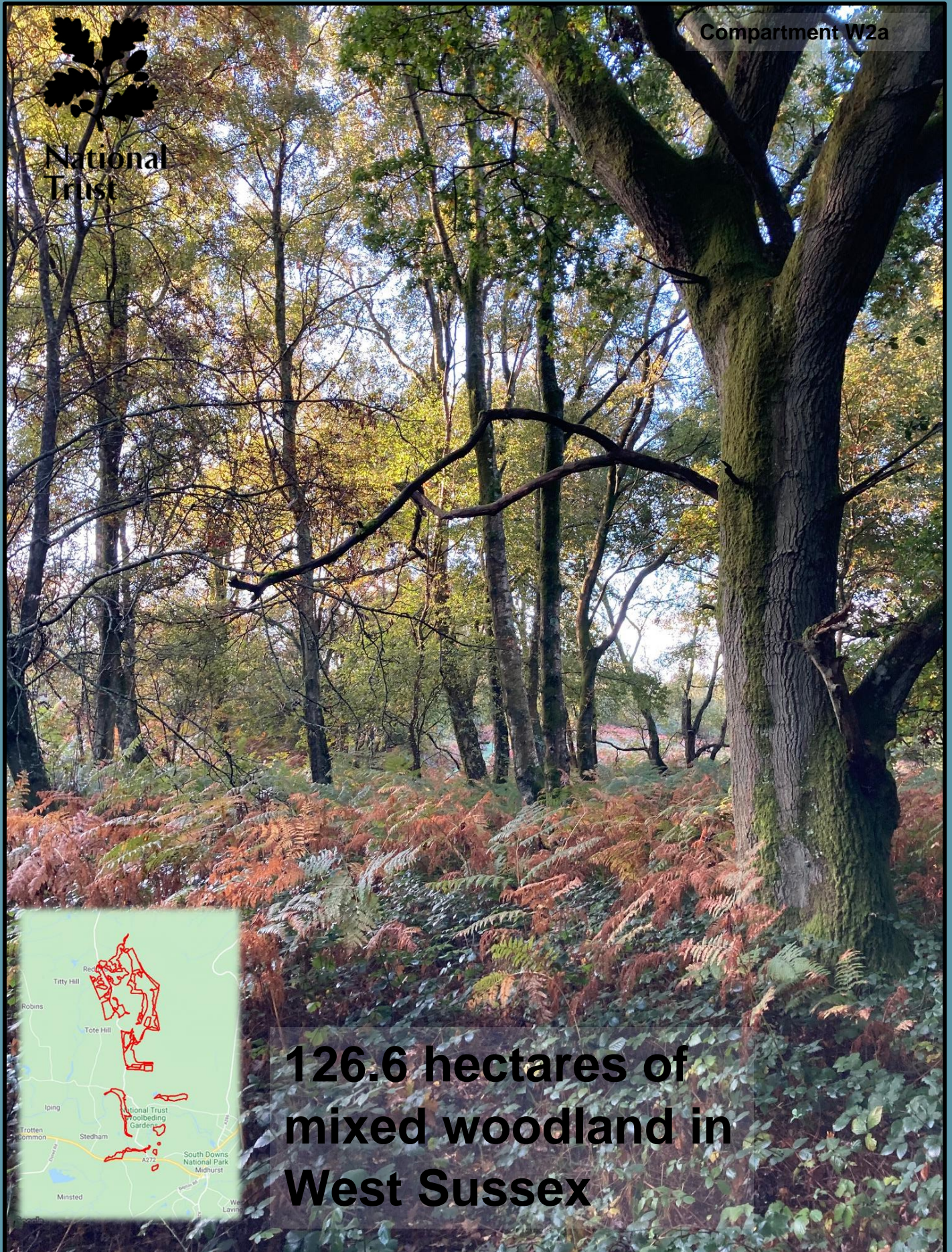


Woolbeding Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment W2a

National
Trust

126.6 hectares of
mixed woodland in
West Sussex

Habitats and Species

Woolbeding is important for its scattered, open-grown veteran trees, particularly oak and holly. The largest oaks are over 5m in girth, and one exceptionally large holly pollard has a girth of 3.7m. Wood pasture and parkland is a Priority Habitat. Notable features include the dead-wood invertebrate fauna including several Nationally Scarce beetles, along with a Nationally Scarce hoverfly.

There are also extensive areas of secondary birch/ oak woodland (covered by the lowland mixed deciduous woodland Priority Habitat) and dense continuous bracken. This has all developed on formerly open common land following the cessation of grazing. Notable features include patches of a richer heathy woodland ground flora locally, including bilberry, wavy hair-grass and the England Red List wood sorrel.

Designations

Parts of the woodlands 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. Small areas are classified as PAWS, this means they are ancient woodlands that have been felled and replanted with non-native species. These areas will be gradually restored to protect any valuable ecological features.

Compartments W1-22 form part of the Woolbeding and Pound Commons SSSI, designated for its rich and diverse invertebrate fauna, as well as its value for heathland birds and reptiles. The Natural England 'Views about Management' document suggests a combination of thinning, coppicing and minimum intervention to achieve the conservation aims in the woodlands at this site.

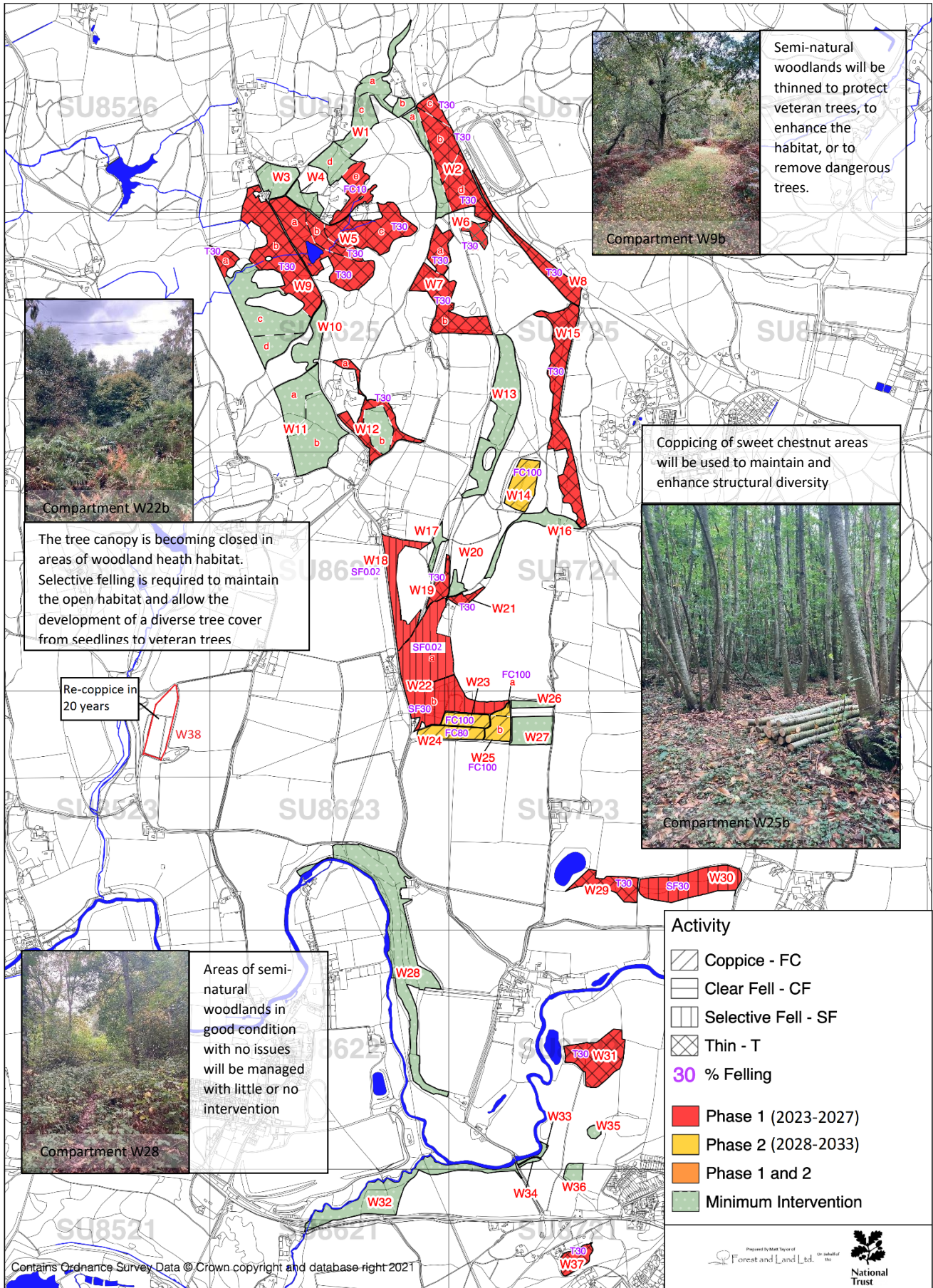
Management Approaches

The importance of ancient and semi-natural woodland, and veteran trees will be recognised due to their importance for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

Where thinning or selective felling takes place, regeneration will be achieved through natural processes where possible. This includes allowing natural regeneration from seed or management to encourage coppice regrowth. In the eastern compartments we aim to undertake restoration to wooded heath, helping the site to develop more varied and open tree cover.

Sweet Chestnut will be coppiced to maintain structural diversity and to perpetuate this traditional woodland management technique.

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—Woolbeding Map 2: Activity and Work Phase

Scale 1:14000 at A3