

# Crosby Ravensworth Common

Agri-environment scrub and wood pasture proposals

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

January 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.

Agri-environment agreements have been in place with the commoners for the last 20 years, to help them improve and enhance the range of limestone and upland habitats, which are the reason why most of the common is designated as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area for Conservation (SAC). The agri-environment agreements have particularly focused on improving the condition of grazed habitats on the common – through re-introducing cattle grazing and reducing sheep numbers to sustainable levels.

The objectives for the proposed next agri-environment are to continue and consolidate the benefits for existing habitats from this mixed grazing at sustainable stocking levels – primarily by increasing cattle numbers. In addition, woody habitat enhancement and creation is an objective, through scrub and wood pasture planting. This LVIA has been undertaken to assess these planting proposals.

The proposed agri-environment scheme seeks to establish 258 ha of scrub planting and 168 ha of wood pasture in 3 areas of the common.

The planting will take place around Gaythorne Plantation (site 1), in the central area of the common (site 2) and along the M6 corridor south of Junction 38 (site 3).

The scrub planting will be a mixture of low growing native species, including rowan, hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn. Scrub planting will be fenced for a period of up to 20 years to enable the scrub to establish well. Each plant will be protected by a short plastic plant guard to prevent damage from rabbit grazing. Each scrub area will have around 40% open ground within planting, and the density can be varied from dense to sparse – which can help avoid hard edges as well as benefit wildlife.



Example of scrub planting on land adjacent to the common on M6 motorway near Scout Green.

The wood pasture will be a mixture of native species including Oak, Gean, Birch, Rowan, Alder and Sycamore (a non-native, included as a replacement for the locally abundant Ash, due to Ash-dieback). Individual plants will be protected by 'cactus guards'. These galvanised steel guards are around 1.5m tall, and are made of open wire mesh with short spikes which prevent damage from livestock. The wire is cage is held in place by wooden stakes or rebar. Again, each plant will have a small plant guard to prevent damage from rabbit grazing. Plants will be scattered across each site, in clusters with open space between at a density of 40-60 plants/ha.



Example of wood pasture at landscape adjacent to the Common, Hardendale Nab, north of Jnc 39 on M6 motorway.



Cactus guard currently in use on land at Gaythorne Hall, in fringe landscape adjacent to the common.

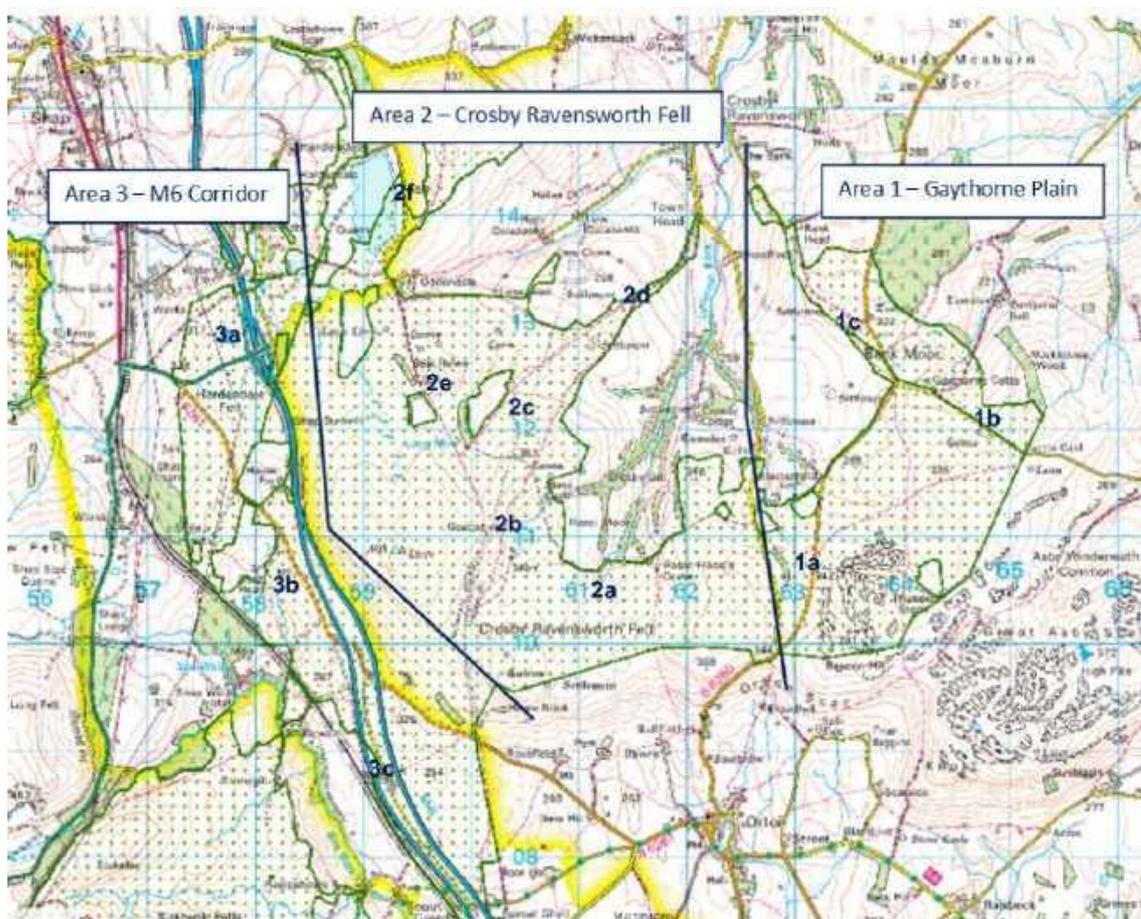
## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

### Project Description

The landscape and visual effects of three parts of the common have been assessed.

The assessment considers the effects of landscape and visual changes of the planting based on a 20 year establishment period. Consideration is given to the combined effects of the three to the landscape character, views and visual amenity of the area.

Three areas and multiple sites are identified on the map below.



### Area 1: Gaythorne Plain

#### Area description

Gaythorne plain is located on the eastern side of the common. It is characterised by undulating open common with rough grazing, limestone outcrops, occasional tree clumps and small plantation blocks. There are three sites that are proposed for planting in this area. All sites are within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. These are sites 1a – 1c on the north, east and western side of Gaythorne Plain that are considered by this assessment.

**Site 1a** is south of Blasterfied Farm, west of Orton Scar and east of an unclassified road that runs north to Gilts Bridge and intersects the site. The site is gently undulating with a Dina Gill creating a sinuous feature in the centre of the site. It is largely open rough grassland, with small areas of heather and rocky outcrops adding interest and a change in texture and colour below Orton Scar. The Scar forms is a prominent and distinctive limestone feature to the west of the site. There is large coniferous plantation block to the west of the gill.

The site reflects the general open common characteristics of the wider landscape to the south, east and west, and contrasts with the wooded farmland to the north, where copses and small areas of woodland criss cross the landscape.

**Site 1b:** this site lies at the western fringe of the common extending between Coalpit Hill and Linglow Hill. An unclassified road bounds the south of the site, intersecting it at its south eastern end. To the north of the road the land is gently undulating dipping east from Coalpit Hill and west from Linglow Hill. To the east a tall stone wall marks the parish boundary. It is a mainly open rough grassland with some areas of heather on the lower flanks of the hills. A small plantation block lies at the western side of the site.

There are scheduled ancient monuments to the south of the road and the main part of the site.

**Site 1c:** lies between Coalpit Hill to Bank Head Farm along the northern fringe of the common. This linear swathe of land forms a thin strip of rough grazing along the edge of the common, adjacent to enclosed farmland. The land is gently sloping adjacent to Coalpit Hill and the road. It drops steeply west along the edge of the common.

## Area 2: Crosby Ravensworth Fell

### Area description

Crosby Ravensworth Fell forms a large central part of the common. It is accessible by a series of bridleways and public rights of ways. It lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The open common is very gently undulating with significant areas of heathland interspersed with grassland. A substantial part of the area has been managed for grouse shooting in the past which has led to the heathland characteristics. This activity has now ended, and the land is no longer being actively managed for shooting. There are small enclosed areas to the north where scrubland is being established. Blea Beck and Black Dub form features running across the Fell, and a strong connection with adjacent farmland and Crosby Gill. The gill and its woodlands form a distinctive feature to the north east of the fell. From the centre of the fell there are open views east across a patchwork of managed heathland and across farmland from the fringes of the Fell.

Planting is proposed in several sites. As the site characteristics are very similar across these sites, they are considered all together for this area. The sites are:

**Site 2a:** Head of Crosby Gill (south of Robin Hoods Grave and Kings Well) at the head of two tributaries at the very top of Crosby Gill catchment, close to the fell wall, inbye and gill woodland.

**Site 2b:** West side of Black Dub at the centre of the common, an area of open moorland with some heather and wet flushes.

**Site 2c:** Blea Beck is an area of open common incised by the beck, adjacent to an 'island' of improved in-bye in the northern part of Crosby Ravensworth Fell.

**Site 2d:** Slack Randy, is a thin ribbon of common that runs between inbye, in a matrix of stone walls, and close to woodland planting around the Crosby Gill area.

**Site 2e:** West of Howe Nook Farm and Land around Seal Howe are two areas of coniferous plantations that will be felled and are proposed to be replaced with scrub planting.

**Site 2f:** Land adjacent to the public road north of Oddendale Farm. A thin strip of planting is proposed along the roadside.

There are scheduled ancient monuments to the north of the site.

### 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 3a: Hardendale Fell

This site comprises several areas of open common on gently undulating land to the north, south, east and west of junction 39. The areas of rough pasture are enclosed by wire fencing along the M6 motorway and railway corridors and main A roads. Some parts are incised by small becks and streams. The landscape is heavily influenced by man with the M6, pylons, railway line, hotels and quarries forming distinctive features. There is some scrub and trees planted along the edge of the motorway and nearby roads.

There are open views west towards the Lake District across wooded farmland to the open fells beyond. Views east are contained by rising land and conifer plantations. Undulating farmland (with wood pasture and scrub planting, lie to the north. The motorway and pylons form significant and distinctive features in the landscape.

#### Site 3b: Galloway Stone west of M6

Land to the north and west of Galloway stone is open, unenclosed common. The area of rough pasture is interspersed with bracken and the B6261 runs through it. A stone wall bounds the western edge of the common and adjacent wooded farmland. The M6/railway are prominent features that reinforce the linear topography. The land drops gently west with open views across farmland and to the distant Lakeland fells.

#### Site 3c: Centre of M6 motorway

This site lies mainly in the centre of the motorway, with a small swathe running to the east of the southbound carriageway. In the centre the land is enclosed rough grazing intersected by unclassified roads following the north south grain of the land. The motorway forms a strong boundary feature and the common is enclosed by wire fencing here. To the east the common is unenclosed rough grazing rising up the lower parts of Coalpit Hill. There are several areas of scrub planting around the edges of the

motorway. The area retains an open feel. The landscape is heavily influenced by man with the M6, railway line, hotels and quarries forming distinctive features.

The land to the east rises gently close to the motorway, then rises more steeply, with a small scarp feature to the west of Coal Pit Hill. This is dotted with old quarry workings and features.

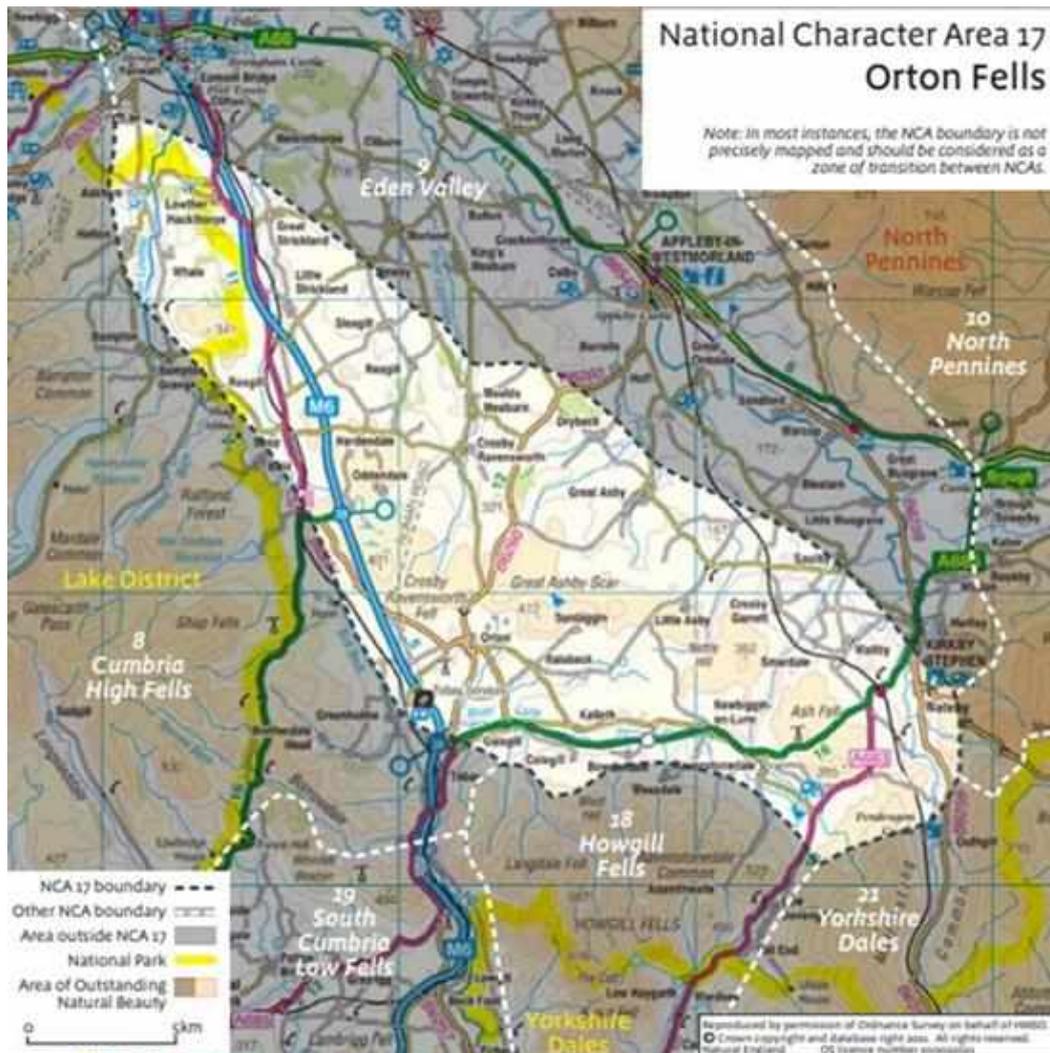
The land drops to the west, with open views across wooded farmland towards the Lakeland fells.

