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We intend to start our annual thinning operations at Friston Forest on the 21st October in the area shown in green on the attached map.

Due to the size of Friston, we manage the site by dividing it into 10 roughly equal management areas and carry out thinnings in one of these management areas each year. The area we are managing this year is 46ha in size and we will be thinning it over 2 - 3 months. Disturbance to local properties will be kept to an absolute minimum and there will be no additional traffic using the forest road between Jevington Road and the South East Water pumping station. All forestry traffic will be kept to the western side of the pumping station and within the forest itself as shown in red on the attached map.

Our general policy of thinning at Friston is to favour quality mature beech and sycamore trees and to promote young sapling growth. This will be the case in the beech and sycamore stands where we will be undertaking a standard thinning of lower quality trees to promote the better quality ones and provide more light to the forest floor. However, some of this year’s management area also contains a high concentration of Ash trees. These have unfortunately been very badly affected by Ash dieback with the vast majority of mature trees having died or having significant dieback within the past couple of years. As a result we are going to be clearing this Ash as it is a hazard and has no hope of recovery at this stage. Healthy trees have been marked for retention but they form a very small proportion. We will then be planting these areas with new trees of various species within the following couple of years (it takes time to get adequate stock from our nurseries).

If you have any queries related to the works then please get in touch using the contact details above.

Nick Covarr – East Sussex Beat Forester

