

Alice Holt Forest Forest Plan

South England Forest District



Woodlands Included Within This Forest Plan

- **Abbotts Wood Inclosure**
 - **Goose Green Inclosure**
 - **Glenbervie Inclosure**
 - Lodge Inclosure
 - **Straits Inclosure**
 - **Holt Pound Inclosure**
- **Willows Green Inclosure**



Date of Commencement of Plan: 2017

 Approval Period:
 2017 to 2027 (10 Years)

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

A separate Felling License provides approval for standard silvicultural thinning across the South Forest District estate as a whole.

	Habitat Type (ha)						
Forestry Activity							
	Conifer High Forest	Broadleaf Woodland	Mixed Woodland	Open			
Clearfelling	19						
Native Woodland managed under a low impact silvicultural system		97.5					
PAWS rectoration managed under a low impact cilvicultural system	20.2						
PAWS restoration managed under a low impact silvicultural system	30.2						
Native woodland thinning		246 5					
		240.5					
PAWS restoration thinning	329.7						
Mixed woodland thinning			17.6				
Non forestry activities	104.9						
Temporary open space creation through a low impact silvicultural system	169						
TOTAL MAPPED AREA	740.5						





FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Plan Approvals

Forest District:	South England Forest District
FC Geographic Block No:	87
Forest Plan Name:	Alice Holt Forest
FE Plan Reference Number:	304/87/17-18
Nearest town or village:	Farnham
OS Grid Reference:	SU 8316 2815
Local Authority: Eas	t Hampshire District Council, Hampshire County Council

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

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

Signed:

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Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date:

28/3

Approved:

for,

Forest Services Area Director

Date:

28/3/17





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Forest Planning	
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Forest Planning

Forest Plans define the long term vision for a woodland or a collection of woodlands, usually looking 50 to 100 years ahead. It sets objectives and illustrates how management will move towards achieving this vision over the initial 10 to 30 years. Forest Plans largely deal with silvicultural management and not the management of non forestry activities which may arise during the plan period.

This plan represents the first major review of the Alice Holt Forest Plan that was originally consulted upon and approved in 1999. The revised Forest Plan has been prepared following a review of the original plan undertaken by FC staff, and in consultation with stakeholders. 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 planning process, we seek the views of external stakeholders, including local communities and organisations involved with nature conservation, public recreation and the timber industry. Through this consultation process we can ensure that an appropriate balance of objectives is achieved. Details of the consultation strategy for this forest plan can be found in Appendix A.

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 licence.

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

Objectives for Alice Holt Forest

- natural woodland.
- and honorary native woodland.
- experience of the woodland.
- land.
- pact across the sites.
- ployment and local timber processing industries.

Introduction

Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-

Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native

Increase the conservation value of existing habitats and enhance and support the creation of non wooded semi-natural areas.

Provide, maintain and enhance where possible the recreational

Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the wood-

Control invasive plant and animal species and reduce their im-

Support the creation and aims of new and current research plots.

Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local em-



Location

Reference: Location Map

Alice Holt is situated on the north-east county boundary of Hampshire, bordering Surrey, some 4 miles south west of Farnham and bisected by the A325 from Farnham to Petersfield at Bucks Horn Oak.

Landscape and Historical Context

Alice Holt Forest covers an area of 845.4 hectares and provides important landscape value. Although due to the narrow altitudinal ranges and gentle topography the forest cannot be seen in its entirety from many vantage points and external landscaping issues are negligible.

The woodlands are located within the South Downs National Park and contain a small section of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the north western side. A Scheduled Ancient Monument listing also exists over a large area in Abbots Wood inclosure denoting a Romano-British kiln site. The existing designations have all been taken into account when construing the most appropriate management for the site and will be considered further in operational planning prior to an intervention.

The forest falls within Natural England's Wealden Greensand National character area typified by an irregular undulating landform with a mix of conifer and broad-leaved woodland, heathland and agriculture.

Altitude ranges from 75m above sea level to a maximum of 130m.

The climate is typical of south-east England with rainfall below 700mm per annum and temperatures ranging from a mean 14.2°C for the warmest month and 5.3°C for the coldest month.

The forest falls within South England Forest District and is managed by Forest Enterprise an agency of the Forestry Commission.

Tenure

The Forestry Commission is a freehold owner of the woodland. Public access is open and encouraged as per the public forest estate access statement.

Current Woodland Structure

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland comprises a total of 220.1 hectares which makes up 26.1% of the blocks.

Plantation on Ancient woodland comprises a total of 449.1 hectares which makes up 53.3% of the blocks.

There is a significant conifer component throughout the blocks including Corsican Pine, Douglas Fir, Scots Pine, Western Hemlock, and Norway Spruce. Broadleaved species present include, Oak, Beech, Birch and Ash.

The age structure is fairly diverse reflecting a history of active management.

The introduction of continuous cover management systems aims to continue promoting this age structure and produce a more resilient woodland for future generations.

The woodland blocks are already working towards this management style in areas with lighter canopy cover where some significant natural regeneration of multiple species already occurs.

Silvicultural Systems

The forest plan favours the use of continuous cover forestry systems. This 'close to nature' approach has been deemed appropriate because of the large amounts of semi natural woodland across the forest blocks and the freely regenerating nature of the understory. Management will look to transform where appropriate even aged plantations to an irregular forest structure over the long term. These lower impact systems aim to provide a balance of objectives, a sustainable timber resource as well as safe-guarding important habitats and improving the woodlands resilience into the future. For more specific prescriptions please see the felling table and habitat restoration maps.

Open Space

Open space is an important feature of a forested environment and this plan revision aims to provide a minimum of 10% open space in the woodlands at any one time. Due to the nature of the harvesting operations this will be rotational in nature and consist in many case of areas between 0.25—2ha in size depending on the species looking to be regenerated. Additional to this many of the woodland will have permeant areas created through a managed ride and road network. Specific prescriptions will be determined at the operational stage of management and could include a scalloped and graded structure providing pinch points, box junctions, forest glades etc for a variety of key flora and fauna. These will also serve to improve the connectivity throughout the forest blocks.

Veteran Tree's and Deadwood

Veteran trees are an important feature of a forested environment. The UKFS classifies a veteran tree as 'a tree of considerable age that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition, including the presence of dead-wood micro habitats'. Management interventions will aim to leave a proportion of standing and fallen deadwood in areas of high ecological value and create linkages where appropriate. Existing veteran trees will aim to be retained where appropriate and management will focus on selecting individuals to eventually take their place. The use of the continuous cover silvicultural systems further advocates the retention of a proportion of trees beyond the rotation length and specific prescriptions in the felling table imply a interconnecting area of old growth woodland creation.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Formerly part of a Royal Hunting Forest that was once connected to Woolmer Forest in the South the 850 hectare (ha) Alice Holt Forest is located on the edge of the Wealden Greensand adjoining the North and South branches of the River Wey drainage system. The Forest sits within the South Downs National Park Authority and is subdivided into some seven Inclosures all of which have been selected by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) as being of County importance for their wildlife interest i.e. a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).



Biodiversity and Conservation continued

The core Inclosures of Willow's Green and Glenbervie provide a focal area for recreation whilst the outlying Strait's Inclosure, Goose Green, Abbott's Wood, Lodge Inclosure and Holt Pound are subject to a lower level of public visitation.

The topography at Alice Holt is variable with the complex consisting of a series of plateaus and wide valleys harbouring small streams which travel down towards the River Wey which sits to the North, South and East of the complex.

According to the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) the majority of Alice Holt Forest is classified as being W10 Oak woodland with a lesser amount of W8 Ash woodland occurring in the damper parts of the complex. As ancient and native woodland restoration continues to progress over the next few decades it is likely that the wet woodland (and wet scrub) resource will expand across the forest complex to add local variation within the main lowland mixed deciduous woodland habitat type.

Alice Holt Forest has been identified as a Priority Lepidoptera Site within the 2007-2017 Joint Strategy for Lepidoptera on the Public Forest Estate (BC & FE, 2007). Key butterfly species at Alice Holt include Purple emperor Apatura iris (a flagship species at Alice Holt Forest), Silver-washed fritillary Argynnis paphia, White admiral Limenitis Camilla and historically the Pearl-bordered fritillary Boloria selene. The Forestry Commission comanages the 5 ha Bentley Station Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with Butterfly Conservation (BC) and are working to expand the SSSI footprint by incorporating an adjoining regenerating Ancient Woodland site in Lodge Inclosure to be managed as an area of high conservation value alongside Units 1 and 2 of the SSSI. Both BC and FE components of the SSSI are managed to complement each other but under the direction of separate SSSI plans.

Alice Holt Forest is identified as a key site for Mammals in the East Hampshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and is home to a wide variety of species including Dormice Muscardinus avellanarius, a flagship species of ancient woodland likely to respond well to ancient and native woodland restoration. In addition the relative size and diversity of the forest complex makes it an important part of the landscape for woodland bats (for both roosting and feeding).

The Otter Lutra lutra is undergoing a recovery along the River Wey and the streams and drainage channels which connect the River Wey to ponds supporting fish within and adjoining Alice Holt Forest may well draw this meso-predator into the woodland interior.

Ancient and veteran trees are a localised though important feature at Alice Holt Forest. As with many lowland forests these features exist very much on the margins along external and internal boundaries (with the exception of the veteran oaks which occur around the footprint of Alice Holt Research Station in Lodge Inclosure. Lodge Inclosure is also home to a number of ancient Yew Taxus baccata trees including three of particular note which are well over 700 years old (with one of them likely to be in excess of 1000 years old). As the plantation oak which dates back to the Napoleonic era continues to age this resource has started to take on the features which are associated with old-growth stands. The provision of enhanced levels of dead and decaying wood will be promoted throughout the duration of this plan with a view to benefiting a wide range of priority species including Sapoxylic invertebrates. Operational planning prior to harvesting will take account the characteristics of individual stands including the presence of veteran trees.

The Forest Inclosures at Alice Holt support a number of ponds of both ancient (some being medieval) and more recent origin. Lodge Pond in Glenbervie Inclosure is perhaps one of the largest ponds in the landscape and frequently visited by Grey herons Ardea cinerea which prey on the local fish population which is exploited on a sustainable basis by a local Angling Society. Kennels pond in Lodge Inclosure and an amenity wildlife pond within the Alice Holt Woodland Park footprint are examples of two additional long-established waterbodies. In 2011 the Million Ponds Project funded the creation of additional wildlife ponds in both Lodge Inclosure and Holt Pound. These sites are now home to a variety of wildlife including common amphibians and reptiles and a wide-range of dragonflies and damselflies. Historically the forest was home to the threatened water vole Arvicola terrestris and this species may well return as part of a future development related translocation project.

Prior to the historic establishment of plantation forestry at Alice Holt the sandier, freer draining parts of the forest would have supported a heathy woodland component which today manifests itself in a fringing road-ride side heathland/acid grassland vegetation community. These heathy margins favour common reptiles and a wide range of invertebrates associated with warm and sunny conditions.

The conifer clearfell-restock cycle has historically supported heathland/forest gap bird species such as Nightjar *Caprimulgus europeaus* and common reptiles on a dynamic basis with the provision of open space shifting about the forest through time. The introduction of large scale continuous cover management systems aims to continue this process whilst taking advantage of the other conservation benefits that this form of sivilculture affords.

The biodiversity interest in the woodlands has been enhanced and maintained through a history of sustainable forest management and open habitat maintenance.



Management interventions during the period of this plan will seek out opportunities for ride enhancement in order to improve structural diversity and ecological connectivity across the forest block. This will prove of principal benefit to invertebrates associated with open and warm conditions as well as the resident reptile populations, both common and rare. The introduction and continuation of continuous cover management systems will provide areas of successional open space.

People

Alice Holt Forest is home to a successful forest centre, receiving 500k plus visits a year. The activities on offer include waymarked walking, cycling and horse-riding, bespoke play features catering to a range of ages, a café, visitor centre, cycle/segway hire and a high ropes course as well as a dedicated outdoor education centre used by 3rd parties.

The forest also contains a network of public rights of way including a long distance walk called the shipwrights way.

The woodland areas are also important to local community groups who use them for a variety of purposes.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk through the woodlands. During management interventions opportunities to enhance the visual impact of paths and individual trees will be taken by selecting trees for retention based on character as well as widening rides.

Soils

Heavy clay derived from the Gault, occurs mostly on the lower-lying southern end of the forest whilst sands and gravels derived from the drift material occur over much of the rest. The north eastern portion of the Glenbervie inclosure is more sandy, as is a strip running east west in Willows Green through to Goose Green. There is little or no humus accumulation. Soil pH ranges from pH3.5 to pH7+.

Water

Lodge pond is the largest body of water in the forest. As well as this there are a number of small ponds, drains, steams and a dam in the southern end of straits inclosure.

Historic Environment

There are a total of 24 heritage features recorded; most notable is a designated scheduled ancient monument listed as a Romano-British kiln site. It is speculated that during Roman times the southern end of Alice Holt was heavily used for pottery manufacture and that in its time the area was equivalent to a modern day Stoke on Trent.

As with all FC sites, continued monitoring will take place to ensure that anything relevant found in the future is recorded and fed into operational planning in line with statutory respon-

Tree Diseases and Pests

The main diseases of concern currently are Dothistroma Needle Blight on Corsican Pine (Pinus Nigra), Phytophthora ramorum (Larix species) and Hymenoscyphus fraxinea (Ash Dieback). Although Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) is present, its number is minimal within the scale of the woodland, therefore is not considered critical to the wood. Corsican Pine is a significant component and there is Larch growing. However, the move toward a more diverse range of species should make the woodland more resilient if a significant pathogen does arise.

Invasive rhododendron (R. ponticum) and Impatiens glandulifera (Himalayan balsam) are also spreading and continued monitoring does take place to ensure that species posing a threat to native flora do not become established.

Guidance and action plans are constantly evolving to adapt to plant health threats. The sudden emergence of a disease can result in the need to fell a coupe earlier than planned or alter restocking plans. We will continue to monitor for disease as required and take appropriate action. Any changes to the forest design plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with the relevant guidance.

Mammal browsing is also a threat to the sustainability of woodlands in southern England. Roe (Capreolus capreolus) and Muntjac (Muntiacini) are the most prevalent browsing mammals within Alice Holt Forest.

Deer will be managed in accordance with the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy and in the wider landscape through partnership work with relevant agencies such as the Deer Initiative.

Climate Change

Climate change represents 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 and 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 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.



Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation in Alice Holt Forest

The government and leading forestry sector organizations would like to increase the resilience of UK forests.

This includes increasing the level of management and the uptake of adaptation good practice, as stated in the Government National Adaptation Programme;

'To increase the resilience of the forestry sector through adaptation to climate change by increasing the level of management in England's woodlands and the uptake of adaptation good practice in woodland creation and restocking.' (Defra 2013, p. 63).

Within this remit, the overarching aim of the work is to 'Develop forest-scale climate change adaptation demonstrations in order to provide real-world examples of where forest adaptive management and planning can help reduce the impact of changing climate conditions and improve resilience.'

In the Forest Plan a portfolio approach will be taken to create a range of adaptation measures. More detail of which can be found in accompanying appendices and Research Areas map.

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 woodland 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 principles will be implemented during the operational stage of planning and are intended as a guide only.

A site specific wildfire risk assessment for Alice Holt Forest can be found in the appendices and should be should used in conjunction with a wildfire management plan.

Forest Plan Maps

When consulting on the maps, please refer to the glossary for further detail about the prescriptions.

Aerial

Shows the location of the woodlands in the wider landscape using aerial photography

Indicative age diversity

Shows the planting year and age of the trees in the woodland.

Species Diversity

Gives an indicative illustration of the number of different species within the woodlands (includes open space). However it should be noted that the data only accounts for trees in the canopy and should only be taken as a general overview of the number of different species present within a sub-compartment.

Ancient Woodland

Shows which areas are categorised as ancient woodland (woodland which has existed for several centuries of more) and the percentage of native trees.

Current structure

An overview of the current habitat types existing in the woodlands.

Medium Term Vision

Illustrates the proposed medium term structure of the woodlands and other habitats consistent with the Forest Plan objectives. While there is no fixed time scale for the habitat transformations depicted, an indicative term of around 20 years is assumed.

Long Term Vision

Illustrates the proposed long term structure of the woodlands and other habitats consistent with the Forest Plan objectives. While there is no fixed time scale for the habitat transformations depicted, an indicative term of around 100 years is assumed.

Habitat restoration and felling

Shows the management proposals in the shorter term, 10 to 30 years. These proposals are the initial stepping stones towards achieving the long term vision.

Research Areas

Shows the extent of areas of woodland currently being utilised for a research purpose. In many cases this will not affect the silvilcultural prescription of the area, however liaison with Forest Research is advised when planning an operation.































Medium Term Vision

neither of which dominates more than

FC land leased as part of an agricultural tennacy

Area of woodland used for Research Purposes. Manage with guidance from the Forest Research

connecting habitats for enhanced biodiversity.

A mosiac of open space and scrub woodland

Demonstration areas showing how forest management can be adapted for climate change predictions. For more info please see the Forest



Site of Special Scientific Interest

Manage using the Bentley Station SSSI Plan





South England Forest District

Alice Holt Forest Long Term Vision

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Agricultural Area

FC land leased as part of an agricultural tennacy

Research Plantation

Area of woodland used for Research Purposes. Manage with guidance from the Forest Research Programme Manager

Biodiveristy Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodversity.

Manage as Open Habitat

Climate Change Adaptation Demonstration

Demonstration areas showing how forest management can be adapted to account for climate change. For more info please see the Forest Research Areas map and appendices

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Arboretum



Open Water

Deer Glade

Buildings

Car Park

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Manage using the Bentley Station SSSI Plan

Natural Reserve

Minumum Intervention area allowing the development of old growth woodland.





Forestry Commission England South England Forest District

Alice Holt Forest Habitat Restoration & Felling

Mixed Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and species diversity.

Native Broadleaf Woodland Restoration

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and the gradual reduction of non native species to 20% of the canopy or less

Native Broadleaf Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system, favoring the best native tree and focusing on the production of quality timber.

Road/Ride Edge Management

Enhance the woodland edge developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines.

Agricultural Area

FC land leased as part of an agricultural tennacy

Research Plantation

Manage with guidance from the Forest Research programme manager. Areas shown are not comprehensive, for full extent see the Research Areas Map.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

PAWS Woodland Regeneration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

Mixed Woodland Regeneration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber, species diversity and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balance between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Climate Change Adaptation Demonstration

Demonstration areas showing how forest management can be adapted to account for climate change. For more info please see the Forest Research Areas map and appendices.



Manage towards a minimum interevention zone with the selective removal of non native tree and shrub components. District ecologist to advise. * Note Poplars are part of an FR experiment site

Site of Special Scientific Interest

For specific management prescriptions, refer to the Bentley Station SSSI Plan.

Natural Reserve

Minimum intervention area allowing the development of old growth woodland.

Declaration by FC as an Operator. All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210).



Felling Table

Clearfell 2017-2021

Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.



Clearfell 2022-2026

Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.



Silvicultural thinning until clearfell then restock with native broadleaves.



Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Clearfell Beyond 2046

Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.



Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Felling Coupe Thresholds

Felling must be limited to 10% of the contiguous area in a 5 year period (20% for the duration of the forest plan).

A regeneration period should be adopted that is appropriate to site and species.

An indicative regeneration period is suggested as 20-30 years for conifer species & 50 years for broadleaf species.

Individual felling coupes should be planned to provide a connecting network of old growth woodland throughout the blocks.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Coupes up to 2ha in size and non - adjacent

PAWS Regeneration

Coupes up to 0.25ha in size and non-adjacent

Mixed Woodland Regeneration

Coupes up to 0.25ha in size and non-adjacent

Inclosure	Maximum size of	Maximum size of com-	Date of intervention
	combined felling	bined felling coupes over	and area worked
	coupes over a 5	a 10 year period	
	year period		
Lodge	19ha	38ha	
Goose Green	6.5ha	13ha	
		1.01	
Straits	9.5ha	19ha	
Abbotts	12.5ha	25ha	
		5.01	
Glenbervie & Willows	25ha	50ha	

Holt	12ha	24ha	





Programme Manager. In many cases the areas will not affect the overall silvicultural system prescribed









Chart shows the main components of the woodlands which are greater than 1% of the total area.



Chart show the age of the trees and what percentage of the woodland they cover.

Statistics





Chart shows the percentage of native species in the ancient woodland areas.



Chart shows an indicative average timber volume forecast to be produced in 5 year intervals



Chart shows the current structure of the woodland separated into generalised habitat types



Chart shows the long term structure of the woodland separated into generalised habitat types. Time scale is around 200 years.

Statistics



Climate Change Adaptation Forest Operational Guidance

Area	I	Proposal	Key message	Prescription	Measurements	w
8709 1. 2. Grid r	C 2.4ha 100% Corsican Pine P year 1940 15% Corsican Pine P year 2008 (Storey 2). ref: SU8531 /4257	Under-plant a stand with a species pair, in which one of the species has a higher drought tolerance. In this area the balance of species will be adjusted to reflect those which are expected to better in the future; Corsican pine will be under planted with species such as horn- beam and beech. Hornbeam is ex- pected to perform better than	Some species are expected to perform better in future hotter, drier conditions. Current species need not be absent from planting, just account for a lower percentage.	Prescription Lightly thin Corsican Pine to in- crease light levels and help clear the understory. Further clear CP regen from understory as required. Fence whole area and split into two sub- compartments. In the first sub- compartment (woodland present) beech will be dominant and account for 70% of the under-planting, whilst hornbeam will account for 30% and	Ahead of operations—follow FCIN 45 / mensuration (TSU? TBC), soils. During ops— ?? Pos core CP (dendro?) if there's interest in the response of main stand to under planting. Future—beat up rates and growth using dendrometers, depending on funding, to better understand the effectiveness of the approach to ad-	Po wi Op int pr
8798 1. 95 1992 2. 159	B 4.8ha % Corsican Pine 15% P year % Birch	beech, due to a higher drought tol- erance. Thin 2 different sub compartments each at a different intensity ratio. This area has been matrix thinned and racked in 2013.	 vice versa in the second area (woodland future). Hotter drier summers increase competition for water. There should be less competition for water and less drought stress evident in trees where heavy thinning has been undertaken, compared to the area thinned to standard prescription. Plot 1 -thin to 70% Plot 2 -thin to 130% 	aptation. Also, monitor response to gales? Ahead of operations—Follow FCIN45 / mensuration (TSU? TBC), soils. During ops— cores (dendro?) Future—possibly sap flow and growth	Th th se 87 Gc co	
8748 100% Grid r	A - 4.3ha Beech, P year 1928 ref: SU8126 /41205	Demonstration of natural beech regeneration versus under planting with oak and hornbeam of a) native origin and b) more southerly prove- nances.	Alice Holt is experiencing climate change and tree provenances from a more southerly climate may perform better as climate change continues to progresses. We need to find out more about how trees will cope with the changes and grow under different conditions, such as new rainfall patterns. A mixture of provenances may provide some in- surance against uncertainty and widen the ge- netic base (enhance long-term adaptive capacity of the developing stand). By planting local and southerly provenances, the four areas will, in time, enable visitors to witness a contrast be- tween trees of native origin with those from fur- ther south. This demonstration area should there- fore attempt to make any impacts of provenance selection more obvious, whether positive (improved growth and survival) or negative (increased susceptibility to late spring frost or pest/disease outbreaks).	Thin the whole sub-compartment to increase light levels under the ex- isting beech canopy, remove areas of holly and then create four areas; one control area, one sub compart- ment, which will be left to regener- ate naturally from the surrounding seed source. Under-plant the third and fourth areas with oak and horn- beam that have 2 distinct prove- nances. One section will be of a na- tive origin and the other section from a more southerly source (France). In the areas where under planting will be carried out, plant in high den- sity groups in a doughnut shape fo- cusing efforts in areas where the beech is not regenerating and then fence these areas using rabbit fenc- ing (to reduce intrusiveness of pre-	Ahead of operations—follow FCIN45 / mensuration (TSU? TBC), soils. Future—beat up rates and growth using dendrometers, depending on funding, to better understand the effectiveness of the approach to ad- aptation. Also, monitor response of regeneration in the four areas and compare success of oak and horn- beam from local origin with more southerly origin (surveys every X years).	Arı pla ye

Forest Research Contacts -

£3-5k for fencing (split between this area and Holt Pound species paring area).

scription as the area is used for den building and intersected by a main

trail footpath).

/ider Research

otential to slightly increase risk of ind throw.

pportunity to tie in with research to carbon storage in tree roots i.e. edictions and storage.

Target Audience/ Access

Forestry professionals / 5-10 minutes walk from Alice Holt Arboretum Car Park.

ne whole SC is 4.88 ha, however nere is a coarse ECN long-term rearch plot in the bottom half of 708B which must not be touched. ood potential for baseline data and mparisons.

Forestry professionals / 5-10 minutes walk from Alice Holt Arboretum Car Park.

anting on the current stand of 90 ear old beech?

ny interest in the impact of under- Public and Forestry professionals 15 minute walk from AH Park Main Car Park (footfall 4000 visitors /year).



A wildfire risk assessment is an evaluation of the likelihood of a wildfire occurring and the severity of damage it might cause if it does occur.

