

New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan

Appendix 4: Operational Planning

Our Operational Planning process ensures our operations deliver this FDP and prevent damage to the SSSI/European Interest Features.

- Full Operational Site Assessments (OSA) will be prepared for all areas and works covered by the new FDP. Operational Site Assessments (OSA) are detailed site plans, drawn up for each woodland prior to work taking place and are a key tool in delivering the objectives of the FDP. It is an essential tool for identifying and addressing any environmental issues and sensitivities.
- The OSA process will identify the SSSI and European habitat and species features associated with the SSSI units that underpin the Inclosure management compartments. It will document the control measures required to prevent harm, damage and loss of extent to designated interest features (including protected species) and supporting habitat. Attention will be paid to locations of recorded and likely habitat for SPA birds and the OSA will ensure suitable mitigation (e.g. timing of works outside the nesting season, site checks by suitably qualified personnel) is in place. Management of deadwood habitat is also directed through the OSA.
- Development of the OSAs will involve interrogation of Forestry Commission, Natural England and other databases for information on distribution of habitat and species features. Liaison with FC and NE ecologists, FC beat keepers and other relevant personnel will be undertaken to inform site specific best practice methodology in respect of species/habitats. Where need is identified by the OSA process, pre-works surveys, EPS licence applications and pre-works site checks will be undertaken as necessary. Works will be postponed where the necessary mitigation or licences cannot be achieved within timeframe.
- All personnel involved in operations with the SAC/SSSI habitats will be fully briefed on the designated site in which they are working and the provisions of the OSA with regard species/habitats that must be taken into account.
- There will be no net loss of designated habitat types and a net increase over life of FDP. Where new non-woodland designated habitat types, such as Molinia meadows, begin to develop within the woodlands, these will be allowed to continue developing. Within the woodland complex we will encourage the development of such habitats but would limit the expansion to an increase in open habitats by a maximum of 20% of the Inclosure area over the 10 year plan. We will still not be planting trees on sites which would otherwise develop as open habitats within the Inclosures.
- To minimise soil compaction and damage to existing habitats and vegetation, vehicles and machinery will not drive across or operate within SSSI habitats outside of the felling areas, other than direct access and pre-planned extraction routes (via OSA) using established FC roads and tracks. Vehicles will not be used on saturated ground.
- Burn sites will be minimised in size and number and care taken to locate them in least sensitive areas of the SSSI. Brash will be burned immediately and not left in unburned stacks.
- Control/eradication of non-native invasive species within the SSSI/SAC areas will be undertaken and guided by OSA process. This does not apply to natural regeneration of non-native tree species which will be managed through thinning over the lifetime of the 'crop' to reduce the percentage cover of such components over time.
- Re-fuelling or changing of oil for vehicles/equipment will be restricted to hard standing away from sensitive habitat with spill kits immediately available.
- Risk of toxic & non-toxic contamination through miss-use of pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, fuel, chain oil, urea, fertiliser, fungicides or dust will be minimised through adherence to FC guidelines and UKWAS certification standard and any protocols for local sites arising from the Crown Lands management plan.
- No new drainage will be undertaken as part of these works.

Operational Site Assessment

Site Plan

South England Forest District

Leading Department	
Team Name	
Forest Plan Name & Reference	
Site Name	
Area (ha)	
Type of Operation	
OS Grid Reference	
Description of Operation	
Operation Start Date	
Operation End Date	
Project Manager	
Date of Site Plan	



Audit of Previous Operations

Previous OSA for this site	Yes/No/NA
Year of previous OSA	
Audit Completed by	

Previous Operation Details
Objectives of the previous operation
Outstanding Actions from the previous OSA

Forest Plan

Forest Plan Expiry Date:	
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Forest Plan Objectives Approved FPs are kept Here	Proposals for operations during this OSA period that will help to progress the FP objectives

Forestry Act	
Are proposed felling and restock boundaries and timings as per the approved Forest Plan?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
If 'no', what is the scale of adjustment?	
>25% of the FP coupe area Full formal approval is required	Yes/No/NA
Between 10-25% of the FP coupe area Written approval only is required	Yes/No/NA
<10% of the FP coupe area No formal approval required	Yes/No/NA

Deforestation	
Conversion from forest to open habitats If 'yes', use this decision matrix to ensure further compliance.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Regulatory Consents

Please consult [2 OSA - Consenting](#)

If your proposals are fully in line with an approved Forest Plan, have already been approved through a Forest Plan Amendment or Felling License Application or have been approved through a separate formal Planning process then consents will already be in place.

SAC/SPA (RAMSAR)	
Operations approved by Natural England following a Habitats Regulations Assessment	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

SSSI	
Operations approved by Natural England (either by Notice of Approval of Forest Plan or by following completion of a SSSI Supplementary Notice of Operations Form)	Yes/No/NA

Comments:	
SSSI Condition Improvement Opportunities If 'yes', check the SSSI Condition Assessment and work with District ecologists and Natural England to advance condition towards favourable if possible.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	
Do operations need to be considered under EIA Forestry Regulations? (Check thresholds FE EIA Guidance)	Yes/No/NA
Afforestation	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Deforestation	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
New Roads	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
New Quarries	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
If 'Yes', has approval be given by Forest Services within 5 years?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Nature Conservation Features

Completed by	
Date	

Statutory Protected Wildlife and Habitats

Are European Protected Species present on site or nearby? (ForesterWeb: Conservation Sites layer / National Bio-diversity Network website /Ecologist) Complete the EPS checklist	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Qualifying SPA Birds (ForesterWeb: Conservation Sites layer / National Bio-diversity Network website /Ecologist)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Stag Beetle (National Bio-diversity Network website /Ecologist)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Other protected species (sch.1 raptors & birds/badgers etc.) (ForesterWeb: Conservation Sites layer/ National Bio-diversity Network website /Ecologist)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Conservation Sites	
Local Wildlife Site (including SINC/SNCI) (Ecologist) How do proposals enhance site interest?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Butterfly Conservation Priority Lepidoptera site? (Forester Web: Conservation Sites layer) How do proposals enhance site interest?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Ancient and Native Woodland Sites	
Is the area is recorded on the Natural England Ancient Woodland Register? (ForesterWeb: Ancient Woodlands (Eng.) layer)	Yes/No/NA

SEFD OSA

ASNW	Yes/No/NA
PAWS	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Ancient Woodland Features (including within non-ancient woodlands & plantations)	
Ancient woodland features present Ancient Woodland Features	Yes/No/NA
Ground flora	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	
Native shrub species	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	
Standing or fallen deadwood	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	
Veteran trees	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	
Historical species	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	
Other features	Yes/No/NA
Comments on current and potential:	

Other Environmental Features	
Water features /drinking water supplies (ForesterWeb: Water layer) How do proposals enhance site interest?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Other features (e.g. riverine woodland / bog woodland)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Opportunities for road/ride edge enhancement?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Conservation Opportunities	
Ongoing Conservation Projects	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Adjacent conservation linkage opportunities (e.g. NNR / BC reserve)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

EPS Sheet - [link](#)

Resilience

Consult the Forest Research Pages for up-to date support regarding pests and diseases.

Threat: Diseases	
How do proposals reduce susceptibility to the threat?	
Hymenoscyphus (Ash Dieback)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Phytophthora ramorum (larch)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Dothistroma Needle Blight (Pine spp.)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Chronic or Acute Oak Decline	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

SEFD OSA

Other	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Threat: Pests How do proposals reduce susceptibility to the threat?	
Deer	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Grey Squirrels	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Oak Processionary Moth	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Other	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Biosecurity Measures
Comments:

Wildfire see FC Wildfire Resilience Practice Guide	
Does the FDP have a Wildfire Management Plan?	Yes/No/NA
If 'yes', how will your proposals meet the requirements? (Firebreak creation & maintenance etc.)	
If 'No', consider the practice guidance and highlight any key threats and opportunities to mitigate the risk of wildfire.	

Recreation

Completed by	
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SEFD OSA

Date	
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CROW	
Do local conditions require closure via formal CROW Process? If so, send the request to Planning as soon as the operation start date is known.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Recreational Facilities	
Public Rights of Way (Includes BOAT, RUPP)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Waymarked walks (FE/ Non-FE)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Frequently used non-legal permissive routes (e.g. desire lines)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Cycle tracks	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Car Parks	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Picnic/Barbecue sites	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Cabins/Camp sites (incl. wild camping)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Other facility incl. filming sites, TROT routes and permits	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Community Engagement	
Community engagement required (e.g. liaison with cycle hire outlets, Parish councils, leaflet distribution)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Communications Team involvement required	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Deforestation (New Forest only) will require on-site notices, social media and website. Invite local people to suggest refinements within 4 weeks of notices being displayed.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Permissions active on/ adjacent to site via Permissions Team	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Temp ops requirements (e.g. signs, guided walks, Ranger presence)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Other requirements (e.g. website update)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Historic and Cultural Features

