



Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Incorporating Butser Hill National Nature Reserve)

**Management Plan
April 2010 – March 2015**

Countryside Service
Hampshire County Council
Queen Elizabeth Country Park
Gravel Hill
Horndean
Waterlooville
PO8 0QE

NNR MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL FORM

NAME OF NNR: Butser Hill	
Period of plan: April 2010 – March 1015	
Date of original plan: November 2004	
Author: Tim Speller, Rod Green and Steve Peach	
Revision date: 31 st March 2010	
Author:	
Stakeholders/ stakeholder groups consulted during plan production: Forestry Commission, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, East Hants district Council, Natural England, Butterfly Conservation. Buriton, Clanfield, Langrish and East Meon Parishes.	
Approved by:	Job title:
Date:	
Completed Plan sent to: David Rumble – HWT David Williamson – FC Martin Healey – EHDC Alan McVittie – NE Buriton, Clanfield, Langrish & East Meon Parish Chairs Sarah Walker – CTC Andrew Smith – HCC Nicky Count – HCC	

Approval checklist

		Initials
Does the plan provide a balanced description of the site's features of interest?	✓x	
Are all national and international designations identified?	✓x	
Does the Site Analysis reflect a systematic evaluation of available information?	✓x	
Does the Vision encompass long-term aspirations for the site?	✓x	
Does the Site Management Policy reflect national and local policies?	✓x	
Do the objectives reflect the expectations of the Vision and Management policy?	✓x	
Are objectives clearly identified, specific and measurable?	✓x	
Are monitoring procedures appropriate?	✓x	
Have broad management programmes been realistically identified?	✓x	
Have appropriate levels of stakeholder consultation taken place?	✓x	

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1.1 Location

A Country Park serving Portsmouth and the South East Hampshire area which consists of three downland hills. Butser Hill, the highest point on the South Downs (270 metres), is a large area of calcareous grassland scrub, and yew woodland the larger part of which falls within the Country Park. War Down and Holt Down which are beech and conifer woodland and are managed commercially but provide many recreational opportunities. The Park is bisected by the A3 which provides excellent access from the north and south.

		Notes
Location	Approximately 4 miles south of Petersfield, 13 miles north of Portsmouth	
County	Hampshire	
District	East Hampshire	
Local Planning Authority	Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council	
National Grid Reference	SU718186 & SU714202	
Site plans / map coverage / photographic records	<p>See Appendix for key maps. All relevant information, including aerial photographs, is stored in a map file located in the Park library.</p> <p>1:2500 Sheet No SU 7018/7019-7119/7020-7120/7021-7121 7018-7118. 1:1000 Sheet No SU 71 NW 1:25000 Sheet No Pathfinder 1285 SU61/71, 62/71</p> <p><u>Historic Maps:</u> 1874 & 1939</p> <p><u>Photographic coverage:</u> 1971 Black and white aerial photos</p> <p>1984 Colour aerial photos 1:10,000 scale</p> <p>1991 Black and white aerial photos And unspecified fixed point photography.</p>	

1.2 Land Tenure

	Area (ha)	Notes
Total Area of NNR	213.79	
Freehold	301	West of A3, HCC has freehold for Butser and Oxenborne
Leasehold	1.3	Area on which Park Centre stands, together with an unspecified area under roads and car parks, is on a 40 year lease (1972) to HCC. This runs concurrently with the main partnership agreement
S 35 Agreement		
S16 Agreement		
Other Agreements	465	The Park is jointly managed by HCC and the Forestry Commission. East of A3 is Forestry Commission freehold, Queen Elizabeth Forest and Head Down, managed under a 1972 agreement as part of the Country Park. This 40 year agreement is re-negotiated every 20 years and was last revised in 2006. All license/management agreement documentation is stored in the main Park files.
Legal rights of access		Statutory Rights of Way – South Downs Way National Trail, Staunton and Hangers Way long distance trails
Other rights, covenants, etc		
Services / Wayleaves		<u>Overhead Power Cables</u> – (Southern Electric Maps 1-16). <u>Mains Water</u> to Bottom Cottage, stables, Mr Buddens field, and QE yard (meter adjacent to bridle way by Bottom Cottage). <u>Borehole water supplies</u> all of Butser Hill including the BT Tower, Luxford and Kiln Cottages; pump controls sited at Luxford Cottage (Site Map BM/1). <u>BT Cable</u> – (BT Map 15/0). <u>Sewerage/Visitor Centre complex drainage</u> (Architects Map 1) <u>Gas Main</u> to Visitor Centre (TRANSCO Maps 1-4)
Notes		Other partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English Heritage (Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM) – one visit per year from the Regional Adviser. The current emphasis is on non-scheduled areas within Queen Elizabeth Forest with active participation by County Archaeology section. Capital grants available for specific projects. - Natural England (NNR) – Regional Officer involved with quarterly Butser management meetings. Capital grants available for specific projects. - DEFRA – Higher Level Grant Scheme applied for April 2010 - DEFRA – South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area agreement (1992) with grassland areas grazed

	Area (ha)	Notes
		<p>under agreed objectives. Annual grant payment on a hectarage basis. This scheme will be discontinued should the HLS application prove successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEFRA (Organic Aid Scheme, OAS) – the whole hectarage currently entered in the ESA became organic in June 2003. - Hampshire Wildlife Trust – sites manager involved with quarterly Butser management meetings. - The Park's sheep flock is managed under a 5 year Farm Business Tenancy agreement with a local business Rother Valley Organics. - Various franchise agreements exist covering the Lime Café and seasonal kiosks at Butser and Juniper. Additionally licences exist with the Sky Surfers Club (paragliding and hang gliding) and the Meon Valley Soaring Assocation (model gliding) giving them the controlling interest for aerial recreation on Butser Hill.

1.3 Site Status

Legal designations affecting the site

Designation	Area (ha)	Date	Notes
SAC	238.66	Designation: March 2001	Butser Hill SAC
SPA		Designation:	
Ramsar		Designation:	
NNR	213.79	Declaration(s): 1998	
SSSI	231.2	Notification (1981 Act): 1984	Butser Hill SSSI
GCR			Rake Bottom (Quaternary of South Central England) – GCR 780
Other designations (site):			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Monument: Butser Hill field system (SAM 40/243 19). (Map 4) - Ramsdean Down burial mounds (SAM 147 24 320) - Holt Down incorporating Roman Villa (SAM 47/474)
Wider designations:			Within new South Downs National Park

The SSSI and SAC citations and conservation objectives documents are included in **Appendix 2 and 3** respectively.

1.4 Physical Features

The physical aspects of the reserve which form part of the site's importance or which have a bearing on its management

Geology/soils

QECF is wholly on the chalk (lower, middle and upper), and the soils are mainly rendzinas or rendziniform, with the exception of clay-with-flints on the top of Holt Down and Butser Hill. The typical soil is crumbly, dark, loamy in texture, rich in fragments of calcium carbonate and with a variable amount of flints.

Near the top of the Downs the humus stained material is usually between 100ml and 225ml deep and merges into chalky rubble with interstitial loam grading into fissured chalk at about 500ml from the surface.

On the steep slopes of the Downs humus stained soil is much shallower, often only 50 - 80ml deep. The pH is normally between pH 7.5 and 8.0, but varies considerably, and the flat tops may be 6.0 or less as indicated by remnant chalk heath vegetation. In the valley bottoms the soil is usually a fairly deep light loam developed by material eroded from further up the slopes.

Climate

Climatic conditions are similar to those of south Hampshire and southern England in general, but with local variation caused by the altitude and aspect.

Annual rainfall is about 900ml and 1000+ml per annum over the 180 metre contour mark, with April, May and June being the driest months.

Hydrology

A number of winter streams have been recorded as rising on Butser Hill (eg the Rother via Rake field).

1.5 Biological Features

The plants and animals which form part of the reserve's importance and which contribute to national and local biodiversity

Flora and Fauna

QECP is of importance at international, national, regional and local levels. In the international and national context, Butser Hill is important because of the extent of both yew woodland and calcareous grassland. The assemblage of lower plants is also of national and European significance. There are also a number of important invertebrates, some of which are nationally, or locally rare or scarce. The range of habitats and their location within the intensively farmed East Hampshire/South Downs landscape add to the sites conservation status.

Whilst the Country Park supports a diverse range of important species, three species groups can be picked out as key features. Pardon (1990) ranked Butser Hill in the top 20 Hampshire Chalk grassland sites for plant species richness and 6th out of 50 sites for the overall species richness of the CG2A community. The site may lack some of the more local species, such as orchids, but overall it has a rich vascular flora.

Brewis, Bowman and Rose (1996) describe Butser as the richest of any Hampshire chalk grassland site in terms of its bryophyte and lichen flora. It also has the richest terricolous lichen flora of any single site on the English Chalk. Brewis *et al.* (1996) also reported that Butser Hill has some 125 bryophytes and 82 lichens recorded in chalk grassland, a total that has not been reached in any other English site to date. The bryophyte and lichen species and communities are particularly important, with many being rare, including one Red Data Book (RDB) vulnerable species (*Weissia condensata*).

Southern Hepatic mat (liverwort) community characterised by *Frullania tamarisci*, *Porella arboris-vitae* and *Scapania aspera*, found on the north-facing slope of Rake Bottom, is unknown on the continent and is rare in Great Britain. The Rake Bottom community is the most extensive area of this community on the English Chalk.

All the semi-natural calcareous grassland types found within the Country Park are considered to be rare or scarce in a national context. There is less than 10,000 ha of CG2 and CG6 remaining in Great Britain. Less than 2,000 ha of CG6 can be found in England. Lowland calcareous grassland is a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and is recognised as a community of European importance in the EU Habitats and Species Directive.

