


Woodland Management Plan

Woodland Property Name	Vert Woods Community Woodland (Roger Ross)		
Case Reference	40085		
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	Approval Date: 1/2/2017	To: 1/2/2027	
Five Year Review Date	1/1/2022		

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
1.1	1/12/16	draft	initial plan creation
1.2	27/1/17	draft	revision post FC comment
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

User Support

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UKFS Management Planning Criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria, prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

No.	UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Applicant Check
1	Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is it consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Vert Woods Community Woodland	
Name	Roger Ross	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email	rogerramaross@yahoo.co.uk	Contact Number	
Agent Name (if applicable)		Christine Meadows	
Email	c.r.meadows@talk21.com	Contact Number	07815 096167
County	East Sussex	Local Authority	Wealden District Council
Grid Reference 	TQ520141	Single Business Identifier 	200091366
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		69	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
List the maps associated with this management plan		Map 1 - Location and context Map 2 - Current woodland compartment structure Map 3 - Constraints Map 4 - Opportunities and Threats Map 5 - Proposed woodland structure, ride, glade and pond maintenance Map 6 - Felling map Map 7 - 5 and 20 year infrastructure	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thinning Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland Regeneration Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tick to declare management control and agreement to public availability of the plan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

2. Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

Our Mission is to create and maintain an inspirational working Community Woodland that puts Nature at the heart of decisions. We seek to establish a self-sustaining and thriving woodland culture that connects people with the natural environment, now and into the future.

Within this, our aim is to create and manage a healthy, self-sustaining woodland that can deliver the Community Woodland mission over the long term. Specifically that will mean:

- gradual restoration towards an ancient semi-natural woodland able to support greater biodiversity, provide increased woodland resilience, mitigate against climate change and maintain ecosystem services within the context of the wider woodland landscape
- development of the ride and glade network and the riparian areas to provide a greater range of wildlife habitat and the potential for relevant species to re-colonise the wood
- provision of access for the community, for amenity, for education and for personal development
- provision of an environment for woodland revenue generation and employment

This plan relates to a large, undermanaged woodland, and achievement of the mission statement will take more than one 10-year Woodland Management Plan cycle.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	The woodland will be placed on a path of restoration to ancient semi-natural woodland by gradual removal of the conifer plantation at 20% every five years accompanied by support for natural regeneration and enrichment planting where appropriate
2	The woodland will be maintained as or converted to approximately 80% canopy cover with a higher degree of structural and species diversity to provide support

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	for increased biodiversity, climate change mitigation and continuance of ecosystem services.
3	The ride, pond and stream systems will be converted to an interlinked network of rides, glades and wet woodland areas offering a range of wildlife habitats
4	Public access and nature connection opportunities will be supported by the development of the path network, the provision of hard infrastructure and a small shared-use car park, subject to the appropriate planning permission
5	Timber revenue will be enhanced and developed by the selective thinning throughout, support for regeneration and replanting with site-appropriate species

Add Box

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
6	To optimise the development of the woodland ecosystem on a landscape basis, including management of deer impact, by collaboration with neighbouring landowners
7	
8	
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16	

3. Plan Review - Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.


Objectives	Achievement

Add Box

4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints i.e. designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property 

The area comprising Vert Wood Community Wood (VWCW) is 69 ha, covering Upper Vert Wood and a portion of Lower Vert Wood, Laughton. The wood forms a large proportion of the ancient woodland Vert Wood, and is approximately equidistant between the boundaries of the South Downs National Park and the High Weald AONB, forming a crucial link in the mosaic of local woodlands. It sits astride the watershed between the Ouse and the Cuckmere, near to the Park Corner Heath SSSI and Rowlands Wood, both managed by Butterfly Conservation.

The woodland is classified as Ancient Replanted Woodland (PAWS), and was part of the Pelham family estate for approximately 700 years. The wood exists as a banked woodland on a 1610 map of Sussex woods, and was clearly separated from the adjacent Halland Deer Park, also owned by the Pelham family, as well as the local wood commons of Laughton and Whitesmith as shown in the 1778 map of the estate. (Appendix A, Figure 1). The 1875 Ordnance Survey maps show that conifers were already established at that date, and this is confirmed by 1947 aerial photographs showing established conifer plantations. These plantations were supplemented after the Second World War (Appendix A, Figure 2).

