

United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

Third Edition (version 3.1)

UKWAS Revision 2012

Summary Revision Report

May 2012

www.ukwas.org.uk

1. Background

The UKWAS Third Edition (version 3.0) was submitted by the UKWAS Steering Group in July 2011 to FSC UK and PEFC UK for approval/endorsement by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and PEFC.

PEFC endorsed UKWAS 3.0 in November 2011.

FSC provided a conditional approval and the UKWAS Steering Group agreed changes to meet these conditions at its meeting on 26th March 2012. FSC approval was subsequently confirmed in May 2012.

In addition, an additional change was made in response to an Ofgem recommendation in relation to satisfying the EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) criteria relating to retention of management planning documentation.

This Summary Report sets out the changes made to the UKWAS Third Edition (version 3.0) to form the revised version which is to be known as the UKWAS Third Edition (version 3.1).

2. The changes

Changes to the following sections have been made:

- Sections 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.2.1, 2.3.6, 7.1.1 & 7.4.2 have been amended in response to FSC conditions of approval and recommendations
- Section 2.1.1 has been revised in response to an Ofgem recommendation in relation to satisfying EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) criteria.

The detailed edits are shown in the following pages.

The full text of UKWAS 3.1 can be downloaded here: <http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/UKWAS-Third-Edition-version-3.1-20122.pdf>

1. Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard

	REQUIREMENT	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GUIDANCE
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.	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of non-compliance from audit • Evidence of correction of any previous non-compliance. <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system to be aware of and implement requirements of new legislation. 	<p>Certification is not a legal compliance audit. Certification bodies will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with relevant legal requirements including that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and employees understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their responsibilities • All documentation including procedures, work instructions, contracts and agreements meet legal requirements and are respected • No issues of legal non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties. <p>In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and legal requirements owners/managers should seek guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.</p> 
1.1.2	There shall be conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines.	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of non-conformance from audit • Evidence of correction of any non-conformance. <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p>	<p>The Appendix provides further information on good practice guidelines and codes of practice.</p> <p>Conformance to the spirit means that the</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A system to be aware of and conform to new codes of practice and good practice guidelines. 	<p>owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines and that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and employees understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their responsibilities All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts meet legal requirements No issues of legal non-conformance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties. <p>In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and relevant codes and guidelines, owners/managers should seek guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.</p> <p>BAP</p> 
1.1.3	Legal ownership or tenure shall be proven can be proved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term unchallenged use A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation Solicitor's letter Title deeds Land registry records. 	Legal ownership may be demonstrated by title deeds or solicitor's letter or long term unchallenged use.
1.1.4	Mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title deeds Solicitor's letter Land registry records Use of dispute resolution 	Significant disputes would include, for example, land or tree crop ownership. Insignificant disputes would

	In the case of a significant dispute, legal documents such as title deeds, a solicitor's letter or land registry records shall be produced.	mechanism.	include, for example, maintenance of fencing. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an entity from being certified.
1.1.5	The owner, manager or tenant shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commit to conformance to this certification standard; and has have declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. 	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed declaration of commitment Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to the forestry workforce. <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public statement of policy. 	<p>Examples of declarations of commitment are available from the UKWAS website.</p> <p>The forestry workforce should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their work functions. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.</p> <p>If a substantial failure has led to withdrawal of a woodland certification to this standard in the past, then substantial changes in ownership, policy commitment and management regime should have been implemented or a two-year track record of conformance established.</p> <p>Advice to owners/managers Certificate holders may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to any adjustment of the area in the woodland management unit. Owners/managers are</p>

			advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager. MP
1.2	Protection from illegal activities		
1.2.1	The owner or manager shall take all reasonable measures to stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland which could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management.	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner/manager is aware of potential and actual problems Evidence of response to actual current problems. <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of a pro-active approach to potential and actual problems including follow-up action. 	<p>The phrase 'reasonable measures' means measures that are both within the law and within the jurisdiction of the owner/manager and that the measures are economically viable and environmentally and socially acceptable.</p> <p>The scope of illegal activities which the owner/manager may encounter is so diverse that it is not possible to prescribe actions in every case. In specific cases a legal opinion may be required in order to prescribe 'reasonable measures'.</p> <p>MP</p>

2. Management planning

	REQUIREMENT	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GUIDANCE
2.1	Documentation		
2.1.1	<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> <p>a) A long-term policy for the woodland.</p> <p>b) Assessment of relevant aspects of the woodland resource.</p> <p>c) Identification of any special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and</p>	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management planning documentation Appropriate maps and records. <p>SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term management objectives will suffice to meet (a). 	<p>Assessment and mapping of the woodland resource should include appropriate aspects of physical, silvicultural, ecological, historic environment, social and landscape issues and any special characteristics, and demonstrate consideration to neighbouring landowners. Relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Red List species should be</p>

	<p>appropriate treatments.</p> <p>d) Set and prioritise objectives.</p> <p>e) Rationale for management prescriptions.</p> <p>f) Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.</p> <p>g) Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.</p> <p>h) Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.</p> <p>i) Appropriate maps.</p> <p>j) Plans to monitor, at least those elements identified under section 2.3.2 against the objectives.</p> <p>k) Specific measures to maintain or enhance those areas identified under section 6.1.1 considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.</p> <p>l) A short summary of the management planning documentation's primary elements.</p>		<p>taken into account.</p> <p>The documentation and level of detail associated with the planning process should be appropriate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the woodland • Its environmental and social sensitivity • The intensity of management • The likely impact of the operations planned • Context in the landscape • UKBAP priority woodland and non-woodland habitats and species. <p>The documentation might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For low intensity managed woodlands: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map • For other woodlands: a plan covering a 20 year period and incorporating an assessment at the landscape level • For a WMU consisting of multiple areas: an overarching plan. <p>The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate; these might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fire plan • A deer management plan • An integrated pest management strategy • A research policy
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plans • Necessary permissions from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities. <p>MP</p> <p>BAP</p> 
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2.3.6	A summary of monitoring results shall be produced, as a minimum, at the end of each five-year period and made publicly available if requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the summary • Evidence of response to requests. 	<p>The summary should include information on work completed and other major changes in the woodland.</p> <p>A summary of the main information collected should be made available to any interested party who asks for it. The owner/manager may make a reasonable charge for charge to recover the cost of making the summary available.</p> <p>Sensitive data e.g. sites of species protected by law and confidential commercial information can be kept confidential.</p> <p>For SLIM woodlands, the public summary should be made available for inspection locally on request.</p>
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7. The community

	REQUIREMENT	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GUIDANCE
7.1	Consultation		
7.1.1	a) Local people and relevant organisations and interest groups shall be identified and made aware that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or revised management planning documentation, as 	All woodlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with FC or DARD • Evidence that users of the woodland are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means). 	<p>The owner should be able to justify the frequency and level of consultation and the certification body will look for corroborating evidence.</p> <p>Examples of methods for identifying and making local people and relevant</p>

	<p>specified under section 2.1.1, is being produced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new or revised FC or DARD 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 FC or DARD consultation processes. The owner/manager shall consult adequately with local people and relevant organisations and make a reasonable response to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement.</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.</p> <p>At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.</p>	<p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of interested parties • Established means of proactive communication. 	<p>organisations aware include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory consultations by the FC or DARD or voluntary consultation with relevant bodies • Letters to individuals or groups • Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected woodland • Information in local newspapers or other publications • Meetings • Internet • Notification to curators of archaeology • Other appropriate methods. <p>The certification body is also obliged to consult with relevant stakeholders and may be able to supply a list of those to consult, or work with the owner/manager on a co-ordinated approach to consultation.</p> <p>MP</p>
7.4	Minimising adverse impacts		
7.4.2	<p>The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and the wider impacts of woodland operations on local people.</p>	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of legal non-compliance • Evidence that complaints have been dealt with constructively. <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p>	<p>Examples of impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoke • Timber traffic, particularly in and around the woodland • Natural hazards to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Documented evidence that owners/managers have considered actual and potential impacts of operations on local people and interest groups and have taken reasonable steps to mitigate them.	operators and public, e.g. unsafe trees.  MP
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