

TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW 2008



Tendring
District Council



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TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW 2008

Draft Issued April 2009
Final Edition September 2009

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IMPORTANT NOTES

Nomenclature

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

Rationale

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

Public Access

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

Land Ownership

It has always been the intention of the Essex Wildlife Trust to contact all landowners of Local Wildlife Sites, advising them of this identification and promoting nature conservation management of the site. To that end, the Essex Wildlife Trust has appointed a Local Wildlife Sites Officer to administer this suite of sites across the county. Currently, all the major forces behind nature conservation in Essex are working on the Local Area Agreement, focussing on National Indicator 197 (Local Wildlife Sites), which will gradually involve contact with those LoWS landowners that can be traced. While this lengthy undertaking is in progress it is requested that the Essex Wildlife Trust is contacted prior to any formal approach regarding any Site identified within this report.

Boundaries

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

Planning

The information within this report should not be used as a bypass to the normal planning consultation process. It is inevitable that, with the passage of time, some Local Wildlife Sites will be lost or damaged to the extent that they are no longer considered as such. Similarly, new Sites may be identified and periodically added to the list for each Local Authority. For these reasons, the

Essex Wildlife Trust still wishes to be consulted on all planning proposals affecting areas of open countryside, regardless of whether or not they apparently affect a Site detailed within this report. This report will allow a greater understanding of the wildlife resources of the district/borough and will make the consultation process much faster and more cost-effective.

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TENDRING DISTRICT **LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES REVIEW**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

This report has been produced by Essex Ecology Services Ltd. (EECOS), the ecological consultancy of the Essex Wildlife Trust, on behalf of Tendring District Council. It comprises the results of a review of existing and potential new Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) intended to contribute to the Local Development Framework evidence base.

1.2 Background

A previous survey report, produced in 1991, incorporated a basic land use survey with an exercise to identify the most important wildlife habitats present within the district. These important wildlife habitats were identified as “Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation” (SINC), with the results summarised in “Nature Conservation – A Reference Guide” produced by the Essex Wildlife Trust in 14 individual district volumes. In the intervening years these sites have been referred to as County Wildlife Sites and, in some places, Wildlife Sites, but in Essex the term Local Wildlife Sites has now been adopted and is used throughout this report to refer to sites of this designation, irrespective of the terminology that was used at the time. Within this report, reference to a Site (capitalised) or to a LoWS means a Local Wildlife Site.

This nomenclature is being promoted throughout the country by The Wildlife Trusts, although it is in some respects an unfortunate one since many of the habitats thus labelled are the very best examples that might be found at a county level, rather than merely at the district level that the word “local” might imply. It was a principle of the original SINC system that such sites were important at a county level and this is very much still the case today, with Sites being representative of the natural range of variation in important habitats that define the biodiversity resource of the county of Essex.

1.3 Objectives of the Review

The principal objective of this review is to update the LoWS network within Tendring in the light of changes in available knowledge and by application of draft site selection criteria for Essex. This updated information can contribute to a robust evidence base as required of each Local Authority as part of their Local Development Framework.

1.4 Review Process and Methodology

The basis for this review has been a completely new field-by-field land use and habitat survey, in conjunction with a desk study and consultation exercise to identify potential new Sites and to validate or delete parts of, or entire, existing Sites. All of these candidate Sites were then assessed against the current LoWS Selection Criteria to determine whether or not they qualified for LoWS status. Species and habitats now afforded attention via county or national Biodiversity Action Plans are at the heart of the Site selection process and such species/habitats were specifically considered throughout the project. The LoWS Selection Criteria have been developed through reviews in other Essex districts and modified in line with national guidelines and following a wide consultation exercise. The criteria are still being modified and there are likely to be further changes before their official publication. The version used during this review is the most up to date draft currently available, dated March 2007, an abridged version of which is included here in Appendix 1, as well as being available via www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk, where updated versions will periodically appear.

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

1.4.1 Field Survey Work

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

Notwithstanding this, there are clearly a number of scenarios when it would have been neither appropriate nor even legal to try and exercise such rights of access. Such situations include private residential gardens, sites subject to mines and quarries regulations, open landfill sites, railway land and the like, and all surveyors used their discretion in applying the general

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

The whole district was mapped at a scale of 1: 10 000, with each parcel of land accorded a land use code in line with the Phase 1 Habitat Survey technique developed by the Nature Conservancy Council at its successive organisations. Any area of land adjudged to be of significant wildlife value was assessed in more detail, as conditions permitted, with a short description and plant species list compiled. Other nature history notes, such as bird life and insects, were also noted, if appropriate. The threshold of what constitutes a “significant” wildlife value is to an extent a matter of experience and judgement, but key habitat qualities include possible ancient status for woodland, flower-rich grasslands, potential to support reptiles and amphibians, the micro-topography and weedy flora characteristic of post-industrial “brownfield” sites and the ecological relationship between adjacent sites. All surveyors engaged on the project had a working knowledge of the site selection criteria, UK and Essex BAP species and habitats and what might intrinsically qualify a site for inclusion within the LoWS network.

1.4.2 Desk Study

Alongside the field survey work, a consultation process has sought comments from relevant local experts on the existing suite of Sites and also the draft suite of Local Wildlife Sites as this was developed. These comments have been incorporated as far as possible within the final list of sites, while maintaining the rigour of the published Site Selection Criteria. Appendix 1 is an extract of the current Selection Criteria used to identify sites within this report. Some suggested sites, for which insufficient information is currently available, have been identified as Potential Local Wildlife Sites pending further survey work or improvements to the habitat conditions.

EECOS gratefully acknowledges the input from the following persons and organisations, who contributed to this review process (in alphabetical order):

Andrew May – Conservation Manager, Essex Wildlife Trust

Bob Seago – Essex Wildlife Trust Local Group

David Bain – Local naturalist

David Gollifer – Special Roadside Verges representative
Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group
Jerry Bowdrey – Colchester Borough Council, Natural History Museum
Ken Adams – Essex Field Club
Luke Bristow – Essex Wildlife Trust and latterly Essex County Council
National Trust local officers
Peter Harvey - Essex Field Club
Reg Arthur – Essex Wildlife Trust Local Group
RSPB local officers
Ted Benton – Colchester Natural History Society, Essex Field Club
Terri Tarpey – Colchester Natural History Society

1.5 Limitations of the Survey

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

The scope of the review limited the process to, in most cases, a single visit to each site. While efforts were made to visit each site at the most appropriate season, inevitably some features of some sites were not visible at the time of the visit. It is hoped that the additional consultation with local naturalists has filled many such gaps in the knowledge base.

In one or two instances, EECOS surveyors encountered a negative attitude from the relevant landowner and, despite the possession of the legal warrant of entry, it was decided that it would be better to not pursue our entry request. This has resulted in the survey data for one or two sites to be rather briefer than desirable. Overall, it was felt that an excessively confrontational approach to landowners wishes was not in the best interests of the Local Wildlife Sites initiative nor the individual sites concerned.

2. RESULTS

2.1 Identification of Local Wildlife Sites

The suite of LoWS been amended from those identified in the report in 1991 for the following reasons:

- Some sites have been de-selected on account of their decreased nature conservation value or failure to satisfactorily meet the revised and now more stringent selection criteria;
- A few new, modified or previously overlooked sites have been identified and added to the register. In most instances, such changes involve alterations to the boundaries of existing sites, but a number of completely new areas have also been identified;
- SSSIs have been removed from the system;
- Some sites have been amalgamated where they lie next to each other or are otherwise sufficiently connected. Previously, even immediately adjacent sites were identified separately if their selection criteria were different, but it is felt that this present amalgamation of sites makes for a more simplified system.

2.1.1 SSSIs

Probably the greatest single change is that areas designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), included in the previous survey, are now no longer included in the LoWS network, in line with national guidance. It should be noted that old SINC Sites G14, G15 and G16 became part of an SSSI after selection as SINCs in 1991. With regards to Tendring District this removes the following sites (old SINC identification numbers are given for ease of reference):

W1. Bullock Wood

W25. Riddles Wood

W42. Weeleyhall Wood

W52. Stour Wood

W53. Copperas Wood

G14. Central Holland Brook

G15. Lower Holland Brook/Picker's Ditch

G16. Holland Haven

G3. Wivenhoe Marsh (partly within Upper Colne Marshes SSSI)

G6. Howlands Marsh (part of Colne Estuary SSSI)

C1. Colne Estuary

- C2. Cattawade Marshes
- C3. Colne Point (part of Colne Estuary SSSI)
- C5. Stour Estuary
- C7. Skipper’s Island (part of Hamford water SSSI)
- C8. Hamford Water
- C9. John Weston Reserve (part of Hamford Water SSSI)

In order to provide a more complete reference guide to areas of high natural history value, these SSSIs have been included, where appropriate, in the LoWS location maps for each Site (Appendix 3) and are also individually identified in Appendix 5 for biological SSSIs and Appendix 6 for geological SSSIs. It should be stressed that these depictions of SSSI boundaries are illustrative only. Whilst EECOS has taken care to try and ensure that the boundaries are accurately depicted, Natural England should be consulted directly for the precise, legally binding boundary definitions for these sites.

2.1.2 Inter-tidal Habitats

Another deviation from past policy is in the inclusion of sites containing inter-tidal habitats. In the past, LoWS status has been restricted to terrestrial and freshwater habitats, but more recently it has been felt that this excluded important wildlife sites that fall outside of the SSSI boundaries. Both mudflats and saltmarsh are national Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats.

2.1.3 Site Numbering/Nomenclature

Site numbering has also been changed. Previously, sites were roughly grouped into habitat categories of Woodland, Grassland, Mosaic, Freshwater, Coastal or Heathland, with an appropriate letter code and sequential number. Given that this process was repeated across the 14 boroughs/districts in Essex, this means that the county had 14 “W1” Local Wildlife Sites i.e. the first woodland site in each local/unitary authority area. In order to make the county-wide system less complicated, a new system has been introduced whereby each site has a borough/district and number code, with all Tendring Sites now being prefixed “Te” and with no indication of the habitat(s) present on the site. In the future, any new sites will be added with the next sequential number. Should a Site be completely deleted, its number will become redundant but all following sites will retain their existing number i.e. they will not be re-numbered to fill the gap.

Section 2.6, below, provides a list of the former SINC's and their corresponding new LoWS number and name (if this is significantly different). The revised list of Tendring Local Wildlife Sites is included in Appendix 2 with the revised Local Wildlife Site Register in Appendix 3. Within the Register, each Site has a suitably scaled map (N.B. the scale varies between maps), code number, name, area in hectares and locating grid reference. The maps show the LoWS in question in purple, with any adjacent LoWS shown in pale yellow, along with any potential LoWS (purple hatching) and SSSIs (salmon pink). The citation for each site then describes the characteristic vegetation, identifies key species and habitat qualities and occasionally gives notes on management issues. Finally, the relevant selection criteria codes are listed (see Appendix 1 for the interpretation of these codes), along with an indication of any UK and Essex BAP habitats that are present and also details of when the site was first designated and then reviewed (if applicable).

2.2 Deletions

Several sites have been withdrawn from the Local Wildlife Sites register (old SINC identification numbers are given for ease of reference):

W1. Bullock Wood SSSI	SSSI
W15. Boudge Hill Wood	Does not satisfy current criteria
W25. Riddles Wood SSSI	SSSI
W42. Weeleyhall Wood SSSI	SSSI
W52. Stour Wood SSSI	SSSI
W53. Copperas Wood SSSI	SSSI
W55. Witton Wood EWT Reserve	Does not satisfy current criteria
G3. Wivenhoe Marsh part SSSI	largely now SSSI, plus site now largely in Colchester. Small remaining area deleted.
G6. Howlands Marsh (SSSI)	SSSI
G14. Central Holland Brook	SSSI
G15. Lower Holland Brook/Picker's Ditch	part SSSI and remainder deleted
G16. Holland Haven	SSSI
FW5. Bobbit's Hole LNR	Does not meet criteria
FW6. Judas Gap Reedbed	Deterioration in quality
C1. Colne Estuary SSSI	SSSI
C2. Cattawade Marshes SSSI	SSSI

C3. Colne Point (SSSI)	SSSI
C5. Stour Estuary SSSI	SSSI
C7. Skipper's Island (SSSI)	SSSI
C8. Hamford Water SSSI	SSSI
C9. John Weston Reserve (SSSI)	SSSI

2.3 Additions

A significant number of new sites have been added to the Register. These are:

Te3	Ardleigh Reservoir Grassland
Te10	Springhead Corner Meadow
Te11	Alresford Grange
Te18	Crestland Wood Meadow
Te23	Tenpenny Farm Wood
Te28	Hockley Farm Woods
Te32	Church Road Wood, Frating
Te34	Judas Gap Marsh
Te35	Mill Dam Meadow
Te36	Poplar Chase
Te37	Great Bromley Churchyard
Te38	Thors Park Meadow
Te39	Rook Wood
Te40	Wignall Street Grassland
Te42	Lawford Churchyard
Te43	Thorrington Marshes
Te44	Little Bromley Churchyard
Te45	Wignall Brook Grasslands
Te46	East End Green
Te50	Bentley Brook
Te51	Lower Farm Marshes
Te52	Hopping Bridge Marsh
Te54	Flag Creek Marsh
Te55	Great Bentley Pumping Station
Te58	Furze Hills Complex
Te68	Violet Grove
Te70	Pilcox Wood

- Te71 Jaywick Beach
- Te74 Goose Green Verge
- Te83 Weeley Bypass
- Te87 Far Thorpe Green
- Te90 Wrabness Depot and Marsh
- Te92 Burcarts Meadow
- Te101 Wrabness Siding
- Te103 The Grove
- Te105 Bursville Park Cemetery
- Te108 Beaumont Marsh
- Te110 Soils Wood
- Te111 Copperas Wood East
- Te112 Whinny Grove
- Te113 Michaelstowe Hall
- Te116 Dockfield Avenue Allotments
- Te117 Frinton Cliffs
- Te119 The Hangings
- Te120 Station Lane Grassland
- Te121 Walton Mere
- Te123 Harwich Beach
- Te125 Bentley Green (west)

The large number of new sites is a reflection of two main factors: firstly, the more wide-ranging and inclusive criteria and selection process and secondly the fact that Tendring District was the first local authority area to be surveyed in the late 1980s as part of the original SINC review process and, as such, the original list of Tendring SINC's was compiled using particularly old data. The first point has allowed for the inclusion of several areas of post-industrial "brownfield" land, areas of saltmarsh, parkland and sites where the invertebrate or mammalian interest is a key factor, for which appropriate selection criteria did not exist at the time of the original SINC assessment. The second point has now allowed for the inclusion of some small fragments of ancient woodland that were missed during the original SINC project.

2.4 Amended and Unchanged Sites

Many former sites have been revised, affected by both major and minor additions and deletions of land. These are (old SINC identification numbers are given for ease of reference):

W4. Wall's Wood	Slight enlargement
W5. Cockaynes Wood	Slight loss; amalgamated into larger site
W12. Captains and Fratinghall Woods	Minor boundary amendments
W14. Aldercarr	Additions and deletions; renamed
W16. Mill Wood, Hart and Stable Woods	Enlarged; renamed
W18. Tenpenny Heath Wood	Enlarged; renamed
W19. Manning Grove	Partial deletion
W21. Thorringtonhall Wood	Slight enlargement
W35. Home Wood	Minor addition
W36. Hartley Wood	Minor deletion
W38. Island Grove	Slight enlargement and amalgamated
W40. Roger's Grove	Slight deletion
W56. Pedlars Wood LNR	Minor boundary revision
G1. Crockleford Heath Special Roadside Verges	Significantly reduced; renamed
G8. Aingers Green Special Roadside Verges	Enlarged
G9. Bush Paddock Special Roadside Verges	Significantly reduced; renamed
G11. St. Michael's Churchyard	Slight enlargement
G13. Upper Holland Brook	Part lost to SSSI, greatly enlarged upstream
G18. The Naze	Significant additions and deletions
M2. St.Osyth Parkland	Significantly enlarged
M3. Great Holland Pits	Minor boundary change
M4. Ramsey Creek Complex	Significant additions and deletions
M5. Bursville Park, Picker's Ditch	Significantly enlarged
FW1. Noah's Ark Pit	Enlarged
FW2. Alresford Lodge Pits	Significantly enlarged
FW3. Robinson Road Lakes	Significantly reduced; renamed
C4. Jaywick Coastal Grassland	Significantly enlarged

The following Sites remain essentially unchanged:

W51. East Grove	
W54. Hollandhall Wood	
W57. Birch Wood	
G2. Pyecats Corner Special Roadside Verges	
G4. Manor House Meadow	
G5. Thorrington Special Roadside Verge	Renamed
G7. Dines Farm Special Roadside Verge	Renamed
G10. Thorpe Green	
G12. Beaumont Bridge Verge	
G17. Barnes Spinney	
G19. Churn Wood Meadow	
G20. Lower Botany Farm Field	
M1. Alexander Reserve	Amalgamated into larger site
FW4. Reed Pond	
C6. Clacton North Cliff	

2.5 **Potential Sites**

In addition to those sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites, a number of Potential Local Wildlife Sites have been identified. They are sites for which further survey work may be required or a change in management needed (including instances where management is currently too intensive or not intensive enough). Obviously, virtually any piece of semi-natural vegetation has the potential to be improved for wildlife, which might make this list unmanageable, so the list of potential sites, given in Appendix 4, is restricted to those “near misses” that just failed to make it onto the full LoWS Register.

2.6 **Summary**

The 1991 SINC report identified 97 SINC's totalling 1624.2 hectares of terrestrial and freshwater habitat. This included a considerable extent of SSSI land on 10 sites, giving a total of 829.2 hectares of non-SSSI land on 87 SINC's. This present study, which does not include SSSI land, has culminated in the selection of 125 sites totalling 1216.8 hectares of Local Wildlife Site land, a net increase of 387.6 hectares, and a net increase of 38 sites.

The following list provides the old SINC's and their reference number, followed by their corresponding new LoWS number, where applicable, and name, if this has changed significantly.

Old SINCLoWS Number

W1. Bullock Wood SSSI	-
W2. Ardleigh Reservoir Wood	Te1
W3. Churn Wood	Te5
W4. Wall's Wood	Te6
W5. Cockaynes Wood	Te12 Villa Farm Quarry
W6. Palegate Wood	Te15
W7. Park Wood	Te17
W8. Oldhall Wood	Te19
W9. Money Wood	Te20
W10. Crestland Wood	Te21
W11. Thicks Wood	Te22
W12. Captains and Fratinghall Woods	Te24 Fratinghall/Captains Wood
W13. Mill Wood	Te27
W14. Aldercarr	Te25 Shir Burn Wood and Meadow
W15. Boudge Hill Wood	-
W16. Mill Wood, Hart and Stable Woods	Te26 Alresford Hall Woods
W17. Wick's Wood	Te29 Wick's/Lodge Wood
W18. Tenpenny Heath Wood	Te31 Thorrington Plantation
W19. Manning Grove	Te33
W20. Hockley Wood	Te41
W21. Thorringtonhall Wood	Te48
W22. Little Bentleyhall Wood	Te53
W23. High Barn Wood	Te59
W24. Martin's Grove	Te61
W25. Riddles Wood SSSI	-
W26. Shair Wood	Te64
W27. Milton Wood	Te65
W28. Stockets Grove	Te66
W29. Simplebirch and Bowshots Wood	Te69
W30. Oakhurst Wood	Te72
W31. High Grove	Te73
W32. Maldon Wood	Te76
W33. Gutteridge Wood	Te75
W34. Hillands Wood	Te77
W35. Home Wood	Te79
W36. Hartley Wood	Te80
W37. Tendring Grove	Te81
W38. Island Grove	Te84 Island and Roger's Groves
W39. Coppin's Hall Wood	Te82
W40. Roger's Grove	Te84 Island and Roger's Groves
W41. Stonehall Wood	Te85
W42. Weeleyhall Wood SSSI	-
W43. Simon's Wood	Te86
W44. Gravel Wood	Te88
W45. Killgrove Wood	Te89
W46. Dengewell Wood	Te91
W47. Broadmeadow Wood	Te94
W48. Brakey Grove	Te96

W49. Glebe Wood	Te97
W50. West Grove	Te102
W51. East Grove	Te104
W52. Stour Wood SSSI	-
W53. Copperas Wood SSSI	-
W54. Hollandhall Wood	Te114
W55. Witton Wood EWT Reserve	-
W56. Pedlars Wood LNR	Te118
W57. Birch Wood	Te2
G1. Crockleford Heath Special Roadside Verges	Te7 Chapel Lane Verge
G2. Pyecats Corner Special Roadside Verges	Te8
G3. Wivenhoe Marsh part SSSI	-
G4. Manor House Meadow	Te9
G5. Thorrington Special Roadside Verge	Te49 Frating Abbey Farm Road Verge
G6. Howlands Marsh (SSSI)	-
G7. Dines Farm Special Roadside Verge	Te56 Dead Lane Verge
G8. Aingers Green Special Roadside Verges	Te62
G9. Bush Paddock Special Roadside Verges	Te67 Pump Hill Verges
G10. Thorpe Green	Te95
G11. St. Michael's Churchyard	Te99
G12. Beaumont Bridge Verge	Te106
G13. Upper Holland Brook	Te98
G14. Central Holland Brook	-
G15. Lower Holland Brook/Picker's Ditch	-
G16. Holland Haven	-
G17. Barnes Spinney	Te122
G18. The Naze	Te124
G19. Churn Wood Meadow	Te4
G20. Lower Botany Farm Field	Te93
M1. Alexander Reserve	Te30 Tenpenny Brook
M2. St.Osyth Parkland	Te57
M3. Great Holland Pits	Te109
M4. Ramsey Creek Complex	Te115 Ramsey Ray
M5. Bursville Park, Picker's Ditch	Te100
FW1. Noah's Ark Pit	Te13
FW2. Alresford Lodge Pits	Te14
FW3. Robinson Road Lakes	Te47 Robinson Road Ponds
FW4. Reed Pond	Te60
FW5. Bobbit's Hole LNR	-
FW6. Judas Gap Reedbed	-
C1. Colne Estuary SSSI	-
C2. Cattawade Marshes SSSI	-
C3. Colne Point (SSSI)	-
C4. Jaywick Coastal Grassland	Te78 Jaywick Marshes
C5. Stour Estuary SSSI	-
C6. Clacton North Cliff	Te107
C7. Skipper's Island (SSSI)	-
C8. Hamford Water SSSI	-
C9. John Weston Reserve (SSSI)	-

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Local Wildlife Site Network

The number of Local Wildlife Sites within the District has been revised following changes in policy relating to SSSIs and the application of more rigorous site selection criteria. A few of the sites that were removed from the network are now considered to be of insufficient quality when measured against the new criteria, either because of a decline in the habitat present over the intervening years or because the selection criteria are now more stringent.

Whilst development is seen as the big threat to the countryside, loss of LoWS land between 1991 and 2008 to development has been negligible. It has taken the form of extension of gardens into adjacent woodland (e.g. Birch Wood on the border with Colchester Borough) and some commercial work. Part of the old Cockaynes Wood SINC has been lost to permitted mineral extraction, although perhaps ironically the footprint area of the section of ancient woodland lost to this extraction work has now been included within the new “brownfield” Villa Farm Quarry LoWS, along with the remainder of Cockaynes Wood. With the adoption of brownfield land as a site selection criterion there is obviously far greater potential for conflict between LoWS designation and development pressure. Indeed, it may well be the case that planning consent for development already exists for pieces of land here identified as being of LoWS quality. It is realised that the existence of planning consent is likely to override LoWS status but it is hoped that the identification of such land as a LoWS in this report will at least allow for informed dialogue about final landscaping of such sites and also about how biodiversity mitigation measures might be designed into the development in order to soften its impact.

Regarding the loss of important wildlife habitat within worked-out mineral extraction sites, perhaps the biggest threat is the nature of planned restoration of the site. In many cases the after-use of the site is planned and finalised in the planning consent before extraction has even begun. In these cases, amending the planning consent to include a change of after-use that takes into account a nature conservation value that was not perceived at the time can be difficult.

The more significant loss of non-SSSI LoWS land on the Register is as the result of the more stringent selection criteria and a better understanding of the Tendring countryside. This has seen the de-selection of the Essex Wildlife Trust’s Witton Wood copse in Frinton, which was

previously “automatically” selected on the grounds that it was owned by a nature conservation organisation as a nature reserve. Also dropped is the small former Local Nature Reserve called Bobbit’s Hole near Harwich, which was previously automatically selected on account of it being a Local Nature Reserve. Whilst this site undoubtedly retains some wildlife value, especially within the urban environment, current knowledge about the wildlife of the site does not justify retaining LoWS status. The Judas Gap Reedbed, which was divided between Colchester and Tendring, has been the victim partly of more stringent selection criteria but also a decline in habitat quality. It has only ever been a long, narrow strip of reed, but was considered a sufficiently significant reedbed to have been included in 1991. However, since then the Reed has weakened, is now strongly over-shadowed by adjacent trees and is an insignificant feature, especially when compared with the extensive reedbed in the adjacent Cattawade Marshes SSSI. Ancient woodland status was an automatic selection criterion in 1991, using the English Nature Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as a guide. This saw the selection of a number of species-poor and uninspiring woods as SINC’s on the grounds that they were ancient. More detailed map research is now capable of illustrating errors in the AWI and a few woods or sections of wood have been dropped from the LoWS register because they are not ancient and do not possess any of the characters required by the new selection criteria to be retained as LoWS. This applies to the old site W15 Boudge Hill Wood. Documentary evidence shows that the only ancient part of the wood is little more than a hedgerow strip along the central ditch channel – the remainder is of recent origin. Similarly, part of W19 Manning Grove has been removed from the register, it being a recent block of scrub woodland, although the main body of Manning Grove is retained.

Of the 45 new sites, two (Te52, Hopping Bridge Marsh and Te121 Walton Mere) result from the policy change that allows intertidal habitat to be included within the network. The case of Walton Mere demonstrate the purpose of this change in policy well, it being supportive of the adjacent Hamford Water SSSI but being under threat by virtue of its recreational pressures.

The influence of geology, soils and how man has exploited this resource have all helped to influence the distribution of Local Wildlife Sites in the District, as illustrated in Figure 1. Geodiversity is the subject of a separate appraisal report.

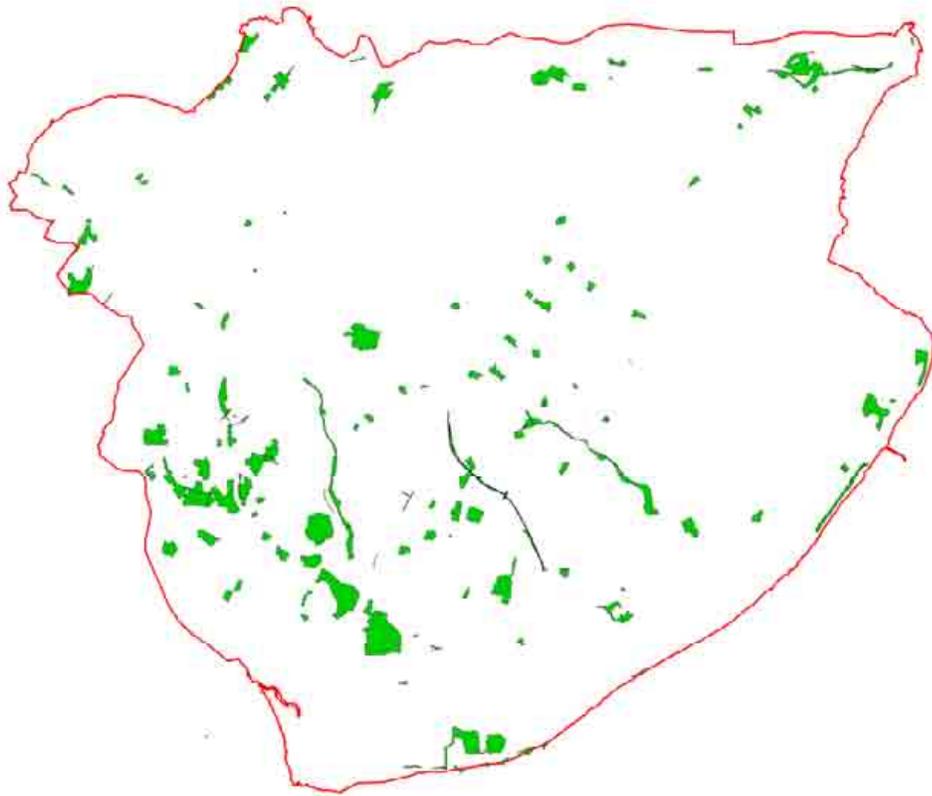


Figure 1. Distribution of LoWS in the District.

The most striking feature of Figure 1 is the skewed distribution and size of the LoWS identified here. It should be remembered that the apparent large hole in the east of the district is occupied by Hamford Water SSSI, but the lack of LoWS across much of the north of the district is a real phenomenon. This is doubtless because of the long history of arable agriculture in this area, attributable to light, easily worked soils. This presents something of a dilemma for those wishing to fund wildlife habitat creation schemes. On the one hand there ought to be a desire to fund schemes in the north of the district, where any semi-natural vegetation would be welcome, but with the realisation that this will leave the site still very isolated from other good quality habitat. On the other hand, such funding could go to the south of the district where there is still a good deal of good quality habitat but where extra habitat creation could yield great benefits in terms of forming habitat corridors between these sites.

There are a number of large Sites in the south-west of the district. These comprise the old mineral workings of Villa Farm Quarry and Alresford Lodge, large areas of coastal grazing marsh at Brightlingsea and Clacton and also St Osyth Park. There also remains an important

chain of good sized grassland Sites along the northern coast, running from Judas Gap Marsh in the west, through groups of meadows and pastures at Wignall Brook, Lawford and Furze Hills, Manningtree, through Wrabness to the large mosaic of habitats at Ramsey and Parkeston.

3.2 UK BAP Priority Habitats

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

Both UK BAP and Essex BAP habitats and species have been changed in the past year. Nationally, some habitats have been added – Ponds, for example – and others have had their name and/or scope changed – Ancient or Species-rich Hedgerows has changed to Hedgerows, for example. In total, 695 species have also been added to the UK Priority List, encompassing birds, freshwater fish, reptiles, amphibians, higher and lower plants, fungi, marine species, invertebrates and mammals. The Essex BAP has also been extended by the addition of habitats and species, most of which correspond to national BAP habitats and species. The identification on the Register sheets of the relevant BAP habitats found within each LoWS should allow land managers, planners and countryside agencies to easily see how the management of any site could be contributing to these larger BAP projects.

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

habitat within the network. Within this study, one potential site (PTLoWS13 Botany Farm Hedges) has been identified on the grounds that it comprises a good network of hedges. It is envisaged that as the selection criteria further evolve to embrace these national BAP changes, this is the sort of hedge network that might well qualify for LoWS selection. That said, hedgerows do feature in many of the grassland sites and for any individual field LoWS it should be assumed that its bounding hedgerows are included within the site.

A new Priority Habitat of 'Ponds' has also been included within the recent national review, with qualifying features covering a broad spectrum of features including marginal or aquatic plant communities and the presence of rare or otherwise significant species. This will lead to a large number of ponds qualifying for consideration as LoWS with a similar problem to that described for Hedgerows above. A similar, representative selection of ponds will need to be added to the LoWS network, preferably linked to existing sites or other valuable habitats. Again, many ponds have been, by default, included within the LoWS network, especially within woods and mineral extraction sites.

There are perhaps a few UK BAP habitats for which Tendring has a particular importance as far as county significance is concerned:

1. Coastal grazing marshes and mudflats – most such habitat is designated SSSI, but a few areas have been identified as LoWS here in support of this SSSI network, such as between Thorrington and Brightlingsea.
2. “Brownfield” habitats – the sands and gravels around Alresford have been quarried for centuries but only the more modern, large-scale quarrying has had a significant impact on the countryside. As well as undoubtedly destroying large areas of countryside, it is now recognised that worked-out pits with their complex topography and consequently varied edaphic conditions can support nationally important assemblages of invertebrates.
3. River floodplain grassland – Tendring does not possess any particularly large freshwater river systems, so the term might be better phrased as “stream floodplain” grassland. The biggest system is Holland Brook, much of which is included within an SSSI. However, the LoWS network now also includes:
 - A narrow belt of habitat along the Bentley Brook;
 - the upper reaches of Holland Brook above the SSSI;
 - as a Potential LoWS, St Osyth Brook.

Study of the district over-view map, above, shows the importance of these riverine corridors, reaching into the interior of the district and hopefully allowing the movement of wildlife between other LoWS nearby. A similar function could be said to apply to the relatively new Weeley Bypass. Whilst it should not be forgotten that such road scheme can represent a considerable barrier to the movement of wildlife across them, they can form useful areas of habitat in their own right and also act as a corridor for wildlife moving along them.

3.3 Recommendations for Review

The Local Wildlife Site network should not be static system, as has tended to be the case in Essex in the past. Until this review, the sites and the information held about them had not been updated since 1991, since when there have been considerable changes in the agricultural environment, coastal defence policies and the quantity and quality of information regarding the species and habitats present for our county. Local Wildlife Site policy, particularly in respect to site selection criteria, is also likely to evolve in response to national guidance. This process is likely to continue as rapidly in the future with further agricultural changes looming and other, less certain impacts as a result of climate change.

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

There are also related areas of action that perhaps should be explored within Tendring; the potential for establishing green corridors to link up existing sites of conservation significance, policies influencing the siting of future development and the detailed implications of the local and national Biodiversity Action Plan reviews, for example.

3.4 Impact of Draft Potential Growth Areas

The following section gives a brief appraisal of each of the individual Potential Growth Area zones identified around each of the major settlements within Tendring.

Thorpe

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – this area has largely been identified as a Potential Local Wildlife Site (PTLoWS15, Land off Abbey Street). It is recognised that this land is a fairly obvious “infill” within the village and the wildlife present may not achieve full Local Wildlife Site status but it should, if nothing else, be subjected to appropriate ecological surveys to assess the land for reptiles, breeding birds and invertebrates. The presence of reptiles and breeding birds would mean that any future development of this land would have to take into account the legal protection afforded to these species.

St Osyth

Zone 1 – this lies immediately to the north of a Potential Local Wildlife Site (PTLoWS10, St Osyth Brook). Any impacts resulting from development here are likely to be indirect, such as increased pollution, the dumping of garden waste and other materials over garden fences, increased cat population, children at play/vandalism and so on. The impact of these phenomena should not be under-estimated, however, in terms of how they might have a negative impact on the wildlife of the brook corridor. Leaving a buffer zone of at least 100 metres would help to ameliorate some of these impacts.

Zone 2 – this area is intimately associated with Local Wildlife Site Te67, Pump Hill Verges. Any development of this zone is likely to have an unavoidable impact upon the road verges either because of the impacts of construction traffic, loss to access roads or pedestrian pavements during the construction phase, or through the parking of cars, re-landscaping or “sanitising” during after use. These latter impacts include excessively regular mowing and the planting of garden plants that tends to go hand in hand with road verge urbanisation, even if strictly outside the curtilage of adjacent properties.

Manningtree

Zone 1 – this lies immediately to the south of a small nature area known as Owl’s Flight Dell. Whilst not of Local Wildlife Site standard, this small area of open space provides an important green area for wildlife and countryside recreation close to an urban population. Further development would almost encircle this area by housing, which is likely to have a negative impact on both the quality of wildlife present and also the quality of the “countryside experience” of those using the area. Impacts include increased pollution, the dumping of garden waste and other materials over garden fences, increased cat population and children at play/vandalism, although all these impacts are already a risk to the site from existing housing.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – no significant issues, other than the potential for increased recreational pressure on Furze Hills, Local Wildlife Site Te58.

Colchester Fringe

Zone 1- includes a Potential Local Wildlife Site, PTLowS1 Bullock Wood Grassland. The potential of this site lies partly in how it might develop if left to mature, with an area of scrubby grassland likely to become attractive to invertebrates, reptiles and breeding birds. At the very least, the current interest of this PTLowS should be assessed before any planning permission is granted.

Elmstead

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Frinton

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – no significant issues.

Zone 4 – no significant issues.

Great Bentley

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – no significant issues.

Harwich

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – includes Local Wildlife Site Te113, Michaelstowe Hall, although this is highlighted as mainly lying within an “absolute constraint” area. The land to the south of Church Hill/Ramsey Road, between Michaelstow Farm and Mayes Lane, comprises paddocks, outbuildings and scrub woodland that is not without wildlife interest, although elevated even to the level of Potential site. Notwithstanding this, if this zone were to be proposed for development, it is recommended that the planning application should be accompanied by an ecological report that addresses the matter of roosting bats, breeding birds, reptiles and Great Crested Newts (it is believed that there is a small pond in the scrub woodland area).

Zone 3 – includes Te112, Whinny Grove. No other significant issues.

Zone 4 – no significant issues.

Little Clacton

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – no significant issues.

Zone 4 – includes the road verge section of Te92, which should be protected from any adverse impacts if the adjacent land were to be developed. Also, Picker’s Ditch should be protected by having a grassland/scrub buffer at least 50 metres wide on either side, to prevent undue disturbance from any future adjacent houses.

Brightlingsea

Zone 1 – the increased urbanisation of Wick’s and Lodge Woods (LoWS Te29) would inevitably lead to greater disturbance to the woods, even if access is not formally permitted. The construction of houses right up to the edge of a wood often leads to the tipping of garden waste, illegal land gain by piecemeal moving of garden boundaries out into the wood, vandalism and heavy trampling by trespassers.

Zone 2 – includes LoWS Te32, East End Green and also Te47, Robinson Road Ponds, although the latter is protected within an absolute constraints area. Residential development right up to the edge of East End Green could lead to landscaping and “sanitising” of the Green for amenity or landscape purposes, rather than leaving it as a semi-natural area.

Zone 3 – these fields are adjacent to SSSI estuarine habitat and may be used by some waders as high-water roosting land. Prior to the determination of any planning application, a survey of winter high-water roosting activity should be undertaken by the prospective developer.

Alresford

Zone 1 – no significant issues, although increased housing here might lead to increased recreational pressure (legal or otherwise) within the nearby LoWS Te12, Villa Farm.

Zone 2 – **this zone is a LoWS Te18, Crestland Wood Meadow** and its development should be strongly resisted.

Clacton

Zone 1 – no significant issues.

Zone 2 – no significant issues.

Zone 3 – no significant issues.

Zone 4 – no significant issues.

Zone 5 – no significant issues.

APPENDIX 1

DRAFT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following is an extract from the 2007 Draft Criteria that have been used to identify the Local Wildlife Sites highlighted in this report. The original chapter, section and sub-section numbers from the full criteria document has been retained in order to facilitate cross-reference to that document.

4. WILDLIFE STATEMENTS

PREAMBLE

The following Wildlife Site Statements provide the framework for the production of a protocol for Local Wildlife Site review, evaluation and selection, and more specifically a basis to generate both Habitat Selection Criteria (HCr) and Species Selection Criteria (SCr). The Wildlife Site Statements themselves are in bold, with explanatory or supporting information in normal font.

4.1 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 1

4.1.1 The Local Wildlife Site network of Essex will not include land identified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on biological grounds at the time of the relevant Local Wildlife Site review. Geological SSSIs will be included within the network where they are found to possess suitable wildlife features. It must be realised, however, that the Local Wildlife Site network is critical to the support of such SSSIs (and vice versa) and that the identification of a site as a Local Wildlife Site rather than as an SSSI does not mean that the site is necessarily of inferior quality to a similar site that has been given SSSI status.

4.2 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 2

4.2.1 If part or all of an SSSI is de-notified, then it should be immediately assessed as a candidate Local Wildlife Site and, if appropriate, added to the relevant register of sites.

4.3 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 3

4.3.1 Local Nature Reserves will be subjected to the standard species/habitat selection criteria rather than receive automatic selection.

4.3.2 Under the original selection criteria developed in the early 1990s, the network of sites included all Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR). Consistent with recent national guidance, this position in relation to SSSIs is no longer adopted in the 2007 criteria. However, LNRs and geological SSSIs will be considered where they merit selection on nature conservation interest.

4.4 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 4

4.4.1 All sites that meet the standards set by a Habitat Selection Criterion will be identified as Local Wildlife Sites.

4.4.2 This statement is consistent with Defra's Guidance on Local Sites, which states that:
“Local Site systems should select all areas of substantive nature conservation value...”

Therefore, the system in Essex will seek to select all sites with significant (as defined by the criteria) semi-natural habitats.

4.5 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 5

4.5.1 Local Wildlife Site reviews shall attempt to identify all significant populations of notable species that do not have significant populations protected by SSSIs. Notable is defined for the purposes of this document to encompass ALL species:

- **listed in the Essex or UK Biodiversity Action Plan;**
- **with an appropriate IUCN designation;**
- **a non-IUCN designation of ‘rare’ or ‘scarce’;**
- **any bird identified on the UK ‘red’ or ‘amber’ list; or**
- **identified within the Essex Red Data List (ERDL).**

4.5.2 Priority should be given to those species thought to be especially threatened or in decline, in Essex or nationally. Habitats which support significant populations of these species should be considered for selection as Local Wildlife Sites. Furthermore, the presence of notable species within a site selected through other criteria shall be used to support the designation of that site.

4.5.3 The system should support populations of every notable species, although this does not mean that every population of a notable species is required to be adopted as a Local Wildlife Site

4.5.4 This is a key distinction from the policy of identifying all habitats of ‘substantive nature conservation value’, although there is some justification in so doing. The population dynamics of some fauna, especially invertebrates, are markedly different to that of

plants and vegetation types, with ephemeral populations arising from attempted range expansion and subsequent contraction blurring the picture of a species' core range. There is felt to be some justification in restricting the site selection process to sites where populations are believed to be stable, rather than every site where a notable species has been recorded. The antiquity of some survey data further strengthens this point, in that only recent, reliable survey information should be used to identify sites on species grounds alone.

4.5.5 The Essex Red Data List (ERDL) has been coordinated by Peter Harvey of the Essex Field Club for Natural England (viewable at www.essexfieldclub.org.uk). It comprises a listing of those especially rare, threatened or drastically declining species known to have been found in the county. Included within this list are all nationally rare species, nationally scarce species and, where sufficient data is available, other species of lesser national significance that are rare or threatened in Essex (see Appendix 1 for a more detailed account of the various national and county conservation designations).

4.5.6 In spite of the information provided in national and local BAPs or Red databook/lists, determining and prioritising which notable species are thought to be especially threatened or in decline, and currently not adequately protected in Essex, may, for some species, represent a complex task. In these circumstances, a suitably qualified authority should be consulted.

4.5.7 The criteria which stem from this statement have been developed to encompass the following situations:

- the presence of populations of one or more nationally rare species;
- the presence of populations of one or more UK BAP species;
- the presence of populations of one or more nationally scarce species;
- the presence of an Essex rarity (listed in either the ERDL or Essex BAP); and
- the presence of an unusually diverse assemblage of species, from within one species group, be they rare, scarce or relatively commonplace species.

Furthermore the criteria need to:

- conserve populations of rare and scarce species both at the core of their known distribution and also in smaller or more vulnerable satellite populations on the periphery of their known range.

4.6 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 6

4.6.1 A Local Wildlife Site identified on species grounds should contain the habitat requirements at the correct scale for the species concerned, with the limited exception of those species that range widely over the general countryside or coast as part of their normal foraging behaviour.

4.6.2 The Site should contain the habitat requirements at the correct scale in relation to the species on which the site is being selected. This is a key point in protecting many species' populations. There is often little merit in identifying a site where a rare invertebrate has been recorded if that site does not extend to include, where they are known, significant proportions of all the ecological requirements of that species. For example, many invertebrates need a sufficiently large and continuous pollen or nectar supply to complete their life cycle. This may lead to the designation of an area of peripheral vegetation that might not otherwise qualify for Local Wildlife Site selection in its own right, if it can be demonstrated that it supplies additional habitat benefits for the species concerned.

4.6.3 Such a Statement is harder to apply to other groups, such as mammals and some birds. It may be desirable to protect the nesting location of a particularly scarce bird (e.g. Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*, or Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*) but it may be impractical to identify and protect all the land (or sea) on which those birds forage for food. Similar problems might be encountered with Otters *Lutra lutra*, although not necessarily so with Water Voles *Arvicola terrestris*, Dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius*, Harvest Mice *Micromys minutus* or Water Shrews *Neomys fodiens*.

4.6.4 In addition to those that stem from the Essex Review Panel targets, the following Wildlife Site Statements (7-9) have been developed to inform the selection of Local Wildlife Sites.

4.7 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 7

4.7.1 Habitats can be identified as Local Wildlife Sites if their identification as such contributes to the fulfilment of national, regional or county Biodiversity Action Plan targets. This does not mean to say that all such habitats must be

identified e.g. the identification of ALL ancient or species-rich hedgerows is not deemed appropriate.

4.8 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 8

4.8.1 Other sites, not covered by criteria stemming from the previous Statements, can be identified as Local Wildlife Sites on the basis of their unique ecological characteristics. These habitat selection criteria shall give due consideration to the values and principles embodied in the 'Ratcliffe Criteria', especially rarity, naturalness, typicalness, fragility, size, diversity and position in an ecological unit.

4.8.2 The last point is particularly important. For example, sites of low intrinsic nature conservation value, but which perform an important function in terms of their position within the wider ecological landscape will be considered for selection.

4.8.3 Potential value might also be considered, especially for degraded UK or Essex BAP habitats.

4.9 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 9

4.9.1 Domestic gardens will not ordinarily be considered for selection. The only exception to this might be where the garden provides the very best or only site of a notable species.

4.9.2 To these nine fundamental points, three final Statements (10-12) can be added which are designed to strengthen and 'legitimise' the system for identifying Local Wildlife Sites consistent with national guidance.

4.10 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 10

4.10.1 The following 'non-biological' criteria, mentioned in the Defra guidance, will also be considered where a site just fails to meet selection criteria which relate to Wildlife Site Statements 1-8:

- **historical and cultural associations;**
- **value for appreciation of nature; and/or**
- **value for learning.**

4.10.2 The inclusion of 'non-biological' criteria marks a departure from the previous documents used to identify Local Wildlife Sites in Essex, which focussed exclusively upon a sites ecological interest. It was felt that this was a significant omission, and the addition of WSS 10 brings the selection criteria in line with the Defra guidance of 2006.

4.11 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 11

4.11.1 Before notification, each candidate Local Wildlife Site must be ratified by a Local Wildlife Sites Selection Panel.

4.11.2 This should be locally based at the borough, district or unitary level, and include representatives of the following organisations: local natural history societies, Essex Wildlife Trust local groups, local authority officers, statutory nature conservation agencies, non-statutory nature conservation organisations and natural history museums.

4.11.3 Local ratification is crucial, and this process will be strengthened, upon completion of a LoWS review, by seeking final endorsement of the ratified sites from the Essex Wildlife Sites Project Advisory Group in order to maintain a comparability of standards across the county. In situations where the local selection panel is unable to reach a decision consistent with the selection criteria or it proves difficult to convene a Local Selection Panel, the final arbiter shall be the EWSP Advisory Group, which comprises representatives from: Essex Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Essex County Council, Essex Biodiversity Project, Essex Field Club and the Essex Planning Officers' Association.

4.12 WILDLIFE SITE STATEMENT 12

4.12.1 Local Authorities should include a policy within their Local Development Framework (LDF), or other relevant policy document, to allow, where necessary, for the addition or deletion of Local Wildlife Sites from their register within the lifetime of the LDF or policy document.

4.12.2 Local Authorities should endeavour to review the LoWS in their area on a regular basis. Consistent with Defra guidance, the Local Wildlife Sites Project recommend that the period between reviews should be no greater than 5 years.

6. HABITAT SELECTION CRITERIA

6.1 PREAMBLE

The criteria in this section, and section 7, are phrased such that sites which satisfy a Wildlife Site Statement shall be 'considered' for selection, subject to ratification by a Local Wildlife Sites selection panel, and/or, where appropriate, the Essex Wildlife Sites Project Advisory Group. The selection criteria themselves are in bold, with explanatory or supporting information in normal font. Where a criterion relates directly to one or more Wildlife Site Statements, that Statement shall be identified in parentheses at the end of the criterion (e.g. WSS6 = Wildlife Site Statement 6).

6.2 WOODLAND

6.2.1 There is a general acceptance that ancient woodlands are of significant importance within the Essex countryside, in most cases being semi-natural vegetation derived from the natural climax vegetation that would have covered most of the land prior to human intervention. Ancient woodland sites would be withheld from selection only if they have deteriorated to such an extent by extreme coniferisation, human disturbance, or are of such a small size that they are thought unlikely to support viable populations of the woodland flora and fauna that make ancient woods important. If de-selection is petitioned, the onus of responsibility will lie with the plaintiff to demonstrate through professional ecological survey that no such flora or fauna occurs at the site nor has occurred in the recent past.

6.2.2 HCr1

All sites identified in the Essex Ancient Woodland Inventory compiled by Natural England (HCr1a), plus any other site considered to be ancient by reason of its indicative ground flora, documentary evidence or physical and/or geomorphological qualities (HCr1b) shall be considered for selection (WSS 7).

6.2.3 Plant species deemed to be indicative of ancient woodland sites in Essex are listed in Appendix 3 (of the full criteria document). For non-ancient woodland, including parkland, recent secondary woods, scrub and also hedgerows and green lanes, separate criteria apply.

6.2.4 HCr2

An area of non-ancient woodland (other than wet woodland) shall be considered for selection if it fulfils at least one of the following statements:

- a) it lies immediately adjacent to ancient woodland and has a diversity of age and/or species structure consistent with naturally occurring woodland or provides an important buffering or connective function. (WSS 7, 8: size, diversity, position in ecological unit);**
- b) the wood has a diverse age and species structure (including a limited extent of coniferous plantation) and preferably includes the presence of grassy rides, ponds or other open areas. The minimum size threshold should consider the relative abundance of woodland in the surrounding countryside (WSS 8);**
- c) the wood forms part of a mosaic of good quality wildlife habitat in association with at least two other habitats from the following list: scrub, open water, heath, acid grassland, neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, marsh and swamp. The minimum size threshold will consider the relative abundance of semi-natural habitat in the surrounding countryside (WSS 8); and/or**
- d) the wood is identifiable as a 'priority' or 'characteristic' National Vegetation Classification (NVC) community type for the Natural Area in which the site is located. Greater emphasis shall be given to 'priority' woodland types (WSS 7, 8).**

Table 1 Essex Natural Area woodland types (priority types are in bold type)

<p>London Basin:</p> <p>W5 Alnus glutinosa – Carex paniculata woodland</p> <p>W7 Alnus glutinosa – Fraxinus excelsior – Lysimachia nemorum woodland</p> <p>W8 Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis woodland</p> <p>W10 Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus woodland</p> <p>W14 Fagus sylvatica – Rubus fruticosus woodland</p> <p>W15 Fagus sylvatica – Deschampsia flexuosa woodland</p> <p>W16 Quercus spp. - Betula spp. - Deschampsia flexuosa woodland</p> <p>East Anglian Plain:</p> <p>W2 Salix cinerea – Betula pubescens – Phragmites australis woodland</p> <p>W6 Alnus glutinosa – Urtica dioica woodland</p> <p>W8 Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis woodland</p> <p>W10 Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus woodland</p> <p>East Anglian Chalk:</p> <p>W8 Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis woodland</p> <p>Suffolk Coast and Heaths:</p> <p>W10 Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus woodland</p>
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6.3 PARKLAND AND VETERAN TREES

6.3.1 Parkland is a particular type of woodland mosaic in which semi-natural grassland would often have been an important component, sometimes more so than the 'woodland' component. Characteristic features of parkland include encircling ditches/banks, large veteran trees that have grown in an open, rather than restricted, woodland setting and species-rich grassland. Veteran trees can be exceptionally important for invertebrates and, in some cases, may provide sufficient reason to select the site, even with the lack of any other parkland component. Such trees might even be growing within an arable field.

6.3.2 HCr3

Areas of ancient parkland, preferably with veteran trees, and a semi-natural grassland ground flora should be considered for selection (WSS 8).

6.3.3 HCr4

Veteran parkland trees “known or likely to support significant dead wood or other invertebrate assemblages, or epiphytic bryophytes or lichens” may be selected even in the absence of other parkland features, such as semi-natural grassland. The stand should include a sufficient number and variety of trees to provide appropriate habitat conditions for the associated species of interest (WSS 5, 6, 8).

6.3.4 Wet woodland is a national BAP habitat, often found in a mosaic of other habitats from open water to dry woodland, especially as willow (*Salix*) scrub. Streamside or plateau Alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland may form more discrete units. As a scarce woodland type, all stands of wet Alder wood should be considered for selection, subject to considerations of size and shape (e.g. a broad, rectangular wood is likely to be more significant than a very narrow stream-side belt). The supporting ground flora should be included. This woodland type is covered by selection criterion HCr2(d).

6.3.5 Stands of willow (*Salix* spp.) wood should be identified where they are known to support breeding habitat or significant foraging habitat, specialist woodland bird or invertebrate species, or where they form significant components of a mosaic site. Such sites should aim to include and protect the source of the water that maintains the habitat in its condition. Particularly large stands of wet woodland could be identified, without the supporting evidence of specialist woodland birds or invertebrates, consistent with criterion HCr2(d).

6.3.6 HCr5

All significant stands of Willow scrub woodland should be considered for selection. Selection should take into consideration the distribution of this woodland type in the county, size, associated fauna and the characteristic nature of the ground flora. Its place within a mosaic of vegetation types is also an important consideration (WSS 7).

6.4 SCRUB COMMUNITIES

6.4.1 In Essex, scrub communities come in many forms, from strips of suckering elm to dense blocks of Hawthorn and Blackthorn, coastal Shrubby Seablite and Broom communities, and brakes of Gorse within heathland settings. The south of the county has a suite of very characteristic scrub types associated with former plotland housing, in which garden trees, shrubs and herbs form an integral part of the more natural scrub growth that is now overcoming the old gardens.

6.4.2 HCr6

Large areas of scrub shall be considered for selection if they fulfil at least one of the following statements:

- a) large areas of scrub known to support significant breeding populations of scrub-dependent birds or provide significant shelter or foraging habitat for migrant passerines (WSS 6, 8: size, naturalness, typicalness);**
 - **scrub-dependent birds include the following species: Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, and Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*;**
- b) scrub that forms part of a mosaic of good quality wildlife habitat in association with at least two other habitats from the following list: woodland, open water, heath, acid grassland, neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, marsh and swamp. The minimum size threshold should consider the relative abundance of semi-natural habitat in the surrounding countryside, and also the species diversity within the scrub block, with smaller blocks being permitted if they are particularly species-rich (WSS 8);**
- c) plotland and similar post-industrial/brownfield scrub habitat in which the alien flora contributes positively to the wildlife value of the scrub. Such scrub should typically include grassy rides and glades or form part of a mosaic with at least two other habitats from the following list: woodland, open water, heath, acid grassland, neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, marsh and swamp. (WSS 8: typicalness, diversity); and /or**
- d) the scrub is identifiable as a ‘priority’ community type for the Natural Area in which the site is located (WSS 8). These scrub types are:**

- **London Basin: elm scrub**
- **Greater Thames Estuary: Mediterranean-type Shrubby Seablite/Broom scrub.**

6.5 ORCHARDS

6.5.1 Orchard cultivation is on the decline in Essex, so that any orchard site still bearing fruit trees is quite likely to be over 50 years old, even if the current stand of trees is not of that age. This Essex and national BAP habitat is associated with a number of notable invertebrate species and is also important for over-wintering birds where wind-fall fruit is left on the ground. Orchards with a species-rich ground flora are even rarer and should be selected as a priority, as they often contain notable plant species.

6.5.2 HCr7

Orchards will be considered for selection if they contain large, old trees with good lichen cover and/or include unusual local/traditional varieties of tree and/or support populations of notable species; and/or have a ground flora that would satisfy selection as a grassland site (WSS 7, 5 and 8).

6.5.3 HCr8

Large orchards shall be considered for selection if they regularly support significant breeding populations of any ERDL bird species, or significant over-wintering populations of Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris*, Redwings *Turdus iliacus*, Mistle Thrushes *Turdus viscivorus*, or other migratory birds listed in the ERDL (WSS 5, 8: rarity, size).

6.6 ANCIENT AND SPECIES-RICH HEDGEROWS AND GREEN LANES

6.6.1 Despite widespread grubbing-out in previous decades, such features should not be routinely selected since many thousands of kilometres remain, and the existing resource is protected by the Hedgerow Regulations (1997) against further indiscriminate removal. However, ancient hedges and green lanes may be selected if they form important woodland/scrub corridors connecting or closely juxtaposed to other, protected wildlife sites. This provides a means of highlighting the importance of such wildlife corridors. Special consideration shall be given to suckering elm hedges, these being especially characteristic of Essex farmland and allied to elm scrub

communities capable of selection via HCr6(d). Additional protection is also provided to the more significant lanes through the local authority 'Protected Lanes' policy. In this instance, reasons for protection are typically based on historical and landscape criteria, rather than wildlife interest.

6.6.2 HCr9

A hedgerow or green lane shall be considered for selection if it fulfils one of the following statements:

- **it provides appropriate habitat connectivity or functions as a corridor between two or more Wildlife Sites (WSS 7, 8: position in an ecological unit);**
- **it provides a significant extent of scrub or mosaic habitat in a part of the county otherwise deficient in such habitat (WSS 8: rarity); and/or**
- **it constitutes part of the 'ghost' outline of a former ancient wood and retains some of the characteristic flora and/or fauna of an ancient wood (WSS 7, 8).**

6.7 GRASSLANDS

6.7.1 Old, unimproved and species-rich grasslands (including fen-meadows and rush-pastures) are such a scarce resource that there should be a presumption in favour of selecting the majority of such habitats. The Essex Wildlife Site Review Panel documentation recommended using Natural England's Grassland Inventory as a source for 'automatically' selecting sites. This is resisted in these criteria, however, since the qualifying criterion for inclusion within the Inventory is that the site was deemed to be relatively species-rich in 1985/6 when the original survey was undertaken, and it is unclear how the update will identify new sites. Therefore, it is held that all sites must be selected on their current merits, although the Grassland Inventory should clearly be used as a focus for survey work.

6.7.2 The role of road verges in conserving albeit small fragments of species-rich grassland within the wider countryside should also be recognised. 'Special Verges' identified by the Special Verges Project will be considered for selection where they meet an appropriate grassland criterion.

6.7.3 Old, unimproved grasslands might be identified by the presence of 'indicator' species (see Appendix 4 of the full criteria document) or by documentary, verbal or

geomorphological evidence (e.g. presence of ridge and furrow or a landform indicating the site has not been ploughed). However, even quite recent grasslands can be selected if they support a diverse assemblage of flowering plants (both herbs and grasses), especially if they enhance invertebrate habitat (WSS 6), form part of a mosaic or are the only grasslands present within a significant part of the county.

6.7.4 HCr10

All old, largely unimproved grassland shall be considered for selection. Evidence for antiquity shall be taken from the presence of indicator plants, land-form or documentary records. Where appropriate, reference should also be made to the ‘priority’ National Vegetation classification (NVC) community type for the Natural Area in which the site is located, as well as size, location within the county, species diversity and fragility (WSS 7, 8).

Table 2 Essex Natural Area ‘priority’ grassland types

London Basin: MG4 Alopecurus pratensis – Sanguisorba officinalis grassland MG5a Cynosurus cristatus – Centaurea nigra grassland Lathyrus pratensis sub-community MG5c Cynosurus cristatus – Centaurea nigra grassland Danthonia decumbens sub-community East Anglian Plain: MG4 Alopecurus pratensis – Sanguisorba officinalis grassland MG5a Cynosurus cristatus – Centaurea nigra grassland Lathyrus pratensis sub-community MG5b Cynosurus cristatus – Centaurea nigra grassland Galium verum sub-community MG5c Cynosurus cristatus – Centaurea nigra grassland Danthonia decumbens sub-community MG8 Cynosurus cristatus – Caltha palustris grassland

Some grassland found in the county is not adequately described in the NVC. Examples of those not adequately described include Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum* dominated stands, species-rich coastal grasslands with abundant Common Couch *Elytrigia repens*, and stands associated with Thames Terrace gravels.

6.7.5 HCr11

Old, unimproved or semi-improved pastures or meadows that do not clearly fit criterion HCr10 shall be considered for selection if they support a rich flora or a significant population of a notable species (WSS 5, 7, 8: rarity, fragility).

6.7.6 HCr12

Semi-improved or improved grasslands shall be considered for selection if they significantly increase the key habitat for a site selected on species grounds, such that the grassland is deemed to be part of the essential foraging habitat of that species (WSS 6).

6.7.7 HCr13

Floristically less interesting pieces of grassland shall be considered for selection if they form an integral part of a semi-natural habitat mosaic; specifically the grassland occurs in association with at least two of the following habitats: woodland, scrub, open water, heath, other grassland types, reedbed, tall herb fen, swamp and/or vegetation described in section 5.10 'post industrial sites with high nature conservation value'. The minimum size threshold for the mosaic should reflect the relative abundance of semi-natural habitat in the surrounding countryside (WSS 7, 8).

6.7.8 Special consideration should be given to large tracts of river flood-plain grassland, especially those still subjected to seasonal inundation. Even where the sward has been significantly improved, so that the flora has no particular merit, the environmental conditions created can be of significance for invertebrate populations and some over-wintering waders (e.g. Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, and plovers *Pluvialis* spp.). Because of their risk of flooding, many such remaining tracts of flood-plain grassland can be considered to be old, even though they may have lost their characteristic flora. Such areas have often been under a grazing regime for long periods, and often support important invertebrate assemblages associated with animal dung. Continuity of grassland cover is also important for numerous other invertebrate species.

6.7.9 Such areas of flood-plain grassland can act as a buffer for the associated river. For example, reducing the impact of nutrient run-off compared to a river with arable cropping being practised right up to the top of the bank. Large tracts of semi-natural

vegetation along river valleys can also function as a wildlife corridor, assisting in the dispersal of fauna through the open countryside.

6.7.10 There can be justification in considering some riverside willow plantations within this broad category, where the wildlife interest is associated with the tall herb vegetation rather than the 'woodland' cover. In these situations, there is likely to be some cross-over with the swamp and tall-herb fen communities considered in section 6.12.

6.7.11 HCr14

Significant areas of river flood-plain grassland should be considered for selection, especially those areas still subject to seasonal inundation. The role of such grasslands as wildlife corridors should also be considered (WSS6, 7, 8).

6.7.12 The extreme rarity of chalk grassland in Essex suggests that all sites supporting assemblages of chalk grassland species (see Appendix 5) should be considered for selection.

6.7.13 HCr15

All areas of grassland supporting assemblages of species included in Appendix 5 should be considered for selection (WSS 7, 8: rarity, fragility).

6.7.14 Acid grasslands are treated within section 6.9 'heathland'.

6.8 COASTAL GRAZING MARSH

6.8.1 There is some justification in assuming that all sites retaining characteristic field patterns and drainage systems which still have ecological links to the adjacent estuarine habitats should be considered for selection. This may be provided, for example, through movements of wildfowl and waders or tidal flow of brackish water over part of the site. Many such sites are of importance because of their size, wetness or remoteness from disturbance and are of particular importance for overwintering wildfowl and waders, as well as breeding species during the summer. As such, floristic diversity is not necessarily a key quality. Many important sites for brent geese *Branta bernicla* are improved grassland swards, with the key qualities being sward height, size of field, proximity of the open estuary and freedom from

disturbance. That said, many such sites will support characteristic assemblages of grazing marsh plants and animals and these may be worthy of conservation in their own right, even if use by wildfowl and waders is less significant due to disturbance, small size of site or inappropriate management. The Essex Red Data List includes many brackish water invertebrates for which coastal grazing marshes are an important habitat.

6.8.2 HCr16

All fragments of former coastal grazing marsh shall be considered for selection. Consideration should be given to size, diversity, the presence of anthills, low-ways and periodically inundated creeks, notable species and the degree of isolation from the associated estuary. The presence of a characteristic flora is desirable but is not essential, especially where the main focus of importance is over-wintering wildfowl and waders (WSS 7, 8).

6.8.3 HCr17

All sites exhibiting an unrestricted upper saltmarsh to grassland transition should be considered for selection (WSS 7, 8: naturalness, rarity).

6.9 HEATHLAND

6.9.1 Such is the scarcity of this habitat type in Essex, it is felt that all land supporting stands of heathland vegetation should be selected, however sparse the cover of ericaceous plants and however small the site. Furthermore, this habitat encompasses acid grassland, even if no ericaceous shrubs are present, as well as the very limited extent of sphagnum bogs remaining in the county. The basis for identifying blocks of heathland should be the Lowland Heathland Inventory although it should be emphasised that small fragments, still worthy of inclusion, may have been overlooked in the Inventory.

6.9.2 Sites should still be included even if they have succumbed to scrub or secondary woodland invasion if it is considered that the heathland could be restored with appropriate management and a characteristic ground flora still persists (WSS 8: potential value).

6.9.3 HCr18

All heathland sites listed on the Natural England Lowland Heathland Inventory for Essex should be considered for selection (WSS 7).

6.9.4 HCr19

Any other site supporting characteristic heathland or acid grassland species and with the potential for restoration shall be considered for selection (WSS 7, 8).

6.10 POST INDUSTRIAL SITES WITH HIGH NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE

6.10.1 This habitat, often referred to as 'brownfield', embraces a variety of derelict land, old mineral workings, post-industrial sites, silt lagoons, fly-ash dumps and other places largely created by human activity. They can be of significant importance for individual species of flora and fauna as well as assemblages of species. As a result, in many situations, one could argue for the selection of any given site through Species Selection Criteria, with several notable species favouring such sites. However, there is a certain suite of habitat conditions that are favourable to the support of biodiversity in general on these sites.

6.10.2 Post-industrial habitats of high nature conservation value may be characterised as unmanaged flower-rich grasslands with sparsely-vegetated areas developed on infertile substrates. Typically they comprise mosaics of the following habitats: areas of bare ground; early pioneer communities; longer established open grasslands; scrub; together with patches of other habitats such as heathland, swamp, ephemeral pools and inundation grassland. The vegetation can have similarities to early/pioneer communities (particularly grasslands) on more 'natural' substrates but, due to the severity of the edaphic conditions, the habitat can often persist for decades without active management (intervention).

6.10.3 Also included within this description are significant areas for wildlife developed from, or forming part of, the built environment. In particular those associated with derelict or ruined historic structures such as castles, walls, burial mounds and more recent military fortifications.

6.10.4 The main factors to consider when assessing brownfield/post-industrial sites or derelict buildings or structures for selection include:

- rich and/or large examples of habitat(s) typical of the substrate/edaphic conditions, which demonstrate the characteristic mosaic of bare ground, pioneer communities, flower-rich grassland and other habitat patches;
- presence of significant populations of notable species;
- sites which have retained areas of bare ground and pioneer communities over an extended period, demonstrating arrested succession;
- sites which are the last remaining examples in former industrial or urban areas where the habitat was formerly widespread or extensive;

- sites with a high scientific interest because of historical records or the nature of particular substrates or properties that may be especially rare; and/or
- the presence of an area of open water or the potential to become flooded, especially seasonally wet and saline areas.

6.10.5 HCr20

Brownfield/post-industrial sites or derelict buildings/structures of high nature conservation value will be considered for selection if they are known to support notable species or where it can be demonstrated they provide the habitat qualities necessary to support such species. The site may include sections of land that might not otherwise qualify for selection, if they provide one or more of the ecological requirements of the notable species (WSS 6, 7, 8).

6.11 REEDBEDS

6.11.1 All significant stands of more or less pure reed growth are included within this UK and Essex BAP habitat. Use by reed-specialist birds (e.g. Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and Sedge Warbler *A. schoenobaenus*, Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* and Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*) is desirable but not essential since the habitat is also important for a number of specialist invertebrates, notably some moths and solitary bees. Other swamp communities are discussed separately.

6.11.2 HCr21

All significant stands of reed *Phragmites australis* will be considered for selection (WSS 7), either in their own right or as part of a larger mosaic of habitats. Selection should take into account overall size, the shape of the bed (with wider stands more desirable), and also the degree of human disturbance.

6.11.3 HCr22

Smaller or narrower stands of reedbed shall be considered if they form part of a mosaic of other habitats, including open water, wet woodland, marsh and other swamp communities (WSS 8).

6.12 SWAMP AND TALL-HERB FEN

6.12.1 In Essex, most areas of tall-herb fen and swamp communities occur along the edges of rivers, ponds, lakes and other water bodies, rather than as extensive stands in their own right. Such marginal vegetation is likely to be included within any open water or mosaic Local Wildlife Site. Any extensive area of swamp vegetation or tall-herb fen is likely to be a scarce habitat, dependent upon a narrow range of environmental conditions to develop, and often supporting uncommon species. For some swamp types e.g. Sea Club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, Reedmace *Typha latifolia*, the vegetation is characteristically species-poor, but provide important habitat for many species of bird, mammal and/or invertebrate. In some of these situations, selection may be more appropriately dealt with via the 'Species Selection Criteria'.

6.12.2 Riverside willow plantations can develop a form of wet grassland mosaic with tall-herb fen and sedge beds that may be considered under this category.

6.12.3 HCr23

Significant areas of species-rich swamp or tall-herb fen, or such habitat known to support notable species should be considered for selection. Usually such sites will include the associated water body or source of groundwater, if applicable.

6.13 FRESHWATER HABITATS

6.13.1 The complexities of characterising aquatic vegetation make the identification of sections of river, canal, borrow dyke or individual lakes and ponds on habitat grounds less precise than for terrestrial habitats. This section establishes a framework for site selection, but it is recommended that bodies of water, including obviously man-made structures such as farm reservoirs and flood storage areas, should mainly be designated via Species Selection Criteria aimed particularly at protecting the following important aquatic features:

- fish stocks, e.g. Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* and Twaiter Shad *A. fallax*, Bullhead *Cottus gobio*, Barbel *Barbus barbus*, Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*;
- invertebrates, e.g. White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes*, and Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*;
- flora, e.g. diverse assemblages of pond-weeds *Potamogeton* spp. or crowfoots *Ranunculus* spp.; and/or
- other notable species.

6.13.2 HCr24

Where a section of river, stream, canal or borrow dyke is designated via Species Selection Criteria, a minimum 500 metre section of that water course shall be designated (250 metres upstream and downstream of a positive sample site) or 250 metres upstream and downstream of the end points of a cluster of records from the same population (WSS6). The Wildlife Site shall be deemed to extend at least 2 metres away from the top of the bank into the adjacent habitat.

6.13.3 HCr25

Where two designated sections of watercourse are separated by no more than 1000 metres of undesignated water, the intervening section may be included within one large site, if it is deemed that the central section has the potential to be restored to good condition or realistically colonised by the species concerned (WSS 6, 8: potential value).

6.13.4 HCr26

Where sections of lakes or ponds hold species or vegetation stands of interest, the whole water body shall be designated (WSS 6, 8).

6.13.5 HCr27

Sections of river that support a suite of natural features, leading to a complex riverine habitat structure should be considered for selection. Such features should include a good diversity of emergent vegetation: floating aquatic plants; shallow 'riffles' and deeper pools; natural, rather than hard, engineered banks; and a more or less meandering, rather than canalised, course (WSS 8: naturalness, rarity, size, diversity, fragility).

6.14 SALINE LAGOONS

6.14.1 Within the broader definition of this habitat used in the Essex and UK BAP, all tidal or semi-tidal brackish or saline lagoons and inundated borrow dykes will be considered for selection. Close proximity to other coastal habitats of nature conservation value is also desirable.

6.14.2 HCr28

Sections of borrow dyke and tidal or semi-tidal brackish or saline lagoons should be considered for selection. Such sites should have some ecological link with adjacent coastal habitats (WSS 7, 8).

6.15 SAND DUNE AND SHINGLE

6.15.1 These habitat types are scarce in Essex and largely protected within the SSSI system. However, they are such fragile, rare and, typically, diverse habitats that there should be a presumption in favour of selecting all remaining fragments. Due to the scarcity of this habitat, most of the characteristic plants are on the Essex Red Data List.

6.15.2 HCr29

All areas of sand dune and shingle habitat exhibiting a characteristic land form and flora should be considered for selection (WSS 8).

6.16 OTHER HABITAT CRITERIA

6.16.1 The following Essex BAP habitats are not included within specific criteria, although in many cases the system allows for their characteristic species to support site selection through 'Species Selection criteria'.

6.16.2 **Cereal Field Margins** are only likely to be selected if part of a whole-farm conservation network and shown to be supporting populations of associated notable species.

6.16.3 **Coastal saltmarsh and eelgrass beds:** Wildlife Site status is usually restricted in Essex to terrestrial and freshwater habitats rather than inter-tidal habitats. Most, if

not all, eelgrass *Zostera* spp. beds off the Essex coast are already covered by SSSI protection as well as international designations.

6.16.4 **Urban Habitats:** the BAP for this category is very broad, encompassing old countryside features encapsulated in towns by urban sprawl, newly 'designed' green areas within urban development, and also brownfield and post-industrial sites. The most important urban habitat types are dealt with in section 6.10.

6.16.5 Two final habitat criterion, which should be considered with caution, address separate issues relating to site selection, which may arise from time to time and cannot be adequately resolved via the 'conventional' habitat or species criteria. The first deals with a site which suffers several 'near misses' against a number of other habitat or species criteria. For example, it might have an interesting suite of invertebrates but without any notable species being present, plus a good but not exceptional flora, or it appears to function as a wildlife corridor between two important sites. In these situations, there is some justification in including special cases within the selection process, although over-reliance on this criterion is not recommended.

6.16.6 HCr30

A site that comes close to qualifying on a number of other selection criteria can be considered for selection based upon its overall nature conservation interest. The case for selection must be supported by suitably qualified experts in those species and/or habitats involved (WSS 8).

6.16.7 The second although not strictly a habitat criterion, plays a similar 'supportive' role by providing a means to select a site which just fails to meet other habitat or species criteria, but which provides important opportunities for amenity or education consistent with the 2006 Defra guidance.

6.16.8 HCr31

A site that comes close to qualifying on a number of other selection criteria can be considered for selection based upon its amenity and/or education value. The case for selection must be supported by suitably qualified experts in the appropriate field of interest (WSS 10).

7. SPECIES SELECTION CRITERIA

7.1 PREAMBLE

7.1.1 Wildlife Site Statement 5 sets the scene for this section, in presuming that at least one viable population of all notable species known from Essex will be included within the Local Wildlife Site network, especially if not already protected within the SSSI series. The following criteria are included as a more detailed means of delivering that Statement. Under this category one can consider two sub-groups: Local Wildlife Sites identified for a single species and others identified to protect an assemblage of species. It is assumed that 'assemblages of important plant species' will have been covered by a Habitat Selection Criterion, so that one is left with individual plant species and both individual and assemblages of fauna of nature conservation interest.

7.1.2 In all cases selection should be subject to the condition that the site boundary encompasses a significant area of known habitat requirements. For example, nesting sites and food/prey foraging conditions are present in viable quantities. Thus, for a species such as the national BAP bumblebee *Bombus sylvarum* it would not be sufficient just to find a specimen on a site. There would need to be viable flower-rich areas comprising species such as Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Red Bartsia *Odontites vernus* and clovers *Trifolium* spp. plus likely nesting habitat (e.g. relatively unmanaged tall open warm grasslands) and over-wintering habitat (e.g. rough grassland). Furthermore, not all sites with singing Nightingales should be selected, but sites where breeding of several pairs is proven to be taking place might be selected.

7.1.3 Previous deliberations of the Essex Wildlife Sites Review Panel suggested that a scoring system should be developed to help select which species assemblages should be proposed as Local Wildlife Sites. This scoring system does not yet exist and so a more subjective and yet still defensible selection process is used here in the interim. Wildlife Site Statement 5 states that only significant populations of notable species should be considered for protection. There is therefore a need to have a selection process to determine what constitutes a 'significant population' for a given species or assemblage of species.

7.1.4 The following selection criteria are designed to identify sites where selection may be considered but eventual notification as a Local Wildlife Site will depend on further considerations. These include the viability of the habitat available to support the species or the potential to bring surrounding land into a favourable condition (in which case that land should be included within the Local Wildlife Site). It will also be necessary to consider whether or not a potentially stable breeding colony may exist (rather than just the transient occurrence of the species on a site), as well as the context of the population within its known range, both nationally and in the county.

7.2 AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

7.2.1 There are five native amphibians in Essex: Common Frog *Rana temporaria*, Common Toad *Bufo bufo*, Palmate Newt *Triturus helveticus*, Smooth Newt *T. vulgaris* and Great Crested Newt *T. cristatus*. The latter is a UK and Essex BAP species and fully protected under UK and European law (see Appendix 2 for more details about wildlife law). Some county selection criteria propose the selection of all breeding sites for Great Crested Newt, but this is felt to be an unworkable criterion in Essex on account of the number of Great Crested Newt ponds likely to occur in the county. The criterion adopted here is broader in scope, but it is recommended that local authorities support the maintenance of a separate 'alert map' of all Great Crested Newt ponds, so as to draw attention to the legal safeguards afforded to this species when planning or land use changes threaten ponds or associated habitats.

7.2.2 SCr1

Significant breeding populations of Great Crested Newts shall be considered for selection. Such sites should have a suitable flora for egg-laying and nursery areas, and should include a core area of terrestrial habitat used outside the breeding season. Consideration shall be given to the proximity or otherwise of adjacent populations (WSS 6, 7).

7.2.3 Palmate Newts would appear to be the scarcest herptile in Essex and are therefore worthy of more specific protection.

7.2.4 SCr2

Any site (other than a garden pond) known to support a breeding population of palmate newts shall be considered for selection. Such sites should have a

suitable flora for egg-laying and nursery areas and should include a core area of terrestrial habitat used outside the breeding season (WSS 5, 6, 12).

7.2.5 There is also a value in protecting general amphibian diversity.

7.2.6 **SCr3**

Any site (other than a garden pond) with three or more species of breeding amphibian shall be considered for selection. Such sites should have a suitable flora for egg-laying and nursery areas, and should include a core area of terrestrial habitat used outside the breeding season (WSS 5, 6, 12).

7.2.7 There are four species of reptile in Essex: Adder *Vipera berus*, Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, Common (or Viviparous) Lizard *Lacerta vivipera* and Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*.

7.2.8 **SCr4**

Any site supporting significant populations of three or more reptile species shall be considered for selection. Such sites should include sufficient terrestrial (and in the case of grass snake also aquatic) habitat to maintain viable populations of the species (WSS 5, 6).

7.2.9 There is also a need to consider a more general contribution to overall herptile biodiversity.

7.2.10 **SCr5**

The presence of two species of reptile and/or amphibian species can be used to further the case for selection in the instance of marginal sites that might not otherwise have been selected, under other criteria. Such sites should include sufficient terrestrial (and in the case of grass snake also aquatic) habitat to maintain viable populations of the species (WSS 5, 6).

7.3 **MAMMALS - BATS**

7.3.1 Bats are protected under UK and European Wildlife law, which makes it an offence to disturb roost sites. However, there is additional value in having a criterion to identify and protect hibernation sites.

7.3.2 **SCr6**

All colonial hibernation sites for any bats species in Essex (other than an occupied residential property) shall be considered for selection as a Local Wildlife Site (WSS 5, 7).

7.4 DORMOUSE

7.4.1 This is a national and Essex BAP species and one that is very scarce in Essex.

7.4.2 SCr7

All sites known to support breeding populations of Dormouse should be considered for selection. All woodland immediately contiguous with the known site should also be included if it supports habitat conditions thought to be suitable for dormice (WSS 5, 6, 7).

7.4.3 SCr8

All woodland with suitable habitat conditions connected by suitable area of habitat (e.g. one or more hedgerows) to a known Dormouse population should be considered for selection, as should the connecting corridors (WSS 5, 6, 7).

7.5 OTTER

7.5.1 Otters are fully protected under UK and European wildlife law. In recent years they have spread across much of Essex as a result of naturally extending populations and from released captive-bred stock. A number of artificial Otter holts have been constructed in order to encourage them to settle. Whilst they range over sections of river that are too long to accurately identify, their holts are worthy of protection.

7.5.2 SCr9

Any Otter holt, natural or artificial, known to have been occupied within the last 5 years, plus the sections of river 200 metres either side of that holt, and all semi-natural vegetation 20 metres behind that length of river bank shall be considered for selection (WSS 5, 7).

7.6 WATER VOLE

7.6.1 This is a national and Essex BAP species and appears to be scarce in Essex. The most robust populations are now confined to the coastal grazing marshes with the species declining or lost in most Essex river systems primarily due to predation by

North American Mink *Mustela vison*. In some urban watercourses, rats can be a significant threat to Water Vole colonies. Habitat loss through drought, pollution, and damage to burrow systems during water course management or development are also possible causes of local extinctions.

7.6.2 **SCr10**

Any watercourse or wetland system containing breeding populations of Water Vole should be considered for selection. Watercourses or wetland systems with sub-optimal habitat, that link otherwise fragmented populations, should also be considered if suitable habitat enhancement could be expected to result in the integration of those populations.

7.7 **BIRDS**

7.7.1 The basis for the conservation of bird species in Essex is taken to be the Essex Red Data List, which is largely based on the UK Red and Amber alert lists (produced by the British Trust for Ornithology), plus more detailed local knowledge from the Essex Birdwatching Society. Many species included in the ERDL are in need of conservation management and protection based upon changing agricultural and land management practices across the wider countryside, rather than the protection of small, specific sites. Thus, whilst the Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* is a farmland bird in decline, it would be unfeasible to identify all hedgerows and scrub blocks where it breeds. However, Little Tern colonies, Hawfinch *Coccothraustus coccothraustus* woodlands and heronries are more discrete units and should be considered for selection.

7.7.2 In addition to notable species, there are likely to be some sites that warrant selection as a result of the regular presence of significant breeding or over-wintering populations of relatively commonplace species, such as Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* or Curlew. In these situations, selection should be informed by advice from the Essex Birdwatching Society.

7.7.3 **SCr11**

Where significant breeding or over-wintering habitat of notable bird species can be reasonably identified as discrete areas, then they shall be considered for selection.

7.7.4 SCr12

Other sites shall be considered for selection where it can be demonstrated that they regularly support significant breeding or over-wintering populations of non-notable bird species.

7.8 INVERTEBRATES

7.8.1 The Invertebrate Site Register (ISR) for Essex is largely out of date and not exhaustive in its identification of important invertebrate habitat. As a result, it should be used only as a focus for further research into invertebrate populations. The first step in most cases will be to determine whether or not the species listed within the Register are still present.

7.8.2 A more suitable basis for selection of sites with significant invertebrate interest is the various scoring systems for invertebrate populations that have been developed (see Appendix 6). In particular, the Species Quality Index (SQI) is recognised nationally as a rational methodology for identifying important assemblages of invertebrates.

7.8.3 SCr13

A site known or suspected to support a breeding assemblage of invertebrates with a Species Quality Index of at least 5 will be considered for selection (minimum sample of 60 species, 8 hours of field work) (WSS 8: Diversity, Rarity).

7.8.4 Notwithstanding this, some species will be of such national rarity or local significance that they alone might qualify the site for selection:

7.8.5 SCr14

Significant populations of notable invertebrates or noteworthy assemblages of distinct taxa (e.g. dragonflies, butterflies) should be considered for selection. The interpretation of significance should take into account both the core populations at the centre of the species range and also stable populations on the periphery, especially where colony expansion or colonisation of nearby habitat is likely (WSS 5).

7.9 PLANTS

7.9.1 For the sake of simplicity, this category includes flowering plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi.

7.9.2 **SCr15**

Significant populations of notable vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens and/or fungi should be considered for selection. Where there is ambiguity, guidance will be sought from the relevant county expert to help determine what represents a significant population for a particular species (WSS 5).

APPENDIX 2
SUMMARY TABLE OF LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

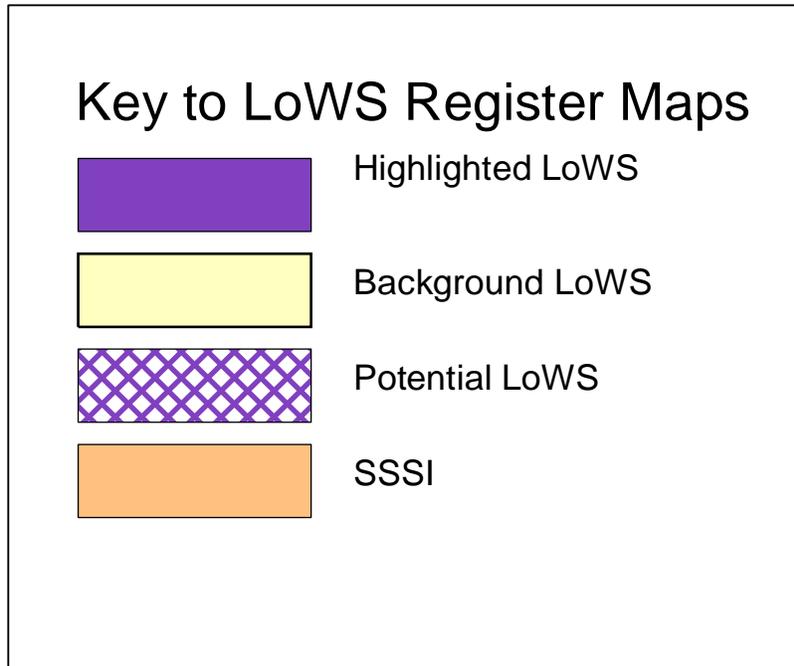
Code	Site Name	Area (ha)	Grid Ref.
Te1	Ardleigh Reservoir Wood	2.1	TM 026287
Te2	Birch Wood	0.7	TM 028303
Te3	Ardleigh Reservoir Grassland	3.1	TM 032284
Te4	Churn Wood Meadow	1.3	TM 033256
Te5	Churn Wood	26.3	TM 036259
Te6	Wall's Wood	14.3	TM 037271
Te7	Chapel Lane Verge	0.03	TM 039263
Te8	Pyecats Corner Verges	0.3	TM 043254
Te9	Manor House Meadow	1.6	TM 052288
Te10	Springhead Corner Meadow	2.0	TM 053286
Te11	Alresford Grange	5.2	TM 055207
Te12	Villa Farm Quarry	25.8	TM 056217
Te13	Noah's Ark Pit	11.9	TM 060186
Te14	Alresford Lodge Pits	43.4	TM 061204
Te15	Palegate Wood	5.8	TM 061235
Te16	St. Peter's Church, Alresford	0.4	TM 064206
Te17	Park Wood	1.4	TM 064230
Te18	Crestland Wood Meadow	2.5	TM 067210
Te19	Oldhall Wood	6.9	TM 068203
Te20	Money Wood	1.7	TM 068253
Te21	Crestland Wood	14.1	TM 069208
Te22	Thicks Wood	12.3	TM 070189
Te23	Tenpenny Farm Wood	1.4	TM 073215
Te24	Fratinghall/Captains Woods	14.5	TM 074228
Te25	Shir Burn Wood and Meadow	8.6	TM 074312
Te26	Alresford Hall Woods	34.8	TM 075200
Te27	Mill Wood	4.5	TM 075248
Te28	Hockley Farm Wood2	8.5	TM 077223
Te29	Wick's /Lodge Wood	8.4	TM 078177
Te30	Tenpenny Brook	4.7	TM 079203
Te31	Thorrington Plantation	12.2	TM 080203
Te32	Church Road Wood, Frating	1.1	TM 081222
Te33	Manning Grove	2.1	TM 081275
Te34	Judas Gap Marsh	12.1	TM 081324
Te35	Mill Dam Meadow	1.6	TM 083196
Te36	Poplar Chase	19.8	TM 083210
Te37	Great Bromley Churchyard	0.3	TM 083262
Te38	Thors Park Meadow	2.6	TM 085200
Te39	Rook Wood	3.6	TM 086190
Te40	Wignall Street Grassland	2.5	TM 086310
Te41	Hockley Wood	14.8	TM 088213
Te42	Lawford Churchyard	0.6	TM 089315
Te43	Thorrington Marshes	20.8	TM 091185
Te44	Little Bromley Churchyard	0.3	TM 091278
Te45	Wignall Brook Grasslands	14.0	TM 091314
Te46	East End Green	2.0	TM 097168
Te47	Robinson Road Ponds	2.7	TM 097173

Te48	Thorringtonhall Wood	48.5	TM 101192
Te49	Frating Abbey Farm Road Verge	0.2	TM 103199
Te50	Bentley Brook	39.0	TM 105208
Te51	Lower Farm Marshes	61.2	TM 106175
Te52	Hopping Bridge Marsh	1.2	TM 111319
Te53	Little Bentleyhall Wood	43.4	TM 113244
Te54	Flag Creek Marsh	5.6	TM 114170
Te55	Great Bentley Pumping Station	3.5	TM 114222
Te56	Dead Lane Verge	0.1	TM 116183
Te57	St. Osyth Parkland	91.3	TM 118163
Te58	Furze Hills Complex	20.2	TM 118311
Te59	High Barn Wood	3.3	TM 123229
Te60	Reed Pond	1.5	TM 124150
Te61	Martin's Grove	5.2	TM 124186
Te62	Aingers Green Verges	0.6	TM 125200
Te63	St. Osyth Cemetery	0.7	TM 127163
Te64	Shair Wood	1.1	TM 129230
Te65	Milton Wood	6.0	TM 131190
Te66	Stockets Grove	2.4	TM 131198
Te67	Pump Hill Verges	0.6	TM 132160
Te68	Violet Grove	0.3	TM 136190
Te69	Simplebirch and Bowshots Wood	9.5	TM 138197
Te70	Pilcox Wood	3.1	TM 138252
Te71	Jaywick Beach	12.8	TM 139126
Te72	Oakhurst Wood	7.5	TM 140205
Te73	High Grove	2.1	TM 141174
Te74	Goose Green Verge	0.03	TM 141254
Te75	Gutteridge Wood	5.2	TM 142210
Te76	Maldon Wood	13.8	TM 143196
Te77	Hillands Wood	4.6	TM 143234
Te78	Jaywick Marshes	59.0	TM 144134
Te79	Home Wood	6.6	TM 149234
Te80	Hartley Wood	29.7	TM 151176
Te81	Tendring Grove	4.9	TM 153243
Te82	Coppin's Hall Wood	2.4	TM 155161
Te83	Weeley Bypass	18.2	TM 156194
Te84	Island and Roger's Groves	8.3	TM 158220
Te85	Stonehall Wood	2.8	TM 158256
Te86	Simon's Wood	3.6	TM 160239
Te87	Far Thorpe Green	2.8	TM 162226
Te88	Gravel Wood	8.1	TM 162253
Te89	Killgrove Wood	3.3	TM 163265
Te90	Wrabness Depot and Marsh	29.8	TM 163315
Te91	Dengewell Wood	4.2	TM 166276
Te92	Burcart's Meadow	4.3	TM 167180
Te93	Lower Botany Farm	4.4	TM 167208
Te94	Broadmeadow Wood	3.7	TM 169263
Te95	Thorpe Green	1.0	TM 170231
Te96	Brakey Grove	6.0	TM 172313
Te97	Glebe Wood	3.4	TM 175258
Te98	Upper Holland Brook	42.8	TM 177212
Te99	St. Michael's Churchyard	1.6	TM 179222

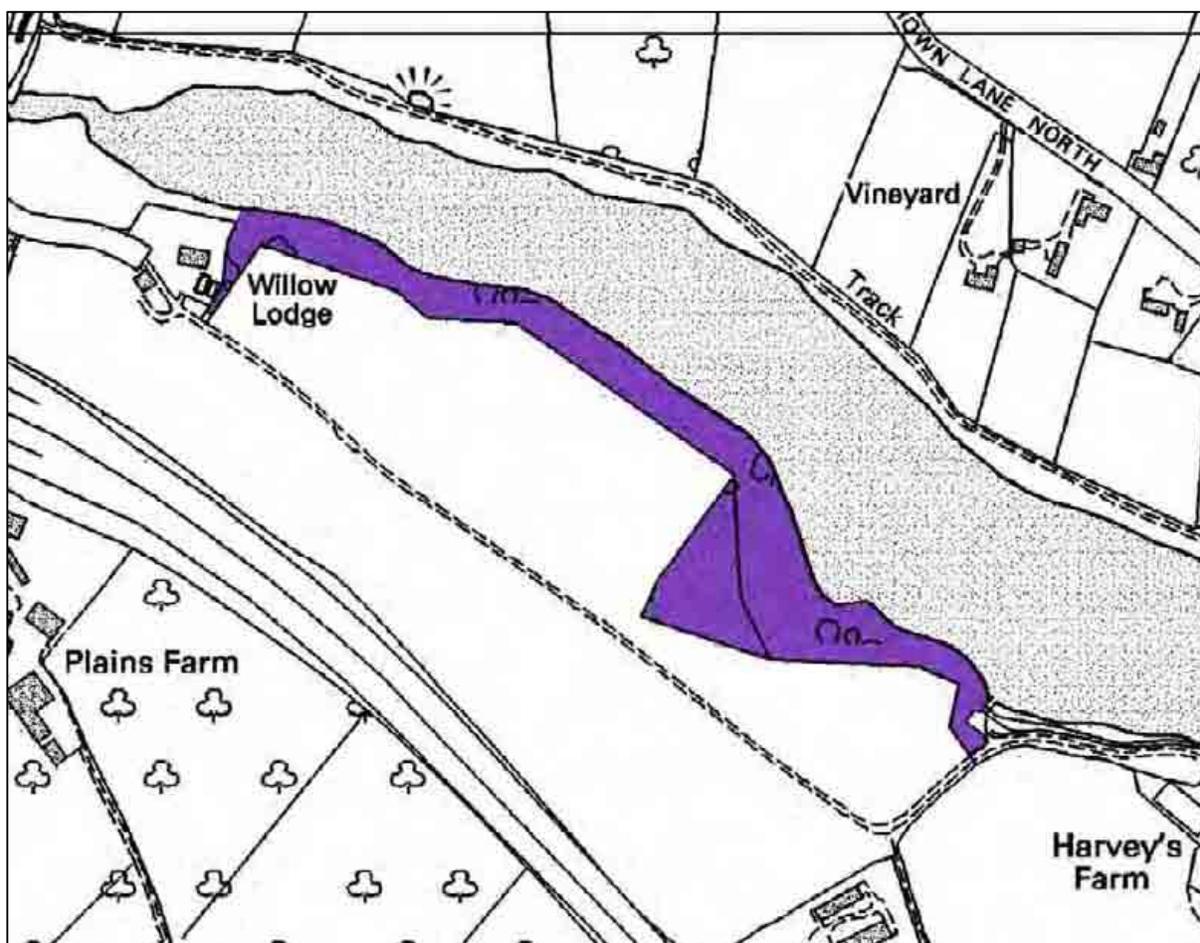
Te100	Bursville Park	10.6	TM 180170
Te101	Wrabness Siding	0.2	TM 180315
Te102	West Grove	2.1	TM 180319
Te103	The Grove	0.7	TM 183175
Te104	East Grove	1.5	TM 183318
Te105	Clacton Cemetery	5.0	TM 184168
Te106	Beaumont Bridge Verge	0.01	TM 185237
Te107	Clacton North Cliff	0.8	TM 187153
Te108	Beaumont Marsh	4.6	TM 188250
Te109	Great Holland Pits	13.4	TM 202192
Te110	Soils Wood	3.2	TM 203286
Te111	Copperas Wood East	3.0	TM 206317
Te112	Whinny Grove	1.2	TM 215302
Te113	Michaelstowe Hall	7.8	TM 218306
Te114	Hollandhall Wood	5.3	TM 220195
Te115	Ramsey Ray	50.0	TM 232317
Te116	Dockfield Avenue Allotments	2.2	TM 236312
Te117	Frinton Cliffs	17.2	TM 242199
Te118	Pedlars Wood	2.7	TM 244209
Te119	The Hangings	6.7	TM 247317
Te120	Station Lane Grassland	4.3	TM 250317
Te121	Walton Mere	27.3	TM 252224
Te122	Barnes Spinney	1.3	TM 257226
Te123	Harwich Beach	0.9	TM 262325
Te124	The Naze	16.4	TM 265237
Te125	Bentley Green (West)	1.3	TM 111220

APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES



The “Highlighted” LoWS is that site being discussed; “Background” LoWS are other Sites that appear within the map image, these include those sites in Colchester Borough where the map image crosses the district boundary.



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Te1 Ardleigh Reservoir Wood (2.1 ha) TM 026287

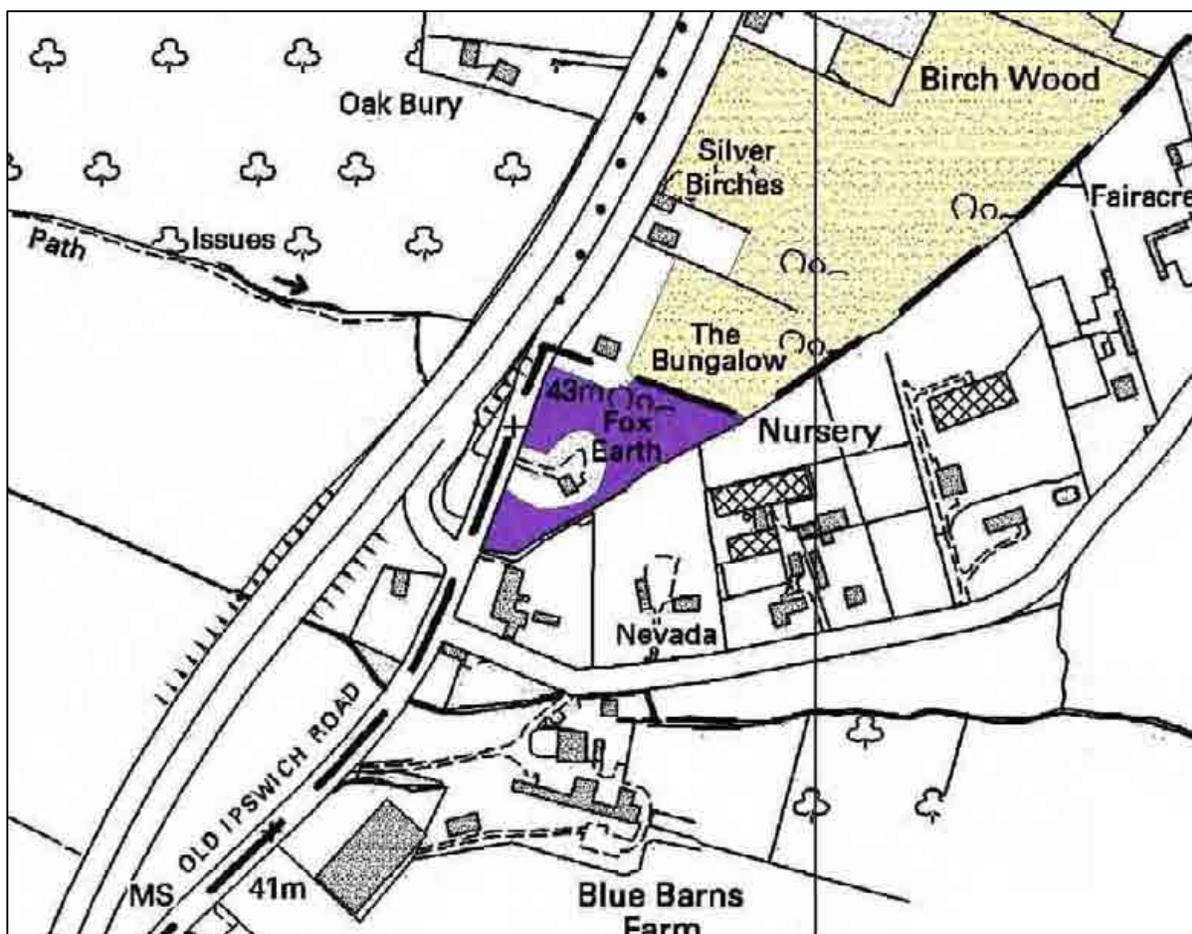
This narrow but lengthy (approx.600 m) area of dense mature woodland shows evidence of some old coppicing with stools of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). A few pollards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) exist in the canopy. Other tree species include Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), White Willow (*Salix alba*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The ground flora is typified by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Selection criteria: HCr2(b), HCr2(d)

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te2 Birch Wood (0.7 ha) TM 028303

Only a small triangular section of this ancient wood lies within Tendring District, the majority being in Colchester Borough (Site Co151). The canopy is dominated by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The understorey is typified by Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and locally frequent Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) over a ground cover of mainly Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) round the edges.

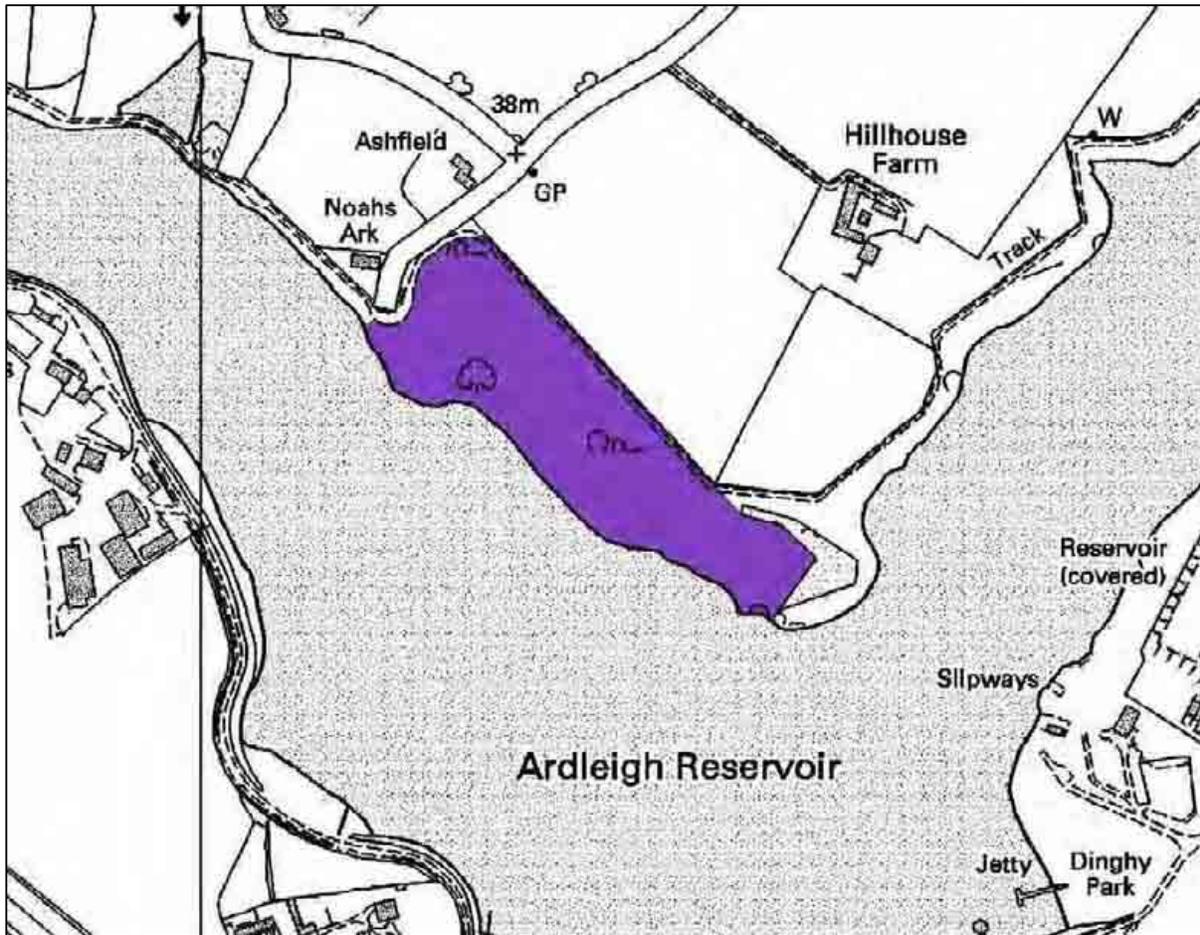
In common with the rest of Birch Wood, this site is suffering from long-term piecemeal conversion into garden space for the adjacent properties, with deleterious effects on the integrity of the wood as a whole.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te3 Ardleigh Reservoir Grassland (3.1 ha) TM 032284

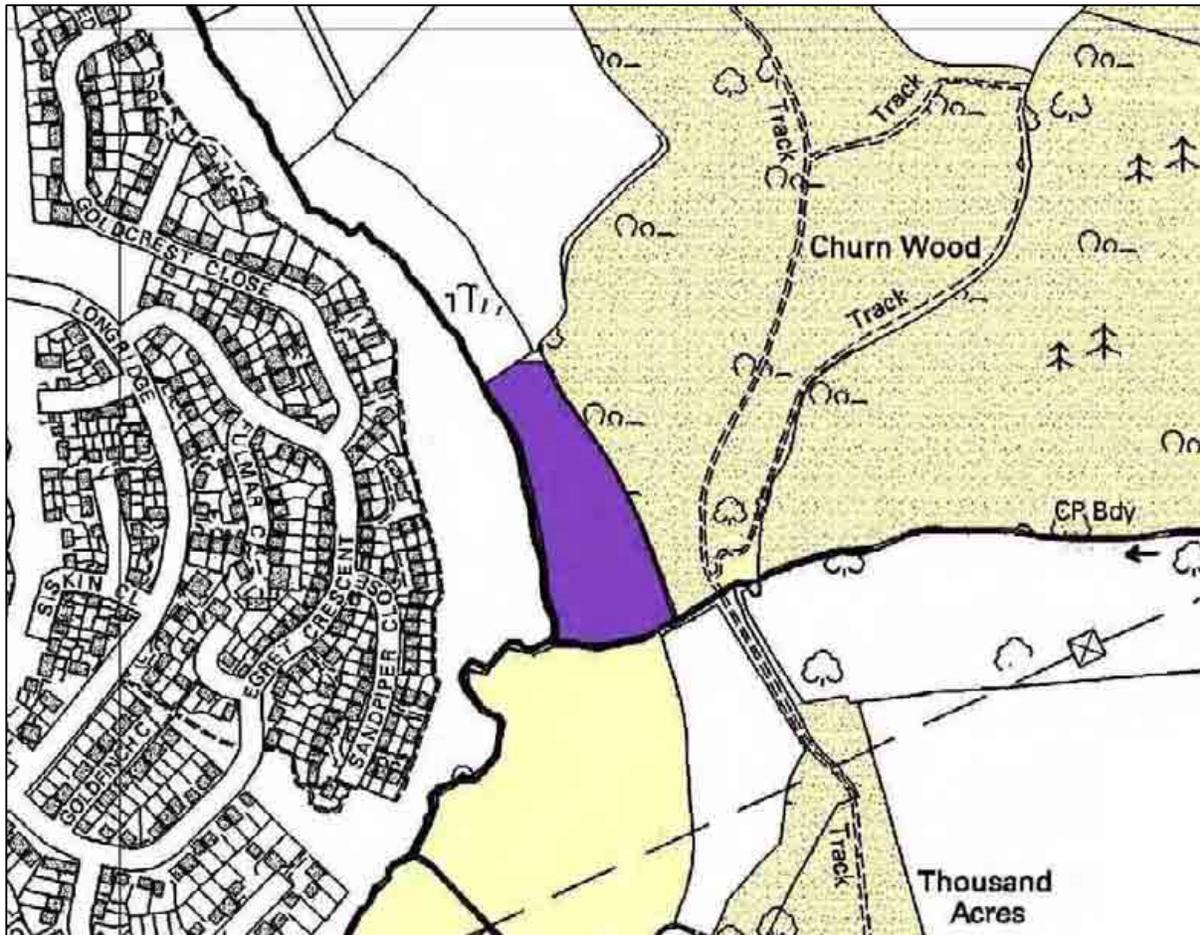
Positioned on the edge of reservoir, this mosaic contains grassland, scattered scrub and small Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) wood. The scrub is mainly young Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Alder, Willow (*Salix spp.*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Birch (*Betula spp.*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*) with grassland species represented by Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Rough Meadow Grass (*Poa trivialis*), Bent (*Agrostis spp.*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) with Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) are among species growing close to a water edge.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te4 Churn Wood Meadow (1.3 ha) TM 033256

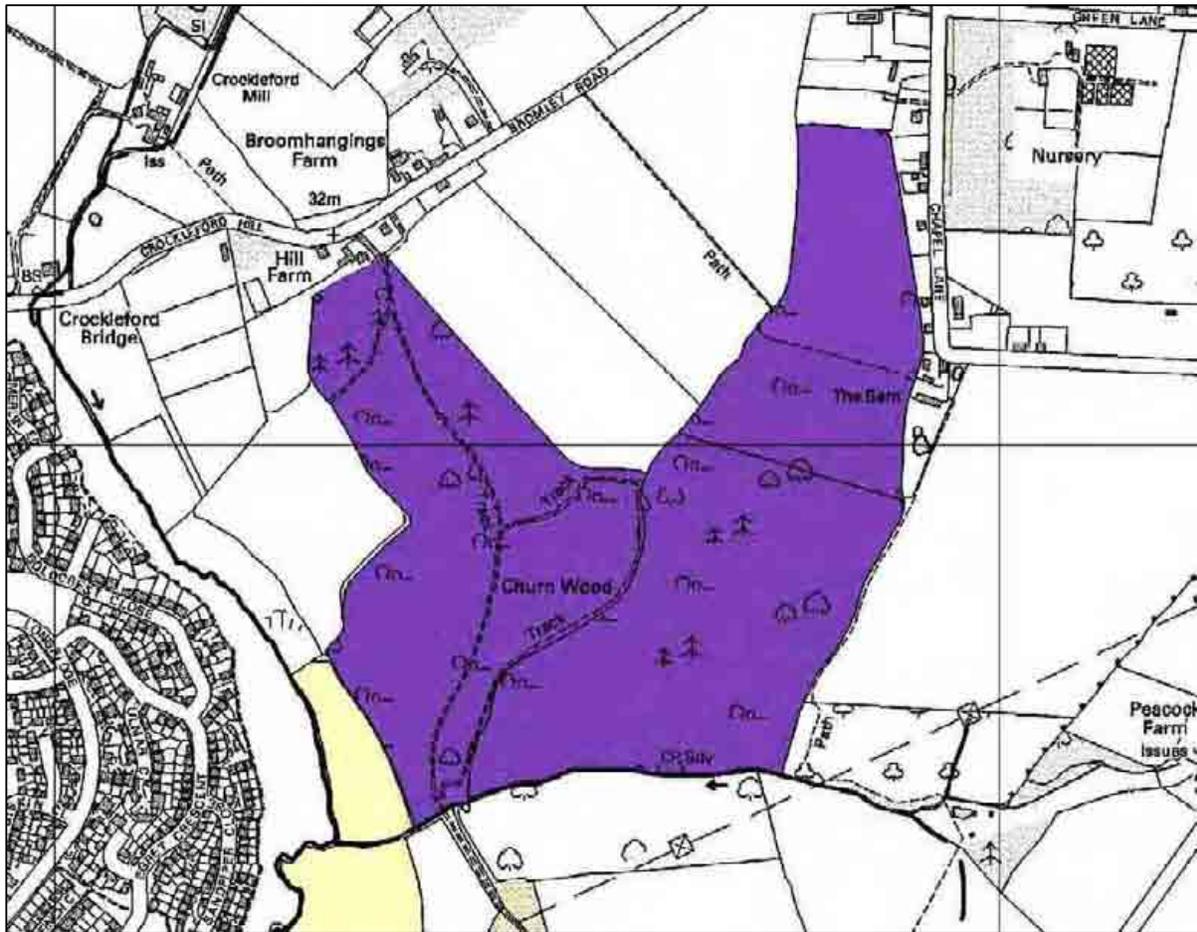
This small field on the district boundary forms the northern tip of an important wetland/grassland site along the Salary Brook within Colchester Borough (as Site Co146). Two different grassland swards occur- marshy grassland to the south-east with Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) were also recorded. The second, drier grassland is typified by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Young scrub including Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is encroaching mainly along the eastern boundary.

Selection criteria: HCr10

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te5 Churn Wood (26.3 ha) TM 036259

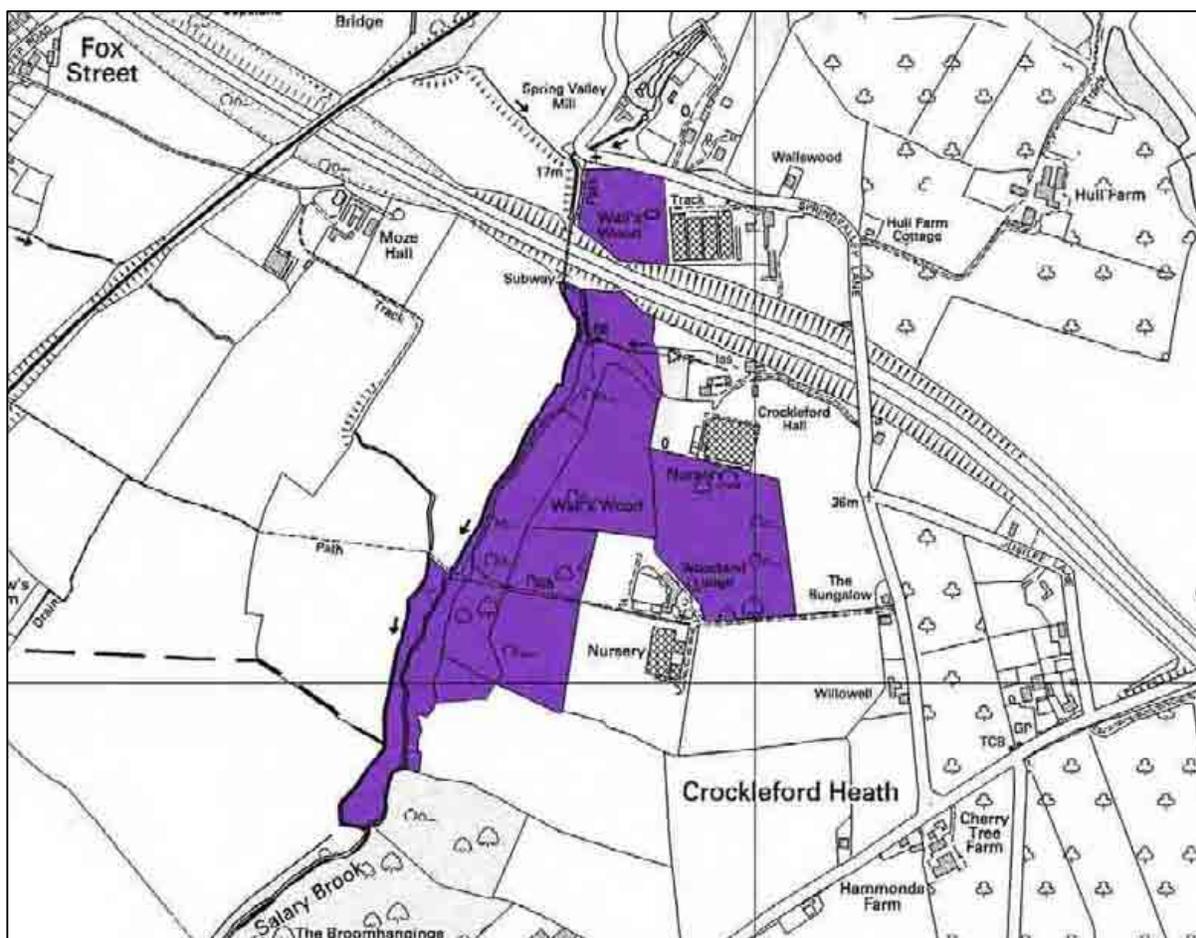
This large ancient woodland site is of mixed structure (broadleaved and coniferous) consisting partly of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and partly coniferous plantation of Spruce (*Picea sp.*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Other tree/shrub species include Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and elm (*Ulmus sp.*). The ground flora contains Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te6 Wall's Wood (14.3 ha) TM 037271

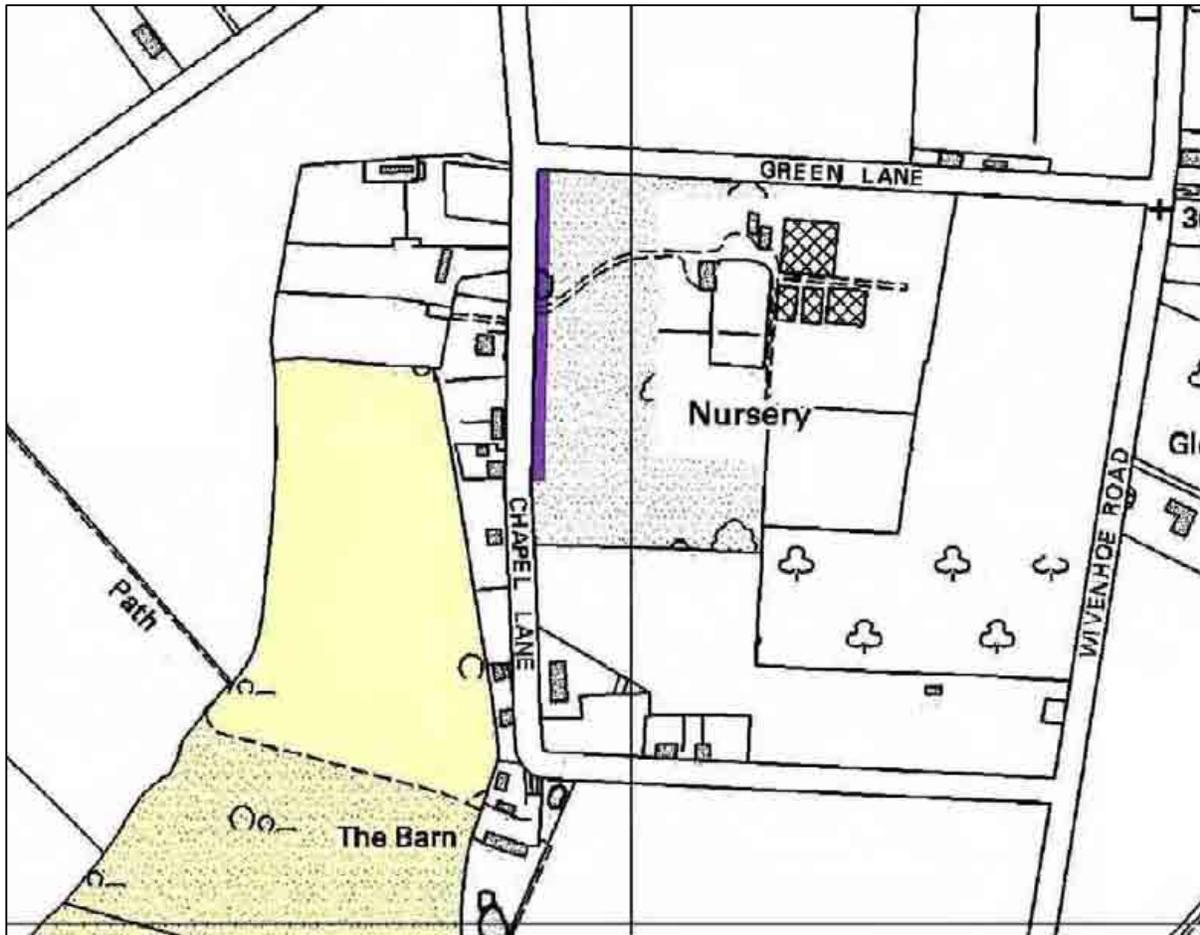
Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) form majority of this old coppice with standards wood. The canopy also includes Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Willow (*Salix spp.*) dominates near the stream. The majority of ground cover comprises Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). The streamline flora is formed by Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te7 Chapel Lane Verge (0.06 ha) TM 039263

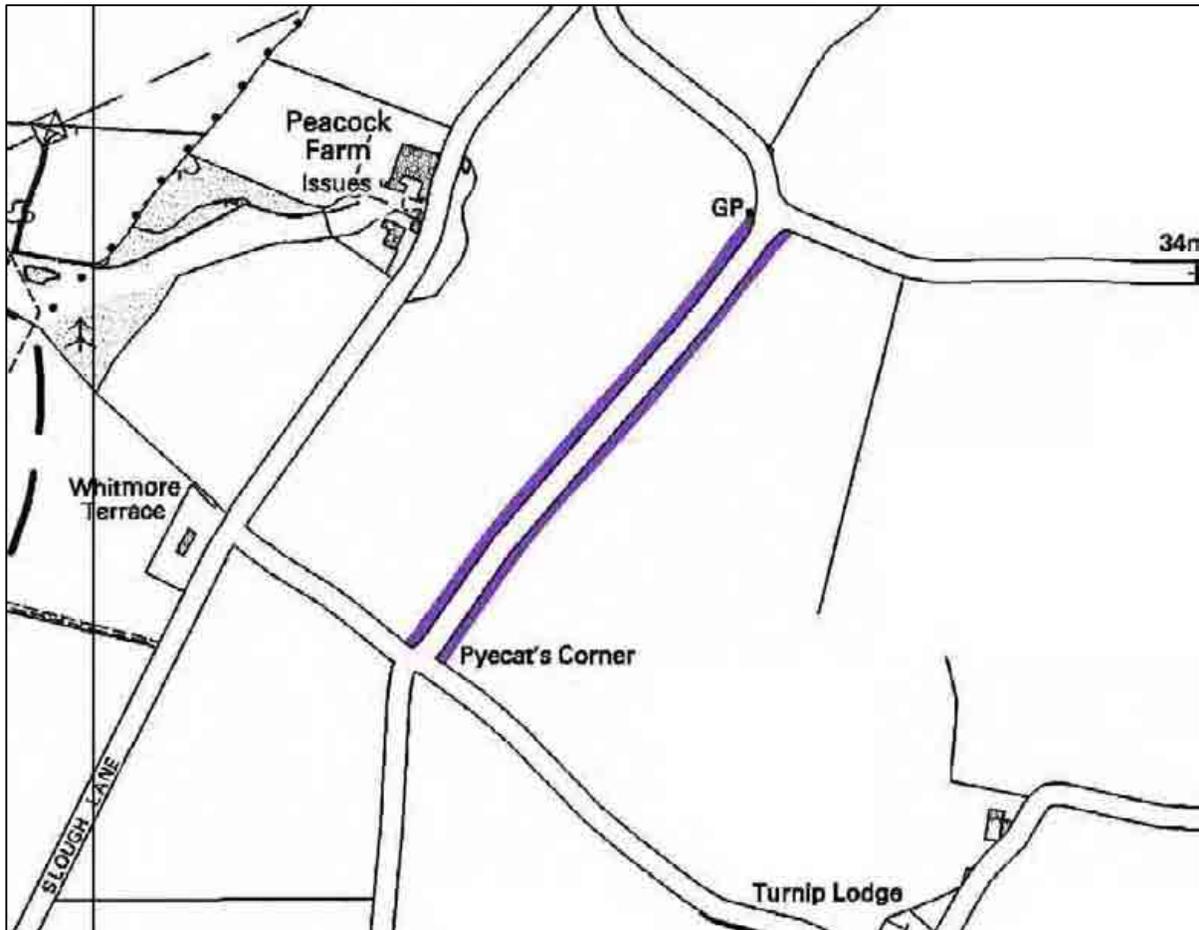
This roadside verge has been designated for its population of Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*), an Essex Red Data List fern. It comprises part of a much larger Essex County Council special Roadside Verge, most of which has lost its botanical interest. Other species present include Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Dog's Violet (*Viola spp.*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*).

Selection criteria: SCr15

UK BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te8 Pycats Corner Verges (0.28 ha) TM 043254

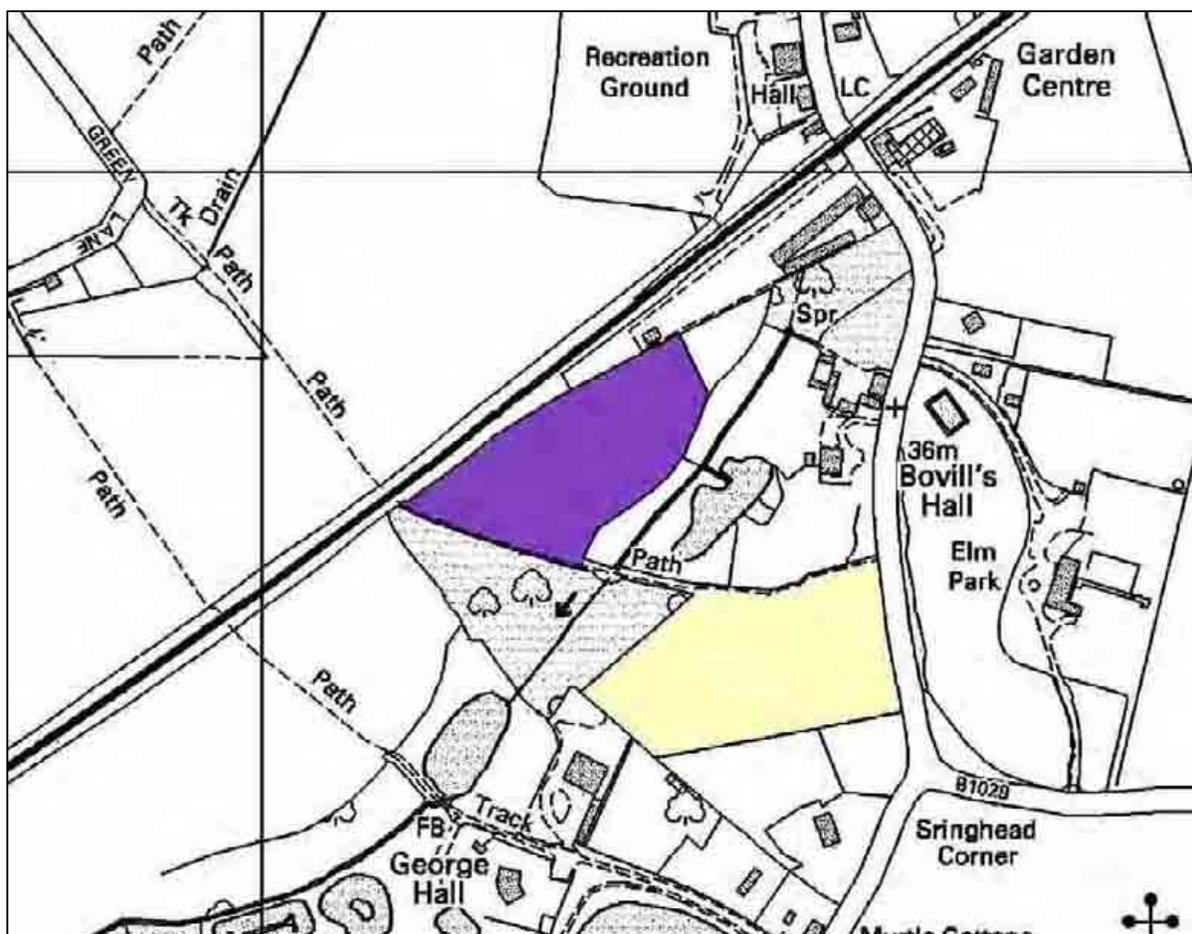
These verges are located between arable lands and display an interesting flora that reflects the acidic soil-type, including Betony (*Stachys officinalis*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) with Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Barren Strawberry. Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) has also been recorded.

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te9 Manor House Meadow (1.6 ha) TM 052288

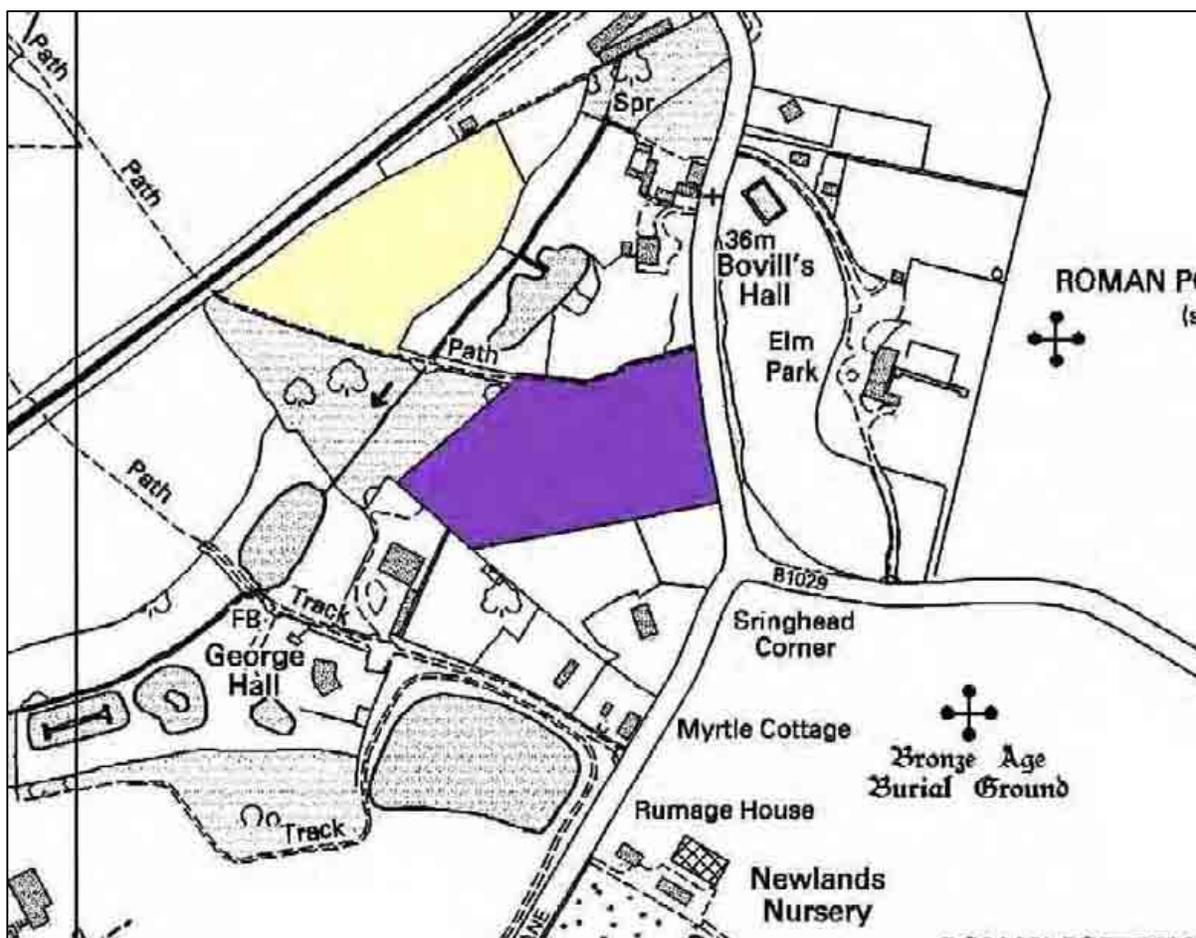
This dry, rabbit-grazed grassland is of note for the uncommon Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) amongst grasses such as Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Other plant species include Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Knotted Clover (*Trifolium striatum*). Species-rich grasslands of this type are particularly rare in Tendring district, thus emphasising the need to conserve all remaining sites.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te10 Springhead Corner Meadow (2.0 ha) TM 053286

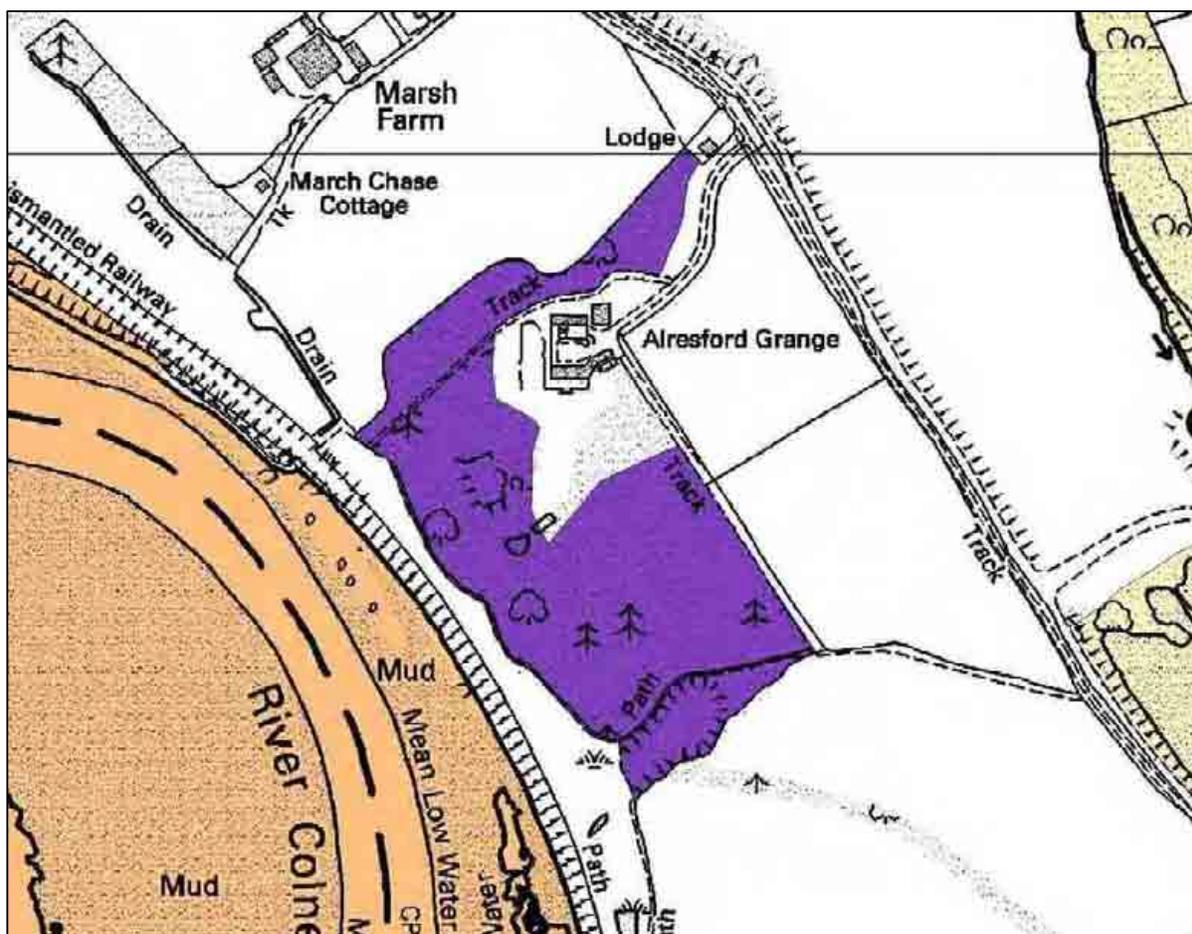
This is remnant tussocky acid grassland, in which rabbit grazing is helping to maintain a short sward. The main species recorded include Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Squirrel-tail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Hybrid or Common Lime (*Tilia cordata* x *T. platyphyllos*) and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) tree are planted near southern boundary. This site has also large colony of Minotaur beetles, a scarce insect in north-east Essex.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te11 Alresford Grange (5.2 ha) TM 055207

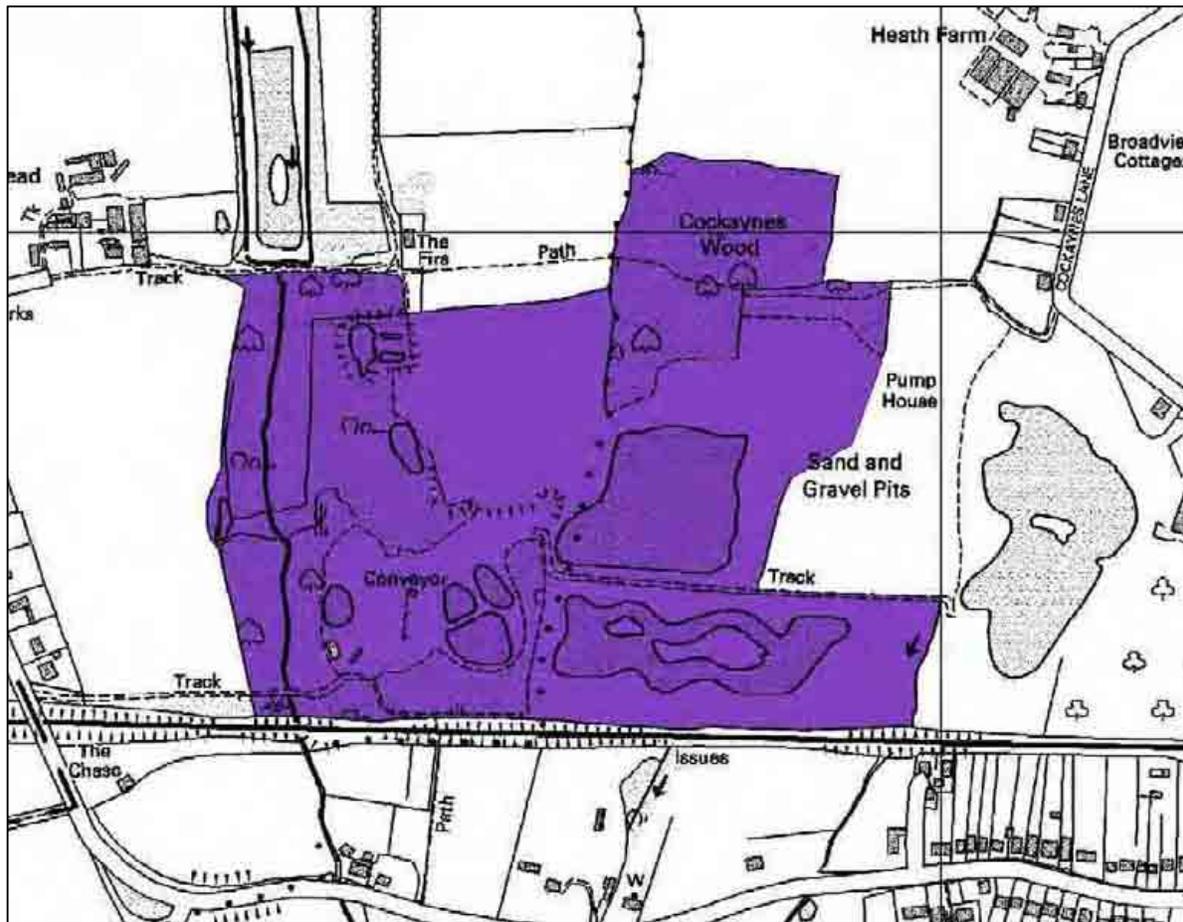
Alresford Grange was designated for its populations of Dormice, a very scarce mammal in Essex and also a national and Essex BAP species. The majority of the site forms part of the informal grounds of Alresford Hall, with scattered broadleaved trees and shrubs including Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), young Willow (*Salix* spp.) and grassland areas. The rest consists of scrubby woodland, mainly standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). Willow is dominant near the ditch on western boundary.

Selection criteria: SCr7

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te12 Villa Farm Quarry (25.8 ha) TM 056217

This disused sand and gravel pit now comprises a mosaic of different habitats, including numerous ponds, acid grassland, exposed soil and cliff, scrub and an area of ancient woodland that has escaped quarrying. Cockaynes Wood contains Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) coppice. The sparse ground flora is dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) together with the uncommon Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*). A second area of woodland with a stream and two small ponds forms the western boundary. The canopy is formed by Pedunculate Oak, Alder, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with locally frequent Willow (*Salix* spp) mainly along the stream. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) form the understorey with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bracken, Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) among the ground flora.

The open grassland flora is typified by willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Perforated St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) with Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Ponds, some of which are seasonally dry and overgrown, provide good habitat for a range of species including Soft Rush, Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).

Poplar trees (*Populus* spp.) and dense scrub, mainly Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Willow, Pedunculate Oak and Birch (*Betula* spp.) forms most of the southern boundary.

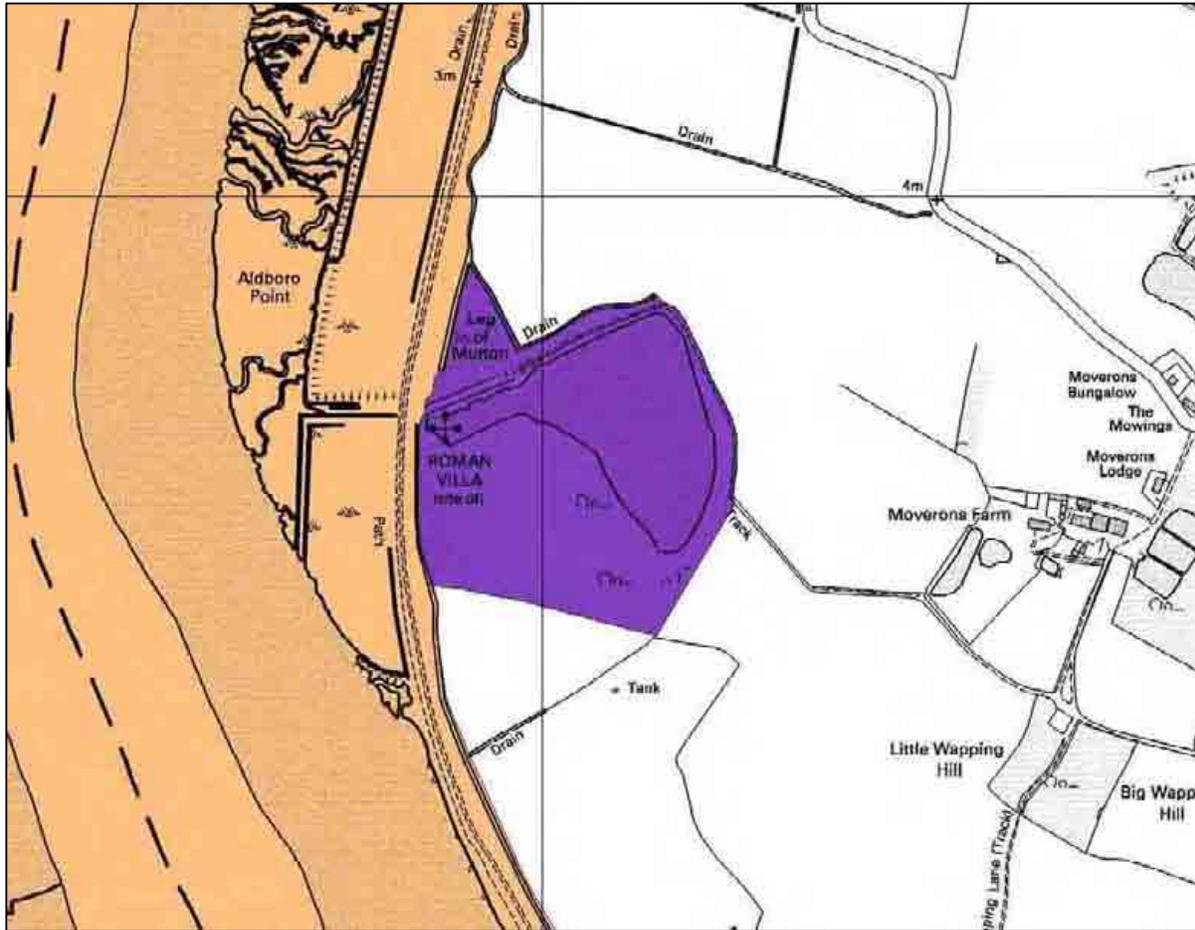
The open areas also support an important assemblage of breeding birds, whilst the invertebrate populations include the Nationally Rare (RDB3) UK BAP digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata*, along with two other RDB3 species: the mining bee *Lasioglossum pauperatum* and the ruby-tailed wasp *Hedychrum niemelai*.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a) , HCr2(b), HCr2(c), HCr20, SCr11, SCr14

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Open Mosaic habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Ancient Woodland, Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991 (in part)

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te13 Noah's Ark Pit (11.9 ha) TM 060186

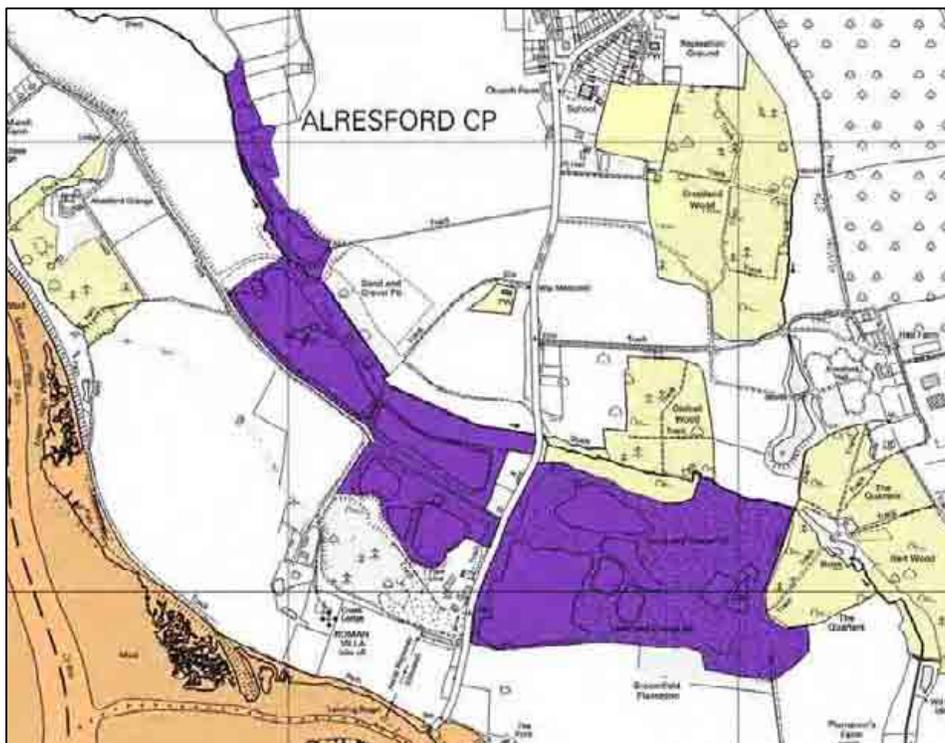
This is a large lake with a small reed island, surrounded by scrub and grassland. It is fringed by Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and a wide variety of water-loving species including Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus* sp.). Grassland species include Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Squirrel-tail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*), Creeping Bent-grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*) has been recorded. The scrub, dense in patches, is represented mainly by Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), Willow (*Salix* spp.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Noah's Ark Pit is also an important ornithological site, being close to the Colne estuary and providing a high water roost and feeding area.

Selection criteria: HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr22, SCr12

BAP Priority Habitats: Reedbeds (UK, Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te14 Alresford Lodge Pits (43.4 ha) TM 061204

These secluded, largely disused gravel pits, comprise a mosaic of ponds, small areas of Reed, woodland, scrub and accompanying grassland. The steep-sided lakes are fringed by Willow (*Salix* spp.), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Bulrush (*Typha* spp.) with occasional Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.). The grassland is varied with False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Lesser Trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*), willowherb (*Epilobium* spp.), Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) among other species. Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) occur on dry banks. Damper areas support Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*).

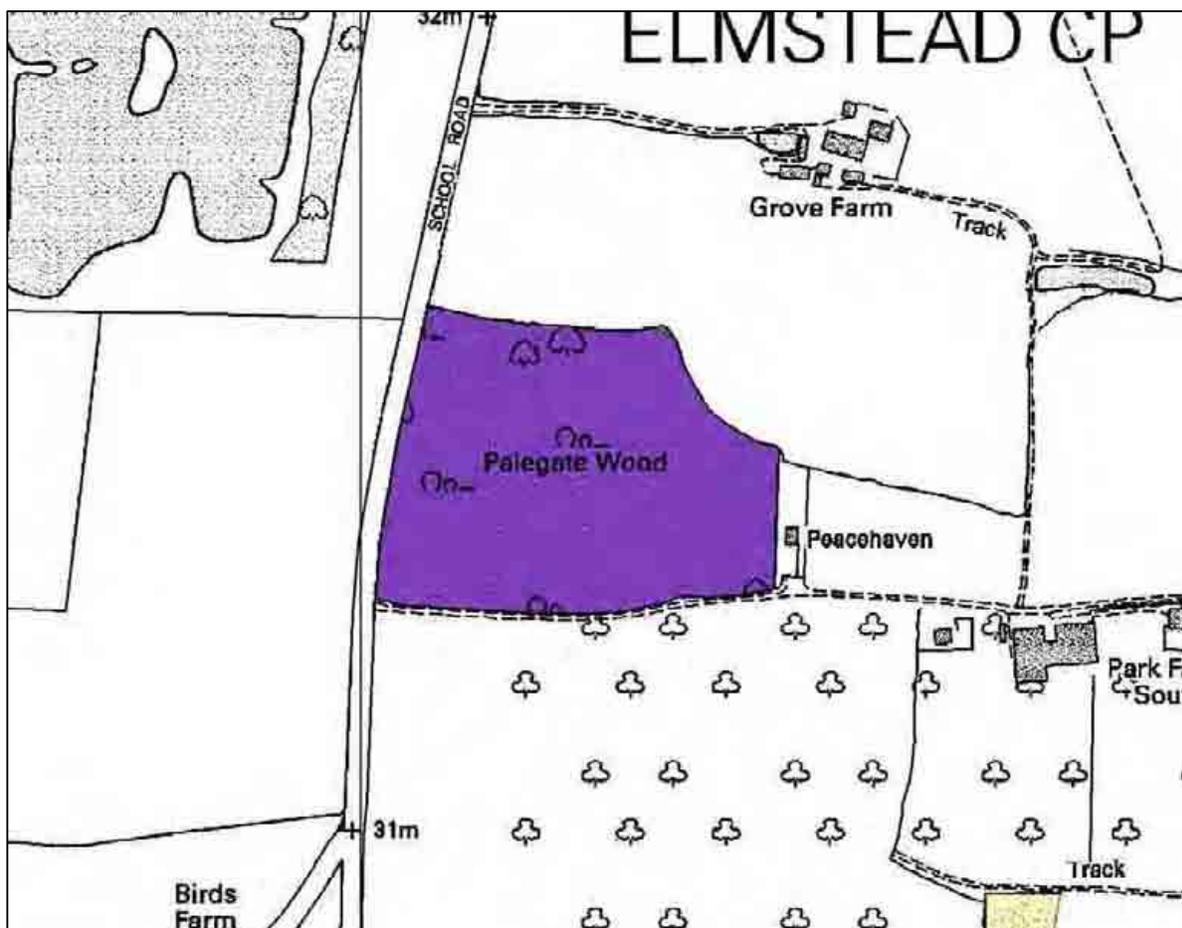
The northernmost part forms wet woodland. The canopy is mainly Alder with Willow and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) forms the understorey. Coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) occurs on the northeast boundary. The ground flora consists of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). The large pit complex to the east has been re-landscaped and now comprises a series of lakes surrounded by sparsely vegetated acid grassland, with a steep sandy face providing an important nesting habitat for many insects. This suite of habitats exemplifies the wildlife value of brownfield land for invertebrate habitat, nesting birds and with great potential for reptiles and amphibians.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr2(d), HCr5, HCr13, HCr20, HCr22

BAP Priority Habitats: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land, Reedbeds (UK); Brownfield Sites, Reedbeds (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991 (in part)

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te15 Palegate Wood (5.8 ha) TM 061235

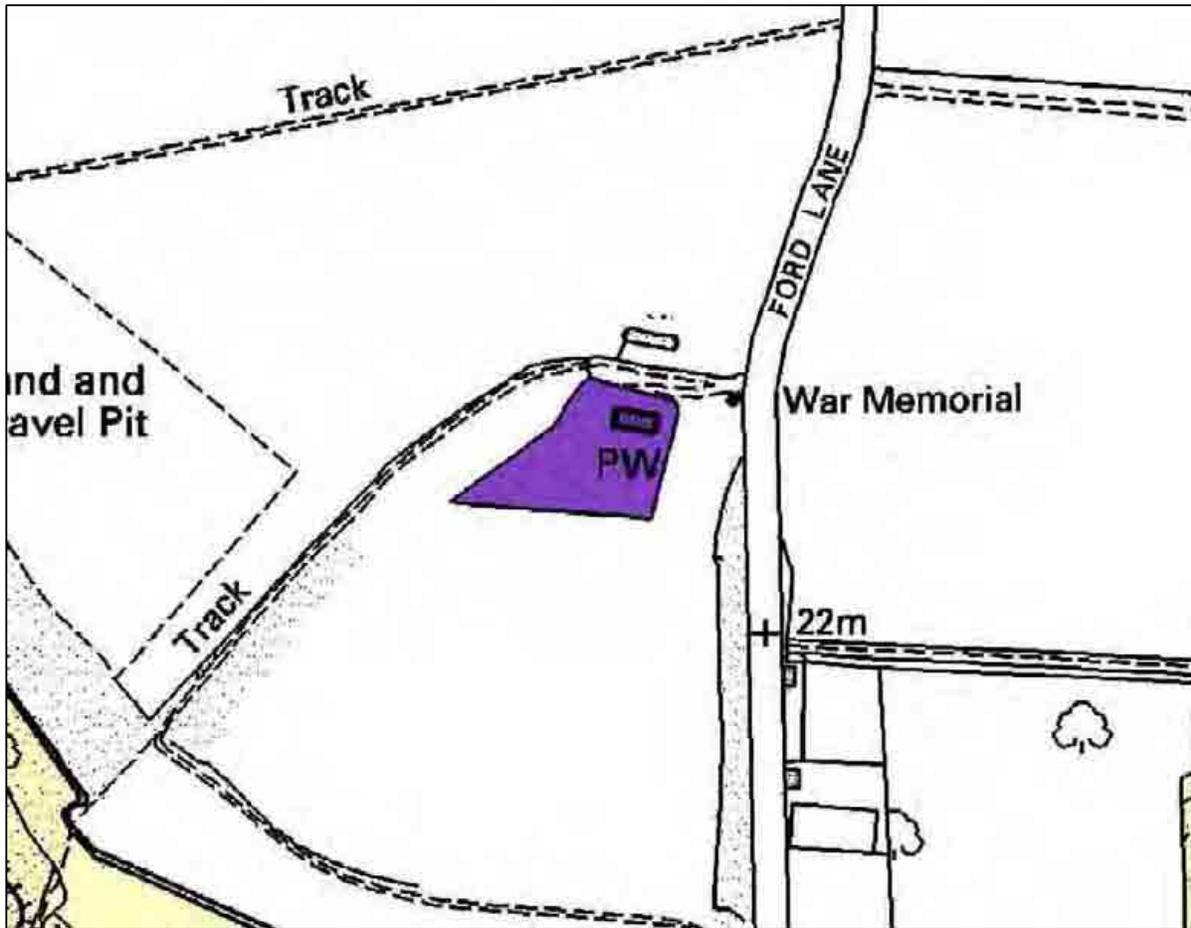
Palegate Wood is dominated by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are included in the ground flora of this ancient woodland.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te16 St. Peter's Church, Alresford (0.4 ha) TM 064206

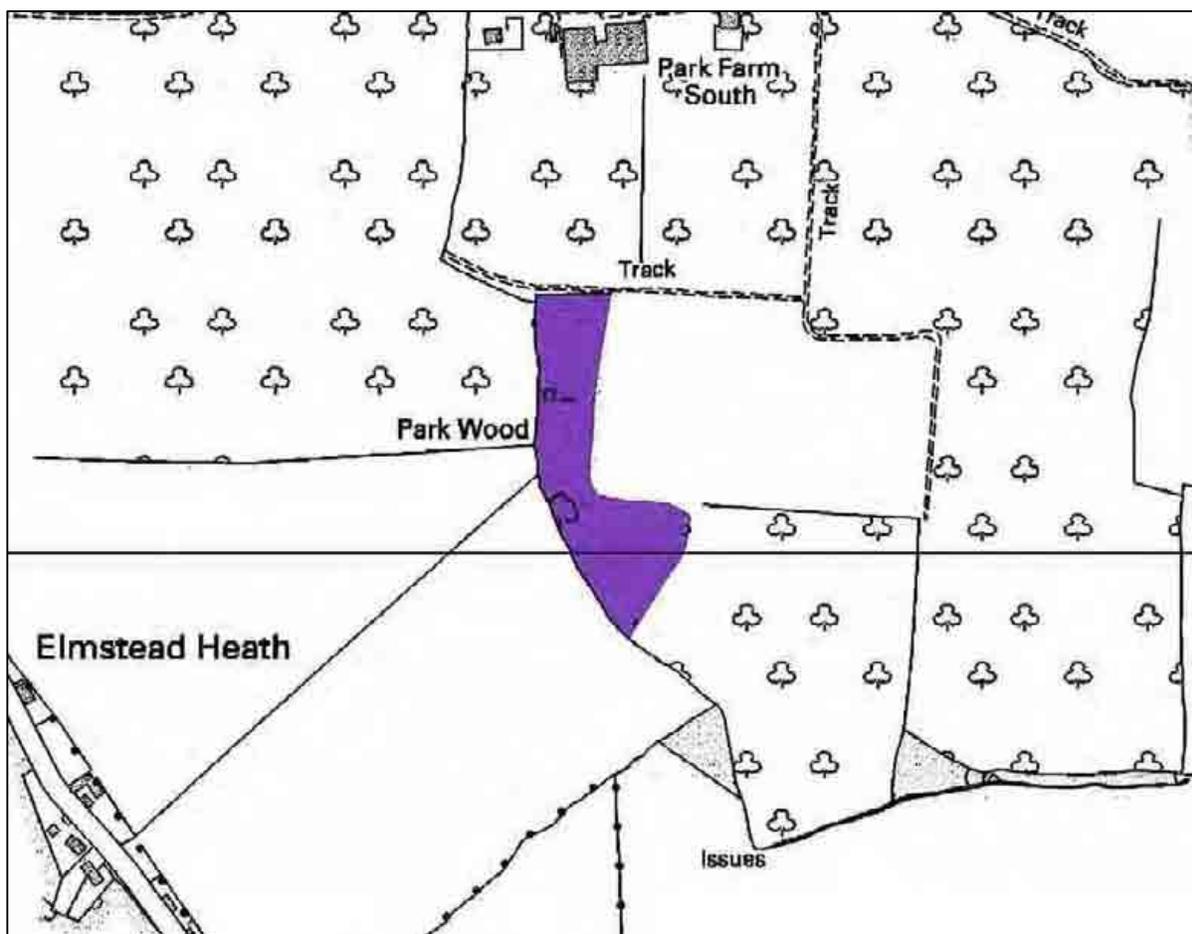
St. Peter's is a small, derelict church surrounded by an area of grassland, both long sward and mown, with trees and shrubs represented mainly by Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Grassland species include Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) with Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*), Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) also grow here

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te17 Park Wood (1.4 ha) TM 064230

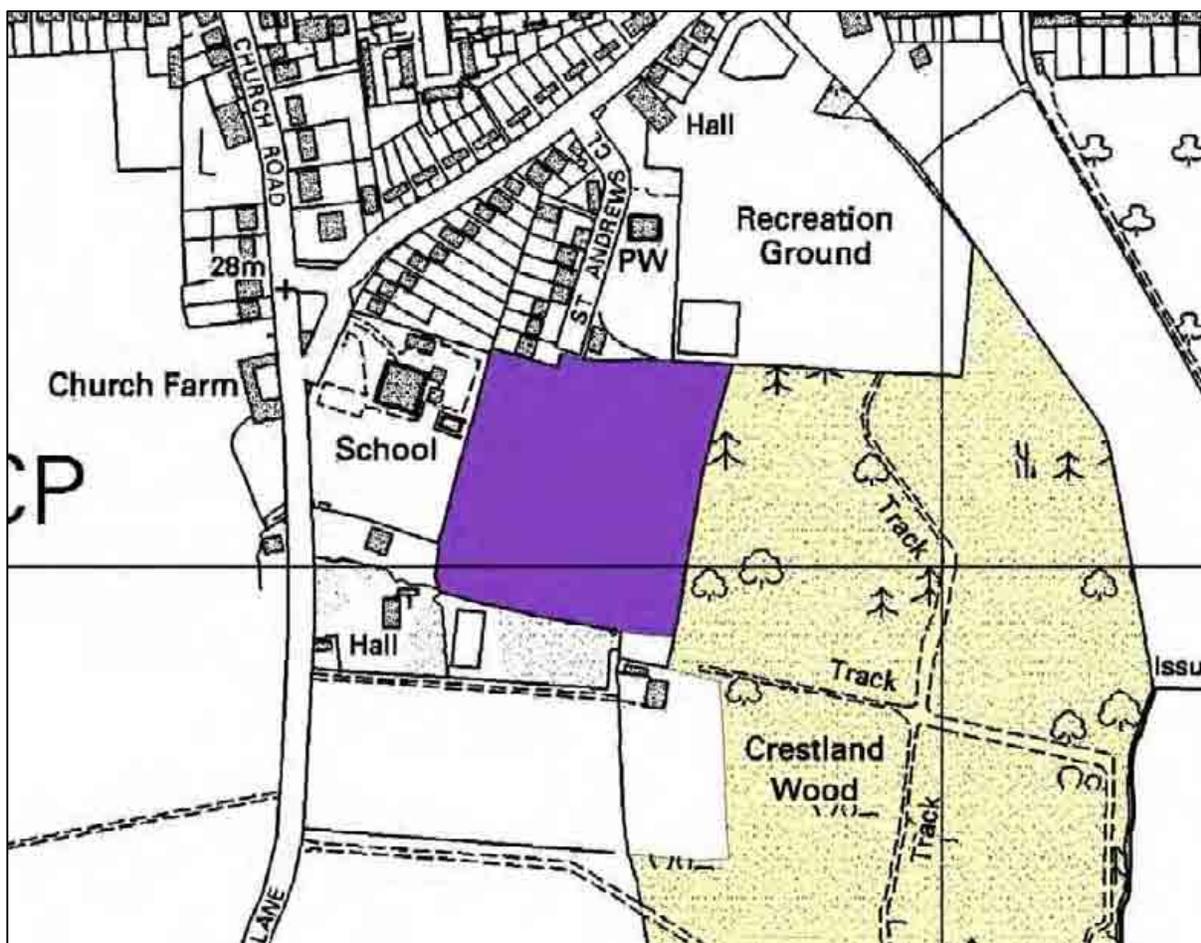
Park Wood is a small fragment of neglected ancient wood, with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, partly grubbed for an orchard extension leaving only a narrow band of woodland.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te18 Crestland Wood Meadow (2.5 ha) TM 067210

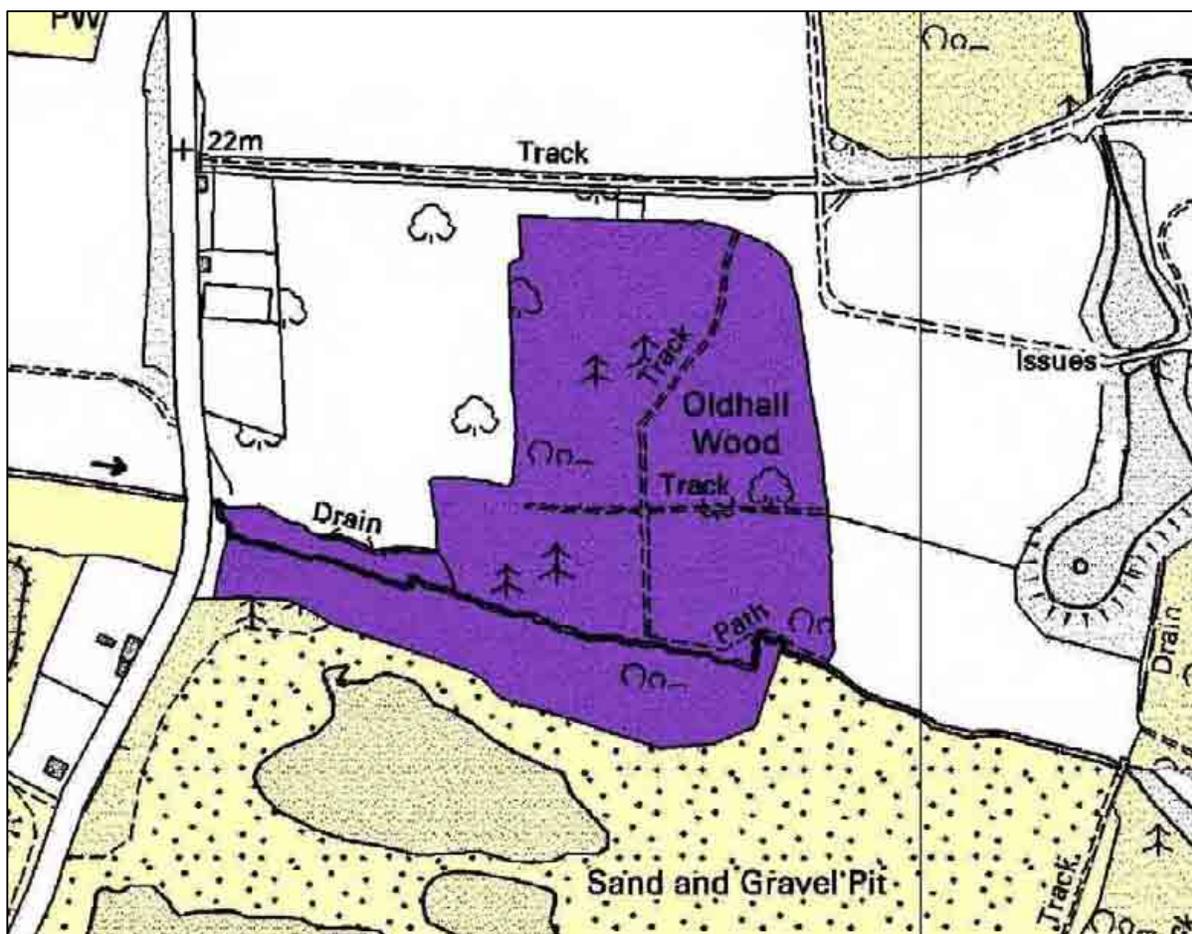
This rectangular grassland site adjacent to Crestland Wood supports a notable population of Glow-worm beetles (*Lampyrus noctiluca*), a scarce species in Essex.

