



FOREST MANAGEMENT SURVEILLANCE REPORT

SECTION A: PUBLIC SUMMARY

Project Nr.:	6770-GB		
Client:	Border Consultants (Forestry) Ltd		
WebPage:	www.borderconsultants.co.uk		
Address:	West Street, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA.		
Country:	United Kingdom (England and Scotland)		
Certificate Nr.	SGS-FM/COC-000456	Certificate Type:	Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) Group & Resource Forest Management
Date of Issue	5 May 2005	Date of expiry:	4 May 2010
Scope:	Forest Management of the Border Consultants (Forestry) Ltd group & resource manager certification schemes for forests in the UK producing softwood and hardwood round timber.		
Company Contact Person:	Felix Karthaus, company director & senior forestry manager		
Address:	West Street, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA.		
Tel:	01668-213693		
Fax	01668-213555		
Email:	felix@borderconsultants.co.uk		

Evaluation dates:

Surveillance 1	19 July 2006
Surveillance 2	20 May 2008
Surveillance 3	26 February 2009
Surveillance 4	21 January 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. SAMPLING AND EVALUATION APPROACH 3
- 2. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT, HARVESTING, SILVICULTURE AND MONITORING 3
- 3. STANDARD USED IN THE EVALUATIONS..... 3
- 4. RECORD OF CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS (CARS) 4
- 5. RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND INTERVIEWS 5
- 6. RECORD OF COMPLAINTS 6
- 7. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION..... 7

1. SAMPLING AND EVALUATION APPROACH

A detailed record of the following is available in section B of the Evaluation report. This section does not form part of the public summary, but includes information on:

- Sampling methodology and rationale;
- FMUs included in the sample;
- Sites visited during the field Evaluation; and
- Man-day allocation.

This surveillance audit was planned to audit forests not previously seen nor visited since the re-assessment audit in 2005 and previous surveillance.

2. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT, HARVESTING, SILVICULTURE AND MONITORING

The following table shows significant changes that took place in the management, monitoring, harvesting and regeneration practices of the certificate holder over the certificate period.

Description of Change	Notes
SURVEILLANCE 1	
No change	
SURVEILLANCE 2	
No change	
SURVEILLANCE 3	
No change	
SURVEILLANCE 4	
No change	

3. STANDARD USED IN THE EVALUATIONS

A checklist was used that consisted of the documents listed below. This checklist was prepared using the FSC-endorsed national or regional standard. A copy of this checklist is available on the SGS Qualifor website, www.sgs.com/forestry

Standard Used in Evaluation	Effective Date	Version Nr	Changes to Standard
SGS Qualifor: Generic Forest Management Standard (AD33-01)	1 February 2005	1	
SGS Qualifor: Group and Resource Manager Checklist (AD34-01)	1 February 2005	1	
FSC Accredited National Standard for the United Kingdom (UKWAS)	2006	2	1 st edition published 1999. This revised 2 nd edition published 1 Nov 2006.

4. RECORD OF CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS (CARS)

CAR #	Indicator	CAR Detail					
		Date Recorded>		Due Date>	Next surveillance	Date Closed>	
01	UKWAS 5.1.4	Date Recorded>	24/03/05	Due Date>	Next surveillance	Date Closed>	19/07/06
		Non-Conformance:					
		Inadequate evidence of cull targets is provided in Deer Management Plans. All relevant deer species are not covered.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		Deer Management Plans for certified estates do not specify cull targets or alternatives in the form of thresholds of unacceptable impact and subsequent actions to be taken. There is evidence of the presence of red deer at Hedgeley Estate, but they are not mentioned in the Deer Management Plan.					
		Close-out evidence:					
Border Consultants has thoroughly considered their approach to deer management. It has been accepted that on many estates, including Dunglass, which was visited, it is impractical to specify cull targets due to the small size of estates and their location within much larger matrices of woodland and agricultural land. Roe deer, a mainly sedentary species, are the main species. A decision has been taken to focus deer control requirements on the assessment of impacts and this is considered to be an acceptable approach.							
CAR 01 closed.							
02	UKWAS 6.2.1	Date Recorded>	19/07/06	Due Date>	Next Surveillance	Date Closed>	20/05/08
		Non-Conformance					
		Areas where biodiversity is a major objective have not been adequately identified and marked on maps.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		The concept of Natural Reserves (NRs) and Long Term Retentions (LTRs) is well understood by all the company management. This is clear both from discussion and is evident in management plan text. The proportions required by UKWAS are greatly exceeded in many places.					
		In the past observations have been made in relation to minor irregularities mainly concerning the identification and mapping of Natural Reserves. These previous concerns have been addressed. However, no evidence was available at Carnwath of percentages of land where the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is a major objective.					
Close-out evidence:							
Areas and percentages of land where the conservation of biodiversity is the main objective have been provided for Carnwath forest. In addition, similar information was available for Overwells and Ardargie. In all three areas the percentages clearly exceed UKWAS requirements.							
CAR 02 closed.							
03	UKWAS 6.2.2	Date Recorded>	20/05/08	Due Date>	Next Surveillance	Date Closed>	26 Feb 2009
		Non-Conformance:					
		Action had not been taken to provide dead wood in an active clearfelling coupe.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		In spite of a highly constructive and well-informed approach to deadwood conservation in the company, a team of felling contractors at Leithope had received no instruction regarding deadwood conservation requirements.					
Close-out evidence:							

