

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE (LWS)

West Sussex

Site Name:	Orltons Copse	Owner:	Private
Site Ref:	H05	Size (ha):	56.8
District:	Horsham	Date:	Identified May 1992
Parish:	Rusper	Author:	Louise Clark
National Grid Ref:	TQ224387		
Habitat:	Semi-natural woodland, stream and neutral meadow		

Summary

This site consists of two large areas of Oak/Hornbeam woodland separated by smaller areas of Oak/Hazel and Oak/Hazel/Ash woodland. There are several small streams throughout and a hay meadow. This mixture of habitats, provides for a rich bird community.

Site description

This woodland consists mostly of Oak and Hornbeam. The Hornbeam coppice and trees grown from coppice form a sub-canopy beneath taller trees such as Oak.

In some areas there is also Birch, with Beech scattered on slopes and frequent conifers in places. In these areas, the shrub layer is very sparse, with only patches of Elder, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Similarly the ground flora is poor with only a few species such as Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

There are also areas where the canopy of Hornbeam and Oak additionally contains Ash, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Here, the shrub layer contains a large number of species, including Hazel, Hawthorn, Midland Hawthorn and Blackthorn, with occasional Spindle and Dogwood. The ground flora tends to be rich in species and includes Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*.

Additionally, there are some areas where Oak provides a moderately dense canopy with Birch and Ash over Hazel coppice.

This wood supports a rich variety of bird species including Nightingale, Woodcock, Goldcrest, Tawny Owl and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

The site also includes several streams and a hay meadow.

Management recommendations

The wood would benefit from the reintroduction of a coppicing regime. The paths and tracks throughout should be maintained to keep them wide and open, and the hay meadow managed traditionally.

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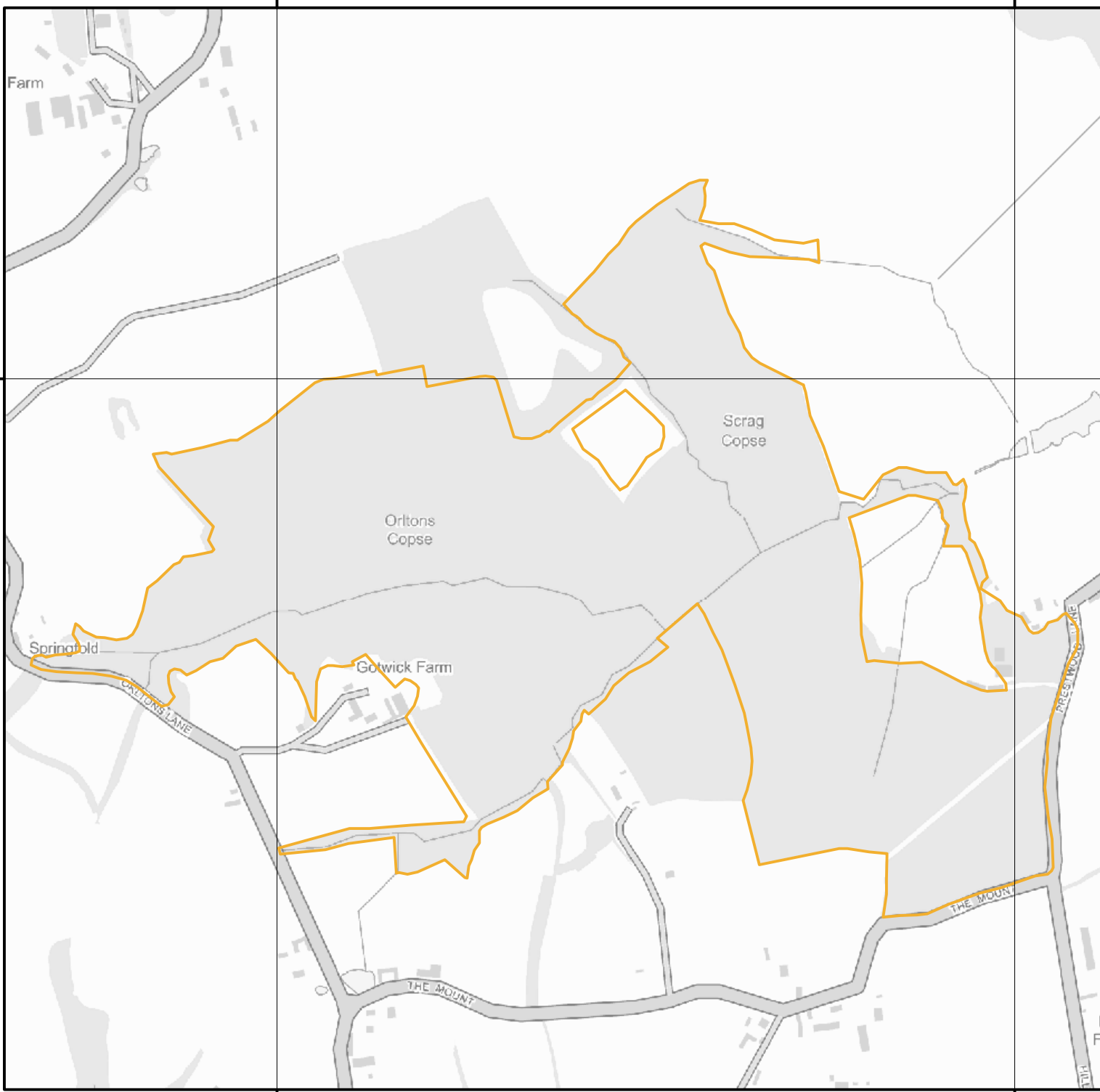
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

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Site: H05 - Orltons Copse

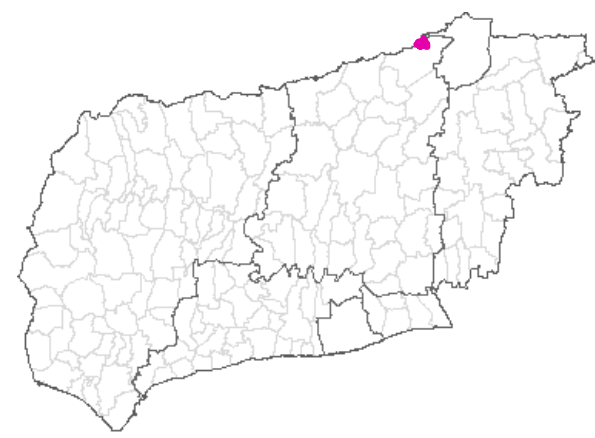
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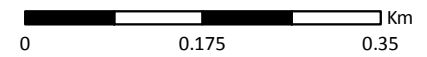
Key to Map:

- Local Wildlife Site
- Neighbouring Local Wildlife Site



Local Wildlife Site data maintained by SxBRC on behalf of the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership, supported by local authorities and nature conservation organisations.

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