Selection criteria: SCr14

UK BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te19 Oldhall Wood (6.9 ha) TM 068203

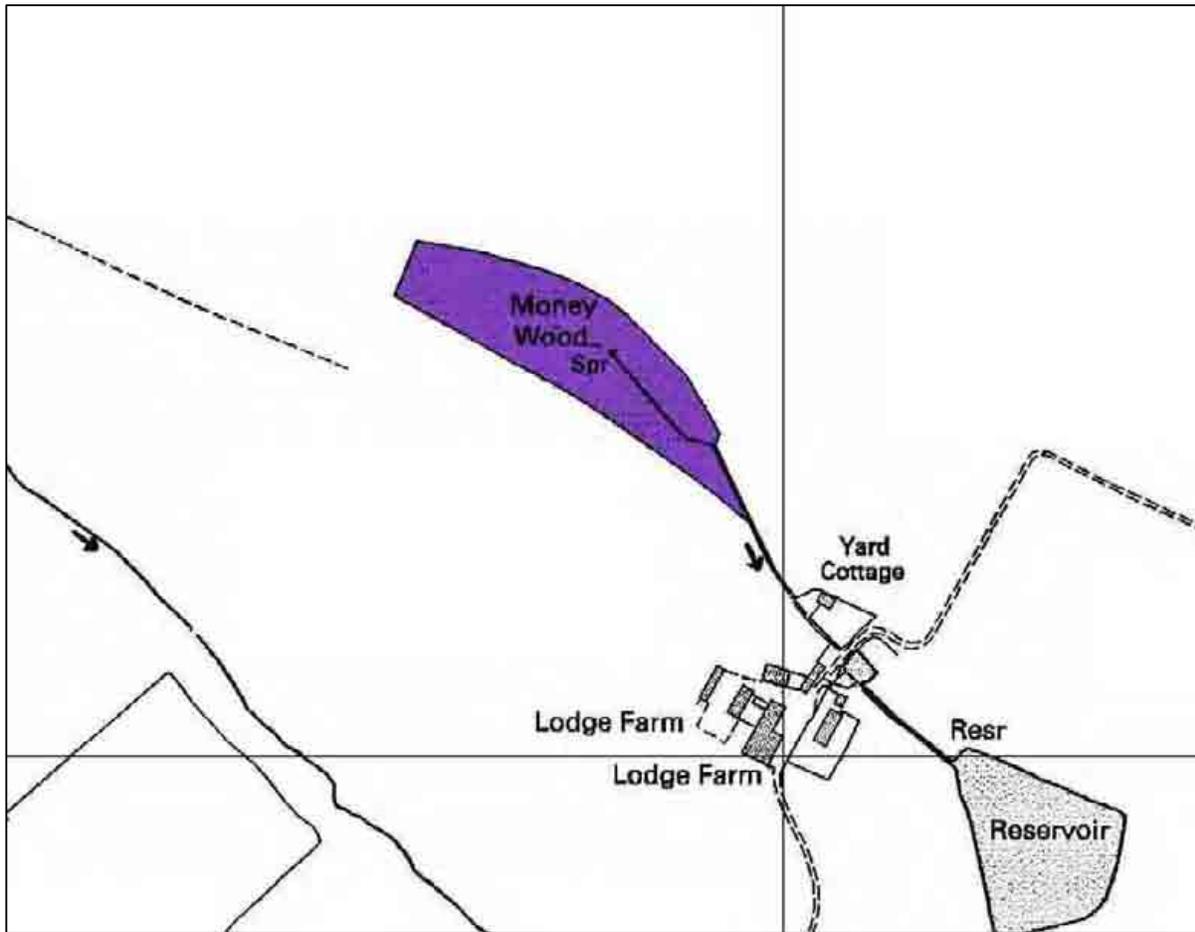
This ancient wood, now partly replanted with conifers, has been badly damaged by recent storms. The canopy is typified by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Birch (*Betula* sp.) with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Willow (*Salix* sp.) follow a stream running through southern part of the site. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with occasional Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te20 Money Wood (1.7 ha) TM 068253

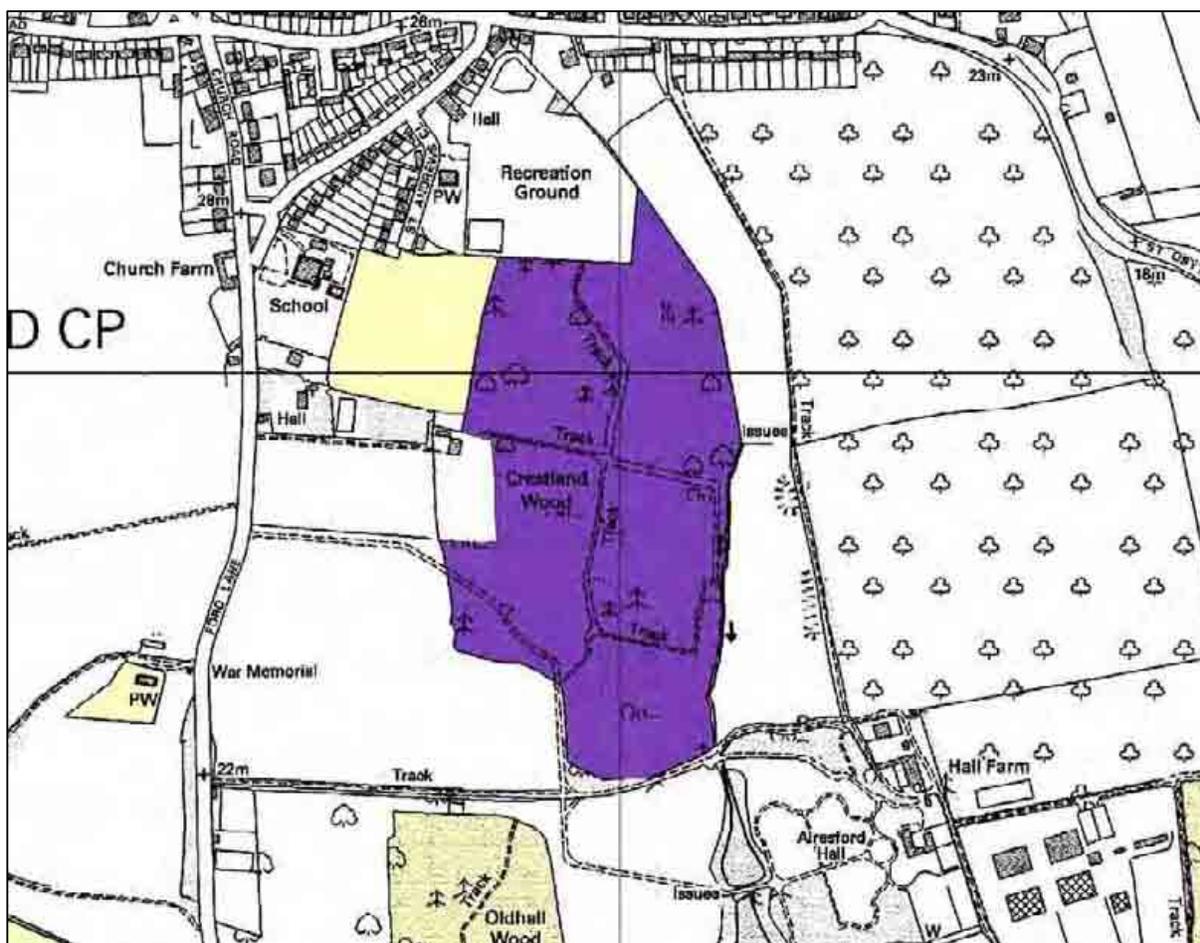
Money Wood is an ancient woodland of coppice-with-standards type (though extensively storm damaged), with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The ground flora is characterised by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te21 Crestland Wood (14.1 ha) TM 069208

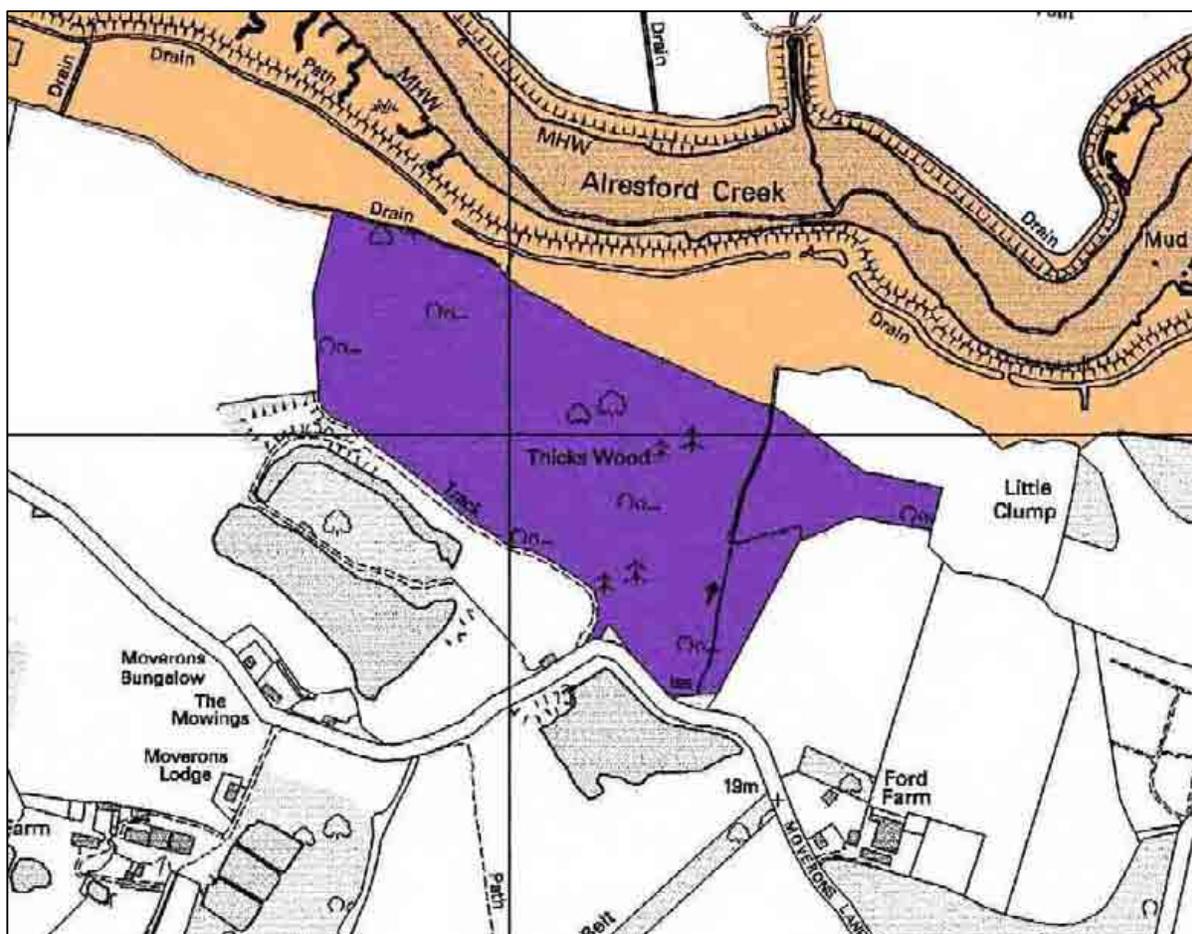
This ancient woodland site now contains mixed stands of deciduous and coniferous species. Most of the canopy is formed by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Other species include Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and planted Cypress (*Chamaecyparis* sp.). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are frequent amongst the ground flora, with rare occurrence of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te22 Thicks Wood (12.3 ha) TM 070189

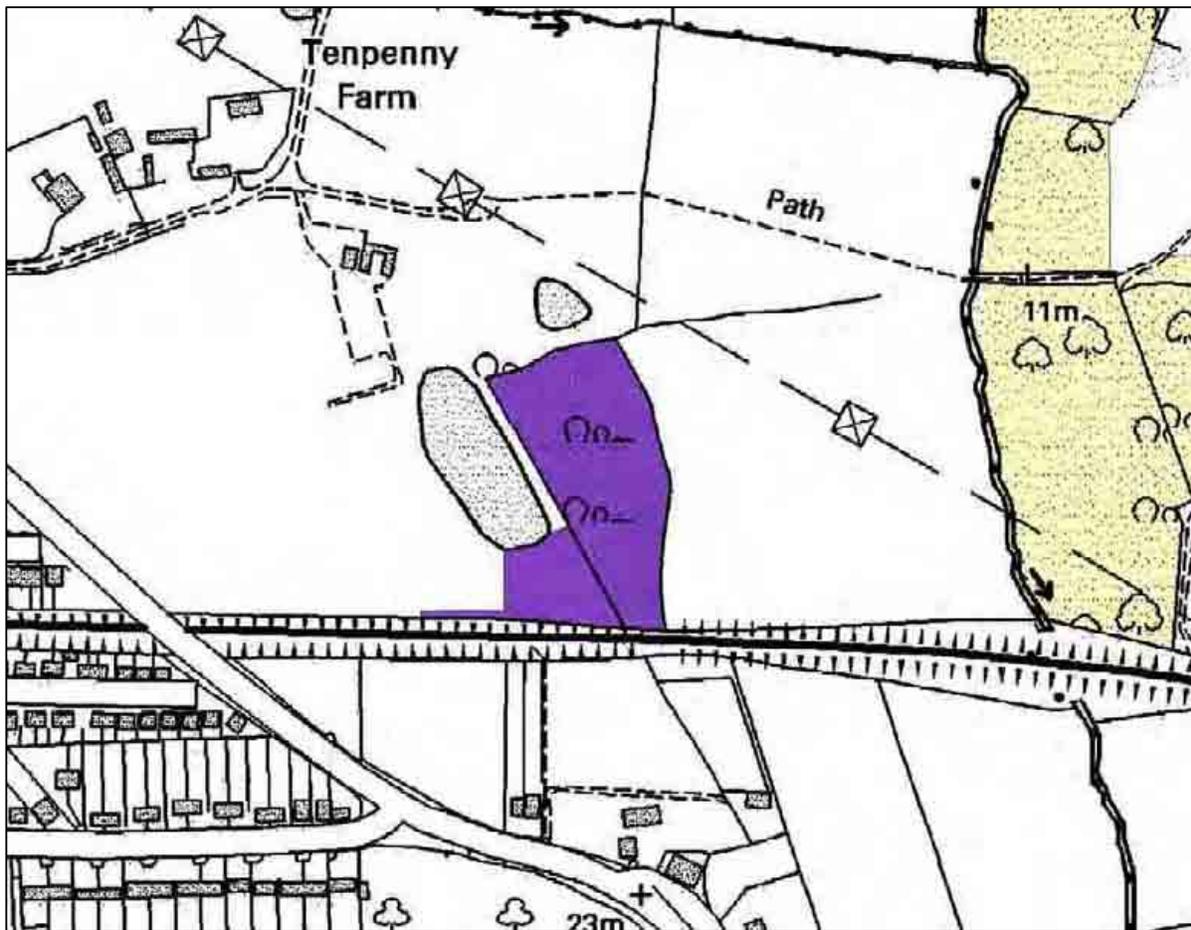
Thicks Wood is coppice-with-standards mixed woodland containing elm (*Ulmus* spp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Poplar (*Populus* sp.) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) are present in the ground flora.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te23 Tenpenny Farm Wood (1.4 ha) TM 073215

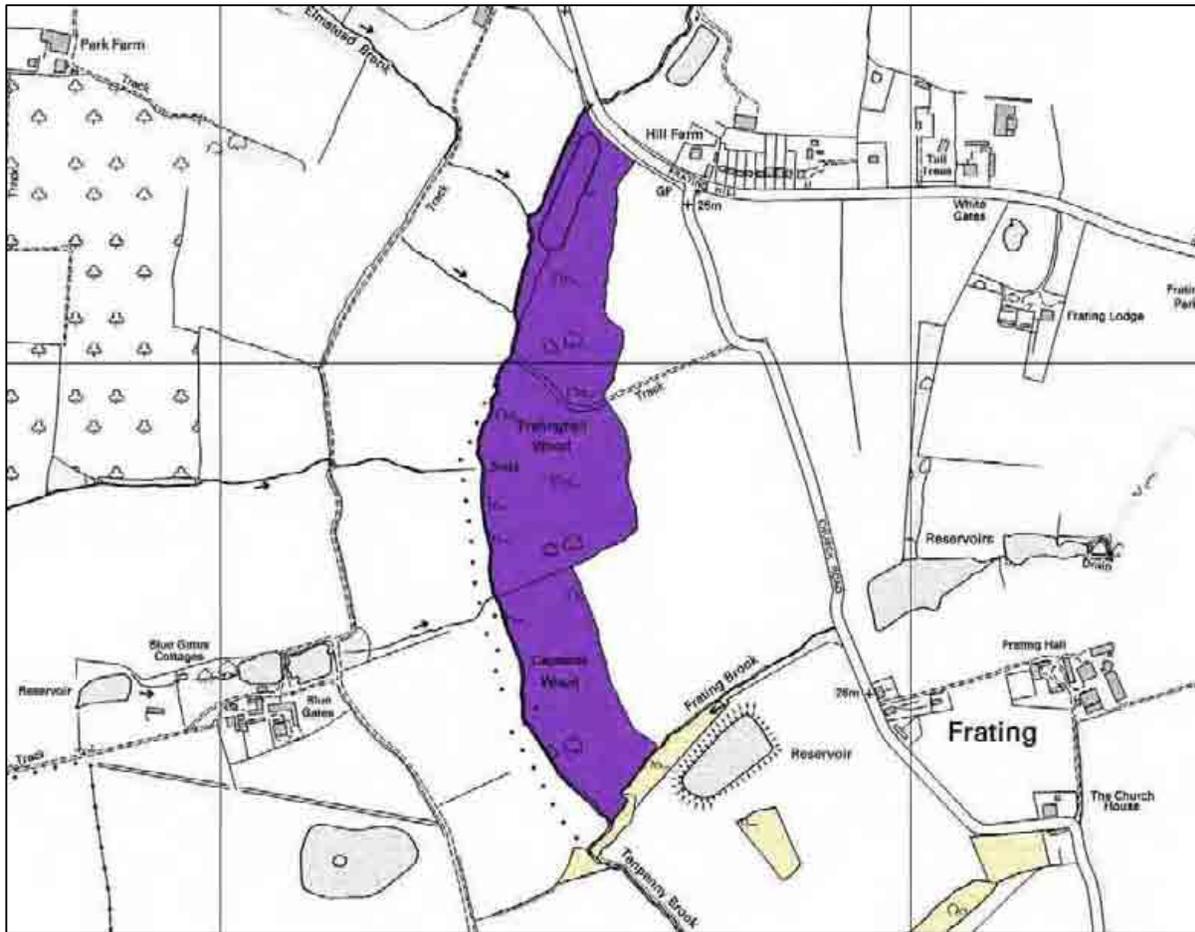
This piece of woodland with attached hedge has been designated for its population of Dormice, a very scarce mammal in Essex and in the UK. The adjacent railway embankment may be an important corridor to the LoWS woodland to the east, where Dormice are also known to occur.

Selection criteria: SCr7

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te24 Fratinghall/Captains Woods (14.5 ha) TM 074228

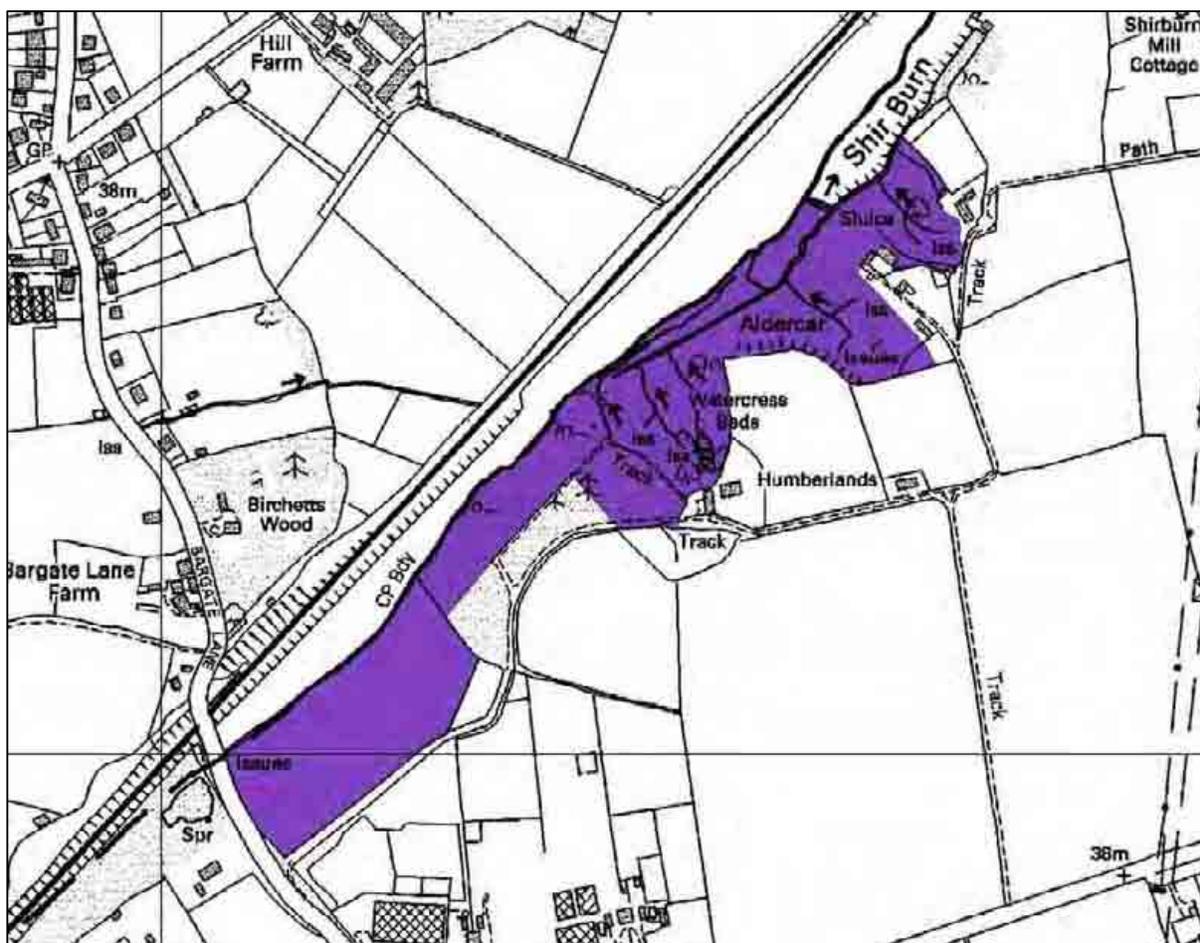
These two contiguous ancient woods contain Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice amongst Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sweet Chestnut standards. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) exists in both coppice and standard form in small numbers. Pollards of Pedunculate Oak and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) are also present. The ground vegetation, dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), contains Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*). This is an important wood for the Essex and UK BAP Dormouse.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), SCr7

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te25 Shir Burn Wood and Meadow (8.6 ha) TM 074312

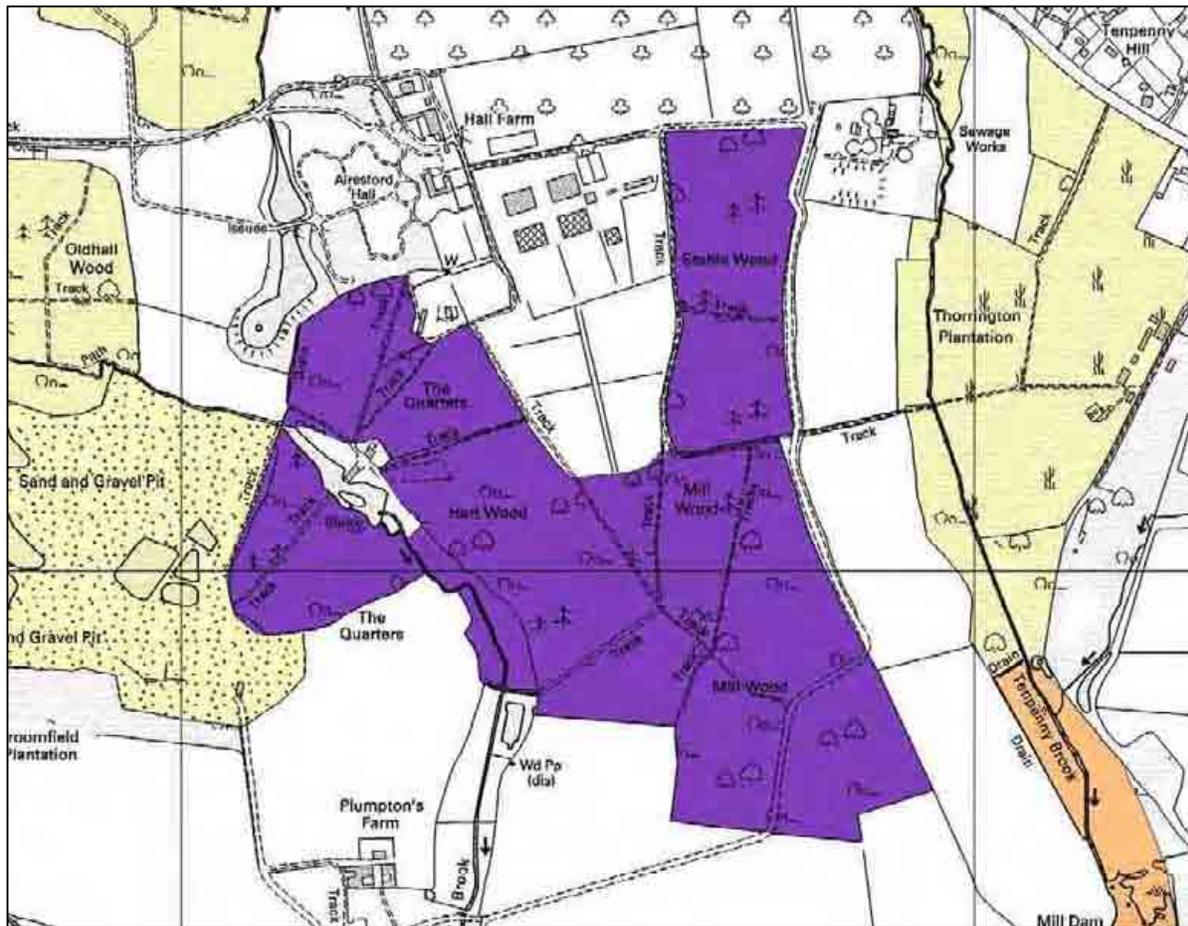
The wood Aldercar is a well-managed broadleaved woodland with several spring-fed streams. The canopy composition is coppice-with-standards; the mature trees are Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) form the understorey layer with Cricket Bat Willow (*Salix alba* var. *caerulea*) growing in the damper areas. The pond contains Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*). Currently grazed by cattle, the meadow is marshy adjacent to the stream with Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) in a coarse rush-pasture sward, whilst upslope the sward comprises acid grassland with Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and locally frequent Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Selection criteria: HCr2(d), HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te26 Alresford Hall Woods (34.8 ha) TM 075200

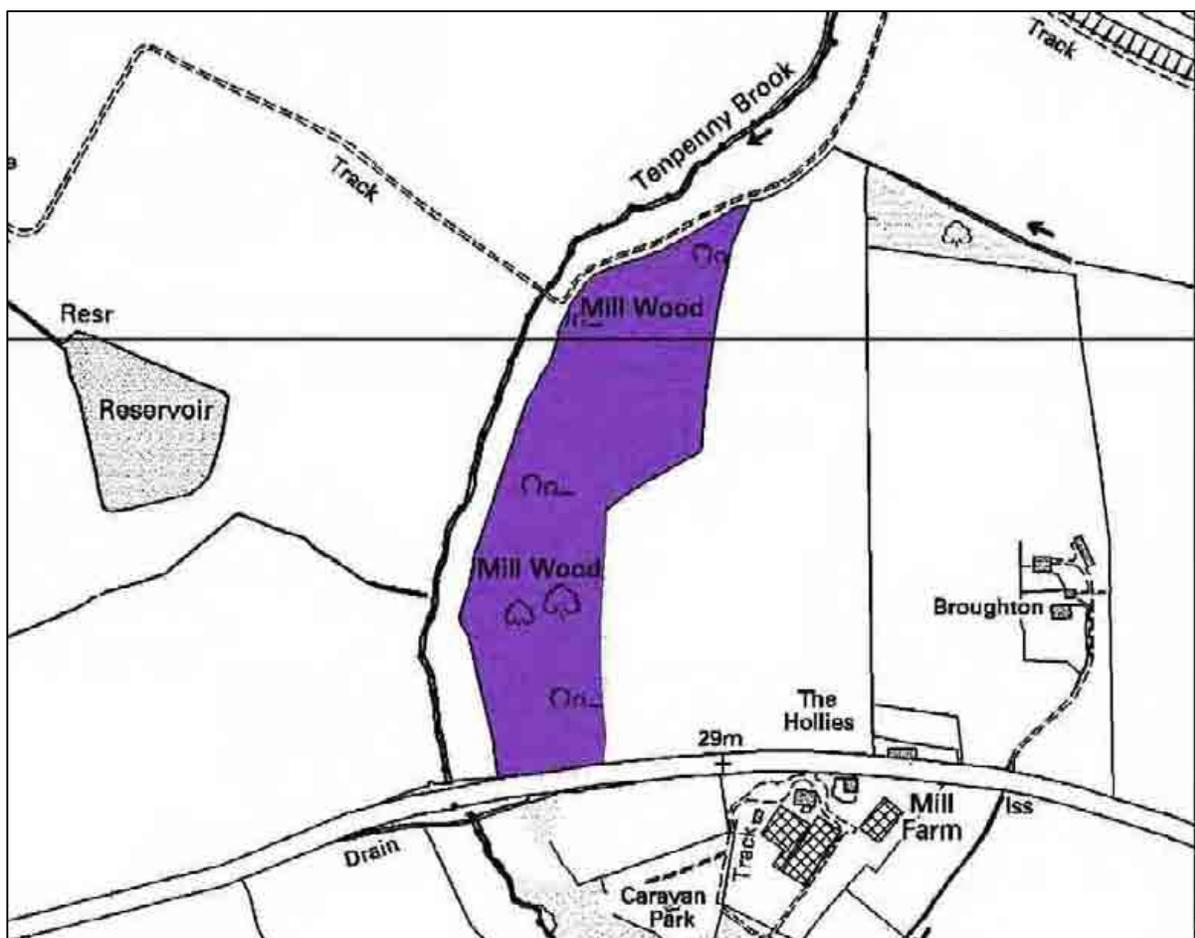
This site forms a large area of semi-natural ancient woodland, part of which is coniferous plantation. The dominant deciduous species are Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The rest of canopy and understorey is formed by Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Coniferous species include Larch (*Larix decidua*), Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Cypress (*Chamaecyparis* sp.). Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Wood-rush (*Luzula* spp.) occur amongst the ground flora. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Poplar trees (*Populus* spp.) are dominant in small woodland located on western boundary with a stream running through. The ground flora here consists mainly of Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) occurs in a ditch on the southern boundary.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), HCr1(b), HCr2(b)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te27 Mill Wood (4.5 ha) TM 075248

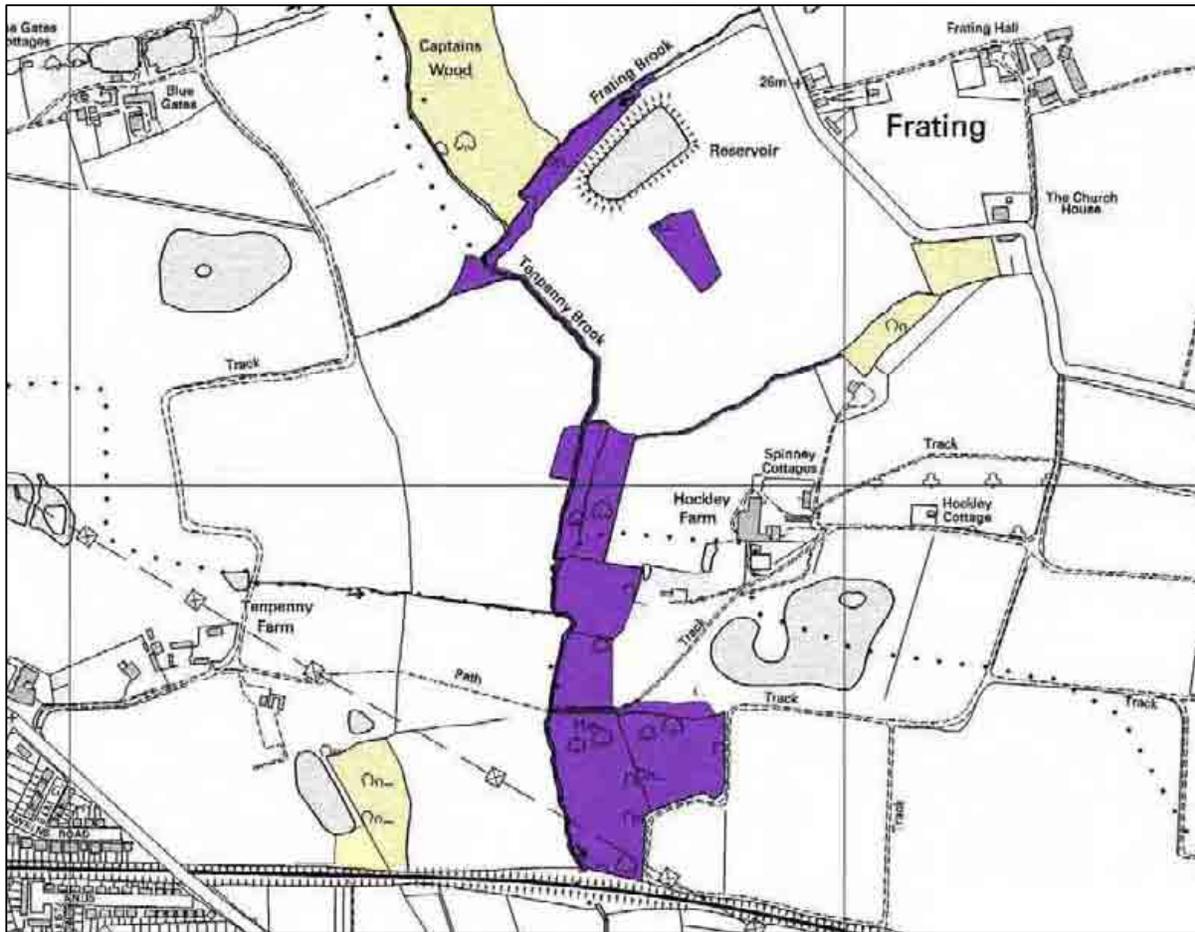
This small woodland contains mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards, together with coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and some very old Ash coppice. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te28 Hockley Farm Wood (8.5 ha) TM 077223

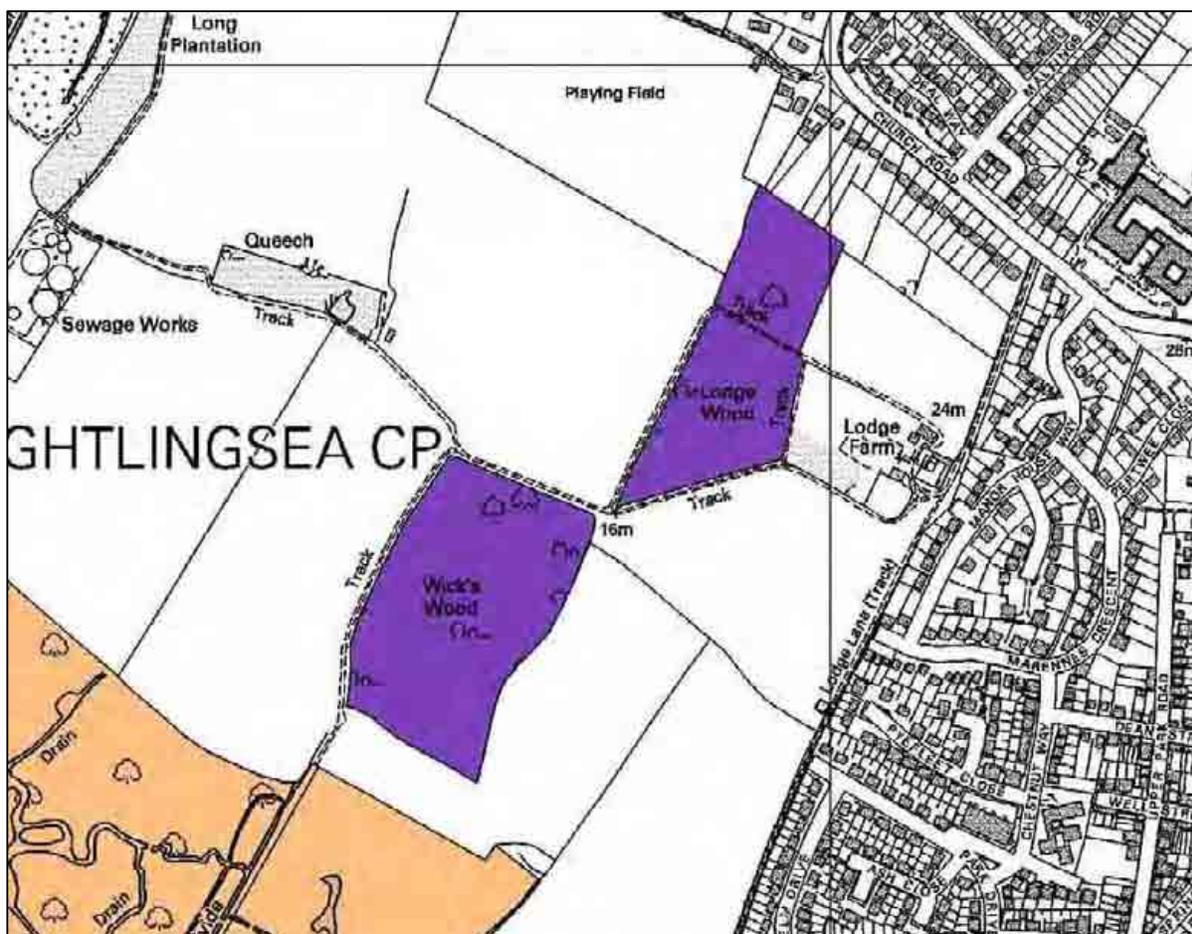
Dormouse, a UK and Essex BAP species, has been recorded in this network of small woods and hedges. The eastern hedge is included as a potential Dormouse corridor with the Church Road wood, Frating LoWS to the east, where Dormice have also been recorded. Similarly, whilst the block of woodland immediately adjacent to the railway line has not had dormouse recorded within it, it presents opportunities for colonisation and also provides connectivity with Tenpenny Farm Wood to the west. It would be beneficial to create a hedgerow or woodland corridor between the main body of the site and the isolated field copse.

Selection criteria: HCr7, HCr8, HCr9

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te29 Wick's /Lodge Wood (8.4 ha) TM 078177

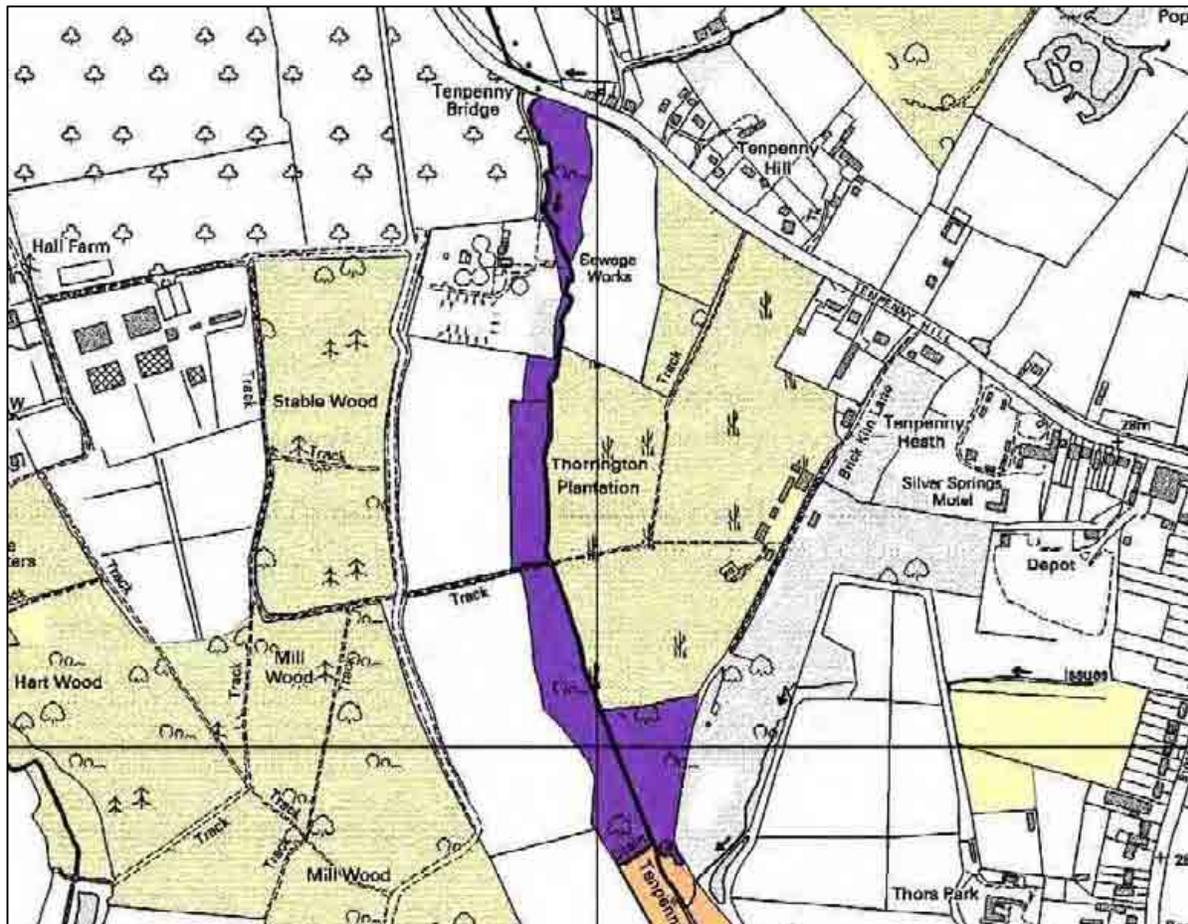
These two woods are elm (*Ulmus spp.*) dominated ancient woodlands containing Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The understorey has frequent Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The impoverished ground flora would benefit from the resumption of coppicing, but does include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te30 Tenpenny Brook (4.7 ha) TM 079203

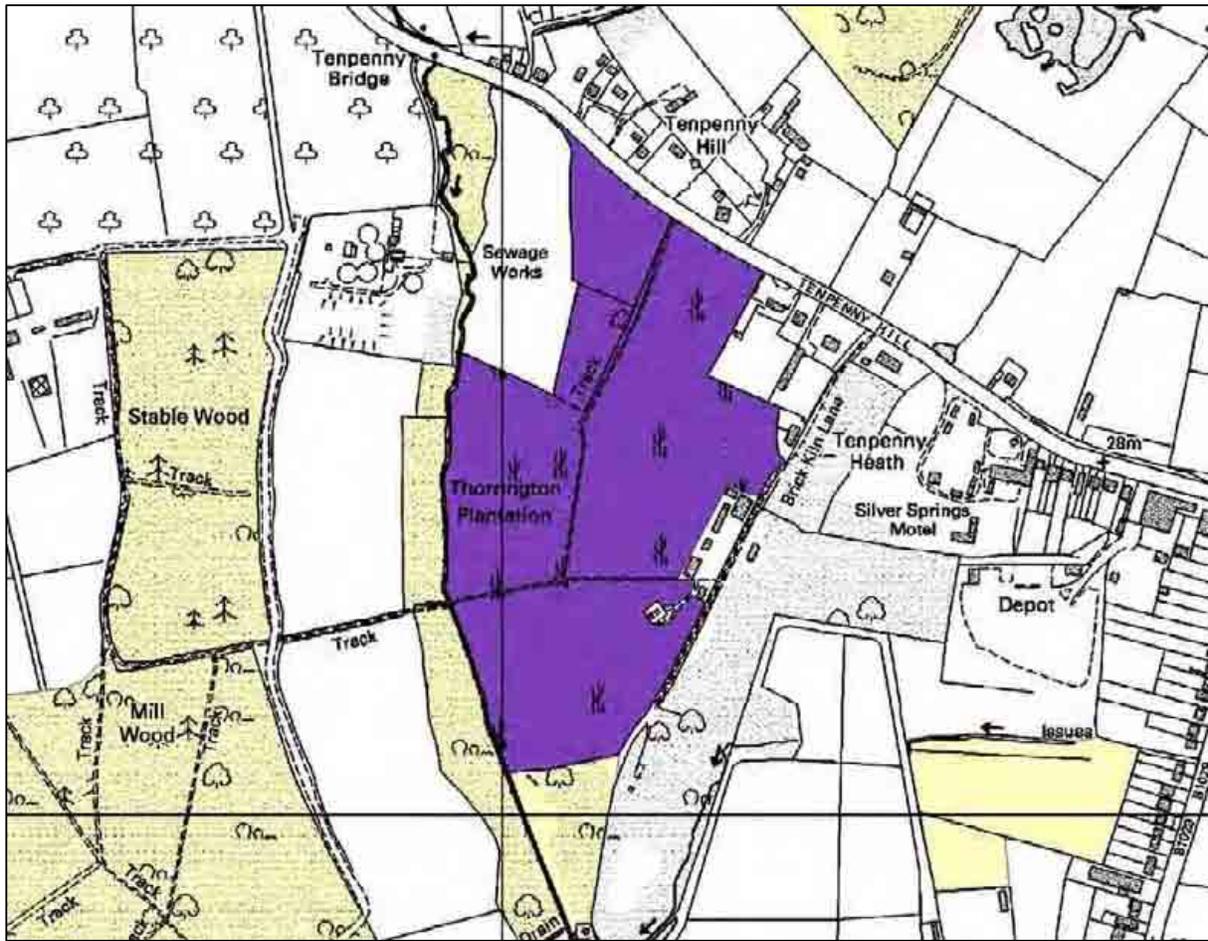
This site consists of the Essex Wildlife Trust's Alexander Reserve and secondary woodland along the Tenpenny Brook. Alexander Reserve is a damp meadow with areas of scrub. Along the perimeter are a number of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) standards and Willows (*Salix* spp.) which in the past have been pollarded. Other trees and shrubs include Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Rose (*Rosa* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*). The open marshy areas are characterised by Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and a small patch of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). A small pond supports Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Branched Burr-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). The streamline woodland adjacent to Thorrington Plantation is mainly Willow with Poplars (*Populus* spp.) and Alder changing into Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Birch (*Betula* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) in the southeast tip. Sparse ground flora includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Selection criteria: HCr2(a), HCr6b, HCr23

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te31 Thornington Plantation (12.2 ha) TM 080203

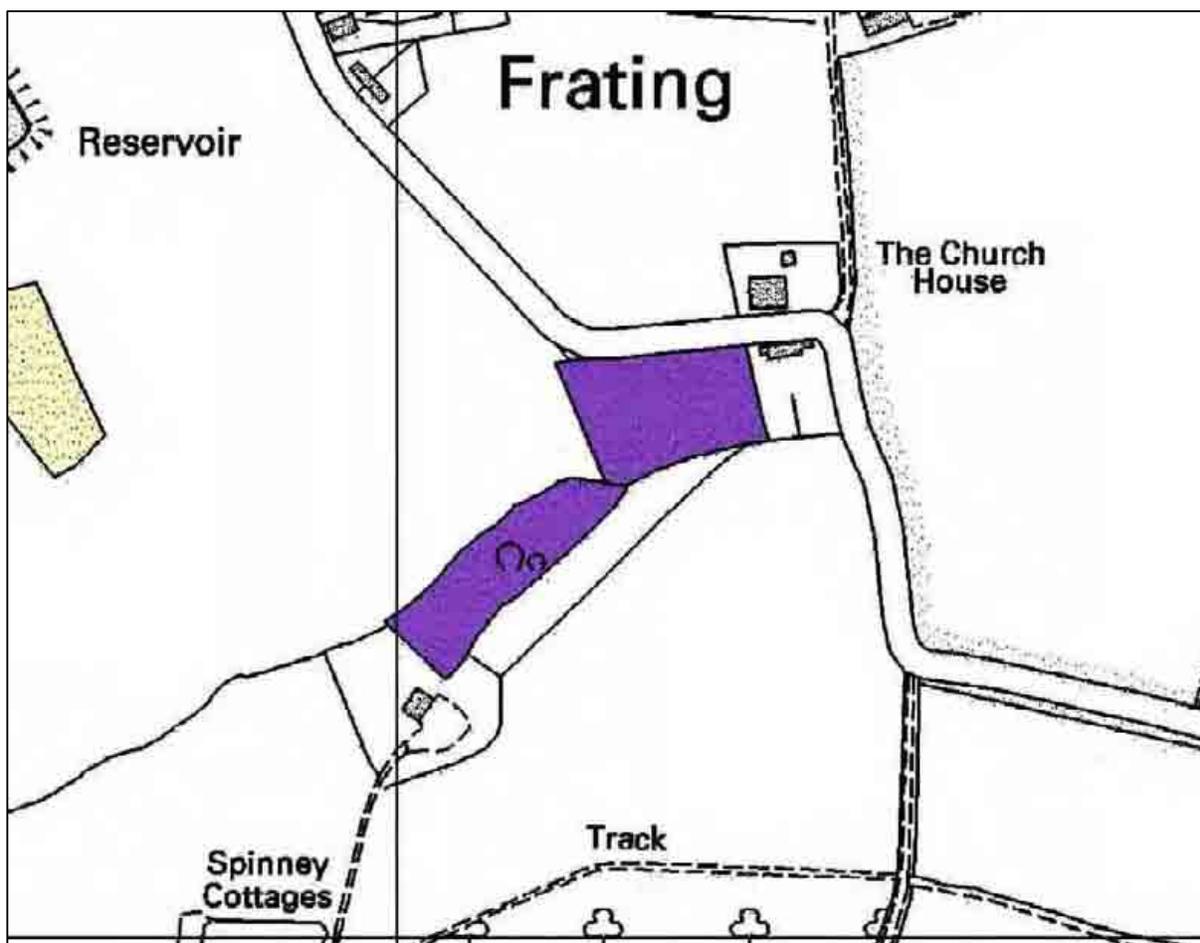
Despite its plantation name, this wood is thought to be ancient. It may be an ancient plantation or has long been managed as a Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) plantation within an ancient woodland setting. Sweet Chestnut coppice dominates the understorey, with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) standards and occasional coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora is characterised by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) near the stream.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te32 Church Road Wood, Frating (1.1 ha) TM 081222

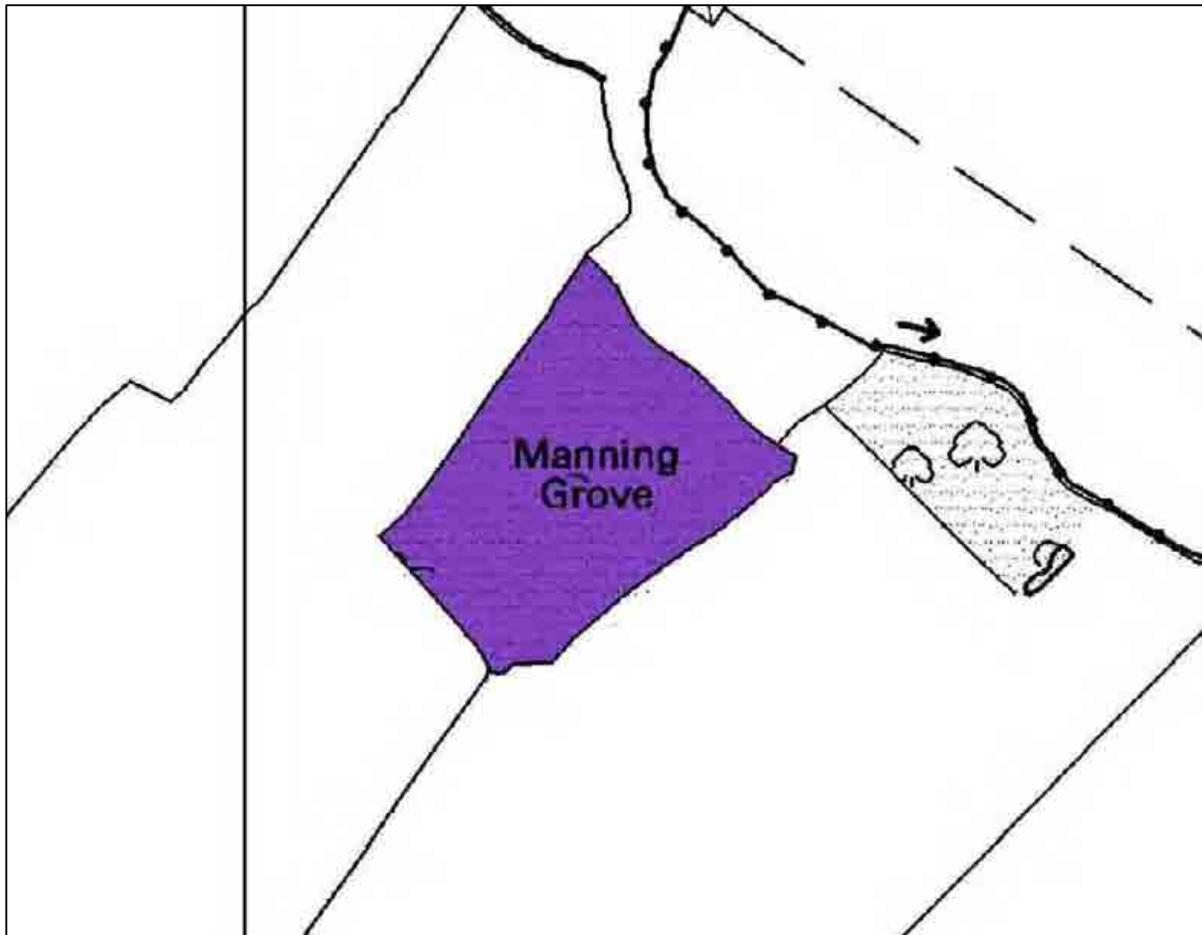
This site comprises two distinctly different sections. The western part is an Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) wood, with standards of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), especially on higher, drier ground. It has an understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and some Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), whilst the ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*). This section of wood is likely to be ancient.

The eastern section is recent scrub woodland, comprising mainly Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquifolium*) with Oak and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) in the two main hedgerows. The key interest of this area is the presence of Dormice, a rare Essex mammal.

Selection criteria: HCr1(b), HCr2(d), SCr7, SCr8

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of original selection: December 2008 **Date of last revision:** -



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Te33 Manning Grove (2.1 ha) TM 081275

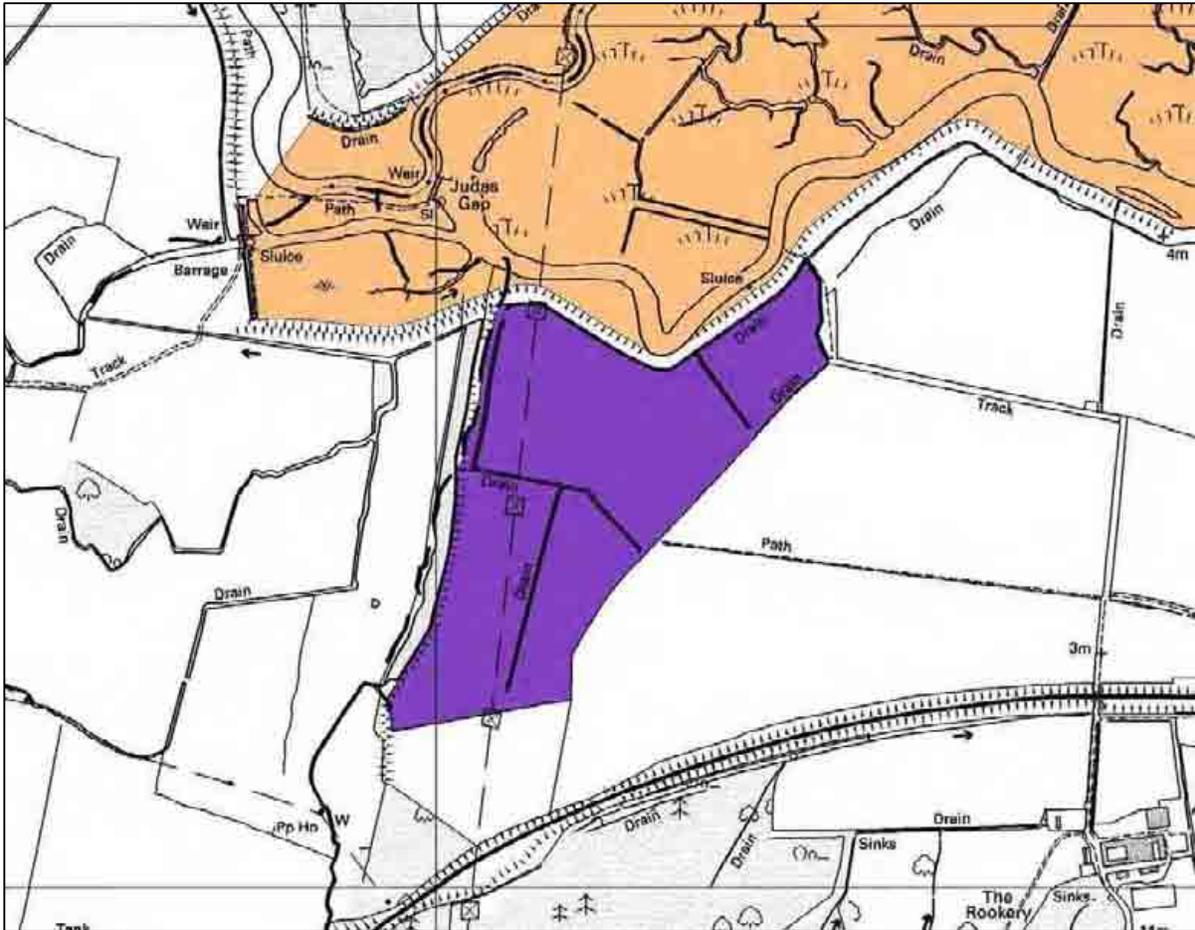
This ancient woodland is dominated by Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) scrub with large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) standards. The ground flora is mainly Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Climbing Corydalis (*Corydalis claviculata*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te34 Judas Gap Marsh (12.1 ha) TM 081324

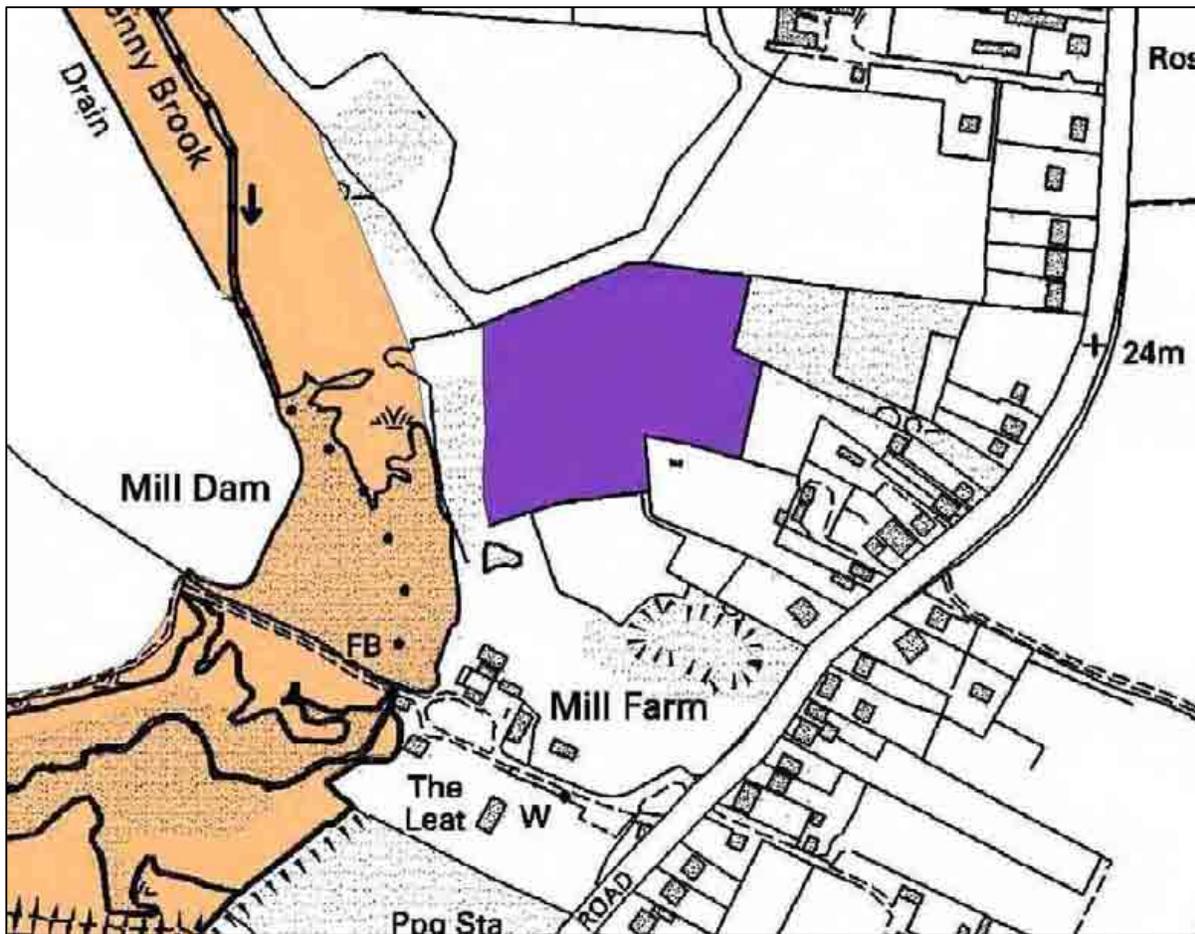
This section of coastal grazing marsh exhibits both dry and wet grassland. The limited area of drier grassland is characterised by grass species such as Creeping Bent-grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). However, the majority of the site comprises wet Rush (*Juncus* spp.) pasture with grassland species including Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), and stands of Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*). The annual Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*) is typically found in damp coastal pasture of this kind. These habitats have declined considerably in extent in Essex since the middle of the twentieth century, most lost to agriculture, while those remaining as grassland have often undergone agricultural improvement.

Selection criteria: HCr16

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te35 Mill Dam Meadow (1.6 ha) TM 083196

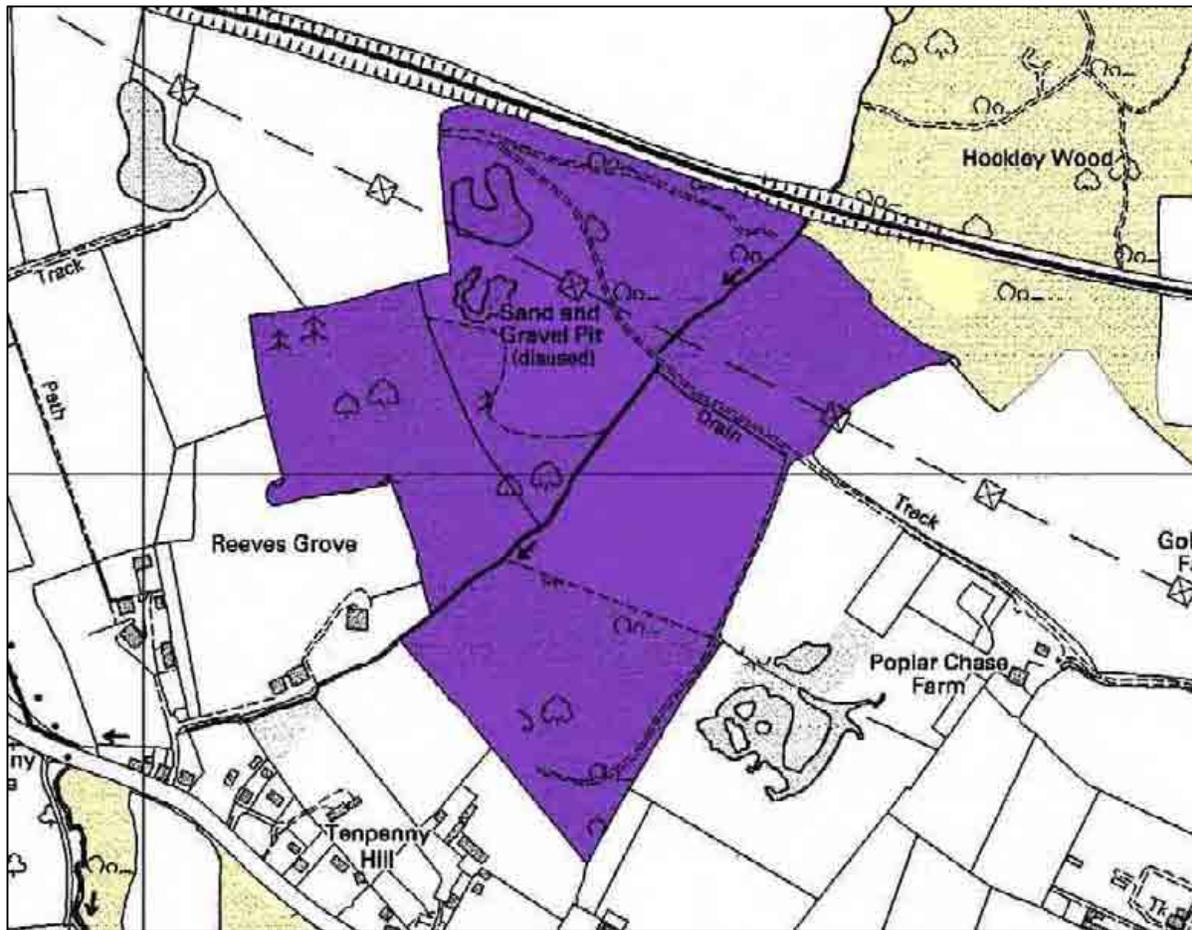
Mill Dam Meadow is a small area of sloping acid grassland, which is largely rabbit grazed. A very short sward and some exposed soil is typical for most of the area, with species including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*). Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) occur near a stream on northern boundary.

Selection criteria: HCr11

UK BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te36 Poplar Chase (19.8 ha) TM 083210

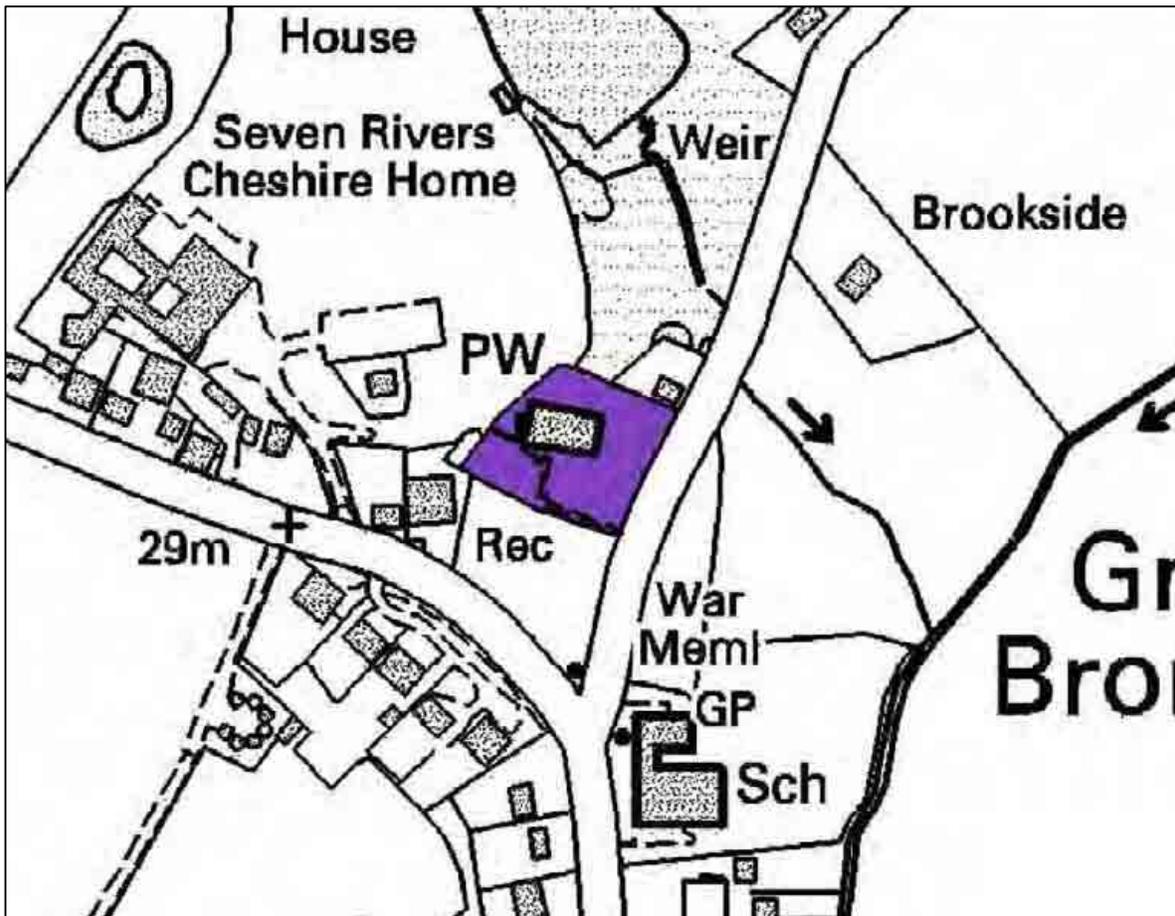
This former gravel pit site provides a mosaic of rough grassland with scattered scrub, two ponds and scrubby woodland. Grassland is partly rabbit grazed with some areas having very little vegetation cover. Such areas are, however, important habitat for many of the insects associated with such brownfield habitat. Species present include Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Creeping Bent (*A. stolonifera*), Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Slender St John's-wort (*Hypericum pulchrum*), Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*). The southern pond, partially covered with Duckweed (*Lemna minor*), has Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), whilst the northern pond is more shaded by surrounding Willow (*Salix spp.*) with New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) on part of its banks. The woodland is dense and unmanaged with Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) appearing in a clearing.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr6b, HCr13, HCr20

BAP Priority Habitats: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te37 Great Bromley Churchyard (0.3 ha) TM 083262

This churchyard, with a short sward at the time of the survey, supports a wide range of species in a dry acid grassland sward, including Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Dog-violet (*Viola spp.*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*). A few scattered trees and shrubs are mainly Lime (*Tilia cordata* x *T. platyphyllos*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) Yew (*Taxus baccata*) with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), the last of which may need controlling to prevent its spread over the churchyard.

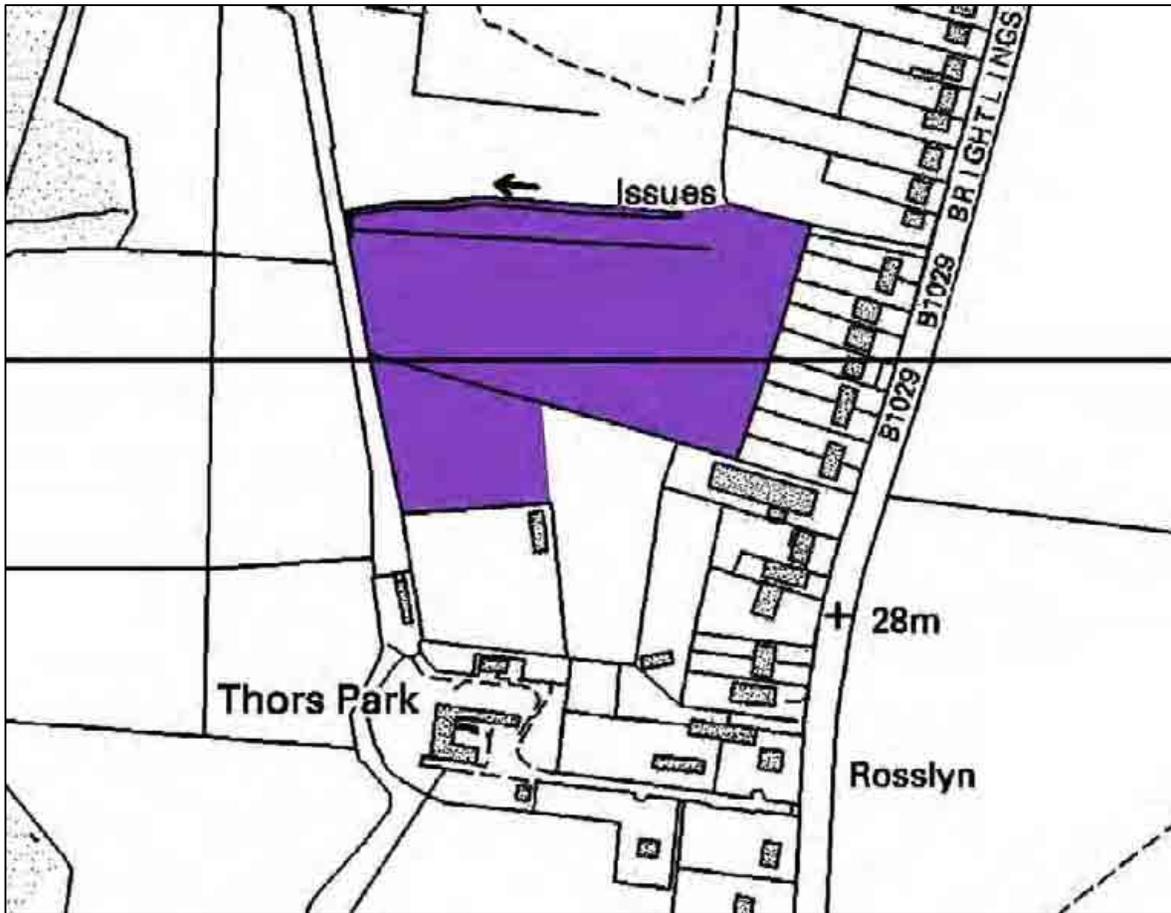
This site represents a small remnant fragment of relatively unimproved acid grassland in a local landscape that is dominated by agriculture, with no other significant areas of grassland.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te38 Thors Park Meadow (2.6 ha) TM 085200

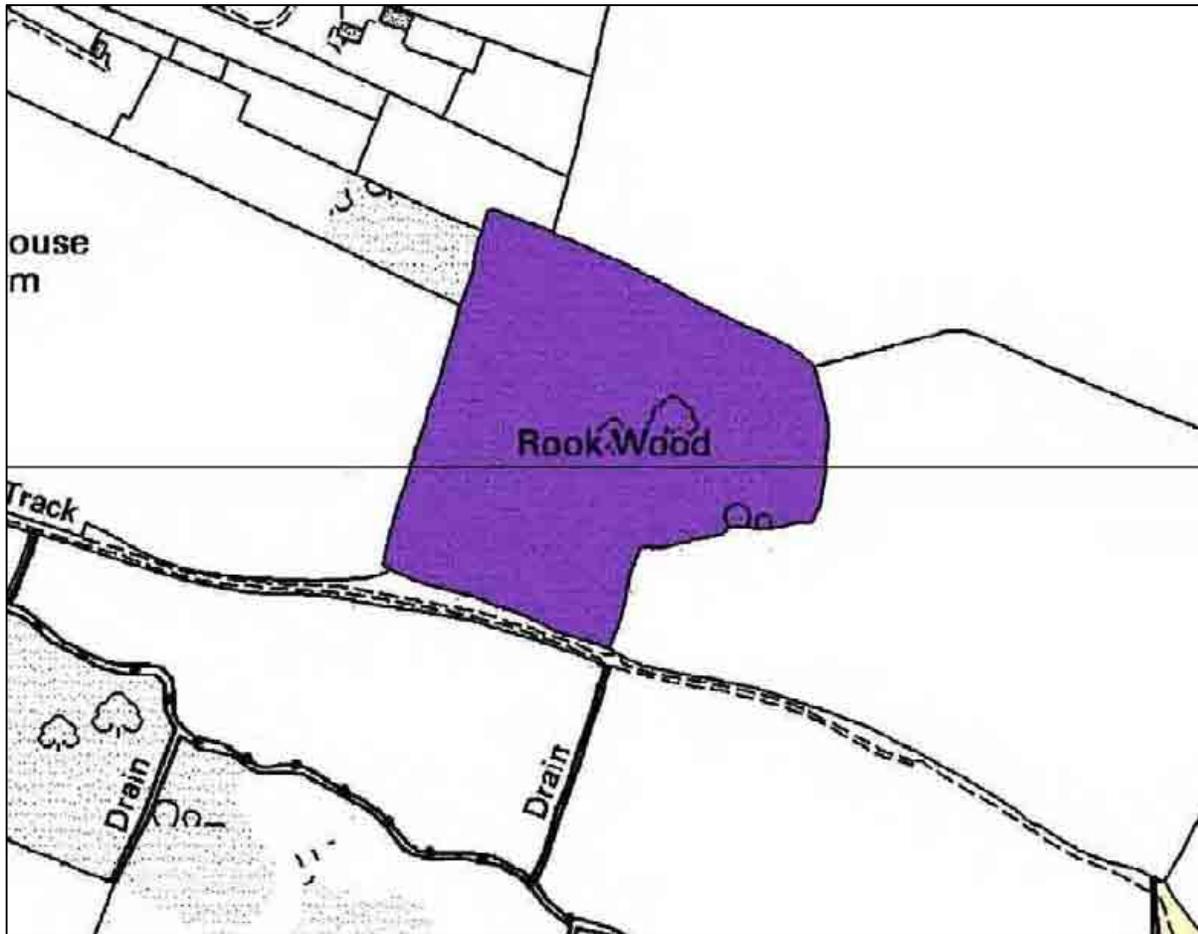
This unmanaged, partly rabbit grazed grassland is characterised by Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) with Bent-grasses (*Agrostis spp.*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*). A wet area towards the northeast corner supports Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). A ditch forms most of the northern boundary with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Bulrush and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) on its banks.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te39 Rook Wood (3.6 ha) TM 086190

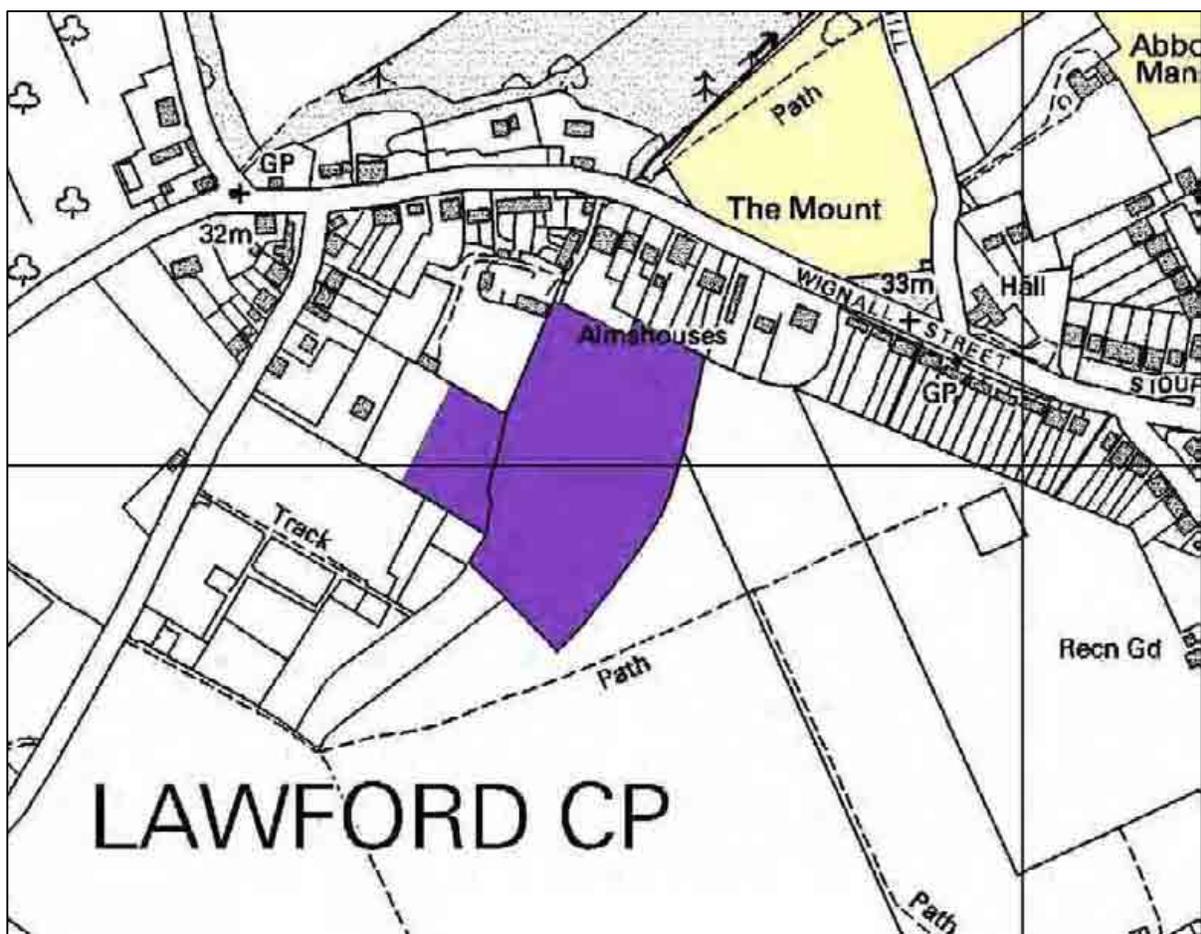
Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice are frequent in this ancient wood, with coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) also present. Elm (*Ulmus* spp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) form the understorey layer. Ground flora is represented by abundant Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te40 Wignall Street Grassland (2.5 ha) TM 086310

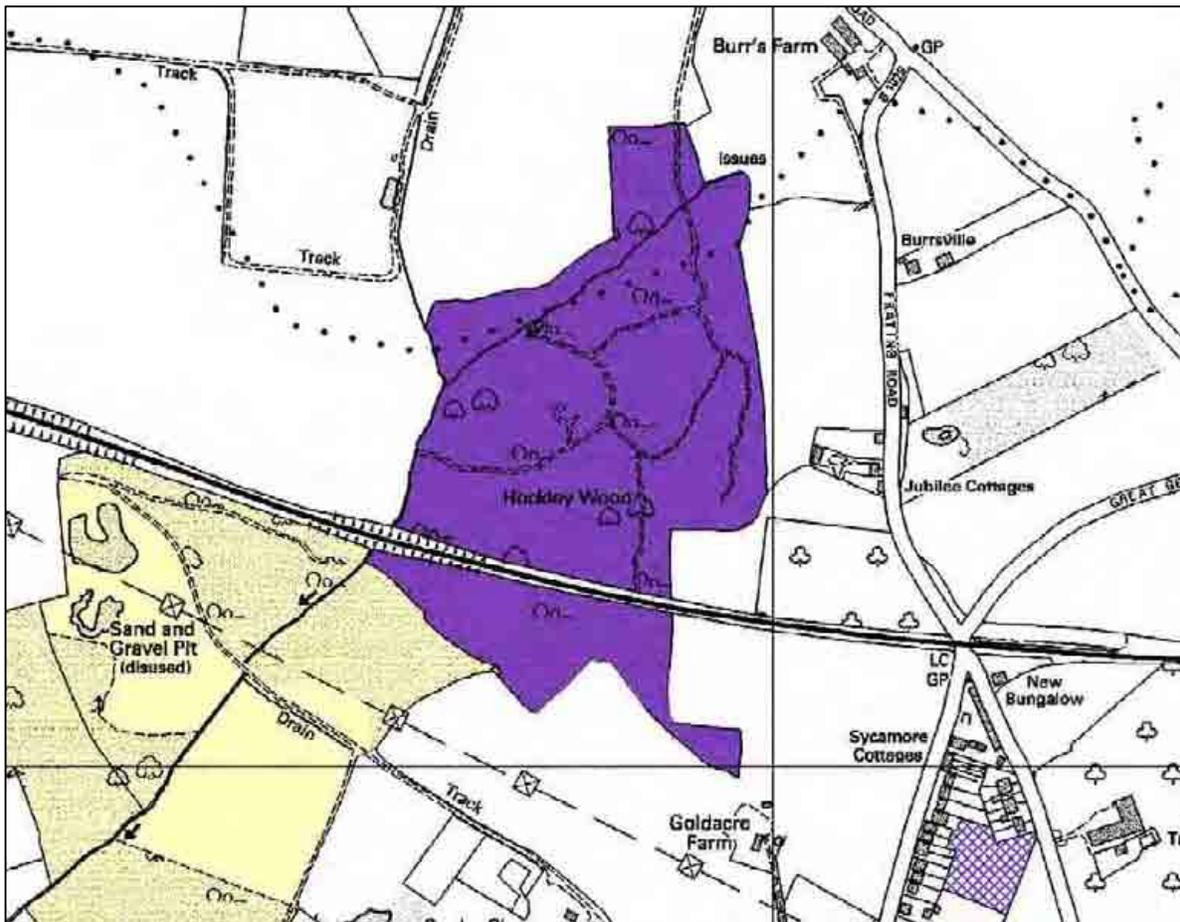
Thick hedgerows to the east and south bound this undulating, west-sloping area of old grassland. The southern part of the site has dense Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) scrub, which provides some habitat diversity but should not be allowed to dominate the site. The undulating slope results in finer grasses like Bent-grass (*Agrostis* spp.) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) colonising the freer draining steeper rabbit-grazed areas. The acidic nature of the soil is illustrated by the presence of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). The sward includes Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), a species very scarce in Tendring District and included in the Essex Red Data List of plants. Other areas have a more neutral grassland character with rough grassland species including Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). The lower valley area has damp grassland with Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), an Essex Red Data List species now uncommon in Essex.

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te41 Hockley Wood (14.8 ha) TM 088213

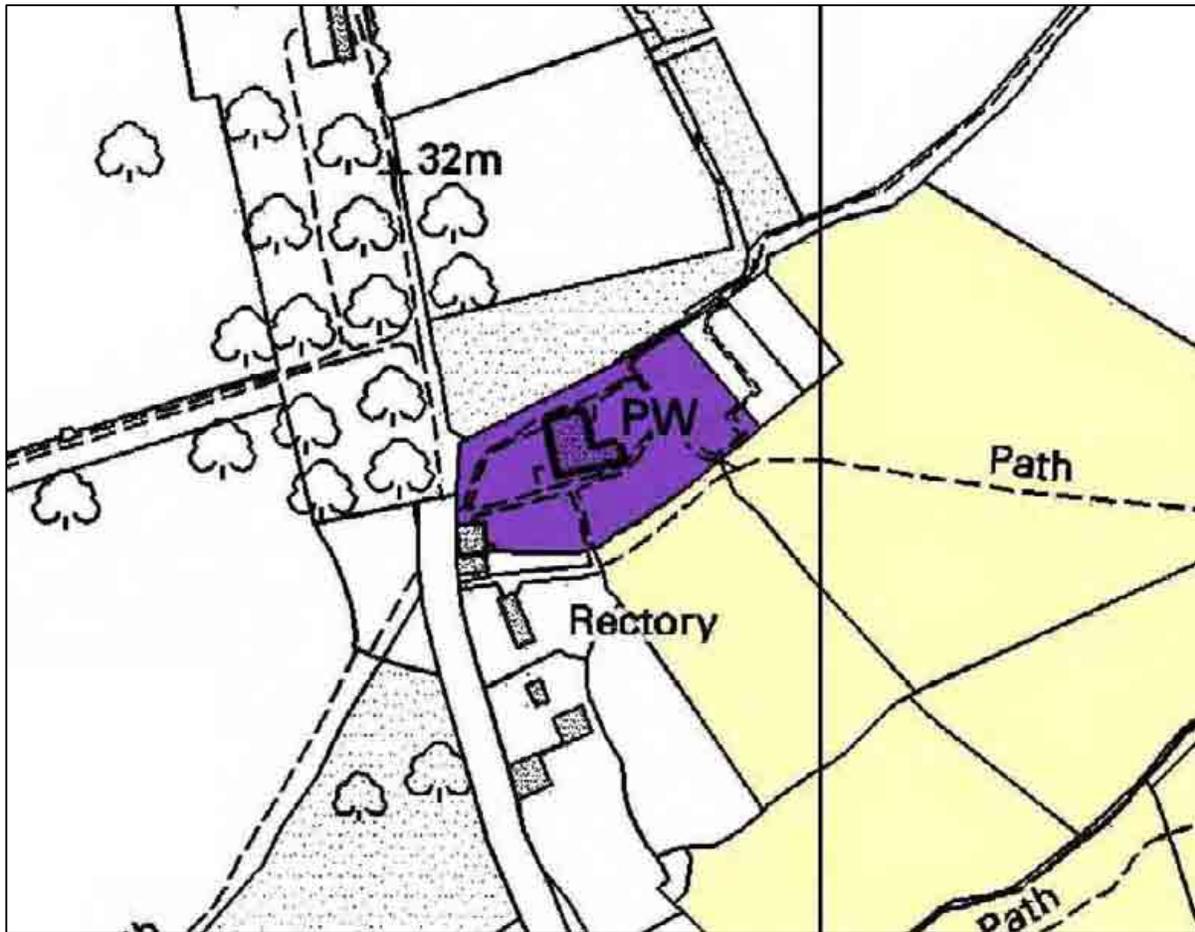
This is a large semi-natural coppice-with-standards ancient woodland with a few ponds. Standards are represented mainly by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The rest of the canopy is formed by Birch (*Betula* spp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). The ground flora includes Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*). A small open space with dominant Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and some Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is located in the northern half of the site. Heather might formerly have been a common ground flora plant in the dry, sandy plateau woods of Tending, but is now exceptionally rare here.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te42 Lawford Churchyard (0.6 ha) TM 089315

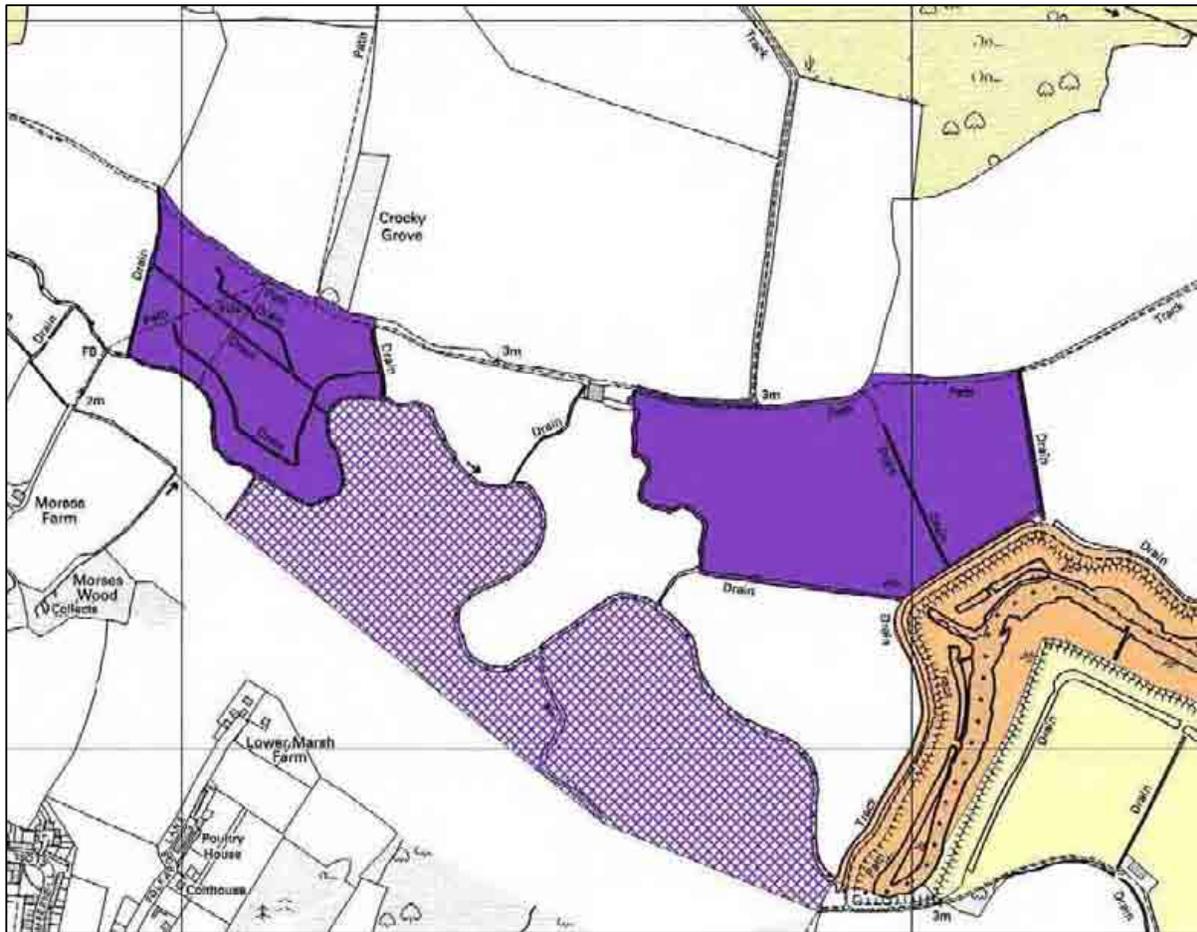
The grassland surrounding the church of St Mary the Virgin, Lawford, is relatively unimproved and supports a wide variety of plant species, including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Species of particular interest include Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) and the evergreen fern Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) that tolerates only light shading and little competition. The latter two species are recorded as Essex Red Data List species.

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te43 Thorington Marshes (20.8 ha) TM 091185

Semi-improved grassland forms this remnant grazing marsh with a good network of ditches. Characteristic species include Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) and Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*). Some of the ditches support Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The area, currently grazed by cattle, also provides important habitat for many overwintering birds.

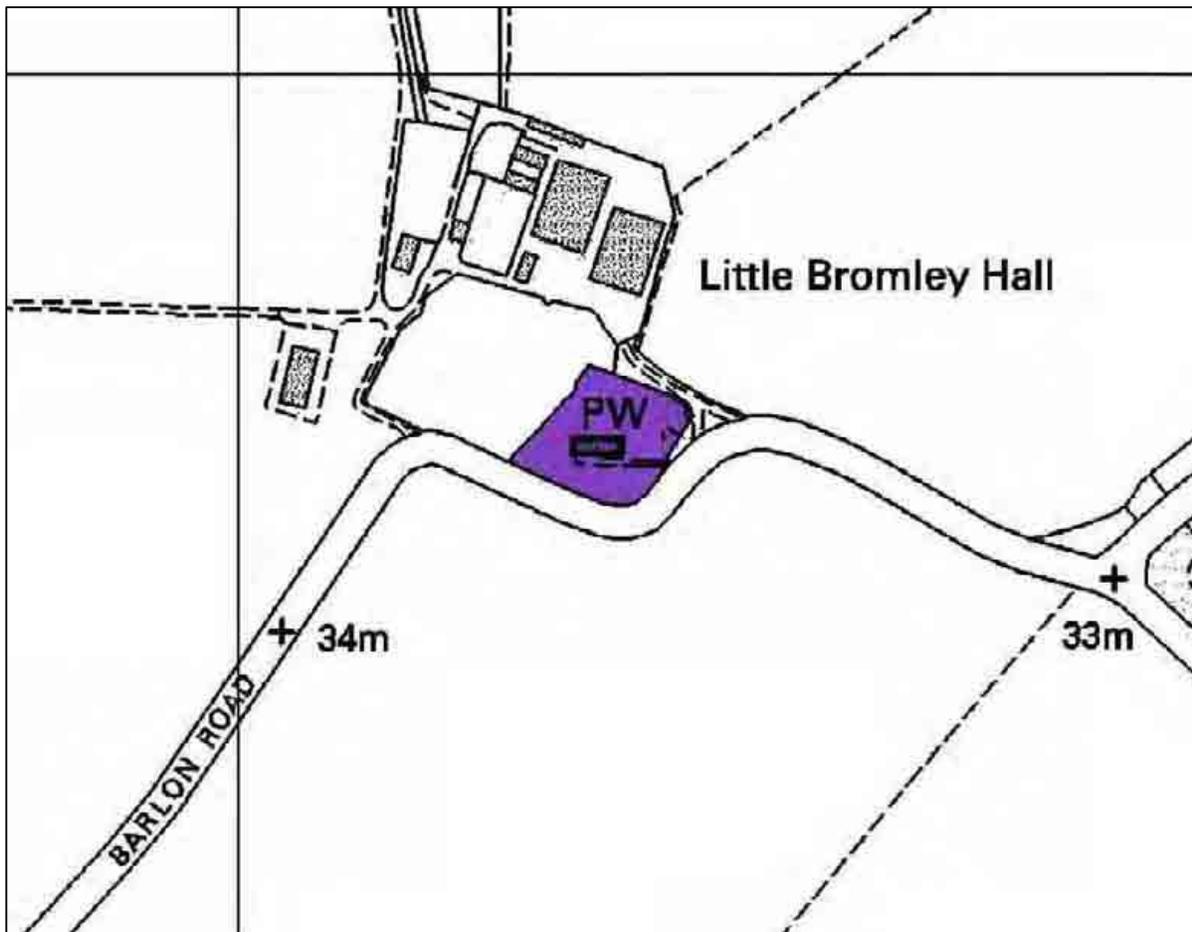
Two further fields to the south have been highlighted as Potential LoWS, for which further survey work is required. They would provide an important link between these marshes and the adjacent SSSI.

