Borthwood Woodland Management Plan Summary 2022-2032



Habitats and Species

Borthwood is important for its concentration of old open-grown standards, which support wooddecay communities and epiphytic lichen communities characteristic of former wood-pasture habitat.The detailed mosaic of wood-pasture and coppice habitats are also an important habitat here.

A total of six Nationally Scarce invertebrates are known to occur at the property, plus a further eight species which are of particular interest. The rarest species are wood cricket *Nemobius sylvestris* and the beetle *Dorcatoma serra* which develops in perennial brackets of tree-hollowing fungi, both species occurring in fewer than 30 10km squares nationally. At least two species occur here at their only known localities on the Island - the *D. serra* and hollowed glass snail *Zonitoides excavatus*.

The woodland also has rare Annex II bats including Bechstein's and possibly also Barbastelle.

Designations

With the exception of compartment B1f and part of B1g, Borthwood is classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. This means it has been continuously wooded since 1600. Part of B1b is classified as PAWS which means that this area has at some point been felled and replanted with non-native species, in this case, the planted non-native species is sycamore.

Management Approaches

Coppicing will be used to maintain this habitat type and traditional woodland management technique.

Selective felling will be used to reduce the dominance of some species such as holly where they are having a negative impact on the woodland ecosystem.

In the PAWS area at B1b, the impact of the sycamore will be monitored to assess its impact on the wider ecosystem. If it is found to be having a negative impact, action will be undertaken to mitigate this.

Thinning will be used to keep areas of the woodland more open, allowing light to the forest floor and keeping paths open and accessible.



Map 2g- Borthwood - Activity and Work Phase Scale 1-7500 at A4

This document is a summary plan and supports a full Forestry Commission Woodland Plan which can be found at www.forestplans.co.uk/IsleofWight