

# Woodland Management Plan

| To be completed by the plan author:   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Woodland or Property name</b>  | <b>Mid/East Sussex and Kent</b> |
| <b>Woodland Management Plan case reference</b>                                  | 1258204                         |
| <b>The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland</b> | <b>Yes</b>                      |
| <b>Plan author name</b>   | <b>Matt Taylor</b>              |

| For FC Use only:                                      |                       |                 |                        |                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Plan Period</b><br><i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i> | <b>Approval Date:</b> | <b>1/4/2022</b> | <b>Approved until:</b> | <b>31/03/2032</b> |
| <b>Five Year Review Date</b>                          | <b>31/03/2027</b>     |                 |                        |                   |

| Revision No. | Date | Status<br>(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.

| UKFS management plan criteria |  | Minimum approval requirements  | Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1                             | <p><b>Plan Objectives:</b><br/>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"> <li>Management plan objectives are stated.</li> <li>Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.</li> </ul>   | Yes  |
| 2                             | <p><b>Forest context and important features in management strategy:</b><br/>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 <b>Sect. 6</b> of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) <b>Sect. 2</b>.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>)</li> <li>Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (<b>Sect. 5</b>).</li> <li>Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in <b>Sect. 7</b>.</li> </ul> | Yes  |
| 3                             | <p><b>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site:</b><br/>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"> <li>Survey information (<b>Sect. 4</b>) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management.</li> <li>Management intentions (<b>Sect. 6</b>) have taken account of any designations.</li> </ul>  | Yes  |
| 4                             | <p><b>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:</b><br/>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.</p> <p>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"> <li>Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).</li> <li>Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</li> <li>Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).</li> </ul>   | Yes  |
| 5                             | <p><b>Consultation:</b><br/>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"> <li>Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in <b>Sect. 7</b>. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission.</li> <li>Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.</li> </ul>  | Yes  |
| 6                             | <p><b>Plan Update and Review:</b><br/>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"> <li>A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan.</li> <li><b>Sect. 8</b> is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective.</li> </ul>   | Yes  |

## Section 1: Property Details

|   |                                  |  |                                |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Woodland Property Name</a>  |                                  | Mid/East Sussex and Kent   |                                |
| 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  | Kent, West Sussex, East Sussex   | <a href="#">Local Authority</a>  | Kent, West Sussex, East Sussex |
| Grid Reference  | TQ490530                         | Single Business Identifier   | 106327021                      |
| What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)  |                                  | 370.76   |                                |
| 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"> <li>1. Compartments and Woodland Type</li> <li>2. Activity and Work Phase</li> <li>3. Long Term Activity</li> <li>4. Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees</li> <li>5. Statutory Designations</li> <li>6. Sensitivities and Issues</li> </ol> |                                |
| 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

