



BRENTWOOD BOROUGH
LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW
2012



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FINAL

December 2012

Prepared by Essex Ecology Services Ltd.
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IMPORTANT NOTES

Nomenclature

The terms "Site of Importance for Nature Conservation" (SINC) and "County Wildlife Site" (CoWS) used in previous reports are here replaced by the currently generally accepted term of "Local Wildlife Site" (LoWS).

Where a building, other property or location is used in the name of a LoWS it is not being implied that the ownership of that LoWS is associated with the property named. It is merely a descriptive use for ease of locating a piece of land that might have no universally recognised name or other obvious geographical location.

In the report, when a location is referred to as a Site (with a capital S) this is an abbreviation that means it is a Local Wildlife Site.

Scope

The new National Planning Policy Framework places a responsibility on all local planning authorities to protect and enhance their flora, fauna and wildlife habitats ("biodiversity") and also geological features and soils ("geodiversity"). This report only considers the former. Our appreciation of geodiversity and the requirements to conserve it are at a more elementary stage in Essex, with ongoing research into a series of LoGS (Local Geological/geomorphological Sites).

Rationale

It is hoped that this identification of Local Wildlife Sites is not seen as a hindrance to the livelihood of those landowners affected, or an attempt to blindly influence the management of such sites. It is an attempt to describe the wildlife resource we have in the county as a whole, which has been preserved thus far as a result of the management by landowners. The Essex Wildlife Trust and the Local and Unitary Authorities of Essex hope to be able to help landowners retain and enhance this biodiversity for the future. In recent years, the existence of a Local Wildlife Site on a farm has been seen as an advantage when applying for grant-aid from agri-environment schemes, with such grants favouring areas with a proven nature conservation interest.

Public Access

Identification as a Local Wildlife Site within this report does not confer any right of public access to the site, above and beyond any Public Rights of Way that may exist. The vast majority of the Sites are in private ownership and this should be respected at all times. Those few sites that are described as being appropriate for environmental education already have some level of public access.

Land Ownership

It has always been the intention of the Essex Wildlife Trust to contact all landowners of LoWS, advising them of this identification and promoting nature conservation management of the site. To that end, the Essex Wildlife Trust has appointed a Local Wildlife Sites Officer to administer this suite of sites across the county. While this lengthy undertaking is in progress it is requested that the Essex Wildlife Trust is contacted prior to any formal approach regarding any Site identified within this report.

Boundaries

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accurate mapping of the site boundaries, the accompanying maps should be considered as being illustrative only. This is especially true for any SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), which are included within LoWS site boundary maps to help interpret the context of LoWS in the wider countryside. Definitive SSSI boundaries are maintained by Natural England. The Essex Wildlife Trust should be consulted over the precise boundary of all Local Wildlife Sites, should any dispute occur or precise determination be required.

Planning

The information within this report should not be used as a bypass to the normal planning consultation process. It is inevitable that, with the passage of time, some Local Wildlife Sites will be lost or damaged to the extent that they are no longer considered as such. Similarly, new Sites may be identified and periodically added to the list for each Local Authority. For these reasons, the Essex Wildlife Trust still wishes to be consulted on all planning proposals affecting areas of open countryside, regardless of whether or not they apparently affect a Site detailed within this report. This report will allow a greater understanding of the wildlife resources of the district/borough and will make the consultation process much faster and more cost-effective.

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes clear that there should be a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with the caveat that all sites of significant nature conservation value should be afforded appropriate protection within the planning system. This might lead to an assumption that all land outside of LoWS designation is fit to be developed, with no nature conservation issues. This is most definitely not the case. Legally protected bat roosts, Great Crested Newt breeding ponds with associated terrestrial habitat and Badger setts are not routinely identified within the LoWS register for any Local Authority, yet they remain important material considerations that could be affected by planning proposals. Failure to consider these, and other similar, wildlife issues could result in an offence being committed by a developer if the ecological issues relating to a site are not properly explored prior to the submission of a planning application and it is recommended that no planning consent is granted without an appropriate ecological assessment accompanying the planning submission.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In 1992, the Essex Wildlife Trust identified a suite of “Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation” (SINCs) across Brentwood Borough, comprising areas of ancient woodland, flower-rich grasslands, heath and other areas of substantive nature conservation importance.
2. In 1994, a boundary change transferred a small number of similar sites previously identified by the London Borough of Havering into Brentwood Borough, without considering whether or not they met the site selection criteria in use at that time.
3. Since then, there have been significant changes to the structure and breadth of the Selection Criteria used to identify such sites, now known in Essex as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS).
4. These changes have incorporated into the selection process the national and local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) initiatives (not included in the 1992 review, since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro that started the BAP process was only held that year). Other changes include the exclusion of nationally significant wildlife sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SSSI) from the LoWS register, in line with national guidance from Defra.
5. This current review has seen a net increase of just seven sites (from 140 in 1992 to 147 now), but this statistic does not take account of the considerable number of changes that are hereby brought about.
6. Sixteen of the old sites have been dropped from the LoWS register on the grounds that they no longer meet the more demanding selection criteria. Thirty-four completely new sites have been identified, along with numerous more subtle boundary changes that have seen parcels of land added to, or deleted from, existing sites. In some instances, two or more old sites have now been merged into one, larger site.
7. The three SSSIs within the borough (Curtismill Green, Thorndon Park and The Coppice, Kelvedon Hatch) remain under guidance from Natural England, but are no longer considered to be LoWS.
8. Many small fragments of ancient woodland have been added to the LoWS register, having been missed by the rather cruder selection process in 1992. Conversely, several grassland areas have been deleted on account of their deterioration in quality.
9. For its area, Brentwood Borough does a little better than average across the fourteen Essex Local Authorities for the percentage of land identified as LoWS habitat.
10. It should be of concern that all of the Essex County Council “Special Roadside Verges” in the borough have been deleted on the grounds of their poor condition, suggesting that a review of verge management is long overdue.

11. The key problems for management of the diverse woodland resource in the borough are damage caused by browsing deer and neglect of former coppice. The deer population across Essex continues to grow and the large herds to the north of the A12 are having a particularly significant impact upon the ground flora and tree/shrub regeneration in many of the ancient woodlands. Most of these woods were traditionally managed as coppices, providing fuel and construction timbers for the local community, but now these products are largely redundant in modern society, the economics of wood management poses a real problem to conservationists who would desire to see the diversification of woodland habitats that result from this ancient management practice.
12. Such matters require solutions at a landscape scale and, to that end, the Essex Wildlife Trust is promoting “Living Landscapes”: an initiative to improve the Essex countryside at large for the benefit of wildlife, local businesses and for the people that live in, work in and enjoy the Essex countryside. There are seven broad Living Landscape areas within the borough boundary, although only four of these have a significant extent within the borough. Only one, Thorndon Woods, lies completely within Brentwood Borough.
13. This matter is also embraced by the new (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) issued by central government to assist local authorities in dispensing their planning duties. The maintenance of a register of important wildlife sites with up to date information about them as a robust evidence base is another NPPF requirement, and this report helps to fulfil that obligation towards conservation of biodiversity within Brentwood Borough.
14. In order to maintain this robust evidence base into the future, an on-going review programme is recommended, which engages the relevant land owners in managing their sites in an economically viable way that remains sensitive to the important wildlife they support. This review should periodically refresh the information held about LoWS and their nature conservation merits.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

This report has been produced by Essex Ecology Services Ltd. (EECOS), the ecological consultancy of the Essex Wildlife Trust, on behalf of Brentwood Borough Council. It comprises the results of a review of existing and potential Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) intended to contribute to the Local Development Plan currently being compiled. It includes a register of all those sites henceforth considered to be Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) within Brentwood Borough, some 147 in total, along with the identification of a few Potential LoWS for which there is a lack of information or a need to bring about reasonable improvements through active management.

1.2 Background

A previous survey report, produced by the Essex Wildlife Trust in 1992, incorporated a basic land use survey with an exercise to identify the most important wildlife habitats present within the Borough. These important wildlife habitats were identified as “Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation” (SINC), with the results summarised in “Nature conservation – A Reference Guide” produced in individual district volumes.

In the intervening years these SINC sites have been referred to as County Wildlife Sites and, in some places, Wildlife Sites, but in Essex the term Local Wildlife Sites has now been adopted and is used throughout this report to refer to sites of this designation, irrespective of the terminology that was used at the time. Notwithstanding these name changes, it should be stressed that Local Wildlife Sites always have and should still be viewed as being of county importance, reflecting the natural variation in type and quality of woods, grasslands, water bodies, heaths and other habitats across the county.

There will remain, of course, many places that are of importance to wildlife at a more parochial level, that are not afforded LoWS status. These should still be given due consideration by a local authority when determining planning applications, with LoWS status not being a convenient short-cut to deciding whether or not a planning application has environmental impacts. Many local authorities have policies which state that there will be a presumption against granting planning consent for applications which have an effect on

LoWS, a need for which is emphasised within the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, published March 2012. See Section 3.5, below). However, there will be many other sites the development of which would have implications for wildlife and the environment and these sites will require a preliminary ecological assessment of some sort in order to determining the impact of a planning application. Some of these may be of sufficient merit to refuse planning consent. Wildlife implications on these sites may take the form of the presence of legally protected species (e.g. Badgers, bats, Water Voles and nesting birds), or small fragments of habitats that might, if larger or less ecologically isolated, have qualified for LoWS status. There may be other sites that meet the selection criteria that have not been assessed during this project, as they have not been brought to our attention. Developments immediately next to a LoWS might still have an impact on the ecology of the Site even if there is no direct loss of habitat.

1.3 Objectives of the Review

The principal objective of this review is to update the LoWS network within Brentwood Borough in the light of changes in available knowledge and by application of the new site selection criteria for Essex. This updated information can contribute to a robust evidence base as required of each local authority as part of its Local Development Plan. The Selection Criteria are provided as Annex Report 1 and can also be downloaded via link given on the web site www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/local-wildlife-sites. **N.B.** The current Selection Criteria document was written in 2010, before the publication of the Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, which brought about the change from one UK BAP initiative to four national BAPs. Whilst the Selection Criteria refer to the UK BAP throughout, all the relevant Habitat and Species BAPs have been directly transferred to the new England BAP.

It should be noted that the NPPF encourages Local Authorities to have regard to conserving both biodiversity and geodiversity. The Framework reinforces the pre-existing planning system set out in planning law, of evidence-based Local Plans developed in consultation with the communities that they cover. Furthermore, the NPPF states that, in preparing their Local Plan, local planning authorities must use adequate, up to date evidence has been used. The appropriate conservation of the Local Wildlife Sites identified within this report can be seen as a basic starting point in fulfilling biodiversity obligations, but this study does not consider geodiversity and the fledging network of Local Geological/geomorphological Sites (LoGS) being identified by GeoEssex. Further information about sites of geological importance can be supplied by EECOS in association with GeoEssex.

1.4 Review Process and Methodology

The basis for this review has been a field survey, in conjunction with a desk study and consultation exercise to identify potential new Sites and to validate or delete existing Sites. All of these candidate sites were then assessed against the current LoWS Selection Criteria to determine whether or not they qualified for LoWS status. Species and habitats now afforded attention via county or national Biodiversity Action Plans were specifically considered and their representation within the LoWS network ensured. The current LoWS Selection Criteria have been developed through reviews in other Essex districts and modified in line with national guidelines and following a wide consultation exercise. The Selection Criteria were published early in 2009, with minor amendments in January 2010, and have been used in this current review.

For some groups, such as invertebrates, the state of our knowledge concerning their distribution and ecological requirements is still quite limited, so that whilst criteria are now in place to select sites on the grounds of their invertebrate interest, the actual ability to do so is still at an early stage, particularly for the less well-studied groups. However, development of the various biodiversity initiatives across the county and the production of a draft Essex Red Data List of our most threatened flora and fauna have helped in focusing on the needs of these populations and identifying their key population localities. These data should continue to feed into subsequent LoWS reviews, improving the effectiveness of their nature conservation role.

Desk Study

The starting point for the focus of field survey work was the existing suite of LoWS, to determine whether or not they still satisfied the current selection criteria. Added to these were a number of potential sites that have been brought to the attention of EECOS or Essex Wildlife Trust staff since 1992. Reference was also made to aerial photography, most notably that available via the Google™ Earth web-site, to identify other areas of land of potential interest. This last tool is particularly useful for locating areas of semi-natural habitat not visible from public rights of way or other public vantage points that might otherwise have gone un-noticed or required much more labour-intensive field-by-field survey work to discover. Clarification of site boundaries, most notably ancient woods and hedgerow patterns, was assisted by reference to the First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey maps of the early 1880s accessed via the web-site [www. old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk). Reference was also made to the 1777

Chapman and André map of Essex, although it is recognised that a good deal of interpretation and caution is needed for this very early map work.

Alongside this, a consultation process has sought comments from relevant local experts on the existing suite of Sites and also the draft suite of Local Wildlife Sites as this was developed. These comments have been incorporated as far as possible within the final list of sites, while maintaining the rigour of the published Site selection criteria. Some suggested sites, for which insufficient information is currently available, have been identified in this report as Potential Local Wildlife Sites pending further survey work or improvements to the habitat conditions.

The following persons and organisations were consulted as part of this review process (in alphabetical order):

Ken Adams – Essex Field Club
Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group
Luke Bristow – Essex County Council
Peter Harvey - Essex Field Club
Local Group of the Essex Wildlife Trust
Graham Smith – local naturalist
Phil Sturges, Natural England, Colchester Office

EECOS gratefully acknowledges the time given by those people who provided information or assistance during the project.

Field Survey Work

In order to facilitate site access as part of the field survey work, EECOS surveyors were issued with warrants of entry onto land under Section 324 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). These warrants effectively gave rights of access at reasonable times of the day and week and by using reasonable routes and methods to land not otherwise accessible via the public rights of way network.

Notwithstanding this, there are clearly a number of scenarios when it would have been neither appropriate nor even legal to try and exercise such rights of access. Such situations include private residential gardens, sites subject to mines and quarries regulations, open landfill sites,

railway land and the like, and all surveyors used their discretion in applying the general principle of gaining access to areas of open countryside for the purposes of this survey. Where possible, surveyors still attempted to make contact with the relevant landowners and EECOS wishes to thank those people who have actively assisted this survey by verbally granting permission to enter onto their land.

Any areas of land adjudged to be of significant wildlife value were assessed in more detail, as conditions permitted, with a short description and plant species list compiled. Other nature history notes, such as bird life and insects, were also noted, if appropriate. The threshold of what constitutes a “significant” wildlife value is to an extent a matter of experience and judgement, but key habitat qualities include possible ancient status for woodland, flower-rich grasslands, potential to support reptiles and amphibians, the micro-topography and weedy flora characteristic of post-industrial “brownfield” sites and the ecological relationship between adjacent sites. Given the strong link between the England and Essex Biodiversity Action Plans and the site selection criteria, any site associated with a BAP habitat or species was evaluated as a matter of course. All surveyors engaged on the project have had previous experience of Local Wildlife Site identification in other Local Authority areas within Essex, including the original 1992 assessment for Brentwood, and so had a working knowledge of the site selection criteria and what might intrinsically qualify for inclusion.

1.5 Limitations of the Survey

For many of the sites there is still a lack of data available regarding invertebrate populations and other species information. Every reasonable effort has been made to obtain the additional information necessary to fully assess existing and proposed sites, but this information will be continually updated and may affect the status of some sites. In general terms, new information about sites is becoming available all the time. This would make a rolling programme of Site monitoring and review more useful than the “once every ten years or so” approach that has been the norm up to now. For Brentwood Borough, it has been 20 years since the original suite of LoWS was identified.

Although the review was as comprehensive as was practicable, the large number of sites identified for assessment limited site assessments to a single visit per site. While efforts were made to visit each site at the most appropriate season, inevitably some features of some sites were not visible at the time of the visit. It is hoped that the additional consultation with local naturalists has filled many such gaps in the knowledge base.

2. RESULTS

2.1 Identification of Local Wildlife Sites

The suite of LoWS has been amended from those identified in the report in 1992 for the following reasons:

- Some sites (16 in total) have been de-selected on account of their decreased nature conservation value or failure to satisfactorily meet the revised and now more stringent selection criteria. Fourteen of these sites were part of the suite of old SINC's identified in 1992 by the Essex Wildlife Trust, whilst a further two comprise sites that were identified by a the London Borough of Havering, but which were then transferred to Brentwood Borough after a boundary change in 1994;
- New, modified or previously overlooked sites have been identified and added to the register. In most instances, such changes involve alterations to the boundaries of existing sites, but 34 completely new areas have also been identified;
- Some sites have been amalgamated where they lie next to each other or are otherwise sufficiently connected.
- Three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) have been removed from the system;

With regards to Brentwood Borough, this removal of SSSIs from the LoWS register sees the loss of the following Sites (old LoWS identification numbers are given for ease of reference):

W35. The Coppice, Kelvedon Hatch

M1. Curtismill Green

M5. Thorndon Park

Removal of these three SSSIs from the Local Wildlife Site register has had a significant impact on the total area of land designated as LoWS within the Borough, because both Curtismill Green and Thorndon Park are large sites. It should be noted that these SSSIs are still extant, with their conservation being monitored and guided by Natural England, to whom all enquiries about these sites should be directed.

Site numbering has also been changed. Previously, sites were roughly grouped into habitat categories of Woodland, Grassland, Mosaic, Freshwater, Coastal or Heathland, with an appropriate letter code and sequential number. Given that this process was repeated across the 14 Local/Unitary Authorities in Essex, this means that the county had 14 "W1" Local

Wildlife Sites i.e. the first woodland site in each local/unitary authority area. In order to make the county-wide system less complicated, a new system has been introduced whereby each site has a borough/district and number code, with all Brentwood Sites now being prefixed “Bre” and with no indication of the habitat(s) present on the site. This review of Brentwood Sites now completes this re-numbering across the county.

The revised list of Brentwood Borough Local Wildlife Sites is included in Appendix 1 with the revised Local Wildlife Site Register in Appendix 2. Within the Register, each Site has a suitably scaled location map (**N.B.** the scale varies between maps), code number, name, area in hectares and central grid reference. The maps show the LoWS in question in green, with any other adjacent LoWS shown in pale yellow (including Sites that lie in adjacent Local Authority areas), along with any potential LoWS (green hatching) and SSSIs (mustard yellow). The citation for each site then describes the characteristic vegetation, identifies key species and habitat qualities. Finally, the relevant selection criteria codes are listed (see separate document Annex 1 for the interpretation of these codes) and the rationale for their use explained, along with an indication of any England and Essex BAP habitats that are present and also details of when the site was first designated and then reviewed (if applicable).

2.2 Changes to Old SINC Network

The following table provides a brief summary of the original suite of Sites identified in 1992, noting if they have been deleted or been subject to any other amendments.

W1. Broom Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W2. Hook Wood	Unchanged
W3. Little Aspen Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W4. Aspen Wood	Retained with minor addition
W5. Heronland Shaw	Unchanged
W6. Redgate Wood	Unchanged
W7. Ireland Grove	Unchanged
W8. Fortification Wood	Unchanged
W9. Gipsy Bottom	Site extended
W10. Twostile Wood	Site extended
W11. Park Wood, Kelvedon Hatch	Unchanged
W12. Lower Boishall Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W13. Upper Boishall Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W14. Paynes Shaw	Unchanged
W15. Cook's Wood	Unchanged
W16. Oakhurst Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W17. Locksmith Wood	Unchanged

W18. Highash Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites, plus addition
W19. The Mores	Unchanged
W20. Alder Shaw	Unchanged
W21. Merlincock Wood	Unchanged
W22. Cartshed Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites, plus addition
W23. Menageria Wood	Unchanged
W24. The Oaks	Retained with minor boundary revision
W25. Round Spring	Unchanged
W26. Brizes Wood	Retained with some deletion
W27. Round Wood	Retained with addition
W28. Priors Wood	Unchanged
W29. Lower Vicarage Wood	Unchanged
W30. Vicarage Wood	Unchanged
W31. Pole's Wood	Unchanged
W32. Courtfield Wood	Unchanged
W33. Church Wood, Stondon Massey	Retained with addition
W34. Doddinghurst Common	Retained with minor deletion
W35. The Coppice SSSI	Deleted - SSSIs removed from LoWS network
W36. Foxburrow Wood	Retained with significant boundary revisions
W37. Coombe Wood	Unchanged
W38. Ashwells Farm Wood	Unchanged
W39. School Road Wood	Unchanged; renamed Reading Springs
W40. Oak Wood	Unchanged
W41. Pickett's Wood	Unchanged
W42. Bachelor's Walk	Retained with significant addition
W43. High Wood	Retained with minor addition
W44. Warley Place EWT Reserve	Amalgamated with other Sites
W45. Clement's Wood	Revisions to boundary
W46. Church Wood, Doddinghurst	Revisions to boundary
W47. Days Lane Wood	Minor addition and amalgamated with other Site
W48. Waterworks Spring	Boundary revised and amalgamated with new Site
W49. The Wabbings	Amalgamated with other Sites
W50. Holden's Wood	Revisions to boundary
W51. Dagwood Lane Wood	Amalgamated with other Sites
W52. Brickhouse Wood	Unchanged
W53. Wyatt's Green Wood	Retained with minor addition
W54. Little Warley Common/Warley Gap Woods	Unchanged
W55. Park Wood, Doddinghurst	Unchanged
W56. Barrack Wood	Retained with significant boundary changes
W57. Little Warley Lodge Wood	Amalgamated with new Site
W58. Canterbury Tye Spring	Retained with significant addition
W59. Hall Wood, Shenfield	Unchanged
W60. Thorndon Forest Country Park	Retained with significant boundary revisions
W61. Avenue Wood	Deleted – does not meet criteria
W62. Thrift Wood	Retained with minor addition
W63. Bush Quag	Deleted - does not meet criteria
W64. Portsmoorhall Wood	Unchanged
W65. Home Wood	Retained with addition
W66. Fryerning Wood	Unchanged
W67. Hare Hall Shaw	Unchanged

W68. Roundwood Grove Wood	Deleted - lost to development
W69. Long Wood	Unchanged
W70. Birches Wood	Unchanged
W71. Woodbarns Spring	Unchanged
W72. Long Ridings	Retained with minor deletion
W73. Arnold's Wood	Amalgamated, with additions, with other Sites
W74. Blackmore Wood	Unchanged
W75. College Wood	Retained with minor deletion
W76. Bell Grove	Retained with minor addition; amalgamated
W77. Mapletree Lane	Amalgamated with other Sites
W78. Arnold's Shaw	Amalgamated with other Sites
W79. Round Shaw	Unchanged
W80. Hall Wood, Ingrave	Retained with boundary revisions
W81. Straight Path Shaw	Retained with addition
W82. Brickley Shaw	Amalgamated with other Sites
W83. Hollow Bottom Shaw	Amalgamated with other Site
W84. Thick Shaw	Amalgamated with other Site
W85. Highfield Wood	Unchanged
W86. Sutton Shaw	Unchanged
W87. Stoneymore Wood	Unchanged
W88. Stonyhill Wood	Retained with addition and amalgamated with other Site
W89. Barn Wood	Retained with addition and amalgamated with other Site
W90. Millgreen Common	Retained with additions and deletions
W91. Bladen's Wood	Unchanged
W92. Cock Wood	Retained with significant addition
W93. Dog Wood	Unchanged
W94. Lodge Wood	Unchanged
W95. Box Wood	Unchanged
W96. Eastlands Spring	Retained with minor addition
W97. Spearshill Wood	Retained with deletion
W98. Little Bladen's Wood/Blind Lane	Retained with minor additions
W99. Friern Manor Wood	Unchanged
W100. James's Wood	Unchanged
W101. Clapgate Wood	Unchanged
W102. Mountnessing Hall Woods	Unchanged
W103. The Grove	Unchanged
W104. Well Wood	Unchanged
W105. Parkhill Wood	Retained with addition
W106. Kitchen Wood	Unchanged
W107. Harespring Wood	Retained with addition
G1. Navestock Heath	Retained with minor boundary revision
G2. Horseman Side Special Roadside Verge	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G3. Coxtie Green Pasture	Boundary revised and amalgamated with other Site
G4. Navestock Side Meadow	Unchanged
G5. Merlincock Wood Pasture	Unchanged
G6. Chivers Road Special Roadside Verge	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G7. School Road Special Roadside Verge	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G8. Warley Place Daffodil Field	Amalgamated with other Sites

G9. Warley Place Crocus Field	Amalgamated with other Sites
G10. Crow Green Special Roadside Verges	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G11. St. Charles Nature Reserve	Unchanged
G12. Wishfields Farm Marsh	Revisions to boundary
G13. Doddinghurst Football Field	Amalgamated with other Sites
G14. Brentwood Radio Station Grassland	Retained with significant boundary changes
G15. Hall Wood Meadows	Retained with boundary revisions; amalgamated with new Site
G16. Jericho Priory	Deleted - within residential curtilage
G17. Little Warley Common	Retained with minor boundary revisions
G18. Childerditch Meadow	Unchanged
G19. Jury Hill	Retained; amalgamated with other Site
G20. Heron Pond	Unchanged
G21. Old Church Road Special Roadside Verge I	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G22. Old Church Lane Special Roadside Verge	Deleted - does not meet criteria
G23. Old Church Road Special Roadside Verge II	Deleted - does not meet criteria
H1. Mill Green Heath	Revisions to boundary
M1. Curtismill Green SSSI	Deleted - SSSIs removed from LoWS network
M2. Gilstead Wood Marsh	Deleted - does not meet criteria
M3. Weald Country Park	Retained with significant boundary revisions
M4. Warley Embankment Wood/Marsh	Partial deletion; amalgamated into new Site
M5. Thorndon Park SSSI	Deleted - SSSIs removed from LoWS network
M6. Hatch Farm Parkland Woodland Trust	Retained with significant boundary revisions
M7. Beggars Hill Mosaic	Deleted - no longer meets criteria
M8. The Hyde Lake/Wood	Deleted - no longer meets criteria
FW1. Lady's Pond	Deleted - no longer meets criteria

In 1994, a number of Sites were transferred to Brentwood from the London Borough of Havering. Their subsequent fate, following this review, is as follows:

Wabbing Plantation and woodland on south side of Weald Brook	Deleted – do not meet Essex criteria
Curtis Plantation	Deleted – does not meet Essex criteria
Jacksons Wood	Retained
Codham Hall Wood and Woodland to the north east	Retained
Hobbs Hole	Retained with boundary revisions
Land east of Warley Street	Retained with boundary revisions
Warley Hall Wood and land north and south along stream	Retained with significant deletion

2.3 **Additions**

Many existing Sites have had new areas of land added to them, as indicated in 2.2, above, but there are also many completely new Sites that are now added to the LoWS register for Brentwood Borough. These are:

Bre1 Passingford Carr	Wet woodland
Bre7 Red Wood/Hollingford Spring	Old broadleaved woodland

Bre8 Prince's Road Wood	Old woodland; wildlife corridor
Bre10 Weald Brook Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre18 Gilstead Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre24 Hallsford Bridge Meadow	Riverside grassland
Bre28 Ongar Road Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre33 St Paul's Churchyard, Bentley Common	Old grassland
Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood	Old woodland; wildlife corridor
Bre44 St Peter and St Paul Churchyard, Stondon Massey	Old grassland
Bre47 Alders Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre54 Parker's Shaw	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre57 Furze Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre60 Warley Country Park	Important public access site
Bre62 St Faith's/Honeypot Lane Meadows	Large grassland complex
Bre68 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Great Warley	Old Grassland
Bre69 La Plata Grove	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre71 South Doddinghurst Woods	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre72 Holly Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre81 Woodman Road Cemetery	Old grassland/heathland
Bre84 Merrymeade/Shenfield Meadows	Large grassland complex
Bre89 Six Acre Spring	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre93 Heard's Lane Woods	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre94 Norton Verge	Botanical interest
Bre97 Lower Ley Spring	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre104 Fox Earth Wood	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre118 All Saints Churchyard and Keepers Cottages Meadow	Old grassland
Bre120 All Saints Churchyard, Hutton	Old grassland
Bre122 Hutton Country Park	Important public access grassland
Bre125 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Fryerning	Old grassland
Bre129 Ellis Wood and Lane	Old woodland; wildlife corridor
Bre130 Primstock	Old broadleaved woodland
Bre143 St Giles Churchyard, Mountnessing	Old grassland
Bre147 Spring Wood	Old broadleaved woodland

2.4 **Summary of Additions/Deletions**

The starting point for this review was 140 LoWS, identified in 1992 (as SINC's). This review has seen a net increase of just 7 Sites to give a new total of 147 Local Wildlife Sites. This small increase in number belies many significant changes within the Site network, with numerous additions and amalgamations, and a few outright deletions, summarised in the preceding sections.

The old series of 140 sites identified in 1992 comprised 1016 hectares of land (excluding the three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)). The new register of 147 sites covers 1139.8 hectares, representing a net increase of 123.8 hectares. The three SSSIs within Brentwood cover approximately 199 hectares, the removal of which from the LoWS register has been

compensated for by the considerable number of new sites or new extensions added. Totally new sites comprise 185 hectares of land, this not including new land added to existing sites.

Additions come from a variety of sources: there are many small fragments of probably ancient woodland that went undetected during previous reviews; several grasslands have been added, which have been surveyed at more favourable times of year than when previously reviewed or were subjected to a better level of surveying afforded by the improved rights of access of this current study. A better appreciation of nature conservation issues and increased breadth of coverage of the selection criteria have seen the addition of areas of parkland and sites where their urban context and use by the local community are important considerations.

2.5 Other Sites

In addition to those sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites, a number of Potential Local Wildlife Sites have been identified. They are sites for which further survey work may be required or a change in management needed (either more or less management). Obviously, virtually any piece of semi-natural vegetation has the potential to be improved for wildlife, which might make this list unmanageable, so the list of potential sites, given in Appendix 3, is restricted to those “near misses” that just failed to make it onto the full LoWS Register. Some of the Potential Sites are former LoWS that have deteriorated in quality and need restorative management in order to be able to re-consider them in the future.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Local Wildlife Site Network

The number of Local Wildlife Sites within the Borough has been revised following changes in policy relating to SSSIs and the application of more rigorous site selection criteria. This review also, for the first time, validates several Sites acquired from the London Borough of Havering, which were accepted *en masse* following a boundary change in 1994. Some of these “adopted” sites have been retained in the Brentwood register, whilst others have been dropped on the grounds that they do not meet the Essex selection criteria. Government guidance issued by Defra and adopted by The Wildlife Trusts movement states that SSSIs should not be considered within LoWS systems and, whilst there are valid arguments against this, the Essex Wildlife Trust now follows this guidance. Many of the sites that were removed from the network are now considered to be of insufficient quality when measured against the new criteria, either because of a decline in the habitat present over the intervening years or because the Local Wildlife Site selection criteria are now more stringent.

Some of the sites that have been removed (other than SSSIs) were, or are, Essex County Council Special Roadside Verges, which were adopted in their entirety during the original SINC review of 1992. However, this road verge network has been developed as a response to the threat of inappropriate road verge management on interesting plant communities rather than a strict nature conservation accolade based purely on the conservation value of the species concerned. Many species that occur on these Special Roadside Verges also occur on other verges elsewhere that are not threatened by inappropriate verge management and so they do not benefit from Special Roadside Verge protection. It has become apparent that, particularly in Brentwood Borough, many of these verges have declined in their quality over the years, calling into question the validity of their inclusion within the Special Roadside Verge scheme.

Whilst development is seen as the big threat to the countryside, loss of LoWS land between 1992 and 2012 to development has been very slight. The one notable exception to this is the former Site W68 Roundwood Grove Wood, in the Hutton Mount area of Brentwood, which was lost to housing some years ago (before 2000). Other impacts are from permitted development, in the form of organised paintball “war games” and other recreational activities in a number of woods in the north-west of the Borough. Numerous walking and cycling trails in these woods do little if any harm to the Sites through which they run and, indeed, they

allow the opportunity to experience and enjoy some of the best wildlife habitats in the Borough. However, more intensive use by motorcycles, paintballing and adventure assault courses are more damaging. Even then, it might be argued that they allow the chance to experience woodland environments for a section of the public that might not otherwise be encouraged to do so. The incorporation of some environmental learning into these sites' activities would be a useful gain to offset where pressures are intense.

Geographically, there is a reasonable spread of LoWS across the Borough (Fig. 1, below) with one or two localised exceptions. In the north, the parish of Blackmore, Hook End and Wyatts Green is very poorly represented, whilst around Ingatestone there are only a few, relatively isolated sites. In the extreme west, the land around Horseman Side and Watton's Green is also rather lacking in LoWS, although it must be remembered that the extensive Curtismill Green occupies much of the land within the orbit of the M25.

One of the most noticeable features is the relative lack of high quality grasslands within the Brentwood LoWS network. Whilst a number of new churchyards have been identified, and the immediate environs of Brentwood town include several large public access sites (such as Hutton Country Park, St Faiths and Merrymeades) with moderate grasslands, old species-rich grasslands in the open countryside appear to be almost lacking. Although every effort has been made to carry out a thorough, all-inclusive survey, it is possible that one or two sites may not have been identified during this study, but the overall fact remains that over large parts of the Brentwood countryside, especially to the north of the A12, the landscape is overwhelmingly that of arable cultivation interspersed with pockets of ancient woodland and occasional areas of intensively managed horse paddocks.

Unlike neighbouring Local Authority areas, Brentwood has escaped the modern ravages of sand and gravel extraction. Whilst these sites cause dramatic and irreversible changes to the local landscape, once worked out and left to nature, these post-industrial "brownfield" sites can become extremely rich in wildlife. One such mineral extraction site, Hallsford Farm in the extreme north-west has been filled with refuse and now re-landscaped with broadleaved tree planting, resulting in a rather uniform and modest wildlife habitat.

3.2 Living Landscapes

The Essex Wildlife Trust is promoting a suite of significant landscapes for wildlife across the county under the title of “Living Landscapes” (see Figures 1 and 2, below). They embrace important landscape features, such as river valleys and estuaries; characteristic landscapes and land uses, such as clusters of hamlets and villages with ancient greens, drove ways and roadside grasslands and significant clusters of good wildlife habitat such as unusually well wooded areas. An important consideration for these areas is that they are also beneficial to local people and communities and foster a flourishing local economy. This embraces the idea that we should be encouraging people to live in, work in and enjoy their local environment harmoniously. Essex Wildlife Trust has initiated an Award scheme to recognise high quality projects that meet the three aims of being good for wildlife, good for people and good for the local economy.

These Living Landscape areas are spread right across the county, several of which are within, or include parts of, Brentwood Borough and these are discussed below with reference to their associated LoWS. Whilst shown with precise boundaries on Figures 1 and 2, in reality the borders of these areas should be treated as being “fuzzy” and there is no reason why any area of land lying close to, but seemingly outside, a Living Landscape boundary cannot be included in any relevant future project. Such matters are administered by the Living Landscapes Co-ordinator, based at the Essex Wildlife Trust headquarters.

Upper Roding

This Living Landscape area lies mainly to the north of the borough, and is centred on the River Roding valley. Within the Borough, included LoWS are mainly ancient woods around Navestock and Stondon Massey. One future project for this Living Landscape might be the re-creation of river flood plain grasslands immediately adjacent to the Roding, thereby creating a viable grassland corridor along this important river.

On the border of this Living Landscape area, one new LoWS, Bre8 Prince’s Road Wood illustrates how ecological connectivity can be encouraged, with this streamside strip of ancient hedgerow habitat joining up to a number of LoWS, allowing for an easier interchange of woodland species between Sites, compared to the more fragmented woodland landscape around Doddinghurst to the east.

Lower Roding

Only a very small part of this Living Landscape area lies within Brentwood Borough, but it does include one LoWS: Passingford Carr (Bre1), a small stand of wet woodland habitat adjacent to the river and lying close to a very similar piece of woodland over the border in Epping Forest district. This wetland habitat could be enhanced by improving connectivity with other similar habitats along the river valley and maintaining a high water table upon which the survival of this habitat type depends.

Writtle Forest

This Living Landscape area comprises some of the most ancient landscape features in Essex, with LoWS such as Stoneymore Woods (Bre121), Mill Green Heathland (Bre123), College Wood (Bre109) and Bell Grove and Mapletree Lane (Bre111) forming an integral part of this.

Ramsden Heath and Woods

Only a very small part of this area extends into the borough, with no particular reason to extend it any further to include the nearest Brentwood LoWS.

Thorndon Woods

This Living Landscape area is unique to the borough, and captures the characteristic landscape of Thorndon Park, including the country park and adjacent golf course as well as the large ancient woods to the west. Woods that have suffered coniferisation in the past would benefit from a shift towards a native, semi-natural broadleaved canopy.

Ingrebourne Valley

Only a very small part of the borough lies within this area, with no close LoWS.

Havering and Brentwood Ridge

The eastern end of this area covers Weald Country Park and a number of adjacent, mainly ancient, woods.

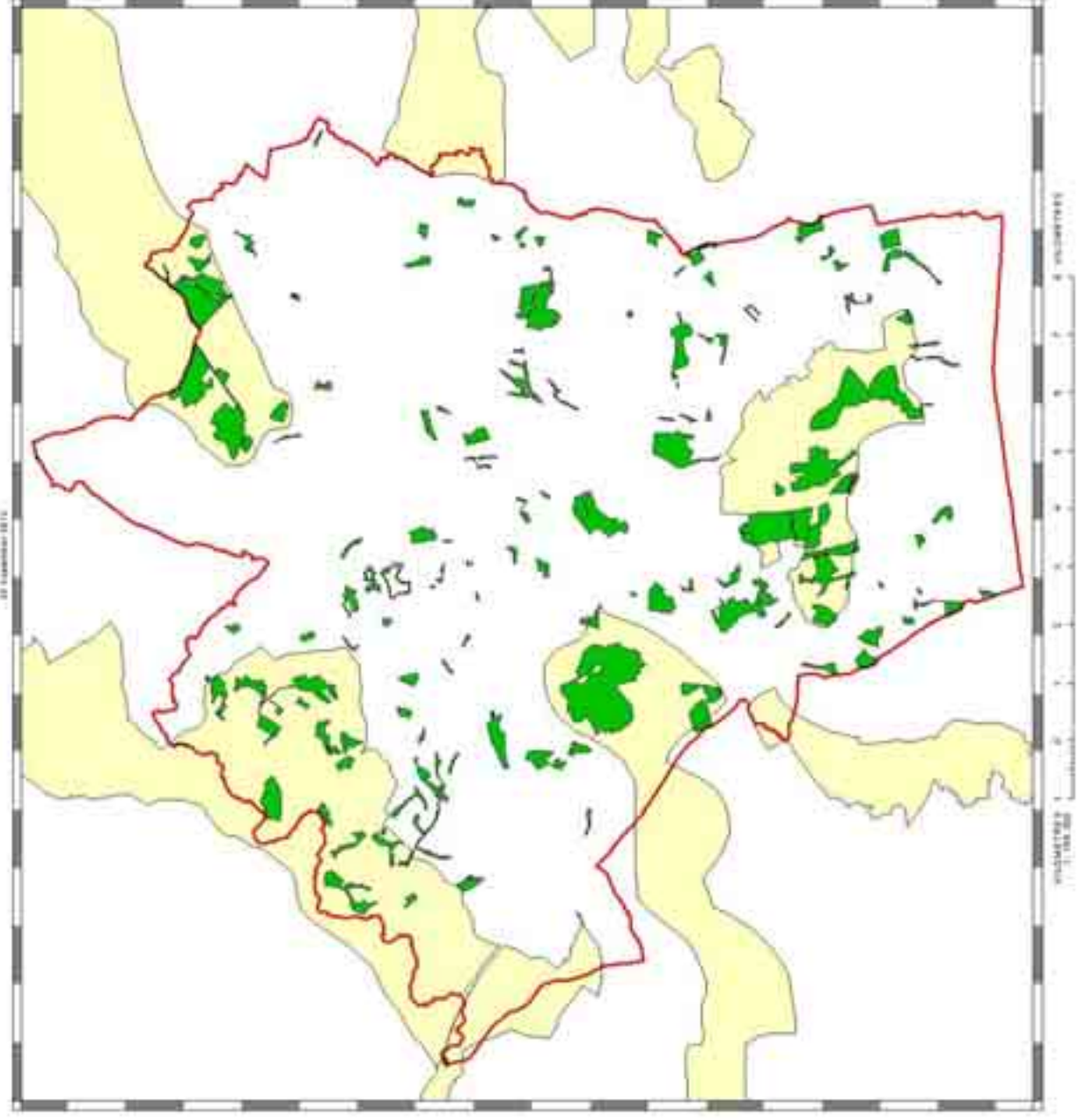


Figure 1

**Distribution of Brentwood LoWS within
Essex Living Landscape Areas**



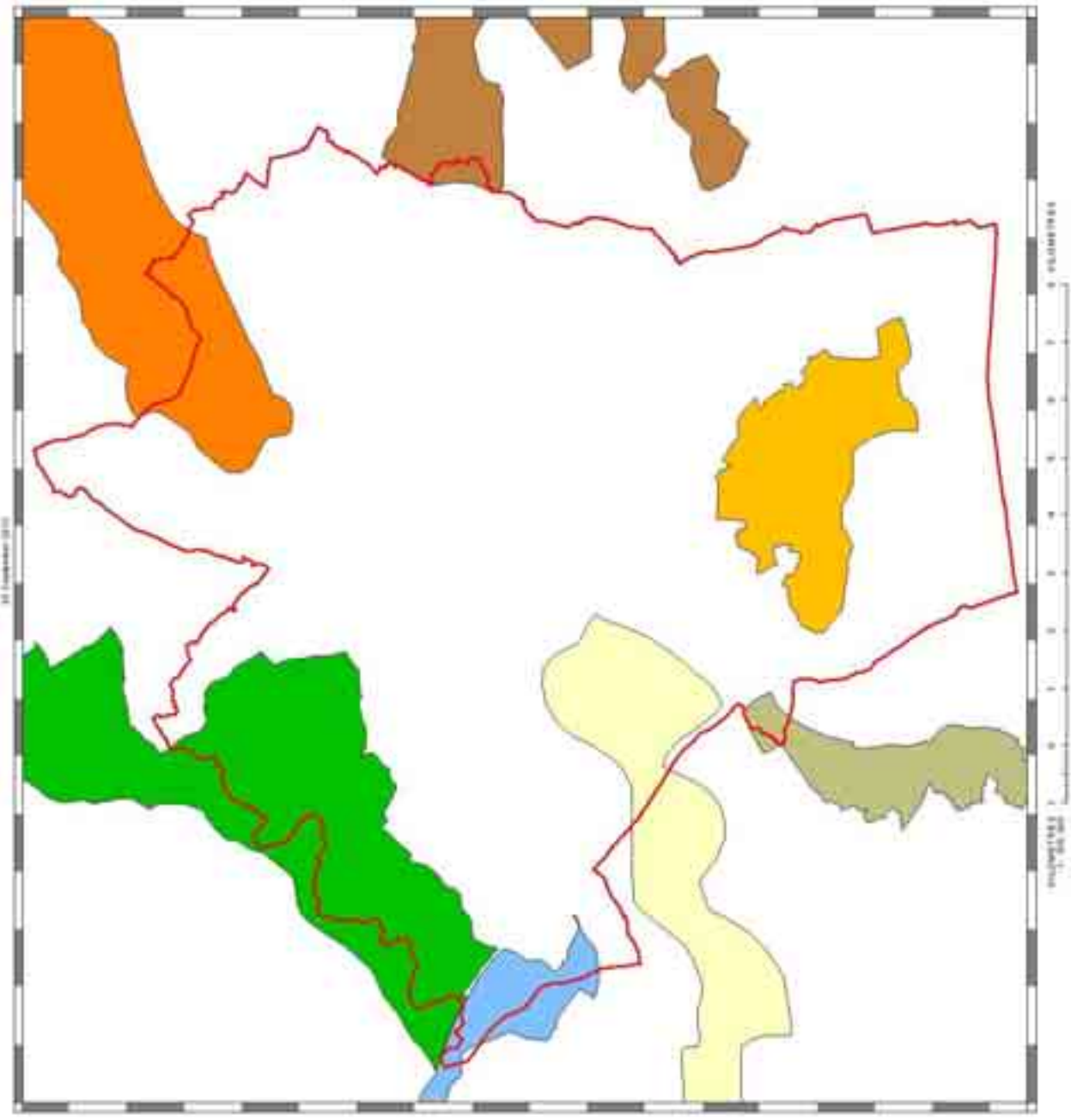


Figure 2
Essex Living Landscape Areas within
Brentwood Borough

- Upper Rodding
- Lower Rodding
- Writtle Forest
- Ramsden Heath and Woods
- Thorneden Woods
- Ingrebourne Valley
- Havering and Brentwood Ridge

Reference to Figure 1 indicates that there may be grounds for identifying a new or amended Living Landscape project area in the future. The zone between the River Roding in the north-west and Mountnessing to the east comprises mainly arable farmland (away from village peripheries) dotted with numerous small, and mainly ancient, woodlands. Most of these are poorly connected with similar adjacent habitats but, where appropriate, strong connections have been included within the LoWS network and could form the basis for stronger and larger chains of semi-natural habitat.

Examples where this has already been established include Bre8 Prince's Road Wood, already mentioned, and also Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood, which connects to Bre30 Menageria Wood, Bre40 Courtfield Wood, Bre43 Poles Wood and Bre35 Round Wood (via an additional length of hedgerow).

3.3 BAP Priority Habitats

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 imposes an obligation on all public bodies, including local authorities, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, particularly of those species and habitats identified as being of principal importance. Section 41 of the Act requires a list to be published that identifies such species and habitats, and these are now referred to as England Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Species and Habitats, in line with the recently published Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

The range of the former UK (now England) BAP Priority Habitats is the basis of many of the habitat selection criteria used during this review and there is a responsibility within the Local Development Plan for Local Authorities to monitor these habitats. There are, therefore, clear overlaps between the LoWS system and the Biodiversity Habitat Action Planning process.

A report published in 2007 included an updated list of UK BAP habitats and species (*Report on the Species and Habitat Review* produced by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group in June 2007). Some habitats were added – Ponds, for example – and others had their name and/or scope changed – Ancient or Species-rich Hedgerows has changed to Hedgerows, for example. In total 695 species were added to the UK Priority List, encompassing birds, freshwater fish, reptiles, amphibians, higher and lower plants, fungi, marine species, invertebrates and mammals. With the publication of the Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework,

this UK BAP was superseded by four national BAPS covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Essex BAP has been revised to bring its habitats in line with the England BAP. The identification on the Register sheets of the relevant BAP habitats found within each LoWS should allow land managers, planners and countryside agencies to easily see how the management of any site could be contributing to these larger BAP projects.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

With regard to the England BAP habitats for which Brentwood Borough has a particular importance as far as county significance is concerned, the most obvious is probably its numerous ancient coppice woodlands. The BAP Priority Habitat “Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland” includes a very wide variety of woodland types, from oak/birch woods on dry, sandy soils, through oak/Ash/Hazel woods on heavy clays and Sweet Chestnut and Hornbeam coppices. Most of Brentwood’s ancient woodlands are Hornbeam, often mixed with Sweet Chestnut and with standards of Pedunculate Oak. One notable feature in several of the woods around Navestock is the presence of groves of large, seemingly disease-resistant elms (see, for example, the report cover photo). Elmwood stands are virtually a thing of the past, following the impact of Dutch Elm Disease, but in the past some sites would have been elm woods and the Navestock sites may represent vestiges of this.

Many other England BAP Priority Habitats are present in borough, including:

Hedgerows

The scope of the England BAP Priority Habitat covering field boundaries has been expanded to include the majority of intact, semi-natural field boundaries under the new title ‘Hedgerows’. The definition requires a hedgerow to consist of more than 80% cover of woody species native to the county. There appears to be no requirement for species diversity or for age, but it is intended that all hedgerows with a rich basal flora will also be included. It has been estimated that 84% of hedgerows in the UK will qualify and the same kind of percentage could be expected for Brentwood Borough. In the past, there has been a presumption that any national BAP Priority Habitat would qualify a site for consideration as a LoWS, and in most cases it is possible to include all examples of the habitat. With hedgerows it would serve no purpose to include every qualifying hedgerow, as this would lead to a proliferation of LoWS that would dilute their importance at a district and county level. The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 serve to afford protection to hedges of higher conservation significance. Therefore,

there is a need to focus on a representative selection of hedgerows or hedgerow systems to ensure the inclusion of the habitat within the network. The inclusion of these hedged lanes reflects their value as wildlife corridors in sometimes otherwise featureless arable surroundings, or as important linear grasslands or ancient woodlands in their own right. Examples include the ancient Mapletree Lane (Bre111) which connects Fryerning (Bre99) and College Woods (Bre109) in the north-east, the connecting hedgerows included within Heard's Lane Woods (Bre93) and Round Wood (Bre35). Furthermore, hedgerows do feature in many of the grassland sites and for any individual field LoWS it should be assumed that its bounding hedgerows are included within the site.

It should be remembered that where an open field is identified as a LoWS then, by default, any hedgerows bounding it should be considered to be part of the LoWS, whilst for larger Sites, such as Bre 62 St. Faith's/Honeypot Lane Meadows and Bre122 Hutton Country Park, a network of hedgerows within a matrix of open grassland and scrub blocks is an important component of the Site. In a number of current woodland LoWS, hedgerows have been deliberately included because they provide important connectivity between two or more Sites.

Wood-pasture and parkland

As noted in the individual citations, several Brentwood LoWS have developed from ancient wood-pasture (e.g. Bre45 Doddinghurst Common, Bre25 The Mores, Bre77 Little Warley Common/Warley Gap Woods and Bre127 Mill Green Woodland), but these have now "tumbled down" to a closed canopy broadleaved woodland. True parkland habitat still occurs at Bre42 Weald Country Park and Bre106 Thorndon Country Park South.

Floodplain grassland

This is a very scarce resource in the Borough and no examples have been deemed worthy of inclusion within the current LoWS network. The only major river associated with the Borough is the River Roding, which forms part of the north-west boundary. There are a number of small sections of riverside grassland here, to the north and west of Park Wood, Kelvedon Hatch (Bre13) and with this river corridor being the focus of a Living Landscape area there is scope to create a meaningful series of new flood plain grasslands. The only other significant water course is the infant River Wid flowing south from Wyatt's Green, but this is too small to have ever supported significant flood plain habitat.

Lowland meadows

The definition of this BAP Priority Habitat is restricted to vegetation conforming to the MG5 grassland type within the National Vegetation Classification (*Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* grassland). This is the typical old hay meadow vegetation that is now a rare community type in Essex. Representative examples are often modified by too little or too much management, which causes shifts towards other grassland types. One example of this is Bre74 Marconi Gardens, which has shifted significantly away from this vegetation type. LoWS where MG5 grassland does or may occur, often as a mosaic with other sward types, are Bre106 Thorndon Country Park South; Bre120 all Saints Churchyard, Hutton; Bre143 St Giles Churchyard, Mountnessing; and Bre79 Woodlands School Meadow.

Ponds

A new Priority Habitat of 'Ponds' has been included within the recent national review, with qualifying criteria covering a broad spectrum of features including marginal or aquatic plant communities and the presence of rare or otherwise significant species. This could have led to a large number of ponds qualifying for consideration as LoWS with a similar problem to that described for Hedgerows above. A similar, representative selection of ponds may in the future be added to the LoWS network, preferably linked to existing sites or other valuable habitats. This will require considerable detailed survey work to gather the data necessary to meet the criteria. Again, many ponds have been, by default, included within the LoWS network such as those found within woodlands of grasslands.

For a pond to be considered to be a BAP Priority Habitat, it needs to support specific notable flora and/or fauna. No such ponds have been identified in the Borough thus far, although identification of this sort of feature is largely beyond the scope of the present study. Gathering the data necessary to allow for a Pond to be identified on its own as a BAP Habitat LoWS would require significant labour in terms of aquatic invertebrate surveying or Great Crested Newt surveys. Much of this survey work requires specialist skills to carry out the survey and identify the material caught. That said, numerous ponds are, by default, included in LoWS where they happen to lie within ancient woodland or grasslands, where they form a useful habitat but are not the primary reason for Site designation.

Reedbeds

This is another habitat that is largely lacking from the Borough. Small stands of Reed occur in several water bodies, and can be found in Bre21 Navestock Marsh, but here it is not the primary reason for its designation although it is noted as one of the component habitats. With the potential need to manage storm water during flood events and the occasional desire to create flood pounds to take surplus water at such times comes the opportunity to create Reedbed habitat in the future.

Wet woodland

The Borough is furnished with numerous stands of wet woodland. In some Sites (e.g. Bre2 Hook Wood, Bre29 Alder Shaw and Bre26 Merlincock Wood) Alder occurs in relatively dry stands on subtle spring lines but in other LoWS e.g. Bre1 Passingford Carr and Bre63 Days Lane Alder Carr) it is the sole or over-riding habitat. Such sites depend on the maintenance of high water tables or regular flooding, so their survival depends on appropriate water catchment management planning. This needs to be tackled at a landscape scale and is another example of how Living Landscape area projects could make a real difference.

Lowland dry acid grassland

This grassland type is as vulnerable as Lowland meadows to changes brought about by changes in management and soil nutrient status. In Brentwood it is found as small fragments, often in a mosaic, within churchyards and ancient habitat such as the old deer park area in Weald Country Park (Bre42).

Lowland heathland

This habitat is entirely restricted to Mill Green Heathland (Bre123) and here it is in danger of succumbing to scrub invasion and soil nutrient enrichment. In former times, heather heathland might have been found in the adjacent parts of Millgreen Common and even as a ground flora component in adjacent woods (e.g. Bre121 Stoneymore Woods) but this has now been lost. As part of the Writtle Forest Living Landscape area, these sites could be restored to their former glory with suitable management. This would inevitably involve a good deal of tree felling, which could have an adverse public reaction if not properly interpreted.

3.4 County Context

Essex has 14 Local Authority/Unitary areas, most of which have had a LoWS review within the last 6 years. They range from the very small, highly urbanised Harlow, Southend-on-Sea and, to a lesser extent, Castle Point up to the large, agriculture-dominated expanses of Uttlesford and Braintree districts. These differing landscapes can distort attempts to analyse which areas are particularly rich or poor in terms of their LoWS resource, but the following section is a broad summary of the picture as it stands.

The following table provides the most up to date data for each of the Local Authority areas in Essex (it should be noted that Castle Point is being reviewed during 2012, with the figures below being provisional). The Local Authority areas have been listed in order of increasing size and two aspects of the data have been plotted in Figures 3.

	No. of LoWS	Area of LoWS	Area of District etc.	% land as LoWS
Harlow	42	300	3053.6	9.82
Castle Point *	39	850	6317.8	13.45
Southend	9	138.7	6785	2.04
Basildon	54	1068.7	11044.5	9.68
Brentwood	147	1139.8	15311.7	7.44
Thurrock	70	1074.2	18431.9	5.83
Rochford	39	359.6	26341.7	1.37
Epping	222	1680.8	33898.8	4.96
Chelmsford	150	1654.2	34299.8	4.82
Colchester	168	1963.2	34871.8	5.63
Tendring	125	1216.8	36506.8	3.33
Maldon	89	1066.6	42659.7	2.50
Braintree	251	1965	61170.8	3.21
Uttlesford	281	1701	64118.2	2.65

* Provisional data based on early results of on-going review during 2012

Figure 3, below, is a plot of the area of LoWS for each local authority area against the percentage of its land that has been identified as LoWS. This is perhaps a crude relationship, but on the whole large districts are dominated by arable landscapes which tend to dilute the impact of the presence of high quality semi-natural habitats. Smaller districts often have habitats associated with their urban environments and sites such as parkland or country parks help to maintain a relatively high percentage of LoWS habitat.

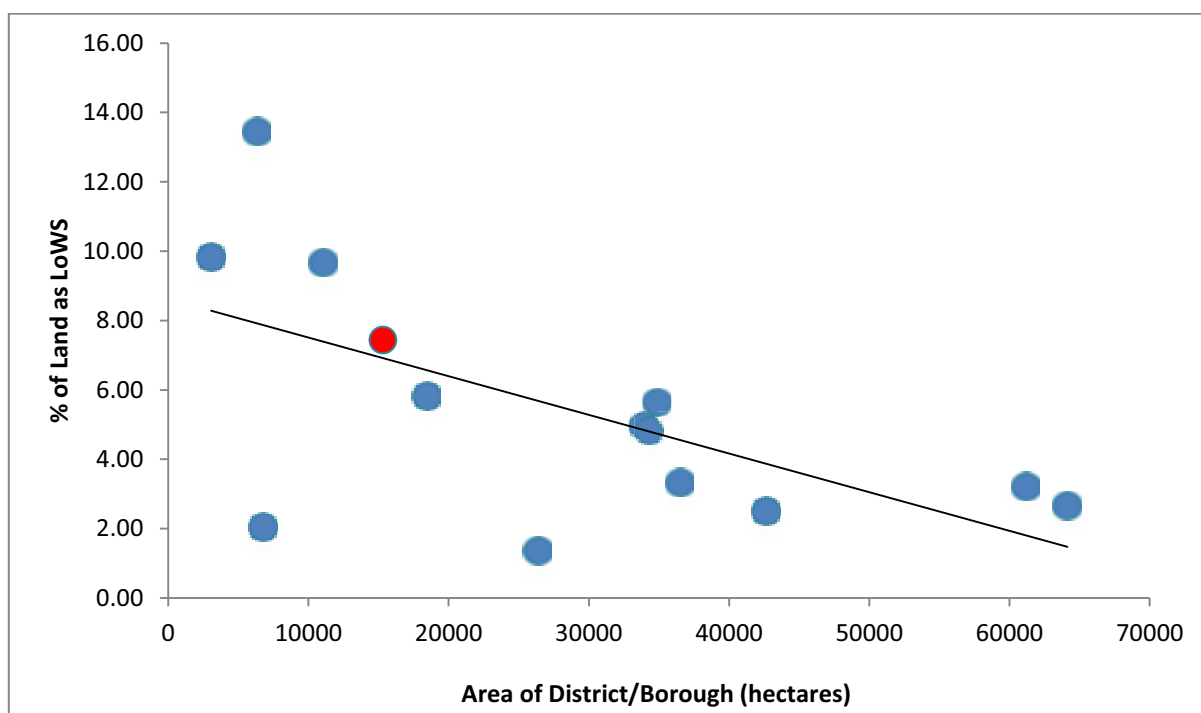


Figure 3. Plot to relationship between size of local authority area and percentage of land designated as LoWS. Brentwood highlighted in red.

The two exceptions to this (the very low plot points) are Southend-on-Sea Borough, which is excessively dominated by the urban environment, and Rochford where its open countryside is dominated by the Foulness SSSI which is excluded from the LoWS network. Brentwood data, plotted in red, show that broadly speaking the extent of LoWS habitat is what one might expect given the size of the Borough.

3.5 The Future for Planning and Nature Conservation in Brentwood

3.5.1 LoWS Administration

The Local Wildlife Site network should not be a static system, as has tended to be the case in Essex in the past. Until this review, the majority of sites and the information held about them had largely been left static since 1992, since when there have been considerable changes in the agricultural environment and the quantity and quality of information regarding the species and habitats present for the county. Local Wildlife Site policy, particularly in respect to site selection criteria, is also likely to evolve further in response to national guidance. This process is likely to continue as rapidly in the future with further agricultural changes looming and other, less certain impacts as a result of climate change.

A vital first step is to make land owners aware that part of the land in their guardianship is a prized nature conservation resource. Many will be all too aware of this fact, but for others it

may be a chance to look at their land in a new light. Identifying owners is a long and sometimes complex process. Whilst some landowners were encountered during the LoWS survey work, the powers of entry onto land afforded EECOS surveyors by the Borough Council has meant that many sites have been assessed without that initial contact.

There is, therefore, a real need to get LoWS owners “on board” in terms of explaining the LoWS project, its implications and opportunities and organising offers of help in achieving appropriate management for the Sites. To that end, the Essex Wildlife Trust’s Wildlife Sites Officer will be working alongside Local Authorities to identify owners, undertake initial meetings to discuss the LoWS project and to encourage the adoption of simple management strategies to achieve “Positive Conservation Management” for each site.

Monitoring of management outcomes and Site condition is also important. Ideally, each Local Wildlife Site should be visited every year, to monitor its condition, identify threats and to increase our knowledge of the communities present. In addition, further potential Local Wildlife Sites are likely to arise, through habitat creation or because of new information or improved access and these sites will need to be assessed against the site selection criteria. As the criteria change there will also be a need to review the status of the existing sites. In reality, it may be more practicable to have a more structured programme of monitoring, with all sites reviewed on a four-year cycle, or woodlands reviewed less often than grassland sites, as a reflection of their slower rate of change unless actively managed.

3.5.2 Planning

Recently (March 2012), national government guidance on local planning changed, with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replacing a suite of Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Statements (PPGs and PPSs).

The NPPF sets out the three roles that the planning system should perform in delivering its purpose of achieving sustainable development (para. 7):

- Economic; ensuring that sufficient, appropriate land is available for development to support growth and innovation and to coordinate requirements for developments such as infrastructure;
- Social; providing housing to meet the needs of local communities and creating a favourable environment in which to live, with access to local services;

- Environmental; protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, including improving biodiversity and addressing issues of waste, pollution and climate change.

The Framework states the need for these three roles to be integrated within every planning decision and stresses the need for positive improvements including “moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains for nature” (para. 9). The interaction of these three roles is fundamental to the Living Landscapes concept described in further detail in section 3.2, above, and in turn Living Landscapes could establish a framework in which the principles of NPPF can be demonstrably applied.

One of the striking features of NPPF is its aim to encourage sustainable development by encouraging a presumption in favour of such planning applications claiming to be sustainable. This brings with it a number of risks. The LoWS network has in the past been promoted as the minimum critical network of sites necessary to maintain the biodiversity of any given area. As such, one might conclude that if a proposed development does not directly impinge upon a LoWS then there will be no net loss of biodiversity and therefore, to that extent, the project is “sustainable”. However, as alluded to in Section 1.2, there will be many pockets of land with more localised wildlife interest, that do not meet LoWS selection criteria, that contribute to the local biodiversity resource of the locality. Many such pieces of land may support legally protected species, such as roosting bats, reptiles, nesting birds, Badger setts or Water Voles and Otters in a water course. There is a legal requirement for developers to avoid harming these creatures and their places of shelter, and any loss of local populations would cause a net loss in biodiversity and, as such, be deemed unsustainable.

Furthermore, some developments, if placed immediately adjacent to a sensitive LoWS might still harm the biodiversity and ecological stability of a Site. Such impacts might come from increased trampling from new local residents or children at play, light pollution from inappropriate street lighting or changes to local drainage patterns and ground water levels. Habitat fragmentation and/or ecological isolation from other, nearby, sites may also be a problem.

As a result, it remains imperative that Local Planning Authorities require potential developers to submit an appropriate ecological assessment of their land prior to any planning decision

being taken. Even the smallest scheme has the potential to affect one or more of the legally protected species mentioned above, so in reality a broad ranging assessment should be carried out for most development proposals. Even gardens and other “previously developed land” have the capacity to support breeding birds, reptiles and Badger activity. If there are doubts as to whether or not the scheme is sustainable, professional ecological advice should be sought and, if appropriate, a mitigation plan drawn up in order to secure the future biodiversity of the site. NPPF para. 173 notes that such obligations should be proportionate to the matter in hand so that the ability of a site to be viably developed is not compromised.

It should also be stressed that the role of a Local Authority should not be restricted to minimising or preventing environmental degradation through the planning process. The NPPF (para. 109) refers to the planning system providing net gains in biodiversity, thereby contributing to enhancement of the natural environment. This responsibility can be dispensed at the largest scale of strategic planning across an entire borough, by embracing the Living Landscapes ethos explained in sections 3.2 and 3.5.3 (below). However, it can also be applied to every planning application considered by local authority officers, by having an input into landscaping proposals (the extent, location and species used (native versus non-native), appropriate use of green roof technology to compensate for the loss of the development’s footprint and other habitat creation possibilities.

The NPPF states that local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife will be judged (para. 113).

In order to receive the information that is needed to be able to assess applications in an effective manner, the Council should expect all applications that affect semi-natural habitats, including larger gardens, to be accompanied by an ecological impact assessment. These documents should conform to professional guidance, as set out by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) or to an equivalent standard appropriate to ecological survey. They should include a description of the habitats present (often collected using Phase 1 habitat survey methods), information regarding the presence of internationally, nationally, or locally designated sites of nature conservation significance (including LoWS), consideration of the presence or potential presence of legally protected species, an assessment

of the impacts associated with the proposal, details of the mitigation or compensation that is proposed.

Where sites have been designated for their nature conservation significance greater scrutiny should be expected within accompanying ecological information, and this should extend to PLoWS sites, particularly where a lack of species information has been cited.

Under current guidance (ODPM Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation –Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System), the presence of habitats or species listed as priorities in the former UK Biodiversity Action Plan is capable of being a material consideration (para 74) as is the presence of species protected by law (para. 99). Therefore, the Council needs to have access to all relevant survey information before it can make a sound decision as to whether or not the proposals would have an adverse effect and so whether or not consent should be granted. Further species or habitat surveys should not be conditioned as part of a planning consent, unless it is clear that the results could not affect the Council’s decision to grant consent.

Part of this consideration relates to the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2010, which imposes the requirement that local planning authorities (amongst other public bodies) must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive so far as they may be affected in the exercising of their functions. Case law has demonstrated that this extends to the need for local planning authorities to consider, in the event that a European Protected Species is present and an offence under the regulations is likely, whether or not the three tests set out in the regulations are passed and therefore whether it is likely that a licence will be granted by Natural England, should planning consent be granted. The three tests are as follows:

- (1) **Regulation 53(2)(e)** states: a licence can be granted for the purposes of “preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment”.
- (2) **Regulation 53(9)(a)** states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied “that there is no satisfactory alternative”.
- (3) **Regulation 53(9)(b)** states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied “that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of

the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.”

Without all of the information set out above, it would not be possible for the Council to consider the three tests and to determine whether or not a licence is likely to be granted.

In addition to the NPPF, the Localism Act 2011 also has some impact on the way the results should be viewed. The main impact of this legislation, in relation to planning, is the introduction of a duty to co-operate, requiring issues that are cross-boundary to be strategically planned for by local planning authorities in co-operation. As a first step towards being aware of LoWS within adjacent local authority areas, the citation maps in Appendix 2 includes any closely adjacent LoWS occurring within Epping Forest, Chelmsford, Basildon and Thurrock local authority areas.

3.5.3 Living Landscapes

This theme of over the border awareness and co-operation is embraced by the Living Landscape initiative. Every local planning authority has a role to play in the realisation of the Living Landscapes project. As noted above, para. 117 of NPPF states that biodiversity planning should be at a landscape scale, with a need to appreciate what is going on in immediately adjacent local authority areas.

3.5.4 Nature Conservation

There are currently two big threats to the ancient coppices of the Borough: neglect and deer. Even as single-stemmed standard threes, Hornbeam casts a dense shade. When coppice stools become overgrown, forming several tree-sized trunks on each crown, then this is exacerbated. The dense shade cast by a canopy dominated by overgrown coppice stools has a significant impact on the shrub and ground flora layers, so that today there are many woods where Bluebell is the only ground vegetation able to thrive, on account of its early flowering, before the canopy has come into full leaf.

The simple answer to this problem would be to resume coppicing, but this runs foul of several opposing factors in the form of market forces and the impact of deer browsing. During the survey, particularly to the north of the A12, large herds of Fallow Deer were encountered in many of the woods. Their browsing would eat back any regrowth from newly cut coppice

stools without taking considerable precautions to prevent it. In the overgrown coppices, where all they can reach is the under-shrubs and ground flora, then this is eaten out. The result is a rather stark woodland, as illustrated in Figure 3, below.

Managing a deer herd in one woodland, with the hope of coppicing it thereafter is not an option: deer will simply move in from the surrounding countryside. The problem facing Brentwood's woods is an excellent example of why Living Landscapes need to be made to work. Excessive deer browsing is spoiling the wildlife appeal and visual amenity of the woods, it prevents woodsmen from earning a living by managing and selling coppice materials (for example) and browsing may also damage the commercial value of larger timber trees if their bark is damaged as saplings. The solution will come only by managing deer herds at a landscape scale and managing and marketing woodland produce at a landscape scale.



Fig. 3. Hornbeam coppice stripped of ground flora and shrubs by Fallow Deer browsing

The matter of site restoration appears as a regular theme within the citations of LoWS and Potential LoWS. Shenfield Common (BrePLoWS6) is a popular area for informal recreation and has some value as woodland. However, it actually represents an old, probably grazed wood-pasture or even open heath and, given the scarcity of this habitat across Essex, this might be given higher priority than its developing woodland flora and fauna. In north-east

Essex, the Essex Biodiversity Partnership is currently engaged in a similar project on Layer Breton Heath, a site dominated by oak and birch woodland, with virtually no heath left. Annual work parties are now slowly redressing the balance, thinning or removing the tree canopy and encouraging the spread of acid grassland vegetation. This has been broadly welcomed by local residents, many of whom can recall the days when the heath was more open and there is a general recognition that the work being undertaken is for the greater good of nature conservation. Similar public engagement would be needed if restoration work were to be attempted at Shenfield Common or Mill Green Woodland (Bre127) where a similar situation prevails.

The grassland resource is very unevenly distributed across the Borough. Around Brentwood town there are several large sites where moderate grassland diversity can be enjoyed in locations largely accessible to the public. Away from these sites, however, good quality grassland is becoming largely restricted to a few ancient churchyards. Floristically interesting grasslands can be created that will quickly become valued resources for flying insects, thereby enriching the whole food chain in the nearby ecosystems. Such habitat could, and should, be created in all medium to large scale developments to complement areas of greensward where recreation is the priority. Agri-environment schemes are doing a lot to create flower-rich headlands within arable landscapes – another facet of breathing new life into Living Landscapes.

Appendix 4 provides a brief tabulated summary of the essential management options and issues for each of the 147 LoWS identified within this report.

