



English
Woodlands
Forestry Ltd

Woodland Management Plan

BADER INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE –

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE AND GROUND

2015-2025

Cocking Sawmill,
Cocking, Midhurst,
West Sussex, GU29 0HS
www.englishwoodlandsforestry.co.uk
01730 816941

1. Contents

1.....	3
2. Property Details.....	4
3. Vision and Objectives	5
3.1 Vision	5
3.2 Management Objectives	5
4. Plan Review – Achievements.....	6
5. Woodland Survey	7
5.1 Description of the woodland in the landscape.....	7
5.2 History of management.....	7
5.3 Statutory Information.....	8
5.4 Habitat Types.....	12
5.5 Structure.....	15
6. Woodland Protection	16
6.1 Risk matrix	16
6.2 Plant Health.....	16
6.3 Deer	17
6.4 Grey Squirrels	17
6.5 Livestock and other mammals.....	17
6.6 Water and soil	17
6.7 Environmental	18
6.8 Climate change resilience.....	18
6.9 Additional hazards and constraints	19
7. Management Strategy.....	19
7.1 Silvicultural Systems	22
7.2 New Planting	23
7.3 Other operations	23
8. Stakeholder engagement	25
9. Monitoring.....	27
Approval Criteria	30



Appendices:

1. Map 1 - Location
2. Map 2 - Area and Features
3. Map 3 – Operations
4. Map 4 - Ramsar
5. Map 5 - SSSI Large Scale
6. Map 6 - SSSI Small Scale Map 7 - SAC
7. Map 8 - SAM
8. Map 9 - Fens BAP
9. Map 10 - ASNW/PAWS
10. Map 11 - TPO
11. Map 12 - Compartments
12. Maps 13 - Archeological maps
13. Map 14 - Ancient Veteran Trees
14. Map 15 – WD2 Operations
15. Map 16 – Harvesting Constraints

16. Appendix 1 – Archaeology
17. Appendix 2 – SSSI Management Plan
18. Appendix 3 – Parkland Plan
19. Appendix 4 – Veteran Tree Report
20. Appendix 5 – WD2 CS Agreement
21. Appendix 6 – Deer Management Plan
22. Appendix 7 – Veteran Tree Management Plan

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Herstmonceux Castle	
Name	Bader International Study Centre	Owner	Yes
Email		Contact Number	01323 833816
Agent Name		Thomas Simmons	
Email	thomas@englishwoodlandsforestry.co.uk	Contact Number	07912547570
County	East Sussex	Local Authority	Wealden District Council
Grid Reference	TQ649 103	Single Business Identifier	114257432
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		53.8	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes	
List the maps associated with this management plan		See Contents Page	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence	N/A
		Thinning Licence	N/A
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
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.

To create a financially viable woodland, with an un-even age structure and high levels of bio-diversity. The threats that the woodlands currently face will have been addressed leaving a stable and healthy deer population. Areas of PAWS will be restored to ASNW with widescale thinning and coppicing undertaken leaving well-spaced stands that enhance bio-diversity. Areas of woodland that are regularly used by the castle will be of significant conservation and amenity value. All objectives set out in the parkland plan and the SSSI management plans will be met.

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	Increase bio-diversity within the woodlands
2	Improve the aesthetics for the woodland
3	Reduce the cover from conifer trees on PAWS
4	Increase regeneration
5	Reduce the populations of browsing pests
6	Eradicate invasive species
7	Enhance the SSSI
8	Improve HGV access to compartment 1
9	Meet the objectives in the HLS that apply to the woodland
10	Maintain and increase favourable dormice habitat

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. This plan was originally approved in 2015 and was revised in 2018:

Objectives	Achievement
Increase bio-diversity within the woodlands	Yes – But ongoing - through a harvesting operation and with the creation of 1000m of woodland rides there is an increase in ground flora structure and diversity as well as invertebrates.
Improve the aesthetics for the woodland	Yes – the harvesting operation has created a more open, inviting woodland and removed dangerous and diseased trees.
Reduce the cover from conifer trees on PAWS	Yes – But ongoing - the harvesting operation targeted the removal of softwood. The percentage of softwood cover is due to be further reduced in the 2022 harvesting operation.
Increase regeneration	Yes – But ongoing -although this could be increased further by using regeneration felling to create more open areas within the stands
Reduce the populations of browsing pests	Yes – But ongoing - squirrel trapping and deer culling began in 2018 under the CS funding
Eradicate invasive species	Part complete – CS funding requires the eradication by December 2018. This program is underway.
Enhance the SSSI	Yes – this was overseen by Tracey Younghusband and completed under the HLS agreement
Improve HGV access to compartment 1	Yes – The access facilitated the harvesting operation and remains in a usable condition for future works.
Meet the objectives in the HLS that apply to the woodland	Part complete – the parkland requires further intervention after a thinning operation in 2018
Maintain and increase favourable dormice habitat	Part complete – areas of unfavourable habitat are becoming favourable since the harvesting operation. Further survey work is required to make an assessment as to whether this is changing the way dormice

	are using the woodlands.
--	--------------------------

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

The estate lies on the South Eastern boundary of the Sussex High Weald. The geology is clay overlaying Tunbridge Sandstone. It rises from the Pevensey Marshes to approximately 30 meters above sea level. The majority of the woodland being on a South Eastern shallow incline.

The woodlands are broadly classified as WF14 - *Fagus sylvatica* *Rubus fruticosus* woodland; however, Scots Pine, Larch, Western Hemlock, Norway Spruce and Corsican Pine were used in the 1950s plantings for shelter belts, sight screening, nursery trees and for two commercial plantations.

The oldest tree, a multi stemmed Hornbeam, is estimated to be more than 900 years of age and probably originates from an ancient hedge line. The ancient Sweet Chestnut avenue dates from the 17th century, the mature Oak date from the 19th Century, the veteran Ash appears to be the remains of original hedgerow and dates to the early 19th century. There is little age graduation between the trees of the 19th century, the plantings of the early 1950s and the subsequent plantings of 2007.

All the woodland form 80% of the catchment area of the Kentland Fleet, a tributary of the Pevensey Haven which drains half of the Pevensey marshes. The source of the water is runoff, in the winter as the ground aquifers fill springs flow along the 25-meter contour.

4.2 History of management

In the early part of the 20th century there was some planting of North American Oak, Chinese Juniper, Cotoneaster, Hemlock and Larch. These and flowering Rhododendron were planted for aesthetic purposes whilst Laurel was planted as game cover.

Between 1948 and 1954 the RGO (Royal Greenwich Observatory) undertook some re-afforestation planting Oak, Beech, Dawn Redwood, Scots and Corsican Pine. No

pro-active management was undertaken until 2005.

The work subsequently carried out after 2005 included thinning, clear felling and replanting supported by FC Woodland Improvement within and Management grants. Sweet Chestnut coppicing was intermittent until 2005 when rotation was commenced.

In 2015 a harvesting operation saw the thinning of the high-forest in compartment 1, 2, 7 and 5. The softwood cover was targeted and around 1300ton of timber was removed.

In 2015 compartment 2e was coppiced.

In 2018 compartment 8 and 3 were thinned and compartment 1i and part of 1m were coppiced.

4.3 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	Yes	10a, 10c	No	6
Special Area of Conservation	No		Yes	7
Tree Preservation Order	Yes		No	11
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		Yes	4
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
Notes	<p>Pevensey levels borders compartment 15, 14 3 2 and 4 and is host to the Pevensey Levels Ramsar Site and Special Area of Conservation and SSSI. Herstmonceux Park SSSI runs into compartment 10a and 1c. It is unfavorable recovering, and was described by Kristoffer Hewitt in 2009 as:</p> <p>"This unit is a series of three ponds with fringing fen vegetation grading to willow and alder carr. Since</p>			



	<p>the 1980s fen has dominated the two upper ponds. The upper pond, to the north of the footpath, has become more fen dominated with a smaller area of open water and alder/willow encroaching at the edges. The lower pond has a good balance of fen and open water although horse tail is becoming dominant in a central area. The fen vegetation consists of Typha, Glyceria, Sparganium with some Scutellaria. The notified plant, milk parsley, is abundant on the western edges of the ponds to the north and south of the footpath. It appears to be thriving within relatively well grown fen vegetation. Water quality was assessed visually as good but no chemical assessment was made."</p>
--	---

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Bats will be using all areas of the woodland for foraging and will be roosting in trees with potential roosting habitat present.
Dormouse		Yes	All	16	Dormice are breeding within all areas of the woodland to lesser and greater extents. On-going surveys are being carried out in 2018
Great Crested Newt		No			
Otter		Yes			Otter should be considered present in riparian habitats
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			
Biodiversity - Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	Yes			Please see paragraph 3 of page 6 of the Herstmonceux SSSI management plan.
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		Yes			The Water Vole was recorded in castle grounds in 2005

Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	Yes			Grass snakes have been found on the castle grounds
Plants	Yes			Compartments 10a and 1l are part of the SSSI. Cornish Moneywort, Water Violet Milk Parsley are located in these areas
Fungi/Lichens	Yes			Please see paragraph 6 of page 6 of the SSSI management plan
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes			Likely present but not noted. The focus of previous management has been to encourage them through bio- diversity ride management.
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			Likely to be present in the woodlands around the ponds, but not noted.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	Yes			The castle itself is a scheduled monument number ES154.
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes			The RAF built extensively throughout the site in the 1950's and the remains of many buildings can be found in compartment 1. There is strong archaeological evidence of primeval settlements in and around the spring in compartment 1 and a pre-medieval settlement in the field east of the science centre.
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes			Designated as a Grade II* parkland under Registered Parks and Gardens, placing it in the top 7% of nationally significant designated landscapes.
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes			There is an avenue of sweet chestnuts planted in the 17 th century, found in compartment 8a and

				<p>runs through into the adjacent field to the north. These have been mapped by Natural England. See Map 14 - Ancient Veteran Trees. These veteran trees on site were included in Wealden Veteran Tree Report in 2008 by the Woodland Trust – which is appended to this plan, authored by Ali Wright. The trees are in need of remedial work to reverse a state of decline and a management plan in 2016 was written to address the concerns.</p>
Other (please Specify):	Yes			<p>The following designations are found within the estate: Walled Garden – grade II Castle with moat and bridges – grade I Herstmonceux Place-II* The castle is Scheduled Monument number ES154 and the park is Archaeological Notification Area 549. The park is grade II* on the English Heritage register. Further information can be found in the Herstmonceux Park Plan (available on request).</p>
Landscape				
<u>National Character Area</u> (please Specify):				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			

Public Rights of Way	Yes			There are PROW's which are shown on the operations map (Map 3).
Other Access Provision	Yes			The park is open to the public from March – October and so most areas can be accessed
Public Involvement	Yes			There are events and festivals held annually at the site and areas of the woodlands/parklands are rented out to a birds of display team.
Visitor Information	Yes			Castle reception
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes			There is a café near to the castle
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			The site is a university campus for Queens University (CA)
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes			The Isaac Newton Telescope Dome (referred to colloquially as the INT) has been broken into on regular occasions.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	Yes	3		
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	3		The SSSI was designated in 1966 for because of the number and location of wetland habitats
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.4 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	Cpts	Map	Notes
---------	--------	------	-----	-------



	Woodland(s)		No	
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	10a, 1i, 1h, 1m, 1f, 1e, 1g, 2f, 3	1-	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes	1b	Map 10	
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes	1	N/A	Parts of the PAWS as mapped are actually high percentages of ASNW. This will change further as the management plan is implemented.
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	No			
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	Yes	1l, 1f, 11	Map 9	
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes	8		Compartment 8 is listed as woodland under the national inventory of woodlands and trees. It is also identified as ancient parkland and is to be restored to parkland under the current HLS agreement which expires in 2013. The Forestry Commission agreed in 2018 that the minimum canopy cover permitted under UKFS can be 20%, which Natural England agreed fulfils the description of parkland. The presence of breeding dormice,

				however, limit the intensity of the intervention which is required in this compartment, however. A strategy for the parkland can be found in the strategy section of the plan.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	Yes	1f	Map 9	An area of Fen BAP
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	Yes	1f, 1l	Map 5	Pevensey levels join the grounds to the south and are a SSSI. The site contains many marginal wetland habitats
Other (please Specify):	No			