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| Area | 2.34 ha |
| Stocking density | 0 trees per hectare |

Management Notes

Mingledown Plantation is a mixed deciduous wood with mature Chestnut and Ash close to the village of Chawton and is well used, particularly by dog-walkers. It is enclosed by fences, a ditch along the NW boundary to the village, and a wood bank marking the boundary with Eastfield Plantation (Beech) to the SE.

The main pedestrian entrance to Mingledown is in the SW corner on a permissive footpath which takes a loop around Mingledown and adjacent Eastfield Plantation and Adela Copse (forming the "Northern Plantations" of Chawton House). A public footpath also enters Mingledown at the NE corner climbing a slope before exiting into the field adjacent to Nature Trek.

Vehicular access is possible but only via a convoluted off-road route through the estate. The Chawton House tractor and trailer can access Mingledown via a gate into Eastfield Plantation from Knickernocker Field but not all the way to the SW entrance.

Management History

Mingledown has been neglected in recent years, with tree work focusing on damaged and dangerous mature trees particularly where these are close to well used footpaths. Debris from recent tree work (primarily Horse Chestnut) remains at the SW entrance.

Annual Notes

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| 2021 | <p>21 Jul Conservation Volunteers to perform woodland management tasks from the work programme. Work will begin in the SW and move through Mingledown towards the (wood bank) boundary with Eastfield Plantation.</p> <p>The permissive footpaths will be closed but dog walkers should still be anticipated.</p> <p>In addition to Risk Assessment(s) carried out by the volunteers, Chawton House will perform a Risk Assessment for the day's activities and share this with the volunteers before work commences.</p> |
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Work Programme

| Year | Activity |
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| 1 | Clearance of debris from recent tree work, dumped at SW entrance. Remove over wooden fence to Knickernocker field (South). Brash may be used to form dead-hedge(s) or burned in Knickernocker field. |

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| 1 | Thinning to encourage growth of desirable species, and successors in understorey. Remove weak, suppressed, leaning or potentially dangerous trees <7.5cm in diameter. Remove self-set Sycamore, Ash etc. where inappropriate (i.e. not a potential successor). Retain Hazel, Hawthorn, Spindle, plus some Elder and Holly, Retain standing deadwood, especially away from footpath. Minimise disturbance to habitats. |
| 1 | Remove leaning trees/undergrowth which is damaging sheep fence to Knickernocker field. Maintain stock-proof. |
| 1 | Identify large rounds suitable for forest school seating area in neighbouring Eastfield Plantation. Stack these at tractor access point in Eastfield Plantation (move in tractor). Discourage use of existing clearing close to steep public footpath (has been used for forest school previously). Use felled material, wood stacks to guide pedestrians to circular path (N.B. retain tractor turning point). |
| 1 | Reinforce use of main permissive path around edge of Mingledown (and Eastfield / Adela). Discourage use of new paths which sprung up during 2020 lockdown and now criss-cross Mingledown, using felled material and debris from recent tree work (near SW entrance). Wood stacks (<1m high), leave felled trees, build dead-hedges. |
| 1 | Remove trees (<7.5cm) that are growing in main circular pathway. Cut to e.g. 75cm high rather than creating low trip hazard if roots cannot be removed. Consider route of path and compaction of roots of mature trees. |
| 1 | Improve waterlogged paths using bark chips (to be brought in on tractor/trailer and wheelbarrowed to where needed). Particular areas of concern are the main pedestrian access, and path along SW of Mingledown. |
| 2 | Improve steps (3 sleepers) to S of Mingledown. These are ineffective and avoided by walkers. Remove or space out? Assess with volunteers and consider whether time to tackle on 21 Jul. |