APPENDIX 1
SUMMARY TABLE OF LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

<u>Site Reference No. and Name</u>	<u>Area (hectares)</u>	<u>Grid Reference</u>
Bre1 Passingford Carr	0.8	TQ 506974
Bre2 Hook Wood	2.2	TQ 534980
Bre3 Broom/Aspen Woods	16.1	TQ 534991
Bre4 Navestock Heath	6.5	TQ 537970
Bre5 Heronland Shaw	2.5	TQ 542976
Bre6 Church Wood, Navestock	7.3	TQ 543984
Bre7 Red Wood/Hollingford Spring	5.3	TQ 543991
Bre8 Prince's Road Wood	3.4	TQ 545978
Bre9 Redgate Wood	2.0	TQ 546979
Bre10 Weald Brook Wood	1.7	TQ 547950
Bre11 Fortification Wood	1.7	TQ 549983
Bre12 Ireland Grove	4.2	TQ 549995
Bre13 Park Wood, Kelvedon Hatch	19.1	TL 552004
Bre14 Gipsy Bottom	2.4	TQ 552975
Bre15 Strawberry Spring/Twostile Wood	3.1	TQ 552980
Bre16 Boishall Woods	6.6	TQ 554977
Bre17 Payne's Shaw	1.4	TQ 555975
Bre18 Gilstead Wood	2.2	TQ 557955
Bre19 Cook's Wood	4.3	TQ 557992
Bre20 Oakhurst Farm	9.0	TQ 558958
Bre21 Navestock Marsh	1.2	TQ 558973
Bre22 Locksmith Wood	5.1	TQ 560951
Bre23 Cartshed/Highash Woods	8.7	TQ 560995
Bre24 Hallsford Bridge Meadow	0.6	TL 561020
Bre25 The Mores	15.6	TQ 561965
Bre26 Merlincock Wood	2.9	TQ 561990
Bre27 Merlincock Mosaic	3.0	TQ 561992
Bre28 Ongar Road Wood	1.1	TL 562004
Bre29 Alder Shaw	1.2	TQ 562978
Bre30 Menageria Wood	7.3	TL 564005
Bre31 Round Spring	1.8	TL 566012
Bre32 The Oaks	14.1	TQ 566930
Bre33 St Paul's Churchyard, Bentley Common	0.5	TQ 566966
Bre34 Brizes Wood	3.1	TQ 566981
Bre35 Round Wood	1.0	TL 567004
Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood	0.7	TL 568003
Bre37 Priors Wood	1.6	TQ 568999
Bre38 Church Wood, Stondon Massey	7.9	TL 569013
Bre39 Lower Vicarage Wood	6.1	TQ 569929
Bre40 Courtfield Wood	9.4	TL 570008
Bre41 Vicarage Wood	4.2	TQ 570932
Bre42 Weald Country Park	139.0	TQ 570947
Bre43 Poles Wood	17.4	TQ 570997
Bre44 St Peter and St Paul Churchyard, Stondon Massey	0.3	TL 572015
Bre45 Doddington Common	4.4	TQ 572981
Bre46 Jackson's Wood/Tyler's Shaw	4.4	TQ 574910
Bre47 Alders Wood	0.7	TQ 574974
Bre48 Foxburrow Wood	6.7	TQ 575902
Bre49 Reading Springs	1.2	TQ 578991
Bre50 Coombe Wood	8.0	TQ 579901
Bre51 Ashwell Wood	0.9	TQ 579971
Bre52 Oak Wood	2.4	TQ 579999
Bre53 Pickett's Wood	2.2	TL 581011

Bre54 Parker's Shaw	1.6	TQ 582895
Bre55 Warley Place	10.2	TQ 583909
Bre56 Batchelor's Walk Woods	1.4	TQ 582916
Bre57 Furze Wood	1.6	TQ 582984
Bre58 High Wood	5.2	TQ 583949
Bre59 Codham Hall Woods	7.3	TQ 585890
Bre60 Warley Country Park	25.1	TQ 584924
Bre61 Clement's Wood	8.5	TQ 586919
Bre62 St Faith's/Honeypot Lane Meadows	15.5	TQ 586937
Bre63 Days Lane Alder Carr	0.4	TQ 586969
Bre64 Dagwood Woods	4.9	TQ 586983
Bre65 Church Wood, Doddinghurst	5.8	TQ 586991
Bre66 Hobbs Hole	1.8	TQ 587881
Bre67 St Charles Nature Reserve	0.4	TQ 587942
Bre68 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Great Warley	0.4	TQ 588899
Bre69 La Plata Grove	1.7	TQ 588933
Bre70 Doddinghurst Woods	4.6	TQ 588987
Bre71 South Doddinghurst Woods	1.7	TQ 589975
Bre72 Holly Wood	4.6	TQ 590926
Bre73 Holden's Wood	19.8	TQ 591909
Bre74 Marconi Gardens	3.9	TQ 591958
Bre75 Wishfields Farm Wood	0.3	TQ 592970
Bre76 Brickhouse Wood	2.2	TQ 593963
Bre77 Little Warley Common	12.8	TQ 594908
Bre78 Wyatt's Green Wood	2.6	TQ 595991
Bre79 Woodlands Meadow	2.1	TQ 596893
Bre80 Ellen's Wood	14.5	TQ 596910
Bre81 Woodman Road Cemetery	3.4	TQ 596922
Bre82 Park Wood, Doddinghurst	8.8	TQ 597978
Bre83 Barrack Wood/Donkey Lane Plantation	54.0	TQ 598917
Bre84 Merrymeade/Shenfield Meadows	26.5	TQ 599947
Bre85 Warley Hall Wood	4.6	TQ 600889
Bre86 Canterbury Tye Woods	2.6	TQ 600961
Bre87 Hall Wood, Shenfield	7.1	TQ 601951
Bre88 Kent's Wood	2.5	TQ 604917
Bre89 Six Acre Spring	0.7	TQ 604957
Bre90 Little Warley Common	9.1	TQ 606906
Bre91 Childerditch Meadow	4.5	TQ 609906
Bre92 Thorndon Country Park North	36.7	TQ 609911
Bre93 Heard's Lane Woods	2.1	TQ 609968
Bre94 Norton Verge	0.4	TL 610045
Bre95 Thrift Wood	32.7	TQ 611933
Bre96 Portsmoorhall Wood	3.7	TL 612008
Bre97 Lower Ley Spring	0.9	TL 613002
Bre98 Home Wood	7.8	TQ 614969
Bre99 Fryerning Wood	34.7	TL 616012
Bre100 Long Wood	5.3	TQ 616977
Bre101 Hare Hall Shaw	1.8	TQ 617934
Bre102 Woodbarns Spring	6.5	TL 618003
Bre103 Birches Wood	1.0	TQ 618929
Bre104 Fox Earth Wood	0.9	TQ 618975
Bre105 Barrett's Shaw	0.4	TQ 619891
Bre106 Thorndon Country Park South	77.6	TQ 621902
Bre107 Long Ridings	2.7	TQ 621953
Bre108 Arnold's Wood Complex	10.3	TQ 621961
Bre109 College Wood	34.7	TL 623018
Bre110 Blackmore Wood	2.6	TQ 623995
Bre111 Bell Grove and Mapletree Lane	6.9	TL 624013
Bre112 Round Shaw	1.4	TQ 626887

Bre113 Straight Path Shaw	1.5	TQ 627892
Bre114 Highfield Wood	3.5	TQ 629927
Bre115 Thick/Hollow Bottom Shaws	1.9	TQ 630892
Bre116 Hall Wood, Ingrave	17.7	TQ 630934
Bre117 Sutton Shaw	1.0	TQ 631930
Bre118 All Saints Churchyard and Keepers Cottages Meadow	3.8	TQ 634895
Bre119 Heron Pond	1.2	TQ 635921
Bre120 All Saints Churchyard, Hutton	0.7	TQ 635943
Bre121 Stoneymore Woods	32.5	TL 636017
Bre122 Hutton Country Park	36.1	TQ 636958
Bre123 Mill Green Heathland	2.2	TL 637011
Bre124 Barn Wood/Stonyhill Wood	3.0	TQ 637903
Bre125 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Fryerning	1.1	TL 638000
Bre126 Cock Wood/Collins's Shaw	3.5	TQ 641957
Bre127 Mill Green Woodland	14.6	TL 641016
Bre128 Bladen's Wood	2.1	TQ 641929
Bre129 Ellis Wood and Lane	1.5	TL 642024
Bre130 Primstock	0.7	TQ 642934
Bre131 Dog Wood	2.1	TQ 643906
Bre132 Box Wood	4.9	TL 644017
Bre133 Lodge Wood	4.0	TQ 644979
Bre134 Eastlands Spring	8.6	TQ 645894
Bre135 Spearhill Wood	1.8	TQ 645909
Bre136 Little Bladen's Wood	6.1	TQ 645930
Bre137 The Grove	3.6	TL 647009
Bre138 Well Wood	4.0	TL 647017
Bre139 Clapgate Wood	1.7	TQ 647958
Bre140 Friern Manor Wood	8.7	TQ 648898
Bre141 James's Wood	4.0	TQ 648938
Bre142 Mountnessing Hall Woods	2.2	TQ 648961
Bre143 St Giles Churchyard, Mountnessing	0.8	TQ 648966
Bre144 Parkhill Wood	9.4	TQ 649912
Bre145 Kitchen Wood	2.6	TQ 649978
Bre146 Harespring Wood	2.6	TQ 654971
Bre147 Spring Wood	1.1	TQ 665996
Total Area	1139.8	

APPENDIX 2

REGISTER OF BRENTWOOD BOROUGH LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

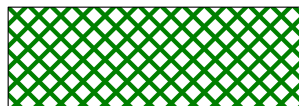
KEY



Highlighted LoWS



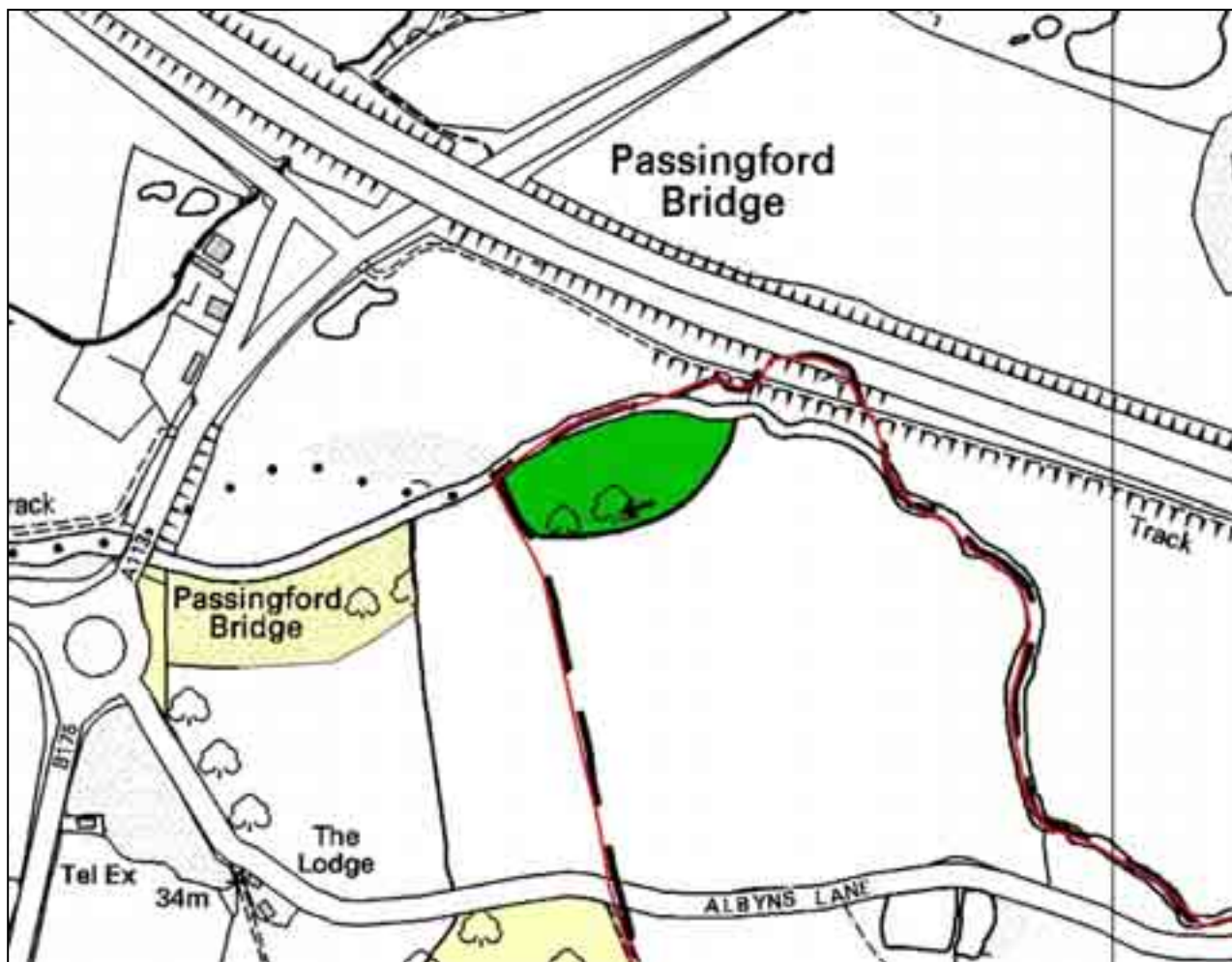
Adjacent LoWS



Potential LoWS



SSSIs



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Bre1 Passingford Carr (0.8 ha) TQ 506974

This Site lies close to the similar Ep132 Passingford Bridge Wood LoWS in neighbouring Epping Forest District. Both comprise stands of wet woodland, this being a national BAP Priority Habitat. Passingford Carr is dominated by mature Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), with some Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Osier (*Salix viminalis*). The ground flora is typical of such damp, nutrient-rich sites, being dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), with some Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and comfrey (*Symphytum* spp.).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 17 'Lower Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

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

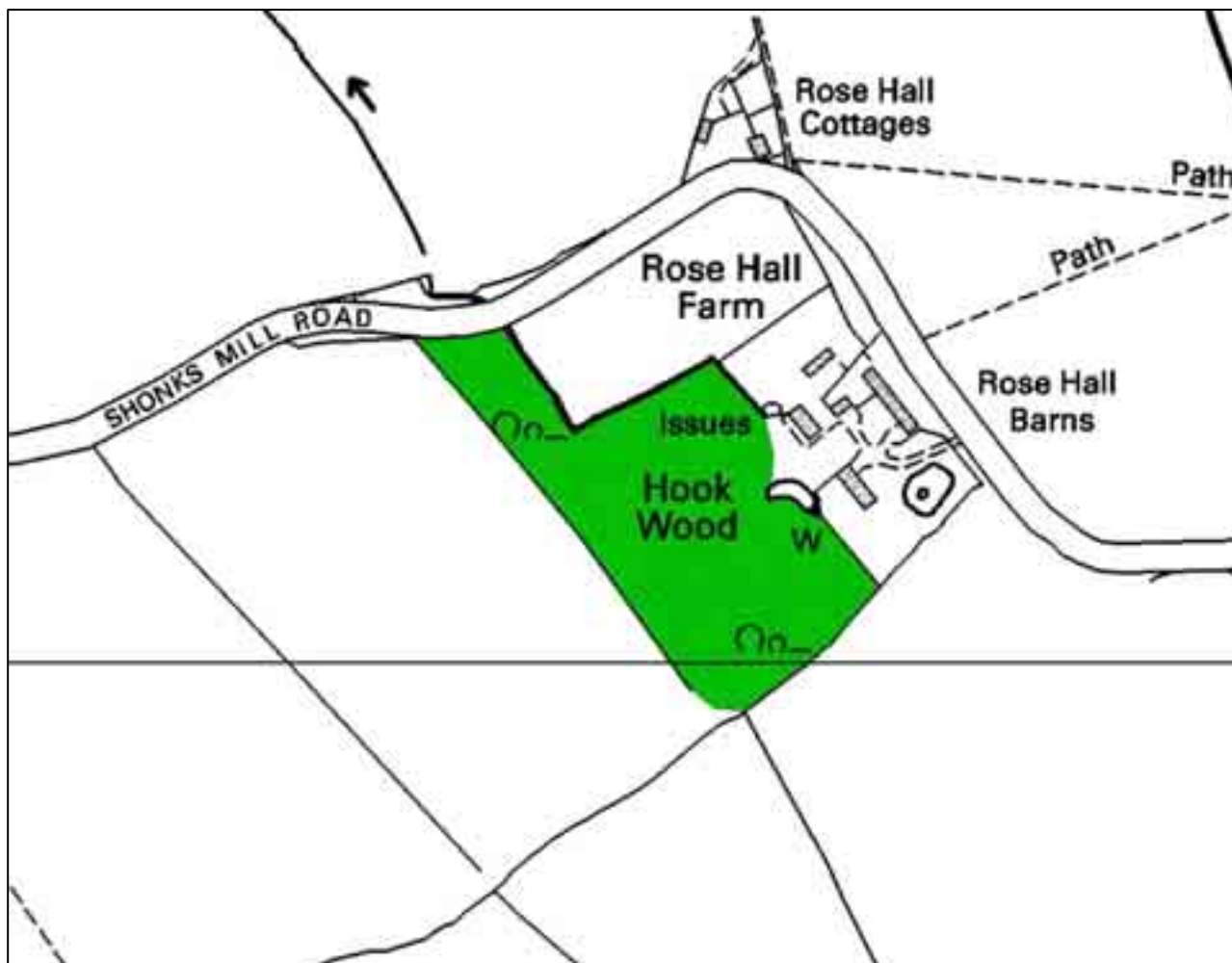
Rationale

All significant stands of Alder and/or willows within wetland merit inclusion in the LoWS register as representative examples of the BAP Habitat Wet Woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre2 Hook Wood (2.2 ha) TQ 534980

This is an ecologically interesting wood, with old Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice occupying the higher ground at the southern end of the site and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) dominating much of the ground flora in a manner normally associated with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), which here is only occasional. The main body of the wood has a canopy of old Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, with some coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with standards of Ash and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The northern arm of the wood is dominated by Hornbeam coppice. Other ground flora species include frequent Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), along with Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

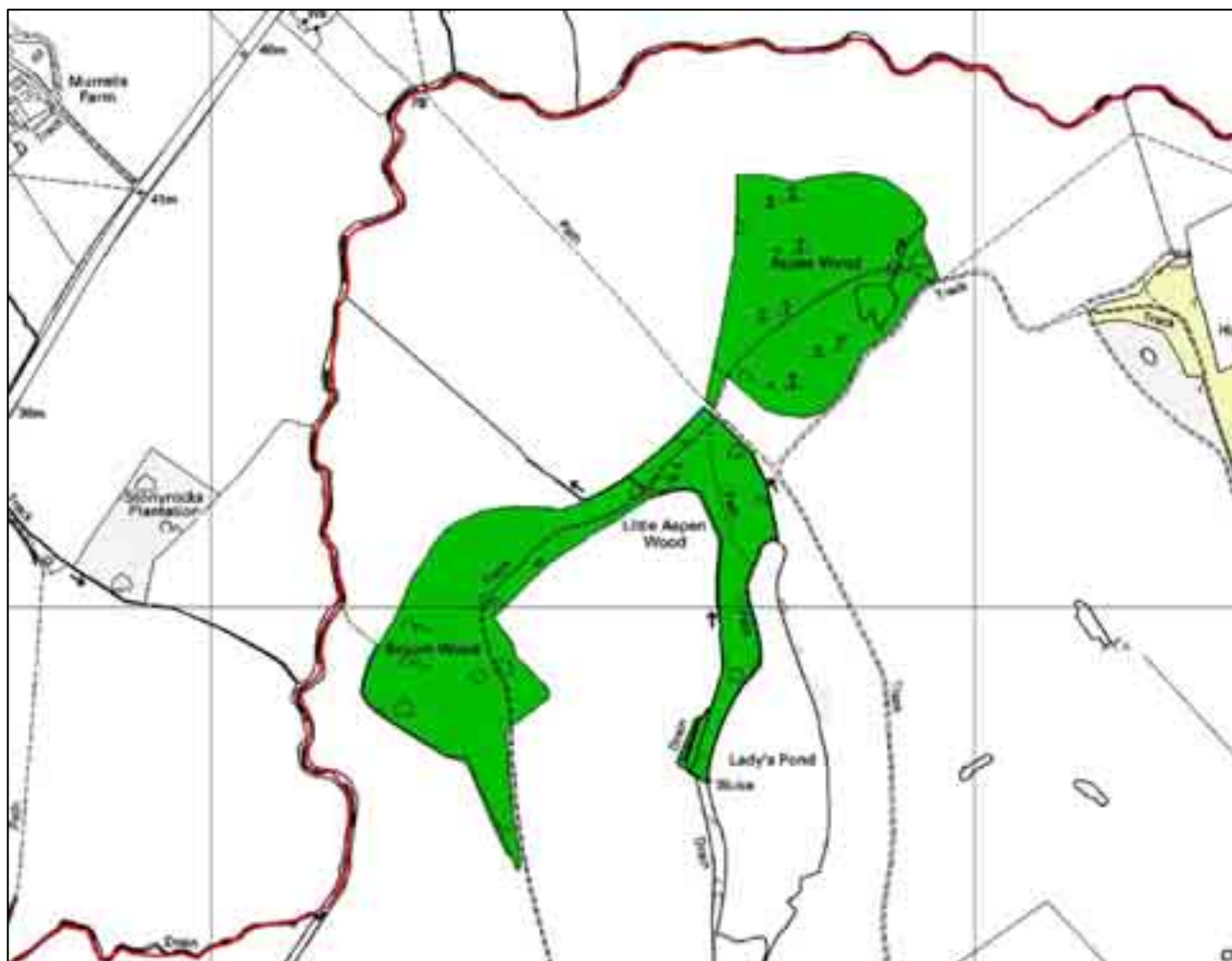
Rationale

Although not included in the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, the structure and species composition of this wood suggests that it is ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre3 Broom/Aspen Woods (16.1 ha) TQ 534991

Broom Wood and Little Aspen Wood have rather mixed canopies, with localised stands of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.), within which Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is invading. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is locally frequent adjacent to Lady's Pond. The typical woodland ground flora includes several species that indicate the ancient status of this site, including Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

Aspen Wood to the north was probably originally a Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam wood but it has been largely replanted with conifers and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The semi-natural tree canopy also includes some invasive Sycamore, with birch, Hazel, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.). Under the conifers, Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominates, but elsewhere a flora similar to the other woods can be found.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Documentary evidence, along with the structure and composition of these woods, supports the conclusion that these are ancient woodland sites.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre4 Navestock Heath (6.5 ha) TQ 537970

This large village green comprises moderately species-rich grassland on neutral to sandy, acidic soils. The grassland sward comprises a mix of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*, an Essex Red Data List plant), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*). Characteristic herbs include Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). Other species of interest include Oval Sedge (*Carex leporina*) and Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*). In some parts of the Heath, False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) are increasing in abundance, indicating that insufficient management pressure is present in order to maintain the important acid grassland species.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

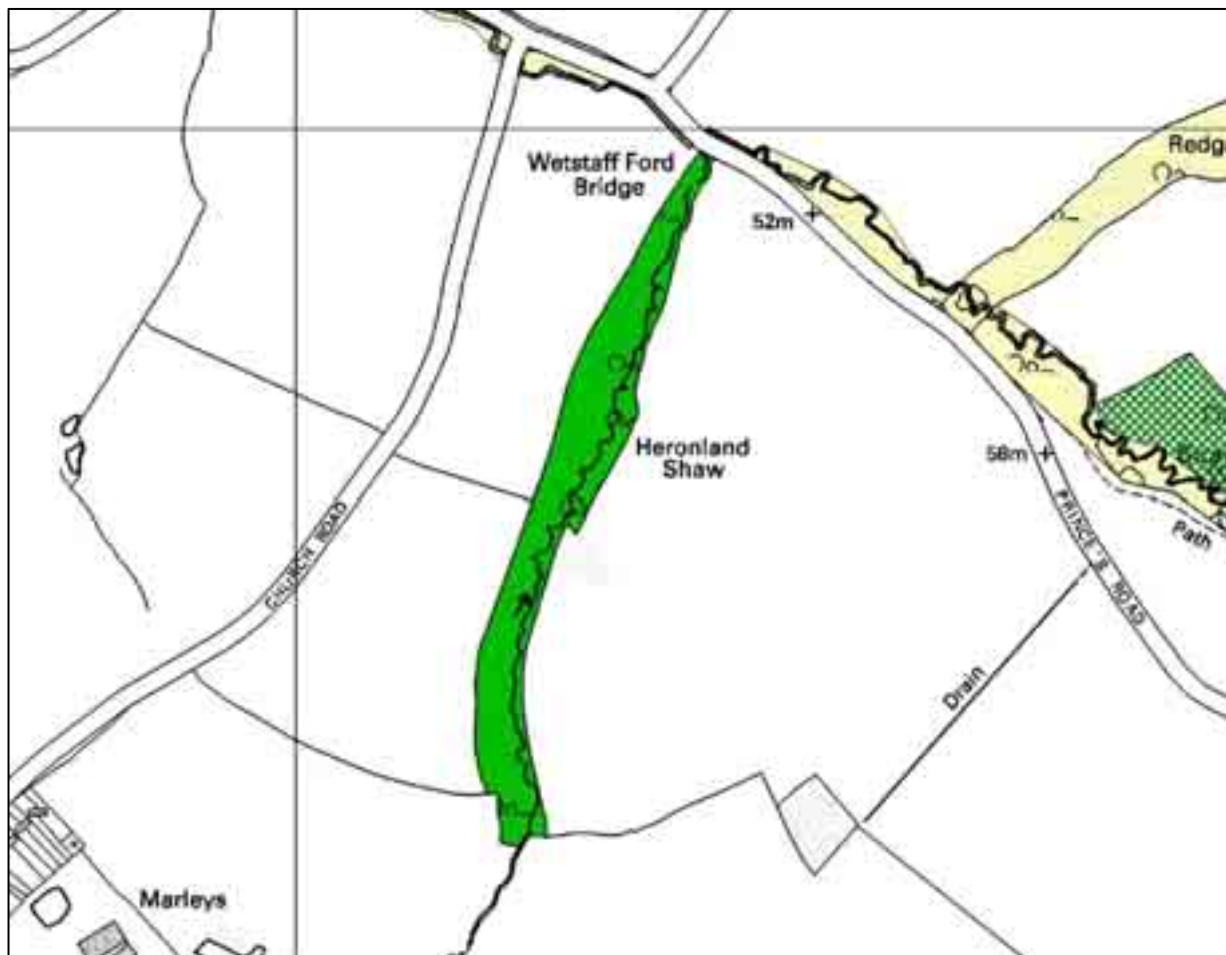
Rationale

Although succumbing to nutrient enrichment and a change in the sward characteristics due to the lack of grazing, this site is considered to be an example of lowland dry acid grassland, which, with appropriate management could be restored to more characteristic acid grassland vegetation.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre5 Heronland Shaw (2.5 ha) TQ 542976

This site is of ecological and geomorphological interest, comprising a steep-sided ravine in places, cut by a small, meandering stream. The woodland immediately adjacent to the stream is arguably ancient, whilst the western fringe is more characteristic of mature, recent woodland. The canopy comprises a mix of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) scattered throughout. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) fringes much of the stream channel. The rich ground flora includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). Of particular note is the presence of Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*), which is a rare Essex plant and is included in the county's Red Data List.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

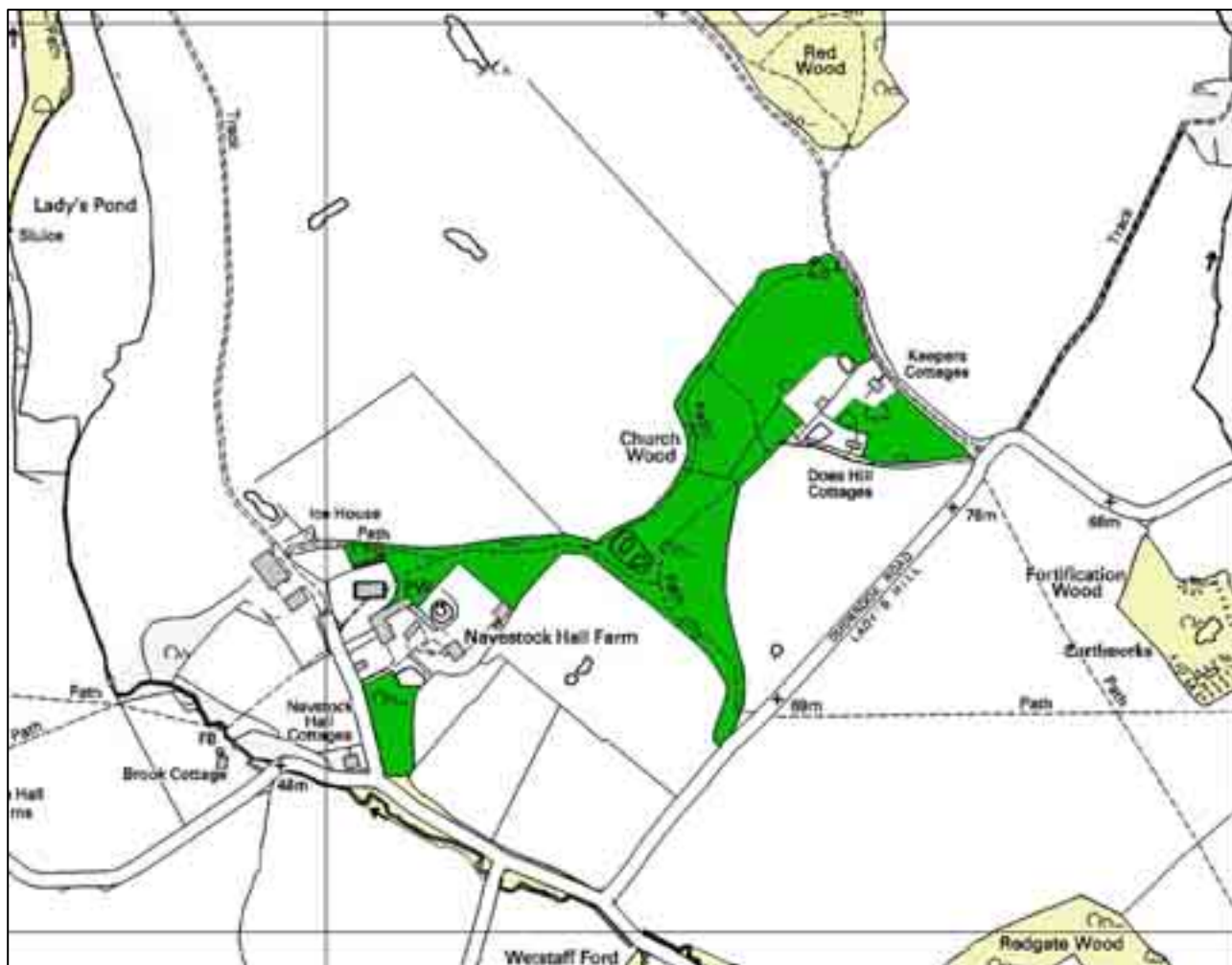
Rationale

Much of this wood is too steep to have ever been cultivated and so the immediate stream-side strip can be classed as ancient woodland and it is here that the majority of the ancient woodland indicator plants were seen. On gentler slopes the woodland is likely to be recent in origin, but it complements the ravine woodland and, to an extent, buffers it from the effects of agricultural practices on adjacent fields.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre6 Church Wood, Navestock (7.3 ha) TQ 543984

This wood is not documented as being ancient, although parts of it may prove to be so. Nevertheless, it comprises a typical, mature broadleaved woodland that lies in a pivotal position amongst a complex of other woodland LoWS. The canopy is largely Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.) over Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub. Suckering elm (*Ulmus* sp.) is locally frequent. The typical woodland flora includes False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

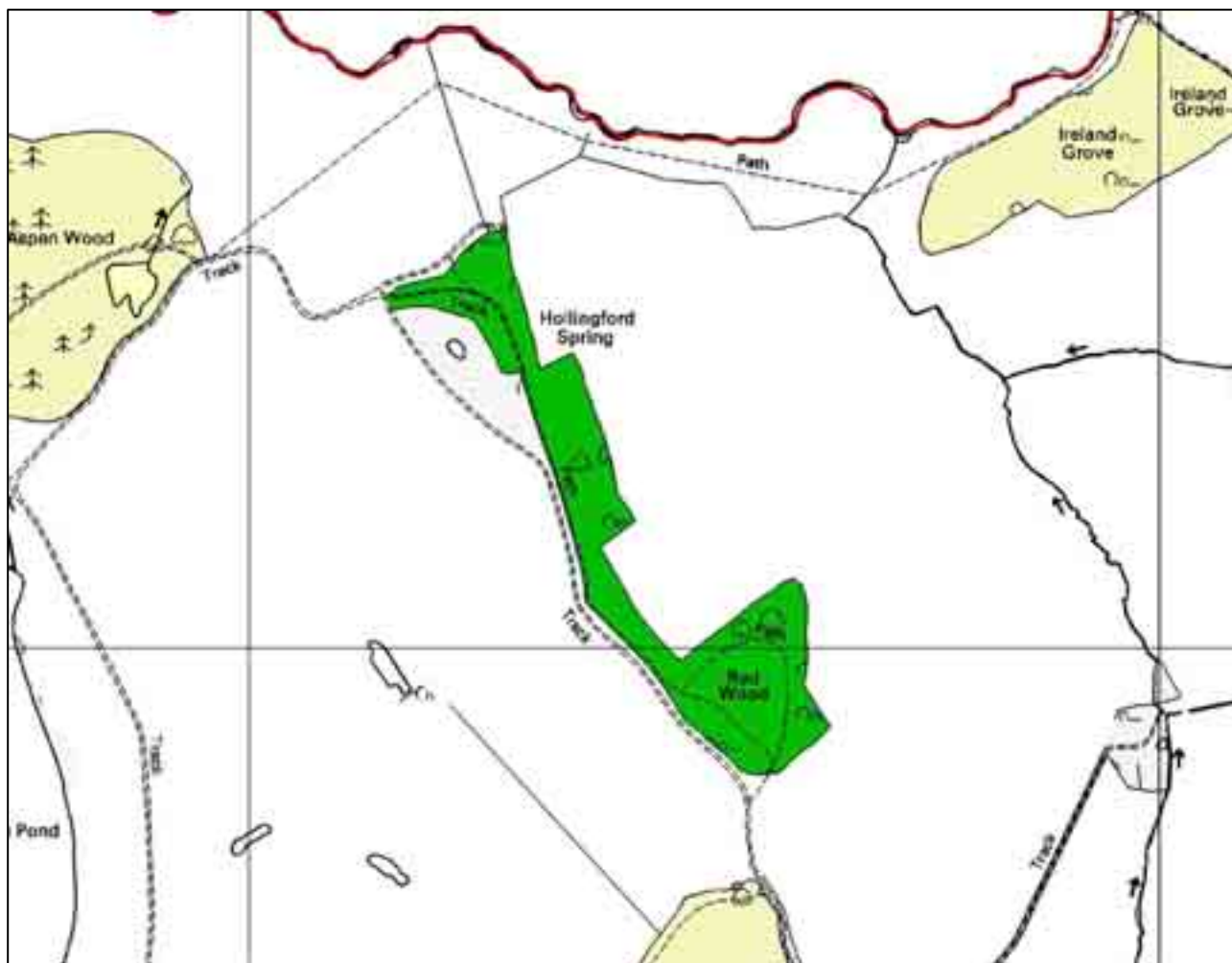
Rationale

This wood may not be ancient but it nevertheless supports a typical woodland flora and fauna. Importantly, it also lies centrally within a large cluster of ancient woods, acting as an ecological link that will benefit the movement of woodland species through the area.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre7 Red Wood/Hollingford Spring (5.3 ha) TQ 543991

Hollingford Spring comprises old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) at the northern tip and an elm (*Ulmus* sp.) clone centrally. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are also present. It is connected to Red Wood via a recent band of scrub woodland where Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is frequent. The original canopy of Red Wood is hard to judge, since the wood is now largely taken over by Sycamore, which is being managed as coppice.

The ground flora includes several species associated with ancient woodland sites, such as Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*). Other ground plants include Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) and Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

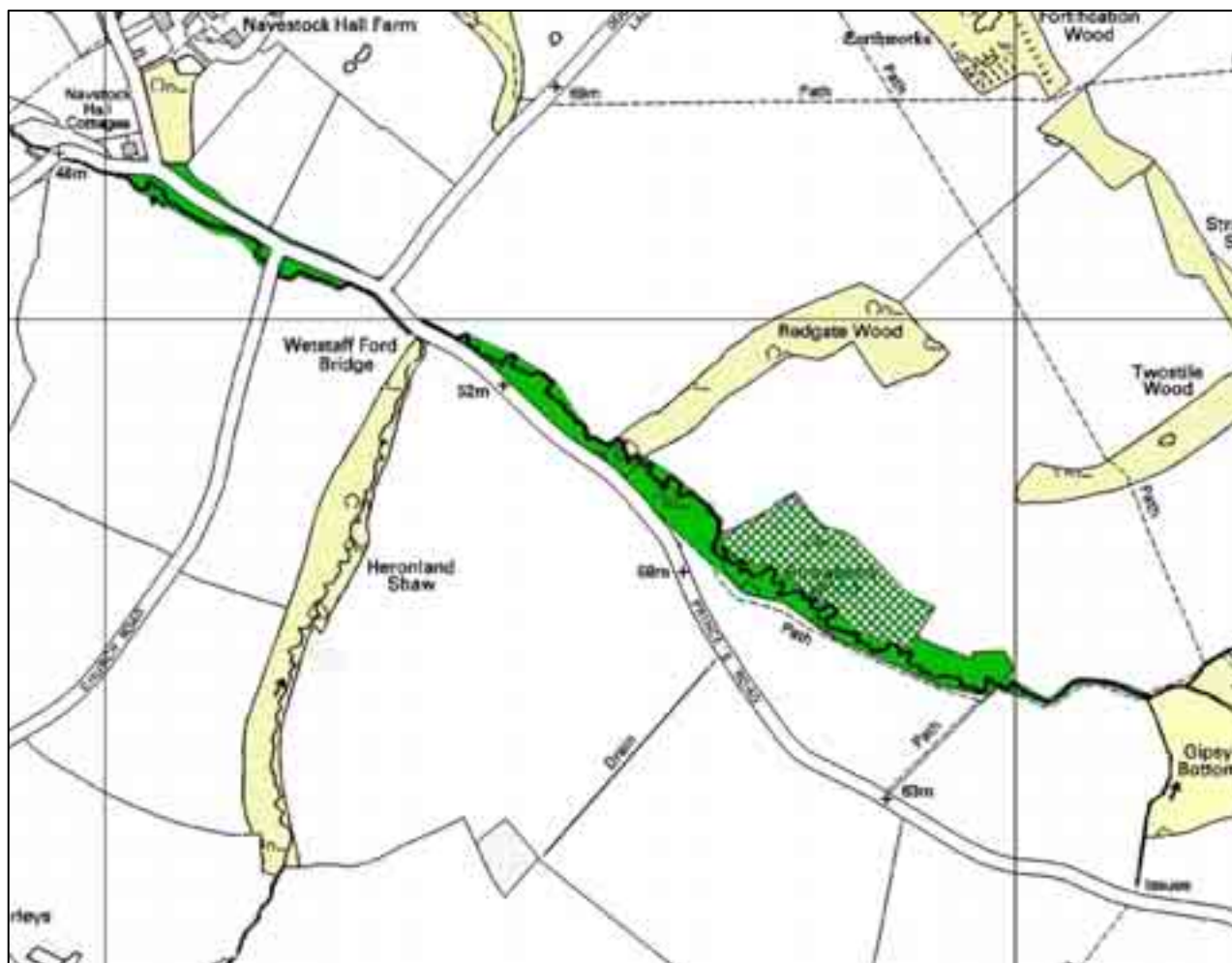
Rationale

Whilst neither of these woods appears on the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, their characteristics suggest that they are largely ancient, with a more recent neck of woodland connecting the two. Should they be demonstrated to not be ancient, they would still qualify as LoWS under criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre8 Prince's Road Wood (3.4 ha) TQ 545978

This Site is of both ecological and geomorphological interest, with a naturally meandering stream within a band of old and potentially ancient woodland. Adjacent to the stream is a fringe of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), flanked by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). Adjacent to Strawberry Wood, the canopy also includes Grey Poplar (*Populus canescens*) and a few conifers, and there are also small groups of invading Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). At its eastern end, this LoWS connects with Gipsy Bottom (Bre14) via a thick hedge of Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Hazel, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Alder, suckering elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The western section has some old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and at its end is an interesting stand of mature and seemingly disease-resistant elms, which might be of genetic significance for the conservation of this endangered tree.

The flora is rich in ancient woodland indicators, including Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

The northern end of this Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

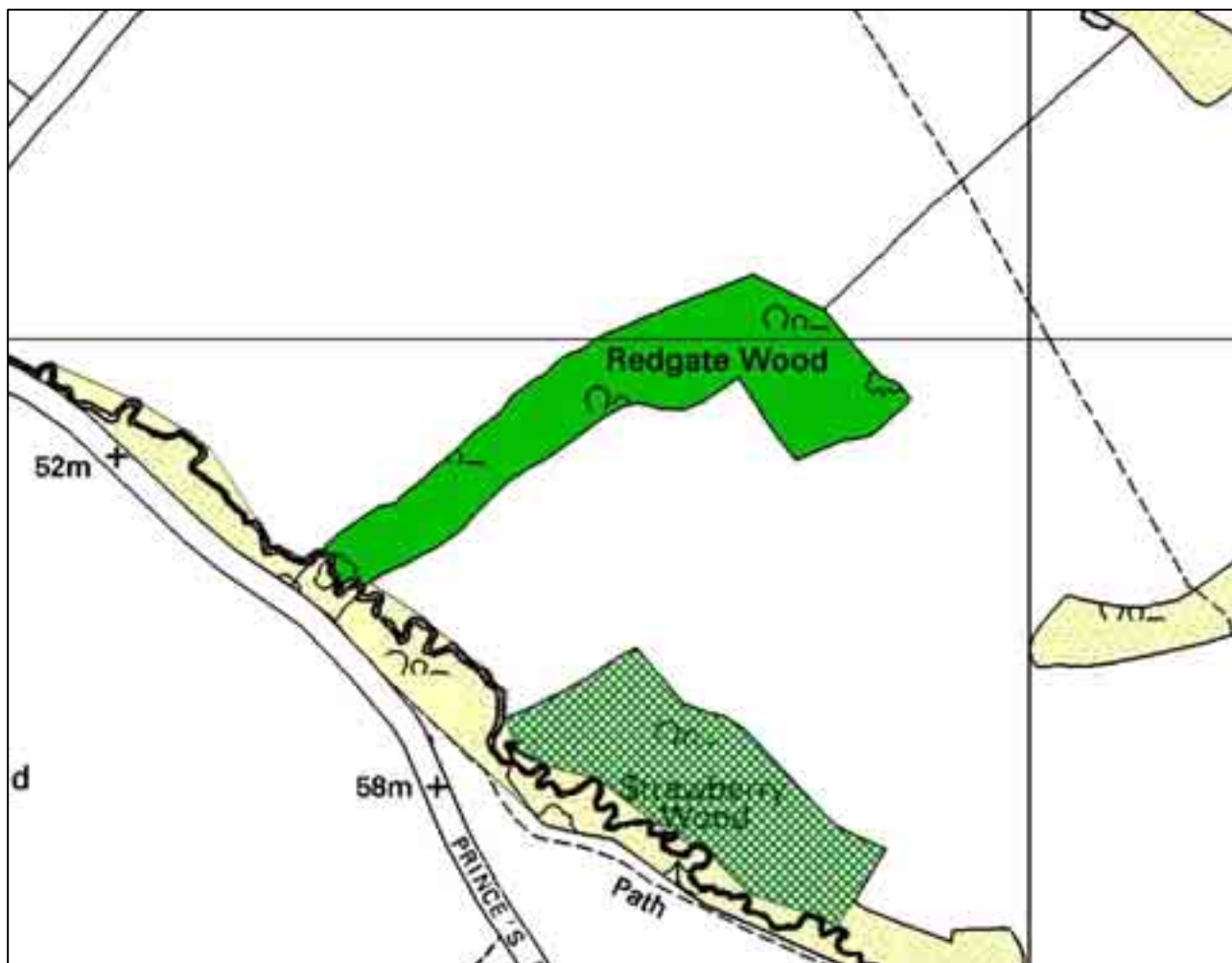
Rationale

Parts of this streamside strip have all the characteristics of ancient woodland, such as a small area of coppiced Hornbeam over Wood Anemones at the northern end. Where not ancient, the woodland certainly conforms to criterion HC2. The whole Site should also function as a wildlife corridor, with several adjacent woodland LoWS.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre9 Redgate Wood (3.4 ha) TQ 546979

Redgate Wood comprises abundant old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) also occur more sparingly. Invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is scattered throughout, becoming more frequent in the north-east, at the expense of Hornbeam. In the northern part of the wood there is an interesting stand of mature and seemingly disease-resistant elms (*Ulmus* sp.), which might be of genetic significance for the conservation of this endangered tree. The ground flora includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), locally frequent Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

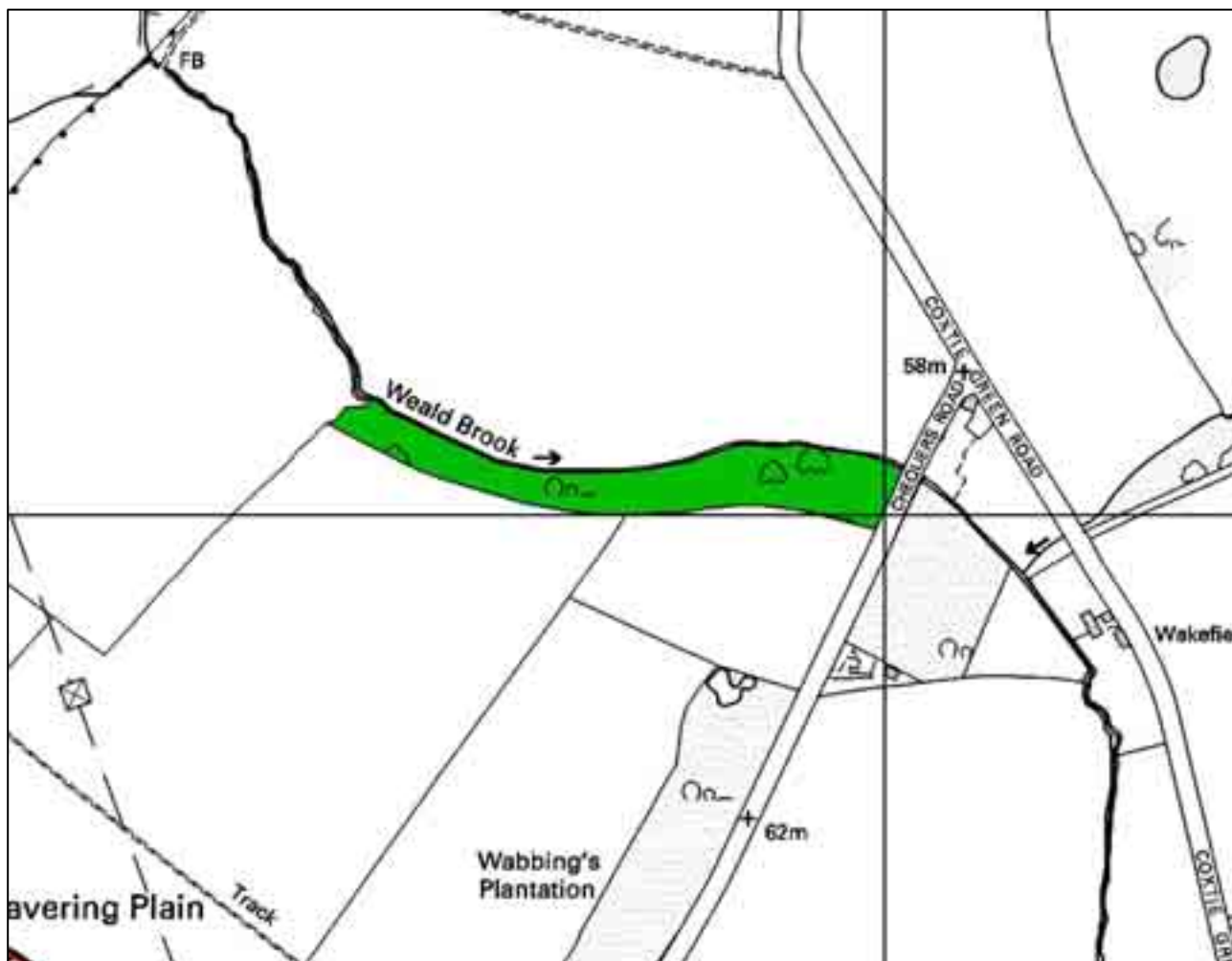
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland. It is one of the chain of woodlands connected by the Bre8 Prince's Road Wood corridor.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre10 Weald Brook Wood (1.7 ha) TQ 547950

This Site comprises a strip of possibly ancient streamside woodland with an artificial southern margin, possibly created during the enclosure of Havering Plain. The canopy comprises mainly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) within which Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) was planted long ago. Also present in the canopy are Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and elms (*Ulmus* sp.). The diverse ground flora includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and violets (*Viola* sp.).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

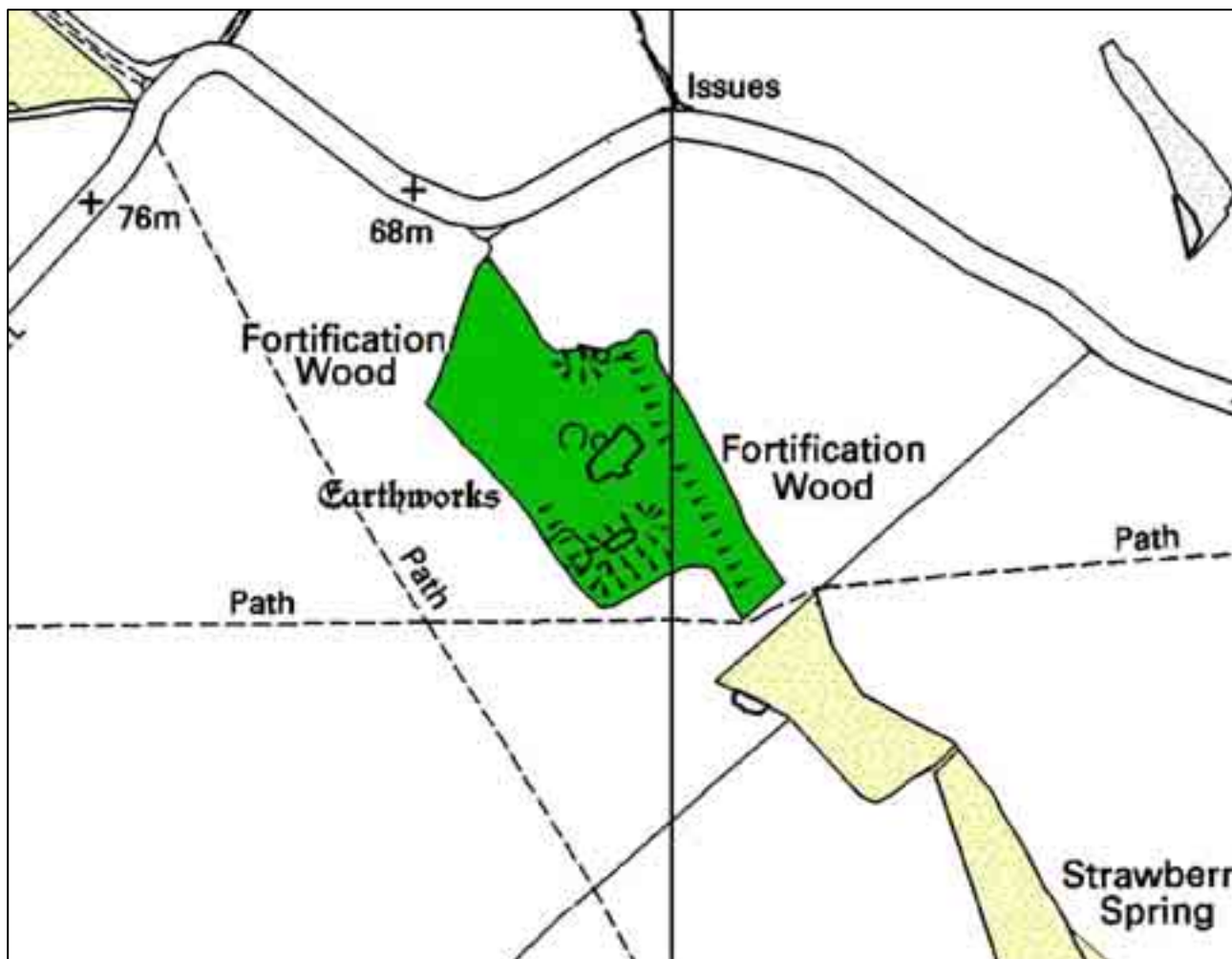
Rationale

Whilst parts of the site, especially close to the stream, are arguably ancient, the whole wood more certainly falls within the HC2 criterion as diverse and well-structured broadleaved woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre11 Fortification Wood (1.7 ha) TQ 549983

This site includes a scheduled ancient monument in the form of a possible medieval manorial enclosure. Subject to when it was abandoned and lost to scrub woodland, this site might qualify as an ancient woodland site, although it does not support a rich flora. Available Ordnance Survey mapping indicates a more open interior fringed by woodland and the northern tip of the wood comprises old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards – a typical ancient woodland structure in this part of Essex. Elsewhere, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is becoming abundant and has been effectively coppiced in some places. The canopy and understorey also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) occurring more sparingly.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

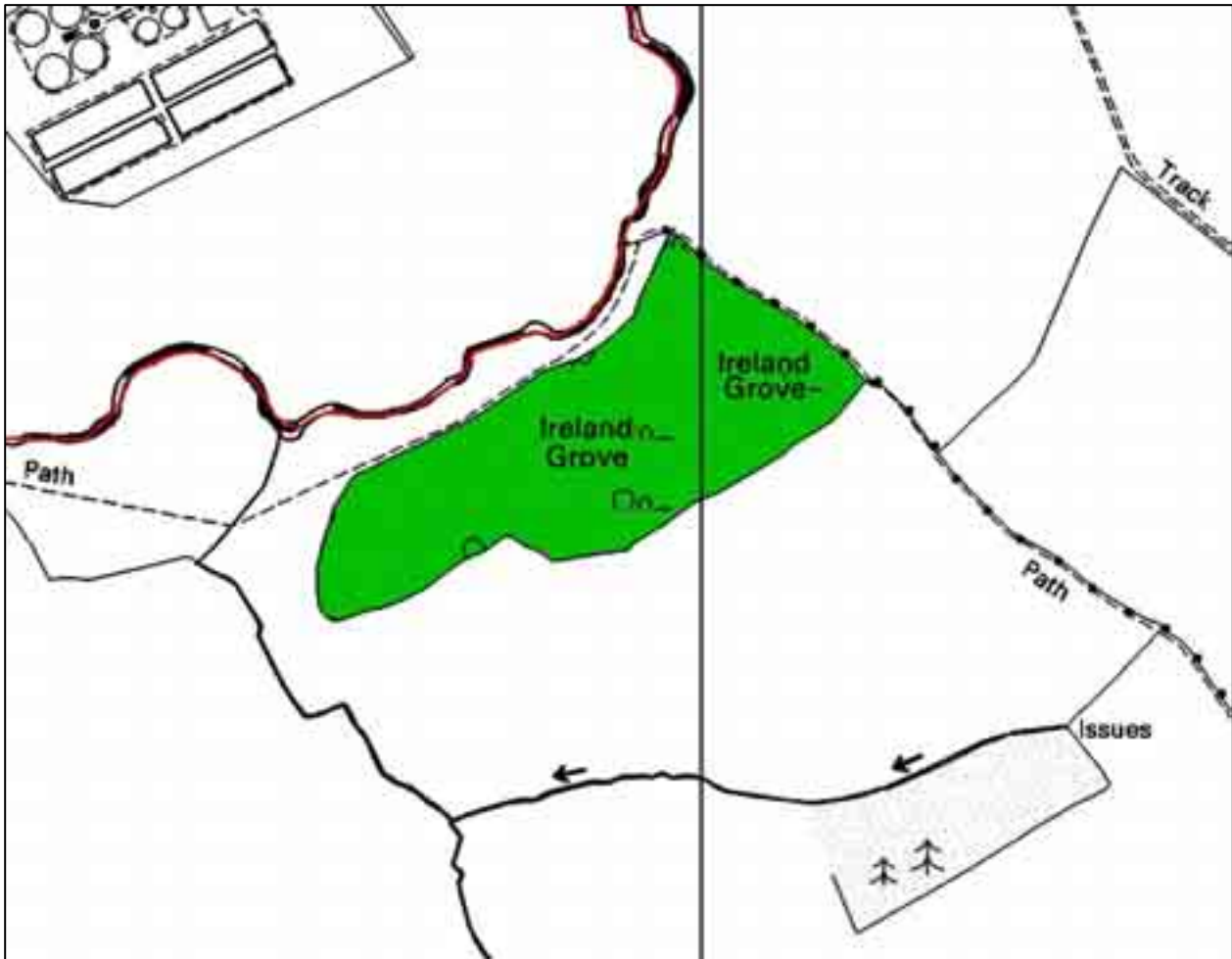
Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Parts of this wood may be ancient, but this is not certain. However, despite the localised abundance of Sycamore, the wood retains the structure and general composition of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland habitat. The Site lies within a complex of mainly ancient woods.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre12 Ireland Grove (4.2 ha) TQ 549995

This ancient wood is dominated by overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice that casts a dense shade over an impoverished ground flora. Other canopy species include very few Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion appears to be at an early stage, although there are a few very large multi-stemmed “coppice” stools of this tree. The ground flora is characterised by locally frequent Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), amongst which Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) occur more sparingly.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 ‘Upper Roding’: see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

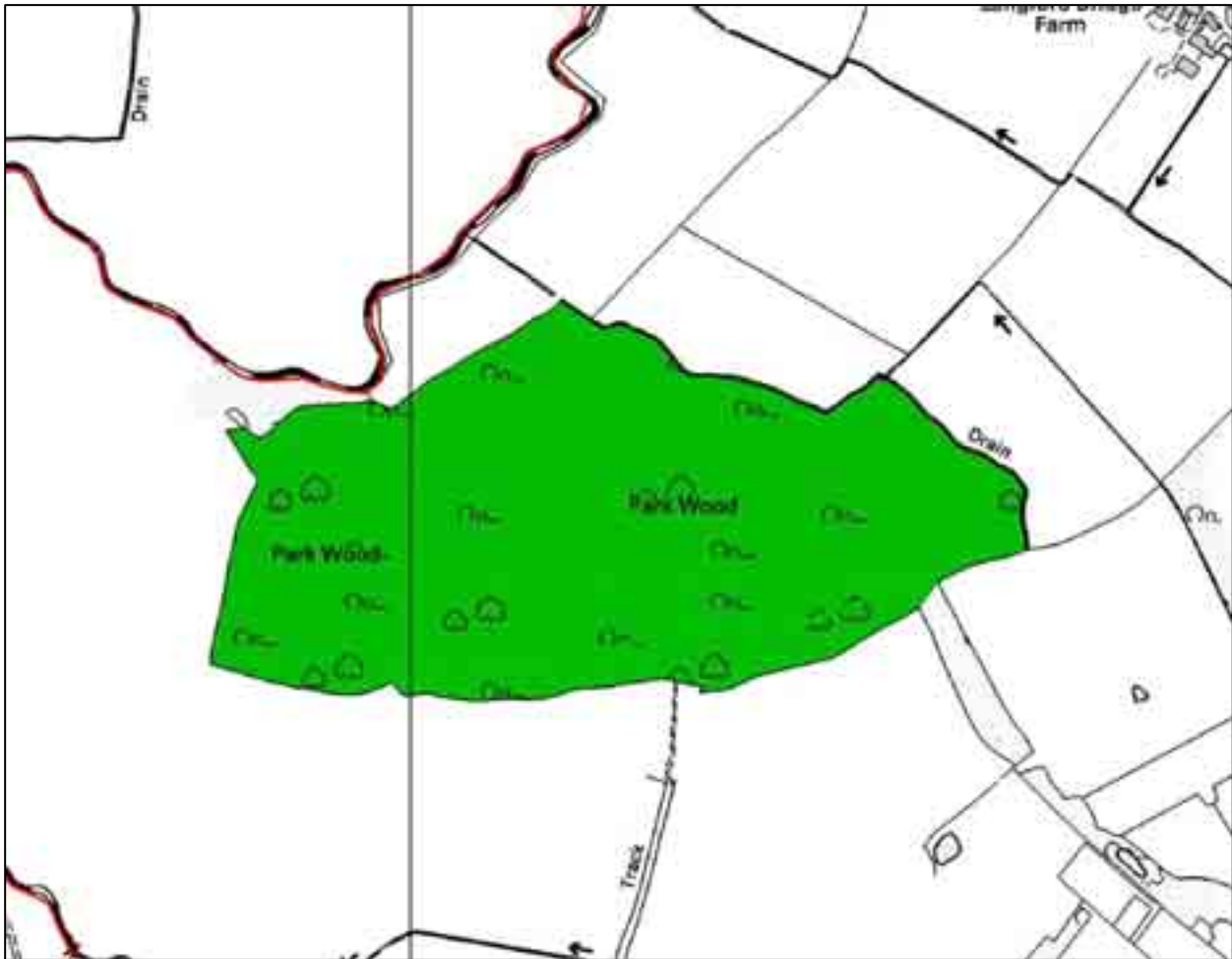
Rationale

This wood is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory and its composition confirms this status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: - October 2012



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Bre13 Park Wood, Kelvedon Hatch (19.1 ha) TL 552004

This large ancient wood comprises a mosaic of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with a central area of Ash and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) scattered throughout. There is a small stand of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) towards the eastern end. The diverse ground flora includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) are both locally frequent.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

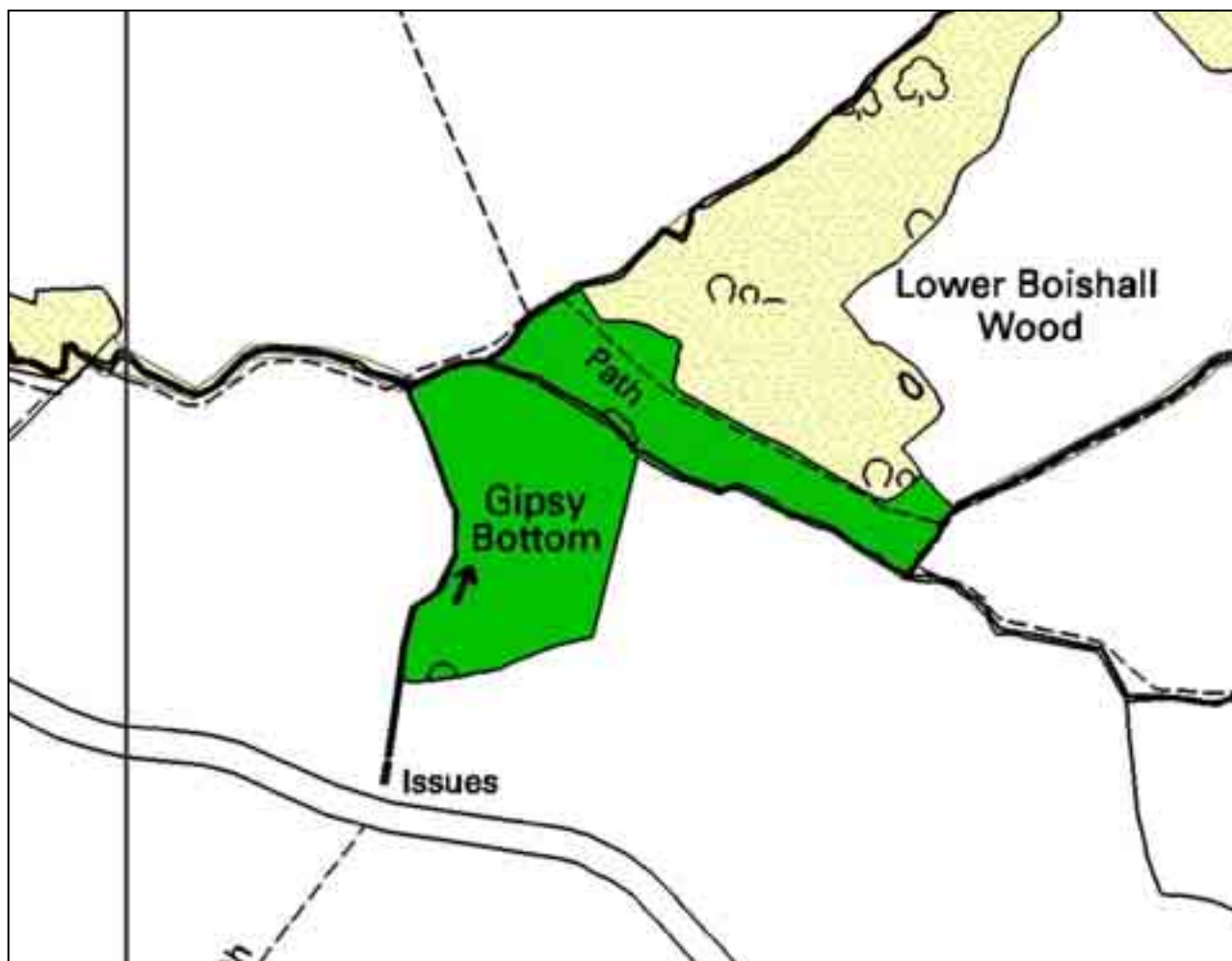
Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and its structure and species assemblage confirm this status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre14 Gipsy Bottom (2.4 ha) TQ 552975

This site comprises a block of woodland named Gipsy Bottom and a wide, scrub-lined ride formed between this and Lower Boishall Wood to the north. Gipsy Bottom is thought to be in part ancient woodland, much of which has been replanted with conifers. The semi-natural broadleaved canopy comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with some old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice in the north, adjacent to the boundary stream. The typical woodland ground flora includes several ancient woodland plants, such as Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*). The presence of soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), including within the Essex Red Data List of locally threatened plants, is of note.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

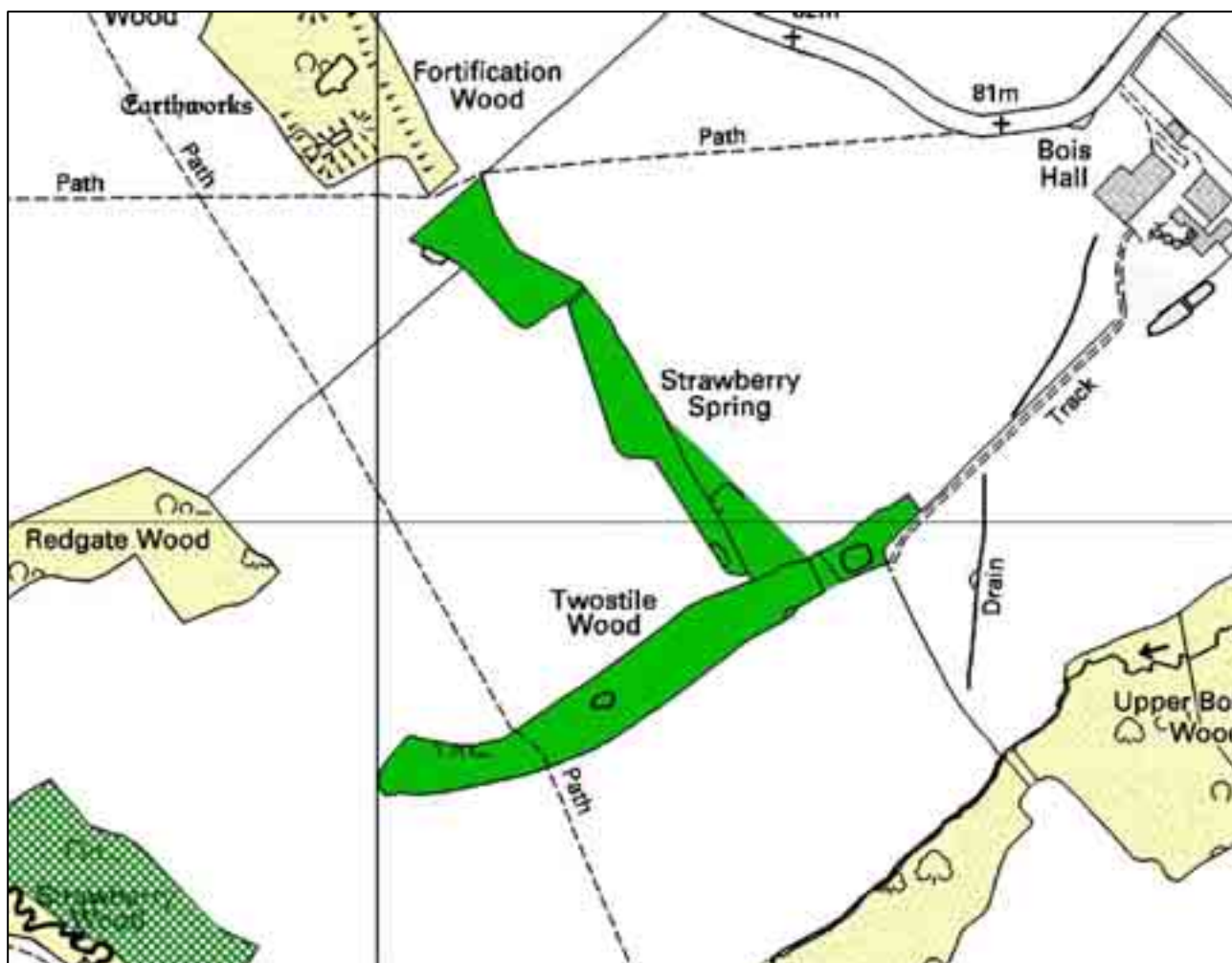
Rationale

Documentary evidence, back up with characteristics of the ground flora, suggest that the majority of Gipsy Bottom is an ancient woodland site. The connecting strip between Gipsy Bottom and Lower Boishall Wood is effectively a woodland ride and this Site should be viewed as an integral part of a large woodland complex, including the Boishall Woods LoWS to the north.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (part)

Reviewed: October 2012 (site extended)



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Bre15 Strawberry Spring/Twostile Wood (3.1 ha) TQ 552980

This Site comprises two strips of probably ancient woodland linked by a wedge of more recent, partly planted, wood. Strawberry Spring has a mixed canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), with areas of regenerating elm (*Ulmus* sp.). A clone of Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) suggests that some parts of the wood are ancient. At the southern tip is a small stand of planted conifers within an area of recent woodland. The typical woodland ground flora comprises mainly Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

Twostile Wood has scattered large Ash coppice stools with Pedunculate Oak standards, over a sub-canopy of Hornbeam and Field Maple. The ground flora is similar in character to Strawberry Spring, but includes, in addition, some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

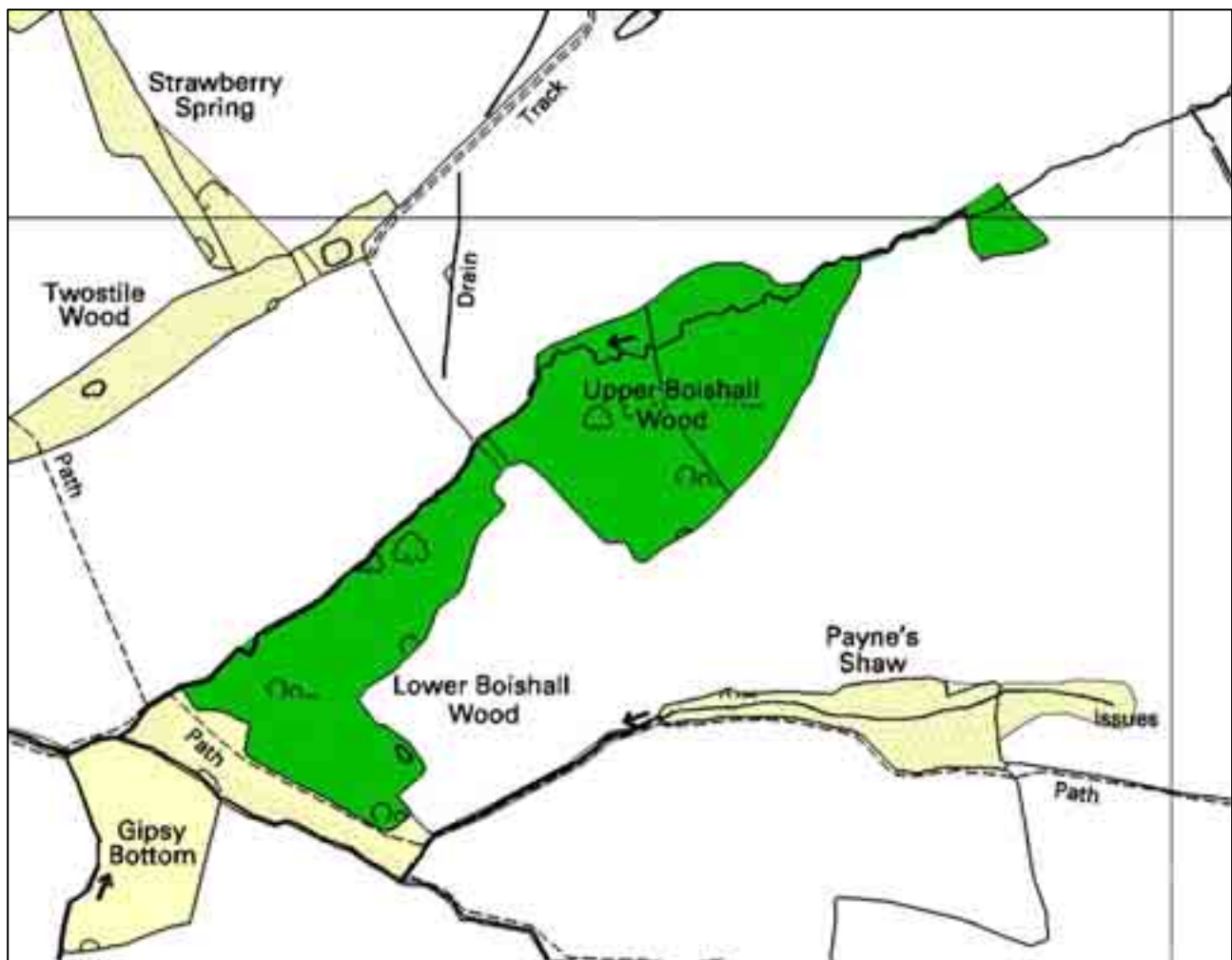
Rationale

There is conflicting evidence as to whether or not parts of these woods are ancient. However, they have a good structure and composition and clearly fall within the England BAP Priority Habitat definition. The small wedge of recent elm and planted conifers is included in order to strengthen the link between the two mature woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (Twostile Wood)

Reviewed: October 2012 (Strawberry Spring added)



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Br16 Boishall Woods (6.6 ha) TQ 554977

Lower Boishall Wood has a mixed canopy of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Centrally, there is an exceptional stand of very large, tall elms that may represent a vestige of the days when elmwood was still a recognisable woodland type. The dieback of elm may have allowed the invasion of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) within the opened canopy.

The ancient status of this site is reflected in its rich ground flora, which includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) amongst a matrix of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

Upper Boishall Wood is similarly an Oak-Ash-Hornbeam woodland by origin, but this has been underplanted with Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), which now form tall but fairly well scattered canopy trees. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) fringes the northern stream. There is a similar ground flora, with the additional presence of Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and the Essex Red Data List species Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*).

The small fragment of unnamed woodland to the north (connected to Upper Boishall Wood via a thick, species-rich hedge) has a canopy of Pedunculate Oak and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hedged with Hawthorn and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), suggestive of old, but comparatively "recent" woodland. Streamside Alders add to the habitat diversity and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) occurs on the damp ground here. The ground flora is similar to that of the large, ancient woods to the south, with bluebells being prominent.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

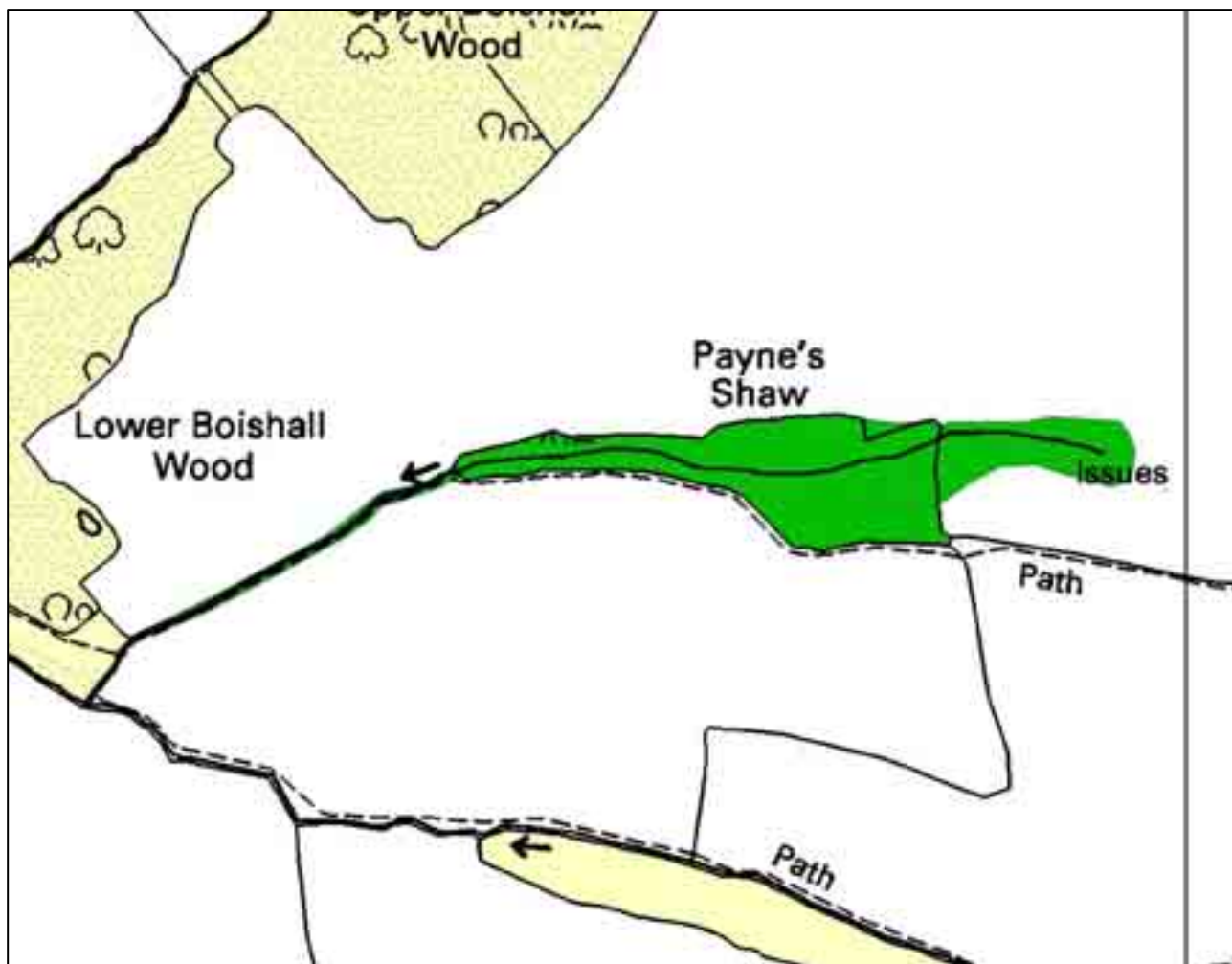
Rationale

The structure and composition of Upper and Lower Boishall Woods supports documentary evidence that these are ancient woods. The small square of more recent woodland to the north has acquired many of the characteristic plants of ancient woodland and doubtless sits astride an ancient hedgerow and watercourse, which provides ecological connectivity with the main woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (in part)

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor additions)



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Bre17 Payne's Shaw (1.4 ha) TQ 555975

The main body of Payne's Shaw appears to be ancient, with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) on higher, drier ground either side of a band of streamside Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The canopy and understorey also includes some Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

The diverse ground flora includes Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

The eastern end of this Site comprises Alderwood over Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). Payne's Shaw connects to the Boishall Woods LoWS Bre16 via a thick, species-rich hedge that is included within the Payne's Shaw LoWS.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites
HC3 - Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

Rationale

Landform, structure and species complement all support the ancient status of the main body of Payne's Shaw. The eastern extension, dominated by Alder on damp ground, is a national BAP Priority Habitat, with all stands of wet woodland being vulnerable to change and in need of conservation measures. The value of this Site is compounded by its connectivity to the large Boishall Woods complex to the west.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (in part)

Reviewed: October 2012 (west and east extensions)



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Bre18 Gilstead Wood (2.2 ha) TQ 557955

A small stand of old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) may attain ancient woodland status, but the majority of this wood is mature recent woodland. The canopy mainly comprises a mix of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with some invading Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A central streamline supports a narrow stand of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), which adds to the habitat diversity present. The ground cover is characterised by frequent Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), whilst several ancient woodland plants also occur here, notably abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), along with Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

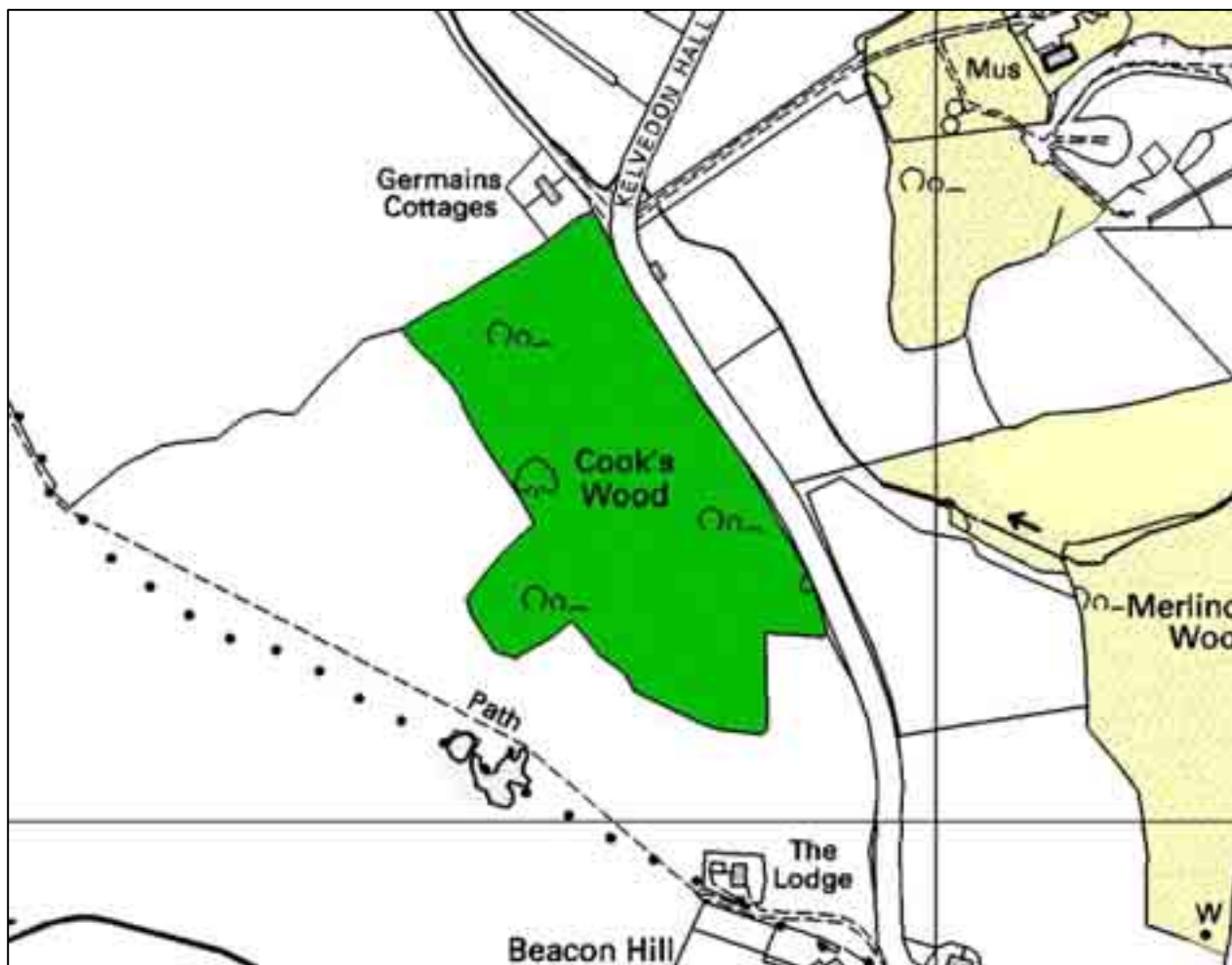
Rationale

No part of this wood is easily definable as ancient woodland, although the presence of several indicator species and the stands of Hornbeam and Alder suggest that some elements of the site may be ancient, long-ago incorporated into a combination of plantation and recent semi-natural growth. Now, its structure and composition is of mature broadleaved woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre19 Cook's Wood (4.3 ha) TQ 557992

Cook's Wood has a complex canopy structure, with some areas dominated by old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, whilst in others Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) predominated, with variable amounts of Ash and Hornbeam as associates. There is a small stand of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) along a damp gulley and an area of Ash and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice in the north-west corner. The southern tip of this ancient woodland site has been replanted with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) within which Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) has become established.

The ground flora is characterised by locally frequent Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Ancient woodland indicators are relatively few, but do include locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), and small quantities of Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

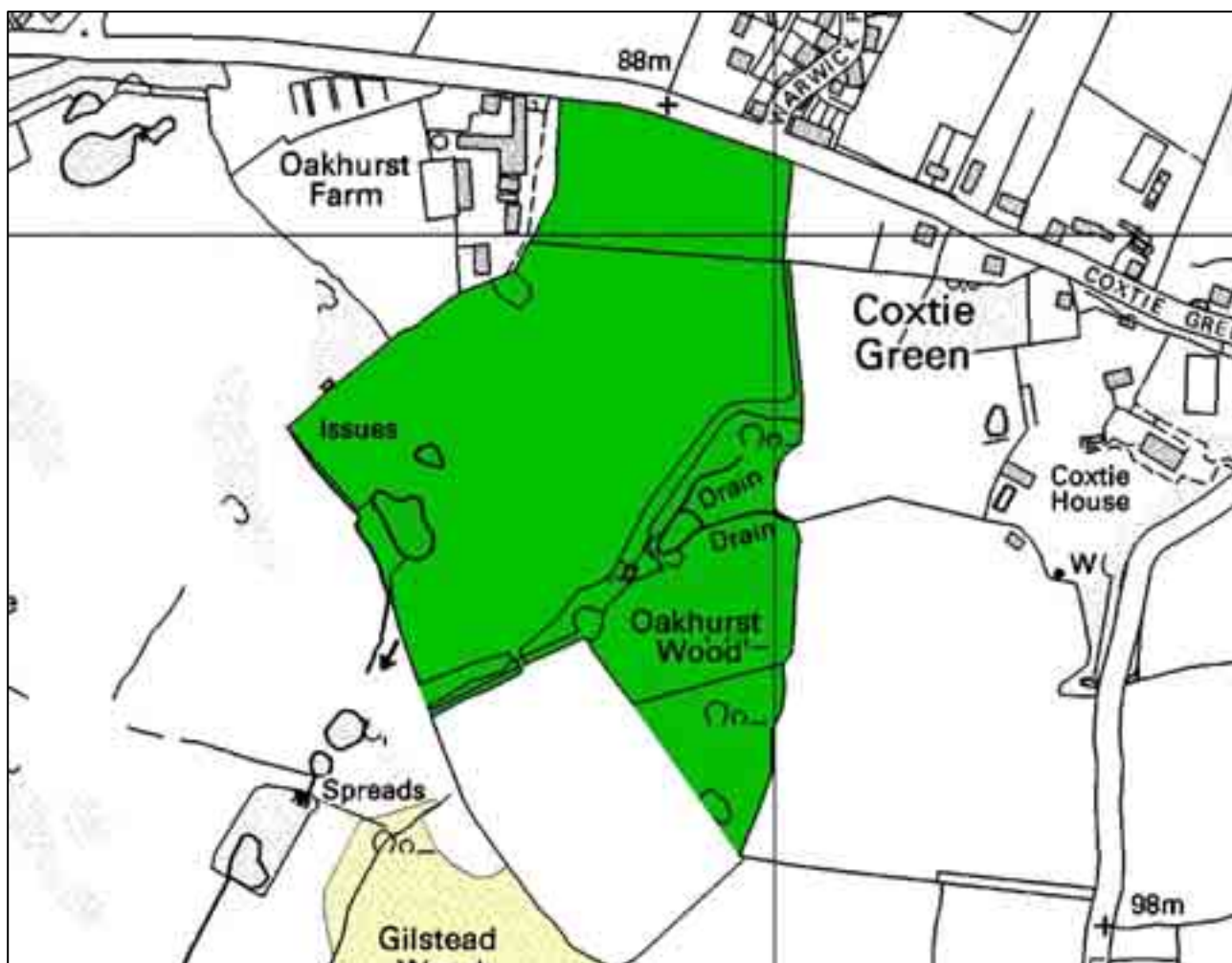
Rationale

Although being rather poor in ancient woodland ground flora plants, the overall properties of this wood suggest an ancient status. It would, in any case, also qualify as a LoWS under criterion HC2 if this ancient status is in doubt.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre20 Oakhurst Farm (9.0 ha) TQ 558958

This Site comprises a series of species-rich, old horse paddocks and mature broadleaved woodland, including an area of wet woodland habitat. The paddocks display a variety of grassland vegetation types from dry, largely unimproved acid grassland in the north through to poorly draining neutral soils in the south. Overall, the sward is dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), but a good diversity of other grasses is present, including Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Herbs include Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) on the dry soils, with Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Oval Sedge (*Carex leporina*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and various clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) elsewhere.