# Landscape Effects

## Landscape Baseline

### National Character Assessment

Natural England has produced profiles for England’s 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. Crosby Ravensworth Common and surrounds lie within NCA 17: Orton Fells.



The NCA comprises a limestone plateau with a complex mix of limestone pavements, upland heath, and calcareous and acid grassland. The fells are open, exposed and sweeping, with long-distance panoramic views out to the skylines of the adjacent uplands – the Cumbria High Fells, the Howgills, the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. The NCA lies within the Lake District National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The predominant land use is livestock rearing, with some dairy farms, so that along with the rough grazing there are extensive managed grasslands in pastures and meadows defined by drystone walls on lower-lying land. On the higher land there are

occasional ash trees, as well as copses sheltering the dispersed farmsteads. Otherwise woodland cover is low, with upland ash woodlands largely restricted to the steep sides of lower valleys, and small shelterbelts including conifers, especially in the north. There are few settlements, making it a very quiet rural area, with the exception of one main north–south transport corridor of M6 motorway, roads and rail in the west.

Key characteristics (selected):

- Wide, open and sweeping upland landscape with extensive limestone pavements, outcrops, heather moorland and limestone grasslands.
- A quiet rural area, with a strong sense of remoteness and long views out to the dramatic landforms of the surrounding upland landscapes.
- A pastoral landscape, with sheep and cattle grazing on the open moors, species-rich hay meadows and pastures and improved grasslands on lower-lying land within valleys and on the fringes.
- Fields bounded by drystone walls of local limestone which, along with field barns, form very strong patterns and reflect historical settlement and farming.
- Largely treeless on the higher land, with isolated windswept ash and rowan, with broadleaved woodlands in narrow gills and copses sheltering the isolated farmsteads and villages.
- Small mixed and coniferous woodlands and shelterbelts on lower land, especially to the north-west.
- Small historic villages, built with local limestone, often centred on long greens, with strong patterns of long tofts defined by walls, and isolated farmsteads.
- Several small rivers with high-quality water rising in the upland and flowing either to the north or south, many of which support internationally significant plant and animal communities.
- Long straight drove roads with wide verges, often very rich in flowering species.

Cultural connections include views drawn from Orton Scar of Orton and the Lune Valley by J.M.W. Turner, and writings on the Coast to Coast Walk by A. Wainwright.

### **Woodland features**

Woodland cover is sparse and generally found as copses of ash, with some sycamore, which shelter the isolated farmsteads, or clumps within the villages. Individual ash trees are found on the limestone pavements and along field boundaries. There are a few obtrusive conifer plantations on the higher land. Typical of the area are small upland ash woodlands, often found on the steep side slopes of the narrow valleys along the north side of the area, and often of ancient origin, as in Smardale and Crosby Gill. The lower-lying undulating land in the north-west forms a transition between the upland limestone and the improved pastures of the Eden Valley, with fields of more intensively managed grasslands, and drystone walls giving way to hedges and fences. Here there are several small coniferous and mixed woodlands, established for timber, shelter and shooting interests.

## Recent changes and trends

Great Ashby Scar is a National Nature Reserve (NNR), where grazing is being excluded or reduced to encourage growth of scrub above the grykes. Smardale NNR is a narrow wooded gill, with ash and wych elm woodlands alongside limestone grasslands.

In the period 1999 – 2003 Countryside Quality Counts indicated an increased uptake of woodland grants for restocking and management of established woodland. New woodlands of native broadleaved species have been established at Gaythorne, and community woodland at Hackthorpe and Orton.

## Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit

Crosby Ravensworth Common lies in Cumbria. Since 2016 the majority of the common lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Part of the M6 Corridor lies outside the national park. The common is not included in the Yorkshire Dales Landscape Character Assessment (2002). This is under review in 2019/20. The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit is the relevant landscape character assessment for the area.

The Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit<sup>1</sup> describes 13 Landscape Character Types and 34 Landscape Character Sub Types. For each sub type it sets out changes to the landscape and a vision and guidelines are provided to help manage landscape change in the future. It provides an evidence base against which proposals for change can be judged in an objective and transparent manner.

The table below shows the landscape character types within and immediately adjacent to the common.

Landscape character type	Sub type
11: Upland Fringes	11a: Foothills
<b>12: Higher Limestone</b>	<b>12a: Limestone Farmland</b> <b>12d: Moorland and Commons</b>

## Landscape character overview

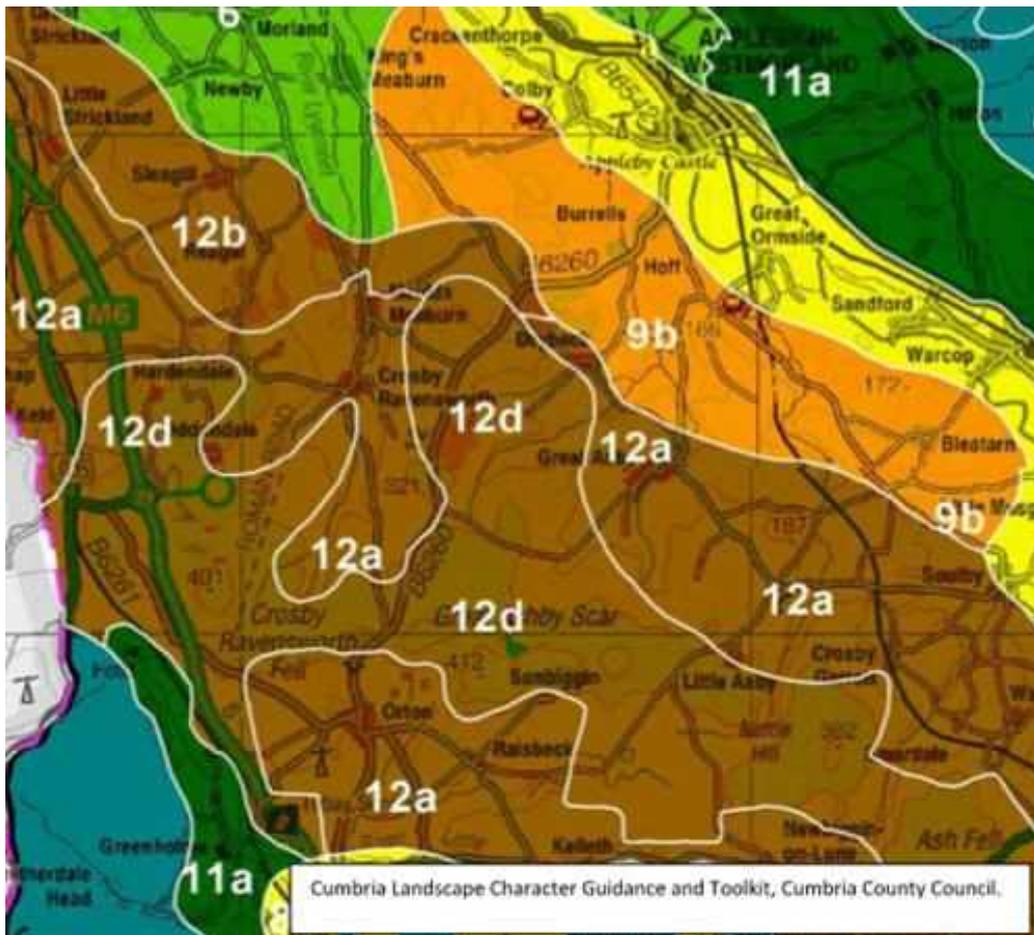
The common lies wholly within Type 12: Higher Limestone, and sub types 12a: Limestone Farmland and 12d: Moorland and Commons. The landscape characteristics, sensitivity and guidelines for managing change are summarised below.