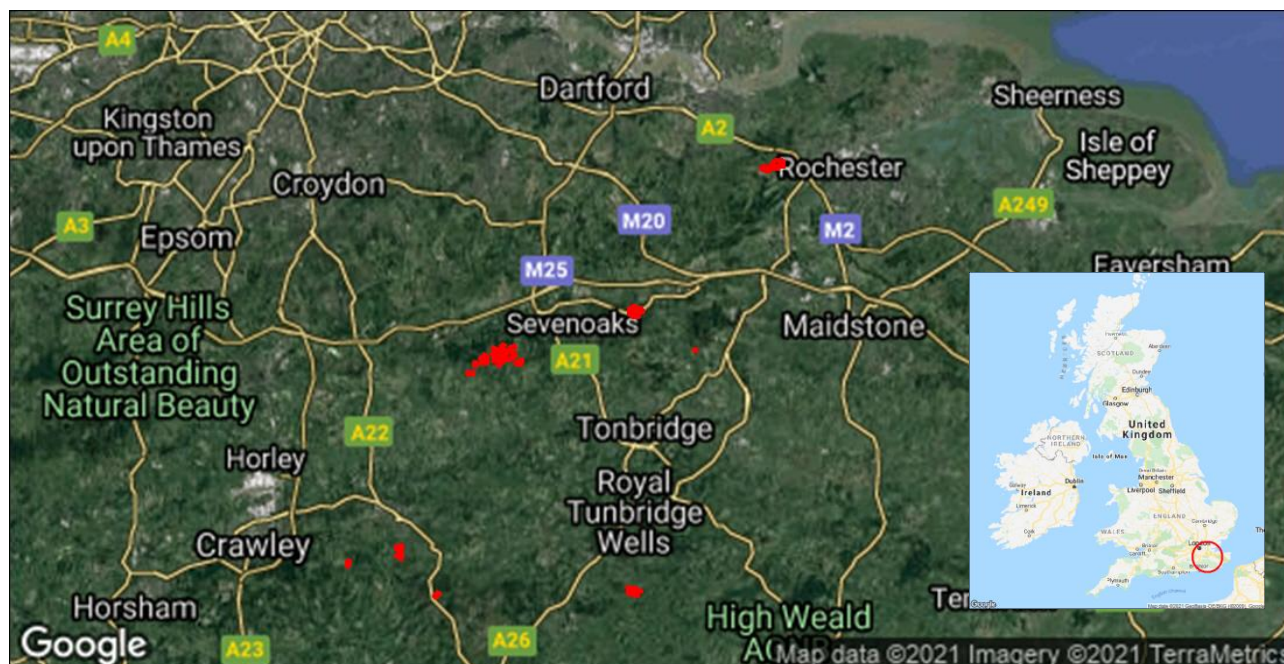
| No. | Objectives  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Increase opportunities for our local wildlife                                   |
| 2   | Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils |
| 3   | Reduce our carbon footprint   |
| 4   | Maintain the site's visual amenity and 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 Mid/East Sussex and Kent Woodlands portfolio, a group of National Trust owned and managed properties. This group includes the following properties: Batemans (B, 1.28ha) Chartwell (CH, 17.27ha) Cobham (C, 74.03ha), Gover Hill (G, 0.62ha), Ide Hill (I, 8.86ha), Nap Wood (N, 42.98ha), Oldbury Hill (O, 59.45ha), Selsfield Common (SE, 3.24ha), Standen (S, 13.68ha), Toy's Hill (T, 143.27ha), Wych Cross (W, 6.08ha). 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 and sweet chestnut.

**4. Soils** The typical soils type of this area is slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-

rich loamy and clayey soils.

**5. Rainfall** Average rainfall across the area is 740mm.

**6. Elevation** The woodlands in this plan range in elevation from 80m above sea level at Standen to the Chart at 248 m

**7. Landscape and Topography** The woodlands here sit in the Wealden Greensands National Character Area to the north and the High Weald National Character Area to the south.

**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 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>Biodiversity- Designations</b>   |  |  |                         |        |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest | Yes  | All of Oldbury Hill, Cobham, Nap Wood, Toy's Hill, 11 a-d, | Yes                     | 5      |
| Special Area of Conservation        | No   |  | No                      |        |
| Tree Preservation Order             | ?  |  | ?                       |        |
| Conservation Area                   | ?  |  | ?                       |        |
| Special Protection Area             | No   |  | No                      |        |
| Ramsar Site                         | No   |  | No                      |        |
| National Nature Reserve             | No   |  | No                      |        |
| Local Nature Reserve                | No   |  | No                      |        |
| Other (please Specify):             | No   |  | No                      |        |
| <b>Notes</b>                        | <p>All of Oldbury Hill sits in the Oldbury and Seal Chart SSSI. The woodland is in a mixture of favourable, unfavourable recovering and unfavourable conditions. Its citation is for woodland plants and invertebrates.</p> <p>All of Cobham sits in the Cobham Woods SSSI, cited for the fact it is an old parkland, representative of woods in North Kent which occur in part on acidic Thanet Sands and in part on chalk soils. It has an outstanding assemblage of plants and it is also of importance for its breeding birds.</p> <p>Nap wood sits in the Eridge Park SSSI, cited as it has one of the richest epiphytic lichen floras of any single park in Britain. The variety of habitats present also support diverse insect and bird communities.</p> <p>Toy's Hill and Ide Hill sit in the Scords Wood and Brockhoul Mount SSSI, cited for the high ecological quality oak woodlands found here.</p> |  |                         |        |

