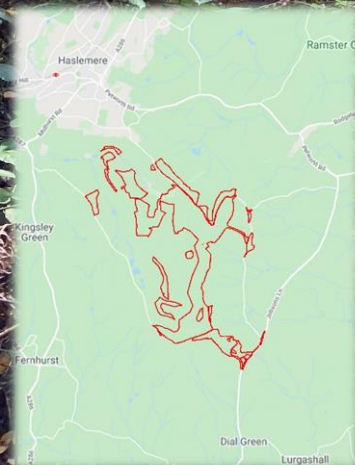


Black Down Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033

Compartment B16

National
Trust



**169.6 hectares of
mixed woodland in
West Sussex**

Habitats and Species

The woodlands and trees at Black Down are of interest for wood-decay and epiphyte invertebrate communities, these tend to be associated with the marginal old beech coppices and wood pasture trees. The woodlands are also important for native woodland invertebrates particularly in the secondary oak-birch woodlands.

Three Priority Habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan are represented at Black Down, these are, Lowland heathland, Lowland beech and yew woodland and Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland.

Specifically, these woodlands are known to support two invertebrate species of British Red Data Book status. These are the spider *Centromerus aequalis* and the flat-footed fly *Agathomyia fallen*. 19 invertebrates of Nationally Scarce status have been identified associated with heathland and wood-decay. There are a number of birds of conservation concern, notably woodlark.

It is highly probable that the property is of significant interest for fungi but no survey information is currently available. An understanding of the fungal communities present could potentially be important to nature conservation on the property.

Designations

All of the woodlands at Black Down sit within the South Downs National Park with the exception of the most northerly reaches of the property covering compartments B1, B5 and part of compartment B6 which sit in the Surrey Hills AONB.

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.

Compartment B21 is classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of sweet chestnut and larch into these woodlands. In this compartment we will seek to restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics and features.

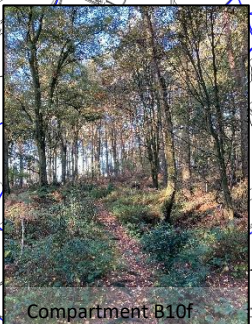
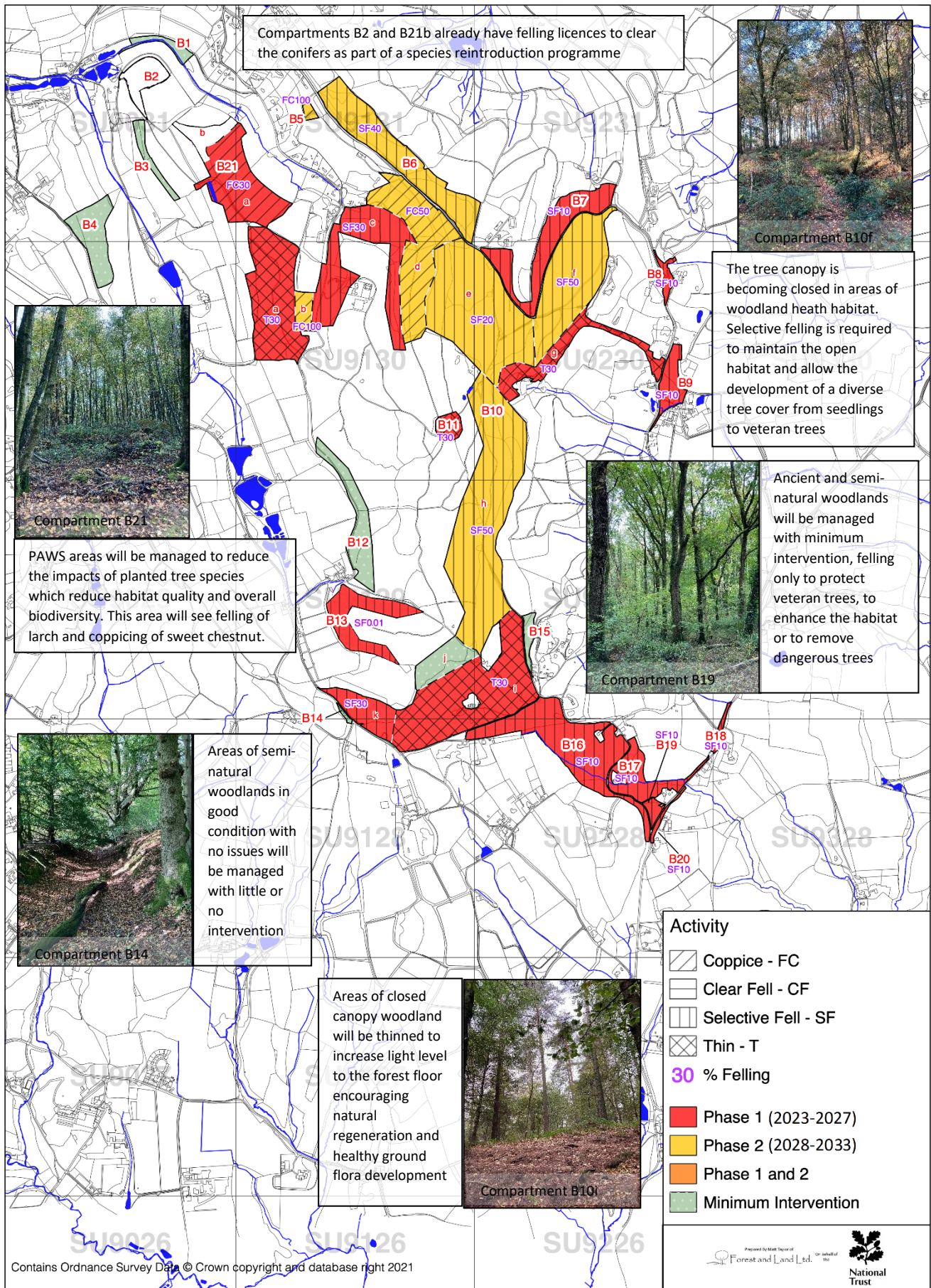
Management Approaches

In compartments B10e,f and h, we aim to undertake restoration to a wooded heath, helping the site to develop more varied and open tree cover.

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.

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.



Compartment B10f

The tree canopy is becoming closed in areas of woodland heath habitat. Selective felling is required to maintain the open habitat and allow the development of a diverse tree cover from seedlings to veteran trees



Compartment B21

PAWS areas will be managed to reduce the impacts of planted tree species which reduce habitat quality and overall biodiversity. This area will see felling of larch and coppicing of sweet chestnut.



Compartment B19

Ancient and semi-natural woodlands will be managed with minimum intervention, felling only to protect veteran trees, to enhance the habitat or to remove dangerous trees



Compartment B14

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

Areas of closed canopy woodland will be thinned to increase light level to the forest floor encouraging natural regeneration and healthy ground flora development



Compartment B10i