

Landscape Strategy

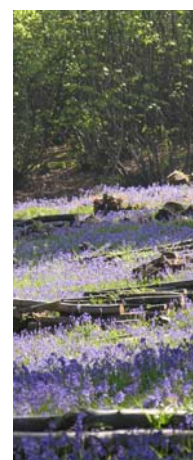
Stage 2 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund



Involving people with the unique heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge



*The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Strategy sets out a “clear vision of the priorities and needs of the landscape and community over the next 5 –10 years.”
(Heritage Lottery Fund 2004).*



Introduction to the Landscape Strategy

This Landscape Strategy has been produced as a Stage 2 bid document for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. It has been produced by the High Weald AONB Unit on behalf of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership – a partnership of community, heritage and business organisations across the public, voluntary and private sectors.

The documents submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as the Stage 1 Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) bid were:

- Access and Audience Development Plan
- Landscape Character Study
- Location Plan
- Training Plan (draft)
- Accessible Natural Greenspace Report
- Landscape Strategy
- Stage 1 Application Form

It has been agreed with the HLF and the HLF Monitor that five of these documents submitted at Stage 1 remain unaltered at the Stage 2 bid, and hence do not need to be resubmitted. These are:

- Access and Audience Development Plan
- Landscape Character Study
- Stage 1 Application Form
- Accessible Natural Greenspace Report
- Location Plan

Consequently, the Weald Forest Ridge LPS Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund consists of the following documents:

- Landscape Strategy
- Implementation Plan
- Training Plan.

It is recommended that they are read in this order, as this represents the flow of presented information and level of detail contained within the three documents.

Specifically with the Stage 2 Landscape Strategy, the content and detail submitted at Stage 1 has been edited and refined as a result of the Development Phase work. The document is considerably changed since Stage 1, and the following factors have determined the content of the Stage 2 Landscape Strategy:

- Sections have been re-ordered to present the strategic context, vision and aims first; before passing to more detailed consideration of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership and the Scheme Programmes.
- Detailed content that is totally unaltered from Stage 1, and especially in the Stage 1 appendices, has not been repeated in the Stage 2 Strategy. The reader is, instead, referred to the Stage 1 Strategy.
- A draft Implementation Plan was not submitted at Stage 1, but, in reality, the detail of the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy often held content that is now more appropriate to the Implementation Plan submitted as part of the Stage 2 application.

Consequently, the Stage 2 Landscape Strategy is a more condensed and concise document than that submitted at Stage 1. This in no way reflects a diminution in quality of submission by the WFR Landscape Partnership, but instead reflects an ordering and re-distribution of Stage 1 content.

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Executive Summary

The Weald Forest Ridge is a deeply incised and faulted sandstone ridge that stretches east to west between Tonbridge and Horsham, covering 328km² of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. It is an historic landscape and its identity is closely linked with ancient medieval hunting forests established by William the Conqueror. Furthermore, it has a set of distinctive features that give the Ridge its complex landscape character. These features include:

- remnants of four medieval forests
- sandstone rock outcrops
- ancient gill woodland
- ridge top settlements
- distinctive zones of heathland
- all overlooking a medieval landscape of small irregular fields interspersed with isolated farmsteads.

A wide range of designations, from European to local, recognise the importance of the Weald Forest Ridge area, which lies almost entirely within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. To address a range of threats and issues, funding is being sought to deliver a three year, Heritage Lottery-funded Landscape Partnership Scheme to conserve and enhance the area.

A Stage 1 application was submitted to the HLF in 2006, consisting of the application form and six supporting documents, produced from extensive consultation and research in the project planning stage. The six documents are summarised in this Strategy: they identify why the Weald Forest Ridge is important and valued, what are the needs of local residents and those people living around the Ridge, and what are the appropriate methods to engage these communities. The application received a Stage 1 pass in May 2007, and a Development Phase commenced later the same year to continue the Scheme's development. This Stage 2 Landscape Strategy results from the work undertaken to develop the Scheme further, up to the Stage 2 submission to the HLF in end April 2008. The Strategy sets out the vision for the Weald Forest Ridge landscape and its community over the next 5 –10 years, and explores how the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme will be achieved through to 2012. The Strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan and Training Plan also submitted as part of the Stage 2 application.

The Landscape Strategy has been produced by the High Weald AONB Unit, as the lead partner for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership: 18 delivery partners and other organisations representing statutory, community, business and heritage interests. The Strategy identifies the key organisations and management structures for the Landscape Partnership Scheme, including the Partnership Board, and clearly illustrates that the successful delivery of the Scheme will be achieved through the co-operation and shared purpose of all of the Scheme partners.

A theme for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme is provided by the epic *Polyolbion* poem, written about the English counties by Michael Drayton in 1611. The *Polyolbion* recognises the four medieval forests of the Ridge and names them as the "Four Maidens of the Weald".

The Strategy sets down a Vision for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme:

Landscape Strategy

“In 10 years, the Weald Forest Ridge will be an area where both local people and visitors experience a strong sense of place. The area’s rich natural and cultural heritage will be valued in its own right and as an asset that supports peoples’ economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

It will be a place that has enriched its natural beauty through conserving its distinctive features, and is able to offer a variety of habitats, wildlife, cultural heritage and activities that are accessible to residents, people living in neighbouring towns, and visitors. It will be a welcoming place that enhances peoples’ quality of life through their participation and celebration of its unique landscape and culture.

Above all, it will be a treasured place where local people, working alongside specialist organisations, have the knowledge and skills to enjoy and care for the Weald Forest Ridge, in a way that brings long-term benefits to all.”

This Vision has guided the four Strategic Aims of the Scheme:

1. To encourage more people to get involved in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge’s unique landscape heritage.
2. To conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place.
3. To provide opportunities for people to learn about, access, celebrate and benefit from the Weald Forest Ridge’s landscape heritage.
4. To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Weald Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy.

In turn, the Strategic Aims shape the four delivery programmes of the Scheme:

1. **Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)**
Conserving the Weald Forest Ridge’s natural features, including its semi-natural habitats and geology, and enhancing access to, and knowledge of, these features.
2. **Archaeology and Special Features (Programme 2)**
Understanding and protecting the distinctive features that give the Weald Forest Ridge its historic character, in particular its landscape archaeology and medieval forests.
3. **Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)**
Celebrating the Weald Forest Ridge’s cultural, built, and industrial heritage; through enhanced orientation, activities and events aimed at local residents, visitors, and people from the neighbouring urban towns, including schools.
4. **Reconnecting People & Place (Programme 4)**
Reconnecting people with their landscapes, by offering advice and training opportunities to landowners, crafts’ people and volunteers to help conserve and care for the Weald Forest Ridge.

These four programmes will bring long-term, measurable, social, economic and environmental benefits to the Weald Forest Ridge area over, and beyond, the three year delivery period for the Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Strategy demonstrates that the programmes accurately meet the four HLF priorities for Landscape Partnerships. The four programmes will be underpinned by a fifth, **Scheme Management** programme: a cross-cutting programme that will ensure the effective promotion and delivery of the entire Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. This Scheme Management will be delivered by a Weald Forest Ridge Team of three full-time members of staff; a Project Manager (already appointed within the Development Phase), a Project Officer and an Administrator.

In total, there are 28 projects within the four programmes in the Stage 2 application, and these are named and their overall costs identified in the Landscape Strategy. The Implementation Plan that is also submitted with this Stage 2 application goes on to describe the projects in full detail; including detailed outputs, outcomes, budgets and work programmes. The projects will be delivered by 18 Delivery Partners, along with one project to be led by the Weald Forest Ridge Team. Three further posts will be recruited by partner organisations within the delivery programmes.

Financial values are identified for each of the five programmes in the Landscape Strategy. Overall, the Scheme value at Stage 2 is £3,346,189, compared to £3,220,184 at the Stage 1 application. The level of funding sought from the HLF is almost identical, with £1,920,154 sought in this Stage 2 application, with an HLF funding percentage of 57.4%.

1. The Weald Forest Ridge

1.1 Identification of the Weald Forest Ridge Area

In 2004, the High Weald AONB Unit (HWU) successfully secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to plan the development of a landscape partnership to care for a distinct geographic area of the AONB landscape. The initial proposal focused on the distinctive sandstone ridges that underpin the character of the High Weald. However, early discussions with HLF led the HWU to focus their attention on a smaller area that could deliver tangible results in 3 years. Following a SWOT analysis undertaken in the project planning stage, the principal sandstone ridge, known as the Weald Forest Ridge (WFR), was selected.

Detailed GIS mapping undertaken during the project planning stage determined the exact boundary shape for the Weald Forest Ridge landscape area. This WFR area is based on:

- its landscape character
- its unique geology
- its cultural heritage
- its significance to local people
- its rich biodiversity
- its important habitats
- its historic environment
- its value as a recreational resource
- its proximity to neighbouring urban towns.

After further assessment during the Development Phase, the boundary of the Weald Forest Ridge has not been altered, and the boundary determined in the planning stage will hence be carried forward to the Delivery Phase. This boundary is shown in **Map 1**, on a separate sheet. The original SWOT analysis to determine the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) area was submitted as Appendix 1 in the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy and, since it is unaltered during the Development Phase, this SWOT analysis is not repeated as an Appendix in this Stage 2 application.

1.2 What is Special about the Weald Forest Ridge

The Weald Forest Ridge is a deeply incised and faulted sandstone ridge that stretches east to west between Tonbridge and Horsham, covering 328km² of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. It is an historic landscape and its identity is closely linked with ancient medieval hunting forests established by William the Conqueror.

Historically, the term “Forest Ridge” has been used by professionals and writers to describe the various wooded ridges of the High Weald. In particular, the term was applied to this principal ridge that stretches from Horsham to Tonbridge. Fascinatingly, this Ridge was named and identified in the 1940’s Hobhouse Report (from the National Parks Committee (England and Wales)) as a “Proposed Conservation Area” – the forerunner of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation (AONB). The Forest Ridge area is nowadays included in the High Weald AONB, but Hobhouse did not consider the rest of the current AONB as worthy of designation!

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme will use the term “Weald Forest Ridge” for this original “Forest Ridge” area. Prefixing “Weald” to the Forest Ridge term will enable a more precise

Landscape Strategy

geographic location of the area, and will help local people and visitors to the area associate it more thoroughly with the surrounding Weald landscape: the Weald (of Kent, Sussex and Surrey) being a locational term that the majority of people are familiar with, especially on a regional basis.

The Weald Forest Ridge is a complex landscape made up of layers of geology, archaeology, habitats and settlements. Its distinctive features include:

- remnants of four medieval forests
- sandstone rock outcrops
- ancient gill woodland
- ridge top settlements
- distinctive zones of heathland,
- all overlooking a medieval landscape of small irregular fields interspersed with isolated farmsteads.

Together, these create an area enjoyed for its scenery, its wildlife, its characteristic Wealden buildings, its iron industry legacy, its historic parks & gardens, and its literary associations.

Collectively, the distinctive features make the Weald Forest Ridge a clearly distinguishable entity; and an important recreational resource for local residents, the residents of its 8 neighbouring urban towns (Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead, Crawley, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and Crowborough) and visitors from further afield. This gives a combined audience of over 3 million people that can benefit from the Weald Forest Ridge LPS.

1.3 Distinctive Character Features of the Weald Forest Ridge

The Landscape Character Study submitted with the Stage 1 application used a feature-based approach to identify the area's distinctive character. This enabled a clear determination of the cultural, natural, historic and built elements that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place.

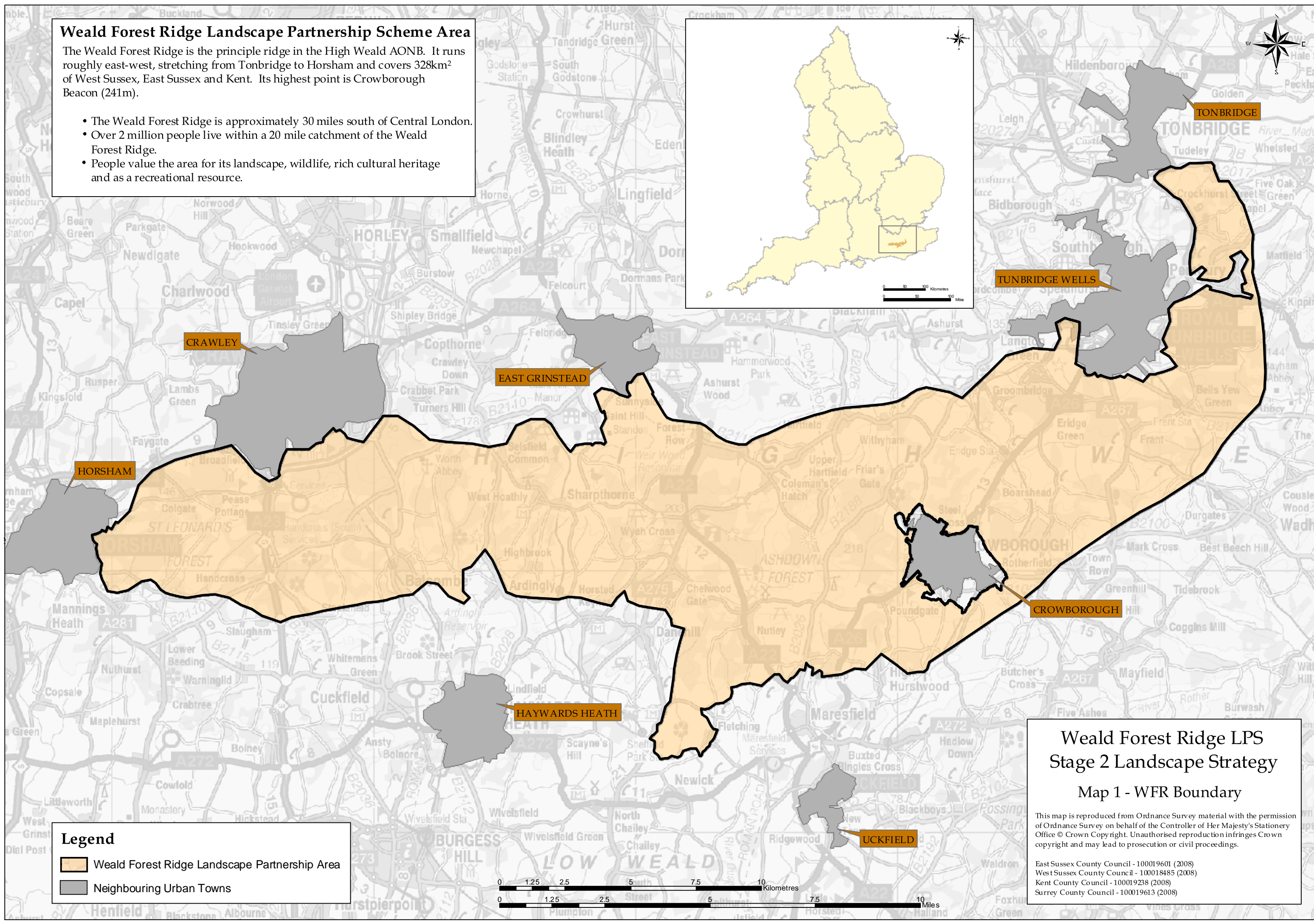
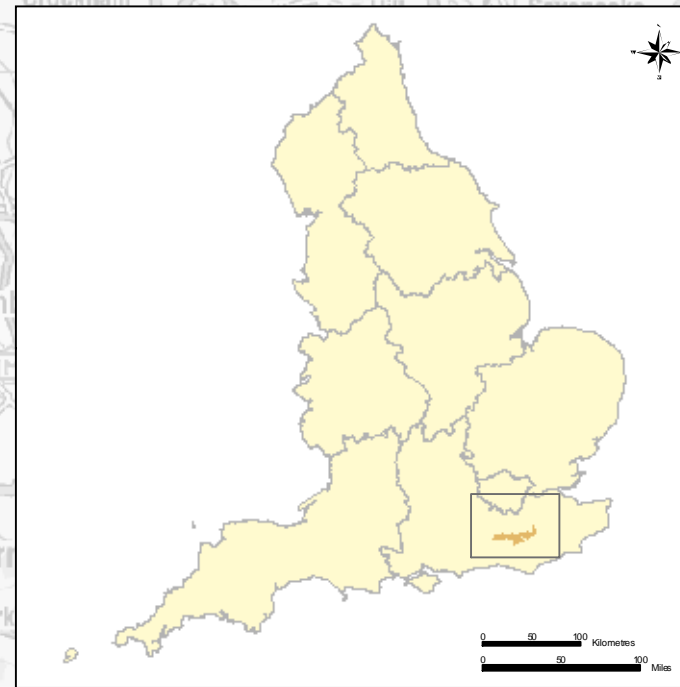
The key elements giving rise to the distinctive Weald Forest Ridge features are:

- **Geology** – the complex layers of clays and sands that form the underlying geology of the Weald Forest Ridge give rise to many of the area's distinctive features: lofty ridges; sandstone rock outcrops; diverse vegetation types; and the characteristic Wealden buildings made of sandstone, hung clay tiles and local timber.
- **Medieval Forests** – the four medieval forests referred to in Michael Drayton's Polyolbion (1611) are still a prominent feature of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape. From west to east, they are nowadays known as St. Leonards Forest, Tilgate (or Worth) Forest, Ashdown Forest, and Broadwater Forest. The forests contain a wealth of natural and cultural heritage that includes: distinctive areas of heathland; a forest pale; remnants of the medieval iron industry; place-names; landscape archaeology; and myths and legends.
- **Ancient Woodland** – much of the WFR is designated as ancient woodland, which is of international importance to wildlife. A distinctive feature within this is gill woodland; which surrounds the steep-sided stream valleys and supports plant populations not found elsewhere in eastern or central England.
- **Ridge Top Settlements, Scattered Farmsteads, Field Patterns and Route Ways** – ancient route ways; small, irregular fields; isolated farmsteads dating from Anglo-Saxon times; and the medieval ridge

Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Area

The Weald Forest Ridge is the principle ridge in the High Weald AONB. It runs roughly east-west, stretching from Tonbridge to Horsham and covers 328km² of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. Its highest point is Crowborough Beacon (241m).

- The Weald Forest Ridge is approximately 30 miles south of Central London.
- Over 2 million people live within a 20 mile catchment of the Weald Forest Ridge.
- People value the area for its landscape, wildlife, rich cultural heritage and as a recreational resource.



Legend

- Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Area
- Neighbouring Urban Towns

**Weald Forest Ridge LPS
Stage 2 Landscape Strategy
Map 1 - WFR Boundary**

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East Sussex County Council - 100019601 (2008)
West Sussex County Council - 100018485 (2008)
Kent County Council - 100019238 (2008)
Surrey County Council - 100019613 (2008)

top trading settlements create a mosaic landscape when viewed from the heights of the Weald Forest Ridge.

- **Formal Landscapes** – from Tudor times, estates and later formal gardens took advantage of the Weald Forest Ridge geology to create historic parks & gardens. Many are extant and still famous today, e.g. Nymans, Standen and Gravetye.
- **Access, Recreation and Culture** – many of the semi-natural habitats of the Weald Forest Ridge are accessible and provide a valuable recreational resource for local residents, people living in the neighbouring urban towns, and visitors from further afield. The sandstone rock outcrops are popular with climbers and there are strong cultural links with writers, poets and artists, e.g. Arthur Conan Doyle, Richard Jefferies, AA Milne, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Hilaire Belloc, Rudyard Kipling, William Cobbett and Michael Drayton.

Consultation with local people, landowners and statutory agencies has shown strong support for action to be taken that will retain the special character of the Weald Forest Ridge and its distinctive features.

1.4 Importance of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape

1.4.1 Importance to Local People

Consultations undertaken during the project planning stage revealed that people value the Weald Forest Ridge for many different reasons. It provides habitats for wildlife, a countryside setting for recreation, and a cultural record of people's associations with the land. The area plays an important part in people's day to day lives; whether they are admiring the view, dog walking, or participating in sports. The Weald Forest Ridge is economically valuable e.g. forestry, recreation (riding, climbing, activity holidays) and tourism (accommodation, attractions and escape). All of these factors contribute to a sense of local identity and wellbeing that is important to people.

1.4.2 Strategic Importance on International, European, National, Regional and Local Levels

The vast majority (98%) of the Weald Forest Ridge lies within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is designated and protected as one of the UK's nationally important landscapes. The Weald Forest Ridge, as a whole, is important for both UK Habitat and Biodiversity Action Plan priorities; due to its high concentration of semi-natural habitats. Its ancient woodland – particularly gill woodland – lowland heath and unimproved meadows all support a wide range of species. Ashdown Forest is also regionally important as the largest area of open heathland in the South East, and is internationally important as the landscape that inspired AA Milne's 'Winnie-the-Pooh' books and EH Shephard's delightful drawings.

The Weald Forest Ridge's sandstone rock outcrops are of European importance; being one of only four areas of soft sandstone in lowland Europe. In the UK, these sandstone rock outcrops have dual Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations for both their geological and biological interest, and are one of the top 10 sites for the conservation of bryophytes, e.g. the tunbridge filmy fern *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*.

Part of the WFR area is designated under two European directives: as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its bird species, and as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its habitat importance for wildlife. Both of these designations give a higher degree of protection than a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

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Several of the nationally and locally historic parks & gardens present throughout the Weald Forest Ridge are popular visitor attractions. The historic buildings and their use of local materials are another locally distinctive feature of both the Weald Forest Ridge, and the High Weald AONB as a whole. The ridge top settlements, farmsteads and field patterns, which make up the rest of the area's built heritage, are important components of the far-ranging views that residents and visitors enjoy.

The Weald Forest Ridge is also steeped in cultural heritage. Although less well-known, the area's Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's), iron industry legacy, and literary connections are locally valued. All four medieval forests immortalised in Drayton's Polyolbion are locally important features, valued for informal recreation.

Many of the Weald Forest Ridge's distinctive landscape features are formally designated to safeguard their character and historic significance. **Table 1** lists the designations.


Table 1: Designations Within the Weald Forest Ridge

Designation	Sites (No.)	Size of Area	Coverage
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1	321 km ²	98%
Special Protection Area (SPA)	1	32 km ²	10%
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	1	27 km ²	8%
Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)	23	n/a	n/a
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	22	41 km ²	13%
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	3	2 km ²	0.5%
Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)	48	28 km ²	8.5%
Nationally Important Historic Parks & Gardens	16	n/a	n/a
Locally Important Historic Parks & Gardens	8	n/a	n/a
Listed Buildings Grade I	9	n/a	n/a
Listed Buildings Grade II*	30	n/a	n/a
Listed Buildings Grade II	553	n/a	n/a

However, the wide range and quantity of designations on the Weald Forest Ridge can result in a disjointed approach to the area's management. Without concerted efforts from all those organisations and communities with a stake in the Weald Forest Ridge, the special features that make this area distinctive could be lost forever.

1.5 Threats to the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape

The feature-based approach used in the Landscape Character Study enabled the identification of specific threats and priorities for each distinctive feature. These are detailed on a feature by feature basis in the Landscape Character Study. Current threats include: development pressure, especially from the neighbouring urban towns; changes in the nature and profitability of the land-based industries of farming and forestry; consequential effects on biodiversity; and societal transformations in property ownership, leisure patterns and mobility. All of these factors are overlaid by worldwide changes that are outside of local direct control; such as climate change, technological advancements and globalisation.



Some of these pressures are easier for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme to address than others. Yet with support, local opportunities can be grasped that can mitigate the impact of these changes and conserve the Ridge's distinctive features. Examples include better visitor management, awareness raising, training and landowner advice, which are contained within the programmes of the Scheme.

This Landscape Partnership Scheme seeks to address threats to the Weald Forest Ridge, by conserving the main cultural, natural, historic and built features that make the Ridge a valued and identifiable landscape. The Scheme will also enhance the public's understanding and enjoyment of the Weald Forest Ridge, both now and in the future.

2. The Vision for the Weald Forest Ridge

2.1 Inspirational Vision

The Landscape Character Study undertaken in the project planning stage has revealed that the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage has close associations with ancient medieval hunting forests established by William the Conqueror. The importance of these medieval forests was recognised by Michael Drayton's *Polyolbion* – a long topographical poem of the English counties written in 1611.

