






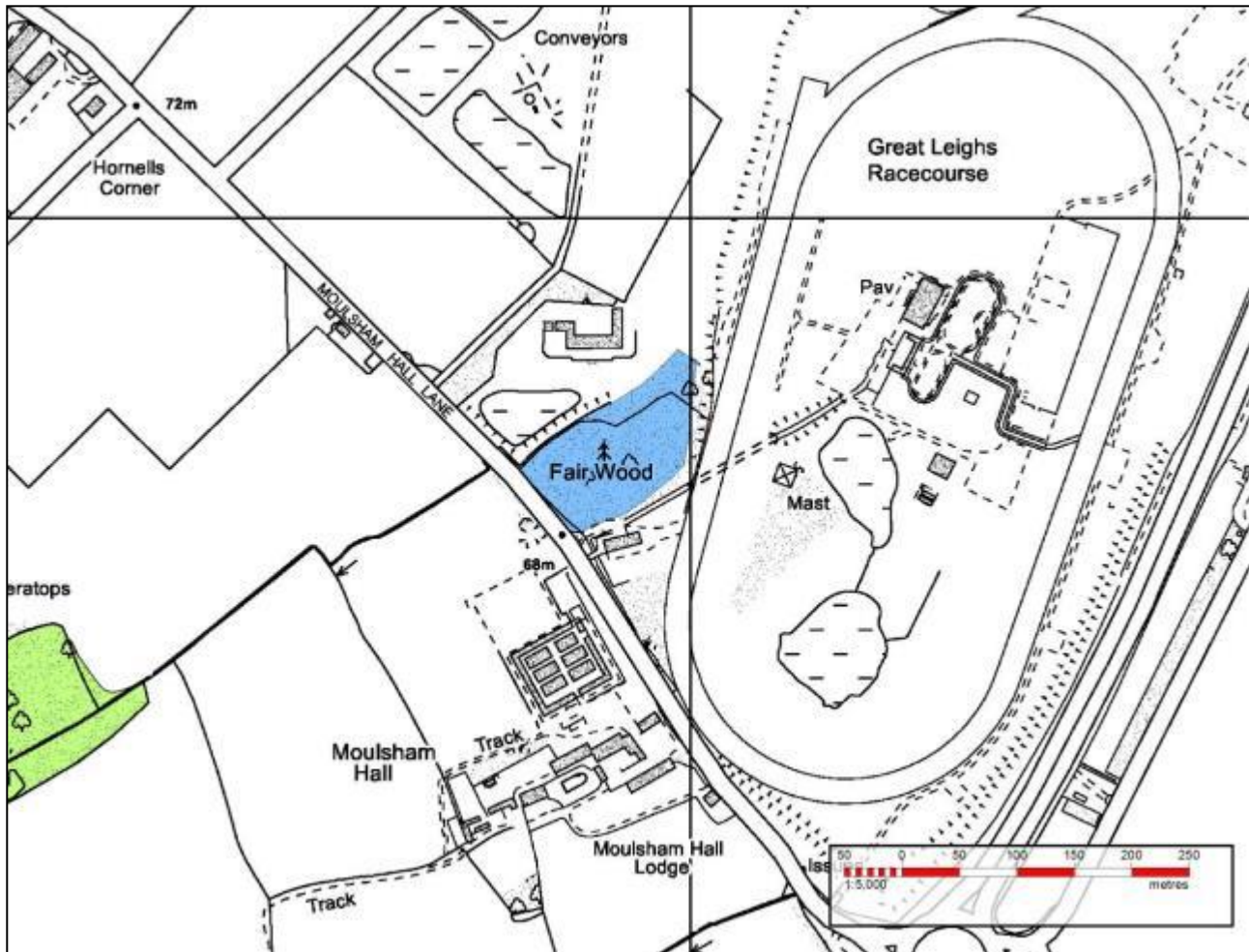
APPENDIX 2
Part 2, Sites 91-186

REGISTER OF CHELMSFORD LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

KEY

	Highlighted LoWS
	Adjacent Chelmsford LoWS
	Adjacent LoWS (other local authority)
	Potential Chelmsford LoWS
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Ch91 Fair Wood, Great Leighs (1.27 ha) TL 72931879



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Fair Wood formerly extended further to the east and south, with a scattering of tall trees denoting its former extent. However, these areas have now lost their woodland character, with the LoWS now being restricted to the remaining core habitat. Within the remaining fragment, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice dominates over a ground flora comprising Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*). An old rubbish dump area, formerly excluded from the LoWS has been replanted and is now incorporated into the Site.

Ownership and Access

The Site is assumed to lie within the ownership of the adjacent horse race track organisation and has no public access. It can be viewed from Moulsham Hall Lane.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Documentary evidence, along with the structure and flora of the wood, suggest an ancient status for this site.

Condition Statement

Declining

Management Issues

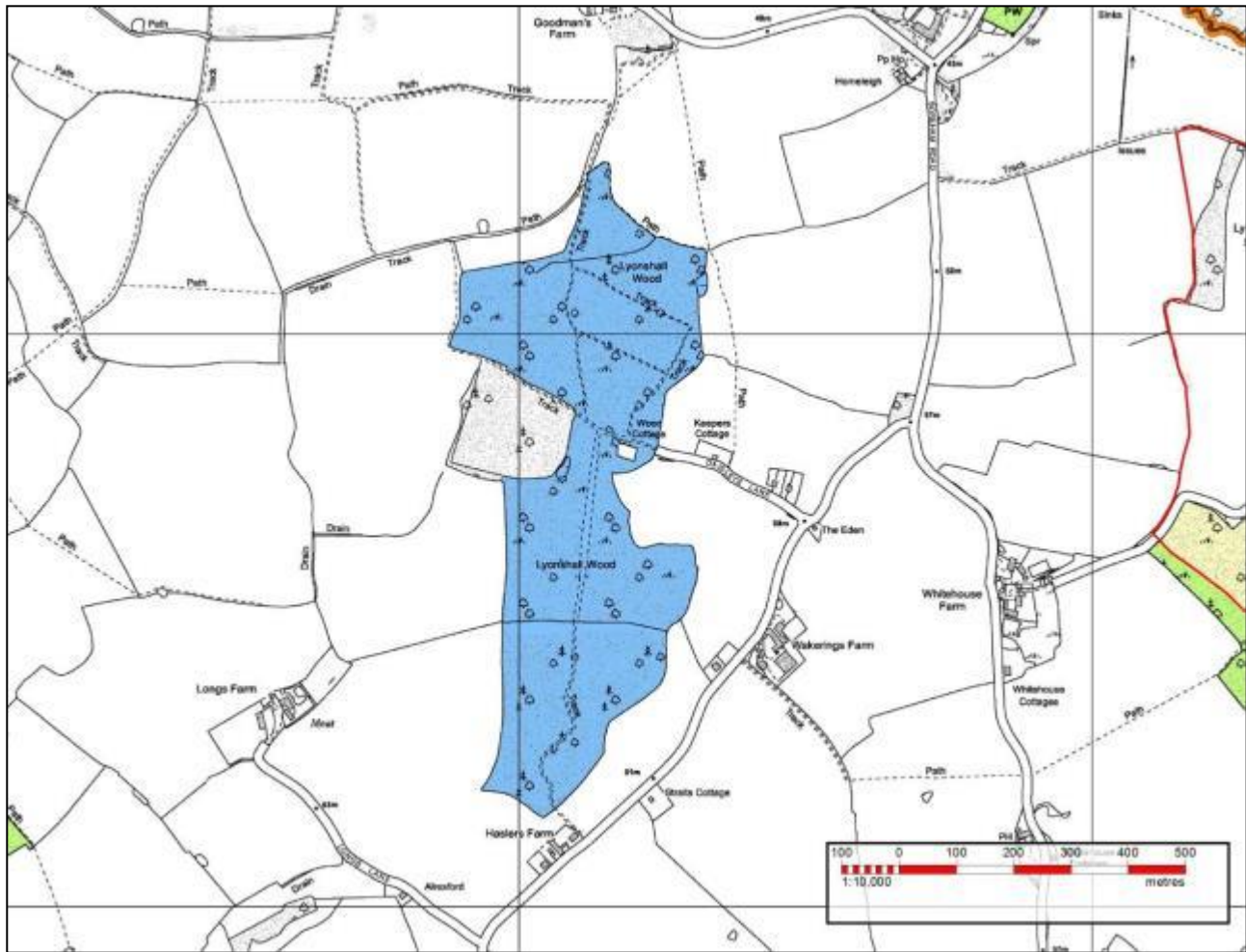
Since the last review, this wood has undergone erosion of habitat around its margins, with conversion to a parkland style habitat with oak trees over a grass sward to the south of the entrance security hut. These areas have now been removed from the LoWS.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (reduced in size); 2016 (boundary revised)

Ch92 Lyonshall Wood, Little Leighs (26.87 ha) TL 73111473



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.
Licence number AL 100020327

Lyonshall Wood is an ancient wood displaying a wide mix of tree canopy types. Coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) predominates, but other blocks with Birch (*Betula* sp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) occur. Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) is also present, although its distribution in the wood is localised. Areas towards the south of the wood have been replanted with broadleaves and conifers. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is most common as a shrub layer species, though Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and the small Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) are also recorded. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) are most frequent in the ground flora. However, the ground flora also includes several herb associated with ancient woodlands including Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*).

Ownership and Access

Lyonshall wood is in private ownership and can only be viewed from public footpaths that run through part of the wood or adjacent to the northern section.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Despite the replanting, this large ancient woodland retains important characteristics of ancient woodland especially with respect to the rich and diverse ground flora that it supports.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

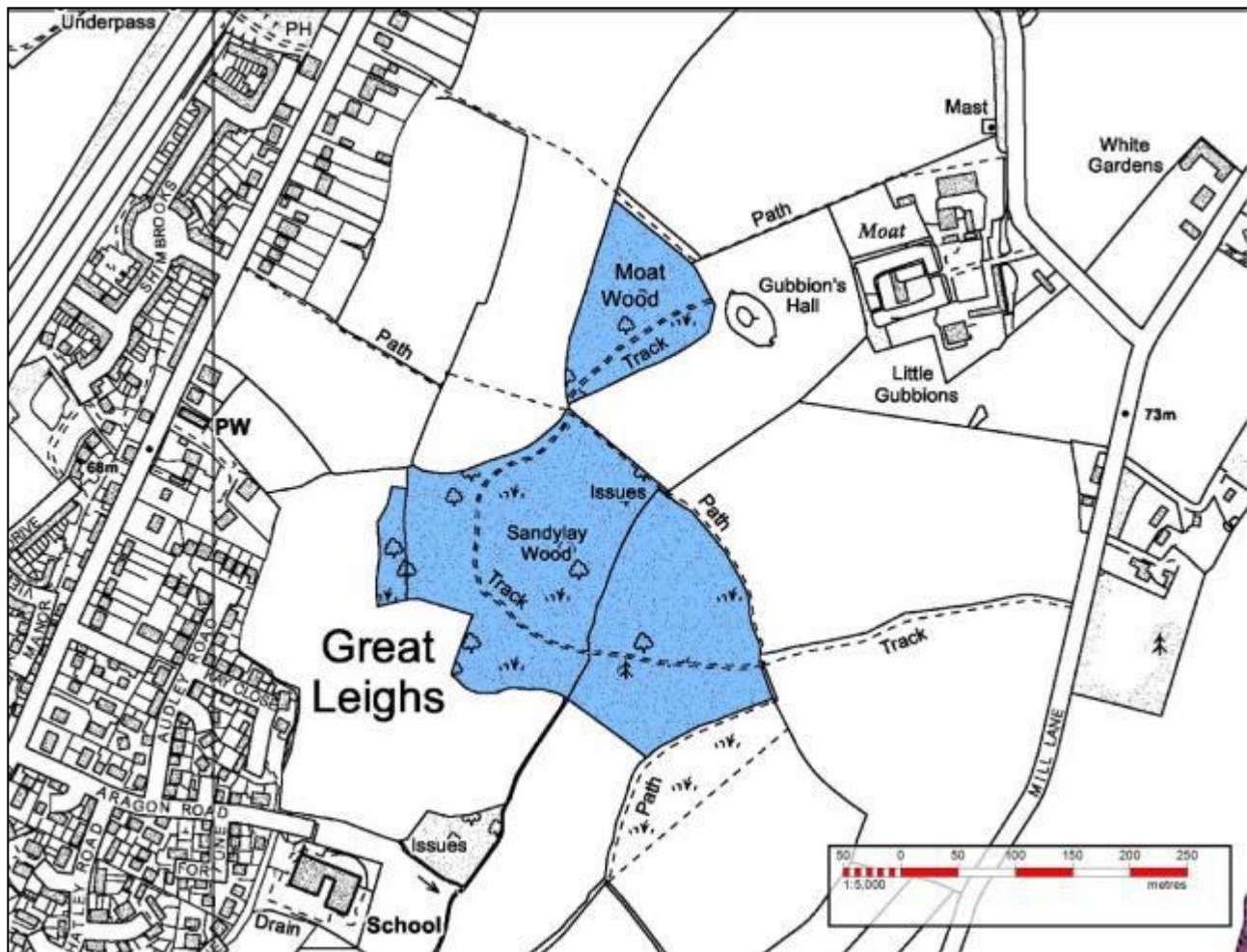
A resumption of coppicing would be beneficial, by increasing structural complexity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (minor boundary revision); 2016

Ch93 Sandylay and Moat Woods, Great Leighs (7.45 ha) TL 73321754



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.
Licence number AL 100020327

These largely ancient woods comprise a mixed canopy of coppice and standards including Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) coppice, some stools of which are of great size and age. A small piece of wood on the western boundary is recent in origin but it has evolved a woodland structure and composition that complements the adjacent ancient habitats. A rich ground flora includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*) and Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*). Within the woodland fungi, *Russula carminipes* is of particular note, as a nationally rare species.

Ownership and Access

This site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Documentary evidence shows that the majority of this woodland is ancient in origin, which is supported by its structure and composition. The small piece of recent woodland provides a good quality extension to this ancient woodland.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

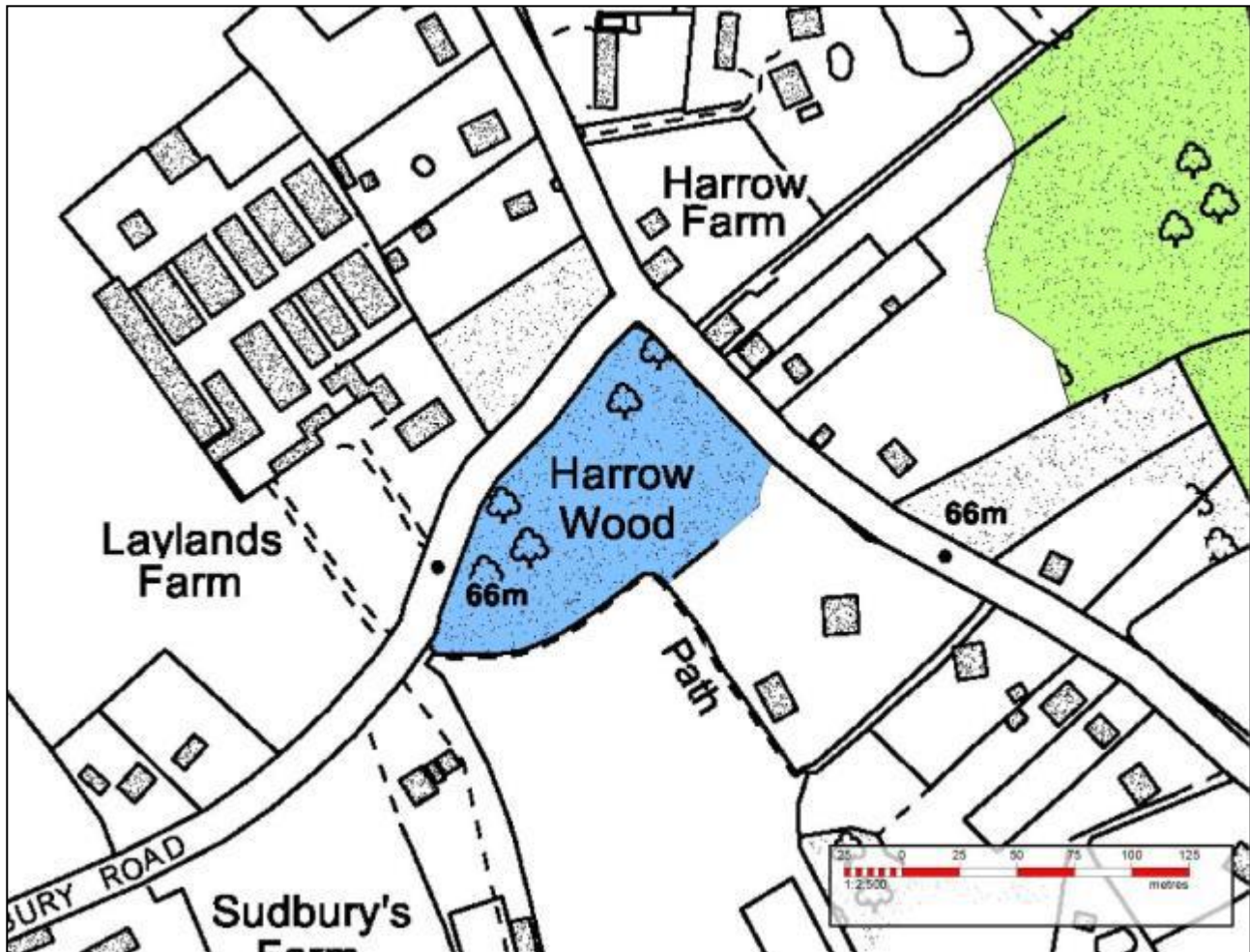
As with many Essex woods, deer browsing is becoming an increasingly significant factor in the quality of the wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch94 Harrow Wood, Downham (1.18 ha) TQ 73499638



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Harrow Wood is a small fragment of broad-leaved woodland comprising mostly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. A small amount of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards characterise the remainder. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora. These characteristics would suggest an ancient origin to this wood.

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership and consequently has no public access. It can be viewed from the adjacent roads Sudbury Road or Brock Hill.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

(If proven to not be ancient, the following criterion would still be valid: HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites).

Rationale

The presence of abundant Hornbeam coppice and Bluebells is strongly indicative of an ancient woodland site. Its structure and composition would allow it to be a LoWS under criterion HC2 if this ancient status is called into question.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

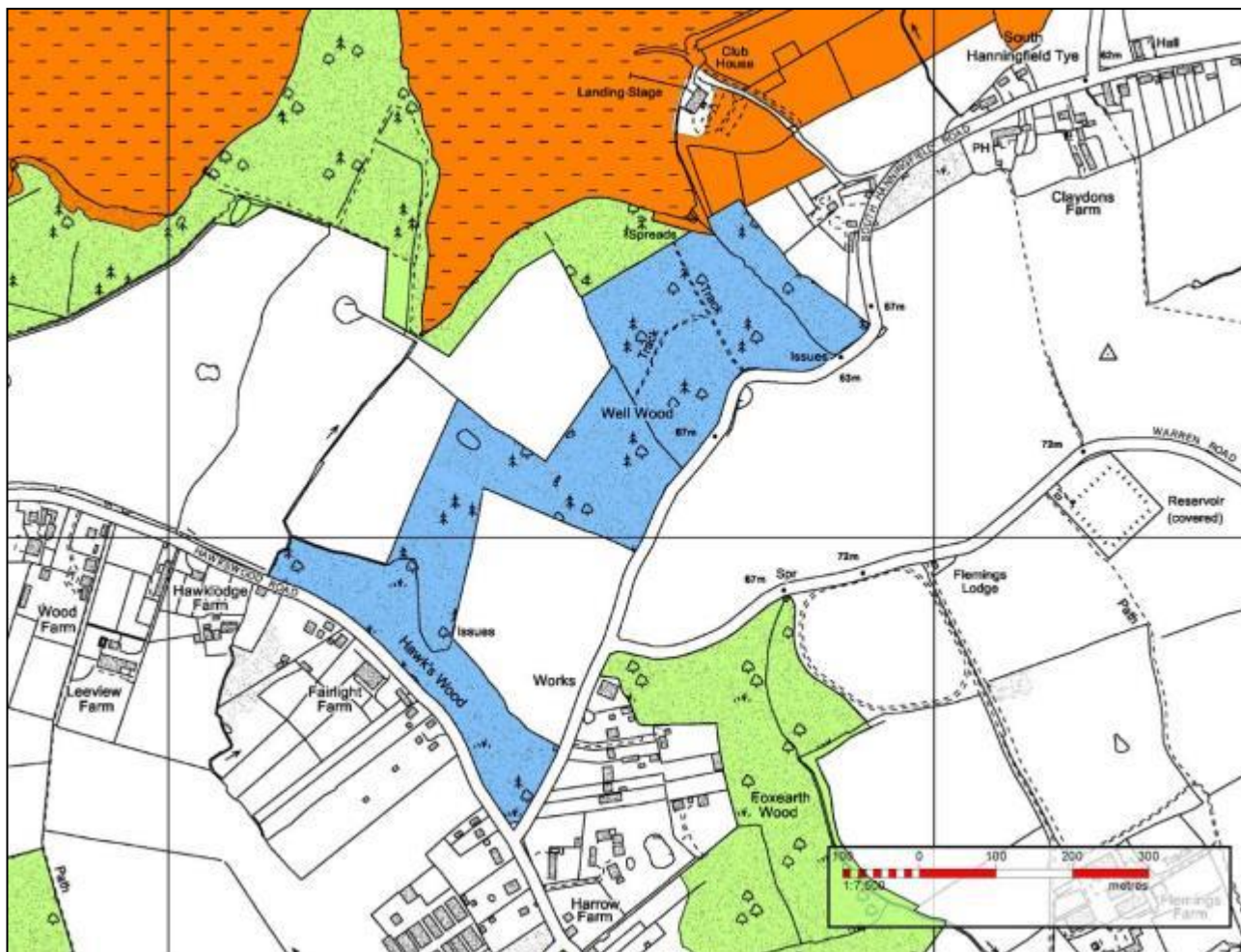
The wood may have suffered some loss to garden encroachment from the adjacent property. A resumption of coppicing or the “storing” of stools to produce single-stemmed trees would allow more light to reach a rather impoverished ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch95 Well/Hawks Woods, South Hanningfield (15.32 ha) TQ 73539709



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises the ancient woodland component of the Essex wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Hanningfield Reservoir. The remainder lies within LoWS Ch78 Hanningfield Mosaic. Much of this ancient wood has been replanted in the past and now exhibits a mix of broadleaf tree interspersed with conifers, although recent management is redressing this balance in favour of a broad-leaved canopy. The broadleaved stands comprise mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Many species of interest are present in the ground flora, such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) and Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*).

Well Wood is of interest for its population of Wood Ants (*Formica rufa*) and, more particularly, the Shining Guest Ant (*Formicoxenus nitidulus*), which lives within the nests of the Wood Ant. *Formicoxenus nitidulus* is a Species of Principal Importance in England with only two known localities in Essex, both within Chelmsford City Administrative Area.

Ownership and Access

These woodlands are owned by Essex & Suffolk Water, but managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and are accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site still retains some ancient woodland structure and has a well-documented history.

Condition Statement

Good and improving.

Management Issues

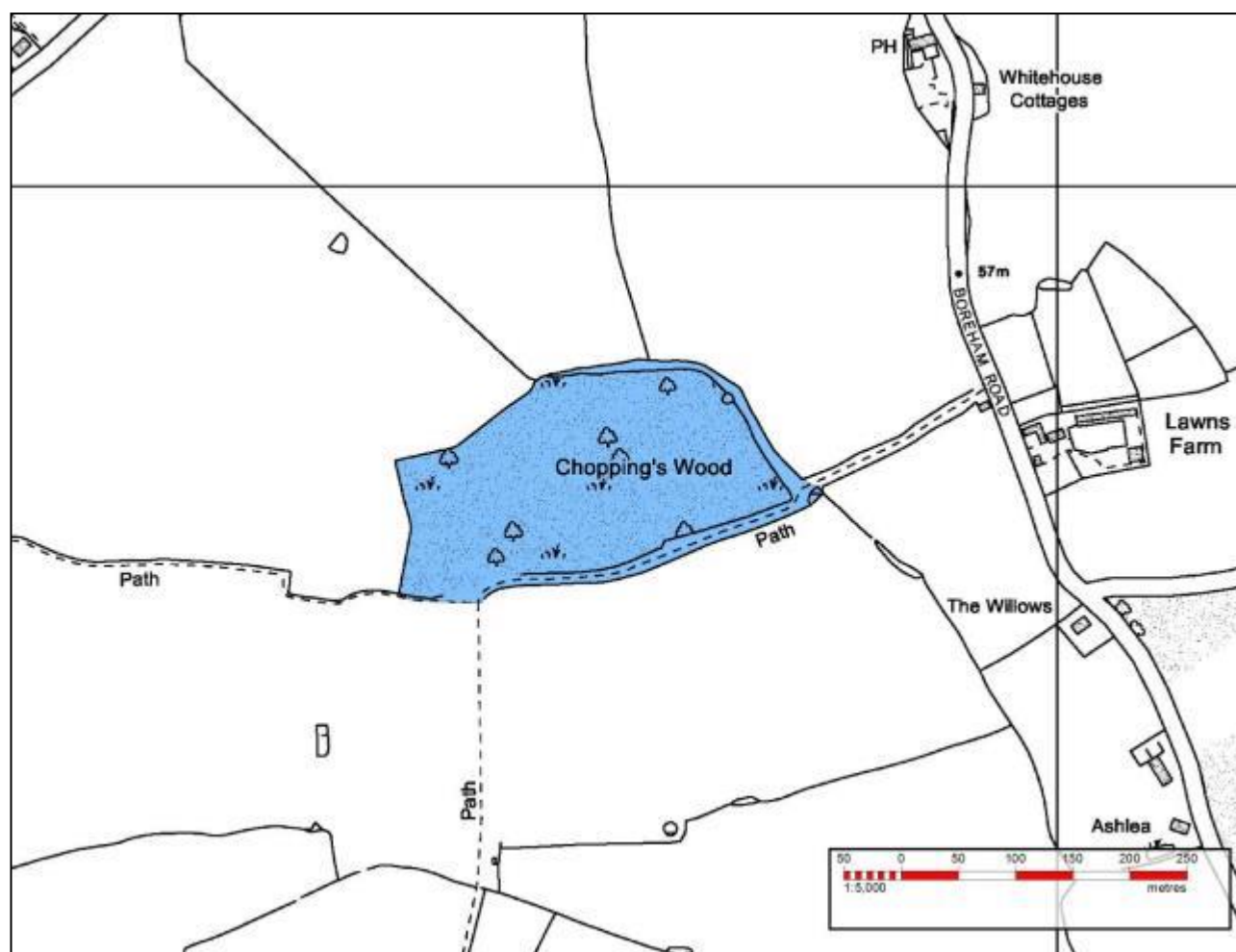
Continued removal of conifers and restoration of a broad-leaved canopy will further enhance the wildlife value of this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch96 Chopping's Wood, Russell Green (5.21 ha) TL 73591374



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Chopping's Wood is an ancient wood containing a mix of broadleaved species including Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards with old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. Coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are found in the as shrub layer. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) successfully dominates much of the woodland excluding herbs from forming any extensive cover. Species found in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Three species of fern Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and the rarer Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis* agg.) are also recorded from this site.

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership and there is no public access to the main part of the site. The wood can be viewed from a public footpath that follows a track on the south side, which forms part of this LoWS.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Hedgerows

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood supports documentary evidence that it is an ancient site. The adjacent lane effectively forms a habitat extension to the woodland and is likely to be of a similar antiquity.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

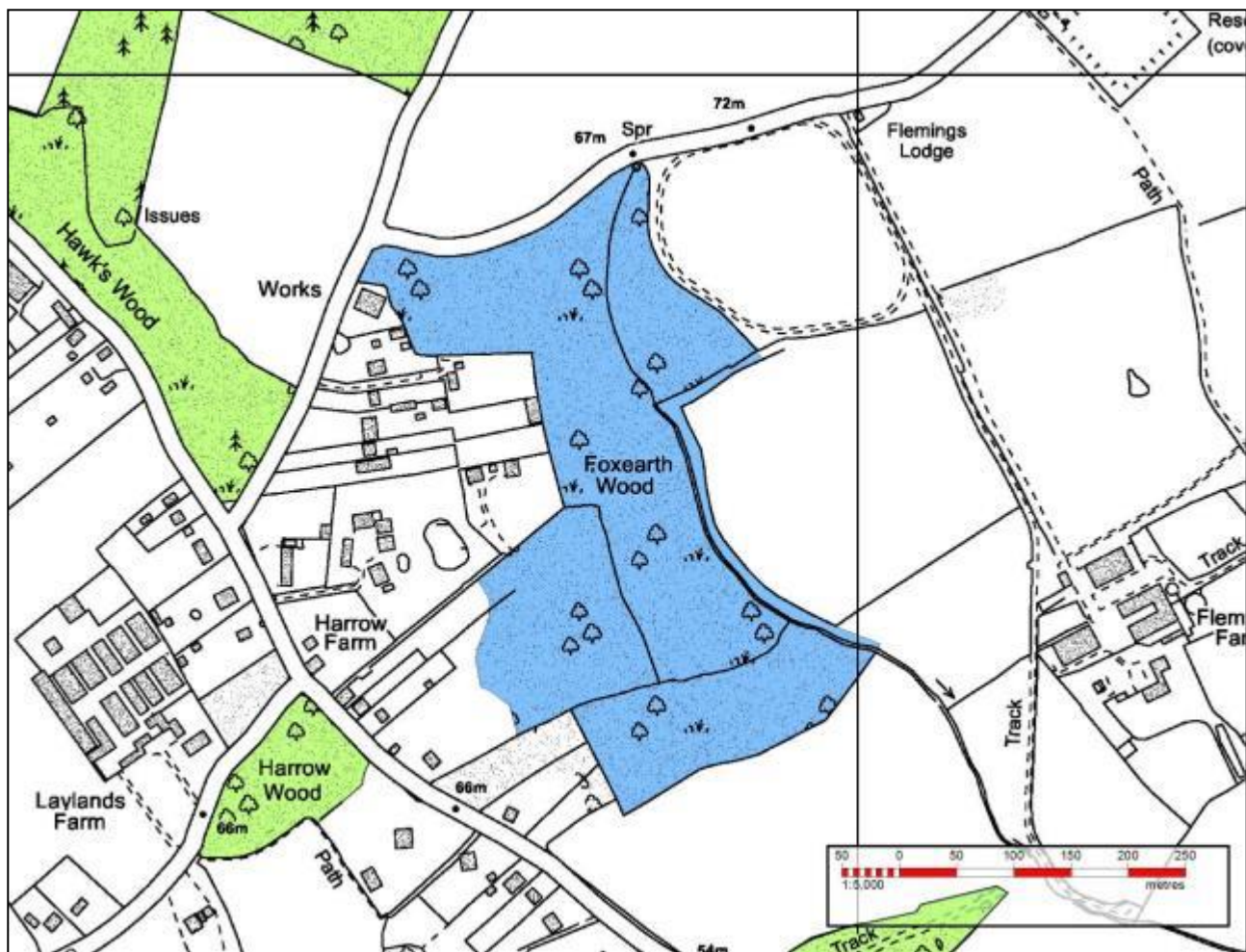
A resumption of coppicing would be beneficial.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (boundary correction); 2016

Ch97 Foxearth Wood, South Hanningfield (10.77 ha) TQ 73799662



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) all form parts of the high canopy of the ancient part of this wood and all occur as coppice except Oak. There is very little shrub understorey, with most of this found near the edges of the wood where more light penetrates. Otherwise, this is a very densely shaded wood. Many species of interest, typical of ancient woodland, are recorded from the ground flora including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*). The Essex Red Data List species Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) is found in the wet stream valley area to the east side of the wood.

The south-western section of the LoWS is a block of recent woodland. This is characterised by a canopy comprising tall Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Sycamore trees as standards. Although Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) is the main component of the ground flora, Bluebell and Moschatel are found along the margins that border the ancient section.

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership and has no public access. The northern edge of the wood can be viewed from Warren Road.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

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 the main part of the wood supports documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site. The more recent woodland is starting to acquire some of the characteristic species of old woods and provides good, additional habitat that will continue to mature.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

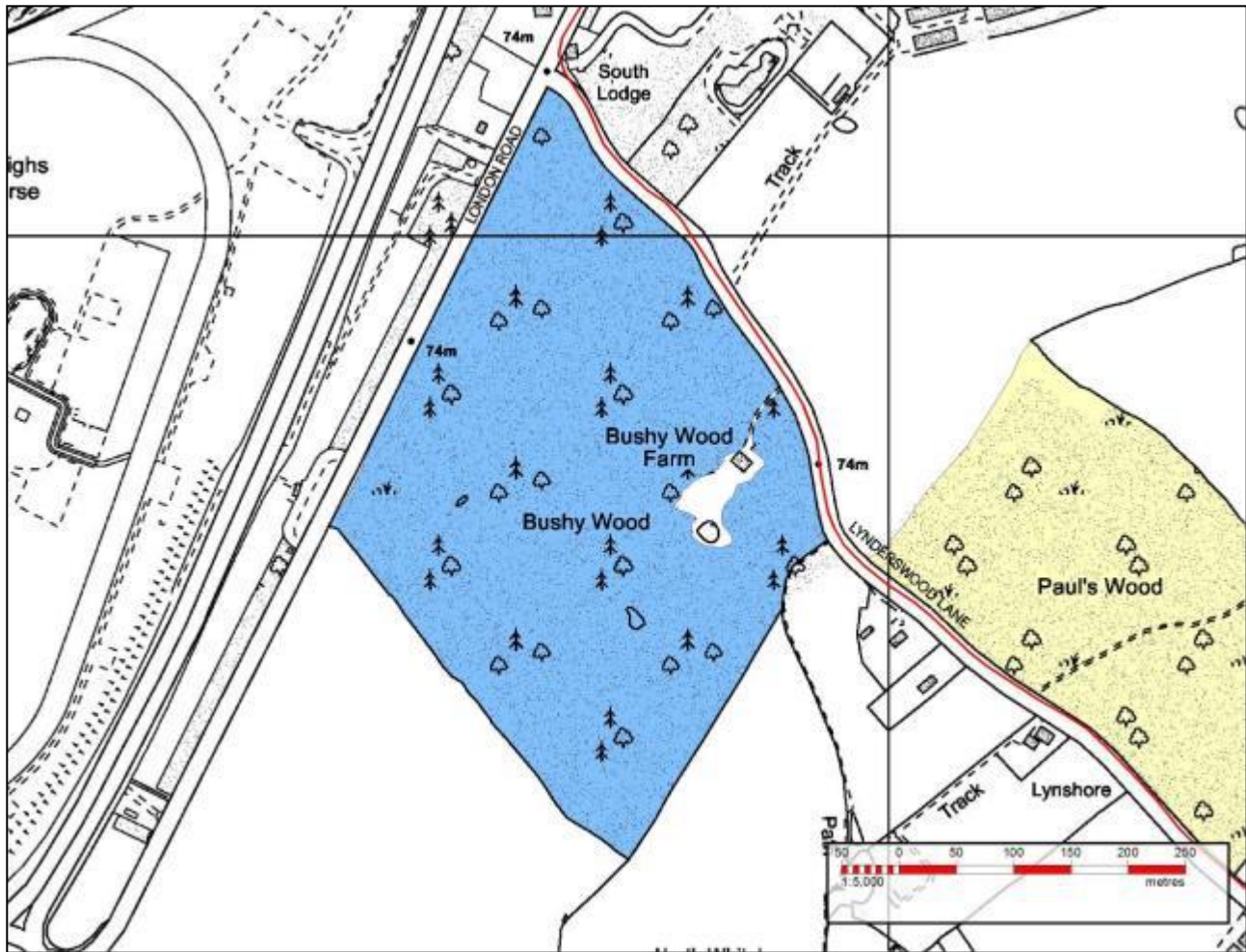
The overgrown coppice is casting a dense shade that is limiting the ground cover. A resumption of coppicing, coupled with control of Sycamore spread, would be desirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch98 Bushy Wood, Great Leighs (15.53 ha) TL 73731878



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This large ancient wood on the north-east boundary of Chelmsford features a varied canopy structure with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice forming much of the main canopy, while other trees such as Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) are found as well. There is some invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) and are two very noteworthy trees recorded from this woodland, the latter only to be seen in Chelmsford's most northerly area around Great Leighs.

The understorey is equally varied, with abundant Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), plus Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The ground flora includes Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership and has no public access, although viewable from adjacent highways.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site has the structure and composition of ancient woodland, supporting documentary evidence concerning the antiquity of the site.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

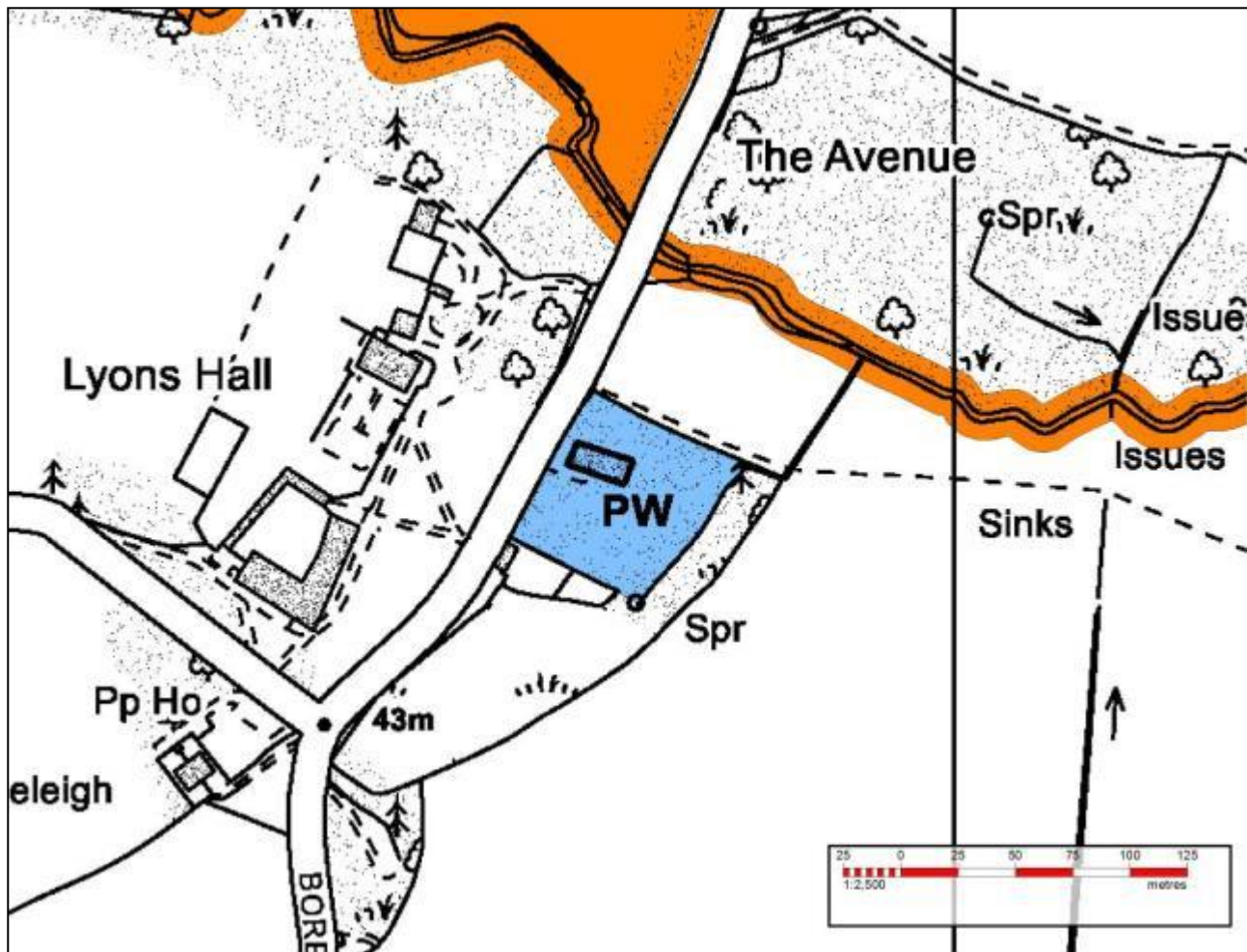
Management Issues

Managing the neglected coppice stools would enhance their longevity and create lighter ground conditions, for the benefit of woodland flora and fauna.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The churchyard exhibits a range of grass species including Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* sp.), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Meadow grasses (*Poa* sp.). The dry, short turf supports species such as Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). Other species found in the site include Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), and Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*). Also present is the nationally scarce Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*), whilst Wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*), an Essex Red Data List species can be found on the front wall to the churchyard. In addition, eight species of fungi have been recorded.

Ownership and Access

The churchyard is governed under the Diocese of Chelmsford and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The sward may have been derived from Lowland Dry Acid Grassland habitat, although now rather modified by decades of management as a churchyard.

Selection Criterion

HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

This small rural churchyard is a refuge for several species of interest within Chelmsford.

Condition Statement

Stable

Management Issues

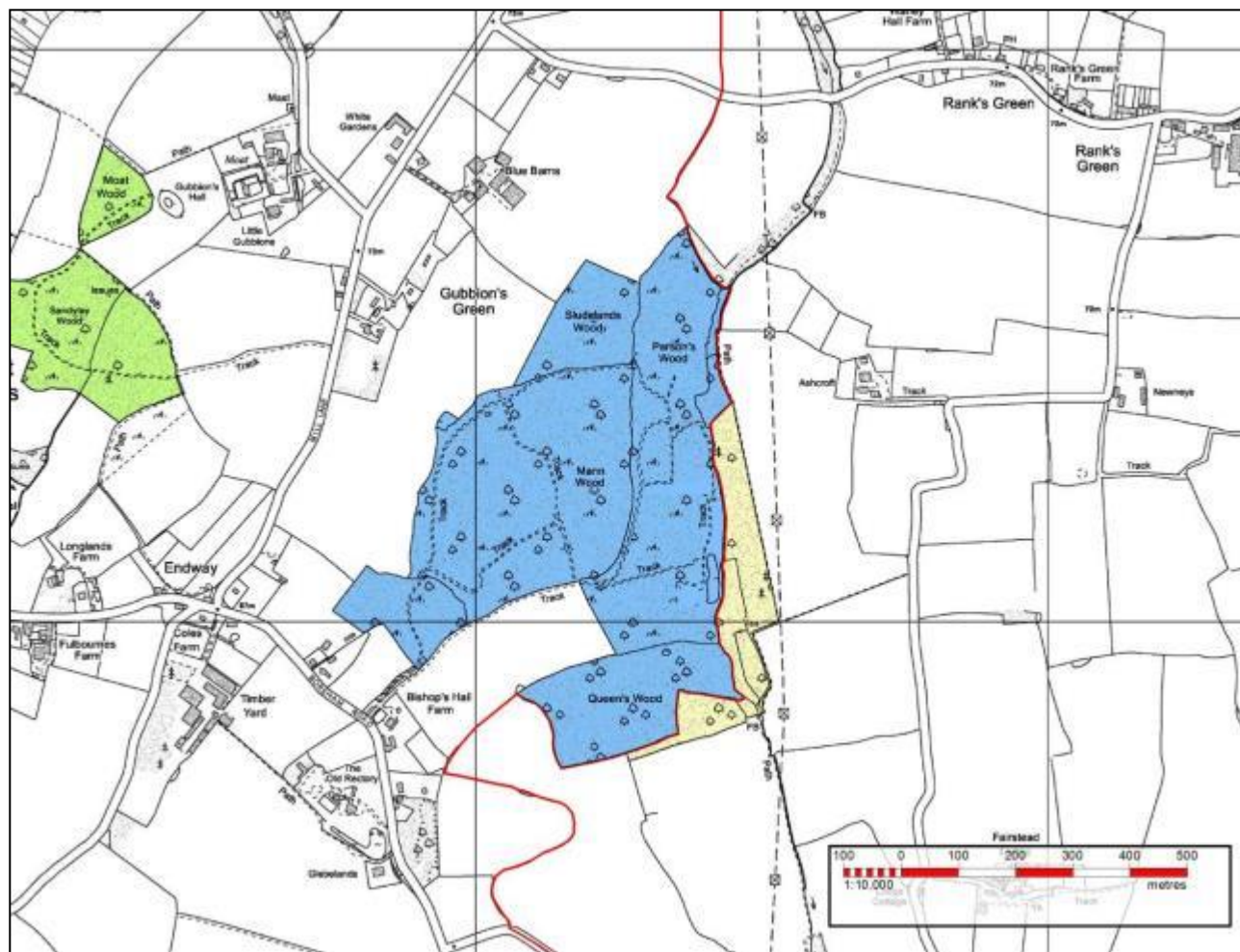
There will be a conflict of interest between managing the grave areas in a neat manner versus a more relaxed management desire from a nature conservation perspective.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2004

Reviewed: 2016

Ch100 Mann/Parson's Wood, Great Leighs (34.05 ha) TL 74191720



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Whilst the majority of this wood is in Chelmsford, a small portion on the east side is in Braintree District. The wood is generally split up into compartments, each being separated by grassy rides. Mann/Parsons Wood contains mature Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) coppice, with some Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). In contrast, Sludlands Wood has coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) forming a much lower canopy structure. A stream valley flows southwards towards the eastern edge of the site. Tall Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice is characteristic of this wetter area. Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*) is abundant in this part of the site. An area of Hornbeam coppice to the north of the small lake is the only area of the site where Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are found in profusion.

Amongst typical ancient woodland ground flora species are Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Queen's Wood, the southernmost block, is an ancient wood with a canopy dominated by Hornbeam standards with Sweet Chestnut, Hornbeam and Small-leaved Lime coppice. Both Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) are to be found in the shrub layer. The ground flora is typified by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

Ownership and Access

The woodland is in private ownership and has no public access. It can be viewed from a footpath that runs along the eastern edge and through part of the wood close to the Chelmsford City/ Braintree District boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

A diverse coppiced structure and considerable number of indicator species present mark this out as a fine ancient woodland site.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

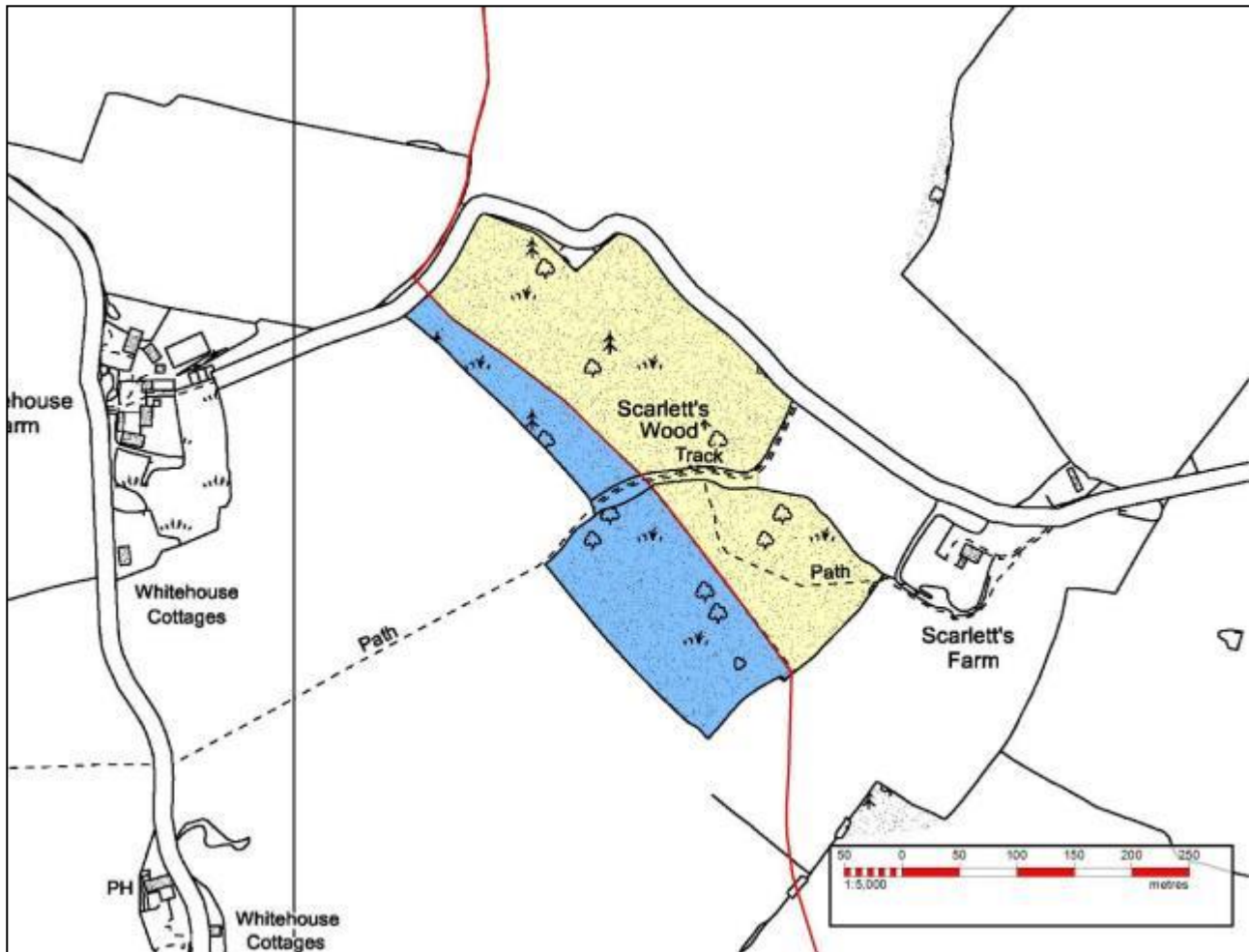
A resumption of coppicing would benefit the woodland flora and fauna, although deer browsing pressure may limit successful regrowth.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch102 Scarletts Wood, Little Leighs (part of) (3.12 ha) TL 74291441



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This wood straddles the Chelmsford City/Braintree District boundary. The site mainly comprises plantation woodland with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), though there is evidence of an old coppice structure to be found particularly in the far south corner where Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are found. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) found on the edge of the wood also alludes to the ancient status of this wood. Close to this is an area of recently planted young trees, mainly Pedunculate Oak, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Wild Cherry. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) are among the herb species found in the ground flora

Ownership and Access

The wood is assumed to be in private ownership. A public right of way runs through the central and southern parts of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Despite the replanting of this woodland, there is much evidence for the ancient origin of this woodland. In this respect, it is highly unusual for a local administrative boundary to cut through the wood, completely unmarked by ditches or banks.

Condition Statement

Active plantation

Management Issues

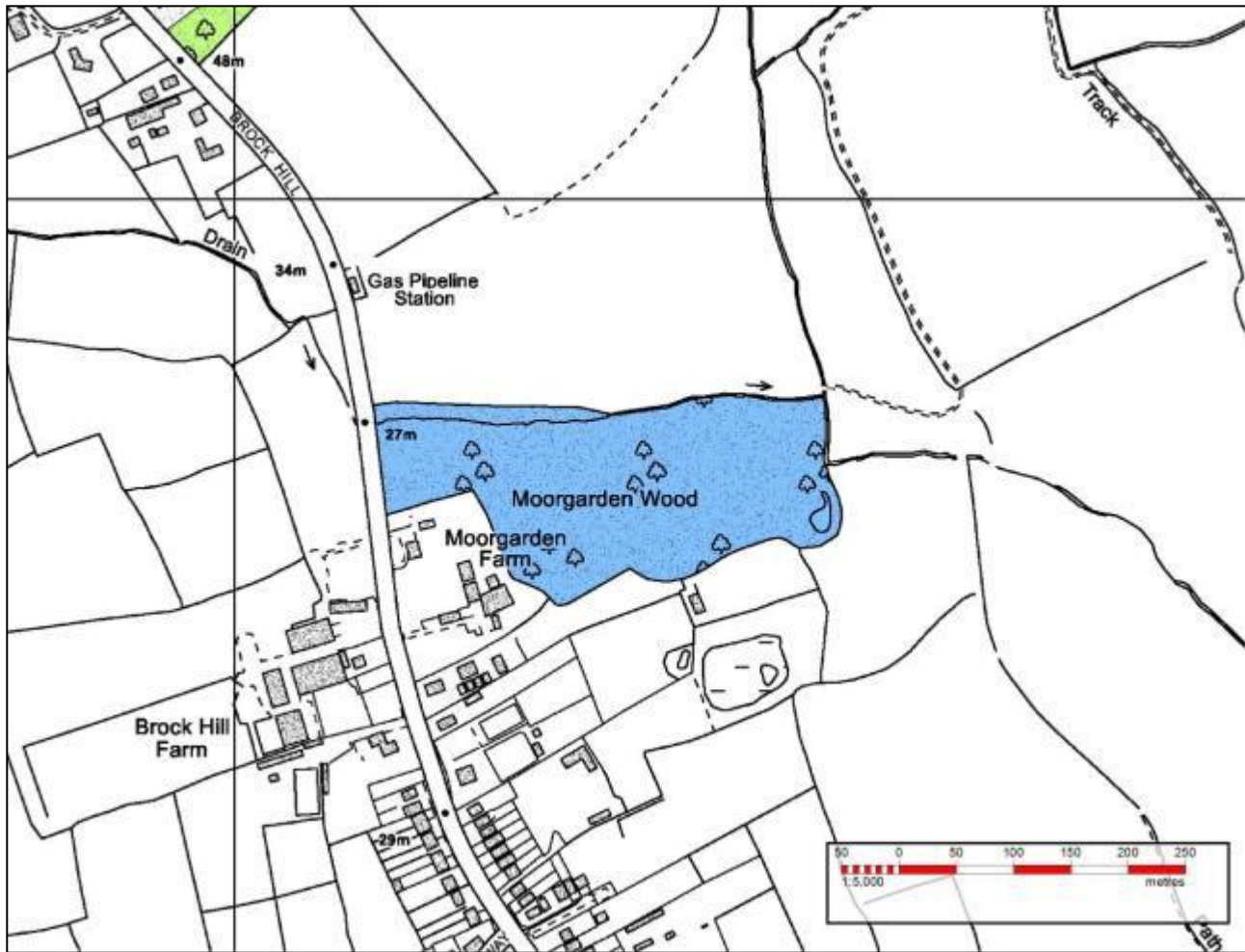
Recent replanting has occurred in this wood. The control of Sycamore would be highly desirable, ideally leading to its complete eradication.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (minor deletion)

Ch103 Moorgarden Wood, Runwell (5.16 ha) TQ 74339575



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) dominates most of this wood, with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice over an Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) sub-canopy found at the east end of the wood. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant throughout the wood, except for parts of the east end where Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is abundant beneath the Ash. Other ground flora species recorded include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership and has no public access. Its western end can be viewed from the adjacent highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site displays Hornbeam coppiced structure typical of many ancient woodlands found throughout Essex.

Condition Statement

Neglected Hornbeam coppice.

Management Issues

A resumption of coppicing would be desirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch104 Sandon Pit, Sandon (18.21 ha) TL 74720421



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site is one of the best examples in Chelmsford City Administrative Area of the vegetation types and associated fauna that can develop on 'brownfield' land. Small areas of slumping are maintaining this mosaic of bare ground and grassland and should be allowed to continue, provided it does not compromise adjacent roads and tracks. The wetland in the bottom of the northern lake is developing a small reedbed, itself a valuable habitat.

Brownfield sites such as this can be extremely important sites for a wide variety of invertebrates, including solitary bees and wasps, spiders, grasshoppers and bush-crickets. The nationally rare (RDB3 and England BAP species) digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata* has been recorded from this locality, being the only recorded site for this species in central Essex and therefore representing part of a potential ecological link between populations centred on Thurrock in the south and around Colchester to the north.

The southern lake edge comprises in part a steep cliff in which Sand Martins nest. The remainder of the site comprises hummocky rough grassland, with sparsely vegetated areas, adding to the invertebrate habitat. The immediately adjacent areas of rough grassland not subjected to mineral extraction are also included. They are of value as foraging habitat for the invertebrates of the pits.

The flora of the brownfield areas includes two species more typically associated with soils having high lime content: Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula conyzae*) and Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*). One

of the key characteristics of such sites is, however, the abundance of flowers from ruderal species such as ragworts (*Senecio* spp.), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.) and Brambles (*Rubus* spp.) which are plentiful here. These provide an invaluable nectar resource for foraging insects.

Ownership and Access

The site is owned by Brett Aggregates. The only public access is via a right of way that runs through the eastern part of the site.

Selection Criterion

HC27 Post-industrial Sites

Rationale

This site is one of the largest worked out mineral sites in the local authority area and has a complex structure and habitat suite that characterises such sites. It has an ecologically important position in central Essex, potentially helping to form a bridge between nationally renowned invertebrate populations in south Essex with those of a similar value in the north-east.

Condition Statement

Declining?

Management Issues

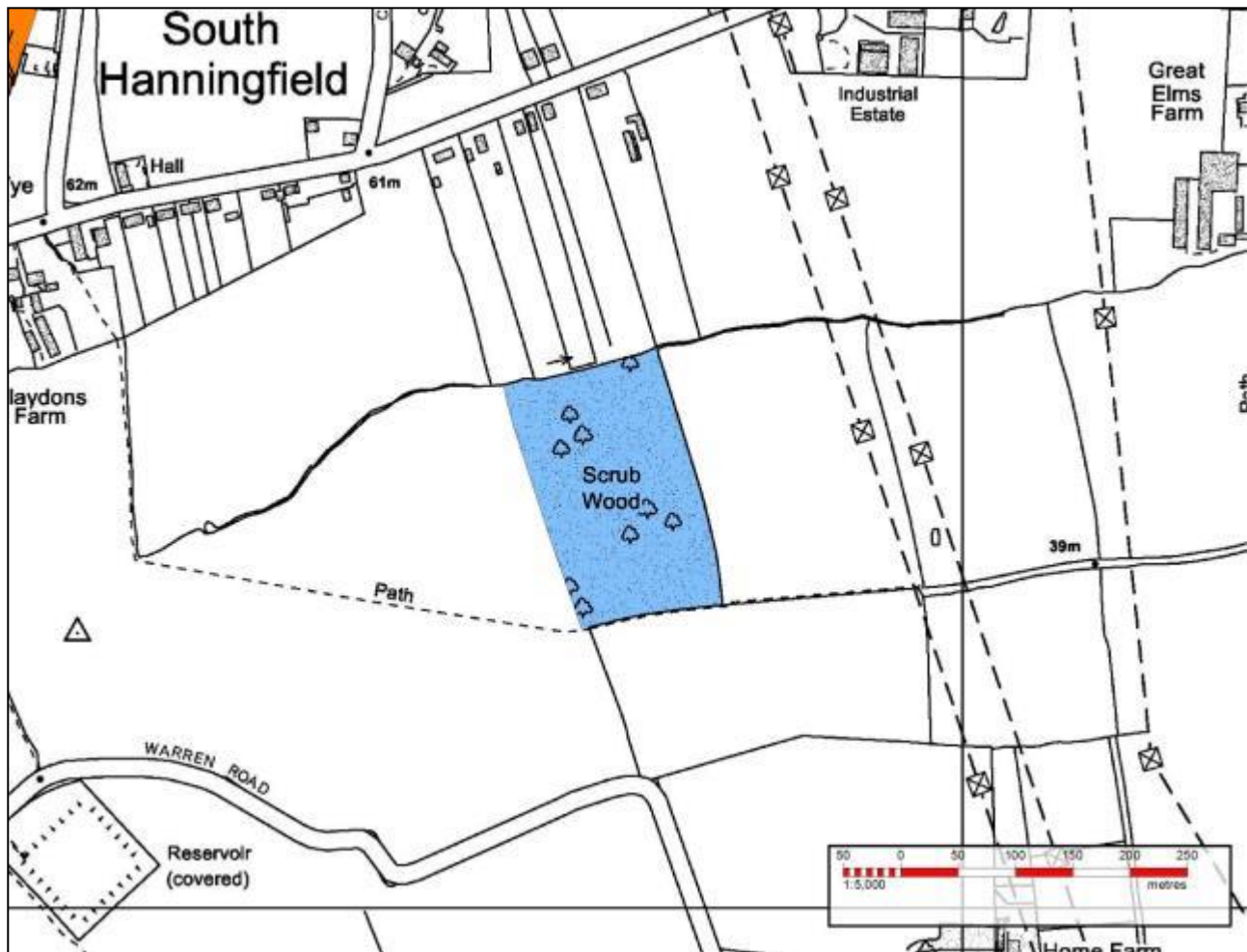
The southern lake formerly included within this site has now been excluded following consent to fill it with inert waste and heavy disturbance that has stripped much of the site bare. It is believed that the northern pit is similarly threatened.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2004

Reviewed: 2016 (significant additions and deletions)

Ch105 Scrub Wood, South Hanningfield (3.05 ha) TQ 74699736



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Scrub Wood consists almost entirely of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with some occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice and very scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. A very sparse shrub layer is mainly Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), but includes Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) are found as ground flora species. The stream, which bounds the northern boundary of the ancient wood, has Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) a rare Essex Red Data List plant.

Ownership and Access

The woodland is in private ownership and does not have public access. It can be viewed from a footpath that runs along the southern edge of the wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This woodland has a typical ancient woodland structure and a range of ancient woodland indicator species in the ground flora.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

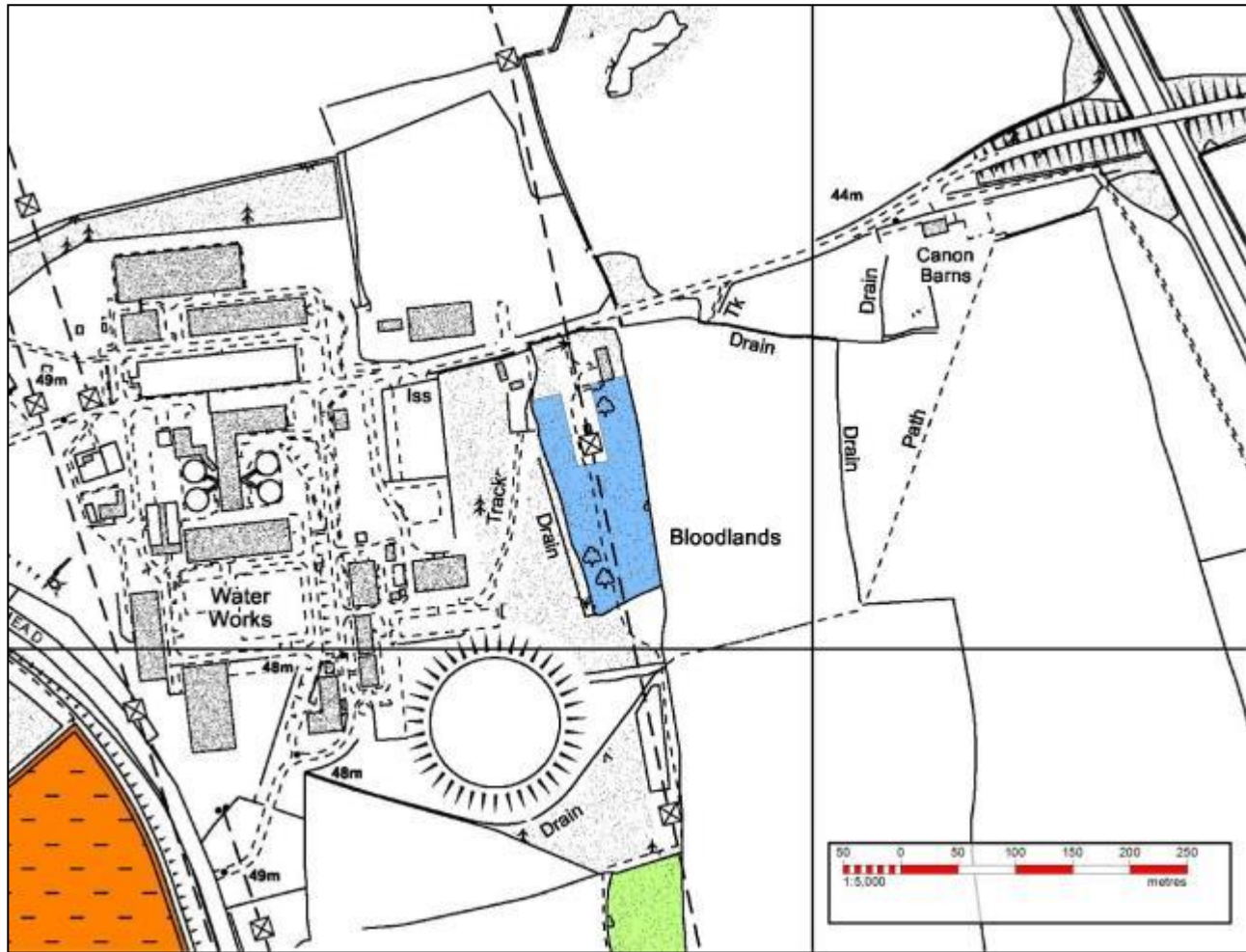
The dense shade being cast by the overgrown Hornbeam coppice will be suppressing the ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch106 Bloodlands, West Hanningfield (1.27 ha) TQ 74819913



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This narrow remnant of possibly ancient woodland has a central ride of coppiced trees and shrubs, created in order to maintain the pylon line running through the wood. This sunny ride is known to support Common Lizards. The wooded areas are characterised by frequent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with, additionally Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). A small number of planted conifers are not a significant component of the canopy or sub-canopy. The ground flora has much Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with occasional Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

The wood has a good canopy, sub-canopy and ground flora structure, such that it qualifies under criterion HC2, regardless of its status as an ancient or recent woodland.

Ownership and Access

This woodland is owned and managed by Essex & Suffolk Water. There is no public access to this site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

The ancient woodland criterion HC1 might also be valid.

Rationale

This site exhibits characteristics that possibly suggest that it is an ancient woodland. Regardless of this, it has a good structure that places it within the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland HPIE definition.

Condition Statement

Moderate, stable.

Management Issues

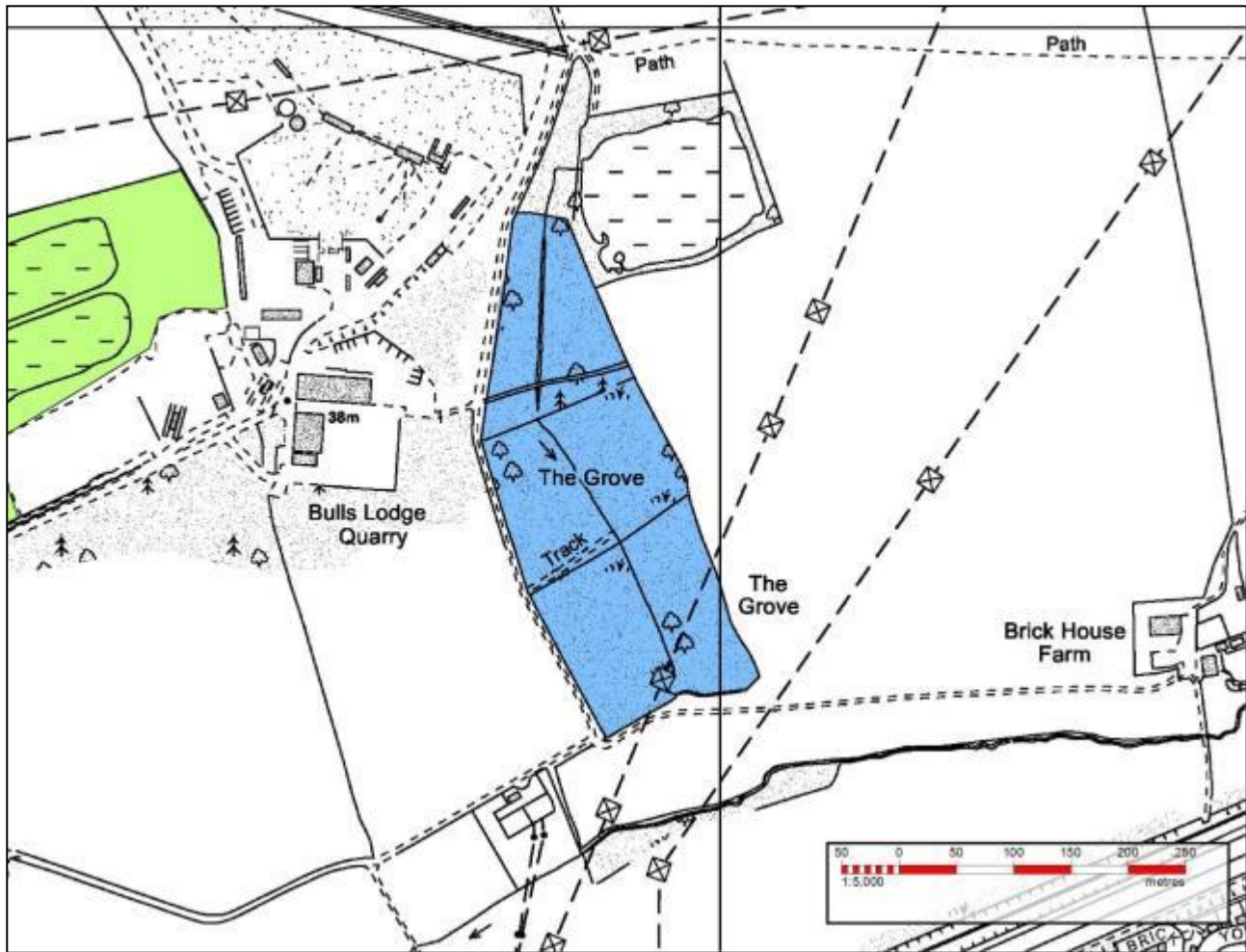
None.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (pylon ride added); 2016

Ch107 The Grove, Boreham (5.82 ha) TL 74891059



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Grove Wood is streamside woodland with some substantial earthwork features within its borders and is little changed in outline from that on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are prominent features of this wood. Other trees recorded in this wood include Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) as coppice. Throughout the wood there is generally a very dense shrub layer which comprises mainly Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground flora has a typical array of woodland plants including Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership and has no public access. It can be viewed from a public footpath that follows a track along the western side.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This site has a varied structure and ground flora providing valuable woodland wildlife habitat. Its status as ancient or recent woodland is uncertain.

Condition Statement

Declining

Management Issues

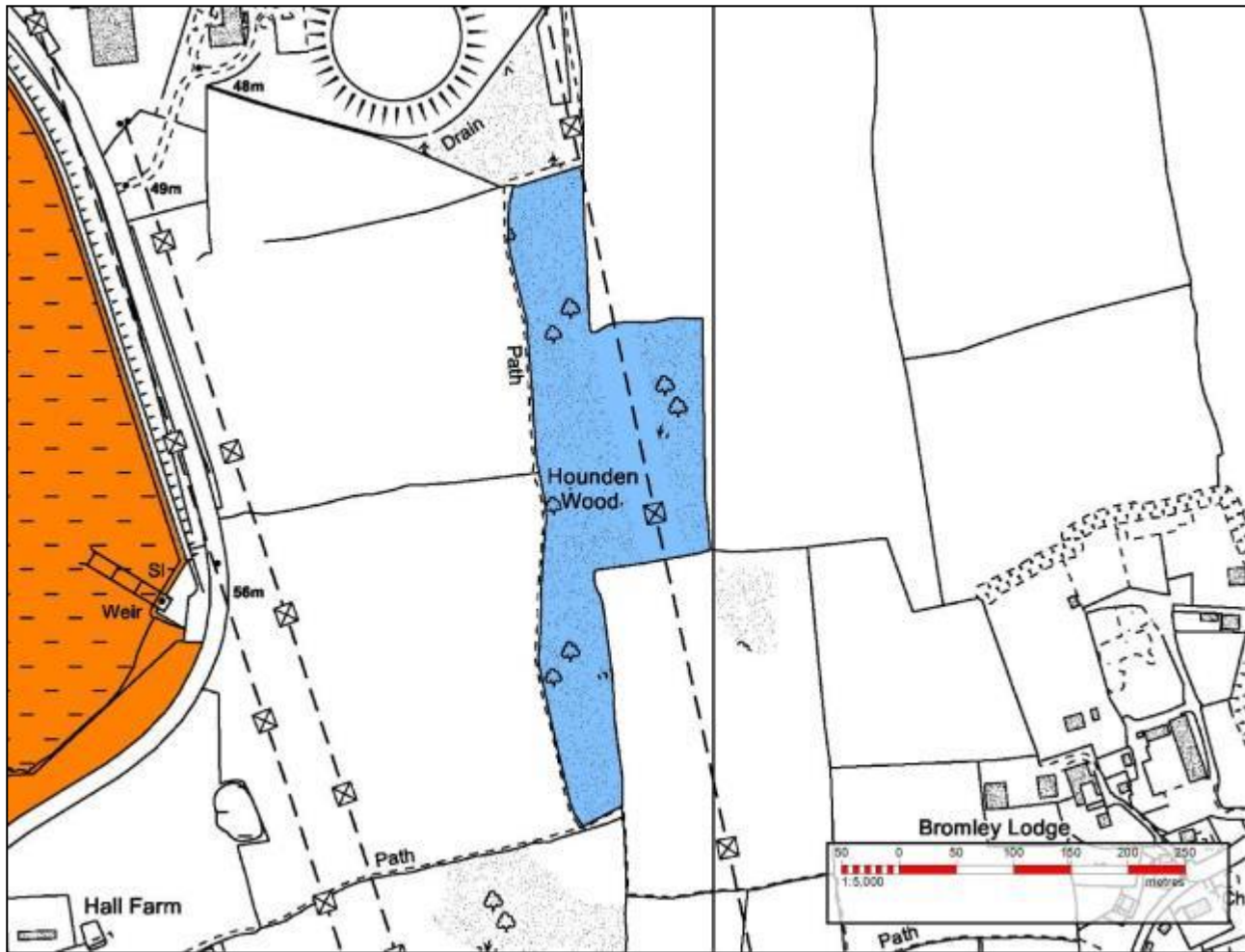
The continued spread of Sycamore may have a detrimental effect on the ground cover and the diversity of woodland flora and fauna.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (northern tip removed); 2016

Ch108 Houden Wood, West Hanningfield (5.08 ha) TQ 74909855



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

A transmission power line bisects this small ancient wood, with coppiced growth beneath, with this wayleave being included as a “ride” within the wood. This canopy structure comprises mainly old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. Other trees and shrubs include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) patches are frequent, with other species found including Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland is owned and managed by Essex & Suffolk Water. There is no public access to this site. It can be viewed from a footpath that runs primarily along the west side of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

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

Condition Statement

Neglected, other than periodic cutting of pylon ride.

Management Issues

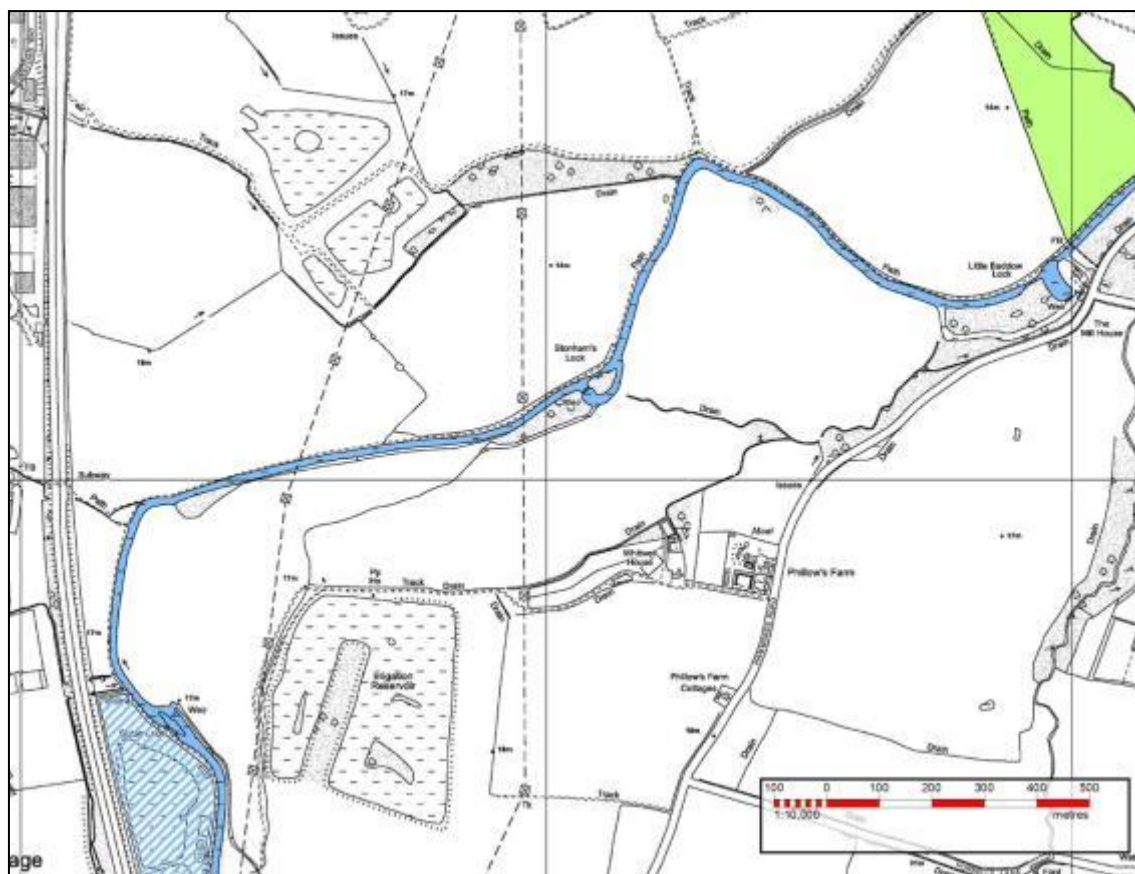
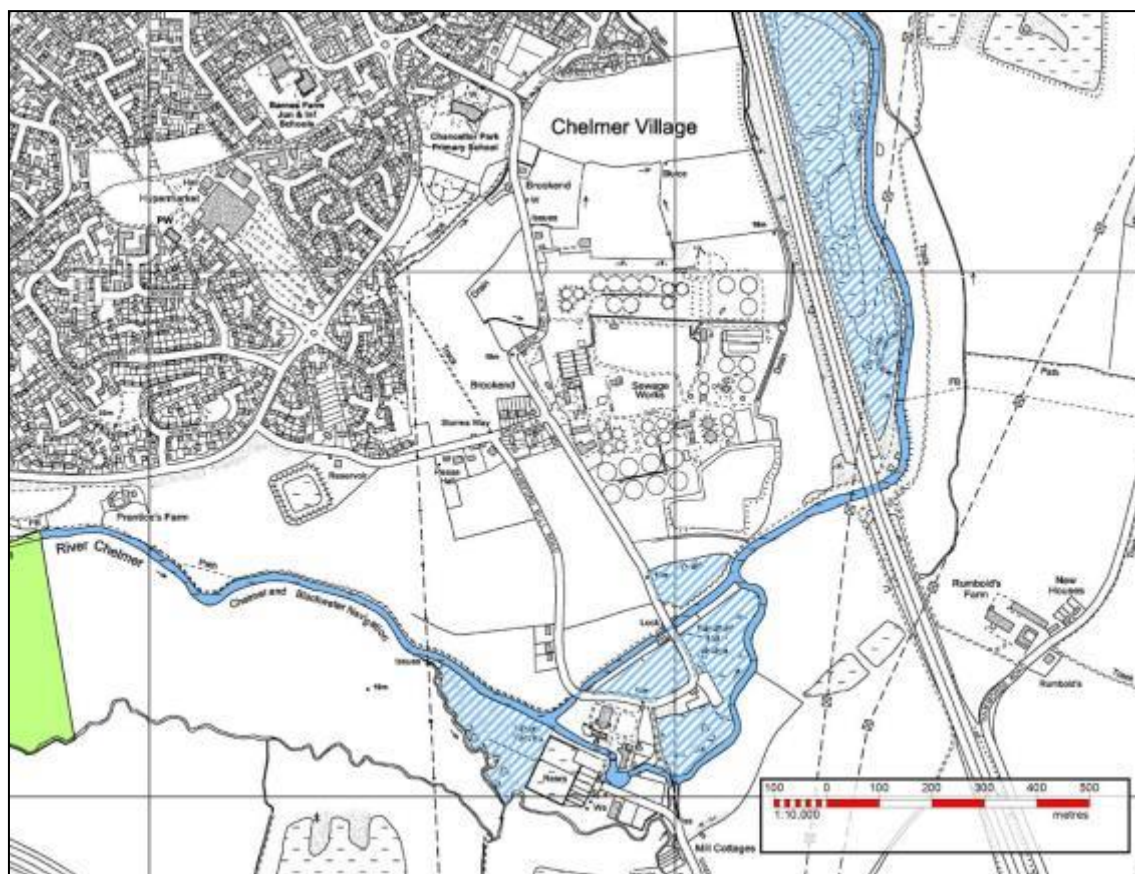
Traditional woodland management is likely to be uneconomical. However, the maintenance of a pylon ride centrally allows a good deal of sunlight to reach the ground layer even in the absence of overall woodland management.

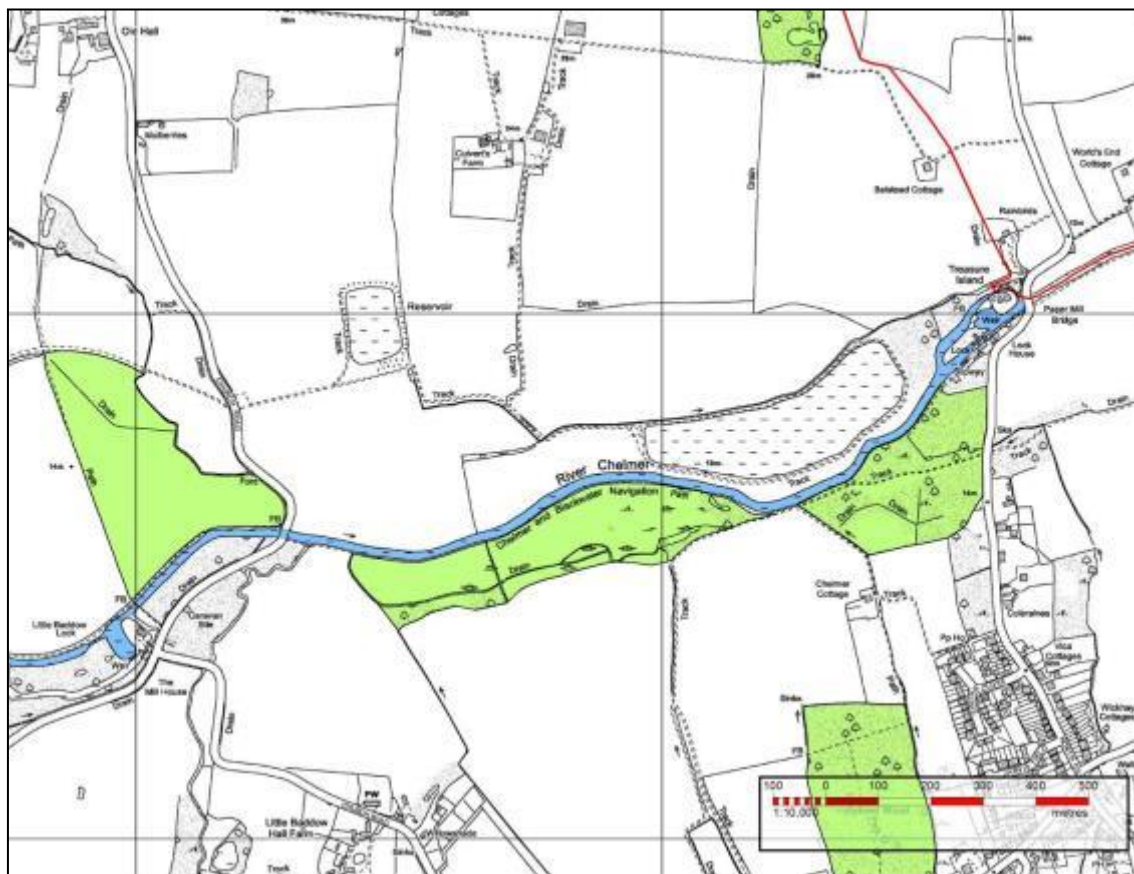
Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (three separate blocks)

Reviewed: 2004 (amalgamated and enlarged); 2016

Ch109 River Chelmer, Chelmsford (13.18 ha) TL 75100766





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises the watercourse and the associated marginal vegetation of the river Chelmer downstream from the city centre. Other sections of the river are included within a series of LoWS running along the Chelmer valley (see Ch67, Ch68, Ch76 and Ch87). A few sections of the river are bordered by planted trees, in particular willows (*Salix* spp.), but for much of its length it is open. The marginal vegetation is particularly lush along both banks of the channel. Many plant species commonly found are Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). However, many other species are to be found interspersed along the watercourse, including Sweet-flag (*Acorus calamus*), Flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and the Essex Red Data List Water Dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*).

Apart from the intrinsic quality of the river and its vegetation, it also forms a very valuable linking corridor between other riverine Wildlife Sites. The river Chelmer also supports a diverse dragonfly and damselfly assemblage. Otters frequent the river Chelmer and it also supports Water Voles.

Ownership and Access

The river is in multiple ownership. Numerous rights of way run alongside and cross the river throughout its course.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None. (The 'Rivers' HPIE has a minimum unit length which is longer than this stretch of river).

Selection Criterion

HC20 Complex Riverine Habitats

Rationale

The river Chelmer is one of the best quality water courses in the county, in terms of its aquatic flora, water quality and associated animal life.

Condition Statement

Overall, good; stable.

Management Issues

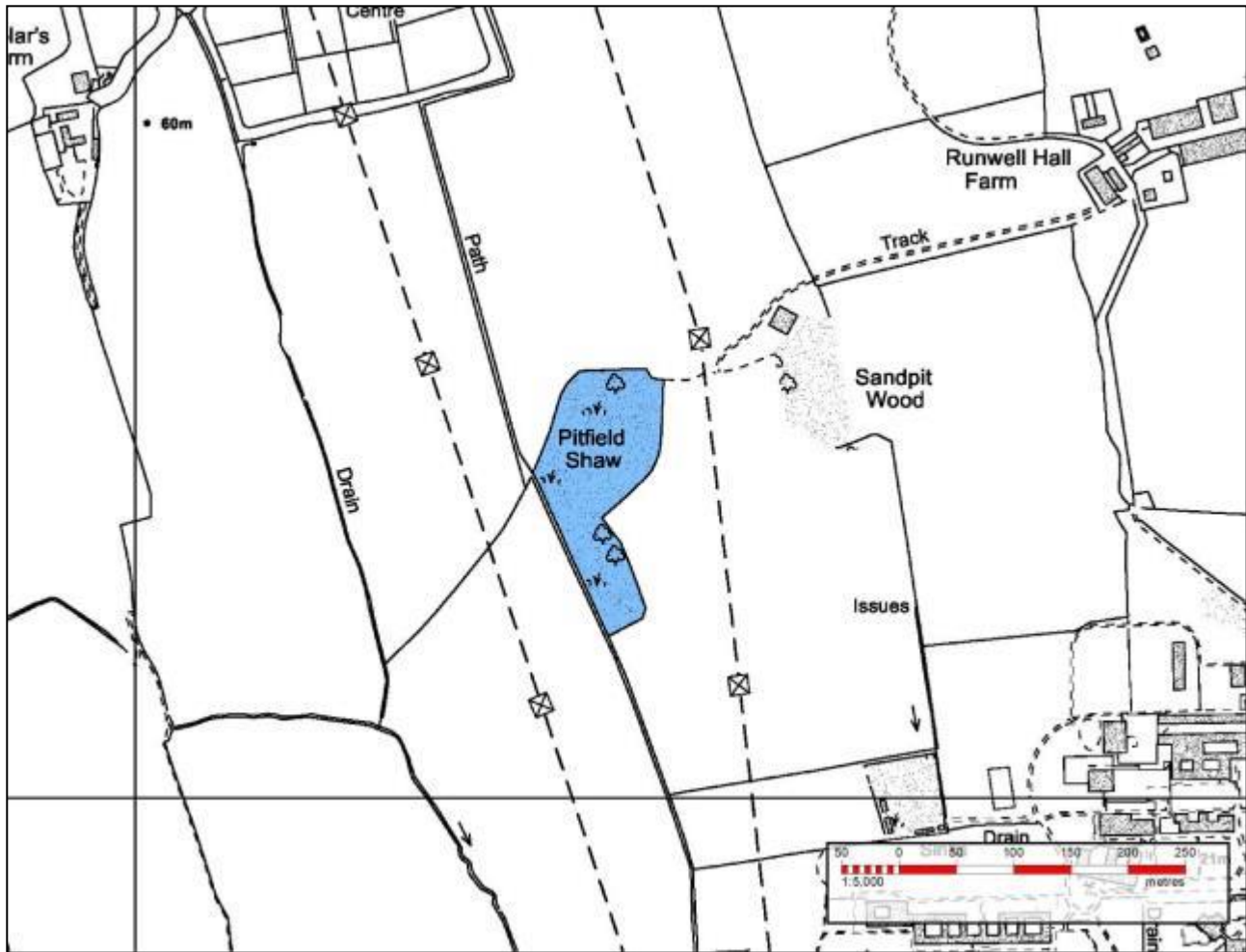
Use of the river by pleasure boats will have localised impacts upon the growth of aquatic plants mid-channel. Bank erosion is also an ongoing problem.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch110 Pitfield Shaw, Runwell (1.55 ha) TQ 75409628



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Situated on a steep west-facing slope, scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) dominates the high canopy of this wood. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are also present. In some areas, such as the north-east corner, a high Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) sub-canopy has resulted in dense shading, and consequently very little ground flora beneath. Some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) occurs in the very south of the wood. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is a locally abundant in the ground northern part of the site

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership with no public access. The woodland can be viewed from a public footpath that runs alongside the west side.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This small ancient woodland retains the same outline as shown on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. Its structure and composition support documentary evidence that it is an ancient site.

Condition Statement

Neglected. Rather poor ground flora.

Management Issues

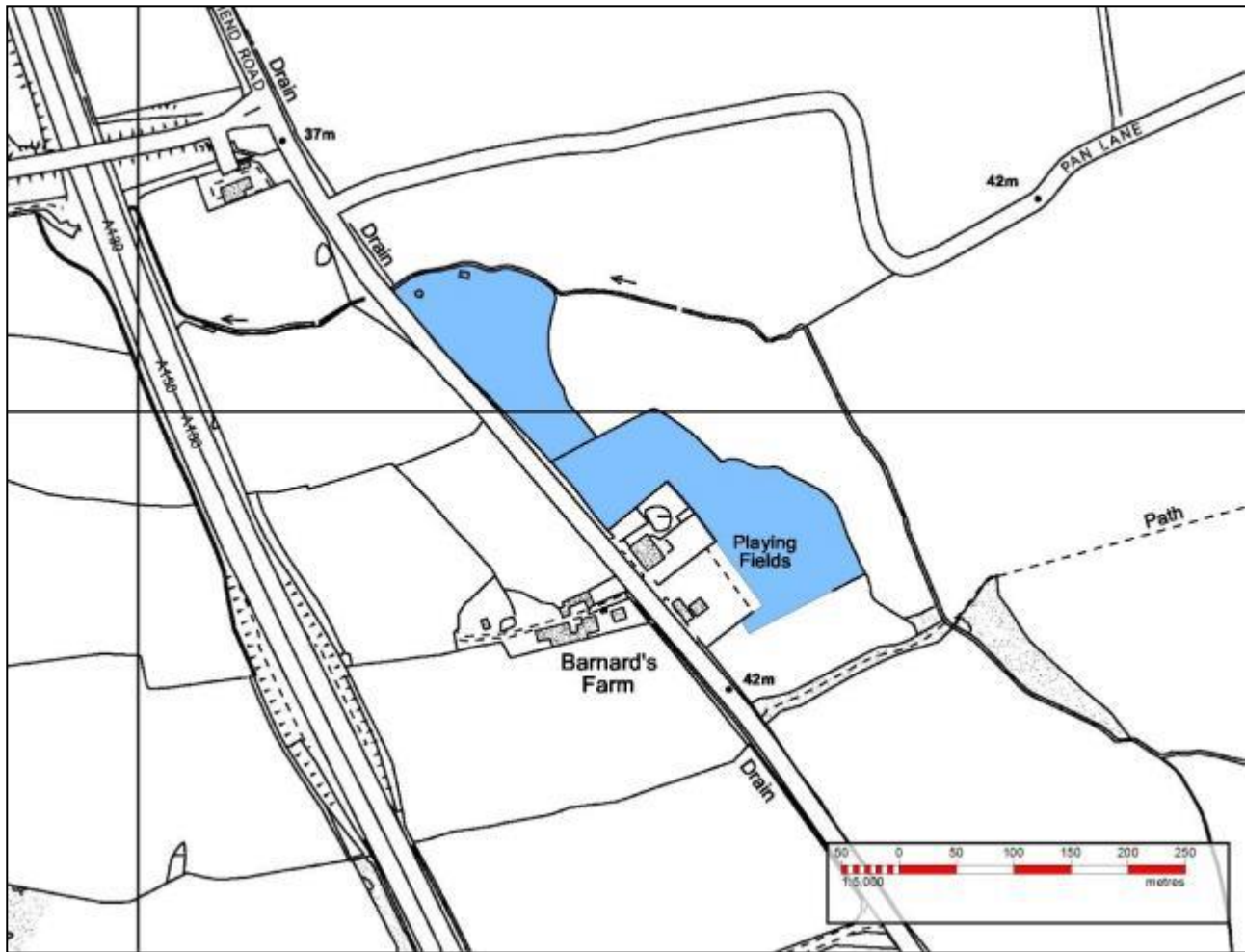
Dense shading is likely to be suppressing the ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch112 Plough and Sail Meadows, East Hanningfield (3.53 ha) TQ75439997



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This species-rich meadow to the rear of the former 'Plough and Sail' public house has been horse grazed for many years. Amongst a diverse grass sward, which includes Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), are herbs such as Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.). In addition, the presence of Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) indicates the damper soil conditions in the northern part of the site. It is in this area that three Essex Red Data List species Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Pepper-saxifrage (*Silau silaus*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) are found.

Ownership and Access

The meadows are in private ownership with no public access. The site can only be viewed from a public footpath the runs through the site to the north side of the 'Royal Tiger' restaurant in the former pub building.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Hedgerows.

The sward is likely to have been derived from a Lowland Meadows habitat type, but its true association could only be revealed following more detailed survey work.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Old, species-rich grasslands such as this are rare within Chelmsford and throughout the county as a whole.

Condition Statement

North part still species diverse, southern area rather a tall sward that is less diverse.

Management Issues

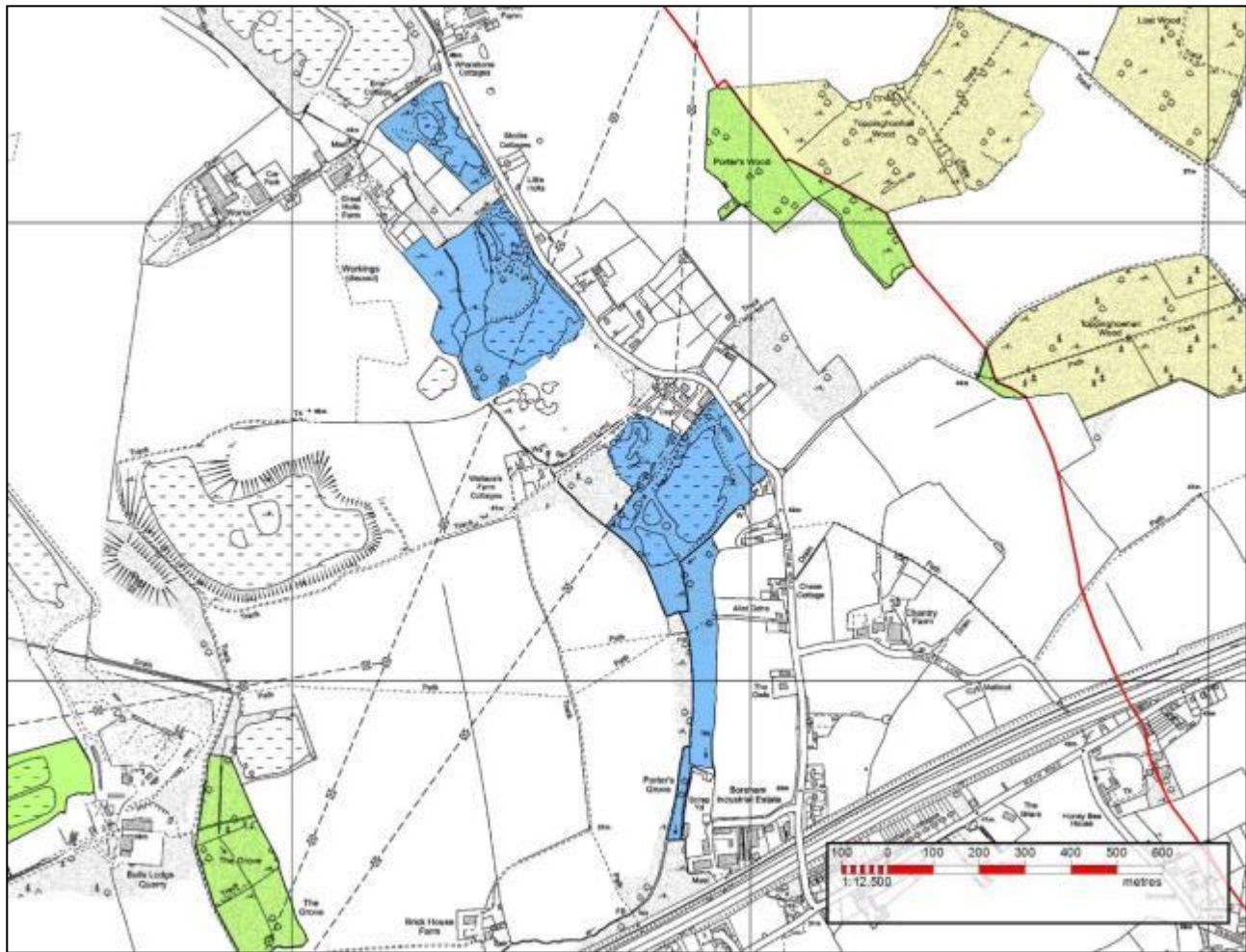
Horse grazing pressure needs to be balanced to prevent damage to the sward and its species of interest.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (deletion of buildings etc.); 2016 (minor revisions)

Ch113 Boreham Road Gravel Pits, Boreham (23.45 ha) TL 75631161



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This large site comprises a series of lakes of various sizes surrounded by woodland, with some areas of open, sometimes marshy, ground. The complex geomorphology is the result of former sand and gravel extraction. As a result, the wooded margins to the lakes occupy an undulating terrain which is reflected in varying canopy composition. This includes willows (*Salix* sp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). An area of damp woodland extending to the south of the main area comprises Oak, Ash and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) as ground flora, both of which prefer wetter substrates.

Elsewhere, areas of tall swamp are characterised by Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), rushes (*Juncus* sp.) and willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.) occur among scattered Willows (*Salix* sp.). South of a boardwalk that crosses the site, the sedge bed gradually gives way to damp grassland. This area is notable for the small colony of Southern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), an Essex Red Data List species. Towards the southern end of the site the ground becomes drier and consequently the flora changes correspondingly. This habitat provides an attractive addition regarding diversity.

At the southern tip of this site is Porter's Grove, a narrow belt of possibly ancient woodland, which is next to the Boreham Industrial estate. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is found on the wood

boundary, while the ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

To the far north of the site, the Holts Farm Quarry Lakes have developed a diverse habitat of scrub, swamp and open water, subsequent to the cessation of quarrying activity. Wet woodland, a Habitat of Principal Importance in England, is important for the diversity of invertebrates it supports and also for breeding and feeding birds. Areas of bare ground left by quarrying activities are also of value as important habitat for many invertebrates.

Ownership and Access

The quarry sites are thought to be in multiple ownership and used partially for recreational fishing and therefore only accessible to club members. The southern section can be viewed from the public footpath that crosses the site via a boardwalk.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Selection Criteria

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC28 Small-component Mosaics

SC1 Vascular Plants

Rationale

Former quarry extraction sites such as this can develop very diverse habitat structure and floristic composition due to the variable topography and drainage patterns. This site is also of value to a great many invertebrates that the habitat will support.

Condition Statement

Good, but slow decline?

Management Issues

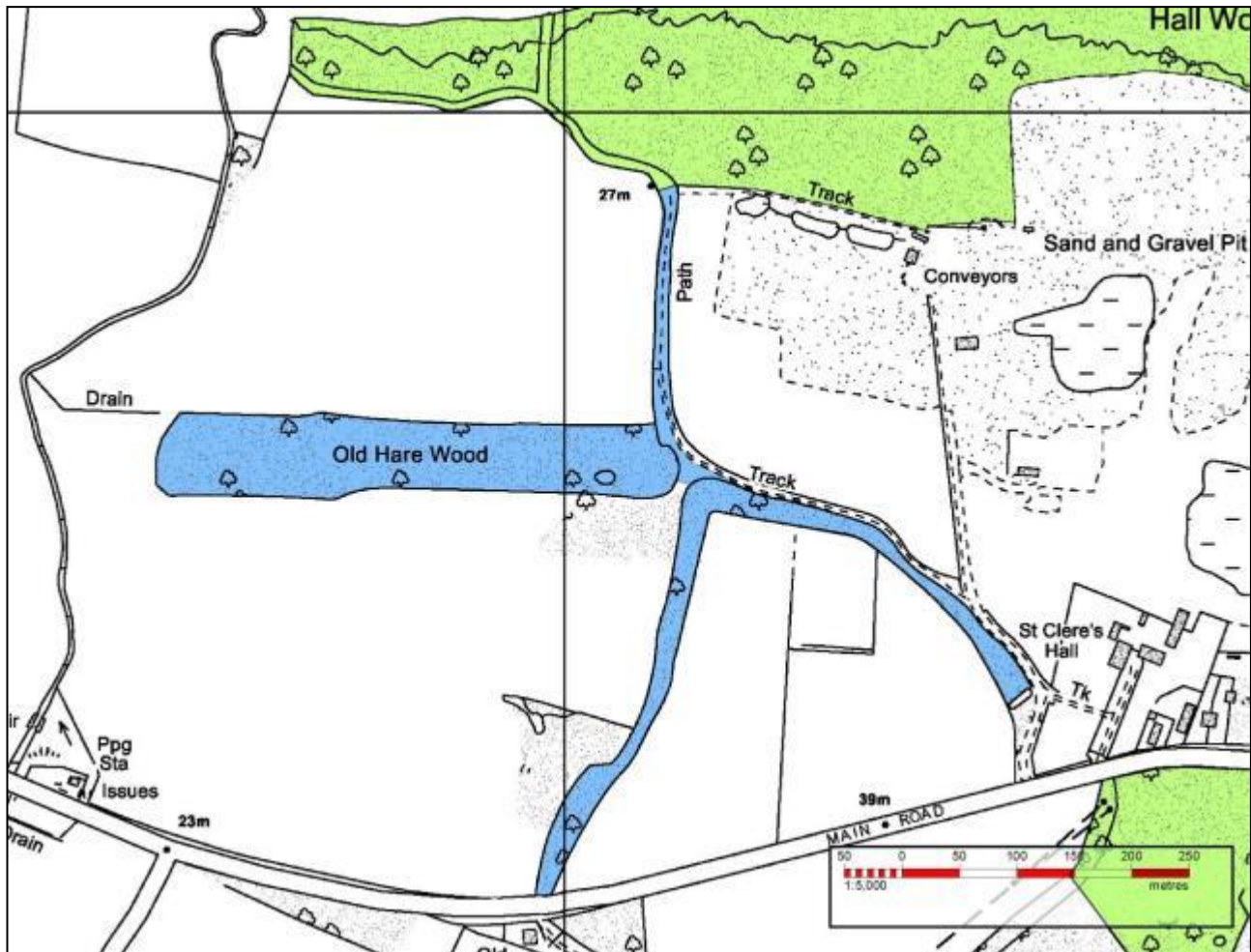
One of the features of worked-out quarry sites is the high diversity of wildlife attracted to early successional habitats. Over time, succession will tend to change the habitat conditions. Whilst this can create wet woodland habitat, which has its own intrinsic nature conservation interest, this should not totally be at the expense of other habitats that typify such 'brownfield' sites.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (only northern part of southern section)

Reviewed: 2004 (central and northern sections added as a separate site); 2016 (sites amalgamated, plus significant boundary revisions)

Ch114 Old Hare Wood Complex, Danbury (4.56 ha) TL 75960565



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Virtually all of Hare Wood comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, though some tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice is found towards the western end of the site. Other trees present in the canopy less frequently include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). The wood shows the effects of storm damage, with many fallen trees. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is the most abundant ground flora plant to be found, with Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) also occurring amongst the ground flora.

