

PLANNING REF : 251317
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Wessex Woodland Foxley Wood
: Hungerford, Berkshire
: RG17 0UT
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Charles Hunt
DATE SUBMITTED : 14/07/2025

COMMENTS:

Good morning,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Charlie Hunt and I work for Wessex Woodland Management. I have a degree in Forestry and over 15 years working within the forestry sector. Both in the UK and abroad.

I have put forward this plan / application on behalf of the owner. Having read through the comments posted on this thread i just wanted to take the time to give you some reassurance.

The resounding concerns over the comments has been the 20% tree removal and who is responsible for this figure.

Firstly its important to understand why we thin. Apologies if this has not been explained in the woodland plan. The plan template itself is provided by the Forestry Commission which means it cannot be edited to include more information on this.

Thinning promotes healthy residual tree growth, removing poor form and trees of poor health (inc dangerous) gives the remaining trees more resources such as light, water and nutrients making them thrive. This therefore makes them more resilient to disease, drought and pests. Thinning can also encourage biodiversity and regeneration. It opens the canopy allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor, promoting young trees, shrubs and ground vegetation. With the added benefit of keeping the deer out, this vegetation will thrive, thus encouraging other animal life such as insects and birds.

Thinning is a accepted all over the country as a benefit to woodlands and it governed by the UK forestry Standard as best forestry practice.

Standard thinning practice is between 20-30% removal of the canopy but we have opted for the lower end of the scale.

Wessex woodland management will mark the trees for removal ensuring that no more than 20% of the trees are removed. We will also be involved with the removal of the marked trees. It is not in our interest to be defying a Forestry Commission felling licence agreement as we have a company reputation we want to uphold.

Similar Forestry Commission approved works have been undertaken in the local area National Trust Simons Wood, East Berks Golf course and Wellington college.

My email address is Charlie@wessexwoodland.com if you would like any other questions answered. I would also be more than happy to spend a couple of hours on site to explain the need for the works.