Oakhurst Wood is a small but complex stand spread across several springline features that support Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) and Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*). Drier ground supports a mix of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). There are some large boundary Hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus*). The typical damp woodland ground flora includes Wavy Hair-grass (*Cardamine flexuosa*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

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

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

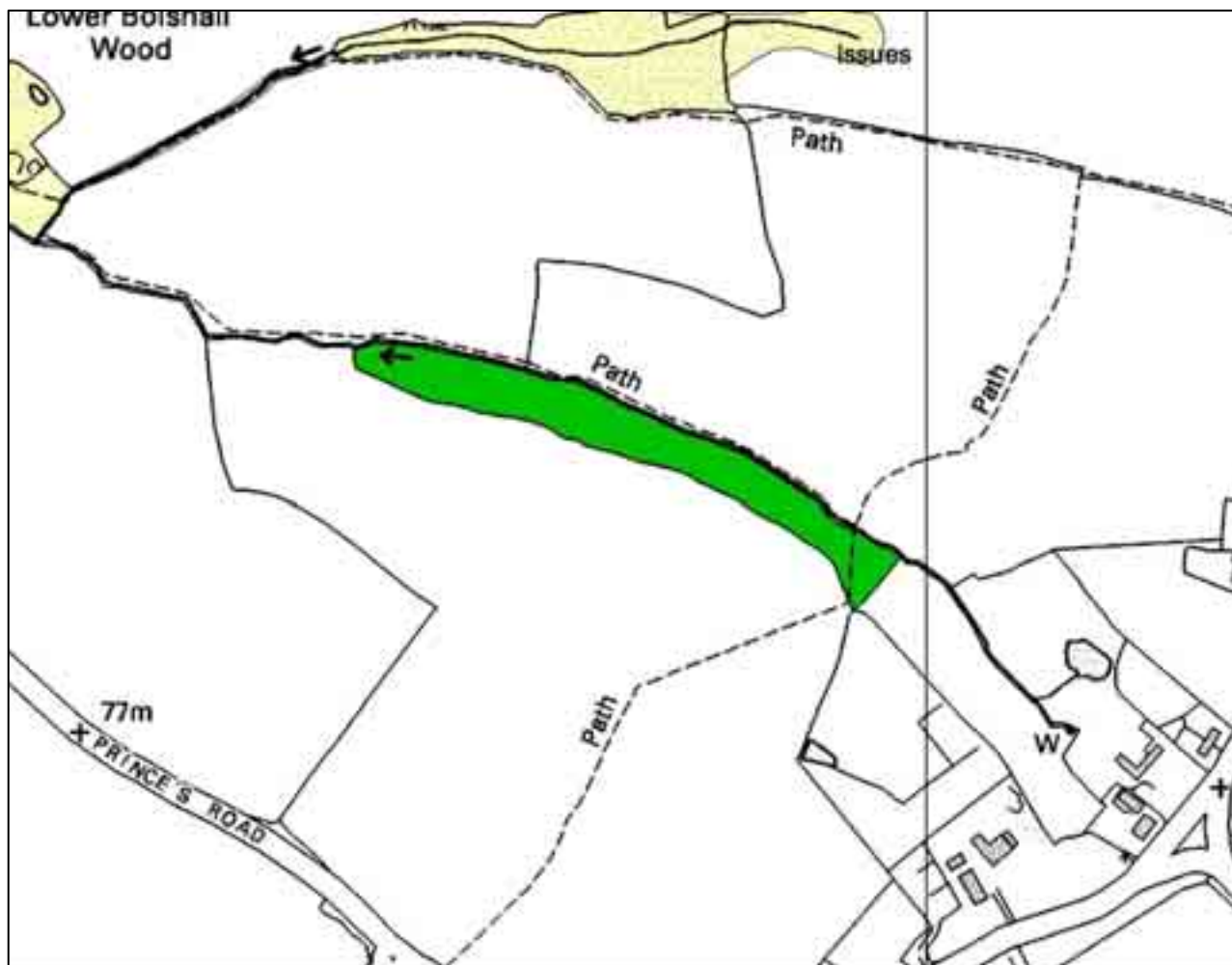
Rationale

The horse paddocks have been known as a site of botanical importance since the mid-1980s and their characteristics suggest they may be much older than this. They remain botanically diverse over a range of soil types. Although very small, part of the site has affinities with the BAP Habitat grassland type Lowland Dry Acid Grassland. This patch of turf is too small to warrant the use of the acid grassland criterion alone. The adjoining wood comprises a mosaic of two England BAP Habitat woodland types.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor deletion)



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Bre21 Navestock Marsh (1.2 ha) TQ 558973

This Site comprises mainly wet grassland, with some Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) scrub and a small stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The grass sward comprises Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), with small quantities of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Of particular importance amongst the herbs is Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), this being a very rare plant in Essex and is included within the Essex Red Data List as a result. Other wetlands plants include Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Ragged-Robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Ranunculus flammula*).

BAP Habitats

Reedbeds – small component
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands
HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

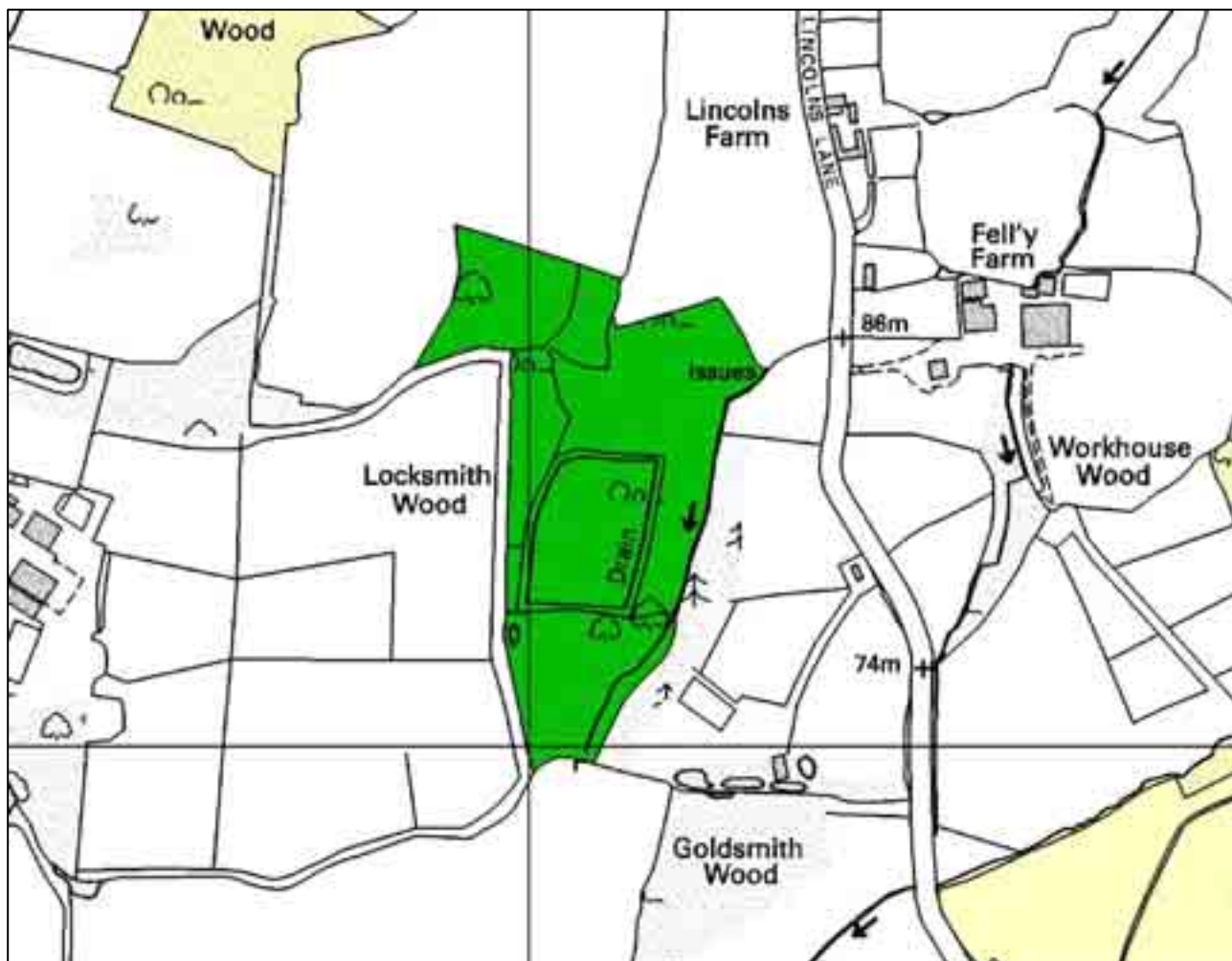
Rationale

Species-rich grasslands of any type are becoming a scarce resource and wet grasslands in particular are under threat. The presence of a rare Essex Red Data List plant confirms the overall value of this marshland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre22 Locksmith Wood (5.1 ha) TQ 560951

Most of this Site comprises ancient woodland, although the central rectangular compartment is a recent plantation. Planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) now occupies much of the wood but semi-natural stands of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and streamside Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occur around the periphery. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is becoming established across much of the site. The dense tree canopy appears to rather suppress the ground flora, although there remains locally frequent Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

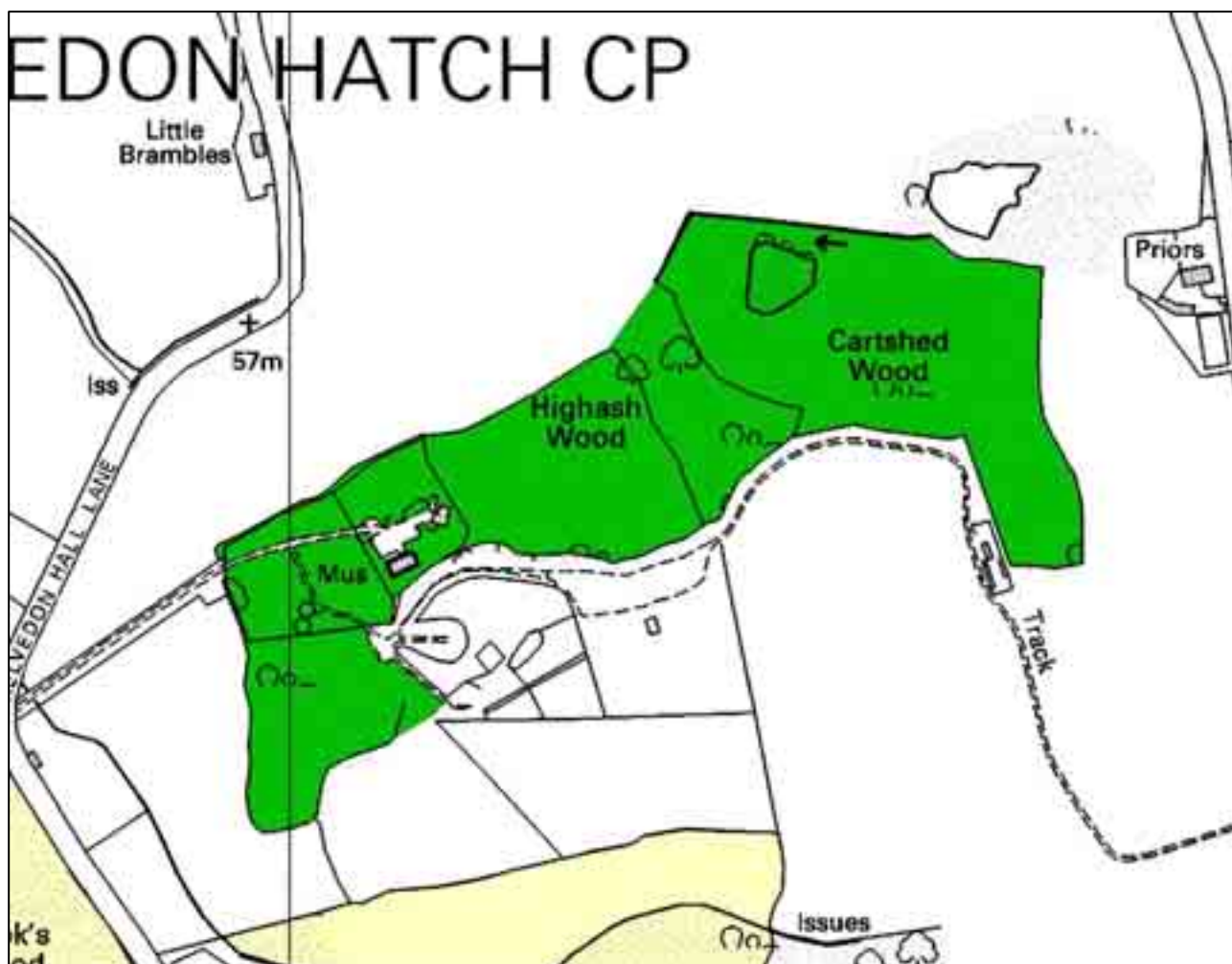
Rationale

Ecologically, there is now little to distinguish between the ancient woodland and the more recent central plantation, so this central area is included within the LoWS as a habitat extension mosaic.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre23 Cartshed/Highash Woods (8.7 ha) TQ 560995

Both Highash and Cartshed Woods are ancient sites, separated by a band of recent woodland that is included here as an important habitat link. Whilst both woods are heavily used for woodland recreation activities, with local detriment, they nevertheless play a role in exposing children in particular to the woodland environment during activities.

Cartshed Wood comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with a broad band of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) sweeping north-westwards down to the large pond within the wood. The ground flora is rather heavily trampled by ongoing paintball activity, but in more sheltered spots it comprises a mix of Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Highash Wood has a canopy of mainly Ash, Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut and provides the backdrop to an aerial ropeway course that gives a unique vantage point of a woodland canopy. The connecting section of recent woodland is rather scrubby in nature, but thus provides good cover for birds that is largely lacking across the rest of the site.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

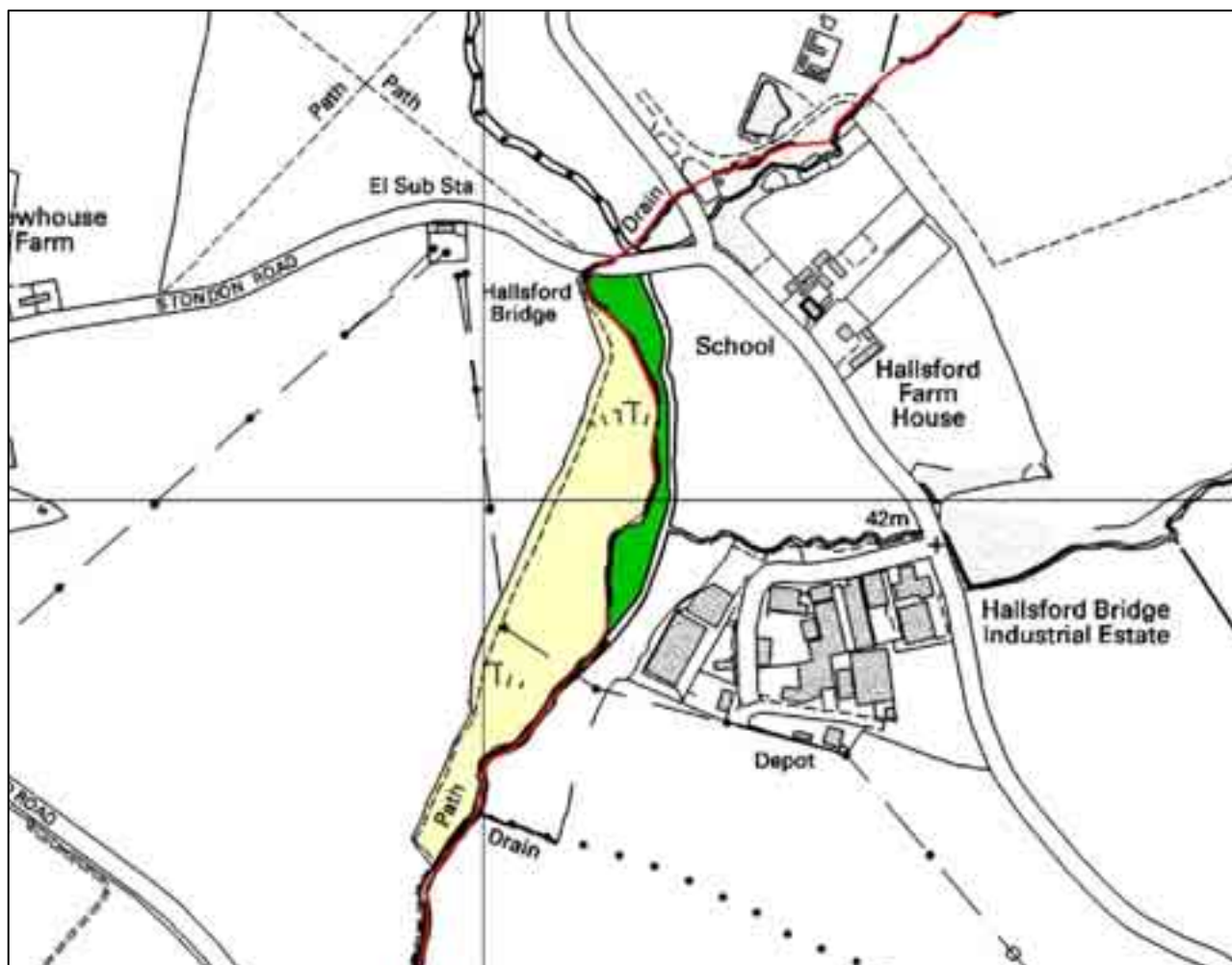
Rationale

These woodlands are selected as LoWS by default on account of their largely ancient status. The recent woodland section provides an important link between the two ancient sites and also provides woodland conditions not found elsewhere within this Site. The exposure to woodland habitats albeit through the medium of adventure play also invokes the Accessible Natural Greenspace criterion (HC31) to a section of the local community that might not otherwise consider woodland visits as a recreational pursuit.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (link added)



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Bre24 Hallsford Bridge Meadow (0.6 ha) TL 561020

This site lies largely within Epping Forest District, due to the district boundary not being realigned when the associated river channel was moved. The following citation is for the main body of the site in Epping Forest District (LoWS Epp190):

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

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

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

The section within Brentwood Borough largely comprises tall ruderal vegetation close to the stream channel.

BAP Habitats

None.

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

SC20 – Notable “flagship” Macro-invertebrates

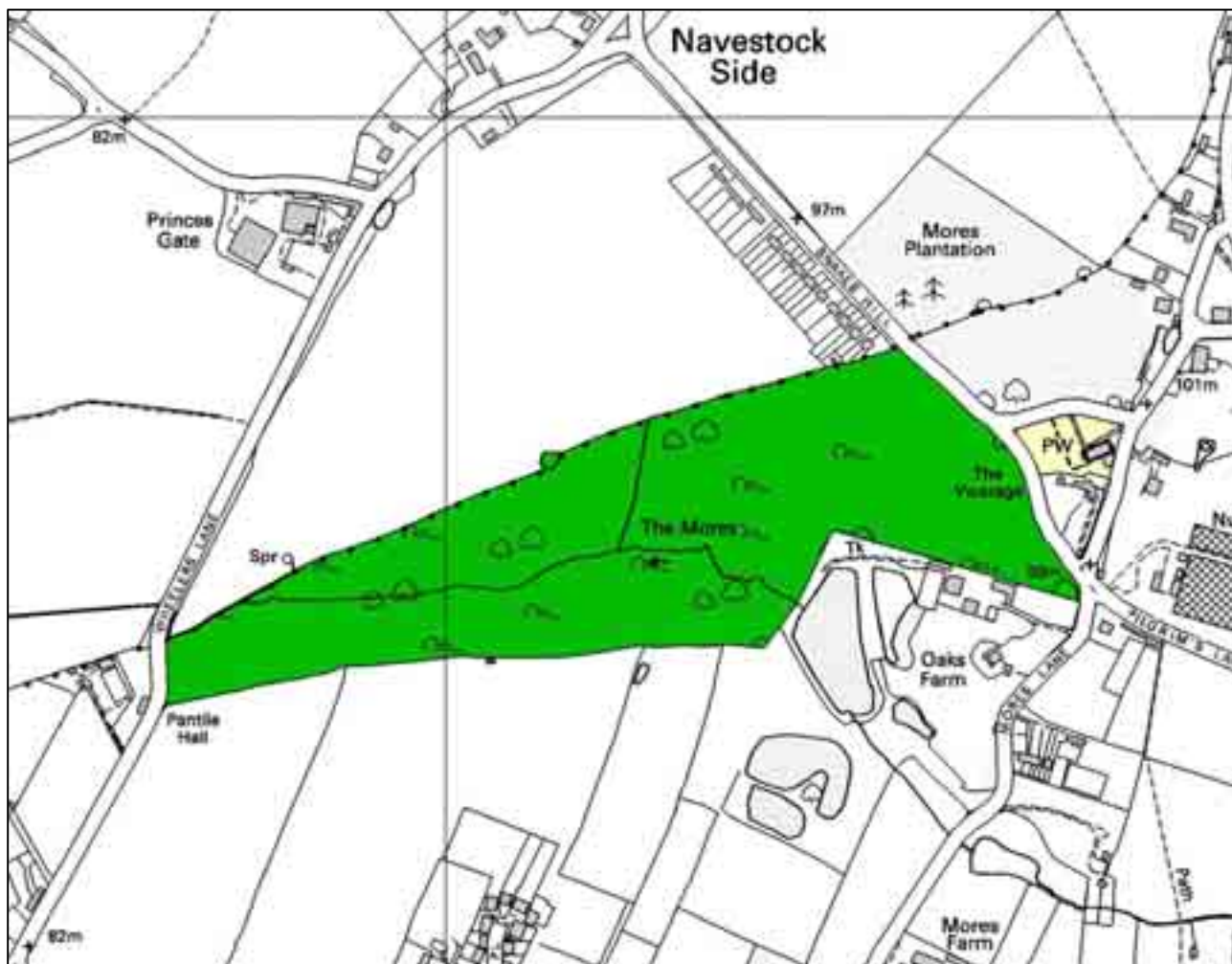
Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre25 The Mores (15.6 ha) TQ 561965

Although not formally recorded as ancient woodland, parts of this Woodland Trust property, most notably to the south of the east-west stream, have many characteristics of an ancient site. This may have evolved within a larger area of unenclosed grazing land as part of a chain of such habitat that formerly stretched southwards from Doddinghurst. The canopy composition is very varied, reflecting changes in soil type and drainage characteristics. On dry ground to the north, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) predominates, whilst further east this gives way to Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*)-Birch (*Betula* spp.) woodland over Bracken, with a few planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). There is a band of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)-wood along the main stream. There is spreading Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion from the western tip.

The most diverse part of the site lies to the south of this stream, with the canopy comprising a mix of Hornbeam, oak, Ash and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). In all, 18 species indicative of ancient woodland conditions have been recorded, including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

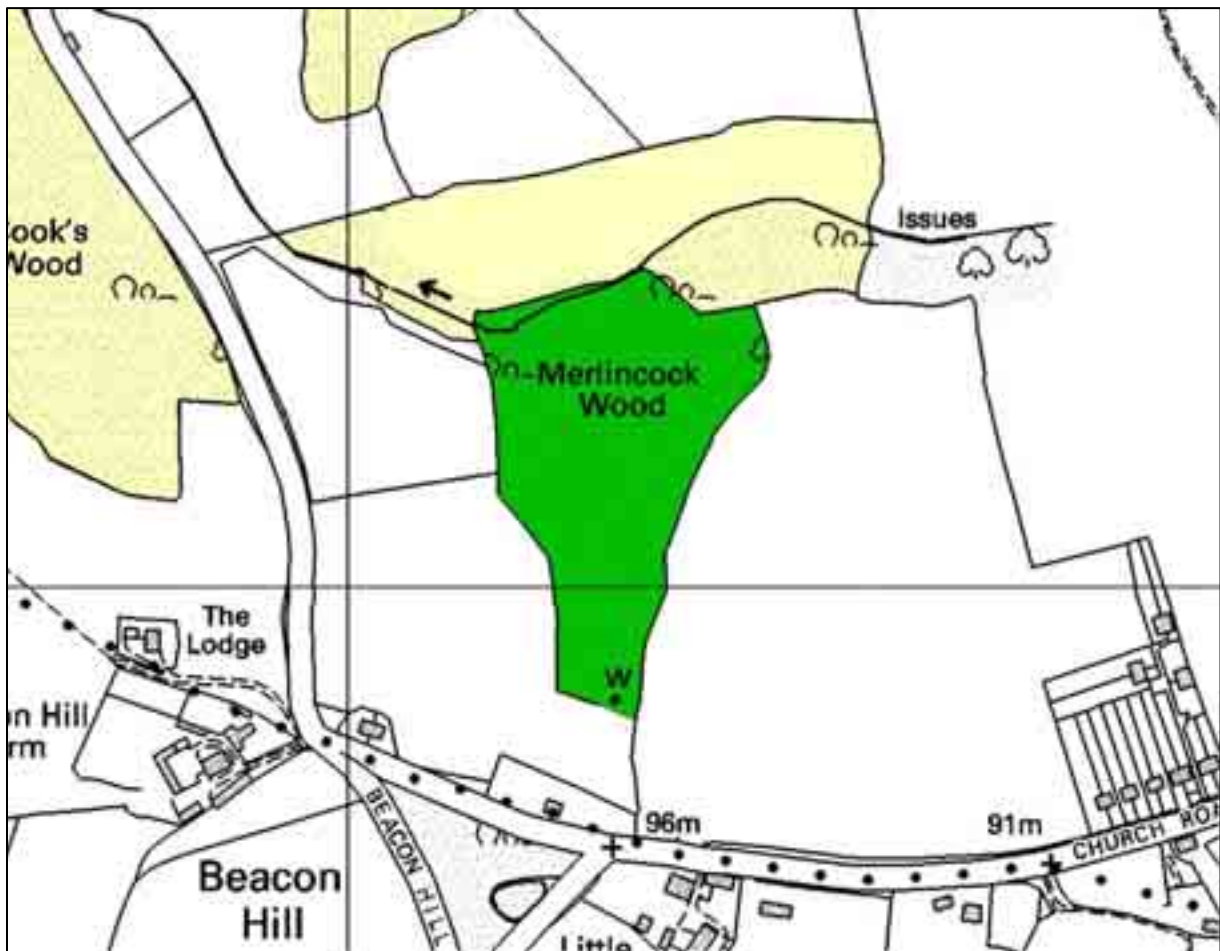
Rationale

The exceptional flora to be found under old Hornbeam and Ash is felt to be sufficient evidence to consider parts of this site to be ancient woodland. The remainder comprises a variety of woodland types that all fall within the BAP Priority Habitat definition.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre26 Merlincock Wood (2.9 ha) TQ 561990

This is an ecologically interesting ancient wood, with a series of seepage points along the high eastern margin supporting widespread Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), whilst the lower but drier ground to the west supports either Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) or Hornbeam – Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) - Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) stands, before Alder reappears along the western stream course. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is invading the high, dry ground at the southern tip. There is evidence of much Fallow Deer activity within the wood, which is having an effect on the understorey (which is virtually absent) and the ground flora, which is patchy. Characteristic species include Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

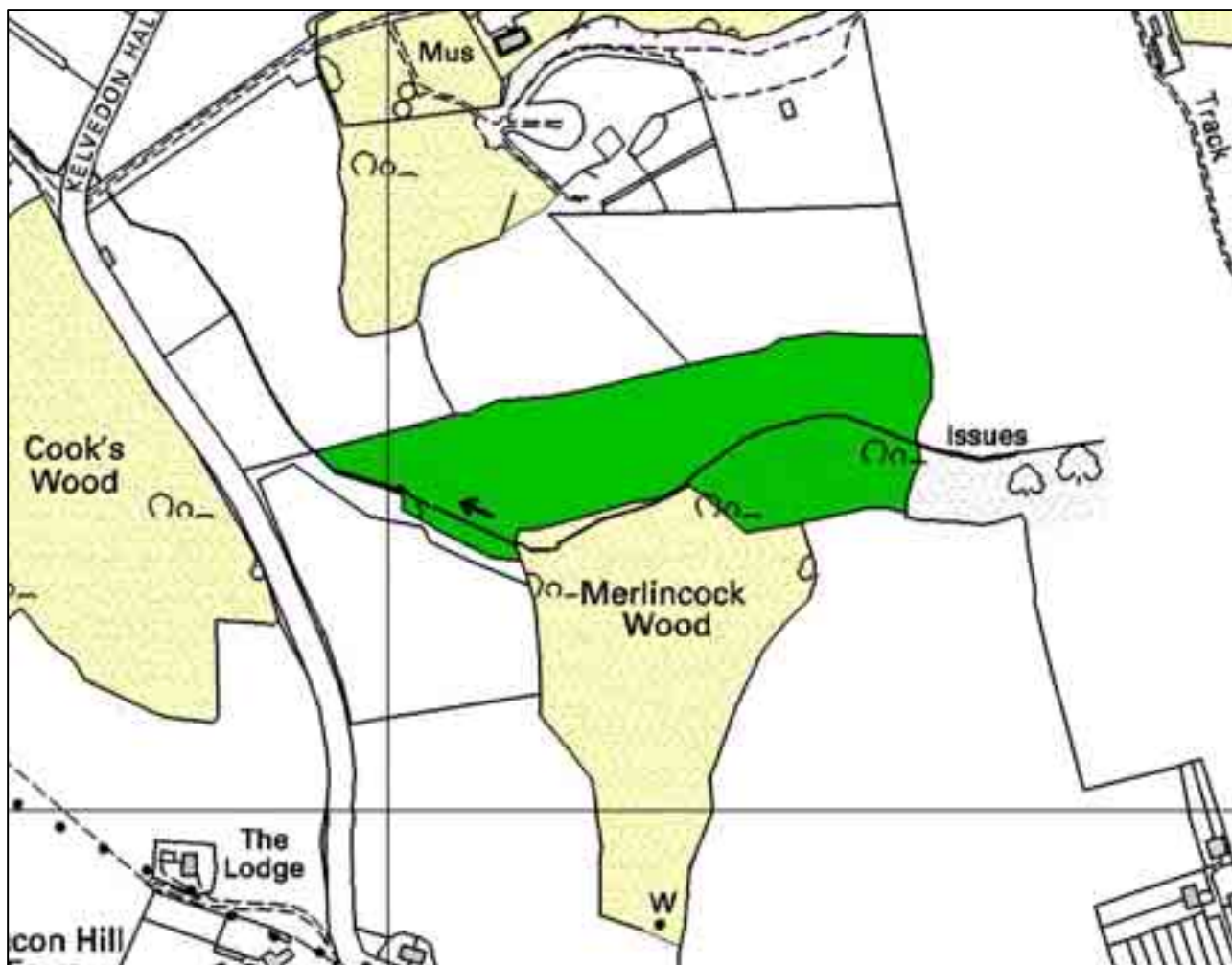
Rationale

Topography, structure and composition all confirm the ancient status of this wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre27 Merlincock Mosaic (3.0 ha) TQ 561992

This is an old grassland site, located largely on a steep, south-facing slope. In recent years, a cessation of management has led to a spread of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), both of which will need some measure of control to conserve this species-rich grassland. The grass sward comprises mainly Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with smaller amounts of Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Herbs include Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*).

Damper conditions near to the stream support Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and Bog Stitchwort (*Stellaria alsine*). In the south-east corner is a small stand of tall willow (*Salix* sp.) scrub woodland which adds to the overall habitat diversity and forms a transitional habitat to the adjacent ancient woodland.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland (minor component)

Selection Criteria

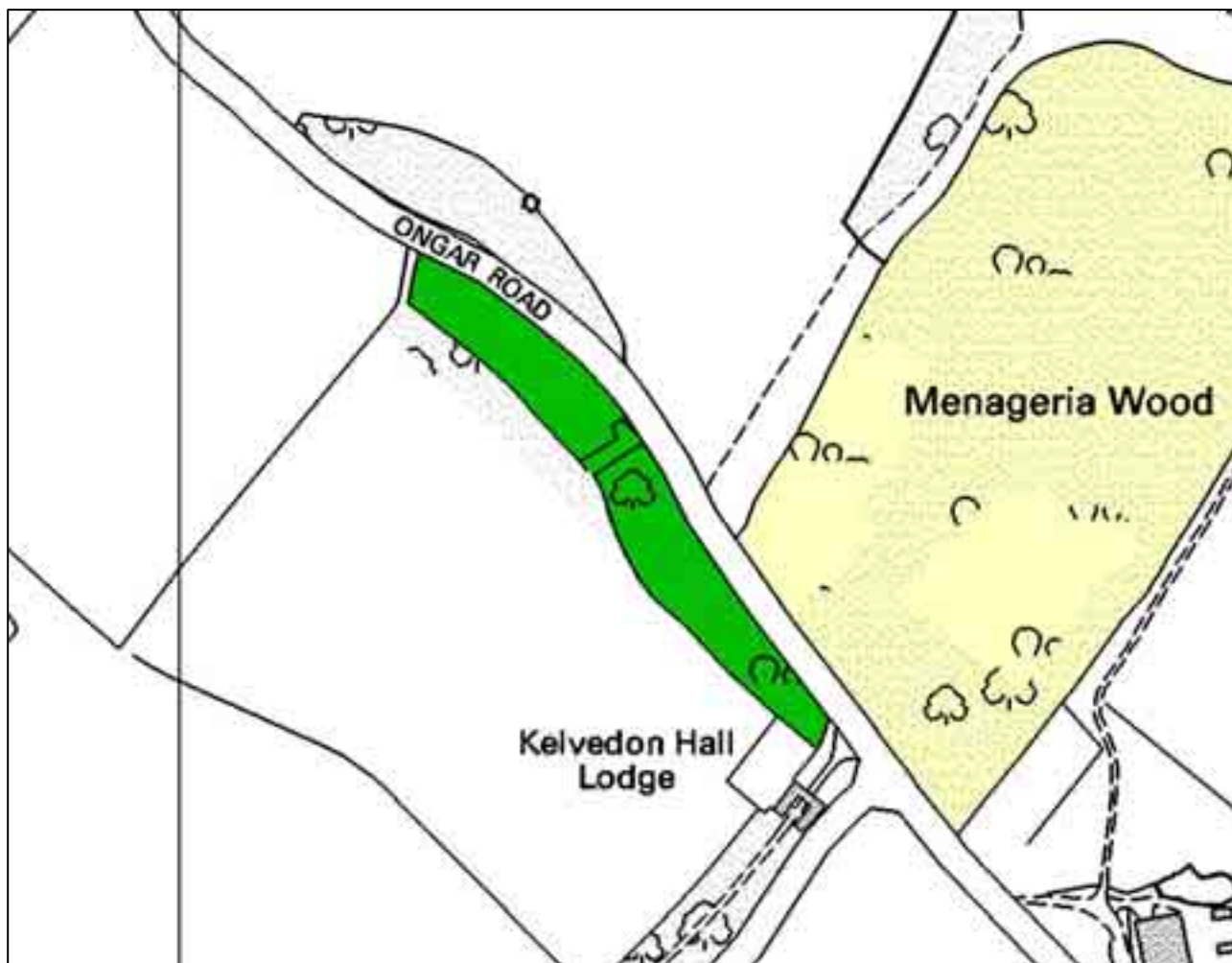
HC3 - Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Whilst small parts of the vegetation here tend towards an acid grassland community, the overall site characteristics are of a dry, neutral soil sward. Whilst species diversity and grassland extent is currently suffering Bramble and Bracken invasion, this is demonstrably old grassland which merits conservation as a whole unit.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre28 Ongar Road Wood (1.1 ha) TL 562004

This Site is thought to comprise a section of ancient wooded lane margin, within which several small pits have been dug, possibly for material to repair the old track surface. It comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with some coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are rare. Numerous ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded, including Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

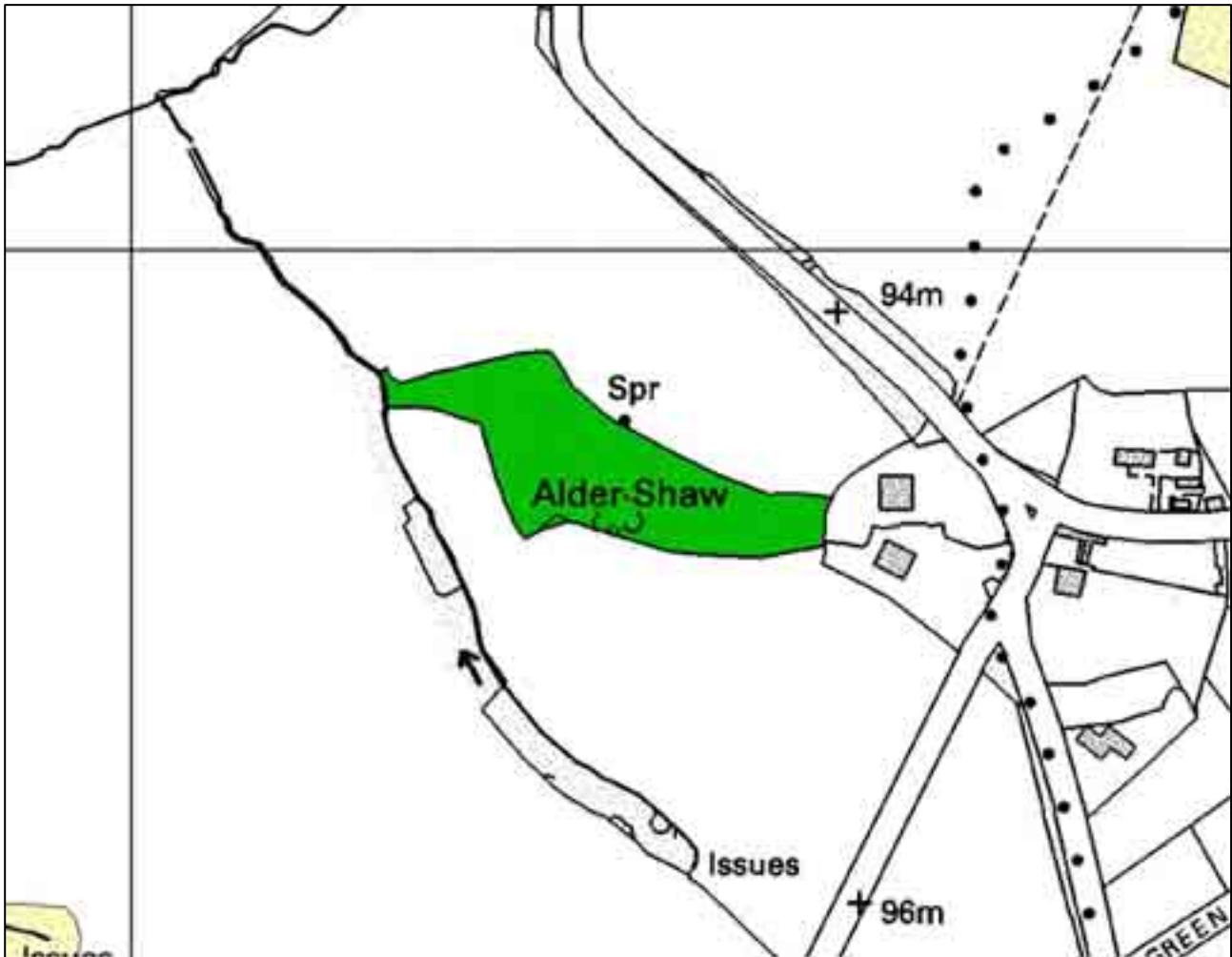
Rationale

This Site is too small to have been considered for inclusion within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but its floral composition suggests that this is a fragment of ancient wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre29 Alder Shaw (1.2 ha) TQ 562978

This is a rather dry “wet woodland” dominated centrally by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) over widespread Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) along a shallow east-west depression. This is fringed on higher ground by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in the ground flora. There is limited Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion.

Herbs associated with ancient woodland include Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This wood is too small to have been considered for inclusion within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but topography, structure and species composition all suggest that this is likely to be an ancient site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre30 Menageria Wood (7.3 ha) TL 564005

This ancient wood largely comprises old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). On slightly heavier soils, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) tend to replace Hornbeam, whilst Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Oak occurs on drier soils to the south. The ground flora is characterised by widespread False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Ferns (*Dryopteris* spp.) and Bramble, amongst which Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) can be found.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

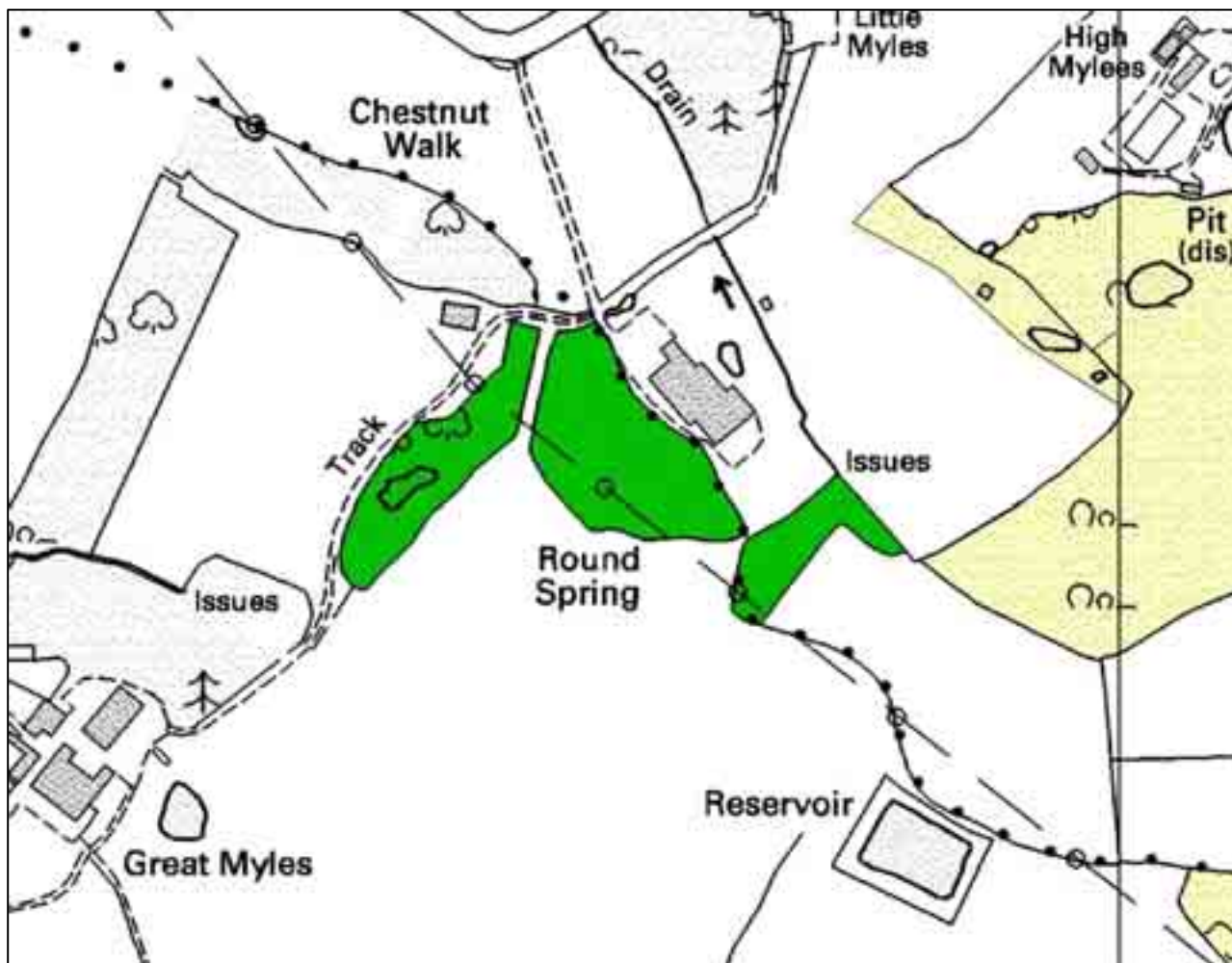
Rationale

This site is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory; this status being supported by its structure and composition. Former clearings within the wood were used to house animals associated with a former park centred on Great Myles to the north, hence its name.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre31 Round Spring (1.8 ha) TL 566012

This Site comprises three fragments of ancient Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The canopy and understorey also include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), the latter being a strong indicator of the ancient status of these woods. The ground flora is rather sparse under the dense shade of overgrown Hornbeam, but still includes locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) along with Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

These woods are too small to be included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but their structure and composition indicate that they are likely to be ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre32 The Oaks (14.1 ha) TQ 566930

The name of this wood may be derived from the central section of the western half of this wood, which is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). This section is bounded by earthbanks and ditches, indicating an old, possibly ancient status for this section, although the remainder is recent in origin. The southern half of the wood comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Oak, with some Ash and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) centrally. In the north-east corner is a small plantation of Poplars (*Populus* sp.) and Larch (*Larix* sp.). The ground flora is dominated by False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). A small number of ancient woodland indicators are associated with the area of old oakwood, namely Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 19 'Havering and Brentwood Ridge': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Although suffering intense deer browsing, this large broadleaved wood's structure and composition conforms to the definition of the England BAP Priority Habitat listed above and it has an ecological role in being adjacent to two large ancient woods in a less well wooded part of the borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre33 St Paul's Churchyard, Bentley Common (0.5 ha) TQ 566966

The creation of this churchyard long ago encapsulated a small piece of unimproved acid grassland. The sward comprises mainly Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) also frequent, whilst the presence of Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) is of interest as an indicator of unimproved grassland conditions. The species-rich herb flora includes Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) in damper, shadier conditions, whilst the acid grassland areas include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

The sward of this churchyard supports several species that are characteristic of unimproved acid grassland, which is a very scarce Essex habitat, especially in Brentwood Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre34 Brizes Wood (3.1 ha) TQ 566981

The southern section of this wood comprises old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Here, the ground flora includes locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). This changes quite abruptly at the edge of a shallow basin where Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) dominates over a ground cover of Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). To the north of this is an area of quite open Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Pedunculate Oak wood in which Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is becoming well established.

The varied ground flora reflects the changing soil drainage characteristics, with Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) in damper areas, whilst Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) occur elsewhere, with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) becoming frequent on the lightest soils.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

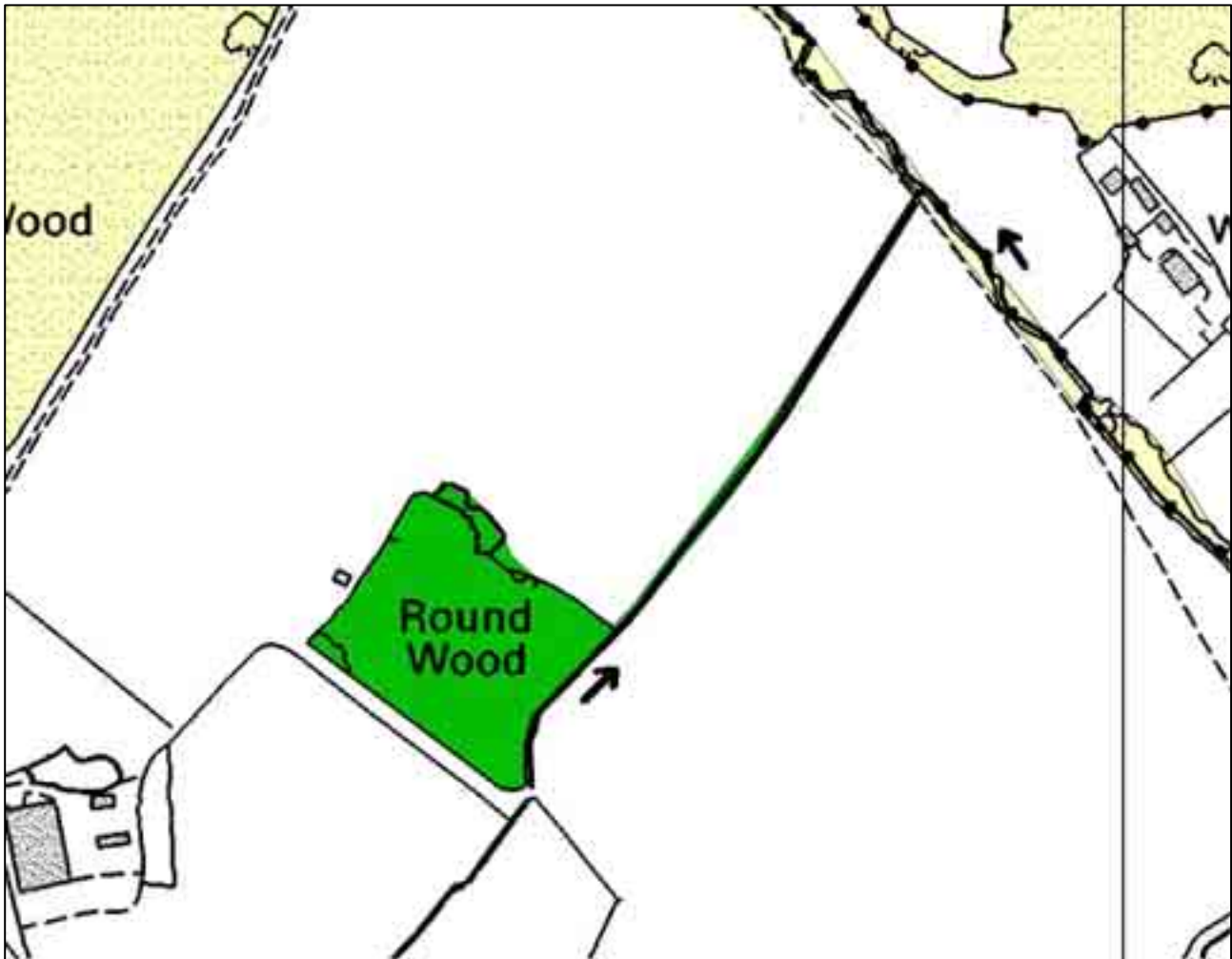
Structure and species characteristics suggest that the southern Hornbeam and central Alder stands may well be ancient, but collectively too small to be included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory. The northern oak-birch wood has a more recent feel, but adds considerably to the overall habitat diversity. The north-western margin is demonstrably recent, but has all the characteristics of the BAP Priority Habitat listed

above.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor addition and deletion)



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Bre35 Round Wood (1.0 ha) TL 567004

This small, square wood has a light, open canopy of mainly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora comprises widespread False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Hairy-brome *Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Dog's Mercury, Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*). Ancient woodland plants are few, but Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is occasional.

Included within this Site is the tall, thick hedge which connects this wood to LoWS Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood. This comprises mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Pedunculate Oak, but also includes Hornbeam, Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Ash and Field Maple.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

Rationale

The characteristics of this wood suggest that it may not be an ancient site, but it is a well-structured and diverse piece of broadleaved woodland that clearly falls within the definition of the BAP Priority habitat listed above. The hedgerow that connects this site to ancient woodland to the north is included as a useful wildlife corridor that will encourage the spread of woodland species through this part of the Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (Round Wood)

Reviewed: October 2012 (hedgerow added)



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Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood (0.7 ha) TL 568003

This Site comprises an ancient hedgerow, widened in places to form narrow belts of woodland along a stream. The species-rich belt comprises Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), which appears as a narrow belt of old coppice stools. The stream banks support a typical woodland flora which includes several plants indicative of ancient woodland conditions, such as Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), amongst Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*). The Site includes a short side hedge that connects to Menageria Wood (Bre30).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

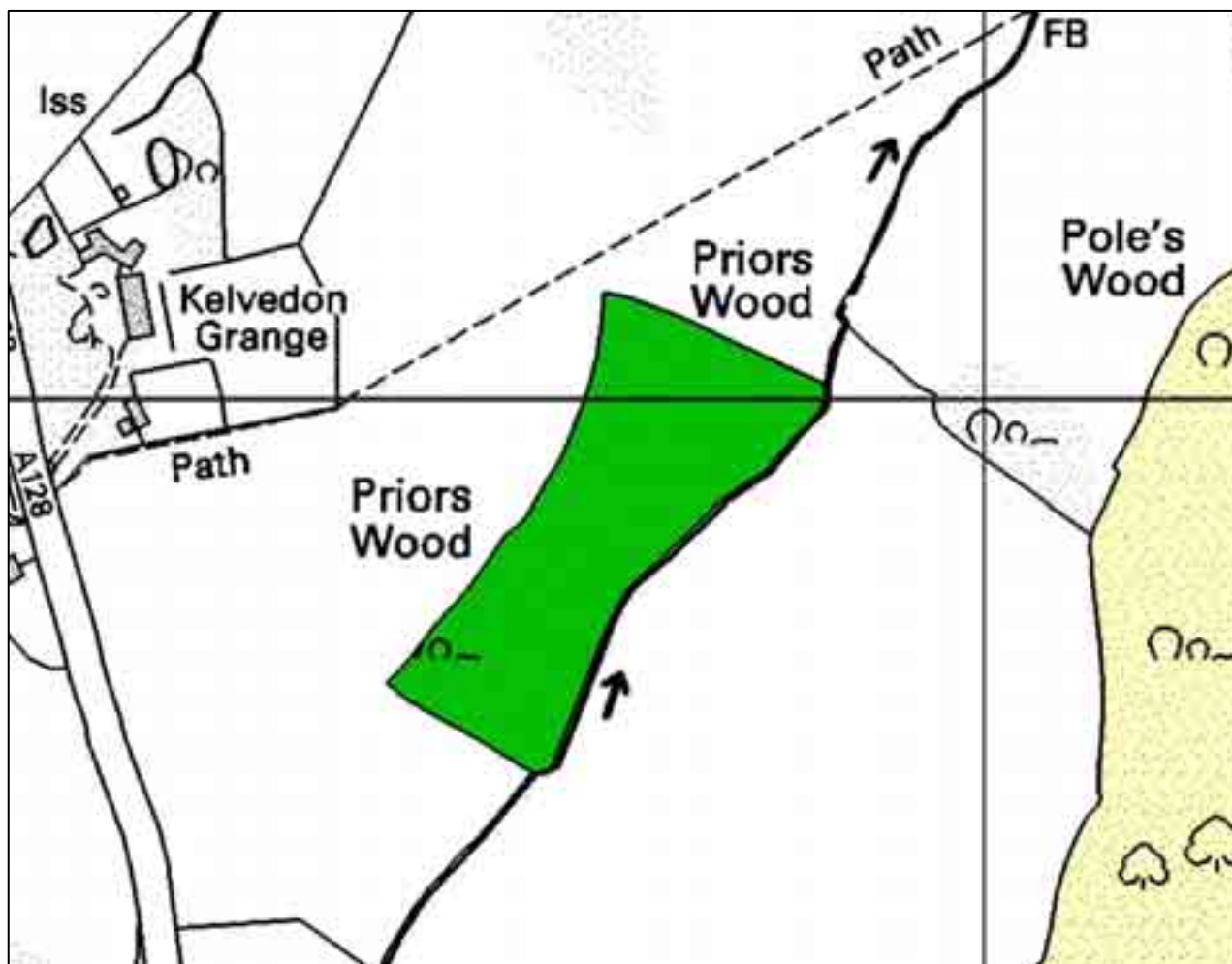
Rationale

This Site has characteristics of a belt of ancient woodland, but its primary importance is as a strong woodland corridor that connects to several large ancient woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre37 Priors Wood (1.6 ha) TQ 568999

Priors Wood contains two markedly different stand types. Close to the eastern boundary stream is a belt of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), whilst at the southern end and along the western margin the canopy comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with birch (*Betula* spp.). Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are rare. The ground flora is rather sparse under the densely shading canopy, being mainly abundant tree seedlings and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with some Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

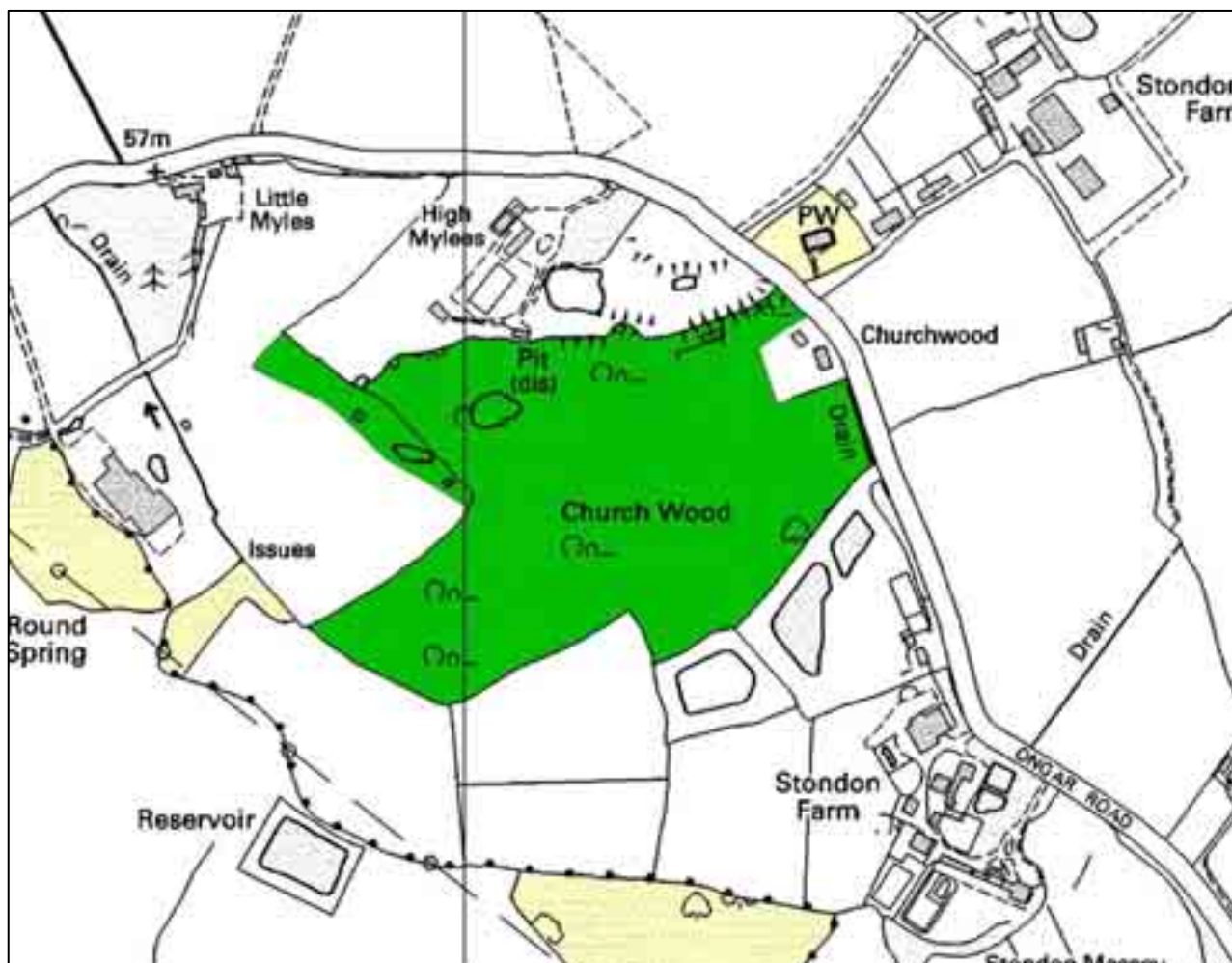
Rationale

This wood is too small to have been included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but its structure and composition is such that this wood is almost certainly ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre38 Church Wood, Stondon Massey (7.9 ha) TL 569013

The southern half of this Site is ancient woodland, comprising overgrown coppice of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The ground cover is rather sparse under the dense canopy, but Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) remains locally abundant. The northern part of the wood comprises maturing recent oak wood, following previous mineral extraction. The canopy is open in places, allowing for a grassy ground vegetation, with localised birch (*Betula* spp.) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in the understorey.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

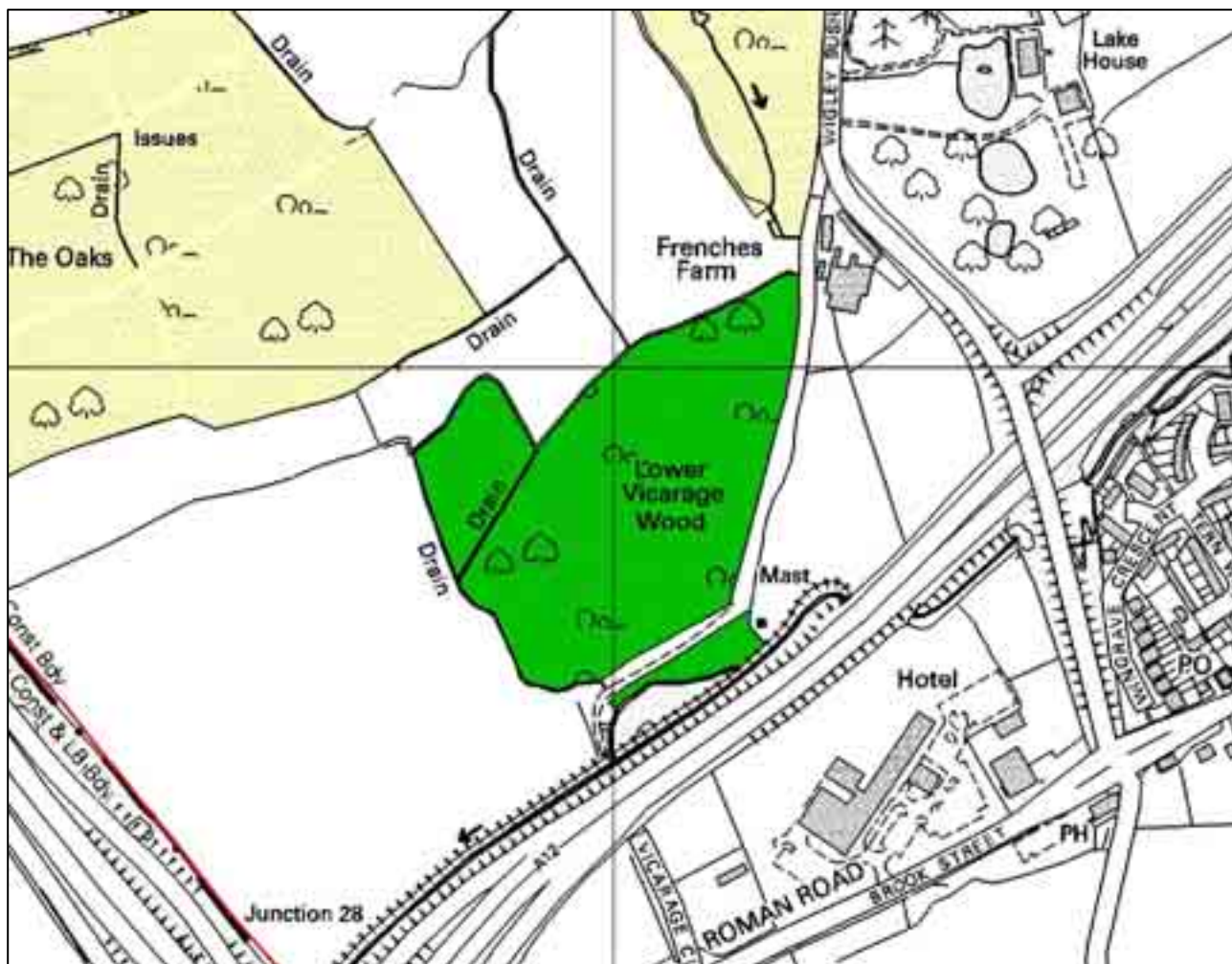
Rationale

Structure and composition supports documentary evidence that the southern part of this wood is ancient. The more recent oak wood provides a significant habitat extension and arguably currently provides more diverse habitat conditions to the rather uniform overgrown coppice.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor addition)



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Bre39 Lower Vicarage Wood (6.1 ha) TQ 569929

This large ancient wood is dominated by overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with frequent standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). There is little understorey and ground flora, largely due to intense deer browsing. The main ground cover comprises locally frequent False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), with scattered Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 19 'Havering and Brentwood Ridge': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

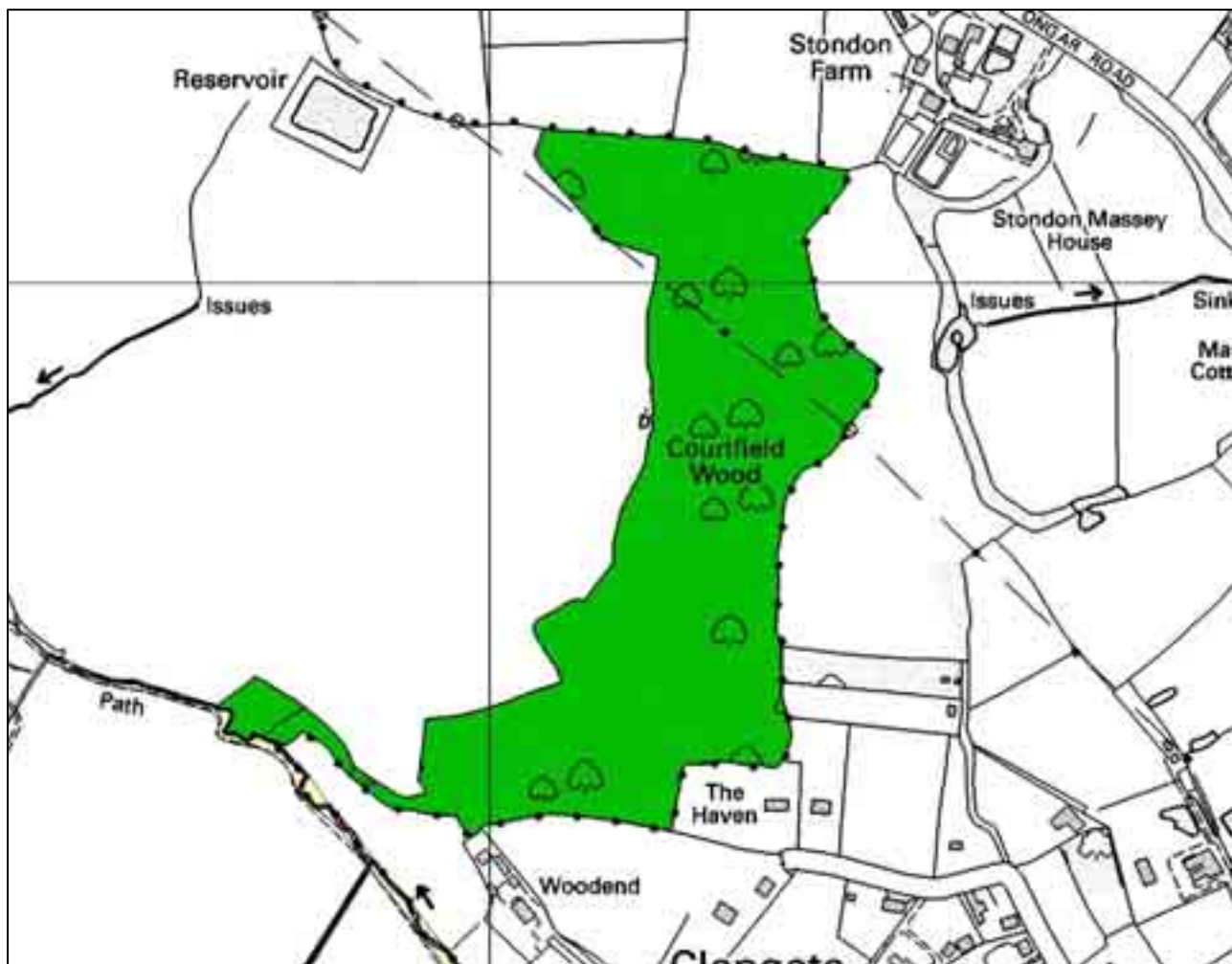
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that suggests that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre40 Courtfield Wood (9.4 ha) TL 570008

Courtfield Wood largely comprises old coppice of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Variable amounts of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) replace Hornbeam on heavier soils close to the southern stream, with birch (*Betula* spp.), oak and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) on lighter, sandier soils centrally. Under the dense shade of the overgrown coppice much of the ground flora is suppressed, although Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) remains abundant. Also present are Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Red Campion. Of particular note in the flora is Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*), a rare Essex fern that is included within the county's Red Data List of threatened plants.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

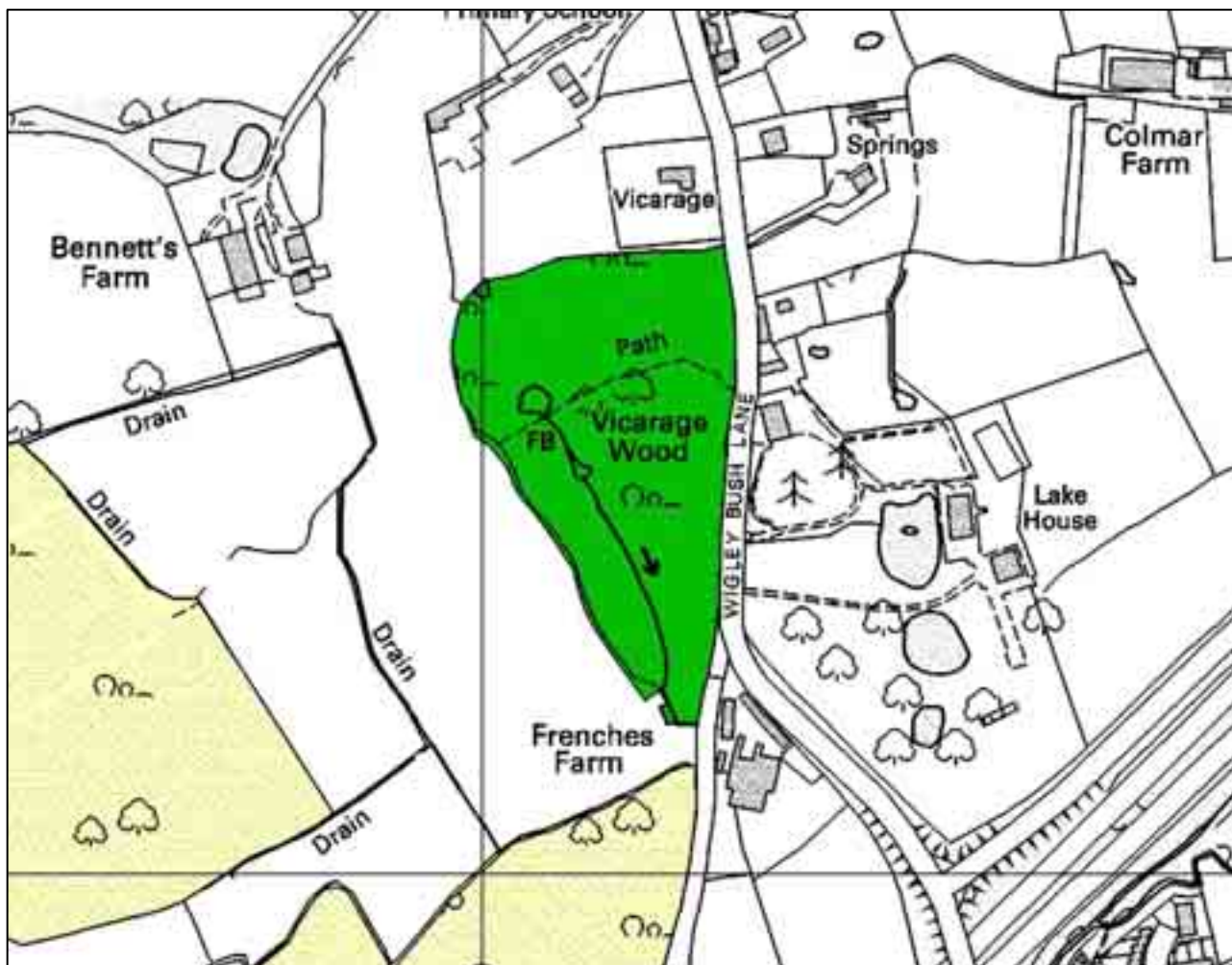
Rationale

The structure and species composition support documentary evidence that this ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre41 Vicarage Wood (4.2 ha) TQ 570932

This ancient woodland site is dominated by overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with scarce Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Several old, planted Horse Chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) along the northern boundary have suffered significant storm damage in recent years, creating a more open canopy and more abundant scrub and ground vegetation. Under the overgrown coppice, only Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) proliferates. Other typical ground flora species include Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 19 'Havering and Brentwood Ridge': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

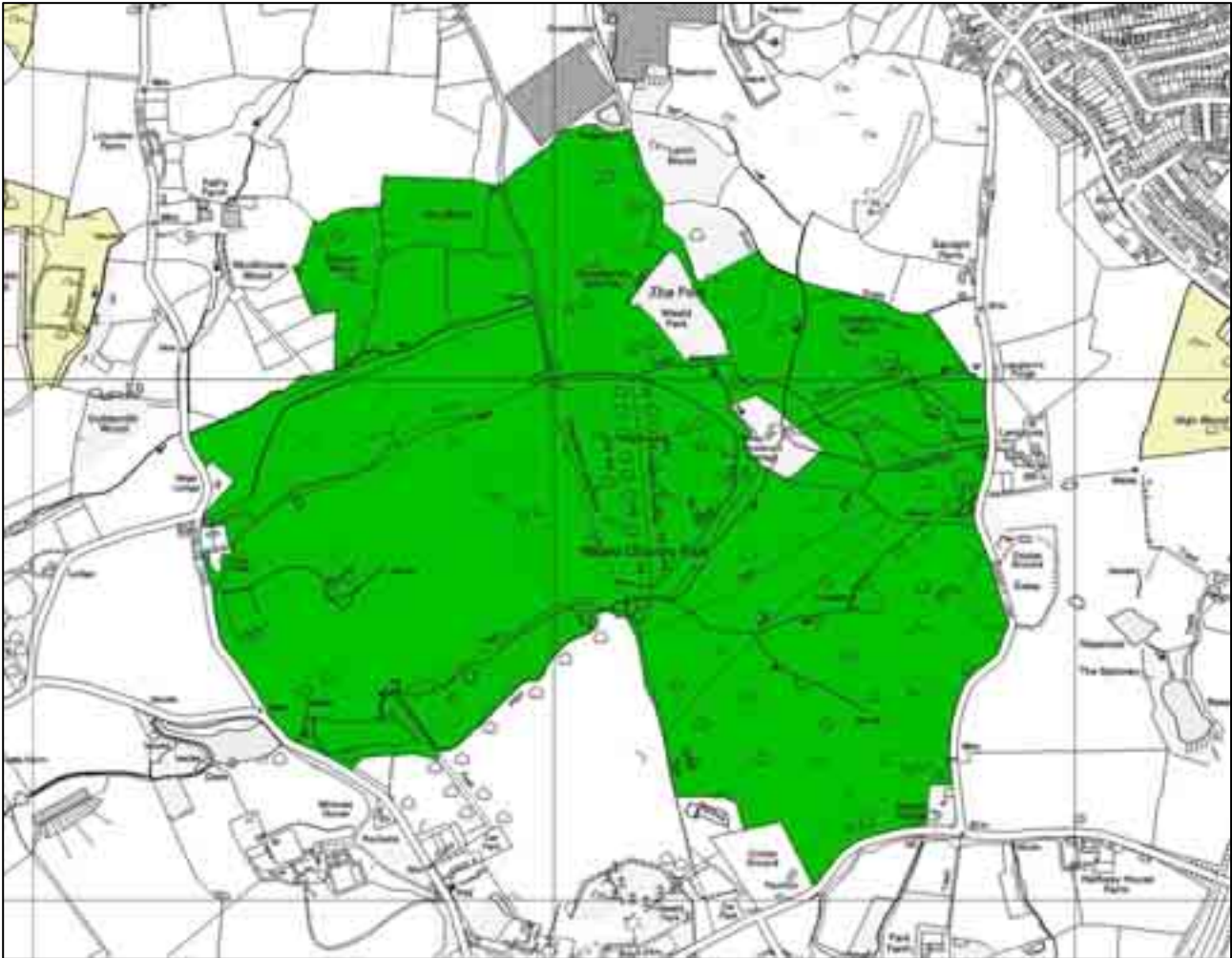
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre42 Weald Country Park (139.0 ha) TQ 570947

This site comprises the majority of Weald Country Park, with the only exclusions being the heavily managed visitor areas to the south of the main lake and a number of heavily coniferised woodland sections. The Park can be divided into three distinct sections: the northern woods, eastern old parkland and western meadowland.

Northern Woods

Of these woods, only Langton's Wood in the north-east is possibly ancient, the remainder largely comprising recent (post 1880) plantations, set within possibly ancient hedgerow field boundaries. Broom Wood is mainly a plantation of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and conifers with semi-natural birch (*Betula* sp.), although the southern tip comprises an area of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) wood on damp ground and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with birch on drier ground. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) occur sparingly. A typical general woodland ground flora is found throughout, comprising Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

The adjacent Fox Wood has a mixed canopy of Pedunculate Oak, Hornbeam, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel, birch, Beech and scattered Larch (*Larix* sp.). The woodland flora includes several species of ancient sites, possibly colonising from the original hedgerows, such as Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and locally frequent Bluebell. Shepherd's Spinney has an equally varied canopy, comprising blocks of Pedunculate Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

Langton's Wood has a canopy of locally frequent Hornbeam, birch, Beech, Scots Pine, Sweet Chestnut and alder, amongst which Sycamore invasion is well-advanced. The ground flora is at its most diverse here and includes several ancient woodland indicators, strengthening the claim that at least part of this unit is ancient. These plants include Remote Sedge, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), abundant Bluebell, Yellow Archangel, Yellow, Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*).

Eastern Old Parkland

Fragments of broadleaved woodland are scattered to the south of Langton's Wood but this generally breaks up into an old parkland habitat of scattered old Oak trees amongst species-rich grassland on neutral clayey and acidic sandy soils. The sward here is characterised by abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), amongst which Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) are of note.

Western Meadowland

To the north of the lakes, the Park comprises mainly open grassland, with a few blocks of broadleaved woodland, but generally lacking the large parkland oak trees of the previous unit. Adjacent to the lake the sward is less species-rich, particularly in terms of herbs, but further north it is more diverse, with Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), with Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) being notable in the northernmost fields, where an acid grassland sward has developed.

The lakes form the largest public-access water bodies in the Borough, attracting Common Terns to feed, with numerous dragonflies, damselflies and other aquatic invertebrates breeding.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 19 'Havering and Brentwood Ridge': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Wood-pasture and Parkland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

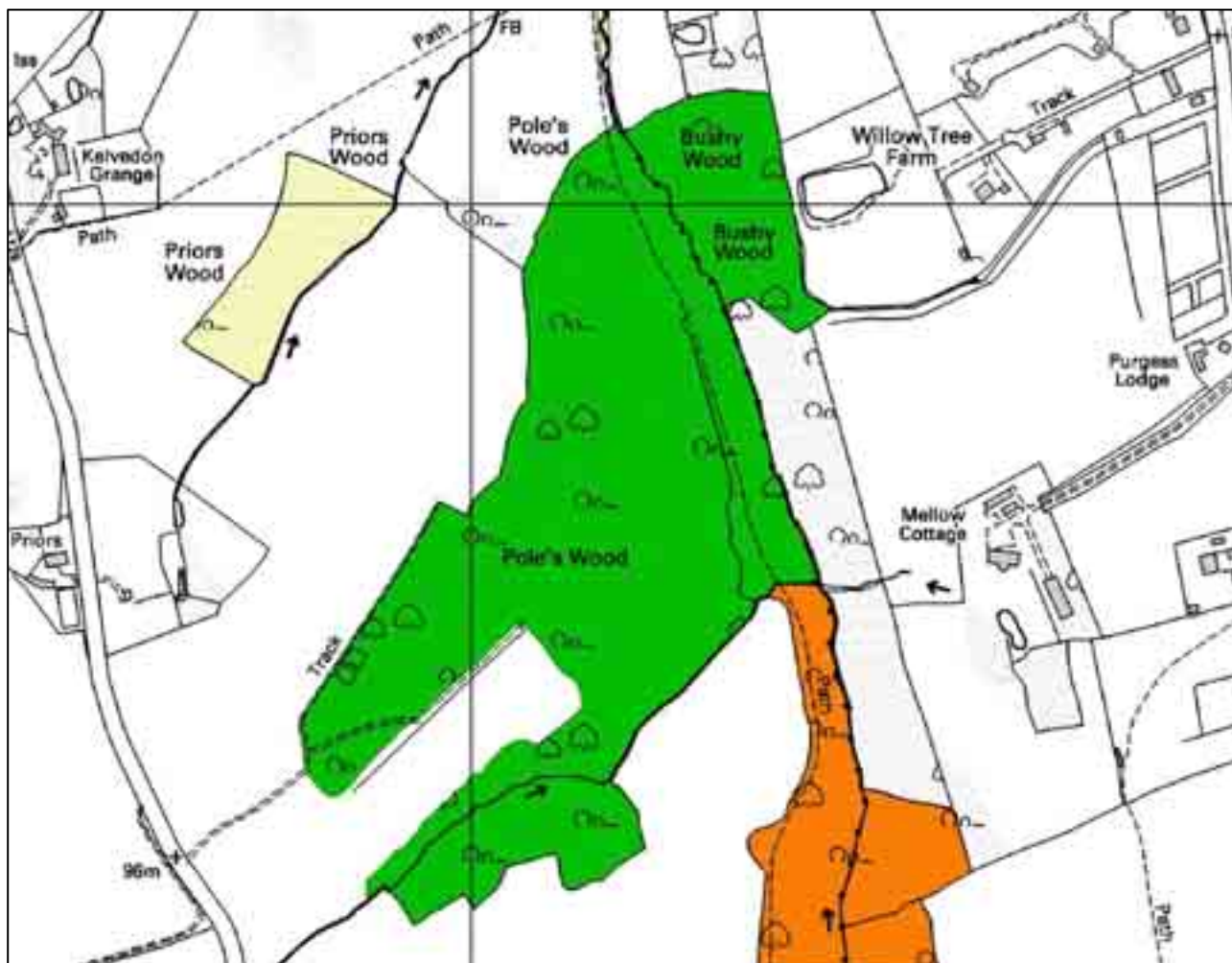
Rationale

There is some justification in considering Langton's Wood to be ancient. Much of the remaining planted or naturally developed woodland has now matured to the point where it can be considered to be within the definition of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above. Those small blocks of wood that do not meet this standard nevertheless provide additional habitat diversity within a large tract of public access woodland. Only dense blocks of pure conifer plantation have been excluded from this Site. The old, grazed parkland in the east of the Park retains all the features that make this particular habitat mosaic of great value to invertebrates. Areas of grassland of lower conservation value to the north of the lakes are still of value within the context of the site as a whole, comprising a rich mosaic of publicly accessible natural greenspace.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (selected deletions)



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Bre43 Poles Wood (17.4 ha) TQ 570997

Poles and Bushy Woods comprise mosaics of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), with these elements varying in relative abundance across the site. Along the stream course and, notably, within the southern arm of Poles Wood, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is frequent. Minor components of the sub-canopy and understorey include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). There is a small plantation of Cricket-bat Willows (*Salix alba* var. *caerulea*) within marshy ground.

