

NYMNPA

08/10/2019

**From:** Laura Precious  
**Sent:** 08 October 2019 15:27  
**To:** Elspeth Ingleby  
**Cc:** Hilary Saunders  
**Subject:** RE: Hanging Stones Planning Applications, Rosedale - Refs 2019/0353, 0354, 0355, 0356 & 0359

Hi Elspeth

Further to previous correspondence regarding the above planning applications in the Northdale Valley, Rosedale (Andy Goldsworthy's 'Hanging Stones' Project), I enclose the following additional information that has now been completed further to your email of 5<sup>th</sup> September:

- Ecology Assessment Addendum (September 2019).

The Addendum report provides the required details relating to the amended route of the path at Thorn House, Red House and Bogs House. It provides an addendum further to the original route Ecology Assessment undertaken in 2017 and updated in 2018. The assessment also reports our ecologist's findings on the semi-improved grassland at the Northdale Head House site (as requested in your email below). A Survey has not however been undertaken of the Ebenezer site (where the Water Tank is proposed to be located, outside of the SSSI/SAC/SPA); the scheme is still in 'outline' and as such it is not known whether the water tank element of the artwork at Ebenezer will definitely form part of the final proposal, as such, we would be more than happy to accept conditions that require additional work to be undertaken in advance of the Water Tank being installed (as per your suggested conditions below).

Thank you for your confirmation in your last email that you are satisfied with the information provided regarding construction access; if there is any further information you require from us in this respect please do not hesitate to let me know. NB. We would be happy to accept conditions relating to ecological supervision for materials being brought to site should you see this as necessary.

You referenced potential limitations with regards to visitor numbers during sensitive seasons in

your last email, and I wanted to confirm that my client is more than happy to accept such restrictions as per your advice (e.g. exclusion of dogs or reduction in numbers during certain periods). Did you receive any feedback from your consultation with your ornithologist?

The potential use of the fields around Thorn House by waders was also referenced and this is covered in part in the enclosed Addendum report. A Wader Survey was actually undertaken of the Valley in 2017 by an expert on this subject matter (Wilf Norman), and I can forward you a copy of this if you would like to review this again? I note however that both the proposed new footpath to Thorn House and Thorn House itself is outside of the SPA/SAC, nor will either site require access through the SPA or SAC. To this end, and further to your comments regarding construction access to Bogs House and Red House, would it not be possible to undertake the HRA without further wader surveys needing to be undertaken (i.e. avoiding a delay in the decision on Thorn House). We would of course be happy to accept conditions to undertake further surveys prior to commencement or works on site or use of the footpath in this location, should you see this necessary, although my interpretation is that this information is capable of being conditioned and thus not delaying a decision on this particular site? I would be grateful for your further comment on this matter as and when you have the opportunity to review.

I trust that the enclosed information provides you with the sufficient information you need to carry out your assessment of the scheme and as above, if you have any further comments or queries, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you once you have had the opportunity to review.

Kindest regards

Laura

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Senior Planner

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NYMNPA

08/10/2019

**Ecology Assessment -addendum**

**Proposed Section change in footpath route for Hanging  
Stones, North Dale and grassland at Northdale Head**

**September 2019**



NYMNPA

08/10/2019

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Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

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<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Checked by:</b>
Final	25-09-19	Giles Manners MCIEEM

NYMNPA  
08/10/2019

**Sites:**

Footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House  
Northdale  
Rosedale East

**Dates:**

Walkover survey: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Client:**

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**Planning Authority:**

North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP)

**Our ref:**

17/310

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## 1. Introduction

One small section of the proposed footpath of Hanging Stones Trail has been changed at Red Barns to reflect the historic route. Two new path sections at Bogs House and Thorn House to the trail have also been added. The revised routes are shown in Figure 1 below with new sections in blue. This document is an addendum to two submitted reports: Ecology Assessment Proposed Footpath for Hanging Stones August ( MAB Environment and Ecology 2017) and Addendum for footpath sections ( MAB Environment and Ecology August 2018).

