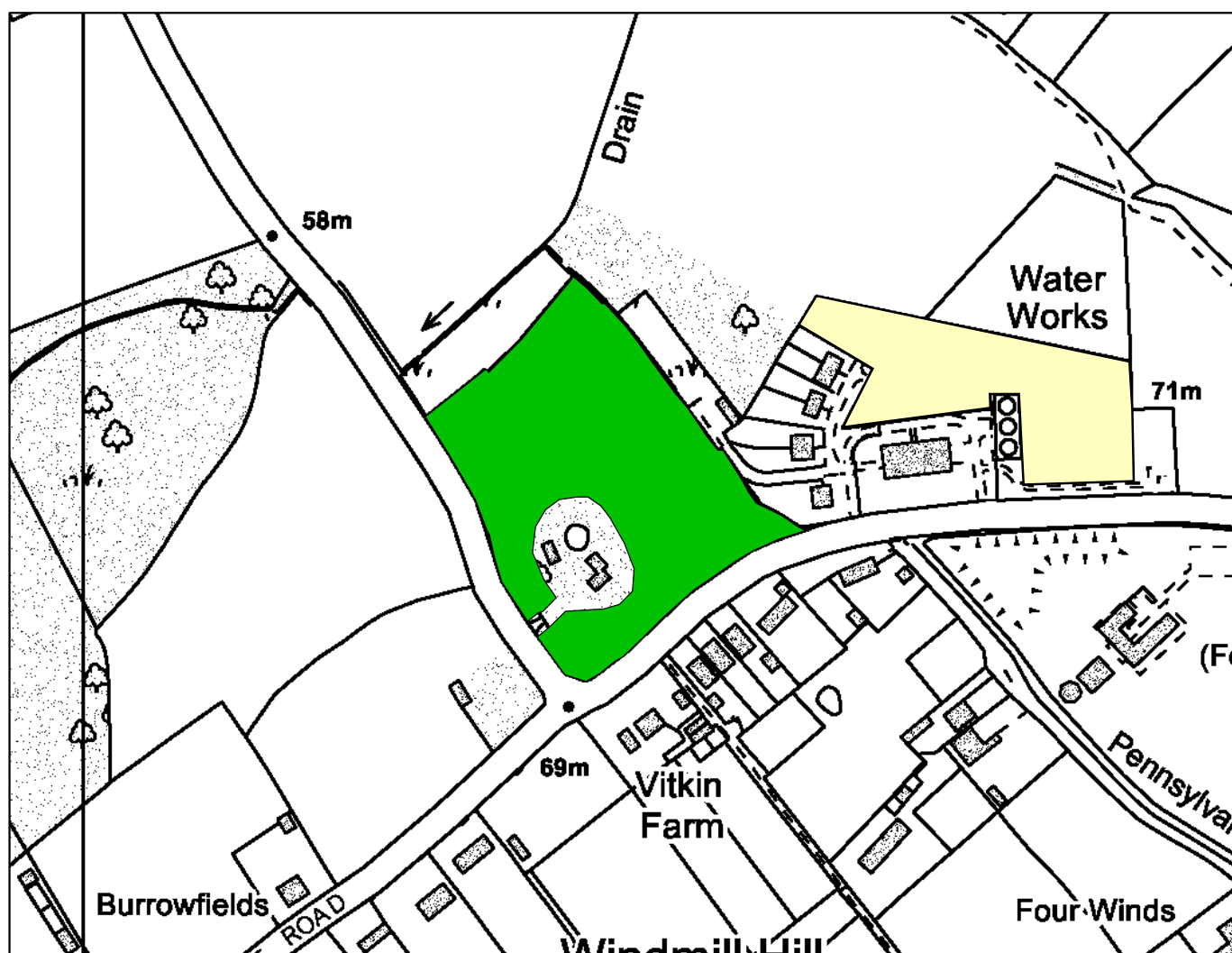


Co4 Hill Wood, Tiptree (1.9 ha) TL 882167



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Hill Wood is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with occasional Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There are Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, but mostly around the edges of the wood and few of them are of any significant age.

The generally sparse ground flora, typical of many Hornbeam woods, is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*). Butchers Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*) are present in small quantities.

Ownership and Access

The wood is in private ownership and there is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

The majority of the site is illustrated as woodland on old maps and its composition and ground flora suggest ancient origin, but it is not shown in the Ancient Woodland Inventory due to its size. Strips along the southeast and southwest edges, containing the young oaks, are more recent.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

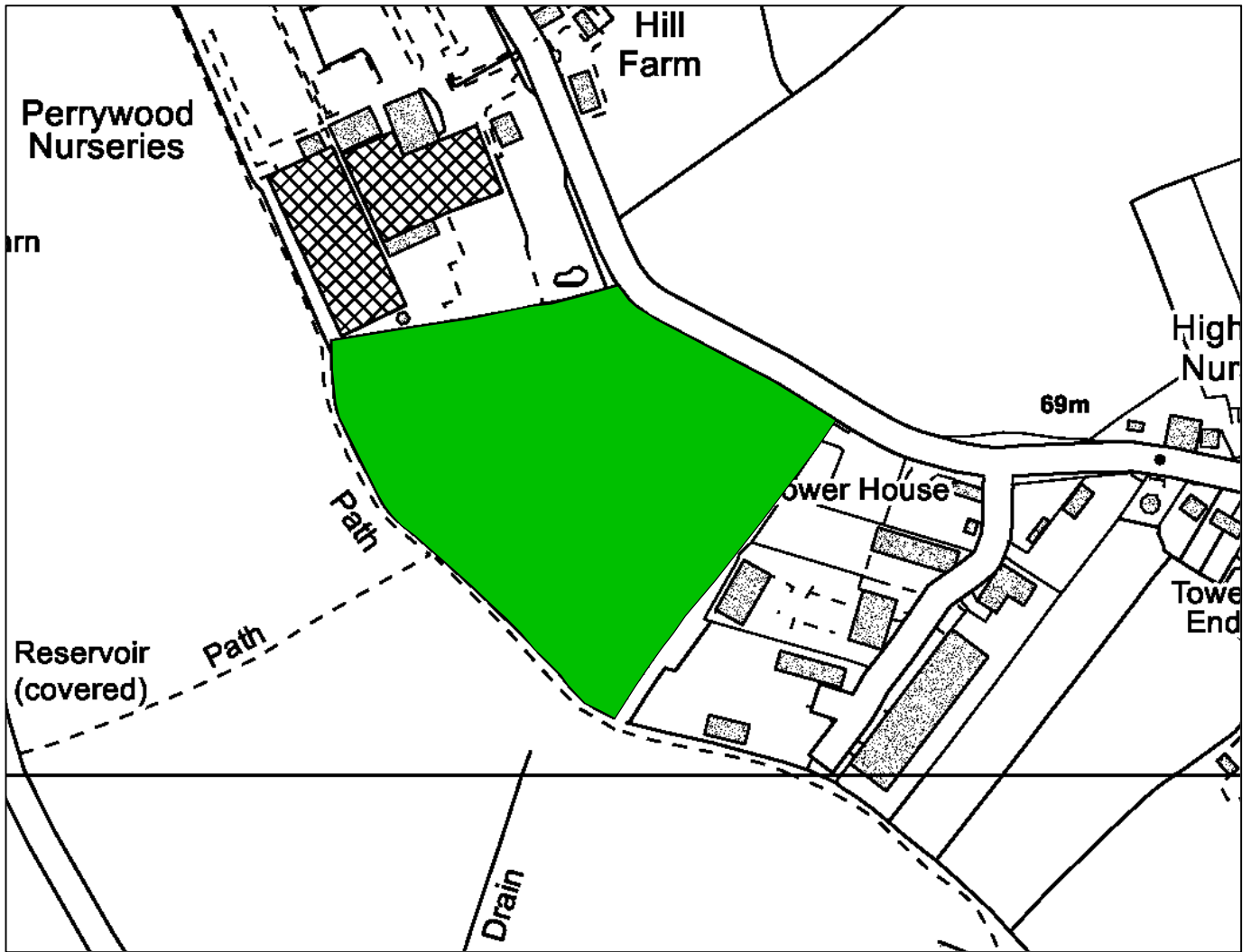
The re-establishment of an appropriate coppice cycle will be needed to maintain the condition of the wood in the longer-term.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (re-mapped)

Co5 Perry's Wood, Tiptree (3.6 ha) TL 883171



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The canopy of this wood is composed of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with an understorey of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

The ground flora is generally sparse but includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Forget-me-not, Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) with Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) in damper areas. There are two shaded ponds in the western corner, which support Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

Ownership and Access

The site is under private ownership and there is no public access, but it can be viewed from a public footpath that runs along its western edge.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

The site is shown in its entirety in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

There is currently no evidence of active management, but the wood appears to be used by its owners for recreational purposes.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co6 Inworth Wood (3.0 ha) TL 883179



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This site consists of a block of ancient woodland with 20th Century additions to the northeast, southeast and along the southern edge.

The older woodland consists of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, primarily around its edges, and occasional Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). The understorey includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) with elm invading along the southern edge. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is dominant in places, where there has been recent coppicing.

The ground flora includes frequent Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) as well as Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Red Currant (*Ribes rubra*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

The more recent blocks of woodland are made up of Pedunculate Oak and Ash, with occasional Hornbeam in the southeast.

Ownership and Access

The wood is under private ownership and there is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

The majority of the woodland is shown on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, including the northeast block, which map evidence shows was not woodland in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The non-ancient parts meet the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland HPIE description.

Condition Statement:

Mostly favourable

Management Issues

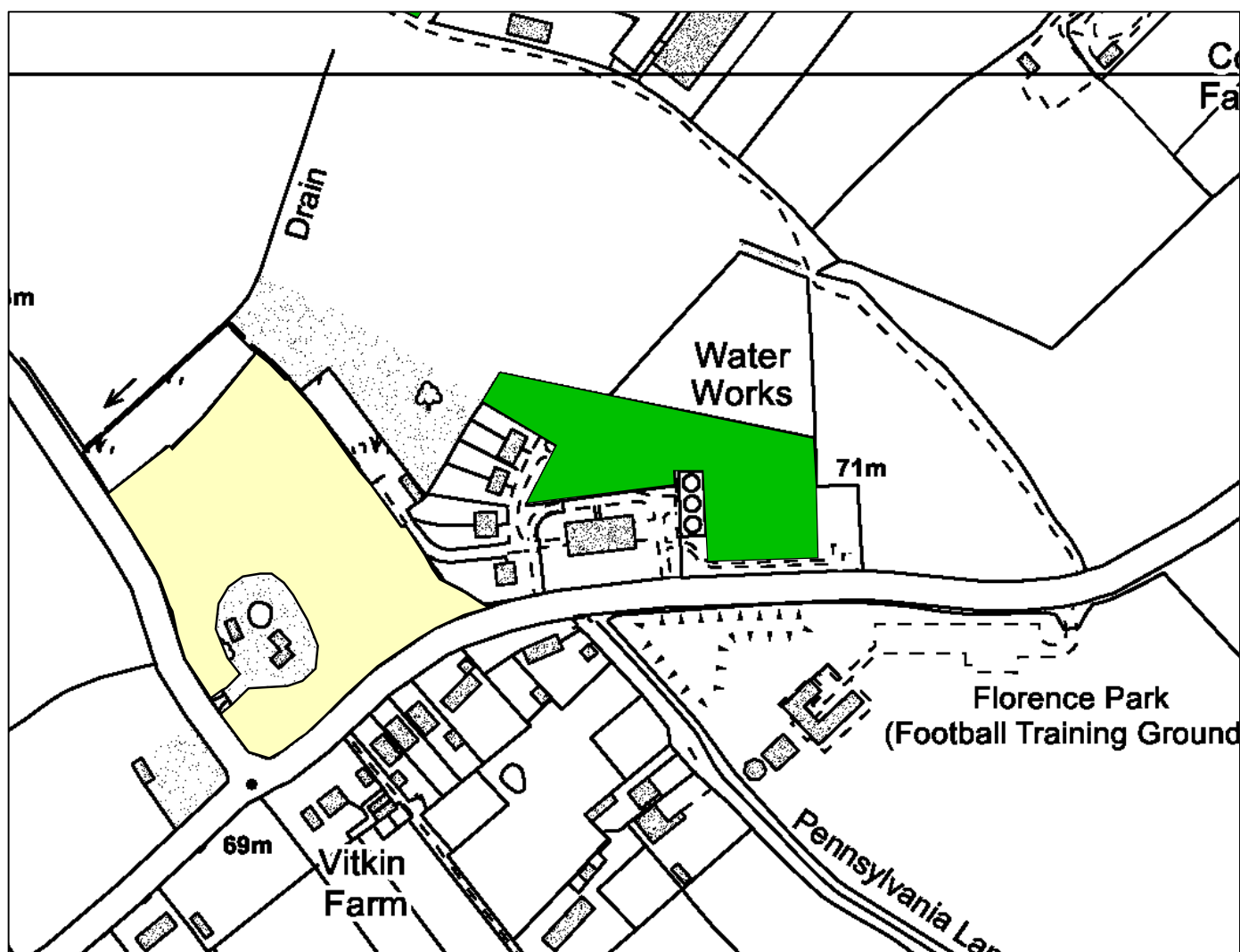
The wood is being actively managed by coppicing, but a large Pheasant pen in the southeast corner is having a negative impact on the secondary woodland habitat there.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co7 Tiptree Waterworks (0.9 ha) TL 884167



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Short, closely mown grassland on the slopes of the water treatment works supports a range of herbs and fine grasses that are typical of dry acid grassland conditions, with Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*), an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species, being of particular note. The sward comprises Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), various small clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and some Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*).

The western section is damper in places and has a more species-rich sward, made up of Yorkshire-fog, Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and the ERDL Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*). Drier areas to the south support Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Bird's-foot-trefoil, Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatile*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*).