Forest/woodland name; Alice Holt Forest					
What are the Fire Hazards?	Who/what might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to manage the risk?	Initial Risk Rating	What else do you need to do?	Revised risk rating
Large blocks of coniferous woodland.	General Public and emergency services	Long term plan to diversify the make up of the blocks, creating mixed species woodlands and restoring appropriate areas back to native woodland.	Medium	Evaluate high risk compartments and consider ways of speeding up the change of species makeup. Evaluate fuel loading during regular intervals. Consider building fire tower to moni- tor woodland.	Low
Fires spreading from the road and rail network adjacent to the blocks.	General Public and emergency services	The majority of the road and rail network is either bordered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	low	Increase vegetation management to reduce fire risk. A verge clear of veg- etation should be 3.5m either side of access routes.	Low
Fires spreading from residen- tial properties adjacent to the blocks	General Public and emergency services	The majority residential properties are bor- dered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	low	Actively engage with owners about the risks of fire to both the PFE and their property to create an awareness of fire safety.	Low
Fires spreading from formal recreation areas (BBQ's/ campfires etc.).	General Public and emergency services	Interpretation both onsite and online discour- ages BBQ use. Rangers patrol at peak times and fixed stand BBQ's are available to hire.	low	Deploy fire breaks where necessary	Low
Fires spreading from power- lines and underground utilities (gas pipes).	General Public and emergency services	Any powerlines that go through woodland blocks already have a mandatory exclusion zone, free of high risk vegetation	low	Conduct ad-hock checks on the state of wayleave vegetation, contacting the relevant utility companies when appropriate	Low

Wildfire Risk Assessment

Forestry Commission England T

Objective	Proposed Actions to	Ref	Output year 10	Monitoring	Indicators of
	Meet Objective				Success
Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.	Invasive and non native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded.	1a 1b	Maintained percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites Any invasive or non-native plant spe- cies found In ASNW are recorded and managed accordingly with a pre- sumption of eradication.	Semi-Natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10 Recording during Operational site assessments with appropriate ac- tion taken.	Ancient semi-natural woodland areas will show a maintained semi-natural score of '1' at years 5 and 10 No recorded invasive or non-native species present within ASNW.
Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.	Managing PAWS area under a shelter wood system, favouring the retention of native broadleaves will help to reduce the non native component of these areas.	2	Increased percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites.	Semi natural scoring via sub com- partment database at years 5 and 10.	Plantation on ancient woodland areas will show an increasingly native semi natural score at years 5 and 10.
Increase the conservation value of existing habitats and enhance and support the creation of non wooded semi-natural areas.	Road and ride edges will look to provide high value invertebrate habitat as a result of the proposals which will have a positive impact on associated species such as birds and bats. Existing open space will maintained and a wide adop- tion of the shelterwood system will provide rotational open space throughout the years.	3	Opportunities are identified at Opera- tional Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage.	A record of identification of opportuni- ties, assessment of feasibility and ful- filment if appropriate.



Provide, maintain and en- hance where possible the rec- reational experience of the woodland.	Look at increasing the accessibility of footpath and trails in the woodlands with a process vegetation management around key areas. Safety checks of car parks and trails continued as per OGB 1 and 42.	4	Opportunities are identified at Opera- tional Site assessment (OSA) stage, act- ed upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage. A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of fea- sibility and fulfilment if appropriate.	A record of identification of opportuni- ties, assessment of feasibility and fulfil- ment if appropriate.
Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.	Regular management will provide a sustainable supply of wood products to the industry.	5	Wood products supplied sustainably to industry in line with the production fore- cast.	Query sales recording package at year 5 and year 10.	Wood products supplied to the timber industry in line with production forecast whilst fulfilling other objectives
Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.	Managing non ancient woodland areas as mixed woodland allows the woodland to support a greater species diversi- ty. This will benefit disease and climate resistance as well as adding to the aesthetic variation. The development of natural regeneration at various stag- es, will break up the currently rigid age structure	6a 6b 6c	Maintained number of tree species. Increased age diversity. Evidence of natural regeneration occurring.	Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sales and recording package at year 5 and year 10	At least the same number of different tree species present at year 10 Improved age diversity at year 10 Increased successful establishment of natural regeneration.
Control invasive plant and ani- mal species and reduce their impact across the sites.	Conduct regular monitoring of invasive plant and animal species, reacting appropriately when threats are identi- fied. Deer species to be managed under the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy.	7а	Opportunities are identified at Opera- tional Site Assessment (OSA) stage, act- ed upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage.	A record of identification of opportuni- ties, assessment of feasibility and fulfil- ment if appropriate.
Support the creation and aims of new and current research plots.	With guidance from Forest Research, initiate the creation of a number of research plots in appropriate areas in the woodland.	8a	The research plots have established themselves and are meeting the aims to which they were set up.	Forest Research to monitor the plots and update the ground team on the progress and any findings with which to inform the design plan re- views and consultees.	The research have been met or are con- tinuing to be met at the 10 review year stage.



Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10
1a			
1b			
2			
3			

Success?



Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10
4			
5			
6a			
6b			
6C			

Success?



File ref:

County: Hampshire Site Name: Bentley Station Meadow SSSI Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council National Grid Reference: SU 794429 Area: 4.9 (ha) 12.1 (ac) Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 186 1:10,000: SU 74 SE Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): -Date of Last Revision: -Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 23 January 1992

Date of Last Revision: -

Confirmed: 6 July 1992

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Bentley Station Meadow is located at the north-western corner of Alice Holt Forest, lying on Gault Clay, with an area of dry acidic soil providing local variation. The unimproved herb-rich grassland is situated in close juxtaposition to a variety of habitats including scattered scrub, a willow-lined stream forming the western boundary to the meadow and ancient semi-natural oak woodland surviving on the edge of the Forest in the east. This combination of habitats provides a sheltered environment which is both extremely uncommon in Hampshire and ideal for a remarkably rich invertebrate fauna. Many regionally scarce and local species breed and feed within the site, in particular hoverflies and butterflies. A total of 22 species of butterfly are known to breed, including both the purple emperor *Apatura iris* and the pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*; a further six species visit annually for nectaring purposes.

The grassland is dominated by cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata, Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus and tufted hair-grass Deschampsia cespitosa, with locally bracken Pteridium aquilinum and common nettle Urtica dioica. The sward is species-rich, with 15 species indicative of ancient meadowland such as sneezewort Achillea ptarmica, bitter-vetch Lathyrus montanus, spiny restharrow Ononis spinosa, common milkwort Polygala vulgaris, cowslip Primula veris, pepper-saxifrage Silaum silaus, common dog-violet Viola riviniana and devil's-bit scabious Succisa pratensis. Acidic marshy grassland is associated with the western stream and here rushes Juncus spp. are dominant together with common spotted-orchid Dactylorhiza fuchsii and common fleabane Pulicaria dysenterica. The meadow is rich in a variety of nectar-producing plants such as wild angelica Angelica sylvestris which is an important nectar source for insects and in particular the white admiral Ladoga camilla and silver-washed fritillary Argynnis paphia butterflies which breed in the adjacent woodland. Examples of two of the locally uncommon hoverflies utilising the grassland are the yellow and black Sphaerophoria taeniata which prefers the wetter areas and Xanthogramma citrofasiatum favouring the drier grassland and patches of bare ground.

Scrub is concentrated in the middle of the meadow, being dominated by hawthorn, blackthorn, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and rose. Willows, in particular *Sa-lix caprea* and *S. cinerea*, are found alongside the stream and are the food plant for larvae of the purple emperor butterfly. The dense patches of scrub are also important for nesting, feeding and roosting birds such as blackcap, chiffchaff, nightingale, redstart, whitethroat and willow warbler. The coppice-with-standards woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak and ash, with a hazel and hawthorn understorey. The ground flora is diverse being dominated in spring by wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, wood spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and common dog-violet – the latter being the food plant of the pearl-bordered fritillary. Hoverflies which breed in dead wood are well represented and include the locally uncommon, conspicuous black and red *Brachypalpoides leuta* and the bumble bee mimics *Criorhina berberina*, *C. floccosa* and *C. ranunculi*.

Old unimproved meadows adjacent to semi-natural ancient woodlands provide an extremely diverse and ecologically rich habitat. Bentley Station Meadow is one of the richest examples of this rare habitat in Hampshire.



Ancient Woodland

A classification for woodland which has been in continuous existence from before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and or from 1750 in Scotland

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

The trees and other plant species within an ancient woodland site appear to have arisen naturally rather than having been planted and are predominately (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

Compartments/Sub Compartments

Sections of woodland used to delineate and plan management.

Road and ride edge management

A network of internal road and ride margins that will be managed in a sympathetic way to increase the struc- native to the site and surrounding area. tural diversity of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for key species.

Clear-fell

Cutting down an area of woodland typically greater than 0.25 hectares.

Reserve Shelter Wood System

Woodland management system whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling, generally being no single interruption of tree cover of more than 0.25 hectares with a maximum of 2 interruptions of this size per hectare. Residual seed trees are left for an extended period of time after the new forest has been established.

