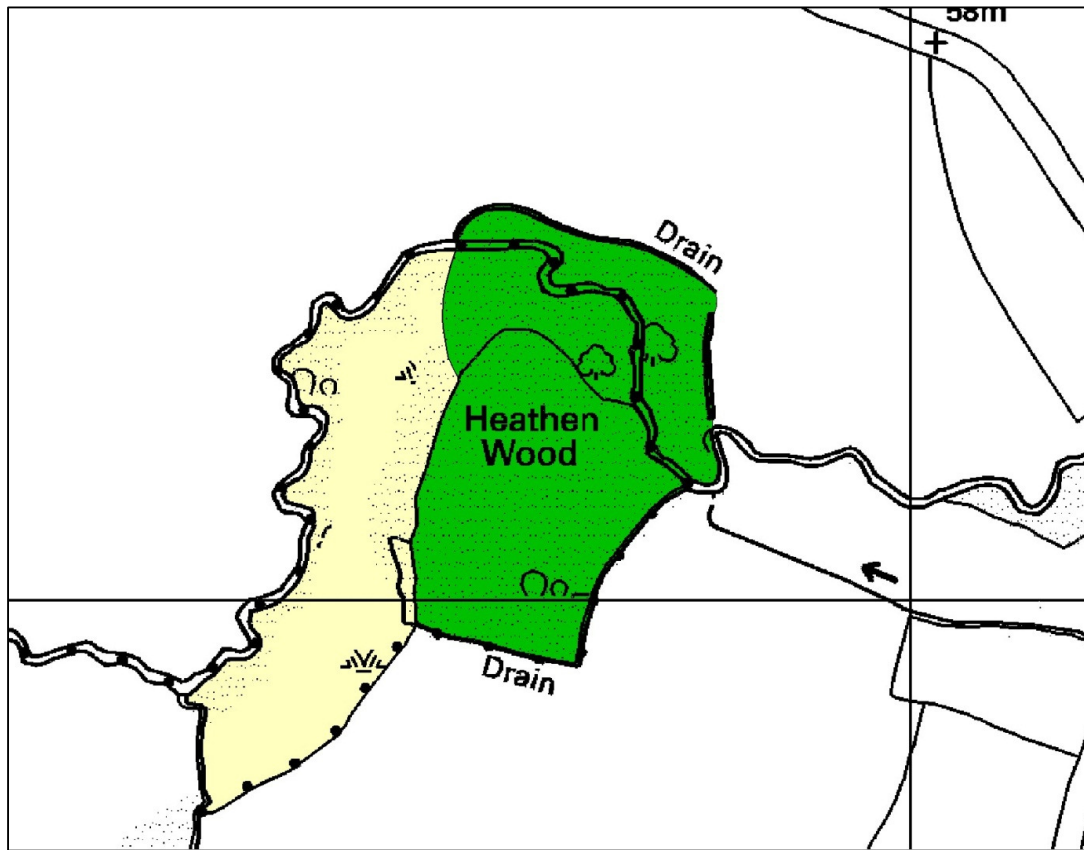
These two damp meadows form an extensive area of important species-rich and largely unimproved grassland. Parts of the sward may constitute a form of the MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus* – *Centaurea nigra*

NVC grassland type, which would mean the UK BAP habitat “Lowland Meadows” would apply here, but more detailed vegetation analysis would be needed to confirm this.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (western meadow only)

Reviewed: 2009 (eastern meadow added)



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Ep139 Heathen Wood (3.3 ha) TL 508131

This site is a mix of woodland and dense scrub either side of Pincey Brook, and lying directly to the east of Heathen Wood Marsh (Ep136). The ancient part of Heathen Wood contains old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, giving a varied height and structure to the woodland. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and its hybrid form *Crataegus laevigata* x *C. monogyna*, are found throughout the shrub layer. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*). The ancient woodland portion gives way to a Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) scrub near the brook. The north side of the brook is characterised by scrubby secondary woodland.

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

This site combines ancient woodland, listed on the Essex Inventory, secondary wood and dense scrub into one integral woodland block.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep140 Eighteenacre/Wren's Spring (2.8 ha) TL 508154

This ancient wood comprises three fragments, with the large central section and a smaller area directly to the south being linked by a pond and a scattered band of secondary wood.

The northern section has an open canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with dead and regenerating Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) over Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). There is a small stand of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) at the southern end. Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) often associated with ancient woodland is found on the southern edge of this block where there is good light penetration.

The central and southern sections support abundant old Hornbeam coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Ash and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) are occasional on the boundary. The ground flora is characterised by False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). Other species recorded in this block include Wood Millet and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*).

The southernmost section of Wrens' Spring has scattered Hornbeam and Field Maple coppice along with a few Pedunculate Oak and Ash standards. Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) is found on the western edge of the wood. The very open canopy allows a Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) ruderal flora to dominate the ground flora of this section.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on non-ancient Sites

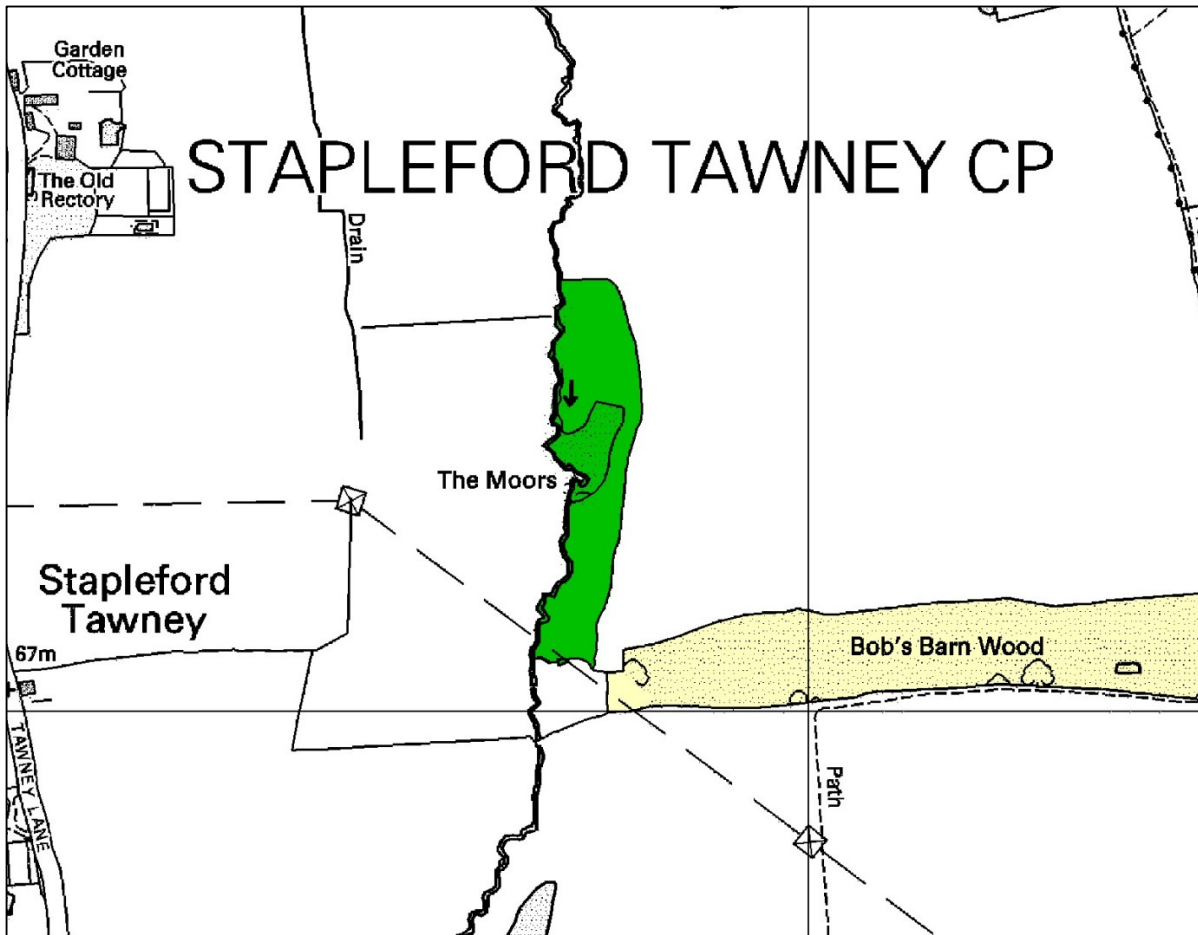
Rationale

The flora and physical characteristics of these woods suggests an ancient status. A small area of recent secondary woodland links two of the ancient blocks, providing better habitat continuity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009 (minor addition)



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Ep141 Hawksmere Springs (1.8 ha) TQ 508991

Hawksmere Springs is an Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve comprising ancient unimproved pasture, part of it marshy, with a tiny remnant of damp woodland and a boundary stream and is extremely flower-rich considering its small size. The meadow flora includes a varied grass mix including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). A very rich species assemblage is recorded from the grassland component of the site. On the drier slopes can be found Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and Betony (*Stachys officinalis*), the latter two species on the Essex Red Data List (ERDL) as scarce plants in the county. In contrast, Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) favour the damper parts of the site. Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*) has also been recorded. The woodland has a canopy dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, with Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) forming a high shrub canopy. Herbs of the woodland include Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*), typically found near stream-sides.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

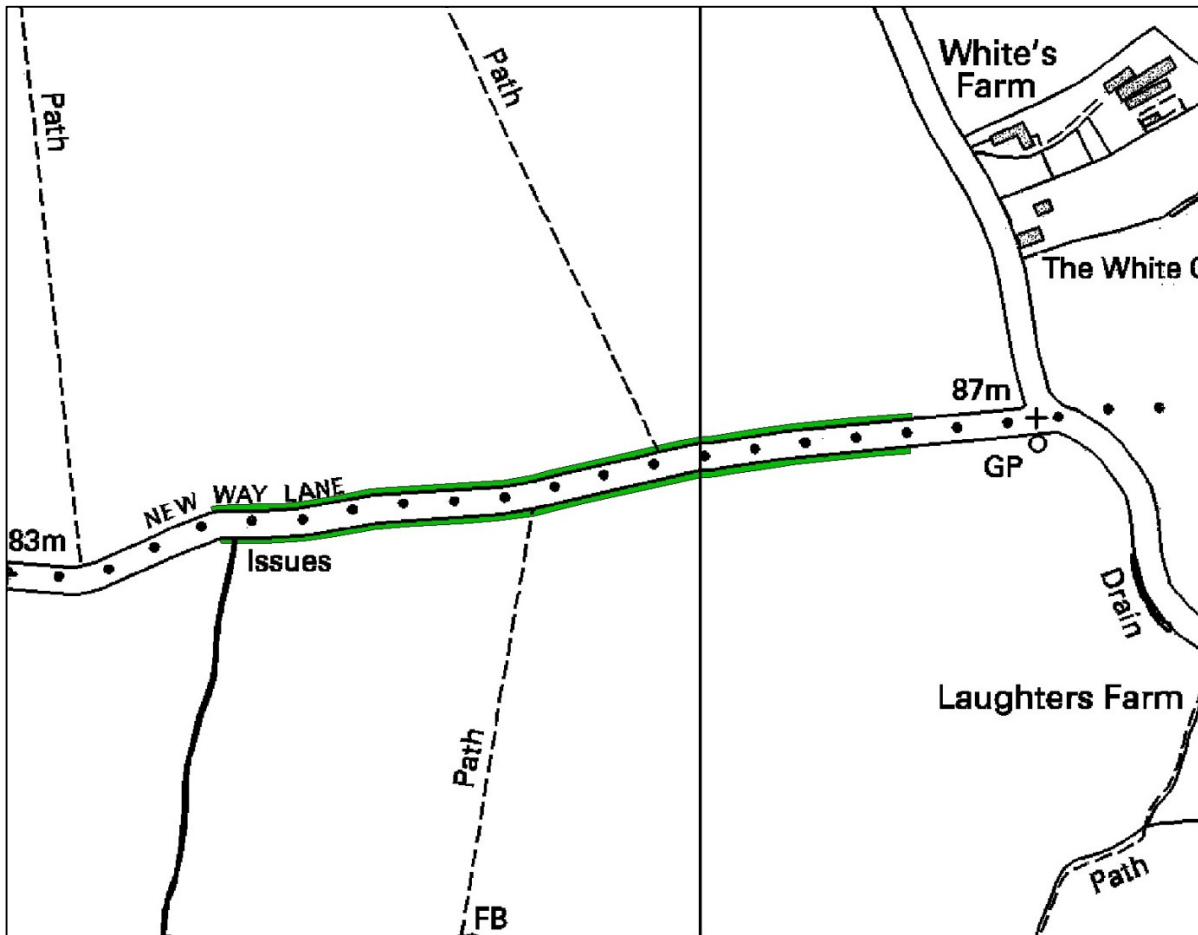
Rationale

This site supports a suite of scarce and declining Essex plants, from base-rich and base-poor soils. The woodland provides a small area of complementary habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep142 New Way Lane, Matching Tye Special Roadside Verge (0.4 ha) TL 509103

Located south of Housham Tye, this site comprises long stretches of roadside verge north and south of New Way Lane. The verge has a floristic composition characteristic of calcareous grassland. Species of interest include Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) and, of particular interest, Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) and Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *minor*) both species being mostly confined to infertile grasslands on calcareous soils in the county.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC12 – Lowland Calcareous Grassland

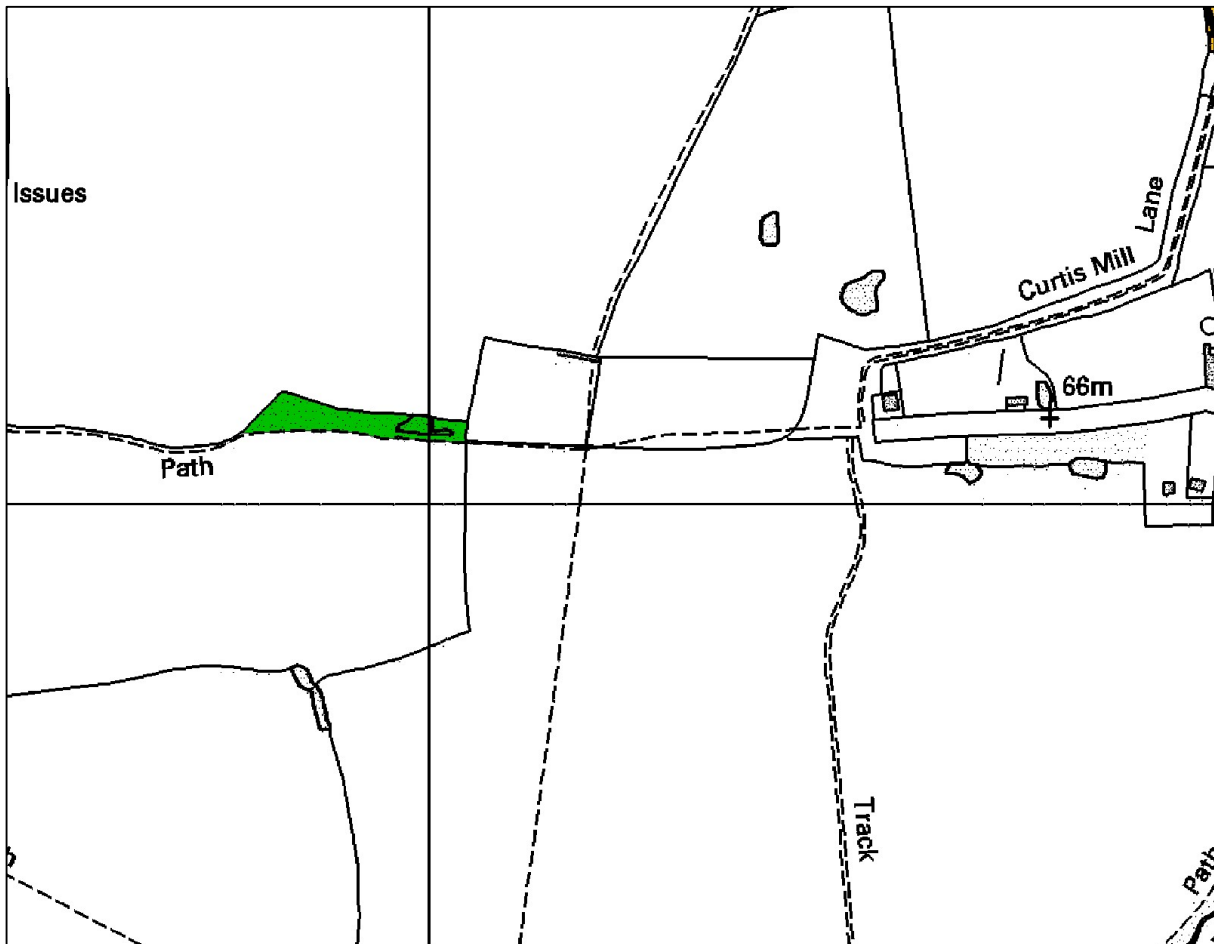
Rationale

This site represents a grassland intermediate between a true calcareous grassland and a more neutral soil sward. It is likely to be situated on an unusually base-rich area of chalky boulder clay.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep143 Stapleford Abbots Elms (0.3 ha) TQ509960

This small piece of old woodland is of note for the number of large and seemingly disease-resistant Elms (*Ulmus* sp.) found here. Such trees form an important genetic stock that may help to bring back this tree to the English landscape from where it has been all but eradicated by Dutch Elm Disease. The wood also includes a large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) pollard. Further research may reveal that this is a small fragment of ancient woodland.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)
 Veteran Trees (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC6 – Veteran Trees

