

# Island biodiversity: preliminary report

## Floral survey

Carried out 6.11.06 by Saul Mearns (Manchester City Council North Area Parks Warden) & Peter Milner (BHCCAT Secretary & Conservation Volunteers Coordinator).

Vascular plants	Mature	Immature
Alder	6	6
Ash	5	9
Beech	0	1
Birch	1	10
Silver Birch	30	11
Elder	2	6
Hawthorn	37	25
Holly	13	54
Oak	9	29
Privet mostly stands of 4-10	163	9
Rhododendron	7	0
Rowan	4	1
Sycamore	44	211
Willow	19	2
Dogwood *	8 clumps	0
Brambles	1 clump	0

Fungi	Fruiting body
Bracket perhaps Birch Polypore *	2 clusters of 3
Earthy Powdercap *	1 cluster of 10
Fly Agaric	1 cluster of 5
Willow Shield or Magpie Inkcap *	1 cluster of 8.

Asterisked\* species: uncertain identification.

Mix of natural woodland trees. No Hazel.

Minimal ground cover except for one clump of brambles, small areas of moss (species unidentified) and some fungi. No grasses.

Survey regularly e.g. annually. Widen survey to include fauna.

Waterbirds Survey begun 2004: results being compiled.

## Natural woodland restoration proposals

Privet & Sycamore over abundant, require thinning. Invasive Rhododendron requires removing. These measures will increase light through to ground which will help growth of ground cover.

Dry soil, perhaps due to artificial conical structure of Island causing rain water to run off into Lake and not allowing water retention. Could excavate central pond or circular moat-like pond to irrigate Island to help growth of ground cover.

## Heronry protection proposals

Heron nests reused and enlarged year by year. 2 in Privets collapsed under their own weight. 2 in top of Hawthorns still in place. Plant more Hawthorns to provide future heron nesting sites.

Carry out works suggested above incrementally over several years during autumns & winters outside heron nesting season.

Management of Island's Canada geese will be considered in future document.

See also BHCCAT 14.12.06 application to SITA Trust for grant to carry out Lodge Biodiversity Enrichment Programme which includes some woodland management proposals suggested above plus Island edge floating reedbeds.