Forestry England

New Forest Inclosures

Forest Plan

Submission Document for Approval

South England Forest District

Forestry Commission England

Forest Plan Main Document

Monitoring and Indicators of Success

Appendix 1: Consultation **R**ecord

Appendix 2: How this Plan **W**ill Support the Designated Features

Appendix 3: EIA (Forestry) Considerations

Appendix 4: Operational Planning

Appendix 5: **Individual Unit Maps submitted in 2017**

Appendix **6**: **Revised Management Types Maps Following HRA 2019**

Appendix **7**: **Open Habitat Restoration 2019-2029 (Amended Areas 2019)**

Forestry Commission England

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Main Document

FORESTRY ENGLAND - ***Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals in England***

Forestry England - Property

Forest District:	**South England Forest District**
Woodland or property name:	**New Forest Inclosures**
Nearest town, village or locality:	**Lyndhurst, Hampshire**
OS Grid reference:	**SU 299 079**
Local Authority district/Unitary Authority:	**New Forest National Park Authority**

Areas for approval

	Conifer	Broadleaf
Felling	290 ha	N/A
New planting (complete Appendix 4)	N/A	N/A

1. I apply for Forest Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.

2. I confirm that the pre-consultation, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which FS agreed must be included. Where it has not been possible to resolve specific issues associated with the Plan to the satisfaction of consultees, this is highlighted in the Consultation Record.

3. I confirm that the proposals contained in this Plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.

4. I undertake to obtain all permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed …… Signed ……

Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor Andy Glover- Field Manager - Regulations

District …… Area ……

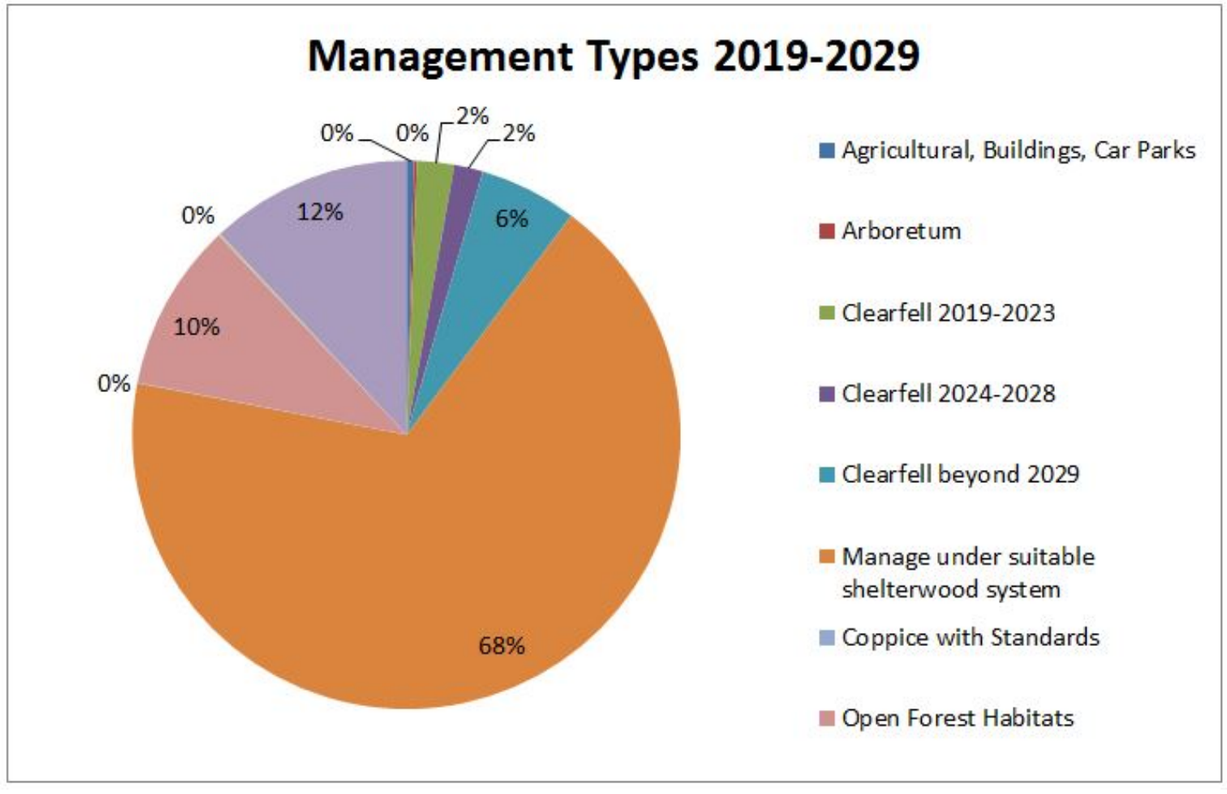
Date ……

Date of Approval……

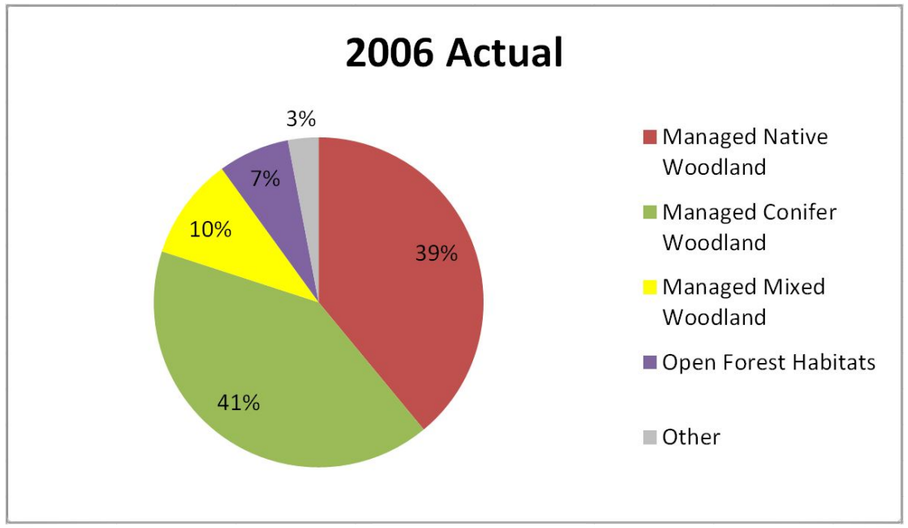
Date Approval ends……

Summary of Activity

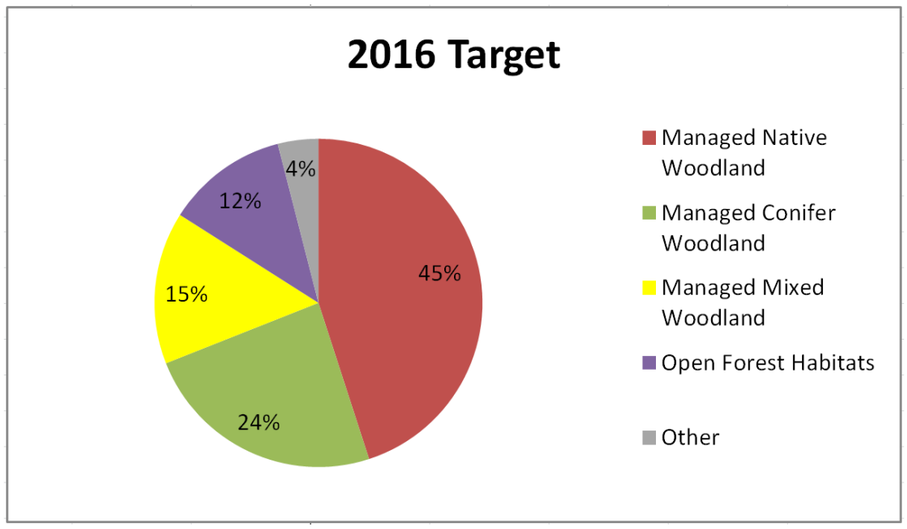
Activity 2019-2029	Area (Ha)
Areas managed under a suitable shelterwoood system including thinning	6304
Clearfelling to Open Habitats	290
Management of permanent open habitats	876
Natural Reserve Woodland	1040
Coppice with Standards	3
Other (car parks, buildings etc.)	23
TOTAL AREA	**8536**



