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Bra127. Broak's Wood (58.4 ha) TL 790312

The majority of this wood is ancient, largely replanted with both coniferous and broadleaved species. A block of secondary woodland extends on the west side. Broadleaved species found in the ancient block include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Birch (*Betula* sp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and occasional Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) form a scattered shrub layer. The most diverse flora is to be found along the rides and tracks. Of note is Broadleaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*); the flora that also includes Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

The secondary woodland of mature planted wood adds to the ecological value of the ancient Broak's Wood complex and is also of interest in its own right. Whilst this plantation is principally a plantation of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), a total of 17 other woody species have been recorded. The ground flora is equally diverse, including Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Three-veined Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Broadleaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*). The three ponds are particularly interesting and a valuable habitat. The flora here includes Stonewort (*Chara* sp.), Mare's-tail (*Hippurus vulgaris*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*). Numerous damselflies and dragonflies have been recorded.

Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a), SCr1