

Date of Commencement of Plan: **5th December 2014**

Approval Period: **5th December 2014 to 4th December 2024 (10 Years)**

**FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Plan Approvals**

Forest District: **South England Forest District**  
 FC Geographic Block No: **62, 63, 64, 65, 75**  
 Forest Plan Name: **Woodlands of the Forest of Bere**  
 FE Plan Reference Number: **304/03/13-14**  
 Nearest town or village: **Fareham, Hampshire**  
 OS Grid Reference: **SU 595 129**  
 Local Authority: **Eastleigh DC, East Hampshire DC, Havant BC, Winchester DC**

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:

Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date:

Approved: .....

Forest Services Area Director

Date:

Forestry Activity	Area (ha)			
	Conifer high forest	Broadleaf natural generation or re-planting	Mixed natural regeneration or replanting	Open
<b>Clearfell in period 2014-2024</b>	26.9	-	26.9	-
<b>Regeneration Felling in period 2014-2024</b>	19.7	19.7	-	-
<b>Area managed under a shelterwood system</b>	996.7			
<b>Coppice Management</b>	40.5			
<b>Management of permanent open space</b>	14.6 (plus transitional open space created by Coppice Rotations,			
<b>Natural Reserve</b>	35.6			
<b>Other (car parks etc)</b>	6.3			
<b>TOTAL MAPPED AREA</b>	<b>1140.3</b>			

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.

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

Signed:   
 Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date: 8/12/14

Approved:   
 Forest Services Area Director

Date: 8/12/14

Objective	Proposed Actions to Meet Objective	Ref.	Output by year 10	Monitoring	Indicators of Success
Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodlands.	Favouring native broadleaves during management and the use of shelterwood systems will maintain ASNW.  Invasive and non-native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded.	1	Maintained percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites	Semi-natural scoring via subcompartment database at years 5 and 10	Ancient semi-natural woodland areas will show a more native semi-natural score at years 5 and 10
Restore planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.	Managing PAWS areas under a shelterwood system, favouring the retention of native broadleaves will increase nativity of these areas as well as increase opportunities for natural expansion of associated ground flora.	2	Increased percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites	Semi-natural scoring via subcompartment database at years 5 and 10	Planted ancient woodland areas will show an increasingly native semi-natural score at years 5 and 10
Maintain or increase sustainable access and the provision for recreation within the woodlands, taking opportunities to enhance the experience where appropriate.	Management will offer opportunities for public engagement in forest management as well as varying the internal structure of the woodland.  Regular management also provides some financial assistance to the maintenance of tracks and roads within the woodland.	3	Record of recreational improvement opportunities that have arisen with analysis of decision making process leading to their adoption, delay or rejection.	Records	A strategic approach to decision making can be seen over time.
Take opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of other existing habitats.	Opportunities are to be identified at the Operation stage of management. Specific examples would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppicing in Whiteley Pastures</li> <li>• Riverine corridors and ponds</li> <li>• Small-Leaved Lime trees within West Walk</li> </ul>	4	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site Assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this Plan	OSA checks at implementation stage	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate
Maintain and increase the diversity of age structure and appropriate species mix within the woodlands.	Managing non-ancient woodland areas as mixed woodland allows the woodland to support a greater diversity of species. This will benefit disease and climate resistance as well as adding to the aesthetic variation.  The development of natural regeneration at various stages, will break up the current lopsided age structure.	5a	Maintained number of tree species	Query subcompartment database at years 5 and 10	At least the same number of different tree species present at year 10
		5b	Increased age diversity	Query subcompartment database at years 5 and 10	Improved age diversity at year 10
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 industry. This production will drive the changes necessary to fulfil objectives 1 to 5.	6	Wood products supplied sustainably to industry in line with the production forecast	Query Sales Recording Package at year 5 and year 10	Wood products supplied to industry in line with production forecast while fulfilling other objectives as well

Reference	Comments Year 5	Success?	Comments Year 10	Success?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5a				
5b				
6				

The Forest Plan proposals will go through two stages of consultation:

## Stage 1: Stakeholder Consultation

Environment Agency  
 Natural England  
 English Heritage  
 South Downs National Park Authority

Hampshire County Council

East Hampshire District Council  
 Eastleigh District Council  
 Havant Borough Council  
 Winchester District Council

Butterfly Conservation  
 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
 RSPB  
 Woodland Trust  
 Limewood Working Group

Bishopstoke Parish Council  
 Boarhunt Parish Council  
 Curdridge Parish Council  
 Denmead Parish Council  
 Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council  
 Soberton Parish Council  
 Whiteley Parish Council