Heritage Features	
Are there Designated Features within the work area? If 'yes', has the SM Plan been checked to ensure proposals take opportunities to enhance/protect the features? (Check with Planning)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Does your operation or do your access routes require consent from EH?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Other non-scheduled sites shown on map To confirm features and receive guidance, contact SEFD's main archaeology contractor	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Any visible features of interest present (e.g. wood banks, earthworks etc.)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Civil Engineering

Roads	
Are the roads classifications correct? Consult Civil Engineering Handbook	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Has the District Civil Engineer confirmed the road network and infrastructure is suitable for your requirements? Detail of access routes on OSA Roads and Estates map.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Proposed CE works agreed with District Civil Engineer Detail on OSA Roads and Estate map.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Bridges and Other Structures	
Bridges present including foot bridges	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

CDM Regulations	
Do the operations proposed need to be considered under CDM Regulations?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Estates

Agreements and Permissions	
Land ownership	Freehold/ Leasehold
Comments:	
Sporting leases	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Third party access (other contracts nearby/ residential access)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Research plots/licences/ permissions	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Physical Constraints	
Wayleaves (electricity/water/gas/telecom)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Goal Posts required for access routes If goal posts are required or work is proposed within the amber risk zone of a powerline please follow the guidance in Goalpost Procurement South England FD Note that a minimum of two months advance notice of works must be given.	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Safe and adequate access to highway (Record any consultation with Highways authority)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Miscellaneous

Comments:

Forest Operations

Timing of Operations	
Is timing of operations of relevance?	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
If yes, what are the factors?	Yes/No/NA
Factors	Mitigation
Ground Conditions	
Vulnerable Species	
Public Use	

Timber Harvesting	
Method of sale	SS/DP/NA
Comments:	
Has TCS or Basal Area Monitoring Form been completed? Complete the TCS or OSA - Basal Area Monitoring Form Mensuration summaries are available to provide the necessary stock data for the OSAs	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Marking of trees	A4 (full marking)/ sample marking/ no marking
Comments:	
Harvesting method Add detail if various systems to be used (% forwardable / non-forwardable for example)	Motor manual/ machines/ combination
Comments:	
Operational or informational signage required	Yes/No/NA

Comments:	
Hazardous trees present on site If 'yes' give details of treatment	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Brash treatment required e.g. open habitat restoration. Consult Protocol for dealing with harvesting residues	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Other post - harvesting operations (e.g. ride restoration)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Fencing	
Removal or repair of fencing	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Consultation with neighbours/stakeholders required (English Heritage, Natural England or Verderers) For New Forest, refer to 10 Year Fencing Plan	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Waste Management	
Removal or recycling of waste (including tree shelters and treated timber) If 'yes' give details of removal schedule and priority	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Forest Regeneration

Restocking

Areas to be restocked/regenerated	Yes/No/NA
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Restock Site Details							
Sub - cmpt	Area (ha)	Felling Yr/ Month	Previous Species	Proposed Net Restock Area (ha)	Ground Prep Yr/ Month	Restock Yr/ Month	Restock Species

Restock Type	
Full planting (2500 trees/ha as per OGB4 standard)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Partial planting (supplementary or non-standard spaced planting)	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Natural regeneration	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Underplanting	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Restock Site Assessment	
Soils pits	
Annual rainfall	

SEFD OSA

Site moisture regime	
Aspect	
Slope	
Historic drainage patterns or ground prep/ploughing	
Plant indicator dominant species	
Brash	
Productive capacity	
Advanced regeneration	
Retained trees	

Ecological Site Classification	
What are the outputs from ESC (DSS)? ESC Website	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Crop Maintenance	
Weeding	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Re-spacing	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

High pruning	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	

Crop Protection	
Deer/stock/rabbit fencing or tree shelters	Yes/No/NA
Comments:	
Added in Operations layer in ForesterWeb	Yes/No/NA

EPS form - link

OSA Documentation Checklist

Site Planning Tool - Required Documents for Internal Consultation	
Forest Plan - Long Term Vision Map	Yes/No/NA
Forest Plan - Habitat Restoration & Felling Map	Yes/No/NA
OSA Site Plan	Yes/No/NA
OSA Operational Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
Basal Area/TCS Monitoring Form	Yes/No/NA
OSA Biodiversity Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
OSA Recreation Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
OSA Historic Environment Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
OSA Restocking Operations Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
OSA Roads & Estates Map & Notes	Yes/No/NA
EPS Checklist for Harvesting	Yes/No/NA
EPS Checklist for Restocking	Yes/No/NA