

# Toy's Hill Woodland Management Plan Summary 2022-2032



Compartment T6

National  
Trust



**143.27 hectares of mixed  
broadleaved woodland in  
Kent**

# Habitats and Species

In common with other woodland areas in this part of Kent, the area suffered badly during the 1987 Great Storm, although some recovery has taken place over the succeeding 16 years. Unfortunately, a substantial proportion of the high forest habitats were destroyed and those that are left are fragmentary. Areas such as this were particularly badly affected and few trees remained upright or with any of their limbs. Areas thus affected have become colonised by dense birch scrub and rhododendron and bramble are growing vigorously.

Hazel dormouse and a number of species of bat species are found here. Bryophyte communities on the decaying wood are very interesting and include *Lepidozia reptans*, *Lophocolea heterophylla*, *Orthodontium lineare* and *Tetraxis pellucida* as well as very small quantities of the liverwort *Lophozia ventricosa* ssp. *Confertifolia*.

## Designations

All of the woodlands at Toy's Hill sit within the Kent Downs AONB.

All of the woodlands at Toy's hill sit within the Scods Wood and Brockhoul Mount SSSI, cited for the high ecological quality oak woodlands found here.

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.

Compartment T1a is classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), this is a result of the planting of Scots Pine into these woodlands. In this compartment we will seek to restore and protect the woodland's natural characteristics and features.

## 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 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.

Coppicing will be used to maintain and enhance structural diversity  
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.

# Legend

## Activity

-  Coppice - FC
-  Selective Fell - SF
-  Thin - T

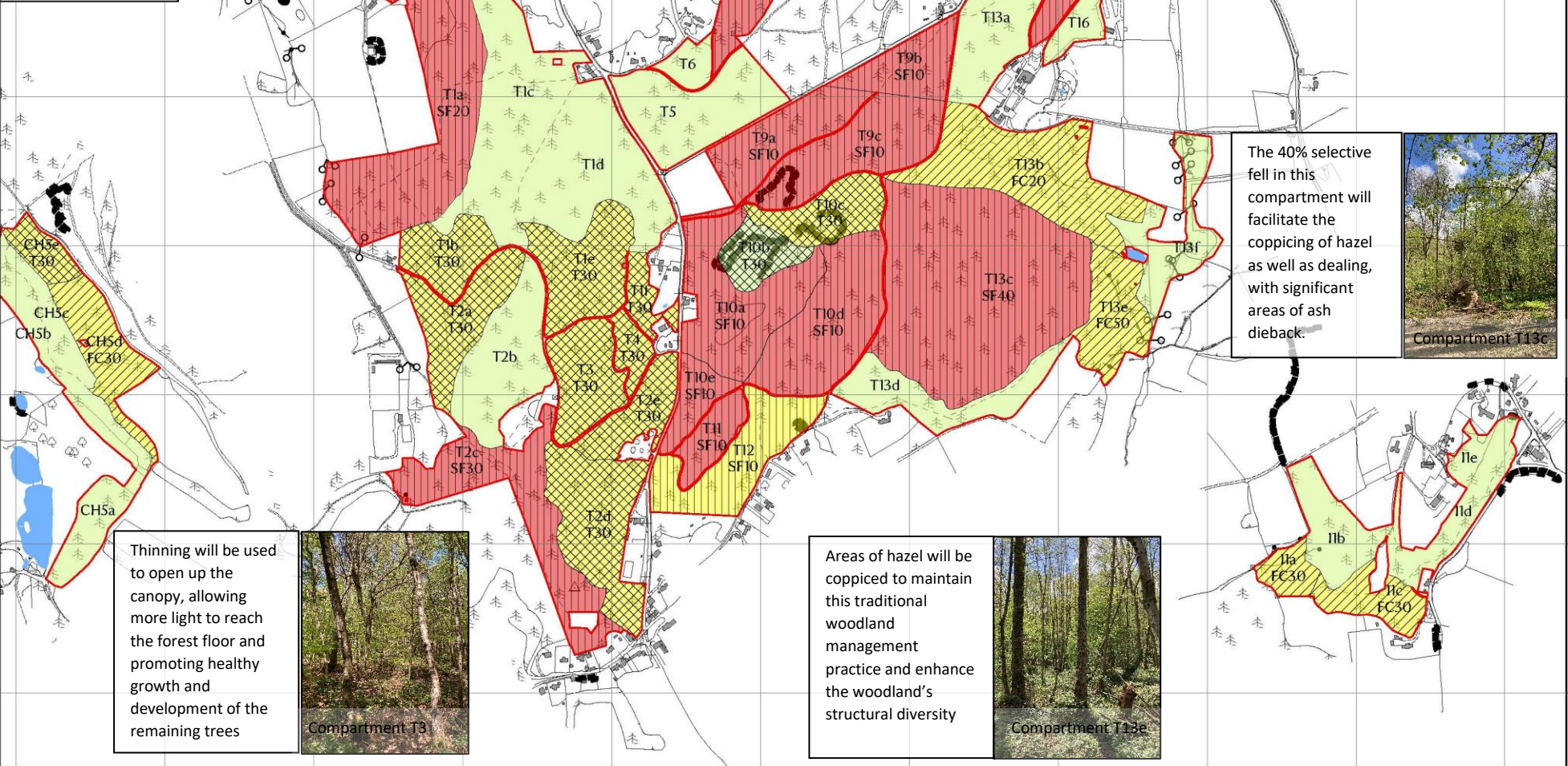
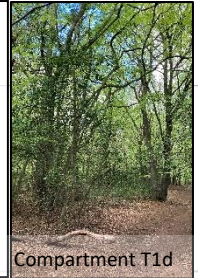
## Phase

-  1 (First 5 Years)
-  2 (Second 5 Years)
-  LTR
-  Water

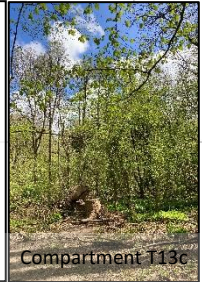
Selective felling will be used to release veteran trees from competition



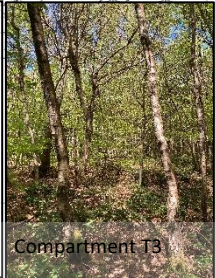
Areas of semi-natural woodlands in good condition with no issues will be managed with little or no intervention



The 40% selective fell in this compartment will facilitate the coppicing of hazel as well as dealing with significant areas of ash dieback.



Thinning will be used to open up the canopy, allowing more light to reach the forest floor and promoting healthy growth and development of the remaining trees



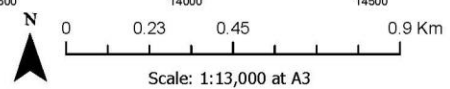
Areas of hazel will be coppiced to maintain this traditional woodland management practice and enhance the woodland's structural diversity



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# MESK Woodland Management Plan - Toys Hill - Activity and work phase



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