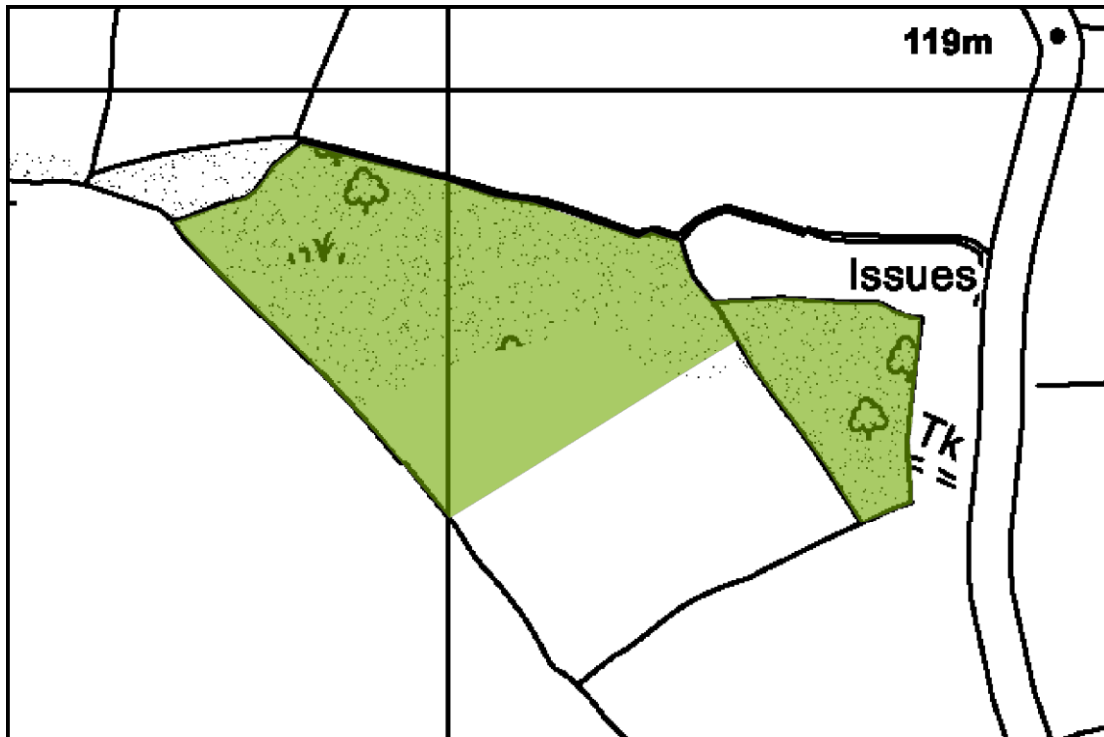


**LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES
UTTLESFORD DISTRICT
Ufd162. Redgates & Noakes Grove (1.9 ha) TL 570389**



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The site comprises flower-rich chalky grassland with scrub and a small fragment of ancient woodland.

The main species of interest in the grassland is the large population of Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), but the species-rich sward also includes Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*) and Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

Noakes Grove is a small block of woodland that is clearly ancient in origin, but its small size means that it is not listed in the ancient woodland inventory. Standard trees include mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) with a shrub layer mainly consisting of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. Ground flora includes oxlip, bluebell, wood anemone.

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Selection Criterion

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC12 – Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Rationale

Noakes Grove is a small block of woodland that is clearly ancient in origin, but its small size means that it is not listed in the ancient woodland inventory. Documentary evidence confirms the woodland as ancient in origin and a site visit confirmed ancient woodland indicator species are present.

Condition & Management Issues

A reduction in the extent of scrub would be desirable in the northern grassland area, although some scattered scrub would be beneficial to invertebrates and birds.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2007

Reviewed: 2017 (Boundary amended to include Noakes Grove)