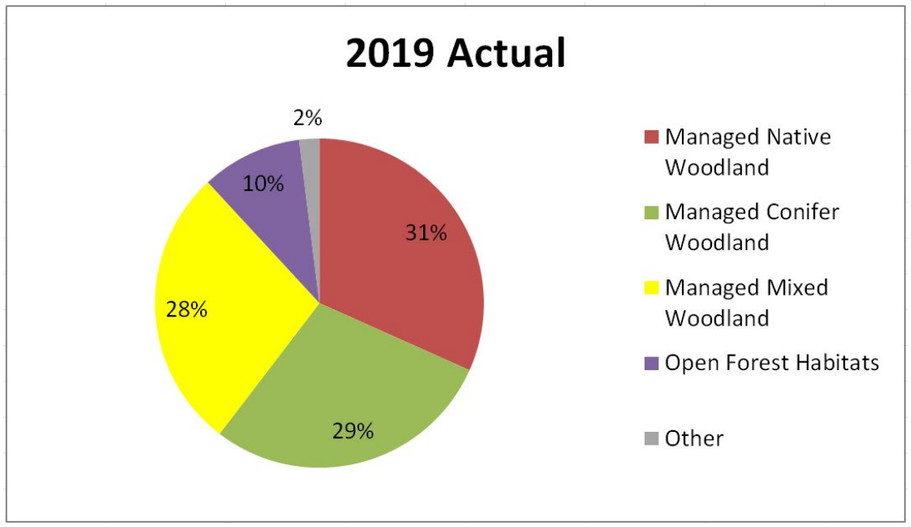
Past Progress & Future Ambition



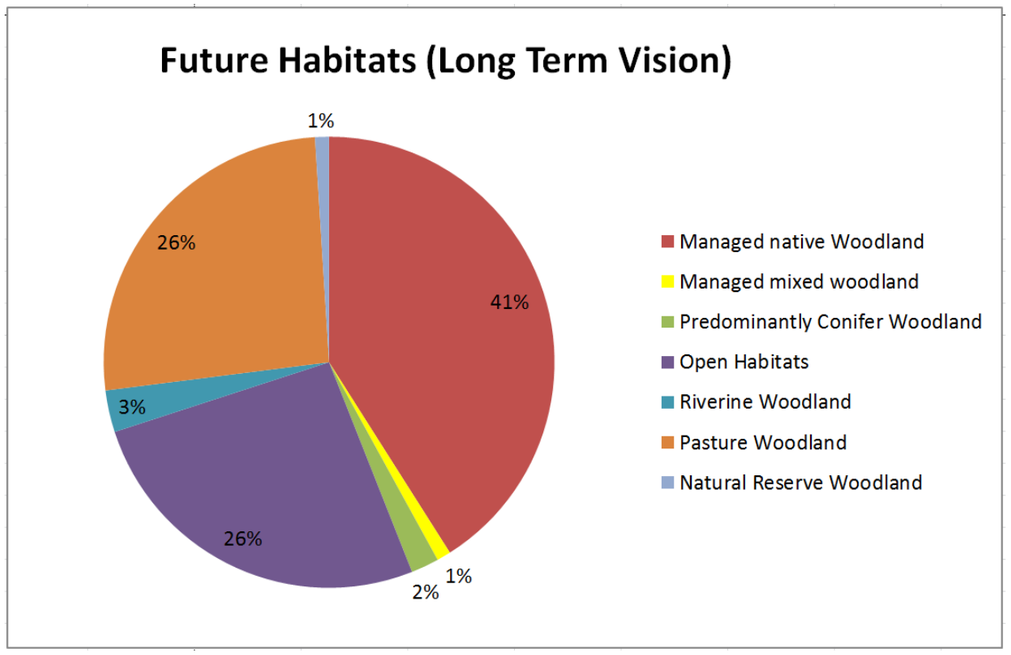
Progress we aimed to achieve



Actual Progress



Our Direction



Forest Design Plan Period Objectives 2019—2029 (updated from 2006 FDP)

In line with the Strategic Objectives of the New Forest National Park, this Plan aims to:

1. Develop Natural habitats of better quality and greater resilience, including planning for changes to the natural environment by:

    - Maintain or restore the extent and distribution of designated habitats and species;
    - Maintain or restore the structure and function of designated habitats and the habitats of designated species;
    - Maintain or restore the supporting processes on which designated habitats and the habitats of designated species rely;
    - Maintain or restore the populations and distribution of designated species;
    - Restoring native woodland and open habitats;
    - Developing a network of habitat links to reduce the vulnerability of fragmented sites;
    - Increasing the quality of edge habitat by ride edge and streamside enhancement and by developing a mosaic of woodland types and open space;
    - Providing a proportion of successional temporary open space for key bird species;
    - Maintaining other suitable habitats for Lepidoptera;
    - Protecting veteran trees and retaining standing or fallen deadwood;
    - Exploring site suitability of less prominent native species which can compliment the special features of the landscape;
    - Increasing the structural diversity of the Inclosure woodlands;
    - Developing riverine habitats, wet woodlands and bog woodlands along watercourses within fenced Inclosures and grazed woodlands;
    - Increasing the connectivity of the variety of woodland and open habitats within and through the Inclosures.

2. Develop woodlands that are sympathetic to the wider landscape and enhance the natural landscapes for public appreciation and enjoyment by:

    - Where appropriate, implementing changes to the landscape over a long time period (e.g. 200 years)
    - Maintain an accessible network of ride and tracks linked to high quality access points which are best placed to balance public enjoyment with protection of habitats and biodiversity;
    - Informing and engaging people in the cultural, natural and economic value that the New Forest provides to local, national and international communities;
    - Ensure historic features are protected and enhanced for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

3. Improving economic viability of land management by:

    - Growing quality timber that is fit for purpose so far as is consistent with the other FDP objectives stands where the long term management objectives will result in the sustained production of such timber;
    - Exploring alternative avenues of income generation derived from activities fulfilling the other FDP objectives.

Forestry Commission England

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Context and Maps

Illustrates the grouping of Inclosures within the Plan.

Illustrates the broad structures of the Inclosures as they are today. Our starting point for this Plan.

Illustrates the long-term structure of the Inclosures, consistent with the Forest Plan objectives, informing our ultimate direction of travel. There is no fixed time scale for the habitat transformations depicted as these will vary greatly depending on the current structure of the Inclosure and the intervening context in which we find ourselves.

Forest Design Planning—Background

Forest Design Plans define the long term vision for a woodland or a collection of woodlands and other habitats. It sets objectives and illustrates how management will move towards achieving this vision over the initial 10 to 50 years.

This plan represents a review of the Forest Design Plans for the New Forest Inclosures which were first prepared in 1999 and subsequently in 2006/7. The revised Plans have been prepared following a review of the previous plans undertaken by Forestry Commission staff, stakeholder groups and the wider community. It has incorporated developments in policy and local initiatives that have occurred in the intervening years.

Consultation and Approval Process

At key points throughout the Forest Design Planning process, we sought the views of external stakeholders, including local communities and organisations involved with nature conservation, land management, public recreation and the timber industry. Through this consultation process we can ensure that an appropriate balance of objectives is achieved.

Approval of the Forest Plan is granted by the regulatory arm of the Forestry Commission, known as Forest Services. This regulatory approval is usually valid for 10 years and grants a 10 year felling license. Approval is subject to the consent of Natural England with regards to the Plan's effect on the special interests of the European and UK designations of the New Forest.

The approved Forest Design Plan will be reviewed at year 5 to ensure proposals are still relevant, suitable and in line with current policy and guidance of the time. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate the success of management over the 5 year period and engage any amendments to the Forest Design Plan that may be required.

Inclosure Descriptions

In previous versions of this Plan, the Inclosures were broken down into FDP Units which consisted of either individual Inclosures or collections of adjacent or close-by groups of Inclosures.

Additional information regarding the features of these units can be found in the 2006 and 2007 Forest Design Plan Phases A, B, C and D. The following map illustrates the units which are summarised in the aforementioned Plan under the headings of: local landscape context, management history and woodland characteristics, People and Historic Environment.

Other Influences and Considerations

Climate Change

Climate change presents one of the greatest long-term challenges facing the world today. Conventional forest management systems have developed in a climate that has undergone fluctuations but remained relatively stable since the end of the last ice age (around 10 000 years ago). However, the average global temperature is now rising, there is evidence that rainfall patterns are changing. There is also likely to be an increase in the incidence of extreme weather and the frequency and severity of summer drought. This is likely to represent the greatest threat to woodlands from climate change in the UK over the coming decades. UK forest management needs to respond to these threats in two principal ways: through mitigation, including ensuring management is sustainable and adaptation, including species diversification.

Tree Diseases and Pests

Throughout southern England, established and newly recognised tree pests and diseases have been causing significant concern in recent years. Of particular concern at the present is the spread of *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthera ramorum* on Larch. Where affected species are extensive, woodlands are at a fairly high risk unplanned and undesirable structural change. Guidance and action plans regarding plant health are constantly evolving to adapt to plant health threats. The sudden emergence of a disease can result in the need to clear fell a coupe earlier than planned or alter restocking plans. We will continue to monitor for diseases as required and take any action required. Any changes to the Forest Design Plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with relevant guidance.

Mammal browsing is also a threat to the sustainability of the woodland by having the potential to limit regeneration. Deer will be managed in accordance with the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy.

Continued monitoring will take place to ensure that those native and non-native invasive plant species which pose a threat to native flora do not become established.

People and Communities

This Forest Design Plan proposes management which will lead to increased quality of the special features of the New Forest as detailed by the European and UK nature conservation designations. The interaction of people and communities with this landscape has been taken into account during the planning process but this Plan does not attempt to pre-suppose or assume any issues or proposals which may arise in due course as part of a wider recreation strategy for the New Forest.

Landscape

The Forest Design Plan proposes a long term change to the balance of tree species within the Inclosures. This proposal allows the visual change to the landscape to occur over decades, meaning the change will be unobtrusive.

