Hatchlands Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Habitats and Species

Hatchlands carries a reasonable quality woodland invertebrate fauna is associated, indicative of its ancient woodland origins. Of particular interest is the presence of two nationally scarce beetles: the soldier beetle Rhagonycha lutea and the jewel beetle Agrilus laticornis. These are tree canopy species, the former being an active predator amongst the foliage, the latter developing in dying branchwood. Other species present which are characteristic of semi-natural woodlands include the uncommon click beetles Adrastus pallens and Athous bicolor, the leaf beetle Cryptocephalus pusillus, Dioctria sp robber flies and the deadwood beetle Rhinosimus planirostris. No birdlife was noted, reflecting the dense canopy and the resulting heavy shade along much of this section.

The combination of flowers, sunshine and shelter make this a valuable area for insects and species present including the local butterfly, white admiral Ladoga Camilla and the deadwood-breeding beetles Strangalia maculata and Malthinus seriepunctatus.

Designations

There are 2 Grade II structures sitting just outside HA11

Compartments H1-11 sit within the Hatchlands Registered Park and Garden

Compartments HA1, 5 and 7 have been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), this means it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600. In these compartments work will focus on maintaining and enhancing the health and diversity of the woodland habitat, protecting veteran trees, and management for health and safety.

Management Approaches

Areas of semi-natural woodlands in good condition with no issues will be managed with little or no intervention

The importance of ancient and semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their importance for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

Thinning will open up areas of closed canopy woodland allowing better development of ground flora and natural regeneration of native trees.

Where thinning or selective felling takes place, regeneration will be achieved through natural processes where possible. This includes allowing natural regeneration from seed or management to encourage coppice regrowth. Some of the selective felling will be used to manage and maintain open rides through the woodland.