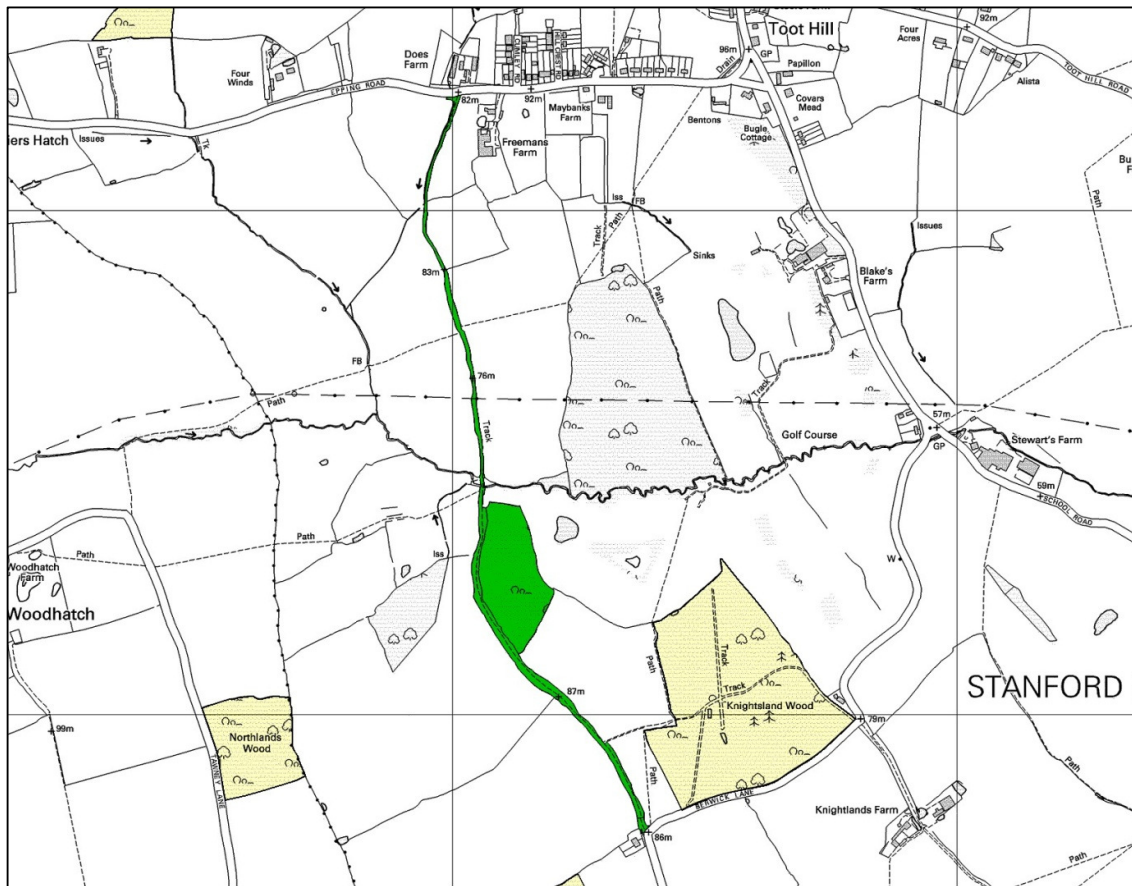
Rationale

The Elms are unusually large for today's Essex landscape, suggesting they have a good degree of resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. They are relatively "veteran" although prior to the spread of this disease, far older trees would have been more commonplace.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep144 Byway 26, Stanford Rivers (4.5 ha) TL 510014

This Site comprises an ancient lane and an area of broadleaved woodland that was planted between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The wood comprises a canopy principally of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and scattered Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) typifies the shrub canopy of the wood. A ground flora predominantly of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) forms a thin covering throughout the woodland with other areas of locally frequent Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) are found on the lower slopes towards the north edge of the wood. Other species recorded include Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*).

The green lane extends for approximately 1.6 km from Epping Road in the north to Berwick Road to the south. It extends either side of an easterly draining stream valley. A wide variety of tree and shrub species are found, including Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland Hawthorn (*C. laevigata*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) Elder and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The earth bank boundary with the wood has old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice along its length. The ground flora of the lane is equally varied and includes Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Primrose (*P. vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

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

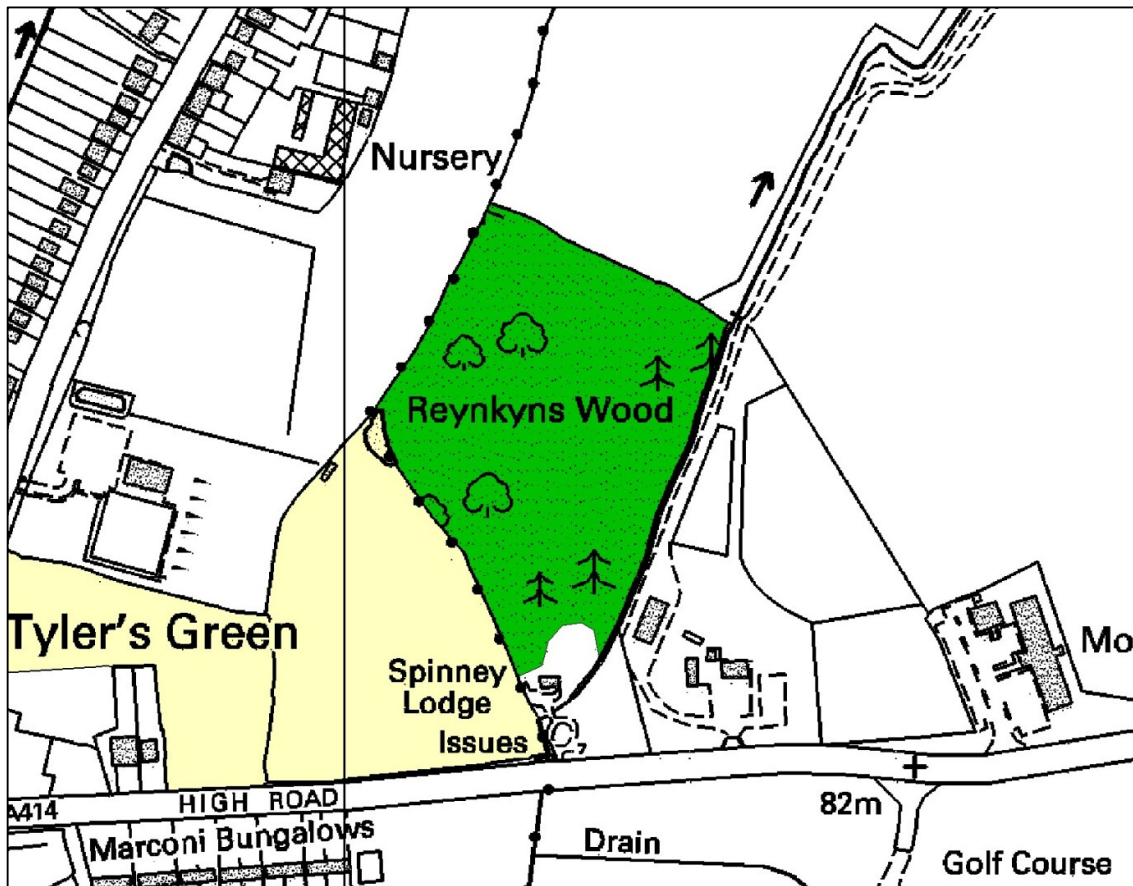
Rationale

Although of recent origin, this wood has the composition and structure similar to several ancient woodlands found in the district. The route of the ancient trackway has ostensibly remained unchanged for several centuries and can clearly be seen on Chapman & Andre's map 1777. It should assist with ecological connectivity between the other woodland LoWS that lie nearby.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (Green Lane added)



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Ep145 Reynkyns Wood (3.0 ha) TL 511052

Reynkyns Wood comprises virtually pure Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with only a few scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) trees. This has resulted in a dense shading canopy beneath which there is no appreciable shrub or sub-canopy. The only contrast is a localised area of tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a sub-canopy of Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) in the shrub layer, found in the north-east corner of the wood. A sparse ground flora includes Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

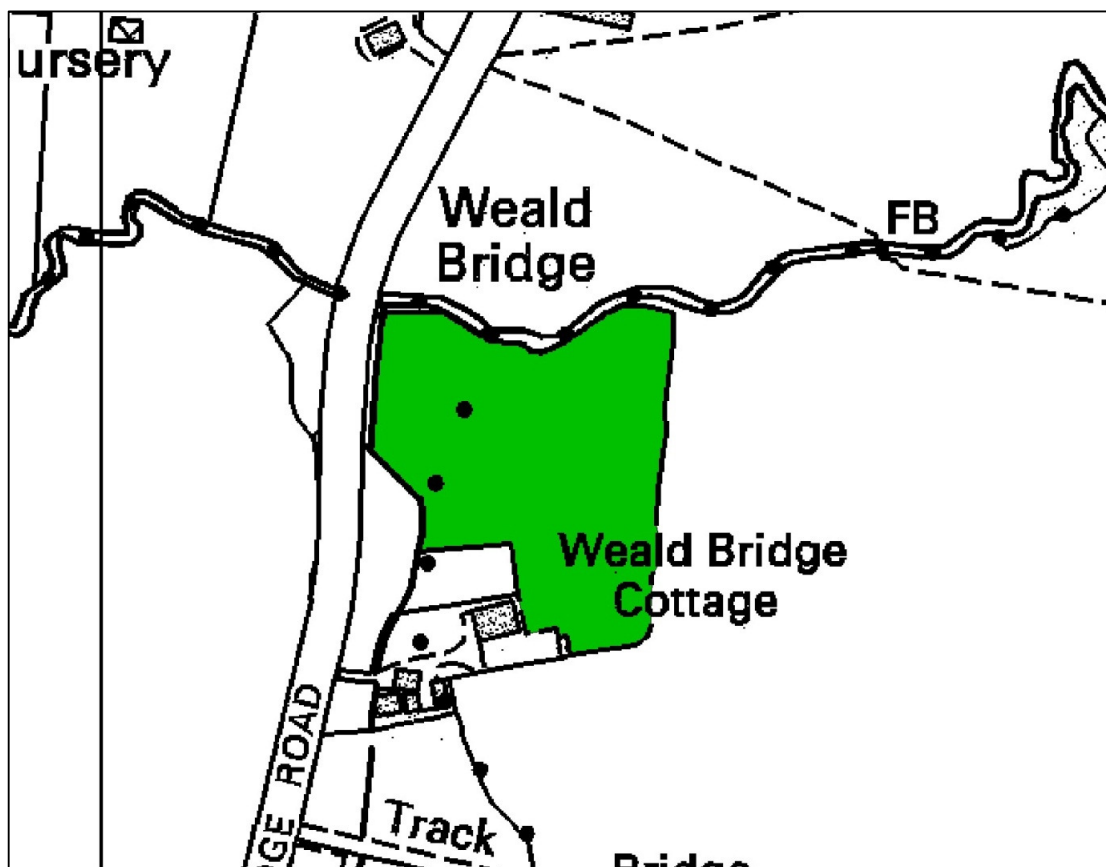
Rationale

This wood is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a composition that also indicates this status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (boundary of southern tip revised)



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Ep146 Weald Bridge Meadow (1.1 ha) TL 511064

False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominates a tall grass sward across this streamside “floodplain” meadow, though other grasses present include Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). Lady’s Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) are found throughout this mainly dry grassland, whilst localised pockets of damp grassland support Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). However, of special interest is the presence of Betony (*Stachys officinalis*), an Essex Red Data List species.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

SC1- Vascular Plants (Betony)

Rationale

Betony is a species that has severely declined in its distribution throughout the county due to loss and improvement of permanent pasture. The whole site comprises old, relatively unimproved grassland. It may once have been a form of MG5 NVC grassland covered by the UK Lowland Meadow BAP habitat, but the widespread False Oat-grass (indicative of insufficient management pressure) has now created a different vegetation type.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep147 Wood, Berwick Farm (1.6 ha) TL 512005

This small rectangular broadleaved wood comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice and standards dominating the centre of the wood, with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) generally confined to the periphery. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) form a very scattered shrub canopy. The high light penetration has resulted in Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) dominating much of the ground flora. Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are found, but in very small numbers. Additional ancient woodland indicator species recorded include Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

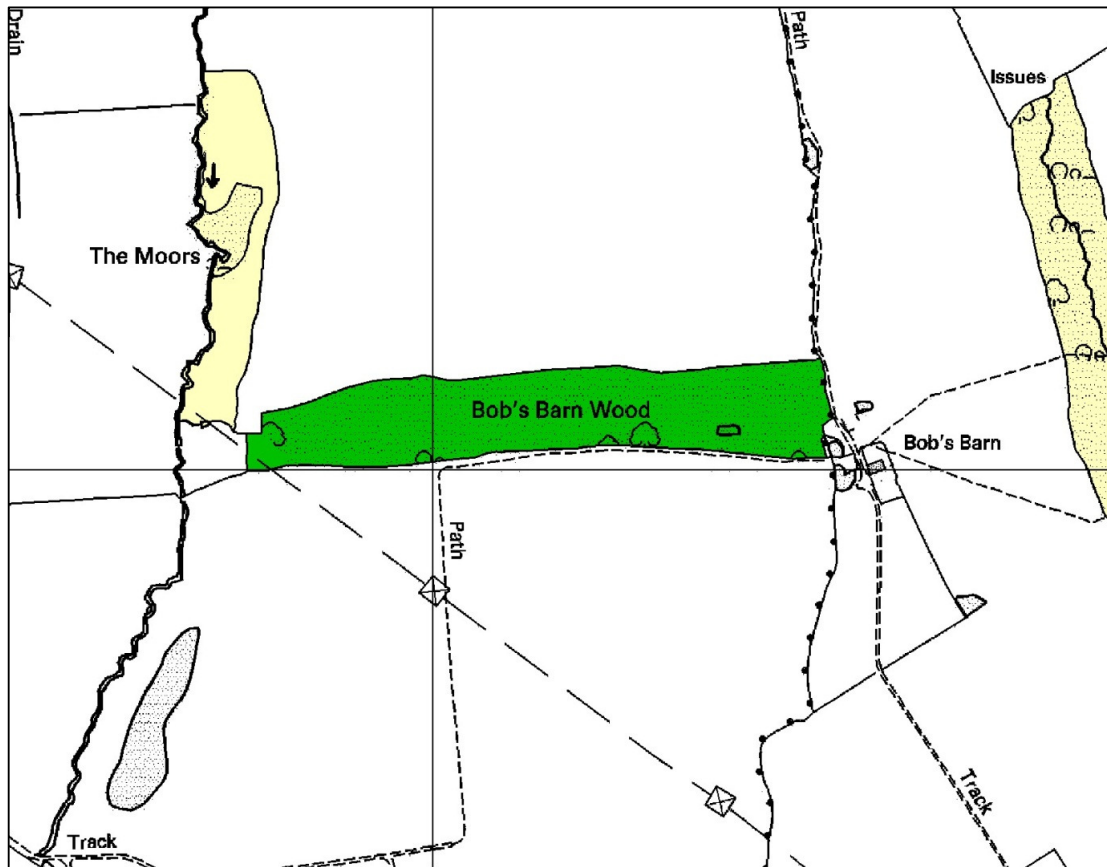
Rationale

This woodland type falls within the remit of the UK Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK) BAP habitat and is therefore covered by criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep148 Bob's Barn Wood (3.7 ha) TQ 512990

The eastern end of this long, narrow ancient wood has a high canopy of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with some Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Only a patchy Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) shrub layer exists beneath. The ground flora in this part of the wood is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), this latter species being confined to this area only. The central area has a similar composition, though Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn are found more extensively with some of the Hawthorn reaching a sub-canopy height. Here, an open canopy allows Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) to dominate. The western part of the woodland has tall Ash coppice dominating and a varied structure beneath. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are frequent components of the structure throughout the wood and, though rare, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) is also found. Other ground flora species include Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

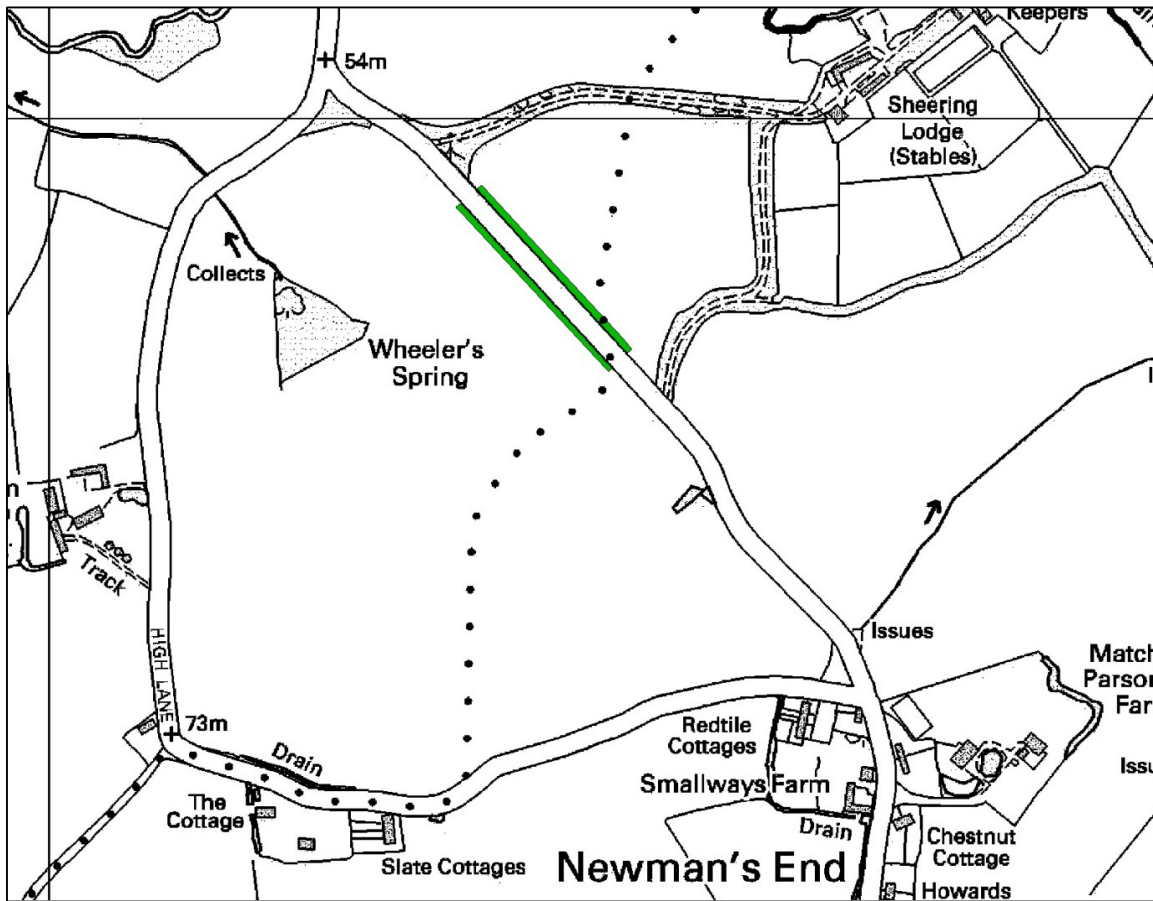
Rationale

This wood has a structure and composition characteristic of ancient woods in Essex.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep149 Newman's End, Sheering Lodge Special Roadside Verge (0.2 ha) TL 513128

