Woodland Management Plan

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| To be completed by the plan author: | | |
| Woodland or Property name | South Downs | |
| Woodland Management Plan case reference | 1170380 | |
| **The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland** | | **Yes** |
| Plan author name | Matt Taylor | |

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| For FC Use only: | | | | |
| **Plan Period**  *(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)* | **Approval Date:** | **1/3/2023** | **Approved until:** | **28/2/2033** |
| **Five Year Review Date** | **1/3/2028** | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision No.** | **Date** | **Status (draft/final)** | **Reason for Revision** |
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**Template user support:**

The functionality in this version of the management plan template has been downgraded to ensure compatibility with Word 2003. This document is not protected and as such rows can be added & deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.

UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria.

Prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

|  |  |  |  |
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| **UKFS management plan criteria** | | **Minimum approval requirements** | **Author check ** |
| 1 | **Plan Objectives:**  Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved. | * Management plan objectives are stated. * Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. | Yes |
| 2 | **Forest context and important features in management strategy:**  Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed. | Management intentions communicated in ***Sect. 6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) ***Sect. 2***.  Management intentions should take account of:   * Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***) * Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). * Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in ***Sect. 7***. | Yes |
| 3 | **Identification of designations within and surrounding the site:**  For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure. | * Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. * Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations. | Yes |
| 4 | **Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:**  When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements.  Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.  Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range. | * Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). * Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). * Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). | Yes |
| 5 | **Consultation:**  Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. | * Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. * Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. | Yes |
| 6 | **Plan Update and Review:**  Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant. | * A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. * ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. | Yes |

Section 1: Property Details

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Woodland Property Name](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on003-property-boundary.pdf/$FILE/ewgs-on003-property-boundary.pdf) | | | South Downs | | |
| Name | Thomas Hill | | Owner | National Trust | |
| Email | Thomas.Hill@nationaltrust.org.uk | | Contact Number | 07855 510604 | |
| Agent Name | | | Matt Taylor | | |
| Email | | forestandland@gmail.com | Contact Number | 07814 571174 | |
| County | | Hampshire, West Sussex, East Sussex | [Local Authority](http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/Start.do?mode=1) | East Hampshire, Chichester, Mid Sussex, Lewes | |
| Grid Reference | | NW – SU7035 to SE TQ4010 | Single Business Identifier | 106327021 | |
| What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares) | | | 917.86 | | |
| You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan? | | | Yes | | |
| You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? | | | 1. Compartments and Woodland Type 2. Activity and Work Phase 3. Long Term Activity 4. Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees 5. Statutory Designations 6. Sensitivities and Issues | | |
| Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following? | | | Felling Licence | | Yes |
| Thinning Licence | | Yes |
| You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan? | | | Yes | |  |
| You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available? | | | Yes | |  |

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

2.1 Vision

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| The National Trust is committed to managing our woodland estate in conformance with the requirements of the UKWAS standard and we intend to protect and maintain the woodlands and their ecological integrity in the long term.  We aim to protect those things that make our land special, as well as making sure it is economically viable. As a minimum, our land should be classified as being in good condition (through our Land Condition Assessments). And then we want to nurture our land to be brilliant, using our six functions of land as our guide. Ideally, we will be making improvements across all functions, avoiding situations in which success in one land function compromises the minimum standards in another.  **The six functions of land – Our Vision**  *Healthy-* Healthy and robust soils, water, carbon, ecological processes - with properly functioning fundamental processes. We work beyond our boundaries and with partners  *Rich in wildlife* **–** Our habitats are ‘better, bigger, and more joined up’ creating the right conditions for wildlife to flourish, ensuring their future survival  *Beautiful*- We understand what is unique, distinctive and cherished about our land (its ‘Spirit of Place’), and protect and enhance these qualities  *Enjoyable* – Our land is accessible and welcoming. We encourage a whole range of visitors and local people to enjoy our land by creating facilities, interpretation, and events  *Rich in culture* **–** We recognise and protect our land’s cultural significance where it reveals layers of the past, or where it is an important setting for contemporary life  *Productive* - Our land continues to provide for us because it’s managed in a way that’s sustainable |

2.2 Management Objectives

| **No.** | **Objectives** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Increase opportunities for our local wildlife |
| 2 | Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils |
| 3 | Reduce our carbon footprint |
| 4 | Maintain the site’s visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience |
| 5 | Protect and enhance the site’s cultural heritage |
| 6 | Contribute to the local economy |
| 7 | Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors |

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

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| --- | --- |
| **Objectives** | **Achievement** |
| 1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife. |  |
| 1. Slow the flow of water across our land and improve water quality and protect soils |  |
| 1. Reduce our carbon footprint |  |
| 1. Maintain the site’s visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience. |  |
| 1. Protect and enhance the site’s cultural heritage |  |
| 1. Contribute to the local economy |  |
| 1. To protect health and safety of visitors, staff and contractors |  |

Section 4: Woodland Survey

4.1 Description

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| Location  **1. Location**  This plan contextualises and describes the approach to woodland management for the South Downs Woodlands portfolio, a group of National Trust owned and managed properties. This group includes the following properties: Black Cap (BC - 101.12ha), Black Down (B - 169.6), Drovers (DR - 90.16ha), Durford Heath (28.06ha), Kirdford and Plaistow (K- 14.63ha), Harting Down (H -116.79ha), Lavington (L- 26.43ha), Saddlescombe (N & DD - 57.37ha), Selborne (SE -103.54ha), Uppark ( U -9.89ha), Wolstonbury Hill (WO -18.84ha), Woolbeding (W -128.92ha), Swan Barn (SB - 8.88ha) and Marley (M - 42.83). The detail in brackets provides the initial letter of each compartment number shown on plan maps and in the plan of operations, and the gross hectarage of woodland at each site covered in this plan.  **2. History** The National Trust was founded on 12 January 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley. Over the last 125 years they’ve become one of the UK’s largest charities, caring for historic places and areas of beautiful countryside including the South Downs Properties covered by this plan. Under this ownership, the woodlands have been managed with biodiversity, public access, heritage and aesthetics as primary objectives. This plan sees these management aims continued.  **3. Species and age class distribution** The majority of the woodlands covered by this plan are mature and native. There is also a significant proportion of the area classified as ancient semi-natural woodland. The primary non-native species within the woodlands covered by this plan are scots pine and sweet chestnut.  **4. Soils** The typical soils type of the South Downs is chalk clays and silty loams. There are also areas of sandy soils overlying sandstone.  **5. Rainfall** Average rainfall across the South Downs National Park is currently around 807mm per annum in the west to 879 mm per annum in the east.  **6. Elevation** The woodlands in this plan range in elevation from close to sea level at Woolbeding to Blackdown at 280 m  **7. Landscape and Topography** The South Downs National Character Area is defined by a prominent ridge of chalk that stretches from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne and the East Sussex coastline in the east, where it meets the sea in the distinctive chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters.  The eastern downs characterised by large open arable and grassland fields, mostly enclosed by the 16th century, with a general absence of woodland and hedgerow boundaries, creating an open, exposed landscape. To the west of the River Arun, where holdings were smaller and ‘sheep-and-corn’ farming less important, hedgerows enclose medium to large irregular fields between the woodlands and designed parkland landscapes, the latter a particular feature of the central areas  **8. Access** All properties in this plan have a mixture of statutory and concessionary public access. Many have formal access facilities such as car parking and picnic areas. These are managed by dedicated property staff.  **9. Water** The majority of the properties covered by this plan contain aquatic and riparian habitats. These will be protected during operations and proposed management will enhance the habitat value wherever the opportunity exists.  **10. Adjacent Land use** In many instances, farming has shaped the South Downs NCA over centuries; characteristic farming patterns range from arable in the west, wooded areas and mixed farming in the central areas and chalk grassland increasingly to the east. Over 80 per cent of the South Downs NCA is farmed. |