## Type 12: Higher Limestone

This open and sometimes exposed, varied scale landscape is diverse in character, historic features, textures and has distinctive limestone characteristics. Improved pasture and heather moorland are abundant. Other land cover includes ancient woodland and parkland. On the higher ground limestone pavement, scars and grasslands are present; these have high ecological and conservation value. Carboniferous Limestone forms the dominant geology in this area with a small intrusion of Shap Granite near Shap

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<sup>1</sup> Cumbria County Council, 2011



### Sub type 12a: Limestone Farmland – site 1c

#### Key characteristics

- Rolling upland farmed landscape
- Distinctive limestone characteristics in the form of strong field patterns with high stone walls
- Land cover is dominated by improved or semi improved pasture
- Small broad leaved, coniferous or mixed plantations provide variety and interest
- Historic features are often obvious and evoke a strong sensory response

This is a rolling upland farmed landscape found between 250-300m AOD. The area is intersected by small streams and rivers and has distinctive limestone characteristics. The area forms a transitional area with the higher Lakeland and Howgill Fells.

Land cover is dominated by improved or semi-improved pasture. Tree clumps and small broadleaved, coniferous or mixed plantations often near farmhouses are typical features. Stands of upland ash woodland are present along gills and river valleys. In the western parts the M6 motorway, rail line, pylons and large quarries contrast with the pastoral characteristics and introduce discordant man-made features in the landscape.

Sensitive features include the limestone walls, lime kilns and traditional buildings, hay meadows, roadside verges, and the matrix of limestone walls that reinforce the

landscape grain. Small traditional villages, archaeological remains and historic farm buildings and features are all sensitive to changes and discrete rural roads are sensitive to highway improvements. Long open views to the Fells, Pennines and Howgills are sensitive to large scale and prominent development that could significantly interrupt views.

Guidelines for managing landscape change include:

- reinforcing existing woods by appropriate management, natural regeneration, restocking and exclusion of stock.
- Establish new small to medium scale native broadleaved, mixed plantations woods on improved farmland and along beck sides.
- Avoid new planting on species rich grassland, wetland and higher open landscapes or where it might obscure distinctive field patterns.

### Sub type 12 d: Moorland and Commons – Site 1a, 1b, 2 and 3.

Key characteristics

- Broad, open grazing common with heather moorland
- Limestone pavement, scars and screes
- Western intrusion of granite
- Some large coniferous plantations
- Wide views of the Lake District and Howgill Fells

This moorland landscape has been shaped by glacial erosion and weathering has exposed limestone pavements, scars and screes. Limestone pavements and scars are dominant in many areas particularly on Orton and Ashby Scars. Open common grassland or remnant heather moorland dominate with some coniferous woodland and occasional tree clumps. Although streams and rivers are limited, sink holes and springs can be found throughout.

The edges of the open commons and lower fields are bounded by strong limestone walls. These, along with the exposed rocks, pavements and scars form distinctive features in the area. The walls and outcrops often form rectilinear and linear patterns across the landscape.

The stone walls which form the boundary of the commons are of historic interest. The area is an important limestone habitat and several of the scars, pavements and grasslands have international and national nature conservation designations.

There is little settlement and much unenclosed common land. The extreme western and eastern parts of the area are affected by industrial and urban influences, including the M6 motorway and highway depot, A685, and mineral extraction and processing. Despite this most of the rest of the landscape retains an open and undeveloped character.

The landscape is largely open and exposed with expansive panoramic views to the Lakeland and Howgill Fells and the North Pennines. There is tangible sense of remoteness because of the lack of settlements and development and the sense of remoteness is intact despite the busier developed edge around Shap.

Forces for change include increased pressure from residential and tourist related development, affecting the character and quality of the landscape.

Sensitive features include extensive areas of unenclosed commons bounded by limestone walls, the linear grain of walls and rock exposures and prehistoric remains and distinctive historic land use patterns. Open uncluttered skylines and rough untamed commons provide a sense of remoteness and wildness and are sensitive to large scale energy and infrastructure development.

Guidelines for managing landscape change include:

- Avoid planting of coniferous blocks on the open moorland and consider restoration of moorland on clearance and felling of existing blocks.
- Help retain the open and unspoiled qualities of this landscape by reducing existing blocks of coniferous plantations and discouraging additional plantation blocks.
- Reinforce existing tree clumps on the fringes of the commons in field corners and next to farmsteads and tarns by appropriate management, natural regeneration, restocking with indigenous species and exclusion of stock.
- Support steps to move SSSIs into favourable condition, including the use of temporary fencing in open areas, as this will enhance the landscape character and ecological interest in the long term.

### Landscape condition

The landscape condition is not identified in the Cumbria Landscape Character Toolkit and Guidelines. In general the condition is considered to be moderate to good.

### Landscape value

The landscape value is high for all sites that lie within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, as this is a nationally protected landscape with internationally important areas limestone, grassland and heather moorland. The Park was designated as a landscape of national significance due to a variety of factors: high exposed moorland plateaux incised by long, deep dales carved by ice and water, upon which successive generations of hunters, herdsman, farmers, monks and miners have left their mark, creating distinct local variations in landscape character.

### Landscape use

The landscape is used for farming and for its scenic beauty, as a backdrop to historic villages and buildings, and as a resource for recreational activities, including walking, cycling and horse and mountain bike riding. The M6 area is predominantly used for farming and as a transport corridor.

## Landscape Assessment

This section sets out the landscape effects on the landscape receptors, including direct, indirect, secondary, temporary and permanent effects.

In reaching conclusions consideration is given to the positive, negative or neutral effects of the proposal. A judgement is made based on the sensitivity of the landscape to change and the extent and duration of the change.

### Landscape character

#### Area 1: Gaythorne Plain

This area and sites lie within landscape character type 12a: Limestone Farmland and 12d: Moorland and Common.

The key characteristics of both landscape sub types are set out in full earlier in the report. Those of most relevance to the sites are described below. All 3 sites on Gaythorne Plain contain characteristic landscape features and elements.

#### Site 1a: Dina Gill and surrounds

This comprises open undulating moorland, with a mixture of rough grazing, small areas of heather and rocky outcrops that add interest. Dina Gill runs through the main part of the site, with a fenced area (3.67ha) containing around 250 young trees which are slowly establishing as low density tree clusters. Orton Scar forms a prominent and distinctive limestone feature to the east of the site. A large coniferous plantation block forms an obtrusive feature to the west of the site. The site is intersected by a small road. There is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM) at Howe Robin (just west of the Orton Scar cattle grid).

The site is well contained in the landscape, especially in views from the north, by the rising land to the east and west and the prominent feature of Orton Scar.

There are open views north and north east across the common, with long views north west over undulating wooded farmland towards the North Pennines.

Wood pasture is proposed around Dina Gill. Scrub planting is proposed around Howe Robin. The proposal has been designed to ensure the fencing avoids the SAM.

The area has two areas of existing tree planting. An area of young openly spaced broadleaved trees clustered along the lower reaches of Dina Gill, and an established dense coniferous plantation with a hard, rectilinear shape to the west of Dina Gill and the site. The conifer plantation west of Dina Gill will be felled as part of this proposal and replaced with scrub.

#### Mitigation

The proposal seeks to plant to the base of the scarp slope of Orton Scar. Planting this close to the scarp slope transition line will undermine the visual prominence of the Scar.

