

- animals which are at least in part descendants of the original forest flora and fauna.
3. The past management as coppice-with-standards has probably retained a wide range of plant and animal species.
 4. The very wet state of much of the wood and the population s of plants and animals dependant upon wet ground, particularly alkaline ground water, are important features in a county where drainage of land has recently destroyed the majority of the former wet sites.
 5. The wood appears to represent the best example known so far of the transition between ash-hazel-maple woodland, common to the North of Essex and Suffolk, and the hornbeam-oak woodland dominant in South Essex. It will afford an opportunity to define the relationship between these two types.
 6. This wood may be useful for studies on the behaviour of hornbeam as a woodland species. Its history as a planted and invasive species is little known.
 7. The existence of elm species and hybrids gives an opportunity to study elm invasion of ash-hazel coppices.
 8. Hempstead Wood is the biggest reservoir of wild life in this predominantly arable area, and it is probably big enough to be a self contained habitat for many species.
 9. The proximity of smaller woods to the east and south mean that it is possible for mammals, birds and insects to migrate to and from the wood relatively easily and so connect up with other major populations.
- Date of visit: 5th December 1970