

Watlington Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment WA4c

National
Trust



**86.11 hectares of mixed
woodland in Oxfordshire**

Habitats and Species

The yew woodland here is a UK BAP priority habitat. Large old beech trees along the sunken trackway which forms the southern edge of the hill are also a feature of some value, especially for wood decay communities. These support a few uncommon invertebrates and may be the source of an old record for the Red Data Book crane fly *Ctenophora flaveolata*.

Designations

This site sits within the Chiltern Hills AONB.

These woods form part of the Watlington and Pyrton Hills SSSI designated for its mosaic of chalk downland, chalk scrub, mixed broadleaved and yew woodland habitats, with areas of leached and more acid grassland and scrub on the upper slopes. The site supports some of the most floristically diverse grassland in the Chilterns and is also notable for its lower plant flora and butterfly populations.

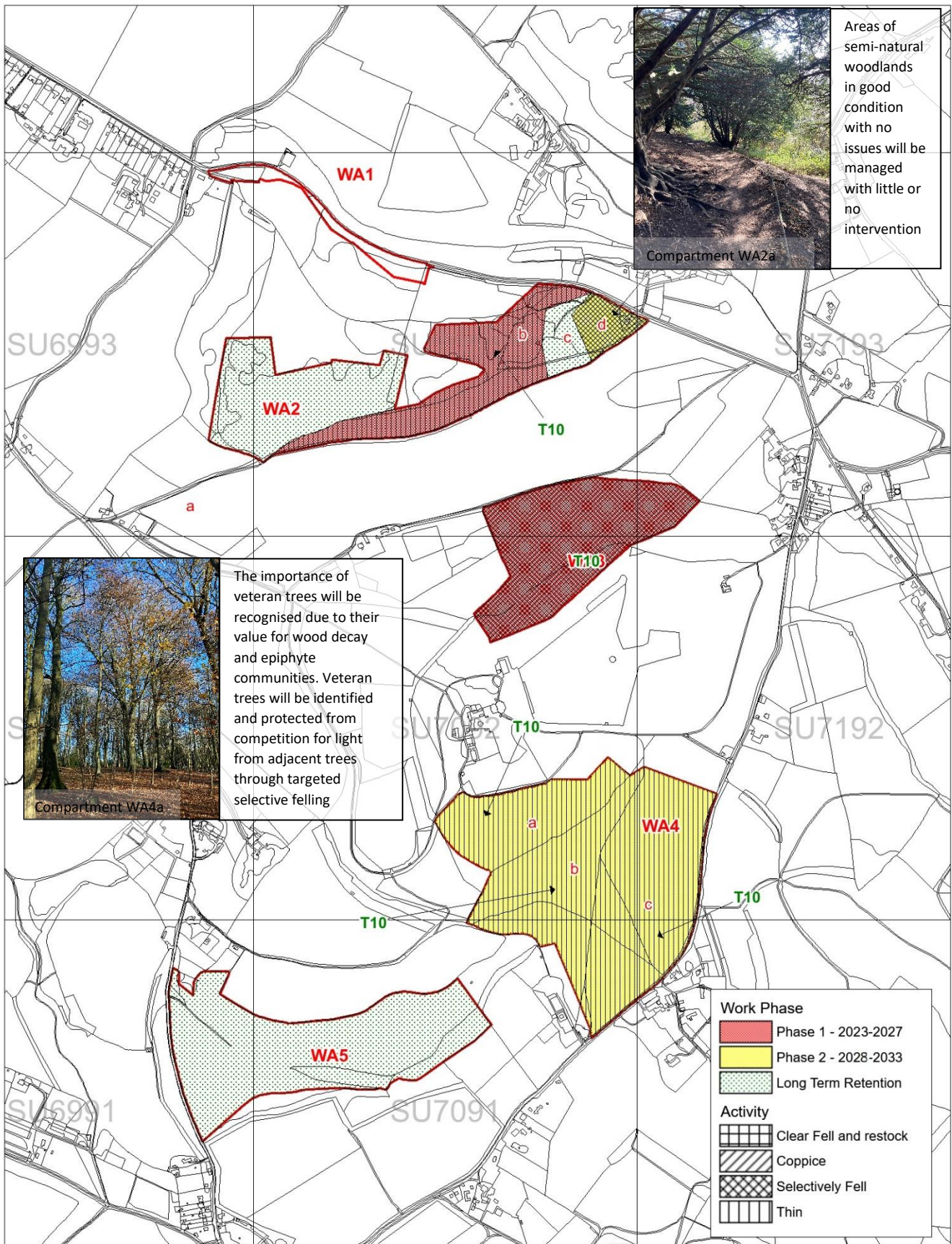
Compartments WA3 and 4 have been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), this means they have been continuously wooded since or before 1600. In these compartments work will focus on maintaining and enhancing the health and diversity of the woodland habitat, protecting veteran trees, and management for health and safety.

Compartment WA3 is also classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of mixed conifer species into these woodlands. In this compartment we will seek to restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics and features.

Management Approaches

Areas of semi-natural woodlands in good condition with no issues will be managed with little or no intervention.

The importance of semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their importance for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling. Selective felling will also be used to reduce the proportion of non-native trees in the woodlands and to create deadwood habitat.



Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire Woodland Plan - 2023-2033

Watlington Work Map

Scale 1:12500 at A4