By contrast, the strip of wood that extends down to the A414 Main Road has a different composition. Though the far southern end is dominated by Hornbeam coppice, the remainder is mainly dominated by Pedunculate Oak with interspersed Hornbeam and Field Maple. The richest ground flora is found beneath the Hornbeam and includes Bluebell, Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Pignut.

The eastern limb of woodland has Pedunculate Oak in the canopy and includes Ash and Field Maple with much young Elm in the eastern end. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) forms a well developed shrub layer throughout most of this strip of wood. Bluebell and Moschatel are abundant in the ground flora. The lane that connects Old Hare Wood to Hall Wood is included within this LoWS since it can perform an important role in allowing the movement of wildlife between the two woods.

Ownership and Access

The woodlands are thought to be in private ownership with no public access. There is a right of way running adjacent to parts of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

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 available evidence suggests that this site comprises ancient woodland and green lane habitats, in combination with some areas of more recent woodland. The connection with Hall Wood enhances the wildlife value of the site.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice. Minimal management of some parts of the lane.

Management Issues

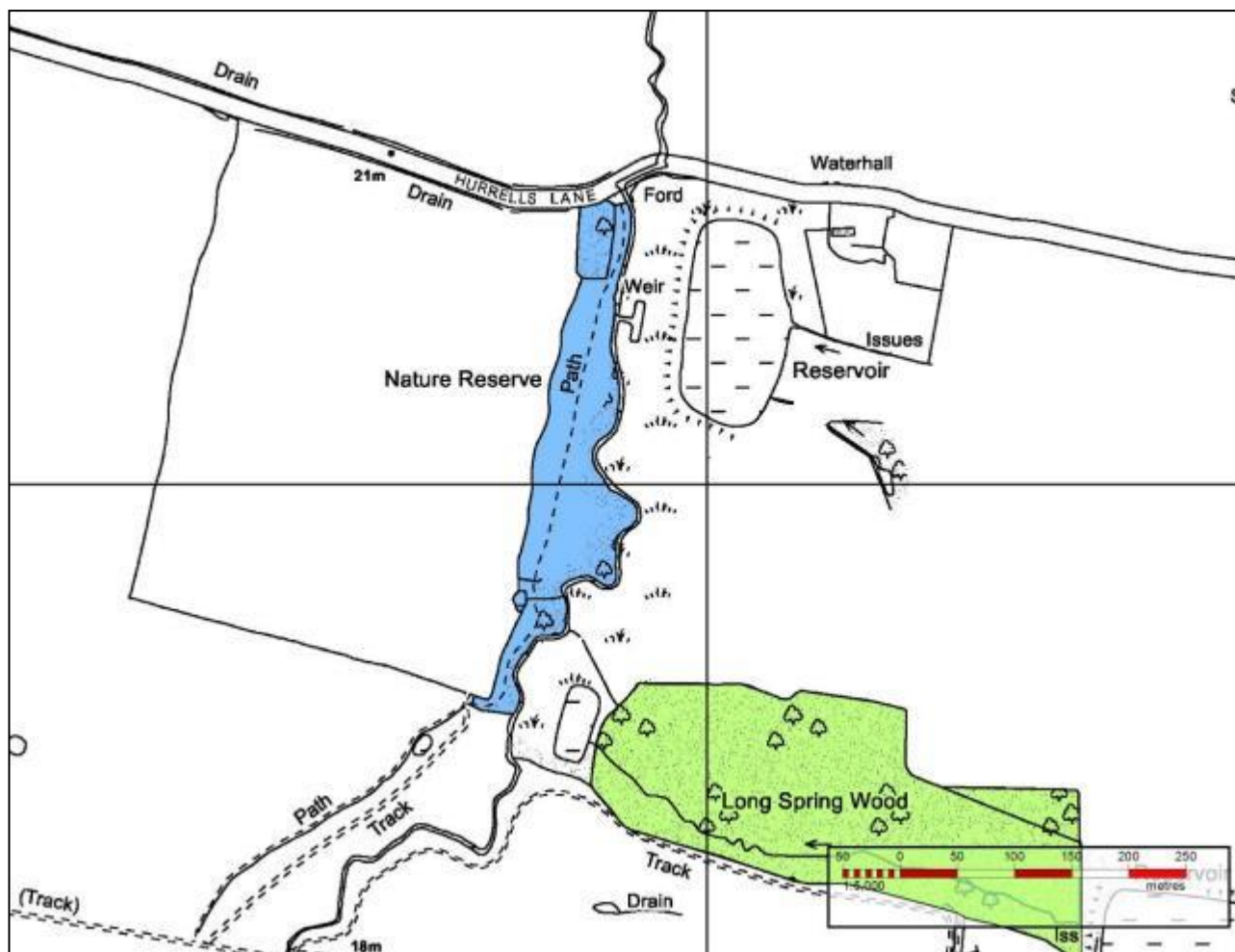
Maintenance of the connection with Hall Wood is an important consideration.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (in part)

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (significant additions)

Ch115 Waterhall Meadows, Little Baddow (2.27 ha) TL75880702



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Situated on the west bank of the Sandon Brook, this site comprises an Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve. The reserve consists of old flood meadow, a small spinney and an area of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) thicket. A varied suite of grasses has been recorded, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and, in the damper areas, Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*). A rich herb flora is also present. Three Essex Red Data List plants (Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*)) have been recorded here, along with Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*). Among a wide range of birds to be found, there are eight species of Warbler, while the Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is a regular visitor and has bred in the reserve. A rich insect fauna includes dragonflies and damselflies including the Nationally Scarce (Nb) White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*), a rare species in Essex.

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Hedgerows.

The site has probably been derived from a form of Lowland Meadows habitat.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Throughout the county the number of flower-rich grasslands has declined considerably, particularly during recent decades, with the loss of rare plants due to improvement. Therefore grasslands such as this are important refuges for plants and their associated invertebrate fauna.

Condition Statement

Stable.

Management Issues

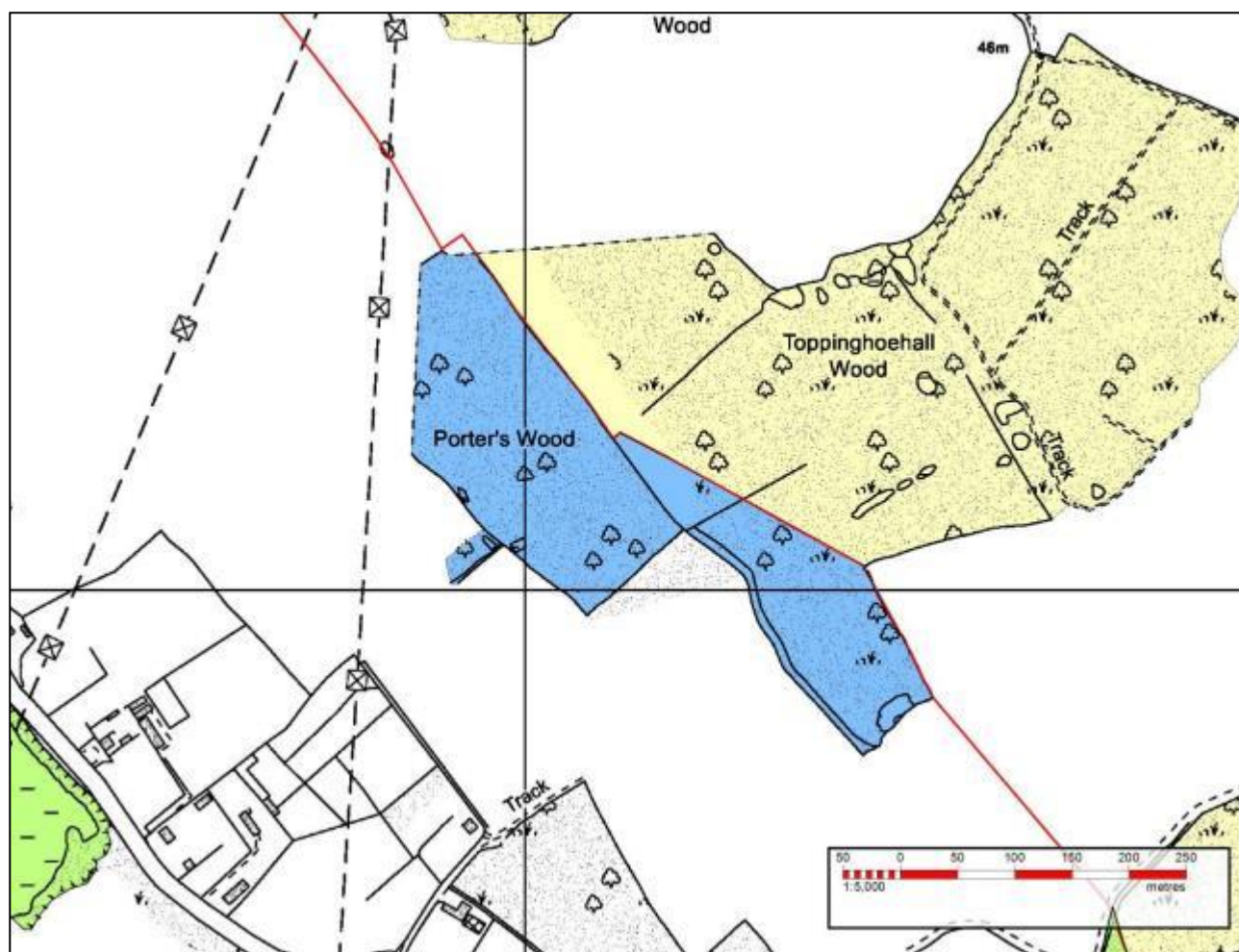
The reserve continues to attract antisocial behaviour from certain members of the community.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch116 Porter's/Toppinghoehall Woods, Boreham (part of) (6.38 ha) TL 76081207



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Porter's Wood lies fully within Chelmsford City Administrative Area, but the local authority then cuts across the adjoining Toppinghoehall Wood, so that an undefined part of this wood also lies within Chelmsford. The remainder is a LoWS within Braintree District. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards characterise this woodland site. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is also found in the high canopy, whilst Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) is found as a sub-canopy tree. A small area of the woodland on the eastern edge of the site has previously been cleared and replanted with native trees. The ground flora has patches where Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant. Other ancient woodland indicators recorded include Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), which is found in profusion.

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership and does not have public access. It can be viewed from a public footpath that runs through the southern half of Porter's Wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and has a species composition and structure typical of such woods. It forms part of a much larger LoWS that overlaps into Braintree District.

Condition Statement

Largely neglected.

Management Issues

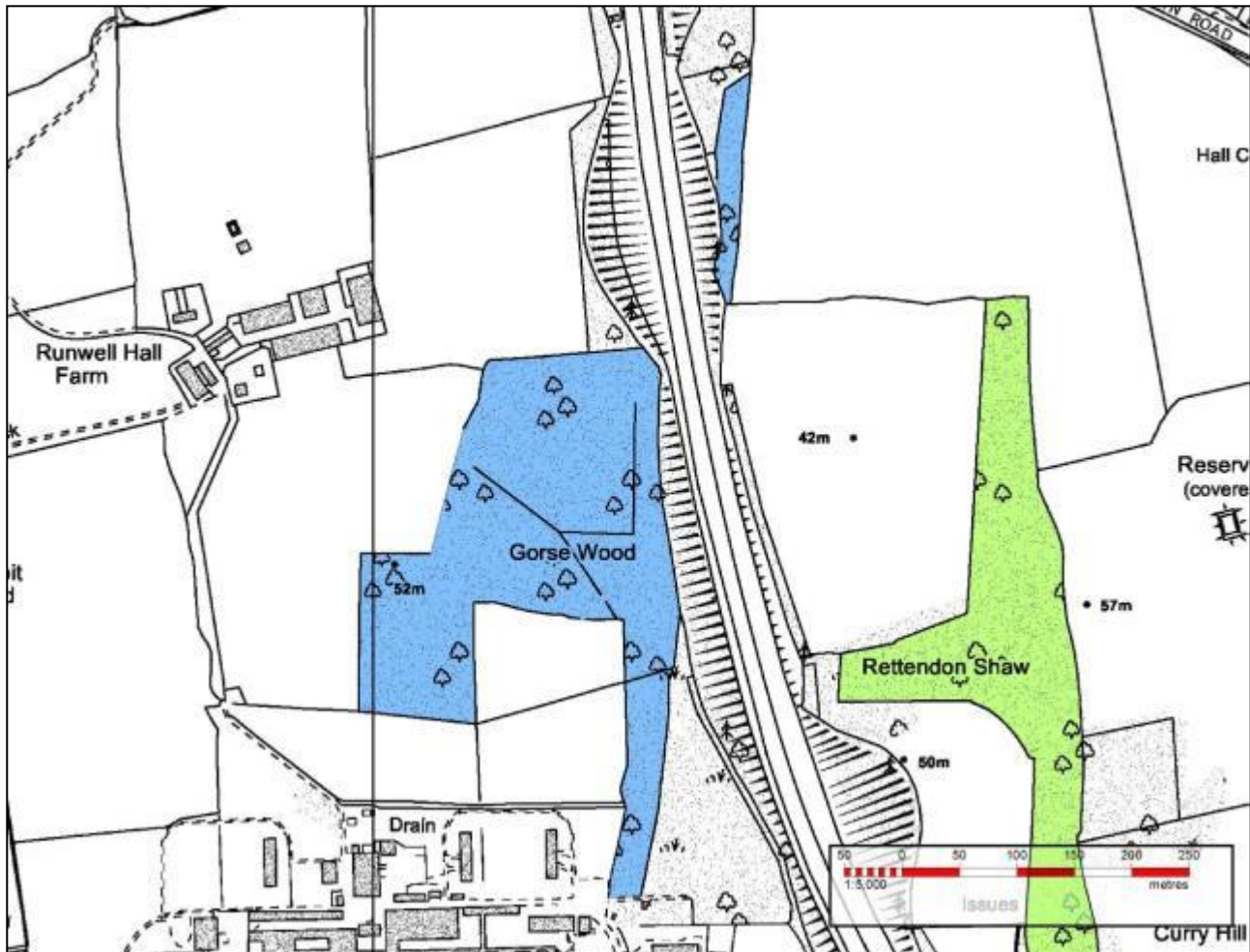
There has been some relatively recent felling and re-stocking. If high forest management is the aim here, it may lead to a very dense canopy, casting a deep shade on the layers below. This may have a negative impact upon the diversity of wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (minor addition)

Ch117 Gorse Wood, Rettendon (6.65 ha) TQ 76159640



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Gorse Wood comprises predominantly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*). There has been some replanting in the north-west corner of the wood whilst the southern limb presents a denser structure with closely spaced trees and a well developed shrub layer. The ground flora of this woodland site includes several ancient woodland indicators such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*). The site includes a narrow arm of wood, separated from the main body of wood by the A130.

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership with no public access

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Parts of the site might also qualify under HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites.

Rationale

Although not included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, at least parts of this site may well be ancient. Regardless of this, it is a good example of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected, other than some localised replanting.

Management Issues

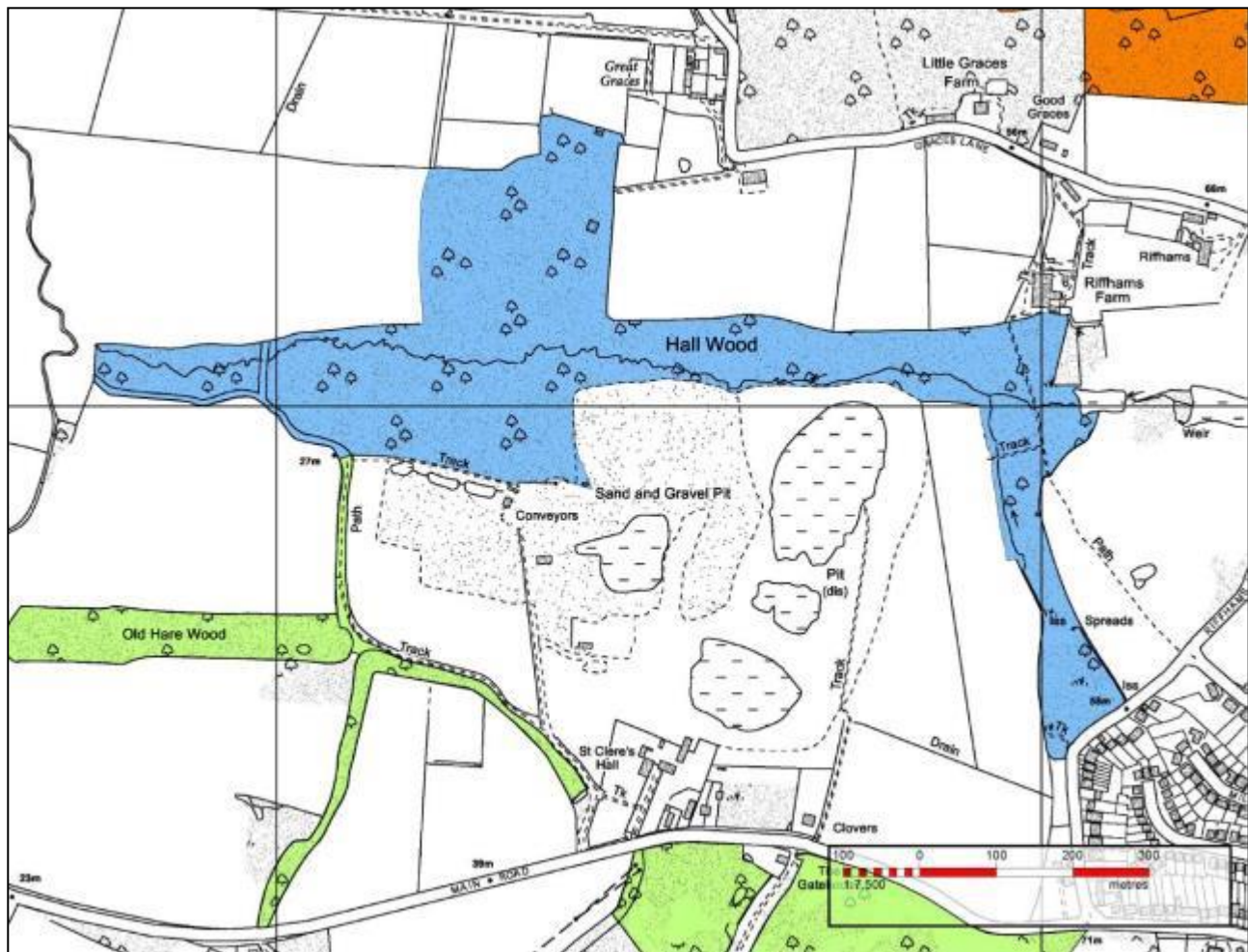
None.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (partial loss to trunk road); 2016

Ch118 Hall Wood, Danbury (23.55 ha) TL 76450604



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Hall Wood is situated to the west of the main Danbury complex, close to Blake's Wood and Lingwood Common SSSIs. Coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are the main trees that characterise this woodland, while Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice straddles the stream running through the centre. The ground flora displays a rich mix, with species such as Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and the Essex Red Data List species Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) near the stream. The drier soils exhibit a range of other ancient woodland indicators, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*).

Ownership and Access

The woodland is in private ownership with no public access. Part of the eastern end of the site can be viewed from a public footpath that runs through it.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This large and species rich ancient woodland constitutes important wildlife habitat in the Danbury area of Chelmsford.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

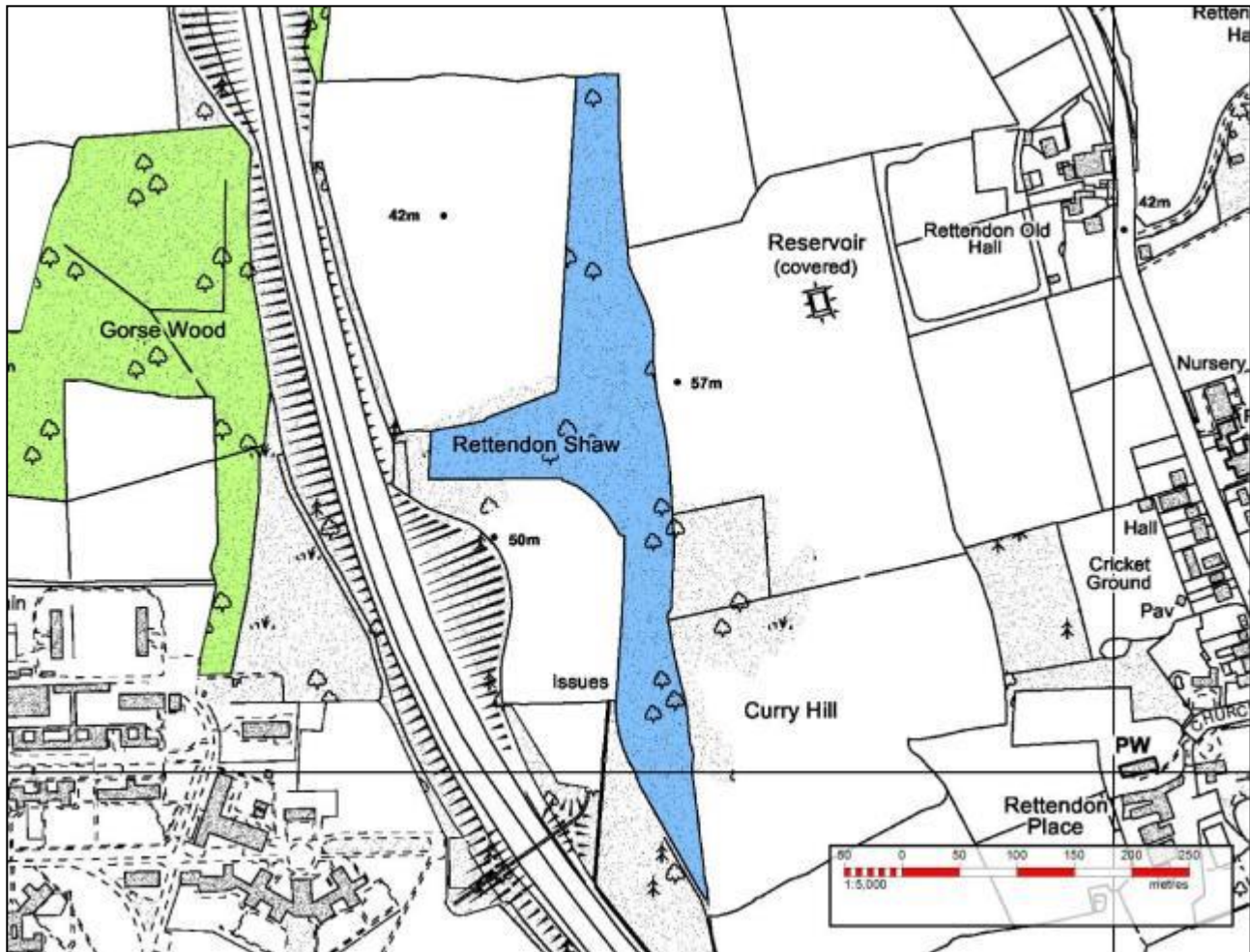
The southern boundary of the wood has been eroded over the years by quarrying activity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (minor boundary revisions); 2016 (further minor revisions)

Ch119 Rettendon Shaw, Rettendon (4.56 ha) TQ 76569627



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The northern end of this site has Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and a carpet of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) beneath, which is typical of many ancient woodlands found throughout Chelmsford. However, the remainder of the site has a more varied structure and composition with Pedunculate Oak, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) found as high or sub-canopy. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) has been planted in the woodland. The shrub layer mainly comprises Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Bluebell is found in patches throughout the wood, whilst other ancient woodland ground flora present includes Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

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

Condition Statement

Largely unmanaged.

Management Issues

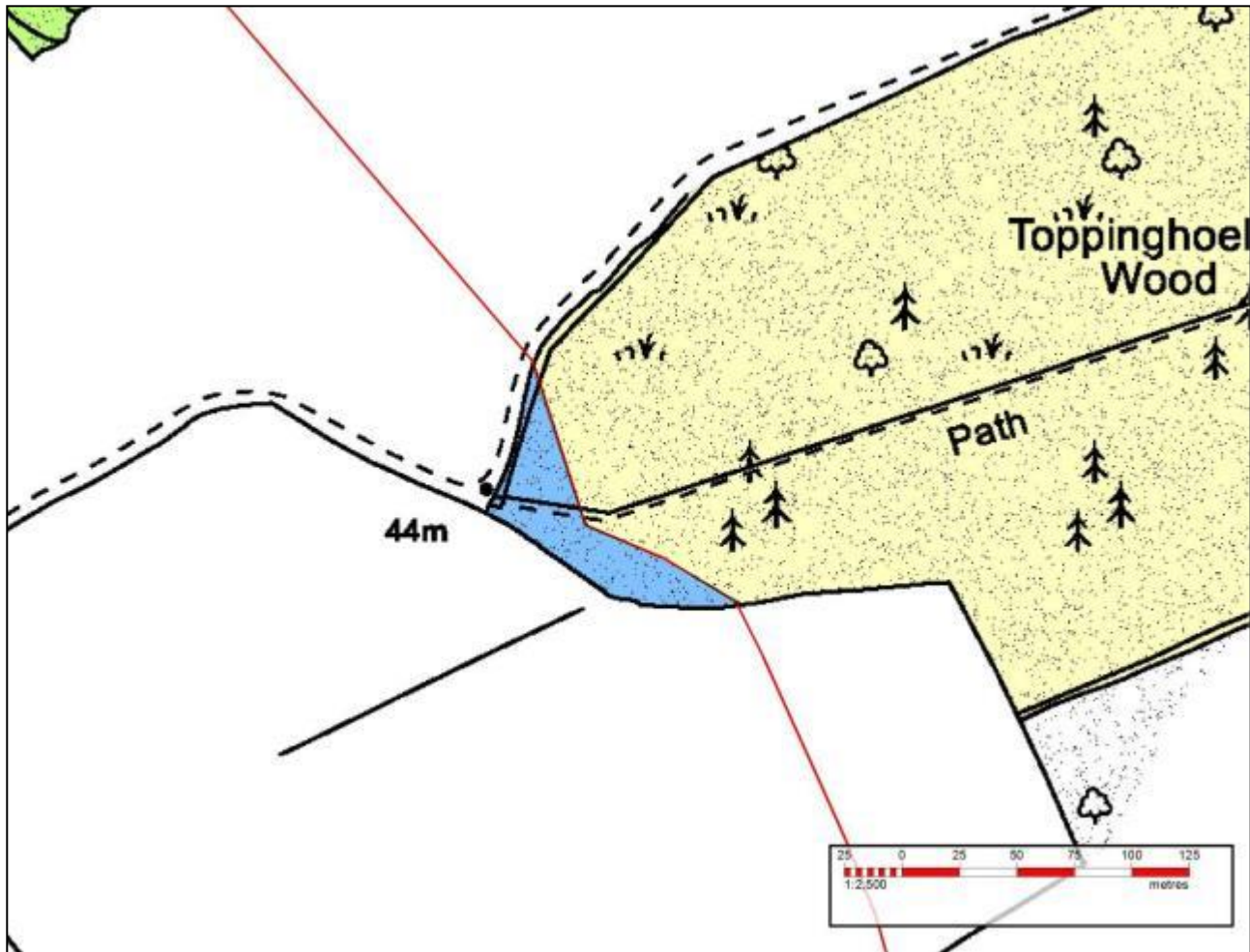
Although many neglected coppices suffer from dense shading to the ground layer, this is slightly compensate for in the long, narrow shape of the wood, which allows sunlight to penetrate most of the site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch120 Toppinghoehall Wood, Boreham (part of) (0.3 ha) TL 76531165



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Only the extreme western tip of this large wood lies within Chelmsford, with the bulk of the wood lying within Braintree District – an unusual situation since most local authority boundaries are based on ancient landscape features, including woodland edges, rather than running through such wood unmarked by physical features. The fragment of woodland in Chelmsford has Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Larch (*Larix decidua*) above an Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) shrub layer. In this area of the woodland the ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership and has no public access, other than a right of way that runs down a central track.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex and, when viewed as a whole, has a remnant species composition and structure typical of such woods, despite the extensive replanting.

Condition Statement

Poor.

Management Issues

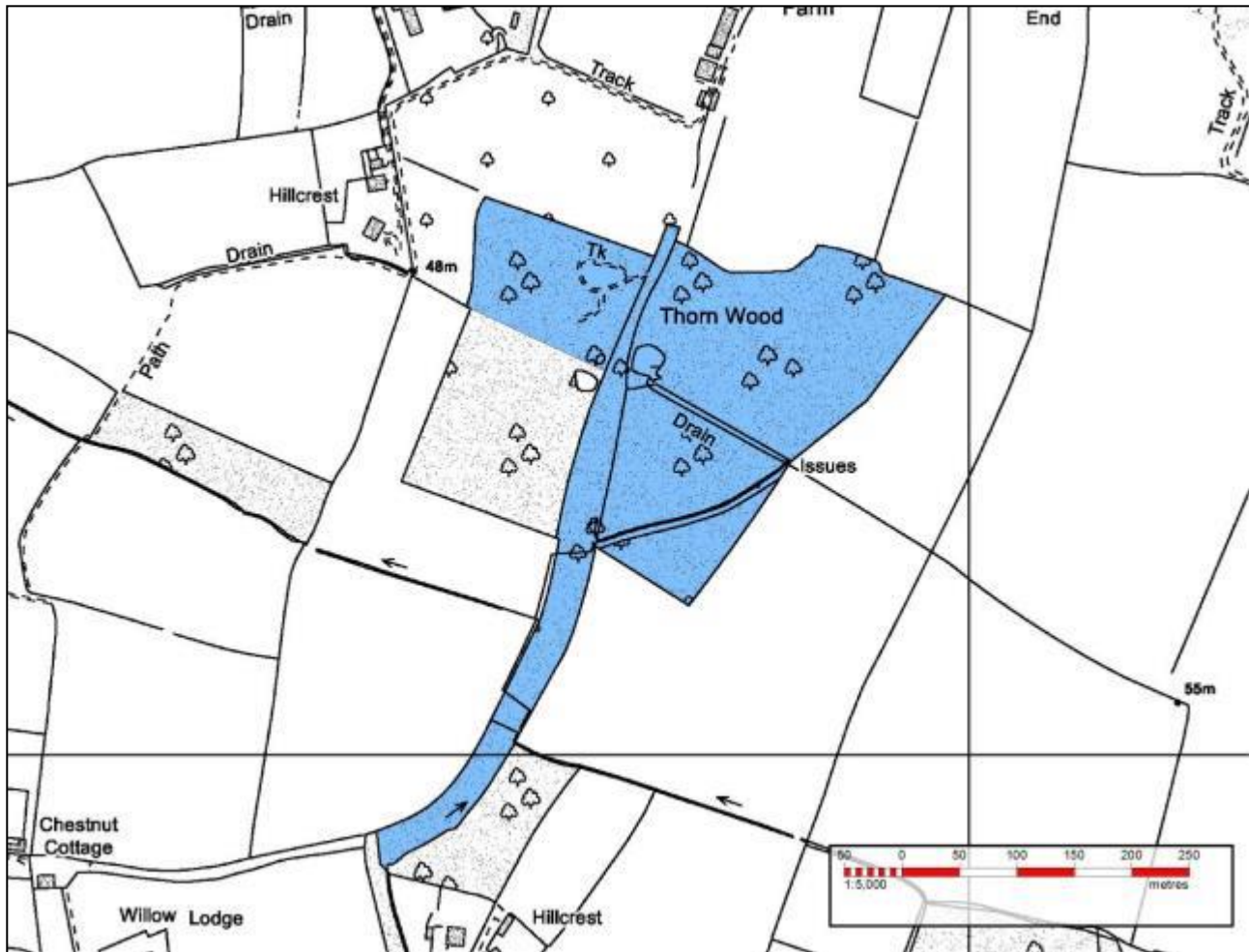
Restoration of a native, semi-natural canopy and understorey would benefit the wildlife of this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (erroneously included within the Braintree District site as one unit)

Reviewed: 2004 (identified as separate site within Chelmsford); 2016

Ch121 Thorn Wood, East Hanningfield (8.20 ha) TL 76730329



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The northern half of this site mainly comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) as coppice and standards, with some Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, which tend to be confined to the margins of the wood. There is little in the way of a shrub layer here, but some low Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) patches remain. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is locally abundant in the ground flora. By contrast, the south eastern has Pedunculate Oak, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), some tall Hornbeam and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) including many regenerative saplings. Bluebell is recorded from the ground flora in this area as well.

The narrow limb extending southwards from the main block is a mix of Ash, Pedunculate Oak, and Horse-chestnut with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominating the shrub layer. Of particular interest is the presence of Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*).

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership with no public access. The north-east corner can only be viewed from a public footpath that runs adjacent to the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This is a significant site within an otherwise more poorly wooded part of Chelmsford. Although not clearly ancient, the site might incorporate ancient hedgerows or small blocks of ancient wood, which help to give the wood a diverse structure and composition.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

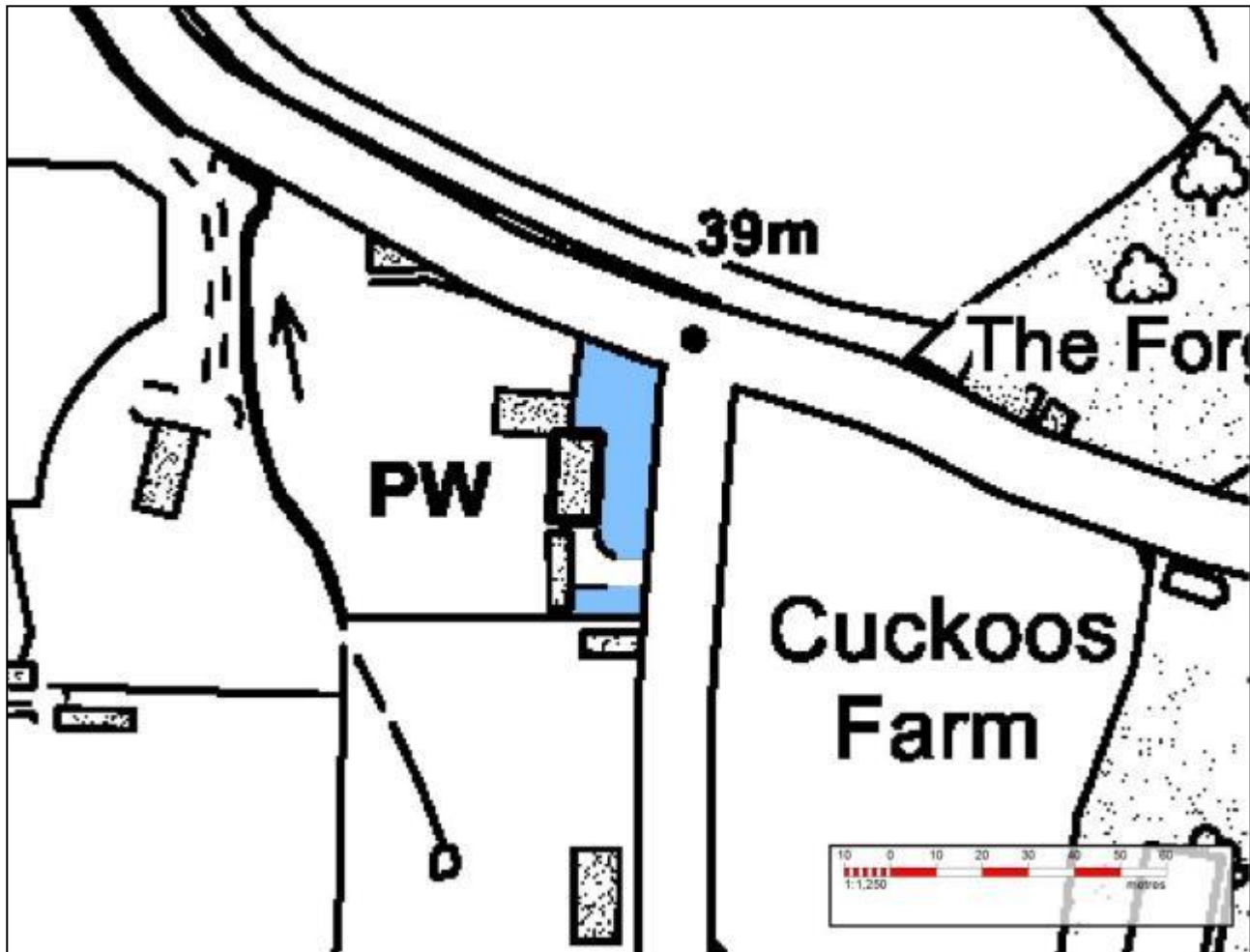
Management Issues

Neglected coppice will be suppressing the ground layer through the dense shade cast.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (significant deletions); 2016 (partial reinstatement of 2004 deletion)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Despite its relatively small size, this unimproved grassland supports a very rich assemblage of plants. Amongst the grassland are herbs such as Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*). Of particular interest is the presence of Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) which are all Essex Red Data List species, whilst Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) though not scarce in Chelmsford or the county is, however, a nationally scarce species. Sixteen species of fungi have also been recorded from this churchyard.

Ownership and Access

This site is managed by the Little Baddow Christian Council and Churchyard group. The site is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The site might ultimately have been derived from a form of Lowland Meadows habitat, but its current vegetation type could only be determined through more detailed survey work.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

This small site is a fine example of the rich flora that an old piece of grassland can support. Such grasslands are now all but lost from the wider countryside but are often conserved in one form or another by churchyards and the grounds of other old buildings.

Condition Statement

Good.

Management Issues

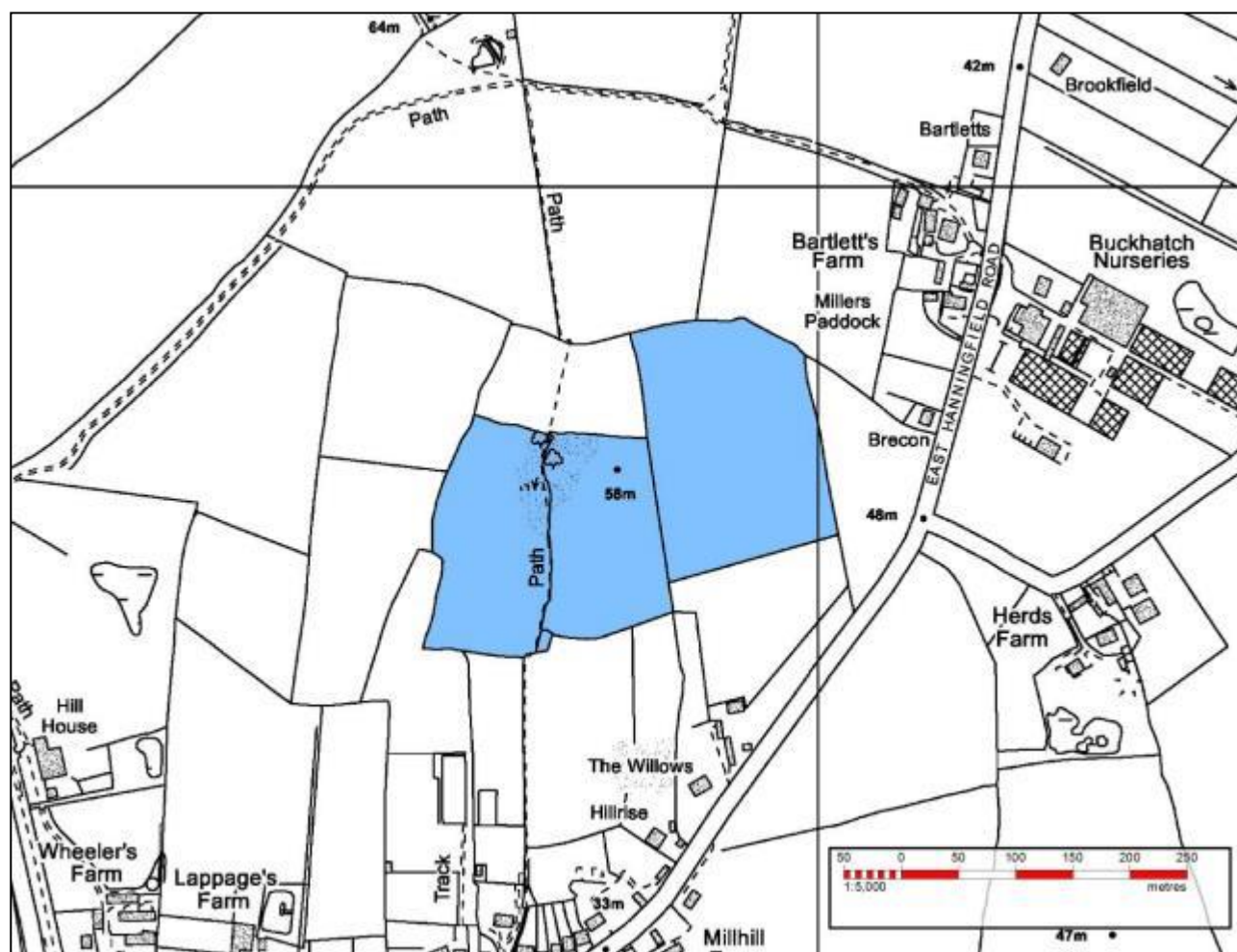
Nutrient enrichment should be avoided. Removing grass cuttings is an important consideration in this respect.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch124 The Willows, Rettendon (6.64 ha) TQ 76839872



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

These meadows are a floristically rich area of unimproved grassland. A wide variety of grass species such as Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) are present. Some important old grassland species have been recorded from this site including Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and three Essex Red Data List species Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), and Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), this latter plant now very uncommon in the Essex landscape.

Ownership and Access

These meadows are in private ownership with no public access. The western part of the site can be viewed from a public footpath the runs between the meadows.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Hedgerows.

May be associated with the Lowland Meadows habitat type.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Grasslands such as this are important refuges for rare plants not tolerant to improved soil conditions. All such surviving examples are worthy of conservation.

Condition Statement

Good.

Management Issues

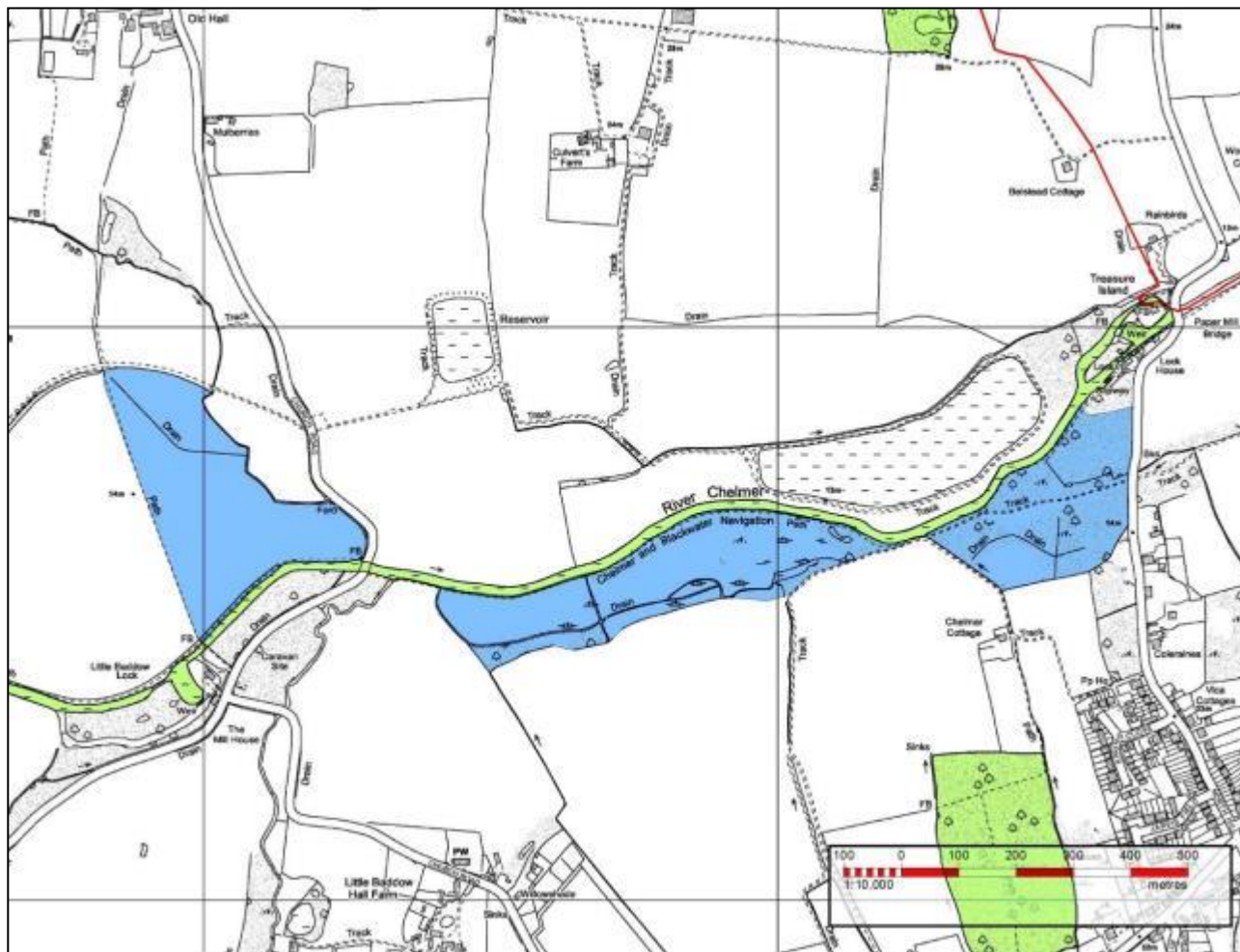
The prevention of nutrient enrichment is a key consideration, along with the formulation of a stable management regime.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch125 Boreham Meads, Boreham (23.86 ha) TL 76700864



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This area south of the River Chelmer is a complex mosaic of grassland, marshy grassland and swamp dominated habitat. The central area has stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), pond-sedges (*Carex* spp.) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which are bounded on the south side by scrub. Among small patches of wooded scrub, rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Large Bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*) (an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species) are found. The marshy areas support Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and another ERDL plant, Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*).

The land near Hoe Mills bridge to the east comprises willow plantation over a grassy ground cover. Recent disturbance has seen the appearance here of Ragged-Robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*) and Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*).

To the north side of the river lies a large block of grassland. This was ploughed in the early 1990s, but has subsequently recovered. Species of interest recorded from this area include Ragged-Robin, Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and three ERDL species: Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*), this last species at possibly its only native location within Essex. This area includes the Boreham Special Roadside Verge (TL 76230867 to 76270861), which has been designated due to the presence of Common Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*), a rare Essex plant that is included on the ERDL.

Ownership and Access

This site is in multiple ownership. Public access is restricted to a series of footpaths that cross the various sections, plus the towpath along the adjacent navigation channel.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Fen

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC10 River Floodplain

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

HC14 Lowland Fen Vegetation

Rationale

This site comprises a series of floodplain habitats, albeit modified by modern management in places. It forms part of a chain of important wildlife habitats along the river Chelmer that augment the riverine habitats.

Condition Statement

Variable.

Management Issues

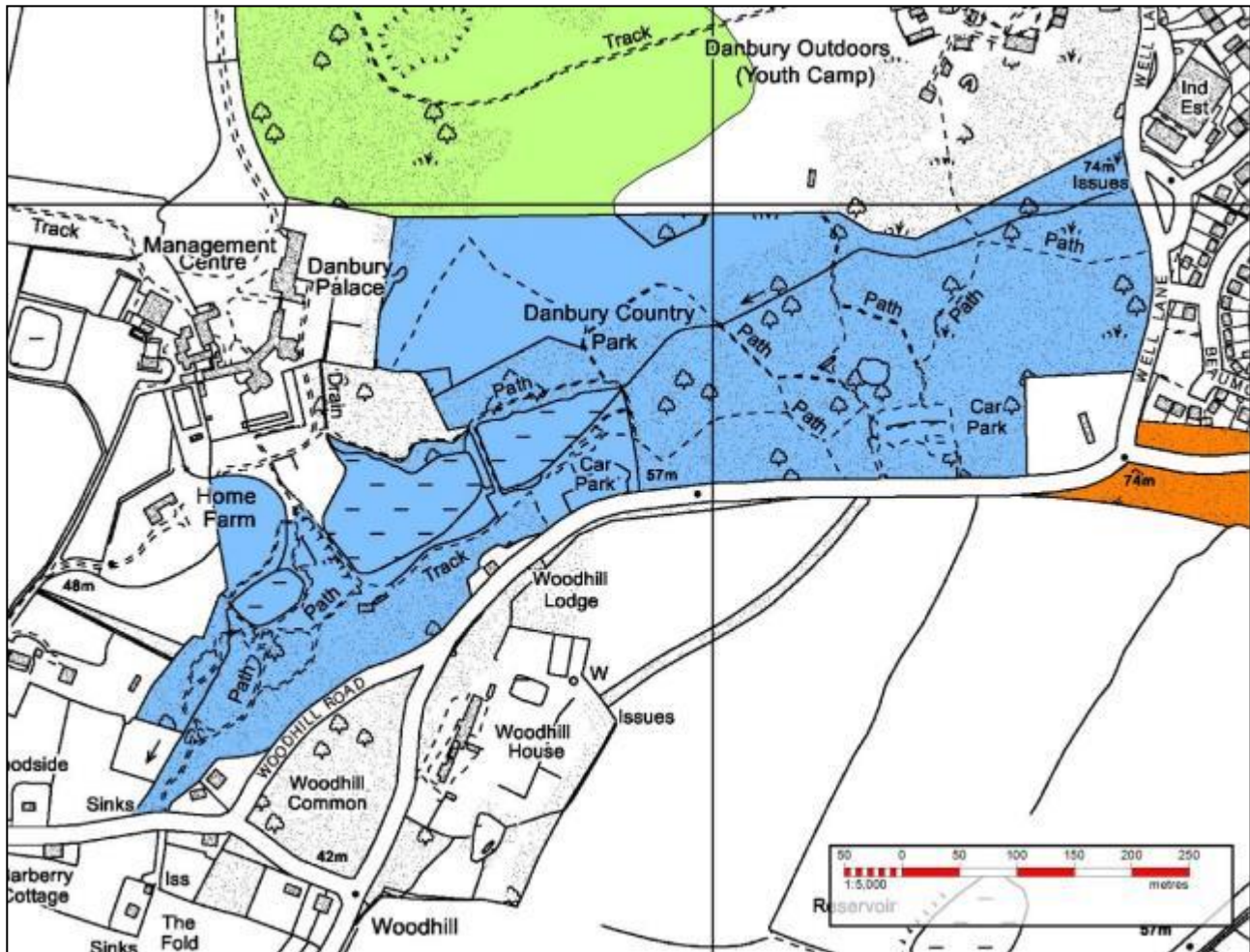
The eastern section has undergone recent heavy disturbance associated with some tree felling work and part of the former site has been lost to car parking associated with activities at Paper Lock.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (in part)

Reviewed: 2004 (significant additions and deletions); 2016 (minor boundary revisions)

Ch126 Danbury Country Park, Danbury (19.85 ha) TL 76940482



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The origin of Danbury Country Park lies in the landscaped parkland associated with the former Danbury Palace estate, dating back to the 13th Century. It now comprises a mosaic of old woodland, grassland, lakes and some ornamental plantation and is a very popular attraction for local residents as a place for informal recreation and enjoyment of the countryside.

