File Note

Site Address:	The Old Camp Site, Brington Road, Old Weston, Cambridgeshire PE28 5LP
Client Name:	Sundown Products Ltd.
Reference:	File note- Priority Habitat Classification Deciduous Woodland
Date:	25/07/2025

Background

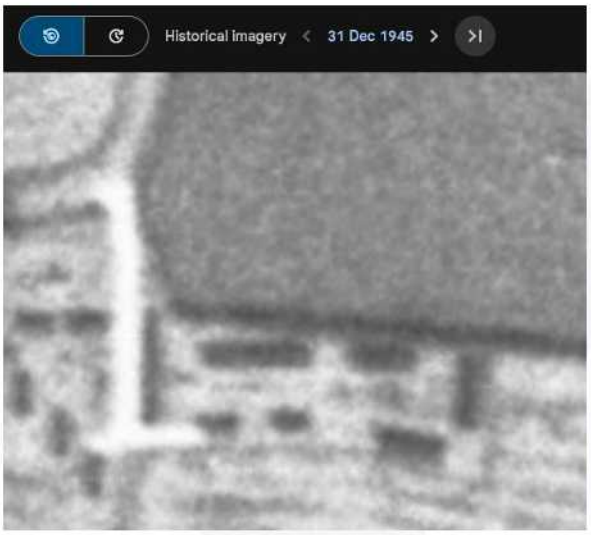
Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Sundown Products Ltd.to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal, which was completed in April 2024 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2024). A subsequent biodiversity net gain assessment has been completed for the site (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2025). The site was also subject to a previous ecological appraisal completed by Lockhart Garret in August 2019 (Lockhart Garret, 2019). The ecology report from 2019 identified the woodland onsite to be 'woodland mixed plantation' containing species of ash, Corsican pine, field maple, hawthorn, Norway maple and sycamore with an understorey of young ash, hawthorn and sycamore trees with bramble and nettles (Lockhart Garret, 2019). Similarly, the PEA produced by Arbtech Consulting identified the woodland to be other broadleaved woodland (w1g) using the updated UKHAB classification. A BS5837:2012 Tree survey has since been undertaken by East Midlands Tree Surveys Ltd. in September 2025 (East Midlands Tree Surveys Ltd., 2025). The tree survey report includes similar findings to the previous ecological assessments noting 'This plantation woodland was established post war and is in rows at approximately 3m spacing.' The report notes the overall form of the woodland is considered to be poor.

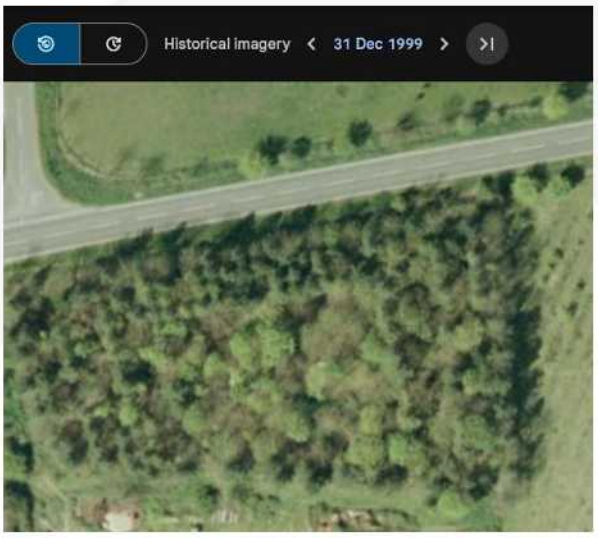
Discussion

A review of the MAGIC.gov database shows the site is designated as lowland mixed deciduous woodland, a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Priority habitat mapping has been recently updated on the MAGIC.gov database on the 3rd July 2025. Both previous ecology reports do not note the woodland on site as being identified as lowland mixed deciduous woodland, the report from Arbtech (2024) notes the closest deciduous woodland on MAGIC.gov to be 250m north of the site. As such, it is considered possible the deciduous woodland classification on MAGIC.gov has been introduced since the production of the reports.

During the site visit, the woodland appeared uniform in appearance, with trees of a similar age and size in notable lines, suggesting the trees were created in a plantation like manner. This fits closely with the description for the secondary code 29 – Plantation in the UKHAB classification. In addition the ground and shrub layer contained a limited number of species overall, with a frequency of cleavers and nettle, and a lack of indicator species. The survey was completed during the optimal season, where indicator species

are more likely to be present. While the date of the woodland creation cannot be ascertained, a review of historical aerial imagery shows the woodland is not present in 1945 (earliest imagery available). The next clear imagery is from 1999 of which the woodland appears to contain a 'gappy' canopy and clear lines of trees planted are observed.





Conclusion

As the woodland observed on site contained characteristics of a plantation woodland notably relatively young trees planted in distinct rows with a lack of ground flora or woodland indicators, as identified within previous ecological and tree survey reports. The woodland is suggested to be a non-priority woodland habitat as noted within the two ecology reports, with a UKHAB classification of w1g Other woodland, 29 plantation.

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