

Summary Management Plan

Tadcaster Road verge



Site Background

Region: North Yorkshire

Location: Moor Lane, Tadcaster
(SE 46 41)

Site Owner: Highways England

Area (Ha): 1.19

Site Plan

List of Features

1 - Species Rich Grassland

Species-rich grasslands are typified as areas that have not been ploughed, fertilised or re-sown in recent years. They provide a habitat for a great variety of species which cannot thrive in improved swards. They have declined dramatically since the second world war and now survive as small and isolated remnants, such as along road verges and field margins, of a habitat that was once widespread.

Objective

To preserve and enhance the sites ecological value and species richness through the implementation of appropriate management and monitoring regimes.

Summary Management Plan

Factors which influence the feature

Scrub Encroachment –

Because the site has suffered from neglect, some bushes and coarse dense grass has spread over the area reducing the number of orchids. This will continue unless shrub encroachment is addressed in early 2017, then only in subsequent years when required.

Illegal Mowing -

Intensive cutting/mowing takes place on some parts of the site which results in plants being prevented to set flower and set seed. The number of species will decrease and the ecological value of the site will decline if this anti-social practice is not stopped or controlled.

Neighbouring Land Use –

The site is surrounded by arable fields which raises the risk of contamination from herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers. Maintenance of the hedgerow bordering the site will help to prevent the drift of any chemicals, applied to surrounding fields, from contaminating the site.

Attributes to be monitored

The orchids and broomrape are of particular interest at this site and efforts to monitor and record the number of spikes each year should be made to provide evidence that the site remains in a suitable condition. Any decline in counts could indicate that a different management approach is required.

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Management Rationale

The verge should be cut twice annually, once in spring and then again in autumn. All cuttings should be removed and can be used for hay.

Before the end of March 2017:

- 1) Cut back and remove some hawthorn and brambles encroaching down the slope particularly on the north-east verge including round the bend opposite the entrance to Jackdaw Quarry and heading towards Stutton.
- 2) Mow all verges and slopes and remove the cuttings. (For 2017, the north-west and south-west verges have already been cut very short, presumably by the local farmer, so require no further attention this year).
- 3) There is a patch of thick coarse grass on the north-east slope. This once had many orchids that have been out competed so it would benefit from rotavating to break up the roots and disturb the soil to bring fresh flower seeds towards the surface to germinate.

After October 1st, every year:

- 1) Mow all verges and slopes and remove the cuttings. The flowers should all have cast seed by this time and removing the cuttings will prevent the soil becoming too rich. (Soil enrichment is detrimental to wild flower growth).

Before 31st March every year:

- 1) Prune back any further encroachment of hawthorn and brambles.
- 2) Mow all verges and slopes (if needed) and remove the cuttings.

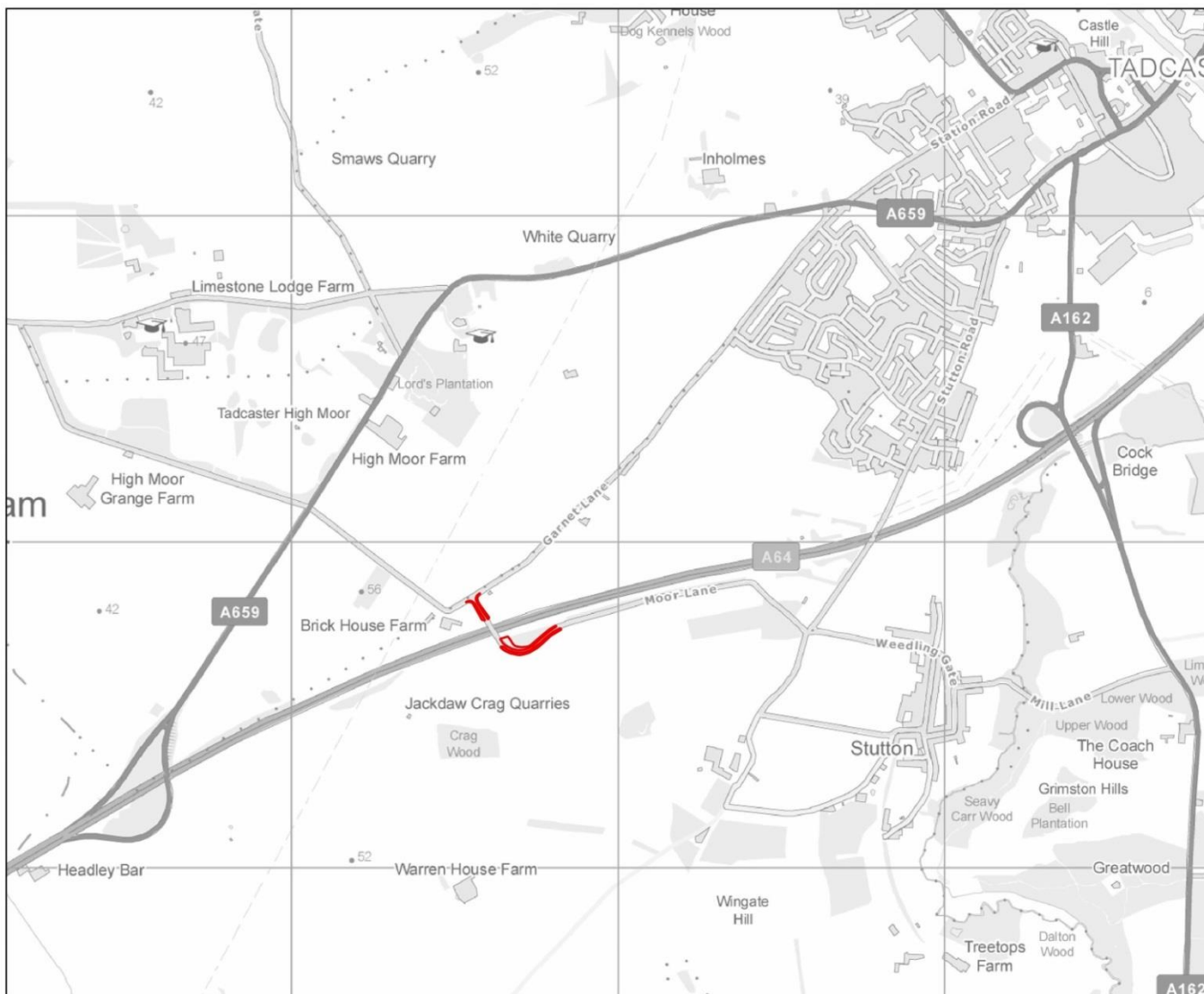
Summary Management Plan

Appendix 1 – Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus
Black medick	Medicago lupulina
Bladder Campion	Silene vulgaris
Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium
Charlock	Sinapis arvensis
Cinquefoil sp	Potentilla sp
Common Broomrape	Orobanche minor
Common Centaury	Centaurium erythraea
Common cleavers	Galium aparine
Common Fumitory	Fumaria officinalis
Common Knapweed	Centaurea nigra
Common Mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum
Common Poppy	Papaver rhoeas
Common Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa
Common Spotted orchid	Dactylorhiza fuchsii
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa
Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris
Cowslip	Primula veris
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Crosswort	Cruciata laevipes
Curled Dock	Rumex crispus
Daisy	Bellis perennis
Dandelion	Taraxacum sp
Dog Rose	Rosa canina
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Geranium molle
Fairy Flax	Linum catharticum
Field Forget-me-knot	Myosotis arvensis
Field Scabious	Knautia arvensis
Germander Speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys
Goatsbeard	Tragopogon pratensis
Greater Plantain	Plantago major
Hairy Tare	Vicia hirsuta
Hawkweed sp	Hieraceum sp
Hedge Bindweed	Calystegia sepium
Hedge Woundwort	Stachys sylvatica
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris
Meadow Sweet	Filipendula ulmaria
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Hieracium pilosella
Northern Marsh orchid	Dactylorhiza purpurella
Perennial Sow-thistle	Sonchus oleraceus
Pyramidal Orchid	Anacamptis pyramidalis
Red Campion	Silene dioica
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata
Rosebay Willowherb	Chamerion angustifolium
Self-heal	Prunella vulgaris
White Campion	Silene latifolia
White Clover	Trifolium repens
White Dead Nettle	Lamium album
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium

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Appendix 2 – Location Map



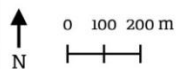
Moor Lane Verge

Tadcaster

Location Map

Legend

Site Boundary



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