

From: [Hannah Varley](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: FW: DOC/2024/0013 - Alton Towers Woodland Management Plan update - further comments on revision
Date: 02 December 2024 10:28:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Subject: DOC/2024/0013 - Alton Towers Woodland Management Plan update - further comments on revision

Hannah

Thanks for sending the resubmitted/amended version (October 2024) of the updated Alton Towers Woodland Management Plan. My apologies for the delay in reviewing it and sending further comments.

Overall, the amended Woodland Management Plan (WMP) represents a good and positive response to the comments/suggestions/requests I made in my previous e-mail of 29/07/2024. To summarise these points/responses in the same numbered order as in my previous e-mail:

1. The former "Key Designations Plan" by Lichfields is now titled "Constraints" (Appendix 1 of the WMP) and is now presented more comprehensively and clearly in 2 parts – a 1:10,000 plan, and a 1:17,500 plan showing the wider context. Boundaries/extents of Ancient Woodland, the Conservation Area, and Sites of Biological Importance have been added, along with public rights of way, as requested.
2. Specific Reference is now made in Section 2.0 ("Woodland Information") to the Staffordshire Moorlands Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment, as requested.
3. The boundaries of the WMP compartments have been delineated more clearly on the "Woodland Strategy" Plan by Andrew Nichols (Appendix 2 of the WMP), as requested.
4. Two additional compartments (named "Alton Park 1" and "Alton Park 2") between the main car park and Wootton Lane have been added, as requested – at least to the compartment descriptions in Section 3.0 – and are appropriate.

HOWEVER, these two new compartments have not been indicated on the revised Woodland Strategy Plan, but should be – for completeness, ease of reference and avoidance of doubt.

5. Some (limited) specific reference to recent major developments at the Resort have been added to Paragraph 4.3 – namely the Wicker Man and Project Horizon attractions – acknowledging the steer in Condition 22 of planning permission SMD/2022/0556. However, it's also fair to say that the enhanced acknowledgement and inclusion of planting objectives now incorporated in the amended WMP (see Note 6 below) are appropriately targeted at several compartments in association with recent developments, as requested – such as Project Horizon (Abbey Wood 1 & 3 compartments), Wicker Man (Flume Wood compartment) and Car Park P improvements (new compartments Alton Park 1 & 2).

6. It is good to see more weight attached to, and reference made to, planting objectives in the amended WMP, as requested. In addition to those already mentioned in Note 5 above, priority planting is also now stated for the West of Farm compartment alongside Farley Lane, again as requested. These are included, where applicable, in the individual compartment proposals descriptions in Section 7.0 ("Work Programmes") and the Short Term Work Programme summary table at Section 8.0.

HOWEVER, my only further comment in this regard is that having acknowledged and included reference to planting objectives in Sections 6.0 and 7.0, it is disappointing that there is then no inclusion of any planting proposals at all in Section 8.1 (Woodland Management Proposals Yr 1); I would suggest these should be specifically included for West of Farm (acknowledged as priority). Furthermore, planting receives only generalised mention in Section 8.2 (Woodland Management Proposals – Work in Subsequent Years) and could beneficially made rather more specific to locations and timescales, and in particular for Abbey Wood 1 & 3 as required under Condition 22 and which is a driver for the review of the WMP itself. These to secure and fulfil the general strategic objectives commitments set out in the WMP.

Subject to addressing the highlighted points above with suitable further minor tweaks to the Woodland Strategy Plan and Section 8.0 (Short Term Work Programmes), the amended WMP is otherwise considered appropriate and acceptable for approval under Condition 22 of SMD/2022/0556.

Once the WMP has been approved under DOC/2024/0013 to discharge Condition 22 of SMD/2022/0556, specific planting plans/schedules should then be drawn up for implementation during the current 2024/25 planting season for the priority West of Farm compartment, and during the 2025/26 planting season for the anticipated-by-then completion of the Project Horizon development (and as further required under condition 22).

Steve Massey Arboricultural Officer
Development Services
High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

www.highpeak.gov.uk | Follow HPBC on X (Formerly Twitter) | [Facebook](#)
www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk | Follow SMDC on X (Formerly Twitter) | [Facebook](#)



High Peak
Borough Council



Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/YourData>

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/YourData>