Drayton introduced each song of the *Polyolbion* (a chapter that often related to a specific county) with an argument that set out what issues the entire song would cover. Parts of Drayton's 17th song refer to the four medieval forests of the Weald Forest Ridge area: likening them to wood nymphs, or maidens. The four forests are clearly identifiable as Broadwater (*Water-downe*), Ashdown (*Ash-downe*), St Leonards (*Saint Leonards*) and Worth (*Whord*). The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership is using Drayton's *Polyolbion* as the inspiration for conserving the Weald Forest Ridge's heritage.

The Argument

*Fower stately Wood Nymphs stand on the Sussexian ground,
Great Andredsweld's sometime: who, when she did abound,
In circuit and in growth, all other quite suppress:
But in her wane of pride, as she in strength decreast,
Her Nymphs assum'd them names, each one to her delight.
As Water-downe, so call'd of her depressed site:
And Ash-Downe, of those Trees that most in her do growe,
Set higher to the Downes, as th'other standeth lowe.
Saint Leonards, of the seat by which she next is plac't,
And Whord that with the like delighteth to be grac't.
These Forrests as I say, the daughters of the Weald
(That in their heavie breasts, had long their greifs conceal'd)
Foreseeing, their decay each howre so fast came on,
Under the axes stroak, fetcht many a grievous grone,*

Later in Song Seventeen, the Forest Maidens question whether people will value them (the Forests)

*When labouring carts they saw to hold their dayly trade,
Where they in summer wont to sport them in the shade.
Could we, say they, suppose, that any would us cherish,
Which suffer (every day) the holiest things to perish?
But now, alas, our selves we have not to sustaine,
Nor can our tops suffice to shield our Roots from raine.
Tis but in vaine to tell, what we before have been,
Or changes of the world, that we in time have seen;
When under publike good, base private gaine takes holde,
And we poore woefull Woods, to ruine lastly sold.*

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Drayton clearly argues that people did not cherish the Weald Forest Ridge, its medieval forests and its special features. This is refuted by the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership. Consultations with local people, interest groups and agencies have revealed that the Weald Forest Ridge is valued in the present day, and seen as an important place for recreation, heritage, rural employment, tourism and wildlife.

John Davies, a local poet (and member of the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership in his professional capacity as Director of The South, a creative writing organisation), felt that Drayton's argument deserved a response. He has composed an inspiring reply:

The Reply

*A hobby glides the thermals scanning for its prey
and all below's connected in its piercing eye –
a hilly trek of meadows, woods, a sandstone ridge,
the English landscape quilted to its vision's edge.
Thin ponds like molten metal, gleam with evening light;
great houses cast their shadows on gardens open late;
secluded steep ravines are coursed by narrow streams
and ancient tracks and droveways wander through the trees.*

*Down on the ground some people see things differently
and in their different bodies question constantly
accepted lines, the shrug of couldn't give a damn.
They challenge complacency's attitude to change.*

*What if a kind of partnership could link people
to their land? If the Weald Forest Ridge could pull
itself together, forests in a sisterhood,
as midwives to a reborn sense of place, the thread
to link Ashdown, St Leonard's, Waterdown and Worth,
the largest tract of unique country in the South?*

*And what could be achieved? What poise and balance found
between the many different claims upon the land,
involving all in their landscape's heritage
of any capability, background or age?
How can folk be empowered? Skills and crafts re-learned?
Gardening for wildlife? All can make a difference.*

*People and creatures, plants and birds, the land itself
and history wait for an answer, all breathing held.
The ghosts of iron masters stand beside their ponds,
pond-dipping children sift the future in their hands.*

*The settlements that sparkle in the dusk and drape
the Forest Ridge with traceries of light and hope
the English countryside between where blackbirds sing,
are woven together in myth, story and song.
All are interconnected, nothing stands alone.*

The Weald Forest Ridge Partnership seeks to build on this strength of support to safeguard the WFR area, and actively involve and encourage people to discover the distinctive features that make the Ridge a special place to live, work and visit.

2.2 Delivery Vision

The first WFR Partnership Forum, held in October 2005, set out an embryonic vision for the Weald Forest Ridge. This vision has evolved through further work undertaken by the Partnership, community consultations, the Landscape Character Study, and the Access & Audience Development Plan into the following deliverable Vision.

The Weald Forest Ridge Vision

In 10 years, the Weald Forest Ridge will be an area where both local people and visitors experience a strong sense of place. The area's rich natural and cultural heritage will be valued in its own right and as an asset that supports peoples' economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

It will be a place that has enriched its natural beauty through conserving its distinctive features, and is able to offer a variety of habitats, wildlife, cultural heritage and activities that are accessible to residents, people living in neighbouring towns, and visitors. It will be a welcoming place that enhances peoples' quality of life through their participation and celebration of its unique landscape and culture.

Above all, it will be a treasured place where local people, working alongside specialist organisations, have the knowledge and skills to enjoy and care for the Weald Forest Ridge, in a way that brings long-term benefits to all.

The successful realisation of this Vision, during the Delivery Stage of the LPS, relies on coherent partnership working: to ensure that the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme implements integrated programmes of work and associated projects that bring lasting benefits to the area.

3. Strategic Aims of the Weald Forest Ridge LPS

3.1 Development of the Strategic Aims

The overarching aspiration of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme is to deliver a landscape scale scheme that will reconnect people with their heritage and engage them in its protection: by working with partners to conserve and manage the special features of the Weald Forest Ridge and improve understanding and enjoyment of its unique heritage by local people and visitors.

The Partnership's work will focus on those key sites that "showcase" the area's distinctive features and have the potential to become gateways that interpret and encourage access to the wider WFR landscape; for local residents and those from the neighbouring urban towns. These sites were analysed in the Stage 1 Access and Audience Development Plan, and the programmes and projects developed for delivery reflect the needs and potentials identified in this Plan.

In order to deliver the Scheme Vision detailed in Section 2, four strategic aims have been established for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. These strategic aims are based on an understanding of the fundamental & defining character of the Weald Forest Ridge, as identified in the Landscape Character Study. The Access & Audience Development Plan, Training Plan and Implementation Plan have then helped translate the conservation of this distinctive character into tangible actions for the Partnership to deliver.

3.2 The Strategic Aims Defined

The four Strategic Aims of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme are:

The WFR Strategic Aims

1. To encourage more people to get involved in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge's unique landscape heritage.
2. To conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place.
3. To provide opportunities for people to learn about, access, celebrate and benefit from the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage.
4. To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Weald Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy.

These Strategic Aims shape the programmes and projects that will be delivered by the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

4. The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership

This Section of the Landscape Strategy seeks to identify and define the key individual organisations within the Partnership, as well as clarify the main LPS management structures. Additional information is also provided in the Implementation Plan.

4.1 Background

Work carried out by the High Weald AONB Unit, as part of the project planning stage, pulled together an initial informal partnership grouping, to further the LPS objectives. The organisations involved at this stage agreed that this was an ideal opportunity to join forces with others: to produce an integrated landscape strategy that would safeguard the distinctive landscape heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge.

The initial informal partnership grouping was widened, by bringing together people representing national, regional and local interests, to form the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership. The Partnership's purpose is to develop and deliver a landscape-scale scheme that fulfils the Vision and Strategic Aims of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

4.2 The WFR Lead Partner

The **Lead Partner**, acting on behalf of the wider Partnership, is the **High Weald AONB Unit (HWU)**. The Unit is hence responsible for managing the WFR Scheme and its delivery by the WFR Partnership organisations. The AONB Unit is a strategic, specialist team that advises on the management of the nationally valued High Weald landscape. It furthers understanding of the area's special qualities and enables action to conserve it.

The Unit's work is guided by the High Weald AONB Management Plan, and one of its core functions is to enable implementation of this Management Plan. Delivery of the Weald Forest Ridge LPS will deliver actions against many of the Management Plan's objectives.

The HWU is guided by the **High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)**. This is a partnership of the 15 local authorities whose areas are covered by the AONB designation, Natural England, and organisations representing community, recreation, farming, landowning and nature conservation interests. The Weald Forest Ridge area includes eight of the 15 local authorities represented on the High Weald JAC. **Table 2** identifies these eight authorities, and the proportions of the 328 km² WFR area that fall within their boundaries.

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Table 2: The Local Authorities Within the Weald Forest Ridge LPS Area

Local Authority	Area of Weald Forest Ridge in the Local Authority Area	Percentage of Weald Forest Ridge in the Local Authority Area
COUNTY LEVEL:		
East Sussex CC	191.6 km ²	58.4%
Kent CC	21.9 km ²	6.7%
West Sussex CC	114.5 km ²	34.9%
Totals	328.0 km²	100%
DISTRICT/BOROUGH LEVEL		
Crawley BC	3.3 km ²	1.0%
Horsham DC	25.3 km ²	7.7%
Mid Sussex DC	85.9 km ²	26.2%
Tonbridge and Malling BC	0.1 km ²	0.1%
Tunbridge Wells BC	21.8 km ²	6.6%
Wealden DC	191.6 km ²	58.4%
Totals	328.0 km²	100%

The High Weald JAC delegates responsibility for day to day management of the HWU to the High Weald AONB Director (in fact a job-share between 2 Joint Directors). The Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager is line managed by the HWU Director, so this Director is acting with delegated responsibility from the HW JAC to manage the WFR Scheme delivery.

The High Weald AONB Unit is hosted by **East Sussex County Council** (ESCC), and administratively is placed within the Transport and Environment Department. ESCC provides personnel, financial and IT support to the Unit. ESCC is hence the accountable body for the WFRLPS, and fulfils the contract signatory and project sponsor roles. As the HWU's financial management is undertaken by ESCC, HLF grant claims will be prepared by the HWU and ESCC together, and submitted to the HLF by ESCC. Similarly, HLF grant payments will be made to ESCC, as the grantee.

4.3 The Weald Forest Ridge Team

In the initial project planning stage of the Scheme, a dedicated Project Planning Officer was employed, through HLF funding, to develop and submit the Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. On the success of this application, a Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager was recruited for the Development Phase: to develop the Scheme further and submit the Stage 2 application to the HLF, of which this Landscape Strategy forms part.

The **Weald Forest Ridge Team** will be the dedicated staff who will deliver the day to day co-ordination and management of the WFR Scheme during its 3 year Delivery Phase, programmed to start in January 2009. The Team will consist of three full-time posts, and the post titles and purposes are detailed in **Table 3**.

Table 3: The Posts and Job Purposes of the Weald Forest Ridge Team.

Post Title	Job Purpose
Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager	The WFR Project Manager will be responsible for the implementation of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.
Weald Forest Ridge Project Officer	The WFR Project Officer will be responsible for the promotion and communication of, and enabling participation in, the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.
Weald Forest Ridge Administrator	The WFR Administrator will be responsible for the administration, including financial, of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Detailed Job Descriptions for these three posts, graded and approved by East Sussex County Council, as the employing body, are given in **Appendix 1**. The WFR Team will operate within a Scheme Management programme, equivalent to a core team for the overall Scheme, which is described in Section 9 of this Landscape Strategy.

4.4 The WFR Partnership Board

As defined by the HLF, the **Weald Forest Ridge Partnership Board** will give advice on the way the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme is delivered and the LP fund is managed.

The Scheme's project planning stage drew together an initial informal Board of members from the wider Partnership, which shaped the way that the Scheme developed and guided programme and project selection. The Board has been refined during the current Development Phase: to be more proactive in its roles of advising on the management of the Scheme and recommending actions. Board membership has also been fine tuned in the Development Phase, and its current membership, at the time of submitting the Stage 2 application, is given in **Table 4**.

Table 4: The Membership of the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership Board.

Member	Job Title	Organisation
Carolyn Dwyer (Chair)	Assistant Director, Transport and Environment	East Sussex County Council
Alan Betts	Conservator, South East England Conservancy	Forestry Commission
Hew Prendergast	Clerk to the Conservators	Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Paul Roberts	Inspector of Ancient Monuments, South East	English Heritage
James Seymour	Weald, Pevensey and NNR Team Leader	Natural England
Jason Lavender	Director	High Weald AONB Unit

There is one vacancy within the current Board composition – for a partner contributing economic development and tourism skills – and the remainder of the Development Phase, during summer and autumn 2008, will be used to recruit this vacancy.

The WFR Board is committed to implementing the Weald Forest Ridge LPS. It has met twice during the Development Phase and a Memorandum of Agreement has been agreed and signed by the Board members; setting a clear purpose, roles and responsibilities. This Agreement is given in **Appendix 2**.

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Additionally, it has been recognised during the Development Phase, through consultation with the HLF and the HLF Monitor, that community interests within the WFR area are insufficiently represented on the Board with its current composition. It has hence been agreed that the High Weald Unit will seek up to three community champions to join the Board. However, these champions have not been currently identified in the WFR area, and the HWU will seek out these new Board members during the Scheme delivery. We are confident these new Board members will become evident during the inevitably more detailed local working of the Delivery Phase.

The Board will inevitably work closely with the Weald Forest Ridge Team, the Lead Partner and the wider Partnership to ensure the successful delivery, maintenance and evaluation of the WFR Scheme.

4.5 WFR Delivery Partners

In the Stage 1 HLF application, a broad partnership of organisations was recognised; that represented a wide range of interests in the Weald Forest Ridge and brought a wide range of expertise to the Scheme. This partnership was instrumental in setting the Weald Forest Ridge's Vision, in planning the delivery of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme, and in defining its programmes of work and associated projects.

Development work during the Stage 2 application period has refined and consolidated the programmes and projects that constitute the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. In particular, all projects that constitute the Stage 2 application proposals have been confirmed, detailed, programmed and costed. These projects, which total 28 within their allocated four delivery programmes, are detailed in Section 8 of this Landscape Strategy and also in the Implementation Plan. As part of this process, "lead" delivery partners have been clearly identified for each project. There are 18 delivery partners across 27 of the projects in this Stage 2 application, and these are listed in **Table 5**. Additionally, one project will be delivered by the Weald Forest Ridge Team, as it is to be almost entirely delivered by volunteers.

Table 5: The Weald Forest Ridge Delivery Partners.

Partner Name	
• BTCV	• Conservators of Ashdown Forest
• East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Partnership (ESAMP)	• East Sussex County Council
• ESUS Forestry & Woodlands Ltd	• FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)
• Forestry Commission	• Gatwick Greenspace Partnership
• Highbrook Village Hall Committee	• Horsham District Council
• Kent High Weald Project	• Plumpton College
• RSPB	• Sussex Police
• Sussex Wildlife Trust	• THE SOUTH
• Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	• Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

There is also an informal reserve list of projects that, should Scheme funding become available during the Delivery Phase, may involve new delivery partners joining the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

A Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Partner Agreement has been drawn up and agreed by all the delivery partners. This is appended as **Appendix 3**. It has been agreed with the HLF and the HLF

Monitor that an unsigned copy is submitted with this Stage 2 application, and signatures for all the delivery partners are provided by September 2008, for the HLF decision.

This WFR Delivery Partnership is a dynamic and focussed group of organisations that has the necessary expertise to deliver the wide range of heritage benefits in the Weald Forest Ridge and its surrounding urban communities, as envisaged in the Vision and Strategic Aims.

4.6 The WFRLPS Management Structure

A proposed Scheme Management Structure was submitted in the Stage 1 Application Form. This has been refined by the WFR Partnership Board, the WFR Project Manager and East Sussex County Council during the Development Phase, and is detailed in **Chart 1**, on a separate sheet. It encapsulates the roles and responsibilities for the various entities described in this Section of the Landscape Strategy.

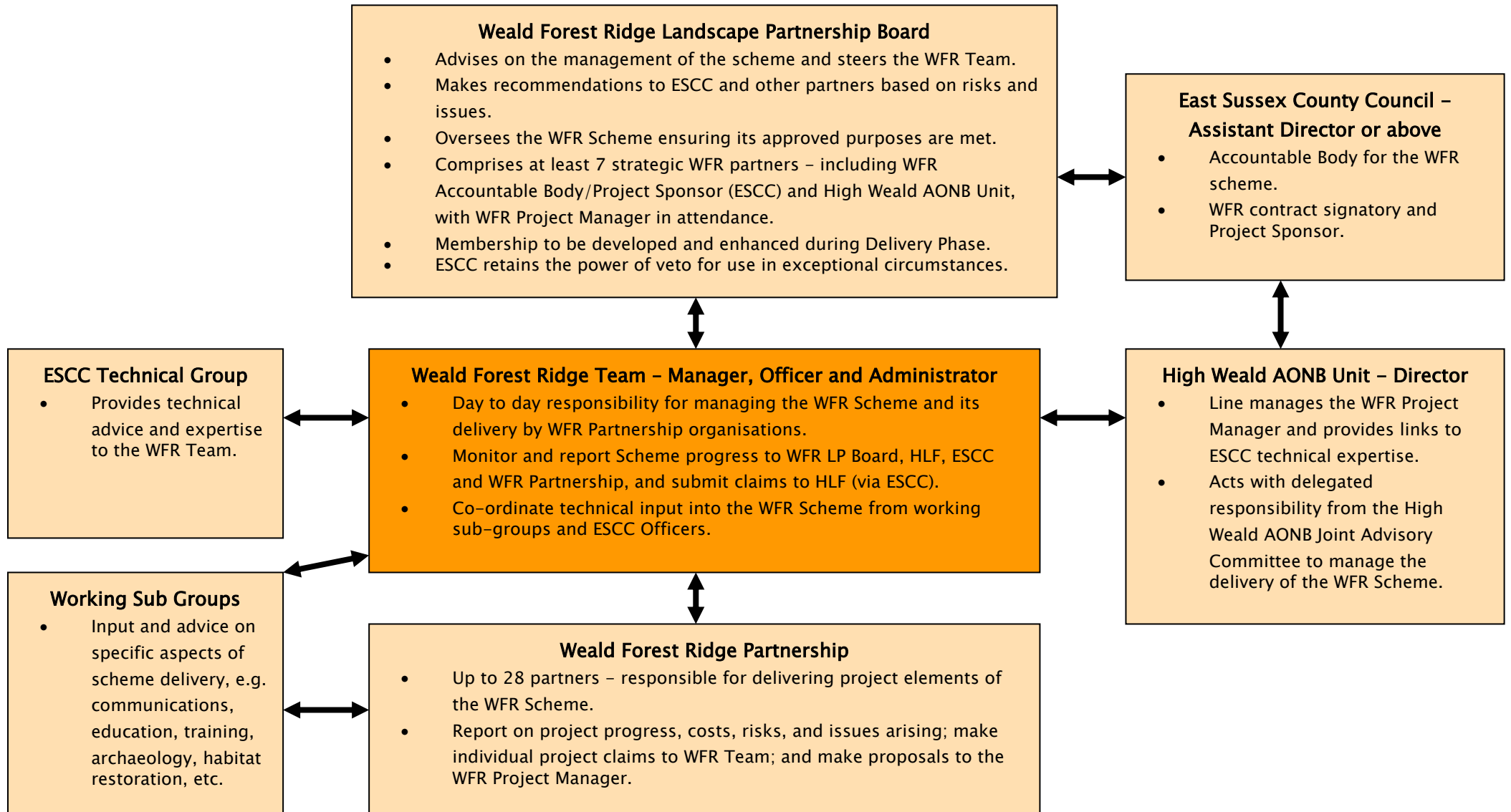
4.7 The Wider WFR Partnership

Section 4 of this Landscape Strategy has shown the key roles that the Lead Partner, the Weald Forest Ridge Team, the WFR Partnership Board, and the WFR Delivery Partners have played to date, and will play in the successful delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. However, success will rely on considerably more than this continued co-operation, shared purpose and on-going commitment to planning and implementing the Scheme.

One key additional element is the support and involvement of a much wider partnership of organisations. Already, and in the future, these partners can advise, assist in delivery, provide specialist skills and knowledge, provide funding, and generally bring added value to the Scheme. These partners are too numerous to fully mention, but include organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Just three examples include:

- The County Archaeologists in Kent and West Sussex County Councils; who will compliment the project delivery work of East Sussex CC.
- Sussex Biological Records Centre; who will collate ecological monitoring from the various habitat enhancement projects.
- The specialist heritage societies and groups, such as the Wealden Iron Research Group and Sussex Archaeological Society, who bring detailed knowledge about the Weald Forest Ridge's rich heritage to the Scheme.

Chart 1: Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme – Management Structure



5. The HLF Stage 1 Bid Submission

5.1 The Project Planning Stage

The Weald Forest Ridge Project Planning Stage commenced in 2004, with the High Weald AONB Unit securing HLF funding to plan the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. This Stage culminated with the submission of the Stage 1 application to the HLF in September 2006. The application consisted of the following documents:

- HLF Stage 1 Application Form
- Location Plan
- Landscape Character Study
- ANGSt Report
- Access and Audience Development Plan
- Draft Training Plan.

Key milestones achieved during the project planning stage are detailed in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Key Milestones During the Project Planning Stage

Date	Milestone
March 2004	Project Planning application submitted to HLF by the High Weald AONB
August 2004	Project Planning Grant awarded by HLF
January 2005	Appointment of Project Planning Officer
March 2005	SWOT Analysis of the Weald Forest Ridge
April 2005	Boundary for Weald Forest Ridge area agreed
October 2005	First Partnership Forum held – a visioning workshop
August – November 2005	Landscape Character Study research undertaken
August – November 2005	ANGSt analysis of the WFR's accessible greenspace undertaken
May – December 2005	Consultations with local people, groups and organisations undertaken
December 2005	Evaluation of Project ideas generated through consultations
February 2006	Draft Training Plan drafted for Stage 1 submission
January – April 2006	Partnership Agreement drafted for Stage 1 submission
July 2005 – May 2006	Access & Audience Development Plan developed and written
July – August 2006	Landscape Strategy written for Stage 1 submission
September 2006	Stage 1 Application Form prepared and whole bid submitted to HLF
May 2007	Stage 1 pass awarded to WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme by HLF

The Stage 1 application consisted of 37 inter-linking delivery projects, grouped under four programmes, and with a fifth, Scheme Management programme to manage and co-ordinate the overall Landscape Partnership Scheme.

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5.2 Summary of Stage 1 Bid Documents

As stated in the introductory text to the Landscape Strategy, this Stage 2 application consists of:

- a (revised) Landscape Strategy
- an Implementation Plan and
- a Training Plan.

Consequently, this Section of the Landscape Strategy details summaries of the four supporting documents submitted as part of the Stage 1 application, that are not being resubmitted as part of Stage 2. This summary allows consideration of the key findings from the Stage 1 documents as part of the Stage 2 application. The four documents are the:

- Location Plan
- Landscape Character Study
- Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGSt) Report
- Access and Audience Development Plan.

These four documents, and especially the Access and Audience Development Plan, have shaped the outputs and outcomes to be delivered through the projects and programmes that make up the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. To avoid unnecessary repetition, this Landscape Strategy, and also the Implementation Plan and Training Plan, will not make constant references back to the Stage 1 documents to justify the Stage 2 proposals. However, the justification for the target outputs and outcomes is implicit from these Stage 1 documents.

5.2.1 Location Plan

The Location Plan identified the main characteristics of the Weald Forest Ridge area: its population, attractions and heritage. This information was mapped and used to define a clear boundary for the Weald Forest Ridge area in terms of where physical activities would occur. It also helped establish a wider area of influence where the Partnership would encourage residents of the eight neighbouring urban towns to discover the Weald Forest Ridge on their doorstep. These eight towns are: Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead, Crawley, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and Crowborough.

5.2.2 Landscape Character Study

This Study set out why the Weald Forest Ridge is an important area and described its distinctive natural, cultural and built features that people value. The features have already been described in Section 1.2 of this Strategy. The Study also identified priorities for conserving these distinctive features that form the area's landscape character. Key outcomes from the Study are:

- The Weald Forest Ridge is an identifiable area within the High Weald AONB. It is familiar to local people, who were able to recognise distinctive features most associated with the area.
- Some of the Weald Forest Ridge's distinctive landscape features have been eroded.
- Not everyone is aware of the features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place: in particular its archaeology and historic uses are overlooked in favour of its natural beauty.
- People have become disconnected from the Weald Forest Ridge landscape, with fewer people directly working the land to aid its conservation. People that now own land are often unaware of, or unable to, manage their land in a way that conserves the area's distinctive landscape features.

- People do not instantly recognise the Weald Forest Ridge area by the Forest Ridge name. Resources are needed to bring the Weald Forest Ridge to life and make it more relevant to people, which in turn will enhance the value people give to the area.