The woodland is mostly wet, acid, oak/birch/beechness woodland on a clay/silt soil with principally a W10a ground flora. There are some relict areas of heathy woodland (Appendix A, Figure 6). Some compartments are almost entirely young Scots pine and Corsican pine (Appendix A, Figure 3), others have a much more varied composition with significant numbers of broadleaved seed trees (Appendix A, Figure 5). As is the case throughout Vert Woods, the compartments are very much intermingled and apart from the conifer plantation, there is no evidence of a consistent silvicultural system such as coppice with standards. Although areas of previously-coppiced hornbeam, oak, sweet chestnut and birch are present, the trees were coppiced opportunistically rather than in an organised system.

Natural regeneration and the survival of ancient woodland features varies from plentiful to absent across the woodland, with seedling and sapling numbers constrained at


present by the high level of deer browsing. The current compartment type and structure are shown in Map 2.

A public by-way, Vert Lane, crosses the site from east to west and a public footpath runs through one corner of compartment 3 in the south-east. The by-way edges are marked by a significant woodbank system supporting overstood pollard and coppice specimens, as shown in Appendix A, Figure 8.

The nature of the historical silvicultural system used on the woodland has been verified by contact with a forester employed on the estate after WWII, who has confirmed that underwood was collected on a contract basis by charcoal and firewood producers, and that larger timber was sawn locally for use by the estate.

4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the '[Magic](#)' website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)		Map No
Biodiversity - Designations						
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Special Area of Conservation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Special Protection Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ramsar Site 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
National Nature Reserve	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local Nature Reserve	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Notes						

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes		
Biodiversity - European Protected Species							
Bat	Species (if known)		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5	3	Overflying and feeding roosts
Dormouse		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2	3		
Great Crested Newt		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1	3		
Otter		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sand Lizard		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Smooth Snake		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Natterjack Toad		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Biodiversity – Priority Species						
Schedule 1 Birds Species	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1,3	3		Some melanistic adders
Plants	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Wide range of common woodland plants
Fungi/Lichens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Wide range of common woodland fungi
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Historically hosted the small pearl-bordered fritillary
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5			Toads present
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Historic Environment						
Scheduled Monuments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5	2, 5		Woodbank system
Listed Buildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Landscape						
National Character Area (please Specify):						
National Park	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				7km from South Downs National Park boundary
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				7km from High Weald AONB boundary
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
People						
CROW Access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2, 3	3		By-way and public footpath
Other Access Provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5	7		General access on foot available to local visitors
Public Involvement	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5			Regular contact with local parish councils, school and family group visits

Visitor Information	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	3, 5	4	Existing education and personal development groups using the site
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-4	4	Off-road drivers and poaching
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Water					
Watercourses	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-4	3	Seasonal streams, springs
Lakes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Ponds	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1	2,3,5	
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types					
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2		Small area, hardly distinguishable from PAWS (Appendix A, Figure 5). Treated as PAWS in plan.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5	3	Most of site
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-5		Variable amounts of regeneration depending on conifer density
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 5	2,4	

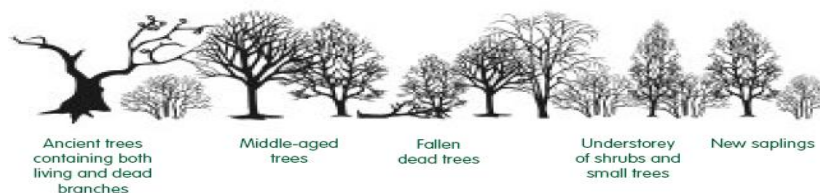
Upland mixed ash woods	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland Oakwood	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wet woodland	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1-4	3	Seasonally very wet
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Non Woodland Habitat Types					
Blanket bog	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Fenland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland calcareous grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland heath land	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2	3	Small relict heathy areas within broadleaf compartments
Lowland meadows	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland raised bog	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rush pasture	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Reed bed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wood pasture	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland hay meadows	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland heath land	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Unimproved grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Peat lands	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wetland habitats	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

4.4 Structure

This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

Woodland Type	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Coniferous	47	Even Aged	Limited understory or natural regeneration
Native Broadleaves	22	Uneven Aged	Reasonable ground flora; limited understory or natural regeneration
Intimate Mix	31	Uneven Aged	Limited understory or natural regeneration
Please Select....		Please Select...	
Please Select....		Please Select...	

Uneven-aged woodland – many wildlife habitats because of high diversity



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



5. Woodland Protection





Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Using the simple Risk Assessment process below woodland owners and managers can consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 Plant Health

Threat 	Ash Dieback (<i>Chalara fraxinea</i>)
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence 	High
Impact 	Low
Response (inc protection measures) 	Very few ash trees present. Monitor and fell if dangerous as per FC guidance. Avoid planting ash.

Add Box

Threat	Dothistroma Needle Blight
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Thin conifer plantations to allow air circulation

Add Box

Threat	Phytophthora ramorum
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Larch plantation currently free of disease; monitor annually in spring

Add Box

Threat	Other
(Other Please Specify)	Phytophthora cinnamomi
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Remove diseased chestnut; avoid working on chestnut in wet conditions; replant with disease resistant stock or alternative species

5.3 [Deer](#)

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Undertake Deer Impact Analysis in May and November each year; protect all planted stock and selected natural regeneration; pollarding of broadleaves where appropriate to reduce browsing risk; control deer based on DIA results in co-operation with neighbours.

5.4 [Grey Squirrels](#)

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Retain some conifer and sycamore as alternative food sources and sacrificial trees; create open areas and more open canopy for natural predators

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat	Rabbit
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Planted stock and selected natural regeneration will be protected with tree tubes

Add Box

Threat	Other
(Other Please Specify)	Wild boar
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor to assess arrival and prepare control plan if required

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat	Acidification of Water
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Remove conifers from riparian zones and replace with broadleaves to reduce acidification and maintain lower water temperatures

Add Box

Threat	Point Pollution
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Oil and fuel due to restoration felling will be subject to full containment procedures

Add Box

Threat	Other
(Other Please Specify)	Nitrification due to increased access
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Contain impact away from water features and within higher-use areas; Implement dog faeces policy

5.7 Environmental

Threat	Fire
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Reduce percentage of flammable conifers through restoration; ensure visiting groups positioned in areas of low flammability; implement a 'no-fires' policy in dry periods, especially Feb to June.

Add Box

Threat	Anti-social Behaviour
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Maintain boundaries and secure gates

Add Box

Threat	Invasive Species
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Small numbers of laurel will be removed; Turkey oaks will be identified and ring-barked during selection for thinning operations

5.8 [Climate Change](#) Resilience

Threat	Lack of Tree Species Diversity
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Conifer areas (Scots Pine especially) liable to be intolerant to increased temperature; restoration will reduce percentage of conifers. In addition to natural regeneration, any planted stock will be sourced from certified locations 2-3 degrees south of Vert Woods

Add Box

Threat	Uniform Structure
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Thinning regime will increase structural diversity; support for regeneration will increase percentage of understory

