

Date: 13th July 2015

Your ref:



Mr C Snell,
Via e-mail to 'info@tournerbury.com'

Natural England,
2nd Floor
Cromwell House
15 Andover
Road
Winchester
SO23 7BT

Dear Chris,

Many thanks for meeting me on 29th April so that I could conduct an Integrated Site Assessment at Tournerbury Woods and thus assess the condition of the woods, which are Unit 3 of Chichester harbour SSSI. Please find details below.

Unit	Condition	Comments
3	Favourable	Date of Visit – 29th April 2015. <u>Description</u> The main importance of this unit of the SSSI is breeding Herons in the woodland. Aspects important for the Herony were assessed. Other aspects of the woodland were assessed to see how they are doing, but were not counted as targets for assessing the condition of this unit. The woodland is fairly varied with areas of old Oak woodland, areas of plantation and some open areas. The ground flora is not very species-rich, but this may increase with the appropriate management. It is dominated by Bluebell in areas, with frequent Bramble, Enchanters Nightshade and Wood Spurge and occasional Greater Stitchwort, Wood Speedwell, Primrose, Honeysuckle, Common Dog Violet and Butchers Broom. The following aspects that were assessed for unit condition are as follows – • Appropriate variation in tree/bush size class – PASS • Cover of non-natives (is at least 95% of the cover in any layer of the woodland structure, composed of native species?) – PASS • Presence of minimum intervention areas (areas left to grow up to maturity) – there should be a minimum of 10% of the wood in small blocks and/or 5 to 10 trees scattered per hectare that are left to grow on to maturity – PASS • Presence of saplings and young trees (in order to provide continuity of the woodland) – PASS • Tree planting (less than 20% of wood is regenerating by planting) – PASS • Death / die back (less than 10% of trees dying through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors) – PASS • Canopy cover (minimum should be 30 to 90% of each stand) – PASS Other aspects that were recorded but do not count towards the condition of the woodland are as follows –

		• Cover of ground flora (is the ground flora of the appropriate community?) – Yes, it was • Cover of open space (minimum should be 10%) – Yes • Presence of dead wood (minimum should be 3 fallen dead trees per hectare and 4 standing dead trees per hectare) – No. • Understorey (of 2 to 5 metres high over at least 40% of area) – No. <u>Present management</u> At the moment the woodland is well managed, but there is no coppicing and so the management consists mostly of some ride and track maintenance. There was rubbish buried in some areas many years ago and the owners have dug this out. These areas have almost no shrub or field layer, but this will return given time. <u>Future management</u> The future management will be discussed in a new SMS that is to be drawn up. The most important things are to ensure that there is adequate tall tree cover for Herons to nest in and to ensure that there is little disturbance in the woods when the Herons are nesting (mid January through to end April). Aspects that would enhance the woodland ecologically are to re-instate some coppicing, to allow an understorey and ground layer to establish, to remove as much Rhododendron as possible (or at least ensure that it does not increase from its present area) and to leave fallen and standing dead wood (unless it is a genuine health and safety hazard).
--	--	--

Chris, please do get in touch if you wish to discuss anything. I think it would be great to meet up again to discuss the SMS once you are at a stage to take this forward. It would be good to walk around the site again to discuss tracks, ponds and the other aspects that could be included.

Kind regards,



Simon Curson
Hampshire Adviser
Tel: 0300 060 4628 / 07825 753559
Email: simon.curson@naturalengland.org.uk

cc. James Pavey – 'James.Pavey@thomaseggar.com'