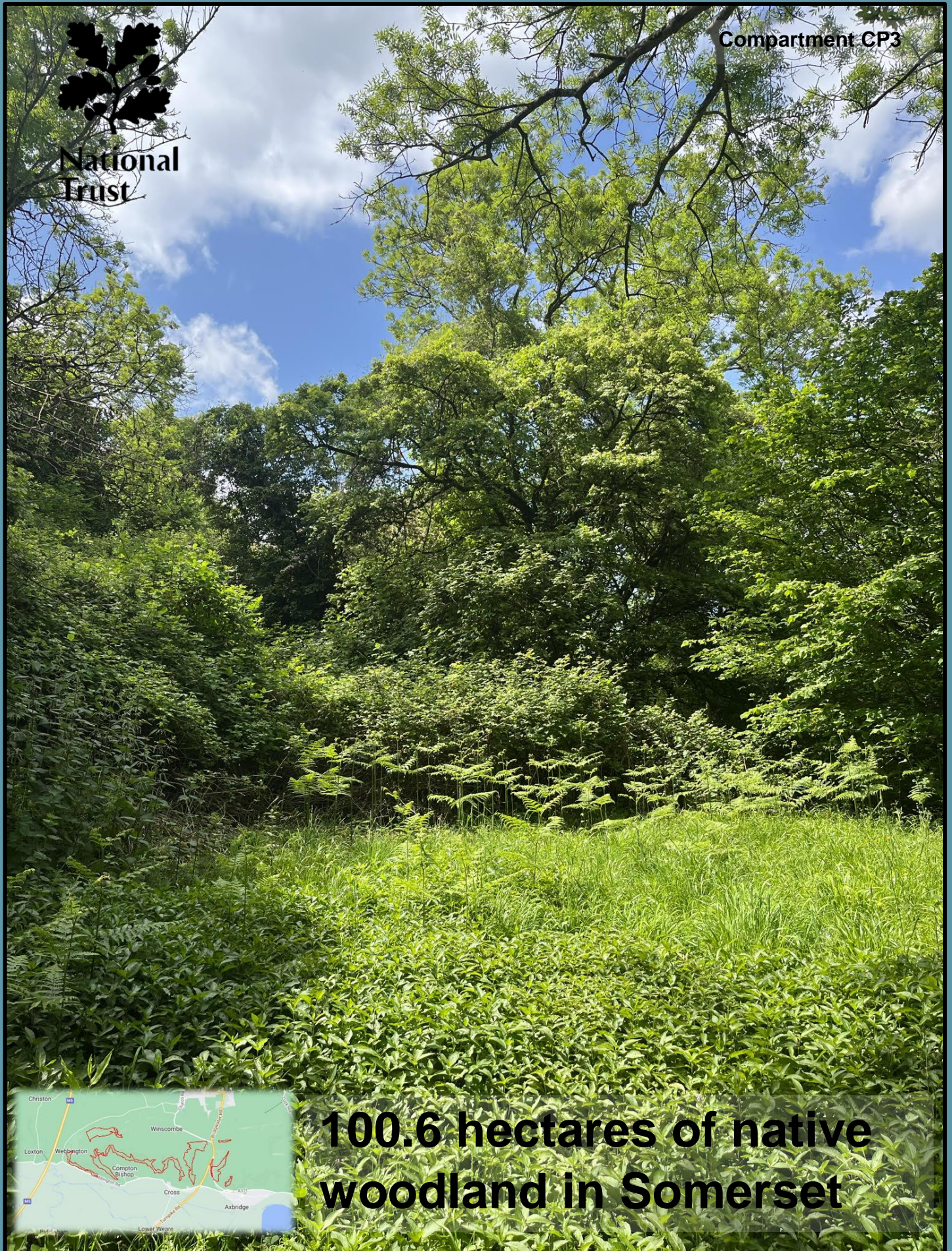


Crook Peak, Shute Shelve, and Kings Wood Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment CP3



**100.6 hectares of native
woodland in Somerset**

Habitats and Species

The Crook Peak property is an exceptionally important area in terms of its biological interests. It comprises an extensive area of the Mendip Hills, with excellent representation of characteristic Mendip downland communities, several of which have an extremely restricted distribution in a national and international context. It supports an exceedingly rich flora and fauna, including a number of rarities, some of which are Mendip specialities.

Designations

All of the woodlands sit within the Mendip Hills AONB. Scheduled monument 1015495 sits in the boundary of compartment S2. The monument includes a medieval boundary earthwork on the northern end of Shute Shelve Hill.

The Crook Peak and Kingswood woodlands sit in the Crook Peak to Shute Shelve Hill SSSI designated for the wide range of habitats including ancient and secondary semi-natural broadleaved woodland, unimproved calcareous grassland and a complex mosaic of calcareous grassland and acidic dry dwarf-shrub heath. Four of the calcareous grassland communities, two of the woodland types and the calcareous grassland/acidic dry dwarf-shrub heath mosaic all have a restricted distribution in Britain. The Shute Shelve woodlands sit in the Axbridge Hill and Fry's Hill SSSI designated for its value to plants and bats. All of these woods sit in the Mendip Limestone Grasslands SAC.