Staunton Country Park  
 Portsmouth Water Company

Hampshire Open Access Forum  
 South Downs National Park Local Access Forum

## Stage 2: Placement of felling proposals onto the Forestry Commission Public Register

Stage 1			
Consultee	Response Date	Response	FC Follow Up
Environment Agency		No Response	
Natural England	3rd October 2014	See Following Letter	See Following Letter
English Heritage	8th August 2014	<p>Dear John,</p> <p>I have now had an opportunity to review the proposed Forest Plan for the Forest of Bere. My remit extends only to designated Scheduled Monuments and therefore my review is limited to the plan for Havant Holt. I am content that the management of the Scheduled Monuments in the Holt is adequately addressed.</p> <p>If you have not done so already, I would urge you to consult David Hopkins, the county archaeologist (<a href="mailto:david.hopkins@hampshire.gov.uk">david.hopkins@hampshire.gov.uk</a>) as he may be able to provide further input in regard to undesignated heritage assets.</p> <p>Regards            Ben Jervis, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hampshire County Council were included within this consultation</li> </ul>

South Downs NPA		No Response	
Hampshire County Council		No Response	
East Hampshire District Council		No Response	
Eastleigh District Council		No Response	
Havant Borough Council		No Response	
Winchester District Council		No Response	
Butterfly Conservation		No Response	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	15th August 2014	See Following Letter	
RSPB	18th August 2014	See Following Letter	
Woodland Trust		No Response	
Limewood Working Group	14th August 2014	See Following Letter	
Bishopstoke Parish Council		No Response	
Boarhunt Parish Council		No Response	
Curdridge Parish Council		No Response	
Denmead Parish Council	17th August 2014	See Following Letter	
Fairoak & Horton Heath Parish Council		No Response	
Soberton Parish Council		No Response	
Whiteley Parish Council		No Response	
Staunton Country Park		No Response	
Portsmouth Water Company		No Response	
Hampshire Open Access Forum		No Response	
South Downs National Park Local Access Forum	29th August 2014	<p>- SDLAF supports the management plans and welcomes the improved provision for access.</p> <p>- SDLAF support towards the 6 stated objectives but are there adequate measures in place to assess the outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monitoring programme has been designed to ensure we are able to get comparable data over the course of the Plan period by using data types we currently hold and record as part of our management systems. Improved management and analysis of data in the future may enable us to illustrate progress more effectively, but should be included in an updated monitoring programme if and when such systems are introduced.</li> </ul>

<b>Stage 2</b>			
<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Response Date</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>FC Follow Up</b>

Our ref: SU51.4/HI/FC  
Your ref: Whiteley Pastures Forest Plan Review

John Stride  
Forest Planner  
Forestry Commission  
South England Forest District  
The Queens House  
Lyndhurst  
Hants  
SO43 7NH

Via email only: [john.stride@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.stride@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear John

**BOTLEY WOOD TO EVERETT'S AND MUSHES COPSES SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI), HAMPSHIRE**

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the draft Forest Plan for Forest of Bere, in particular section 2.5 relating to Whiteley Pastures; a site incorporating a large area of Botley Wood to Everett's and Mushes Copses SSSI; owned and managed by the Forestry Commission.

Natural England understands that this is an update to the existing Forest Design Plan 2008-2038 which was approved in 2008. As you know, the SSSI units covered by this plan were assessed in 2013, as being in 'unfavourable recovering' condition, with the main threats to SSSI condition being a lack of age classes across the woodland and loss or change to some of the important rides identified in the 1983 Phase 1 habitat survey.

Natural England welcomes the management measures included in the Forest Plan, which should enhance the woodland diversity and allow for the SSSI units to move towards favourable condition in the near future. In particular, opportunities should be taken to widen some of the existing rides for their invertebrate interest as well as continuing the positive management of the ride network across the site.

It is really positive to see the Long Term Vision indicate removal of the areas which are currently >80% conifer woodland to return these to >80% native broadleaved woodland. The Habitat Restoration & Felling plan also introduces further management which is welcomed by Natural England in particular the ride management; management of the wet woodland along the main watercourse running between units 3 and 4 of the SSSI; more extensive rotational coppicing of several areas and native broadleaved woodland restoration. It will also be interesting to see how the area of 'natural reserve' to the north develops as an area with localised restriction of access and non-intervention and monitoring of how this affects disturbance, species composition and the associated benefits for biodiversity.



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3 October 2014

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15<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Your Ref: 304/03/13-14  
Our Ref: 15.46.3 Woodlands of the Forest of Bere

Dear John

**PROPOSAL:  
APPLICATION FOR FOREST DESIGN PLAN APPROVALS**

**LOCATION:  
CREECH WOODS, HAVANT HOLT, HAVANT THICKET, THE QUEEN'S INCLOSURE, STOKE PARK, WEST WALK AND WHITELEY PASTURES**

Thank you for consulting the Wildlife Trust on the above draft Forest Design Plan. We acknowledge that through the Forest Planning Process you seek the views of external stakeholders, including organisations involved with nature conservation such as ourselves, we welcome our inclusion in this process. We also acknowledge from our previous consultations on such plans that their purpose is to provide an overall direction of travel and aspirations of management, and therefore does not include the detail of specific species objectives. The objectives included within this plan are reproduced below;

**Objectives for the Forest of Bere Woodlands**

The objectives as detailed in the plan are as follows;

- Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Restore planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.
- Maintain sustainable access and the provision for recreation within the woodlands, taking opportunities to enhance the experience where appropriate.
- Take opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of other existing habitats.
- Maintain and take opportunities to increase the resilience of the woodlands by diversifying age structure and appropriate species mix within the woodland.
- Provide a regular supply of timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight**  
Wildlife Trusts 

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Following our review of the draft Forest Plan, we would like to make the following comments:

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

- The Wildlife Trust supports the net shift towards broad-leaved woodland species
- We note that open features, where they exist, often follow arbitrary routes, for example, tracks and powerlines, rather than forming patches or connections between blocks of habitat within or beyond the site.