Selection criteria: HCr16

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te44 Little Bromley Churchyard (0.3 ha) TM 091278

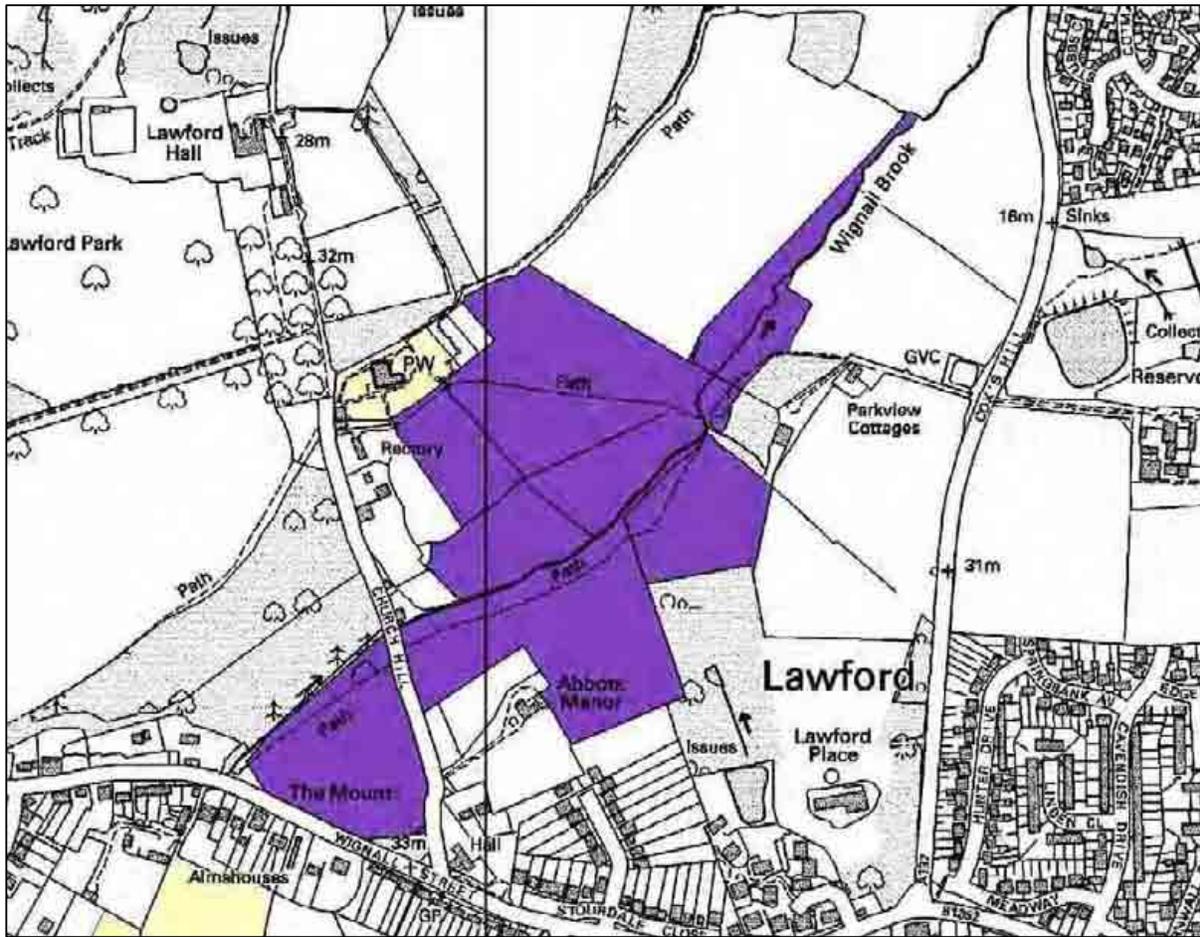
This small churchyard represents a remnant of the dry acid grassland that would formerly have been widespread on the Tending plateau. It is now the only such grassland, other than the nearby Great Bromley churchyard, that remains in an otherwise intensively cultivated landscape. The sward is notable for the abundance of Pignut (*Conopodium majus*). Other species of interest include Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), which also favours short, dry sward conditions.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te45 Wignall Brook Grasslands (14.0 ha) TM 091314

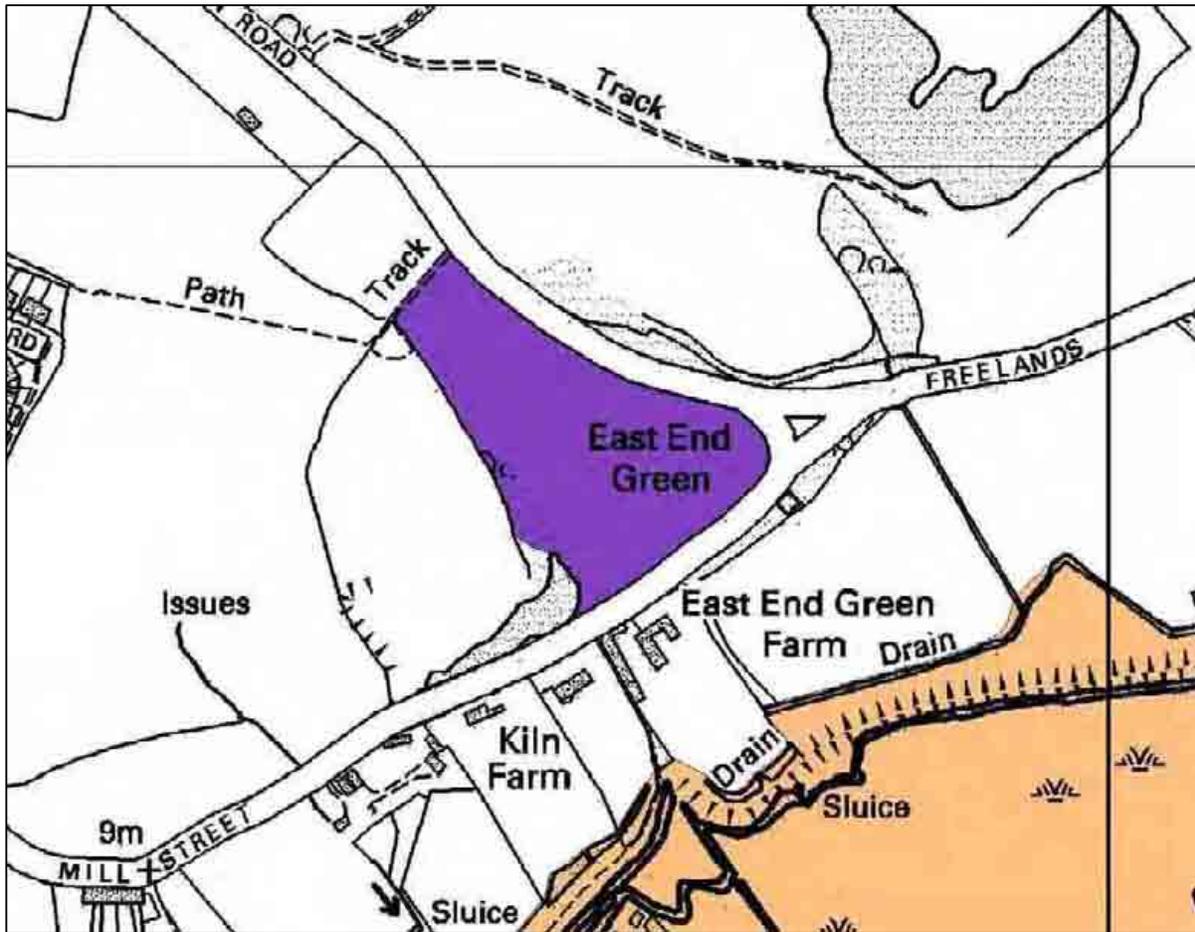
This is an extensive series of stream valley grasslands either side of Wignall Brook, Lawford. The character of the site varies from dry semi-acid, through dry neutral to marshy grassland. Tall Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Willow (*Salix* sp.) line the brook in the central valley area. A wide variety of grass species are found throughout the grassland including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), this last species favouring shadier locations. In a marshy area near the brook, Bristle Club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*), an Essex red data List species is found. This diminutive member of the sedge family generally grows in damp conditions, especially those subject to winter flooding and is extremely uncommon and declining in Essex. Associated with this plant are several rushes including Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Jointed Rush (*J. articulatus*) and Toad Rush (*J. bufonius*).

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grasslands (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te46 East End Green (2.0 ha) TM 097168

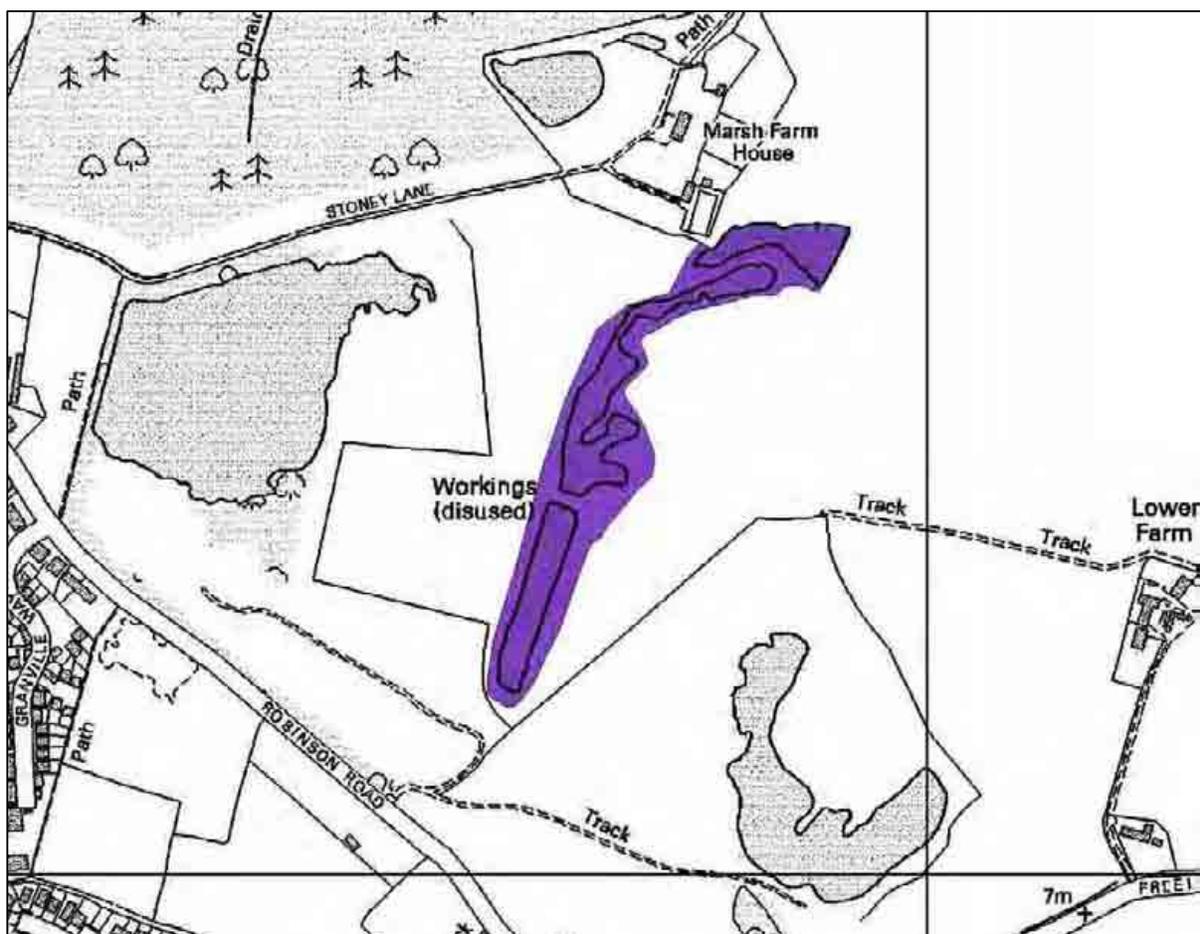
East End Green comprises an unmanaged sward of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Meadow-grass (*Poa spp.*) and Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*). Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) also occur here, the former species being an unusual species for Tending and is also included in the Essex Red Data List. The green is suffering from some scrub encroachment: mainly Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grasslands (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te47 Robinson Road Ponds (2.7 ha) TM 097173

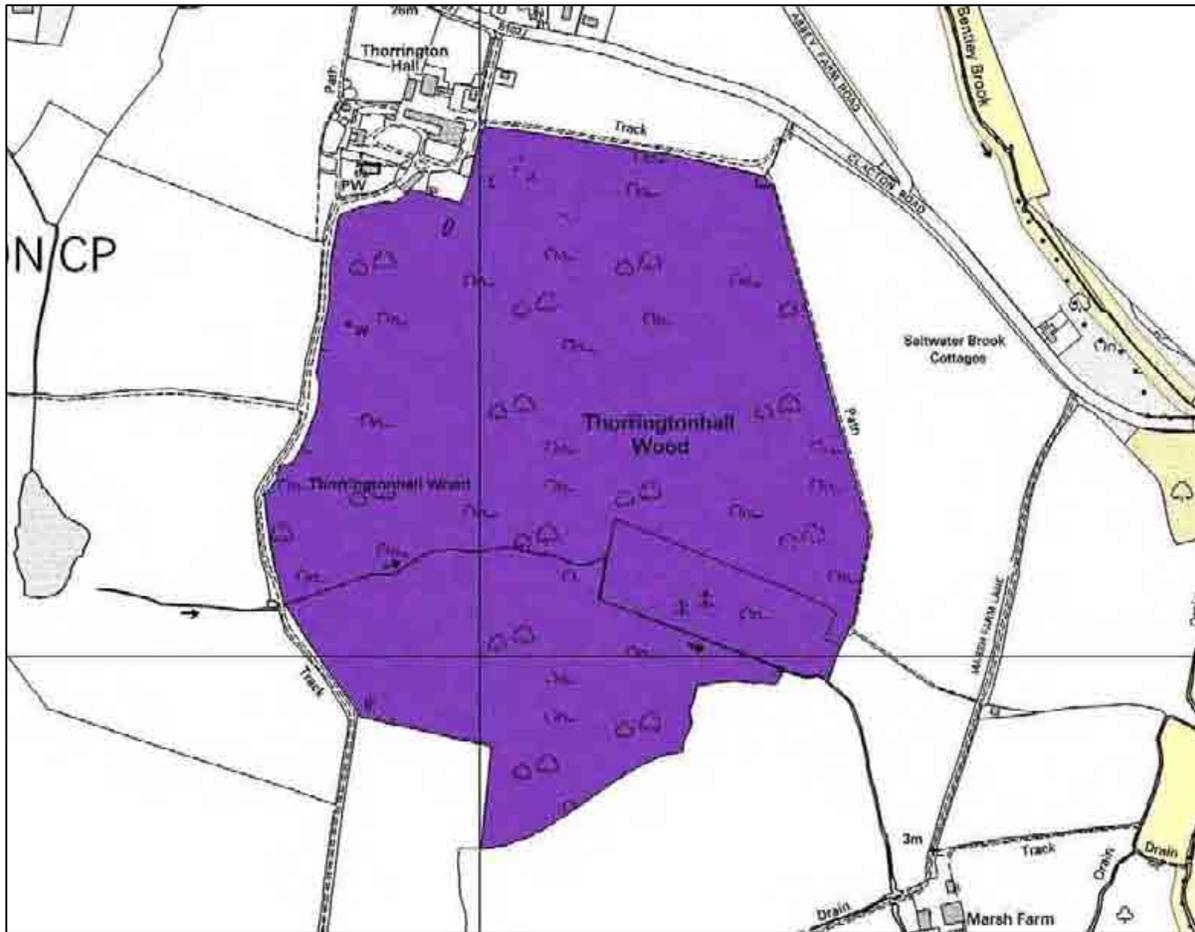
These flooded ex-gravel pits forms a network of ponds with associated marginal vegetation, grassland and scrub. The Site was formerly much larger, including land to the west, but this has now been extensively restored and has lost much of its brownfield wildlife habitat. These remaining ponds, shaded mainly by Willow (*Salix* spp.) with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Birch (*Betula* spp.) are to some degree covered with Duckweed (*Lemna minor*). Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Reed (*Phragmites australis*) are growing along the margins and slowly infilling the shallow southern pond. False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) are present on the grassy pond banks.

Selection criteria: HCr5, HCr20, HCr22

BAP Priority Habitats: Wet Woodland, Reedbeds (UK); Reedbeds (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te48 Thorningtonhall Wood (48.5 ha) TM 101192

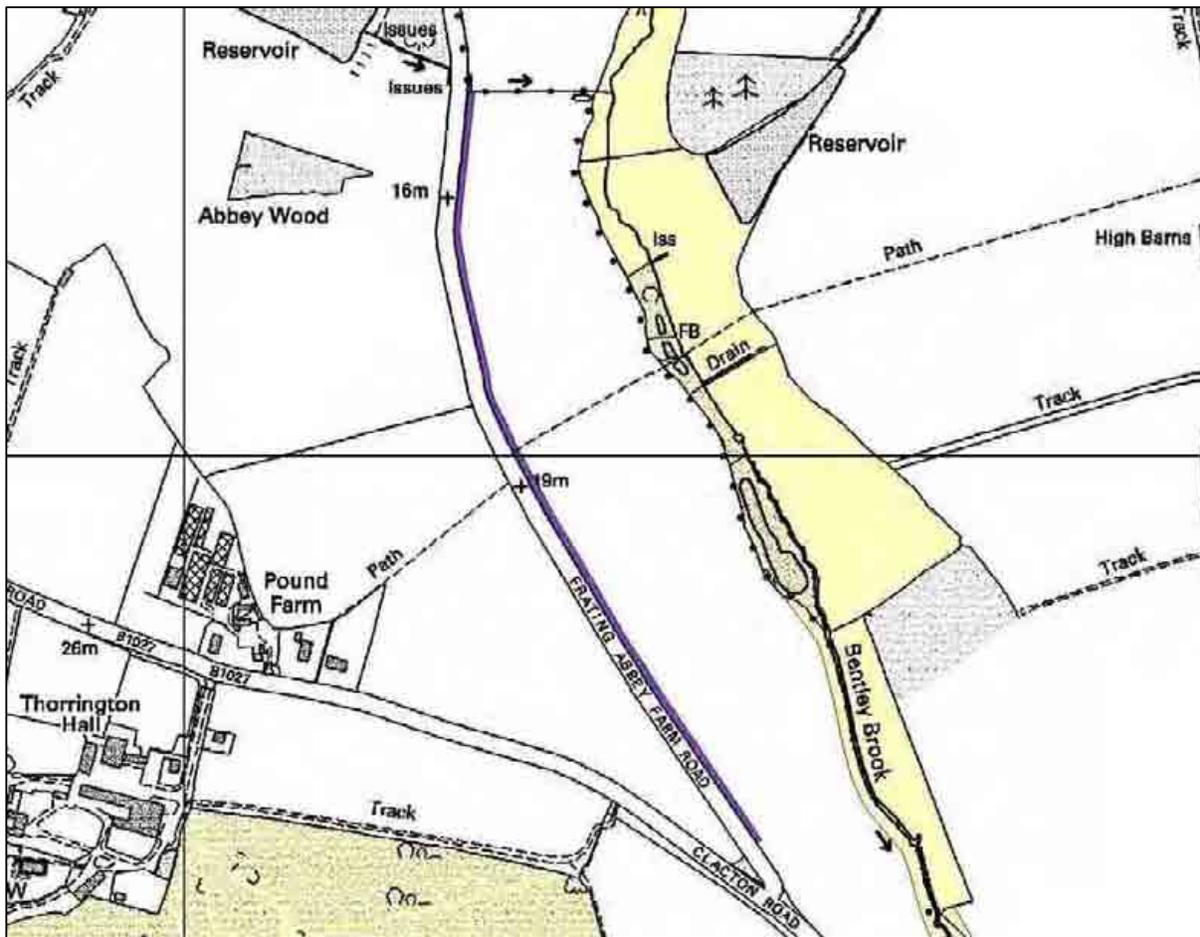
Thorningtonhall Wood is one of the largest ancient woodlands in the district, containing Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with small proportion of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) together with standards of Poplar (*Populus* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Birch (*Betula* sp.) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) forms the understorey with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) amongst ground flora. The Site includes a small area of non-ancient woodland in the south-eastern corner, which is now virtually indistinguishable from the ancient canopy that surrounds it.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te49 Frating Abbey Farm Road Verge (0.2 ha) TM 103199

This approximately 770m long verge located on the east side of the road has Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Yellow Oat Grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) present among other grassland flora. It has been previously assigned its Essex County Council Special Roadside Verge status due to interesting woodland-like flora that included Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te50 Bentley Brook (39.0 ha) TM 105208

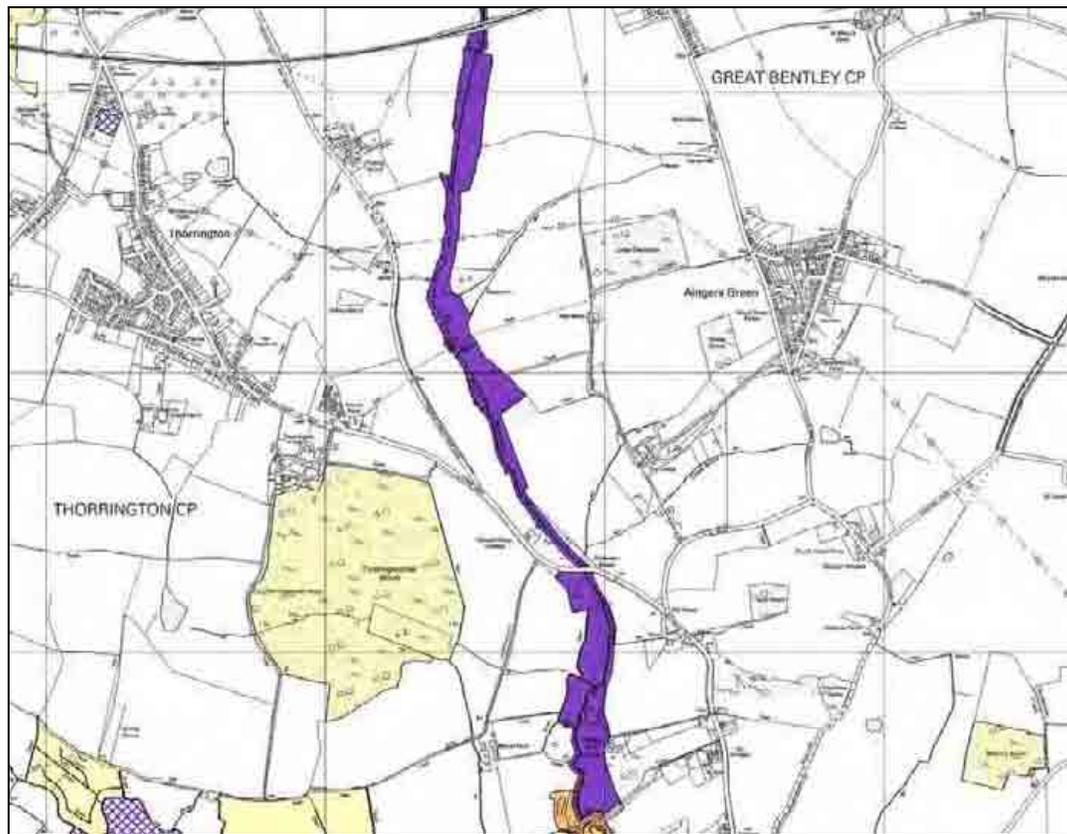
This site comprises a mosaic of different habitats including grassland, woodland, scrub and ponds as well as the brook channel itself. Most of the grassland is damp and grazed by cattle, with species including Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), Soft-Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*J. inflexus*), Sweet-grass (*Glyceria* spp.), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*). A small, drier area near the railway has Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Bent grass (*Agrostis* spp.), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and Squirrel-tail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is frequent along the brook, forming pockets of alder wood with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Willow (*Salix* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Hedgerows form most of the site boundaries consisting mainly of Pedunculate Oak standards with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel, Hawthorn, Elder and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The sparse ground flora contains Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Water Voles have been recorded along the Brook, which also acts as hunting grounds for Barn Owl, Marsh Harrier and Buzzard. Snipe and Marsh Sandpiper are also regular winter visitors.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr2(d), HCr11, HCr13, HCr14 (at a small scale)

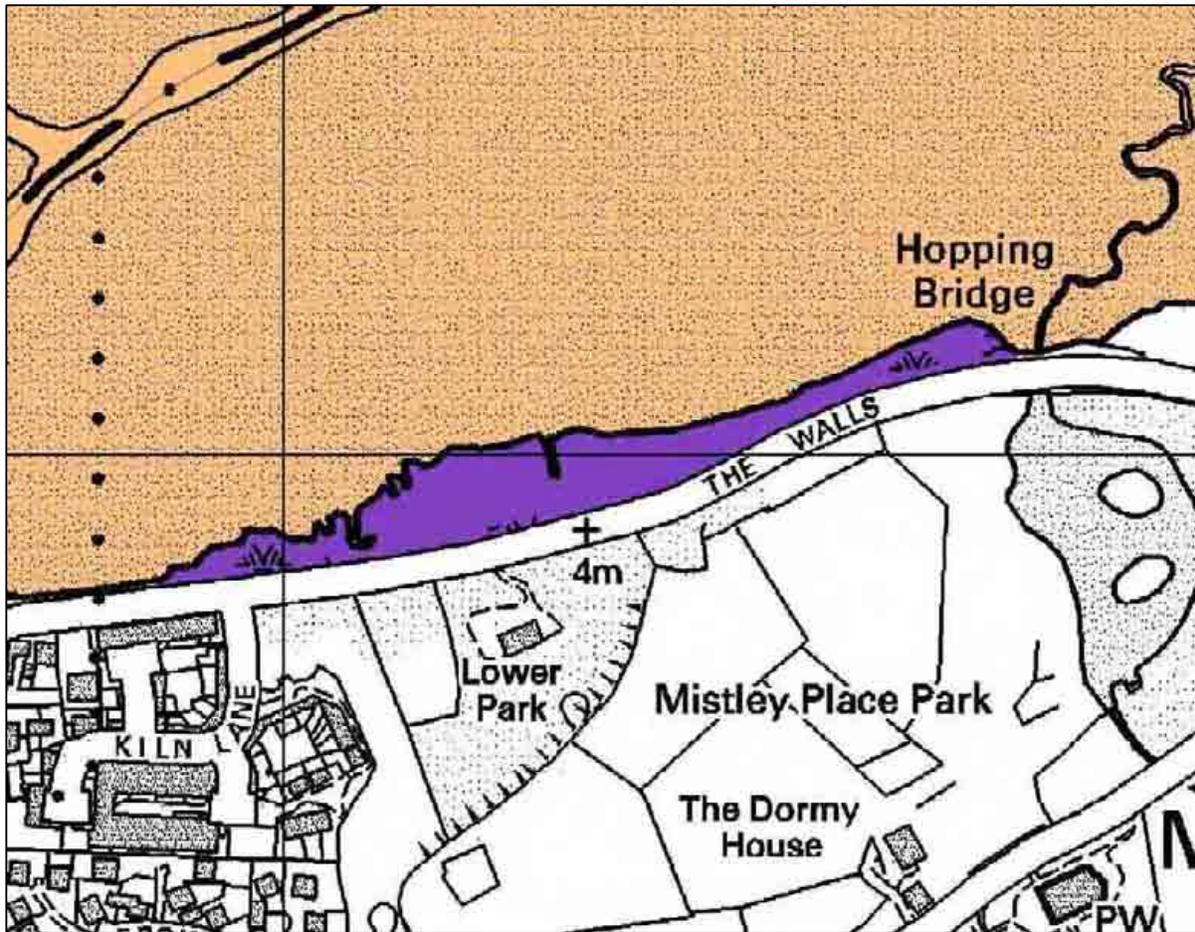
BAP Priority Habitats: Wet Woodland, Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te52 Hopping Bridge Marsh (1.2 ha) TM 111319

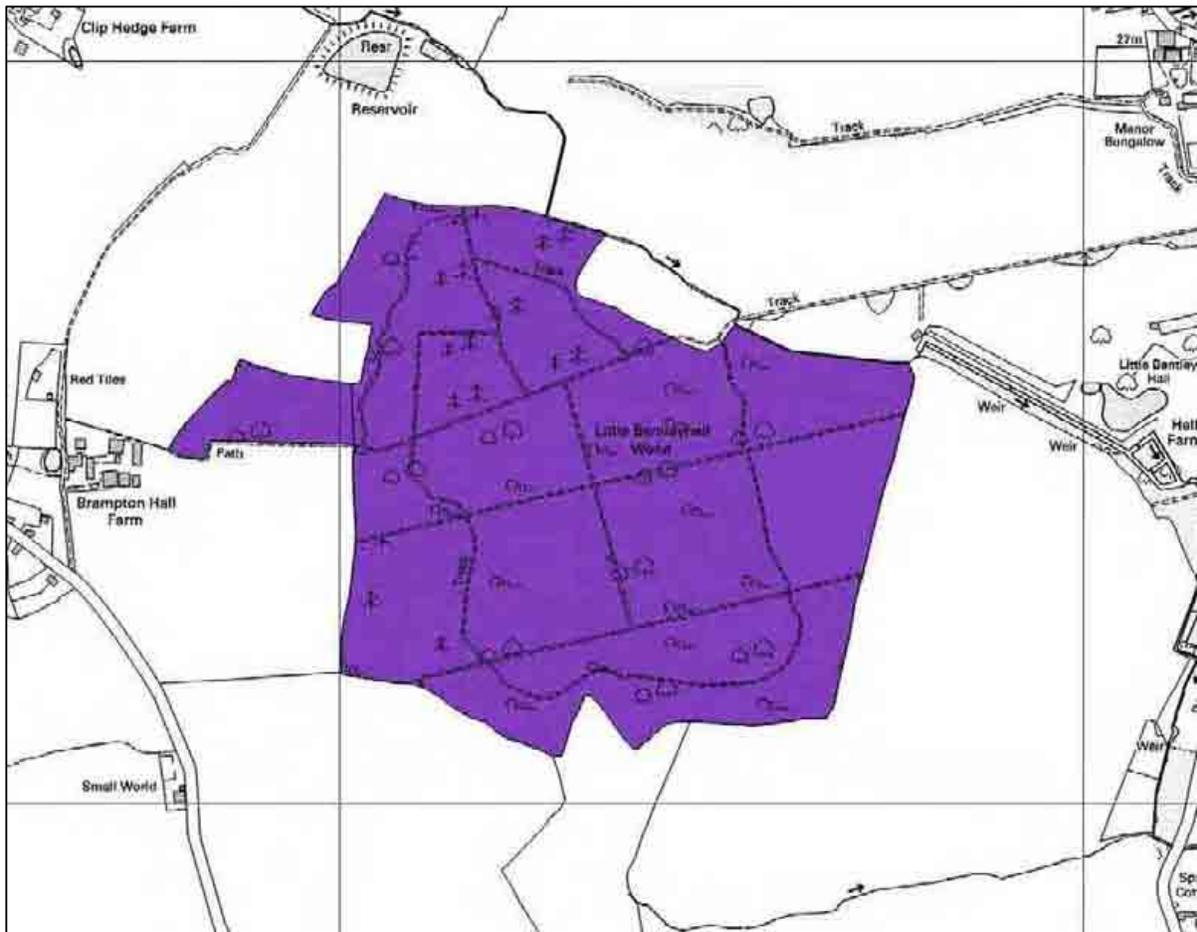
This narrow band of saltmarsh is located on the south side of the River Stour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and provides valuable additional habitat to the estuarine ecosystem, albeit suffering from more recreational pressure than the SSSI itself. Typical species of this habitat include Sea-milkwort (*Glaux maritima*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*) and Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*).

Selection criteria: HCr17

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal Saltmarsh (UK/Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te53 Little Bentleyhall Wood (43.4 ha) TM 113244

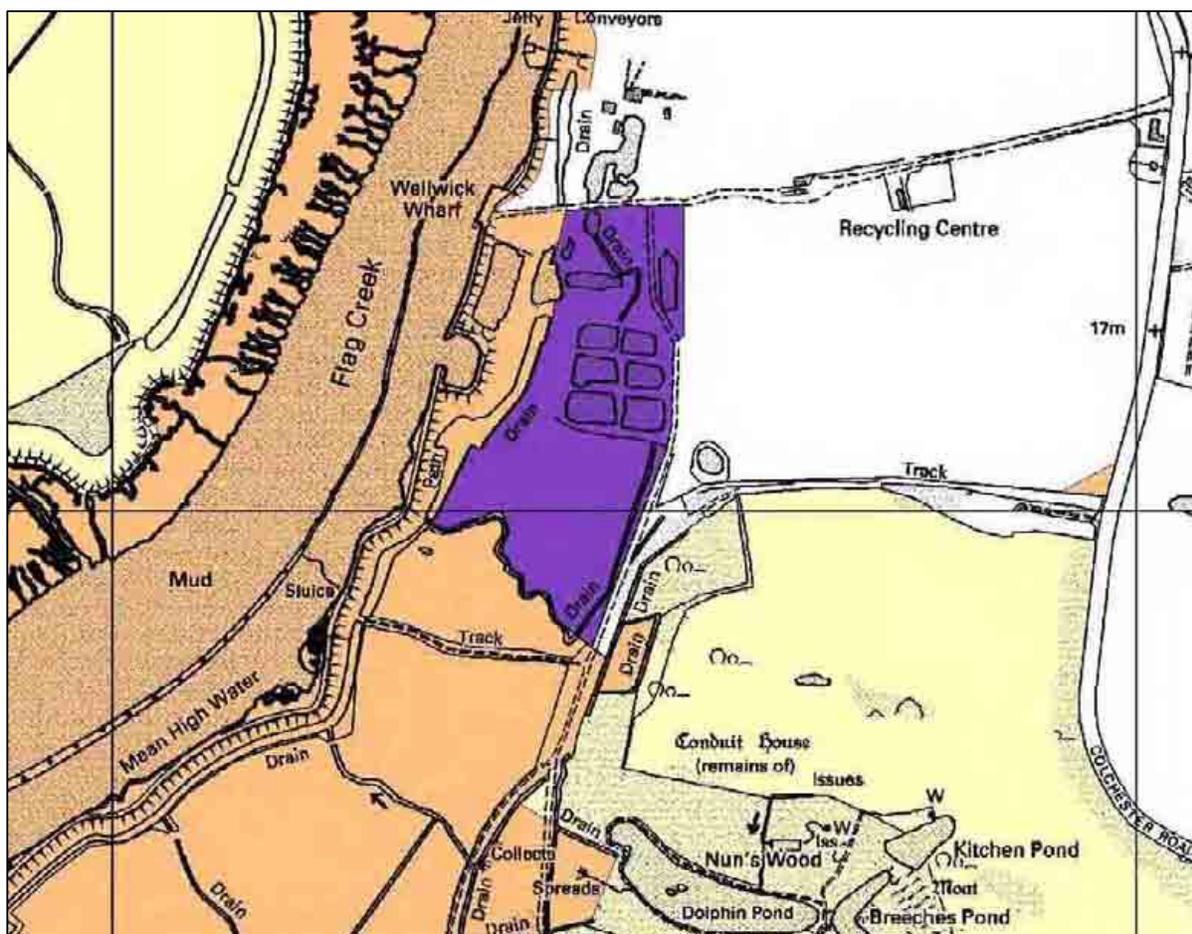
Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Birch (*Betula sp.*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) standards dominate this ancient wood. The north-western area is additionally planted with conifers and also contains Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), an uncommon component of Tending woods. The ground flora is typified by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te54 Flag Creek Marsh (5.6 ha) TM 114170

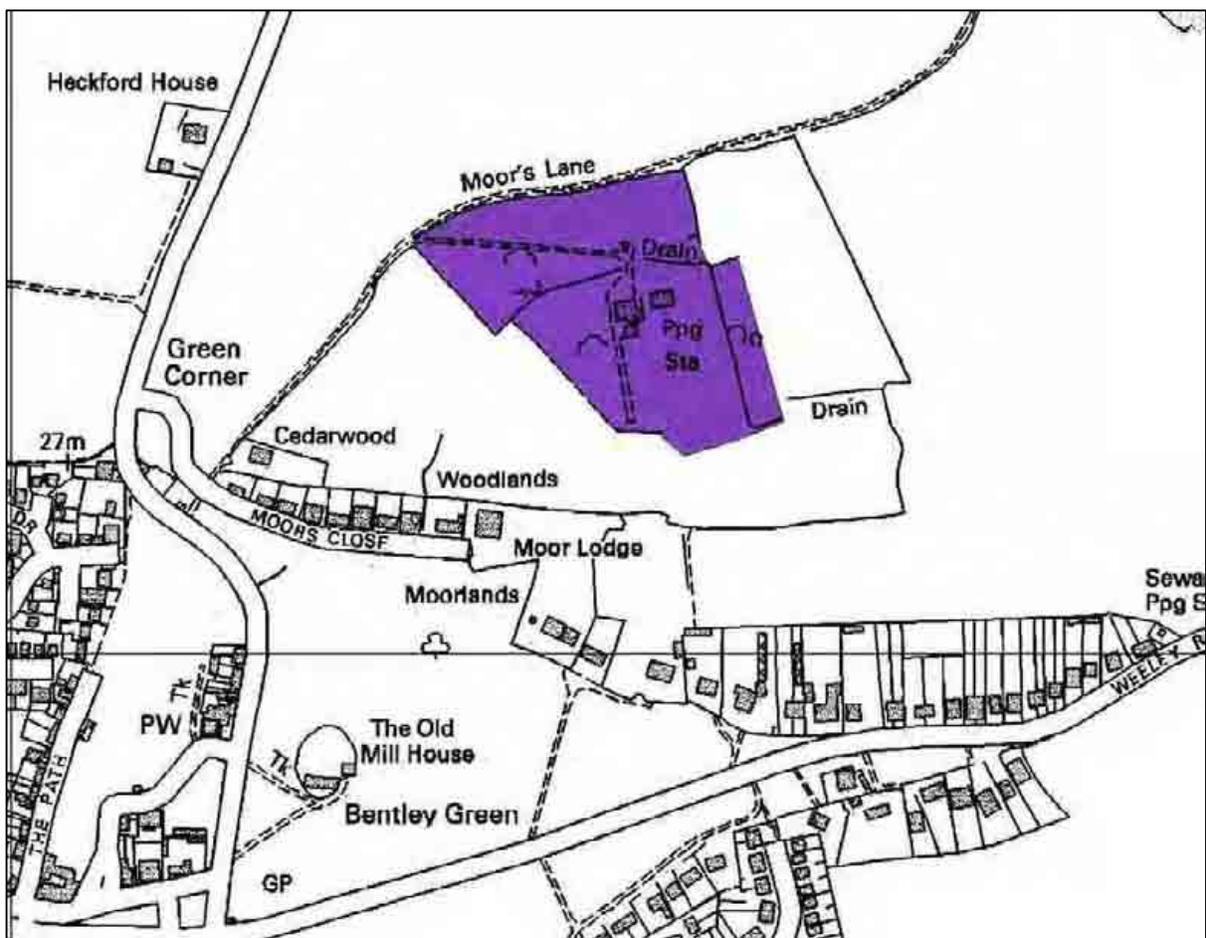
This site forms interesting mosaic habitat incorporating areas of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with rough grassland, scrub and silt ponds. Grassland species include False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*) with Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) on exposed banks. Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp.) and Fringed Water Lily (*Nymphoides peltata*) are present in the ponds. Margins are fringed with Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Reed and Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*). The scrub is mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Willow (*Salix* spp.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Selection criteria: HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr16, HCr22

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te55 Great Bentley Pumping Station (3.5 ha) TM 114222

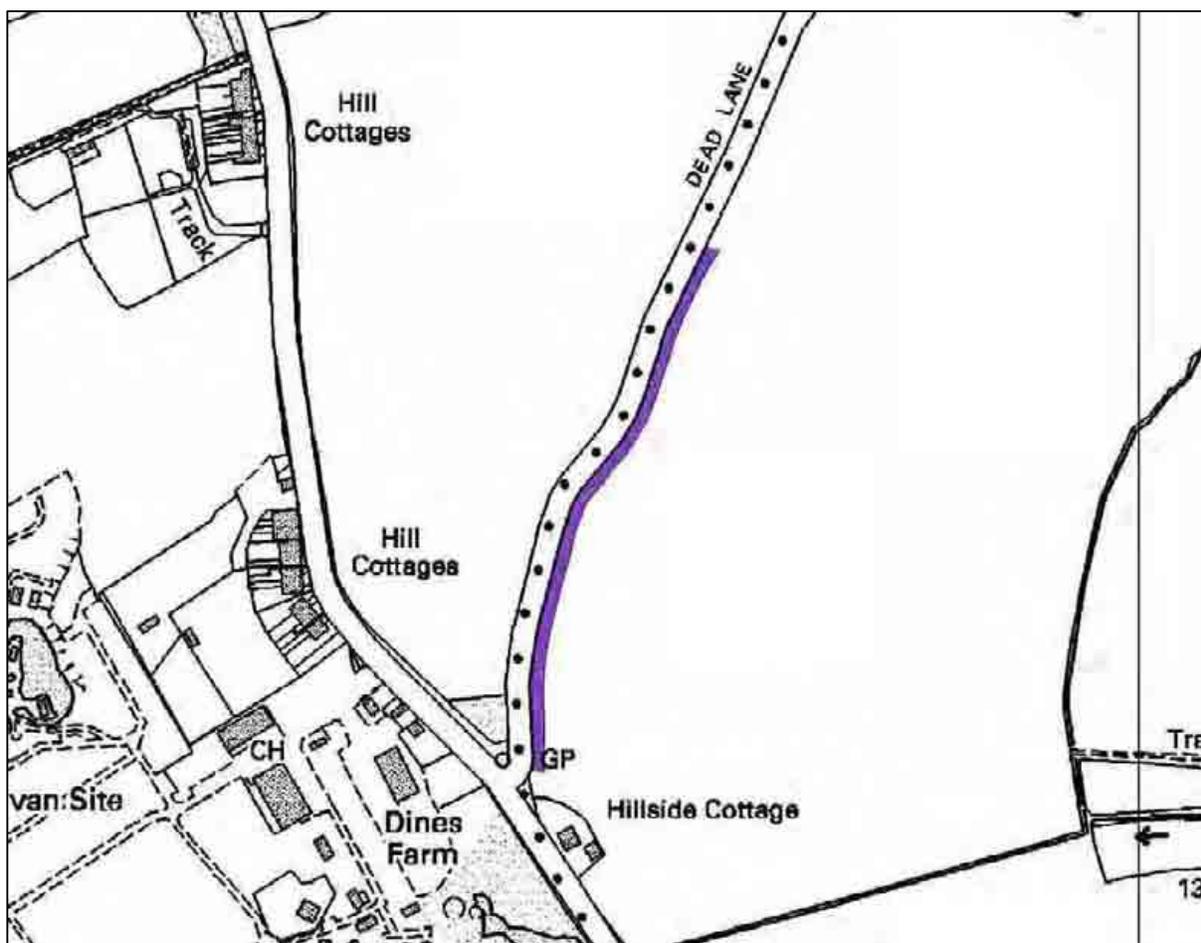
This mosaic site, surrounded by arable land, includes broadleaved woodland, scrub, scattered trees and grassland. The woodland canopy is mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with occasional Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) forms the understorey layer. The unimproved grassland with scattered trees include Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). Long sward grassland formed in the western area is typified by Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). Heath Bedstraw and Heath Speedwell have also been recorded. This is a site for the Nationally Scarce (Nb) Velvet-ant *Mutilla europaea*, which is uncommon in north-east Essex. Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Adder have all been reported from this site.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr6(b), HCr10, HCr13, SCr4

UK BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te56 Dead Lane Verge (0.07 ha) TM 116183

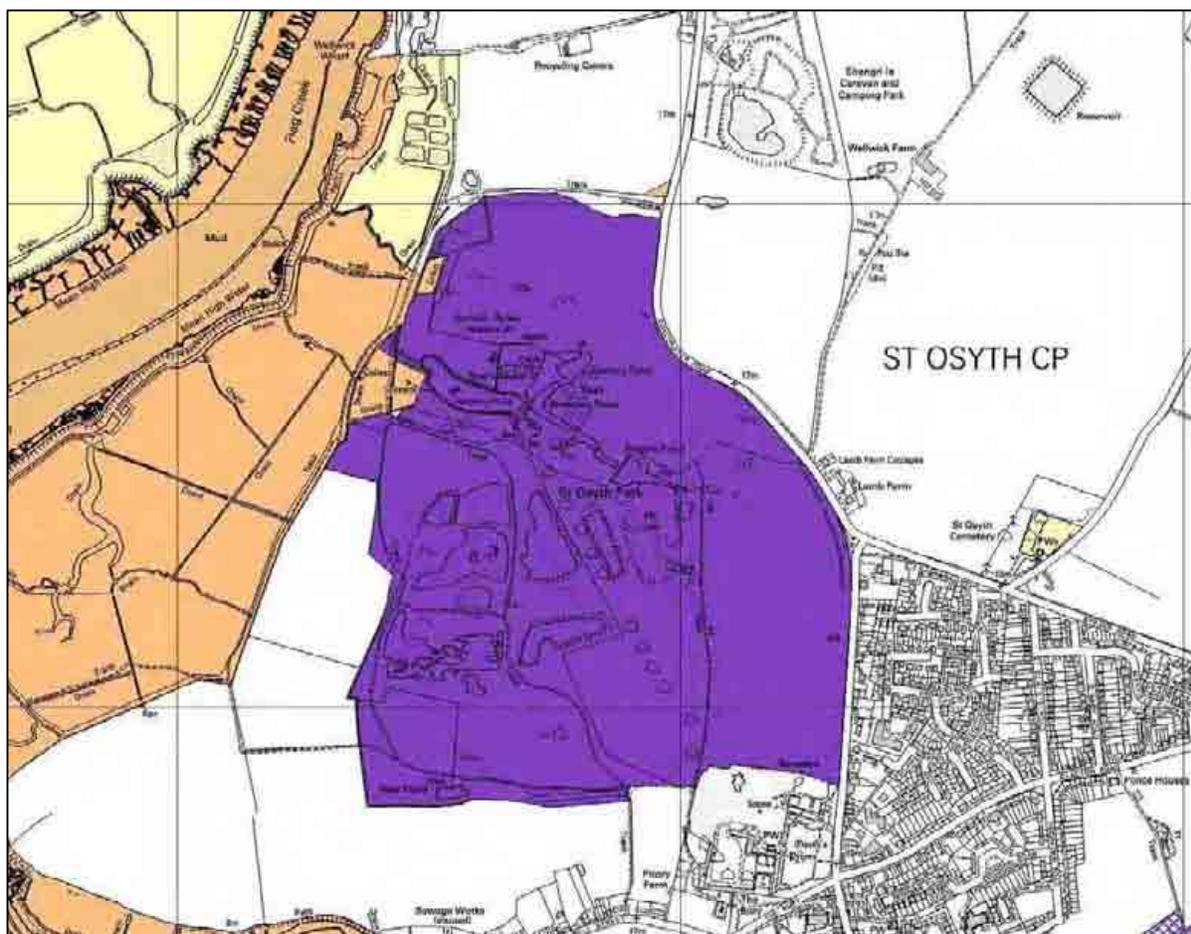
This eastern verge has been designated for its interesting flora which includes Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*), a nationally scarce and Essex Red Data List species. Other plant species present include Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*).

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te57 St. Osyth Parkland (91.3 ha) TM 118163

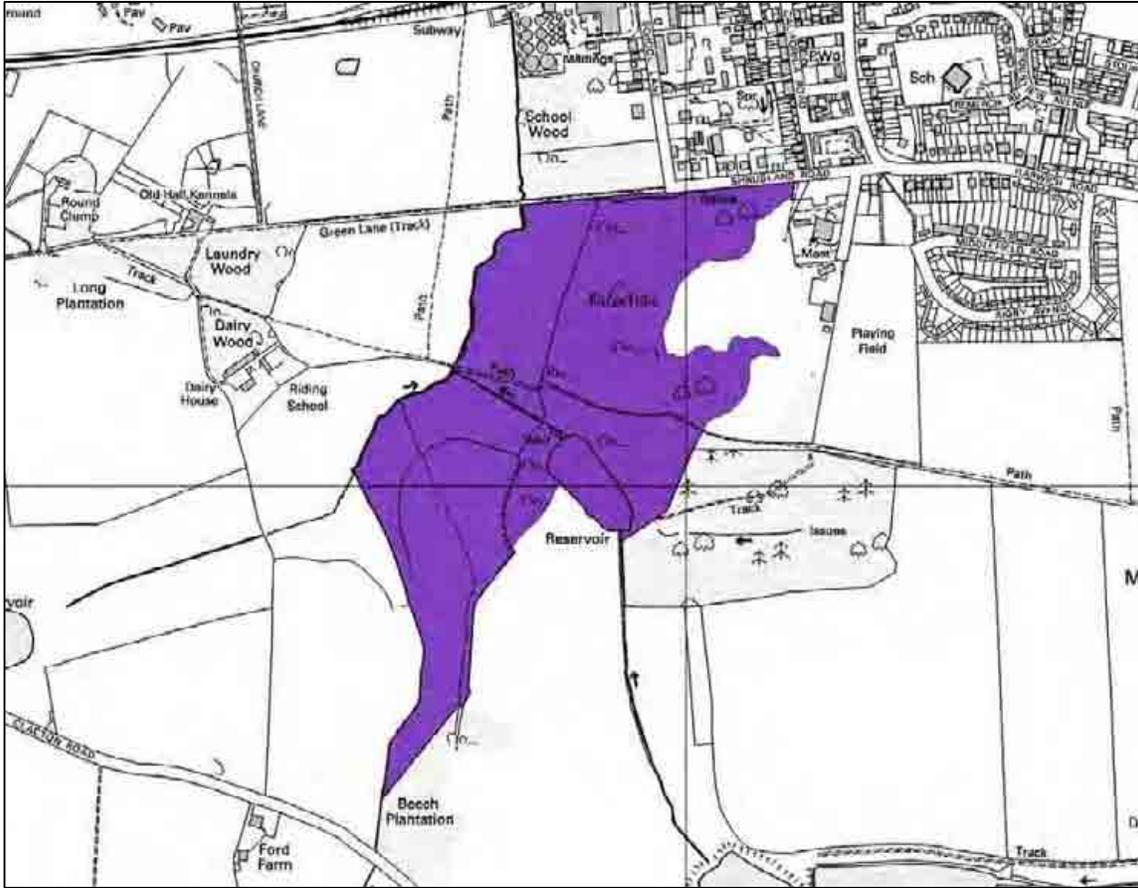
St. Osyth Parkland is a rich and complex mosaic of marshy and semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, woodland, parkland, scrub and numerous ponds. The woodland contains Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) in the ground flora. The ponds display a typical flora with Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) and Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) whilst the damp grasslands support species such as Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Sharp-flowered rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*) Fool's-water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) Bog Stitchwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*) and Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*). Drier swards consist of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and some Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*) and Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*).

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr3, HCr6(b), HCr10, HCr13, HCr20

BAP Priority Habitats: Wood-pasture and Parkland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Veteran Trees, Lowland Grassland, Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te58 Furze Hills Complex (20.2 ha) TM 118311

This site comprises grassland to the west with woodland and a lake to the east. The variable topography of the area results in a mosaic of different habitat types. Furze Hills is essentially an area of fairly recent secondary Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) woodland, with small areas of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice in lower valley areas. However, throughout the woodland are many “veteran” Oak trees. The oldest is recorded as the second oldest tree in Essex, and is possibly up to 800 years old. These veteran trees can support a great diversity of invertebrate species, and with age become very important as bat roosting sites.

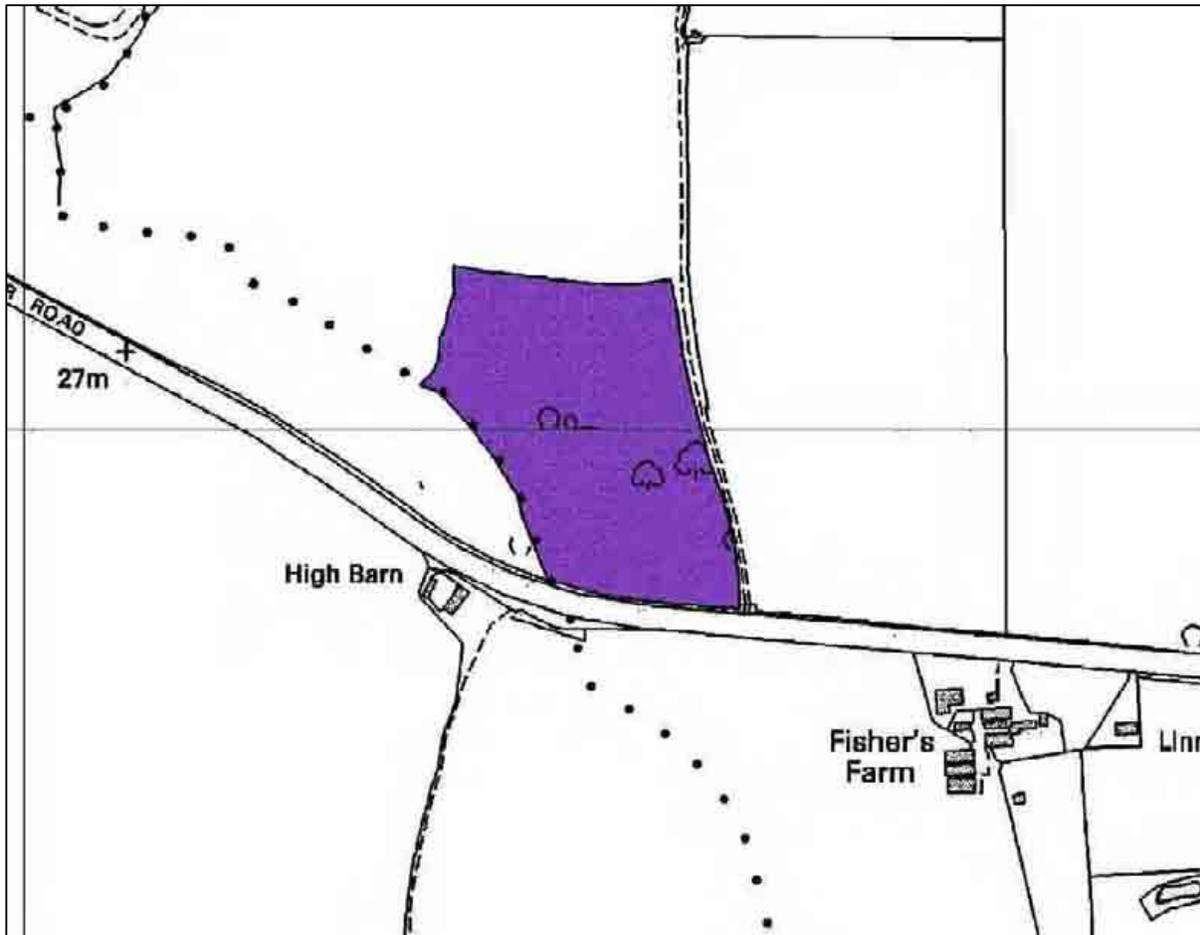
The grassland components vary considerably in character. Those of the higher ground exhibit dry acid conditions with Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) in the herb flora. Nearer the stream the sward is either a tussocky Rush (*Juncus* spp.)-dominated pasture with Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), or a damp meadow with Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*). Amongst the herb species recorded are Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*).

Selection Criteria: HCr2(c), HCr4, HCr10

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Grassland, Veteran Trees (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision:



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Te59 High Barn Wood (3.3 ha) TM 123229

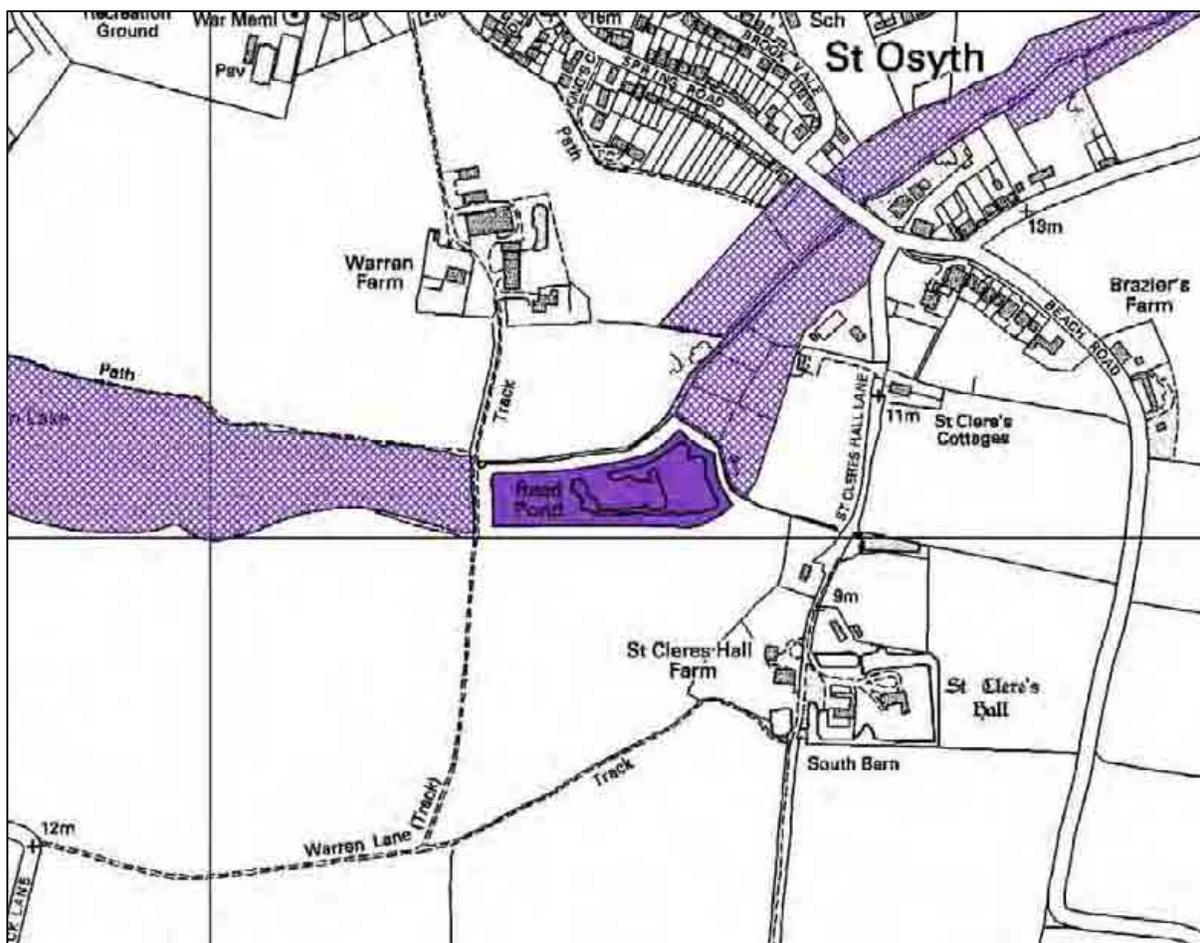
This ancient wood is composed of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Birch (*Betula* sp.) standards with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice. It also contains a small proportion of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. The ground flora is rather sparse and consists mainly of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The wood was badly storm-damaged in October 1987.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te60 Reed Pond (1.5 ha) TM 124150

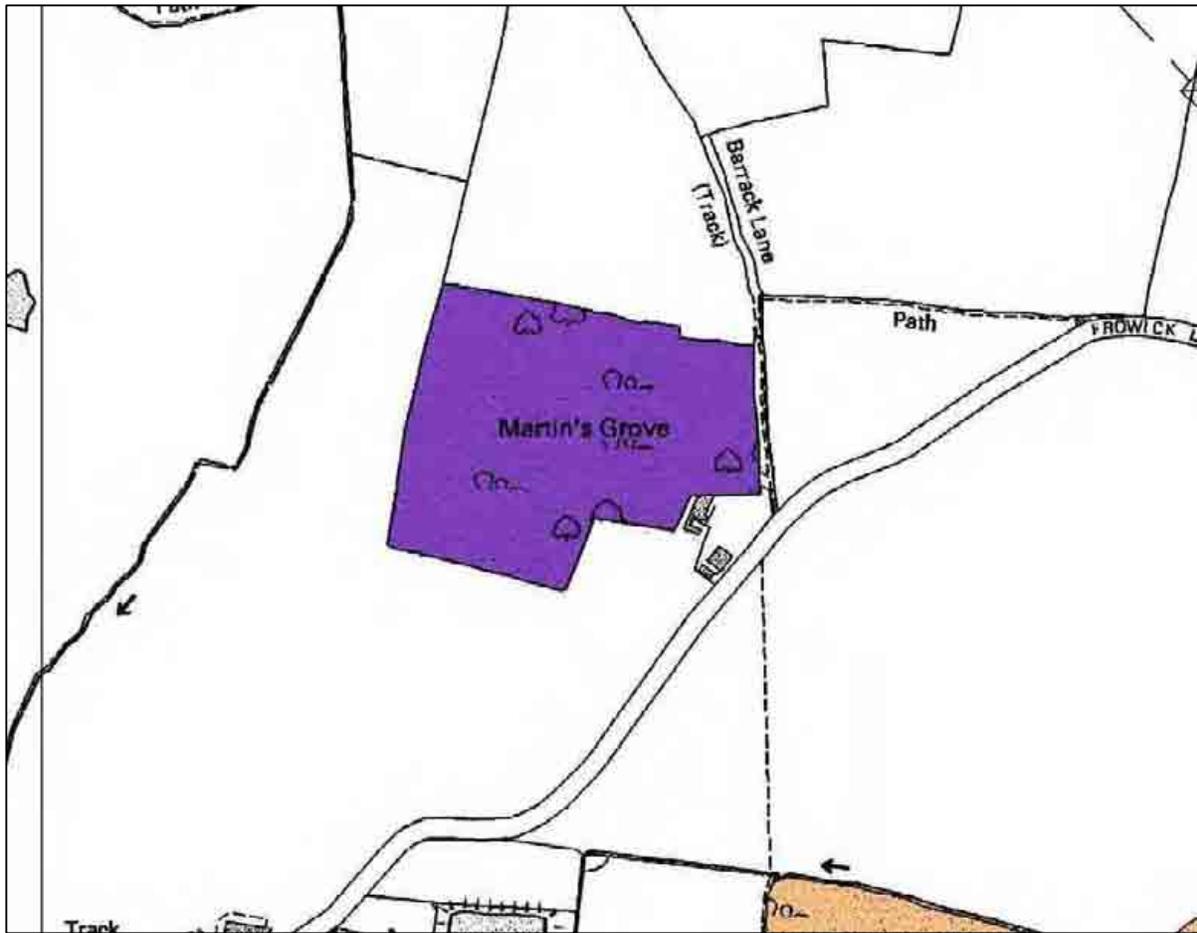
This large freshwater pond at the eastern end of Mill Dam Lake is dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). A hedge of mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) forms the northern boundary. The site is important for reed-dependent birds and is likely to have an important invertebrate assemblage associated with the reed and aquatic habitats.

Selection criteria: HCr21

UK BAP Priority Habitats: Reedbeds (UK and Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te61 Martin's Grove (5.2 ha) TM 124186

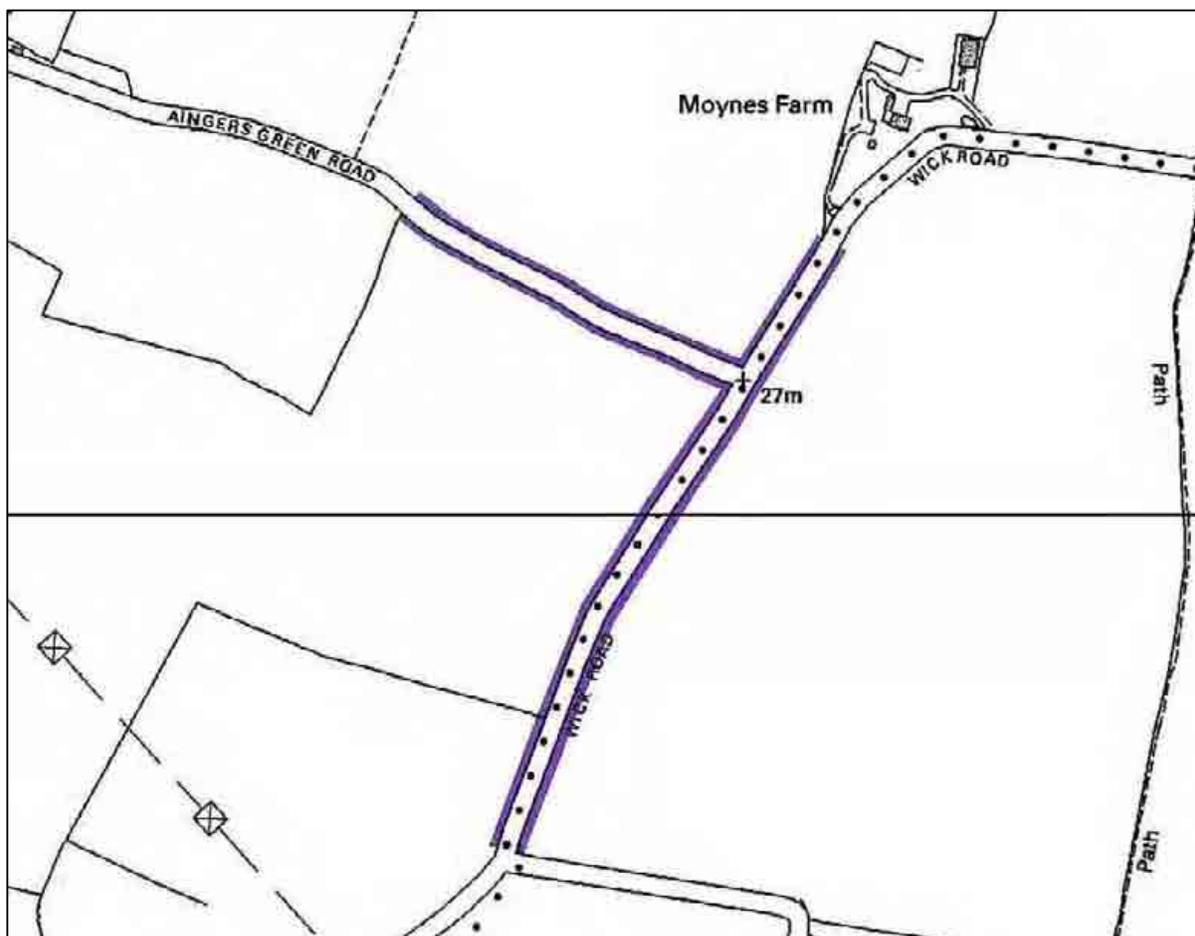
Like many other woods on the Tendring peninsula, this wood contains extensive Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and has also high proportion of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. Dense shading has led to a rather poor ground flora, characterised by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with occasional Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). A resumption of coppicing would be beneficial for to the ground flora as well as providing greater habitat diversity for woodland fauna.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te62 Aingers Green Verges (0.6 ha) TM 125200

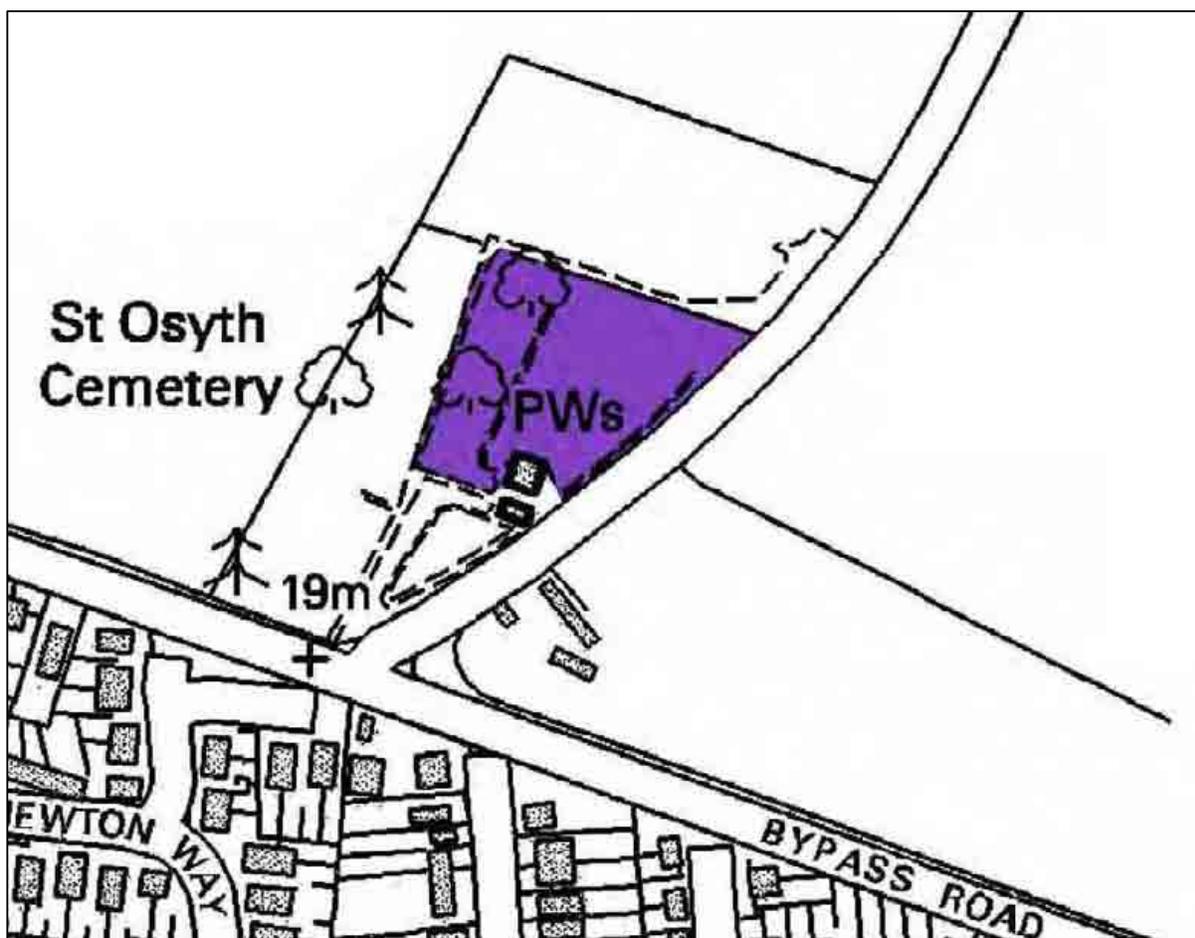
These verges have been assigned special status under the Essex County Council road verge scheme in recognition of the unusual acidic-soil flora that includes Betony (*Stachys officinalis*) (an Essex Red Data List species) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) amongst other plants such as Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te63 St. Osyth Cemetery (0.7 ha) TM 127163

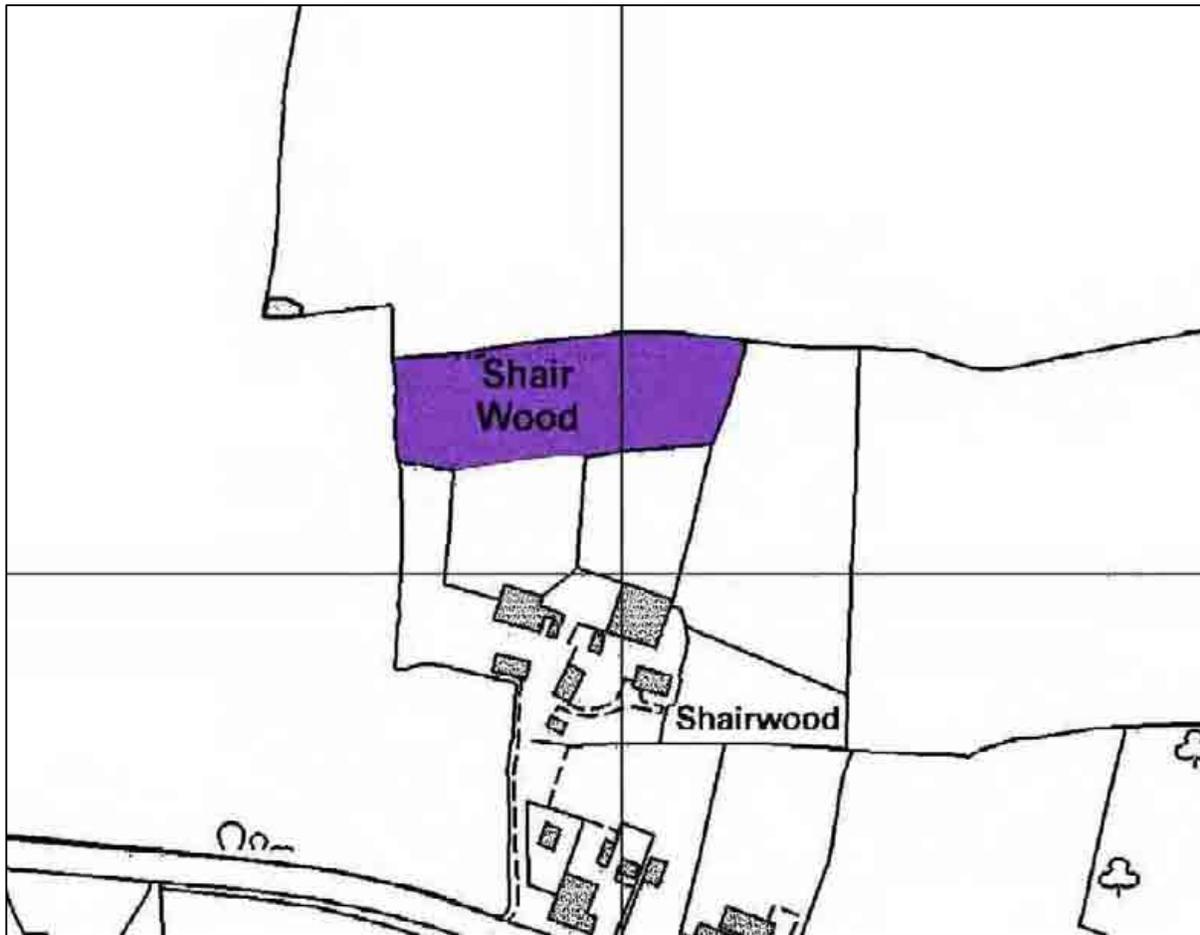
This piece of long sward grassland is being managed as wildflower meadow by St. Osyth Parish Council since 1998. Many grass and herb species are present, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) with Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Species of particular note include the Essex Red Data List Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) and Spring Sedge (*Carex caryophyllea*).

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te64 Shair Wood (1.1 ha) TM 129230

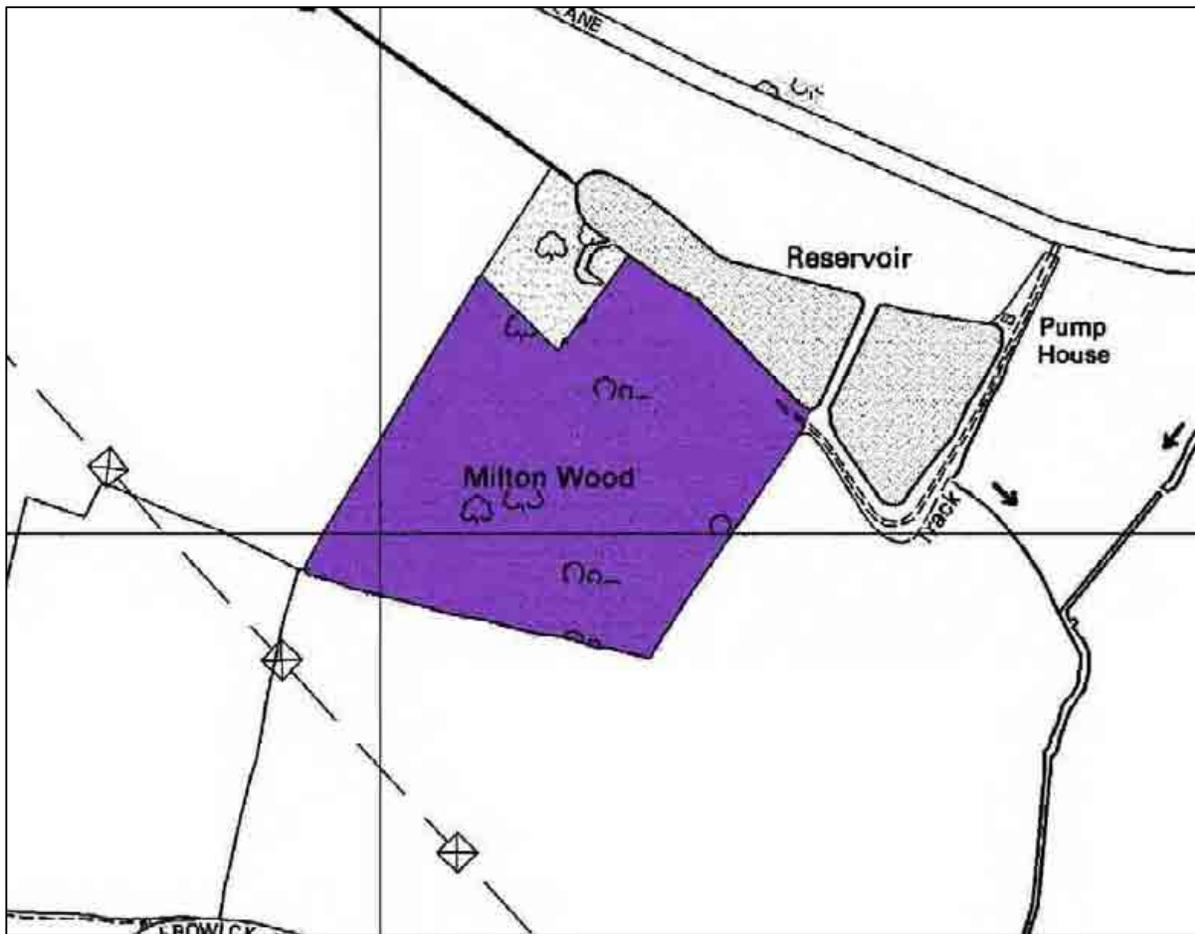
Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Birch (*Betula sp.*) standards dominate this ancient woodland fragment, which has been damaged by the October 1987 and subsequent storms. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis*) are the most prevalent ground flora plants.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te65 Milton Wood (6.0 ha) TM 131190

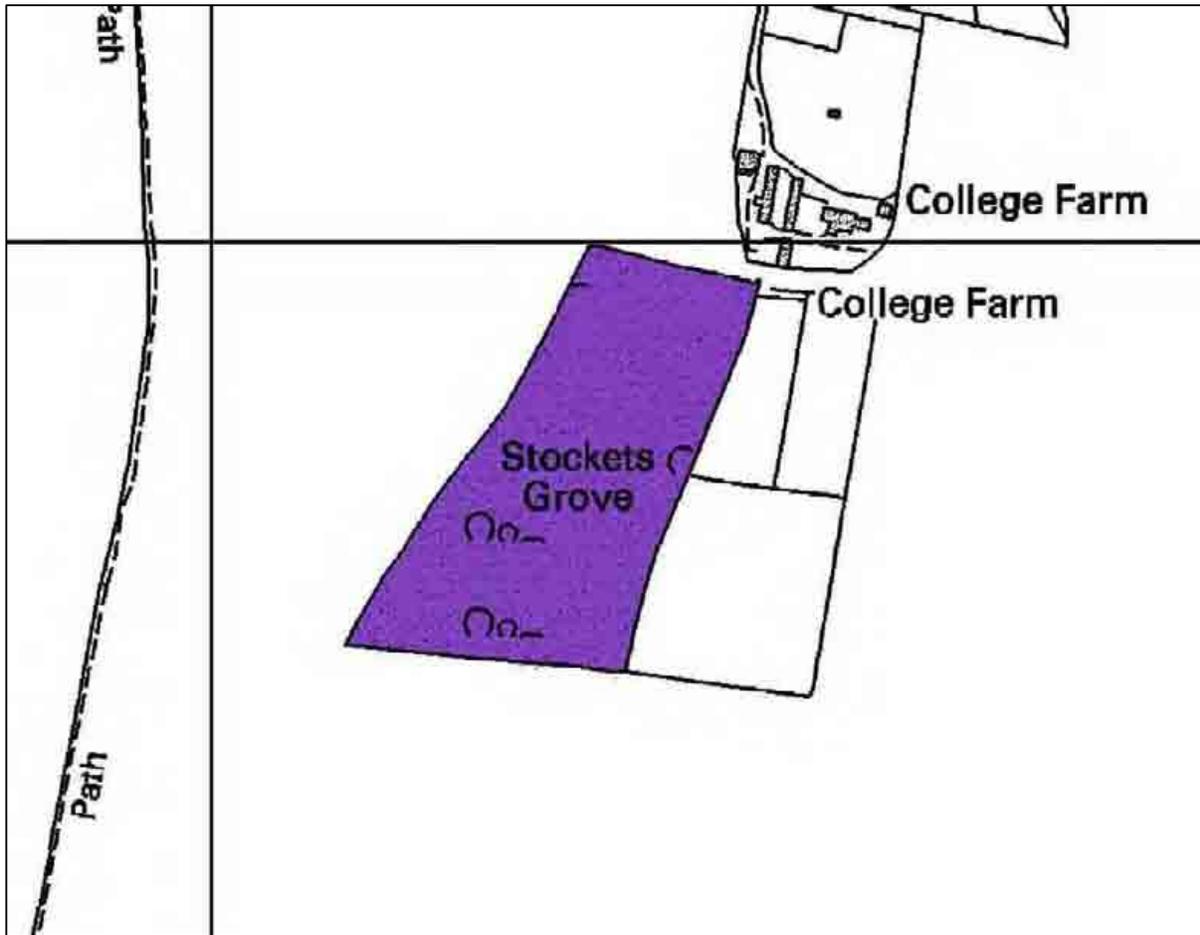
Milton Wood has been severely damaged by earlier storms. The remaining canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with some Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. The ground flora includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te66 Stockets Grove (2.4 ha) TM 131198

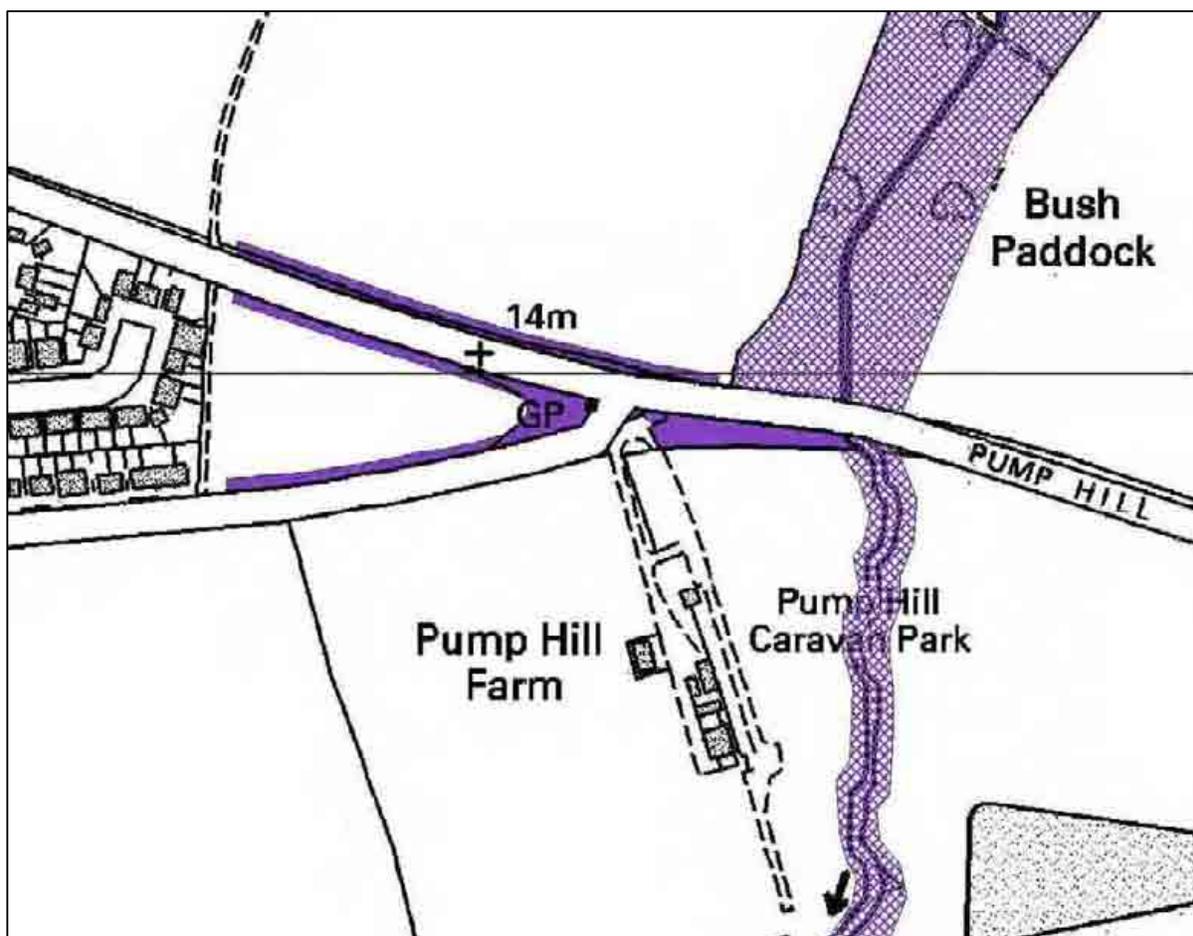
This small wood is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with abundant Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, with Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) also present in small numbers. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) occur in the ground flora.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te67 Pump Hill Verges (0.6 ha) TM 132160

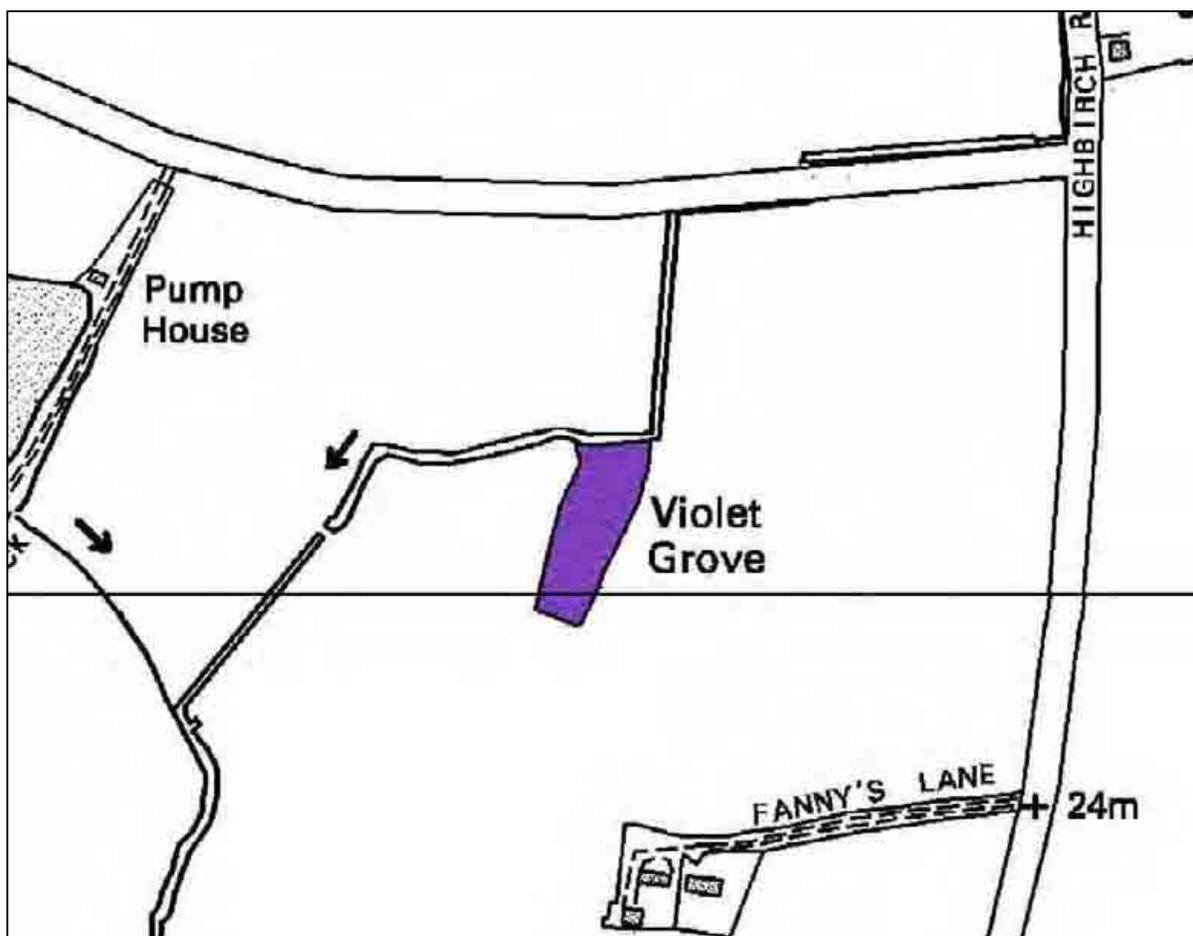
These verges are of note for their population of Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*), an Essex Red Data List plant strongly associated with dry, sandy grasslands. Other plant species include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te68 Violet Grove (0.3 ha) TM 136190

This small piece of ancient woodland is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) forms much of the ground flora, along with Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te69 Simplebirch and Bowshots Wood (9.5 ha) TM 138197

These two adjoining ancient woods are dominated by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Important species in the ground flora include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*) was also recorded.