CAR #	Indicator	CAR Detail					
		Deadwood is now included in the risk assessment checklist, as seen at Biddlestone wood. This is used when visiting the site with the contractor. CAR 03 closed.					
04	UKWAS 8.1.1	Date Recorded>	20/05/08	Due Date>	Next Surveillance	Date Closed>	26 Feb 2009
Non-Conformance:							
Health & Safety Codes of Practice were not being applied.							
Objective Evidence:							
At Leithope a chain saw operator was wearing badly damaged safety trousers (no longer offering adequate protection) and possessed only a very poorly equipped and ineffective first aid kit.							
Close-out evidence:							
The contractor involved has replaced the faulty equipment. This issue is now highlighted on the risk assessment checklist used when instructing the contractor. Site first aid kits are inspected and all chainsaw operators are expected to carry a personal first aid kit. CAR 04 closed.							

CAR #	Indicator	CAR Detail					
05	UKWAS 6.3.2	Date Recorded>	21 Jan 2010	Due Date>	Next surveillance	Date Closed>	open
Non-Conformance:							
Documentation of management planning and monitoring for restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) is incomplete.							
Objective Evidence:							
At Dunglass, although entirely appropriate and fully compliant active operational management to a high standard is taking place within the PAWS area inspected, the prescriptions regarding the management of these PAWS sites are not identified within the Dunglass Management Plan (section 4.6), neither are the PAWS areas clearly identified on management planning maps. A monitoring plan is not documented within the management plan. CAR 05 raised.							
Close-out evidence:							

5. RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND INTERVIEWS

Nr	Comment	Response
SURVEILLANCE 1		
1	English Nature reported a very good working relationship with Border Consultants and complimented the company on its management.	Noted
2	SEPA reported some concerns related to water discolouration in salmon spawning grounds caused by sediment run-off, but this happened over 10 years ago. SEPA reported no recent concerns.	Noted
SURVEILLANCE 2		

Nr	Comment	Response
1	Scottish Borders Council reported excellent working relationships with BC. BC had recently taken proactive action on the reinstatement of a previously obstructed right of way, following notification of the right of way by a cycling group. The councils Access Officer was invited to provide advice and the path has now been successfully reinstated. In another certified property BC have invited advice from the planning department concerning the temporary re-routing of a footpath during timber operations. The planning department have welcomed the proactive approach taken by BC.	Noted.
SURVEILLANCE 3		
1	NGO (The Northumberland National Park Authority) has always been satisfied with the way Border Consultants run their forestry operations.	Noted
2	Other - The Managing Director of a timber buyer stated 'We have worked with Border Consultants for many years and have always found them to be a very professional company who have high standards of expectations from everyone involved in their contracts.'	Noted
3	Other – Large private estate forester reported no issues and believed that BC woodlands are well managed.	Noted
SURVEILLANCE 4		
1	Other (ENGO) – Northumberland Wildlife Trust report that Border Consultants act proactively and sensitively in their management of woodlands where there is particular wildlife conservation issues. There is on-going communication regarding LBAP species status and advice is sought from the relevant officers prior to any significant operations taking place.	Noted and relevant to closing out Observation .
2	Other (member of the public) – Dunglass Estate are being innovative in trying to develop wood pellet supply for wood fuel boilers. No concerns on social or environmental issues.	Noted.

6. RECORD OF COMPLAINTS

Nr	Detail		
	Complaint:	Date Recorded >	
	No complaints received to date.		
	Objective evidence obtained:		
	Close-out information:	Date Closed >	

7. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

During the surveillance evaluation, it is assessed if there is continuing compliance with the requirements of the Qualifor Programme. Any areas of non-conformance with the QUALIFOR Programme are raised as one of two types of Corrective Action Request (CAR):

- i. Major CARs - which must be addressed and closed out urgently with an agreed short time frame since the organisation is already a QUALIFOR certified organisation. Failure to close out within the agreed time frame can lead to suspension of the certificate.
- ii. Minor CARs - which must be addressed within an agreed time frame, and will normally be checked at the next surveillance visit

The full record of CARs raised over the certification period is provided above.

The table below provides a progressive summary of findings for each surveillance. A complete record of observations demonstrating compliance or non-compliance with each criterion of the Forest Stewardship Standard is contained in a separate document that does not form part of the public summary.

SURVEILLANCE 1	
Issues that were hard to assess	None
Number of CARs closed	1 Outstanding CAR was closed.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.
New CARs raised	No New Major CARs and 1 Minor CAR was raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of the Border Consultants group and resource manager certification schemes remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 2	
Issues that were hard to assess	None.
Number of CARs closed	1 Outstanding CAR was closed.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.
New CARs raised	No New Major CARs and 2 Minor CARs were raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of the Border Consultants group and resource manager certification schemes remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 3	
Issues that were hard to assess	None
Number of CARs closed	2 outstanding CARs were closed
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.

New CARs raised	No new CARs were raised
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of the Border Consultants group and resource manager certification schemes remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 4	
Issues that were hard to assess	None
Number of CARs closed	None.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.
New CARs raised	No New Major CARs and 1 Minor CAR was raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of the Border Consultants group and resource manager certification schemes remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.

END OF PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT