Dear Sir/Madam

A forestry building will enable the management of the woodland. The woodland needs to generate an income to allow for these works to be done. The facility of a forestry building will also allow the woodlands management by being self-funded.

The forestry building will be used as shelter for myself, and others where assistance may be required.

Storage of tools, equipment and associated implements required for forestry operations on the site.

Under cover work space / storage of timber resulting from the thinning of the woodland, pruning and windfalls.

The building will allow for a low scale supply of smokeless wood fuel to domestic users locally. Wood fuel requires to be at a moisture content of less than 20% for it to be viable for disposal at a profit. It is essential for the timber to be stored under well-ventilated dry storage for it to be marketable. Wood fuel to be offered for sale (*delivered - no retail to the site*).

A felling licence has been issued by the forestry commission for the thinning of the woodland. Thinning is a sustainable forestry operation. Timber from this type of forestry operation is a sustainable and renewable resource.

Due to the nature of the woodland as a result of its previous business use as a nursery, whereby Beech were planted as hedging to segregate different beds (believed to be as wind breaks). What has resulted post the nursery's closure, is that these beech hedges are now mature Beech trees, now too close together as trees, hence the thinning licence been issued.

It is apparent within these stands of Beech segregations that natural regeneration and replanting has taken place as mixed broad leaves are growing in these areas, however far more sparse than the Beech segregations.

Most of the thinning work to be done is on the Beech tree segregations.
There is no obligation to do any replanting in accordance with the felling licence, although the former nursery bed areas are relatively sparse and it would be of benefit to the woodland for afforestation to take place in these areas, by further establishment of new trees.

Existing and future planted or natural regeneration of trees, also vegetation (ground layer/shrub layer) will require nurturing / after care to ensure their successful establishment as some will be hindered by competition from overgrowing of grasses / bramble etc.
The building will allow for storage of tools, mulch and tree guards etc required for the management of the woodland in this respect, aside from the thinning work requirements of the building.

The management of woods requires regular presence in order to take note of wildlife movements throughout the year and to not cause disturbance, by then being aware of their habitats. Also seeing changes within the woodland and acting accordingly.

There has been a decline of the management including practices such as cutting coppice and thinning in many woodlands in England. Which has resulted in many woodlands being left to neglect as a result of these practices almost disappearing from small woodlands especially.

Bodies/associations such as the forestry commission/ small woods association and others involved with trees and wildlife are aware of this, of which many of these have published informative guidance and policies in order for the forests and small woodlands in England to be given a greater understanding, which would help for change to manage them better to ensure their future.

A forestry saying, that is included within informative literature from the forestry commission and small woods association says “the woodland that pays is the woodland that stays”. Also from the small woods association “a working woodland provides benefits for wildlife as well as livelihoods for rural workers. All woods need management to thrive and it is the working woodland that has the best chance of survival”.

Management of woodlands by practices such as thinning and cutting coppice have benefits for the biodiversity within a woodland, and local to the woodlands edge. By encouraging ground flora/vegetation and wildlife by creating habitat for a wider variety of them to appear and thrive.

The aim and long term plan for the woodland at Light oaks through its management is to: -

- Enhance the biodiversity of the woodland by establishing a more mixed composition of broad leaves than currently growing in the woodland.

- Safeguard against the woodlands current susceptibility and threat from diseases such as phytophthora ramorum by Establishing a more mixed composition of species of trees , thus reducing impact upon the woodland if such a disease was to become apparent in the woodland, given the near monoculture of beech in many areas and predominant species throughout constituting the woodland.

- Increase the number of trees growing within the woodland of a more varied age.

- Increasing stands of a more specimen nature than the current high number of beech trees with co-dominant stems. Which will offer a higher future value and amenity to the woodland.

- Ensure the woodlands future health and amenity to wildlife and the local area through sound management practice.

Yours sincerely

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