

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland Property Name	Lamberhurst Parish Council Woodlands	
Case Reference	40168	
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	Approval Date: 2018	To: 2027
Five Year Review Date	2022	

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
1	31/01/2017	Draft	PC comments
	19/06/2017	Draft	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 five year review period been stated below and 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 consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name:			Lamberhurst Parish Council Woodlands	
Name	Lamberhurst Parish Council c/o Mrs Barbara Uren 1 Tanyard Cottages, The Broadway Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8DD		Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email	parishclerk@lamberhurstvillage.co.uk		Contact Number	01892 890940
Agent Name (if applicable)			Julian Miller, Miller Land Management Grooms Cottage, Whitfield Hill, Dover, Kent CT 16 3BJ	
Email	jools@millerlandmanagement.co.uk		Contact Number	01304 447867
County	Kent	Local Authority	Tunbridge Wells Council	
Grid Reference	TQ674354		Single Business Identifier	116371517
Management Plan Area (Hectares)			10.9 ha	
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 map Maps 2a – 2c: Sub-compartments maps Map 3a – 3c: Designations maps Maps 4a – 4c: Public access maps Maps 5a – 5c: Hazards / constraints maps Maps 6a – 6c: Harvesting proposals maps Maps 7a – 7c: Other operations maps	
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 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).

The woodland will be managed to ensure that its landscape appeal, nature conservation interest and historic environment features are protected and where practical enhanced. Public access provision will be maintained and the woodland will continue to provide a safe, peaceful and pleasant setting for quiet informal recreational activities. Where practical and compatible with the above objectives, an income will be derived from timber and woodfuel production

The aim will be to maintain a balanced woodland ecosystem which is capable of the sustainable delivery of a wide range of public benefits in perpetuity.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	<p><i>Maintain the historic and landscape value of the woodland:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by adoption of low impact silvicultural systems and use of small felling coupes to reduce negative landscape impacts. - by regular thinning to maintain individual tree stability - by retention of veteran trees where there is no conflict with health and safety considerations - by managing public access impacts on historic features within the woodland - by surveying for historic environment features prior to operations - by avoiding damage to identified features during harvesting, extraction and other woodland operations
2	<p><i>Sustainable production of timber and woodfuel:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By managing the woodland under continuous cover principles, with regular thinning to provide wood fuel and potentially timber for sale. - By re-establishing a coppice regime with a 25-year cycle in a proportion of the stands. - Ensure adequate restocking levels are achieved by natural regeneration, layering and / or replanting. - By controlling deer and other threats to the economic value of the woodland.
3	<p><i>Maintain and where practical enhance the biodiversity value of the native woodland:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By re-introducing a traditional small-scale coppicing regime over parts of the woodland (as above); - By identifying, protecting and retaining veteran trees where present ; - By identifying and protecting the habitat of rare and endangered species; - By protecting the woodland from damage by deer; - By maintaining fences where necessary to prevent stock trespass; - By monitoring and controlling invasive shrub species (e.g. laurel); - By annual cutting of paths, rides and tracks to maintain areas of permanent open ground habitat - By retention of standing and fallen deadwood as important habitat provided there is no conflict with H&S requirements.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
4	<p><i>Maintain and where practical enhance public access provision within the woodland:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By maintaining the path network in safe and useable condition and creating new paths where appropriate. - By maintaining tree safety, especially in areas of heavy public use and along roadsides. - By controlling anti-social behaviour and unauthorised access. - By maintaining and improving interpretation facilities within the woodland - By encouraging public engagement in management activities.

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
n/a	Not applicable this is the first CS plan for the woodland

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	<p>This plan covers woodland extending to a total of 10.9ha on common land in the care of Lamberhurst Parish Council at three locations:</p> <p>The Down, Lamberhurst: approx. 4.8ha of woodland in three blocks situated about half a kilometre south of the centre of Lamberhurst village, Kent: the access point to the largest block is at NGR TQ675355.</p> <p>Hook Green: two parcels of woodland totalling 4 ha in the hamlet of Hook Green, approximately 2km west of Lamberhurst village. Grid reference TQ653357.</p> <p>Free Heath: A parcel of about 2.7ha, located 3km south-west of Lamberhurst and 3 km north of Wadhurst. Grid reference TQ651345.</p> <p>The woodlands are situated within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in a rolling plateau landscape, characterised by medium to large sized blocks of woodland in mosaic with grazed pasture and some arable land.</p> <p>The majority of the woodland blocks occupy fairly level plateau sites, at elevations between 70m and 90m above sea level, although the local topography of The Down is influenced by past quarrying, creating some steep areas. Free Heath occupies a hillside position at a slightly higher elevation of 110- 125m. Soils are mainly fertile, slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. The underlying geology is sedimentary, comprising sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation.</p> <p>All the woodlands are designated as common land. Ordnance Survey maps indicate that in the early 1900s all compartments were rough pasture with only scattered trees, but by the 1940s denser tree cover was beginning to develop, at least on parts of The Down and Free Heath.</p> <p>All blocks are therefore secondary woodland which has probably arisen mainly through natural succession during periods of reduced grazing pressure. Most of the trees are relatively young although there are older oaks in some blocks, particularly around the boundaries, and even some veteran trees. Some of the trees appear to have been managed by coppicing in the past. There is also evidence of past industrial use – there is a large gravel pit at The Slade (sub-compartment 2b) and smaller workings at Free Heath (sub-compartment 3d).</p> <p>None of the woodland is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) although Free Heath adjoins a substantial block of ASNW (Shepherds Ward Wood).</p> <p>The majority of the woodland consists of naturally regenerated broadleaved</p>
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	<p>mixtures, with a range of species present, but oak and birch generally the dominant species.</p> <p>There is a fairly diverse age class structure over the woodland as a whole, although many of the stands are relatively young and compartment 2 in particular was badly affected by windblow in the 1987 storms when many older trees were lost.</p> <p>A sub-compartment schedule is provided in Appendix 1 – this includes an illustration of the current species composition and age class distribution. Also included is a calculation of the estimated sustainable yield from the woodland, which has been assessed as approximately 30 cubic metres per annum, or 300 cubic metres over the 10 years of this plan.</p> <p>Provision of opportunities for public recreation is a very important function of the woodland, particularly at The Down which adjoins Lamberhurst village. There are several public footpaths through the woodland, and two small car parks at The Down. There are also numerous other paths as there is unrestricted public access on foot - all the woodland is designated as "Access Land" under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.</p> <p>As there has been limited management in recent years, most stands would now benefit from some sensitive intervention. There is scope to carry out small scale coppicing, thinning and planting, and other operations to improve access and biodiversity if resources are available.</p>
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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.

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"/>	3b
Special Area of Conservation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tree Protection Order	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please Specify): Local Wildlife Site	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	3a, 3b
Notes:	<p>Sub-compartments 2b and 2c are within “The Down, Lamberhurst” Local Wildlife Site (Kent Wildlife Trust reference TW59). Sub-compartment 1b and part of sub-compartment 1a are within “Woods and Pasture near River Teise above Lamberhurst” Local Wildlife Site (KWT ref TW12). Citations for both of these sites are included as Appendix 3.</p> <p>These parts of the woodland will be managed in a way that will maintain and where practical enhance the special nature conservation interest as identified in the citation documents.</p> <p>Compartment 2 is about 550m from Scotney Castle Site of Special Scientific Interest but the proposed woodland management should not have any impact on the SSSI. The SSSI citation is provided in Appendix 4</p>					

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"/>	(all)		See below
Dormouse		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(all)		No records but see below
Great Crested Newt		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2		See below
Otter		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Sand Lizard		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Smooth Snake		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Natterjack Toad		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Notes		<p>Bats are assumed to be present throughout the woodland. There are records of two bat species: Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) and Daubentons bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>) in the vicinity of the woods. There are no known roosts within the woodland, but older trees in particular will have strong potential to provide suitable niches for roosts for some species.</p> <p>There are records of dormice in nearby woodland at Scotney Castle. The presence of some hazel, honeysuckle and bramble cover provides suitable habitat for this species so they are potentially present within all the woods.</p>				

Provided that the relevant EPS guidelines are adhered to (see Appendix 2), the risk of adverse impact on these species is low. The operations proposed will generally be low intensity and without the use of heavy machinery. All work sites will be assessed for the presence of and likely impact on EPS prior to operations.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	(all)	See below
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	2b		See below
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	1a,2b		See below
Plants	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Fungi/Lichens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			No records
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	2b		See below
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Notes	<p>There are records of willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>) and song thrush ((<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) at The Down and all areas are likely to be used by other woodland bird species. Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citronella</i>) has been recorded close to the Down.</p> <p>There are records of slow worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>), common lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>) and grass snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>) within sub-compartment 1a (Hook Green), with slow worm and grass snake also recorded in sub-compartment 2b (The Slade).</p> <p>Water voles (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>) have been recorded in the past along the stream edges in compartment 2 (The Down).</p> <p>There no known badger setts within the woodland compartments but it is possible that unrecorded setts are present. Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Any work near badger setts will follow the best practice guidance given in FC publication FPG9 “Forest Operations and Badger Setts”.</p> <p>The presence of Great Crested Newts within the pond at The Slade has been noted above, and common frog has also been recorded here. Although there are no records of the presence of other amphibians it may be assumed that suitable habitat is present in the vicinity of the pond.</p> <p>Common-spotted orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsia</i>) is recorded at The Down.</p> <p>Because of the fairly broad range of habitats present including ponds there is likely to be a diverse invertebrate fauna but no notable species have been recorded.</p>			

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
People:					
CROW Access	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	All		See below
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1a, 2b	4	See below
Other Access Provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1a, 2b	4	See below
Public Involvement	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	All		
Visitor Information	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2b	4	See below
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2a, 2b	4	Car parks - see below
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2b		See below
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Notes:	<p>All the woodland blocks are designated as common land and are CROW Open Access areas.</p> <p>There are public footpaths through the centre and along the northern edge of sub-compartment 1a, and along the northern and southern boundaries of sub-compartment 2b. These will be managed in accordance with the owner’s legal responsibilities. There are also a number of well-used informal paths throughout the woodland at Hook Green, including s section of boardwalk over the wetter ground.</p> <p>There are two small car parks within the woodland, in sub-compartment 2a and 2b. There is an information board close to the car park in sub-compartment 2b, and a short circular walk to the lake, including sections of boardwalk. This block is also occasionally used for Forest Schools.</p> <p>Because woodland is open to the public and located adjacent to public roads, it is potentially vulnerable to fly tipping, unauthorised vehicular access and vandalism.</p> <p>This high level of public use will need to be carefully managed and closures of parts of the network will be necessary for safety reasons during some operations. It will be important to ensure that users are kept informed of the reasons for these closures. Explanation/ interpretation of the proposed management of the woodland will be provided and appropriate consultation undertaken.</p> <p>The boundaries of all compartments are adjacent to public roads. Proximity to roads imposes additional operational costs when carrying out tree works and other operations on these sites (e.g. requirement for traffic control) and will also require careful management of roadside trees. A defensible tree management strategy will be implemented following agreed principles – this will involve a regular inspection of trees with frequency and level of inspection related to risk to people and property.</p>				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Landscape:					
National Landscape Area : 122 High Weald					
National Park	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	All	3a-3c	See below
Other (please Specify): Conservation Area	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2	3b	See below
Notes:	<p>All compartments are within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Management of the woodland will be in line with the principles outlined in the AONB management plan – an extract is attached as Appendix 5.</p> <p>The woodland at the Down (Compartment 2) lies within Lamberhurst and The Down Conservation Area. Management of the woodland here (as elsewhere) will seek to ensure that any negative</p>				

	landscape impacts are minimised. Any works to trees in this compartment will require consent from Tunbridge Wells Council.
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Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Historic Environment:					
Scheduled Monuments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2	5b,5c	See below
Scheduled Landscapes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1,2	3a, 3b	See below
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3	5a-5c	See below
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1,2	5b, 5c	See below: Quarries, tracks
Notes:	<p>The woodlands are in close proximity to two Registered Historic Parks / Gardens: Scotney Castle (close to compartment 2) and Bayham Abbey (close to compartment 1). A copy of the listing entries are provided as Appendix 6. Maintenance of the landscape appearance of the woodlands is a key priority of the proposed woodland management and so there is unlikely to be any negative impact on the Historic Parks.</p> <p>There are no monuments recorded on the Kent Historic Environment Record within the woodland blocks, but two old quarries are present – one at Free Heath (sub-compartment 3d) and one at The Slade (sub-compartment 2b). The former is known to have been used subsequently as a rubbish tip until the 1940s. The latter is known to have been operational in the late 18th century and to have provided road stone for construction of turnpike roads.</p> <p>There are old boundary banks, and the remains of old trackways within sub-compartment 3a and 3c</p> <p>The woodlands include a few trees of considerable age and stature which qualify as “veteran trees” and have high landscape and nature conservation value. These have been mapped and their locations are shown on Maps 5a-5c.</p> <p>All of these features will be managed with care and in accordance with the UKFS “Forests and Historic Environment” guidelines to ensure that they are conserved for their archaeological and historic landscape values.</p>				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Water:					
Watercourses	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	5b	
Lakes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Ponds	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	all	5a-5c	See below
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Notes:	<p>The Slade (compartment 2b) contains a large pond / lake in former quarry workings, which is of high landscape and conservation value – see above. Management of the pond area will seek to ensure that these values are maintained and where practical enhanced.</p> <p>There is a small dewpond in sub-compartment 3a, and a small pond adjacent to sub-compartment 1e. Minor drains are present in most blocks.</p>				

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types					
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3c	See below
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
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"/>	1b, 1c ,2, 3		
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"/>	1a, 1d		
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"/>			
Notes:	None of the woodland is included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, but compartment 3 is adjacent to a substantial area of ancient semi-natural woodland. From analysis of old OS maps it appears that all the woodland included in this plan, was previously grazed rough pasture. The majority of the present woodland cover has arisen through natural regeneration of trees following cessation of grazing.				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Non Woodland Habitat Types					
Lowland calcareous grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1a, 1b		Small pockets of acid grassland present but largely bracken dominated in 1a.
Lowland heath land	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
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"/>			
Unimproved grassland	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.

Woodland Type	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Coppice	25%	Even-aged	Mainly mixed broadleaved / birch coppice, minor component of sweet chestnut in Cpt 3. Many stands are a mix of coppice regrowth and natural regeneration following 1987 storm
Native Broadleaved high forest	61 %	Uneven-aged	Mixed woodland, oak dominant in 3a, wider mix of species including beech, ash, and sycamore elsewhere. Variation in age class as most stands a result of natural regeneration.
Woodland Open space	14%	n/a	Includes tracks, paths, wayleave clearance, water.

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	Chalara Fraxinea (Ash die-back)
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Ash is an important component of some parts of the woodland, but is generally present as a component of mixed broadleaved woodland not as single species stands. There is evidence of Chalara infection in some of the ash and the assumption is that infection will continue to spread, so that ash within the woodland is likely to be heavily impacted in the short to medium term. There is uncertainty as to the level of resistance of UK ash to Chalara but it seems likely that there will be significant mortality as a result of the disease.</p> <p>In mixed stands it is anticipated that natural regeneration of alternative species will ensure that woodland cover is maintained where ash is lost. Where there is significant mortality of ash it may be necessary to consider planting alternative native species as replacements (e.g. pedunculate oak, wild cherry, wild service, hornbeam, field maple, small-leaved lime) in order to maintain woodland cover. Funding may be available via Countryside Stewardship grants to support this replanting work. However, planting will only be undertaken if there does not appear to be sufficient natural regeneration of desirable replacement species in any gaps left by loss of ash.</p>

	<p>Because of the high levels of public use within most blocks and their proximity to roads, it will be necessary to monitor the condition of ash regularly. Removal of some trees may be necessary for safety reasons but healthy trees should be retained as they could potentially be resistant to the disease.</p> <p>All contractors and volunteers carry out work in the woods will be required to observe biosecurity measures to restrict the import and export of Chalara from the site, e.g. ensuring no leaf material is brought on site from elsewhere, in line with best practice.</p> <p>This strategy will be subject to review as further information on the disease becomes available – up to date information is provided on the Forestry Commission website : http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ashdieback</p>
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Threat	Diseases of sweet chestnut
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Sweet chestnut is only a minor component of the woodland, mainly in the Free Heath woods, so the impact of chestnut blight (<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>) would be very localised. There are no recorded infections in the vicinity of the woods although there have been several recent outbreaks in south-west England. Further information is available at: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chestnutblight</p> <p>An outbreak of Oriental chestnut gall wasp (<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i>) has recently occurred in Kent and it is likely that it may be present undetected elsewhere. As above, the small amount of sweet chestnut present means that impacts would be low. The galls produced have adverse impacts on stem straightness and therefore quality and suitability for fencing material. Further information is available at : http://www.forestry.gov.uk/gallwasp</p> <p>Routine inspections will be undertaken and the FC notified if any disease symptoms are found. Sanitation felling may be required if any outbreak is detected.</p>

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Significant populations of deer are known to be present in the vicinity of Lamberhurst and it is likely that their numbers are increasing.</p> <p>Deer will have negative impacts on tree regeneration and on native woodland ground flora through browsing and grazing if present in sufficient numbers. However there is currently no evidence of substantial deer damage within the woodlands, and trees have clearly regenerated successfully in the past. This may be due to high levels of recreational use, including use by dog walkers which may make the woodlands less attractive to deer.</p> <p>Monitoring for evidence of deer presence and damage will be undertaken throughout the woods. As the Parish Council woodlands are small in size and subject to heavy recreational use, culling / lethal control is not a practical option. Protective measures (tree guards) will be used when carrying out small scale replanting work, and it may be necessary to consider temporary fencing of regenerating coppiced areas if deer numbers increase to levels where significant damage is occurring.</p>

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Grey squirrels are present throughout the woodland. They can have negative impacts on tree survival and timber quality by stripping bark from the main stem and branches of trees, mainly between April and the end of July. Damage can also have impacts on tree safety by weakening stems and limbs and allowing ingress of fungal pathogens. Past squirrel damage is apparent on older beech and sycamore as well as some younger trees within the woodland.</p> <p>The high levels of public use of the woodland may make trapping problematic, as there is the potential for interference with traps. Checking traps will also require commitment of resources as it would be a legal requirement that traps are checked at least daily during the trapping season. If these issues cannot be overcome it may be necessary to accept ongoing damage to the woodland by grey squirrels as production of high quality timber is not a key objective.</p>

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat	Rabbits
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Rabbits are present in most of the woodland blocks with a large population evidence in the Free Heath woods. They are a potential threat to the woodland as they can cause browsing damage to newly-planted or naturally regenerating trees and high populations may prevent regeneration.</p> <p>Monitoring of coppice regrowth will be undertaken to ensure rabbit damage is not preventing regeneration. Any new planting will be protected using suitable tree guards (which will offer protection from rabbits as well as deer) to ensure successful establishment – for smaller scale planting this will be more economic than rabbit fencing.</p>

Threat	Livestock
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Stock trespass may have negative impacts on the biodiversity of the woodland, such as browsing damage to trees and ground flora, soil compaction, poaching and nutrient enrichment. Stock exclusion from the woodland is therefore considered desirable.</p> <p>The majority of the woodland blocks are surrounded by either arable farmland or residential properties. Where the woodland adjoins pasture land, existing fencing appears to be in good condition. However monitoring will be necessary to make sure that boundaries adjacent to grazing land are kept in stockproof condition, in liaison with neighbouring landowners.</p>

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat	Diffuse pollution
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>There is potential for diffuse pollution from some of the proposed management activities – e.g. herbicide application to control invasive species, timber extraction. These activities could lead to pollution / sedimentation of watercourses via runoff.</p> <p>Use of pesticides will be minimised as far as possible and will only be required to control rhododendron, laurel and other invasive species, or for weed control around any enrichment planting or restocking. Any such work will be carried out by fully trained operators.</p> <p>Harvesting operations will generally be of low intensity and low ground impact equipment will be used where possible. Any timber extraction will as far as possible be confined to the drier months where there is less risk of rutting, compaction and subsequent run-off.</p> <p>Operational Site Assessments will be carried out prior to all operations to identify and control potential risks. Generally the risk of diffuse pollution will be low provided the relevant best practice guidelines and UKFS Forests and Water guidelines are adhered to.</p>