**CREECH WOODS**

**Designations**

Creech Walk East SINC (1D/3Bi)  
Creech Walk West SINC (1D/3Bi)

**Comments**

The site is designated a SINC due to the presence of pasture woodland and/or wooded commons which are of considerable ecological and historical interest, and that sufficient remnants of heathland vegetation are present to enable their recovery. We would expect to see a move towards all woodland cover comprising native broad-leaved species since conifers are not native to this landscape area. We would also like to see the creation of more glades and rides within the forest since this would enhance biodiversity and see a move towards the pasture woodland and wooded common for which the site has been designated. With regard to the maps we have found it difficult to ascertain where the existing ride network is and where they are proposed in the future.

**HAVANT BLOCK (HAVANT HOLT, HAVANT THICKET AND THE QUEEN'S INCLOSURE)**

**Designations**

Bells Copse SINC (1A/1B)  
Havant Thicket SINC (1B/1Cii/1D/2B/3B/6A)  
Havant Thicket (South-west Corner) (1B/3B)  
The Holt SINC (1A/3B/6A)  
The Queen's Inclosure SINC (1A)

**Comments**

All of the sites included within this area are designated for their nature conservation value, and in the case of Havant Thicket and The Holt for their former heathland vegetation. However, the general narrative of the 'Current Context' section does not really highlight this, nor does it highlight the potential for heathland restoration.

Recent survey work carried out in relation to the proposed Havant Thicket reservoir have confirmed the presence of several species of bats, including Annex I species, and the presence of other European and nationally protected species (mammals, reptiles and birds). Site proposals and management objectives should be aimed at maintaining the favourable conservation status of important and protected species and also seek to re-create historic habitat types at the site.

**STOKE PARK WOODS**

**Designations**

Stoke Park Wood SINC (1B/1Cii)

**Comments**

The site includes a good ride network and riverine woodland belts. However it would be useful if these were wider, as in the case of the riverine habitats this would assist in flood alleviation. We would expect to see a move towards woodland areas comprising 100% native broad-leaved since conifer is not native in this landscape area. There is currently a single glade which is likely to be extremely well

used by visitors to the site. We recommend that more woodland glades are created since this would ease pressure on the single glade and enhance biodiversity.

**WEST WALK**

**Designations**

West Walk SINC (1B)  
South Downs National Park

**Comments**

Of the five woodland areas included within this plan West Walk is the largest and therefore provides an extraordinary opportunity for the Forestry Commission. The woodland is included within the South Downs National Park and is designated a SINC due to a significant element of semi-natural ancient woodland surviving. We are pleased to see that the proposals include a total shift towards broad-leaved wood and but consider that there is insufficient provision included within the plan for open space, including pasture woodland. The proposals should include more permanent open space than the existing single cycle route and ride network and should also include the inclusion of ponds and wetlands since these will greatly enhance biodiversity.

Although the SINC designation does not reflect it, the site is located within the area defined as the Forest of Bere and therefore there may also be the opportunity for heathland restoration. Pressures caused by development in the area will most likely see increased visitor usage and therefore there is the opportunity to create an attractive multi-function woodland of a structure and diversity similar to that at Burnham Beeches.

We welcome the proposals to sensitively manage and maintain areas of small-leaved lime during management interventions.

**WHITELEY PASTURES**

**Designations**

Botley Wood & Everetts And Mushes Copses Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)  
Sawpit Copse SINC (1B/1Cii/2A)

**Comments**

The majority of this area is designated a SSSI and therefore future objectives should aim to improve the condition of the SSSI which is currently stated as 'unfavourable recovering'. The site predominantly comprises conifer plantations that have been planted into former coppice-with-standards, although much of the western area was formerly wet species-rich pasture land. We question the appropriateness of planting non-native conifers at a site that has been designated a SSSI.

Botley Wood is of exceptional importance for its invertebrate populations and supports one of the largest remaining populations of common nightingale in the country. The long term vision should seek to support and enhance the interest features of the site, through management and habitat restoration. We do not believe that the current proposals go far enough. We consider that more open space, in the form of woodland rides and glades, are provided for invertebrates and extensive scrub edge habitats are provided for nightingales. The aim of this plan should be to restore the site to coppice-with-standards and wet species-rich pasture land.

Management proposals should also aim to greatly reduce the deer populations (roe and muntjac are well established) within the woodland, since these are becoming a significant issue.

