

Central Plantation Woodland

This woodland was comprised of predominantly turkey oak *Quercus cerris* with silver birch, ash, pedunculate oak, poplar sp.

4.2.10 Semi-natural Ancient Woodland

This habitat was located along the western part of the Site (see Figures 25 & 26). The woodland itself was fairly diverse with pedunculate oak, ash (with advanced ADB), field maple *Acer campestre*, hazel *Corylus avellana* dominated understorey subject to some planting with beech (some of which has been previously coppiced), sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. The ground flora comprised occasional hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, thin-spiked wood sedge *Carex strigosa*, stinging iris *Iris foetidissima*, betony *Betonica officinalis*, ivy *Hedra helix*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, bush vetch *Vicia sepium*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, tufted hairgrass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Throughout the southern part of the woodland, in close proximity to the established pathways there are blocks of the invasive species *Rhododendron ponticum* (as listed on Schedule 9 of the wildlife and Countryside Act 1981). This has been subject to some form of management over the previous 10 years. The woodland was subject to relatively high browsing and grazing pressure from deer, predominantly fallow *Dama dama*, which was recorded during the site visit.



Figure 25: View of the semi-natural woodland showing the relatively open ground layer subject to deer grazing and browsing pressure.



Figure 26: View of the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* recorded throughout the woodland.

4.2.11 Secondary Woodland

This habitat was recorded along the southern site boundary and within blocks located along the centre and east of the Site. Species recorded included oak, ash, beech, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, English elm *Ulmus minor* (impacted by Dutch elm disease *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*), silver birch and holly *Ilex aquafolium*. The ground flora was dominated by areas of bramble scrub with some dog rose located along the woodland edges.

4.2.12 Parkland Trees

A series of parkland trees are located within the Site. The older mature and over-mature specimens were pedunculate oak. A number of these were located to the north and west of Field Parcel D and west of Field

Parcel E (see Figures 27-29, 31 & 32), with one being located within Field Parcel B (see Figure 30). A number of these supported features that had a high potential to support roosting bats (see section 4.3.3).



Figure 27: View of the parkland tree located to the north of Field Parcel D.

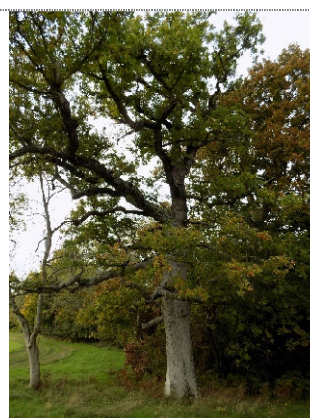


Figure 28: View of a parkland tree located to the west of Field Parcel E.



Figure 29: View of a parkland tree located within Field Parcel E.



Figure 30: View of the dense bracken located on the northern edge of Field Parcel B.



Figure 31: View of a mature parkland beech tree located within Field Parcel E.



Figure 32: View of a clump of mature parkland trees located within Field Parcel E.

Veteran Trees

The Site supported a small number of veteran trees. This included a veteran oak located within the plantation woodland located along the centre of the Site (see Figure 31 – TN1, Appendix 1). A veteran beech located along the southern edge of Field Parcel E (see Figure 33 – TN2, Appendix 1), and two clumps of veteran (and ancient) sweet chestnuts located within field Parcel E (see Figure 34-39, TN3 & TN4 - Appendix 1).

The veteran sweet chestnuts were of particular note and were considered to be outstanding examples of their type supporting all of the classic veteran features including, rot holes, tear-outs, snags, delaminated wood on branches, fallen deadwood accumulations, standing deadwood, woodpecker holes, fungal bodies, basal cavities, cracks, splits and crown borne deadwood. In some cases, these trees included vigorous epicormic growth. As such these trees can be considered to be both veteran and ancient trees. These trees had been planted in clumps of six and (further to the east) a clump of three.



Figure 33: View of the veteran pedunculate oak located within the central woodland (TN1).



Figure 34: View of the veteran beech located towards the south of the site complete with tear-out feature (TN2).



Figure 35: View of clump of veteran and ancient sweet chestnut trees located within Field Parcel E (TN3).



Figure 36: View of one of the sweet chestnut stems located at TN3 showing some epicormic growth.



Figure 37: View of a deadwood accumulation within the clump located at TN3.



Figure 38: View of one of the outstanding veteran and ancient sweet chestnut trees located at TN4.



Figure 39: View of the same tree with human for scale showing a multitude of veteran and faunal features.

4.2.13 Building

A single building was recorded on Site, located on the western side of Field Parcel E. This was a traditional timber frame and timber clad barn supporting a ceramic tile roof. The building is considered to be of mid-19th century origin (see Figures 40-43). On the southern elevation the building at some point supported a series of windows which have now being blocked up with timber cladding. Internally only the section that opens out to the south was possible to access along with a small open fronted section located to the west. The building supported two internal rooms which were both locked limiting further investigation. The building had at some point over the previous 20 years been re-roofed using breathable membrane (see Figure 41). This type of breathable membrane has the potential to trap and kill crevice dwelling bats that utilise the building. Evidence of bat use was identified (see section 4.3.3). The building also supported an owl box.



Figure 40: View of the southern elevation of the building on site showing the open sections of the building.



Figure 41: View of eastern room



Figure 42: View of the western room



Figure 43: View of the roof structure showing the use of breathable membrane and an owl box located within the barn.

4.2.14 Native Hedgerows

Native hedgerows were recorded throughout the northern part of the site (see Figures 44–47 & Appendix 1). The parkland areas of the site lacked hedgerows. The hedgerows varied from being of some antiquity to being of more recent origin (the southern, eastern and northern boundaries of Field Parcel 2) and varied in terms of management from annual flailing to no apparent management. These are dealt with in more detail below:

Native Hedgerows – of some antiquity

These hedgerows were confined to the northern and eastern boundaries of Field Parcel 1 and the northern and eastern boundaries of Field Parcel 3. Species recorded included hazel (the general dominant species) with sycamore, hawthorn, ash (with ADB), dog rose, field elm *Ulmus minor*, bramble and blackthorn. Of these, only the northern hedgerow of Field Parcel 1 was managed in any way, utilising mechanical flail on an annual basis. Of these, the western boundary of Field Parcel 1 supported trees including a series of mature oak and ash trees.

Native Hedgerows – recent origin

These hedgerows were generally unmanaged and had grown tall and bushy (approx. 6m tall x 5 m wide). From studying aerial photographs, these hedgerows date from the time that the broadleaved plantation woodland was planted (circa 1990s). Species were varied with hazel (dominant) with goat willow *Salix caprea*, sycamore, blackthorn, dog rose, field maple *Acer campestre*, hawthorn, dog rose, field elm, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, bramble, grey willow *Salix cinerea*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, ash (with ADB), spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*.



Figure 44: View of the northern hedgerows of Field Parcel 1



Figure 45: View of the eastern hedgerows of Field Parcel 1



Figure 46: View of the south-western hedgerow of Field Parcel 2



Figure 47: View of the north-eastern hedgerow of Field Parcel 2

4.2.15 Ephemeral perennial

This habitat was confined to the edges of the edges of the area of gravel/hardstanding parking provision located to the north of Field Parcel 1 (see Figure 48). Species recorded included daisy *Bellis perennis*, annul meadow grass *Poa annua*, dandelion, scattered individual plants of perennial rye grass, wood avens *Geum urbanum*, dove's-foot cranesbill, white clover and patches of white English stonecrop *Sedum anglicum*.