These two similar lengths of verge, approximately 180 metres either side of the road, exhibit a diverse and species-rich flora. The grass structure ranges from a tall sward with False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), to a shorter sward with Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), with the latter generally affording a richer herb flora. This verge is of note for the presence of Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *minor*) and Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), however the assemblage of herbs also includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*) and Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC12 Lowland Calcareous Grassland

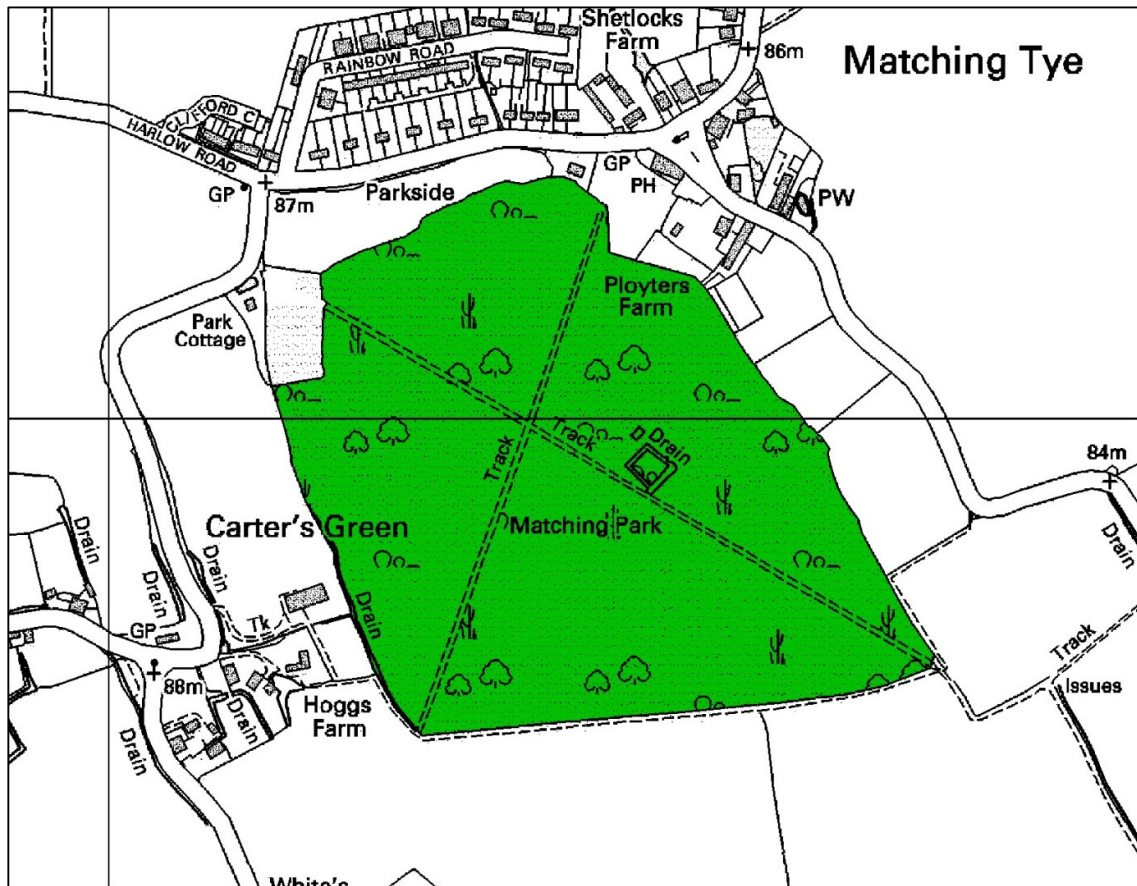
Rationale

These verges represent something of a hybrid between a true calcareous grassland and a neutral soil, clay grassland, being sited on base-rich chalky boulder clay. Although listed under the calcareous grassland criterion (on account of the critical species listed in Appendix 5 of the criterion document), the site would equally qualify under criterion HC11 for species-rich neutral soil grasslands in general.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (small fragment deleted)



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Ep150 Matching Park (18.5 ha) TL 514109

This large ancient wood has a canopy characterised by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland Hawthorn (*C. laevigata*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are all found as shrub layer species. The ground flora as a whole is very species-rich, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), all of which are indicative of an ancient and relatively undisturbed woodland. Two straight diagonal rides across the entire wood are probably of recent origin.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

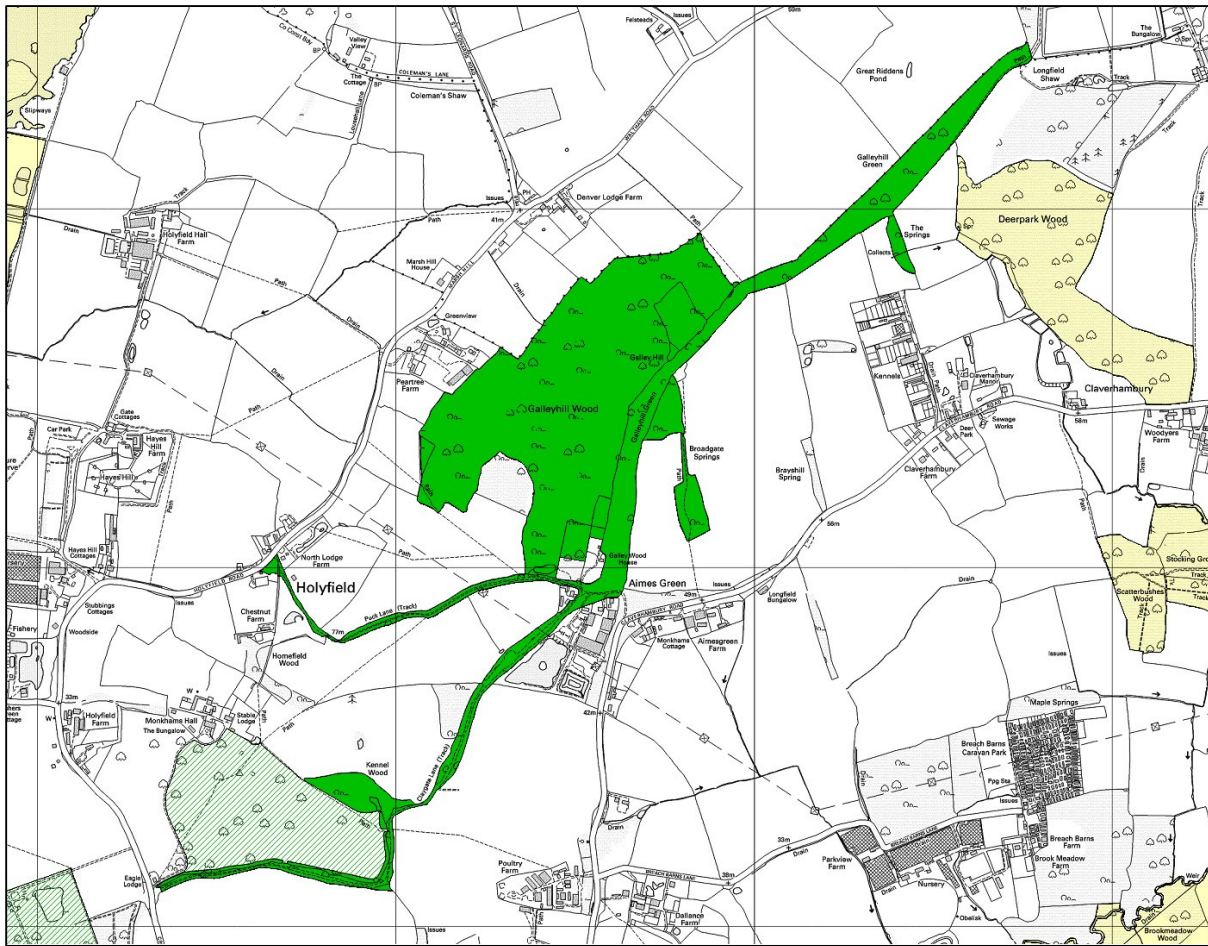
Rationale

This wood clearly retains the structure and diversity of good ancient woodland with fifteen ancient woodland indicator plants recorded.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep16 Galleyhill Wood Complex (59.7 ha) TL 395035

This large area of woodland and trackway forms a connected corridor of semi-natural habitats of great wildlife value. It is significant both for its size and for providing a headland of wildlife habitat in the arable landscape between Waltham Abbey and Nazeing, with links to woodland LoWS to the east. Much of this site is served by public rights of way that are well used by walkers and horse riders.

Galleyhill Wood TL 395035

Galleyhill Wood, the largest constituent of this site, is ancient woodland with an abundance of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is occasional only, with locally abundant Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The greater part of the wood has a very limited understorey and ground flora, with extensive areas of bare ground and leaf litter. The northernmost section has a varied canopy comprising Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and some English Elm (*Ulmus procera*). Two enclaves close to the central Hornbeam area are dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Birch (*Betula pendula*) to the north-west and south-west respectively. Ancient woodland ground flora species include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). A system of ponds and drains has been dug for water management.

Galleyhill Green TL 403041

This ancient wooded trackway runs directly alongside Galleyhill Wood and connects Aimes Green with Bumble's Green, some 2.5 km distant. The southern part is a mixture of Pedunculate Oak standards, Birch and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedges over a generally neutral ground flora of grasses, brambles and ferns. The north-eastern section is also dominated by Pedunculate Oak, but is complemented by Hornbeam

coppice, Ash and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The understorey is generally scrubby and includes both Hawthorn and Blackthorn over Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Broadgate Spring TL 397035

Broadgate Spring lies adjacent to Galleyhill Wood and Galleyhill Green. It comprises two distinct and discrete blocks connected by a short strip of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) scrub. The northern part includes almost pure Hornbeam coppice over a limited ground flora, whilst the southern section contains standards of Pedunculate Oak and Ash over an open ground flora dominated by Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

The Springs TL 403039

Lying due south of Galleyhill Green, this small block of wood contains a high proportion of Hornbeam coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak standards over Bramble and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Puck Lane TL 390028 and Claygate Lane TL 392027

These green lanes comprise grassy bridleways lined by a mixture of mature Pedunculate Oak standards and overgrown hedges of Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

Kennel Wood TL 388023

This small woodland lies adjacent to Claygate Lane and has been much storm damaged. The main tree species are Ash and Poplar (*Populus* sp.) over a scrubby understorey and a ground flora dominated by Dog's Mercury.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient Woodland, 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

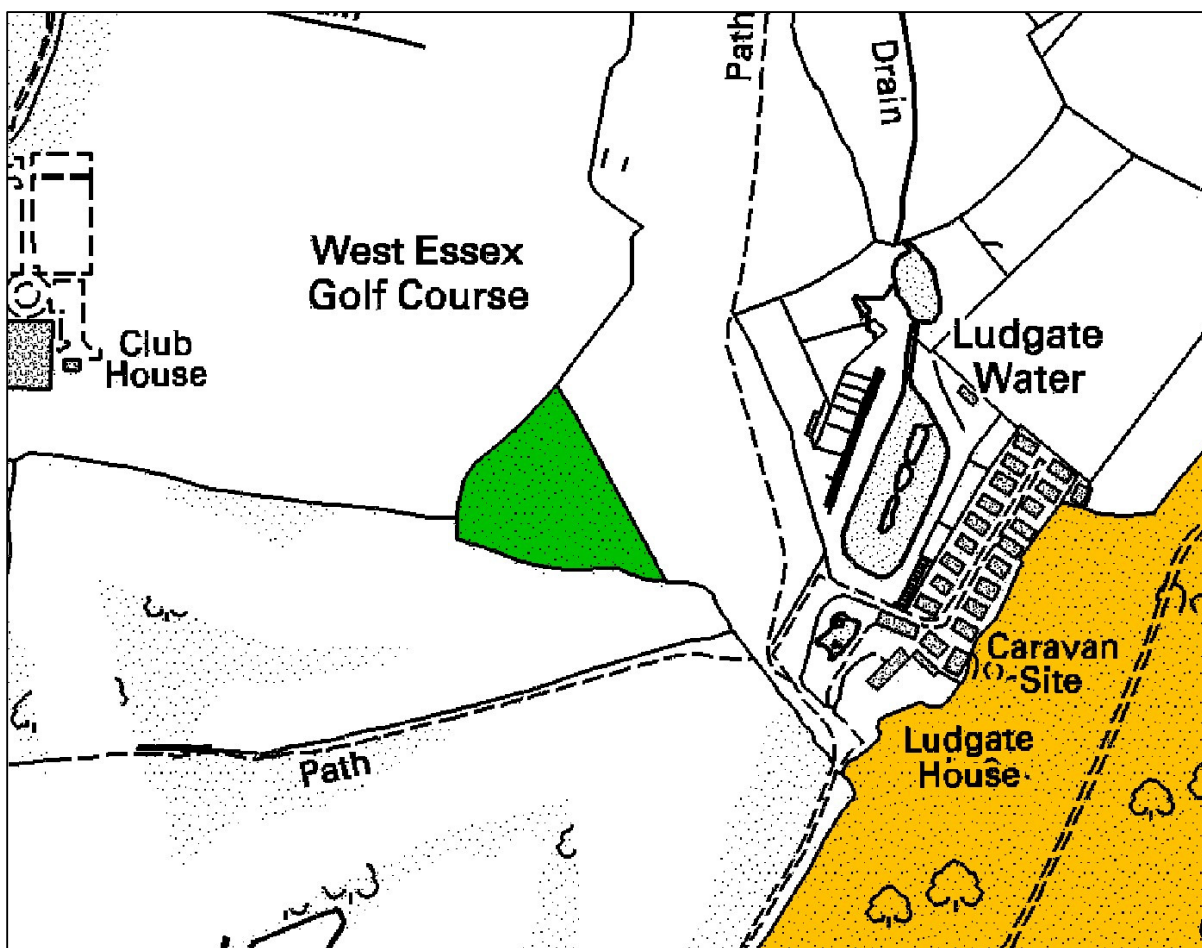
Rationale

Galleyhill Wood appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has several indicator species. The remaining woodland falls within the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland habitat type. The green lanes provide habitat connectivity between this site and adjacent LoWS.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep17 Wood, West Essex Golf Course (0.5 ha) TQ395964

Although having a canopy dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with abundant overgrown standards and coppice of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), the canopy of this ancient wood is sufficiently open to allow for a profusion of Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in the ground flora. The understorey includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), with a stand of suckering elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Where Bluebell is less dominant, Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) can be found.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

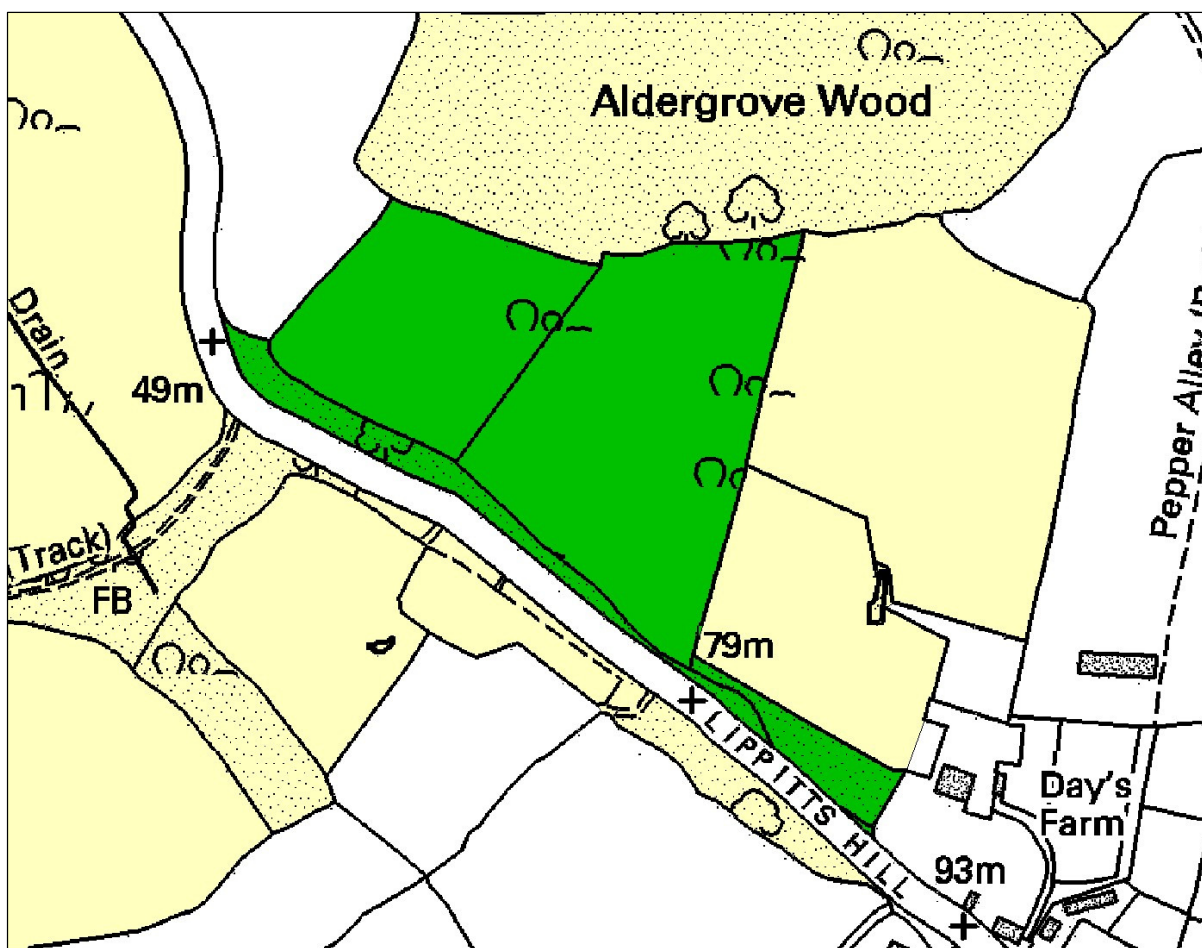
Rationale

Species present and structure suggest that this is a remnant of ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep18 Lippitts Hill Scrub (3.8 ha) TQ395973