Opportunities to enhance the existing areas of natural regeneration will be taken along with increasing wood- Recreation Area land edge habitat by scalloping ride and road edges for the benefit of biodiversity

Mixed Woodland

Woodland consisting of a fairly even mixture of broadleaf and conifer species.

Native (and honorary-native)

The trees making up the woodland are part of England's natural (or naturalised) flora. Determined by wheth- Climate Change Adaptation Demonstration er the trees colonised Britain without the assistance of humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary' native were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times); and whether they would naturally be found in the part of England.

Wet Woodland

This is a woodland that occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils. They are typical of river valleys, the surroundings of mires and raised bog, the transition zones between open water and drier ground, and beside small winding streams.

Rotational scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland

Biodiversity Corridors

A network of open space utilising the existing ride and road network. The edges will be managed to provide suitable habitat to a range of invertebrates and enhance the connectivity throughout the woodland and to the surrounding area.

Native woodland

Woodland predominately made up of tree species that would naturally be found on that site.

Natural regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally by the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These may be still require some protection from overbearing plant species and mammal browsing. Some enrichment planting may also be necessary or desirable in areas where natural regeneration is showing limited success or in order to diversify the species range of the woodland.

Plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS)

The trees within an ancient woodland site appear to have been planted. These species may or may not be

Open Habitat/Open Space

Areas within a forest with tree cover <5% such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, rides and roads.

Research Plantation

Woodland that is being used to run an experiment managed principally by the research arm of the Forestry Commission.

Yield Class

The maximum average rate of volume increment which a particular stand can achieve per hectare.

An area of woodland which is managed with recreation as the core focus. The woodland will still be managed but operations should be to enhance the recreational aspects of the area.

Priority Ecological Areas

Areas of woodland and open space managed to promote site specific priority key species.

An area of woodland that will incorporate a range of experiments to demonstrate how forest management can adapt to a change in climate.

Deer Glade

An area of woodland where the focus is on the provision of a suitable area for deer management.

Arboretum

A collection of trees including unusual and exotic species for amenity and research purposes.

Glossary



This Forest Plan has been influenced by various key policy statements and guidance documents as listed below.

Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement–January 2013

This document sets the direction of travel for forestry policy within England and is the reference point around which main aims and objectives of forestry and woodland management are designed.

The statement sets out the following key objectives, in priority order:

Protecting the nations trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.

Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, peoples lives and nature.

Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value.

Strategic plan for the public forest estate in England

This plan sets out the direction and goals for the public forest estate in England and indicates the actions we will be taking to achieve these between now and 2020. Our ambitions are long term and we will use a normal cycle of review over 5 years to embed these in local forest plans and ways of operating.

Our mission for the estate.

To work with others to keep the Pubic Forest Estate as a special place for wildlife, people to enjoy and businesses to thrive—and achieve this by adopting a strategy that integrates all the three drivers of sustainable land management; economy, people and nature.

Our Vision and Overall Goal

"To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the public forest estate for the people of England"

South District Forest Strategic Plan

The strategic management plan is a Forest Enterprise District Level document that informs local Forestry Commission Staff about the management direction of the Public Forest Estate and the associated policies. The Forest Plans are a key mechanism for delivering policies on the ground.

Open Habitat Policy, 2010

This is Government policy on how to decide when to convert woodland to open habitat in England.

United Kingdom Forestry Standard

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

UK woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

An independent certification standard for verifying sustainable management in the United Kingdom.

Keepers of Time

This policy statement celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodland and sets out a basis on which to achieve the following vision.

"Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits"

Managing ancient and native woodland in England: Practice Guide

This practice guide has been produced to help practitioners translate what measures and practical action can be taken to protect and enhance our ancient and native woodlands and guides implementation of the approaches to management and restoration trialled in woods around the country.

Managing deadwood in forests and woodland 2012

A practice guide encouraging owners and managers to develop a strategic approach to deadwood with an emphasis on working with natural processes.

Choosing stand management methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites, 2013.

A practice guide showing different silvicultural methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites.

References



European Landscape convention

The European landscape convention—also known as the Florence convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation of landscape issues.

List of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England : Includes 56 habitats ad 943 species referred to as section 41 Habitats and Species - established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/ biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx

Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services: this document builds on the Natural Environment white paper and sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy across both land and sea between 2011-2020:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services

The South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2014-2019

South Downs National Park Authority. [online] Available at https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/key-documents/partnership-management-plan/ [accessed May 2016].

References



The forest plan proposals are being consulted on over three main stages:

Stage 1: The woodland owners

Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation 28 November 2016 until 11th January 2017

Stage 3: Any further consultation required by Forest Services.

Consultees

Environment Agency	Hampshire Bat Group	British Mycological society
Butterfly Conservation	National Trust	Buglife
Natural England	The Woodland Trust	Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Hampshire County Council	Amphibian and Reptile Trust	Fresh Water Habitats Trust
East Hampshire District Council	Ancient Tree Forum	People Trust for Endangered Species
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Bat Conservation Trust	Plantlife
South Downs National Park Authority	Botanical Society of the British Iles	Hampshire Biodiversity Information
Hampshire RSPB	British Bryological Society	Hampshire Ornithological Society
Hampshire Gardens Trust	British Dragonfly Society	The Deer Initiative
Frensham Parish Council		





Appendix A: Consultation

- BSW Timber Group
- Wild Learning Wilderness Watch
- Ground Work
- Alice Holt Forum
- Binstead Parish Council
- Bentley Parish Council
- Kingsley parish council
- Farnham Town Council
- Dockenfield Parish Council

ls and interests or	r those of your
n?	

Poorly	Very Poorly	Not Answered



Appendix A: Consultation: List of written responses

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Alice Holt Forum	9/1/17	ALICE HOLT COMMUNITY FORUM
		RESPONSE TO FORESTRY COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON
		DRAFT FOREST DESIGN PLAN FOR ALICE HOLT FOREST
		The Alice Holt Community Forum welcomes the opportunity to review the draft Forest D holder consultation on the Draft Plan. Representatives of the Forum attended the Open ber 3rd and had the opportunity of discussing various matters with William Stafford of t very helpful and informative.
		The Alice Holt Community Forum consists of representatives from the Forestry Commiss villages that surround Alice Holt Forest. Its members have considerable cumulative know rounding area. The objective of the Forum is to provide an efficient means whereby the munity can exchange views on matters relating to Alice Holt Forest, thereby informing t
		The Forum supports the Draft Plan and believe that it provides a solid and sustainable be Holt Forest. We have the following comments on the Draft Plan:
		1. <u>Objectives</u> The Forum warmly supports the Objectives , in particular with regard biodiversity and the restoration of the PAWs to native broadleaved woodland. We believ its management of the Public Forest estate and Alice Holt in particular has an important diversity, particularly in the face of climate change, and in landscape scale conservation
		We do however believe that there should in addition be in the Objectives a reference to cient and veteran trees, in view of their biodiversity and aesthetic values; a reference to introduced to Alice Holt (see below), which we think is important.
		2. Natural Reserve We welcome the concept of "Natural Reserve" introduced in the k Term Vision and Long Term Vision but note that no areas are actually shown on the map specific mention of the concept in the text. This should be remedied both in the maps and dates for Natural Reserve Status should include (i) the very old oak stand at the SW co- need any more management for the next 50 years or so; it is on top of the Roman arch turbed; is of the age group for the rarest of insects; and, we understand, has known po- closure with its SSSI, arboretum, million ponds project and fine natural areas of ASNW, cant number of 1820 or earlier oaks, yews or other veteran trees.

esign Plan and to respond to the stake-Day exhibition at Alice Holt on Decemthe Forestry Commission, which was

sion, parish councils, communities and wledge of Alice Holt Forest and the sur-Forestry Commission and the local comthe management of the Forest.

basis for the future management of Alice

to the protection and enhancement of e that the Forestry Commission through role to play in increasing woodland bioprojects.

the need to protect and maintain ano the Natural Reserve status now being

key to the maps showing the Medium

ps coloured dark blue, and there is no nd in the text. We believe that candiorner of Abbotts wood – it does not naeological site which should not be dispor timber quality, (ii) parts of Lodge Inand (iii) any other areas with a signifi-



Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Alice Holt Forum	9/1/17	3. <u>Buildings</u> We note that the Plan states that it deals largely with silvicultural management ities. We nevertheless welcome that no further buildings are shown to be contemplated in either trum supported the 2010 proposals for the enhancement of the existing visitor facilities at Alice Hot tained in the existing built footprint around the main car park. We are strongly opposed to any for at Alice Holt Forest. We believe that such developments and their infrastructure would result in the would be detrimental to the ecology and biodiversity of the woodland, would interfere with access woodland by the public and would be inconsistent with the natural environment of woodlands. A crow about the third bullet point in the Objectives which reads: "Take opportunities to increas tats and enhance and support the development of open space". If "open space" means the patch in the middle of the forest, which are designed to encourage nightjars, various butterflies, flowers supported but the word "development" nowadays implies built development. A better word would
		4. <u>Visitors</u> We recognise the need for The Forestry Commission to reconcile environmental, eca agement of Alice Holt and the Public Forest estate. However, we continue to maintain that that the and that any significant increase in visitor numbers to Alice Holt, particularly at weekends, would 300,000 was the visitor figure given by the Forestry Commission to us and was accepted as at sat To enhance the visitor experience for those who already visit is one thing but there should be an or visits. We therefore disagree that an Objective should be to enhance the recreational capacity. The Reference should be to enhancing the visitor "experience" .
		5. PAWS Restoration At first glance the speed of PAWs restoration seems unambitious. Previous that by 2050 80% of the Forest, including the PAWs sites would be native broadleaved but we ack clear felling which is now agreed to be inappropriate for the restoration of PAWS sites. The use of Management key in the Medium Term Vision map could mean that 80% of a coupe could still in 2 applying that across Glenbirvie Inclosure could mean that PAWs restoration would be very slow in lowering the 80% figure.
		6. Arboretum The Arboretum boundaries in the maps should be revised, so as to extend to the Lodge Inclosure. This is the area currently being jointly managed as the Arboretum by the South proval of Forest Research (Richard Jinks) and FC (Julian Williams and Jay Doyle). The FC map (se agement boundaries of the arboretum. We also consider that the arboretum restoration project s the plan. It has, after all, been under way for over 5 years, with the whole-hearted involvement o tary commitment to it cannot be in question: it has got even more solid now that the South Down is involved.
		7. Open spaces We support the concept of open spaces in the Forest, namely a patchwork of cl middle of the forest, which are designed to encourage nightjars, various butterflies, flowers and co er forestry does not provide large open areas [eg sufficient for Nightjar]. Small 0.25 ha gaps are bly occur across the forest.

and not management of non-forest activthe medium term or long term. The Foolt since, inter alia, they were to be conrm of built or tented leisure development ne loss of and damage to the woodland, rights and the quiet enjoyment of the concern has thus been expressed in the e the conservation value of existing habiwork of clearings each of an acre or two and certain reptiles, then that is clearly d be "creation".

conomic and social objectives in its mane forest is currently at visitor capacity be unsustainable. Some years ago turation. Now it is suggested as 500,000 objective NOT to encourage more public is implies increasing visitor numbers.

usly FC told the Forum that the policy was knowledge that that contemplated much the 80% figure in the Mixed Woodland 20 years time be non native conifersdeed. Consideration should be given to

southern and western tracks through Downs Volunteer rangers, with the apent separately) shows clearly the manshould become a formal component of of FC and Forest Research and the volunns National Park Volunteer Ranger Service

learings each of an acre or two in the ertain reptiles. However Continuous Covgood for Dormice however - they proba-





Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Alice Holt Forum	9/1/17	8. Rides We acknowledge that widening rides can have biodiversity benefits but there are conflict threatened and some insects may gain, it has an adverse impact on bats crossing and to some ex Practice. The opening of the 325 at GG/Abbotts wood has led to severely reduced bat crossings. for other wildlife crossing is pragmatic.
		Detailed comments
		9. Objectives . Why only "invasive plant species"? Omit word "plant " so as to cover roe deer, m
		10. Biodiversity and Conservation The name Alice Holt Woodland Park is not now used –it is r sits within the South Downs National Park- omit the word "Authority"
		Most of the first paragraph should be in the "Landscape and Historical Context" section.
		There is no identification of any future 'expanded' wet woodland area.
		This section specifically singles out Lepidoptera and mammals, but does not separately make the portant) comment about Nightjars, that the forest is also a very important habitat for woodland b ers.
		Ideally FC should commission a biodiversity base line study so we actually have a good idea of all species at the start of the plan period, so there is something to measure against in future years.
		11. People: Reference should be to the "Shipwrights Way". Refer to volunteers engaged in restore with its tree trail
		12. Should this be part of Landscape and Historical Context?
		13. <u>Maps</u> Suggest substantially increase AH area on first map and aerial photo e.g. ½ size of other ride is shown in two different categories; W and E. Not clear why. In later maps car parks [originareas [purple]why not be consistent cross the various maps?
		AW/SN: Eastern half of Hardings ride is denoted not being AW but the other half is. Seems an i paths are marked similarly, even those hard tracks wider than HR.
		<u>Medium vision</u> : Explanation of 'Biodiversity corridors' is inaccurate. What habitats are these st the corridor to reach? Suggest, "Scalloped widenings for views and insect/herps with pinch points in wet woodland area indicated as vision indicates[Biodiversity para3].
		The only projected Deer glade in the whole forest is between the 2 main visitor recreation sites.
		Long term: Explanation of 'Biodiversity corridors' is inaccurate. What habitats are these strips correach? Suggest, "Scalloped widenings for views and insect/herps with pinch points for other specifically mentioned as a goal. The only Deer glade in the forest is between the 2 land as above.
		Habitat restoration: Is the Orange heading in fact 'Restoration to native BL' if they currently control the coupes are in fact currently almost pure conifer close to final thin or fell clearfell with no/minim whether replanting/nat regen or enrichment [as given in the Regeneration legends]. First mention tice – excellent but include pinch points.

cting impacts. Whilst people may feel less ktent the dormouse metapopulation Best Scalloping of rides to include pinch points

nuntjac, parakeets, wild boar.

now all Alice Holt Forest—it is not a park. It

point, other than in a passing (but imirds such as woodpeckers and many oth-

bird, mammal, reptile and Lepidoptera

ation and management of the arboretum,

er map scales? On most maps Hardings inally brown] are designated recreational

incorrect interpretation as no other forest

trips connecting ie what is at either end for s for other species to cross" No increase

onnecting ie what is at either end to cies to cross". No change in Open areas main visitor recreation sites. Wet wood-

ntain significant conifer/nns .? Many of mal mature BL. No mention here of on of scalloped ride edges under Best Prac-





Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Alice Holt Forum	9/1/17	Felling Table. There is no accompanying map to show the affected areas.
		14. Monitoring & Indicators of success:
		Nature conservation value – your third formal objective. Ideally as mentioned above, FC should consolve a good idea of all bird, mammal, reptile and Lepidoptera species at the start of to measure against in future years. There is at present no mention of monitoring any biota. It is no organised monitoring should be practicable and encouraged, even if largely by volunteers. "Scallo points left to assist woodland based species to cross'. i.e. no repeat of the A325 edge widening c.
		Recreational capacity. Already agreed is at capacity and parking frequently aggravates local ro "experience "see above
		<u>Age diversity</u> Will be helped by retaining the oldest trees, even as they may decay and die, and already been heavily thinned in the last decade and the 'timber' was firewood quality. Enrichment tainable' forest stand to be reached in the far future.
		Invasives Must include animals as well – e.g. the future may include boar.
		Research plots should include some biota monitoring plans.
		References to Combe Hill are out of place since this site is not in Alice Holt.
		15. Drafting and Typographical : We noticed various drafting and typographical errors which w ed.

ommission a biodiversity base line study of the plan period, so there is something now within the National Park so officially pped ride edges will look to' Pinch .10 yrs ago.

bads. Should refer to enhancing the visitor

not removing any of them.....they have enables a planned 'climate change sus-

vill no doubt all be picked up and correct-





FC Response to Alice Holt Forum

Dear Alice Holt Forum,

Many thanks for taking the time to read and comment on the Forest Plan for Alice Holt Forest.

I am pleased to note that the forum supports the plan and I have made a number of changes based on your suggestions which are detailed below.

- Natural reserve area added to the north eastern corner. ٠
- Specific sections in the text dealing with veteran trees, open space and the silvicultural systems.
- Amended the wording of the objectives
- The arboretum boundaries have been extended.
- Changes to the text layout.
- Amended Harding's ride map errors.
- Expanded on the extent of permanent open space and priority ecological corridors to include the stream network.

Regarding the speed of restoring plantations on ancient woodland, the FC are happy with this and although it is a departure from the clear fell restock system of the previous plan it has been deemed appropriate for a number of reasons.

Regarding nightjar habitat the FC manage wildlife on a landscape scale and any loss of breeding habitat can be offset by providing more appropriate habitat elsewhere in the district. Note clear-felling is still proposed in Holt Pound and other coupes can be felled up to 2ha in size.

The management of internal rides will be led by the wildlife team and specific prescriptions will be part of pre-operational planning, these may include pinch points as suggested.

Alas there is no scope for a base line study of wildlife as we manage habitat not individual species.

Many thanks for your input so far and happy to discuss further if needed.

