



**Forestry Commission**  
**South East England Conservancy**  
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Our Ref: EIA019900262

2 February 2007

**Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations**  
**1999:**

**Foxbury Plantation**

Following submission of plans from The National Trust to carry out deforestation on part of the 150 hectares at Foxbury Plantation at West Wellow in Hampshire, the Forestry Commission (South East England Conservancy) requested the applicant to prepare an Environmental Statement in connection with their application. This falls under the Environmental Impact (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999.

The Forestry Commission has now considered the application and the information provided in the Environmental Statement. Comments following consultation have also been considered. The Forestry Commission has now decided to give consent for the proposals subject to the following conditions:

- (a) *The work must be started between the 2 February 2007 and 2 February 2012;*
- (b) *No work shall be carried out after 2 February 2017;*
- (c) *Deforestation should only be carried out on the areas outlined on the plan attached at appendix 2. Deforested areas will be converted to dry heath, wet heath (including poor fen) and acidic grassland. Retained woodland will be converted to native woodland*
- (d) *A detailed management plan will be produced within 1 year of commencement of felling operations which will detail the ongoing management of the site to establish and maintain the matrix of habitats described above while maintaining archaeological and landscape features detailed in subsequent conditions.*
- (e) *The woodland area to be retained along the northern edge of the site (as shown at appendix 2 detailed as 'Retained screen for A36') will be managed to maintain continuous tree cover with a robust woodland understorey of native species to provide a screen for light pollution from the A36 and a filter for road noise and road pollution*
- (f) *Areas designated for restoration to dry heath, wet heath and acidic grassland will be:*
  - i. *cleared of lop and top and non-native species following tree felling and the site prepared to facilitate colonisation by species appropriate to this habitat;*
  - ii. *tree stumps will either be cut low to the ground (i.e. < 15 cm) or be ground down to ground level; and*

iii. *managed appropriately to create and maintain these priority habitats.*

(g) *Areas to be maintained as woodland will be:*

- i. *Managed to facilitate their conversion to predominantly native woodland over a 10 year period following the guidelines outlined in the Forestry Commission publication: 'Restoration of Native Woodland on Ancient Woodland Sites';*
- ii. *Conversion to native woodland (including 'scrub') will include the removal of all rhododendron;*
- iii. *Within the area to be retained as woodland, where the current plantation consists of larch a proportion of the existing larch trees (10-15%) will be retained to provide food (seeds) for woodland birds; and*
- iv. *Areas to be maintained as 'scrub' woodland (located as designated on the plan comprising appendix 2) will consist of primary coloniser native trees and shrubs (including willow, blackthorn and birch) be cut intermittently to maintain this discrete habitat type.*

(h) *Deforestation will be carried out in three phases as outlined in the plans shown in appendix 3a, b & c. These phases will be carried out in sequence. The felling of phases 1 & 2 will begin against the retained woodland adjacent to the A36 shown as 'Retained screen for A36' on appendix 4 and work will continue in a southerly direction to encourage deer to move away from the road during the felling and extraction phase.*

(i) *A harvesting and extraction plan will be prepared prior to the commencement of each phase of woodland clearance. This will include:*

- i. *identifying stacking areas, extraction routes and harvesting methods to avoid soil compaction, protect water courses, minimise soil erosion and protect archaeological features (see condition 1);*
- ii. *harvesting and site preparation work will be carefully managed, and if necessary stopped, during conditions when the soil structure becomes waterlogged;*
- iii. *all operations will be undertaken in compliance with all applicable Regulations (with particular reference to protection of species outlined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act); this will include robust systems to prevent inadvertent disturbance of nesting birds, roosting bats and badger sets;*
- iv. *providing training and 'cab cards' for operators on required operational practice (including recognition of archaeological features as per condition 1)*

(j) *Within 2 years of commencement of work the Trust will constructively review the opportunities to mitigate the loss of 5,000 tonnes of carbon sequestration across their properties within the SE Region.*

(k) *Single and groups of trees of landscape value will be identified in close consultation with specialist officers from the New Forest National Park Authority. These will be marked for*

*retention in advance of tree felling in the areas proposed for open heath management by National Trust managers and agreed with the Longford Estates managers supervising the felling.*

*(l) Prior to harvesting commencing a phased protocol of archaeological evaluation will be agreed between the National Trust, The New Forest National Park Authority, English Heritage and the Forestry Commission. This will include:*

- i. Details of how features of known archaeological interest will be physically highlighted*
- ii. Details of how features of archaeological interest will be clearly brought to the attention of site operators (to include briefings for site operators on the importance of archaeological features, how to recognise them and how to avoid damage to them and the issue of 'cab cards');*
- iii. Clear operating procedures for tree removal on features of archaeological interest;*
- iv. Details of how the operations will be monitored to identify and record any features of archaeological interest which are revealed during the operations;*
- v. Details of how harvesting residue (lop and top) and shrubs such as rhododendron will be removed from the site in a manner which protects, both known and unknown, archaeological features;*

*The outcomes of the evaluation will be incorporated into the harvesting plan to ensure that the potential for damage to known and unknown archaeological remains is minimised.*

Appeals against the granting of this consent must be made to the High Court with a copy to the Conservator within 6 weeks of 3 February 2006, the last of the two dates we published details of our decision in local newspapers.

Alan Betts - Conservator  
Forestry Commission – South East England Conservancy

*Copies of the full decision document, the application, Environmental Statement and further information about the Foxbury Planation Project can be found on:*

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>

*Further details about the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations on the Forestry Commission's website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-eia>*