

Highlands farm,
Barnston,
Scarborough
YO13 0JH.



18th October 2018

Dear Mrs Strangeway

Re. Application for Creation of Wildlife Pond ref:- NYM/2018/0275/NE

Please find enclosed completed forms as requested.
We would like to keep the proposed Pond under
0-3 hectares (slightly smaller than our original).
This would attract an additional payment to the monies
sent previously.

Regarding timescale, subject to approval, and weather
permitting we would like to press on with work
as soon as possible. We hope for a drier
winter than 2017/18.

There are two small 'purple willow' shrubs we
would like to incorporate into an island within
the pond. Please let us know re. Tree Survey?

Many thanks for help so far

yours sincerely

Site visit note

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Date of visit | April 12th 2017 and June 2 nd 2017, 3 rd August 2017 |
| Name | David and Elaine Newham |
| Address | Highlands Farm, Burniston, YO13 0DZ L |
| Phone No. | |
| Reason for visit | To survey an area of fen and marshland with a view to excavating a new pond |
| Those present | Chris Tomson |



Introduction

This visit came about as a result of a request from the Newhams, for me to visit and look at a block of land (site) at Brown Beck amounting to around 15 hectares which they purchased a few years ago. The site has had no artificial fertiliser either before or since the sale. The site is all down to permanent pasture and meadows with some semi natural ancient woodland. The site is within the North York Moors National Park.

An area of wetland habitat amounting to 2.12 hectares in field number 6722 (see attached map) lies on the south western corner of the site and the Newhams are keen to enhance the wetland by excavating a pond. They have consulted with the North York Moors National Park Authority who require a botanical survey before considering consent. The Newhams asked me to look at the site and to report on my findings which are set out below.