In certain areas, deforestation to restore open habitats is proposed. Maps of these specific areas can be found in the appendices for scrutiny of their effects on the landscape by the approving bodies.

Wildfire Resilience

Reducing the incidence and impact of wildfires in forests and woodlands through good management planning is important for sustainable forest management and to protect the provision of forest ecosystem goods and services.

This plan will aim to build on the wildfire resilience already present in the New Forest Inclosures by acting on the following points:

- Managing the vegetation to maintain a network of fire breaks, reducing fuel across an entire site especially along roads and rides.
- A wide of use of continuous cover forestry to create a diverse woodland structure.
- Where appropriate fragment high risk species and habitats into smaller areas to reduce the risk of fire spread.
- Restore, maintain, enhance and increase broadleaved native woodland particularly around high risk areas.
- When restocking sites use appropriate species relative to the forests wildfire risk.

These management principals will be implemented during the operational stage of planning and are intended as a guide only.

A wildfire risk impact assessment for the clearfell areas proposed within this 10 year plan can be found in the EIA (Forestry) Considerations section. The FC also maintains a Fire Plan which guides our response to wildfire.

Flood Risk

The Forest Design Plan proposes a long term change to the balance of tree species within the Inclosures. It is unknown what effects such changes will be have on the catchment hydrology. The long term implementation of this change will allow for further scrutiny of the hydrology of the affected catchments as part of wider information gathering including the effects of wetland and watercourse restorations.

In certain areas, deforestation to restore open habitats is proposed. The areas proposed within this 10 year plan have been subject to an impact assessment to be found in the EIA (Forestry) Considerations section.

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is a consideration for those areas affected by clearfell to open habitats under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.

Maps showing the specific areas affected can be found in the appendices for scrutiny of their effects on carbon sequestration by the approving bodies.

Fencelines

A fencing plan is being developed to support this proposal. Focussing on the location of stock fencing for the management of grazing within the Inclosures, it does not highlight proposals for deer fencing, which may be erected in order to support successful tree regeneration where it is deemed appropriate and necessary. The stock fencing plan is currently being developed in partnership with the New Forest Verderers and will be appended to this document when it is available.

New Forest Inclosures

Forest Design Plan Units

Forestry Commission England

Illustrates the grouping of Inclosures within the FDP.

Legend

New Forest National Park Boundary

FDP Unit

- NEW 001 *Godshill Inclosure*
- NEW 002 *Millersford Plantation and Turf Hill Inclosure*
- NEW 003 *Alderhill, Amberwood, Hasley, Islands Thorns, Pitts Wood and Sloden Inclosures*
- NEW 004 *Bramshaw , Coppice of Linwood, Kings Garn Gutter, Long Beech, Ravens Nest, Salisbury Trench and Shepherds Copse Inclosures*
- NEW 005 *Broomy, Holly Hatch, North & South Bentleys Inclosures*
- NEW 006 *Appleslade, Cherry Orchard and Newlands Plantation*
- NEW 007 *Great & Little Linford, Milkham, Ocknell, Roe and Slufters*
- NEW 009 *Burnt Hill Wood, Harcourt Wood, Manor Wood and The Grove*
- NEW 010 *Brockishill, Busketts, Busketts Lawn, Costicles, Dunces Arch, Foldsgate, Furzey Lawn, Lodgehill, Northerwood and Shave Green Inclosures*
- NEW 011 *Churchplace, Deerleep, Ipley and Longdown*
- NEW 012 *Denny, Denny Lodge, Little Holmhill, Parkgrounds, Parkhill, Perrywood Hasley, Pignal, Pignalhill, Pondhead, Ramnor and Stubby Copse*
- NEW 013 *Aldridge Hill, Brick Kiln, Clumbers, Fletchers Hill, Fletchers Thorns, High Coxlease, Hurst Hill, New Park, Poundhill, Rhinefield Sandys, Vinney, Vinney Ridge, Water Copse and Willis's Plantation*
- NEW 014 *Markway and Ferny Knapp*
- NEW 015 *Dur Hill*
- NEW 016 *Broadley, Brownhills, Holmsley, Little Wooton, Set Thorns, Wilverley and Wooton Copse*
- NEW 017 *Frame Heath, Hawkill, Ivy Wood, New Copse, Perrywood Ironshill, Perrywood Ivy and Stockley*
- NEW 018 *Crab Hat, Dibden, Fawley, Foxhunting, Kings Hat and Marchwood*
- NEW 019 *Kings Copse Inclosure*
- NEW 020 *Norley*
- NEW 021 *Anderwood, Backley, Beech Bed, Bolderwood Grounds, Bratley, Burley New, Burley Old, Burley Outer Rails, Dames Slough, Highland Water, Holidays Hill, Holmhill, Knightwood, North & South Oakley, Puckpits, Spring Wood and Woosens Hill*

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27/11/2014

South Forest District
Forest Design Plan

Forestry Commission England

Current Structure

New Forest Inclosures

Illustrates the broad structures of the Inclosures as they are today.

Legend

- Inclosure boundary

Current structure

- Ancient and Ornamental grazed native woodland
- Native woodland
- Mixed woodland
- Non-native woodland
- Wet woodland
- Open Forest Habitats
- Bog
- Unplanted / bare
- Open water
- Arboretum
- Agriculture
- Built up / car park

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:
Date:

Conservator:
Date:

Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.

FSC www.fsc.org FSC® C123214

The mark of responsible forestry

PEFC PEFC/16-40-1001 Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.org

Map date: 17 November 2015

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

Long Term Vision

Illustrates the potential habitats in the long term.

Legend

- Agricultural; Buildings; Car Park
- Arboretum
- Conifer Woodland
- Enclosed Open Forest Habitats
- Mixed Woodland
- Managed Native Woodland
- Open Forest Habitats
- Open Forest Wet Woodland; Riverine Habitat
- Pre-Inclosure / Natural Reserve Woodland
- Grazed Native Woodland
- Scrub Mosaic

1:71,688
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Date: 07/04/2017

Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.

Habitat Reference for Decision Tree	Habitat Categories	Habitat Descriptions
1	Grazed Native Woodland	Woodland which is predominantly (>95%) native, within which natural processes are left to occur and which is open to grazing by commoning stock. Woodlands in this category are akin to the A&O woodlands. In line with habitat and species requirements, a mosaic of naturally ocurring open space (such as molinia and heathland areas) will develop within the woodlands.
2	Pre-Inclosure/ Near Natural Reserve Woodland	Woodland which is predominantly (>95% native), within which natural processes are left to occur but which are not open to grazing by commoning stock. In line with habitat and species requirements, a mosaic of naturally ocurring open space (such as molinia and heathland areas) will develop within the woodlands.
3	Managed Native Woodland	Woodland which consists of predominantly (>95%) native tree and shrub species, within which silvicultrual management will occur. The woodlands contain a diverse structure of high forest and successional habitat with a mosaic of open space. In line with habitat and species requirements, a mosaic of naturally ocurring open space (such as molinia and heathland areas) will develop within the woodlands.
	Riverine Woodland / Riverine Habitat	Woodland within Inclosures which is adjacent to a watercourse. Predominantly (>95%) native providing a mosaic of tree cover and open space to benefit the associated flora and fauna.
	Coppice with Standards	Woodland coppiced under a suitable rotation to benefit biodiversity and to take opportunities to supply niche markets. Canopy cover up to 20% to allow light for coppice regrowth.
	Scrub Mosaic	A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.
	Glade	Woodland glade of native grasses and othe ground flora. Temporary or permanent.
4	Conifer Woodland	Woodland which is predominantly (>80%) conifer.
	Mixed Woodland	Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.
	Arboretum	Managed for public enjoyment and in line with the Accessions Policy. Linked to the National Arboretum Project which aims to provide a network of sites for the study of tree species and how they establish at different sites across England.
	Permanent Pond	Ponds which are historically permanent
5	Open Habitats	Open habitats of heathland, grassland etc.
	Enclosed Open Forest Habitats	Open habitats of heathland and grassland but which are not open to grazing by commoning stock.
	Mire	
	Open Forest Wet Woodland / Bog Woodland	Native woodlands, groups of trees and individuals along watercourses on the Open Forest. Particularly incorporating alder and ash.
6	Agricultural, Buildings, Car Park	As stated

