

### Old Park Wood, Iden Green Local Wildlife Site

This Local Wildlife Site consists of 162 ha of formerly ancient mixed broadleaved woodland and heathland. Large areas of the site have been converted to chestnut coppice or conifer plantation but 45 ancient woodland indicator plant species have been recorded from the site. Occasional relict woodbanks are also present.

The most interesting areas of the site, supporting a richer flora, occur where the original broadleaved woodland is still present, along the sides of streams at the southern and western edges. A variety of tree species grow including sessile and pedunculate oaks with sweet chestnut, hornbeam and hazel coppice. The understorey includes downy birch, guelder rose and Midland hawthorn.

At the southern end, in the floodplain, alder and ash occur and the ground flora includes several ancient woodland indicator species along with large bitter-cress <sup>1</sup> *Cardamine amara* and marsh violet <sup>1</sup> *Viola palustris*.

A loss of interest has occurred on the plateau because many of the rides have been widened, metalled and drained. However, occasional small damp patches occur, containing sphagnum mosses and some county scarce plant species. Some drier un-surfaced rides are edged with heathland species including green ribbed sedge <sup>1</sup> *Carex binervis*.

An area of rich alder carr is found at the north of the west side of the complex, at Knights Hole. A narrow semi-improved horse paddock separates the carr from Old Park Wood.

The site supports an excellent fungus flora and over 70 species of bryophyte reflecting the range of soil types present.

<sup>1</sup> County Scarce Plants. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.

For more detailed information please contact Kent Wildlife Trust for copy of the citation for TW05 – Old Park Wood, Iden Green.

