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Ufd118. "High/Prior's Wood Lane" (1.6 ha) TL 546305

This lengthy ancient lane is of sufficient size to be considered as a linear “ancient wood” in its own right, but its close proximity to the large High/Priors wood complex is also an important factor. The Site includes the channel of the fledgling River Cam (Granta) and is of some geomorphological interest as the stream has cut a steep and deep channel into the chalk. The invertebrate fauna of this stony chalk stream may well repay closer investigation.

The lane has an extremely rich and varied flora. The hedgerows contain much Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Also present are Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana**). The ground flora has Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Greater Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella major**) and Oxlip (*Primula elatior**).

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr9

Condition and Management Issues: As a bridleway, trampling of the ground flora will always be an issue, with localised heavy disturbance.

Date of first designation: 1994

Date of last revision: 30/09/2007