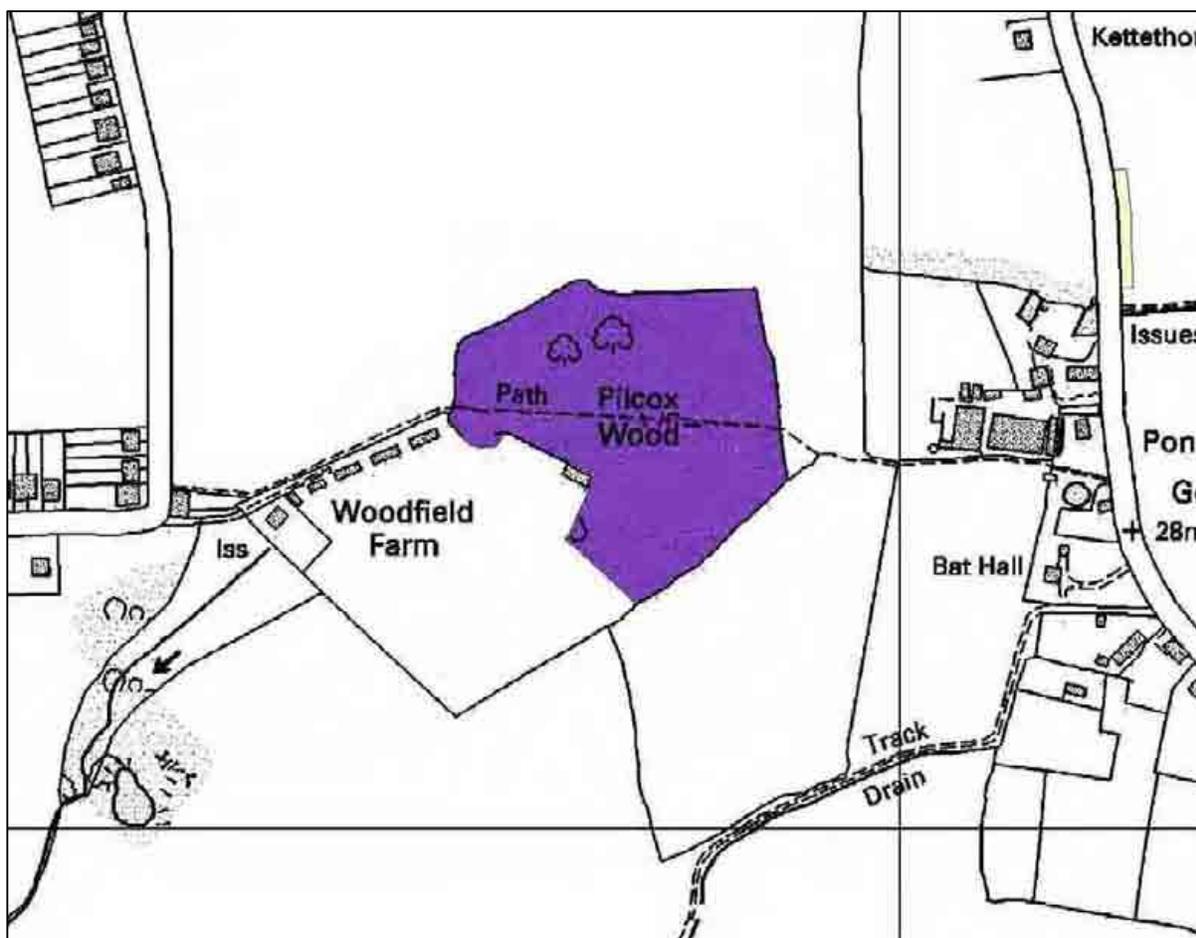
Bowshots Wood contains a few shallow ponds, fringed by Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Willow (*Salix* spp.). A ditch/earthbank running on the eastern side of Highbirch Road forms a natural extension of the woodland flora comprising Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te70 Pilcox Wood (3.1 ha) TM 138252

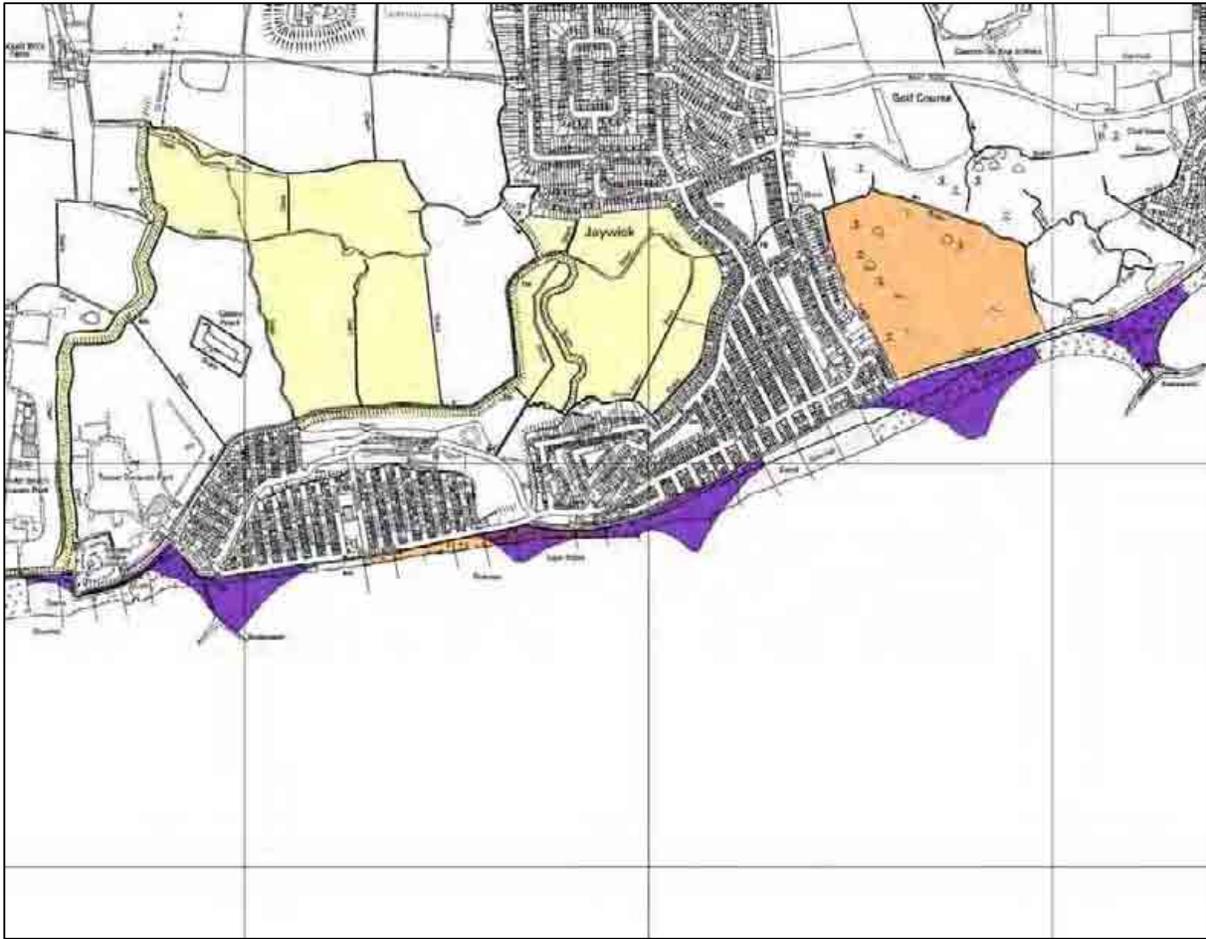
This is a fine example of NVC community W10 Oak-Bracken-Bramble woodland that is probably very close to the natural climax vegetation type for the light soils of the Tending plateau. The canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some very old Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, amongst Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is rare. Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) is unusually common throughout the wood, it being a tree often found as one or two specimens in any one wood. Large quantities of standing and fallen dead wood form an important part of the woodland ecosystem. As is often the case with this woodland type, the ground flora is not especially species rich, being dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). However, species such as Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) occur at low density.

Selection criteria: HCr1(b)

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

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te71 Jaywick Beach (12.8 ha) TM 139126

This Site comprises spits of sandy beach and some inner seawall grassland that are sparsely vegetated with a characteristic coastal flora. Species of interest include: Dune Fescue (*Vulpia fasciculata*), Ray's Knotgrass (*Polygonum oxyspermum*), Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*), Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), Sea-holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*), Sand Couch (*Elytrigia juncea*), Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali* subsp. *kali*) and Sea Fern-grass (*Catapodium marinum*). Although not a classic sand dune landform, these sections of beach are felt to be good representatives of classic sand dune flora and, as such, form part of Essex's resource with respect to the appropriate UK BAP habitat.

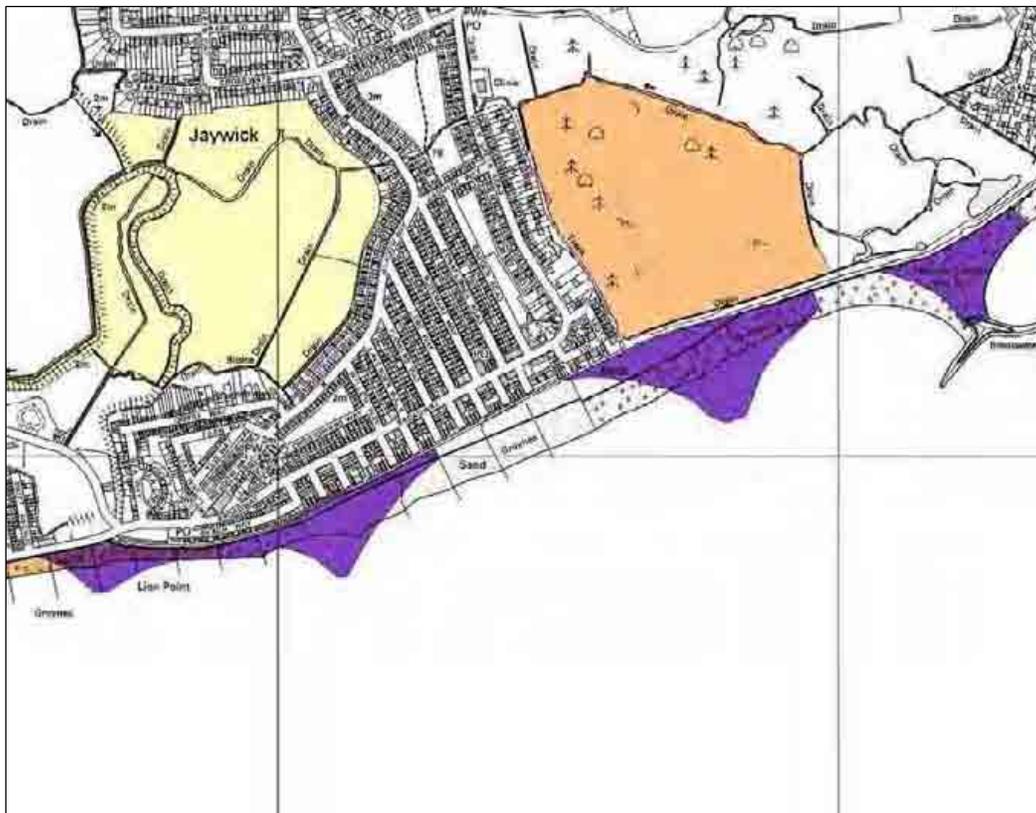
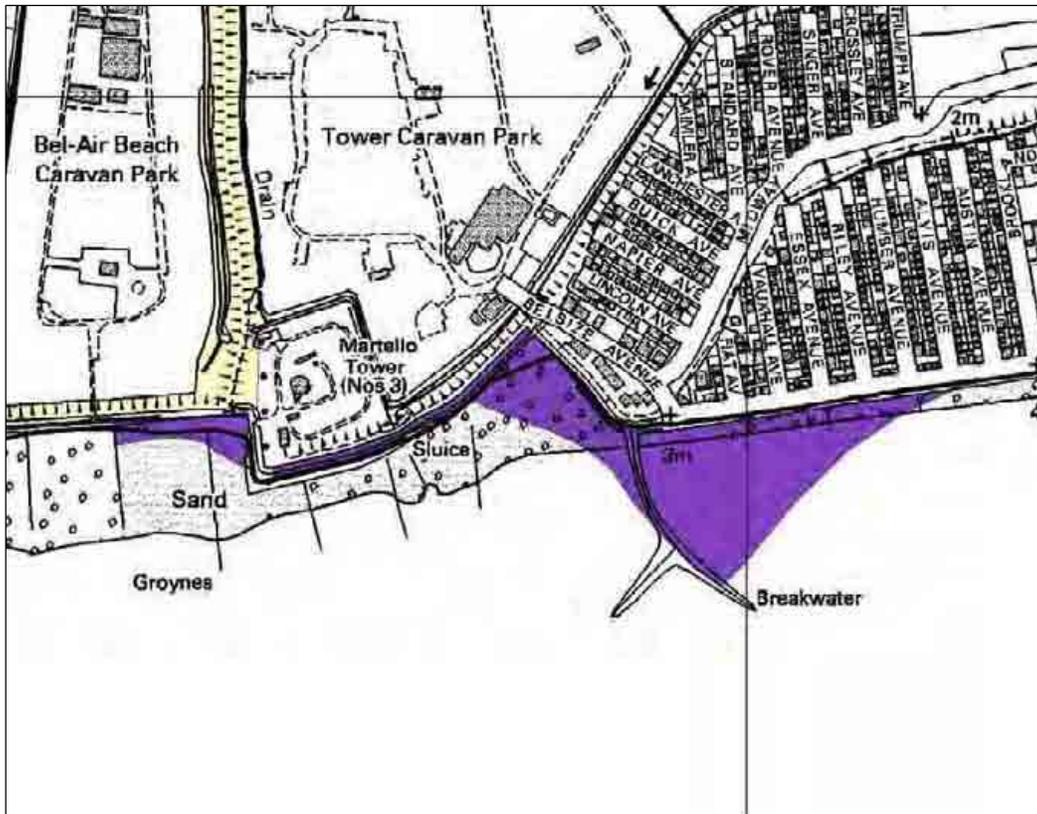
Towards the western end, a section of inner seawall grassland has developed an interesting community of plants in association with the block-faced seawall. Of note are a large population of Frog Rush (*Juncus ambiguus*, an Essex Red Data List species), along with Sea Pearlwort (*Sagina maritima*) and the moss *Henediella heimii*.

Selection criteria: HCr29

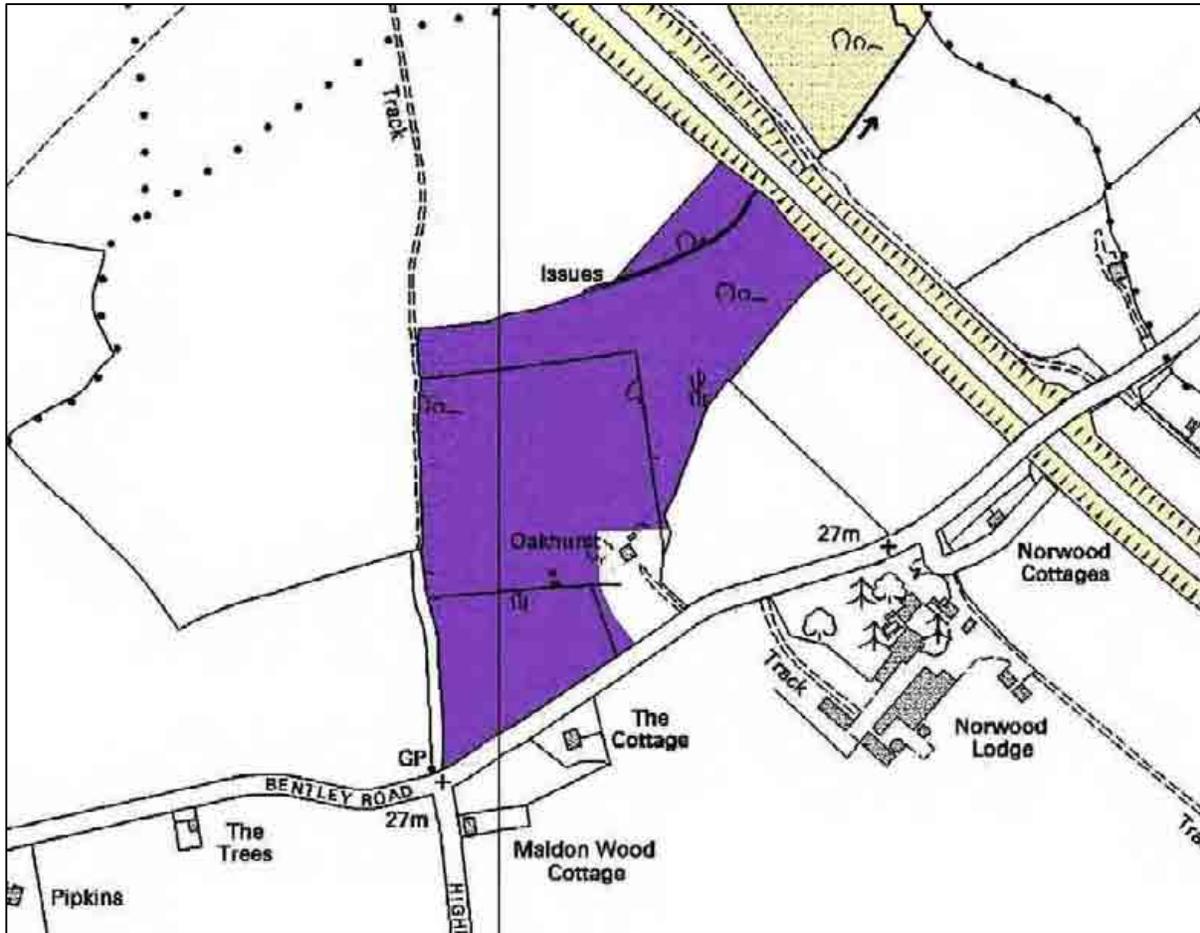
BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal Sand Dunes (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te72 Oakhurst Wood (7.5 ha) TM 140205

Oakhurst Wood is deciduous woodland with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) standards together with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Alder coppice forming the canopy. The remainder is occupied by Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The wood has been managed in the past for Chestnut timber, but has been neglected for some considerable time. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) with Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) on the edges. Part of this wood is owned by the Woodland Trust.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te73 High Grove (2.1 ha) TM 141174

This small wood is typified by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) occur within the ground flora as well as Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). A small brook that runs through the wood adds to the habitat diversity.

Selection criteria: HCr1(b)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te74 Goose Green Verge (0.02 ha) TM 141254

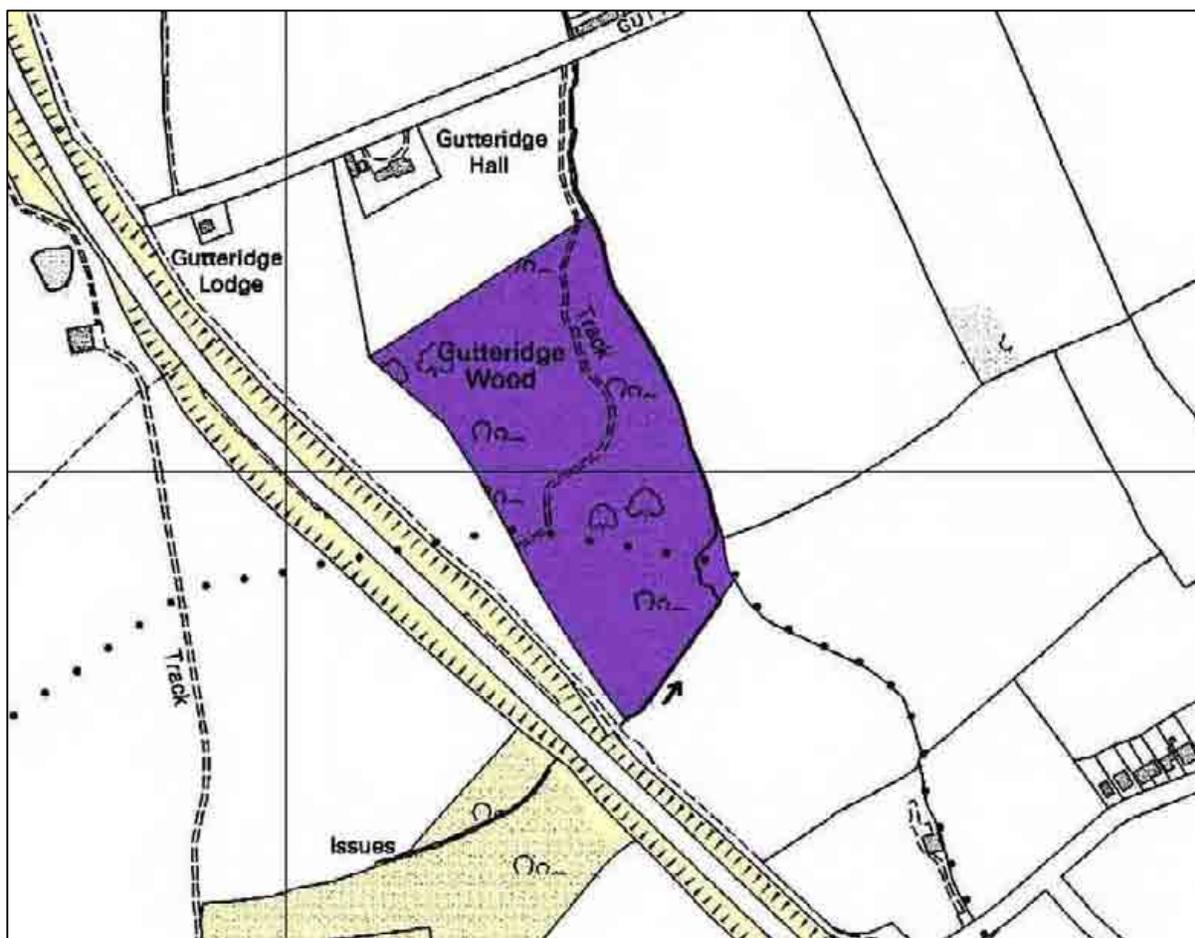
This short section of roadside verge has a thriving population of Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare* agg). This Essex Red Data List fern is found scattered throughout Tendring District, but usually only a few plants occur in any single location. This roadside bank is unusual in that it has plants along its entire 85 metre length.

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te75 Gutteridge Wood (5.2 ha) TM 142210

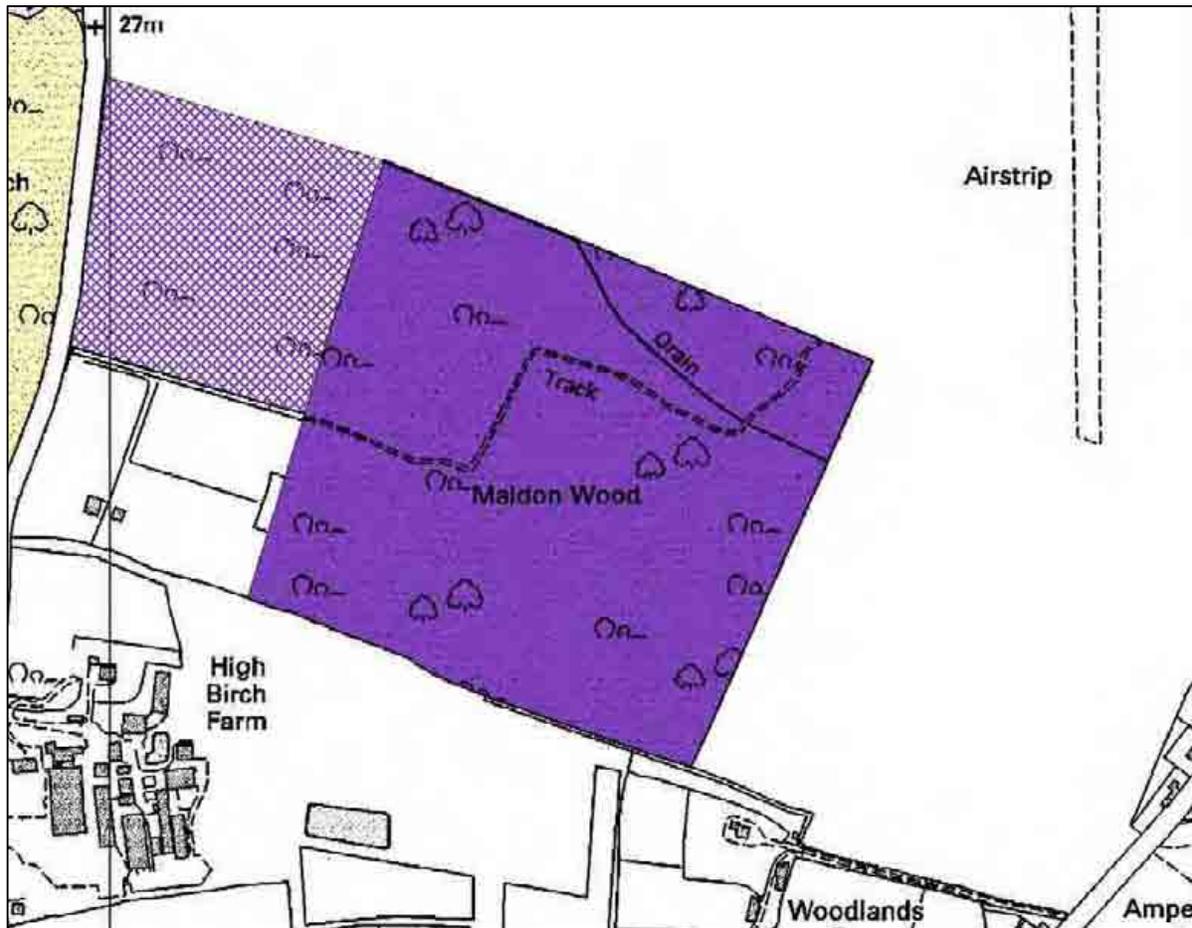
Gutteridge Wood consists mainly of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) form the rest of canopy. The ground flora is represented by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te76 Maldon Wood (13.8 ha) TM 143196

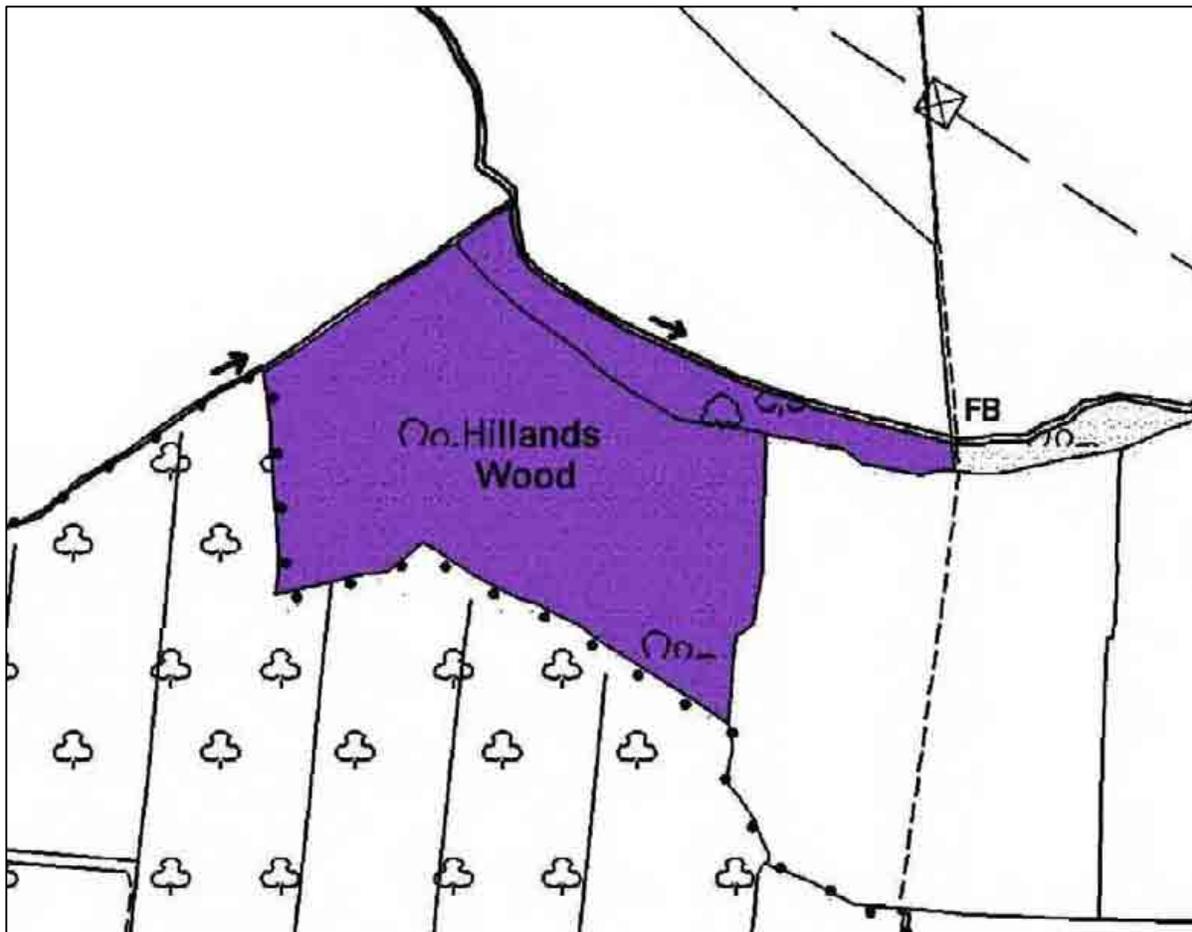
This ancient wood is almost completely dominated by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with frequent Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. The ground flora is rather poor, due to over-shading, and is typified by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*). As with all traditionally managed woods, this Site would greatly benefit from the resumption of coppicing.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te77 Hilllands Wood (4.6 ha) TM 143234

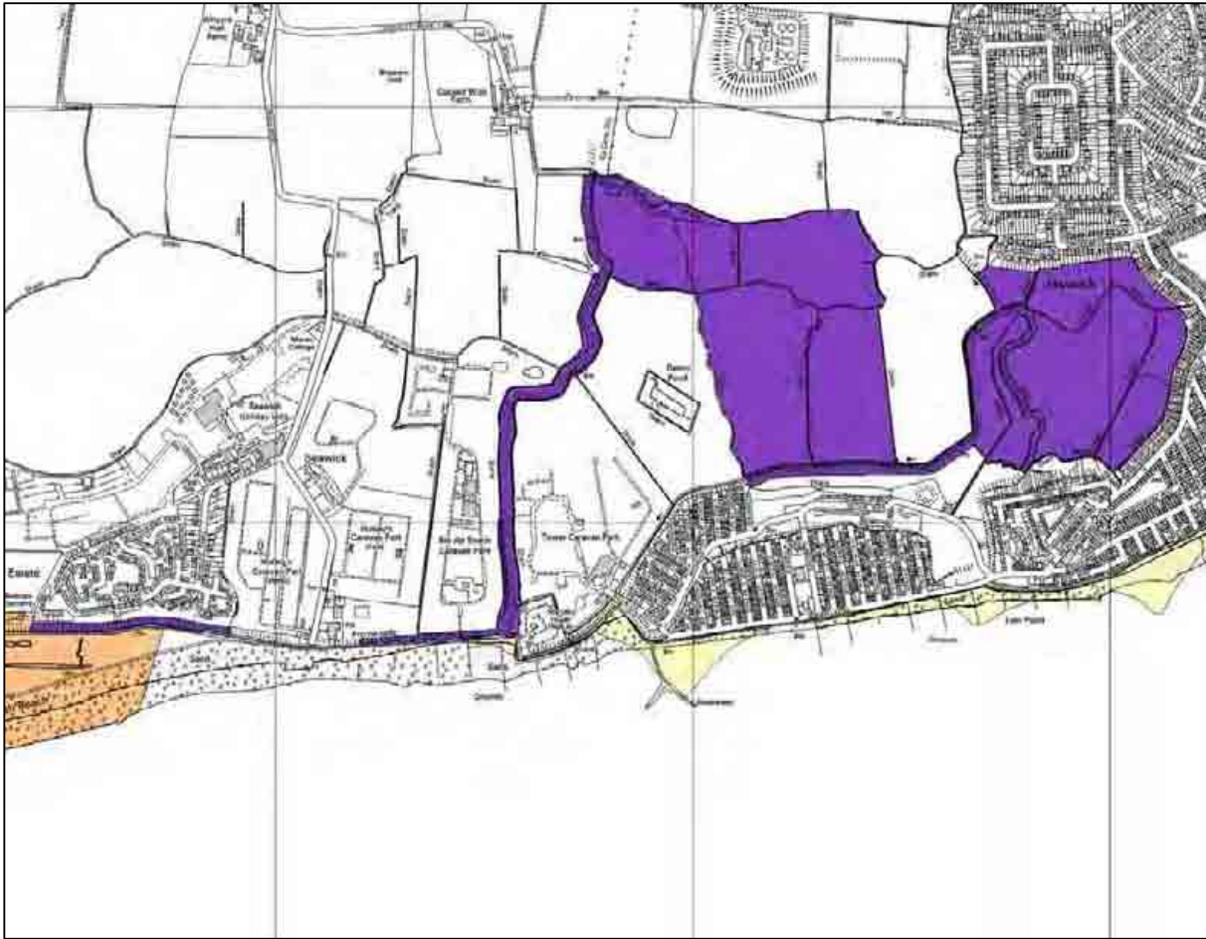
Although badly storm-damaged, this ancient woodland retains some of its original coppice-with-standards structure. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is frequent with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Birch (*Betula* sp.). The ground flora is characterised by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te78 Jaywick Marshes (59.0 ha) TM 144134

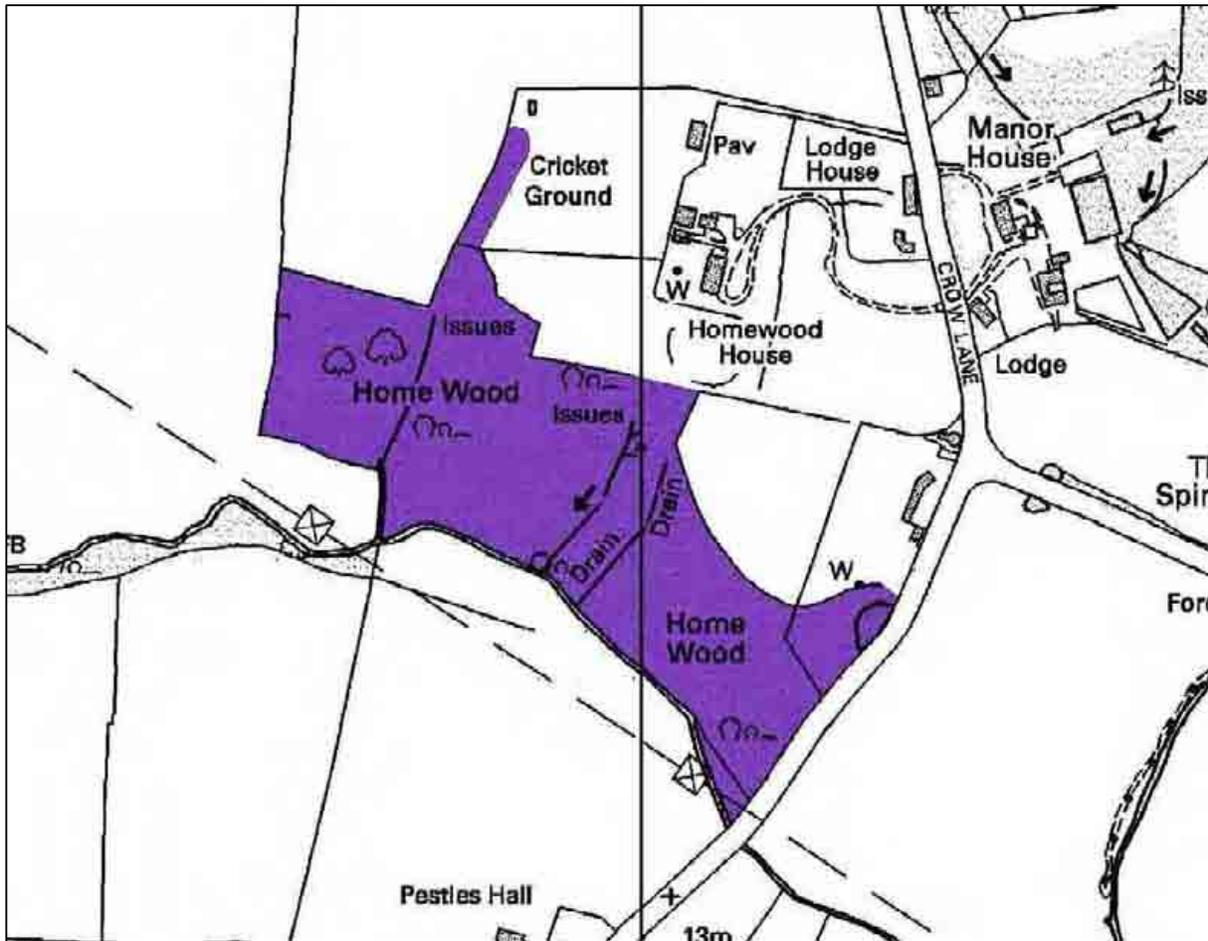
Including the former LoWS called Jaywick Coastal Grassland, this site consists of coastal grazing marsh, connecting old seawalls and an area of grassland south of Bel-Air Estate. Coastal grasslands have been severely depleted by agricultural improvement, drainage and urban/industrial encroachment. They are of value for their characteristic and often scarce flora. Typical species here include Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*), Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*). Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Bent Grass (*Agrostis* spp.), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) also occur. Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) and Water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*) form the ditch flora. Small areas of scattered scrub contain Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). This site is also likely to be an important site for invertebrates as well as nesting, feeding and resting site for coastal birds.

Selection criteria: HCr16

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te79 Home Wood (6.6 ha) TM 149234

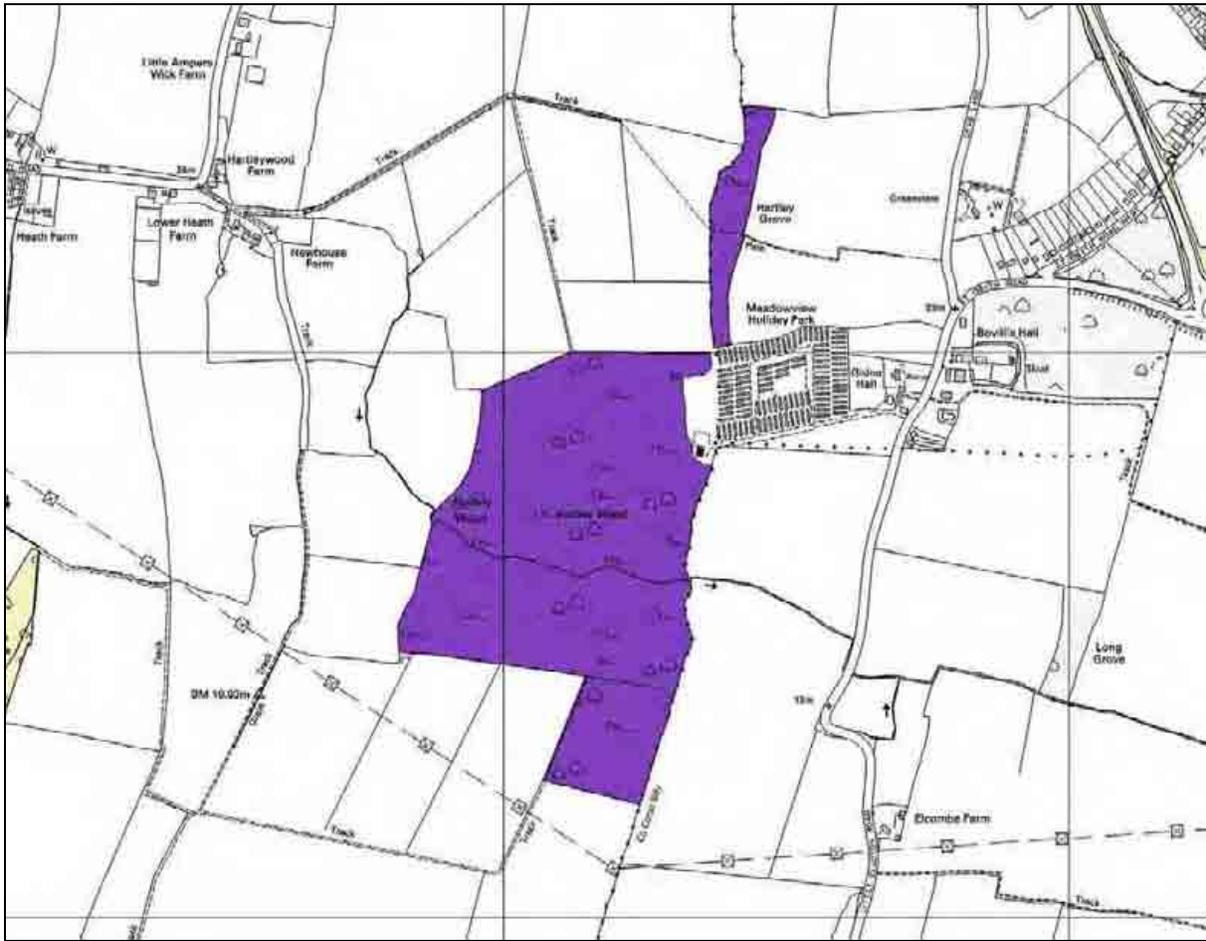
Extensively damaged by the October 1987 storm, this ancient woodland has a coppice-with-standards structure. Standard trees include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*). Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) are also present with shrubs such as Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) and Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). The ground flora contains Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) with Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te80 Hartley Wood (29.7 ha) TM 151176

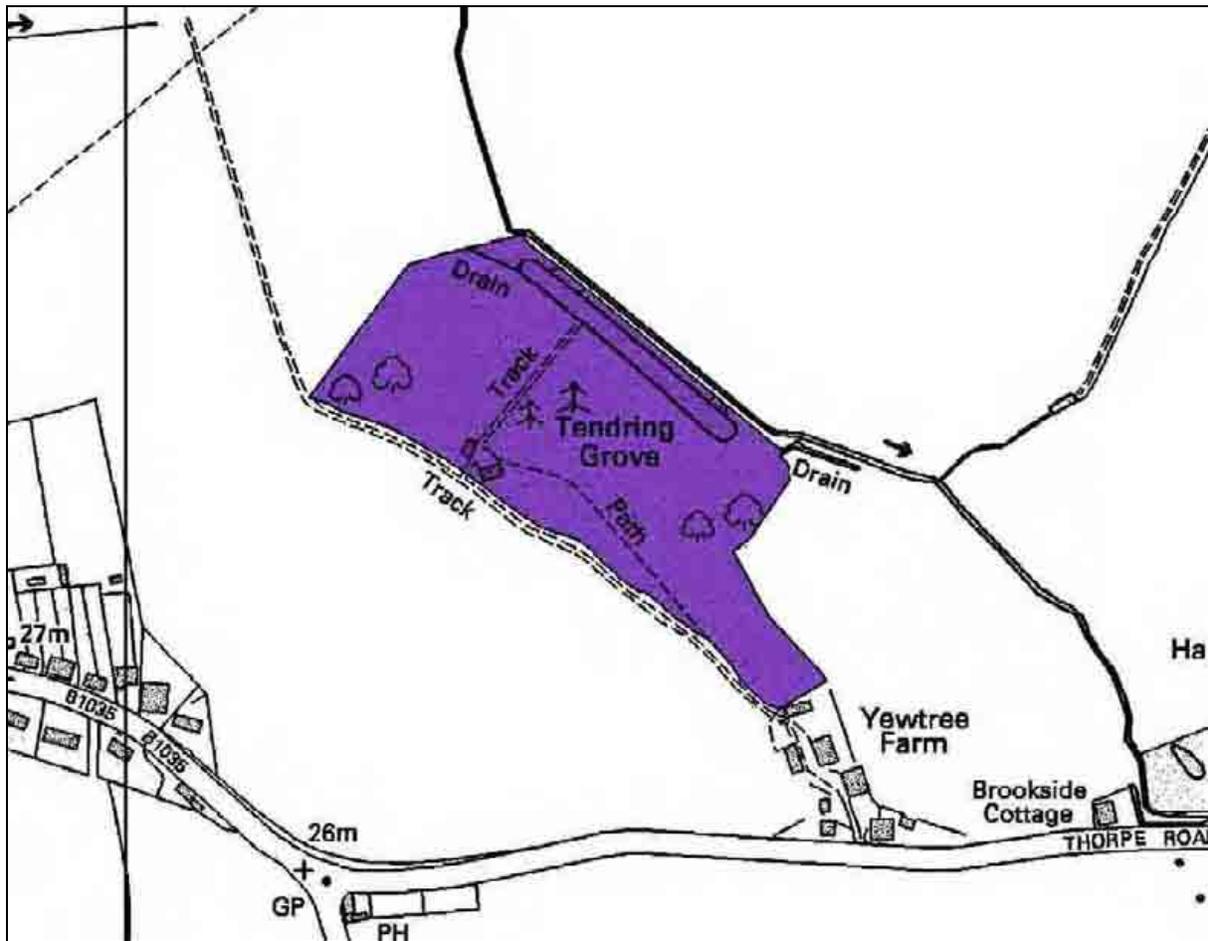
This ancient woodland is of neglected coppice-with-standards structure containing Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Elm (*Ulmus sp.*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The ground flora includes Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te81 Tendring Grove (4.9 ha) TM 153243

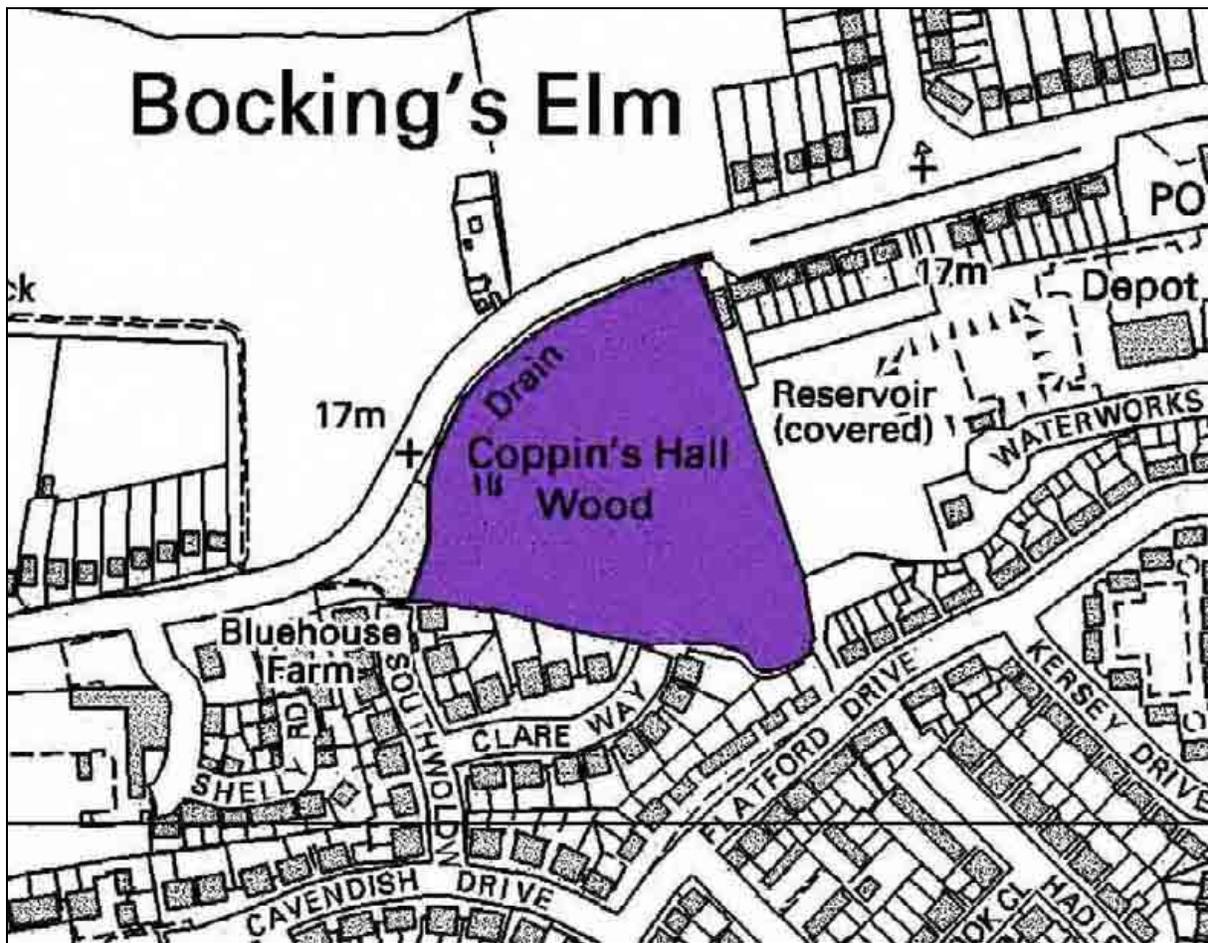
This ancient wood contains frequent Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice. Other species present include Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Birch (*Betula spp.*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and planted conifers. A large rectangular pond fringed by Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and young Willow (*Salix spp.*), with abundant Pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*) adds to the habitat diversity.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te82 Coppin's Hall Wood (2.4 ha) TM 155161

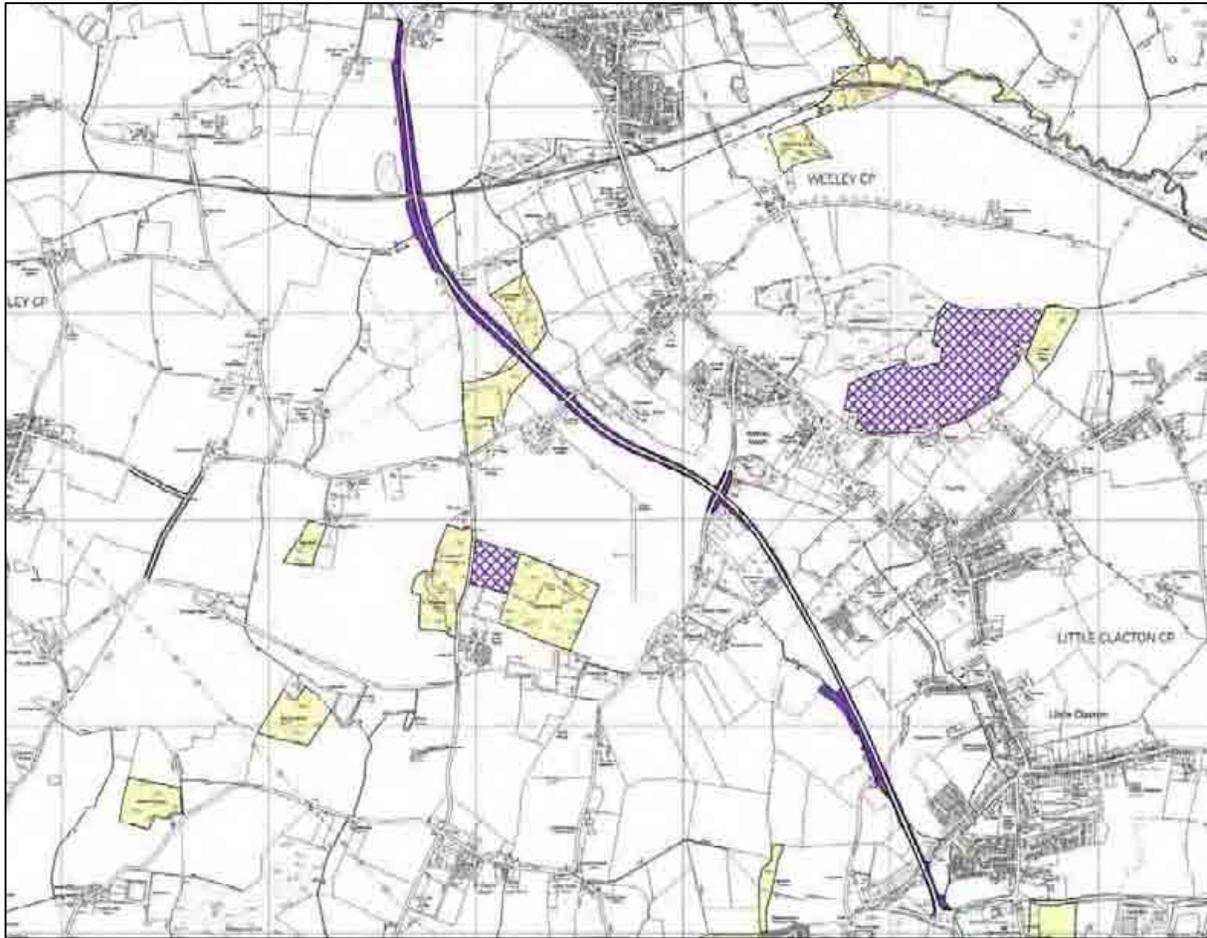
Coppin's Hall Wood is deciduous woodland containing Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) standards with occasional Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and frequent Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). A typical ground flora includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) were also recorded. Some areas of the ground flora have been badly trampled and control over the pressures on the wood is required in order to retain its character, although its role in environmental education in an urban setting should not be ignored.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te83 Weeley Bypass (18.2 ha) TM 156194

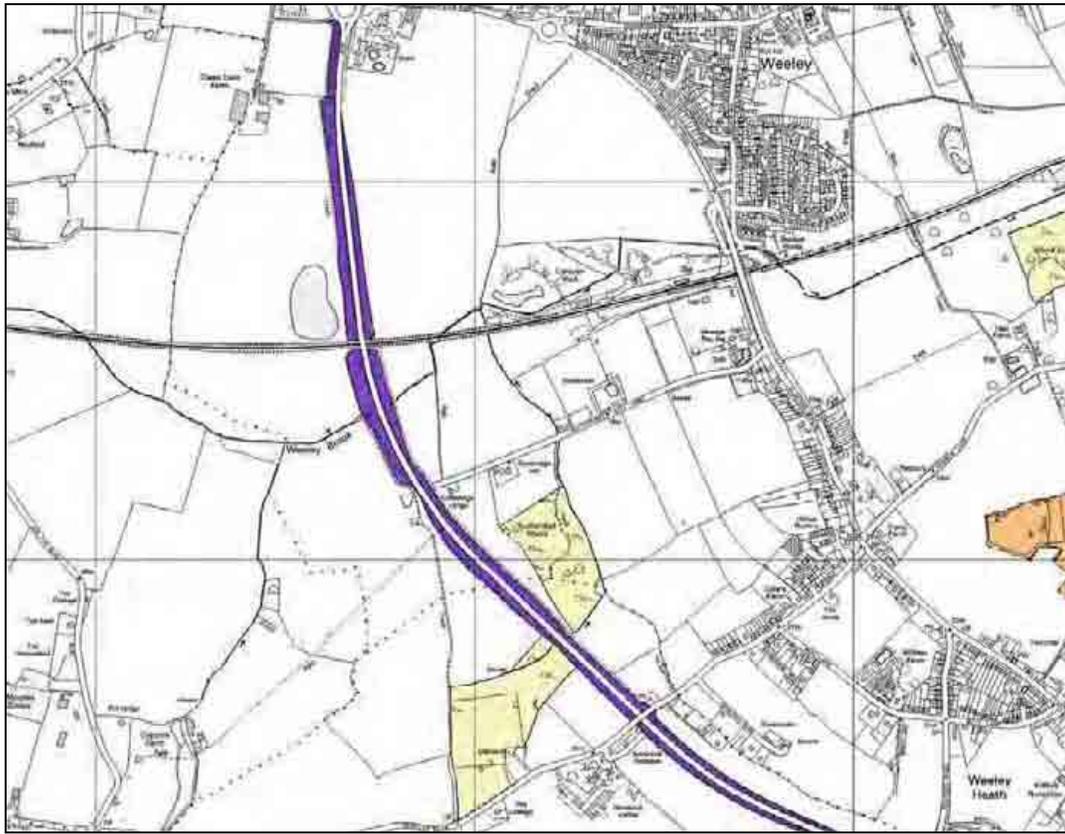
This Site comprises the A133 road verges and a small woodland north of Dead Lane. The woodland canopy is dense, formed by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Willow (*Salix* spp.), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) is growing along a ditch on northern boundary. Both verges support a diverse flora including Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Bent (*Agrostis* spp.), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*). The Essex Red Data List species Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*) is among the more interesting species as well as Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Betony (*Stachys officinalis*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). This verge site is also important for invertebrates, providing habitat for wide range of butterfly species in particular, including Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*). One of the key habitat qualities here is the abundant gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) scrub, this being they key larval food plants for this butterfly.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr6(b), SCr12, SCr14

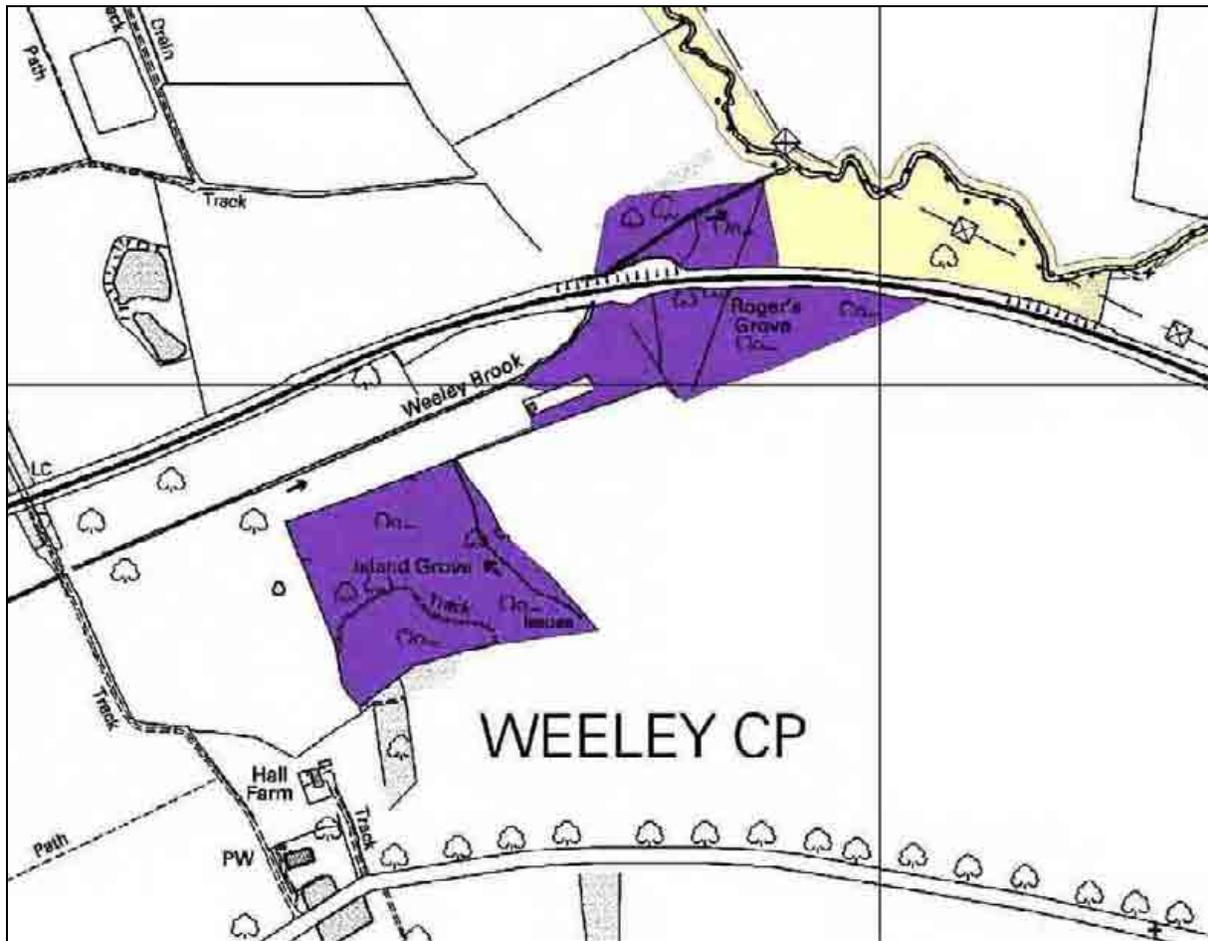
UK BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te84 Island and Roger's Groves (8.3 ha) TM 158220

Island Grove is a neglected ancient wood, formerly dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), which has been largely replanted with Poplars (*Populus* spp.). The rest of canopy is formed by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.). The ground flora is typified by Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). In the past the rare breeding bird golden Oriole has nested here in the Poplars, but its current status is unknown.

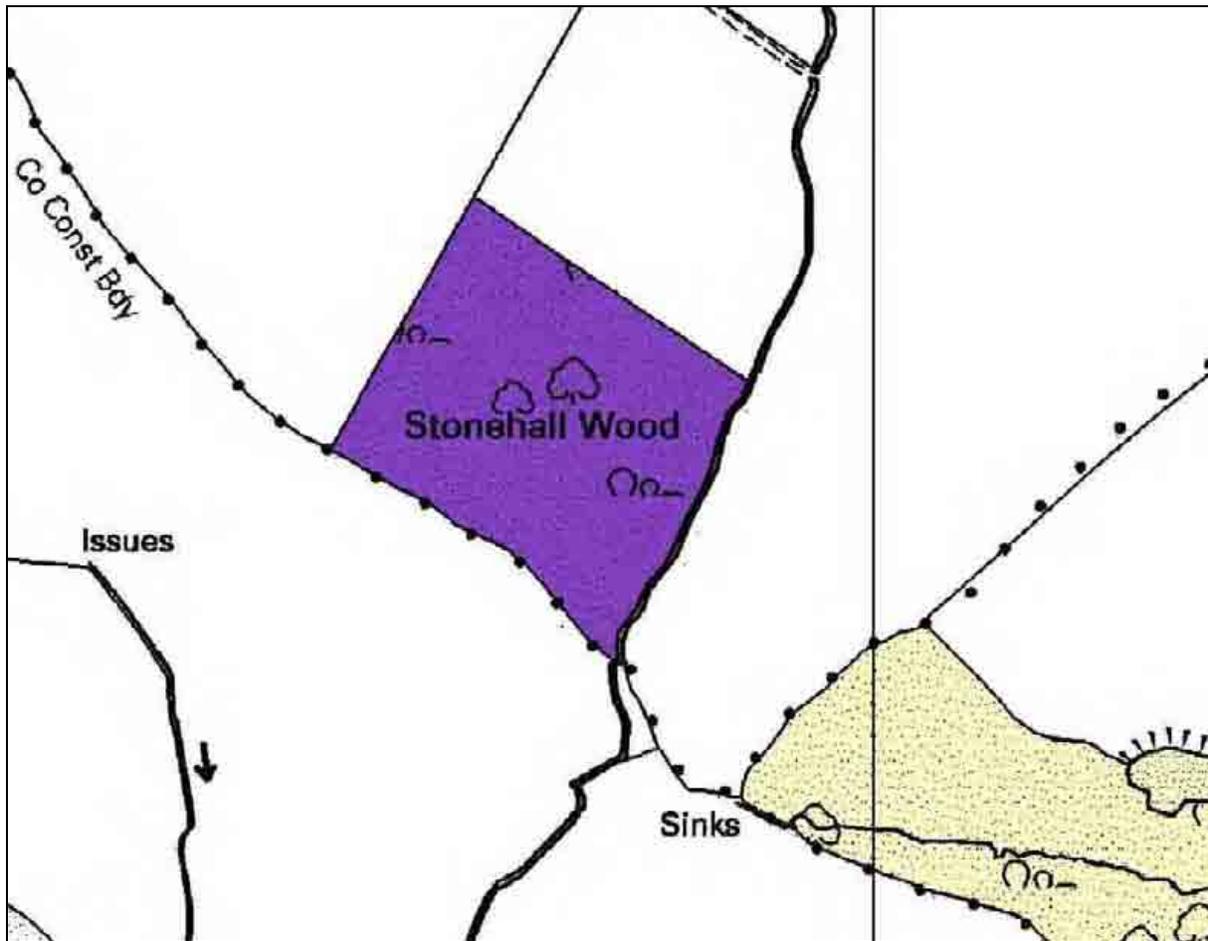
Roger's Grove, divided by a railway line, comprises neglected ancient wood and surrounding secondary woodland. The canopy is principally Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), whilst Bramble, Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Honeysuckle form the majority of ground flora. Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) has been recorded in both Groves.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te85 Stonehall Wood (2.8 ha) TM 158256

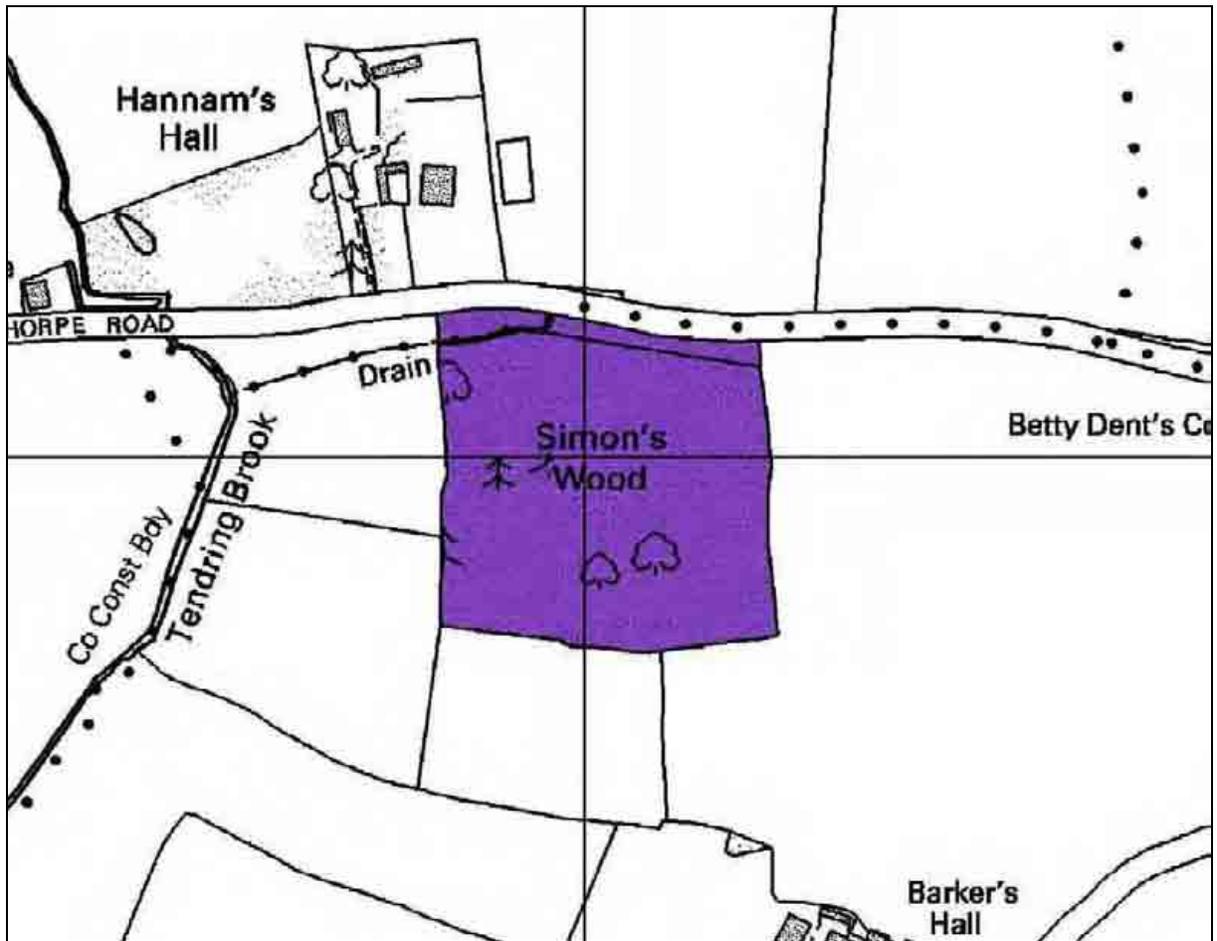
This woodland canopy contains Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Lime (*Tilia* sp.) coppice, last actively managed around 1990. There is also a small area of planted Poplar (*Populus* sp.). Species of note in the ground flora are Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) growing by ditch. The close proximity of Gravel Wood adds to the value of this site.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te86 Simon's Wood (3.6 ha) TM 160239

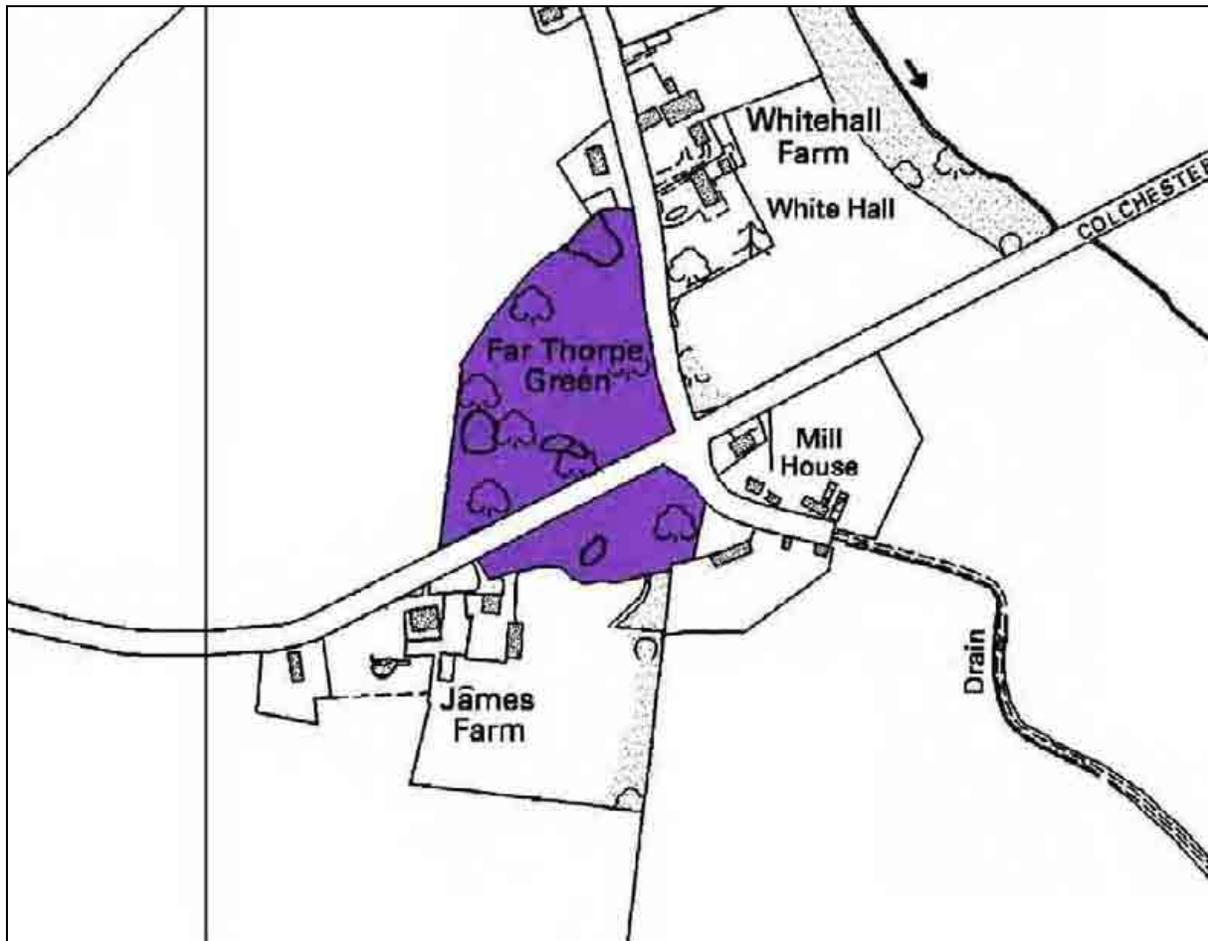
This ancient woodland has been densely replanted with conifers, particularly Pines (*Pinus* spp.) with scattered Larch (*Larix decidua*). Deciduous species are frequently represented by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) with occasional Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The impoverished ground flora would benefit from a more open canopy structure, which would ideally involve the total removal of the majority of the coniferous species.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te87 Far Thorpe Green (2.8 ha) TM 162226

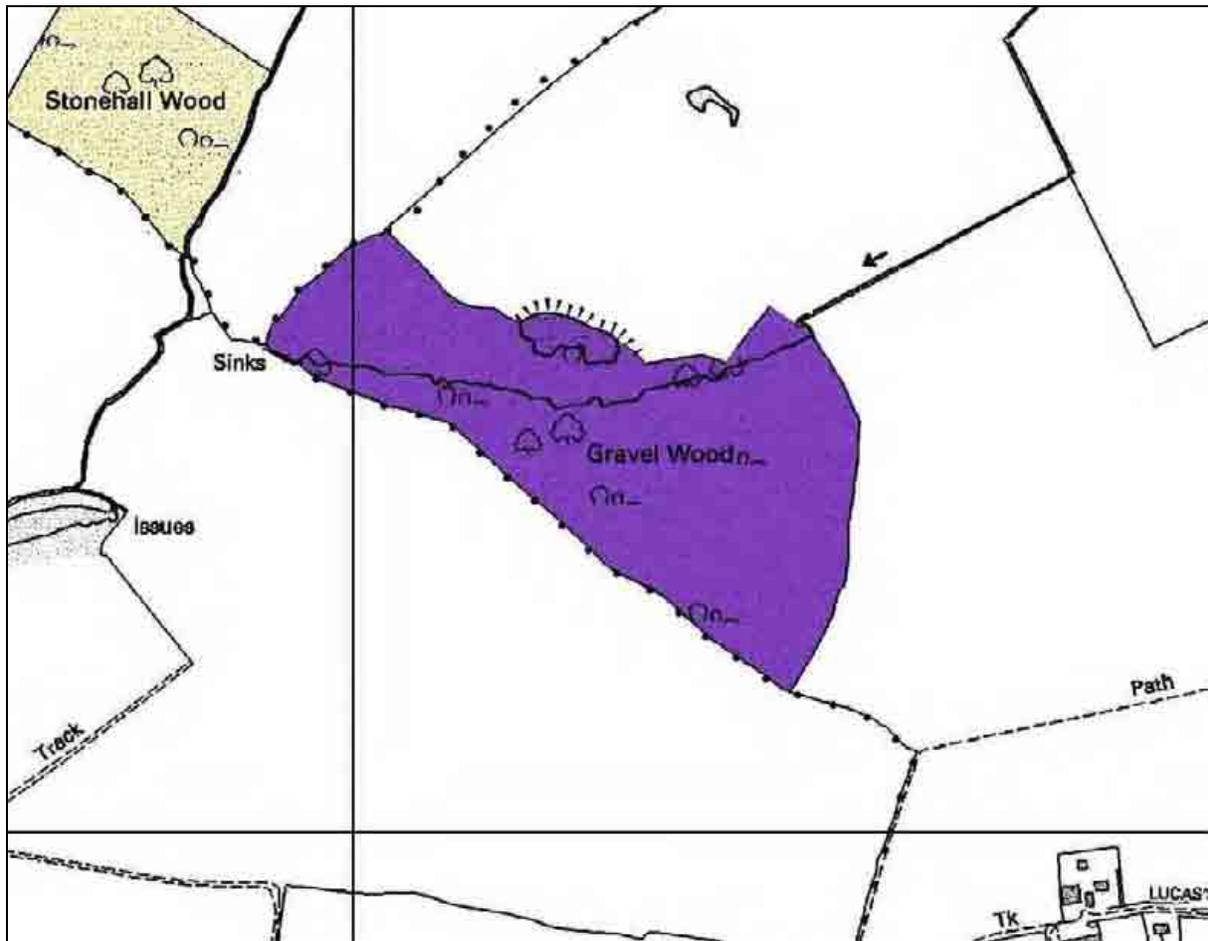
This essentially grassland site also supports a few ponds, a small planted broadleaved copse and scrub, mainly along the site boundaries. Grassland species present include Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*). The ponds are shaded with Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) growing along the margins. Trees are represented by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Willow (*Salix* spp.) and Poplar (*Populus* spp.) whilst the scrub is mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te88 Gravel Wood (8.1 ha) TM 162253

Gravel Wood is an ancient coppice-with-standards wood dominated by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Birch (*Betula pendula*) and frequent Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). A small pond and stream with Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) add to the habitat diversity of the site.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te89 Killgrove Wood (3.3 ha) TM 163265

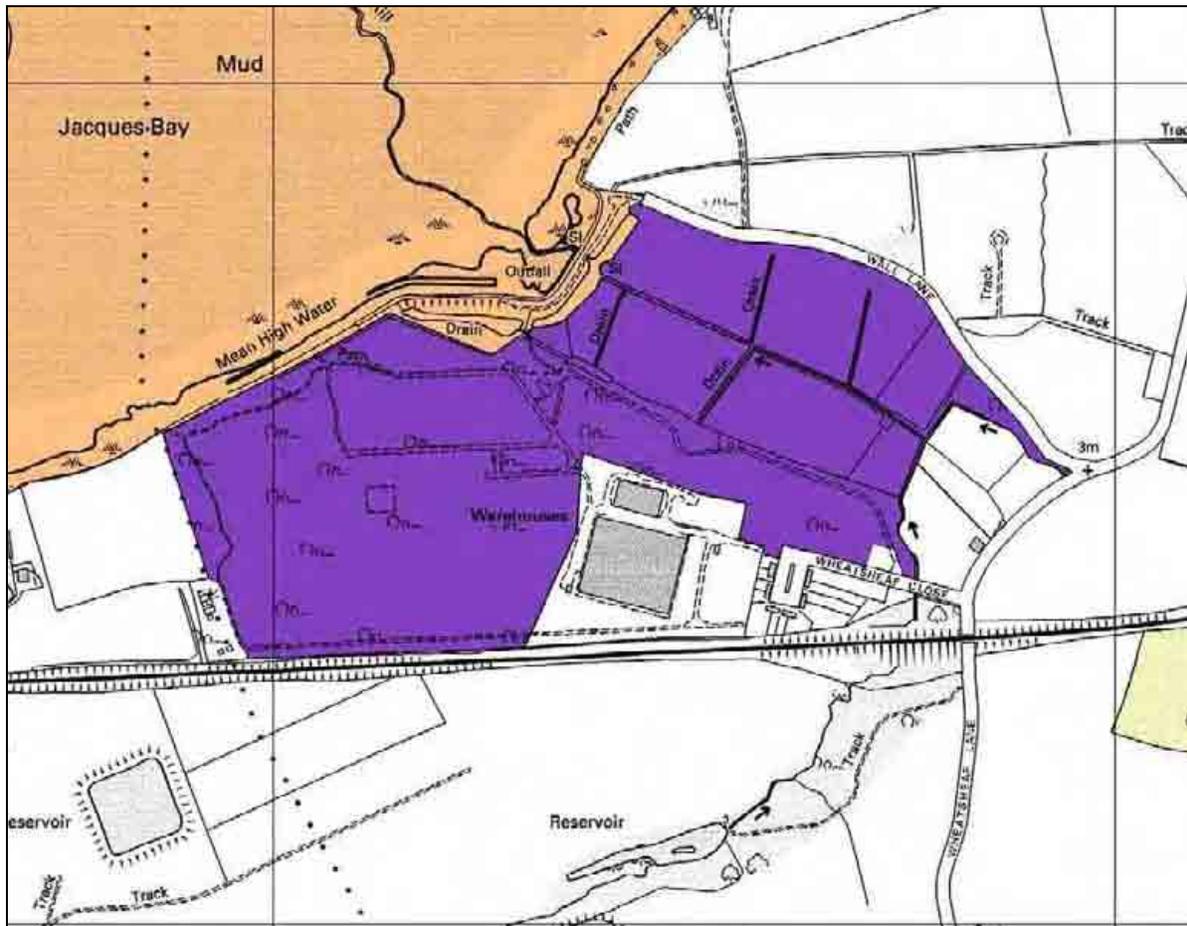
Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards dominate this ancient woodland, with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Birch (*Betula* sp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) also present. The ground flora includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Killgrove is one of a small cluster of ancient woods in the area.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te90 Wrabness Depot and Marsh (29.8 ha) TM 163315

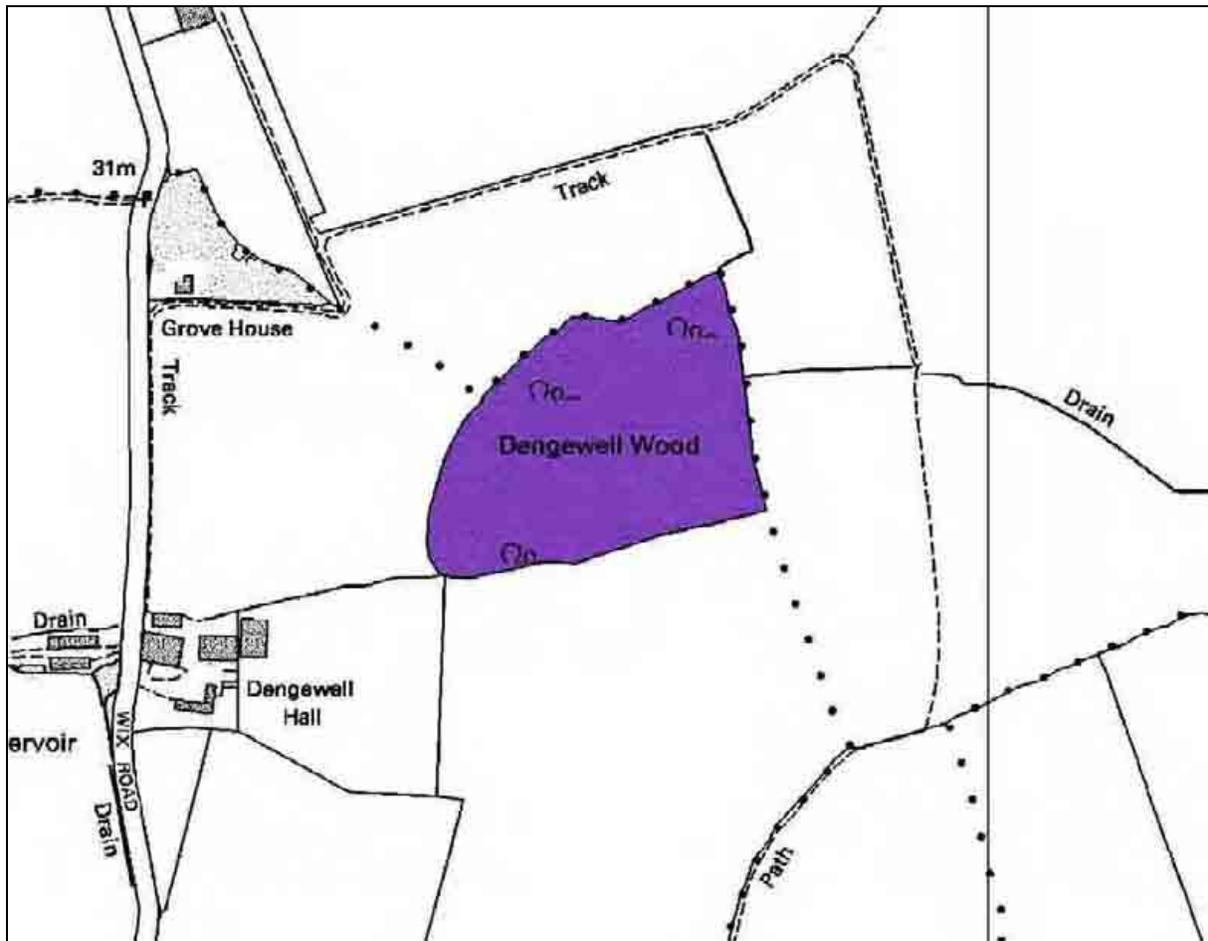
Most of this site, a former mine depot and remnant of grazing marsh, is currently managed for wildlife by the Essex Wildlife Trust. It comprises grazed grassland, scrub, wood, and ponds with marshy grassland in the northeast part, heavily grazed by ponies. The Depot grasslands and disturbed areas support Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Weld (*Reseda luteola*) and Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*). These flower-rich areas provide valuable foraging habitat for a wide range of invertebrates. The Nationally Scarce plant Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*), an Essex Red Data List species that often colonises waste ground, is well established in one area of the reserve. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) are the most frequent species forming the scrub. This site is particularly important for Turtle Dove, Nightingale, Bullfinch, Linnet and Yellowhammer – all these species have seen a sharp decline in recent years in Tending District. To the north-east is an area of old grazing marsh, providing foraging opportunities for some coastal waders and supporting a network of ditches.