**Our Aspirations**

As you will no doubt be aware the Trust has aspirations within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to maintain, enhance and protect the biodiversity of the Commons. With the on-going pressure from development we consider that it is essential that sites such as those within this plan are protected and managed in a way to improve biodiversity. We have therefore provided some aspirations that we

consider would benefit the sites and would like to see included, or in more detail within the Forest Plan.

1. More emphasis placed on restoring woodlands to their former habitat types such as pasture woodland, wooded commons coppice-with-standards and heathland;
2. More emphasis placed on increasing woodland ride widening and enhancement to increase suitable habitats for woodland edge/scrub edge bird and invertebrate species;
3. To promote heath land regeneration where it is appropriate;
4. The creation of woodland glades and selected thinning to improve the floristic value of the understorey, to promote the regeneration of woodland flora;
5. The continued widening and enhancement of the riverine corridors where they run through a site;
6. The continued management of deer in accordance with the South England Forest District since this will reduce deer browsing and promote the development of scrub habitats and floristic diversity along woodland rides and in the understorey; and
7. We welcome the eradication of non-native/invasive species where they are recorded.

Finally we would like to thank you for including us in the consultation process of this draft Forest Plan, and hope that you find our comments both constructive and useful. If you wish to discuss these matters further then please do not hesitate to contact us. I also ask that you keep the Trust informed of the progress and outcome of this draft Forest Plan application.

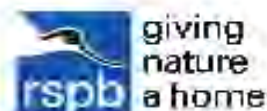
Yours sincerely



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17 August 2014

Dear John

#### Woodlands of the Forest of Bere Forest Plan - 2014 - Notification of proposals

Many thanks for consulting the RSPB on the 2014 revision of the Forest Design Plan for Forestry Commission managed woodlands within the locality of the ancient Forest of Bere. We have the following comments to make.

#### Ancient woodland and open habitats

The Plan shows a mismatch between the Ancient Woodland inventory, and data that the RSPB has gathered on areas that have potential for heathland restoration.

For example some of the Havant block woods (Havant Thicket – c.126ha.) are shown on our 'heathland potential' map, but according to the management plan are almost entirely either Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) or Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). Obviously both cannot be true. If these areas are Ancient woodland sites then their treatment in the plan is entirely appropriate. However if the RSPB data is correct, then heathland restoration and the creation of open habitats is likely to be more suitable.

Similarly, Crechen Woods are almost entirely within the RSPB's 'heathland potential' map, and we note that this area isn't designated as ancient woodland. The plan at the moment doesn't call for any extra permanent open space, other than through ride widening. Again, if these are former heathland sites, as our data suggests, there would be real value in including open habitat restoration in the management plan.

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a partnership of conservation organisations working in 160 countries around the world.

Published by the Forestry Commission, Chairman of the Forestry Commission: Sir Peter Brabeck-Letford, Chief Executive: Professor Sir Peter Brabeck-Letford, Forestry Commission, 100 Victoria Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 0DQ. Tel: 01392 265000. Fax: 01392 265001. Email: [publicaffairs@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@forestry.gov.uk)

We would strongly recommend that the extent of ancient woodland versus heathland potential at these sites is ground truthed to inform the management plan. We would be more than happy to assist with this if required.

#### Increasing species diversity

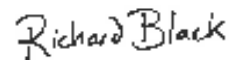
We would support the need for increased species diversity in canopy trees in the Forest of Bere. This would guard against both pathogens and the long term effects of climate change. However we would recommend that this planting should focus on native species of local provenance as providing the most niche opportunities for native species of fauna. Non-natives and especially 'exotics' should be avoided. Small leaved lime is an obvious candidate for the South East as it was once a dominant canopy tree (and, of course, is mentioned in the West Walk design plan). Other candidates are field maple and wild service tree.

#### Monitoring

We note that the monitoring recommendations (Section 3.1) do not appear to include any monitoring of the non-sylvicultural aspects of the woodland. Including some simple monitoring for key indicator species such as birds and butterflies could provide valuable information on the health of the woodland and the success of management measures in biodiversity terms. The RSPB would be happy to advise on such monitoring.

I hope these comments are useful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Black  
Conservation Projects Officer

## Forest of Bere Draft Forest Design Plan 2014

### Timewood Working Group's Response to the Consultation

#### Introduction

Note: Technically, neither Stoke Park nor Whiteley Pastures were ever in the Forest of Bere, which has the River Meon as its western boundary. This was an error created by Hampshire County Council in the 1990s and still perpetuated in their Landscape Character Areas, where most of the land east of the River Itchen falls erroneously under their Forest of Bere designation. It is suggested a small footnote is added, so this 'myth' is recognised.

P.P.3 & 4: 'Whiteley' (mis-spelt)

P.5: 'Honorary' (mis-spelt) Within ASNW/PAWS these species should not be invasive.

P.6: Queen's Inclosure is not depicted on the general map.