At the eastern end is a block of old woodland with a very varied canopy, which includes Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Some of the oaks are veterans, as befits an origin within ancient parkland. The presence of Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is also of note, it being a tree strongly associated with ancient woodland sites. Amongst the woodland ground flora are Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

To the north of the woodland and lakes complex is a large expanse of largely unimproved acid grassland. The grass sward comprises a mix of mainly Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The species-rich herb assemblage includes Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Lady's

Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*).

Ownership and Access

The country park is owned by Essex County Council and has full public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC28 Small-component mosaics

HC31 Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

The park encapsulates a large number of different habitats, each of which has its own intrinsic interest. It is also important as a place where the public can come to enjoy and learn about these varied habitats.

Condition Statement

Moderate.

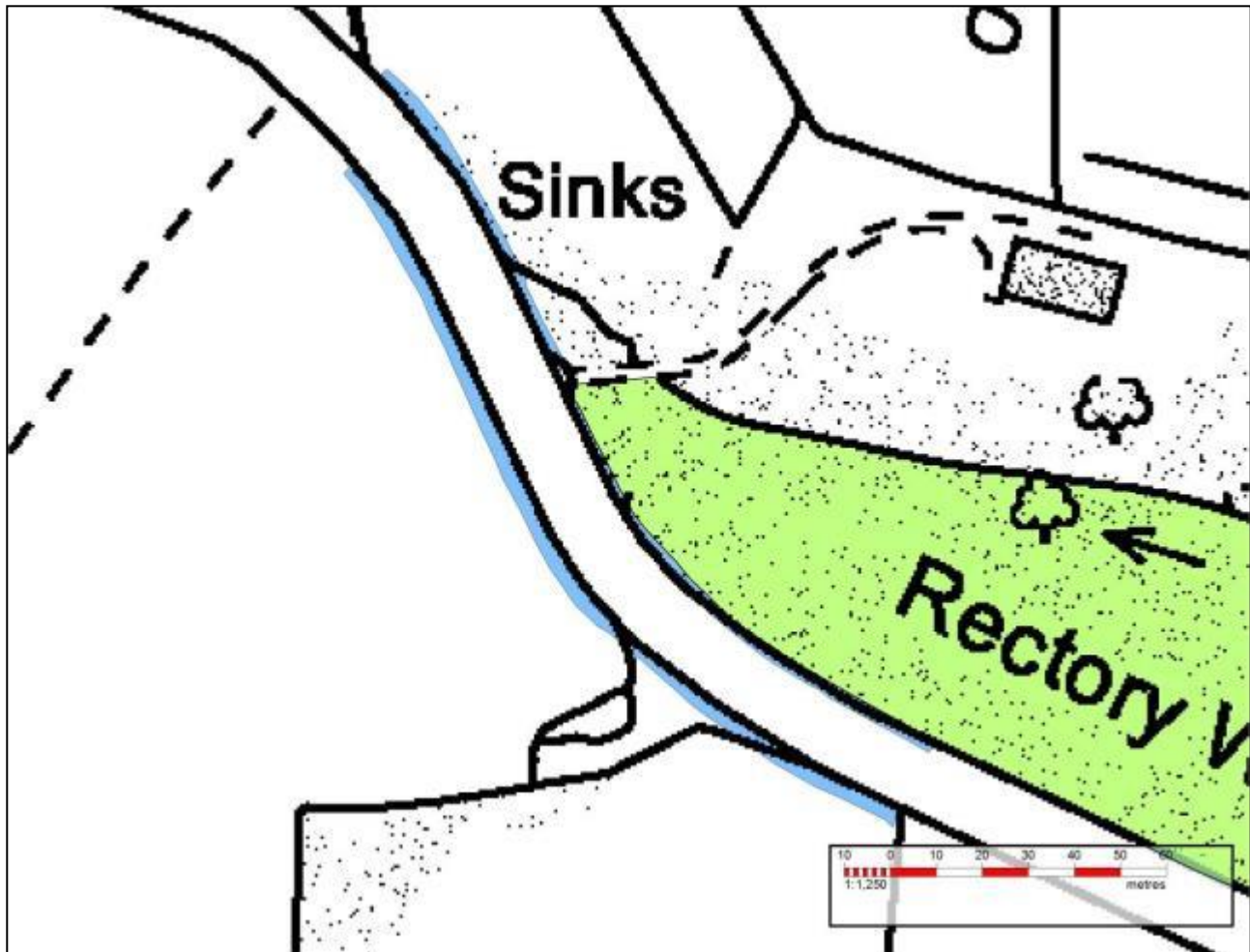
Management Issues

The site inevitably suffers from heavy trampling pressure. Long-term nutrient enrichment of the grassland is also likely to be having a negative impact upon the grassland quality.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (minor boundary revisions)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The verge on the south side of the road has of an abundance of Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), whilst that to the north side lies adjacent to and is complemented by Ch129 Rectory Wood, Little Baddow. This roadside verge bank has a well established population of Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), an Essex Red Data List species.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership but form part of the public highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

SC1 Vascular Plants

Rationale

Common Cow-wheat is declining in distribution due to its loss from sites mainly due to dense undergrowth and shading out.

Condition Statement

Good.

Management Issues

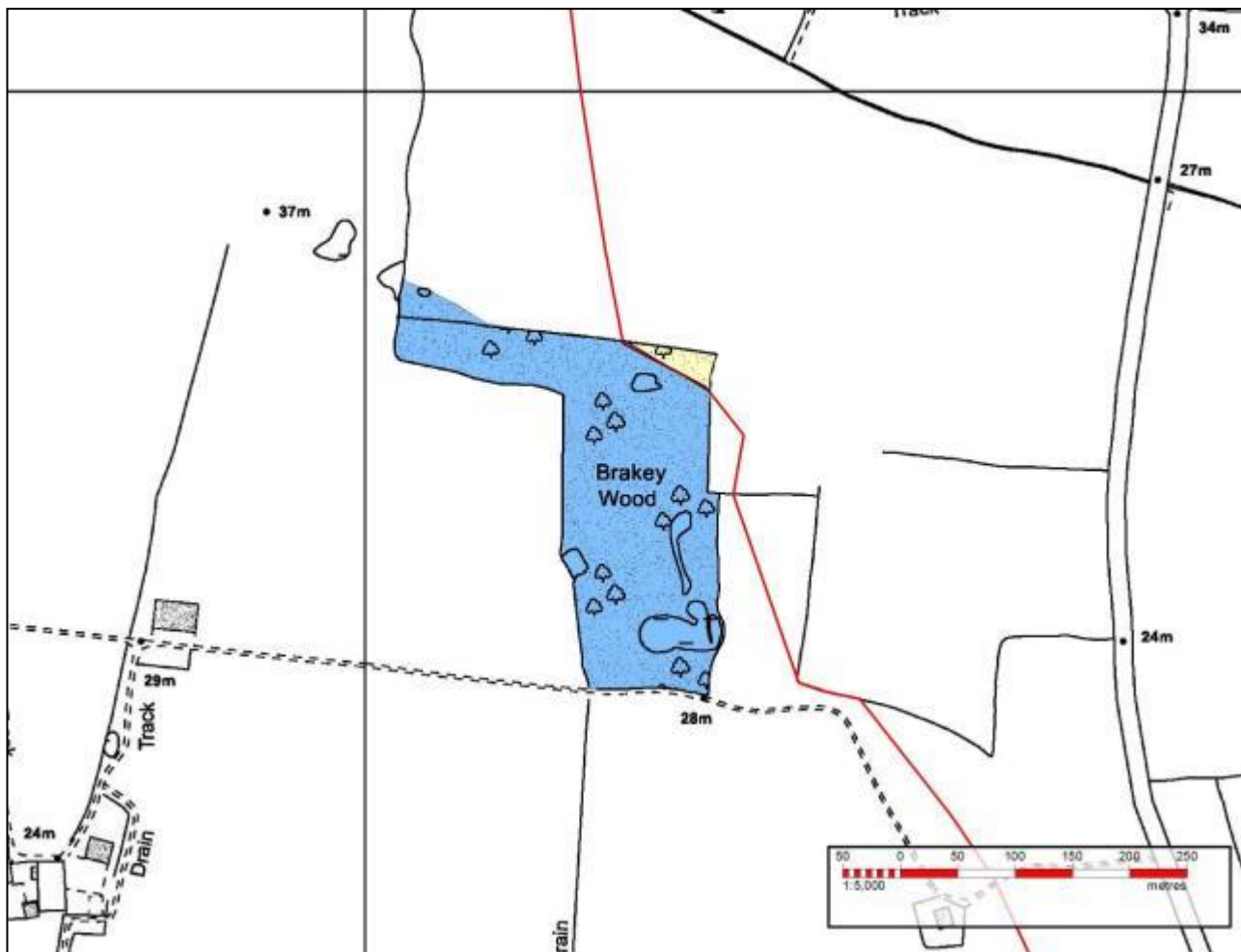
At risk from inappropriate road verge management.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch128 Brakey Wood, Boreham (part of) (4.52 ha) TL 77210965



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site, whilst not designated as ancient wood within the English Nature Inventory, has a structure and composition that indicates an ancient status. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are the main tree species, with a small amount of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. The shrub canopy includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) Midland Hawthorn (*C. laevigata*) with Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) also found. The far north-western corner of the wood has many young Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*). The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) found in greatest quantity in the northern half of the wood. Other recorded ground flora species indicative of ancient woodland are Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). Curiously, the local authority boundary cuts across the north-east corner, so that this undefined part of the wood is a Braintree LoWS (Bra99).

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership with no public access. It can be viewed from a public footpath that runs alongside the southern edge of the wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Although not documented as an ancient wood, the structure and composition suggests that this site is very largely, if not totally, ancient.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

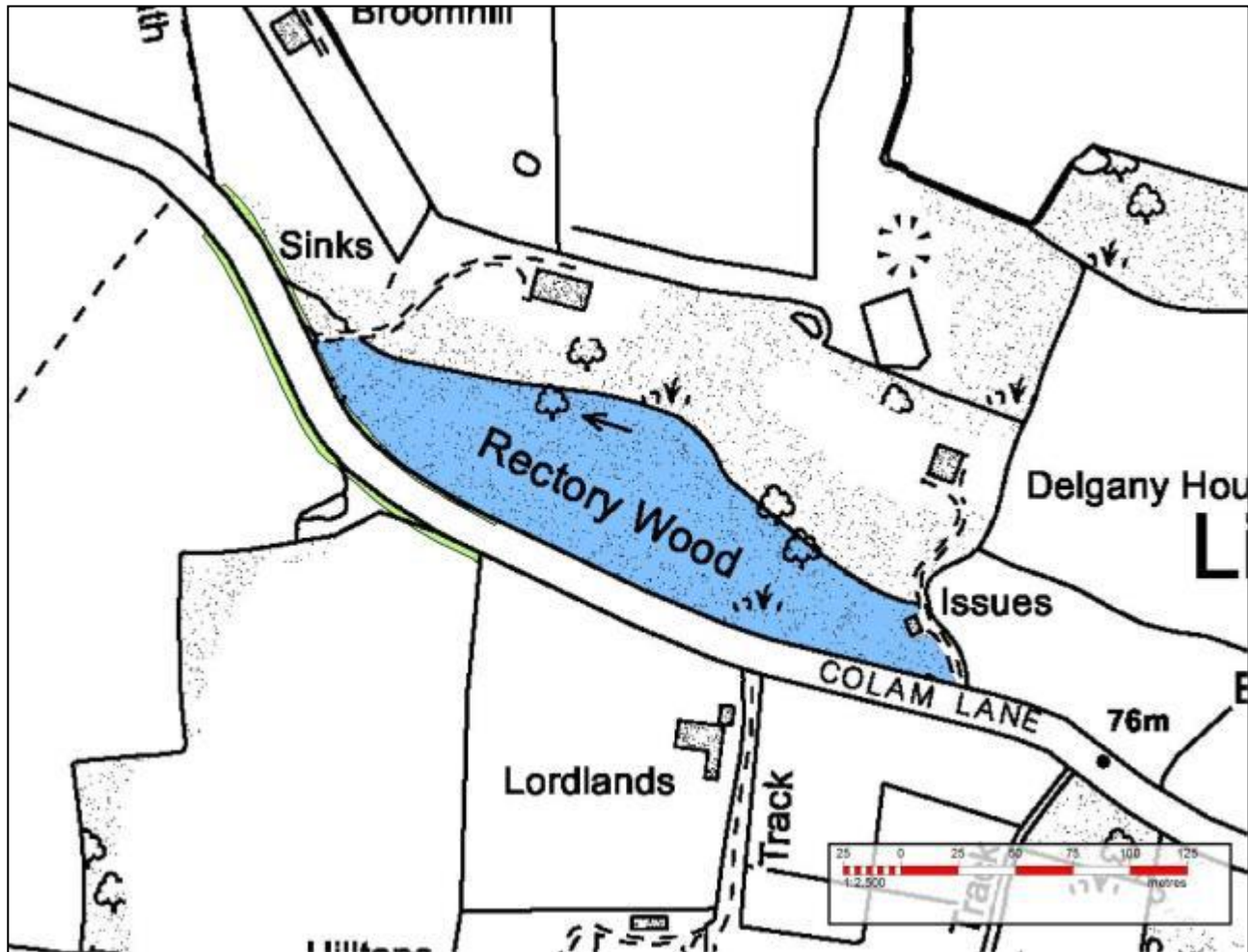
The overgrown coppice, especially that of Hornbeam, will be casting a dense shade, to the detriment of the ground layer.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (small addition)

Ch129 Rectory Wood, Little Baddow (1.63 ha) TL 77290747



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Rectory Wood is a likely small remnant of ancient wood. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and standards with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards dominate this wood. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) occurs on the edge adjacent to Colam Lane. Ancient woodland indicators recorded include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and the Essex Red Data List species Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*).

Ownership and Access

This woodland site is in private ownership with no public access. It can be viewed from Colam Lane.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Although not documented as an ancient wood (it is too small to have been included within the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory), this small woodland has flora and structure strongly indicative of ancient woodland sites.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

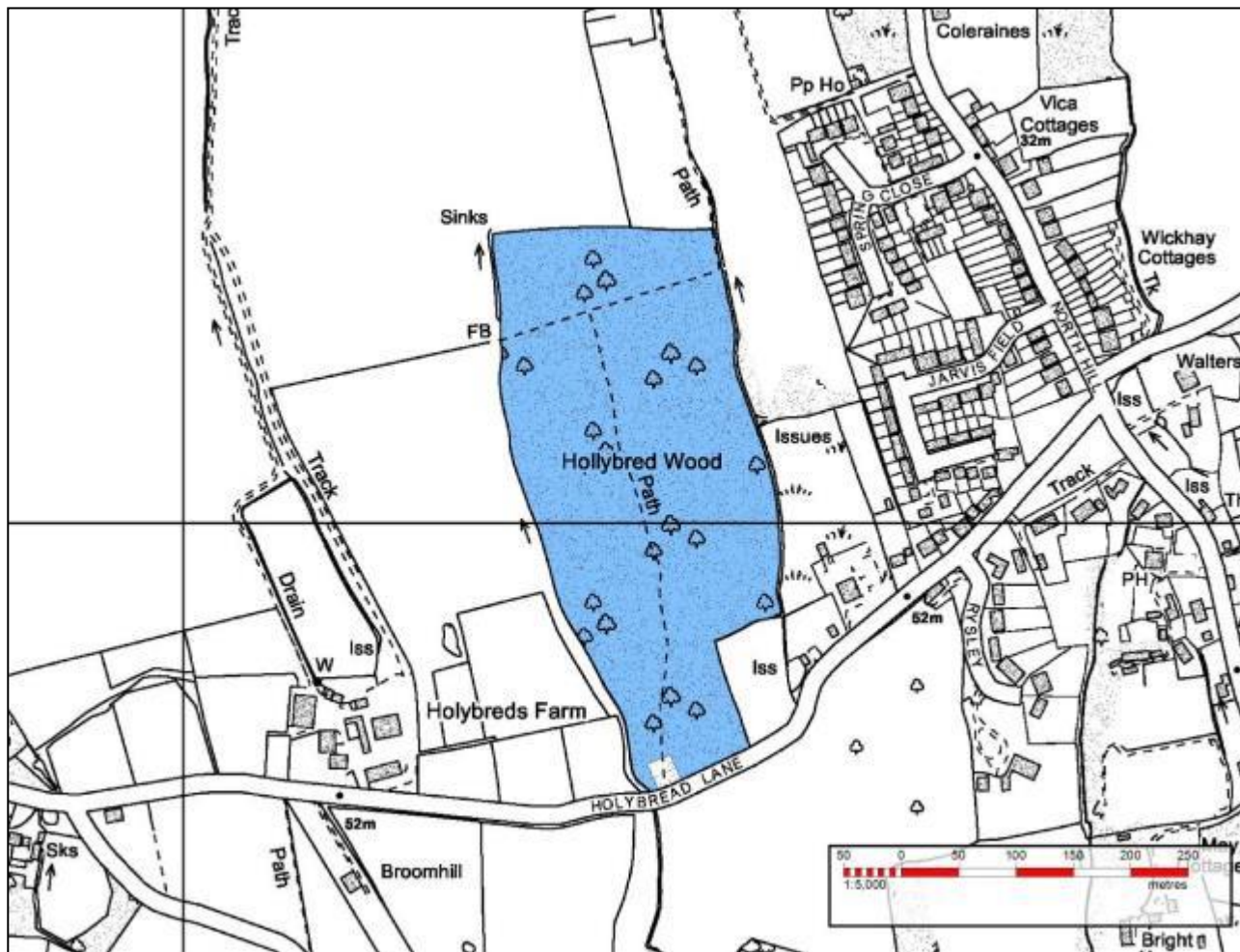
The neglected coppice will be casting a deep shade, thereby suppressing the ground layer.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch130 Hollybred Wood, Little Baddow (8.54 ha) TL 77390804



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards dominate virtually all of this wood. Some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice is found in the centre of the site and there is also some Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), mostly to the south. A few Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*) occur on the east edge of the wood. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is part of a very sparse shrub layer. The ground flora has Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) surviving under the dense Hornbeam canopy.

Ownership and Access

Hollybred Wood is owned by Little Baddow Parish Council and is open to public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site has a typical canopy structure and flora of ancient woodland in the Chelmsford area.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

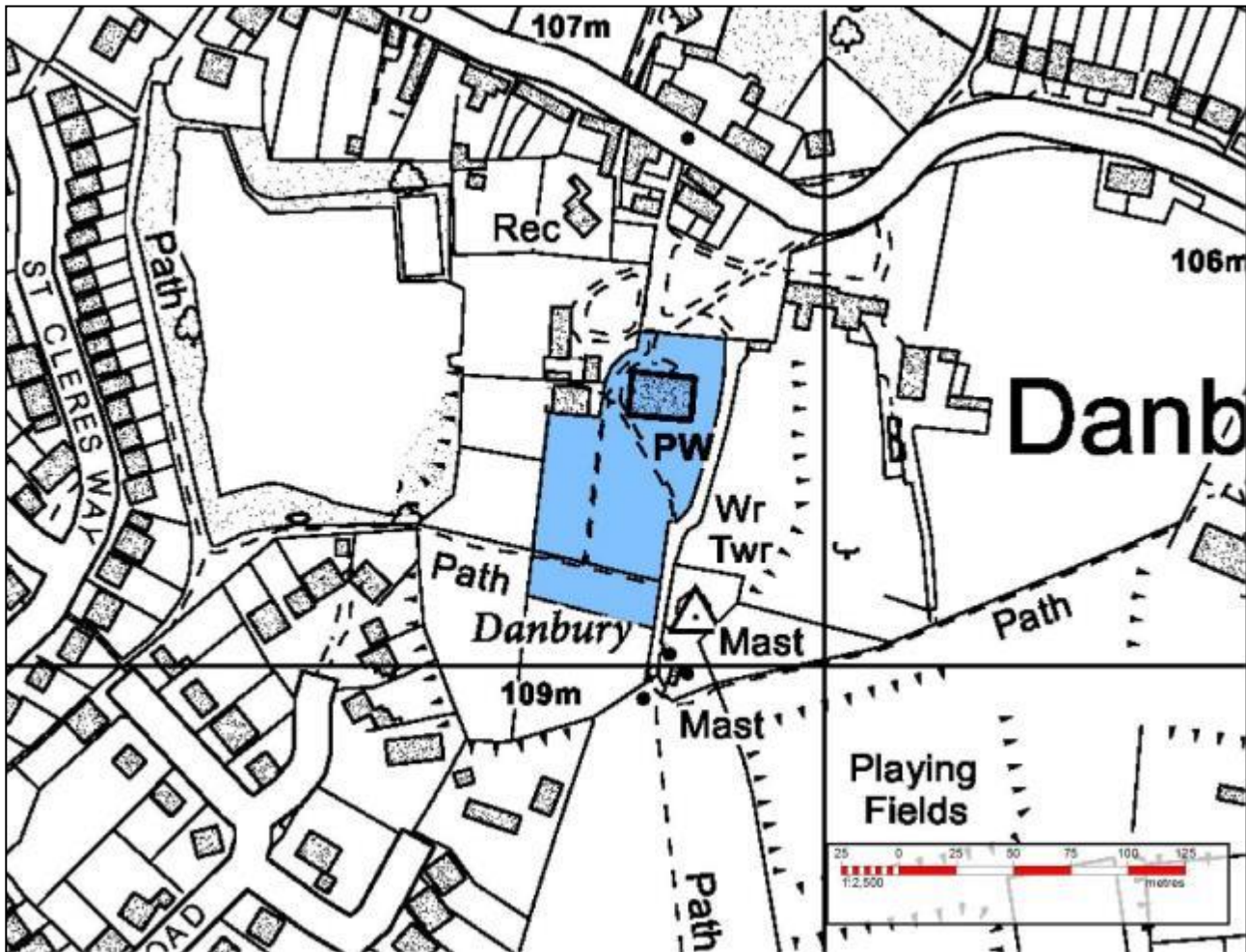
Management Issues

The dense, overgrown Hornbeam coppice will be suppressing the growth of the scrub and ground layers.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (minor boundary revision to remove car park area)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This churchyard exhibits a varied flora, indicative of old and relatively unimproved grassland. A good mix of grasses includes fescues (*Festuca* spp.), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). The most interesting herb flora is found close to the church, with species such as Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.) and Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*) all to be found in the short turf. Of particular note is the presence of Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), an Essex Red Data List plant, that has been in decline in recent decades. In addition the nationally scarce Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) is also recorded from this churchyard.

The southernmost section, a new addition to the LoWS, possibly comprises newer grassland habitat but it is very species-rich and provides a valuable extension to the old churchyard.

Ownership and Access

The churchyard of St John the Baptist's Church, Danbury is governed under the Diocese of Chelmsford and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The grassland here has probably been derived from Lowland Meadows habitat.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Many old churchyards encapsulate pieces of ancient turf that date from the time the church and its yard were created. They are thus the last refuge for many of the best surviving examples of unimproved grassland in the county.

Condition Statement

Moderate, declining?

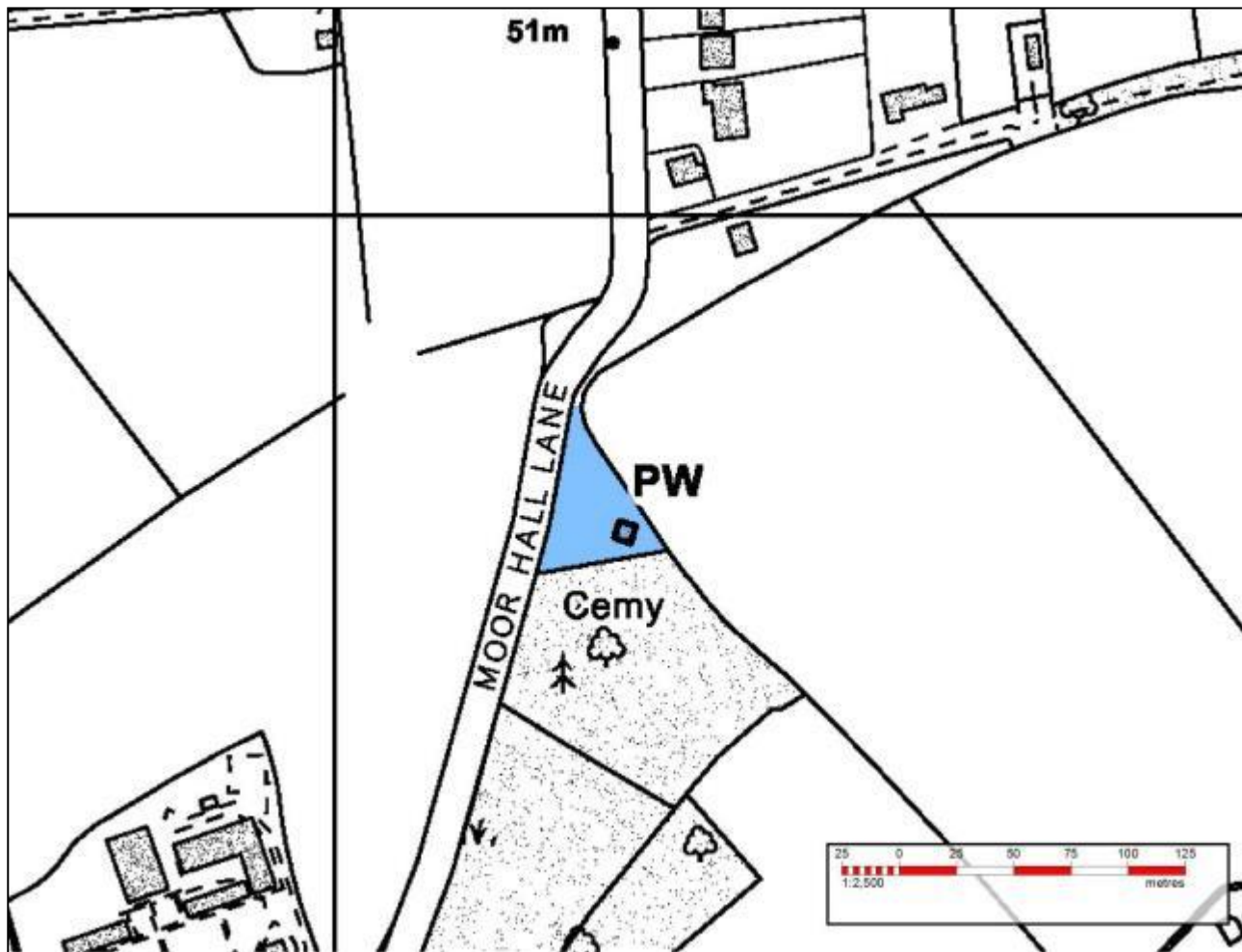
Management Issues

There is a conflict of interest between desires to maintain a neat and tidy yard, especially around actively tended graves, and the conservation objectives of a less intensively managed sward. When cutting does occur, the cut material should ideally be removed, in order to prevent nutrient enrichment of the soil.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (addition)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This small burial ground, also known as St Giles Churchyard, is an area of old, undisturbed and floristically rich grassland. Many very young oak (*Quercus* sp.) saplings occur throughout the site. The hedgerow to the rear of the cemetery has Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), an unusual occurrence outside of an ancient woodland setting. A varied selection of grasses include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). The slight acidity to the underlying soils is apparent with species such as Wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Tormantil (*Potentilla erecta*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*). Of particular note are four Essex Red Data List species: Betony (*Betonica officinalis*) in great numbers; Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*); Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), all recorded from this small site.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership; there is a management agreement with Essex Wildlife Trust. There is public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

This site is perhaps intermediate in character between true acid grassland and a more neutral soil meadow. However, several plants associated with sandy, more acid substrates are present, including a number of county rarities.

Condition Statement

Moderate, stable.

Management Issues

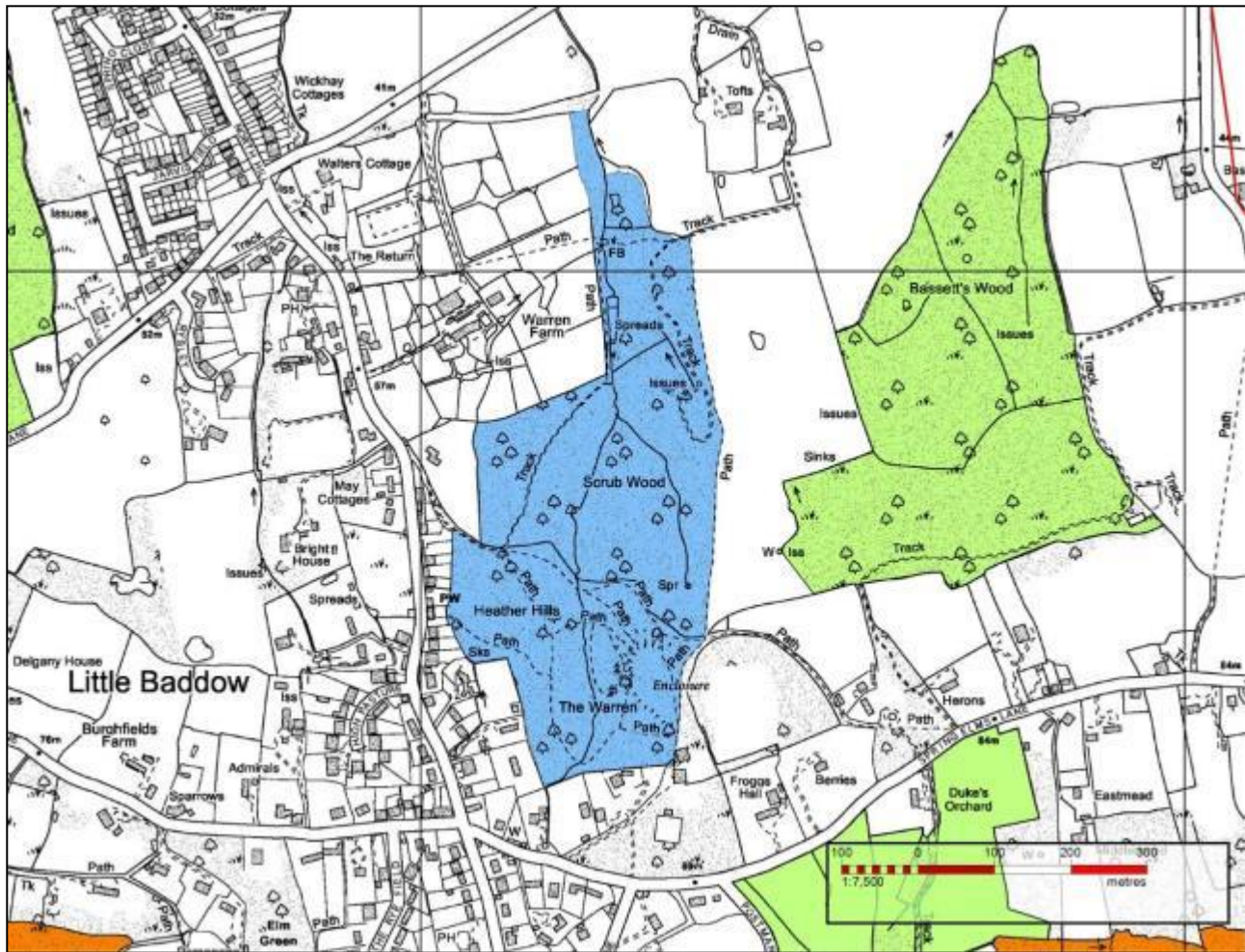
Succession to oak woodland is a constant threat to the survival of open grassland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch133 Heather Hills/Scrub Wood, Little Baddow (17.59 ha) TL 78230768



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

An undulating topography either side of a deeply incised stream valley gives rise to a wide range of soil types and hence habitats within The Warren and Heather Hills. To the west, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) dominate, with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) characterising the ground flora. To the east, the canopy comprises Oak, Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with much Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), whilst Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) thrives beneath, especially where the woodland gives way to clearings. Within clearings on the highest, most freely draining ground, heathland and acid grassland have developed. Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Sand-spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*) and Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*), a rare plant in Essex, are present. Harts-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) is found in the stream valley.

Scrub Wood is immediately to the north of Heather Hills/The Warren. This area comprises ancient and non-ancient blocks of woodland with a central stream valley, which flows northwards. The ancient woodland is typical of the area, with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice dominating. Other tree species of the high canopy include Pedunculate Oak, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore and birch (*Betula* spp.). Species of interest in the ground flora include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*). The most northerly block of woodland still contains Hornbeam, but also Birch coppice and some Oak and Ash standards in the high canopy. The stream

flows through a small ravine and species such as Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) and Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) are to be found associated with these damp conditions.

Ownership and Access

Heather Hills is managed as an Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve under a management agreement with the private owner; it has public access. Scrub Wood is thought to be in private ownership, with no public access beyond rights of way that run along the eastern side and through the north end of the wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland Heathland

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

Scrub Wood has a structure and composition consistent with being ancient woodland. Whilst the more recent oak and birch wood of The Warren provides interesting additional habitat to this ancient wood, the open areas within it are of great value as heathland and acid grassland stands. Heathland habitats are fragile and declining in Essex, with all such examples worthy of conservation.

Condition Statement

Moderate. Neglected Hornbeam coppice.

Management Issues

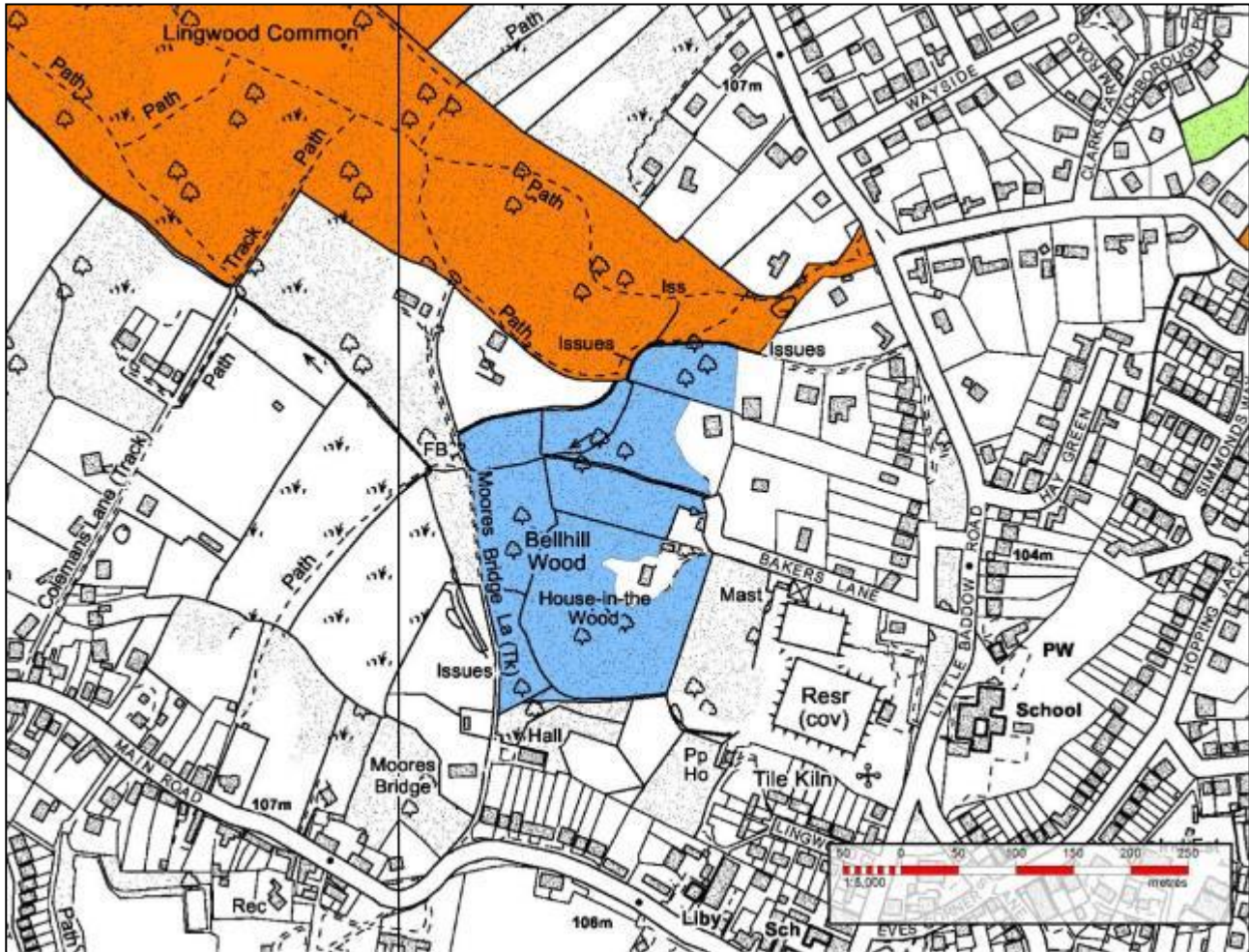
The heathland and acid grassland will be under constant threat of loss to succession and the spread of oak/birch woodland.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (as two, smaller sites)

Reviewed: 2004 (sites amalgamated and extended); 2016

Ch134 Bellhill Wood, Danbury (4.87 ha) TL 78160551



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.
Licence number AL 100020327

Bellhill Wood lies adjacent to the eastern end of Lingwood Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The main body of the wood is ancient in origin, although the belt of woodland adjacent to Moors Bridge Lane is recent. The east side of the wood has been partially lost to residential development, but nevertheless the wood remains a valuable natural extension to the SSSI. The western facing steep slopes support mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with much Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) beneath, whilst the higher slopes are characterised by tall Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and young Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) is found in the ground flora on these freely draining slopes. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora, as is Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Close to the stream, other ancient woodland indicators such as Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) can be found.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access beyond rights of way that run along the western and northern sides of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

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 the main body of woodland is consistent with documentary evidence suggesting its ancient status. This site, with ancient and recent woodland, further extends valuable habitat adjoining Lingwood Common SSSI.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

Management Issues

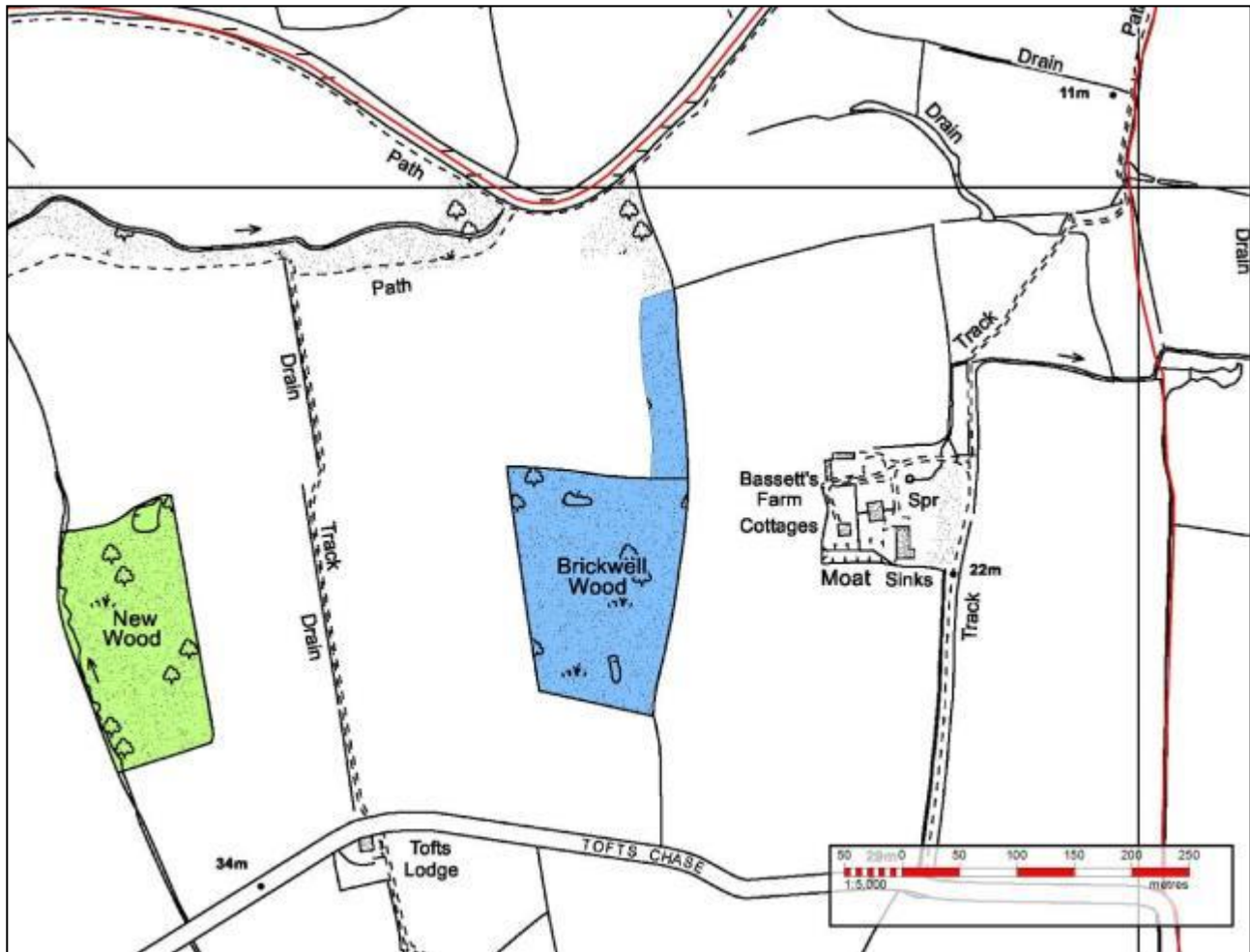
Dense shading from the dense canopy will be restricting the growth of shrub and ground layers.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (significant addition and deletion); 2016 minor boundary revisions

Ch135 Brickwell Wood, Little Baddow (3.13 ha) TL 78540868



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This is a predominantly coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) wood with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards with some elm (*Ulmus* sp.) clones. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), a species usually confined to ancient woodland, is found in the north-eastern part of the wood. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) are the main components of the shrub layer, whilst the ground flora is characterised by abundant Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), a strong indicator of ancient woodland, is also present as is the diminutive Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition is typical of ancient woodland and documentary evidence shows that the outline of this site has not changed from that mapped in the 19th century.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

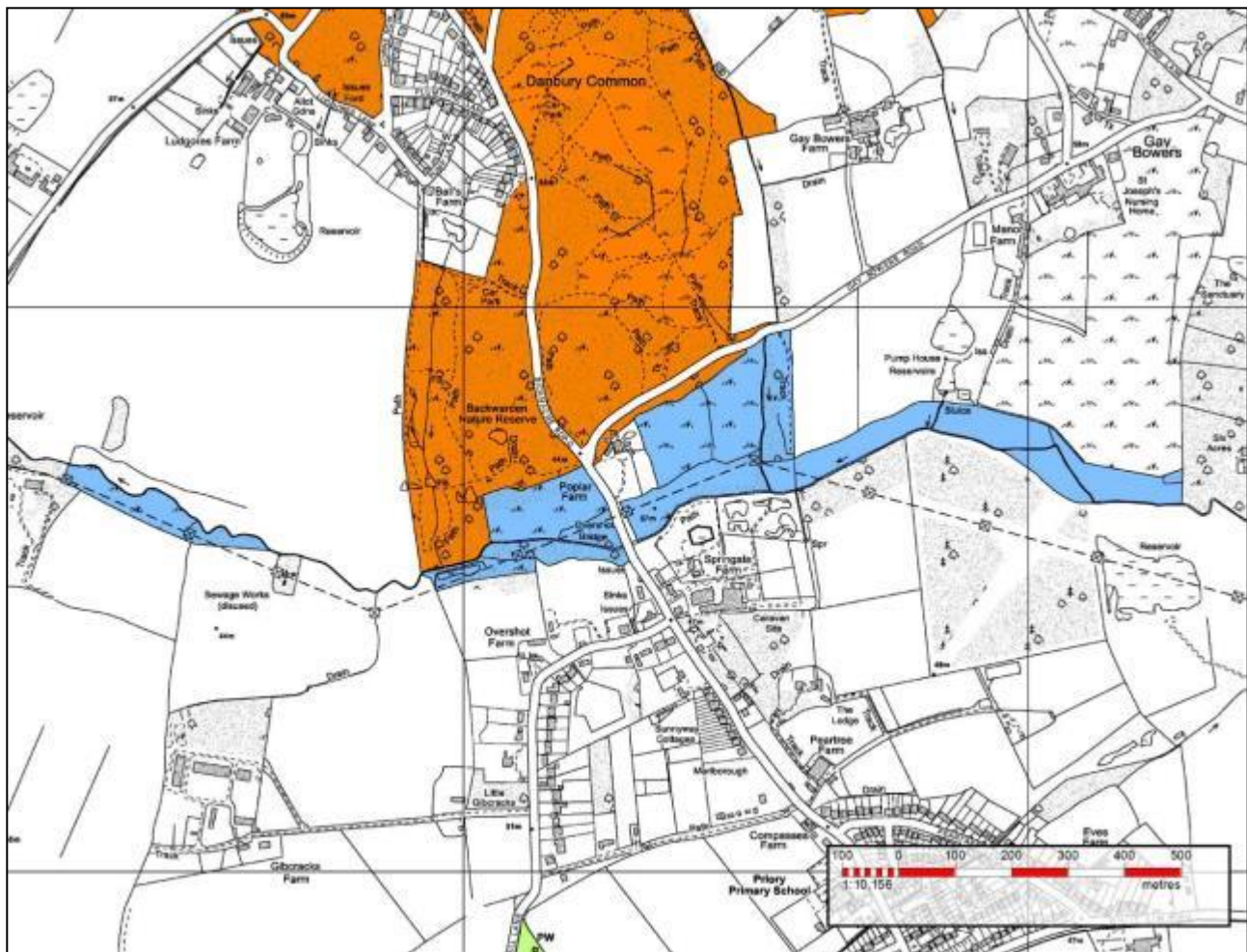
The very dense shade cast by the overgrown Hornbeam will be having an adverse impact on the diversity and luxuriance of the ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch136 Overshot Complex, Danbury (16.07 ha) TL 78420371



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises a chain of very varied habitats along Sandon Brook, which complement the adjacent Danbury Common SSSI. The sloping grasslands immediately south of Gay Bowers Road range from drier grassland to the north to damp areas where groundwater seeps to the surface. Over recent years, these grasslands have suffered from succession to broadleaved scrub and woodland, but surviving glades still support flower-rich grassland. The streamside grassland exhibits a range of grasses, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) whilst taller vegetation characteristic of damper areas include sedges (*Carex* sp.), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Many interesting species that have been recorded throughout the site include Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) (both Essex Red Data List species) along with Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*).

In addition there is, at its western end, a small fragment of streamside ancient wood. The small wood has notable species including Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*).

Ownership and Access

All parts of this site are in private ownership with no public access. Parts can be viewed from Overshot Bridge on Bicknacre Road.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Hedgerows

Selection Criterion

HC28 Small-component Mosaics

Rationale

This mosaic of dry and damp grassland, scrub and ancient woodland habitats provides an extensive corridor for wildlife to the south of Danbury with good connectivity to Danbury Common and Backwarden (collectively designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Condition Statement

Declining.

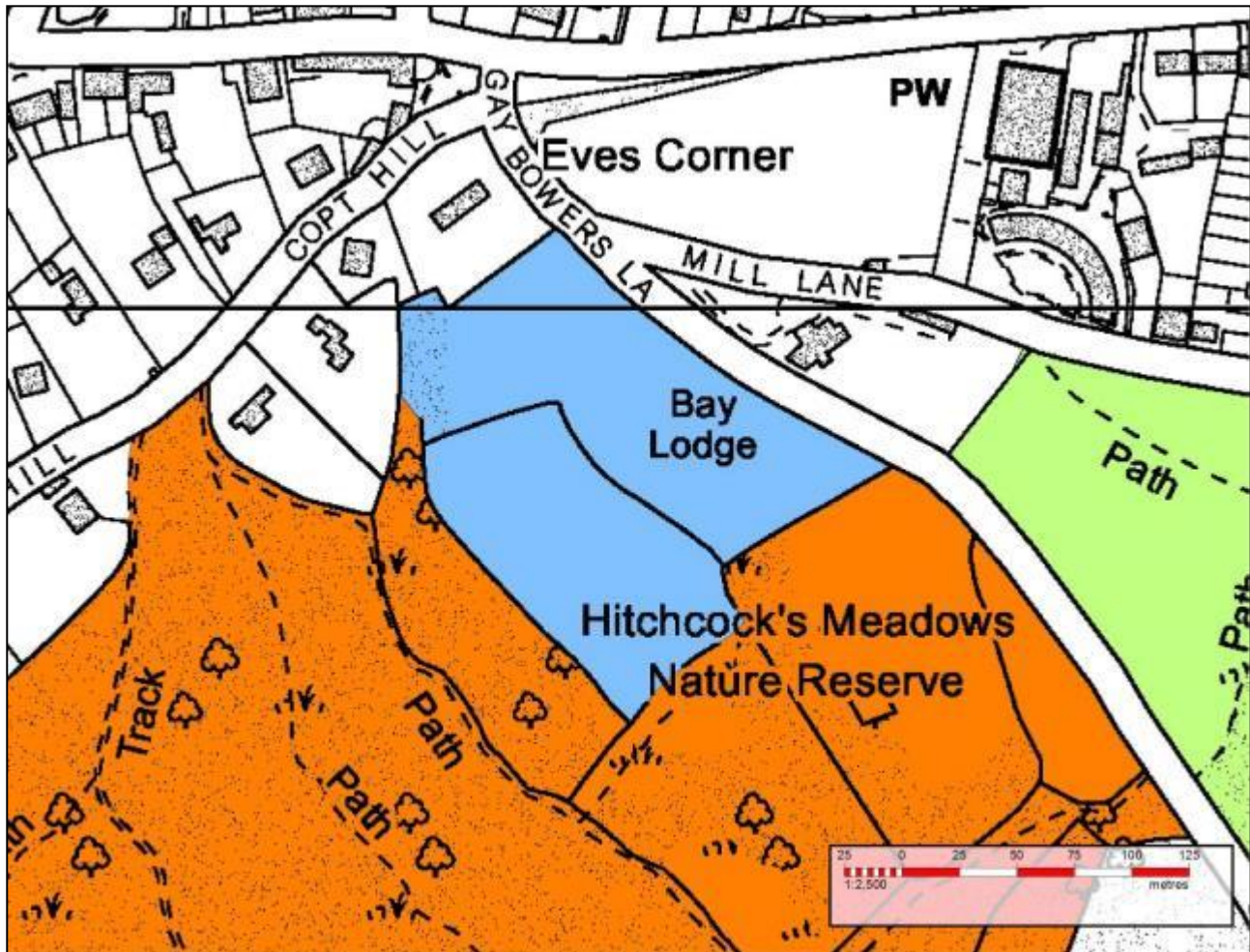
Management Issues

The grassland areas are being lost to natural succession.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (additions); 2016 (partial deletion)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This meadow is adjacent to Danbury Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It has recently been acquired by the Essex Wildlife Trust as an extension to its Hitchcock's Meadow nature reserve (which lies within the SSSI). Previous intensive management has had a negative impact upon the grass sward, where grasses are the dominant feature. Recorded species include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). Herbs found throughout the site, though only in small numbers include Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*). Species of particular interest that have been recorded in the past are Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*). These are both Essex Red Data List species that have declined in numbers in Essex in recent decades.

