

Crosby Ravensworth Common
Agri-environment scrub and wood pasture proposals
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Addendum
March 2020

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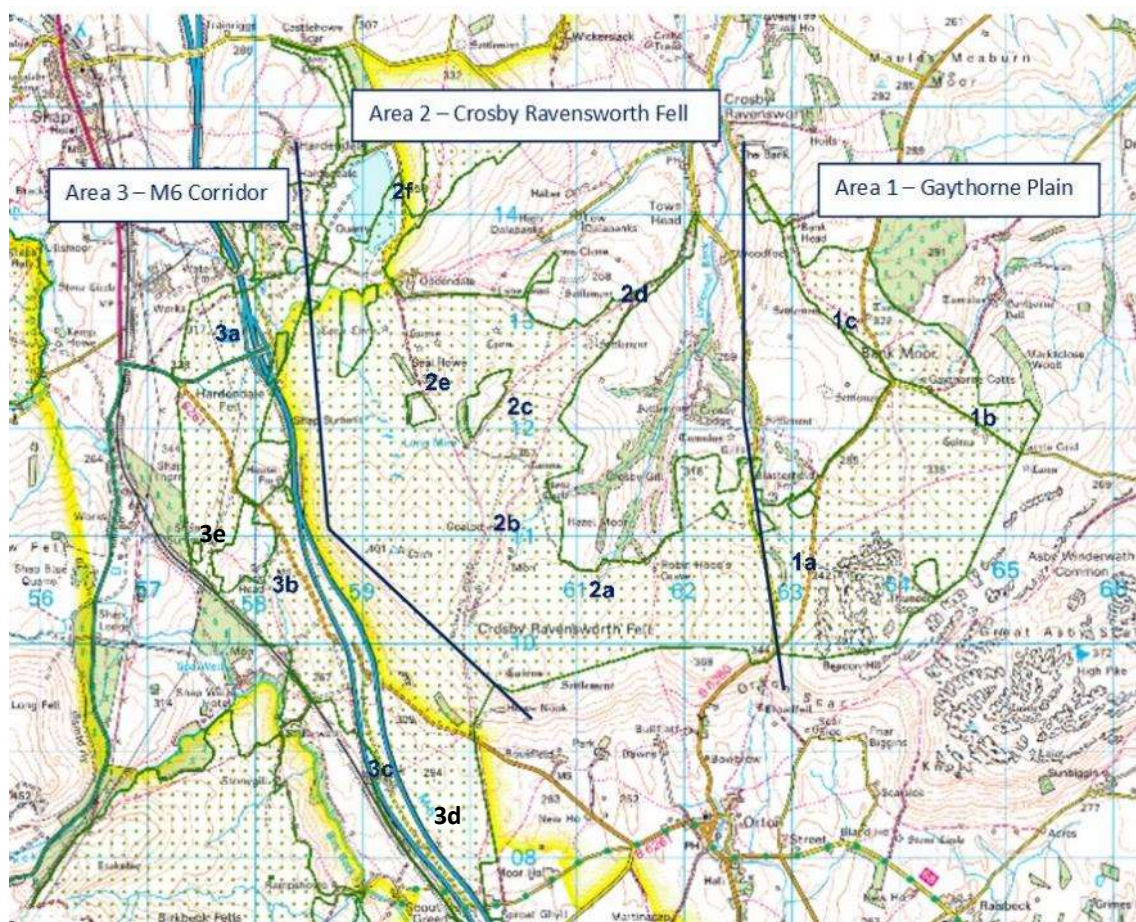
Introduction

Natural England is negotiating a new agri-environment scheme with active commoners on Crosby Ravensworth Common for commencement January 2021.

The common is 2184ha and currently has 18 commoners actively using their grazing rights. The proposed agri-environment scheme seeks to establish 258 ha of scrub planting and 168 ha of wood pasture across the common.

Consultation was carried out in March 2020 with community and other stakeholders. As a result of feedback elements of the planting scheme have been amended.

This report assesses two areas along the M6 Corridor that have been added to compensate for planting that has been removed from sites in more sensitive locations around Gaythorne Plain.



Landscape and Visual effects

Area 3: M6 Corridor

Area description

The M6 corridor lies at the western edge of the common. Three sites are considered here. Almost all of this area is outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. All of the area is outside the Lake District National Park.

Site 3d: Land north of Sproat Ghyll Farm

The site is open rough common used for grazing. The land drops gently westward towards a row of telegraph poles, dropping more steeply further west to the motorway. The site is screened from the nearby road by changes in topography. This part of the common is very isolated, with no clear paths, other than a track the farmer uses to access the common from his inbye fields to the west.

It is proposed to plant the area with wood pasture, east of the Telegraph wires, retaining wet flushes and heathland unplanted. This will be integrated with scrub planting proposed in the lower area to the west alongside the M6 motorway.

As the site is isolated and screened by topography from the nearby road, it is considered that both the landscape and visual effects will be minor and acceptable.

Site 3e: Land west of Beck Head

This is a small area of rough grazing lies at the western edge of the common and is close to several areas of 'outake' improved pasture fields. The area is well related to an area that is already proposed for scrub planting. It is also well related to the wooded valley landscape that extends west and south at the edge of the common.

It is proposed to amend the fence line of the proposed scrub planting, extending it to enclose an additional area of scrub. The planting will follow the contours of the site, with fencing being sited alongside a farm track and outake walls.

As the site is at the edge of the common and is well related to existing woodland and scrub planting, it is considered that both the landscape and visual effects will be minor and acceptable.