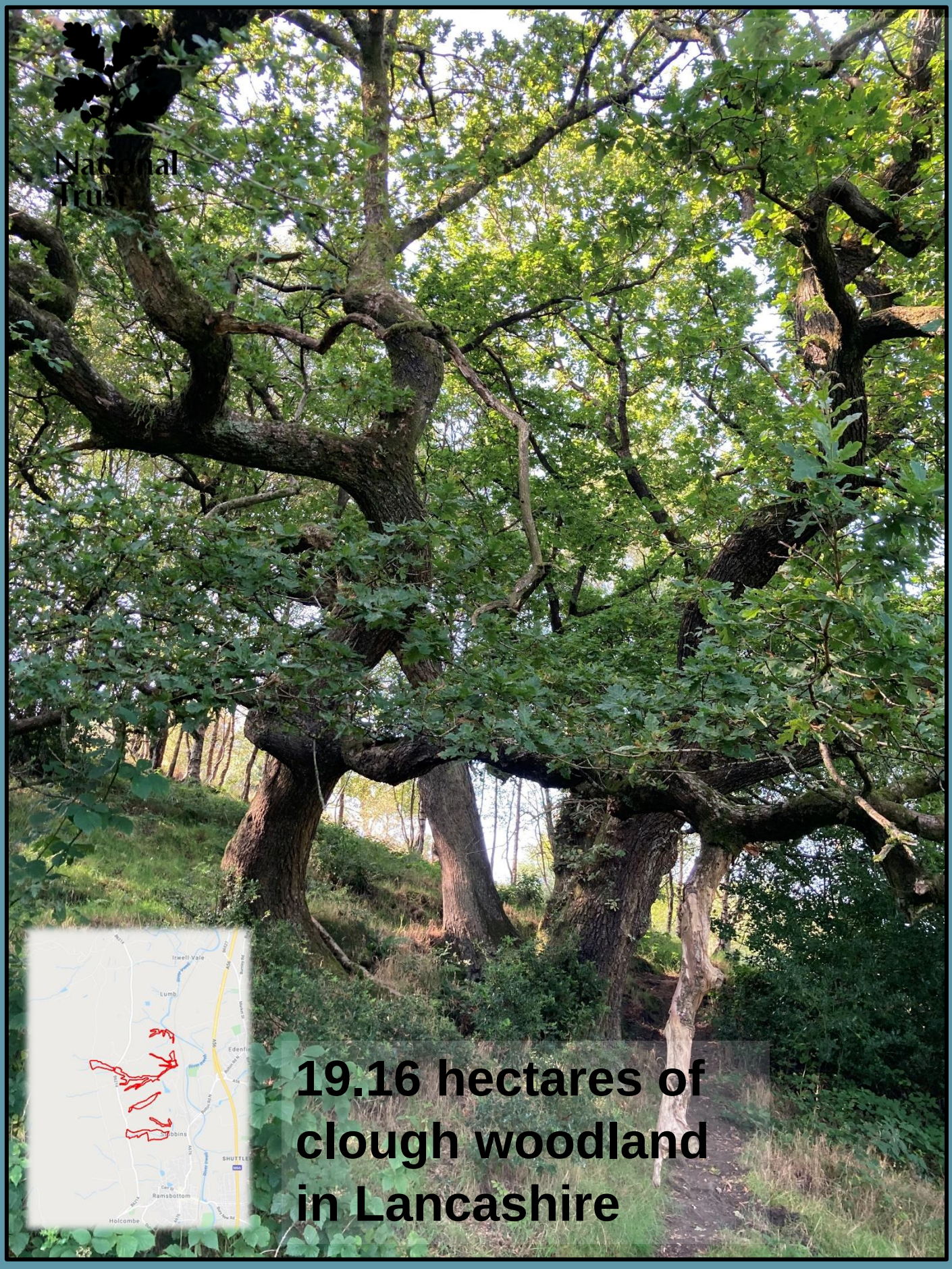
Stubbins Estate Woodland Management Plan Summary 2021-2031



19.16 hectares of clough woodland in Lancashire

Habitats and Species

The key species in these woodlands are invertebrates and fungi, associated with upland deadwood and decaying tree habitats. Veteran trees are present at the site, these are very old trees which contain significant amounts of deadwood, often with hollow stems. Although these trees can seem untidy and to be in poor health, this is part of their natural life cycle and forms a critical part of a woodland ecosystem. Given the right conditions, these old trees can spend most of their lives in this stage, thriving for centuries.

A population of a locally distributed carder-bee mimic hoverfly can be found here, this is typical of wet woodland edges in northern and western Britain. Invertebrates associated with wood decay habitats in this woodland included the locally distributed fungus beetle *Cis vestitus*, found on a fungus infected branch of a beech tree. The common and widespread silken fungus beetle *Micrambe vini* and beetle *Rhizophagus dispar* were present in a *Ganoderma* spp. bracket fungus and oyster fungus *Pleurotus* spp. respectively, (both on beech). Common and widespread species included beech jumping weevil *Orchestes fagi*.