Ownership and Access

This site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust, with limited public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Hedgerows

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

This site has suffered from excessive management in the past but it is hoped that sympathetic management will restore the species-rich and relatively unimproved sward. Such grassland types are now rare in Essex, so that all surviving examples should be identified as LoWS.

Condition Statement

Poor but improving.

Management Issues

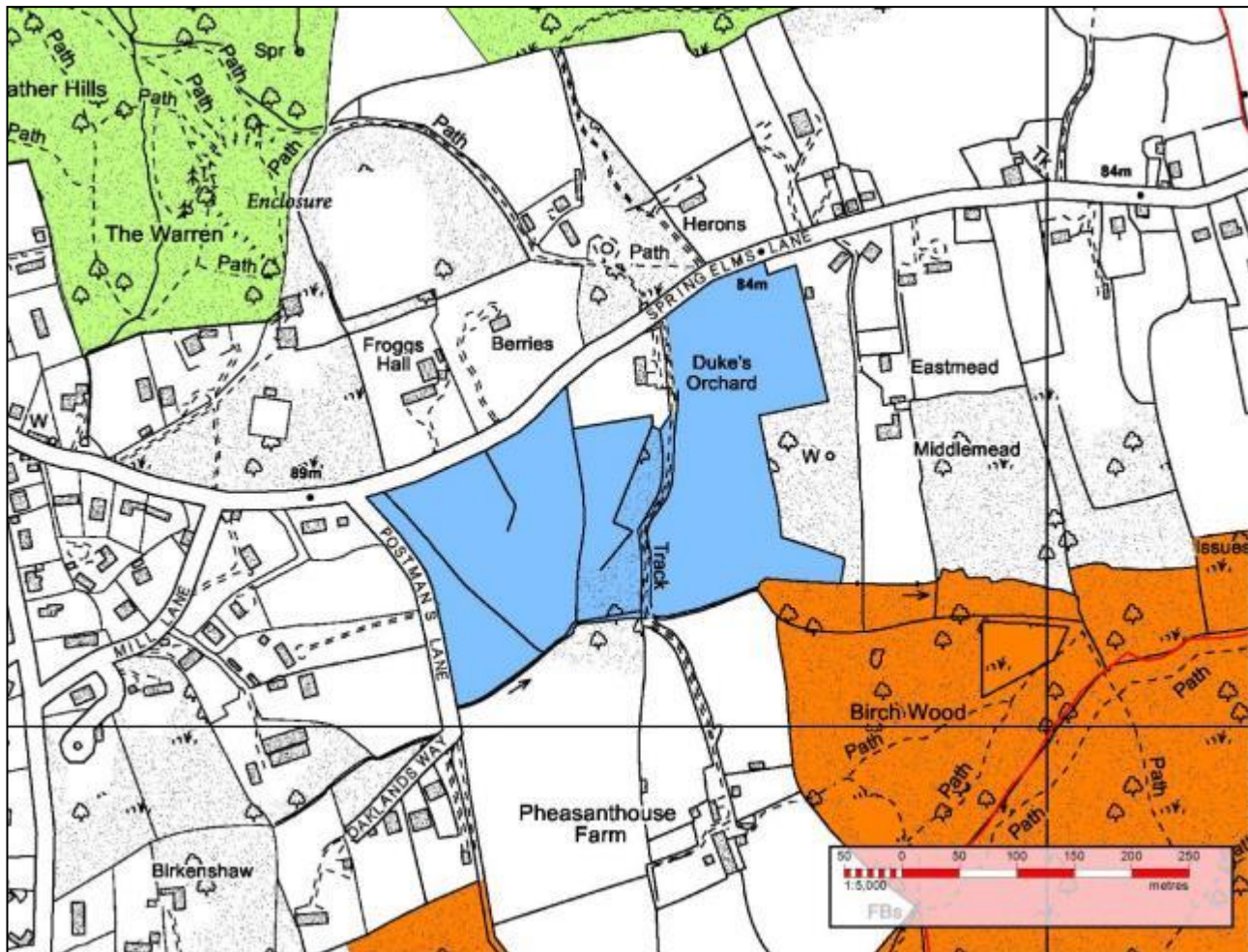
This site has previously been overgrazed and is now currently being restored by the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (boundary revision on northern tip); 2016 (minor boundary revision).

Ch138 Pheasanthouse Farm, Little Baddow (7.45 ha) TL 78620720



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Pheasanthouse Farm is owned and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. Only the more species-rich grasslands at the northern end of the reserve are included within the LoWS. The swards include Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoils (*Lotus corniculatus* and *L. pedunculatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and, in drier, sandier areas, Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Within a damper area in the far south-eastern corner, Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*) and Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) can be found. The scarce Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*) has also been recorded from the reserve.

The fields are bounded by thick, tall and species-rich hedgerows, with a small area of scrub centrally adding to the habitat diversity.

Ownership and Access

Owned by Essex Wildlife Trust, with open public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Meadows (likely, in part)

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC9 Lowland Meadows

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Species-rich grasslands have drastically declined across lowland England in recent decades. All surviving remnants should be conserved.

Condition Statement

Good, stable.

Management Issues

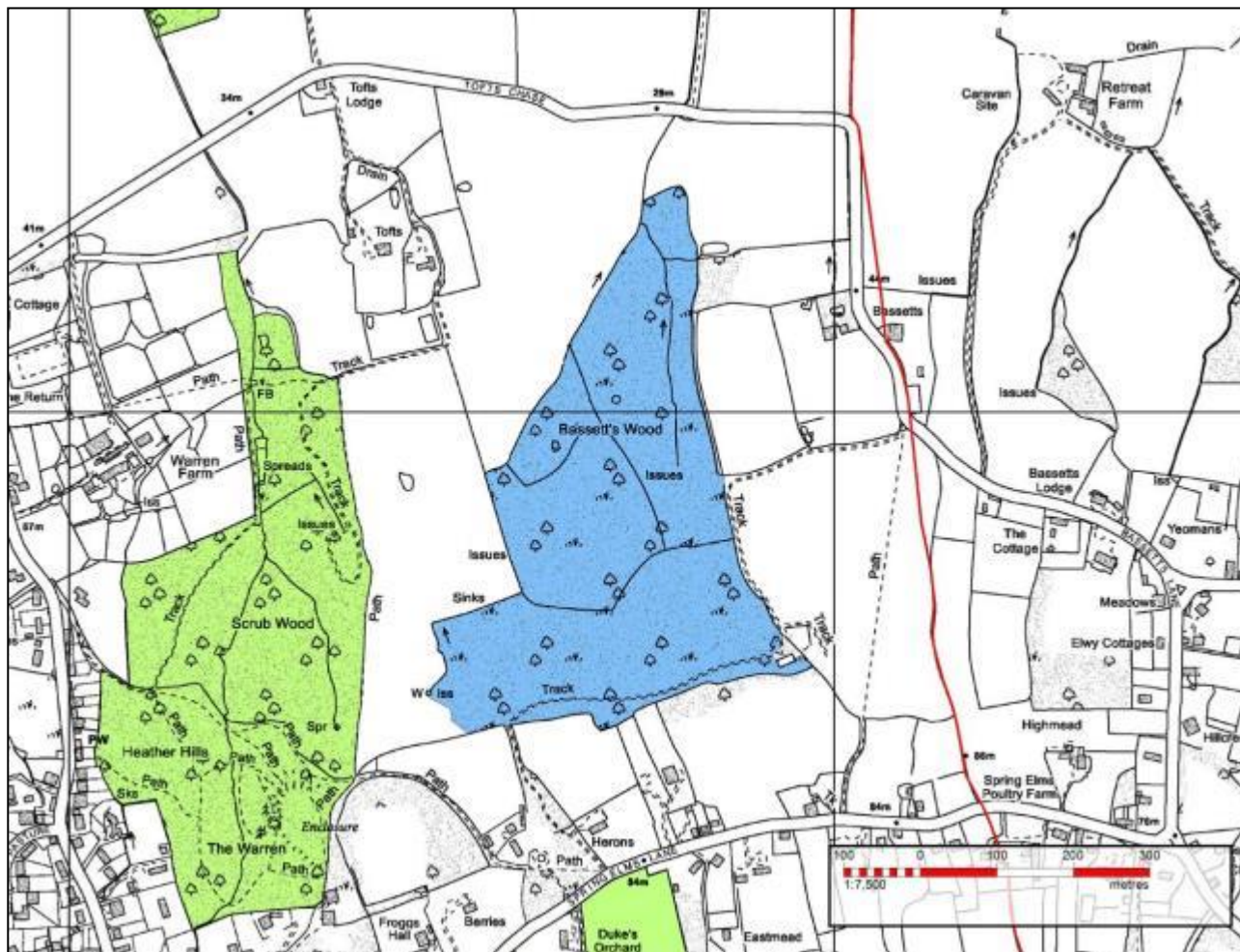
Whilst hay cropping of some fields maintains floristic diversity, it is less beneficial to invertebrates, so a variety of management regimes is required to maintain species diversity. Scrub encroachment needs to be kept in check.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (as part of larger site)

Reviewed: 2004 (reduced in size); 2016

Ch139 Bassetts Wood, Little Baddow (16.97 ha) TL 78710785



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises ancient and non-ancient woodland. Bassetts Wood, strictly referring to the northern part of this LoWS, is a block of predominantly ancient woodland and lies either side of a small stream valley. A variety of tree species occur as coppice and standards throughout. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is dominant towards the north end, whilst Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are all to be found at canopy and sub-canopy level.

Several ancient woodland indicators are found in the herb flora, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*). The damper valley area is home to Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), whilst the well-drained upper slopes have locally dominant patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and where grassy areas prevail then Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) are present.

The southern part of the site is recent woodland but exhibits a varied structure with tall canopy trees and lower growing scrub vegetation. Sweet Chestnut, Silver Birch, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are the most characteristic species. The ground flora has developed into a species-rich assemblage typical of older woodlands, including Dog's

Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell, Yellow Archangel, Moschatel and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access beyond a right of way that runs through the northern part of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

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 the northern part of this site supports documentary evidence that it is ancient in origin. The southern sections are known to be recent in origin but nevertheless they have matured into a well-structured woodland that complements the older section to the north.

Condition Statement

Largely neglected.

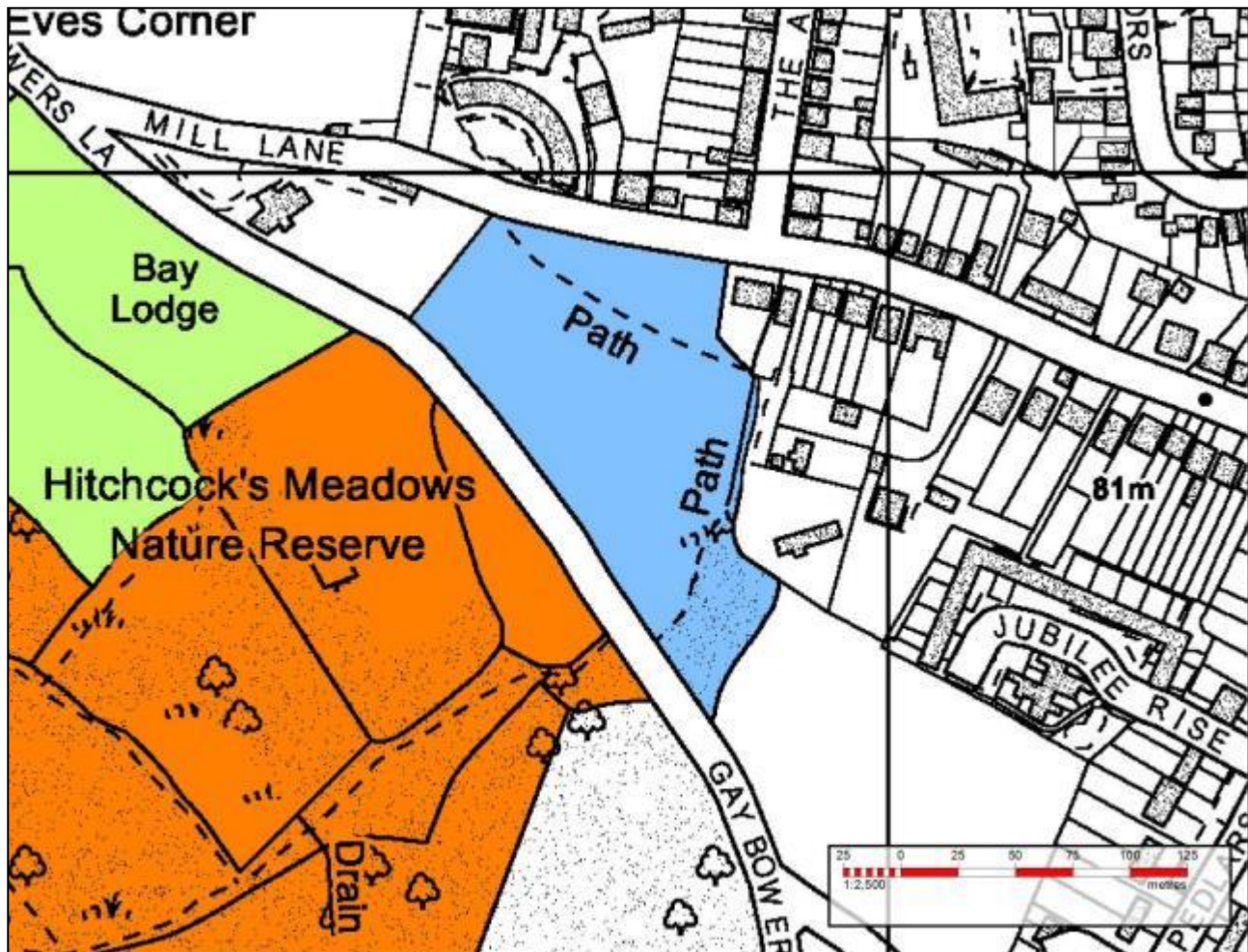
Management Issues

The areas of neglected coppice will be casting a dense shade over the shrub and field layers.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (in part)

Reviewed: 2004 (boundary revision); 2016 (significant extension)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This is part of the Essex Wildlife Trust's Hitchcock's Meadows nature reserve, the main body of which lies within the Danbury Common SSSI. This grassland comprises neutral to acid grassland comprising Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The acid nature of some of the underlying soils is highlighted by the presence of low growing plants such as Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Other herb species recorded from the site include Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and the Essex Red Data List species Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*). The site also includes a small section of scrub located on the southern edge.

Ownership and Access

This site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The sward has affinities with Lowland Dry Acid Grassland communities.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

The site supports species-rich grassland, now increasingly uncommon throughout Chelmsford and Essex as a whole.

Condition Statement

Good, stable.

Management Issues

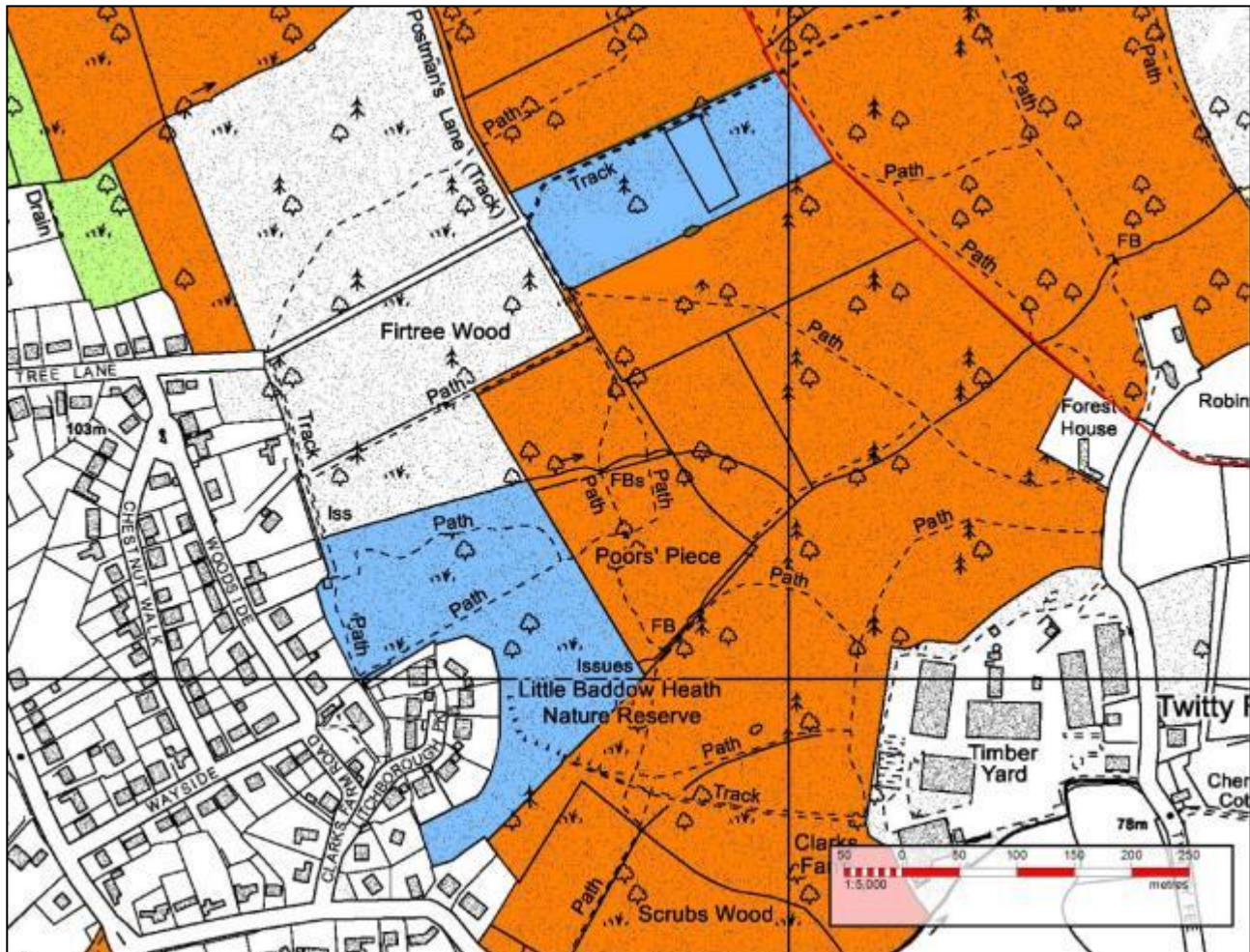
Scrub encroachment should be kept in check.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (small addition)

Ch141 Little Baddow Heath, Little Baddow (6.78 ha) TL 78790618



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises two sections of the Essex Wildlife Trust's Little Baddow Heath nature reserve not included within the adjacent Woodham Walter Common SSSI.

The northern section comprises heathland that has undergone recent restoration to remove much of the invasive Birch (*Betula* spp.) scrub. It now comprises an acid grassland/heathland mosaic characterised by abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), with lesser amounts of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Trailing St.-john's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*), Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and, most notably, a strong population of Milkwort (*Polygala* sp.).

The southern section is quite different in character and comprises a broad-leaved woodland of very varying types, reflecting the changing soil drainage. The canopy comprises a mix of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and several other species at low density. The understorey has Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The ground flora is very diverse and includes several species generally typical of ancient woodland, although likely to have colonised the site from elsewhere. These include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*). Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) is unusually widespread.

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust. There is permitted public access via a network of paths throughout the two sections.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

Lowland heathland and acid grassland is a rare and fragile habitat in Essex, with all such examples worthy of LoWS status. The woodland section of the site is unusually varied in species composition and provides a valid habitat extension to the adjacent SSSI, whilst also presenting some vegetation types not seen within the SSSI.

Condition Statement

Good, improving

Management Issues

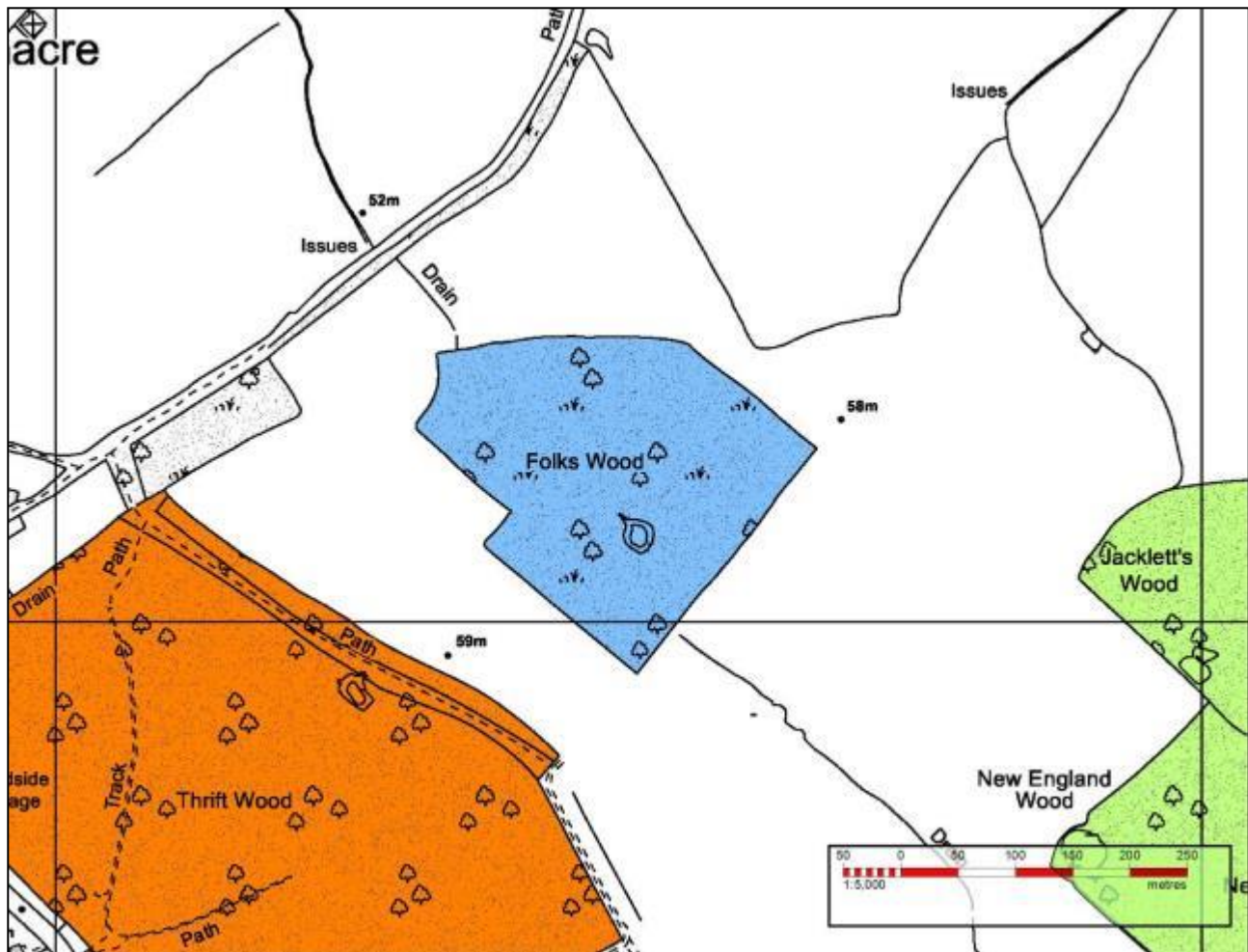
Birch and Gorse scrub invasion will be a constant problem for the northern section. Within the southern woodland, the spread of Sycamore should be prevented.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (northern section)

Reviewed: 2004; 2016 (southern section added)

Ch142 Folks Wood, Bicknacre (6.06 ha) TL 79480213



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This ancient wood comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with some occasional Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards. An unusual feature is a number of Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*) found along most of the north margin of the wood. There is very little in the way of a shrub layer and much of the ground is bare, covered only with leaf litter. There are patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and occasional Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), though Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) are frequent on the outer wood banks.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access beyond a right of way that runs along the northern edge of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition support the documentary evidence that this is an ancient woodland site.

Condition Statement

Poor.

Management Issues

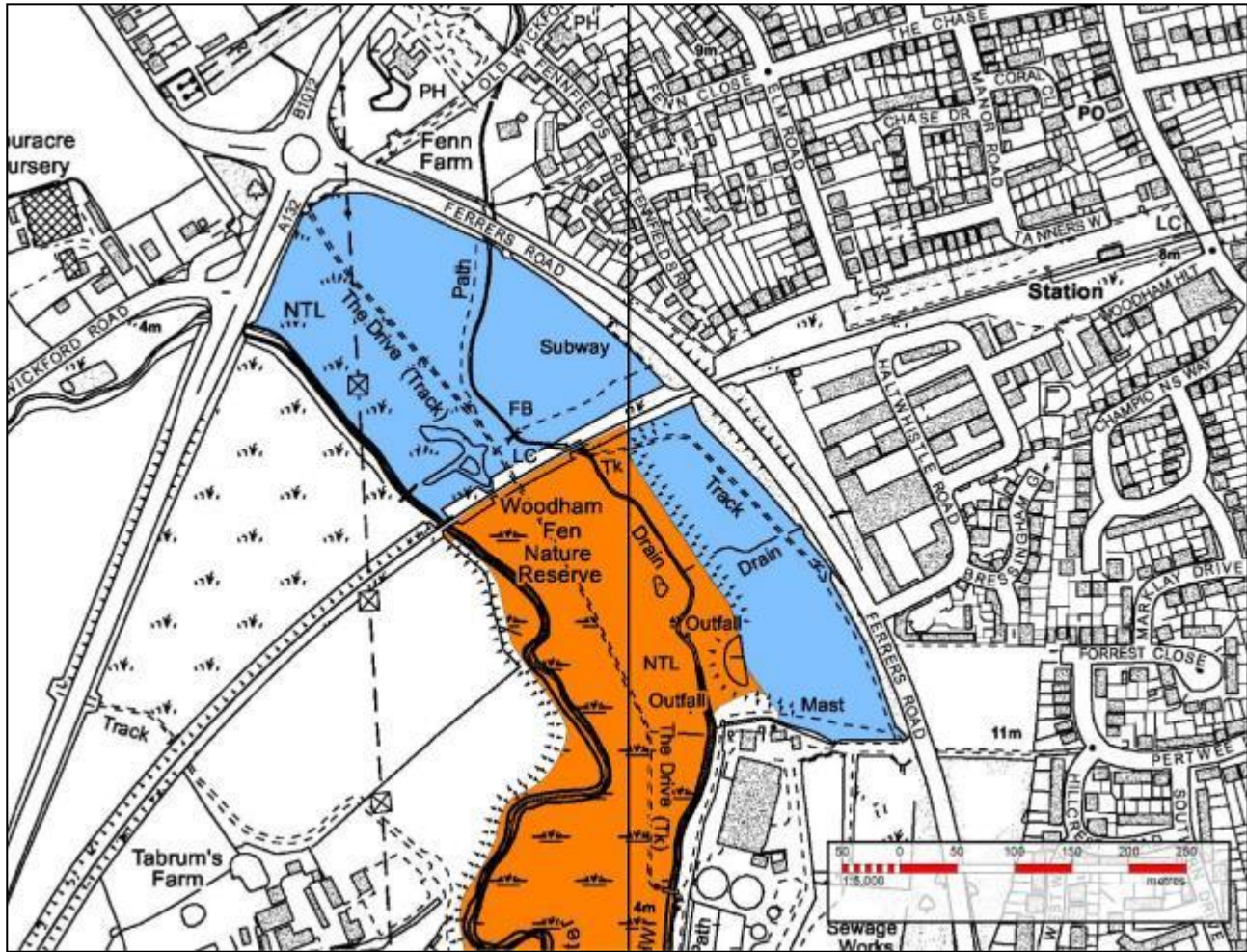
The shrub and ground flora layers are suffering under the intense shading cast by the overgrown Hornbeam coppice.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch143 Woodham Fen North, South Woodham Ferrers (8.25 ha) TQ 79929759



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

A large portion of the Essex wildlife Trust's Woodham Fen nature reserve lies to the south of the railway line and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This LoWS comprises the remainder of that nature reserve, plus additional grassland adjacent to Ferrers Road, which acts as a buffer to the SSSI habitats. It comprises scattered and dense scrub and open rough grassland, much of it dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.). However, brackish creeks do penetrate this habitat and species present that are tolerant of these conditions include Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*) and the floating aquatic, Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*).

Ownership and Access

The site managed by Essex Wildlife Trust is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The site has been derived from Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh vegetation, although it now comprises a highly modified form of coastal rough grassland.

Selection Criterion

HC21 Coastal Grazing Marsh

HC22 Tidal Transition Zones

Rationale

This site provides complementary habitat to the adjacent SSSI.

Condition Statement

Good.

Management Issues

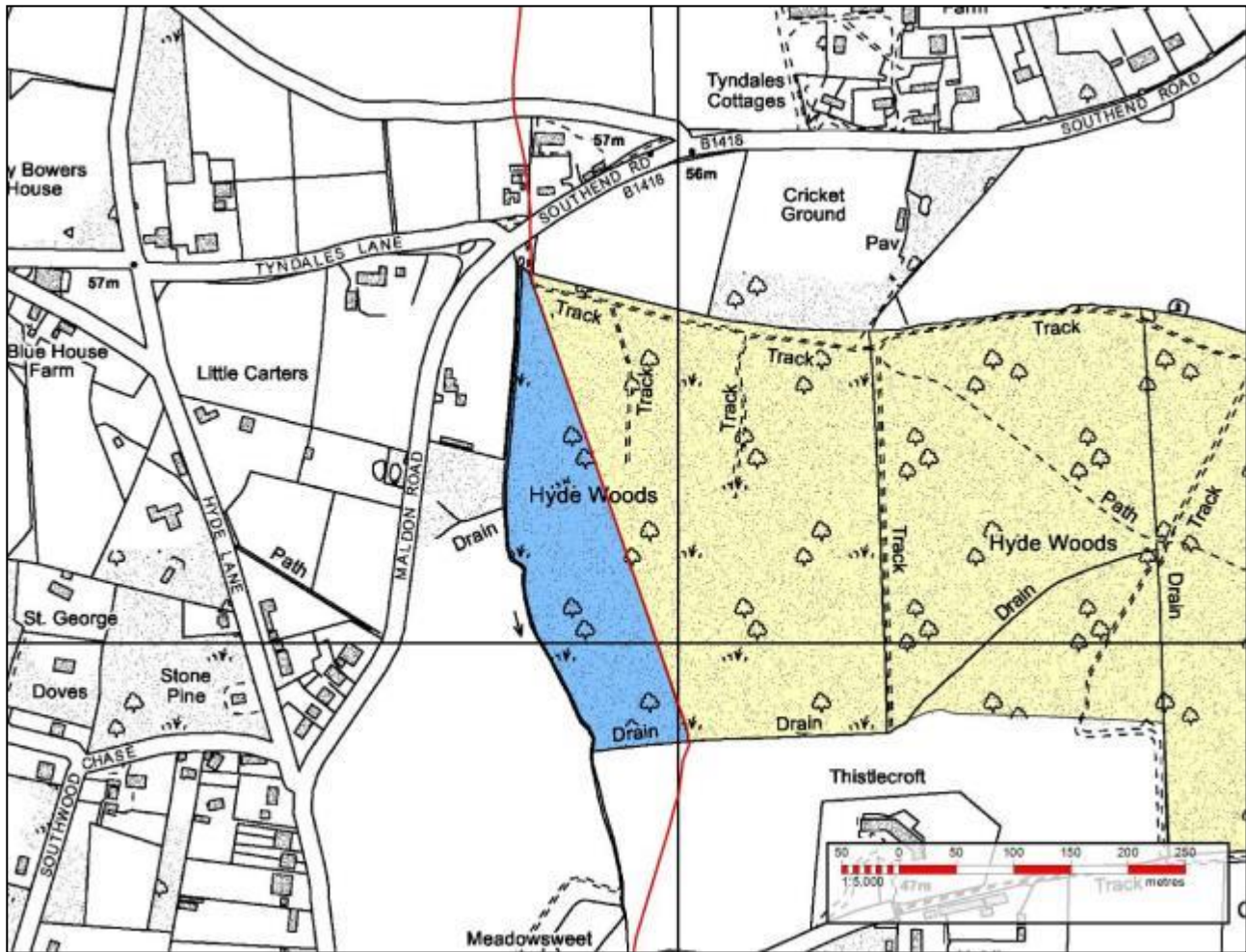
Scrub encroachment should be kept in check. Maintenance of brackish water input through the tidal cycle is important in keeping the characteristic flora and associated fauna

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch144 Hyde Woods, Danbury (part of) (3.06 ha) TL 79910407



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Only a small section of Hyde Wood falls within Chelmsford, the majority lying within Maldon District. Both Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) dominate the high canopy, with some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) standards forming a sub-canopy layer beneath. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) dominates the ground flora, with Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) found also. Wood Ants (*Formica rufa*), which favour ancient woodland sites, are present.

Ownership and Access

The woodland is in private ownership and there is no public access to this section of the wood, although a public footpath runs along the main block of woodland within Maldon District.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition of this wood is typical of ancient woodlands across south Essex.

Condition Statement

Moderate.

Management Issues

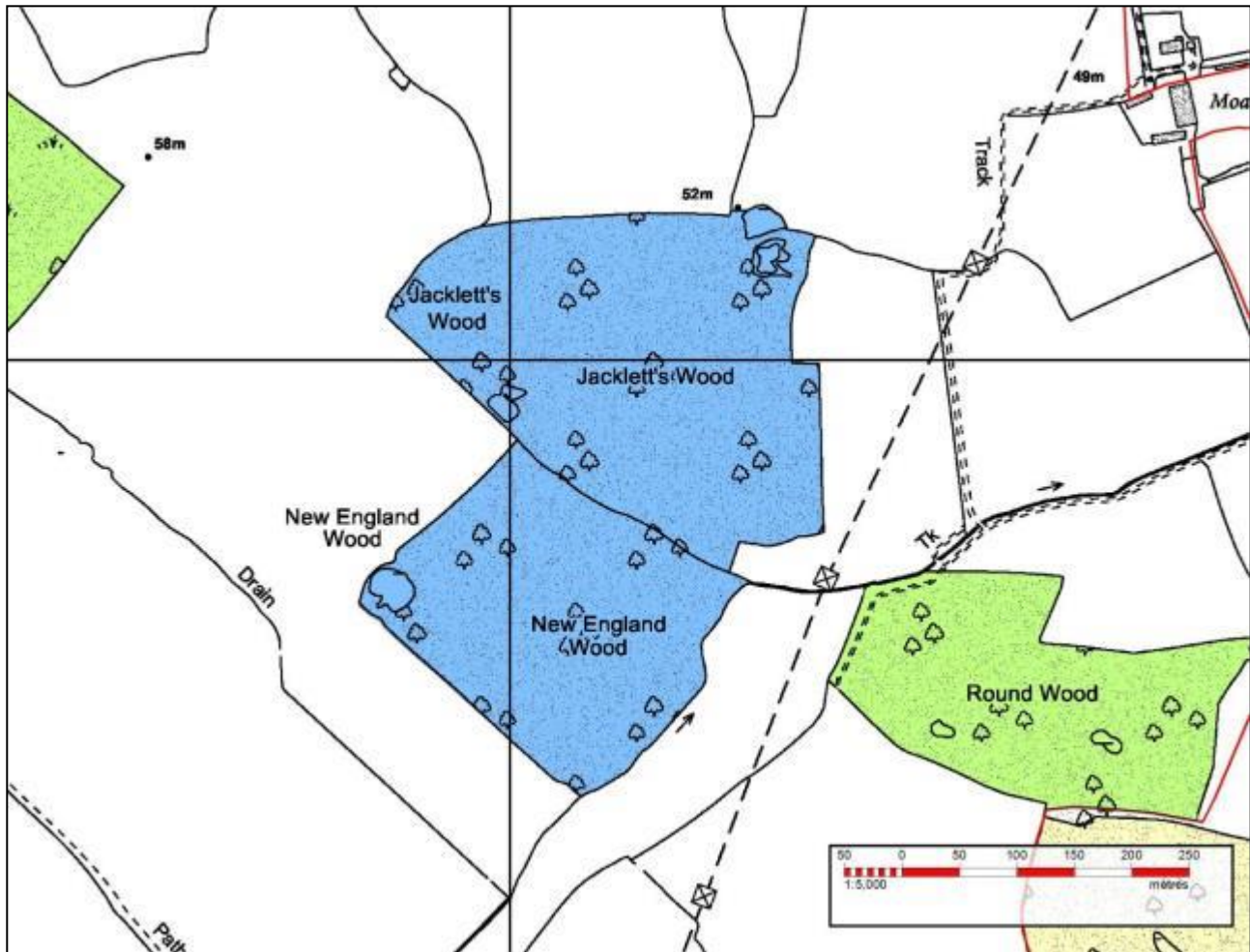
The dense high canopy is likely to be suppressing growth within the shrub and ground layers, to the detriment of woodland wildlife in general.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch145 Jacklett's/New England Wood, Bicknacre (13.68 ha) TL 80080190



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Jacklett's Wood comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and birch (*Betula* sp.). Although there is only a sparse shrub layer, there is Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) that, towards the south of the woodland, forms a dense tangle of vegetation. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora throughout the wood and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) is frequent. Other ancient woodland indicators present include Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

By contrast, New England Wood to the south is characterised mainly by Ash and Pedunculate Oak, though Hornbeam coppice is still found throughout. However, there is generally a more open canopy structure along the south-western margin of this wood. There is a generally better developed shrub layer of Hawthorn, Elder and Holly, compared to Jacklett's Wood. New England Wood also has abundant Bluebells in the ground flora. Yellow Archangel, Climbing Corydalis, Wood Melick and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), are among the ancient woodland indicators present in this section.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

These two woods have a flora and structure that is typical of ancient woodland throughout the county, supporting documentary evidence that they are ancient.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

Management Issues

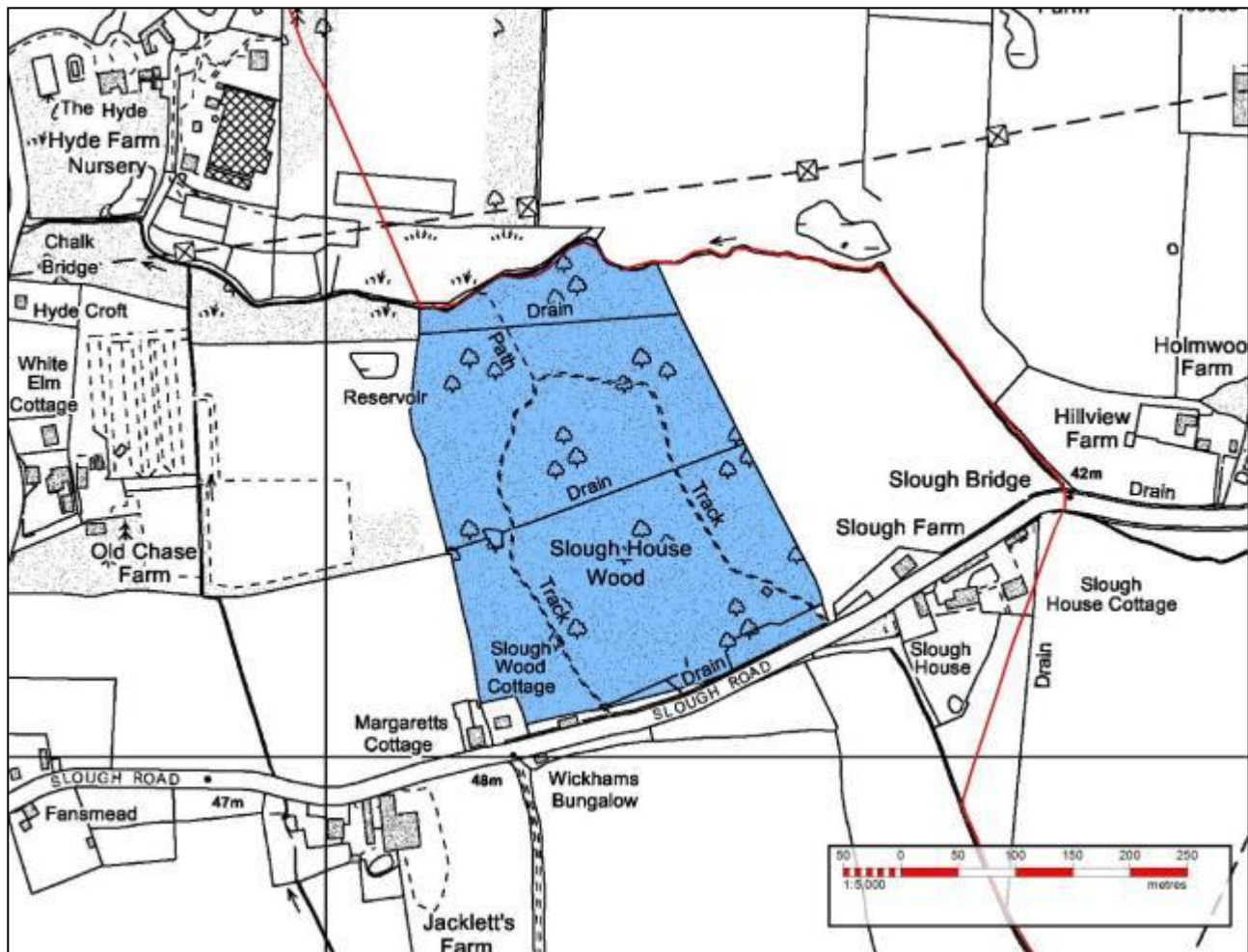
A resumption of coppicing and an overall reduction in standard density would be beneficial to wildlife.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch146 Slough House Wood, Bicknacre (10.11 ha) TL 80230323



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Slough House Wood is an ancient wood on the eastern edge of Chelmsford City Authority. A varied tree canopy includes Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The shrub layer includes Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), amongst which Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) trails. The ground flora includes ancient woodland indicators such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership and has no public access. It can be viewed from a footpath which runs alongside the stream to the north of the wood, or from Slough Road to the south.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

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

Condition Statement

Neglected.

Management Issues

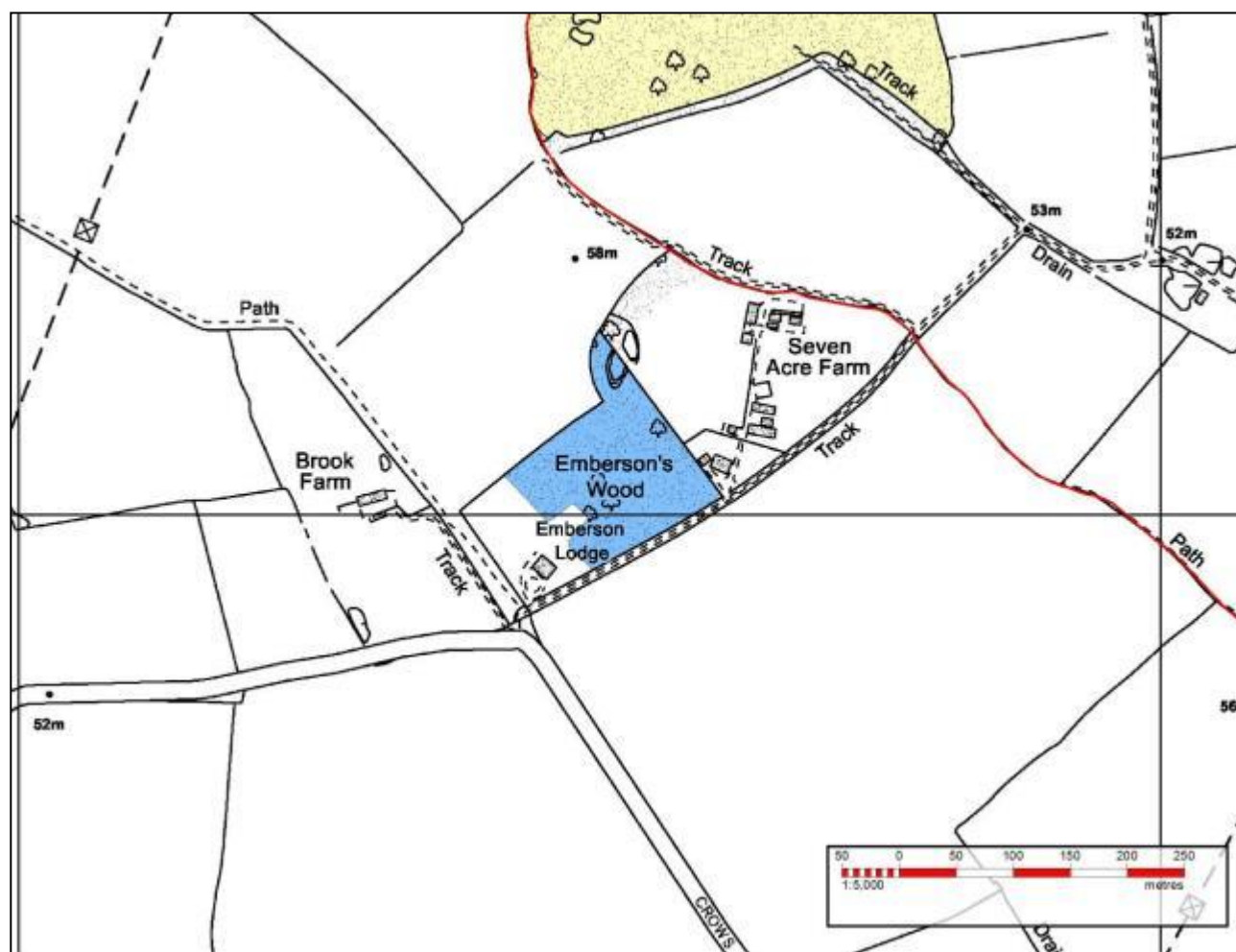
Dense shade is being cast by the excessively dense canopy. The uncontrolled spread of Sycamore would be to the detriment of the ecology of the wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch147 Emberson's Wood, South Woodham (1.74 ha) TL 80520104



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This relatively small wood consists mainly of Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) grows along the south hedge bank. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) forms a tangled network beneath the canopy particularly in the southern part of the wood. Amongst the ground flora, Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is present, though it is mainly found in the northern half of the wood, particularly where little shrub layer exists. Bluebell is also found close to the ponds in the narrow limb that extends north of the main woodland block. Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) a low-growing, evergreen shrub is also present.

Ownership and Access

This site is in private ownership with no public access. It can be viewed from a footpath that follows a track alongside the southern edge of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition is typical of ancient woodland sites throughout south Essex.

Condition Statement

Moderate. No active management.

Management Issues

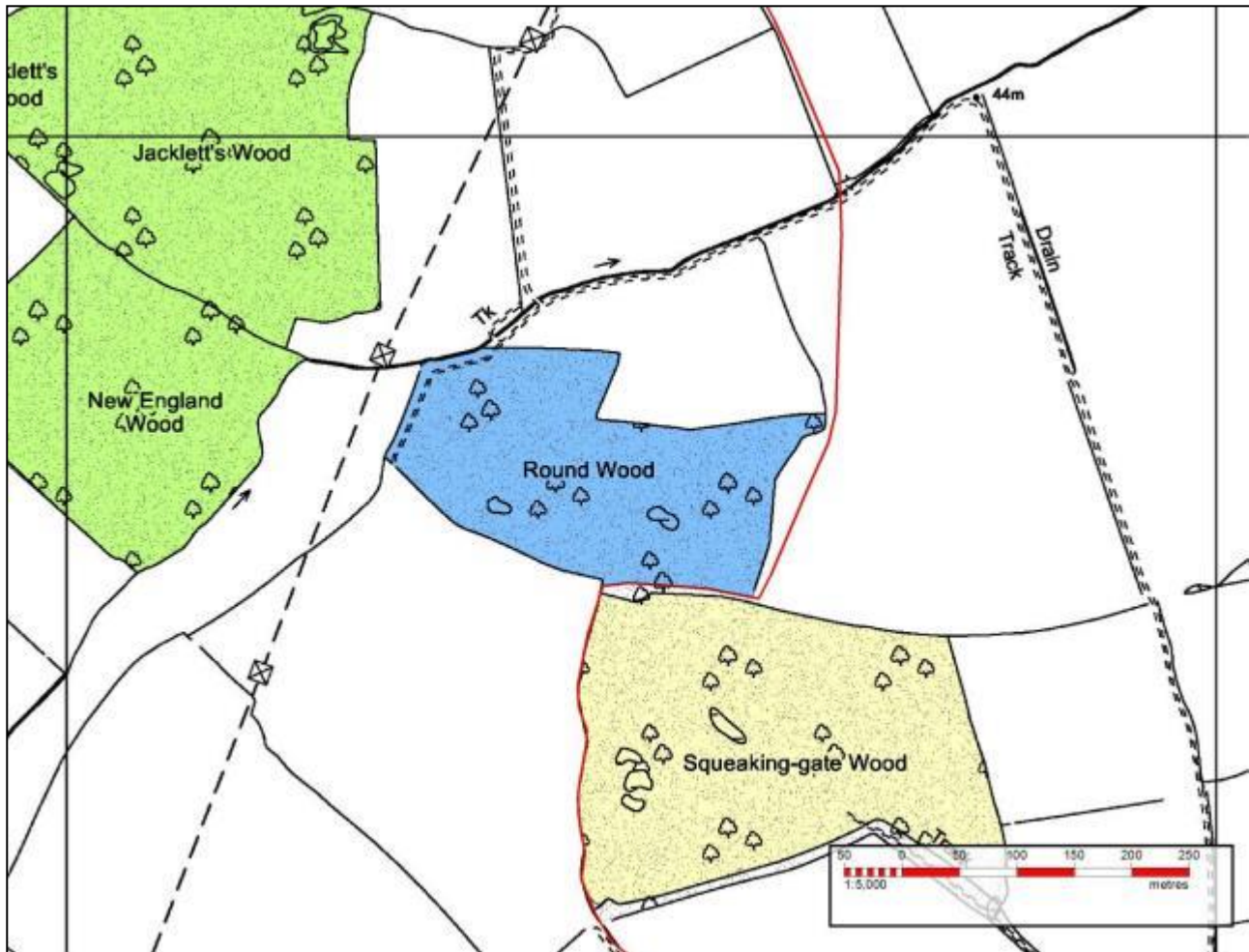
Erosion of the south-western boundary through garden expansion may be a continuing concern.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004 (boundary revised); 2016 (further boundary revisions)

Ch148 Round Wood, Bicknacre (5.07 ha) TL 80450170



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards characterise the majority of this ancient woodland. Part of the southern edge does differ in having scattered Pedunculate Oaks forming a more open canopy structure. Beneath this, Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) thrive where more light reaches the ground. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is found throughout the wood, whilst other ancient woodland indicators such as Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) form localised patches.

