

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: NYM/2021/0277/AGRP Archaeology
Date: 08 June 2021 12:57:15

Hi Megan,

Thanks for the recent information supplied by the applicants for the resurfacing of a Forestry track near Sneaton, known as Foss Lane. For the most part I agree with the comments made by Elspeth Ingleby about the ecological and visual aspects of the proposed works, as the same points stand for the historic environment. The historical lane, bounded by the walling/hedgelines on both sides and running between two enclosed fields, is a relatively unusual example of a surviving rural historic routeway, and should be retained as much as possible. We also have a record of an historic trod running the length of the lane, though very little of it can be seen in the supplied photographs. To what extent it survives is unknown.

Neither of the historic aspects are noted on the HER, so it is no fault of Forestry that they were not picked up during their consultation process. Without knowing the extent of any surviving trod flagstones beneath the ground surface it is hard to offer much in the way of mitigation guidance. If flags are found when the topsoil is lifted off, the best course of action would be to leave them in situ, protect them as much as possible when laying the track, and leave them in place when restoring the soil. If this is not possible, or more than just a few flags are found to be present, I'd ask that Forestry or their contractors get in touch ASAP with National Park archaeologists to discuss a better preservation method: this might require lifting and relaying the flags.

I understand this might be hard to condition through planning. Would something on the lines of 'historic trod remains, if discovered, must be preserved in situ as much as possible on site. Contact with the NP Archaeology Officer must be maintained throughout topsoil removal, and a methodology for protection must be agreed in writing if remains are encountered'. Apologies for the vagueness, it's often hard to determine outcomes with trod issues given their nature.

Best,

Nick Mason
Archaeology Officer

North York Moors National Park Authority

Tel: 01439 772700
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

From:

Subject: NYM/2021/0277/AGRP - lane from Crooks Plantation to Sneaton Forest
Date: 18 May 2021 15:46:56

Dear Megan

Looking at the site photos provided, it appears that the existing track is unsurfaced (or has completely vegetated over) and has an established mix of improved pasture, gorse scrub, rush pasture and old hedgerow trees. The removal of these habitats to create the proposed 4m wide forestry track – particularly the gorse scrub, rush and hedgerow trees – will remove potentially valuable habitat for wildlife leading to a net biodiversity loss. The removal of such screening vegetation will also result in a potentially significant landscape impact as the new track would seem to be highly visible from the wider area. No information has been provided with the application regarding how much if any of the established shrub and hedgerow tree habitat will be possible to retain and what removed to facilitate insertion of the surfaced track, and this should be provided to give a better understanding of the potential loss.

The historic lane/track was originally bracketed by hedgerows either side, and it is possible that reinstatement of either or both hedge lines may compensate for the anticipated biodiversity loss caused by the development as well as reducing its landscape impact.

Many thanks

Elsbeth

Elsbeth Ingleby MA_{Cantab} ACIEEM

Ecologist

North York Moors National Park Authority

The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP