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Ufd155. Martin's Wood (4.9 ha) TL 565389

This ancient wood has an impoverished ground flora due to dense coniferisation of the canopy. Native broadleaved species such as Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) are largely restricted to the boundary banks, where Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) may also be found. A narrow strip of wood to the north of the stream supports a native canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The ground flora is absent over much of the floor, but where slightly better light levels prevail some typical ancient woodland plants such as Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) survive. Conversion to a native broadleaved canopy should be an urgent management aim.

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr1(a)

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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