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Ufd99. London Jock Wood (15.4 ha) TL 528307

This Site comprises the ancient London Jock Wood, a thin strip of recent secondary wood between this and the railway line to the west and also a section of wooded lane leading to the wood from the east. The ancient wood varies from extensive Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) stands to areas of old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. Much of the coppice has been cut in recent years. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) has colonised much of the open unshaded ground, whilst the high degree of shading afforded by the main canopy precludes a very diverse ground flora from developing, although Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) are found in abundance. The lane leading east from the wood, which is also clearly ancient in nature, supports Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula**) and forms a natural wildlife corridor to High/Prior's Woods to the east. The site is extended southwards to include a narrow grassy fringe along the southern boundary of London Jock Wood in which Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia**) (an Essex Red Data List plant) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) can be found in an acid grassland sward.

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr1(a), HCr2(a), HCr9, SCr15

Condition and Management Issues: Managed better than some ancient woods, but Sycamore is spreading rapidly. Expansion of relatively recent coppicing is desirable.

Date of first designation: 1994

Date of last revision: 30/09/2007