

KENT WILDLIFE SITE

Local Wildlife Site		Site Ref. No:	DO 04
Site:	Captain’s Wood and Singledge Wood, Whitfield	Central Grid Ref:	TR 288463
LPA:	Dover	Natural Area:	North Downs
Parish:	Shepherdswell with Coldred	AONB:	No
Owner:	Private	SLA:	Yes
Category:	Woodland	TPO:	No
Area:	18.91 ha	Protected species:	Yes
First notified:	1986		
Last revised:	May 2003		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The site is ancient, semi-natural woodland.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary is drawn around the extant ancient woodland.

DESCRIPTION

This small area of ancient broadleaved woodland, present on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps, is situated on fairly level ground on plateau clays and sands. The woods were managed in the past as mixed broadleaved coppice with pedunculate oak standards. Left unmanaged for many years, coppicing re-commenced in 1985, and much of the woodland is currently being actively managed as coppice-with-standards. Some replanting of oak has been undertaken where the woodland was damaged in the 1987 storm.

Both pedunculate and sessile oak are present as standards. The coppice species include hazel, hornbeam and ash, with other species such as birch, aspen and Midland hawthorn also present.

Bramble and bluebell ¹ *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* dominate the drier, more acidic soils, together with wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, trailing St John’s-wort *Hypericum humifusum* and slender St John’s-wort *H. pulchrum*. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is locally frequent. The dampest soils, which occur mostly at the south-eastern end of the site, support bugle *Ajuga reptans* and ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, together with remote sedge *Carex remota*.

The soils at the southern end of Captain’s Wood are base-rich, and dog’s mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is locally dominant, with moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, wood spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, hairy-brome *Bromopsis ramosa* and wood millet *Melica uniflora* also occurring. Wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* is abundant.



Unmanaged scrubby woodland along the southern boundary supports common woodland orchids such as early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and common twayblade *Listera ovata* in addition to primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

¹ Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

