The Chase and Woolton Hill Woodland Management Plan Summary 2022-2032

Habitats and Species

There are areas of alder coppice in C18 and C14 that conform to the Wet Woodland Priority Habitat, these are being brought back into a coppice rotation

A few older trees amongst the plantation woodlands include some with dead wood and decay habitats. This supports a range of dead wood associated invertebrates including the Nationally Notable pin-hole wood-borer and a number of locally distributed species occur here as well as populations of breeding birds including the Amber-listed mistle thrush, green woodpecker and Red-list/Priority Species song thrush, woodcock, and lesser redpoll. Otter are also present in the watercourses associated with this woodland.

Designations

All of the woodlands at The Chase sit within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

A number of compartments 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.

Compartments C14a and c, and C17-19 are classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of Scots Pine into these woodlands. In these compartments we will seek to restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics and features.

A Grade II listed milestone sits on the edge of compartment C19.

Management Approaches

Areas of semi-natural woodlands in good condition with no issues will be managed with little or no intervention

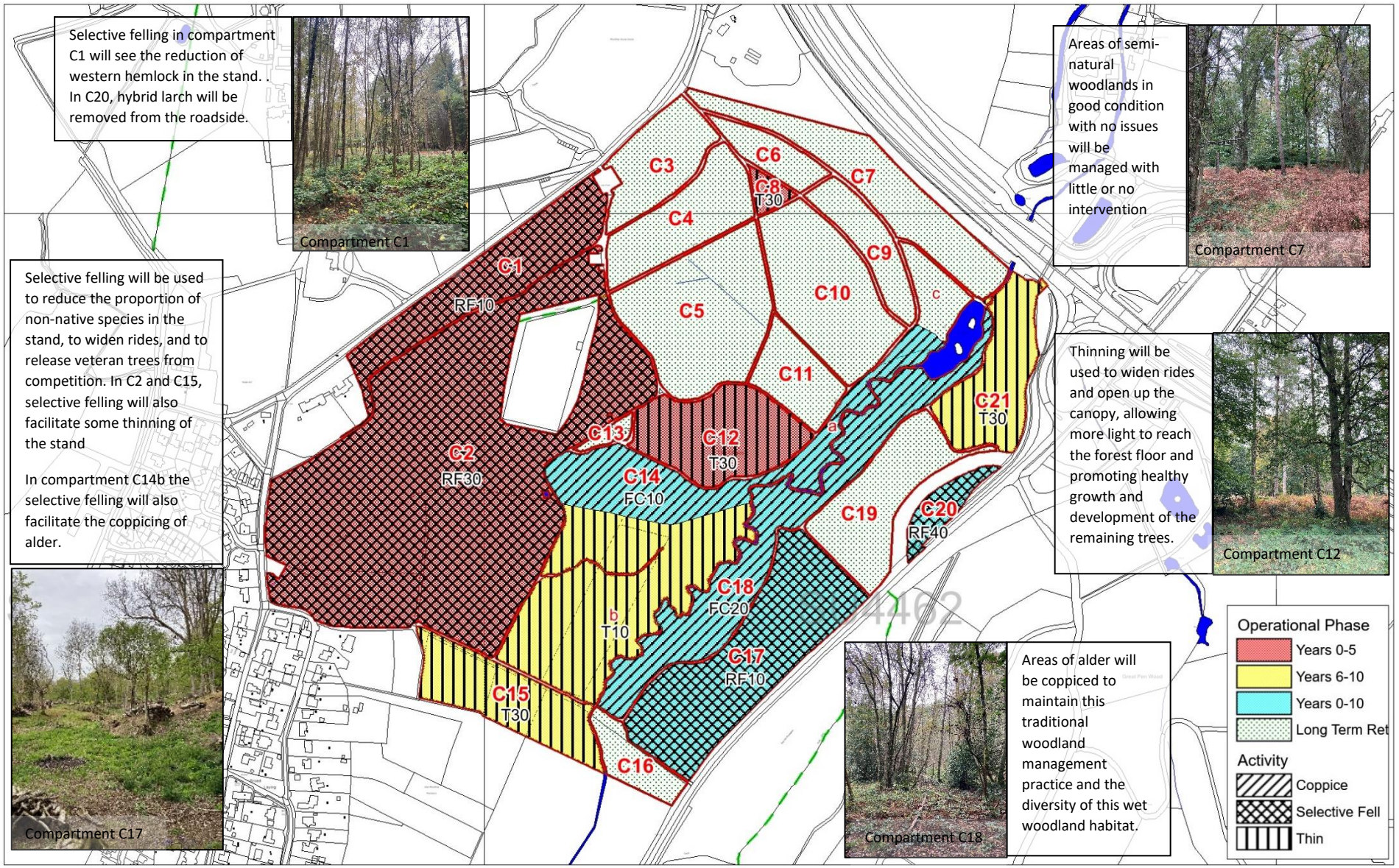
The importance of ancient and semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their value for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

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.

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

The proportion of non-native trees in areas of ancient woodland will be gradually reduced to protect remnant features of high ecological value. However, specimen trees such as the giant redwoods and the tulip trees planted by Sir Kenneth Swan will be protected.

Coppicing will be used to maintain and enhance structural diversity.



Hampshire Woodland Plan 2022-2032

The Chase Work Programme Map

Scale 1:7500 at A4

This document is a summary plan and supports a full Forestry Commission Woodland Plan which can be found at https://forestplans.co.uk/hampshire/

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