

Totley woodland creation

Introduction

This new woodland has been designed in line with our management objectives, particularly those concerning landscape scale management of habitats and maintaining broadleaf woodland and associated flora and fauna. Deciduous woodland and scrub are significant features within our management planning and this location has been recognised and having potential to greatly improve both the wildlife and landscape value of this area. Woodland is limited within the Peak District National Park, restoration and creation of native woodland has been identified as a conservation priority by the Peak District National Park Authority in their Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020. The site is part of the Dark Peak NIA, this woodland creation sits within objective 3 of the NIA; connectivity of habitats and expanding areas of sessile oak woodland and scrub. Being located on the moorland fringe provides us with an opportunity to maintain a rich mosaic of habitats of which woodland will form a significant part.

The new woodland will link into other woodland in the surrounding area, extending the green corridors out of Sheffield. This area is an important route during bird migration and it is thought that establishing woodland along this passage would be beneficial to many of the bird species passing through. It will also act to join up scattered trees and fragmented groups of trees which are already present within the proposed area. The woodland will provide valuable habitat for the usual woodland and woodland edge bird species, some of which are listed as target species for the area (lesser spotted woodpecker, spotted flycatcher, hawfinch, marsh tit, red start, pied flycatcher, wood warbler and tree pipit). Suitability for species with specific needs, e.g. mature trees/deadwood, will develop with time but during the establishment stage suitable tree species and planting have been chosen and appropriate management planned for the future to influence the trajectory of the woodland towards providing the best possible habitat conditions. The importance of including scrub in addition to the existing dry heath and scattered gorse should not be understated as it could be particularly significant with regards to nightjar, which are known to be in the local area, and species such as Dartford warbler which are expected to shift their range northwards as a reaction to the changing climate. The scrub will also enable the stabilisation of the hillside around Wimble Holme hill bridleway as there are currently landslips and erosion in this area.

The proposed area is located on Totley moor, on the Eastern edge of the estate. The planting has been designed to create a soft edge between the moor and woodland with a scrub zone. The species mix will include sessile oak, rowan, silver birch and holly with grey willow and alder in the wetter areas and holly, hawthorn and common gorse planted in the scrub zone. 70% of the woodland will develop through natural regeneration with tree planting used to provide a seed source for natural regeneration to occur. Trees will be planted in blocks inside the fence line and will be staked and guarded

Method statement

A total of 9042 tree whips (60-120cm) will be planted, staked and guarded across an area of 29.86ha. The species mix and stem numbers are shown in table 1, the map in Figure 1 shows the compartment areas to be planted. Trees will be planted in blocks as described in figure 2. Planting will be done by Eastern Moors staff and volunteers over 3 years from winter 2014/15 to winter 2016/17. Approximately one third of the trees will be planted in 2014/15 and two thirds planted in 2016/17. Access will be gained to the site via the bridleway and concessionary bridle using appropriate low ground pressure vehicles.

Table 1: Stem numbers

Compartment Number	% by planting	Size (ha)	Stems per ha	stems to plant	work group	Type	Species in type	% of type	Trees required	Tree sp. required
1a	30	0.23	1600	110.4	a	SOK	Sessile Oak	30	55.2	55
						NBL	Silver birch	20	36.8	9
							Rowan			28
						WS H	Holly Hawthorn	10	18.4	9 9
1b	30	0.25	1600	120	b	XC	Gorse	40	48	48
						WS				
						H	Hawthorn	30	36	36
						NBL	Sessile oak	20	24	6
							Rowan			12
							Silver birch			6
OG	Open ground	10	0	0						
1c	30	4.31	0	0	a	OG	Open ground	100	0	0
1d	30	0.79	1600	379.2	a	SOK	Sessile Oak	30	189.6	190
						NBL	Silver birch	20	126.4	31
							Rowan			96
						WS H	Holly Hawthorn	10	63.2	32 32
1e	30	0.13	1600	62.4	b	XC	Gorse	40	24.96	25
						WS				
						H	Hawthorn	30	18.72	19
						NBL	Sessile oak	20	12.48	3
	Rowan			6						

						OG	Silver birch Open ground	10		3 0
1f	30	0.32	1600	153.6	b	XC WS H NBL OG	Gorse Hawthorn Sessile oak Rowan Silver birch Open ground	40 30 20 10	61.44 46.08 30.72 	61 46 8 16 8 0
1g	30	0.27	1600	129.6	c	GW L AR WS H NBL OG	Willow Alder Hawthorn Rowan Silver birch Open ground	30 20 15 20 15	38.88 25.92 19.44 25.92 	39 26 19 20 6 0
2a	30	6.38	1600	3062.4	a	SOK NBL WS H	Sessile Oak Silver birch Rowan Holly Hawthorn	30 20 10	1531.2 1020.8 510.4	1531 255 766 255 255
2b	0	1.08	0	0	a	OG	Open ground	100	0	0
2c	0	3.94	0	0	a	OG	Open ground	100	0	0
2d	30	2.89	1600	1387.2	a	SOK NBL WS H	Sessile Oak Silver birch Rowan Holly Hawthorn	30 20 10	693.6 462.4 231.2	694 115 347 115 115
3a	30	3.39	1600	1627.2	c	GW L AR WS H NBL OG	Willow Alder Hawthorn Rowan Silver birch Open ground	30 20 15 20 15	488.16 325.44 244.08 325.44 	488 325 244 244 81 0