| Feature  | Within Woodland(s) | Cpts | Map No | Notes   |
|--|--------------------|------|--------|---|
| <b>Biodiversity - European Protected Species</b> |                    |      |        |   |
| 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. At Cobham, At least 6 species of bat have been detected on the property, including three Priority List species – Soprano pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared.                           |
| Dormouse   |          | Yes |  |  | Dormice have been identified at Chartwell and Toys Hill   |
| Great Crested Newt                                     |          | Yes |  |  | Identified at Chartwell   |
| Otter  |          | No  |  |  |   |
| Sand Lizard  |          | No  |  |  |   |
| Smooth Snake   |          | No  |  |  |   |
| Natterjack Toad  |          | No  |  |  |   |
| <b>Biodiversity – <a href="#">Priority Species</a></b> |          |     |  |  |   |
| <a href="#">Schedule 1 Birds</a>                       | Species: | Yes |  |  | At Cobham, Hollow nesting birds reported in the past include Red & Priority Listed spotted flycatcher and lesser spotted woodpecker, and Amber Listed stock dove and green woodpecker. More recently a pair of Red & Priority Listed marsh tits were present in 2015. Other notable and regular breeding birds reported |



|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  | <p>include the Red and Priority Listed, cuckoo, song thrush, starling, and yellowhammer. Skylark also bred in 2011 &amp; 2012, and there are older records of hawfinch (listed on the SSSI citation). Other significant species include Amber Listed nightingale which has not been detected since 2011.</p> <p>At Standen, an excellent variety of common woodland species were recorded, including marsh tit, all three woodpecker species, tree creeper and lesser whitethroat. A number of the species listed are now included in the Red and Amber lists of RSPB's Birds of Conservation Concern (Anon, 1996): song thrush, bullfinch and reed bunting from the Red list and stock dove, green woodpecker, dunnock, blackbird, marsh tit and starling from the Amber List.</p> <p>Oldbury supports many woodland birds including redstart found here at one of its few Kent sites.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|

|   |     |  |  |   |
|---|-----|--|--|---|
| Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc) | No  |  |  |   |
| Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)    | Yes |  |  | At Cobham, Reptiles known to occur include the Priority Listed slow-worm and common lizard.   |
| Plants  | Yes |  |  | <p>At Batemans, giant horsetail <i>Equisetum telmateia</i>, a rather local species was noted within the shaw adjacent to the car park. Coralroot <i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>, a Nationally Scarce ancient woodland species was recorded adjacent to the stream to the north-east of the public car park and along the margin of the small wood on the south-west side of the property in 1987.</p> <p>At Chartwell, there is at least one uncommon moss, (<i>Leucobryum juniperoideum</i>) found on very acidic humus and rotting wood and one nationally scarce plant, the rootless duckweed (<i>Wolffia arrhiza</i>) in one of the ponds.</p> <p>At Cobham, Notable species and plants such as pyramidal orchid, common rock-rose and wild</p> |



|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | <p>strawberry – the latter two on the England Red List.</p> <p>Common cudweed (GB &amp; England Red List) and bird’s-foot are found in the acid grassland by the Cobham mausoleum.</p> <p>At Ide Hill, locally scarce plants such as Thuringian whitebeam <i>Sorbus aria x aucuparia</i>, (a hybrid between whitebeam and rowan) green hellebore <i>Helleborus viridus</i> and lily of the valley <i>Convallaria majalis</i> occur.</p> <p>At Toy’s Hill, bryophyte communities on the decaying wood are very interesting and include <i>Lepidozia reptans</i>, <i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i>, <i>Orthodontium lineare</i> and <i>Tetraphis pellucida</i> as well as very small quantities of the liverwort <i>Lophozia ventricosa</i> ssp. <i>Confertifolia</i></p> <p>At Oldbury, the woodland supports an outstanding assemblage of lower plants, particularly fungi with over 250 recorded species including 10 species</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

