

Rownhams Current Structure

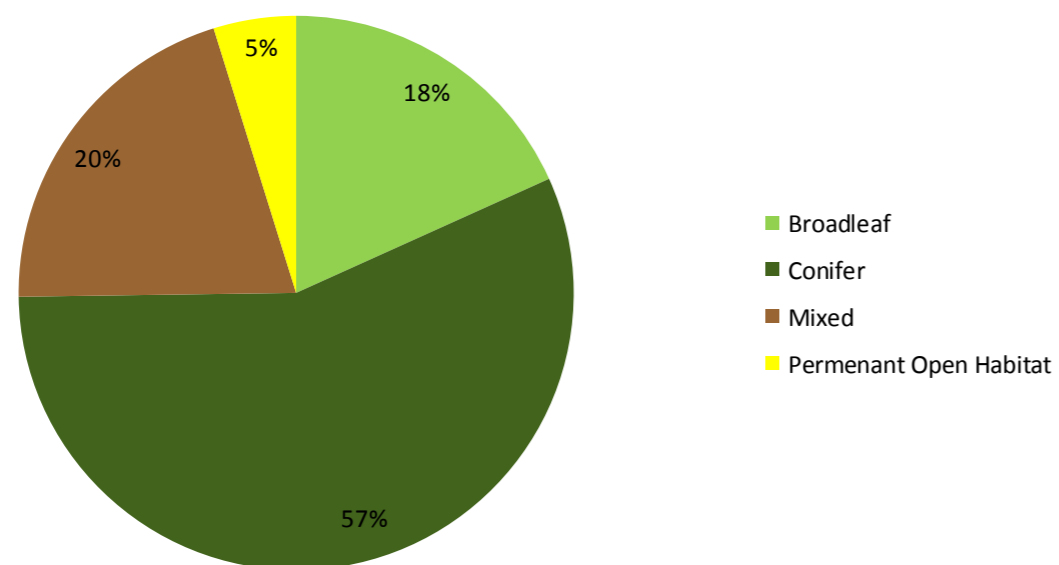


Chart shows the current structure of the woodland separated into generalised habitat types. More open space will be created on a rotational basis.

Long Term Vision

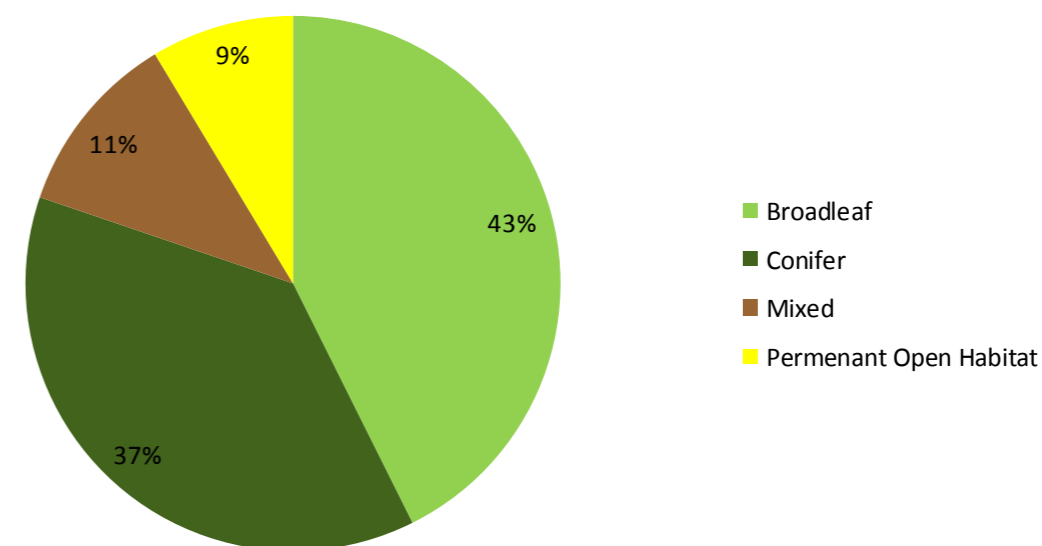


Chart shows the long term structure of the woodland separated into generalised habitat types. More open space will be created on a rotational basis through the forest operations cycle. Time scale is around 200 years.