3b	30	3.85	1600	1848	a	SOK	Sessile Oak	30	924	924
						NBL	Silver birch	20	616	154
							Rowan			462
						WS				
						H	Holly	10	308	154
							Hawthorn			154
3c	30	0.96	1600	460.8	a	SOK	Sessile Oak	30	230.4	230
						NBL	Silver birch	20	153.6	38
							Rowan			116
						WS				
						H	Holly	10	76.8	38
							Hawthorn			38
3d	0	1.07	0	0	a	OG	Open ground	100	0	0
Total		29.86		9340.8					9043.68	9042

Figure 1: Planting compartments

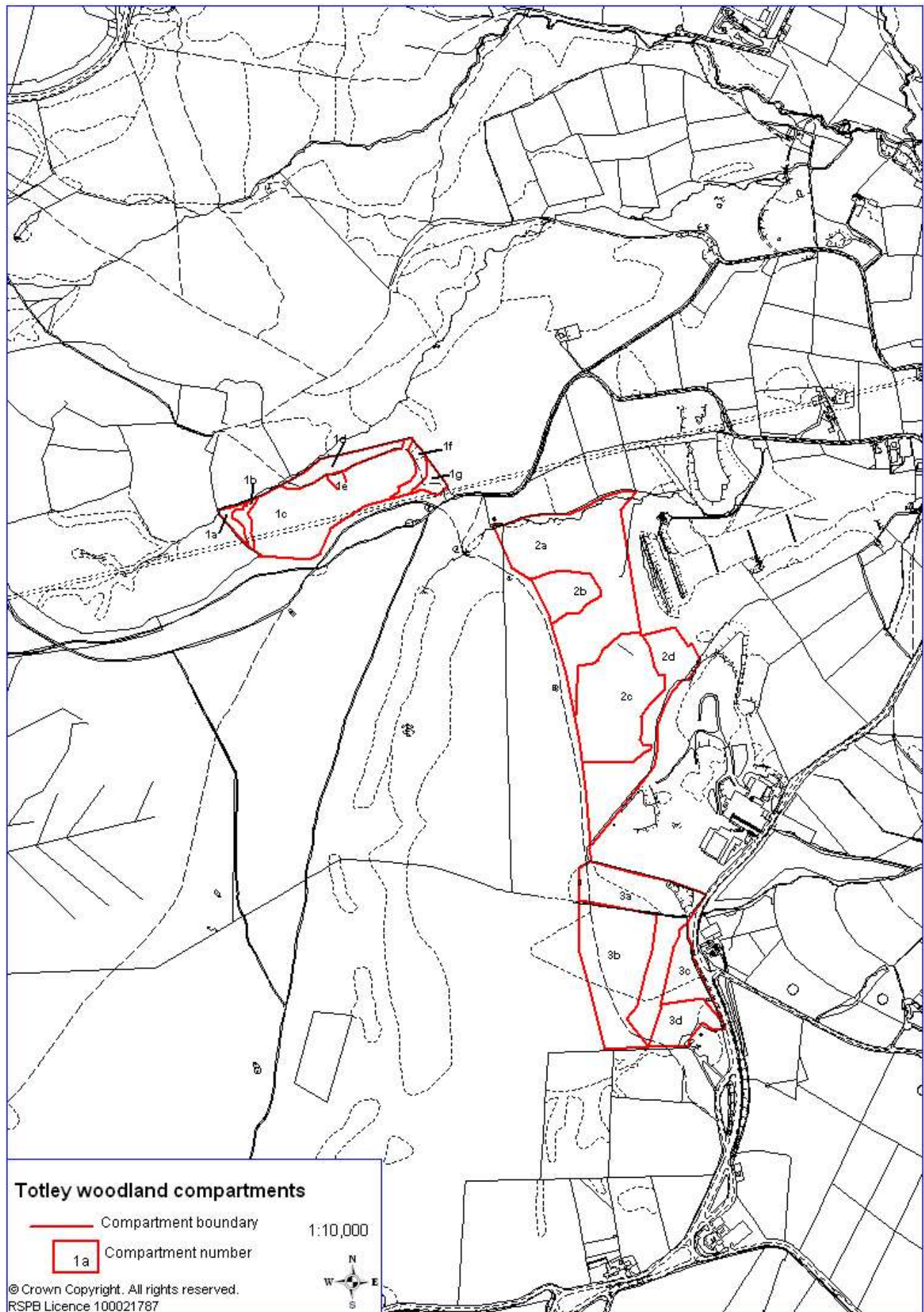


Figure 2: Planting plan