*The design should be amended to reduce the planting along the base of the scarp slope, retaining an area of open space along its length.*

### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character but will generally respect the characteristic landscape features including the open, unenclosed rough pasture, heather and limestone features (when amended in line with the suggested mitigation measures above).

The tree guards and cages will introduce a temporary agricultural feature for a period of up to 20 years. This infrastructure is necessary to protect the trees from browsing, are agricultural in character and have an open lattice design that will not be dominant in the local landscape.

The proposal seeks to retain the open common characteristic through very low-density planting of low growing tree species with areas of space between each tree or small clusters. It will be contained by the local topography, will follow the gill feature, reinforcing and connecting with existing tree planting in Dina Gill that is well related to nearby woodland. The proposal, in line with landscape character guidelines, will bring about a significant enhancement to the landscape character by felling the conifer plantation and replacing it with scrub. This will remove an incongruous feature from the landscape and replace it with more appropriate low growing scrub. This will relate well to planting in Dina Gill and the wider farmed landscape to the north.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms. The removal of the conifer block and replacement with scrub will bring about a significant enhancement to the landscape character.***

### **Site 1b: Linglow Hill**

This site lies at the western fringe of the common and extends between Coalpit Hill to Linglow Hill. A small unclassified road bounds most of the southern edge of the site, except at its south eastern end, where the site crossed the road onto Gaythorne Plain. To the north of the road the land is gently undulating dipping east from Coalpit Hill and west from Linglow Hill. It is a mixture of open rough grassland with some areas of heather on the lower flanks of the hills. The part of the site that is south of the road is an area of flatter open common with rough grazing. The stone parish boundary wall is a key feature running along the eastern boundary of this part of the site.

There are scheduled ancient monuments to the south of the road and the main part of the site. These will not be affected by the proposal, with a 10m unplanted buffer being left around them.

Views are relatively short west across the common due to changes in topography. To the east there are wider views across adjacent farmland. A public bridleway runs along a stone wall and along the southern extent of the site.

Wood pasture is proposed.

The proposal of low-density wood pasture will be contained in the part of the site north of the unclassified road by the small hills. Planting will be well related to farm buildings and cottages, will connect with woodland outside the common, including gill planting around Westgill Wood.

The proposal on the north side of the road generally aligns with landscape guidance for the area, which supports the reinforcement of existing tree clumps on the fringes of the common, in field corners and around farmsteads through new planting. However, the proposal seeks to plant to the top of Linglow Hill. This should be reconsidered to maintain an open topped hill and prevent sky lining with trees. To the south of the road the planting is less well related to existing trees and woodland and is not contained by topography. Planting in this area should be reconsidered.

### **Mitigation**

1b (i) The proposal seeks to plant wood pasture to the top of Linglow Hill. This will erode the distinctive landform of the hill and will be visually prominent.

*The design should be amended by limiting low density planting to the lower slopes of the hill, below the 345m contour line.*

1b (ii) The land to the south of the unclassified road (west of Hollin Stump and the stone wall) has a different, more open character to the site to the north. It will introduce planting on a more open part of the common where the stone wall is the only containing feature and where there is no existing connection with trees. A small amount of planting could connect with the planting below Linglow Hill and prevent the road from becoming an arbitrary boundary.

*The design of the scheme should be amended to significantly reduce the scale of any planting on the south side of the road.*

1b (iii) There is scope for extending the planting northwest behind Gaythorne Cottages towards Coalpit Hill. Here the topography can help contain the planting and the planting will relate well with the wooded farmland to the north. It will relate well with the cottages and farm buildings and create a significant landscape enhancement by planting around the conifer plantation, as it will help to soften the hard rectilinear edges of the conifer block and better integrate it with the open moorland characteristics.

*The design of the scheme could include additional planting behind Gaythorne Cottages towards Coalpit Hill.*

### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character, but the suggested mitigation will respect characteristic landscape features retaining open views across the common, and siting wood pasture close to the fringe of the common, farm buildings and woodland in adjacent farmland. It will add interest to the landscape character, and will provide better landscape connectivity, reflecting and connecting with the existing network of native woodland on neighbouring farmland. It will increase ecological connectivity too.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms.***

### **Site 1c: South of Bank Head Farm**

This site lies along the fringes of the common between Coalpit Hill and Bank Head farm. The thin swathe of common is characterised by open rough grazing and is immediately adjacent to enclosed farmland. Part of the site is open and flat, and part lies on a slope that drops west away from the road towards the adjacent farmland. The change in landform contains most of the site.

A byway open to all traffic intersects the site and connects with a lane at Bank Head farm.

Wood pasture is proposed.

The low-density planting will largely be contained by the topography and will relate well with existing tree clusters characteristic of the farmed landscape to the west. The planting has been designed to keep open space alongside the road and byway to retain a sense of openness for users travelling through the landscape.

### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character, but will respect characteristic landscape features, including the open rough grazing character of the wider common. The planting will be sited close to the fringe of the common and will connect with woodland and tree features in the adjacent farmland. It will add interest to the landscape character, and will provide better landscape and ecological connectivity, reflecting and connecting with the existing network of native woodland on neighbouring farmland.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms.***

### **Area 2: Crosby Ravensworth Fell**

This area and sites lie within landscape character type 12d: Moorland and Common. The key characteristics of this sub type is set out in full earlier in the report. Those of most relevance to the sites are described below.

Crosby Ravensworth Fell forms a large central part of the common. It is accessible by a series of bridleways and public rights of ways.

The common is open and very gently undulating. There are significant areas of heathland, with large areas to the north east and east forming a patchwork of textures from past heather management. The heather is interspersed with rough grassland and limestone outcrops. A small watercourse flowing into Blea Beck forms a feature running from the centre of the site north east to the adjacent farmland. The land rises to the north and small enclosed areas where scrubland is being established. Crosby Gill and its woodlands form a distinctive feature to the north east. There are scheduled ancient monuments to the north of the site. To the east there are long, open views across the managed heathland to the North Pennines.

Wood pasture proposed.

As stated earlier on in the report, several sites are proposed for planting. These sites are not considered separately as the landscape characteristics and effects of the planting are considered to be similar.

**Site 2a:** Head of Crosby Gill (south of Robin Hoods Grave and Kings Well. Two areas of planting are proposed, sited close to the head of stream tributaries at the very top of the gill catchment and fringes of the Fell.

**Site 2b:** West side of Black Dub. Planting will be sited on the west side of the beck. Land to the east of the beck will remain open as there are interesting flushes that are part of a notified SSSI/SAC features.

**Site 2c:** Blea Beck. Scrub and wood pasture planting are proposed west of the Roman road, next to an enclosure of improved in-bye, with additional wood pasture proposed east of the Roman road on north side of the beck.

**Site 2d:** Slack Randy, north east of common. An area of scrub is proposed along a ribbon of common that is bordered by inbye. A byway and bridleway runs through the middle of this area.

**Site 2e:** West of Howe Nook Farm and Land around Seal Howe. Two areas of coniferous plantations will be felled and replaced with scrub planting. This will significantly enhance the landscape character, removing incongruous, hard blocks of conifers and re-integrating the sites back into the wider landscape.

**Site 2f:** Land adjacent to the public road north of Oddendale Farm. A thin strip of planting is proposed along the roadside.

### **Mitigation**

**Site 2f** - The thin strip of planting north of Oddendale Farm would introduce an incongruous linear feature in the landscape and should be removed from the scheme.

*The design should be amended to remove the strip of planting north of Oddendale Farm.*

### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the sites will result in a localised change in character but will generally respect and retain the characteristic landscape features including the open heather moorland and limestone features.

