

Swan Barn Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment SB2a

National Trust



8.88 hectares of mixed woodland in West Sussex

Habitats and Species

There is an established network of tall hedges with hawthorn, hazel and mature oak trees at this site. These are connected to areas of woodland and are used by dormice. Dormouse is a Priority Species in the UK BAP.

SB2 is ancient semi-natural woodland where a programme of coppicing has recently been re-introduced. Small areas of alder woodland are also present of a type included in the wet woodland UK BAP Priority Habitat.

Deadwood and decay habitats are reasonably well represented and support an invertebrate fauna that includes Nationally scarce² species such as the darkling beetle *Eledona agricola*, the beetle *Uleiota planata*, the hoverfly *Volucella inflata*, and the brown tree ant *Lasius brunneus*. A variety of locally distributed species associated with wood-decay habitats are also represented.

Breeding birds include the Red-list and UK BAP Priority song thrush and bullfinch as well as Red-listed marsh tit and Amber-listed grey wagtail and redstart.

Although no bat roosts have been found a number of species feed on the property including pipistrelle (UK BAP Priority), noctule and serotine.

Designations

Compartment SB2 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.

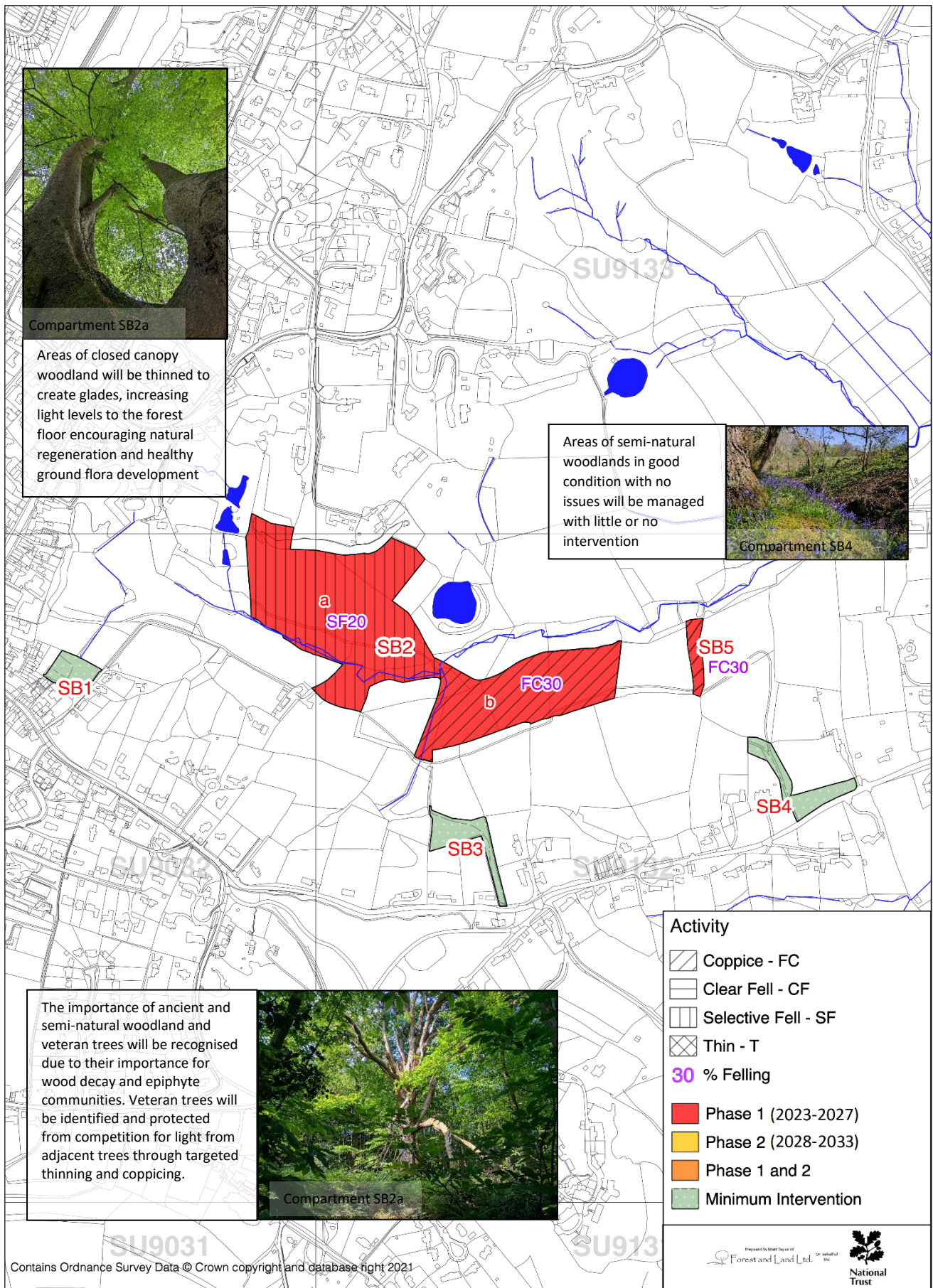
With the exception of SB1, the whole site sits within the Surrey Hills AONB.

Management Approaches

Selective felling will be used to create glades in areas of closed canopy woodland in SB2a allowing better development of ground flora and natural regeneration of native trees.

Coppicing in SB2b will maintain the structural diversity in this areas as well as supporting a traditional woodland management approach.

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



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

Scale 1:5000 at A3