Add Box

Threat	Please Select....
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

6. Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management Obj/Feature	Management Intention
<p>The woodland will be placed on a path of restoration to ancient semi-natural woodland.</p>	<p>Selective thinning of conifer plantations at 20% every five years followed by support for natural regeneration in the form of fencing, individual tree protections and deer control; stump gathering in dense conifer areas, scarification and direct seeding will be used in areas that need additional support for regeneration. Over the long term (beyond this WMP) the intention would be to leave approximately 20% conifer in the current plantation compartments. Ground flora features will be mapped in detail and activities planned to minimise impact.</p>
<p>The woodland will be maintained as or converted to 80% canopy cover with increased structural and species diversity.</p>	<p>Selective marking on a detailed scale will be used to prepare compartments, identifying conservation trees and future timber specimens. Thinning will favour broadleaves and trees able to deliver potential timber revenue. Trees with habitat or reasonable growth potential will be halo thinned. Pollarding, singling and low-intensity coppicing will be used within the woodland canopy to increase structural diversity. Where natural regeneration proves insufficient, or to mitigate against the risks of disease and climate change, enrichment planting will be used to increase the range and type of species in the wood. Planted species mix will be 40% OK, 30% HBM, 5% BE and 25% other species including WCH, WST, SLI and WEM, all of which occur in small numbers in the wood. Small coupes (0.1, 0.3 and 0.5ha) will be clearfelled in Compartments 2 and 5 to accelerate the replacement of poor quality conifer plantation with a more diverse species mix, using a mixture of supported natural regeneration and enrichment planting Programme of work as outlined in the POP.</p>
<p>A range of wildlife habitats will be developed along the rides and glades, woodbanks and wood edges.</p>	<p>The existing narrow, shaded rides will be opened up into an interlinked scalloped ride system, including some glades (Map 5). Rides and glades will be maintained by a mixture of mowing, scything (Appendix A, Figure 7) and coppicing. Timber extraction will be undertaken on racks and rides away from habitat rides where possible. Woodbanks and elderly pollards/coppice stools will be restored to provide a mixture of dappled shade and open ground, using pollarding, thinning, coppicing,</p>

	<p>singling and possible re-planting where stools have failed. Fencing and deer control will be implemented. Road edges will be cut back and maintained in a graded profile to provide additional habitat.</p> <p>Existing ground flora hotspots will be conserved; additional light through thinning and ride development will provide more habitat for native ground flora and bryophytes.</p> <p>Deadwood resources will be maintained or developed to ten cubic metres per hectare throughout.</p>
Public access will be supported	<p>Public access will be supported by the development of the path network and signage, the provision of hard infrastructure and a small shared-use car park, subject to the appropriate planning permission.</p> <p>Impacts on the ground will be planned and managed to avoid compaction or disturbance of soil.</p> <p>Access improvement (forest road) will also assist timber extraction, although the intention is to minimise the amount of hard surface introduced into the wood.</p>
Timber revenue support	<p>Timber revenue will be enhanced and developed by the selective thinning throughout, support for regeneration and replanting with site-appropriate species</p>
Maintenance and enhancement of the pond and stream system	<p>Main pond will be maintained at 30% open water cover by clearance of excessive vegetation in autumn; 20% of the pond will be cleared and dredged every five years to maintain deeper water; new ponds will be dug downstream of the main pond as recommended by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to increase the extent of the pond system and retain water within the wood.</p> <p>20% each year of conifers around main pond will be removed until pond surface has light.</p> <p>Conifer will be removed from stream heads and regeneration or existing broadleaves managed to create mixture of shade habitats.</p> <p>Excess conifer brush in stream bed will be removed and replaced with flow-slowing features.</p>
Maintenance of the existing archaeology and woodbank system	<p>All access to the woods will be via existing breaches in the banks; foot traffic over the banks will be minimised; restoration of woodland on the woodbanks will take place in dry periods to minimise damage.</p>
Wet ground, ponds and seasonal streams	<p>Foot traffic will be planned and monitored, with paths being closed or upgraded as conditions require.</p> <p>Low impact forestry equipment will be used on the forest floor, with larger vehicles confined to hard tracks.</p> <p>Where possible, work will be carried out in dryer periods.</p>
European Protected Species	<p>All existing guidance will be followed.</p> <p>Dormice habitat will be worked only in small portions, with the work confined to August/September.</p>

	<p>Ponds will be monitored for GCNs in March-June 2017, and an environmental impact assessment carried out for the proposed hard surface areas.</p> <p>Bat survey so far shows only overflying and one feeding roost. All compartments will be checked in detail for bats before work begins.</p>
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Add Box

<p>To optimise the development of the woodland ecosystem on a landscape basis, including management of deer impact, by collaboration with neighbouring landowners</p>	<p>Ride and glade network will be linked to neighbouring woodlands to provide habitat continuity.</p> <p>Thinning plans will be coordinated with adjacent woodlands to reduce impact if necessary.</p> <p>Deer impact management will be planned and undertaken in conjunctions with neighbouring landowners, stalkers and the Deer Initiative.</p>