5.7 Environmental

Threat	Pollution
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>As stated above there is potential for diffuse pollution as a result of some of the proposed woodland operations. It is also possible that there may be some impacts from smoke where burning is carried out as part of coppicing operations. The necessary exemptions will be obtained from the Environment Agency and liaison with neighbours will be undertaken to advise them of proposed operations and minimise conflicts.</p> <p>Operational Site Assessments will be carried out prior to all operations and where contractors are engaged the requirement to adhere to best practice guidelines to minimise pollution risks will be written into contract documentation.</p>

Threat	Fire
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Because of the broadleaved nature of the woodland, the threat of fire is generally low despite high levels of public access.</p> <p>Where brash burning is undertaken as part of coppicing operations it will be a requirement that all fires are closely supervised and fully extinguished prior to leaving the site. The fire service will be provided with details of site management contacts and will be notified in advance of burning operations in order to prevent false alarms.</p> <p>Where contractors are used they will be provided with Emergency Response cards detailing the grid reference of the worksite and its closest access point, in order that the fire brigade can be quickly directed to any fire.</p>

Threat	Invasive species – Rhododendron / laurel / bamboo
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Small amounts of rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>), cherry laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) and bamboo (<i>Fargesia spp.</i>) are present in parts of the woodland, presumably garden escapes or invasions from adjoining woodland where they would have been planted as ground cover for pheasants. Currently all of these invasive non-native species are mainly present as scattered individual bushes or small clumps but there is a fairly dense stand of larger laurel in sub-compartment 1b, and also potential for further spread if they are not controlled. There is a requirement under the UK Forest Standard to control exotic invasive shrub species in native broadleaved woodland, because of their potential negative impacts on native ground flora.</p> <p>Control will be undertaken by cutting and chipping or burning. It may be possible to uproot smaller plants. Cut stumps will be treated with glyphosate herbicide to prevent regrowth.</p> <p>Monitoring will be undertaken to assess success of treatment and need for further control.</p>

Threat	Anti-social behaviour
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Because the woodland is Common Land open to the public, and in a peri-urban roadside location, it is potentially vulnerable to fly-tipping, unauthorised vehicular access and vandalism. The main car park at the Down also suffers from littering.</p> <p>It is not possible to restrict access to the site but vehicle barriers are used to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. Other issues such as littering and vandalism will be dealt with by ongoing monitoring / wardening of the site and public education.</p>

5.8 Climate Change Resilience

Threat	Uniform structure
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Overall structural diversity will be maintained by applying different silvicultural techniques to different parts of the woodland. Some of the younger stands will be selectively thinned whilst others will be managed by coppicing. Coppice coupes will be relatively small in size and coppicing will be spread over the whole of the plan period, resulting in stands of different ages rather than a uniform age class structure.</p> <p>Within maturing stands further structural diversity will be provided by management under continuous cover principles. During this plan period this will be restricted to selective thinning. In the longer term, small coupe or group felling combined with long-term retention of selected trees will gradually result in retention of an un-even age structure within individual stands.</p>

Threat	Lack of tree species diversity
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>A fairly broad range of species are present in the woods, and these are generally present as intimate mixtures.</p> <p>There is scope to increase species diversity in some parts of the woodland by supplementary planting – for example in the main block at Hook Green (Cpt 1) which is</p>

dominated by birch at present.

Maintaining a broad range of species will increase the resilience of the woodland to current and future threats posed by climate change and pests and diseases. This may be difficult to achieve at low cost, as unless natural regeneration of a broader range of desirable species can be encouraged, there will be a requirement for some enrichment planting in order to manipulate stand composition.

