

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE*KWT File No: 005460*

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| Site: | Tile Lodge Wood, Eastwell | Site Ref. No: | AS58 |
| LPA: | Ashford | Grid Refs: | TR 005459 |
| Parish: | Boughton Aluph/ Eastwell/ Westwell | Category: | Woodland, running water, standing water |
| Owner: | Private | Natural Area: | Wealden Greensand |
| Area: | 5.23 ha | AONB: | No |
| First notified: | 1987 | | |
| Last revised: | 2005 | | |
| Last approved: | Oct 2006 | | |

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The site consists of ancient woodland with ancient features such as boundary ditches and wood banks. 20 ancient woodland indicator plants are recorded, including thin-spiked wood sedge ² *Carex strigosa*. Ponds are also present within the site.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary follows the woodland boundary of Tile Lodge Wood, including the shaw on the eastern edge.

DESCRIPTION

This small ancient woodland with boundary ditches and woodbanks looks much the same in outline on the present Ordnance Survey map as it did on the first edition, although it has suffered some reduction on its south-eastern boundary. It was originally managed as coppice-with-standards. There has been no recent management in the wood.

The woodland to the west is on higher, drier sandy soil, although damper lower areas also occur. It has been reduced in size in the past by old sand workings. Good oak standards occur throughout, both sessile and pedunculate, with a varied coppice layer of hornbeam, ash, field maple and hazel, currently unmanaged. On the western edge an area has been converted to sweet chestnut coppice. Midland hawthorn and wych elm are also present.

The ground flora is dominated by bluebell ¹ and wood anemone, together with creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, woodland orchids and yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*. Red campion *Silene dioica* is also common. In damper rides, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* occur with various rushes *Juncus spp.* and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*. Thin-spiked wood sedge is present in the wood. Ramsons *Allium ursinum* can be found on damp soils on the northern edge.

There are a number of badger ³ setts in Tile Lodge Wood and an abundance of rabbits near the old sand pit and deeply banked ride.



A steep, south-facing sandy bank along the southern edge of the wood, once part of a sandpit but now filled in, appears to have sand martin ⁴ nest holes, although no birds were observed during the latest survey.

¹ Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

² County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp 1982

³ Badger Protection Act 1992

⁴ Amber list. Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007.

