

UKWAS 4 - CONSULTATION DRAFT (1st September 2015)

REQUIREMENTS ONLY VERSION

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1. Legal compliance and UKWAS conformance

1.1	Compliance and conformance
1.1.1	There shall be compliance with the law. There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management.
1.1.2	There shall be conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines.
1.1.3	The identity of the owner/tenant and their legal ownership or tenure shall be proven.
1.1.4	Mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights.

1.1.5	<p>The owner or forestry tenant, shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to conformance to this certification standard • Have declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. <p>A statement of these commitments shall be made publicly available upon request.</p>
1.2	Protection from illegal activities
1.2.1	The owner or manager shall take all reasonable measures to prevent or stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland that could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management.
1.3	Genetically modified organisms
1.3.1	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used.

2. Management planning

2.1	Long-term economic, environmental and social viability
2.1.1.	The planning of woodland management operations shall take fully into account the long-term economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed operations.
2.2	Documentation
2.2.1	<p>All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least five years and shall incorporate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A long-term policy for the woodland. b) Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource. c) Identification of special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments. d) Identification of community and social needs and sensitivities. e) Set and prioritise objectives, with targets. f) Rationale for management prescriptions. g) Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.

	<p>h) Where applicable annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs).</p> <p>i) Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.</p> <p>j) Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.</p> <p>k) Appropriate maps.</p> <p>l) Plans to monitor, at least those elements identified under section 2.14.2 against the objectives.</p> <p>m) Specific measures to maintain or enhance those areas identified under sections 4.1-4.5 and 4.8 considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.</p>
2.2.2	<p>While respecting the confidentiality of information, woodland managers shall, upon request, make publicly available either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation, or • A summary of the management planning documentation.
2.2.3	The management planning documentation shall be reviewed every five years as a minimum.
2.3	Consultation and co-operation
2.3.1	<p>a) Local people, neighbours, relevant organisations and interest groups shall be identified and made aware that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under section 2.2.1, is being produced • A new or revised forestry or woodland grant scheme application and associated documents are available for inspection • High impact operations are planned • The woodland is being evaluated for certification. <p>b) The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes. The owner/manager shall consult adequately with local people and relevant organisations and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes.</p> <p>c) The owner/manager shall respond to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement and shall demonstrate how the results of the consultation including community and social impacts have been incorporated into management planning and operations. At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.</p>
2.3.2	<p>a) Where appropriate, contact shall be made with the owners of adjoining woodlands to try to ensure that restructuring of one woodland complements and does not unreasonably compromise the management of adjoining ones.</p> <p>b) Management of invasive plants and of wild mammals shall be undertaken in co-ordination with neighbours where possible (see section 2.11.1 in relation to deer).</p>
2.4	Productive potential of the WMU
2.4.1	The owner/manager shall seek to maximise the productive potential of the tree crop and non-timber woodland products, within the constraints of their objectives.

2.4.2	Woodland management shall not diminish the long-term productive capacity of the site.
2.4.3	Timber harvesting and restocking plans shall not jeopardise the long-term productive potential of the WMU and are consistent with management objectives.
2.4.4	Authorised harvesting of non-timber woodland products and use of ecosystem services shall not permanently exceed, or diminish, the long-term productive potential of the WMU.
2.4.5	Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes.
2.5	Assessment of environmental impacts
2.5.1	The impacts of new planting and other woodland plans on environmental values shall be assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site.
2.5.2	The impacts of woodland plans shall be considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby habitats.
2.5.3	The results of the environmental assessments shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to avoid, minimise or repair adverse environmental impacts of management activities.
2.5.4	Planting and restructuring plans shall be designed to minimise the risk of damage from wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species, and other pests and diseases.
2.6	Woodland Creation
2.6.1	New woodlands shall be located and designed in ways that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape • Deliver ecosystem goods and services • Ensure the creation of a diverse woodland over time.
2.7	Woodland restructuring
2.7.1	Even-aged woodlands shall be gradually restructured to diversify ages and habitats.
2.8	Tree species selection
2.8.1	<p>a) Species selected for new woodlands, natural regeneration and restocking shall be suited to the site and matched to the owner's objectives.</p> <p>b) Species choice shall be informed by the need for long-term forest resilience.</p> <p>c) Native species shall be preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be shown that they will clearly outperform native species in meeting the owner's objectives or in achieving long-term forest resilience.</p> <p>d) New introductions of non-native species shall be made only when evidence or experience shows that any invasive impacts can be controlled effectively.</p> <p>e) No more than 75% of the WMU shall be allocated to a single species in new planting or in regeneration plans for the next rotation of an existing woodland.</p> <p>f) Where management objectives and site conditions allow, and where more than one species is suited to the site, no more than 65% of the WMU shall be allocated to a single species in new planting or in regeneration plans for the next rotation of an existing woodland.</p>
2.8.2	a) Non-native plant (non-tree) and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits.

