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Bra5. Balance Wood (5.7 ha) TL 669407

The majority of this woodland is ancient; a small section to the south which straddles the district boundary between Braintree and Uttlesford is secondary. The ancient block has a tall canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) over Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora, dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), also contains Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a)