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### **Bra119. Ardley Wood Complex (10.4 ha) TL 784154**

This site consists of three contiguous ancient woods: Ardley Wood, Nuttree Wood and Witham Spring. Ardley and Nuttree Woods are similar in character, having a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) over Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The scrub layer has Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). The modest ground flora has a typical array of woodland species. Witham Spring has a greater abundance of Hornbeam coppice and much Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) in the understorey, though the composition is otherwise similar to the other woods. Witham Spring is actively used for pheasant rearing.

**Selection Criteria:** HCr1(a)