7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Overall plan	Laughton Parish Council	12/11/16	10/12/16	Initial presentation of woodland management plan appreciated	Present to full meeting
	Residential neighbours	04/11/16	12/11/16	Clear positive response to woodland restoration	Work with Parish Council to address Park Lane verges issue
	Woodland neighbour Dirk Campbell	26/10/16	26/10/16	Supportive	Keep informed on progress
	Woodland neighbour Tom Ottaway	On-going	Detailed input to plan	Supportive and involved	Keep involved in progress
	Woodland neighbour Jason Packham and parents	28/11/16	28/11/16	Supportive	
	CLR	1/9/16	9/11/16	Positive to joint woodland management in education and nature access area	Develop shared woodland management plan

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
	Woodland Trust	2/11/16	10/11/16	Provided a great deal of initial surveying and input to the plan. Comments positive and included in draft	Keep involved in progress
	Butterfly Conservation	1/7/15	16/10/16	Very positive	Keep involved to link up habitat development to north-west and SSSI
	Other local parish councils (Chiddingly, Chalvington with Ripe, East Hoathly and Ringmer)	Various throughout 2016	Various throughout 2016	Positive and would like to be kept informed of developments	Continue regular communications

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8. Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
The woodland will be placed on a path of restoration to ancient semi-natural woodland by gradual removal of the conifer plantation at 20% every five years accompanied by support for natural regeneration and enrichment planting where appropriate	Percentage of broadleaves to conifers.	Mensuration of fixed sample plots in each compartment.	Before and after each thinning.	VWCW	
	Achievement of conifer thinning.	Volume of conifer timber removed.	Annual tally.		
	Numbers of regenerated or planted trees less than five and ten years old.	Survey of fixed plots in thinned areas.	Annually after thinning.		
	Ground flora sustained or improved.	NVC survey in each compartment.	Spring 2017 and annually thereafter.		
	Deadwood levels maintained or increased	Survey of fixed areas.	Annual or after forestry operations.		

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
	Decrease in deer impact.	Deer Impact Assessment	Twice per year		
The woodland will be maintained as or converted to approximately 80% canopy cover with a higher degree of structural and species diversity to provide support for increased biodiversity, climate change mitigation and continuance of ecosystem services.	Canopy cover in fixed sample plots.	Visual or drone surveys.	Spring 2017 and each compartment every three years subsequently.	VWCW throughout	
	Percentage of structural levels in stratified samples.	Mensuration of fixed sample plots in each compartment.	Summer 2017 and every five years subsequently		
	Survival rates of planted trees. Progressive restoration of wood edges and wood banks to create greater structural diversity.	Tally within fixed sample plots. Visual assessment and photographs	One and five years after planting. Annual		
The ride, pond and stream systems will be converted to an interlinked network	Percentage of open space in woodland.	Photographic survey by drone.	Annual	VWCW	

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
of rides, glades and wet woodland areas offering a range of wildlife habitats	Percentage of open space around pond Percentage of open water in pond(s)	Visual assessment Visual assessment and photograph	Annual Annual		
Public access and nature connection opportunities will be supported by the development of the path network, the provision of hard infrastructure and a small shared-use car park, subject to the appropriate planning permission	Provision of one signed pathway. Installation of forest track and hardstanding. Footfall impact controlled or minimised.	Photograph Photograph Survey of main tracks and paths	2017 2018 Annually in early spring	VWCW	
To optimise the development of the woodland ecosystem on a landscape basis, including management of deer impact, by collaboration with neighbouring landowners	Joint ride and glade plans agreed with neighbours. Thinning plans shared with neighbours. Year on year improvement in ground flora, including seedling trees	Plan in place Meeting notes Habitat and deer impact assessments	End 2017 As thinning works through woods Annual	VWCW	

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results

Add Box

FC Approval – FC Office Use Only

UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Yes	No	Notes
Forest management plans should state the objectives of management, and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential, and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Approving Officer Name		Plan approved		<input type="checkbox"/>