



**National  
Trust**

# Woodland Management Plan South Downs Archaeology

**Prepared by:**

James Brown

NT Regional Archaeologist (Hampshire, Surrey & Sussex)

**On behalf of:**

The National Trust

December 2021

Alongside the maps and tables of both secluded and unscheduled heritage assets that need to be considered and mitigated for as part of woodland management work the following list is a selection of significant features within compartments that would benefit from selected management practices as part of any wider work.

These recommendations primarily focus on clearance of a significant scheduled or unscheduled site as part of general % thinning works when contractors are working in an area.

The suggestions below are based upon on the Historic England Conservation Principles:  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/>

As such the suggestions below seek to preserve and promote:

**Evidential value:** the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

**Historical value:** the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative.

**Aesthetic value:** the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

**Communal value:** the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

As well as benefiting the monument and archaeology, these also approaches further promote access, understanding and wider engagement with our National Trust woodlands and their history and stories.

### [Wider comments on South Downs Management Plan in relation to Archaeology](#)

Most properties within the South Downs Management Plan have had their archaeology landscape surveys updated and enhanced with Lidar data so heritage mapping information is considered accurate at this point in time. However, this does not negate the need to check in with Regional Archaeologist before any woodland management work commences.

### [HART monitoring programmes currently in place](#)

There is active archaeology monitoring by both National Trust volunteers and local archaeological societies being undertaken in the South Downs; these groups should be considered in management work planning, marking up and monitoring where possible through conversation with Regional Archaeologist

- Drovers
- Harting
- Devils Dyke

## Priority Archaeological Features within Compartments

### Lavington

**Compartment:** L3

**Woodland Plans:** T30

**Significant Sites:** Two Barrows (Scheduled) [MNA127330](#) & [MNA126745](#) are part of a larger Bronze Age Barrow cemetery that would have dominated the heathland in this area 3000 years ago.

**Task:** Barrows to be completely cleared and kept cleared with suitable [buffer](#)<sup>[BJ1]</sup> (clearing)

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** [Evidential & Historical](#)<sup>[BJ2]</sup>

### Saddlescombe

**Compartment:** D1

**Woodland Plans:** SF10

**Significant Sites:** [MNA127201](#) – Old Funicular railway providing access to the Victorian entertainments on Devils Dyke. Historic photos and postcards of the funicular in use and parts of the structures can be found at the top and bottom of the old line.

**Task:** The line of track has been previously cleared and should be kept cleared as currently so old railway line is visible from top and bottom of Downs.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Aesthetics & Communal

**\*Note:** As found through previous work in and around compartment D1 most access to it across Scheduled hillfort so this needs to be considered in work plans.

**Compartment:** N1

**Woodland Plans:** SF10 H&S

**Significant Sites:** [MNA125999](#) scheduled linear Cross Ridge Dyke (prehistoric linear bank) enters the woodland compartment

**Task:** End within woodland cleared of vegetation and kept cleared with buffer

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

### Selborne

**Compartment:** SE1

**Woodland Plans:** CROW

**Significant Sites:** Eastern Corner – A potential barrow is recorded = [MNA192960](#) and 2 prehistoric linear cross dykes [MNA192979](#) & [MNA192978](#) are not scheduled, but should be treated as such clear and kept clear with buffer.

This will allow access to investigate further and determine the heritage value

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential & Historical, Aesthetics (not wood banks)

## Drovers

General note added regarding the number of well-preserved relict field systems visible on lidar. Though these may be hard to see on the ground they do retain evidence of earlier use of the landscape from prehistory to medieval periods. Before any work in this area a check in with the regional archaeologist is advised to discuss best practice and trying to practically minimise widescale damage to such features.

## Woolstonbury

**Cautionary Note:** Any works need to consider access and storage of machinery and wood with so many Scheduled Monuments around the outsides of the working compartments.

## Blackdown

**Compartment:** B10J?

**Woodland Plans:** T30

**Significant Sites:** 2 circular enclosures potentially prehistoric [MNA179461](#) & [MNA179457](#) (These are not Scheduled Monuments)

**Task:** Sites to be cleared of vegetation and kept clear through ongoing maintenance

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

**Compartment:** B13

**Woodland Plans:** ?

**Significant Sites:** Three circular mounds [MNA193003](#), [MNA193002](#), [MNA193001](#) are not scheduled but due to size, shape and location have the high potential to be prehistoric burial mounds

**Task:** Sites to be cleared of vegetation and kept clear through ongoing maintenance. This will allow further research to be undertaken to confirm sites or set future more informed management recommendations

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

## Woolbeding

**Compartment:** W5

**Woodland Plans:** T30

**Significant Sites:** Enclosure [MNA150212](#)

**Task:** As part of work in W5 clear trees and scrub to ensure they don't encroach onto banks of enclosure which is bounded on 3 sides by W5.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

**Compartment:** W13

**Woodland Plans:** ?

**Significant Sites:** Oval Enclosure [MNA180952](#)

**Task:** – As part of any work in W13 clear trees and scrub to ensure they don't encroach onto banks of oval enclosure which is an island surrounded by W13

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

**Compartment:** W18

**Woodland Plans:** ?

**Significant Sites:** Mound [MNA192984](#) not scheduled.

**Task:** Site to be cleared of vegetation and kept clear through ongoing maintenance. This will allow further research to be undertaken to confirm sites or set future more informed management recommendations

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

**Compartment:** W22

**Woodland Plans:** ?

**Significant Sites:** Bronze Age Pond Barrow [MNA180950](#), Square Enclosure [MNA185178](#), Enclosure [MNA150233](#)

**Task:** Area of Pond Barrow to be cleared and kept clear, work in enclosures should focus on clearing and maintaining banks.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:**

## Harting/Uppark

General note added regarding the number of well-preserved relict field systems visible on lidar. Though these may be hard to see on the ground they do retain evidence of earlier use of the landscape from prehistory to medieval periods. Before any work in this area a check in with the regional archaeologist is advised to discuss best practice and trying to practically minimise widescale damage to such features.