

myForest

Woodland Star Rating

property	Fowlshatch Copse
owner	Jane Devlin

Woodland Star Rating Report

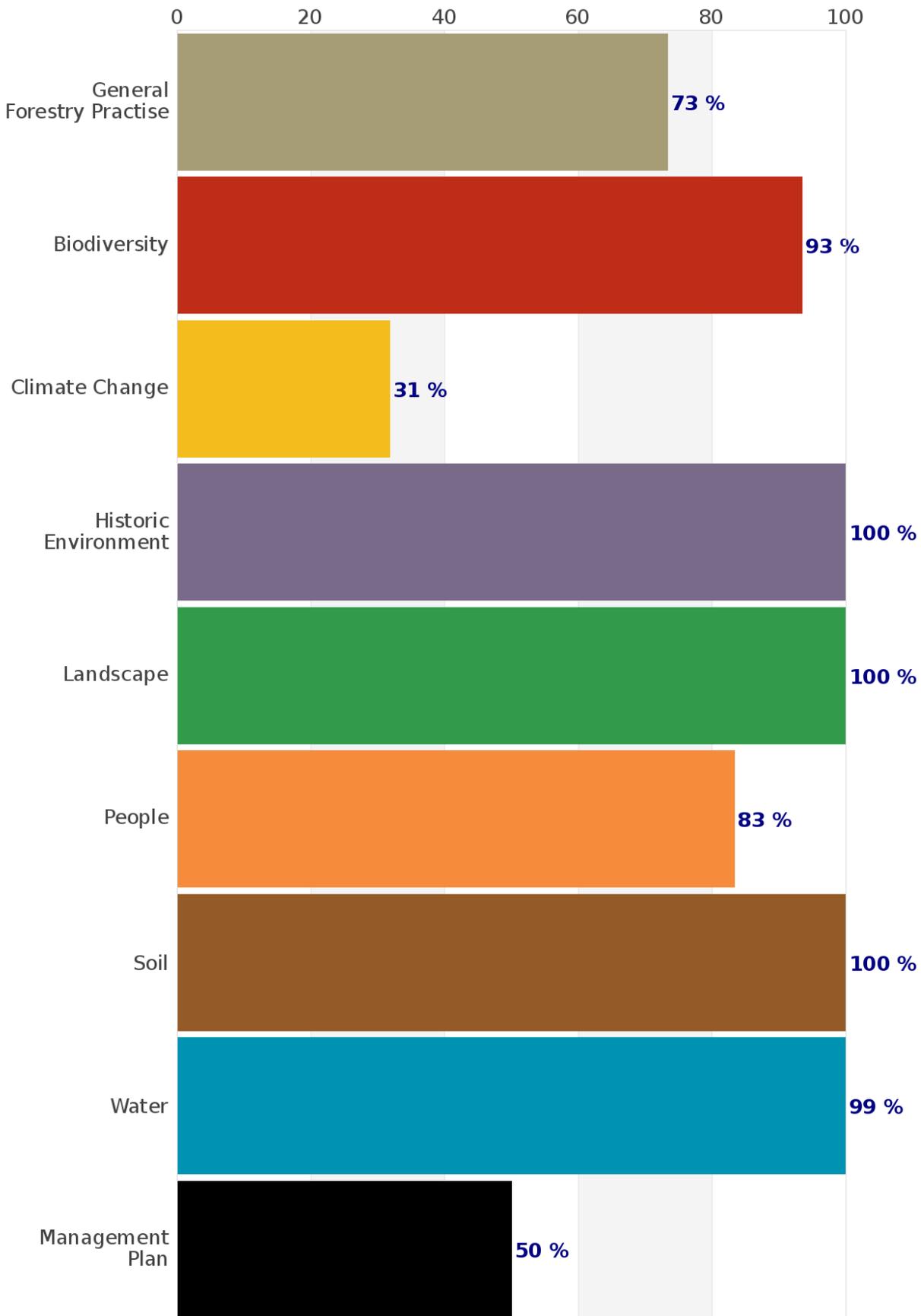
Below is the Woodland Star Rating report for your woodland. This document has been automatically generated from the answers you provided during your Woodland Star Rating Assessment. The report consists of two sections.

