

The scarps, ridges, slopes, valleys and hollows of Shipwright's Wood form a complex pattern of soil conditions creating a varied woodland.



Dogwood

A Oak and hornbeam at the entrance off Shipwright's Drive give way to ash on the steep slope.

B This ash was coppiced by members of the Essex Naturalist's Trust in the early 1980's to encourage light loving plants such as red campion, foxgloves and bluebells which now flourish.

C Sweet chestnut dominates the broad flat topped ridge above the ash and on the far slope are

D Some of the largest woodland trees in south-east Essex with fine cherry and hornbeam.

E At the base of this slope is a broad marshy area dominated by pendulous sedge, and with a dammed pool. At the western end of this valley are large stands of aspen and guelder rose.

F The slope rising on the south side of this valley is predominantly oak and hornbeam woodland.

G The western boundary of the wood is marked by an ancient earthbank and ditch and has large service trees.

H The meadow to the north of Shipwright's Wood is shown as farmland on the earliest maps. The hedge has many shrubs including oak, field maple, ash, elder, dogwood, dogrose and spindle, suggesting it may be centuries old. Today the meadow is used for horse riding and also has many grassland plants such as grass vetchling and spotted orchid.



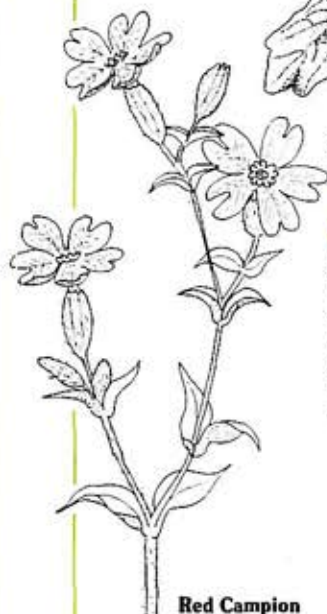
Spotted Orchid

I If the meadow was not cut it would soon become dense woodland; the scrub to the east was meadow as recently as the 1960's. A ditch between this scrub and older woodland marks the



Field Maple

former boundary of the field.



Red Campion

J This wet woodland extends up the slope to Jervis Wood. Early maps show only the uppermost wood is truly ancient, the rest has grown on farmland abandoned over the last century. The wet flushes in the wood suggest such land was always difficult to cultivate.

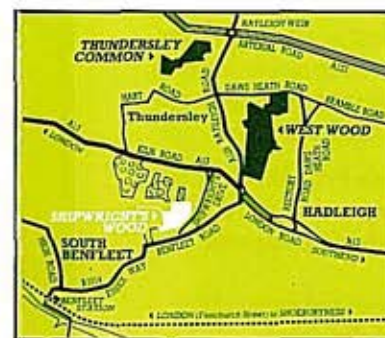
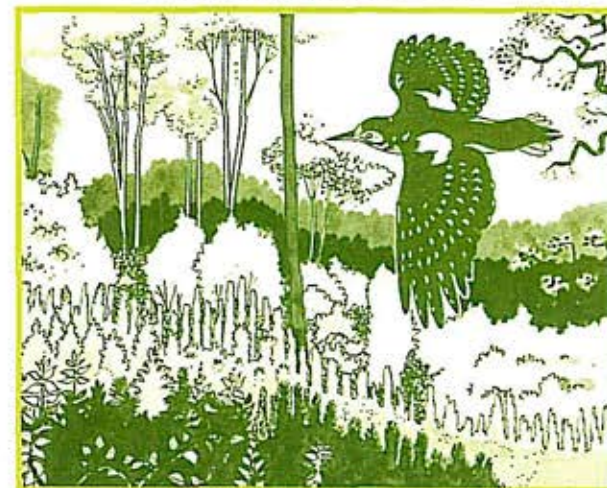


WOODLAND WALKS

IN SOUTH-EAST ESSEX

SHIPWRIGHT'S WOOD

■ DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THIS HIDDEN WOODLAND



ACCESS FROM SHIPWRIGHT'S DRIVE OR THUNDERSLEY GLEN (A13) BENFLEET, ESSEX.
AREA 12 HECTARES

7

SHIPWRIGHT'S WOOD

WALK SEVEN



Spotted Flycatcher

HIDDEN at the head of a steep valley between the A13 and Essex Way is Shipwright's Wood, probably the most beautiful and varied of the woods of south-east Essex.

The modern wood is part of two ancient woods, still clearly separated by an earthbank. Shipwright's Wood is the wood to the south, bounded by orchards, houses and fields.

Jervis Wood is the northernmost wood, fringing the playing fields, on the edge of a steep slope. Jervis Wood was, until the early nineteenth century, much larger and extended west to Thundersley Glen.

The Woods are owned by Castle Point District Council. A woodland walk has been waymarked and there is an equestrian ride linking Shipwright's Drive with Thundersley Glen.

Parts of the wood are quite steep and many of the paths can become muddy and slippery.

Hedges	
Paths	
Banks	
Housing	
Woodland	

Scale Metres 50 100 150 200