Management Approaches

Our aim is to manage our woodlands to create a mosaic of woodland, scrub, and grassland habitats across the Mendip Hills and Mid Somerset. This will involve applying active and targeted woodland management over the area to join up vital corridors between the Mendip Woodland SACs, priority ancient woodland and improve existing woodland habitats.

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

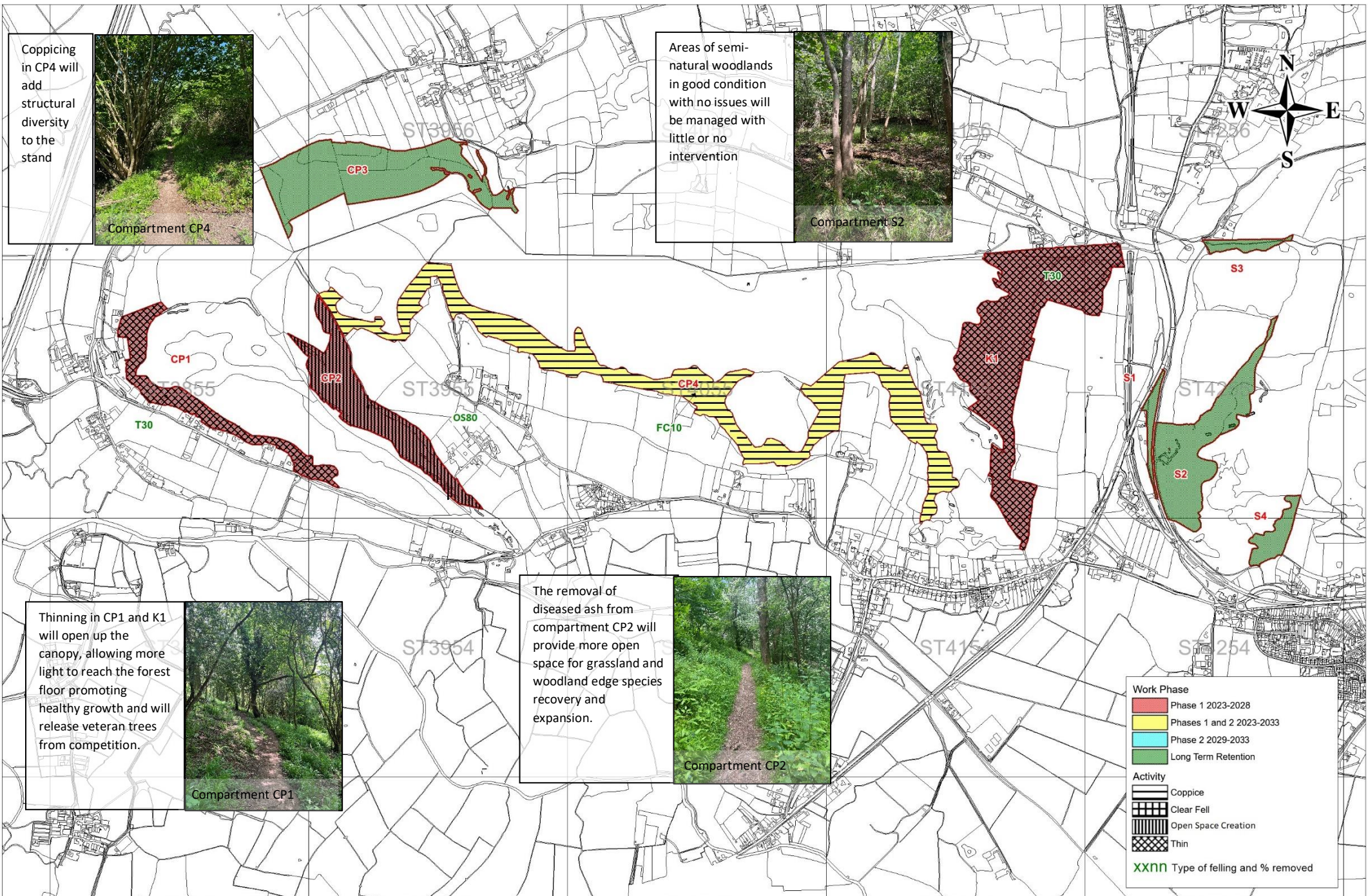
The importance of semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their importance for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and pruning.

Where thinning takes place, regeneration will be achieved through natural processes where possible. This includes allowing natural regeneration from seed or management to encourage coppice regrowth.

Coppicing will be used to maintain and enhance structural diversity.

The removal of diseased ash from compartment CP2 will provide more open space for grassland and woodland edge species to recover and expand.

This abridged plan provides a summary of a detailed plan covering the National Trust owned woodlands across Mid-Somerset. This full plan can be seen by visiting <https://forestplans.co.uk/midsomerset/>.



Coppicing in CP4 will add structural diversity to the stand



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



Thinning in CP1 and K1 will open up the canopy, allowing more light to reach the forest floor promoting healthy growth and will release veteran trees from competition.



The removal of diseased ash from compartment CP2 will provide more open space for grassland and woodland edge species recovery and expansion.