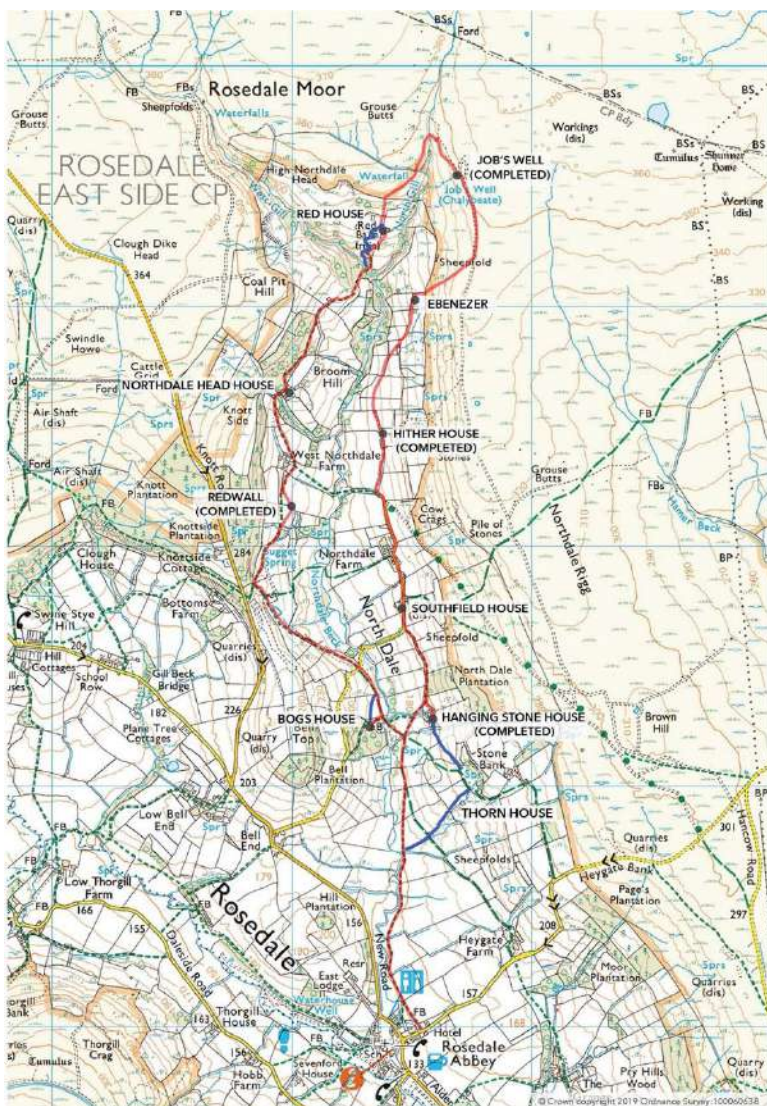


Figure 1 Hanging stones trail with new sections in blue.

The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify species and habitats on site, with particular reference to protected and notable species
- Assess the potential impact of the proposed development on habitats and protected or notable species

The report also addresses comments made by the NYMNPA ecologist re: Northdale Head House semi-improved acid grassland area with scope for enhancement. Planning reference NYM/2019/0356/OU.