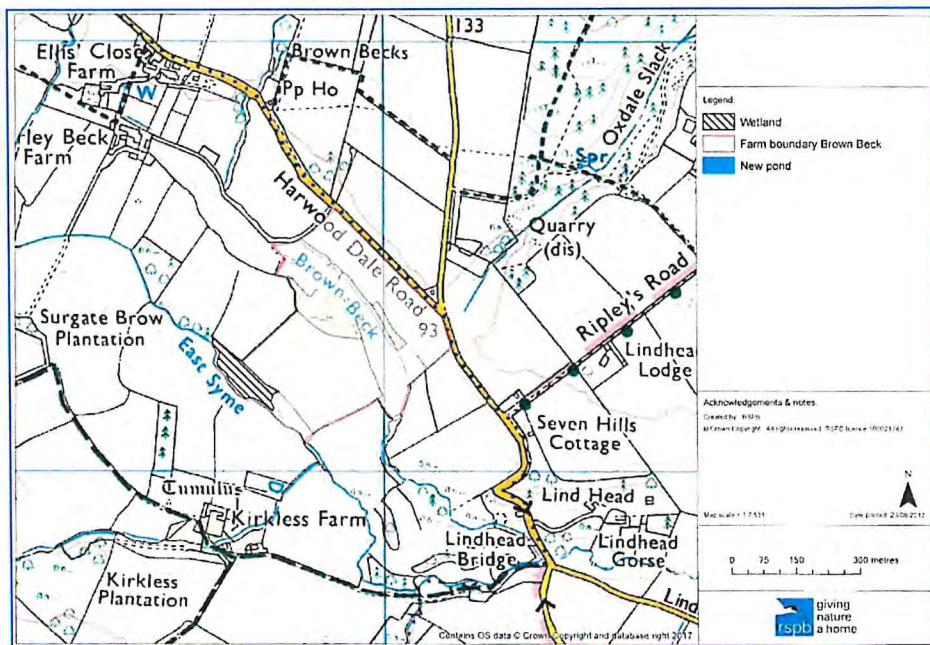


Fig. 1 Map showing the location of the land at Brown beck

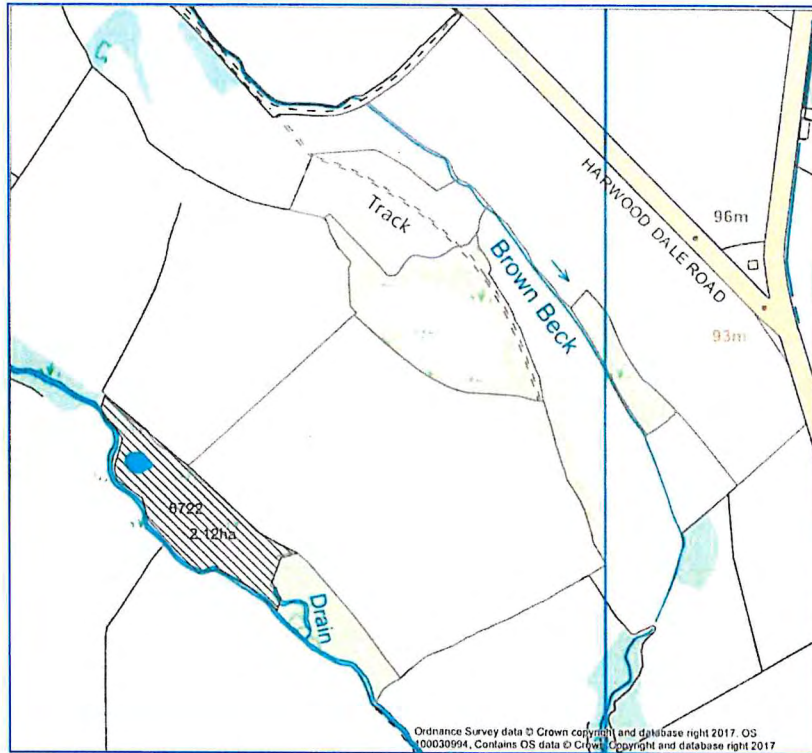


Fig.2 Map showing the location of the wetland on the land at Brown Beck.



Fig. 3 The eastern end of the wetland showing the extensive bed of Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*

MINPA
30 APR 2018



Fig. 4 The western end of the wetland is dominated with Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*



NYMNP
30 APR 2018

Fig.5 Reed bunting's *Emberiza schoeniclus* nest in the Reed Canary Grass

Site description.

The wetland field number 6722 amounts to 2.12 hectares and borders the East Syme Beck but appears to be fed by ground water coming off the fields. The wetland is in a natural depression at the base of a slope on the adjoining fields. Wet woodland dominated by Common alder adjoins the site at both the western and eastern end. The site is currently open to grazing but shows little evidence of sheep having ventured into it. A sheep fence and a four metre access gate is due to be erected to control grazing. The land to the south west of the East Syme Beck is in separate ownership.

The eastern half of the wetland is dominated by Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea* with areas of Lesser pond sedge *Carex scutiformis* and Yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus* and merges into wet woodland whilst the western half is dominated by Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. The Reed canary grass fen borders an area of scrub dominated by Common Sallow *Salix cinerea*.