This site comprises the northern ancient lane bank of Lippitts Hill, old hedgerows and scrubby grassland, which together provide an important ecological link between Aldergrove Wood to the north and Carroll's Farm Complex to the south. The lane bank supports a typical woodland for the area, with large Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) standards, locally frequent Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a typical ground flora. The sloping grasslands are becoming rapidly covered by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub, with some areas of young Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Although the old hedgerows and scrub are the primary features of importance of this site, the retention of some open grassland glades and rides would enhance the site. It is likely that prior to the advanced spread of Bramble scrub, these fields supported an acid grassland sward akin to that in the adjacent Day's Farm Paddocks LoWS, which would have been a significant habitat in its own right. Areas of rabbit-browsed grassland currently comprise Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), patches of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), ragworts (*Senecio* spp.) and Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

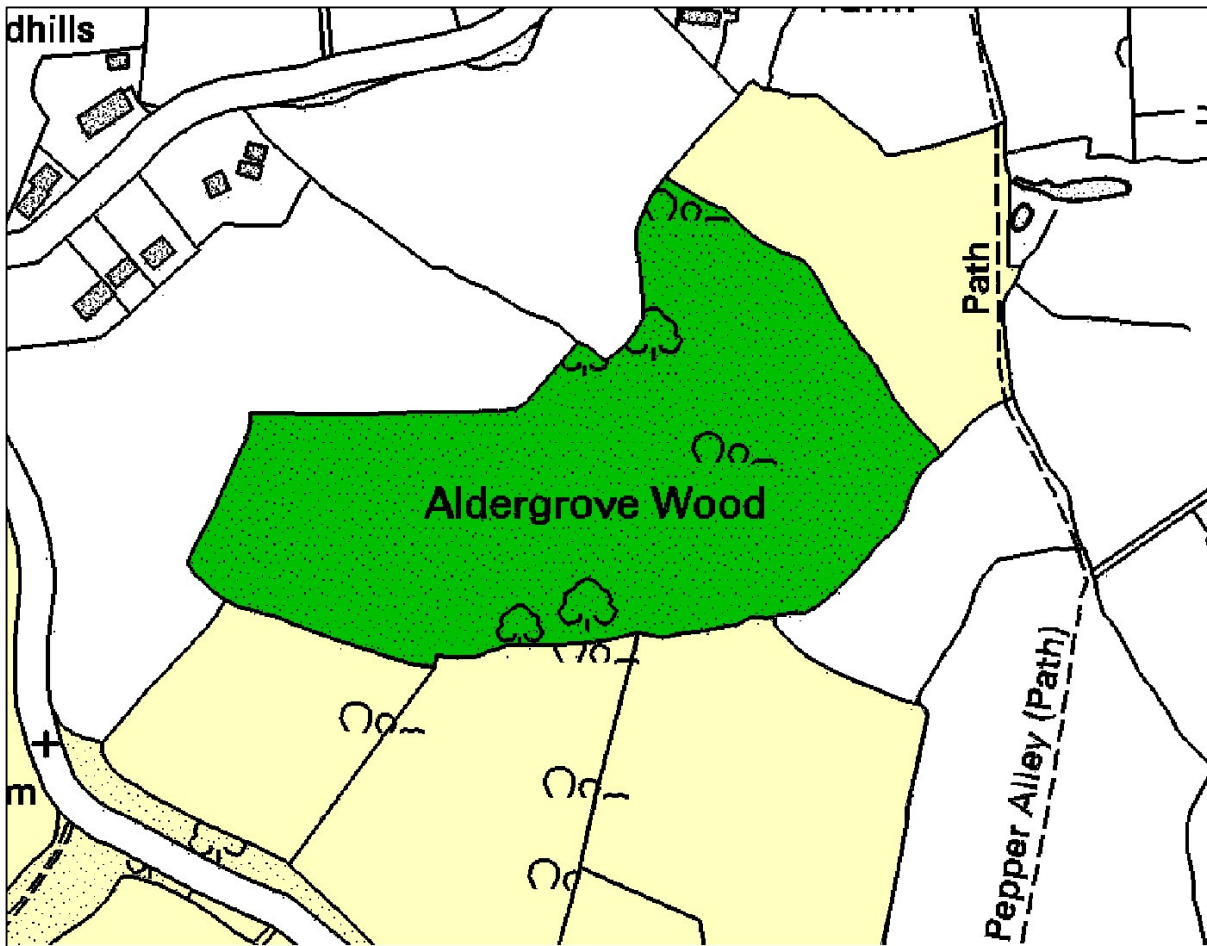
Rationale

The primary role of this site is as an ecological link between Carrolls Farm Complex and Aldergrove Wood (HC29) by way of the mature hedgerows and woodland strip along Lippitts Hill. However, the mosaic of scrub and grassland within the two fields are of some interest in their own right (HC27) as well as furthering the wildlife corridor value.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep19 Aldergrove Wood (4.5 ha) TQ396976

This ancient wood occupies a west-facing natural “amphitheatre” and is characterised by abundant Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with occasional standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and a sub-canopy of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and some Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). Introduced Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is currently rare and will need management to prevent its spread. The dry upper slopes have abundant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) also abundant throughout.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

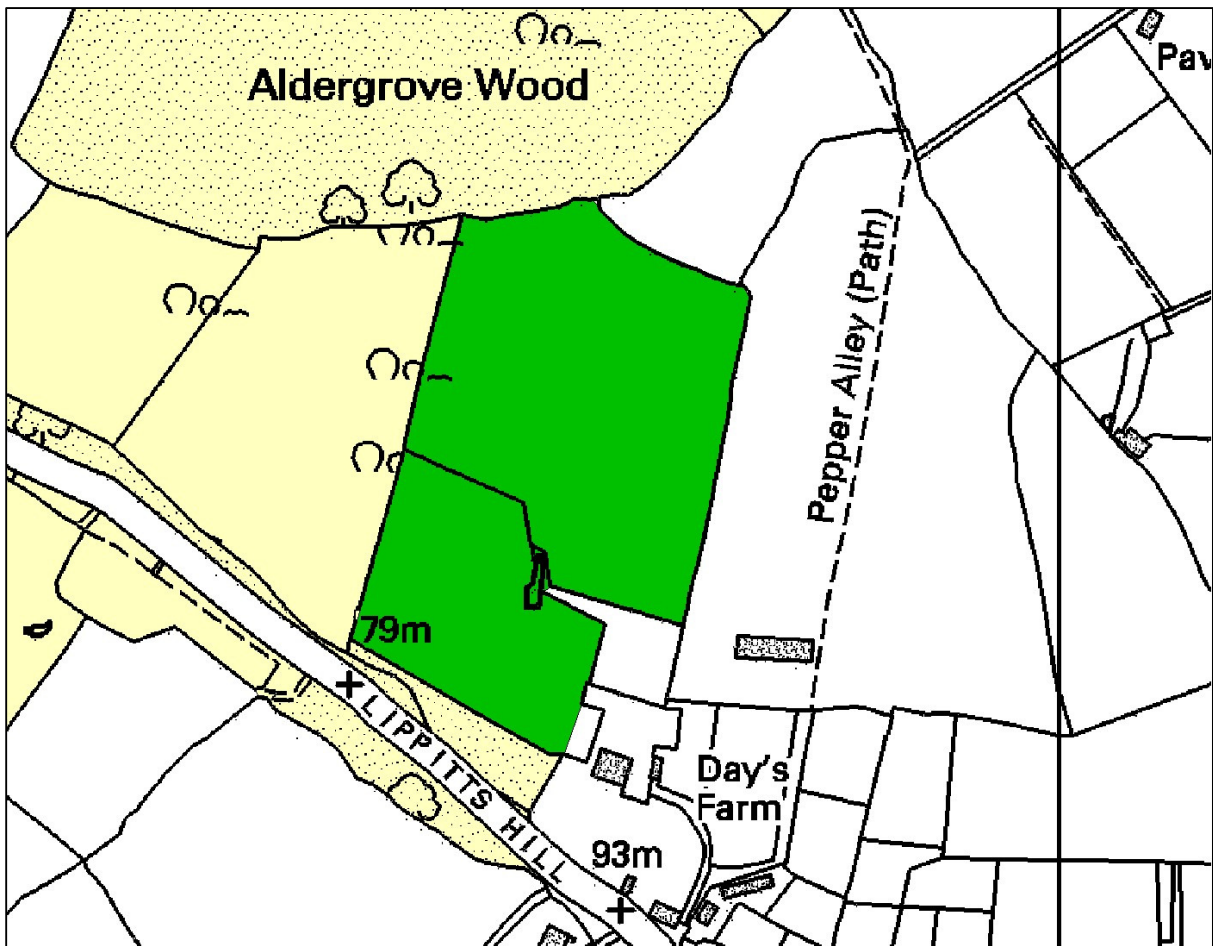
Rationale

Noted on the ancient woodland inventory for Essex. The wood is a mix of W10 (upper slopes) and W8 (lower slopes) NVC woodland types.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: -



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Ep20 Day's Farm Paddocks (3.2 ha) TQ397974

This horse-grazed, west-facing hillslope supports essentially unimproved acid grassland, with more fertile neutral soil grassland on the lower ground. On the dry, heathy slope Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) is abundant, with locally frequent Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). A small area of *Cladonia* lichen heath is of particular interest here. The moister lower slopes support a large population of Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). The dry slope could prove to be important for invertebrates, including ground-nesting solitary bees and wasps. To date, two Nationally Scarce species have been recorded: the digger wasp *Nysson trimaculatus* and the cuckoo nomad bee *Nomada flavopicta*.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

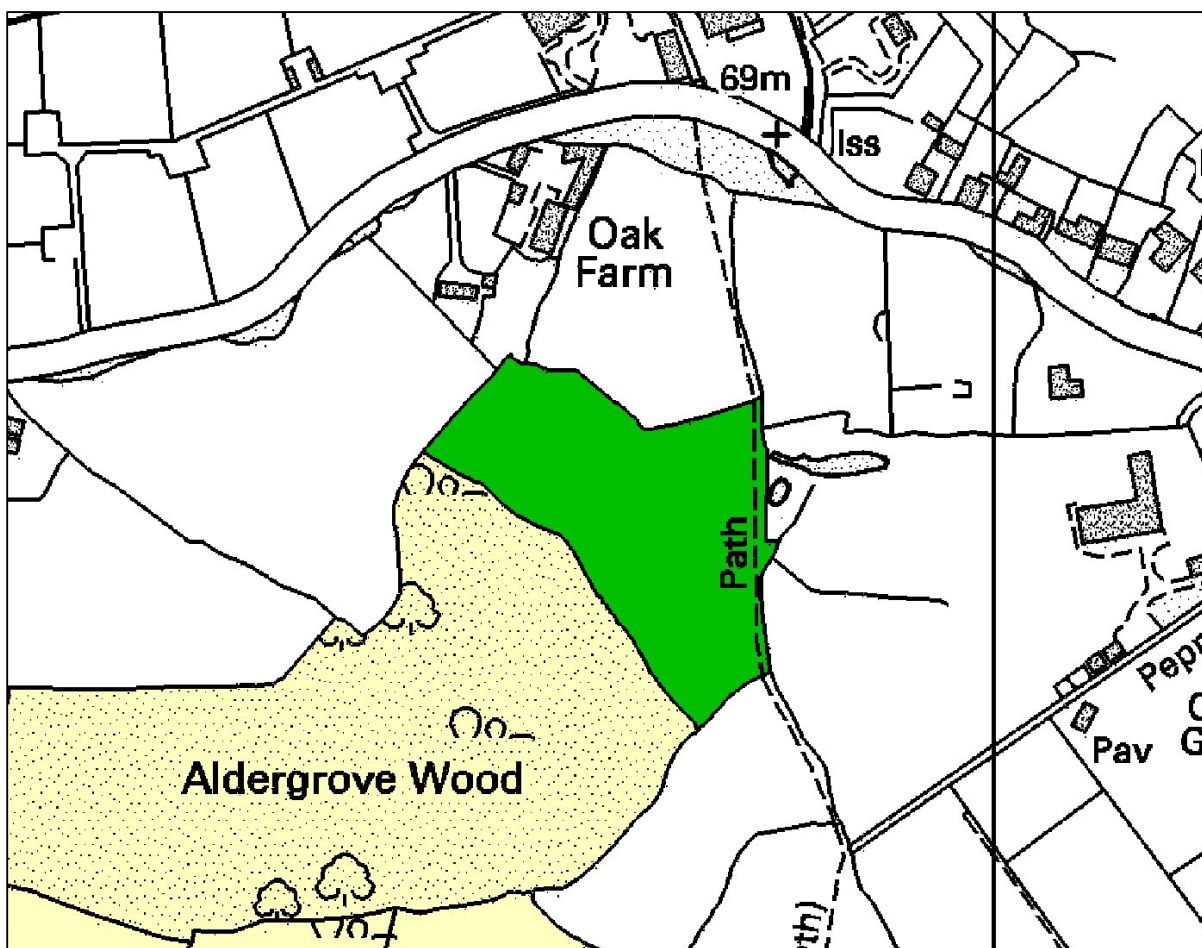
Rationale

The upper slopes support an unimproved, dry acid grassland sward, with Common Bent and Sheep's Sorrel being key components of this grassland type. Unimproved acid grassland is a scarce habitat in Essex.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep21 Oak Farm Grassland (1.5 ha) TQ398977

This site should be viewed as a companion area to Day's Farm Paddocks to the south. Oak Farm grassland is currently unmanaged but also supports unimproved neutral/acid grassland in which Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) are the key species.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

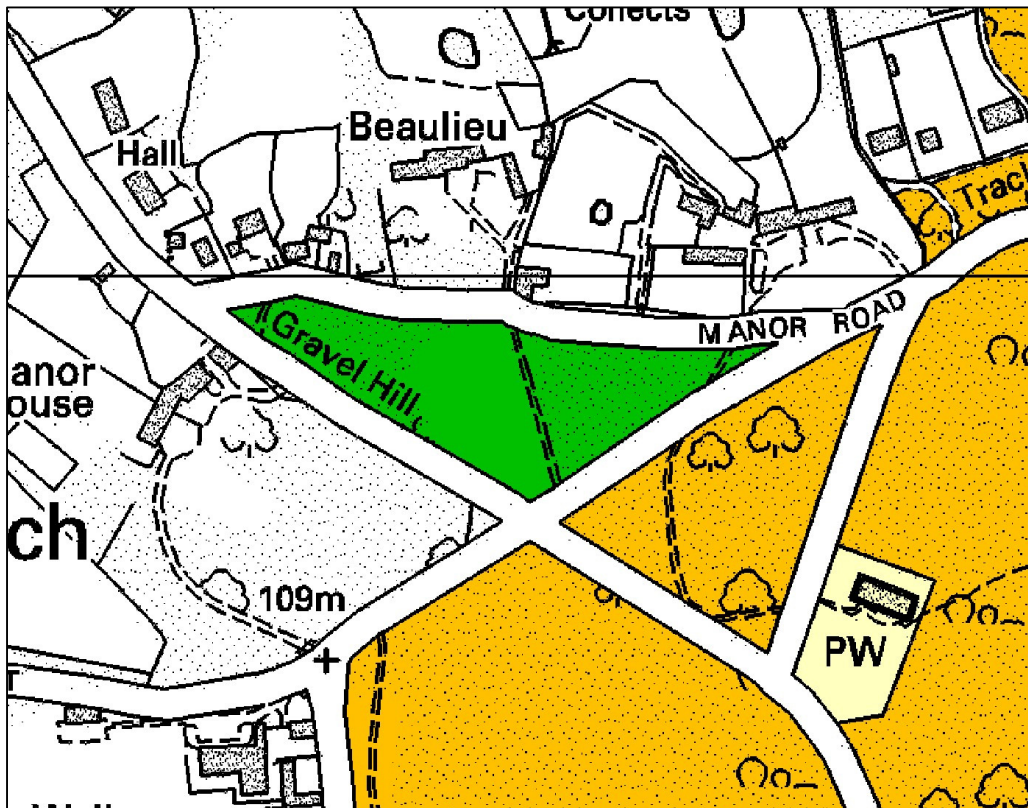
Rationale

An abundance of Common Bent, along with Tormentil, is one of the defining qualities of acid grassland, along with an appreciation of the underlying geology.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep22 Gravel Hill, High Beach (1.6 ha) TQ406979

This site was erroneously identified as ancient woodland in the original SINC review of 1992. It is, rather, a fragment of the old semi-natural habitat that fringed the Forest, but its basis is one of scrubby heathland, as depicted on older Ordnance Survey maps. The centre of the site still supports good quality acid grassland although it is suffering from close mowing as an amenity sward. The sward is dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) with locally frequent Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and also includes Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) and a small quantity of Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*), an Essex Red Data List species. Typical acid grassland herbs include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). The surrounding woodland is mature and comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Yew (*Taxus baccata*), within which Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is becoming increasingly frequent. Planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is occasional.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)
Heathland and Acid Grassland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

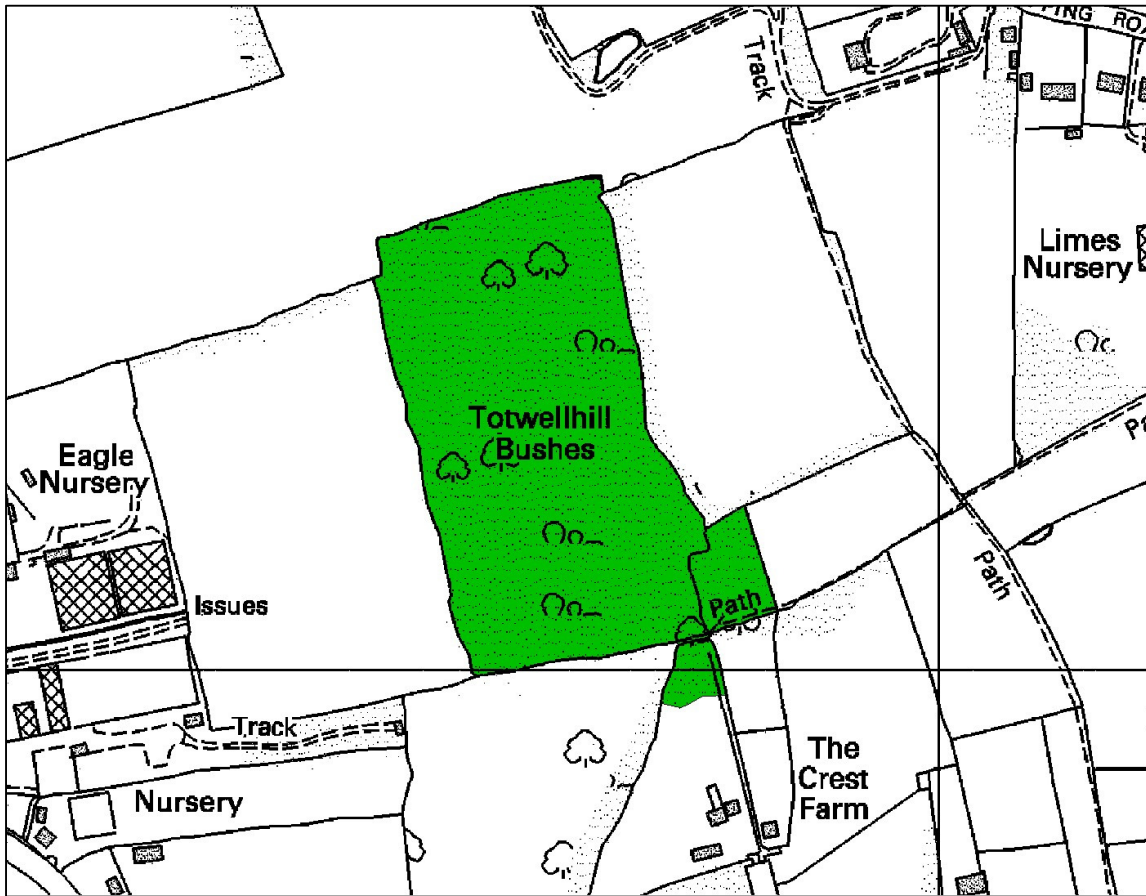
Rationale

The key component of this site is the central acid grassland. The surrounding woodland is typical of mature secondary woods of the area and has developed from a scrubby heathland fragment of the Forest.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: -



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Ep23 Totwellhill Bushes (5.1 ha) TL 407082

This ancient wood contains a high proportion of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with scattered Ash and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The understorey is old Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and some Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The woodland floor is largely dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) occurs near to the southern edge adjacent to the footpath. There is much fallen dead wood, including collapsed Ash stools, with young Ash seedlings and saplings also frequent. This site has added importance because of the dearth of woodland habitat in this part of the district. A small area of recent wood in the south-east corner is now an integral part of this woodland habitat.

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

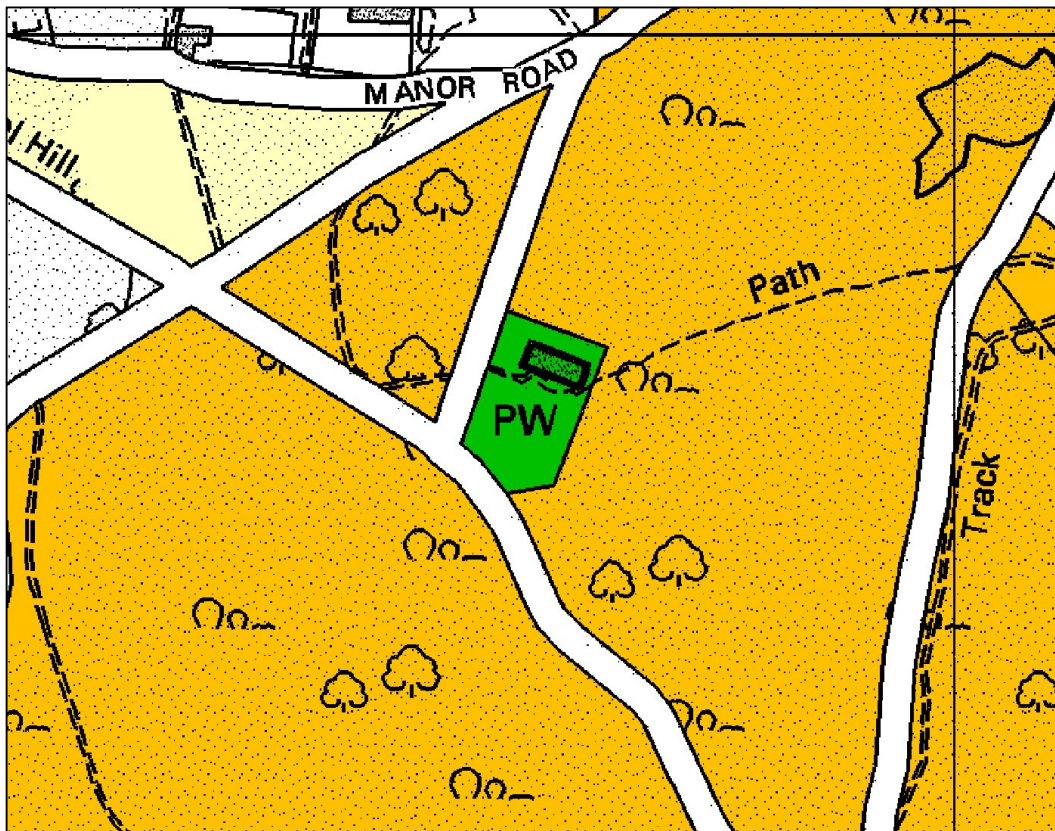
Rationale

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has several ancient woodland indicators. The small area of recent wood provides a habitat extension that is now an integral part of the whole wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (slight extension)



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Ep24 High Beach Churchyard (0.4 ha) TQ407978

The small, isolated Church of the Holy Innocents lies within the Epping Forest SSSI. It comprises short-mown acid grassland that may have been augmented by planting on graves, such as the presence of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), which is, however, felt to be an appropriate species given its location. The general sward is dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with lesser amounts of Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) is locally frequent and other herbs of interest include Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*). The wildlife value of the site is being limited by the over-zealous mowing regime, which could be lessened without compromising the function of the site as a burial ground and memorial area.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

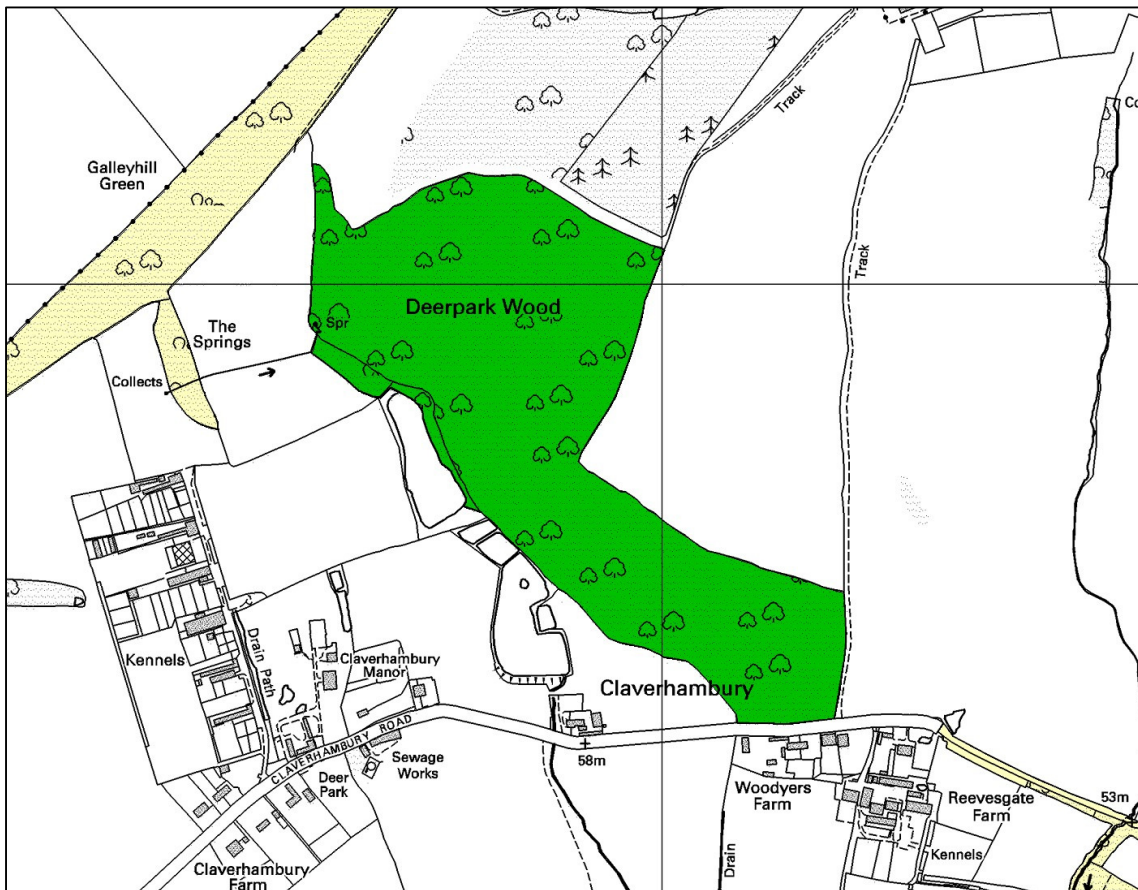
Rationale

An abundance of Common Bent and the presence of other herbs listed above are defining qualities of this grassland type.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep25 Deerpark Wood (19.0 ha) TL 408038

This large ancient wood is characterised by old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, typical of many woods in the district. Heavy shading, especially to the south, has resulted in minimal understorey cover, with only a few small patches of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground flora is not species-rich, much of the ground being dominated by leaf litter and patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). However, there are several ancient woodland indicators – Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). This site lies close to the larger Galleyhill Wood Complex (LoWS Ep16) and provides a partial link between it and other woodland sites to the south-east.

BAP habitats

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

Selection criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

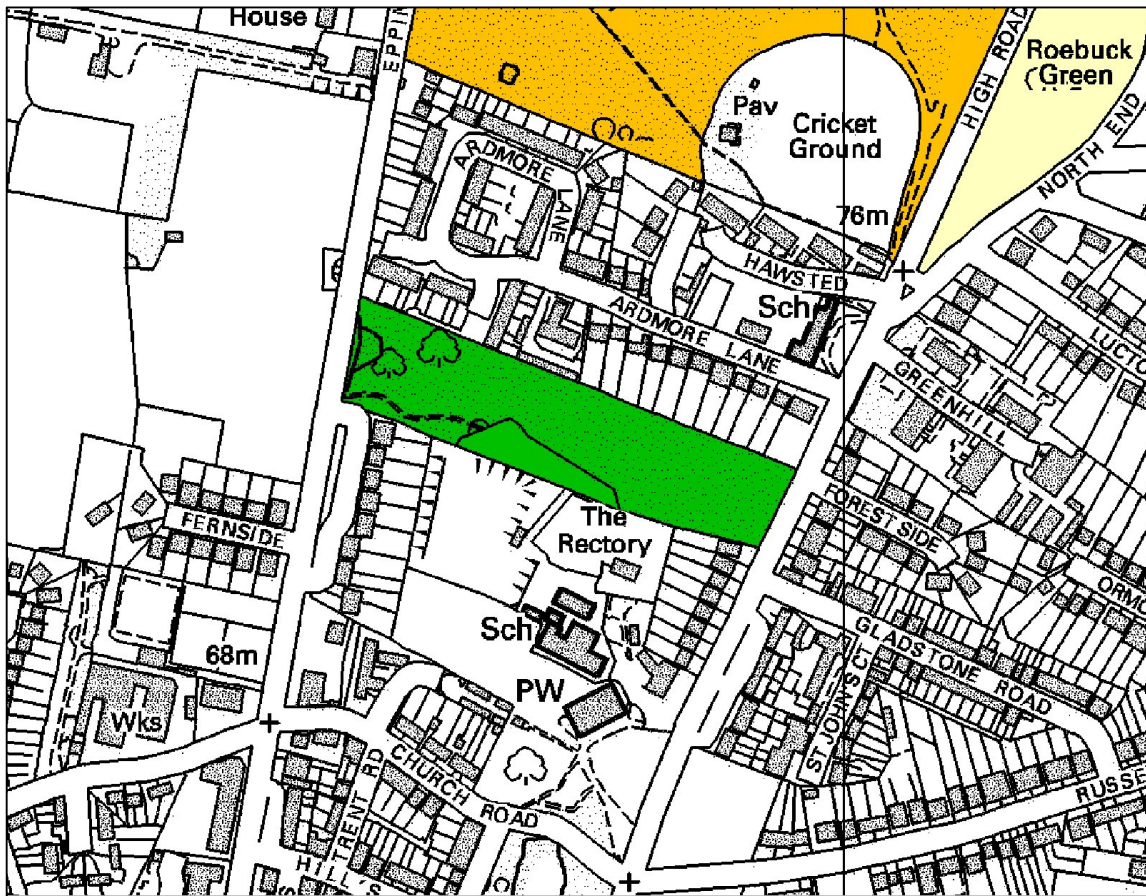
Rationale

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has several ancient woodland indicator plants within the flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep26 Ardmore Lane Wood (2.0 ha) TQ408944

This site is a fragment of Epping Forest that is now surrounded by urban developments of Buckhurst Hill, with the structure of former wood-pasture in the form of pollarded Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) along with standards of oak and planted specimens of Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The widespread Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) also suggests former wood-pasturing. The ground flora is rather sparse under this dense canopy and also trampling pressure, but includes abundant Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Management should aim to reduce the presence of exotic aliens and to conserve the characteristic large Hornbeam pollards.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

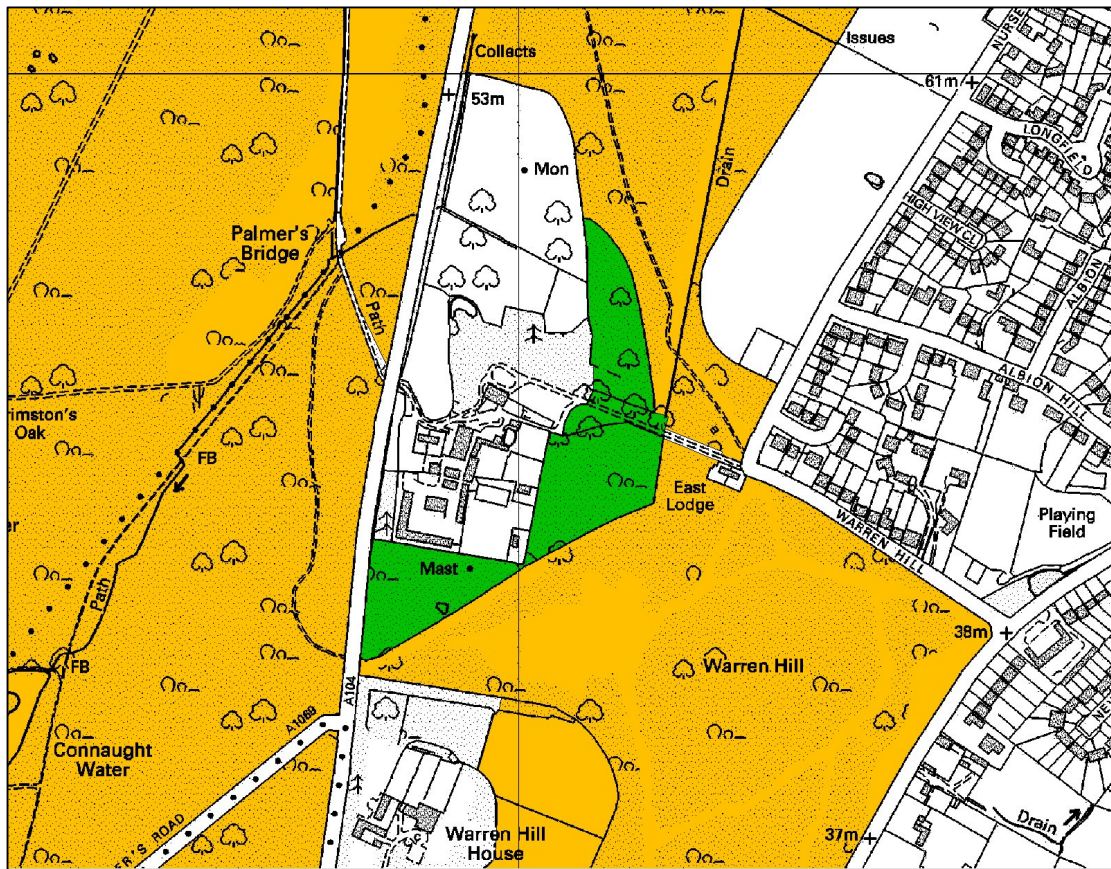
Rationale

This site is a small detached remnant of Epping Forest, itself a former wood-pasture (where a small amount of grazing still occurs). Hornbeam pollards and abundant Holly are characteristic.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep27 Warren Hill Woods (3.6 ha) TQ410955