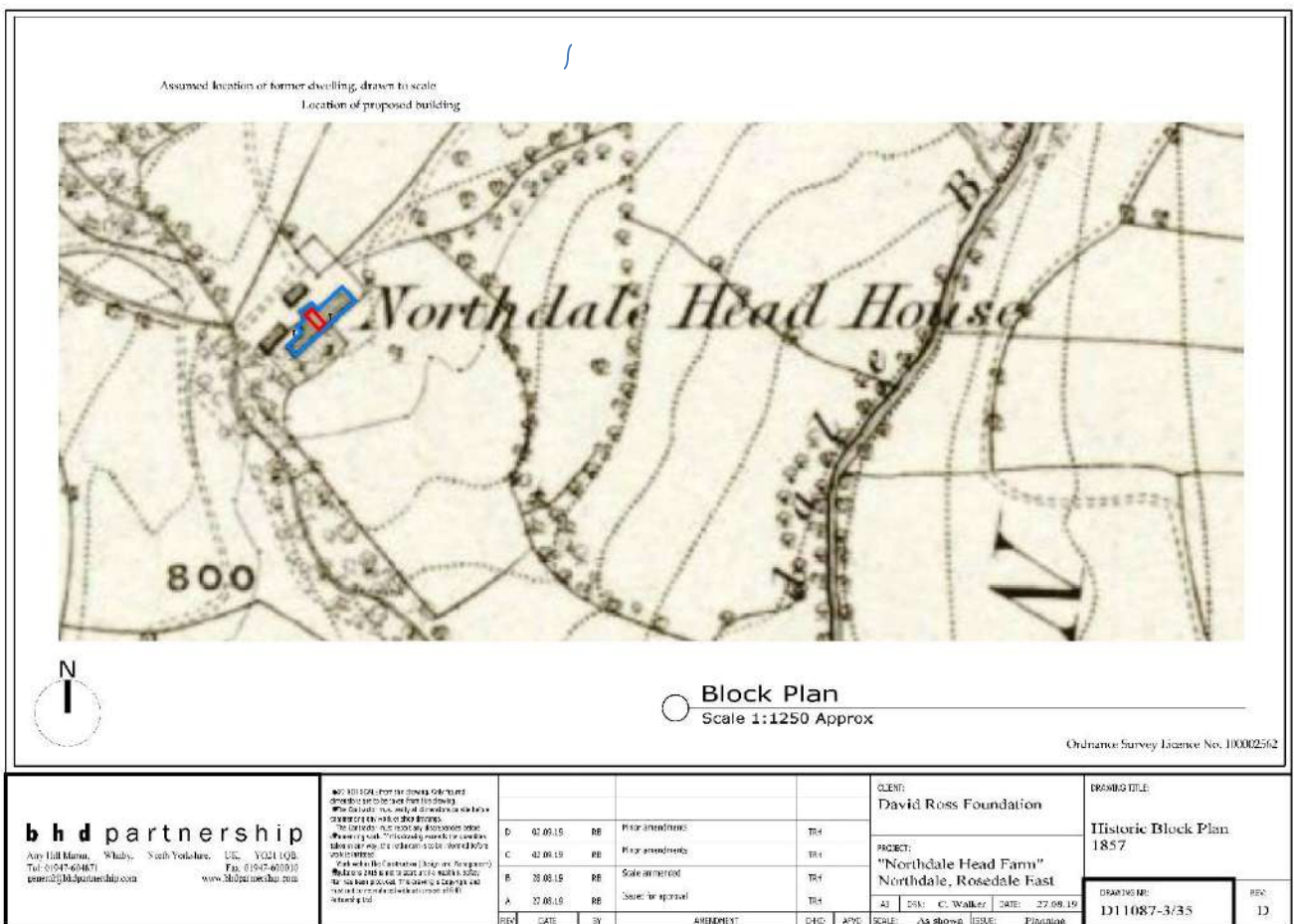


Figure 2 Area of works at Northdale Head



Ecologists from MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and follow the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct when carrying out ecological work.

## 2. Methodology

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2.1 The route of the footpath was surveyed and report written by Ione Bateau MCIEEM, a director of MAB Environment & Ecology Ltd since 2006. Ione holds a Class Survey Licence WML CL15 (volunteer bat roost visitor Level 1) and WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2) – registration number 2015-13361-CLS-CLS. Ione is licensed by Natural England to survey for GCNs (CL08 Great Crested Newt Class 1, Registration number 2015-19109-CLS-CLS )

2.2 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was conducted following standard published guidelines (JNCC 2010). This involved a walkover of the site, mapping all habitats present and noting species proportions where possible using the DAFOR scale where D is dominant, A is abundant, F is frequent, O is occasional and R rare . The survey was ‘extended’ to include records of protected or notable fauna and the habitats were evaluated for their potential to support such fauna.

2.3 Points were taken and waymarked with a Garmin GPS, projected onto an OS 1:10,000 map.

2.4 Grassland was surveyed around Northdale Head House and categorised under Phase 1 guidelines. Management to enhance the sward was also added to the report.

