

New Box Woodland at Wormsley Business Plan



Agenda

- ▶ Vision and Mission
- ▶ Why boxwood?
- ▶ Why Wormsley
- ▶ Proposed project, funding and timetable
- ▶ Chiltern Society Involvement
- ▶ Education and Outreach Programme
- ▶ Provisional Cost Estimate

Vision and Mission

▶ Vision:

- ▶ To replenish the supply of local hardwood for musical instruments for future generations

▶ Mission:

- ▶ Recreate “ancient” box woodland in the Chilterns
- ▶ Educate about box woodland and its uses as a timber for making music
- ▶ Support the crafts that used boxwood such as musical instrument making

▶ Values:

- ▶ To sustain our future by recreating our past

What is box woodland?

- ▶ Box is very rare native woodland found on chalk hills in England
- ▶ Box forms a closed canopy as a dominant on loose chalk in windy locations
- ▶ There are 3 box woodlands nearby at Box Hill (Surrey) Boxwell (Gloucestershire) and Ellesborough Warren (Buckinghamshire)
- ▶ The total area of existing box woodland in the UK is very small, less than 20Ha



Why Grow Box?

- ▶ Box timber is dense, sounds good, and is used to make woodwind instruments specifically recorders, early oboes, clarinets and flutes
- ▶ Historically, before about 1850, box was used for centuries to make musical instruments before the use of tropical hardwoods
- ▶ Box was used for printmaking and tools before the widespread use of plastics
- ▶ Classical music before 1850 or so was written to be played on box instruments
- ▶ Many sites suitable for box woodlands were cleared during the iron age and are now used as chalk grassland wildflower reserves
- ▶ There is a very strong ecological and conservation case for planting a new box woodland in an appropriate location
- ▶ Planting a new box woodland as an ancient woodland has not been done on a large scale for centuries in England
- ▶ Box woodland is almost completely unknown in England, despite box being a familiar sight in gardens usually in hedges and topiary

Why is Wormsley a Good Place for a New Box Woodland?

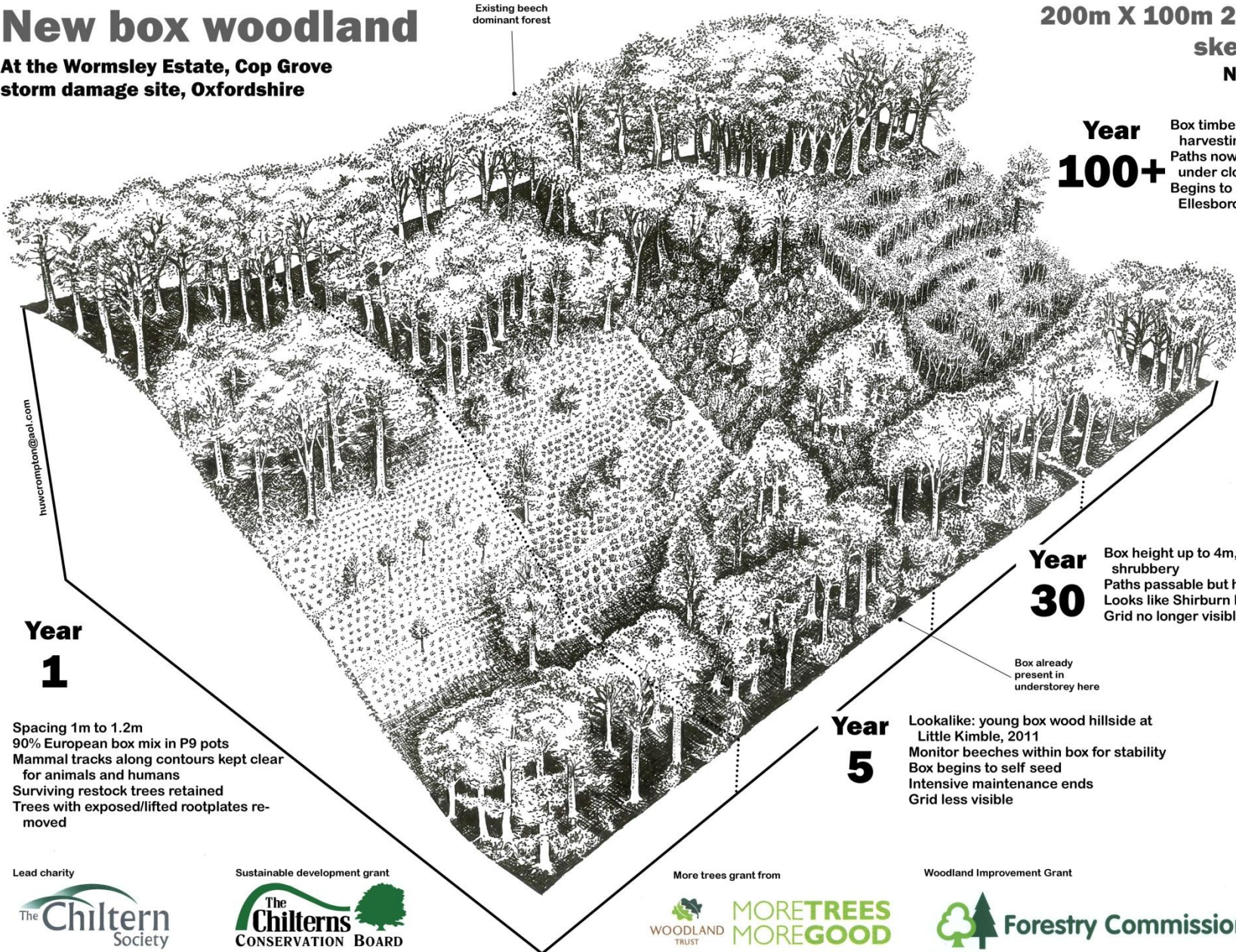
- ▶ Wormsley is topographically very similar to the existing box woodlands in terms of altitude, geology, soil type, and existing woodland cover
- ▶ Large areas within the woodlands at the Wormsley Estate suffered storm damage in 1990 and have since not regenerated
- ▶ The storm damage areas do not have any other productive use to the estate
- ▶ Adjacent activities to the box woodland planting site on the estate are compatible: shooting (box makes good game cover), timber production, and opera
- ▶ The Wormsley Estate is well managed, and the estate managers are keen to support the project



New box woodland

At the Wormsley Estate, Cop Grove storm damage site, Oxfordshire

200m X 100m 2Ha section
sketch design
November 2011



Year 100+
Box timber now approaches harvesting size
Paths now hidden but passable under closed canopy
Begins to look like Box Hill and Ellesborough Warren in 2011

Year 1

Spacing 1m to 1.2m
90% European box mix in P9 pots
Mammal tracks along contours kept clear for animals and humans
Surviving restock trees retained
Trees with exposed/lifted rootplates removed

Year 30
Box height up to 4m, dense shrubbery
Paths passable but hidden
Looks like Shirburn Hill in 2011
Grid no longer visible

Box already present in understorey here

Year 5
Lookalike: young box wood hillside at Little Kimble, 2011
Monitor beeches within box for stability
Box begins to self seed
Intensive maintenance ends
Grid less visible



Proposed funding approved / sought

- ▶ Current cost estimate at November 2011 is £300,000 (implementation and first 5 years' maintenance)

Company	Funding Sought	Funding Approved	Notes
Chiltern Society	£140k	£140k	Restricted fund: Box woodland, Donor
Forestry Commission	£45k	£44,144	Approved 11.11
Woodland Trust	£45k	£18k	Approved in principle 11.11
Landfill Tax, Grundon	£20k	Applied 11.11	Limit is £5k 2011 may rise in 2012
Heritage Lottery Fund	£30k		Yet to apply
Other sources	Up to £20k		Lazard and other funding
Shortfall at 11.11	Up to £80k		£50k expected to be confirmed early in 2012
			Donor willing to underwrite further £50k against shortfall in grants

- ▶ By area, the exact amount of woodland planted can be adjusted to fit the budget and vice versa, the parcels of the site being suitable for this strategy
- ▶ The cost per hectare for the storm damage sites is around £17k and for the arable reversion sites £12.5k and a combination of these can be used to work to a fixed budget should this be necessary

Project Delivery Timetable

	Date	Stage	Notes
Planting	2010-11	18 months' development work	Previously
	Today (Nov 2011)		
	November 2011	Freeholder formal approval	
		Organise outreach event with Garsington	
		Arrange trial planting area 2no 10m squares, one fenced. 200 plants	To Forestry Commission brief 80% funded
	Dec – Jan 2012	Detail design & tender documents	
	Dec – March 2012	Further grant applications	HLF, 2 more
	Jan 2012	Confirm volunteer input, Chiltern Society	
	March 2012	Classical music event	With Garsington & CS
		Press release, promotion	
	March & April	Works on site begin	Preparation, fencing, planting
	October/November 2012	Works complete on site	Planting
		Further musical events	
	December 2012	Maintenance period begins for 5 years	Medium and long term governance agreed
Active Management			
	2013	Replacement of any failed plants	Around 5%
	2014	Replacement of failed plants	Around 2%
	2017	Maintenance period ends	
Medium Term			
	2017-2042	Medium term governance period	Occasional Management
Long Term			
	2042-2112	Long term governance period	Little active management

Chiltern Society Involvement

Project Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Volunteer programme for the planting stage March/April 2012 and October/November 2012, up to £40k worth of work on site▶ Lead charity, financial administration of project
Awareness Raising and Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Partner at fundraising event programme with Garsington opera and others▶ Joint applicant to HLF programme currently being led by CCB.▶ Members made aware of project and invited to take part either on site or by making a contribution
Ownership of the Box Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The land itself for the project is to have no change in tenure▶ Ownership of trees with provisions to protect trees should Chiltern Society change ownership▶ The box woodland is to be sustainably managed and not clear felled and the use of income is to fund replanting
Medium & Long Term Governance of the Box Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The Chiltern Society is to be involved in medium and long term governance of the project along with Alasdair Nisbet and the freeholder, and other organisations such as the Chilterns Conservation Board▶ A committee is to be formed including the parties and a representative of the estate to meet regularly when the project is in active phases up to 4 times annually and less often after year 5



Education and Outreach Programme

Box Education Projects

- ▶ During the site search, 6 small sites were identified which were not large enough to host the main woodland. There were the Chiltern Gateway Centre (National Trust), the Purcell School, Wendover Woods (Forestry Commission) the Watts Gallery (Perdita Hunt) Chequers Estate (Box SSSI) and a small BBOWT (Bucks, Beds, Oxon Wildlife Trust) site TBC
- ▶ These sites are to be funded by the HLF and the Woodland Trust More Woods programme and will be below £10k each in value
- ▶ The Chilterns Conservation Board has put together an HLF application which includes an ecology, survey and education element
- ▶ The HLF has indicated that interpretation panels at existing and new box woodlands are eligible for funding

Box Outreach Events and Programme

- ▶ An outreach concert programme is to take place in 2012 and 2013 beginning with the joint CS/Garsington concert
- ▶ Further possibilities with Garsington are to be explored
- ▶ New funders may be interested in larger scale outreach and musical events say at large venues in London
- ▶ The education programme is easily linked to the musical outreach programme



New Box Woodland at the Wormsley Estate

Provisional Cost Estimate

- ▶ Budget allocation purposes at sketch design phase. Covers implementation and first 5 years' maintenance post practical. Accurate to +/-10% 13th October 2011
 - ▶ Does not include cricket bat willow-based tenure contract
 - ▶ VAT not included, make sure this is clear and whether grant eligible or not as early as possible
 - ▶ Some site work, say up to a maximum of 30% by value, is implemented using volunteers (items D & N)

	Item	Qty	Unit	Rate	Amt
11.5Ha new box woodland on 4 storm damaged sites					
A	Site clearance and removals: old fencing, sundry guards and stakes, root plates, fallen trees, trees about to fall into plot around edges	11.5	Ha	1,000	11,500
B	Ground preparation: spring tine cultivate to 200mm 75% of area to be planted, caterpillar drawn, avoids trees to remain and planted trial area	8.6	Ha	1,000	8,600
C	Reinstate deer & other animal tracks where obliterated by tine harrow, 10-15m spacings running cross slope along contours	11.5	Ha	100	1,150
D	Supply and plant pot grown European Box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> in 3 sizes, average unit cost in P9s, density 1 pot per 1.2m ²	64,500	no	1.80	116,100
E	Supply and plant native <i>Juniperus communis</i> to open areas 5% by mix companion to box, subject to grazing trial, P9s, density 1 pot per 1.2m ²	3,225	no	1.50	4,838
F	Supply and plant native spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> as companion to box mix by 5% subject to grazing trial, P9s, density 1 pot per 1.2m ²	3,225	no	1.50	4,838
G	Harrow, cultivate and seed open spaces 10% of total area	1.15	Ha	2,000	2,300
H	Interpretation panels on : tells box story, 25 year life span	2	no	2,400	4,800
J	Softworks maintenance years 1 to 5. Tree weeding by herbicide pellets and by hand twice annually	5	no	2,000	10,000
K	Replacement of stock failures, allows for 5%, end of years 1 and 2 box and other stock, grant condition	3,500	no	1.80	6,300
Subtotal A – K excluding shared items					170,426

New Box Woodland at the Wormsley Estate

Provisional Cost Estimate (cont'd)

	Item	Qty	Unit	Rate	Amt
6.7Ha arable and pasture reversion sites, new woodland					
L	Site clearance and removals, average cost per hectare per parcel	6.7	Ha	1,000	6,700
M	Ground preparation: spring tine cultivate to 200mm, tractor drawn	6.7	Ha	1,000	6,700
N	Supply and plant pot grown European box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> in 3 sizes, average unit cost in P9s, 35% in mix, density 1 pot per 1.2m2	19,452	no	1.80	35,014
P	Supply and plant native tree mix to 65% of site area. 1 plant per 9m2. Species to include cherry, whitebeam, spindle, juniper, yew	4,467	no	1.40	6,254
Q	Harrow, cultivate and seed open spaces 10% of total area	0.67	Ha	2,000	1,340
R	Interpretation panel on right of way: tells box story, 25 year life span	1	no	2,400	2,400
S	Softworks maintenance years 1 to 5. Tree weeding by herbicide pellets and by hand twice annually	5	no	1,200	6,000
T	Replacement of stock failures, allows for 5%, end of years 1 and 2 box and other stock, grant condition	1,200	no	1.80	2,160
U	Repairs to gates, fencing			item	6,000
Subtotal L – U excluding shared items					72,568
V	Site investigations: grazing trial for mix of 100 plants, test and report on timber quality 2 samples Wormsley & Ellesborough			item	4,000
W	Contingencies, for works on site phase instructed by the partners for unforeseen works			item	30,000
X	Landscape design & contract administration fee at published rates 8.5%			Item	23,544
Subtotal V - X shared items					57,544
Total excluding VAT					£300,538

Including shared items: 11.5Ha sites £196,291 (£17k per Ha)
6.7Ha sites £83,581 (£12.5k per Ha)