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
Maintain Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance of a small-scale traditional coppice regime with a 25 year rotation over parts of the woodland will diversify age class structure and provide a shifting pattern of open ground, thus enhancing habitat diversity; -Thinning of the majority of the woodland will maintain individual tree stability, reduce overshadowing of native ground flora, and may provide opportunities to manipulate species composition in favour of native species. - Veteran trees will be identified, protected and retained where there is no conflict with health and safety considerations – where required, halo thinning around identified veterans will be undertaken as part of the thinning operations. - The woodland will be protected from damage by herbivores (deer, rabbits and livestock) by use of fencing or individual tree protection. Fences adjoining grazing land will be maintained in stockproof condition to prevent stock trespass, in liaison with neighbouring landowners and tenants; - Invasive non-native shrub species will be controlled where necessary to prevent adverse impacts on native species and ground flora. Bracken will be controlled where it is becoming dominant and preventing tree regeneration or causing loss of other important species. -Standing and fallen deadwood will be retained in situ as important invertebrate habitat provided there is no conflict with health and safety considerations. - Care will be taken to conserve habitats of important and protected species in line with best practice guidance. Pond management will include creation of dappled shade by selective coppicing of poolside vegetation.

Historic / Landscape values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of low-impact silvicultural systems and use of small-scale felling coupes will minimise any negative landscape impacts. - Regular light selective thinning will maintain individual tree stability. This will include halo thinning around identified veteran trees where necessary. - Operational sites will be surveyed prior to operations for historic environment features. Features will be marked on operational maps and contract documents, to avoid damage to identified features during harvesting, extraction and other woodland operations.
Woodfuel / timber production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a coppice regime over parts of the woodland will provide a regular supply of woodfuel for local consumption. - Regular selective thinning of remaining stands will also provide a supply of woodfuel and allow selection of the best stems for retention as a potential future timber resource. - Coppiced areas will be monitored to ensure adequate restocking levels are achieved by natural regeneration, layering and / or replanting. Mature trees and coppice regrowth will be monitored for impacts of Chalara, and replanting undertaken if necessary. - Small-scale planting of currently-bracken dominated areas will be undertaken to increase woodland cover and diversify the mix of broadleaved species present. - Coppiced and planted areas will be tended and protected to control threats to tree establishment including deer, rabbits and competing vegetation.
Maintain public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The path network including permissive /informal paths and public rights of way (including sections of boardwalk) will be maintained in a safe and useable condition by cutting back vegetation, repairing, stoning and drainage works as necessary. - Tree safety will be maintained by ensuring that an annual risk-based audit is carried out and that any identified remedial works are carried out promptly. - Use of the woodland walks for quiet informal public recreation will be promoted and public engagement in hands-on management of the woods encouraged (for example through conservation volunteering)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anti-social behaviour will be controlled by wardening activities and prevention unauthorised access.- Where resources allow and demand is proven, consideration will be given to expanding facilities within the woodland, e.g. through provision of additional paths, benches and information boards.
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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
All	Laura Henderson (Woodland Officer) Forestry Commission, Bucks Horn Oak Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LS Tel: 07909 534929 laura.henderson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk				To approve management plan and felling approvals
Thinning Felling Coppicing	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EN Planning.buildingcontrol@tunbridgewells.gov.uk				Consultation will be carried out by FC to approve felling proposals because Cpt 2 is within Conservation Area.
All	Neighbours				Plan will be made available for consultation and comment. Informal discussions to advise of any ops likely to affect their land.
All	Walkers / site users				Notices at site entrances to warn of operations planned / in progress.

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
Timber / fuelwood production	Area coppiced - as per plan	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – harvesting schedules
Timber / fuelwood production	Restocking – adequate stocking density	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – replanting / weeding
Timber / fuelwood production	Restocking – species diversity maintained	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme - replanting
Timber / fuelwood production	Rabbit damage -absent	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – protection / fencing
Timber/ fuelwood production	Deer damage - absent	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme- protection / fencing
Maintain biodiversity	Stockproofing – maintained	Boundary survey	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – fence repairs / renewal
Maintain biodiversity	Invasive species – effectively controlled	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – invasive species control
Maintain biodiversity	Tree diseases- impacts minimised	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – tree safety works / planting
Maintain biodiversity	Veteran trees – protected from competition	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – thinning / tree work
Public access	Path network - safe and useable / furniture maintained	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – path management
Public access	Tree safety – maintained	Tree safety audit	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – tree safety works
Public access	Illegal / anti-social activity - controlled	Wardening / incident reports	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme – wardening
Historic environment	Historic features – protected from damage	Walk-over assessment	Annual	Owner / agent	Work programme - harvesting

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 five year review period been stated below and achievements recorded in section 3	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Approving Officer Name	Libby Carlton	Plan approved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>