5.2.3 Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGSt) Report

The Report used the former English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) model and GIS mapping techniques to identify:

- The Weald Forest Ridge as a whole is an important area for access to the countryside for local residents, people living in the nearby urban population centres, and day visitors from the South Coast and Outer London. A total audience of over 2 million (2,071,650) people was identified within a 32km (20 mile) buffer zone around the Weald Forest Ridge.
- The Weald Forest Ridge has large tracts of accessible land, that are key sites where its distinctive features have been preserved
- 20 key sites within the Weald Forest Ridge are important accessible greenspaces in their own right, and have the potential to be gateways that interpret the wider WFR landscape.

5.2.4 Access & Audience Development Plan

This Plan was undertaken by consultants and based on substantial public consultations. These consultations revealed that this special area has a major role to play in providing opportunities for informal countryside recreation; both for local residents and those living on the Ridge's doorstep.

The WFR area is bounded by a number of towns and settlements, which comprise 295,704 people at the 2001 census. The eight key towns within this boundary area are: Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead, Crawley, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and Crowborough. With a wider catchment, over 2.8m live within a 20 mile radius of the WFR, including Croydon, Bromley and Sutton, and the south coast towns of Hastings, Brighton, Hove and Worthing.

The Access & Audience Development Plan focused on:

- The Weald Forest Ridge resource and what is required to make it more accessible to visitors, to raise their awareness and understanding, and to appreciate its special qualities.
- The audiences (currently local people, day visitors and staying visitors) and what they need to enhance their experience.
- The needs of people who do not currently visit the countryside and what they require to help them to do so.

The Weald Forest Ridge currently attracts around 2 million visits per annum. These visitors are made up of:

- Local residents using the area close to home very regularly.
- Day visitors travelling up to 20 miles from home. Many visit several times a year, some are special interest visitors, e.g. climbers, and up to 30% are first time visitors.
- Tourists staying in the area – a high percentage of whom are first time visitors.

Consultations undertaken as part of the Plan found that

- The Weald Forest Ridge's most valued features are its physical landscape of views, ancient woodland, heaths, and distinctive towns and villages.

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- People use the Weald Forest Ridge for walking, enjoying the scenery, wildlife watching and outdoor recreation.
- Better information and orientation would improve people's exploration of the area.
- People wanted to know more about the area's history and archaeology.
- Activities people would like to participate in include walking, bird/nature watching and specific events to aid their understanding of the area.

Additionally, these consultations confirmed that the key barriers to accessing the Weald Forest Ridge are a:

- lack of awareness
- lack of information
- lack of transport (car or public transport)
- lack of time
- lack of relevance to people's lives.

Other key findings from the Plan were:

- There is a need to enhance the experience for existing audiences; attract additional visitors from existing audience groups and attract new audiences – including people who traditionally do not use the countryside.
- Enhancing awareness and understanding of the distinctive features of the Weald Forest Ridge in the hearts and minds of existing visitors is needed through better information, orientation and interpretation. This will not only improve the quality of the visitor experience but also encourage more repeat visits.
- There should be a focus on walking activities as this represents the primary recreational use of the Weald Forest Ridge.
- Orientation, information and interpretation is poor throughout the Weald Forest Ridge and the story of the WFR area, as a whole, is not given anywhere in the Ridge.
- 20 key sites across the Forest Ridge are best placed to meet the needs of local people and visitors and these sites should be used to 'showcase' the area's distinctive features. However, many of these sites are poorly interpreted, lack visitor facilities, and currently do little or nothing to attract new audiences.
- Facilities for people with disabilities are limited.

The Access and Audience Development Plan also identified the following priorities:

- To create a sense of arrival and welcome at the key sites, with better visitor facilities, e.g. parking, picnic areas, improved visitor information, orientation and interpretation.
- To develop access for all trails at some key sites.
- To provide waymarked and interpretive trails of different lengths and difficulty.
- To devise educational resources and programmes that maximise the use of the Weald Forest Ridge for education. This will provide a positive early experience and hopefully inform children's lifelong attitudes and behaviour, as well as giving young people a greater understanding of why the Weald Forest Ridge is a special place.
- To develop a variety of activities, e.g. 'have a go' days, events and festivals.
- To create a Weald Forest Ridge website which puts sites into context within the overall Weald Forest Ridge and gives detailed information on specific sites and their distinctive features. This will encourage existing visitors to explore other sites in the Weald Forest Ridge.

- To undertake general PR and marketing, which is distributed widely in the towns on the edge of the Weald Forest Ridge and those within the 20 mile catchment radius.

Finally, the Plan recommended that the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership focus on:

- Enhancing the visitor experience.
- Raising awareness and understanding through education and interpretation.
- Making the link between people (including those who do not use the countryside) and key sites to reveal the 'specialness' of the Weald Forest Ridge, which in turn will encourage people to visit and use it.

5.3 Further Sections from the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy

As required by the HLF, the WFR Landscape Strategy is being amended and resubmitted as part of the Stage 2 application: reflecting work undertaken during the Development Phase. We have, consequently, largely re-written the Stage 2 Strategy; bringing Stage 1 content up to date.

Two key sections, however, of the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy reflect activity undertaken at the project planning stage, which it has not been necessary to enhance during the Development Phase. These are sections on: links to national, regional and local strategies, and community consultation. Yet they contain information that has been fundamental in steering and guiding the development of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. Therefore, these two sections are repeated here in edited format, to further endorse justification of the Scheme's strategic aims, programmes and projects.

5.3.1. Links to National, Regional and Local Strategies

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme has not been developed in isolation: it has strong links with local, regional and national policies. Delivery of the Scheme will directly contribute towards a wide range of plans and strategies; prepared at the global, european, national, regional and local level.

Table 7 summarises the relevant plans and strategies that the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme will help deliver. Fuller details of how the elements of these plans and strategies will be achieved by the Scheme were detailed in Appendix IV of the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy.

Table 7: Global, European, National, Regional & Local links with the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme

Strategy Level	Name of strategy, policy, plan or report	Date
Global	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	2002
Global	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994
European	The EU Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora)	1992
European	Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the EC Birds Directive)	1979 1994
National	Natural England – strategic direction 2006 – 2009	2006
National	The Countryside in and Around Towns, Groundwork and the Countryside Agency.	2005
National	Skills: Getting on in business, getting on at work Department for Skills and Education	2005
National	Traditional Building Craft Skills – skills needs analysis of the built heritage sector in England 2005 published by National Heritage Training Group	2005

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Strategy Level	Name of strategy, policy, plan or report	Date
National	Planning Policy Statement 7	2004
National	Department for Education & Skills - A 5 year strategy for children & leavers	2004
National	The National Trust: A Vision for Learning	2004
National	Kent & Medway Structure Plan	2003
National	Department for Education and Skills 'Excellence and enjoyment: a strategy for primary schools'	2003
National	LANTRA The Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector - Environmental and Land-based Market Assessment strategic report	2003
National	LANTRA: Strategic Plan 2004-2009 - 21st Century Skills for Environmental and Land-based Businesses	2003
National	Sustaining our Living heritage HLF 2000	2000
National	The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000	2000
National	Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan HMSO.	1995
National	Planning Policy Guidance 15	1994
National	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994	1981
National	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	1949
Regional	The South East Plan a clear vision for the South East	2006
Regional	The Cultural Agenda - realising the Cultural Strategy of the South East England Cultural Consortium	2002
Local	Kent Community Strategy - Vision for Kent, version 2.	2006
Local	Pride of Place East Sussex Community Strategy	2006
Local	Non-Statutory Wealden Local Plan	2005
Local	Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan	2005
Local	A strategy for the West Sussex landscape	2005
Local	'A Vision for Culture - Life, Leisure and Recreation in the Horsham District' 2005 (culture strategy)	2005
Local	All Together Better - The East Sussex Local Area Agreement	2005
Local	Ashdown Forest Area Interpretation Strategy	2005
Local	Ashdown Forest Centre Business Plan	2006
Local	Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation	2005
Local	East Sussex Learning Partnership. Research into formal and informal learning opportunities within East Sussex	2005
Local	Improving the Public Realm in East Sussex by ESCC	2005
Local	High Weald AONB Management Plan	2004
Local	Mid Sussex Local Plan	2004
Local	Tunbridge Wells Borough Community Plan 2004-2011	2004
Local	A community strategy for West Sussex	2004
Local	Championing Learning in the Workplace - Final Research Report by East Sussex Learning Partnership	2003
Local	Mid Sussex District Council - Economic Development Strategy Statement	2003
Local	Wealden's Community Strategy - "Wealden Voices, Wealden Choices"	2002
Local	West Sussex Structure Plan 2001 - 2016	2001
Local	High Weald Natural Area Profile, English Nature by John Patmore	1998
Local	Vision for the Wildlife of Sussex. Sussex Wildlife Trust.	1996
Local	East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Plan 1991-2011	1991

The WFR Partnership does, of course, recognise that the strategic policy context influencing the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme is constantly changing, and will continue to consider the consequences of this policy change during Scheme delivery.

5.3.2 Community Consultation

Both public and targeted stakeholder consultations were carried out by the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership during the project planning stage; to identify:

- what local people, visitors and stakeholders valued in the Weald Forest Ridge
- what activities they enjoyed and wanted to do
- what prevented them from undertaking activities, and
- how they might wish to be more involved in safeguarding the area's landscape heritage.

It was not possible to consult every individual within the Weald Forest Ridge and its neighbouring towns during the project planning stage. However, the following external consultation work was undertaken as part of this stage, and other relevant consultation work was also analysed for WFR-relevant responses.

- "The Anvil", 2002 – this free newspaper, circulated by the High Weald AONB Unit to 84,000 homes in the AONB, contained the High Weald AONB Public Survey, which generated 722 replies.
- Ashdown Forest Visitor Survey, 2004 to 2005 – this Survey interviewed 218 people and contained 2,751 visitor observations on the largest public open space within the WFR area.
- Heathfield Show Consultation, 2005 – 43 questionnaires were completed about the WFR and 81 people marked their favourite place and where they lived in a map-based exercise.
- The Anvil", 2005 – people were invited to participate in the WFR scheme and/or suggest ideas.
- Parish Council Consultation, 2005 – letters were sent out to all 30 Parish Councils in the Weald Forest Ridge asking for their input into the Scheme.
- Focus Groups, 2005 – five focus groups were undertaken with "hard to reach" people as part of the Access and Audience Development Plan. These were with: young people, people with disabilities, SureStart families, ethnic minority partnerships, and unemployed people; living in or around the Weald Forest Ridge.
- Telephone Survey, 2005 – calls were undertaken with interest groups who use the Weald Forest Ridge area: covering cycling, horse-riding, walking, climbing, orienteering and bird-watching clubs.
- Access Audits, 2005 – these were undertaken by the managers/wardens of the 20 key sites in the Weald Forest Ridge, as part of the Access and Audience Development Plan.
- Council for Voluntary Service Questionnaires, 2005 – local CVS's sent out questionnaires to their memberships, enabling access to more individuals, groups and organisations to canvas their opinions. This was again undertaken as part of the Access and Audience Development Plan.
- Secondary research based on national, regional and local reports was also undertaken throughout the project planning stage.

Additionally the Project Planning Officer, assisted by the HWU team, undertook a range of more internal consultation, which also contributed to Scheme development:

- High Weald Joint Advisory Committee – 2 papers and 1 presentation on the Weald Forest Ridge scheme were made to 15 local authorities, the (former) Countryside Agency and organisations representing land management, business, community and recreational interests.
- Project Planning Officer Presentations – made to 44 groups and organisations.

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- Project Planning Officer Face to Face Meetings – with 35 organisations.
- WFR Partnership Forum – over 50 people attended an inaugural Forum, including landowners, local groups, charities, training providers, statutory agencies and local authorities.
- Expert Advisors’ Meeting – 12 key professionals (as a prototype for the WFR Board) pooled their expertise to prioritise the project ideas generated from consultations and partner proposals.
- ANGSt Modelling – this identified accessible greenspace sites and communities to target for further consultations as part of the Access & Audience Development Plan.
- Project Planning Officer Consultations – these were carried out with external specialists and organisations, to draw on their expertise, e.g. Sussex Archaeological Society.
- East Sussex County Council reporting – two reports were submitted to ESCC’s Chief Officers Management Team on the WFR Scheme.
- Working Group Creation – formed from East Sussex County Council and High Weald AONB Unit staff for effective internal communication.

The overarching findings arising from the consultations were:

- Recognition that the Weald Forest Ridge is a special place, but it is also vulnerable to change.
- People value the Weald Forest Ridge, particularly its physical landscape, and its range of habitats and wildlife.
- There is a need for awareness raising amongst local people and visitors on the distinctive landscape features of the Weald Forest Ridge, particularly its history and archaeology.
- There is a need to build relationships with local groups, particularly hard to reach groups, to empower them to access the Weald Forest Ridge, through confidence building and increased involvement.
- There is a variety of activities that appeal to a broad range of audiences, e.g. organised events, guided walks and practical actions. These would enhance people’s appreciation of the Weald Forest Ridge’s distinctive landscape features in an informal and enjoyable way.
- Land owners and local businesses want to help protect the area, but they often needed advice, support and training to broaden their understanding and give them the skills to directly care for the Weald Forest Ridge.
- There is a desire amongst local residents and visitors to know more about the WFR area, why it is special, and how to protect its distinctive features.
- People do encounter issues exploring the Weald Forest Ridge. There is a need for more information on what to do and where to go.
- People are particularly interested in knowing more about the Weald Forest Ridge’s historic environment and cultural heritage. This is currently overlooked by most visitors in favour of the area’s more obvious landscape scenery.
- The area is an important recreational resource for local people and day visitors.
- There is underlying support from local residents, groups and organisations for the WFR Partnership to spearhead positive benefits and lasting change in the Weald Forest Ridge.

The outcomes from the consultations are the ‘golden thread’ that run throughout the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. The findings have informed the strategic aims, the programmes of work and the associated projects that will enhance the landscape heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge and improve the quality of life for local residents and visitors alike.

6. Development Phase Activity

6.1 Implementation of the Development Phase

With the Stage 1 pass being awarded by the HLF in May 2008, the High Weald AONB Unit commenced the process of delivering the Scheme's Development Phase. Delivery has been effected through the recruitment of a dedicated Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager, funded through the HLF Development Phase grant, who has implemented the Development Phase to date. Key milestones achieved to date during the Development Phase are detailed in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Key Milestones During the Development Phase to Date

Date	Milestone
October 2007	WFR Project Manager commenced in post for the Development Phase
November 2007	First Development Phase Partnership Forum held
November 2007 – March 2008	WFR Partnership developed and presented detailed project proposals for Delivery Phase.
January 2008	Development Phase Administrator appointed on temporary contract to assist Stage 2 application production
February 2008	Second Development Phase Partnership Forum held
February – April 2008	Stage 2 application documents written: Landscape Strategy, Implementation Plan, Training Plan
April 2008	Stage 2 application submitted to HLF

It has been agreed with the HLF and HLF Monitor that the Development Phase will continue, subject to satisfactory management of the budget, through to the commencement of the Delivery Phase. This will enable the Project Manager to answer any queries regarding the Stage 2 application through summer and autumn 2008. If the Stage 2 application is successful, the Project Manager will continue in post as the Delivery Phase Manager, with delivery programmed to commence in January 2009.

6.2 WFR Partnership Development

Two key outputs of the Development Phase to date have been the delivery of two Partnership Forums, which have empowered the WFR Landscape Partnership organisations to embrace their key roles in the delivery of the LP Scheme.

The first Forum, held on 28th November 2007, updated all partners on the Vision and Strategic Aims for the Scheme, and progress to date. Specialist workshops, delivered with assistance from East Sussex CC key staff, then explored a range of specific delivery areas:

- Project links within delivery programmes and partner joint working opportunities
- Procurement procedures
- Communications, publicity and branding
- Project outputs, outcomes and monitoring
- Budgets and Scheme financial management, including financial reporting.

The Forum was very well received by the Partnership, and showed the strong coherence across the Delivery Partners and wider Partnership. It strengthened the commitment and bonds within the Partnership, and

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enabled the sharing of expertise between organisations. This will help enable the delivery of the many challenges of the Scheme.

A series of three project proformas were introduced to Delivery Partners at this November Forum. These have been a primary focus of the Development Phase; to work up the 37 initial project proposals contained in the Stage 1 application into a suite of fully developed, deliverable, costed, objective-led and programmed projects that form the key delivery elements of the Stage 2 application. The project proformas consisted of:

- A **General proforma** that identified the project's aim, objectives, activities, outputs and outcomes, and related these to the LP Scheme's Strategic Aims and objectives. Additionally areas identified permissions required, project sustainability, communications' messages, etc.
- A **Budget proforma** that identified "cash" costs and income, in-kind support, and the level of HLF funding required.
- A **Work Programme proforma** that detailed activity delivery over the three year delivery period of the Scheme, from January 2009 to December 2011.

The proformas have generated the project delivery information that is provided in the Implementation Plan with this Stage 2 application. Throughout the completion of the individual project proformas there has been thorough and ongoing liaison between the Delivery Partners and the WFR Project Manager.

The second Forum was held on 21st February 2008 and the key working areas were:

- Exploration of partner engagement with central promotional events around the Maidens of the Weald theme.
- Target audience and communications strategy development.
- Exploration and identification of inter-project working opportunities. This was plotted as a "spider's web" of interlinked projects, highlighting one of the strengths of the WFR Scheme: that the individual programmes and projects will deliver a Scheme that is far greater than the sum of its constituent parts.

The Forum was again very positive, and partner contributions clearly highlighted the strengths of the overall Partnership: an entity able to deliver the broad and ambitious WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme.

6.3 Other Key Development Phase Achievements

A series of other key areas of work and agreements have been delivered during the Development Phase to date:

- The office location of the WFR Team during the Delivery Phase has been agreed as the High Weald AONB Unit office at Flimwell, where the WFR Project Manager is currently based. Whilst this is marginally outside the WFR area, it will provide the Team with functional office space and all the additional benefits that location with the AONB Team will bring; such as easier Team communications, access to specialist equipment and facilities (e.g. colour A3 printer/copier, A0 plotter, GIS), access to other professional expertise, and additional IT and administrative support, if required. This certainly provides best value, compared to other options explored during the Development Phase. The WFR Partnership is also already familiar with the Flimwell base for the HWU. Additionally, both the WFR Project Manager and Project Officer will be able to be fully mobile across the WFR area during Scheme delivery, and have the potential to hot desk at partner organisations' bases.

- The Partner Agreement has been agreed by East Sussex CC, the High Weald AONB Unit, and the Delivery Partners. This is being signed by all the partners during the continuation of the Development Phase.
- A contract has been delivered by the Sussex Biological Records Centre, to establish baseline biological data for the various sites on which ecological enhancements will take place during the Delivery Phase. This will enable Scheme monitoring to record and measure success of these enhancements.
- Work has been undertaken, to a detailed brief, to establish the collection of seasonal baseline visitor counts at a range of key WFR “gateway” sites during the remainder of the Development Phase. This will enable Scheme monitoring to again record and measure success during Scheme delivery.
- The WFR Partnership Board has met twice, to clearly establish its role for the Delivery Phase of the Scheme, and to steer and guide the WFR Project Manager during the Development Phase.
- Match funding has been secured, wherever possible, from various organisations by both Delivery Partners and also the Lead Partner. This has included confirming a budget for the core management of the LP Scheme by the WFR Team.
- Any State Aid issues have been clearly identified on specific projects, and discussions with Defra are currently confirming that there are no conflicts with State Aid regulations.
- Where Environmental Stewardship is to provide match funding against project delivery and long-term sustainability, the Stewardship agreements have been set up by Natural England with the appropriate Delivery Partners to the timescales required under HLF/HLS match funding rules.

With the WFR Project Manager continuing in post through the remainder of the Development Phase, this enables further activity to be undertaken, during this period, to ensure that the HLF has all the information that it requires to approve the Stage 2 application. Additionally, the Project Manager will be able to continue working with the Delivery Partners and the wider partnership to ensure that the Scheme is ready to be delivered once the Delivery Phase commences. Hence, areas of work for the WFR Project Manager during the remainder of the Development Phase include:

- Signing of the Partner Agreement by all the Delivery Partners and its submission to the HLF.
- Provision of the management plan, or related, information from relevant Delivery Partners to the HLF; to justify the 10 year management / maintenance costs where they have been identified in the Scheme finances. Some clarification is needed from the HLF on exact needs, given that some costs (especially for the maintenance of dedicated websites established as part of project delivery) are not site management costs that would be covered by a site management plan.
- Liaison with the Delivery Partners for them to produce the fully worked up project briefs / specifications required by the HLF, to show that work is ready to commence in the Delivery Phase. In Year One alone, there are over 40 contracts that we envisage will be let with consultants and contractors of various types. We would like to work with the HLF during Summer 2008 to obtain clarity on exact HLF needs, so that this information can be produced by the partners by September 2008.
- Establishment of the working sub-groups identified elsewhere in this Stage 2 application.
- Completion of discussions with Defra over confirmation that there are no conflicts with state aid regulations.
- Establishing much of the core Scheme communications work, such as finalising the core messages of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme, establishing a library of high quality Weald Forest Ridge images and maps, and drafting initial promotional material.

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- Establishing many of the project monitoring procedures that will need to operate with Delivery Partners; to enable efficient and effective management of the overall Scheme delivery, and its reporting to the HLF. Examples include the financial claim procedures for partners to follow, progress reporting formats, event feedback forms, and setting guidance for fixed point photography and other monitoring mechanisms to measure the success of on-site habitat enhancement works.
- Continue partnership consultation and engagement with the Scheme.

Progress on undertaking these areas of work will be tracked with the HLF Monitor during routine progress liaison in the Development Phase.

7. Programme and Project Selection

This Section of the Landscape Strategy dovetails the detailed research undertaken during the project planning stage with the development of the programmes and projects that will form the Delivery Phase of the WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme. Consequently, it is a key link between the Stage 1 application and the Stage 2 Implementation Plan.

7.1 Selection to Stage 1 Application

Documents produced for the Stage 1 application – namely the Landscape Character Study, the Accessible Natural Greenspace Report, the Access and Audience Development Plan, the draft Training Plan, and the Landscape Strategy – along with stakeholder consultations, generated a considerable number of aspirations and ideas for the WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme. These were initially incorporated into 86 project proposals. The High Weald Unit and WFR Partnership clearly recognised that only a finite number of projects could be resourced under a LPS Scheme with an upper limit for HLF grant support of £2million. Hence, the viability of these initial project proposals was examined; to ensure a balanced and effective Scheme would result.

Initially, the 86 proposals were assessed by the High Weald AONB Unit and the HLF Monitor (Paul Walshe), to produce a shortlist of projects. Next, a task group of 12 representatives from the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership was convened, in a prototype for the now defined Partnership Board. These partners were invited to use their skills and expertise, and to represent a specific sector – such as training, education, conservation or the historic environment. The aim was to reduce the shortlist to a more manageable number of projects. Project selection was based on:

- fulfilling HLF priorities
- fulfilling WFR Scheme priorities
- meeting the needs of local people
- taking a holistic approach to the management of the Weald Forest Ridge area
- cost effectiveness
- adding value to existing activities, or plugging gaps in current delivery
- achievability and deliverability within a three year delivery phase.

This process was documented in Table 5 in the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy. Proposed actions from the five Stage 1 documents were assessed against 10 criteria, to identify projects, allocated into programmes, for the Stage 1 application. Whilst the proposed projects have undergone another rigorous assessment in the Development Phase, this Table is key to understanding the selection of programmes and projects for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. Consequently, it is reproduced in this Stage 2 Landscape Strategy as **Appendix 4**.

From this selection process, 37 projects were selected and included in the Stage 1 application, under 4 delivery programmes. There was also a fifth programme covering Scheme Management. The Stage 1 application quotes 28 partners involved in delivering these projects.

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7.2 Selection to Stage 2 Application

Section 6.2 has already explained the project proforma process used with Delivery Partners during the Development Phase. These three proformas had a primary purpose of collecting and collating project details on the 37 projects submitted as part of the Stage 1 application: to enable fully developed and deliverable projects to proceed to the Stage 2 application.

However, almost by default, the proformas have also carried out a rigorous assessment process; identifying whether the initial project proposals are fully deliverable over the three year LPS period. This is because the depth of information required has ensured that all necessary elements, such as project management procedures, match funding and partner support, have to be in place to ensure deliverability. Hence, only robust, deliverable projects have proceeded to the Delivery Phase.

