



Woodland Management Plan

Isle of Wight

 Archaeology

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**On behalf of:**

The National Trust

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# Alongside the maps and tables of both secluded and unscheduled heritage assets that need to be considered and mitigated for as part of woodland management work the following list is a selection of significant features within compartments that would benefit from selected management practices as part of any wider work.

# These recommendations primarily focus on clearance of a significant scheduled or unscheduled site as part of general % thinning works when contractors are working in an area.

# The suggestions below are based upon on the Historic England Conservation Principles: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/

# As such the suggestions below seek to preserve and promote:

# Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

# Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative.

# Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

# Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

# As well as benefiting the monument and archaeology, these also approaches further promote access, understanding and wider engagement with our National Trust woodlands and their history and stories.

## Wider comments on Isle of Wight Management Plans in relation to Archaeology

# Though the majority of properties within the Isle of Wight Management Plan have been subject to a landscape survey at some point in the past 20 years, only one has been updated and enhanced with Lidar data. This means that though the heritage mapping information is considered a good starting point work is needed to map extents and areas more accurately and new sites will be identifiable through Lidar that haven’t been added to the Archaeological database.

# This means that checking in with Regional Archaeologist before any woodland management work commences is essential.

## HART monitoring programmes currently in place

There is active archaeology monitoring by local archaeological societies being undertaken on the Isle of Wight; these groups should be considered in management work planning, marking up and monitoring where possible through conversation with Regional Archaeologist

* Isle of Wight Archaeology

Opportunities should be sought to provide monitoring and engagement for National Trust volunteers as part of ongoing woodland work and monitoring.

## Priority Archaeological Features within Compartments

## Boniface

# Compartment: BF1

# Woodland Plans: N/A

# Significant Sites: St Boniface’s Well MNA131368. St Boniface Well is located on St. Boniface Down both of which take their name from the 8th century St Boniface. Not Listed and exact location is currently unknown.

# Task: Consideration should be taken in attempting to locate the well as part of works and if can be done allowing access to the site through selected thinning to create paths.

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Communal, Evidential & Historical. Linking a site in landscape back to the local myths and customs.

## Borthwood

# Compartment: B1 (a-h)

# Woodland Plans: FC30, T10, SF10

# Significant Sites: The old Copse boundaries that don’t reflect or follow the current site boundary and NT ownership such as MNA182835 are important as possible early boundaries in place By 1608 Borthwood Copse was being retained ‘in hand’ by the Crown and managed as enclosed woodland.

# Task: Routes of boundary banks should be marked and any crossing points for contractors agreed making use of the old trackways and existing breaks. Young scrubby vegetation can be cleared from bank leaving veteran trees. Opportunity might present itself to consider fencing or hedge laying along top of bank?

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Route of old boundary bank may retain evidence of earliest banks and enclosure. Clearance and attention drawn to boundary route provides opportunity to preserve the historical, communal and aesthetic value of the site.

## Luccombe

No archaeology currently recorded within the woodland compartments. This is not to be taken as evidence of absence, but more absence of survey and research to date. Archaeology is mapped around compartment and the site should be subject to an assessment which includes Lidar and a walk over by regional archaeologist and county archaeologist before any works commence.

Compartments of Interest: L5 & L6

## Mottistone

# Compartment: M9

# Woodland Plans: SF10-20

**Significant Sites:** No archaeology currently recorded within the woodland compartments. This is not to be taken as evidence of absence, but more absence of survey and research to date. Archaeology is mapped around compartment including standing stones, Barrows and other scheduled archaeology. As such the site should be subject to an assessment which includes Lidar and a walk over by regional archaeologist and county archaeologist before any works commence.

# Task: Pre-work survey required

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:

# Compartment: M11

# Woodland Plans: SF10

**Significant Sites:** A Holloway MNA128763 and parallel bank MNA128768 cross the compartment north to south. Additionally the north extent of a garden Bank/sheep shearing enclosure MNA128762

# Task: the linear bank should be marked out and any crossing points agreed beforehand for contractors to ensure minimal damage by repeated crossings in different locations. The garden bank should be cleared of vegetation and kept clear.

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: The garden bank and its link to tithe mapping and sheep shearing provides an opportunity to understand and share the changing landscape use in the area.

## Newtown

**Cautionary Note**: N10 and N9 bound the Scheduled Monument area so any works or access should consider this and ensure a check of planned works and impact on scheduled monuments.

# Compartment: N7

# Woodland Plans: SF20

# Significant Sites: Bank network in Walter’s Copse MNA128933 associated with old field banks clearly shown on 1809 maps before creation of Copse between 1840 and 1862.

# Task: Though the banks are in variable condition attempts should be made to minimise damage so access points and crossing points should be agreed and marked up prior to any felling work.

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: The field boundaries marked on early maps and surviving within the current copse provide an opportunity to understand and share the changing landscape use in the area.

# Compartment: N10

# Woodland Plans: SF20

Significant Sites: House Site, Vicarage Close MNA128926in the north east corner of compartment just outside the limit of the planned town and the town gate built between 1866 and 1909. It one of the last pieces of land in the area to be owned by the bishop of Winchester and is said to be the site of the old vicarage which had disappeared by 1942.

# Task: It is possible to see brick foundations in the scrubby woodland on the site, as well as stone foundations and rubble. Some of the latter may have been garden features. There is also some evidence of landscaping, with banks being apparent. Tracing them was difficult in the undergrowth, but they may also be associated with garden features. Opportunity should be taken as part of wider work to clear the site and facilitate further research and recording work.

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Removal of vegetation will preserve evidential value as well as increase historical and aesthetic value.

## St Helens & Priory Wood

# Compartment: P2

# Woodland Plans: SF10

# Significant Sites: Destroyed Watch House MNA148946 marked on 1830 map and giving its name to what is now Nodes Point. It was in ruins by the 19th century and may be a very early coastal lookout post. Priory Bay Lower Palaeolithic Sites MNA148947

# Task: Opportunity should be taken to clear the area of the watch house to facilitate further research. Any groundworks or disturbance across the wider Priory Bay compartment should be minimal and if any is required for removing tree stumps an archaeological watching brief or assessment visit post work is highly recommended. Vegetation removal from this landscape and associated tree root damage is advised but is not entirely practical. Areas of increased clearance to form clearings might be a way forward?

# Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Removal of vegetation from the Lower Palaeolithic landscape will reduce further evidential loss. Removal of vegetation from the watch house will increase historical and aesthetics value.