|   |     |  |  |   |
|---|-----|--|--|---|
|   |     |  |  | <p>which are regarded as rare or scarce in Britain. Of these two are considered to be species predominantly of the Scottish Highlands: <i>Collybia distorta</i> and <i>Suillus fluryi</i>. Of the mosses found on the site many are associated with the outcrops of Oldbury stone, a hard siliceous sandstone. Species of interest include a sandrock speciality <i>Calypogeia integristipula</i>, a species associated more with Western Britain <i>Scaparia umbrosa</i> and the rare <i>Lophocia ventineosa</i> var <i>confertifolia</i>.</p> |
| Fungi/Lichens                                   | Yes |  |  | <p>At Cobham, there are various bracket fungi, such as sulphur polypore which creates brown heart rot, an important invertebrate habitat, deep within trees – part of the natural decay process.</p>  |
| Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc) | Yes |  |  | <p>At Bateman's wood decay habitat supporting scarce and locally distributed invertebrates, e.g. the click beetle <i>Stenagostus villosus</i> – other scarce wood decay insects are recorded from the hedgerow and field trees and probably</p>   |



|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  | <p>occur in the woods also.</p> <p>At Chartwell, <i>Phyllonorycter platanoidella</i> is a gracillariid moth. The caterpillars feed internally in leaves of Norway maple.</p> <p><i>Stigmella samiatella</i> is a nepticulid moth. The caterpillars feed internally in leaves of Sweet chestnut and, probably, oak. The larval mine is hard to distinguish from that of <i>Stigmella ruficapitella</i>, which also feeds on both Oak and Sweet chestnut.</p> <p><i>Stigmella samiatella</i> is apparently spreading rapidly on Sweet chestnut trees in the south-east of England and is not unexpected. It is common throughout the woodland in this area of Kent.</p> <p>At Cobham, There are Nationally Notable beetles associated with ground ivy, and notable invertebrates associated with the leaf litter layer.</p> <p>Nap wood is notable for its deadwood invertebrates.</p> <p>At Oldbury, amongst</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

|  |        |                       |   |  |
|--|--------|-----------------------|---|--|
|  |        |                       |   | <p>the bees and wasps recorded is a colony of the solitary bee <i>Andrena lapponica</i> found here at the only locality known for this species in Kent. It is considered to be a northern species and forages particularly on bilberry blossom. Many of the invertebrates are restricted to ancient woodland sites including two species of mollusc: the slug <i>Limax tenellus</i> is scarce in Britain and the snail <i>Phenacolumax major</i> is rare and confined to southern England and South Wales.</p> |
| Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)  | Yes    |                       |   | All of these will be present   |
| Other (please Specify):  | Yes/No |                       |   |  |
| <b>Historic Environment</b>  |        |                       |   |  |
| Scheduled Monuments  | Yes    | Oldbury O3b,c, O4, O5 | 5 |  |
| Unscheduled Monuments  | Yes    |                       |   | See Appendix 1   |
| Registered Parks and Gardens   | Yes    | Cobham, Chartwell, S1 | 5 |  |
| Boundaries and Veteran Trees   | Yes    |                       | 4 |  |
| Listed Buildings   | No     |                       | 5 |  |
| Other (please Specify):  | Yes    |                       |   | See Appendix 1   |
| <b>Landscape</b>   |        |                       |   |  |
| <b>National Character Area</b> (please Specify): Wealden Greensand, High Weald |        |                       |   |  |
| National Park  | No     |                       |   |  |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty   | Yes    | All                   | 5 | Kent Downs to the north, High Weald to the south   |
| Other (please Specify):  | No     |                       |   |  |



|                                     |     |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--|---|--|
| CROW Access                         | No  |  | 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,<br>website                                    |
| Public Recreation Facilities        | Yes |  |   | Various  |
| Provision of Learning Opportunities | Yes |  |   | Ranger teams who<br>facilitate school visits and<br>public education |
| Anti-social Behaviour               | No  |  |   |  |
| <b><u>Water</u></b>                 |     |  |   |  |
| Watercourses                        | Yes |  | 6 | See section 5.6  |
| Lakes                               | No  |  |   |  |
| Ponds                               | Yes | Various<br>scrapes<br>and wet<br>areas |   | See section 5.6  |
| Other (please Specify):             | No  |  |   |  |