4.2 Information

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Within Woodland** | **Cpts** | **Adjacent to Woodland(s)** | **Map No** |
| [**Biodiversity**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL001.pdf/$FILE/FCGL001.pdf)**-** [**Designations**](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/) | | | | |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest | Yes | BC1 BC2 BC3; DR5h DR5g; H1 H2 H3 H4 H5 H8; L2a,b,c,d; N1 N2 N3 DD1 DD2; SE1 SE2 SE3; WO1; W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W8 W9 W10 W11 W12 W13 W15 W16 W17 W18 W19 W20  W21 W22a | Yes | 5a-m |
| Special Area of Conservation | No |  | No |  |
| Tree Preservation Order | Yes | WO1a, BC2 | Yes |  |
| Conservation Area | Yes | SE1d and SE2 | Yes |  |
| Special Protection Area | No |  | No |  |
| Ramsar Site | No |  | No |  |
| National Nature Reserve | No |  | No |  |
| Local Nature Reserve | Yes | H1 H2 H3 H4 H5 H8 | Yes | 5a-m |
| Other (please Specify): | No |  | No |  |
| **Notes** |  | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | | | **Within Woodland(s)** | | | **Cpts** | | **Map No** | | **Notes** |
| **Biodiversity -** [**European Protected Species**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/eps) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bat | Species (if known) | | Yes | | All | | |  | | Bats will be present across the plan area. All works will follow EPS operational requirements. This plan will see the retention and creation of deadwood and snags, as well as opening areas of the woodland and improving biodiversity increasing the habitat for bat roosting and foraging. |
| Dormouse | | | Yes | |  | | | N/A | | Identified in Biodiversity Plan for Selborne, Black Cap, Saddlescombe (Newtimber), Uppark, Swan Barn. |
| Great Crested Newt | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Saddlescombe (Newtimber), |
| Otter | | | No | |  | | |  | |  |
| Sand Lizard | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Lavington |
| Smooth Snake | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Kirdford |
| Natterjack Toad | | | No | |  | | |  | |  |
| **Biodiversity –** [**Priority Species**](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/S41%20NERC%20List%20-%20Aug%202010v4_tcm6-21416.xls) | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Schedule 1 Birds](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/wildbirdslaw/birdsandlaw/wca/schedules.aspx) | | Species: | Yes | |  | | |  | | Kirdford – Nightingale  Selborne - marsh tit, song thrush, turtle dove and bullfinch  Harting Down - Nightingale and turtle dove  Lavington – Song Thrush  Black Down – Woodlark  Uppark – Spotted Flycatcher  Wolstonbury Hill – Song Thrush  Swan Barn - UK BAP Priority song thrush and  bullfinch as well as Red-listed marsh tit and Amber-listed grey wagtail and  redstart. |
| Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc) | | | No | |  | | |  | |  |
| Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc) | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Harting Down (adder), Lavington (grass snake), Saddlescombe, Newtimber – (grass snake and adder - potential), |
| Plants | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Black Cap - musk orchid, frog orchid, autumn lady’s-tresses, and hound’s-tongue.  Selborne - white helleborine, bird’s nest orchid and Italian lords and ladies; |
| Fungi/Lichens | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Durford Heath - Acid bark lichen flora on mature oak trees, |
| Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc) | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | Black Down - the spider Centromerus aequalis  and the flat-footed fly Agathomyia falleni;  Drovers - A false click beetle  Dirhagus pygmaeus  Harting Down- wood-decay cuckoo bee Coelioxys quadridentata and Blue carpenter bee Ceratina cyanea;  Selborne - box bug, solitary bees, ground bugs |
| Amphibians (pool frog, common toad) | | | Yes | |  | | |  | | All of these will be present |
| Other (please Specify): | | | Yes/No | |  | | |  | |  |
| [**Historic Environment**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL003.pdf/$FILE/FCGL003.pdf) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled Monuments | | | Yes | |  | | | 5 a-m | Touching edge of H5  L2a & b  N1d | |
| Unscheduled Monuments | | | Yes/No | |  | | |  |  | |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | | | Yes | |  | | | 5 a-m | SE1f  U1 U2 | |
| Boundaries and Veteran Trees | | | Yes | |  | | | 4 a-m |  | |
| Listed Buildings | | | No | |  | | | 5 a-m |  | |
| Other (please Specify): | | | Yes | |  | | |  | See Unscheduled Historic Features Map and details at Appendix 1 | |
| [**Landscape**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL004.pdf/$FILE/FCGL004.pdf) | | | | | | | | | | |
| [National Character Area](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130) (please Specify): South Downs, Hampshire Downs, Wealden Greensand, Low Weald | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Park | | | | Yes |  | |  | | All with the exception of Kirdford, Swan Barn and B1, B5 and B6 | |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | | | | No | B1, B5, B6, SB2-5 | | 5 a-m | |  | |
| Other (please Specify): | | | | No |  | |  | |  | |
| [**People**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL005.pdf/$FILE/FCGL005.pdf) | | | | | | | | | | |
| CROW Access | | | | Yes | BC1 BC2 BC3g; B7 B8 B9 B10 B11 B12 B13 B14 B15 B16 B17 B18 B19 B20; K1 K2 K3 K4 K5;  H1 H2 H3 H4 H5 H8; L2  N1 N2 DD1 DD2;  SE1; WO1a  W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W8 W9 W10 W11 W12 W13 W15 W16 W17 W18 W19 W20  W21  M1-4  M6-9  SB4 | | 6 a-m | |  | |
| Public Rights of Way (any) | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Throughout woodlands | |
| Other Access Provision | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Carparks, picnic areas, | |
| Public Involvement | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Volunteer staff | |
| Visitor Information | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Interpretation panels, website | |
| Public Recreation Facilities | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Various | |
| Provision of Learning Opportunities | | | | Yes |  | |  | | Ranger teams who facilitate school visits and public education | |
| Anti-social Behaviour | | | | No |  | |  | |  | |
| [**Water**](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL007.pdf/$FILE/FCGL007.pdf) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watercourses | | | Yes | |  | | | 6 a-m | | See section 5.6 |
| Lakes | | | No | |  | | |  | |  |
| Ponds | | | Yes | | Various scrapes and wet areas | | |  | | See section 5.6 |
| Other (please Specify): | | | No | |  | | |  | |  |

