

Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan



Public Consultation Draft

North Yorkshire County Council
English Heritage
Tarmac Northern Ltd

Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan

Public Consultation Draft


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Section 1: Introduction



1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 This Conservation Plan for the Thornborough Henges and an immediately associated area of land known as the Plan Area (see Figures 1 and 2) was commissioned in March 2005 by English Heritage, North Yorkshire County Council and Tarmac Northern Ltd on behalf of the Thornborough Henges Consultation and Working Group (THCWG). The Conservation Plan has been prepared by Atkins Heritage with assistance from Professor Barbara Bender, formerly of University College London. This Plan broadly represents the views of the members of the THCWG.
- 1.2 The Conservation Plan (hereafter known as the Plan) was commissioned to provide the key stakeholders with guidance on the future management and conservation of the Plan Area. The Plan is the first stage in a longer process of developing a sustainable future for the Henges. The key stakeholders will need to continue to work in partnership following the completion of the Plan to agree the future for the Henges and deliver the required works to achieve that vision. This is discussed further in Section 7.

What is a Conservation Plan?

- 1.3 A conservation plan is a document that sets out what is currently understood about a place, what is significant (or important) about that place and what the issues facing that place are. From this understanding, a conservation plan then sets out policies or principles to guide the long-term-management and conservation of the place and proposes actions to help deliver a sustainable future for the place.
- 1.4 Conservation plans have been prepared for many different types of properties across the world and the UK and are now an accepted tool for helping manage and develop cultural and natural heritage sites. Conservation plans are also required by many funding bodies, including the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage (EH), as part of their funding processes. As such,

conservation plans are recognised as the first critical step in the longer process of managing and conserving sites.

Scope and status of the Plan

- 1.5 This conservation plan has been prepared to help the key stakeholders develop approaches to the long-term management and conservation of the Plan Area. As part of this process Section 7 presents a number of possible opportunities that could deliver benefits for the conservation, management and interpretation of the Plan Area.
- 1.6 The extent of the Plan Area was agreed during the course of the project through consultation with the THCWG and local landowners. It represents a cohesive area of land, in terms of ownership, which encompasses the three Thornborough Henges and a number of associated archaeological remains. The Plan Area excludes adjacent former quarries and the Nosterfield Nature Reserve; it also lies outside of the current Nosterfield gravel extraction site and the proposed Ladybridge extraction site. The Plan Area does not encompass all known archaeological remains that are associated with the Thornborough Henges. It is also important to note that the Plan Area agreed for the Conservation Plan is for the purposes of this study only and does not reflect a fixed boundary for future options.
- 1.7 The Plan is a non-statutory document. Its implementation will be achieved by the key stakeholders working together to take forward and develop some or all of the opportunities outlined in Section 7 within the context of the Principles set out in Section 6. The Plan is the first step in a longer process to deliver a sustainable future for the Thornborough Henges and Plan Area.

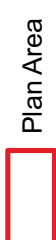
Key stakeholders involved in the Plan

- 1.8 The THCWG provided a forum through which the key stakeholders for the Plan were consulted. The members of this group included:
 - Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
 - Dr. Jan Harding of Newcastle University
 - English Heritage (EH)
 - English Nature (EN)
 - Friends of Thornborough Henges (FoT)
 - Hambleton District Council (HDC)

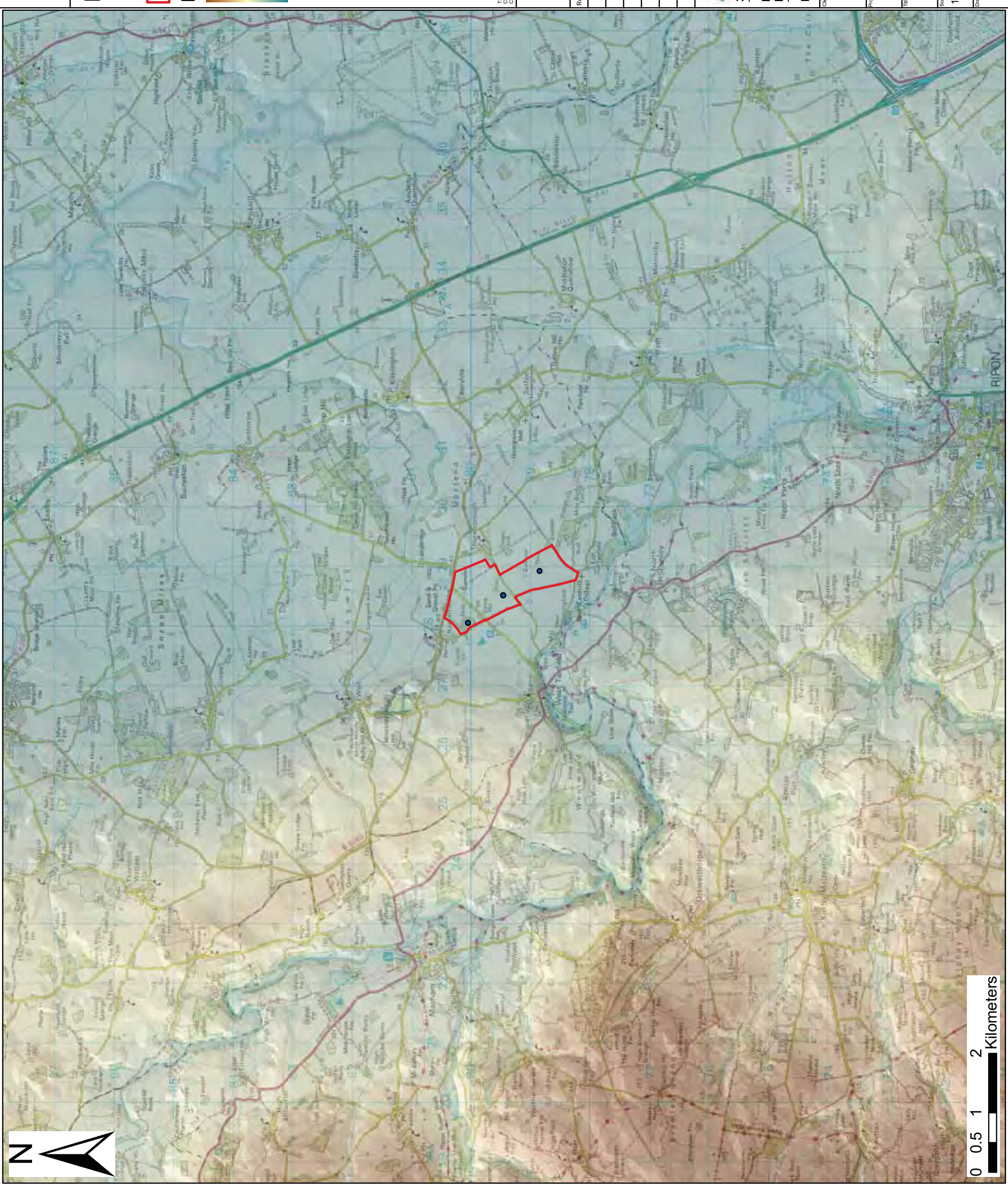
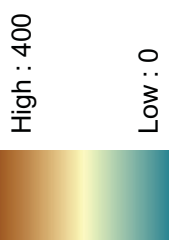


Legend

- Henges



Height (m)



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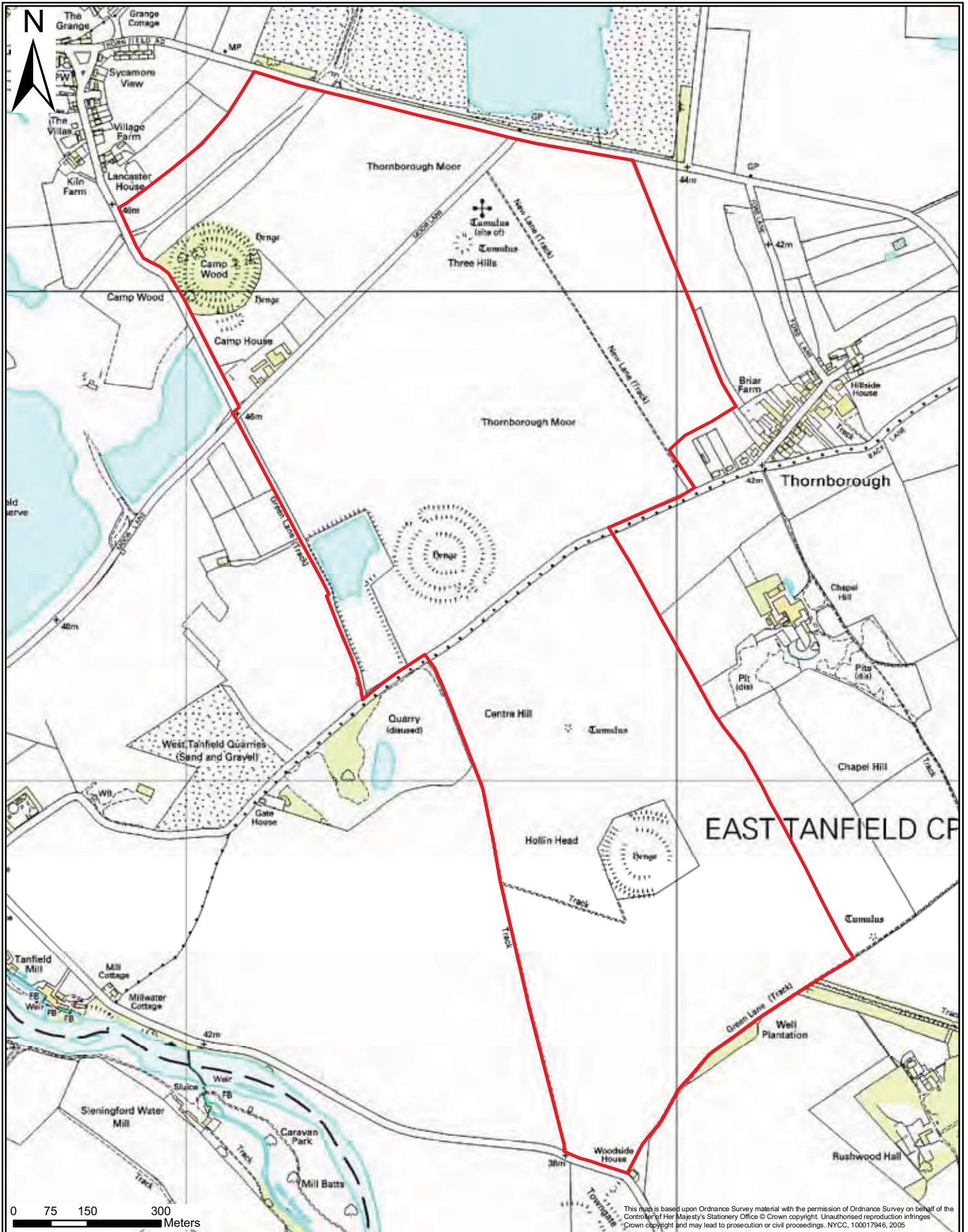
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Client	NYCC, English Heritage & Tarmac Northern Ltd.		
Project	Thorborough Henges Conservation Plan		
Title	Figure 1 - General Location of Plan Area		
Scale	1:60,000 at A3	Drawn	CG
		Checked	AC
		Authorised	AC
Drawing Number	5036650/54/009/27823	Date	18/08/05





Legend

Plan Area

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Client: NYCC, English Heritage and Tarmac Northern Ltd.

Project: Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan

Figure 2 - Extent of Plan Area

Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
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Date	Date	Date	Date
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Status	Drawing Number	Rev	
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- Mr Christopher Bourne Arton
- Mr Robert Staveley
- North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)
- Tarmac Northern Ltd (Tarmac)
- Well Parish Council (WPC)
- Tanfield Parish Council (TPC)
- Mike Griffiths Associates (MGA)

1.9 In addition, a series of public consultation events were held during June and July 2005 to allow a wider group of stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Plan (see methodology below).

Methodology

1.10 The Plan has been prepared in four stages all of which have been informed by a range of technical studies and public consultation:

- **Stage 1: Understanding the Place** – This stage was essentially about building a robust understanding of Plan Area it involved a number of technical studies including, amongst others, landscape assessment, archaeological analysis, ecological survey and a visitor and tourism study. Public consultation (see below) also informed this stage. The results of this stage can be found in Section 2 and in the relevant appendices.
- **Stage 2: Defining Significance** – Based on the understanding of the place gained through Stage 1 a Statement of Significance was prepared which identified what was important about the Plan Area and why. This was circulated to the THCWG for comment and review. The results of this stage can be found in Section 4.
- **Stage 3: Identifying Issues** - As part of the technical studies undertaken in Stage 1 and through the public consultation events the key issues facing the Plan Area were identified; these issues are explored in Section 5.
- **Stage 4: Developing Principles and identifying opportunities** – Following the assessment of the issues, a series of Principles were developed to help address the issues and guide the future conservation and management of the Plan Area. In addition, a number of opportunities and options were identified for future actions in the Plan Area that could benefit its conservation, presentation and management. These principles and opportunities reflect many comments received during the public consultation and discussions with the THCWG and other stakeholders.

Consultation

- 1.11 In addition to regular meetings with the THCWG and a round of meetings with key local stakeholders; a series of public consultation events were held in the period April 2005 to July 2005. These included the following:
- Open public meeting on the 20th of April at West Tanfield Memorial Hall
 - Manned exhibition on the 4th of June at West Tanfield Memorial Hall
 - Manned exhibition on the 18th of June at the Well Institute
 - Manned exhibition on the 2nd of July at Kirklington Village Hall
 - Manned exhibition on the 16th of July at West Tanfield Memorial Hall
- 1.12 The open public meeting was attended by in excess of 60 people; the other events attracted in total c. 72 people although a number of these were repeat visits. Leaflets advertising the exhibitions were circulated to the vast majority of properties in West Tanfield, Well, Kirklington, Sutton Howgrave, Nosterfield and Thornborough.
- 1.13 A broad range of comments were received during the public consultation process and these have been, wherever possible, reflected in the Plan.

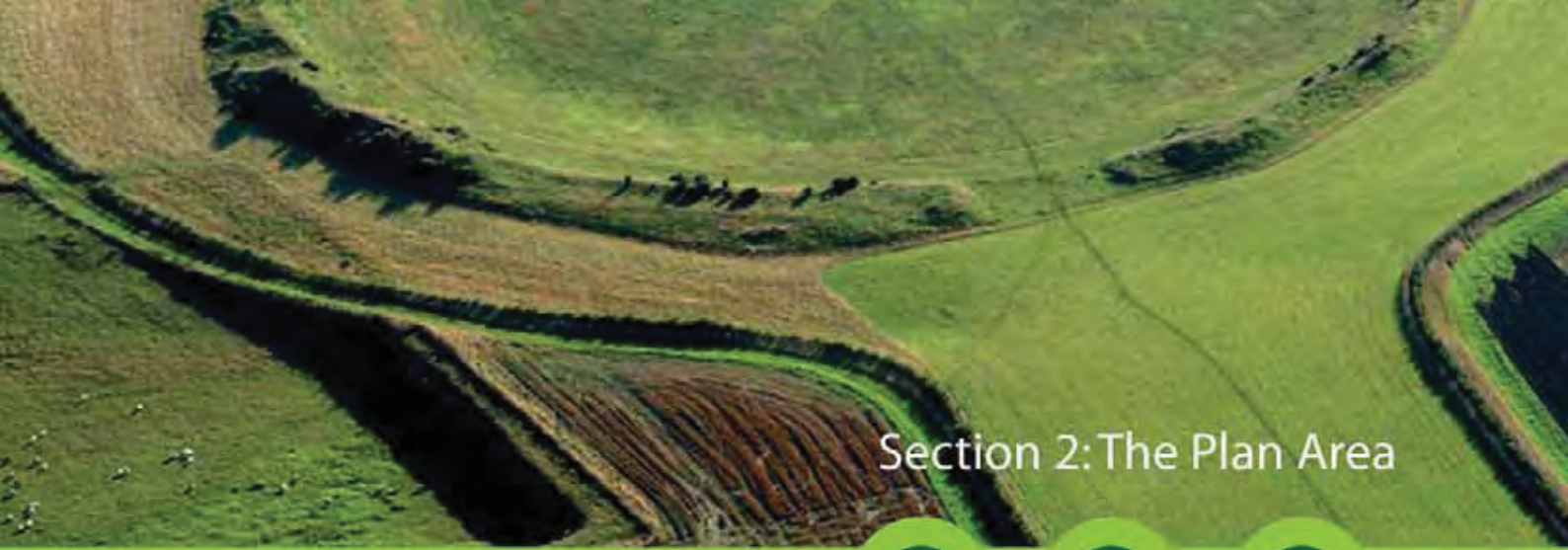
Structure of the Plan

- 1.14 The Plan has been structured in broad accordance with current guidance on conservation plans (HLF 2004, HLF 1998 and Kerr 1996). It follows a logical structure that begins with a description of the Plan Area (Section 2), followed by the identification of its significances (Section 4) and examination of the key issues facing the Plan Area (Section 5). These issues and significances are then addressed by a series of principles to guide the future management of the Plan Area (Section 6). Finally, a number of possible approaches, opportunities and recommendations for the conservation and enhancement of the Plan Area are presented in Section 7.
- 1.15 Further information on the content of each Section is provided below:
- **Section 1** outlines the background to the plan; its scope and aims; the key stakeholders involved in the Plan; and the structure of the Plan.
 - **Section 2** provides a description of the Plan Area and its general context in terms of its archaeology, history, landscape, ecology and current uses.

- **Section 3** provides a brief overview of the key planning and legal designations and instruments that are relevant to the Plan Area.
- **Section 4** presents the Statement of Significance for the Plan Area
- **Section 5** examines the key issues facing the Plan Area. These include amongst others landscape management, land-use, tourism, access, community involvement and the conservation of the archaeology.
- **Section 6** presents the guiding principles for the future management of the Plan Area.
- **Section 7** outlines a number of opportunities and recommendations that could contribute to the sustainable management of the Plan Area.
- **Appendix 1** presents a gazetteer of known archaeological and historical remains within the Plan Area. Where these are referred to in the Plan they are prefixed with CP e.g. (CP 1)

Project Team

- 1.16 In addition to the key stakeholders identified above, the following team members were responsible for the production of the Plan: Janet Miller (Project Director), Andrew Croft (Project Manager), Prof. Barbara Bender, Julia Bennett, Christopher Garratt, Tim Gorton, Tim Hunter-Rowe, Emma Newman, Dawn Phythian, Robert Sutton, Gareth Talbot, Johnny Turner and the Atkins Graphics team.



Section 2: The Plan Area



2. THE PLAN AREA

Introduction

- 2.1 This section presents a description of our current understanding about the Plan Area and its relationship with the wider archaeological resource. The section presents, with appendices, the results of the technical surveys undertaken during Stage 1 of the Conservation Plan process. This includes information on the archaeological and historical development of the Plan Area, a review of its landscape character, a summary of its ecology and a review of the current tourism and access situation.

Current data and knowledge

- 2.2 The understanding of the Plan Area and its wider relationships presented below is reliant on current knowledge and data. In terms of the ecological and landscape aspects the Plan is founded on recent and robust data collected as part of the Plan process. This provides an appropriate level of information for the Plan. The understanding of the tourism and access situation at the Plan Area is limited by a lack of data on visitor numbers but in other aspects is detailed enough for the purposes of the Plan.
- 2.3 The principle issues with regard to current data and knowledge relate to the archaeological and historical development of the area, its relationships with the wider archaeological resource and the significance of the remains within the Plan Area. As noted in a recent report:

“These archaeological investigations [work in the Thornborough / Nosterfield area from the late 19th century to the present] have produced an unprecedented body of evidence relating to the development of the Thornborough landscape from the Holocene to the present day. Whilst highly informative, it must be stressed that this evidence is largely incomplete and is constrained by many factors, such as degree of preservation, research methodology and access. It is essentially a partial record of man's impact over the last 7000 years. Several substantial

pieces of fieldwork are still ongoing and others that have been completed are still awaiting publication.” (Griffiths and Timms 2005)

“The archaeology of the Thornborough landscape is still poorly understood despite a substantial body of archaeological work being carried out since the 1950s. Important questions regarding the chronology of the monuments and nature of past occupation remain to be answered and indeed may never be.” (Griffiths and Timms 2005)

- 2.4 This situation presents a number of problems for the Plan. However, these issues are common to all conservation plans, especially those for archaeological sites, as a full and complete understanding of a place can never be achieved. New data, further research and new approaches can all reveal new information about a place and consequently change our understanding about a place, its significance and its relationships with other remains. Conservation planning is not a static thing; it is based on changing knowledge and therefore approaches to the conservation of a place need to change through time to reflect changing knowledge and data.
- 2.5 The interpretation of archaeological remains and the assessment of their significance is also not a clear cut exercise. There are many approaches to interpreting archaeology and consequently a number of possible interpretations about the function and significance of any given set of remains can co-exist. The interpretation of the archaeological remains and the assessment of their significance presented in this Plan may therefore not be supported by all archaeologist and historians. This is particularly true of prehistoric archaeological remains, especially for those that seemingly had sacred or ceremonial associations. As interpretations of the archaeology of the Plan Area and other associated remains change through time, views of their relative significance and functions are also likely to alter. This will eventually lead to the need for the Plan to be revised to accommodate and reflect these new understandings.
- 2.6 With regard to this Plan and the archaeology of the Plan Area there is sufficient data and knowledge to begin the conservation and management process and to define the principles for the future management of the Plan Area (see Section 5). Further work will be required over the coming decades to answer particular questions relating to the archaeological and historical values of the Plan Area and its relationships with other archaeological remains. This work will continue to inform the long-term conservation and

management of the area and these other remains. This issue is further addressed in Sections 5, 6 and 7.

Other associated archaeological remains

- 2.7 One of the key issues for the Plan is the relationship between the archaeological remains in the Plan Area, including the Henges, and the wider archaeological resource. It is now recognised by many archaeologists that the complex of prehistoric remains within and around the Plan Area form part of a more extensive complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains found along a 12 kilometre stretch of the River Ure running approximately from Thornborough to Boroughbridge. Key elements of this complex include a single henge at Nunwick; a cluster of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites around the henges at Hutton Moor and Cana Barn; and the three standing stones known as the Devil's Arrows near Boroughbridge. Other elements include remains such as pit alignments, cursuses, barrows, cropmarks (although many are undated some may date to the Neolithic / Bronze Age), flint scatters and other isolated finds.
- 2.8 The exact extent and nature of this complex has not been determined as part of this Plan as considerable further research on this is required (see Sections 5 and 7). For instance, it may be that remains identified at Scorton near Catterick, including a cursus and henge, form part of this wider complex along with other Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in the area between Thornborough and Catterick.

Brief archaeological and historical background

Introduction

- 2.9 Appendix 6 provides a chronological overview of the archaeological and historical development of the Plan Area from the Palaeolithic through to the modern day. The appendix and the gazetteer (Appendix 1) has been compiled using information presented in the various assessments and archaeological investigations that have been undertaken in the Plan Area and its environs. The Plan is supported by considerable material resulting from past investigations which has not been included for brevity's sake.
- 2.10 The following provides a brief overview of the archaeological and historical background for the Plan Area; readers are directed to Appendix 6 and the considerable supporting information if they require further detail.

2.11 Throughout this section the following terms are used to refer to different geographical aspects:

- *Plan Area*: the area addressed by the Plan (see Figures 1 and 2) and
- *Environs*: the general area within a few kilometres of the Plan Area.

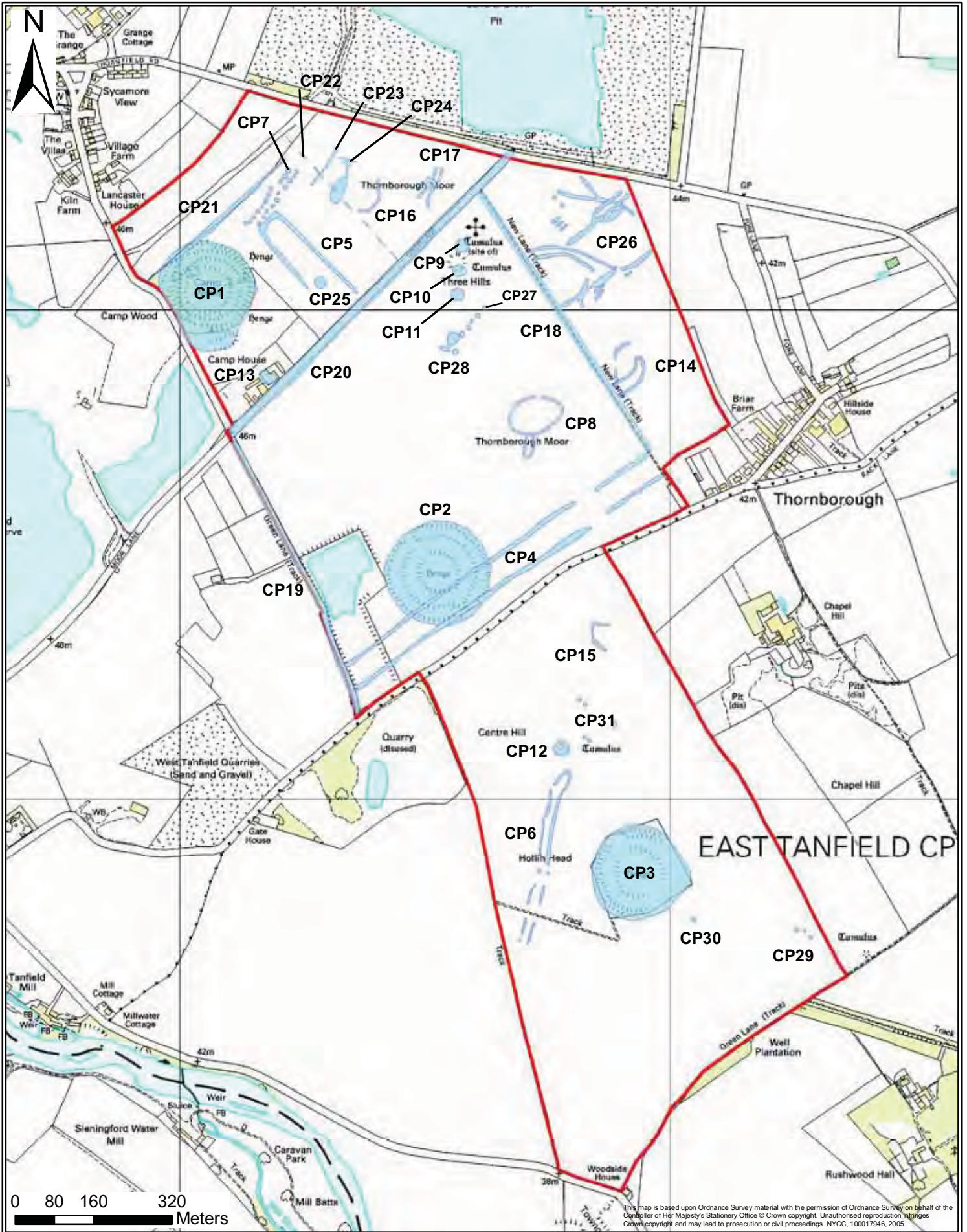
Overview

2.12 The Plan Area contains a considerable archaeological resource comprising at least 26 known archaeological sites and 6 historic landscape features / buildings (see Appendix 1 and Figure 3). These range from the monumental Henges (CP 1, 2 & 3) through to known barrow sites (CP 9, 10, 11, 12) and pit alignments (CP 6 & 7), other remains include at least one cursus (CP 4) and a number of unclassified cropmarks (CP 14, 15, 16, 17 23, 24, 26, 27 28, 29, 30 & 31) which could date from a range of periods. In addition, numerous scatters of flint have been identified in the topsoil during archaeological fieldwalking undertaken in the last decade. The majority of these remains are currently thought to date from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (spanning a date range of c.10,000BC through to 700BC).