Ownership and Access

This woodland is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition is typical of ancient woodland sites throughout south Essex.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

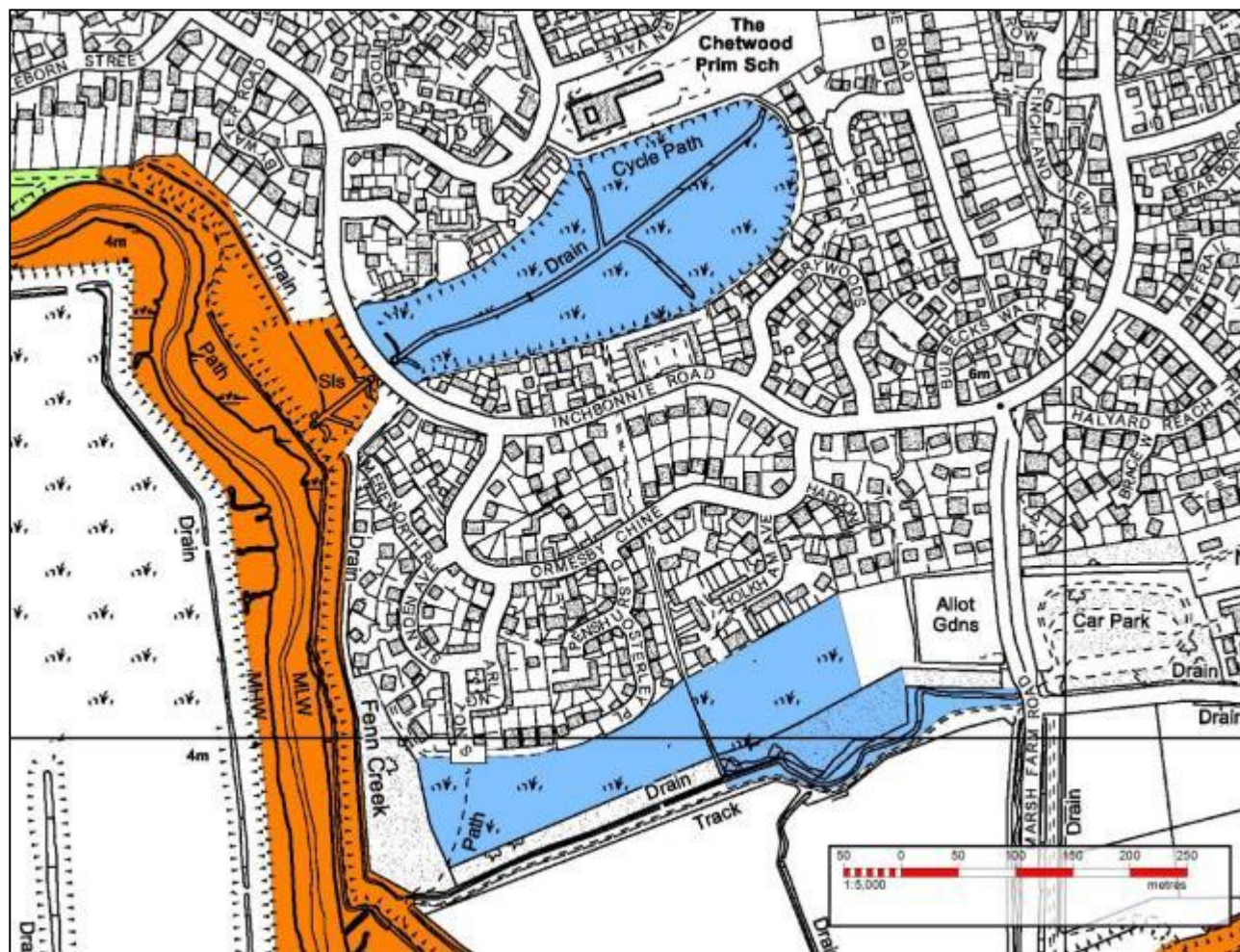
The dense Hornbeam and oak canopy is likely to be suppressing growth in the shrub and ground layers.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: 2004; 2016

Ch149 Fenn Washland and Frankland Fields, South Woodham Ferrers (8.52 ha)
TQ 80649622



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises the old Fenn Washland LoWS (also a Local Nature Reserve, declared in 2000) with a new area, Frankland fields, a short distance to the south. Within the Fenn Washland area, willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub and small stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) dominate the wet areas, whilst Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) is prominent centrally. In contrast to this, patches of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub occupy the higher slopes towards the housing. This site provides an ideal habitat for various butterfly species including Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*) and Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*), both highly localised species in Essex. The Nationally Scarce Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi* has also been recorded here. Both Water Shrew and Common Lizard are also present.

To the south, Frankland Fields is a mosaic of tall sward rough grassland, scrub and swamp habitat. The main part of the site has scattered patches of Hawthorn and Blackthorn scrub and a mix of grass species including False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). Herbs recorded from the grassland include Goat's-rue (*Galega officinalis*), Wild Onion (*Allium vineale*) and Tares (*Vicia* spp.). Towards the eastern end of the site there is an area of swampy habitat characterised by tall stands of Common Reed providing increased diversity to the site.

Together, these two sites are popular recreational areas for the people of South Woodham Ferrers and they give access to interesting coastal wetland and grassland species, close to hand.

Ownership and Access

Fenn Washland is owned by Essex County Council and is considered to be an extension of the Marsh Farm Country Park to the east of South Woodham Ferrers. There is open public access although deep channels and other wetland areas restrict access, particularly within the northern Fenn Washland.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Reedbed (small part of the site)

Selection Criteria

HC28 Small-component Mosaics

HC31 Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

These sites permit local residents to experience coastal wetlands and grasslands in a safe environment, using the network of paths around the site. The main wildlife value of the site is as a complex mosaic of small habitat patches, which will collectively attract a wide variety of wildlife.

Condition Statement

Good, stable.

Management Issues

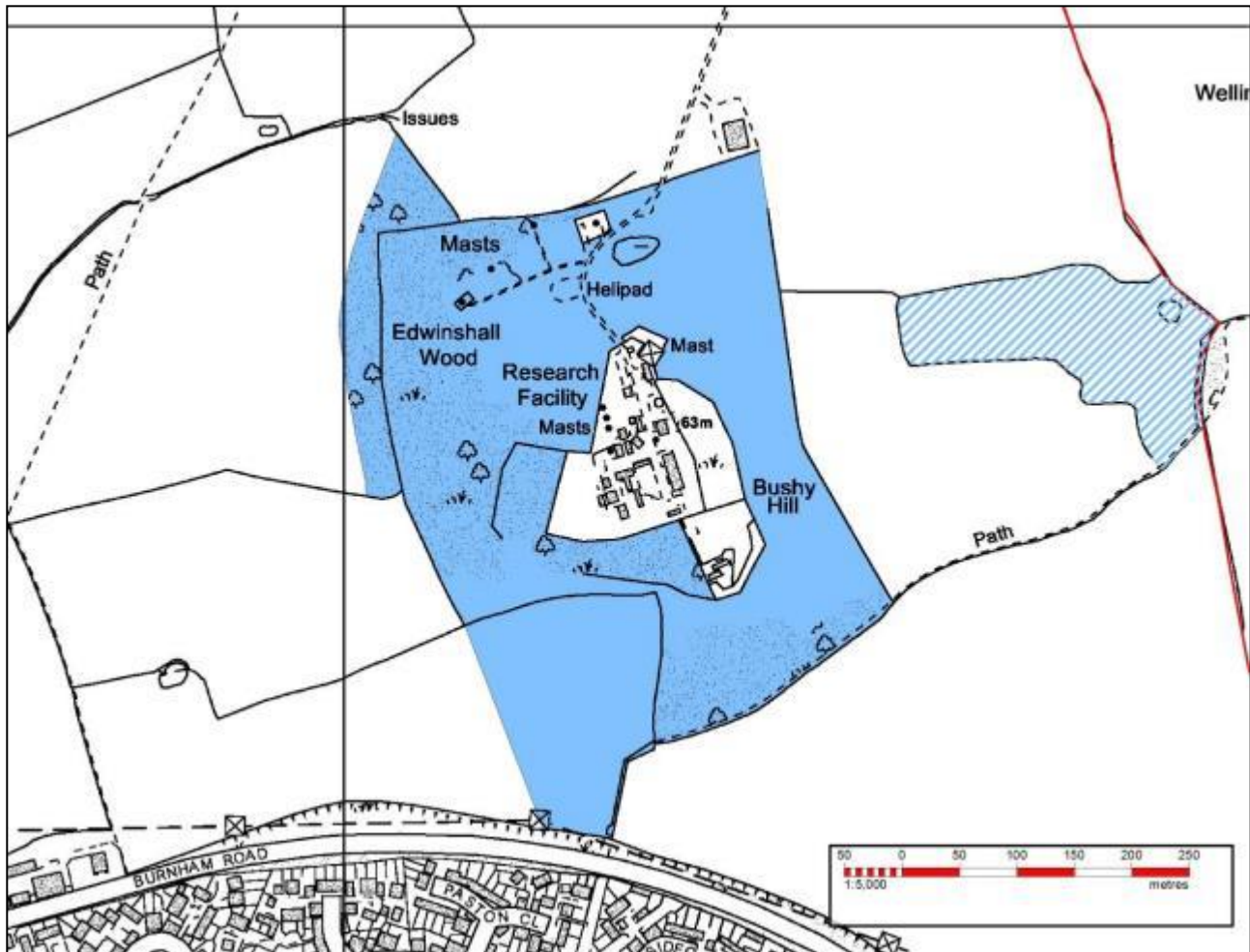
Being managed by a local volunteer group under the guidance of the city council. There will be a need to control scrub expansion in order to maintain habitat diversity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2004 (Fenn Washland)

Reviewed: 2016 (Frankland Fields added)

Ch150 Bushy Hill, South Woodham Ferrers (15.42 ha) TQ 81219862



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises a mosaic of acid grassland, scrub and old broad-leaved woodland. Within the southern tip of the site, a series of terraced slumps in otherwise species-poor cattle pasture provides an interesting nesting habitat for a number of scarce invertebrates. This LoWS formerly extended eastwards to an area of damp, marshy grassland but this has now been demoted to a Potential LoWS because of uncertainty over the retention of key floral species and deterioration in its condition. The intervening land has been deleted from the former LoWS outright, following ploughing and reversion to agriculture.

Acid grassland dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with patches of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) occurs at the top of the south facing slope forming the southern part of the site. Lower down the slope is a grassland more typical of neutral soil conditions, with Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense* agg.). These lower slopes are becoming badly infested by a mixed scrub of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and rose (*Rosa* agg.).

On the western side of the site is Edwinshall Wood, an old and possibly ancient block of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) wood. The structure is dominated by oak standards with little understorey, although there are a few Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder

(*Sambucus nigra*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). An ancient status is suggested by the presence of Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), although overall the ground flora is not rich.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access beyond a right of way that runs along the southern boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection Criteria

HC28 Small-component Mosaic

Edwinshall Wood might qualify independently under HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Condition Statement

Declining.

Management Issues

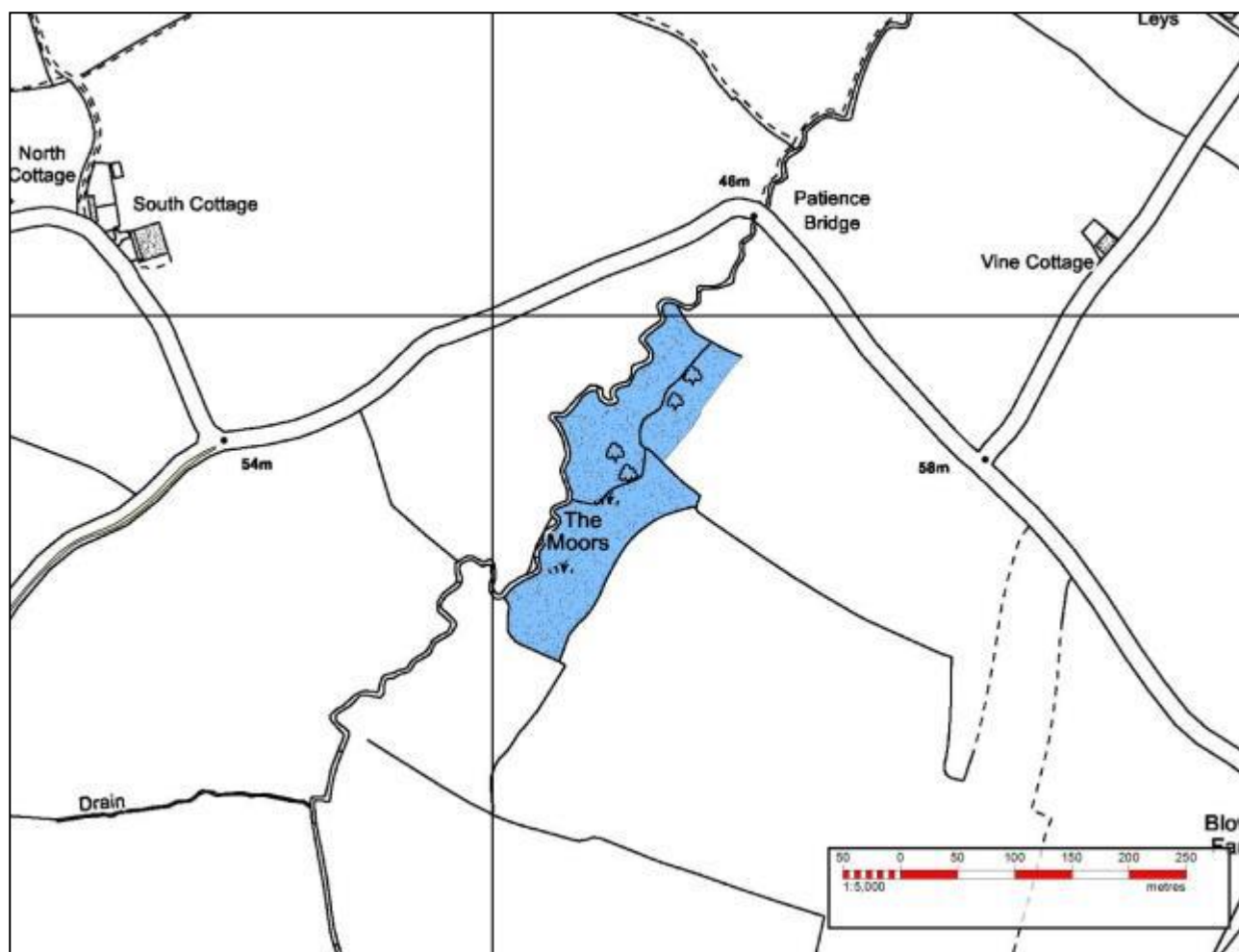
Recent ploughing has significantly decreased the extent of this LoWS from when first designated. A lack of management has caused a deterioration in part of the former LoWS, now downgraded to a Potential LoWS. Within the remaining LoWS, scrub invasion is threatening to destroy the remaining grassland, although a small quantity of scrub in a habitat mosaic is beneficial.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (only Edwinshall Wood)

Reviewed: 2004 (grasslands added); 2016 (significantly reduced in extent)

Ch151 The Moors, Roxwell (2.35 ha) TL 63100685



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Located to the east of Roxwell Brook, this is a site of contrasting topography and habitat types. Whilst the higher free draining ground at the southern end of the site has Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice dominating, the lower slopes closer to the brook have Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice and tall Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Some Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice are found on the wood edges. The woodland has only a scattered shrub layer which includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The main ground flora comprises Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) a species tolerant of shaded conditions beneath the canopy. The central area close to an internal stream has a small marsh resulting from several springs and flushes draining from the higher slopes. This has resulted in an open area where Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) forms a small secluded sedge bed. The northern part of the site is a tangle of Hawthorn and Elder scrub, though a veteran Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) survives on the boundary hedge line.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This is one of a cluster of small woods to the south of Skreens Park, in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the local authority area. Although a small site, there is good diversity of structure, habitat and flora.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

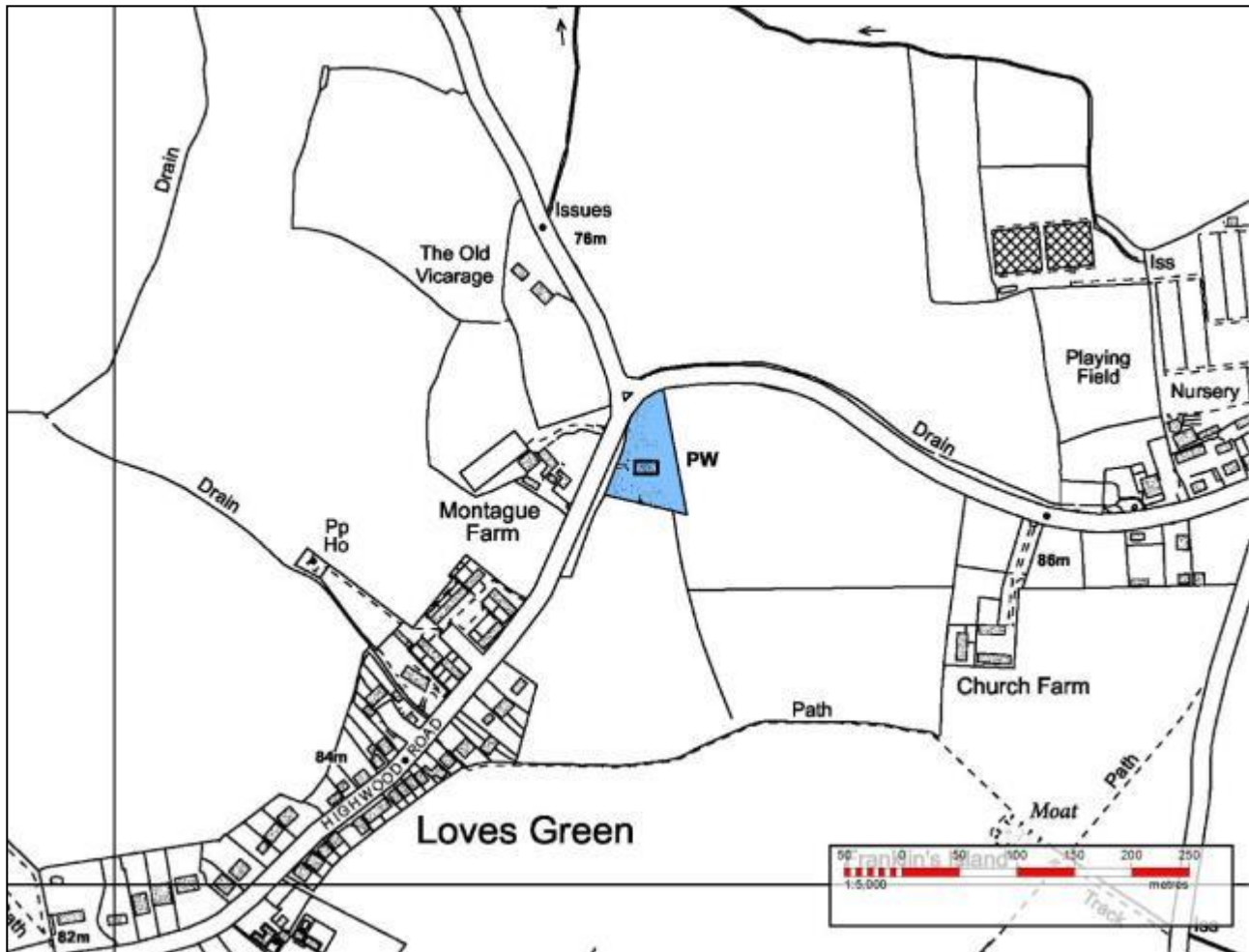
Management Issues

The spread of Sycamore would be undesirable in that it would tend to shade out and out-compete other elements of the canopy and sub-canopy.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch152 St Paul Highwood Churchyard, Loves Green (0.45 ha) TL 64460437



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) trees line either side of the church and the dense shade they cast limits the development of any considerable floral diversity beneath. However, where the grassland flourishes in sunny areas there is a very varied mix of grasses and herbs. Grasses present include Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Quaking Grass (*Briza media*), this latter species an Essex Red Data List species now found very infrequently in the Chelmsford area. Other herb species recorded include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*).

Ownership and Access

The church and its yard is governed under the Diocese of Chelmsford and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Churchyards often protect remnants of older grassland that have not been treated with chemical sprays and as such can remain floristic rich. This church provides an oasis of species diverse grassland in an area otherwise lacking in good quality grassland habitat.

Condition Statement

Variable.

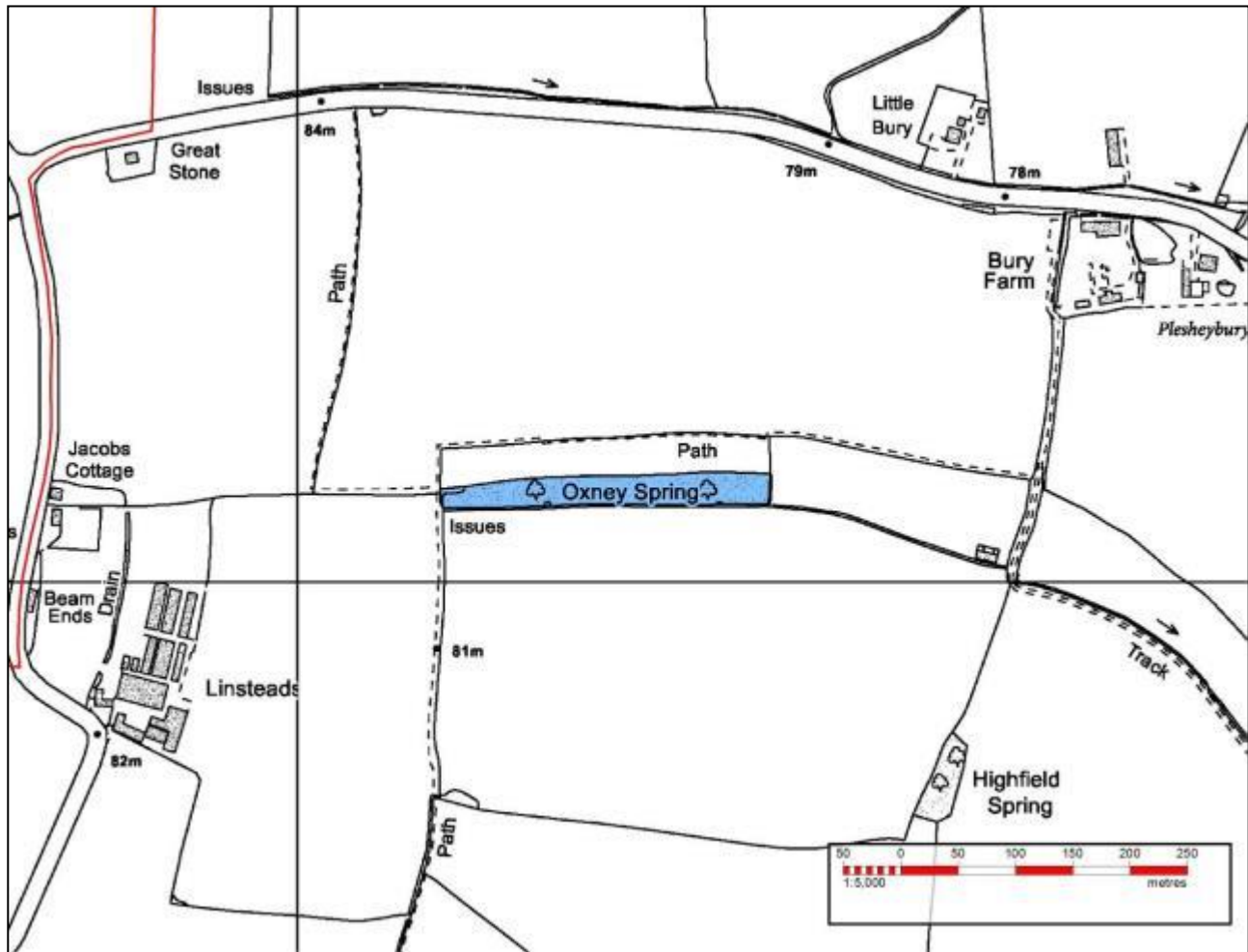
Management Issues

Management of the Yew trees is not likely to be feasible in this setting, although they are having a negative impact upon the grassland. There is likely to be a conflict of interest between desires to maintain graves in a neat and tidy condition and the nature conservation value of letting the sward grow uncut during the flowering season.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch153 Oxney Spring, Pleshey (0.77 ha) TL 65271407



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Oxney Spring has a high canopy structure with coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) along with scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) form a well-developed shrub layer. The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) with occasional patches of Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*). Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), indicators of ancient woodland, are present in the eastern end of the site.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access, although rights of way run close to the northern and western boundaries.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This woodland has a diverse mix of tree and shrub species providing a varied structure. This area of the Chelmsford has very little woodland habitat such that small fragments as this remain as important refuges for plants and animals.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

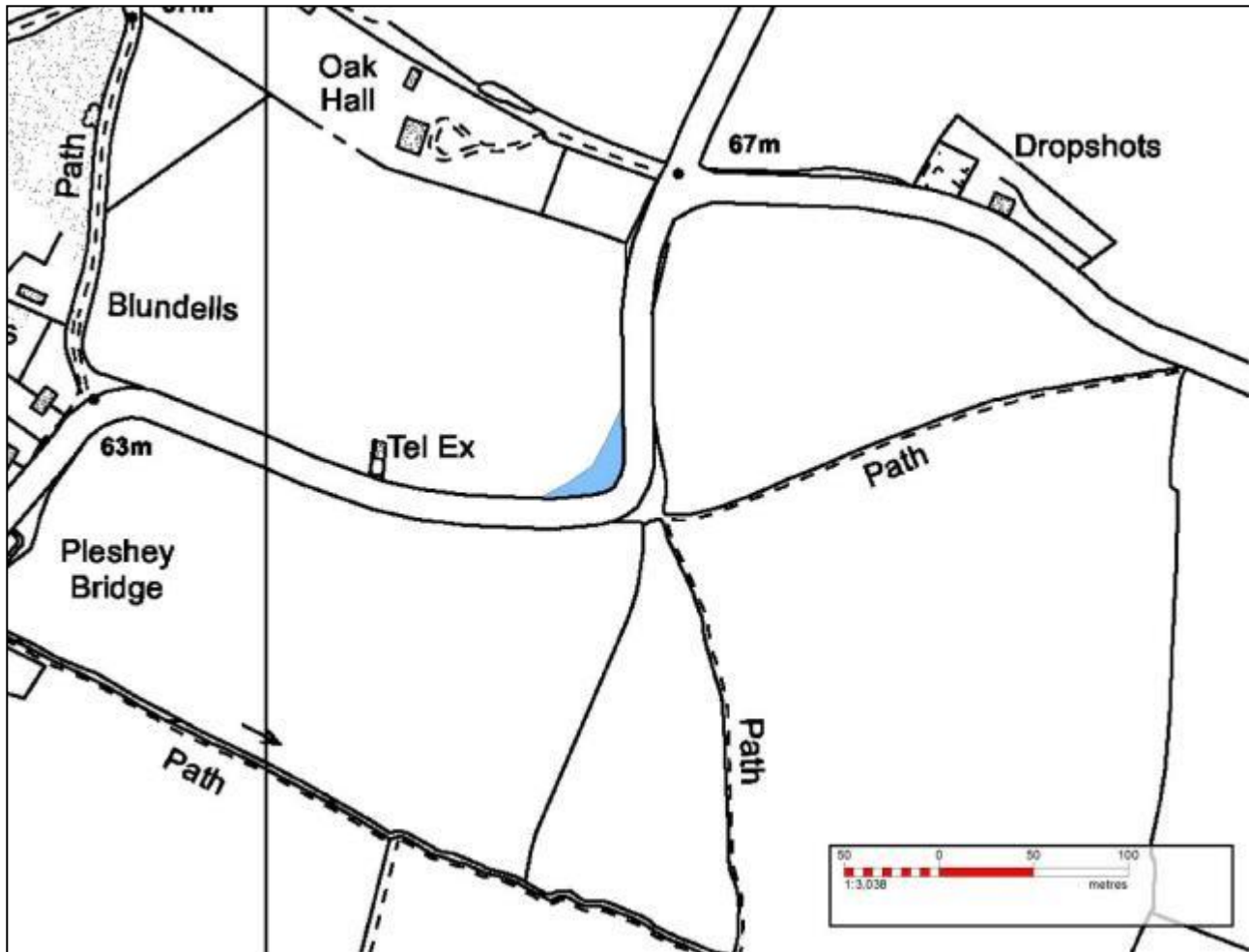
Management Issues

Nothing specific.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch154 Pleshey Road Verge, Pleshey (0.03 ha) TL 67181468



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This corner verge site has areas of low growing grass sward comprising finer grasses such as Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) not to be out-competed by taller more vigorous species. This low sward height has also allowed a rich and varied herb flora to thrive. Species recorded include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Of particular note is the presence of Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*) and Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*) an Essex Red Data List species.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership but forms part of the public highway. Its location would make it a dangerous place to visit on foot.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

May have affinities with Lowland Meadow vegetation types.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Though a very small site, there is nevertheless a very rich flora to be found. Roadside verges such as this are important repositories for rarer plant species, given the loss of flower rich grasslands throughout Essex. This grassland is located within the predominantly arable landscape to be found north-west of Chelmsford.

Condition Statement

Good.

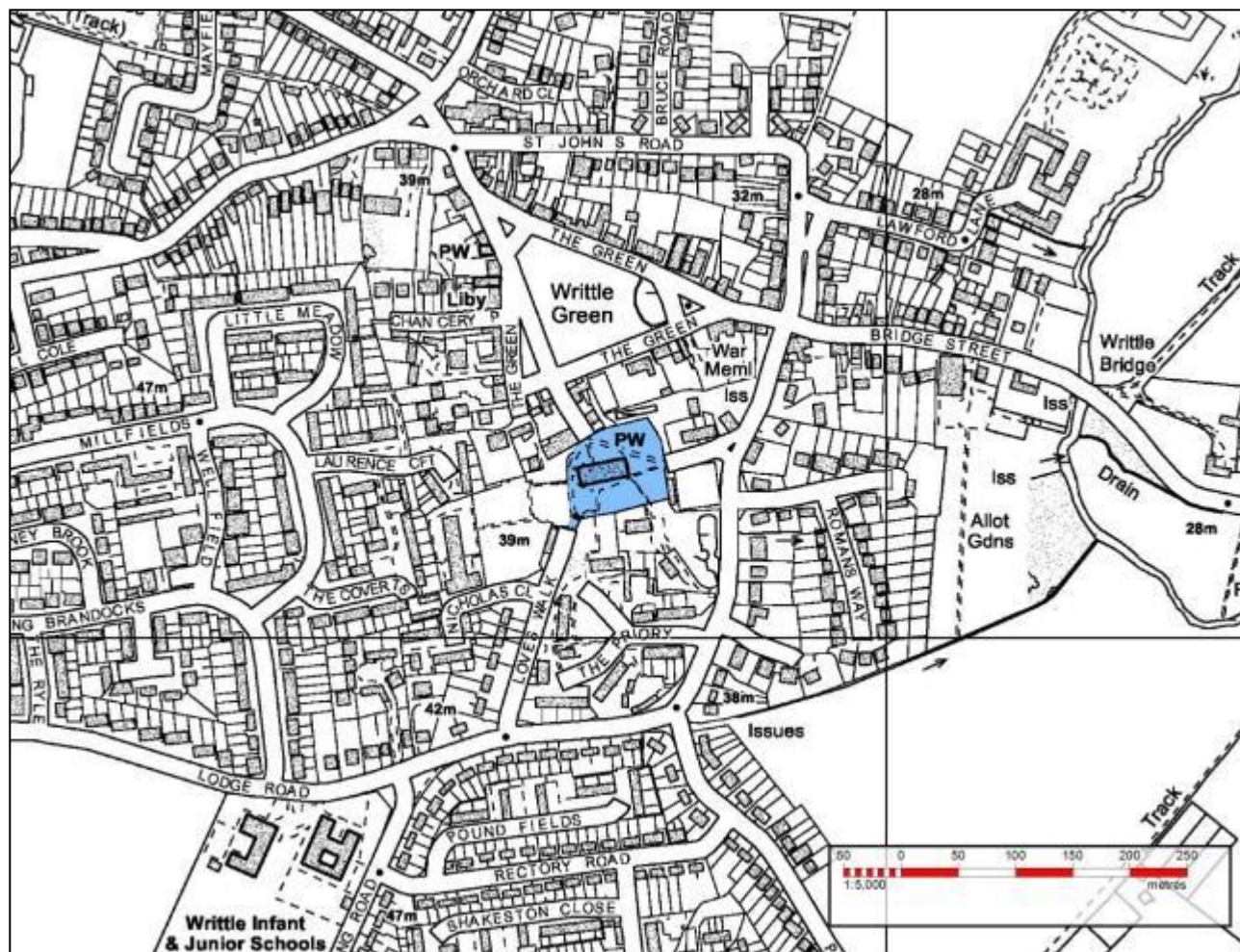
Management Issues

At the mercy of inappropriate road verge management and line of sight cutting at the wrong time of the year.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch155 All Saints Church, Writtle (0.60 ha) TL 67760614



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This churchyard site has contrasting areas of short mown and tall sward grassland left for wildlife. Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), a species typical of dry short sward areas, is recorded from areas to the west of the church. Other herbs of interest found here include Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.). By contrast, an area of tall sward grassland to the south side of the church has the delicate Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and herbs including Lady's Bedstraw, Wild Onion (*Allium vineale*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Betony (*Betonica officinalis*); this last plant included as an Essex Red Data Listed species due to its decline throughout the county in recent decades.

Ownership and Access

The church and its yard is governed under the Diocese of Chelmsford and is accessible to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

This grassland is likely to have evolved from a Lowland Meadows vegetation type.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Churchyards often protect remnants of older grassland that have not been treated with chemical sprays and, as such, can remain floristic rich. This church provides an oasis of species diverse grassland.

Condition Statement

Good.

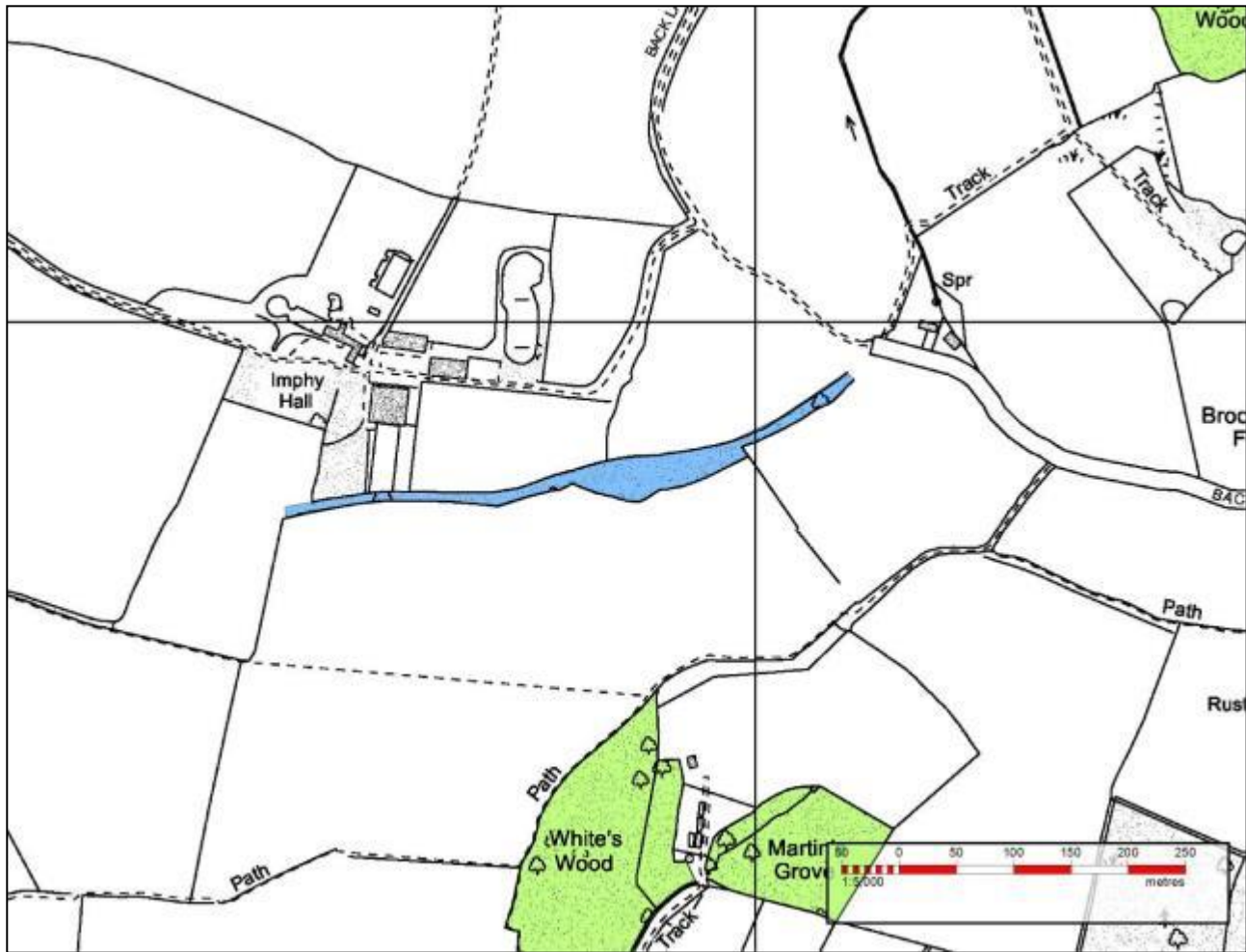
Management Issues

The presence of important flora within the shorter mown areas illustrates that grassland doesn't necessarily have to grow "wild" in order to be of interest. Indeed, a lack of management for such swards can be as detrimental as too much, and this balancing act is a prevalent problem within actively tended burial grounds.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch156 Imphy Hall Wood, Stock (0.77 ha) TQ 67879887



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This is a narrow strip of woodland in excess of 500 metres in length. At its widest point the wood comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) over abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in the ground flora. Hornbeam is found throughout this site, along with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards; the eastern end of the woodland has more tangled scrub as a component. Other species of shrub recorded from the edges of the wood include Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). Amongst the ground flora recorded from this site are Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and composition allude to this as a remnant piece of ancient woodland. It would have been too small to have been entered on the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

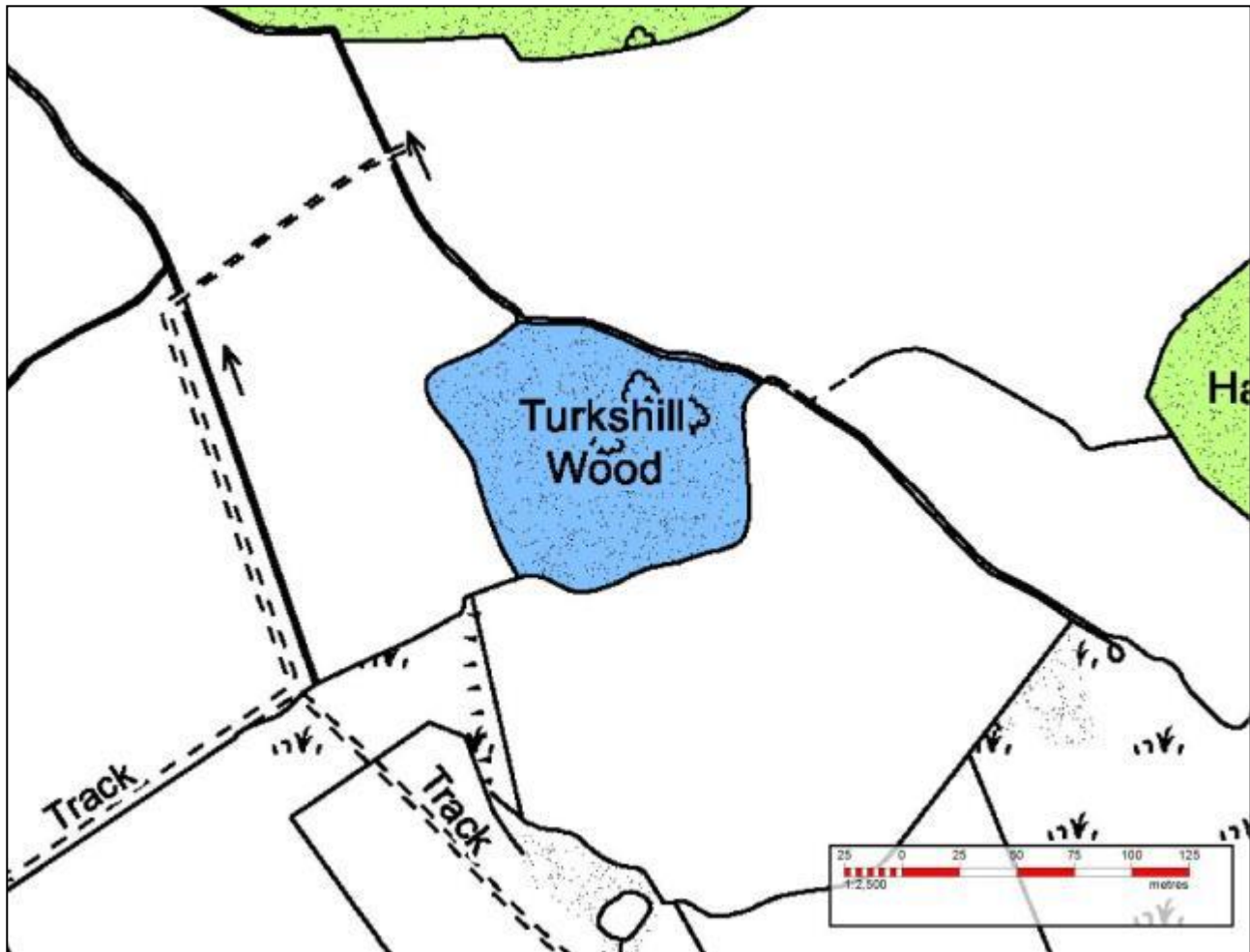
Management Issues

The lack of coppice management is compensated for by its linear shape and east-west alignment, which should allow good levels of sunlight to reach the ground layer.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch157 Turkshill Wood, Stock (1.23 ha) TQ 68409927



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This woodland is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with some substantial stools found on the peripheral wood banks of the site. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) coppice are scattered throughout the wood. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is found on both the west and east sides of the wood with much regeneration beneath. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant as ground flora vegetation whilst Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) are also found

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This woodland has the coppiced Hornbeam canopy structure found with Bluebells as the dominant ground cover typical of many old Essex woodlands, indicating its likely ancient origin.

Condition Statement

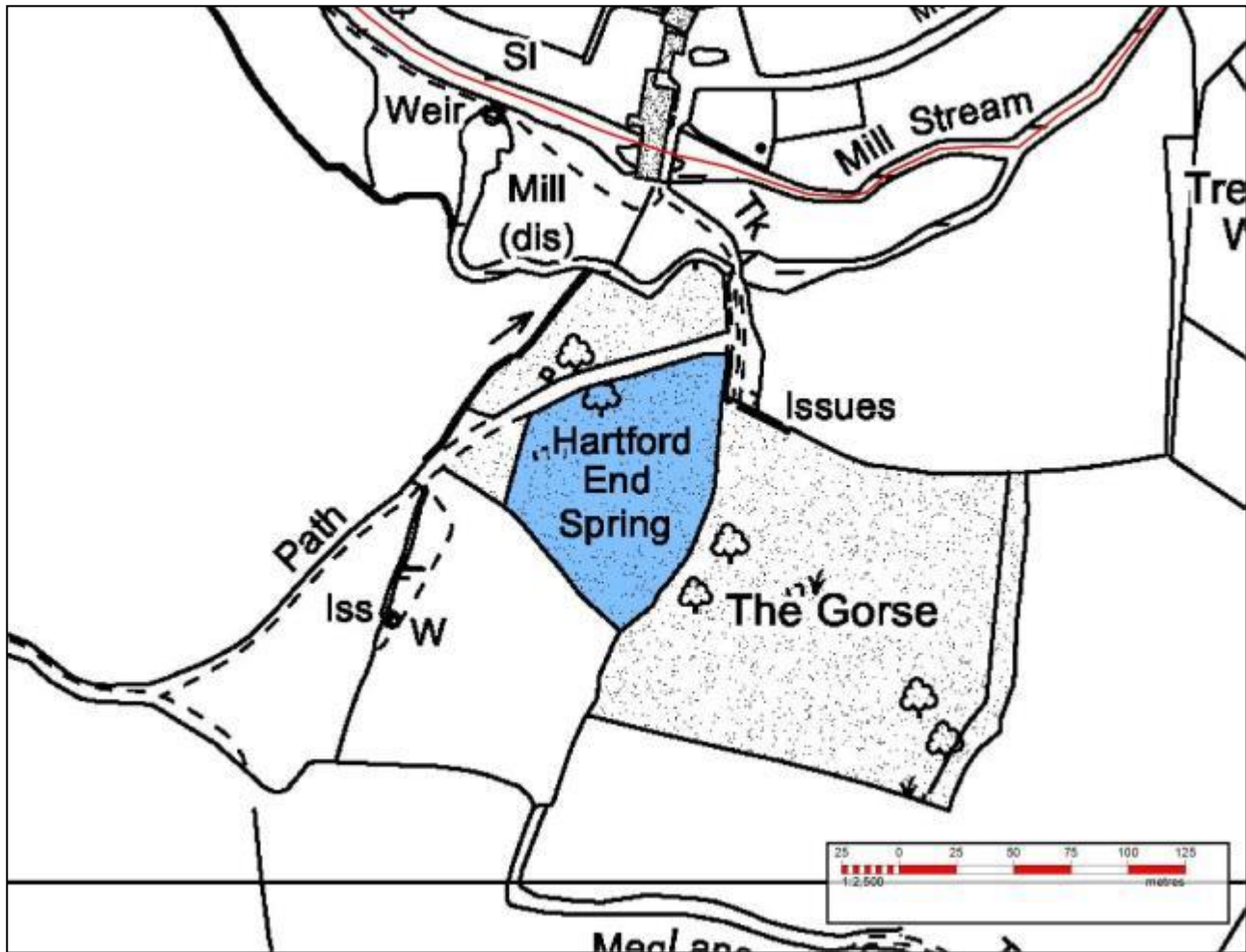
Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

Dense shade is likely to be limiting the diversity of the shrub and field layers. The spread of Sycamore would be undesirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The main components of this woodland are Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the high canopy with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) beneath. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), typically associated with ancient woodland, is also recorded from this site. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are present in a well-developed shrub layer. A stand of Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is found higher up the slope, though the dense shading it casts prevents any ground flora from growing beneath. The ground flora on the lower slope towards the north edge of the site is dominated by Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), whilst Cowslip (*Primula veris*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) are also found.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
(HC1 Ancient Woodland sites might be applicable).

Rationale

This woodland exhibits elements of antiquity in its general structure and composition, although its status is uncertain. Regardless of this, it has a good, diverse structure that makes it a very good example of Lowland Mixed deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

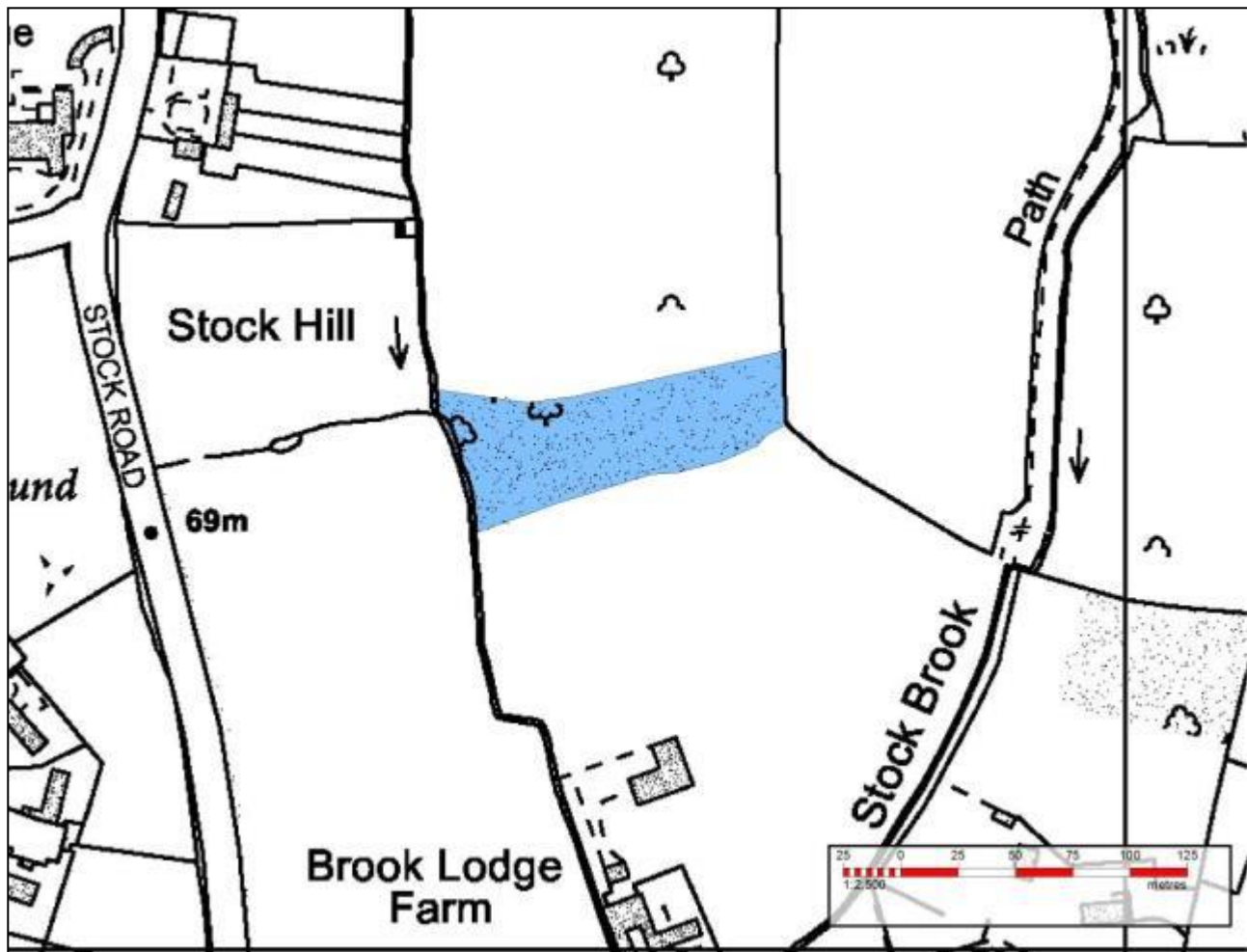
Neglected.