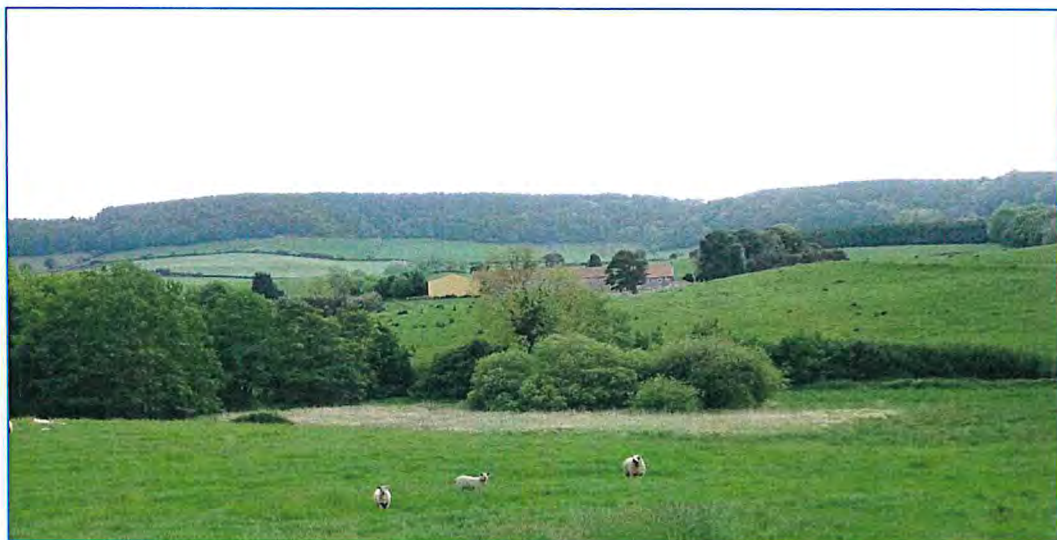


Fig. 6 Showing the area of Sallow, *Salix cinerea* scrub centre.

Recommendations

The proposed pond should be excavated amongst the Tufted Hair Grass dominated western end of the site as there is very little of botanical interest here. In fact the careful creation of a pond will enhance the site. The size of the pond is yet to be determined but there is sufficient area to accommodate a pond of 20 metres diameter without impacting on the important fen at the eastern end of the site.

Plants found on the site of the proposed pond

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 30 APR 2018

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Meadow sweet | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> | F |
| Creeping thistle | <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | F |
| Broad leaved dock | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | O |
| Marsh woundwort | <i>Stachys palustris</i> | R |
| Birds foot trefoil | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | R |
| Brown bent | <i>Agrostis vineale</i> | R |
| Cocksfoot | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | F |
| Yorkshire fog | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | A |
| Soft rush | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | F |
| Jointed rush | <i>Juncus articulatus</i> | O |
| Tufted hair grass | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | D |

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Common nettle | <i>Urtica dioica</i> | F |
|---------------|----------------------|---|

D = Dominant. A = Abundant. F = Frequent. O = Occasional. R = Rare.

Plants found on the site away from the proposed pond area in the Reed Canary Grass.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Meadow sweet | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> | F |
| Creeping thistle | <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | F |
| Broad leaved dock | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | O |
| Marsh woundwort | <i>Stachys palustris</i> | R |
| Birds foot trefoil | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | R |
| Brown bent | <i>Agrostis vineale</i> | R |
| Cocksfoot | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | F |
| Yorkshire fog | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | A |
| Soft rush | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | F |
| Jointed rush | <i>Juncus articulatus</i> | O |
| Tufted hair grass | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | D |
| Sneezewort | <i>Achillea ptarmica</i> | R |
| Yarrow | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | O |
| Silverweed | <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | O |
| Marsh marigold | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | O |
| Purple loosestrife | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | O |
| Yellow flag | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | O |
| Reed canary grass | <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | D |
| Pignut | <i>Conopodium majus</i> | O |
| Foxglove | <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> | O |
| Bramble | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> | F |
| Lesser pond sedge | <i>Carex scutiformis</i> | F |
| Greater stitchwort | <i>Stellaria holostea</i> | O |
| Wild angelica | <i>Angelica sylvestris</i> | O |

The proposed pond

Figure 6 shows a suggested location and shape for the proposed pond which as shown extends to just over 1000 square metres.

A number of test pits should be dug at various points to determine the depth of impermeable soil and the water table to indicate the depth of the final pond. The pond should be shallow at the edges i.e. 15cms with a variable shape to create a number of bays. Depth should vary across the pond to create a variety of habitats to suit aquatic plants but still retain a large area of open water ideally to a depth in excess of 1.5 metres if the soil structure allows.

The excavated material should be removed from the site.

The site will be fenced with sheep netting with a 4 metre field gate in the fence. It may be beneficial at some stage in the future to graze a few cattle and or sheep in the Autumn to control rank vegetation by treading particularly amongst the Tufted Hair grass which is very unpalatable to stock. By grazing (apart from the open water) the site should still be eligible for Basic Payment Scheme.



