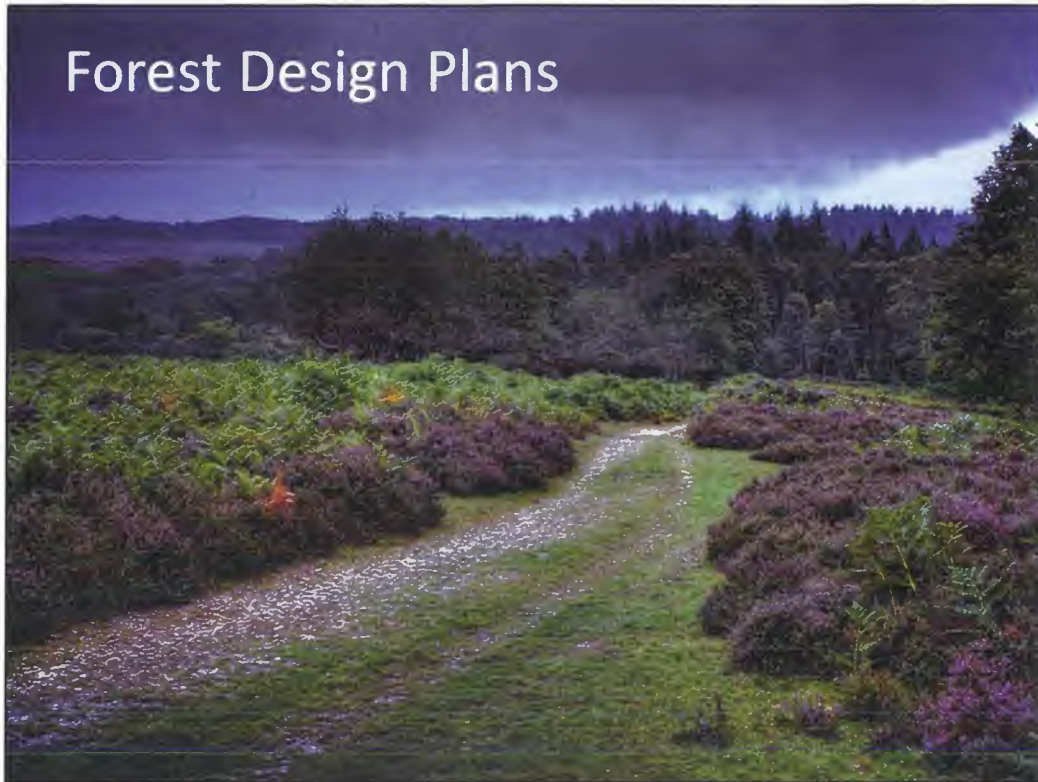


Forestry Commission
Update to
Consultative Panel
December 2018



Forest Design Plans are the management plans for the Inclosures of the Forest and set out the proposed works for the next 10 years within the context of a longer term vision for the landscape of 250 years. We have been consulting with stakeholders for the last two years over these plans before they were submitted to the authority that will give their approval – this is Forest Services, part of the Forestry Commission.

The plans do incorporate some permanent removal of trees to re-create open habitats for which the Forest is designated. Permanent removal of trees means that other regulations are triggered and we, as landowner, need to complete an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) which presents that benefits and impacts of those proposals. We submitted the EIA to Forest Services, which they opened to wider consultation over the summer and early autumn. We are now waiting on their formal determination – which we hope to receive by the end of the year. We will then need to respond to any conditions that Forest Services may set. There is a 6 week appeal period after the determination is made.

Further update in the early spring.



A workshop was held in October with a range of stakeholders to discuss how best to develop a strategy for how we manage the wetland areas of the Forest – the mires and streams. This workshop was facilitated by the University of Southampton.

Participants gave their views on how working groups could be established to build the information needed to agree the best strategy for management of wetland features on the forest; how we should build the right baseline of data and monitor future work; and finally how we could communicate this more effectively to wider communities and organisations in the Forest.

We have recently received a summary of the workshop feedback and we are considering now how we can frame some options for how we develop those ideas and take these back to the group for consideration.

Auction of Hardwood Logs



During the early winter our Forest craftsmen have selectively thinned oak trees in Broadley Inclosure to allow the remaining trees to develop.

The logs are presented singularly at roadside as in this photo to allow the timber merchants to view every log in detail. The logs have recently been sold through a national auction held in November. We received good prices at the auction with the New Forest lots being sold to local sawmills.

Planting Programmes



The autumn and winter is the planting season and we have been planting oak at two locations in the Forest recently. Trees are guarded as in this photo to protect them from small mammal damage and competing vegetation. Most areas in the New Forest are regenerated from seed fall from mature trees in the woodland. Occasionally we get areas blown over after storms and we then seek to replant these areas with seedlings.



Over the summer we and our partners have been running campaigns to discourage the public from getting too close to the stock on the Forest. This photo shows some examples of the signage used on the Forest at sites where we know we have regular problems. We would encourage all local people to advise the public to follow these simple messages.



In 2019, the Forestry Commission nationally will celebrate 100 years of forestry.

Following passing of the Forestry Act in September 1919, the Forestry Commission was founded to replenish that nation's strategic timber reserves in the wake of WW1.

It is now England's largest land owner, responsible for over 1,500 public forests and woodlands (about 250,000 hectares) to benefit people, nature and economy.



Our aim would be to inspire a greater appreciation of forests and woodlands while nurturing and protecting them for the future. Whilst celebrating our history the centenary year is about focussing on the future.

This is represented through three themes that reflect the vital role forests play in supporting society – resilience, wellbeing and environment

The Resilience strand looks at how we will plant landscapes that will be here in 100 years time that are resilient to climate change and threats of pests and diseases. We will look at ways to make our forests more diverse, vibrant and productive for the future

The Wellbeing strand looks at the many ways that forests can help our physical and mental health. It will also look at how they bring together communities through volunteering and learning opportunities.

The Environment strand will highlight the important role forests play in our national economy through timber and tourism. It also looks at forests as diverse habitats and how we can ensure they remain healthy and teeming with wildlife for the next 100 years.

The Forestry Commission will launch a programme across England that will take place throughout the centenary year.

Further information about activities and programmes visit our website

To complement the exciting programme of national events next year, we'll also be inviting local people to join us for a special exhibition to mark the centenary, which will be held at the New Forest Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst from 16 March – 7 July 2019.

Appeal for old photos..... If anyone has some old photographs which show land management work on the Forest in past decades we would be very interested to see them and possibly use them as part of our exhibition. If you do have any contact our office on 0300 067 4600.

