

9. CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL



On-site planning

9.0 Consultation and Approval

The forest design plan is a thirty-year vision for the woodlands for which Forestry Commission Conservancy approval is sought for the first ten year period (2009 to 2019). At this time, outline approval is also sought for the subsequent twenty-year period of proposals (2019 to 2039) (see Table of Forestry Activities opposite and Table of Tolerances opposite). The plan will be examined after the first five years (2014) for a review of progress and to ensure that management continues to achieve the objectives of the plan.

Date of commencement of the plan: 01/01/2009
Expiry date: 31/12/2019
First review date: 31/12/2014



Native woodland regeneration on a site that blew over in 1987.

The key objectives for the High Weald Forest Design Plan are detailed on page 7 and have been drawn up following consultation with partner organisations, stakeholders and members of the public. Consultation aimed to debate strategic issues relating to the content of the forest design plan and to find a compromise between social, economic and environmental objectives. The resulting objectives included in the plan will now form the basis for management across all of the woodlands managed by Forest Enterprise in the High Weald.

*Table of Forestry Activities
 (showing the area of woodland that will be managed under each silvicultural system)*

| Forestry Activity (See Appendix 2: Habitat Restoration & Felling Maps) (See 8.2: Silvicultural Systems) | Area (ha) | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | Predominantly conifer high forest | Predominantly broadleaf high forest | Broadleaf natural regeneration or replanting | Area as % of total area of woodland covered by the forest design plan |
| Management of areas under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (e.g. Shelterwood or Selection) | 934 | 762 | 1696 | 53% |
| Clearfell in period 2007-11 (removes most trees in one operation) | 374 | | 374 | 12% |
| 12-16 | 74 | | 74 | 2% |
| 17-21 | 47 | | 47 | 1% |
| 22-26 | 19 | | 19 | 1% |
| 27-31 | 10 | | 10 | 0% |
| Beyond 2032 | 412 | | 412 | 13% |
| Broadleaf regeneration felling in period 2007-11 (removes most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover across the area) | | 47 | | 1% |
| 12-16 | | 28 | | 1% |
| 17-21 | | 9 | | 0% |
| 22-26 | | 5 | | 0% |
| 27-31 | | 2 | | 0% |
| Beyond 2032 | | 0 | | 0% |
| Management of permanent open space with scattered trees | | 55 | | 2% |
| Management of areas by minimum intervention | | 71 | | 2% |
| Management of Conifer Collection in Bedgebury Pinetum | | 98 | | 3% |
| Management of areas under a Coppice System | | 247 | | 8% |
| TOTAL FOREST DESIGN PLAN AREA: 3194 ha | | | | TOTAL: 100% |

*Table of Tolerances**(showing permitted adjustments to the agreed forest design plan and the required method for gaining approval from Forestry Commission Conservancy)*

| | Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries | Timing of Restocking | Changes to species | Windthrow clearance | Changes to road lines |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| FC Approval normally not required | 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 | |
| Approval by exchange of letters and map | 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 |
| Approval by formal plan amendment | >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 |

Signed: *David Williamson*FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
FOREST ENTERPRISE

Date: 17 December 2008

Signed

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
FORESTRY COMMISSION

Date

Signed

NATURAL ENGLAND

Date

10.0 Glossary of Terms

Ancient woodland sites

Sites which have been continuously wooded since before 1600 AD in England. Some of these woodlands may be primary (i.e. remnants of our prehistoric woodlands) and others will have arisen as secondary woodland on ground cleared sometime prior to 1600 AD. Ancient refers to the history of the *site* as woodland.

Ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW)

An ancient woodland where the trees and shrubs are semi-natural, i.e. predominantly composed of trees and shrubs that are native to the site and are not obviously planted.

Biological Diversity

The richness and variety of wildlife and habitats.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees.

Clearfelling

The cutting of all trees in a defined area.

Compartments

Permanent management units of land within a forest, divided into sub-compartments.

Coupes

Areas of forest that have or will be clear felled.

England Forestry Strategy

Describes how the Government will deliver its forestry policies in England and sets out the Government's priorities for the next five to ten years.

Forestry Commission Guidelines

Outline the principles and standards of good management practices in forests and woodlands to enable landowners, land managers and their advisors to satisfy Forestry Commission policy.

Operational Site Assessment (OSA)

Detailed site plans that are prepared in advance of all major forest operations and identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Group shelterwood system

A management system that allows young crops to become established under the side shelter of existing crops. Several areas of 0.1 to 0.5 ha are felled across an area to bring about natural regeneration on the ground beneath the existing tree crop. Once adequate regeneration has been achieved in these gaps, further groups of trees are removed and the cycle is repeated until the desired area is completely regenerated.

Habitat Action Plans

UK wide plans for priority habitats defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They contain quantitative targets for conserving, restoring and expanding the habitats.

Marginal thinning intensity

The maximum volume of timber per ha that can be removed each year without incurring any loss of cumulative volume production over the rotation of a crop. This is defined as approximately 70% of the yield class per year for most species and the volume is often removed on a cycle. For example, for a crop of yield class 14, thinning to marginal intensity would remove 9.8 m³ per ha per year (or 49 m³ per ha on a 5 year cycle).