The ISR report (English Nature, 1998) shows 93 species, including 6 Red Data Book species, 7 described as rare, 8 Nationally scarce (Notable A) & 27 as Nationally scarce. There are over 40 Biodiversity Action Plan species that are either in the Country Park or within the Parks' environs.

A number of rare and scarce invertebrates have been recorded on the site, as well as mammals and birds of local or national importance. Over 30 butterfly species have been recorded on the site and with further investigation the moth list is increasing year by year.

Communities

Butser Hill NNR forms part of the Butser Hill SSSI and SAC. There are two habitats of international significance (as described in the European Habitats Directive) present on the reserve:

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrub facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)
- *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

The following NVC habitat types are present at Butser:

- Yew Woodland NVC W13 (55ha).
- Woodland broad-leaved semi natural (NVC pending) (23ha).
- Scrub, scattered, calcareous (38ha).
- Grassland, improved, calcareous, lowland NVC MG 5/6/7 (91ha).
- Grassland, unimproved, calcareous, lowland NVC CG2a, CG3, CG6 (93ha).
- Chalk Heath (less than 1ha)
- Acid Grassland NVC U1 type (less than 1ha)

The following habitats are present in the forest area (Queen Elizabeth and Head Down):

- Commercial beech plantation (330.98ha).
- Commercial mixed plantation (93ha).
- Commercial coniferous plantation (22ha).
- Experimental single species plots (1ha).
- Ex windblow (1987) natural regeneration of old plantation (19ha).
- Woodland, broad leaved, natural (5.5ha).
- Grassland, calcareous, unimproved, lowland (less than 1ha)
- Landfill site restoration – non-natural infill (8ha)

The surrounding land use is mainly agricultural grassland and arable cropping.

1.6 Cultural Features

Landscape importance, historical and archaeological features of the NNR and its use for purposes other than nature conservation

Joint Character Area:	South Downs
<p>Landscape Character</p> <p>Landscape Type: Scarps; Downland.</p> <p>Landscape Description: QECP encompasses a large area of countryside, most prominently the hills of Butser, Holt Down and War Down which dominate the local landscape. The South Downs area is dominated by a prominent ridge of chalk, softened by a smooth, generally uninterrupted, skyline, which runs from Winchester to the spectacular cliffs of the Seven Sisters where they end abruptly at the English Channel. The Downs have a steep, dominant north facing scarp slope, and a more rolling south facing dip slope which meets the South Coast Plain. They are open in character, and their elevated nature provides extensive views across the neighbouring countryside.</p> <p>Butser Hill to the west of the A3 retains its typical downland habitats and is the highest point on the South Downs. Rake Bottom is considered to be one of their most striking geo-morphological features. To the east of the A3 Holt Down and War Down are afforested with beech and coniferous species.</p> <p><u>Butser Hill / Oxenbourne Down - Scarps and Downland /Open (open chalk uplands with downland and escarpments)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent dome shaped elevated chalk upland with open, shallow sloping summit areas. • Steep escarpments on perimeter of summit areas with convexo-concave slope profile characteristic of chalk. • Escarpments dissected by open or wooded coombes/dry valley systems extending up to summit ridges. • Impressive panoramic views from summit ridges and hilltops. • Shallow well-drained calcareous silty soils, together with areas of clayey soils over clay-with-flints on the summit. • Woodland or scrub invasion is mainly confined to areas on steep escarpment slopes and within coombes, some of this woodland is designated as ancient semi-natural. • Large areas of protected species rich improved and unimproved grassland surviving on low fertility soils, managed by controlled grazing. • High biodiversity and rarity value of many areas reflected in the designation of areas as SSSI and NNR. • Strong variation in micro-climate with exposed windswept summit areas, sheltered coombes, and higher incidence of frost pockets on north/north east facing slopes within coombes. • Rich source of archaeological remains on summit areas and southern slopes. • General absence of built development, confined to limited public facilities such as the car park, kiosk, and the telecommunications mast on Butser 	

Queen Elizabeth Forest - Scarps and Downland / Wooded (enclosed / wooded chalk uplands with escarpments)

- Prominent dome shaped elevated chalk upland/ridgeline with shallow sloping summit area extending up to the steep north facing 'structural' escarpment at the junction of the chalk with the older upper greensand beds, linking into the main South Downs escarpment.
- Southern dip slope deeply dissected by dry valleys and secondary 'erosional' escarpments.
- Shallow, well drained calcareous soils.
- Dense woodland cover throughout the area comprising both coniferous plantations together with mixed deciduous and beech woodland.
- Much of the woodland was planted in the 1930s for commercial purposes. Since that period regular thinning has been carried out on a rotational basis.
- Enclosed character resulting from the dense tree cover, with intermittent and limited views from rides, and more extensive recreational clearings.
- The designation of this area as a Country Park has resulted in the establishment of a comprehensive system of permissive walking, cycling and riding routes, and a high degree of public access.
- The A3(T) follows the western boundary of this area within the floor of a dry valley which has been artificially deepened to cut through the chalk escarpment and achieve appropriate vertical road alignment; steep engineered facets to the road cutting are prominent.
- Built development is very limited, and confined to the Park Visitor Centre and ancillary service buildings and car parks.
- Chalk quarry area located on the north western boundary, partly contained by the woodland cover but visible from elevated areas, notably the east facing slopes of Butser Hill, and from the A3(T).
- Restored landfill site located within a former quarry to the south west of Buriton and at the interface with the Scarps - Hangers landscape type.
- Despite the high elevation, especially on the summit ridges, the dense tree cover has an ameliorating effect resulting in a relatively sheltered microclimate.
- Rich source of archaeological evidence is important; archaeological features and remains within area, notably a scheduled Roman Villa and recently discovered associated flint structures, and lynchet banks in Holt Down plantation.
- Lynchet banks characteristic of Romans. Celtic fields strip lynchets characteristic of Angle-Saxon/medieval farming.
- The area is bordered to the east by the main Portsmouth to London Waterloo railway line.

Butser Hill North / War Down - Scarps - Hangers (wooded chalk escarpment)

- Very steep and occasionally precipitous chalk escarpment deeply dissected in many sections to form a locally sinuous edge.
- Shallow, well drained calcareous and fine silty soils.
- Almost continuous cover of predominantly deciduous woodland mainly comprising beech with some yew, together with ash, field maple and holly, forming a distinctive belt of hanging woodland.
- High biodiversity value of woodland which includes many areas of ancient semi-natural and replanted woodland.
- Powerful edge forming a dramatic backcloth to the adjacent undulating lowland landscape.
- Secluded 'secret' character contrasted with occasional open clearings in the woodland which afford spectacular views.
- Well established system of tracks and footpaths within the woodland providing limited access.

- Contrast in micro-climate from the more sheltered middle and lower slopes, and exposed upper sections at the summit of the escarpment (Butser Hill).

Archaeological and Historical Features

The site has extensive evidence of early settlement part protected as scheduled monuments and in addition some newly discovered features, all of which are of regional importance.

Butser Hill: There is an extensive scheduled monument (SAM 40/24319) across much of Butser Hill. Within the scheduled area is evidence of Iron Age occupation, and there are dykes as well as extensive field systems that survive as earthworks to the south and east. To the north, on Ramsdean Down are three Bronze Age burial mounds, which are also scheduled monuments (SAM 147/24320). Prehistoric worked flints have been recovered from Butser Hill indicating the potential for other periods of occupation to be represented.

Oxenbourne: The north west section lies within the scheduled monument at Butser Hill, and as such has statutory protection. It is also adjacent to the scheduled field system, and may incorporate peripheral elements of the scheduled area.

Forest: The site of a Roman building at Holt Down (SAM 47/33959) is a scheduled monument and is protected by the 1979 Act. The extent of this occupation complex is poorly defined. The site is surrounded by the earthworks of a field system, which was (approx 16.2 ha), designated as a Scheduled Monument in 2002. These are of national importance.

There are seven Bronze Age burial mounds on War Down and the site of another is known from cartographic evidence. These are not currently scheduled but are nonetheless important, vulnerable features.

There is evidence of a gunflint working site close to the Visitor Centre buildings.

Land Use History

Roman rule came to an end in 410 AD and the Anglo-Saxon period, which covered the next 6 centuries concluding with the record of the Domesday survey began.

By about 1000 AD the nucleated village pattern, still a dominant feature of the landscape today, had been created with its own distinctive territories. The hills, which had been home to many beforehand, were no longer occupied and only charcoal makers and shepherds found their living there.

The Domesday survey of 1086 shows that the main manor in the area was Mapledresham, a significant holding which included the whole of Petersfield. The County Council subsequently bought Butser Hill in the 1960s from the Mapeldurham estate by then effectively a large farm, rearing sheep and cattle on Butser Hill.

By about 1700 the landscape had reached a state that was to be largely maintained until the Second World War. Some areas of downland were converted to arable, including the lower/southern A3 slopes of Butser.

Other significant influences on the landscape have included the building of the railway, alongside Queen Elizabeth Forest which commenced in 1853; the local limeworks, which quarried and burnt chalk from about 1860 until the second World War; and more recently the establishment of the forestry Commission plantations in the 1930s.

Socio-economic Use

Formal: liaison with East Meon, Langrish, Buriton and Clanfield parishes. Liaison with 'local' district and County Councillors.

Informal: Volunteer group, and WATCH groups. Various club users (spinners, wood turners/carvers etc).

Income generation potential: A degree of commercial activity, producing a 50% return on expenditure with a low 'ticket price' and a well developed secondary spend, that is matched by few sites nationally.

Management Group:

Joint Management Group meets quarterly with senior HCC and FC staff.

Joint Liaison Group meets quarterly with 'area' HCC and FE staff.

Butser Management Committee meets quarterly with HCC, HWT, English Nature and ESA staff (as relevant).

Educational Use

A key site for the delivery of environmental education to schools from Hampshire and beyond.

Informal: 5000 self-guided, mainly primary, school children plus uniformed groups and the armed forces.

Formal: 5000 guided, mainly primary, school children for environmental activities, some secondary and tertiary groups.

Level of use: 10,000 per annum.

Staffing: One full time Education Officer. One seasonal assistant and additional input from Ranger staff / 2 self-employed Education Assistants.

Research Use

Many student projects take place during the course of the year from GCSE Geography to post-graduate study.

Demonstration

The events programme contains 12 ranger led guided walks and two conservation task weekends per annum.

1.7 Access Features

Accessibility and visitor appeal, public transport routes, access routes and visitor facilities

English Nature Access Classification	Spotlight	Non-Spotlight		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze
EN Access Plan Category	Open	Managed	Restricted	Excluded

Visitor Appeal and Suitability for Access

The reserve has high visitor appeal due to the spectacular views, as well as the nature conservation interest. The QECP is a centre important to Hampshire and the surrounding counties, within a radius of at least 35 minutes 'drive time'.

Level of use: 327,000 (2009/10) visitors estimated per annum (App 2). The proposed Major Development Area within the Waterloo-Denmead Gap will add to the potential numbers of visitors to the Park. An increase in the number of visitors may also occur as a result of the designation of the proposed South Downs National Park.

There may be difficulties associated with increased visitor numbers in so far as there is a limit to the carrying capacity of the Park currently determined by the availability of car-parking spaces. There may also be difficulties associated with the overuse of some areas of the Park by specific groups – for example dog-walkers or mountain-bikers – or conflicts between recreational access and conservation features.

Nonetheless, with a policy of careful zoning and a monitoring programme that addresses these issues, the Country Park will continue to provide a major resource for outdoor activities in Hampshire and the surrounding area.

Access Provision

Open access to the whole site. Cycling and horse riding on designated trails only. BBQs on designated hearths only. Pre-booked groups welcome. Some 40,000 visitors attend specific events, and 30,000 attend bbqs . 10,000 school children/students visit, 50% of whom receive some for of guided activity.

Byelaws: Hampshire - National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 - Open Spaces Act 1906. Forestry Commission Byelaws 1982.

The main facility area is adjacent to the Visitor Centre, and to a lesser extent the kiosk/car park areas at Juniper and Butser. Car parking charges apply across all the site's car parks.

The site is crossed by statutory footpaths (FP3, FP6, FP7, FP8, FP11, FP49) and bridleways (BW49, BW40, BW9).

The South Downs Way National Trail passes through the site, as do the Staunton Way and Hangers Way.

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service has as it's vision statement " Providing the highest quality countryside and green places for everyone to enjoy now and in the future".

The Service Plan contains two main elements. The first concerns how we manage and monitor our activities and the second how we contribute to the objectives of the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Department (CCRA).

The Service completed its own review in 2009 and the changes arising for that are now complete.

The key points from the Service plan are listed below;

- To build on previous work and reposition the Service to provide strong and appropriate support to the corporate green infrastructure agenda.
- To maximise the effective use of resources and the ability to generate resources for the future.
- To improve performance monitoring and the response given to customers both at local and strategic level in identifying and meeting the changing needs of the community and market.
- Further develop effective partnerships and new ways of working in terms of supporting the objectives and policies of the Service and department.
- To clarify the role of the Service in supporting the County Council's efforts to support rural communities and land management across the county.

The CCRA Department's 7 key objectives are laid out in the business plan and summarised below.;

- The Rural strategy.
- Locality working and action for deprived urban communities.
- Children, young people and families.
- Adult and community learning.
- Health and wellbeing for all.
- Older people and wellbeing.
- 2012 Cultural legacy.
-

Queen Elizabeth Country Park is ideally situated to promote these policies. It is easily accessible to major centres of population within Hampshire and beyond. Historically there has been open access within the Park and the physical geography of the Park lends itself to a variety of different sporting and recreational activities.

Recreational activities undertaken within the Park include walking, cycling, horse riding, BBQs and picnics. There are also formal planned events, school activities, aerial club use, WATCH and Volunteer Groups.

Visitor Facilities

Car Parks: 500 spaces in the forest, Park Centre 150 cars, Butser Hill hard standing for 150.

Park Centre: Cafe, toilets, audio visual theatre, exhibition/interpretation area, shop, offices.

Butser Hill Kiosk: Seasonal kiosk, toilets, information point.

Juniper Kiosk: Seasonal kiosk, toilets, information point.

Misc. Visitor Facilities: 11 family and 4 group BBQ sites, picnic areas, permissive trails (4 walking, 2 mountain biking, 1 horse riding). Adventure play trail and tots play trail. Lazer games franchise.

The Country Park has a purpose-built Visitor Centre open and staffed daily. There is always at least one duty officer, ranger and receptionist on duty each day.

Since the Country Park opened in 1976, staff have built up good working relationships with a

number of local user groups and also with the local press. These enable valuable messages about the countryside, the site and aspects of the work of the various partners in the park to be transmitted to a broad spectrum of the population. In addition, a bi-annual newsletter serves to pass on information concerning events and other Park news to the visitors.

Interpretation

QECF is a flagship site for HCC and the Forestry Commission. Facilities include:

- Park map and information boards.
- Hands-on environmental activity area in visitor centre.
- Video theatre and selection of site specific and generic videos.
- Ranger led walks and talks.
- Education service.
- Website

1.8 Summary of Site Features

Tables summarising the site's features of importance

Table 1.8.1 Geological and Biological Features

[illegible]

[illegible]

Table 1.8.2 Landscape Features

Feature No.	Specific Feature	Explanation of Feature/Ranking	Legal Designations				Other Classifications	
			World Heritage Site	National Park	AONB	Heritage Coast	Joint Character Area	Other
12	South Downs	Chalk landscape of rolling downland		✓			✓	

Table 1.8.3 Archaeological & Historical Features

Feature No.	Specific Feature	Explanation of Feature/Ranking	Legal Designations				Other
			World Heritage Site	Scheduled Monument	Listed Building	Register of Historic Parks/Gardens	Other
13	Archaeological features of Butser Hill			✓			
14	Queen Elizabeth Forest archaeological sites			✓			

Table 1.8.4 Socio-economic Use

Feature No.			Very Important	Important	Insignificant
15	Economic Use			✓	
16	Community Involvement		✓		

Table 1.8.5 Education, Research & Demonstration

Feature No.			Very Important	Important	Insignificant
17	Education		✓		
18	Research		Frequent use by GCSE to Post Grad' students		
19	Demonstration		2 conservation weekends per annum		

Table 1.8.6 Public Access

Feature No.			Very Important	Important	Insignificant
20	Public Access	Long-established public use by local people	✓		
21	Recreation	Used for walking, cycling, horse-riding, orienteering, play trails, picnic/BBQ sites	✓		

Table 1.8.7 Other Estate Assets*Site assets, not listed in preceding summary tables, which the management plan needs to address*

Feature No.	Asset Description	Notes
22	Title deeds and NNR designation	Copies held at HCC offices
23	Fixed assets including fences, gates, car parking, information boards and reserve signs	Maintained by HCC and FC staff

2.1 Site Analysis

The issues which have positive and negative effects on the management of the site

Site Strengths	Site Weaknesses	External Opportunities	External Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality chalk grassland • A full range of successional stages from short sward chalk downland through to high canopy deciduous and yew woodland • High landscape value. The site contributes positively to South Downs landscape and provides an access point to allow the public to enjoy it. • Potential for good education and research • Pattern of rabbit grazing maintains invertebrate assemblage and lower plant communities • Important archaeological features of regional significance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation from ecologically similar sites nearby due to intensive agricultural practice, roads and other development • Rabbit burrowing and runs can have detrimental effects on archaeological features • High visitor numbers cause damage to the site – especially the high quality chalk downland turf that is destroyed when continually trampled. Regular use by mountain bikes and visitor activity after snowfall are particular issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to inform and involve the local community to increase understanding and support for essential management objectives. • Seek opportunities to create links with nearby sites and be part of wider strategic plans • Encourage less intensive land management around the reserve through agri-environment schemes. This would enable ecological communities to grow and link up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of encouraging appropriate public access and the impact on ecologically sensitive areas and archaeological features • Market price of timber drives the Forestry Commission's long term plans • Protection of sensitive areas and sites of archaeological importance. Potential damage to undiscovered archaeological remains as a result of woodland management • Climate change may put pressure on some species

2.2 Site Management Policy

The broad management policies for the site and the reasons why these options have been chosen

POLICY STATEMENT

Hampshire County Council has adopted corporate policies for the protection of the environment and is strongly committed to the conservation and management of Hampshire's coast and countryside. It has invested heavily in the acquisition of land in order to protect valuable habitats from the threat of development and inappropriate management.

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service, a part of the Culture Community and Rural Affairs department is responsible for the management of more than 80 countryside sites totalling 4,350 hectares. These sites cover a wide range of habitats and landscape types and include over 20 nature reserves and 5 major country parks. In addition, the Countryside Service has a statutory responsibility for the recording and maintenance of public rights of way.

The two key aims of the Countryside Service are as follows:

- To protect and conserve Hampshire's rich countryside heritage of historic places, landscape and wildlife, by careful management.
- To provide facilities and access for people to enjoy the countryside.