The low-density wood pasture planting will maintain a sense of openness and will add texture to a textured landscape. The tree guards and cages will introduce temporary agricultural features for a period of up to 20 years. This infrastructure is necessary to protect the trees from browsing, are agricultural in character and have an open lattice design that will not be dominant or prominent in the local landscape. Scrub planting will be low lying and clustered to maintain a sense of openness. Fencing associated with scrub planting will be minimal, avoid historic features and follow the grain of the landscape as much as possible.

In the northern and central parts of the Fell the planting will be contained by the local topography, nestled in the lower lying part of the common adjacent to the Black Dub

and Blea Beck. In other locations the planting will be well related to the fringe of the common and closely related to adjacent inbye land, woodland and gill planting.

Although the proposal will introduce new features of trees and scrub alongside the heather moorland, they will be low lying, small in scale with the rest of the common, and will complement the wider landscape character and connect ecologically and visually with recently established scrub planting south of White Crag, the nearby woodland (SSSI) on the in-bye land adjacent to the common, and wider gill planting at Crosby Gill and the farmland beyond. At Slack Randy the ribbon of common connects strongly to the valley and its woodland features to the east. Planting will be sited to ensure amenity and long distance views are not obscured for users of the rights of way network.

Importantly the proposal, in line with landscape character guidelines, will bring about a significant enhancement to the landscape character by felling two conifer plantations, West of Howe Nook Farm and around Seal Howe, and replacing it with scrub. This will remove incongruous hard blocks of conifers from the landscape, replacing them with more appropriate low growing scrub, and re-integrating the sites back into the wider landscape.

Across the fell the proposals will introduce interest to the landscape character, especially in relation to replacing and softening and integrating hard conifer blocks into the wider landscape. The proposals reflect and connect with the existing network of native woodland, especially in the gills that flow out of the common. The use of wood pasture and scrub at the tops of the gills will provide low density tree cover that naturally and organically connects with the more densely planted gills, and then eventually to the much denser valley woodland beyond. The proposals will provide better landscape and ecological connectivity.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible and acceptable in landscape terms. The removal of two conifer plantations and replacement with scrub will bring about a significant enhancement to the landscape character.***

### Area 3: M6 Corridor

This area and sites lie within landscape character type 12d: Moorland and Common. The key characteristics of the landscape sub type is set out in full earlier in the report. Those of most relevance to the sites are described below. The common runs adjacent to the M6 motorway and all the sites are located close to the M6/railway corridor.

#### **Site 3a: Hardendale Fell**

There are several locations around Hardendale Fell and Junction 39 that are proposed to be planted with scrub planting. The landscape is heavily influenced by man with the M6, railway line, hotels and quarries forming distinctive features. The sites have similar characteristics, including open rough grazing interspersed with pockets of heather. Scrub and trees are commonly found along the edges of the motorway and roads. The sites are open, and drop away from the motorway, often undulating and follow the linear topography and M6/railway features. Fencing is a feature in this part of the common alongside the transport corridors.

There are open views west across wooded farmland to the Lakeland fells beyond. Views east are contained by rising land and conifer plantations. Undulating farmland, with wood pasture and scrub planting, lie to the north. The motorway and pylons form significant and distinctive features in the landscape.

This area is outside both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Park boundaries.

Scrub planting proposed.

#### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character that will respect and retain the characteristic landscape features including the open, unenclosed rough pasture and heather features. It will reinforce existing scrub planting found along the edges of the motorway and roads, and in adjacent farmland to the west. It will follow the grain of the local topography and add interest to a dynamic landscape.

The fencing will not detract from the open characteristics and will relate well with existing fencing along the transport corridors.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms.***

#### **Suggested additions to the scheme**

3a (i) - There is an area of land south of the access road to Hardendale Quarry where wood pasture could be included in the scheme. This low-lying area of rough grazing is open in character, and intersected by a small beck. Planting could follow the grain of the beck and help to soften the hard edges of the plantation to the south.

*The design of the scheme should be amended to include an additional area of wood pasture planting around the small beck adjacent to Hardendale Quarry access road.*

3a –(ii) The planting could also be extended along the northern part of Hardendale Fell close to the road to junction 39. The area has existing roadside planting and will connect this with other planting being proposed further south on the fell.

*The design of the scheme should be amended to include additional wood pasture alongside the road edge, connecting with the proposed planting. Planting should avoid the highest parts of the fell and follow the beck feature that carves through the fell south of the road.*

#### **Site 3b: Galloway Stone west of M6.**

Land to the north and west of Galloway stone is open, unenclosed common. The area of rough pasture is interspersed with bracken and the B6261 runs through it. A stone wall bounds the western edge of the common, adjacent wooded farmland. The M6 and railway are dominant features that reinforce the linear topography. The land drops gently west.

The views to the east are short and contained by rising topography. There are open views west towards the Lake District. Land is a mixture of wooded farmland and open fells. The landscape is heavily influenced by man with the M6, railway line, hotels and quarries forming distinctive features.

Wood pasture and scrub planting is proposed.

The site lies outside the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks.

#### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character that will respect and retain the open rough grazing characteristic. The introduction of fencing to protect the scrub planting and will relate well to existing fencing and wall boundaries at the edge of the common, railway line and motorway. The scrub will reflect the character of existing patches of scrub and connect visually and ecologically with the wider woodland in the valley beyond.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms.***

#### **Site 3c: Centre of M6 motorway**

This site lies mainly in the centre of the motorway, with a small swathe running to the east of the southbound carriageway. In the centre of the motorway the site is enclosed rough grazing, crossed by unclassified roads. The site is enclosed by wire fencing alongside the motorway, which forms a strong boundary feature. The site east of the motorway is open rough grazing along the scarp slope of Coalpit Hill. There are several areas of scrub planting around the edges of the motorway. Despite the fencing and the roads, the area has an open feel and continues the landscape features of the rest of the common to the east and west.

The views to the east are short and contained by rising topography and the motorway. The land to the east rises gently close to the motorway, then rises more steeply, with a scarp feature to the west of Coal Pit Hill. This is dotted with old quarry workings and features.

The land drops to the west, with open views across farmland to the Lakeland fells. The wider landscape is a mixture of wooded farmland and open fells. The landscape is heavily influenced by man with the M6, railway line, hotels and quarries forming distinctive features.

Scrub planting is proposed.

The majority of the site lies outside the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks. The small area of the site north of the motorway, along Coalpit Hill, lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

#### **Significance on landscape effects**

The planting of the site will result in a localised change in character that will respect the rough grazing characteristic. The introduction of fencing to protect the scrub planting will not erode the overall open character and will relate well to existing fencing and walls along the railway line and motorway. The fencing east of the motorway will follow the grain of the landscape along the lower slopes of Coalpit Hill. The scrub will reflect the character of existing patches of scrub and connect visually and ecologically with the wider woodland in the valley beyond.

***Overall the landscape impact is likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable in landscape terms.***

## Visual Effects

### Visual Baseline

#### Receptors

Visual receptors are the people and groups of people that are likely to experience the effects of the development of the sites for housing. The people or groups of people that are likely to be affected by the change in views and visual amenity are likely to be:

- Farm and estate workers on the common land.
- Visitors to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Cyclists using local and long-distance cycle routes, including National Cycle Route 68 and Walney to Wear Cycle Route (south of the common through Orton).
- Walkers and runners on long distance route - the Coast to Coast Route, local footpaths, self-guided routes and walks published by East Cumbria Countryside Partnership, and open access land.
- Horse riders and mountain bikers on local bridleways and byways.
- Nature watchers at national and local nature reserves and sites.
- Scenic drivers in the National Park.
- Users of the M6 motorway and users of the railway line.

