

## North York Moors National Park Authority

<b>Scarborough Borough Council (South)</b> <b>Parish: Hutton Buscel</b>	<b>App Num. NYM/2015/0085/R3</b>
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**Proposal:** Application under Regulation 3 (Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992) for proposed surface dressing of rolled limestone gravel to existing access track

**Location:** Wykeham Forest, Wykeham

**Applicant:** NYMNPA fao: Ms Mags Waughman, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

**Date for Decision:** 07 April 2015

**Grid Ref:** SE 496428 487132

### Director of Planning's Recommendation

**Approval** subject to the following conditions:

1. TIME01 Standard Three Year Commencement Date
2. PLAN02 Strict Accordance With the Plans/Specifications or Minor Variations

### Consultations

**Parish -**

**English Heritage** - Supports the application as a means to reduce the risk to a scheduled monument. English Heritage has previously approved the work through the NYMNPA Monument Management Scheme and therefore this work has deemed consent and does not require Scheduled Monument Consent.

**Natural England** – No Comments

**Site Notice Expiry Date** – 25 March 2015

### Background

This application seeks planning permission for the addition of a surface dressing of rolled limestone gravel to a 165 metre length of track through Wykeham Forest, located to the north west of Hutton Buscel and owned by the Dawnay Estate. The application is being submitted by the National Park Authority and is therefore being referred to Committee. It is part of a programme of work needed to address the risks to the monument which is part of the Authority's Monuments Management Scheme and has been agreed with English Heritage.

The track runs along the line of an infilled ditch which runs between two earthwork banks, part of the Scheduled Monument known as "The Moors Dikes and Cradlegrip Dike prehistoric linear boundaries and other prehistoric remains in Wykeham Forest". The track is used by Estate vehicles and as the condition of the track has worsened, vehicles are moving sideways and encroaching onto the edges of the earthworks causing damage to the monument through clipping the earthworks and deep wheel ruts disturbing buried deposits. This is also undercutting the trees on top, which if they topple could pull up the archaeology.

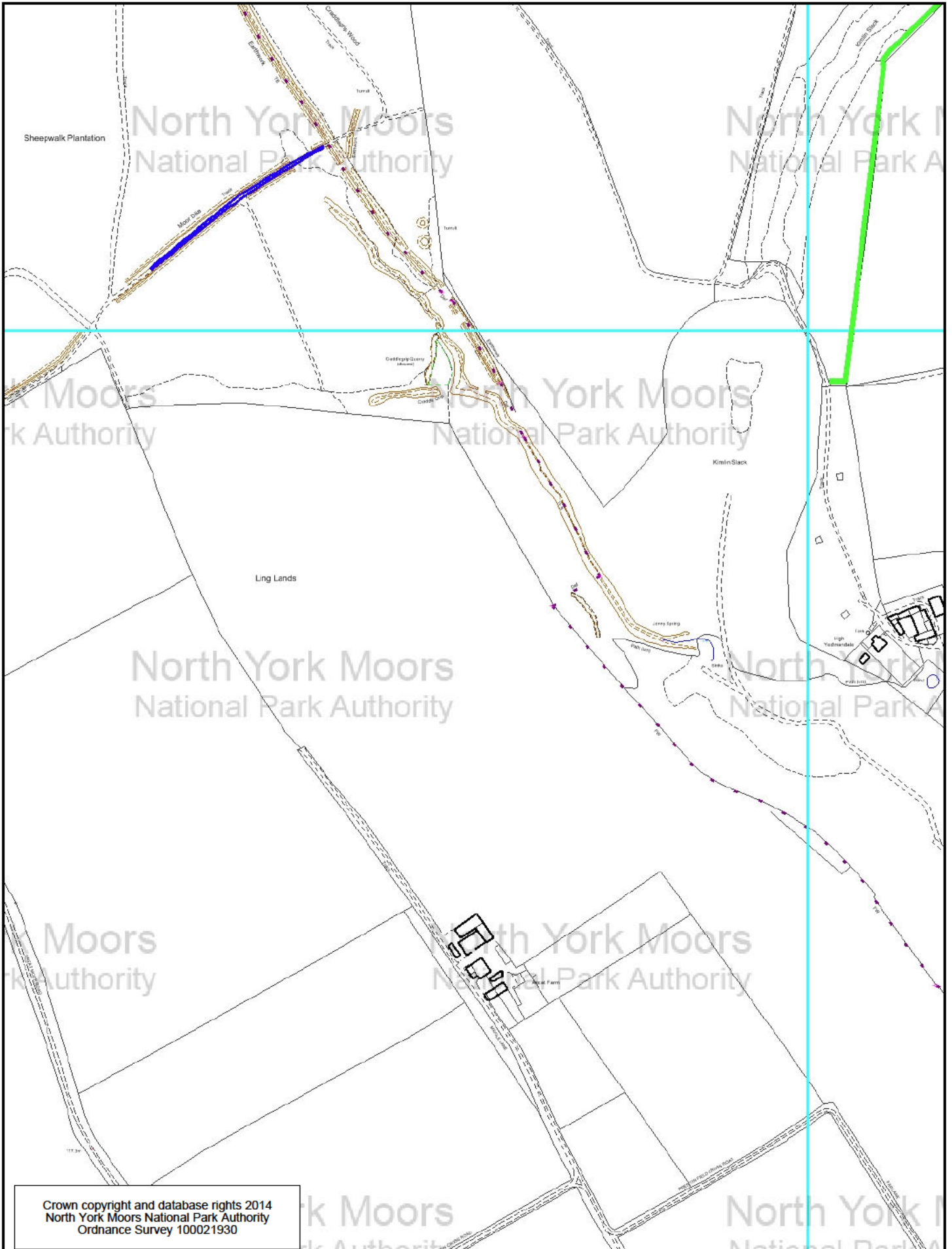
The proposed surfacing will restrict the vehicles to a 2 metre width in the centre of the ditch which it is hoped will protect the wider earthworks.



North York Moors National Park  
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**Main Issues****Policy Context**

Core Policy A seeks to ensure that new development conserves and enhances the landscape, settlement, building features and historic assets of the National Park's landscape character areas.

Core Policy G seeks to conserve the landscape, historic assets and cultural heritage of the National Park and protection will be given to those elements which contribute to the character and setting of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Monuments.

Development Policy 7 advises that proposal which would have an unacceptable impact on the integrity or setting of a Scheduled Monument will not be permitted.

**Archaeology**

The proposed surface dressing forms part of a programme of works agreed with English Heritage in order to improve the condition of the monument where the earthworks are most vulnerable. The surface dressing of the track will create a more robust surface for vehicles and will encourage drivers to keep to a defined route in the centre of the ditch. This will prevent further damage to the monument and help preserve its significance both in terms of the visual significance of the earthworks and also the evidential value of the archaeological remains. This will ensure the continued visibility and integrity of the earthworks and as such the proposed works are considered to comply with Core Policy G and Development Policy 7 of the NYM Local Development Framework.

**Landscape Impact**

The proposed works will introduce a surface dressing to a track which is for the most part currently unsurfaced. However it is considered that the damage to the track and monument currently being caused by vehicles is visually more harmful than the introduction of a stoned surface. Furthermore since the track lies within the Wykeham Forest hidden by the surrounding earthworks and is only accessible by the Estate, the impact of the proposed works on the wider landscape of the National Park is negligible. Therefore it is considered that the proposal complies with Core Policies A and G of the Local Development Framework.

**Explanation of how the Authority has Worked Positively with the Applicant/Agent**

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively in determining this application by assessing the scheme against the Development Plan and other material considerations and subsequently granting planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework.