

Saddlescombe Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033

Compartment N1c

National
Trust



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

Habitats and Species

Saddlescombe woodland supports a range of vegetation types of which the most important are ancient semi-natural woodland and juniper scrub.

Among animal species, several protected species of mammals and herpetofauna have been recorded here, including badger, adder and all three species of British newt. The range of habitats is very good for birds, and the site is known to support bird species of High and Medium Conservation Concern. The site supports a range of Lepidoptera including one species listed as having high Butterfly Conservation Priority. There is also a wide range of other invertebrates.

Designations

Compartment N1 has 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.

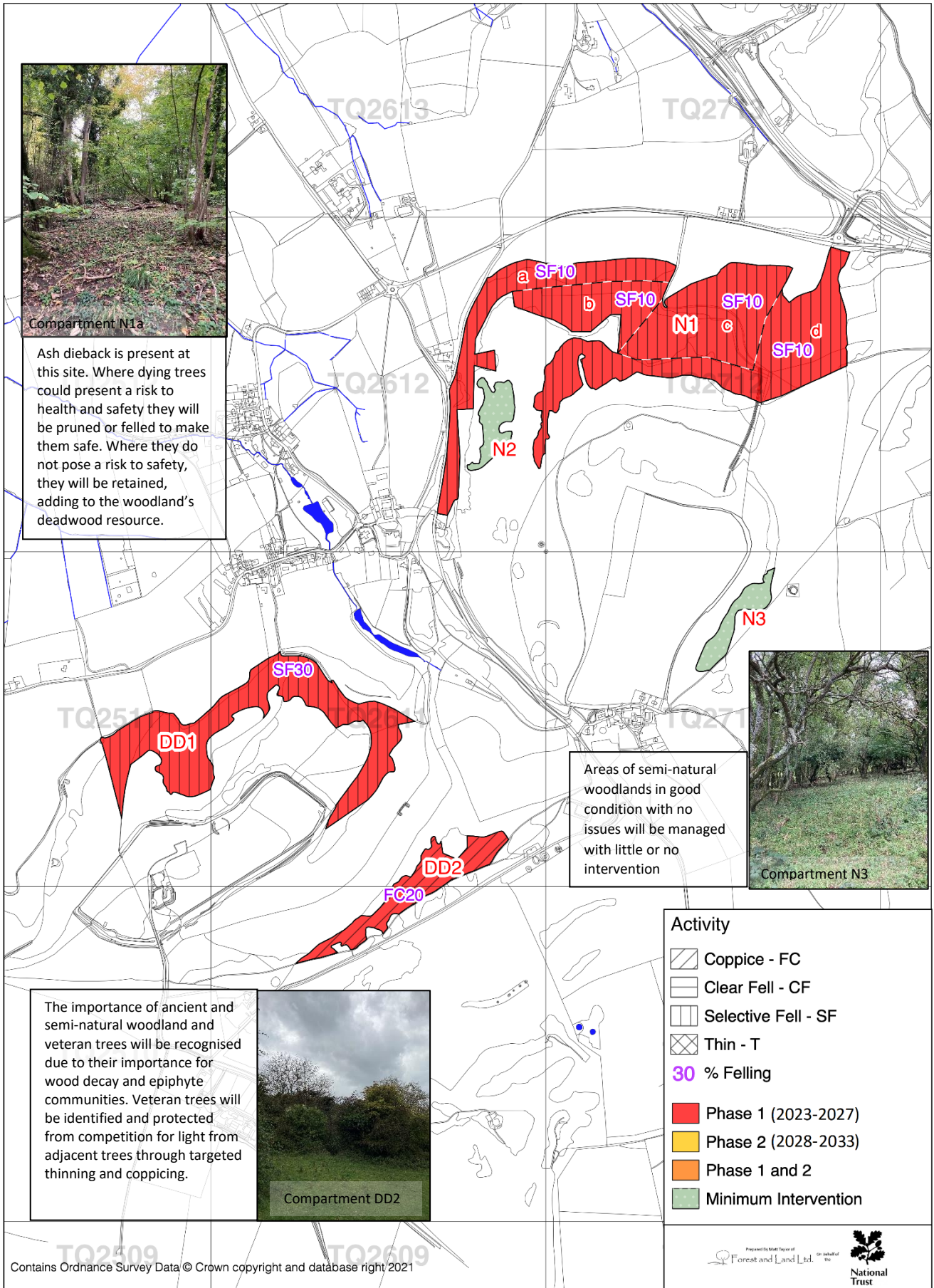
The whole site sits within the Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI, designated for the three nationally uncommon habitats that are represented: south-east chalk grassland, juniper scrub and calcareous pedunculate oak-ash/beechness woodland. The site supports a rich community of invertebrates, especially harvestmen and has some uncommon butterflies and moths. A nationally uncommon plant also occurs. Devil's Dyke is the best known example of a dry chalk valley. Natural England's 'Views About Management' document for this site suggests that felling, thinning or coppicing may be used to create or maintain variations in the structure of the wood, and non-native trees and shrubs can be removed at this time. They recommend careful cutting or grazing to maintain a varied mosaic of scrub habitat.

Selective felling in DD1 and N1d will facilitate the protection of historic features including an old funicular railway and a Cross Ridge Dyke.

Management Approaches

In compartment N1 and DD1, Ash dieback will have a significant impact. We have suggested selective felling here to ensure we can maintain health and safety in this area. Where dying ash trees do not pose a safety risk, we will retain them as deadwood.

Selective felling and coppicing will be used to create glades in areas of closed canopy woodland in DD2, creating a diverse structural mosaic, and allowing the development of ground flora and natural regeneration of native trees.



South Downs Woodland Management Plan—Devil's Dyke & Newtimber Hill
Map 2: Activity and Work Phase

Scale 1:10000 at A3