## 4.3 Habitat Types

| Feature                              | Within Woodland(s) | Cpts   | Map No | Notes  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|--|
| <b>Woodland Habitat Types</b>        |                    |  |        |  |
| Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland        | Yes                | All of Oldbury Hill, Gover Hill, Nap Hill, Wych Cross, B1-3, S2a,c-f, S3-6, S8, S9, CH2, CH3, CH5, T1b-e, T2-T13, T15, T16 | 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                | O3b, O4a, CH5b-e, T1a, T7, T8,   | 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       | Yes                |  |        |  |
| 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                |  |        | Ide Hill   |
| Wood-pasture and parkland            | Yes                |  |        | Ide Hill, Cobham   |
| Other (please Specify):              | Yes                |  |        |  |
| <b>Non-Woodland Habitat Types</b>    |                    |  |        |  |
| Blanket bog                          | No                 |  |        |  |
| Fenland                              | No                 |  |        |  |

|                              |     |  |  |        |
|------------------------------|-----|--|--|--------|
| Lowland calcareous grassland | Yes |  |  | Cobham |
| Lowland dry acid grassland   | Yes |  |  | Cobham |
| Lowland heath land           | No  |  |  |        |
| Lowland meadows              | No  |  |  |        |
| Lowland raised bog           | No  |  |  |        |
| Rush pasture                 | No  |  |  |        |
| Reed bed                     | No  |  |  |        |
| Wood pasture                 | Yes |  |  |        |
| 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   |        |
|--|--------|
| Total area (Hectares)  | 370.76 |
| Of which is Open Ground  | 13.55  |
| Conifer woodland   | 0      |
| Woodland with mixed native and non native Broadleaved trees                | 45.43  |
| Woodland with mixed native and non native Broadleaved and Coniferous trees | 133.61 |
| Native Woodland  | 191.73 |
|  |        |

| Growth                    |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Annual Increment (tonnes) | 1630.3 |
| Mean Weighted Yield Class | 4.4    |

| Harvesting (tonnes) |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| 10 Year harvest     | 14,940 |
| Phase 1             | 9086   |
| Phase 2             | 5854   |

| Activity (ha)     |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Coppicing         | 31  |
| Selective Felling | 177 |
| Thinning          | 55  |
| Clear Fell        | 0   |
| No Felling        | 107 |

## 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.

|                               |        |                 |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Impact</b>                 | High   | Plan for Action | Action          | Action          |
|                               | Medium | Monitor         | Plan for Action | Action          |
|                               | Low    | Monitor         | Monitor         | Plan for Action |
|                               |        | Low             | Medium          | High            |
| <b>Likelihood of Presence</b> |        |                 |                 |                 |

### 5.2 [Plant Health](#)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Threat                                   | Chalara dieback of ash ( <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> )  |
| 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. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Threat                                   | Oak Decline (Acute and Chronic)   |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: This disease is present in the woodlands here, particularly apparent in the ancient trees at Cobham   |
| 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.  |

|  |  |
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| 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. It has been found on oak trees near these properties in East Grinstead and Rochester. |
| 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 in all directions of these woodlands.   |
| Impact (high/medium/low)                 | Medium: Sweet Chestnut forms a significant component of our woodland resource at some of these properties, particularly Chartwell. 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: Natural regeneration and coppice regrowth is currently |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| (high/medium/low)                  | restricted in part due to deer browsing.   |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Protect coppice stools and young trees with shelters or tree guards. Follow local deer management programme where appropriate. |

## 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)       | Manage grey squirrel population through most efficient and appropriate means where appropriate. |

## 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 could be restricted by trespass 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. |

## 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.<br>All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.<br>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.<br>All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.<br>The use of pesticides is avoided where possible. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Threat                                   | Invasive species  |
| Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low) | High: <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , <i>Gaultheria spp</i> , and <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 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