Ownership and Access

The site is under the ownership of Essex and Suffolk Water. The western half is accessible to local residents

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Lowland Meadows

Selection criteria:

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale:

Artificial conditions around the reservoir mimic the environment required to favour the development of acid grassland communities, but the result is habitat that meets the Lowland Dry Acid Grassland HPIE description. The western field, although acidic to some degree, does not support a range of species that would enable it to be placed in an acid grassland category. However, it appears to be unimproved and supports good overall diversity, which justifies its inclusion.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

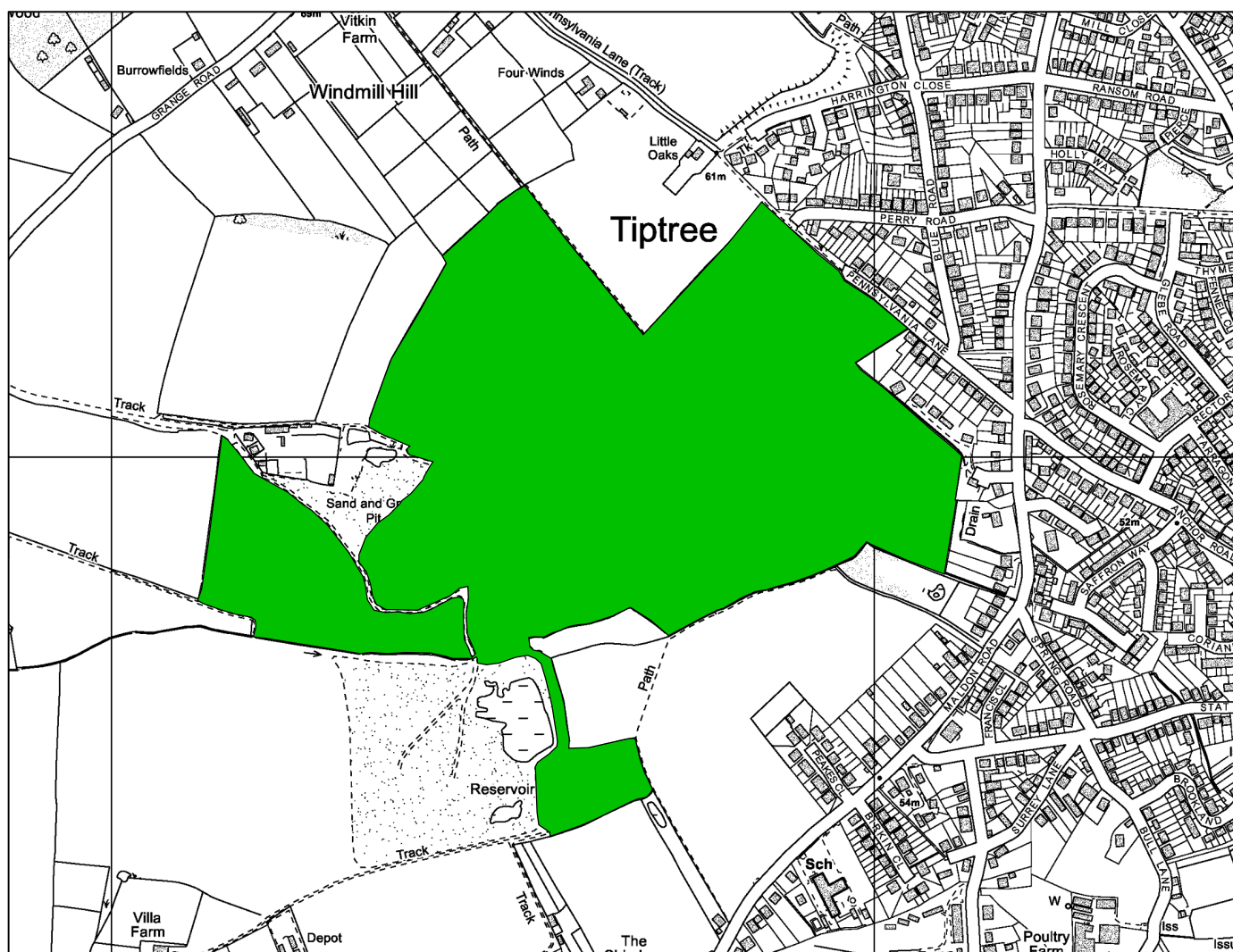
Although generally favourable, a reduction in mowing frequency would allow the western grassland in particular to achieve greater conservation significance.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co10 Inworth Grange Pits, Tiptree (37.6 ha) TL 885159



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This complex site is focussed on the now disused parts of Tiptree Quarry, comprising wet woodland, ponds, reedbeds and acid grassland, together with an old strawberry field to the east and some smaller meadows.

The quarry part of the site is made up of a series of lagoons, some containing deeper standing water, some shallower with broad fringes of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), emergent willow (*Salix* sp.) scrub and floating mats of pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.), and some with different aged stands of wet willow woodland. Emergent and marginal plants species include Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) with the Essex Red Data List species Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*). The fringes of the larger lagoons are now mostly shaded by willows.

Between the lagoons, the topography is varied with banks of exposed substrate, hummocks and hollows, which should provide good conditions for invertebrates. In the northwest part of the site is an extensive area landscaped to produce acid grassland, including an enclosure with introduced Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). Other open parts support sparse swards and rough grassland, depending on their age and soil profile. Acid grassland species include Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and parsley-piert (*Aphanes* sp.).

In places there is scattered scrub, with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), birch (*Betula* sp.) and Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) amongst young Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*). There are some small areas of young oak woodland, planted in the 20th Century, and also scattered older oaks predating the quarry.

The former strawberry field to the east and the meadows to the south support unimproved grassland, albeit of recent origin. Six species of orchid have been recorded across this area including a significant population of Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) with smaller numbers of Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and Common Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*). The sward is dominated by Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and bent (*Agrostis* sp.) and dense growth of willows. Other species in the meadows include Hope Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*), Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*).

The site also supports a good assemblage of breeding birds including in recent years more noteworthy species such as Pochard, Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Cuckoo, Skylark, Song Thrush, Cetti's Warbler, Willow Warbler and Linnet.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. Restoration activity still occurs in some areas and access is restricted to public footpaths along the southern and eastern edges of the quarry. The meadows have no public rights of way, but are heavily used by local residents.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Selection criteria:

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

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

HC27 – Post-industrial Sites

HC28 – Small-component Mosaics

SC1 – Vascular Plants

Rationale:

Much of this site could be classed as post-industrial and it includes a wide range of features that are likely to be of significant benefit to invertebrates, although there is a lack of records to confirm this at present. Within the post-industrial area there are also clear examples of acid grassland and wet woodland communities that would meet HPIE descriptions. The meadows outside of the quarry area are essentially unimproved, despite a recent origin and their conservation value is sufficient to justify their selection, but here the Other Neutral Grasslands criterion is primarily used to define the extent of the habitat that is supporting the significant Green-winged Orchid population.

Condition Statement:

Mostly favourable

Management Issues

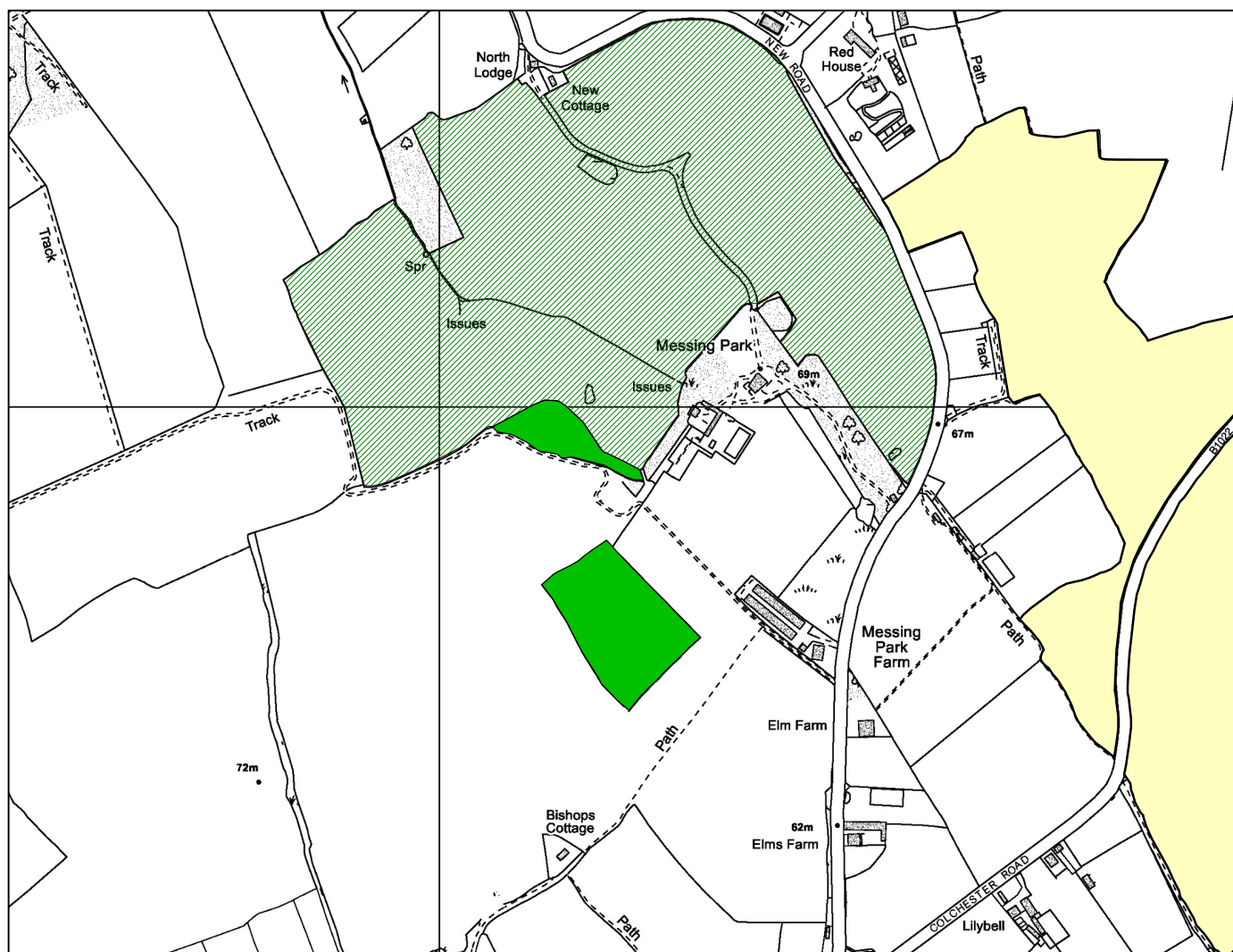
The field and its orchid populations are vulnerable to inappropriate management or the lack of it. Willow has become dominant over large parts of the field, although it has been cut during this review period. The field has also been proposed as a site for housing development. The habitats in the quarry part of the site will decline naturally as succession takes place and so management will be necessary to slow this process if the diversity of habitats and species is to be maintained.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (extended)

Co13 Eden Wood, Tiptree (2.7 ha) TL 891179



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Eden Wood is old woodland made up of old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice amongst large oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Other canopy species include Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The understorey is scattered and open with occasional Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). The ground layer is very sparse, consisting mainly of leaf litter and bare ground, but there are some patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

A small area of woodland along the southern margins of Messing Park, part of a larger Eden Wood that existed before clearance at the end of the 19th Century, is included in this Local Wildlife Site for its varied canopy and ground flora. Trees include Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Pedunculate Oak, Hornbeam and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) along with Hazel, Ash and Field Maple coppice. Willows (*Salix* spp.) grow at the bottom of the slope where a damp swampy area forms. The ground flora is rich supporting dominant stands of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) alongside Bluebell, Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*). Butchers Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) is also present on the upper slopes.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership and there is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

There is insufficient evidence from maps or species composition to conclude that this is ancient woodland, although it is clearly old.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

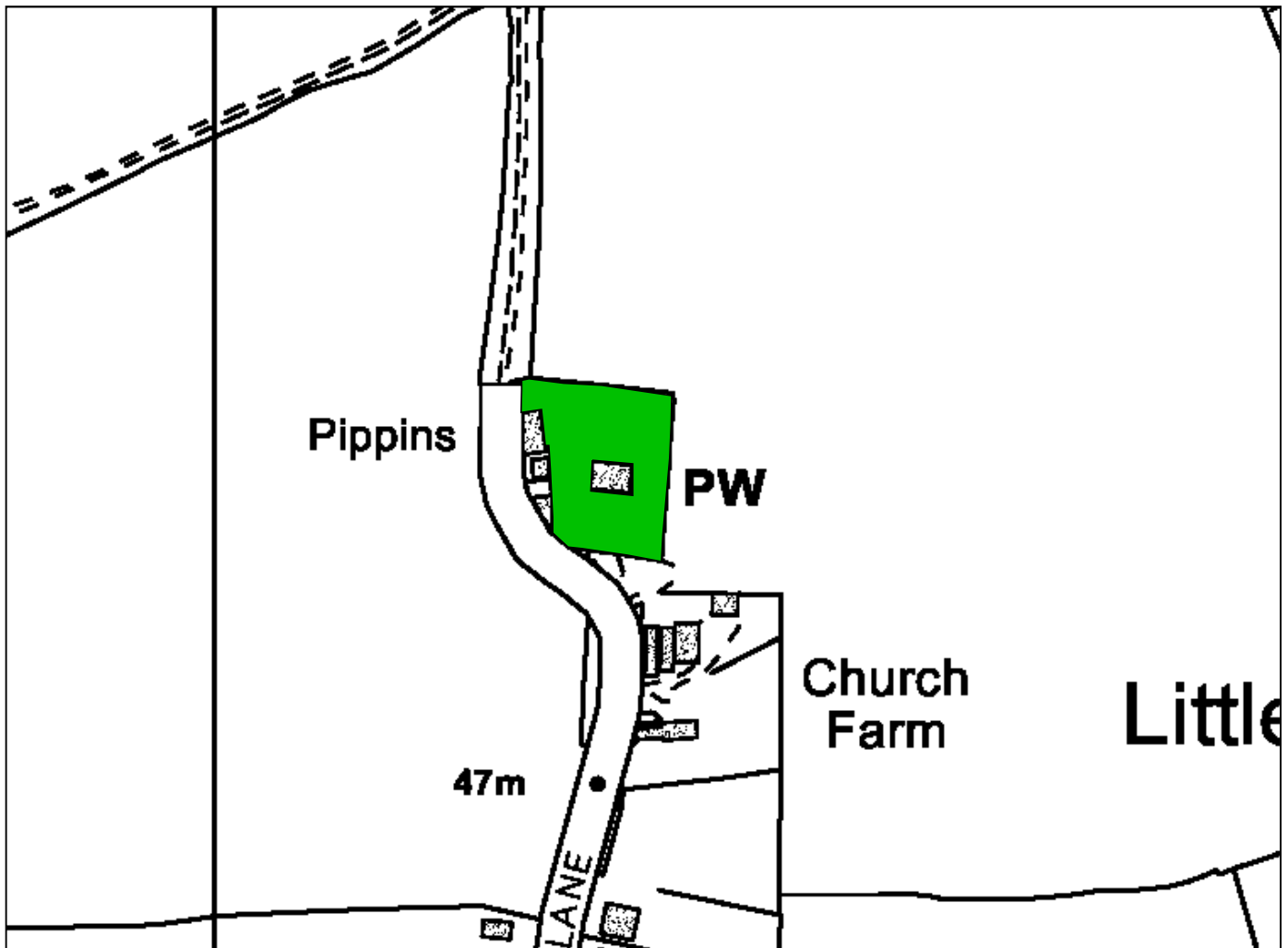
Sycamore has invaded the wood and should be controlled to prevent adverse effects on ground flora through a thickening of the canopy.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co14 Little Tey Churchyard (0.3 ha) TL 892236



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This small churchyard has a good range of grasses including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). The herb flora includes Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*). However, this site is unusual in that there are also a few species that require more calcareous soils including Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*), Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Rough Hawk-bit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), which is Nationally Scarce.

