

AREA 14: LEMONS WOOD (89/47), LARCH SPINNEY (1/47), BADGERS SPINNEY, FRANKTON FIELDS WOODS (106/47), MINSTREL SPINNEY, GROVE SPINNEY (74/46) (PARISH OF FRANKTON), BOOTS SPINNEY (PARISH OF BOURTON & DRAYCOTE)

Sources of information are:

1. Ecosite notes (HBA)

3. Local Record Office 2017/8 (RM)

ECOLOG (source 1)

Lemons Wood: an ancient wood largely undisturbed.

Frankton Wood /Larch Spinney: a small area of birch and regenerating deciduous woodland. Derelict hazel coppice and heath flora, a remnant of Dunsmore Heath on the Fosse Way).

Badgers Spinney: secondary woodland (HBA)

Frankton Fields Woods: mature ash plantation with diverse understorey.

Grove Spinney: secondary woodland (HBA) – **ecosite folder missing**.

Minstrel Spinney: secondary woodland (HBA), not an ecosite.

HISTORY (Source 3)

Boots Spinney: (Parish of Bourton & Draycote): not on **Award of 1766** so not an old wood. The shape is the same as one of the enclosures (Ed King).

Lemons Wood: originally **Leemans Wood** (3 acres).

- **1718 Glebe terriers** record a tithe of 15s p.a. to the rector.
- Marked on the titheable map of 1841 when the tithe was only 2s p.a. Owned by John / Sarah Biddulph and occupied by Joseph Gilbert.
- A remnant of the huge Frankton Wood, to the east.

Frankton Wood /Larch Spinney:

- **1841 Tithe apportionment** for Sophia Biddulph lists the **Large Wood** (124 acres) and **2 parts of it** (8 acres), the same shape in south as Larch Spinney but 6 x the area (= 54ha) and on the map it looks a large area. An extension of the existing spinney to the edge of the parish gives approx. this area. Mostly felled for agriculture 1973.
- The apportionment also lists **3 coppices** and **4 spinneys** (17 acres) not marked.

Badgers Spinney: not on Victorian maps so recent.

Frankton Fields Woods: on 1880 Victorian map.

Grove Spinney: on 1880 map.

Minstrel Spinney: a manor rental document (**1650**) mentions **3 'minstrill grounds'** of 38 acres = 3 fields. The wood today is 15.7ha so the same site.