2.13 Some of these remains have been designated as either Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings (see Figure 4 and Appendix 1), but the majority are currently undesignated.

2.14 The origins and development of the archaeological resource within the Plan Area and the wider associated complex of archaeological remains are currently poorly understood. Some lithics dating to the Mesolithic period (10,000BC to 4,000BC) have been identified in the Plan Area and recent archaeological excavations at Nosterfield (in the environs of the Plan Area) have identified a series of pits that probably also date to this period (Griffiths and Timms 2005).

2.15 One interpretation is that these pits had a ritual function and may be a response by Mesolithic communities to the naturally occurring phenomena of sink holes; a number of which were identified in the locality. Evidence for ritual activity in the Mesolithic is unusual in a British context and it is possible that the use of this area during the Mesolithic began to develop the area's significance for prehistoric communities, which may have '*ultimately set the scene for the construction of monuments in the Neolithic*'. (Griffiths & Timms,



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Legend

- Known Remains
- Plan Area



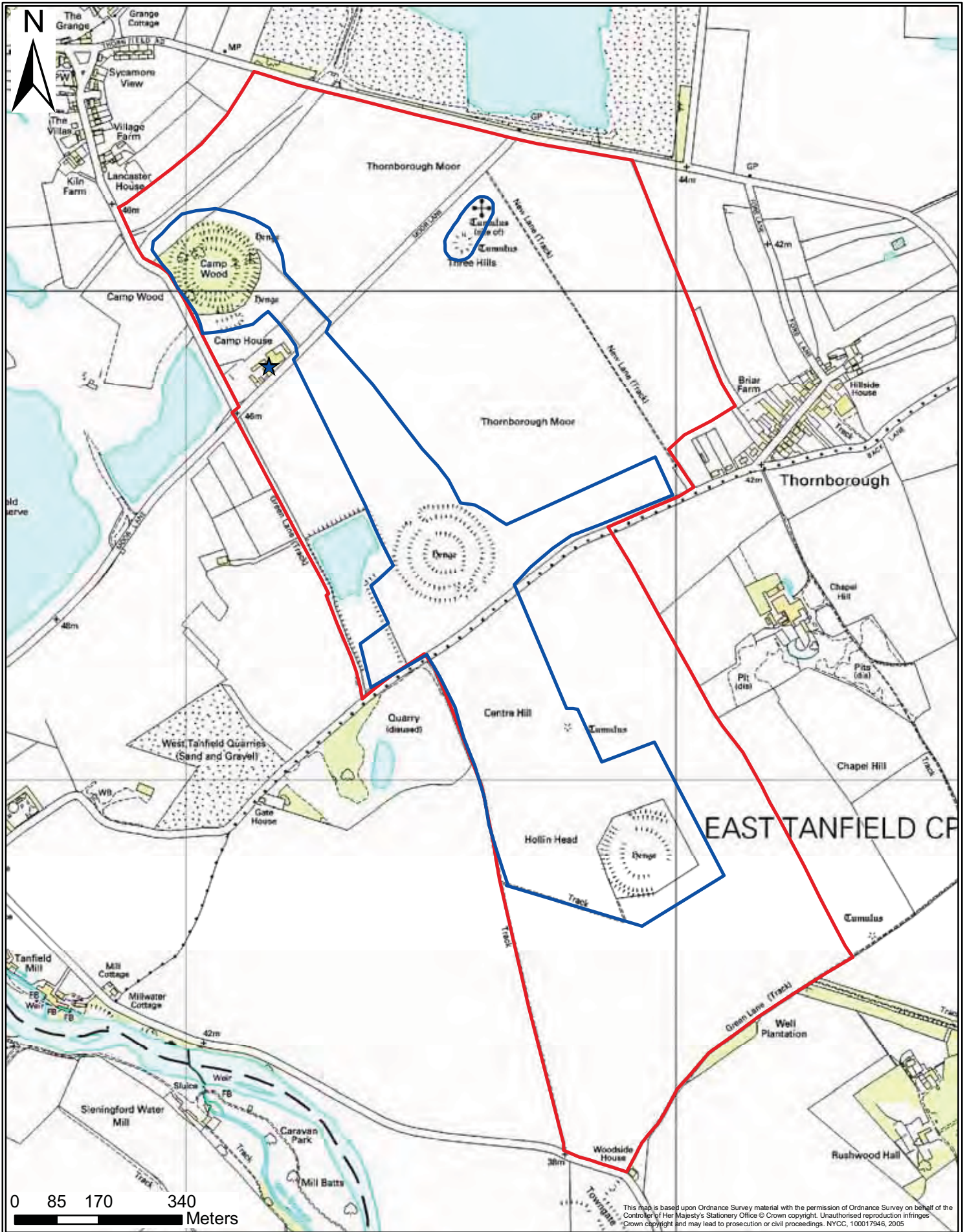
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 and Tarmac Northern Ltd.

**Figure 3 - Known remains
 in the Plan Area**

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 Thornborough Henges
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Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
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Date	Date	Date	Date
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Legend

- Scheduled Monuments
- ★ Listed Building
- Plan Area

Note: Plan Area forms part of a Landscape Enhancement Area (HDC Policy L11)



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Figure 4 - Designated features in the Plan Area

Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
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	Date	Date	Date
	18/08/05	18/08/05	18/08/05
Status	Drawing Number	Rev	
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- 2005, 6). This interpretation remains to be confirmed and further investigation of this period may shed new light on the early origins of the Plan Area.
- 2.16 The development of what we regard as ‘monumental’ remains seems to have begun in the United Kingdom during the Early Neolithic period (4000BC to 3400BC). This seems to reflect changing cultural traditions that were probably associated with the gradual development of animal husbandry and plant cultivation. At this time the landscape around and in the Plan Area was likely to have been very wooded; although there may have been natural or human-made clearings in the woodland. Palaeo-environmental work carried out at the Nosterfield Quarry supports this general interpretation but further palaeo-environmental research in the environs of the Plan Area is required to develop a fuller picture of the environment during prehistory.
- 2.17 It was during this period that the cursus (CP 4) was probably constructed, although there is no secure dating evidence for this feature. The cursus was originally c.1.2km long and 43 metres wide (Harding 2003, 13) and consisted of a double ditched avenue aligned approximately northeast-southwest. Cursuses have been identified at a number of locations across the UK including a notable concentration in East Yorkshire around Rudston and at other prehistoric monumental complexes such as Stonehenge in Wiltshire. They are enigmatic features whose function and meaning is a matter of ongoing debate in the archaeological community. Current theories favour interpretations focussed on processional avenues or ceremonial movement corridors. In addition, one other possible cursus has been identified in the Plan Area (CP 5) but the interpretation and date of this feature remains to be confirmed. The Cursus (CP 4) was severely truncated by quarrying in the 1950s and currently it has no surface expression. The surviving length has been removed from arable cultivation as part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme.
- 2.18 Further evidence for Early Neolithic activity in the Plan Area has been identified in the form of flint scatters found during recent archaeological field walking (Harding 2004). In addition, the “double-ditched barrow” which lies roughly 450m to the southeast of the Southern Henge, has been partially excavated and dated (through radio-carbon dating) to the period c.3800 to 3500BC; with a predominance of dates in the 3800-3600BC range (Harding pers comm.). This would place this feature in the Early Neolithic.

- 2.19 The lithic material, double-ditched barrow, the cursus (CP4) and other evidence for activity in the Nosterfield quarry area (see Appendix 6) would all indicate that during the Early Neolithic period the Plan Area and its environs were likely to have been a significant location for communities engaged in what was probably a transitory lifestyle.
- 2.20 Finally, a small oval cropmark has been identified just outside the Plan Area, approximately 350m to the east of the cursus (CP4). This feature has been interpreted as a Mortuary Enclosure (Harding 2003) that could date from the Early Neolithic but its function and date remain to be confirmed. It is possible that it actually dates from the Later Neolithic or even Bronze Age periods.
- 2.21 The Later Neolithic (3400BC to 2300BC) is one of the key periods in the development of the Plan Area. Based on comparisons with other henge sites in the United Kingdom it is most likely that the three Henges (CP 1, 2 & 3) were constructed in this period; however no conclusive scientific dates are currently available for the construction of the Henges. A single radio-carbon date resulting from the excavations at the Southern Henge (CP 3) produced a date of between 1,800 and 1,500BC for a small piece of charcoal recovered from the top of the primary fill of one ditch. This fill could have resulted from the re-cutting of the ditch at a later date and consequently this date tells us no more than the fact that the Henge was constructed before c.1800 to 1,500BC. Further investigation is required to accurately date all of the Henges as this would significantly enhance our understanding of the Plan Area.
- 2.22 The three Henges (CP 1, 2 & 3) are the only particularly visible upstanding prehistoric archaeological remains in the Plan Area. Each Henge formerly consisted of a circular outer ditch (now only visible as a slight earthwork to the south-east of the Northern Henge CP1) with a large bank, berm and inner ditch all surrounding a flat circular inner area. The Henges are approximately 240m in diameter and are laid out in a broadly linear alignment over a distance of some 1.7km. The linear alignment of the Henges is extremely unusual, although the now ploughed down four Priddy Circles in the Mendips have a similar linear alignment.
- 2.23 The woodland covered Northern Henge (CP 1) is the best preserved of the three in terms of its physical form, although archaeological deposits within the Henge would have been disturbed by root action and burrowing animals. The inner ditch survives up to a depth of 2.6m with the bank standing up to 3.2m (Dennison 1996). In terms of its earthworks it is one of the best preserved

Henges in the North of England (Harding and Lee 1987) and in the whole of the UK. The Central Henge (CP 2) survives in relatively good condition although its banks and ditches have been degraded, predominately in the 20th century, by ploughing and other activity. However, its form and character are still clearly recognisable. This Henge was built over the earlier Cursus (CP 4). The Southern Henge (CP 3) is the least well preserved of the three Henges but although its banks and ditches have been denuded by ploughing and other activity it is still a prominent and striking feature whose form and layout can easily be appreciated.

- 2.24 Over 120 henges have now been identified in the United Kingdom. The interpretation of the function and role of henges in later Neolithic society has been a matter for considerable debate for over 100 years. Current interpretations tend to consider Henges as centres for religious and / or ceremonial activity. They may have served local and more distant communities and perhaps in some cases acted as focal points for pilgrimages. As such they are viewed as highly significant and important places within later Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes. The study of henges and associated remains is therefore seen as important in the study of these two periods.
- 2.25 Another aspect of the Thornborough Henges is their possible astronomical relationships. Recent work by Clive Ruggles (Ruggles 2005) has postulated that there are demonstrable alignments between the Henges and astronomical features including Orion's Belt. Relationships between prehistoric monuments and the sun and moon have been identified at a range of other sites but relationships between prehistoric sites and stellar phenomena are harder to establish with any degree of confidence. Should these stellar relationships be confirmed then this would make the Thornborough Henges a very rare and important site in terms of understanding these aspects of Neolithic cultures.
- 2.26 Within the Plan Area there are also various features which have been recorded during aerial photographic analysis which may be of Late Neolithic origin (e.g. CP 14-17 and CP 22-31). However, further investigation of these features is required to confirm their dates and function. Other archaeological evidence in the Plan Area and its environs indicates an increased level of activity in the Later Neolithic period (3400BC to 2300BC). This includes a number of archaeological features at Nosterfield Quarry (Griffiths and Timms 2005) and lithic material found in the Plan Area during recent archaeological

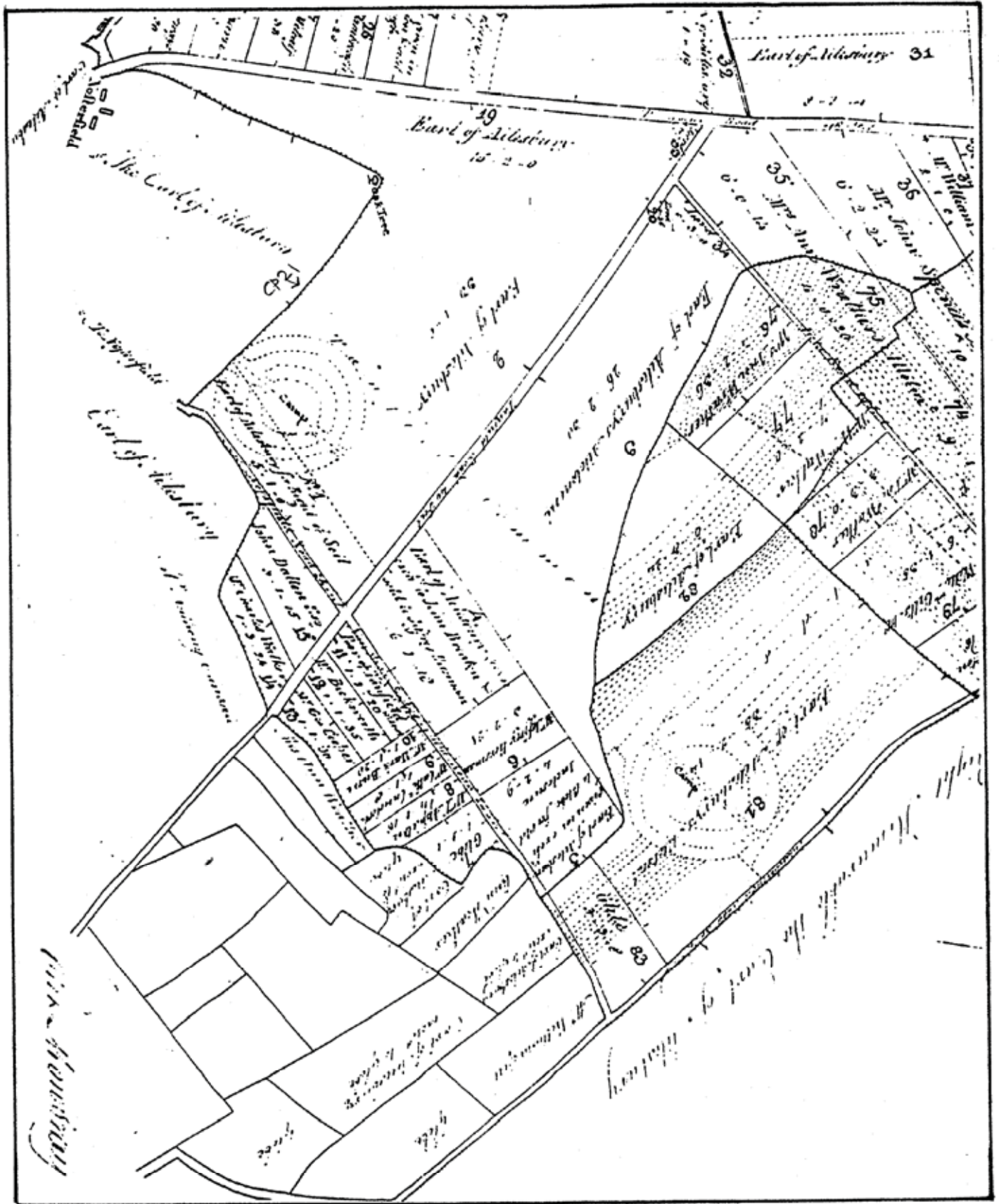
fieldwalking. It has been argued that this intensification of activity is contemporary with the construction of the Henges (Harding & Johnson, 2004d).

- 2.27 During the Bronze Age (2300BC to 700BC), the Henges appear to have remained significant landscape features, and the Plan Area formed a focal point for Bronze Age burials and other activity. Society in the Bronze Age has been traditionally characterised by a shift from communal power structures to those that focus on individual status and power, and superficially this would appear to fit with the known archaeology in the area.
- 2.28 By the Bronze Age the climate in Britain would have been drier and warmer than it is today and this period is often associated with an increased level of agricultural exploitation and forest clearance. Environmental evidence from Nosterfield Quarry indicates a period of substantial but temporary woodland clearance and agriculture in that area at the time. It is possible that at this time some of the major monuments at Thornborough were modified and extended. Without further dating evidence for the construction of the Henges the issue of their relative chronology will remain a considerable gap in our knowledge.
- 2.29 It terms of known archaeological remains in the Plan Area there are a number of notable features from this period including the partially excavated Southern Double Pit alignment (CP 6), other possible pit alignments (CP 7 & 28) and a series of possible and confirmed barrows / ring ditches (CP 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 25, 28 32). These remains all indicate that the Plan Area and its environs remained an important place in the lives of prehistoric communities. It is also possible that some of the other undated remains in the Plan Area date from the Bronze Age.
- 2.30 The complex of Neolithic / Bronze Age remains in and around the Plan Area has been interpreted as being one of a series of ‘sacred landscapes’ which extend over an area of around 75 square kilometres (Harding 2003). It is probable, but yet to be proven, that the Thornborough Henges were an important focus for groups living across a large part of northern England. Artefactual evidence would indicate that Neolithic exchange networks connected Cumbria and Yorkshire, and it is significant that Thornborough is located alongside the River Ure, whose course represents one of the best routes across the central Pennines. Indeed, the recent discovery of two polished stone axes from Nosterfield and Well (Griffiths & Timms, 2005) have

been considered to demonstrate a close association between Thornborough and cross-Pennine trade, for the stone from which these objects were made has been sourced to Langdale in the Lake District. Surface collection from within the Plan Area and its environs has also produced worked flint known to have originated along the Yorkshire coast, the chalkland Wolds and the central Pennines.

- 2.31 Similar large-scale Neolithic / Bronze Age monument complexes exist in other places such as Stonehenge and Avebury, the Boyne Valley in Ireland, the Mendips, the Milfield Basin near to the Cheviots, the Knowlton henge complex in Dorset, and Orkney. Comparisons have been made which suggest that the development of the monuments at Thornborough were part of a wider phenomenon played out across certain parts of the British Isles. While henges and cursuses are primarily a British and Irish phenomenon, other monuments at Thornborough, such as the round barrows and linear alignments, have a known distribution across most of north-west Europe. Understanding them can only be achieved through a detailed and comprehensive study of each monument complex and the way in which they relate to or differ from one another. The Plan Area and other associated remains in the wider region e.g. the henges at Nunwick, Hutton Moor and Cana Barn, therefore have an important role to play in developing an archaeological understanding of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, not only locally and regionally, but nationally and internationally.
- 2.32 In the Iron Age (700Bc to 69AD) and Roman (69AD to 450AD) periods the significance of the Henges and the Plan Area changed. To date no Iron Age remains have been identified in the Plan Area although some of the undated cropmarks may originate in this period. In the wider landscape there is evidence for Iron Age activity both in the palaeo-environmental record and in terms of archaeological remains identified at the Nosterfield quarry and beyond. This pattern seems to have continued through the Roman Period with the only evidence for activity in the Plan Area being the discovery of a 1st century AD brooch at the Southern Henge. There is considerable evidence for Romano-British occupation in the wider area including a villa / estate centre located at Well (Moorhouse 2005).
- 2.33 The understanding of the development of the historic landscape from the early medieval period (450AD to 1066AD) through to the modern day in the Plan Area and the wider environs is, as with earlier periods, relatively limited although recent studies have begun to address this (e.g. Moorhouse 2005).

- 2.34 The Plan Area was probably situated in an early medieval estate landscape that was founded on the earlier Roman landscape. Associations with the Henges are unclear at this stage, but there is evidence to indicate that when the landscape was divided into medieval townships the three Henges were deliberately situated in different townships (Moorhouse 2005). During the medieval (1066AD to 1547AD) and post medieval (1547AD to 1902AD) periods the Plan Area would have formed part of a wider agricultural landscape based on the township administrative units.
- 2.35 Archaeological evidence in the form of aerial photographs and the results of excavations indicate that the land around the Central and Southern Henges was under the plough during this period. The inner ditch of the Central Henge was also infilled during the medieval period (Thomas 1960). The 14th and 15th century AD pottery and an associated stone structure discovered during excavations at the Southern Henge (CP 3) has been interpreted as suggesting the presence of a 'fair' associated with the now deserted medieval settlement at East Tanfield (Roe 2003, 26). The Northern Henge (CP 1) was situated on Thornborough Common (see Figure 5) up to the late 18th century and would have remained unploughed during this period.
- 2.36 As indicated above, the Henges and perhaps other remains, such as the barrows in the Plan Area, could have been used by local communities for functional purposes such as cultivation, fairs, pens or farmsteads; and they may have also had myths or stories associated with them. Archaeological and historical evidence for the re-use of the Henges in these later periods is currently limited but the functional re-use of prehistoric monuments in later periods and their appropriation into stories and myths is well attested at other places.
- 2.37 The landscape of the Plan Area was subject to enclosure in the late 18th century and early 19th century. A draft enclosure map from 1796 (see Figure 6) shows the Northern and Central Henges (CP 1 and 2) in relation to the pre-enclosure landscape. The edge of the common visible on the 1771-2 Jeffrey's map (Figure 5) is clearly visible although there is some evidence for encroachment to the south of the Northern Henge. The Central Henge is seemingly respected by the ploughing strips shown on the Enclosure Map. This situation had significantly altered by 1853 when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was surveyed (see Figure 7). This clearly shows the Henges situated in parliamentary-type regular enclosure. The outer ditches of the Henges are visible to the northwest of the Central Henge (CP 2) and to the



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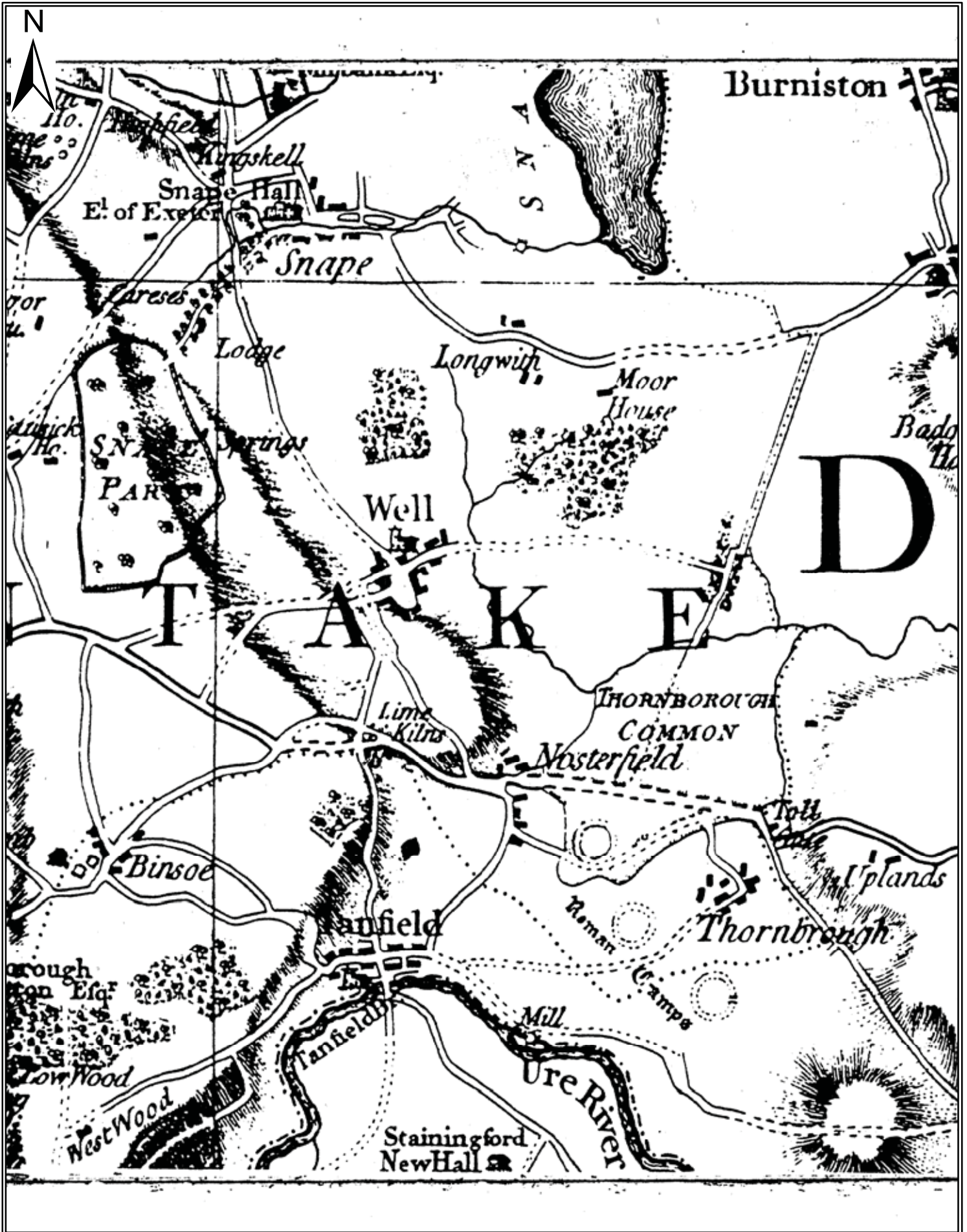
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Figure 6 - Extract from 1796
 draft enclosure map

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Status: D	Drawing Number: 5036650/54/009/27817	Rev: 0	

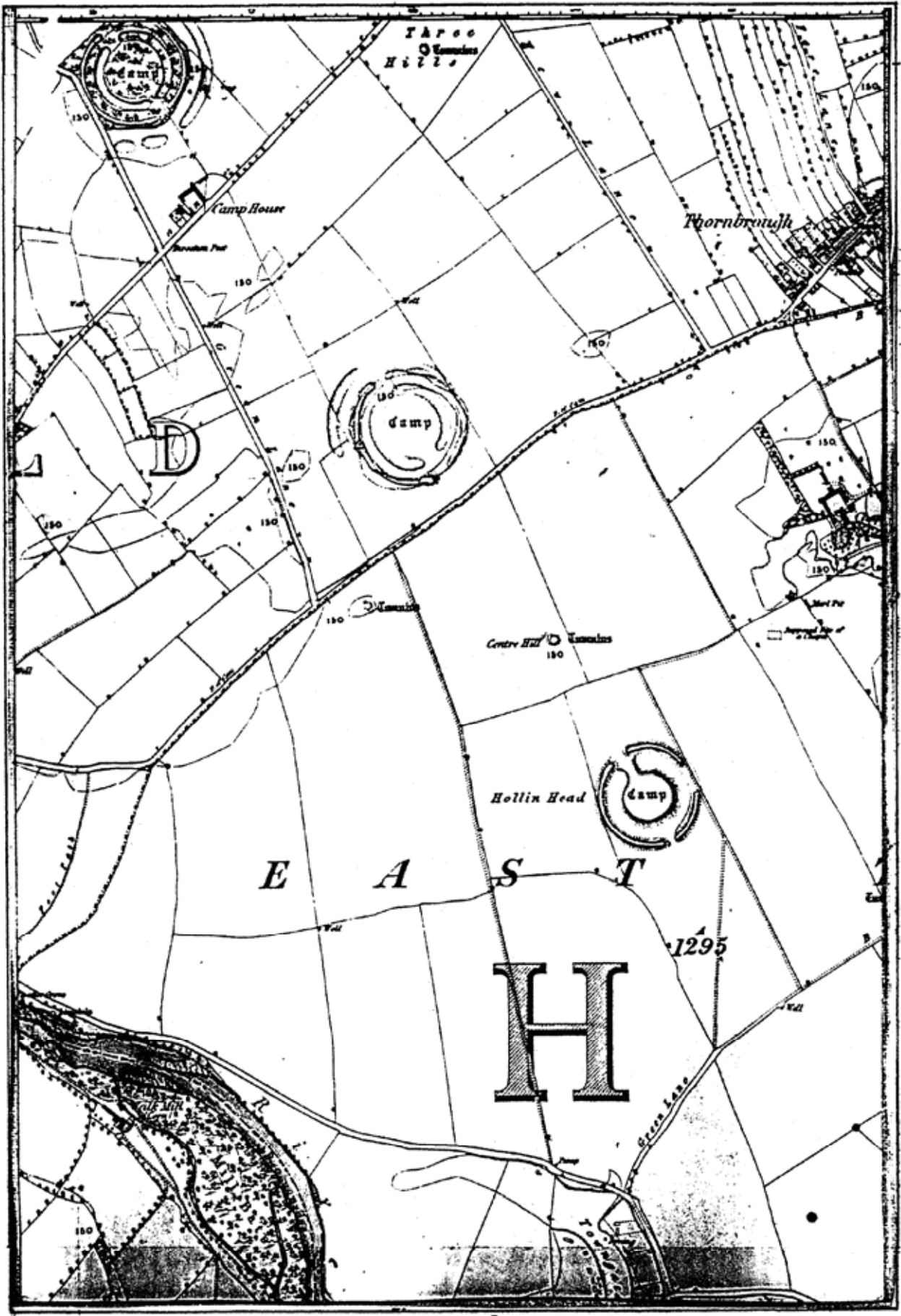


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Title	Figure 5 - Extract from Jeffrey's map of Yorkshire, published 1771-2		
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Figure 7 - Extract from 1st ed.
 OS sheet 102 (6" to the Mile)
 surveyed 1853

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east and south of the Northern Henge (CP 1). The Northern Henge was also planted with woodland some time between 1796 and 1853. The Centre Hill Barrow (CP 12) and the Three Hills barrow group (CP 9, 10, 11 & 32) are also shown as upstanding earthworks.

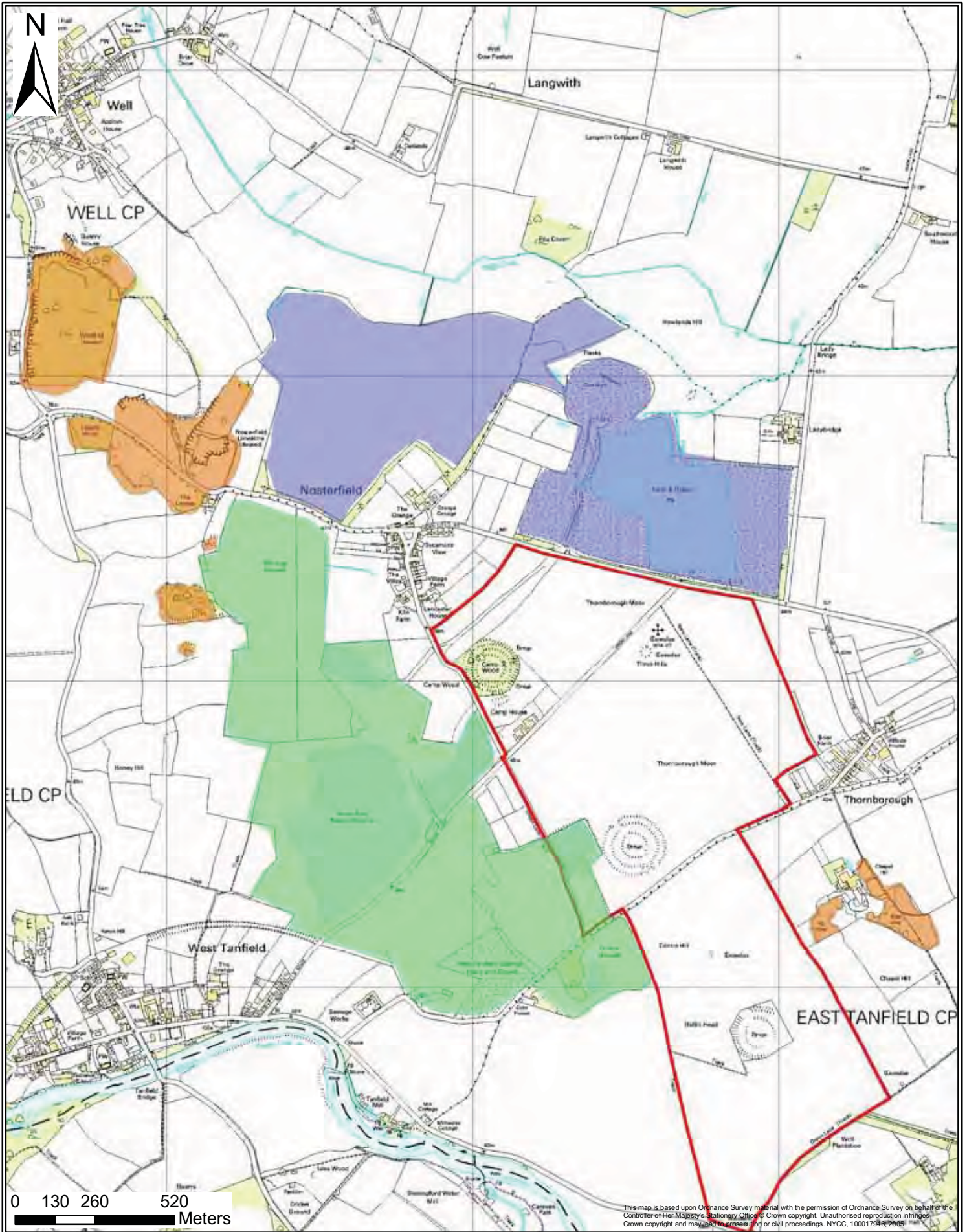
- 2.38 This landscape has continued to change over the last 150 years. Many of the enclosure field boundaries have been removed and extensive quarrying has occurred in and around the Plan Area (see Figure 1 and 8). The basic post-medieval / medieval road network and structure of the landscape has however survived in many places.
- 2.39 It is during the late 20th century that many of the changes to this landscape occurred. This period saw the large scale development of quarrying around the Plan Area and also to a lesser extent within it (Figure 8). This activity along with deep ploughing has resulted in the removal and degradation of archaeological remains that were associated with the archaeology of the Plan Area. Some of this damage occurred with limited or no recording e.g. the excavation of quarries to the west of the Plan Area where the cursus was partially removed, however since the introduction of PPG 16 in 1991 much of the quarrying activity in the wider area has been preceded by archaeological excavation and research. In terms of ploughing, evidence from archaeological excavations in the Plan Area e.g. at the Three Hills barrow group (CP 9, 10, 11 and 32) and in the wider area (e.g. work at Nosterfield quarry) has all indicated that archaeological remains have suffered considerable plough damage and consequently the archaeological potential of many of the known remains has been degraded.
- 2.40 This period also saw physical impacts on the Henges themselves with the use of the Central Henge (CP 2) as a munitions dump in WWII, ploughing of the Southern Henge (CP 3) and machine excavation at the Northern Henge (CP 1). These activities have all, to varying degrees, affected the surviving fabric and archaeological potential of these monuments. In 1998 a DEFRA supported stewardship agreement was put into place at the Southern and Central Henge which took them and a linking area, bounded by a hedge, out of arable cultivation and into a pastoral regime. This has now largely stabilised these monuments.

The Landscape Character of the Plan Area and its environs

- 2.41 An assessment of the landscape character of the wider areas has been undertaken to provide a general landscape context for the Plan Area. This Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has been prepared using the guidance contained in *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage 2002). The LCA undertaken for the Plan does not constitute a full LCA as described in the 2002 LCA guidance. The LCA presented here has sought to identify the key physical landscape characteristics of the study area drawing on existing landscape assessments and field survey. The aim was to produce information that could assist with the development of the Plan and not to provide a stand-alone LCA that could be used for planning purposes.
- 2.42 The study begins with an overview of the Plan Area's character based on the national Countryside Character Map (Countryside Agency 1999) and other previous assessments. The new LCA is then presented on an area-by-area basis.

Overview

- 2.43 The Countryside Character study (Countryside Agency 1999) for England's natural and man made landscape places the Plan Area and its surrounding landscape within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Character Area (30). In relation to the Plan Area this character area can be described as follows.
- 2.44 The landscape surrounding the Plan Area is defined by two escarpments formed from the predominately Magnesian Limestone geology. The escarpments stretch from near Bedale, running southwards through South Yorkshire and into Derbyshire where they terminate near Nottingham. The escarpments form quite a narrow ridge feature, nowhere more than a few kilometres across, which acts as a distinct barrier between the Yorkshire Dales fringe to the west and the lowland vales to the east. The Plan Area is located on the northern tip of this ridge feature. The eastern escarpment is aligned approximately north-south through Binsoe with the western escarpment aligned approximately north-south through Kirklington and Wath. The immediate landscape in and around the Plan Area can be characterised as follows:



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- 20th century extraction site (active)
- 20th century extraction site (disused)
- Pre-1856 extraction site
- Plan Area

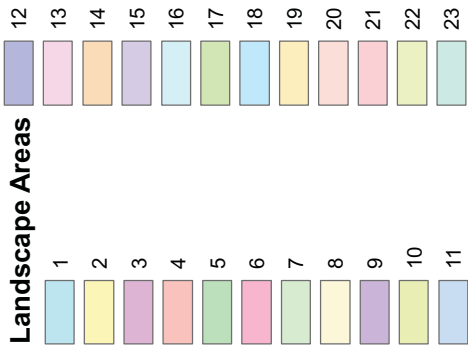


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<p>Client NYCC, English Heritage and Tarmac Northern Ltd.</p>	<p>Title Figure 8 - Known extraction sites in and around the Plan Area</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Original Scale</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Drawn</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Checked</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Authorised</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1:16,000 at A4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">CG</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Date</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Date</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Date</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18/08/05</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18/08/05</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18/08/05</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18/08/05</td> </tr> </table>	Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised	1:16,000 at A4	CG	AC	AC	Date	Date	Date	Date	18/08/05	18/08/05	18/08/05	18/08/05
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<p>Project Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Status</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Drawing Number</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Rev</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5036650/54/009/</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table>	Status	Drawing Number	Rev	D	5036650/54/009/	0											
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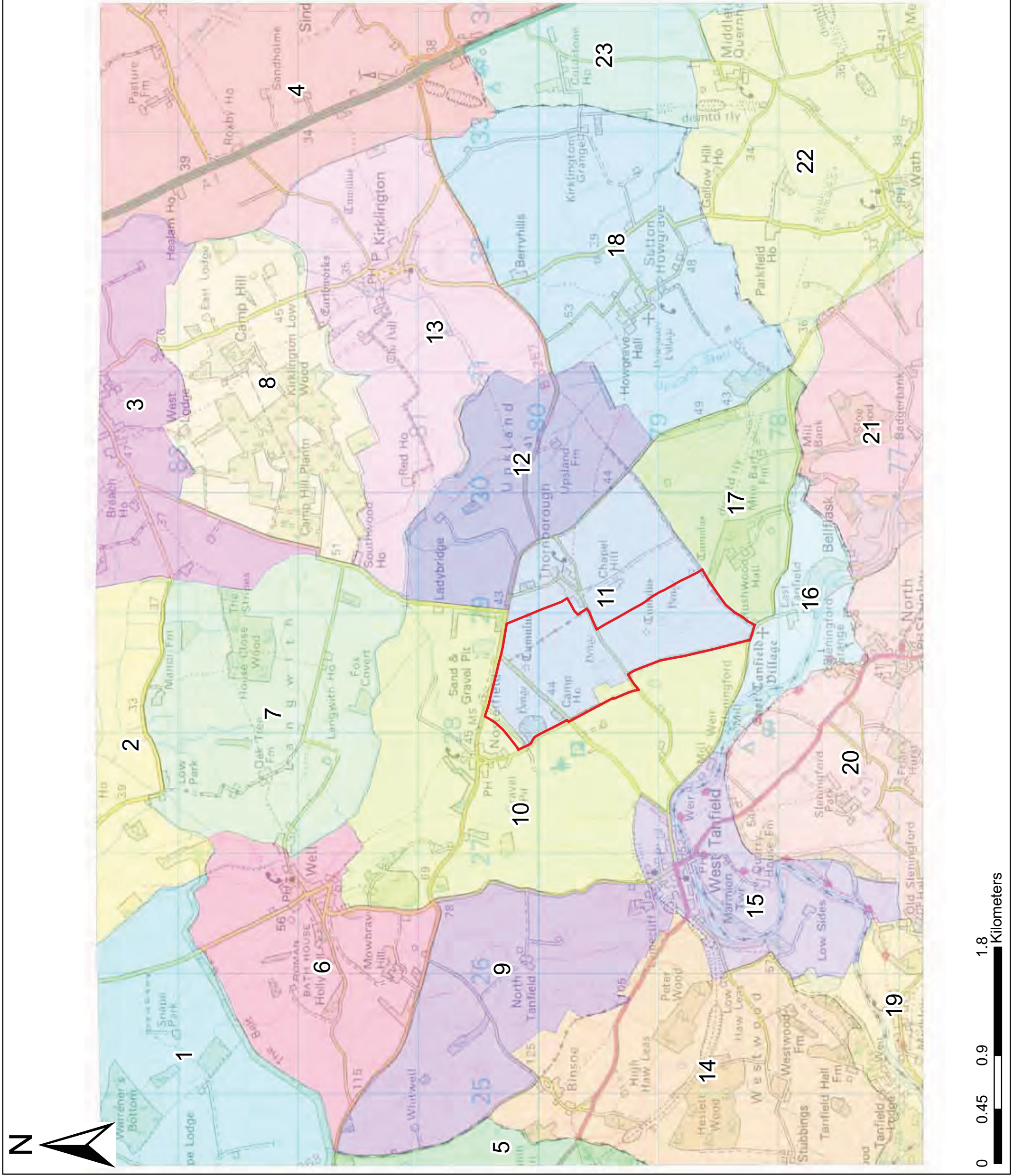


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Client	NYCC, English Heritage & Tarmac Northern Ltd.
Project	Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan
Title	Figure 9 - Landscape Character Areas

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- Low gently undulating ridge with a distinct eastern slope giving extensive views over adjacent lowlands;
- Strongly arable farming pattern;
- Large fields with low intermittent hedges;
- Higher density of woodland than on adjacent lowlands with a strong broadleaved component;
- Remnants of parkland landscapes contribute significantly to tree cover in certain areas e.g. Camp Hill and Rushwood Hall;
- Past and present mineral extraction sites in compact area – centred around Nosterfield;
- The River Ure Valley cuts through the ridge;
- Numerous archaeological and historical features e.g. the Thornborough Henges and the former settlements of East Tanfield, Howgrave and Yarnwick;
- Distinct flatter land to the centre of the ridge e.g. Thornborough Moor and Carthorpe Moor;
- Settlements tend to follow the line of the two escarpments and the River Ure Corridor e.g. Carthorpe, Kirklington, Sutton Howgrave and Wath on the eastern escarpment, Masham and Binsoe on the western escarpment and Mickley, West Tanfield and East Tanfield along the river corridor.

2.45 There are no regional or local existing landscape character studies that cover this area. However, there are two documents which do start to characterise the landscape surrounding the Plan Area. A *Conservation Strategy for North Yorkshire* was published in 1991, which included some very broad landscape zones. The Plan Area and its surrounding landscape straddle the Lowlands (Lowland Ridge) and Pennine Valleys (River Ure) landscape zones. There is no description within the Conservation Strategy of the individual landscape zones.

2.46 In 1992 a Landscape Assessment was undertaken by Hambleton District Council to provide information and inform the preparation of the Local Plan. The Landscape Assessment identified 9 major landscape types, which were further sub divided into 21 landscape sub types. The Plan Area and its surrounding landscape covers 4 landscape types and 7 landscape sub types as described within the Landscape Assessment. These are as follows:

Landscape Type		Landscape Sub Type	
4	Intensively Farmed Lowland (varied topography)	4b	Intermediate enclosure
		4c	Open
5	Intensively Farmed Lowland (simple topography)	5a	Enclosed
		5b	Intermediate enclosure
		5c	Open
6	Linear River Landscapes	6a	Enclosed valleys
7	Estate Landscape (including parkland)	7b	General Interest

2.47 In addition, Harrogate Borough Council have also prepared a LCA for their area south of the River Ure (approved as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2004). The results of this study can be found at <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/harrogate-93> and reference to this has been made in this LCA.

2.48 All of the previous studies have informed this assessment of the local landscape character for Thornborough Moor and its immediate surrounding landscape.

Landscape Character Assessment

2.49 The following (with Appendix 3) presents the results of the LCA undertaken to support the development of the Plan. This process has identified and mapped 23 local landscape character areas (see Figure 9). These are listed below. Those marked with a * have not been described as they either lie at some distance from the Henges and consequently are not of particular relevance to the Plan or have previously been described in the Harrogate Borough LCA. Areas highlighted in bold below are those that encompass some of the Plan Area or abut it; and these are described below. Descriptions of the other areas can be found in Appendix 3.

- 01 Snape Park *
- 02 Snape Mires *
- 03 Carthorpe Moor *
- 04 Pickhill Farmland *
- 05 River Ure Corridor (Masham) * (Area 79 – Harrogate LCA)
- 06 Well Farmland

- 07 Langwith Farmland
- 09 North Tanfield Farmland
- **10 Nosterfield Mining Extractions**
- **11 Thornborough Moor**
- **12 Upland Farmland**
- 13 Kirklington Farmland
- 14 Westwood Farmland *
- 15 River Ure Corridor (West Tanfield)
- **16 River Ure Corridor (East Tanfield)**
- **17 Rushwood Hall Estate**
- 18 Sutton Howgrave Farmland
- 19 River Ure Corridor (Mickley) * (Area 42 – Harrogate LCA)
- 20 North of Ripon Farmland * (Area 77 – Harrogate LCA)
- 21 River Ure Corridor (North of Ripon) * (Area 78 – Harrogate LCA)
- 22 Wath Farmland * (Area 80 – Harrogate LCA)
- 23 Dishforth and Surrounding Farmland * (Area 81 – Harrogate LCA)

10 Nosterfield Mining Extractions

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5c Open)

- 2.50 Past and present mining activity is evident throughout this area, predominately through lakes that fill the excavation pits (also see Figure 8). To the east of Nosterfield is the only working sand and gravel quarry in the area. There is a large lake at the Nosterfield Quarry, which is visually evident from a number of roads in the area. There is a large old sand and gravel quarry to the south of Nosterfield that has been restored to open water and shallows to create the Nosterfield Nature Reserve.
- 2.51 Apart from the visually significant lakes, there are several other disused mining works in the area. The West Tanfield quarries are now a landfill site, a prominent and noticeable detractor in the area, while other disused workings are evident from patches of woodland that have developed within them. This can be seen at Leases Wood and Phlashedts Wood. Also the old Nosterfield Limekiln workings can be seen from the B6267.

2.52 The only settlement within the area is Nosterfield; a small village situated around a triangular village green. There is a distinct east facing slope to the west of the area. The rest of the area is relatively flat and exposed. The mining works have left a scarred landscape, which in places does provide a visually interesting element in the view. In particular, the lakes form a major focal point within the area.

11 Thornborough Moor

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5c Open)

2.53 Thornborough Moor is as the name suggests a relatively flat and open area of land, which now forms large arable fields. To the central east of the area lies the settlement of Thornborough a small and compact settlement focussed on local road junctions. Over the last 100 years the moor has been encroached from the west and north by mining operations (see Figure 8). Trees do not form a significant element in the landscape with Camp Wood (on the Northern Henge) being the only small wood in the area.

2.54 For passers by there is little to signify that this area hosts a number of important archaeological remains. The Northern Henge (CP 1) is not visible from outside due to the presence of Camp Wood. However, the Central (CP 2) and Southern (CP 3) Henges are visible from Moor Lane and Fore Lane. These large circular earthworks are relatively visible from nearby locations but they can easily be missed by those who do not know of their presence.

2.55 The tenant farmer of the Central and Southern Henges has entered into a Countryside Stewardship agreement with DEFRA which has seen the reversion of the cursus, Central Henge, Southern Henge and the intervening landscape between the Henges from arable cultivation to pasture. This has created a feature within the local landscape as the Henges are now joined together by a long wide corridor defined by hedges. When passing through the moor your gaze is diverted towards the Henges by this defined hedged corridor.

2.56 The wider landscape around the area has been altered over the last 100 years due to mining works and modern farming practices. However, the recent reversion of farming practices to pasture directly next to the Henges has visually allowed, to some extent, the Henges to become again part of their immediate landscape. The area is however dominated by relatively open arable farmland with few hedges.

12 Upland Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5b Intermediate enclosure)

- 2.57 Upland is bordered to the north by Inge Goit, which has a narrow belt of trees along much of its course including Little Upland Wood. Also towards the area's southern boundary there is a distinct line of trees along a field boundary called The Belt. Apart from these small blocks of trees on Upland's boundary and a small wood on Upland Hill tree cover is fairly insignificant. The topography of the area is gently undulating, which is centred on Upland Hill and Mill Hill.

16 River Ure Corridor (East Tanfield)

(Hambleton LCA - 6 Linear River Landscape, 6a Enclosed valleys)

- 2.58 This is a linear character area following the River Ure corridor as it meanders gently south-eastwards to Ripon from West Tanfield. Part of this character area lies within Harrogate Borough. The riverbank is generally well-wooded giving an enclosed and intimate feel to the area. The valley sides are shallow and undulating and contribute to the enclosed and intimate feel of the area. The river, tree cover and mix of land uses provide a diversity of texture and pattern that are important to the aesthetic qualities of this area.

17 Rushwood Hall Estate

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5b Intermediate enclosure)

(Hambleton LCA - 7 Estate landscape, 7b General interest)

- 2.59 This small character area is focused on Rushwood Hall. The hall has good views across the River Ure valley. The hall is set into the western edge of Rush Wood. The wood extends south to include Rushwood Lodge within its envelope. There is also a large belt of woodland (Fox Covert) that forms the areas eastern boundary. The area is bisected by a dismantled railway, part of which is now wooded and adjoins Rush Wood.
- 2.60 The estate landscape has been altered by modern farming practices and now only the estate elements including the hall, lodge and woodland remain.

The Ecology of the Plan Area

Methodology

- 2.61 The ecology of the Plan Area has been assessed through a combination of desk-based study and field survey. Data regarding the presence of statutory sites and non-statutory Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the environs of the study area were requested from North East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (See Figure 10). A request was also made to NYCC for any survey data associated with these sites. The Natural Area profile for the area was also consulted (www.english-nature.org.uk). Other sources of information included the Hambleton Local Biodiversity Action Plan (HLBAP), the Swale & Ure Washlands Project website and the ecology services of Hambleton District Council and NYCC. NYCC also provided a copy of their SINC site selection guidelines.
- 2.62 The Henges and an area around them were visited on two occasions, on the 24th of April 2005 and 5th May 2005. The first visit involved rapid overview of a wider area around the Plan Area to put it into a broader ecological context. The second visit involved more detailed survey of the Plan Area. This survey broadly followed the extended Phase 1 methodology as set out in *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment* (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995). Owing to the rapid nature of the survey, and seasonal and other factors, not all species present could be recorded, nor was an attempt made to do so. However, the field observations and other data gathered provides sufficient information on which to base an accurate evaluation of the importance of the sites for nature conservation and also allows for recommendations to be made.

Wider Context: English Nature Natural Areas

- 2.63 The study area lies at the northern end of the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area. The natural area concept is useful in identifying the broad issues affecting wildlife in particular landscapes that often cut across administrative boundaries, and helps to put site issues into a broad, but still relevant, context. Aims and objectives are formulated to help achieve a stated 'vision' for wildlife that is most appropriate to that Natural Area. This vision, and the objectives drawn up to achieve them, is presented in a Natural Area Profile, published on English Nature's website (www.english-nature.org.uk).

2.64 The Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area is characterised, as ‘...an open landscape marked by historic limestone monuments and symbolised by ancient woodland and limestone grassland.’ The first objective for the Southern Magnesian Limestone is:

‘To increase and enhance the characteristic semi-natural habitats, particularly woodlands and semi-improved grasslands, to maintain or increase populations of important species and to protect geological features’

2.65 This objective is supported by inclusion in the Hambleton Local Biodiversity Action Plan (HLBAP) of priority habitats and species that occur within the district.

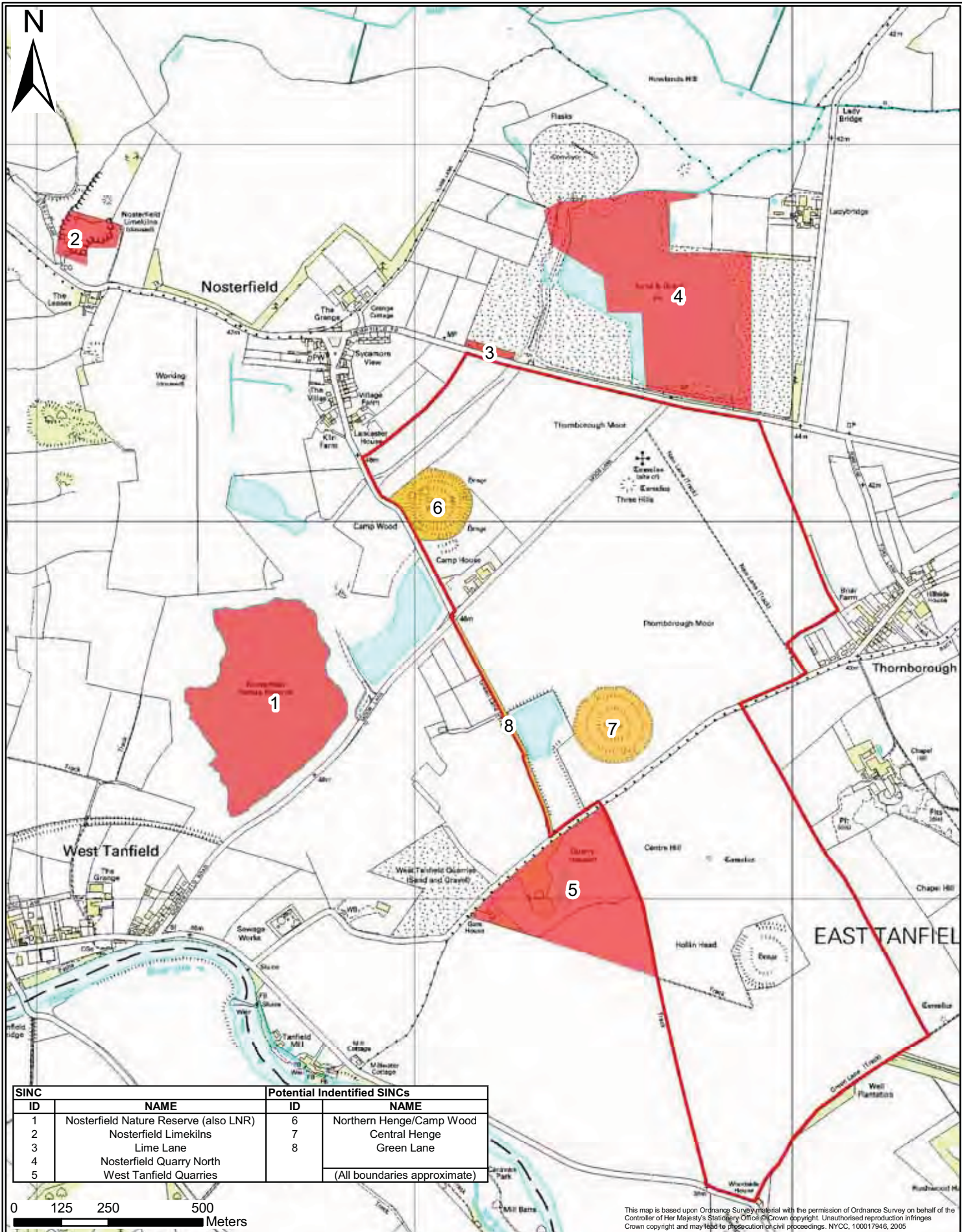
2.66 As the study area is at the northern extremity of the area it is perhaps not typical of it. Indeed it shares many features with the adjacent Vale of York and Mowbray Natural Area. The Vale of York and Mowbray is a large area of predominantly flat, open land between the Pennines to the west and the North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds to the east. The character of the Vale of York and Mowbray is influenced by the widespread glacial deposits and the many rivers including the Swale and Ure. The main nature conservation interest of this area is in the riverine habitats.

