BRAUNTON BURROWS BIOSPHERE RESERVE CORE AREA

HABITAT MANAGEMENT WORK

English Nature has surveyed the Burrows and found that some dune habitats are in an unfavourable condition due to excessive amounts of scrub smothering the internationally renowned flora.

The current management work is essential to save the exceptionally diverse plant communities and return threatened habitats such as wet slacks and short flower rich turf to a favourable condition.

The Burrows has dried out in recent decades causing the extinction of rare plants such as the fen orchid and a serious decline in others e.g. water germander and petalwort. Excavations recreate the new wet slacks that will provide ideal conditions for these plants to colonise.

The mowing of tall grass, cutting and removal of bushes and small trees prevents the rich variety of plants such as thyme, lady's bedstraw and orchids from becoming smothered. Subsequently grazing with sheep and cattle will be phased in over parts of the Burrows to control the regrowth.

<u>For further information contact:</u>

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