

Management works at the Christchurch Gun Club site

February 2016

Christchurch Gun Club is using a contractor to selectively fell trees on parts of their landholding. The work will involve some thinning of birch and pine on the south and east facing slopes of the former quarry and removal of non-native species (such as rhododendron, sycamore, maple, holm oak and strawberry tree) from the woodland areas. The work is expected to commence from 3 February.

The land tenanted by the gun club comprises a disused quarry which is of special geological interest. The slopes of the former quarry expose fine sands and silts containing plant debris which were laid down in the Eocene, some 35 to 40 million years ago. There are patches of heath on the slopes of the quarry, especially where more open conditions prevail and tree cover is light. The management objectives of the work are:

- To keep the key geological faces free of trees and scrub
- To expand the existing patches of heathland and link the heath areas together through selective tree thinning
- To benefit rare and protected species of conservation concern, such as sand lizard and the silver-studded blue butterfly
- To enhance the woodland in the eastern part of the site by removing non-native species
- To retain the majority of trees around the site for screening and noise buffering

The proposed work is funded through a Conservation and Enhancement Scheme, which is a 5 year management agreement between the Christchurch Gun Club and Natural England. The works are covered by a Felling Licence which was granted in February 2014 (application ref: 018/39713-14)

If you would like to speak to somebody about the work being undertaken or would like further information, please contact:

Christchurch Gun Club 01202 490999 or 075 9644 2496

Helen Powell, Natural England 078 333 87913