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Ufd77. Bushy Lays/Spring Close (10.6 ha) TL 514323

Although not recorded as being ancient, Bushy Lays provides a valuable extension to its larger, ancient neighbour Spring Close, having a mature structure and varied flora. The canopy comprises neglected Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with occasional standards of Ash and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Within the understorey is a lesser quantity of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea**) and Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia**)

The canopy of Spring Close includes areas of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice, Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and to a lesser extent Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and some conifers. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) form the shrub layer. A relatively sparse ground flora includes Oxlip (*Primula elatior**), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata**), Wood False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

Condition and Management Issues: It would be desirable to revert the southern area of plantation to semi-natural broadleaved cover and to control the invasion of Sycamore.

Date of first designation: 1994

Date of last revision: 30/09/2007