

MARLHILL COPSE

THE TREES AND PLANTS OF MARLHILL COPSE

Marlhill Copse is rich in many different species of trees and shrubs, some native and some introduced during the woodland's development as a 'Valley Garden' for the Townhill Park Estate.

The site is designated as ancient woodland and supports a number of ancient woodland indicator species, including wood sorrel, dog's mercury and honeysuckle. Whilst the woodland supports mature trees and shrubs which provide high biodiversity value, such as ash, beech, oak and yew, there are also a number of introduced exotic species which require control via future management.



Hampshire Gardens Trust

PROVIDED BY **SOU** Southampton Airport



English oak
(*Quercus robur*)



Beech
(*Fagus sylvatica*)



Alder
(*Alnus glutinosa*)



Great horsetail
(*Equisetum telmateia*)



Lesser pond-sedge
(*Carex acutiformis*)



Enchanter's nightshade
(*Circaea lutetiana*)



Lady fern
(*Athyrium filix-femina*)



Hemp nettle
(*Galeopsis ladanum*)



Turkey tail mushroom
(*Trametes versicolor*)



Scarlet elf cup
(*Sarcoscypha austriaca*)



Ramsons
(*Allium ursinum*)



Ivy
(*Hedera helix*)



Old man's beard
(*Clematis vitalba*)



London plane
(*Platanus x hispanica*)



Wych elm
(*Ulmus glabra*)



Willow
(*Salix sp.*)

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

The woodland has been highly modified through the introduction of non-native ornamental shrubs over the years.

The structure of the woodland is currently of an even age and dominated by mature trees, resulting in heavy shading and a poorly developed understorey layer, largely absent ground flora and lack of herbaceous species.

Future management will enhance the structure of the woodland, providing an uneven age structure with many more wildlife habitat opportunities due to its greater diversity.

Selective thinning will ensure the woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space to provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its future resilience.