

## **Bredhurst Woods Local Wildlife Site**

Bredhurst Hurst, Monkdown Wood, Friend's Wood and some of the surrounding grasslands are designated as a Local Wildlife Site (formerly known as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest or SNCIs) by the Kent Biodiversity Partnership. The site is known as Bredhurst Woods.

The Bredhurst Woods site consists of over 200 hectares of ancient woodland and chalk grassland situated over two dry dipslope valleys of the North Downs and on the ridge between them. At least 47 ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded. The north eastern half of the woodland is surrounded by chalk grassland which is species-rich in places.

The plateau areas on clay-with-flints are, in part, over-mature, mixed coppice with standards, and part managed chestnut coppice. Bluebells<sup>1</sup> and brambles dominate, but many other woodland herbs are present, especially along the woodbanks and rides. The slopes are rich, with original coppice with hornbeam/hazel merging into ash/hazel/field maple coppice on the lowest ground. Wych elm coppice is also present in valley woodland and lowest slopes. Yew groves with whitebeam occur where the chalk is close to the surface.

The ground flora is very rich despite lack of management, with many orchids including several uncommon species. Herb paris<sup>2</sup> is present in the ash/field maple coppice on deep clay soils of valley bottoms. A large woodbank marks the boundary between Friends Wood and Monkdown Wood.

The north-eastern half of the woodland is surrounded by unimproved chalk grassland. On the northern side the fields are managed by grazing or mowing, whilst other areas to south and west are grazed by cattle, sheep or horses. The short turf, on thin soils, supports a typical chalk flora with 17 chalk indicator species recorded. Chalk grassland invertebrates are also present.

For more detailed information please contact Kent Wildlife Trust for copy of the citation for MA34 – Bredhurst Woods.

<sup>1</sup> Protected under Schedule 8 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

<sup>2</sup> County scarce plant. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982

### [What are Local Wildlife Sites?](#)

