

Kirdford and Plaistow Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment D2

National
Trust

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

Habitats and Species

There are areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat long-established secondary woodland on Steer's and Mackerel's/ Beetlehook Commons. Notable features here include: Mature trees, including ash, oak and field maple, with wood decay features; Several specimens of the very local wild service tree; Records of the Nationally Scarce/ GB Red List narrow-leaved bittercress, which is very rare in West Sussex.

It has a reasonably diverse ground flora including a range of plants considered to be ancient woodland indicators in south-east England. These probably originate from old boundary banks and hedges with a very long history of tree cover. Grassy glades are also present.

A series of seasonally wet hollows, small ponds, wet track edges and flushed areas. These support a characteristic wet woodland flora.

Mixed scrub communities, dominated by blackthorn and sallows, of ornithological and entomological interest. Red List nightingale was present in 2016.

Linear wooded features including green lanes and boundary hedges (covered by the hedgerows Priority Habitat). Some of these appear to be ancient in origin, and support ancient woodland plants such as goldilocks buttercup, wood melick, sanicle and spurge laurel.

The wider landscape of woodlands and commons is known to be of importance for bats including the Priority Species barbastelle. Other Priority Species, including hedgehog and grass snake have also been seen in the vicinity of the property.

The woodland, scrub and grassland mosaic is of considerable potential for invertebrates, including butterflies such as purple emperor, brown hairstreak and wood white, moths, hoverflies and beetles.

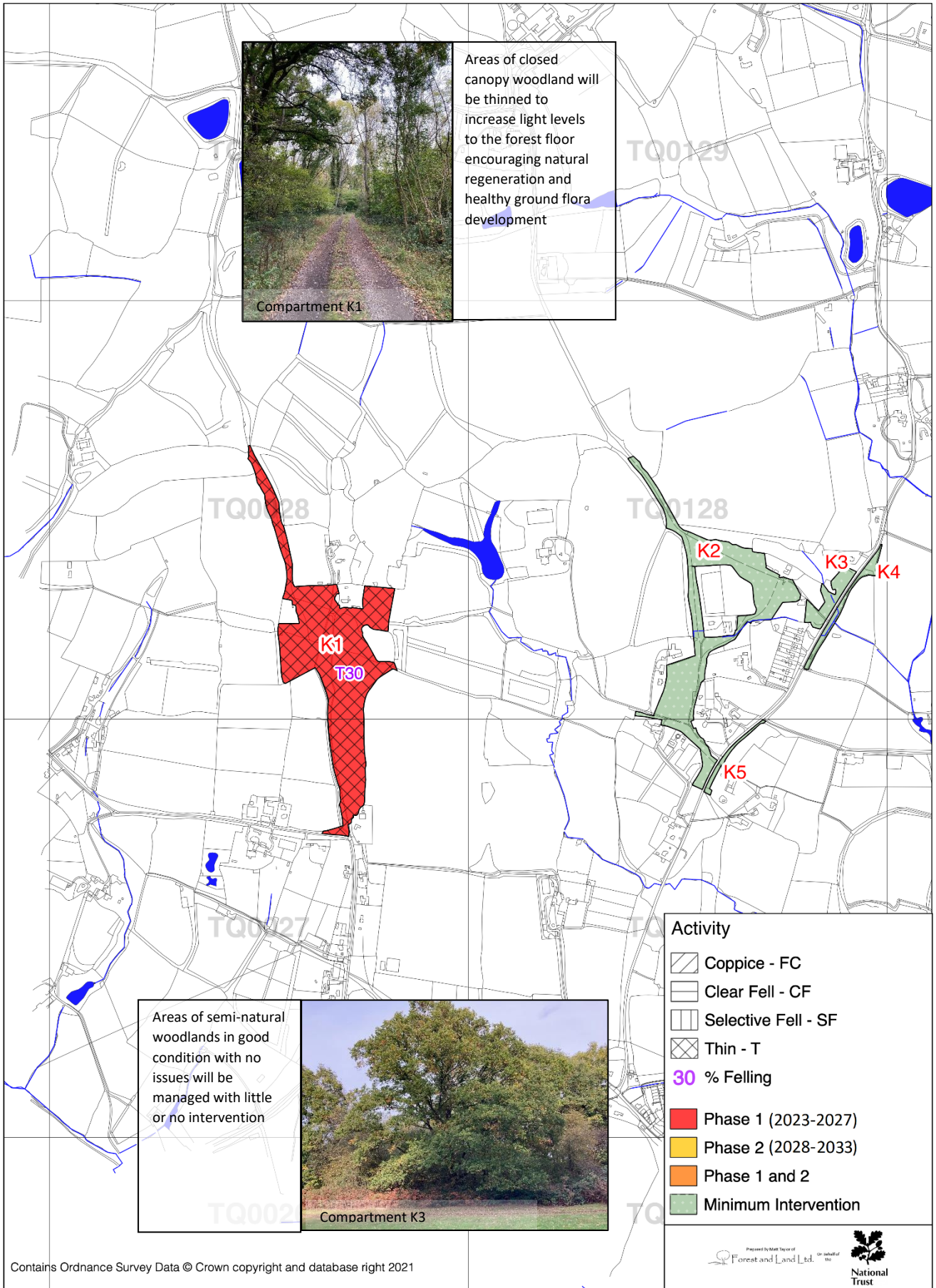
Designations

Although the site does not carry any environmental designations, it is good quality semi-natural woodland and is a significant resource for wildlife and the local community.

Management Approaches

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

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.



South Downs Woodland Management Plan—Kirdford & Plaistow
Map 2: Activity and Work Phase

Scale 1:8000 at A3