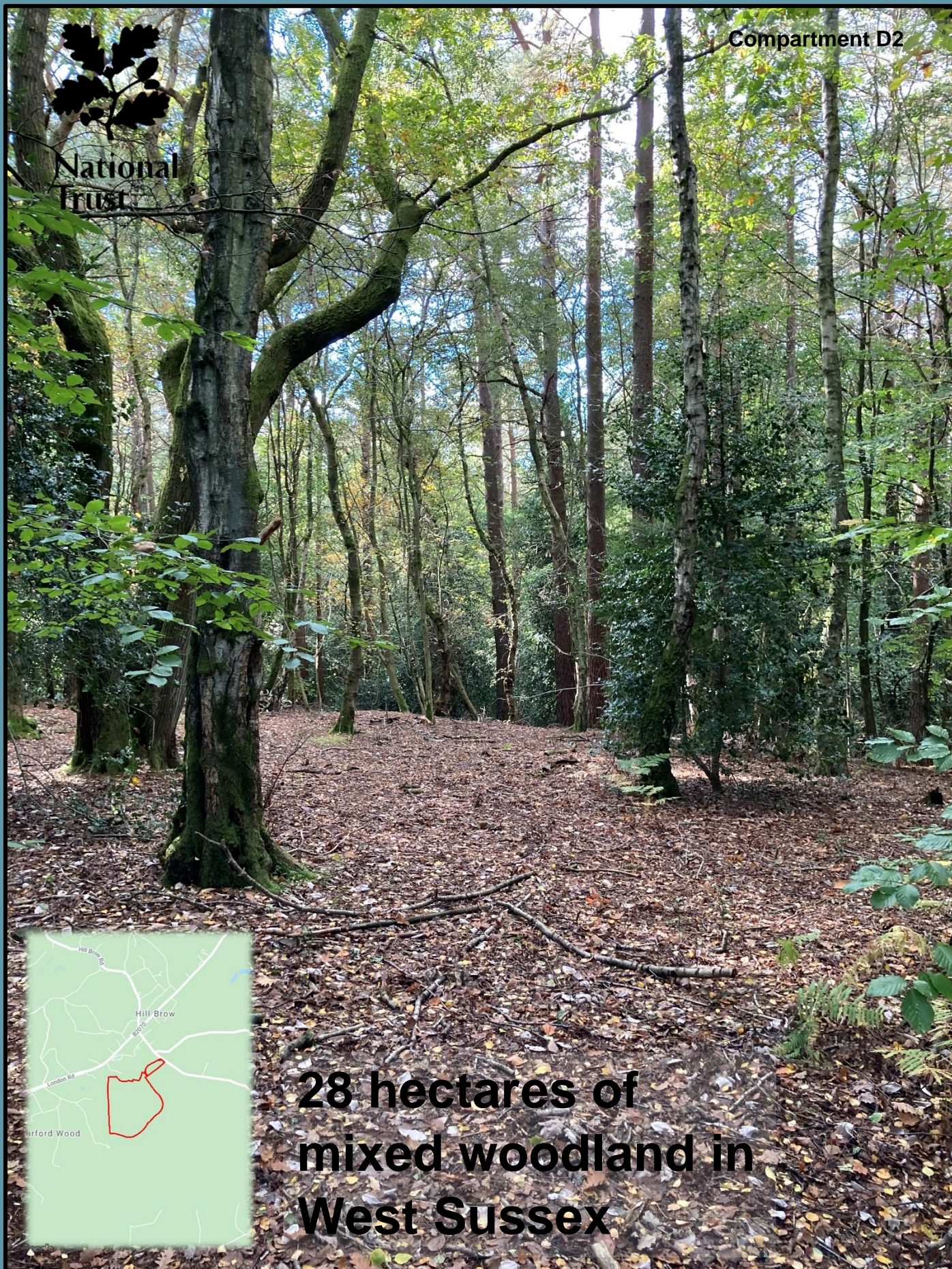


# Durford Heath Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment D2

National  
Trust



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

# Habitats and Species

The Durford Heath property is an important site for nature conservation. It is particularly notable for the long-continuity of semi-natural habitat whose soils have probably never been seriously disturbed.

Here, you can find one of one of few remaining examples of sessile oak woodland on the Hythe beds, one of the best examples of sessile oak woodland in south-east England;

It is home to *Usnea florida*, a particularly pollution sensitive lichen epiphyte growing on oak coppice at one of few GB sites outside Wales & south-west England among a broader community of acid bark lichen flora on mature oak trees, notable in a south-east England context.

## Designations

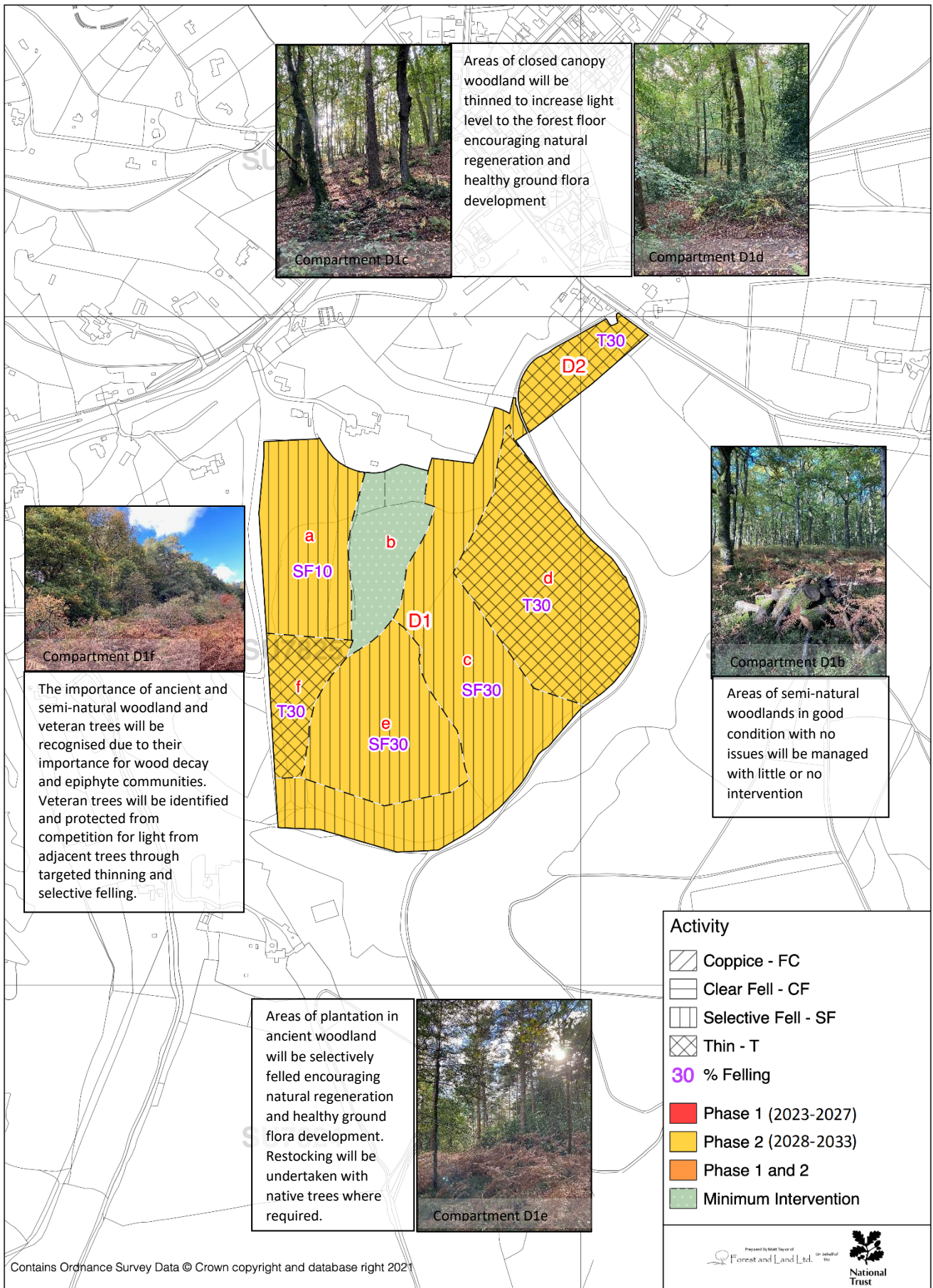
Much of this site have been designated as Ancient Woodland, this means it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600. In these compartments work will focus on maintaining and enhancing the health and diversity of the woodland habitat, protecting veteran trees, and management for health and safety.

All of compartment D1 is classified as a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of Scots Pine into this ancient woodland site. Here we will seek to undertake an assessment of remnant features and restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics in a way which respects its ecology and history.

## Management Approaches

The proportion of non-native trees in areas of ancient woodland will be gradually reduced through selective felling to protect remnant features of high ecological value.

Thinning will open up areas of closed canopy woodland allowing better development of ground flora and natural regeneration of native trees.



South Downs Woodland Management Plan—Durford Heath Map 2: Activity and Work Phase

Scale 1:5000 at A3