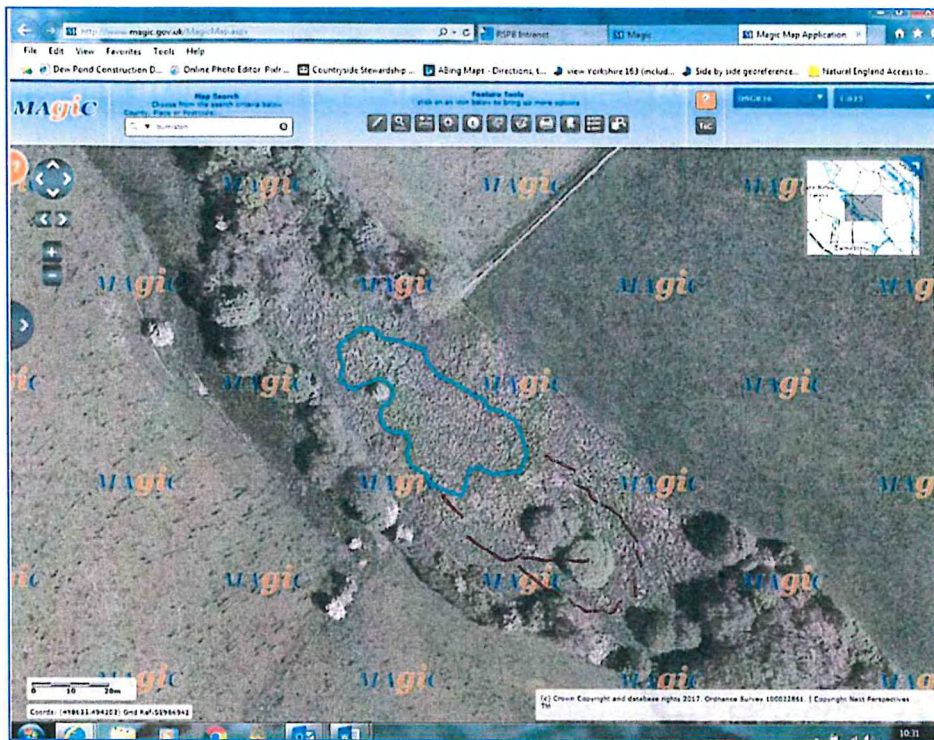


Fig. 6 Aerial photo taken from the DEFRA MAGIC website showing suggested pond location within the site.

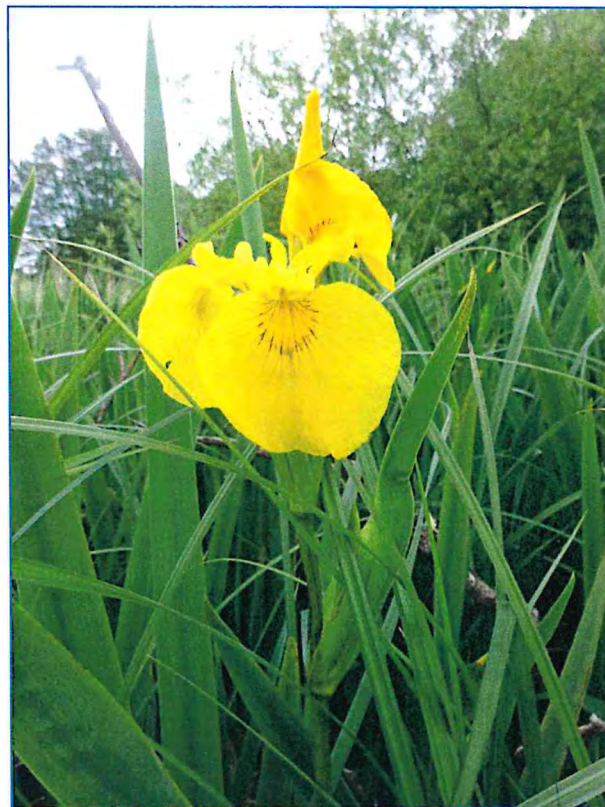


Fig.8 Yellow flag, *Iris Pseudacurus* with Lesser Pond sedge *Carex acutiformis* in the Reed Canary Grass fen area.