These aims support key elements of the County Council's corporate strategy, in particular:

- Protecting the environment.
- Enhancing the quality of life for people.
- Involving local communities in the work of the County Council.

Management Plans have been prepared for all countryside sites, including Queen Elizabeth Country Park. These plans will be used to guide future management in support of the County Council's policies, local plans where relevant, and the County Structure Plan. It should be noted that although the management plan is non-statutory, it does take full account of the statutory conservation designations which apply to the site and which therefore place certain obligations on the County Council as landowner.

The location of Butser Hill National Nature Reserve, within the Queen Elizabeth Country Park, provides an opportunity to achieve common goals of conservation, recreation and access. However, should conflicts arise that cannot be resolved then conservation will take priority.

Key projects and Action Plans:

- Grassland management – in order to maintain all of the grassland types in favourable condition, some form of either grazing or cutting is required. Grazing is undertaken by the Park's own flock of sheep, cattle from Rother Valley Organics are used in some long grass compartments and some compartments are

maintained by rabbit grazing.

- Woodland management for Butser Hill
- Woodland Conservation management plan for QE Forest – this plan deals with the conservation aspect of woodland management. Forest production will continue and silviculture decisions will remain with the Forestry Commission.
- Scrub management plan – scrub clearance at Butser Hill. Scrub management within QE Forest is dealt with in the Forest Management Plan.
- Conservation Monitoring and Survey Plan - much of the monitoring is required to ascertain the favourable status of our key features. The survey work is designed to provide the baseline knowledge required to inform our decision making processes. All survey and monitoring records will be stored in both paper format and on 'Mapmate' with a view to making non-sensitive information available via the internet to any interested individual or organisation. Full details of survey and monitoring methodology will be contained within project records held on CMS.
- Archaeology Management Plan - most actions and monitoring have been incorporated into the existing woodland, grassland and monitoring plans.
- Other key conservation projects include developing the chalk heath on Butser Hill top, research into grassland invertebrates, develop monitoring programme of key water features, developing sustainable use of QE Forest and developing the use of GIS for conservation monitoring.
- Recreation Management – All permissive trails and their associated furnishings have an individual development plan with quarterly inspections. The same applies for the two play areas.
- South Downs Forest Design Plan. South East Forest District 2006-2036. This document sets out the medium to long term management objectives for the Forestry Commission woodlands at Queen Elizabeth Forest, Head Down, Ditcham Woods and West Harting Down.
Document available on the QECP website
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp
- QECP Business Plan 2010-2015. The management of the Country Park as a business including budgets, staffing and major capital projects. Document available on the QECP web-site.

2.3 The Vision

A 50 Year Vision for Butser Hill National Nature Reserve

1. To maintain the diversity of habitats and species through appropriate management.
2. To maintain the broadleaved and yew woodland, chalk grassland and approximately the present distribution of NVC communities.
3. To increase, where possible and necessary, the populations of rare and threatened species. The highest priority to be given to those species and habitats highlighted in the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and species action plans.
4. To encourage neighbouring land owners and managers to manage land sympathetically for wildlife.
5. To undertake, commission and encourage surveys and research, to increase knowledge of habitats, communities, populations and the effects of current management.
6. To maintain the archaeological features.
7. To foster a good working relationship with neighbouring land owners and the local community.
8. To encourage public access for recreational purposes, to allow people to experience nature first hand and to gain support for nature conservation generally and woodland / chalk grassland habitats in particular.
9. To encourage educational use and maintain access for able and disabled. To provide high quality interpretation, through staff and displays.
10. To ensure that all legal obligations with regard to access and boundaries are fulfilled without undue delay.
11. To ensure that the Health and Safety of all visitors, staff and volunteers is maintained.

2.4 Objectives

What we want to do during the period of the plan to take us towards realising the vision

2.4.1 Geological and Biological Objectives

Objective 1:
Subject to natural change, to maintain the lowland calcareous grassland communities at Butser Hill (NVC CG2 and CG3) in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features, and to maintain or enhance the mesotrophic grassland communities (NVC MG1 and CG6).
Features addressed by this objective:
1,2,11,12
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>CG2 Grassland: Attributes and targets: See conservation objectives and favourable condition assessment tables in appendices.</p> <p>CG3 Grassland: Attributes and targets: See conservation objectives and favourable condition assessment tables in appendices.</p> <p>CG6 & MG1 Grassland: Attributes and targets: See conservation objectives and favourable condition assessment tables in appendices.</p>
Objective Methods:
The grazing and scrub management plans are included within the Key Projects and Actions Plans in Appendix 6.
Monitoring Methods:
Monitoring of vegetation communities will be undertaken as part of the standard site condition assessment. Extent of the calcareous grassland can also be monitored through the use of aerial photography in relation to baseline map.

Objective 2:
Subject to natural change, to maintain the broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland at Butser Hill in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features.
Features addressed by this objective:
3,11, 12,

Objective 2:
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Feature 3: Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland</p> <p>Attribute: Extent</p> <p>Target: To be maintained at current levels</p> <p>Attribute: Structure</p> <p>Target: Diversity of structure to be maintained. Understorey present over at least 20% of stand area, canopy cover present over 30-90% of stand area. At least 3 ages classes. 20 trees per hectare left to become veteran trees</p> <p>Attribute: Composition</p> <p>Target: Diverse mixture of native shrub and tree species. At least 95% site-native or acceptable naturalised species.</p> <p>Attribute: Indicators of local distinctiveness</p> <p>Target: 80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community</p> <p>Attribute: Regeneration potential</p> <p>Target: Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over 10 year period. No more than 20% regenerated by planting.</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>The yew woodlands are subject to an HLS grant agreement, which commits us to maintaining them and improving the opportunity for people to experience this habitat. The management strategy is to maintain the current extent of yew woodlands, whilst seeking to further our understanding of the local ecology.</p> <p>Where grassland habitats are under threat, reshaping or clearance of trees should be undertaken, particularly where the grassland is of high lower plant value. Where yew is colonising through scrub blocks the decision whether to remove or not should be based on the grassland, scrub and other objectives, rather than the yew objective.</p> <p>Whilst some trees are lost in gales and a few show signs of suffering from both squirrel damage and drought stress, there is very little current threat to the yew woodlands.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
<p>Monitoring of vegetation communities will be undertaken as part of the standard site condition assessment. Extent of woodland can also be monitored through the use of aerial photography in relation to baseline map.</p>

Objective 3:
To maintain the invertebrate assemblage associated with the calcareous grassland in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes
Features addressed by this objective:
2,11
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>The main attributes of this feature are the number and extent of nationally and locally rare or scarce invertebrates.</p> <p>Attribute: Population assemblage score Target: F111 Sand & chalk - threshold score 25; F112 open short sward: threshold score 10</p> <p>Attribute: Species diversity Target: No known species should be lost to the site unless through natural ecological processes beyond the control of the site managers. An invertebrate impact assessment should be made before any major habitat task is undertaken.</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>Although further research and study is required to fully understand the extent and range of species that make up this feature, the adoption of good habitat management principles for invertebrates (as suggested in <i>Habitat Management for Invertebrates</i> – JNCC / RSPB) should provide us with the time required to undertake further investigation without putting any of the component species at risk.</p> <p>All habitat management work, including grazing, should be assessed against the needs of the known invertebrates as well as other features or objectives.</p> <p>The aim wherever possible, given the requirements of other objectives, is to maintain species diversity.</p> <p>As already stated further research is needed and this will require the close liaison with the appropriate specialists to ensure that in the long term we have the systems in place to manage for and monitor as many of the component species as possible.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
<p>The invertebrate assemblage will be monitored once every 6 years as part of the Natural England condition assessment of the SSSI.</p> <p>A rolling programme of yearly surveys dealing with the main invertebrate groups.</p> <p>Survey of key species every three years.</p>

Objective 4:
Subject to natural change, to maintain the Static (Fossil) Geomorphological site (IS) at Butser Hill in favourable condition.
Features addressed by this objective:

Objective 4:
4, 12
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Attribute: Condition of features of interest Target: The features of interest remain intact</p> <p>Attribute: Exposure of features of interest Target: The features of interest are exposed or can be re-exposed by 1 or 2 people, using hand tools, in less than three hours approximately</p> <p>Attribute: Vegetation Target: Vegetation is not obscuring or damaging the features of interest</p> <p>Attribute: Tipping or landfill Target: There is no unconsented tipping or landfill obscuring or damaging features of interest</p> <p>Attribute: Tree planting Target: There is no unconsented tree planting obscuring or damaging the features of interest</p> <p>Attribute: Engineering works Target: There are no unconsented engineering works obscuring or damaging the features of interest</p> <p>Attribute: Quarrying Target: The features of interest have not been damaged or removed by quarrying</p> <p>Attribute: Context and surroundings Target: The context and relationship of the features of interest to the surroundings have not been diminished through physical damage and use of the surrounding land does not lead to changes that might detrimentally affect the features of interest</p> <p>Attribute: Geological specimen collecting Target: Specimen collecting is not damaging the features of interest. No unconsented specimen collecting.</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>No increase in the woodland cover without prior consent (excluding scrub succession or the rotational cutting of scrub / woodland and subsequent re-growth).</p> <p>No change to the natural or man-made landscape features without prior consent.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
Monitoring by visual / fixed point photography.