Selection criteria: HCr6(a), HCr6(b), Hcr13, HCr16

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te91 Dengewell Wood (4.2 ha) TM 166276

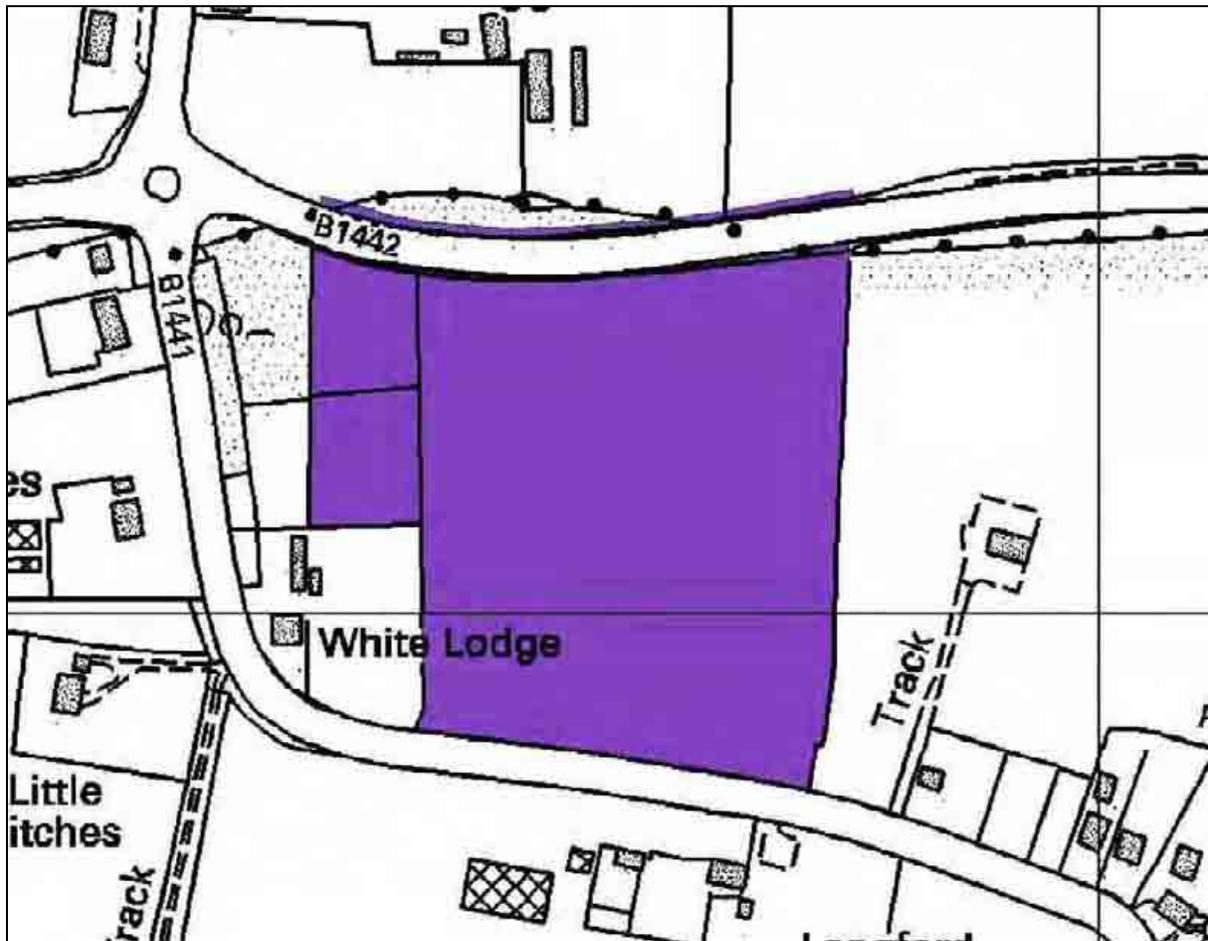
This ancient woodland is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards over a coppice layer of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The ground flora contains Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) with Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). Dengewell is the northernmost of a cluster of ancient woods (including Killgrove, Broadmeadow, Gravel, Glebe and Stonehall Woods) in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the district which may act as a woodland corridor for birds and some invertebrates between Stour/Copperas woods and the woods of central Tendring.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te92 Burcart's Meadow (4.3 ha) TM 167180

This site comprises a large meadow, currently used for occasional car boot sales, two small horse paddocks and a section of adjacent road verge. The site is primarily of interest for its large population of Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), a rare although possibly increasing plant that is on the Essex Red Data List of plants. The population of Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) is also notable. Other grassland species include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) are amongst the verge flora. The current commercial use of the main field is likely to be to the detriment of the interesting flora, although this will depend on the frequency and intensity of use.

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te93 Lower Botany Farm (4.4 ha) TM 167208

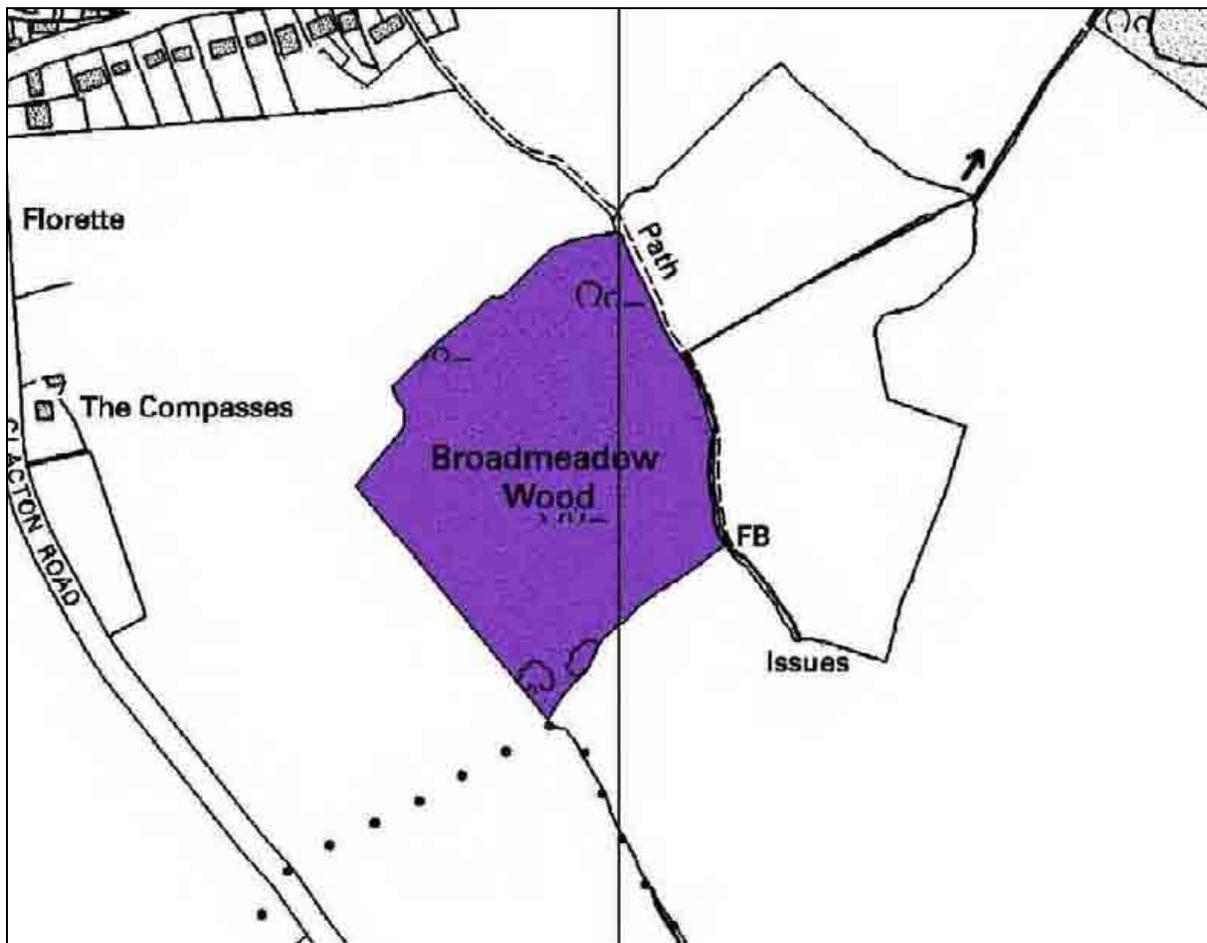
This pasture represents the richest of a series of grasslands surrounding Lower Botany Farm and displays a good variety of grasses and herbs, including Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Perforate St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) has also been recorded. The adjacent fields have been highlighted as potential Local Wildlife Sites largely on the strength of their hedgerows, which collectively provide important scrub habitat in this part of the District.

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te94 Broadmeadow Wood (3.7 ha) TM 169263

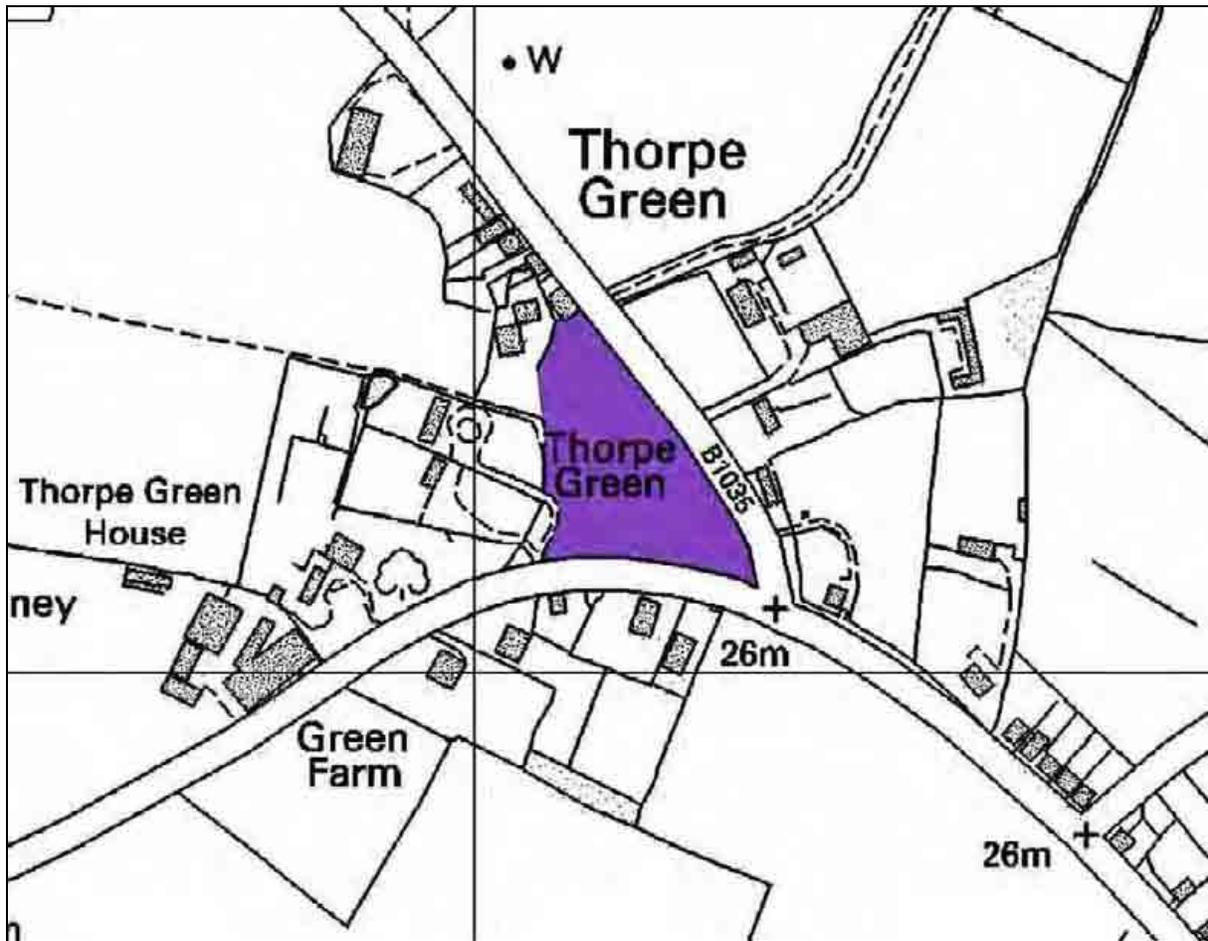
Broadmeadow is ancient coppice-with-standards woodland with an open understorey structure. The coppice species include Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Birch (*Betula* sp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and invasive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There has been some re-planting of oak and Sweet Chestnut. A particularly fine Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is located on the northwest boundary. The ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) but also includes Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). Broadmeadow Wood is centrally placed within a cluster of ancient woods, the complex juxtaposition of which adds to the value of each individual wood.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te95 Thorpe Green (1.0 ha) TM 170231

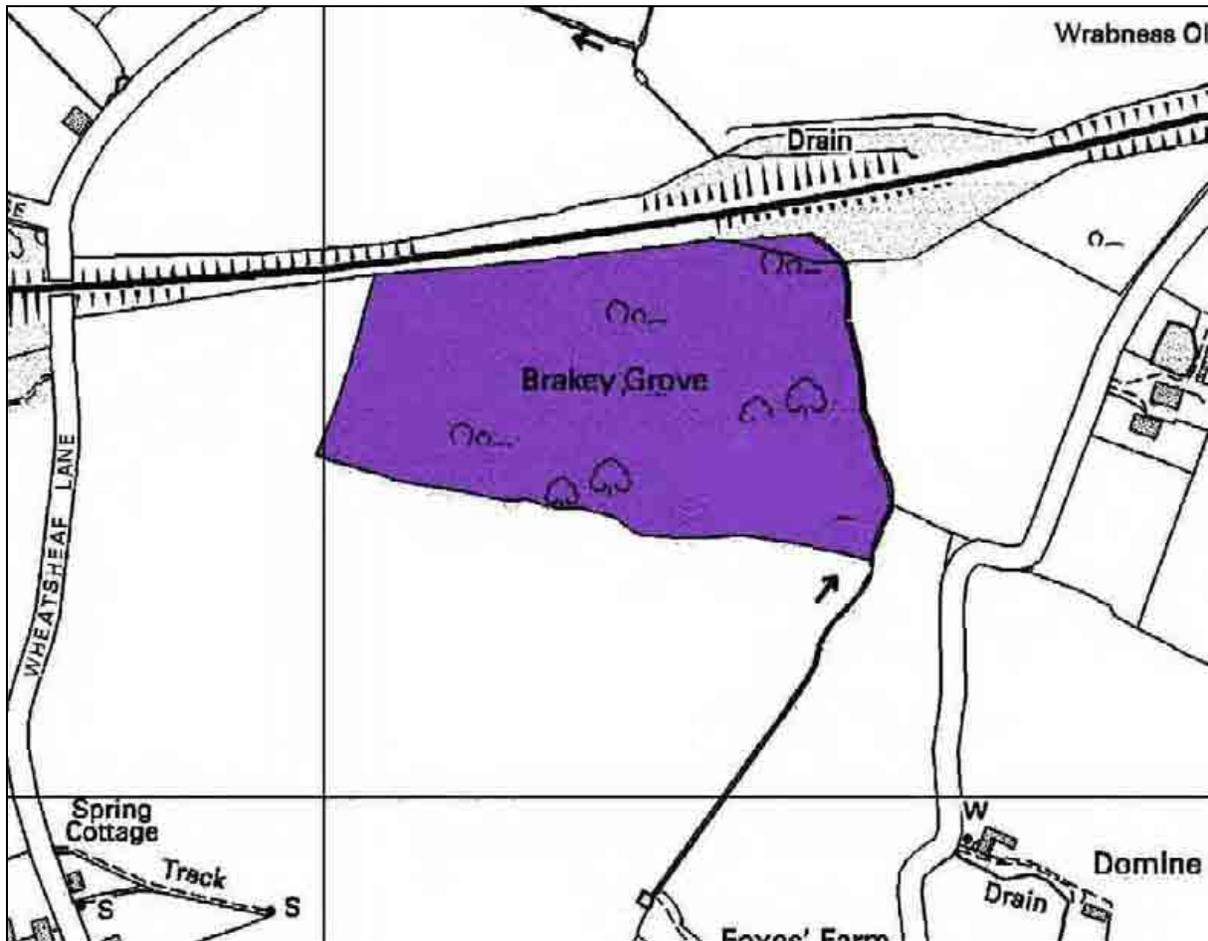
Thorpe Green contains a good mix of grass and herb species, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) is abundant in the spring. Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) are growing in a ditch. The western edge is bordered by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Selection criteria: HCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te96 Brakey Grove (6.0 ha) TM 172313

This ancient woodland contains Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*). The scrubby understorey is represented mainly by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) among the ground flora.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te97 Glebe Wood (3.4 ha) TM 175258

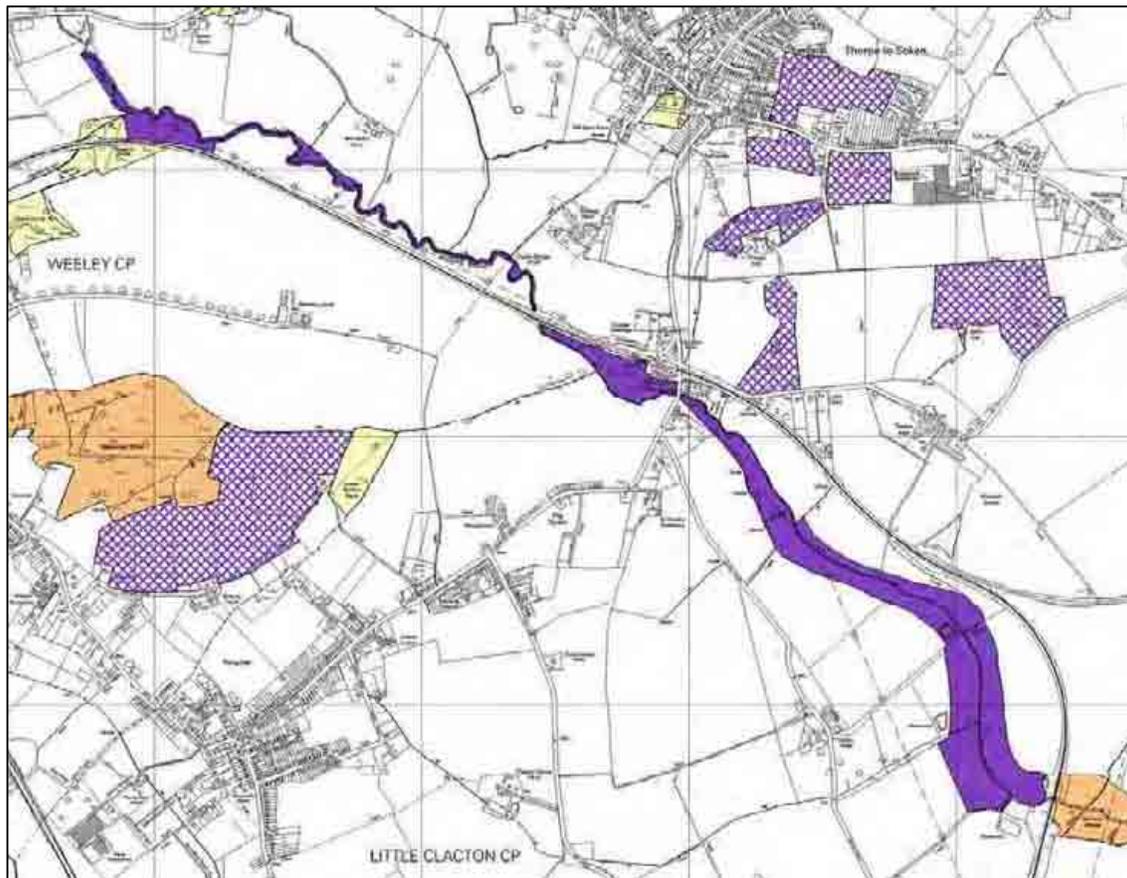
Glebe Wood is one of a number of closely grouped ancient woods in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the district. Its canopy contains Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) standards with regenerating coppice of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) typify the ground flora, restricted mainly around the woodland edges.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te98 Upper Holland Brook (42.8 ha) TM 177212

This Site comprises grassland, scattered trees, secondary woodland, scrub and reservoir along the upper reaches of the Holland Brook, beyond the SSSI downstream. Near Hunters Bridge (at the downstream end) the first part of this site is flood plain grazing marsh, currently grazed by cattle. The sward includes Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) and Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*). The brook supports Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

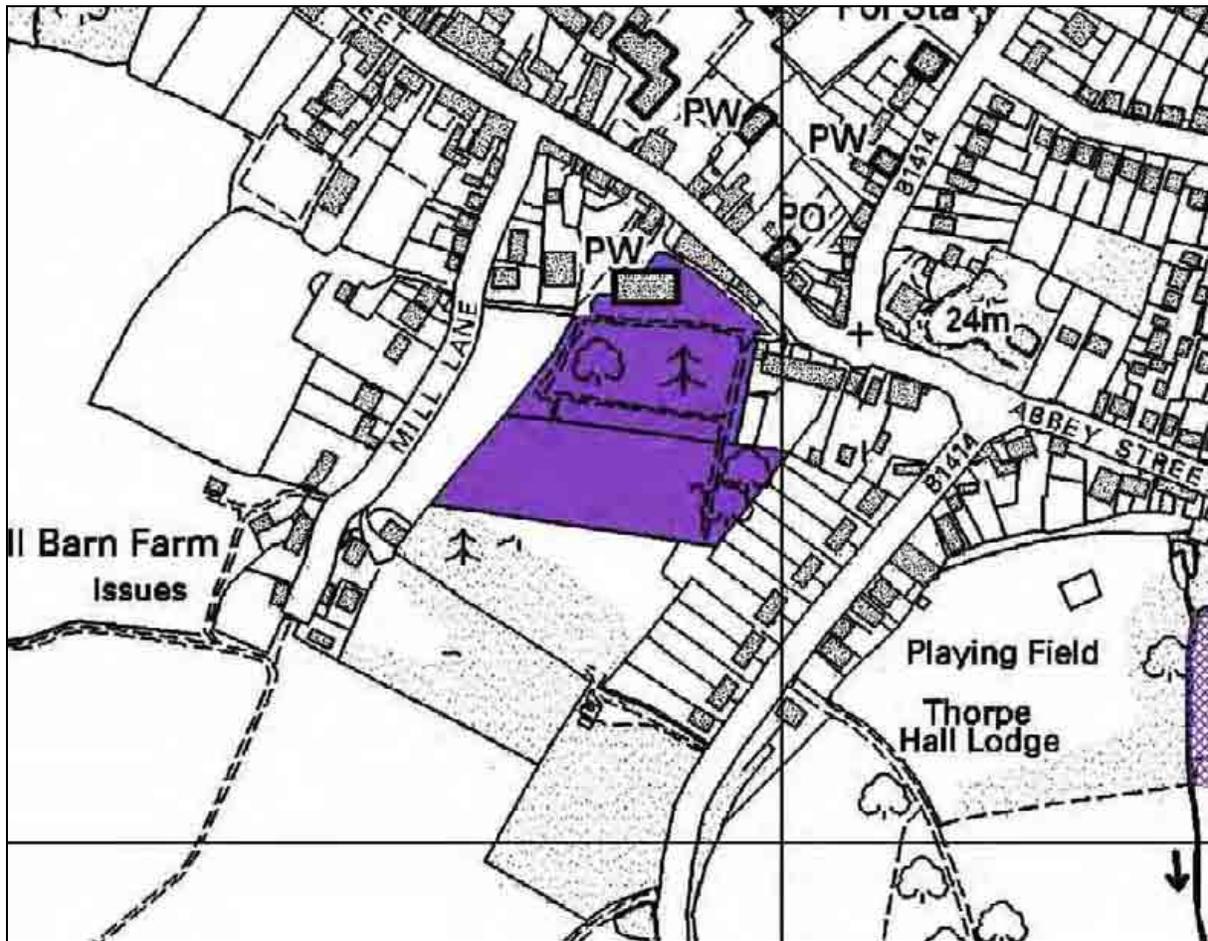
Located west of Rice Bridge, this site continues as a former brickfield which has now developed into scrub woodland, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), pollard Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Elm (*Ulmus spp.*) and a few large Sallow (*Salix caprea*). This site provides suitable habitat for many bird species including Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap and Nightingale. Badger activity has been also recorded. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) appears further up stream, with Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus*), Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Water Pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) in adjacent meadows.

Selection criteria: HCr6(a), HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr14, HCr27

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK)

Date of selection: 1991 (in part)

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te99 St. Michael's Churchyard (1.6 ha) TM 179222

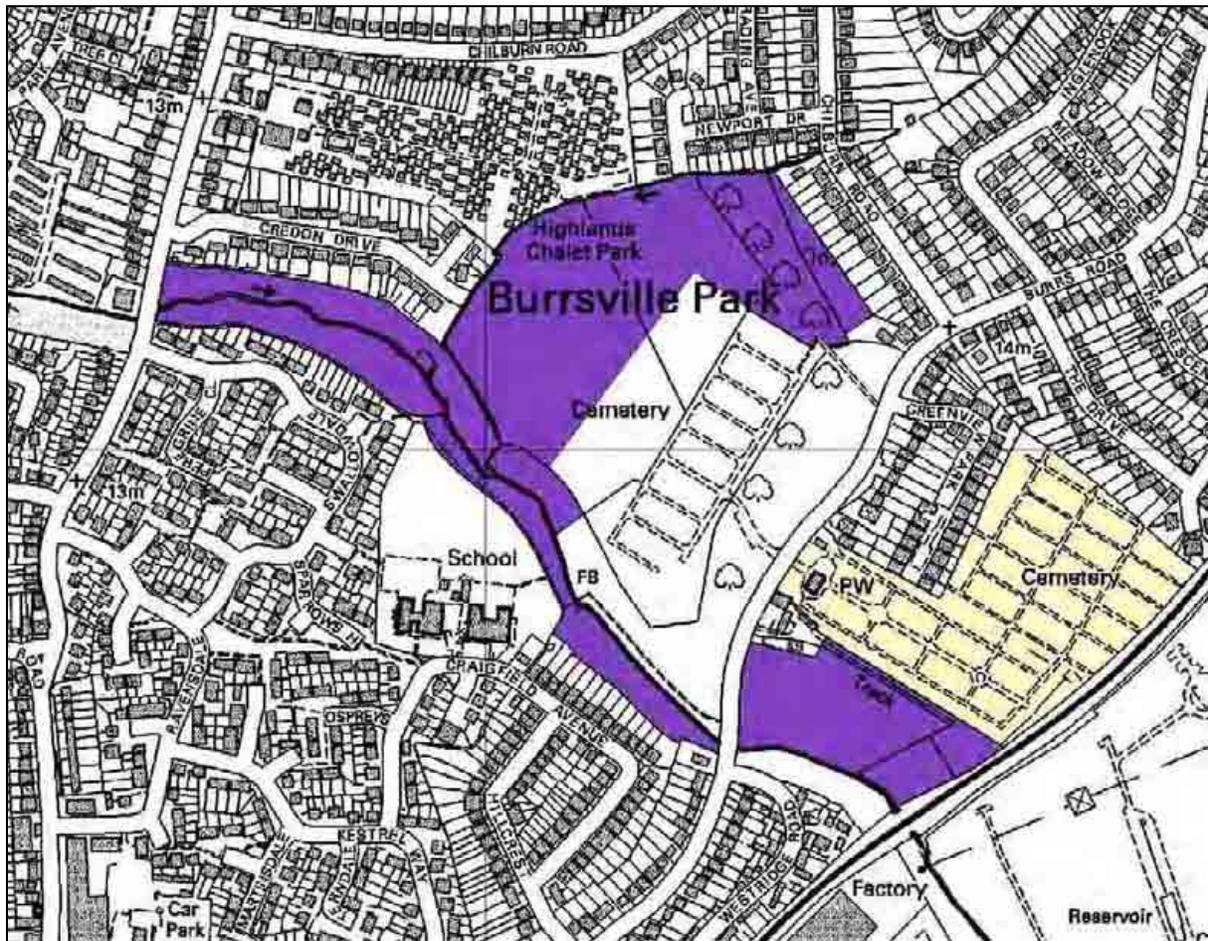
This extensive, well-managed churchyard contains both areas of mown and long sward grassland. The latter is represented by Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*). Tree species include Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Lime (*Tilia spp.*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Rue-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*) has been recorded on part of the roof, this being a very rare plant in Essex and is accordingly included on the Essex Red Data List. Other species of interest include Common spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) and waxcap fungi. The various conifers within the yard attract year-round Goldcrest and coal Tit. Slow-worm and Common Lizard have both been recorded in recent years.

Selection criteria: HCr11, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te100 Burrsville Park (10.6 ha) TM 180170

The stream section of Picker's Ditch is being developed by Tending District Council as an amenity/wildlife area, with important roles in terms of countryside access and environmental education. The meadow areas support Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) form scrubby margins together with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, Willow (*Salix* spp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

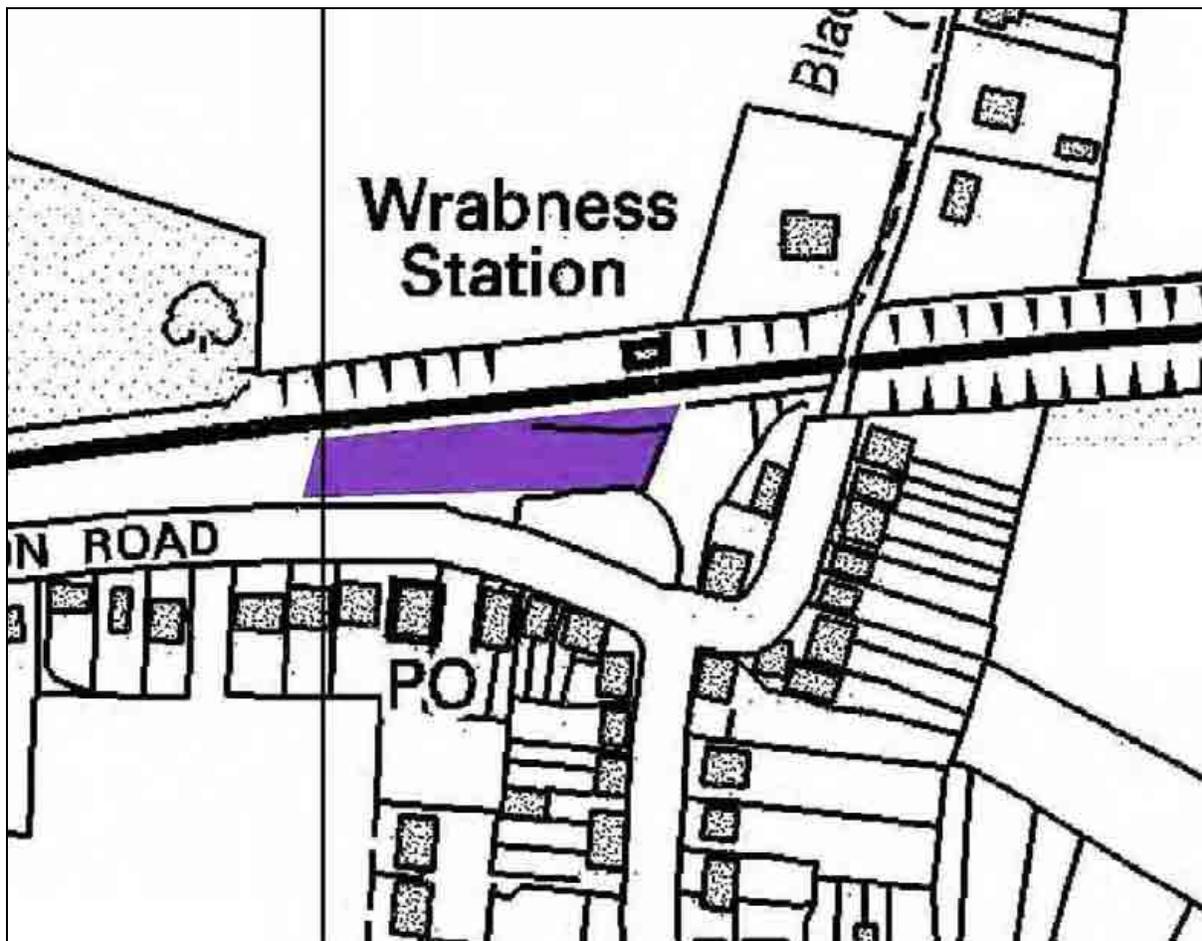
Slightly sloping grassland northwest of cemetery has shorter sward, with species represented by Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Common Knapweed, Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Meadow Vetchling, Cock's-foot, Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Fleabane and the Essex rarity Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*).

Selection criteria: HCr6(b), HCr13

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991 (in part)

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te101 Wrabness Siding (0.2 ha) TM 180315

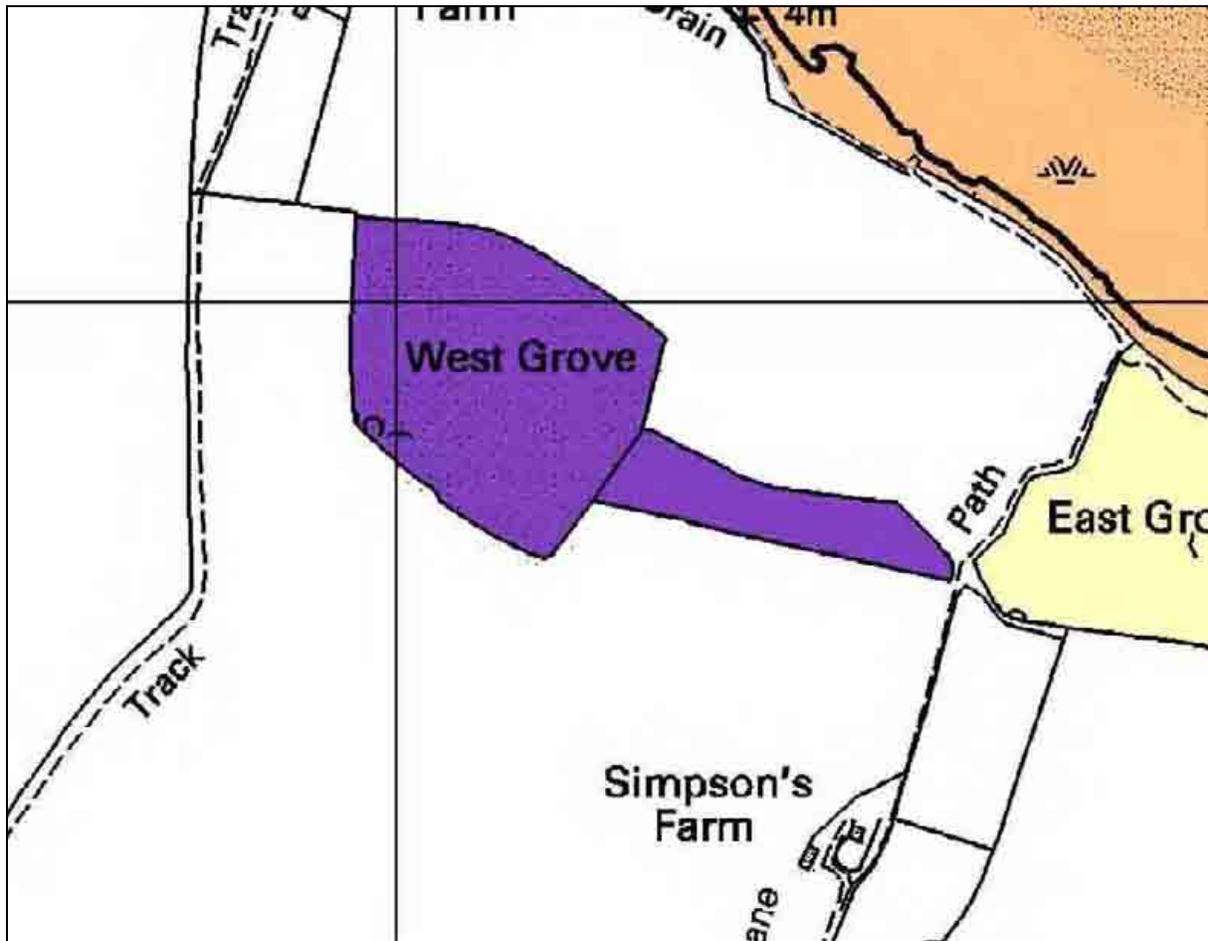
This very small site is significant for the presence of a population of Red-tipped Cudweed (*Filago lutescens*), being the only extant site for this species in Essex. The distribution of this plant dramatically declined after the 1950s, due to habitat loss and the reduction of the rabbit population. Red-tipped Cudweed is designated as a national Biodiversity Action Plan Species and listed in Schedule 8, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, classified as vulnerable.

Selection criteria: SCr15

UK BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te102 West Grove (2.1 ha) TM 180319

This small ancient wood has a neglected coppice with standards structure of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with invading Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The ground flora is typical of woods in the area, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*).

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te103 The Grove (0.7 ha) TM 183175

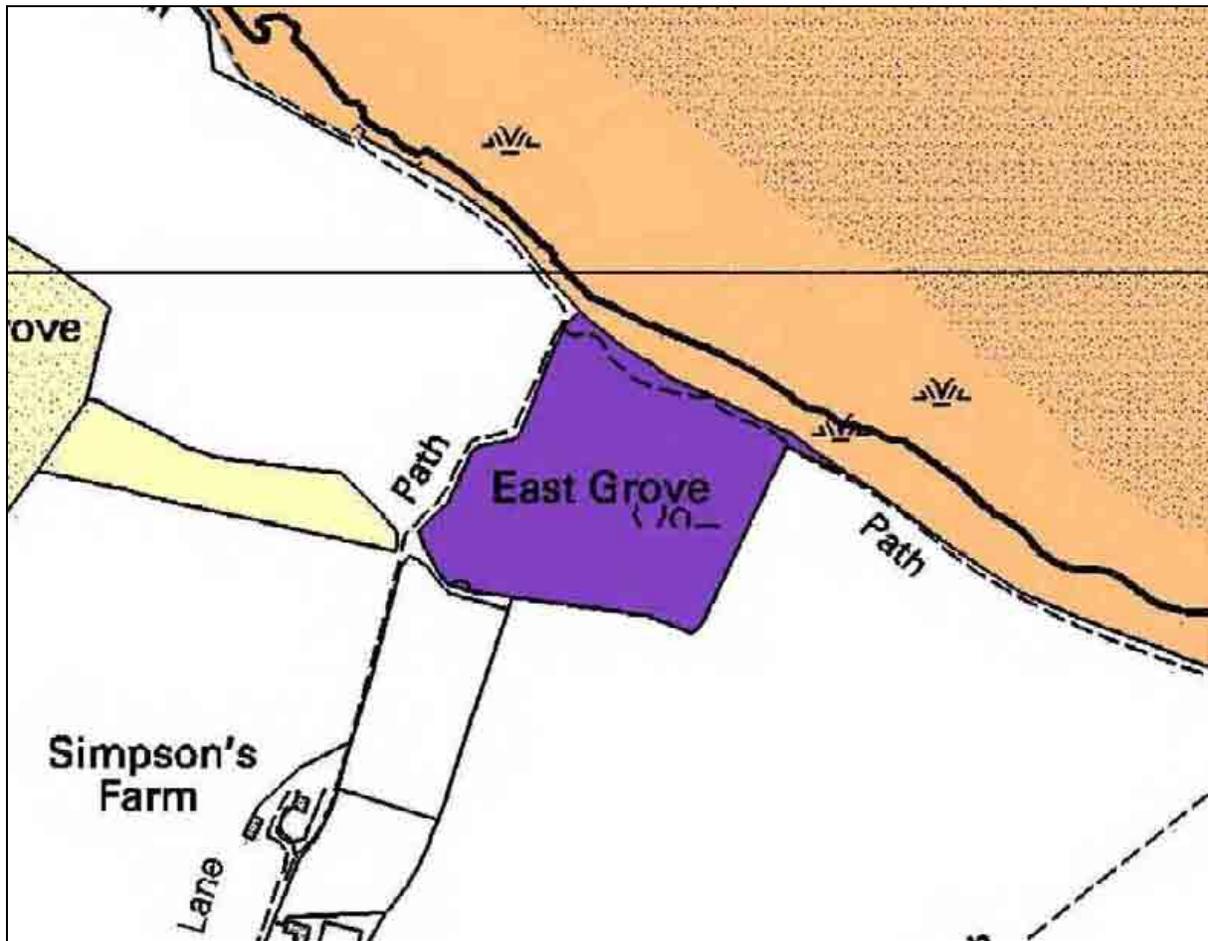
This small piece of ancient woodland is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) understorey. The ground flora is sparse, mostly round the edges and contains among others Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Wood False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*). The site is surrounded by grassland, most of which is amenity. Its position in the middle of housing provides a welcome retreat for local residents, affording opportunities for contact with wildlife in an urban environment.

Selection criteria: HCr1(b)

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te104 East Grove (1.5 ha) TM 183318

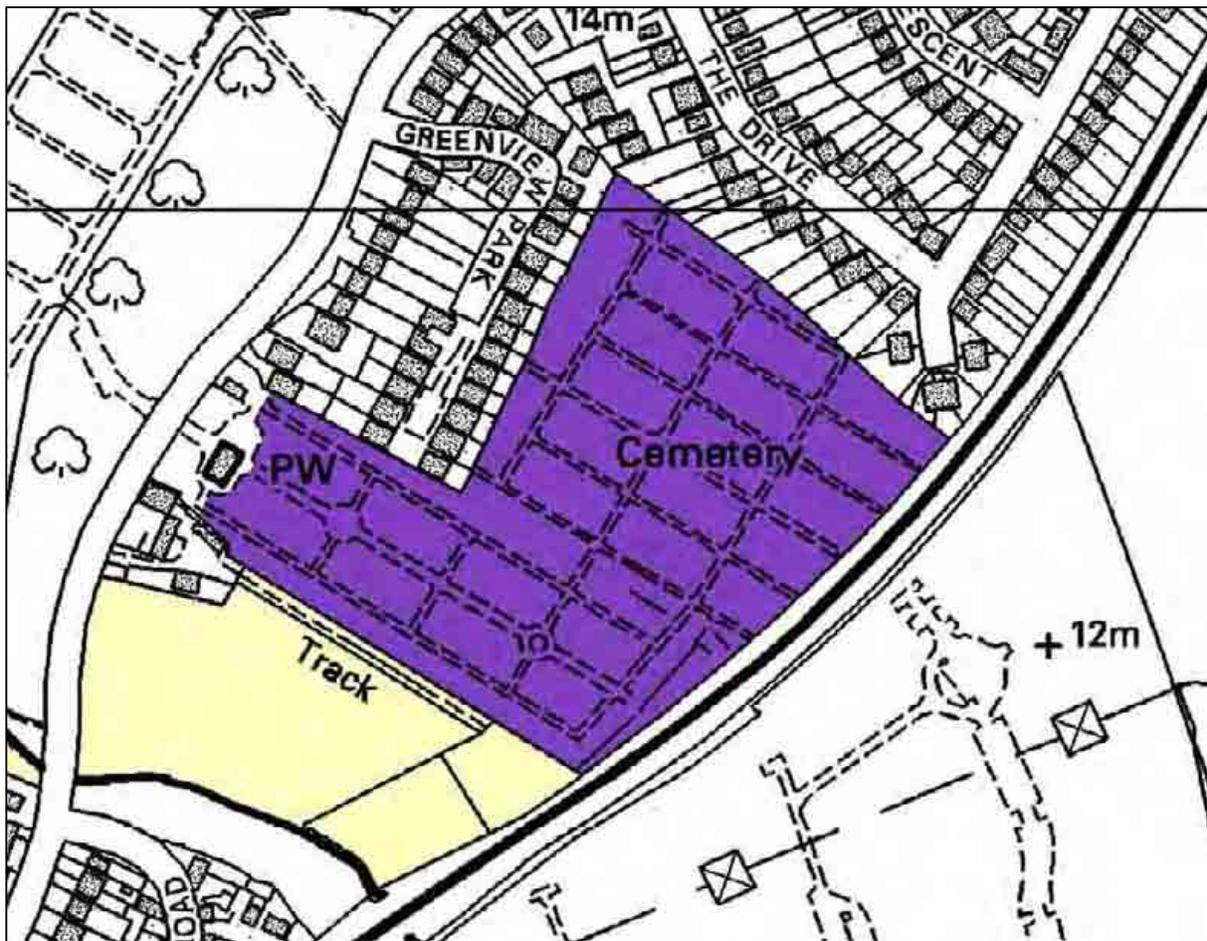
East Grove is neglected Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) forming a dense canopy. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) among other species. Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), and Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) have also been recorded.

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te105 Bursville Park Cemetery (4.9 ha) TM 184168

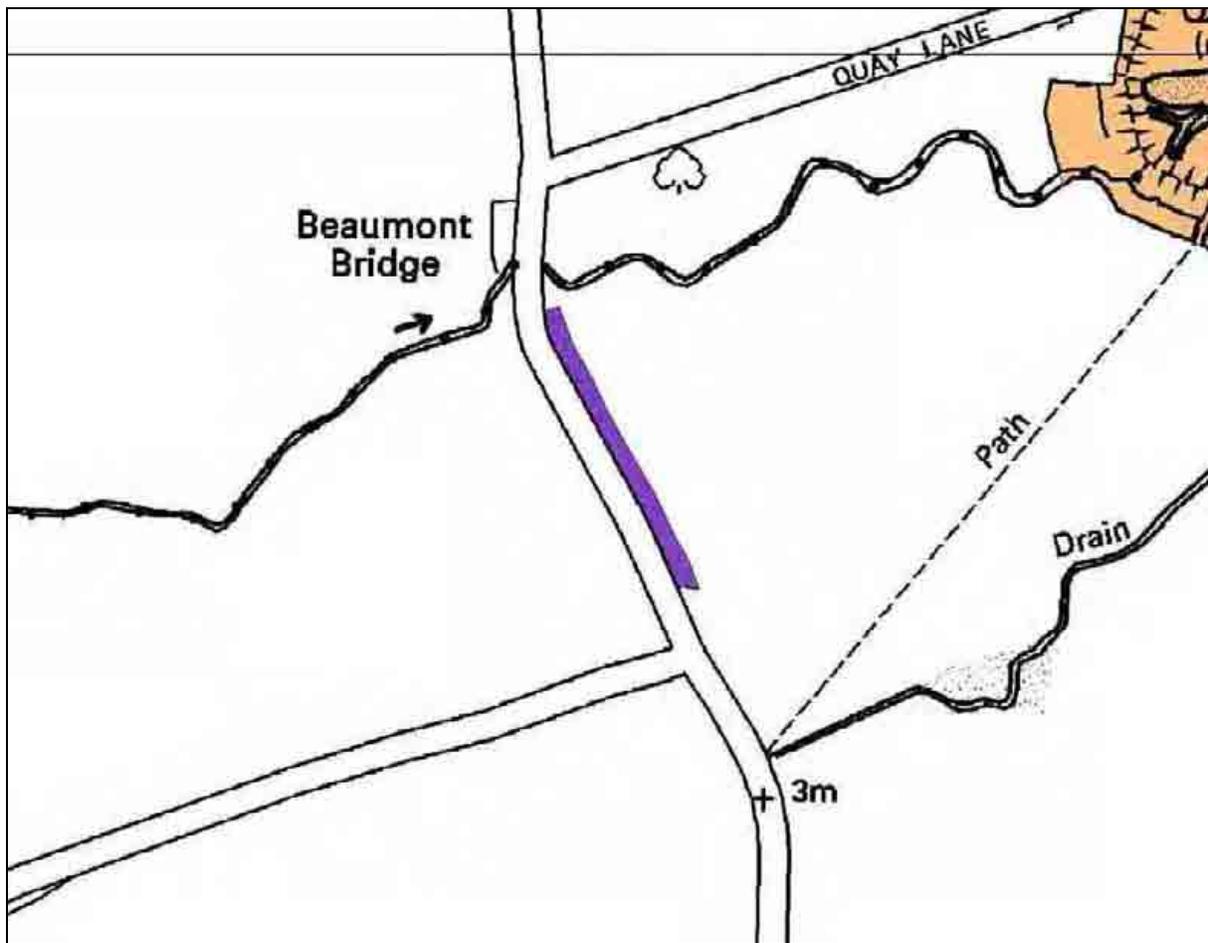
As with many old churchyards, this burial ground has encapsulated and helped to preserve a piece of old grassland that would formerly have been more widespread in the countryside. The presence of Subterranean Clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*), an Essex Red Data List plant, within the dry grassland sward is of particular note. Other species of note include Knotted Clover (*Trifolium striatum*), Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), Blinks (*Montia fontana*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). The acid grassland flora also includes Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Parsley-piert (*Aphanes* sp.) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). The cemetery also provides a habitat extension to the grasslands of the Burrsville Park Site to the West.

Selection criteria: HCr19, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te106 Beaumont Bridge Verge (0.05 ha) TM 185237

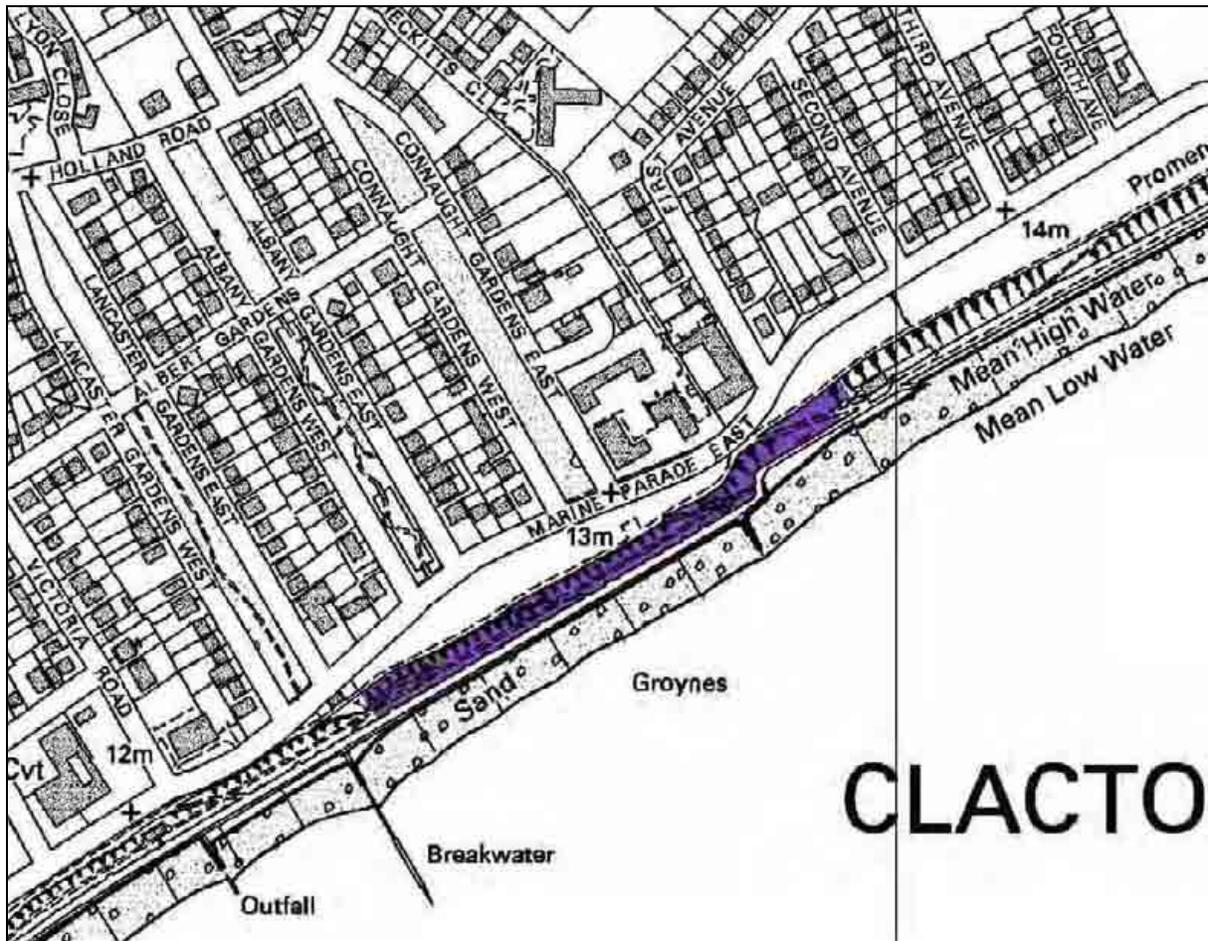
This verge is of particular interest due to its population of Sea Hog's-fennel (*Peucedanum officinale*), which is nationally a very rare species, restricted to sites around Hamford Water in Essex and in north Kent. In addition, the Essex populations support the Nationally Rare (RDB2) UK BAP Fisher's Estuarine Moth.

Selection criteria: SCr14, SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te107 Clacton North Cliff (0.8 ha) TM 187153

This section of sea-front scrubby grassland is of interest due to the presence of nationally notable maritime species: Shrubby Seablite (*Suaeda vera*) and Golden Samphire (*Inula crithmoides*). Other species include Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), Sea Couch (*Elymus pycnanthus*), Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). Scrub is represented by Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Curved Sea Hard-grass (*Parapholis incurva*) and Rock Sea-lavender (*Limonium binervosum*) have been recorded from here in the past

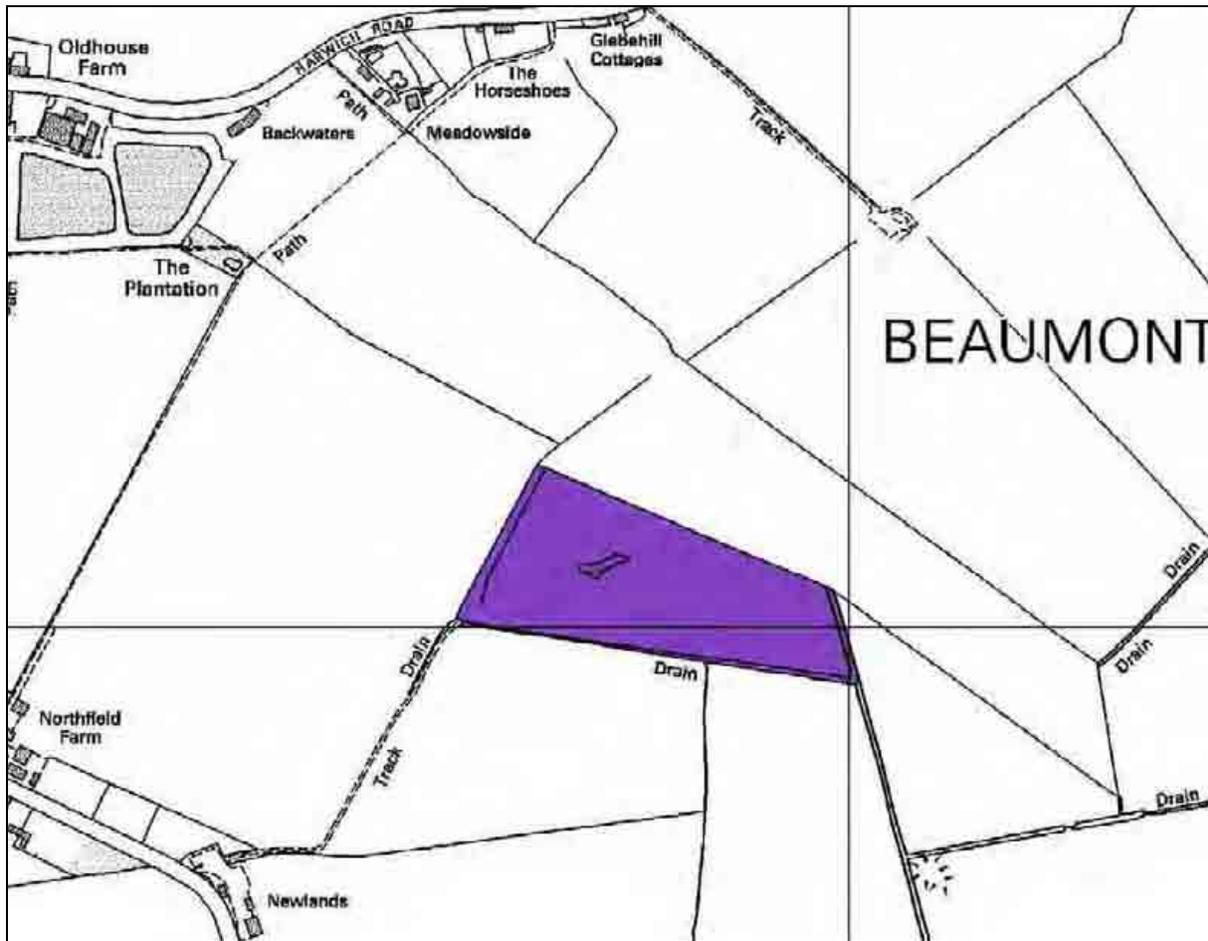
Clacton North Cliff is also an important site for invertebrates especially Coleoptera and Hymenoptera species, including the Small Velvet-ant (*Smicromyrme rufipes*), the solitary wasp (*Ectemnius sexcinctus*), and the beetles *Opatrum sabulosum*, *Cassida nobilis* and *Podagrica fuscicornis*.

Selection criteria: SCr15

BAP Priority Habitats: Maritime Cliff and Slopes

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te108 Beaumont Marsh (4.6 ha) TM 188250

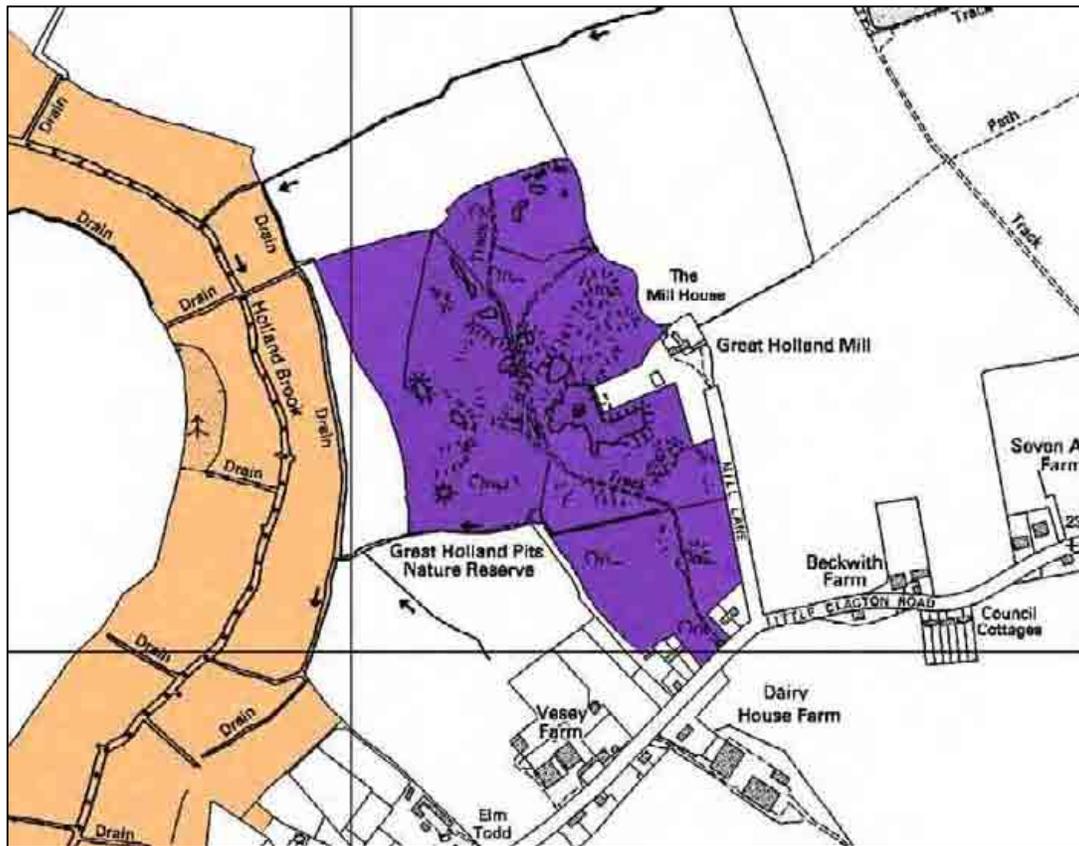
This section of grassland is the only remnant of grazing marsh in the area, although formerly all of the surrounding land would have been such a grassland. This site is currently grazed by sheep. A small pond with Sweet-grass (*Glyceria* spp.), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) is located in the western half of the site. Shallow ditches support species such as Bulrush, Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The open grassland sward includes Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Soft-rush, False Fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*). Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The Site supports Common Lizard and a number of interesting beetles, although the invertebrate fauna needs closer study.

Selection criteria: HCr16

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te109 Great Holland Pits (13.4 ha) TM 202192

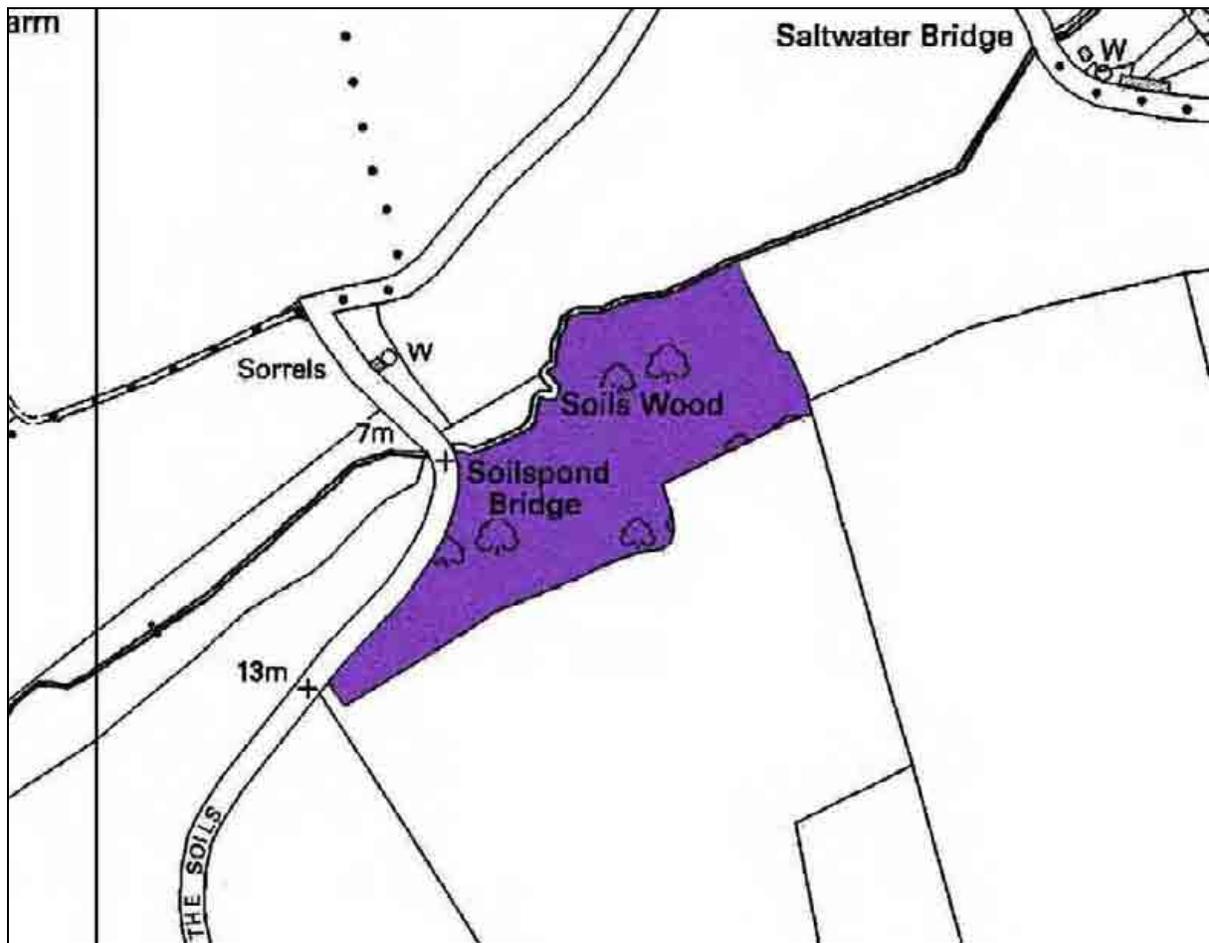
The varied habitats of this ex-gravel pit include heathy grassland, pasture, a remnant of old woodland, large and small pools and wet depressions. The rich and varied flora includes Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). Pools and surrounding areas support Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*). The woodland and scrub consist mainly of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with Willow (*Salix* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and, unusually, Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*). Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Small-flowered Buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*), Mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*), Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), several small Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), Soft-shield Fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) and Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) have also been recorded. Birdlife is varied, with the nightingale among the summer residents, and several aquatic species including kingfisher, coot and dabchick. Long-eared owls frequently occur in winter. Butterfly and other insect populations are also of considerable interest.

Selection criteria: HCr2(c), HCr2(a), HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr20

BAP Priority Habitats: Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te110 Soils Wood (3.2 ha) TM 203286

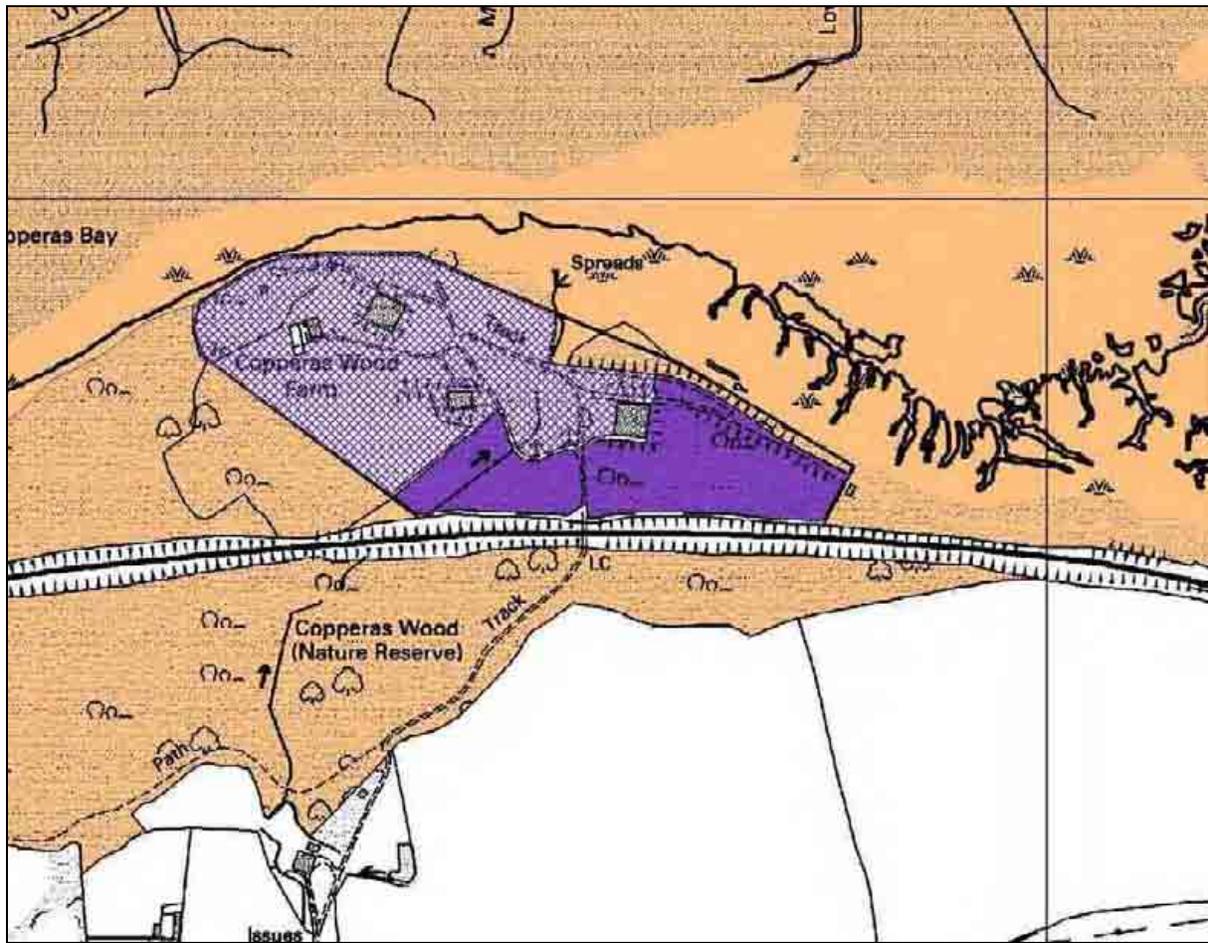
This site comprises a small strip of ancient coppice woodland with characteristic flora surviving along the Soils Brook, where old meanders and damp hollows remain. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Almond Willow (*Salix triandra*) form the majority of the canopy. The remainder is planted with conifers and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), now declining. The ground flora includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*). A clearing below the power lines increases habitat diversity through this area as well as a small gravel pit on the northern edge which provide additional habitat for Smooth Newts and frogs with winter wet pools. Older gravel workings on the east of the wood are now heavily overgrown. The steep banks of the stream provide a nesting site for Kingfisher. Soils Wood also supports a small colony of Stag Beetles (UK and Essex BAP species) and the Nationally Scarce Clerid beetle (*Tillus elongatus*). Common Lizard has been recorded on the verge near Soilspond Bridge.

Selection criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a), SCr11

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te111 Copperas Wood East (3.0 ha) TM 206317

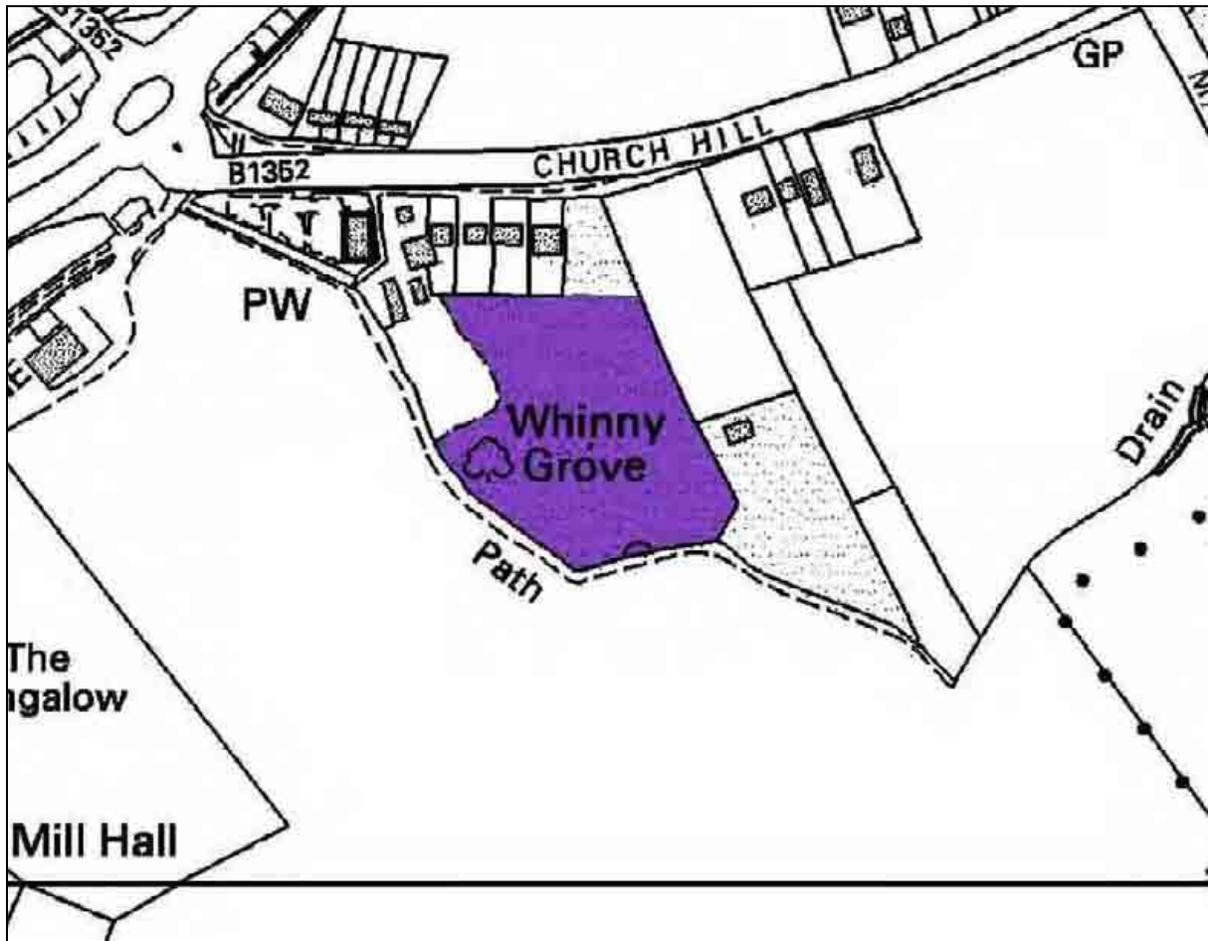
The western half of this site has a composition of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice dominating the canopy, with many interspersed standard trees. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) is also present, and a low tangled sub-canopy exists. The eastern half is similar in structure with coppiced Sweet Chestnut of various ages over a ground cover of mainly Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). Younger coppice stools are generally found to the west side of this block, which differs little in structure to that of Copperas Wood. Amongst the ground flora are several species of fern including Lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), Broad Buckler-fern (*D. dilatata*) and Male-fern (*D. filix-mas*). Other species of interest found in this site include Wood sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*).

Selection criteria: HCr1(b)

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

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te112 Whinny Grove (1.2 ha) TM 215302

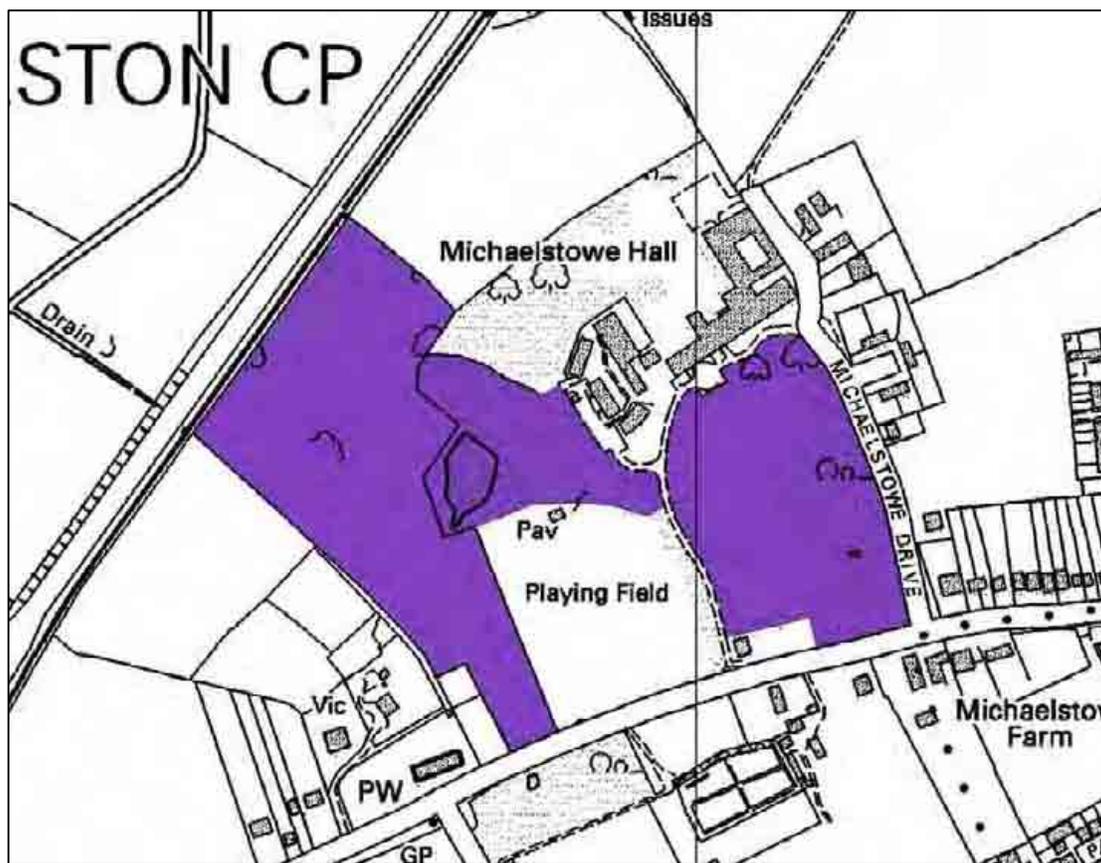
The central area of this wood is dominated by very tall Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice that is not dissimilar to the coppiced structure found in Stour and Copperas woods, approximately two kilometres north west of Whinny Grove. It is therefore possible that this site might be ancient in origin. A variety of other trees and shrubs form the remaining composition of the woodland. These include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Willow (*Salix* sp.). A relatively poor ground flora comprises Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). This wood is suffering somewhat from encroachment from adjacent properties.

Selection criteria: HCr1(b)

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

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te113 Michaelstowe Hall (7.8 ha) TM 218306

This site comprises the mature parkland habitats of Michaelstowe Hall, comprising a typical mix of mature trees and tall grassland. The western section includes a stag-headed Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), offering good potential for dead wood invertebrates and possibly roosting bats, with the majority of the other parkland trees also being oaks. The grassland comprises mainly Cock's-foot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and would benefit from a low-intensity grazing regime to manage the sward. The central area comprises ornamental planting around an old pond, closed canopy woodland and a small area of scattered scrub.

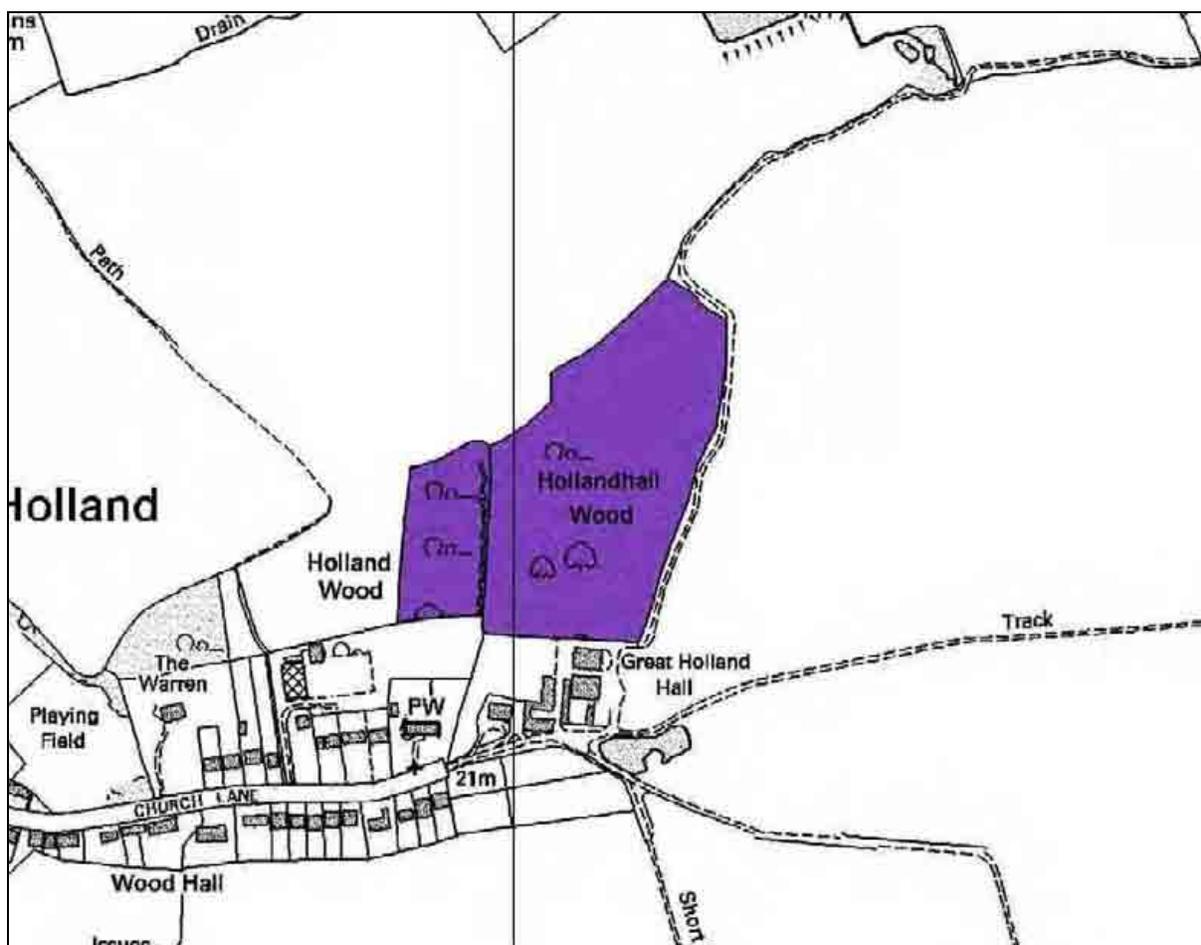
The trees of the eastern section comprise both native and exotic standards, including oaks, Limes (*Tilia* sp.), pines (*Pinus* sp.), Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) and other conifers. The eastern edge comprises open Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) wood. The understorey and ground flora includes Holy (*Ilex aquifolium*), Butcher's-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot Grass and Common Bent-grass. The areas of open grassland are enriched acid grassland, which could be improved for wildlife with management. The same is also true of the apparently abandoned playing field between the two main areas of parkland. The park forms part of a proposed country park development for Ramsey and Dovercourt, which should allow for enhanced environmental education as well as recreational opportunities.

Selection Criteria: HCr3

BAP Priority Habitats: Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK)

Date of original selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te114 Hollandhall Wood (5.3 ha) TM 220195

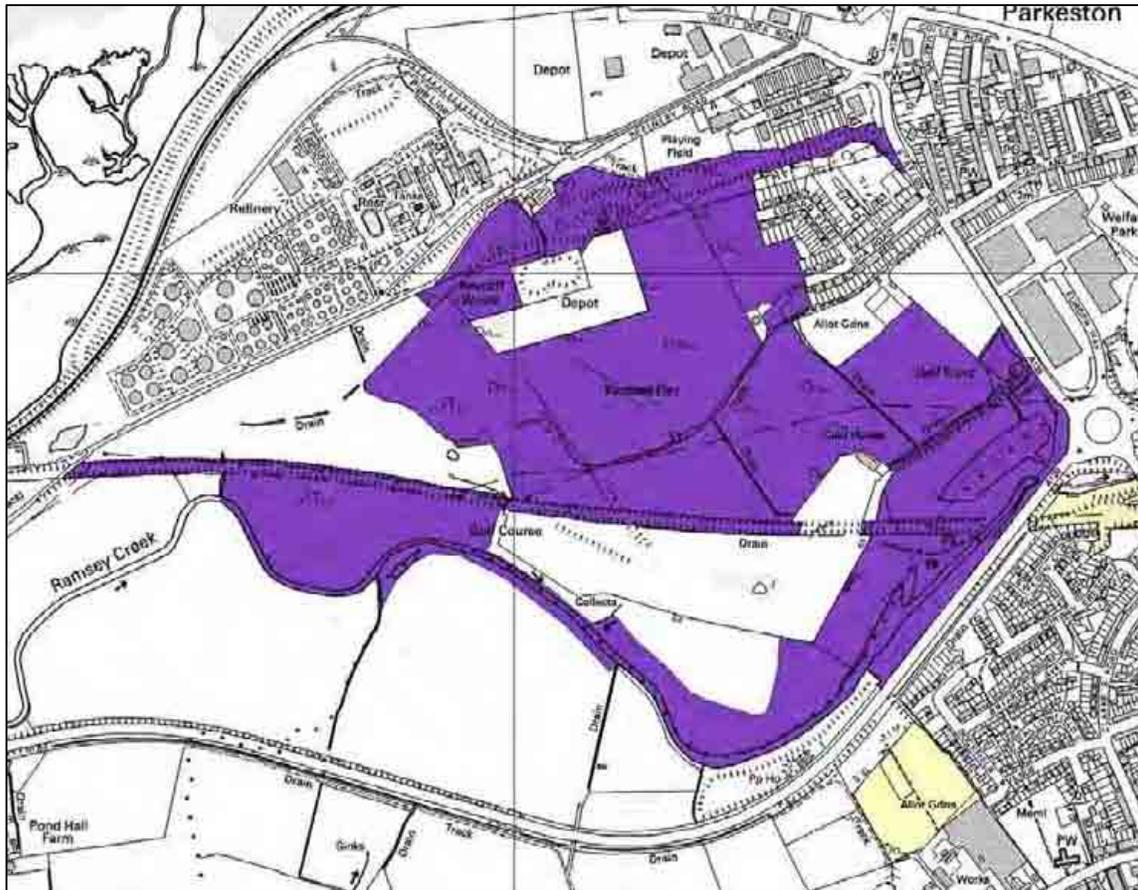
Much of this wood canopy is characterised by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with small proportion of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and coppiced Lime (*Tilia* sp.). The understorey layer is formed of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) form the majority of ground flora, together with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

Selection criteria: Hcr1(a)

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

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te115 Ramsey Ray (50.0 ha) TM 232317

This site comprises a mosaic of open water, marginal reedbed, riverside grassland with scattered scrub, oak woodland and a disused railway embankment, now with dense scrub cover. The northern boundary is of geomorphological interest, comprising the original slumped cliff coastline of Parkeston, including Raycliff Wood. This cliff strip now comprises relatively modern Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) wood with some Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Southwards from here, the land slopes down towards Ramsey Creek, passing through a series of unmanaged grassland and scrub areas. The grassland is moderately species-rich, with Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Spotted Medick (*Medicago arabica*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Flote-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and various Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Sedges (*Carex* spp.). Slow-worm and Common Lizard have been recorded from these grasslands.