	b) All introductions shall be carefully monitored.
2.9	Silvicultural systems
2.9.1	<p>Appropriate silvicultural systems shall be adopted which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and management objectives and which stipulate soundly-based planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</p> <p>Where species, sites, wind risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches including lower impact silvicultural systems shall be adopted with the aim of diversifying ages, species and stand structures.</p>
2.9.2	<p>In semi-natural woodland lower impact silvicultural systems shall be adopted. All felling shall be in accordance with the specific guidance for that type of native woodland in the relevant Forestry Commission Practice Guide.</p> <p>In semi-natural woodlands over 10 ha, no more than 10% shall be felled in any five-year period unless justified in terms of biodiversity enhancement or lower impact.</p>
2.10	Conservation
2.10.1	<p>a) Management planning shall identify a minimum of 15% of the WMU managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective.</p> <p>b) This shall include conservation areas and features identified in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory designated sites (section 4.1) • Ancient semi-natural woodland (section 4.2) • Plantations on ancient woodland sites (section 4.3) • Other valuable semi-natural habitats (section 4.4) • Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control (section 4.5) • Natural Reserves (4.6.1) • Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) (4.6.2).
2.11	Protection
2.11.1	Management of wild deer shall be based on a written strategy that identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer.
2.11.2	A fire plan shall be developed as appropriate to the level of risk.
2.12	Conversion
2.12.1	Areas converted from ancient and other semi-natural woodlands after 1994 shall not normally qualify for certification.
2.12.2	Woodland areas shall be converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree production only where conversion is consistent with other requirements of this certification standard, including the need to leave open space, and in accordance with any approved management plan from the relevant Forestry Authority, or when clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement. Christmas trees shall be grown using traditional, non-intensive techniques.
2.12.3	Conversion to non-forested land shall take place only in certain limited circumstances as set out in this requirement.

	<p>The new land use shall be more valuable than any type of practicably achievable woodland cover in terms of its biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits, and conditions a, b, c and d shall be met:</p> <p>a) The woodland is not identified as of high conservation value in sections 4.1 – 4.3 & 4.5, nor identified as contributing to the cultural and historical values in section 4.8.</p> <p>b) There is no evidence of unresolved substantial dispute.</p> <p>c) Conversion and subsequent site management protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The status and condition of UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and habitats. ii. Important landscape features and character. iii. Important historic environment features and character. <p>d) The subsequent management of the converted area shall be integrated with the rest of the WMU.</p>
2.13	Implementation, amendment and revision of the plan
2.13.1	The implementation of the work programme shall be in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. Any deviation from prescription or planned rate of progress shall be justified, overall objectives shall still be achieved and the ecological integrity of the woodland maintained.
2.14	Monitoring
2.14.1	The owner/manager shall devise and implement a monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management. This shall be part of the management planning documentation. Monitoring procedures shall be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change, and records shall be kept in a form that ensures that they are of use over the long term.
2.14.2	<p>The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the management plan • The achievement of objectives and verifiable targets • Implementation of operational plans • Economic viability • Harvesting yields • Environmental impacts of management, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impacts of operations on priority habitats and species, landscape values, water and soils ○ Impacts of non-native species, including invasiveness ○ Impacts of grazing and browsing • Social impacts of management. • Changes in environmental condition, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree health ○ Woodland composition and structure ○ Areas and features of conservation value ○ Ancient woodland features and remnants, including responses to management and any threats ○ Cultural heritage features • Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts • Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials.

2.14.3	Owners/managers shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation.
2.14.4	Monitoring findings, or summaries thereof, shall be made publicly available upon request.

3. Forestry Operations

3.1	General
3.1.1	Forest operations shall conform to best forestry practice guidance.
3.1.2	The planning of woodland operations shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required. b) Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts. c) Taking measures to protect special features, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. d) Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.
3.1.3	Operational plans shall be clearly communicated to all workers so that they understand and implement safety precautions, environmental protection plans, biosecurity protocols, emergency procedures, and prescriptions for the management of features of high conservation value.
3.2	Harvest operations
3.2.1	Timber and non timber woodland products (NTWPs) shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage.
3.2.2	Harvesting and sales documentation shall enable all timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) that are to be sold as certified to be traced back to the woodland of origin.
3.2.3	Lop and top shall be burnt only where there is demonstrable management benefit, after full consideration of impacts.
3.2.4	Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall not be practised where it is likely to have significant negative effects.
3.3	Forest roads
3.3.1	For new roads, all necessary consents shall be obtained.
3.3.2	Roads and timber extraction tracks and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact.
3.4	Pesticides, biological control agents and fertilizers
3.4.1	Owners/managers shall minimise their use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilizers and endeavour to avoid the use of pesticides and fertilizers where practicable.
3.4.2	a) The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective Integrated Pest Management Strategy that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing

	<p>primary reliance on prevention and, where this is not practicable, biological control methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites with special biodiversity attributes (see also section 4.1 – 4.3) when considering methods of control • Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application. <p>b) The strategy shall include a description of all known use over the previous five years, or the duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years.</p> <p>c) The strategy shall specify aims for the minimisation or elimination of pesticide usage, taking into account considerations of cost (economic, social and environmental), and the cyclical nature of woodland management operations.</p> <p>d) The strategy shall be appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management.</p>
3.4.3	<p>Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:</p> <p>a) The owner/manager shall provide reasons to justify their use demonstrating that there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry. (See also section 3.4.6 on fertilizers.)</p> <p>c) The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation.</p>
3.4.4	<p>Where pesticides or biological control agents are to be used the owner/manager shall be able to demonstrate that they are meeting the requirements of best practice for use of pesticides and biological control agents.</p>
3.4.5	<p>Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:</p> <p>a) They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities, and</p> <p>b) They are not banned by international agreement, and</p> <p>c) Their use is permitted by the certificate holder's certification scheme.</p> <p>Pesticides categorised as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organization or any other pesticides whose use is restricted by the certificate holder's certification scheme shall not be used unless:</p> <p>a) no effective and practicable alternatives are available, and</p> <p>b) their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by the certificate holder's certification scheme, and</p> <p>c) any such mechanism provides for their use to be justified and on the condition that usage shall be discontinued once effective and practicable alternatives are available.</p>
3.4.6	<p>Fertilizers (inorganic and organic):</p> <p>a) Fertilizers shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>b) Where fertilizers are to be used the owner/manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry.</p> <p>c) In addition, bio-solids shall only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with section 3.1.</p> <p>d) The owner/manager shall keep a record of fertilizer usage.</p>

3.5	Fencing
3.5.1	Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing.
3.5.2	Where fences are used, alignment shall be designed to minimise impacts on access (particularly public rights of way), landscape, wildlife and historic environment sites.
3.6	Waste
3.6.1	Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations.
3.6.2	Owners/managers shall prepare and implement a plan to progressively remove redundant materials.
3.7	Pollution
3.7.1	Owners/managers shall adopt management practices that minimise diffuse pollution arising from forest operations.
3.7.2	Plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with accidental spillages.

4 Natural and historic environment

4.1	Protection of rare species, habitats and natural resources including statutory designated sites and protected species
4.1.1	<p>a) Areas and features of high conservation value having particular significance for biodiversity, including sites important for endangered but mobile species, shall be identified by reference to statutory designations at national or regional level and/or through assessment on the ground.</p> <p>b) The identified areas, species and features of high conservation value shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>c) There shall be ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations.</p> <p>d) The areas and features shall be managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies, and shall be marked on maps.</p>
4.2	Conservation of ancient semi-natural woodlands
4.2.1	<p>a) Ancient semi-natural woodland shall be identified by reference to published maps and/or by assessment on the ground.</p> <p>b) The high conservation value of ancient semi-natural woodlands shall be maintained and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>c) Adverse ecological impacts of non-native species shall be identified and inform management. .</p>
4.3	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
4.3.1	<p>Owners/managers shall maintain and enhance features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites</p> <p>Owners/managers shall:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate remnant features • Identify and evaluate threats • Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants • Implement targeted actions.
4.4	Protection of conservation values in other woodlands and semi-natural habitats
4.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Areas, species and features of conservation value in other woodlands shall be identified. b) The identified areas, species and features of conservation value shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. c) Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management.
4.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Valuable semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, heathland, wood pasture and grassland) that have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into the WMU, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), shall be identified and enhanced, restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further loss of biodiversity or cultural value. b) Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management.
4.5	Watershed management and erosion control
4.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control shall be identified in consultation with relevant statutory bodies. b) Where critically important areas or features are identified, their management shall be agreed with the relevant statutory bodies.
4.6	Maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions
4.6.1	Natural reserves shall constitute a minimum of 1% of the WMU in plantations and 5% of the WMU in semi-natural woodlands.
4.6.2	Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) shall constitute a minimum of 1% of the WMU. Where this is impracticable, an additional minimum 1% of natural reserve shall be identified.
4.6.3	<p>Owners/managers shall plan and take action to maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping existing veteran trees • Managing or establishing suitable trees to eventually take the place of existing veterans.
4.6.4	<p>Owners/managers shall plan and take action to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest ecological benefit • Accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time throughout the WMU.
4.7	Maintenance of local native seed sources
4.7.1	<p>In woodlands identified in sections 4.1 – 4.4, where appropriate and possible, owners/managers shall use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species).</p> <p>In ancient and other semi-natural woodland, where natural regeneration is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be used wherever it is available (see FRM). If timber quality is an objective of the planting, the use of stock deriving from selected stands within the local native seed zone shall be considered appropriate.</p>
4.8	Cultural and historical features/sites

4.8.1	Through engagement with the relevant authorities, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall: a) identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, b) assess their condition, and c) devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them, adopting a precautionary approach. <i>See also section 2.3.1.</i>
4.9	Game management
4.9.1	Game rearing, shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.

5. People, communities and workforce

5.1	Woodland access and recreation including traditional and permissive use rights
5.1.1	All existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be sustained except when such uses can be shown to threaten the integrity of the woodland or the achievement of the objectives of management. A precautionary approach shall be adopted in relation to water supplies.
5.1.2	There shall be provision for some public access subject only to limited exemptions. Where there is a special demand for further public access for the purpose of environmental education, the owner/manager shall make reasonable efforts to meet this demand.
5.2	Minimising adverse impacts
5.2.1	The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of woodland operations on local people.
5.2.2	The owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints and shall follow established legal process should this become necessary.
5.3	Rural economy
5.3.1	Owners/managers shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by: a) Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives. b) Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services.
5.4	Health and safety
5.4.1	There shall be: a) Compliance with health and safety legislation. b) Conformance with associated codes of practice. c) Conformance with FISA guidance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Contingency plans for any accidents. e) Appropriate competency.
5.5	Training and continuing development
5.5.1	Only those with relevant qualifications, training and/or experience shall be engaged to carry out any work unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training.
5.5.2	The owner/manager of large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry.
5.6	Workers' rights
5.6.1	<p>Workers' rights shall be respected, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Workers shall not be deterred from joining a trade union or employee association. b) Workers shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions collectively with their employers should they so wish. c) There shall be compliance with equality legislation.
5.7	Insurance
5.7.1	Owners/managers and workers shall hold and demonstrate adequate public liability and employer's liability insurance.