The ground layer is suffering localised disturbance from recreational motorcycling activities, but in unused areas a rich flora remains, including Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) within a matrix of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

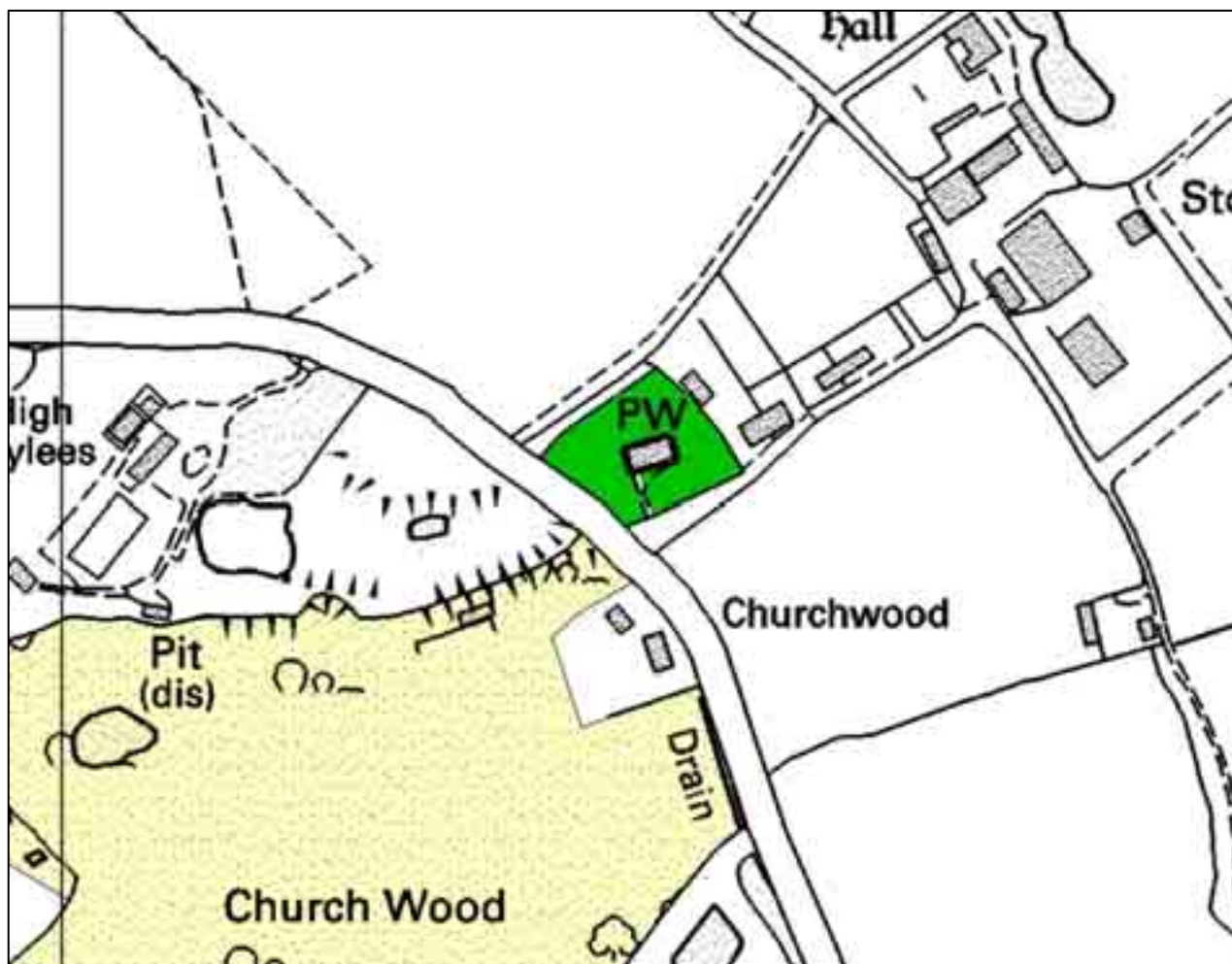
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre44 St Peter and St Paul Churchyard, Stondon Massey (0.3 ha) TL 572015

The sward of this small, rural yard is rather variable in quality, with the rear of the church comprising a rather rough sward of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). This yard is included as a LoWS on the basis of the more species-rich, unimproved acid grassland on the southern side, which with appropriate management could be reinstated to the north. The most significant plants here are Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), both drastically declining species in Essex and therefore included within the Red Data List of threatened plants in the county. The Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) sward of this vegetation also includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 18 'Upper Roding': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

The presence of two Essex Red Data List plants makes this piece of relatively unimproved acid grassland of great interest within the county.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre45 Doddinghurst Common (4.4 ha) TQ 572981

It is thought that this Site has evolved from a piece of unenclosed grazing land or wood-pasture that has acquired a characteristic woodland stand type of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) over a ground flora dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). There is some Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion in the northern tip, with other sub-canopy species including Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The ground flora includes several species normally associated with ancient woodland conditions, present at very density, such as Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Giant Fescue (*Schedonorus gigantea*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Although not especially species-rich and likely to be largely relatively recent in origin, this Site comprises a very characteristic old wood-pasture woodland type that has its own associated fauna, and is quite distinct from the majority of woodland LoWS within the Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre46 Jackson's Wood/Tyler's Shaw (4.4 ha) TQ 572981

Either side of the watercourse in Jackson's Wood Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice dominates along with scattered Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The shrub canopy within the woodland is sparse but includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), whilst Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) is confined to the margin of the wood. Patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) are found beneath the densely shading canopy. Species of interest in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Tyler's Shaw differs in having a less uniform structure and composition. Whilst Hornbeam, Pedunculate Oak and Ash still dominate the canopy, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) are also present. The shrub layer in Tyler's Shaw is sparse, but Bluebell is also abundant in the ground flora in this part of the site particularly beneath areas dominated by Hornbeam. Several other ancient woodland indicator species are recorded from this woodland site, including Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

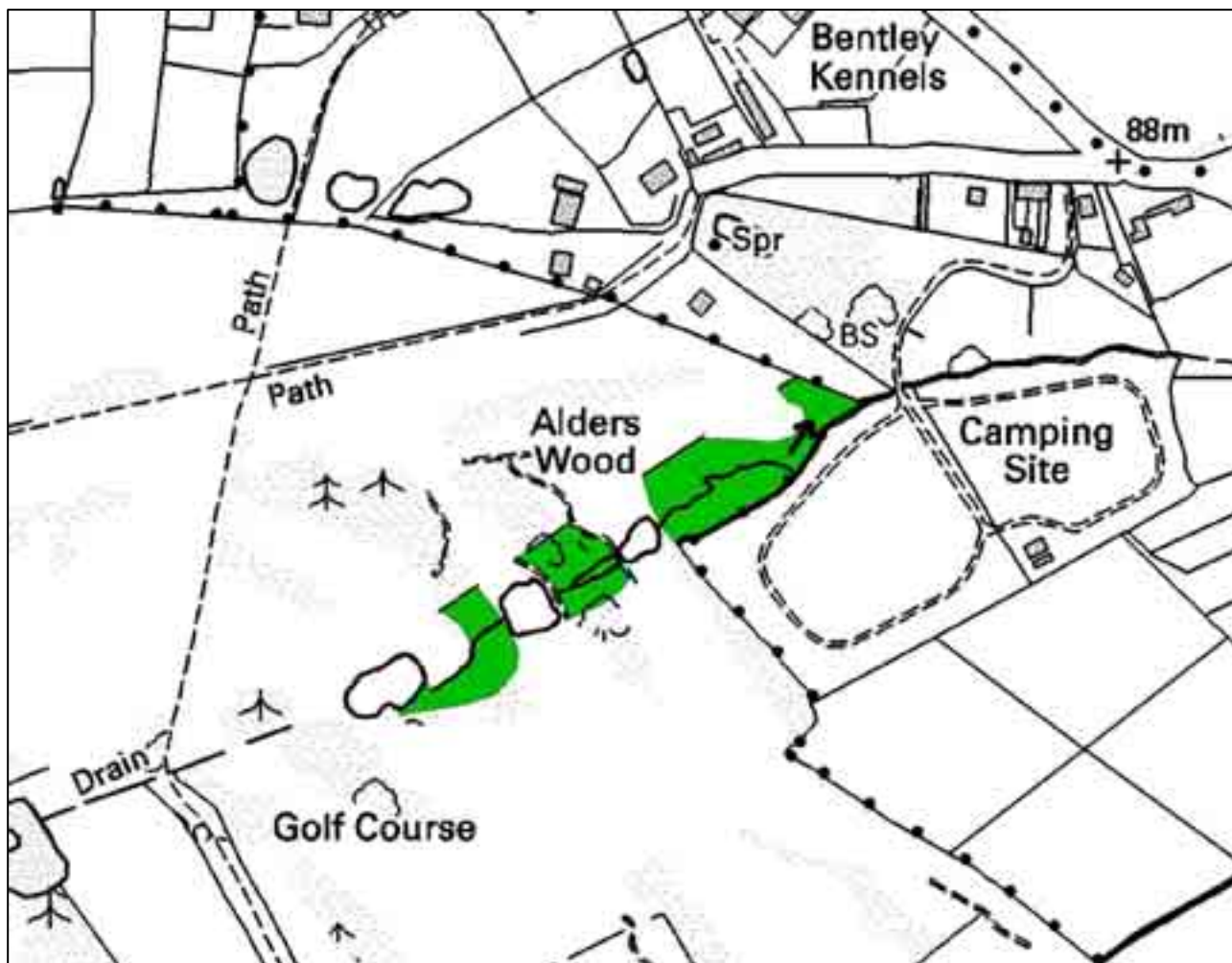
HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This woodland clearly exhibits the structure and flora characteristic of ancient woodland. It was one of the Sites transferred to Brentwood Borough from the London Borough of Havering during a 1994 boundary review.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2005 Brentwood Replacement Plan **Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre47 Alders Wood (0.7 ha) TQ 574974

This Site comprises a small, possibly ancient belt of wet woodland habitat. Although intersected by parts of the golf course in which it is situated, the wood retains a characteristic and rich flora of this scarce and threatened habitat. The canopy of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) also includes some Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). The typical woodland flora is exceptionally rich in ancient woodland plants, including Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

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

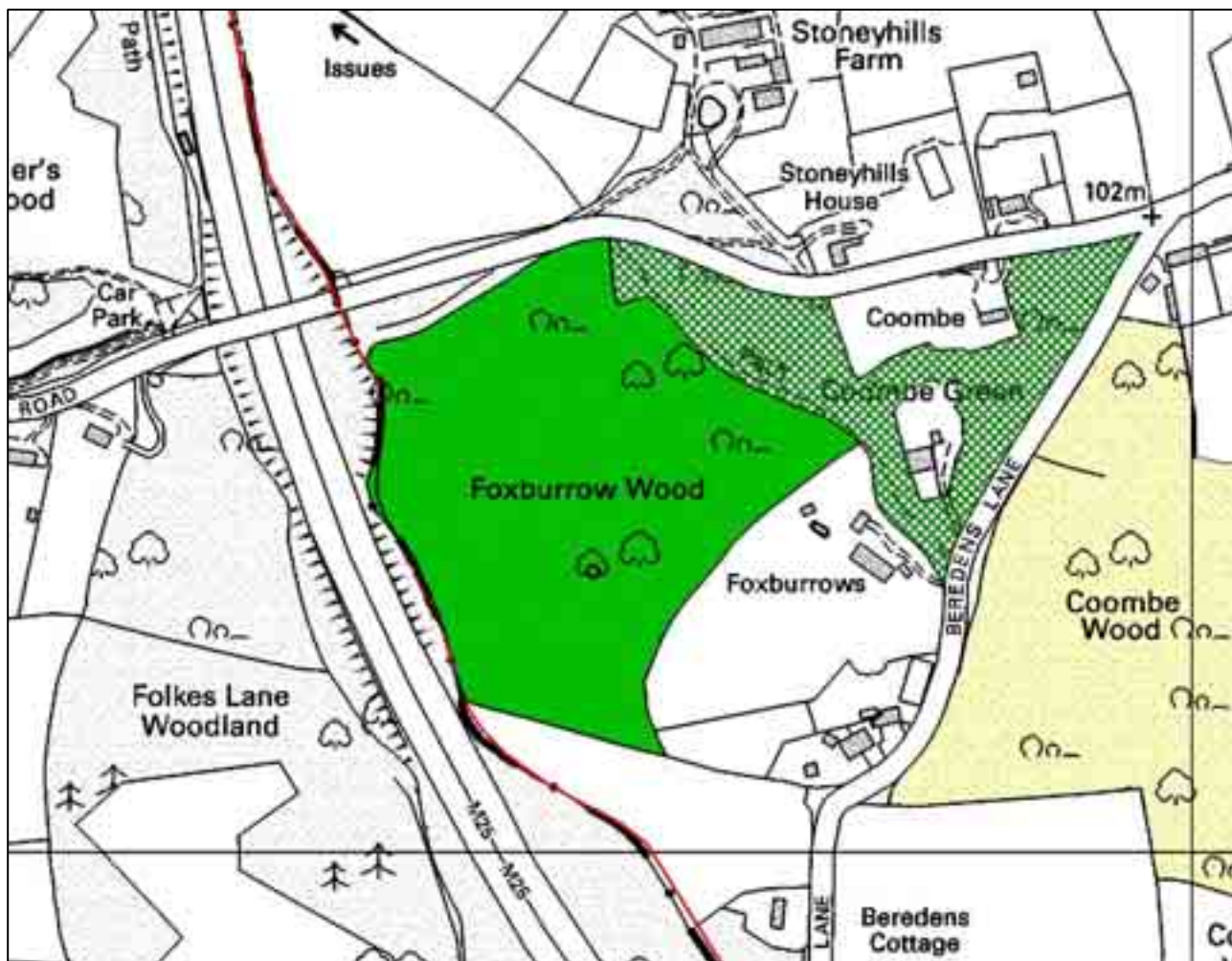
Rationale

Although fragmented, this wet woodland supports a very rich flora that is characteristic of the Wet Woodland BAP Priority Habitat. This strip of woodland is quite possibly ancient and would therefore also qualify under criterion HC1.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre48 Foxburrow Wood (6.7 ha) TQ 575902

This large ancient wood has suffered losses to the construction of the M25 and also expansion of the grounds of the adjacent Foxburrow house. It is thought to have originally comprised a Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) – oak (*Quercus* spp.) – birch (*Betula* spp.) wood over a ground cover dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Now, large parts appear to lack a high canopy, comprising young birch growth with occasional oaks.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, with documentary evidence supporting this status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre49 Reading Springs (1.2 ha) TQ 578991

The northern boundary of this strip of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)-dominated woodland comprises a very large bank, denoting the parish boundary and reinforcing the suggestion that this is an ancient woodland fragment. This is further suggested by the very large coppice stools of Hornbeam and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) found on both banks. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are rare.

The understorey and ground flora are sparse, possibly as the result of previous exposure to grazing livestock from adjacent paddocks. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) are occasional, with some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) also present.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

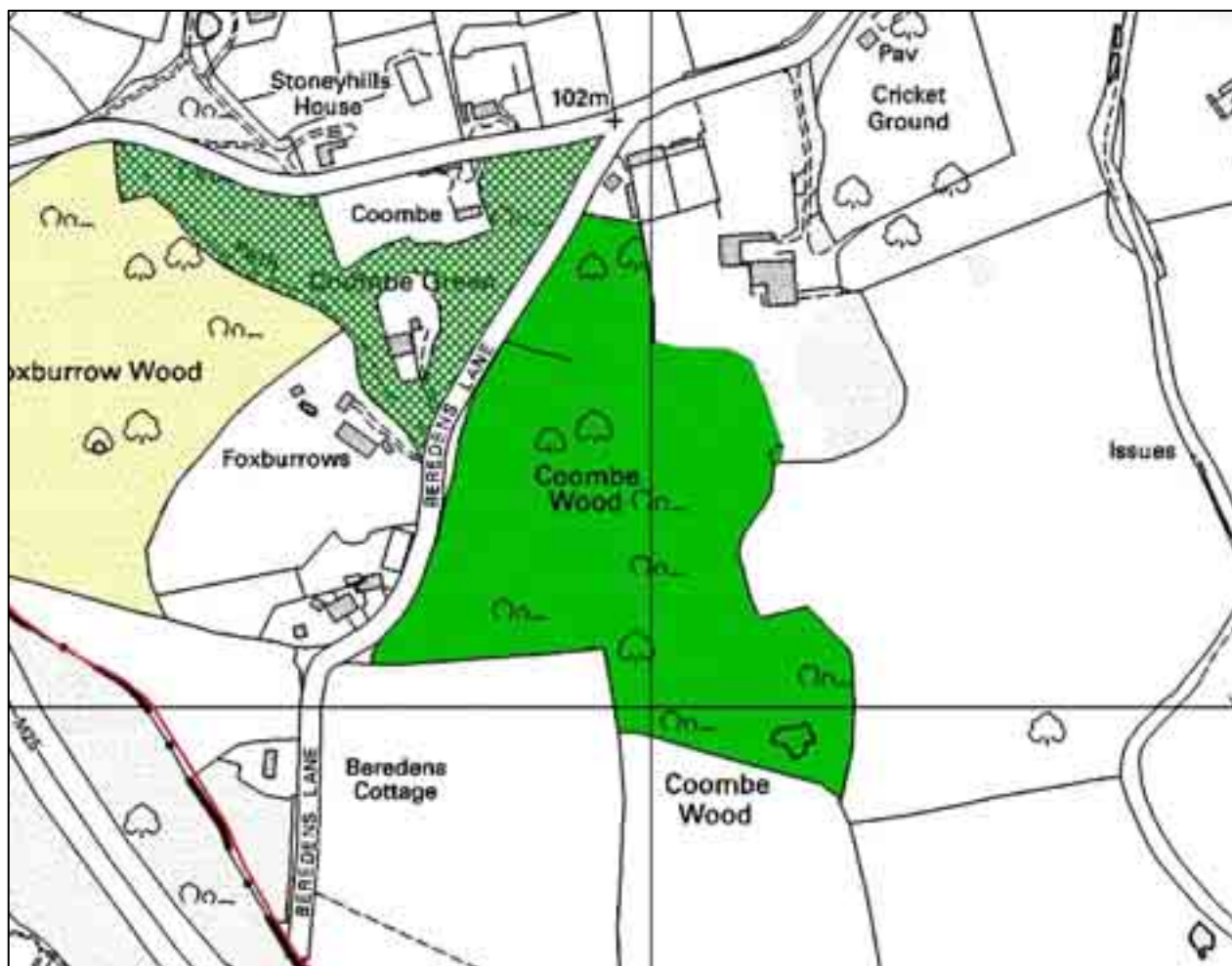
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports physical evidence that this is an ancient woodland site, too small to have been included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre50 Coombe Wood (8.0 ha) TQ 579901

The western part of this site is characterised by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) forms dense areas of the shrub layer beneath the canopy. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora of this part of the wood. The eastern part of the Site presents contrasting habitat structure, with very tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak dominating. Sycamore and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are found at sub canopy/shrub level. Other species of the shrub layer throughout the site include Rhododendron, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Several species indicative of ancient woodlands are found throughout this site, including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

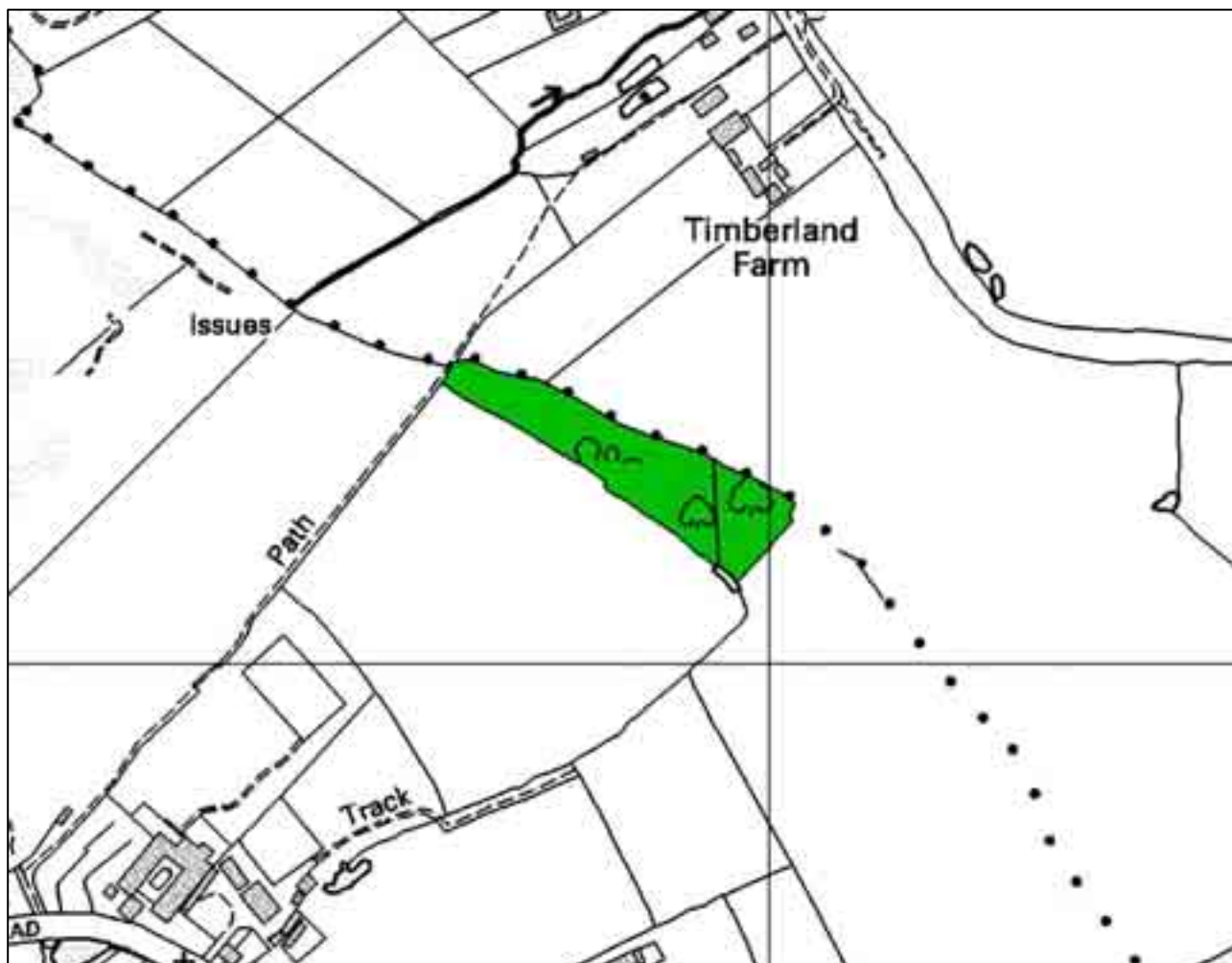
Rationale

Much of this woodland is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory. The woodland's diverse habitat structure supports important ancient woodland species. More recent areas of woodland form a natural and contiguous habitat extension.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre51 Ashwell Wood (0.9 ha) TQ 579971

This site comprises a small remnant of ancient Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with sparse standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash. The understorey includes tall Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), the latter species being strongly associated with ancient woodland.

The ground flora comprises mainly Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and violets (*Viola* sp.), with Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) also suggesting an ancient status.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre52 Oak Wood (2.4 ha) TQ 579999

Despite its name, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is rare in this wood, being largely confined to boundary banks. The canopy is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) as overgrown coppice and single standards. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is also present, along with some Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Unusually for Brentwood Borough, parts of the wood have been recently managed, as high-cut coppice. Here, there is a marked improvement in the otherwise sparse ground flora, which is generally typified by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

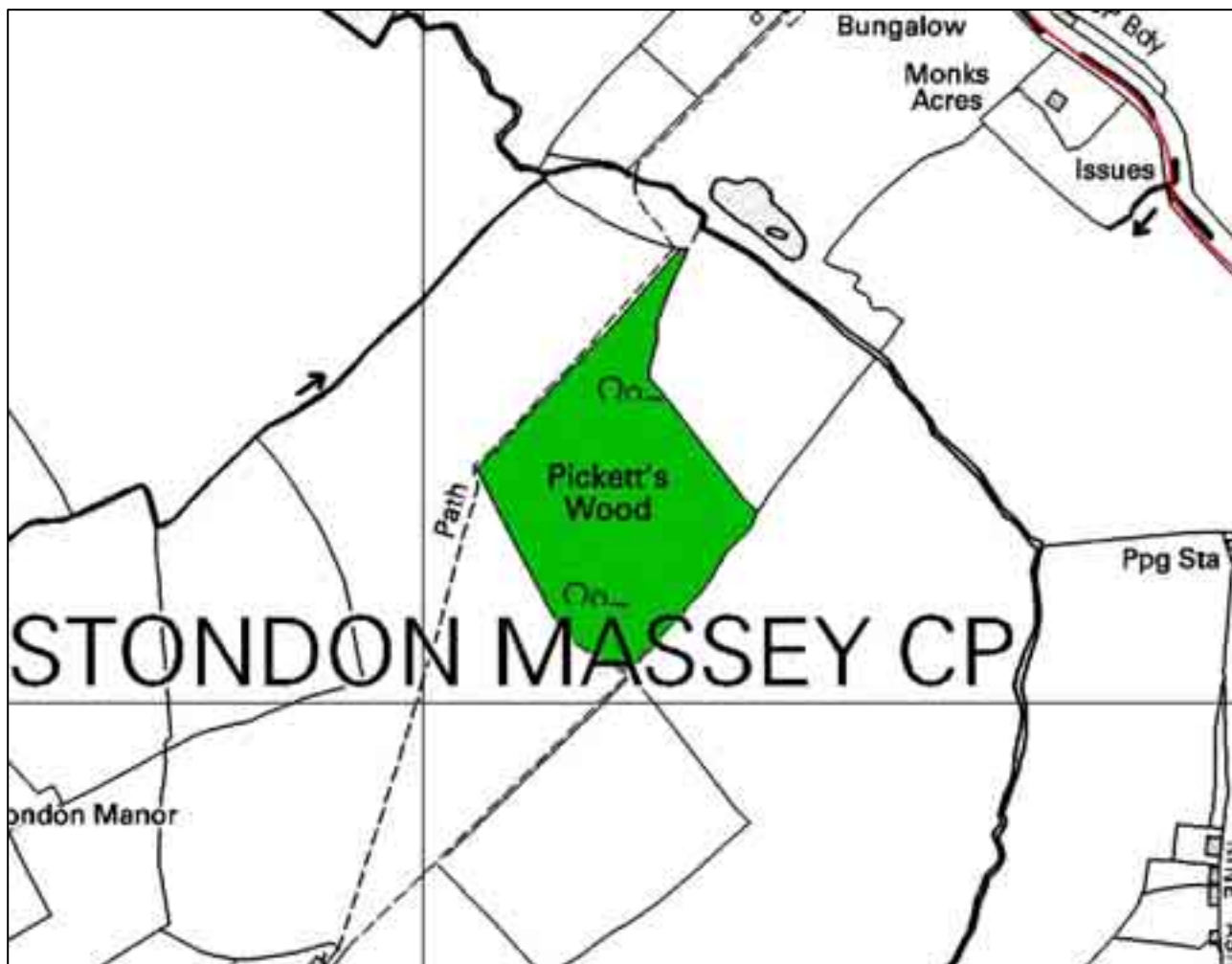
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood suggest that this is an ancient woodland site, although it is not included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre53 Pickett's Wood (2.2 ha) TL 581011

This small ancient woodland is typical of such sites in this part of the Borough, comprising abundant overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with occasional standards of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The scrub layer includes some Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). The ground flora is characterised by abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

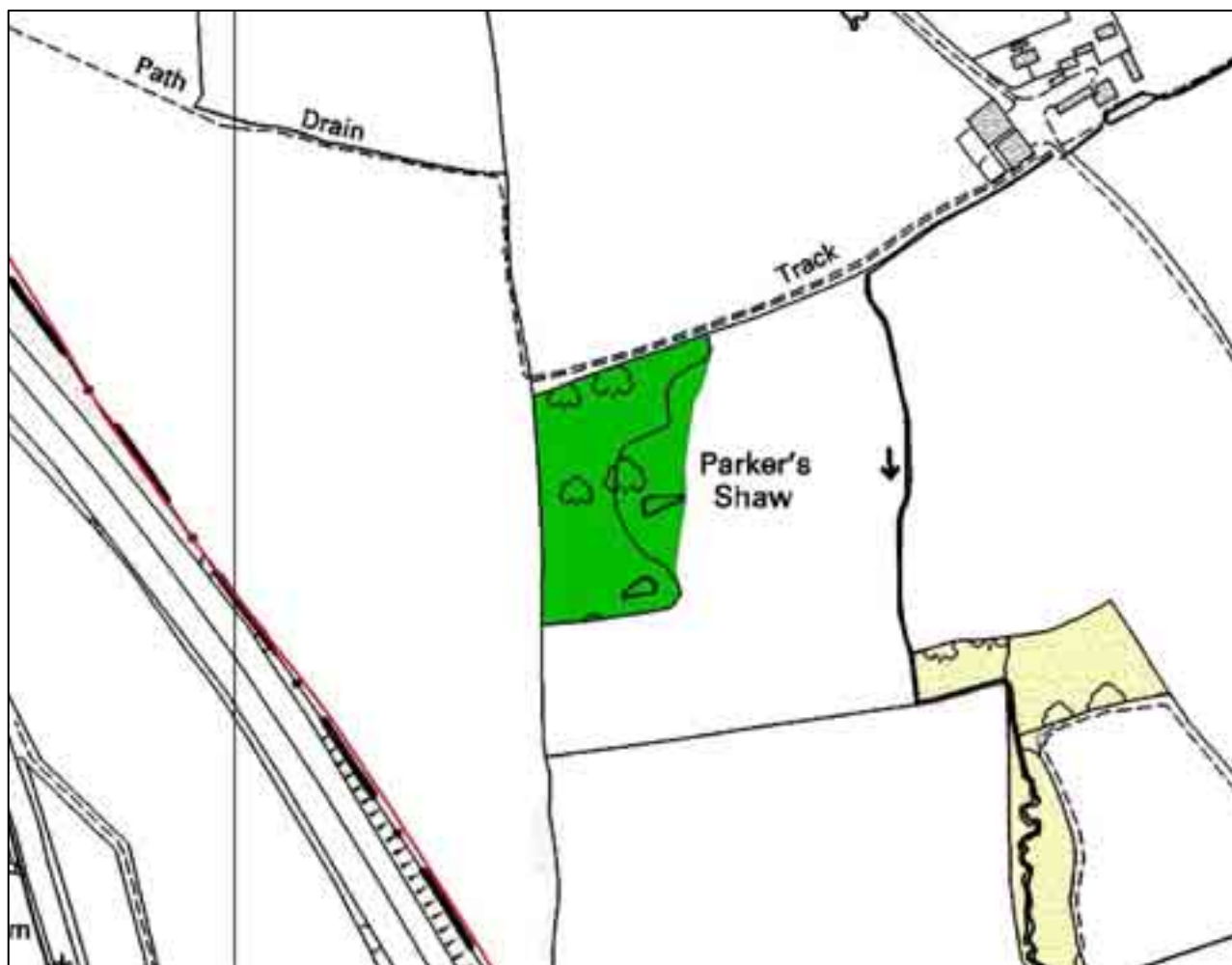
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre54 Parker's Shaw (1.6 ha) TQ 582895

Much of the central part of Parker's Shaw has been replanted with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) standards. Whilst Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) forms some dense ground cover, Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) are also found in the ground flora. Towards the east side of the Site the character of the wood changes. Young Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards form a lower canopy with much scrub. The ground flora here comprises Bramble and Ivy (*Hedera helix*). The western and southern margins of the woodland have a contrasting structure to the other areas of the site. These areas have Hornbeam coppice with ground flora species including Yellow Archangel, Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and the scrambling herb Black Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The status of this wood is uncertain, with possibly some part being derived from ancient woodland. As such, the HC1 criterion may apply in part, but the Site fits more certainly into the definition of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above and the associated criterion. The eastern section of young woodland and scrub is clearly very recent, but provides additional contiguous habitat for wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre55 Warley Place (10.2 ha) TQ 583909

This Site comprises the Essex Wildlife Trust's Warley Place nature reserve and two adjacent meadows. The reserve comprises the former site of a house and gardens originally laid out by John Evelyn. Many exotic trees, shrubs and herbs were introduced to the gardens during the Edwardian period during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by the horticulturalist Ellen Willmott. Many native trees including Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) were also planted throughout the site. Recent restoration of the gardens has resulted in the enhancement of the diverse habitats found across the site. The decaying ruins of the house and the many outbuildings provide ideal niche habitat for ferns such as Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) along with the rarer Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) and Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*). The woodlands also support other native woodland flora species including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), whilst the wet pond margins have species including Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*).

Adjoining the reserve are the Daffodil and Crocus fields forming complementary habitat in the southern half of the Site. Recorded plants from these areas include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.), Smooth Brome (*Bromus racemosus*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Bluebell and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Spring Crocus (*Crocus vernus* ssp. *albiflorus*).

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

None.

Selection Criteria

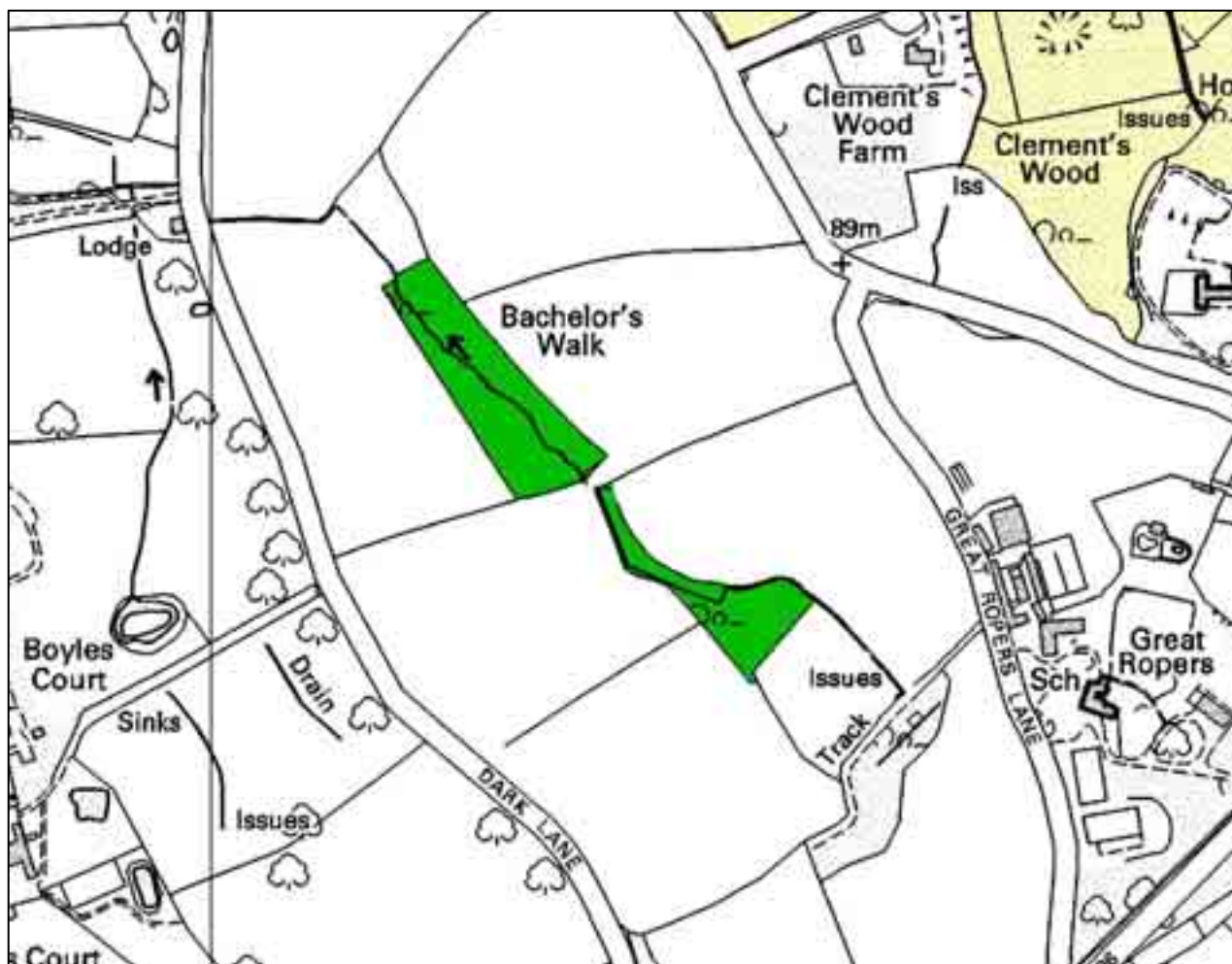
HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

The Warley Place nature reserve is a flagship location for the Essex Wildlife Trust and it, along with the adjacent Daffodil and Crocus fields, is a popular attraction drawing people from across the county. This gives the opportunity to promote wildlife needs within a garden environment whilst permitting access to a wide variety of habitats. Whilst there is extensive woodland within the site, its highly landscaped origins prevents it from being considered as a representative of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland BAP.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre56 Bachelor's Walk Woods (1.4 ha) TQ 582916

This site comprises two sections of streamside woodland. The northern section has a canopy dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, whilst Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is found in by the stream. The northern part of the wood also has some regenerating Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is found in the shrub layer throughout the wood. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) dominates much of the woodland floor, but other species typical of ancient woodland such as Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) are also found. In contrast, the southern section of woodland is mainly dominated by Sycamore with some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) in the south-west corner. Whilst Bluebell is abundant in the wood, the most species-rich ground flora is found beneath the Pedunculate Oak and Alder of the narrower northern limb. Here, Wood Anemone and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) are present.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

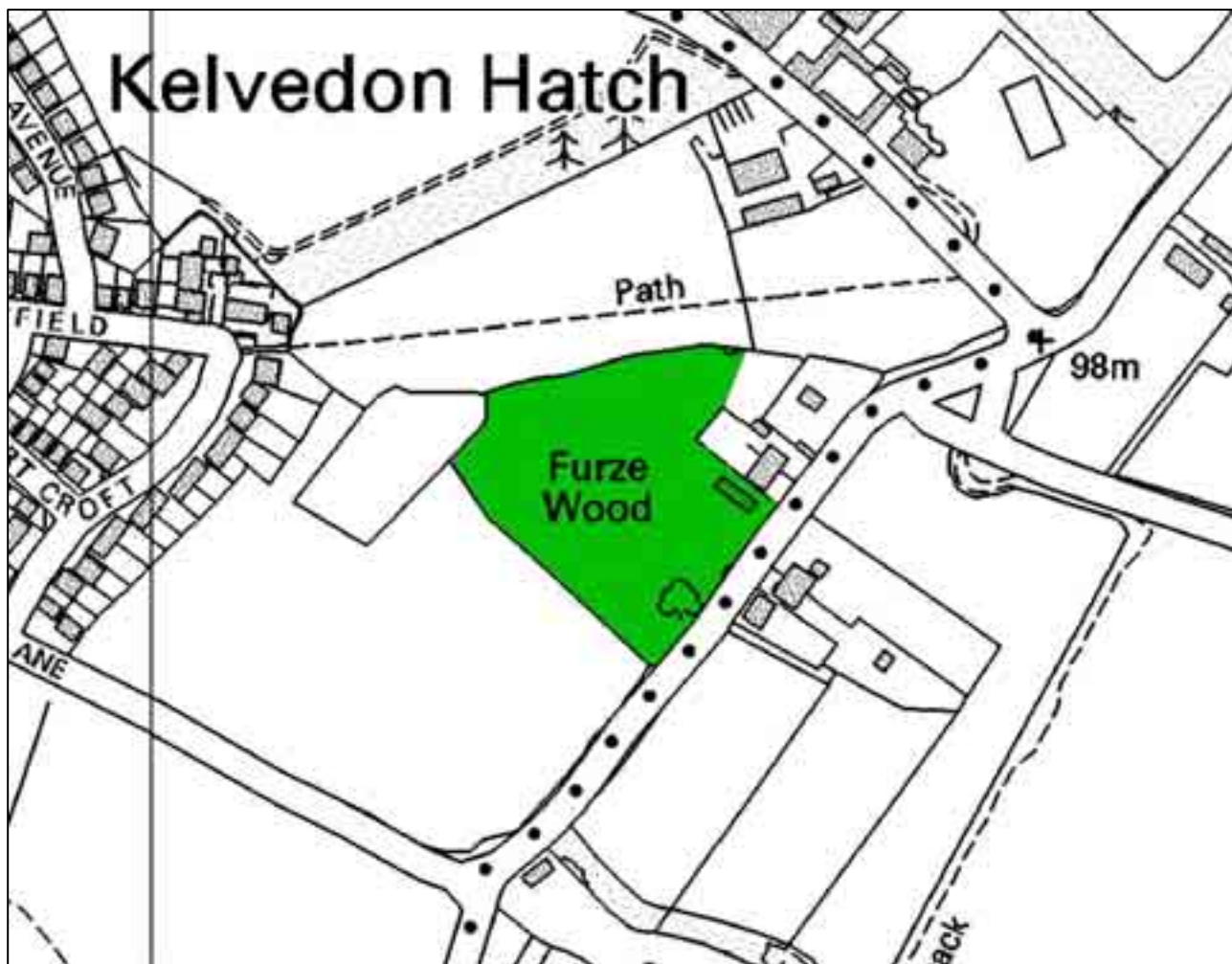
Rationale

Although not listed on the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, a varied assemblage of ancient woodland indicator plant species suggests that parts of this Site are of ancient origin. The more recent components fall within the definition of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (part selected)

Reviewed: 2012 (addition)



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Bre57 Furze Wood (1.6 ha) TQ 582984

This wood, part recent and part old (possibly derived from gorse scrubland) is a Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) - Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland, with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and an understorey in which Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is abundant. The ground flora reflects the dry, sandy soil conditions, with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) widespread. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is also locally frequent.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This wood is a good example of the National Vegetation Classification W10 woodland type (Oak-Bracken-Bramble), which is poorly represented in the Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre58 High Wood (5.2 ha) TQ 583949

The main body of this wood is ancient, although the eastern tip and the canopy immediately to the rear of the adjacent houses are of more recent origin. The old wood canopy comprises a mix of coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), along with Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The block of more recent wood comprises an open canopy of oak, birch, Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Bracken, whilst the extreme eastern tip consists of mature Pedunculate Oak with some Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The ground flora is diverse, but with few ancient woodland plants, other than locally frequent Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) plus some Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), amongst a matrix of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 19 'Havering and Brentwood Ridge': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition of much of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site. The seemingly more recent areas provide an integral habitat extension to the ancient parts.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (eastern tip added)



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Bre59 Codham Hall Wood (5.0 ha) TQ 585890

Codham Hall Wood is dominated by densely shading Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) is found as a locally dominant tree species, whilst Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) are also present. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is part of a very sparse shrub layer. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are abundant throughout the ground flora, which also has other ancient woodland indicator species, including Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

To the north, two smaller blocks of woodland are found in close proximity to one another, with the larger westerly block being connected to Codham Hall Wood by woodland and hedgerow alongside a small stream. Both of the northern woodland sections have a similar structure with Hornbeam coppice and Pedunculate Oak standards forming the high canopy. This woodland structure continues for some distance alongside the stream channel to the south. Bluebell is abundant in both of these smaller woods and several other ancient woodland indicators are found, including Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Millet, Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Wood Anemone.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

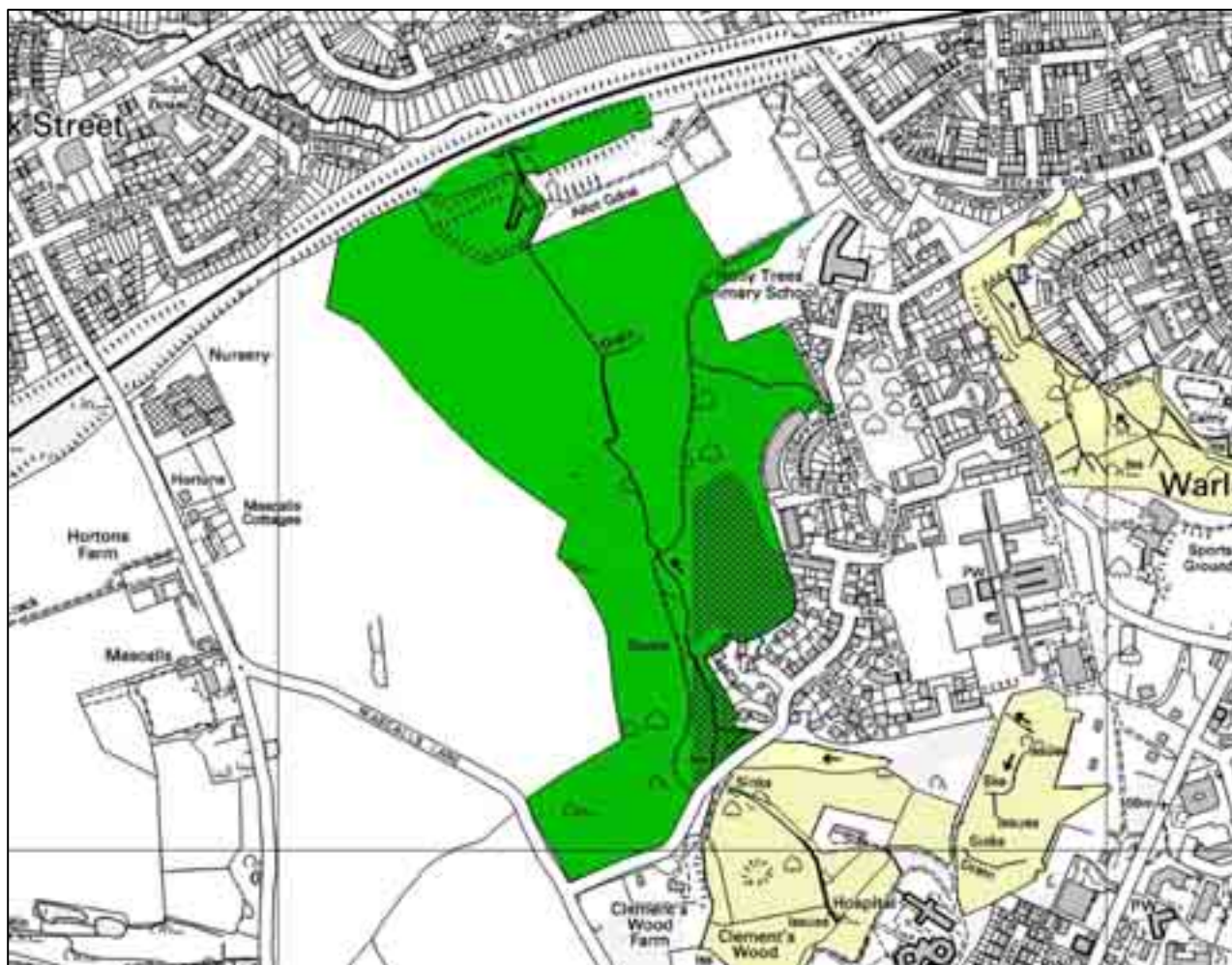
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

Rationale

Whilst Codham Hall Wood clearly exhibits the structure and flora characteristic of ancient woodland and is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, the other smaller woodlands also exhibit similar characteristics suggesting that these may also be ancient. The thick hedgerow alongside the stream provides valuable connective habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2005 Brentwood Replacement Plan **Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre60 Warley Country Park (25.1 ha) TQ 584924

Much of the western part of this site is developing woodland and scrub interspersed by grassy glades. A wide variety of tree and shrub species is present, including Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). To the east of the main track through the Country Park is an area of more densely shading plantation habitat with Pedunculate Oak and Ash. The open grassland and glade areas contain a mix of grass species including False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). Herbs recorded from the grasslands include Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and vetches (*Vicia* spp.). Towards the north of the site a stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) dominates a marshy area. Other species characteristic of wet ground, such as rushes (*Juncus* spp.), are found along the margins of the reed bed. A fenced off and secluded wet area is found on the far northern edge of the site.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

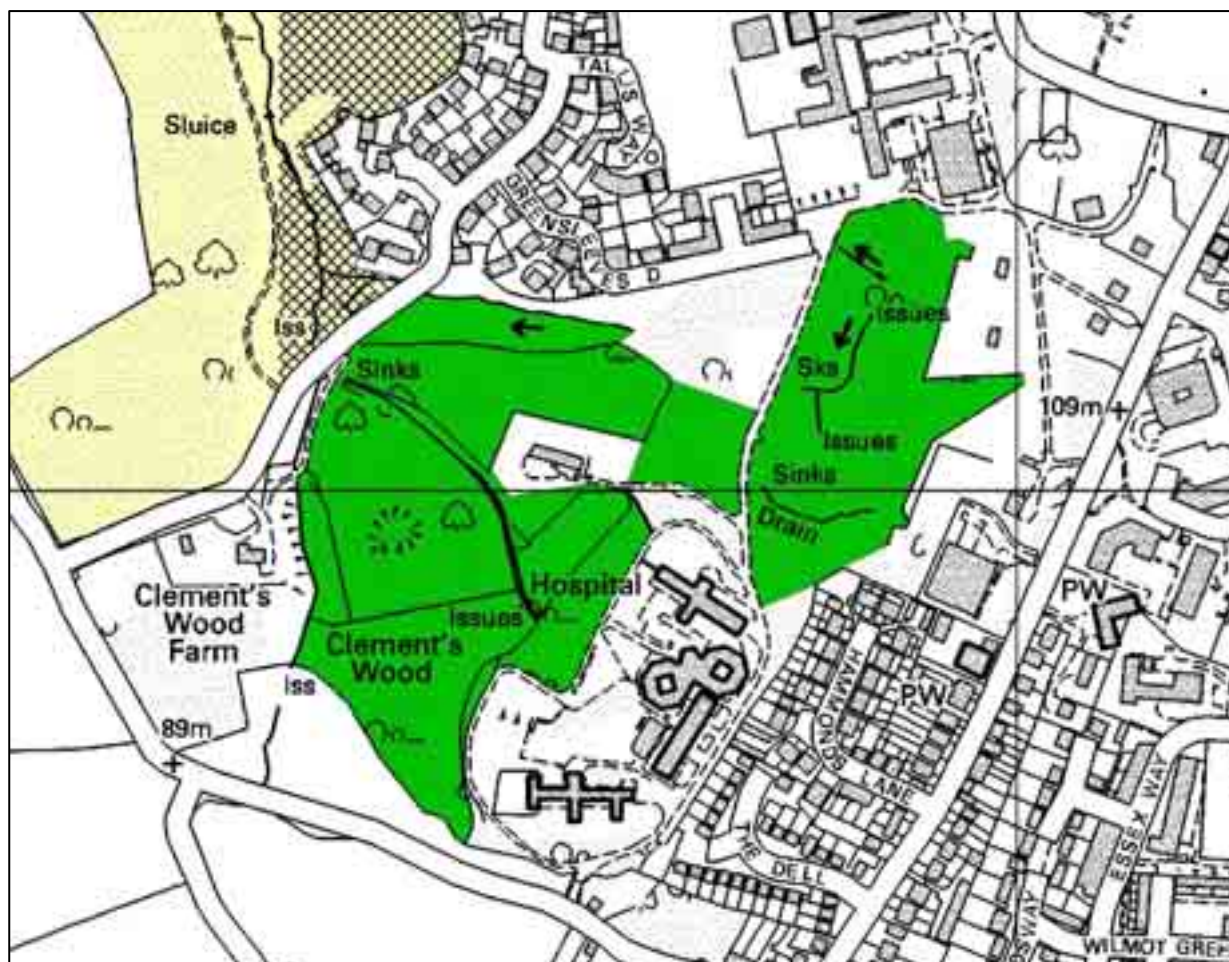
Rationale

Located close to the western outskirts of urban Brentwood, the Site is a mosaic of diverse habitat types providing opportunities for local residents to engage with many species of bird, insects and other wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre61 Clement's Wood (8.5 ha) TQ 586919

Clement's Wood is a complex site, both in terms of its topography and also the resultant woodland types present, comprising both ancient and secondary woodland habitat. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) coppice along with much Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) dominate the southern part of the site. The western margin has streamside Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), whilst some parts of the wood are characterised by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards over Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). In places, very dense Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) shades out virtually all the ground flora. The site also has numerous spring line features, forming very wet areas where plants such as Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) thrive. In contrast, the dry slopes have areas of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominating. Other ground flora species recorded include Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*) an Essex Red Data List species, characteristic of ancient woodland and only found sporadically in the Essex countryside.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This varied woodland site has sections recorded as ancient in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex. The secondary woodland complements and forms a coherent block of diverse and valuable habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition)



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Bre62 St Faith's/Honeypot Lane Meadows (15.5 ha) TQ 586937

This site comprises extensive grassland, hedgerow and streamside habitat, much of which is accessible to the public (St Faith's). Whilst False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) tend to be abundant, the sward also includes Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Herbs include Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). Adjacent to areas of footpath are locally dominant stands of Goat's-rue (*Galega officinalis*), while close to one of the sites ditches, an extensive stand of Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) is found. The meadows are separated by a network of substantial hedgerows forming well connected corridors of scrubby habitat.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

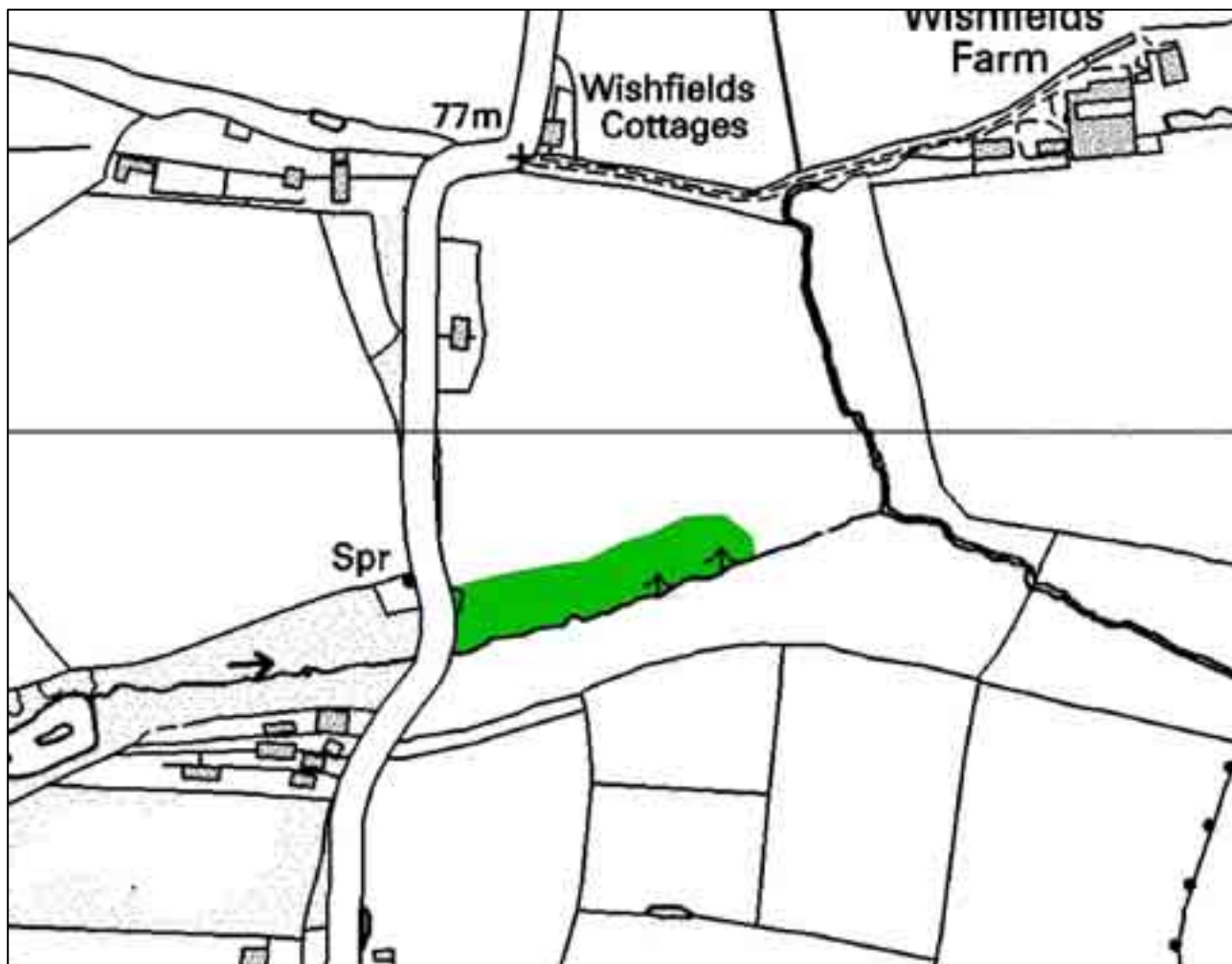
Rationale

The Site represents a significant block of unintensively managed, reasonably species-rich grassland with good public access over much of it. The matrix of such grasslands with thick, old hedgerows is fast becoming a rare sight in the modern landscape.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre63 Days Lane Alder Carr (0.4 ha) TQ 586969

This small wood is dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), having developed on low-lying, marshy ground at the southern end of a cattle pasture adjacent to a tributary of the River Wid. Although still open to cattle grazing, the wet ground conditions appear to keep livestock at bay, allowing an interesting ground flora to develop, including Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Giant Fescue (*Schedonorus gigantea*), Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*).

BAP Habitats

Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

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

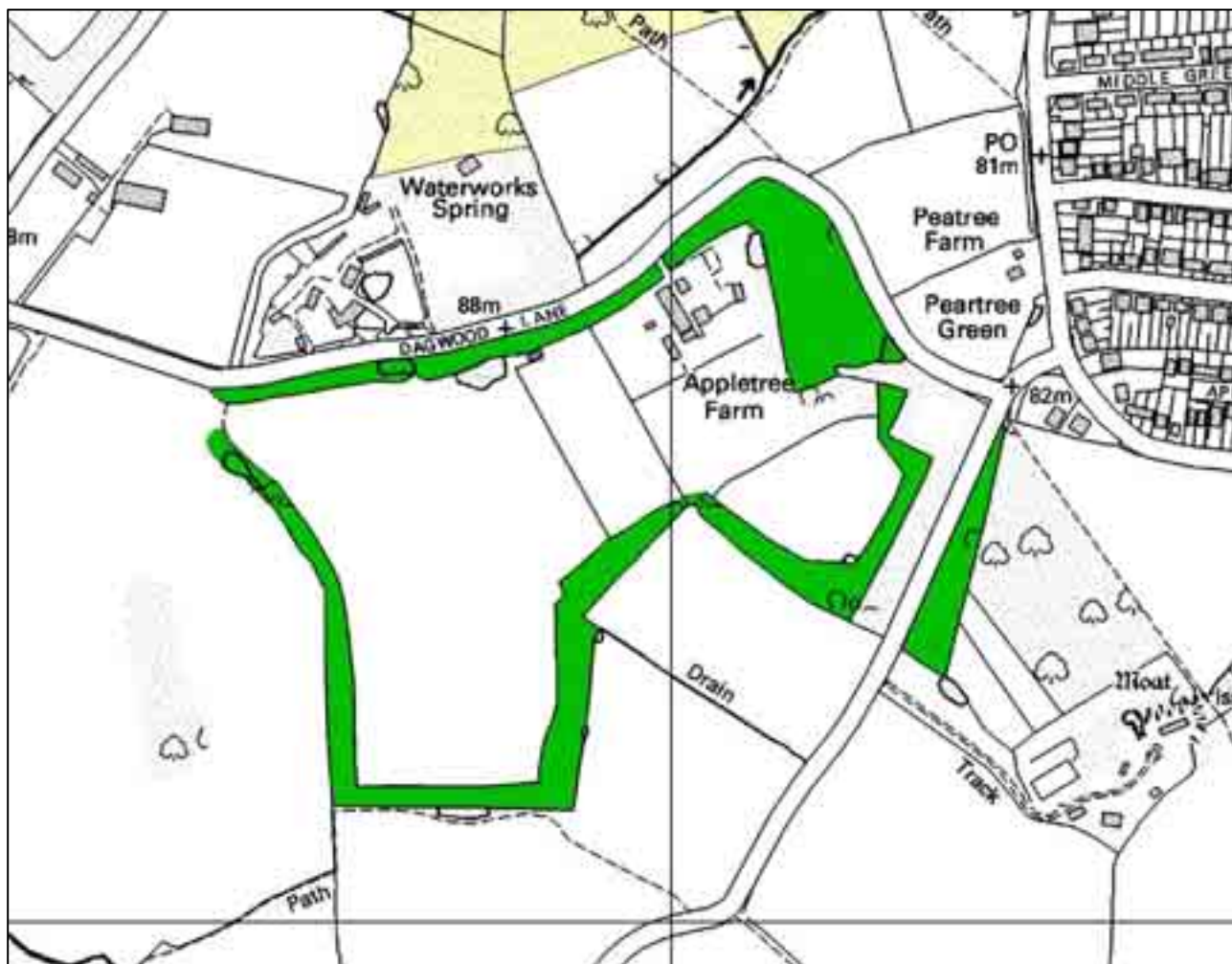
Rationale

This is one of the wetter pieces of "wet woodland" habitat left in the Borough, reflecting the true ecological niche of Alderwood in the landscape.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre64 Dagwood Woods (4.9 ha) TQ 586983

The northern belt of wood, adjacent to Dagwood Lane, comprises a mix of old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, with scattered standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The sub-canopy includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora is rich in ancient woodland plants, such as Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*).

The long belt to the south of Appletree Farm has a similar composition, with abundant Hornbeam and little Ash and very few internal oak standards. The extreme east end is a more recent scrubby triangle of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), oaks and Field Maple. The ground flora is similar, with the additional presence of Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

The small detached section adjacent to Days Lane has a poorer ground flora, possibly as a result of previous recreational disturbance. It now comprises a curious mix of abundant Ivy (*Hedera helix*), usually indicative of recent woodland sites, and abundant Wood Melick, which is strongly associated with ancient sites in Essex. The canopy comprises overgrown Hornbeam coppice with scattered oak standards.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

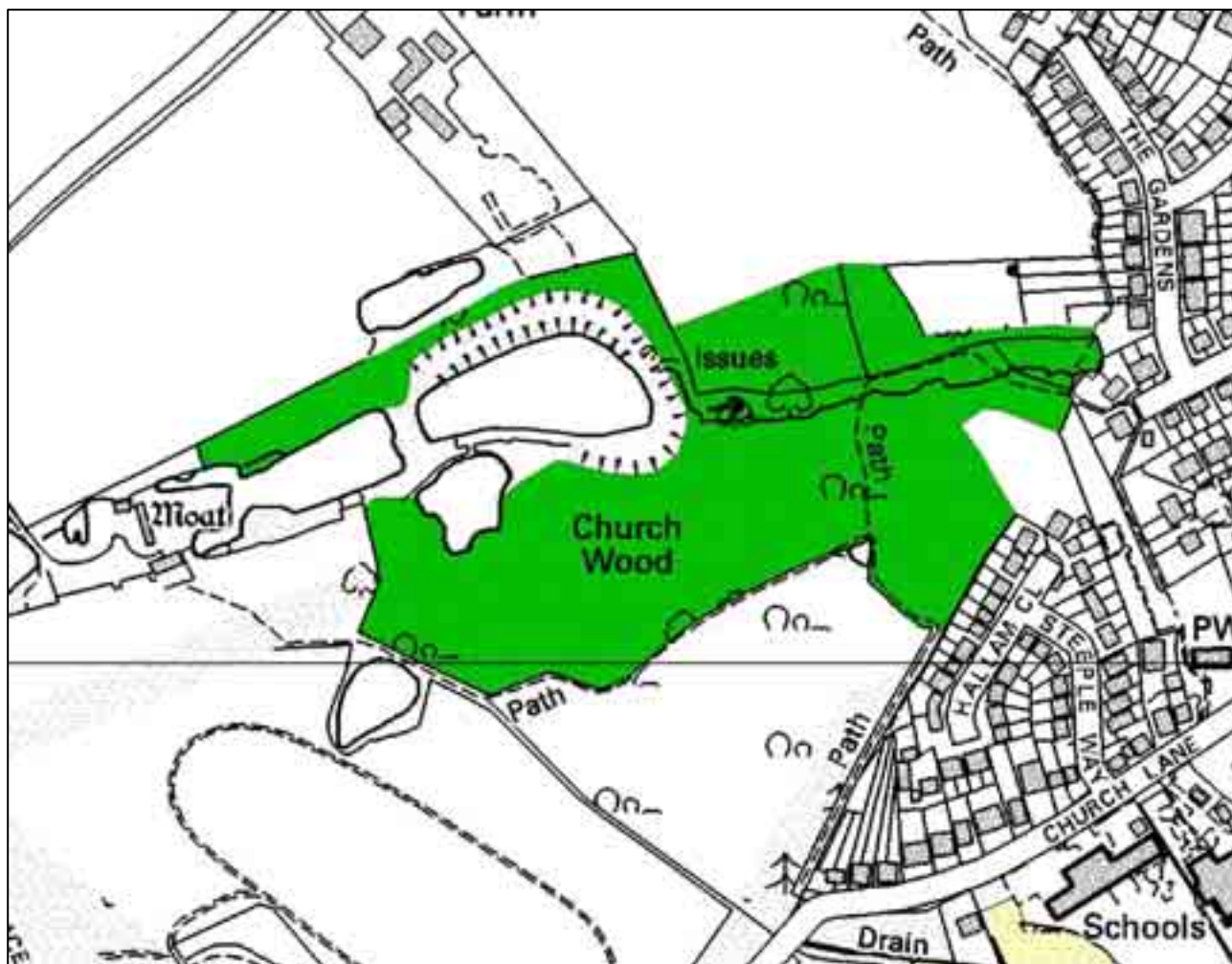
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site. It is rich in ancient woodland plants. The small triangle of recent woodland is included as a link between the two main belts of woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor addition)



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Bre65 Church Wood, Doddingtonhurst (5.8 ha) TQ 586991

This Site comprises mainly ancient woodland, with a block of recent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) wood to the north of the internal stream. The ancient stands comprise a mix of Ash, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and occasional standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with wet Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)-wood along the stream channel and on wet ground at the western end of the wood. The sub-canopy comprises Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The typical woodland ground flora includes many plants associated with ancient woodland sites, including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*) growing amongst Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site. The block of recent Ash-wood provides a useful habitat extension.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre66 Hobbs Hole (1.8 ha) TQ 587881

Hobbs Hole comprises woodland and scrub habitat. The southern part of the site has tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice and standards in the high canopy. Much of the remainder is dense Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub with a ground flora dominated by Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*). To the north-east side of the small stream channel that runs through the wood is a high canopy with Ash and a mixed shrub layer with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). In contrast to the species-poor flora of the southern area, the ground flora includes ancient woodland indicators including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The majority of this woodland is of recent origin. However, the species indicative of ancient woodland suggest that a remnant of far older woodland does survive within this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2005 Brentwood Replacement Plan

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre67 St. Charles Nature Reserve (0.4 ha) TQ 587942

The main canopy is dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Beneath this is a lower sub including Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), whilst Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are species found in the shrub layer. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) grows alongside a small stream channel running through the site along with coppiced Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) dominates much of the ground flora, but Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) is found in abundance close to the watercourse.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

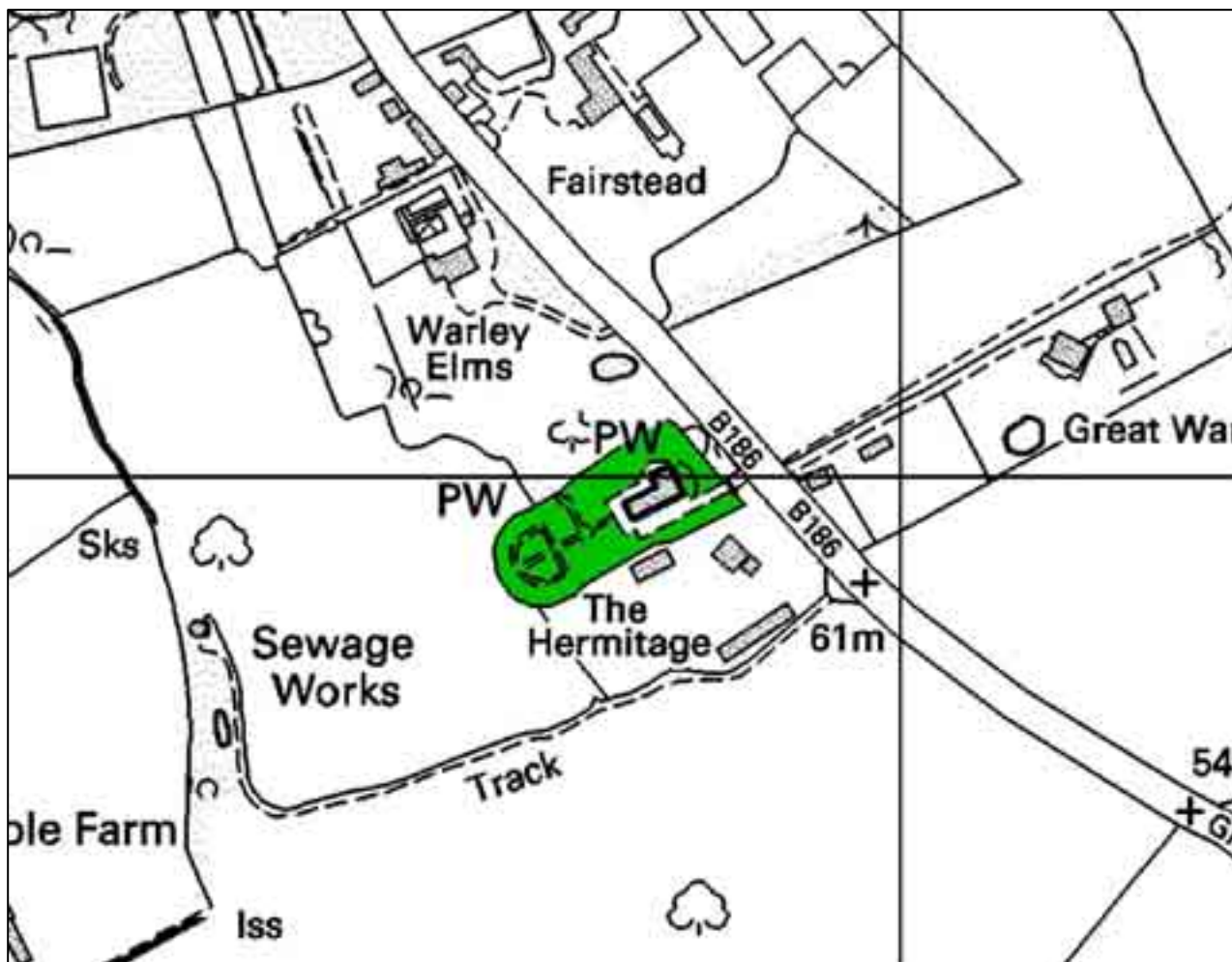
Rationale

This site is a Nature Reserve and survives as a remnant of old woodland now in a predominantly urban environment. Small sites such as this, particularly when secluded and undisturbed, provide a valuable haven for wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre68 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Great Warley (0.4 ha) TQ 588899

A mix of species mix typical of neutral and acid grassland is to be found in this churchyard site. Species typical of much of this churchyard habitat include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg), this latter species being abundant to the east and north sides of the churchyard. The mildly acidic soils support other herbs such as Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*).

BAP Habitats

Some affinity with Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, but a small component of a mosaic of grassland types.

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

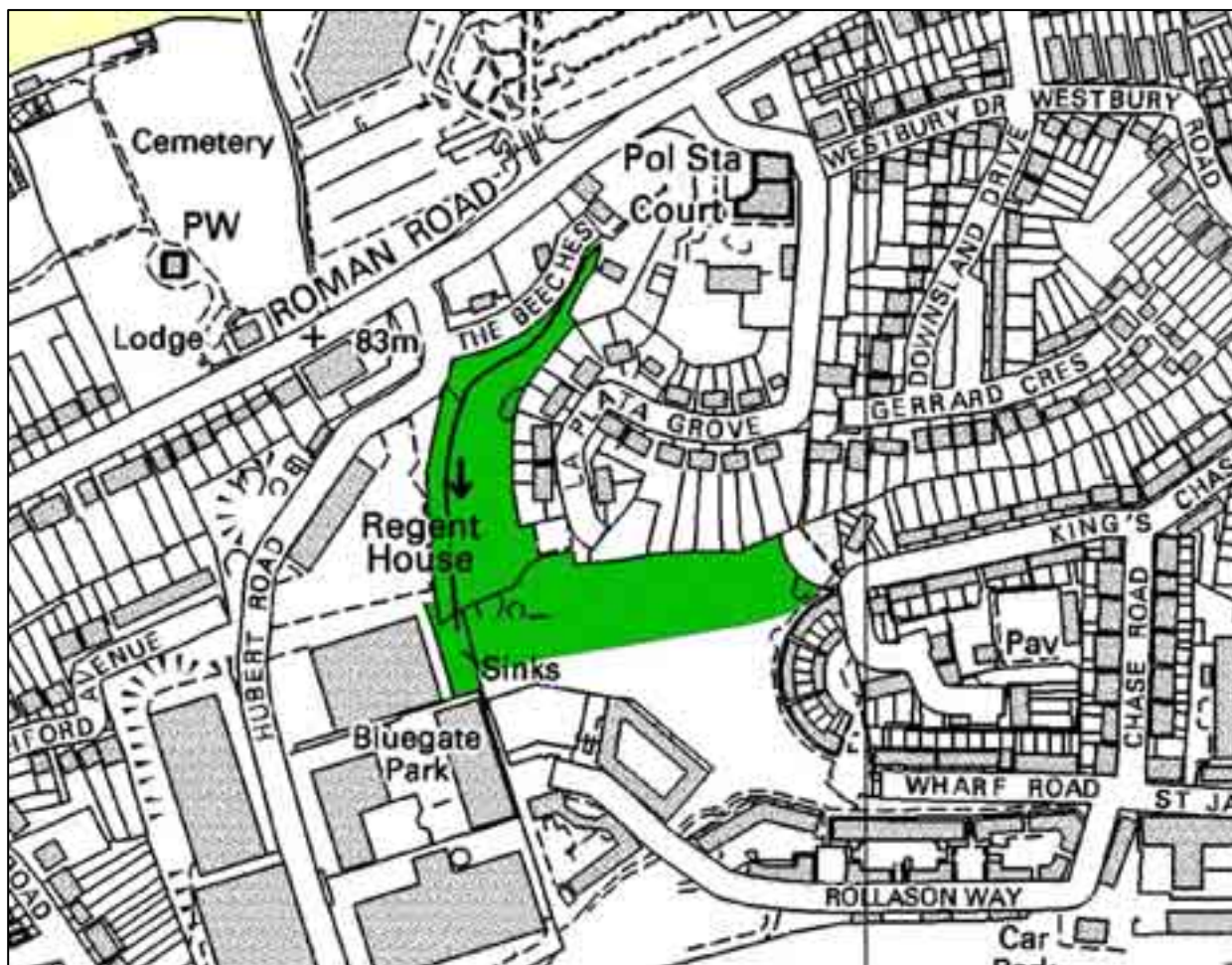
Rationale

The soil status of this Site makes it borderline between a neutral and acid soil, although neutral soils predominate, hence the criterion selection. The ancient creation of this churchyard has helped to preserve this small piece of old grassland habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre69 La Plata Grove (1.7 ha) TQ 588933

La Plata has a variety of tree species forming the high canopy of this woodland. Those characteristic of this site include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*), whilst Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is found near the stream found on the western side of the site. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) are found in the shrub layer throughout the woodland. Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is abundant on the enriched underlying soils. Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), an Essex Red Data List species, is frequent along the stream channel.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

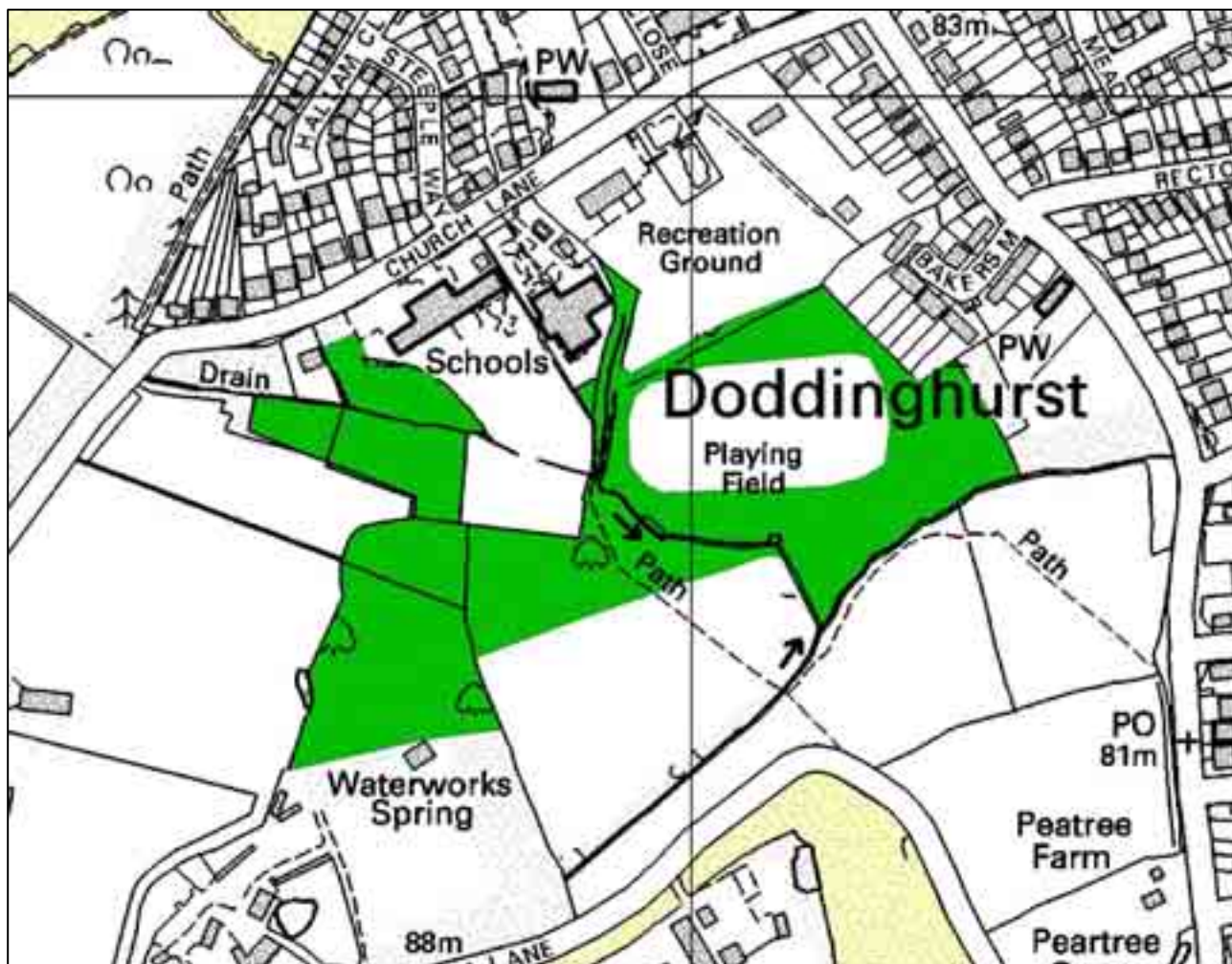
Rationale

This woodland, part of which is accessible for public access is located close to the centre of Brentwood. The wood also supports a sizable population of a threatened Essex plant.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre70 Doddinghurst Woods (4.6 ha) TQ 588987

This site comprises a mosaic of ancient and recent broadleaved woodland and scrub habitats, parts of which are well used by local residents as a recreational resource. Waterworks Spring is an ancient site that has been suffering piecemeal erosional loss to a smallholding for many years, so that only the northern half now remains intact. It comprises abundant overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). At the northern end of Waterworks Spring is a small block of mature, recent oak-wood.