Statutory & Non-Statutory Sites in and around the Plan Area

2.67 Nosterfield Nature Reserve (Nosterfield Quarry South – OSGR SE 275794), which is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), is the only statutory designated site for nature conservation within 1km of the Plan Area. It is also designated as a SINC, mainly for its ornithological interest. The site supports a wide range of breeding passage and wintering waterfowl, waders and gulls, including lapwing and redshank, which are priority species in the HLBAP. The site also supports breeding skylark and has considerable developing botanical interest, both in the lake margins and on colonising dry gravel pits.

2.68 In addition to Nosterfield Nature Reserve there are four non-statutory SINCs within 1km of the Plan Area (see Figure 10). These are:

- Nosterfield Limekilns (SE271807). – 0.3 ha calcareous grassland on disused limestone quarry, situated c.1km to the north west of the Northern Henge.



SINC		Potential Identified SINCS	
ID	NAME	ID	NAME
1	Nosterfield Nature Reserve (also LNR)	6	Northern Henge/Camp Wood
2	Nosterfield Limekilns	7	Central Henge
3	Lime Lane	8	Green Lane
4	Nosterfield Quarry North		
5	West Tanfield Quarries		
(All boundaries approximate)			

0 125 250 500 Meters

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Legend

- SINCS
- Potential SINCS
- Plan Area

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Project: Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan

Figure 10 - Ecological Features

Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
1:13,000 at A4	CG	AC	AC
Date	Date	Date	Date
18/08/05	18/08/05	18/08/05	18/08/05
Status	Drawing Number	Rev	
D	5036650/54/009/27821	0	

- Lime Lane, Nosterfield (SE 283803). – Short lengths of mown species-rich neutral grassland on road verge at entrance to Nosterfield Quarry, situated c.300m to the north west of the Northern Henge.
- Nosterfield Quarry North (SE 285806). Recently disused, deep, flooded sand and gravel pit, valuable for birds, principally geese. c. 500m to north west of the Northern Henge and c.800m North of the Central Henge.
- West Tanfield Quarries (SE 284790). Disused gravel quarry with scrub, calcareous grassland and a pond. The pond appears to be the site of a record for great crested newt from 1984, situated approximately 100m to the south of the Central Henge.

2.69 Data was also provided for three sites within the Plan Area that were surveyed as part of a programme to identify potential SINC sites, but which did not qualify for designation on the basis of the data gathered at that time (North Yorkshire SINC Panel, 2002).

- Northern Henge (SE 280800). – Mature secondary woodland on the ancient earthworks.
- Central Henge (SE 285794) – Species-rich calcareous grassland (0.19ha) and unimproved neutral grassland (0.36ha) on earthworks.
- Green Lane (SE282794) – Species-poor hedgerow and unimproved grassland (0.18ha)

Field Survey of the Plan Area

2.70 Rapid survey of the Plan Area and its immediate environs showed that the landscape, although open and arable with little apparent ecological interest, supports a number of features (see Figure 10) that are likely to be of value for nature conservation.

Farmland

2.71 In general fields are large and given over to intensive arable cropping, although some improved, semi-improved and unimproved pasture is present. Very little wildlife was recorded within the arable fields although a number of brown hares (a HLBAP priority species) were recorded within fields. Some farmland birds (song thrush and skylark – also HLBAP species) were noted over and adjacent to fields, although the ornithological interest tended to be restricted to woodlands, hedgerows and disused gravel workings.

- 2.72 Bird surveys in 2003 (Harrogate and District Naturalist Society Bird Report for 2003) identified numerous species such as golden plover and lapwing in the area. These birds feed in agricultural fields and it is therefore likely that the agricultural landscape of the Plan Area is being used by these species, which in turn is supporting the biodiversity of the nearby Nosterfield Nature Reserve.

Hedgerows

- 2.73 Although most hedgerows in the study area have been removed in the past, there are some remnants of potentially ancient hedges present, and some new planting was also observed. The quality of hedgerows varies considerably within the wider study area. There are many that are dominated by hawthorn and which are gappy, but also there are a number that have a high diversity of woody species and/or an interesting hedge bottom flora. A particular feature of these hedgerows is the large number of over-mature ash trees with features such as cracks, splits *etc.* that could be used by bats for roosting. The hedge bottom flora is generally poor and characterised by species indicative of eutrophic environments such as nettle and cleavers. However, a number of stretches were found with a more diverse flora including ancient woodland indicator species (such as bluebells) and unimproved grasslands. Crosswort, normally a species of semi-improved and unimproved calcareous grasslands, is a characteristic species of these better quality stretches.

Farm buildings

- 2.74 Camp House contains the only farm buildings in the Plan Area. These have potential to support bat roosts, barn owls and other nesting birds such as swallows and house martins. The majority of the buildings have been converted or are being converted and this appears to be a dwindling resource for such species. Old Magnesian limestone walls also provide a bare limestone substrate for a range of bryophytes, lichens, ferns and other plants that are absent elsewhere in the area.

Quarries

- 2.75 Nosterfield Nature Reserve, a SINC and LNR, was visited as part of the survey. It is a large area immediately adjacent to the Plan Area, which supports a diversity of habitats and species. During the site visits, tufted duck, shoveller, little grebe, and great crested grebe were seen on the water bodies, whilst skylark, lapwing, oystercatchers, redshank, snipe, and greylag geese

were recorded from the adjacent grasslands. There are numerous records of other birds, such as kingfishers, that were not seen during the visit.

- 2.76 The flora of the dry gravel pits at the Nosterfield Nature Reserve supported unimproved grassland indicator species such as cowslips, mouse-eared hawkweed, and abundant wild strawberry. This habitat is likely to be of great value for invertebrates including mining bees and wasps and butterflies. The pools also provide plenty of breeding opportunities for a range of dragonflies. The site is also likely to be used by otters (one was sighted here in 2004) and by bats for feeding. The contrast in the biodiversity of this area of land and the surrounding farmland was very marked.

Road Verges

- 2.77 Road verges are generally narrow with species-poor neutral grassland, but there are numerous stretches that support cowslips, black knapweed and other unimproved grassland indicators.

Northern Henge

- 2.78 Camp Wood is situated on the Northern Henge. Secondary woodland covers the whole area of the earthworks. The interior of the woodland has a relatively simple structure, with a dominance of even aged (young mature) sycamore and ash in the canopy with occasional pedunculate oak. The under-storey is patchy with well developed dense patches of elm, elder and hawthorn in places, although this layer is poorly developed in other areas. The field layer is mostly dominated by a mix of dog's mercury and bluebell, although other woodland herbs (e.g. herb Robert and wood avens) and ferns (mostly male fern and broad buckler fern) are common.
- 2.79 The outer ring of the earthworks is different in character from the interior, in that there is a greater number of large mature ash trees and also a greater diversity of ancient woodland indicator species in the field layer. These include sanicle, spurge laurel, early dog violet and large numbers of early purple orchids. In addition, a few bryophyte species, such as *Isohetecium alopecuroides*, are present on the ground of the embankment and at the base of old ash trees that, in the dry lowlands of eastern England, are usually indicative of ancient woodlands. The more sensitive bryophytes that normally accompany these, that one might expect in this habitat, are not however present, possibly because of sudden exposure to sunlight from previous

fellings. The more vigorous of the woodland species (particularly dog's mercury and bluebell) have presumably spread into the interior or re-colonised as the planted/recent woodland has matured.

- 2.80 The Henge is surrounded by intensively farmed arable and pasture, but is mostly protected from the effects of fertiliser run-off and spray drift by dense scrub on the perimeters and the earth banks. However there are certain areas where the banks are low and the scrub at the edge of the wood is thin where there is evidence of eutrophication (increase of plant nutrients to high levels) on the field layer of the wood. Here the ground flora is characterised by ubiquitous species, such as stinging nettles and cleavers, which are typically associated with high-nutrient environments.

Green Lane

- 2.81 The double hedges that line Green Lane are largely dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, and also have non-native species such as snowberry and sycamore. The two hedges are for the most part over-grown, and of little value as a stock proof barrier. They are, however, structurally diverse and there is evidence that the hedges are of considerable age. More than ten native woody species, including field maple, wych elm, wild cherry, and hazel were recorded from the length of the two hedges, and the hedge bottom flora supports bluebells and dog's mercury, as well as some unimproved grassland species. In addition, some of the pleachers (the laid stems of hedgerow shrubs) are of a considerable age and the hedges also have a small number of very mature trees (ash and oak). It is possible that the hedges might qualify as important under the Hedgerow Regulations (1997).
- 2.82 As the lane is adjacent to intensively farmed arable and pasture, the detrimental effects of eutrophication, caused by fertilizer run-off, are evident in the number of nutrient-demanding weed species such as cleavers and stinging nettle along much of the hedge bottom.

Central Henge

- 2.83 This site consists of a raised ring of earthworks covered by short, sheep-grazed unimproved calcareous grassland, with some bare ground and prominent gorse scrub. This occupies a large part of an otherwise level field composed of grazed semi-improved grassland. Numerous sheep were present on the earthworks themselves and on the level grassland. The

calcareous grassland of the raised earthworks consists of fine-leaved grasses, including sheep's fescue, and typical calcareous grassland indicators, including locally abundant salad burnet, cowslip, common rock-rose, dropwort, ladies bedstraw, mouse-eared hawkweed, burnet saxifrage, and occasional field scabious, pignut, greater knapweed, crossword, glaucous sedge and spring sedge. There is also a strong population of saw-wort, which is very uncommon in the region. A number of common stress-tolerant feather-mosses that are often indicative of nutrient poor grasslands also were present in the sward, with small limestone species colonising the bare ground. A few anthills, created by yellow meadow-ants, were also noted. It is quite possible that waxcap fungi, a number of which are UK BAP priority species, might occur here.

- 2.84 It is likely that the site is now in better condition, ecologically, than when it was surveyed in 1999. That survey, and photographs and descriptions of the Henge in the *Modern Antiquarian* (Cope 1997), show that there was considerable tall growth of coarse grasses and much bramble covering the henge during the 1990s. Grazing has obviously since reduced the sward height, created some bare soil and allowed small limestone grassland species to compete with the more vigorous species that had previously dominated.
- 2.85 The semi-improved level areas consist of a coarser, but still mossy, sward typified by an abundance of red fescue, cock's-foot and creeping bent, with a scattering of common herbs such as yarrow, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, and cut-leaved cranesbill. A few unimproved grassland indicators are present within the semi-improved sward at low densities, including black knapweed, meadow vetchling, and bird's-foot trefoil.
- 2.86 The area is surrounded by a recently planted hedge. The hedge consists entirely of hawthorn and is still immature. Beyond the hedge, the area is surrounded by intensively farmed arable land, although a strip adjacent to the Henge has been taken out of cultivation and has been sown with a wildflower mix consisting mainly of non-native strains of common clover and trefoil, including the non-native bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus ssp. sativa*, in a sward of common couch.

Southern Henge

- 2.87 The Southern Henge was not visited, but was viewed through binoculars. It appeared to have a similar character to the Central Henge. The raised

earthworks had some bare patches and were grazed short. It was not proposed for survey by the SINC panel and is therefore assumed to be of lesser quality than the Central Henge.

Access and Tourism

- 2.88 The current and potential use of the Henges as a tourism resource is a key issue for the long-term management of the Plan Area. As access is fundamental to tourism this is also addressed within this section, however the issue of access extends to include non-tourism related activity e.g. local community use of the Henges and Plan Area.
- 2.89 The assessment provided here and in Section 5 has been based on a desk study of readily available local tourism data and consultations with tourism representatives. While a strict definition of tourism covers overnight visitors, it was felt appropriate that all potential visitors to the site are included in this assessment. As well as ‘tourists’ (those staying for one or more nights away from home), the site may attract tourism day visits (defined as trips at least lasting 3 hours, not taken on a regular basis) or leisure day visits (defined as round trips made from home for leisure purposes to locations anywhere in Great Britain.) This broad definition includes informal recreational visits by local people.
- 2.90 However, tourism is notoriously difficult to quantify and data collection and analysis follows different models for different attractions or districts, making comparison unreliable. Background data has been limited to that readily available within the timeframe of this study. No new data collection has been undertaken.
- 2.91 The following description provides a brief overview of the wider regional and sub-regional tourism context and a description of the current tourism and access arrangements in the Plan Area. The issues relating to Tourism and Access are addressed in Section 5. Section 7 presents a number of ideas and opportunities for enhancing the tourism and access situation in line with principles outlined in Section 6.

The Tourism Context

- 2.92 The tourism sector in the Yorkshire and Humber region is diverse, ranging from relatively undeveloped areas to internationally renowned destinations e.g

York and Fountain's Abbey. Outside of York, it attracts a predominantly domestic market and intra-regional tourism is strong with approximately one third of domestic tourists coming from within the region.

2.93 North Yorkshire is the main sub-region for tourism, covering a large rural area. It includes two National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These all attract visitors for a range of outdoor pursuits. Rural North Yorkshire is renowned for its heritage attractions and market towns, with environmental and sustainable tourism a growing area of focus. Film and TV links also attract many visitors. The main urban areas attracting tourism are York and Harrogate. The established coastal resorts to the east of the sub-region are not relevant to this study, nor is the business tourism sector which is focused on York, Harrogate and Scarborough.

2.94 The Plan Area is situated in Hambleton District, North Yorkshire, close to the border with Richmondshire and Harrogate Districts. These local authorities as have been profiled within the Yorkshire & Humber Tourism Study (KPMG 2002) as follows (details on other authorities can be found in Appendix 2):

- **Hambleton.** Branded 'Herriot Country', this area is nestled between the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks and is predominantly rural with a number of market towns.
- **Harrogate.** The town of Harrogate has the only dedicated conference, exhibition and banqueting facilities in Yorkshire, which generates a significant level of business tourism for the area. Harrogate District stretches to the Eastern Dales and includes three market towns and Nidderdale, which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- **Richmondshire.** Richmondshire is pre-dominantly rural with most of its boundary falling into the Dales National Park. It has a number of market towns and a significant Ministry of Defence (MOD) presence.

Volume and value

2.95 The importance of tourism was illustrated by the Yorkshire & Humber Tourism Study (KPMG 2002) which noted that in the year 2000, tourism and day visitor spending was £4.2billion, supporting 160,000 jobs. A Yorkshire Forward study on the Environmental Economy of Yorkshire & Humber (2002) calculated that tourism and leisure businesses reliant on the region's natural environment and historic heritage provide 35,000 jobs in the region and contributed £640 million to regional GDP.

- 2.96 Of the 5.2 billion leisure day trips made from home in the UK in 2002-3, 1.1 billion were tourism day trips. The average expenditure per tourism trip (£27.70) was around £14 more than that for leisure day visits as a whole (£13.70). Trips within Yorkshire and Humberside generated the lowest average expenditure for tourism day trips (£21.90).
- 2.97 According to Yorkshire Tourist Board figures, over 14 million overnight visitors spent over £2.2 billion in the region in 2003. 95% of these were from the UK and 1/3 of visitors were from within the Yorkshire region. Out of 7.4 million holiday trips to Yorkshire by UK visitors in 2003, 2.2 million involved visits to heritage sites and 2 million involved visits to heritage exhibits such as museums or exhibitions, with a total spend of £485 million and £464 million respectively.
- 2.98 On a more local level, Yorkshire Tourist Board (YTB) figures show 5.35 million visitors to North Yorkshire in 2003, with a total spend of £932 million. Figures provided by Hambleton DC show approximately 1.85 million tourists visited Hambleton District in 2004, 1.4 million of whom were day visitors. Tourism accounted for over 3 million tourist days in 2004 and expenditure in 2004 of £103.35 million, just over one-third of which came from day visitors and approximately half from overnight guests. 2752 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs were supported by tourism in 2004.

Visitor Attractions

- 2.99 The major free and paid visitor attractions in Yorkshire are listed in Appendix 2. Other major attractions close to the Thornborough Henges for which visitor figures are available include Lightwater Valley Theme Park (estimated 300,000 visitors in 2000), Ripon Cathedral (95,000 visitors in 2003), Rievaulx Abbey (52,652 visitors in 2003). Other sites include Jervaulx Abbey, the Black Sheep Brewery in Masham, Norton Conyers, Isurium Roman Town and several historic houses and attractive market towns. The majority of tourism businesses across the area are small and medium-sized enterprises, and most do not publish visitor figures, if indeed these are known.

The current situation at the Plan Area

- 2.100 There is no local information on or signage for the Henges and at present there is no formal access to the Henges which lie on private land. The Central and Southern Henges are not visited regularly although the land-owner and

tenant farmer have allowed access for groups if the visits are booked in advance. There is also a degree of unofficial access. This can be classed as trespass as the two Henges are not on a public right of way and lie behind locked gates. The landowner of the Northern Henge allows informal public access to the woodland in which it is situated. This is on the proviso that it is not used for formal tourist groups or as part of a wider tour programme. Evidence of small scale fires, well-trampled paths and some litter, indicates that the wood is well-used for local recreation and perhaps to a lesser extent by visitors from the region and beyond.

- 2.101 The current planning situation at Ladybridge has seen an increase in publicity about the Henges and this has resulted in increased enquiries to the local Tourist Information Centre and probably increased numbers of visitors to the Henges. Anecdotal evidence from people living and working in the area would indicate that people from national and international locations are now attempting to visit the Henges on a relatively frequent basis. However, no counts of visitors to the Henges or other parts of the Plan Area are available.
- 2.102 Given the lack of signage and the visually non-intrusive nature of the Henges, it is unlikely that passers-by would notice or visit the Henges without prior knowledge of their existence. Current evidence would indicate that most non-local visitors are those with an interest in archaeology or in visiting sites that are perceived to have ancient spiritual connections. Many of these visitors have learned of the Henges through recent media coverage and a number of campaigning websites and groups.
- 2.103 In terms of the Plan Area, access is limited to the public rights of way that cross and border it. Levels of usage on these are currently unknown but field observation indicates a wider variety of walkers and riders using the public rights of way network. Some of the public rights of way pass close to known archaeological sites, but there is currently no interpretation of the archaeology in the Plan Area. Given the fact that, excepting the Henges, none of the archaeology in the Plan Area is visible it is unlikely that it would in its own right be a considerable tourism attraction.
- 2.104 The Plan Area is also related to a number of other archaeological sites in the wider region (see above). None of the principal monuments in this group are developed for visitors to any great degree; almost all are generally unknown to the public, with the possible exception of the Devil's Arrows at Boroughbridge; and few are accessible.



Section 3:
Relevant Plans & Policies



3. RELEVANT PLANS AND POLICIES

Introduction

- 3.1 This section of the Plan identifies relevant national, regional and local statutory policies that might relate to the future management of the Plan Area and also highlights a number of non-statutory strategies that could also influence or support future management and conservation.
- 3.2 Future proposals for the management and conservation of the Plan Area would need to be cognisant of the requirements of the following. The Principles outlined in Section 6 reflect the guidance contained in many of the relevant plan and policies and the opportunities and way forward identified in Section 7 seek wherever possible to also reflect this guidance.

National Statutory Plans, Policies and Guidance

- 3.3 The following are the key statutes relevant to the future management, conservation and development of the Plan Area:
- Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAA) 1979
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)
 - National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002)
 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990
 - Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 - Protection of Badger Act (1992)
 - The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994
 - Hedgerow Regulations (SI 1997/1160) 1997
 - Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999
 - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

3.4 The following are the key national planning policy guidance notes or planning policy statements relevant to the Plan Area:

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
- Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning
- Planning Policy Guidance 21: Tourism
- Mineral Policy Statement 2: Controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of mineral extraction in England
- Minerals Planning Guidance 1: General considerations
- Minerals Planning Guidance 2: Applications, permissions and conditions

Regional Statutory Plans, Policies and Guidance

3.5 The following identifies the relevant regional plans and policies

- Regional Spatial Strategy 12: Yorkshire and the Humber
 - E2 Rural Employment Opportunities
 - E6 Tourism
 - T7 Tourism Related Transport Measures
 - N1 Biodiversity
 - N2 Historic and Cultural Resources
 - N3 Landscape Character
 - N5 Agriculture and Environmental Support Measures
 - R4 Mineral Extraction
- North Yorkshire County Structure Plan
 - I13 and I14
 - A1, A2 and A6
 - M1, M4 and M5
 - W1, W2 and W3
 - R1, R2, R3, R5 and R6

- E1, E2, E4, E5, E6
- North Yorkshire Local Minerals Plan
 - Polices in Sections 3 and 4

Local Statutory Plans, Policies and Guidance

3.6 The Hambleton District Council Local Plan Review 1999-2006 is the current statutory planning document for Hambleton District, key policies in that document that may relate to the Plan Area include:

- Guiding Principle 1: The Environment
- Policy L11: Landscape Enhancement Areas
- Policy L14: The Landscaping of New Developments
- Policy NC1: General Nature Conservation Considerations
- Policy NC2: Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Interest
- Policy NC3: Local Nature Reserves
- Policy NC4: Non-Statutory Sites of Nature Conservation Interest
- Policy NC5: Species Protected by Law
- Policy NC7: Wildlife Corridors
- Policy NC8: Public Access to Nature Conservation Sites
- Policy HH15: Demolition of Listed Buildings
- Policy HH17: Alterations to Listed Buildings
- Policy HH18: The Setting of Listed Buildings
- Policy HH19: Scheduled Monuments and Other Sites of National, Regional and County Importance
- Policy HH20 :Archaeology and Development
- Policy HH21: Archaeological Information
- Policy TO5: Tourist Attractions
- Policy TO6: Large Scale Tourist Attractions
- Policy SR4: Informal Countryside Recreation
- Policy SR8: Footpaths and Bridleways
- Policy SR9: Proposed Footpaths

Other Plans, Policies and Guidance

3.7 There are a number of ongoing or completed, generally non-statutory, strategies and initiatives in the area which could affect, influence or contribute to the future conservation, management or development of the Plan Area, these include amongst others:

- Swale Ure Washlands Project
- Hambleton District Landscape Character Area Assessment
- Harrogate Borough Landscape Character Area Assessment
- Hambleton District Biodiversity Action Plan

Future change

3.8 The current planning system is in the process of undergoing major review and restructuring. This includes the ongoing Heritage Protection Review, the development of a new Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humberside, the introduction of new Local Development Frameworks and Area Action Plans and the North Yorkshire Minerals Plan review.

3.9 All of these changes could alter the planning framework under which the Plan Area would be managed and consequently affect future decisions and approaches. It will therefore be important to review these changes as they occur and where possible seek to influence emerging plans and policies for the benefit of the conservation of the Plan Area.



Section 4: Statement of Significance



4. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Approach

- 4.1 The Statement of Significance forms the heart of a Conservation Plan. It identifies what is significant about a place and why those aspects are significant.
- 4.2 This statement of significance has been prepared for the Plan Area (see Figure 1) and addresses the many values associated with that area. The following key themes have been identified under which the significances of the Plan Area can be explored:
- Archaeological and historical significance
 - Landscape significance
 - Ecological significance
 - Contemporary human significances
- 4.3 The following provides an analysis of each of these themes. In addition, there is a preceding *Summary Statement of Significance* which draws the key themes together into a short overview.
- 4.4 It is however important to ensure that a statement of significance can assist future management and the balancing of different values in decision making. With this in mind a dual approach to weighting the many significances associated with the Plan Area has been developed. This dual approach allows for weighting of the significances on both an **external** and **internal** basis.
- 4.5 In relation to **external** factors a National, Regional, Local, Negligible scale to differentiate between the relative importance of the many significances of the Plan Area has been used.

- 4.6 For the archaeological remains the external significance has been determined using the principles established in the Secretary Of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments (see Appendix 4). This has included a measure of professional judgement.
- 4.7 For the ecological elements the external significance has been assessed using criteria based on those developed by Dr Derek Ratcliffe, as set out in *A Nature Conservation Review* (Ratcliffe 1977) which include size, diversity, rarity and naturalness. This evaluation is then expressed in terms of geographical importance, as follows:
- International importance (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites)
 - National importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest)
 - Regional / County importance (Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, ancient woodlands)
 - Local (parish) importance (significant ecological features such as old hedges, woodlands, ponds)
 - Negligible importance would usually be applied to areas of built development, active mineral extraction, or intensive agricultural land.
- 4.8 The significance of other aspects, such as the landscape, has been determined using the professional judgement of the technical specialists.
- 4.9 However, it is also recognised that just because a theme or an element may be of local importance this does not preclude it being vitally important in terms of the overall significance of the Plan Area. This also works the other way around in that a nationally important element may in fact not be critical to the significance of the Plan Area.
- 4.10 For this **internal** weighting four broad bands have been used. These are based on a combination of the Kerr (1998) approach to conservation planning and the Environmental Capital Approach, these bands are outlined below:
- **A:** Values or attributes that are critical to the Plan Area's significance
 - **B:** Values or attributes that are important to the Plan Area's significance
 - **C:** Values or attributes that form part of the Plan Area's significance

- **D:** Values or attributes that make no notable contribution to the Plan Area's significance
- 4.11 This dual approach should allow people to better balance the relative values of the area when making decisions regarding its future.
- 4.12 Where appropriate, particularly where there is a conflict of opinion on the significance of an item, multiple views of the relative value of different elements have been documented.

Summary Statement of Significance

- 4.13 The Plan Area contains a complex and inter-related archaeological resource that has the potential, with further study, to provide significant new understandings about Neolithic and Bronze Age communities. Central to the archaeological significance of the Plan Area are the principal surviving remains, in particular the three Henges, cursus, barrows and pit alignments. Many of these remains are in their own right of particular significance. For example, the Northern Henge is an exceptionally well preserved example of its type and one of the better preserved henges in the country; as such it is undoubtedly of national significance. The other two Henges are less well preserved but are still of national significance; a fact recognised by their scheduled status. The southern pit-alignment is the longest known example of its type in the county and is also a nationally important scheduled monument.
- 4.14 Another key aspect of the Plan Area's archaeological significance is the relationships between the Plan Area and the wider archaeological resource e.g. the other henges, cursuses and pit-alignments in the Swale-Ure area. These relationships are critical to understanding the Plan Area and its role in Neolithic and Bronze Age communities. This wider group of remains, including the Plan Area, is now recognised by many archaeologists as one of the largest such groups in the UK and taken together they form an important resource for further study and analysis. The known prehistoric remains in the Plan Area represent all of the major periods related to the wider group of remains and provide a unique record of the development and evolution of those remains and past peoples' relationship with them.
- 4.15 The complexity of the known archaeological resource in the Plan Area coupled with the interrelationships between these remains and the relationships between the Plan Area and other known remains in the wider

region make the Plan Area particularly important in archaeological terms. As a whole the archaeological resource of the Plan Area is considered to be of national significance, although this is not to say that every archaeological remain within the Plan Area is, in its own right, of national significance.

- 4.16 The archaeological significance of the Plan Area is its primary significance; however there are many other values associated with the area, some of which stem from this archaeological significance. These include a rich ecological resource primarily comprised of the high quality woodland on the Northern Henge and rare grassland communities on the banks of the Central Henge. Although the landscape character of the Plan Area is not of particular significance it does supply an immediate rural environment for the Henges which contributes significantly to their character.
- 4.17 The Plan Area and in particular the Henges themselves are also of value to people living in the modern world. Locally, there are a wide range of views on the Henges. To some people they are an important local feature to which they strongly relate, for others views about the Henges are more ambivalent. However, the Northern Henge is a recognised local amenity and access to the Henge is valued by local residents.
- 4.18 There are also a growing body of people from across the UK and to a lesser extent the world who relate to the Henges on a spiritual and / or emotional level. Some of these belong to formal or informal pagan groups but many are purely individuals outside of any particular grouping. The level of engagement and interest that has begun to develop reflects the growing awareness of the monuments and is likely to grow in the future. This phenomena is not confined to Thornborough and many iconic and less iconic sites across the UK are increasingly being used for modern ritual or non-ritual activity by people with a strong sense of attachment to these places.
- 4.19 In all, the significance of the Plan Area is rooted in the archaeological resource it contains and the importance of that archaeology in the context of a wider group of remains and the study of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages at a national level. Other values are important in the Plan Area especially where they relate to people's relationship with the archaeology but the primary goal of future management will be to conserve, enhance and promote the archaeological significance of the Plan Area, whilst seeking to enhance and conserve other important values.