	Current Habitats							Current Habitats			
	A - Grazed Native Woodland	B - Pre-Inclosure / Natural Reserve Woodland	C - Managed Native Woodland	D - Mixed Woodland	E - Conifer Woodland	F - Conifer Woodland - Old Scots Pine	G - Coppice with Standards	H - Riverine Habitat	I - Open Forest Habitats	J - Scrub Mosaic	K - Enclosed Open Forest Habitats
Long Term Vision Habitats											
1 - Grazed Native Woodland	**1A - Non-Intervention**		**1C - Consider Non-intervention. Intervention, including thinning, group felling** and **pollarding** may be **required to restructure even aged woodland. Realign fences at appropriate time to introduce grazing.**	**1D -** Remove most conifer and **allow some natural regeneration to improve structural diversity** before **realigning fences and introducing grazing at appropriate time.**	**1E -** Clearfell or phased removal by **thinning** of most conifer to allow site to develop naturally. **Allow some natural regeneration before realigning fences and introducing grazing at appropriate time.**						
2 - Pre-Inclosure / Natural Reserve Woodland		**2B - Non-Intervention**	**2C - Old Growth Connection. Non-intervention** unless **intervention required to restructure even aged woodland**. Not open to grazing animals.	**2DE -** Phased removal of most conifer by **thinning** or **clearfell** then **non-intervention**.							
3 - Managed Native Woodland			**3C -** To be managed by **thinning** or selective small **group felling** to promote natural regeneration of native broadleaves. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia and heathland areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews	**3DE -** Undertake phased **thinning** of conifers including some small scale **group fellings** to promote gradual colonisation of native broadleaved woodland. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia and heathland areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews						
4 - Mixed Woodland				**4DE -** Maintain existing canopy species balance. Manage by **thinning** including some small scale **group fellings** to allow the site to regenerate predominantly through **natural regeneration**. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews						
5 - Conifer Woodland					**5E -** Maintain existing species balance. Manage by **thinning** including some small scale **group fellings** to allow the site to regenerate predominantly through **natural regeneration**. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia and heathland areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews						
6 - Coppice with Standards							**6G - Coppice** with Standards. Thin the canopy to reduce cover to a maximum of 20%. Coppice understorey in an appropriate rotation.				
7 - Open Forest Wet Woodland / Riverine Habitat			**7C -** Retain broadleaves and encourage **natural regeneration**. **Thin** and **group fell** to create and maintain open space and a diverse streamside habitat. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews	**7DE -** Retain broadleaves and encourage **natural regeneration**. **Thin** and **group fell** to create and maintain open space and a diverse streamside habitat. Gradual removal of most conifers through phased **thinning**. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews				**7H -** Retain broadleaves and encourage **natural regeneration**. **Thin** and **group fell** to create and maintain open space and a diverse streamside habitat. Where other, non woodland habitats develop within these woodlands (such as open molinia areas), these will be allowed to develop, may increase in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet management area and may influence future Plan reviews. Some restoration of the physical features of watercourses, mires and wetlands may be necessary in some cases. Such details will be developed through the New Forest Wetland Restoration Strategy.			
8 - Open Forest Habitats				**8DE -** Phased **clear felling** of conifers or mixed woodland designed to be sympathetic with landscape design principles followed by restoration to heathland.		**8F -** To be managed by **thinning** or selective small **group felling** to promote the development of open habitat associated features. Slower removal of tree cover to allow for timely landscape change.			**8I -** Manage in accordance with **Open Forest management**.		
9 - Scrub Mosaic										**9J** - Rotational cutting of scrub and open habitats to maintain a balance for the benefit of invertebrate biodiversity	
10 - Enclosed Open Forest Habitats											**10K** - Manage to maintain and restore open habitats through appropriate mechanical or other methods.
11 - Road & Ride Edge Enhancement			Rotational cutting of vegetation, increased scallops along the tracks with the tree line set back from the road edge to allow light onto the track sides.				Rotational cutting of vegetation, increased scallops along the tracks with the tree line set back from the road edge to allow light onto the track sides.				
12 - Habitat Grazing Requirements - Stock Fencing	Unfenced	Fenced	Fenced	Fenced	Refer to Maps	Unfenced	Fenced	Refer to Maps	Unfenced	Fenced	Fenced

Bold type refers to management systems which are described in greater detail on the following page.

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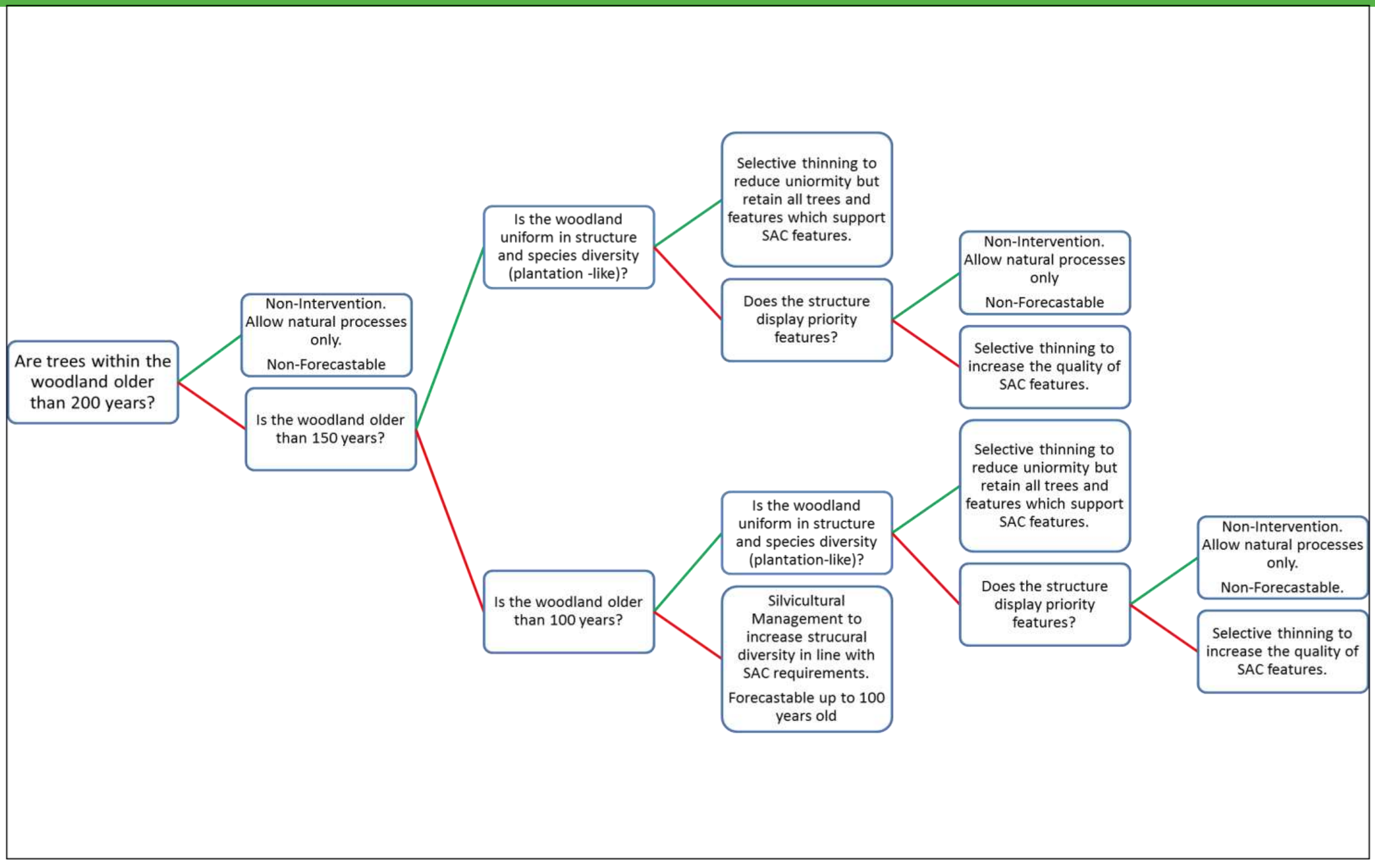
Management Prescription	What does this mean?	Felling License Details	
		Felling	Restocking
Intervention required to restructure even aged woodland	Used where our aim is to facilitate the connection of fragmented Old Growth Woodland through the Inclosures using the historic 19th century (predominantly) oak plantations. Some of these areas are uniform in character and so may benefit from some intervention to facilitate natural regeneration of native species and 'mimic' natural old growth processes which have not occurred due to past management practices	Shelterwood System; Felling areas up to 0.25ha, no more than 1 per ha prior to becoming non-intervention	Natural regeneration in line with A&O woodland regeneration requirements. 1 successfully establishing tree every 100 paces
Non-Intervention	We will not intervene UNLESS a biosecurity or health & safety issue arises which requires some form of intervention. We may still implement other conservation and access improvements such as non-native species removal, ride-edge enhancement or recreation infrastructure maintenance.	Any work would be carried out within Forestry Act exemptions	N/A
Allow some natural regeneration to improve structural diversity	Implement systems which will enhance the success of natural regeneration to the desired level. This may include some temporary stock/deer fencing and/or localised mammal management	N/A	Used to fulfil restocking requirements. (unless regenerating A&O connections) will establish at least 1250 trees/ha if broadleaves and 2500/ha if coniferous. If natural regeneration is not successful then replanting may be necessary to ensure adequate woodland habitat. Replanting will only occur with native broadleaved species.
Thinning	Periodic removal of around 30%-50% of the canopy, allowing the remaining trees to increase in size and to the development of lower storey woodland, open space will also allow support the development a mosaic of open habitats (such as molinia and heathland areas). When relating to coppice, a removal of up to 80% of the canopy may be necessary	Thinning up to around 30% of the canopy within a 5 year period. Any open habitat areas may be increased in size by a maximum of 20% of the descreet Inclosure area within the 10% Plan period	N/A
Clear-Fell	Removal of a fixed area of trees which results in complete canopy removal	Clearfell areas; species and projected volume provided. Areas earmarked for clear-felling within the 10 year life of this Plan will be approved. Areas earmarked for clear-felling beyond the 10 year life of this Plan will be subject to thinning during the intervening years	All clear-fell areas proposed are to restore open habitat; therefore restocking is not required
Group-Felling	Used to facilitate the successful natural regeneration of the woodland by increasing light levels to the forest floor and thus increasing the suitability of the site to regrowth.	Shade tolerant species (e.g. Beech) - Felling areas up to 0.25ha, no more than 2 areas per ha. Light demanding species (e.g. Oak) - Felling areas up to 2 ha, no more than 10% of the descreet Inclosure area, non-adjacent. Following group-felling interventions, no additional group felling may be made until natural regeneration has successfully established.	Restocking (unless regenerating A&O connections) will establish at least 1250 trees/ha if broadleaves and 2500/ha if coniferous. If natural regeneration is not successful then replanting may be necessary to ensure adequate woodland habitat. Replanting will only occur with native broadleaved species.
Coppice	Removal of multi-stemmed trees at the base to encourage regrowth. A traditional practice not widely exercised in the New Forest.	Coppice areas on a rotation with coupes not exceeding 0.5 hectares. Implemented in a mosaic pattern to allow a diverse age structure over time.	Regrowth of the coppice stools to 1.5m within 5 years of cutting.
Open Forest Management	Manage to maintain open habitats through the traditional means of grazing and burning as well as adopted mechanical methods where appropriate.	N/A	N/A
Natural Regeneration	Young trees which grow naturally from the seedbank on the site. In certain circumstances this may be enriched through planting to encourage species diversity or to ensure adequate stocking levels.	N/A	Used to fulfil restocking requirements. (unless regenerating A&O connections) will establish at least 1250 trees/ha if broadleaves and 2500/ha if coniferous. If natural regeneration is not successful then replanting may be necessary to ensure adequate woodland habitat. Replanting will only occur with native broadleaved species.
Thinning to Develop Open Habitats	The canopy will be silviculturally thinned, as described in the 'Thinning' section above. These areas are woodlands established on potential SAC qualifying or other notified open habitats. Thinning will be to achieve an opening of the canopy to allow these habitats to develop under a retained canopy.	Thinning up to around 30% of the canopy within a 5 year period.	N/A
A note on Stock Fencing	Within this proposal, the proposed fencing plan has been developed to begin developing the appropriate conditions to achieve the habitat objectives. SAC qualifying habitats and habitats to support SPA species will require grazing in order to fully achieve their potential. The fencing plan proposal illustrates initial steps to open areas up to grazing to benefit these features. As well as opening areas to grazing, in areas where natural tree regeneration establishment requires support, deer fencing may be erected to ensure succesful establishment. Changes to stock fencelines will need to be made in clear consultation with the affected partners.	N/A	N/A
A note on non-native tree species (conifer and non-native broadleaves)	While it is the intention to limit the development of non-native habitats within the New Forest Inclosures, the balance of the visual landscape effects and the economic viability of management, have led to the proposal which retains some non-native woodland for the long term, either as it progresses towards native woodland or to open habitats. For these reasons, while we will not plant non-native species, where it occurs through natural seeding, we will allow such species to be managed in an economically viable manner, supporting local industry and the historical context of a 'working forest' throughout the transition to more native habitats.	N/A	N/A
A note on Operational Planning	The Forest Plan sets the general direction for the Inclosures for the long term and proposes suitable management methods to progress towards this direction. Our Inclosures are managed on a rotational system, whereby we identify suitable work to undertake approximately once every 5 years. At such times, an Operational Site Assessment (OSA) is undertaken to determine the suitability of operations and how they will take into account on site constraints and opportunities. An example of the current OSA process is shown in the appendix. This process is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with regulations and responsibilities.	N/A	N/A
A note on the restoration of designated features	In improving SAC features through the implementatrion of this Plan, consideration of all other qualifying features (SAC/SPA) and notified features (SSSI) will be made as part of the OSA process.	N/A	N/A
A note on timber storage	Timber stacking areas will be identified during the OSA process to ensure the protection of vulnerable habitats and species. The existing ride and road network provides the means of timber haulage from the Inclosures.	N/A	N/A

Managing for Grazed Native Woodland Decision Tree



Forestry Commission England

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Monitoring and Indicators of Success

FDP Aim	FDP Proposal to Achieve Objective	Challenges	Monitoring System	Success at Year 5	✓?	Success at Year 10	✓?
1	Develop Natural habitats of better quality and greater resilience, including planning for changes to the natural environment	• Appropriate natural regeneration establishment; • Incorporating species diversity to increase resilience to climate change, pests and diseases;	• SSSI Condition assessments carried out by Natural England; • Annually by analysis of sub-compartment database;	<u>From year 1 baseline</u> • Maintained condition of SSSI Units; • Reduced area of predominantly (>80%) non-native woodland;		<u>From year 1 baseline</u> • Maintained condition of SSSI Units; • Reduced area of predominantly (>80%) non-native woodland;	
2	Develop woodlands that are sympathetic to the wider landscape and enhance the natural landscapes for public appreciation and enjoyment	• Balancing expectations for rate of landscape change with SSSI requirements; • Natural regeneration establishment;	• Audit of actual landscape changes versus proposed change within Plan time-scales; • Annually by analysis of sub-compartment database • Key landscape opportunities, which en-hance the New Forest's sense of place, identified at Operational Planning stage and recorded to support future planning (such as retention of particularly striking individual trees or features).	• Forest Plan implemented as proposed; • Reduced area of predominantly (>80%) non-native woodland • Identification of additional landscape features recorded to support future planning.		• Forest Plan implemented as proposed; • Reduced area of predominantly (>80%) non-native woodland • Identification of additional landscape features recorded to support future planning.	
3	Improving economic viability of land management	• Resourcing the exploration of new markets of products arising from management;	• Annual and 5 year FC market and sales plans	• Maintenance of quality timber production in line with updated forecasts;		• Maintenance of quality timber production in line with updated fore-casts; • New markets for woodland management products becoming established	

Forestry Commission England

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Appendix 1: Consultation Record

Consultation Pathway

2014

- FC Teams onsite input
- Initial broad discussions with stakeholders about the process

2015

- Continued FC team input both on site and at specific events
- Small scale stakeholder event to scope initial thoughts

2016

- Major stakeholder event to launch the proposals and gain informal feedback
- Further FC team input
- 3 months online consultation providing formal feedback

2017

- Further FC Team input
- Final drafting of proposals
- Submit for approval April 2017
- Deforestation proposals screened by FS to identify the need for consent under the EIA (Forestry) Regulations

2018

- Scope of Environmental Statement (ES) agreed
- ES submitted to FS
- ES advertised, sent to consultees and stakeholders

2019

- FS Determination
- Notification of decision - Consent granted with conditions

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Response
1	What does 'ride enhancement' mean?	Documentation	rotational cutting of vegetation, increased scallops along the tracks with the tree line set back from the road edge to allow light onto the track sides'
	Contact details for FC person regarding recreation	Non-FDP	Passed to RPA team
	How many trees will be removed from Broadley and Wooton?	Technical	Technical explanation of general forestry practice given
	Will operations be communicated ahead of time	Operational Planning	Explained that we aim to communicate ahead of interventions
	What are the effects of stream restoration on Brownhills and Broadley	Non-FDP	Explained this is an ongoing process with many variables that we will manage over time
2	Concerned about reduction of Scots Pine and Douglas Fir	Working Forest	Explained our responsibilities to designations and the timescales involved in any conversions proposed
3	Removal of conifers from woodlands reduces resilience to single tree disease	Resilience	See next page
	Inclusion of conifers offers greater range of habitats for more wildlife	Resilience	See next page
	Continuation of 'managed woodland' supports FC management of the NF and supports local employment	Working Forest	See next page
	Waterside Inclosures should be 'mixed' and retained as woodland provides a buffer to the industrial and urban areas of the waterside	Support	
	mixed' woodland of conifers and native trees provides higher amenity value than open heathland	Resilience (in terms of amenity value)	See next page
	Removal of any woodland potentially increases flood risk	Flood Risk	See next page
	Some clearfelling has recently left sizeable stumps which should be cut lower	Operational Planning	See next page
	More open areas means more grazing, which increases environmental pressure on the terrain	Resilience	See next page
4	Urge the Verderer's to influence the FC to continue high quality conifer production which is too fertile for heathland but unsuitable for oak plantation	Working Forest	See next page

