

# Polden Hills Woodland Management Plan Summary 2023-2033



Compartment P1

National  
Trust



**14.47 hectares of native  
woodland in Somerset**

# Habitats and Species

The Polden Hills woodlands support a complex of semi-natural habitats, including unimproved calcareous grassland, scrub, and woodland communities. These form useful wildlife habitat, particularly because they are part of a larger area of semi-natural vegetation extending eastwards into the East Polden Grasslands SSSI and because semi-natural woodland is quite scarce in this part of Somerset.

Well-structured transitions between habitats are a valuable feature and the presence of transitions from younger to older woodland is also notable.

## Designations

The woodlands at P1 are designated as Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

P1 and P2 at the Polden Hills sit in the Walton and Ivythorn Hills SSSI, designated for the complex mosaic of semi-natural habitats which it supports, including unimproved calcareous grassland, dense and scattered scrub and broadleaved woodland. Additional interest lies in the occurrence of a number of invertebrate species with a local distribution in Somerset. P3 sits in the East Polden Grasslands SSSI designated for its species-rich, unimproved, calcareous grassland with scrub, no mention of the pine woodlands at P3 is made.

## 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.

Thinning in P1 will maintain open areas of adjacent grassland, there is already a thinning licence in place for this compartment.

Thinning in P3 will open up the canopy, allowing more light to reach the forest floor allowing species and age structure diversification.

**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/>.**