Objective 5:
To maintain scrub communities in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
1,2, 5,7,8,11,12
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Attributes: The main attributes of the scrub communities are the extent and the component species</p> <p>Targets: No more than a 5% increase in the overall volume of scrub cover over the next 10 years. Increase scrub cover on the lower Butser Slopes (non-NNR areas) by up to 3% cover over the next 10 years A reduction of up to 15% of the extent of the large scrub blocks / woodland scrub edges on Butser Hill NNR over the next 10 years. Maintain the current extent of scrub communities within the QE forest blocks at present extent for the next 5 years. There is a need for the scrub communities to be assessed by vegetation audit based on NVC type so that further favourable condition definitions for the component species can be made.</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>It is obvious from visual assessments and from anecdotal evidence that a lot of effort in the past has been put into scrub control. However it is equally obvious that this has not always been very successful and was carried out on the assumption the all scrub was bad. Consequently scrub was cleared in blocks and little attention was paid to species or structure. The present regime is attempting to address these issues.</p> <p>Whilst it is accepted that the calcareous grasslands and yew woodlands must be considered the highest priorities, the scrub communities are important for the overall diversity of the site and in particular because of the invertebrate interest.</p> <p>Scrub is removed from recent calcareous grassland areas, but not from established scrub areas unless the objective is to regenerate or re-structure that block of scrub. All efforts to remove scrub are concentrated on the viable grassland areas.</p> <p>Where scrub is becoming woodland, and this is deemed unfavourable, then the area is cleared, but allowed to regenerate as scrub. Chemical treatment is not allowed on Butser Hill because of it's Organic status. Treatment is allowed within the Forest but should only be carried out to ensure grassland re-instatement and should always be followed up by grazing or annual clearance.</p> <p>When areas for clearing or restructuring are considered, consideration should be given to all the component species (in particular the invertebrates) and this assessed against the grassland objectives.</p> <p>We are also moving to a system of rotational cutting of scrub by tractor-mounted flail on larger areas, the emphasis always being to maintain a variety of age, structure and species.</p> <p>Brushcutters will be used on the steeper slopes or areas where a fine degree of management is</p>

Objective 5:
dictated.
Assessing the scrub is difficult. It occurs in every compartment, but the species composition and extent is different in each and can also change within compartments. There is also a tendency to assess the scrub against the chalk grassland or yew objectives, which ought not to happen.
Whilst the overall volume of scrub across the site is probably at an acceptable level, the structure and composition is in need of further assessment. It would be fair to say that in some areas drastic action is needed to reduce the density of scrub cover, whilst a lack of emerging scrub is also of concern.
Monitoring Methods:
Fixed-point photography (yearly) Aerial photography (every 5 years) Vegetation survey (NVC standard approach)

Objective 6:
To maintain the semi-natural woodland in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
6, 11
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Attributes: The main attributes of this feature are the extent / location of the woodland stands, the natural processes and structural development.</p> <p>Targets: No loss of semi-natural woodland Maintain current extent (location may alter) + or – 0.5% Canopy cover of between 30 – 90% Age class structure appropriate to the site, its history and management. At least 75% of coppiced stools showing re-growth at least 1m high at the end of the first summer after cutting. Understorey (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand Minimum of 3 fallen, lying trees >20cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density over a ten year period (or equivalent re-growth from coppice stumps) 80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community</p> <p>Additional Information (non-mandatory targets) No more than 20% of areas to be regenerated by planting At least 90% of cover in any one layer of site-native or acceptable naturalised species. Presence of Sycamore undesirable. All planting material of locally native stock.</p>
Objective Methods:

Objective 6:

The Woodland action plan is in two parts, the first being the physical management concentrating on opening up and creating rides / glades to act as access tracks/ wildlife corridors, re-working hazel coppice and thinning to enhance the structure of the woods.

The second part is the survey and monitoring of our woods. This is done as either NVC or Peterken stand types in terms of the vegetation, followed by fauna surveys carried out by Ranger staff and specialist contractors. The information gathered by the surveys is fundamental in deciding the long-term woodland objectives.

For the life of this management plan, all woodland work will be based on the premise that favourable condition is best achieved by the creation and maintenance of woodland habitats capable of sustaining the existing desirable species.

Past surveys have revealed a range of important invertebrate and bryophyte species, so, in carrying out physical management work, established principles of woodland management should be followed (such as leaving both lying and standing deadwood).

Under the WGS a considerable amount of woodland work has been carried out. Additional ride management, coppicing and general thinning is still required. Therefore the condition and status of this feature has to be described as **unfavourable recovering** (as assessed in 2004).

The WGS scheme ended in 2009 and the proportion of the woodland has been put in to the Higher level Scheme for 2010 and this will help us to achieve our woodland management objectives.

Monitoring Methods:

Initial NVC survey spring 2005, followed up every 10 years.

Aerial photography (Every 5 years).

Fixed- point photography (yearly).

Follow up inspection of coppice work.

Condition assessment to be repeated in 2012.

Objective 7:
To maintain ex-improved pastures in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
7
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Attribute: The extent of the ex-improved pastures and condition of component communities</p> <p>Targets: No loss of extent without prior consent. 30%-90% herbs. No more than 30% cover of woody species.</p> <p>Additional Information (non-mandatory targets) Sward height average 5-50cm. No more than 10% bare ground. Some development of desirable scrub species (no more 5% cover).</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>As already mentioned these compartments are in transition from improved agricultural pasture to some type of unimproved grassland.</p> <p>Because of the mixed agricultural history of the compartments and because the adjoining compartments range from species rich to species poor grasslands, we are unsure of the long term potential of these grasslands. Our approach is therefore one of wait and see. We will continue with sheep grazing to an agreed level (see grazing plan), monitor the results and allow the disimprovement to continue.</p> <p>Compartments 7a, 7b & 7c were entered into ESA agreements in 1992 and compartment 4 in 1997. So the status of these pastures as ex-improved begins from those dates. As yet we are unclear as to the eventual type of grassland each compartment will be come.</p> <p>Four fields have also recently been purchased on the side of Little Butser and include one field which could almost be described as species rich, and which is similar to other Butser Hill ex-improved pastures, one field which is a very recent reversion from arable and a small ex-arable field currently dominated by dock.</p> <p>The overall current status and condition of this feature would be best described as unfavourable, recovering.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
NVC survey every 5 years. Random quadrats using condition assessment form. Fixed-point photography yearly.

Objective 8:
To maintain the chalk heath and acid grassland habitats in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
8
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Attributes: Chalk Heath attributes are the extent, the number of heather plants and the local NVC community.</p> <p>The Acid Grassland attribute is extent.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>No reduction in the extent of chalk heath.</p> <p>No reduction in the number of heather plants.</p> <p>Acid U1 Habitat- no reduction in the current extent of this habitat.</p> <p>Additional Information (non-mandatory targets)</p> <p>No reduction in the number of key NVC community indicators.</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>Chalk heath within Queen Elizabeth Country Park exists as remnant of more extensive heath-type habitats. These habitats would have probably occupied the clay-capped hilltops of Butser Hill, Oxenbourne Down, War and Holt Downs. The 'The Chalk Heathland' that has survived consists of a few heather plants and some associated species such as Gorse and Tormentil.</p> <p>The chalk heath within compartment 1 has, until recently, been declining. This has in the main been due to intense grazing by sheep and rabbits and of the steady encroachment of hawthorn-dominated scrub. Some efforts have been put into rabbit control and a programme of scrub control has been introduced. This has halted the decline.</p> <p>We are currently working with a number of people including the Hampshire Heathlands Project, to put in place an action plan to aid the recovery of the chalk heath that is present and, in the long term, to extend its range to other parts of Butser (and possibly Queen Elizabeth Forest). This has involved the creation of grazing exclusion areas, rabbit control and further scrub clearance.</p> <p>We will also attempt the vegetative propagation of Butser heather and undertake further research on soil composition.</p> <p>The chalk heath of cmpt O6d has seen very little habitat management and has, as a result, been in decline. Further investigation of this area is required to establish its potential for increase. In the meantime, monitoring will continue and scrub clearance is also planned.</p> <p>There is currently insufficient evidence to give an accurate assessment of the condition of the chalk heath areas. The condition of Cmpt 1 has not deteriorated significantly over the last 3 years, and may, in fact, have shown a slight increase in extent, whilst Cmpt O6d has seen a reduction in area and number of Heather plants due to scrub encroachment and browsing by rabbits.</p> <p>Under the attributes set by this management plan the status of Cmpt 1 is best described as unfavourable no change, whereas Cmpt O6d is unfavourable declining. However, the areas are so small that under English Nature's Condition Assessment System they would have to be</p>

Objective 8:
assessed as part of the main grassland features and would therefore be assessed as Favourable maintained.
There are areas of Acid U1 type grassland that were identified during a botanical survey in 1994. These grasslands need further investigation and mapping. The current management strategy is one of no reduction in extent. It is inappropriate to set any further limits at this stage.
Monitoring Methods:
Fixed-point photography yearly. Random quadrats using condition assessments forms

Objective 9:
To remove the conifer plantation and restore chalk grassland to a favourable condition.
Features addressed by this objective:
9
Attributes/targets for key features:
Attribute: Extent Target: Removal of conifer plantation Additional Information (non-mandatory targets) Reduce current extent by up to 100%.
Objective Methods:
The conifer plantation at Oxenbourne Down was a neglected area. Because of the physical state of the trees, the problems in extraction and the downtrend in pulpwood markets there is little or no financial value in the plantation. As a consequence the opportunity was taken to use grant aid to remove all the timber and subsequently to lift and burn all the roots. This was carried out in 2007/08.
Monitoring Methods:
Aerial Photography every five years. Fixed Point Photography yearly. Field survey of key species-using on site staff and experts