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Response
5	Will the Forest continue as a source of good timber even if the mix of conifer and broad-	Working Forest	Yes
	What change in this activity will there be from the present to the future?	Working Forest	We will still manage the New Forest, likely producing a more diverse range of products as opposed to monoculture plantation products.
6	Concern expressed regarding removal of most of the conifer plantations	Working Forest	See next page
	Concerned about the effect on local sawmills and other allied industries.	Working Forest	See next page
	Traditional' skills of rustic woodworkers should not be compromised due to lack of materi-	Working Forest	See next page
	Support for the retention of Dibden Inclosure	Support	
7	Conifers contribute 90% of the income from timber sales	Working Forest	See next page
	Timber production is part of our local culture, tradition and heritage.	Working Forest	See next page
	Use of local timber as a source of fuel is desirable	Working Forest	See next page
	Acknowledge the designations, 15% of land under conifer crops adds diversity and biodi-	Resilience	See next page
	More diverse woodlands will be more resilient to the effects of climate change and tree	Resilience	See next page
	Our country imports nearly 90% of its timber. We feel the NF should make its contribution.	Working Forest	See next page
	Financial shortfall from decline in timber production, if made up for by recreation income,	Resilience (in terms of	See next page
	Not all Forest parishes were made aware. Ensure all have the opportunity to respond	Other	There was one instance of an incorrect email address used due to incorrect publishing of the address on the internet. Parishes were made aware of the consultations and plans via the New Forest Consultative Panel in addition to our own communications.
8	Support for retention of waterside Inclosures	Support	
	Although in the past I have coomplained about the lack of broadleaf planting, I feel the plans swing too far in the other direction	Working Forest	See next page
	Use soil types to determine tree species selection when planting	Operational Planning	See next page
	There has been too much human intervention such as draining of bogs and straightening of rivers and streams. Perhaps we should let nature do its thing with balanced grazing on	Non-FDP	Comment acknowledged
9	Any natives left on conifer clearfell sites will likely blow over	Operational Planning	See next page
	Land where trees are growing in 60% more efficient at retaining water that land without	Flood Risk	See next page
	If Inclosures are clearfelled, this will increase the risk of flooding in and around the New	Flood Risk	See next page
	The open aspect of the area will be less suitable for bees, butterflies and hoverflies	Biodiversity	See next page
	If tracks and rides are kept open there is little chance of a wilderness where rare birds can	Biodiversity	See next page
	This would mean increased areas for grazing aand so more stock. Concern of overgrazing and tree damage raised	Resilience	See next page
	Open heathlands in hotter drier conditions may lead to increased wildfire	Wildfire Risk	See next page
	We should return to hazel copse management	Working Forest	See next page
	I would not like to see increased recreation and traffic in the New Forest	Non-FDP	Comment acknowledged

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Response
10	Objective 1 to be expanded to include Water Framework Directive	Other	WFD is recognised as a wider FC responsibility
	At least 5m buffer strip of natural vegetation on both banks of watercourses.	Documentation	See next page
	Clearfelling close to river corridors should not take place	Operational Planning	In some cases it is necessary in order to restore designated features. Where this is the case, as in all our operations, a robust Operational Planning Process will take place to inform the operation and ensure objectives are met with full recognition of other constraints.
	We support the gradual thinning of conifers to provide a mosaic of tree cover and open space	Support	
11	Maintenance of fencelines for stock management	Technical	Fencing Plan included in the proposal
	The New Forest is a Working Forest	Working Forest	See next page
	Employment and the link to conifer timber production	Working Forest	See next page
	Loss of £1m in revenue from timber income	Working Forest	See next page
	We support the removal of the verderer's Inclosures but belive that productive Inclosures should be left intact to provide employment and diversity and space for deer and other wildlife.	Working Forest	See next page
12	Waterside Inclosures should not be removed	Support	
	Conifer timber is of economic value to the local economy and should remain	Working Forest	See next page
	Removal of conifer will have a detrimental economic effect on fungi, flora, birds, butterflies	Biodiversity	See next page
	Fuelwood supply from the FC would possibly disappear	Working Forest	See next page
	Change from woodland to open heath potentiall increases flood risk	Flood Risk	See next page
	Mixed woodland provides greater resilience to disease	Resilience	See next page
13	We need to keep this a 'Working Forest'	Working Forest	See next page
14	Support for the Plan (specific response to Ashurst Walk)	Support	
	Query of why the fenceline around ipley remains	Non-FDP	The fencelines around Ipley Inclosure are retained in order to support stock management. The gates are left open to ensure grazing occurs on the restored open habitats.
15	Good advance notice should be given of operational plans	Operational Planning	See next page
	Access routes should be reinstated with a surface suitable for equines	Operational Planning	See next page
	if any bridges, fords etc affected by the works, access for riders should be maintained	Operational Planning	See next page
16	Support the gradual removal of species not compatable with the designations, at a rate which is financially viable	Support	
	This Plan will require a Habitats Regulations Assessment	Documentation	This will occur as part of the approval process

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Response
17	Environmental support and support from the Tourism sector has been expressed	Support	
	The local timber processing industries should be considered during the phasing out of co-	Working Forest	See next page
18	We must continue to grow a sustainable supply of timber to local sawmills. This avoids	Working Forest	See next page
	A balance of conifers and broadleaved trees will be more resilient to climate change	Resilience	See next page
	Loss of forest can increase flood risk	Flood Risk	See next page
	In an increasingly densely populated area, our Forest will become and even more essential visual and climatic buffer around our industrialised and densely populated margins	Resilience	See next page
19	Removal of Inclosure Fencelines could impact on suitable habitat for rare invertebrates found within these Inclosures	Biodiversity	See next page
20	Portion west of Tickets bury should be retained as woodland for landscape reasons	Landscape	Can incorporate
	Turf Hill	Landscape / Biodiversity	See next page
	Millersford	Landscape	See next page
	Islands thorns	Biodiversity	See next page
	FDP needs to provide for reinclosure to secure regeneration as and when necessary,	Documentation	See 'A Note of Fencing' on 'Management Types Definitions' sheet
	Newlands	Landscape	See next page
	Great linford	Documentation	See next page
	Queen Meadow	Documentation	Should be 'Enclosed Open Forest Habitats'
	Markway	Landscape	See next page
	Hawkhill	Operational Planning	See next page
21	Continued retention of conifer for biodiversity and economic value	Working Forest	See next page
	Maps suggest Setthorns, Wilverley, Wooton and Broadley will all be worked simultaneous-	Operational Planning	See next page
	Better communication of upcoming operations required	Operational Planning	See next page
	Concern over extent of work and provision for access in the area during the Wootton Bridge restoraion work	Non-FDP	Passed to HLS Team
	Stumps should be as low as possible when felling	Operational Planning	See next page
22	Opportunities should be sought to enhance the significant landscape and habitat features	Support	
	Access interruptions should be clearly communicated prior to operations	Operational Planning	See next page

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Response
23	decision tree is useful but should give more detail on the status of habitats impacted (e.g. SSSI condition)	Documentation	See next page. SSSI condition is reassessed approximately every 6 years. This proposal is based on progressing the SSSI condition towards 'favourable' in the long term. Current SSSI Condition Assessments can be found on the Natural England website.
	More detail on woodland birds is required	Operational Planning	See next page
	What if Latchmore goes ahead / doesn't go ahead?	Other	Other work proposals, including those programmed under the Verderer's Higher Level Stewardship Agreement will be incorporated at the oprational planning stage
	Specific risk locations for disease risk areas required as well as impact on ground and sur-	Resilience / Flood Risk	See next page
	Use of recreational detail in Latchmore EIA could be useful	Recreation	See next page
	employment implications could be considered	Working Forest	See next page
	Give production in £ instead of m3	Working Forest	See next page. Income from volume will vary over time depending on the market value of the products produced. In order to maintain the sustainable management of our Forests, we plan our output based on volume, related to the predicted growth rate of trees rather than the income they will provide.
	Explanation of engagement	Documentation	See next page
	Show habitat condition with regards to legislation	Documentation	See next page. SSSI condition is reassessed approximately every 6 years. This proposal is based on progressing the SSSI condition towards 'favourable' in the long term. Current SSSI Condition Assessments can be found on the Natural England website.
	What are the risks to funding and the impact of that on the FDP delivery	Other	The FC is a publicly funded agency of DEFRA and as such is subject to the budgetary re-sponsibilities of any public sector organisation as we prioritise delivery in order to achieve the best value for money.
	How would the plans change if there were greater chance of heathland and forest fires	Wildfire	See next page
24 and 25	The shift from coniferous woodlands to native woodlands precludes open habitats. This is not appropriate in all circumstances	Biodiversity	See next page. Management types have been developed to ensure incorporation of de-veloping SPA supporting habitats within the woodland complex.
	Decision Tree needs to refer to SPA species specific habitats	Biodiversity	See next page. This has been incorporated.
	Recognition of open SPA bird habitats development within the woodland complex, a num-ber of sites identified specifically.	Biodiversity	See next page. Management types have been developed to ensure incorporation of de-veloping SPA supporting habitats within the woodland complex.
	Natural hydrology is crucial to increasing resilience of habitats	Resilience	See next page.
	Recreation Strategy is needed for the Forest	Non-FDP	Comment acknowledged
	Clarity about how 'LISS' will affect SPA interests	Biodiversity	See next page. Management types have been developed to ensure incorporation of de-veloping SPA supporting habitats within the woodland complex.
	Give more detail on the monitoring & indicators of success	Documentation	See next page