During this Development Phase, eight projects from the initial 37 in the Stage 1 application have not progressed to the Stage 2 application. These projects will be individually identified in the following Section of the Landscape Strategy, and also in the Implementation Plan. Additionally, the “Maidens of the Weald” project – which will engage with communities to explore the cultural heritage of the Ridge’s medieval forests’ legacy – has been moved from one of the delivery programmes to the central Scheme Management programme. This reflects a more core, promotional role for the activity, as well as a need to sub-contract a specialist provider to deliver the engagement; which does not fit with the delivery partner model otherwise used.

Therefore, the three year implementation period for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme contains 28 projects, spread over four delivery programmes. These 28 projects will be delivered by 18 Delivery Partners; plus the Weald Forest Ridge Team will deliver one project of the 28. Section 8 now goes on to detail these 28 projects within their four delivery programmes.

8. Weald Forest Ridge LPS Delivery Programmes

This Section introduces the delivery programmes that have been identified in this Stage 2 application for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, and details their constituent project themes and projects. Modifications since the Stage 1 application are identified, with explanations given for these changes. Whilst introductory project detail is provided in this Landscape Strategy, far greater detail, as requested by the HLF at Stage 2, is presented in the Implementation Plan.

Fundamentally, the delivery programmes of the Weald Forest Ridge LPS are unchanged in name and intent since Stage 1. What were described as “projects” in the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy, and given codings of P1.1, P2.1, etc, are here called “project themes”, and the same codings are used. What were sometimes described as “project activities” in the Stage 1 application are here called “projects”, and given codes of PA01, PA02, etc. It is these 28 projects that are to be delivered by the Delivery Partners described and named in Section 4.5 of this Strategy.

8.1 The Programmes

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme’s Delivery Vision, detailed in Section 2.2; the Strategic Aims, detailed in Section 3.2; the project planning grant and Development Phase activities, detailed in Sections 5 and 6; and the programme selection process, detailed in Section 7 of this Strategy; have all contributed to the identification of four integrated delivery programmes for the Scheme.

The programmes contain high-quality projects that will protect and enhance the distinctive features of the Weald Forest Ridge, and encourage a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds (and from both new and existing audiences) to participate in and experience the area’s unique heritage. The programmes will actively engage the public in discovering more about the heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge; by bringing the landscape to life and demonstrating its relevance to people in terms of its past, present and future uses. The programmes will also harness the enthusiasm of local people; by directly involving them in “doing their bit” to care for the Forest Ridge, through volunteering and new skills development. This work will reconnect local people to the Weald Forest Ridge landscape: demonstrating how human activities have shaped the landscape and how our actions continue to influence the area today.

The four delivery programmes are:

- 1. Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)**
Conserving the Weald Forest Ridge’s natural features, including its semi-natural habitats and geology, and enhancing access to, and knowledge of, these features.
- 2. Archaeology and Special Features (Programme 2)**
Understanding and protecting the distinctive features that give the Weald Forest Ridge its historic character, in particular its landscape archaeology and medieval forests.
- 3. Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)**
Celebrating the Weald Forest Ridge’s cultural, built, and industrial heritage; through enhanced orientation, activities and events aimed at local residents, visitors, and people from the neighbouring urban towns, including schools.

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4. Reconnecting People & Place (Programme 4)

Reconnecting people with their landscapes, by offering advice and training opportunities to landowners, crafts people and volunteers to help conserve and care for the Weald Forest Ridge.

These four programmes will bring long-term, measurable, social, economic and environmental benefits to the Weald Forest Ridge area over, and beyond, the three year delivery period for the Landscape Partnership Scheme. They will be underpinned by a fifth programme, Scheme Management, which is a cross-cutting programme that will ensure the effective promotion and delivery of the entire Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Scheme Management programme is explained in more detail in Section 9 of this Landscape Strategy.

8.2 Programmes Relationship to HLF Landscape Partnership Priorities

As part of its strategic priority “to promote heritage conservation as an integral part of rural regeneration”, the Heritage Lottery Fund has four stated priorities for Landscape Partnerships. These are:

- A. Conserving or restoring built and natural heritage features that create the historic character of the landscape;
- B. Conserving and celebrating the cultural associations and activities of the landscape area;
- C. Encouraging more people to access, learn about, become involved in and make decisions on their landscape heritage;
- D. Improving understanding of local craft and other skills by providing training opportunities.

Using a scoring system, **Table 9** illustrated how the four WFR delivery programmes meet the HLF’s priorities for Landscape Partnerships.

Table 9: Assessment of WFR Delivery Programmes against HLF Landscape Partnership Priorities

Weald Forest Ridge Delivery Programme	Heritage Lottery Fund Priority			
	A - historic landscape character	B - cultural associations	C - people and landscape heritage	D - training opportunities
Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)	3	2	3	2
Archaeology and Special Features (Programme 2)	3	3	3	2
Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)	1	3	3	3
Reconnecting People and Place (Programme 4)	3	2	3	3
Totals (max.12)	10	10	12	10

Score: 3=meets all HLF priority criteria; 2=some elements met; 1=only minimal overlap.

This clearly shows that the four integrated Weald Forest Ridge delivery programmes fulfil the HLF Landscape Partnership priorities. Consequently, the delivery of the WFR LP Scheme will meet HLF strategic priorities for heritage conservation.

The four programmes will now be described in turn in the following parts of Section 8. In total, there are 28 projects within the four programmes: delivering the Weald Forest Ridge Strategic Aims across the entire WFR

area. The projects will be delivered by 18 Delivery Partners, along with one project to be led by the Weald Forest Ridge Team.

8.3 Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)

8.3.1 Background

The Landscape Character Study and community consultations, together with the GIS mapping of known natural and built designations, pinpointed the importance of the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage. The Ridge is characterised by sandstone rock outcrops, the remnants of four medieval forests, ancient woodland, gills, ridge top settlements, and distinctive zones of heathland; all overlain on a mosaic of small irregular fields interspersed with isolated farmsteads. The area is recognised as important for its habitats and wildlife: with parts of the Weald Forest Ridge designated by European directives – as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The entire Ridge contains 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 48 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

However, it is also clear that these distinctive features are under threat from suburbanisation, invasive species, esp. *Rhododendron ponticum* and bracken, and land use changes – particularly in agriculture and forestry. Conifer plantations, habitat encroachment and the decline in traditional woodland management all have detrimental impacts on the area. Nevertheless, agriculture and forestry also have essential roles to play in managing the Weald Forest Ridge landscape, but often a lack of co-operation, resources and skills lead to a disjointed approach to the area's management.

Additionally, the Weald Forest Ridge has an outstanding network of accessible countryside sites, interlinked with 438 kilometres of rights of way and a range of long distance trails and circular walks. There are 68 accessible greenspaces in the Ridge, of which 20 are best placed to serve the informal countryside recreation needs of the urban populations “on their doorstep”, and reveal the special nature of the Weald Forest Ridge.

Regarding this landscape heritage and access, some of the main findings from the project planning stage were:

- Improved trails, especially access for all routes, are needed at key sites to reveal the features that make the Weald Forest Ridge special.
- Consultations showed that projects should focus on walking activities for these access improvements, as this represents the primary recreational use of the Weald Forest Ridge.
- There is a desire by local people and visitors for habitat enhancements to redress the threats to the distinctive landscape character elements of the Ridge.
- More information is needed on the WFR area, particularly at those key sites that enable people to access & enjoy its distinctive features. Including enhanced interpretation, this will add value to peoples' experiences of the area and attract new audiences, particularly from the neighbouring urban towns.
- Enhanced skills and knowledge, plus volunteering opportunities, will enable people to conserve the Weald Forest Ridge's distinct landscape heritage.

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Consequently, the Landscape Scale Connectivity programme focuses on landscape management; to enhance key WFR habitats and improve both physical and intellectual access to the heritage landscape.

8.3.2 Landscape Scale Connectivity Programme Objectives

The following objectives are set for this programme (*note that a consistent, unique, lower-case lettered reference system is used for the programme objectives throughout the WFR Scheme, which allows comparisons and interlinks to be readily identified throughout the Stage 2 application documents*):

Ref.	Objective
a.	To enhance the Weald Forest Ridge's mosaic of habitats: by creating more, open heathy areas within woodland; by removing conifers, bracken and scrub; and tackling invasive <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> .
b.	To help local people and visitors recognise and value the special qualities of the Weald Forest Ridge, and those features that make it distinct.
c.	To involve volunteers and landowners in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge landscape: by giving them the skills to undertake practical land management tasks.
d.	To increase people's understanding of why certain sites are vulnerable to various types of use, and the need to manage these sites.
e.	To improve infrastructure provision at key character sites within the Weald Forest Ridge; enabling people to access and enjoy the Weald Forest Ridge's distinctive landscape heritage.

8.3.3 Landscape Scale Connectivity Project Themes

This programme contains three themed areas.

P1.1 Holistic Enhancements

The Holistic Enhancements project theme covers five projects on specific sites across the Weald Forest Ridge. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Sheffield Forest	PA05	£30,105	Forestry Commission	£25,750
Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: St Leonard's Forest	PA20	£135,292	Forestry Commission	£179,150
Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Tilgate Forest	PA21	£70,191	Forestry Commission	£52,850
Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods restoration	PA04	£129,245	Horsham District Council	£93,260
Broadwater Warren restoration	PA12	£600,815	RSPB	£355,750
	Totals	£965,647		£706,760

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

The projects seek to improve habitat and access connectivity within the sites, as well as enabling wider habitat benefits. The sites selected for these improvements include some of those identified as key sites for public access: where the distinctive woodland, sandstone rock outcrops and heathland habitats of the Weald

Forest Ridge can be revealed and made accessible. Four of the sites are relics of medieval forests, and three – namely St Leonard’s Forest, Tilgate Forest and Broadwater Warren – are three of the four “Maidens of the Weald”, the medieval hunting forests recognised in Drayton’s Polyolbion.

Project activities include conservation and enhancement of semi-natural habitats, particularly lowland heath, woody heath and woodland: through conifer removal, rhododendron clearance, bracken spraying, and introduction of grazing. As part of these activities, volunteering opportunities will be provided. Additionally, pedestrian access will be created and enhanced, including some access for all facilities, and interpretation will be provided to increase visitor knowledge about the natural, cultural and landscape heritage of the sites. Ecological, and in some locations archaeological, surveys will also be undertaken. The project at Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods will additionally involve site visitors and volunteers in the creation of a sculpture trail based around the Four Maidens theme, which overlaps with the Learning and Celebrating Heritage programme.

P1.2 Habitat Enhancements

The Habitat Enhancements project theme covers three projects on specific sites across the Weald Forest Ridge. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Eridge Rocks habitat enhancements	PA18	£10,904	Sussex Wildlife Trust	£6,600
Old Lodge habitat enhancements	PA19	£14,954	Sussex Wildlife Trust	£11,100
Kingstanding habitat enhancements	PA22	£9,590	Sussex Police	£3,700
	Totals	£35,448		£21,400

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

The projects will improve habitat connectivity within three, relatively small-scale sites, but will also link the enhancements to the wider surrounding landscapes of either Ashdown Forest or Broadwater Warren; two of the four medieval forests of the Weald Forest Ridge. Project activities include conservation and enhancement of lowland heath and ancient woodland; through scrub and bracken clearance, bracken spraying, ride management and, at Eridge Rocks, through vegetation clearance of sandstone rock outcrops. As part of these activities, volunteering opportunities will be provided.

P1.3 Visitor Enhancements

The Visitor Enhancements project theme covers two projects on specific sites across the Weald Forest Ridge. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

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Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Pathways to natural heritage: Weir Wood Local Nature Reserve	PA10	£95,991	East Sussex County Council	£70,700
Pathways to Tudor heritage: Birchden Woods	PA15	£60,998	Forestry Commission	£50,450
	Totals	£156,989		£121,150

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

These two projects have been moved in the Stage 2 application, from the Reconnecting People and Place programme where they were located at Stage 1. This move reflects that the two projects' work to predominantly connect landscapes, and also it brings them into the Scheme programme that also holds other combined access and habitat enhancement projects. As a consequence, the Landscape Scale Connectivity programme now becomes the largest of the four WFR Scheme programmes: with 10 projects and a value of just over £1 million.

The two projects will improve access and visitor interpretation at two locations identified as key sites for public access within the Weald Forest Ridge. Ancient woodland, and wider nature conservation enhancements will also be undertaken. Birchden Woods borders the medieval 'Waterdown' forest, one of the four great medieval forests of the Weald Forest Ridge, and access improvements here will enhance visitors' use of this and neighbouring sites by providing accessible links. Harrison's Rocks, located within Birchden Woods, is the most well-known climbing and bouldering site in the south-east, and access will be improved to enhance the site for both climbers and non-climbers alike around the rock face itself.

Activities will include enhanced paths for pedestrians – including routes to disabled access standards – new interpretation boards, ride and woodland management to create a more welcoming site, and volunteering opportunities.

8.3.4 Overall Programme Costs

Landscape Scale Connectivity Programme – Overall Value	£1,158,084
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8.4 Archaeology & Special Features (Programme 2)

8.4.1 Background

The Weald Forest Ridge is an evolving landscape; influenced by human activities from the Mesolithic period to the present day. Each generation over this timescale has made its mark on the landscape, which has created a wealth of habitats, attractions and activities for people to enjoy today.

During the Iron Age and Roman periods, the Weald Forest Ridge area was important for iron extraction. Small-scale land clearance by Anglo-Saxons opened up more of the area and William the Conqueror

established the ancient medieval hunting forests. By the 16th century, the area was again important for iron extraction. Even now, the area's industrial heritage lives on in its landscape archaeology, place names and legends.

The Tudor iron masters, quarrying, and clay and timber extraction all generated wealth in the area, and the Weald Forest Ridge was settled by influential families, who created much of the formal landscape of historic parks still extant today. These were added to in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, forming a lasting legacy of historic parks & gardens.

Today, the very timbers, bricks, tiles and stones of the characteristic Wealden buildings reveal the strong connections people have had with the landscape, through their use of local materials. The Weald Forest Ridge contains 23 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 592 listed buildings, but these represent only part of the historic building stock; since many pre-1919 buildings remain unlisted. Even these non-listed buildings require specialist skills & knowledge to retain their condition.

Despite extensive research and this known legacy, archaeologists still consider that the Weald Forest Ridge holds many more secrets. There is a desire to increase the understanding of the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape, and avoid potential conflicts with landscape management works that may unwittingly damage unrecorded archaeological features. This is of particular concern in the Weald Forest Ridge; as much of the landscape is wooded, which conceals its archaeological features.

Project planning stage consultations revealed that local residents and the visiting public want to know more about the area's heritage, in particular its history and archaeology. Consequently, the Archaeology and Special Features programme focuses on a wide variety of activities to increase knowledge of the archaeological resource, and disseminate this knowledge to a wide range of audiences, including public engagement through specific archaeology-focused events.

8.4.2 Archaeology and Special Features Programme Objectives

The following objectives are set for this programme:

Ref.	Objective
f.	To raise awareness of the Weald Forest Ridge's historic environment and heritage: through events, activities and volunteering opportunities that involve communities in celebrating the area's heritage.
g.	To further understanding of the Weald Forest Ridge's archaeological heritage.
h.	To provide advice for Weald Forest Ridge landowners with both known and potential archaeological features.

8.4.3 Archaeology and Special Features Project Themes

This programme contains three themed areas.

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P2.1 Archaeological Engagement

The Archaeological Engagement project theme covers two projects to be delivered on a range of sites and generally across the Weald Forest Ridge. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Archaeological awareness activities	PA25	£31,455	ESAMP	£33,300
Living history activities	PA26	£4,624	High Weald AONB Unit	£2,225
	Totals	£36,079		£35,525

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

The two archaeological engagement projects will help to enhance people's understanding of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape, and the numerous factors that have shaped it over time, through a diverse range of techniques. These will include hands-on activity sessions, and recreation and re-enactment of specific events or legends from the Weald Forest Ridge's past. It is well known that human interpretation is one of the strongest mechanisms to convey messages to the public, and these two projects will exploit this to the full. A large part of the projects' delivery will be through volunteers, hence engaging a further sector of the community with the area's rich heritage.

P2.2 Archaeological Awareness

The Archaeological Awareness project theme covers two projects that will be delivered across the whole Weald Forest Ridge. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Historic environment awareness	PA27	£265,833	East Sussex County Council	£109,000
Archaeological habitat awareness	PA38	£44,680	FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)	£36,000
	Totals	£310,513		£145,000

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

Both of these projects are key to increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Ridge's rich archaeological resource; amongst professionals, landowners and managers, and the general public.

The Historic environment awareness project will use the innovative new LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey technique to carry out an archaeological assessment of the whole Weald Forest Ridge. The outcomes of the LiDAR will then feed into more detailed ground research, involving volunteers working alongside experts, to enrich both the Historic Environment Record and the understanding of the Ridge's past landscape development and management. LiDAR results are powerful interpretation tools, and will also help

other Delivery Partners, in other projects, to enhance people’s understanding of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape through interpretation, events and work with schools.

The Archaeological habitat awareness project will advise landowners on the management of archaeological features within their control, and will have a close working relationship with archaeologists in the three county councils within the Ridge area.

P2.3 Built Heritage

The Built Heritage project theme covers one project being delivered on a specific building within the central Weald Forest Ridge. This is detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Highbrook Smokery restoration	PA29	£16,337	Highbrook Village Hall Committee	£13,809
	Totals	£16,337		£13,809

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

The Weald Forest Ridge has a wealth of built heritage, and it would not be possible to develop and deliver a comprehensive programme of building restoration in a three year delivery period; given the complex range of owners and issues that would inevitably be involved. Instead, the opportunity has been taken to restore, interpret and open to public access a small-scale, unique building within the Ridge area, which typifies the diverse range of built heritage present, much of which is not listed.

A second project was proposed in the Stage 1 application within this Built Heritage theme. With the working title of “Know your Place”, the project sought to develop a community toolkit to record the built heritage of the majority of the Ridge area, by focusing on the two main local authority districts of Mid Sussex and Wealden (overall 85% of the WFR area). However, during the Development Phase, it became clear that there were insufficient match funding sources to support the project. Additionally, one of the two authorities was unable to prioritise support for the project, and had to withdraw. With the project then only focusing on just over 25% of the WFR area, and still requiring a dedicated project officer to manage the high level of volunteer input necessary to deliver, the project was withdrawn because of poor value for money.

Additionally, the Stage 1 application also had a Formal Landscapes project theme. This contained one project, seeking to raise the profile of designed landscapes (i.e. historic parks and gardens) within the Weald Forest Ridge; through the production and distribution of a walking guide. However, the partners involved in the project were unable to develop it fully for the Stage 2 application: both match funding and project leadership being issues that meant the project’s position within the WFR Scheme unfortunately became untenable.

Landscape Strategy

8.4.4 Overall Programme Costs

Archaeology and Special Features Programme – Overall Value

£366,046

8.5 Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)

8.5.1 Background

Whilst the population within the Weald Forest Ridge is only just under 30,000, it is bounded by eight towns with a combined population of 295,704 at the 2001 census. These are Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead, Crawley, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and Crowborough. A further 2.8 million people live within a 20 mile catchment of the Ridge; covering parts of Outer London, e.g. Croydon, Bromley and Sutton, and the South Coast, including Hastings and Brighton.

The Access & Audience Development Plan identified the need to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of the Ridge through education, interpretation, activities and events.
- Make the links between people (including those who do not use the countryside) and key sites that reveal why the Weald Forest Ridge is so special.

The Plan also identified the lack of Weald Forest Ridge information as the most significant barrier affecting both new & existing audiences' enjoyment of the area as a whole, and their ability to appreciate its distinctive features. Other actions arising from the broader reports and consultations at Stage 1 were the need for improved links with the neighbouring urban towns: to encourage residents to use and value the Weald Forest Ridge. Local people also wanted further information and better interpretation, to enable them to fully understand the landscape and the distinctive features that make it uniquely important.

Suggested ways to engage people were through organised events – to raise awareness of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape and what makes it special – together with activities for people to access & enjoy it. Improved interpretation of the landscape using community art was also suggested to engage new audiences in celebrating the Weald Forest Ridge landscape – through sculpture trails, art and literary activities. Cultural workshops offering creative writing for local people were another way of exploring cultural traditions, especially the myths and legends linked to the Ridge's landscape.

Consequently, the Learning and Celebrating Heritage programme will foster a greater understanding of the defining characteristics of the Weald Forest Ridge, by actively involving people in learning about and celebrating the Ridge's landscape heritage. A range of activities, including creation of educational resources, interpretation, events, walks, poetry and storytelling are planned to generate a renewed "sense of place" amongst local people and visitors.

8.5.2 Learning and Celebrating Heritage Programme Objectives

The following objectives are set for this programme:

Ref.	Objective
i.	To enable existing visitors to appreciate the distinctive features and character of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape; through a range of orientation, interpretation and activity-based projects that will generate a sense of place.
j.	To enrich individuals' quality of life by delivering life-long learning opportunities through participatory events and activities, in a creative and imaginative way, that makes learning fun & inclusive.
k.	To develop cohesive links with schools and other educational groups, as part of formal and informal learning, to increase their interaction with the Weald Forest Ridge.
l.	To encourage new audiences, especially from the neighbouring urban towns and traditionally 'hard to reach' groups, to visit the Weald Forest Ridge and experience its rich heritage.

8.5.3 Learning and Celebrating Heritage Project Themes

This programme contains two themed areas, which are detailed below.

In the Stage 1 application, there were four equivalent themes, but we have considered it appropriate to merge three of these into one Community Engagement project theme, rather than trying to make fairly arbitrary distinctions between a number of projects all trying to fulfil the Access and Audience Development Plan outcome of increasing people's learning and engagement opportunities with the Ridge landscape. Additionally, the key, profile-raising "Maidens of the Weald" project has been transferred to the central Scheme Management programme, hence reducing the number of projects in this area of the Scheme to four.

P3.1 Community Engagement

The Community Engagement project theme covers four projects to be delivered in a range of site and community locations throughout the Weald Forest Ridge, and additionally into the neighbouring towns, to attract new audiences. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
The Ridge on your doorstep	PA48	£68,944	Kent High Weald Project	£50,090
Discovering the magic of Ashdown Forest	PA01	£229,975	Conservators of Ashdown Forest	£246,250
Dragons' Tales: Stories of the Weald Forest Ridge	PA08	£208,081	THE SOUTH	£80,890
Family safaris	PA32	£850	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	£750
	Totals	£507,850		£377,980

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

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The Access & Audience Development Plan consultations have clearly shown that people need a combination of physical improvements, e.g. picnic benches and way-marked trails, coupled with support and encouragement to use the Weald Forest Ridge. This support and encouragement can be through outreach work, to build user confidence, the provision of Weald Forest Ridge information to help them plan and enjoy their visit, or activities and guided events to generate further support and confidence. The Ridge on your doorstep project will specifically encourage “hard to reach” groups in the neighbouring urban towns in the east of the Ridge to explore the area. This will be through a series of events, talks and “have a go” days, which build trust with the groups and support them in their initial visits to the Weald Forest Ridge.

Interpretation is defined by the Association for Heritage Interpretation as “*the process of communicating to people the significance of a place or object, so that they enjoy it more, understand their heritage and environment better, and develop a positive attitude to conservation*”. It is known that local people are interested in, and want to know more about, the Weald Forest Ridge’s landscape heritage, and detailed and appropriate interpretation is key to this. The Ashdown Forest Centre – the visitor centre for the 2,500ha Ashdown Forest, the largest and best surviving of the Ridge’s four medieval forests – has been identified in the Access & Audience Plan as the most important gateway for visitors to the wider Ridge area. This makes it the ideal location to raise awareness of the Ridge’s distinctive features and encourage new audiences to visit the area. Consequently, the engagement project focused on Ashdown Forest will replace the outdated permanent interpretation exhibition at the Centre, enhance walks’ information, and develop innovative, new, remote interpretation techniques, appropriate for the multi-point access to the Forest itself, which has 50 different car park locations.

