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Bra40. Pods Brook Complex (23.9 ha) TL 716262

This site consists of Yorney Wood, grassland and semi-natural woodland along Pods Brook and planted wood at Chapel Hill. Yorney Wood has a canopy of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and streamside Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) with some Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) on drier ground upslope. Alder wood (both old coppice and standards) runs along the brook valley, with other canopy trees of Ash and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*). The marshy ground cover includes Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), Lesser Pond Sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Bullrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*).

Upslope to the north-east is a strip of acid grassland, an unusual habitat for this area, which supports a diverse assemblage of characteristic plants. The turf is dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), amongst which can be found Parsley Piert (*Aphanes arvensis* agg.), Common Stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). This strip grades into woodland via a band of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Wet flush areas support species including Large Bittercress (*Cardamine amara*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannaibinum*). Further south, the damper lower slopes of the grassland have Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), whilst the upper meadow slopes exhibit drier semi-acid grassland characteristics.

Selection Criteria: HCr2(d), HCr19, SCr13, HCr23