### 3. Baseline ecological conditions

#### 3.1 Walkover survey of habitats

##### Red Barns to PROW

GPS points were taken of the new section and plotted on Figure 3 below.

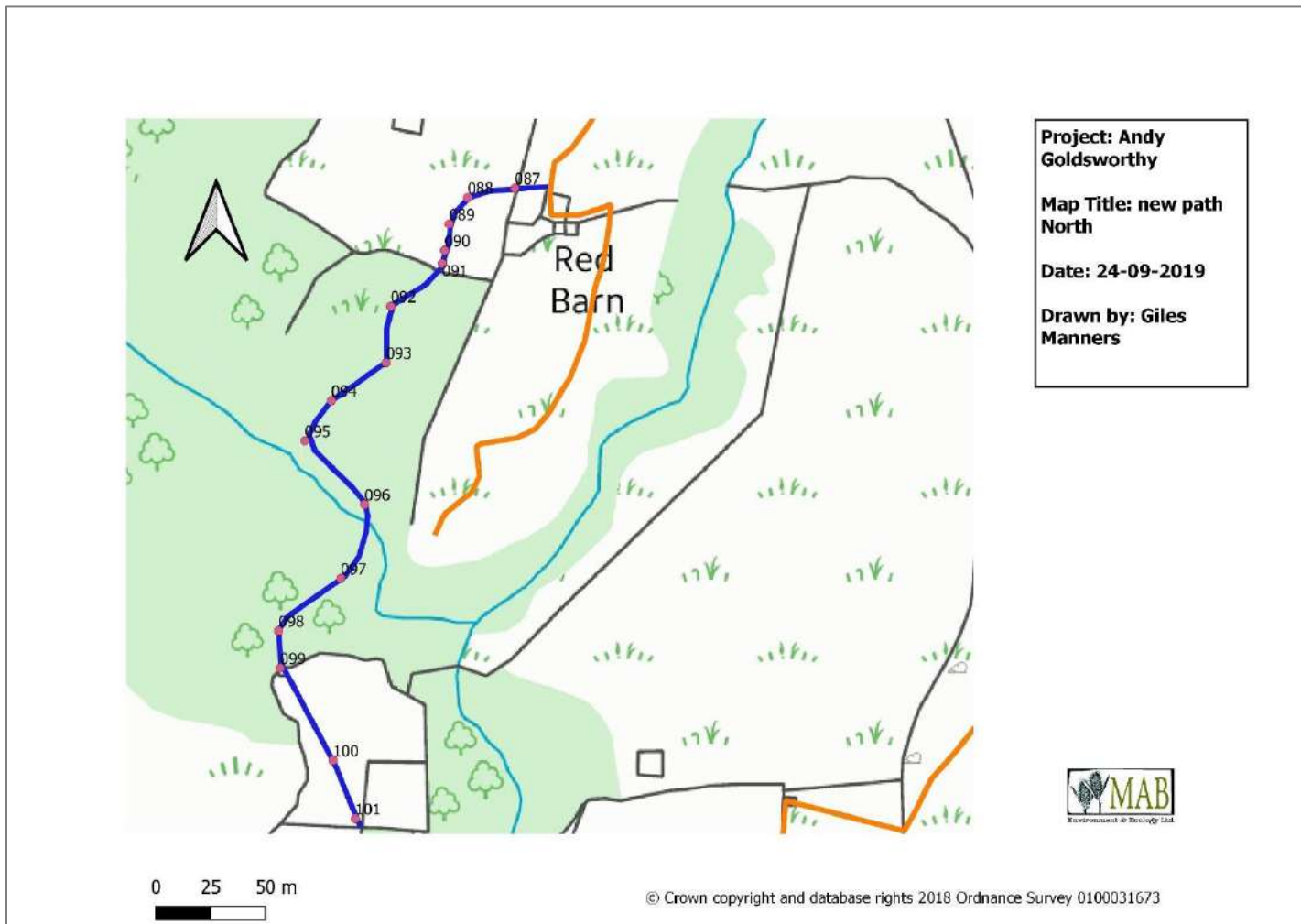




Figure 3 GPS waypoints

Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

Numbered sections	Route	Habitats/Species	Photographs	Management options
87 -90	Red Barn gateposts	<p>Fen meadow : M23 <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i>- <i>Galium palustre</i> rush-pasture (<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> sub community). Species present greater bird's foot trefoil (<i>Lotus uglinosus</i>), sharp flowered rush (<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>), soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>), tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Marsh thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), marsh willowherb (<i>Epilobium palustre</i>), false oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), sneezewort (<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>), marsh bedstraw (<i>Galium palustre</i>), mat grass (<i>Nardus stricta</i>), sweet vernal grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>), Previous planting with <i>Salix</i> sp and alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)</p>		Remove planted willow and alder

Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

88	Culvert and recent ditching			Fill in ditch but retain culvert for footpath
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Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

89		Area of blue-green sedges and rush pasture			
90/91		End of flush			

Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

<p>92-97</p>	<p>Path moves into woodland and becomes a woodland track</p>	<p>Woodland flora – bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>), wavy hair grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>), nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). Birch and hawthorn on edges of track . Creeping soft grass (<i>Holcus mollis</i>) abundant in drier areas and bracken more frequent.</p>		
<p>95</p>	<p>Track to river crossing</p>	<p>Track is well used with few species. Species to the sides include foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>), creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), bracken</p>		

Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

98-99	After river crossing to start of PROW	Well defined track with fewer trees- Bilberry ( <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> ), wavy hair grass, common bent ( <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> ), bracken F, sweet vernal grass R.		
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### New footpath to Thorn House