Rownhams Block Species Diversity

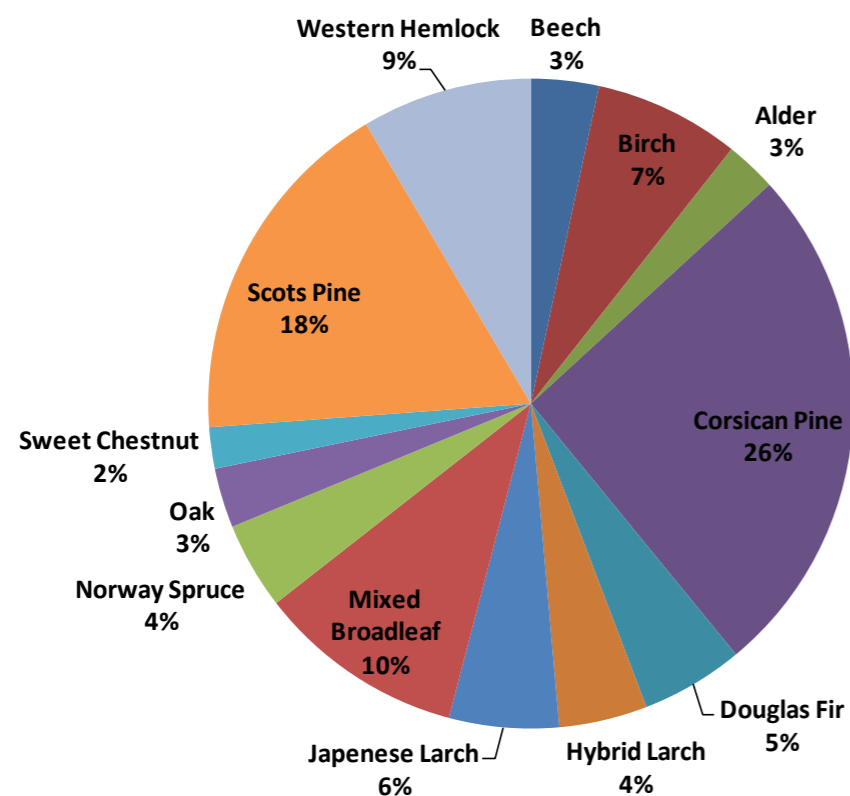


Chart shows the main components of the woodlands which are greater than 1% of the total area