Objective 10:
To maintain the forest compartments in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
10
Attributes/targets for key features:
Attribute: Component wildlife habitats & species Target: No loss of key habitat extent except as a result of natural processes beyond the control of this management plan. No loss of key forest species (based upon Species list compiled in 1999 held by Conservation

Objective 10:
Ranger).
Objective Methods:
<p>Conservation guidelines for Forest Compartments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to the creation and maintaining of deadwood habitat (both standing and fallen timber). 2. Consideration should be given to protect the older areas of ancient woodland and old stands of hazel coppice. 3. Hazel stands should be re-coppiced. 4. Where trees have become features in either landscape or ecological terms, they should be protected. 5. Tree species important for associate species should be retained (e.g. tall ash trees in Gravel Hill Bottom associated with Purple Emperor butterflies, also Sallow as a food plant). 6. The habitat of key species listed should be protected and where possible enhanced. <p>As the emphasis moves from commercial timber production to recreation, it is important to monitor and protect the habitats and wildlife of QE Forest. Particular attention needs to be paid to the impact that recreation has on the wildlife.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
<p>Fixed point photography every five years. Aerial photography yearly. Field survey of key species – using onsite staff and experts. Random quadrats every five years.</p>

Objective 11:
To maintain all known BAP species occurring within the Country Park in a favourable condition
Features addressed by this objective:
11
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Feature: BAP Species</p> <p>Attribute: Because this is a ‘catch all’ feature the main attributes will be extent and population size. (Until we have detailed information or plans about a specific species.)</p> <p>Target: No reduction in the extent or population size of identified BAP species except where this has occurred through natural processes or processes beyond the control of the Park Management.</p>

Objective 11:**Feature: Duke of Burgundy**

Attribute: Population extent and breeding extent

Target: DoB's should be observed in compartments 1, 2a, 2b, 5b & O6d subject to recording criteria being met.

Feature: Silver Spotted Skipper

Attribute: Population and extent

Target: Silver Spotted Skippers should be seen in Cmpt O6c, O5c and other target compartments.

Feature: Chalkhill Blue

Attribute: Extent of population & Breeding extent

Target: Chalkhill blue to be present in all listed compartments (Cmpts 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 5b, 6a, O4a, O4b, O4c, O4d, O4e, O4f, O6a, O6b, O6c, O7a, O7c, O7c & O7d).

Objective Methods:

The County Council, in partnership with English Nature, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and other wildlife organisations, runs the Hampshire Bio-diversity Partnership. The Partnership is instrumental in developing BAP Plans for species and wildlife. It also runs a Records Centre. As species action plans are developed, relevant species will be incorporated into this Management Plan as secondary features. National Action Plans are also available for some species.

The Country Park will take into account both the National and County BAP. The Country Park contains a number BAP habitats and species some of which may require new objectives to be added to this plan.

Duke of Burgundy

The breeding success of the Duke of Burgundy is affected by several factors including the presence or absence of larval food plants (cowslip / primrose), the correct habitat, (particularly territorial perches) aspect of slope and the right weather conditions.

The main food plant in the Park is the cowslip, so much of the management for this species is concentrated on appropriate grassland and scrub control. A balance needs to be maintained between creating open conditions to allow the germination of cowslips and maintaining some scrub for shelter and territorial posts.

Silver Spotted Skippers

The Silver Spotted Skippers were introduced by Matthew Oates in 1990. The chosen sites were Cmpt 1 (Grandfathers) and O6c (Wascombe). The butterflies were caught at Branton Down (HWT site) and a total of 57 adults released. For the first 3 years it was thought that the release had been a failure, with only 1 found the following year. However by 1995 it was realised that whilst none have been found on the Grandfathers site, 2 or 3 were being regularly sighted in Wascombe. By 2003 the numbers had increased to over 200 and it would appear that their range was extending.

The major factor affecting the Silver Spotted Skipper is habitat. The requirement for short close-grazed fescue grass, bare / open ground and warm conditions are not easily created.

Objective 11:

The re-introduction programme identified only 3 such areas within the Country Park and subsequently introduced them to the compartments already listed. Research undertaken for the species action plan suggests that whilst the Silver Spotted Skipper requires very short-grazed turf, it prefers food plants that are not being currently grazed, there is also evidence to suggest that in hot years the butterfly may stray into slightly longer grass.

The major management decisions that need to be addressed are the type and level of grazing and the control of scrub /coarse grasses.

Chalkhill Blue

The presence of chalkhill blues over most of the site suggests that the butterfly is faring very well. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the numbers and range have increased over the last 10 years. This would coincide with the changes introduced in the grazing management, brought about by entry into the ESA scheme and a more targeted approach to the needs of invertebrates.

Whilst these changes ensure that there is plenty of shelter and nectar sources for the adult, our main concern is to ensure that the larval food plant, horseshoe vetch, is available and that other conditions for successful breeding are met.

As with our other butterfly feature species, further observation is needed to establish the status of the chalkhill blue over whole the site.

Chalkhill blues are known to breed in Cmpt O6a, this must be maintained. More research is needed to confirm where else it successfully breeds. It is our aim is to have breeding chalkhill blues wherever horseshoe vetch is viable.

Monitoring Methods:

Survey by key species specialists every five years or sooner if required.

Duke of Burgundy

Weekly visits should be made to each compartment (May – June following ITE Butterfly Transect guidelines), DoBs counted and behaviour recorded. If an average of fewer than 5 individuals per compartment per visit is recorded the local condition will be described as not favourable. (Full assessment should take place within an assessment of overall trends for this species nationally.)

Breeding extent will be confirmed by the observation of courtship flights, the presence of cowslips and/or primroses, observation of egg laying behaviour or the presence of eggs on host plant and the observation of larvae.

The presence, or observation of, 3 of the above will be taken as favourable condition. Both population extent and breeding extent need to be confirmed as favourable for this species to be deemed as in an overall favourable condition.

Silver Spotted Skippers

It is desirable to witness courtship behaviour and egg laying. As this is a new population and is still in the recovery stage, key indicators are still being developed for this species on this site.

Chalkhill Blue

Weekly visits should be made to each compartment, to ensure the presence and approximate numbers of chalkhill blues present (subject to appropriate recording conditions). Favourable

Objective 11:

condition will be judged against the national trends for that year, however it is envisaged that at least 15 individuals per compartment ought to be easily seen.

In order to monitor breeding extent it will be necessary to first identify areas of horseshoe vetch and then check these sites for signs of females egg-laying, the presence of eggs, larvae or chrysalises. It is the presence of these that will confirm a site as a breeding area.

Both population and breeding extent needs to be confirmed for the species to be described as in a favourable condition.

2.4.2 Landscape and Cultural Objectives

Objective 12:
To conserve the chalk-downland landscape
Features addressed by this objective:
12
Attributes/targets for key features:
Feature 12: Role in the Landscape Attribute: Extent Target: No overall loss
Objective Methods:
The conservation management described in Objectives 1 and 2 will also deliver the landscape aspects of Objective 12. A risk assessment should be carried out prior to conducting any work involving machinery that may have a detrimental impact on archaeological and historic features.
Monitoring Methods:
Landscape features can be monitored through fixed point and aerial photography.

Objective 13:
To conserve the historic features of the site
Features addressed by this objective:
13, 14
Attributes/targets for key features:
Attribute: Extent and structural integrity Targets: <u>Butser Hill</u> No reduction in the size, extent or structural integrity of listed features. No more than 10% scrub cover on any feature except the Butser Kiosk Cross-Dyke. At Butser Kiosk Cross Dyke there will be no more than 20% cover of scattered young and or low scrub on East bank, no more than 25% cover of scattered scrub will be permitted on the south face of the west bank. 50% of the mature scrub block on the northern side of the west bank to remain. <u>QE Forest</u> No reduction in the extent structural integrity of the listed features. No more than 5% young scrub cover on the Barrows. A detailed Favourable condition statement for the Roman Villa / SAM will be devised after the forest clearance work is complete.
Objective Methods:
<u>Butser Hill</u> Barrows / tumuli & cross dykes Cmpt 1 & 3d

Objective 13:

Cross dyke Butser Hill Top (Entrance) Cmpt 3a
 Little Butser Cross Dykes Cmpt 2b & 3d
 Trackways, Birdcage: Cmpt 6a
 Lynchet banks, lower slopes of Butser Hill, Cmpts 6b, 7a, 7b & 7c

These features are believed to be in a favourable condition, with the exception of the cross dyke at Butser Hill top which has some limited mature scrub which needs removal. This, however, is not seen to be a significant threat.

These features are maintained by the current grazing regime; the only additional factors to consider are rabbit damage and human impact. Rabbits, together with sheep, make a significant contribution to controlling scrub encroachment. However, excessive rabbit activity in the form of runs or digging needs to be checked by control.

There is concern that activities such as mountain-biking could present a problem if not controlled, particularly on the Cross Dykes and Lynchet banks. There is also a potential issue on the South Downs Way. The route passes across the lynchet banks and if current rates of erosion continue, protection measures may have to be considered.

To date, the impact of visitors has not proved to be a problem on most of the archaeological features, however monitoring the effects of trampling and other visitor activity needs to be undertaken.

Additional research is suggested to further our understanding and maximise the opportunities for interpretation.

QE Forest

Roman Villa – Holt Down-SAM 474
 Barrows-War Down-SAM 137

A number of important archaeological features have been identified within Holt and War Downs. Although sites like the Roman Villa have been known about for some time, more recent discoveries will have a significant impact on the future planning around this site. Much of Holt Down has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Current activities have been confined to removing trees from key areas in order to protect structural features. However there are ambitious plans to clear-fell parts of Holt Down to protect the SAM from potentially damaging forest operations and windblown trees, enhance the landscape value of the area and create a better wildlife habitat.

