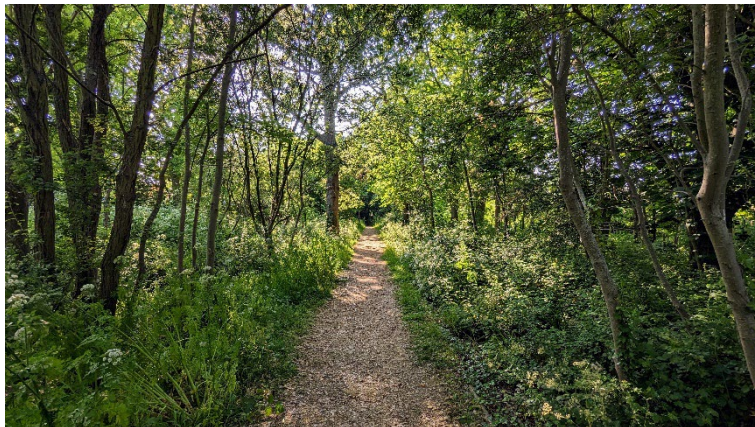




Northbrook Copse Management Plan December 2023



Introduction to site.

This small area of 0.479 ha woodland is owned and managed by Swanage Town Council and is managed as a public greenspace. It is part of a network of Greenspaces in the Town of Swanage. It sits within the North Swanage urban area and is sited between D'urberville Drive and Cauldron Barn Road. (see map Appendix 1). The area of woodland pre-dates the 1970's housing estate and appears on old maps from the middle of the 20th century (Appendix 2). The area forms the southern end of a 19th century field parcel, with the current woodland shape forming part of this historic boundary today (Appendix 3). The underlying geology is Wealden clays and sands and has a couple of ditches running through it, some areas of the site are very wet. The site has no designations and is not in a conservation area. There is a well-made hogging path going through the site from east to west, this is a public footpath (SE3/95). There are no gates or stiles at entry points.

The present wood is made up of a mix of around 20 different tree and shrub species of varying age with prominent mature oaks scattered throughout, some of these are over 100 years old. These species are joined by numerous woodland plants with a total in excess of 75 species of herbaceous plants and grasses having been recorded. These plants along with deadwood and wet habitats all support a range of bird, insect, fungi, lichen and animal life, and is a real oasis amidst the urban environment.

Ecological Surveys

A survey was carried out by a previous staff member although date of this is not known. Repeat surveys were carried out in 2023 in preparation for this report. See appendix 4 for species list.

Management summary

Aims of management are to ensure continuous tree cover with trees of varying ages of predominantly native species and to provide a range of habitats naturally found in woodland. Management includes leaving deadwood for fungi and invertebrates and controlling invasive garden species such as three-cornered leek which left unchecked would out compete native flora.



Management Recommendations include:

- Retain deadwood incl felled trees to a safe and appropriate height to retain standing deadwood.
- Plant new Quercus robur to be next generation, there are several significant oaks present.
- Repeat a walkover wildflower survey in following season to add species lists.
- Record butterflies, birds and other wildlife using citizen science.
- Control invasive non-native species
- Install bird/bat/bug boxes due to lack of mature trees hosting these features.
- Review drainage of the site as it is currently underwater in some areas.

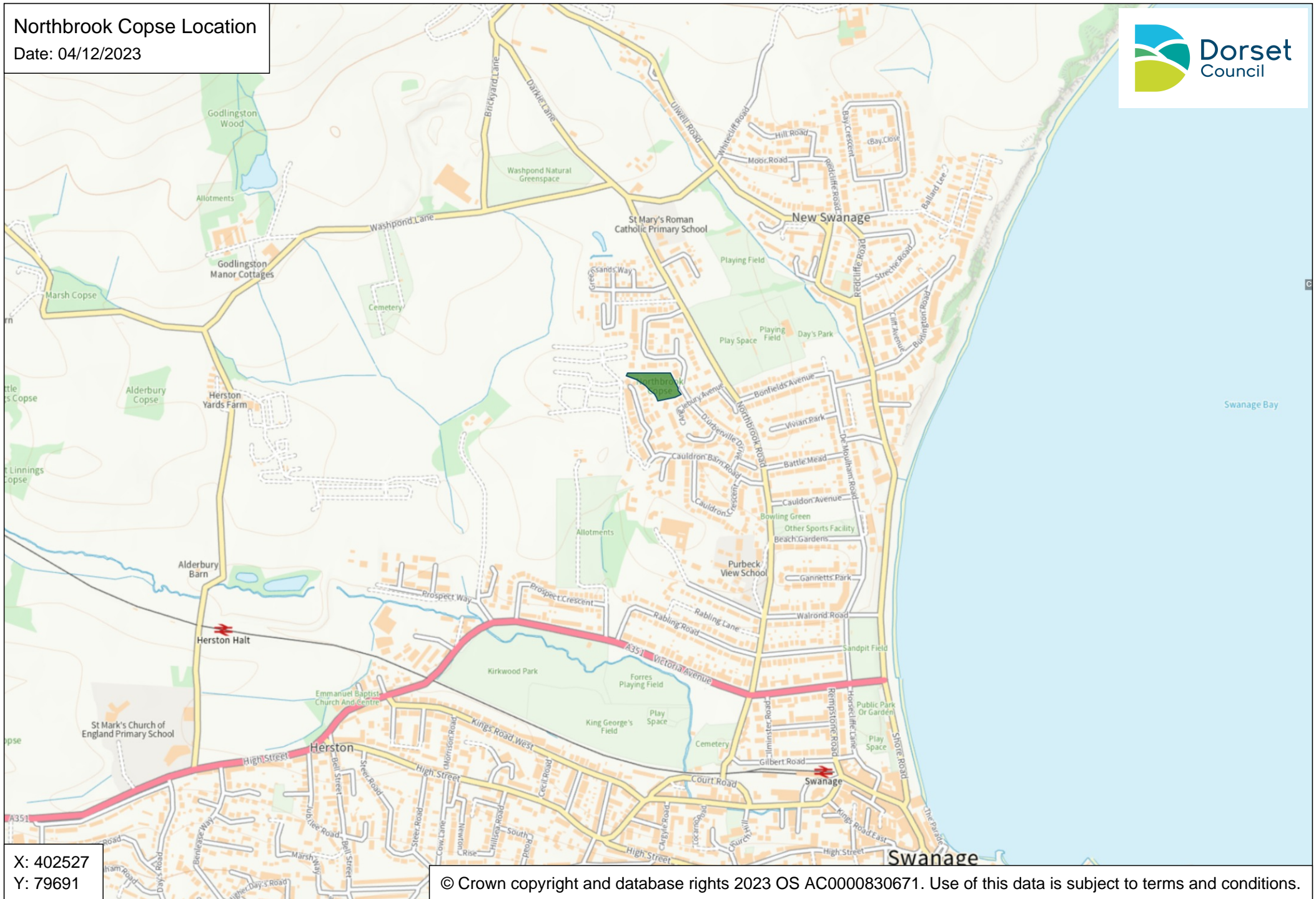
Recommendation	Who	Area	Rationale	Time-scale
Control Three-cornered leek	Swanage Town Council staff	Eastern edge	This is a non- native garden escapee and is colonising the eastern edge. Left unchecked it will greatly impact on native flora.	Winter
Plant several new Quercus robur	Swanage Town Council	Throughout, where gaps arise from ash dying.	To provide next generation of oaks as existing trees are mature.	Winter 2024/25
Install several bird boxes/bat boxes	Swanage Town Council	Scattered	Lack of mature trees hosting these features. To add more habitats.	
Record insects, birds, butterflies and other wildlife using site.	Public (citizen science), Swanage Town Council	Throughout		Ongoing
Prevent encroachment onto footpath of ground vegetation	Swanage Town Council	Along footpath		ongoing

Tree management

Additional work may be required for tree safety management. Refer to existing Swanage Town Council tree policy and tree surveys for this site.

