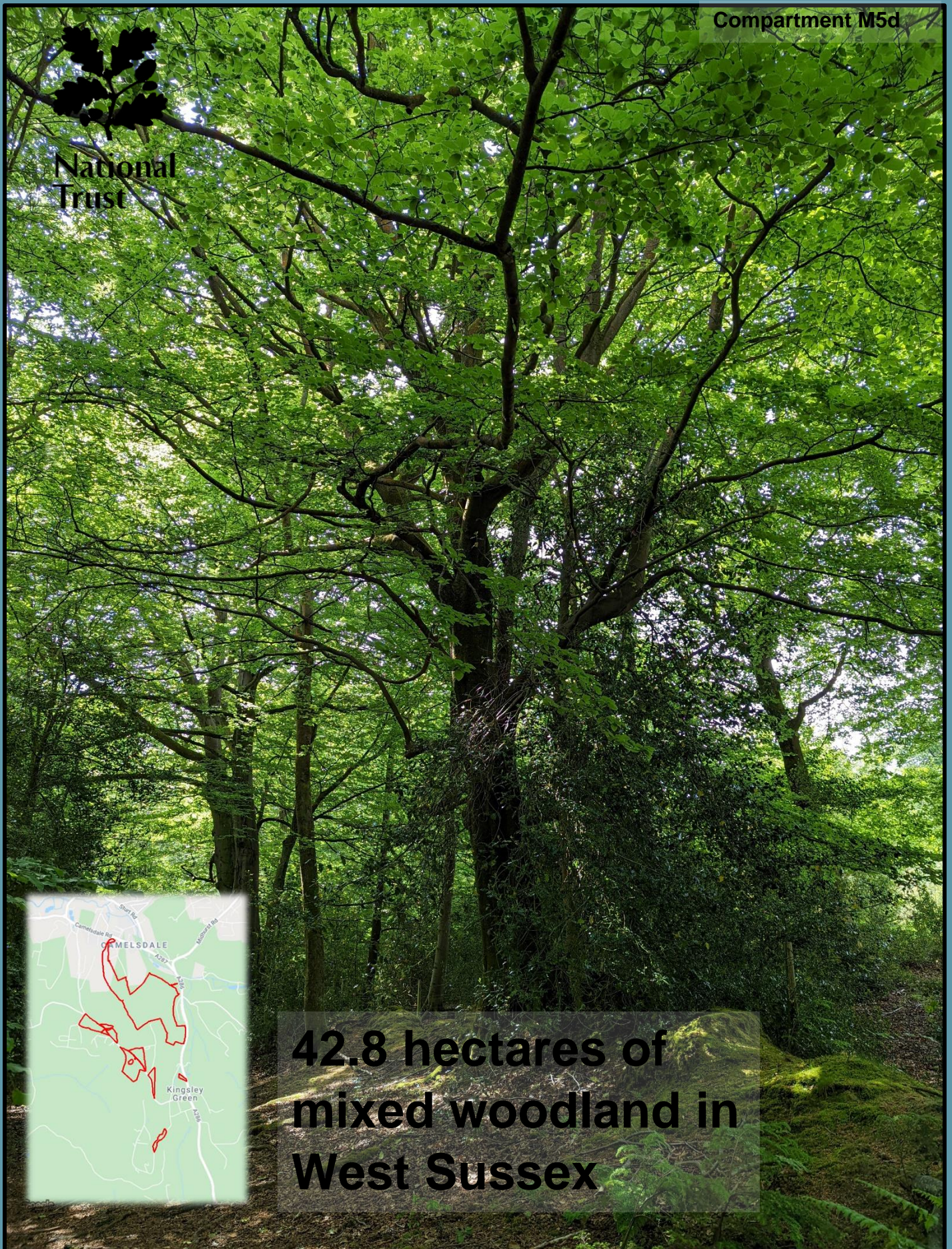


Marley Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment M5d

National
Trust



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

Habitats and Species

Marley Combe, which although now mostly commercial conifer plantations, does include valuable areas of native acidic broad-leaved woodland with an excellent stand of heather in a clearing and a wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* at the boundary.

Marley Common is the most important area for nature conservation at this site. It is mainly former heathland which has become engulfed in secondary woodland following abandonment of grazing. Some relict heath and acid grassland remain and there is good potential for restoration of lowland dry heath, a nationally and internationally rare and declined habitat type, subject to a national Biodiversity Action Plan. The relict heathland invertebrate communities are of considerable interest.

Marley Heights is predominantly stored sweet chestnut coppice with rhododendron, but includes a few mature standard oaks which are of value.

