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Bra112. Clapgate Wood Complex (7.3 ha) TL 782264

Clapgate Wood comprises a coppice and standards structure. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) form the main structure of this wood, with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in the understorey. Coppiced Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) is also found on the boundary bank. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) dominates the ground flora except in a cleared area where Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) co-dominates with Bramble. Pond Croft comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with a scattered understorey of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) over a sparse ground flora. In contrast, Braintree Wood has a mixed structure of coppice and standards. The tree species include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Wild Service (*Sorbus torminalis*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Pedunculate Oak and Birch (*Betula* sp.). Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) is found on the banks by the Green lane. A limited ground flora includes Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

The green lane forms a valuable wildlife corridor connecting the three ancient woods. The thick hedges contain Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The flora includes both woodland and grassland components, with typical species including Wood False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*).

Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), HCr9(a)