Northbrook Copse Location

Date: 04/12/2023



X: 402527
Y: 79691

Northbrook Copse Location

OS Map 1937-1961

Date: 04/12/2023



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National Library of Scotland

Northbrook Copse Location

OS Historic Map 1888 -1913

Date: 04/12/2023



X: 402722
Y: 80027

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Northbrook Copse
Swanage
Plant List

Northbrook Copse: List of Plant Species:

Common Names

Scientific Names

Trees/Shrubs:

Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Q. robur</i>
Holm Oak	<i>Q. cerris</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Eared Willow	<i>Salix aurita</i>
Grey Willow	<i>S. cinerea</i>
White Willow	<i>S. alba</i>
Almond Willow	<i>S. triandra</i>
Crack Willow	<i>S. fragilis</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Norway Maple	<i>A. platanoides</i>
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Rowen	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>
Bramble spp	<i>Rubus agg</i>
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Field Rose	<i>R. arvensis</i>
Butcher's-broom	<i>Ruscus aculatus</i>
Bay Laurel	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>

Grasses/Sedges/Ferns

Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>
Annual Meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Barren Brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>
Wood Meadow grass	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>
Wood Melick	<i>Melica uniflora</i>
Bearded Couch	<i>Elymus canissus</i>
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>
Compact Rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>

Soft Rush
Soft Sheild Fern
Red Fescue
Giant Fescue
False Brome

J. effuses
Polystichum setiferum
Festuca fubra
F. gigantea
Brachypodium sylvaticum

Herbaceous Plants

Hogweed
Cow Parsley
Stone Parsley
Celandine
Creeping Buttercup
Cleavers
Ivy
Bittersweet
Herb-Robert
Black Bryony
Stinking Iris
Lords and Ladies
Wild Onion
Wood Avens
Honesty
Wood Dock
Smooth Sow-thistle
Common Vetch
Small-flowered Crane's-bill
Dandelion spp
Square-stalked St John's-wort
Tutsan
Common Spotted-orchid
Pyramidal Orchid
Garlic Mustard
Common Comfrey
Common Nettle
Honeysuckle
Hedge Woundwort
Betony
Hemlock Water-dropwort
Woolly Thistle
Broad-leaved Willowherb
Hoary Willowherb
Great Willowherb
Common Mouse-ear
Common Ragwort
Common Chickweed
Ivy-leaved Speedwell
Garden Bluebell
Primrose
Garden Solomon's-seal

Heracleum sphondylium
Anthriscus sylvestris
Sison amomum
Ranunculus ficaria
R. repens
Gallium aparine
Hedera helix
Solanum dulcamara
Geranium robertianum
Tamus communis
Iris foetidissima
Arum maculatum
Allium vineale
Geum urbanum
Lunaria annua
Rumex sanguineus
Sonchus oleraceus
Vicia sativa
Geranium pusillum
Taraxacum agg
Hypericum tetrapterum
H. androsaemum
Dactyloriza fuchsia
Anacamptis pyramidalis
Alliaria petiolata
Symphytum officinale
Urtica dioica
Lonicera periclymenum
Stachys sylvatica
S. officinalis
Oenanthe crocata
Cirsium vulgare
Epilobium montanum
E. parviflorum
E. hirsutum
Cerastium fontanum
Senecio jacobaea
Stellaria media
Veronica hederifolia
Hyacinthoides x massartiana
Primula vulgaris
Polygonatum x hybridum

Pink-sorrel
Ramsons
Garden Daffodil
Spear Thistle
Three-cornered Garlic
Hairy Bitter-cress
Sweet Violet
Ground Ivy
Wood Forget-me-not
Italian Lords-and-Ladies
Red Valerian
Snowdrop
Druce's Crane's-bill
Stinking Hellebore
Grape-hyacinth
Pignut
Wood Spurge
Snow-in-summer
Spring Crocus

Oxalis articulata
Allium ursinum
Narcissus pseudonarcissus cv
Cirsium vulgare
Allium triquetrum
Cardamine hirsute
Viola oderata
Glechoma hederacea
Myosotis sylvatica
Arum italicum
Centranthus ruber
Galanthus nivalis
Geranium x oxonianum
Helleborus foetidus
Muscari neglectum
Conopodium majus
Euphorbia amygdaloides
Cerastium tomentosum
Crocus vernus