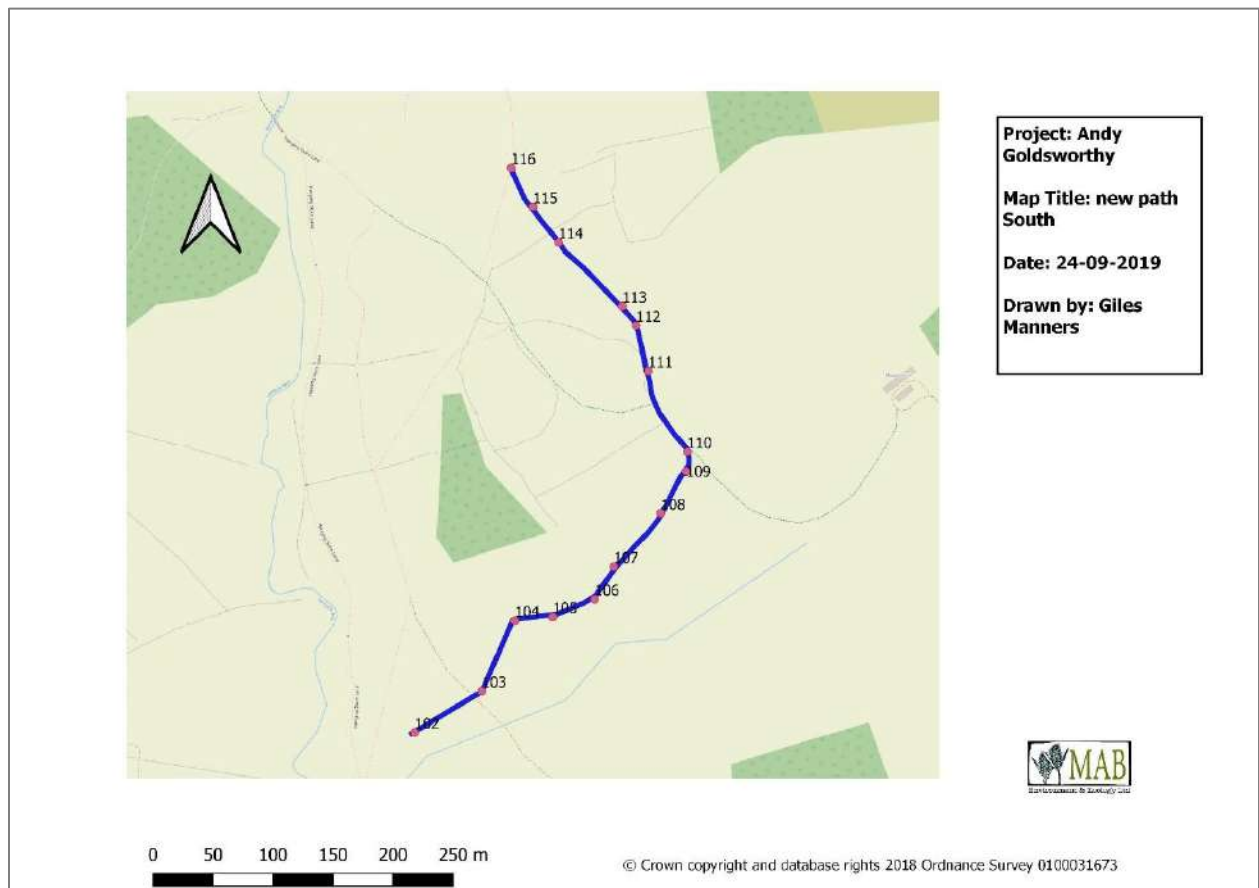





Figure 4 GPS waypoints

Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

Numbered sections	Route	Habitats/Species	Photographs
102	New footpath leaves PROW up to Thorn House	Short cattle-grazed improved grassland. Creeping thistle F, rye grass A, white clover ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> ) A, cock's-foot ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> ), spear thistle ( <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> ). Thorn house at top right.	
103		Steep sloping fields. Not of benefit for feeding or breeding waders. Short grazed cattle/sheep. Same as 102 but with crested dogstail ( <i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i> ) R, Yorkshire fog, Poa sp.	

107	Top of field before joins bridleway	Steep sloping and dry. Not suitable for waders. Bracken at edges. Creeping thistle is frequent.	 The table contains two photographs. The top photograph shows a wide view of a steep, grassy slope under a blue sky with light clouds. The vegetation is a mix of green grass and some taller, brownish plants. In the background, there is a line of trees. The bottom photograph is a closer view of the same slope, showing a stone wall or fence line running across the middle ground. The ground is covered in green grass and some weeds. The trees are more prominent in this shot.
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Addendum for footpath sections: Red Barns, Thorn House and Bogs House September 2019

110-113	Path follows bridleway	Steep rabbit-grazed species-poor semi-improved acidic grassland. No wader habitat.	
113	Path leaves bridleway and cuts down towards Hanging Stone House	Species-poor , short-grazed semi-improved acidic grassland	

115	Last field before Hanging Stone	Small species-poor flush – soft rush dominant. Fairly steep and small. Potential for snipe feeding. Too small for breeding waders.	
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### Footpath to Bridleway at Bogs House