#### Section 2.1 Crouch Woods

##### Current Woodland Structure

These woods **are** ancient. They do not appear on the Inventory of Ancient Woodlands because they were 'Open Forest' on the 1810 map, i.e. Wood Pasture. Hugh Milner, when FA WO commissioned a survey by IIBIC, which confirmed ASNW status. It is strongly recommended that all planned operations here **are** revisited and PAWS Restoration is adopted.

##### Tree Diseases and Pests

There is serious invasion of an exotic plant in the south of the western block, Cpt 6405. This must be controlled as a priority.

Long Term Vision - 'discrete' (mis-spelt)

Habitat Restoration map - In left-hand box: Correct to read 'ancient woodland'.

#### Section 2.2 Havant Block

The old yews in Havant Thicket and Havant Hof should be recognised and conserved. The Havant BC Local Plan recognises the high number of yews in the Queen's Inclosure. Reference should be made to their existence. Not only the veterans should be conserved, younger yew present should be recruited as future veterans because there has been no natural regeneration of yew here in recent decades.

##### Predicted Timeline

Why is there only a 50 year rotation for the broadleaves?

Water 1 (Cont.)

The impressive swallow holes in Havant Holt should be recognised and conserved.

Tenure map - Forest of 'Bere' (mis-spelt)

Indicative Species Diversity - 'component' (mis-spelt)

#### 2.2.4 Habitat Restoration and Felling

In the Queen's Inclosure, there are many young POK naturally regenerating from the last heavy thinning in 2004. These should be recruited and promoted.

#### 2.3 Stoke Park

Indicative Species map - 'component' (mis-spelt)

Long Term Vision - 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

Indicative Current Structure - 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

#### 2.4 West Walk

##### Biodiversity and Conservation

There are a significant number of SLI present. LWG consider at least part of West Walk was a Linewood. LWG hope the (revamped) SLI Species Action Plan will continue to be accepted as a part of the FDP for West Walk, as it has been since 2009. If so, please add reference to the SAP after the last para. in this section and include it as an appendix. (The updated SAP is being sent as a separate attachment to this response).

##### Historic Environment

There are not just woodbanks present. There is a significant branched dam below West Lodge, see Audit Survey of Earthworks, BAS report, 2008.

Indicative Species Diversity map - 'Forest of 'Bere' (mis-spelt)

Long Term Vision map - 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

Current Structure Map - 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

Please add the 'Location of Small Leaved Lime' map to this sequence. This is part of the SAP but not yet to hand. It will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Please ensure PAWS Restoration is conducted in those parts of the woodland where SLI is present. It survives as partially suppressed stools in many plantations.

2.5 Whiteley Pastures 2

P.1 'Whiteley' (mis-spelt)

P.21 Current Woodland Structure, second sentence, 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

##### People

Refer to the agreement with Hants CC to absorb the expected huge increase in visitors from the two MDAs into Whiteley Pastures, to 'save' the higher ecological value of Botley Woods from damage.

Location map - 'Whiteley' (mis-spelt)

Aerial map - 'Whiteley' x 2 (mis-spelt)

Indicative Species Diversity map - 'Whiteley' (mis-spelt)

Indicative Current Structure - 'honorary' (mis-spelt)

Predicted Timeline - 'Whiteley' (mis-spelt)

Hugh Milner 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Chairman, Linewood Working Group

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Dear John Stride

I wish to comment on the Creech Wood section of the Forest of Bere Plan. I am a Denmead Parish Councillor but the views given below are personal.

Creech Wood is valued highly by Denmead residents. Access has been improved by the hard surface paths in Creech East and the Children's Adventure play area is excellent. I took my visiting grandchildren there last week and the facilities were enjoyed tremendously.

However I do have a few issues mainly concerned with the biodiversity. I cannot see mention of the Wood's status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. ( East and West )

Landscape . The edge facing towards Forest Road provides a background of attractive landscape to the fields abutting this road . Forest Road is a C road but very heavily used. From higher ground at School Lane the woodland edge provides attractive views.

It is not designated as Ancient Woodland but it does cover an unchanged area of Royal woodland with historic roots providing timber for the ship building at the time of the wooden naval sailing ships. Much of the woodland has been felled post WW2 and degraded by replanting with conifers but as shown on your maps a large area in the West consists of older mainly oak wood. There are ancient woodland indicator species of plants ( including Bluebells, Solomons Seal , Butchers Broom) growing in many areas throughout the wood showing its ancient origins.

I think that part of the West wood should be redesignated as Ancient Woodland and managed accordingly.

