

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	Hampshire
Woodland Management Plan case reference	1275469
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	Matt Taylor

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period <i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i>	Approval Date:	12/12/2022	Approved until:	12/12/2032
Five Year Review Date	2027			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision

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.

UKFS management plan criteria		Minimum approval requirements	Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes
2	<p>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.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes
4	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>Plan Update and Review:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. 	Yes

Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	
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Section 1: Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		Hampshire	
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	<u>Local Authority</u>	Hampshire
Grid Reference	SU 2030	Single Business Identifier	106327021
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		179.28	
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?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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

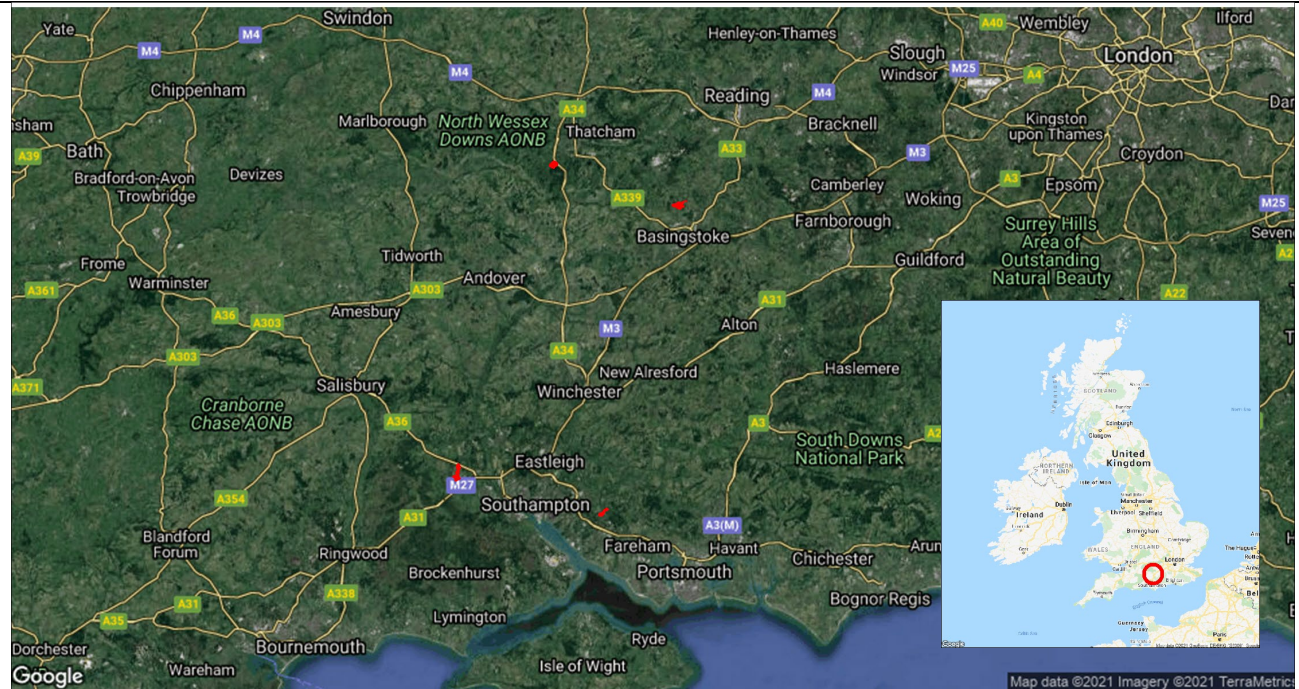
No.	Objectives
1	Increase opportunities for our local wildlife
2	Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils
3	Reduce our carbon footprint
4	Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience
5	Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage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

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Objectives	Achievement
1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife.	
2. Slow the flow of water across our land and 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. To protect health and safety of visitors, staff and contractors	

Section 4: Woodland Survey

4.1 Description



1. Location

This plan contextualises and describes the approach to woodland management for the Hampshire portfolio, a group of National Trust owned and managed properties. This group includes the following properties: The Chase and Woolton Hill (**C**, 48.48ha) The Vyne (**V**, 62.8ha) Hamble River (**H**, 13.07ha), Foxbury (**F**, 54.94ha). 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 hectareage 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 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, hybrid larch, douglas fir, western hemlock, and sweet chestnut.

4. Soils All these woodlands sit on slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.

5. Rainfall Average rainfall across the area is 450mm.

6. Elevation The woodlands in this plan range in elevation from sea level at Hamble River to the Chase and Woolton Hill at 120m.

7. Landscape and Topography The woodlands to the north at The Chase Woolton Hill and The Vyne sit in the Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area. Foxbury sits in the New Forest to the south west and Hamble River to the south east sits in the South Hampshire Lowlands National Character Area.

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 this area over centuries with livestock agriculture forming the predominant land use type.

4.2 Information

Feature	Within Woodland	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
<u>Biodiversity- Designations</u>				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes	H1a,c,d,e, F1 (part)	Yes	5
Special Area of Conservation	Yes	H1a,c,d,e, F1 (Part)	Yes	5
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
Notes	<p>Most of compartment H1 at Hamble River sits in the Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI. Its citation is for woodland plants and invertebrates. Twelve types of ancient broad-leaved woodland occur in the SSSI and collectively comprise one of the most ecologically diverse woodland areas in central southern England.</p> <p>Compartment F1 sits in the New Forest SSSI, cited for its good quality dry heath, acid grassland, Molinia lawn and mire habitats</p>			

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
<u>Biodiversity - European Protected Species</u>				
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	No			
Great Crested Newt	No			
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			
Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
<u>Biodiversity – Priority Species</u>				

Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	Yes			<p>At The Chase and Woolton Hill there are populations of breeding birds including Amber-listed mistle thrush, green woodpecker and Red-list/Priority Species song thrush and lesser redpoll.</p> <p>At the Vyne Breeding Amber-list bullfinch and Red-list song thrush and marsh tit (all Priority species) were identified.</p> <p>At Foxbury Spotted flycatcher, a Red List and UK BAP Priority List species was present during the latest survey.</p> <p>At Hamble River Breeding birds include Amber-listed species green woodpecker, goldcrest, stock dove and blackbird. Red-listed species including starling, marsh tit, song thrush, bullfinch, and spotted flycatcher, (the last three species are also UK BAP Priority species).</p>
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No			
Plants		Yes			<p>The Vyne has a rich ancient woodland ground flora including Solomon's seal and early purple orchid</p> <p>Hamble River has a rich ground flora beneath a canopy of alder, including Solomon's seal, yellow pimpernel and pendulous sedge. It also has areas rich in ancient woodland ground flora including wood anemone. And a population of wild service tree, a species restricted to ancient woodland.</p>
Fungi/Lichens		No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		Yes			<p>At The Chase and Woolton Hill there are a range of dead wood associated invertebrates including the Nationally Notable pin-hole</p>

				<p>wood-borer and a number of locally distributed species.</p> <p>The Vyne has a rich invertebrate fauna with Nationally Scarce and localised saproxylic invertebrates.</p> <p>The woodlands at Hamble River support deadwood invertebrate fauna including Nationally Scarce beetles such as a small fungus beetle, and locally distributed species including other beetles and hoverflies. Nationally Scarce foliage feeding insects such as a leaf beetle on hawthorn. A number of locally distributed invertebrates associated with old ivy growth including the woody stems.</p>
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			All of these will be present
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	Yes		5	
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes			See Appendix 1
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes	The Vyne	5	
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes		4	
Listed Buildings	Yes	C19	5	A Grade II listed milestone sits on the edge of this compartment.
Other (please Specify):	Yes			See Appendix 1
Landscape				
<p>National Character Area (please Specify): The woodlands to the north at The Chase and Woolton Hill, and The Vyne sit in the Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area. Foxbury sits in the New Forest to the south west and Hamble River to the south east sits in the South Hampshire Lowlands National Character Area.</p>				
National Park	Yes	Foxbury	5	New Forest
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes	The Chase and Woolton Hill	5	North Wessex Downs
Other (please Specify):	No			
Access				
CROW Access	Yes	F1(part)	6	
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				
Watercourses	Yes		6	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	C14a,b, C16-19 H1a,c,d,e V1, V7b, V8, V10	4	Ancient woodlands will be managed under the UKFS principles of good woodland management for their specific habitat type.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes	C14a,c, C17-19 F10a-d V1-10	4	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	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes			All sites have characteristics of this habitat.
Upland mixed ash woods	Yes/No			
Upland Oakwood	Yes/No			
Wet woodland	Yes			Hamble River and The Chase and Woolton Hill
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes			
Other (please Specify):	Yes			
Other Woodland Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			

Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes			There will be fragments of this at Foxbury, but the bulk of this habitat sits outside of the plan area
Lowland heath land	Yes			There will be fragments of this at Foxbury, but the bulk of this habitat sits outside of the plan area
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.4 Structure and activity data

Area and Structure	
Activity (ha)	179.28
Coppicing	5.28
Selective Felling	63.48
Thinning	20.45
Clear Fell	0
No Felling	87.91

Growth	
Annual Increment (tonnes)	1200
Mean Weighted Yield Class	6.69

Harvesting (tonnes)	
10 Year harvest	7384
Phase 1	1711
Phase 2	3119
Phase 1 and 2	2554

Activity (ha)	
Coppicing	5.28
Selective Felling	63.48
Thinning	20.45
Clear Fell	0
No Felling	87.91

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.

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](#)

Threat	Chalara dieback of ash (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: There have been confirmed cases of Ash dieback from this area since 2015.
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.

Threat	Oak Decline (Acute and Chronic)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: This disease is likely to be present in the woodlands here. Cases have been found nearby and the woodlands sit in an area Forest Research have designated as highly likely to contain trees affected by AOD.
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)	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)	Medium: OPM is largely contained within the M25, however 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.

Threat	Sweet Chestnut Blight
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium: This disease has been identified in areas close to the NE and SE of these woodlands
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium: Sweet chestnut forms a component of our woodland resource at some of these properties. This makes it an important species 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.

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](#)

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 where deer browsing is found to be an issue. Follow deer management programme.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

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)	<p>Manage grey squirrel population through most efficient and appropriate means to protect vulnerable trees, as necessary.</p> <p>Considering impact on veterans and future veterans where grey squirrel may severely damage crowns reducing vigour, creating crown dieback and eventual collapse.</p>

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

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)	<p>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. Encourage take-up of agri-environment schemes to reduce stock grazing in woodlands.</p> <p>Identify woodlands where grazing is beneficial and graze to an agreed plan to ensure habitat longevity.</p>

5.6 Water & Soil

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 brush management during operations, check brush 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: <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , were present in some compartments at The Vyne and Foxbury
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

Threat	Wild fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Ask offenders to leave and extinguish fires if safe to do so.

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

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 Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform structure
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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)	<p>Woodland mosaic, age and vertical structure are important in future planning. See comments on deer and stock at sections 5.3 and 5.5.</p> <p>Thinning will allow light to the forest floor encouraging regeneration of native tree species and will give veteran trees space to thrive and seed.</p> <p>Future regeneration plans will incorporate open glades, scalloped woodland edges and rides to provide better mosaic and vertical structure.</p> <p>Standing and fallen deadwood will be encouraged where possible.</p>

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.

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife	<p>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 wildflowers.</p> <p>b) Plant trees where regeneration does not occur naturally.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>d) Progressively work towards the removal of invasive species.</p> <p>e) Halo release of veteran trees</p>

	<p>Haloing oaks to create room for their canopies' expansion and reduce pressure on the older trees caused by root encroachment and canopy shading.</p>
<p>2. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>h) Opportunities to install additional site specific NFM measures should be taken wherever they will be effective and appropriate.</p>
<p>3. Reduce our carbon footprint</p>	<p>i) Produce heat and electricity through sustainable sources. These include hydroelectric and solar power, as well as heating generated from firewood sourced on site.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>k) Conduct surveys across the Trust to increase knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health.</p>
<p>4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience</p>	<p>l) Plan work to ensure spirit 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.</p> <p>m) 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.</p>
<p>5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage</p>	<p>n) 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.</p> <p>A full Site Assessment will be carried out ahead of any damaging activity following the National Trust's Trees and Woodlands Work Specification template setting out features to be protected and avoided. Example attached to plan.</p>
<p>6. Contribute to the local economy</p>	<p>o) Employing staff and contractors from the local area where possible.</p> <p>p) Where timber or other forest products cannot be used within the estate, priority will be given to local markets where they exist.</p>

7. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors	q) Follow National Trust Health and Safety procedures
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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](#) 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.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All	Local Authority Archaeologist	7/4/22	29/4/22	Broadly speaking I welcome the Management Plan and support its objectives. The vision for the woodland to be rich in culture; the objective to protect and enhance the cultural heritage; the management strategy of working with partners, identifying heritage and protecting/enhancing it. However there were a few questions which I was not sure how strongly they should be in the Management Plan at this stage. I thought it best to mention them rather than assume they were 'tacit' in the document and further stages of forestry discussion. Identify features. This is important. I note that the archaeological appendix recommends some walk through survey in some cases (and of course LiDAR is a strong tool). It is important to use the National Trust HER and National Trust archaeological officer to ensure features are logged. (our local	Heritage appendix shared.

				<p>Hampshire HER is also a source of data although in principle it is my understanding that the two HER data bases reflect each other by data exchange). Protecting and enhancing. The protection of heritage features during forestry operations can result in clashes of priority and the need for pragmatic compromise. Management plan identifies appropriate prescriptions for features of cultural significance. Operational monitoring includes measures to protect, and where appropriate, enhance cultural features. Will there be specific and/or generic management prescriptions for archaeological features that will be applied? Prioritising Scheduled Monuments – perhaps at least ensuring they have a management plan? For example in some cases replanting might not be appropriate, or felling might need to take place where it is not in that vicinity, or monitoring of trees on sensitive sites. Access routes and machinery selection might be constrained in some cases and require close planning. Weather and ground conditions might need close consideration (e.g. damage by machinery operating in wet weather because operations are not planned in warmer drier weather due to bird</p>	
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				<p>nesting consideration). This sort of thing needs to be resolved, as I am sure NT would wish to). How, and when in the process, and by whom, will these close prescriptions and compromises be achieved? That the heritage will be conserved, protected and enhanced is welcomed, and perhaps that is the extent of provision needed at this stage. But the detail of how that is actually achieved will be needed, if not in this management plan, then hand in hand with the implementation of this plan.</p>	
All	Historic England	7/4/22	12/4/22	<p>Thank you for your email of 7 April 2022 notifying Historic England of an application for a proposed 10 Year Woodland Management Plan. Our specialist staff have considered the information received and note that as the works don't affect any designated assets, they have no objection and do not wish to offer any detailed comments on this occasion. Recommendation The application(s) should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and on the basis of your specialist advice. It is not necessary for us to be consulted again on this application. However, if you would like further advice, please contact us to explain your request.</p>	None Required

SSSI Woods	Natural England	7/4/22 12/4/22 (Phone) 21/7/22	8/4/22 12/4/22 None as yet	Comments received relating to the Chase (no SSSI) rather than Hamble River or Foxbury where SSSI occur. No response to subsequent requests for feedback relating to relevant sites.	Awaiting further feedback relating to designated sites
All	Internal Staff and Volunteers	27/1/22	31/3/2022	Various operational amendments	All accommodated in plan
All	Visitors and Local People	7/4/22	7/4/22-20/5/22	Mixture of support and concern (aesthetic, carbon, biodiversity loss) – all respondent’s questions and comments were addressed by way of an e-mail response	E-mail response sent to stakeholders, no material changes to the plan required.

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.

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	5 yearly	Site Manager	
		Ecological surveys	10 Yearly	Site Manager	
2. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve	Management plans consider natural flood management (NFM) and raw water quality protection.	Management Plan review	5 Yearly	Site Manager	
			10 Yearly		

<p>water quality and protect soils</p>	<p>Increased number and scale of NFM features across our properties.</p> <p>Successful partnership working with external organisations towards delivery of NFM and raw water quality improvements.</p> <p>Following best practice guidance in the use of chemicals, the management of roads and drainage and the delivery of operations within our woodlands.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health across the Trust.</p> <p>Soil condition is maintained or enhanced.</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation</p> <p>Operational monitoring records</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		
<p>3. Reduce our carbon footprint</p>	<p>Woodland management plans which include work that meets this objective.</p> <p>Delivery of work items within the management plan.</p> <p>Woodland structure surveys and timber volume assessments at plan renewal show maintenance or enhancement.</p>	<p>Management Plan review</p>	<p>10 Yearly</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		