Ownership and Access

The churchyard is open to the public.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Meadows

Selection criteria:

HC9 – Lowland Meadows

SC1 – Vascular Plants

Rationale:

As with many churchyards, this site represents a small area of relatively unimproved, flower-rich grassland that conforms to the MG5 NVC community, corresponding to the Lowland Meadows Habitat of Principal Importance in England. The presence of the Nationally Scarce species Sulphur Clover satisfies the SC1 criteria.

Condition Statement:

Favourable, but declining in parts

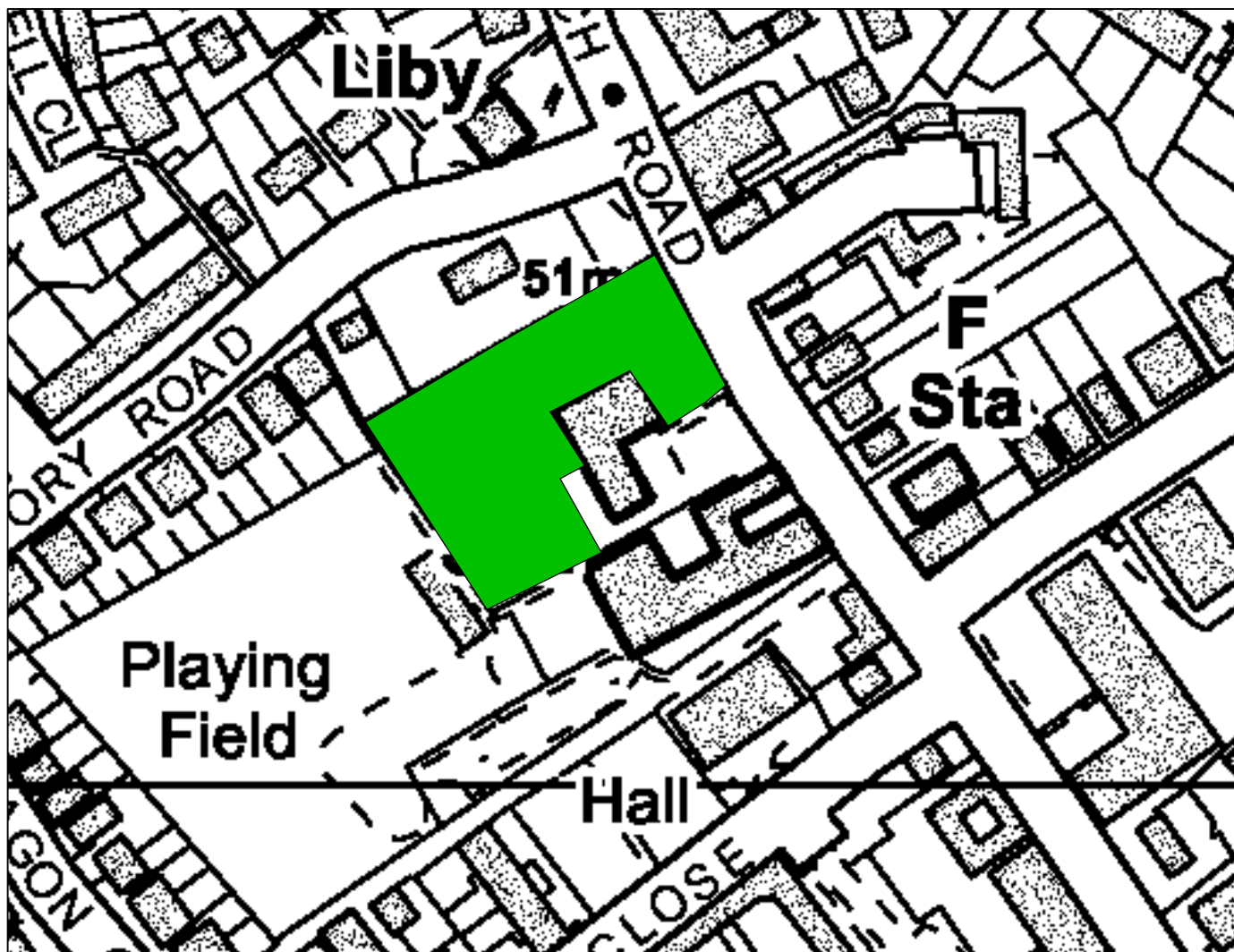
Management Issues

The current management regime is unknown, but appears to be largely maintaining the site's interest. Some marginal areas suffer from shading and there are areas of coarser herb-poor grassland that would benefit from more frequent management with cuttings removed to decrease the nutrient levels.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)



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This is a regularly mown churchyard, which contains a diverse range of herb species and fine grasses associated with acid and neutral grassland habitats. The majority of plants are found on the mounded graves which escape the regular cuts and provide interesting micro-climates.

Plant species include Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), the latter being an Essex Red Data List species.

Ownership and Access

The site is assumed to be in the ownership of the Church of England

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Selection criteria:

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

Rationale:

The grassland in the churchyard is a mosaic of acidic and more neutral communities, but the majority is attributable to acid grassland, matching the Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Habitat of Principal Importance England description.

Condition Statement:

Moderate

Management Issues

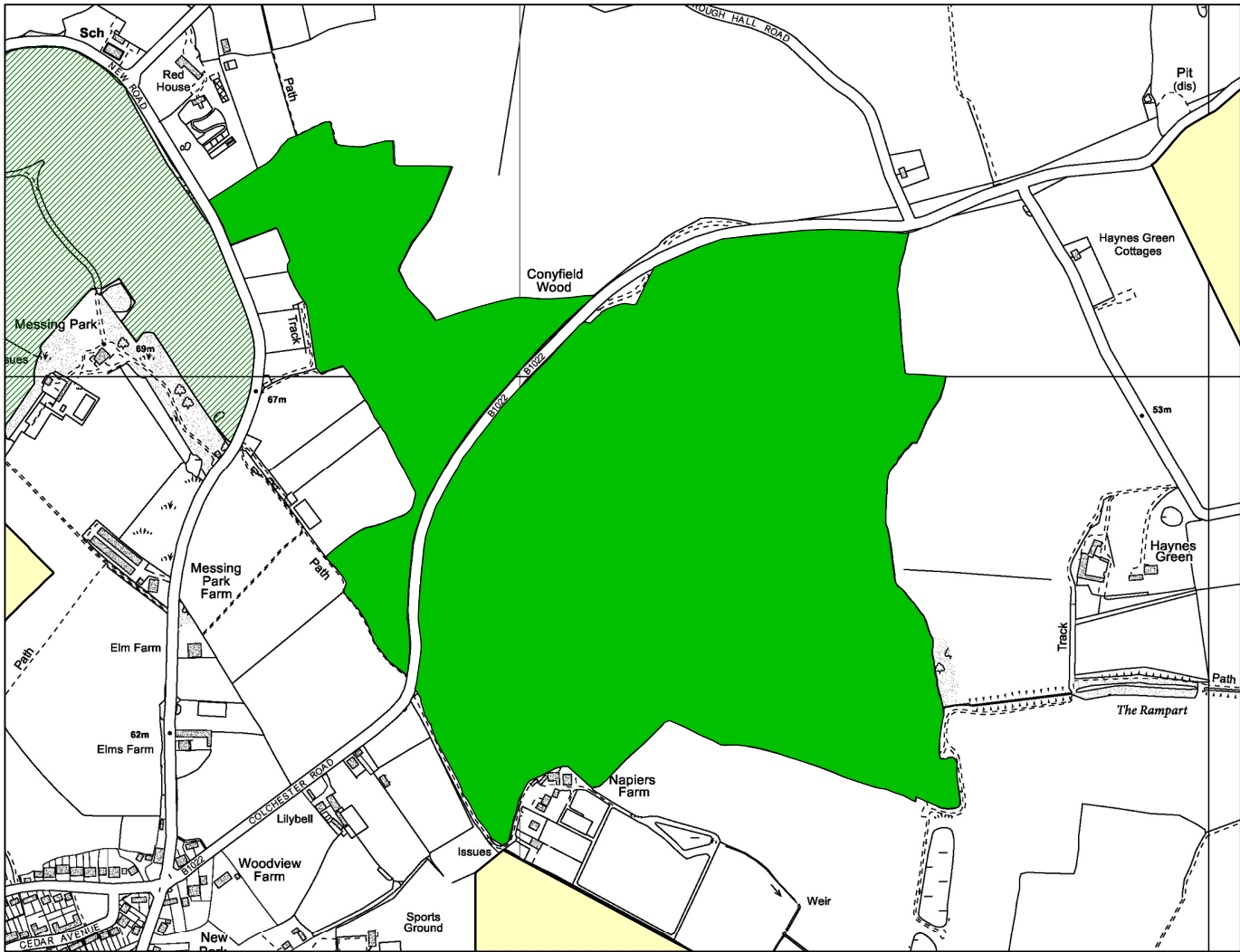
Although the intensive management reduces the prevalence of coarse grasses, the flora would benefit greatly from a less frequent cutting regime.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (minor reduction)

Co19 Pods and Conyfield Woods, Tiptree (61.2 ha) TL 902 177



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Conyfield Wood consists of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and birch (*Betula* sp.) with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Some Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *maritima*) remains from earlier coniferisation and there remain blocks of planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is well established in the northern part of the wood and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) are occasional around the edges.

The ground flora reflects the acidic soil, being characterised by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), although Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is dominant in most parts. Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) are also noteworthy amongst the ground flora. A pond towards the northern end supports a small population of Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*).

Pods Wood is an ancient Hornbeam coppice woodland previously extensively replanted with conifers including Scots (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Corsican Pine, with Hornbeam largely restricted to the periphery. Other broadleaved species present include Pedunculate Oak, Sweet Chestnut, elm and Beech. Parts of the woodland are dominated by dense birch and Bramble, where conifers have previously grown. The ground layer is most diverse along the network of rides and is typified by Bluebell, Wood Sage, Bracken, Bramble, Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Foxglove. Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) are found amongst areas of Hornbeam coppice. The north-eastern block has been cleared of its conifers and is now a valuable

additional habitat containing brash and Bramble scrub, scattered Hornbeam coppice, birch and Bluebell, Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Wood Sage.

Ownership and Access

It is understood that the site is in private ownership, but is leased and managed by the Forestry Commission. Both woods are crossed by one public footpath, but there are other, permissive footpaths that allow access to the majority of the site's area.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

Coneyfield Wood is considered to be ancient, as is the majority of Pods Wood, their boundaries not having changed in over 150 years. The Ancient Woodland Inventory shows a large, rectangular block in the northeast corner of Pods Wood not to be ancient, but it is unclear why this is the case.

Condition Statement:

Recovering

Management Issues

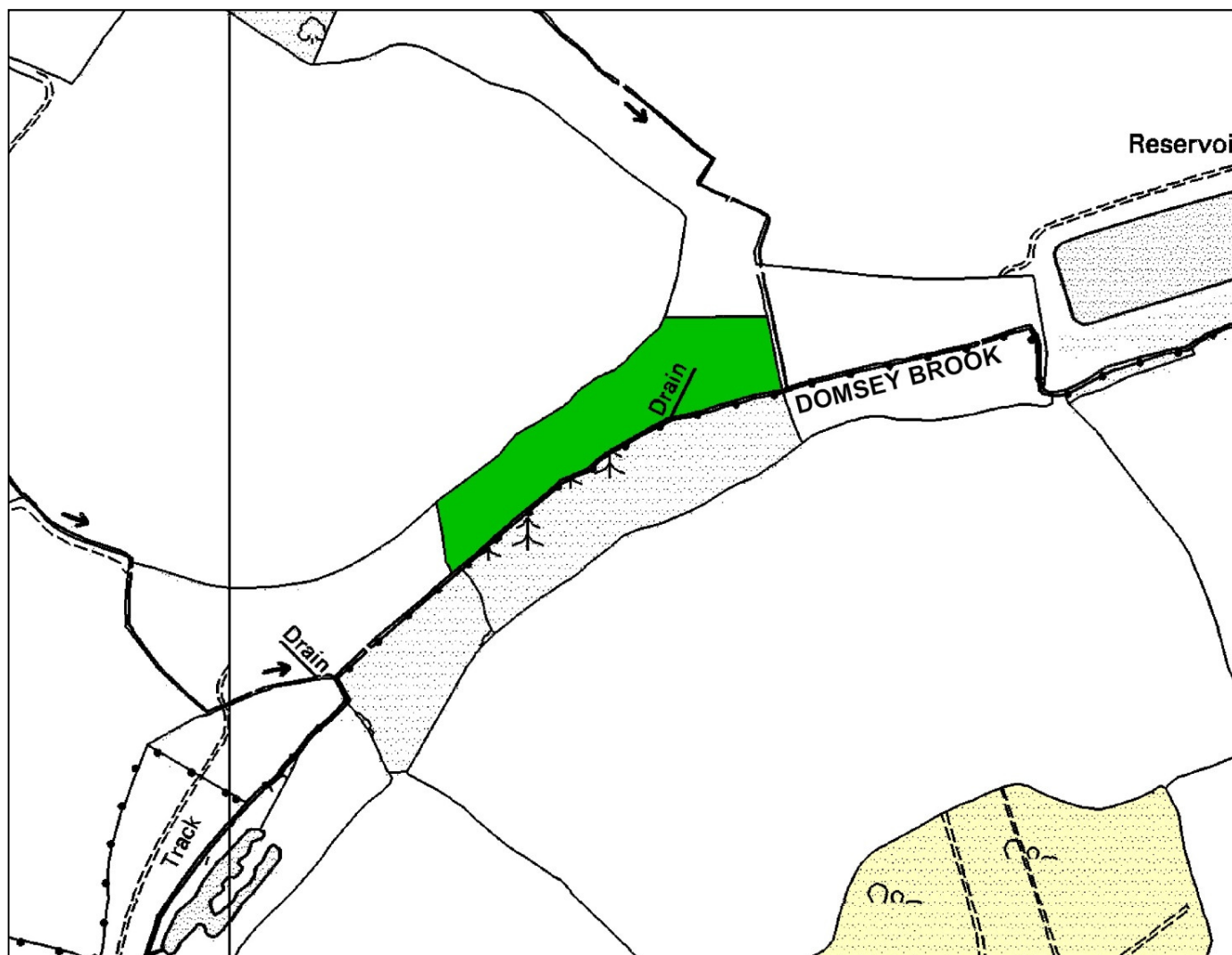
The wood is being actively managed and in the process being reverted to broad leaf composition, many of the pines having now been removed.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co20 Domsey Brook Pasture, Easthorpe (1.6 ha) TL 902206



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Located to the north side of Domsey Brook, the majority of this meadow is dry grassland with a sward including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). The most interesting area is in the vicinity of a drain where wet and waterlogged grassland supports two Essex Red Data List plants: Common Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) and Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*). In addition, Ragged-Robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*), a species also in decline within the county, is also found where the drainage is poor, alongside Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership and there is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

None

Selection criteria:

HC10 – River Floodplain

SC1 – Vascular Plants

Rationale:

The site represents a meadow in the floodplain of Domsey Brook, being at least in part seasonally inundated, hence the presence of damp grassland flora. The presence of significant populations of Common Meadow-rue and Common Sedge, albeit localised, justifies the Vascular Plants criteria.