Appendix A: Consultation



Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Royal Society for	11/1/17	Many thanks for consulting the RSPB on the review of the design plan for Alice Holt Forest. As a conse
The Protection of		the nature value of the public estate we are supportive of many of the Objectives laid out in the new public work with the main objective headings:
Birds (RSPB)		Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland
		The RSPB is supportive of the move, outlined in the forest design plan, away from conifer plantations tive species. We note the intention to move away from a "clear-fell and re-stock" system and towards aged either by thinning or under a "reserve shelterwood system". We are, in principle, supportive of t results more light reaching the forest floor and consequently the development of a scrub layer and, the ever, continuous cover is a term that applies to anything between clear-fell and restock and non-inter detail on the type of continuous cover system that will be employed at Alice Holt. For example: the sizt tained seed or shelter trees and whether the canopy will be opened evenly across the coupe (uniform (irregular shelterwood). Typically reserve shelterwood systems are used in mature forests with the "o very mature. Some of the areas designated for this management method appear to currently be comp scheduled for removal. How will the overwood trees be selected and managed in these areas? The Forest plan notes that: "The conifer clearfell-restock cycle has historically supported heathland/fo Caprimulgus europeaus and common reptiles on a dynamic basis with the provision of open space shi
		introduction of large scale continuous cover management systems aims to continue this process". It we how this will work in practice. How will open space continue to shift about the forest under the continue quire
		open spaces of at least 2 ha to nest successfully (with larger areas recommended) so it is possible
		that a change to a continuous cover system might result in the loss of this species from the site. In
		2015 Alice Holt supported 6 churring males, making this a locally significant site for this Red-listed, Al
		However, we believe that it is correct approach to focus management at Alice Holt on woodland species of open habitat. Forest nesting opportunities for nightjar are by their nature temporary in any case. If nesting in forest clearings at Alice Holt, that should be balanced by increasing opportunities elsewhere creases in permanent open space at Heath Warren, Warren Heath and Bramshill Common could increa- open habitat species) at those sites.
		Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native woodland and honorary nat
		We strongly support the restoration of planted sites to native woodland as the "Ancient Woodland
		& Semi Natural Scoring" map shows that a substantial proportion of Alic Holt is less than 20% native. ing of "honorary native woodland" and the term does not appear to be defined anywhere in the docum encompass? Does it refer to species that are not native but which have been established in Britain for sycamore? If that is the case we would be interested in learning how large a component these species mono-cultures of sweet chestnut or sycamore would not be a significant improvement on pine plantat species have their place in silvicultural systems it is very important they are balanced out with a mix of

ervation body concerned with improving plan. We include our specific comments

to semi-natural systems composed of na **s "continuous cover" native forest man his approach to Alice H**olt, especially if it nerefore, a more diverse structure. Howrvention. It would be useful to have more ze of the coupes, the percentage of resystem) or irregularly over time **verwood" trees being all**owed to become cosed of young stands of trees or conifers

rest gap bird species such as Nightjar fting about the forest through time. The rould be useful to have more detail on uous cover system? Nightjar typically re-

nnex 1 species.

es rather than those requiring large areas nightjar will have fewer opportunities for on the Forest Estate. For example inase opportunities for nightjar (and other

ive woodland.

However we are unclear as to the meannentation. Which species does this term a lonf time such as sweet chestnut and s will be. From a wildlife perspective ions. While we recognise that both these of other native species.



Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
RSPB	11/1/17	Increase nature conservation value of existing habitats and develop open space.
		We are very supportive of this objective and have some additional suggestions as to how this might
		We are particularly pleased to note the commitment to increase to volume of dead and decaying v eco-system and we note the importance of providing as much variety of deadwood as possible increased variety of species.
		We are pleased to note the inclusion of an area of rotational scrub, a much undervalued habitat in still represents a relatively small patch of habitat and we consider that it would be worth either incontent other similar patches elsewhere in the Forest.
		In a historical context we note that the first Ordnance Survey Map, dated 1816, shows Alice Holt a don't think that is realistic, or even desirable to try and restore the entire forest to this structure, considering for the higher sandy soils in the north of the forest. If the wood pasture was fairly operate cutting or grazing regime, support a wide area of rotational scrub habitat beneath it.
		Wet native woodland is the most species diverse habitat in the UK, at least partly because it helps ing wood. We would suggest that it would be beneficial to increase the amount of this habitat. At it does not contain any areas specially designed to be managed in this way. Yet several areas of Alic
		themselves to developing this kind of habitat, especially the more southerly areas, such as Straits and naturally very wet. We acknowledge that increasing the wetness of a site can increase the diff targeted manner and in the appropriate places it is possible to create wet areas with low intervent low. The damming or re-direction of drainage channels might make it possible to create such area Wet areas like this would encourage sallow for the flagship butterfly species Purple Emperor (Apat ed with wet woodland such as marsh tit.
		Alice Holt is identified as a priority Lepidoptera site and with this in mind we welcome the inclusion loped edges and a graded ride structure. This will provide important habitat for many species, incl ted flycatcher. We would suggest that care is taken to ensure these rides link up with each other t also suggest the creation of permanent glades, especially at the crossroads where two rides meet
		We welcome the acknowledgement of the importance of veteran trees and the need to leave these that many of these exist along boundaries it is important that the opening out of rides does not re be worth considering re-routing some rides slightly to allow ride-widening without loss of veteran which trees might be the future veterans and ensure they have space to grow.

ht be achieved.

wood. This is vital for a fully functioning cluding lying, standing and snags of a large

the north of the Forest. However, this creasing the size of this patch or including

as being entirely wood pasture. While we we would suggest that it would be worth en in structure it could, with an appropri-

increase the volume of dead and decaythe moment the "Long Term Vision" map ce Holt lend

enclosure, which are on heavy Gault clay ficulty of management but, if done in a tion where the forestry value is already as in the middle section of the Forest too. tura iris) as well as other species associat-

on of ride-side management including scalluding butterflies and birds such as spotto provide continuity of habitat. We would

se in place. With regard to the comment esult in the loss of important trees. It may trees. It is also important to consider





Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
RSPB		Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.
		The "Indicative Species Diversity" map shows that the vast majority of the Forest has a species diverse objective. We assume that this value refers to the canopy trees as in several places there is a more note that in some places a lot of the regeneration occurring under oak canopy is young beech. This not regenerate well under oak canopy but in the context of the majority of Alice Holt Forest being leassified as W10 Oak woodland it is worth considering where future canopy oaks will come from. I less beneficial for invertebrates and birds. It may also be more difficult to produce good quality times.
		We understand that the forest plan relies principally on natural regeneration but with a current low sidering some targeted planting if certain species are slow to re-colonise. For example planting of s along newly opened rides would provide valuable habitat.
		It is also important to ensure that no one species becomes excessively dominant. For example the ing prevalent in the understory. Some holly in a wood is important but it is important not to allow
		It is noted in the plan that there is good age diversity in Alice Holt. This is true across the Forest as planting or regeneration that are of similarly aged trees. It would be beneficial to get some age, ar these areas.
		We agree that species diversity, not just within the forest as a whole but also within individual com importance for future proofing the forest with both disease and climate change in mind.
		Control invasive plants and animals and reduce their impact
		Rhododendron (Rhododendron ponitcum) and Himalayan balsam (Impatiens glandulifera) are ackn would welcome a commitment to eliminate them rather than just monitor them. We also note the na), a North American species, and recommend that that too is eliminated from the forest.
		I hope that these comments are useful and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any que

versity of 1 so this is clearly a worthwhile re diverse understory developing. We is is not surprising given that oak does National Vegetation Classification (NVC) If the forest goes over to beech it will be mber due to squirrel damage.

v species diversity it may be worth conshrubs such as hawthorn and blackthorn

ere are some areas where holly is becomit to take over.

as a whole but there are large areas of nd therefore, structural diversity into

mpartments and stands of trees is of vital

nowledged as problem species but we presence of Rum Cherry (Prunus seroti-

lestions regarding them.



FC Response to RSPB

Many thanks for taking the time to read and comment on the Forest Plan for Alice Holt. It's good to note that many of the objectives in the plan have the support of the RSPB. Please find responses to your comments below.

Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.

The type of continuous cover that will be used in Alice Holt Forest is a form of shelterwood which aims to retain a proportion of the shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. This is employed chiefly to diversify the age structure and maintain existing and produce future veteran trees. The size of the coupes can be found in the felling table in the plan and detail the maximum thresholds that could be employed. The detail (specific coupe sizes/trees per hectare) are left to operational planning prior to an intervention. This is all part of a move to transform Alice Holt Forest to an irregular forest structure in the long term. The areas where we will start this process first are labelled as 'regeneration' and in many cases have reached economic maturity. The rest of the forest will be subject to an appropriate thinning regime.

Regarding the provision of nightjar habitat your comments are in line with how we would look to manage this into the future. However a clearfell re-stock regime is still planned for areas in Holt Pound and under certain circumstances a forester could create coupe felling's up to 2ha elsewhere under the proposed plan.

Increase nature conservation value of existing habitats and develop open space.

Many thanks for your comments under this objective I will pass them onto the beat team to use when planning an operation particularly on ride side management. Regarding other habitats wet woodland is being proposed south west of Lodge Pond, the extent of rotational scrub may be more extensive than mapped and successive openings through CCF systems may also contribute to this in time. Wood pasture is not being considered in this plan period.

Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.

You are correct that the species diversity map only shows the canopy trees and that in several places a more diverse understory exists. The use of CCF has many challenges including the making sure we achieve the desired regeneration and that the trees are of suitable quality, to this end under-planting will be considered where appropriate.

Control invasive plants and animals and reduce their impact.

Many thanks for your comments regarding Rum Cherry after speaking to the beat team; it was not something that we were aware of perhaps you would be able to provide locations and we could build this into future planning.

Appendix A: Consultation





Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
South Downs	10/1/17	We broadly welcome the principles set out in the plan, especially in terms of enhancing the value of heritage, and in terms of undertaking research into forests climate change mitigation and impact b
National Park Authority (SDNPA)		Though it is understood that FE will be complying with the relevant UK Forest Standards and best We do have some specific comments on it, however. We would welcome the opportunity to establi which I will arrange with the local staff in due course:
		Landscape and Biodiversity:
		Though Alice Holt woodlands occupy a largely lowland setting, they are a major feature of what is the South Downs National Park, and as such their amenity value is extremely high. They can be vi local area, for example Country Market off the A325, which is in itself a popular attraction locally, Farnham e.g. the St Swithuns Way, to the North.
		In planning to use primarily Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) to execute the plan, you are felling will have on the landscape, but you should ensure that coupe size and shape are carefully c planning phase, and that the wooded character of the area is not compromised in the medium to I
		It should also be further reinforced how important the veteran broadleaf trees are in Alice Holt, wi they represent, but also the more modern character of the big conifers, particularly in the recreati component of the character of the modern day Alice Holt, and it would be a shame if this were los
		There is some mention of water habitats, and you will also be conversant with the water guideline the forest will enhance and improve water interception, peak flood flows and improvements to wat Holt woodlands in the landscape it would be useful to know how this has been factored into the pla
		With the intention to revert so much of the percentage of the forest to broadleaves, and with the s it would be good to better understand how FE will be ensuring that squirrels and deer do not jeopa ity broadleaf timber forests. We would also welcome the opportunity to work wit the FC over co-or ment in this area. We would also like to know more detail about the likely species and provenance this detail is not clear from the plan?
		It would be good to get a better appreciation of how this plan will deliver other ecosystems service Partnership Management Plan, such as pollination, tranquillity and inspirational/spiritual values, er versity- again as ecosystems services are embedded into the culture of the FC we would welcome detail with you so that it matches our own approach.

of the woods to biodiversity and cultural ouffering.

practice guidance in executing this plan, ish dialogue with FE over some of these,

arguably one of the key gateways into ewed from a number of locations in the and from much of the high ground of

already mitigating against what impact onsidered as part of the operational ong term.

th all of the historical background that onal areas, are an also an important entirely in the long term.

s, but from the plan it is not clear how ter quality. With the significance of Alice anning.

stated aim to increase species diversity, ardise your efforts to establish high qualdination of deer and squirrel managees that you would be using to restock as

es that are important parts of the SDNPA nergy, timber production and genetic dithe opportunity to look at this in more





Stakeholder	Response Date	Response		
Stakeholder South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)	Response Date	Response Otters and dormice are specifically mentioned as key species that are being factored into the man of other species that Alice Holt currently provides excellent habitat for. It would, however, also be agement of key species will be factored into the medium to long term, with the changing species s actions that FE will be taking to improve these habitats. As mentioned in the plan, the site has areas that are largely suitable for heathland species. It woule heathland species might be encouraged as part of a specific management plan, for example along would be keen to continue working with FE on this through our heathland partnership. People and the Economy There is a lack of detail in the plan about recreational development, and how these proposals will makes it difficult to provide more constructive feedback on this element. There is mention of the in the Shipwrights Way, and recreational infrastructure, but no indication of how this might develop. We welcome the intention to continue to provide for and maintain this, but would welcome the oppieng the current and future provision of recreational facilities at Alice Holt, and understand how plans for the wider South Downs Area. In a similar vein, Alice Holt is a key outdoor recreational facility and gateway for the South Downs be keen to work with FE to ensure that it continues to play an important part of strategic economi park, particularly in terms of developing the tourism brand of the national park going forward. Also on the economy, while we encourage the general reversion to broadleaf for biodiversity reaso how Alice Holt will continue to play an important role in supporting the local and national timber in period, and whether there are opportunities for planting mixes with conifers s		

agement plan, and there are a multitude useful to fully understand how the manstructure of the forest, and any specific

Ild be good to understand better how rides and in open space areas, and we

impact on the current situation, which importance of the rights of way, such as

portunity to work closely with FE on dew this fits more strategically into FC

Area, indeed nationally, and we would ic development strategies for the national

ons, we would like to understand better ndustry- Especially during the reversion in intention to supply conifer over the

to further develop the built environment



FC Response to the South Downs National Park Authority

Dear Mr Player,

Many thanks for taking the time to read and comment on the forest plan for Alice Holt. It's great to know that the South Downs National Park broadly welcome the principles set out in the plan.

Your comments and suggestions will be useful in shaping the final version; you mention needing clarification on a number of points, please find reference to these below.

The regulating of water services are an important part of sustainable forest management and the FC's approach to this can be found in the UKFS guidelines for Forest's and Water. Many of the specific measures occur prior or during an actual operation and are not referred to in a plan. However the wide use of continuous cover forestry aims to minimise the potential impact that harvesting can have on the water catchment both in terms of acidification and nutrient enrichment as well as run-off rates and sediment delivery.

As you mention mammals particularly deer and squirrels pose a significant threat to the successful establishment of broadleaves trees. Prior to interventions and restocking, appropriate assessments are made by the local team and a number of measures are made to mitigate against these including fencing and culling.

Where planting is used we are looking to mitigate the likely effects of climate change by planting with drought tolerant species and tree's with a more southerly provenance. The detail is decided on a site by site basis by the local teams.

In terms of our approach to ecosystem services I would be happy to discuss further the FC's methodology and how this ties with the relevant parts of the SDNPA management plan.

Regarding the management of key species, opportunities are taken as part of planning prior to an intervention and this will change as necessary with the structure of the forest over time.

Forest Plans largely deal with silvicultural management and not the management of non-forestry activities which may arise during the plan period therefore there is a necessary lack of detail regarding recreational development. For more detail on this please contact the local recreation teams.

If you would like further clarification on anything else, please do get in touch.

Appendix A: Consultation



Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Wild Learning and	4/12/16	You have been very supportive of our work and working at Alice Holt with the children. It has been
Development Ltd		really hope that we can continue to work with you in the future.

en such a benefit to the children and we

Appendix B: CSM 6 — Amendments to Approved Forest



Forestry Commission (Forest Services and Forest Enterprise) should agree baseline tolerance thresholds for operations in each District beyond which exchange of letter/map or formal amendment is required. Unless otherwise specified or agreed by the Forestry Commission, amendment will be by formal revision of the plan.

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	Timing of Re- stocking	Changes to spe- cies	Windthrow clearance (2)	Changes to road lines (3)
FC Approval normally not required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - which- ever is less	Up to 2 plant- ing seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen coni- fers; broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less			0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly wind- blown trees > 2ha to 5ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 2 plant- ing seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	> 5ha	As above, de- pending on sensitivity

Notes on Tolerance Table

1. There are circumstances in which changes - of less than 0.5 ha for example - could have a dramatic visual effect. The above model does require a sensible approach to be taken by Forest Enterprise in notifying Forestry Commission when such cases arise. Local staff need to be sensitive to issues which may influence the situation (bearing in mind that small adjustments to felling coupes will not appear on the Public Register).

2. It is important that Forest Enterprise keep the FC informed about windblow clearance, which can be problematic in cases of public complaint, and in FC compliance monitoring. In some cases a modification of the proposals for the remaining area of the Plan may need to be submitted and approved. Clearance of blow should not require approval but will be needed for related standing trees.

3. It is recognised that roading proposals as marked on Road Plans are necessarily somewhat indicative, in that actual roading operations require to take account of features not always apparent at the time of roadline planning. Accordingly some leeway is acceptable to account for this.

to Approved Forest Enterprise Plans