The Barrows on Holt Down are kept free of tree cover by manual cutting.

Monitoring Methods:

Aerial photography every five years.
 Fixed-point photography yearly.
 Survey every ten years by archaeological expert.

Objective 14:
To encourage the use of the site for education and research, in so far as this is compatible with Objectives 1 - 10.
Features addressed by this objective:
17,18,19, 20
Attributes/targets for key features:
<p>Feature : Education Attribute: Availability Target: Accessible site for educational visits</p> <p>Attribute: Number of guided walks or safari drives that are carried out and the number of visitors taking part in walks or drives. Targets: No fewer than one guided walk or safari drive per month. The number of visitors attending guided walks should not be fewer than the average attendance for the years 2009/10. The ratio of complaints to compliments should not be greater than in 2009/10. Interpretation is suitable, appropriate and benefits visitors' understanding of the conservation and archaeological features of the Country Park in particular and of wildlife, landscape, history and sustainability in general. Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan are met.</p> <p>Attribute: number of students taking part in guided activities, the number of days that the facility is offered, and the ratio of complaints to compliments received in the evaluation forms. Targets: The education facility meets the requirements of the National Curriculum appropriate to various Key Stages. The number of school groups (or pupils) using the service is not less than 10,000 children/students per annum. The facility is offered for each day of the school year. Schools continue to request the facility and teachers are satisfied with the service. The ratio of complaints to compliments should not exceed that of 2009/10. The ratio of income to cost of the service should not be less than in 2009/10. Pupils have a positive learning experience.</p> <p>Attribute: number of holiday activities offered per year, the number of participants in the holiday activities and the ratio of complaints to compliments received. Targets: The percentage of take up of available places should not be less than the average for the last five years. An average over time has been taken to counteract any possible distortions caused by inclement weather affecting numbers in a particular year. The number of holiday activities offered is not less than in the year 2009/10. The ratio of non-booked to booked activities is not less than in the year 2009/10. The ratio of complaints to compliments is not greater than in the year 2009/10. The ratio of income to cost of delivery should not be less than in 2009/10. Participants have an enjoyable and positive experience. Corporate strategy and Countryside Service objectives are met.</p> <p>Feature : Research</p>

Objective 14:
Attribute: Availability Target: Accessible site for research projects
Objective Methods:
<p>The reserve will be used for education and research purposes using links with local educational institutions and other interested groups. These will take the form of guided walks, talks and providing information and resources for further study. Opportunities for further research from students or interest groups will be accepted.</p> <p>Opportunities to establish on-site interpretation should be explored, as should the production of a site leaflet, possibly downloadable from the website.</p> <p>Update website information.</p> <p>The education service at Queen Elizabeth Country Park is staffed by a part-time Education officer and three Education Assistants. In addition, members of the ranger staff, volunteers, and, occasionally, specialists in particular subjects are used to deliver the programme. There is an education strategy for the Park which is attached as Appendix 7.</p> <p>This programme may divided into self-guided activities, guided activities, holiday activities and management talks. The bulk of the activity programme, guided and self-guided, takes place during the summer term, while the holiday activities take place for a minimum of two days a week during the half-terms of February and October and the Easter and Summer holidays.</p> <p>There are a number of different guided activities, each linked with Key Stages in the National Curriculum. There is a charge of £2.95 per pupil (minimum charge £40). Teachers are expected to attend a pre-visit meeting with the education staff. In 2009/10, ? schools, representing a total of ???? children, used the guided activities programme. Each group is given an evaluation form to ascertain the teachers' views of the quality of education delivery at the Park.</p> <p>Self-guided activities include use of all the trails in the Park, opportunities to carry out fieldwork and various videos are also available. There is a charge of £5 for a one hour session in the video theatre and a classroom is also available for hire. Apart from that, there is no charge for self-guided activities though the standard car-parking charges apply. Some 300 school groups, representing 4,500 pupils used the self-guided facilities in 2009/10.</p> <p>The management talks cover the two related subjects of countryside management and conservation management and are suitable for groups in secondary or tertiary education. In 2009/10 a total of 10142 school children/students visited the site.</p> <p>Both self-guided and guided activities as well as management talks, must be booked in advance.</p> <p>There are a number of individual students who carry out projects in the Park. All these projects are vetted and relevant information is provided where necessary.</p> <p>The Education staff are also involved in corporate projects such as Trailblazer as well as linking with other groups of environmental educators.</p>
Monitoring Methods:

Objective 14:

Levels of use and numbers of activities will be recorded.

The number of school groups and students using the service should be recorded monthly and collated annually.

Objective 15:

To encourage public access to the site for purposes of enjoyment, in so far as this is compatible with Objectives 1 – 10.

Features addressed by this objective:

20, 21

Attributes/targets for key features:**SPORTS AND RECREATION**

Attribute: Availability

Target: Maintain the following key facilities for sports and recreation

1. Walking trails
2. Mountain-bike trails
3. Horse-riding trail
4. Orienteering trail
5. Play trails
6. Picnic and barbecue sites

Feature: Walking trails and Mountain-bike trails

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number and length of the trails, the number of visitors using them, and the ratio of complaints to compliments about them.

Targets:

The trails are available for use 365 days per year.

There is no adverse effect on conservation or archaeological features.

Corporate strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan, are met.

Suitable and appropriate trails are maintained which meet with standards of best practice and safety.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than in 2009/10.

The number of accidents on each trail is no greater than in 2009/10.

Each trail remains cost effective in relation to the numbers using it.

Feature: Horse riding trails

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number and length of the trails, the number of riders using them and the ratio of complaints to compliments about them.

Targets:

The trails are open for use 365 days per year.

The de-boxing area is available, and usable, for 365 days per year.

The riding stables are open for an agreed season.

There is no adverse effect on conservation or archaeological features.

Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated by the Countryside Service Plan, are met.

Suitable and appropriate facilities are maintained which meet standards of best practice and safety.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than in 2009.

Objective 15:

The number of accidents is no greater than in 2009/10.

Each facility remains cost-effective in relation to the numbers of visitors using it.

Feature: Orienteering trail

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number of orienteering posts provided, the number of maps sold, which will give some idea of user numbers, and the ratio of complaints to compliments. The number of certificates issued will indicate whether the course is suitable for its purpose.

Targets:

The course is available for use 365 days per year.

The orienteering map and leaflet is available to all who require it during the times that the Visitor Centre is open.

The orienteering map and leaflet are as accurate as possible.

There is no adverse effect on conservation or archaeological features.

Corporate strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan, are met.

The course is suitable for its purpose and is maintained to meet with standards of best practice and safety.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than in 2009.

The number of accidents on the course is no greater than in 2009.

The course remains cost-effective in relation to the numbers using it.

Feature: Play trails

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number of usable pieces of apparatus and the number of trails, the number of visitors using them, and the ratio of complaints to compliments about them.

Targets:

The trails are available for use 365 days per year.

Faulty apparatus should be repaired within a week if the fault is minor, and no more than one piece of apparatus should be out of operation at any one time.

There is no adverse effect on conservation or archaeological features.

Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan, are met.

Suitable and appropriate trails are maintained which meet with standards of best practice and safety.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than in 2003.

The number of accidents on each trail is no greater than 2009/10, though for the tots' play trail, it will be necessary to establish a benchmark during the first two or three years of its operation.

Each trail remains cost-effective in relation to the numbers using it.

Feature: Picnic & barbecue sites

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number and area of sites, the number of days sites are out of use because of maintenance issues, the number of visitors using the sites, and the ratio of complaints to compliments about them

Targets:

The sites are available for use from April to October.

The time which any barbecue site is not operational is kept to a minimum.

There is no adverse effect on conservation or archaeological features.

Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan, are met.

Suitable and appropriate sites are maintained which meet with standards of best practice and safety.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than 2009/10.

Objective 15:

The number of accidents is no greater than 2009/10.
Each site remains cost-effective in relation to the numbers using it.

INFORMATION

Attribute: Availability

Target: Maintain the following key facilities for information provision

1. Visitor Centre
2. Leaflets and Trail Guide
3. Notice boards and other signs (including events banners)
4. Web-site
5. Press advertising and press releases

Feature: Visitor Centre

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number of days the Visitor Centre is open, the number of visitors using it, and the ratio of complaints to compliments received.

Targets:

The Visitor Centre is staffed not less frequently than for the year 2009-10.

The proportion of visitors using the Centre is not less than for the year 2009-10.

Information passed to visitors is suitable, appropriate and benefits the conservation and archaeological features, helps reduce conflict between different user groups and assists staff to maintain other facilities in favourable condition.

Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan and the Countryside Service Marketing plan are met.

The ratio of complaints to compliments is no greater than in 2009/10.

The number of accidents in the Visitor Centre is no greater than in 2009/10.

Staffing levels in relation to visitor numbers are maintained at the level of 2009/10.

The distribution of leaflets and the use of the VISIT kiosk are maintained at the levels of 2009/10.

Feature: Leaflets and Trail Guide

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number of topics covered by leaflets, the number of leaflets produced, the accuracy of the leaflets, and the ratio of complaints to compliments about them. Some attempt should be made to discover the number of leaflets actually distributed.

Targets:

Sufficient numbers of up-to-date, accurate and appropriate leaflets are available for distribution throughout the year.

Leaflets are effective in promoting the Park externally or promoting the Park's conservation and archaeological features and safe, sustainable use of its facilities internally.

The requirements of all visitors for printed information are met in a cost-effective manner.