4.3 Habitat Types

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Within Woodland(s)** | **Cpts** | **Map No** | **Notes** |
| **Woodland Habitat Types** | | | | |
| Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland | Yes | B4 B6 B8 B10d,e,f B14 B16, B17, B19;  DR2 DR3 DR4 DR5;  H4 H5; N1;  SE1 SE2 SE3;  U1 U2 U3;  WO1 a and c;  W28 W29 W30 W32 W33 W36 SB2  M5a,e  M10 | 4 a-m | Ancient woodlands will be managed under the UKFS principles of good woodland management for their specific habitat type. |
| Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) | Yes | B21;  DR1 DR2 DR3 DR4 DR5; D1; H6;  U1; W22b W30 W31  M5a,e | 4a-m | PAWS will be managed to protect remnant features and progressively restore the semi-natural characteristics |
| Semi-natural features in PAWS | Yes |  |  | PAWS will be managed to protect remnant features and progressively restore the semi-natural characteristics. PAWS management appendices have been prepared for each site |
| Lowland beech and yew woodland | Yes |  |  | Black Down, Harting Down |
| Lowland mixed deciduous woodland | Yes |  |  | All |
| Upland mixed ash woods | Yes/No |  |  | Black Cap |
| Upland Oakwood | Yes/No |  |  |  |
| Wet woodland | Yes/No |  |  | Woolbeding, Swan Barn |
| Wood-pasture and parkland | Yes/No |  |  | Black Down, Black Cap |
| Other (please Specify): | Yes |  |  | Juniper Scrub at Saddlescombe.  An acid beech hanger  of significant interest for invertebrates |
| **Non Woodland Habitat Types** | | | | |
| Blanket bog | No |  |  |  |
| Fenland | No |  |  |  |
| Lowland calcareous grassland | No |  |  | Harting Down, Saddlescombe, Wolstonbury Hill, Black Cap |
| Lowland dry acid grassland | No |  |  |  |
| Lowland heath land | No |  |  | Woolbeding, Black Down, Lavington |
| Lowland meadows | No |  |  |  |
| Lowland raised bog | No |  |  |  |
| Rush pasture | No |  |  |  |
| Reed bed | No |  |  |  |
| Wood pasture | Yes |  |  | Black Cap, Black Down |
| Upland hay meadows | No |  |  |  |
| Upland heath land | No |  |  |  |
| Unimproved grassland | No |  |  | Harting Down |
| Peat lands | No |  |  |  |
| Wetland habitats | No |  |  |  |
| Other (please Specify): | No |  |  |  |

4.4 Structure and activity data

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Area and Structure | |  |  | Growth | |  |  | Harvesting (tonnes) | |  | Activity (ha) | |
| Total area (Hectares) | 915.5 |  |  | Annual Increment (tonnes) | 4290 |  |  | 10 Year harvest | 37,160 |  | Coppicing | 74.4 |
| Of which is Open Ground | 75.5 |  |  | Mean Weighted Yield Class | 5.1 |  |  | Phase 1 | 24,330 |  | Selective Felling | 339 |
| Conifer woodland | 1.7 |  |  |  |  |  |  | Phase 2 | 12,830 |  | Thinning | 316.4 |
| Woodland with mixed native and non native Broadleaved trees | 144.5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Clear Fell | 1.75 (already licenced) |
| Woodland with mixed native and non native Broadleaved and Coniferous trees | 260.46 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | No Felling | 184 |
| Native Woodland | 498.88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monoculture Sweet Chestnut Coppice | 9.96 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Section 5: Woodland Protection