Condition Statement:

Declining overall, but favourable in parts

Management Issues

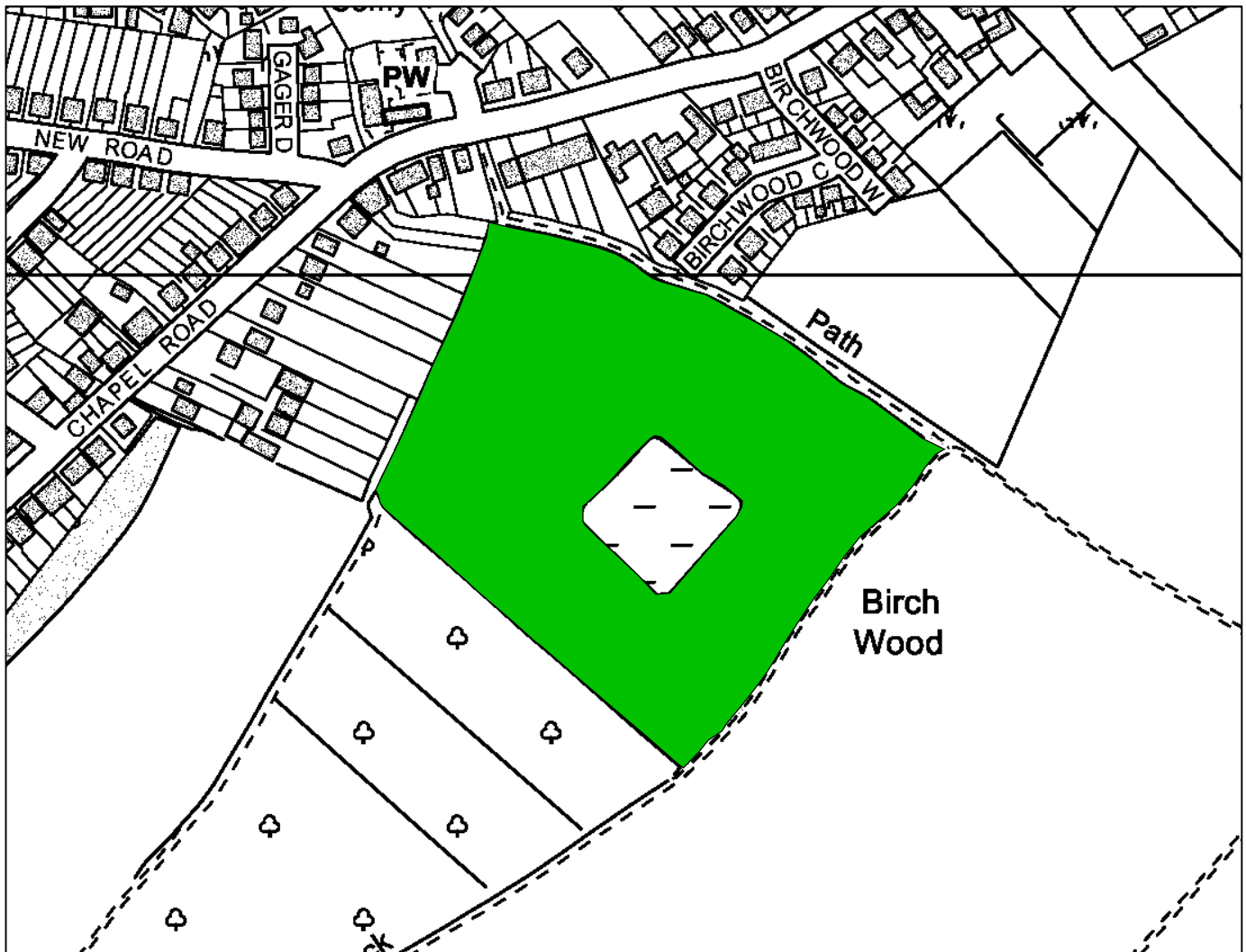
The current management regime is unknown, but is insufficient to control coarser grasses across the whole meadow. Grazing or low-intensity cutting, with the arisings removed, would improve grassland diversity, which is currently relatively herb poor. There are opportunities to expand the area of marshy grassland supporting Common Meadow-rue through sensitive water level management.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co21 Birch Wood, Tiptree (4.9 ha) TL 903158



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Birch Wood comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) standards with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. The southern corner contains Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with Hornbeam and elsewhere there are occasional Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). The understorey is generally sparse and is made up of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and, on the southeast bank of the reservoir, abundant Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The ground flora is generally poor, as is often the case with mature Hornbeam coppice, but does include Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). In a recently coppiced area, Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) is present.

The central reservoir is surrounded by scrub and supports limited marginal vegetation and so has been excluded from the Local Wildlife Site.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, but a public footpath runs along the northeast edge of the wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HCr1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

The wood is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

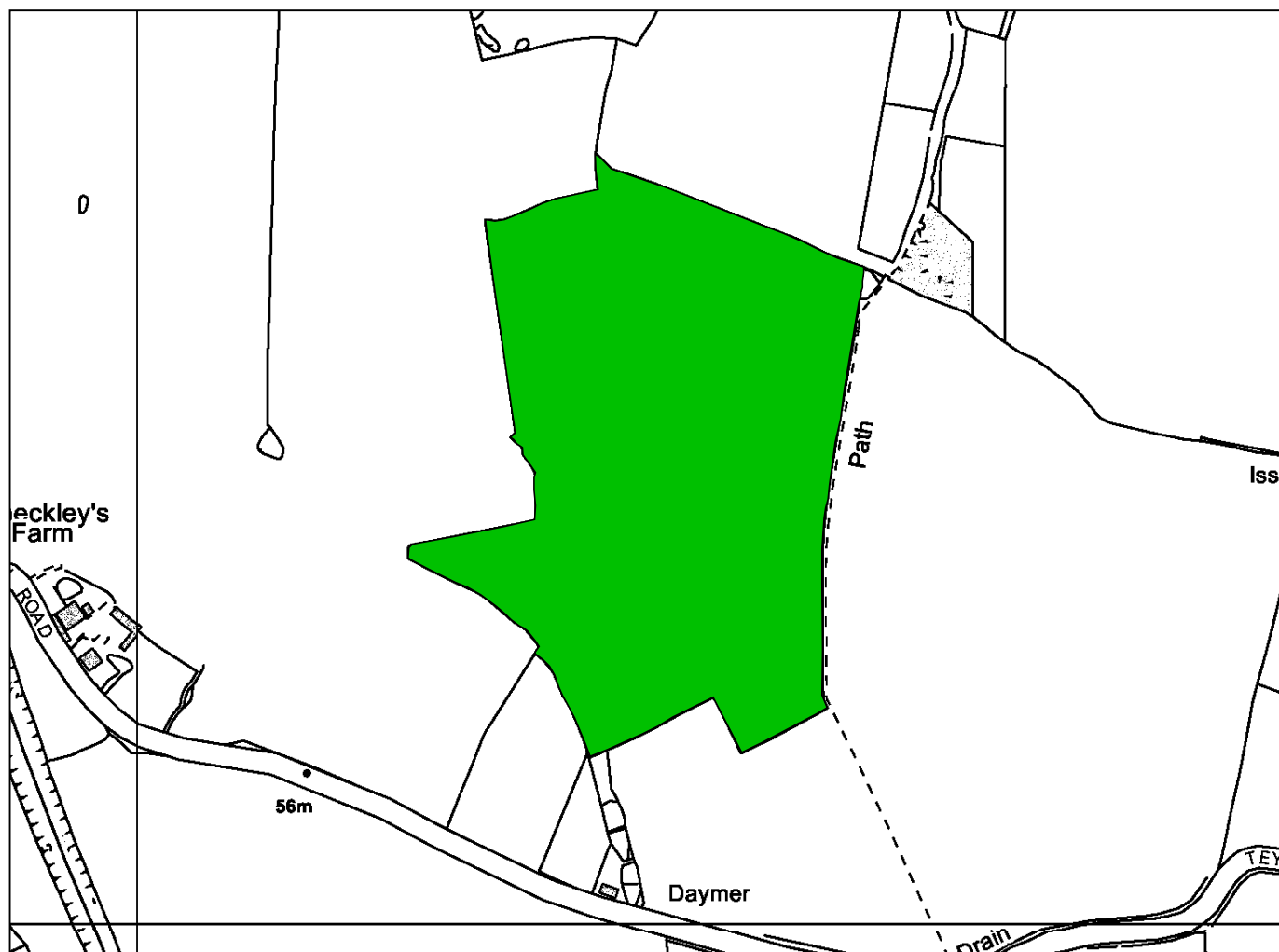
Coppicing has recently begun after an interval with no management, and the continuation of this practice should maintain the condition of the wood. There is a small amount of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) present and this should be removed before it spreads.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co22 Hoe Wood, Aldham (9.2 ha) TL 904264



Hoe Wood comprises Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice understorey, alongside some old Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice. The presence of Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) is of note.

The ground flora includes Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*).

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. There is no public access, although a public footpath runs along the eastern boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and supports several ancient woodland indicator plants.

Condition Statement:

Unmanaged

Management Issues

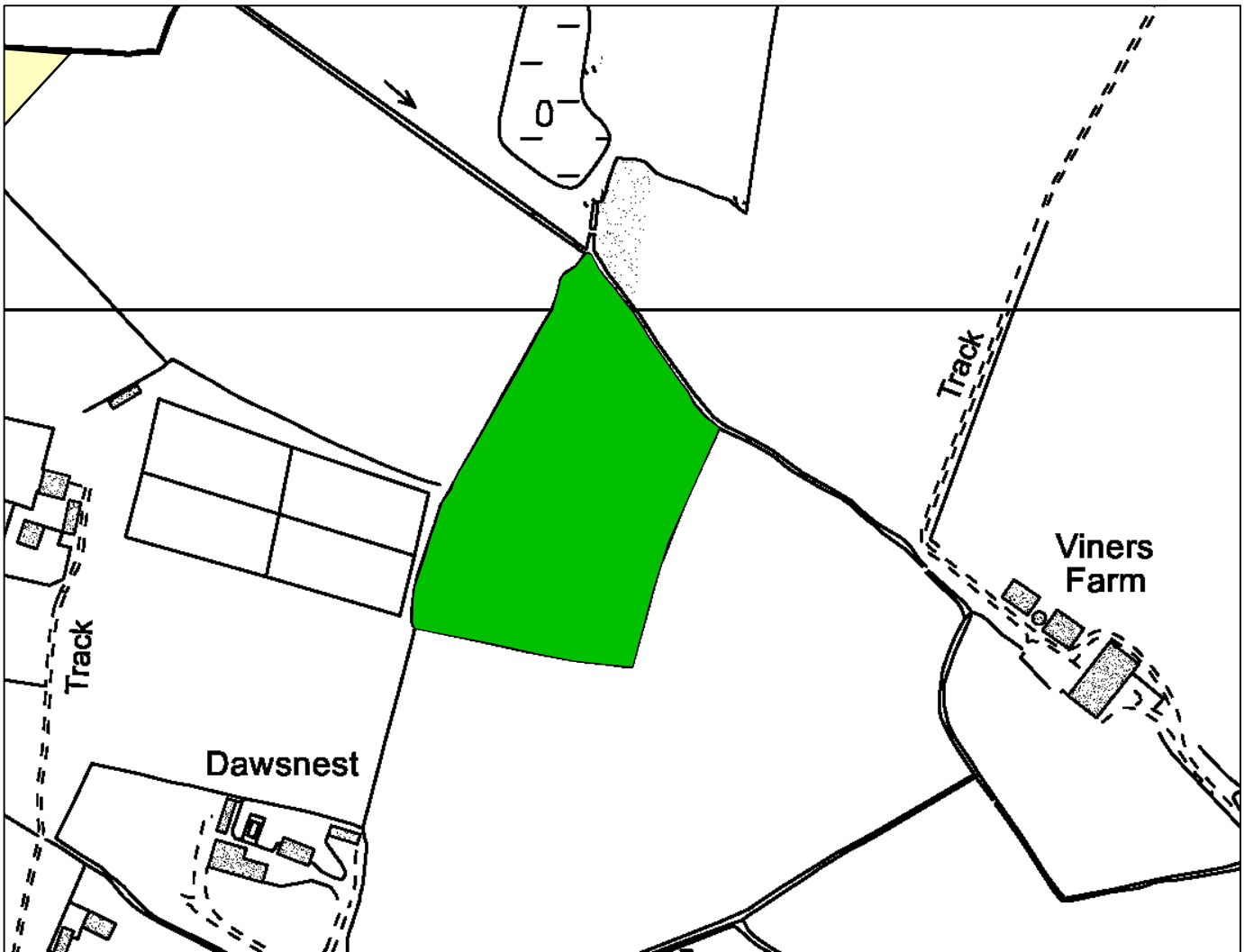
There is no active management of the wood at present, which would be advisable in the form of rotational coppicing, in order to maintain a favourable structure and floral diversity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)

Co25 Ransome's Grove, Tiptree (2.3 ha) TL 905168



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This ancient wood consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) can also be found in the canopy. The understorey includes Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) prominent along the northern edge.