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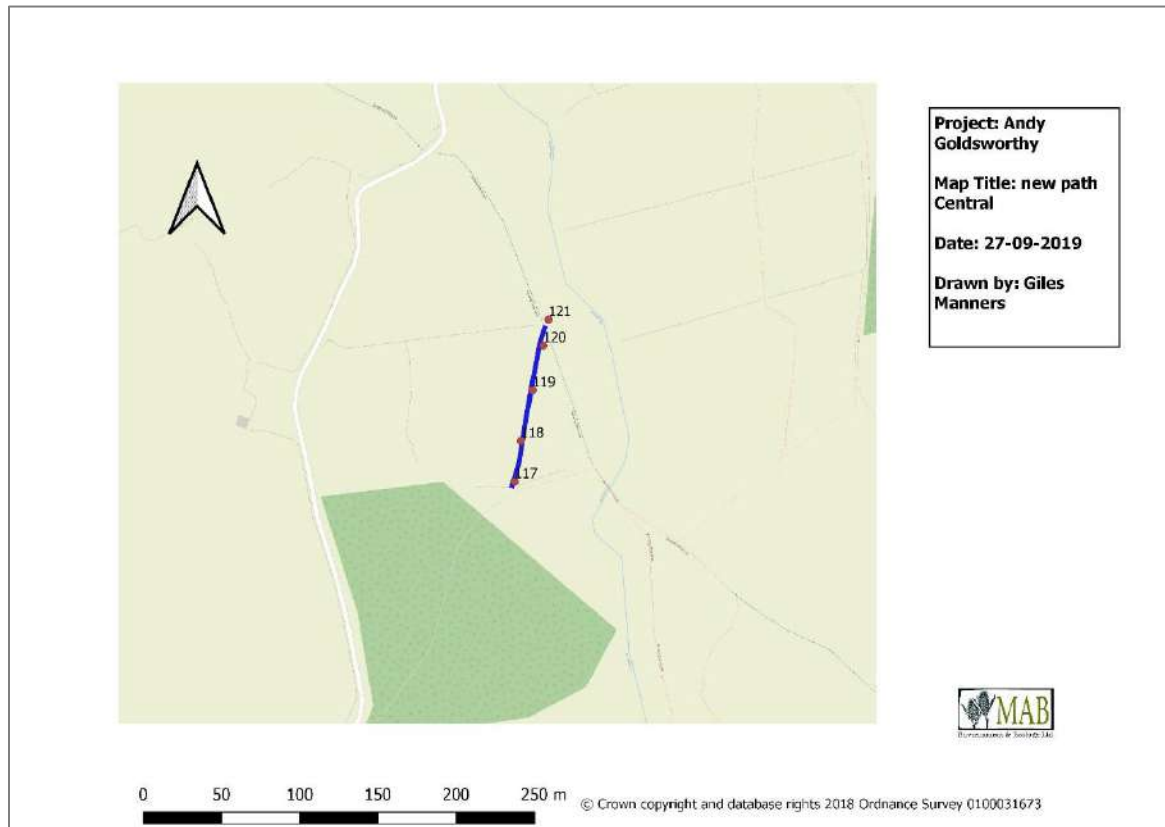



Figure 5 GPS waypoints

Numbered sections	Route	Habitats/Species	Photographs
117-120	Cuts across one field	<p>Short sheep-grazed improved grassland. Sloping. No wader breeding or feeding habitat.</p> <p>Creeping thistle F, rye grass D, white clover A, Yorkshire fog O, broad leaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>) O, spear thistle R, tufted hair-grass (<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>) F.</p>	

### 3.2 Discussion and impact assessment

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#### Red Barns

The majority of the proposed footpath follows an estate track that has been in existence for some time and so does not impact on any interesting habitats. The section closest to Red Barns follows the historic route but is through an area of fen meadow, which is reasonably species-rich with sneezewort. This area may become waterlogged in winter so it would be advisable to keep an eye on it and if necessary construct board walks to avoid any damage or use stones as stepping stones. One section has had a culvert recently replaced and a section of ditch has been dug through the fen area. This should be filled in so that the area remains wet. Trees have been planted several years ago and it would be beneficial to keep this area free of trees so that it remains as a fen meadow. To prevent damage to the meadow it is recommended that any construction traffic follows the original route through the bracken dominated area to ensure that there is no damage to any mire habitats. Ecological supervision could be put in place to ensure this and check the route for construction traffic.

#### Thorn House

The footpath runs through improved grassland, on the lower slopes, and on higher slopes species-poor semi-improved grassland which is becoming infested with creeping and spear thistle.

Concerns have been raised about any impact on waders on this section of the route as it is closer to the SPA. Fields here are very shortly grazed and steep so they are not suitable for breeding or feeding waders. There are some small flushed areas that again are too small for breeding waders and are close to trees, which makes them more suitable for predation and so would be avoided by waders.

#### Bogs House

Improved grassland with no habitat for waders so no impacts will be caused by the diversion of the footpath.



#### **4. Mitigation and enhancement**

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Due to the manual nature of the footpath creation, there is minimal need for mitigation in relation to the works. Footpath creation should be limited to manual methods.

Enhancement of the Red Barns fen meadow section should include removal of planted trees in the flush areas and infilling of the ditch to prevent drying out.

#### **5. Northdale Head Acid grassland**

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Concerns have been raised by the NYMNPA ecologist that there may be impacts on semi-improved acidic grassland from the proposed art work at Northdale Head. Grassland area from 1989 is seen in Figure 5.