The remainder of the site comprises recent but mature woodland, largely dominated by Pedunculate Oak, but with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hornbeam, Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.) making for a varied sub-canopy and scrub layer. The wood has acquired a typical ground flora, with plants such as Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) perhaps spreading from ancient hedgerows now incorporated into the wood.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

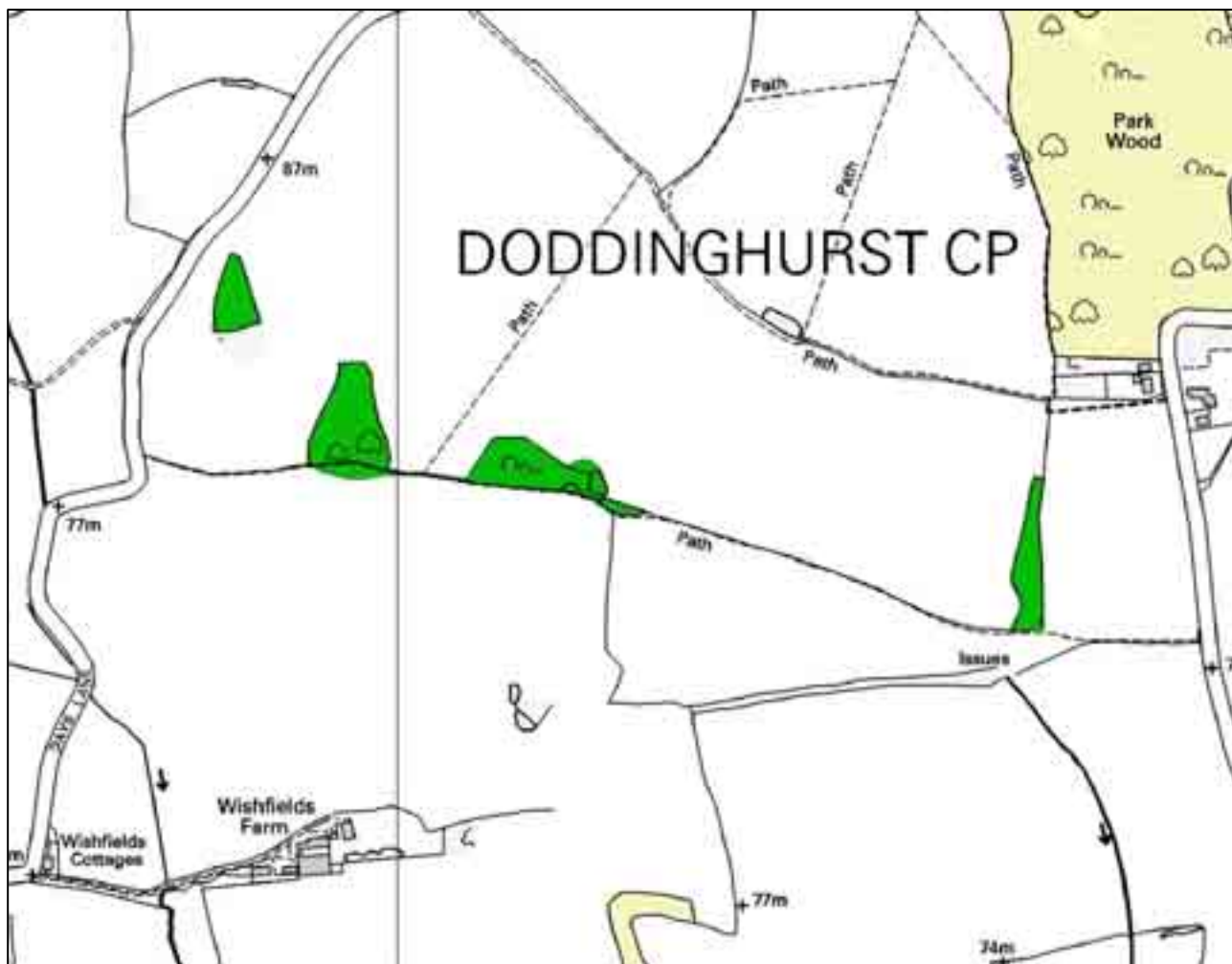
Rationale

The developing recent woodland is going some way to compensation for the loss of ancient woodland habitat in Waterworks Spring. The site has an important role to play in terms of providing close and interesting woodland habitat that is accessible to local residents, this being one of very few fully accessible woods in this part of the Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (Waterworks Spring)

Reviewed: October 2012 (remainder of site added, plus boundary revisions)



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Bre71 South Doddinghurst Woods (1.7 ha) TQ 589975

This Site comprises four small fragments of woodland thought to be ancient in origin. A hedge connecting the two central fragments is included within the Site as connecting habitat. The westernmost copse has a mixed canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and birch (*Betula* sp.) over Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

The second fragment comprises two very different stand types, comprising Alder-wood in the west, with a ground flora of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bramble, Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*); whilst the eastern section on rising ground comprises Oak-Hornbeam wood with abundant Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Bramble, with Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) also present. This connects to the next woodland block via a hedge of Hazel, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Oak, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Holly and hornbeam.

The third wood in the series is also one of Hornbeam, Ash and Pedunculate Oak, with Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) indicating its ancient status. The ground flora includes two further ancient woodland plants: Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*). The easternmost wood has a very similar structure and composition, with abundant Bluebells in the ground flora.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

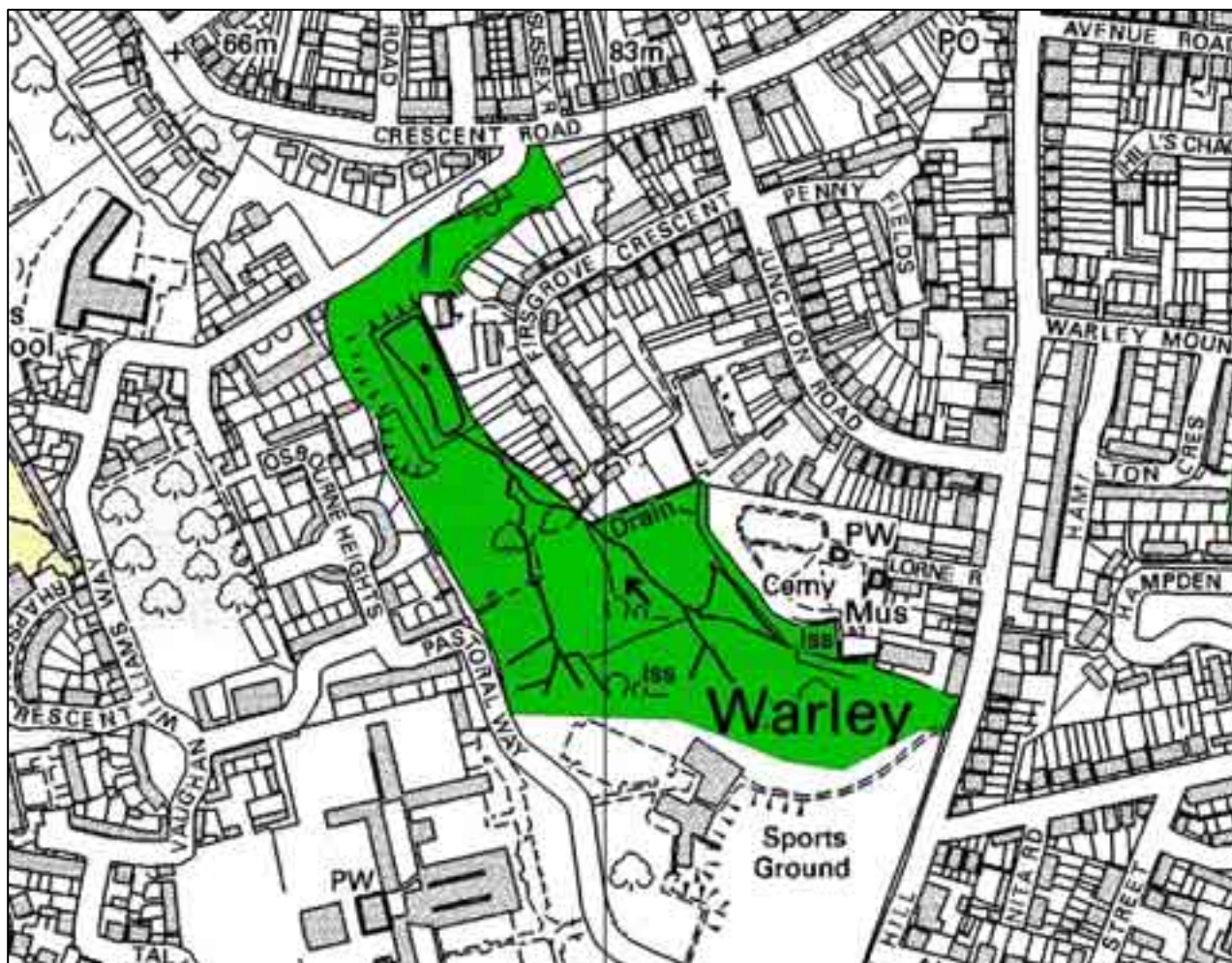
Rationale

The structure and composition of these small woods suggest that they are fragments of ancient woodland, too small to be included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre72 Holly Wood (4.6 ha) TQ 590926

Tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are the characteristic tree species of this site. Other trees recorded include Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is abundant and constitutes the main species of the shrub layer, though scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are also found. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is frequent in the ground flora, whilst both Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) are scattered throughout the woodland. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*) are found in localised patches. A fenced and secluded pond area towards the northern end of the site provides greater habitat diversity to the site.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

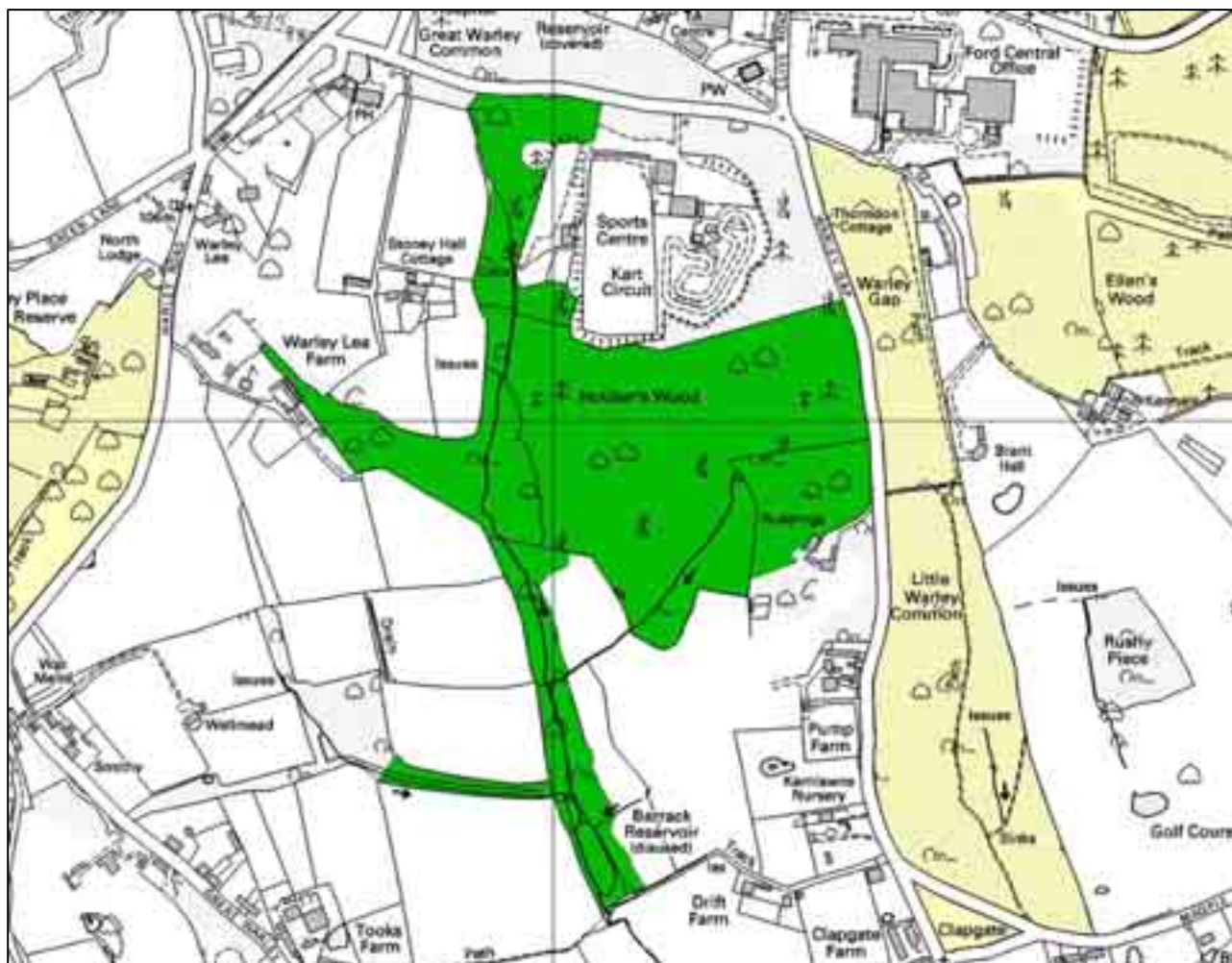
Rationale

This woodland accessible for public access is located south west of Brentwood town centre and is an important feature in the local landscape.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre73 Holden's Wood (19.8 ha) TQ 591909

A wide variety of tree and shrub species are found throughout this large, undulating woodland. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are all characteristic species of the canopy. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) form a scattered shrub layer. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is common in the ground flora beneath the Pedunculate Oak, Birch and Sweet Chestnut of the drier upper slopes towards the south-east part of the wood. Many ground flora species of interest are also present, including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), all indicating an ancient status. In contrast, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) dominates the wetter streamside areas in the western part of the woodland. The wet boggy flushes of this area also support Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), an Essex Red Data List species that not common in the borough.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Much of this woodland is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory. The woodland's diverse habitat structure supports important ancient woodland species. Areas of recent woodland form a contiguous

part of the habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition and deletion)



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Bre74 Marconi Gardens (3.9 ha) TQ 591958

This Site was formerly known as Brentwood Radio Station Grassland, but following the demolition of the radio tower installation and partial development of the site for housing, a more appropriate name was deemed desirable. The Site maintains a fairly species-rich sward, although it is apparent that this has changed significantly over time and is now succumbing to undesirable scrub invasion, a process not being helped by the deliberate planting of further trees in parts of the site.

The grass sward comprises a mix of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) and Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), with an increasing presence of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) indicating insufficient management pressure to maintain the flower-rich herbage. Characteristic herbs include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*). Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) is rare, though formerly more widespread.

BAP Habitats

The sward here possibly formerly conformed to the Lowland Meadows definition, but recent changes to the management regime of the site have shifted the sward characteristics away from this important vegetation type.

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Soil Grasslands

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

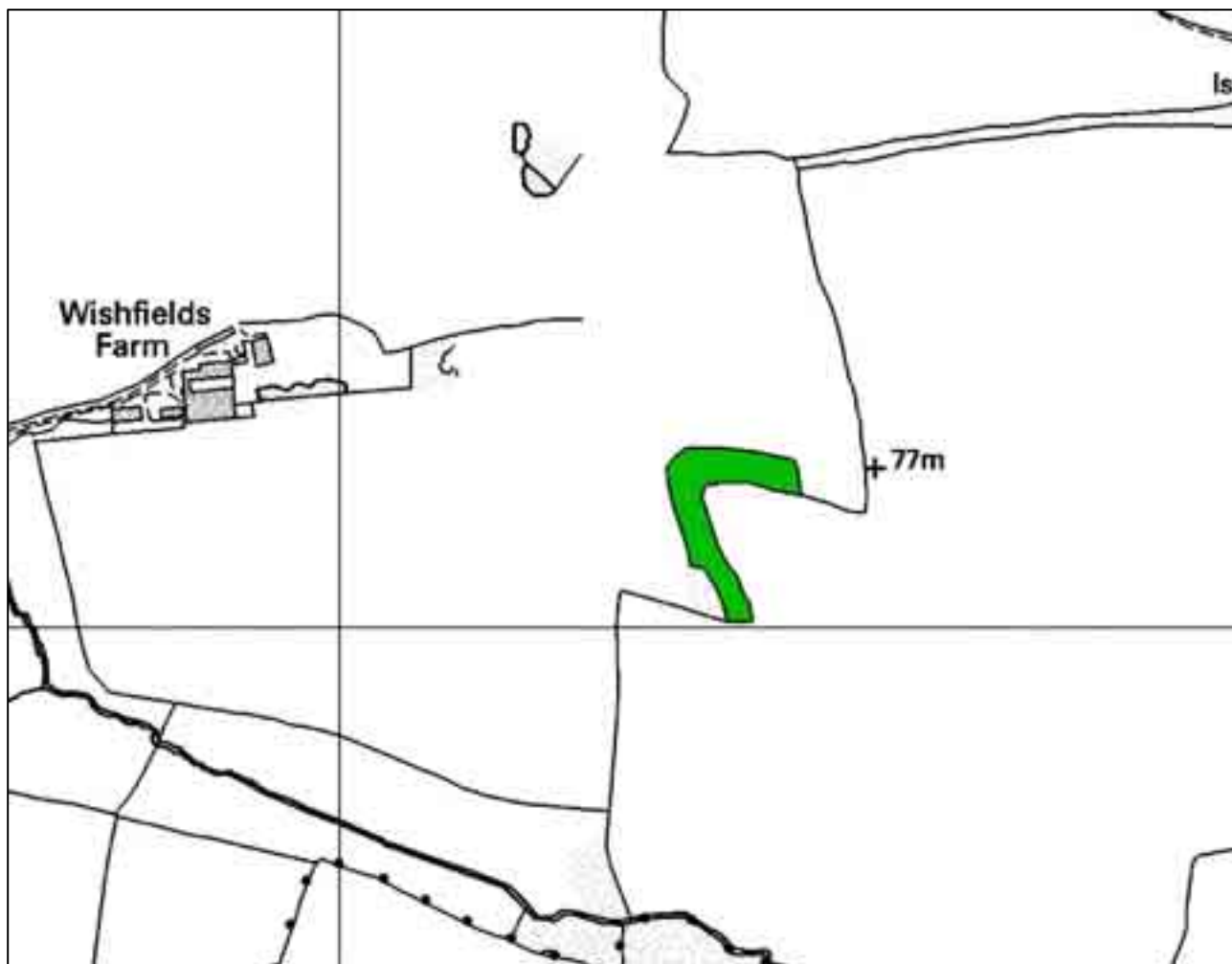
Rationale

The sward characteristics of this Site have changed considerably since it was first identified 20 years ago. Whilst a re-think in current management will be needed to maintain the interest of this grassland, it is still a valuable local resource and an important accessible natural greenspace for nearby residents.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (significant deletion)



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Bre75 Wishfields Farm Wood (0.3 ha) 592970

This small wood is dominated by overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) but only a few standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The ground flora comprises mainly Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Bramble and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

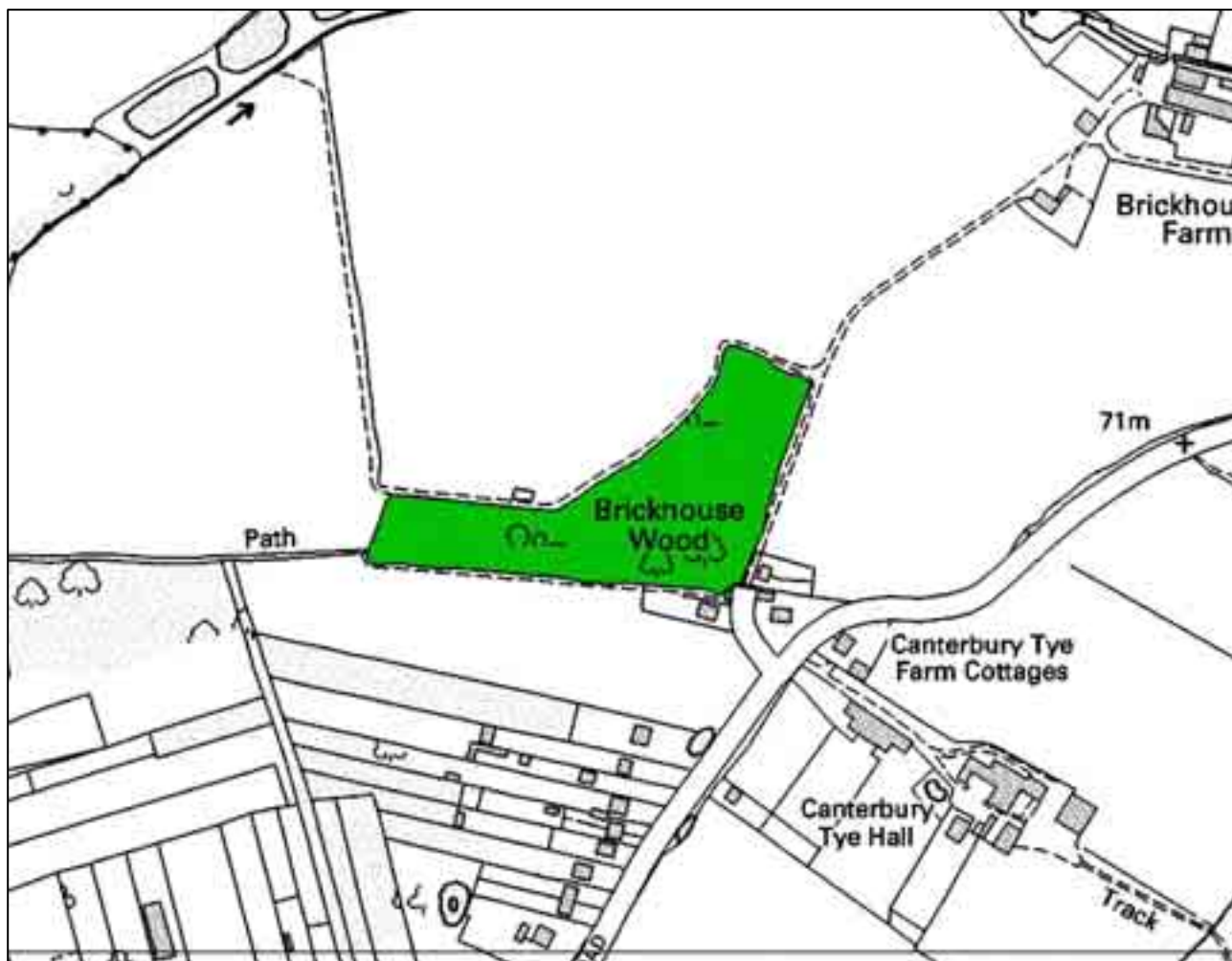
Rationale

The abundance of old Hornbeam coppice and Bluebells suggests an ancient status for this wood, although the counter-indications of abundant Ivy and Cow Parsley might indicate some earlier disturbance that has depleted the ground cover.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre76 Brickhouse Wood (2.2 ha) TQ 593963

Brickhouse Wood comprises mainly overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and a sub-canopy of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occurs close to a small rill close to the northern edge, as does Hart's-tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), a scarce Essex plant. Downy Birch is locally frequent centrally, suggestive of previous clearance.

The ground flora comprises mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*), but is otherwise rather sparse. Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) all occur sparingly.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

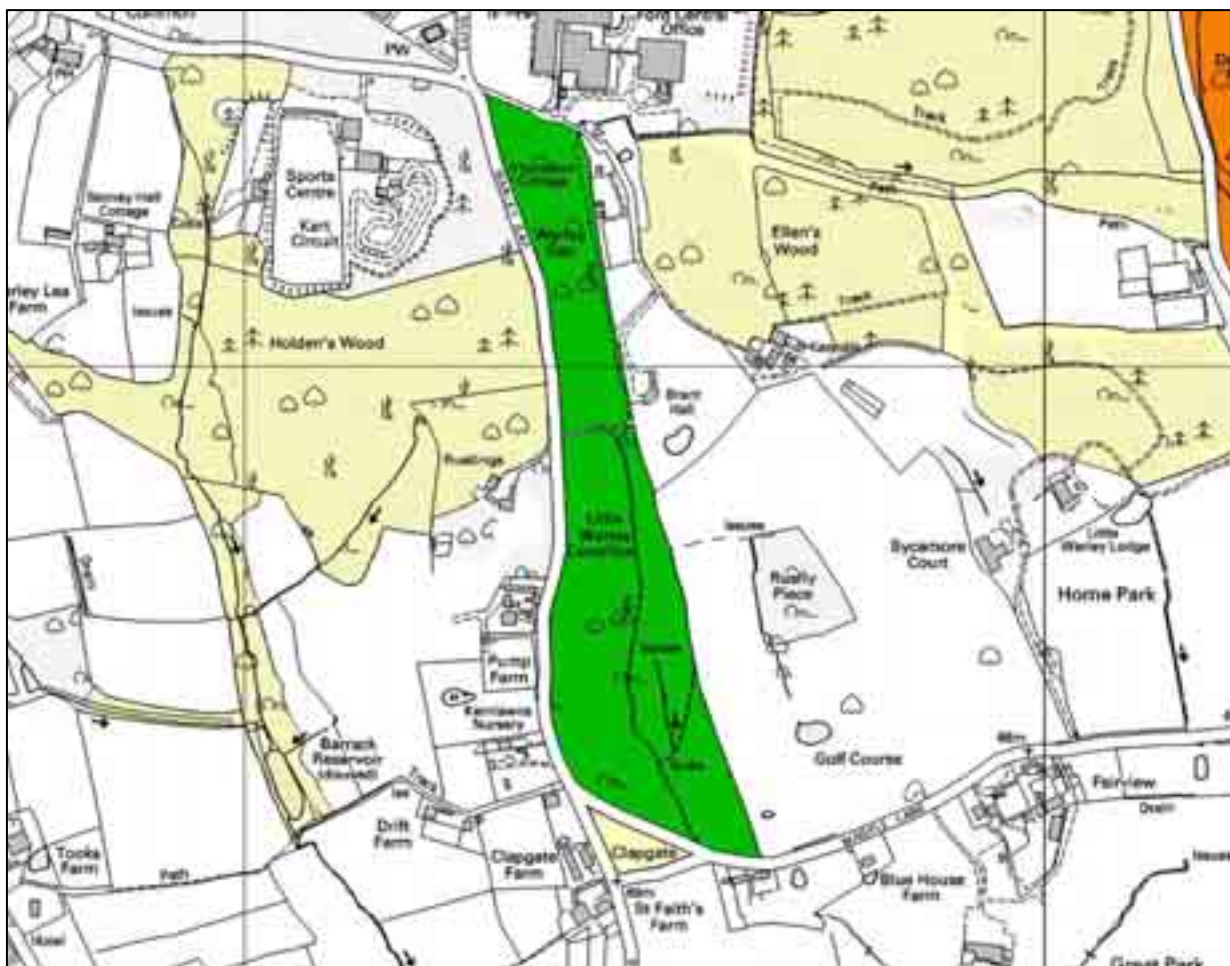
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre77 Little Warley Common/Warley Gap Woods (12.8 ha) TQ 594908

Warley gap is mostly dominated by Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), except for the far northern edge where Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) form a more complex canopy structure. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and patches of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are the most frequent species to be found in an otherwise very sparse shrub layer. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) are found in the ground flora. Little Warley Common is a more hummocky area with a mix of coppice and standard trees. Beech, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash, Pedunculate Oak and dense stands of Silver Birch characterise this section of the site. Much Holly is found along the eastern margins of the woodland, as is often the case with areas of former wood-pasture. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is also frequent in the shrub layer. Bracken and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), both typical of moderately acidic soils, are found throughout.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

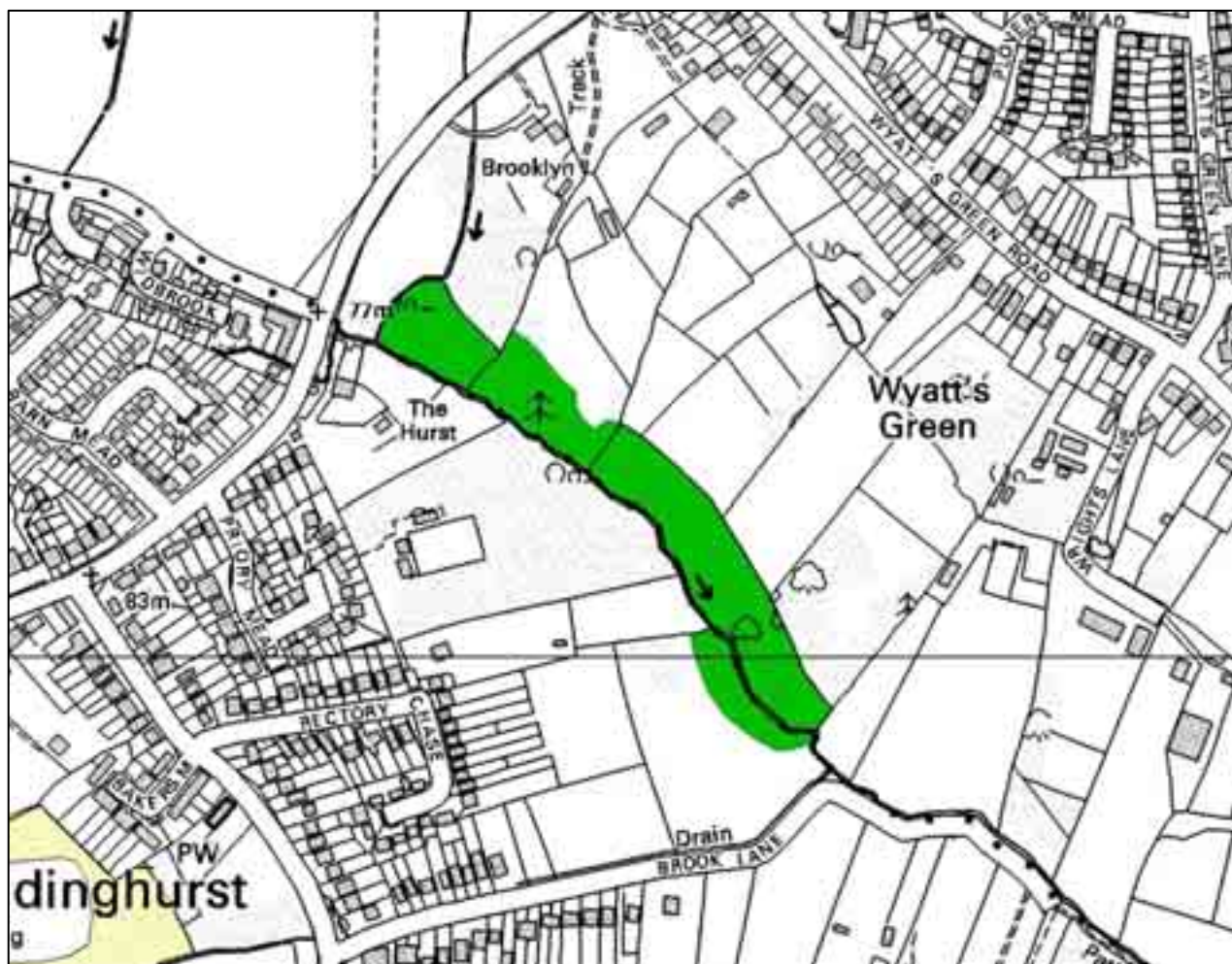
Rationale

This area of former wood-pasture, now converted to more typical broadleaved woodland, has a flora typical of broadleaved woods on sandy, acid soils and comprises a woodland type that is uncommon in the borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre78 River Wid Wood (2.6 ha) TQ 595991

This Site comprises a highly diverse woodland, ranging from wet Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) wood to the north through to drier Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and willow (*Salix* spp.) to the south. There is a rich ancient woodland flora, largely associated with the banks of the River Wid, including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*). Of particular interest within the ground flora is the presence of six species of fern, including one of the largest population of Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) in Essex, a rare plant in the county that is included within the Essex Red Data List of threatened species. This Red List also includes two other ferns present here: Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) and Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wet Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC3 – Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

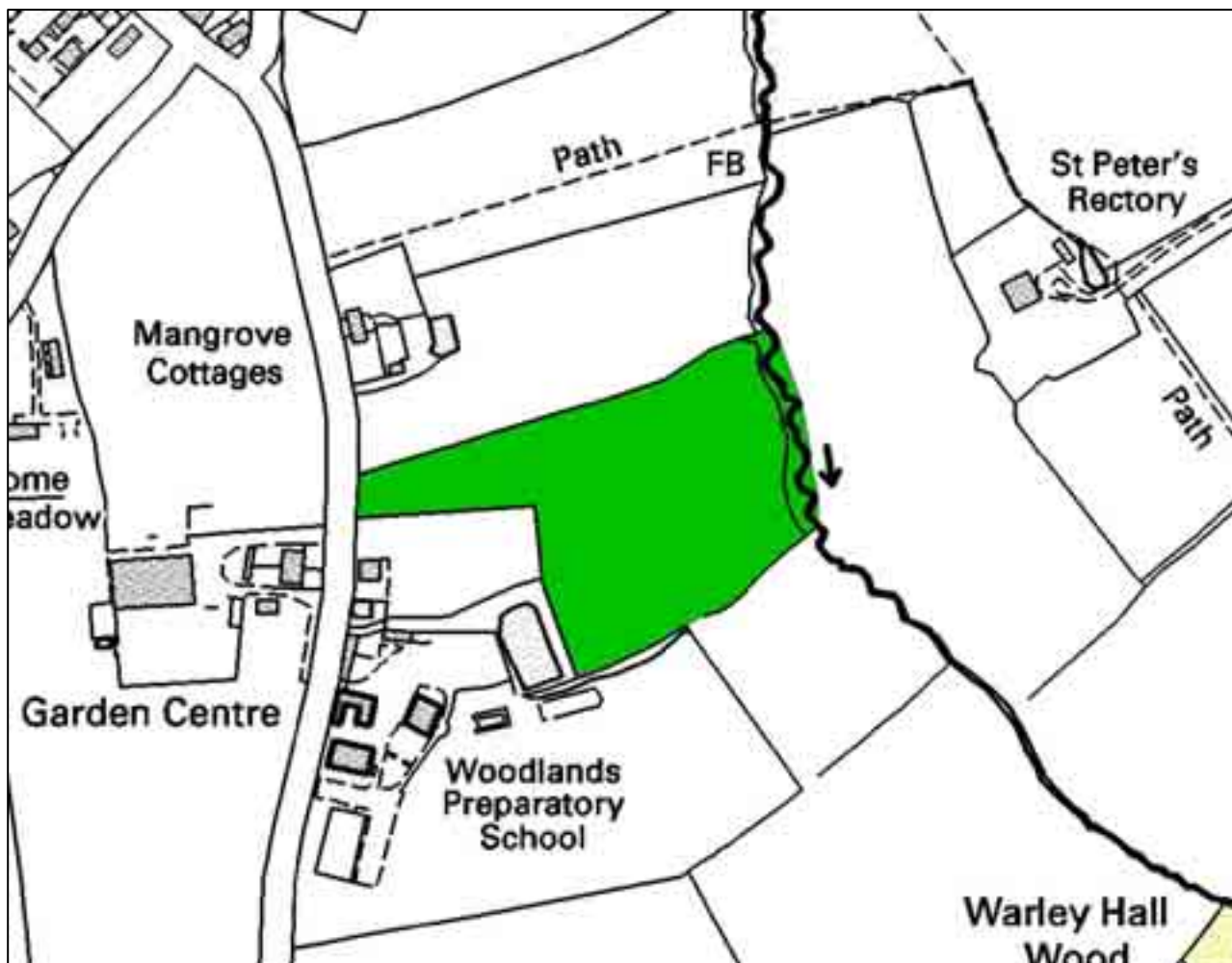
Rationale

This sites falls easily within the definitions of the two BAP Priority Habitats listed above. The scarce flora would also be sufficient interest to designate this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor boundary revisions)



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Bre79 Woodlands School Meadow (2.1 ha) TQ 596893

The majority of this meadow site comprises dry grassland, but also includes a marshy grassland component on the extreme east side on the lower slopes next to a small stream. Typical species of the main grassland include Common Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Among the herb species in the dry grassland are Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). The damper lower slopes are characterised by the presence of Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

BAP Habitats

Parts of this species-rich grassland sward have affinities with the Lowland Meadows BAP Priority Habitat.
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (small streamside component)
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

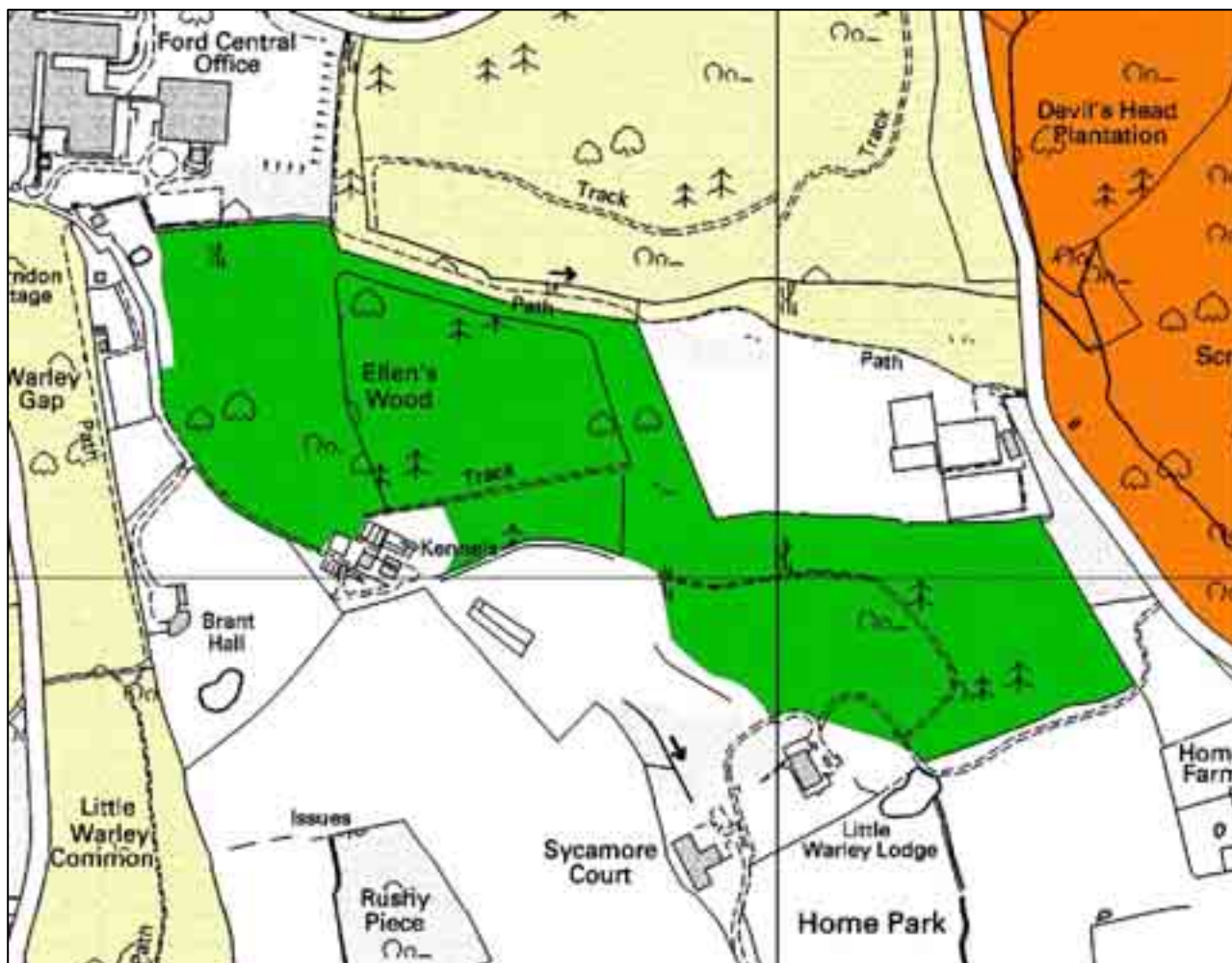
HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Parts of the site might be selected under the HC9 Lowland Meadows criterion. However, the whole Site sits more clearly within the HC11 criterion.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2005 Brentwood Replacement Plan **Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre80 Ellen's Wood (14.5 ha) TQ 596910

The north-western section of Ellen's Wood has a central area mostly planted with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), interspersed with broadleaf trees including Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). There is no well-developed shrub layer in this section of the woodland and the ground flora is limited to extensive patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). The central mixed plantation is flanked on the west and east sides by broadleaf woodland. These areas have a similar mix of broadleaf species found within the central section with additional species such as Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). A sparse shrub layer is found and includes Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and some dense areas with Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) towards the west edges of the site. A more diverse ground flora is found and includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*).

The south-eastern section of the site to the north of Little Warley Lodge has two distinct sections. The western part has a broadleaf composition with a high canopy dominated by Sycamore and younger Silver Birch and Pedunculate Oak, whilst the eastern part is a mixed plantation of Scots Pine interspersed with broadleaves. A sparse ground flora includes Bluebell and Bracken.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

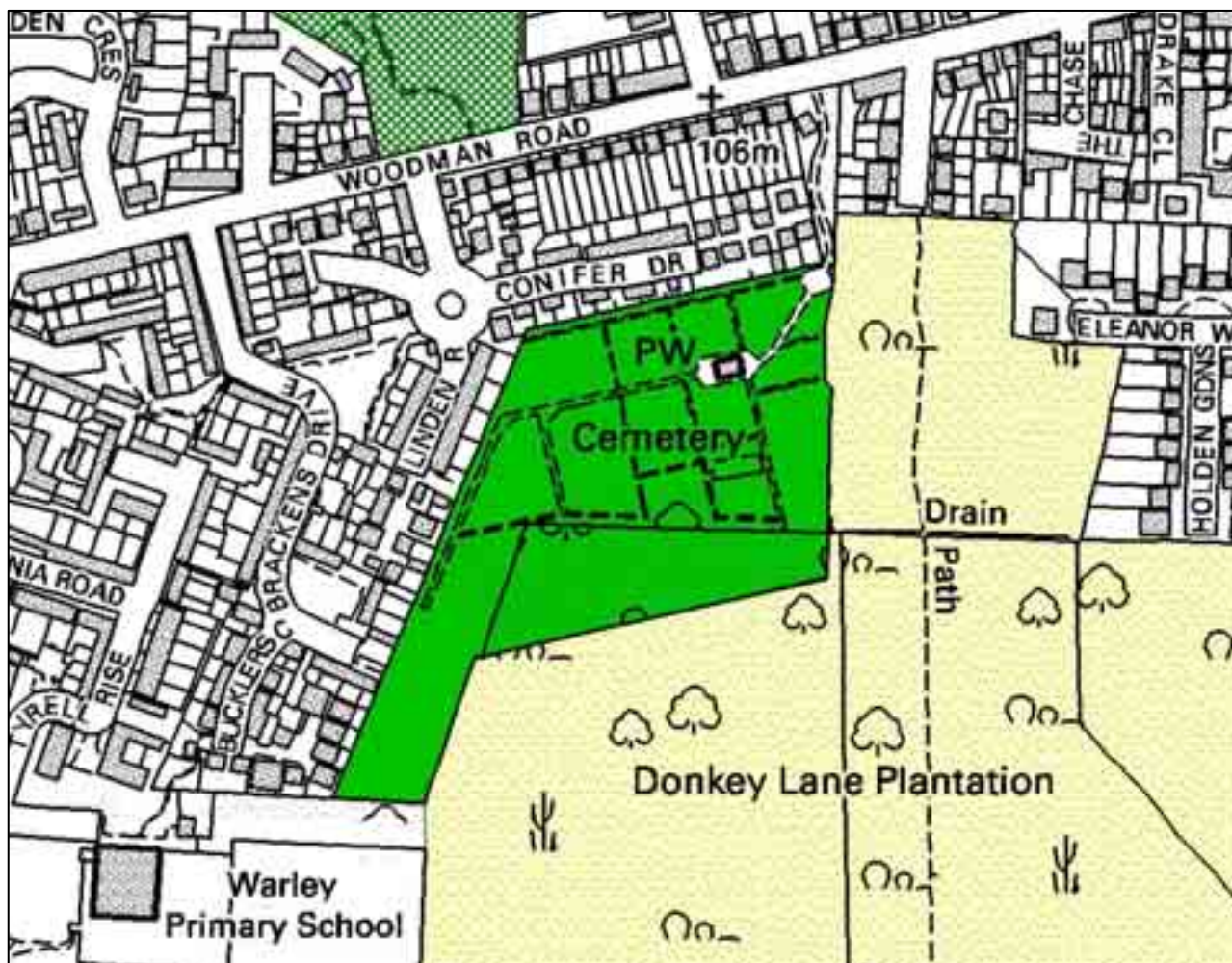
Rationale

Although only part of this site is listed in the Ancient woodland inventory for Essex, there is historic reference to Ellen's Wood dating back to the sixteenth century and possibly earlier, thereby suggesting that most, if not all, the Site is ancient.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (east section)

Reviewed: October 2012 (west section)



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Bre81 Woodman Road Cemetery (3.4 ha) TQ 596922

This cemetery site has a range of fine grass species including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) and Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), all characteristic of acid grassland. Small patches of low growing Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) shrubs are also found within the site. This is complemented by a rich assemblage of herbs such as Blinks (*Montia fontana*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.), an Essex Red Data List species of very limited distribution in the county.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

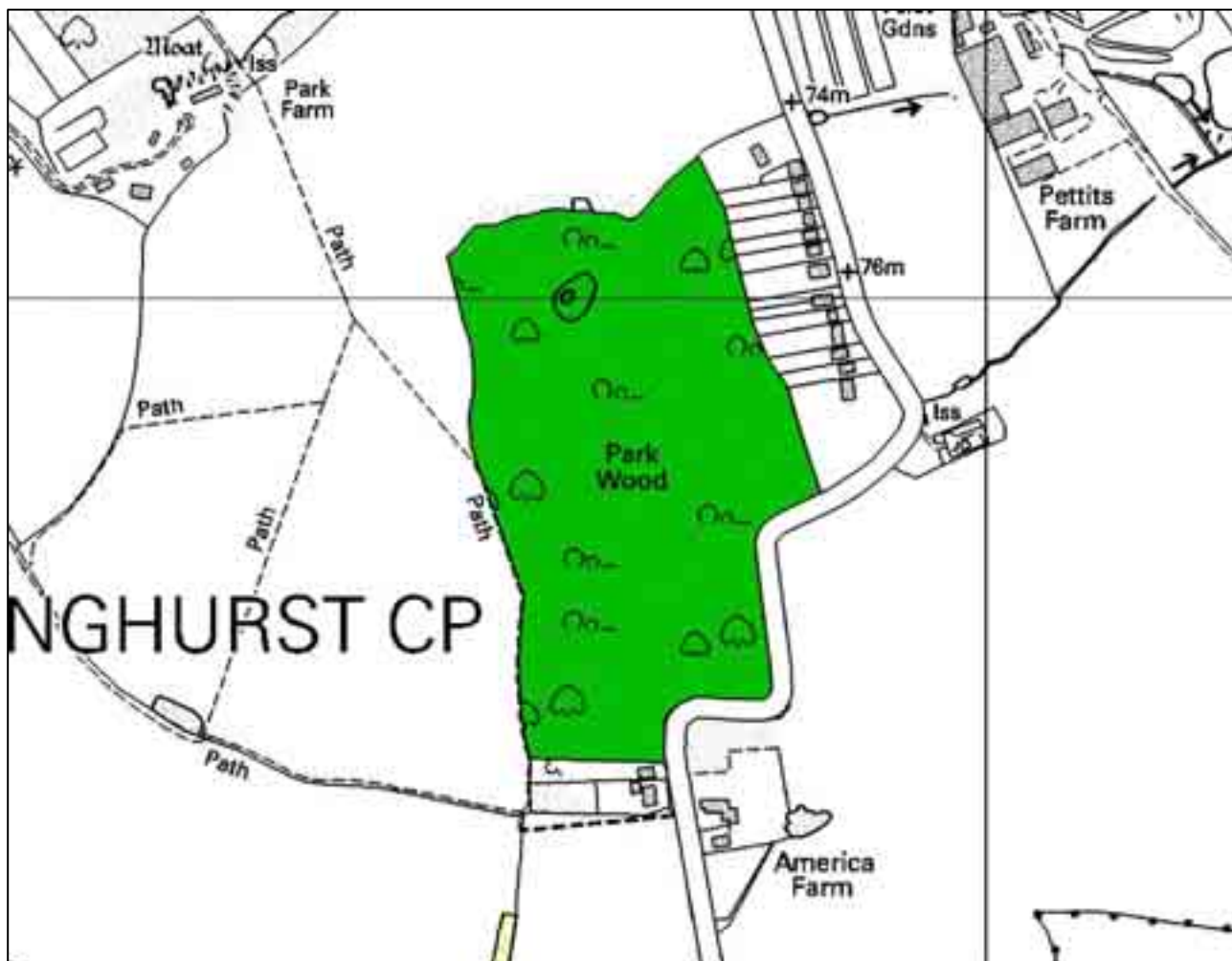
Rationale

The 6" scale Ordnance Survey map of 1881 shows that the site of this modern cemetery is located on part of the former Great Warley Common. This cemetery site preserves a very valuable remnant of species-rich habitat which was formerly part of the Common.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre82 Park Wood, Doddinghurst (8.8 ha) TQ 597978

This large ancient woodland is co-dominated by overgrown coppice of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), but with some recent coppicing evident in the south of the site. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) are rare and the sub-canopy is sparse, but does include Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), along with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Aspen (*Populus tremula*). The ground flora is very sparse under much of the overgrown coppice canopy but it nevertheless includes some high quality species, notably a good population of Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), along with Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*). Within the recent coppice coupe, the increased light level has stimulated abundant growth of Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

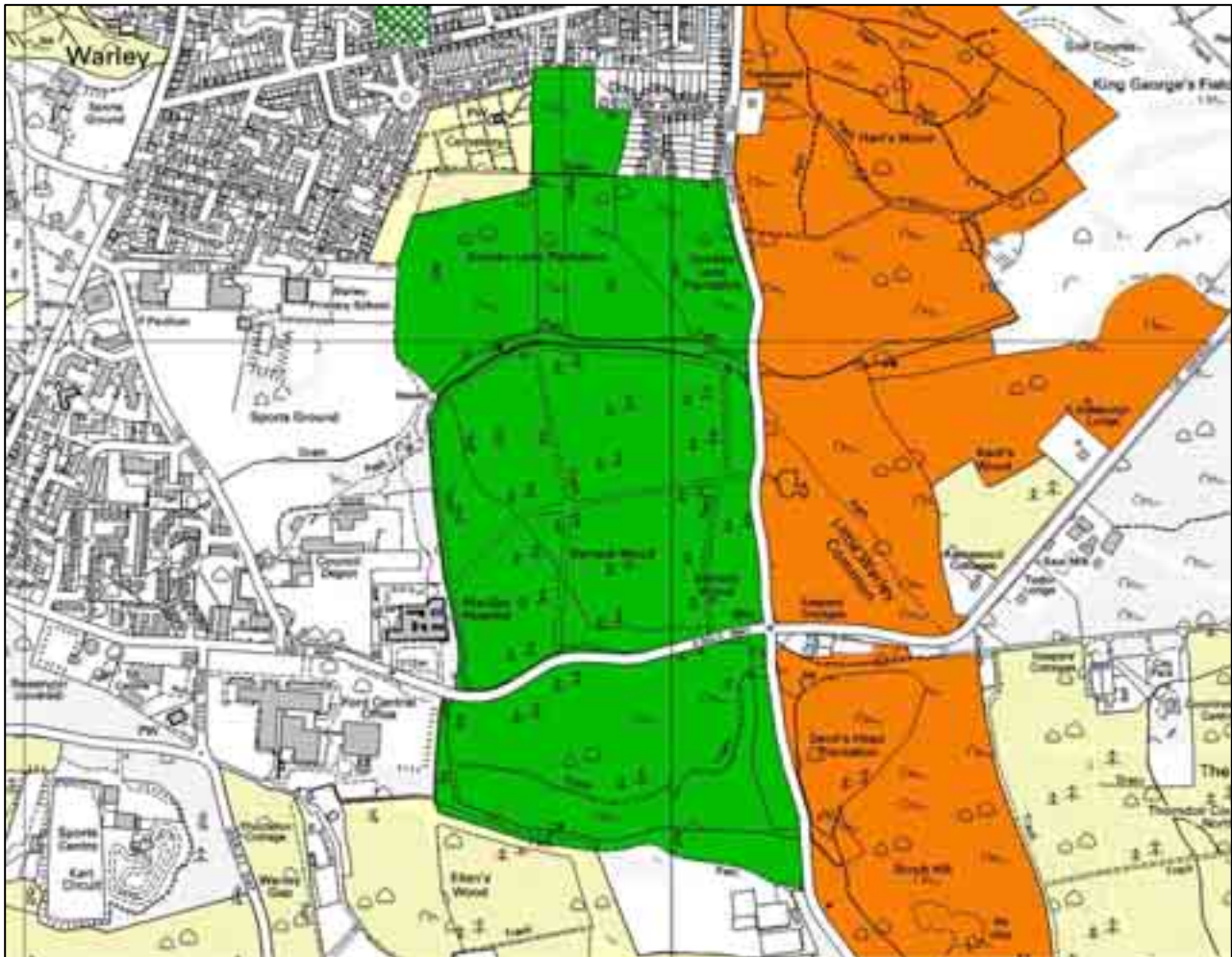
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre83 Barrack Wood/Donkey Lane Plantation (54.0 ha) TQ 598917

Raised rides separate Barrack Wood into compartments, but these do not always have a uniform stand type composition. There are areas with purely broadleaf trees such as coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards, contrasting with mixed broadleaf and conifer blocks with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and smaller areas of pure Scots Pine. There is very little in the way of shrub layer beneath the shading high canopy, though Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are scattered throughout. The ground flora beneath the dense canopy is also limited. Ferns such as Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) are found in the ground flora along with small patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Barrack Wood effectively continues to the south of Eagle Way, comprising another large block of mixed woodland with Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Larch (*Larix decidua*), Beech, Scots Pine, Pedunculate Oak and Silver Birch being characteristic species. Tall Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is found alongside a stream channel. Bluebell and Wood Anemone, typical of ancient woodland are found in the ground flora.

Donkey Lane Plantation has abundant Sweet Chestnut coppice. The northern extension to the wood has smaller trees and much Holly in the shrub layer. The ground flora of this woodland includes Bluebell, Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and the rare Hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), an Essex Red Data List plant.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

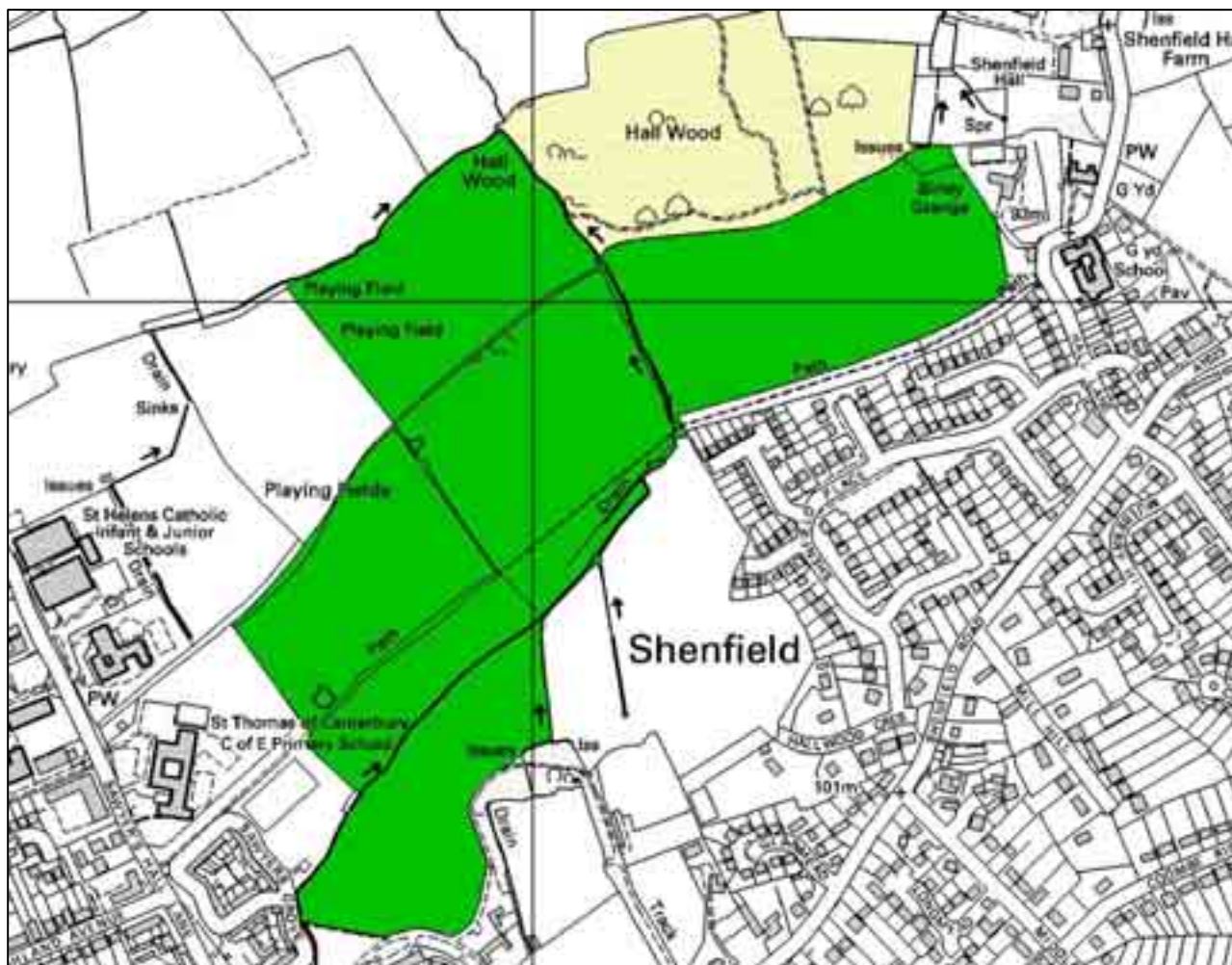
Rationale

Barrack Wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory. Although Donkey Lane Plantation is not listed, it does support species associated with ancient woodland and provides much additional England BAP Priority Habitat woodland cover.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition)



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Bre84 Merrymeade/Shenfield Meadows (26.5 ha) TQ 599947

This large site comprises a series of adjoining areas of managed and unmanaged grassland, woody scrub and marshy habitat. The southern part of the site has a variety of grasses present including Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). The herb assemblage is characteristic of underlying dry neutral/acid soil conditions and includes Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*). Other managed meadows typically have herb species such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). The habitat by the stream and the adjacent marshy area by a boardwalk characteristically has rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) in the flora. In marked contrast to the managed areas, the eastern part of the site is an area of rough grassland dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). Many patches of Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) are present, as well as some Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) patches. Separating the areas of managed and unmanaged grassland is an area of developing young woodland and scrub with a mix of native species including Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (minor component)
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland
HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

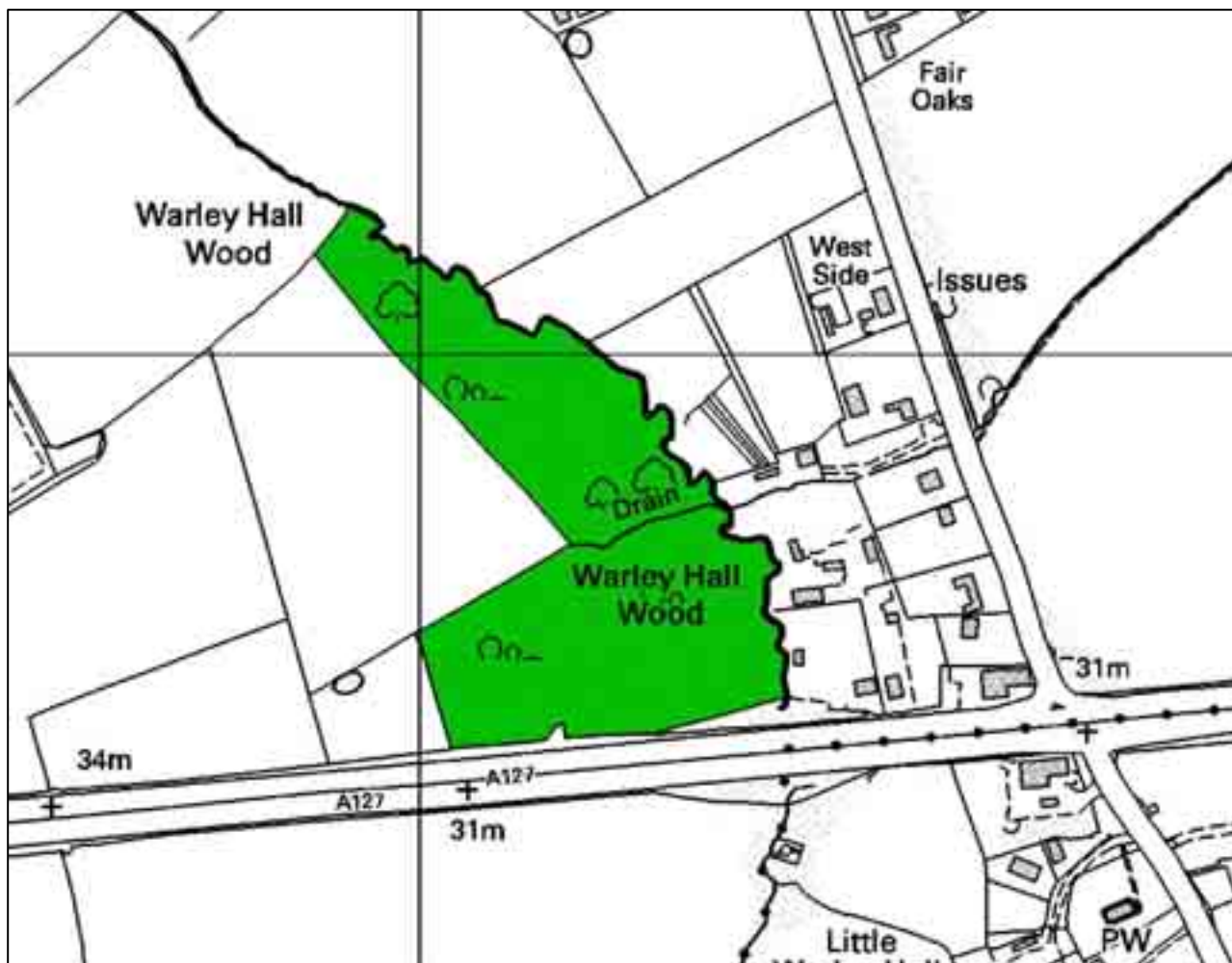
Rationale

This Site represents a relatively large contiguous block of species-rich grassland, this being a scarce and declining habitat in the county. Public access to the Merrymeade section is an important local resource.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre85 Warley Hall Wood (4.6 ha) TQ 600889

Warley Hall Wood lies on a gentle slope leading down to the boundary stream. Whilst Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice dominates most of this ancient woodland, some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice is found on the upper slopes and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) grows close to the brook. A rich ground flora is present within this woodland with many ancient woodland indicator species present, including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

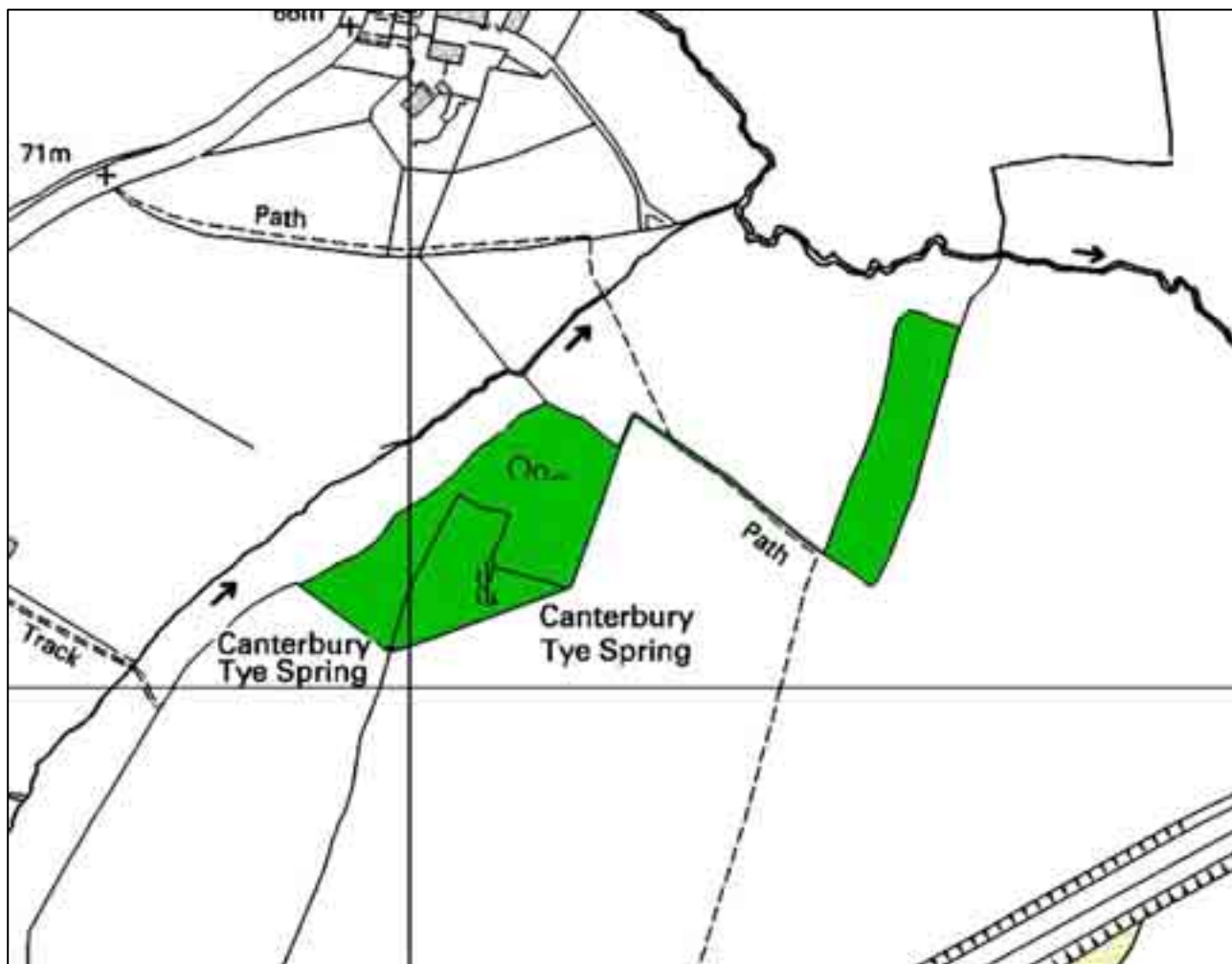
HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

Rationale

This wood has a typical ancient woodland structure and retains a rich and diverse ground flora throughout the wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2005 Brentwood Replacement Plan **Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre86 Canterbury Tye Woods (2.6 ha) TQ 600961

This Site comprises Canterbury Tye Spring, comprising both ancient and recent woodland, an un-named section of old woodland and a connecting hedgerow. The ancient northern section of Canterbury Tye comprises a mosaic of old coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), reflecting variable ground soil moisture conditions. The sub-canopy has an expanding population of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) also present. The recent woodland to the south comprises Ash and Sycamore. The rather impoverished ground flora includes abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), plus some Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

The wood to the east appears to be old, but not obviously ancient woodland, other than the carpet of Bluebells underneath a canopy/scrub layer of tall Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Pedunculate Oak, with only occasional Ash and Hornbeam. The connecting hedge is a thick, species-rich feature that includes Field Maple, Hornbeam, birch, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), oak, Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), hawthorn and rose (*Rosa* sp.).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites
HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

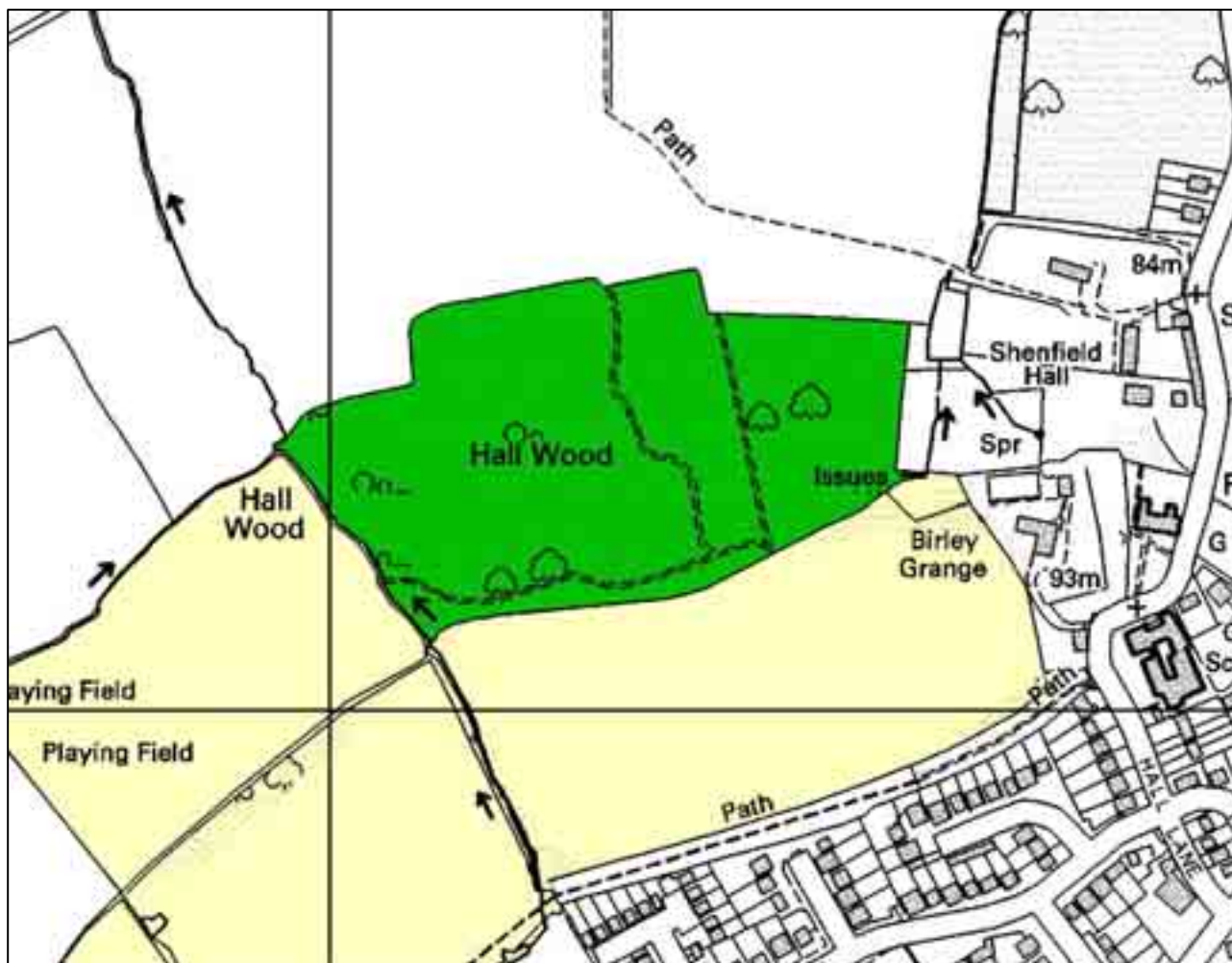
Rationale

The more recent sections of lowland broadleaved deciduous woodland and the connecting hedgerow make for a more viable ecological unit than the small fragment of ancient woodland alone.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (part)

Reviewed: October 2012 (additions)



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Bre87 Hall Wood, Shenfield (7.1 ha) TQ 601951

This large ancient woodland has a varied canopy composition, with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and standards, tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), closely spaced Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) found throughout the wood. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is frequent in the shrub layer and patches of the non-native Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) are also present. The woodland ground flora is also varied in character. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are prominent, whilst areas of the ground only have a leaf litter covering. Many ferns (*Dryopteris* spp.) are found throughout the woodland, whilst the western edge near the stream has Pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). Other species of interest recorded include Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

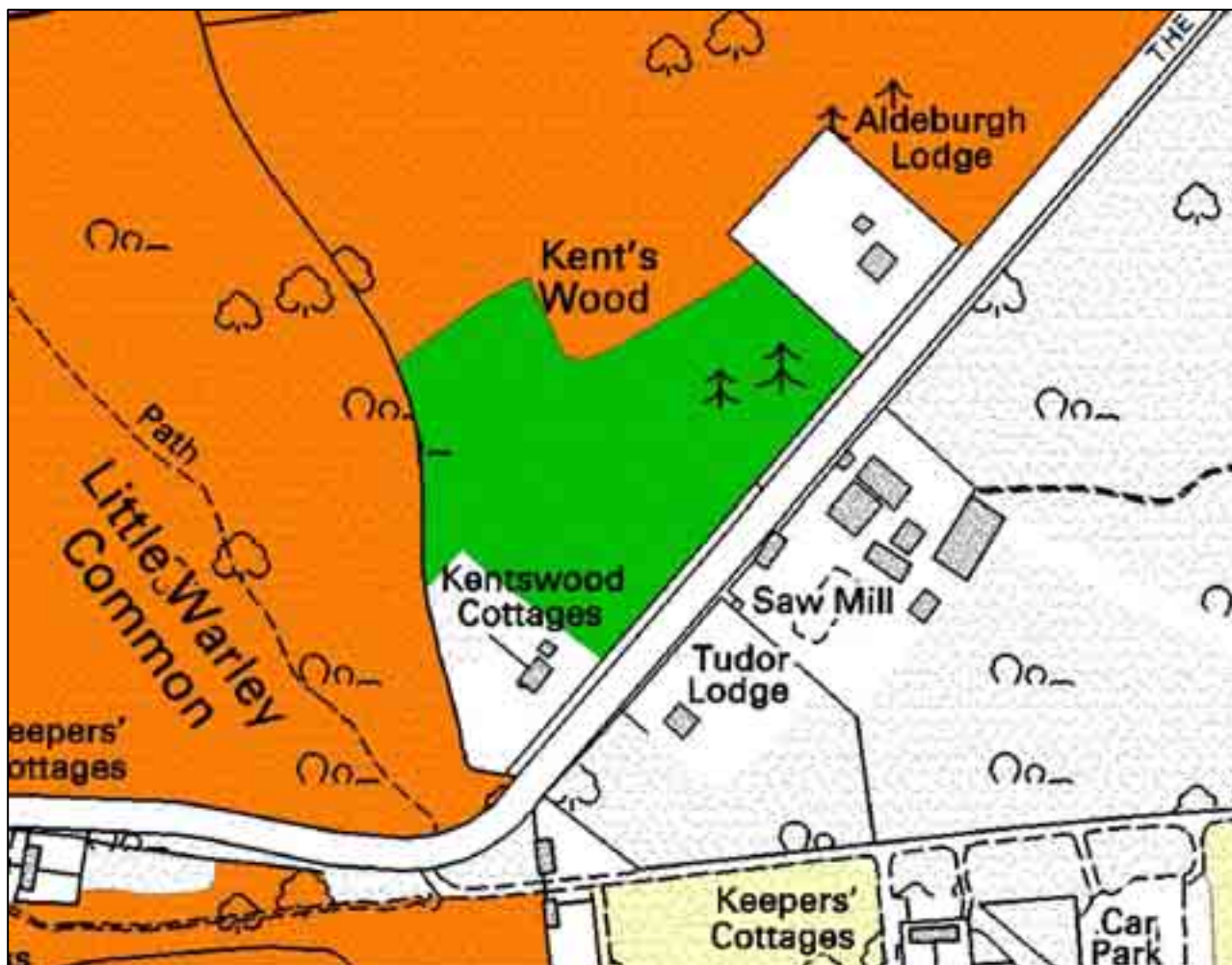
Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, and has a structure and composition which supports this status.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre88 Kents Wood (2.5 ha) TQ 604917

This is a small section of re-planted ancient woodland that forms part of the much larger Kents Wood, the remainder of which is included within the Thorndon Park SSSI. The canopy now comprises mainly planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and some conifers, along with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The shrub layer comprises sparse Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) have been recorded in the ground flora.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site is contiguous with, but just outside the boundary of Thorndon Park Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and therefore is valuable additional habitat, although one that would be improved by reverting it to a more semi-natural broadleaved canopy.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre89 Six Acre Spring (0.7 ha) TQ 604957

The northern section of this small undulating woodland was destroyed with the construction of the A12 Brentwood bypass. Although not recorded as ancient woodland, the wood exhibits a good canopy structure dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) is also a frequent component of the wood. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are the main shrub species. A diverse ground flora has several ancient woodland indicator species, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

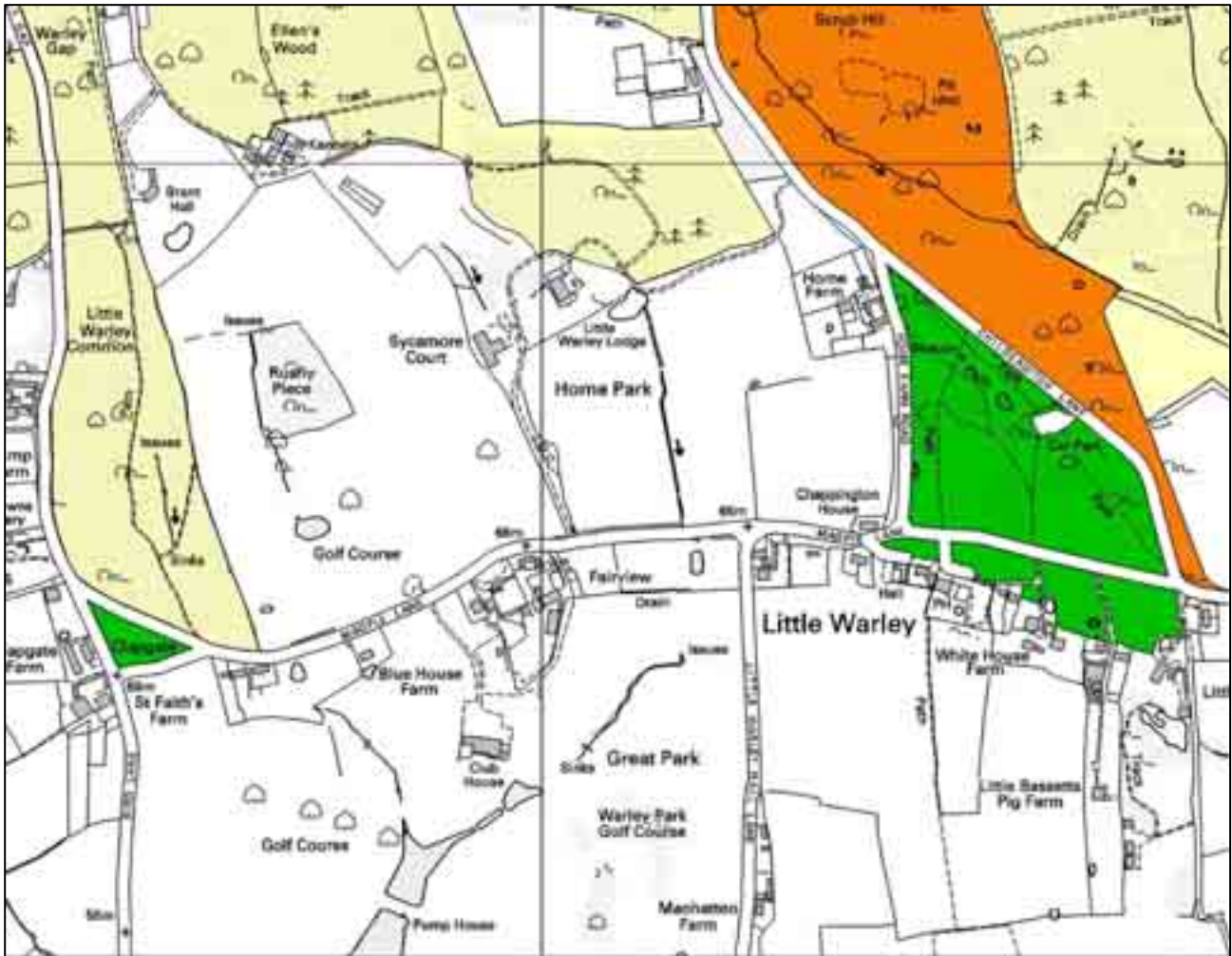
Rationale

This wood, with its rich and diverse flora is almost certainly of ancient origin, although too small to appear on the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre90 Little Warley Common (9.1 ha) TQ 606906

Little Warley Common is registered common land. The larger part of this site is on a hill slope with a southerly aspect, and comprises a mix of grassland and scrub habitat with much Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The upper, drier grassland area is generally characterised by Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Other species found include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Herbs found on these free draining slopes include Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Trailing Tormentil (*Potentilla anglica*), an Essex Red Data List species that is scarce in Essex. Damper grassland habitat is found at the bottom of the slope. Here, the herb assemblage includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) with species of particular interest recorded including Quaking-grass (*Briza media*) and Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), another species that has declined in recent decades.