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 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   |
| 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.</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 and veteran trees given space to thrive and seed.</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 wild flowers.</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>   |
| 2. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils | <p>e) 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>f) 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>g) Opportunities to install additional site specific NFM measures should be taken wherever they will be effective and appropriate.</p> |
| 3. Reduce our carbon footprint   | <p>h) 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>i) 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>j) Conduct surveys across the Trust to increase knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health.</p>                                |
| 4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience     | <p>k) 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 in to the future.</p> <p>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.</p>                                     |
| 5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage                                | <p>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.</p>   |
| 6. Contribute to the local economy   | <p>n) Employing staff and contractors from the local area where possible.</p>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | o) Where timber or other forest products cannot be used within the estate, priority will be given to local markets where they exist. |
| 7. 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](#) 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/<br>Organisation                   | Date<br>Contacted | Date feedback<br>received | Response | Action |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------|
| Felling, thinning, and<br>coppicing | Forestry<br>Commission<br>Woodland<br>Officer |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Local Authority<br>Ecologist                  |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Local Authority<br>Archaeologist              |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Historic<br>England                           |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Natural<br>England                            |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Internal Staff<br>and Volunteers              |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Visitors                                      |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Local people                                  |                   |                           |          |        |
|                                     | Local<br>Contractors                          |                   |                           |          |        |

## 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.<br><br>Delivery of management plan actions.<br><br>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 water quality | Management plans consider natural flood management (NFM) and raw water quality protection.<br><br>Increased number and scale of   | Management Plan review   | 5 Yearly                | Site Manager   |                    |
|  |   | Stakeholder consultation | 10 Yearly               |                |                    |

|                                       |   |                                       |                  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| <p>and protect soils</p>              | <p>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>Operational monitoring records</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>Increased knowledge of soil</p>  | <p>Management Plan review</p>         | <p>10 Yearly</p> |  |  |

|  |   |  |   |              |  |
|--|---|--|---|--------------|--|
|  | carbon stores and soil health across the Trust<br><br>Soil condition is maintained or enhanced.   |  |   |              |  |
| 4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience | Management plan operations support this objective.<br><br>Positive feedback from visitor surveys.<br><br>Effective stakeholder consultation at plan renewal stage.  | Management Plan review<br><br>Visitor surveys<br><br>Stakeholder consultation                | 10 Yearly<br><br>Annual<br><br>10 Yearly  | Site Manager |  |
| 5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage                            | Management plan identifies appropriate prescriptions for features of cultural significance.<br><br>Operational monitoring includes measures to protect, and where appropriate, enhance cultural features.<br><br>No negative feedback from stakeholder consultation at plan renewal | Management Plan review<br><br>Operational monitoring records<br><br>Stakeholder consultation | 10 Yearly<br><br>Ongoing<br><br>10 Yearly | Site Manager |  |
| 6. Contribute to the local economy   | Harvesting records and contractor use records show engagement with, and contribution to the local economy.  | Harvesting records<br><br>Contractor use records   | Annual<br><br>Annual                      | Site Manager |  |
| 7. Protect the health and safety of our  | Health and safety surveys are undertaken and any remedial works identified are actioned in a  | Tree safety surveys  | Annual                                    | Site Manager |  |



|                                 |  |                                |         |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| visitors, staff and contractors | <p>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> | Operational monitoring records | Ongoing |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------|--|--|

## UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

| UKFS management plan criteria  | Minimum approval requirements   | Achieved             | Review notes |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <p><b>Plan Objectives:</b><br/>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"> <li>• Management plan objectives are stated.</li> <li>• Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |              |
| <p><b>Forest context and important features in management strategy:</b><br/>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 <b>Sect. 6</b> of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in <b>Sect. 2</b>.<br/>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</li> <li>• Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (<b>Sect. 5</b>).</li> <li>• Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in <b>Sect. 7</b>.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |              |
| <p><b>Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site:</b><br/>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"> <li>• Survey information (<b>Sect. 4</b>) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management.</li> <li>• Management intentions (<b>Sect. 6</b>) have taken account of any designations.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |              |
| <p><b>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:</b><br/>When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).</li> <li>• Current diversity (structure, species, age</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |              |

|   |  |                      |  |
|---|--|----------------------|--|
| <p>assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.</p> <p>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> | <p>structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).</li> </ul>  |                      |  |
| <p><b>Consultation:</b></p> <p>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"> <li>• Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in <b>Sect. 7</b>. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission.</li> <li>• Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Plan update and review:</b></p> <p>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"> <li>• A 5 year review period is stated on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of the plan</li> <li>• <b>Sect. 8</b> is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Yes/No</b></p> |  |

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