English Woodlands Forestry Ltd

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland or Property name	DARCH'S WOOD
Woodland Management Plan case reference	675195

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period *(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)*	**Approval Date:**	**30/07/2020**	**Approved until:**	**30/07/2030**
Five Year Review Date	**2025**			

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1. Contents

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Durch's wood	
Name	Cross in Hand Amenities Society	Owner	
Email	cihamsoc@gmail.com	Contact Number	
Agent Name (if applicable)		Thomas Simmons	
Email	thomas@englishwoodlandsforestry.co.uk	Contact Number	07912547570
County	East Sussex	Local Authority	Wealden District Council
Grid Reference	TQ565212	Single Business Identifier	118955777
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		15.80	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes	
List the maps associated with this management plan		Map 1. Location Map 2. Compartments Map 2a. Compartments Composition Map 2b. Ride Network Map 3. Woodland designations Map 4. Public rights of way Map 5. Soilscape Map 6. Harvesting Plan YRS 1 -10 Map 7. Hazards & Constraints Map 8. Operations Map Map 9. Access & Improvements Map 10. Rhododendron and Laurel Map 10a. Rhododendron and Laurel LIDAR 2m	

	Map 11. Suitable culling and trapping compartments	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following	Felling Licence	Yes
	Thinning Licence	Yes
	Woodland Regeneration Grant	Yes
Declaration of management control and agreement to public availability of the plan	Yes	

2. Vision and Objectives

The following vision states the overall direction of management for the woodland and how we envisage it will be in the future, for both the life of this plan and beyond.

The continuity of management for this small amenity woodland will be maintained in order to enhance the capital value of the woodland. The visual appearance and accessibility of the woodland are of prime importance and this will be balanced with the other objectives to ensure that management of the woodland meets current industry guidelines.

2.1 Vision

2.2 Management Objectives

The following objectives state how sustainable forest management will be achieved. Management objectives are specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision, they encompass environmental, economic and social considerations within the scope of the plan.

No.	Objectives
1	Control of invasive species: Rhododendron and Laurel to allow for better natural regeneration, woodland diversity and woodland access.
2	Rides and paths will be maintained and where appropriate widened to allow for continued access to all parts of the woodland.
3	Wildlife habitats will be maintained and enhanced through proactive and sensitive programmes of woodland management.
4	A traditional coppice cycle will be once again established as well as the management of plantations with a view to enhance and maintain the woodland. Resources that are gathered from management can be used for other woodland activities.
5	Minimise the impact of browsing pests.

No.	Objectives
6	
7	
8	

3. Plan Review – Achievements

The following table lists achievements made against objectives in previous management plans. It will also be used at the 5-year review of this plan and is informed by monitoring undertaken against the current objectives.

Objectives	Achievement

4. Woodland Survey

The following section encompasses the detailed woodland survey information including any statutory constraints and woodland resource characteristics.

4.1 Description of the woodland in the landscape

Woodland location:

Situated within the heart of East Sussex this woodland is located just off the A267, a busy main road that links the towns of Uckfield and Heathfield and is a remnant of what was once a wooded valley that extended across Black lane. To the north and western sides of the woodland, there are several large residential dwellings, to the eastern and southern side the woodland is mainly surrounded by agricultural fields.

Topography & Geology:

The woodland rises from 108 meters in the most southerly point to 141 meters at the most northerly point, which indicates that there is a gently sloping ground running north to south. Throughout the center of the woodland, there is a steep-sided stream that divides the wood into two parts. Due to this, the western and eastern sides of the woodland are sloping towards the center of the woodland. The soil type is a thin clay cap over sandstone geology.

Woodland Designations:

The woodland is classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (please refer to map 3, designations).

Species distribution:

The woodland composition is consistent throughout most of the compartments with native trees such as English oak, Beech, Silver birch, Goat willow and Holly dominating, however, mixed within these trees are non-native species such as sweet chestnut and douglas fir. The oak and beech trees act standards within the woodland with silver birch, sweet chestnut and goat willow making up the understory.
Compartment 3a would be considered coppice with standards, with many standards being oak and the coppice being made up of sweet chestnut, with some birch and holly throughout too. In compartment 3c there are several large scots pine and Douglas fir trees scattered throughout, these provide diversity to the woodland.

4.2 History of management

Proactive management of the woodland over the last 40 years has been limited primarily due to a lack of funds, limited woodland management expertise within the community and availability of volunteers. In recent years local residents and members of the society have carried out improvement works including path enhancements, by placing type one stone down and improving walkways, bridges and culverts. Laurel and Rhododendron control has been carried out in certain areas. Historic photos from 15 years ago show that the levels of Rhododendron and Laurel are much lower than they are today and due to the amount of open space that can be seen (please refer to historic photos).

The woodland has features that show previous management as coppice (sweet chestnut) with standards (oaks). There is also evidence of oak felling in the past probably around the time of the 1987 storm.

4.3 Woodland resource characteristics

The following details the woodland resource characteristics including species composition, age structure, stocking density and potential timber quality and yield.

Wood/compartment or forest type: High Forest

Species Composition: Oak, Beech, Birch, Sweet chestnut, Goat Willow, Scots pine and Douglas fir.
Age Structure: Uneven age.
Stocking: Standards have been removed during the 1987 storm, the birch has never been thinned and the sweet chestnut is out of the rotation.
Timber Quality and Yield: Low-grade chestnut for fencing and chip with low-grade Birch firewood. Willows are also a low-grade chip.

Wood/compartment or forest type: Coppice with standards.
Species Composition: Oak, Beech, Sweet chestnut, Birch and Holly.
Age Structure: Uneven aged.
Stocking: Standards have been removed during the 1987 storm, the birch has never been thinned and the sweet chestnut is out of the rotation.
Timber Quality and Yield: Low-grade chestnut for fencing and chip and Birch which will be used as firewood.

4.4 Statutory Information

The following section identifies features present within the woodland or adjacent to the woodland where its presence will inform management. Key features are also shown on the maps associated with this report.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity- Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		Yes	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please specify):	No		No	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes

Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Assumed presence.
Dormouse		Unconfirmed	All		Not recorded but favourable habitat present.
Great Crested Newt		Yes			Local recorded of GCN at TQ564210, woodland favourable habitat present.
Otter		Unconfirmed	All		Not recorded but favourable habitat present.
Sand Lizard		No			Not within the known range / no habitat present.
Smooth Snake		No			Not within the known range / no habitat present.
Natterjack Toad		No			Not within the known range / no habitat present.
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	Unconfirmed			No local record of schedule 1 birds within the woodland, however, there are local records of Redwing in a nearby woodland (Tilsmore wood).
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		Unconfirmed			Local records European badger in 2017 near the woodland, grid reference: TQ564215.
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard, etc)		Yes	All		No local records, however, assumed presence.
Plants		No			No local records.
Fungi/Lichens		No			No local records.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles, etc)		Unconfirmed	All		Further survey work needed.
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		Yes	All		No local records, however, assumed presence.
Other (please specify):		No			

Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes		12	Veteran trees throughout the woodland.
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify):				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes	All	3	
Other (please specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes		4	
Other Access Provision	Yes			
Public Involvement	Yes			
Visitor Information	Yes			
Public Recreation Facilities	No		13	
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	Yes	All	7	Not in compartment 1d
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	2c	7	
Other (please specify):	No			

4.5 Habitat Types

The following table lists the habitat types within the woodland that will inform future management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within the woodland are classified according to broad habitat type and their management is considered within the scope of this report. This information is a record of habitat as a baseline to future management where we will hope to achieve and maintain a diverse structure of habitat, species and age of trees, appropriate to the context of the woodland.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				

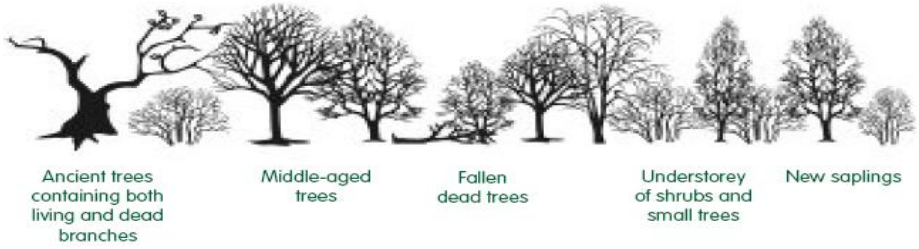
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	All	3	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All		
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
Non-Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please specify):	No			

4.6 Structure

This section provides a snapshot of the current woodland structure across the entire holding. A full inventory of the woodland is included within the Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space provides a range of benefits for both the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. As an example the diagrams below show both uneven and even-aged woodland:

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
High forest	92	Uneven	Very poor natural regeneration
Coppice with standards	8	Uneven	Very poor natural regeneration

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity

5. Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section considers the potential threats and constraints facing the woodland. It uses a standard risk assessment process as shown below in order to consider any potential threat and whether there is a need to take action to protect the woodland.

5.1 Risk matrix

The matrix below was used to score any perceived risks associated with the woodland. The matrix also indicates the Forestry Commission recommended 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 (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight, etc)	Phytophthora ramorum
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	If Phytophthora ramorum is found within the woodland it will be reported to plant health. This disease could cause significant damage to the woodland without intervention. Areas, where the disease is found, should be cordoned off and the living plant or plants should be removed and burnt. Species that are affected by this are Sweet chestnut, Beech and Douglas fir.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight, etc)	Thaumetopoea processionea
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	If Oak processionary moth is found within the woodland it will be reported to plant health. Areas of which it has been located will be

	closed off until the situation is dealt with. OMP is not only a threat to trees through foliage loss but also humans and animals, due to the toxic catapultier hairs.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight, etc)	Phytopthora cinnamomi
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	If Phytopthora cinnamomic is found to be affecting the sweet chestnut within the woodland an operation that involves felling any effected stools will take place.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight, etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	There are very few Ash trees present within the woodland however if the disease starts having a major effect on them they will be felled, and replanting will take place.

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Deer presence within the woodland is medium at the time of the field survey. Typical signs of deer were present, such as low amounts of grazing damage and favoured well-trodden deer tracks. Due to a large amount of coppice within the woodland, it is advised that an annual assessment is carried out to establish the impact of deer within the woodland. A deer management plan should be written up and ready to put in place in case their number increase and start to influence coppice/

	natural regeneration. Fencing areas of young coppice regeneration with suitable deer fencing could also be an option to minimise the effect on regeneration.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Grey squirrel's population levels are moderate through the woodland, with low levels of damage present on broadleaved trees such as birch younger English oak and beech. Levels of damage should be surveyed every year. If the levels of damage increase in the younger areas of woodland, then culling using squirrel's traps or shooting should be used in suitable compartments. Please see Map 11, suitable culling and trapping compartments)

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit, etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor damage every year. If the damage starts to effect regeneration, then fencing or culling through shooting should be considered. Please see map 11 – suitable culling and trapping compartments.

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit, etc)	Grazing farm animals
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Meduim
Response (inc protection measures)	Collaboration with local landowners to help maintain all livestock fences adjacent to the woodland, to prevent damage occurring.

5.6 Water and soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water, etc)	Soil Erosion

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	There is a stream that runs through the centre of the woodland. When works are being carried out with these areas, there should be pre-planned extraction routes. If the weather becomes unfavourable, then harvesting/forestry operations should be suspended. Using appropriate machinery for the site such as low ground pressure tracked machines instead of on tires. Brash mats and temporary culverts can also be used to stop compaction and damage to streams and ponds. Soil erosion can be minimised with leaky dams, this will also increase the humidity within the woodland.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water, etc)	Point pollution
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	When forestry operations are carried out with the woodland should follow UKFS guidelines. All operations should have a spill kit present on site, with an emergency response plan in place. All fuel and oil should be stored in a bunded tank which is placed at least 20 meters away from any water bodies.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour, etc)	Invasive species: Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel.
Likelihood of presence	High

(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Please see the management plan strategy.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour, etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Wind-blow is present throughout the woodland. Future operations should allow for the retention of wind firm edges and the establishment of younger crops.

5.8 Social

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour, etc)	Anti-social behaviour. Access throughout the woodland for members of the public and a footpath on the southern side of the woodland. No litter however dog faeces were located through the woodland.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Signage should be used along with dog waste bins, to reduce dog fouling. If damage to the woodland environment becomes noticeable then access to the woodland should be denied.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour, etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	The operational cost for management within the woodland is high due to limited access and poor site conditions. Funding will be determined By CS grants.

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.10 Climate change resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity, etc)	Uniform structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Areas that are suitable to coppice should be brought back into a sustainable cycle.
Response (inc protection measures)	

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity, etc)	Lack of Diversity.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Is there is a suitable budget left after the

	rhododendron removal and ride widening, then planting new species such as Wild cherry, Wild service tree and Hornbeam.

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity, etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.11 Additional hazards and constraints

The following section lists any additional hazards or constraints that will impact future woodland management:

Management Access: The access point is on the North-Eastern corner of the woodland (please see Map 9, access & improvements). Access is gained off the A267 into a local car park for St Bartholomew church. To the left of this car park is a wooden gate that leads to a hard-standing track that runs through the churchyard 50 meters down into the woodland.
Wayleaves or Easements: There are no wayleaves present within the woodland.
Public rights of way: There is one footpath which is located on the southern side of the woodland through compartments 3a, 3b and 3c (please refer to Map 4 – Public rights of way).
Ground conditions: Seasonally wet throughout with clay soils present. Wet woodland areas remain damp all year round.
Slope: Throughout the centre of the woodland there is a stream that divides the wood into two parts. Due to this, the western and eastern sides of the woodland are sloping towards the center of the woodland
Undergrowth: Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel.
SSSI Designations: The woodland does not fall within an SSSI.
Shooting Interest: There is no shooting interest within the woodland and due to the high activity of the public within the woodland there would be no safe means of shooting.

6. Management Strategy

This section is a statement of intent, setting out how we intend to achieve the management objectives listed in Section 2. It also considers how any important

features identified in previous sections will be managed. A detailed programme of works by sub-compartment is included within the Plan of Operations spreadsheet:

Management Obj/Feature	Management Intention
Control of invasive species: Rhododendron and Laurel to allow for better natural regeneration, woodland diversity and woodland access.	The effect Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel has on woodlands can be significant, affecting not only regeneration but also woodland access and biodiversity. To stop this, a plan to reduce and prevent the spread of this invasive plant will be developed. (please see Map 10 – Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel Throughout the woodland there are different levels of Rhododendron and Laurel, some areas extend up to 4 metres high, whereas some places are less dense with bushes around 2 to 3 meters high (Please see map 10a - Rhododendron and Laurel). Gaining grant money for the removal and prevention of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel will allow for a proactive management approach. Due to the difficulty of the topography of the site, operations to remove it should be completed in one application. Option 1: Year one will see the removal of all Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel from the woodland. Year three all of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel in all compartments will have a herbicide (Roundup + adjuvant) application. Year 4 will be a follow-up spray of all the compartments. Every year after this a survey will be carried out to assess the re-growth, if there is re-growth present then another spraying application should be applied However, if there are budget restrictions the operations will be broken up into two separate stages, this will also help the impact of such forestry operations on the woodland. Option 2:

	In year one the Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel will be cleared from compartments 1a, 1c, 1b,1d, 1e, 2a and 2b. In year three the Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel will be removed from compartments 2d, 2c 2e, 3b, 3a and 3c. In year four compartments 1a, 1c, 1b,1d, 1e, 2a and 2b will have a herbicide (Roundup + adjuvant) application. Areas around water sources will not be sprayed. All compartments will have a herbicide (Roundup + adjuvant) application. Areas around water sources will not be sprayed. Alongside this, all areas which cannot be sprayed should be re-cut using a brushcutter or chainsaw. Year six a final follow up spray of all compartments should be carried out. Following this, an inspection every two years should be carried out to assess the regrowth. If there is regrowth, then another chemical spray should be applied. Areas of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel will be removed by hand cutting and a 360 digger with a JBC skid steer mulcher removing the material. Spraying will be carried out using an ATV sprayer along with handheld sprayers. During these periods of operations access to the woodland should be restricted to follow health and safety guidelines. Initial estimates of rhododendron: 7.48ha of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel 3 meters +. 3.66ha of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel 2m to 3m. 2ha of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel 1m. Several areas of Rhododendron ponticum & Laurel are located on unfavourable terrain such as steep slopes and watercourses (please refer to photos). These areas will take more time

	and manpower to complete, the likely hood of the grant money covering the cost of the works in these areas is very unlikely.
Rides and paths will be widened and maintained to allow for continued access to all parts of the woodland.	To further improve the biodiversity and woodland access, heavily used rides and paths will be widened (please refer to map 8 – Operations map). The 2m buffer zones will create a new habitat within the woodland, providing new niches for a variety of different wildlife. The levels of sunlight will increase too, allowing for better regeneration and drier paths which in turn will reduce compaction. The drier rides and paths will also provide easier access throughout the woodland for forestry operations and members of the public. The main woodland ride which travels north to south on the eastern side of the woodland will be widened to 2 meters leaving 3 meters for the path. This operation will only be carried out on the right-hand side looking south. This operation will be carried out using a hand cutter and a 360 digger (8 ton). Any suitable cordwood will be cut to length and stacked reading for exciton via tractor-trailer. All brash will be windrowed. The tree species to be removed during this process include sliver birch, goat willow, sweet chestnut and holly. All large English oak and beech trees will be retained. Through Darchs's wood, there are many paths, some paths are heavily used by the public and suffer from compaction due to being wet most of the year. To reduce is this heavily used paths will be opened to 6 meters. This will allow for a 2m path with a 2-meter buffer either side. One side will be cut back at a time leave a two-year buffer to allow for greater biodiversity. As before this operation will be carried out using a hand cutter and a 360 digger (8 ton). Any suitable cordwood will be cut to length and stacked reading for the exciton viva tractor-trailer. All brash will be windrowed. Species that will be removed will include Silver

	birch, Goat willow, Sweet chestnut and Holly. Rides & paths will be cut back in alternate years.
Wildlife habitats will be maintained and enhanced through proactive and sensitive programmes of woodland management.	Rides that have been opened for biodiversity will be maintained so they continue to add a more diverse structure with the woodland. This will be done by cutting back encroaching growth viva brush cutting and chainsawing every two years after the main operation of cutting back the ride by 8m is complete Any forestry operations that are to be taken place will consider nesting seasons of wildlife such as birds, dormice and other animals that might be present.
A traditional coppice cycle will be once again established as well as the management of plantations with a view to enhance and maintain the woodland. Resources that are gathered from management can be used for other woodland activities.	Please refer to map 6 – harvesting operations. The compartment to be coppiced in the future is 3a. Coppicing in compartment 3a should start in year 5 of the management plan. This will allow for the Rhododendron and Laurel to be removed before coppicing starts. Wood products will be produced from the ride widening that will be taking place in year one. Products that will be produced are firewood and chip.
Minimise the impact of browsing pests	The deer population within the woodland is very low, due to this, there is no significant damage in being cased to regenerating stools and existing trees through browsing. If deer damage is spotted the a deer management plan should be drawn up in conjunction with Countryside Stewardship funding. Collaboration with neighboring landowners and the shooting tenant is important in tackling deer numbers. This collaboration will allow for a better understanding of the deer numbers as well as the movements and damage being caused. The deer initiative should be involved in connecting with local deer groups and advising of the local deer populations, species and

	movements. This is an important part of having a more significant impact on deer in the wider area. Any deer that are culled should be culled using firearms. Rabbits are also present in the woodland however their browsing damage was limited. If numbers increase and damage increases a cull will need to consider. Squirrel trapping should be considered as part of the current control measures to ensure the population remains at current levels across the woodlands. This could be subsidised by Countryside Stewardship funding.

6.1 Silvicultural Systems

The following lists the silvicultural systems that will be employed within this management plan:

Harvesting
Coppicing: Coppicing – a 40+ year rotation will allow the woodlands to be brought back into management whilst maintaining a sustainable coppice cycle. Coppice coupes will be no more than 1ha in size and no smaller than 0.2ha.

Phased felling and restructuring of plantations
None Planned.

Establishment, restocking and regeneration
Coppice areas: If Phytophthora cinnamomi is found within areas of sweet chestnut it will be coppiced and trees species such as English oak, common Beech, Hornbeam and Wild service tree will be panted with the gaps of the Sweet chestnut stools.

6.2 New Planting

New Planting and establishment

6.3 Other operations

Access Improvement: Access is limited and cannot be easily improved.
Ride Improvement: Rides and paths within the woodland will be widened to 6 meters to allow for: Better access, more diversity as new habitats will form and less compaction from members of the public due to dryer rides (please refer to map 8).
Invasive Species Control: Rhododendron & Laurel: Rhododendron & Laurel is found throughout the woodland. The maximum size of the plants is approximately 1m to 4m. Removal viva cutting, and then chemical spraying will be implemented to completely remove both species from the woodland. The areas of woodland where rhododendron and laurel are present have been marked on Map 10a).

7. Stakeholder engagement

There is a requirement for both the Forestry Commission and the woodland owner/agent to undertake consultation/engagement. In line with Forestry Commission Operations Note 35, this section identifies the people or organisations with an interest in the woodland and is a record of engagement undertaken relative to the activities within this plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
WMP	Wealden district council	19.11.19	19.11.19	No TPO present	None needed
WMP	CIHAS				
WMP	Cross in Hand Parish				

8. Monitoring

This section identifies indicators of progress/success for each management objective and key management activities proposed within the plan. The data collected helps to evaluate progress against objectives and is checked at regular intervals across the lifetime of the plan.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Control of invasive species: Rhododendron and Laurel to allow for better natural regeneration, woodland diversity and woodland access.	Bushes of Rhododendron/ laurel will not be present within the woodland, reducing the potential to seed. Regeneration will also be controlled.	Visual	Annual	Agent	The results of this will impact the following spraying season. The results could also have an impact on future forestry operations such as thinning and coppicing. Accessibility could also be affected by these results due to the rapid growth of the species. However, if the species is control it will allow for better access and natural regeneration.
Rides and paths will be widened and maintained to allow for continued access to all parts of the woodland.	The network of rides/paths and the public footpath will be maintained to allow for easy and safe access. As well as this future feature trees will be retained to allow for a more visually	Visual	Every two years.	Agent	The results will impact future operations within the woodland, such as thinning and coppicing. It will also impact the accessibility of the woodland for the owner, the public and the forestry management company.

	attractive woodland.				
Wildlife habitats will be maintained and enhanced through proactive and sensitive programmes of woodland management.	Wildlife levels will stay the same or increase throughout the woodland.	Visual	After forestry operations such as spraying, thing and coppicing.	Agent	The results will have an impact on the biodiversity present within the woodland, which in turn will have an impact on the health of the woodland.
A traditional coppice cycle will be once again established as well as the management of plantations with a view to enhance and maintain the woodland. Resources that are gathered from management can be used for other woodland activities.	A flow of healthy income and further forestry operations to enhance the woodland.		After forestry operations such as spraying, thing and coppicing.	Agent	Results will impact the future management operations for each compartment.
Minimise the impact of browsing pests.	No browsing damage.	Visual assessment. Annual damage impact assessment forms will be used to assess this objective.	Annual	Agent	Results will impact regeneration within the woodland. If deer damage is assessed then a DMP will be written in conjunction with a local deerstalker.

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	**Yes**	
Forest context and important features in management strategy: 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.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect.6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***). • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in ***Sect. 7***.	**Yes**	
Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	**Yes**	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale	**Yes**	

When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.	and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).		
Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.	• Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.	**Yes**	
Plan update and review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	• A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective	**Yes**	

Approved in Principle *This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.* *a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.* ***b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.***	**Name (WO or FM):** **J. Stafford**	**Date:** **17/03/2020**

Approved *This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).*	**Name (AO, WO or FM):** **Hannah Hopwood**	**Date:** **31/07/2020**