Archaeological and historical significance

- 4.20 The archaeological and historical significance of the Plan Area is vested in three themes:
- The value of the Area's prehistoric archaeological resource and its associations with the wider group of remains in the Swale-Ure area;
 - The relationships between the Henges and the later historic landscape; and
 - The archaeological importance of individual archaeological remains in the Plan Area.

The value of the Area's prehistoric archaeological resource and its associations with the wider group of remains in the Swale-Ure area

- 4.21 The prehistoric archaeological remains within the Plan Area form a key component of a wider group of prehistoric archaeological remains. Taken together the principal monuments in that group and associated features including find scatters; barrows; other possible monuments such as cursuses and mortuary enclosure; pit alignments; and evidence of domestic activity, form a complex multi-period prehistoric landscape. Based on current interpretations this probably had strong ceremonial, sacred and/or religious significance for the occupants of the area and perhaps beyond.
- 4.22 These types of landscapes are being increasingly recognised in the archaeological resource of the United Kingdom particularly where monumental remains survive. Although they are beginning to be identified and recognised more frequently they are still relatively rare phenomena and as such are of particular value to archaeological studies of the Neolithic and Bronze Age.
- 4.23 The prehistoric landscape within which the Plan Area is situated is notable for the scale and the density of known archaeological remains, some of which survive as upstanding features. The complexity and size of this group makes it highly notable. This wider group of remains, including the Plan Area, is now recognised by many archaeologists as one of the largest such groups in the UK and taken together it is an important resource for further study and analysis. Further research is required to describe and assess the significance of this group in more detail but based on current evidence it is probable that it is of national significance. However, not all remains within that landscape are

of national significance in their own right. Further analysis of the remains within that landscape is required to determine their relative significance; this process lies outside of the scope of this Plan.

- 4.24 The complex and inter-related archaeological resource of the Plan Area represents all of the major periods of this landscape and includes the best surviving examples of the characteristic Neolithic henge monuments. Other notable surviving remains include the cursus, barrows and pit alignments. The Plan Area's archaeology provides a unique record of the development and evolution of this wider landscape and past peoples' relationship with it. As such the archaeology of the Plan Area is critical to the integrity of the wider archaeological landscape and will be pivotal to understanding the development and functions of this wider landscape.
- 4.25 The Plan Area also contains an archaeological resource that has the potential, in its own right, to provide significant new understandings about Neolithic and Bronze Age communities and this potential increases significantly when the wider group of prehistoric archaeological remains are considered. This includes the potential astronomical relationships between the Henges and stellar features. These relationships are difficult to prove, but if further work clearly demonstrates their validity then they would be an important aspect of the Henges' significance as these forms of relationships are extremely rare in the archaeological record.
- 4.26 The complexity of the known archaeological resource in the Plan Area coupled with the interrelationships between these remains and the relationships between the Plan Area and other known remains in the wider region make the archaeology of the Plan Area particularly important. As a whole the archaeological resource of the Plan Area is considered to be of national significance, although this is not to say that every archaeological remain within the Plan Area is, in its own right, of national significance.
- 4.27 The Plan Area's primary archaeological significance therefore lies in the fact that it is a fundamental element of a much wider group of important prehistoric archaeological remains. The range of material present in the Plan Area and the potential for the discovery of further archaeological remains means that the future study of the Plan Area's archaeology has the potential to provide new understandings about this wider archaeological landscape and the way of life, beliefs and social structures of Neolithic and Bronze Age communities. The conservation of the Plan Area's archaeological resource, and by

extension the conservation of the wider group of remains, will therefore help ensure that this unique record of past human activity is passed down to future generations.

The relationships between the Henges and the later historic landscape

- 4.28 The Henges influenced and were influenced by the landscape around them from the time they were constructed up to and the modern day. These relationships have helped structure the form of the landscape we see today and the form of the monuments themselves. These relationships are therefore an element of the overall significance of the monuments. The other archaeological remains within the Plan Area have seemingly played less of a role within the development of the historic landscape and are not considered further here. It should be noted that our understanding of the role of the Henges in the later landscape and the development of that landscape is currently poorly understood and therefore these significances are liable to change as further research is undertaken.
- 4.29 The Henges were probably situated within a Romano-British estate based in Well. They may have been a notable focal point within that estate and the wider Roman landscape. Later administrative sub-divisions of the landscape placed the Henges within three separate medieval townships. This division strongly influenced the evolution and use of the wider landscape through the medieval and post-medieval periods. This division perhaps reflects a desire on the part of members of the then local communities to include a Henge within their boundaries or it may just reflect a need to provide local communities with access to different types of land and resources.
- 4.30 It is possible that during the medieval and post-medieval periods the Henges had functional roles, perhaps as part of the agricultural regime. These could have included stock control, meeting places (e.g. fair site) or as settlement sites. Further research is required to determine the roles and meanings associated with the Henges during the Roman and medieval periods.
- 4.31 In the 18th century (post-medieval period) map evidence would indicate that the Central and Southern Henges were respected by arable strip fields indicating that they still had a strong visible presence and that the banks and ditches restricted the ability of farmers to plough them. Other social / traditional taboos may have also restricted ploughing at this time. The Northern Henge was situated on common land until the early 19th century

when it was planted with woodland, perhaps for aesthetic and / or functional reasons; both of these facts have helped conserve the physical form of this henge.

- 4.32 The survival of the Henges has been strongly influenced by medieval and post medieval land-use. In turn the presence of the Henges has probably helped structure the historic administrative and landscape structure of the area and it is probable that the Henges themselves served functional roles within these later landscapes. It is also likely, although currently unproven, that the Henges and perhaps the visible barrows would have had myths, legends and folklore associated with them during these periods which would have influenced peoples’ understanding and uses of these sites.

The archaeological importance of individual archaeological remains in the Plan Area.

- 4.33 The significance of the known archaeological remains identified to date within the Plan Area has been assessed in the Gazetteer (Appendix 1).
- 4.34 Many of the remains in the Plan Area have in their own right particular significances. For example, the Northern Henge is one of the better preserved henges in the country and as such it is undoubtedly of national significance. The other two Henges are less well preserved but are still of national significance; a fact recognised by their scheduled status. The southern pit-alignment is the longest known example of its type in the county and is also a nationally important scheduled monument. The significance of the principle remains are listed in the summary table below.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Significance of the wider group of prehistoric archaeological remains in the Swale-Ure area	National (tbc)	A
The importance of the Plan Area’s archaeological resource	National	A
Possible astronomical relationships	National (tbc)	A (tbc)
The role of the Henges in the later historic landscape	Local	C
Northern Henge (CP 1)	National	A
Central Henge (CP 2)	National	A
Southern Henge (CP 3)	National	A
Cursus (CP 4)	National	A

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Southern Pit Alignment (CP 6)	National	B
Northern barrow of Three Hills Barrow (CP9)	National	B
Central barrow of Three Hills Barrow (CP10)	National	B
Southern barrow of Three Hills Barrow (CP9)	National	B
Centre Hill Barrow (CP12)	National	B

Landscape significance

- 4.35 The Plan Area occupies a small extent of predominately arable farmland within a wider rural landscape. The Plan Area is characterised by generally large open fields with hedged boundaries. As such it does not have a distinctive or unusual character and generally blends into the wider landscape.
- 4.36 The exception to this is Camp Hill Wood on the Northern Henge. This dense circular woodland forms a prominent and distinctive feature in the local landscape and makes a contribution to the wider area’s landscape character.
- 4.37 Although the hedges that link and surround the Central and Southern Henges are distinctive from the air, their form is not readily appreciable on the ground except from key local view points on the roads that divide the Plan Area. The planting mix used in the hedges is similar to that used in the wider area and as such they blend in with the wider area’s general character.
- 4.38 The Central and Southern Henges are not visually prominent and only contribute to the landscape character of a small area around them. As such they make little contribution to the wider area’s character and appearance.
- 4.39 The use of the Plan Area for agricultural purposes is important to those people who own, manage and work the land. This use contributes to the wider economy of the area and the need to generate agricultural produce.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
General landscape character	Local	D
Camp Hill Wood	Local	B
Hedgerows in Plan Area	Local	C

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Contribution of the Henges to the wider landscape character	Negligible	D
Agricultural land-use	Local	C (A/B for those who own, manage and work the land)

Ecological significance

- 4.40 Within the Plan Area the agricultural landscape is of local importance for nature conservation, mainly because it supports HLBAP species such as brown hares and skylarks and supplies a feeding ground for bird species such as lapwing and golden plover. This nature conservation importance could rise if the ongoing programme of Environmental Stewardship is developed within the Plan Area. Features of this landscape, such as hedges and mature trees, are of higher ecological value due to the range of habitats and species they could support, although they are still of local importance.
- 4.41 The most important features in the Plan Area in ecological terms are Camp Wood on the Northern Henge, the Central Henge and Green Lane. The ecological significance of these features and the wider Plan Area could change rapidly in the future as habitats are altered by land management regimes; this aspect of the Plan Area’s significance will therefore need to be monitored and reviewed.

Camp Wood / Northern Henge

- 4.42 The woodland on the outer ring of the Northern Henge contains numerous important species indicative of ancient woodland. In addition, it contains a number of large mature ash trees. The woodland itself was probably planted between 1796 and 1853 following enclosure of the area.
- 4.43 The interior of Camp Wood has a simple woodland structure dominated by sycamore and ash. The under-storey is patchy and the field layer is mostly dominated by a mix of dog’s mercury and bluebell. This would indicate that this area has been re-colonised; as such it is of lower ecological value than the outer ring of woodland. The whole of Camp Wood may qualify for SINC status but given the fact that it has not been in continual existence since c.1650 it may not qualify as Ancient Woodland.

Central Henge

- 4.44 The raised earthworks of the Central Henge are covered by short, sheep-grazed unimproved calcareous grassland, with some bare ground and prominent gorse scrub. This grassland consists of fine-leaved grasses and typical calcareous grassland indicators. There is also a strong population of saw-wort, which is very uncommon in the region. It is also possible that waxcap fungi, some of which are UK BAP priority species, might occur here. This grassland is a rare habitat and of considerable ecological importance.
- 4.45 The areas of grazed semi-improved grassland around and inside the earthworks consist of a coarser, but mossy, sward. A few unimproved grassland indicators are also present at low densities in this area. These areas of grassland are of local ecological value and provide a buffer for the rare grassland habitat on the Henge earthworks. The whole of the Central Henge may qualify for SINC status.

Green Lane

- 4.46 The hedgerows lining Green Lane show evidence of being ancient and species-rich, although somewhat modified by planting of non-native species and eutrophication resulting from treatments to adjacent fields. The hedges are largely dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however they are structurally diverse and more than ten native woody species have been identified. In addition, some of the pleachers are of a considerable age and the hedges also have a small number of very mature trees (ash and oak). Green Lane may qualify for SINC status and might be “important” under the Hedgerow Regulations (1997).

Southern Henge

- 4.47 Based on current data it is unlikely that it contains habitats of similar quality to those identified on the Central henge; it is therefore likely to be of lesser ecological significance but still important in the local context.

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
General ecological value of farmland in the Plan Area	Local (improving)	C (improving)
General ecological value of hedgerows / trees in the Plan area	Local	C
Outer parts of Camp Wood / Northern Henge	Regional	A

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Inner Parts of Camp Wood / Northern Henge	Local	C
Central Henge – grassland on earthworks	Regional	A
Central Henge – grassland around and in Henge	Local	C
Green Lane	Local / Regional	C
Southern Henge	Local	C

Contemporary human significances

4.48 This aspect relates to the relationships that contemporary people have with the Plan Area and the Henges in particular. This issue has begun emerge in recent years as attention has become focussed on the Henges and their profile has increased both locally and nationally. The following examines the nature of some of those relationships, although it should be emphasised that these are dynamic and changing aspects of the Plan Area’s significance and future reviews of the Plan may have to revisit this aspect in light of future changes.

Local community relationships

4.49 Consultation with the local communities has revealed a diverse range of views about what the Henges mean to people and how the Henges feature in their understanding of the wider area’s identity.

4.50 At one end of the scale many people felt no association with the Henges and expressed the view that there was a lot of fuss being made about essentially nothing. At the other end of the scale some people viewed the Henges in a very positive light considering them to be a distinctive feature in the wider area’s identity. In some cases they indicated that they had strong emotional / spiritual attachments to them (see below for further discussion of this point).

4.51 In between these two positions the majority of people were aware of the Henges but few had visited them for the purpose of visiting the Henges – although many had used the Northern Henge for recreational purposes (see below). The majority of these people expressed the view that the Henges were worth saving and that they were obviously of value but few felt any attachment to them in terms of the area’s or their identity.

- 4.52 Based on anecdotal evidence it seems as if this local picture is relatively common at similar sites across the UK, particularly where those sites do not play a day-to-day role in people's lives or have a significant social function e.g. hosting events. If access arrangements were to change or if the Henges began to be used to host events or tourism develops further then it is possible that a change will occur in the way local communities relate to the Henges; this aspect of the Plan Area's significance will therefore need continued monitored and review.

Spiritual / Emotional Connections

- 4.53 In contemporary society there are large numbers of people who have developed spiritual / emotional connections with archaeological monuments. Some of these are expressed within the context of formal or semi-formal religious groupings e.g. the Druids whilst other relationships occur on a purely personal level or within smaller informal, often pagan, groups. These types of relationships have long been expressed at iconic monuments such as Stonehenge but increasingly less iconic sites are being used for small-scale modern ritual activities.
- 4.54 These relationships are beginning to be expressed at the Thornborough Henges through a series of formal and informal events. In 2004 and 2005 a Beltane festival (a festival that marks the beginning of summer) was held at the Henges. The event in 2005 drew approximately 150 people (these numbers are unconfirmed). Anecdotal evidence would indicate that participants came from the local area and further afield. It is clear from these events and the views expressed on numerous websites that these spiritual / emotional connections with the Henges are developing both in terms of the numbers of interested people and the depth of their feelings. This perhaps reflects growing publicity and the fact that more people are becoming aware of the Henges and more people are visiting them.

Access and Leisure

- 4.55 Currently there is no public access, without prior arrangement, to the Central and Southern Henge. Consequently, access to these sites is not a significant contemporary value.
- 4.56 The Northern Henge however is publicly accessible on a non-statutory basis. The Northern Henge is used as an informal recreational facility by a range of local people e.g. for dog walking, off-road biking and strolling. It is a valued

amenity in this regard and for many people the primary significance of this Henge is its role as a publicly accessible space.

Tourism

4.57 Tourism activity at the Henges and within the Plan Area is currently at low levels. There is anecdotal evidence for national and international visitors making their way to the Henges and some evidence for a growing interest in the Henges as a tourism destination. However, at this stage the tourism use of the area is not a particularly major aspect of its significance. This may change in the future if tourism develops (see Section 7).

Theme / Element	External significance	Internal Significance
Local community relationships	Local	variable – B to D
Spiritual / Emotional connections	National	B
Access / Leisure – Southern and Central Henges	Local	D
Access / Leisure – Northern Henge	Local	B
Tourism	Local / Regional	D



Section 5: Key Issues



5. KEY ISSUES

Introduction

5.1 This section of the Plan explores the key issues facing the long-term conservation and management of the Plan Area. The key issues have been identified through a combination of technical studies and consultation with stakeholders and the local communities.

5.2 Through this process the following have been identified as the key issues:

- Conservation of upstanding archaeological monuments
- Conservation and identification of below-ground archaeology
- Conservation and management of the Plan Area's ecology
- Managing access and tourism to the Plan Area
- Involving the wider community
- Managing the Plan Area's landscape
- The setting of the Henges
- The wider archaeological resource
- Archaeological research and gaps in our knowledge

5.3 The issues all relate to elements of the Plan Area's significance as identified in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Plan present a series of principles and opportunities to address the issues discussed below.

Conservation of upstanding archaeological monuments

5.4 Within the Plan Area the principal upstanding archaeological monuments are the three Henges (CP 1, 2 and 3). The Central Hill Barrow (CP12) and two of the barrows located within the Three Barrows Group (CP 9, 10) are recorded in the Thornborough Project's Archaeological Resource Guide (http://thornborough.ncl.ac.uk/reports/ubs_reports_ARG/rg_main.htm) as also having upstanding remains. However, field observation at the Central Hill Barrow

(CP 12) indicates that this feature is not easily visible to the naked eye, whilst crop cover at the Three Hill Barrow group prevented assessment of the visibility of these monuments. Given the fact that these five barrows have all largely been ploughed out and, at most, have very slight surface expressions these features are considered in the following section - *Conservation and identification of below-ground archaeology*.

- 5.5 Therefore in terms of the conservation of known upstanding archaeological monuments within the Plan Area the focus is on the three Henges (CP 1, 2 and 3). Each of these monuments has had a very different life history in the last 200 or so years. There are also differences in terms of how they are managed now and their current uses. Consequently, they are considered individually below.

Northern Henge

- 5.6 The Northern Henge (CP 1) is undoubtedly the best preserved, in terms of surviving upstanding remains, of the three Henges. This is largely a result of the woodland that was planted on the Henge probably between c.1796 and 1853 (see Figures 6 and 7). This woodland cover has prevented intensive agricultural activity on the main part of the Henge and ensured that the primary banks of ditches of the Henge have remained stable and intact. The major exception to this is the outer ditch which, as with all three Henges, has been infilled and ploughed out. Only a small very slight earthwork to the south of the Henge now marks this feature in the modern landscape. In addition, past earthmoving activity has removed a significant section of the outer bank of the henge on its western side; this has scarred the physical form of the henge but has not undermined its otherwise exceptional level of preservation.
- 5.7 The woodland itself, in particular on the outer banks, has been identified as being of ecological significance. The particular ecological issues associated with this area are discussed below (see *Conservation and management of the Plan Area's ecology*) but there is considerable overlap between the conservation of the earthworks and the conservation of the ecology.
- 5.8 In addition, the presence of the woodland creates a very distinctive atmosphere and sense of place for the Northern Henge which is markedly different to the very open and exposed character of the Central and Southern Henges (CP 2 and 3). This woodland character is important and contributes

to the henge's importance as an informal recreational area primarily for dog walking, strolling, small-scale biking and children's play. As identified in the Statement of Significance, this usage is a critical part of the Henge's significance to local communities.

- 5.9 In terms of issues facing the Northern Henge, the woodland cover is both a benefit and a potential threat. The roots of the trees would have disturbed archaeological deposits within the Henge and consequently may have degraded archaeological deposits and the understanding that could be gained from future research at the Henge. Additionally, trees have the potential to cause localised damage if they are blown down and their roots torn from the ground; this would be a particular issue on the banks of the henge where the form and profile of the banks could be disturbed. However, the woodland also stabilises the banks and ditches and prevents large-scale erosive activity.
- 5.10 The aim of future management should therefore be to manage the woodland to reduce potential wind-blow damage and reduce impacts on archaeological deposits within the Henge interior. With regard to the latter point, the ecological surveys indicated that the woodland in the interior of the Henge is of lesser ecological importance than that on the outer banks, this indicates some scope for partial clearance and management of the interior space. This would also open up the space within the Henge enabling visitors to better appreciate the size and scale of the Henge, something that is currently limited by the woodland cover. Any such woodland management would need to be undertaken in an archaeologically and ecologically sensitive manner with appropriate levels of supervision. The works may also require Scheduled Monument Consent and advice should be sought from English Heritage on this matter.
- 5.11 In terms of current usage, there are very small-scale localised erosion scars emerging on some of the steep banks where people have been biking, playing or crossing these areas. These are currently not having a significant impact on the physical remains of the Henge although they are beginning to degrade the character. Long-term monitoring of these would be appropriate and, if necessary, future stabilisation and management works may be required.
- 5.12 Elsewhere in the Henge, informal but well defined footpaths have been established in a circuit around the Henge. These are not causing any significant erosion and have the added benefit, in conjunction with the often dense undergrowth, of encouraging people to remain on a defined circuit

hence reducing the possibility of erosion on the banks and ditches. Should numbers of visitors to the Henge increase (see *Managing access and tourism to the Plan Area* for further discussion) there may be future issues with erosion these would need to be monitored and if necessary addressed through mitigation and stabilisation measures.

- 5.13 Overall, the Northern Henge has few current issues facing its conservation and management. A programme of woodland management would significantly reduce potential threats to the physical fabric of the Henge and could enhance both the visitor experience and its ecological value. Long-term monitoring may be required to control potential visitor impacts and localised mitigation and stabilisation works may be required to address future impacts. If visitor patterns to the Henges change more intensive management may be required to prevent and control erosion.

Central Henge

- 5.14 The physical form of the Central Henge (CP 2) is relatively well preserved although it has been subject to significant past disturbance. This includes:
- the infilling of the inner ditch in the medieval period;
 - use of the inner part of the Henge for arable agriculture in the 20th century;
 - the remodelling of the southern entrance (the large mound on the western side of the entrance is probably the result of modern earth moving activity);
 - the use of the Henge in World War II as an ammunition storage facility;
 - the ploughing out of the outer ditch and some of the earthworks during the 19th and 20th centuries and perhaps earlier;
 - the quarrying of the areas of the outer ditch on the western side in the mid/late 20th century; and
 - a number of archaeological excavations in the late 20th century.
- 5.15 Taken together these activities represent a considerable disturbance of the physical form and below ground archaeological deposits of the Henge. However, even with this disturbance the basic form and structure of the Henge has survived and is readily appreciable on the ground.
- 5.16 The Central Henge and an enclosed area around it is now managed by the tenant farmer under the auspices of the Countryside Stewardship scheme. This has seen the Central Henge move from an arable agricultural regime to a

grassland management regime. A grassland regime is the most appropriate land-use for the management for this archaeological earthwork. It supplies a stable non-erosive land-use that ensures the continued survival of the earthworks with minimal vehicular and ground disturbance. The grassland on the Henge and surrounding land is currently grazed, predominately by sheep. This is generally an appropriate method of maintaining grassland and is usually acceptable on the majority of archaeological earthworks. There are some localised areas of erosion on the banks of the Henge where sheep are scraping back the ground to form shelters. These erosion scars have the potential to destabilise areas of the bank and erode the physical form of the Central Henge. Management measures to stabilise these scars and reduce their future occurrence are required as a matter of considerable urgency.

- 5.17 Currently, there is very limited access to the Central Henge for visitors and local communities. Consequently, footpath erosion is virtually non-existent on the Henge and the current level of visitation is not causing any conservation issues. Should this situation change and numbers of visitors increase then monitoring and management measures would need to be introduced to minimise erosion of the earthworks. Depending on the number of visitors it may be possible to allow access to the whole of the Henge without the need for intensive footpath creation or the fencing off of whole areas. The earthworks may require stabilisation in places to allow this situation and guidance on this matter is available from English Heritage and future approaches could draw on the recently completed earthwork management project at Hadrian's Wall.
- 5.18 As discussed below (see *Conservation and management of the Plan Area's ecology*) and identified in the statement of significance the grassland habitats on the banks of the Central Henge are particularly rare and significant. Future land management on the Henge and the future management of visitors would also need to take into account the need to conserve this habitat.
- 5.19 In summary, the Central Henge has suffered considerable disturbance in the past and this has led to a degradation of its physical form and disturbed archaeological deposits within and around the Henge. The current land management regime represents an improvement over past uses and the continuation of a stable, non-ground disturbing land-use would be beneficial to the conservation of the Henge and any archaeological remains in the area around it. The key issue for the future is likely to be the management of visitors should the current access situation change.

Southern Henge

- 5.20 The Southern Henge (CP 3) is the least well-preserved of the three Henges in terms of its visible physical form. The banks and ditches have been heavily eroded by ploughing and other 20th century earthmoving activity; although they are still visible and the overall form of the monument can still be appreciated. The majority of the erosion probably occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries when the area was under an intensive arable agricultural regime. As with the Central Henge (CP 2) the Southern Henge is now under a pastoral agricultural regime supported by the Countryside Stewardship programme. The grassland on and around the Henge is currently grazed by a mixture of sheep and cattle. Currently, there are no significant erosion issues associated with this grazing regime.
- 5.21 The visual character of the Henge is somewhat marred by the presence of partially decayed fencing along the outer base of the bank. The removal of this would benefit both the visual character of the Henge and reduce some localised erosion caused by animal movements alongside the fencing.
- 5.22 The relative isolation of the Henge and its separation from nearby public rights of way by the hedge line that encloses the Central and Southern Henges means that it is the least visited (whether officially or unofficially) of the three Henges. Consequently, there are no current erosion issues associated with visitors to the Henge. Future changes in the number of visitors to the Henges could affect the stability of the monument and cause localised erosion. As with the other Henges any future change in access arrangements (see *Managing access and tourism to the Plan Area* below) would need to be accompanied by an appropriate monitoring and management regime to mitigate and address and future impacts. However, given its relative isolation it is likely that this Henge would be the least visited in the future and hence will always probably be the least threatened henge in terms of impacts from visitors.
- 5.23 In summary, the Southern Henge has been significantly degraded by past land-use regimes and the current land management regime represents a considerable improvement in this regard. As with the Central Henge, the continuation of a stable, non-ground disturbing land-use would be beneficial to the conservation of the Southern Henge and any archaeological remains around it. The Southern Henge is likely to be the least threatened of the three Henges by any future change in visitor activity.

Conclusions

- 5.24 Although past activity has affected the conservation of the Henges recent changes in management regimes have considerably benefited the monuments. Moving forward the key issues are likely to relate to land management regimes and changes in visitor partners and numbers. In the case of the Northern Henge it is important that appropriate woodland management is implemented in the short-term to address potential wind-blow impacts and to enhance the visual experience of the Henge. With the other two Henges it is critical to their long-term conservation that a stable, non-ground disturbing land-use regime is maintained; a pastoral regime is most likely to satisfy this need. In terms of visitors, any future increase in visitor numbers would need to be accompanied by an appropriate monitoring and management regime to identify and mitigate any impacts caused by erosion.

Identification and conservation of below-ground archaeology

- 5.25 Within the Plan Area 24 possible or known below ground archaeological features have been identified (CP4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 – see Appendix 1 and Figure 3 for further details). These range widely in form and type and include known Bronze Age double pit alignments (CP6 and CP7), undated possible enclosures (e.g. CP8 and CP15), one known and one possible Neolithic Cursus (CP 4 and CP 5) and a series of known and possible Bronze Age Barrows (e.g. CP10 and CP25). In addition, field walking undertaken in the Plan Area and beyond between 1994 and 2004 by the Thornborough Henges Project (<http://thornborough.ncl.ac.uk/index.htm>) identified a number of flint scatters within the Plan Area that represent areas of prehistoric activity. Taken together, these remains and the Henges form an important collection of archaeological remains whose future conservation forms a key aim of this Plan.
- 5.26 As noted in Section 2 considerable research has been undertaken within the Plan Area to identify the location of archaeological remains. This has predominately been carried out by the Thornborough Henges Project but has also included aerial photographic analysis (WYAS 2005) and other studies in the 20th century. This research is likely to have identified the majority of any surviving archaeological remains within the Plan Area but parts of the Plan Area have been subject to differing levels of archaeological analysis and consequently complete knowledge cannot be assumed for the whole area. As

knowledge is the key to conservation it is important that future archaeological fieldwork within the Plan Area is focussed, in the first instance, on identifying archaeological remains and assessing their significance. This work should also help identify the key issues facing the conservation of these remains. This knowledge can then be used to inform the conservation process.