The area has an extensive network of public footpaths and quiet lanes providing access across the area. The common is open access land. The Coast to Coast Route runs across the common.

#### Viewpoints

Seven representative viewpoints were identified in discussion with officers from Bowfell Consulting Ltd.

These include a variety of public viewpoints, along roads, footpaths, cycle routes, long distance footpaths, amenity areas and scenic spots. They include viewpoints chosen as they are likely to be important viewpoint to the local community and visitors and representative viewpoints along footpaths, routes and roads. They consider static and sequential views along key roads and routes and the potential for cumulative views of the developments in conjunction with each other and other planned developments.

The viewpoints selected are listed below and mapped in Appendix 3. Photographs of each viewpoint are in Appendix 4.

1. Site 1a: Car park north of Orton Scar (GR 63187 10703).
2. Site 1b: Southwest of Linglow Hill (GR 65123 11777).
3. Site 1c: Junction of Raise Howe and Byway (GR 63670 12983).
4. Site 2: Bridleway east of Coalpit Hill, Crosby Ravensworth Fell (GR 60088 10823).
5. Site 3a: Hardendale Fell (GR 57722 12605).
6. Site 3b: B6261 east of Beck Head Farm (GR 58337 10801).
7. Site 3c: Junction of B6261 and road in centre of M6 motorway (GR 59043 09691).

## Visual Assessment

The effects of the plantings are set out below.

This section identifies the visual impacts from each viewpoint for each area and key sites. It considers the nature of the view, and the amount of the site(s) that will be planted, the distance from the viewpoint, the type of view – static, transient or sequential from a route/footpath, the nature of the change. A professional judgement is made to determine if the visual effects are positive, negative or neutral, based on whether changes will affect the quality of the visual experience for people/groups of people. In making the judgement consideration is given to the sensitivity of the viewer, the value attached to the views and the size of the change that is likely.

The most sensitive viewers are likely to be people engaged in outdoor recreation that is based around the appreciation of views in the landscape, visitors to heritage assets, communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area and travellers on scenic routes.

The visual assessment was carried out in winter when trees and hedgerows had no leaf cover.

### By viewpoint

#### 1. Site 1a: Car park north of Orton Scar

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land, Coast to Coast Route and public rights of way, cyclists, horse riders and mountain bikers using the bridleway network and cyclists and scenic drivers on the local road network.

From here there is an open view north across the site to the edge of the common and farmland beyond. Views are contained by rising land to the south, Orton Scar to the east and the conifer plantation and rising land to the west.

Users of the land will mainly be travelling through the landscape, experiencing medium distance views south and east to Orton Scar with longer distance, open views across wooded farmland towards the North Pennines.

The site will appear well related to existing planting in Dina Gill and be seen in context with the farmed landscape to the immediate north and the conifer plantation to the west.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be minor due to the low density nature of the planting, open nature of the tree guards, its siting close to Dina Gill and the containment afforded by Orton Scar and the plantation. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common. The sense of openness will be retained along with long distance views to the North Pennines. The planting will introduce interest into the view and will help to soften and integrate the appearance of the plantation block into the wider landscape.

*It is suggested that planting is restricted along the base of Orton Scar to retain a sense of openness and a clear view of the limestone scarp feature.*

***If the above amendment is made, the planting will have a negligible/minor likely significant effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

## 2. Site 1b: Southwest of Linglow Hill

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land, walkers, horse and mountain bike riders on bridleways, and cyclists and scenic drivers on the local road network.

Views are contained, in part, by rising land at the edge of the common including Linglow Hill and Coalpit Hill, and by woodland blocks in the farmland beyond. Looking south across the planting proposed to the south of the unclassified land, views are shortened across the open common by rising land.

Users of the land will mainly be travelling through the landscape, experiencing medium distance views with longer distance, open views across wooded farmland towards the North Pennines.

### **Land north of the unclassified road**

Planting on land to the north of the unclassified road, between Coalpit Hill and Linglow Hill will appear well related to existing planting on the fringe of the common in adjacent farmland. The small conifer block north of Gaythorne Cottages, the two small hills and the small valley between them provide visual containment.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be minor due to the low density nature of the planting, open nature of the tree guards, its siting close to the edge of the commons and relationship with adjacent woodland blocks. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common. The sense of openness will be retained along with long distance views to the North Pennines. The planting will also help to soften and integrate the appearance of the plantation block into the wider landscape.

*The current proposal could be slightly extended to the north west behind the conifer block and Gaythorne Cottages to the 300m contour line on Coalpit Hill.*

***The planting, as proposed, and with the suggested extension, will have a negligible/minor effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

### **Land south of the unclassified road**

Planting on land to the south of the unclassified road, west of the stone wall, will be open, less well related to existing woodland planting and will have little topographical containment. The stone wall being the only containment. A bridle path runs through the site.

*This area of planting is less appropriate and a reduction in the extent of the planting would help retain the open view south and west across the site and common.*

***The planting proposed south of the road will have a minor/moderate likely significant effect if retained in the proposal.***

## 3. Site 1c: Junction of Raise Howe and Byway

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land, walkers, horse and mountain bike riders on the Byway and cyclists and scenic drivers on the B6260.

Part of the site is open and gently sloping west, and part lies on a slope that drops steeply west away from the road towards the adjacent farmland. The western side of

the site is strongly contained by the change in landform, the land dips more steeply to neighbouring farmland. Views to the south are short and contained by Coalpit Hill. To the east they are contained by gently rising land and Maskriggs Wood.

Users of the land will be travelling through the landscape, experiencing short distance views across the fringe of the common, with longer distance views west to the adjacent farmland. A large part of the site will be visually contained by the sloping topography from cyclists and scenic drivers on the nearby road.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be limited due to containment from the topography, the low density nature of the planting, open nature of the tree guards, siting close to the edge of the common and its relationship with adjacent woodland blocks. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common.

***The planting will have a negligible/minor effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

#### 4. Site 2b: Junction of bridleways on Crosby Ravensworth Fell

This viewpoint is representative of views of land managers, walkers on the Coast to Coast route, open access land and network of rights of way, walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers using the bridleways.

The area is textured by heathland, limestone outcrops and young scrub and trees. It is criss crossed by bridleways and tracks. The proposal is designed to leave areas of open space alongside the public rights of ways.

There are open views across the site, with long distance, panoramic views east, beyond the edge of the common to farmland and the North Pennines beyond. Rising land to the north, south and west, along with a small beck running through the site provide visual containment.

The low-density planting of wood pasture will introduce a series of tree cages, guards and trees to the open moorland. The visual effects will be limited due to the topographical containment to the north, south and west. Where views are open and longer distance, the planting will form a small part of the view. The low-density nature of the planting and tree protection will retain the open and panoramic views across the commons. In views to the north and east it will have a strong relationship with the small gill that intersects the site and the extensive woodlands around Crosby Gill. The planting will appear well related to existing planting and be seen in context with the farmed landscape to the immediate north and the conifer plantation to the west.

***The planting is likely to have a negligible/minor effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

#### 5. Site 3a: Hardendale Fell

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land and cyclists and scenic drivers on the local road network, and users of the M6 motorway and railway line.

The site is undulating with significant visual interruption from the motorway. Views are contained to the east and south by changes in topography, motorway

embankments and conifer plantations. There are open, long distance views in places to the west across neighbouring farmland and to the Lakeland fells.