Native woodland

Woodland containing tree and shrub species which colonised Britain unaided by the influence of man after the last Ice Age.

Natural regeneration

The renewal of a woodland by natural means, e.g. from seed in the soil deposited by surrounding trees or brought in by wind, birds or other animals.

Non-native species

Trees and shrubs that have been introduced to the UK by the activities of man. Also used to describe species not native to the site and locality.

Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

Planted woodlands of any species on ancient woodland sites.

Red Data Book species

Species that are included on Red Data lists published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The lists are based on a global system developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) for classifying species according to their extinction risk.

Restocking

The re-establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration or by planting.

Ride

Forestry term for roads, paths and tracks within a woodland.

Semi-natural woodland

A woodland predominantly composed of trees and shrubs that are native to the site and are not obviously planted.

Species Action Plan

A conservation plan under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for species based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements, which identifies the action needed to stabilise and improve its status.

SSSI

Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest comprising a more or less uniform crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. Their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

Strategic Plan

Serves as a guide to the management of woodlands within South East England Forest District. It divides the district into zones for the purpose of management and ensures that forestry activities reflect the local ecological, social and cultural individuality of woodland. Strategic objectives for each zone are presented within the context of the Government's strategic priorities for forestry in England (e.g. forestry for rural development; forestry for economic regeneration; forestry for recreation, access and tourism and forestry for the environment and conservation).

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of the trees in a sub-compartment to improve the quality of the remaining trees, accelerate individual tree growth and provide income.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK government response to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio de Janeiro: includes actions to safeguard key habitats and species.

UK Forestry Standard

Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

A voluntary Standard for the independent assessment of forest management in the UK. The Standard has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to the growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests. It has been designed to ensure that it reflects the requirements of both the Government's UK Forestry Standard - and through this the guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993 - and the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC's) GB Standard.

Uniform Shelterwood System

A management system that allows young crops to become established under the overhead shelter of existing crops. The existing tree crop is evenly and gradually removed over time in successive regeneration fellings to bring about natural regeneration on the ground beneath.

Veteran tree

A tree that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, or a tree that is in the ancient stage of its life, or a tree that is old relative to others of the same species.

Windthrow

Uprooting or breakage of trees caused by strong winds.

Yield Class

Indicates the growth rate of a tree crop and is defined as the point in time where the mean annual increment (MAI) of a crop reaches a maximum. This is the maximum average rate of volume increment that a particular crop can achieve and this indicates the yield class. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual increment of 14 m³ per ha has a yield class of 14.

11. *Select Bibliography*

- Anon. (2004). *The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2004: A 20-Year Strategy*. High Weald AONB. Available: <http://www.highweald.org/text.asp?PageId=12>
- Anon. (2005). *Keepers of Time. A Statement of Policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland*. DEFRA and Forestry Commission. Available: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6H3FVS>
- Anon. (2006). *A Local Accord Between the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee and the Forestry Commission*. High Weald AONB and Forestry Commission. Available: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>
- Anon. (2007). *Our Direction and Delivery. Estate Delivery Plan 2007/08*. Forestry Commission.
- Anon. (2007). *A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests*. DEFRA.
- Dolphin Ecological Surveys (1997). *St. Leonard's Forest. Survey and Identification of Potential Heathland Recreation Sites*. West Sussex County Council.
- Ellis, J. (2004). *Seeing the Wood for the Trees. A Forestry and Woodlands Framework for South East England*. HMSO. Available: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>
- Greenaway, T., Roper, P. and Ryland, K. (2004). *Wooded Heaths in the High Weald. A Research Project to Further the Understanding of the Ecology and Management of the Woodland/Heathland Mosaic*. Record Centre Survey Unit, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD.
- High Weald AONB (2008). *About the High Weald* (online). Available: <http://www.highweald.org/text.asp?PageId=6> (accessed Jan 2008).
- McKernan, P. and Grose, M. (2007). *An Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision in the South East*. Forestry Commission. Available: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>
- Natural England (2008). *Natural Areas* (online). Available: http://www.english-nature.org.uk/science/natural/na_search.asp (accessed Jan 2008).
- Natural England (2008). *Sites of Special Scientific Interest* (online). Available: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/ssi/> (accessed Jan 2008).
- RSPB (2006). *The Bird Conservation Targeting Project*. GIS records obtained from RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL.
- Spencer, J. and Haworth, R. (2005). *Heathland on the Forestry Commission Estate in England*. Forestry Commission.
- Symes, N. and Currie, F. (2005). *Woodland Management for Birds: A Guide to Managing for Declining Woodland Birds in England*. RSPB, Sandy and Forestry Commission England, Cambridge.
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2008). *UK List of Species and Habitats* (online). Available: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx> (accessed Jan 2008).
- Wheeler, B. (1997). *St. Leonard's Forest. Ecological Background Report*. West Sussex County Council.

| Amendment to Forest Design Plan | Date |
|--|-------------|
| | |