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Ufd139. Whitehill Wood (8.1 ha) TL 560393

The canopy of this ancient wood has been almost entirely replaced by conifers, with native broadleaved species restricted to narrow strips along the rides and boundary. The latter species include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The sparse ground flora includes Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Three-veined Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). The nationally scarce Wood Barley (*Hordelymus europaeus**) has been recorded in this wood, though has not been recently seen, possibly due to the adverse light conditions under the very dense conifer canopy. The site is also notable for the presence of Crested Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum**) along the southern boundary, which forms part of a protected road verge.

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), SCr15

Condition and Management Issues: The ground flora is limited by the generally dense shade cast by the planted canopy. Replacement with a semi-natural broadleaved canopy and understorey would be highly desirable.

Date of first designation: 1994

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