It is known that community, fun-based, people-focused activities are an effective way of engaging and involving people who would not traditionally participate in their landscape heritage. Hence, out of the ordinary and enjoyable events will help people to get involved in the Ridge’s landscape and cultural heritage. The Dragons’ Tales project will engage a wide range of groups and individuals, including schools, to work alongside writers and poets to re-capture or re-invent the stories associated with the Weald Forest Ridge. There are a wealth of these inspiring stories, such as St Leonard and the slaying of the dragon, and also numerous smuggling legends, which can act as hooks to draw people in to the area’s rich cultural heritage. Similarly, the Family Safaris will cover both the history and natural history of the Weald Forest Ridge at key sites focused in the east of the Ridge area, using the specialist skills of the Museum Service in Tunbridge Wells.

P3.2 Schools Education

The Schools Education project theme covers four projects to be delivered in a range of sites and covering, en masse, the Weald Forest Ridge area, and will additionally involve delivery in schools in and around the eight neighbouring towns. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Forest Schools' focus for the Weald Forest Ridge	PA06	173,403	Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	£123,200
Educational resources at Ashdown Forest	PA36	30,573	Conservators of Ashdown Forest	£51,550
Schools' archaeological activities	PA44	17,285	ESAMP	£11,000
Weald Forest Ridge educational footprints	PA49	76,768	Kent High Weald Project	£49,125
	Totals	£298,029		£234,875

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

Schools education is a key component of the Weald Forest Ridge LP Scheme, and fulfils many objectives of the wider Training Plan. The WFR Partnership is keen to forge active links with schools, both within the Ridge area and also in and around the neighbouring urban towns, to encourage them to use the Weald Forest Ridge landscape as a cross-curriculum resource and as an outdoor classroom. Consultations have shown that local schools want to identify with their local area and enrich the National Curriculum; by making learning relevant to their area and enabling pupils to know what makes the Weald Forest Ridge a special place.

The schools education projects will give teachers the knowledge and resources to incorporate the common theme of the Weald Forest Ridge's heritage into a wide range of National Curriculum activities beyond the traditional geography, history and sciences. For example, survey data from a range of areas could be used by schools as a Citizenship, Maths and ICT resource, and directly link school life back into the local context. This approach will help deliver the new educational philosophy set out in the "Excellence and Enjoyment" Department for Education and Skills strategy.

Project planning stage work has shown that the Weald Forest Ridge's historic environment is often overshadowed by its natural beauty. To counter this, the Schools' archaeological activities project will deliver educational initiatives to raise awareness of the Ridge's archaeological heritage. These will include one-off day sessions based on historical themes, such as Tudors in the Ridge, or other initiatives including crafts sessions and 'hands-on' archaeological activities.

Ensuring Ridge-wide delivery is an essential component of all the programmes within the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Schools' archaeological activities project will achieve this as the Delivery Partner, ESAMP (the East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Partnership), has a Ridge-wide remit. However, with Schools' education, the skills base and geographic context of most of the potential Delivery Partners for this work theme are more local within the Ridge. To overcome this, and to provide Ridge-wide overall delivery, we are operating the three other Schools Education theme projects with Delivery Partners who, whilst they might only cover part of the Ridge in their operational areas, will, in total, provide education delivery across the whole of the Weald Forest Ridge. This actually has several benefits, on which we will capitalise:

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- The three different projects will utilise different styles and mechanisms of learning, offering a wider choice to schools.
- Two of the three Delivery Partners (Ashdown Forest and the Kent High Weald Project – KHWP) will generate web-based resources, enabling easy sharing of information.
- An Education Working Sub Group, co-ordinated through the Weald Forest Ridge Team, will facilitate skills, knowledge and outcomes sharing amongst the partners, to generate benefits beyond the sum of the parts.
- As their operational areas overlap, the combination of the three projects will offer greater potential for schools to participate in the rich heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge.

The Forest Schools project will deliver a programme of environmental activities for school age children from four through to sixteen, using the developing philosophies of the Forest School Initiative. These will be centred on key sites within the western Weald Forest Ridge, such as the important gateway sites of St Leonard’s Forest and Buchan Country Park. The Delivery Partner is Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: a well-respected initiative in the area with a remit to improve peoples' understanding and appreciation of green spaces and local countryside.

Ashdown Forest is centrally located within the Ridge, and the Ashdown Forest project focuses on the provision of educational resources at the Ashdown Forest Centre. Whilst being the largest open access site in the Ridge, and one of the four “Maidens” medieval forests, the Forest Centre within the Forest does not have modern educational facilities or resources, which deters schools from using the site. The provision of these resources in and around the Forest Centre will hence enable schools to fully benefit from this site. Combined with the interpretation project in theme 3.1 (Discovering the magic of Ashdown Forest, within the Community Engagement theme) this educational project will make the Ashdown Forest Centre the strategic base for information and education in the Weald Forest Ridge.

The Weald Forest Ridge educational footprints project will explore the impacts our lifestyles and every day decisions have on the landscape – which is often described as a 'footprint'. The Delivery Partner here is the Kent High Weald Project, which possesses highly skilled, schools education staff who already have a very close working relationship with the High Weald AONB Unit.

8.5.4 Overall Programme Costs

Learning and Celebrating Heritage Programme – Overall Value

£805,879

8.6 Reconnecting People & Place (Programme 4)

8.6.1 Background

The draft Training Plan prepared with the Stage 1 application found that a broad range of skills are needed to ensure that the Weald Forest Ridge’s wealth of diverse heritage – from archaeological features, characteristic

Wealden buildings, its important semi-natural habitats and wildlife, through to the farming landscape – are conserved and enhanced for people to enjoy. Additionally, these skills should rest not only with landowners and land managers, but also with volunteers, who can have a key role to play.

Consequently, this programme focuses on reconnecting people with the Weald Forest Ridge landscape in its widest sense. Skills creation and training will help people “do their bit” to care for the area, whilst environmental awareness raising will encourage people to cherish the Weald Forest Ridge features that they encounter. This re-forging of peoples’ links with the landscape will help to safeguard the area’s heritage for future generations.

From the Stage 1 application, it is the Reconnecting People and Place programme that has undergone the most major changes during the Development Phase. In part it is due to two projects focusing mainly on access enhancements – the Weir Wood and Birchden Woods projects now located in the Visitor Enhancements project theme (P1.3) – being relocated to the Landscape Scale Connectivity programme. However, a total of six other projects have not been able to be developed sufficiently to enable their inclusion in this Stage 2 application. These projects and the reasons for their exclusion from the Stage 2 application are explained below.

Three interlinked projects were proposed at the Gravetye Estate, south of East Grinstead. This important site showcases many of the Ridge’s distinctive features; based around a Grade I listed building, a former Iron Masters house, which was latterly owned by the famous landscape gardener, William Robinson, who landscaped the gardens and wider Estate using his principles of wild gardening. The Estate is managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the William Robinson Charitable Trust. The three projects sought to encourage greater site use; by increasing accessibility to local residents, visitors from further afield, and schools and other groups. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints based around potential maintenance liabilities elsewhere on the Estate meant that the Trustees of the William Robinson Charitable Trust were unable, during the Development Phase, to commit the necessary match funding to the projects. However, we propose to retain the principles of these Stage 1 proposals on a reserve list during the Delivery Phase of the WFR LPS. Then, if Trustees can commit match funding in the future, and any underspends emerge on other WFR projects, we will seek HLF permission to include some or all of the original Gravetye Estate proposals in the Scheme delivery.

Two projects were proposed by the Ashdown Forest Tourism Association (AFTA) in the Stage 1 application: called “Forest Ambassadors” and the “Forest Ridge Food Festival”. AFTA promotes tourism development in the Ashdown Forest area, and hence can fulfil a key role in increasing visitor access to the Weald Forest Ridge’s diverse heritage and communicating its importance. However, AFTA is currently undergoing a period of organisational change, and with reduced core funding following the ending of a South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) funding programme, it was unable to commit sufficient resources to developing the two projects to Stage 2, or indeed being able to confirm that delivery would be feasible. Therefore, both projects have been withdrawn from the Stage 2 application. However, we feel that the Forest Ambassadors project could achieve very beneficial Scheme outcomes, if funding and capacity issues could be resolved, and hence will retain the principles of the project on a reserve list for the Scheme Delivery Phase.

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A Gardening for Wildlife project was proposed in the Stage 1 application. Whilst it was envisaged it would be led by the Weald Forest Ridge Team, it relied on collaborative working between the two county Wildlife Trusts within the WFR area – Kent and Sussex. Whilst both Trusts were willing to collaborate, one of them was unable to commit to delivery in its forward plan, because of other competing commitments for limited staff and financial resources. Hence, the project has been withdrawn from the Weald Forest Ridge LPS.

Consequently, the project themes within the Reconnecting People and Place programme have been revised. There are now two themed areas, which are detailed in Section 8.6.3.

8.6.2 Reconnecting People and Place Programme Objectives

The following objectives are set for this programme:

Ref.	Objective
m.	To re-connect people with the Weald Forest Ridge landscape through the provision of interaction opportunities: for people to find out more about the Weald Forest Ridge and increase their interest, use and promotion of the area.
n.	To provide formal and informal training for landowners, managers, craft trades' people and volunteers; giving them the necessary skills to conserve the special character of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape.
o.	To encourage a more diverse range of people to explore the Weald Forest Ridge.

8.6.3 Reconnecting People and Place Project Themes

This programme contains two themed areas, which are detailed below.

P4.1 Skills Creation

The Skills Creation project theme covers four projects to be delivered on a range of sites and generally across the Weald Forest Ridge, as well as two training locations outside the Ridge utilising the facilities of specialist training providers. These are detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Working woodlands in the Weald Forest Ridge	PA02	£49,433	Esus Forestry and Woodlands	£56,688
Local distinctiveness and buildings heritage	PA41	£30,230	Weald and Downland Open Air Museum	£26,000
Archaeological training placements	PA45	£18,623	ESAMP	£20,000
Sustaining farming and landscape	PA09	£19,246	Plumpton College	£38,000
	Totals	£117,532		£140,688

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

Many of the people now owning land or property in the Weald Forest Ridge do not necessarily have the expertise to conserve and maintain these features themselves. Additionally, there are land and building

managers and workers who similarly lack this expertise to work on other people's property. The traditional crafts of coppicing or repairing timber frames, for example, are scarce and in danger of being lost: without

these skills being retained there is a real risk that the Ridge's recognisable features will be inexorably eroded over time. Hence, all of the skills creation activities to be undertaken within this project theme will encourage these owners, managers and crafts' people to maintain and protect the unique Weald Forest Ridge landscape heritage, by giving them the understanding and skills to conserve its distinctive features. Furthermore, the detailed needs of the specific archaeology field will be addressed through a training placement project.

The Working Woodlands in the Weald Forest Ridge project will provide training and support for owners and managers of the ancient semi-natural woodland in the WFR area. Delivery areas will include skills in felling and working effectively in coppice, making coppice products, and recognised NPTC qualifications in chainsaw, brushcutter and knapsack sprayer use (if Rhododendron control is required). Additional benefits will be accrued around networking, especially for owners and operators.

The Local distinctive project will increase heritage building skills amongst crafts' people and other building professionals to care for the Weald Forest Ridge's unique built heritage. This will be achieved by delivery of short courses relevant to the needs of the Ridge. Hence, the training opportunities will be focused on meeting the specification needs of conservation officers, architects and building professionals, and up-skilling crafts' people through a range of courses on the conservation and restoration of distinctive Wealden building features.

The broad quality of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape is fundamentally linked to grazing livestock: to retain its heaths, pastures and meadows. If these traditional mixed farming systems are to survive and to continue to maintain and protect the unique WFR landscape, then landowners and farmers need to add value to their produce and develop a wider range of products and local markets. Hence, the Sustaining farming and landscape project will support and encourage farmers and landowners to rear and finish livestock, to add value to their products, and to engage with local markets. Additional farm visit advice and encouragement of local produce sourcing will also be provided.

The Archaeological training placements project recognises that the Weald Forest Ridge is an area of high archaeological potential, but there is a shortage of people with the skills to identify, conserve and interpret these features. Through partnership working with specialists, local universities and the WFR Partnership, ESAMP will establish a student placement opportunities initiative: to give students hands-on specialist training on the local archaeological, environmental and cultural heritage of the Weald Forest Ridge.

P4.2 Volunteer and Skills Development

The Volunteer and Skills Development project theme covers one project being delivered on a range of sites and generally across the Weald Forest Ridge. This is detailed below, and on the request of the HLF, the value of the project in the Stage 1 application is included as well as the Stage 2 value:

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Project Name	Project Code	Value at Stage 2*	Delivery Partner	Value in Stage 1 Bid
Inspiring People, Improving Places	PA03	£334,106	BTCV	£287,600
	Totals	£334,106		£287,600

(* Please note this Stage 2 value figure includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances. The value in Stage 1 bid excludes these three elements, so the figures are not directly comparable.)

Project planning stage work identified both the potential that volunteering can offer to conserve the Weald Forest Ridge's unique heritage features, as well as the desire of local people to become involved. Hence, the Inspiring People, Improving Places project seeks to enhance public understanding and knowledge of the Weald Forest Ridge, which coupled with increasing individual skills in practical conservation techniques will enable Ridge residents and those people from the neighbouring towns to help safeguard the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage. This holistic approach will be key to long-term success of the Landscape Partnership Scheme and can contribute significantly to its sustainable legacy.

8.6.4 Overall Programme Costs

Reconnecting People and Place Programme – Overall Value

£451,638

8.7 Project Classification and Integration of the Delivery Programmes

Setting up programmes, project themes and projects within this Landscape Partnership Scheme has led to work activities being classified into categories. Inevitably, this classification can be somewhat contrived: placing projects into programmes that can then be presented as discrete entities, yet which in total represent a coherent whole. The classification implies each category boundary is black and white, whereas, in reality, there are shades of grey.

With the WFR Scheme, the classification to fit any one project into one of the four delivery programmes has often been difficult, as numerous projects will deliver outputs and outcomes that fit within more than one programme. Consequently, projects have been placed within the programme where the majority of their work falls, whilst accepting that alternative programme locations could have been used. For example, the Scheme differentiates between informal learning, and formal skills training opportunities. Informal, life-long & formal schools learning opportunities are reflected in the Learning & Celebrating Heritage programme, whilst more specialist skills training is covered in the Re-connecting People and Place programme. In reality, there is some overlap between these disciplines, and it is hoped that some people who participate in informal learning will progress onto more structured training.

We feel this conundrum of projects overlapping programmes is actually one of the great strengths of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme: that "its whole is greater than the sum of its parts". There is a very strong and able WFR Partnership, containing a wide range of Delivery Partners, who are totally supportive of both the Strategic Aims and Scheme objectives, and a focused Lead Partner and Partnership Board who can steer and guide the Scheme delivery. Tables 10 and 11, presented on separate

sheets, aim to illustrate this overall strength of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme. **Table 10** shows the Strategic Scheme Aims fulfilled by each of the 28 delivery projects, categorised into the four delivery programmes. **Table 11** similarly shows the Scheme Objectives (i.e. the Programme objectives for each of the four delivery programmes, as well as the Scheme Management programme) fulfilled by the 28 projects.

Map 2, on a separate sheet, summarises the locational delivery of all the 28 projects across the four delivery programmes of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Table 10: Weald Forest Ridge LPS Strategic Aims Fulfilled by the Delivery Projects

Prog.	Theme	Project Name	Project Code	Strategic Aims			
				1	2	3	4
Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)							
<u>Holistic Enhancements (P1.1)</u>							
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Sheffield Forest	PA05		✓		
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: St Leonards Forest	PA20		✓	✓	
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Tilgate Forest	PA21		✓	✓	
		Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods restoration	PA04	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Broadwater Warren restoration	PA12	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Habitat Enhancements (P1.2)</u>							
		Eridge Rocks habitat enhancements	PA18		✓	✓	
		Old Lodge habitat enhancements	PA19		✓		
		Kingstanding habitat enhancements	PA22	✓	✓		
<u>Visitor Enhancements (P1.3)</u>							
		Pathways to natural heritage: Weir Wood LNR	PA10	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Pathways to Tudor heritage: Birchden Woods	PA15	✓	✓	✓	
Archaeology & Special Features (Programme 2)							
<u>Archaeological Engagement (P2.1)</u>							
		Archaeological awareness activities	PA25	✓		✓	✓
		Living history activities	PA26	✓		✓	✓
<u>Archaeological Awareness (P2.2)</u>							
		Historic environment awareness	PA27	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Archaeological habitat awareness	PA38	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Built Heritage (P2.3)</u>							
		Highbrook Smokery restoration	PA29	✓	✓	✓	
Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)							
<u>Community Engagement (P3.1)</u>							
		The Ridge on your doorstep	PA48	✓		✓	✓
		Discovering the magic of Ashdown Forest	PA01			✓	✓
		Dragons' Tales: Stories of the Weald Forest Ridge	PA08	✓		✓	
		Family safaris	PA32	✓		✓	
<u>Schools Education (P3.2)</u>							
		Forest Schools' focus for the Weald Forest Ridge	PA06	✓		✓	
		Educational resources at Ashdown Forest	PA36			✓	✓
		Schools' archaeological activities	PA44	✓		✓	✓
		Weald Forest Ridge educational footprints	PA49	✓		✓	✓
Reconnecting People & Place (Programme 4)							
<u>Skills Creation (P4.1)</u>							
		Working woodlands in the Weald Forest Ridge	PA02	✓	✓		✓
		Local distinctiveness and buildings heritage	PA41		✓	✓	✓
		Archaeological training placements	PA45	✓		✓	✓
		Sustaining farming and landscape	PA09	✓	✓		✓
<u>Volunteer and Skills Development (P4.2)</u>							
		Inspiring People, Improving Places	PA03	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strategic Aims:

- 1 To encourage more people to get involved in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge's unique landscape heritage.
- 2 To conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place
- 3 To provide opportunities for people to learn about, access, celebrate and benefit from the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage
- 4 To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Weald Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy.

Table 11: Weald Forest Ridge LPS Scheme Objectives Fulfilled by the Delivery Projects

Table 11

Prog.	Theme	Project Name	Project Code	Scheme Objectives																						
				a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w
Landscape Scale Connectivity (Programme 1)																										
<u>Holistic Enhancements (P1.1)</u>																										
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Sheffield Forest	PA05	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓			✓									✓	
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: St Leonards Forest	PA20	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓									✓	
		Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Tilgate Forest	PA21	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓									✓	
		Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods restoration	PA04	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓								✓		
		Broadwater Warren restoration	PA12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓							✓			
<u>Habitat Enhancements (P1.2)</u>																										
		Eridge Rocks habitat enhancements	PA18	✓	✓		✓					✓														
		Old Lodge habitat enhancements	PA19	✓																						
		Kingstanding habitat enhancements	PA22	✓		✓			✓															✓		
<u>Visitor Enhancements (P1.3)</u>																										
		Pathways to natural heritage: Weir Wood LNR	PA10	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓					✓							
		Pathways to Tudor heritage: Birchden Woods	PA15	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓					✓							
Archaeology & Special Features (Programme 2)																										
<u>Archaeological Engagement (P2.1)</u>																										
		Archaeological awareness activities	PA25				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					✓					
		Living history activities	PA26		✓				✓			✓	✓		✓	✓										
<u>Archaeological Awareness (P2.2)</u>																										
		Historic environment awareness	PA27		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				✓					
		Archaeological habitat awareness	PA38		✓				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓										
<u>Built Heritage (P2.3)</u>																										
		Highbrook Smokery restoration	PA29		✓				✓	✓			✓			✓										
Learning & Celebrating Heritage (Programme 3)																										
<u>Community Engagement (P3.1)</u>																										
		The Ridge on your doorstep	PA48		✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											
		Discovering the magic of Ashdown Forest	PA01		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓			
		Dragons' Tales: Stories of the Weald Forest Ridge	PA08		✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											
		Family safaris	PA32		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓											
<u>Schools Education (P3.2)</u>																										
		Forest Schools' focus for the Weald Forest Ridge	PA06						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
		Educational resources at Ashdown Forest	PA36		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓												
		Schools' archaeological activities	PA44				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							✓					
		Weald Forest Ridge educational footprints	PA49		✓				✓			✓	✓								✓					
Reconnecting People & Place (Programme 4)																										
<u>Skills Creation (P4.1)</u>																										
		Working woodlands in the Weald Forest Ridge	PA02	✓		✓				✓	✓										✓					
		Local distinctiveness and buildings heritage	PA41		✓							✓			✓	✓					✓					
		Archaeological training placements	PA45				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓					
		Sustaining farming and landscape	PA09			✓									✓											
<u>Volunteer and Skills Development (P4.2)</u>																										
		Inspiring People, Improving Places	PA03	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									

See over for the objectives, a to w.

Objectives**LANDSCAPE SCALE CONNECTIVITY**

- a. To enhance the Weald Forest Ridge's mosaic of habitats: by creating more, open heathy areas within woodland; by removing conifers, bracken and scrub; and tackling invasive *Rhododendron ponticum*.
- b. To help local people and visitors recognise and value the special qualities of the Weald Forest Ridge, and those features that make it distinct.
- c. To involve volunteers and landowners in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge landscape: by giving them the skills to undertake practical land management tasks.
- d. To increase people's understanding of why certain sites are vulnerable to various types of use, and the need to manage these sites.
- e. To improve infrastructure provision at key character sites within the Weald Forest Ridge; enabling people to access and enjoy the Weald Forest Ridge's distinctive landscape heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND SPECIAL FEATURES

- f. To raise awareness of the Weald Forest Ridge's historic environment and heritage: through events, activities and volunteering opportunities that involve communities in celebrating the area's heritage.
- g. To further understanding of the Weald Forest Ridge's archaeological heritage.
- h. To provide advice for Weald Forest Ridge landowners with both known and potential archaeological features.

LEARNING AND CELEBRATING HERITAGE

- i. To enable existing visitors to appreciate the distinctive features and character of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape; through a range of orientation, interpretation and activity-based projects that will generate a sense of place.
- j. To enrich individuals' quality of life by delivering life-long learning opportunities through participatory events and activities, in a creative and imaginative way, that makes learning fun & inclusive.
- k. To develop cohesive links with schools and other educational groups, as part of formal and informal learning, to increase their interaction with the Weald Forest Ridge.
- l. To encourage new audiences, especially from the neighbouring urban towns and traditionally 'hard to reach' groups, to visit the Weald Forest Ridge and experience its rich heritage.

RECONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE

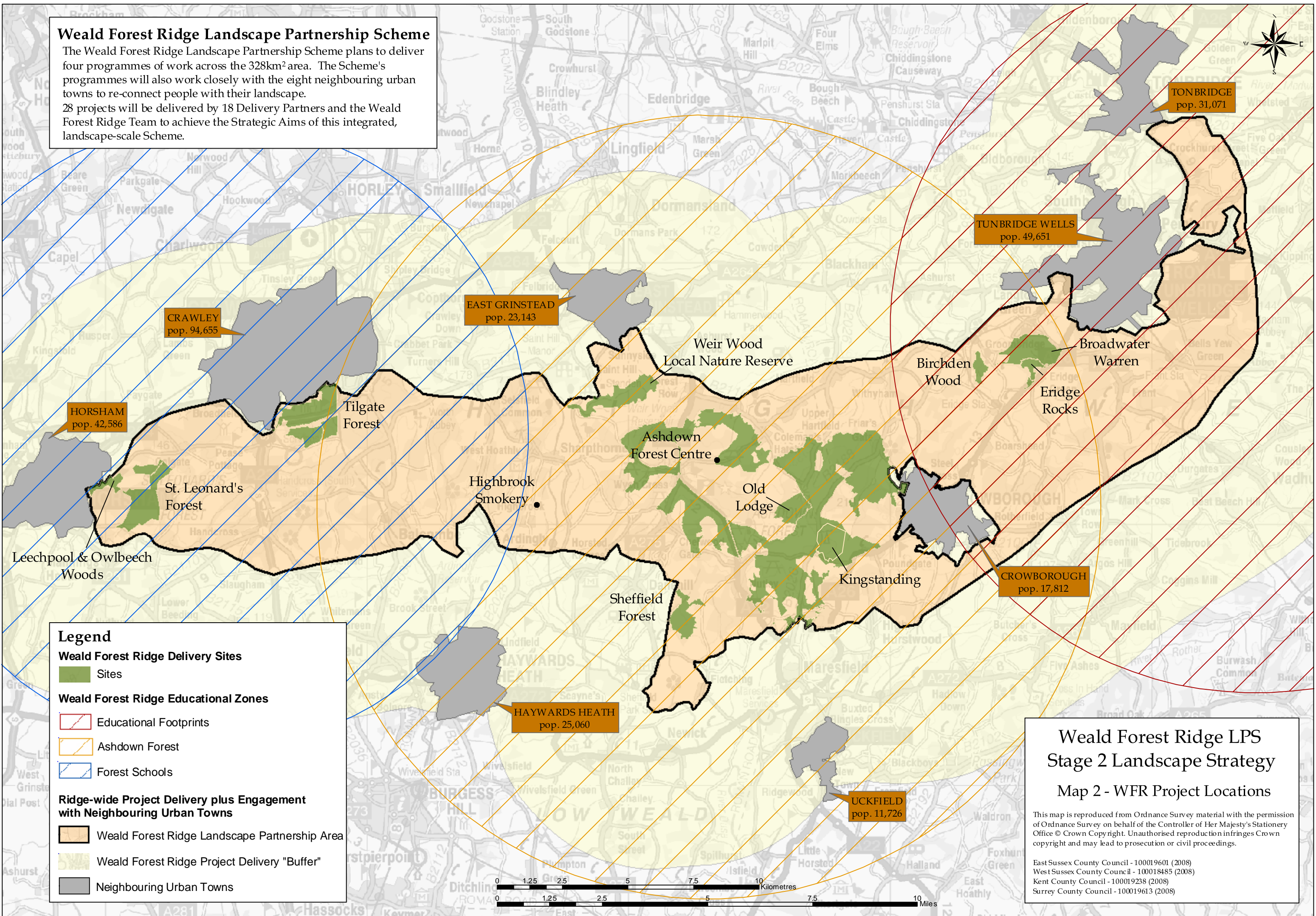
- m. To re-connect people with the Weald Forest Ridge landscape through the provision of interaction opportunities: for people to find out more about the Weald Forest Ridge and increase their interest, use and promotion of the area.
- n. To provide formal and informal training for landowners, managers craft trades' people and volunteers; giving them the necessary skills to conserve the special character of the Weald Forest Ridge landscape.
- o. To encourage a more diverse range of people to explore the Weald Forest Ridge.

SCHEME MANAGEMENT

- p. To employ a Weald Forest Ridge Team, to enable the effective implementation of the WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- q. To effectively co-ordinate the delivery of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, including financial management.
- r. To produce regular progress reports for the HLF, WFR Partnership Board, WFR Partnership and other interested parties, including financial claims to the HLF.
- s. To facilitate skills sharing amongst the Partnership to ensure that the Scheme delivers high quality projects.
- t. To work with partners to gather baseline quantitative and qualitative data on existing and new visitors to the Weald Forest Ridge area.
- u. To work with partners to monitor visitor numbers at key sites within the Weald Forest Ridge over the lifetime of the Scheme.
- v. To guide the collection and collation of baseline biological data for key enhancement sites within the Weald Forest Ridge, to gauge the effectiveness of habitat enhancement works.
- w. To work with Weald Forest Ridge partners to communicate the Scheme and engage the public in its delivery.

Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme plans to deliver four programmes of work across the 328km² area. The Scheme's programmes will also work closely with the eight neighbouring urban towns to re-connect people with their landscape. 28 projects will be delivered by 18 Delivery Partners and the Weald Forest Ridge Team to achieve the Strategic Aims of this integrated, landscape-scale Scheme.



Legend

Weald Forest Ridge Delivery Sites

Sites

Weald Forest Ridge Educational Zones

Educational Footprints

Ashdown Forest

Forest Schools

Ridge-wide Project Delivery plus Engagement with Neighbouring Urban Towns

Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Area

Weald Forest Ridge Project Delivery "Buffer"

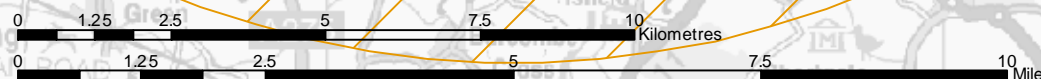
Neighbouring Urban Towns

Weald Forest Ridge LPS Stage 2 Landscape Strategy

Map 2 - WFR Project Locations

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East Sussex County Council - 100019601 (2008)
 West Sussex County Council - 100018485 (2008)
 Kent County Council - 100019238 (2008)
 Surrey County Council - 100019613 (2008)



9. Weald Forest Ridge Scheme Management Programme

9.1 Background

Behind the successful delivery of any scheme lies successful scheme management, and the requirements for the successful delivery of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme are no different.

Section 4 of this Landscape Strategy has already explained the structure of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership, and shown that the Lead Partner is the High Weald AONB Unit, hosted by East Sussex County Council. It has also shown, in Section 4.3, that there will be a dedicated Weald Forest Ridge Team of three full-time staff for the Delivery Phase, employed as a self-contained team within the Lead Partner's organisational structure. The management structure for the Scheme has been presented in Chart 1, where the WFR Team is central to a structure that incorporates the roles of the Partnership Board – providing strategic leadership – and the Partnership – delivering projects.

Section 8.1 has defined the four delivery programmes for the LP Scheme and explained that they will be underpinned by the fifth, Scheme Management programme. Effectively, this Scheme Management is a cross-cutting programme that will ensure the effective promotion and delivery of the entire Weald Forest Ridge LPS.

9.2 Scheme Management Objectives

The following objectives have been set for the Delivery Phase Scheme Management of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Ref.	Objective
p.	To employ a Weald Forest Ridge Team, to enable the effective implementation of the WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme.
q.	To effectively co-ordinate the delivery of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, including financial management.
r.	To produce regular progress reports for the HLF, WFR Partnership Board, WFR Partnership and other interested parties, including financial claims to the HLF.
s.	To facilitate skills sharing amongst the Partnership to ensure that the Scheme delivers high quality projects.
t.	To work with partners to gather baseline quantitative and qualitative data on existing and new visitors to the Weald Forest Ridge area.
u.	To work with partners to monitor visitor numbers at key sites within the Weald Forest Ridge over the lifetime of the Scheme.
v.	To guide the collection and collation of baseline biological data for key enhancement sites within the Weald Forest Ridge, to gauge the effectiveness of habitat enhancement works.
w.	To work with partners to communicate the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme and engage the public in its delivery.

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9.3 Scheme Management Activities

On the assumption that the Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is successful, the implementation of the Weald Forest Ridge LP Scheme will begin in earnest after September 2008, when the HLF decision is anticipated.

There will be a very broad and diverse range of work activities for the Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager and Team to undertake. These can be summarised under the following bulleted headings:

- Employment and management of the WFR Team.
- Partnership working
- Implementation and monitoring of Delivery Partner work through the four delivery programmes.
- Promotion and communications, including delivery of a launch event in the first year of the Scheme (see below).
- Overall Scheme management, including financial management.
- Reporting to, and financially claiming from, the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Measuring success.

The Implementation Plan will describe the activities involved in the Scheme Management programme in greater detail, and present a financial budget.

One element of activity that has been moved from being a delivery project in the Stage 1 application, to a central promotion and communications tool at Stage 2, is the “Giant Maidens” work. This will become a launch event for the Scheme in its first delivery year. Sussex has a longstanding tradition, through its Bonfire Societies, of making large-scale effigies, holding costumed processions and staging firework celebrations. The Giant Maidens activity seeks to harness these local passions to raise the profile of the Weald Forest Ridge, and initial discussions have captured the public’s and Partnership’s imagination and generated a great deal of enthusiasm. Delivery will be by active engagement of local communities.

This “Giant Maidens” activity will be led by Same Sky, a creative arts organisation with a longstanding regional expertise in this field. Same Sky will be contracted by the HWU to undertake the engagement work in the first summer of Scheme delivery, 2009. Approval has already been given by the HLF for Same Sky to be contracted without a procurement process, because of their unique ability to deliver the work (agreed at meeting with HLF Monitor, 10th January 2008).

9.4 Overall Programme Costs

Scheme Management Programme – Overall Value
--

£567,642

The Scheme Management costs at Stage 1 were identified as £443,016. However, it should be noted that the Stage 2 value includes in-kind support, inflation and contingency allowances, which the Stage 1 value excludes, so the figures are not directly comparable. Additionally, £24,000 of costs have been added to the

Scheme Management programme from the delivery programmes, through the transfer of the “Giant Maidens” launch event proposals.

9.5 Scheme Management Success

The success of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme relies heavily on the dedicated team of three staff, co-ordinating the work across all the programmes to deliver the projects identified in this Strategy. The team will be in charge of the day to day co-ordination of the Scheme, will report to the Partnership Board and be accountable to the Lead Partner.

The success of the Scheme also relies on the continued co-operation and shared purpose of all involved in the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership, and their on-going commitment to planning and implementing the Scheme.

10. Conclusion

Following on from the preceding Sections, which identify and define the four delivery programmes and the Scheme Management programme of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, this concluding Section of the Landscape Strategy briefly summarises the LP Scheme and considers what will be its legacy. Detailed information regarding communication and promotion of the Scheme, Scheme successes, and monitoring and evaluation are provided in the Implementation Plan, and hence are not included here.

10.1 Scheme Summary

The Weald Forest Ridge Partnership seeks to deliver a three year Landscape Partnership Scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to conserve and enhance the Weald Forest Ridge's distinctive heritage, within the wider High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This will be attained by the achievement of four strategic aims, that both meet the needs of the distinctive character features of the Ridge, and also the needs of the people who live within the Ridge area or in its eight neighbouring towns. The Scheme delivery will hence conserve and enhance the distinctive character features of the Weald Forest Ridge, actively involve the public in exploring the area's heritage, and encourage a renewed sense of place amongst both local people and visitors.

The Weald Forest Ridge LPS, up to this Stage 2 application, has been developed by the High Weald AONB Unit, as the lead partner of a wide-ranging partnership. Extensive surveys, research, and GIS mapping, combined with consultations with stakeholders and statutory agencies, have identified the Scheme's needs and refined them into a strategy for delivery. This Landscape Strategy is strongly endorsed by the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership, who have a shared responsibility for its delivery, guided by the co-ordinating and managing role of the High Weald AONB Unit.

Delivery will be achieved through the implementation of four, interlinking, programmes of work, backed up by a cross-cutting Scheme Management programme. The four delivery programmes contain 28 discrete, but interlinking, projects, to be delivered by 18 Delivery Partners. These projects will provide long-term, measurable, social, economic and environmental benefits across the Weald Forest Ridge area.


10.2 Scheme Legacy

There are many clear deliverables in the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, including:

- Enhancements to the natural and landscape heritage of the Ridge.
- Improved access provision and a generally improved countryside experience for visitors.
- A greater understanding of the area's rich archaeological heritage.
- Sustainable land management, through habitat improvements and enhanced land management skills
- Economic benefits, through, for example, enhanced workers' skills and increased visitor numbers.
- Life-long learning opportunities and other activities that engage people with the Ridge.

But a fundamental role of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme is to also help communities understand, enjoy and value the Weald Forest Ridge's rich natural and cultural heritage. This will be achieved through outreach, capacity building and provision of volunteering opportunities; that reconnect people with the Ridge

Landscape Strategy



landscape and engage them in caring for its heritage. It is envisaged that Scheme delivery will give people a stronger sense of place and an enhanced enjoyment of their heritage environment.

Encouraging people to engage with the Weald Forest Ridge can also have wider benefits. There can be improved social inclusion, increased knowledge and skills, and also increased health and wellbeing. Measuring these wider benefits, that will provide a lasting legacy for the Scheme, will be a role that the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership will seek to fulfil.

Appendices

1. Weald Forest Ridge Team Job Descriptions
 - WFR Project Manager
 - WFR Project Officer
 - WFR Administrator
2. Weald Forest Ridge Partnership Board Memorandum of Agreement
3. Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Partner Agreement
4. The Selection of Stage 1 Projects and Programmes

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Job Description

DEPARTMENT:	Transport & Environment
LOCATION:	Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell
JOB TITLE:	Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager
GRADE:	NJC Managerial Grade 3
RESPONSIBLE TO:	AONB Director
MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JOB:	<p>The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager will be responsible for the continuing development of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme and, if bids for funding the scheme are successful, will oversee the scheme's implementation.</p> <p>The main tasks reflect the 2 phases of the project - the development phase and the implementation phase. The latter phase will be subject to approval of a Stage 2 bid by HLF.</p>

KEY TASKS

Implementation Phase (Stage 2)

1. To report to the Landscape Partnership Board, liaise with the wider partnership and manage other LP staff and consultants to enable implementation of the scheme.
2. To plan, manage, monitor, evaluate and report on the delivery of programmes & projects in conjunction with the Weald Forest Ridge Board and wider partnership.
3. To promote the Weald Forest Ridge scheme and its projects to ensure widespread involvement in the scheme.
4. To coordinate the financial systems and manage the budgets for the scheme to enable the scheme's delivery through its programmes
5. To manage the Weald Forest Ridge staff, by providing leadership and directing work
6. To commission consultants, goods and services to enable implementation of the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme's programmes and projects.
7. To manage the work of various advisers, sub committees or working groups to the LP scheme and report their progress to the LP Board.

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8. To assist the partnership with identifying and submitting external funding bids to secure the long-term sustainability of the Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership scheme.
9. To be aware of and adhere to ESCC health and safety policies and procedures.
10. To apply consistently the principles of Equal Opportunities, as embodied in the County Council's policies and practices throughout the duties outlined above.
11. To undertake available training opportunities and show a commitment to continuous development, to maximise your potential and ensure the efficient and effective delivery of County Council services.
12. Undertake any other tasks commensurate with the grading of the post

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Person Specification

Post Title: Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager

Location: Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell

Grade: NJC Managerial Grade 3

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment/ Source of Information
Key Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint • Good presentation skills • Excellent report writing and numeracy skills • Good negotiation skills • Good organisation skills • Ability to undertake a diverse workload • Ability to work to deadlines 		Application form Interview
Education & Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree or equivalent in relevant discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of a professional body 	Application form
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge of rural environmental, social and economic issues, particularly those relating to land management, access, tourism, social inclusion and community development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the High Weald AONB • Knowledge of public, trust and private sector funding sources 	Application form Interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years of project planning and management • Experience of building productive working partnerships • Developing bids to grant-aiding bodies • Staff and contractor management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of managing multi-disciplinary projects • Experience of setting up business and monitoring systems 	Application form Interview

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Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need to work flexibly, including some weekends and evenings • Self motivated • You will need to be a good team worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need to be able to respond positively to change 	Interview
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Certificate 	Application form
<p>Travel requirements</p> <p>This post will require you to be mobile across the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and therefore you will need to possess a current driving licence and have access to a car or be able to demonstrate how you will meet these travelling requirements.</p> <p>If the post holder is unable to comply with these criteria due to a disability, but can suggest alternative travelling arrangements which may fulfil the requirements of the post, the County Council would consider the feasibility of these, in order to determine whether a reasonable adjustment is possible under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.</p>			
<p>Date (drawn up): August 25 2006</p> <p>Reference of Officer(s) drawing up person specifications: Gerry Sherwin, AONB Business Manager</p>			

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
(High Weald Joint Advisory Committee)**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Department :	Transport & Environment
Section/Unit:	High Weald AONB Unit
Location:	Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell.
Job Title:	Weald Forest Ridge Project Officer
Responsible To:	Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager
Contract:	37 hours
Duration:	January 2009 – December 2011
Main contacts:	Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Board, Weald Forest Ridge Team, Weald Forest Ridge Partnership, Officers of the High Weald AONB Unit, Local Authority officers & councillors, the Heritage Lottery Fund, community groups and local businesses.

Main Purpose of Job:

The Weald Forest Ridge Project Officer will be responsible for the promotion and communication of, and enabling participation in, the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Main Tasks and Accountabilities:

1. To lead the promotion of the WFR Scheme to its target audiences, through the production and distribution of communications materials, e.g. press releases, newsletters, leaflets, presentations and the WFR website.
2. To support the Partnership through the co-ordination of projects' promotion and publicity, particularly with education, training and habitat enhancement projects.
3. To steer the WFR partnership to deliver high-quality projects through appropriate guidance and advice, e.g. scheme branding, best practice, monitoring and evaluation.
4. To develop, communicate and maintain working links between local communities and organisations and the WFR Partnership.

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5. To encourage, facilitate and co-ordinate cross-project working across the four programmes of the WFR Scheme.
6. To support and enable the Partnership's organisation, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of WFR activities and events.
7. To project manage the Living History Walks and Giant Maidens projects within the WFR Scheme.
8. To assist the WFR Project Manager with data collation and handling; to monitor, evaluate and report on the delivery of the WFR Scheme.
9. To co-ordinate and operate an informal steering mechanism for the WFR Project Officer post with key Partnership members.
10. To respond to enquiries and requests regarding the WFR Scheme from members of the public and the WFR Partnership.
11. To assist the Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager and Board as required.
12. To be aware of and adhere to ESCC health and safety policies and procedures.
13. To carry out the above duties in accordance with the County Council's Equalities Policies.
14. To undertake any such comparable duties that may be allocated from time to time.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties of the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

Post Title: WEALD FOREST RIDGE PROJECT OFFICER

Grade: SO1/SO2 SCP29-34 £23,749-£27,594 (Scale April 2007-March 2008)

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment/ Source of Information
Key Skills & Abilities	<p>Good interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Good verbal and written communication skills.</p> <p>A working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Excel and Access.</p> <p>Working knowledge of web management software</p> <p>Ability to plan and organise workload.</p> <p>Good networking and partnership working skills.</p>	<p>Ability to use DTP and GIS packages.</p> <p>Ability to work effectively, often working to tight deadlines</p> <p>Able to demonstrate real and personal commitment to widening participation</p>	Application form/interview
Education & Qualifications	Degree or equivalent in a relevant subject	Able to drive a minibus	Application form
Knowledge	An understanding of the voluntary, community and environmental sectors.	<p>Knowledge of community engagement techniques.</p> <p>Understanding of the WFR area and its key issues</p>	Application form/interview
Experience	<p>Producing and distributing promotional material.</p> <p>At least three years experience of community development and delivery work.</p> <p>Organising and supporting events.</p> <p>Experience of communicating effectively with a wide range of audiences at all levels</p>	<p>Proven experience of working with partnerships, particularly with community and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>Volunteer management skills, involving volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds.</p>	Application form/interview

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Personal Attributes	Approachable person able to use their own initiative Ability to work within a team.	Able to inspire others. Tact, diplomacy and discretion in dealing with colleagues, members of the public and partner organisations.	Interview
Other	Be able to work flexibly, including some weekends and evenings. Full UK Driving licence.	Up to date first aid certificate	Application form

Date (drawn up): 26th February 2008

Reference of Officer(s) drawing up person specifications: Simon Aguss, Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager.

Contracted Car User

This post will require you to be mobile across the County and therefore you will need to possess a current driving licence and have access to a car or be able to demonstrate how you will meet these travelling requirements.

If an applicant is unable to comply with this criteria due to a disability, but can suggest alternative travelling arrangements which may fulfil the requirements of the post, the County Council would consider the feasibility of these, in order to determine whether a reasonable adjustment is possible under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
(High Weald Joint Advisory Committee)**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Department:	Transport & Environment
Section/Unit:	High Weald AONB Unit
Location:	Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell.
Job Title:	Weald Forest Ridge Administrator
Responsible To:	Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager
Contract:	37 hours
Duration:	January 2009 – December 2011
Main contacts:	Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Board, Weald Forest Ridge Team, Weald Forest Ridge Partnership, Officers of the High Weald AONB Unit, Local Authority officers & councillors, the Heritage Lottery Fund, community groups and local businesses. Finance Officers at East Sussex County Council, Officers of the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-awarding bodies.

Main Purpose of Job:

The Weald Forest Ridge Administrator will be responsible for the administration, including financial, of the WFR Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Main Tasks and Accountabilities:

1. To develop and maintain user-friendly financial systems, in conjunction with the WFR Project Manager, to enable efficient and effective Scheme financial management.
2. To compile the financial information required for financial claims and reports to the Heritage Lottery Fund; including gathering, recording and filing claim and other financial information from scheme partners.
3. To use the ESCC SAP finance system to download financial data for budget forecasting, monitoring, reporting and claims purposes.
4. To operate and maintain ESCC systems for issuing orders, raising payment requests and paying invoices.

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5. To compile financial forecasting, monitoring, and annual reports to the WFR Project Manager, WFR Board and HLF, as required.
6. To set up systems for recording, analysing and valuing volunteer time used on the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme, in conjunction with the WFR Project Manager.
7. To liaise with the High Weald AONB Unit, East Sussex County Council and partner organisations' finance officers, ensuring compliance with East Sussex County Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, and HLF financial grant conditions.
8. To assist the WFR Project Officer to deliver project work within the WFR Scheme.
9. To undertake all general administrative duties on the Weald Forest Ridge project, including processing mail and e-mail, establishing and maintaining files and systems, providing support on events, etc.
10. Minute, produce and distribute accurate records of key meetings, including Partnership Board meetings and Working Groups.
11. To arrange and co-ordinate meeting arrangements, e.g. room bookings, refreshments, travel, etc.
12. To develop, manage and accurately input records for all necessary databases for the WFR project.
13. To be aware of and adhere to ESCC health and safety policies and procedures.
14. To carry out the above duties in accordance with the County Councils Equalities Policies.
15. To undertake any such comparable duties that may be allocated from time to time, commensurate with the grading of the post.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties of the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

Post Title: WEALD FOREST RIDGE FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Grade: SCALE 4/5 £16,536 -£20,736 (Scale April 2007-March 2008)

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment/ Source of Information
Key Skills & Abilities	<p>Able to use Microsoft Office – (particularly Excel, Access, Powerpoint and Word)</p> <p>Able to work with minimum supervision and pay attention to detail.</p> <p>Good finance reporting skills</p>	<p>Previous experience of operating SAP or similar financial management packages</p> <p>Ability to use DTP and web management software</p>	Application form/interview
Education & Qualifications	<p>GCSE or equivalent in English and Maths</p> <p>Book-keeping training and qualifications</p>	Association of Accounting Technician (AAT) or equivalent qualification, e.g. NVQ Accounting Level 2	Application form
Knowledge	Knowledge of office financial & administrative systems.	Understanding of the WFR area and its key issues	Application form/interview
Experience	<p>Development and management of office systems and working with small teams</p> <p>Demonstrable experience of managing financial information</p> <p>Able to set up and maintain accurate financial recording systems</p>	<p>Experience of financial administration within a local authority or other public sector body.</p> <p>Experience of claiming grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund or other grant aiding body.</p> <p>Experience of gathering financial information from external organisations.</p>	Application form/interview
Personal Attributes	<p>Good organiser</p> <p>Able to work as part of a small team and using own initiative.</p> <p>Able to prioritise work and meet deadlines.</p> <p>Analytical.</p>		Interview

**Landscape Strategy
Appendix 1**

Other	Be able to work flexibly, including some weekends and evenings.	Full UK Driving licence	Application form
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Date (drawn up): 26th February 2008

Reference of Officer(s) drawing up person specifications: Simon Aguss, Weald Forest Ridge Project Manager.

Contracted Car User

This post will require you to be mobile across the County and therefore you will need to possess a current driving licence and have access to a car or be able to demonstrate how you will meet these travelling requirements.

If an applicant is unable to comply with this criteria due to a disability, but can suggest alternative travelling arrangements which may fulfil the requirements of the post, the County Council would consider the feasibility of these, in order to determine whether a reasonable adjustment is possible under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme

Partnership Board – Memorandum of Agreement

1. Introduction and Definitions

- 1.1 The aim of this document (“the Memorandum of Agreement”) is to set out the governance and structure of the Weald Forest Ridge Partnership Board.
- 1.2 The High Weald AONB Unit (HWU) is acting as Lead Partner of a Partnership to develop and deliver a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme (HLF LPS) in the 328km² “Weald Forest Ridge” (WFR) area: set within parts of East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent. East Sussex County Council is acting as the Project Sponsor for the Scheme.
- 1.3 Planning and development of the WFR LPS commenced in 2004. A Stage I HLF pass was achieved in summer 2007, and Stage 2 approval is sought in autumn 2008; for the 3 year delivery phase to run from 2009 to 2011.
- 1.4 It is an HLF requirement of LPS projects that a Landscape Partnership Board is set up. A Board is defined by the HLF as:
“People named by the ‘partner’ organisations who have the authority from these organisations to advise on the way an LP scheme is delivered and the LP fund is managed.”
“The Board will be made up of named representatives of the organisations or individuals, which have together agreed to meet the scheme strategy and aims.”
- 1.5 A Landscape Strategy sets out the vision and aims for the Scheme, and identifies the key programmes.

