


# Tree Planting Plan



<b>Organisation:</b>	Winster Parish Council
<b>Site:</b>	The Griffin, forming part of the common land at the top of the village
<b>Postcode:</b>	DE4 2DR
<b>Date:</b>	September 2023
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Remit of Planting Plan

The principal objectives of the plan are to:

- a) Undertake a study of the proposed planting area to establish suitability for planting trees
- b) Provide recommendations for management of existing stand of trees and integration of seating/picnic area adjacent to the swings
- c) Provide recommendations for appropriate tree species, stock size, planting methodology, protection and aftercare

## 1.2 Site Location

The site is situated to the south west side of the village at the top of East Bank, as illustrated below (figures 1 & 2). Part of the area, which is known as The Griffin, has been planted approximately 30-40 years ago with a mix of conifer and broadleaved species. Adjacent to this area of woodland is a set of swings and a bench, forming a small recreational area. Beyond this area and to the north the site is low diversity grassland.



**Figure 1:** Aerial photograph of the site. Image courtesy of Google.



**Figure 2:** Expanded aerial photograph of the site. Image courtesy of Google.

## **2. DESK STUDY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

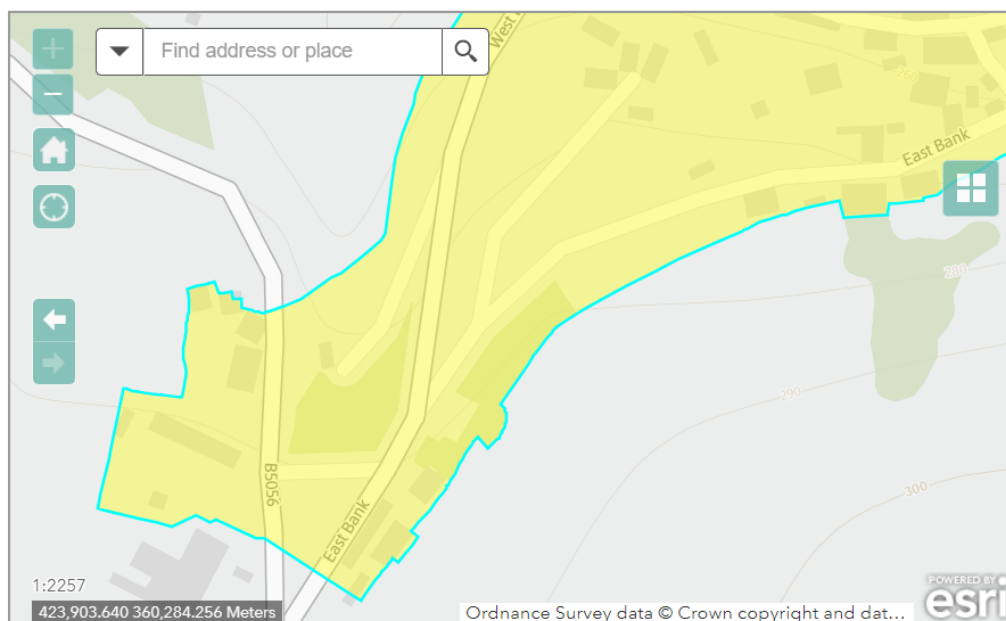
### **2.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas**

Trees may be offered statutory protection under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (as amended) and Town and Country (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations (2012).

According to the interactive mapping system provided by Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council, and Peak District National Park ([www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk) and <https://maps.derbyshire.gov.uk>; <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk>) it appears that the trees are not subject to statutory protection in the form of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), but the site lies within the Winster Conservation Area (CA). It should be noted that this service is not intended to be definitive and so the LPA should be contacted to confirm this status. Applications or notifications may be required prior to undertaking tree work.

Land and properties within a Conservation Area are highlighted in yellow.

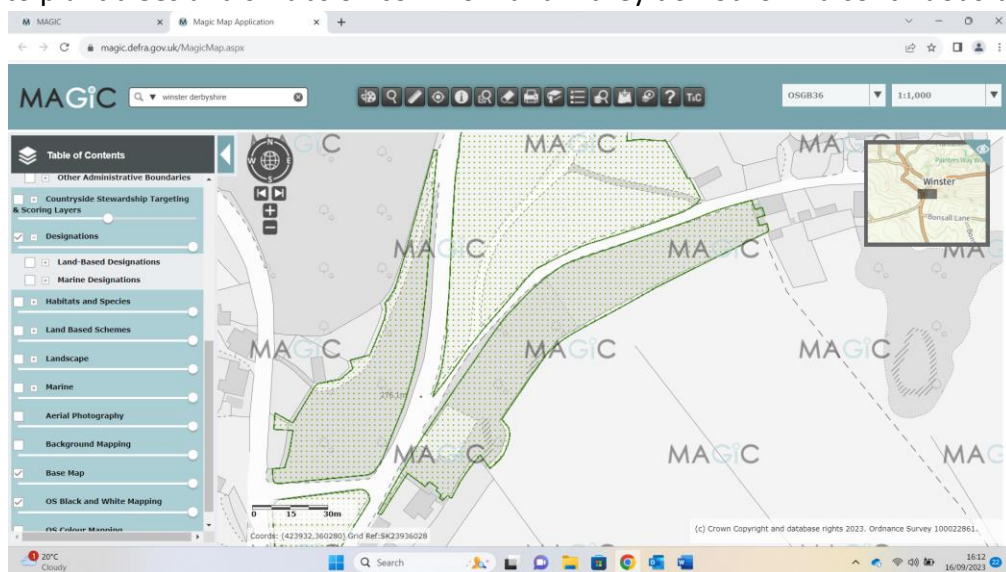
If you need help or have any questions please contact our Customer Service team on 01629 816200 or email: [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk)



**Figure 3.** showing the highlighted Conservation Area.

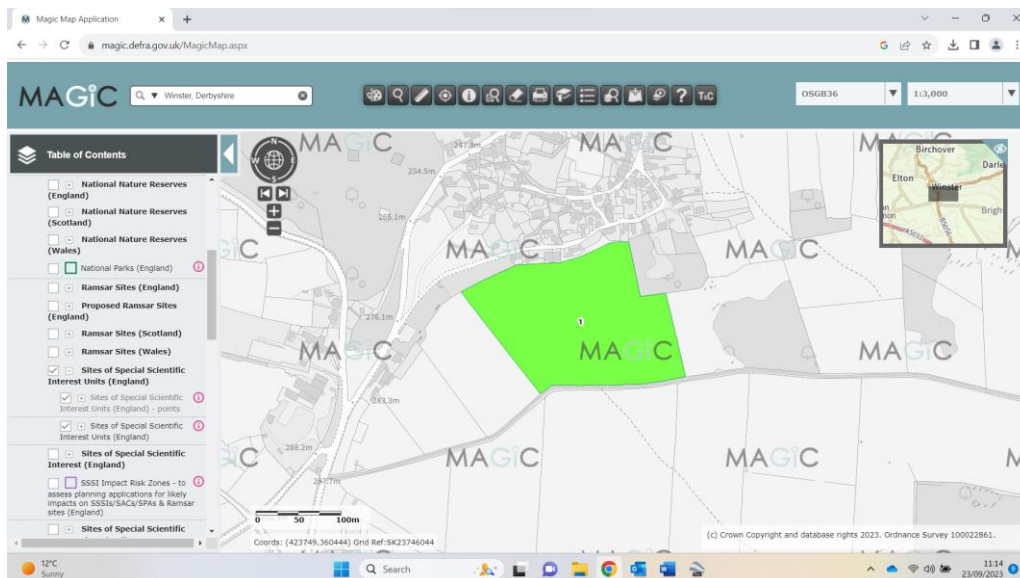
## 2.2 Land Based Designations

According to the UK Governments MAGIC Website ([www.magic.defra.gov.uk](http://www.magic.defra.gov.uk)) the site is Registered Common Land (England). There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (England) immediately to the south of the grassed area. This is listed as Earth Heritage and relates to the carboniferous limestone upland landscape. As such it will not be a restriction to tree planting on the proposed site. According to government advice listed on the gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-works-on-common-land#works-you-dont-need-consent-for>), consent is not required to plant trees and shrubs on common land if they do not form a continuous barrier.



**Figure 4.** Areas of registered common land at the site





**Figure 5.** SSSI to south east of the site

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF SITE

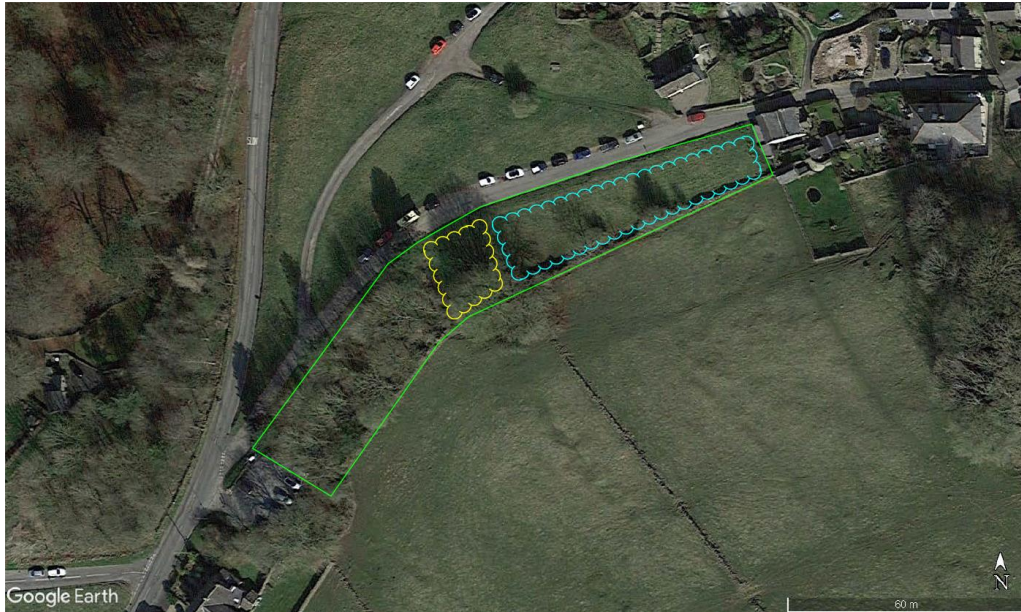
### 3.1 Geology & Soils

According to the British Geological Survey maps ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)), the site appears to be on a Monsal Dale Limestone Formation - Limestone, dolomitic. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 330.9 and 329 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.

According to the UK Soil Observatory ([www.ukso.org](http://www.ukso.org)) 'MySoil' layer (1/50K) the soil parent material is limestone, with a shallow soil depth and the soil texture is loam to silty loam.

### 3.2 Proposed Planting Area

The proposed planting area is the area of grassland to the east of the area known as The Griffin. It is currently low diversity grassland but is part of the grassland enhancement project that the parish council have adopted and implemented over the past 3 years. Of all the areas under that project, this piece of grassland is currently one of the least diverse and likely to require the most intensive interventions to increase diversity of species. It is therefore a suitable choice of location for tree planting as it will have limited impact on the objectives of the grassland enhancement project and may bring savings in maintenance costs as a result. To the west of the proposed planting area is a metal swing set, wooden seat and waste bin. This area enjoys views across the village and valley. It is proposed that this area will be restored and renewed as part of the tree planting project.



**Figure 6.** Tree planting area highlighted in blue. Picnic area highlighted in yellow



Photos of the proposed planting area and playground

### 3.3 Existing Tree Population

To the west of the area of land known as The Griffin is a plot of woodland planted 30-40 years ago, presumably by the then parish council, although no records of this project are available. A mix of species were planted from the boundary of the car park up to the area where the swing set and bench are located. Species include



rowan, cherry, scots pine, lodgepole pine, hazel, sycamore, ash. Since planting, it appears no maintenance of the group has been undertaken which has led to most of the trees in the stand becoming tall and etiolated, with edge trees overhanging the road and car park. The group would benefit from a 10% thin, removal of dead trees and pruning to clear highway and car park.



Photos of existing woodland

In recent years an informal footpath has been created from the car park through the trees and out into the open grassed area adjacent to the swings. It is proposed to continue this footpath through the new planting and linking up to the public footpath to Wyny Tor.







Photos of informal footpath through existing trees

## **4. NEW PLANTING**

### **4.1 Suggested Tree Planting Plan**

Tree planting should be undertaken anticipating the failure of some trees, and future thinning to produce the desired final spacing. The new plantings should be intended to develop a form consistent with growth in a woodland.

Planting positions will give consideration to underground or overhead services and proximity to roads, footpaths or buildings. It is proposed to not plant close to East Bank or the house adjacent to the public footpath.

There is approximately 150m<sup>2</sup> of plantable area. Spacing trees at 2m apart gives an approximate total number of trees of 150. The tree stock should be 60-90cm transplants, protected by individual tree shelters. Shrubs should be pot grown in 2l pots. Approximately 20 shrubs would be appropriate to the size of the available planting area.

Preference should be given to trees and shrubs of British provenance and ideally local provenance where possible.

#### **Species Suggestions**

Species that complement the existing mature tree population around the site should be used. This is likely to be a mix of native species. As well as trees, a selection of native woodland shrubs will be interplanted amongst the trees and at the woodland edges.

Trees:

Oak, Scots pine, Field maple, Wild service, Whitebeam

Shrubs:

Guelder rose, Bird cherry, Spindleberry, Hazel, Holly, Dogwood, Dog rose

## **4.2 Planting & Aftercare Operations**

Planting and post-planting aftercare should be undertaken in accordance with BS8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations'.

The planting, protection and aftercare of young trees needs careful attention if they are to establish successfully.