Corporate Strategy aims, as delineated in the Countryside Service Plan and the CCRA Marketing Plan are met.

The ratio of complaints to compliments about leaflets is no greater than 2009/10.

Feature: Notice boards and other signs (including events banners)

Attribute: The main measurable attributes are the number of signs and the length of time each sign lasts. A negative measure would be the number of damaged signs. The length of time taken to replace a damaged sign should also be taken into consideration.

Targets:

Suitable and appropriate signs are used which meet standards of best practice and safety and are

Objective 15:

corporately approved.

The number of signs used is the minimum required to provide visitors with necessary information.

Signs should last not less than three years.

The number of signs damaged or missing should be no greater than 2% of the total number.

The length of time taken to replace any sign should be no greater than 2 weeks.

There should be no adverse effect of signs on conservation or archaeological features.

The ratio of complaints to compliments concerning signs is no greater than in 2009/10.

Feature: Website

Attribute: The number of hits is the main measurable attribute. It is suggested that a suite of attributes be defined and monitoring processes developed accordingly so that in future plans meaningful condition and status statements can be made.

Targets:

The number of hits on the web-site should be equal or greater than for the year 2009/10.

The number of errors on the site should be less than in the year 2009/10.

Other parameters will be developed over the life of this plan

Feature: Press advertising and press releases

Attribute: No measurable attributes have so far been defined. Definitions and means of monitoring them must be developed.

Objective Methods:

The series of paths (both statutory and permissive) that provides access across the reserve will be kept in a safe condition, with all furniture, gates, stiles, steps and paths well maintained. Tree inspections will take place following the Countryside Service's policy and any dangerous trees made safe.

Visitor numbers are likely to increase in the future, though it is difficult to quantify this. The proposed South Downs National Park (2010/11), the Major Development Area in the Waterloo-Denmead Gap and the proposed tunnel for the A3 at Hindhead are all likely to bring more and different visitors to the Park. It is essential, therefore, to develop systems which will deliver useful information about usage and visitor requirements in advance of this predicted expansion in visitor numbers. Part of this development will also impinge on the facilities for delivering information and interpretation.

In order that any future development does not adversely affect the conservation features of the Park, however, it is suggested that an Environmental Impact Assessment be undertaken if trails are to be modified, developed or if the promotion of any particular trail is to be increased.

Queen Elizabeth Country Park Visitor Centre is staffed daily, except for Christmas and New Year, and is the primary source of information about the Park. Queries can be taken by telephone from 8.30 am until 5. 30 pm and in person from 10 am to 5. 30 pm during the summer. In winter, the Visitor Centre closes at 4.30 pm. The number of people visiting the centre is recorded by a pedestrian counter and is approximately 200,000 per year.

As well as staff answering queries, the Centre is the point of distribution for information leaflets about the Country Park – both general leaflets, produced annually, and the bi-annual newsletter and events diary, Park Pages. The Visitor Centre also sells a Trail Guide covering the Park.

Objective 15:

Leaflets from other sites within the CCRA department, including Rights of Way, and the Forestry Commission are stocked. The Centre operates as an information point for the County and the East Hants District Councils.

Outside of the Country Park, 30,000 leaflets are distributed to various other visitor attractions and tourist venues throughout a 30 mile radius. Potential visitors can also access information about the Park through the website which last year received approximately 100,000 hits.
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp

Press releases for particular Park events are placed in two local newspapers, the Petersfield Post and Portsmouth News, Events are also advertised using banners adjacent to the slip-roads at the entrance to the Park from the A3.

Monitoring Methods:Walking, mountain biking, horse riding and orienteering trails

The trails should be inspected three times a year to determine what maintenance is required. A system of fault reporting should also be employed so that visitors can make staff aware of any immediate, urgent problems.

Play trails

The trails should be inspected weekly to determine what maintenance is required. There is a fault reporting system which enables staff to be made aware of any immediate, urgent problem. An independent expert should inspect the trails annually.

Picnic & barbecue sites

The sites should be inspected three times per year. As hearths are cleaned daily after use, opportunity should be taken to report any faults as soon as they are noticed. Some method of monitoring the generation of litter on the picnic and barbecue sites should be devised.

The usage of sites should be surveyed – for barbecue sites the booking systems are adequate with random counting of numbers. The frequency and method for determining picnic site usage is yet to be decided.

Visitor Centre

The daily pedestrian count is recorded and a database created so that this can be related to the transaction total and till total.

Noticeboards and signs

An inventory of current signs should be created and signs inspected monthly to determine what maintenance is required and the accuracy of the information conveyed.

Website

The number of hits on the web-site should be counted on a monthly basis. Some way of discovering and recording the subject areas in which the public are interested should be developed so that these areas can be developed.

2.4.3 Estate Asset Objectives

Objective 16:
To fulfil all legal and other obligations arising from Parliamentary Acts, conveyances etc.
Features addressed by this objective:
22, 23
Attributes/targets:
<p>Feature : Title deeds and NNR designation Attribute: Compliance with legal obligations and terms of the above Target: 100% compliance</p> <p>Feature: Legislation Attribute: Compliance with relevant legislation Target: 100% compliance</p>
Objective Methods:
<p>The various conveyances relating to the acquisition of the NNR and Park subject the County Council to a series of rights and obligations, detailed in the Estates Terrier. It is important that the County Council honour these and all other legal and moral obligations.</p> <p>Compliance with all wildlife and environmental legislation is of the utmost importance.</p> <p>Compliance with Health and Safety legislation is essential to provide a safe environment for visitors, staff, volunteers and contractors.</p>
Monitoring Methods:
Compliance to be monitored at regular intervals.

3.1 Identification of Projects

The management required to achieve the plan objectives

The detailed list of all projects, descriptions and work programmes, as outlined in this section, will be prioritised, and put on to CMS. These are summarised in tabular form in this section.

Objective	Project Code	Project Title
1. Subject to natural change, to maintain the lowland calcareous grassland communities at Butser Hill (NVC CG2 and CG3) in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features, and to maintain or enhance the mesotrophic grassland communities (NVC MG1 and CG6).	1	LCG
2. Subject to natural change, to maintain the broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland at Butser Hill in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features.	2	BMV
3. To maintain the invertebrate assemblage associated with the calcareous grassland in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes	3	IV

Objective	Project Code	Project Title
4. Subject to natural change, to maintain the Static (Fossil) Geomorphological site (IS) at Butser Hill in favourable condition.	4	GM
5. To maintain scrub communities in a favourable condition	5	SC
6. To maintain the semi-natural woodland in a favourable condition	6	SNW
7. To maintain ex-improved pastures in a favourable condition	7	XIP
8. To maintain the chalk heath and acid grassland habitats in a favourable condition	8	CH

Objective	Project Code	Project Title
9. To maintain the forest compartments in a favourable condition	9	FC
10. To maintain all known BAP species occurring within the Country Park in a favourable condition	10	BAP
11. To conserve the chalk-downland landscape	11	CD
12. To conserve the historic features of the site	12	HF
13. To encourage the use of the site for education and research, in so far as this is compatible with Objectives 1 - 10.	13	ED
14. To encourage public access to the site for purposes of enjoyment, in so far as this is compatible with Objectives 1 – 10.	14	PA
15. To fulfil all legal and other obligations arising from Parliamentary Acts, conveyances etc.	15	LGL

A complete list of projects for this management plan

[illegible]

3.3 Five Year Plan

Project Code	Project Title	Year				
		10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
1	LCG	√	√	√	√	√
2	BMV	√	√	√	√	√
3	IV	√	√	√	√	√
4	GM	√	√	√	√	√
5	SC	√	√	√	√	√
6	SNW	√	√	√	√	√
7	XIP	√	√	√	√	√
8	CH	√	√	√	√	√
9	FC	√	√	√	√	√
10	BAP	√	√	√	√	√
11	CD	√	√	√	√	√
12	HF	√	√	√	√	√
13	ED	√	√	√	√	√
14	PA	√	√	√	√	√
15	LGL	√	√	√	√	√

[illegible]

Glossary

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Attribute	A characteristic of a feature which can be monitored to provide an indication of its condition
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan, a national strategy which establishes principles for conservation of biodiversity in the UK
Common standards monitoring	The standard site monitoring system for assessing the condition of SSSIs in the UK
Compartment	A sub-unit of a site, identified for management purposes
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 – created statutory rights of access to open country and greater protection to SSSIs, amongst other provisions
Estate terrier	A record of the components that make up an estate, including land area, details of buildings, tenants and tenancies, licences, wayleaves, etc.
Favourable condition	The target condition for an interest feature
(Interest) Feature	A notable characteristic of the site, for example a species of habitat, which forms part of the site's importance
GIS	Geographic Information System, a digital mapping system
Joint Character Area (JCA)	A geographically discrete area of land of a particular landscape type
Monitoring	Surveillance undertaken to ensure that standards are being met or maintained
NVC	National Vegetation Classification, the leading system for classification of plant communities in the UK
Objective	A statement which describes an intended achievement
Project	A unit of work which can be described, and allocated a time and financial costing
Red Data Book	A series of lists of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals
Scheduled Monument	A building or site of historical or archaeological importance, designated by English Heritage
Site Unit	A sub-division of a SSSI, identified for monitoring purposes
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest, land notified as being of importance for flora, fauna or physiographic interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act
Stakeholder	A person or organisation with an interest in, or who is affected by, the management of the site
Survey	A set of standard observations, usually obtained with a standard method
Target	A desired goal
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Standard, the audit standard for UK forestry
Wildlife and Countryside Act (W&CA)	1981 legislation (as amended) which is the major legal instrument for wildlife conservation in the UK