This site comprises a section of ancient wood excluded from the Epping Forest SSSI. The southern triangle has a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) over abundant Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), the latter indicating that it is former wood-pasture where the unpalatable Holly tends to accumulate. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion is becoming a problem here and across the rest of the site. The northern section has less Holly, more by way of introduced canopy species (e.g. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), but has a slightly more abundant and diverse ground flora. Management to reduce the non-native component of the canopy in favour of native species would be of benefit to this woodland area.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

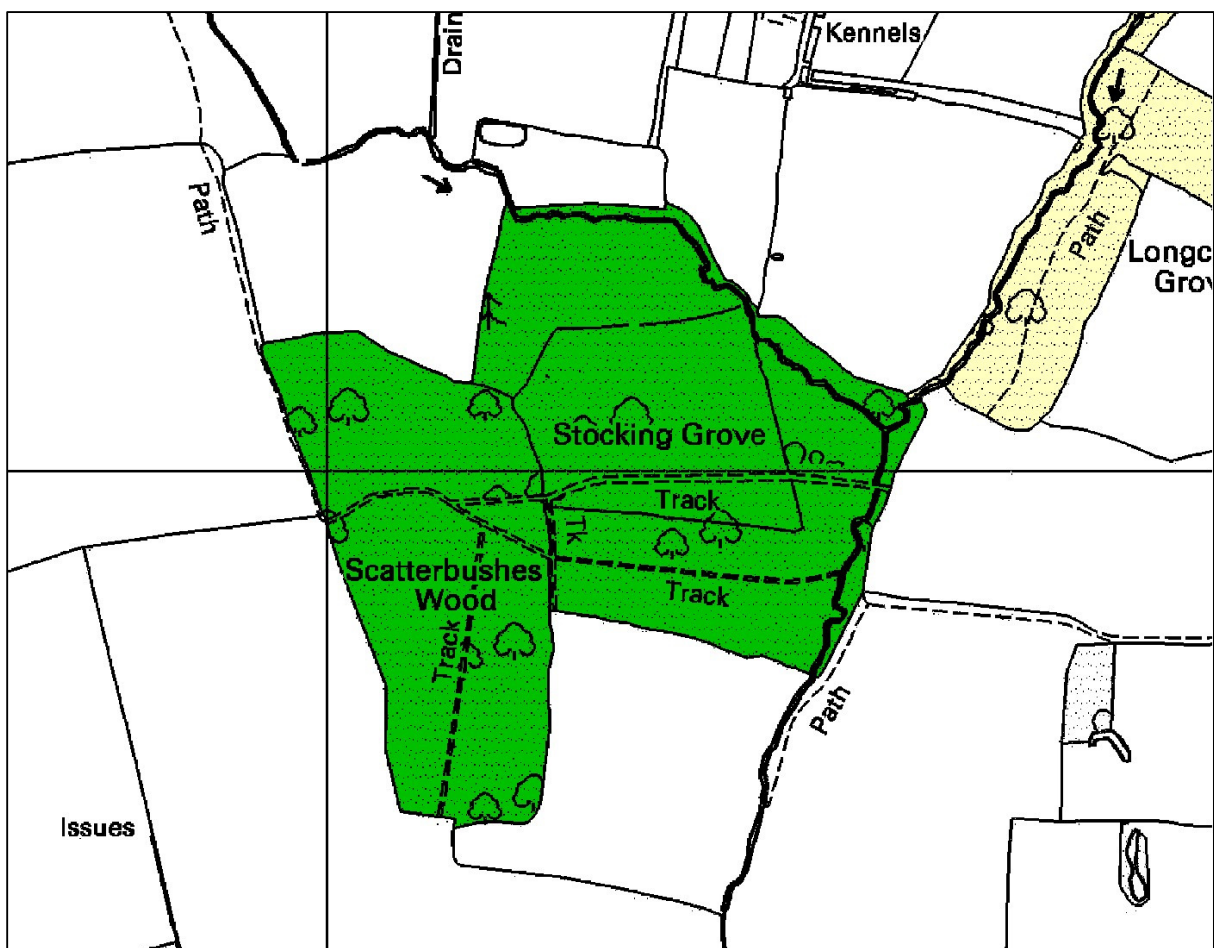
Rationale

This ancient wood may have been excluded from the SSSI because of the presence of exotic species. This site inevitably acts as something of a buffer between activity within the City of London's operations at The Warren and the adjacent SSSI, which has a value in its own right.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (some addition and deletion)



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Ep28 Stocking Grove/Scatterbushes Wood (10.2 ha) TL 411029

Stocking Grove contains much old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with a few Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The understorey is restricted to very occasional Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The species-poor ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). There is a large amount of fallen dead wood. The eastern portion comprises young Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Hornbeam. There is a small, meandering stream within the northern edge of the wood. The value of the site is increased by the fact that it adjoins the ancient Scatterbushes Wood.

Scatterbushes Wood is ancient woodland consisting of blocks of pure old Hornbeam coppice with a few standards of Pedunculate Oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), plus some coppiced Ash. Large mature oaks are confined to the site boundaries. The canopy is very dense, leading to shady conditions below. The understorey is restricted to very occasional Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora is species-poor, with abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), occasional patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and large areas dominated by leaf litter. Dog's Mercury is occasional. There is a large amount of fallen dead wood. Two tracks running east-west link directly with the adjoining woodland, Stocking Grove.

This site, with Longcroft Grove/Claverhambury Road (Ep36), provides an outlier to the much larger ancient woodland blocks of Galleyhill Wood (Ep16) and Deerpark Wood (Ep25).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Ancient Woodland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites (Scatterbushes Wood)

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites (Stocking Grove)

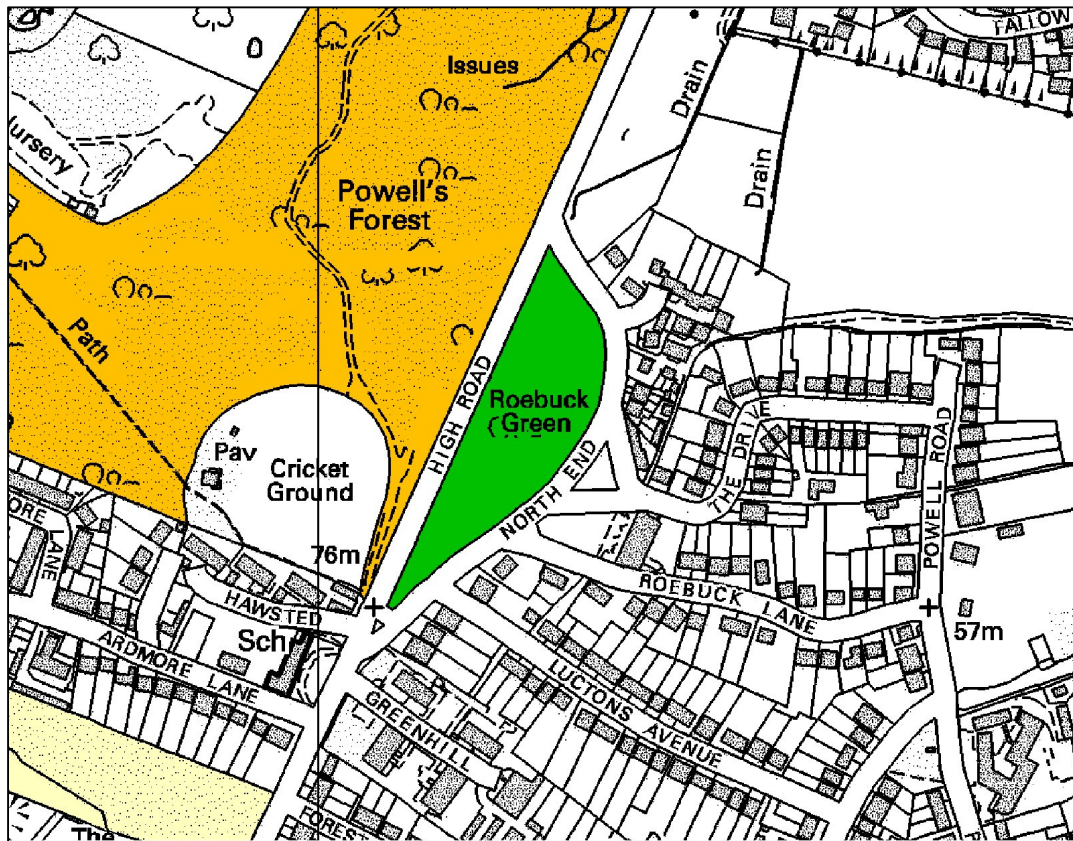
Rationale

Scatterbushes Wood appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Stocking Grove is a woodland type included within the UK BAP for lowland mixed deciduous woodland. It also provides a significant habitat extension for the adjacent ancient wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (as two separate sites)

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep29 Roebuck Green (1.6 ha) TQ411946

Roebuck Green is a remnant of the habitats fringing Epping Forest, now isolated from the main body of the Forest by roads and urban development. The main feature of interest is the remnant unimproved acid grassland, which is currently under threat from scrub encroachment and invasion by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). The key species of the acid grassland are Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). The nationally rare (Red Data Book "K" category) bee *Heriades truncorum* was captured at this site during 2009 but this does not form part of the reasons for site designation. This bee forages mainly on Ragwort (*Senecio* spp.) and nests in dead wood, with conifers possibly forming a key habitat requirement for nest construction.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)
Heathland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

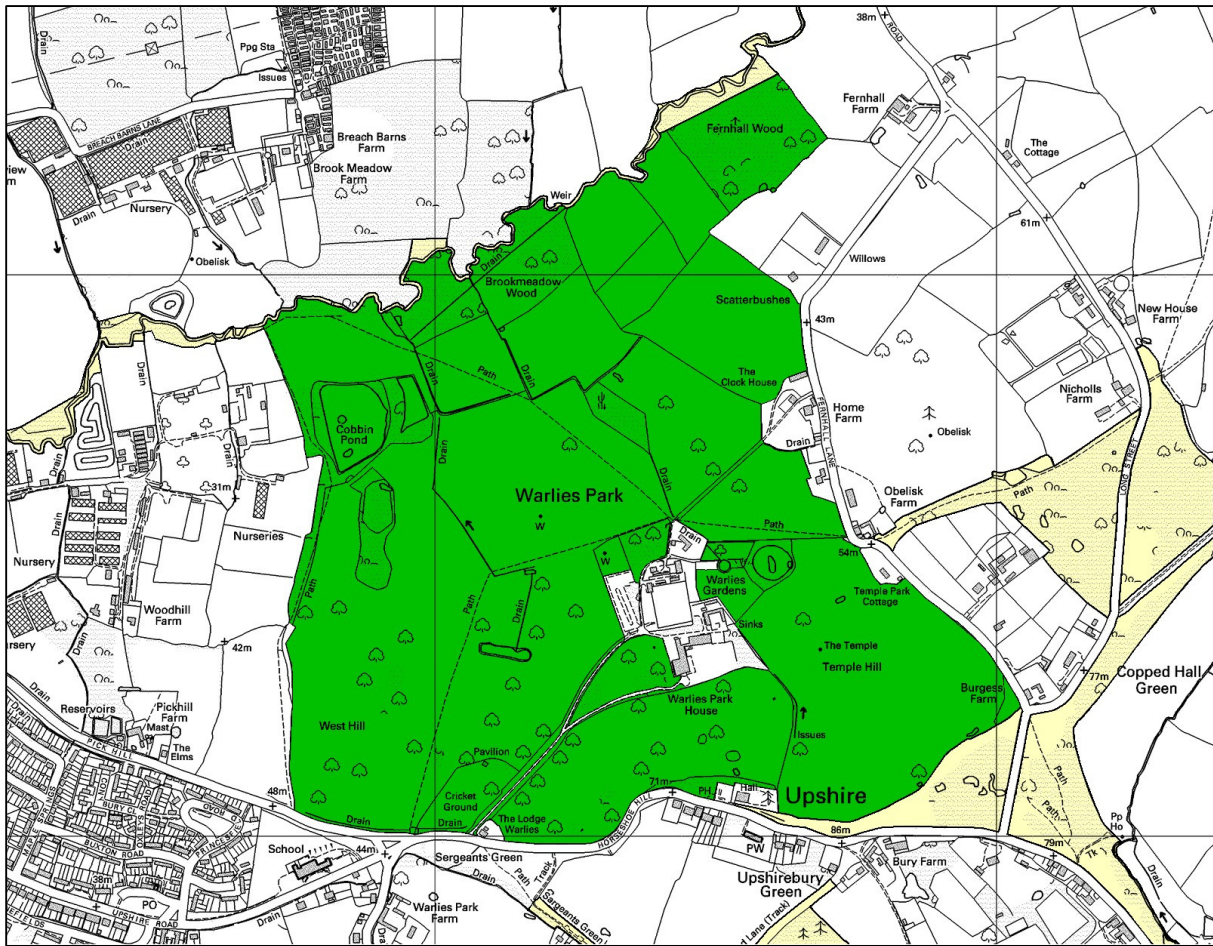
Rationale

Acid grassland is characterised by Common Bent and Sheep's Sorrel. Whilst the band of scrub is included within the site boundary, it should be viewed as a minor component that should be reduced in extent.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009

Reviewed: -



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Ep30 Warlies Park (105.7 ha) TL 412016

This Site is a mosaic of parkland, rough grassland, broad-leaved woodland and wetland (pond and ditch) habitats. The southern half of the site consists of parkland with scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) over rough cattle-grazed pasture. The grassland derives from re-seeded former arable land, but is not species-rich. Coarse grasses are dominant, with few associated herb species. The trees include some young Pedunculate Oak planted to replace older specimens. There are no veteran trees. A colony of Roesel's Bush Cricket has been recorded south of Cobbin's Pond. The northern half of the site consists largely of cattle-grazed pasture and hay meadows. Again, the flora is not species-rich, but is more botanically interesting than the parkland area and includes notable species such as Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*).

The Site includes Brookmeadow Wood, which consists of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards and some patchy invasion by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The understorey is more or less restricted to Hazel and young Sycamore with a little Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The woodland floor cover consists largely of leaf litter and occasional patches of young Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), although the ground flora includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

The Site also includes the greater part of Fernhall Wood (the remaining part being included within Cobbin's Brook LoWS (Ep48)). This is Pedunculate Oak woodland with Hazel and Hornbeam coppice, of similar structure and species composition to Brookmeadow Wood. A small wood just south of Cobbin Pond consists

of Pedunculate Oak and uncoppiced Hornbeam over an understorey of scattered Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and a sparse, species-poor ground flora. A stand of scrubby wet woodland just west of Cobbin Pond consists of willow (*Salix* spp), Blackthorn and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with little ground flora. There is a large amount of dead wood habitat.

Additional habitat diversity is provided by a network of hedgerows and also Cobbin Pond (also known as Buxton's Pond), which is dominated by Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and bordered by Oak, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and thorn.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites
HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland.

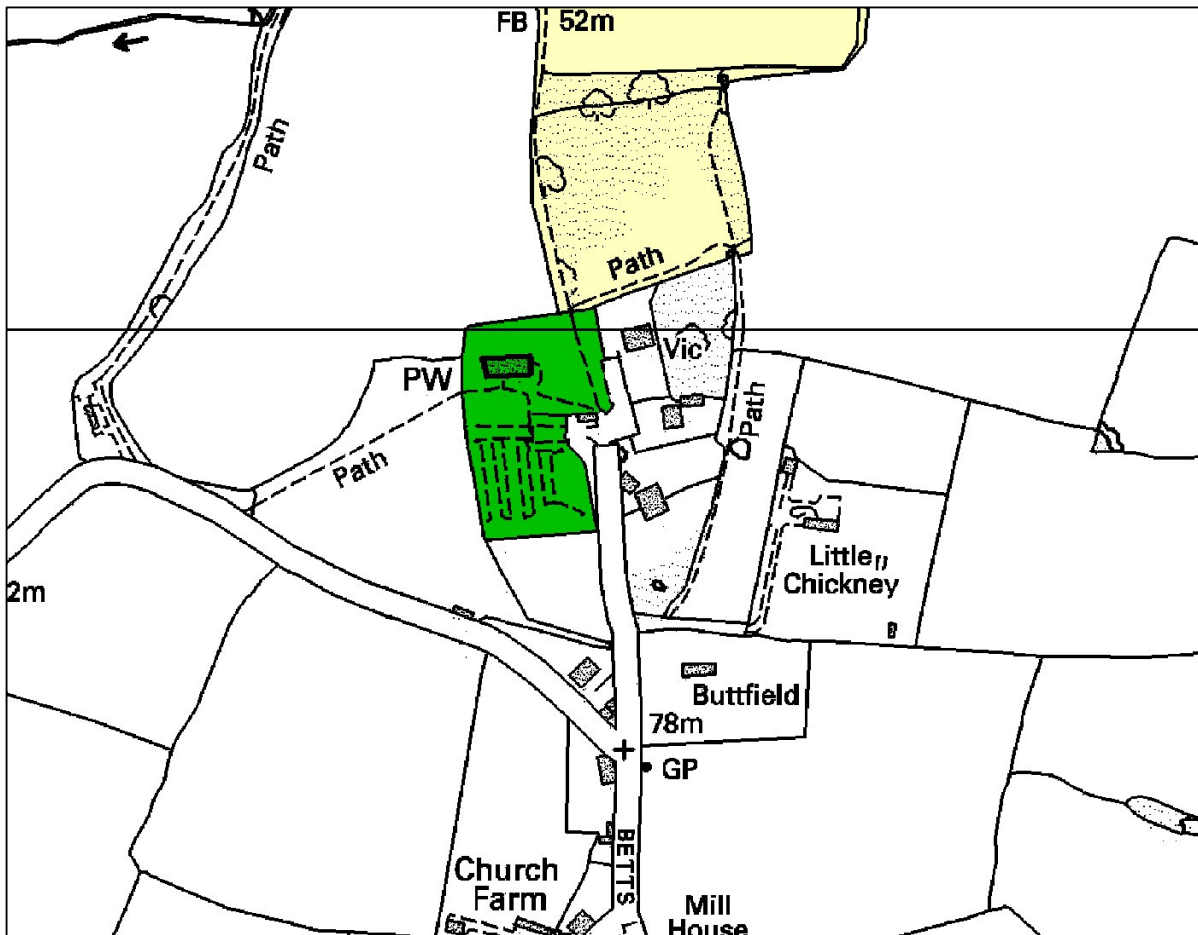
Rationale:

Warlies Park itself is a remnant of medieval parkland, with a strong presumption that such old sites support a wide range of wildlife, including more “cryptic” species, such as invertebrates, lichens and fungi. The woodland is of a type covered by the lowland mixed woodland BAP. The grassland areas outside of the parkland have been included within the LoWS as supporting habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2009 (a very small part of this new site was within an old SINC (W13 Brookmeadow Wood), which has now been split and re-allocated between the Warlies Park and Cobbin's Brook LoWS).

