



Consultee Name	Consultee Comment	Forestry England Response
STATUTORY		
Devon CC	No Comment	-
Natural England	No Comment	-
Historic England	No Comment	-
North Devon District Council	<p>North Devon Council fully support the objectives of the plan and whilst have some concern in respect of landscape and visual impacts of proposed clear felling operations also understand the commercial/silvicultural imperatives behind the rational for the works where proposed and fully support the proposed PAWS restoration/management.</p> <p>On balance I am happy to confirm our support for the Forest Plan.</p>	Acknowledged
Exmoor National Park	<p>ENPA will be responding to the public consultation on the above but I wonder if you could answer a few questions about the Forest Plan before we put a response together.</p> <p>Whilst both biodiversity and archaeology are mentioned in the plan it does not go into any detail. We understand that this may be beyond the scope of the plan but we hope that there are detailed surveys and data that that inform the plan. It states that all unscheduled monuments will be identified but without detail as to how this will be done. The area covered by the plan within the National Park is unrecorded for archaeology so it is expected that a rapid survey of all the areas will be carried out. Could you please confirm whether this is the case?</p> <p>Within the 50 year vision it states that “the considerable rides and roadside network will be wider than currently...” Could you please confirm whether this means that the actual track and ride surfaces will be widened therefore creating larger tracks, or whether the current ride and trackside vegetation will be managed in order to create a wider open space, with the hard surface remaining the same.</p> <p>On page 24 the plan showing 2049 indicative future species shows that for Long Wood it is 100% evergreen conifer. This might just be a symptom of the mapping and the scale used but if that woodland is to be gradually returned to native broadleaf it is assumed that in 30 years’ time there should have been some change that is reflected in the mapping.</p>	<p>Known unscheduled monuments and heritage features are identified at the time of intervention (whether that be harvesting, restocking or forest management, such as weeding, cleaning or fencing) through our Operational Site Assessment process. This process is usually internal but can be shared externally where necessary and pools the knowledge and expertise of the site into how the operation is going to be undertaken. This can cover everything from water management and ecological constraints, to roads and utilities etc. In the particular case of archaeology and heritage features there are four forms of survey which are undertaken by the local team prior to work commencing; internal historical records/ knowledge of features, site survey, consultation with the local authority archaeologist and checking on the Historic Environment Record. We hold reasonable records of heritage sites and management advice from experts on the North Devon woodlands however site surveys and the HER will be used to check that the site information is up to date.</p> <p>Ride and roadside widening simply refers the vegetation and tree cover in the vicinity of roads and rides, and not the hardstanding. We have a Corridors Policy which outlines how we intend to do this across our estate at the time of intervention. Widening of the road and ride network is the most effective and efficient delivery of integrated open space in these small and fragmented woodlands.</p> <p>The maps showing Indicative Future Species are crude and for Long Wood show that Evergreen Conifer will still be more than 50% of the tree cover, despite the group selection system being employed on the site. The pie chart however shows an accurate indicative breakdown of species type composition. Page 21 shows that ultimate intention and direction of travel is for Long Wood to become a broadleaf dominated woodland.</p>
Molland CP	No Comment	-
Twitchen CP	No Comment	-
North Molton CP	No Comment	-
Brayford CP	No Comment	-

Non-Statutory

<p>Moll and Estate</p>	<p>The Moll and Estate has the following comments on the proposals .</p> <p>These comments do not relate to any of the woodlands not owned by Moll and Estate and the Estate offers no comments on the woods it does not own.</p> <p>The Molland Estate’s principle objective for the woodlands let to the Forestry Commission (in your proposed plan) is to increase the proportion of Broadleaved planting in the plan. This objective is adopted for landscape improvement, Biodiversity and nature conservation improvement.</p> <p>The Molland Estate’s objectives for the Forestry commission woodlands at Molland is consistent with DEFRA’s 2005 Keepers of Time strategic Policy statement.