	<p>Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health across the Trust</p> <p>Soil condition is maintained or enhanced.</p>				
4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience	<p>Management plan operations support this objective.</p> <p>Positive feedback from visitor surveys.</p> <p>Effective stakeholder consultation at plan renewal stage.</p>	<p>Management Plan review</p> <p>Visitor surveys</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>10 Yearly</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>10 Yearly</p>	Site Manager	
5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage	<p>Management plan identifies appropriate prescriptions for features of cultural significance.</p> <p>Operational monitoring includes measures to protect, and where appropriate, enhance cultural features.</p> <p>No negative feedback from stakeholder consultation at plan renewal</p>	<p>Management Plan review</p> <p>Operational monitoring records</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>10 Yearly</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>10 Yearly</p>	Site Manager	
6. Contribute to the local economy	<p>Harvesting records and contractor use records show engagement with, and contribution to the local economy.</p>	<p>Harvesting records</p> <p>Contractor use records</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p>	Site Manager	

<p>7. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors</p>	<p>Health and safety surveys are undertaken and any remedial works identified are actioned in a timely manner.</p> <p>Appropriate operational monitoring records are collected and retained</p> <p>Operational management ensures appropriate training, competence certification, and insurance records are in place.</p>	<p>Tree safety surveys</p> <p>Operational monitoring records</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Site Manager</p>	
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UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes	Objectives are clear and meet the requirements of UKFS.
<p>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.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in Sect. 2.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	The level of activity and the types of activity are in line with the criteria.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes	The designations that have been included have been addressed in the plan.

<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There is a general trend to long term continuous cover woodland and moving away from non-intervention or more intrusive clear felling with restocking in this plan. An emphasis on grazing in a couple of the areas in line with NT policy of using a more natural form of woodland management to deliver biodiversity and resilience.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A good level of consultation has been undertaken and views expressed are covered in the plan.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is in the plan but until year 5 there is nothing to add</p>

<p>Approved in Principle <i>This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.</i> <i>a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.</i> <i>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</i></p>	<p>Name (WO or FM): Patrick Stephens</p>	<p>Date: 21/09/2022</p>
<p>Approved <i>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).</i></p>	<p>Name (AO, WO or FM): James Sharp</p>	<p>Date: 12/12/2022</p>

Appendix 1:

Example Site Assessment:

This assessment form from another part of the National Trust estate is an example of the standard the National Trust uses to assess works planned in the woodland or other habitats. This is carried out ahead of all potentially damaging activity being undertaken. It is given to all people involved with the actions planned



Trees & Woodland - Work Specification

Description of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cpt 46b – Complete 30% thinning operation on 1.5ha mixed Scots pine and Douglas fir favouring trees of good health and vigour to produce estimated 100m³ of timber • Cpt 48b – remove all conifer in 2ha block of predominantly mixed Sitka spruce and European larch, leaving mixed broadleaf, to produce roughly 450m³ of timber
Project name / NT property	Ringshall Copse Forestry – Ashridge Estate
Works Manager (WM) (NT Lead)	

Core outcomes required by the project / contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 30% thin on 1.5ha of mixed coniferous woodland • Complete removal of conifer on 1.85ha of mixed broadleaf and coniferous woodland • Complete clearfell of 2ha of coniferous woodland • Complete 30% thin of 0.7ha of beech plantation • Contractor to complete harvesting, extraction and sale of timber • Protect the site's special features (see below) during all operations • Uphold current industry best practice with regards to Health and Safety protocols, throughout related works – e.g. FISA • Maintain clear communications between all relevant parties – including written records and on-site communication • Ensure agreed access routes, stacking areas and work areas are maintained and kept in appropriate condition
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Proposed work schedule:

Location	Woodland Cpt no.	Work Area (total ha)	FSC certified area?	Activity	Delivery Timeframe
Ashridge Estate - Hertfordshire	46b	1.5ha	Y	30% thin conifers	September – October 2022
	48b	2ha	Y	Remove all conifer in 2ha block, leaving mixed broadleaf	
	49a	0.7ha	Y	30% thin of beech	
	49b	1.85ha	Y	Remove all conifer to leave mixed broadleaf, light thin of mixed broadleaf	