Management Issues

The spread of Laurel would be undesirable, given its highly negative impact upon the ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This small, rectangular wood has a westerly aspect, sloping down to a small south flowing stream. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and standards dominate this woodland. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards are also interspersed throughout, though more so towards the western end. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are found in a sparse shrub layer. Although Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) forms distinct patches, much of the woodland is fairly open beneath the tree canopy. Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) form an extensive carpet throughout, which is suggestive of a long period of woodland cover.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This woodland has the coppiced Hornbeam canopy structure with Bluebells as the dominant ground cover typical of many old Essex woodlands, indicating very old, if not ancient origin. It is, however,

selected here on the basis of its overall structure and composition as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

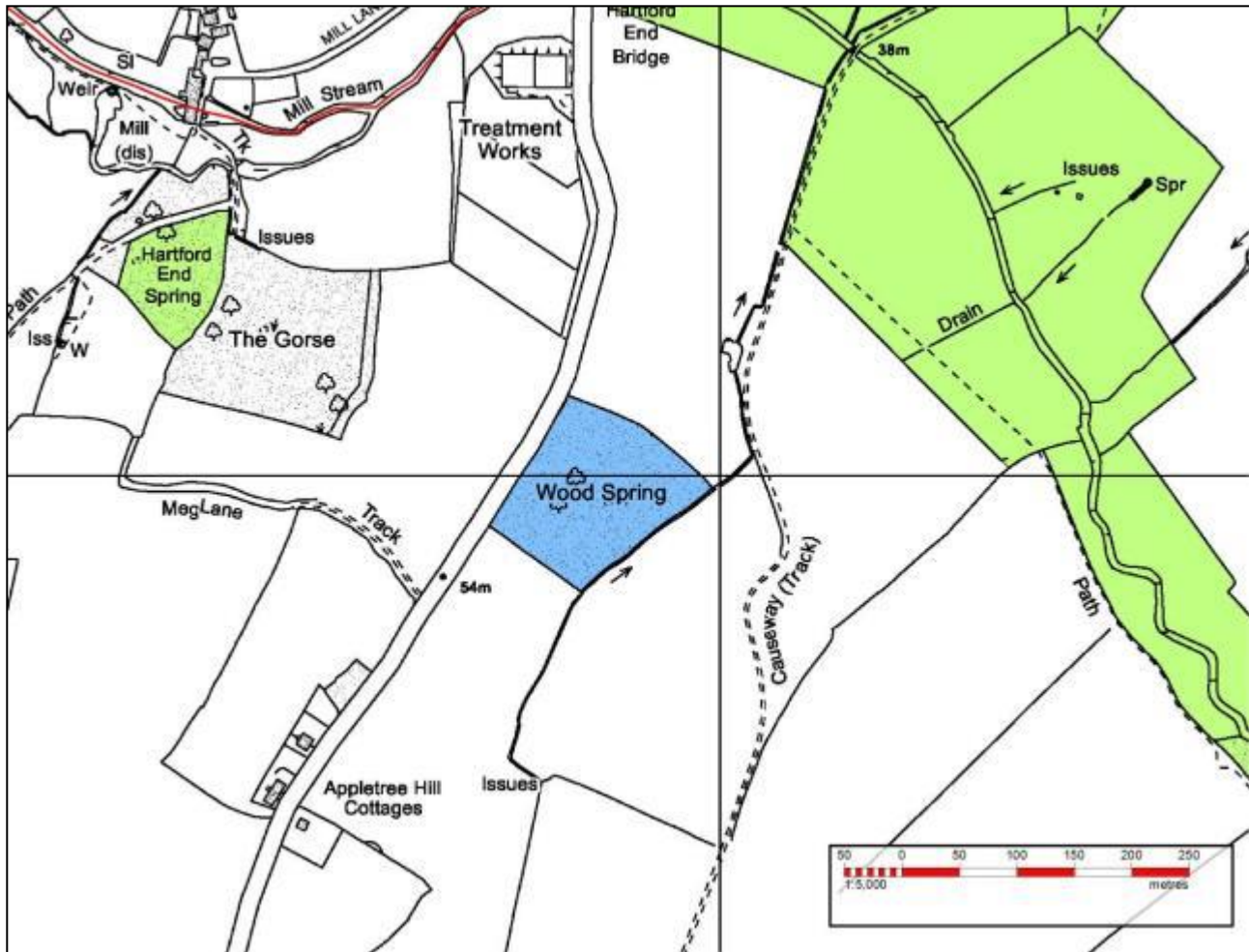
Management Issues

The neglected Hornbeam coppice will be casting a dense shade over the shrub and field layers, thereby limiting biodiversity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch160 Wood Spring, Littley Green (1.80 ha) TL 68891698



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice characterises this woodland site, although as a consequence of the dense shading, there is little shrub layer or ground flora beneath some of this canopy. However, areas of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) do have a well-developed shrub layer, with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) growing beneath. Coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is also recorded but is mainly confined to the margins of the wood. The ground flora is typified by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) and frequent Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) patches.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access, although it can be viewed from the adjacent highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
(HC1 ancient Woodland Sites might also apply)

Rationale

With a typical Hornbeam coppice, it is thought that this woodland, though not necessarily ancient, is nevertheless of considerable antiquity. It is, regardless of this, a typical representative of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland in this part of Essex.

Condition Statement

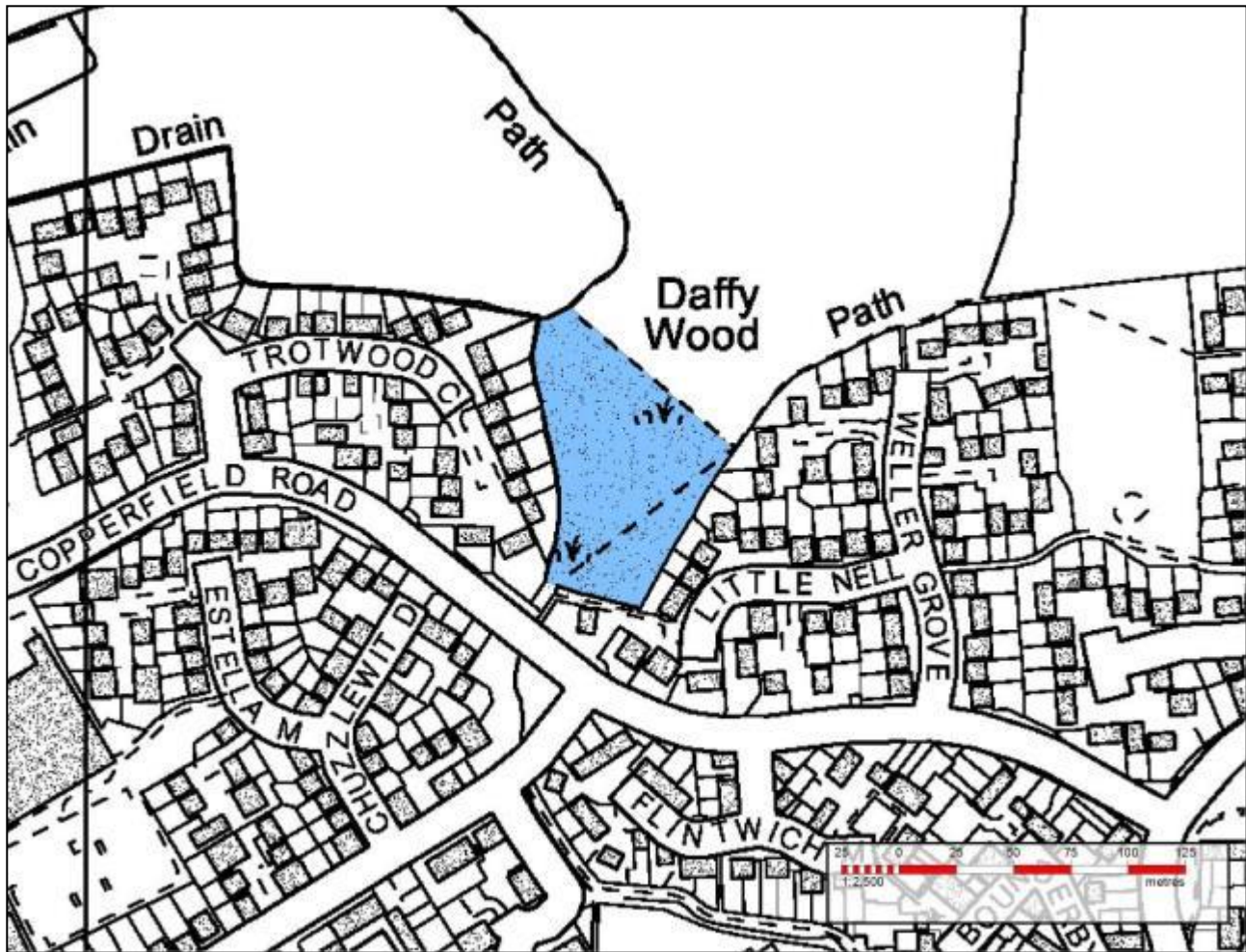
Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

Floral diversity is being suppressed under the dense, overgrown canopy of Hornbeam.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This woodland has a mix of older and younger Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards as the dominant tree canopy. Other trees present include Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are characteristic of the shrub layer, though where open areas occur in the wood, Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominates. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant towards the south part of the wood. Other ground flora species recorded include Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*). Daffodils found here may be the rare Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *pseudonarcissus*) and may have been such a locally significant feature in the distant past as to be the source of the wood's name.

Ownership and Access

Thought to be in private ownership. It is crossed by two rights of way.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

(SC1 Vascular Plants would also apply, if the provenance of the Daffodils present is proven).

Rationale

This old woodland site may prove to be ancient but it satisfies the non-ancient woodland criterion with a complex structure and species assemblage, which includes ancient woodland indicators.

Condition Statement

Neglected. Much visited by local residents.

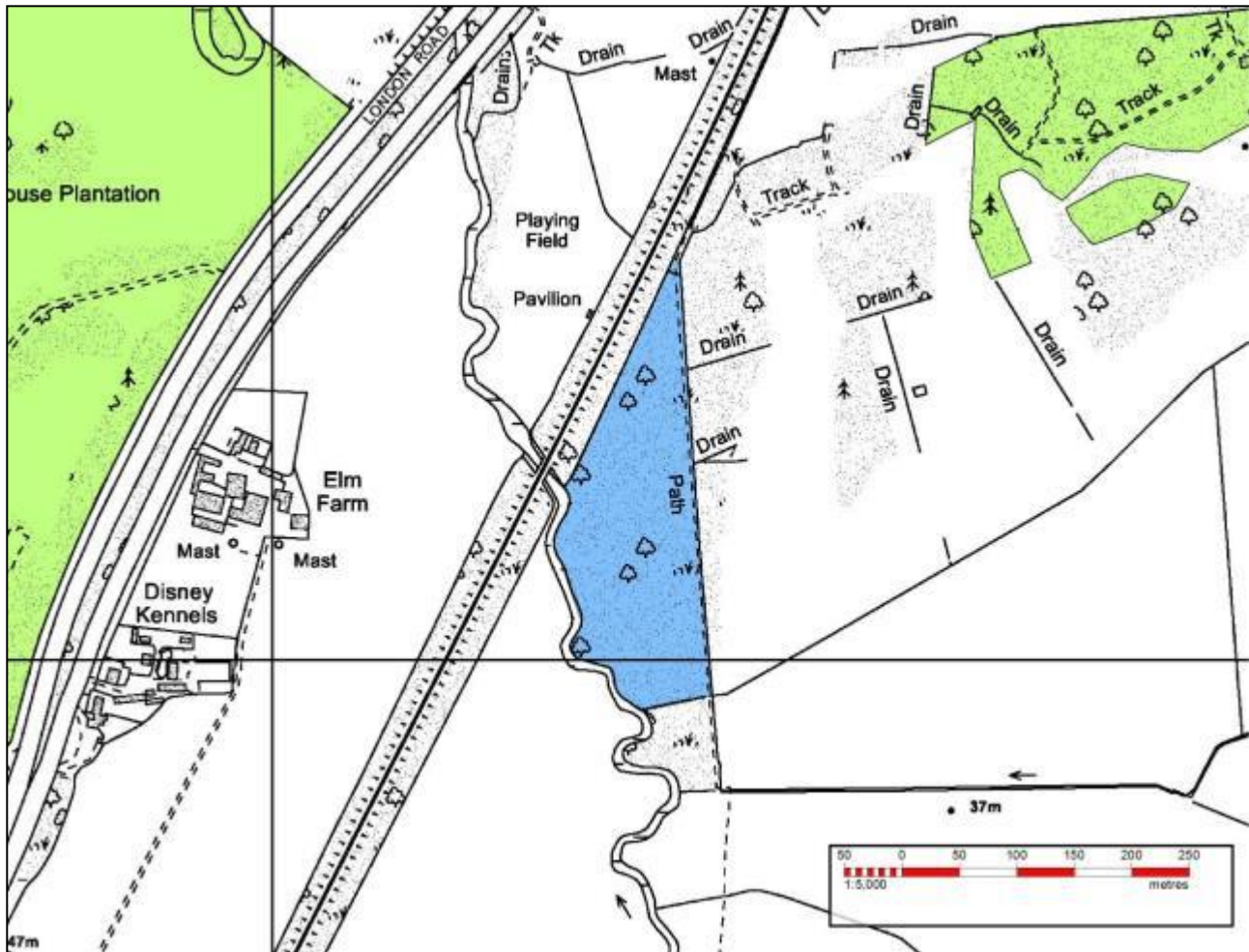
Management Issues

If the Daffodils present are true sub-species *pseudonarcissus* then hybridisation from adjacent domestic stock is likely to be a conservation issue. The wood is well visited, which may have negative impacts.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch162 Widford Meadow, Chelmsford (3.22 ha) TL 69320411



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises a mosaic of species-rich grassland and scrub, with dense Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub bordering the River Wid. The tussocky northern end of the site has an interesting assemblage of plant species, including locally frequent Pignut (*Conopodium majus*); typically found mostly as a woodland species in Essex, here it is found in a more open situation. Also present amongst the grassy tussocks is Milkwort (*Polygala* sp.) an Essex Red Data List species that has seen a dramatic decline in recent decades due to loss of grasslands. The site also supports a mix of other herbs including Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), St John's-worts (*Hypericum* spp.) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*).

Ownership and Access

Thought to be in private ownership; there is a public right of way running down the eastern boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criteria

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

SC1 Vascular Plants

Rationale

Throughout Essex, species-rich grasslands have declined in recent decades. The presence of Pignut is of interest, as a strong indicator of undisturbed conditions, be it within a woodland or grassland setting. This suggests that this is old grassland and likely to be rich in other species, including invertebrates. The presence of Milkwort alone would be sufficient to trigger selection as a LoWS (criterion SC1).

Condition Statement

Moderate but in slow decline.

Management Issues

Aerial photographs show that this site is becoming progressively scrubbier. With lack of overall management the sward may become tall and rank, thereby crowding out the smaller herbs, including the Milkwort.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site incorporates verges identified as Essex County Council Special Roadside Verges and includes a small triangle of grassland at the junction of Penden Hill and Bury Lane. The finer, lower growing grassland is characterised by the presence of Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). A variety of herb species are found throughout this site, including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership but part of the public highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

These verges have probably been derived from Lowland Meadow vegetation, which might once have occupied the surrounding fields long ago.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Road verges are becoming an important last refuge for many scarce Essex plants and traditional grassland assemblages that would once have been commonplace in the county. This is a small but valuable relic of such grassland.

Condition Statement

Good.

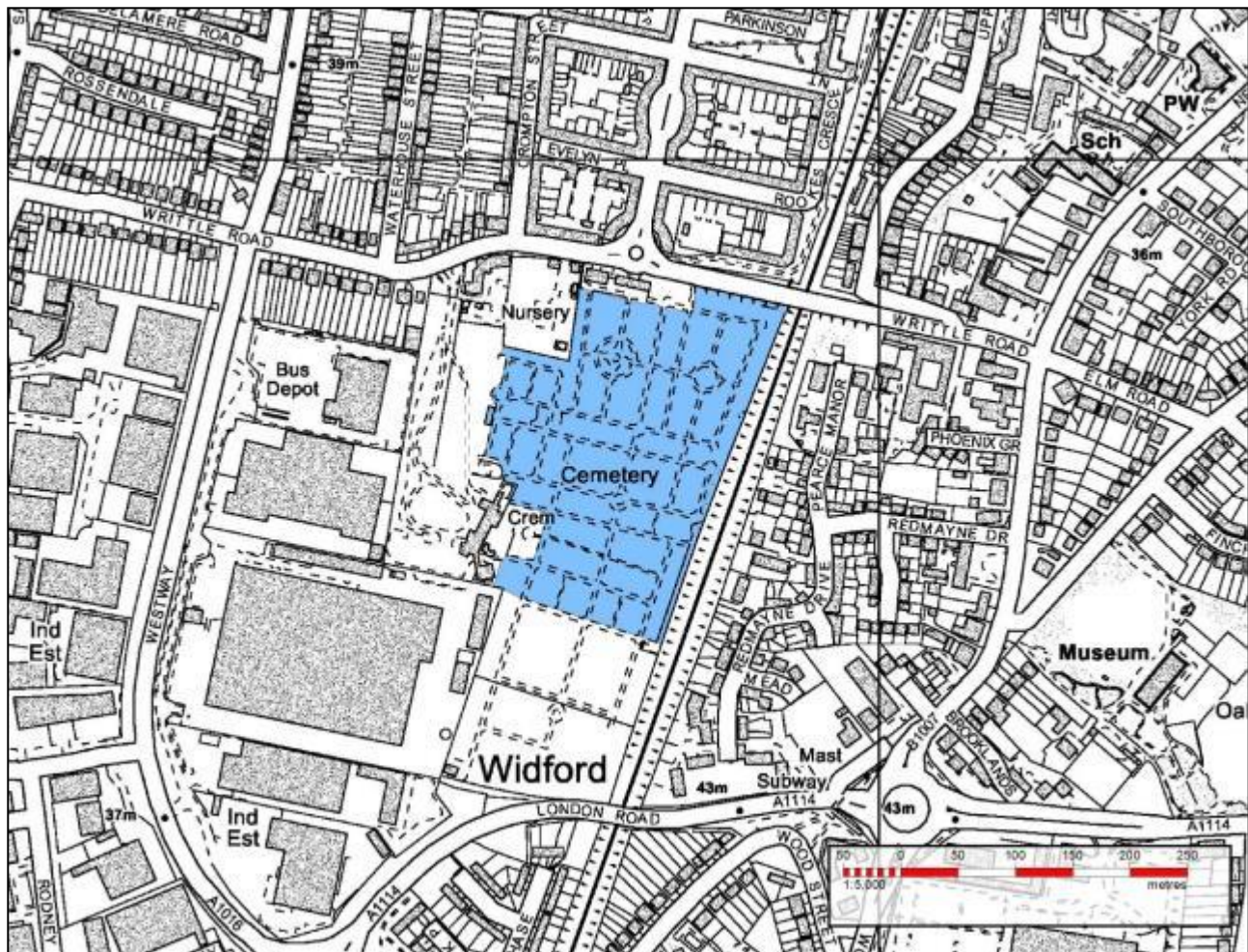
Management Issues

As with all road verges the need to maintain safety lines of sight can be at odds with nature conservation objectives.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch164 Writtle Road Cemetery, Chelmsford (5.14 ha) TL 69770574



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This large cemetery has a wide variety of grasses present throughout the site. These include Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). Among a diverse herb flora recorded from the site are Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*) and Dwarf Mallow (*Malva neglecta*). Of particular note is the abundance of Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), both of which are found in profusion close to the many paths that form a grid pattern through the site. Localised drier and more sandy areas are characterised by the presence of species such as Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

Ownership and Access

Owned and controlled by Chelmsford City Council, with appropriate public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Cemeteries often act in a way similar to churchyards, in encapsulating pieces of old grassland that date back to before the burial ground was formed. These old, species-rich grasslands are an increasingly scarce resource in an intensively managed countryside.

Condition Statement

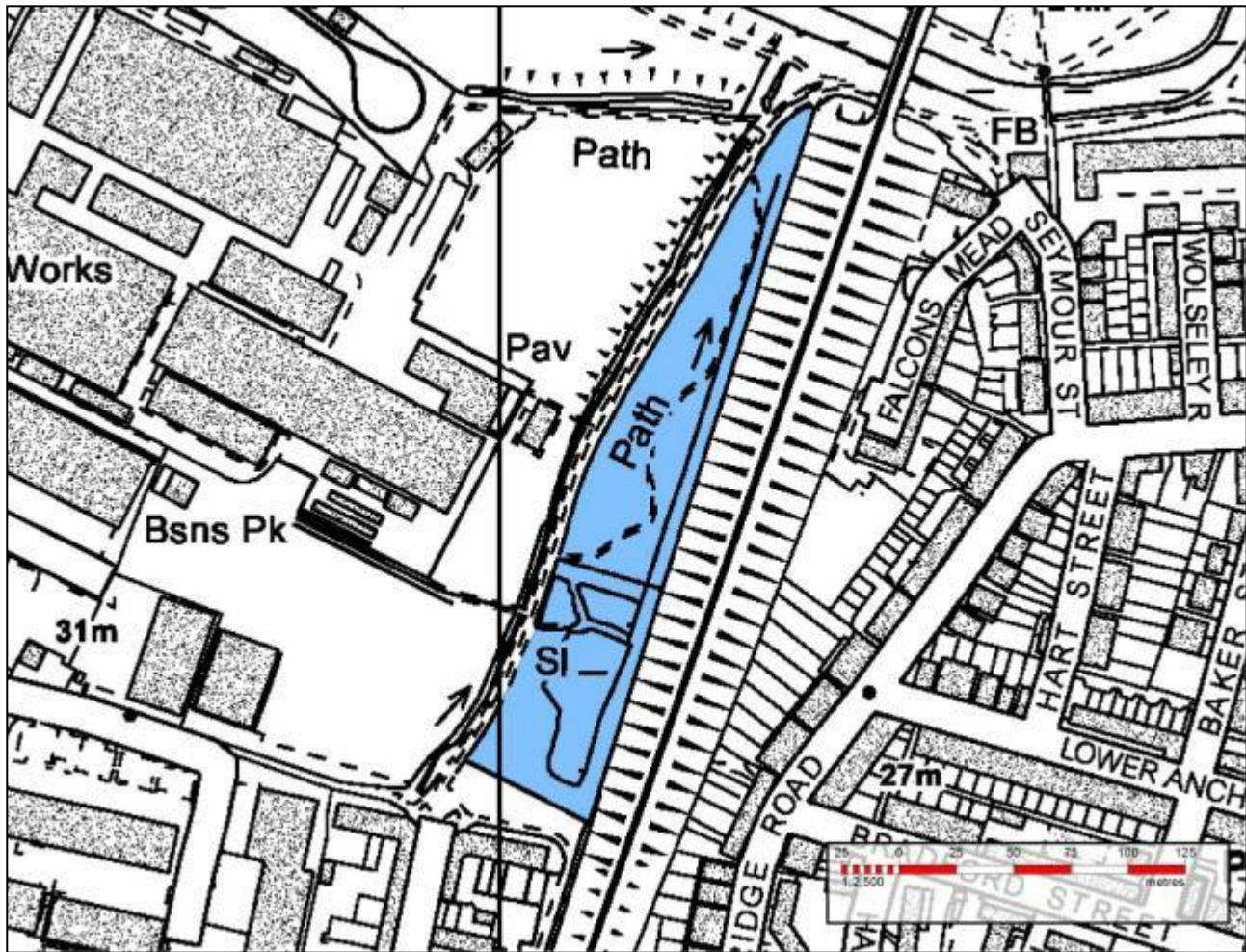
Good.

Management Issues

The rotational management of mowing the site allows longer grass areas to flourish, thus benefiting the overall biodiversity of the site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises a compact mosaic of woodland, young trees, scrub and ponds. A small area of grassland at the far north end of the site has a varied herb flora including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), St John's-worts (*Hypericum* spp.), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). The wooded area comprises a mix of species including Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). This part of the site is accessed via a network of paths along which are various installations of interactive exercise apparatus. Ponds located towards the southern end of the site provide further contrasting habitat. The pond margins are surrounded by species such as Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Pond-sedge (*Carex* sp.). Other plants from these wet areas include Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*). Additionally, the ponds form attractive habitat for invertebrates including Dragonflies and Damselflies.

Ownership and Access

This site is owned and managed by Chelmsford City Council. Much of the site is openly accessible to the general public, except for the ponds which are enclosed by fencing.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criteria

HC28 Small-component Mosaics

HC31 Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

This nature reserve provides not only a haven for wildlife in the urban area of Chelmsford, but also accessible habitat for residents of the city and an invaluable educational resource for the city.

Condition Statement

Good.

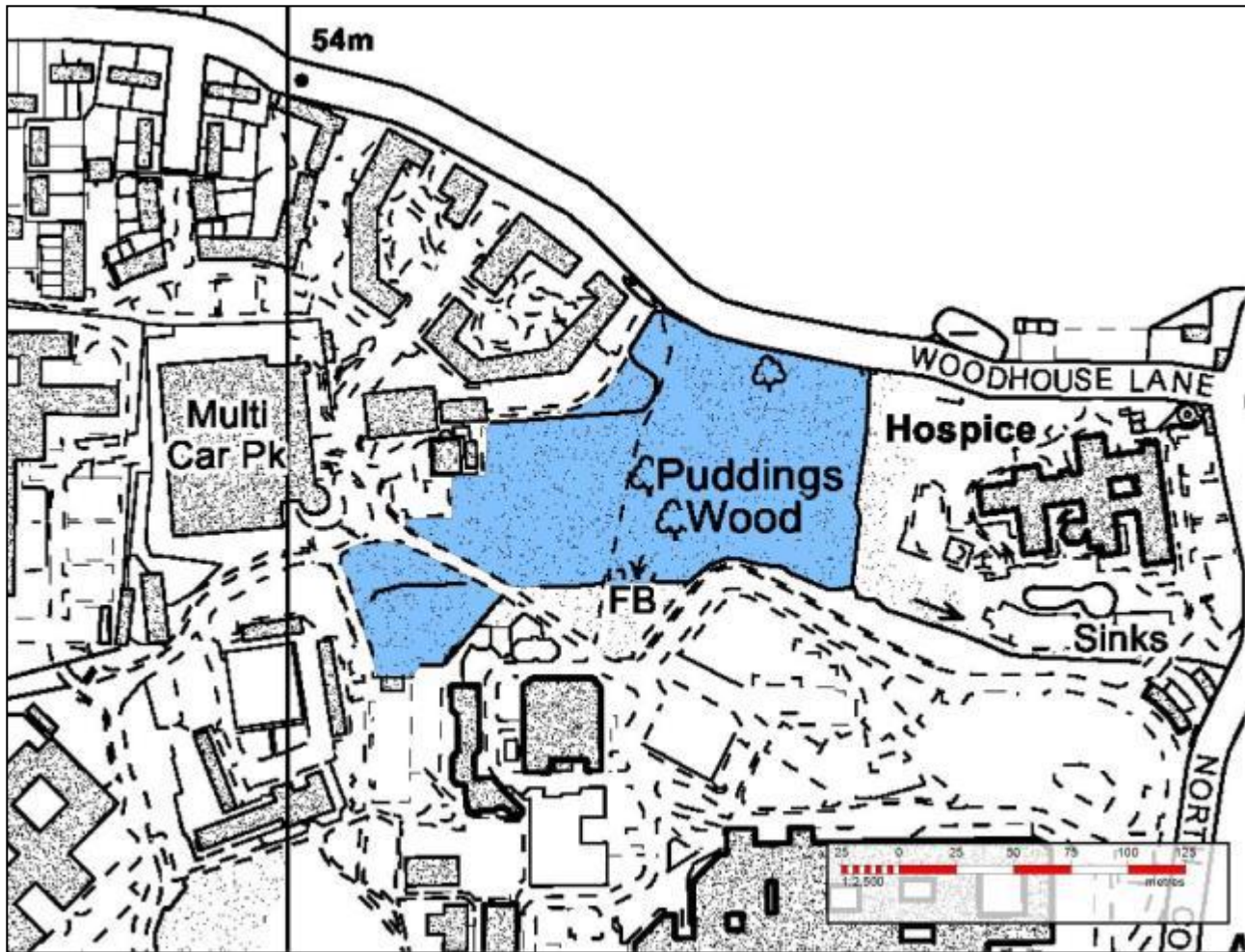
Management Issues

There will be a need to maintain open grassland and wetland habitats in the face of scrub succession.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch166 Puddings Wood, Broomfield (1.88 ha) TL 70151152



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Located within the Broomfield Hospital complex, this woodland exhibits a varied canopy and shrub layer structure. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are all found as coppice while Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is prominent as a high canopy standard tree. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are frequent components of the shrub layer. Amongst the ground flora Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) is frequent throughout the woodland, but in particular close to the small wet ditch within the site. Other ground flora species recorded include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*).

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This site may be ancient (in which case criterion HC1 would apply), but regardless of this, Puddings Wood is a fine example of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

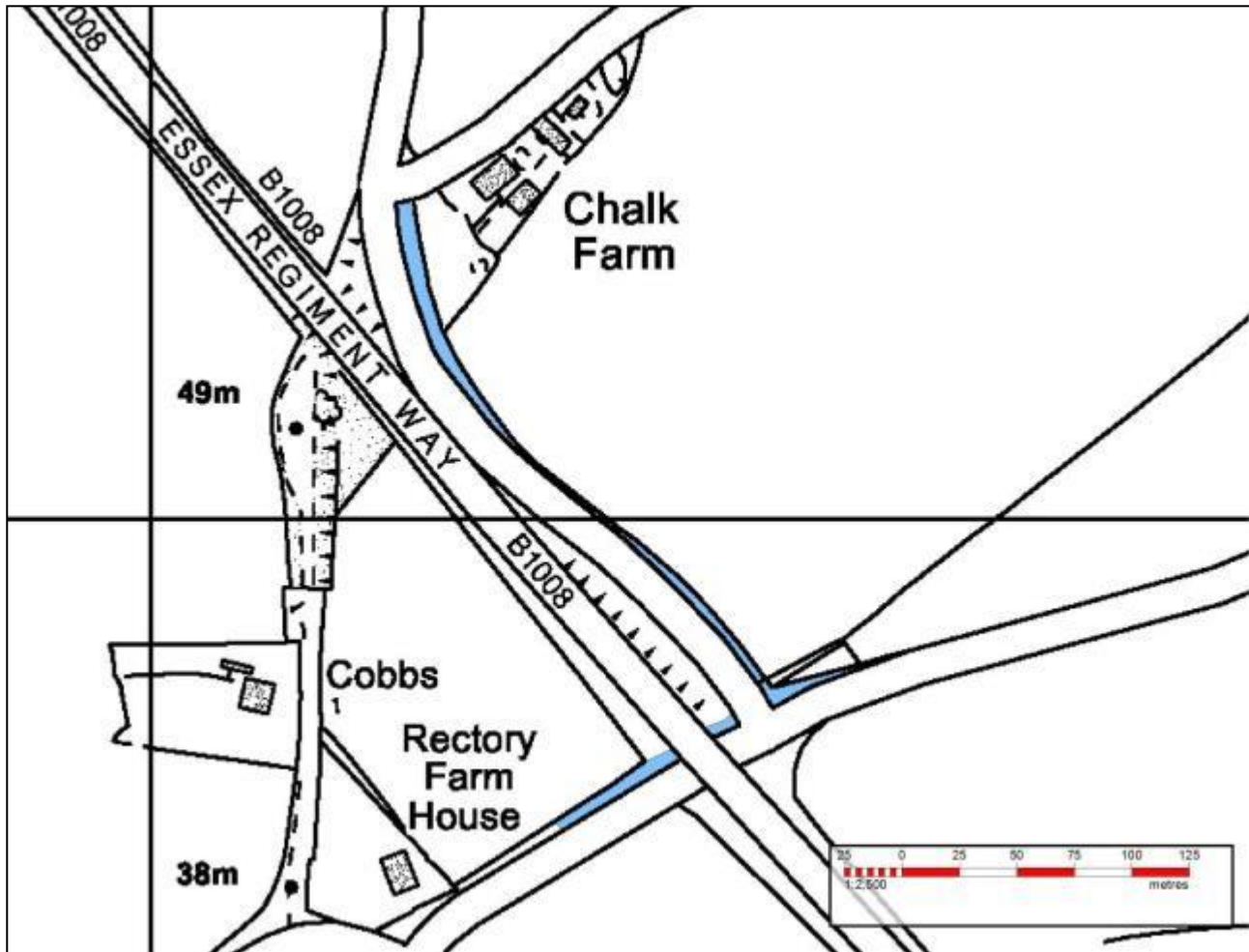
Management Issues

Trampling pressure, invasion of alien species and the problems of dense, overgrown coppice stools are all issues for this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch167 Chalk Farm Road Verges, Little Green (0.32 ha) TL 70181501



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises several roadside verges close to the junction of Little Green Road and Hyde Hall Lane in Howe Street. Herb species recorded from the verges include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*). Species of particular interest from this site include Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), an Essex Red Data List species, Common Broomrape (*Orobancha minor*) and Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership but part of the public highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Roadside verges are important refuges for many plant species that have declined due to loss of habitat.

Condition Statement

Good.

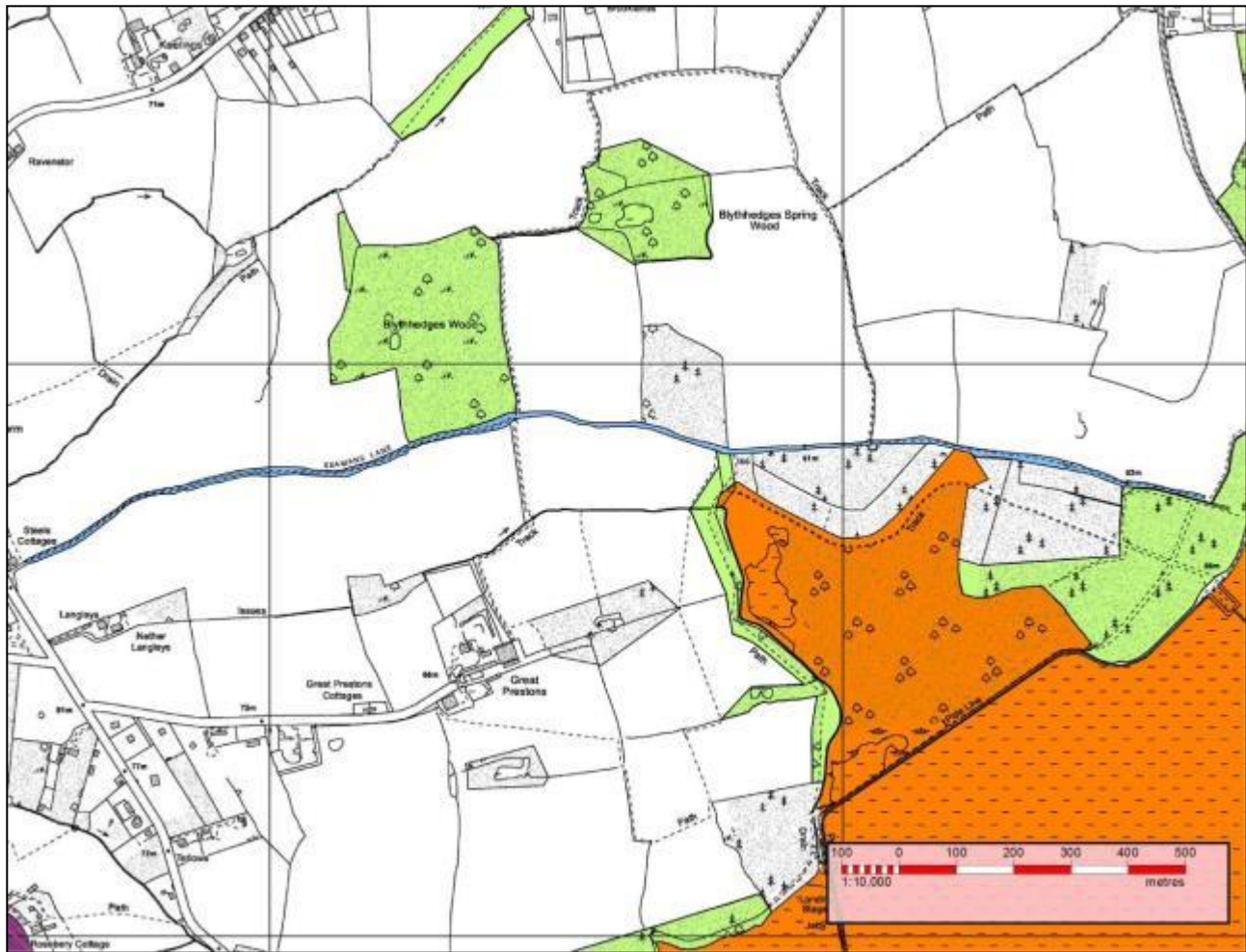
Management Issues

As with any road verge, there is likely to be a conflict between safety mowing as part of the highway versus nature conservation objectives.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch168 Seamans Lane, West Hanningfield (2.31 ha) TQ 71659882



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This ancient byway has species-rich hedges comprising Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Its ancient status is supported by the Presence of Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*).

The lane is known to help support a Dormouse population in the adjacent Hanningfield Mosaic LoWS (Ch78) and provides good connectivity with the Blythhedges Woods LoWS (Ch72), leading to the possibility that Dormice might also inhabit this woodland.

Ownership and Access

Multiple ownership, with the eastern end owned by Essex & Suffolk Water. It is a public right of way, forming part of the St Peter's Way long distance route in Essex.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Hedgerows

Selection Criteria

HC30 Wildlife Corridors

SC7 Dormouse

Rationale

Dormice require habitat at a landscape scale, so that important woodland or hedgerow corridors that allow for movement between woodland sites are of great importance.

Condition Statement

Good; heavy trampling in centre of track does not significantly detract from its value.

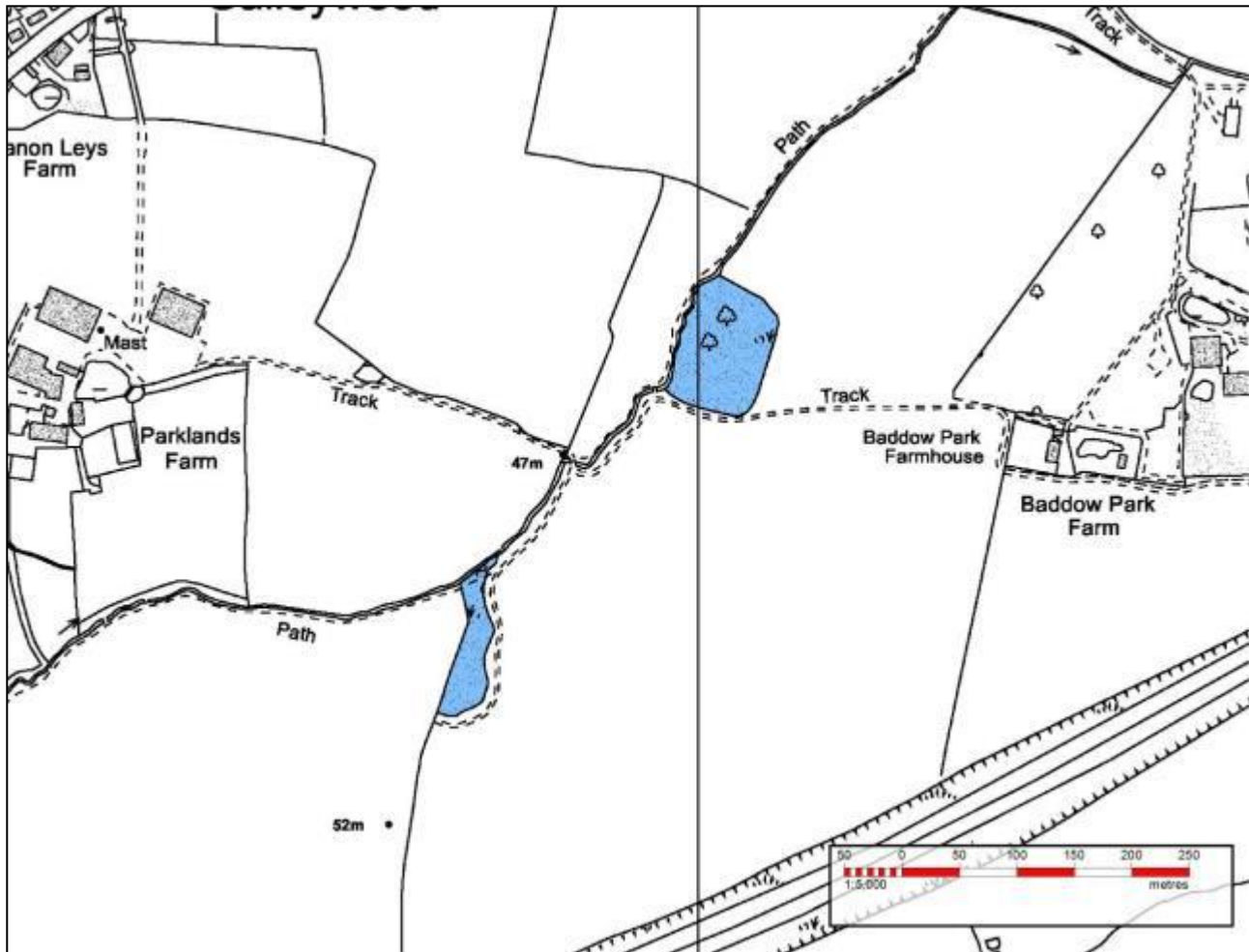
Management Issues

There is a need to maintain its continuity as hedgerow cover in order for its to function fully as a corridor for Dormouse dispersal as well as their habitat in its own right.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch169 Brook Woods, Galleywood (1.14 ha) TL 71960249



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site comprises two woodland blocks to the east of a small brook. The larger of the two woodlands has a mix of coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) found mainly along the western side. Wild Service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*) are recorded from the south-western corner of the wood. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is found as small patches throughout the wood whilst the banks of the brook are lined with much Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*). Other herb flora recorded includes Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

The smaller woodland block, to the south, has Pedunculate Oak and Sweet Chestnut in the very high canopy, whilst Hornbeam coppice is found beneath. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is found towards the southern end of the wood. Wild Service-tree is also found in this wood. The shrub canopy with frequent Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is mainly confined to the margins of the wood. The ground flora includes Bluebell, Pignut and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership. There are numerous rights of way running along the margins of these woods.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

These two woodlands exhibit good woodland structure and composition. The presence of several ancient woodland indicator species suggest these might be remnant ancient woodland fragments, in which case criterion HC1 would apply.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

Too small for economic woodland management.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch170 Orchid Meadow, Little Leighs (4.70 ha) TL 71971648



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site is a patchwork of grassland in amongst young trees and shrubs such as Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Whilst the trees and shrubs provide diversity to the sites structure, it is the grassland that gives this site its intrinsic importance. The grassland component supports an enormous population of Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), an Essex Red Data list species, and a smaller, though still sizeable population of Bee orchids (*Ophrys apifera*). The site also supports many other species including Broomrape (*Orobanche* sp.), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership. There is no direct public access but a right of way runs along the southern and western boundaries.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The vegetation is allied to Lowland Meadows.

Selection Criteria

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

SC1 Vascular Plants

Rationale

Sites supporting such large populations of orchids are now very infrequent in the county. The population of Pyramidal Orchids alone would justify selection, but the overall grassland quality is also good.

Condition Statement

Good but declining.

Management Issues

The key problem is the planting of large numbers of trees within the site, which over time will shade out and potentially destroy the orchid populations and the grassland quality in general.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch171 Stonage Wood, Little Waltham (2.32 ha) TL 72031413



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The central area of this woodland is dominated by Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with some tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Coppiced Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) generally occurs towards the edges of the wood and other trees recorded include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and elm (*Ulmus sp.*) and Hybrid Black-poplar (*Populus x canadensis*). Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), an indicator of ancient woodland, is also found on the margins of the site. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) are found in the shrub layer. The woodland ground flora has two characteristic species. Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) are mainly confined to the open ground beneath the Hazel, whilst Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is abundant in the outer areas of the wood where scrubbiest habitat dominates.

Ownership and Access

Thought to be in private ownership with no public access. A right of way runs along the north-eastern boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

This small wood may be ancient, in which case criterion HC1 would apply. However, regardless of this uncertainty, it is a good example of diverse Lowland mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

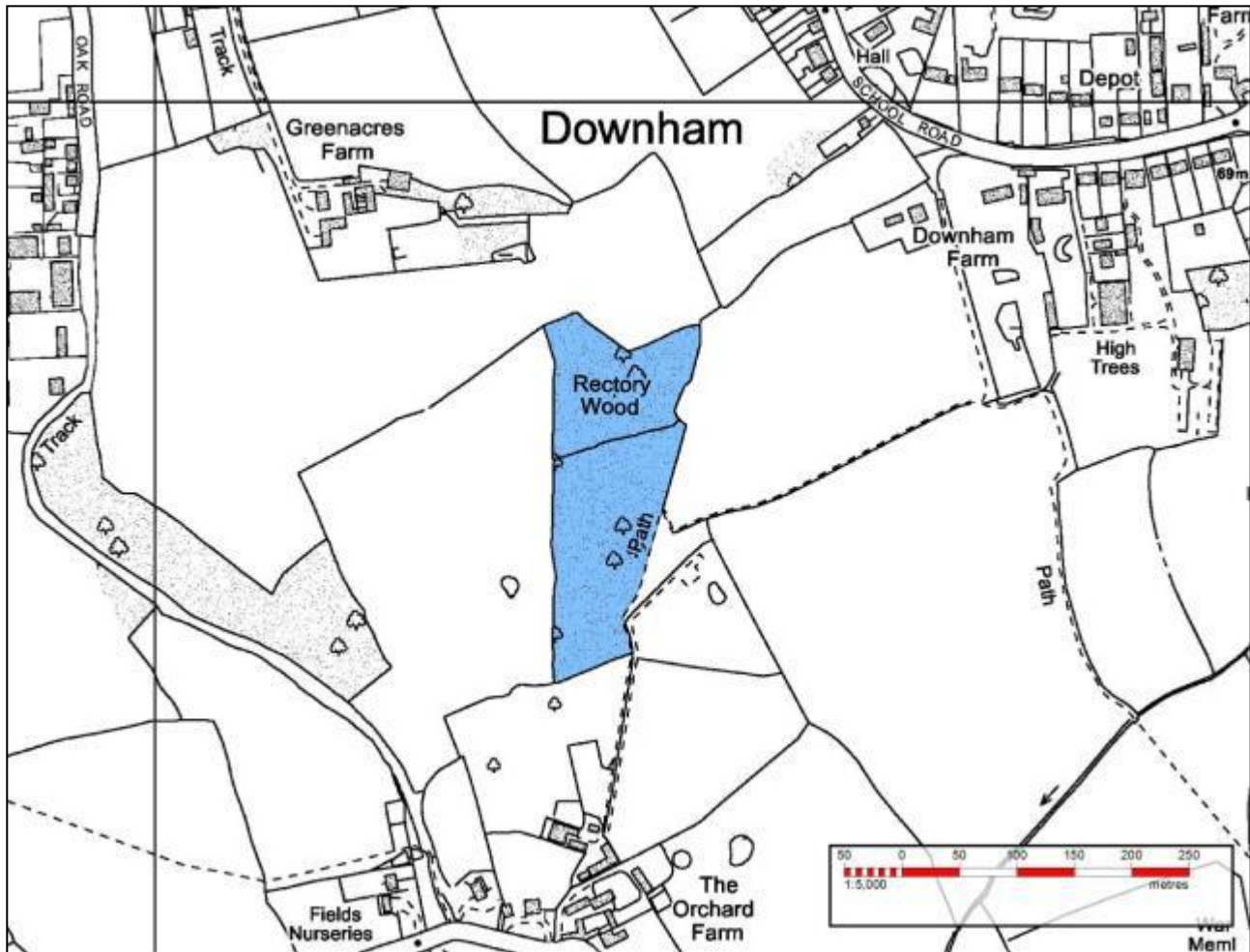
Management Issues

Since the coppice is of Hazel, with some Field Maple, the neglected stools do not cast such a dense shade as might be the case in Hornbeam-dominated woods. Nevertheless, a resumption of coppicing would be beneficial.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch172 Rectory Wood, Downham (2.79 ha) TQ 72399567



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

A site of contrasting areas, Rectory Wood has a steep-sided westerly aspect. The northern end of the wood is delineated by an internal ditch and may be ancient. This area has Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) in the north-west corner and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) in the far north-east corner. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora of this section with much Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), a strong ancient woodland indicator.

The central area of the woodland is known to be recent woodland, but still has Hornbeam, but here they are mostly standards. Tall Sycamore, Pedunculate Oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are also present. Bluebells are only found in small patches in this section except for the low western slopes where they are still abundant. The far south of the wood, marked by a weak internal bank, covered in Bluebells, has Pedunculate Oak standards. Other herbs and grasses recorded from the wood include Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). This southern tip is old and may also be an ancient fragment.

Ownership and Access

The wood is in private ownership, with no public access. It can be viewed from a right of way that briefly meets the southern boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

The site is a combination of old, possibly ancient, stands and more recent woodland. Overall, this site has a good structure and exhibits good populations of ancient woodland indicators.

Condition Statement

Neglected Coppice.

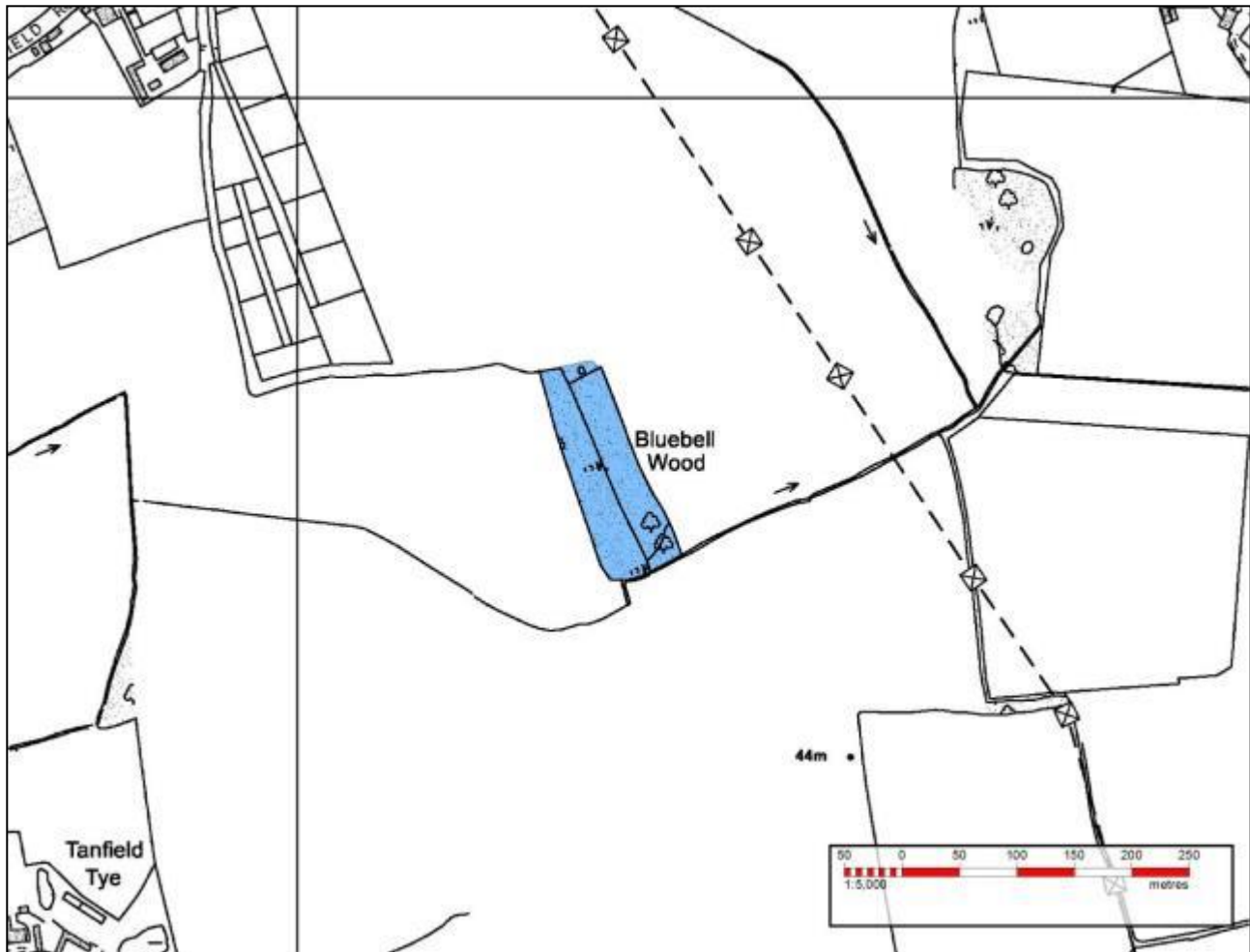
Management Issues

The spread of Sycamore would be undesirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch173 Bluebell Wood, Howe Green (1.16 ha) TL 73270167



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This woodland mainly comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with standards, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The shrub canopy is generally found towards the margins of the wood, with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) the characteristic species, though some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) are present. The wood indeed lives up to its name and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora. The tall grass Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) is found in abundance along the western edge of the wood.