The smaller western triangle of grassland has a sward dominated by False Oat-grass. Other grasses present include Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire-fog, Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Creeping Bent-grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Herb species found include Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, Agrimony, buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Lowland Meadows

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

H13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

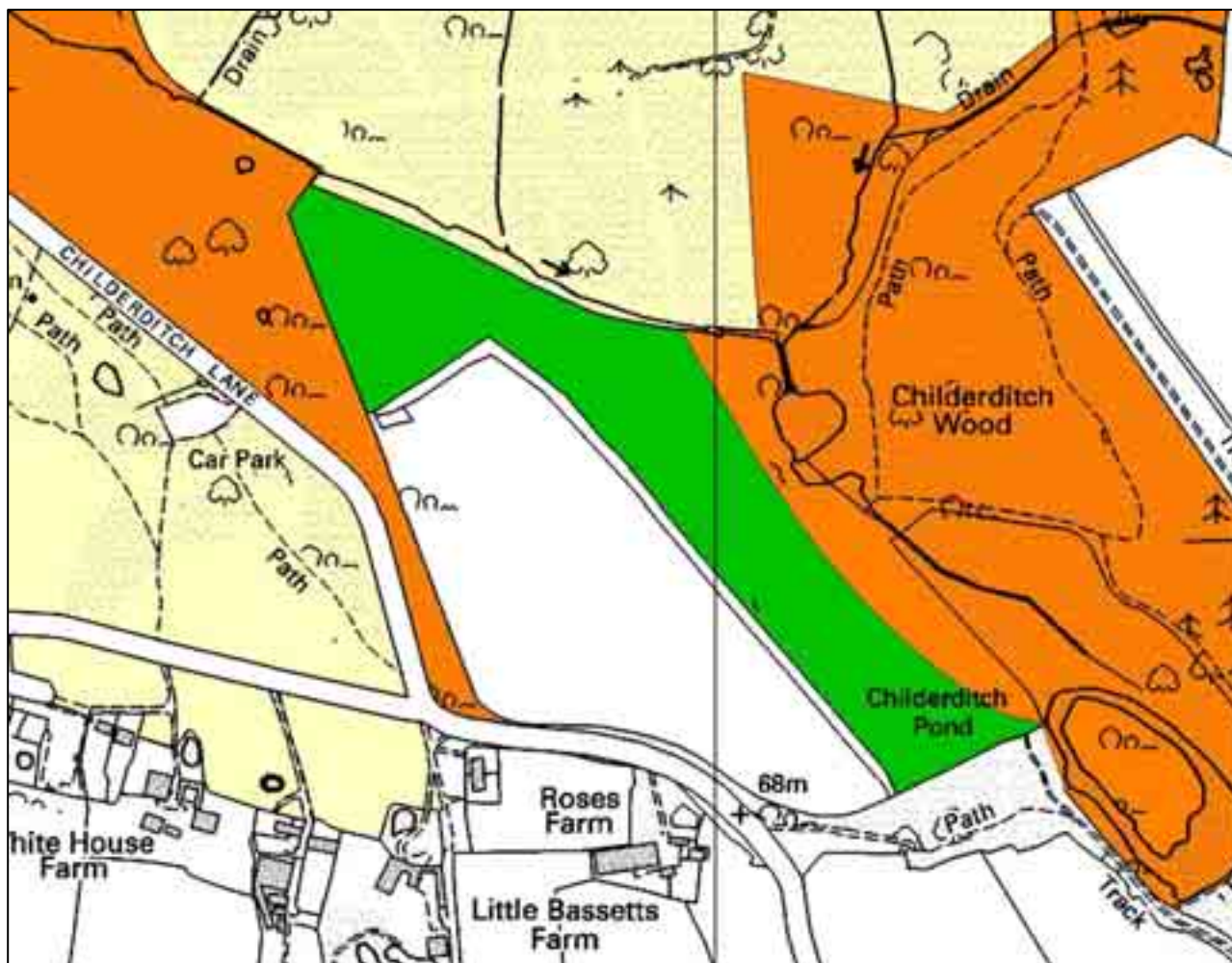
Rationale

This is a highly species-rich and diverse old common, supporting uncommon and locally threatened plant species.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre91 Childerditch Meadow (4.5 ha) TQ 609906

This is a poorly draining meadow with a north-easterly aspect. Many different grass species form the basic sward, which include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). The damp character of the meadow is characterised by the many areas of Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*). Amongst the numerous herbs recorded from this site are Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows.

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

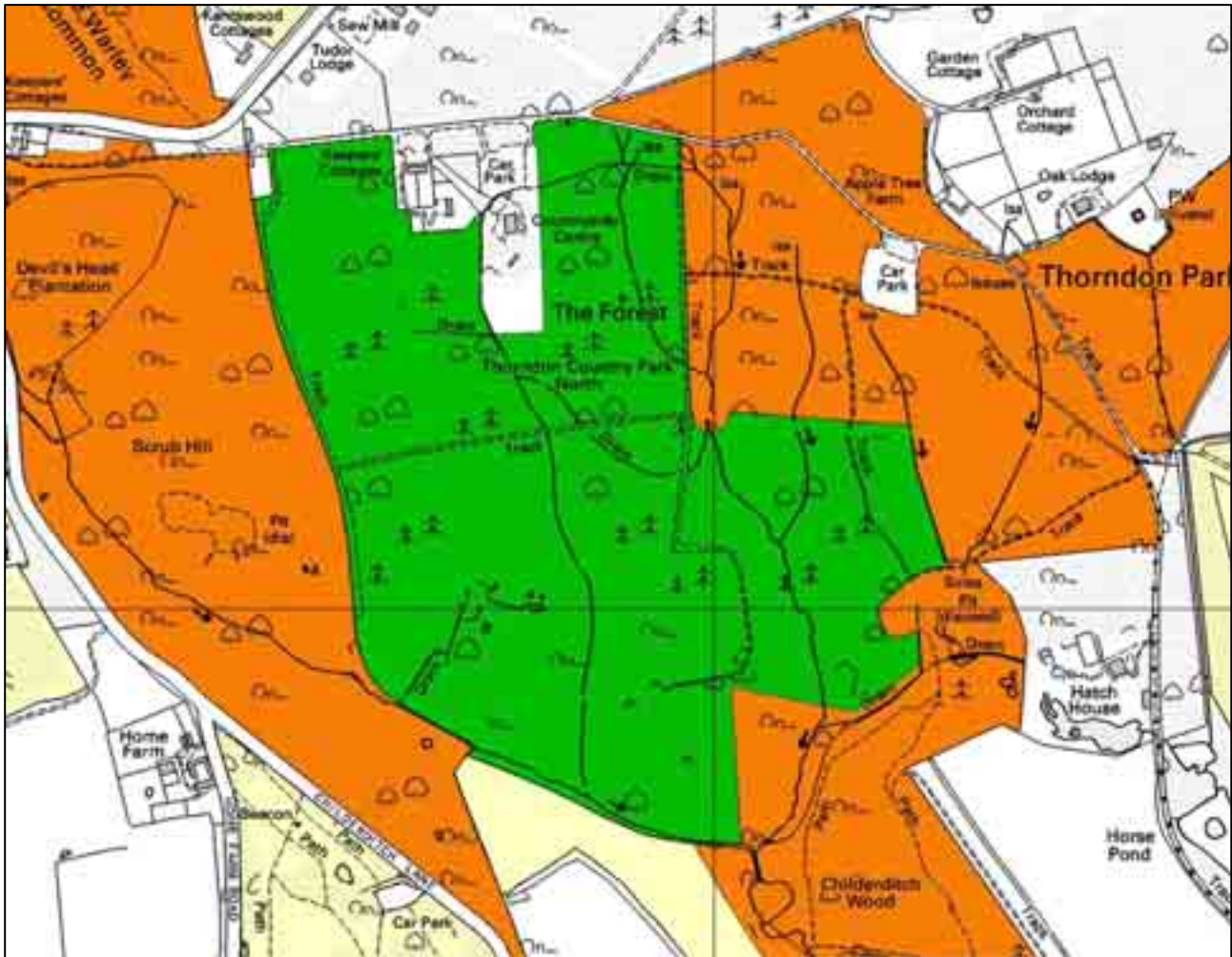
Rationale

This is a floristically diverse site providing contrasting habitat to the adjacent woodlands.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre92 Thorndon Country Park North (36.7 ha) TQ 609911

This large, mainly ancient woodland contains a wide range of tree and shrub species. Species recorded include Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), mixed with some areas of planted conifers including Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). A sparse shrub layer is characterised by the presence of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) occur throughout the country park. Other ground flora species of interest are recorded including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) and Hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), an Essex Red Data List species. The varied woodland canopy is home to a diverse bird fauna, making it a popular location for local bird-watchers.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
HC31- Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

Thorndon Country Park North is an important Ancient Woodland site that provides a large area of woodland open to the public as an amenity. The associated visitor centre, run by the Essex Wildlife Trust, is an important venue for helping local residents engage with the natural world around them.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (partial deletion)



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Bre93 Heard's Lane Woods (2.1 ha) TQ 609968

The western wood, adjacent to Heard's Lane comprises mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), although the central waist consists of oak, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Also present in the sub-canopy are Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) -dominated ground layer also includes Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

The long southern section of woodland comprises abundant Hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Amongst abundant Bluebells is a good population of Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), along with Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Millet and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). A curious feature of this woodland strip is its general elevation some 2-3 feet above the surrounding farmland, possibly indicating where the ancient woodland has preserved the original ground level, compared with soil erosion in the surrounding fields.

The northern block is also an Oak – Hornbeam wood, with a similar ground flora. This Site also includes the connecting, species-rich hedges.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC30 – Wildlife corridors

Rationale

The structure and composition of these woods suggest that they are ancient woodland sites. The hedgerows are included as important ecological links that will be assisting the interchange of woodland animals between the individual blocks of woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre94 Norton Verge (0.4 ha) TL 6100045

The old A414 verge at Norton Heath has long been revered as the only semi-natural location for the plant Sick-leaved Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum falcatum*) in Britain, leading some early botanists to suggest that it was a true native plant here. It is, however, likely to ultimately be an old introduction. The current location for this plant is a deliberately cultivated plot created when the road was realigned and the site is now one of Essex County Council's Special Roadside Verges, designated to protect this interesting plant.

BAP Habitats

None.

Selection Criteria

SC1 – Vascular Plants

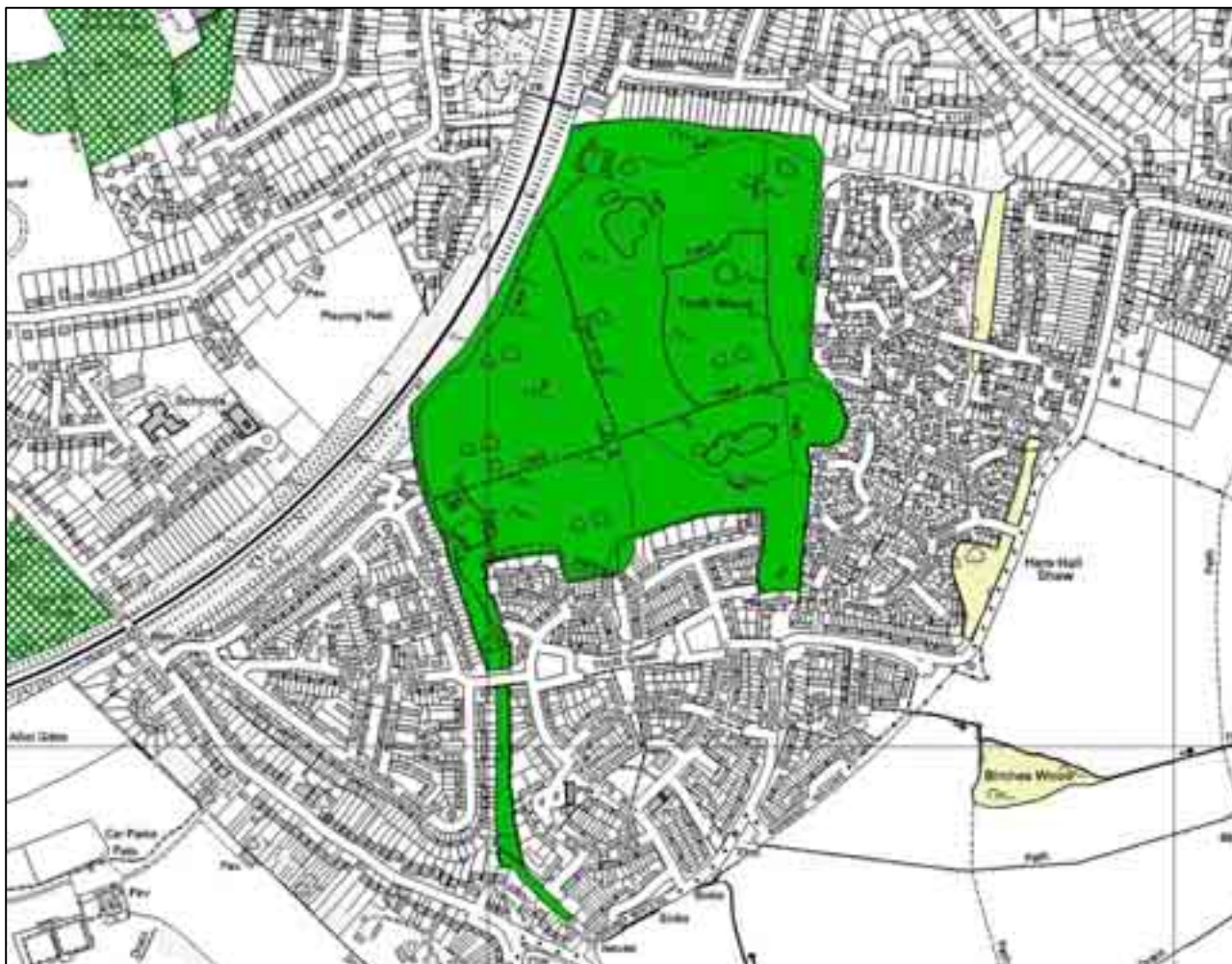
Rationale

Although something of a botanical curiosity, this location and its population of Sick-leaved Hare's-ear is famous amongst botanists and is worthy of conservation measures to retain it as such.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre95 Thrift Wood (32.7 ha) TQ 611933

This large ancient woodland is used as a Scout camp and throughout the woodland there are numerous small buildings and grassy glades for tent accommodation and activities. The structure of the woodland comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). Numerous other tree and shrub species are present, including Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ground flora has several ancient woodland indicator species including Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*). A number of ponds of varying size are also found within the wood. A very well-developed assemblage of aquatic and marginal species of interest is found around the northern fishing lake, including Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Cyperus Sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*), Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*) and Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

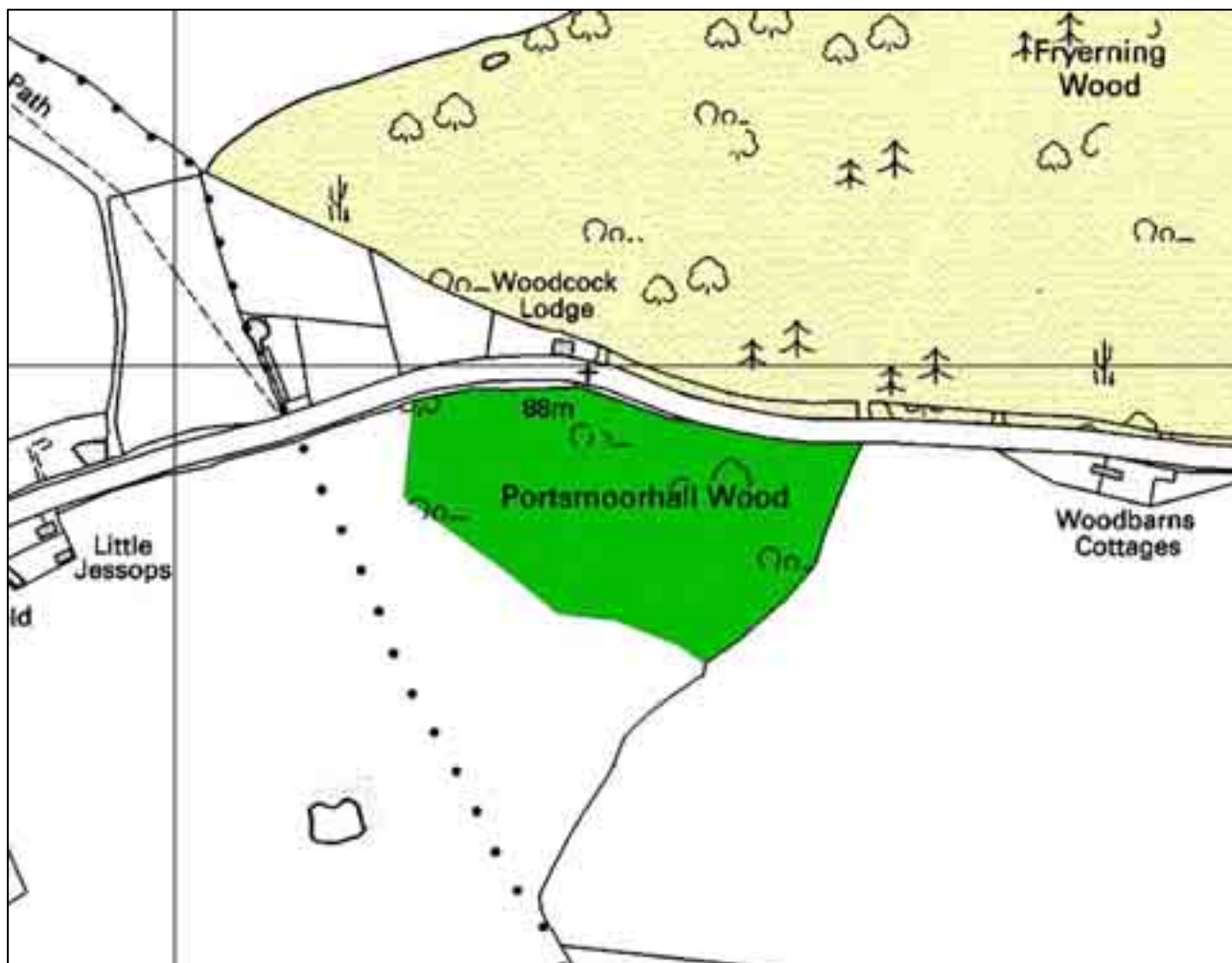
Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and despite the pressure from its use as an outdoor pursuits camp retains a rich and diverse structure.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre96 Portsmoorhall Wood (3.7 ha) TL 612008

This Site represents the remains of a much larger wood that formerly extended south-westwards to the parish boundary. The canopy comprises overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with lesser quantities of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Silver Birch (*B. pendula*). The ground flora is impoverished below the dense shade of the overgrown coppice, being mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

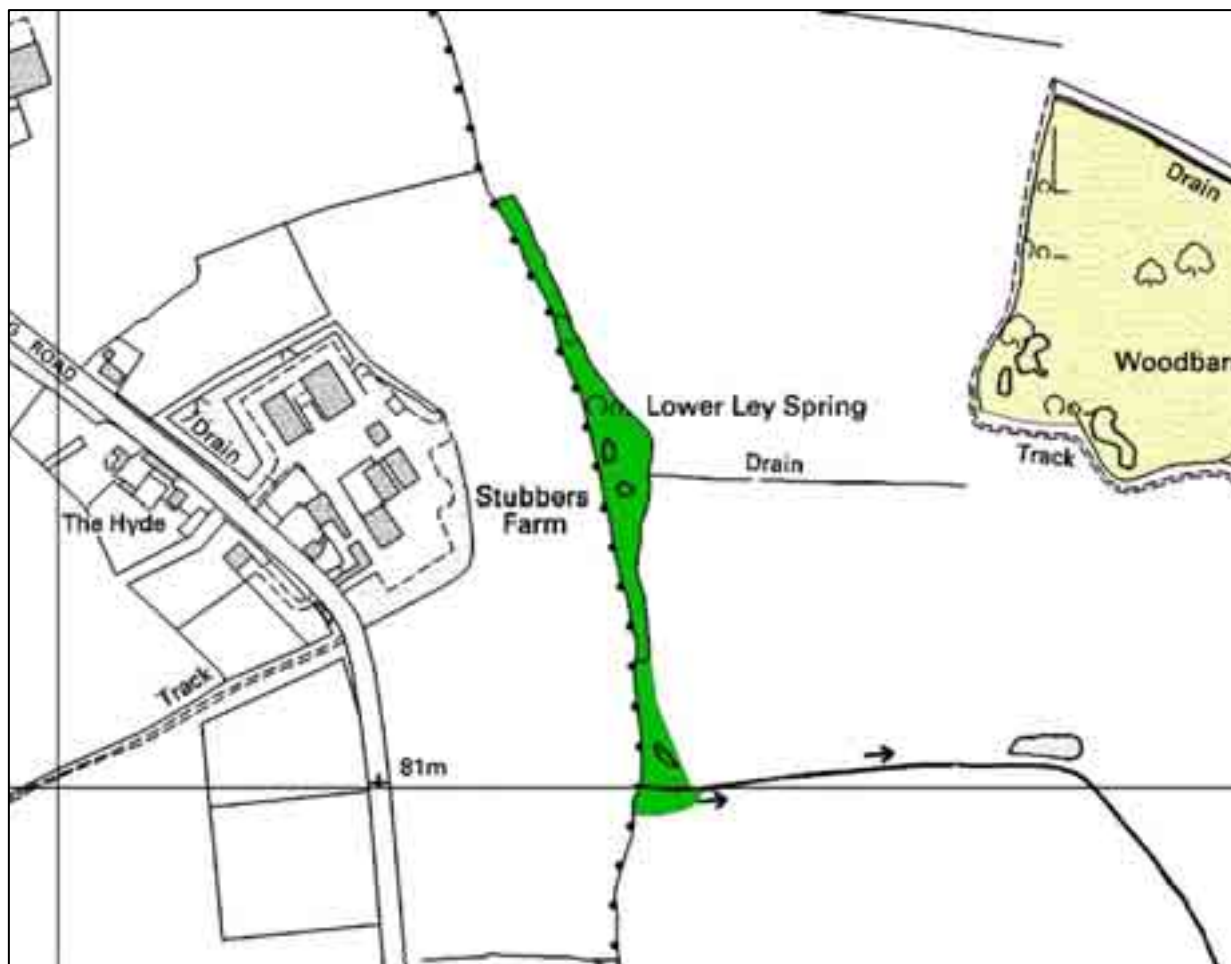
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre97 Lower Ley Spring (0.9 ha) TL 613002

This is thought to be a largely ancient woodland strip, partly suggested by its close relationship to the old parish boundary, and partly on account of its structure as an overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice wood with standards of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The southern quarter is clearly more recent in origin and incorporates a number of ponds that may be old, small-scale mineral pits. Here, Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is surprisingly plentiful, it being a plant of ancient woods and hedgerows more typically associated with lime-rich soils of the north-west of the county. This southern extension is quite scrubby, comprising Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*). The ground flora has widespread Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

The abundant old Hornbeam coppice over a carpet of Bluebells strongly suggests that this is an ancient woodland site. The modern southern extension, with two ponds, provides a natural extension to this, and provides some woodland habitats not found within the ancient strip.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre98 Home Wood (7.8 ha) TQ 614969

The status of this wood is uncertain, with possibly only small parts in the northern half being truly ancient in origin. The southern section comprises a mature plantation of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Lime (*Tilia* sp.), although some of the larger oaks appear to be semi-natural and may well pre-date the plantation. There is also a small quantity of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Larch (*Larix* sp.). The ground layer comprises typical woodland plants, although sparse in places on account of dense shading.

The northern section is much more diverse, with stands ranging from old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, high forest of Oak and Ash and Birch (*Betula* spp.) – dominated areas recently re-planted with Oak and Hornbeam. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion is well advanced in places.

The ground flora includes locally abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), along with some Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Violets (*Viola* sp.), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

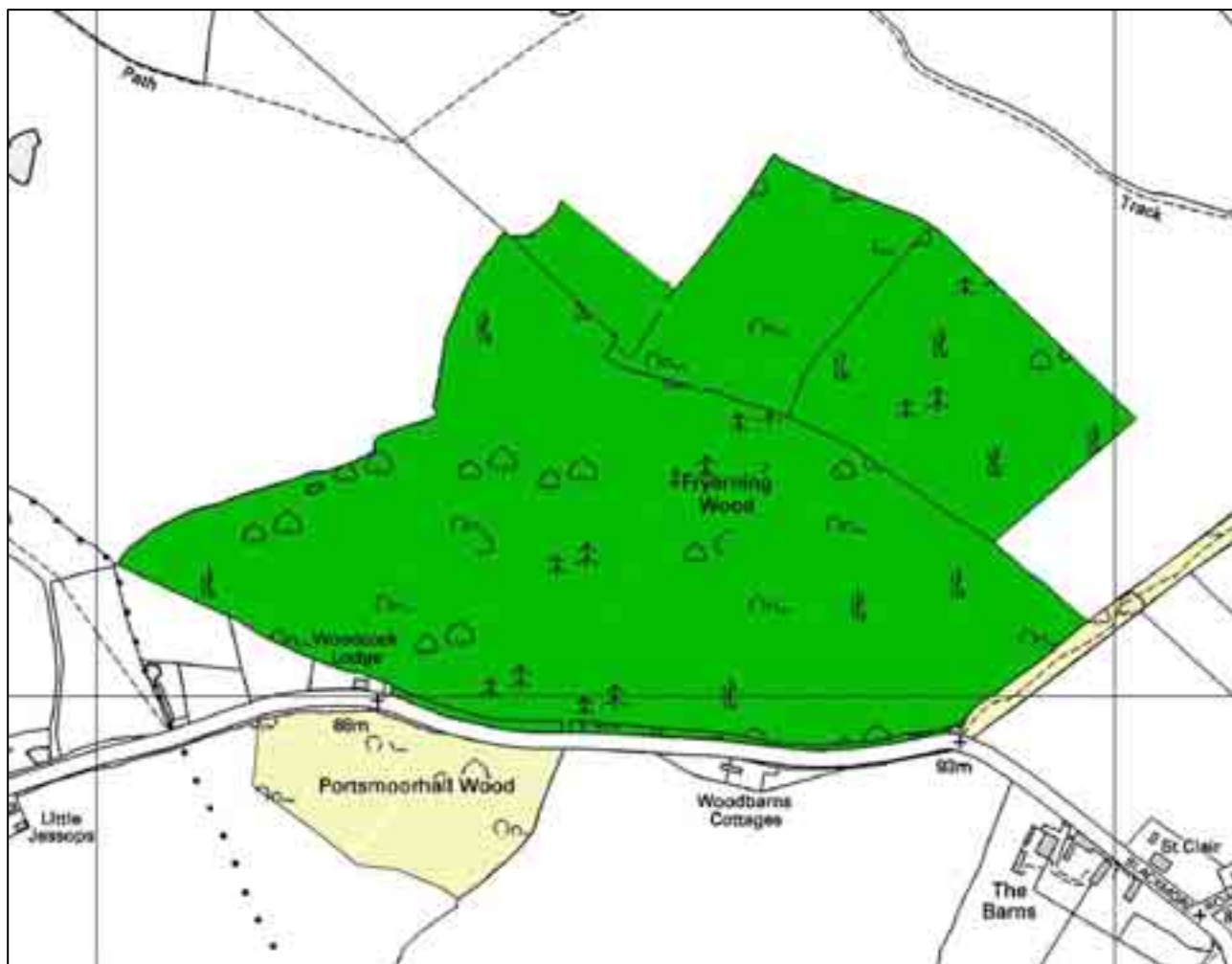
Rationale

Parts of the northern half of the wood may be ancient, but it more definitely and entirely falls within the definition of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above. The southern half of the Site, being a mature plantation, would currently be excluded from this BAP habitat definition but it nevertheless provides a useful extension to the adjacent northern semi-natural woodland and will continue to mature into a more semi-natural woodland stands.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (small addition)



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Bre99 Fryerning Wood (34.7 ha) TL 616012

Fryerning Wood is mainly ancient woodland replanted with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) within which Birch (*Betula* spp.) has invaded following clearance of the previous timber crop. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) are thinly scattered throughout. A very small compartment of planted conifers occurs midway along the southern margin. On the northern side is a small stand of recent, mature Oak wood with a small area of old Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice. The ground flora is dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), as is typical of such woods on freely draining sandy soils. The flora also includes some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

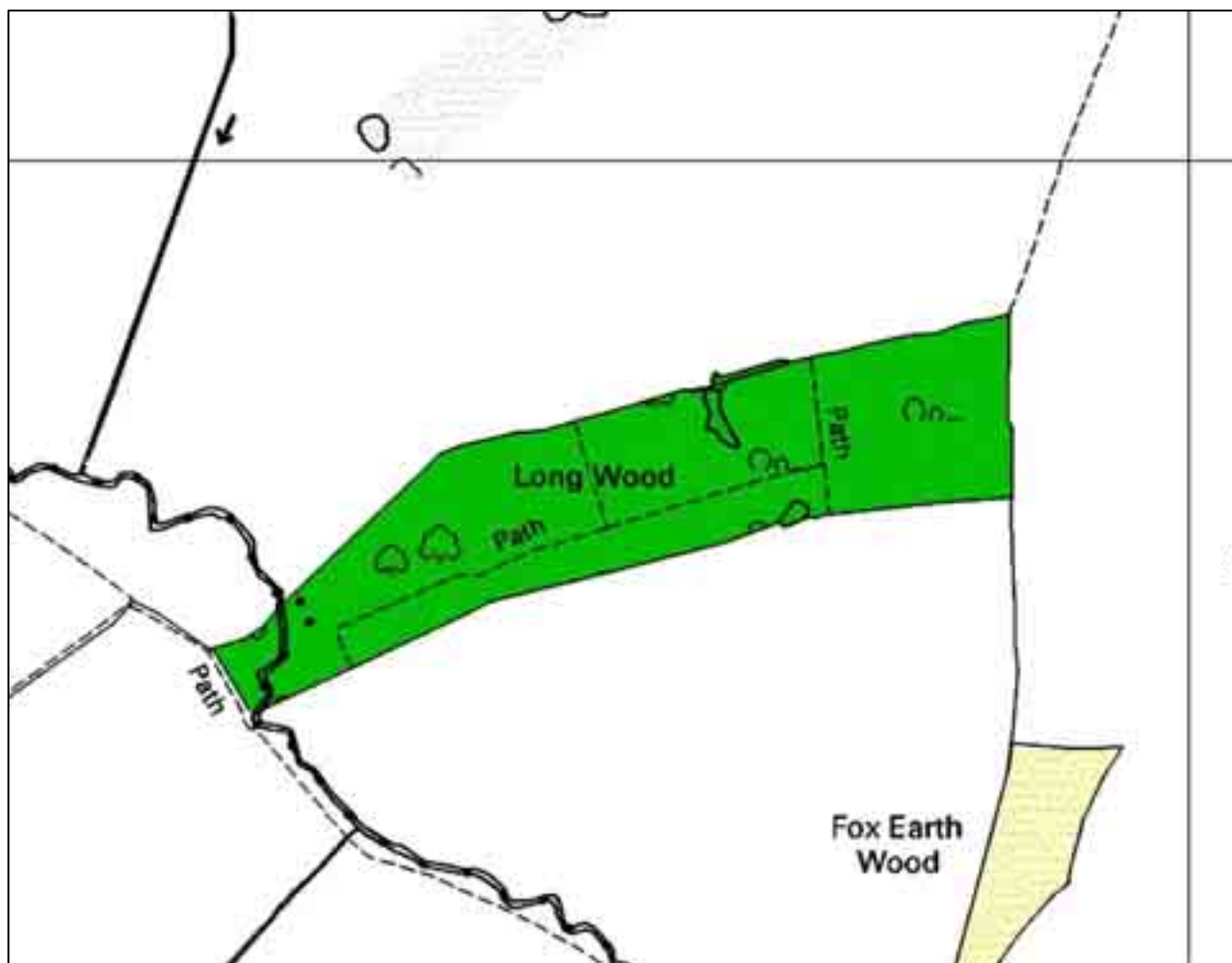
HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory and, although the semi-natural canopy has been largely replaced with planted standards, elements of the flora confirm this ancient status. The small stand of more recent wood provides an obvious habitat extension to the ancient site and is now largely indistinguishable as more recent woodland on the ground.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012



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Bre100 Long Wood (5.3 ha) TQ 616977

This Site comprises mature, but not clearly ancient, broadleaved woodland of mainly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with lesser amounts of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is becoming well established. There is a small stand of mature elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and also Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) along the northern boundary. The ground vegetation includes several plants normally associated with ancient woodlands or hedgerows, suggesting that some parts of the Site may be of considerable age. These plants are Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) (found near the small stream), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

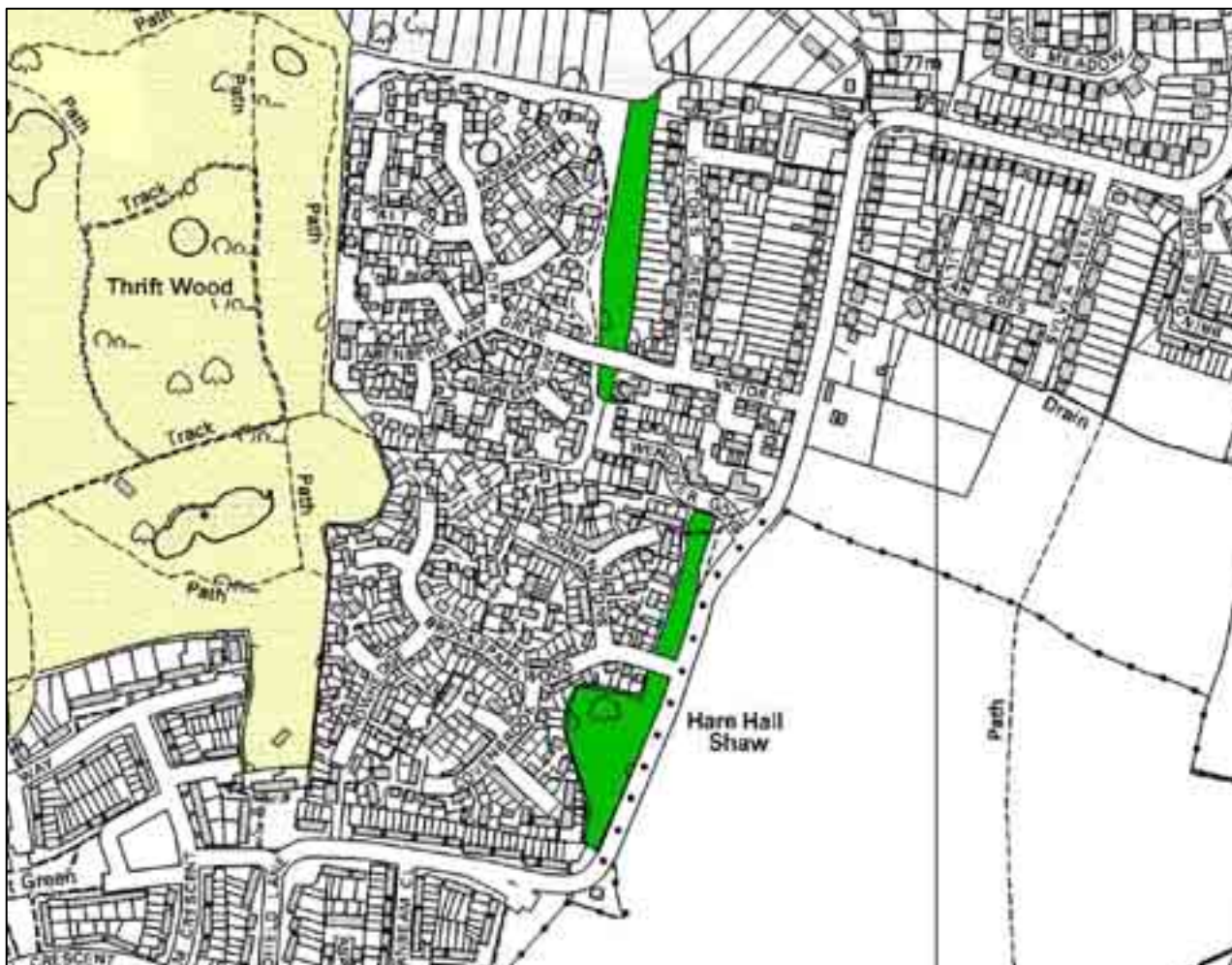
Rationale

Whilst some small part of this site may be ancient, the wood as a whole falls more certainly within the definition of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above. The central section was recorded as wood in the 1837 parish tithe record and this may be the source of many of the ancient woodland plants recorded here.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre101 Hare Hall Shaw (1.8 ha) TQ 617934

The main body of the southern section appears to comprise ancient woodland within which old mineral excavation has created a large central hollow. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) dominates the fringe of old woodland surrounding the hollow, which has two ponds fringed by scrub. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and also found in the high canopy of this section. Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), a species typically found in ancient woodland, is present in an otherwise generally sparse shrub layer. The ground flora comprises Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), and Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) amongst Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*). The northern section of the site also has Ash and Hornbeam coppice, with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) present in the lower layers. The ground flora is similar to the southern section, with the addition of Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

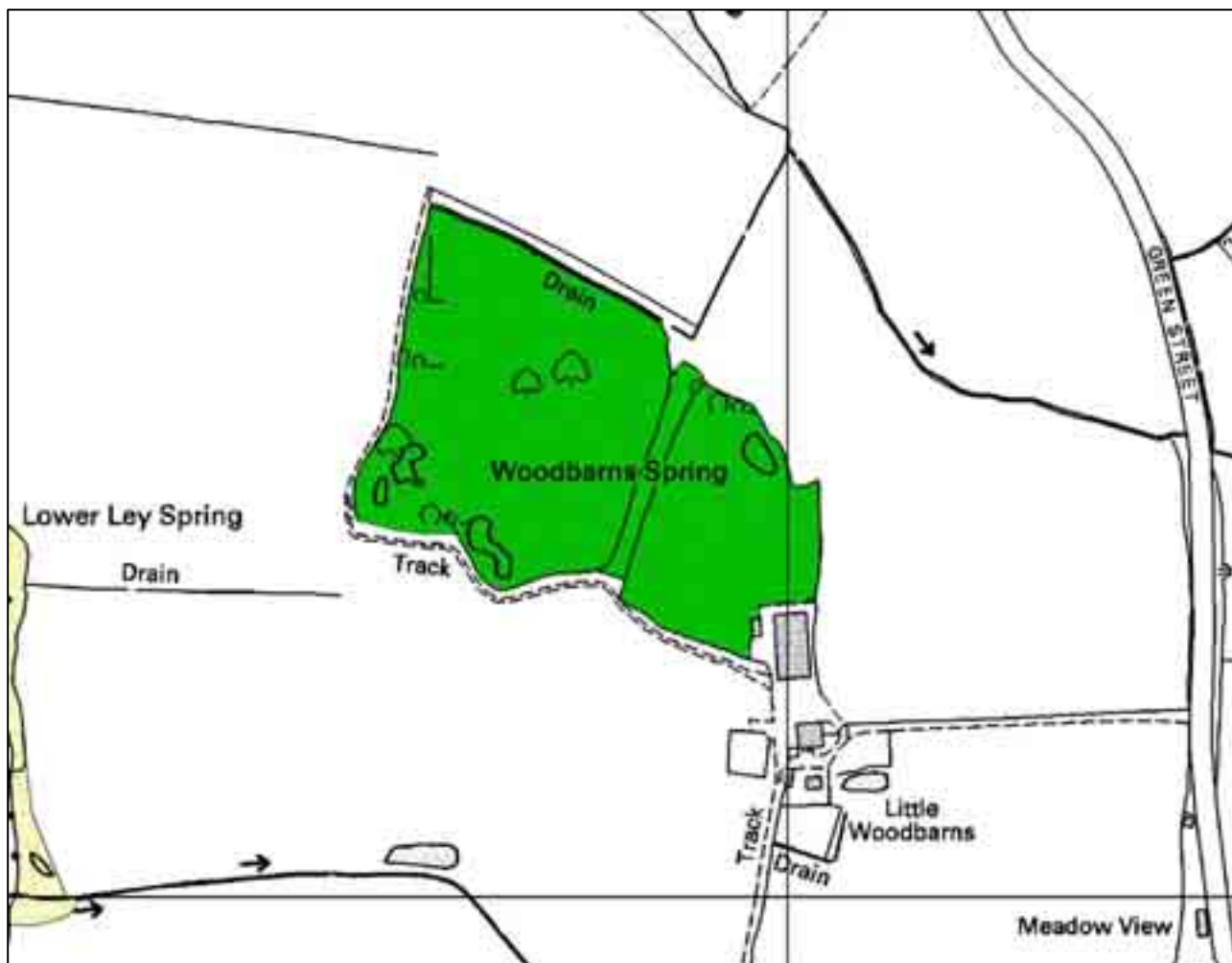
Rationale

This wood is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, with this status confirmed by its structure and composition.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre102 Woodbarns Spring (6.5 ha) TL 618003

This ancient wood has a canopy of old coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with locally frequent coppice and standards of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards rather scarce and found mainly near the boundary banks. The understorey includes widespread Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), along with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The ground vegetation is dominated by mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with some Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), but also includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Violets (*Viola* sp.), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

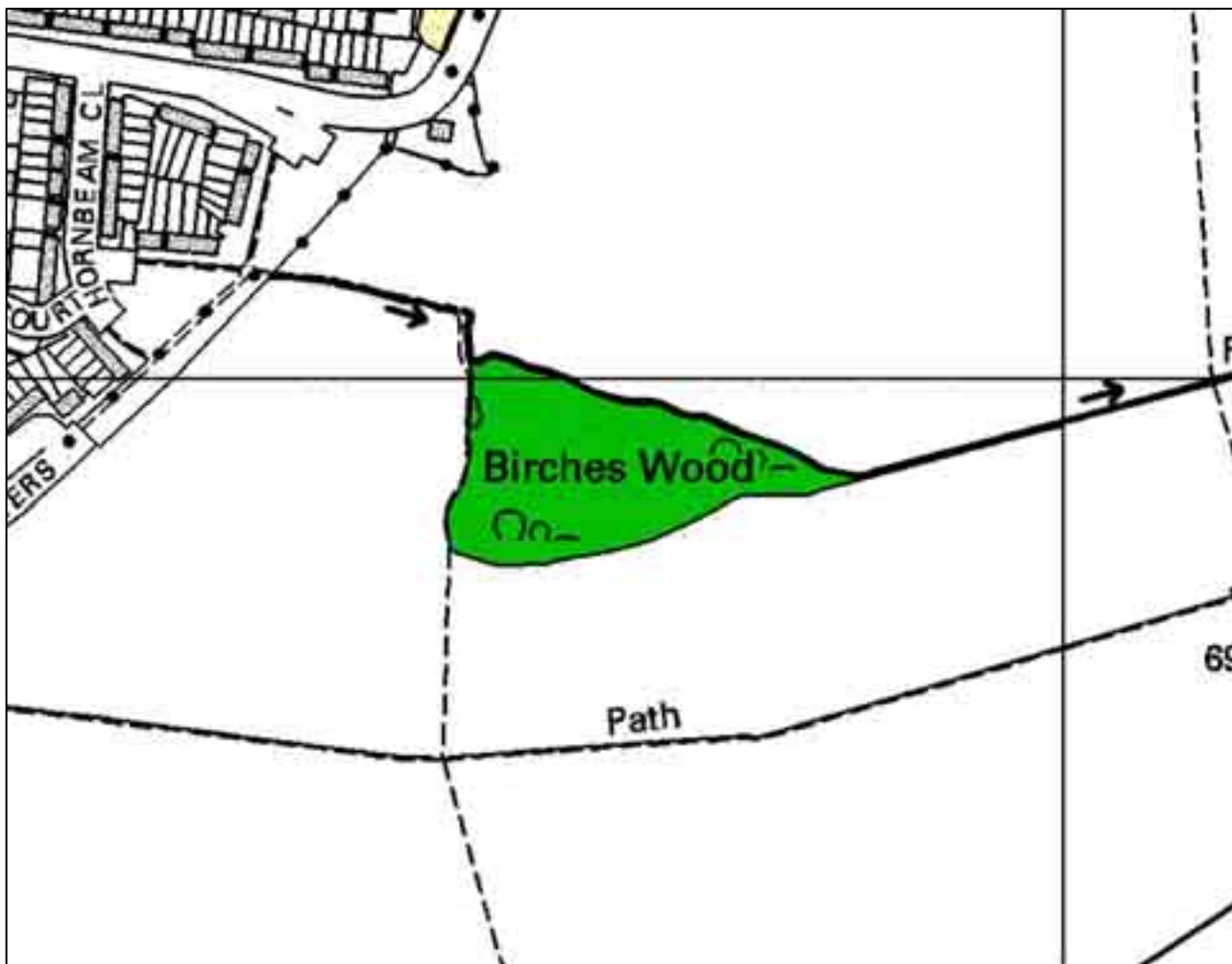
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre103 Birches Wood (1.0 ha) TQ 618929

This small woodland comprises mostly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with a few scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) are also found, but are generally confined to the margins of the wood. Patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), all typical of ancient woodland sites, are present. The ground flora also includes patches of Ivy (*Hedera helix*), a species more typical of recent woodland, but perhaps indicative of past disturbance.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

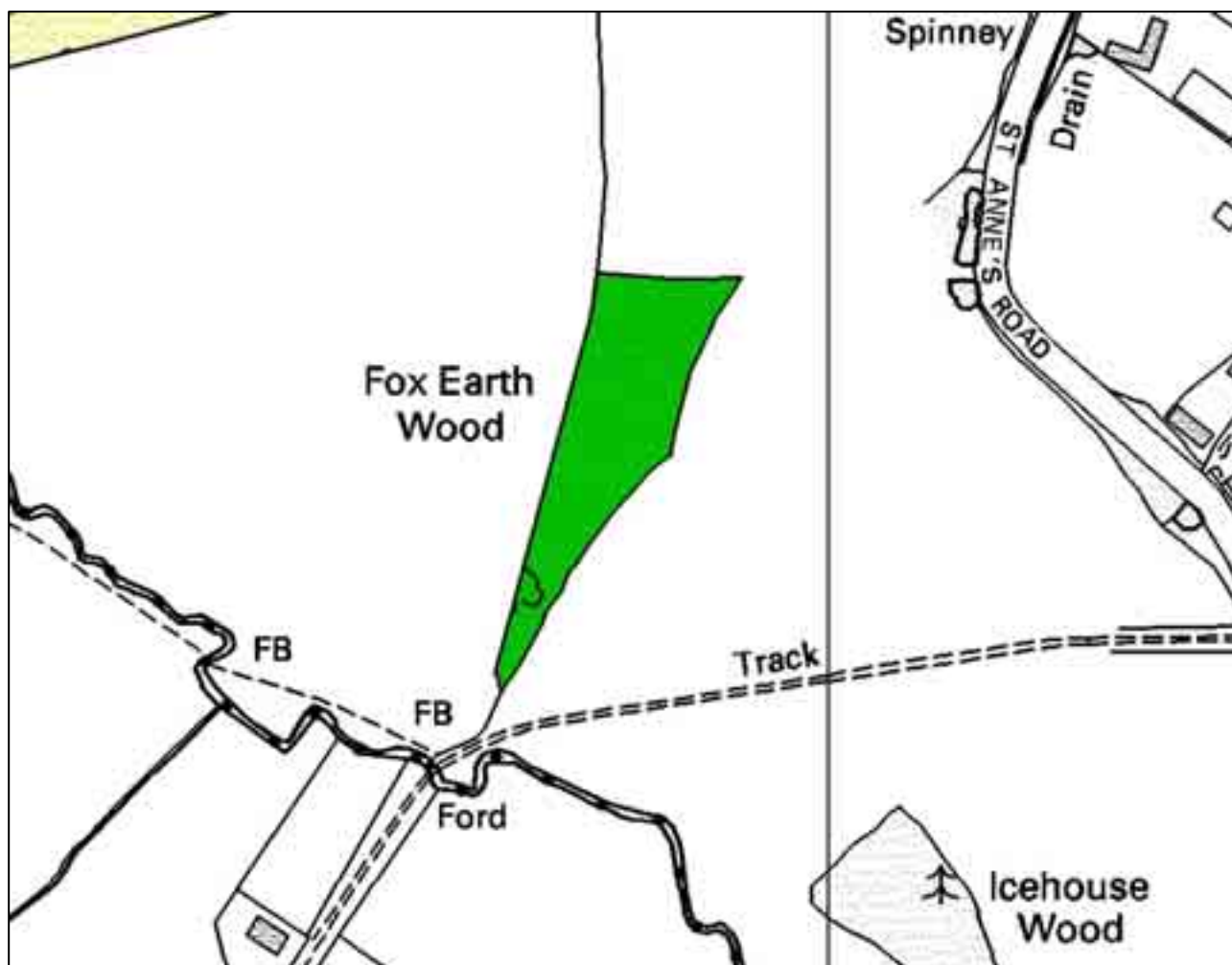
Rationale

This small site is not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex. However, it has a well-developed canopy structure, similar to that found in many ancient woods throughout the borough and county. The presence of ancient woodland indicator plants suggests that this wood is ancient in origin.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre104 Fox Earth Wood (0.9 ha) TQ 618975

A narrow, eastern strip of this small wood appears to be ancient, with the remainder comprising very mature, but relatively recent woodland. The canopy is a mix of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with an understorey of mainly Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with some Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ground flora has abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

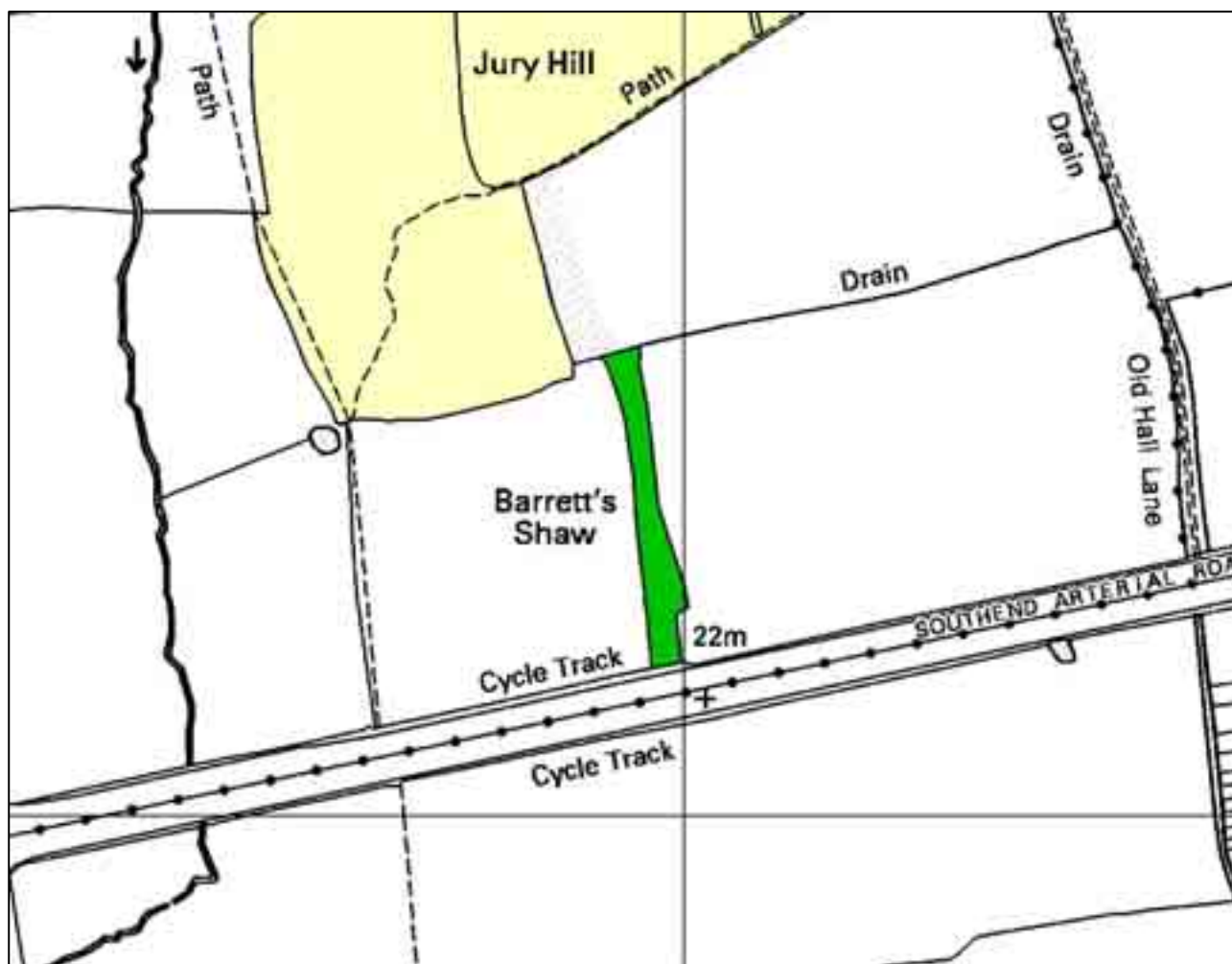
Rationale

Possibly only a narrow band of wood here is ancient but, regardless of this, the whole wood would qualify for inclusion within the LoWS register as a good example of the BAP Priority Habitat listed above.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre105 Barrett's Shaw (0.4 ha) TQ 619891

This narrow strip of woodland mainly comprises scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), some localised Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and areas of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub. Several Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), noted for their strong affinity with ancient woodland, are found at the northern end of the woodland. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and the scrambling herb Black Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

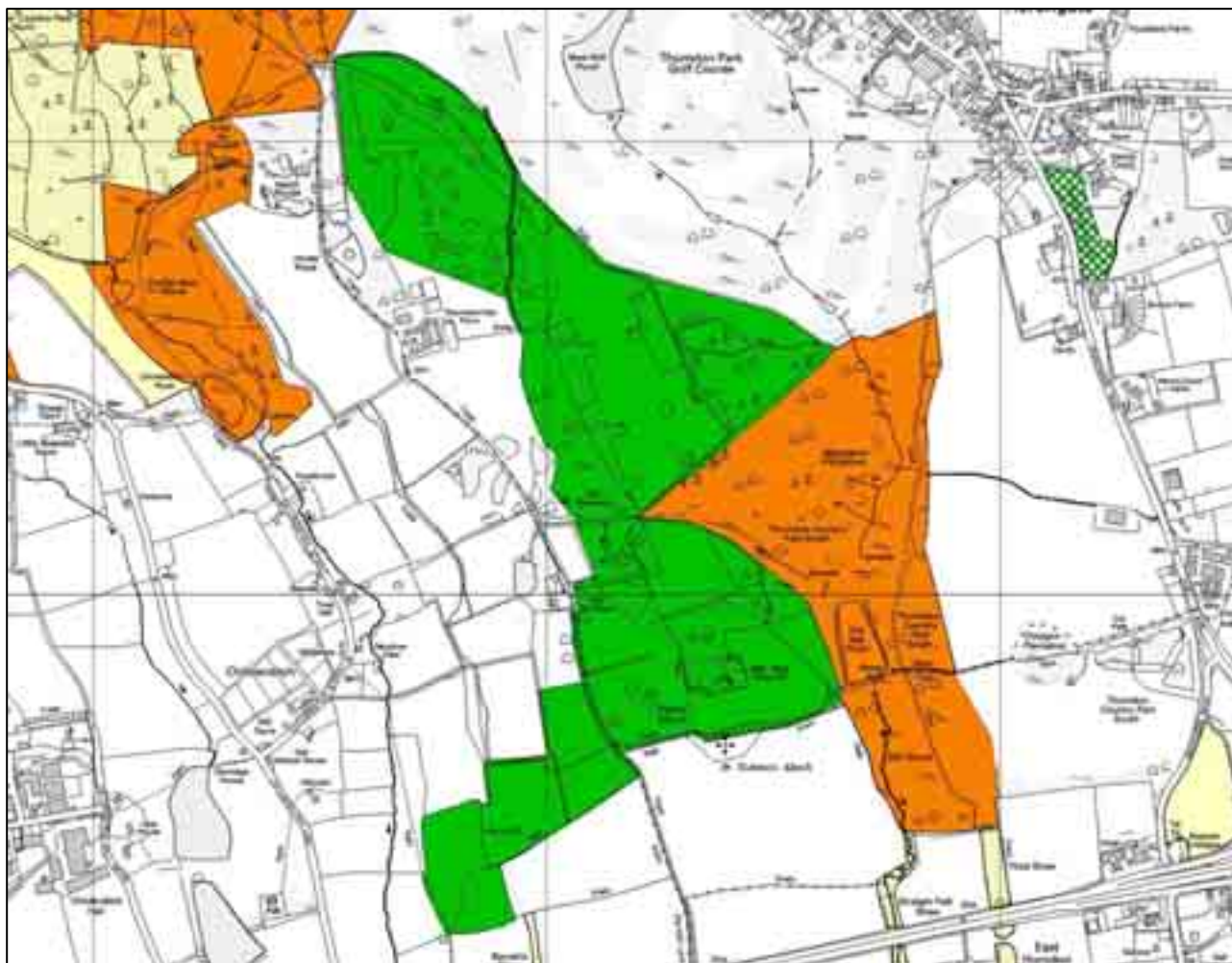
Rationale

This small strip of woodland appears on the Ordnance Survey maps for 1881 and its flora suggests it may be considerably older than that.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre106 Thorndon Country Park South (77.6 ha) TQ 621902

The part of the site known as “The Old Park”, lying in the northern half of this Site, is an extensive area of cattle grazed grassland with small areas of young woodland and plantation. The meadows exhibit a diverse variety of grasses including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.) and Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Although herbs are not abundant, there is a good suite of species present including Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*) and, most significant of all, Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), a rare Essex species typically found in the damper areas of the grassland. Sneezewort is an Essex Red Data List species that has seen a decline in recent decades.

Another area of important grassland habitat is that of the Jury Hill meadow located in the far south-west of the site. Here, in this species-rich grazed meadow, a number of species of interest have been recorded. These include Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) (both Essex Red Data List species). Between Jury Hill and The Old Park are a series of connecting grasslands differing in character from relatively species-poor meadows to others where herbs such as Common Knapweed, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) are found in abundance.

Whilst small young plantations are found in the ‘Old Park’, an area of more mature woodland habitat is developing on the eastern edge of the site adjacent to Menagerie Plantation that forms part of part of the Thorndon Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Further south, mature woodland now covers the area formerly occupied by Old Thorndon Hall. The canopy includes Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) over lower growing Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are frequent in the shrub layer

of this area.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC4 – Wood-pasture and parkland

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

This Site includes part of an old, important parkland landscape and management is aiming to restore the typical mosaic of grassland, scattered trees and scrub habitats. The site provides the largest expanse of grassland habitat in the southern part of Brentwood Borough and supports important Essex Red Data List plant species. It attracts many visitors from outside the Borough to enjoy this ancient landscape an important countryside experience.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre107 Long Ridings (2.7 ha) TQ 621953

The canopy tree species of this long, thin strip of woodland are Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) form a well-developed shrub layer. Whilst Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) are prominent in the ground flora, species indicative of ancient woodland are recorded including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This woodland site provides a significant corridor of ancient woodland habitat in an urban environment. Despite localised disturbance accentuated by its urban location, the wood retains many of the characteristic plants of ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre108 Arnold's Wood Complex (10.3 ha) TQ 621961

The Arnold's Wood Complex comprises mainly of sections of fragmented ancient woodland, with some recent secondary woodland within the network of railway lines. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice along with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards provide the general character of the various woodland blocks. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), are typical in the shrub layer, though this can be sparse in places, but more frequent in Arnold's Shaw. Several ancient woodland indicators are found in the ground flora including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

The eastern end of the thin section of woodland, sandwiched between the two railway branch lines, comprises Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) patches are frequent in this area, whilst the ground flora includes species such as Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*). Brickley Shaw comprises mainly Hornbeam coppice, except for the northern end where Elder and Bramble scrub dominate. The wood has very little shrub cover, though Bluebell is abundant in the ground flora along with small patches of Wood Anemone, Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

Rationale

Prior to the construction of the various railway lines, this Site is thought to have comprised three separate ancient woods (Arnold's Wood, Arnold's Shaw and Brickley Shaw), as indicated by their structure and floral composition. Since then, recent woodland has spread within the railway land to help link these three woods ecologically.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012 (sites amalgamated)



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Bre109 College Wood (34.7 ha) TL 623018

The northern parts of this largely ancient wood have been replanted with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), under which Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) predominates. Elsewhere the canopy comprises old Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some smaller stands of Oak - Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) wood. Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) is frequent throughout this semi-natural woodland. The ground flora is poor, being suppressed by the dense shade of the overgrown coppice canopy and perhaps also deer browsing. In more open areas, Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) can be found.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

The small triangle of wood north of Stoney Lodge is not ancient, but is included here as a natural extension to the large, ancient woodland block. Although the flora is poor, documentary evidence and physical characteristics suggest the ancient status of the main site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre110 Blackmore Wood (2.6 ha) TQ 623995

This Site represents a small surviving fragment of a once huge woodland (known as Blackmore Wood and Thoby Wood) that formerly stretched some distance to the south, its boundary still obvious from the large arable field now present. This remaining section was originally a Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, within which widely spaced and now mature Poplars (*Populus* sp.) have been planted. The sub-canopy and understorey includes small quantities of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Forestry operations may have disturbed the ground to such an extent that Ivy (*Hedera helix*) has come to predominate; this being a ground cover plant more normally found in quantity within recent woodland. However, many plants indicative of ancient woodland sites have survived, including Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

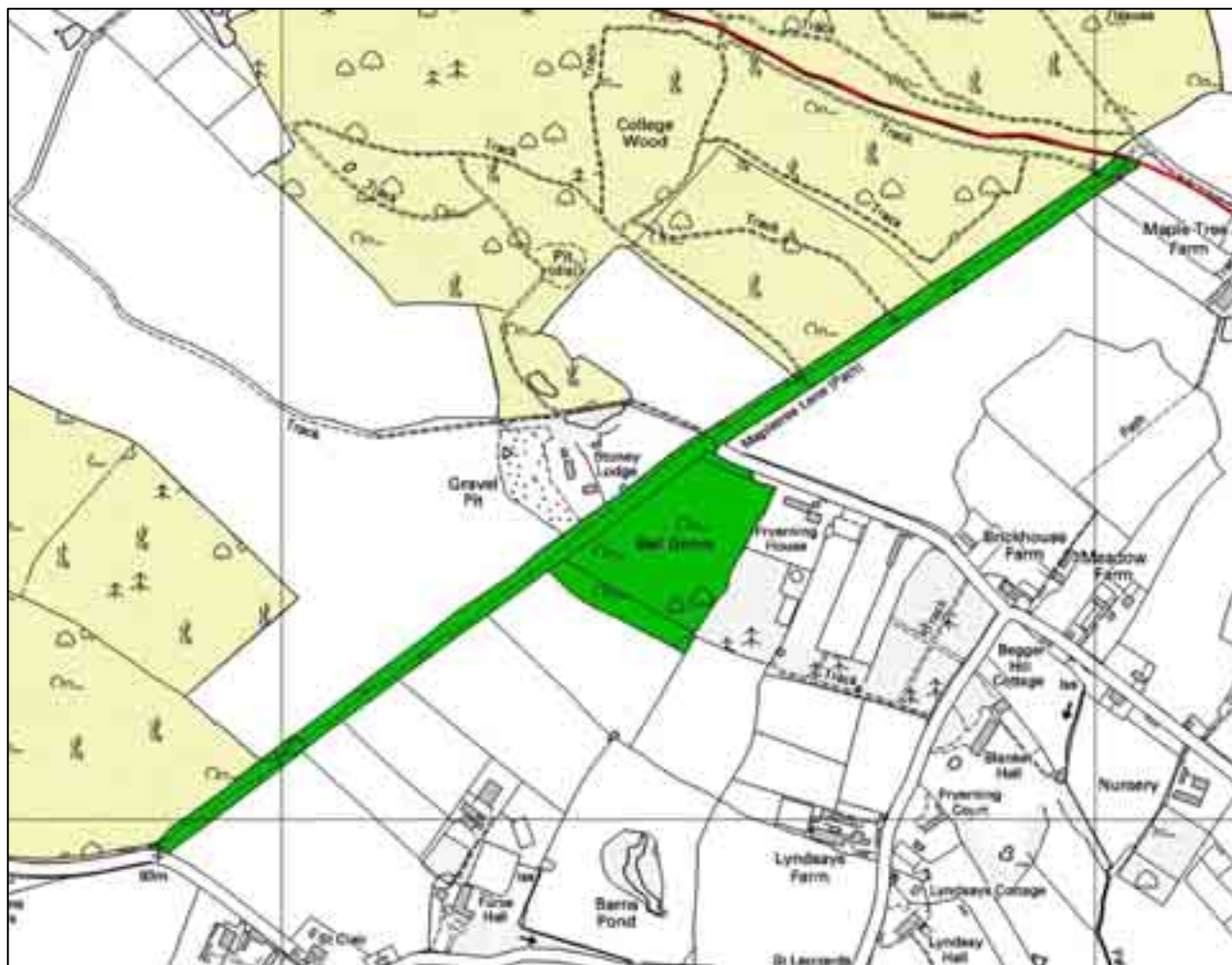
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre111 Bell Grove and Mapletree Lane (6.9 ha) TL 624013

Mapletree Lane is an ancient track that now provides a woodland corridor link between Fryerning Wood (Bre99) and College Wood (Bre109), as well as arguably being a narrow strip of ancient woodland/hedgerow habitat in its own right. Its embanked margins comprise overgrown hedges of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards within the track itself. The shrub layer includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Although the central track is heavily trampled, it being a popular recreational route, a very rich ancient woodland flora survives along the margins, including Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*).

The adjacent Bell Grove is an ancient wood of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The separate southern compartment comprises Oak with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), perhaps indicating a deliberate partitioning of different timber crops within the wood. The ground flora is rather sparse underneath the dense, overgrown coppice canopy, but does include Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

Rationale

Mapletree Lane has for centuries been a corridor for the passage of humans and wildlife alike between the two adjacent woodlands and other woods beyond in Chelmsford Borough. It has an ancient woodland flora of interest in its own right. Although floristically rather poor, Bell Grove is documented as an ancient wood, with this status being supported by its large boundary banks and old coppice stools.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre112 Round Shaw (1.4 ha) TQ 626887

The canopy of Round Shaw primarily comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice and standards, with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice also present. Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) is found on the margin of the wood whilst Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) form a low sub canopy layer throughout the core of the woodland. The shrub layer is often sparse enough to allow high light penetration to ground level such that herbs including Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) are abundant. Despite its small size, the site supports a large number of ancient woodland indicator species including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

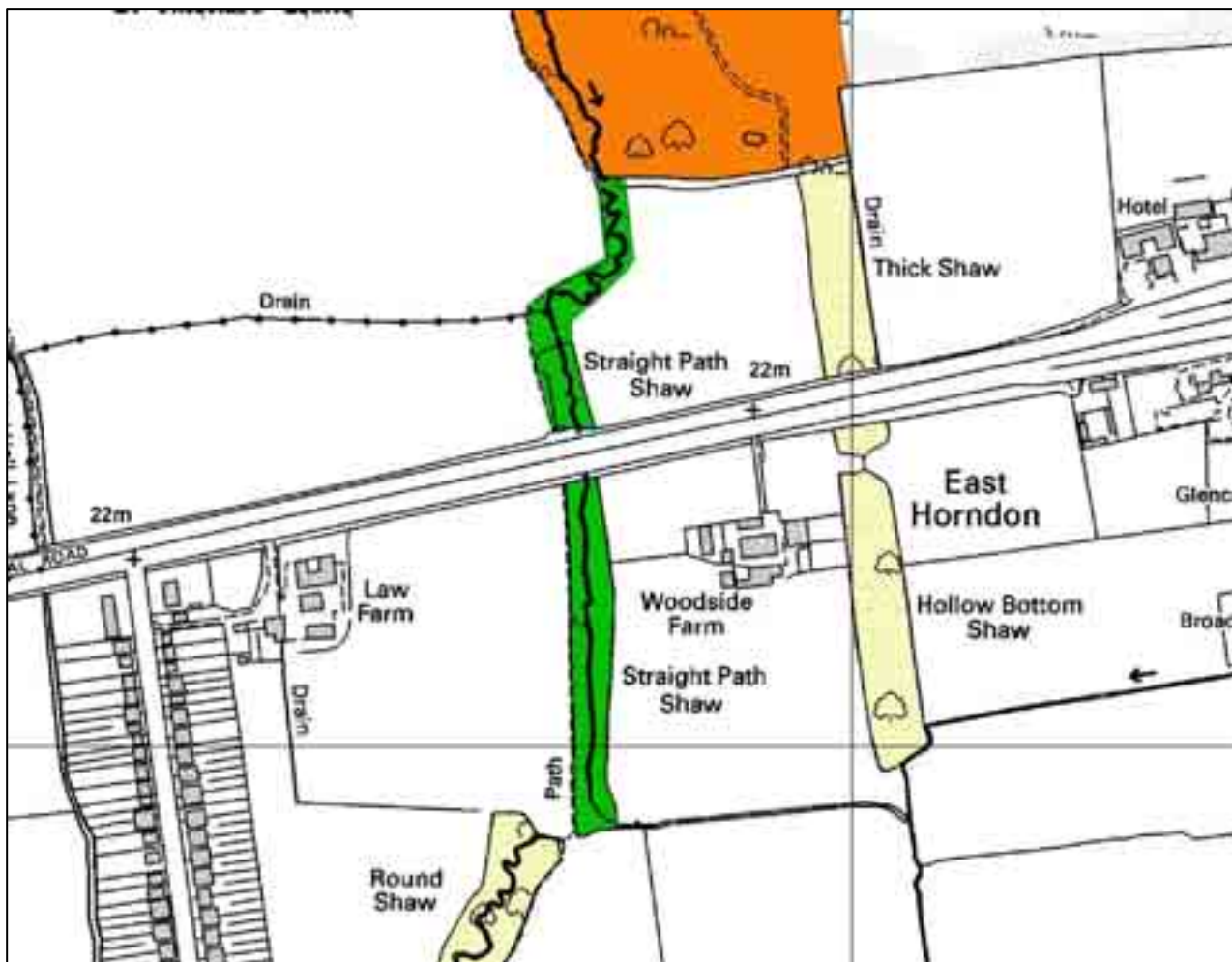
Rationale

Numerous ancient woodland indicator species are present, suggesting that this is a small ancient woodland fragment, not included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre113 Straight Path Shaw (3.5 ha) TQ 629892

Straight Path Shaw is a narrow streamside ancient wood. The southern part has only a scattered high canopy principally of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are found at sub-canopy level whilst Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) form an extensive shrub layer. In contrast, the northern section has Ash coppice and Pedunculate Oak standards forming a high and more shading canopy, with Field Maple at sub-canopy level. Ancient woodland species include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), with Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) along the stream margins.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

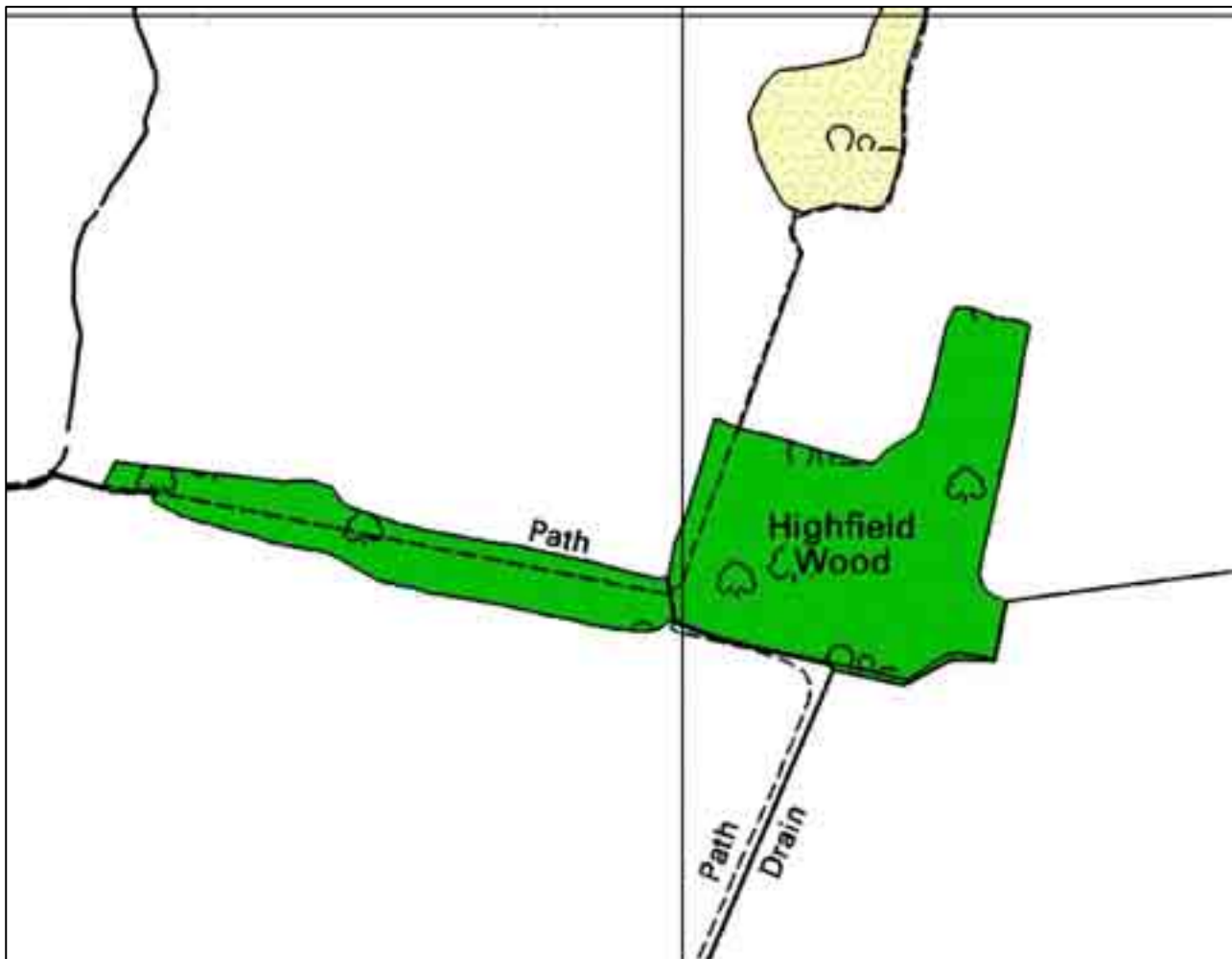
Rationale

The structure and flora of this woodland belt suggests that it is an ancient feature.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition)



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Bre114 Highfield Wood (3.5 ha) TQ 629927

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards characterise the structure of this woodland. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is found near the south and east edges of the wood. The shrub layer includes the ancient woodland indicator Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) along with the more common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are both found in abundance throughout the wood which also includes Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

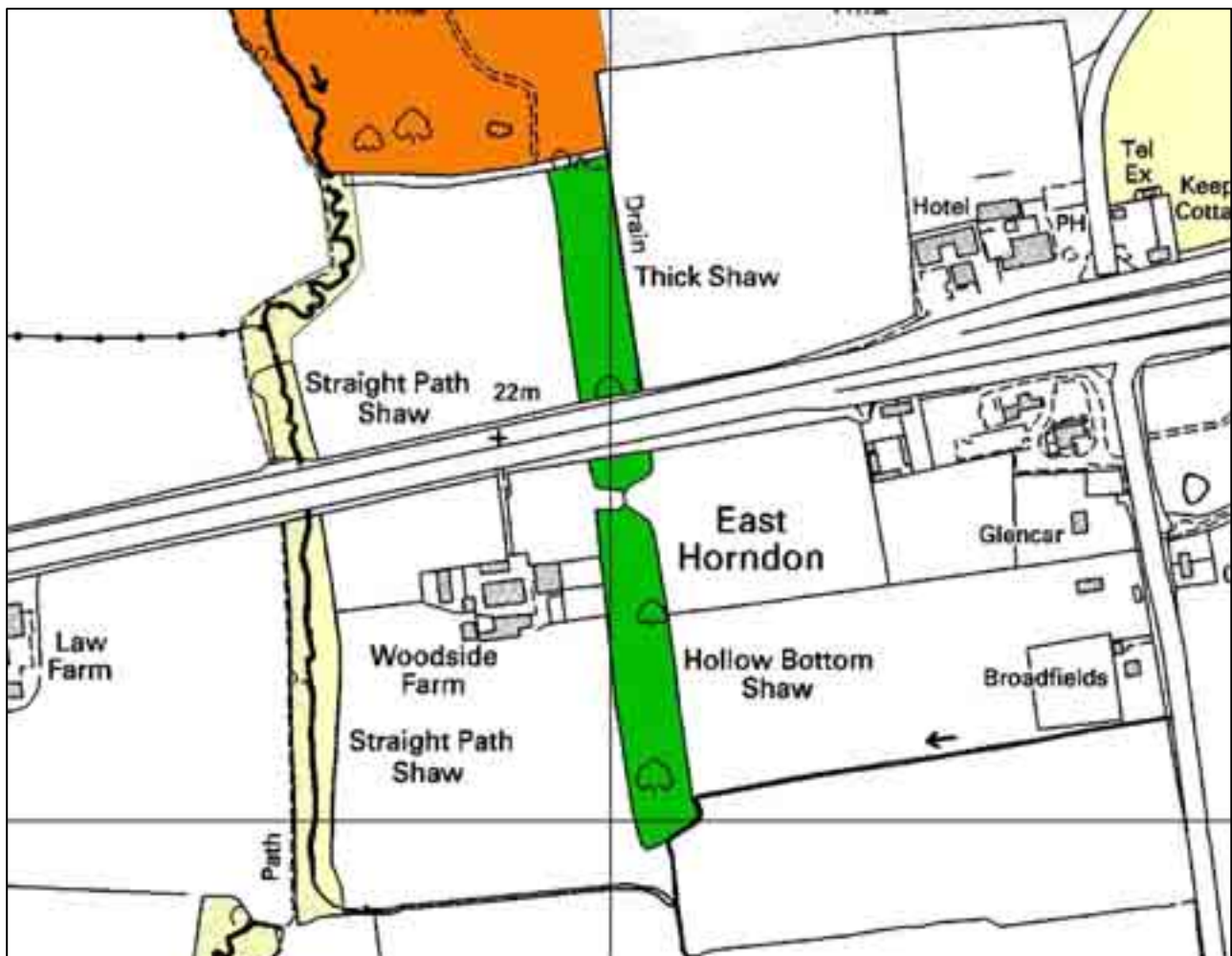
Rationale

Highfield Wood has the typical structure and composition found in ancient woodlands of the Essex countryside and is included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre115 Thick/Hollow Bottom Shaws (1.9 ha) TQ 630892

Thick Shaw to the north of the A127 road has a scattered high canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is also recorded from this part of the site. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) dominate the shrub layer. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant within the woodland, whilst other ancient woodland indicators recorded include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*). Hollow Bottom Shaw also has scattered Pedunculate Oak and Ash, with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) covering extensive areas below, whilst Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) is prominent in grassy glade areas found within surrounding scrub.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

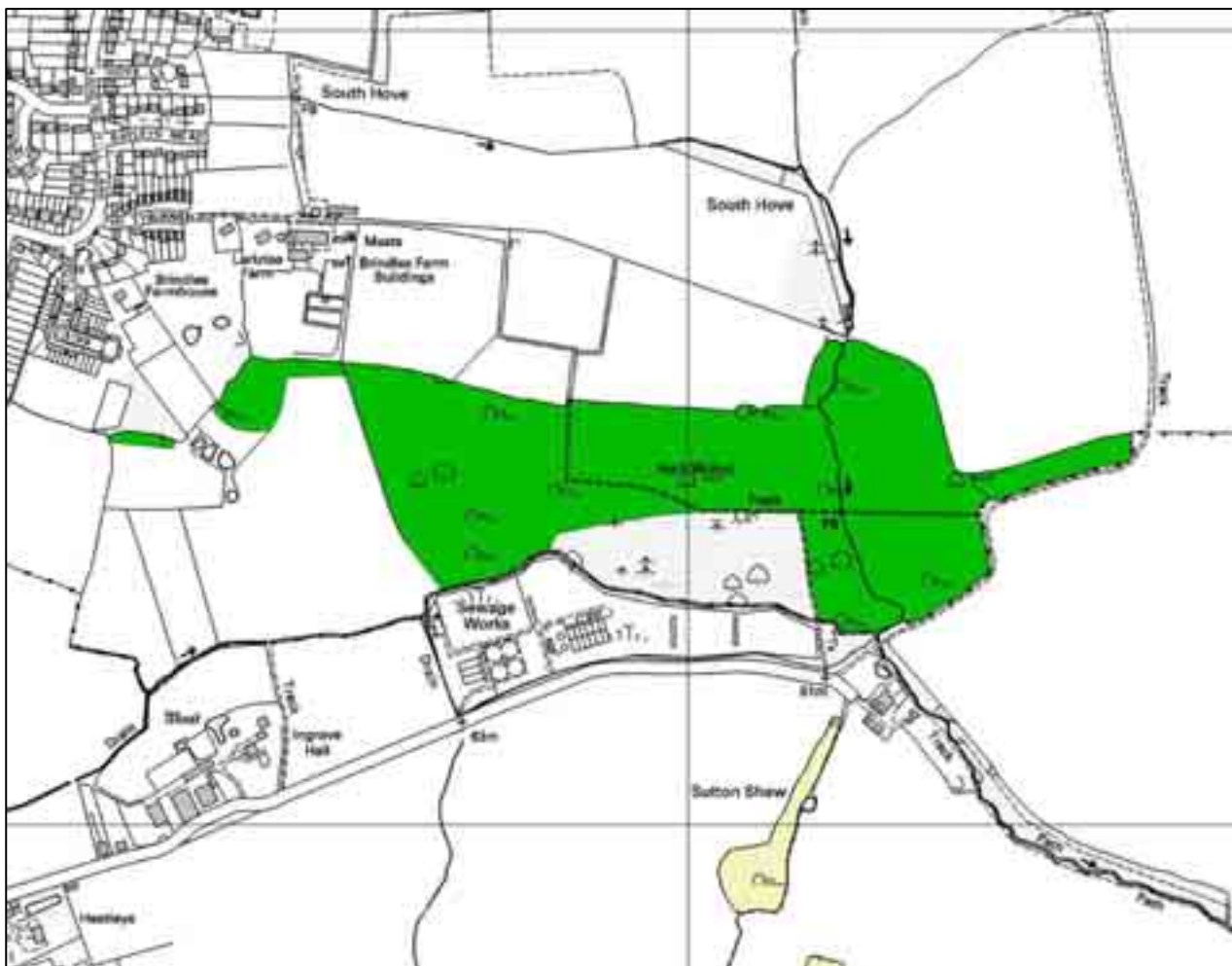
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that these are ancient woodland sites.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (sites amalgamated)



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Bre116 Hall Wood, Ingrave (17.7 ha) TQ 630934

This large remnant of ancient wood is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Other tree species include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a strong indicator of ancient woodland, occurs on the southern edge of the wood. However, numerous other ancient woodland indicators accompany the abundant Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) found throughout the wood. These include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition)



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Bre117 Sutton Shaw (1.0 ha) TQ 631930

Although Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice is present in the woodland, these trees do not form a continuous high canopy. Instead, there are areas with a lower, more mixed canopy including shrub species such as Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a strong indicator of ancient woodland, has also been recorded. The varied ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), but Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) is also found in significant numbers. Other species typical of ancient woodland are present including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). There is also a pond within the woodland exhibiting a wide diversity of aquatic and emergent flora including Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Water starwort (*Callitriche* sp.), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*), this last species becoming scarcer in ponds in the Essex countryside.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Although not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, this wood, with its varied structure and rich floral composition, is considered to be of ancient origin.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre118 All Saints Churchyard and Keepers Cottage Meadow (3.8 ha) TQ 634895

All Saints Churchyard is partially managed to maintain footpaths between the graves. The remaining grassland surrounding the church is a tall sward with a diverse range of grasses including False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Many herb species, such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*) are recorded from the site. Keepers Cottage Meadow to the west of the churchyard, is cattle grazed and has a finer, lower growing grass sward and includes Common Knapweed, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Agrimony, and Meadow Vetchling.

