

Rievaulx Terrace Woodland Management Plan Summary 2022-2032



Compartment R1a

National Trust

20.84 hectares of Mixed Woodland in North Yorkshire



Habitats and Species

Rievaulx Woods are situated on Jurassic Limestone, on a steep west-facing slope of the River Rye valley. The site comprises broadleaved woodland, an area of fen vegetation in the canal which runs along the western margin of the site, and limestone grassland in the fields behind Rievaulx Abbey.

The canopy is dominated by wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The shrub layer is hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice and the ground flora, dominated by wild garlic *Allium ursinum*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, includes early purple-orchid *Orchis mascula*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, wood melick *Melica uniflora* and toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*. At the extreme southern and northern ends of the wood are areas with a more acidic flora of oak and birch *Betula pendula* over bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, great woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Wood barley *Hordelymus europaeus* has also been recorded from this site. (Natural England SSSI Citation).

Bats will be present across the plan area. Breeding birds include Amber-list stock dove and Red-list/Priority marsh tit and song thrush. Two Nationally Scarce beetles associated with dead wood and decay habitats were found during a recent survey and there is a long list of older records. Nationally Scarce barred carpet moth was also found here.

Designations

Compartments R1a and b sit in the Rievaulx Woods SSSI. The site has been designated for its botanical diversity, both in the woodland and in adjacent grasslands.

The woodlands sit in the Rievaulx Conservation area and are therefore protected by TPOs.

A number of compartments here 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 R1a and b include part of the Rievaulx Abbey Cistercian monastery SAM and the whole site sits within the Rievaulx Registered Park and Garden.

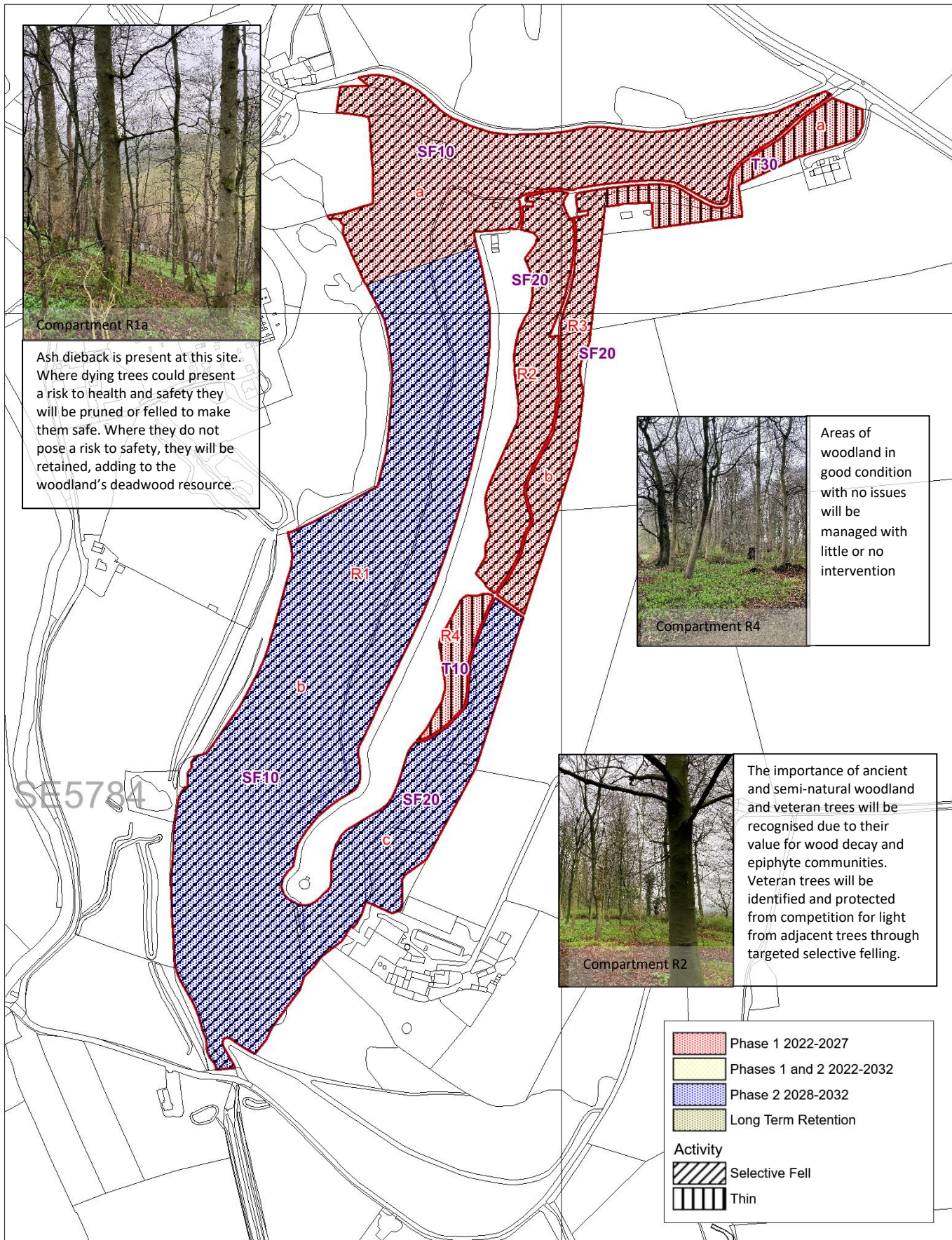
Management Approaches

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. The proportion of non-native trees will be reduced and veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

Where 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. Where safe to do so, trees will be ringbarked rather than felled to increase the woodland's standing deadwood resource.

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 further deadwood habitat.



Reivaulx Woodland Plan 2022-2042 - Activity 2022-2032

Scale 1:5000 at A4