- 5.27 Based on our current knowledge of below ground archaeological remains and the issues facing their long-term conservation the primary concerns are the current and future land-use regimes. However, past land-use regimes have also impacted on archaeological features. In addition to 20th century ploughing, it would appear that in the 1950's and 1960's the Plan Area was used, in part at least, in the experimental development of potato cropping machinery and de-stoning machines. The process of de-stoning probably involved the removal of stones and other material over 30mm in size from the plough soil, this material was then apparently deposited at the field margins. This activity may have important implications for research and archaeological conservation particularly with regard to flint distributions in the area
- 5.28 In terms of current and future issues, the majority of the Plan Area outside the hedged enclosure around the Henges and outside the fenced area above the Cursus (CP4) is under an arable agricultural regime. Ploughing has been identified by English Heritage (English Heritage 2003 *Ripping up History*) as one of the key threats facing the conservation of the archaeological resource. The impacts of ploughing on the below-ground archaeological resource are borne out by evidence from archaeological surveys within and around the Plan Area. Work by both Dr. Jan Harding and Mike Griffiths Associates has identified that ploughing has degraded known archaeological remains. This is notable in the Plan Area at sites such as the Three Barrows Hill complex (CP 9, 10, 11 and 32) where the visible remains of the barrows have now been ploughed out. Work by Dr. Jan Harding at the nearby Double Ditched Barrow (see Section 2 and Appendix 6) indicated that ploughing here had substantially degraded the below ground archaeological remains.
- 5.29 As stated by the Chief Executive of English Heritage at the launch of *Ripping up History* (English Heritage 2003):

“Modern intensive ploughing has arguably done more damage in six decades than traditional agriculture did in the preceding six centuries...We need a new strategy to protect threatened archaeological sites under

cultivation. It must have the support of farmers and in return, must properly reward them for their good stewardship of these sites.”

- 5.30 This statement acknowledges the damage that certain types of farming have done, but recognises the need to work with farmers to protect archaeological sites.
- 5.31 Within the Plan Area the majority of the below-ground archaeological remains are under arable cultivation. This continued pattern of land-use is likely, in the long-term, to substantially degrade the integrity of surviving archaeological remains and ultimately lessen their significance. There is therefore a need to consider how a balance can be struck between maintaining economically viable productive land-management regimes and the conservation of important archaeological remains.
- 5.32 It is important therefore to identify those archaeological remains within the Plan Area whose conservation is important to the overall archaeological significance of the Plan Area so that measures to ensure their conservation can be brought forward in partnership with the land-owners and farmers. As can be seen in Appendix 1, our current knowledge of the relative significance of the remains is variable, this primarily stems from a lack of detailed archaeological research on some of these remains. However, where knowledge allows it has been possible to grade the significance of known below-ground archaeological remains. Where these are felt to be Critical (A) or Important (B) (see Figure 11) then a change in land management regimes to a more stable less intrusive form would be beneficial, this principle could also apply to known find scatters where these are identified. This could for instance see small areas, or the whole Plan Area, taken out of arable cultivation and converted to pasture or similar regimes under the auspices of the Environmental Stewardship scheme. However, these changes would need to be delivered in partnership with the relevant owners and farmers. This approach is discussed further in Sections 6 and 7.
- 5.33 In addition to land management, future development in the Plan Area also has the potential to impact on below-ground archaeological remains. Such development could include sand and gravel extraction, built development or forestry. These types of development within the Plan Area may also impact on the setting of the Henges. Given the known archaeological sensitivity of the Plan Area it is likely that major development of the sort identified above would have a significant impact on archaeological remains. All such proposals

would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. This would have to occur within the context of the prevalent planning policy framework and the final decision would rest with the relevant planning authority.

Conclusions

- 5.34 Although knowledge about the below-ground archaeological resource of the Plan Area is relatively good in terms of the extent of individual sites there is currently less certainty about their inter-relationships, form and function. Consequently it is difficult to assess their relative significance and assign priorities for conservation. However, there is a clear need to address the continued ploughing of at least some of the identified sites (see Figure 11) e.g. the Three Barrows Hill complex (CP 9, 10, 11, 32), and work towards moving these areas into less intrusive forms of land management. This will need to be undertaken in partnership with the landowners and form part of a wider integrated land management strategy for the area (see *Managing the Plan Area's landscape* below).

Conservation and management of the Plan Area's ecology

- 5.35 As outlined in Sections 2 and 4 the Plan Area contains a number of important ecological habitats and is the home to a number of important species. The following explores some of the issues facing these habitats and outlines a number of opportunities which are then explored further in Section 7.

Farmland within Plan Area

- 5.36 The key issues facing the ecology of the open farmland include the further eutrophication of locally important features such as old hedgerows and species rich road-verges e.g. the habitats along Green Lane which are potentially of SINC status (see Section 2 and below). This process of eutrophication could lead to the localised extinction of locally valued species and the removal of important habitats. In addition, further isolation and fragmentation of habitats through field enlargement and general intensification of farming could pose issues for the ecological integrity of the Plan Area which could lead to a decline in both the general ecological significance of the area and the value of particular habitats.
- 5.37 Within the Plan Area there has been an uptake of Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship schemes. These have helped with the maintenance and reinstatement of hedges, introduction of strips, beetle banks

etc. all of which will be of benefit to a wide range of species including arable weeds, brown hare, skylarks and other farmland birds. This process also reduces fragmentation and isolation of semi-natural habitats.

Northern Henge / Camp Hill Wood

- 5.38 The woodland on the outer banks of the Northern Henge has been identified as being of particular ecological significance (see Section 4). The inner woodland areas have been identified as having a lower ecological value. The key issues facing the ecology relate to eutrophication in the outer parts of the woodland from fertiliser run off resulting in loss of species diversity, spray drift from adjacent fields which can reduce species diversity, increased shading and litter build-up across the area as the sycamores mature resulting in loss of species diversity and to a lesser extent trampling and disturbance as a result of unmanaged access.
- 5.39 These issues could be addressed through on-site and off-site measures such as the introduction of cultivation free margins around the edge of neighbouring fields, changes in local land management regimes, the selective removal of sycamore to create glades and a more open canopy in the inner parts of the wood and the management of access through footpath and vegetation management.

Central Henge

- 5.40 The grassland habitats identified on the Central Henge are of notable ecological value. Key current and future issues could include alterations in grazing regimes leading to either over or under-grazing, the eutrophication of habitats resulting from fertilizer run-off and effects of spray drift from surrounding fields (although this is likely to be ameliorated by the recent hedge that bounds the area) and physical damage to habitats caused by access to the Henge.
- 5.41 Some of these issues could be addressed through land management regime alterations on and around the Central Henge e.g. the management of pasture to increase species diversity in surrounding grassland, through nutrient stripping, collection of seed from local sources and sowing or planting of plugs into surrounding sward. Other issues will require the implementation of an appropriate access strategy supported by long-term monitoring and management.

Southern Henge

- 5.42 The Southern Henge and its surrounding grassland are assumed not to have such high ecological value as the Central Henge. However it is likely that, given sensitive grazing management that seeks to reduce grazing intensity, remove nutrients from the soil, and perhaps the introduction of seed (perhaps collected from nearby sites), the area could develop unimproved limestone or neutral grassland flora. These ecological enhancements could also assist with conservation of the archaeological earthworks through the provision of a robust and stable land-use regime. Future access and land management regimes could affect the ecological potential of the area and consequently these will need to be introduced sensitively and monitored over the long-term.

Conclusions

- 5.43 The integration of nature conservation measures into the management of the Plan Area and the Henges will form a key element of future strategies. Management for all aspects of the Plan Area's significance need not be mutually exclusive and could inform and support each other. In Camp Wood for example, selective felling of sycamore could also open up the interior of the Henge whilst conserving the important woodland habitats on the external banks leading to benefits for the ecology and archaeology whilst retaining the wood's landscape presence. Also, sensitive grazing of the Central and Southern Henges could have benefits for the ecology and the conservation of the Henges' physical form, whilst potentially allowing managed access.
- 5.44 Finally, it should be noted that protected species are present in the wider area, including great crested newts. Any future management work proposed to conserve the archaeology of the Plan Area and nature conservation interests might therefore require surveys to assess the impacts of works on these species and to inform mitigation and enhancements to benefit them.

Managing access and tourism to the Plan Area

- 5.45 Currently, public access to the Plan Area is relatively limited, whilst tourism is not a major activity (see Sections 2 and 4). The following examines some of the issues associated with the current situation and potential issues that could arise should changes in the situation occur.

Access

- 5.46 The public consultation undertaken as part of the Conservation Plan process indicated that many people wished to see increased public access to the Henges. The current levels of access are restricting people's ability to appreciate and engage with archaeology of the Plan Area and the Henges in particular. Many consultees indicated that they had little knowledge of the Henges or of their importance. Few people realised how old or rare the Henges were and most people had never officially visited all the Henges, although many had been to the Northern Henge and seen the Central Henge from the road. This lack of information and access may be one reason why many people living locally have few connections with the Henges and why some people ascribe little value or meaning to them. This situation can also be seen at other archaeological sites with limited access or interpretation.
- 5.47 In contrast, a significant number of local people felt very strongly about the Henges and their long-term conservation and this was supported by a general view held by many people that they should be conserved. This level of interest reflects recent campaigns to highlight the importance of the Henges with regard to ongoing planning applications.
- 5.48 Increased access, preferably with interpretation, therefore has the possibility to engage local communities and visitors from further afield with the Henges and associated archaeology. It could help raise awareness of the importance of the Henges and other associated remains. This could have positive long-term effects for both the conservation of the Plan Area and wider archaeological resource.
- 5.49 However, there are potentially adverse impacts associated with increasing access. For example, more visitors to the Henges could result in physical erosion of the banks and ditches, they could also disturb and trample ecological habitats and conflict with the agricultural regime. In addition, the construction of facilities to allow access such as car parking, interpretation and paths could also impact on archaeological remains. The key to solving these issues lies in establishing an integrated land management and visitor access strategy supported by long-term monitoring and management regimes. This approach has been used successfully at a number of sites across the UK and recent work by English Heritage at Hadrian's Wall has demonstrated that it is possible to accommodate relatively high numbers of visitors to sensitive archaeological sites with minimal impacts.

Tourism

- 5.50 The location of the Plan Area between two National Parks and close to the A1 corridor provides a very large (several hundred thousand) catchment population of potential visitors (see Section 2 for context). ‘Typical’ visitors to the area include those *en-route* to the National Parks (birdwatchers, walkers, campers etc), for whom sites in the area can form a short stop or side-trip, and visitors to towns such as nearby Masham, a popular short-break destination.
- 5.51 While the location of the Plan Area offers a large catchment population of potential visitors, the Plan Area and Henges do not have the intrinsic visual appeal of other established heritage attractions in the UK, particularly in relation to the ‘scenic’ nature of other heritage attractions in the region. Consequently in their current form they are unlikely to attract significant visitor numbers. As noted in Section 2 there are seemingly increasing numbers of visitors from local, national and international areas coming to the Henges and the continued unmanaged growth in visitor numbers could lead to issues associated with access (see above) as well as increased disturbance for local communities. There is therefore a need to address tourism in the Plan Area.
- 5.52 Whatever future approach is taken forward to develop the tourism potential of the Plan Area (see Section 7 for discussion of possible ways forward) there are a number of issues that will need to be addressed. These are briefly discussed below.

Awareness and promotion

- 5.53 At present there is no signage to the Henges and without prior knowledge of their existence it would be possible to drive past them without noticing them. The local Community Information Office in Masham holds information about the Henges but does not promote them as access is not formally permitted. A recent exhibition by Timewatch in the centre raised local awareness, as has being featured on several television documentaries. A range of websites give information about the Henges.
- 5.54 The level and focus of publicity can greatly influence the number and type of visitors attracted to a place. It will therefore be important in the future to ensure that publicity, signage and awareness raising is undertaken in a

manner that reflects the need to conserve the Plan Area's many significances whilst also achieving the desired level of tourist visits.

Access to the Plan Area

- 5.55 The Plan Area is close to the A1 and to the A6108, a major route between Ripon and the National Parks. Vehicles accessing the Plan Area would normally pass through the villages of Nosterfield, Thornborough or West Tanfield, though direct access is possible from the A1, bypassing Nosterfield. The roads in the area are generally B roads or unclassified; these types of roads have relatively low levels of carrying capacity and future plans for attracting visitors to the Plan Area would need to take this into account to avoid possible congestion or other traffic issues. Many local residents raised concerns during the consultation about the speed and volume of current traffic along the B6267 and this is a particular issue with regard to future access. Currently there is no public transport service to the Plan Area although there is a limited rural bus service to nearby settlements. Public transport, unless significantly increased, is unlikely to be a major access provider for future visitors to the Plan Area.

Parking and Visitor facilities

- 5.56 There are no facilities at or near the Henges at present. Sites with no facilities offer benefits and disbenefits to local areas; visitors may often stop nearby for toilets or snacks, bringing economic benefits, but issues such as litter or road parking can cause local nuisance.
- 5.57 Although there is no formal parking provision, some visitors apparently park at nearby Nosterfield Nature Reserve, or on a small grass verge adjacent to the Northern Henge or on a similar verge at the Central Henge. Should visitor numbers continue to increase or if they are actively encouraged to visit the Henges then some form of car parking provision is going to be necessary. Without this there would be increased use of unofficial areas leading to erosion of road verges, increased accidents, disturbance of local communities and potentially a reduction in the operational capabilities of the Nosterfield Nature Reserve.
- 5.58 The development of any such parking provision would need to be aware of the need to conserve archaeological remains, ecological habitats, the needs

of local communities, traffic restrictions and the landscape character of the area.

- 5.59 In terms of visitor facilities e.g. toilets, visitor centres, exhibitions etc a number of options are explored in Section 7 for the provision of such facilities at the Plan Area. Any such development would need to be undertaken in a manner that conserved the significances of the Plan Area and did not lead to the long-term degradation of important archaeological remains or ecological habitats.

Interpretation

- 5.60 The Henges and Plan Area, although archaeologically significant, do not have a proportional visual impact. Effective interpretation will therefore be key to enhancing the visitor experience and understanding. There is currently no information at the site. A pamphlet produced by English Heritage and funded by the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was held by the local Community Information Centre (CIC) in Masham but this leaflet has now been discontinued. The CIC also holds press clippings and other information about the Henges and can provide contacts on request.
- 5.61 Should access and tourism in the Plan Area be increased there will be a need to develop and install a suitable interpretation scheme that reflects the level of visitor access and the significances of the Plan Area. This could involve standard approaches such as interpretation boards and leaflets through to more complex techniques such as recreation, replication or virtual representation. These more complex techniques would need to be supported by enlarged visitor facilities and consequently could have an impact on the significances of the Plan Area, however they could also draw more visitors to the Plan Area.
- 5.62 Interpretation is also increasingly being used as a management tool to structure people's visit to a place and to help conserve sensitive areas. This potential will need to be explored within future interpretation and management strategies for the Plan Area.
- 5.63 Awareness of the Plan Area and its importance could also be enhanced through occasional events e.g. educational walks led by volunteers or site wardens, or even the use of a tethered hot-air balloon to provide people with an aerial view of the Henges. The advantage of events over ongoing staffing is that a place receives a regular profile boost without the need for permanent

infrastructure. Events can also boost community involvement and empathy with a place, an example being the use of the Rollright stones (see Appendix 5) as a setting for the local school play production.

Access across the Plan Area

- 5.64 The Plan Area and the Henges are very spread out, with a total length of approximately 1.7km. There is no route between the Henges and two of the Henges have no permitted access. The Plan Area and the Henges are separated by two minor roads; this provides vehicle access from several points. At current traffic levels the roads would not restrict footpath access between the Henges but any future major tourism development in the Plan Area could make this an issue. From a tourism perspective it would be desirable to have access to the majority of the Plan Area and at least the Henges, though it is likely that the majority of visitors would not venture farther than the Northern and Central Henges given the similarity and condition of the Southern Henge. However, the Northern and Central Henges are a comfortable walking distance apart and this could form a major route across the Plan Area. Should visitor numbers increase then consideration would have to be given to the development of a path network, perhaps with some hard surfaces or maybe managed grass surfaces. Any such network would need to be developed in a manner that did not conflict with the conservation needs of the area.

Entrance charges

- 5.65 The spread-out nature of the Henges and Plan Area could lead to great difficulty in charging for entrance, particularly as two of the Henges are easily visible from the road and there is no obvious 'entrance' point to the site. A donation box system with honesty boxes at strategic points would be viable and easy to operate, though justifiable only if any facilities such as parking or interpretation were offered. A visitor centre offering basic facilities such as toilets as well as extensive interpretation could, potentially charge a small admission fee. However, this would deter some visitors from entering. An option used elsewhere is to charge for use of parking facilities, with subsequent free entry to a visitor centre; this would, however, be likely to increase pressure on Nosterfield Nature Reserve's free parking facilities.

Wider Linkages

- 5.66 The Plan Area forms part of a wider group of archaeological remains. While there is no current significant tourism development of any of the other monuments within this group, there is potential to link future development at the Plan Area with a wider strategy. This could include linked walks e.g. the developing ‘Sacred Vale’ walk (see <http://www.sacredvale.org/Visit.htm>), and interpretation and any future visitor facility at Thornborough could serve to interpret and display artefacts from this wider area. These linkages could help increase overall tourism in the area but they could also lead to increased pressure on other potentially sensitive monuments.

Conclusions

- 5.67 Given the potential tourism market in the wider region and the interest in “heritage” sites there is definitely some potential to develop the tourism use of the Plan Area and in particular the Henges. However, the area is highly sensitive in terms of its archaeology, ecology and other significances and consequently any such development would need to be handled carefully and subject to long-term monitoring. The concerns of the local communities are also a key factor in determining an appropriate way forward. The majority of attendees at the exhibition events expressed the view that low-key development would be their preferred option in this regard. They expressed concerns with larger-scale development in terms of its impact on traffic and parking in nearby settlements, increased potential for trespass into the wider area and general disruption of their lives. These concerns will need to be taken into account during future deliberations on this matter.
- 5.68 Section 7 examines a number of options for the development of tourism and access at the Plan Area although it should be stressed that these are only some of a broad range of options and considerable further analysis of the tourism potential and possible impact of future proposals is required.

Involving the wider community

- 5.69 The feedback received at the public consultation events undertaken as part of the Conservation Plan process (see Section 1 for outline of process) and the presence of campaigning groups such as the Friends of Thornborough and Timewatch indicate that there is considerable interest in the Henges and the future management of them and what some people refer to as their “setting”.

- 5.70 It was clear from the public consultation events that many local people felt alienated from decisions that affected the Henges and, in a wider context, their lives. The THCWG currently supplies the main forum through which local community representatives (mainly from the Parish Councils and District Council) and members of campaigning groups (e.g. Friends of Thornborough) can get involved in decisions relating to the Henges and the Plan Area. This type of forum is important to maintaining community involvement in future decisions but as with many such structures, it is seen to be relatively remote from people's lives and connections between it and the wider local community are not completely clear.
- 5.71 Given that future changes to the management regimes at the Henges and in the Plan Area e.g. growth in tourism or changes in access arrangements, could affect local communities it is important that local communities remain directly involved and informed about these decisions. Local communities need to be bought on-board within all these decisions to ensure that future proposals respect their needs and that they are able to understand the reasons behind any such approaches.
- 5.72 Given the importance of the Henges to some members of the local community and evidence from places such as the Rollright Stones (see Appendix 5), there is scope for considerable community involvement in the management of the Henges. There are opportunities for volunteering, conservation work and educational opportunities, giving the community 'ownership' of and pride in the Henges and perhaps wider Plan Area.

Managing the Plan Area's landscape

- 5.73 The character and form of the Plan Area's landscape has been described and assessed in Sections 2 and 4 of this Plan. In summary, the landscape character of the Plan Area, with the exception of the woodland on the Northern Henge, was not felt to be particularly distinctive nor of particular value. The landscape is, as previously mentioned, a farming landscape and as such it contributes to the local economy.
- 5.74 The key issues for the landscape of the area relate to the way in which land management regimes affect the many significances of the Plan Area. As previously mentioned land management can affect archaeological remains, ecological habitats, the character of the Henges, people's ability to access the area and a range of other concerns. As such the challenge for the future will

be developing an integrated land management strategy for the Plan Area that balances the many values associated with the area as well as supplying a viable agricultural unit.

- 5.75 Within this context the Environmental Stewardship scheme being promoted and managed by DEFRA has the opportunity to assist the farmers in the Plan Area with delivering an integrated land management regime that could enhance biodiversity, improve access and conserve archaeological remains.

“Environmental Stewardship is a new agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.

The scheme is intended to build on the recognised success of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship Schemes and its primary objectives are to:

- *conserve wildlife (biodiversity)*
- *maintain and enhance landscape quality and character*
- *protect the historic environment and natural resources*
- *promote public access and understanding of the countryside*

Within the primary objectives, it also has the secondary objectives of:

- *genetic conservation*
- *flood management*

Environmental Stewardship has three elements:

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) is a ‘whole farm’ scheme open to all farmers and land managers who farm their land conventionally. Acceptance will be guaranteed provided you can meet the scheme requirements. If you have a mix of conventionally and organically farmed land, or if all your land is farmed organically, you should apply for OELS.

Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) is a ‘whole farm’ scheme similar to the ELS, open to farmers who manage all or part of their land organically and who are not receiving aid under the Organic Aid Scheme (OAS) or Organic Farming Scheme (OFS).

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), which will be combined with ELS or OELS options, aims to deliver significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas.

ELS provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside. OELS takes a similar approach but is geared to organic and organic/ conventional mixed farming systems. HLS is designed to build on ELS and OELS to form a comprehensive agreement that achieves a wide range of environmental benefits across the whole farm. HLS concentrates on the more complex types of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements will be tailored to local circumstances.” (www.defra.gov.uk)

- 5.76 The implementation of Entry Level or Higher Level Stewardship in the Plan Area could deliver significant benefits for the conservation of its significances. Particularly as both schemes include objectives for protecting historic features e.g. taking archaeological sites out of arable production.
- 5.77 Possibly opportunities in this regard are discussed in Section 7.

The setting of the Henges

- 5.78 National Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Planning and Archaeology states that:

“8...Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Cases involving archaeological remains of lesser importance will not always be so clear cut and planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of archaeology against other factors including the need for the proposed development.”

“18. The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled.”

“27. Once the planning authority has sufficient information, there is a range of options for the determination of planning applications affecting archaeological remains and their settings. As stated in paragraph 8, where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or

not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in-situ i.e., a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains.”

- 5.79 The Henges are nationally important scheduled monuments with a visible surface expression. As such they have a “setting” under the terms of PPG 16. The management of development that may alter the setting of the Henges is the responsibility of the relevant planning authority and is consequently not considered further within this Plan.

The wider archaeological resource

- 5.80 As noted in the Statement of Significance (Section 4) and in Section 2, the Plan Area’s archaeological resource forms part of a wider group of remains and the relationships between these remains and the Plan Area are part of its significance. As with the archaeological resource within the Plan Area, there are issues associated with the conservation of this wider resource. This Plan does not seek to address these issues through its policies, as that lies outside of the scope of the Plan. However, given the relationships between the Plan Area and other remains it is important that the issues facing these remains are identified in broad terms to stimulate future action and raise awareness. Currently, three key issues facing the conservation of these resources have been identified.
- 5.81 Firstly, issues could arise with proposals for major infrastructure works e.g. transport works such as those associated with A1; major built developments such as large-scale housing and commercial schemes; forestry proposals; and extraction proposals. The potential impacts of any such proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, most likely through an Environmental Impact Assessment process, and taken into account by the relevant planning authority. The responsibility for this issue therefore lies with the relevant planning authorities.
- 5.82 Secondly, land-use regimes may be affecting the conservation of archaeological remains. No analysis of this has been undertaken as part of the Plan although anecdotal evidence and the results of major research projects such as the Monuments at Risk Survey (Darvill and Fulton 1998) would indicate that this is likely to be the case. As indicated in the previous

section, the Environmental Stewardship scheme may provide an avenue through which farmers and land-owners can work in partnership with the NYCC Countryside Unit and English Heritage to identify important remains under threat and to seek viable stable land-use regimes for these remains. This has already begun to occur in the wider landscape around the Plan Area and at least one nationally important barrow site has now been taken out of arable cultivation and converted to pasture.

- 5.83 Finally and crucially, there is the issue of identifying those archaeological remains that may be related to the Plan Area. Research has to date focussed on the Thornborough Henges and other local remains, but little research has been undertaken on the wider remains. Future initiatives to address this would both further understandings of this group of prehistoric remains and enable conservation action to be prioritised and targeted. This issue is addressed in the following section.

Archaeological research and gaps in our knowledge

- 5.84 As indicated in Sections 2, 4 and 5 there are significant gaps in knowledge regarding the archaeological development and significance of the Plan Area and other associated remains. Key issues in this regard include:
- The chronology of key monuments in the Plan Area, in particular the three Henges;
 - The function, date and nature of many cropmarks and other features in the Plan Area;
 - The current state of preservation of many of the below-ground archaeological remains in the Plan Area;
 - The significance of the majority of known remains in the Plan Area;
 - The function and role of key remains in the Plan Area e.g. the Cursus, Henges etc;
 - Understanding of the development of the wider landscape in terms of its environmental history;
 - The nature of relationships between archaeological remains in the Plan Area and those in the wider environs;
 - The current state of preservation of other archaeological remains outside of the Plan Area;
 - The development of the historic landscape in and around the Plan Area; and

- The role of the Henges and other remains in later periods of prehistory and history.
- 5.85 In addition to these areas, there are a number of others areas where further research could benefit the future conservation and management of the Plan Area, these include amongst others data on the number and types of visitors currently coming to the Plan Area, the economic tourism potential of the Henges, and data on the presence of protected species in the Plan Area.
- 5.86 These gaps will need to be tackled by ongoing and future research programmes. It may be that forthcoming publications by Newcastle University on the results of the ongoing research will answer some of these questions but it is probable that further research will be required. This is explored further in Section 7.



Section 6: Conservation Management Principles



6. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Introduction

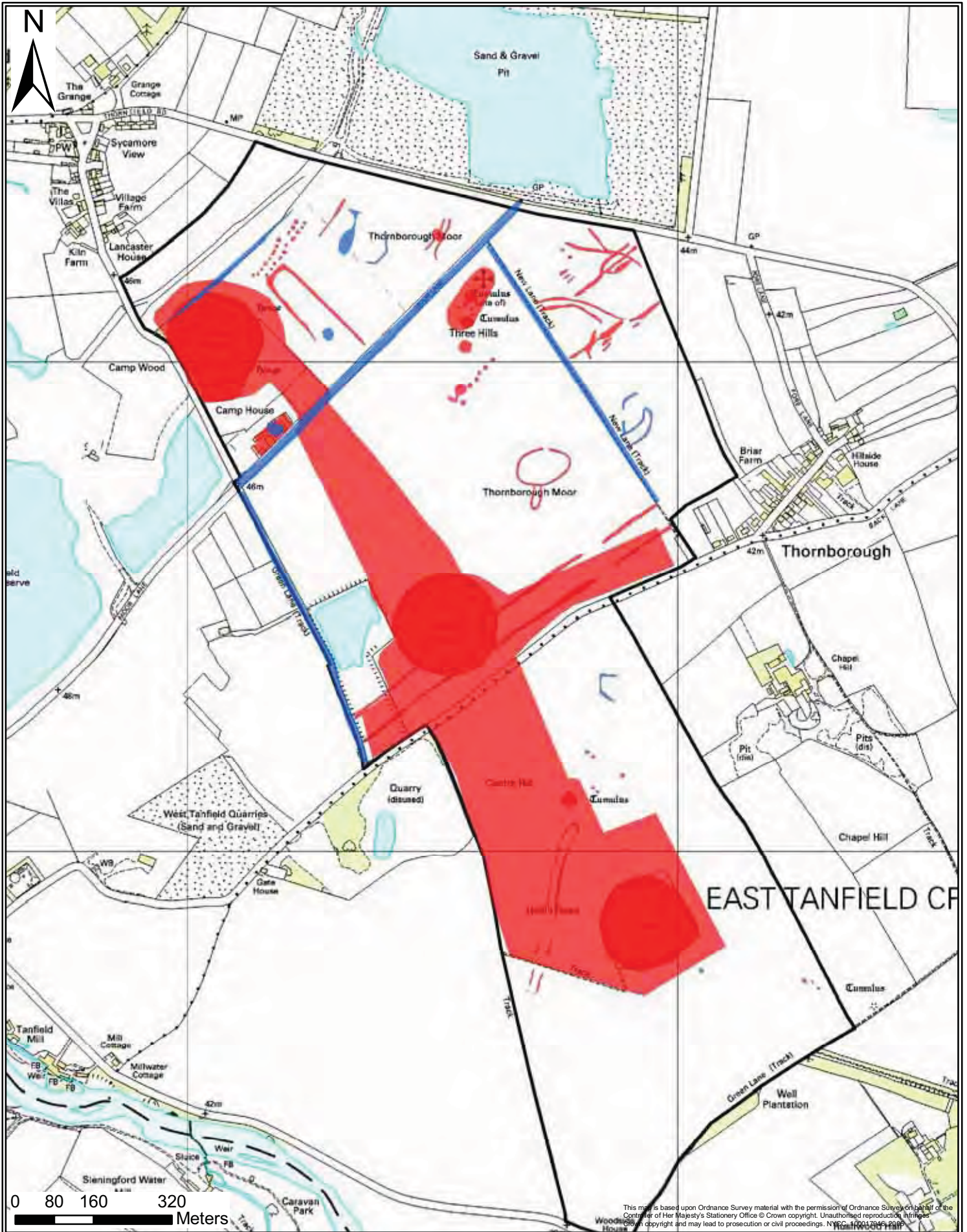
- 6.1 This section presents a number of broad overarching principles that can guide the future management and development of the Plan Area.
- 6.2 The principles have been structured to reflect the Statement of Significance (Section 4) and to address the identified issues (Section 5). The opportunities and recommendations presented in Section 7 reflect the principles outlined below and seek to address the issues identified in Section 5.

Conservation Management Principles

Archaeological and historical significance

Principle 1: Critical and Important archaeological and historical remains in the Plan Area should be conserved

- 6.3 As demonstrated in the Statement of Significance (Section 4) the archaeological significances of the Plan Area are its primary significances; therefore future management of the area should seek to conserve the archaeological remains that have been identified as being Critical or Important to the significance of the Plan Area. These remains are listed in Appendix 1 and mapped on Figure 11. This includes all scheduled areas within the Plan Area.
- 6.4 However, this does not need to lead to the development of an outdoor museum with the landscape preserved “in aspic”. As indicated in Section 5, the issues facing the conservation of archaeological remains predominately relate to current and future land-use. The aim of future management should therefore be to modify these land-use patterns where they are affecting known archaeological remains to ensure their long-term conservation. It may be that this can be achieved without converting the whole of the Plan Area to pasture by creating selective areas of stable land management over known important



Legend

Known Remains

- Blue line: Archaeological features that from part of, or contribute to, the Plan Area's significance
- Red area: Archaeological features that are Critical or Important to the Plan Area's significance
- Black outline: Conservation Plan Area

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Project: Thornborough Henges Conservation Plan

Figure 11 - Important Archaeological Remains in the Plan Area

Original Scale	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
1:10,000 at A4	CG	AC	AC
	Date: 28/10/05	Date: 28/10/05	Date: 28/10/05
Status: D	Drawing Number: 5036650/54/009/27813	Rev: 0	

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archaeological remains. The cooperation of farmers and land-owners in this process is essential as any such land use regimes would probably need to be economically viable and capable of being managed within modern agricultural practices (depending on the requirements of the owners – see Section 7). This could be achieved through the development of an integrated land management plan, perhaps delivered as part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme, that sought to balance the conservation of the many significances of the Plan Area with the need to maintain a viable agricultural unit.

6.5 Actions that led to the destruction of known important archaeological or historical remains would be contrary to this principle. This could include a range of activities, for example:

- large-scale development or extraction in the Plan Area;
- certain farming activities e.g. deep ploughing and sub-soiling, on the site of known important archaeological remains; and
- developing tourism and visitor facilities that damage archaeological remains during construction or which through time led to the erosion of the upstanding monuments through poor visitor management.

6.6 Many of the examples listed above could also potentially impact on the landscape of the area (Principles 4), the ecology of the Plan Area (Principles 5 and 6), and contemporary human significances associated with the Plan Area (Principles 7, 8, 9 and 10).

Principle 2: Archaeological and historical research should be used to inform and support future decisions relating to the Plan Area

6.7 As identified in Sections 2, 4 and 5 current knowledge about the archaeological and historical development of the Plan Area is fragmentary and variable in terms of its completeness and quality. Key to the long-term conservation of the Plan Area is the development of a sufficiently detailed understanding of the area. This will require further research and investigation.

6.8 In addition, it is important that future decisions that could affect important archaeological remains in the Plan Area are preceded by sufficient investigation to ensure that the decisions are compatible with the need to conserve those remains. This does not mean that farmers will need to commission and pay for archaeological works prior to ploughing or planting their land.

Principle 3: The archaeological and historical significance of the Plan Area should be interpreted on-site and communicated to a wider audience

- 6.9 Key to the long-term conservation of any culturally significant place is the transmission of that place's values and significances to local communities and the wider public. Without knowledge and understanding a cultural feature can merely become, as with the Henges, a "bump" in the ground with little, if any, value or meaning to current or future generations.
- 6.10 Given the history of lack of access and lack of interpretation in the Plan Area it is particularly critical in this instance to ensure that the many significances of the Plan Area are communicated to as wide an audience as possible. This should to ensure that people are aware of the importance of the place and the need to conserve it.

Landscape significance

Principle 4: The landscape character of the Plan Area should be conserved and enhanced and key landscape features in the Plan Area should be conserved where this does not conflict with conservation of important archaeological remains

- 6.11 Although the Statement of Significance (Section 4) indicates that the landscape character of the Plan Area is not overly significant there are a number of important features in the area that contribute to the local and wider landscape character. As such it is important that future management seeks to conserve and enhance the rural character of the Plan Area whilst safeguarding important landscape features such as the woodland on the Northern Henge, Green Lane and other hedgerows. There is potentially considerable synergy between this and Principles 5 and 6. One approach to achieving this could be the development of an integrated land management plan for the Plan Area.

Ecological significance**Principle 5: Important habitats in the Plan Area should be conserved and, where possible, enhanced**

- 6.12 The Conservation Plan has identified a number of important habitats in the Plan Area; these are outlined in Sections 2 and 4. Future management of the Plan Area should seek to conserve and if possible enhance these habitats where this can be achieved without harming other critical significances such as the conservation of important archaeological remains.
- 6.13 Future land management regimes and access arrangements have the potential to enhance or degrade these habitats it is therefore important that both of these aspects take ecological concerns into account. One approach to achieving this could be the development of an integrated land management plan for the Plan Area perhaps through an Environmental Stewardship scheme.

Principle 6: Habitat creation should form part of future approaches to the conservation and management of the Plan Area

- 6.14 The Plan Area has an inherent ecological significance and value, this could be enhanced through future land management regimes and to an extent this is already being achieved by current approaches implemented through the Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship schemes. There is considerable scope to enhance the ecological importance of the area through the creation of new habitats, particularly those identified in the Hambelton Local Biodiversity Action Plan. This would need to be achieved in a coordinated manner that sought to balance ecological enhancement with archaeological conservation and future access and interpretation. Such an approach could deliver significant benefits for all aspects of the Plan' Area's significance and may be supported by DEFRA Entry Level or Higher Level Stewardship schemes.

Contemporary human significances

Principle 7: The views and needs of the local communities should be taken into account in future decisions relating to the development, management and conservation of the Plan Area

- 6.15 As outlined in Sections 4 and 5, members of the local communities have a considerable level of interest in the future of the Thornborough Henges. Potential changes to the way they are managed and promoted to visitors could alter the area and potentially impact on the lives and livelihoods of local communities. It is therefore important to ensure that future proposals are developed in consultation with local communities and their needs and views are taken into account.
- 6.16 It should be possible to provide for the long-term conservation and promotion of the Plan Area whilst also contributing to the local quality of life and economy.

Principle 8: The intellectual, spiritual and emotional connections that people may have with the Henges and other remains in the Plan Area should be identified and considered when making future decisions relating to the development, management and conservation of the Plan Area

- 6.17 In addition to members of local communities, there is also a considerable body of people who may have intellectual, spiritual and emotional connections with the Plan Area and the Thornborough Henges in particular. These connections need to be identified and should inform future proposals for the management and conservation of the Plan Area. It may not always be possible, given the broad range of the nature of these connections, to provide solutions that respect the views of all people.
- 6.18 Currently individuals or groups who represent people with these types of connections are not represented on the THCWG or on any other formal forum associated with the area. The stakeholders on the THCWG should identify representative contacts in these communities and seek to involve them in the management and decision making process (see Section 7).

Principle 9: Any future tourism development in the Plan Area should be integrated with wider district, regional or sub-regional strategies

- 6.19 Should it be decided that the tourism potential of the Plan Area and the Henges in particular should be realised through some form of enhanced access, interpretation or the provision of other facilities it is important that this is integrated with wider strategic approaches on a district, sub-regional or regional level.
- 6.20 This could include the development of a strategic approach that would allow visitors to appreciate the wider archaeological context in which the Plan Area is situated as well potentially allowing some of the economic benefits associated with tourism to be spread more widely.
- 6.21 As discussed in Section 7 there is some potential to develop the tourism potential of the Plan Area and the associated remains. Any such development would need to be undertaken in a manner that reflects all of the Conservation Management Principles and respects the significances of the Plan Area.

Principle 10: Future decisions relating to the development, management and conservation of the Plan Area should seek to enhance access to the Plan Area

- 6.22 Current levels of access to the Plan Area are limited. In the future it would be appropriate to deliver increased levels of public access to the Plan Area and in particular the three Henges. This would need to be undertaken in a managed way that sought to ensure the conservation of the Henges and other significances such as the Plan Area's ecology and landscape. Changes in patterns of access could also affect local communities, both positively and negatively, and consequently their views on this should be sought. As discussed in Section 7 the development of an integrated land management plan for the Plan Area could lead to enhanced access opportunities without compromising the significances of the area.

The image features a lush green forest scene with various trees and branches. A horizontal green bar spans the width of the page, with three dark green circles positioned on it. The text 'Section 7: Opportunities & Way Forward' is overlaid on the right side of the forest image.

Section 7:
Opportunities & Way Forward

7. OPPORTUNITIES AND WAY FORWARD

Introduction

- 7.1 This section presents a number of opportunities and possible approaches to the conservation and enhancement of the Plan Area. These address a range of areas including further research, tourism, land management, ownership and designation. The approaches to these aspects have been developed to inform ongoing discussions regarding the future of the Plan Area and should not be considered as final decisions on any of these matters.

Opportunities and Possible Approaches

- 7.2 Given that understanding is the key to successful conservation this section begins with a review of possible avenues for further research on the archaeology of the Plan Area and its relationships to other archaeological remains. Following this, the critical issue of tourism and access is addressed as the chosen approach to this matter will guide long-term decisions on a range of other matters such as land management and ownership.

Further Research

- 7.3 As indicated in Section 5 there are a significant number of areas where current understandings are limited by a lack of data. Given this situation the establishment of a Landscape Research Project to investigate the palaeo-environmental, archaeological and historical development of the area could bring significant benefits for our understanding of the Plan Area and other associated remains and their long-term conservation. This would be informed, in the first instance, by the extensive archaeological investigations already undertaken in and around the Plan Area; the results of some of which are still pending publication.
- 7.4 The first stage in any such project would be the definition of a study area. The extent of other remains that seem to be associated with the Plan Area is currently unclear (see Section 2). It is therefore be important to determine,

through analysis of the current archaeological and historical record e.g. HER data and other available documentation, the probable extent of any associated remains e.g. whether the remains near Catterick and between Thornborough and Catterick form part of this group.

7.5 Once this analysis has been completed and a study area determined a detailed research agenda would need to be developed. This could be established as a sub-set of the wider Yorkshire Resource Assessment and the emerging Research Agenda or could be established as a stand-alone project. This project would need to be developed by a steering group of researchers active in the area in partnership with academic, public sector and private sector bodies.

7.6 In terms of implementing the research agenda, there are a number of important themes that could be pursued, these include:

- Palaeo-environmental research to model the environmental and geomorphological development of the area. This could draw on the results of the Swale-Ure Washlands project and the results of other investigations such as those undertaken at Nosterfield quarry.
- Intrusive archaeological investigations at the major monuments in the area to determine their chronological relationships e.g. the relative dates of the three Henges at Thornborough.
- Non-intrusive archaeological investigations e.g. aerial photographic and geophysical surveys to identify currently unrecorded remains within the study area and Plan Area. This could build on the results of the English Heritage sponsored National Mapping Project.
- Intrusive and non-intrusive archaeological investigations including geophysical survey and trenching, to assess the significance, form, date and state of conservation of known archaeological remains in the Plan Area. The results of this work would inform both archaeological understanding and the development of conservation priorities.
- Historic landscape research, including both traditional methods and the ongoing North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project, to provide a detailed understanding of the development of the current landscape and the role of the monuments in that landscape through time. This would also inform understandings of the factors that have influenced the survival of remains.

7.7 There are considerable opportunities to involve local communities within any such project. Such involvement could, through time, help engender a sense of ownership for the local monuments within communities and enhance their

long-term conservation. This approach may also attract funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- 7.8 The research would inform both our intellectual understanding as well as informing measures for the long-term conservation and management of the Plan Area and associated remains. For example, more detailed research could help target priority areas for the management of archaeological remains e.g. the implementation, in partnership with farmers, of environmental stewardship schemes or the identification of remains suitable for public access and interpretation.

Tourism

- 7.9 The future role of tourism is key to determining how the Plan Area will be managed and developed in the future. Consequently, decisions on this issue are required in the short to medium term to guide all other aspects of the Plan Area's long-term management. However, measures to enhance the conservation of the Plan Area can still be implemented while this matter is being addressed; this is discussed below.
- 7.10 In terms of developing the tourism potential of the Plan Area five possible options have been identified:
- **Option 1:** Maintain current situation
 - **Option 2:** An open access site with minimal interpretation and car parking
 - **Option 3:** An open access site with a small unstaffed visitor centre, car parking and reasonable level of interpretation
 - **Option 4:** A paid entry site with a small staffed visitor centre (possibly seasonal) and basic facilities e.g. toilets, cafe, car park and interpretation
 - **Option 5:** Mass-market development with large-scale visitor centre catering for upwards of 100,000 visitors pa, offering maximum multi-media interpretation, all facilities, extensive car parking and on-site transport, with a possible recreation or replica of a Henge
- 7.11 Each of these options is discussed below. However, it is critical that further analysis of the economic viability of the options is undertaken to inform the final decision to ensure that proposals would be sustainable in the long-term, particularly where proposal have the potential to impact on important archaeological remains.

- 7.12 Decisions on future tourism and access arrangements and developments would be taken by the land owners. The statutory bodies and planning authority would also be involved in the decision making process given the likely need for planning permission and Scheduled Monument Consent. Ultimately any decision of approaches to tourism and access will rest with the landowners and the statutory authorities.

Option 1: Maintain current situation

- 7.13 This option would continue the current arrangements with small numbers of pre-booked groups gaining access to the Central and Southern Henges and informal access continuing at the Northern Henge. The continuation of this situation would probably lead to increased instances of trespass over the coming years as awareness of the Henges increases; this may or may not become a management issue particularly in terms of its impact on farming practices. The continuation of the current situation would not require any local land management regime changes, although these may be desirable for other reasons (see below).
- 7.14 This option is unlikely to deliver significant economic benefits for the local area and would continue the lack of community involvement and engagement with the Henges. Depending on the nature of future land use regimes this option would present the least threat to the conservation of the physical fabric of the Henges and other archaeological remains. However, it would be contrary to the stated desire of many local community members and visitors from further afield to gain access to the Henges and to a lesser degree the Plan Area.

Option 2: An open access site with minimal interpretation and car parking

- 7.15 This type of approach has been used successfully at a number of other sites across the UK (see Appendix 5). It would involve allowing access to some or all of the Plan Area including all three Henges. This open access arrangement would be supported by limited local parking in the vicinity of the Henges, perhaps in the form of a small layby on one of the adjacent roads, and small-scale interpretation within the access area. Given the fact that the majority of archaeology in the area is not visible it is unlikely that the general visitor would wish to see much beyond the Henges but interpretation of these other elements and the relationships between the Plan Area and wider archaeological resource would be beneficial. The interpretation could take a

number of forms including boards and leaflets but would have to be low-key and low-maintenance given the fact that the site would not generate any significant income. Honesty donation boxes could be established on the site but these are unlikely to generate significant revenue; given the current multiple ownership situation there would also be the matter of who received and managed this revenue.

- 7.16 The open access areas would need to be managed under some form of grassland regime akin to that currently used at the three Henges. Depending on the number of visitors some form of path network may need to be established. Visitor numbers could in part be controlled by levels of publicity and signage.
- 7.17 This form of access arrangement would also benefit from direct linkages being established between the Northern Henge and Central Henge. In addition, informal crossing points on the roads may need to be established. This may require the installation of pedestrian crossing signs to warn motorists, this would have to be sensitively addressed to avoid the urbanisation of this rural area.
- 7.18 This option would probably increase visitor numbers to the site, perhaps to a level of c.10,000 per annum depending on the level of signage and publicity. These visitors may bring some local economic benefits and if properly managed e.g. through signage and parking should not significantly impact on the quality of life of local communities.

Option 3: An open access site with a small unmanned visitor centre, car parking and reasonable level of interpretation

- 7.19 This option would require a reasonable level of initial capital investment to establish the visitor centre, car parking and interpretation. Any visitor centre would need to be established in relatively close proximity to the Henges. Currently identified locations include the former quarries / landfill to the west of the Henges, the current parking and centre at the entrance to Nosterfield quarry or a shared facility at the Nosterfield Nature Reserve. There are operational, distance from site and road crossing issues associated with the later two options whilst the ongoing operation of the land fill site does not currently make this an attractive location. Further analysis of these and other possible sites would need to be undertaken as part of any future tourism feasibility study.

- 7.20 The visitor centre could be similar in scale to the successful centre established at the Nosterfield Nature Reserve. This would allow for greater interpretation of the Plan Area and other associated remains than Options 1 and 2, but less than Options 4 and 5. The fact that the centre would be unmanned would reduce operating costs compared with a manned facility; however it would also limit possibilities for increasing revenue.
- 7.21 Land management and access arrangements for the Plan Area would be similar to Option 2 although visitor numbers to this form of site may be higher than Option 2 and consequently more intensive management of the access arrangements and paths maybe required. As with Option 2, visitor numbers are still likely to be relatively low, consequently local economic benefits and potential disruption would also potentially be low. As with Option 2, revenue from the site would be limited and, at most, honesty boxes could be established to contribute to the ongoing management costs. As with all options, ownership issues would need to be addressed prior to implementation.

Option 4: A paid entry site with a small manned visitor centre (possibly seasonal) and basic facilities e.g. toilets, cafe, car park and interpretation

- 7.22 This option is similar to Option 3 in many respects but it would provide a considerable increase in facilities for visitors and consequently higher capital and running costs. This form of small-scale visitor centre approach has been used at a number of other sites (see Appendix 5) and represents a tried and trusted approach to the management and presentation of a site. Key features of this approach would include paid entry, supply of key facilities e.g. toilets, refreshments and possibly shopping, coupled with considerable interpretation perhaps comprising a blend of in-centre and on-site material. There are significant issues relating to the economic viability of such a centre and further assessment of this would be required.
- 7.23 The implementation of this option would present a number of significant challenges. Firstly, a suitable site would need to be found for the centre. This would need to be located relatively close to the core of the Plan Area and the Henges. Access from the centre to the Henges would need to be easily achieved for a wide range of users, some of whom would have particular mobility needs. As indicated in the Principles (see Section 6) the development would need to occur in a location that did not impact on known important archaeological remains. The potential impact on the setting of the Henges

would also need to be taken into account in accordance with guidance contained in PPG 16. Currently identified sites include the West Tanfield Landfill site and the Nosterfield quarry entrance area. However, both of these have operational, land ownership and access issues associated with them. Of the two, the West Tanfield Landfill site perhaps presents the most viable location in the long-term but design solutions for both of these sites, and perhaps others, may be achievable with further study and analysis.

- 7.24 Should the site become a paid entry site there would be considerable issues in terms of revenue collection and distribution that would need to be addressed as the Plan Area and Henges are currently in multiple private ownerships (see below for further discussion regarding ownership). There would be significant long-term running costs associated with this option and analysis is required to determine if the revenue from the site would be sufficient to meet these. However, given the sensitive nature of the earthworks it may be that the environmental carrying capacity of the site would not be sufficient to support the visitor numbers required to sustain the visitor centre and facilities. Further analysis of the costs associated with running this option would be required to assess what level of visitation would be required to support this option.
- 7.25 In addition to financial issues, a paid entry site would also limit access to the site. Currently parts of the Plan Area are accessible from public rights of way and the Northern Henge is a valued local amenity (see Section 4). The conversion of this to a paid entry area would erode this significance. Also the infrastructure, e.g. fences, entry points and paths, associated with this option may impact on character of the Plan Area. This option may also conflict with local community opinions on the desired scale of development and the nature of future access. Many of those who attended the exhibitions indicated that they would find small-scale development acceptable, but would find larger developments that led to a significant increase in tourist less so. Many attendees also voiced their desire for the Henges have no entrance fee.
- 7.26 This option would probably deliver more visitors, depending on marketing and signage, than Options 1, 2 and 3. This could lead to increased economic benefits for the local area. The scale of the proposed development could also allow the centre to act as a focal point for the interpretation and presentation of a wider area, whereas Options 1 and 2 would restrict this possibility.

7.27 The economic and operational viability of this option remains to be fully tested. It presents a number of opportunities for increasing the tourism economy of the district but in doing so could impact on the character, amenity and physical conservation of the Henges and perhaps wider Plan Area. It is also possible that there would not be strong local support for this type of development.

Option 5: Mass-market development with large-scale visitor centre catering for upwards of 100,000 visitors pa, offering maximum multi-media interpretation, all facilities, extensive car parking and on-site transport, with a possible recreation or replica of a Henge

7.28 This option would require substantial capital investment and would incur the highest running costs. The development of a large visitor centre and associated infrastructure may also prove unacceptable in the context of current planning policy (see Section 3). Assuming that these initial hurdles could be overcome, which in itself requires further analysis particularly with regard to the economic viability of such an approach and the acceptability in principle of the scale of development in the area, this option would provide a sub-regional / regional scale attraction. As such, it is likely to draw significant numbers of visitors to the area and may provide a significant boost for the district's tourism economy. The large visitor centre would also offer significant opportunities for interpretation including the development of high quality virtual recreations of the Henges and other associated archaeological remains.

7.29 It has been suggested that a feature of this option could be a "recreation" of a Henge. This approach poses a number of issues as speculative recreation of archaeological remains is not currently considered acceptable in the context of international charters and government policy. The current English Heritage policy on the *Restoration, Reconstruction, and Speculative Recreation of Archaeological Sites including Ruins* (English Heritage 2001 – See Appendix 7) sets out a number of definitions relating to this issue:

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric

Re-creation means speculative creation of a presumed earlier state on the basis of surviving evidence from that place and other sites and on deductions drawn from that evidence, using new materials

Replication means the construction of a copy of a structure or building, usually on another site or nearby.

7.30 Their policy goes on to state that:

30 The conservation of an archaeological site may potentially involve an element of restoration or reconstruction as well as repair, alteration, use, management and interpretation. The aim of conservation is to retain the significance of the site and to avoid damage. Therefore, as in the case of any proposals for works to elements of the historic environment, the significance of what is affected must be properly understood before proposals can be formulated leading to decisions about the scope of alterations or repairs.

33 In order to establish whether or not a proposal for repair, restoration or recreation is appropriate, it will then be necessary to assess the impacts of any proposals on the significance of the site and to establish whether any damage can be mitigated. Proposals which damage the significance of the site – and where that damage cannot be mitigated through careful design or the consideration of alternative solutions - are not likely to be acceptable.

34 If proposals for restoration or reconstruction are intended in whole or in part to improve a site's interpretation, it is essential to consider whether the same result can be achieved by other means.

35 It is also important that those proposing such works assess the long term requirement and cost of maintenance, and can demonstrate that such work can be sustained economically

36 English Heritage will in no case support proposals for speculative recreation. Nor will English Heritage support proposals which destroy, or damage significant original fabric or archaeological deposits.

37 Any proposals for restoration or reconstruction must be acceptable in terms of their impact not only upon the site itself but also on its setting. They must therefore be acceptable also in the context of the local planning authority's development plan.

- 7.31 This policy clearly indicates that the speculative reconstruction of nationally important archaeological remains is not likely to be acceptable. It may be acceptable to “replicate” a henge, in effect creating a “new” henge at a separate location, which could be used to help interpret the Henges without impacting on the physical surviving form of any of the Henges. Some reconstruction and re-creation may be allowable on the site of one of the Henges, but any such proposals would require extensive archaeological analysis to support them and detailed consultation with English Heritage and NYCC to ensure their acceptability.
- 7.32 Whether a recreated or replicated henge forms part of this option or not the opportunities for interpretation and education offered by it are considerable and worthy of detailed consideration.
- 7.33 As with Option 4, there would be significant revenue distribution and collection issues associated with this Option. In addition, the same access issues would also occur. Perhaps most significantly are the potential conservation and operational issues associated with this option. Firstly a suitable site would need to be identified, key criteria in this regard include:
- Accessibility for visitor road traffic without impacting on the quality of life of local residents or the traffic carrying capacity of the local road network;
 - The site would need to be capable of accommodating the proposed development without having a significant impact on important archaeological remains, the setting of the Henges (see PPG16), ecological habitats or the landscape character of the area; and
 - Access for a range of users from the site to Henges / Plan Area would need to be implemented in a manner that would not harm the significances of the area.
- 7.34 In addition to potential issues associated with the construction of this option there are also significant operational issues to be addressed. Firstly, the Henges are unlikely to be able to accommodate 100,000 visitors a year without significant management intervention e.g. paths, fencing etc. This could harm the character and significance of the monuments and perhaps increase their rate of erosion. It should also be remembered that from an operational viewpoint the multiple ownership of the Henges would make this Option (and also Option 4) untenable without the agreement of all parties. Finally, as previously mentioned, local community members who attended the consultation events strongly supported a low-key approach to the future

management and development of the Plan Area and Option 5 would represent a significant departure from this.

- 7.35 Overall, Option 5 offers many potential benefits in terms of economic return, interpretation and perhaps visitor experience. However, it is currently uncertain as to whether this option could be accommodated without harming the significances of the site and without creating conflict with the local communities. As with all of the above options further feasibility studies are required to assess the approaches; these should be carried out in consultation with local communities.