The ground flora is relatively species-poor due to heavy shading, but does include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Broad Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). A small pond in the centre of the wood has become shaded and lacks marginal or aquatic vegetation.

Ownership and Access

The wood is in private ownership and there is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1

Rationale:

The wood is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, although there is little in the plant species composition to support this conclusion.

Condition Statement:

Moderate

Management Issues

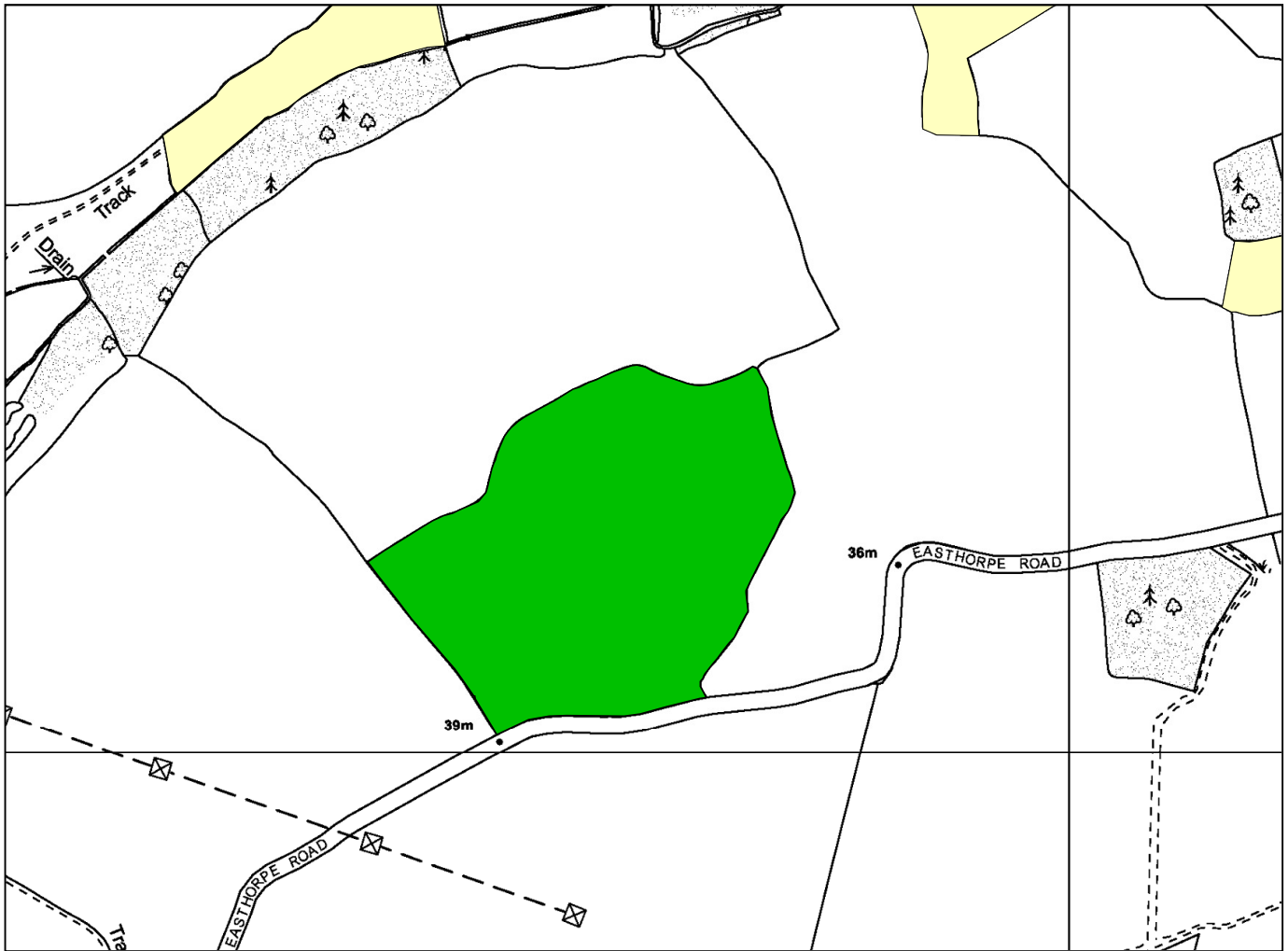
There are a few small, planted conifers within the wood and poplars (*Populus* sp.) on the northern edge and these non-native species should be removed to restore the wood to a more natural community.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co26 Fan Wood, Messing (8.7 ha) TL905201



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This ancient wood comprises elm (*Ulmus* sp.) with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) standards over Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The understorey also includes a large amount of regeneration largely comprising Ash, Hazel and elm saplings.

The ground flora is densely shaded and is typified by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Species of interest include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) as well as Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), which are found along some of the damp grassy rides.

Ownership and Access

The site is believed to be in private ownership. There is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

This main body of woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. The site includes a strip of modern scrub woodland adjacent to the road that forms a natural ecological extension to the main wood, hence the addition of HC2.

Condition Statement:

Neglected coppice

Management Issues

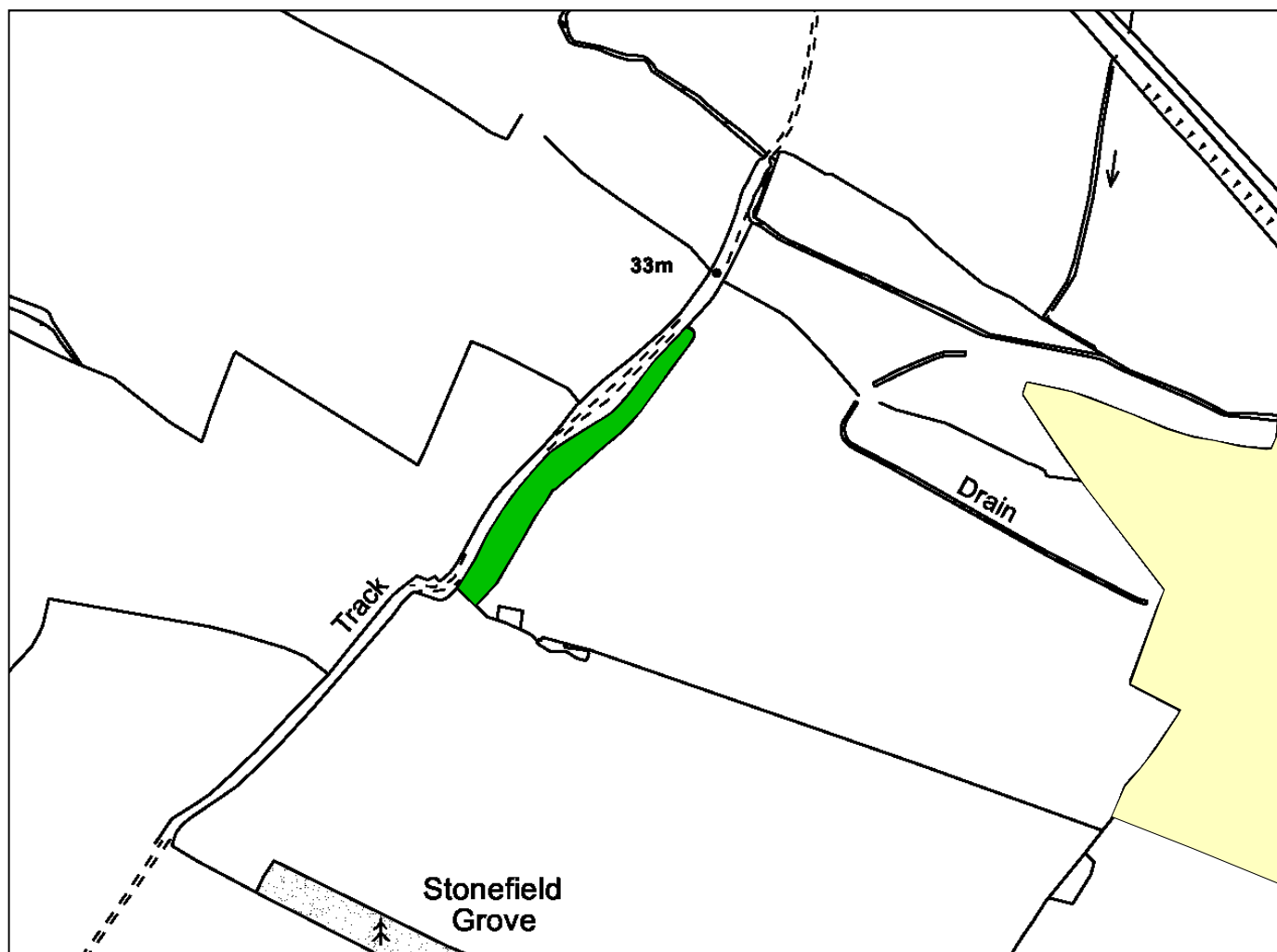
As with all old unmanaged woodlands, a resumption of coppicing would be beneficial to maintain the high biodiversity associated with ancient woodland sites. Areas of cluttered semi-mature oaks would benefit from some selective felling.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)

Co27 Stonefield Strip, Aldham (0.3 ha) TL 905245



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This narrow strip of woodland is dominated by tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) coppice in the canopy with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) forming a scattered shrub layer.

Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant throughout the ground flora, interspersed with patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), an indicator of ancient woodland, is also present.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. There is no public access, although a bridleway passes its western boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

Although this strip is too small to be listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, a strong wood bank and ditch on the west edge of the wood combined with the general woodland structure and flora allude to this being an ancient wood fragment.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

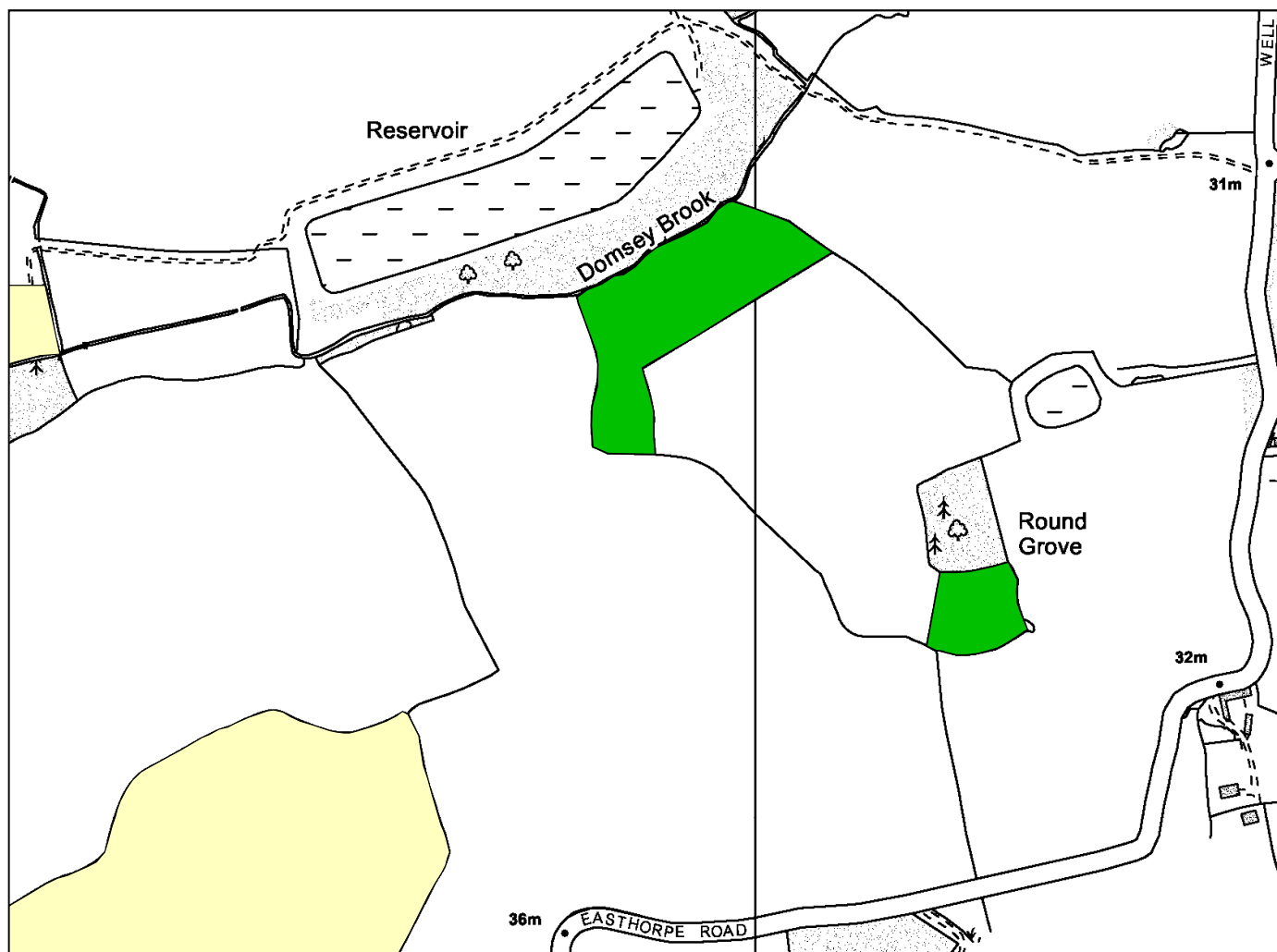
There are no particular management issues. This small, linear woodland has good structure and does not appear to require active management at present.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co29 Long/Round Grove, Messing (2.3 ha) TL 909 206



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These small woodlands are similar in character and in the past were probably linked as part of a larger woodland block. Both Long Grove and Round Grove have an Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) canopy with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) present in the dense understorey. Long Grove also contains some larger oak standards (*Quercus robur*) and Hazel coppice (*Corylus avellana*).

The ground flora in both woods includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), but is mainly rank with an abundance of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). Long Grove contains a greater number of species than the smaller Round Grove, including Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. There is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

SC1 – Vascular Plants

Rationale:

The woodlands do not appear to be ancient based on their structure and poor ground flora. However, these have been shown to be wooded since at least 1870s and are considered to match the description of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Habitat of Principal Importance in England.