Reviewed: -



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Ep31 All Saints' Parish Churchyard, Nazeing (1.1 ha) TL 413069

This churchyard has well tended mown areas around the church and an area of uncut grassland around the graves to the south side. The base-rich soil conditions are reflected by the presence of Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*). Other species present tolerant of a wider range of soil conditions include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). The site has some damper grassland with Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), a species generally found in relatively unimproved grasslands.

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grasslands (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

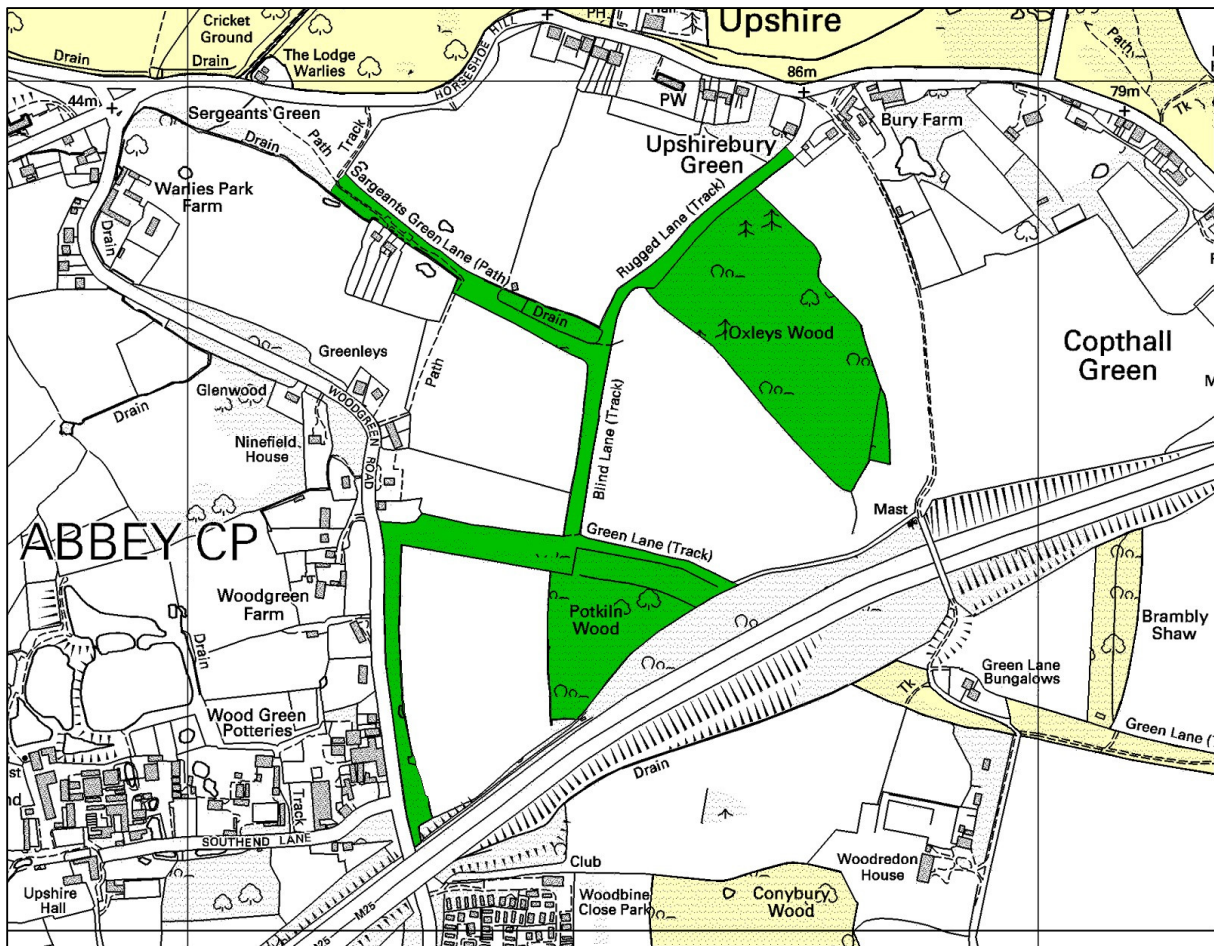
Rationale

As with many churchyards, this site has helped to preserve a piece of relatively unimproved, flower-rich grassland. This churchyard is located directly south of Nazeing Church Fields (Ep34), so that the two sites complement each other and provide a larger area favourable to wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep32 Oxleys Wood Complex (11.0 ha) TL 414005

This site consists of a network of woodland and interconnecting green lanes.

Oxleys Wood TL 417007

Oxleys Wood comprises ancient Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland with both coppiced and uncoppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. Part of the wood has been invaded by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), whilst the centre includes some planted Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). There is little understorey. The ground flora is generally species-poor but does include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The ground layer is largely covered in leaf litter, with occasional Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). There is a large amount of fallen dead wood habitat and some standing dead trees.

Potkiln Wood TL 415003

This non-ancient woodland consists of Pedunculate Oak and Sycamore with virtually no understorey. The ground flora is species-poor, the ground layer being characterised by leaf litter and patches of Bramble. Young and sapling Sycamore is frequent. There are some fine mature Oaks at the eastern edge of the wood and a large old coppiced Horse Chestnut to the south.

Green Lane TL 414004

This L-shaped hedged bridleway contains Sycamore and Birch (*Betula* sp.) in the vicinity of Potkiln Wood (reflecting the wood's composition), giving way to Pedunculate Oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland in other areas. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is locally frequent. Soil types graduate from acidic in the east to neutral in the west with a corresponding change in the ground flora.

Blind Lane TL 414005

Blind Lane is a short bridleway joining Rugged Lane with Green Lane and Potkiln Wood. It is lined by Pedunculate Oak, Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Hornbeam, Hazel and Ash. The flora is typical of neutral soils with, for example, Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

Sergeantsgreen Lane TL 413007

This wide green lane has a good mix of neutral soil grasses, bordered by hedges of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*). It forms part of a complex of bridleways to the south of Upshire Green and is well used by horse riders.

Rugged Lane TL 416008

Rugged Lane is a narrow, tree-lined green lane with the main tree species being Pedunculate Oak and Ash with Hornbeam close to Oxleys Wood. The ground flora displays a typical array of hedgerow species.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient Woodland, 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

Oxleys Wood and Potkiln Wood are woodlands covered by the UK BAP listed above. Oxleys Wood appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has some indicator species. The green lanes provide habitat connectivity between the woodland blocks within the site and between this site and adjacent LoWS. They appear on old maps and are probably ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep33 Nazeing Triangle LNR (0.5 ha) TL 414065

Located in the village of Nazeing, this small Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is surrounded by hedgerows that include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The site comprises a pond area and surrounding wet Willow (*Salix* spp.) habitat. A boardwalk provides access to a viewing area over the pond. The wet habitat includes Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Waterplantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and Flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*). A small area of dry grassland is found in the south eastern corner of the site. Here amongst the herb flora are Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). The site is also important habitat for Great Crested Newts, a national and county Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species.

Apart from the naturally developing vegetation a number of species have been introduced to enhance the floral diversity.

BAP Habitats

Ponds (UK)

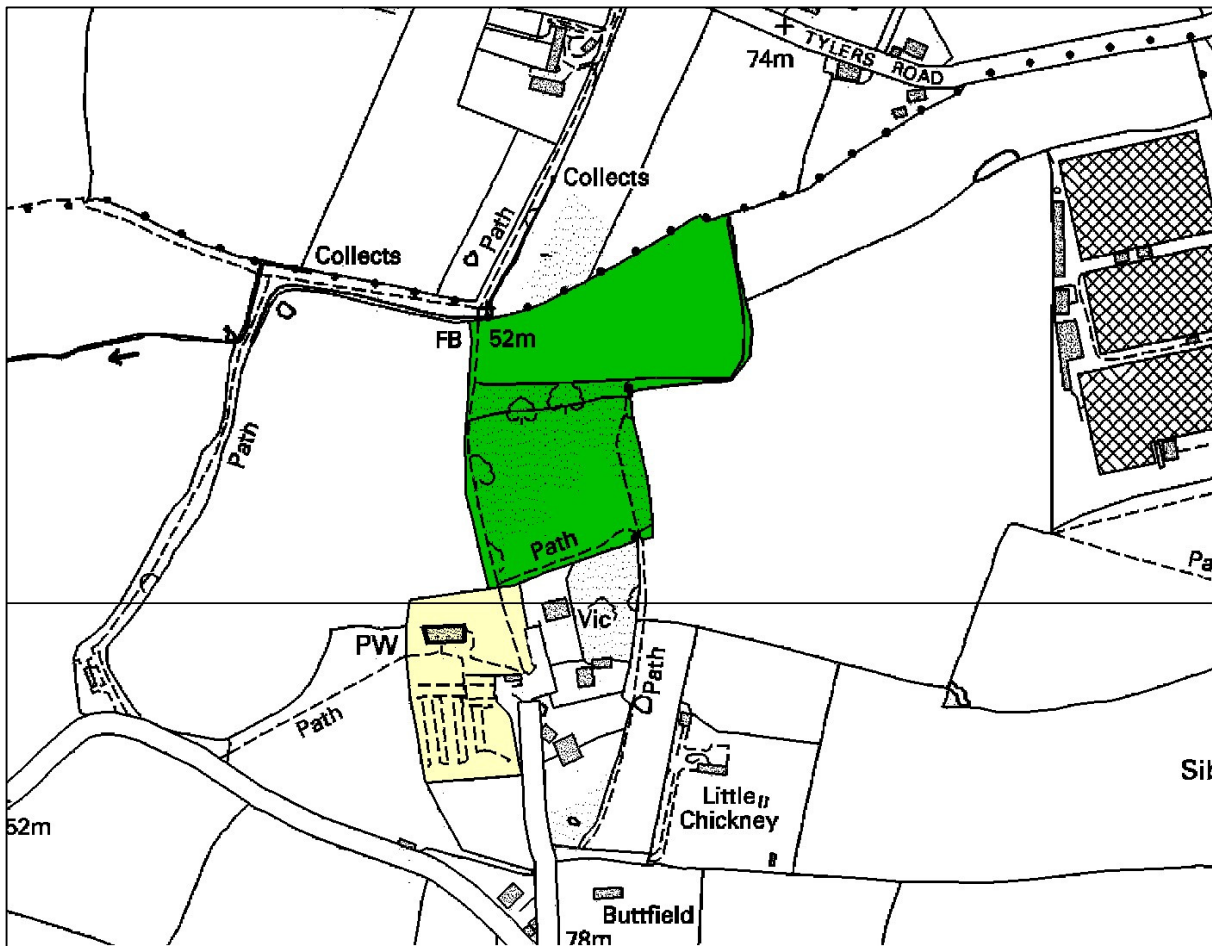
Selection Criteria

HC28 – small-component mosaics

Rationale

This small nature reserve has been carefully managed to create a varied selection of habitats in a small area. The site supports a significant population of Great-crested Newts. The site also provides a haven with good scrub cover for nesting birds and small mammals, whilst the wet habitat is favoured by reptiles such as Grass Snake and many species of invertebrate. In addition the reserve has great value as an educational resource in the local area.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** 2009



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Ep34 Nazeing Church Fields (3.4 ha) TL 414071

This site comprises two fields of neutral grassland and a small woodland area between them. The southern field is north facing and moderately steeply sloping, with apparent seepage areas centrally. There is a great deal of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) encroachment here. The northern field, which was closely sheep grazed at the time of survey, is nearly level and bounded to the north by a small stream/wet ditch. The presence of established ant hills may be evidence of the temporal continuity of the grassland. Grassland species of note include Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

BAP Habitats

Species-rich Grassland (Essex)

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

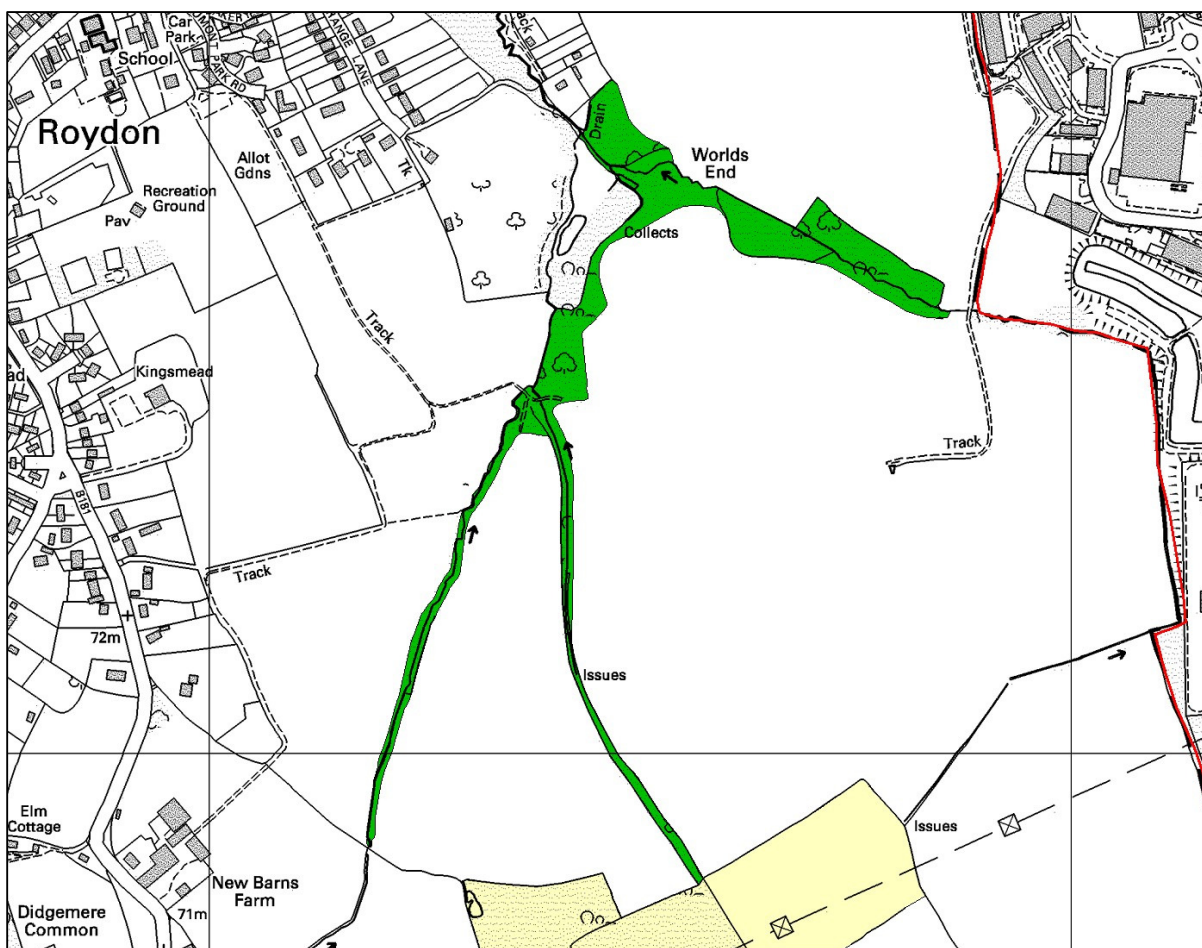
Rationale

Much of the site is too steeply sloping to have been subject to ploughing and is likely to have been grassland continuously over an extended period. This implies a likelihood to support a diverse flora and fauna, including more “cryptic” species, such as mosses, fungi and invertebrates.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1998

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep35 Worlds End (4.4 ha) TL 414094

This site comprises an ancient green lane and wet, streamside woodland, forming an unusual habitat for the District. To the north, willow (*Salix* spp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are all locally dominant in an open woodland canopy. A well developed understorey includes old Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and the ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Two other indicators, Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), are also present. To the south, Blind Lane and the linear strip of streamside woodland leading towards New Barns Farm have a good structure and varied composition. The hedges of Blind Lane include old coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) amongst Ash, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak (including pollards) and Hazel. The site includes several native Black Poplars (*Populus nigra* ssp. *betulifolia*).

This site is significant for providing woodland, scrub and wetland habitat within the arable landscape between Harlow and Roydon.