This site lies within Living Landscape 23 'Thorndon Woods': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

This semi-improved grassland and All Saints Churchyard retain qualities associated with older, less agriculturally improved grassland habitats that have become scarcer throughout the county in recent decades.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre119 Heron Pond (1.2 ha) TQ 635921

Heron Pond is the site of an ancient water body of which only the earthbank dam structures remain. It was originally built to house herons for the incumbents of Heron Hall. Three contrasting habitat types are found within the site. The north-western limb is a mix of scrub interspersed with small grassland glades. The glades are the most botanically rich areas, with a diverse species composition including Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Of particular note is the presence of Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), Pepper-saxifrage (*Silene silaus*) and Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), all three species being on the Essex Red Data List of threatened plants. In contrast, the south-eastern limb comprises open woodland habitat dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The shorter section that connects these two limbs is mainly dominated by dense Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub.

BAP Habitats

Small patches of grassland have affinities with the Lowland Meadows BAP habitat.

Selection Criteria

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

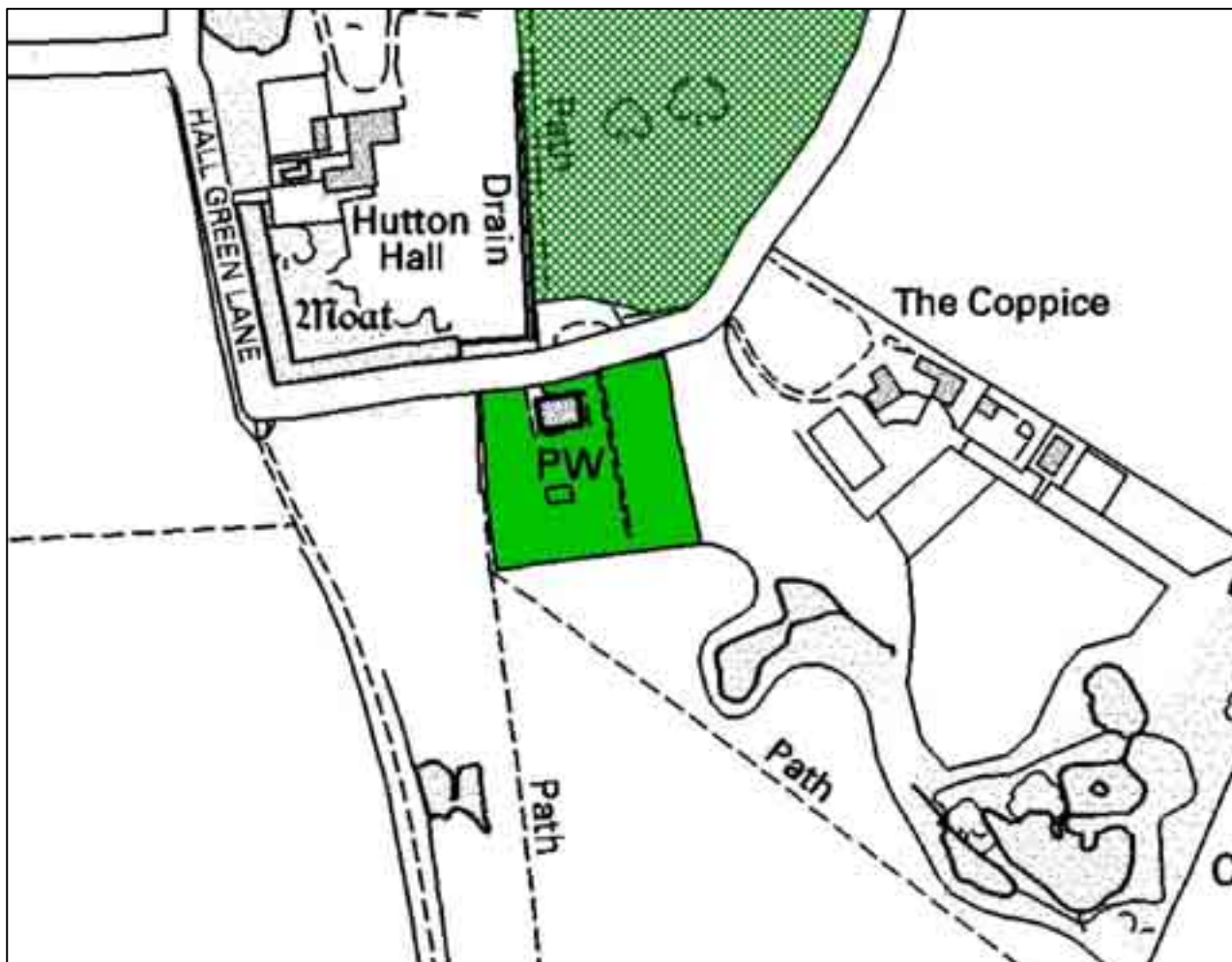
Rationale

This site supports rich assemblage of important grassland plant species that are now rare within the Essex countryside, albeit as small patches surviving within a scrub matrix. The site's importance is elevated by its location in a landscape dominated by arable cultivation with relatively few areas of semi-natural vegetation.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre120 All Saints Churchyard, Hutton (0.7 ha) TQ 635943

The sward of this churchyard has a diverse range of grasses including Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). The small low growing herb Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), typical of relatively infertile dry soils, is frequent in the grassland, whilst Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) characterises the more acidic and drier sandy soil conditions found in other areas of the site. A wide variety of other herbs have been recorded, including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

BAP Habitats

The sward appears to have some affinities with the Lowland Meadows BAP Priority Habitat, although more detailed floristic analysis would be needed to confirm this.

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

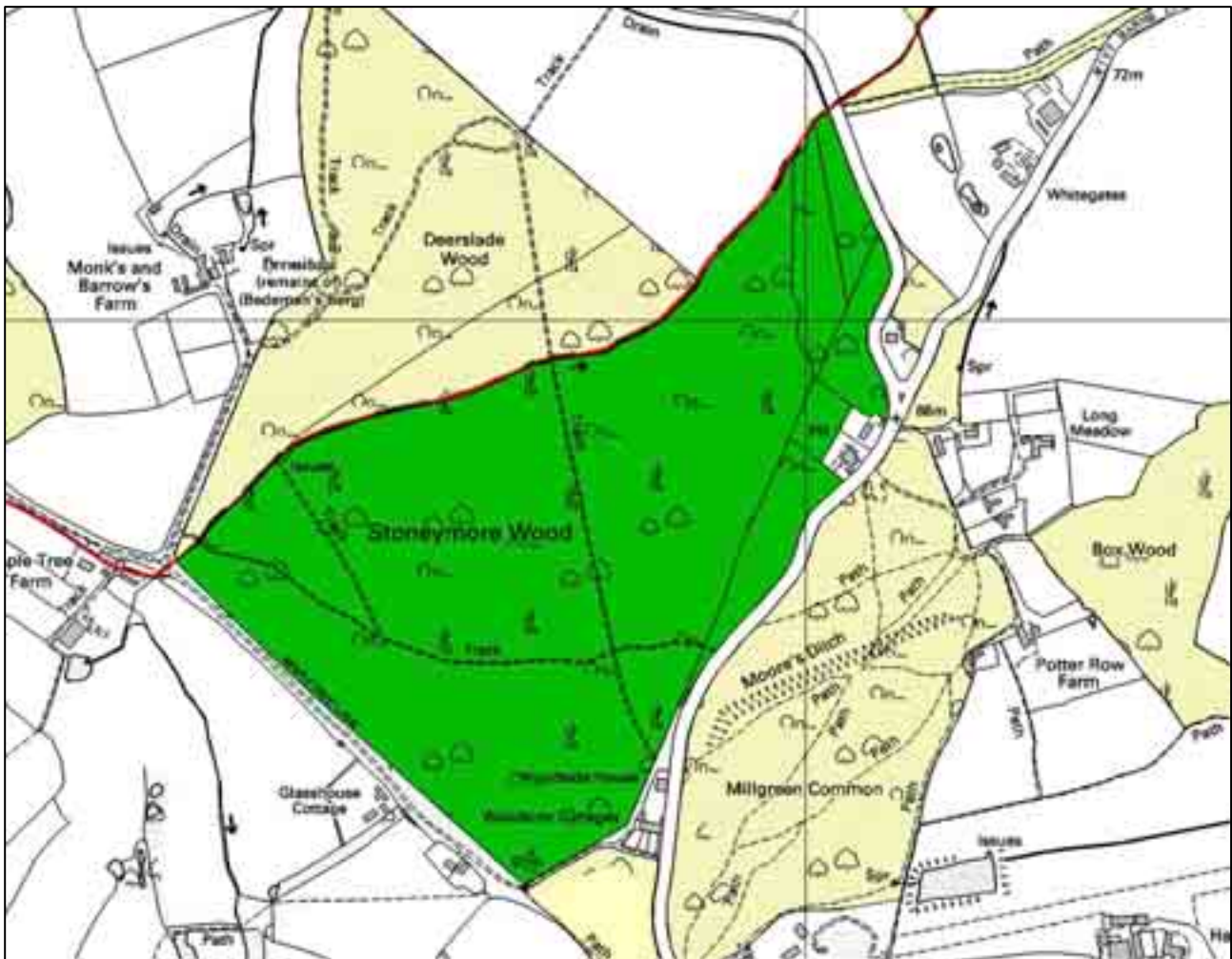
Rationale

This is a small piece of ancient grassland that has been protected from agricultural practices and has largely retained a species-rich sward.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre121 Stoneymore Woods (32.5 ha) TL636017

This Site comprises the ancient Stoneymore Wood along with a number of recent wood compartments along its eastern margin that have been derived from Millgreen Common, having a wood-pasture origin in places.

Stoneymore Wood itself is probably of great antiquity, with massive boundary banks that are usually associated with the earliest phases of coppiced woodland management. It consists of abundant Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with an understorey comprising Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The northern tract, adjacent to Deerslade Wood is wet, with an open canopy of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Downy Birch.

The ground flora is rich in ancient woodland plants, including one of the biggest populations of Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) in the county. Other species include Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*).

The sections of Millgreen Common include a roadside strip of Oak – Holly wood that is typical of old wood-pasture, where the relatively unpalatable Holly tends to predominate in the understorey. To the north of The Viper public house the ground is hummocky, indicating local digging for sand or gravel, now clothed with Oak – Birch woodland. The northern compartments have storm-damaged Sweet Chestnut, some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Rowan and widespread Pedunculate Oak. The ground vegetation is characterised by widespread Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

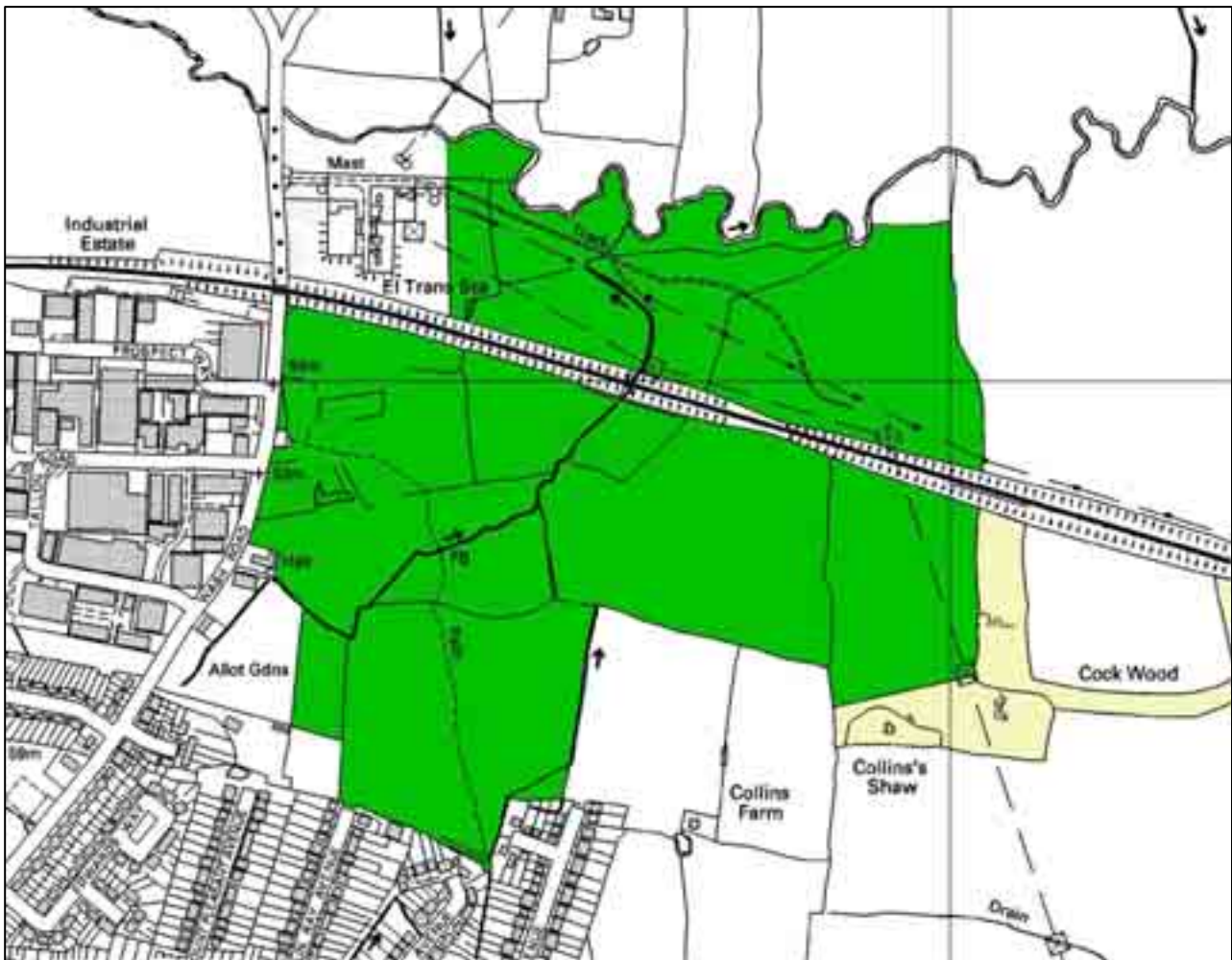
Rationale

The physical characteristics and flora support the documentary evidence that Stoneywood Wood is ancient. The adjacent sections have evolved from the unenclosed pasture of Millgreen Common and now comprise valuable woodland habitat that complements the ancient site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (minor additions)



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Bre122 Hutton Country Park (36.1 ha) TQ 636958

Hutton Country Park comprises two main areas. To the south of the railway line is a series of grassland and scrub habitats, including thick hedgerows. Most of the fields in the southern section are essentially similar in their floral composition. Grasses such as Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) are commonly found throughout the meadows. Few herbs attain any great abundance, but a large number of species occur at low density, including Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Ragworts (*Senecio* spp.), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.) and vetches (*Vicia* spp.). Most of these meadows are managed by a summer mowing regime. The exceptions are a central, secluded meadow where tall growing False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominates the sward and a part mown damp grassland area dominated by Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Small ponds, a stream and associated wetland and scrub habitat provide increased diversity to this part of the site. Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), an uncommon fern species in Essex is found close to the stream. Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) form tall localised stands, whilst rushes (*Juncus* spp.) are also present.

The habitat to the north of the railway line is predominantly dry grassland similar in floral composition to the large meadows to the south. However these northern meadows are cattle grazed as opposed to mown. Most of these meadows exhibit a flora typical of dry grassland. The exception is a field dominated by rushes and also colonised by species such as Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*) and Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), all of which are typical of marshy grassland.

BAP Habitats

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC5 – Woody Scrub

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

The Country Park provides the eastern part of the borough with a substantial area of old grassland, scrub, hedgerows, marshy and wetland habitat forming a Local Nature Reserve that encourages public engagement with the natural world.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre123 Mill Green Heathland (2.2 ha) TL 637011

This is the last surviving fragment of open heathland that would formerly have been widespread across Millgreen Common. With the cessation of grazing, the common fell into disuse and has now developed into broadleaved woodland. This scrub woodland succession has occurred around the margins of this Site, but there remain good stands of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), along with other characteristic heathland species, such as Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Tormential (*Potentilla erecta*). Other typical heathland plants occur much more sparingly, including Green-ribbed Sedge (*Carex binervis*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*) and Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Heathland

Selection Criteria

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

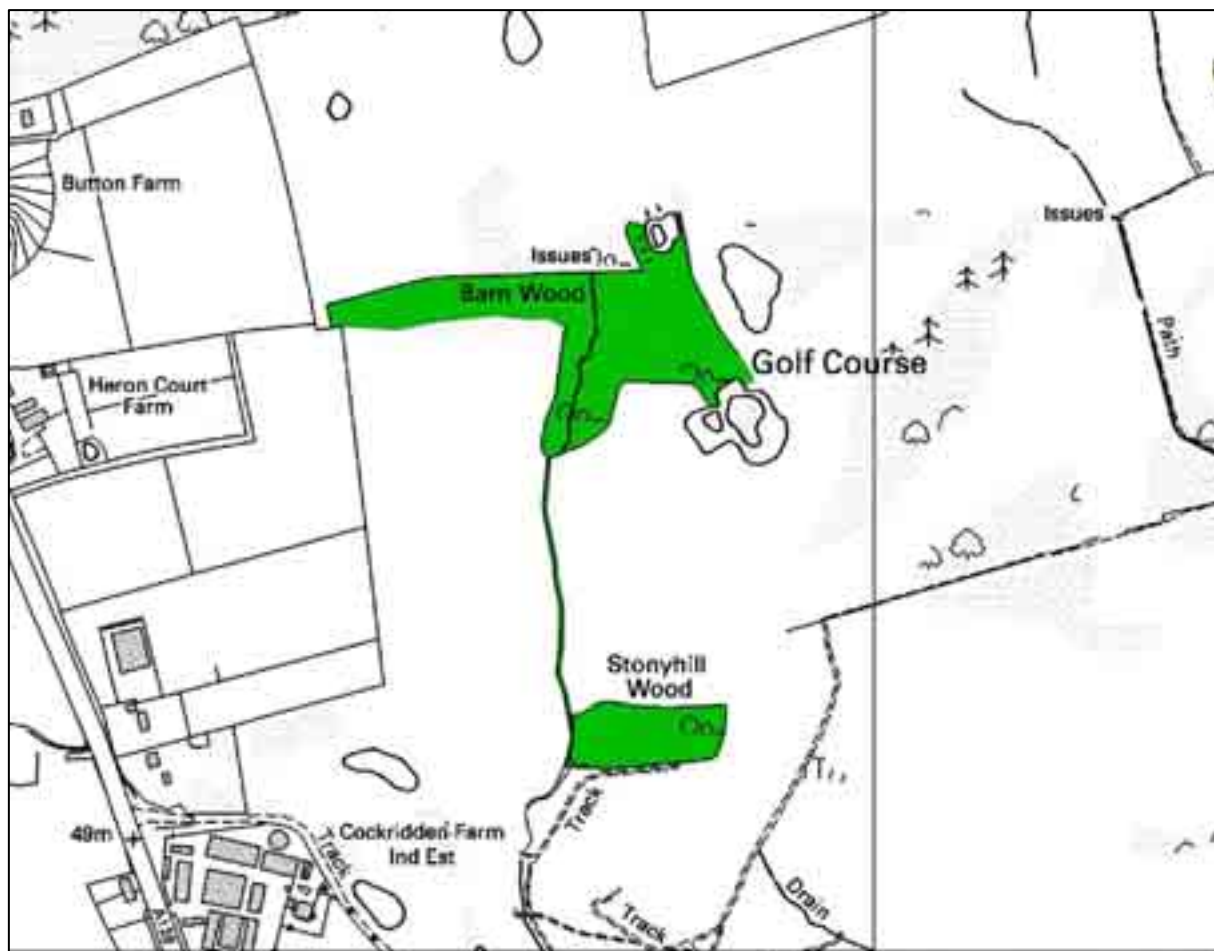
Rationale

Although only part of this site comprises good quality heathland, the whole site is included since it is adjudged that most of the land would not be beyond restoration to heathland habitats. Being a rare habitat in Essex, all such remaining fragments are worthy of identification as a Local Wildlife Site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre124 Barn Wood/Stonyhill Wood (3.0 ha) TQ 637903

Barn Wood is an ancient woodland site and has a canopy dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Of particular note is the presence of several Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), a tree largely confined to ancient woodland. The ground vegetation is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), whilst Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) is frequent. Stonyhill Wood is a small fragment of a much larger wood that formerly extended to the north and south and is also dominated by Hornbeam coppice, with some Ash and Pedunculate Oak standards. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub is found in the shrub layer particularly towards the eastern side of the wood. The hedgerow that now connects these two woods largely comprises the eastern wood bank of the northern extension of Stonyhill Wood and provides a valuable corridor between the two main sites.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC30 – Wildlife Corridors

Rationale

The structure and composition of these two woods support documentary evidence that they are ancient woodland sites. The connecting hedgerow is included as a remnant “ghost outline” of the former northern extension of Stonyhill Wood that now forms an ecological corridor between the two woods.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (sites amalgamated, hedgerow added)



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Bre125 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Fryerning (1.1 ha) TL 638000

This Site comprises an ancient churchyard, unusual in being circular in outline, and a more recent extension to the south. The original yard occupies a small sandy knoll, with the resultant acid grassland vegetation including Betony (*Betonica officinalis*, a threatened Essex plant included within the county's Red Data List), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Wall Speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*) and Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*). The grass sward comprises a mix of Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). The churchyard extension has a species-rich sward similar in basic composition to the older yard, with the addition of Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and various Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). The site also supports a notable fungus flora, with numerous species of Waxcap and other scarce Essex fungi.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

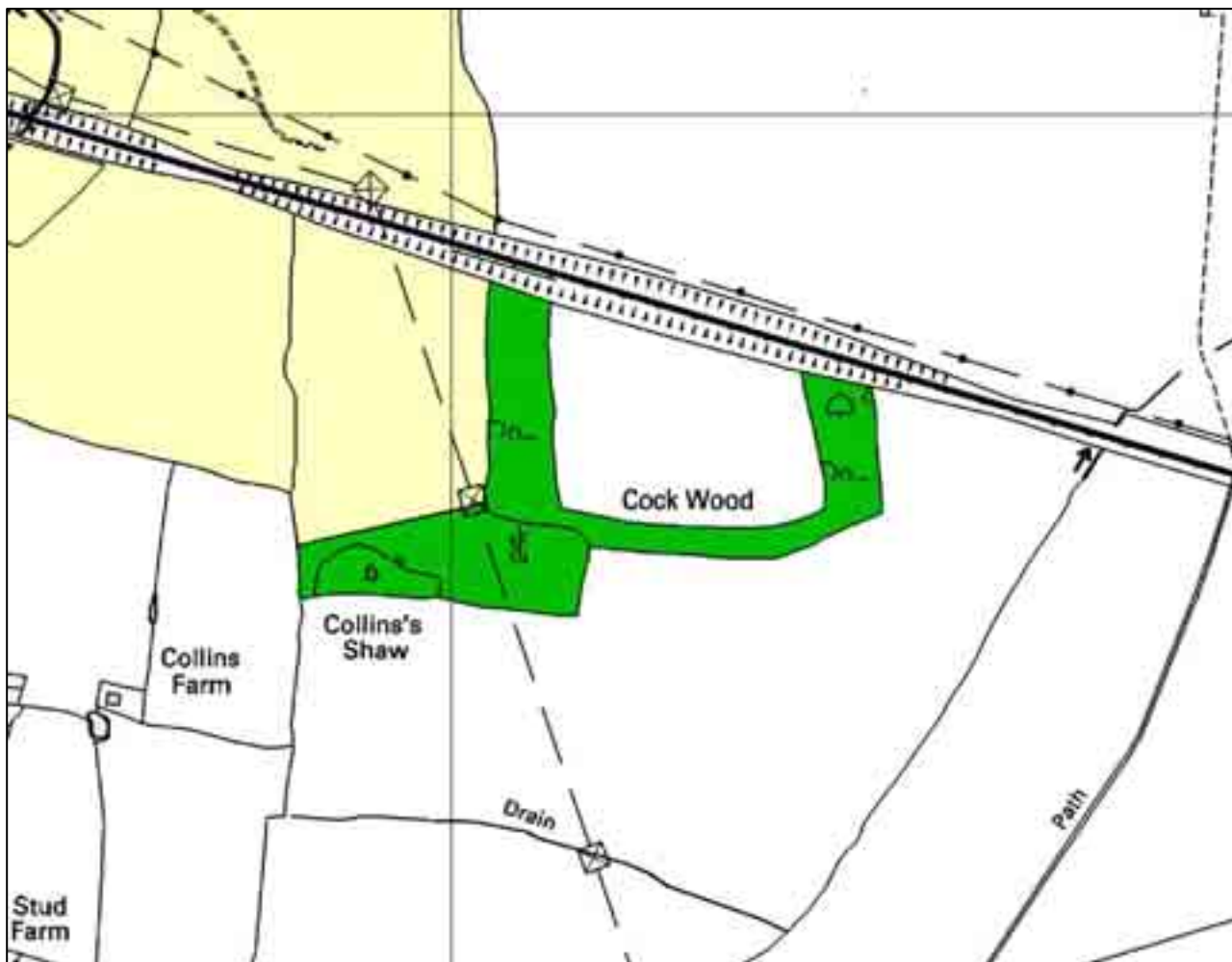
Rationale

The circular original churchyard is clearly ancient grassland, which supports a scarce and threatened acid grassland vegetation type. The newer yard is of interest in its own right as a piece of species-rich grassland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre126 Cock Wood/Collin's Shaw (3.5 ha) TQ 641957

Cock Wood comprises abundant Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with very little shrub layer beneath this densely shading canopy. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) dominates the ground flora, whilst other ancient woodland indicator species recorded include Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*). Collin's Shaw differs in being a small copse of Pedunculate Oak standards with some Hornbeam standards and coppice, possibly of ancient origin and surrounding a small hollow. This is surrounded by a canopy of more recent and even aged woodland that may have been partially planted. Bluebell is also abundant in the 'Shaw' area with some colonisation of the adjacent recent woodland. The ground flora of this part of the site also includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

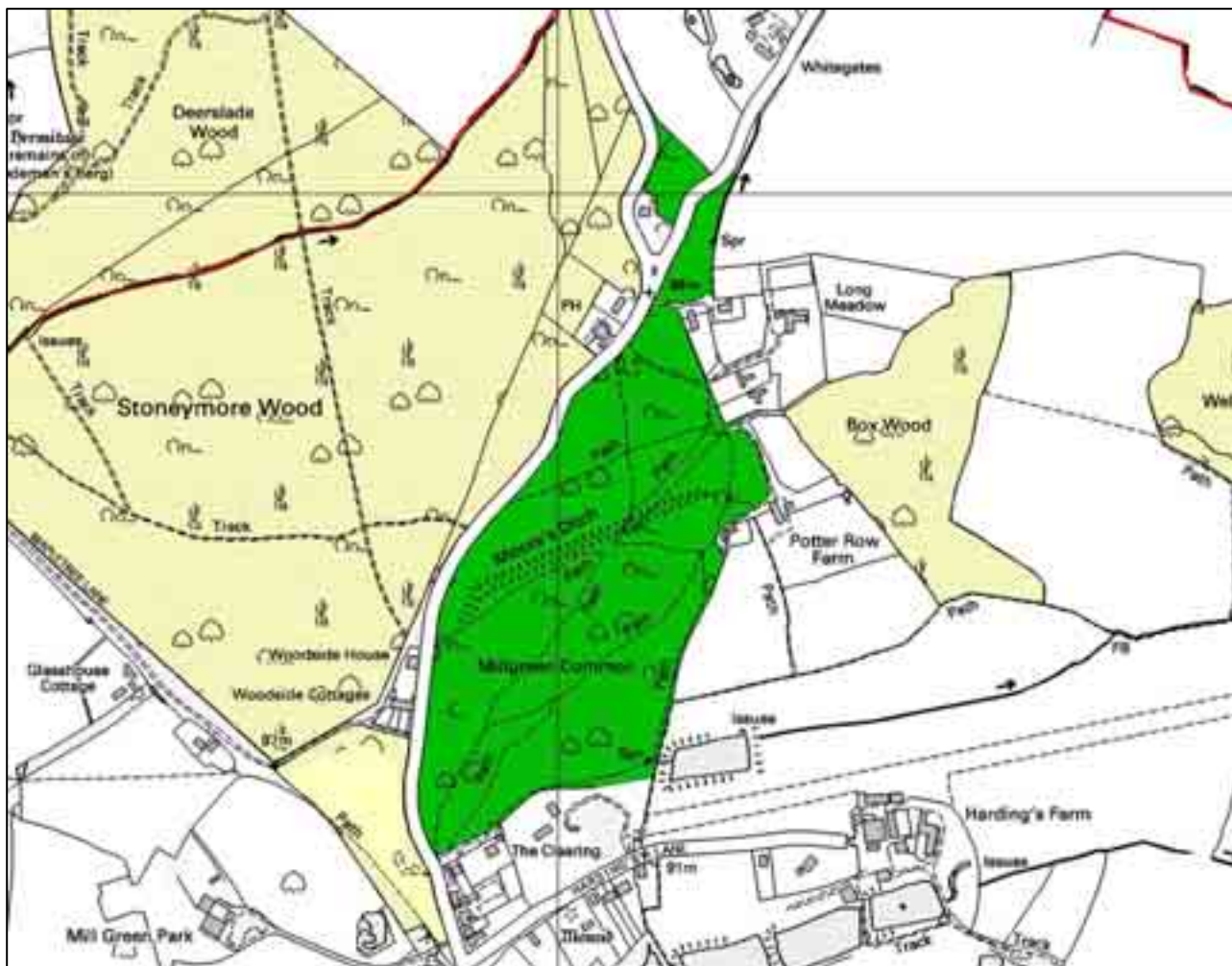
Rationale

Cock Wood appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, whilst Collin's Shaw is a combination of ancient and recent woodland. This woodland site is located adjacent to Bre122 Hutton Country Park providing contrasting habitat for visitors.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012 (addition)



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Bre127 Mill Green Woodland (14.6 ha) TL 641016

This Site largely comprises registered common land (CL 93) and would formerly have been open rough grazing, with perhaps an increasing scatter of trees and scrub. With the cessation of grazing, broadleaved woodland has developed and, whilst this woodland now has significant wildlife value, there would be enormous benefit in restoring part of the site to open heathy grassland.

As is often the case with former wood-pasture, Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) scrub has become widespread under a Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.) canopy. At the northern end, a small stand of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is suggestive of older woodland. Other, less widespread understorey trees and shrubs include Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

The former open heathland vegetation survives in the form of locally frequent Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) at the southern tip, but elsewhere the ground vegetation is dominated by Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). As ancient wood-pasture, it is perhaps not surprising that the flora also contains many plants normally found in ancient coppices, such as Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Wood-pasture and Parkland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

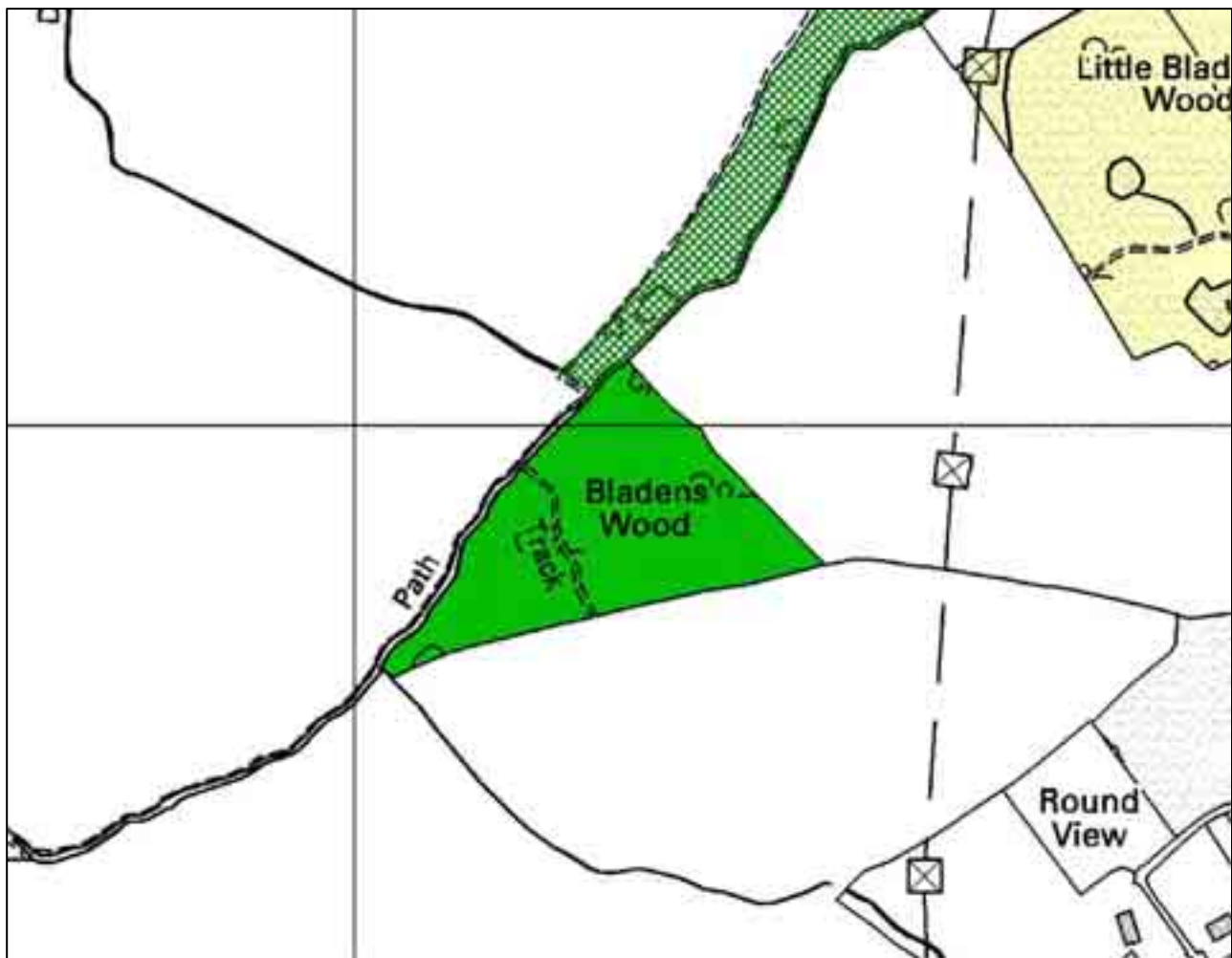
Rationale

It might be argued that this is a severely degraded heathland rather than a woodland, but the truth lies somewhere in between. This Site has probably evolved over centuries as wood-pasture, combining flora and fauna from both woodland and open heathland ecosystem and this should be the focus for future conservation work.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre128 Bladens Wood (2.1 ha) TQ 641929

Bladens Wood is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards. Whilst still with Hornbeam coppice in the canopy, the far western corner of the wood also has some coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dense Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) scrub. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora throughout most of the wood. Other species of interest recorded include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This wood is not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory list for Essex. However, its diverse structure and species composition including ancient woodland indicators in the ground flora, suggests that this wood is likely of ancient origin.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre129 Ellis Wood and Lane (1.5 ha) TL 642024

It is largely the result of a quirk of the borough boundary that much of this Site lies within Brentwood rather than the neighbouring Chelmsford Borough. The narrow strip of Ellis Wood comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland with a small quantity of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). The small triangle of wood centrally is a remaining fragment of a much larger block of now cleared woodland over the borough border; this has a canopy of Oak over a sparse understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and some Hornbeam. A similar species mix forms the hedges of the lane that leads up to this block of wood.

The ground vegetation comprises a mix of typical woodland species, although ancient woodland plants are few: Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) is abundant adjacent to the small stream, whilst Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) occur sparingly.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

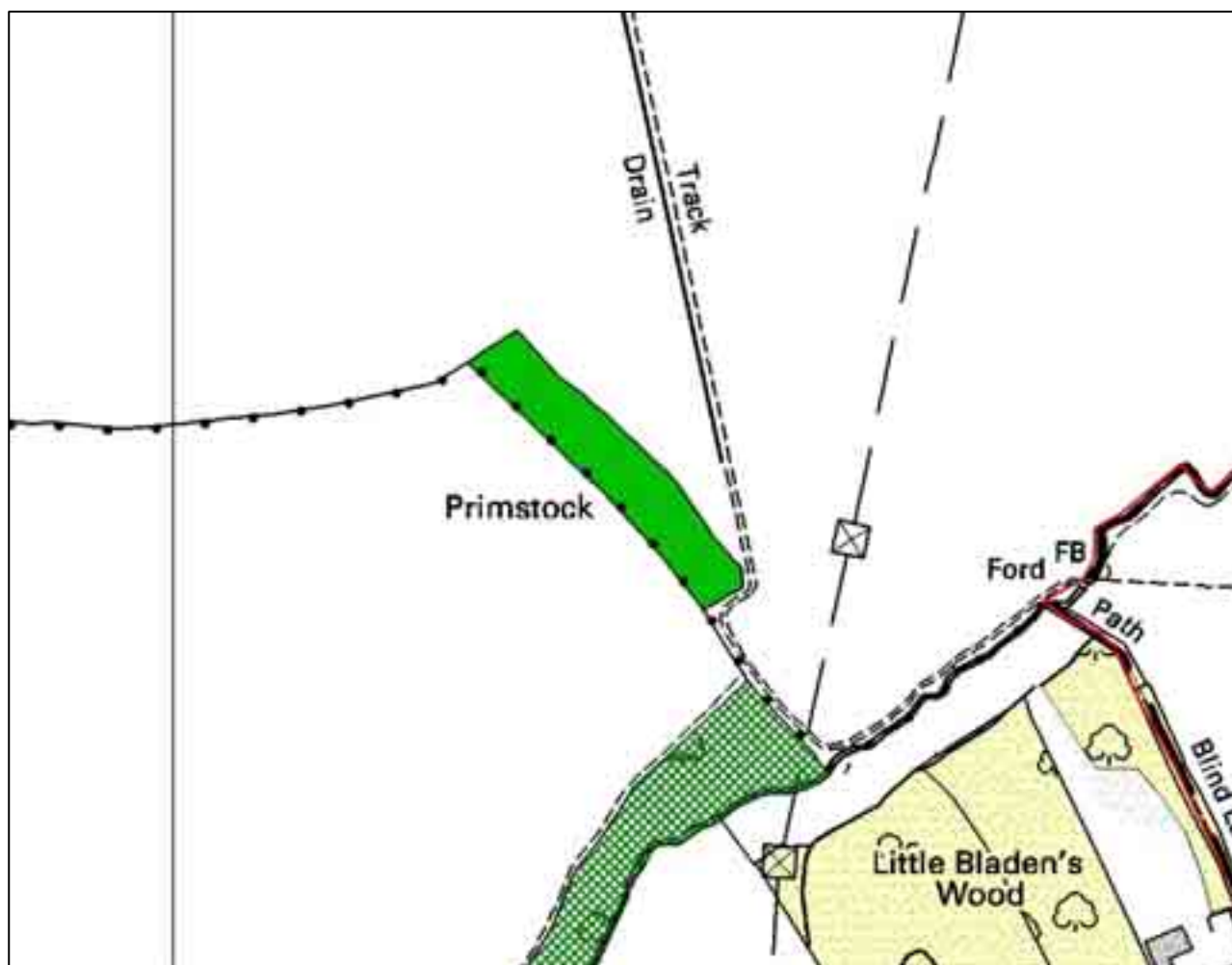
Rationale

To appreciate the true value of this Site, one needs to consider its context within the complex of large ancient woods either side of the borough boundary, of which it is just a small part. The Site also helps to form an ecological link between Stoney more Woods (Bre121) and Ellis Wood within Chelmsford Borough.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre130 Primstock (0.7 ha) TQ 642934

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) are found throughout much of this woodland. The shrub layer includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). The extreme north of the wood differs in having some tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub, whilst dense Hawthorn is found in the middle part of the wood. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is found in patches throughout the site, whilst other species of interest recorded include Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This woodland strip may be ancient, although it may have acquired its ground flora from the ancient parish boundary hedge that forms its western margin. The site certainly confirms to the England BAP Priority Habitat listed above and so is selected under criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre131 Dog Wood (2.1 ha) TQ 643906

Dog Wood is dominated by old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), a species with a very strong affinity with ancient woodland, is also present. A number of other herb species characteristic of ancient woodland, are also recorded from this site. These include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

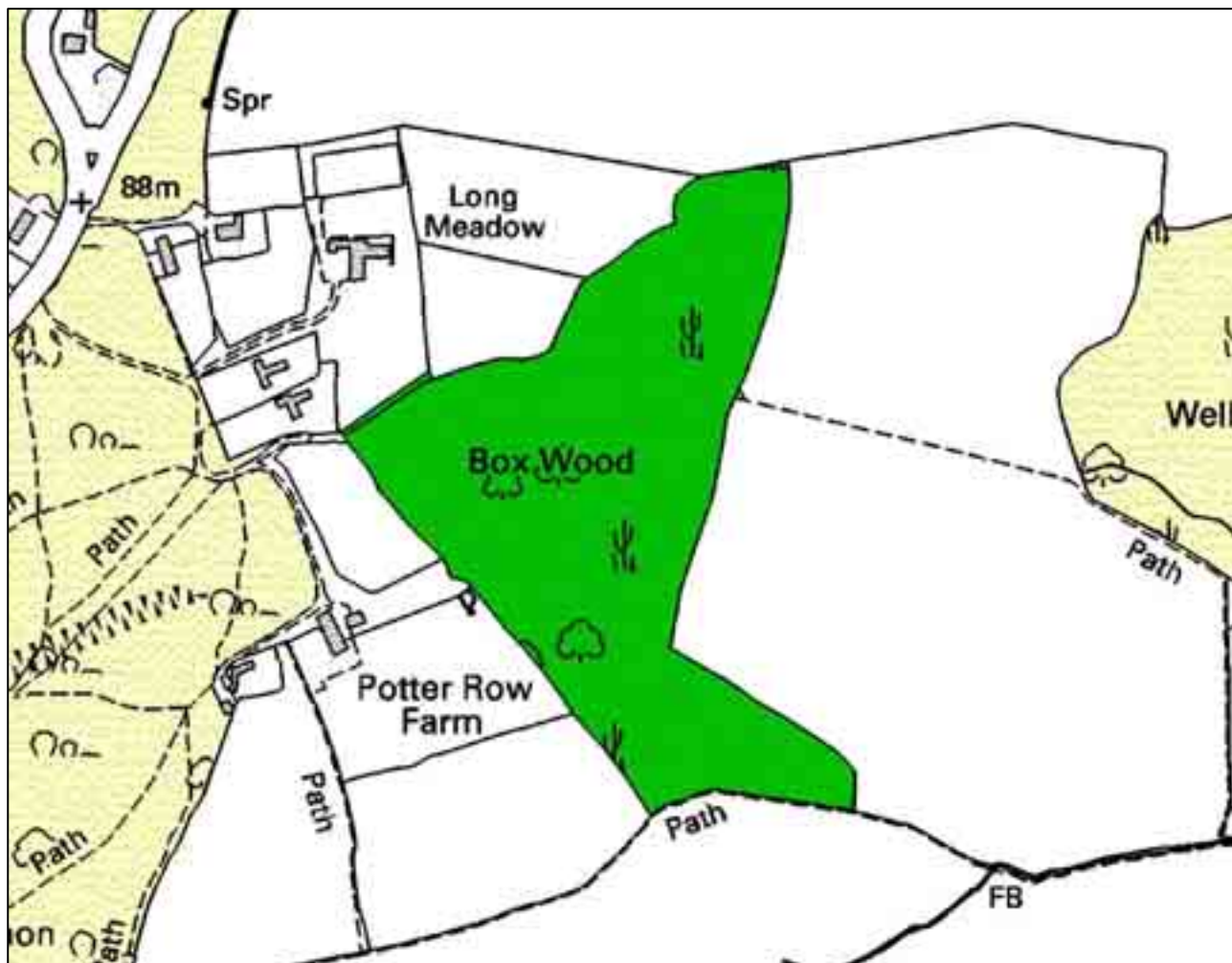
Rationale

This site has the structure and species composition typically found in ancient woodland. Located in the grounds of South Essex Golf Club, this site provides an 'island' of good wildlife habitat between other nearby Local Wildlife Sites.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre132 Box Wood (4.9 ha) TL 644017

This ancient wood comprises mainly overgrown coppice of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) in the undergrowth. The ground vegetation is rather sparse under the dense shade of the overgrown coppice, with only occasional Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) found within a matrix of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

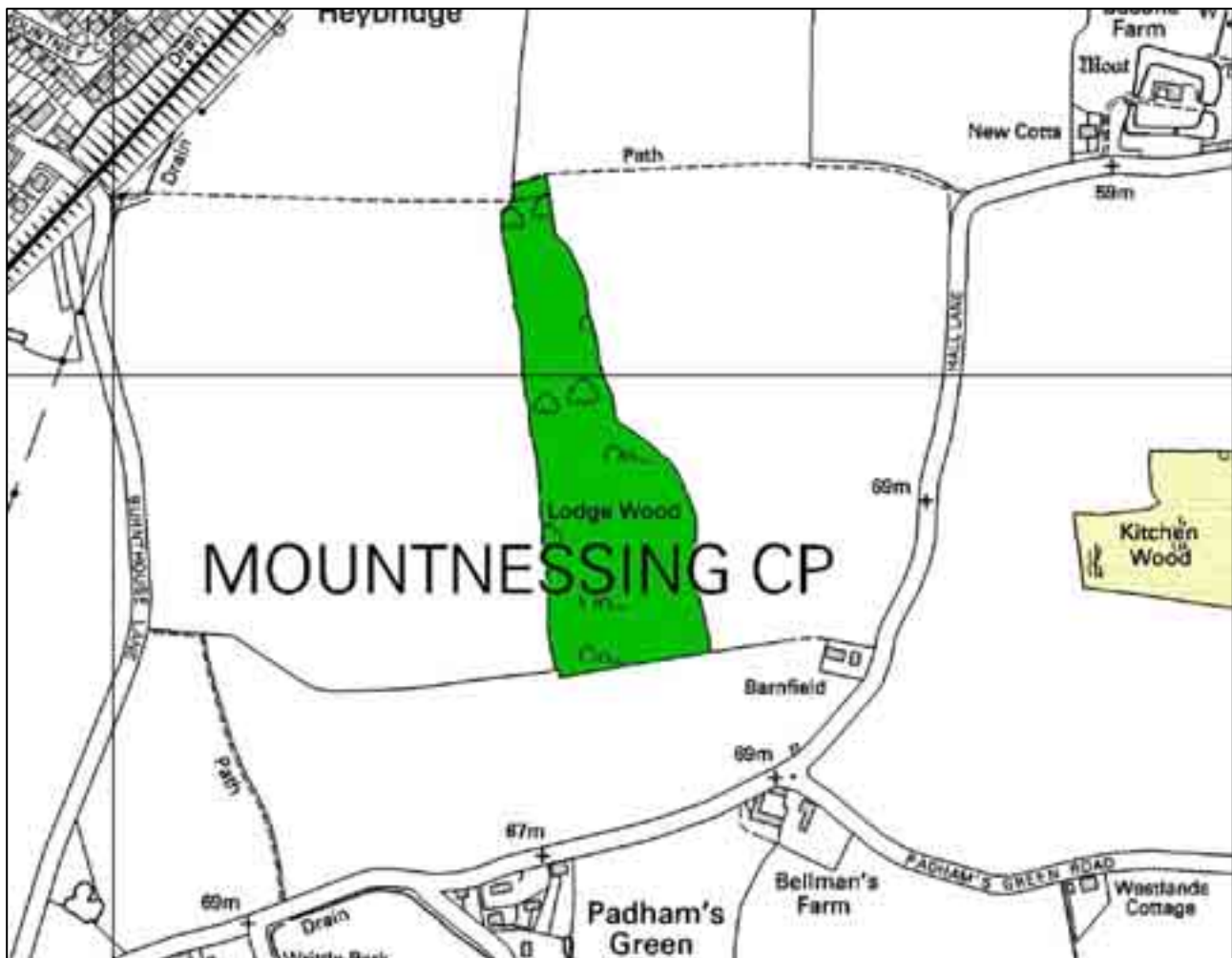
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre133 Lodge Wood (4.0 ha) TQ 644979

This large ancient woodland located either side of a small stream is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with interspersed Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards. A relatively sparse shrub layer mainly comprising Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is present. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora and several other ancient woodland indicator species are recorded including Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

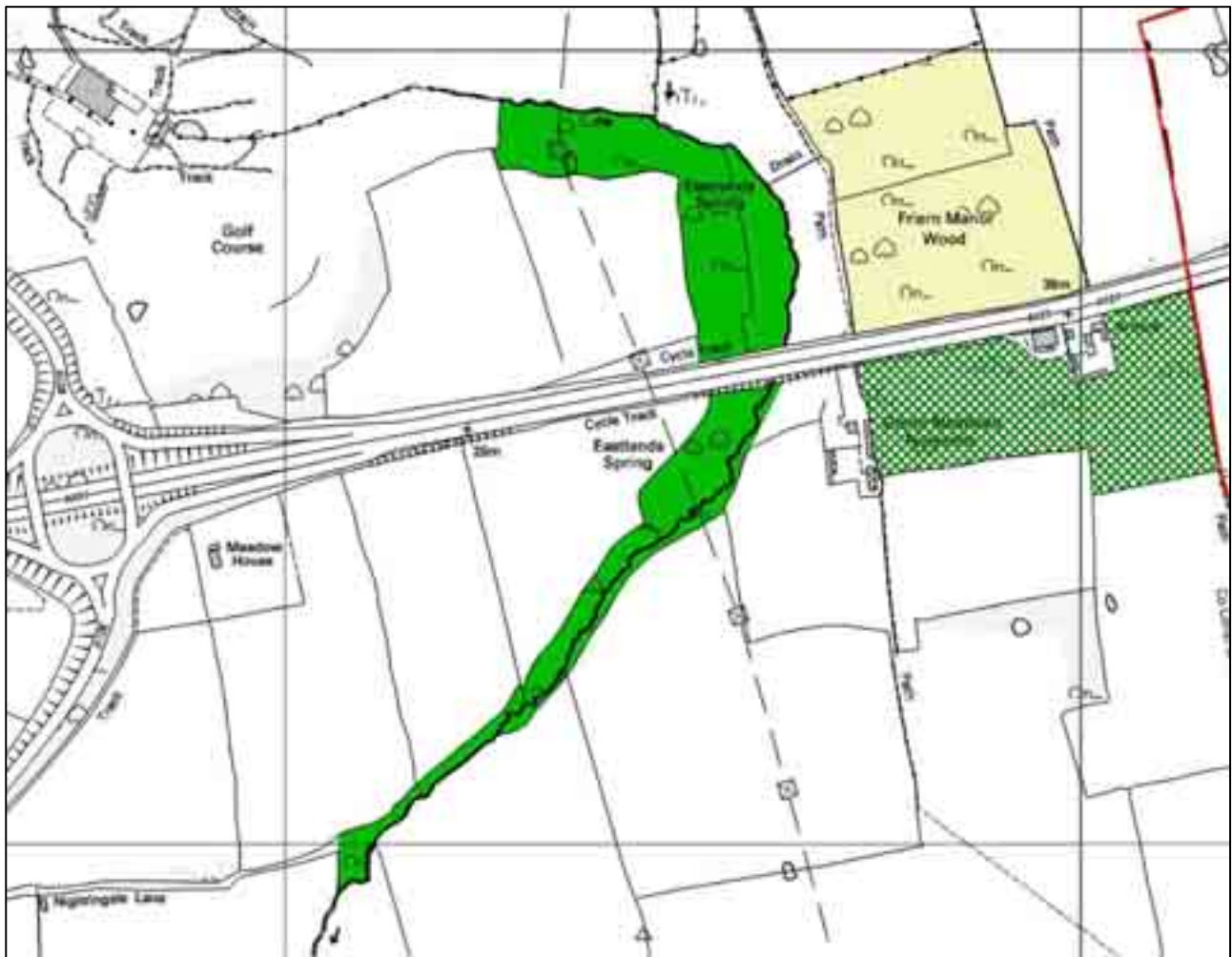
Rationale

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

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2012



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Bre134 Eastlands Spring (8.6 ha) TQ 645894

This streamside ancient woodland comprises a mosaic of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), giving a good vertical structure to the woodland. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a species with a strong affinity to ancient woodland, is found in the northern part of the site. The ground flora has an array of ancient woodland indicators including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*). The southern tip of this Site comprises the scrubbed up line of an ancient lane (Nightingale Lane), which now forms a contiguous part of the main woodland habitat.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

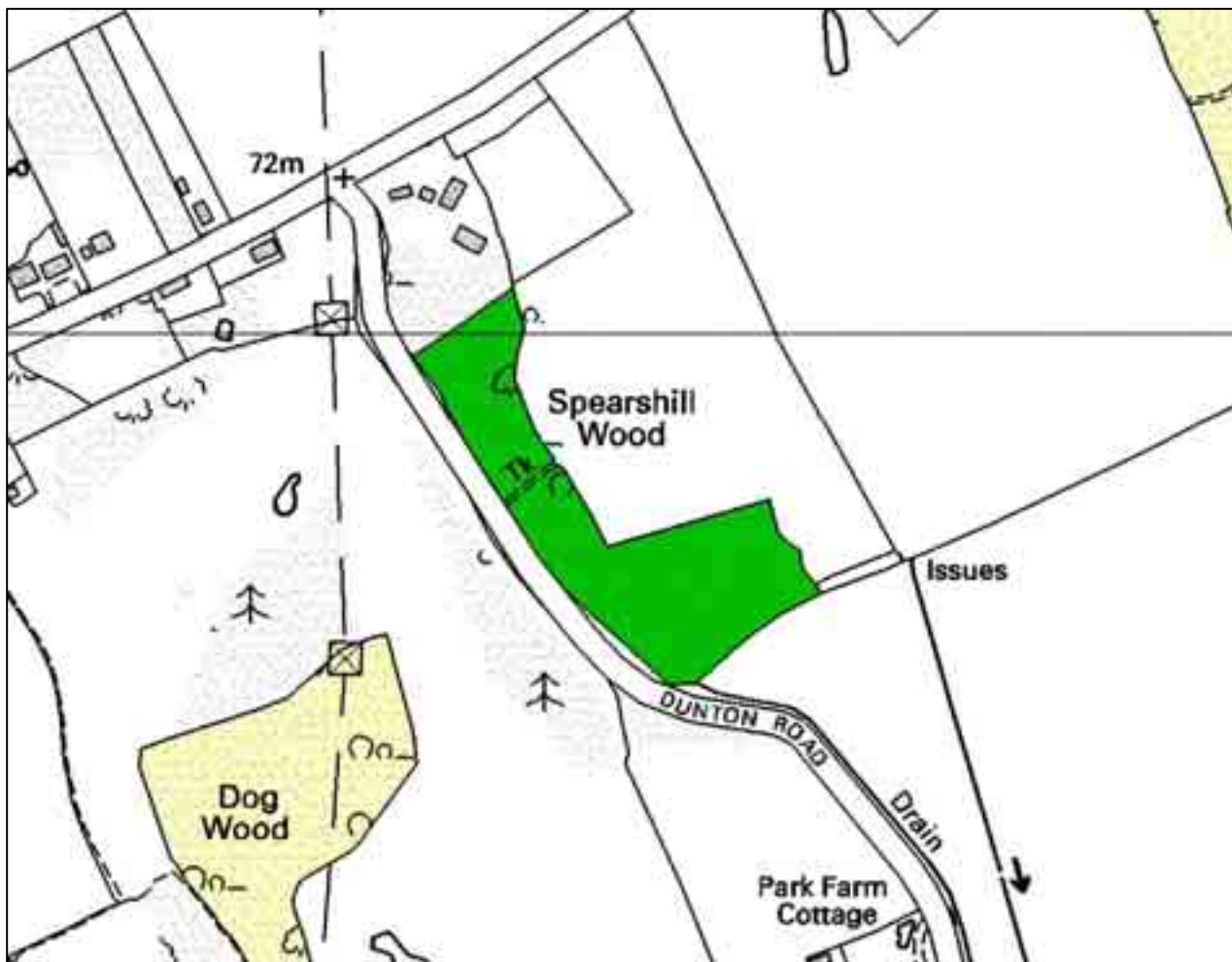
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site. The more recent woodland formed along Nightingale Lane forms a natural extension to the main wood and is itself likely to be based on ancient hedgerows.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2012



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Bre135 Spearshill Wood (1.8 ha) TQ 645909

Spearshill Wood has densely shading Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice interspersed with small numbers of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a tree with a very strong affinity with ancient woodland, is also present. A very sparse shrub layer including Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Midland Hawthorn (*C. laevigata*) is found along with Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), a very low growing shrub. Much of the ground is bare and devoid of vegetation, although there are areas where Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant. Another ancient woodland indicator species present in the ground is Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Where more light penetrates to the ground Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) has managed to establish.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

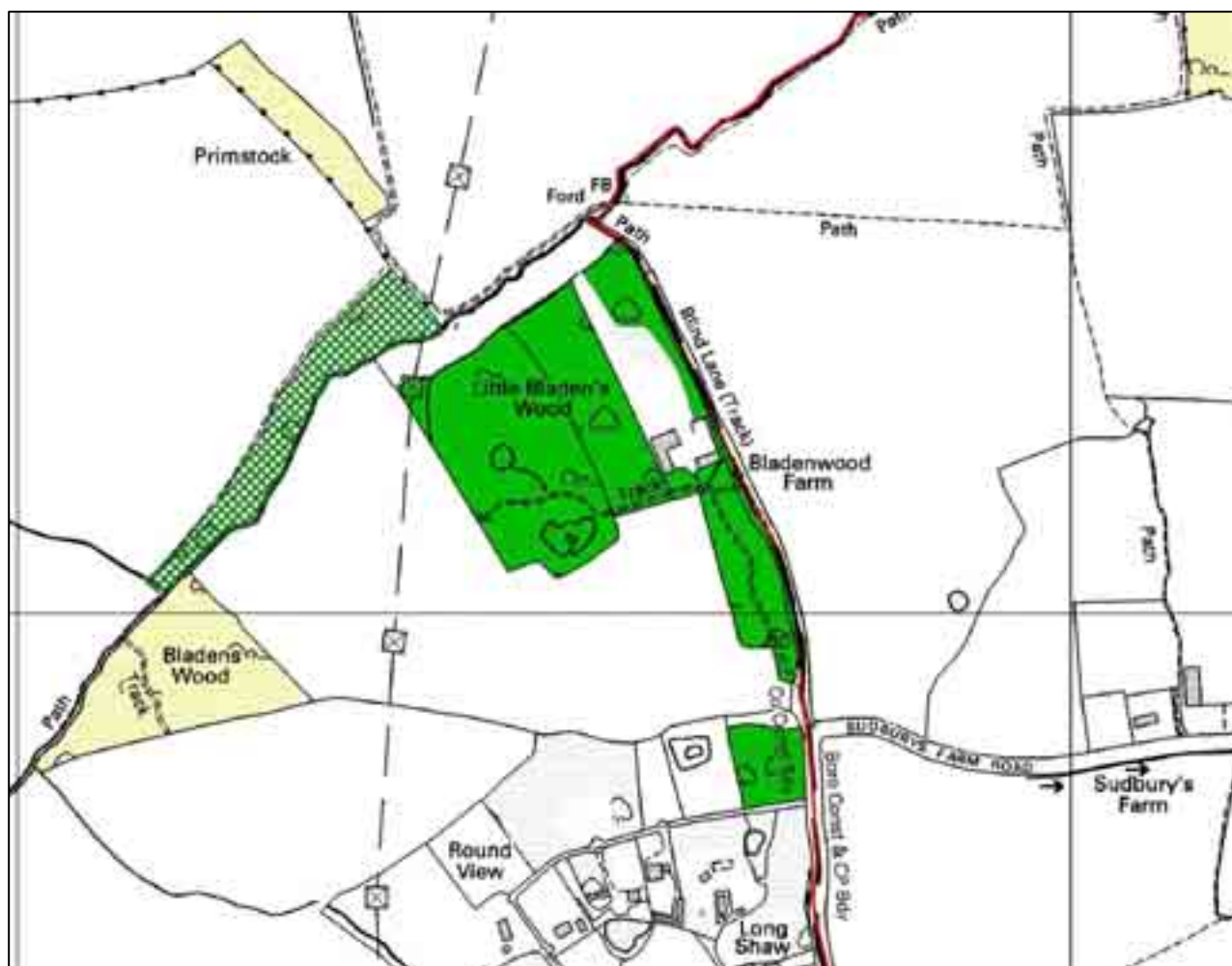
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood suggests that this is an ancient woodland site, although too small to appear on the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre136 Little Bladen's Wood (6.1 ha) TQ 645930

This site comprises a large but partially grubbed out wood and a detached section to the south. The main wood is almost pure Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with very little shrub layer or ground flora beneath. The north-east area differs in having tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards dominating with scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) beneath, with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). The south-east part of the wood is dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak over an extensive shrub canopy of hawthorn, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) dominating the ground flora. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) are found in the ground flora. The woodland limb and the small detached block extending south by Blind Lane are also dominated by Hornbeam coppice.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This Site is not listed within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, despite its size, but the structure and floral composition suggests that this is largely, if not completely, ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre137 The Grove (3.6 ha) TL 647009

This wood comprises a varied canopy structure. Old Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice runs along the valley bottom, adjacent to the stream, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Birch (*Betula spp.*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and some Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) on the higher, drier ground on either side. A thin scattering of mature planted Poplars (*Populus sp.*) occurs centrally, whilst Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion is becoming widespread. The ground flora includes several plants associated with ancient woodland conditions, including Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) found amongst Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

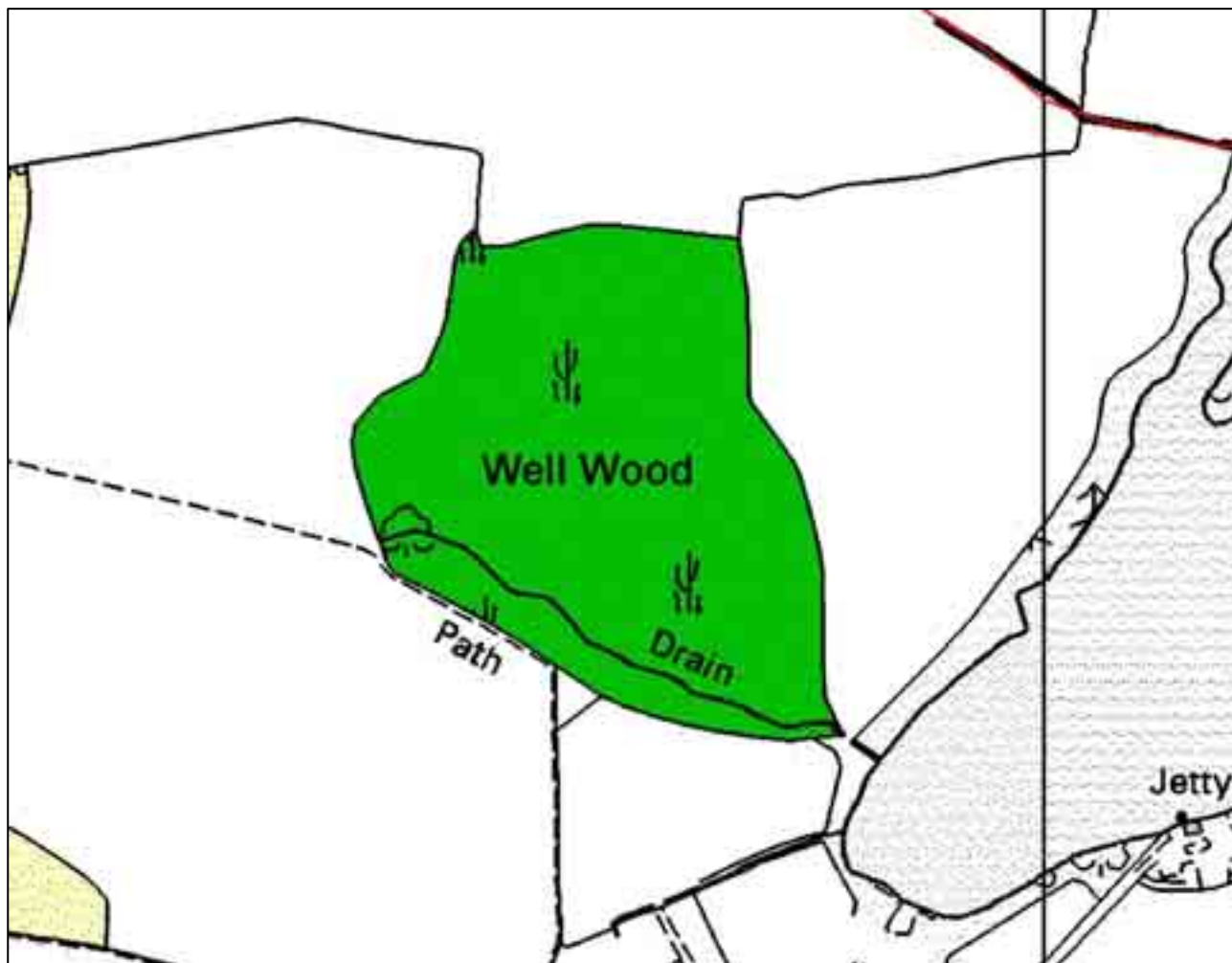
Rationale

Although this site is not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, the structure and composition of the central Alder stand has characteristics typical of ancient woodland, although the surrounding woodland may be of more recent origin. However, the site more clearly fits within the definition of criterion HC2.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre138 Well Wood (4.0 ha) TL 647017

This ancient wood comprises mainly overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) is a widespread sub-canopy tree. The rather sparse ground flora comprises mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), although close to the southern stream the damper conditions support Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) in addition.

This Site lies within Living Landscape 36 'Writtle Forest': see report text for details.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

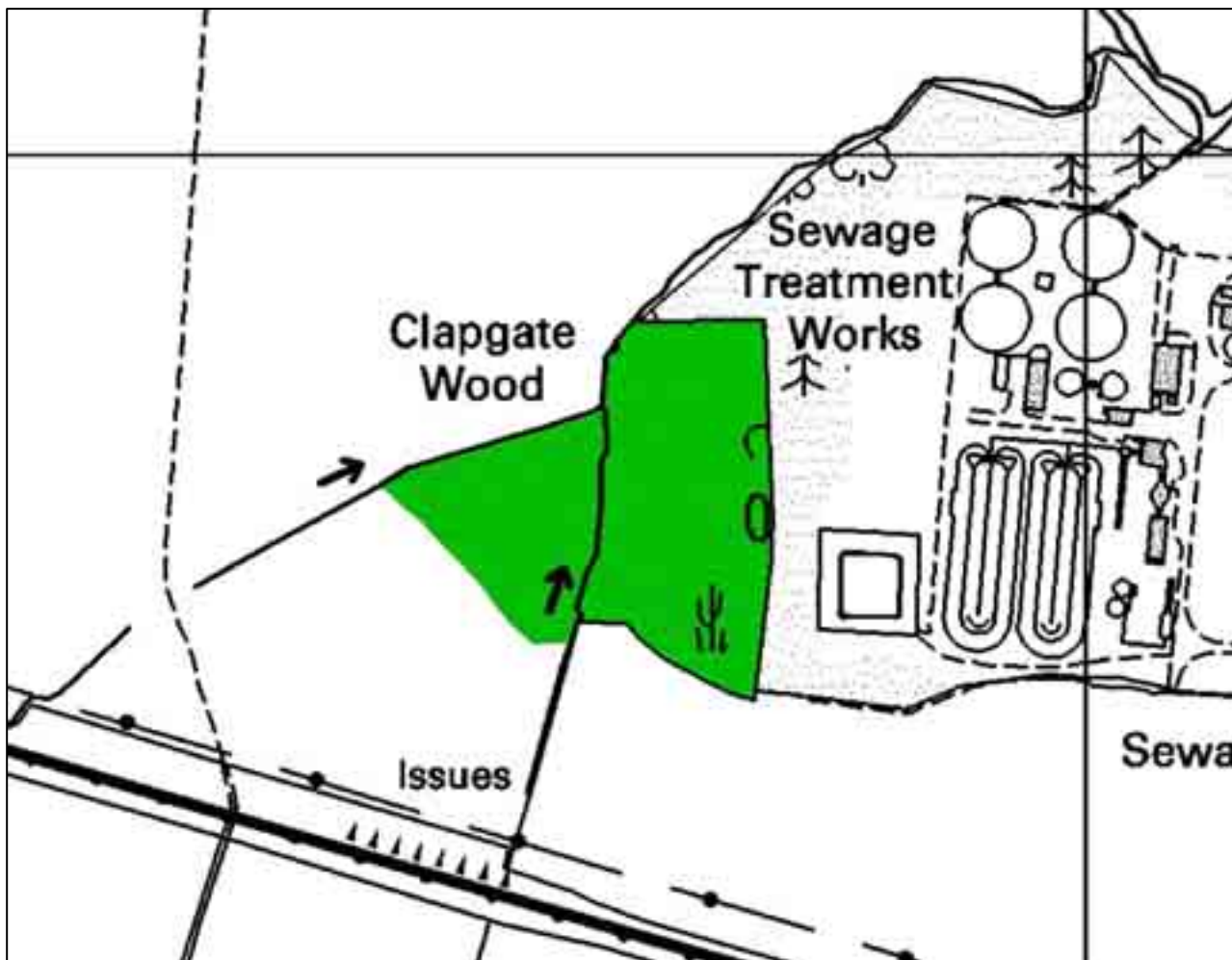
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre139 Clapgate Wood (1.7 ha) TQ 647958

This small ancient wood lacks any ditch or bank feature along the south-western edge. This is typical of where grubbing out of woodland has occurred, indicating that this is just a remnant of a once much larger wood. The western part comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with very little understorey. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). In contrast, the northern part of the wood has Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) forming a high canopy but Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) form a sub-canopy. Bluebell, Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) are characteristic species of the ground flora in this area. Species of interest including Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) are found close to the stream channel running through the wood.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

Rationale

The structure and composition of this woodland exhibit features typical of ancient woodland found throughout the Essex countryside.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre140 Friern Manor Wood (8.7 ha) TQ 648898

This site comprises two woodland blocks separated by a central west-east ride. The northern section of the site is recent woodland, characterised by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards dominating the high canopy, but also including frequent young Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and scattered Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. The shrub canopy comprises mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). A very sparse ground flora is recorded from this section, with only very few small patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). The eastern boundary bank exhibits a wide diversity of tree and shrub species including Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak, Hornbeam and Wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) a species with strong affinity to the ancient woods and hedgerows. Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) grows in the well-lit areas by the boundary bank.