Rownhams Age Diversity

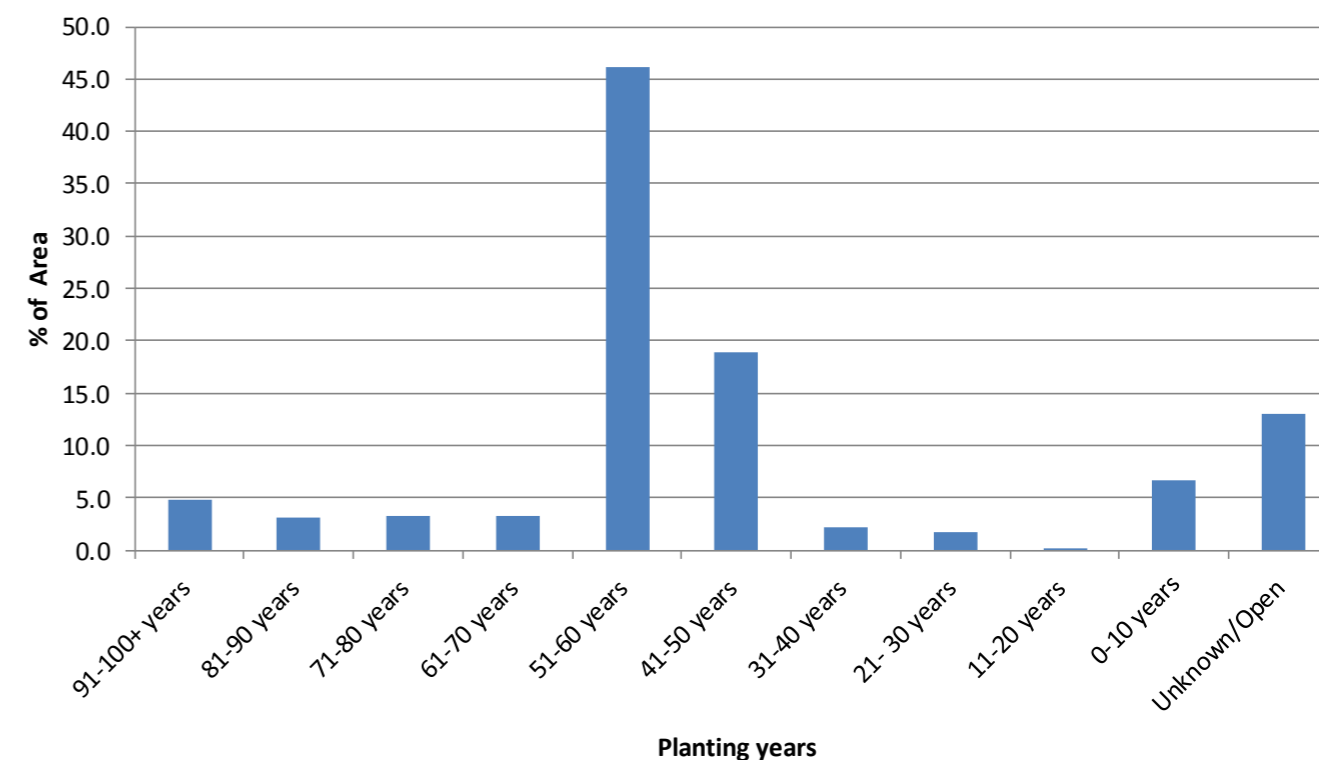
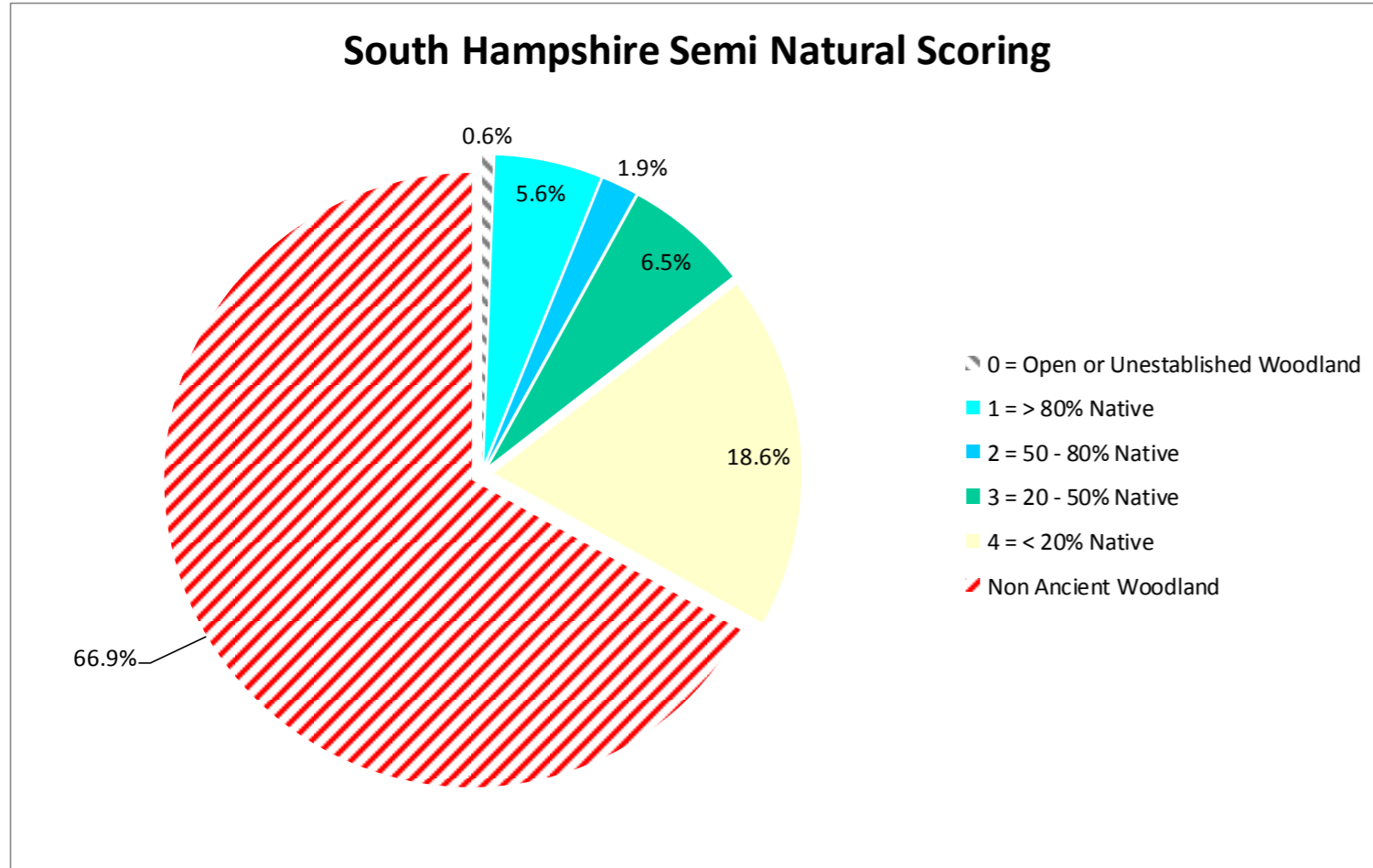


Chart show the age of the trees and what percentage of the woodland they cover.



Map shows the % of woodland that is classified as ancient and non ancient. This is further broken down into the % of native species in each of the ancient woodland areas.

A wildfire risk assessment is an evaluation of the likelihood of a wildfire occurring and the severity of damage it might cause if it does occur.

Forest/woodland name; Rownhams Forest Blocks					
What are the Fire Hazards?	Who/what might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to manage the risk?	Initial Risk Rating	What else do you need to do?	Revised risk rating
Incidents of arson and off road vehicle use.	General Public and emergency services	Warning signs erected deterring motorbike use.	Medium	Consider measures to mitigate against vehicle ingress. Look at reducing the size of restocking areas and the provision of open space.	Low
Large blocks of coniferous woodland.	General Public and emergency services	Long term plan to diversify the make up of the blocks, creating mixed species woodlands and restoring appropriate areas back to native woodland.	Medium	Evaluate high risk compartments and consider ways of speeding up the change of species makeup. Evaluate fuel loading during regular intervals.	Low
Fires spreading from the road and rail network adjacent to the blocks.	General Public and emergency services	The majority of the road and rail network is either bordered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	Low	Increase vegetation management to reduce fire risk. A verge clear of vegetation should be 3.5m either side of access routes.	Low
Fires spreading from residential properties adjacent to the blocks	General Public and emergency services	The majority residential properties are bordered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	Low	Actively engage with owners about the risks of fire to both the PFE and their property to create an awareness of fire safety.	Low
Fires spreading from powerlines and underground utilities (gas pipes).	General Public and emergency services	Any powerlines that go through woodland blocks already have a mandatory exclusion zone, free of high risk vegetation.	Low	Conduct ad-hock checks on the state of wayleave vegetation, contacting the relevant utility companies when appropriate	Low

Objective	Proposed Actions to Meet Objective	Ref	Output year 10	Monitoring	Indicators of Success
<p>Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.</p>	<p>Invasive and non native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded.</p>	<p>1a 1b</p>	<p>Maintained percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites</p> <p>Any invasive or non-native plant species found In ASNW are recorded and managed accordingly with a presumption of eradication.</p>	<p>Semi-Natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10</p> <p>Recording during Operational site assessments with appropriate action taken.</p>	<p>Ancient semi-natural woodland areas will show a maintained semi-natural score of '1' at years 5 and 10</p> <p>No recorded invasive or non-native species present within ASNW.</p>
<p>Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.</p>	<p>Managing PAWS area under a shelter wood system, favouring the retention of native broadleaves will help to reduce the non native component of these areas.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Increased percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites.</p>	<p>Semi natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10.</p>	<p>Plantation on ancient woodland areas will show an increasingly native semi natural score at years 5 and 10.</p>
<p>Increase the conservation value of existing habitats and enhance and support the creation of non wooded semi-natural areas.</p>	<p>Road and ride edges will look to provide high value invertebrate habitat as a result of the proposals which will have a positive impact on associated species such as birds and bats.</p> <p>Existing open space will maintained and a wide adoption of the shelterwood system will provide rotational open space throughout the years.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan.</p>	<p>OSA checks at implementation stage.</p>	<p>A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.</p>

Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.	Regular management will provide a sustainable supply of wood products to the industry.	5	Wood products supplied sustainably to industry in line with the production forecast.	Query sales recording package at year 5 and year 10.	Wood products supplied to the timber industry in line with production forecast whilst fulfilling other objectives
Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.	Managing non ancient woodland areas as mixed woodland allows the woodland to support a greater species diversity. This will benefit disease and climate resistance as well as adding to the aesthetic variation. The development of natural regeneration at various stages, will break up the currently rigid age structure.	6a 6b 6c	Maintained number of tree species. Increased age diversity. Evidence of natural regeneration occurring.	Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sales and recording package at year 5 and year 10	At least the same number of different tree species present at year 10 Improved age diversity at year 10 Increased successful establishment of natural regeneration.
Control invasive plant and animal species and reduce their impact across the sites.	Invasive and non native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded	7	Any invasive or non-native plant species found are recorded and managed accordingly with a presumption of eradication.	Recording during Operational site assessments with appropriate action taken.	No recorded invasive or non-native species present.

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
1a				
1b				
2				
3				

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
4				
5				
6a				
6b				
6c				

	Forest Plan Area (ha)	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area	Forest District Percentage of Habitat/Management type
Total Area			46106ha	2.4%
Total Wooded Area			26076ha	3.5%
Natural Reserves Plantation (1%)			285.57ha	0.6%
Natural Reserves Semi Natural			2958.7ha	3.7%
Long Term Retentions and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems			21264ha	4.5%
Area of conservation value (>15%) including designations, PAWS,AW, ASNW,NR, LTR and LISS			26403.5	4%

Ancient Woodland

A classification for woodland which has been in continuous existence from before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and or from 1750 in Scotland.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

The trees and other plant species within an ancient woodland site appear to have arisen naturally rather than having been planted and are predominately (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

Arboretum

A collection of trees including unusual and exotic species for amenity and research purposes.

Biodiversity Corridors

A network of open space utilising the existing ride and road network. The edges will be managed to provide suitable habitat to a range of invertebrates and enhance the connectivity throughout the woodland and to the surrounding area.

Clear-fell

Cutting down an area of woodland typically greater than 0.25 hectares.

Coppice

An area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide firewood or timber

Compartments/Sub Compartments

Sections of woodland used to delineate and plan management.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland consisting of a mixture of broadleaf and conifer species where no component dominates more than 80%

Native (and honorary-native)

The trees making up the woodland are part of England's natural (or naturalised) flora. Determined by whether the trees colonised Britain without the assistance of humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary' native were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times) ; and whether they would naturally be found in the part of England.

Native woodland

Woodland predominately made up of tree species that would naturally be found on that site.

Natural regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally by the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These may still require some protection from overbearing plant species and mammal browsing . Some enrichment planting may also be necessary or desirable in areas where natural regeneration is showing limited success or in order to diversify the species range of the woodland.

Open Habitat/Open Space

Areas within a forest with tree cover <5% such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, rides and roads.

Plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS)

The trees within an ancient woodland site appear to have been planted. These species may or may not be native to the site and surrounding area.

Priority Ecological Areas

Areas of woodland and open space managed to promote site specific priority key species.

Rotational scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Road and ride edge management

A network of internal road and ride margins that will be managed in a sympathetic way to increase the structural diversity of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for key species.

Recreation Area

An area of woodland which is managed with recreation as the core focus. The woodland will still be managed but operations should be to enhance the recreational aspects of the area.

Research Plantation

Woodland that is being used to run an experiment managed principally by the research arm of the Forestry Commission.

Shelter Wood System

Woodland management system whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling, generally being no single interruption of tree cover of more than 0.25 hectares with a maximum of 2 interruptions of this size per hectare.

Wet Woodland

This is a woodland that occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils. They are typical of river valleys, the surroundings of mires and raised bog, the transition zones between open water and drier ground, and beside

Yield Class

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

This Forest Plan has been influenced by various key policy statements and guidance documents as listed below.

Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement—January 2013

This document sets the direction of travel for forestry policy within England and is the reference point around which main aims and objectives of forestry and woodland management are designed.

The statement sets out the following key objectives, in priority order:

Protecting the nations trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.

Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, peoples lives and nature.

Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value.

Strategic plan for the public forest estate in England

This plan sets out the direction and goals for the public forest estate in England and indicates the actions we will be taking to achieve these between now and 2020. Our ambitions are long term and we will use a normal cycle of review over 5 years to embed these in local forest plans and ways of operating.

Our mission for the estate.

To work with others to keep the Pubic Forest Estate as a special place for wildlife, people to enjoy and businesses to thrive—and achieve this by adopting a strategy that integrates all the three drivers of sustainable land management; economy, people and nature.

Our Vision and Overall Goal

“To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the public forest estate for the people of England”

South District Forest Strategic Plan

The strategic management plan is a Forest Enterprise District Level document that informs local Forestry Commission Staff about the management direction of the Public Forest Estate and the associated policies. The Forest Plans are a key mechanism for delivering policies on the ground.

Open Habitat Policy, 2010

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

United Kingdom Forestry Standard

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

UK woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

An independent certification standard for verifying sustainable management in the United Kingdom.

Keepers of Time

This policy statement celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodland and sets out a basis on which to achieve the following vision.

“Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits”

Managing ancient and native woodland in England: Practice Guide

This practice guide has been produced to help practitioners translate what measures and practical action can be taken to protect and enhance our ancient and native woodlands and guides implementation of the approaches to management and restoration trialled in woods around the country.

Managing deadwood in forests and woodland 2012

A practice guide encouraging owners and managers to develop a strategic approach to deadwood with an emphasis on working with natural processes.

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

A practice guide showing different silvicultural methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites.

European Landscape convention

The European landscape convention—also known as the Florence convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation of landscape issues.

List of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England : Includes 56 habitats and 943 species referred to as section 41 Habitats and Species - established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services: this document builds on the Natural Environment white paper and sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy across both land and sea between 2011-2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>



Stage 1

- Internal review of the previous forest plan
- Policy review and broad discussions
- Site visits and preparations of draft maps

Consultees

Environment Agency | Butterfly Conservation | RSPB | Natural England | Isle of Wight Council | Woodland Trust | Various Parish Councils | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust | National Trust | Ancient Tree Forum | Botanical Society of the British Isles | British Dragonfly Society | IOW Bat Group | Wessex Lichen Group | British Mycological society | Buglife | Bumblebee Conservation Trust | Freshwater Habitats Trust | Plantlife | The Deer Initiative | BSW Timber Group | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust

Online Survey Results

Changes following consultation

Stage 2 [insert dates]

- Online survey
- Amendment's made following feedback

Stage 3

- Further consultation on the forest services register of grants and felling applications
- Amendment's made and felling approval sought

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response

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

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	Timing of Re-stocking	Changes to species	Windthrow clearance (2)	Changes to road lines (3)
FC Approval normally not required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers; broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less			0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly wind-blown trees > 2ha to 5ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	> 5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity

Notes on Tolerance Table

1. There are circumstances in which changes - of less than 0.5 ha for example - could have a dramatic visual effect. The above model does require a sensible approach to be taken by Forest Enterprise in notifying Forestry Commission when such cases arise. Local staff need to be sensitive to issues which may influence the situation (bearing in mind that small adjustments to felling coupes will not appear on the Public Register).
2. It is important that Forest Enterprise keep the FC informed about windblow clearance, which can be problematic in cases of public complaint, and in FC compliance monitoring. In some cases a modification of the proposals for the remaining area of the Plan may need to be submitted and approved. Clearance of blow should not require approval but will be needed for related standing trees.
3. It is recognised that roading proposals as marked on Road Plans are necessarily somewhat indicative, in that actual roading operations require to take account of features not always apparent at the time of roadline planning. Accordingly some leeway is acceptable to account for this.