The site was surveyed and the majority of the field parcel is improved grassland with rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) abundant, tufted hair-grass O, nettle (*Urtica dioica*) F, bracken R, broad leaved dock R, cock's-foot F, creeping thistle O, Yorkshire fog F, foxglove R, creeping buttercup O. See Photos 1 and 2

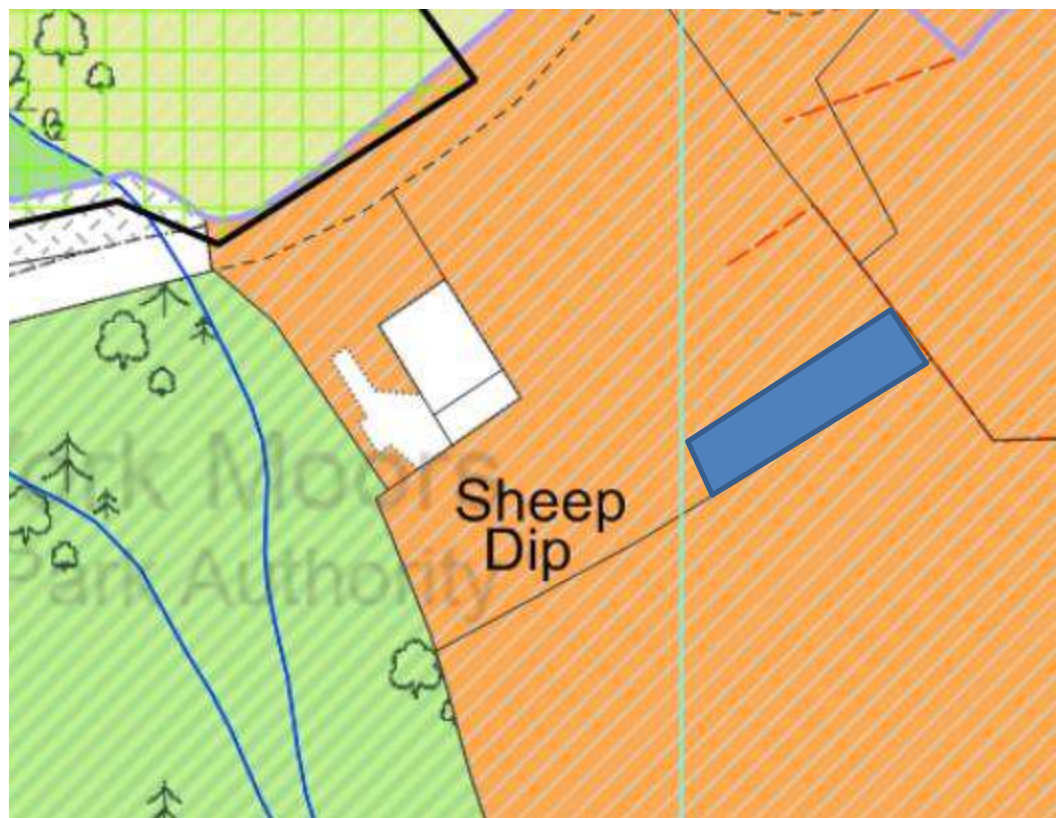


Figure 6 Semi improved acid grassland (orange with grey slashes) from 1989 Phase 1 NYMNP survey. Blue area is what now remains of species poor semi-improved acid grassland.



Photo 1 Northdale Head



Photo 2 Close up of sward.

There is a very small area of species-poor acidic grassland now (surveyed September 2019). See Figure 5 and Photo 3. Species present are common bent, sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetellosa*) O, heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) O, sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*) F. There were very few herbaceous species in the sward.



Photo 3 Species poor semi improved grassland

The acidic grassland area is along the southern boundary and is just outside of the area of proposed work. The improved grassland areas would be difficult to revert back to acidic status but if the sward receives no fertiliser inputs the diversity of the sward should increase. Nettle and thistle should be strimmed or hand pulled. Sheep grazing would be beneficial or cutting and removal of arisings would help to lower fertility and thus increase diversity.

## 6. References

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BS42020. Biodiversity - Code of Practice for planning and development. British Standards Institution 2013.

Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularbiodiversity>

National Planning Policy Framework:

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The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

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