To the south of the ride is typical ancient woodland where Hornbeam coppice dominates. The far south of the woodland has a more varied structure, with tall Ash coppice and some young Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The main difference between the two sections making up this site is the greater diversity and frequency of the ground flora species found in the southern section. These include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell, Yellow Archangel, Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). The central ride is interesting in a local abundance of Wood Anemone.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

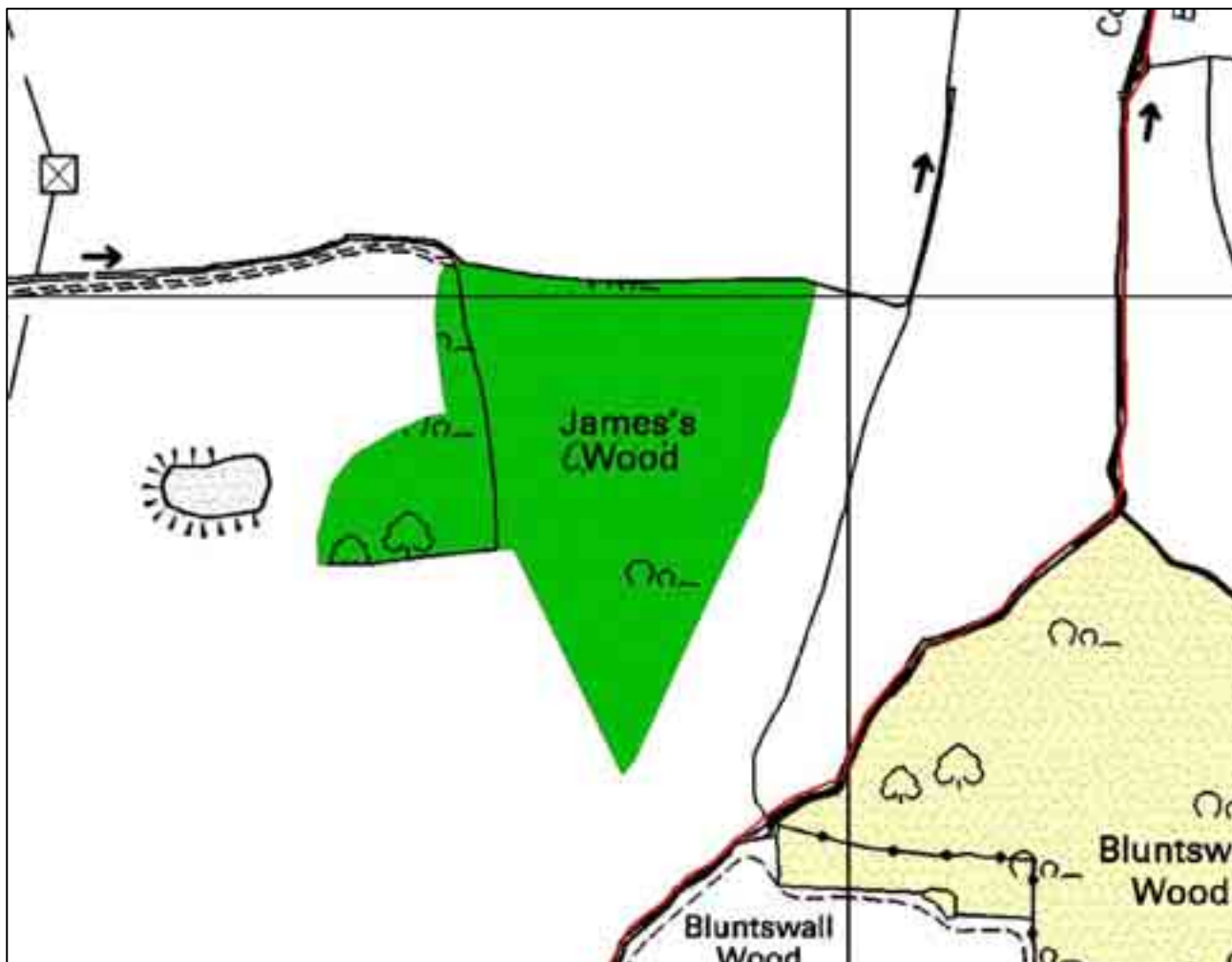
Rationale

The southern section of this site (called Clarks Wood in 1881) exhibits the characteristics of typical ancient woodland found in the Essex landscape. However, the structure of the northern section is characteristic of recent woodland. This is borne out by the 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1876-1881 which shows this section of the site without any woodland cover at that time. The species-rich eastern boundary of the northern part of the site is though likely to be a much older remnant feature of the landscape. The non-ancient woodland section greatly increases the area of the site and clearly provides a highly valuable additional habitat for wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre141 James's Wood (4.0 ha) TQ 648938

James's wood has a canopy composition comprising mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. However, the central area is dominated by Pedunculate Oak, whilst the north-east part of the wood has Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards over dense Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub. Other shrub species recorded include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is mainly abundant in the ground flora beneath the Hornbeam coppice, whilst bramble is frequent throughout the wood. Patches of Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) are also found in the ground flora.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

HC2 - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

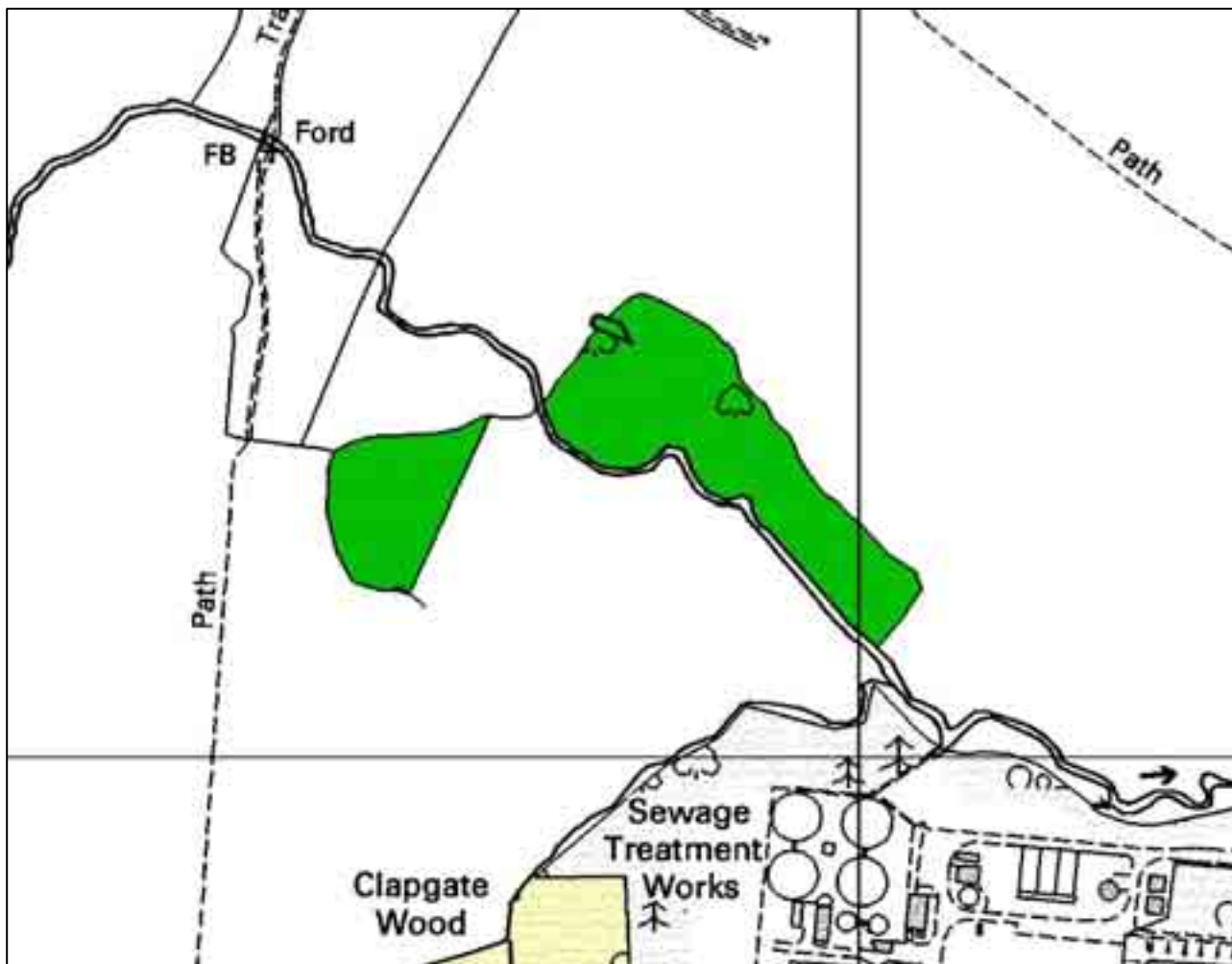
Rationale

The main body of James's Wood has a structure and composition that suggests an ancient status, whilst the western extension increases the overall extent of BAP habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre142 Mountnessing Hall Woods (2.2 ha) TQ 648961

In the northern section of this ancient wood, the upper slopes and the far eastern part of the wood are characterised by a canopy dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora, which also includes Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*). The lower slopes near the river have tall Ash and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice and a well developed shrub layer. Other species present typically found in ancient woodland include Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). In contrast, the woodland section to the south of the river only retains a Hornbeam coppice structure in the marginal areas of the wood. The central part of the wood is dominated by Ash coppice and Silver Birch. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are found in the shrub layer. Bluebells are still a frequent component to the ground flora, but where openings in the canopy allow high light penetration to ground level extensive patches of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) flourish.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

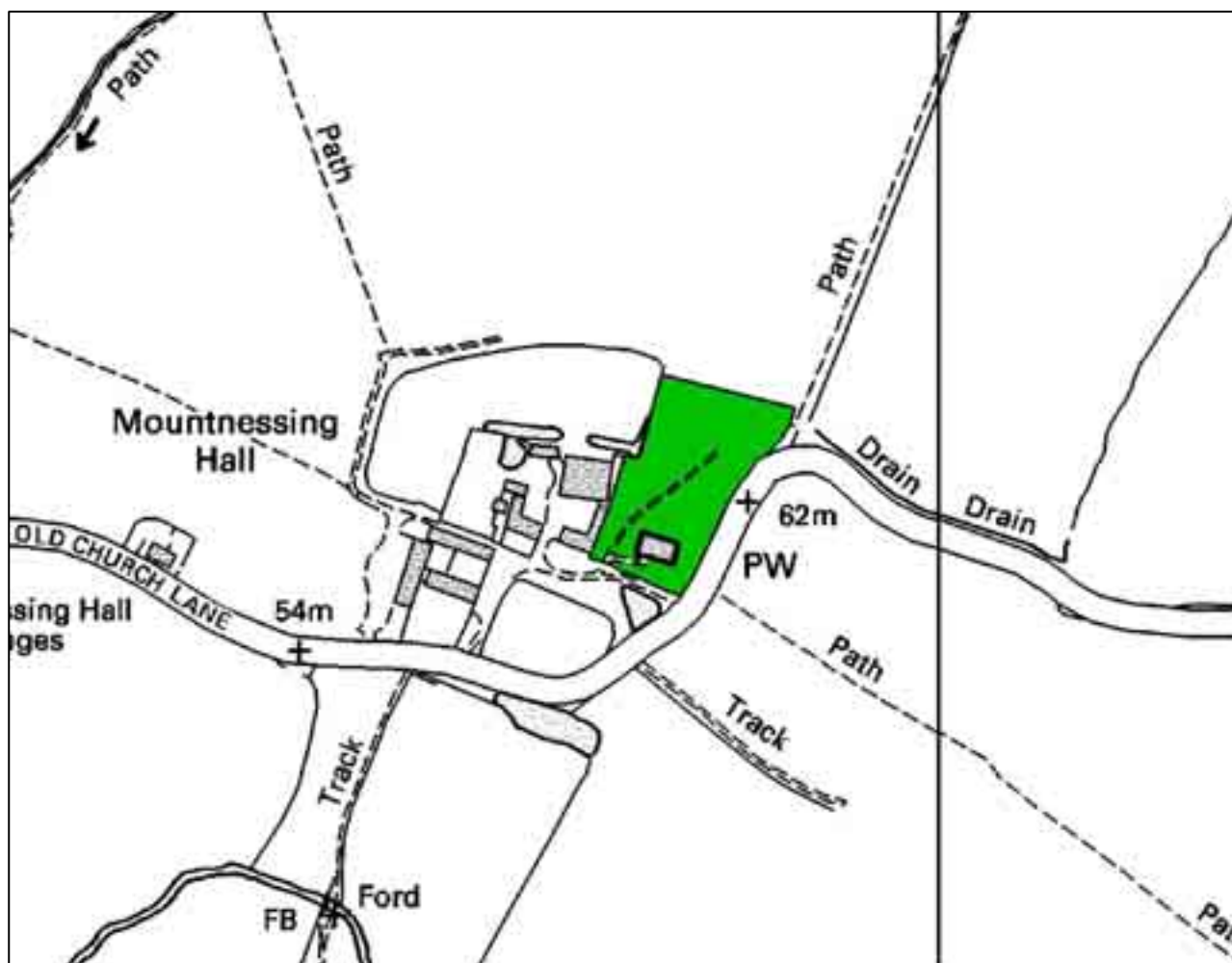
Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre143 St Giles Churchyard, Mountnessing (0.8 ha) TQ 648966

The sward of this churchyard has a diverse range of grass species, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). A wide variety of herbs has also been recorded, including Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifrage*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) grows in partial shade on the brickwork base of a chambered tomb. This latter plant species is an Essex Red Data List species that has seen a decline in its distribution throughout Essex.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

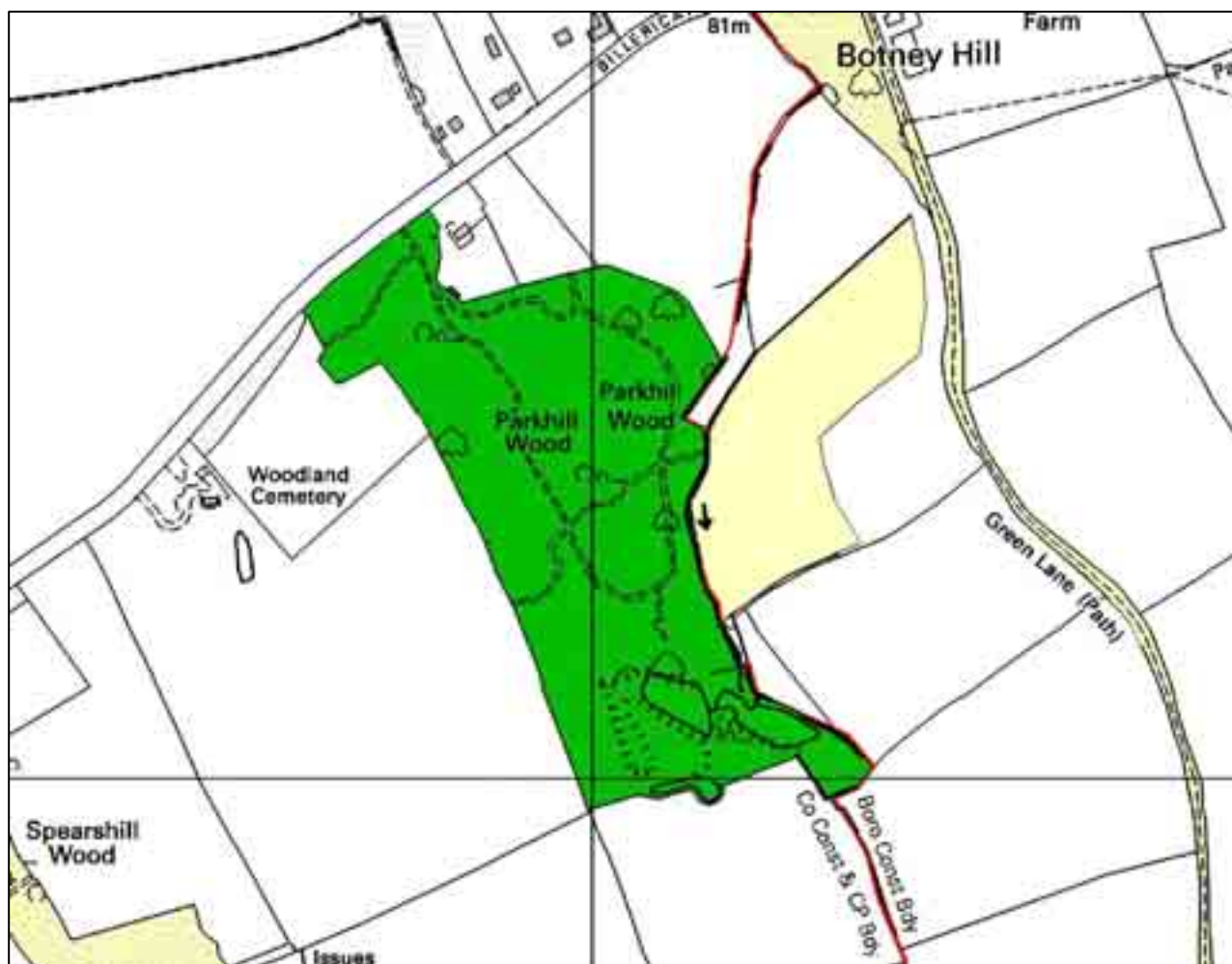
Rationale

The ancient creation of this churchyard has helped to preserve a small piece of old, unimproved grassland, which still retains a rich and interesting flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -



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Bre144 Parkhill Wood (9.4 ha) TQ 649912

The majority of this undulating woodland is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. In contrast, the far northern part of the wood has very tall Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) standards in the high canopy. Whilst only a scattered shrub canopy exists beneath the Hornbeam in the centre of the wood, the western slopes have a far more diverse structure with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) are commonly found on these slopes. In general, a very diverse assemblage of herbs is found throughout the wood including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), this last species being rare within the woodlands of the borough.

The southern part of the site, with its ponds and associated wet habitat, has well established stands of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) particularly around the pond margins. This part of the Site comprises recent woodland growth over old mineral extraction sites, but now forms a natural extension to the ancient woodland to the north.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

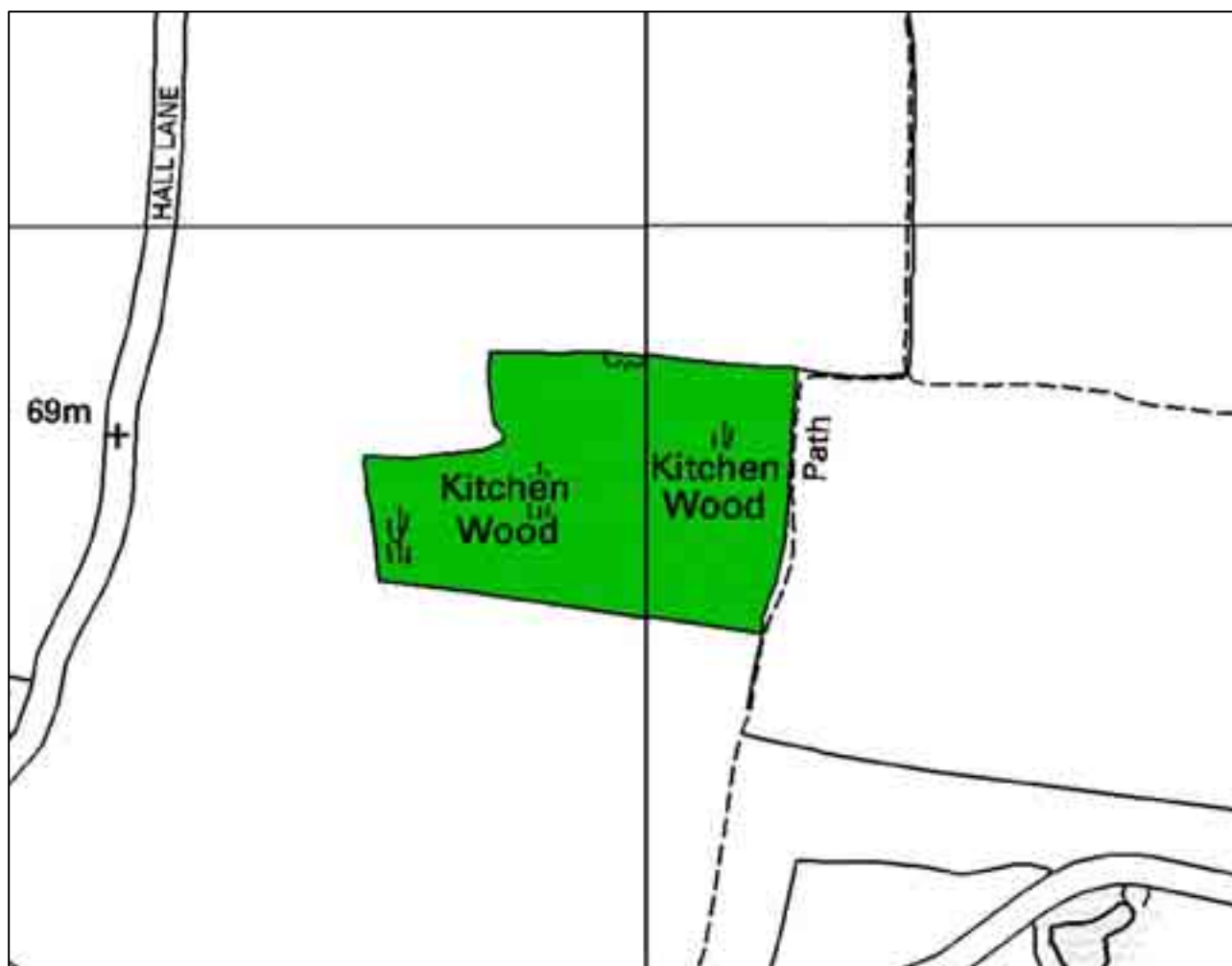
HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

Whilst the majority of the site is listed as Ancient woodland, with a structure and composition to match, the southern section with its ponds is likely the result of extraction workings with a recent woodland habitat now developed over this part of the site. However, the combination of the differing habitat types and the extremely rich flora it supports makes this a natural extension to the broadleaved woodland habitat of the main wood.

Review Schedule**Site Selected:** 1992**Reviewed:** October 2012 (addition)



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Bre145 Kitchen Wood (2.6 ha) TQ 649978

This small block of ancient woodland has a canopy mainly comprising Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Localised stands of Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) are present whilst Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice is found towards the west of the wood. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) forms dense patches throughout the site. Species of interest in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), this latter species being confined to the better illuminated margins of the woodland. A pond within the wood has various species associated with damper habitats such as Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*).

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that this is ancient woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre146 Harespring Wood (2.6 ha) TQ 654971

Harespring Wood comprises dry and wet woodland habitat. The northern half of the wood has a varied canopy structure, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) as the high canopy tree whilst Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) form a sub-canopy beneath. The oldest Hornbeam coppice is generally confined to the wood margins. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) are found in the shrub layer of the wood. Ancient woodland indicator species found in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

In contrast, the south western part of the wood, which is recent in origin, lacks the coppice structure, and instead is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and some scattered Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) forms a dense shrub layer throughout this part of the site. The south-eastern area of the wood has a varied mix of tree and shrub species that surround a seasonally very wet habitat where Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) is frequent and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) dominates the ground flora.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Site

HC29 – Habitat Extension Mosaics

Rationale

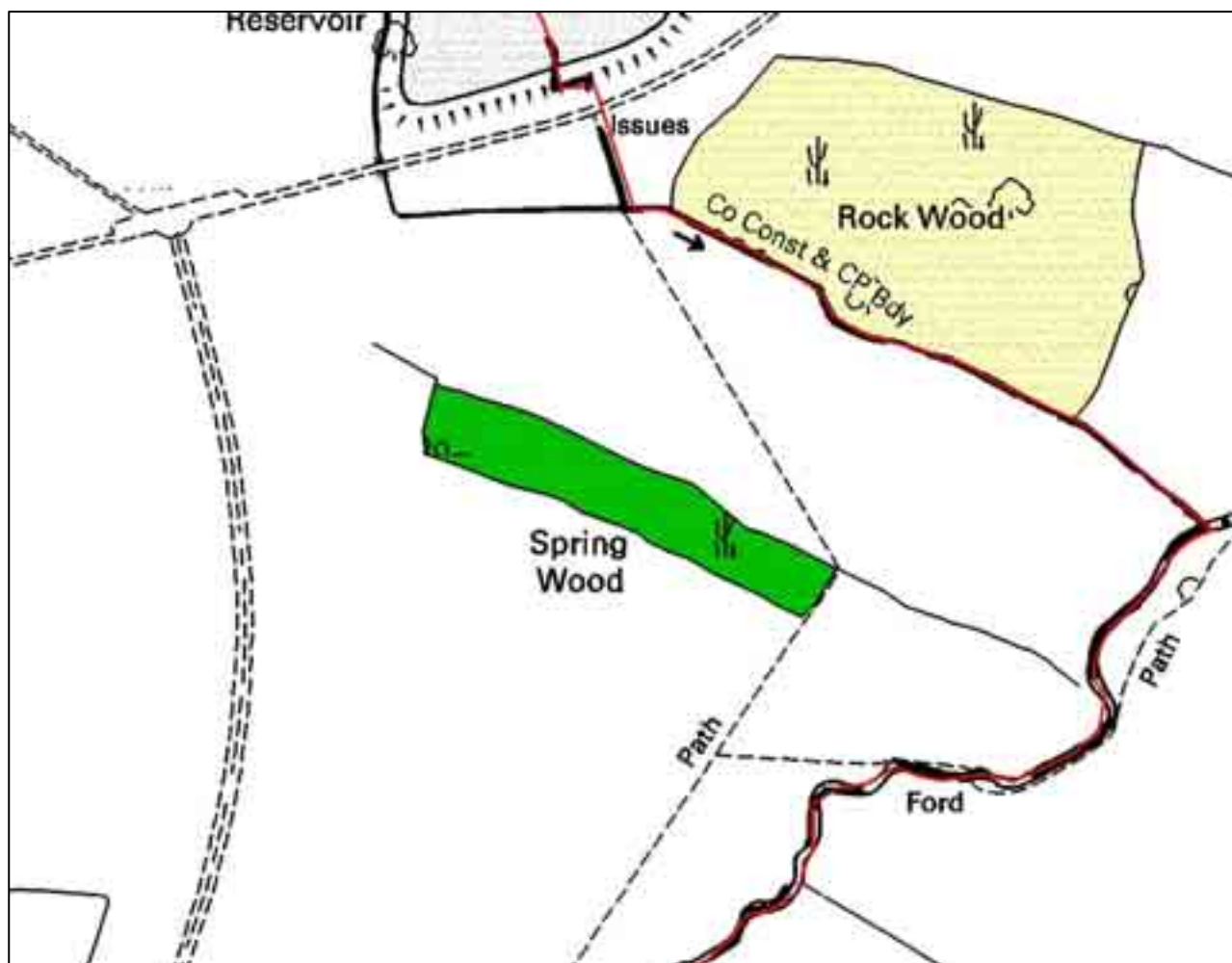
The northern half of this site appears on the 1882 Ordnance Survey 6" map and is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, with a flora that supports this status. The southern half was not woodland in

1882, and whilst not ancient, nevertheless provides additional diverse habitat to the site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: October 2012



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Bre147 Spring Wood (1.1 ha) TQ 665996

This woodland has two contrasting stand types. The western part has Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and standards with a scattered shrub layer of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Two other shrub species of interest present are Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant beneath this coppiced structure and other ancient woodland indicator species found include Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Three-nerved Sandwort and (*Moehringia trinervia*). In contrast, the eastern part of the wood has been intermittently planted with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Grey Poplar (*Populus x canescens*). Bluebell is still found in the ground flora beneath, but in far fewer numbers, but Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) dominates many patches. Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) is also frequent in this part of the woodland.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 - Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Although this site is not listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, the structure and composition of the western part of the site has characteristics typical of ancient woodland. The eastern section has clearly been subject to secondary planting on an ancient site, and is recovering from this disturbance.

Review Schedule

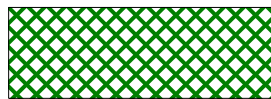
Site Selected: October 2012

Reviewed: -

APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF POTENTIAL WILDLIFE SITES

KEY



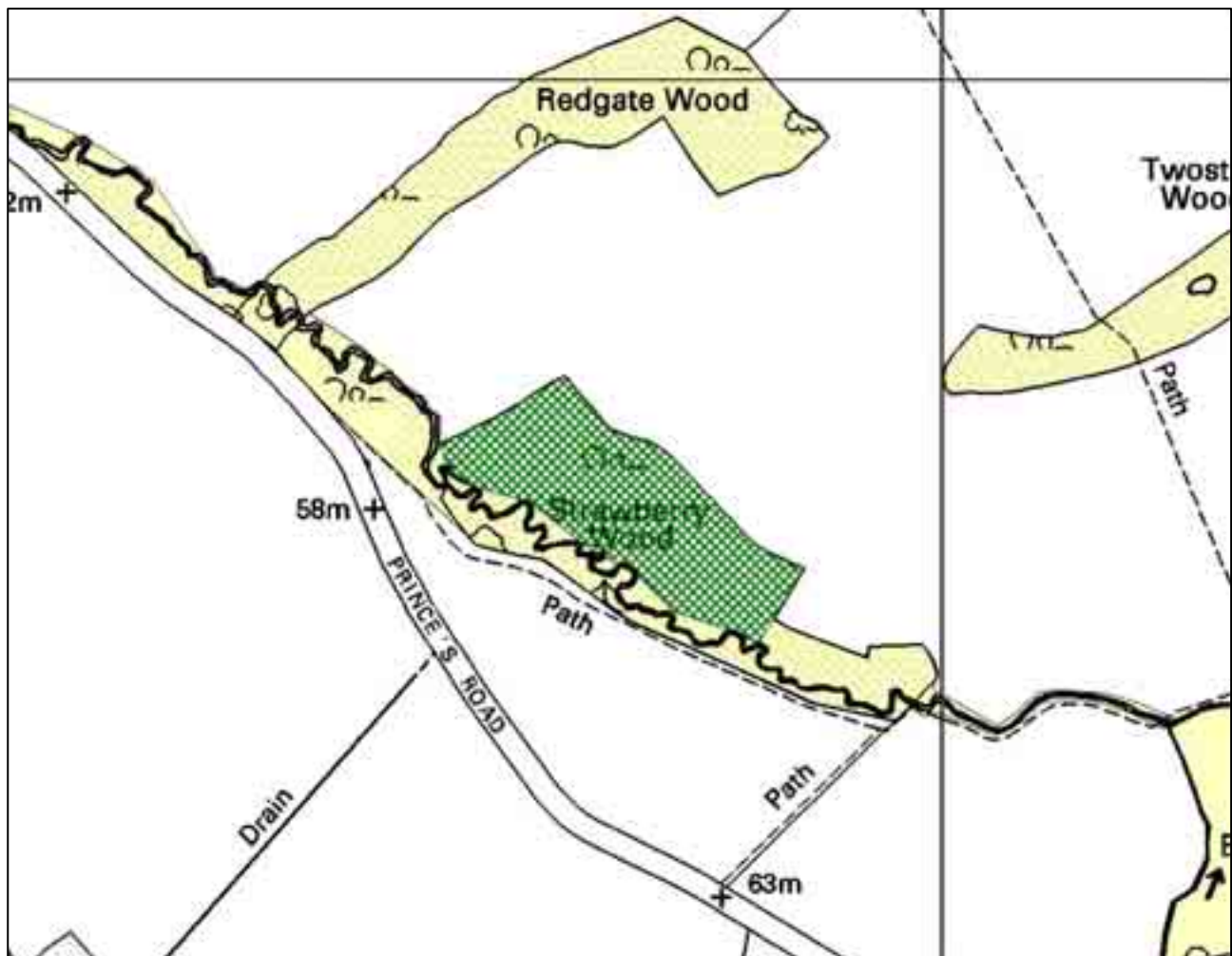
Potential LoWS



Adjacent LoWS



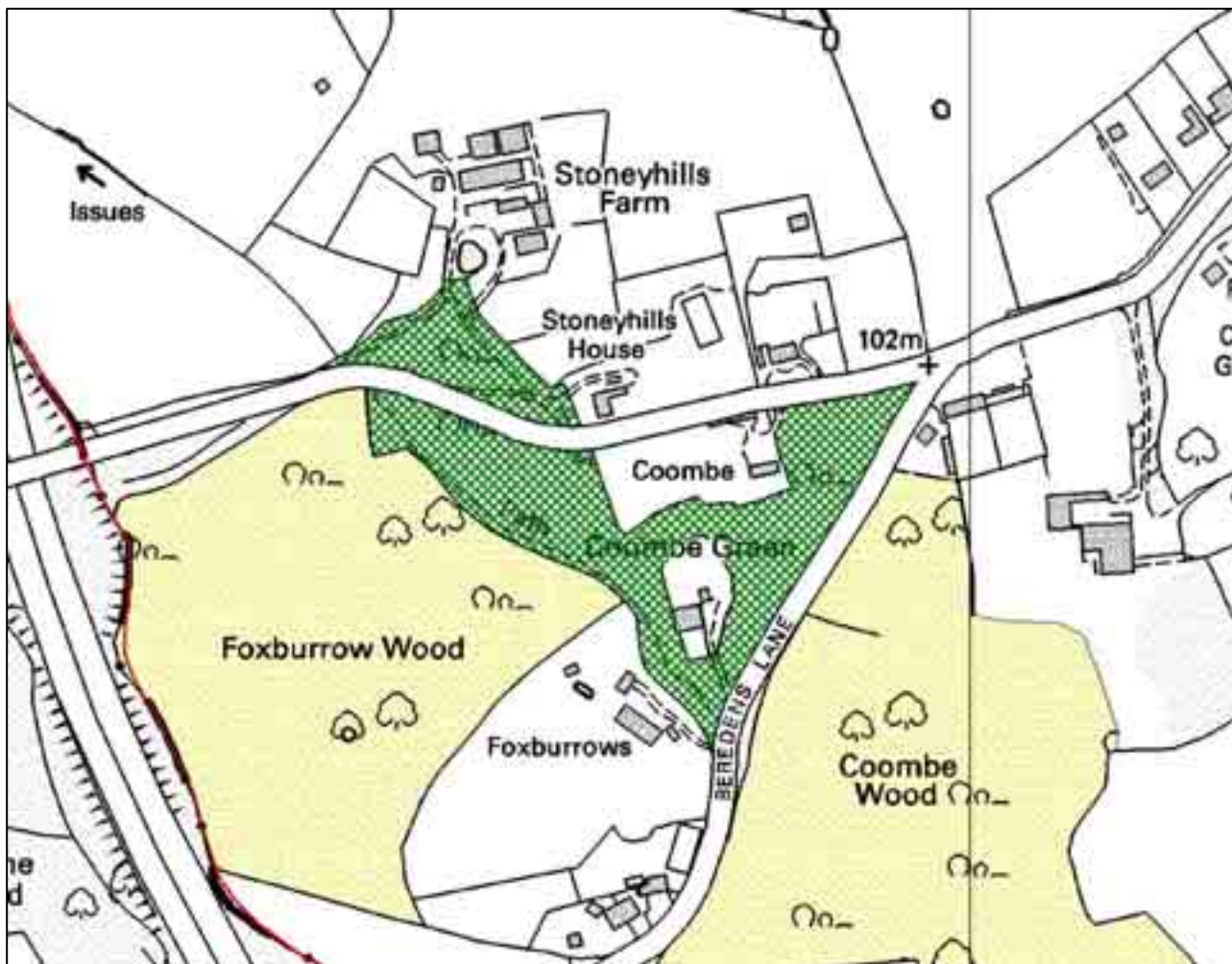
SSSIs



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BrePLoWS1 Strawberry Wood (1.6 ha) TQ 548977

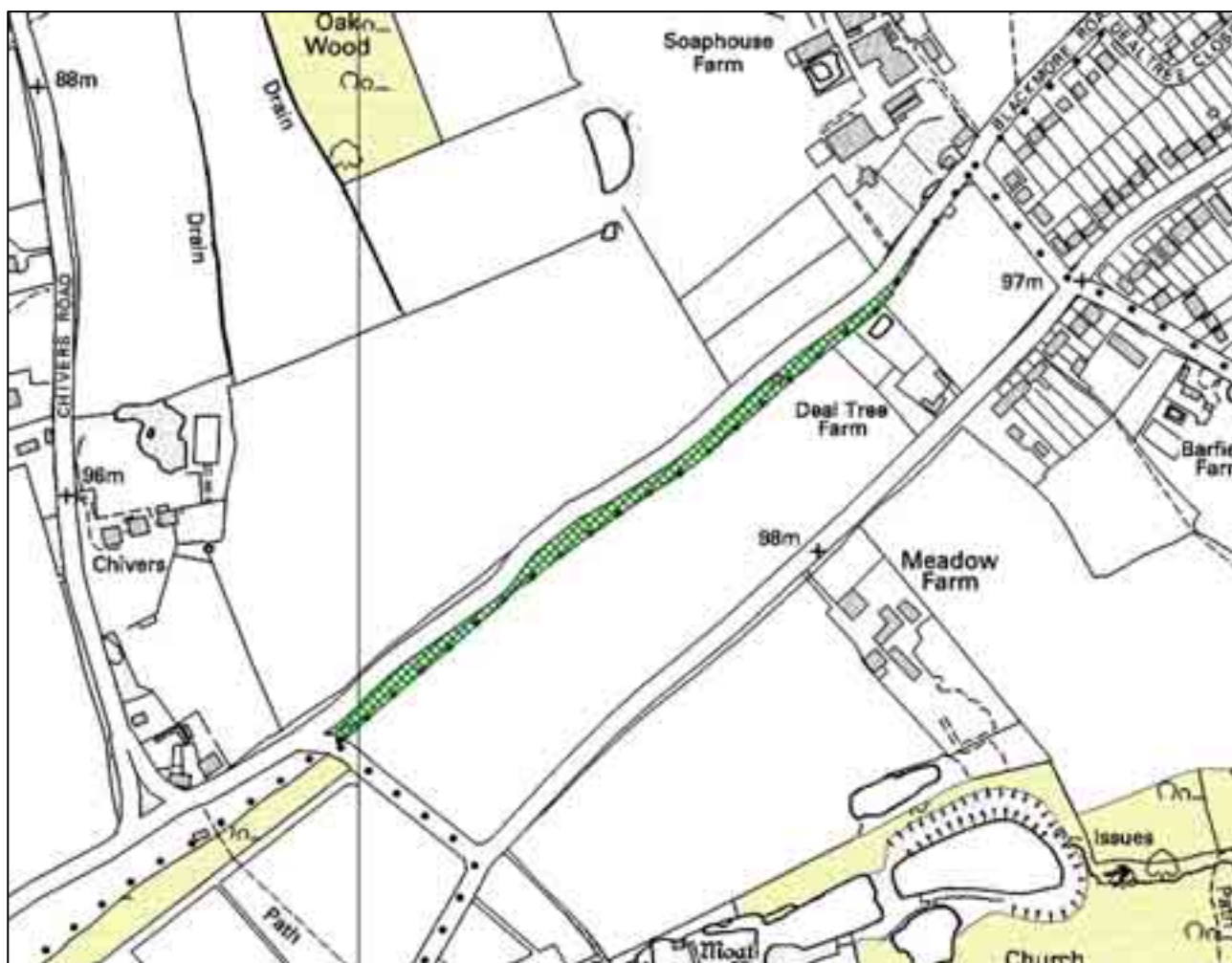
This may well be an old, possibly ancient, piece of woodland. However, it has been almost totally coniferised, removing the semi-natural canopy, understorey and ground flora to the extent that it is now a poor ecological unit. However, it lies within an important cluster of old woodland sites and restoration of a semi-natural broadleaved canopy could see relatively quick improvements in its wildlife value, provided that the woodland soil profile is adequately protected, and could easily see it promoted to the full LoWS register.



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BrePLOWs2 Beredon's Common (Coombe Green) (3.5 ha) TQ 576903

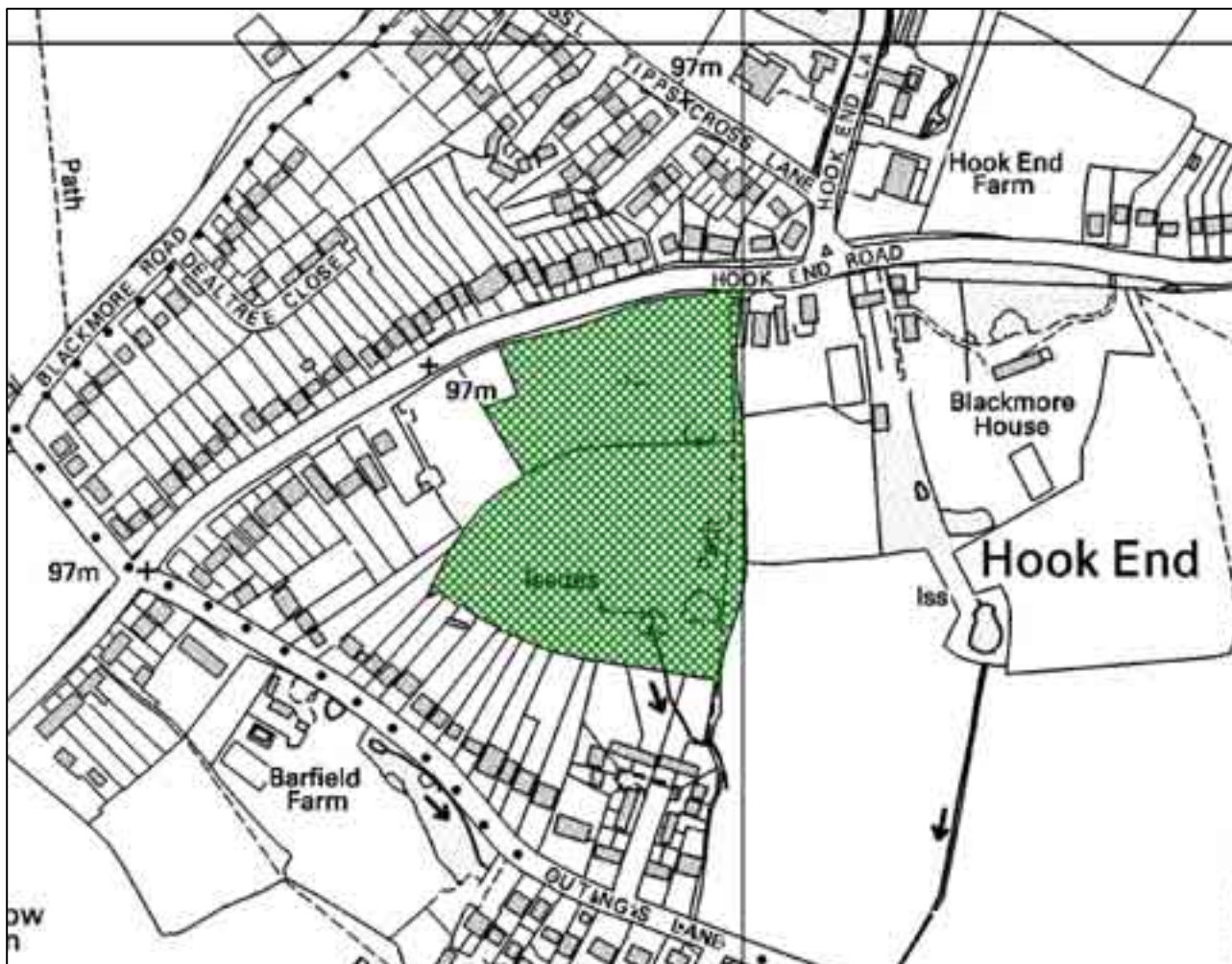
At first sight this wood of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), birch (*Betula* spp.) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) might appear to comprise a developing ecological link between Foxburrow Wood and Coombe Wood LoWS. However, the origin of this site lies in open, rough grassland as an ancient village green. The land is still a Registered Common (CL 103) and Ordnance Survey maps of 1881 show it to be open, rough ground which, knowing the sandy nature of the underlying soils, might have been heathy in nature. Given the scarcity of old heathland in Essex, it is suggested that the value of this site lies in recreating open, heathy vegetation, perhaps with scattered trees, rather than promoting it as a woodland link between the two adjacent LoWS.



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BrePLOWs3 School Road Wood East (1.7 ha) TQ 582994

This Site comprises a strip of old woodland running along the southern side of a former country lane, now blocked off to prevent access by traffic. It follows the parish boundary and is, to some extent, a continuation of the Reading Springs LoWS to the west, although it is less clearly ancient in origin. It is suggested that this site has great potential as a woodland access site for less able persons, including wheelchair users, using the still present tarmac path of the old road as a means of passing along the woodland strip. This could allow good opportunities for this section of the public to experience and enjoy woodland ecology in a safe and easily accessible environment. In order to fulfil this potential, some work on clearing the tarmac track would be needed, along with improved parking arrangements at either end.

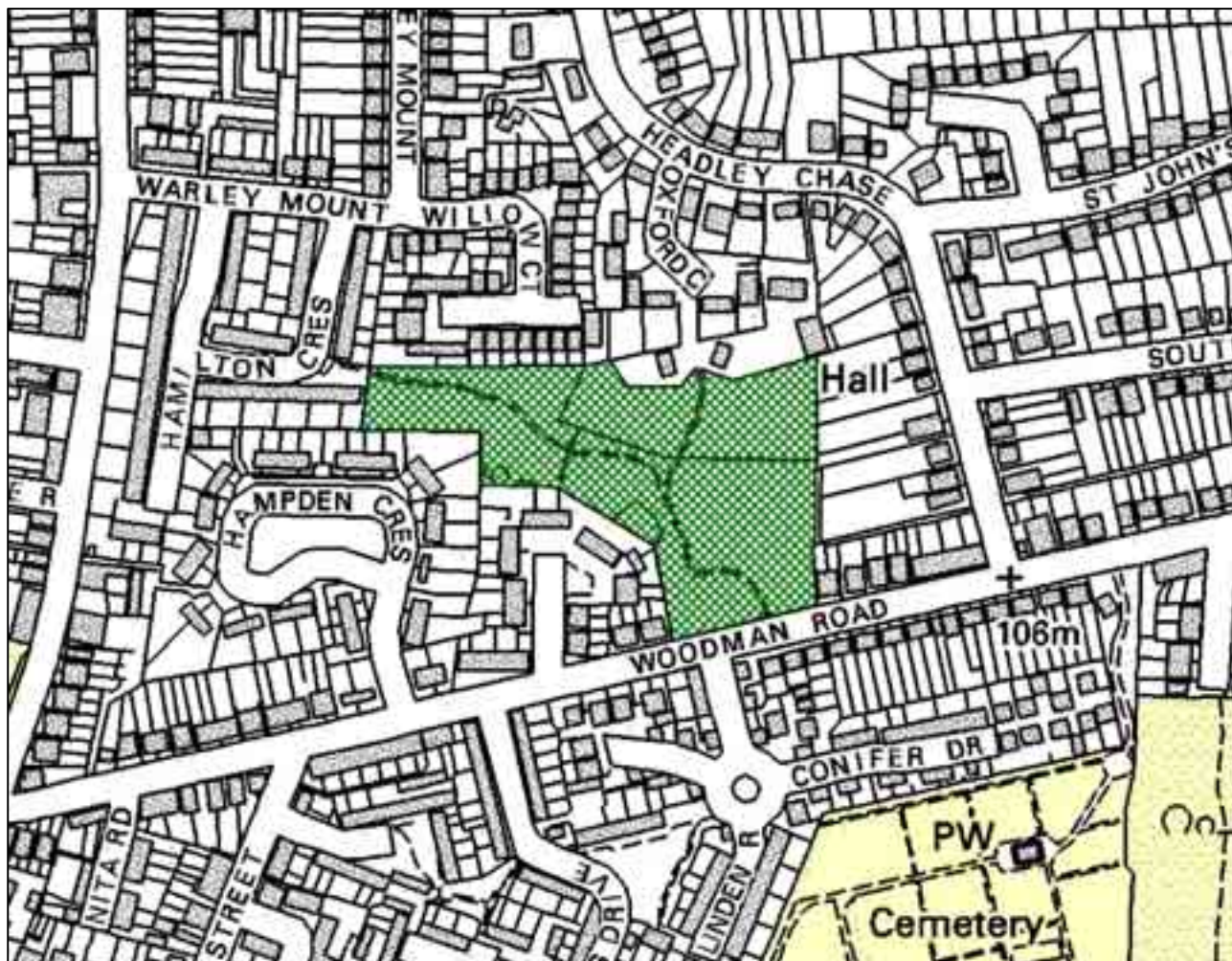


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BrePLoWS4 Hook End (4.0 ha) TQ 588997

These two fields comprise a mosaic of dry, acid grassland, taller rough vegetation on more neutral soils, Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub and some wet woodland associated with a small spring feature in the southern section. This site might represent old grassland habitat, although it is seemingly lacking in plants indicative of such conditions. However, further research into the site's history may reveal evidence of this. The habitats look ideal for reptiles and good populations of these BAP species could be sufficient to promote the site to full LoWS status. The invertebrate populations may well also repay closer inspection.

The Site is in a location that would make it attractive to housing developers and these outstanding ecological queries should be addressed in any associated ecological appraisal of the Site.



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BrePLoWS5 Hampden Wood (1.9 ha) TQ 595925

This small wood, being promoted as an urban nature reserve by Brentwood Council, is undoubtedly of some nature conservation value in the local context, but it is felt that its qualities do not merit the level of county importance, which is implied by full LoWS status.

The canopy comprises rather badly storm-damaged Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), with some London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) and planted but maturing Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), whilst Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) occur in the understorey. Bamboo plants in the ground vegetation further enhance the idea that this is a heavily landscaped wood. Reference to old Ordnance Survey maps suggests that this is a remnant of ornamental woodland associated with a large property called Hampton House, which stood where the houses of Hamilton Crescent now stand. Management to increase the quantity of native tree and shrub species, with the removal of invasive exotics such as Rhododendron, Laurel and Bamboo would increase the ecological value of the site, although it is appreciated that this may be resisted by local residents who use the wood and value its more ornamental qualities.



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BrePLoWS6 Shenfield Common (12.1 ha) TQ 601933

The common (actually no longer a piece of registered Common Land) is clearly popular as a place for local informal recreation, experiencing woodland wildlife and popular activities such as feeding the ducks on the large pond. However, there are several other woods nearby (e.g. Thorndon Country Park) that better fulfil the role of accessible natural woodland greenspace and so this criterion has not been applied to Shenfield Common.

The true potential value of Shenfield Common lies in its origin as a large tract of rough, open and probably heathy grassland. As recently as 1920, the common was largely open, with a scattering of trees at the southern end but since then it has tumbled down to species-poor oak woodland. In places within the ground flora, traces of the acid grassland vegetation can still be seen. Public opinion would probably resist the complete clearance of this recent woodland cover to restore heathland. However, this is an Essex and England BAP habitat and the restoration of a more open canopy, to create a parkland habitat under which acid grassland and heathland can flourish once more ought to be achievable.

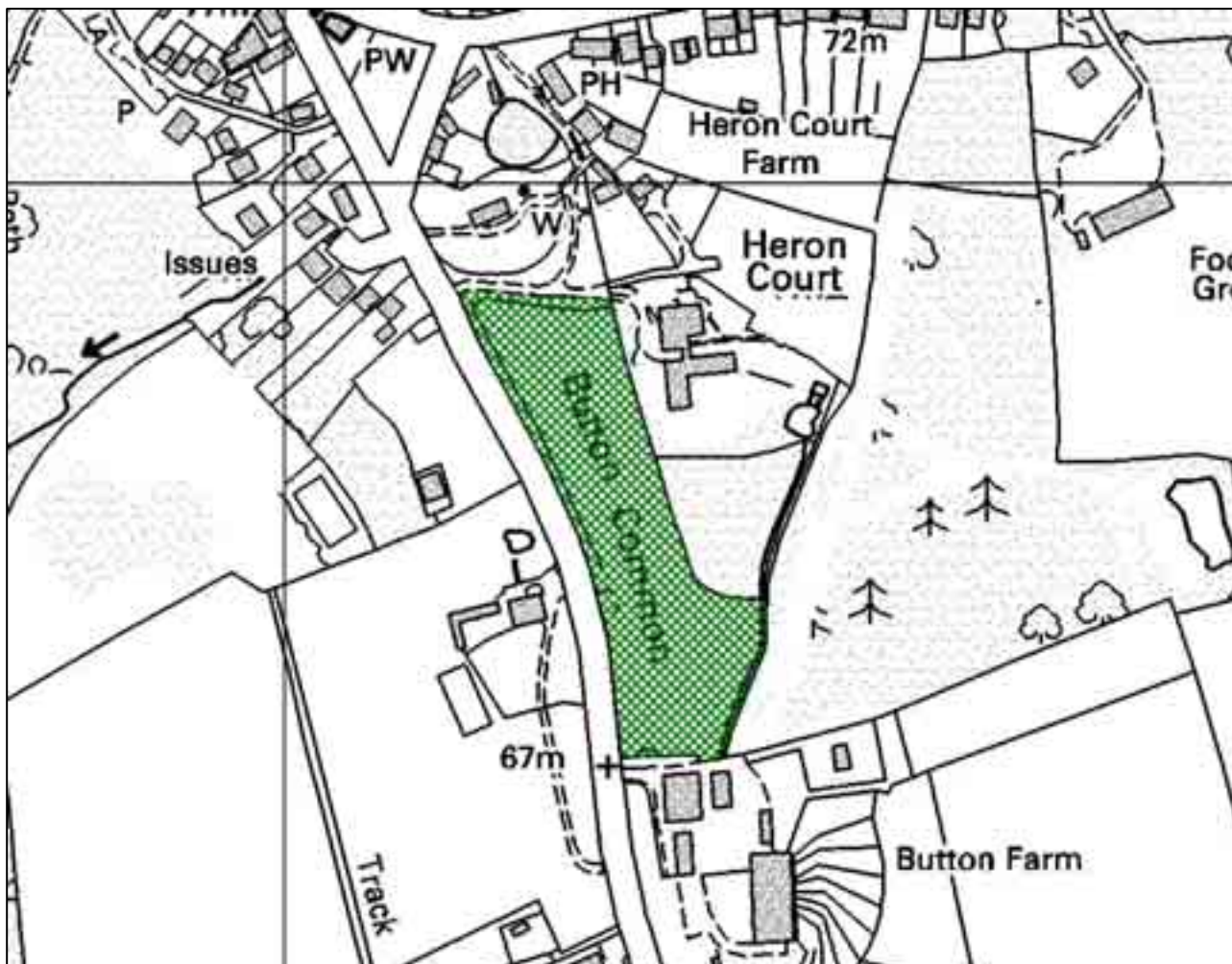


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BrePLoWS7 Brentwood Community Hospital Wood (5.4 ha) TQ 604939

The majority of this wood has its origins as recent woodland and plantation associated with the parkland estate of Middleton Hall, now a school lying to the west of the wood. By the 1950s, housing was starting to encroach on the previously open countryside and the first signs of woodland growth are apparent (from old Ordnance Survey maps). The ornamental origins of the wood probably account for the abundance of Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) in the understorey, whilst the canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Other ornamental introductions include Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Spotted Laurel (*Aucuba japonica*).

The status of this wood is similar to Hampden Wood (BrePLoWS5) – it is a useful and no doubt locally valued pocket of urban woodland but is not of a sufficient standard to currently merit full LoWS status. If its use as an educational or recreational resource is enhanced, along with improvements to the composition (shifting the balance away from exotics such as Laurel) then this site might qualify for full LoWS status under the accessible natural greenspace criterion.



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BrePLoWS8 Button Common (1.8 ha) TQ 631908

This Site forms part of a Registered Common (CL 82) and effectively comprises part of the ancient village green complex for Herongate. Such pieces of land were typically spared agricultural improvement during their communal use but in recent decades nutrient enrichment has brought about a change in the floral composition of this Site. This may be associated with hay cropping, although it appears the site is still occasionally used for public events, echoing its traditional use.

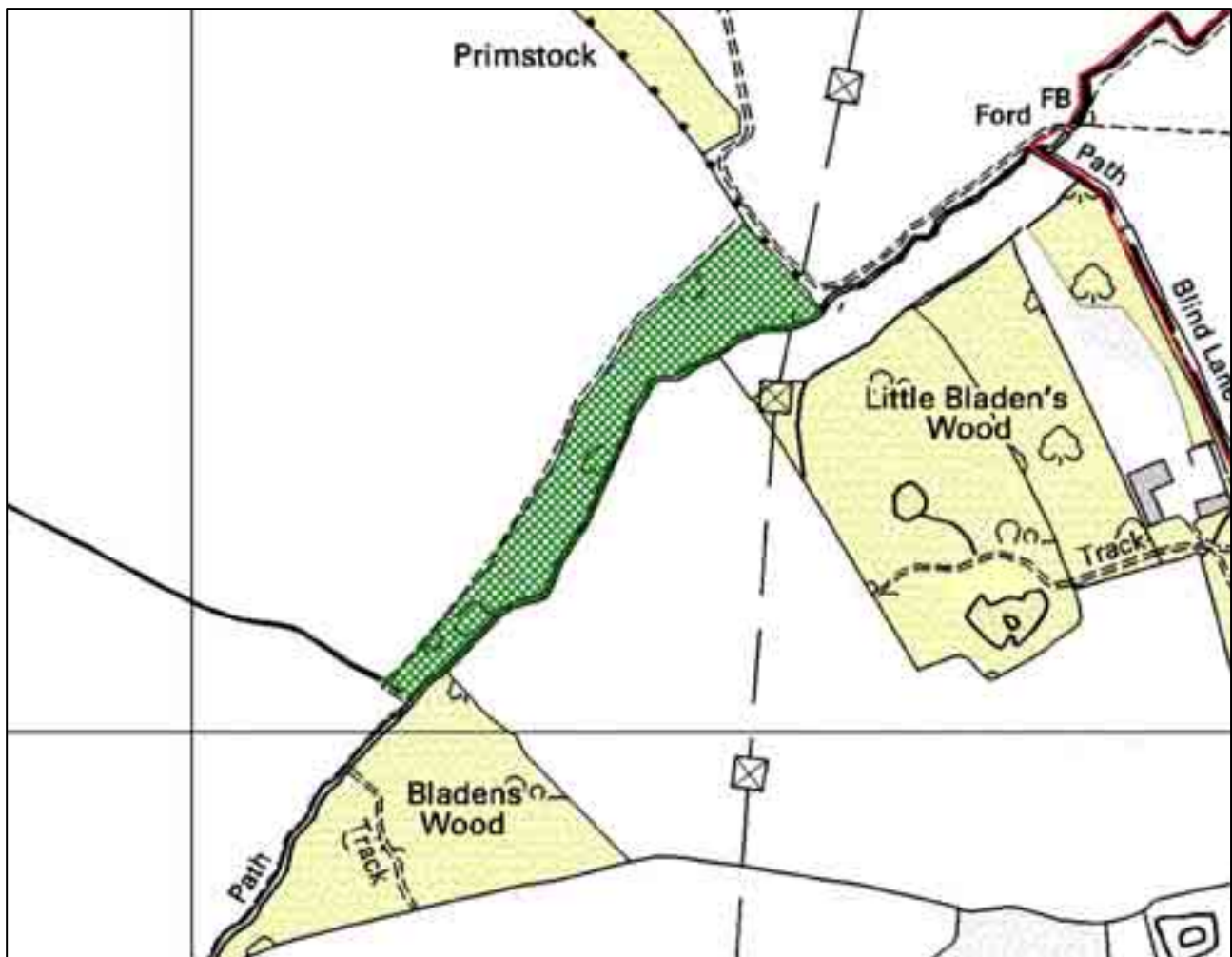
Realising the potential of this ancient grassland site may depend on the viability of the residual seed bank in allowing the recreation of species-rich grassland and also control over management practices to promote a flower-rich sward once more.



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BrePLOWs9 Hutton Hall Meadow (4.1 ha) TQ 635945

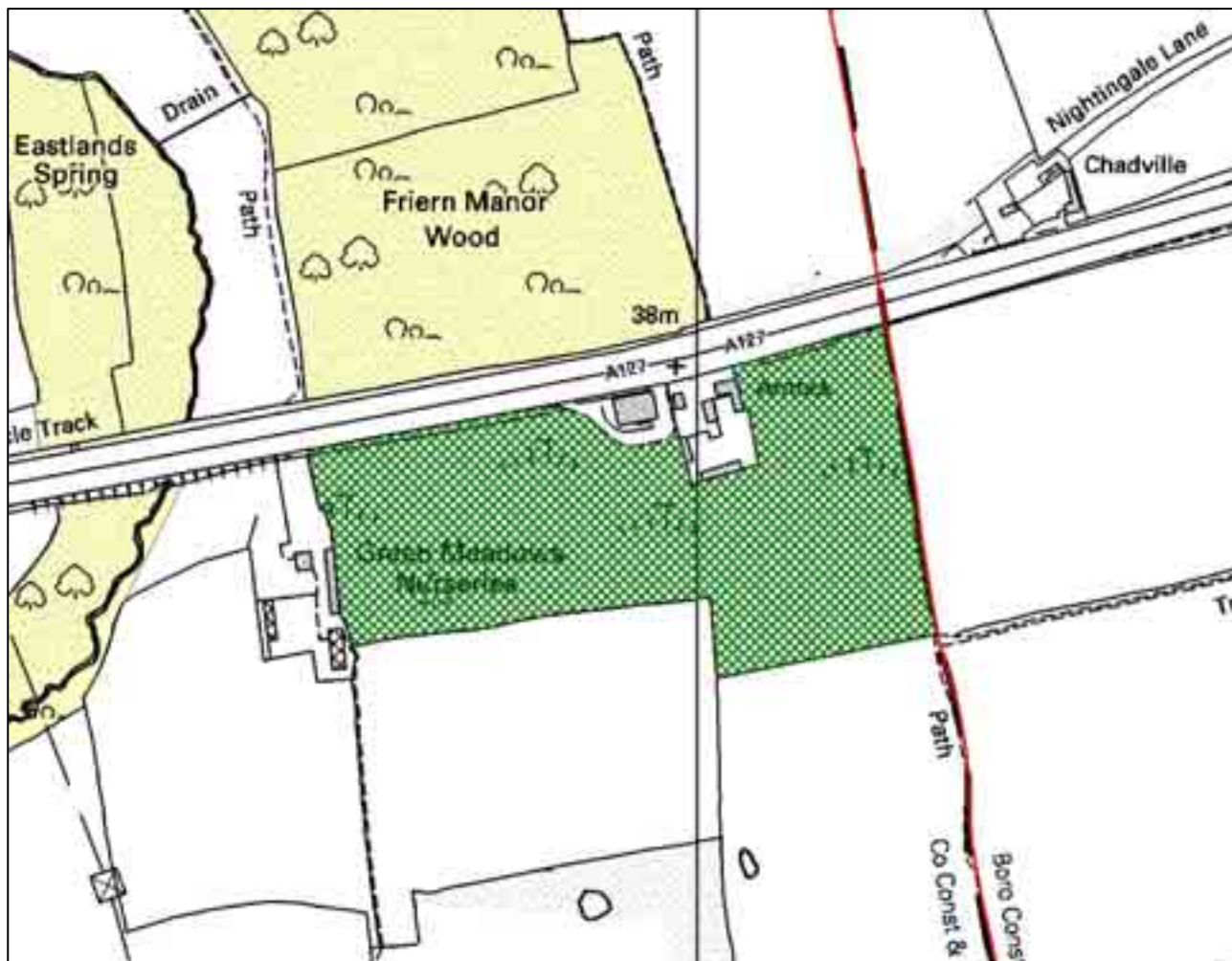
This is thought to be a piece of old grassland, once used as a venue for village social events and a former Rabbit warren associated with the adjacent Hutton Hall. However, it now lies unmanaged, with a rough grassland sward and an ever-increasing amount of scrub growth. In order to get this grassland back into good condition, management needs to address soil nutrient enrichment, the need to cut or sympathetically graze the site and the control of scrub. However, the presence of reptiles and important invertebrate populations may also be an issue, which should be subjected to appropriate survey work prior to establishing a new management regime.



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BrePLOWs10 New Bladen's Wood (1.3 ha) TQ 642931

The 1839 parish tithe map for Ingrave shows this strip to be wooded, raising the possibility that this woodland site is a lot older than it currently appears. Today, the canopy comprises relatively young planted broadleaved standards, with no trees of any great age present. Regardless of its past history, as the current woodland canopy matures, along with diversification of the understorey/scrub layer, this Site should develop into a useful link between Bladen's Wood, Primstock and Little Bladen's Wood, all of which are thought to be ancient.



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BrePLoWS11 Green Meadows (7.0 ha) TQ 649895

This rough grassland site appears to have lain fallow for well over 20 years and is now succumbing to scrub invasion. Sites such as this can develop significant reptile and invertebrate populations and appropriate survey work would be desirable to help quantify this potential interest.

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF LoWS MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Site	Desirable Management	Management issues
Bre1 Passingford Carr	Non-intervention	Retention of high water table
Bre2 Hook Wood	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre3 Broom/Aspen Woods	Resumption of coppicing. Replacement of coniferous canopy with semi-natural broadleaved canopy. Eradication of Sycamore	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Sycamore difficult to control once established
Bre4 Navestock Heath	Ideally, some sort of grazing pressure, but more realistically, a mowing regime needs to be developed to maintain species diversity and lower soil nutrient status	Grazing is likely to be impractical given close proximity to roads. Mowing needs to remove all cut material to help prevent nutrient enrichment, which has cost implications.
Bre5 Heronland Shaw	Non-intervention other than control of Sycamore	Sycamore difficult to eradicate once established within a woodland
Bre6 Church Wood, Navestock	Replacement of invasive Sycamore with semi-natural broadleaved canopy	Sycamore difficult to eradicate once established within a woodland
Bre7 Red Wood/Hollingford Spring	Maintain recent coppicing; control spread of Sycamore	Damage from browsing deer
Bre8 Prince's Road Wood	Non-intervention, other than health and safety work resultant from roadside location and management of eastern end hedgerow. Replace conifers spilling over from Strawberry Wood with semi-natural broadleaved species. Maintain thick hedge structure with periodic coppicing	Health and safety issues associated with managing trees along a fast, winding road.
Bre9 Redgate Wood	Resumption of coppicing and control of Sycamore to prevent spread through cut areas	Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce? Eradication of Sycamore is difficult once established
Bre10 Weald Brook Wood	Prevent spread of invasive, non-native species. Maintain high forest structure	Sycamore is difficult to control once established within a wood
Bre11 Fortification Wood	Replacement of invasive Sycamore with semi-natural broadleaved canopy; manage as high forest	Sycamore difficult to eradicate once established within a woodland

Bre12 Ireland Grove	Resumption of coppicing. Eradicate early Sycamore invasion	Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre13 Park Wood, Kelvedon Hatch	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre14 Gipsy Bottom	Replacement of conifers within canopy with native, broadleaved trees. Maintain this restocked area as high forest. Maintain northern ride as a wide, open feature within woodland block	Natural succession will tend to close up the wide, open ride
Bre15 Strawberry Spring/Twostile Wood	Maintain as high forest. Small stand of conifers is not significant and adds to small-scale habitat diversity on non-ancient site.	
Bre16 Boishall Woods	Remove mature Beech and, where necessary, underplant with native broadleaved species. Manage site as coppice or high forest	Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre17 Payne's Shaw	Resumption of coppicing. Periodic coppicing of hedge may be desirable to maintain dense growth structure and connectivity with adjacent woods	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? High groundwater table needed to maintain wet woodland habitat.
Bre18 Gilstead Wood	Remove Sycamore. Manage as high forest	Sycamore difficult to control once established
Bre19 Cook's Wood	Replacement of conifers and Sycamore with native broadleaved trees; resume coppicing where appropriate, otherwise manage as high forest	Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce? Sycamore seedling growth is likely to be encouraged in felled conifer stands
Bre20 Oakhurst Farm	Maintain current grazing regime. Manage woodland as high forest, with removal of invasive, non-native species	Prevention of long-term nutrient enrichment of grassland soils
Bre21 Navestock Marsh	Periodic coppicing of hedgerows and willow scrub.	Shading and invasion by scrub may have negative impact on marshland flora. Maintenance of ground water supply is essential to conserve the character of the site.

Bre22 Locksmith Wood	Harvest mature Beech and, where necessary, restock with native broadleaved trees. Control spread of Sycamore, particularly where felling creates openings in the canopy.	Sycamore is difficult to control once established and may proliferate in felled areas.
Bre23 Cartshed/Highash Woods	Coppicing within Cartshed Wood would create a more complex gaming environment and should benefit the ground flora. Elsewhere. Maintain as high forest. Promote woodland ecology learning within adventure gaming environment.	Extreme trampling pressure is affecting Cartshed Wood.
Bre24 Hallsford Bridge Meadow	Non-intervention	Material from landfill may pose a threat to site users if it comes to the surface.
Bre25 The Mores	Re-start coppice where formerly practised. Control Sycamore invasion from the western end and manage the remainder as high forest.	Sycamore invasion is hard to control, once established. Damage from browsing deer; lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre26 Merlincock Wood	Resumption of coppicing. Control of Sycamore invasion.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Sycamore difficult to control once established in a wood. Protection of groundwater supply needed to maintain springline wet woodland.
Bre27 Merlincock Mosaic	Grazing	Grassland is becoming consumed by a blanket of Bramble and Bracken. Difficult site to get machinery onto in order to cut vegetation.
Bre28 Ongar Road Wood	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Difficult and potentially dangerous site to manage, being adjacent to busy road.
Bre29 Alder Shaw	Resumption of coppicing; prevent further spread of Sycamore	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Site may be drying out due to changes in groundwater regime.
Bre30 Menageria Wood	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre31 Round Spring	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre32 The Oaks	Manage as high forest. Reduce deer herd significantly.	Large number of deer virtually trapped on site by roads and fencing
Bre33 St Paul's Churchyard, Bentley Common	Occasional mowing, with cuttings removed. Reduce mowing intensity of area to north of church with no graves, at least during summer months	Conflict between tidiness and leaving long grass, especially close to tended graves. Removal of cuttings is labour intensive in such a site.
Bre34 Brizes Wood	Resumption of coppicing in Hornbeam areas, with high forest within oak-birch wood. Eradicate Rhododendron.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Groundwater levels need protecting to maintain wet woodland habitat.
Bre35 Round Wood	Maintain wood as high forest. Maintain hedgerow connectivity with adjacent LoWS.	Ash die-back disease would be significant in this wood.
Bre36 Clapgate Stream Wood	Non-intervention.	
Bre37 Priors Wood	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre38 Church Wood, Stondon Massey	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre39 Lower Vicarage Wood	Resumption of coppicing. Reduce deer herd significantly	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre40 Courtfield Wood	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Current recreational use is not having a significant impact
Bre41 Vicarage Wood	Resumption of coppicing. Reduce size of deer herd significantly	Damage from browsing and trampling deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre42 Weald Country Park	Encourage shift towards broadleaved woodland by thinning and removal of the majority of conifers, although small or sparse stands can contribute to the diversity of woodland birds present. Some coppicing would add to habitat diversity. Maintain grazing in old parkland. Prevent young scrub growth spreading over old grassland.	Large deer herd would have an impact on young coppice growth. Control of deer would need a sensitive public relations exercise, being a popular feature within the Park.
Bre43 Poles Wood	Resume coppicing. Limit motorcycle access to strict paths within the wood, to allow recovery of ground flora.	Control over recreational use will be difficult.
Bre44 St Peter and St Paul Churchyard, Stondon Massey	Grassland mowing needs to be less frequent on the south side of the church, where acid grassland flora is being suppressed by lawn maintenance.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.
Bre45 Doddinghurst Common	Maintain as high forest.	Discourage access by motor vehicles.
Bre46 Jackson's Wood/Tyler's Shaw	Resumption of coppicing. Remove conifers and control Sycamore.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Control of Sycamore is difficult once established in a wood.
Bre47 Alders Wood	Non-intervention. Prevention further incursion by golf course	Water supply needs to be maintained in order to conserve wet woodland habitat.
Bre48 Foxburrow Wood	Re-establish canopy structure and treat as high forest.	Bracken dominance will be suppressing other ground flora.
Bre49 Reading Springs	Resumption of coppicing	Damage from browsing deer or adjacent livestock gaining access to wood. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre50 Coombe Wood	Attempt eradication of Rhododendron and Sycamore. Manage as high forest.	Eradication of established invasive exotic species is labour-intensive and difficult to fully achieve.
Bre51 Ashwell Wood	Resume coppicing.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre52 Oak Wood	Continue recent coppicing management	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre53 Pickett's Wood	Continue recent coppicing management	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre54 Parker's Shaw	Manage as high forest.	
Bre55 Warley Place	Maintain historic garden environment and landscape.	
Bre56 Batchelor's Walk Woods	Resume coppicing with protection from deer damage. Control Sycamore invasion in southern section.	Eradication of Sycamore will be difficult in a well-established stand.
Bre57 Furze Wood	Manage as high forest.	
Bre58 High Wood	Resume recent coppice management.	Prevent Sycamore invasion. Trampling of recently cut coppice coupes may be damaging.
Bre59 Codham Hall Woods	Reinstate coppicing. Control Sycamore.	Eradication of Sycamore is difficult once established.
Bre60 Warley Country Park	Maintain balance of scrub blocks within rough grassland, preventing excessive spread of scrub.	
Bre61 Clement's Wood	Limit extent of Sycamore and Laurel within high forest structure.	Complete eradication of exotic invasive species may not be possible.
Bre62 St Faith's/Honeypot Lane Meadows	Maintain and, if possible, extend network of thick hedgerows. Manage grasslands to maximise diversity of grassland sward types.	Not all land under Council control. Need to liaise with other land owners.
Bre63 Days Lane Alder Carr	Non-intervention, but restrict access by grazing cattle.	Currently getting poached up by cattle entering the wood, damaging ground flora.
Bre64 Dagwood Woods	Resume coppicing.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre65 Church Wood, Doddinghurst	Manage as high forest.	Trampling pressure from tolerated public access is damaging some of the wetter parts of the wood.
Bre66 Hobbs Hole	Manage as high forest.	
Bre67 St Charles Nature Reserve	Non-intervention high forest, other than the need for health and safety work to protect adjacent properties.	

Bre68 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Great Warley	Provide summer "window" in mowing regime that lets plants flower uncut. When mowing in spring and autumn, remove all cuttings to prevent build up of nutrients in soil.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.
Bre69 La Plata Grove	Remove Laurel from wood. Manage as high forest, with health and safety a high priority to protect adjacent properties.	Public access trampling has potential to damage ground flora. Not all of site is owned by Council.
Bre70 Doddinghurst Woods	Prevent further loss of Waterworks Spring by smallholding incursion. Remaining area of this wood should ideally be re-coppiced. Remainder of site is best managed as high forest, though localised coppicing of Hawthorn scrub will increase habitat diversity. Maintain open wet grassland to the south.	Heavy public usage of most of the site.
Bre71 South Doddinghurst Woods	Ideally re-coppice, but conversion to high forest by converting coppice stools to a single trunk may be more realistic. Improve hedgerow connectivity to easternmost wood.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre72 Holly Wood	Manage as high forest.	Need to control visitor trampling pressure to a limited network of paths.
Bre73 Holden's Wood	Combination of re-cutting old coppice and managing the remainder as high forest.	
Bre74 Marconi Gardens	Increase mowing regime to re-gain more species-rich grassland sward. There is a need to control scrub growth across the site and current managers should be dissuaded from planting any more trees within the grassland.	Scrub invasion/planting and lack of appropriate management pressure on grassland is causing a serious deterioration in the quality of this site.
Bre75 Wishfields Farm Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre76 Brickhouse Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre77 Little Warley Common	Harvest mature Beech, replanting with Oak. Manage as high forest.	
Bre78 Wyatt's Green Wood	Non-intervention, other than safety work.	Prevent grazing horses from entering woodland, especially wet areas.
Bre79 Woodlands Meadow	Manage as hay meadow or lightly graze. Maintain hedgerows	Getting grazing intensity right is difficult in small, isolated units.
Bre80 Ellen's Wood	Replace conifers and Beech with native broadleaved canopy. Control Sycamore to prevent colonisation of cleared areas.	Sycamore is difficult to eradicate in woods within which it has become established.
Bre81 Woodman Road Cemetery	Maintain with light mowing regime, collecting cuttings. Allow summer flowering "window" in mowing regime.	Collection of cuttings is important to prevent soil nutrient input. Management of burial grounds needs to strike a balance between maintaining neatness around graves and longer, "wilder" areas elsewhere.
Bre82 Park Wood, Doddinghurst	Recent resumption of coppicing should be encouraged and continued.	Formal "ride" and lake in wood should not be expanded further into ancient woodland.
Bre83 Barrack Wood/Donkey Lane Plantation	Resume coppicing of Sweet Chestnut and replace conifer stands with native broadleaved species appropriate to the site.	Much of the site is heavily used by public.
Bre84 Merrymeade/Shenfield Meadows	Maintain mosaic of different grassland types. Grazing is ideal management, but mowing is likely to be more practicable. Halt further expansion of scrub into grassland and manage hedgerows to maintain thick network of scrub habitat.	Not all of the site is under Council ownership.
Bre85 Warley Hall Wood	Continue recent coppicing management	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre86 Canterbury Tye Woods	Store old coppice to single stemmed trees and attempt eradication of Sycamore.	Sycamore is difficult to eradicate in woods within which it has become established.
Bre87 Hall Wood, Shenfield	Attempt to eradicate Sycamore and Rhododendron. Ideally, resume coppicing of old coppice. Elsewhere, high forest may be more appropriate.	Sycamore and Rhododendron are difficult to eradicate in woods within which they have become established.

Bre88 Kent's Wood	As planted timber trees are harvested, encourage the re-establishment of native broadleaved woodland trees, even if in an ongoing forestry operation.	
Bre89 Six Acre Spring	Convert overgrown coppice to single stemmed trees and manage as high forest.	
Bre90 Little Warley Common	Mowing grassland with cuttings removed. No further scrub spread.	Soil nutrient enrichment if cuttings are left to rot down. Adjacent properties should be dissuaded from treating adjacent parts of the common as extensions to their lawns.
Bre91 Childerditch Meadow	Maintain current management regime.	
Bre92 Thorndon Country Park North	Manage as high forest. When harvesting mature Beech and Pine, favour replacement by a greater proportion of native broadleaved species, although retaining some Beech and Pine is beneficial to bird life.	Great Crested Newts are known to inhabit several ponds.
Bre93 Heard's Lane Woods	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre94 Norton Verge	Maintain bare ground areas for seed germination.	Natural succession will always be tending to create a closed grassland sward.
Bre95 Thrift Wood	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Scouting activities are having localised negative impacts, although it is an invaluable site for exposing young children to woodlands and their wildlife.
Bre96 Portsmoorhall Wood	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks. Re-plant grubbed woodland up to parish boundary.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre97 Lower Ley Spring	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre98 Home Wood	Increase structural and species diversity in southern half. Manage as high forest.	
Bre99 Fryerning Wood	Manage as high forest.	Bracken dominance will be suppressing other ground flora.

Bre100 Long Wood	Manage as high forest.	Damage from deer browsing appears to be severe in this wood.
Bre101 Hare Hall Shaw	Manage as high forest.	Trampling pressure and the introduction or colonisation by exotic garden plants.
Bre102 Woodbarns Spring	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre103 Birches Wood	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre104 Fox Earth Wood	Manage as high forest.	
Bre105 Barrett's Shaw	Manage as high forest.	
Bre106 Thorndon Country Park South	Consider grazing (ideally sheep) on Jury Hill and adjacent grasslands. Maintain restoration of old parkland landscape.	High visitor pressure makes extensive use of sheep grazing more difficult.
Bre107 Long Ridings	Manage as high forest.	Scope for creating community woodland project, which might include resumption of coppicing. Heavy trampling pressure.
Bre108 Arnold's Wood Complex	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Logistical access problems to part of the site.
Bre109 College Wood	Re-coppice Sweet Chestnut. When harvesting mature conifers, restock with native broadleaved tree species.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre110 Blackmore Wood	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre111 Bell Grove and Mapletree Lane	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce? Heavy trampling along the lane.
Bre112 Round Shaw	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre113 Straight Path Shaw	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre114 Highfield Wood	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre115 Thick/Hollow Bottom Shaws	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre116 Hall Wood, Ingrave	Ideally, re-coppice. Alternatively, convert multi-stemmed trees to single trunks.	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre117 Sutton Shaw	Convert to high forest.	
Bre118 All Saints Churchyard and Keepers Cottages Meadow	Remove cuttings from periodic mowing of churchyard. Treat meadow as hay crop. Consider aftermath grazing.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.
Bre119 Heron Pond	Scrub management to prevent loss of grassland, ideally increasing the extent of grassland.	This will be an ongoing need, to arrest natural succession.
Bre120 All Saints Churchyard, Hutton	Remove cuttings from periodic mowing of churchyard, leaving summer months with no cutting to allow flowering, other than along main pathways.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.
Bre121 Stoney more Woods	Re-coppice old Sweet Chestnut and other suitable material; otherwise manage as high forest	Damage from browsing deer. Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre122 Hutton Country Park	Manage grasslands to maintain a mosaic of grassland types; maintain thick hedgerows	Grazing would be ideal management tool, but public access is likely to restrict this.
Bre123 Mill Green Heathland	Clear recent scrub and woodland and maintain larger open areas. Strip top soil from enriched areas to regain nutrient-poor soil profiles.	This site evolved under a grazing regime but grazing is not likely to be a viable option.
Bre124 Barn Wood/Stonyhill Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Maintain connecting hedgerow.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre125 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Fryerning	Reduce mowing pressure during summer months (other than main pathways) to allow plants to flower.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.

Bre126 Cock Wood/Collins's Shaw	Ideally, resume coppicing in Cock Wood. Alternatively, convert overgrown coppice stools to single-stemmed trees. Within Collins's Shaw, thin recent planting to open up canopy and diversify structure.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre127 Mill Green Woodland	Create a more open tree canopy in the southern section where heathland flora remains. Elsewhere manage as high forest.	Public opinion may resist more radical clearance of the site to regain the open wood pasture structure that would formerly have been present here.
Bre128 Bladen's Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre129 Ellis Wood and Lane	Section of Ellis wood should be coppiced, along with the remainder of the wood in Chelmsford Borough. Maintain other land as high forest.	Need to maintain right of way along lane.
Bre130 Primstock	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Improve connectivity to adjacent woodland blocks.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre131 Dog Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre132 Box Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre133 Lodge Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre134 Eastlands Spring	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Coppicing may be most viable in the block to north of A127.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre135 Spearshill Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre136 Little Bladen's Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Improve connectivity with adjacent woodland blocks.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre137 The Grove	Manage as high forest. Attempt to remove Sycamore from the site, or at worst limit further spread.	Sycamore is difficult to eradicate in woods within which it has become established.
Bre138 Well Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre139 Clapgate Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing within Hornbeam stand. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Manage remainder as high forest.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre140 Friern Manor Wood	In northern section, thin oaks to diversify structure and increase light to ground layer. Resume coppicing of Hornbeam and Hazel throughout.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre141 James's Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre142 Mountnessing Hall Woods	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre143 St Giles Churchyard, Mountnessing	Reduce mowing pressure during summer months (other than main pathways) to allow plants to flower.	Churchyard management is often a balance between parishioners desires for neat and tidy lawns, against the more relaxed attitude desired by nature conservation.
Bre144 Parkhill Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing within Hornbeam stand. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Manage remainder as high forest.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?
Bre145 Kitchen Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?

Bre146 Harespring Wood	Maintain as high forest. Small stand of conifers is not significant and adds to small-scale habitat diversity on non-ancient site.	
Bre147 Spring Wood	Ideally, resume coppicing of Hornbeam. Alternatively convert overgrown coppice stools to single stemmed trees. Replaced matured pine, Beech and poplars with site native broadleaved trees.	Lack of viable local market for wood produce?