Ownership and Access

Thought to be in private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This wood is too small to be considered by the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory, but its structure and species composition suggests that it is, at least in part, ancient. If proven otherwise, the site would still qualify under HC2 as a good example of lowland mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

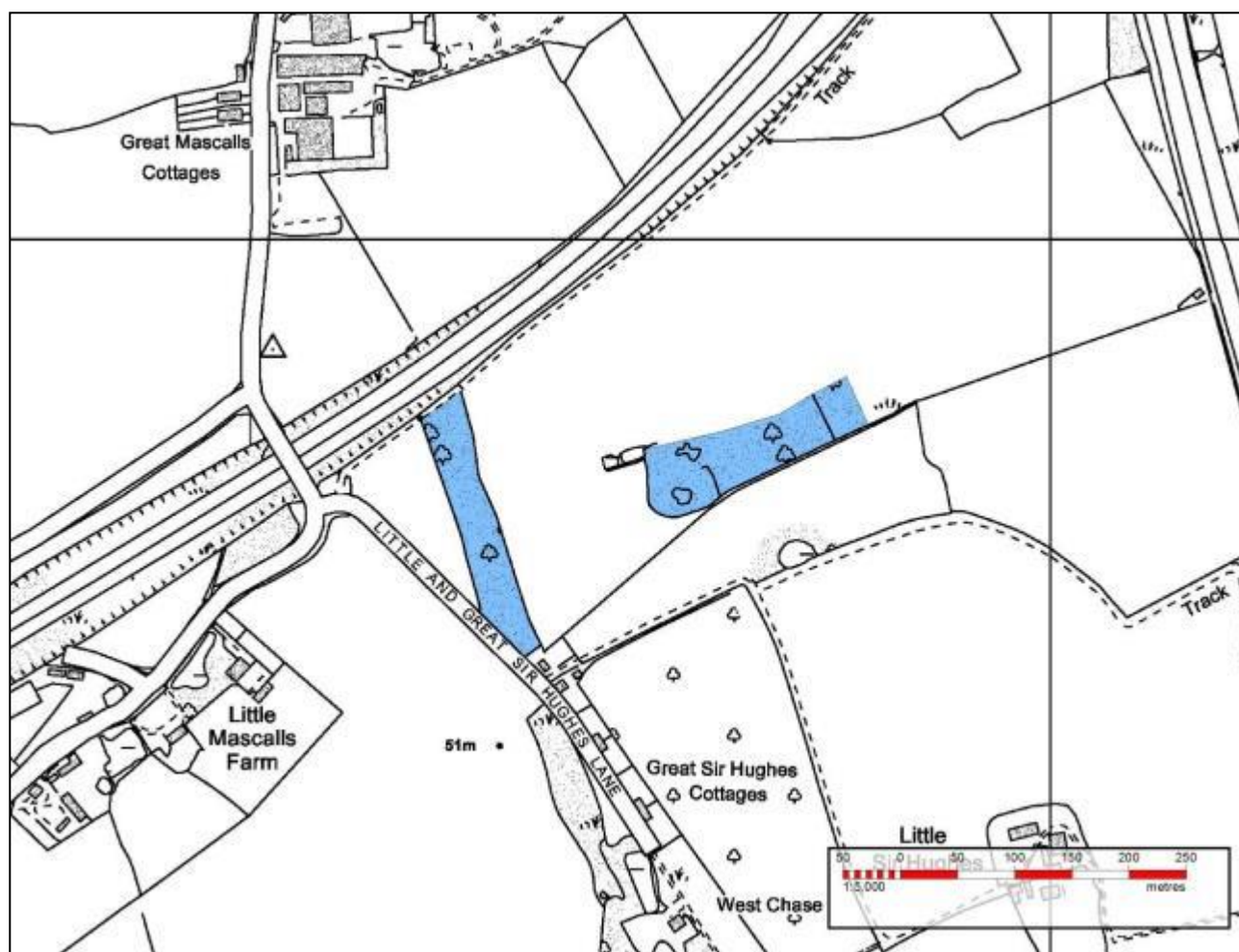
Management Issues

Likely to be too small for economic woodland management, but a reduction in the density of the tree canopy would be desirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch174 Sir Hughes' Woods, Howe Green (1.83 ha) TL 73620278



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

The slightly larger block to the east has Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) lacking in any appreciable shrub layer beneath towards the western end, whilst Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) dominate the remainder, though with a better developed shrub layer with Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora, whilst other ancient woodland indicators present include Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*).

The western block has tall Ash and Hornbeam coppice and Pedunculate Oak standards forming the main canopy structure. A patchy shrub layer includes Hawthorn, Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and the low growing shrub Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*). The ground flora includes Bluebell, Moschatel, Three-nerved Sandwort and also Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

Ownership and Access

Thought to be in private ownership, with no public access. A right of way runs along the northern tip of the western section.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

These woods might be based at least partly on ancient woodland sites, but regardless of this, they have a good structure and composition and are good examples of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

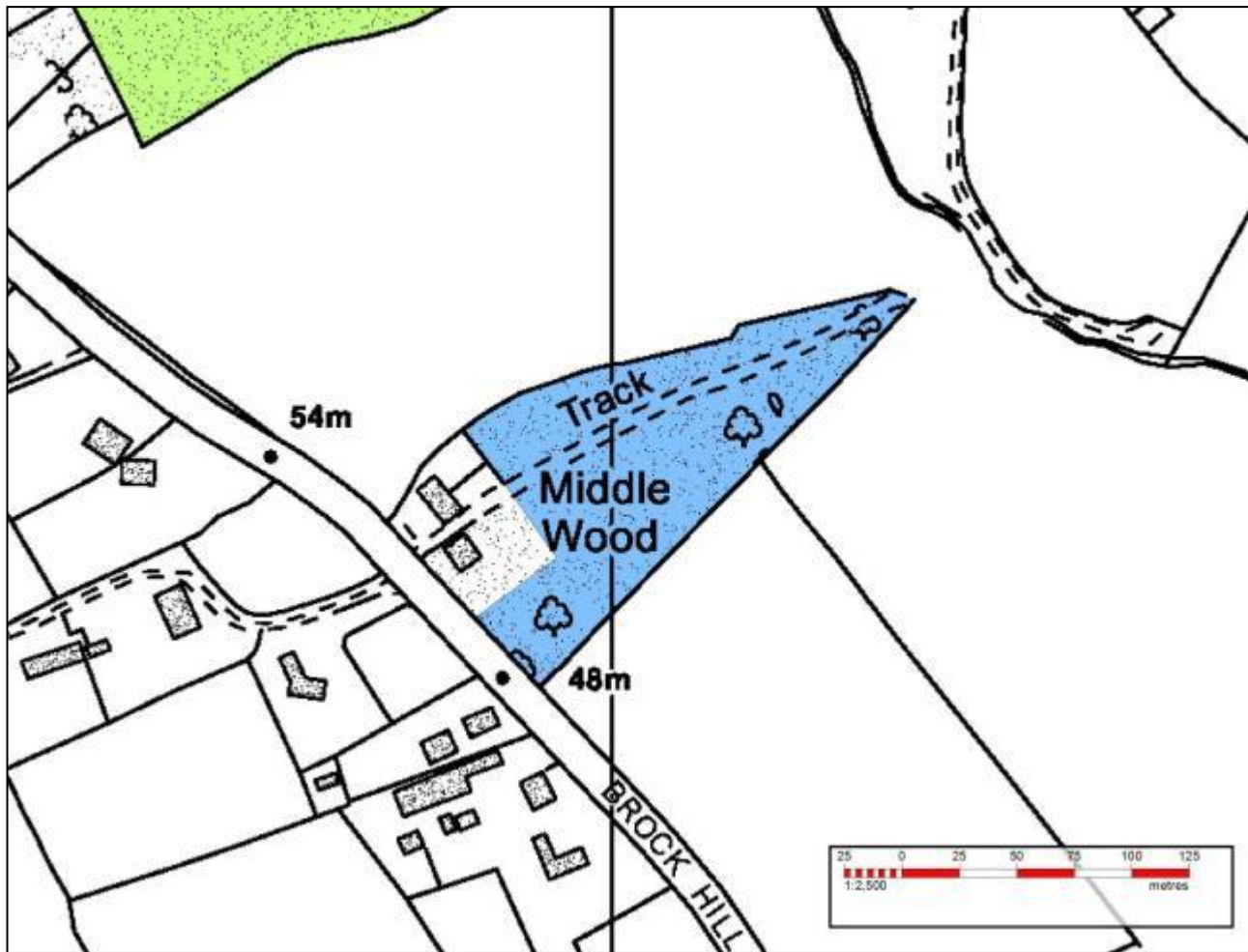
Management Issues

A reduction in shading from the dense, overgrown coppice would be desirable.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch175 Middle Wood, Runwell (1.36 ha) TQ 74019621



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.
Licence number AL 100020327

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) dominates this woodland with scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards throughout. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is found in the shrub canopy, though towards the eastern side Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) forms the main component as the woodland becomes scrubbier. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora but there are also many Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) patches.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

It is possible that this is ancient site, but it is certainly old and has a good structure and composition.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

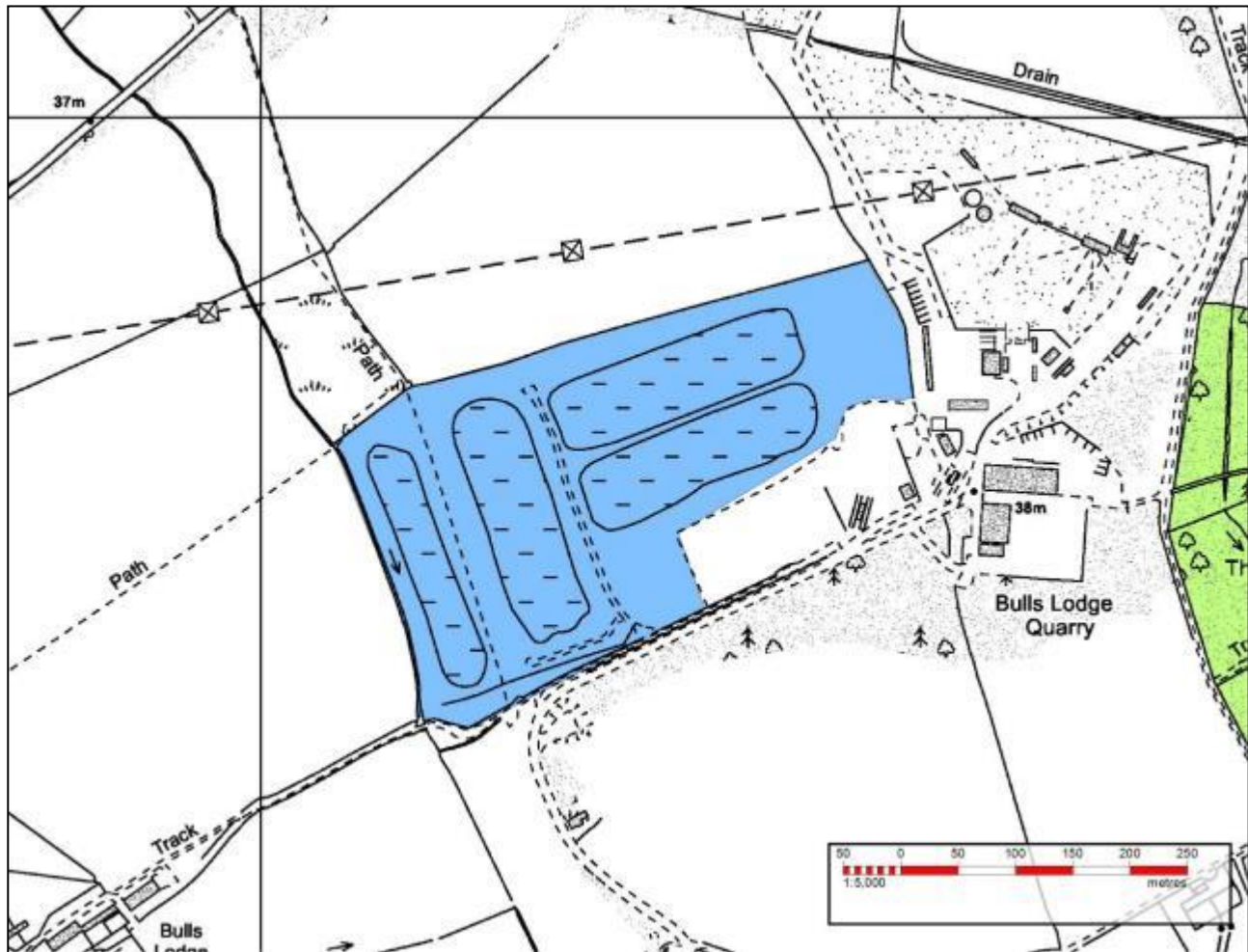
Management Issues

The dense Hornbeam canopy will be suppressing the shrub and field layers.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch176 Bulls Lodge Lagoons, Boreham (10.69 ha) TL 74291068



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This series of water management lagoons associated with the adjacent mineral workings epitomises the ecological value of brownfield land, with an intricate mosaic of habitats. Some of the open bodies of water are fringed by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), whilst other parts have linear wet woodland in the form of willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub. Areas of flower-rich, albeit weedy, rough grassland provide good foraging habitat for a wide range of invertebrates and areas of bare ground, including some steep, sandy banks, provides nesting habitat and hunting areas also for invertebrates.

Ownership and Access

The lagoons are owned by the operators of Bulls Lodge Quarry (Hanson Aggregates). Public access is restricted to a public right of way that crosses the western half of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Reedbed (in part)
Eutrophic standing waters (in part)
Wet Woodland (as fringing willow scrub)
Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Selection Criterion

HC28 Small-component Mosaics

Rationale

Whilst none of the habitat components (reedbed, willow scrub, 'brownfield land', eutrophic lakes) is of exceptional size or quality, in combination they comprise an intricate and varied habitat mosaic that is capable of supporting a very wide range of flora and fauna.

Condition Statement

Stable.

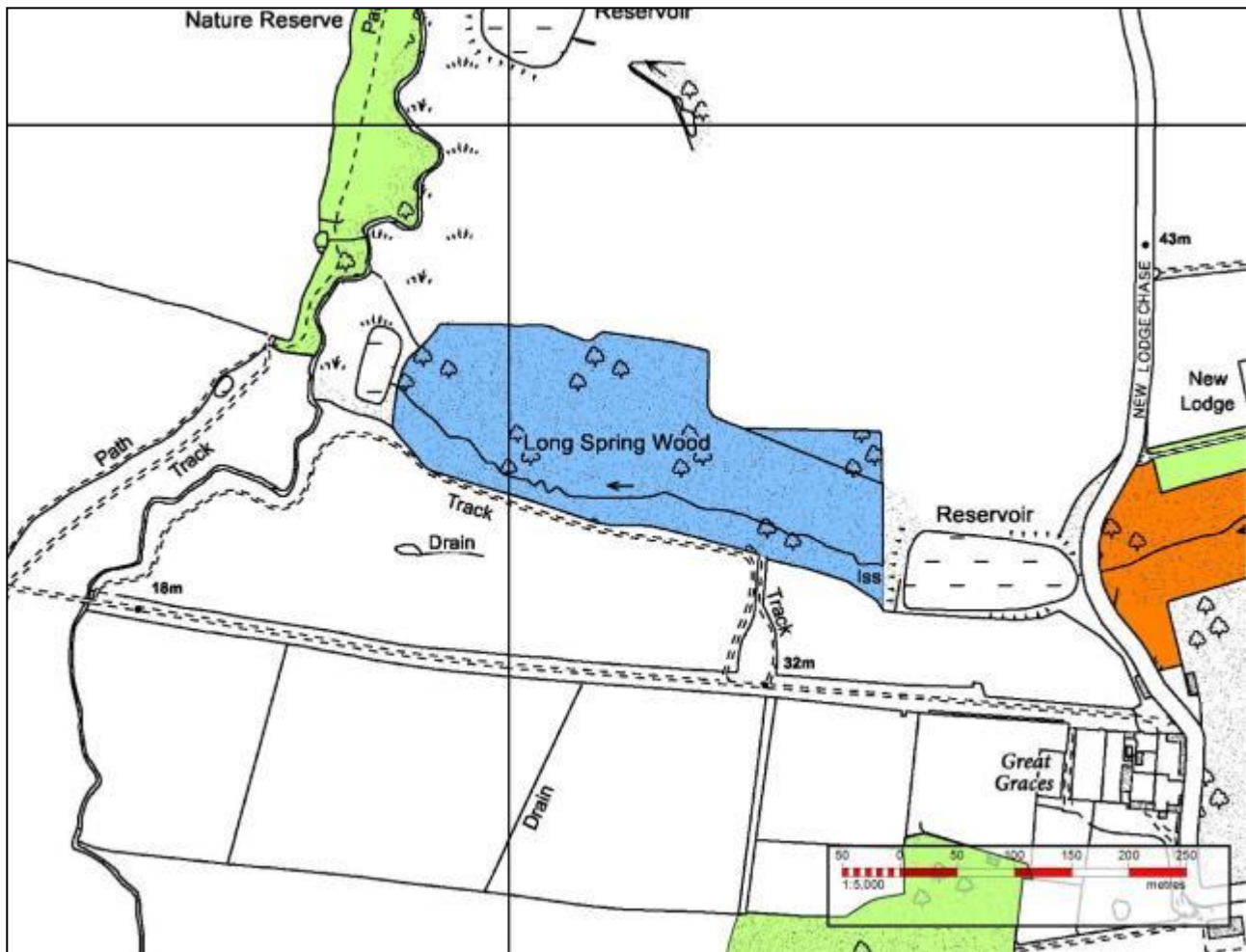
Management Issues

Some active management may be needed in the long term to maintain this mosaic of habitat types, to combat natural succession.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch177 Long Spring Wood, Little Baddow (5.81 ha) TL 76110672



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This large ancient woodland has a westerly flowing stream close to the southern edge of the wood, adding to the diversity of woodland habitats present. The composition is mainly Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) as coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The shrub layer beneath is scattered and has Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), but Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is also found throughout this wood. Though the ground flora is dominated by carpets of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and smaller areas with Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), there are a number of other ancient woodland indicators present. These include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), another ancient woodland plant, is generally found close to the stream.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

This site has the well-developed structure typical of ancient woodland in Essex and exhibits many classic indicators in the ground flora.

Condition Statement

Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

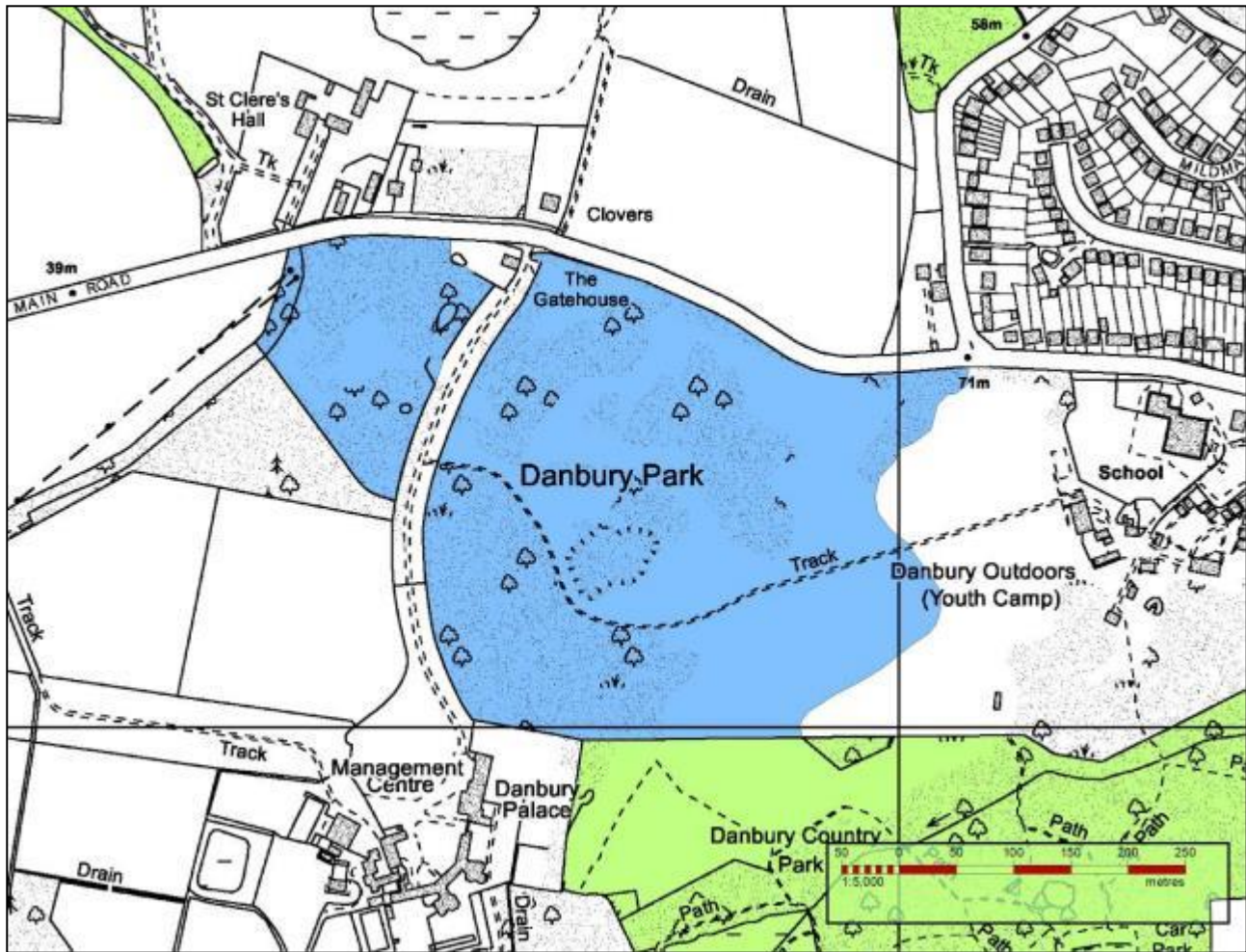
A resumption of coppicing would be beneficial.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992

Reviewed: omitted from 2004 review; 2016 (reinstated).

Ch178 Danbury Park, Danbury (17.44 ha) TL 76750520



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

There are two key components to this LoWS: veteran trees with significant amounts of dead wood habitat for invertebrates; and acid grassland. Both of these habitats date to the time when the site comprised part of the grounds of Danbury Palace.

The veteran trees, mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), are likely to support a very significant invertebrate assemblage. Initial survey work has revealed a large colony of the nationally threatened bee *Heriades truncorum* and its associated cleptoparasite *Stelis breviscula* amongst a suite of species nesting in old wood-worm holes and other cavities. Several significant Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) trees are also present.

The acid grassland component comprises abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), whilst several scarce Essex plants also occur here. These include Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*), Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Tormential (*Potentilla erecta*).

Ownership and Access

The site is part of Essex County Council's Danbury Outdoors Youth Camp. A number of public rights of way criss-cross the main body of the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Wood-pasture and Parkland

Selection Criteria

HC4 Wood-pasture and Parkland

HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale

Parkland habitat, with mature trees in open, sunny locations, standing over species-rich grassland is a scarce and declining habitat matrix in Essex. Several of the trees within the park qualify for “veteran” status. Acid grassland is a scarce and fragile habitat in its own right.

Condition Statement

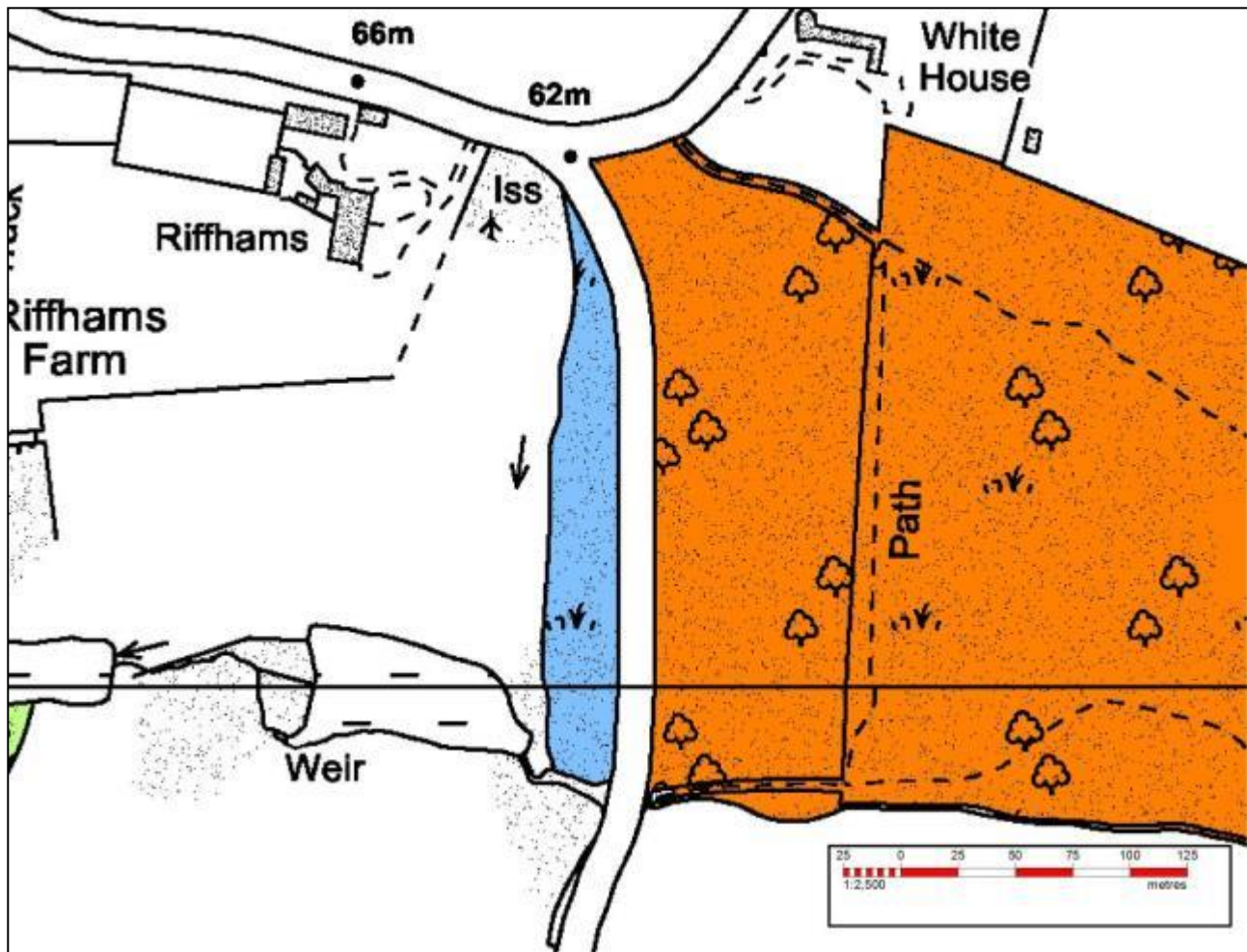
Declining.

Management Issues

Several of the large, veteran park trees are being engulfed by recent scrub woodland of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), resulting in a dense shading of the dead wood components to these large trees. Whilst this may suit some associated fauna and flora (and fungi), the trend towards this shaded state is undesirable. Selective clearance to re-expose these veteran trees to more open conditions is recommended. Further survey work to quantify the flora and fauna associated with the veteran trees is also recommended. Usage of these habitats by activities associated with the Danbury Outdoor Centre is to be encouraged, promoting empathy with the countryside and its wildlife, but the activity pressure is quite intense and damaging in localised areas, leading to a loss of acid grassland habitat.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Whilst most of this site comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), there are some conifers found mainly towards the southern end of the woodland. It is fairly open beneath the canopy in the northern part of the wood, but further south is a better developed shrub layer, with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominating. The ground flora is diverse and quite species-rich with Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) found as locally frequent patches. Other ancient woodland indicators found include Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*),

Ownership and Access

In private ownership. It can be viewed from the adjacent highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Although the woodland does not have the classic coppice with standards structure of ancient sites, it exhibits a varied canopy and shrub layer. The ground flora, with its considerable number of ancient woodland indicators, highlights the lack of any appreciable enrichment to the underlying soils. Old Ordnance Survey maps show that this woodland block is contemporary with the wood on the other side of the road, at the western end of Lingwood Common, which is now a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Condition Statement

Unmanaged.

Management Issues

The main management issue may come from the threat to local traffic caused by old, collapsing trees.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch180 Wood North of Marks Farm, Rettendon (2.85 ha) TQ 77729753



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are the high canopy tree species that characterise this unusual shape woodland site. However, there are three different areas of the wood where Wild service-trees (*Sorbus torminalis*), typically an ancient woodland species, are frequent. Among the various shrub found throughout this site are Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) form locally abundant patches in the ground flora whilst other species recorded include Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*) and violets (*Viola* sp.).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Evidence from 19th century Ordnance Survey maps and the woodland composition of the main, linear section of this wood indicate it is of considerable age. The triangular extension in the north-west corner nor the arm surrounding the pond are not shown as wooded and are therefore certainly of recent origin. However the contrasting components constitute valuable woodland habitat in this part of Chelmsford.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

Management Issues

Likely to be uneconomical for woodland management.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1992 (as larger site)

Reviewed: 2004 (site deleted); 2016 (partial reinstatement).

Ch181 New Wood, Little Baddow (2.23 ha) TL 78120861



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This woodland is characterised by a structure comprising Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Other tree species recorded include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Amongst the shrub layer are Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and frequent patches of Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora of the wood and also present is Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), a strong indicator of ancient woodland.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

Although this woodland was not included in the English Nature Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, the structure and composition of this woodland suggest it is ancient.

Condition Statement

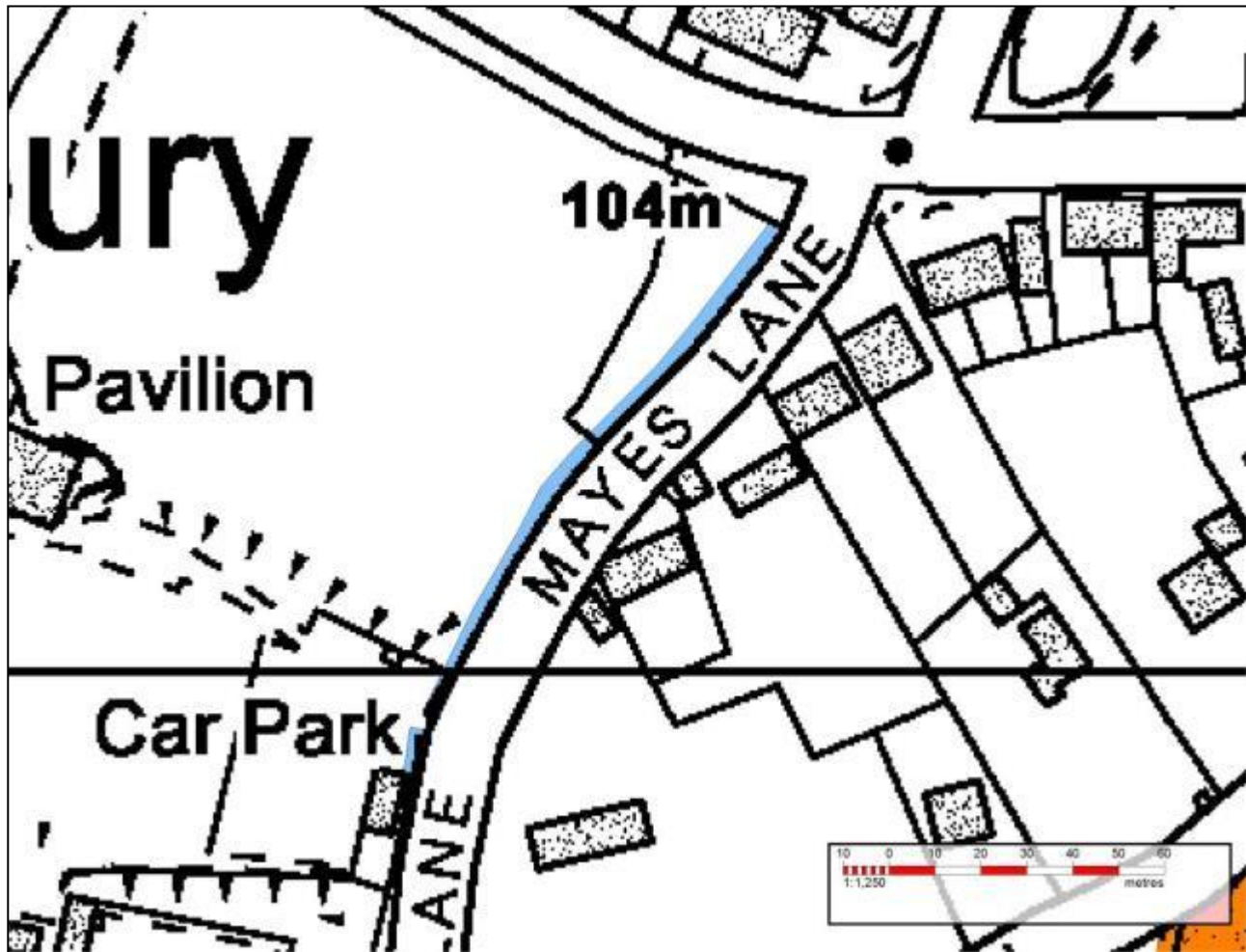
Neglected coppice.

Management Issues

A resumption of coppicing would benefit the shrub and field layers, improving overall biodiversity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This roadside verge comprises a steep bank close to a recreational ground. Amongst the finer sward grasses are Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). A varied herb flora present includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*) and Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). However, the verge is primarily important for the presence of Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) a nationally scarce plant. Another species of particular interest recorded from this verge is Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*).

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, but forming part of a public highway.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

None.

Selection Criterion

HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

Verges such as this are important in retaining populations of important grassland plants which have declined throughout the county in recent decades.

Condition Statement

Good.

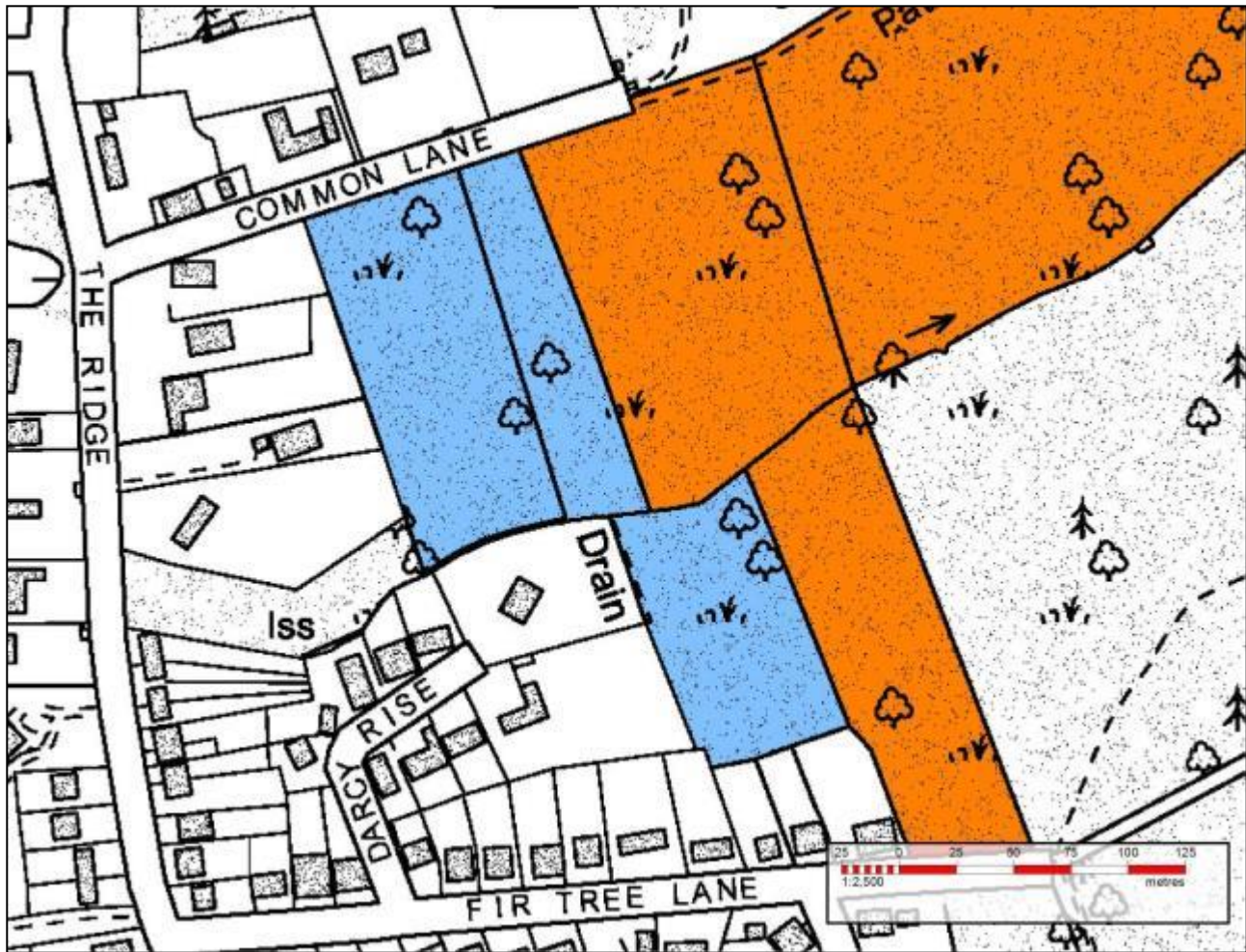
Management Issues

Inappropriate road maintenance mowing.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch183 Common Lane Woods, Little Baddow (2.44 ha) TL 78320646



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This woodland provides a useful habitat extension to the adjacent SSSI. The south-eastern section is arguably ancient, with abundant old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice over Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). There is also an extensive patch of Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*). This rare Essex plant is often present as a garden escape and its status in this wood is uncertain, although its extent suggests that it has been present for a considerable period of time.

The northern block is largely Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), with some Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Birch (*Betulus* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Overall, the ground flora is characterised by frequent Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Species of interest include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*).

Ownership and Access

These woods are thought to be in private ownership and have no public access. They can be viewed from Common Lane, which is a public right of way.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
(The southern section might also qualify under HC1)

Rationale

The structure and flora of the southern section is consistent with ancient woods of the area. The whole site comprises broad-leaved woodland with a good structure and composition that provides both a buffer and habitat extension to the adjacent SSSI.

Condition Statement

Neglected, stable.

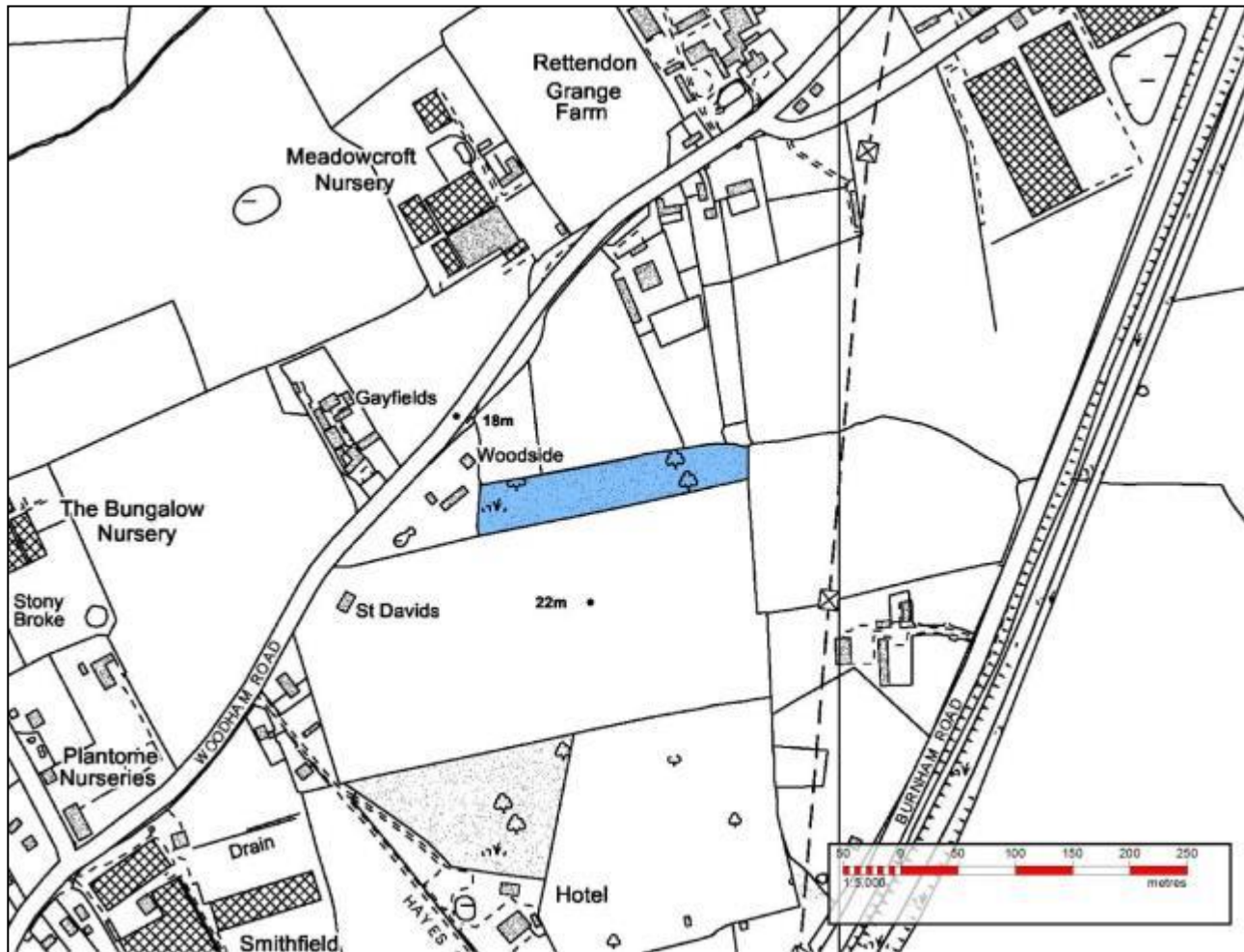
Management Issues

Unwanted public access pressure might result in a degradation of the flora, although not an issue at present.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch184 Woodside Wood, South Woodham Ferrers (0.95 ha) TQ 78799650



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This small linear woodland has a few scattered taller Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees, but mainly comprises a lower canopy structure formed of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and tall Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is also found in the shrub layer. Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), typically from ancient woodland, is also recorded. Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are abundant throughout the wood.

Ownership and Access

In private ownership, with no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criteria

HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale

Although the general woodland canopy structure does not conform to those typical of ancient woodlands, the carpet of Bluebells suggests that the underlying soil has not been subject to any appreciable enrichment. It is a good example of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland in an area relatively lacking in woodland habitat.

Condition Statement

Neglected.

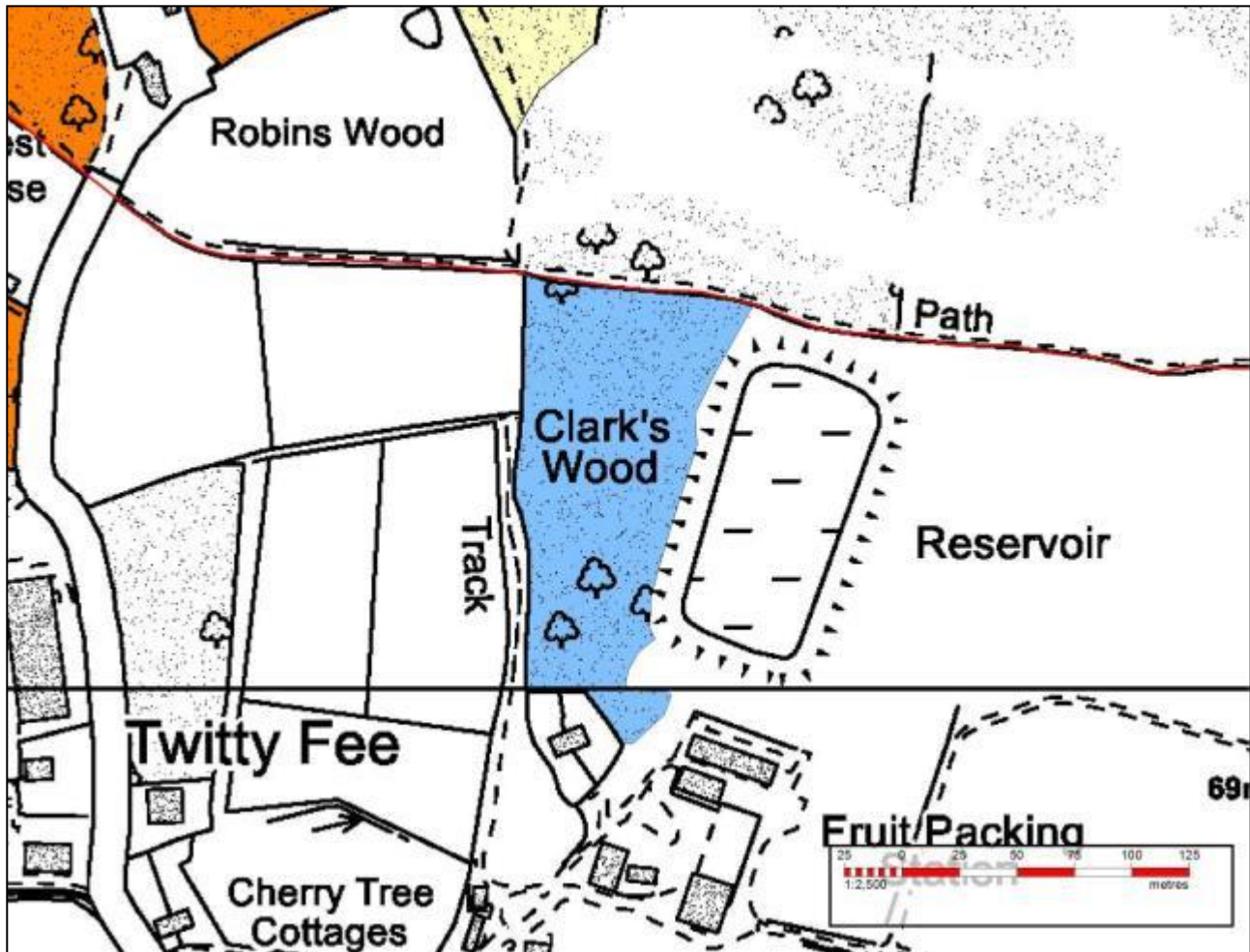
Management Issues

None.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch185 Clark's Wood, Danbury (1.28 ha) TL 79520609



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

This site is a remnant of a once much larger wood which formerly extended over land now occupied by a reservoir and fruit packing station. It is typical of ancient woodlands of the area, being dominated by overgrown Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and an understorey that includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The ground flora remains rich in ancient woodland plants, including abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), with lesser amounts of Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Golden-rod (*Solidago virgaurea*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Ownership and Access

The wood is in private ownership. A public right of way runs through the wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale

The structure and flora of this wood, along with documentary evidence, suggest that this is ancient woodland.

Condition Statement

Neglected, stable.

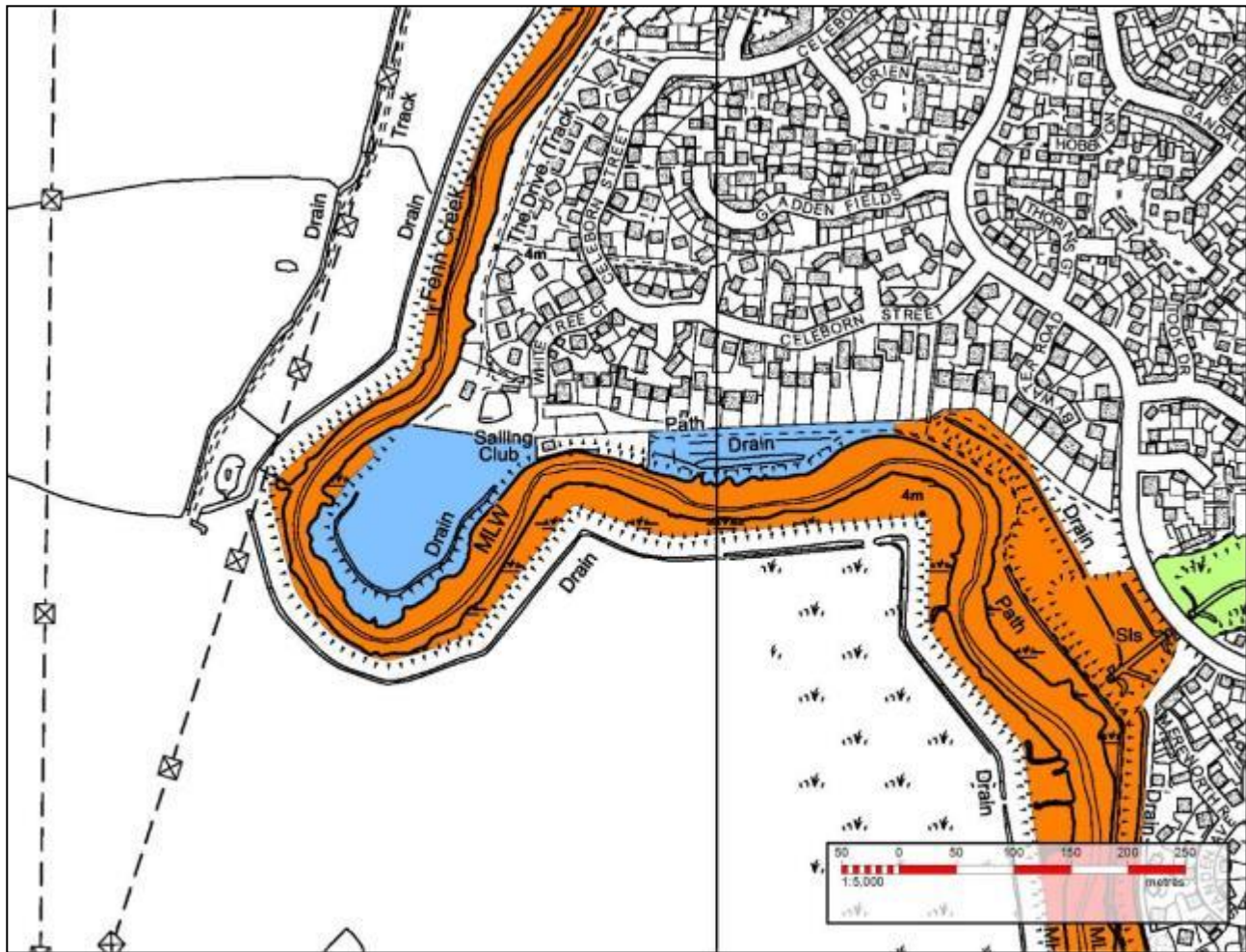
Management Issues

As with all old coppices, a resumption of cyclical coppice management would stimulate the diverse ground flora, although browsing pressure from deer may have a negative impact, unless also managed.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016

Ch186 Fen Creek Marsh, South Woodham Ferrers (2.82 ha) TQ 79819643



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 100020327

These two areas complement the adjacent SSSI, with intertidal habitats, rough coastal grassland and dykes. This diverse and species-rich site has neutral grassland, lagoon and brackish marsh communities. The western and larger area of grassland has a rich assemblage including Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), an Essex Red Data List species. In contrast to the grassland component, there is a shallow ditch depression behind the sea wall where seepage has given rise to a localised brackish plant community and a small brackish lagoon in the eastern section of the site. Characteristic species such as Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*), Sea-purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) are to be found.

Ownership and Access

Assumed to be in private ownership. A public right of way runs through the eastern section.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

The site is a remnant of Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh.

Selection Criteria

HC21 Coastal Grazing Marsh

HC24 Saline Lagoons and Borrow Dyke Habitats

Rationale

Located adjacent to Fenn creek, part of the River Crouch Site of Special Scientific Interest, this site though small provides complementary and contrasting habitat.

Condition Statement

Unmanaged.

Management Issues

Water pollution, scrub encroachment and grassland succession are the key concerns for this site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2016