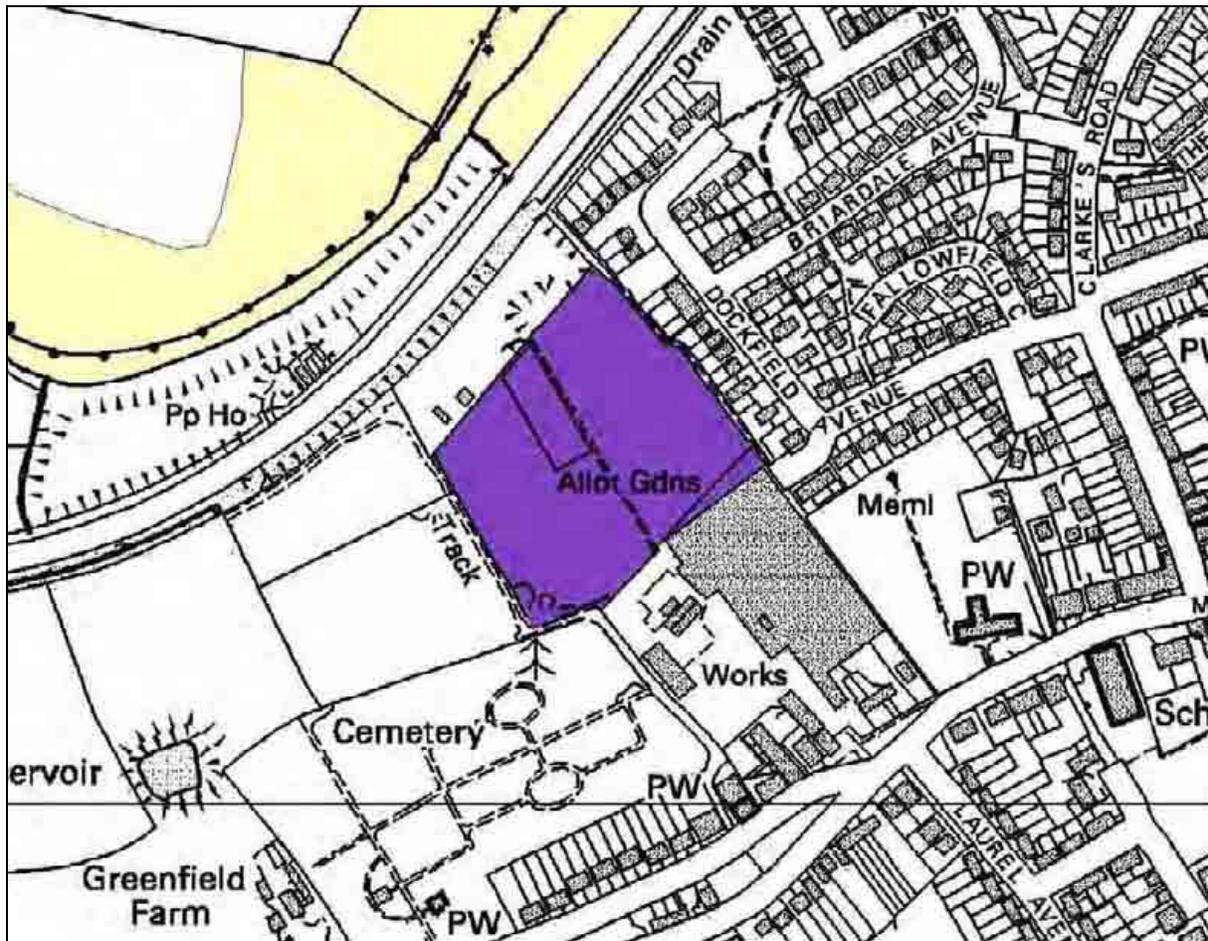
The railway embankment scrub is largely Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with young Pedunculate Oak, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and locally dominant Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). Short-eared Owls have been known to inhabit this site. The creek and the downstream pond contain substantial areas of Reedbed (*Phragmites australis*), as does the adjacent Delf Pond.

Selection Criteria: HCr2(c,d), HCr6(b), HCr11, HCr13, HCr21,

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Reedbeds (UK); Reedbeds (Essex)

Date of original selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te116 Dockfield Avenue Allotments (2.2 ha) TM 236312

This former allotment gardens site provide a slightly unexpected habitat for Dormice, a very scarce mammal in Essex which is also national and Essex BAP species. This site is quite isolated from the next nearest dormouse location in the district.

Selection criteria: SCr4

BAP Priority Habitats:

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te117 Frinton Cliffs (17.2 ha) TM 242199

Frinton Cliffs represent a significant extent of maritime slope grassland of varying quality and with scattered scrub adding to the habitat diversity. The flat top part of the cliff is managed as amenity grassland. Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) form the majority of the scrub, with occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Apple (*Malus spp.*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The rough grassland consists mainly of False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and Colt's-foot (*Tussilago farfara*). Bithynian Vetch (*Vicia bithynica*) has been recorded at the northern end of the Site.

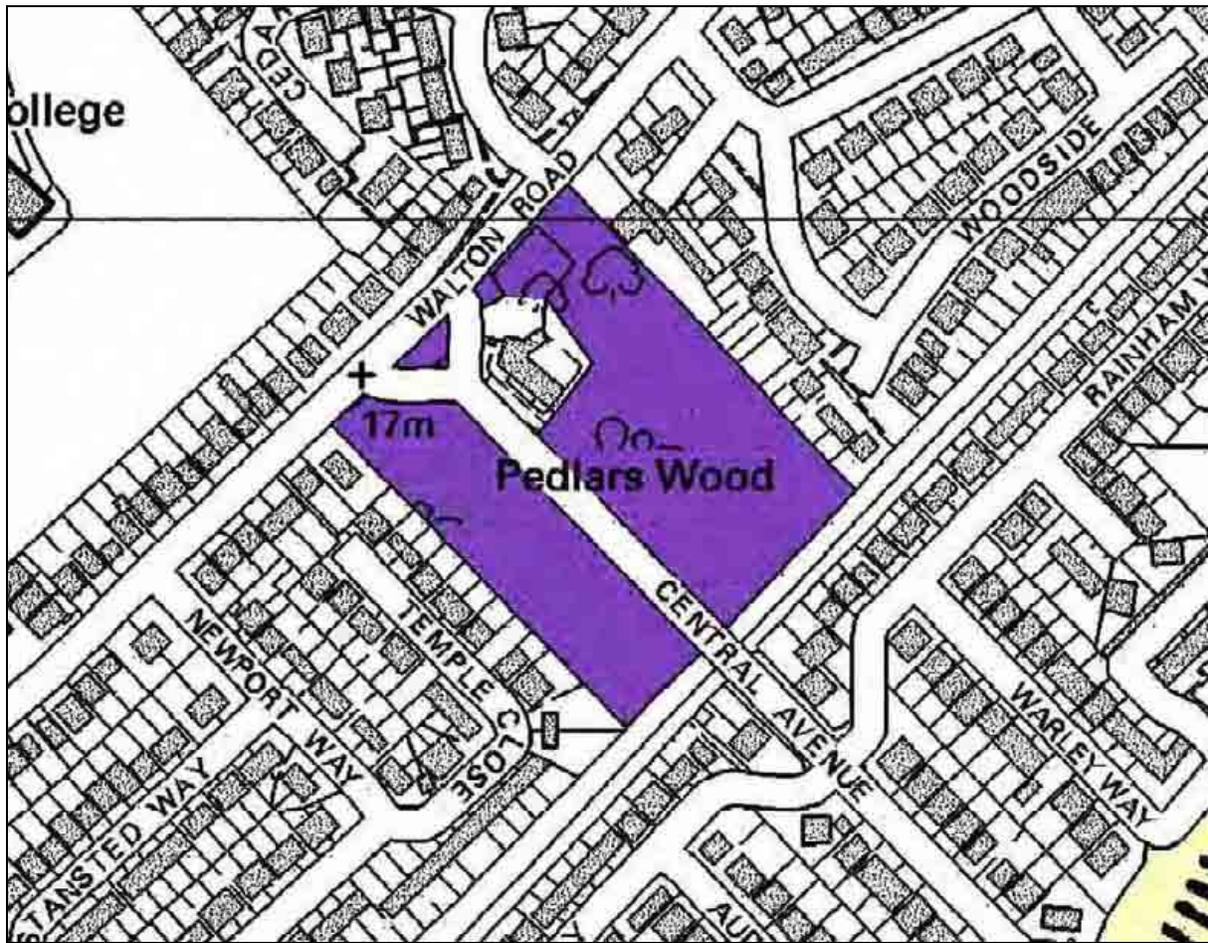
This is a very important site for number of invertebrate species, particularly rich in both Orthoptera and aculeate Hymenoptera. The Large Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus ruderatus*), a national BAP species, and the Nationally Scarce (Nb) Velvet-ant (*Mutilla europaea*) have been recorded from here as well as the rare Grey Bush-cricket (*Platycleis albopunctata*).

Selection criteria: HCr6(b), HCr13, SCr14

BAP Priority Habitats: Maritime cliff and Slopes

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te118 Pedlars Wood (2.7 ha) TM 244209

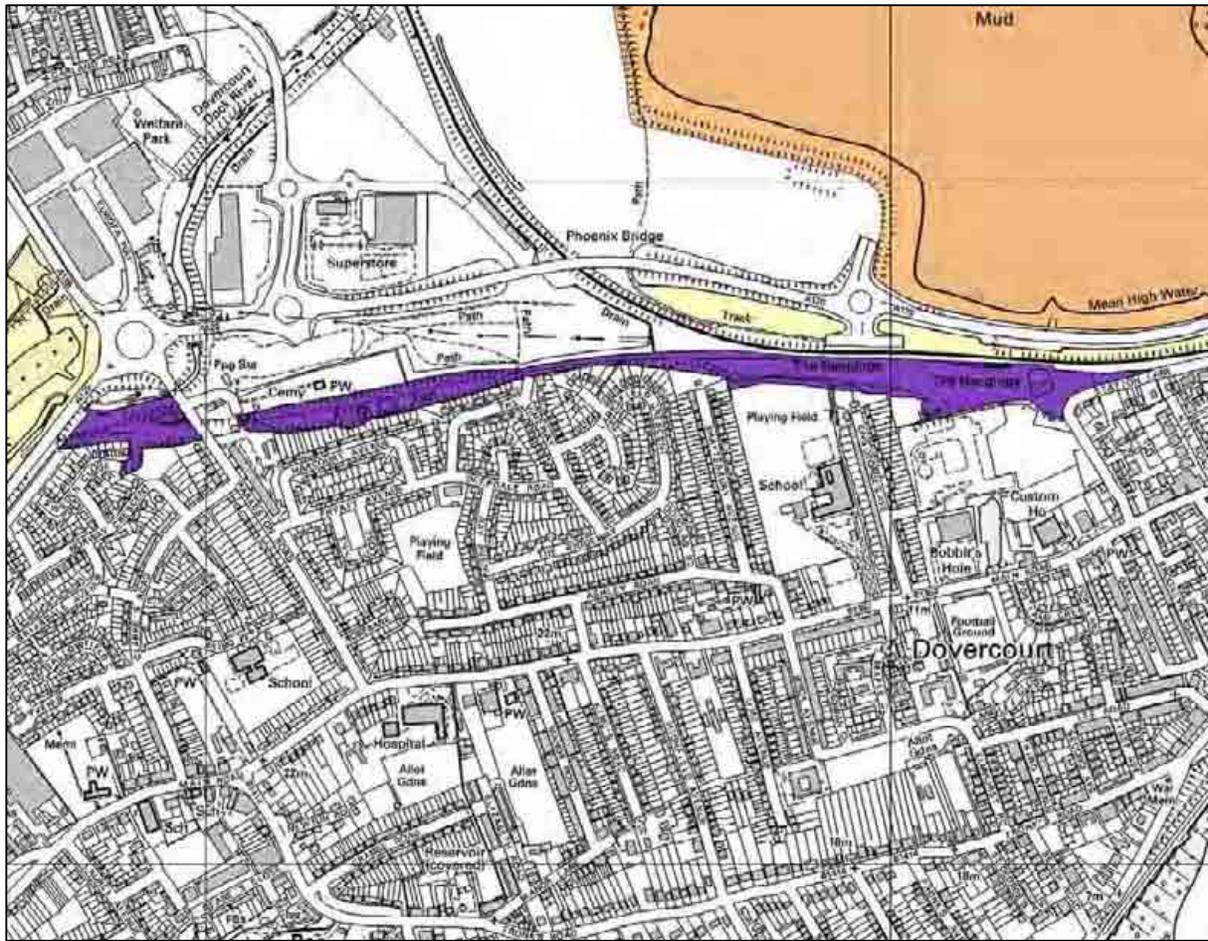
Declared a nature reserve in 1988, much of this wood is being sympathetically managed to restore the traditional habitats essential to woodland flora and fauna. Standard trees include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) with Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) understorey. The ground flora contains Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) with Dog's Violet (*Viola riviniana*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*).

Selection criteria: Hcr2(b)

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te119 The Hangings (6.7 ha) TM 247317

This site provides an area of accessible woodland close to the urban centres of Harwich and Dovercourt and provides an ecological extension to the scrub woodland habitats present on the disused railway line within the Ramsey Ray Site. Part of the value of this site lies in its essentially urban location and the opportunities it provides for informal countryside recreation and environmental education. The western section of The Hangings lies in a steep cutting, which has developed a young woodland cover typified by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.). The ground flora here includes two Essex Red Data List ferns: Hart's-tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), as well as Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Pendulous Sedge (*C. pendula*).

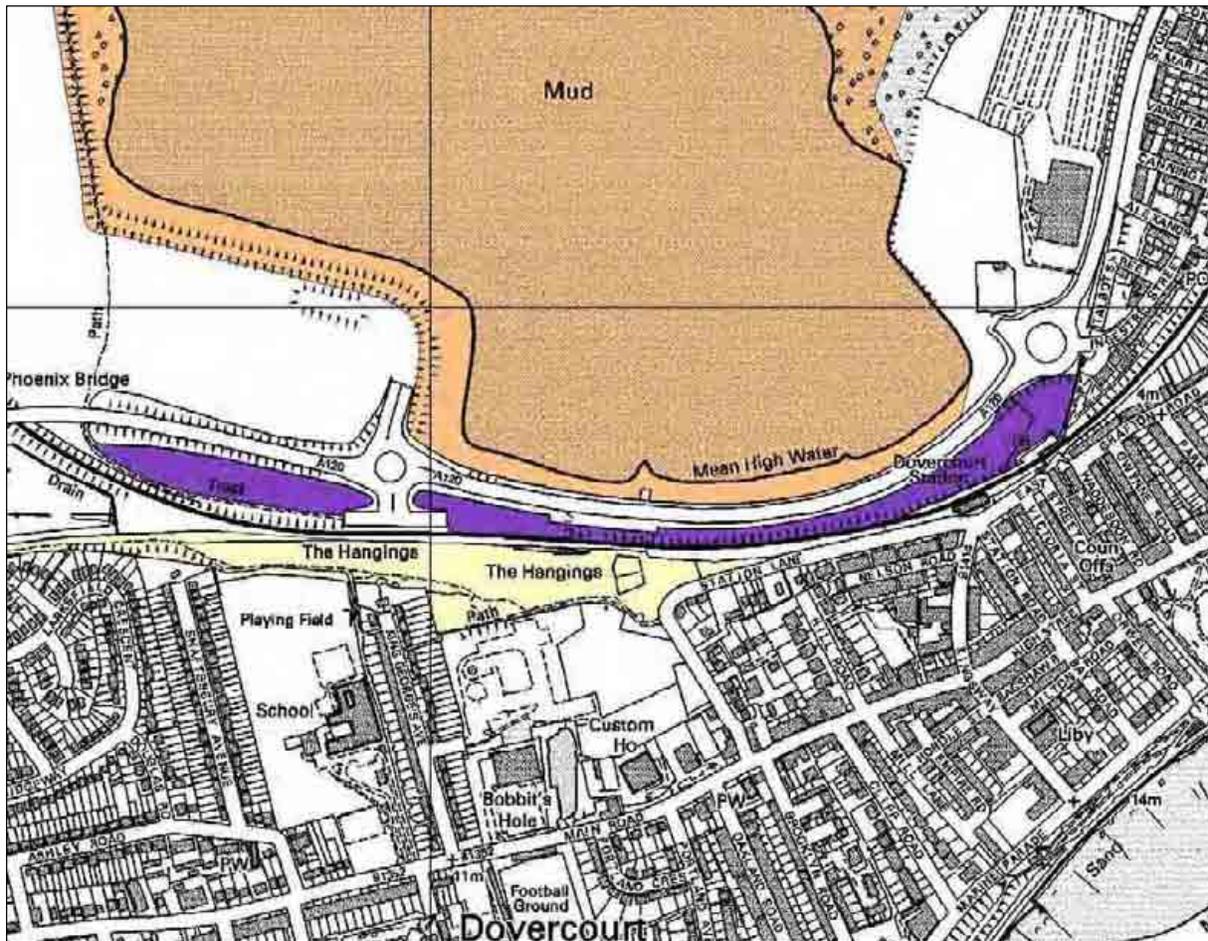
Further east the vegetation grades into largely continuous blocks of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Blackthorn and Hawthorn scrub. At the eastern end are a few pockets of relatively species-rich tall grassland, which includes Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) and various legumes.

Selection Criteria: HCr2(d), HCr6, HCr13, HCr31

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Urban Habitats (Essex)

Date of original selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te120 Station Lane Grassland (4.3 ha) TM 250317

This site effectively comprises the modified remnants of the upper beach grasslands that fringed Bathside Bay before it was separated from the Bay by the construction of the new A120 link to Harwich. The habitat comprises dry, herb-rich and occasionally weedy acid grassland and “brownfield” vegetation following disturbance during road construction. The flora is characterised by the presence of Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*, an Essex Red Data List species), Sheep’s Fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Narrow-leaved Bird’s-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), Hawkweed Ox-tongue (*Picris hieracioides*, another Essex Red Data List plant), various ragworts (*Senecio* spp.), Hop-trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*), Perennial Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*), Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*) and Common Cat’s-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).

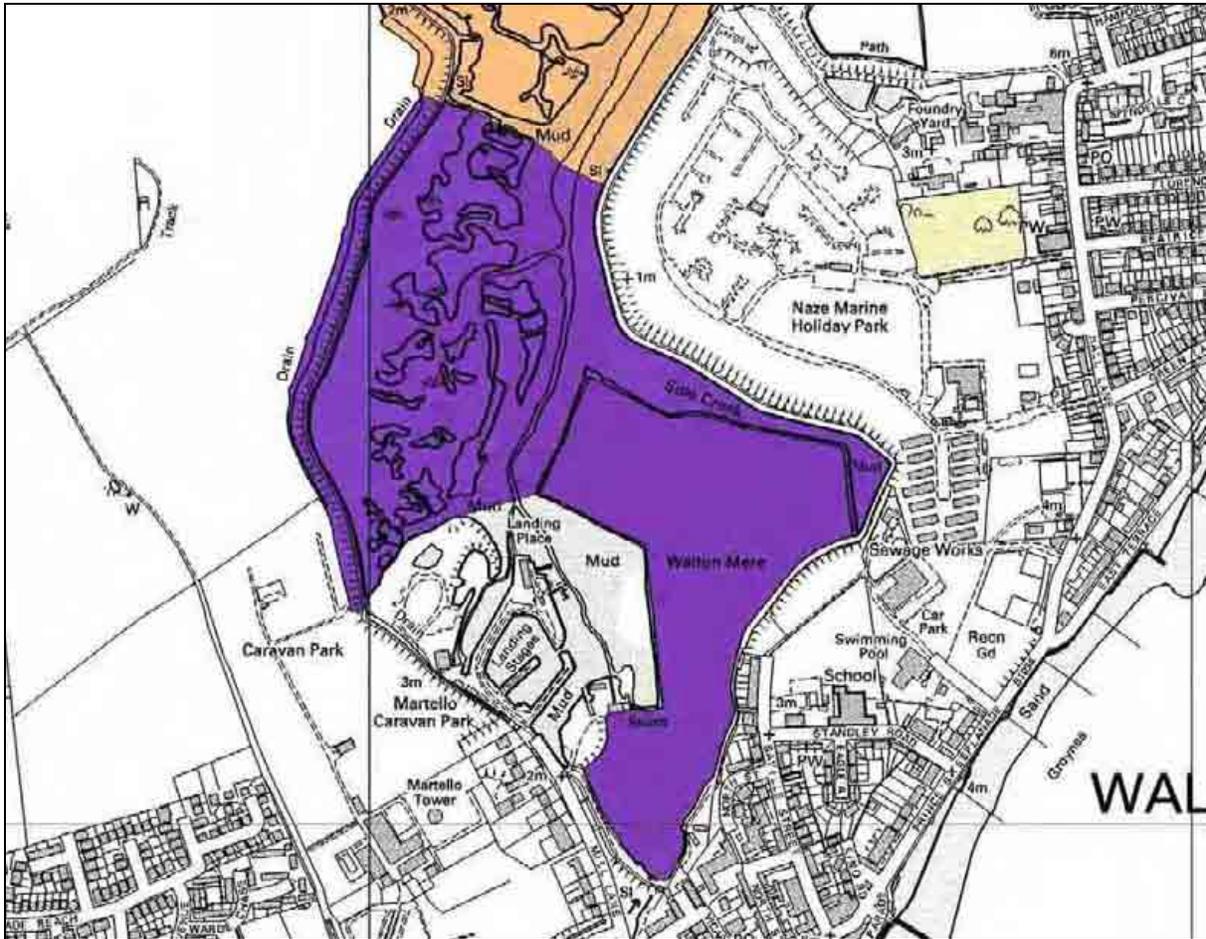
Such flower-rich brownfield-type grasslands are recognised as important habitat for a wide range of specialist invertebrates and also reptiles, with Common Lizards known to inhabit this site and the adjacent railway embankments.

Selection Criteria: HCr20

BAP Priority Habitats: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of original selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te121 Walton Mere (27.3 ha) TM 252224

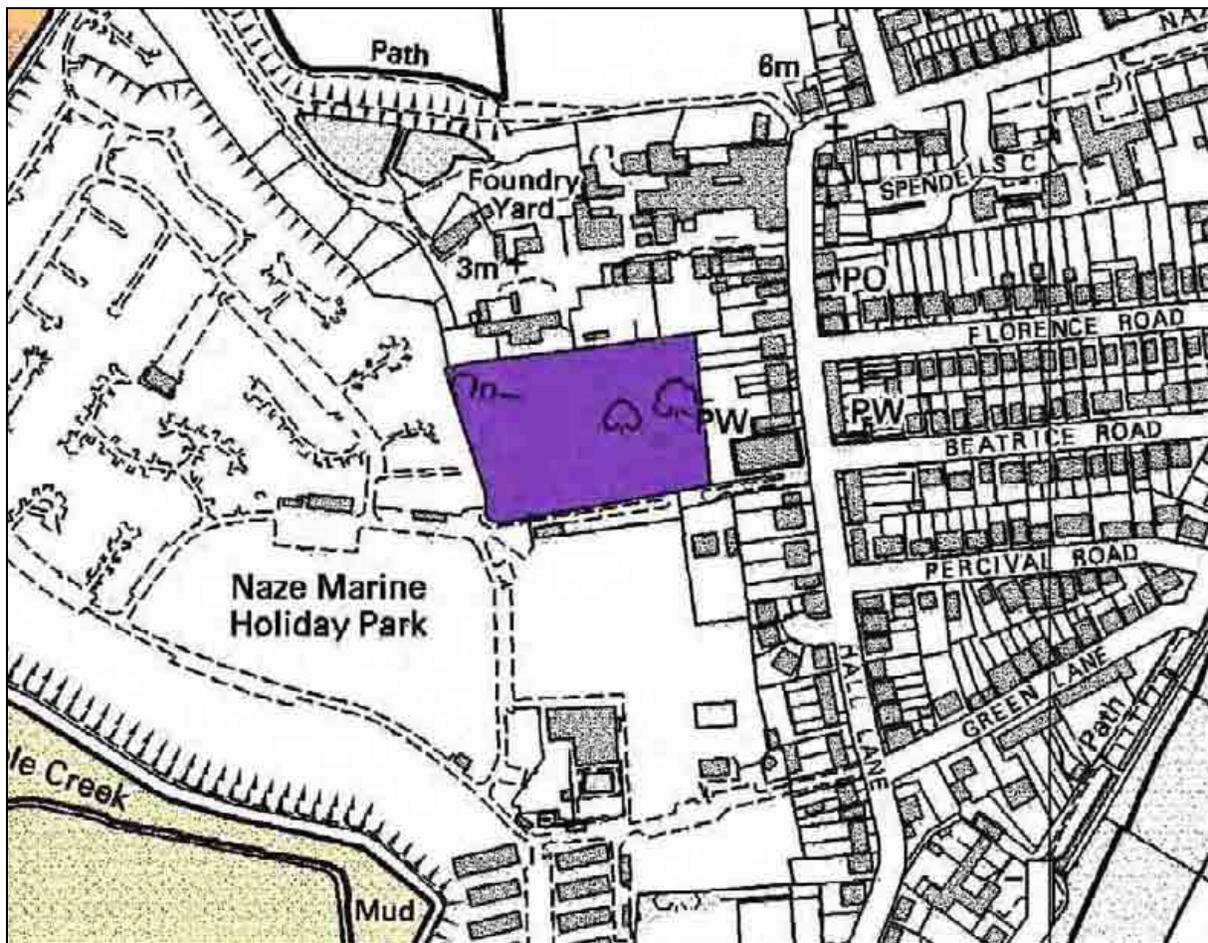
This site consists of area of saltmarsh to the northwest and a silting boating lake with developing saltmarsh flora, dominated by Common Cord Grass (*Spartina anglica*). Other plants present include Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*), Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Golden-samphire (*Inula crithmoides*), Shrubby Sea-blite (*Suaeda vera*) and Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (*Limonium humile*). This Site forms a natural extension to the SSSI habitats of Hamford Water, but is subjected to too much disturbance to qualify for SSSI status. Nevertheless, the Site represents a useful sheltered roosting and resting site for coastal wildfowl and waders as well as supporting the notable plants listed above.

Selection criteria: HCr17/HCr30

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal Saltmarsh (UK); Saltmarsh (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te122 Barnes Spinney (1.3 ha) TM 257226

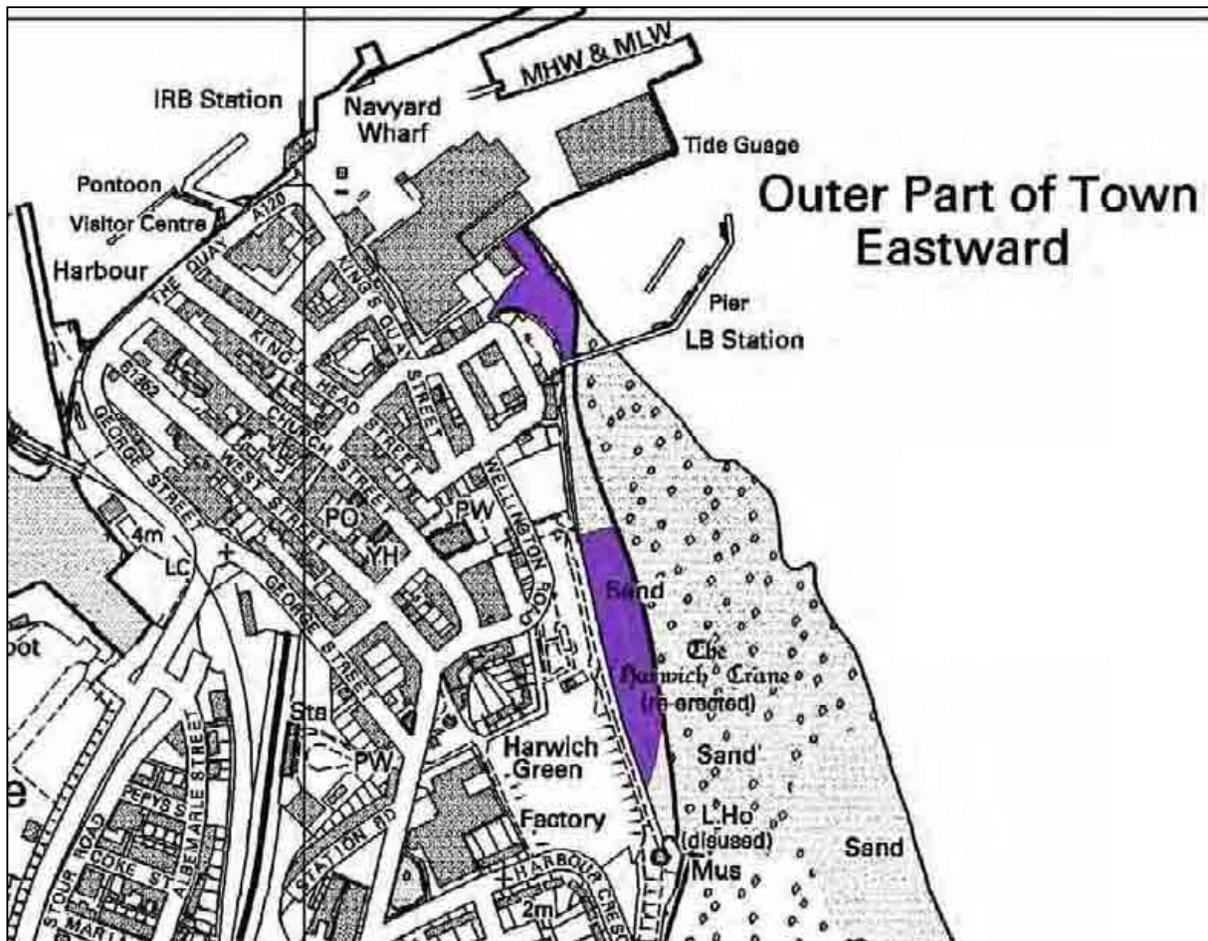
A former garden, this site forms a mosaic habitat with grassland, scrub with trees and a small pond near the western boundary. Areas of tall grassland contain False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), False Fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). The scrub is mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Willow (*Salix* spp.) with occasional Poplar (*Populus* spp.), Apple (*Malus* sp.), Damson (*Prunus* spp.) and Pear (*Pyrus* sp.) trees. Greater Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum*) and Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) grow on scrubby edges with grassland. A small pond supports Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Forget-me-not (*Myosotis* spp.). Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) and Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) have also been recorded. **N.B.** this site was incorrectly mapped on the 1991 SINC location plans.

Selection criteria: HCr10

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te123 Harwich Beach (0.9 ha) TM 262325

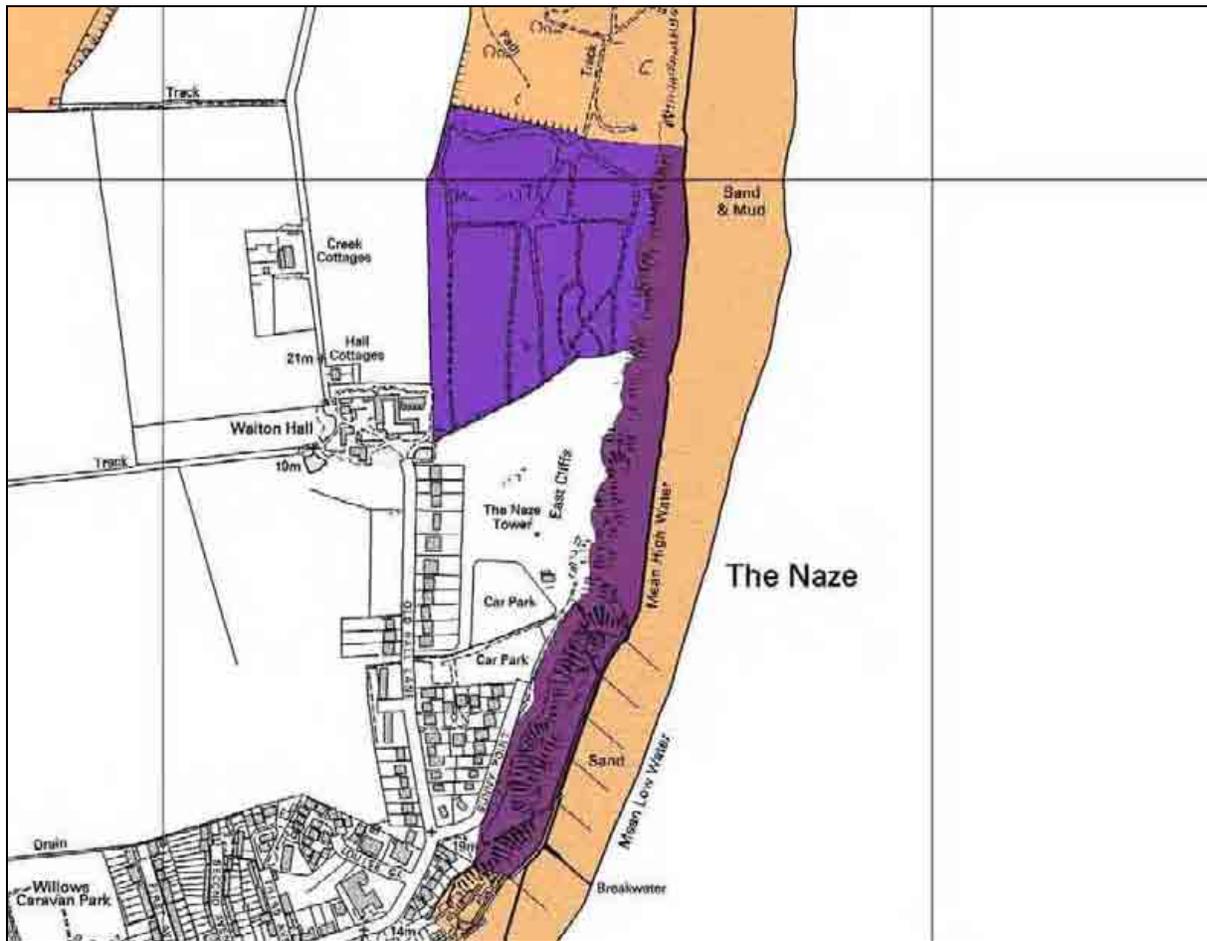
Although suffering from localised heavy disturbance, this stretch of foreshore has a good beach flora, a rare habitat in Essex. Characteristic species include Sea Sandwort (*Honckenia peploides*), Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), Sea Beet (*Beta maritima*), Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*), Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*), Sand Couch (*Elymus farctous*) and Sea Couch (*Elymus atherica*). Sea Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) is particularly notable. More stable areas of dune grassland include Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) and Sea Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*). Although not truly a sand dune system, this flora has very close affinities with such habitats and, as such, is felt to be part of Essex's contribution to the national Coastal Sand Dunes BAP.

Selection Criteria: HCr29

BAP Priority Habitats: Coastal Sand Dunes (UK)

Date of original selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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Te124 The Naze (16.4 ha) TM 265237

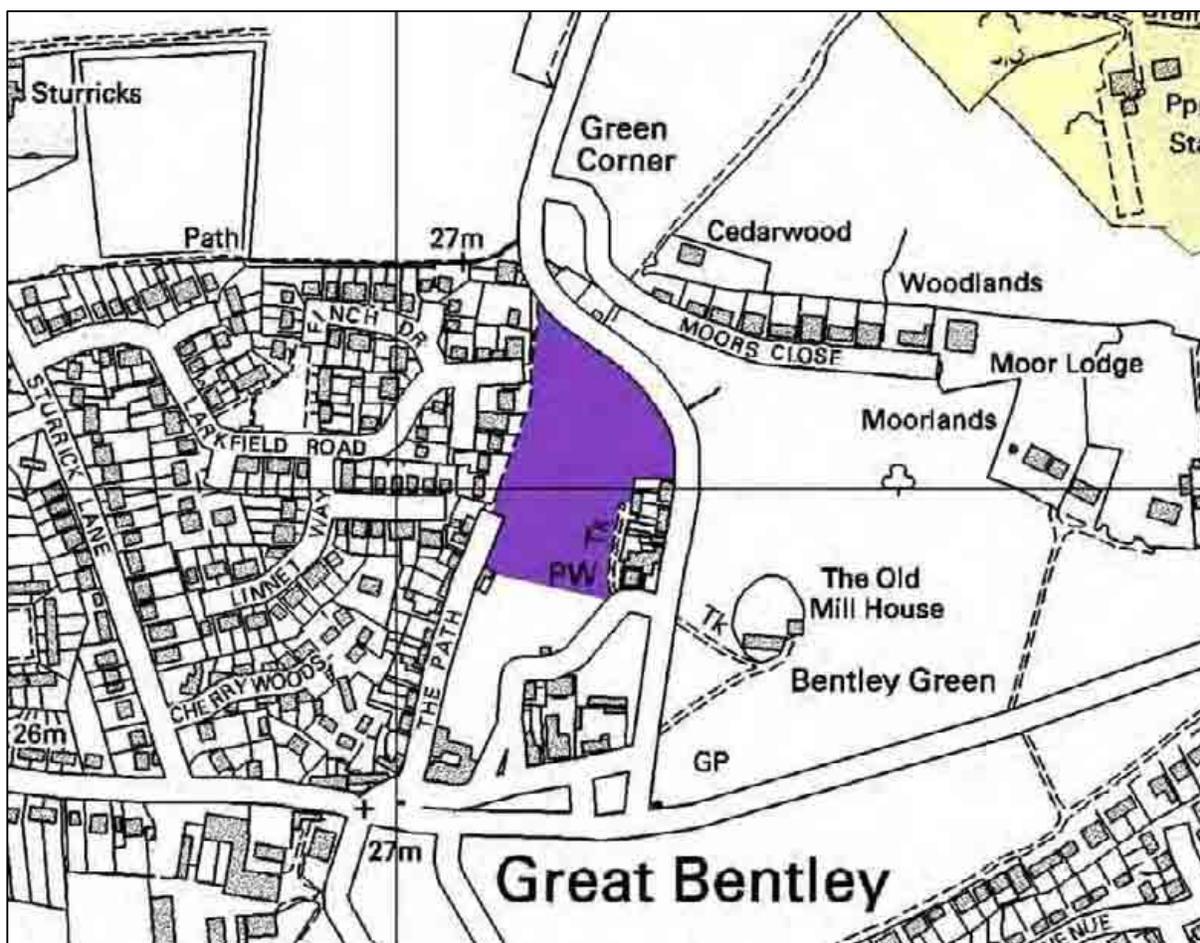
The Naze is a large public open space and is a key site for environmental education in terms of both geology and wildlife. The principal wildlife value of this Site lies in the eroding cliffs, which are afforded Geological SSSI status. Recent studies have shown the invertebrate fauna to include some Nationally Rare species, including the Red Data Book (RDB1, Endangered) spider-hunting wasp *Evagetes pectinipes*, previously only recorded from Kent. Other significant species include the UK BAP digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata* (RDB3, Rare), its brood-parasite *Hedychrum niemelai* (RDB3, Rare) and the small black cuckoo bee *Sphecodes niger*. Small pools in the undercliff support the Nationally Scarce (Nb) beetles *Rhantus frontalis* and *R. suturalis*, as well as Smooth Newts. The rough clifftop grassland and scattered scrub included within this Site provide foraging habitat for many of the flying insects nesting in the cliffs and also provide shelter for resident and passage migrant birds. The cliffs are also a nesting site for Sand Martins.

Selection criteria: HCr6(b), HCr12, HCr13; SCr11; SCr13

BAP Priority Habitats: Maritime Cliff and Slopes (UK)

Date of selection: 1991, in part

Date of last revision: December 2008



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Te125 Bentley Green (West) (1.3 ha) TM 111220

Bentley Green is one of the largest village greens in Essex, but much of it is closely mown for amenity purposes, including sports pitches, and is more or less species-poor. However, this western area comprises good quality unimproved acid grassland, albeit still largely mown for amenity. A central area known as the “Heather Patch” is now specifically managed to enhance the heathland plants present. It is hoped that some of the surrounding grassland that is included within this Local Wildlife Site, but which is still regularly mown, might be managed less intensively in order to increase the wildlife value of this scarce grassland type.

The sward is characterised by the presence of Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), with lesser amounts of Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Common Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*).

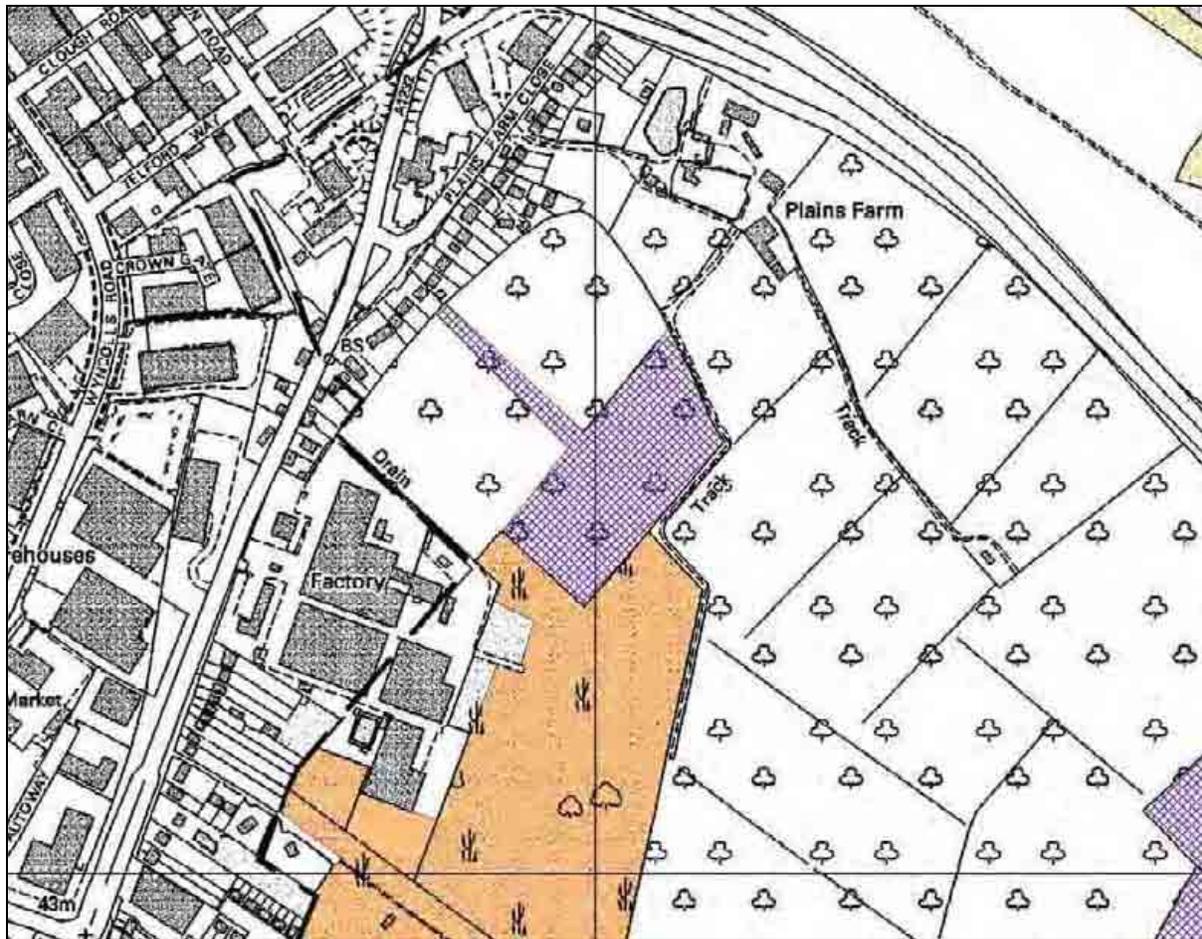
Selection criteria: HCr19

BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Lowland Heathland (Essex)

Date of selection: May 2009

Date of last revision: -

APPENDIX 4
REGISTER OF POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

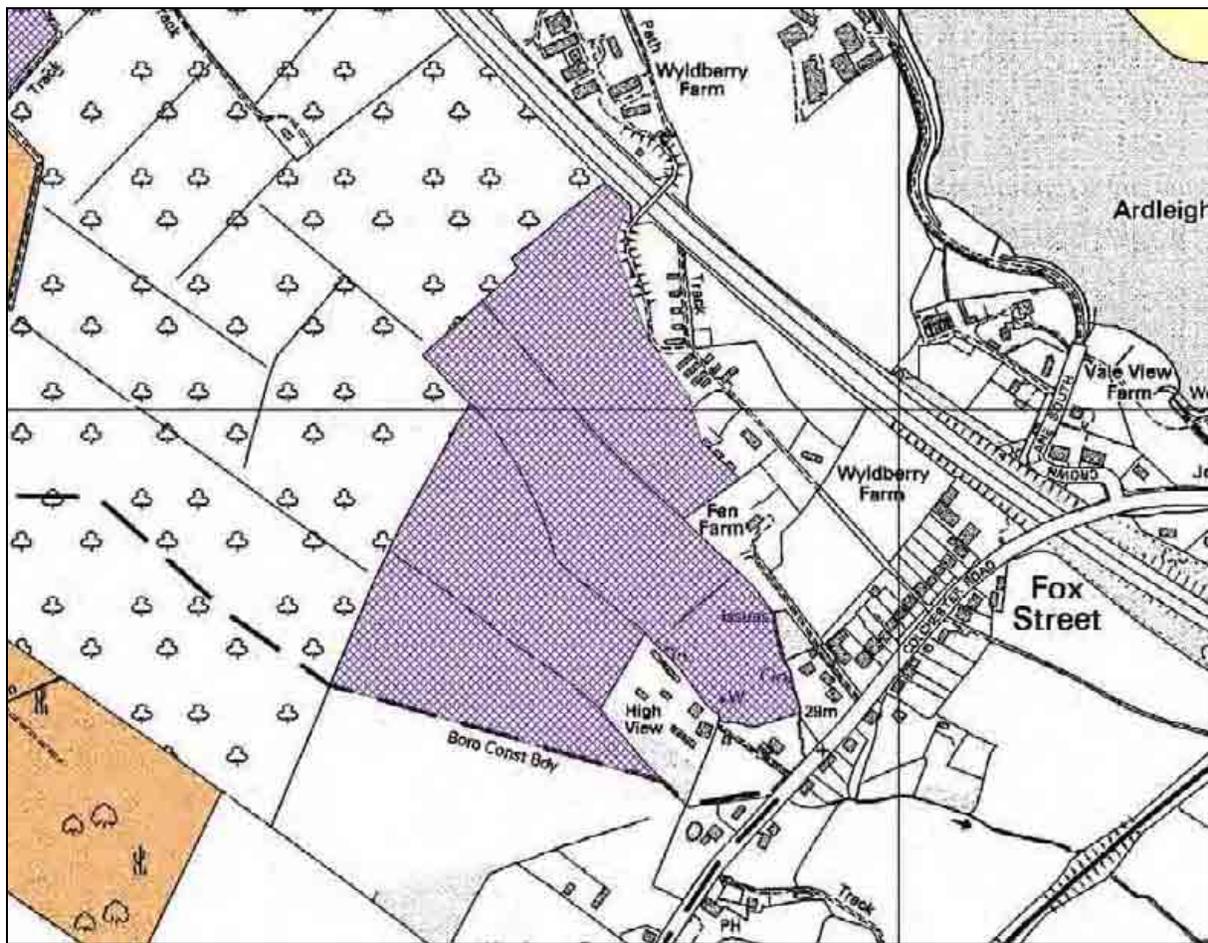


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PTLoWS1 Bullock Wood Grassland (2.6 ha) TM 020283

Potential Interest: This is an area of rough grassland, scattered scrub and hedgerows next to Bullock Wood SSSI, which may be of interest for its grassland flora and invertebrates.

Action Required: Further survey work required.



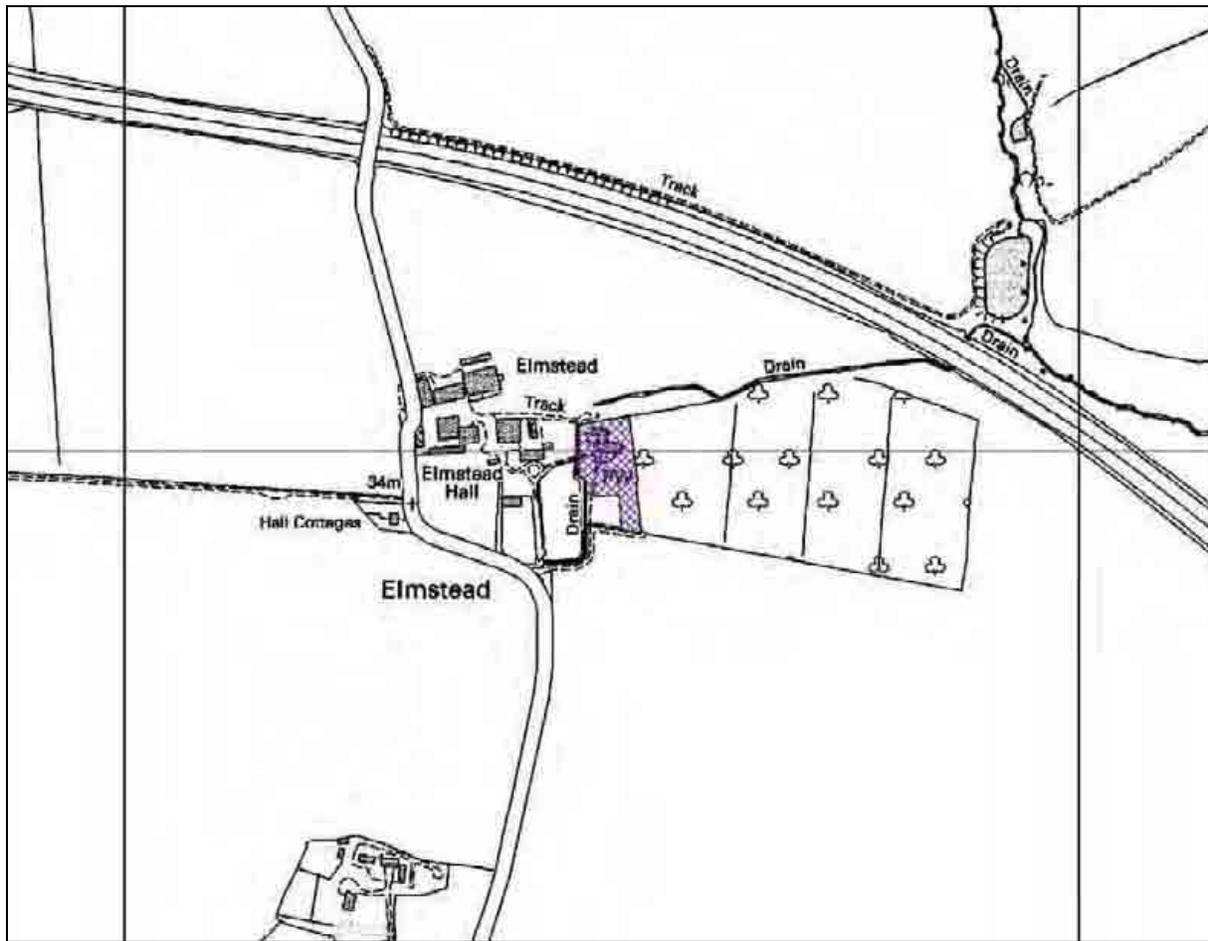
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PTLoWS2 Fox Street Grasslands (15.5 ha) TM 026278

This is a series of moderately species-rich, damp grasslands with good hedgerows. This habitat continues to the south, within Colchester Borough.

Potential Interest: General wildlife appeal.

Action Required: Further survey work required.



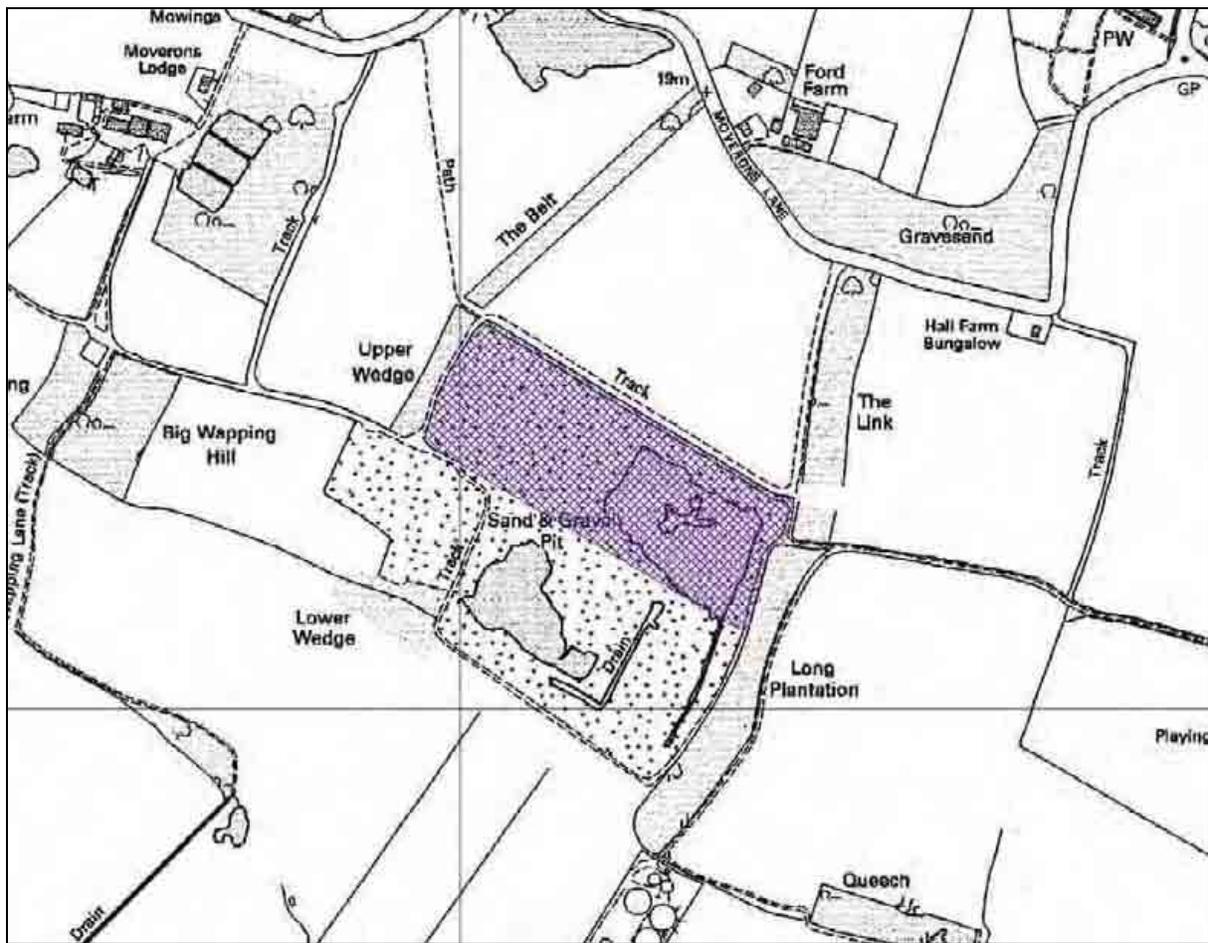
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PTLoWS3 Elmstead Churchyard (0.5 ha) TM 065260

Elmstead Churchyard is a small piece of old grassland. Such species-rich grassland is now a very scarce resource in the district, particularly around Elmstead.

Potential Interest: Old grassland flora and possibly invertebrate interest.

Action Required: Further survey work.



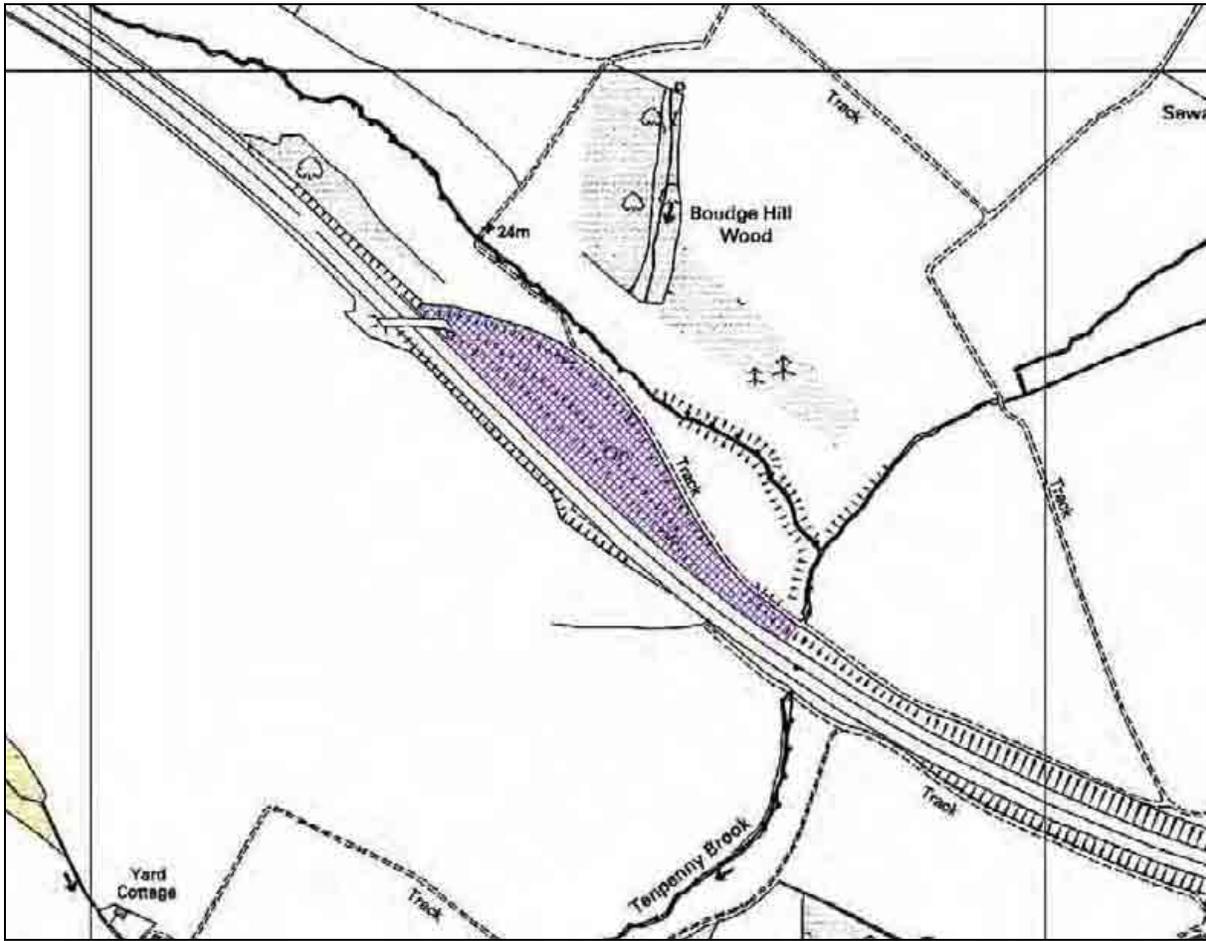
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PTLoWS4 Moverons Lane Pits (5.6 ha) TM 017182

This is part of the ongoing mineral extraction works near Brightlingsea. Subject to the planned restoration of this part of the site, it has the potential to be very important for brownfield invertebrates. Still-active areas of mineral extraction might have similar long-term potential once they have been worked-out.

Potential Interest: Brownfield invertebrates, especially spiders, beetles, solitary bees and wasps.

Action Required: Invertebrate survey and dialogue re. planned restoration.



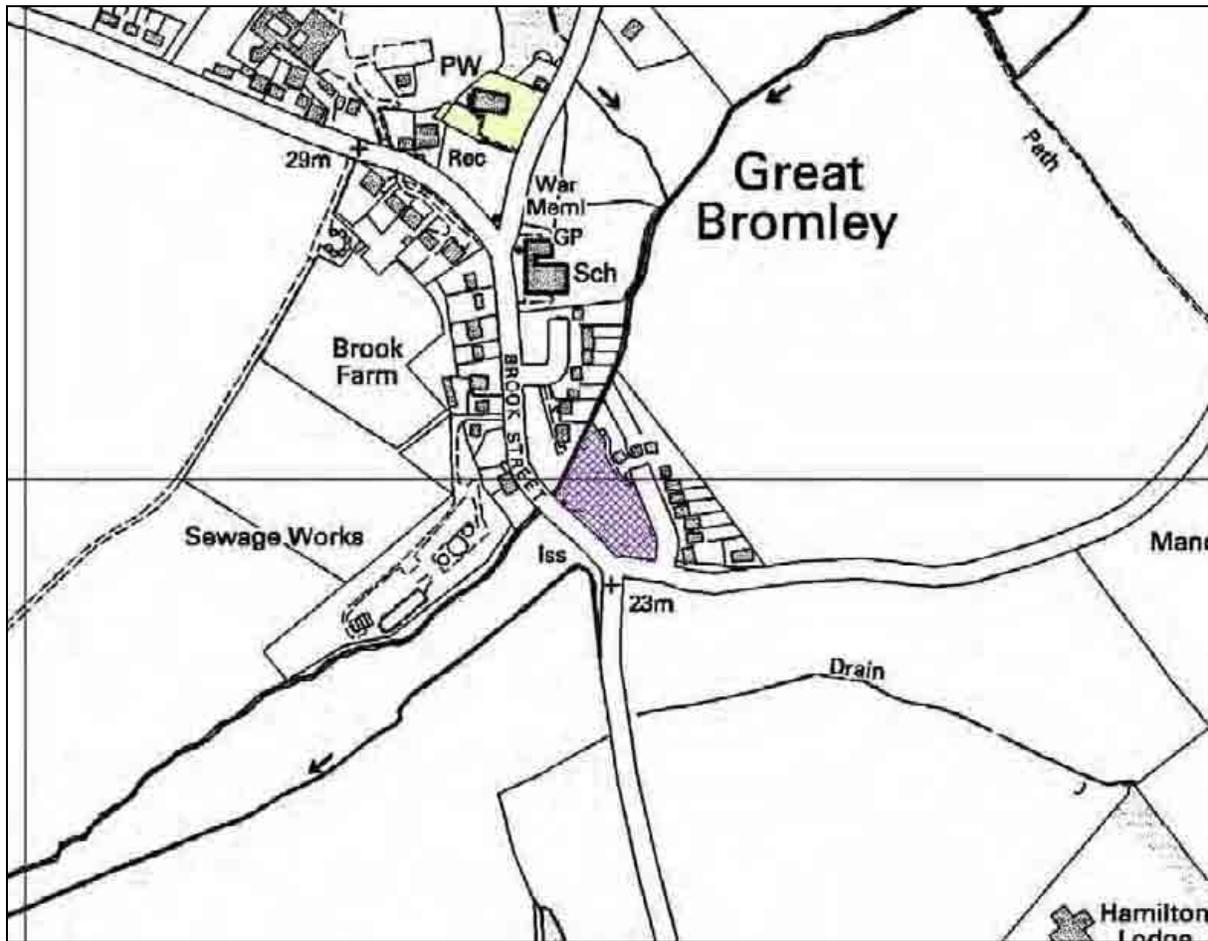
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PTLoWS5 Boudge Hill Embankment (2.9 ha) TM 075256

Grassy embankment incorporating an earthbank ramp for a road that is yet to be built. In this part of the district unintensively managed grassland is a very scarce resource, with road verges probably comprising a significant proportion of that resource. The particular land form here allows for the development of a relatively wide block of flowery grassland to flourish.

Potential Interest: Flora and invertebrates.

Action Required: Further survey work.



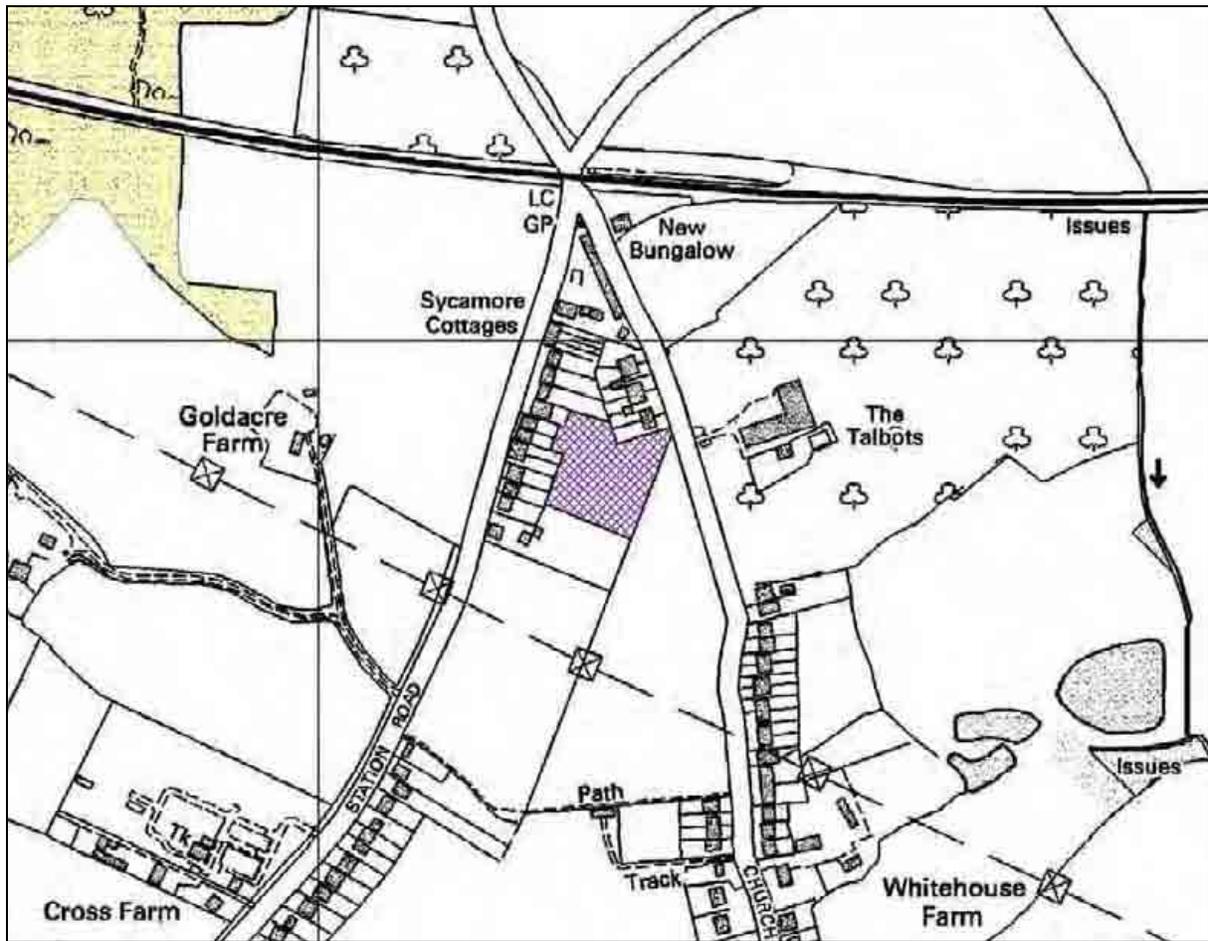
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PTLoWS6 Brook Street (0.4 ha) TM 084259

This small block of marshy ground and open woodland may never meet selection criteria but it is a useful wildlife habitat in a part of the district where Local Wildlife Sites and indeed any areas of significant wildlife interest remain very thin on the ground. Wildlife considerations should be incorporated into any future management or development of the site.

Potential Interest: General wildlife interest.

Action Required: Encourage sympathetic management; further survey work.

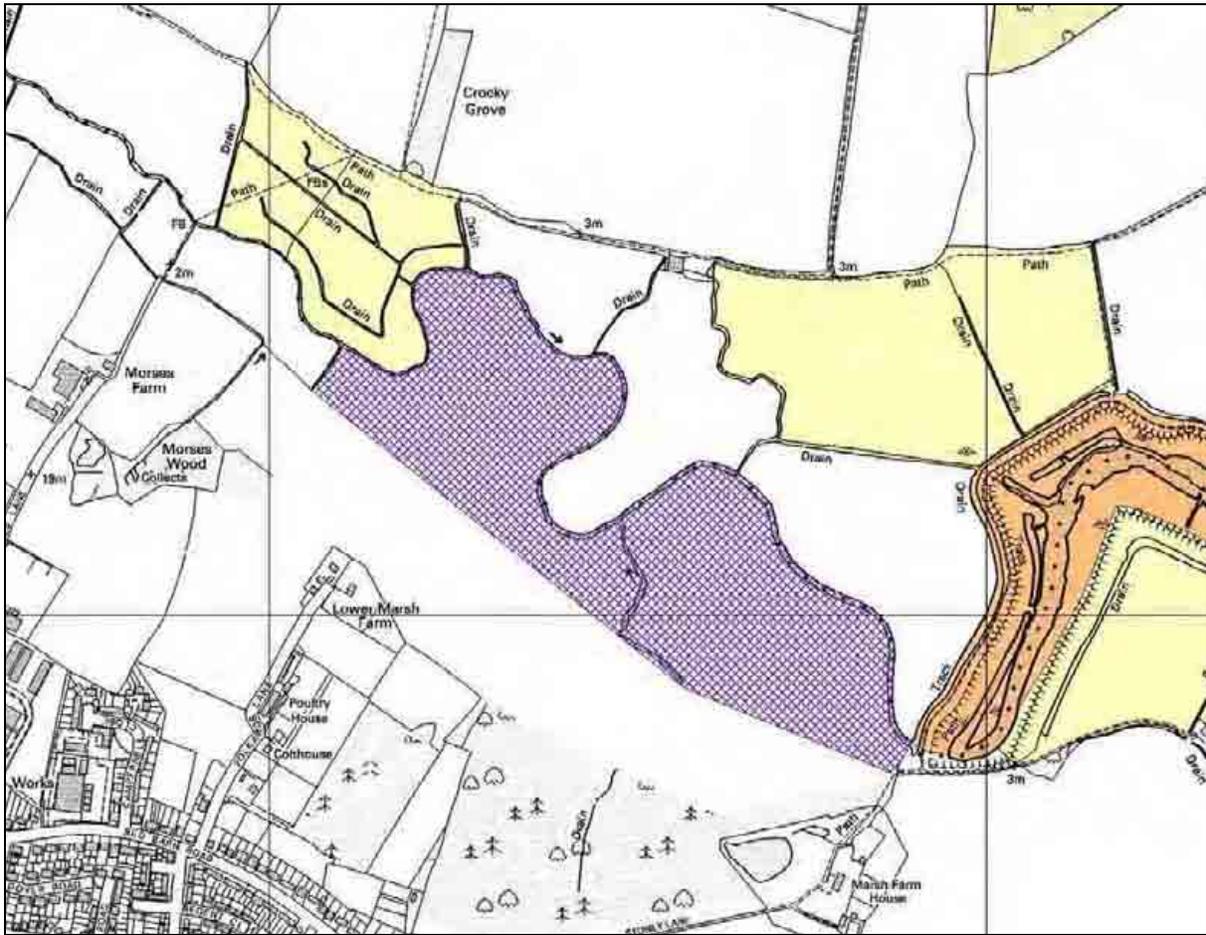


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PTLoWS7 Sycamore Cottages Scrub (0.6 ha) TM 092208

Potential Interest: Area of scrubby grassland that looks suitable habitat for reptiles and nesting birds and may come under future development pressure. It may not meet LoWS standards but should be subjected to an appropriate wildlife survey if it is ever proposed for future development.

Action Required: Further survey work.

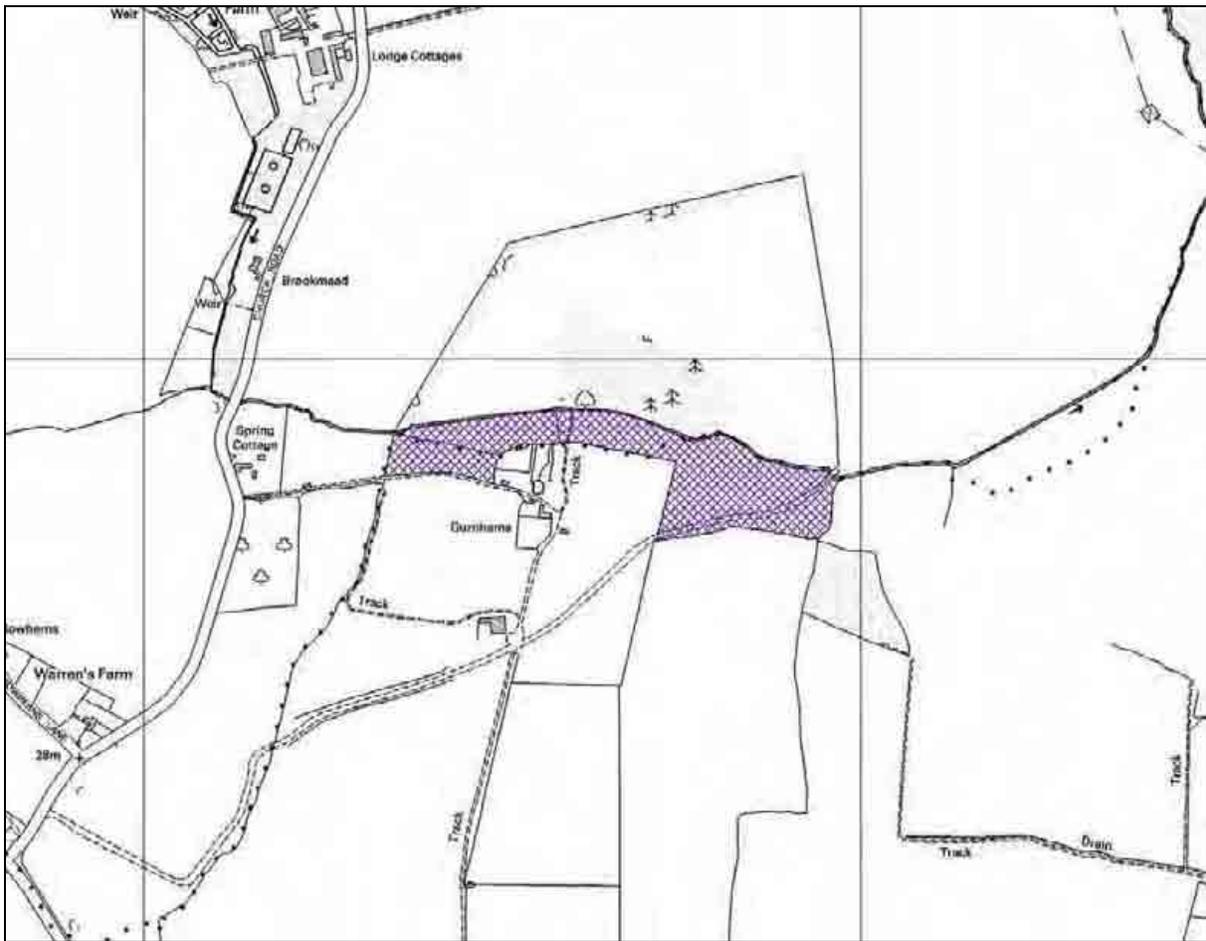


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PTLoWS8 Lower Marsh Farm (20.1 ha) TM 094181

Potential Interest: This is an area of former grazing marsh that is thought to have become arable land but now undergone reversion to grassland. It forms a connection between adjacent LoWS and SSSI land and is likely to be of interest mainly for roosting and resting coastal wildfowl and waders. The ditch invertebrate fauna may be worthy of closer investigation.

Action Required: Counts of over-wintering birds and survey of aquatic invertebrates.



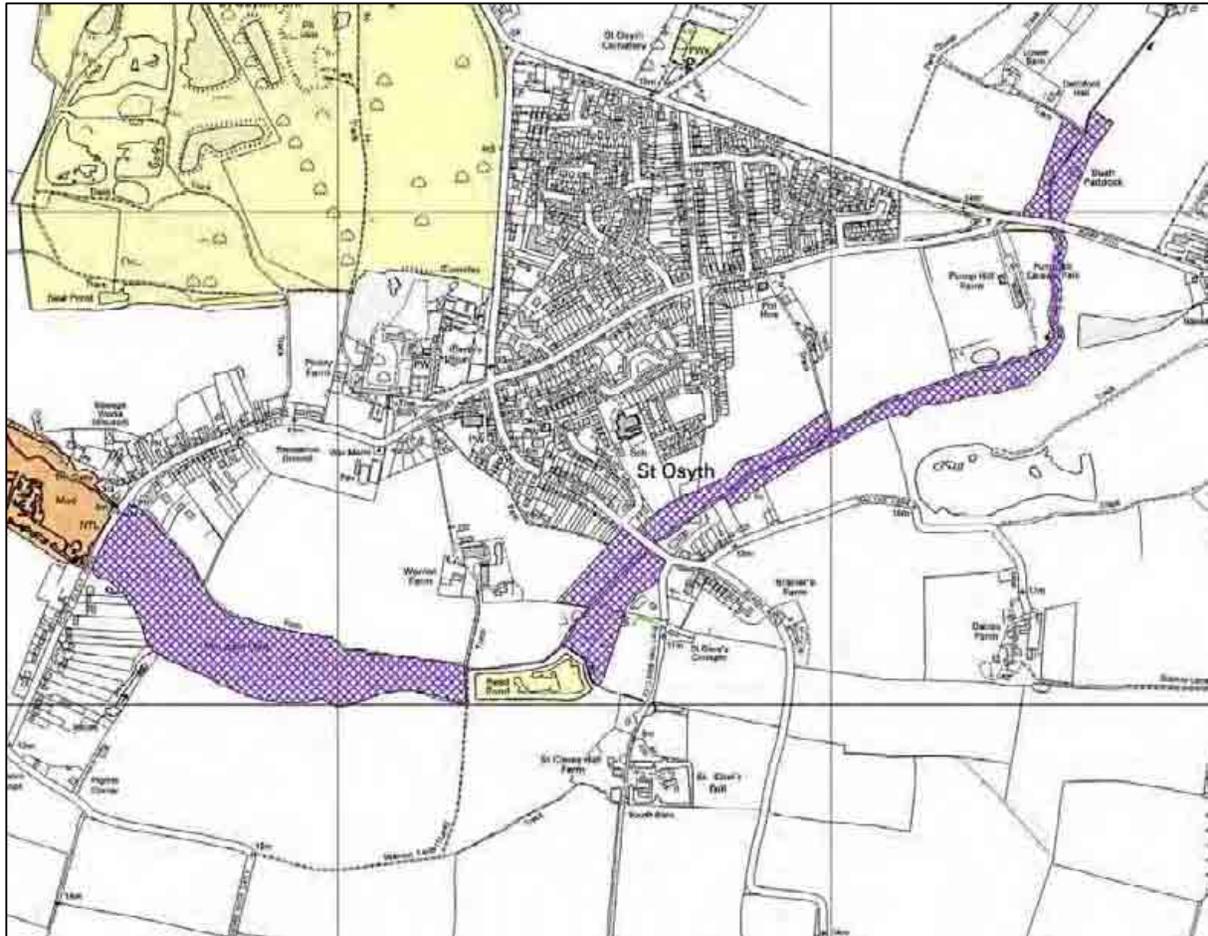
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PTLoWS9 Gurnhams Grasslands (4.9 ha) TM 127237

This site is a small series of damp grasslands in a part of the district largely lacking in good quality grassland for wildlife.

Potential Interest: Grassland flora and invertebrates.

Action Required: Further survey work.



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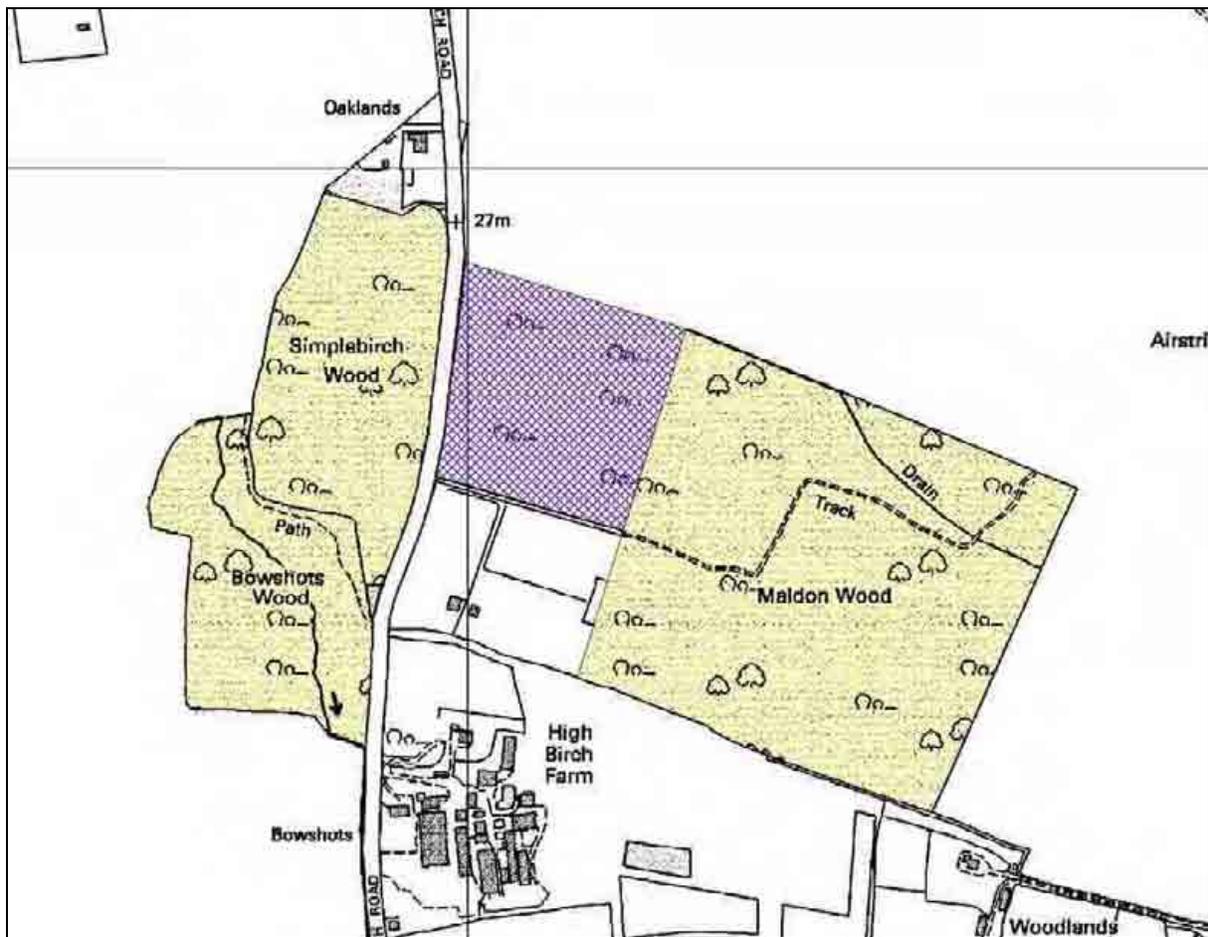
PTLoWS10 St Osyth Brook and Mill Dam Lake (20.1 ha) TM 130155

This area comprises Mill Dam Lake and the lower reaches of the St Osyth Brook. The brook represents a more or less contiguous block of semi-natural habitat, being mainly grassland and streamside trees. However, the whole brook acts as a useful wildlife corridor right from its source at St Osyth Wick farm north of Riddles Wood. It flows through mainly arable farmland, passing a number of irrigation reservoirs that themselves attract some wildlife before becoming this more significant strip of habitat.

Mill Dame Lake has been drained in recent winters and subjected to tidal flow, whilst being kept as a brackish lake during the summer, where water sports are popular. It is not known to what extent this dramatic change in aquatic conditions affects the mud invertebrate fauna and use by coastal wildfowl and waders. Nevertheless, the site forms a useful coastal lagoon.

Potential Interest: Water Voles, riverine wildlife in general, over-wintering wildfowl and waders, brackish lagoon invertebrates

Action Required: Further survey work. Habitat creation schemes adjacent to the stream where it is immediately bordered by arable land to create semi-natural vegetation buffers and more significant bankside habitat.



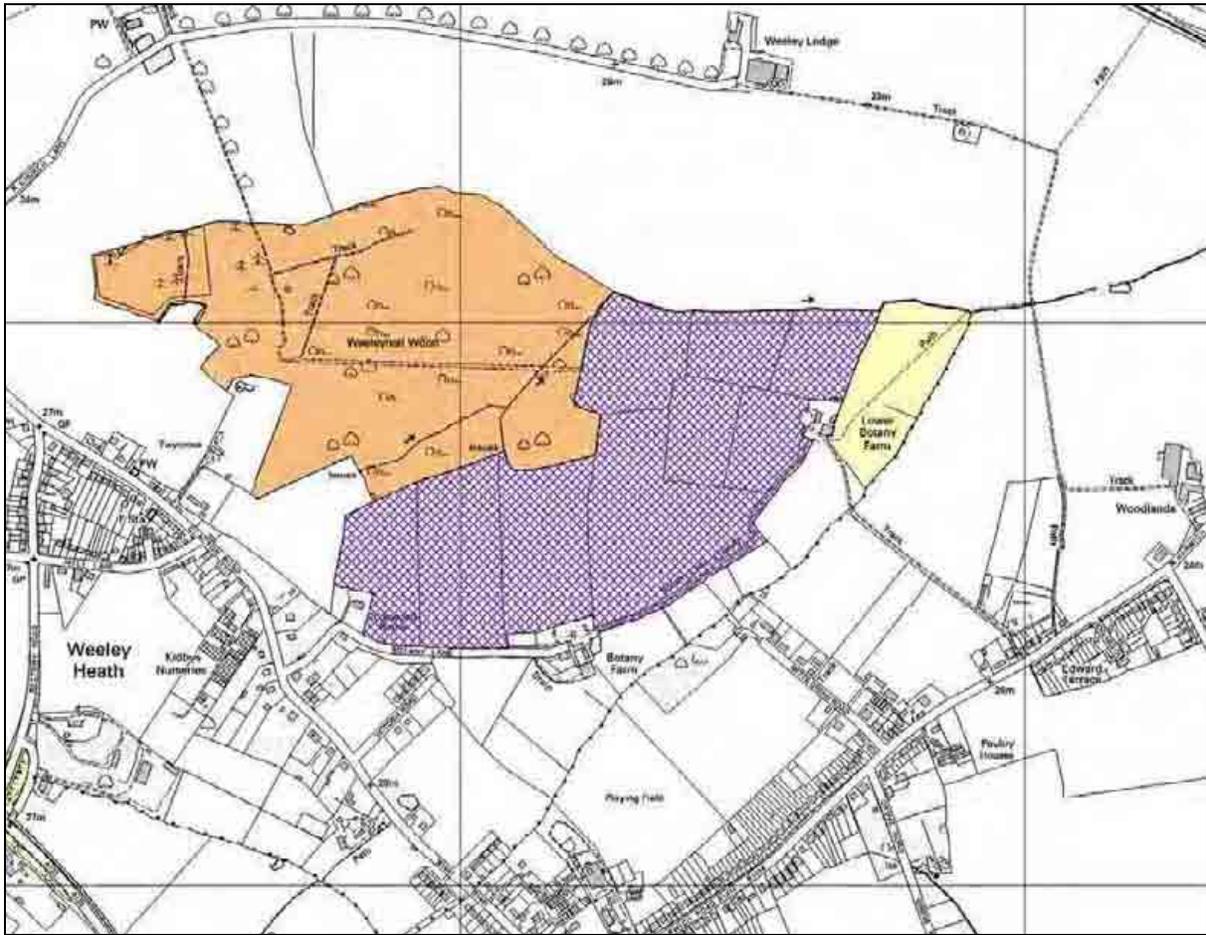
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PTLoWS12 Maldon Wood Extension (4.3 ha) TM 140197

This piece of land comprises rough grassland with scattered scrub. As it matures it could form a useful ecological link between Maldon Wood and Simplebirch/Bowshots Woods, even though physically separated from the latter by a minor road. This potential is subject to having time to mature and also how the site is managed.

Potential Interest: Ecological connectivity; grassland/scrub ecology in its own right.

Action Required: Foster appropriate management and allow time to mature.