</p> <p>The woodlands form an important element in the Historic landscape of Molland parish. Some of the woods are situated close to the Exmoor National park Boundary. The Estate manages the historic landscape of the Estate through a Heritage Landscape Management plan agreed with Natural England and In consultation with Exmoor National Park Authority and wishes to be consulted on the details of all proposed thinning, felling and replanting of the woodlands within the plan.</p> <p>The Molland Estate recognises that some of the smaller parcels of woodland and where there is steep or difficult access have had very little management intervention in recent years. The analysis and concept pages of the plan refers to the need to take a robust approach to managing these areas or that there is non thin/limited intervention policy. The Estate would like to see a more proactive approach to these areas and a plan developed in collaboration with the Estate to start a process of progressively moving these areas into broadleaved woodland cover whether by thinning/felling and replanting or broadleaved natural regeneration. In particular the following woods should be considered for this treatment. Sheepwash Copse; Little Wood; Horseclose Copse; Bedbeere Wood; East Lee Wood; Veyseys Wood. This process should be pursued at a faster rate than the plan envisages . Subject to further discussion with FC within the next 10 years by 2029</p> <p>The Molland Estate would like to see the proportion of future native and naturalised broadleaved species by 2029 in relation to the Estates ownership increased to a higher proportion than is predicted in the plan by further detailed discussion with the Estate.</p> <p>The Molland Estate would like to see the restocking of Zeal wood and Pulworthy wood (part of Kings wood) and Veyseys wood with a higher % of Broadleaved trees with an initial minimum 50% Broadleaved content . This is consistent with the stated policy objectives of the plan</p> <p>The Molland Estate would like to progress an active regular dialogue on the implementation of the woodland policy with the Forestry commission in view of the Estate’s active use of the sporting rights in the Forestry Commission Woodlands and the impact of any works on the wider landscape and nature conservation interests being pursued by the Estate.</p> <p>The Molland Estate would welcome detailed discussions with The Forestry Commission on a strategy to accelerate the move to a higher % of broadleaved woodland over the plan period and to develop a plan to jointly to deal with small and difficult non intervention woodlands</p>	<p>The Plan has taken a proportionate approach to these discrete and fragmented woodlands, balancing the implications of access agreements, roading and restock management with that of ancient woodland restoration and ecosystem functioning.</p> <p>Many of these woodlands are no longer thinnable given the neglect they have received in previous decades. However wholesale removal of the overstorey has been balanced out over a number of years to ensure that the ecological value is maintained across the Plan area</p> <p>This Plan takes a more accelerated approach to ancient woodland restoration than other Forestry Commission woodlands because of the complex access and silvicultural constraints.</p> <p>Veyseys, Zeal and Pulworthy are all secondary woodland, i.e. not registered as ancient woodland and as such we will pursue a productive conifer restocking objective to maintain an element of timber output from the Forest Plan area.</p> <p>Further acceleration would need to consider and address the impact of pests and predators to native woodland such as deer, squirrels and game birds.</p>
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Brayford Shoot	No Comment	-
North Molton Shoot	No Comment	-
North Devon Biosphere	No Comment	-
Member of the public	I am really worried about your plans for Sherracombe and Long Wood. Please can you give some reassurance that you are not intending to carry out a large fell.	Sherracombe One relatively small area of 3.6 hectares of the woodland which totals 22.7 hectares will be felled in the next ten years. With limited access and unsuitable species on site for the future, continued thinning to CCF is not feasible with clearfell is the most appropriate form of felling. Surrounding areas will be managed under Low Impact Silvicultural System types. Long Wood Up to 6 group fellings of up to half a hectare each over the next 10 years will be used to diversify Douglas fir and Sitka spruce structure and accelerate native woodland cover restoration.
Member of the public	Please could elaborate further and reassure that Sherracombe and Long Wood will not felled	See comment above
Member of the public	For my understanding woodland in a national park should be preserved and by any means and tried to be restored to ancient woodlands. Using woodland like Sherracombe for economical purposes does not address the needs of future generations.	The woodlands (including Sherracombe) are a mixture of ancient and secondary woodland and thus meet a series of multiple objectives. Working through thinning and felling either with economic and ecological objectives will prolong the productivity and functioning of the forest ecosystem.
