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Woodland Management Plan



Cophall Wood, Polegate, East
Sussex, BN26 6RE

On behalf of

Biossence Polegate
Limited

Undertaken by

Nicholas D Jones *NCH Arb. A I Hort. Tech Arbor A.*

November 2009



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1.1 Formal details – My name is Nicholas Jones I am the principal arboricultural consultant for R W Green Limited based at The Lister Building, Upper Stoneham Farm, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5RH. I have 20 years experience in the arboricultural industry with the past 8 years acting as a consultant; I am a Lantra accredited Professional Tree Inspector giving advice to clients on a wide range of arboricultural issues.

1.2 This woodland management plan has been commissioned by Biossence Polegate Limited in order to advise on the management of the wooded area adjacent to the proposed location of a gasification plant.

1.3 The information contained in this plan is based on information collated during a survey of the site on 3rd November 2009. It describes the woodland and the operations planned to fulfil the management recommendations.

1.4 The plan sets out the long term aim and objectives for the woodland while prescribing management operations for the five year period 2010-2015.

1.5 Management operations are designed to fulfil the overall aim of the woodland owner through the objectives set.

1.6 The extent of the surveyed area is indicated on Drg No. RG-NDJ-BPL 003 **Appendix 2.**

1.7 The woodland compartment areas are indicated on Drg No. RG-NDJ-BPL 004 **Appendix 2.**



Section
2

Description

2.1 Area – 1.12 Hectares approximately

2.2 National Vegetation Classification – W10

2.3 Altitude limits - 25-35 metres above sea level

2.4 Soil – Slowly permeable seasonably wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soil.

2.5 Status – Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

2.6 Legal details – Freehold



3.1 Cophall wood is located to the west of the A22. Immediately adjacent to the west is Nate Wood an area of replanted ancient woodland.

3.2 Management aims are to retain the woodland as a diverse ecological natural resource. There is no public access through the woodland.

3.3 The woodland consists of isolated mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with an understory of coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), interspersed with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Further isolated species of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) are also present.

3.4 The woodland appears unmanaged in recent years with the last Hornbeam coppicing being undertaken approximately 20 years ago this is largely due to the screening enhancement the coppice stools provide. New planting of Holly to reinforce boundaries with the busy adjacent A22 dual carriageway has established well and has lead to both an effective visual and sound barrier. Ground cover is largely Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with patches of Nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Plates 1-4 (**Appendix 1**) give a typical example of the woodland scene.

3.5 There is excellent mycological diversity in the woodland with multiple fungal species being observed at the time of the survey. Species include Tawny Funnel (*Lepista flaccida*) Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) and Parasol (*Macrolepiota sp.*) to name only three (Plates 5-7 **Appendix 1**).



3.6 The woodland the surrounding area also contains a diverse range of wildlife; most significantly Bats are recorded in the local area (NBN Gateway).

3.7 The retention of standing dead wood and Ivy clad trees is essential to maintain bat roost potential in the woodland.



4.0 Management Aim

4.1 To perpetuate the Woodland and associated habitats while encouraging dependent wildlife.



5.1 To ensure the woodland boundaries are secure and to prevent trespass.

5.2 To ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that trees adjacent to woodland boundaries are in a safe condition and do not present an unacceptable risk to users of the adjacent public footpath and highway.

5.3 To ensure a diversity of habitats throughout the woodland by retaining standing and fallen dead wood.

5.4 To ensure that the adjacent proposed gasification plant has no detrimental impact on the woodland ecosystem by reinforcing boundary screening through new planting.



6.1 There are no way leaves across the woodland however a public footpath is immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary.

6.2 The woodland is designated as Semi natural ancient woodland and any management activity must enhance this designation.



Section 7

Prescriptions

7.1 Prescribed works and recommended timescale for the five year period of 2010-2015 are included in table 3 below.

7.2 New planting should consist of species suitable for inclusion within the Woodland classification W10.

7.3 New planting species, sizes and numbers for 2010-2011 are given in table 1 below.

Species	Quantity	Sizes
Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	50no.	80-120mm bare root
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	100no.	80-100mm bare root
Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)	25no.	2litre containerised

Table 1

7.4 Additional supplementary planting is proposed for 2012-2013, details are given in table 2 below.

Species	Quantity	Sizes
Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	30no.	80-120mm bare root
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	70no.	80-100mm bare root
Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)	15no.	2litre containerised

Table 2

7.5 All new planting must be evenly mixed and planted in locations so as to reinforce the woodland boundary adjacent to the proposed gasification plant and maintain continuity of cover whilst enhancing species and age diversity throughout the woodland.



