

Management Proposals at the Christchurch Gun Club

The Christchurch Gun Club is applying to the Forestry Commission for a thinning licence to remove selective trees on parts of their landholding. The proposal is to fell pine and birch on the south and east facing slopes of the former quarry and to remove non-native species (such as sycamore, maple, holm oak and strawberry tree) from the woodland areas.

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

The proposed work is to be enabled through a Conservation and Enhancement Scheme, which is a 5 year management agreement between the Christchurch Gun Club and Natural England.

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

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