

RAMSAR

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Wetlands are designated, protected and promoted in order to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands, which are broadly defined to include marsh, fen, peatland and water.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation are sites designated by Member States under the EC Habitats Directive. The aim is to establish a European network of important high quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving habitats and species considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level.

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Special Protection Areas are designated under the EC Birds Directive, to conserve the habitat of certain rare or vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory birds. Any significant pollution or disturbance to or deterioration of these sites has to be avoided.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

National Nature Reserves are statutory reserves established for the nation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. NNRs may be owned by relevant national body (e.g. Natural England in England) or established by agreement; a few are owned and managed by non-statutory bodies. NNRs cover a selection of the most important sites for nature conservation in the UK.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are areas notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as being of 'special interest for nature conservation'. They represent the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in Great Britain supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features. Notification as a SSSI is primarily a legal mechanism organised by Natural England and selected according to specific criteria. The *Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSIs*, published in 1989 by the Joint Nature Conservancy Council, set down the selection criteria for both biological and geological SSSIs.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Land owned, leased or managed by Local Authorities and designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. A site of some nature conservation value managed for educational objectives - no need for SSSI status. Some reserves are managed by a non-statutory body. Local authorities have the power to pass bylaws controlling (e.g.) access, special protection measures.

Statutory Sites

Site Name	Status	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Distance (m)
None				

Ancient woodland

Ancient Woodland is land that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and has only been cleared for underwood or timber production. It can be placed in two categories:

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) – woodland that retains a native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. This covers all stands of ancient woodland which do not obviously originate from planting.

Ancient replanted Woodland (AWS - ancient woodland site or PAWS - plantation on ancient woodland site) – woodland where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers and usually this century.

Ancient Woodland Inventory Sites

Site Name (where known)	Grid Reference	Category	Area (ha)	Distance (m)
NINE ACRE WOOD	TL279062	PAWS	4.89	690
GREAT/BROOMBARN WOODS	TL276048	PAWS	8.48	990

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

File Code	Site Name	Area (ha)	Distance (m)
None			

Local Wildlife Site / Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites designated at a county level as being of conservation importance and often recognised in Local authority development plans. The aim of this identification is to protect such sites from land management changes, which may lessen their nature conservation interest, and to encourage sensitive management to maintain and enhance their importance. Although WS have no statutory protection they need to be considered in the planning process through Planning Policy Guidance like PPG9 which refers to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Section 30. This states that nature conservation issues should be included in the surveys of local authority areas to ensure that the plans are based on fully adequate information about local species, habitats, geology and landform. Plans should be concerned not only with designated areas but also with other land of conservation value and the possible provision of new habitats.

Local Wildlife Sites

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Ratified	Description	Distance (m)
70/00 1	Hornbeam Lane (Wildhill)	TL275062	3.23	1997	Green lane bordered by a mixed species-rich hedgerow, dominated by Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>), including some ancient coppiced and pollarded Hornbeams. Other woody species present are Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>), Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>) and Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>). The ground flora is moderately diverse and supports some ancient woodland indicators including Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Giant Fescue (<i>Festuca gigantea</i>), Hairy-brome (<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>) and Wood Meadow-grass (<i>Poa nemoralis</i>). Occasional grassy patches are present with some wet areas where the Essendon Brook crosses under the lane. Wildlife Site criteria: Wooded green lane with features and structure indicative of ancient origins; woodland indicators.	450
70/00 9	Warren Wood	TL268062	3.15	1997	Ancient semi-natural Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) coppice-with-standards woodland with a good diversity of tree and shrub species including some Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) plus Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>), Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>) and English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>). A number of species have been planted including Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), Horse-chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>), pines (<i>Pinus</i> spp.) and spruces (<i>Picea</i> spp.). The ground flora supports woodland indicators including Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Giant Fescue (<i>Festuca gigantea</i>), Wood Sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>), Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) and Common Dog-violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>). Some Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) and Pendulous Sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>) are also recorded. The woodland boundary has some bank and ditch features with a coppiced Hornbeam hedge. A pond in the wood adds to the habitat diversity. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient woodland with a semi-natural canopy and field evidence suggesting an ancient origin; shown on Bryant (1822); woodland indicators.	150
70/01 0	Kentish Lane Farm Wood (N.E.)	TL267054	3	1997	Ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland with coppice-with-standards Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) and Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)/Pedunculate Oak with Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>). Hazel coppice	440

