

**AREA 12: PRINCETHORPE GREAT WOOD 2/37,
OLD NUN, NEW NUN AND DUKES WOODS 62/37 (PARISH OF PRINCETHORPE)**

Sources of information are:

- 1. Ecosite notes (HBA)*
- 3. Local Record Office 2017/8*
- 4. Wager 1998 Woods, Wolds & Groves (Ph.D thesis)*
- 14. Stretton on Dunsmore: The Making of a Warwickshire Village (2000) Stretton Millennium History Group.*

ECOLOGY (Source 1)

Princethorpe Great Wood: ancient, a part of the Forest of Arden. Canopy of ash and pedunculate oak with old coppiced sweet chestnuts; wych elm. Understorey weak with coppiced hazel. Ground flora sanicle and primroses. Narrow shallow drainage ditches. Gas pipe line route through south west. Breeding nightingales.

Old Nuns Wood: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Reserve: oak / hazel coppice with standards. Sallow and maple. Bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, primroses. White admiral, purple hairstreak, comma. Nightingale, woodcock, garden warbler.

New Nun Wood: not an ecosite. **Owner??**

Dukes Wood: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Reserve: oak / hazel coppice with standards. Sallow and maple. Bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, primroses. White admiral, purple hairstreak, comma. Nightingale, woodcock, garden warbler.

HISTORY

1100-1500: record of **Princethorpe wood** with common pasture within the wood; probably wood pasture that then retained its tree **(Source 4)**.

Source 3:

The parish was enclosed in 1763 and the Award plan shows:

- **Nun Wood** Richard Jenners
- **Ancient Wood** of Richard Jenners = **Great Wood** but not the part next to the road
- **Ancient Wood of Stanes Chamberlayne** (big landowners in the area, mentioned in book on Stretton **Source 14**)
- **Dukes Wood** marked as 2 enclosures (Countess of Cardigan/ Richard Jenners)

1850: Tithe apportionment shows Stanes Chamberlayne Wood to east of Great Wood where College Sports Ground is now as titheable and arable so the ancient wood had gone but **could be mapped**. Its shape can be seen from hedgerows on the 1880 Victorian map.