The first section shows a graph of your current activities measured against selected elements from each section of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). You will be able to see at a glance where your stewardship activities meet UKFS requirements and also where can implement additional practices.

The second section provides a response based on the answers you provided to each of the questions. This provides you with suggestions and links to help you implement new practices into your woodland management.

This report should act only as guidance and is designed as a first step to introduce the UKFS. An important part of good woodland stewardship is producing a UKFS compliant management plan that can be signed off by the relevant forest authority. The mapping tools and planning templates in your myForest account enable you to create such a plan.

Woodland Star Rating Report for Fowlshatch Copse



General Forestry Practice

Forest protection

Do felling thinning operations comply with the Forestry Commission Felling Regulations?

You answered: yes

Plant health & biosecurity

Is there a Pests & Diseases plan in place that identifies the potential risks, sets out a monitoring schedule and details measures to combat these risks?

You answered: planned

Our suggestion:

Pest and diseases pose one of the most significant threats to UK woodlands. Woodland owners and managers should be aware of the risks posed by pests and diseases, be vigilant in checking the condition of their woodland, and take responsible measures to combat threats to tree health. Actions may include implementing biosecurity measures to diversify the species in a woodland. To find out about the top tree pests and diseases in the UK and how they may affect woodlands visit forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases. Suspected pests and diseases must be reported to the forestry authority if they are notifiable. These can be notified through the Forestry Commission's [Tree Alert](#).

Mammal damage

Is there a control programme in place to protect trees from voles, deer, rabbits and grey squirrels?

You answered: planned

Our suggestion:

Damage can occur at the seedling stage where the sapling is vulnerable to being grazed, at the young tree stage where the base of the tree can be damaged, and in the case of grey squirrels they can damage the crown of the tree leading to deformed trees of reduced timber value. Trees can be protected from damage by individually placing them in tree shelters, fencing or by controlling mammal populations. In areas where deer are a threat deer control is best tackled in coordination with other land owners through a deer management group.

Use of chemicals

Is the use of pesticides and fertilisers minimised where possible?

You answered: yes

Biodiversity

Priority habitats and priority species

Do you have specialist knowledge or have you sought specialist advice regarding priority habitats and species?

You answered: yes

Woodland management and biodiversity

Have opportunities for enhancing habitats in the woodland been identified and acted upon?

You answered: yes

Biodiversity in the wider landscape

Does ecological management consider the wider landscape (e.g. how the woodland relates to and connects with other habitats)?

You answered: yes

Ecological processes

Have areas for minimal intervention been identified that will deliver specific habitat objectives?

You answered: in process

Our suggestion:

Many woodland habitats require active woodland management to maintain species diversity such as ancient woodland plants and butterflies. However some woodland habitats may benefit from a minimal intervention approach. Consider using ecological processes as a way of delivering biodiversity objectives within your woodland.

Veteran trees

Is there a veteran tree plan in place (e.g. managing veteran existing trees, suitable replacement individuals have been identified)?

You answered: yes

Deadwood

Are suitable quantities and dimensions of deadwood left in place deliberately for habitat purposes?

You answered: yes

Open, scrub and edge habitats

Are areas of partial tree or shrub cover created and maintained to encourage diversity of woodland structure?

You answered: yes

Invasive species

Is there a policy for invasive species control?

You answered: yes

Climate Change

Mitigation

Has an assessment been carried out to estimate the annual sustainable yield potential in the woodland?

You answered: planned

Our suggestion:

Forest management can contribute to climate change mitigation over the long term through the net capture and storage of carbon in the forest ecosystem and in wood products.

Carry out an assessment of the productive potential of the woodland. Certain areas (compartments and sub-compartments) of the woodland may be best managed on a minimum intervention basis, these should be excluded from any productive assessment of the woodland. A simple assessment process can be found in [Timber Production from British Woodland](#).

