

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

2.1 Vision

To sustainably manage the estate woodland over the long-term through a planned programme of thinning, felling, regeneration and conservation works. To produce a regular supply of softwood and hardwood timber for local processing markets.

Pro-actively manage the woodlands to minimise the impact of tree disease and develop a diverse woodland structure of age and species to enhance resilience to climate change, pests and diseases.

To improve machinery access to woodlands and by doing so enable their active management, to deliver timber production alongside habitat improvement and resilience objectives.

2.2 Management Objectives

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Landscape Maintain the integrity and prominence of the woodlands in the local landscape. To utilise both long term retention fringes and group selection felling alongside phased felling to ensure continuity of presence and minimise visual impact. Maintain the visual amenity from views such as the Sandstone Ridge footpath. To actively promote diversity of species, structure and age class to reduce the risks of woodland loss through wind throw, pests and diseases or fire. Retain form and overall extent of Cpts 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 & 50 around main park by castle to keep the landscape character of this park and garden heritage asset. Manage these areas by continuous cover forestry and if targeted felling and restock of ash is required then restrict to 25-30% of cpt and retain mature trees on fringes to mitigate landscape impact.
2	Economic Timber Production To implement a programme of active management to release timber for sale to offset improvement and annual management costs, whilst enhancing the capital value of the woodland through sound silvicultural practice. To improve management infrastructure by surfacing of turning / loading points and targeted surfacing of access tracks to woodlands. To evolve the diversity of crop type for a balance of short and long term production.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
3	Game Management To provide a strong vertical structure with multiple growth heights in high forest stands to provide rearing, nesting and roosting cover (to overlap with biodiversity objectives for wild bird habitat provision). To identify bespoke management of woodland edges adjacent to main drives for speed and height of flight. To manage pen areas sensitively and adhere to the BASC guidelines on stocking and density. To tailor work timings to avoid the Nov-Jan period in shoot sensitive cpts.
4	Biodiversity To undertake active management through thinning, coppicing and felling to diversify the woodland structure and increase the range of habitat niches from ground flora to understorey, coppice, sub-storey and high canopy. To implement structured management of rides / glades to include successional edge habitat. To identify and conserve known protected species and work within best practice in all cases for bird nesting and European Protected Species. To retain some standing and fallen deadwood for invertebrate, bird and bat habitat. Monitor the woodland at Cpt 36 b, e,f and Cpt 37a (part) for signs of windthrow which may expose the SSSI geology and report any issues to NE.
5	Resilience To monitor existing woodland, new plantings, natural regeneration, and coppice regrowth to identify damage from mammals, pests and diseases at the earliest stage. To manage the woodlands for a diversity of age class, structure and species to combat the impact of pests, diseases and climate change, including deer and squirrels, Dothistroma Needle Blight, Acute Oak Decline and Phytophthora ramorum.