### **Pre-planting care**

All trees should be 60-90cm transplants of British provenance (preferably local provenance) and should comply to British Standard 3936. Ideally trees should be planted as soon as possible after delivery and should be 'heeled in' if they are not to be planted immediately. This involves placing the roots in a pit or trench and covering with firmed soil to prevent them drying out, being frosted or being exposed to sunlight.

### **Timing, weather conditions and establishment**

Planting should be carried out between October and March. Dry areas are best planted in early autumn and wet areas in February and March. No planting should be done in very wet, frosty or snowy conditions.

It is necessary to ensure that the trees do not dry out during the first couple of years, especially if a hot summer is experienced, so in some cases some form of irrigation may be required.

### **Ground preparation**

Aggressive weeds (particularly grasses) should be controlled before planting as they will compete with the new trees which have an incomplete root system in the first growing season. Ideally the vegetation should be cleared for 1m diameter (0.5m radius) around each planting position either by stripping away the turf or using a mulch mat or suitable approved herbicide.

### **Planting methods**

When planting it is important to keep the plants in a bag to prevent drying out and exposure to light. It is essential that the roots are kept moist and dark as even a short period of exposure could damage the plants.

There are two main planting techniques - notch planting and pit planting:

Notch planting:

This method is suitable for small transplants. A slit or 'L'-shaped notch should be cut in the soil and held open with a spade whilst the roots of the tree are inserted

carefully so that they spread downwards. The notch must be well firmed around the tree, while pulling the plant gently upwards so the original soil mark on the stem is at ground level.

#### Pit planting:

This is generally used when planting larger stock or container trees. The trees should be planted by digging out a pit which must be deep and wide enough to take the roots. The base of the pit should be forked over to improve drainage and the roots should be evenly spread around the pit. The pit can then be back-filled with the soil being firmed in every 10cm to prevent air pockets. Fresh farmyard manure or fertiliser should not be used. Trees should be planted no deeper than the soil mark on the stem. Mycorrhizal powders added to the pit can aid establishment.

#### Protection:

Nearly all newly planted trees will require protection from grazing animals. Tubes are usually adequate if rabbits and hares are the only problem. If deer or stock are present, higher shelters will be needed.

#### Tree shelters

The tree shelter stake should be driven in before planting the tree. The stake should be 8- 12cm from the transplant stem position. Then slide the tube carefully over the tree after bending any branches upward. If there is a curved rim on the shelter, make sure it is at the top and that the base of the tube is pushed 3-5cm into the soil. Attach the tube firmly to the stake with the ties provided. Shelters will protect individual trees from damage by animals depending on their size:

#### **Aftercare**

##### Weeding:

The young trees must be kept clear of vegetation for at least a 0.5m radius around the tree for the first few years after planting to lessen the competition for light and moisture. Effective weeding removes all vegetation around the tree roots before each season's growth. Late April onwards is the best time to control vegetation, but it may need to be repeated two or more times each season. Tree shelters are not a substitute for weeding and tall weeds inside shelters should be removed. Herbicides may be the most cost-effective and practical way to control weeds by careful spot. Herbicides must be applied in accordance with the label recommendations. Correct weeding is the most effective way to ensure that trees receive enough water. Water retention and weed control can be greatly improved by using sheet mulches, such as plastic, or thick organic mulches, such as wood chips or wet straw.

##### Further planting:

Failed trees should be replaced in the following planting season.

##### Removal of shelters:



Shelters should be inspected regularly and removed when they have disintegrated or when the stem has almost filled it. Once the shelter has been removed it may be necessary to protect young trees with spiral rabbit guards where rabbits or hares are a particular problem.

### **4.3 Outline Action Plan**

- Confirm right to plant on the common without having to seek permission
- Prepare costs for agreed planting stock and appropriate protection and new swing sets and 2 seats for picnic area
- Seek grant funding or opportunities for free trees
- Prepare site for planting
- Plant trees in agreed locations in accordance with the plan
- Undertake remedial tree works to existing stand of trees
- Paint swing frames and install new chains and seats and new benches
- Re locate waste bin to edge of existing woodland
- Install new seating in open grassed area
- Undertake annual maintenance of trees in accordance with plan, for at least two years post planting
- Undertake annual, regular mowing of new picnic area.

### **4.2 Budget Costs**

It is anticipated that trees may be sourced for free from organisations such as the Woodland Trust. However, this should not limit species choice and if necessary, trees will be purchased using appropriate grant funding.

Trees, shrubs and planting accessories:

Trees £250

Shrubs £160

Shelters and mulch mats £500

Seating:

2 recyclable plastic benches £1200

Swings:

Chains and seats £350