

KENT WILDLIFE SITES

Local Wildlife Site		Site Ref. No:	SW04
Site:	Cromer's Wood	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 908604
LPA:	Swale	Natural Area:	North Downs
Parish:	Tunstall/Rodmersham	AONB:	No
Owner:	Kent Wildlife Trust	SLA:	Yes
Category:	Woodland, standing water	TPO:	
Area:	27.22 ha	Protected species:	Yes
First notified:	1985		
Last revised:	February 2005		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This site consists of 28 ha of ancient woodland with a rich and intact ground flora, and which is actively managed for nature conservation.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary follows the boundary of the woodland.

DESCRIPTION

Ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland with few standard trees is situated on the south-eastern slope of a dry, dip-slope valley south of Highsted. The woodland contains a network of paths, rides and glades.

On the lowest slopes, where soils are richer, hornbeam, ash, hazel and field maple coppice is present. Most of the upper slopes and plateau have been converted to sweet chestnut. Ash and hornbeam also occur in damper depressions on high ground. Traditional coppice management is carried out throughout much of the woodland

The ground flora is rich, particularly on the lower slopes, with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, bluebell ¹ *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*. A number of orchid species include pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, fly orchid *Ophrys insectifera*, early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and lady orchid ^{2,3} *Orchis purpurea*. 30 ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded, including herb-paris *Paris quadrifolia*, butcher's-broom *Ruscus aculeatus*, Solomon's-seal ² *Polygonatum multiflorum*, wood spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides* and spurge laurel *Daphne laureola*.

A large, recently-enlarged pond is an important frog and toad breeding site and adds to the interest of the site.

The ornithological interest is high, with a total of 63 species having been recorded recently. Breeding species include turtle dove ^{4,5,6,7}, green woodpecker ⁸, great spotted woodpecker,



duncock ^{8,9}, blackbird ⁹, song thrush ^{4,5,6,7}, mistle thrush ^{8,9}, willow warbler ^{8,9}, marsh tit ^{4,6} and bullfinch ^{4,5,7}. Other species present include stock dove ⁸, lesser spotted woodpecker ^{4,6,10}, grey wagtail ^{8,11}, goldcrest ^{6,8}, spotted flycatcher ^{4,5,6,7}, starling ^{4,6}, house sparrow ^{4,6,10}, linnet ^{4,5,6,7} and yellowhammer ^{4,6,10}. Birds of prey include kestrel ^{8,9}, hobby ¹ and sparrowhawk, while fieldfare ^{1,8,12}, redwing ^{1,8,12}, cuckoo ^{8,9}, swallow ⁸ and house martin ⁸ are seasonal visitors.

There is a good fungus diversity, with at least 63 species having been recorded recently, including the uncommon *Faerberia carbonaria* ⁷. *Geastrum fornicatum* ¹³ and *Cerrana unicolor* ¹³ have been recorded previously.

Rare micro-lepidoptera characteristic of ancient woodland have been recorded from the site, in addition to a range of common lepidoptera and odonata.

Several badger ¹⁴ setts are present. A total of 17 mammal species recorded includes pipistrelle ^{1,5,15} and brown long-eared ^{1,7,15} bats.

The whole site is a Kent Wildlife Trust reserve.

- 1 Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.
- 2 Nationally Scarce. Scarce Plants in Britain. JNCC. 1994.
- 3 County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.
- 4 Red List. Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007.
- 5 Priority Species, UK Biodiversity Action Plan. 1998.
- 6 Rapid Decline. BTO Breeding Birds Report. 2000.
- 7 Kent Red Data Book Status 2. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
- 8 Amber List. Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007.
- 9 Moderate Decline. BTO Breeding Birds Report. 2000.
- 10 Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
- 11 Moderate Decline. BTO Waterbirds Survey 1975-1998.
- 12 Red Data Birds in Britain. NCC/RSPB. 1990.
- 13 Kent Red Data Book Status 1. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
- 14 Badger Protection Act 1992.
- 15 National Red Data Book Status.

