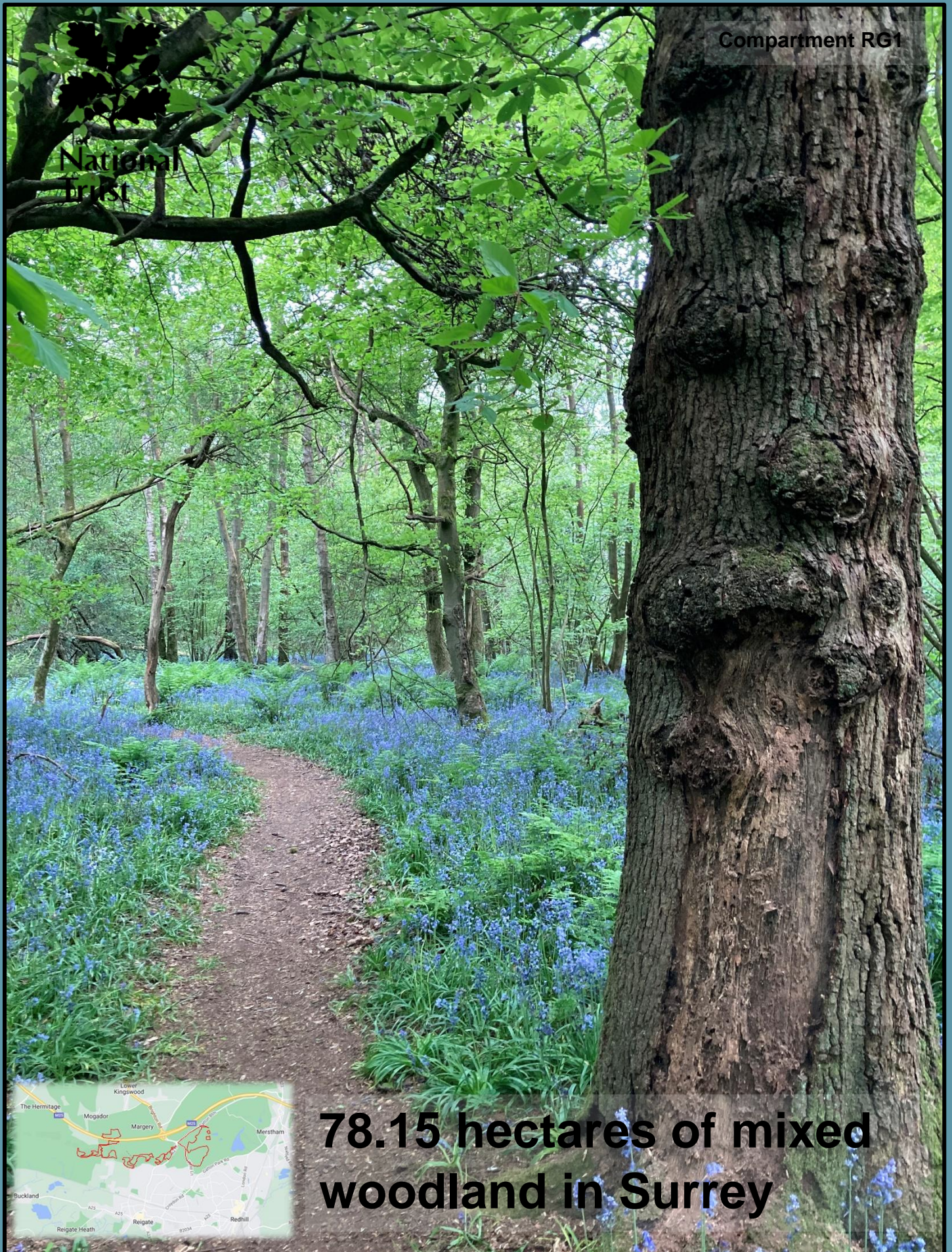


Reigate and Gatton Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



National
Trust

Compartment RG1



78.15 hectares of mixed woodland in Surrey

Habitats and Species

These woodlands include areas which fall within the Lowland Beech and Yew Priority Habitat. They retain a notable wood-decay (saproxylic) invertebrate fauna, in part associated with the abundant decaying wood supply resulting from the 1987 storm, a ground flora including localised species, and a good range of breeding birds.

The yews of Juniper Hill support the Nationally Scarce crab spider *Philodromus collinus* and have been colonised by box squash bug *Gonocerus acuteangulatus*.

The old beeches here support an interesting wood-decay fauna including at least three beetles of UK Red Data Book status, the false click beetle *Hylis olexai* and the tumbling flower beetles *Mordellistena humeralis* and *M. neuwaldeggiana*.

Hazel along the lower edge of the downs are used by dormouse, a Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Large old open-grown trees along the upper and lower fringes to the down provide important habitat for wood-decay and epiphyte communities and species which feed on them such as green woodpecker, an Amber List species (anon, 1996). Scrub is an important component of chalk grasslands as it provides structural variety and local shelter for flying insects and habitat for songbirds.

Margery Wood is a useful area of semi-natural woodland with ground vegetation characteristic of comparatively long established woodland. It has produced a few interesting hoverfly records.

Designations

Compartments R2-7 sit in the Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SAC and compartments RG2-RG8 sit in the Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SSSI

These woodlands sit within the Surrey Hills AONB.

There is a fort on edge of RG6 which is a scheduled ancient monument.

Compartments RG8-10 sit in the Lower Gatton Park Registered Park and Garden

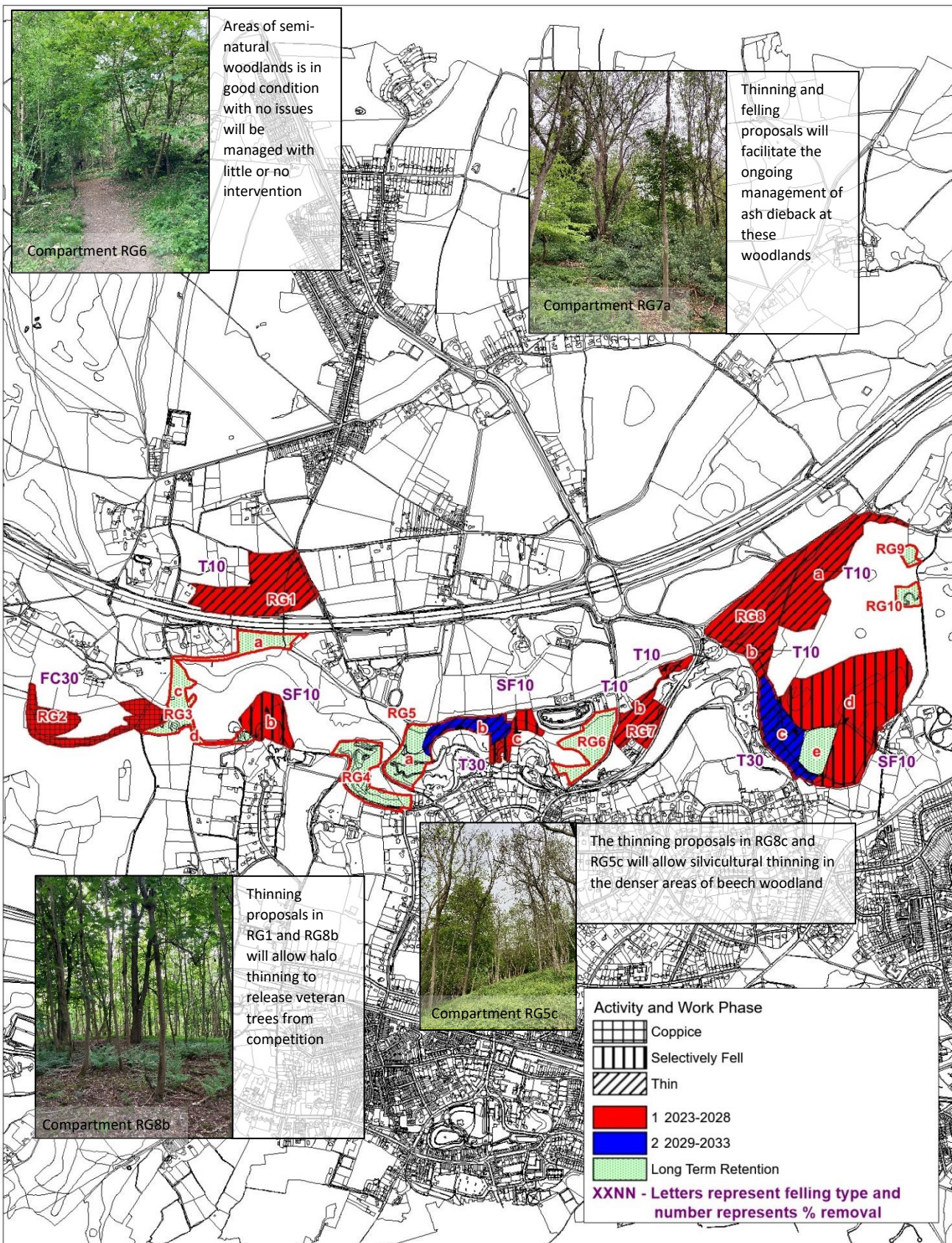
Management Approaches

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

The importance of ancient and 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.

Where thinning or selective felling takes place, regeneration will be achieved through natural processes where possible. This includes allowing natural regeneration from seed or management to encourage coppice regrowth. Some of the selective felling will be used to manage and maintain open rides through the woodland.

Ash dieback is present at this site. Where dying trees could present a risk to health and safety they will be pruned or felled to make them safe. Where they do not pose a risk to safety, they will be retained, adding to the woodland's deadwood resource.



Surrey Hills Woodland Plan 2023-2043

Reigate Work Map 2023-2043

Scale 1:20000 at A4