2. Weald Forest Ridge LPS Strategic Aims

- 2.1 These are to:
 1. Encourage more people to get involved in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge’s unique landscape heritage.
 2. Conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place .
 3. Provide opportunities for people to learn about, access and celebrate, and benefit from, the Weald Forest Ridge’s landscape heritage .

4. To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Weald Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy.

3. Purpose of the Board

- 3.1 A Landscape Partnership Scheme's success depends on the co-operation and shared purpose of all partners and their commitment to planning and implementing the Scheme.
- 3.2 Hence, the Board's primary purpose is to act as an advisory body to support the development and delivery of a Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Weald Forest Ridge area.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

- 4.1 Overall, the Board will:
 1. Advise and support the HWU and WFR Partnership in the development, delivery, evaluation and maintenance of the Scheme.
 2. Have an overview of all projects within the Scheme and encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas and activities across the Partnership.
 3. Advise the HWU, the Project Sponsor and the Partnership on risk and other issues.
- 4.2 Specifically within the Development Phase, up to Stage 2 bid submission, the Board will:
 4. Advise on and agree an implementation plan for the Stage 2 bid submission.
 5. Steer the work of the WFR Project Manager.
 6. Oversee the planning and delivery of the WFR's information, management and evaluation systems.
 7. Advise the HWU on the management of the development funding.
 8. Guide the preparation and approval of a detailed Year 1 work programme.
- 4.3 Specifically within the Delivery Phase of the Scheme, the Board will:
 9. Steer the work of the WFR Team (Project Manager, Project Officer and Administrator).
 10. Advise on the implementation of the Landscape Strategy's programmes and projects during the 3 year project delivery period, ensuring that the approved purposes are met.

11. Advise on the monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme for its 10 year contractual lifespan.
12. Advise the HWU on the management of the WFR Landscape Partnership Fund.
13. Advise on the production and agreement of an Exit Strategy for the Scheme.

5. Membership

- 5.1 Through the agreement of a Management Structure for the overall Scheme, the composition of the Board has been agreed at 7 members. Membership of the Board will be for up to 5 years to ensure continuity in the development, delivery and monitoring of the WFR Scheme. The Chair will be elected by the Board.
- 5.2 At December 2007, the membership has been agreed as:
 1. Carolyn Dwyer, Assistant Director, Transport and Environment, East Sussex County Council
 2. Jason Lavender, Joint Director, High Weald AONB Unit
 3. Alan Betts, Conservator, Forestry Commission South East England Conservancy
 4. Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage
 5. Hew Prendergast, Clerk to the Conservators, Ashdown Forest
 6. James Seymour, Weald Pevensey and NNR Team Leader, Natural England
 7. Vacancy (A partner representative with tourism, economic development and/or community engagement skills is being sought for this vacant position.)
- 5.3 If a Board Member's organisation withdraws from the Partnership by withdrawing from project delivery, then the Board Member shall seek the views of the rest of the Board as to whether they should resign from the Board.
- 5.4 The WFR Project Manager (and/or another member of the WFR Team) will attend all Board meetings and provide the secretariat (e.g. produce and circulate agendas, papers, minutes, etc.). They will, however, have no voting rights.
- 5.5 Occasionally, members from the WFR Partnership may also be invited to assist the Board in its work. Board members may also sit on working sub-groups that report to the Partnership.

6. Meetings and Decision Making

- 6.1 The Board will meet at least twice a calendar year. This frequency may increase, when necessary, to tackle specific issues or critical periods of the development and delivery phases. If the Chair is absent from any meeting, the HWU will act as substitute Chair for that particular meeting.
- 6.2 All Board member decisions should support the implementation of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Strategy and be in the best interests of the WFR area. As a body which embodies the principles of co-operation and partnership, the Board will engage in constructive debate, and it is envisaged that most decisions will be reached by consensus. However, if a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken. Each Board member will have one vote, and in the event of a tied vote the Chairperson will have the casting decision.
- 6.3 The quorum for the Board shall be at least 50% (i.e. minimum of 4 in attendance from the 7 members).

7. Urgent Matters

- 7.1 In exceptional circumstances, where an urgent decision is required and it is not possible to convene a Board meeting, the WFR Project Manager will alert the Board of the issue by e-mail and give 24hours for a response. If no responses are received, Jason Lavender, as the HWU Officer representing the Lead Partner, will respond on behalf of the Board. Any such decisions will be reported at the next Board meeting.

8. Formal Agreement (Signatures)

8.1 The following Board members and their organisations commit their time and resources to carry out their duties under this Memorandum of Agreement.

Name	Organisation	Signature	Date
Carolyn Dwyer	East Sussex County Council		
Jason Lavender,	High Weald AONB Unit		
Alan Betts	Forestry Commission		
Paul Roberts	English Heritage		
Hew Prendergast	Conservators of Ashdown Forest		
James Seymour	Natural England		
(vacant)			

8.2 Any changes to this Memorandum of Agreement shall be agreed by the members and a new signed copy of the Memorandum produced.

AGREEMENT

2008

**The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership
Scheme
Partner Agreement**

Purpose of Agreement

3. To establish agreed principles, accountabilities and responsibilities between the Lead Partner and the partners to enable the Lead Partner to administer grant moneys allocated to it by the HLF for the Scheme and provide such agreed payment percentage of those grant moneys to the Partners to deliver an agreed part of the Scheme in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

The Scheme

- 4.1 The Scheme is intended to deliver tangible benefits that restore the special features of the Weald Forest Ridge and enhance the public's enjoyment of its distinctive landscape heritage.
- 4.2 The Strategic Aims of the Scheme are:
 - 4.2.1 To encourage more people to get involved in caring for the Weald Forest Ridge's unique landscape heritage.
 - 4.2.2 To conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Weald Forest Ridge a special place.
 - 4.2.3 To provide opportunities for people to learn about, access, celebrate and benefit from the Weald Forest Ridge's landscape heritage.
 - 4.2.4 To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Weald Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy.
- 4.3 The Scheme will be implemented in accordance with the Application the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer Letter and the Agreement.
- 4.4 The Management Structure for the Scheme is appended as Schedule 3.

The Weald Forest Ridge Partnership

- 5.1 The Weald Forest Ridge Partnership comprises all parties to this Agreement including Partners who enter this form of agreement with the Lead Partner after the date hereof and is responsible for implementing the Scheme in conjunction with the Lead Partner.
- 5.2 The Weald Forest Ridge Partnership Board is constituted as set out in the Memorandum of Agreement contained in Schedule 4 and will advise the Lead Partner on the way that the Scheme is delivered and the funding is managed.

Duration and Status of Agreement

- 6.1 This Agreement will come into force from the date of the Agreement and continue in effect for the duration of the Grant Offer Letter with the exception of the obligation upon Partners to retain Project records which shall continue in accordance with Clause 7.22 (Records).
- 6.2 This Agreement does not create a legal partnership within the meaning of the Partnership Act 1895 or otherwise.

General Responsibilities of the Partner

- 7.1 Each Partner undertakes with the Lead Party to:

Delivery

- 7.2 Carry out and deliver on time the agreed Project or Projects that form part of the Scheme and fulfil at least one of the Strategic Aims by working with the Lead Partner in good faith.
- 7.3 Promptly notify the Lead Partner of any delay in performance of its Project(s) work and propose any corrective actions to be taken where the Project falls behind programme.
- 7.4 Participate in partnership and working group meetings as necessary to achieve the delivery of the Scheme reflecting the size scope and complexity of the Project(s).
- 7.5 Do everything required of them by the Lead Partner to ensure that the Lead Partner is able to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer Letter.

Reporting

7.6 Supply promptly to the Lead Partner all such information or documents as the Lead Partner may require in connection with the Project(s) to fulfil their obligations as provided for in this Agreement and in the Grant Offer Letter or as the HLF may specifically request. Monitoring and financial reports should be signed by the accountable representative of the Partner. Specifically, this can include:

7.6.1 Financial reports on project progress highlighting any significant variations (+/- 10% of original budget), on each budget heading.

7.6.2 Expenditure claims in agreed formats and including copies of all invoices over £100, other evidence of expenditure below £100, volunteer timesheets if appropriate, and proof of salary costs for funded staff or staff costs to be claimed if appropriate,

7.6.3 Copies of invoices and receipts for income

7.6.4 Print-outs from computerised or manual accounting systems to verify expenditures and incomes.

Financial Management

7.7 Keep true and accurate separate accounts for the Project(s) or to use a unique accounting code in accordance with the rules concerning eligible expenditure.

7.8 Submit financial claims half yearly (or otherwise as detailed in Clause 8.13) to the Lead Partner to correspond with timescales required by the Lead Partner to submit Scheme claims to HLF.

7.9 Inform the Lead Partner promptly of any proposal to modify the Project budget and what actions need undertaking.

7.10 Modify the cash flow forecasts submitted at the Project Development phase at least annually and report to the Lead Partner.

7.11 Ensure that its Project match funding is committed at the beginning of each budget allocation year.

- 7.12 Bear its own costs in advance of reclaiming Project expenditure from the Lead Partner which will in turn reclaim Scheme costs from HLF.

Partnership Working

- 7.13 Make available promptly to the Lead Partner and other Partners as appropriate any rights and information necessary for the performance of the Scheme.

Liability and Insurances

- 7.14 Be solely liable for any loss incurred by, or damage or injury to third parties resulting from the carrying out of any activity under this Agreement
- 7.15 With the exception of the Forestry Commission who shall self insure, make provisions for the entire duration of this Agreement to insure against all damages incurred by third parties caused by the implementation of the Scheme and the implementation of this Agreement. Such cover to be for not less than £5m.

Procurement

- 7.16 Follow HLF procedures on procurement of goods, works and services as detailed by HLF and Lead Partner.
- 7.17 Maintain accurate records of procurement procedures followed and provide on request to the Lead Partner.

Communications and Publicity

- 7.18 Acknowledge the grant support of the HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme explicitly in all communications relating to the Scheme as well as during any events in connection with the Scheme in line with HLF guidance
- 7.19 Display the HLF and High Weald Joint Advisory Committee logos and agreed Scheme messages on all written, audio-visual and electronic communication and publicity materials relating to the Scheme.
- 7.20 Display all other Scheme branding on all written, audio-visual and electronic communication and publicity materials relating to the Scheme

as is developed and advised to the Partner by the Lead Partner during the Scheme delivery.

- 7.21 Produce and provide to the Lead Partner for Lead Partner and HLF use a free photographic record of the stages and events of the Project.

Records

- 7.22 All records, financial and otherwise, pertaining to the Partner's Project(s) must be held by the Partner in a safe place until the twelfth anniversary of this Agreement and be made available to an authorised auditor on request.

General Responsibilities of the Lead Partner

- 8.1 The Lead Partner shall:

Delivery

- 8.2 Have overall responsibility for the Scheme as set out in the Application and Grant Offer Letter and ensure that each Partner complies with their obligations under this Agreement.
- 8.3 Meet with the Partnership Board no less frequently than 2 times per year and report on Scheme progress.

Services to the Partnership

- 8.4 Issue a specific grant offer letter and accompanying terms and conditions to the Partner for their Project(s) at the start of the Scheme, including Project value and grant support percentage.
- 8.5 Communicate and correspond with HLF.
- 8.6 Organise meetings of the Partnership and Working Groups as necessary to achieve the delivery of the Scheme.
- 8.7 Store all records pertaining to the Scheme excepting such financial records which need to be kept by the Partner

Financial Management

- 8.8 Be directly responsible for the overall financial management of the Scheme including the setting of budgets and financial monitoring and control.
- 8.9 Receive from the Partner their financial reports and claims for their Project(s).
- 8.10 Collate and co-ordinate with East Sussex County Council the submission of Scheme financial reports and claims at half yearly intervals linked to the public sector financial year including copies of all invoices receipts and other documents and present them to the HLF in the format required.
- 8.11 Receive through the Council Scheme grant payments made by HLF
- 8.12 Transfer through the Council the due grant sum promptly to the Partner's bank account within 28 working days of receiving the Scheme grant payment from HLF.
- 8.13 Agree with specific Partners at the time of production of Project grant offer letters that a Partner can submit and receive payment for quarterly financial claims due to the cash flow implications to the Partner of half yearly claims. Such quarterly claims to be processed and paid within 45 working days of receipt and subject to With-holding and Repayment of Grant clauses.
- 8.14 After HLF approval give permissions to Partners for any contingency spend and cost transfers between budget headings on individual projects.
- 8.15 Accept no liability in respect of loss attributable to any delay in the payment of claims or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of grant.

Reporting and Monitoring

- 8.16 Monitor Partner Project activities through the receipt of Partner monitoring reports.

Landscape Strategy
Appendix 3

- 8.17 Report to the HLF on the progress of the Scheme's work and the monitoring of its success and on any other issues identified at quarterly intervals, including significant changes from budgets and work programmes and propose any corrective actions to be taken where a Project has fallen behind.
- 8.18 Prepare detailed annual work plans and Annual Reports in conjunction with Partners for submission to HLF.
- 8.19 Prepare and submit to HLF a Scheme completion report compiled with information supplied by Partners.

Communications and Publicity

- 8.20 Provide to the Partner guidelines and necessary logos for Scheme and Project publicity and communication purposes

Withholding and Repayment of Grant

- 9.1 The Lead Partner can withhold up to 10% of the Project grant until the final HLF claim is paid to reflect that the Lead Partner cannot receive more than 90% of the total grant due from HLF until satisfactory completion of the Scheme.
- 9.2 The Lead Partner is entitled to reclaim immediately the grant paid to the Partner if:
- (a) The grant has been wrongfully obtained as a result of improper information.
 - (b) The grant has not been used for the tasks specified in the grant offer letter.
 - (c) The HLF has rejected the Project expenditure when processing and paying a Scheme claim.
 - (d) After final settlement the conditions stipulated in this Agreement have not been fully complied with.
 - (e) The Scheme expenditure has been partially or completely rejected by the auditor after final inspection.

Audit Requirements

- 10.1 During the lifetime of the Scheme (and afterwards), audits may be undertaken by the authorities responsible for the implementation of the Scheme. As such, the Partner will be required to provide documentary evidence.
- 10.2 The Lead Partner will perform an audit of all supporting documents (both for outputs and finance) as each claim is submitted. An audit at the end of the Scheme will be co-ordinated by the Lead Partner.

Intellectual Property

- 11.1 Material both written and verbal produced directly or indirectly by the Partner or gathered in the course of the Scheme may be used by the Scheme and for the promotion of the Scheme during the Scheme and afterwards but in other respects shall remain the property of the originator unless otherwise agreed.

Arbitration

- 12.1 In case of any dispute and/or difference arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, the Lead Partner shall first endeavour to settle it by agreement with the Partner.
- 12.2 Any dispute, which cannot be settled in accordance with 11.1 will be referred to a meeting of the Partnership Board.
- 12.3 Any dispute which cannot be settled in accordance with 11.2 may be referred to arbitration to be agreed upon between the Partner and Lead Partner.

Failure, non-compliance and termination

- 13.1 If at any time during the term of this Agreement the Partner fails to perform any of its obligations, it is the responsibility of the Partner to

notify the Lead Partner of this failure and of the Lead Partner to send a written notice to the Partner specifying the failure or non-compliance and the period for remedying it. The Partner shall within the given period take all such action as may be appropriate to remedy the failure or non-compliance.

13.2 In the event that the Partner continues to fail to perform any of its obligations after the giving of a notice under Clause 12.1 the Partnership Board will have the right to terminate the Partner's interest in the Scheme provided that HLF does not object.

13.3 In the event of termination under Clause 12.2 the Partnership Board will review the viability of the continuation of the Project and possibly the wider Partnership.

Exclusion of Rights of Third Parties

14.1 A person who is not a party to this agreement has no rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce the terms of this Agreement.

The Grant Offer Letter

15.1 The parties hereby agree and declare that the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer letter are incorporated in this Agreement and shall apply as between the Lead Partner and each Partner in the same way as they apply between HLF and the Lead Partner.

15.2 In the event of a conflict between clauses 1 to 14 of this Agreement and the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer Letter when applied as stated in Clause 14.1 the letter shall prevail.

Schedule 1 – Partners

BTCV

Conservators of Ashdown Forest

East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Project

East Sussex County Council

ESUS Forestry & Woodlands Ltd

FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)

Forestry Commission

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership

Highbrook Village Hall Committee

Horsham District Council

Kent High Weald Project

Plumpton College

RSPB

Sussex Police

Sussex Wildlife Trust

The South

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

Schedule 2 – Programmes, Project Themes and Projects

Programme	Project Theme	Project	Partner
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Holistic Enhancements	Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Sheffield Forest	Forestry Commission
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Holistic Enhancements	Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: St Leonards Forest	Forestry Commission
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Holistic Enhancements	Forest Footsteps across the Ridge: Tilgate Forest	Forestry Commission
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Holistic Enhancements	Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods restoration	Horsham District Council
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Holistic Enhancements	Broadwater Warren restoration	RSPB
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Habitat Enhancements	Eridge Rocks habitat enhancements	Sussex Wildlife Trust
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Habitat Enhancements	Old Lodge habitat enhancements	Sussex Wildlife Trust
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Habitat Enhancements	Kingstanding habitat enhancements	Sussex Police
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Visitor Enhancements	Pathways to natural heritage: Weir Wood Local Nature Reserve	East Sussex County Council
Landscape Scale Connectivity	Visitor Enhancements	Pathways to Tudor heritage: Birchden Woods	Forestry Commission
Archaeology & Special Features	Archaeological Engagement	Archaeological awareness activities	East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Project
Archaeology & Special Features	Archaeological Engagement	Living history activities	High Weald AONB Unit
Archaeology & Special Features	Archaeological Awareness	Historic environment awareness	East Sussex County Council
Archaeology & Special Features	Archaeological Awareness	Archaeological habitat awareness	FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)
Archaeology & Special Features	Built Heritage	Highbrook Smokery restoration	Highbrook Village Hall Committee
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Community Engagement	The Ridge on your doorstep	Kent High Weald Project

Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Community Engagement	Discovering the magic of Ashdown Forest	Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Community Engagement	Re-telling the Ridge	The South
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Community Engagement	Family safaris	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Schools Education	Forest Schools' focus for the Weald Forest Ridge	Gatwick Greenspace Partnership
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Schools Education	Educational resources at Ashdown Forest	Conservators of Ashdown Forest
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Schools Education	Schools' archaeological activities	East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Project
Learning & Celebrating Heritage	Schools Education	Weald Forest Ridge educational footprints	Kent High Weald Project
Moved to Scheme Management		Maidens of the Weald	Same Sky – community arts group
Reconnecting People & Place	Skills Creation	Working woodlands in the Weald Forest Ridge	Esus Forestry and Woodlands Ltd
Reconnecting People & Place	Skills Creation	Local distinctiveness and buildings heritage	Weald and Downland Open Air Museum
Reconnecting People & Place	Skills Creation	Archaeological training placements	East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Project
Reconnecting People & Place	Skills Creation	Sustaining farming and landscape	Plumpton Agricultural College
Reconnecting People & Place	Volunteer and Skills Development	Inspiring People, Improving Places	BTCV

Appendix 4: Programme and Project Selection for the Stage 1 Application

This Table, produced for the Stage 1 Landscape Strategy identified how the possible actions from the Stage 1 Plands and Strategies were translated into the Scheme's programmes and projects at Stage 1.

Landscape Character Study		Plan purpose: To identify and describe the distinctive natural, cultural and built features of the Forest Ridge area. The Plan sets out priorities for conserving the distinctive features that form the area's landscape character and are valued by local people													
Main Findings of Plan	Summarised Plan Objectives	Proposed Actions	Assessment Criteria										Based on the assessment criteria – should WFRLPS deliver these actions?	Actions into Projects	Projects into Programmes
			Does it meet HLF's 4 priorities? See A – D below												
			A Conserve or restore the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape	B Conserve and celebrate local cultural associations and activities in the landscape area.	C Involve people of all ages, social and ethnic groups in their landscape heritage	D Improve the understanding of local crafts and skills through training opportunities	Achievability – can tangible results occur within 3 years?	Does it benefit the public?	Is it value for money?	Does it reinforce the Forest Ridge's sense of place?	Is the WFR partnership the best placed/ most appropriate organisation to deliver this?	Is it sustainable in the longer term?			
i) Some of the distinctive features of the Forest Ridge landscape have been eroded	To conserve the Forest Ridge's natural and built features. To enhance biodiversity. To reduce habitat fragmentation. To encourage landowners to manage their land in a way that enhances the Forest Ridge's distinctive features.	Eridge Rocks rhodie clearance, coppicing & ride widening to improve public access and provide volunteering opportunities	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
ii) not everyone is aware of what features makes the Forest Ridge a special place, in particular its archaeology and past uses.	To understand the Forest Ridge's archaeological features. To interpret these features. To provide opportunities for people to learn about and get involved in conserving their historic environment.	Old Lodge LNR bracken spraying, conservation volunteers and exmoor pony grazing to restore lowland heath	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
iii) people have become disconnected from the Forest Ridge landscape. People that now own land are often unaware of or unable to manage their land in a way that conserves the area's distinctive landscape features	To provide opportunities for people to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities. To provide advice and training for landowners, including woodland owners, so that they can manage their land in a way that retains the Forest Ridge's landscape heritage. To help people develop the skills to care for the Forest Ridge.	Owlbeech & Leechpool habitat restoration at key sites that border the town of Horsham and adjoin St Leonard's Forest includes fencing for grazing, water troughs, new vehicle access for moving livestock – bridge & gates, bracken & rhodie control, new public access gates & bridge, footpath waymarking and new visitor leaflet	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
iv) resources are needed to bring the Forest Ridge to life and make it more relevant to people, which in turn will enhance the value people give to the area.	To encourage people to conserve the distinctive features of the Forest Ridge, by giving them the skills to care for the landscape. To raise awareness of the importance of the Forest Ridge landscape. To provide opportunities for people to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities. To retain the Forest Ridge as a recreational resource.	Part of Rotherfield Woods Complex, mainly Hoth & Card Woods – habitat restoration of heathland & coppice	yes	no	no	yes	yes	limited public access	no funding a coppice worker for just this site is not viable long term	yes	maybe, landowner could apply for EWGS	No, not without additional funds to maintain paths and fund coppice worker	No, not as it stands. Suggest consider SDF grant or EWGS initially to do woodland management. Then longer term link this site into Forest Ridge volunteers to maintain woodland rides, coppice cycles	n/a	n/a
		Broadwater forest felling conifers, bracken & rhodie clearance to restore heathland, stock fencing, interpretation of site's cultural links to 4 medieval forests and enhancement of public access with trails, car park and information.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, by RSPB	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity

		Gardening for Wildlife in the Forest Ridge, by involving people in caring for the wildlife & landscape of Ridge. Links to with 'doing your bit', habitats and will raise awareness of invasive species.	yes	no	yes	not really	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	Gardening for Wildlife	Reconnecting People & Place
		Tilgate Forest – habitat restoration – rhodie clearance, interpretation, access trails & heath enhancement. The site borders the town of Crawley and will reach out to its communities. The site is part of one of the medieval hunting forests of the Forest Ridge.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
		Sheffield Forest – is close to Ashdown Forest and is another important stepping stone in the Forest Ridge's habitats. Work proposed is habitat restoration, interpretation & access improvements	yes	no	yes	not really	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
		kings standing – part of the wider Ashdown Forest area. Work includes rhodie clearance, bracken & birch treatment at Kings standing, the site	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	limited public access	yes	yes	yes	yes, volunteers will manage the site	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
		Tudeley Woods – heathland restoration, public access and interpretation	yes	no	to some extent	not really	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, by RSPB	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity
		Ashdown Forest – close herded grazing scheme	yes	no	no	not really	yes	yes	not long term as it will need financial support	not really	Defra ES	not without additional funding for the staff post	No, Defra ES is more appropriate. The project is very specific and does not cover the entire Forest Ridge. It may not have full public support as it would involve a stock enclosure and livestock roaming around.	n/a	n/a
		Kent Roadside verge nature reserves on 5 verges in Kent	to a degree	no	no	no	yes	not really	Local authority duty to maintain highway including verges	not really	No	by local authority	No	n/a	n/a
		Gravetye – to restore 3 ponds on the estate	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	not really	No	yes	No, its too site specific. Although ponds are a feature of the Forest Ridge, the partnership focus is on woods & heath	n/a	n/a
		To research invertebrate assemblages at key sites	no	no	no	no	initial research findings, but to be valuable would be on going	not really	maybe	not really	possibly	if a partner is willing to take on the on going monitoring	No, its too focussed on a specific area of research and is unlikely to fulfil HLF criteria.	n/a	n/a
		EN interested in projects that link to BAP reporting. This could link into the invertebrate project idea to identify species linked to wood heath habitat.	yes, but just BAP priorities	no	possibly	no	changes in species unlikely to be seen in 3 years	not really	maybe	not really	possibly	yes by site owners	No, invertebrates is too focussed on a specific area and is unlikely to fulfil HLF criteria. Instead habitat project ideas will work with EN to benefit BAP species associated with these habitats	n/a	n/a
		Meadows mapping	yes	no	no	no	not really just maps of sites	not really	yes as an initial piece of work	not really from a public's perspective	possibly	yes as a resource for others to use	No, its too focussed on a specific issue and is unlikely to fulfil HLF criteria as it stands. Instead link into the wider habitat work of the Forest Ridge	n/a	n/a
		Wealden DC and the Sussex Gardens Trust – walks guide that reveals the Forest Ridge's historic parks & gardens	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes in the medium term	Yes, but the project should incorporate the Gardens of the Weald idea below	Formal Landscapes	Archaeology & Special Features

		Gardens of the Weald – Promote the common themes of the reason gardens are in the Ridge – its geology, the plant hunters, exotic collections	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes in the medium term	Yes, but the project should be incorporated into the walks guide above	Formal Landscapes	Archaeology & Special Features
		Public engagement events linked to the historic environment	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, but link in with other archaeological projects	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
		building reconstruction	no	yes	yes	no	yes	to some extent	not really as maintenance is expensive	aspects of its past	maybe	no	Regretably, no landowner is prepared to have a reconstructed building to maintain and clean	n/a	n/a
		Land management guidelines	yes	yes	no	yes if refers people to other project ideas	yes	to some extent	yes, guidelines can be retained for future use	yes	yes	yes by site owners	Yes, especially gives advice to landowners as well as published guidance. Focus should be on landscape archaeological features as these are not covered as part of existing advisory services from FWAG or Defra. Advisors should also refer people on to other project ideas on skills training, archaeological features and habitat enhancement	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
		High Rocks entrance listed gatehouse	yes	no	no	no	maybe, restoration costs and implications unknown	Only those willing to pay to visit the site	it could be very costly and only benefits people willing to pay	to a limited extent	maybe, although commitment from landowner needed	no	no, the site charges admission and the cost of the restoration work is unknown	n/a	n/a
		Meadows advice	yes	no	no	possibly	yes	to some extent	possibly	yes	possibly	yes, if advisor is funded	No, advice given by Defra & FWAG should be tailored to Forest Ridge priorities. Also specialist meadows advice is available from High Weald AONB and this should be utilised	n/a	n/a
		Poss restoration of fern communities on sandrock in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens	yes	no	to some extent	no	yes	not really	yes, if it works it will retain biodiversity	to some extent	more a specialist research organisation	if it works	no, the project is too specialised on fern communities.	n/a	n/a
		Work with garden centres & formal gardens on Rhodie ponticum awareness & other invasive species	yes	no	yes	no	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, incorporate message into wider publicity work rather than as a specific project	Scheme Promotion	Scheme Management
		Small grants to landowners	yes	possibly	no	no	yes	not really	possibly	yes	possibly. Although administration of a grant, state aid rules etc need	yes by site owners	No. There is already a Sustainable Development Fund in the High Weald to encourage landowners to care for the area. The Forest Ridge partnership should incorporate their	n/a	n/a

Accessible Natural Greenspace report														Plan purpose: To use English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) model and GIS mapping techniques to identify the Forest Ridge's accessible sites and the populations they would serve. *													
Main Findings of Plan	Sumarised Plan Objectives		Assessment Criteria										Based on the assessment criteria –should WFRLPS deliver these actions?	Actions into Projects	Projects into Programmes												
			Does it meet HLF's 4 priorities?				See A – D below																				
			A Conserve or restore the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape	B Conserve and celebrate local cultural associations and activities in the landscape area.	C Involve people of all ages, social and ethnic groups in their landscape heritage	D Improve the understanding of local crafts and skills through training opportunities	Achievability – can tangible results occur within 3 years?	Does it benefit the public?	Is it value for money?	Does it reinforce the Forest Ridge's sense of place?	Is the WFR partnership the best placed/most appropriate organisation to deliver this?	Is it sustainable in the longer term?															
The Forest Ridge is an important area for access to the countryside for local residents, people living in the nearby urban population centres and day visitors from the South Coast and Outer London.	There is a need to improve both physical and intellectual access to the Forest Ridge.	Gravetye Estate access improvements, interpretive trail & leaflet, kissing gates to encourage neighbouring towns to use the site	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place											
20 key sites within the Forest Ridge are important accessible greenspaces in their own right and have the potential to be gateways that interpret and encourage access to the wider Forest Ridge landscape.	To focus on the key sites that best reveal the distinctive features of the Forest Ridge.	St Leonards habitat restoration – rhodie clearance, interpretation boards, access trails, heathland creation, interpretation of site's cultural links to 4 medieval forests, st leonard & the dragon and outreach work with nearby towns of Crawley and Horsham.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Habitat Fragmentation	Landscape Scale Connectivity											

Access & Audience Development Plan															
Plan purpose: To increase peoples' appreciation of the Forest Ridge's landscape heritage by involving new and existing users and removing barriers that prevent their enjoyment enabling them to get the most out of the area.															
Main Findings of Plans	Sumarised Plan Objectives	Proposed Actions	Assessment Criteria										Based on the assessment criteria –should WFRLPS deliver these actions?	Actions into Projects	Projects into Programmes
			Does it meet HLF's 4 priorities? See A – D below				Achievability – can tangible results occur within 3 years?	Does it benefit the public?	Is it value for money?	Does it reinforce the Forest Ridge's sense of place?	Is the WFR partnership the best placed/most appropriate organisation to deliver this?	Is it sustainable in the longer term?			
			A Conserve or restore the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape	B Conserve and celebrate local cultural associations and activities in the landscape area.	C Involve people of all ages, social and ethnic groups in their landscape heritage	D Improve the understanding of local crafts and skills through training opportunities									
The plan set out to determine: a) the resource and what is required to make it more accessible to visitors, to raise their awareness and understanding and to appreciate its special qualities The plan recommends: enhancing the visitor experience	To improve orientation & information on the Forest Ridge. To improve both physical and intellectual access to the Forest Ridge. To improve visitor facilities and infrastructure provision at key sites. To raise awareness of the special character of the Forest Ridge ensuring that current audiences get added value from their visit and new audiences, especially those that live in the neighbouring urban towns, can experience the area's rich heritage To encourage people	Weirwood reservoir – BAP species enhancements – bat cave, sand martin nest bank & bird hide with interpretation	yes	no	yes	yes, volunteers will be involved	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, by friends of weirwood and volunteers	Yes, if this is part of a wider activity to enhance public access and improve the semi natural habitats at the site. Link with other weirwood visitor improvements	Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		Boardwalk for access at Standen	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	not really	yes	yes	yes	Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		AFTA winnie pooh leaflet & pooh events	no	no	to a limited extent	no	yes	people with small children	no, will need to be re-vamped regularly	no	no	no	No	n/a	n/a
		re-vamp ashdown forest map	no	no	to some extent	no	yes	some people	no, will need to be re-vamped regularly	to some extent	maybe	no	No, there are more worthy projects that are not as site specific		
		Ashdown Forest Coach Tour	no	no	possibly	no	not really transport projects take between 5 and 10 years	to some extent	no, cost per passenger very high and beyond what LA would normally subsidise	not really	maybe	not without funding	no, it is unlikely to prove sustainable in the long term	n/a	n/a
		Route improvements – aimed at local people and healthy walking	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		Links from NCN route to Forest Way and T.Wells as well as from Cuckoo trail	no	no	to some extent	no	maybe	yes	unknown as no detailed costs	not really	no, needs county council lead	yes	Maybe, if a County Council partner would lead on it	n/a	n/a
		waymarked trails, signage and information signs	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		replacement of stiles with kissing gates	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		heritage trail around the estate and link to kingscote station/sharphorne village and HW landscape trail. Audio trail and parts will be suitable for wheelchairs	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		Communications and Marketing – Forest Ridge website, DVD/CD Roms, leaflets to publicise the Forest Ridge	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	yes	yes	Scheme Promotion	Scheme Management

		Car park at Gravetye and picnic bench	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	it makes a key site that reveals the Forest Ridge's character more welcoming	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
		improvements for disabled/pushchair access at weirwood Mainly improving Sussex Border path and habitat work	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	it makes a key site that reveals the Forest Ridge's character more welcoming	yes	yes	yes	Physical Access Improvements	Reconnecting People & Place
b) the audiences (currently local people, day visitors and staying visitors) and what they need to enhance their experience. The plan recommends raising awareness and understanding through education and interpretation	To help visitors appreciate the FR landscape through a range of orientation, interpretation and activity based projects. To provide opportunities for adult and children to learn, e.g. have a go days, resource packs. To develop cohesive links with schools and other educational groups, to increase their use of the Forest Ridge. To work with the tourism sector to enhance the visitor offer of the Forest Ridge.	Nymans – a Social History Heritage trail, using sculpture & environmental art to reveal the Forest Ridge's features	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	to some extent as woodlands are freely accessible	yes	yes	possibly	yes in the medium term	maybe, it benefits a NT site	Interpretation – reserve list	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge – reserve list
		Ambassador Training	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
		Ashdown Forest Centre interpretation gateway to the FR	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Interpretation	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		landscape detective series (like eye spy!)	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes, if a partner is willing to lead on the project	n/a	n/a
		Brickfield Meadow interpretation board	no	no	to some extent	no	yes	to some extent	yes	at this site	no	yes	no, its too site specific and just wants an interpretation board. There are other worthier projects	n/a	n/a
		Nyman's heritage trail using local & traditional materials of sculpture and environmental art. Living history events and stories connected to the woods, industry and geology	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	maybe	maintenance would be needed	maybe, it does benefit a NT site, which may not be as accessible as other key sites	Formal Landscapes – reserve list	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge – reserve list
		ride the big weald	no	no	to some extent	no	yes	to some extent	maybe	not really	maybe	not without resources	no, partner organisations were not interested in delivering this as cycle routes were not in place	n/a	n/a
		mini walks festival	no	no	yes	no	yes	some people	maybe	not really	maybe	not without resources	no, other organisations run walks festivals, partnership needs to ensure these organisations include FR area and link to Partnership projects	n/a	n/a
		1) Gemma's school packs 2) Wakehurst's programme of events 3) Mid Sussex eco-schools 4) Crawley Green Space project – woodland schools 5) WUP schools work	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, incorporate all ideas in a FR schools project	Schools Education	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		Schools CD Rom of the Forest Ridge – history, geology, formation etc	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes, part of schools project	Schools Education	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		Forest Ridge Food festival	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	Local Products	Reconnecting People & Place

<p>c) the needs of people who do not currently visit the countryside and what they require to help them to do so. The plan recommends linking people (including those who do not use the countryside) with key sites to reveal the 'specialness' of Forest Ridge.</p>	<p>To provide opportunities for new audiences to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities. To focus on the accessible sites, which can best reveal the distinctive features of the Forest Ridge. To encourage people from the neighbouring urban towns and traditionally 'hard to reach' groups to visit the Forest Ridge</p>	<p>Re-telling the Ridge. Range of events, walks, poetry, story telling and public involvement activities using literature as a mechanism...teenage text stories etc</p>	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Raising the profile of the Forest Ridge	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		<p>giant maidens built of local materials based on story of 4 medieval forests – involving schools & community working with artists</p>	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	by local communities	yes	Raising the profile of the Forest Ridge	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		<p>BTCV inspiring people – green gyms, community have a go events and accredited training. Forest Ridge wide project but focused on Horsham, St Leonards Forest, Crawley, Buchan or Tilgate Forest, East Grinstead, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells to engage neighbouring urban popns</p>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
		<p>Ashdown Forest Education centre, provide enhanced resources at this vital gateway to the Forest Ridge</p>	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes	Schools Education	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		<p>Contemporary collecting – objects, images and stories that chart rural life post WWII to present day in terms of agriculture, forestry etc to keep the T.Wells museum collection up to date. This will involve people across the Forest Ridge getting involved in giving a modern landscape object</p>	no	yes	yes	no	yes	to some extent	maybe	not really	yes	no, staff resources needed	maybe, it doesn't really fit in with the other projects very well	Raising the profile of the Forest Ridge – reserve list	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge – reserve list
		<p>involve people and recruit volunteers to run a gardening for wildlife scheme. Specifically to raise awareness of FR habitats and associated features. Links to Rhodie issue and recruiting volunteers/friends of High Weald</p>	not really	no	not really	no	yes	not really	no	not really	no	no needs maintenance	No, need to link into the existing Gardening 4 Wildlife idea as 1 project rather than 2.	Gardening for Wildlife	Reconnecting People & Place

Draft Training Plan															
Plan purpose: To deliver a range of training opportunities, which meet the aims of the Forest Ridge Scheme.															
Main Findings of Plan	Sumarised Plan Objectives	Proposed Actions	Assessment criteria Does it meet HLF's 4 priorities? See A - D										Based on the assessment – should LPS deliver these actions?	Actions into Projects	Projects into Programmes
			A Conserve or restore the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape	B Conserve and celebrate local cultural associations and activities in the landscape area.	C Involve people of all ages, social and ethnic groups in their landscape heritage	D Improve the understanding of local crafts and skills through training opportunities	Achievability – can tangible results occur within 3 years?	Does it benefit the public?	Is it value for money?	Does it reinforce the Forest Ridge's sense of place?	Is the WFR partnership the best placed/most appropriate organisation to deliver this?	Is it sustainable in the longer term?			
The draft Training Plan set out an approach for involving people in the Forest Ridge's landscape heritage based on a learning pyramid with four levels of engagement. These 4 levels of engagement were then grouped into 2 broad types of training need – informal learning and skills training.	Skills Training: To provide advice and training for landowners, including woodland owners, property owners and the traditional craft sector. To provide learning opportunities for local people and visitors to the Forest Ridge. To work with the tourism sector to improve their understanding of the Forest Ridge.	reconstructed buildings, schools archaeological events, young people making tools & music	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
	Informal Learning: To enrich individuals quality of life for by delivering lifelong learning opportunities in a creative and imaginative way that makes learning fun & inclusive, e.g. by providing a range of participatory events and activities throughout the Forest Ridge. To develop cohesive links with schools and other educational groups.	exhibitions at the museum/forest ridge venues – paintings, film footage	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	possibly	maybe	Scheme Promotion	Scheme Management
		National Archaeology day event at Dunorlan Park – linked to Saxons in High Weald!	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	possibly	yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
Strategic Aim: To identify the skills training needed to deliver the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme.															
Skills sharing and training is needed to amongst the Partnership to ensure that the Scheme delivers high quality projects	To share expertise within the partnership and encourage collaboration.	1) BMC projects interpreting rocks, 2) vandalism, 3) restoring high rocks entrance 4) stone farm management 5) FC want to do artificial climbing boulders at Harrison's rocks 6) EN interest in SSSI sites 7) fern book	to some extent	no	to some extent	no	the artifical rocks may be difficult to achieve	to a limited extent	fake rocks could be very expensive approx £300,000	to a limited extent, by retaining original sandstone rock outcrops	maybe	yes	elements to be incorporated into other projects, ie. Interpreting geology, anti-graffiti campaign, habitat restoration and raising awareness. No to fake rocks idea	n/a	Skills sharing and training is needed to amongst the Partnership to ensure that the Scheme delivers high quality projects
		Vocational pathways linked to centres of vocational excellence on rural management & heritage to deliver training programme	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no, college charging management overheads and fees	not really	maybe	not without funds	maybe, need to see if costs can be resolved and this idea linked with other projects	Adult Education – reserve list	
		Website training courses – aimed at SME's & partners?	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	not really	yes	yes	Not sure if really needed as other projects are doing training on this as part of their delivery	n/a	

Formal and informal training for landowners/managers would give them the necessary skills to conserve the special features of the Forest Ridge landscape	To provide advice and training for landowners, including woodland owners, property owners and the traditional craft sector. To work with the tourism sector to improve their understanding of the Forest Ridge.	To restore as a walkers rest stop with interpretation at Highbrook smokery a historic building near the HW landscape trail	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Built Heritage	Formal and informal training for landowners/managers would give them the necessary skills to conserve the special features of the Forest Ridge landscape
		Training on coppice working for landowners linked to ancient woodland habitat restoration, surveying and training providers	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	
		Contractor training	yes	no	yes to some extent	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes, need to identify what skills are needed to maintain the Forest Ridge's features	Adult Education	
Stratic aim: To identify learning opportunities that would enable people to gain an appreciation and understanding of the area's landscape heritage															
Life long learning opportunities would enable the public to discover more about the special character of the Forest Ridge and what opportunities they could participate in to protect the area	To provide learning opportunities for local people and visitors to the Forest Ridge. To provide opportunities for people to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities. To encourage people to get involved in caring for the Forest Ridge.	archaeological research into hunter/gathers, medieval forest boundaries, pollen coring, romanisation of Ridge, questioning cobbetts view, sand rocks, settlement of ridge, iron forts	to some extent	no	yes	no	yes	to a limited extent	maybe	certain aspects of its archaeology	yes	no	Yes, but incorporate with FR wide archaeological project and then use this to explore the findings of the LiDAR work	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
		Living history walks on the medieval forests of Ashdown Forest, St Leonards & Broadwater	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, by local groups	Yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
		Eridge rocks play being re-introduced – link to the landscape issues	no	no	yes	no	yes	to some extent	maybe	to a limited extent	maybe	by local communities	maybe, if a partner will lead on this.	Raising Profile of Forest Ridge – reserve list	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge – reserve list
		demonstrations of iron making process	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
Educational opportunities for both adults and children will enable them to learn more about the area, encouraging local pride and a strong sense of place	To provide opportunities for adult and children to learn, e.g. have a go days, resource packs. To provide learning opportunities for local people and visitors to the Forest Ridge. To provide opportunities for people to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities.	Schools resources, school activities, building re-constructions and other "hands on" involvement	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	not without additional funds	yes, to ensure more sustainable a resource pack will be developed	Archaeological Features	Archaeology and Special Features
		Forest Schools as a gateway to the High Weald. Environmental Education	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes	Schools Education	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		Digital website stories from FR people	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	not as a stand alone project	yes	yes	if site hosted	yes, but it should link into the wider re-telling the ridge project	Raising the Profile of the Forest Ridge	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		Advice to farmers & landowners – specifically Forest Ridge distinctive features esp. woodland archaeology PLUS Mgmt guidelines as hard copies (& downloadable web sheets?)	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
		Lifestyle landsowners training – have a go days, DVD & small grants!!!	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, but not the small grants element. Need to incorporate with other projects to support landowners to avoid duplication	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
Volunteering would be encouraged to get local people involved in conserving the Forest Ridge's natural and historic	To encourage people to get involved in caring for the Forest Ridge.	Standen – training for volunteers, volunteer tools interpretation and boardwalk to aid traditional woodland working	yes, at one site	to some extent	to some extent	yes	yes	to some extent	yes	to some extent	maybe	yes, by NT and volunteers	maybe, it benefits a NT site	Formal Landscapes – reserve list	Archaeology & Special Features – reserve list
		By word of Mouth – volunteer led talks & walks on local history & wildlife	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place

		Resource pack – developing materials for lifelong learning and training up volunteers to sustain this	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, incorporate with other education projects	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
		Ashdown Forest milestones project	yes	no	yes	no	yes	to a limited extent	yes	not really	no	yes	no, its more of a local authority duty and it does not directly link to the distinctive features of the entire Forest Ridge	n/a	n/a
		Archaeological potential survey and involving local people in the Forest Ridge	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features

Landscape Strategy																
Plan Purpose: To provide a clear vision of the priorities and needs of the Forest Ridge landscape and its community over the next 5 –10 years																
Main Findings of Plan	Sumarised Plan Objectives	Proposed Actions * Please note many of the proposed actions in this strategy are listed elsewhere and not duplicated here.	Assessment criteria Does it meet HLF's 4 priorities? See A – D										Based on the assessment –should LPS deliver these actions?	Actions into Projects	Projects into Programmes	
			A Conserve or restore the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape	B Conserve and celebrate local cultural associations and activities in the landscape area.	C Involve people of all ages, social and ethnic groups in their landscape heritage	D Improve the understanding of local crafts and skills through training opportunities	Achievability – can tangible results occur within 3 years?	Does it benefit the public?	Is it value for money?	Does it reinforce the Forest Ridge's sense of place?	Is the WFR partnership the best placed/most appropriate organisation to deliver this?	Is it sustainable in the longer term?				
1. Conserving the Forest Ridge's natural features, including its geology and semi-natural habitats	To conserve the Forest Ridge's natural and built features.	Inspiring people working with communities to care for the Forest Ridge...volunteering, awareness raising events implemented by the Partnership	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
Strategic aim: To conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built features that make the Forest Ridge a special place.																
2. Protecting the distinctive features that give the Forest Ridge its historic character. In particular its landscape archaeology, medieval forests	To raise awareness of the Forest Ridge's distinctive features, including its historic environment. To conserve the Forest Ridge's built heritage.	Know your place – working with local communities in ridge top villages to identify the historic character & built heritage of their settlements	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Built Heritage	Archaeology & Special Features
Strategic aim: To provide opportunities for people to learn about, access, celebrate and benefit from the Forest Ridge's landscape heritage.																
3. Celebrating the Forest Ridge's industrial, built and cultural heritage through better orientation, events and activities aimed at local residents, visitors and people from the neighbouring urban towns	To provide opportunities for adult and children to learn, e.g. have a go days, resource packs. To provide opportunities for people to discover the Forest Ridge, e.g. events and activities.	footprints – working with schools on FR landscape and a duty of care by doing work in schools and a teachers inset training	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Schools Education	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
		family walks & mini beast safaris covering history and natural history of the Forest Ridge and then made locally specific	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Raising the Profile of the Forest Ridge	Learning & Celebrating the Forest Ridge
Strategic aim: To give people the knowledge and skills to protect the Forest Ridge landscape for future generations to enjoy																
4. Reconnecting people with their landscapes by offering advice and training opportunities to landowners, crafts people and volunteers to help conserve the Forest Ridge	To encourage people to get involved in caring for the Forest Ridge. To provide advice and training for landowners, including woodland owners, property owners and the traditional craft sector. To work with the tourism sector to improve their understanding of the Forest Ridge.	smallholder training courses, a mentoring service and the creation of a marketing hub to help people add value to their products and sell direct, e.g. local restaurants, shops.	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, gives people skills to care for landscape	yes	yes	yes	Local Products	Reconnecting People & Place
		Training on restoration of traditional buildings & traditional crafts	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place
		training scheme for the degree students	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes, can give a wide range of experience	yes	yes	Archaeological Features	Archaeology & Special Features
		Customer care training for tourism sector	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	to some extent	No, better to do ambassador project as more focused on Forest Ridge landscape and sense of place. Other organisations currently offer customer care training for tourism sector, eg Sussex Downs College	Adult Education	Reconnecting People & Place	

5. Scheme Management to ensure the effective deliver of the other four programmes of work.	To improve information and orientation in the Forest Ridge. To share expertise within the partnership and encourage collaboration.	Website stuff	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	if site hosted	Yes	Scheme Promotion	Scheme Management
		Scheme monitoring & evaluation	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	n/a	yes	Scheme Monitoring	Scheme Management
		need to process claims, co-ordinate events, bookings etc	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	no, only for the duration of the scheme	yes	Scheme Delivery	Scheme Management
		Weald Forest Ridge team	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	yes as delivering the scheme	yes	no, only for the duration of the scheme	yes	Scheme Staff	Scheme Management