Marley Wood are also mainly commercial conifer plantations but include an acid beech hanger of significant interest for invertebrates and a series of heathy rides within the plantations.

Designations

Parts of compartments 5a and e at this site 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.

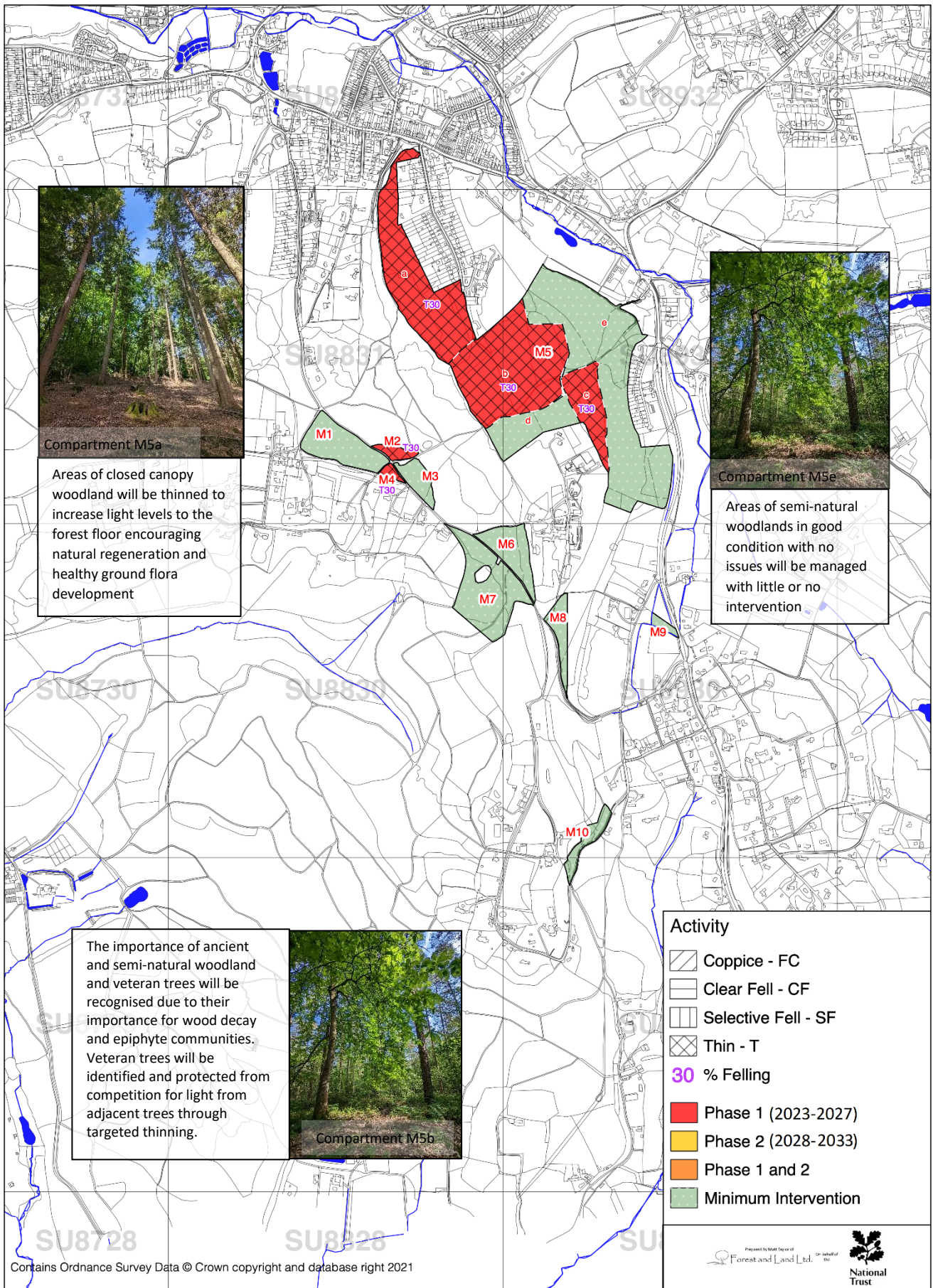
Parts of these compartments are classified as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of sweet chestnut and conifer into these ancient woodland sites. In compartment 5a we will seek to restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics and features.

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 woodlands deadwood resource.

Where appropriate, we aim to undertake restoration to wooded heath, helping the site to develop more varied and open tree cover.



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

Scale 1:10000 at A3