RIVERLANDA
 30 APR 2013

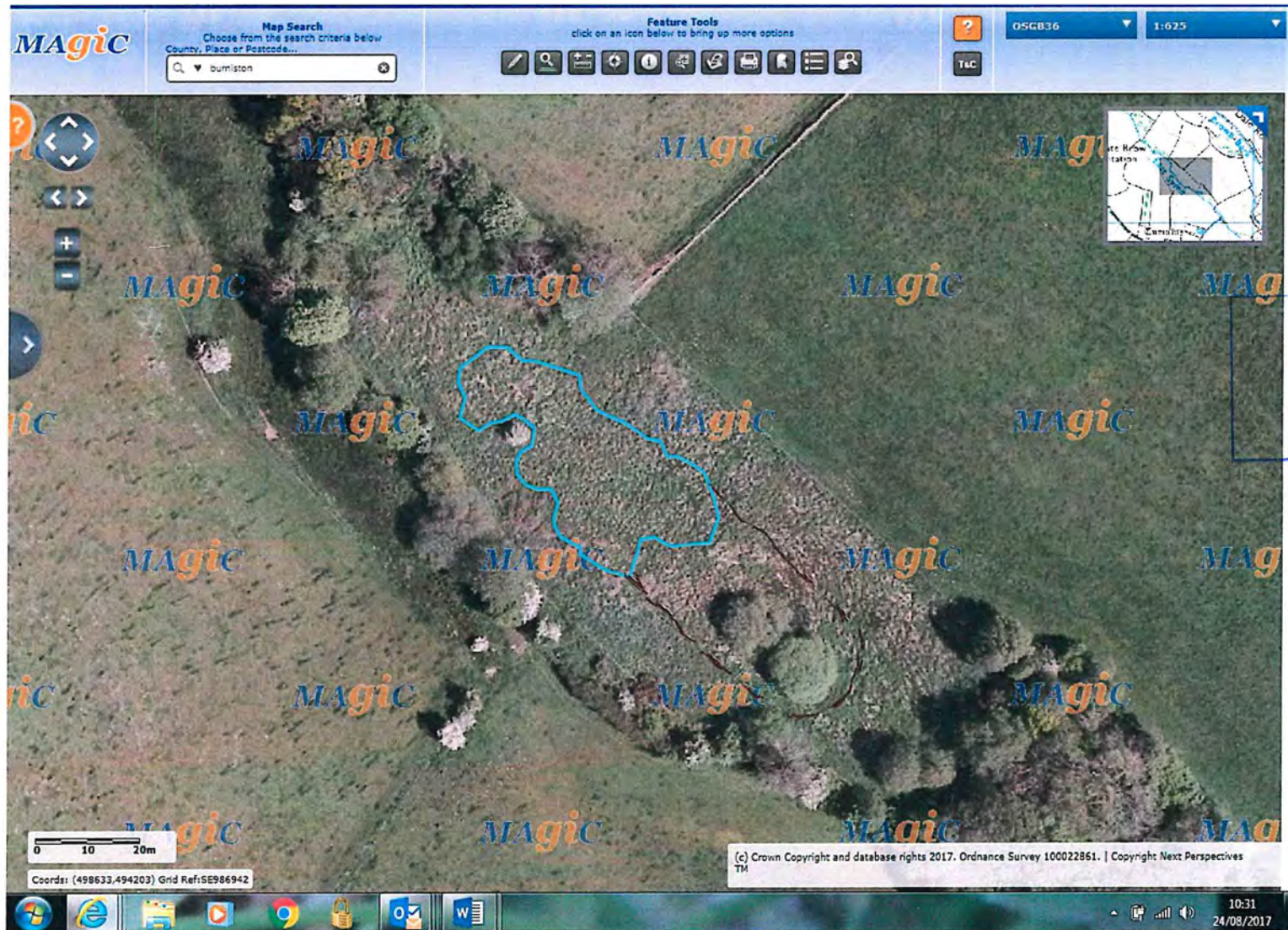
Summary

The pond creation is a worthwhile project which will enhance the site. Following three visits to the site throughout the spring and summer I am confident that there are no plant species of any significance on the site of the proposed pond.

Mr Chris Tomson
Conservation Adviser for the Yorkshire Wolds and Coast
RSPB Northern Region Office
Westleigh Mews Wakefield Road
Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8QD



Notes



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incorporate
blue + black
area.

Key - 2 trees to be left on island
- surrounding area is lower lying than blue