7.6 Planting should be undertaken between the months of December-March.

7.7 All new planting should be protected with a minimum of 75mm height Tubex shelters secured with a minimum 90mmx25mmx25mm tanalised softwood stake.



Table 3 - Cophall Wood 5 year Management Plan 2010-2015

Prescription	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Litter pick the woodland and remove all foreign objects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check boundary fencing and maintain repair as required	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Undertake a visual inspection of trees overhanging/adjacent to the woodland boundaries	✓		✓		✓
Undertake new tree/shrub planting	✓		✓		
Replace any failed new planting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Remove/replace new planting protection as required			✓		✓

✓ = Action required



Appendix one

Photographs





Plate 1



Plate 2

N D Jones

Cophall Wood





Plate 3



Plate 4

N D Jones

Cophall Wood





Plate 5



Plate 6





Plate 7

N D Jones

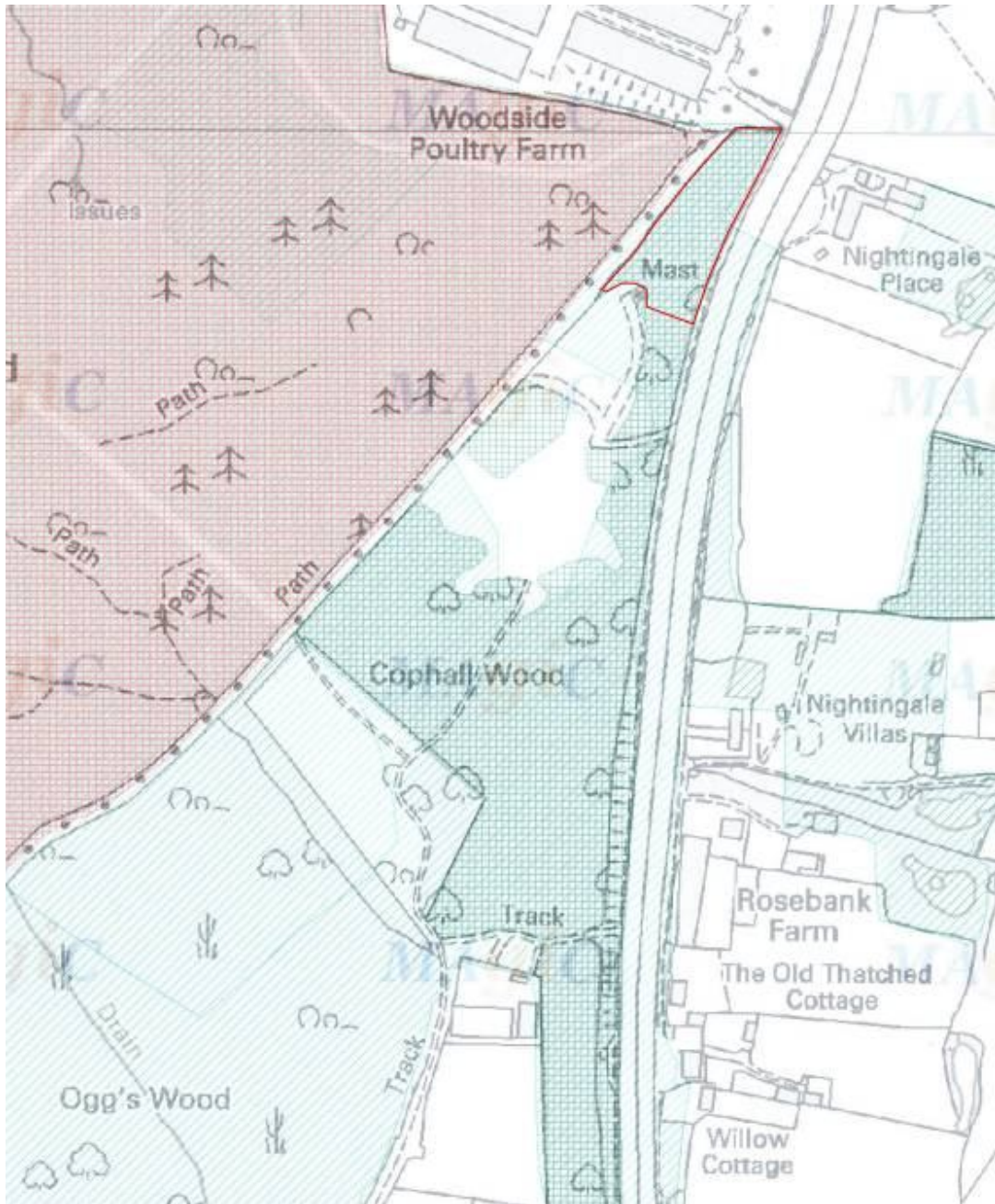
Cophall Wood



Appendix two

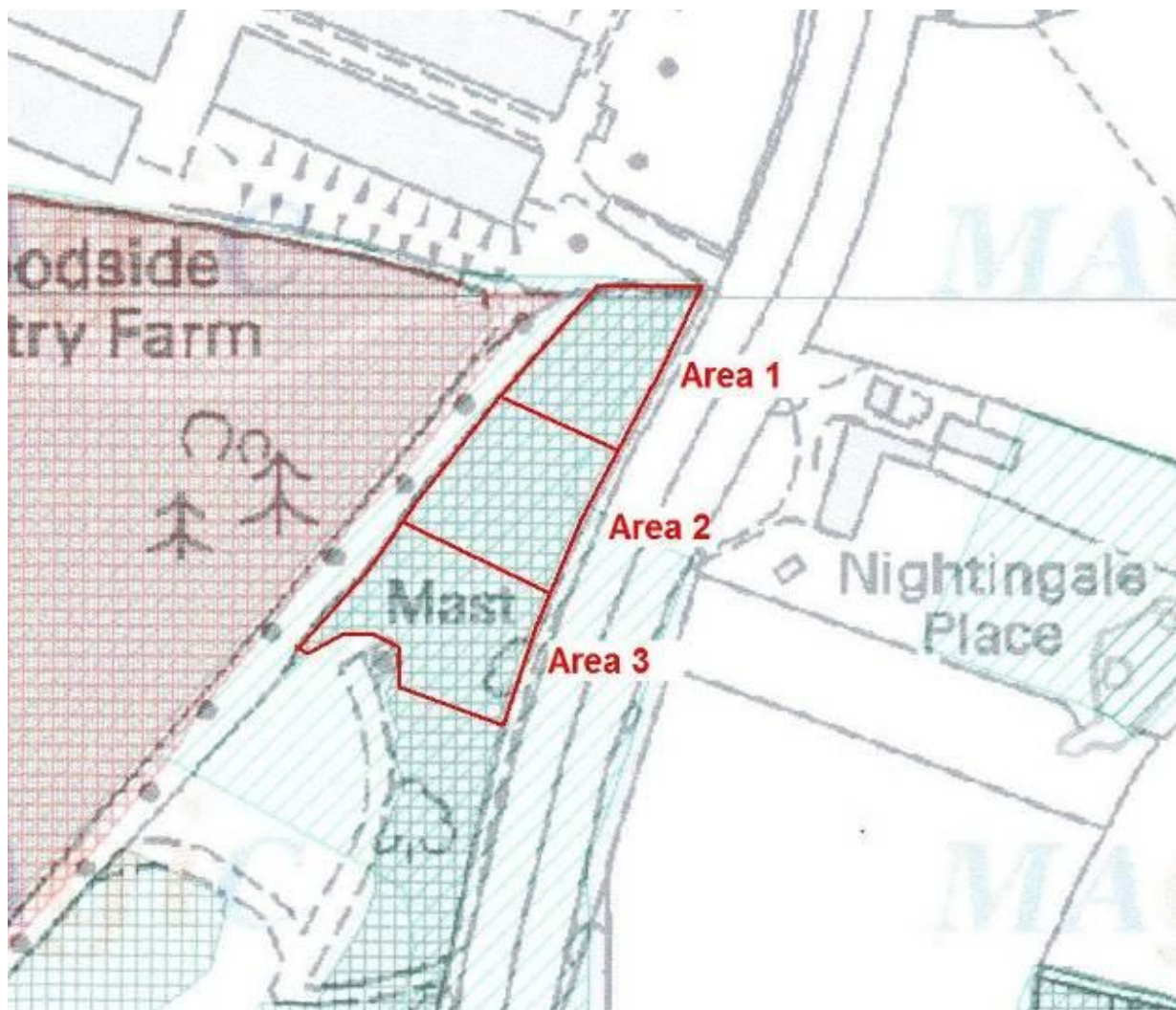
Site Drawings





Drg No. RG-NDJ-BPL 003 Extent of Surveyed Area





Drg No. RG-NDJ-BPL 004 Woodland Compartment Areas