	of Brookmans Park)				is prominent below. The ground flora supports several woodland indicators but is typically sparse below the Hornbeam. Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) is common plus species such as Bugle (<i>Ajuga reptans</i>), Pendulous Sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>), Enchanter's Nightshade (<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>), Sanicle (<i>Sanicula europaea</i>) and Wood Sage (<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>) have also been recorded. Numerous small streams and ditches, a pond and marshy area add to the habitat diversity. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient woodland with a semi-natural canopy and field evidence suggesting an ancient origin; shown on Bryant (1822); woodland indicators.	
70/01 2	Nine Acre Wood (N.W. of Newgate Street)	TL279062	7.72	1997	Ancient semi-natural woodland composed predominantly of Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) coppice with standards of Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and the occasional Hornbeam. Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) is frequent and there is some Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) coppice. The ground flora supports ancient woodland indicators and is typically Wood Meadow-grass (<i>Poa nemoralis</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>). An old bank is present along the southern boundary. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site; woodland indicators.	610
70/01 6	Wildhill Meadows	TL262066	6.24	1997	Mosaic of damp, old acid/neutral grasslands separated by a stream, ditches and defunct hedgerows. The grassland is semi-improved to unimproved in character and supports a good diversity of species. Species of drier grassland include Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>), Sneezewort (<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>), Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>), Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>), Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), Upright Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>) and Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>). Lady's Smock (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>) Marsh Thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>) and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>) imply wetter conditions. Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus hederacea</i>), an uncommon species, has been recorded beside one of the ditches. Wildlife Site criteria: Grassland indicators.	950
70/04 9	Panther's Wood	TL274070	4.68	1997	Ancient semi-natural Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) coppice woodland with a few Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) standards scattered throughout. Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) and Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) are also present in the canopy. The ground flora supports woodland indicators including Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>),	980

					Wood Meadow-grass (<i>Poa nemoralis</i>), Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>), Wood Anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>) and Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>). The wood boundary supports some remnant banks with laid Hornbeams. An incised watercourse (Essendon Brook) is present within the south-west edge of the wood. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient woodland with some semi-natural canopy and field evidence suggesting an ancient origin; woodland shown on Bryant (1822); >1 ha; woodland indicators.	
70/05 3	Woodfield Lane Roadside Verge	TL276059	3.09	1997	Linear semi-natural broadleaved woodland, bordering a road, supporting predominantly Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) standards and Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) standards and coppice along with a good mix of other species. The ground flora supports woodland indicators such as Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Hairy-brome (<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>), Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), Three-nerved Sandwort (<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>) and Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>). Wildlife Site criteria: Wooded green lane with features and structure indicative of ancient origins; woodland indicators.	300
70/08 0	Chestnut Farm Meadows	TL272060	10.66	1997	A series of predominantly species-rich unimproved neutral to somewhat acidic grassland with damp areas. The damp areas support the richest flora with typically Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>), Meadow Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>), rushes (<i>Juncus</i> spp.) and sedges (<i>Carex</i> spp.). Colonies of Cowslips (<i>Primula veris</i>) have been recorded near to the northern boundary. Mixed species scrub is scattered across the site. Wildlife Site criteria: Grassland indicators.	0
70/09 0	Wildhill nr Camfield Farm	TL267068	0	1997	Buildings and environs important for protected species. Wildlife Site criteria: Species.	870
79/00 5	Coldharbour Plantation & Broombarns Wood	TL278049	28.38	1997	This site has been left as a result of removing SSSIs from Wildlife Sites. It will be reviewed in 2011 once survey data and a site assessment have been carried out. Wildlife Site criteria: Buffers an SSSI.	960

Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Site (RIGS)

Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites are non-statutory earth science sites. The RIGS networks are locally based voluntary groups drawing on both professional and interest groups identifying sites using a methodical and rational approach. RIGS are analogous to non-statutory biological sites - they are not a second tier but sites of regionally or local importance in their own right.

RIGS

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Distance (m)
None				

Veteran & Mature Trees from HERC database

Record No	Tree Species	Survey Date	Girth (cm)	Site Name	Site Address	Context	Eastings	Northings	Distance (m)
33	Hornbeam	199902 15	210	Barnfield	Westbrook Hay	PS, Pasture	527900	205950	810
34	Other conifers	199902 15	420	Barnfield	Westbrook Hay	PS, Pasture	527900	205570	880