

Witley Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment W1d

National
Trust

106.26 hectares of mixed
woodland in Surrey

Habitats and Species

The woodland, heath and scrub communities at Witley support a large number of nationally scarce invertebrates have been recorded from the site. There is also a rich breeding bird community that includes heathland and woodland species. A notable assemblage of fungi occurs on the Commons, including stipitate hydroid species (tooth fungi), which are woodland species listed as a priority under the UKBAP. In recent years grazing has been re-introduced to the southern part of Witley Common.

Bird species of note include, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, Nightingale. The site is also known to support Sand Lizard and the Southern Wood Ant

Designations

These woodlands sit adjacent to Rodborough Common Local Nature Reserve and Thursley National Nature Reserve

There is a Grade II lodge on edge of compartment W1d

The site sits within the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC

The site also sits within the Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons SPA and SSSI, designated for the fact that this extensive site represents some of the finest remaining heathland on the Lower Greensand in Southern England. The valley mire on Thursley Common is regarded as one of the best in Britain. The site is of national importance for its bird, reptile and invertebrate populations. Compartments W1 and 3 are unfavourable recovering and W2 is in favourable condition.

These woodlands sit within the Surrey Hills AONB.

Management Approaches

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

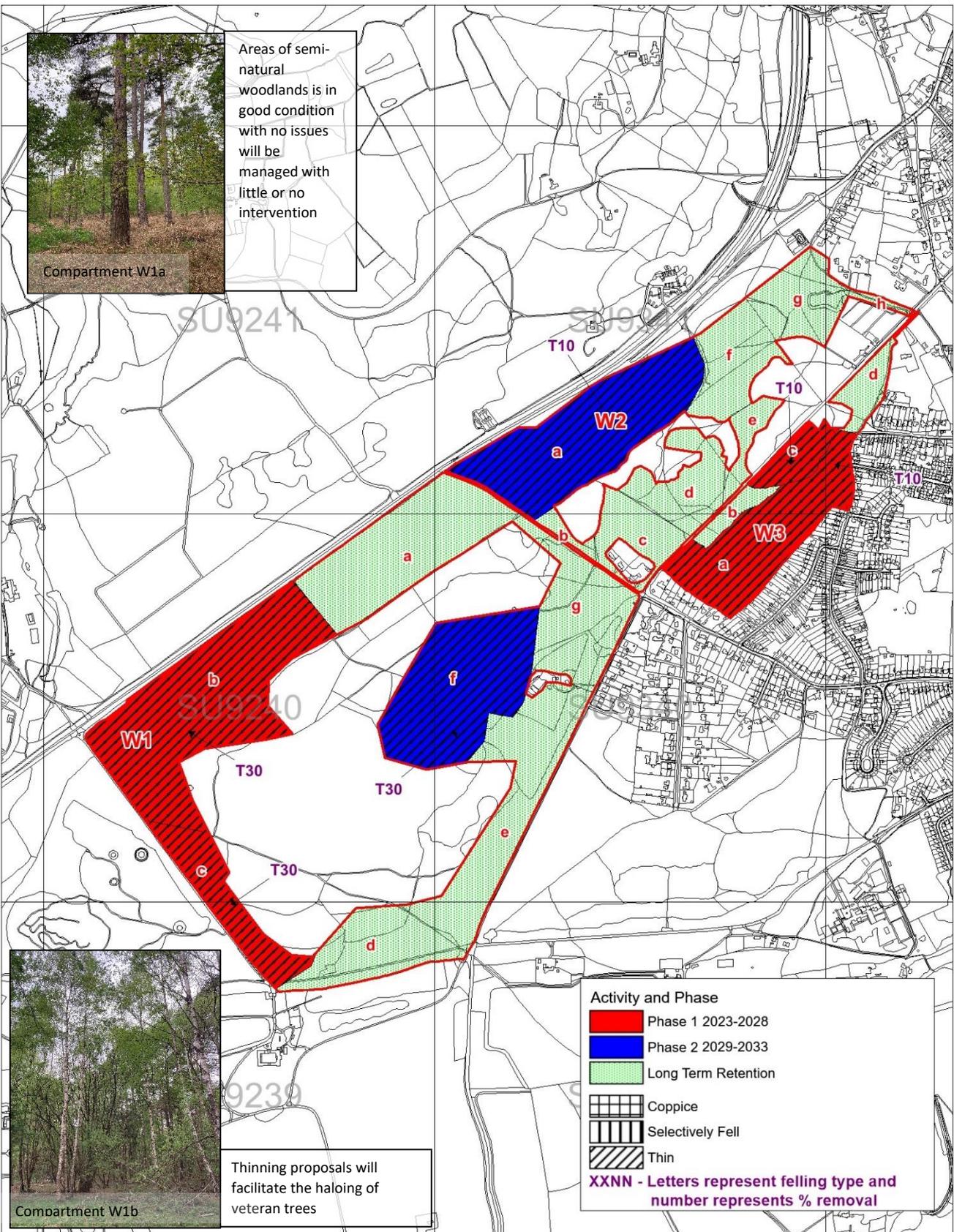
The importance of ancient and semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their importance for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

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.



Compartment W1a

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



Compartment W1b

Thinning proposals will facilitate the haloing of veteran trees

Activity and Phase

- Phase 1 2023-2028
- Phase 2 2029-2033
- Long Term Retention
- Coppice
- Selectively Fell
- Thin

XXNN - Letters represent felling type and number represents % removal

Surrey Hills Woodland Plan 2023-2043

Witley Work Map 2023-2043

Scale 1:12,500 at A4

