

Site name: **Kingshoe Wood CWS**

Status(es): County Wildlife Site

Gridref: TL000342

Area: 39.37 hectares

Council(s): Central Bedfordshire

History:
1990 CWS recognized

CWS recognized for: Ancient semi-natural woodland

Main habitats present:
UK BAP Priority Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Standing Open Water and Canals (Broad habitat)

Other habitat(s) Conifer plantation
Mixed plantation
Bracken

Site Description:

Survey 1982

Some of the rides support a rich vegetation, including *Juncus tenuis*. The ditch system has an abundance of *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. Some of the site is conifer plantation. Part of the woodland has been cut off by the motorway.

Other species identified include *Lotus tenuis*, *Senecio sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Cardamine flexuosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ribes uva-crispa*, *Carex divulsa*, *Polygonum hydropiper*, *Juncus conglomerates*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Carex pendula*, *Prunus avium*, *Dryopteris austriaca*, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Holcus mollis* and *Potentilla sterilis*.

Phase 1 Survey 1990

The site comprises of: Kingshoe Wood; Poorshills Wood; Meadow Plantation; Alder Spinney and Town Mead. Part of Kingshoe Wood is an ancient woodland site. Kingshoe and Poorshills Woods, largely comprising of mature conifer plantation, comprises: a narrow compartment of semi-natural broadleaved woodland at SP996339 along the southern edge of Poorshills Wood; a small area of young mixed plantation at SP995339 at the western edge of Poorshills Wood; a compartment of semi-natural broadleaved woodland at SP998343 containing two ponds, the most westerly one being heavily shaded and broadleaved belt along roadside to southwest; Meadow Plantation, a block of broadleaved woodland extending as far east as SP99963390; Alder Spinney comprising: two adjacent blocks of broadleaved woodland to north and south of a stream, the northern block extends as far west as SP99953396, the southern block extends as far east as the track at TL00103383; and Town Mead, an area of broadleaved woodland extending as far west as the track at TL00103389, the southwestern arm of the wood contains a dense canopy and a heavily shaded pond.

Flit Valley Survey 2006

The brook that runs through the site is mostly dry with a stony, sandy or silty bed and occasional small pools of water. Lots of trees have fallen across the brook and marginal vegetation includes locally abundant common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and fool's watercress with occasional sweetgrass sp. The shaded banks contain locally abundant pendulous sedge and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) with occasional Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), nettle, broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*) and cleavers, with open sections overgrown with the above species. Frequent yellow iris and butterbur are present either side of where the brook goes under the M1 motorway and liverworts are frequent in the shady eastern entrance to the tunnel.