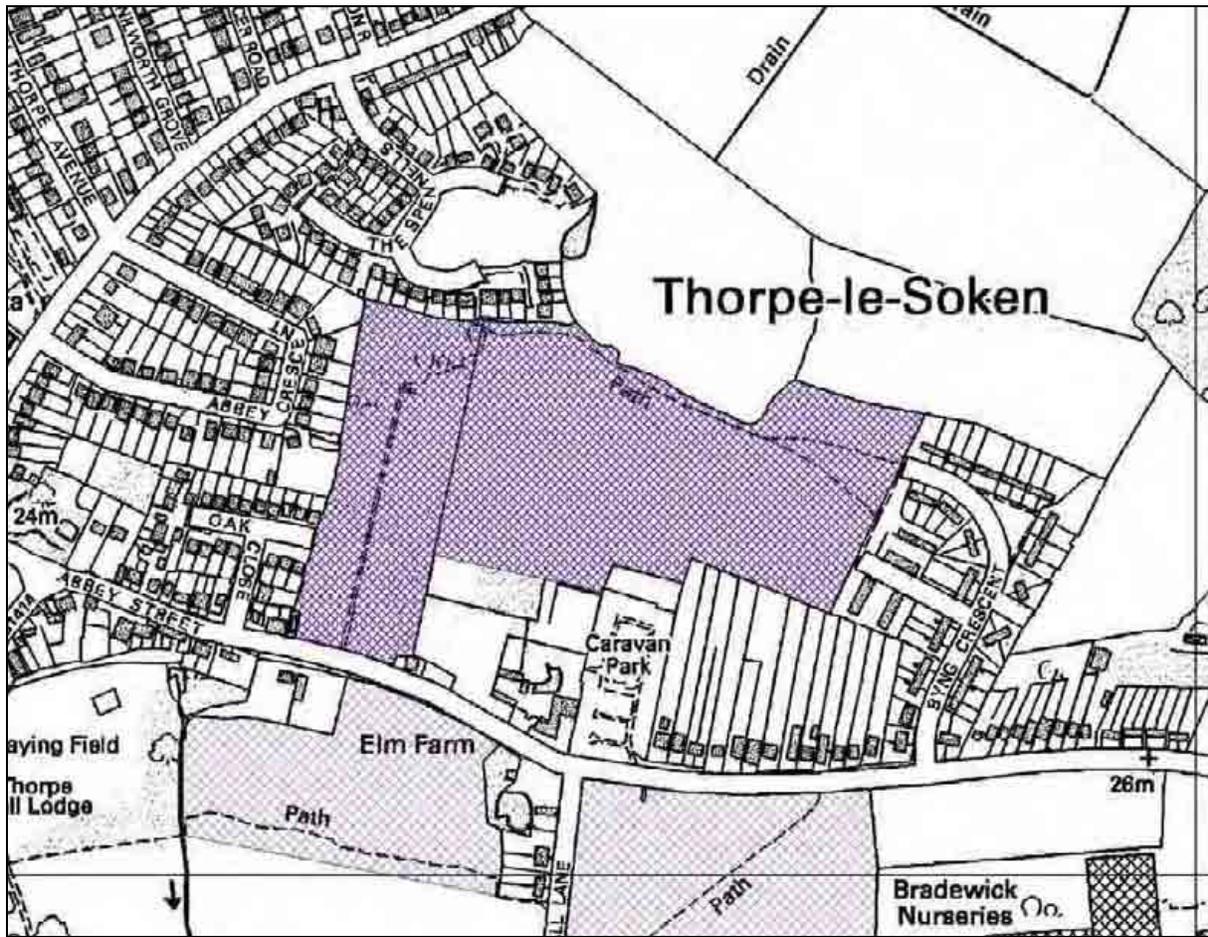
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PTLoWS13 Botany Farm Hedges (32.0 ha) TM 162207

This series of grasslands and thick bounding hedgerows represents a remnant of an old and largely lost landscape: that of small field systems and hedges. It is recognised that the current LoWS selection criteria do not fully reflect the new importance afforded to hedgerows, now that they are listed as UK Priority BAP Habitats. Future revision of these criteria may recognise the value of hedgerow networks, especially where they lie adjacent to other important wildlife sites and form wildlife corridors within an otherwise inhospitable landscape for wildlife.

Potential Interest: Wildlife corridor; scrub-nesting birds; bat foraging habitat

Action Required: Monitor revisions to LoWS selection criteria; further survey work.

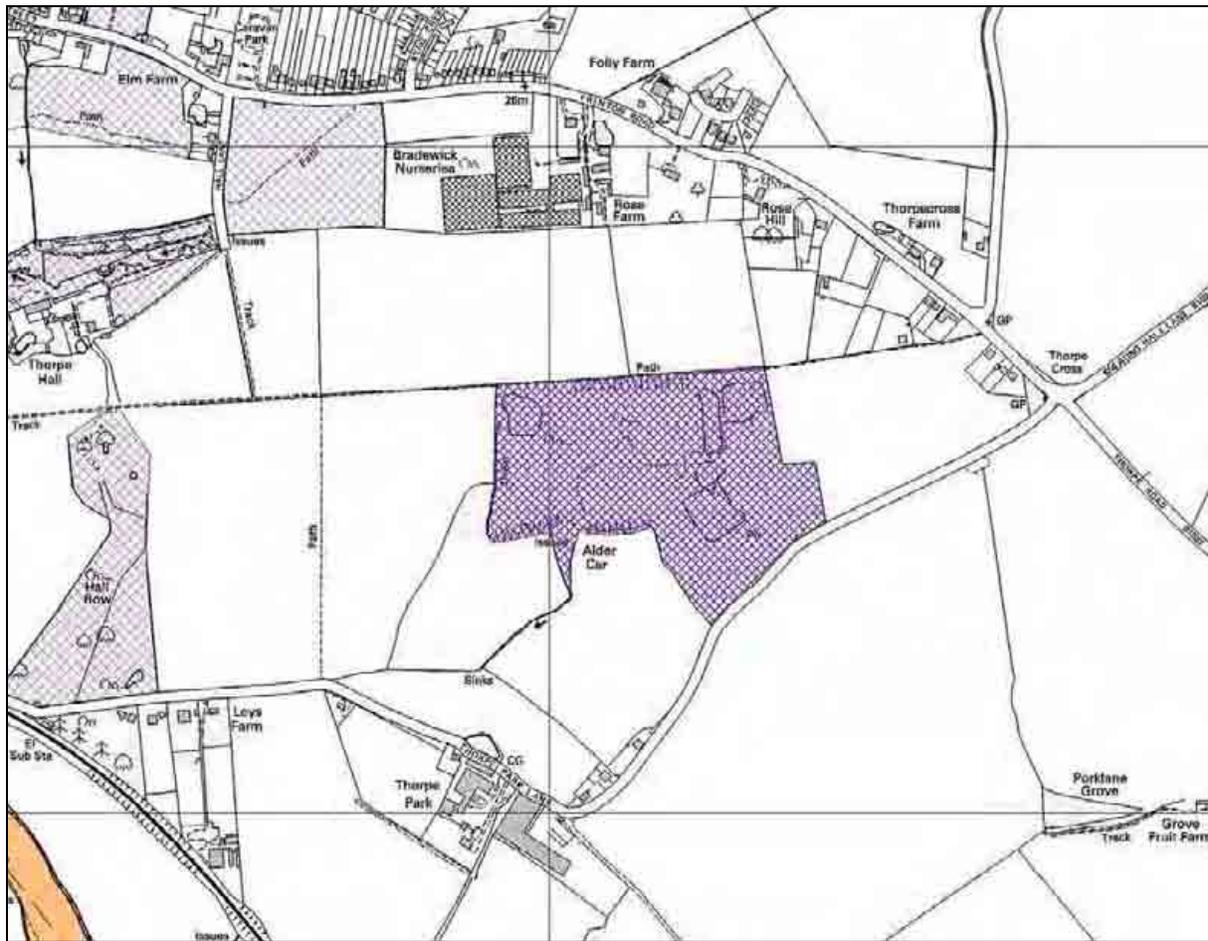


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PTLoWS15 Land off Abbey Street (7.8 ha) TM 185223

Potential Interest: This area of scrubby grassland has the potential to support reptiles, nesting birds and interesting invertebrate populations.

Action Required: Further survey work required.

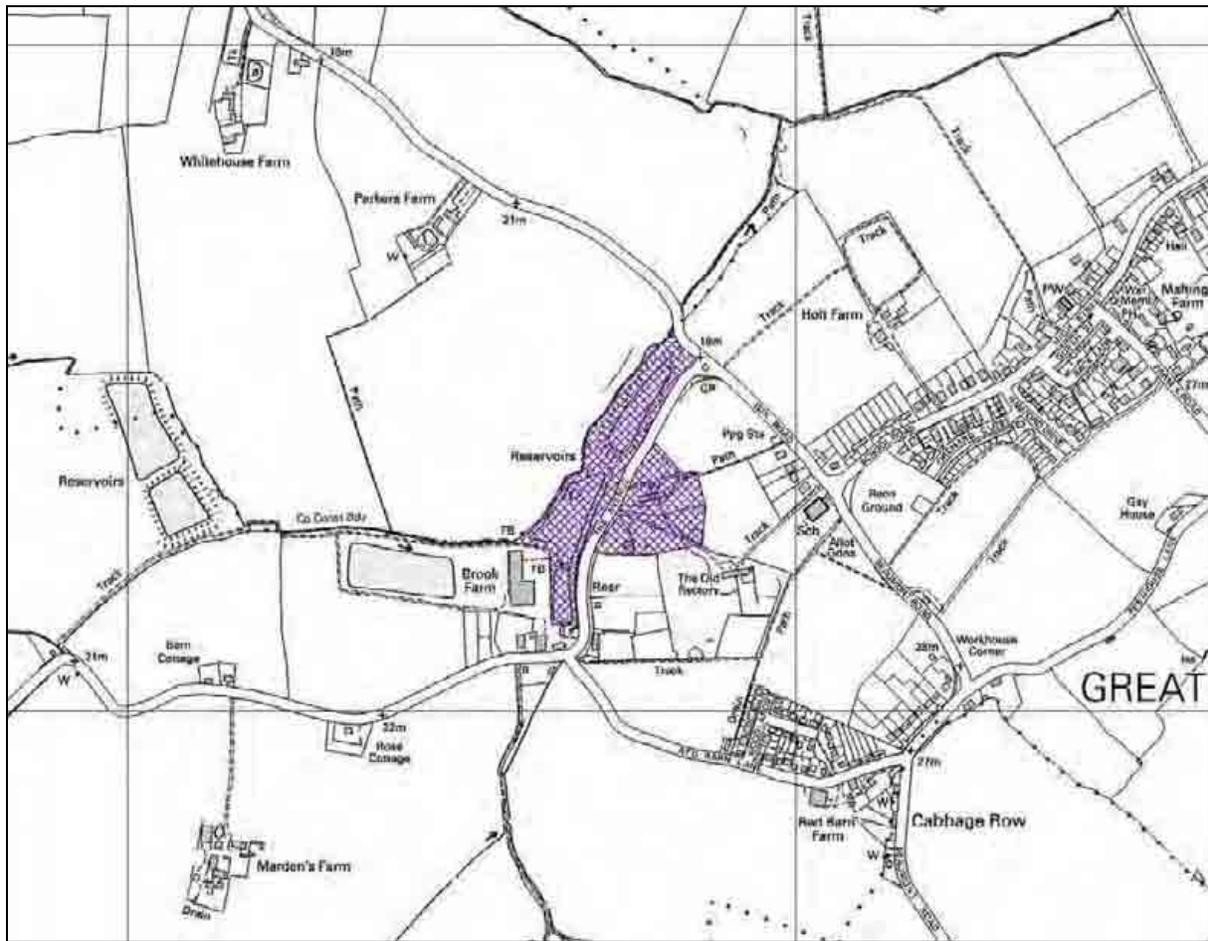


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PTLoWS16 Thorpe Pits (12.5 ha) TM 190215

Potential Interest: This is an area of “brownfield” ex-sand pit habitat that has undergone partial restoration. The open ground and ponds could support important invertebrate populations. Several nationally scarce bees and wasps have been recorded recently, although their current status is uncertain. The small woodland called Alder Car is a wet woodland habitat.

Action Required: Further survey work required.

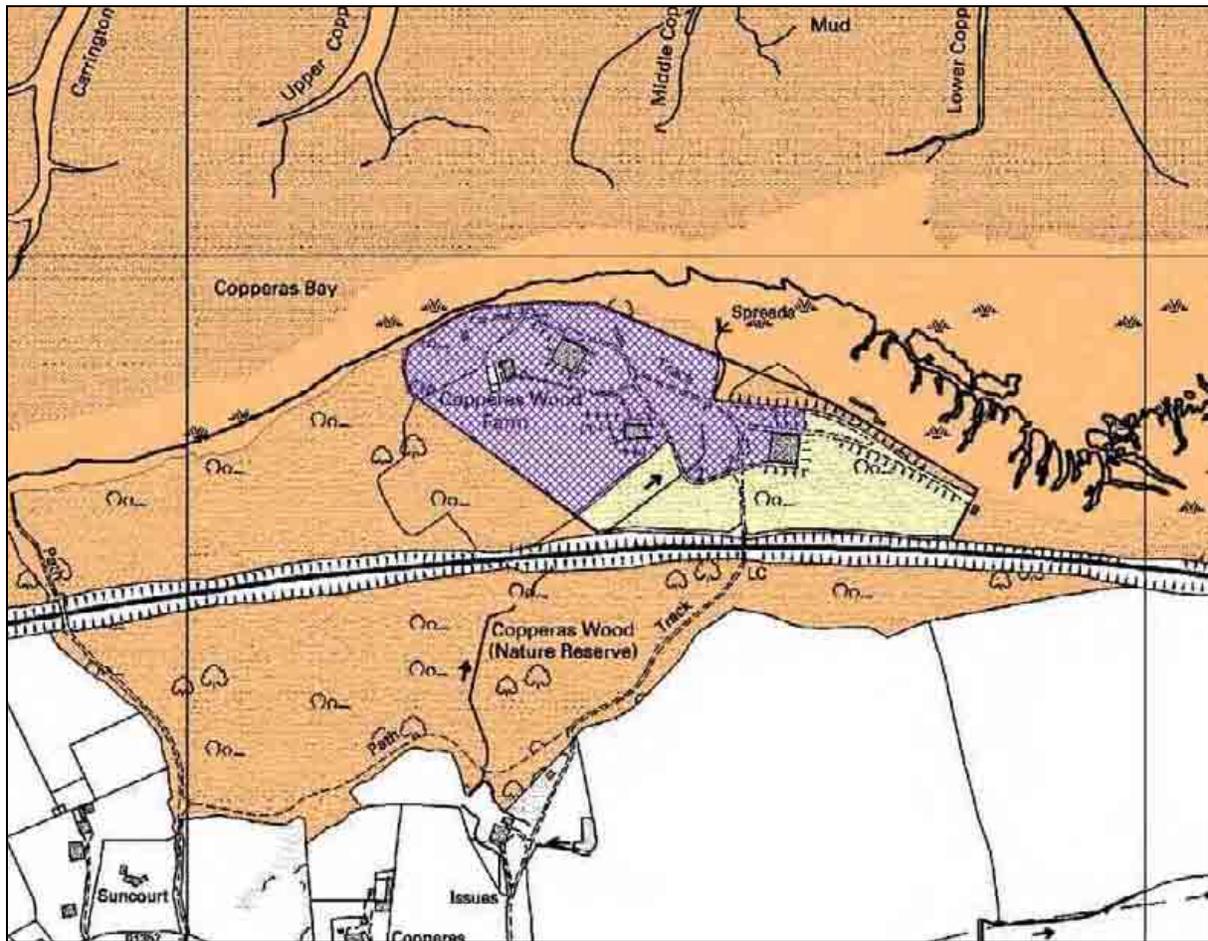


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PTLoWS17 Brook Farm Lakes and Church (4.7 ha) TM 187273

Potential Interest: This complex of habitats, including the churchyard, could be important for amphibians, including Great Crested Newts, with areas such as the churchyard forming terrestrial habitat and overwintering hibernacula.

Action Required: Further survey work.

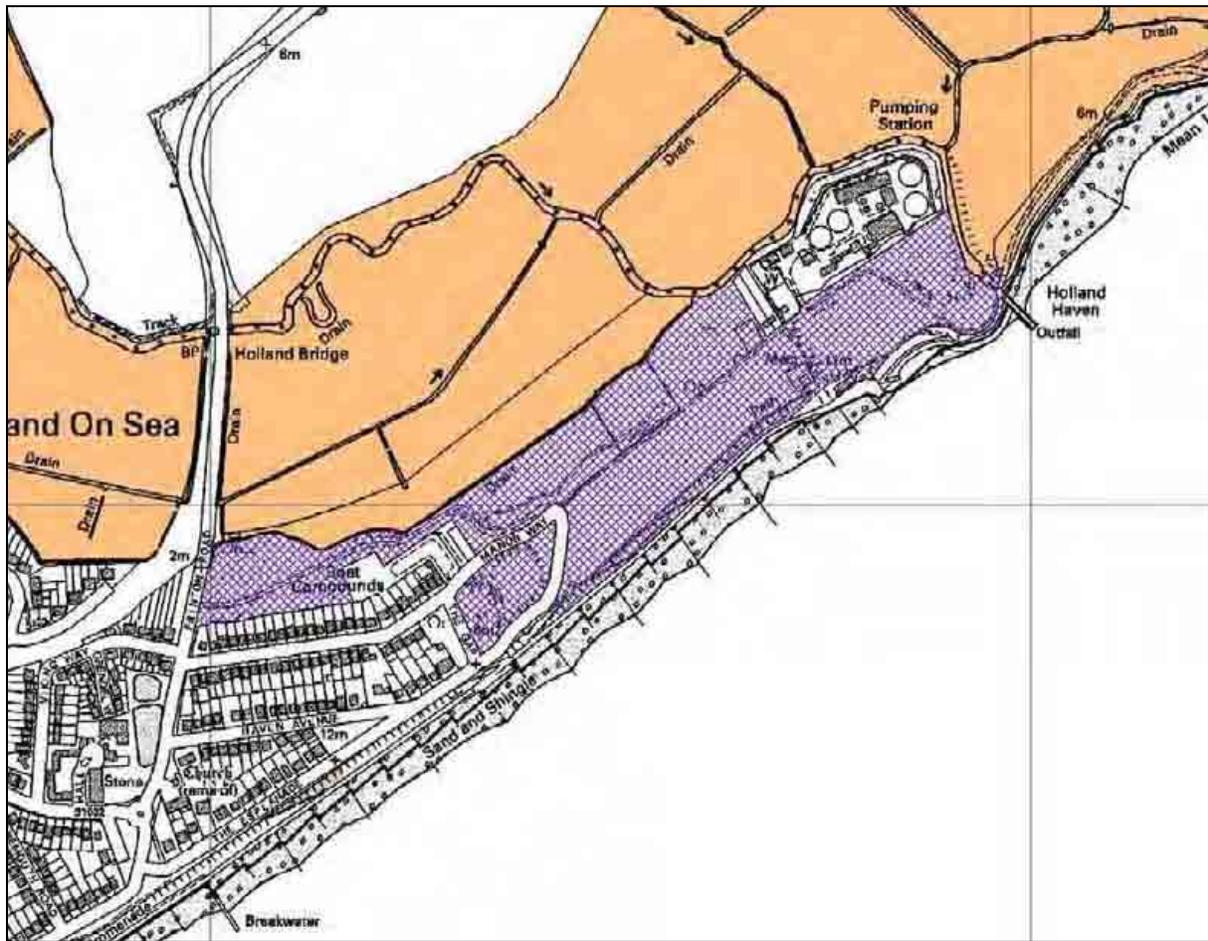


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PTLoWS18 Copperas Wood Farm (5.2 ha) TM 204318

Potential Interest: It has been suggested that this area of rough grassland and scattered trees might retain an important flora. The invertebrates may also repay closer inspection.

Action Required: Further survey work.

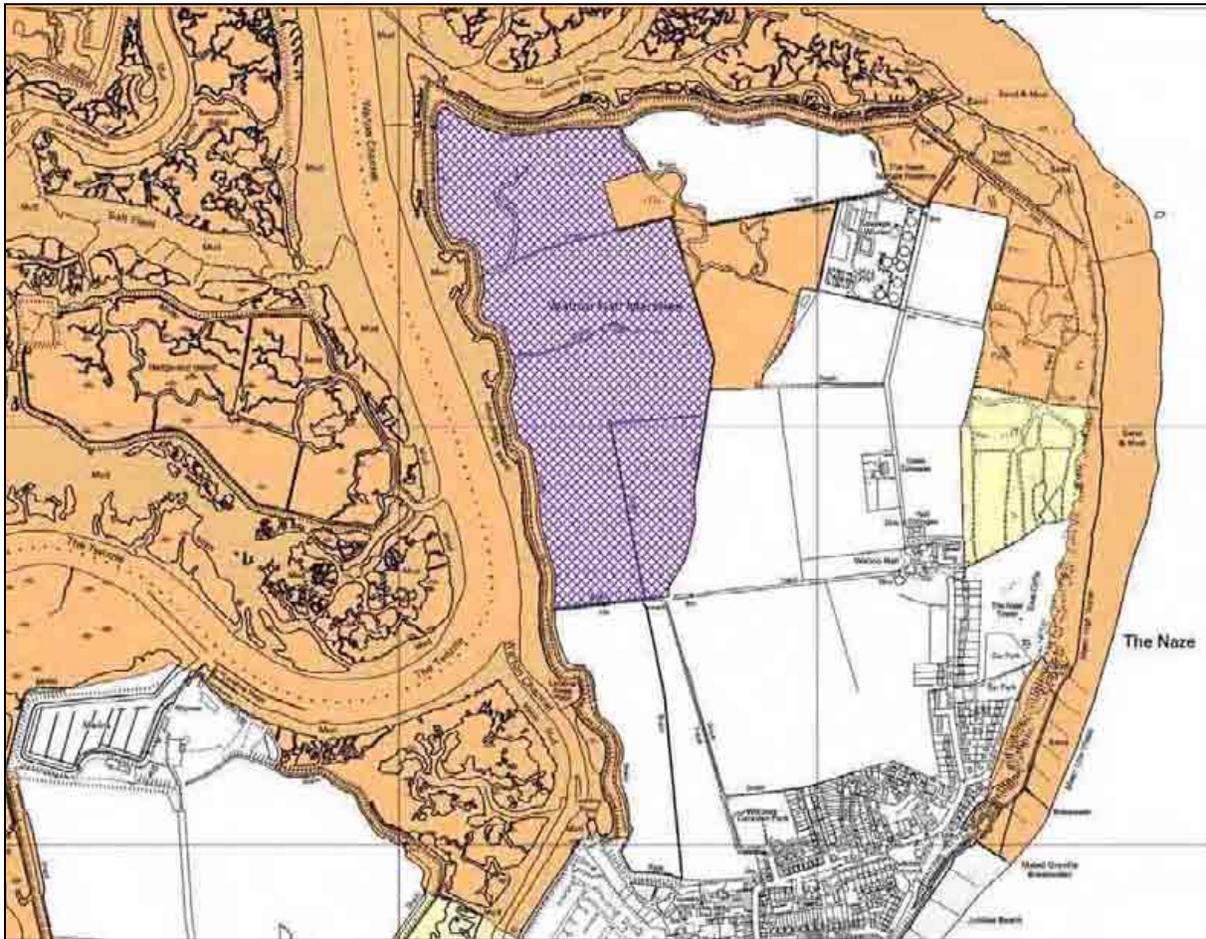


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PTLoWS19 Holland Haven Country Park (12.9 ha) TM 215170

Potential Interest: The areas of scrub woodland adjacent to the SSSI may be important shelter for passage migrants, whilst the grassland areas may retain important coastal grassland flora and invertebrate assemblages.

Action Required: Further survey work.



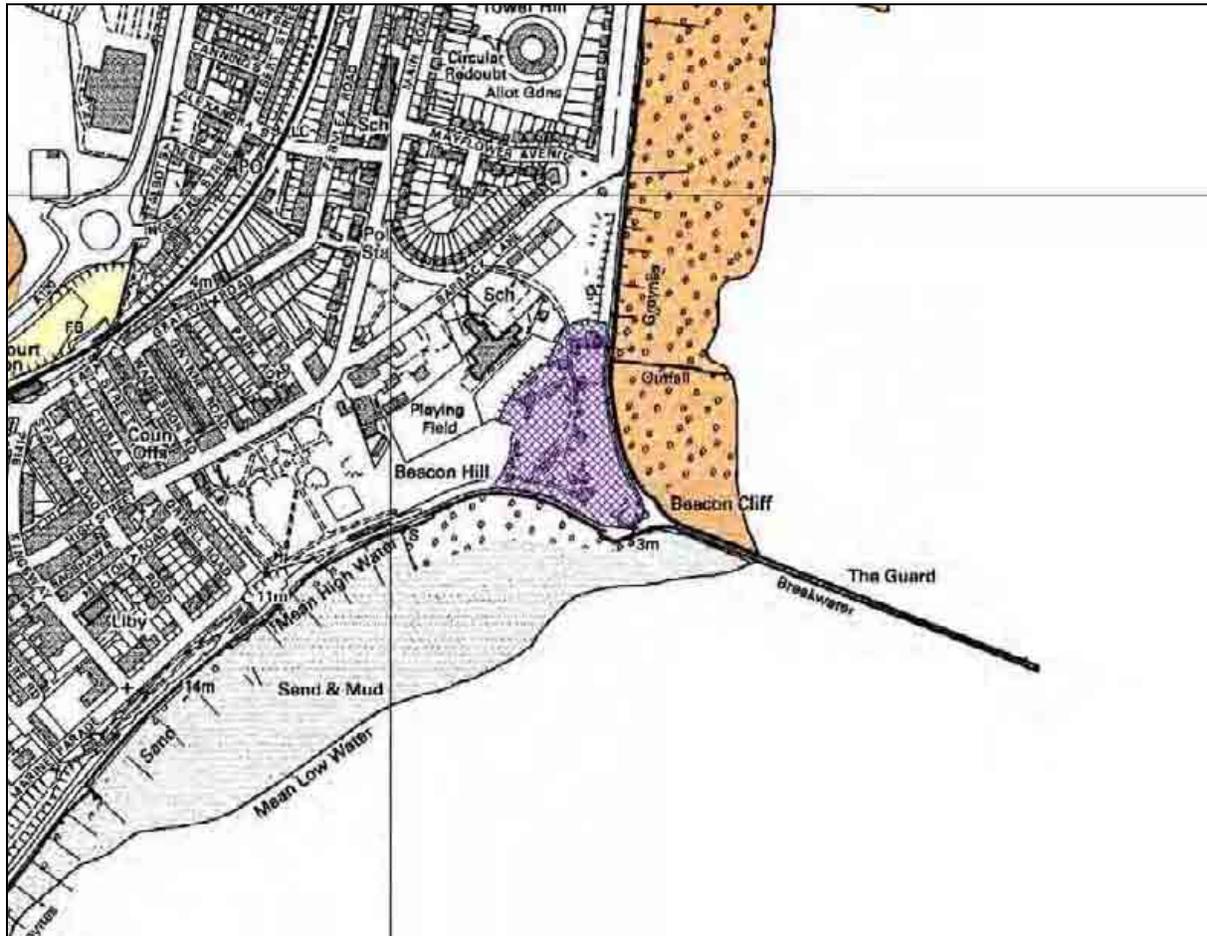
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PTLoWS20 Walton Hall Marshes (48.6 ha) TM 254242

These fields are former coastal grazing marsh that underwent arable conversion but are now thought to be reverting back to grassland. The old ditches may support an interesting aquatic invertebrate fauna.

Potential Interest: High water roosting and resting grounds for coastal wildfowl and waders plus foraging grounds for some wildfowl.

Action Required: Maturation of grassland habitat, with appropriate management. Further survey work.

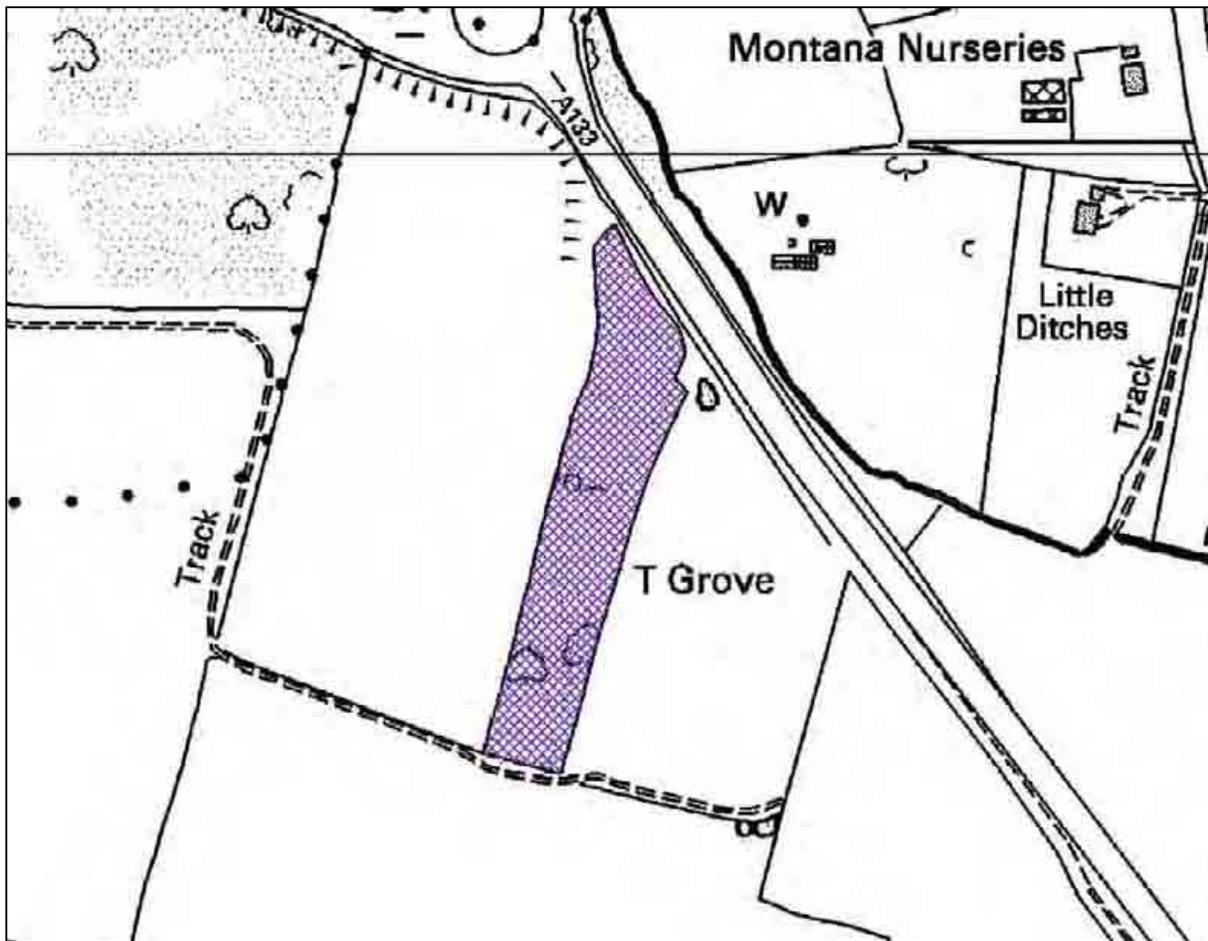


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PTLoWS21 Beacon Hill (2.2 ha) TM 261317

Potential Interest: This old fort is now fenced off and difficult to access. Its prominent location on the coast makes it an obvious land-fall/resting point for passage migrant birds, as well as nesting habitat for resident species. Reptile and invertebrate populations may also be significant. Slow-worm and Common Lizard are known to have occurred here in the past, whilst a number of locally frequent but nationally scarce species of solitary bee were recorded from here in 2000, when the site was more accessible. It has been suggested that the old buildings might also harbour roosting bats.

Action Required: Further survey work.

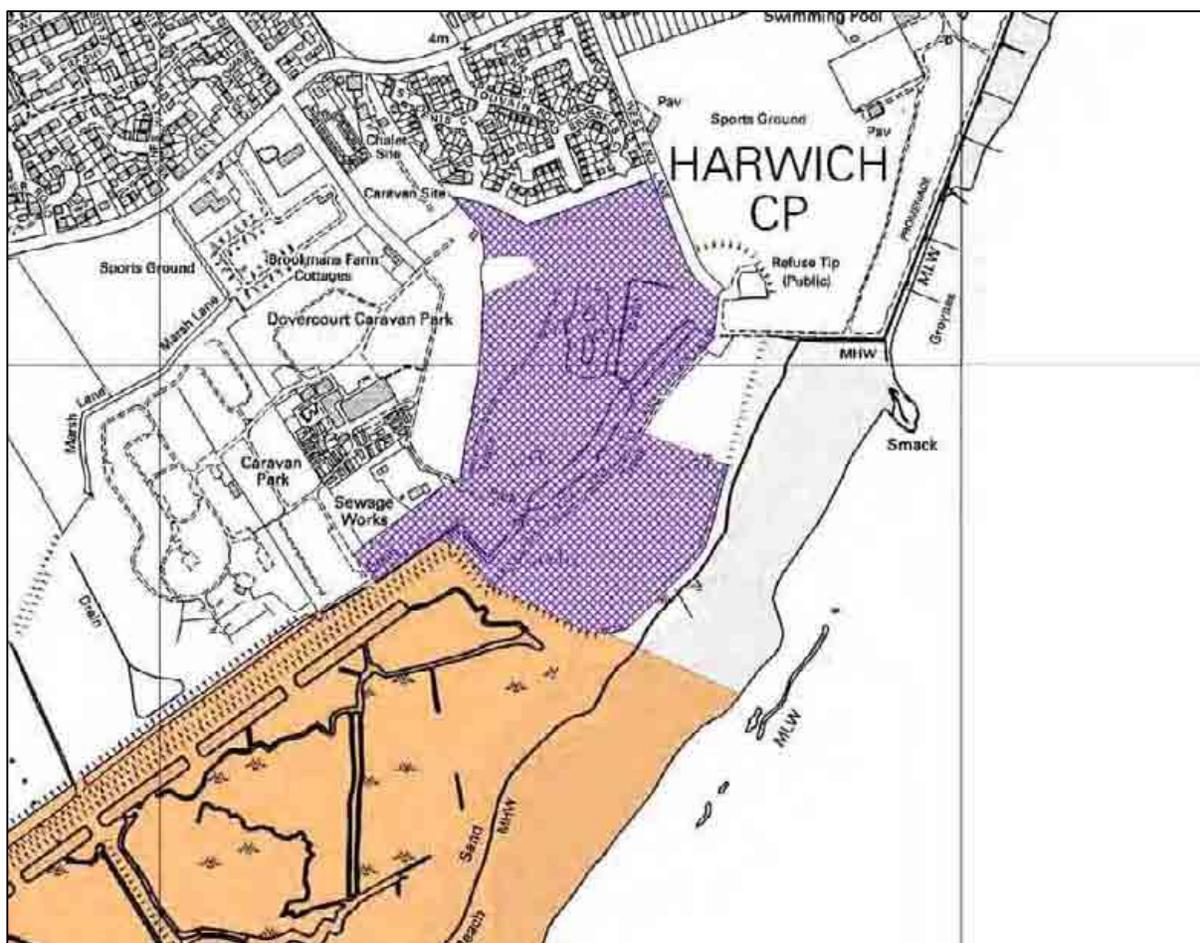


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PTLoWS22 T Grove (1.2 ha) TM 163178

Potential Interest: This is an old, potentially ancient wood, the northern part of which was damaged during the construction of the new A133. This has left the wood rather ecologically isolated, but if it is an ancient woodland fragment it would be worthy of inclusion.

Action Required: Further documentary research into the status of the wood, plus further field survey work.



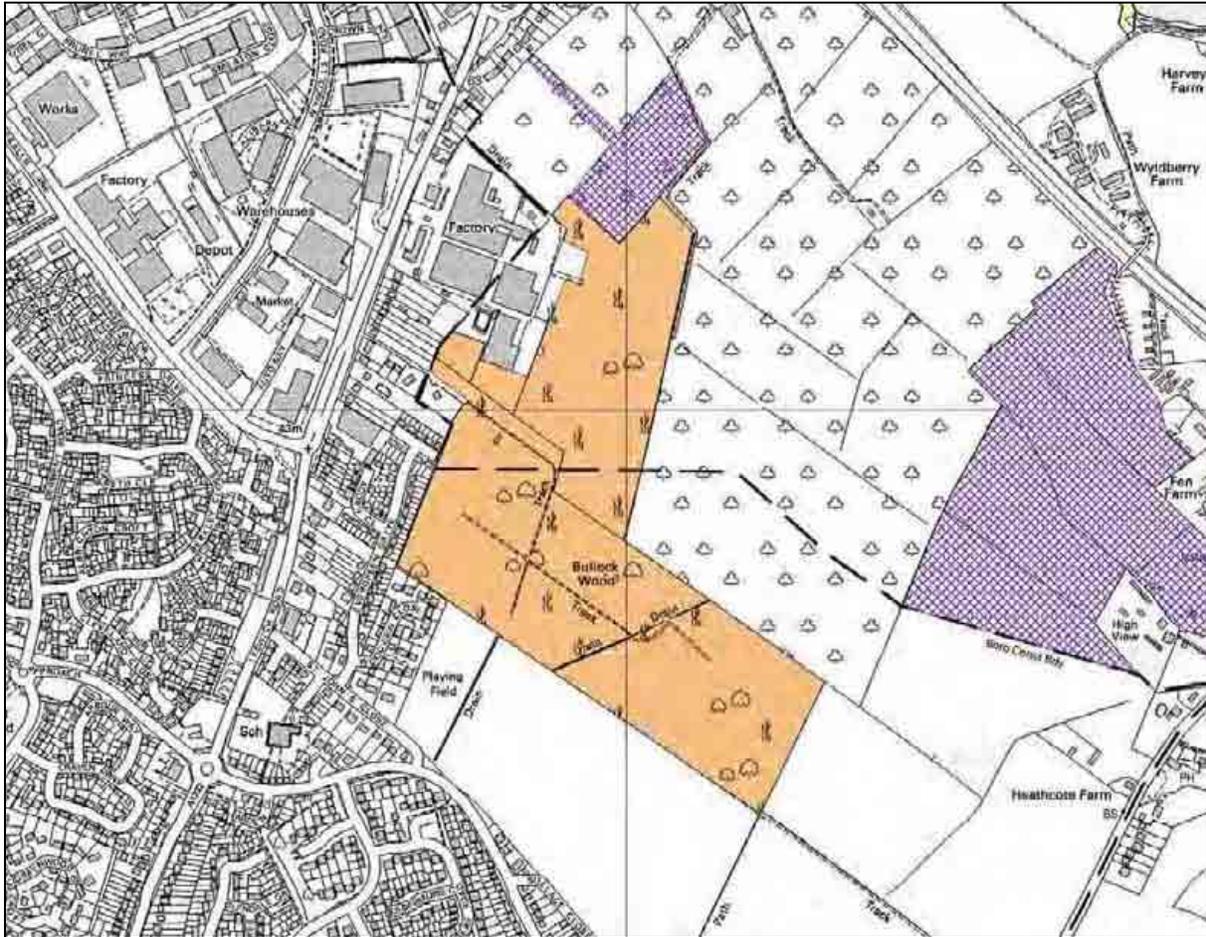
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PTLoWS23 West End Lane Grassland (14.3 ha) TM 245298

Potential Interest: This site comprises rough coastal grassland with lagoons and ditches. Part of the site is a former landfill that has now developed into a species-rich, weedy grassland. Such sites are likely to have important invertebrate populations, associated with both the grassland and aquatic habitats. Reptiles also favour such habitats, with Common Lizard, Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Adder all possible here. Water Voles have been known to occur here, but their current status is unknown.

Action Required: Further survey work, covering invertebrates, reptiles and Water Voles.

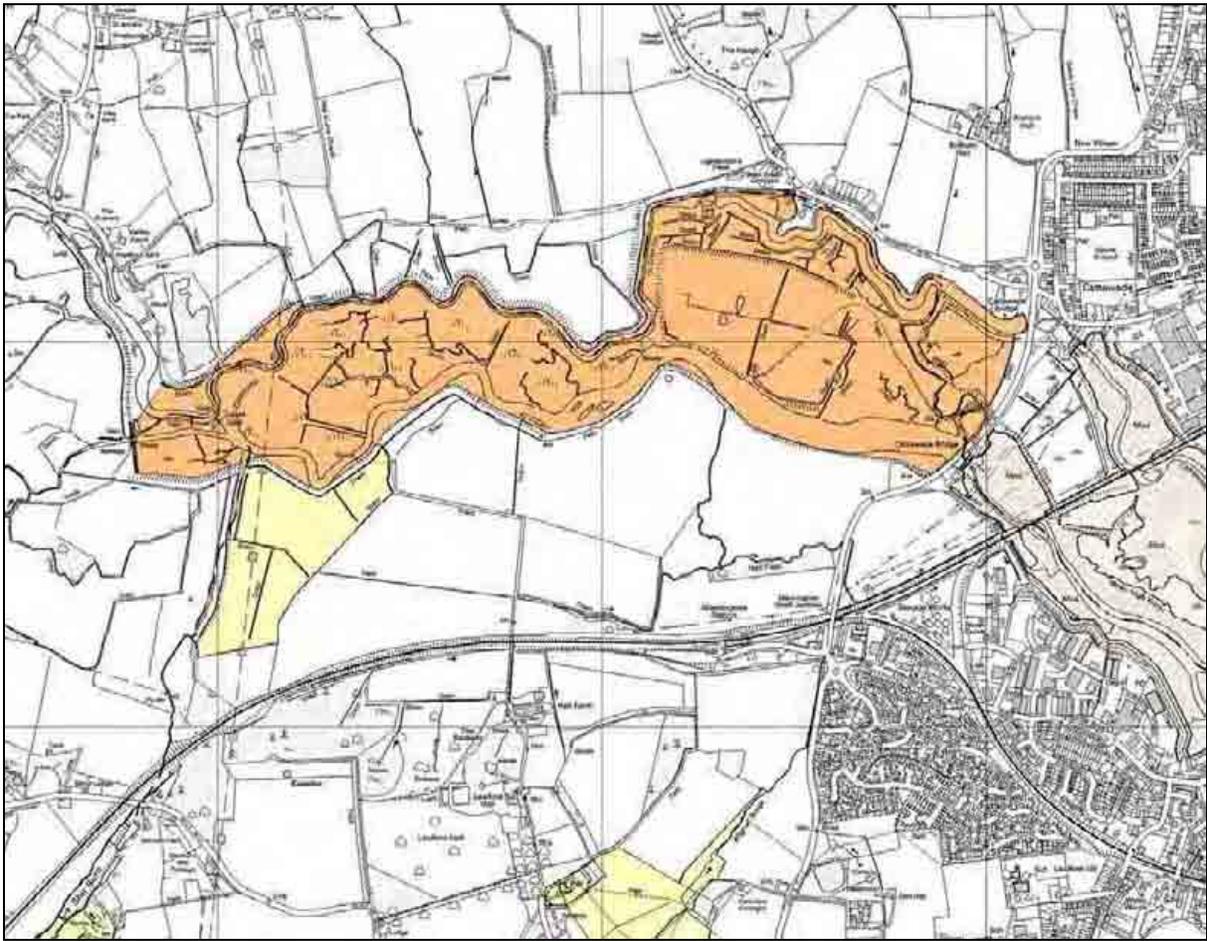
APPENDIX 5
REGISTER OF BIOLOGICAL SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
(SSSI)



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Bullock Wood

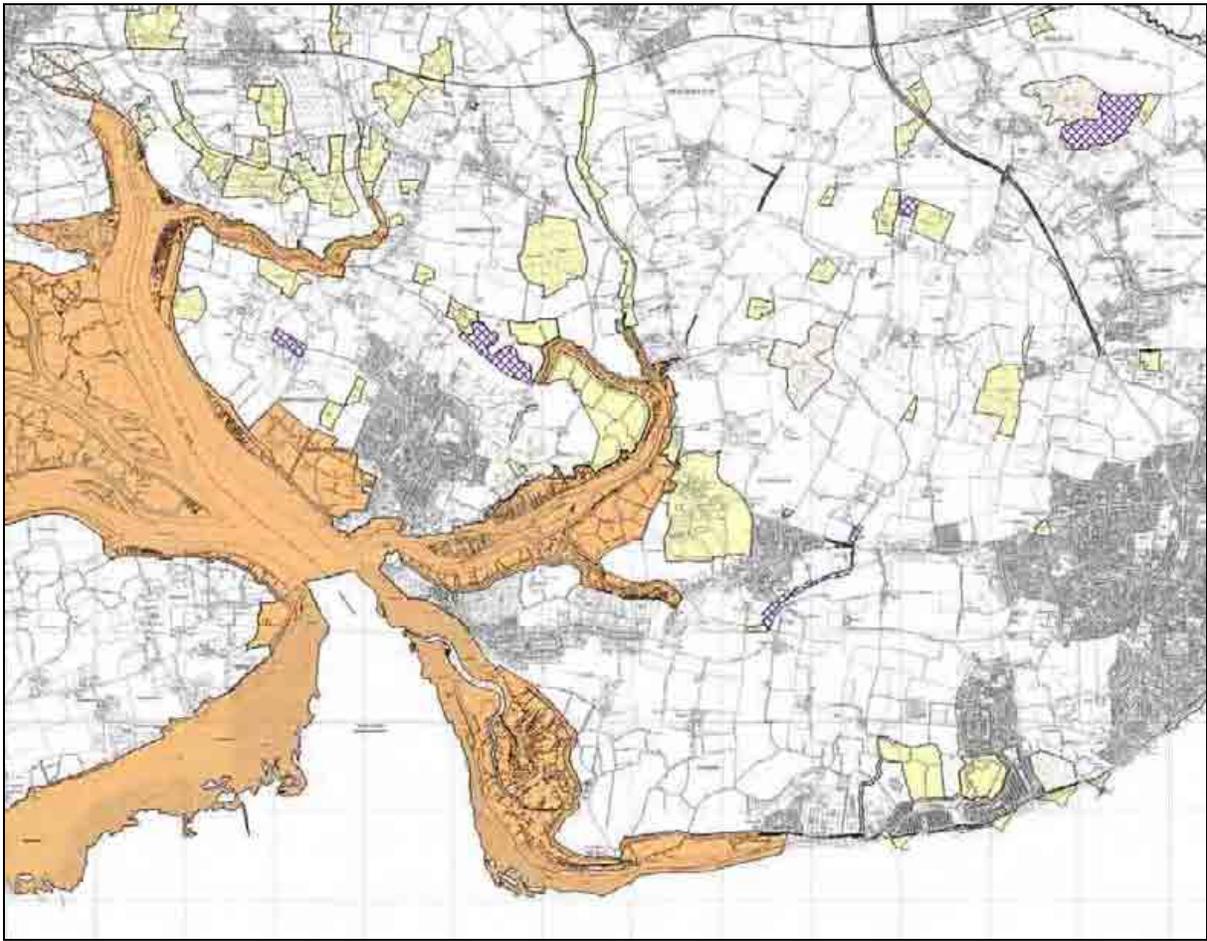
This ancient wood straddles the Tendring/Colchester district boundary. It supports some nationally rare woodland types, centred on the population of Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). The wood is of particular interest because it has been suggested that documentary evidence exists for it being a very old plantation, rather than a remnant of primary woodland, albeit old enough for it to be embraced by the definition of ancient woodland.



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Cattawade Marshes

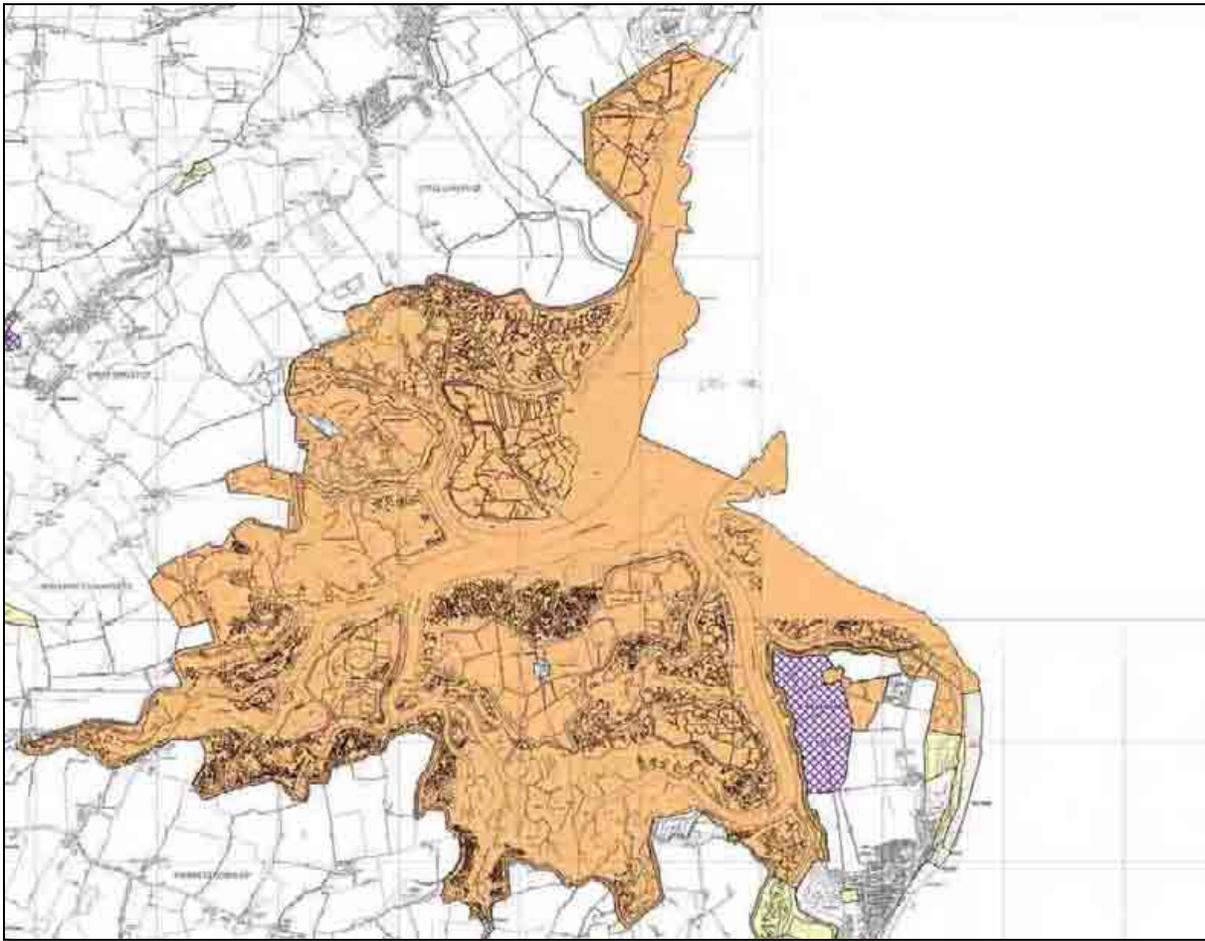
Freshwater, brackish and saline marshes with reedbeds, of importance for coastal flora and overwintering and breeding wildfowl and waders, including Shoveler, Teal, Tufted Duck, Water Rail, Redshank, Lapwing and Oystercatcher.



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Colne Estuary

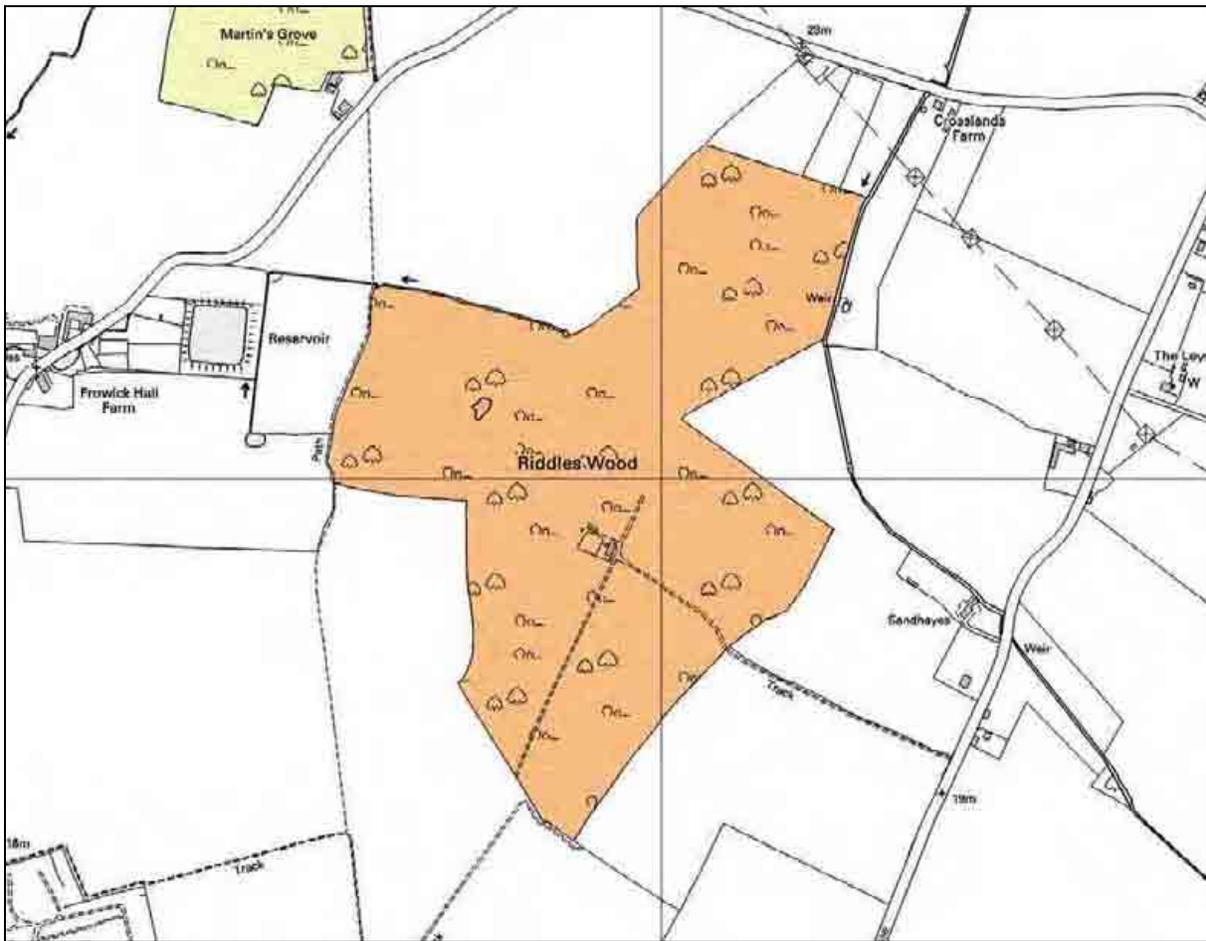
This is an internationally important estuary for over-wintering wildfowl and waders, including Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit plus significant terrestrial sites at Colne Point, Howlands Marsh and to the west of Brightlingsea. It is also important for breeding Little Terns although heavy predation limits breeding success.



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Hamford Water

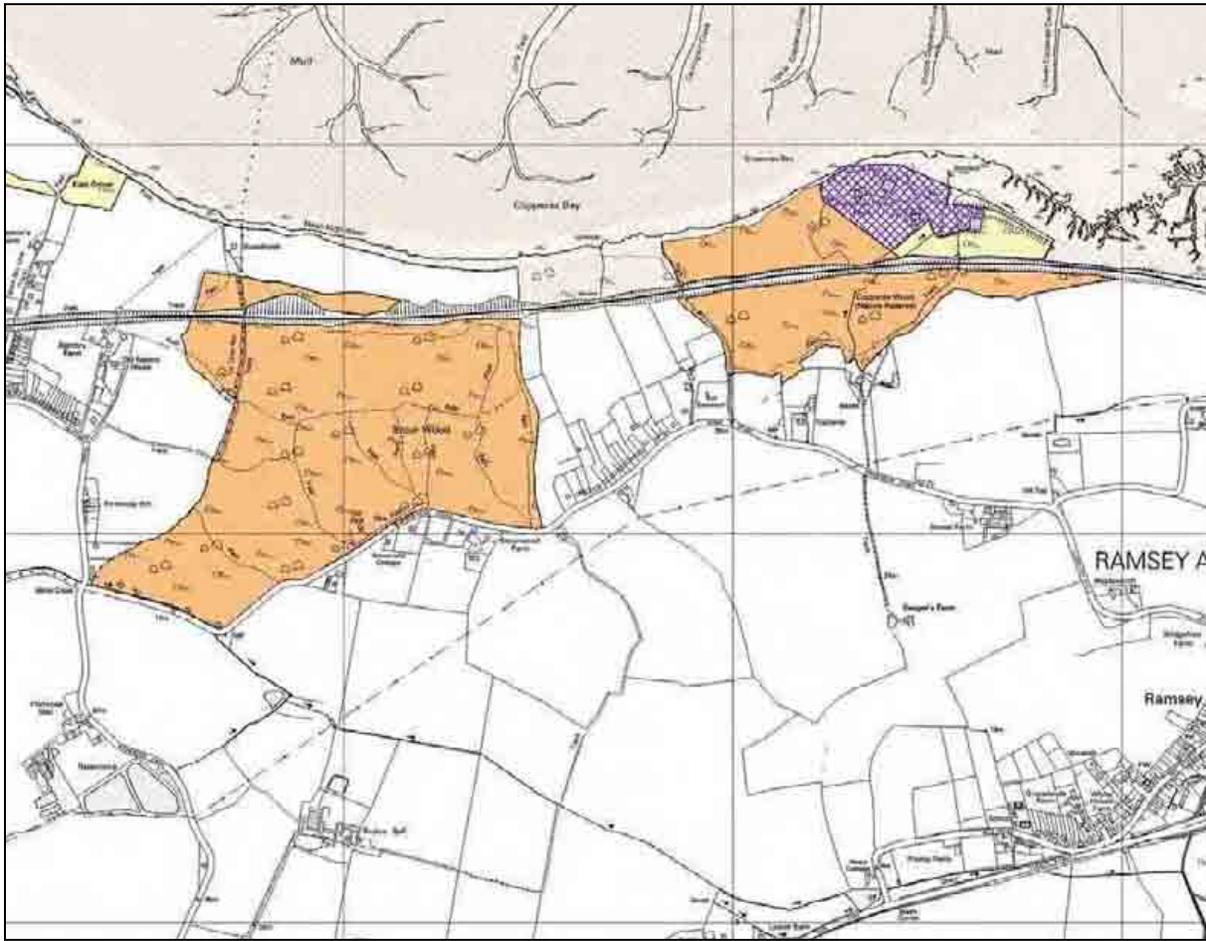
Hamford Water is an internationally important estuary for over-wintering wildfowl and waders, and has a nationally significant flora. It is a key site for Fisher's Estuarine Moth, known in Britain only from here and one site in Kent. Key bird species include Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Little Tern.



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Riddles Wood

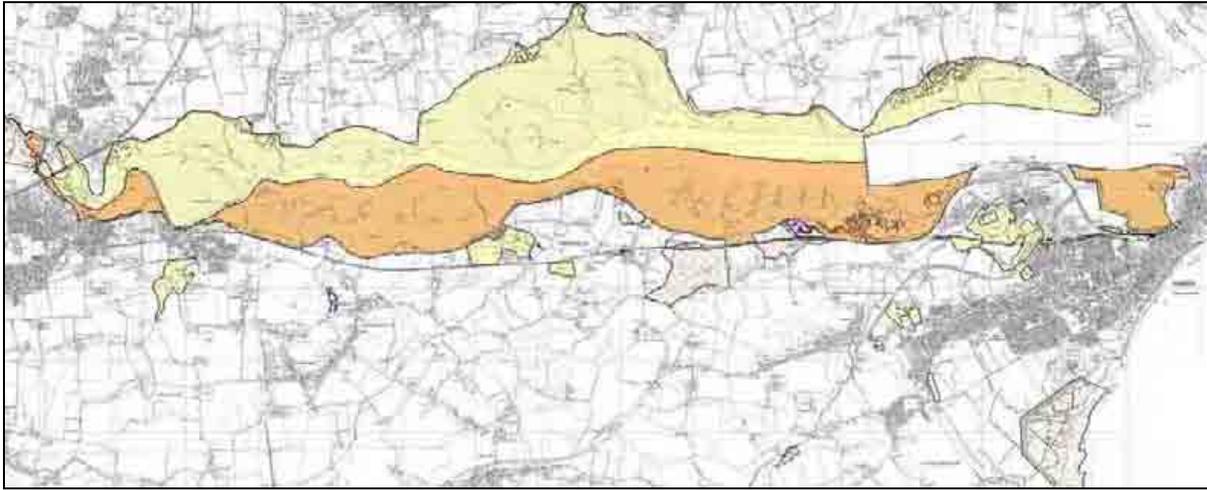
Ancient woodland with notable Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice amongst Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The ground flora includes several notable species.



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Stour and Copperas Woods

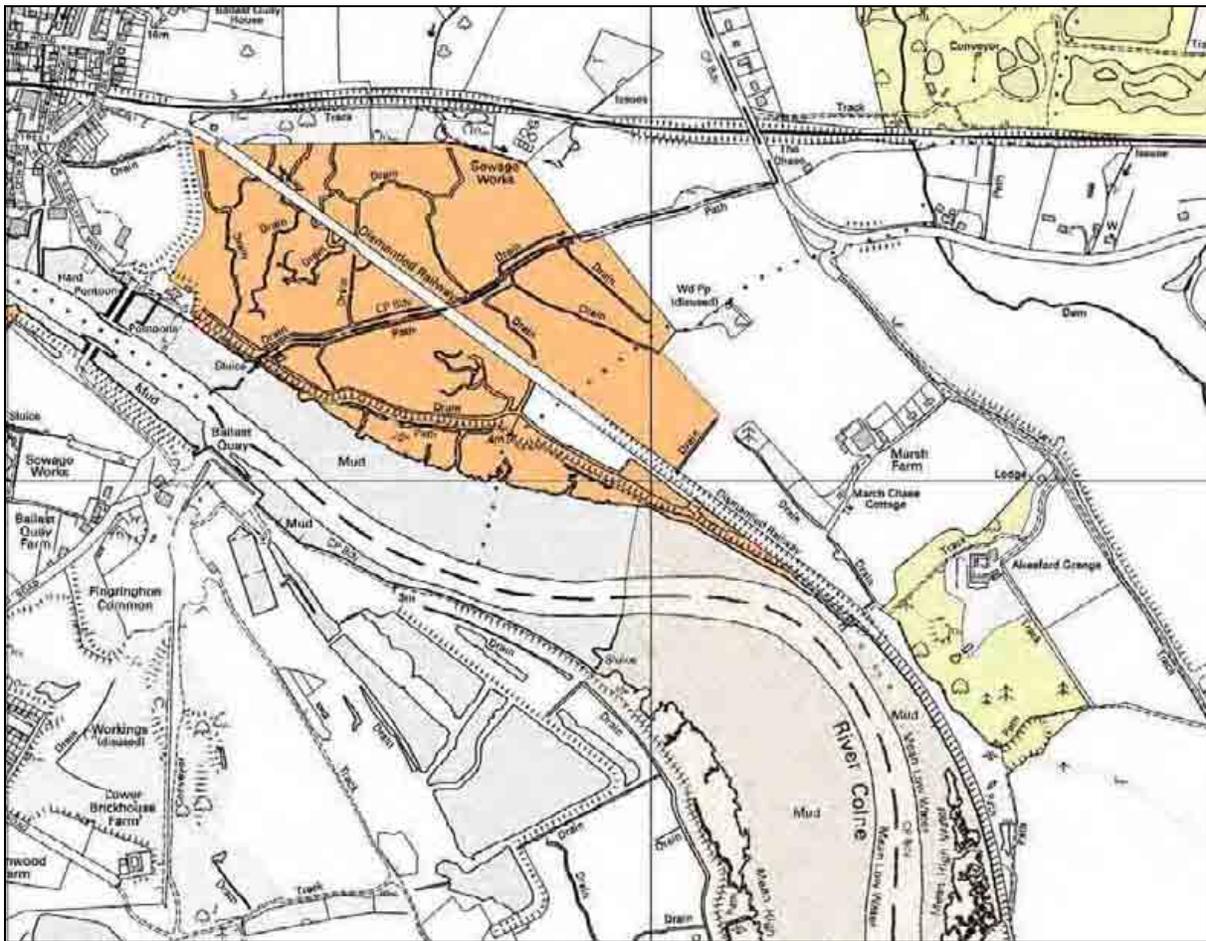
These two ancient woods are notable for their size, rich flora and their unusually close relationship with adjacent intertidal habitats.



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Stour Estuary

Internationally important estuarine habitat for over-wintering wildfowl and waders, straddling the Essex/Suffolk border. Despite this importance, the eastern end, in Bathside Bay, appears to be doomed as part of a container port development.

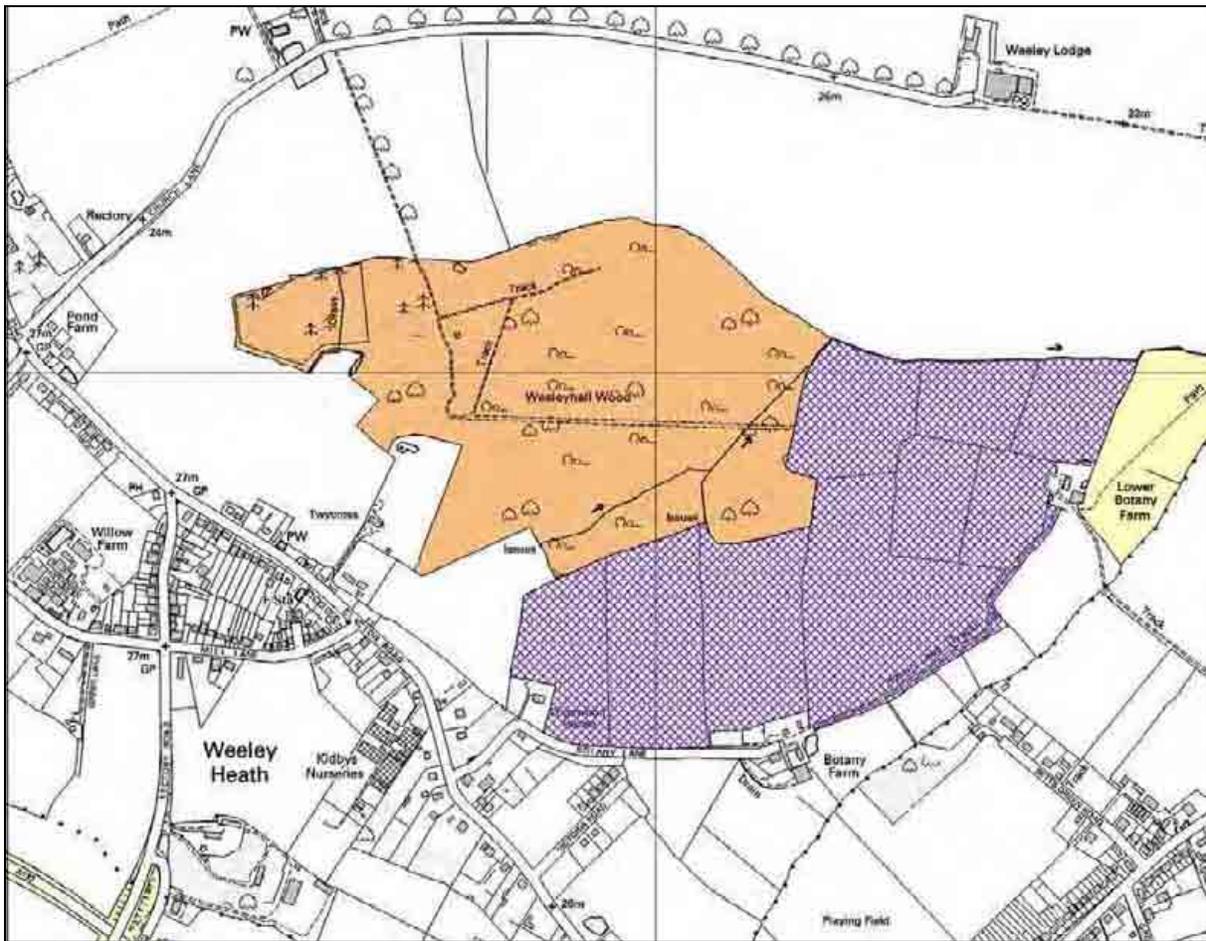


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Upper Colne Marshes

N.B. Only the section within Tending District is shown here.

This site comprises upper estuarine grazing marsh habitat spread across several sites in both Tending and Colchester local authority areas. It is of particular note for its assemblage of nationally scarce plants and a high diversity of brackish ditch types, with associated invertebrates.

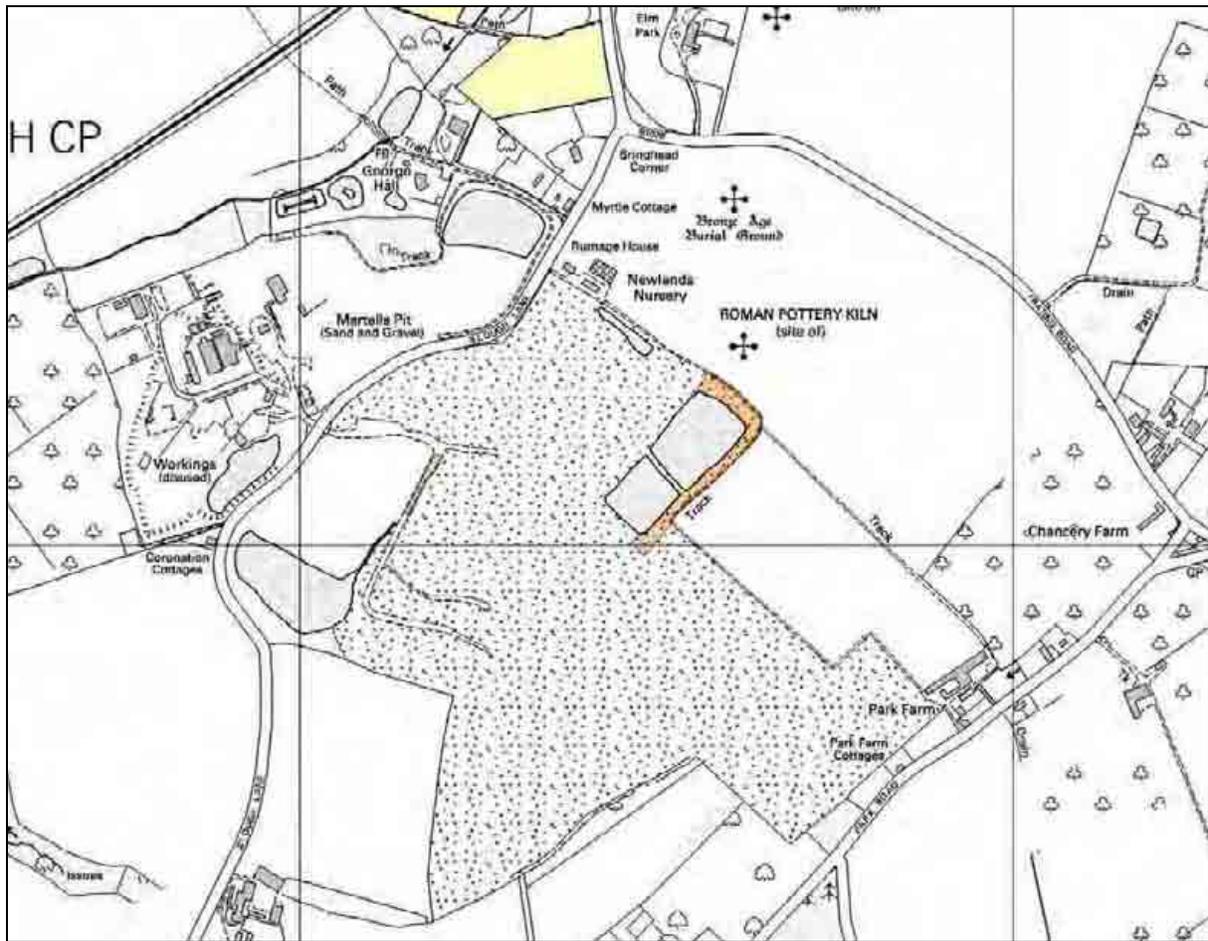


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Weeleyhall Wood

This is a very large ancient wood and Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve. It is notable for its base-poor springline Alder wood and its generally diverse flora.

APPENDIX 6
REGISTER OF GEOLOGICAL SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
(SSSI)



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Ardleigh Gravel Pit

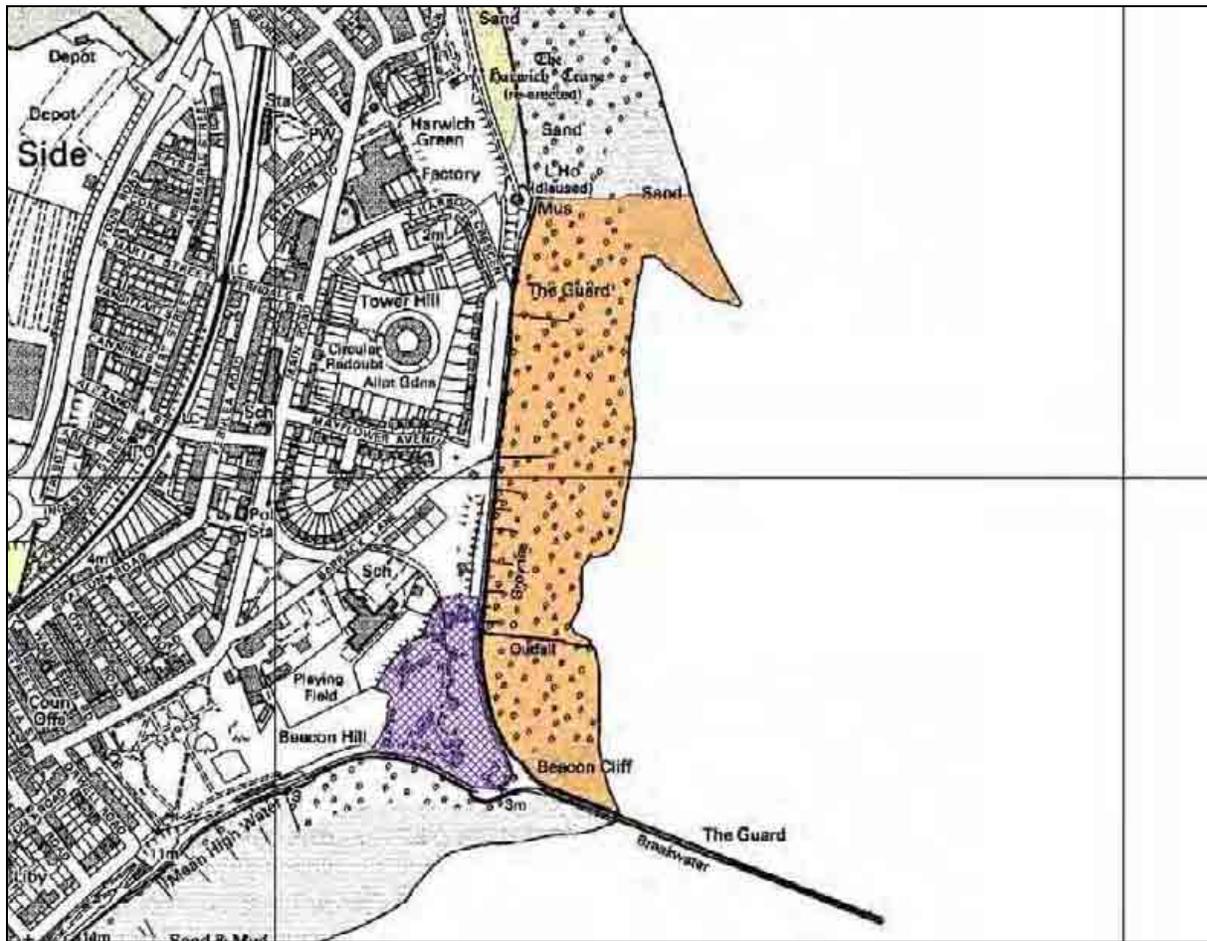
This site provides opportunities to study interglacial deposits, with associated fossil and pollen records.



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Clacton Cliffs and Foreshore

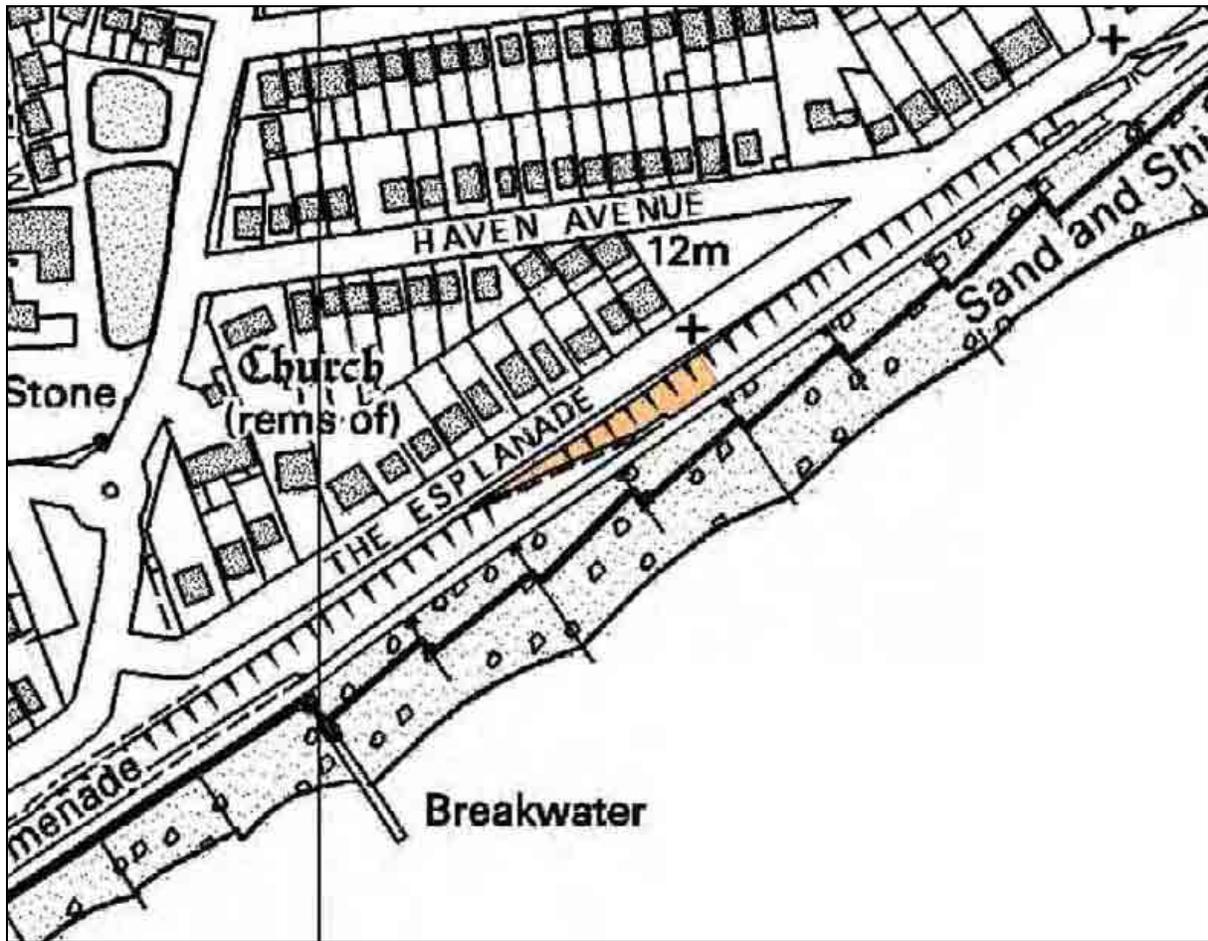
This is an important site for the study of Pleistocene interglacial deposits and also artefacts from the Clactonian Industry period in human evolution.



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Harwich Foreshore

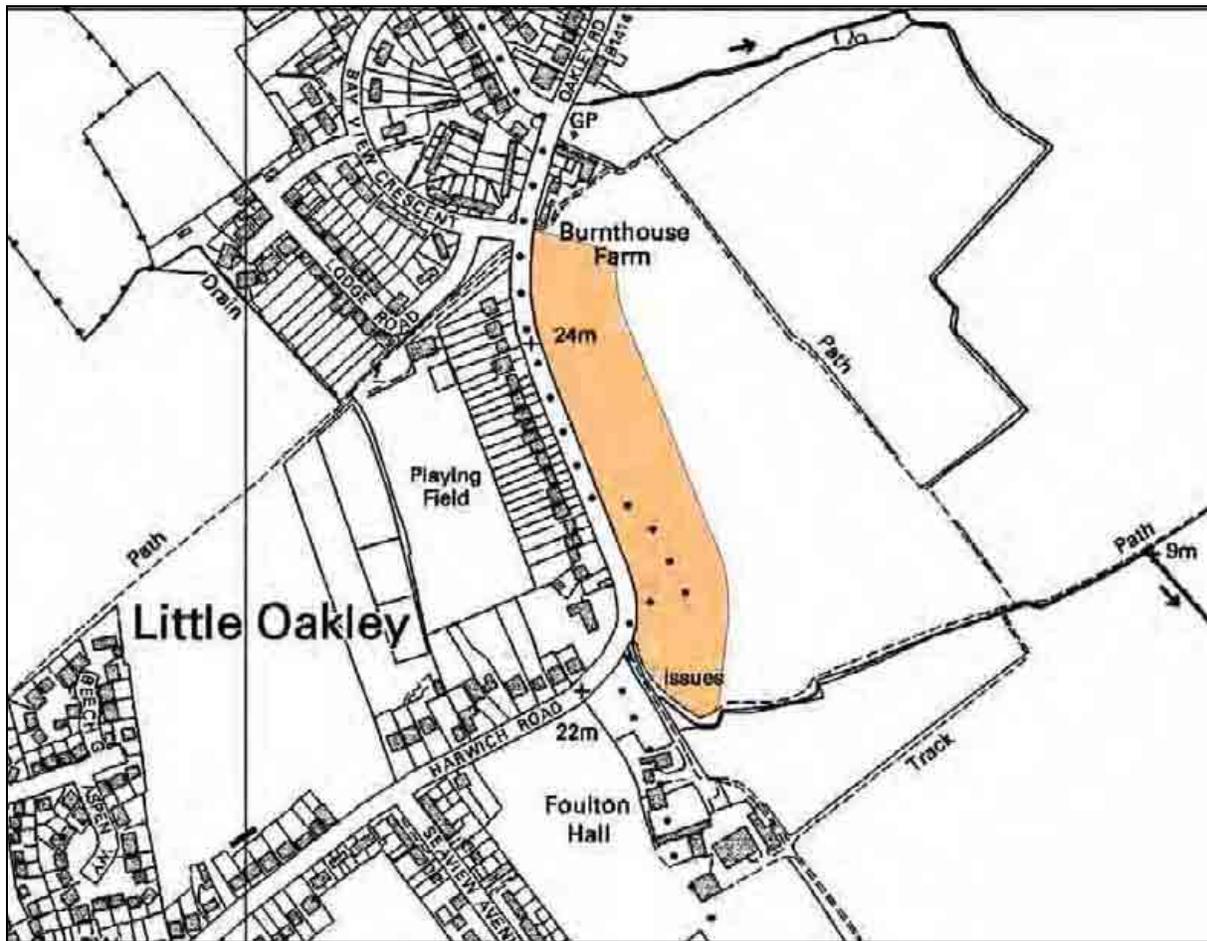
This relatively recently discovered site is of importance for its fossils from the lowest division of the Eocene London Clay.



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Holland-on-Sea Cliff

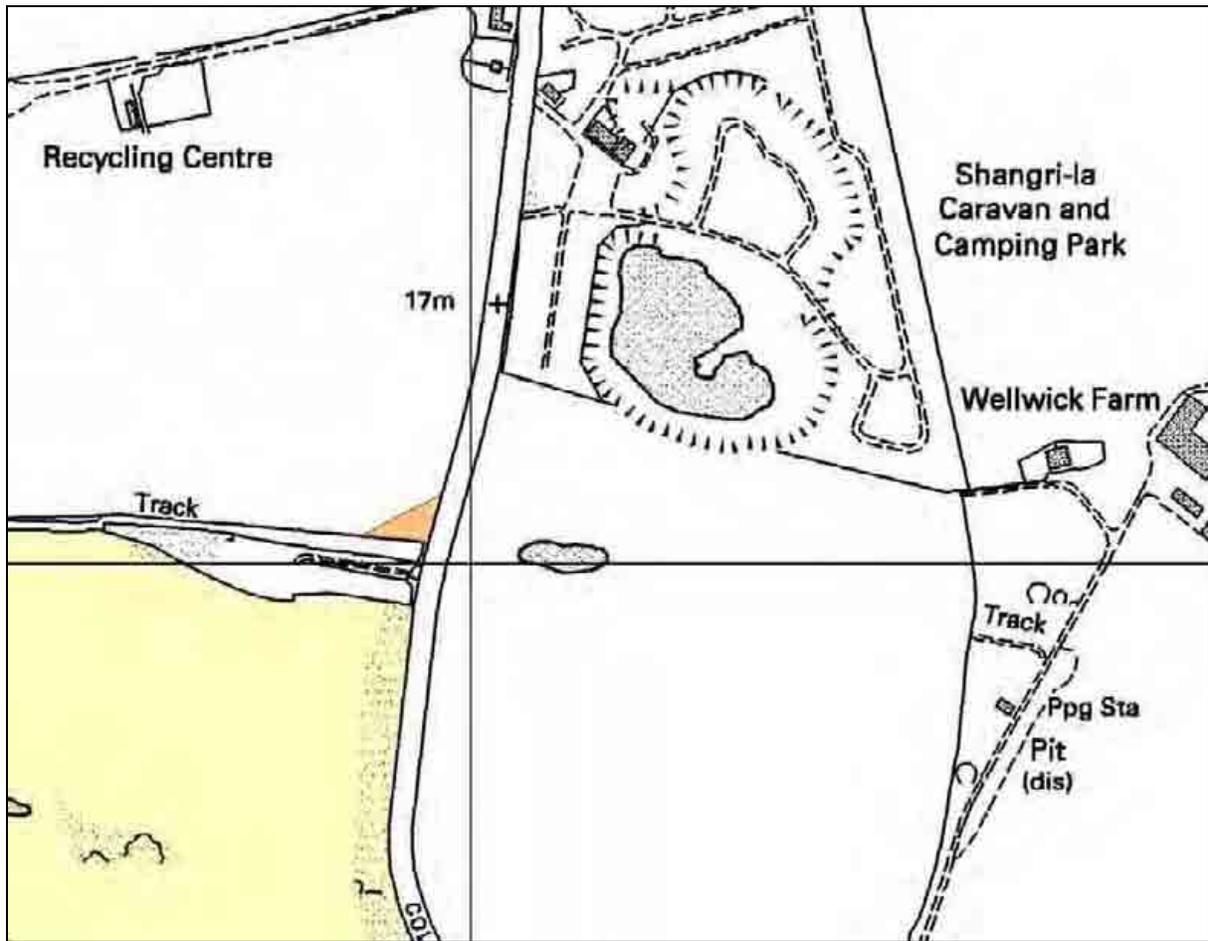
This site illustrates important gravel deposits which indicate the evolution of the River Thames valley during the Anglian glaciation.



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Little Oakley Channel Deposit

This site remains in arable cultivation. Its scientific interest has been sampled from bore hole core samples taken through deeper former river channel deposits and other excavations. It is known to contain important fossils from Middle Pleistocene interglacials.



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St Osyth Pit

This very small site has exposures of important Pleistocene sands and gravels that assist with the interpretation of the Thames diversion at that time.