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland, Hedgerows (UK)

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

Selection Criteria

HC3 – Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

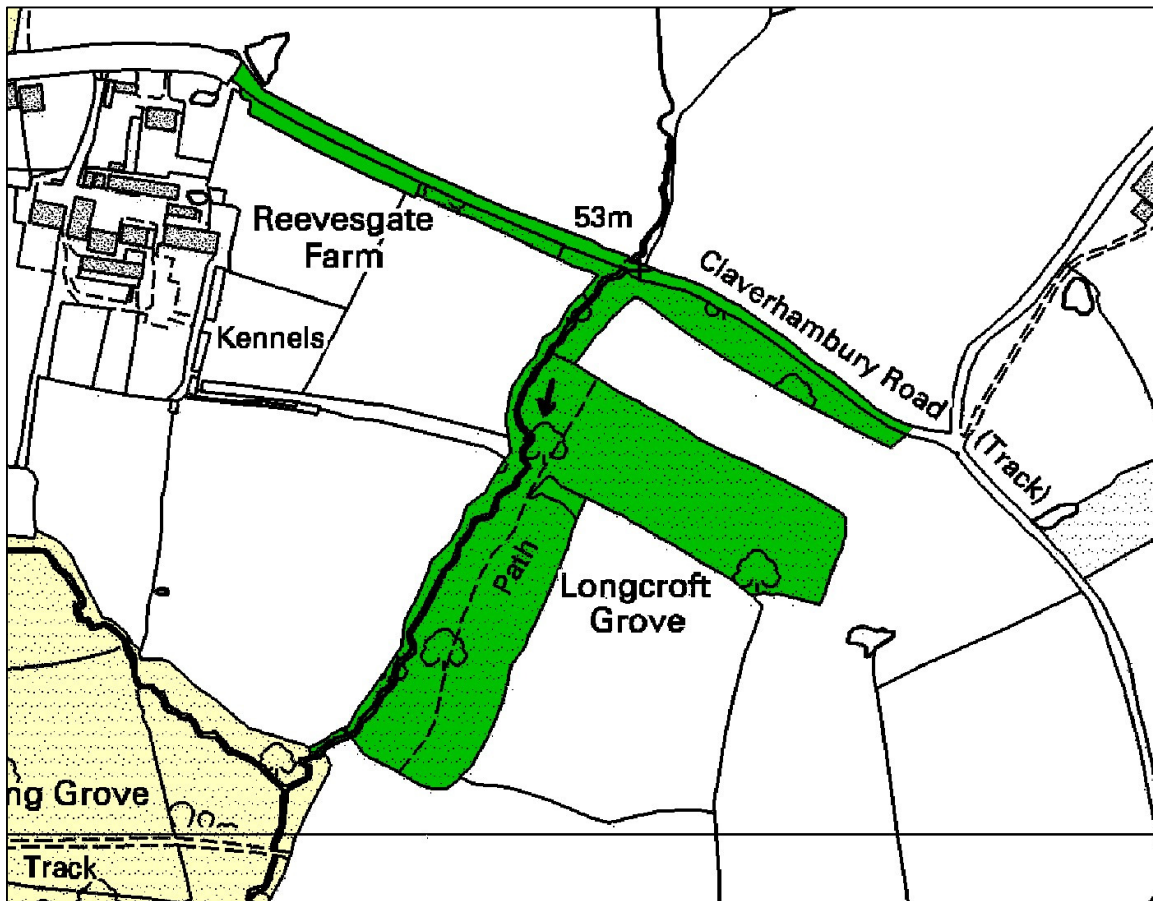
Rationale

The site includes wet woodland, a Priority Habitat Woodland Type. The green lane provides habitat connectivity between the site's woodland and an adjacent LoWS (Roydon Brickfields North (Ep37)). As such, Criterion HC29 – Wildlife Corridors is equally applicable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep36 Longcroft Grove/Claverhambury Road (3.7 ha) TL 416032

This site consists of a small area of ancient woodland and an adjacent green lane. Longcroft Grove is a streamside ancient wood dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Its sparse understorey is chiefly Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The shaded ground flora is sparse but includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Included within this part of the Site is the short section of hedge that connects Longcroft Grove to Stocking Grove. Claverhambury Road is a green lane lined by Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) on the western bank with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) to the east. The ground flora is more or less limited to the hedgerow bases due to the frequent passage of four-wheel drive vehicles.

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

Longcroft Grove appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and has some indicator species. Claverhambury Road appears on old maps and is probably itself ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep37 Roydon Brickfields North (9.5 ha) TL 415087

This site comprises tall grassland with varying amounts of scrub and scattered trees. Coarse grasses are dominant, including False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), but the sward also includes Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Timothy-grass (*Phleum pratense* agg.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). However, there is a reasonable diversity of associated herbs, including Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). The areas of scattered scrub and trees provide some habitat diversity but are of lesser importance than the grassland component and should be managed to prevent them from dominating the site.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

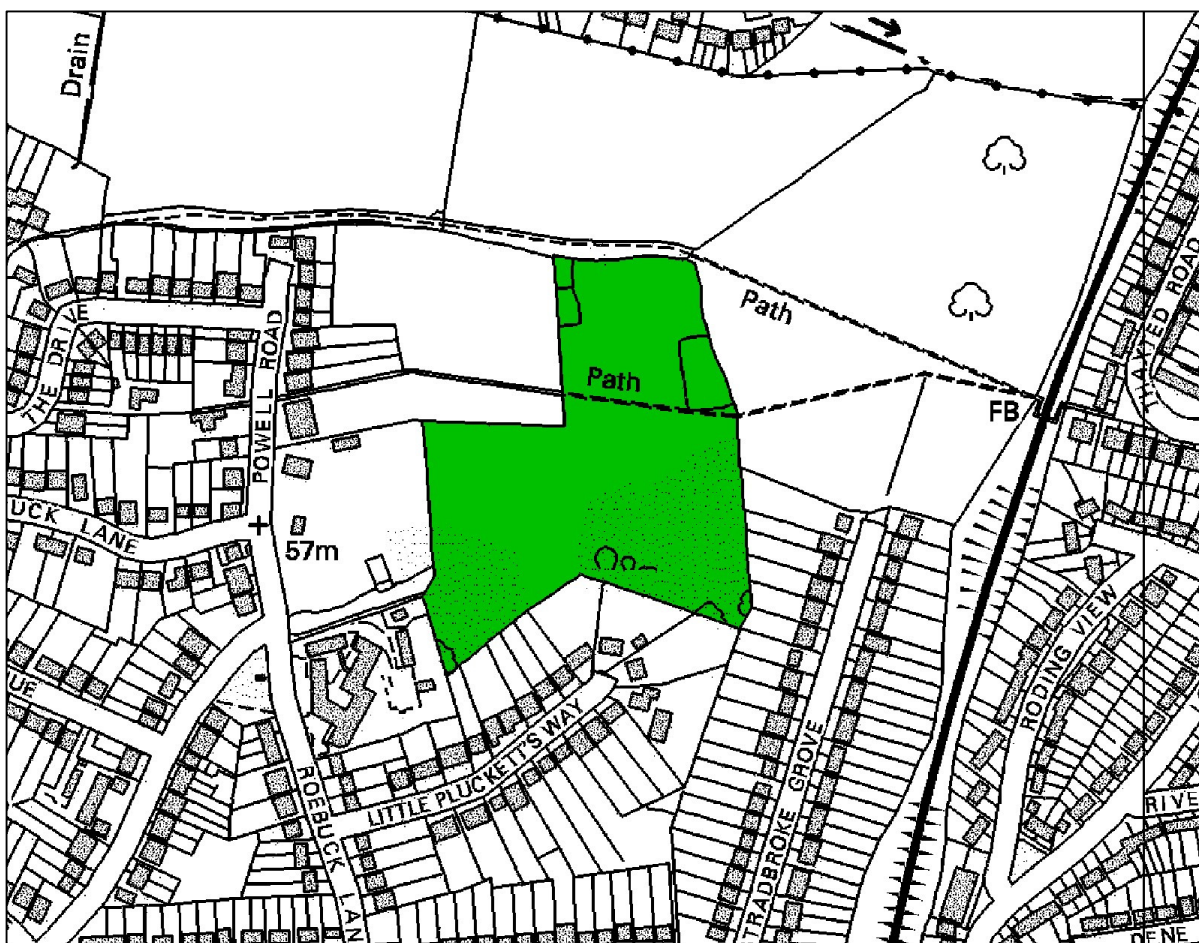
Rationale

It is felt that the grassland vegetation falls within the scope of the MG5 *Centaureo-cynosuretum* NVC grassland type, which is the focus of the Lowland Meadows UK BAP. Management is needed to maintain this sward type.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep38 Linder's Field LNR (3.6 ha) TQ416945

The southern end of this LNR comprises the remnants of an ancient wood formerly known as Little Plucketts. Characteristic ancient woodland species still survive, including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and old Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) bushes. The rare Essex plant Orpine (*Sedum telephium*) has been recorded in the past, but its current status is uncertain.

The remainder of the site comprises species-rich old grassland, with a pond and scrub. Characteristic species include Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), with many other species present at low density. Species of note include Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) (an Essex Red Data List plant) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Common Frog, Smooth Newt and Common Toad (a UK BAP species) occur here.

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

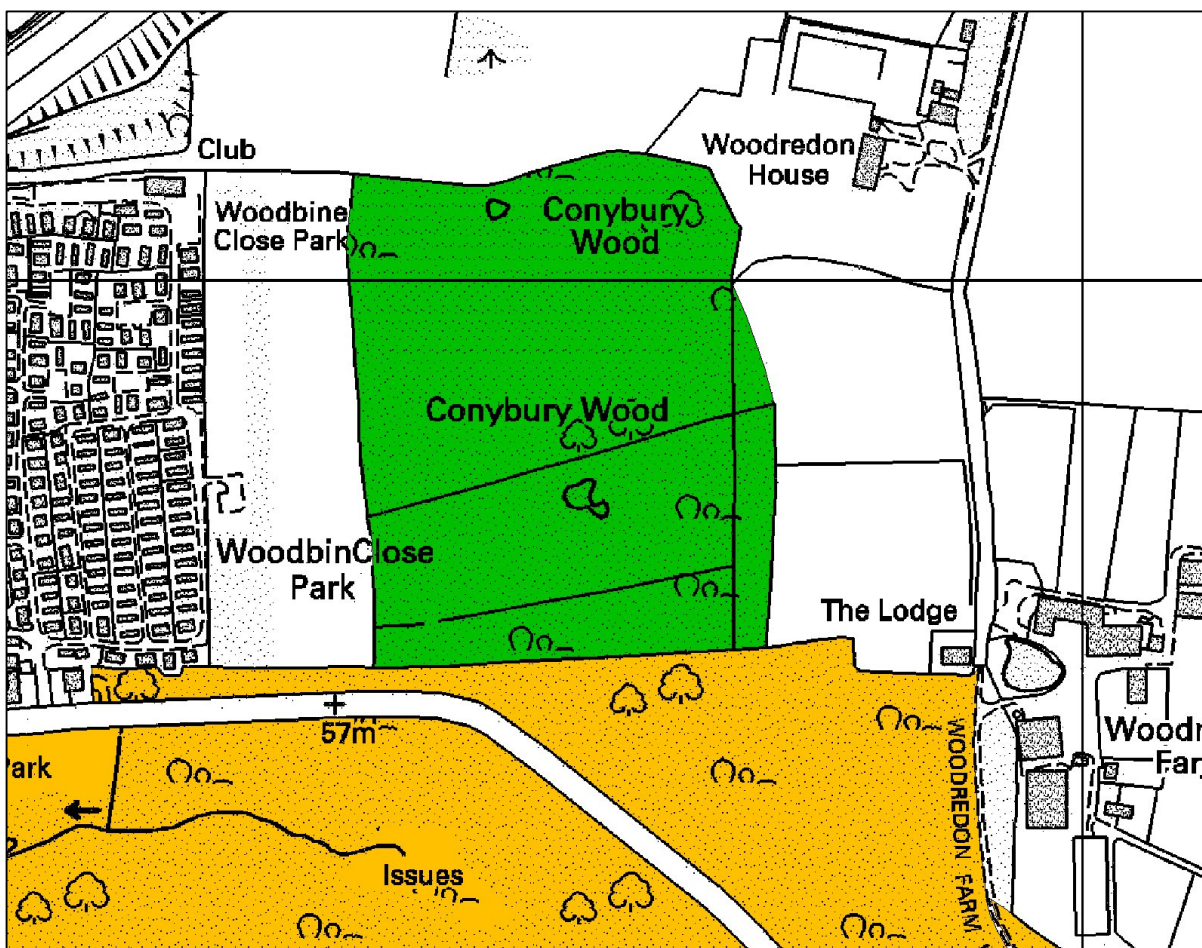
Rationale

The ancient status of the woodland component is supported by documentary and field evidence. The species-rich grassland, including Sneezewort, suggests little if any agricultural improvement to the sward.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1996

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep39 Conybury Wood (7.5 ha) TQ416999

The northern half of this site appears as a named wood on the 1882 Ordnance Survey 6" map and may be ancient, whilst the southern half is recent secondary growth on hummocky ground that may represent former mineral extraction. These conditions combine to create woodland with a very diverse character and habitat conditions. The northern section is on a steep, south-facing slope and supports massive trees of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and mature Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is locally frequent. The ground flora is rather sparse on account of the dense shading from the canopy, but Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is locally abundant. The southern part of the site comprises a mixed canopy of oak, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hornbeam and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There is some weak Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) growth in a dividing ditch, whilst more typical ground flora includes Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

BAP Habitats

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

Selection Criteria

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

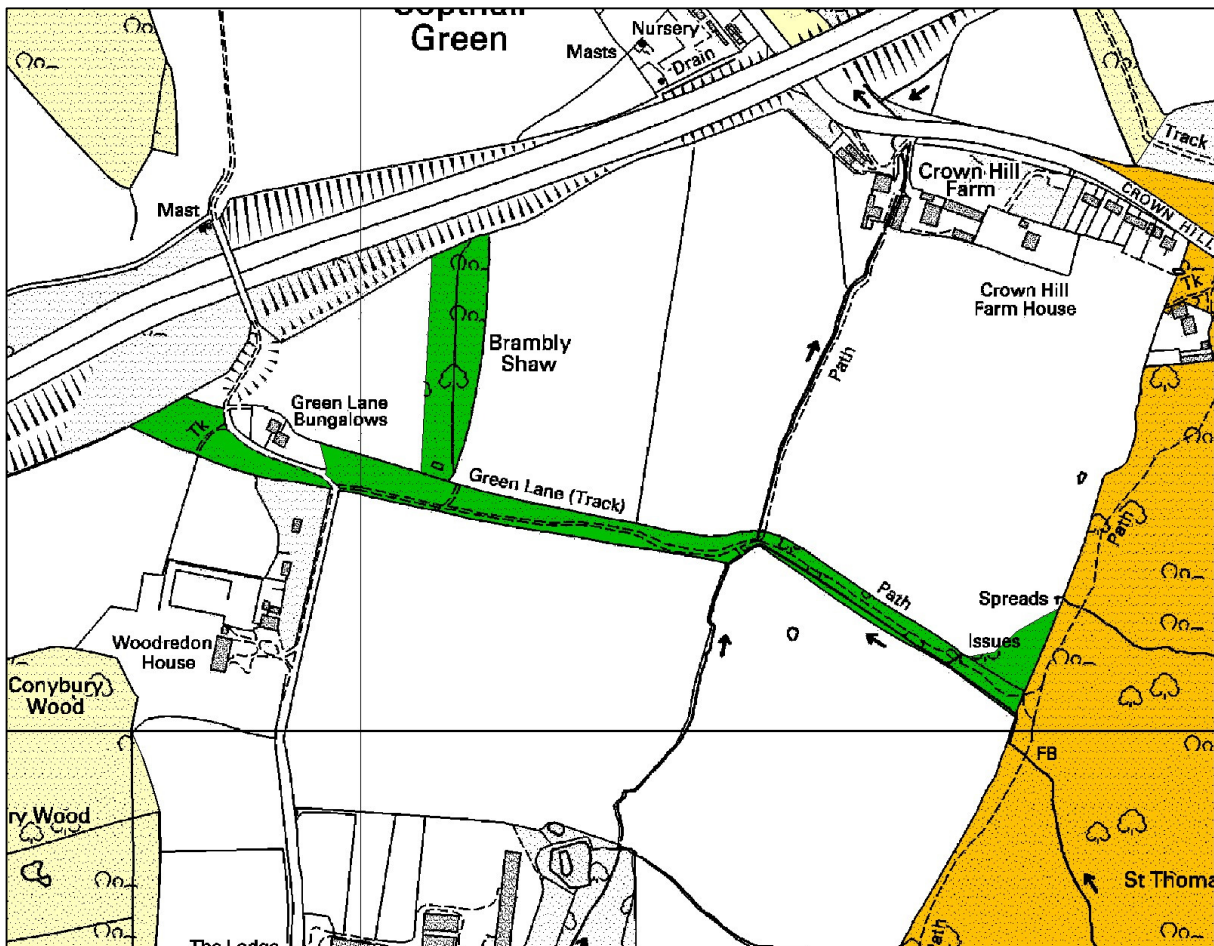
Rationale

Regardless of the true extent of ancient woodland in this site, it presents a very diverse range of woodland conditions, ranging from very dry to wet and swampy, with consequent diverse flora and fauna.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009



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Ep40 Green Lane/Brambly Shaw (3.6 ha) TL419002

Prior to the construction of the M25, this lane connected with the Oxley Wood Complex LoWS. Although the motorway is likely to represent a formidable barrier to the dispersal of many animals, the lane and Brambly Shaw should help wildlife to disperse into the countryside surrounding Epping Forest. An interesting example of this was highlighted in 2009, with the discovery of the first modern Essex record of the solitary nomad bee *Nomada lathburiana*. This cuckoo-bee attacks the nests of the solitary bee *Andrena cineraria*, a species only known in Essex from within Epping Forest and not previously recorded from near this lane. It is thought that this species pair is expanding its range and the ability to exploit suitable habitat along wildlife corridors will be instrumental in its further spread in Essex. The likely invertebrate interest of this ancient lane is also illustrated by the presence of the click beetle *Ampedus balteatus*, which is rare in Essex.

The lane comprises a mix of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) over Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*). Brambly Shaw is perhaps partly ancient woodland, with the eastern section supporting old Hornbeam coppice over abundant Bluebell. The remainder comprises Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows (UK)

Ancient Woodland, 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

Part of Brambly Shaw is thought to be ancient, whilst the remainder adds to the overall habitat extent. The main lane is an ancient landscape feature that should provide some connectivity between Conybury Wood and Epping Forest and possibly still to the Oxley Wood Complex.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2009 (extended)