

Site reference: Ufd320

Site name: Coney Acre West, Quendon and Rickling

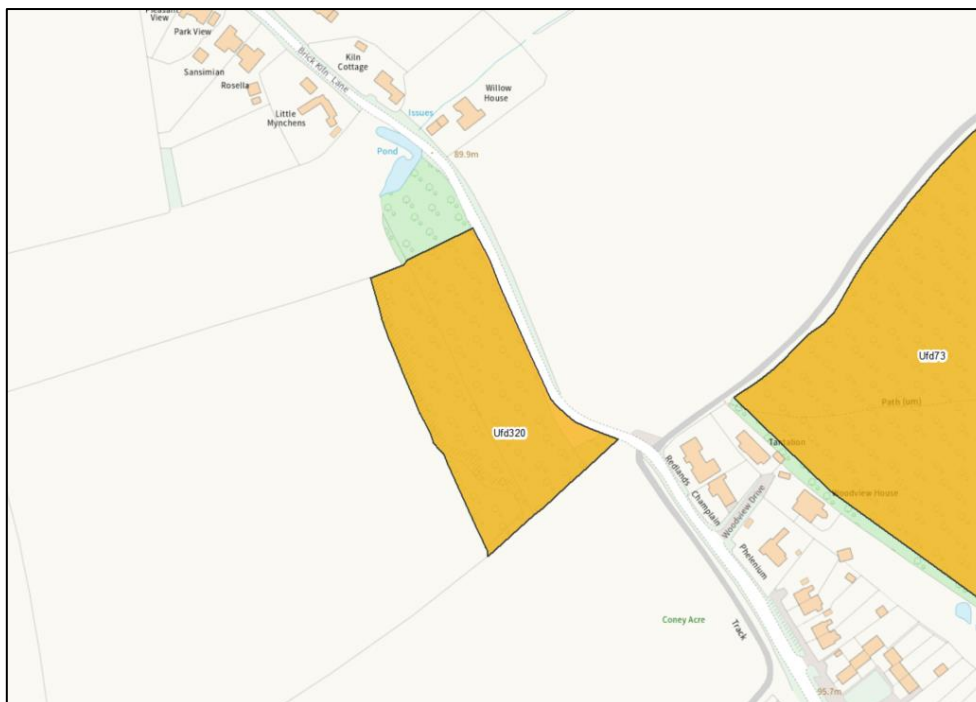
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TL506302

Site area: 1.1ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The presence of a steep bank on the western edge of this site suggests that it is old secondary woodland established naturally in an area subject to quarrying of some form, possibly related to the Brick Kiln that gave the adjacent lane its name.

The canopy consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice stools and some more recent colonising Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) in a sub-canopy. The understorey includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.).

The ground flora includes some Ancient Woodland indicators such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bearded Couch (*Elymus canina*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*), which suggests some connection with older woodland and there are some large oak standards on the western bank. Other species present include False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Wood Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – The site has a mature woodland structure and moderately diverse ground flora, though there is no evidence to suggest that it is Ancient.