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Impact** | High | Plan for Action | Action | Action |
| Medium | Monitor | Plan for Action | Action |
| Low | Monitor | Monitor | Plan for Action |
|  |  | Low | Medium | High |
|  |  | **Likelihood of Presence** | | |

5.2 [Plant Health](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6abl5v)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Chalara dieback of ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: There are confirmed cases of Ash dieback from this area every year for the past three years |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Ash present across the site and a key component of natural regeneration in many woodlands. |
| Response (inc. protection measures) | Remain vigilant for symptoms during tree safety surveys.  Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands. Consider alternative species with a similar ecological niche and benefits when restocking. |

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| Threat | *Phytophthora ramorum* |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: *P. ramorum* disease has been previously recorded and this led to plant health notices being served in the locality. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Infection in larch wold lead to a SPHN resulting in disruption to the work programme compromising other objectives such as management for biodiversity. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | At present, monitor spread of disease via FC guidelines during tree safety surveys. Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands. Continue with Rhododendron control in woodlands (known host) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Oak Decline (Acute and Chronic) |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Low: Although no symptoms have been identified, Forest research identify the area as being on the border between high and low predisposition probability areas for this disease |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Oak form a significant part of our woodlands, and sit at the heart of the National Trust illustrated by its use in our logo. The impact of this disease would have a significant effect on the delivery of our objectives towards enhancement of biodiversity and the maintenance of the spirit of place. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | At present, to monitor for presence of disease via FC guidelines during tree safety surveys. Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands where appropriate. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Low: OPM has not spread into the South Downs, but it is spreading from where it is currently established, in most of Greater London and in some surrounding counties in South East England. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: The threat to staff and visitors is greater than the threat to the oak trees themselves. This pest has the potential to significantly disrupt the visitor experience and cause ecosystem disruption. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Follow the Forestry Commission advice of ‘Spot it, avoid it, report it’. Should any outbreaks occur, an evidence based response plan would be implemented in collaboration with national staff. |

|  |  |
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| Threat | Sweet Chestnut Blight |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Medium: This disease has been identified in the locality. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Sweet Chestnut forms a significant component of our woodland resource, economically, culturally and aesthetically. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Remain vigilant for symptoms during tree safety surveys.  Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands. |

|  |  |
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| Threat | Other tree pests and diseases |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Medium: There are many other tree and woodland pests and diseases in the UK that threaten the delivery of our objectives. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Remain educated about current and new UK threats, be vigilant for symptoms during tree safety surveys.  Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands. |

5.3 [Deer](http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: Staff report issues with deer browsing across the site |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Natural regeneration and coppice regrowth is currently restricted in part due to deer browsing. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Protect coppice stools and young trees with shelters or tree guards. Follow deer management programme. |

5.4 [Grey Squirrels](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/greysquirrel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: Grey squirrels are present. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | Medium: Grey squirrels are having a negative impact on woodland ecosystems |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Managed grey squirrel population through most efficient and appropriate means. |

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

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| --- | --- |
| Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc) | Livestock |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: Adjacent fields are grazed by tenant farmers and some woods are grazed intentionally. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Natural regeneration and coppice regrowth is currently restricted in part due to stock grazing. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Encourage take-up of agri-environment schemes to reduce stock grazing in woodlands. Identify woodlands where grazing is beneficial and graze to an agreed plan to ensure habitat longevity. Routine inspection of woodland boundaries to make sure they are fenced to exclude stock from woodland. Report any issues to owner of stock and seek sufficient control measures are put in place. |

5.6 Water & Soil

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| --- | --- |
| Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc) | Sediment pollution of waterways during operations |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Medium |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Undertake good brash management during operations, check brash is being used appropriately during operational monitoring. Stop work if adverse weather occurs. Install appropriate drainage and water management systems where deemed necessary. Monitor tracks and extraction routes for damage and rutting. Repair and halt use if necessary. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc) | Operational chemical or oil spillages |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: Fuel, pesticides, nutrient run-off from adjacent farmland. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | Low: Only small amounts of these pollutants are used. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | All chemical use will follow best practice guidance.  COSHH assessments are written and followed for the use of fuel and pesticides.  All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.  The use of pesticides is avoided where possible. |