Work description / Constraints (refer to Woodland Contract Management guidance note for further information):

Management of timber / arisings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cpt 49a – complete 30% thinning operation on 0.7ha of beech plantation to produce estimated 40m³ of timber • Cpt 49b – remove all conifer to leave remaining broadleaves. Light thin of broadleaves where they occur in dense stands • All timber and cordwood to be removed from site by contractor and stacked in Dockey car park, as marked on the map below, before being taken off the estate – all wood related sales can be sold as FSC certified • Standing deadwood will be retained wherever practical to do so • 20% of hardwood timber cut to be left in situ as deadwood habitat • Fires not permitted to manage arisings • Lop and top shall be used to create brush mats where required or stacked/windrowed across the site clear of archaeological features, footpaths, roads, rides, natural regeneration and the like. Stacks/windrows should not exceed four feet in height.
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Consents and permissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trees described above are to be felled under the consent of Felling Licence Number 017/2477/2019, expiry date 18 Sep 2029, as obtained via the Forestry Commission as part of the Woodland Management Plan number 551921 None of the trees described above have Tree Preservation Orders
Permitted access routes and record of condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See map below for permitted access routes Some woodland rides are already compacted and rutted in places and may suffer from further rutting in wet weather. Ground protection matting is being hired to help prevent this. Machinery can be left on site overnight
Local hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhead and underground utilities will be identified to the Contractor pre-commencement of operations to the best of the knowledge of the Trust supervising staff. For further detailed underground surveys, the Contractor will need to seek the necessary plans from the utility provider Telephone cable over access gate into field from road
Managing public access / Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extraction route crosses a road, banksmen may need to be employed to ensure safety of contractors and the public No public access to felling sites, although operatives should be aware that there may be some, very low-level use Extraction route crosses one low usage footpath. Contractors should be aware of potential for encountering members of the public Contractors to place signage to warn public of machinery crossing footpath and road Contractor to place warning signs around timber stacks The road is to be kept in a passable condition that does not endanger other road users, excess mud and debris to be cleared by the contractor when required The condition of all relevant access routes must be maintained, and any necessary repairs made by the contractor, before the contract is completed
Notable habitats & Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling to take place outside of bird nesting season. Trees with large birds' nests in, or conifers with a flat fork in the crown, should be retained where possible Badger setts to be identified to contractor before use (see map below) Bats may be present in the area of operations. Due to the age class and species of trees being felled and the time of year the work is taking place the risk of disturbing a bat roost is considered low. Trees with potential bat roost features should be excluded from felling operations and care taken not to damage them when felling nearby If bats are found work should stop immediately and the WM informed

Archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of archaeological features on site that must be protected during all forestry operations. These will be identified to the contractor pre-commencement of operations and maps provided. • Linear features have been identified by marking trees along their length with coloured paint. These are marked both with stripes round the base and spots higher up the trunk. Trees with two stripes round the base denote the end of an archaeological feature. It has been agreed to fell these trees high to leave the marked stumps visible to contractors as they work and for future works. • Machinery should be kept at least 5m away from archaeological features, both linear and depressions or deeper holes in the ground, to prevent damage. If access is required across a linear feature this should be discussed with the WM to find a solution.
Protecting soils	<p>The site is designated Ancient woodland and therefore protection of soils is essential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work scheduled when ground conditions are typically more favourable in September/October • Brash mats to be used in felling compartments if ground conditions are wet • Temporary matting to be used on rides to prevent compaction (supplied by NT) • Operations will cease during periods of wet weather if ground protection is insufficient, as instructed by WM
Protecting water courses	<p>There are no water courses nearby, but to prevent any pollution incidents affecting local groundwater the following should be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable refuelling station agreed with WM • Bio lubricants and spill kits to be used throughout operations • Soil disturbance minimised during all ops to avoid run off • COSHH assessments must be in place
Contractor welfare provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare facility may be required due to remoteness of site, contractor to advise

Created by: (NT Works Manager)	Sign:	Date:
Received by: (Contractor)	Sign:	Date:

