

# Coombe Hill and Low Scrubs Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



National  
Trust

Coombe Hill



**23.39 hectares of mixed  
woodland in Buckinghamshire**

# Habitats and Species

Low Scrubs supports ancient native beech coppice and very low cut pollard-like trees (coppards) that are a rare and therefore interesting historic land use feature; the area forms an unusual example of an ancient wood-pasture, a Priority Habitat under the UK BAP. Some of the vegetation here also falls within the Beech and Yew Woodland Priority Habitat of the UK BAP.

The site supports a good variety of breeding birds, including UK Red and Amber List species such as song thrush, green woodpecker, kestrel and stock dove. Wood-decay communities are an interesting feature and include ancient wood-pasture species such as the Nationally Scarce beetle *Cerylon fagi*.

## Designations

All of the woodlands at this site sit within the Chiltern Hills AONB.

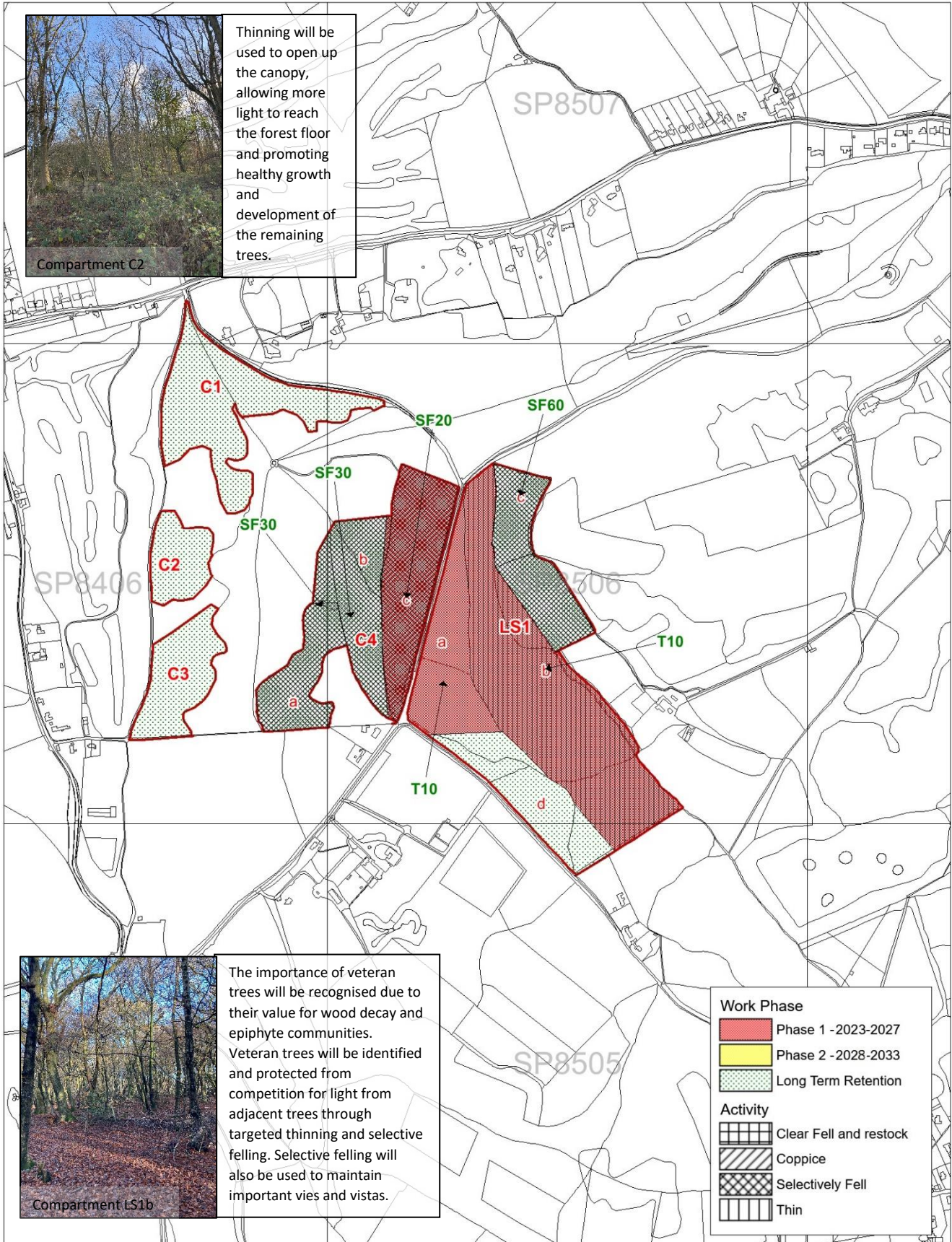
All of the woodlands at Coombe Hill sit within the Bacombe and Coombe Hills SSSI designated for its chalk grassland, acid grassland and scrub communities.

A number of compartments have been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), this means it is a woodland that has existed continuously 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.

## 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.



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

Coombe Hill and Low Scrubs Work Map

Scale 1:10000 at A4