Other invertebrates present include the locally distributed thistle-associated leaf beetle *Lema cyanella.* Hoverflies included the bee-mimic *Arctophila superbiens* (larvae develop in wet areas including springs and water-filled hoofprints) and *Leucozonia glauca* was nectaring on angelica in the eastern part of the clough

Designations

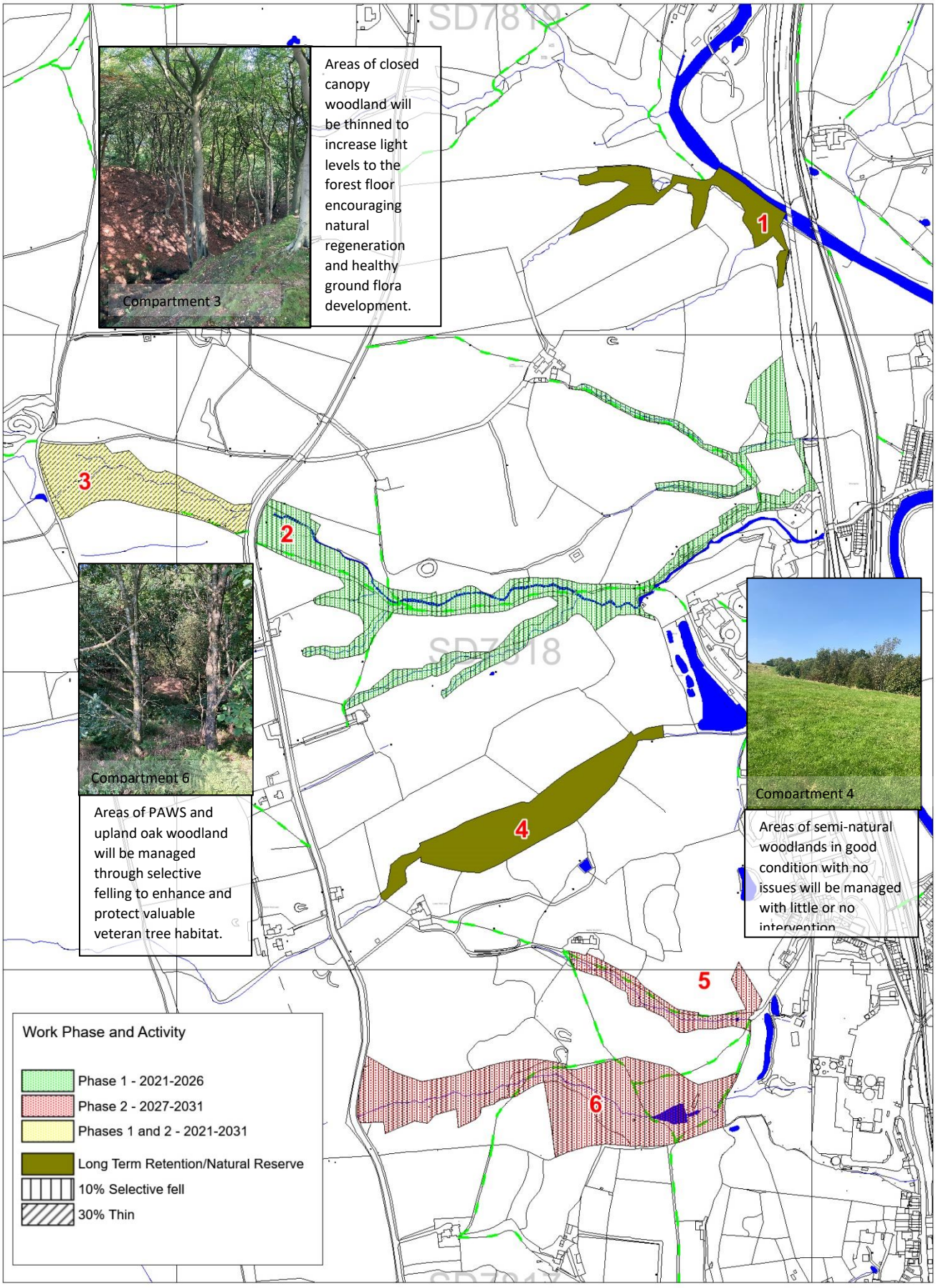
A SSSI designation sits on part of compartment 5, however this is for adjacent grassland rather than the woodland. Although the rest of site does not carry any environmental designations, it is good quality semi-natural woodland and is a significant resource for wildlife and the local community.

Management Approaches

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

Halo felling will remove small trees from around old oaks and alder, allowing them to grow old naturally providing a rare and valuable habitat.

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 to the woodland’s deadwood resource.



Stibbins Woodland Plan 2021-2041 - Map 2 - Activity and Work Phase

Scale 1:7500 at A4

Forest and Land Ltd.

National Trust

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