Member of the public	<p>Our property has a direct boarder to the Forestry Commission owned land called Sherracombe Wood (Coupe 71004). As such my feedback is focused on Sherracombe Wood. We were not involved in the preparation of the previous Forestry Plan and have not been able to identify any changes that are being presented in the current Forestry Plan 2019 - 2029. I must also add that we are not professional foresters. I also understand the role of the Forestry Commission (government body / commercial expectations) is a difficult one to balance.</p> <p>My understanding is that Sherracombe Wood is divided into roughly two sections; The west section being Registered Ancient Woodland and the east section falling outside the scope of the PAWS (Page 10). I dot not understand this differentiation. I believe that the east section also provides signs of an Ancient Woodland and should be included within the PAWS management plan to restore the woodland.</p> <p>The work programme for Sherracombe indicates that some 3.6 ha will be clear cut in the years 2022 to 2026 and restocked with Douglas Fir and Coast Redwood (page 17) (compare to recommendations of Scots Pine, Sitka Spruce and Douglas Fir on page 27). Standard five yearly management operations being conducted in the remaining woodland. Sherracombe is designated completely as long term Conifer Retention lasting beyond 2051. The adjoining land and woodlands have a mix broadleaf and mature trees. These trees carry a rich mixture of lichens, fungi and mosses that are found in the Atlantic Coastline. I do not understand the classification of Conifer retention (page 17) in comparison to the section shown as Broadleaf dominated forest (page 21). I do not understand how the type and mix of replacement planting will be determined or how binding the 'considerations' on page 27 will be on future operations. I do not understand the long term classification as 'conifer retention' especially as the original woodland was broad leaf and large sections of the trees boarding Sherracombe are broad leaf. Would the time frame proposed by quicker if more resources were available to the Forestry Commission?</p>	<p>The Provisional Ancient Woodland Register, administered by Natural England, is defined by historical records and maps of woodland pre 1600 and is corroborated by local ancient woodland indicators, such as specific flora. The site was surveyed as part of the Spencer survey in 2002, and deemed as per the indicated in this Plan.</p> <p>Restock species are an indication made by planning team based on objectives, climate projections and professional judgement, final decision on planting type and density is made by local team following fell and the site is fully surveyed. The site is medium rich and moist offering a reasonable pallet of productive timber species choices.</p> <p>Most of Sherracombe will be managed through Low Impact Silvicultural Systems, i.e. thinning to continuous cover with a mixture of conifer and broadleaf canopy cover the ultimate objective as per page 21. However given the gradual approach to transformation to preserve forest ecosystem functioning this will take a number of years, hence the indicative maps on pages 23 and 24. There is no prescription of conifer retention in Sherracombe. However on secondary woodland rotations of conifer will perpetuated in the western, secondary (non-ancient) section of the woodland.</p>

<p>Member of the public</p>	<p>We are going to reinstate more trees and bushes on our land which if coordinated with other land owners would increase the potential. Are partnership programmes possible to work together with other land owners?</p> <p>The access from the public highway is not shown on the maps (who has rights of way?). The forest track that approaches Sherracombe Wood is classified as a 'Class A/B road' that turns into a 'Class C road' within Sherracombe Wood. The wood does not currently attract many visitors. What public access is available to Sherracombe Wood? What is the relevance of the different road classifications on the map especially as there appears to be no significant physical difference in the track.</p> <p>Sherracombe is more than 200 meters above sea level. The east section of the wood forms a long narrow strip of large conifers growing on a steep northwest facing slope. The planting appears to be thinned out rows approximately eight to ten trees deep. A number have already fallen following high winds. How have the potential storm damage implications been reflected in the plan and management going forward.</p> <p>The woods provide cover and habitat to a large wild deer population (empirical evidence). Could the wild deer population have had a negative impact on the regeneration of the broad leaf trees?</p>	<p>Passed to local team to initiate contact as appropriate.</p> <p>The access track to Sherracombe is not on Forestry Commission land and as such whilst FC have a right of access, knowledge of other party access is unknown. Class A/B roads are designed to take 44 tonne haulage lorries, whilst Class C is designed for lighter vehicles.</p> <p>Our forests are classified according to wind hazard and management is tailored accordingly. Whilst the rooting depth of soil is good sporadic windblow will occur following thinning intervention, however the long term stability of most of the crops is good hence the preference towards Low Impact Silvicultural Systems, and continued thinning.</p> <p>See page 25 for reference to deer (and other fauna) management approach in light of palatable species planting.</p>
<p>Member of the public</p>	<p>It's taken a very very long time for goshawk to be established back in the woods around Molland. It's hard to see how the disturbance that will no doubt take place, and the removal of too much of the density and tree types it prefers for nesting, won't have a negative effect ... possibly irreversible...</p> <p>Goshawk have had a very hard time here due to the exponential increase in shoots and the persecution that gamekeepers inevitably have inflicted upon them due to this, that the last thing they need for once a few have managed to survive, is somebody coming along and knocking their house down.</p> <p>Doesn't seem particularly sensible thing to do to me. The plan seems to only give lip service to "raptors" living in the woods concerned without any definitive assurances specifically about how the work will protect and enhance the probability of survival of the Goshawk, and also a monitoring plan going forward to make sure the works did not have a negative effect on the species here on the edge of Exmoor.</p>	<p>Our woodlands are managed in line with best practice, and internal guidance (Operations Instruction No. 5). Managing forest land for people, nature and the economy is our purpose. Active forest management is essential for the conservation of a wide range of species, including birds, many of which are rare. When all obligations and considerations are taken together, we are not able to undertake all our activities outside the bird nesting season. Whilst we will not deliberately damage active nests and will do what we reasonably can to avoid it, we will continue year-round activities in the certain knowledge that the benefits of our activities outweigh the risk of incidental impacts on individual birds.</p>