

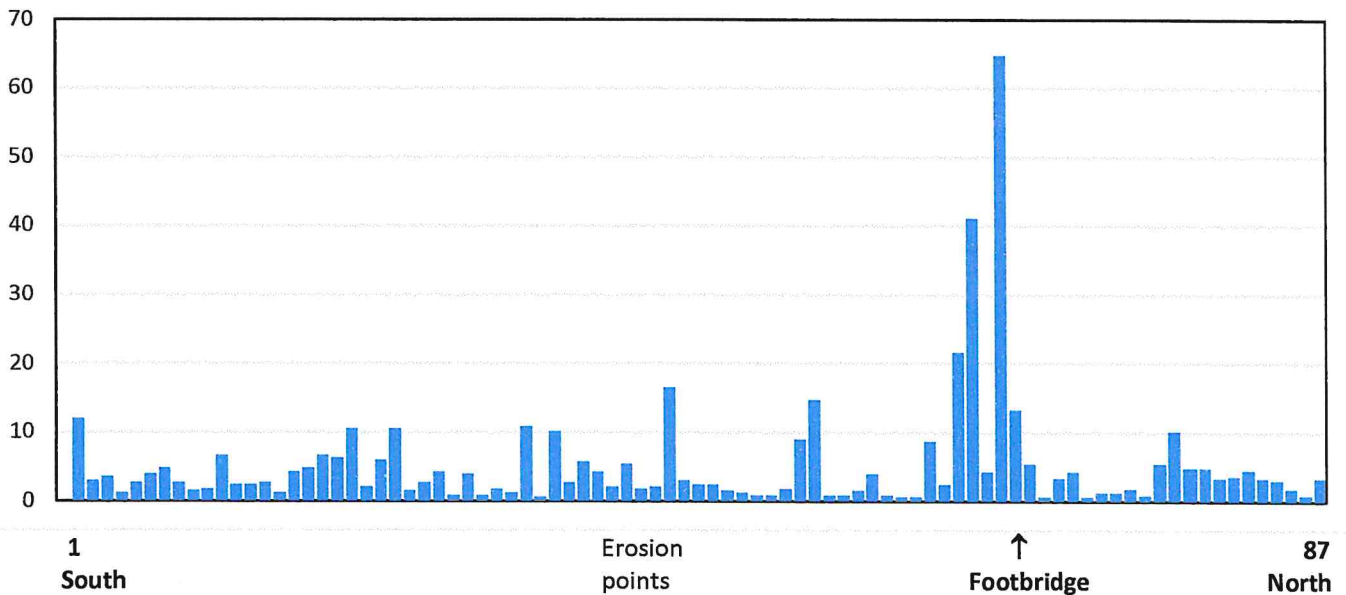


Forge Valley Woods NNR, Seavegate, East Ayton
Consultee: West Ayton Parish Council
Date: 4/09/2019

Additional information for Planning Committee

- Riverbank erosion in Forge Valley was assessed on 28/08/19. There are 87 point sources of erosion from the south end of the boardwalk to the north end.
- The total length of riverbank affected is approx. 454 metres, 20% of the length of the boardwalk.
- The length of the erosion points varies from 0.6 to 64.8 metres, with the most affected areas close to the footbridge. In places, the erosion is starting to undermine the boardwalk.
- The vast majority of erosion points are caused by dogs, as pawprints are evident.
- Silt can be seen on the riverbed at each access point. The River Derwent is a high priority river for sediment issues in the River Humber Basin Catchment under the European Water Framework Directive and is a drinking water protected area under WFD.

Forge Valley - riverbank erosion next to boardwalk
(metres affected at each erosion point 1 - 87)



Seavegate area at the south end of Forge Valley

- The Seavegate Gill area for development within the planning application excludes more than half of the woodland area in this location. In particular, it excludes the heavily trafficked area around the Champion veteran horse chestnut tree, as shown in the picture below. This is probably one of the oldest and largest trees in Forge Valley. Its root plate area has been severely eroded by bike tracks and ramps, and rubbish is frequently left in this area. Great consideration has been given in the application to protect much younger and less valuable trees in the development area but this fabulous tree and its surrounding area has been excluded.



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Increasing traffic in Forge Valley

- The Parish Council recognise that there will be an increase in visitor traffic if additional parking and facilities are provided in the valley. There may be safety issues for these visitors as they enter and leave the parking areas.
- However, the main concerns are the speed and volume of traffic using the valley as a diversion to avoid traffic in Scarborough. Parishioners have complained about being tailgated by speeding cars and vans in this 60 mph zone. The local police have reported 3 road traffic accidents in the valley in August. A lower speed limit and traffic calming measures on the approach to East Ayton are required.

Maintenance of the visitor facilities

- At an extraordinary meeting of the West Ayton Parish Council on Monday 2 September 19, concerns were raised about maintenance of the facilities, repair and prevention of damage to the riverbank, collection and disposal of litter, how will it be done, when and by who?