5.7 Environmental

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc) | Operational chemical or oil spillages |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: Fuel, pesticides, nutrient run-off from adjacent farmland. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | Low: Only small amounts of these pollutants are used. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | All chemical use will follow best practice guidance.  COSHH assessments are written and followed for the use of fuel and pesticides.  All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.  The use of pesticides is avoided where possible. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Invasive species |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: *Rhododendron ponticum, Impatiens glandulifera,* and *Prunus laurocerasus* were present in some compartments. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: Invasive species have the potential to become a vector for disease, can disrupts ecosystems, and can have a negative impact on soils and water. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Undertake programme of invasive species reduction. Monitor and record any newly identified invasive species outbreaks. |

5.8 Social

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| Threat | Wild fire |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | Low |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Ask offenders to leave |

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| --- | --- |
| Threat | Litter/ Fly tipping |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Medium |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | Low |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Remove litter and confront those found to be littering/fly tipping |

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| --- | --- |
| Threat | Damage to historic environment |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Follow internal guidance around planning, consultation, pre-operational checks, and operational delivery as well as following any site specific advice from Historic England or Local Authority archaeologists. |

5.9 Economic

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Negative disruption to timber value, budget availability, or agri-environment funding. |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Seek alternative funding mechanisms |

5.10 [Climate Change](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8M6E9E) Resilience

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc) | Uniform structure |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | Medium: Deer and stock impacts combined with closed canopy woodland has prevented tree regeneration in recent decades so the woodland age structure is relatively uniform in many compartments. |
| Impact (high/medium/low) | High: A uniform woodland structure leaves a wood vulnerable to disease or catastrophic storm events resulting in wholesale loss of habitat. Uniform structure also results in a reduction in diversity of woodland flora, invertebrates and fewer feeding areas for birds and bats. |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Woodland mosaic, age and vertical structure are important in future planning. See comments on deer and stock at sections 5.3 and 5.5.  Thinning will allow light to the forest floor encouraging regeneration of native tree species and will give veteran trees space to thrive and seed.  Future regeneration plans will incorporate open glades, scalloped woodland edges and rides to provide better mosaic and vertical structure.  Standing and fallen deadwood will be encouraged where possible. |

Section 6: Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

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| --- | --- |
| **Management Objective / Feature** | **Management Intention** |
| 1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife | a) Increase light levels to the forest floor through thinning and selective felling. This is essential if we are to see the regeneration of new native trees and native wild flowers.  b) Plant trees where regeneration does not occur naturally.  c) Create deadwood, both standing and fallen. Deadwood is a key component of our woodland ecosystems, providing habitat for a host of species, from fungi, to beetles, to birds.  d) Progressively work towards the removal of invasive species.  e) Halo release of veteran trees. |
| 1. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils | f) Increase the roughness and porosity of the soil through promoting natural regeneration of trees and wild plants and flowers (see 1 and 2 above).  g) Continue to remove invasive species that suppress native vegetation leaving winter soils exposed and unsupported by perennial root systems. Removing these species will reduce soil erosion and landslips.  h) Opportunities to install additional site specific NFM measures should be taken wherever they will be effective and appropriate. |
| 1. Reduce our carbon footprint | i) Produce heat and electricity through sustainable sources. These include hydroelectric and solar power, as well as heating generated from firewood sourced on site.  j) Undertake woodland management that promotes the growth of new trees and protects soils from erosion by maintaining woodland light levels at a point at which new trees and plants can grow. |
| 1. Maintain the site’s visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience | k) Plan work to ensure spirt of place is maintained or enhanced in the long term. Thinning and felling will allow new trees to grow ensuring continuity of afforestation into the future.  l) Ensure people are able to use public rights of way and access land uninterrupted wherever it is safe to do so. We will provide opportunities for additional access where it is requested and it does not represent a conflict with our other activities and objectives. |
| 1. Protect and enhance the site’s cultural heritage | m) Work with local partners to identify areas of cultural and historical significance. Significant features will be identified on the ground and protected from disturbance during operations. |
| 1. Contribute to the local economy | n) Employing staff and contractors from the local area where possible.  o) Where timber or other forest products cannot be used within the estate, priority will be given to local markets where they exist. |
| 1. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors | p) Follow National Trust Health and Safety procedures |