Feedback Reference	Feedback (main points paraphrased)	Category	Respone
26	The case for forestry in the New Forest	Working Forest	See next page
27	Restoring SaC habitats which move the Forest to a point in the past is not appropriate for a site as important as the NF	Working Forest	See next page
	DF productive potential versus oak in terms of yield class	Working Forest	See next page
	Mixed woodlands are more resilient to climate change	Resilience	See next page
	A 'working forest' is vital to the cultural heritage of the NF. Conservation and conifer timber production can co-exist and thrive.	Working Forest	See next page
28	Fenceline changes should involve consultation with Verderers and Commoners	Documentation	See next page. Fencing Plan proposed
	Proper restoration of areas returned to grazing, in terms of ditch reinstatement and ground levelling should be carried out.	Operational Planning	See next page
	A New Forest nursery should be established for specific plantings in the NF	Other	Comment acknowledged
	Conifer edges' should be softened by planting or allowing natural regeneration of broad-leaved trees at their edges.	Other	Comment acknowledged
29	Landscape Assessment required	Documentation	To be submitted as part of the clearfell to open habitats EIA (Forestry) approval process
	Include reference to NPA Objectives required	Documentation	Incorporated
	How do the habitat changes fit with expected increased visitor numbers?	Resilience	See next page
	A move in production from softwood to niche markets will need partnership working to develop such markets	Non-FDP	Comment acknowledged
30	Clarification of definitions e.g. 'native woodland'	Documentation	See next page
	Greater mention of the National Park status	Documentation	Incorporated
	Grazing is required to truly connect old growth woodlands	Biodiversity	See next page. See 'A Note of Fecning' on Management Types Definitions sheet.
	Campsites and Reacreation have an affect on the NF that needs to be recognised	Non-FDP	Passed to RPA team
	Greater detail of management prescription definitions	Documentation	Incorporated

Feedback Category	FC Response
Documentation	Updated the documentation as requested where it has been deemed appropriate to this Plan
Non-FDP/Other	Refer the point to the relevant FC team
Technical	Individual analysis to consider if it is relevant
Operational Planning	Include the Operational Planning Process as an appendix to the Plan
Resilience	The Forestry Commission is committed to developing resilient woodlands and landscapes. In this context, we are referring specifically to resilience in the face of pressures from outside influences including climate change and increased visitor numbers. The UK is facing climatic changes over the next 100 or so years which have the potential to affect the functioning and the makeup of the ecosystems within the New Forest. Other pressures including increased use by local residents and tourists also have the potential to affect the habitats and species within the Forest in unknown ways. The development of housing and transport infrastructure in and around the New Forest has led to a perceived increase in visitor pressures. The New Forest is a special place and certain habitats and species have been specifically identified, through the UK and international nature conservation designations, as of significant importance on that wider scale. In this context, it is these habitats and species that this proposal looks to support through their maintenance, restoration and connection in order to give them the best chance to be resilient in the face of such changes.
Working Forest	The cultural and historic significance of the New Forest as being a place of forest employment, either through traditional small holding management or larger scale forestry activity is undeniable. It has helped to shape the landscape we all enjoy today. This proposal does not attempt to halt this tradition in any way, but to build on this history and use the knowledge of woodland management to support the vulnerable habitats and species for future generations to enjoy. While the mix of coniferous and broadleaved species is proposed to change (in favour of native broadleaves), this is proposed over a long period of time in order to allow for economic and biodiversity adaptation. Areas to be restored to open habitat are to be felled at their economic rotation age, ensuring the investment made in the planting of these trees is realised at their most valuable age. These practices will enable the Forest to carry on providing employment opportunities and to supply timber to markets for many many years to come. The timescales also allow us re-evaluate the proposal at FDP reviews which are currently due to occur every 10 years. Forestry Commission England manages the New Forest as part of a wide estate across England. This national estate allows us to provide a balance of opportunities for people, nature and the economy across the country. For further detail please see the Production Forecast section.
Flood Risk	Clearfelling is proposed in order to restore designated open habitats. The decreased transpiration rate (the process of 'drinking' water from the ground) due to the removal of trees may have an effect on the hydrology of the affected catchments. However, the restoration of watercourses and drainage systems to hold more water within the New Forest crown lands for the benefit of designated habitats will likely counter such change. For additional detail, please see the EIA (Forestry) Considerations section.
Wilfire Risk	The proposals include a number of changes which may affect the resilience of the habitats to the effects of wildfire, both positively and negatively. Changes such as increased open habitats may increase the risk, while the increased area of broadleaved trees may decrease the risk. For additional detail, please see the EIA (Forestry) Considerations section.
Biodiversity	Our proposal attempts to maintain, restore, connect, and thus increase the resilience of, the features of the New Forest identified under the specific designations it holds. We have updated the proposal to take on board points raised regarding the provision for SPA bird species and butterflies. For further detail please see the 'How will this Plan Support Designated Features' section.
Landscape	The proposal includes changes to the landscape in the short term (10 years) through clearfelling of woodland to restore open habitats and in the long term (Beyond 10 years) by continued clearfelling and development of the woodlands to more native species from coniferous. These changes are based upon the principle of restoring and connecting the designated natural features of the landscape. For additional detail please see the photographic landscape assessment of the clearfell proposals.

Forestry Commission England

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Appendix 2: How this Plan Supports the Designated Features

Feature	Description	Context	FDP Proposal	FDP Long Term Vision Habitat Category	
Special Area of Conservation					
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site					
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	Hatchet Pond in the New Forest in the south of England is in fact three ponds, one of which is an example of an oligotrophic waterbody amidst wet and dry lowland heath developed over fluvial deposits. It contains shoreweed *Littorella uniflora* and isolated populations of northern species such as bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* and floating bur-reed *Sparganium angustifolium* , alongside rare southern species such as Hampshire-purslane *Ludwigia palustris* . Hatchet Pond is therefore important as a southern example of this lake type where northern species, more common in the uplands of the UK, co-exist with southern species.	1 of only 4 sites in UK	Hatchet Pond. Open Forest not included within the scope of FDP.	N/A	
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	In the New Forest **vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*** occurs on the edge of large temporary ponds, shallow ephemeral pools and poached damp hollows in grassland, which support a number of specialist species in a zone with toad rush *Juncus bufonius* . These include the two nationally scarce species coral-necklace *Illecebrum verticillatum* and yellow centaury *Cicendia filiformis* , often in association with allseed *Radiola linoides* and chaffweed *Anagallis minima* . Heavy grazing pressure is of prime importance in the maintenance of the outstanding flora of these temporary pond communities. Livestock maintain an open habitat, controlling scrub ingress, and trampling the surface. Commoners' animals also transport seed in their hooves widely from pond to pond where suitable habitat exists. Temporary ponds occur throughout the Forest in depressions capable of holding water for part of the year. Most ponds are small (between 5-10 m across) and, although great in number, amount to less than 10 ha in total area	1 of 27 Grade A sites in the UK.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to grazed area in the long term which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	The New Forest contains the most extensive stands of lowland northern Atlantic wet heaths in southern England, mainly of the M16 Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum type. M14 Schoenus nigricans – Narthecium ossifragum mire is also found on this site. The wet heaths are important for rare plants, such as marsh gentian Gentiana pneumonanthe and marsh clubmoss Lycopodiella inundata, and a number of dragonfly species, including the scarce blue-tailed damselfly Ischnura pumilio and small red damselfly Ceriagrion tenellum. There is a wide range of transitions between wet heath and other habitats, including dry heath, various woodland types, Molinia grasslands, fen, and acid grassland. Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle Myrica gale are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability.	1 of 27 Grade A sites in the UK.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
European dry heaths	The New Forest represents European dry heaths in southern England and is the largest area of lowland heathland in the UK. It is particularly important for the diversity of its habitats and the range of rare and scarce species which it supports. The New Forest is unusual because of its long history of grazing in a traditional fashion by ponies and cattle. The dry heaths of the New Forest are of the H2 Calluna vulgaris – Ulex minor heath type, and H3 Ulex minor – Agrostis curtisii heath is found on damper areas. There are a wide range of transitions between dry heath and wet heath, Molinia grassland, fen, acid grassland and various types of scrub and woodland. Both the New Forest and the two Dorset Heath SACs are in southern England. All three areas are selected because together they contain a high proportion of all the lowland European dry heaths in the UK. There are, however, significant differences in the ecology of the two areas, associated with more oceanic conditions in Dorset and the continuous history of grazing in the New Forest.	1 of 50 Grade A sites in the UK.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Molinia meadows on calcareous, pea	The New Forest represents Molinia meadows in southern England. The site supports a large area of the heathy form of M24 Molinia caerulea – Cirsium dissectum fen-meadow. This vegetation occurs in situations of heavy grazing by ponies and cattle in areas known locally as 'lawns', often in a fine-scale mosaic with 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths and other mire and grassland communities. These lawns occur on flushed soils on slopes and on level terrain on the floodplains of rivers and streams. The New Forest Molinia meadows are unusual in the UK in terms of their species composition, management and landscape position. The grasslands are species-rich, and a particular feature is the abundance of small sedges such as carnation sedge Carex panicea, common sedge C. nigra and yellow-sedge C. viridula ssp. oedocarpa, and the more frequent occurrence of mat-grass Nardus stricta and petty whin Genista anglica compared to stands elsewhere in the UK.	1 of 13 Grade A sites in the UK.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	The New Forest, one of three sites selected in southern England, is considered to hold the largest area in England of Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, in complex habitat mosaics associated primarily with the extensive valley bogs of this site. The habitat type is developed in three situations: in natural bog pools of patterned bog surfaces, in flushes on the margins of valley mires and in areas disturbed by peat-digging, footpaths, tracks, ditches etc. In places the habitat type is rich in brown mosses Cratoneuron spp. and Scorpidium scorpioides, suggesting flushing by mineral-rich waters. The mosaics in which this habitat type occurs are an important location for bog orchid Hammarbya paludosa.	1 of 7 Grade A sites in the UK.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open, grazed habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech Fagus sylvatica woodland in Britain and represents Atlantic acidophilous beech forests in the most southerly part of the habitat's UK range. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodland is open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.	1 of 4 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	The FDP proposes the development of plantation oak woodlands within some Inclosures towards this type of habitat, either through thinning to mimic the structure or through non-intervention. Grazing is necessary and will be introduced in the future at a suitable time.	Grazed Native Woodland	
Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech Fagus sylvatica woodland in Britain; much of it is a form of W14 Fagus sylvatica – Rubus fruticosus woodland that conforms to the Annex I type Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodlands are open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.	1 of 9 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	The FDP proposes the development of plantation oak woodlands within some Inclosures towards this type of habitat, either through thinning to mimic the structure or through non-intervention. Grazing is necessary and will be introduced in the future at a suitable time.	Grazed Native Woodland	
Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	The New Forest is representative of old acidophilous oak woods in the southern part of its UK range. It is the most extensive area of active wood-pasture with old oak Quercus spp. and beech Fagus sylvatica in north-west Europe and has outstanding invertebrate and lichen populations. This site was preferred over other sites that lack a succession of age-classes because, although scattered over a wide area, the oak stands are found within a predominantly semi-natural landscape with a more balanced age-structure of trees. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system. The New Forest has been identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).	1 of 4 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	The FDP proposes the development of plantation oak woodlands within some Inclosures towards this type of habitat, either through thinning to mimic the structure or through non-intervention. Grazing is necessary and will be introduced in the future at a suitable time.	Grazed Native Woodland	
Bog woodland * Priority feature	Within the New Forest, in southern England, birch – willow Betula – Salix stands occur over valley bog vegetation, with fringing alder Alnus – Sphagnum stands where there is some water movement. These stands appear to have persisted for long periods in stable association with the underlying Sphagnum bog-moss communities. The rich epiphytic lichen communities and pollen record provide evidence for the persistence of this association. The Bog woodland occurs in association with a range of other habitats for which the site has also been selected.	1 of 7 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	Where identified, the FDP proposes restoration or protection of bog woodlands within the Inclosure.	Wet Woodland	

Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) * Priority feature	The New Forest contains many streams and some small rivers that are less affected by drainage and canalisation than those in any other comparable area in the lowlands of England. Associated with many of the streams, particularly those with alkaline and neutral groundwater, are strips of alder Alnus glutinosa woodland which, collectively, form an extensive resource with a rich flora. In places there are examples of transitions from open water through reedswamp and fen to alder woodland. The small rivers show natural meanders and debris dams, features that are otherwise rare in the lowlands, with fragmentary ash Fraxinus excelsior stands as well as the alder strips. In other places there are transitions to 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains and 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion), for which this site has also been selected.	1 of 16 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	Where identified, the FDP proposes restoration or protection of such wet woodlands within the Inclosure.	Wet Woodland	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site					
Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	The New Forest in central southern England is an outstanding locality for southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale, with several population centres and strong populations estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands of individuals and with a long history of records. With Preseli, Dorset Heaths and the River Itchen, it represents one of the four major population centres in the UK.	1 of 8 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Stag beetle Lucanus cervus	The New Forest represents stag beetle Lucanus cervus in its Hampshire/Sussex population centre, and is a major stronghold for the species in the UK. The forest is one of the most important sites in the UK for fauna associated with rotting wood, and was identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).	1 of 3 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	The FDP will be delivered in line with UKFS and UKWAS requirements regarding management of deadwood and according to the developing FE Deadwood Policy.	Native Woodland; Grazed Native Woodland	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site					
Transition mires and quaking bogs	Emer Bog lies in a wet infilled hollow on the developed eastern hinterland of the New Forest. Apart from scattered willow Salix scrub, it is largely open, and dominated by bottle sedge Carex rostrata and marsh cinquefoil Potentilla palustris, with frequent common cottongrass Eriophorum angustifolium, and occasional pools with bogbean Menyanthes trifoliata. White sedge Carex curta and the bog-mosses Sphagnum fimbriatum and S. squarrosum become common at the edge of the bog, with the rushes Juncus effusus and J. acutiflorus. There are also patches of common reed Phragmites australis. The basin is surrounded by more mature willow Salix woodland and open heathland.	1 of 4 Grade A sites in the UK. Unique historical context.	Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	
Alkaline fens			Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.		
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection					
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus			Operational Planning process	All where conditions occur	
RAMSAR					
Wetlands	The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones. The suite of mires is regarded as the locus classicus of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK. The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, Sphagnum bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, common cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like.		Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.		
Special Protection Area Species	Habitat Requirements		FDP Proposal	FDP Long Term Vision Habitat Category	Times for consideration
Pernis apivorus; European honey-buzzard (Breeding)	Breeding: The nest is on a branch of a large tree, usually 10-20 m above ground. A new nest is normally built, but old nests of crow, common buzzard etc are sometimes used. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017) Feeding: The main food both in summer and winter quarters is nests, larvae, pupae and adults of social Hymenoptera, including wasps, bees, bumble bees and hornets. Food is located by following flying insects to the nest and, once located, the bird will start to dig the nest out with its feet. The bird can dig as deep as 40cm, and consumes adult insects, larvae, pupae and parts of the nest itself as it excavates. It also hunts on foot to catch ground insects and small vertebrates. In the spring when the main prey is scarce, honey buzzards will resort to a variety of other food, including other insects, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, nestlings and eggs of birds, worms, fruit and berries. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Operational Planning process prior to management works ensures compliance with EPS guidelines.	Open Forest Habitats / Open Habitats developing through Thinning	Mid-May to Mid-August
Circus cyaneus; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)	The hen harrier lives in open areas with low vegetation. In winter they move to lowland farmland, heathland, coastal marshes, fenland and river valleys. Those found in eastern and south-east England are probably mostly visitors from mainland Europe. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	Winter: October to March
Falco subbuteo; Eurasian hobby (Breeding)	woodland edges, heathlands where there is plenty of large insect prey. Gravel pits are a popular feeding areas in late summer when there is plenty of food. Arrives in the UK from April onwards and mainly leaves in September and October. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Predominantly Open Forest Habitats. FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats / Open Habitats developing through Thinning	Summer: April to September/October
Caprimulgus europaeus; European nightjar (Breeding)	Found on heathlands, moorlands, in open woodland with clearings, and in recently felled conifer plantations. Most numerous in southern England with good numbers in the New Forest. Arrives in the UK between late April to mid-May, they mainly leave in August and September. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Open Forest Habitats: FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time. Shelterwood Systems: Within woodlands, felling areas of up to 0.25ha (where Beech is the main regeneration component) and 2ha (where oak is the main regeneration component will maintain a rotational complex of transitional open space. Natural collapse within old growth grazed native woodlands will provide further transitional open space.	Open Forest Habitats / Open Habitats developing through Thinning Native Woodland Grazed Native Woodland	Summer: April to September
Lullula arborea; Woodlark (Breeding)	Found breeding mainly in eastern and southern England - the New Forest Heaths. Year round residents. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Open Forest Habitats: FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats / Open Habitats developing through Thinning	Year Round
Sylvia undata; Dartford warbler (Breeding)	Lowland heathland with gorse and heather. Year round resident. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Open Forest Habitats: FDP proposes a potential increase to open habitat area which may increase the number of suitable sites over time.	Open Forest Habitats	Year Round
Phylloscopus sibilatrix; Wood warbler (Breeding)	Wood warblers are found in deciduous woodland under closed canopies where there is little or no shrub layer. Much of the population in Europe is found in forested lowlands, though in the UK it is predominantly found in upland western oak woods. April to August. (RSPB.org.uk, 2017)		Maintenance and restoration of native woodlands within the Inclosures will provide further support for this species over time.	Native Woodland / Grazed Native Woodland	Summer: April - August

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New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Appendix 3: EIA (Forestry) Considerations

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Appendix 4: Operational Planning

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Appendix 5: Individual Unit Maps submitted in 2017

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Appendix 6: Revised Management Types Maps Following EIA

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Appendix 7: Open Habitat Restoration 2019-2029 (Amended Areas 2019)