Condition Statement:

Unfavourable

Management Issues

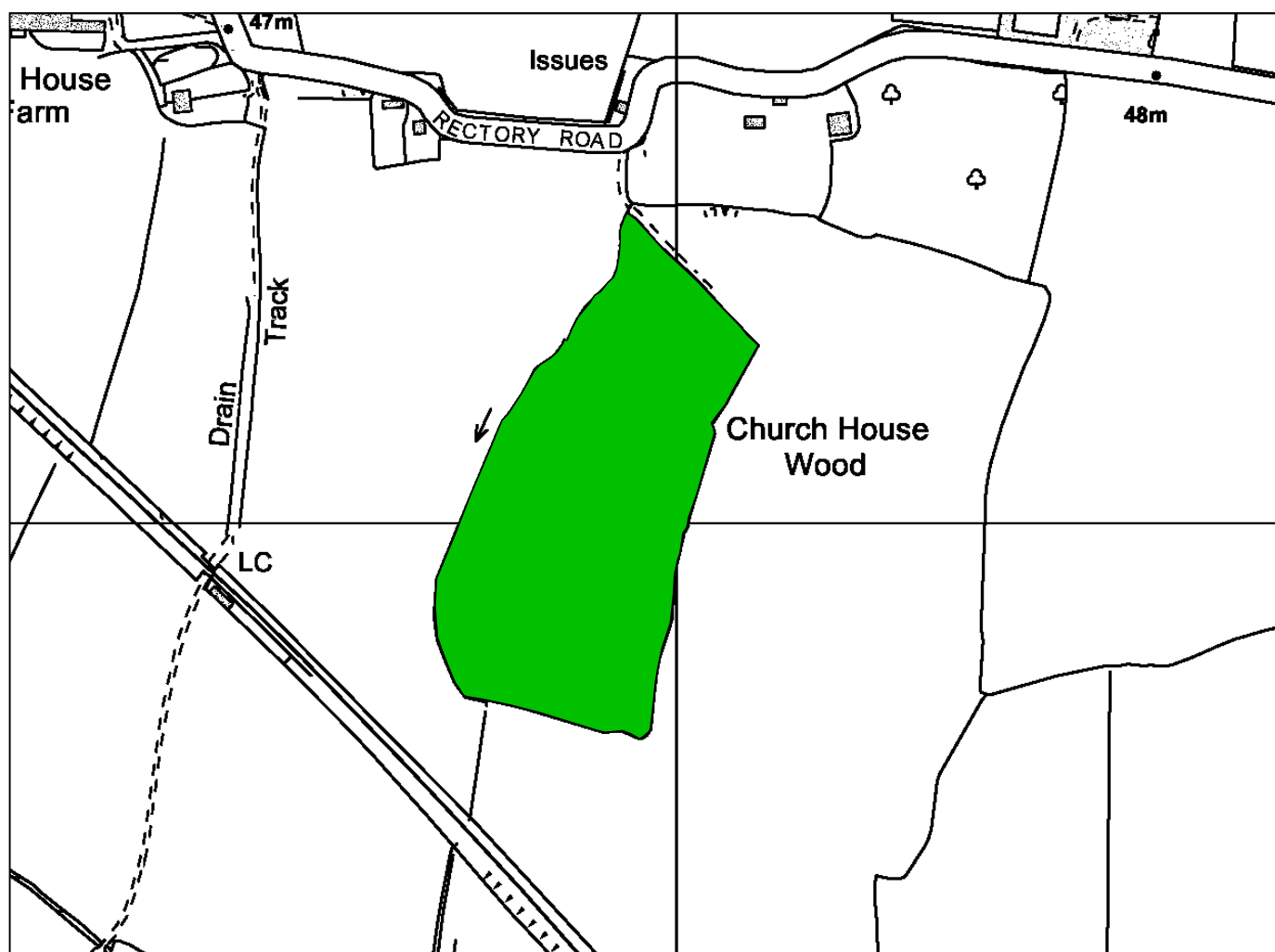
The woods are not currently managed and selective coppicing would benefit their structure and ground flora, but given the size of these woodlands, this should be limited. A large Pheasant enclosure within Long Grove is having a negative impact on structure and ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co30 Church House Wood, Aldham (3.6 ha) TL 908250



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Church House Wood has a mixed canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) with an understorey which includes Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*).

The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and has localised patches of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), which are in places succeeded by locally dominant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) later in the season. Other species recorded include Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), confined to the drier areas of the woodland, and Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) found in the damper locations.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. Public access is restricted to a central path leading from Rectory Road to the north.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and supports a small number of woodland indicator plants.

Condition Statement:

Unmanaged

Management Issues

There appears to be no active management of the wood at present, which would be advisable in order to maintain a favourable structure and floral diversity.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)

Co31 Marks Tey Brick Pit (9.0 ha) TL 910244



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This site has developed from low-intensity clay extraction over a period in excess of 100 years. This has resulted in a rich mosaic of brownfield wildlife habitats, including wet willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub woodland, marsh, open water habitats and flower-rich, sparsely vegetated ground.

Areas of open ground support a range of short perennials and other herbs such as Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Bristly Oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echinoides*) and Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). The low-lying centre of the quarry supports locally dominant willows (*Salix* spp.) alongside lush open areas of willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.), horsetails (*Equisetum* sp.), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*). There are patches of locally dominant Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) alongside Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*).

Adjacent higher banks support dense areas of Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with birch (*Betula* sp.) interspersed with Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*). Semi-mature woodland lies on the raised western ridge at the original ground level, with some large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with underlying Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

The brownfield invertebrate fauna includes the Nationally Rare (RDB3) Small Blue Carpenter-bee (*Ceratina cyanea*), which utilises old Bramble scrub and the flowers of ragwort whilst the numerous other banks of sand and clay across the upper parts of the site provide habitat for many other invertebrate groups. This Local Wildlife Site lies within a larger Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. There is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Wet Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

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

HC27 – Post-industrial Sites

Rationale:

This site has been selected on the basis of the mosaic habitat types that have become established on this post-industrial site, including wet willow scrub (HC3) and non-ancient Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (HC2) alongside vegetation growing on the nutrient-poor clay substrate. The presence of the Small Blue Carpenter-bee, an Essex Red Data List species, suggests that the Important Invertebrate Assemblages criteria (SC19) may be justified, although further surveys would be required to fully explore the invertebrate assemblage.

Condition Statement:

Favourable, declining

Management Issues

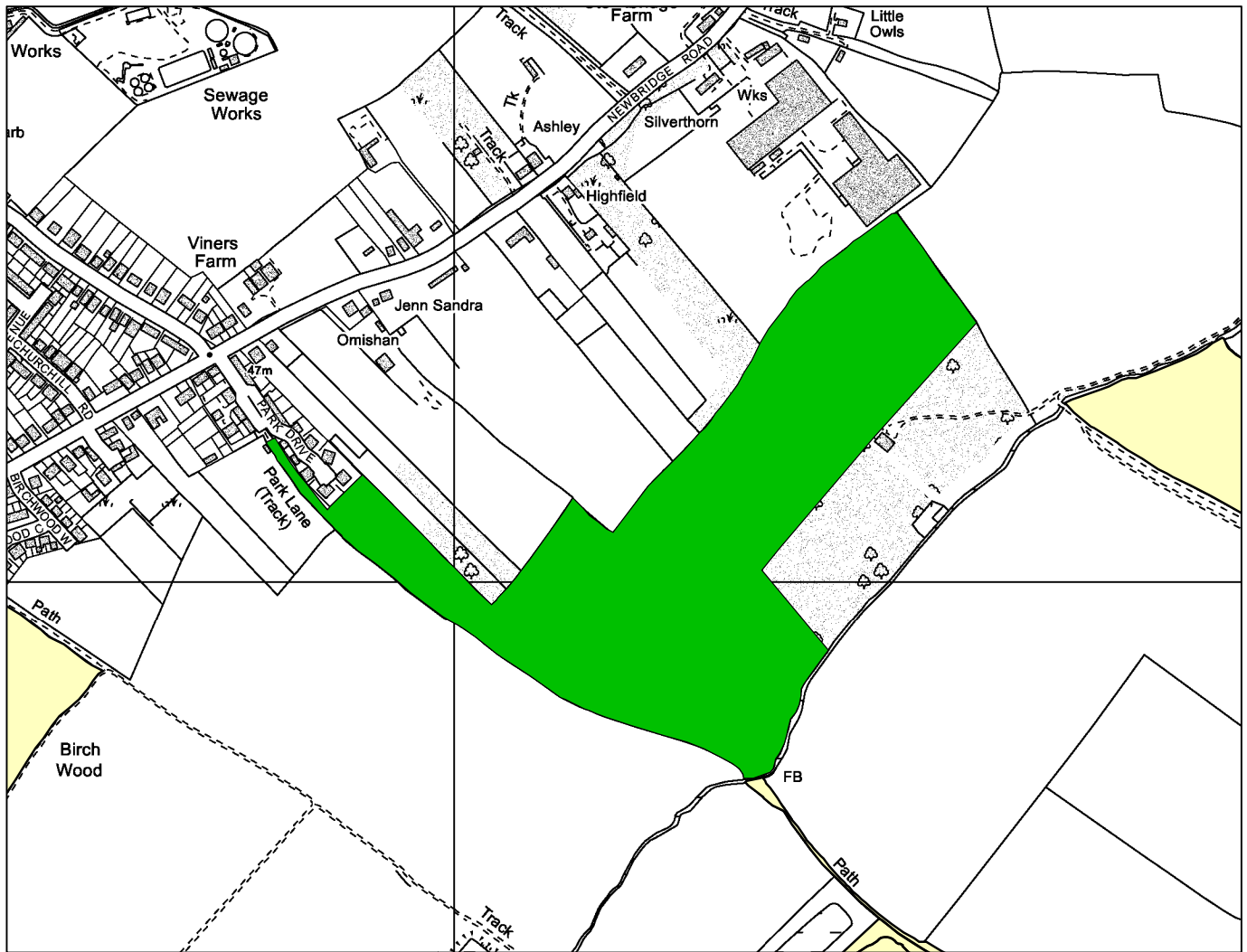
The site's condition is favourable, though inevitably declining through natural succession of its vegetation, in particular with increasing cover of willow, birch and Bramble scrub. Maintenance of open conditions with bare substrates is essential, which is already taking place at a localised level as fresh cutting of clay for small scale brick production still takes place. The site would benefit greatly from a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (no change)

Co32 Cadgers Complex, Tiptree (14.3 ha) TL 912160



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Cadgers Wood and the nearby Long Wood were once both part of the much larger Park Wood, illustrated on the 18th Century Chapman and Andre map. In the latter part of the 20th Century, part of Cadgers Wood was cleared and re-planted with broad-leaved trees, but this part is excluded from the LoWS. To the southwest of Cadgers Wood is the Park Lane Nature Reserve a mosaic of acid grassland, scrub and young oak woodland, and Park Lane itself, which is an old green lane.

Cadgers Wood

The canopy consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*). Other tree species include Aspen (*Populus tremula*), birch (*Betula* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The understorey is scattered and made up primarily of Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominating parts of the ground flora.

The ground flora is richest in the southern half where it includes abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) alongside Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) are found along the damp rides in the north-west. Recently coppiced areas include Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), with locally dominant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Park Lane Nature Reserve

This area of local amenity comprises tussocky grassland with scattered young Pedunculate Oak trees and Bramble thickets with dense Blackthorn scrub adjacent to Cadger's Wood. The grassland sward is grazed short in places by rabbits but is generally thick and lacking in flowers. Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) is abundant with Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). Herbaceous species include Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Compact Rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*), Trailing Tormentil (*Potentilla anglica*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*). Cuckooflower and Velvet Bent-grass (*Agrostis canina*), a scarce grass in Essex, have previously been recorded.

Park Lane

This ancient lane comprises mature hedge banks either side of the track with good structure and an assemblage of woody species, including both Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Pedunculate Oak, Hazel coppice (*Corylus avellana*), Ash, elm, Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The ground flora is mostly unremarkable, although Bluebell, Primrose, Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) are present. The lane continues over the district border into Maldon district and forms a woodland corridor linking a cluster of woodland Local Wildlife Sites.

Ownership and Access

Cadgers Wood is in private ownership and there is no public access. Park Lane Nature Reserve is owned and managed by Tiptree Parish Council and has open access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes
HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland
HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale:

Cadgers Wood is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, although a part of the site in the southern corner that was not cleared is omitted by mistake. Although not hugely diverse, the ground flora supports ancient status. Park Lane has ecological significance by virtue of its species composition, but also by linking other LoWS. The grassland of the Park Lane Nature Reserve is mostly acidic in character, with several key indicator species still present, and the Accessible Natural Greenspace criterion is used to include the remainder of the nature reserve, which is important for local amenity purposes.

Condition Statement:

Moderate

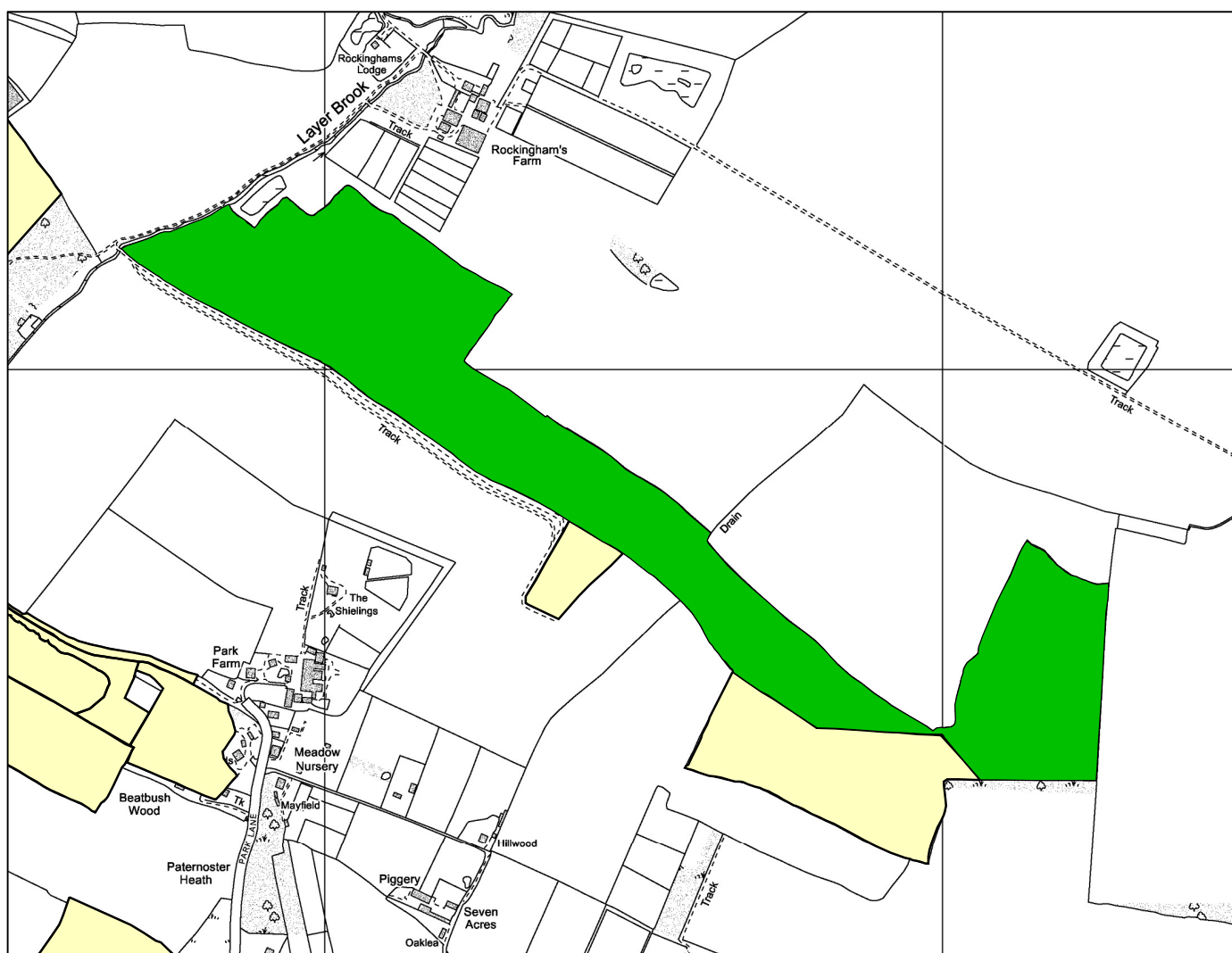
Management Issues

Cadgers Wood is being managed appropriately by coppicing, which should maintain the woodland communities present. The grassland of Park Lane Nature Reserve is being dominated by coarser species and invaded by scrub, both of which threaten its diversity. Spring and autumn cutting, with the cuttings removed will improve the grass, while some of the scrub oaks and bramble thickets should be removed to retain the balance in favour of open habitats.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991
Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (extended)

Co37 Long Wood, Tiptree (29.6 ha) TL 924158



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Long Wood includes the remains of a much larger ancient wood known as Park Wood, which is shown on the 18th Century Chapman and Andre map. Parts of the current woodland area lie across the border in Maldon District.

The canopy mostly consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) standards with Hornbeam coppice, including within the easternmost block. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) are also present with localised Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) coppice and occasional Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The understorey includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), but is generally sparse in areas of pure Hornbeam coppice. The edges of the wood support occasional Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Aspen (*Populus tremula*).

The ground flora includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*).

The eastern part of the main woodland strip, which is secondary woodland, is dominated by elm with Hawthorn scrub, some Ash and Oak and Bramble more dominant in the understorey. Damp rides in this part of the wood support Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) as well as the uncommon woodland moss *Thuidium tamariscinum*.

Ownership and Access

The wood is in private ownership, but it is crossed by a public footpath towards its western end.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

The whole wood is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, but maps from the second half of the 19th Century show that the eastern half of the site and the north, eastern block were open fields, so both woodland criteria are applied.

Condition Statement:

Largely favourable

Management Issues

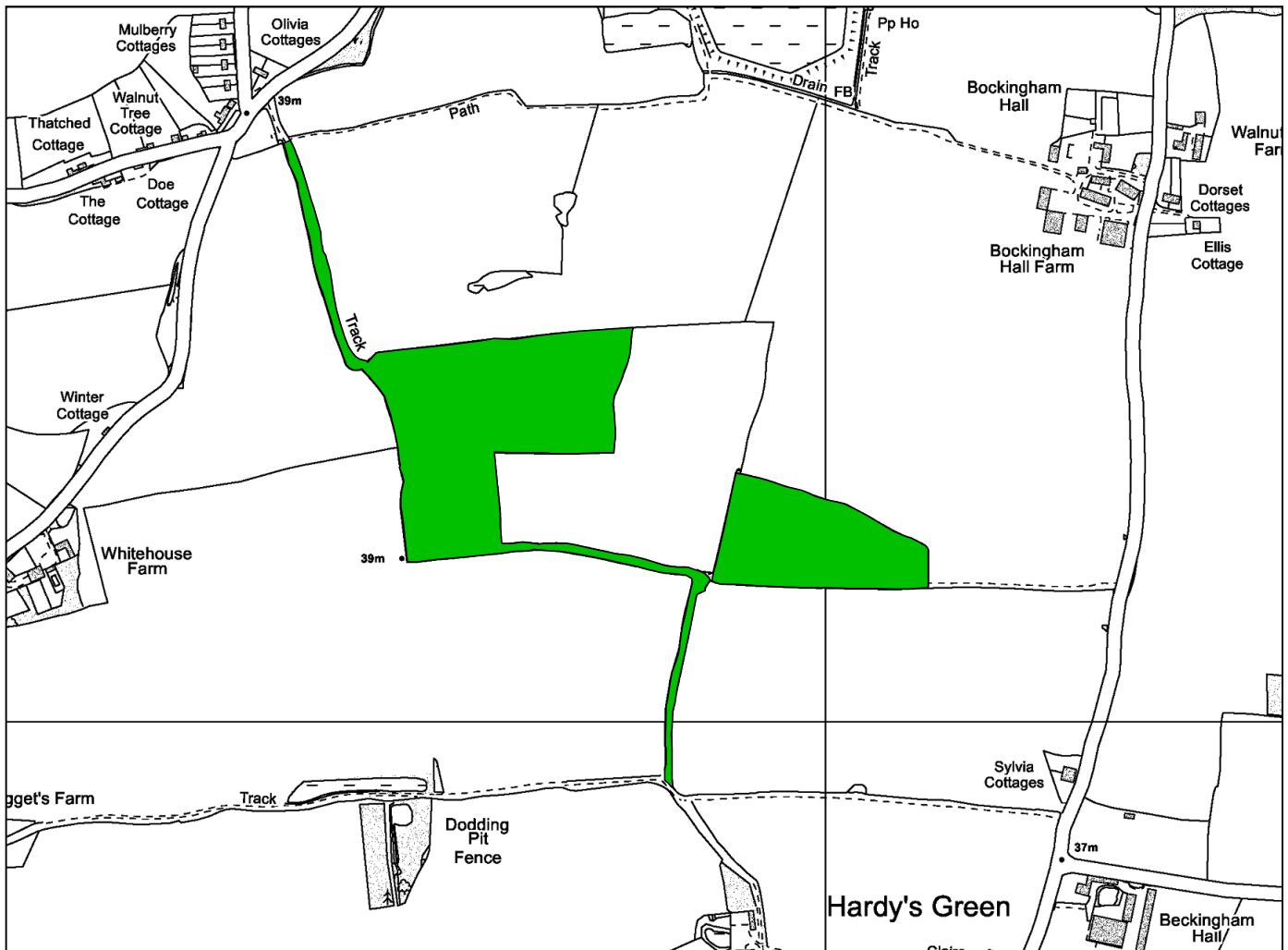
The wood is being managed, but large quantities of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are now present, especially in the central part of the site. This species should be removed in order to maintain natural, diverse woodland communities.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008, 2015 (no change)

Co38 Seller and Potash Woods and Lane, Birch (7.9 ha) TL 926213



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The ancient Potash Wood comprises Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards throughout. The canopy also includes Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and the open understorey contains Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. The ground cover is dominated by a carpet of Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) with frequent Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and some Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) growing along the eastern track. There is a large central Pheasant enclosure.

Seller Wood comprises Hornbeam coppice with Pedunculate Oak standards along with Ash, Field Maple, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Hazel. Replanting with conifers has occurred in two compartments, although a large eastern section has been cleared and left to the regeneration of broad-leaved woodland. The understorey is relatively sparse and includes Elder, Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). The ground flora includes abundant Bluebell and also Primrose, Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is locally abundant replacing Bluebell later in the season.

These two woods are linked by Seller Lane, comprising a former trackway now only passable along the section north of Seller Wood, the other two sections forming dense bands of scrub with standards and trees grown from coppice. The hedgerows include a number of woody species including Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hazel, Pedunculate Oak, Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). The ground flora is relatively limited but includes Bluebell and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*). Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) has also been recorded.

Ownership and Access

The site is believed to be in private ownership. Public access is limited to the 500 metre section of Seller Lane, which runs along the western side of Seller Wood.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Hedgerows

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites
HC8 – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

Rationale:

Both Potash and Seller Wood appear on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and support appropriate indicator species, although two compartments in Seller Wood have been replanted with conifers. The green lane supports a number of woodland indicators and provides a wildlife corridor that connects both woodlands, hence the inclusion of criteria HC8.

Condition Statement:

Declining overall, but favourable in parts

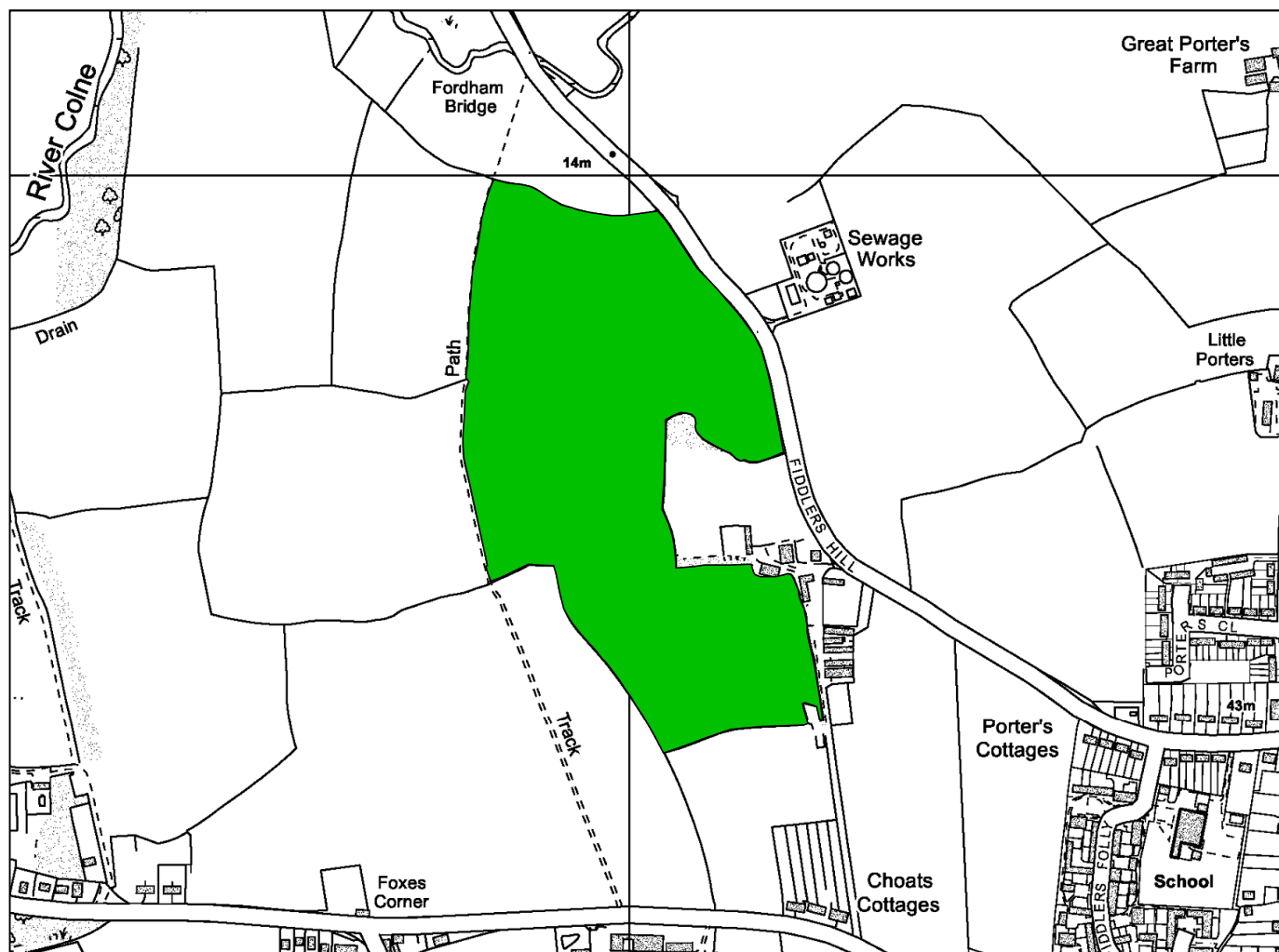
Management Issues

There has been some localised management but more selective felling and coppicing would be beneficial. Seller Wood would be improved by the removal of the remaining conifers, as well as control of Sycamore, which is becoming dominant in places within the northern portion. Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) should be removed from Potash Wood, as it can dominate the understorey to the exclusion of ground flora. A large Pheasant pen dominates the central portion of Potash Wood, and measures to minimise the impacts would help regeneration of the ground flora here.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991
Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)

Co43 Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green (11.0 ha) TL 929267



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This ancient wood comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with some planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and a scrub layer of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) dominates the central compartment.

The ground flora, though largely dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), includes areas where Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are abundant. Also present are Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and locally abundant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. A footpath runs outside the western periphery of this woodland, although there is no public access within the site.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

Rationale:

This woodland appears on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and supports a small number of associated indicator species.

Condition Statement:

Unmanaged, declining

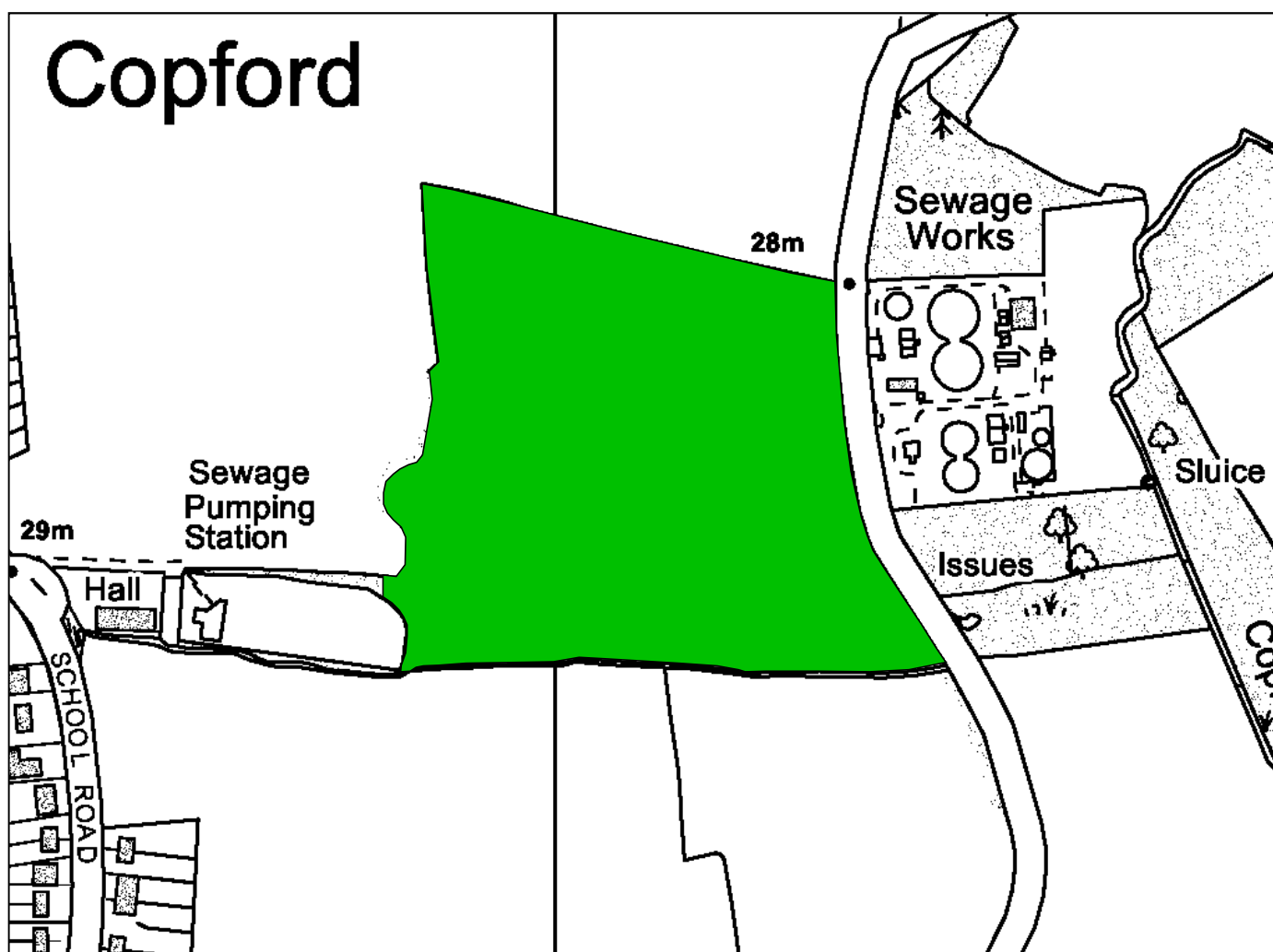
Management Issues

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) standards and regenerating saplings are becoming increasingly dominant to the north-west and the control of this locally non-native species, including both standards and spreading saplings, is a priority. The remainder of the wood would benefit from some selective felling and a resumption of coppicing to benefit the structure and promote diversity within the ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)



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Situated in old gravel pit workings, this wood has an undulating topography and sandy underlying substrate. It supports a diverse canopy and scrub composition with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), including some large standards, alongside Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) standing over Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice within the understorey.

The developing woodland flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominant on the higher banks to the woodland margins. Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) are found mostly near the woodland paths. Ponds forming in the hollows have a variety of marginal species including Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Cyperus Sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*).

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. There is public access via a footpath that crosses the wood diagonally, although an unofficial circular route is regularly frequented by dog walkers.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Rationale:

The site is not ancient, but satisfies the definition of the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Habitat of Principal Importance in England.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

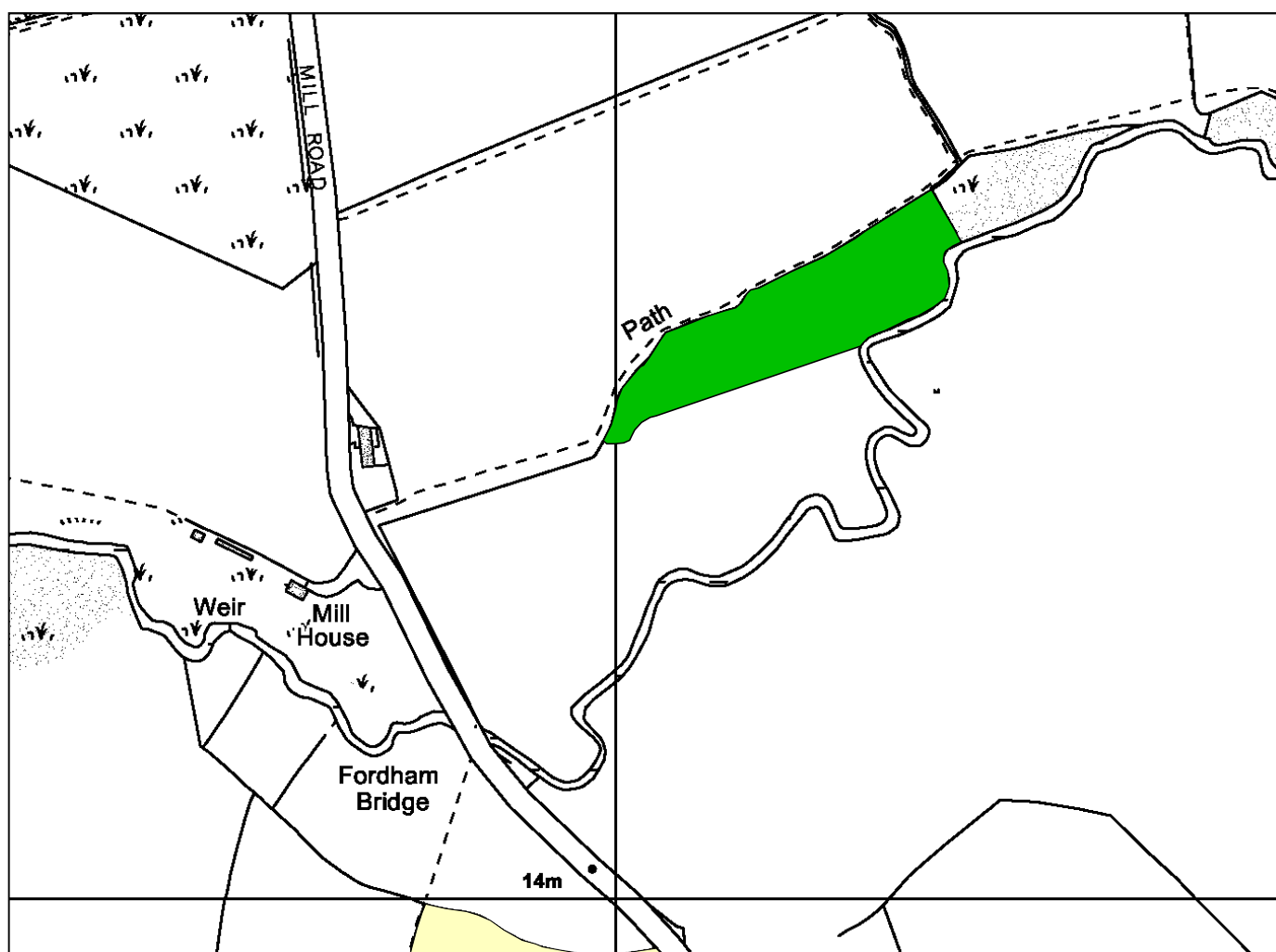
Selective coppicing would benefit the woodland structure, but given the relatively small size of the wood, this should be limited to targeted compartments. Some small scale planting has been carried out recently within the north-eastern corner of the wood.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)

Co45 Fordham Bridge Meadow, Fordham (1.4 ha) TL 930272



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This grassland by the River Colne is part of the extensive Fordham Hall Estate, now owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. This site supports swamp habitat within the river floodplain with stands of Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*) each locally dominant in a matrix of wet grassland.

Of most significance, are the large stands of Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), a notable species which is now uncommon in the Essex countryside due to loss of wetland habitat. Herbaceous species found within the site include Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*).

Ownership and Access

The Woodland Trust own and manage the site. There is public footpath to the north of the site. An open stile provides access to the hay meadow to the south.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Lowland Fens

Selection criteria:

HC14 – Lowland Fen Vegetation

Rationale:

The diverse stands of vegetation within this floodplain site represent an increasingly scarce habitat type that is consistent with the Lowland Fens Habitat of Principal Importance in England.

Condition Statement:

Favourable, unmanaged

Management Issues

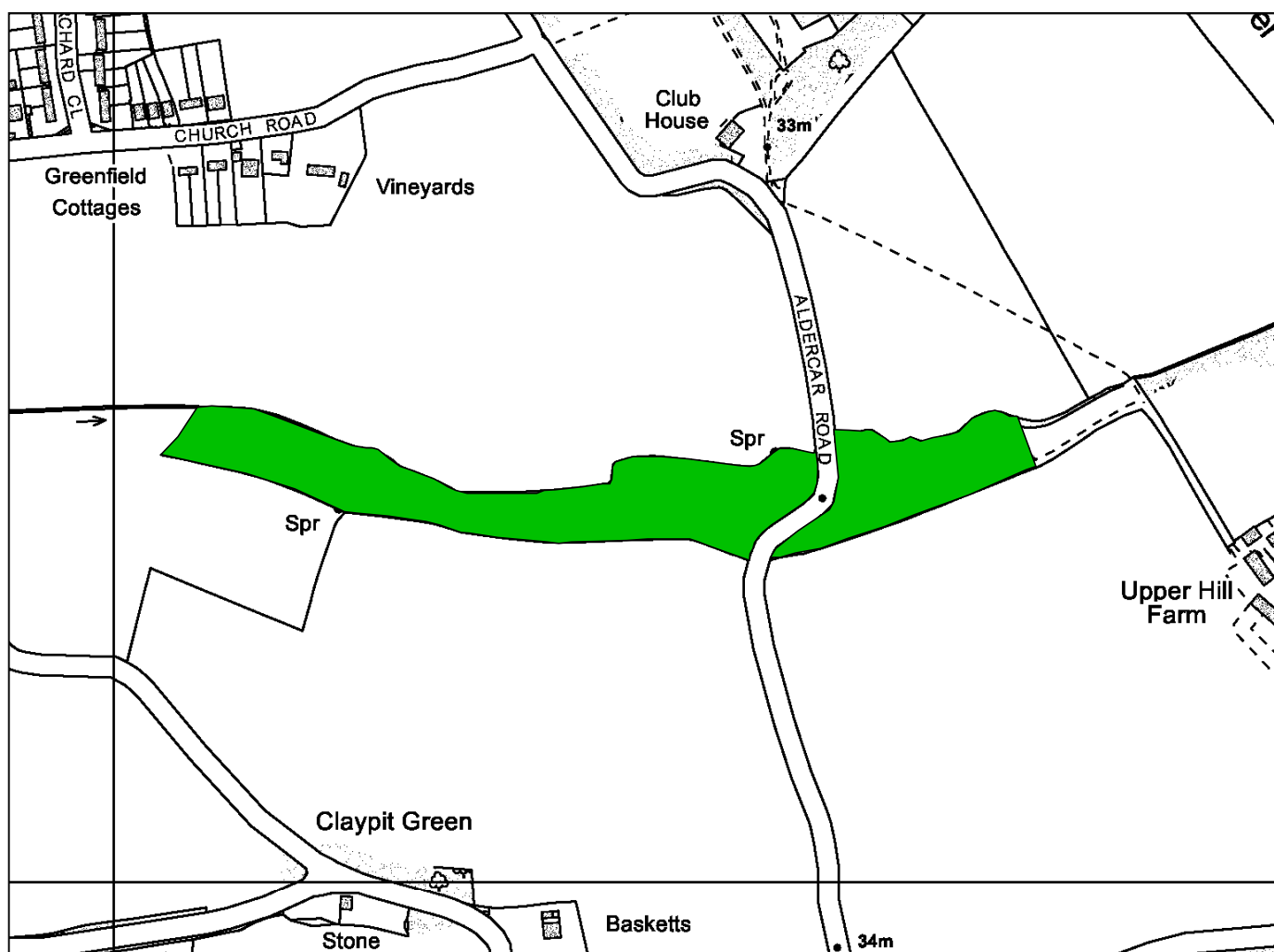
Hydrology is key to retaining the damp, periodically inundated conditions, and this should be monitored to ensure the diverse associated plant assemblage is maintained. Otherwise, non-intervention is largely appropriate. There are opportunities to expand the wetland habitat into the improved meadow to the south which itself previously formed part of the Local Wildlife Site.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2008

Reviewed: 2015 (Reduced)

Co46 Aldercar, Copford (3.4 ha) TL 931223



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Stands of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) wood are scarce in Essex, thus making this streamside wood of considerable interest.

Some old Alder coppice exists, along with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) on higher ground.

The marshy ground flora is of interest for the extensive cover of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), as well as less frequent Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*). On higher ground the diverse ground flora includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) with Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*) in the low shrub layer.

The western portion contains open willow carr supporting tall herbs such as Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and willowherbs (*Epilobium* sp.), as well as Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*).

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership. There is no public access.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England:

Wet Woodland

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection criteria:

HC1 – Ancient Woodland

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

SC1 – Vascular Plants

Rationale:

The woodland does not appear on the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Essex, but the diverse ground flora and presence of large Alder coppice stools would strongly suggest the site is at least in part ancient. The Alder and willow carr represents wet woodland which satisfies the HC3 criteria. The criteria SC1 is included due to the large population of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage, an Essex Red Data List species.

Condition Statement:

Favourable

Management Issues

The current management regime appears to be maintaining the site's ecological interest. A general non-intervention policy would be appropriate within the sensitive marshy areas of Aldercar.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2008; 2015 (no change)