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-7t9e4j) for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

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| **Work Proposal** | **Individual/ Organisation** | **Date Contacted** | **Date feedback received** | **Response** | **Action** |
|  | Local Authority Ecologist | 15th Dec 2022 | None Received |  |  |
|  | Local Authority Archaeologist | 15th Dec 2022 | None Received |  |  |
|  | Historic England | 15th Dec 2022 | 30th Jan 2023 | Various requests for updates – see attached response | Suggested updates adopted in full |
|  | Natural England | 15th Dec 2022 | None Received |  |  |
|  | Internal Staff and Volunteers, Visitors, Local people | 15th Dec 2022 | Various dates | Positive feedback, missing compartment at Woolbeding identified | Missing compartment added. |

Section 8: Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

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| **Management Objective/ Activities** | **Indicator of Progress/ Success** | **Method of Assessment** | **Frequency of Assessment** | **Responsibility** | **Assessment Results** |
| 1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife | Having a management plan which identifies the special features of the site, informed by a baseline biological survey and SSSI condition assessments. The survey output is translated into management plan actions which aim to maintain or enhance the special features.  Delivery of management plan actions.  Special features surveys undertaken at plan review find that their condition has been maintained or enhanced. | Management Plan review  Ecological surveys | 5 yearly  10 Yearly | Site Manager  Site Manager |  |
| 1. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils | Management plans consider natural flood management (NFM) and raw water quality protection.  Increased number and scale of NFM features across our properties.  Successful partnership working with external organisations towards delivery of NFM and raw water quality improvements.  Following best practice guidance in the use of chemicals, the management of roads and drainage and the delivery of operations within our woodlands.  Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health across the Trust.    Soil condition is maintained or enhanced. | Management Plan review  Stakeholder consultation  Operational monitoring records  Trust wide soil survey | 5 Yearly  10 Yearly  Ongoing  Ongoing | Site Manager |  |
| 1. Reduce our carbon footprint | Woodland management plans which include work that meets this objective.  Delivery of work items within the management plan.  Woodland structure surveys and timber volume assessments at plan renewal show maintenance or enhancement.  Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health across the Trust  Soil condition is maintained or enhanced. | Management Plan review  Trust wide soil survey | 10 Yearly  Ongoing |  |  |
| 1. Maintain the site’s visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience | Management plan operations support this objective.  Positive feedback from visitor surveys.  Effective stakeholder consultation at plan renewal stage. | Management Plan review  Visitor surveys  Stakeholder consultation | 10 Yearly  Annual  10 Yearly | Site Manager |  |
| 1. Protect and enhance the site’s cultural heritage | Management plan identifies appropriate prescriptions for features of cultural significance.  Operational monitoring includes measures to protect, and where appropriate, enhance cultural features.  No negative feedback from stakeholder consultation at plan renewal | Management Plan review  Operational monitoring records  Stakeholder consultation | 10 Yearly  Ongoing  10 Yearly | Site Manager |  |
| 1. Contribute to the local economy | Harvesting records and contractor use records show engagement with, and contribution to the local economy. | Harvesting records  Contractor use records | Annual  Annual | Site Manager |  |
| 1. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors | Health and safety surveys are undertaken and any remedial works identified are actioned in a timely manner.  Appropriate operational monitoring records are collected and retained  Operational management ensures appropriate training, competence certification, and insurance records are in place. | Tree safety surveys  Operational monitoring records | Annual  Ongoing | Site Manager |  |

**UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment**

**For FC office use and approval only:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UKFS management plan criteria** | **Minimum approval requirements** | **Achieved** | **Review notes** |
| **Plan Objectives:**  Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved. | * Management plan objectives are stated. * Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **Forest context and important features in management strategy:**  Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed. | Management intentions communicated in ***Sect.6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in ***Sect. 2***.  Management intentions should take account of:   * Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***). * Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). * Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in ***Sect. 7***. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site:**  For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure. | * Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. * Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:**  When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements.  Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.  Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range. | * Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). * Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). * Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). | **Yes/No** |  |
| **Consultation:**  Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations. | * Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. * Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **Plan update and review:**  Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant. | * A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan * ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective | **Yes/No** |  |

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| **Approved in Principle**  *This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.*   1. *You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.* 2. ***You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.*** | **Name (WO or FM):** | **Date:** |
| **Approved**  *This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).* | **Name (AO, WO or FM):** | **Date:** |