Based on the sustainable yield potential assessment, what proportion of the yield is harvested currently from the woodland?

You answered: 33-0%

Our suggestion:

The sustainable annual increment is the amount of timber that a woodland can theoretically produce in a year. In practice a woodland may not undergo a harvesting operation for a number of years as woodlands tend to be thinned on rotations that can be from 5 - 10 years depending on species composition. Maximising the harvesting of timber can increase the amount of carbon stored in timber products as well as increasing the growth rate of woodland that has not been worked. It is critically important not to harvest beyond your woodlands yield potential. Maximising harvesting potential may not be appropriate for all habitats.

A simple assessment process can be found in [Timber Production from British Woodland](#).

Adaptive management

Has a review of species suitability and diversity been conducted as part of the management strategy?

You answered: planned

Our suggestion:

Review species suitability and diversity over time as forest management plans are renewed.

Forest Research provide a decision support tool for species site suitability - [Ecological Site Classification \(ESC\)](#).

Historic Environment

Are all historic features (e.g. scheduled ancient monuments) identified and protected in the woodland?

You answered: yes

Are all people working in the woodland aware of the historic features and protect them accordingly?

You answered: yes

Landscape

Landscape context

Is the woodland managed with the wider landscape in mind?

You answered: yes

People

Public involvement

Has the local community been encouraged to engage actively with the woodland?

You answered: yes

Employment and health & safety

Are all woodland workers suitably trained and do they operate in compliance with guidance from the Health and Safety Executive?

You answered: yes

Enterprise development

Does the woodland support local enterprises (e.g. using forestry contractors, selling wood products)?

You answered: yes

Access to forests and woodlands

Is public access provided to the woodland that is additional to that required by statute (e.g. permissive paths)?

You answered: no

Our suggestion:

Although not a legal or good practice requirement, in addition to statutory rights of access, many owners permit or encourage additional public use of their forests and woodlands. This may be for recreation or other uses, sometimes traditionally exercised over many years. The provision of visitor facilities and site interpretation can help manage access, generate income and increase the public benefit.

Accessibility

Are all public access routes inspected regularly to identify hazards and minimise risks?

You answered: yes

Soil

Soil properties

Have the soil properties been assessed in the woodland?

You answered: yes

Compaction

Are all woodland operations carried out in a manner that minimises soil disturbance?

You answered: yes

Water

Fuel oils, lubricants and fire fighting chemicals

Is there a suitable handling and storage policy for fuels, oils and other polluting substances in the woodland?

You answered: yes

Peak flows and flooding

Have all opportunities to restore forest wetlands and to increase flood storage been assessed?

You answered: yes

Aquatic habitats and species

Has consideration been given to woodland riparian areas and have buffer areas been identified and established where appropriate?

You answered: yes

Management Plan

Does the woodland have a management plan that is compliant with the UK Forestry Standard?

You answered: yes

Has the management plan been approved officially by the relevant forest authority?

You answered: yes

Our suggestion:

Approval from the relevant forest authority may be required for felling and grant purposes.

Every woodland is unique and careful planning is required to ensure that this complex ecosystem is treated in a manner that ensures its health and longevity. This short report, based on your Woodland Star Rating responses, is intended to provide you with general indicators as to how to progress with good woodland stewardship.

It is imperative that all of the legal requirements of the UKFS are adhered to when managing your woodlands. Additionally there are many useful guidelines in the UKFS which promote good woodland stewardship. This report should act only as an introductory document and as a step towards creating a UKFS compliant management plan signed off by the relevant forest authority.

Forest management often requires professional input and it is strongly recommended that a forest professional is contacted to help advise and create a comprehensive management plan for the woodland. The professional body for forestry and arboriculture in the UK is the [Institute or Chartered Foresters \(ICF\)](#). You can search for forestry professionals that work in your area on the [myForest Business Directory](#).

It is also recommended that you contact the forest authority for your country - [Forestry Commission England](#), [Forest Service Northern Ireland](#), [Forestry Commission Scotland](#) or [Natural Resources Wales](#).