There are some localised treasures. Wild daffodils can be found in one section and Royal Fern in another. Woodland butterflies are prolific in the West Creech ancient site including Silver Washed Fritillary , White Admiral and Purple Emperor all of which I have reported in submissions to Hampshire Butterfly Conservation. The powerline wayleave provides good open space for meadow plants and butterflies such as Small and Large Skippers and Marbled Whites. We have in the past seen Grizzled Skippers but not seen by me for some years. Similarly we seem to have lost Turtle Doves over the last few years in line with the loss nationally. The conifers attract Crossbills and Goldcrests .Nightjars were frequent in Creech but seem to have diminished in recent years especially in the East . This may be due to the heavy use of the woods especially by people with free running dogs. This may also be the reason for loss of Spotted Orchids which were prolific along some of the rides in the East. Felling of some areas of timber may help the Nightjars by opening up space. Other birds which have been seen by me in Creech West during the last few years and not previously, include Ravens , Peregrine Falcons and Red Kites. We have lost Nightingales ( again in common with other parts of England ) although habitat management such as hazel coppicing could see their return.

With respect to historic environment the woods on the East contain foundations of the World War 2 POW camp which followed invasion camps prior to D day .

In summary I would enter a plea for continued consideration of the ecology of this important SINC and it was good to see the following statement in the report . "During management interventions, opportunities for ride widening and habitat enhancement will be taken to increase the ecotone of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for associated species."

Please retain Goat Willow and Crack Willow larval food plants for Purple Emperors as well as the old oaks that the adults need.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Hallett  
Warringa Forest Road  
Denmead (Parish Council)  
Hampshire  
PO7 6UE

#### Ancient Woodland Site

The site appears to have been woodland for several centuries (and thus probably for millennia), and is certainly unlikely to have been converted to farmland in the last couple of centuries.

#### 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 predominantly (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

#### Clearfell

Woodland management system where tree cover is removed. This traditionally occurs when the growing canopy reaches its point of maximum mean annual increment, i.e. the trees' rate of growth then starts to decline. The management area is then prepared for either re-planting or allowed to regenerate naturally using the seed source already present in the soil.

#### 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 whether the trees colonised Britain without assistance from humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary natives' were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times); and whether they would naturally be found in this part of England.

#### Natural Regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally through the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These areas may 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.

#### Natural Reserve

Area not to receive formal management intervention unless specific health & safety risks or a threat to the SSSI condition arises or a specific opportunity for biodiversity enhancement is identified.

#### 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 native to the site and surrounding area.

#### Shelterwood 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. Opportunities to enhance existing areas of natural regeneration will be taken along with increasing woodland edge habitat by scalloping ride and road edges for the benefit of biodiversity.

#### Yield Class

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

## Amendments to Approved Forest Enterprise Plans

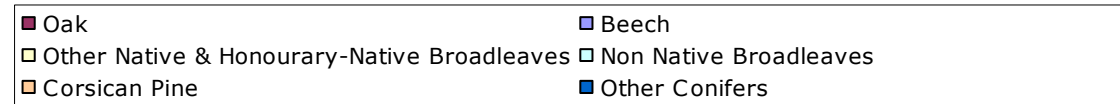
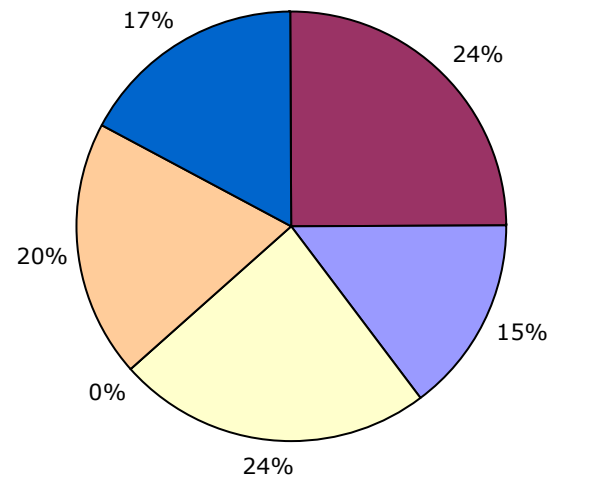
Forestry Commission (Forest Services and Forest Enterprise) should agree baseline tolerance thresholds for operations in each District beyond which exchange of letter/map or formal amendment is required. Unless otherwise specified or agreed by the Forestry Commission, amendment will be by formal revision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

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	Timing of Restocking	Changes to species	Windthrow clearance (2)	Changes to road lines (3)
<b>FC Approval normally not required</b>	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers; broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
<b>Approval by exchange of letters and map</b>	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less			0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly windblown 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
<b>Approval by formal plan amendment</b>	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	> 5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity

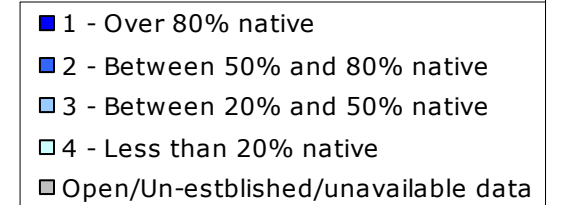
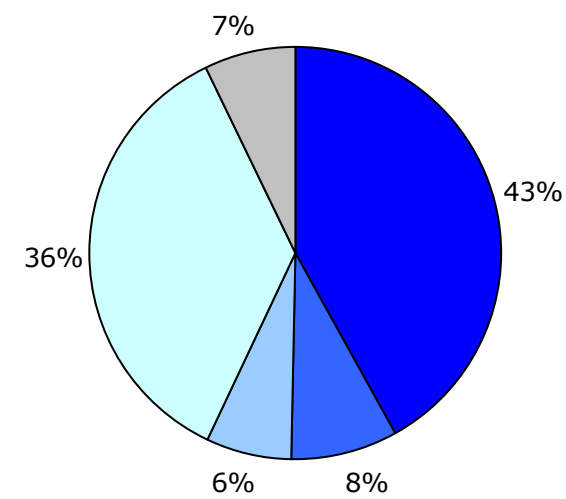
### Notes on Tolerance Table

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.

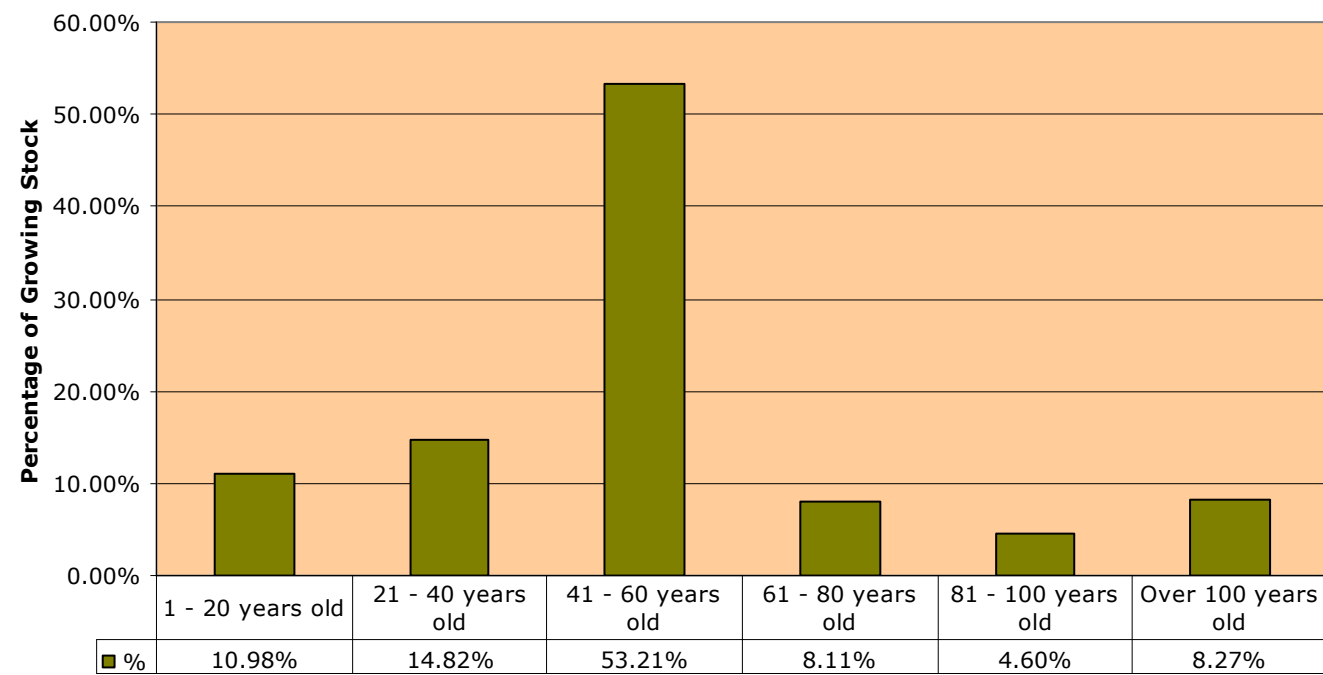
**Species Diversity**



**Semi-Natural Scoring Within Ancient Woodland Areas**

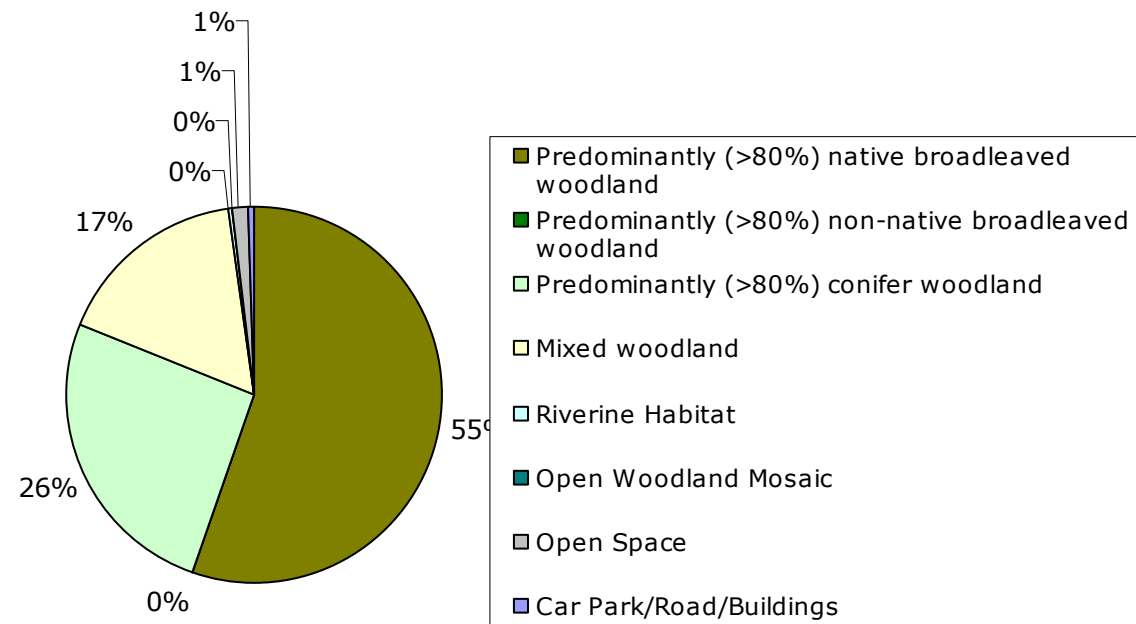


**Age Diversity**

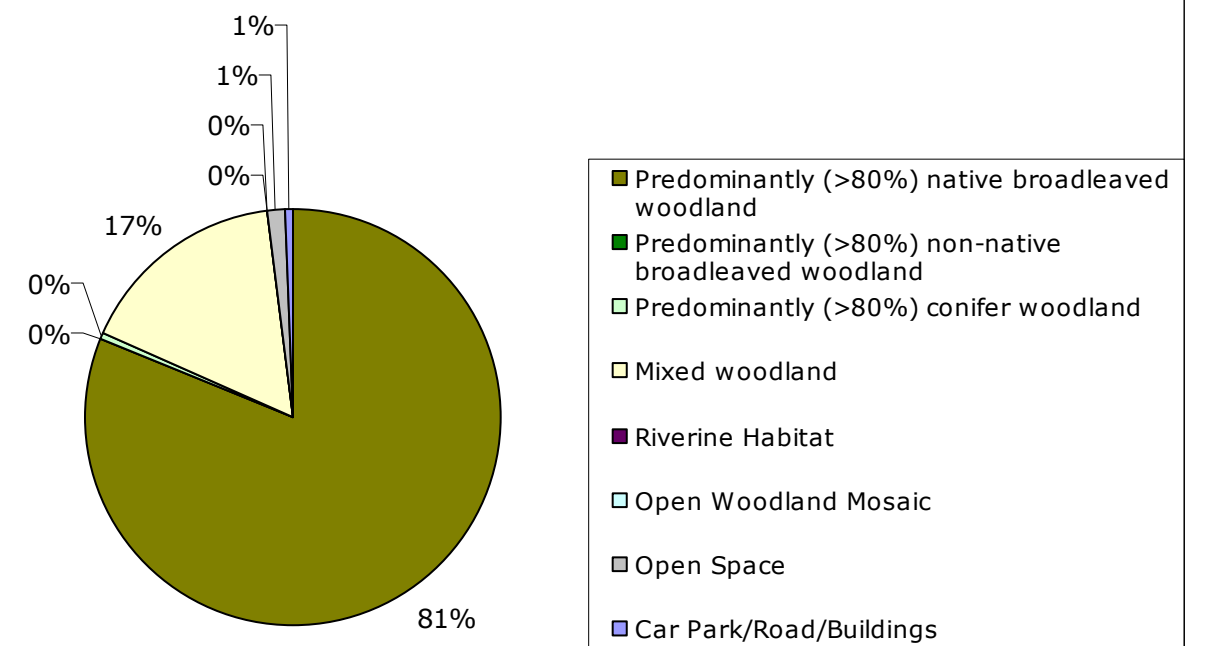




### Current Structure



### Long Term Vision Structure



\*\*Transitional open space created by clearfells, coppice management and regeneration felling will account for an additional proportion of open space equalling approximately 7% in total. The road and ride network, which also provides additional permanent open space is not accounted for in these figures.\*\*

This Forest Plan has been influenced by various key policy statements and guidance documents as highlighted 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 nation's 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 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 Public 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 England Forest District 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**

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

### **Keepers of Time**

This Policy Statement celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodlands 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 to society."*

### **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 governments 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 woodland management in the United Kingdom.

### **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.

### **European Landscape Convention**

As a reflection of European identity and diversity, the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage, be it ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water. The European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.

### **The Identification of Soils for Forest Management**

Forestry Commission Field Guide produced by Fiona Kennedy in 2002.

### **Managing deadwood in forests and woodland, 2012**

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

### **Partnership Management Plan; Shaping the Future of the South Downs National Park 2014-2019. South Downs National Park Authority, 2014**

### **Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan**

### **Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan 2012**

### **East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2009**

### **Havant Biodiversity Action Plan 2011**

### **The Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands: Forestry Practice guide 1: Lowland Acid Beech & Oak Woods; Forestry Commission**