Users of the land will be travelling through the landscape, experiencing short distance views across the fringe of the common, with longer distance views west over adjacent farmland. Changes in view will be fleeting for users of the motorway and railway due to the speed vehicles travel at.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be small due to the low-density nature of the scrub planting, low level nature of the tree guards, and agricultural characteristics of the post and wire fencing. its siting close to the edge of the common and relationship with adjacent woodland blocks. Long distance views to the Lakeland fells will be retained. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common where significant man-made features are prominent in all views.

***The planting will have a negligible/minor effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

#### 6. Site 3b: B6261 east of Beck Head Farm (GR 58337 10801)

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land, walkers, and cyclists and users of the local road network and motorway.

There are short views north and medium linear views south. Views east are contained by the motorway and rising land along the scarp slope of Coalpit Hill. The land dips to the west towards woodlands, farms and hotels, with more open and expansive views across to the distant Lakeland fells.

Users of the land will be travelling through the landscape, experiencing short distance views across the fringe of the common, with longer distance views west over adjacent farmland. Changes in view will be fleeting for users of the motorway due to the speed vehicles travel at.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be minor due to the low density nature of the scrub planting and wood pasture, the low level nature of the tree guards and tree cages, and the agricultural characteristics of the post and wire fencing and its siting close to the edge of the common. Long distance views to the Lakeland fells will be retained. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common where significant man-made features are prominent in all views.

***The planting will have a negligible/minor effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

#### 7. Site 3c: Junction of B6261 and road in centre of M6 motorway

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers on the open access land, and cyclists on long distance routes, and drivers on the local road network and motorway and railway.

There are medium linear views north and south. Views east are contained by the motorway and rising land along the scarp slope of Coalpit Hill. The land drops sharply to the west to the motorway and then beyond to woodlands and farms. There are open and expansive views across to the distant Lakeland fells.

Users of the land will be travelling through the landscape, experiencing short distance views east and longer distance views west to the fells. Changes in view will be fleeting for users of the motorway due to the speed vehicles travel at.

The planting will cause a limited and contained change to the view, and the effects will be small due to the low density nature of the scrub planting, the low level nature of the tree guards and its siting close to the edge of the common. Long distance views to the Lakeland fells will be retained. It will be experienced as a small part of the overall common where significant man-made features are prominent in all views.

***The planting will have a negligible effect on views or visual amenity of users of the area.***

## Conclusion

***The landscape effects are likely to be negligible/minor and acceptable for all sites, following suggested mitigation. The felling of 3 conifer plantation blocks and replacement with scrub will significantly enhance the landscape character.*** Without mitigation site 1a and 1b will cause a minor to moderate change in landscape character.

The planting proposals are low density in nature and contained in small pockets across the common. They respect and retain the character of the wide, open and sweeping upland landscape, including its limestone pavements, outcrops, heather moorland and limestone grasslands. The pastoral landscape will be retained with wood pasture complementing the rough grazing and continue to support livestock rearing. Drystone walls will be retained, with space being left alongside them to reflect their historic farming patterns. The scrub planting will maintain the integrity of the SSSIs. The planting will relate to trees planted in small gills and copses around farm buildings, cottages and the fringes of the commons.

The proposals will introduce interest to the landscape character, especially in relation to softening and integrating hard conifer blocks into the wider landscape. The proposal to fell three plantation blocks and replace them with scrub will provide significant landscape enhancements, in line with landscape character guidelines, by removing hard, incongruous plantation blocks in the open landscape.

The proposals have been designed to reflect and connect with the existing network of native woodland found along the valley floors, across neighbouring farmland, and along the gills that flow out of the common. The common provides the head of the catchment for these gills. The use of wood pasture and scrub at the tops of the gills will provide low density tree cover that naturally and organically connects with the more densely planted gills, and then eventually to the much denser valley woodland beyond. The proposal will not only provide better landscape connectivity, but also better wildlife (woodland network) benefits.

***The visual effects are likely to be negligible/minor for all sites.*** Many of the sites are partially contained by topography with limited and localised views. Where there are exposed and expansive panoramic views to the dramatic landforms of the Lakeland Fells and the North Pennines, the low density and low height character of the planting will ensure these views are retained. There is a strong visual connection with gill and

valley woodland planting beyond. The proposals will improve visual amenity, especially in relation to replacing hard conifer blocks with softer scrub and wood pasture. It will also improve the visual amenity of hard conifer blocks that will be retained, softening and integrating them into the wider landscape.

Examples of fringe edge landscape character and views from around Crosby Ravensworth Fell.



## Appendix 1: Approach and methodology

The approach for carrying out the landscape and visual assessment is based on the latest published national guidance<sup>2</sup>. The assessment identifies and assesses the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on:

- Landscape effects: the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and
- Visual effects: on specific views and on the general visual amenity experience by people.

### Study area

The assessment focussed on the sites and their immediate setting.

### Landscape baseline

The aim of the landscape baseline is to provide an understanding of the landscape in the area that may be affected, its constituent elements, its character and way it varies spatially, its geographic extent, its history, condition and the way it is experienced and the value attached to it.

The assessment included a desk top review of relevant landscape character and planning studies, field survey of the common and all planting sites and the wider landscape, to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors that contribute to it. Sources of information for the desktop study included ordnance survey maps, aerial maps and landscape character assessments.

### Visual baseline

The aim of the visual baseline is to establish the area where the planting might be visible, and to identify the different groups of people that that might experience views of the planting, the places where they will be affected and the nature of the views and visual amenity at the different places.

The assessment included a desk top review of relevant maps and recreational guides, and identification of viewpoints, the nature of the views, and the different groups of people that might experience views. Consideration was given to the cultural heritage influences on the receptors and views. This was followed by a field survey of all the planting sites from seven viewpoints.

### Landscape assessment criteria

The overall significance of effects is established by considering both the sensitivity of the landscape and the magnitude of effects arising from the planting.

When considering the sensitivity of the landscape consideration is given to the landscape receptors susceptibility to change and value attached to the receptor.

When considering the magnitude of change to the landscape character, the size/scale, duration and its ability of the landscape effect to be reversed is assessed.

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<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment 2013).

**Visual assessment criteria**

The overall significance of effects is established by considering both the sensitivity of visual receptors and the magnitude of visual effects arising from the planting.

When considering the sensitivity of the visual receptors consideration is given to the landscape receptors susceptibility to change and value attached to specific views.

When considering the magnitude of change to the visual effect, the size/scale, duration and ability of the effect to be reversed is assessed.

## Appendix 2: Viewpoints - map



### Key

- 1 Viewpoint number
- ↖ Direction of photograph

### Appendix 3: Viewpoints - images



Viewpoint 1  
Site 1a: Car park  
north of Orton  
Scar  
(GR 63187 10703)



Viewpoint 2  
Site 1b: Southwest of  
Linglow Hill  
(GR 65123 11777)

Viewpoint 3

Site 1c: Junction of Raise Howe and Byway  
(GR 63670 12983)

No Image



Viewpoint 4  
Site 2: Bridleway east  
of Coalpit Hill, Crosby  
Ravensworth Fell  
(GR 60088 10823)



Viewpoint 5  
Site 3a: Hardendale  
Fell  
(GR 57722 12605)



Viewpoint 6  
Site 3b: B6261 east  
of Beck Head Farm  
(GR 58337 10801)

Viewpoint 7

Site 3c: Junction of B6261 and road in centre of M6 motorway

No image