This small valley is part of a complex of steep valleys incised into the chalk of the North Downs at the end of the last glacial period. Other evidence of the effects of glaciation include the sarsen stones which are glacial 'erratics' - stones from far away which were dropped here by glaciers.

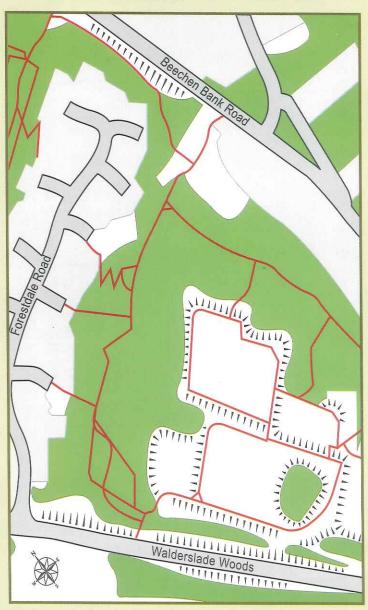
The valley sides and bottom are covered in various of deposits, including clay with flints. Where chalk is near the surface soil conditions tend to be alkaline and neutral where the deposits are deeper.

The valley has almost certainly been wooded since the last glaciation, right up until relatively recent times. when parts were cleared for gardens or small scale farming. There are still some 'open' areas where woodland has not regenerated. Despite this the woodland areas can still be classified as semi natural ancient woodland.

Man's influence has included coppicing of hornbeam, hazel and the valley also contains remnants of scattered settlements.

Much of the valley floor is covered in what might be described as woodland regeneration, where hazel coppice and

Walderslade Woodlands Round Wood



other saplings are developing a thick low level canopy.

At the southern end of the valley and on the valley sides the woodland is more mature and contains a lot of hornbeam and ash, with some oak and beech. Throughout the woodland there is a good under storey of young saplings.

Of particular interest is a growth of yew on the valley sides, probably growing in shallow soil directly over chalk.

The ground flora are typically dominated by bramble, with dog's mercury or drifts of bluebell and wood anemone. You will also find moschatel, lesser celandine, toothwort and a range of other woodland species.

The Walderslade Woodlands Group is comprised of local residents who care for these woods.

Walderslade Woodlands - S Species

ASH - Flaxinus excelsion



ASH - Many large standards, younger trees and saplings throughout the woods. Ash is an early coloniser and provides food for privet hawk moths.

BEECH - There are still a few large beech standards left within the woods, but many were destroyed by the 1987 hurricane. The beechnuts are eaten by mammals and birds. Instantly recognisable by its smooth bark.



OAK - Quercus robur



OAK - Most of the oak in the woodlands is common or Quercus robur, also refered to as Pedunculate oak (because its acorns are carried on long stalks). Oak is an excellent tree for wildlife and supports a wide range. Oaks have separate male & female flowers appearing in the same tree.



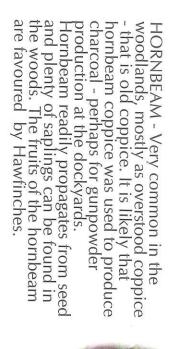


BIRCH - Betula pendula



BIRCH - Tends to be found on more acid soil areas of the woodlands. Birch is relatively quick growing and is excellent for moths and its seeds are eaten by many birds.







SWEET CHESTNUT - Castanea sativa



SWEET CHESTNUT - Found in just one area of the woodlands, this tree was introduced by the Romans. It was planted extensively and coppiced for firewood and fencing stake production. It flowers after its leaves have opened - usually late May or June.