Other associated archaeological remains

- 7.36 Currently, there is no significant visitor infrastructure associated with other related archaeological remains. The potential development of facilities at Thornborough could help address this and perhaps form part of a wider scheme of interpretation, including walking routes and touring routes. This may require development at other sites for which local conservation issues and concerns would need to be addressed.
- 7.37 This broader scale approach may however have some additional benefits in terms of creating a sub-regional / district scale “brand” to accompany the current rural heritage focus for the promotion and marketing of the Hambleton and Richmondshire areas. For instance the iconic form and lay out of the three Henges could be used to “brand” a tourism product perhaps extending out into associated products such as food e.g. the Fuchsia Brand for West Cork, Ireland or the Hadrian’s Wall Country brand. These approaches can help support small – medium scale rural enterprises and can add significantly to the economic benefits of tourism. It would be appropriate when assessing the feasibility of the visitor development options to extend this to include an assessment of the potential of developing in effect a “Thornborough Henges” brand which could develop an identity for the area and deliver, in the long-term, economic benefits for the wider area.

Conclusions

- 7.38 Based on current evidence and given the fact that the site is spread out and not sufficiently visually compelling to attract large numbers of visitors in itself; it is likely that extensive interpretation and additional visitor attractions would be required to create a large-scale commercial operation in the area. This

has the potential to detract from the significance of the site, create potential traffic and nuisance impacts and would not be in keeping with the local communities' stated desire to keep development low-key.

- 7.39 A small-scale, free or donations-only visitor centre, unmanned or manned seasonally, could offer a viable alternative (pending further assessment), providing educational and community benefits and improving access to this important place. Opportunities for community management of the site and for small-scale commercial operations contributing to the funding of the site could also be explored.
- 7.40 At a minimum, the issue of parking, access and interpretation should be addressed, with access negotiated to the Central and Southern Henges and the provision of parking facilities for c. 5 to 10 cars close to the Northern and Central Henges. Interpretation could be kept at a minimum perhaps no more than additional leaflet based material and / or a large panel at each access point.
- 7.41 Decisions on all options would need to be based on further assessment of the economic and tourism potential of the Plan Area and the potential construction and operational impacts of any option would need to be thoroughly tested to ensure that the significances of the Plan Area are not compromised.

Integrated Land Management

- 7.42 Integrated land management is critical to the conservation of the many significances associated with Plan Area. It is therefore vital that in the short term an appropriate land management strategy is developed for the Plan Area. As discussed in Section 5 this does not need to result in the conversion of the entire Plan Area to pasture, although this would supply a stable land-use regime which would benefit below ground archaeological remains as well as providing a suitable local setting for the Henges; it may also benefit ecological values.
- 7.43 The integrated land management strategy would need to be developed with the land owners and farmers to ensure that an appropriate balance between the conservation of the Plan Area's significances and the economic viability of the final scheme is developed. The first stage in this process should be to seek the conversion of arable land within the scheduled areas of the Plan

Area to pasture to ensure the conservation of these areas. Following this, possible measures should be examined to remove other important archaeological remains from cultivation. As can be seen on Figure 11 many of these remains lie within the northern half of the Plan Area, although there are also further remains to the south. This whole process could perhaps be implemented within the DEFRA sponsored Environmental Stewardship scheme with advice from English Heritage and the North Yorkshire County Council Countryside Service.

- 7.44 It is also critical as part of this process to prepare and implement a woodland management strategy for the Northern Henge to alleviate potential risks associated with wind blow. Significant preparatory work has already been undertaken on this matter and steps are now required to provide the required funding to deliver these measures.
- 7.45 It is important to note, that any integrated land management strategy developed in the short term may have to alter in the future to accommodate approaches to tourism and access. If significant visitor numbers are anticipated then an appropriate visitor management and interpretation strategy would need to be developed in parallel with a revised land management strategy to ensure that impacts on important remains and habitats are minimised and addressed if they occur. This may lead to the implementation of intrusive works such as paths, bank stabilisation and fencing.

Ownership

- 7.46 The ownership of the Plan Area and Henges is not in itself a conservation issue as long as the archaeological remains and other significances of the Plan Area are managed in an appropriate manner. As such, the current multiple ownership of the Henges and Plan Area is not a particular issue. However, as discussed above there could be operational issues with multiple ownership if some of the options identified for tourism above as taken forward.
- 7.47 The recent proposal by Tarmac Northern Ltd to transfer the ownership of part of the Plan Area to a charitable or other form of organisation committed to the conservation of the area's significances has raised the issue of the ownership of area. This step, if taken up, could begin a process by which the whole of the Plan Area or parts of it are transferred to new ownership.

- 7.48 There are two principal options if this route was chosen by the owners. Either involving an established conservation charity or forming a new local charity. Both of these approaches have benefits and disbenefits. The involvement of an established charity may bring benefits in terms of knowledge, experience of managing sites, resources and an established promotional network but it could lead to the continued exclusion of local communities from the management of the Plan Area and perhaps the implementation of unimaginative approaches to the area's presentation. In contrast a new local charity could involve local communities in the management of the area and could perhaps lead to locally driven and imaginative approaches to the presentation of the Plan Area. However, this form of organisation is unlikely to have experience of managing these types of assets and may not have the resources required to manage the Plan Area in the long-term or invest in its presentation.
- 7.49 Finally, transferring ownership of some or all of the area to a charitable body could enhance external funding opportunities, in particular Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF). The HLF would not provide funding to a private company or individual for the presentation and conservation of the Plan Area but may consider funding a project led by a charitable body.

Designation

- 7.50 Figure 4 identifies the current designations that apply to the Plan Area. Currently, only a limited number of remains in the area as designated as scheduled monuments under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. As knowledge develops about the remains within the Plan Area it would be appropriate for English Heritage to review this situation and determine whether any further remains should be scheduled.

Monitoring

- 7.51 To aid the future management of the area, particularly with regard to land management, agricultural activity and access, it will be important to establish an appropriate monitoring regime to help identify emerging issues and trigger management responses. This could take the form of a series of indicators related to the significances of the Plan Area that respond to the known issues facing its conservation. For instance, indicators could be established to monitor animal and human erosion on the banks of the Henges or wind blow

damage on the Northern Henge. This work would need to be integrated with any future research work undertaken within the Plan Area.

- 7.52 The Limits of Acceptable Change model being developed at Hadrian's Wall, the 1996 Chester Environmental Capacity Study and the ongoing Saltaire WHS Environmental Capacity Study all perhaps provide examples of approaches to monitoring and management that could be developed for the Plan Area. These and other approaches would need to be examined by the stakeholders and implemented in parallel with any future land management strategy or access / visitor strategy.
- 7.53 Given the broad range of expertise within the NYCC Countryside Unit and English Heritage these bodies are best placed to develop this type of monitoring regime in association with the land managers and owners.

Stakeholder Involvement

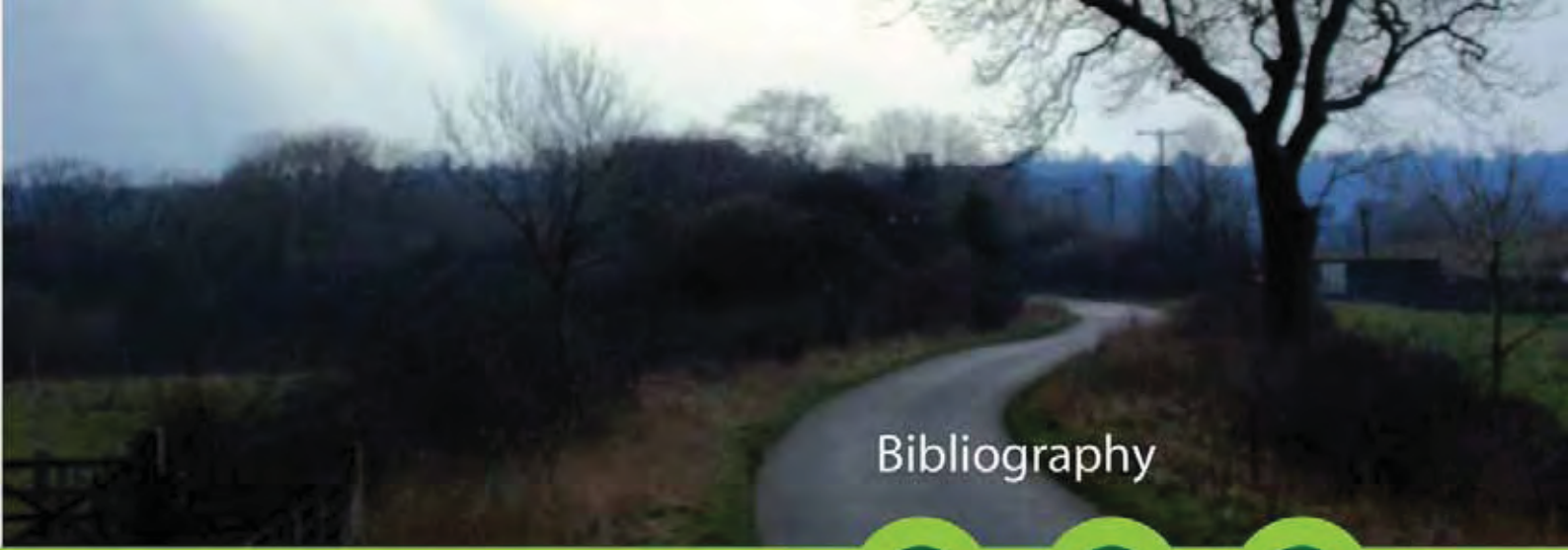
- 7.54 The THCWG provides the current forum for stakeholder and community involvement in the long-term management of the Plan Area. This group is currently considering how it could re-structure itself to facilitate the advancement of projects in and around the Plan Area. Whatever structure is chosen it will be important to ensure that local community groups and representatives remain an integral part of the process. It would also be appropriate to consider bringing new members into the process including those that could perhaps represent the views of a wider community who have spiritual / emotional connections with the Henges and other council officers with responsibility for tourism, ecology and rural development issues.
- 7.55 Further to this, it is essential to ensure that future proposals are developed in consultation with people that live and work in the wider environs of the Plan Area.

Way Forward

- 7.56 The future of the Plan Area is at a cross-road and significant decisions are required to develop a long-term sustainable future for the Plan Area and the Henges, these include:
- Developing and agreeing a clear vision for the future management and conservation of the Plan Area;

- Developing an appropriate research framework for the Plan Area and other associated archaeological remains;
- Finalising the future structure of the THCWG or its successor;
- Developing and beginning the implementation of an integrated land management strategy for the Plan Area;
- Preparing an approach to monitoring the state of conservation of the Plan Area;
- Developing and agreeing proposals for access and tourism in the Plan Area; and
- Exploring the options regarding ownership of the Plan Area.

7.57 These decisions and their implementation will require considerable commitment in terms of time and resources from the key stakeholders. The existing partnership between the landowners, statutory authorities and local communities will need to be sustained and developed through this process to ensure that the future development and management of the Plan Area is delivered in a way that successfully balances the conservation priorities, economic demands and community concerns.



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Bell, Jill - Richmondshire District Council

Prot, Dohn - Rollright Trust

Fort George Visitor Centre

Skara Brae Visitor Centre, Neolithic Orkney

Gore, Sophie, Masham Community Office



Appendix 1: Gazetteer



Asset	CP1
Site Name	North Henge
Site Type	HENGE
Documentary History	Harding and Lee, 1987. <i>Henge Monuments and Related Sites</i> , 314; Thomas, N, 1955; The Thornborough Circles near Ripon, North Riding, <i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> 38, 425-445; Harding, J, 1998. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle Field Archaeology Specialists, 2003 <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Nosterfield, North Yorkshire</i> Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS). 1998. <i>Thornborough North Henge, Tanfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological and Ecological Survey.</i>
Description	The North Henge is the best preserved of the three, surviving as a substantial earthwork with a pair of ditches and outer banks. The outer ditch is narrower and more segmented than the inner ditch and the entrances are aligned NW-SE. The henge was excavated in 1952 by Nicholas Thomas, which produced similar information as that from his excavations at the Central Henge. The basal deposits recorded suggested a dry, open environment. Thomas recorded that the central bank was 3 metres high and 18 metres wide, with a berm of 12 metres separating it from the inner ditch, which was nearly 20 metres wide. An earthwork survey in 1996 identified that the henge had been protected from ploughing by the woodland, but that this had caused damage through root action and animal burrows. Aerial photographs show a short length of pits between 7.5 to 11 metres apart and 2.5 to 4 metres diameter (CP7), running east from the outer ditch. Whether these are of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date is unclear.
Date	Late Neolithic (tbc) or Early Bronze Age (tbc)
Significance	National A
Designation	Scheduled Monument NY36
Issues	Possible damage to banks from wind blow; Tree root damage to archaeological deposits; Management and facilitation of access; Management of ecological habitats; Dumped material in ditches; Past damage to earthworks by machinery; Lack of interpretation; Ploughing up to outer extents of monument
Sources	English Heritage Scheduled Monuments Register (NYORKS36); SMR 21543; NMR SE27NE31;

NMR Aerial Photograph Library, SE2880/2; AWS54; AWS55; B18; B19; BTY33; BTY42; SE2880/1, SE2880/3

Use Managed woodland with amenity access.

Asset CP2

Site Name Central Henge

Site Type HENGE

Documentary History Thomas, N, 1955. *'The Thornborough Circles near Ripon'*, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38

Vatcher, F, 1960. *Thornborough Cursus*, Yorks Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 40, 169-182

Harding and Lee, 1987. *Henge Monuments and Related Sites*, 314;

Harding, J, 1998. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context*, Desk top assessment University of Newcastle

Field Archaeology Specialists, 2003 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Nosterfield, North Yorkshire*

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS). 1998. *Thornborough North Henge, Tanfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological and Ecological Survey*.

Description The Central Henge consists of a circular bank and internal ditch, separated by a substantial berm, and a narrower and segmentary external ditch. The two opposing entrances are aligned NW-SE.

The henge, particularly its outer and inner ditches, has been badly affected by ploughing, but despite this, its earthworks are still impressive. An earthwork survey was undertaken in 1997 by Jan Harding. This recorded the inner ditch surviving to a maximum depth of 1.05 metres with a width of approximately 25 metres. The bank survives to a maximum height of 4.5 metres and width of 18 metres at the western terminal of the southern entrance, but in other areas, especially to the north-east, has been reduced to a height of 0.85 metres and a width of 11 metres.

Signs of quarrying are visible in the south and south-east of the bank. The outer ditch does not survive as an earthwork, presumably it has been flattened out by ploughing. It is, however, clearly visible on aerial photographs.

A significant section of the outer ditch has been lost to quarrying immediately to the west of the henge. The overall diameter of the surviving monument is between 240 and 250 metres.

Date Late Neolithic (tbc) or Early Bronze Age (tbc)

Significance National A

Designation Scheduled Monument NY36

Issues Lack of interpretation and access;

Extensive past ploughing and other intensive agricultural activity around and on the henge;

Erosion to henge caused by grazing livestock.

Management of ecological habitats

Impact of landfill site on setting

Sources	<p>Presence of decaying machinery (old wind pump)</p> <p>English Heritage Scheduled Monuments Register (NYORKS36); NMR SE2NE32; SMR 21543</p> <p>NMR Aerial Photograph Library, CKD025; BTY47; AAB11; ACB14; ACB19; AKC12; AKC13; AGG28; ATG79; AWS54; AWS55; B18; B19; BDE53; BPF93; BJE8; RU58; BPF99; BTY46; CDI20; BZG82; CAL50; CEG34; CEG35; CGX12; CGX15; CGX16; CHJ15; CQJ14; CQJ15; SE2878/5; SE2879/8; SE2879/11; SE2879/61; SE2879/3; SE2879/20; JH83; JH85; SE2879/35; SE2879/32; SE2879/15; SE2879/16; SE2879/17; SE2879/64; SE2879/65</p>
Use	<p>Located within mixed pasture and arable land. Fenced off but used for grazing of livestock.</p>
Asset	CP3
Site Name	South Henge
Site Type	HENGE
Documentary History	<p>Thomas, N, 1955. <i>'The Thornborough Circles near Ripon'</i>, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38</p> <p>Harding and Lee, 1987, <i>Henge monuments and related sites</i> 314;</p> <p>Harding, J, 1999 <i>Recent fieldwork at the Neolithic monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire</i> Northern Archaeology 15/16. 27-38;</p> <p>Harding, J, 1998. The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle</p> <p>Field Archaeology Specialists, 2003 <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Nosterfield, North Yorkshire</i></p> <p><i>Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS). 1998. Thornborough North Henge, Tanfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological and Ecological Survey.</i></p>
Description	<p>The South Henge consists of a circular bank and internal ditch, separated by a substantial berm, and a narrower and segmentary external ditch. The two opposing entrances are aligned NW-SE.</p> <p>The henge has been extensively damaged by ploughing and a deliberate attempt has been made to remove some of the earthwork</p> <p>An earthwork survey was undertaken in 1997 and 1998 by Jan Harding which recorded that the inner ditch is poorly preserved in relation to that of the Central Henge. It survives to a maximum height of 1.8 metres and width of 20 metres to the north-west, but in other areas, especially to the east and south-east, has been reduced to a height of 0.3 metres and a width of over 30 metres. An act of bulldozing in the 1960s may account for this.</p> <p>The outer ditch possibly survives as an earthwork to depth of 0.25 metres to the north. The southern entrance has been extensively disturbed, as has the bank to the east. The overall diameter of the monument is between 240 and 250 metres.</p>
Date	Late Neolithic (tbc) or Early Bronze Age (tbc)
Significance	National A

Designation Scheduled Monument NY36

Issues Lack of interpretation and access;
Erosion to henge caused by grazing livestock;
Erosion alongside defunct fence line;
Impact of defunct fence line on character of monument

Sources English Heritage Scheduled Monuments Register (NYORKS36);
NMR SE27NE1;
SMR 21543;
NMR Aerial Photograph Library,
CKD025; BTY40; CQJ16; CQJ18; AWS54; AWS55; B18; B19;
BPF97; BTY27; BTY28; BZG83; CGX14; CGX17; CHJ13; CKD21;
CKD26; CQJ14; CQJ15; SE2878/19; SE2878/11; SE2878/20; RG3;
JH77; RU60; SE2878/25

Use Located within mixed pasture and arable land. Fenced off but used for grazing of livestock.

Asset CP4

Site Name The Cursus

Site Type CURSUS

Documentary History Thomas, N, 1955. 'The Thornborough Circles near Ripon', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 38
Vatcher, F, 1960. Thornborough Cursus, Yorks *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 40, 169-182;
Harding, J, 1999. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context*, Desk top assessment University of Newcastle
Field Archaeology Specialists, 2003 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Nosterfield, North Yorkshire*
WYAS 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project*

Description Originally a substantial monument over 1.2 kilometres long and 43 metres wide, its western half has now been destroyed by quarrying. The cursus has been completely levelled by ploughing, its western end has been removed by gravel extraction and the extent of the eastern end is unclear. Surviving archaeological deposits lie 0.3 metres below the surface.
A small part of the western terminal was excavated by Vatcher in 1958, and a small section under the western bank of the Central Henge by Nicholas Thomas in 1952.
Possible internal features may have been excavated by the Vale of Mowbray Neolithic Landscape Project (VMNLP) in 1998. Vatcher explored the western terminal and a length of the cursus over 105 metres in 1960. The rest of the monument between this point and the Central Henge has been destroyed with no archaeological mitigation (see Figure 8).

Date Early Neolithic

Significance National A

Designation Scheduled Monument NY36

Issues Lack of interpretation or access;

Understanding of extent and state of conservation.

Sources English Heritage Scheduled Monuments Register (NYORKS36);
NMR: 27NE1;
SMR: 21543

Use Grassland

Asset **CP5**

Site Name **Possible cursus to the east of the North Henge**

Site Type CURSUS (?)

Documentary History Harding, J, 1999. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context* , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle
Field Archaeology Specialists, 2003 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Nosterfield, North Yorkshire*

Description A section of what could be a cursus monument appears on aerial photographs to the east of the Northern Henge. Surviving for a length of 240 metres and a width of 72 metres, the feature has a squared terminal immediately west of the Northern Double Pit Alignment (CP 7).
Geophysical surveys undertaken by Jan Harding were inconclusive about the nature of this monument, but were successful in locating a possible ring ditch. The latter is not evident on any aerial photographs.

Date Early Neolithic (tbc)

Significance Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)

Designation -

Issues Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the possible cursus
Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits

Sources NMR Aerial Photograph Library,
SE3572/4/1A; SE3572/4/0A;

Use Arable land

Asset **CP6**

Site Name **Southern Double Pit Alignment**

Site Type PIT ALIGNMENT

Documentary History St Joseph, 1977. *Aerial reconnaissance: recent results*, *Antiquity* 51, 143-45
Harding, J, 1999. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context* , *Desk top assessment* University of Newcastle
WYAS 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project*

Description Discovered as an aerial photograph cropmark near the Southern Henge in 1975 (St Joseph, 1977). Known to be 350 metres long, with pits every 5 metres to 7 metres it is the longest known example in the British Isles. The rows of the alignment are between 10

metres to 11 metres apart. At the northern end are two, closely set, parallel lines of nine trenches, each about 3 metres long. About 80 metres north-east are two further large pits that align with the Double Ditched Round Barrow.

This monument was extensively excavated in 1998 and 1999 (Harding). The northern and southern extents were never uncovered and some pits were only half excavated. No traces of the monument survive above ground and intensive ploughing had in some cases nearly destroyed some of the pits, particularly towards the northern end of the alignment where the deposits are only 0.31 metres below the surface. Towards the southern end of the alignment, however, the depth of overburden increases to over 0.5 metres, significantly improving the potential for preservation.

There was a gap of approximately 30 metres in the eastern line of pits, where it passed closest to the northern entrance of the Southern Henge. The northern and southern extents of the monument were not located.

One of the excavated pits contained the upper half of an inverted Deverel-Rimbury vessel, and another three sherds of Collared Urn. A total of 66 worked lithic pieces were discovered.

Date	Early Bronze Age
Significance	National A
Designation	Scheduled Monument NY36
Issues	Previous ploughing has removed much of the monument; Good preservation of monument highly possible at the southern end of the alignment Access and Interpretation
Sources	English Heritage Scheduled Monuments Register (NYORKS36); NMR: SE27NE20; SMR: 21543 NMR Aerial Photograph Library, BTY33; BTY40; BTY47; GU72; CQJ16; CQJ17; CQJ18; AQA35; BTY27; BTY28; BTY37; BZG84; CGX18; CKD21
Use	Pasture

Asset	CP7
Site Name	Northern Double Pit Alignment
Site Type	PIT ALIGNMENT
Documentary History	Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i> Report 1358 Harding, J, 1999. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , <i>Desk top assessment</i> University of Newcastle
Description	A cropmark to the east of the Northern Henge, running south-west to north-east for a distance of 132 metres. The two lines of pits and approximately 9 to 10 metres apart. There is a pit every 10 metres along these rows.

It is likely that this feature is very similar to the Southern Double Pit Alignment (CP6) but without further archaeological investigation it's exact nature and extent is unclear.

Date	Undated possibly Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the remains, and whether they are associated with the Southern Double Pit Alignment and Henges. Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits Lack of access and interpretation
Sources	NMR Aerial Photograph Library, SE2880/7
Use	Arable land

Asset	CP8
Site Name	Possible enclosure to the north east of the Central Henge
Site Type	ENCLOSURE (?)
Documentary History	Harding, J. 1998, <i>Recent fieldwork at the Neolithic monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire</i> . Northern Archaeology 15/16, 27-38;
Description	Visible as a sub-oval cropmark to the north of the Cursus, it represents a possible enclosure although this has not been archaeologically tested.
Date	Possibly later prehistoric
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the possible enclosure, and whether it is closely associated with the prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits Lack of access and interpretation
Sources	NMR Aerial Photograph Library, BTY30
Use	Arable

Asset	CP9
Site Name	Northernmost Barrow of the Three Hills Barrow Group
Site Type	ROUND BARROW
Documentary History	Lukis, W, 1870 <i>Of the flint implements and tumuli of the neighbourhood of Wath</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 1, 116-128; Thomas, N 1955 <i>The Thornborough Circles near Ripon, North Riding</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38, 425-445;

	Harding, J, 1999. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle
Description	<p>The Three Hills Barrow Group (CP9, CP10 and CP11) are Scheduled Monuments. The barrows lie in a line oriented north-east to south-west and are 14 metres and 22m apart respectively. Although reduced by agricultural activity the barrows survive as low circular mounds up to 0.4 metres high and 30 metres in diameter (not confirmed in 2005 due to crop cover).</p> <p>The barrow mounds were originally surrounded by a ditch up to 3 metres wide, however the ditches have been buried by soil spread from the mounds and are no longer visible as earthworks. The barrows were partly excavated in the 19th century when cremation burials were found in all the mounds (Lukis 1870).</p> <p>Northernmost of the Three Hills barrow group, this monument was much reduced by ploughing to a diameter of 18 metres and a height of 0.3 metres when it was investigated by the Rev WC Lukis in 1864 (Lukis 1870). At a depth of 0.15 cm from the highest point of the barrow he discovered 'two jars of coarse earthenware'. These held the cremated bones of an adult and a child and were associated with flints, some of which had been heat affected. Beneath these 'jars' two clay layers sealed a heat affected, clay lined, pit which contained charcoal and calcined human bone. Lukis suggested that the deposits were from one event, in which the cremations occurred in the pit and were then transferred to the 'jars', the pit sealed and the 'jars' deposited on top, prior to the capping of the burial. It is also possible that the deposits represent a primary cremation in the clay lined pit, and a later secondary addition of the two cremations in 'jars'.</p> <p>The barrow is currently under the plough and significant damage has been done to archaeological deposits, particularly at its northern extent. The mound no longer survives as a feature.</p>
Date	Bronze Age
Significance	National A
Designation	Scheduled Monument 29508
Issues	<p>Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits and reducing visible surface expression of the barrow</p> <p>Lack of access and interpretation</p>
Sources	<p>Harding 1999 <i>Three Hills Barrow 'J'</i></p> <p>NMR: SE28SE6</p> <p>SMR: 21011</p> <p>NMR Aerial Photograph Library: JH87; OS72; OS118; OS667; OS668; AHU51; AKC14</p>
Use	Arable

Asset CP10

Site Name Central Barrow of the Three Hills Barrow Group

Site Type ROUND BARROW

Documentary History Lukis, W, 1870 *Of the flint implements and tumuli of the neighbourhood of Wath*, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 1, 116-128;

Thomas, N 1955 *The Thornborough Circles near Ripon, North Riding*, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38, 425-445;

Harding, J, 1999. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context* , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle

Description See CP9 for overall Scheduled Monument description

Central of the Three Hills Barrow Group, the monument was reduced by ploughing to a diameter of 18 metres and a height of 0.3 metres when it was investigated by the Rev WC Lukis in 1864 (Lukis 1870). The deposits were similar in form to those at the northernmost barrow (CP10), with clay layers sealing a heat affected, clay lined pit 0.6 metres in diameter and 0.45 metres in depth, which was filled with charcoal and burnt bone. Only a few pottery fragments were found above the clay layers. The monument has now been severely degraded by ploughing.

Date Bronze Age

Significance National A

Designation Scheduled Monument 29508

Issues Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits and reducing visible surface expression of the barrow

Lack of access and interpretation

Sources Harding 1999 *Three Hills Barrow 'K'*

NMR: SE28SE6

SMR: 21011

NMR Aerial Photograph Library: JH87; OS72; OS118; OS667; OS668; AHU51; AKC14

Use Arable

Asset CP11

Site Name Southernmost Barrow of the Three Hills Barrow Group

Site Type ROUND BARROW

Documentary History Lukis, W, 1870 *Of the flint implements and tumuli of the neighbourhood of Wath*, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 1, 116-128;

Thomas, N 1955 *The Thornborough Circles near Ripon, North Riding*, Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38, 425-445;

Harding, J, 1999. *The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context* , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle

Description See CP9 for overall Scheduled Monument description

	Southernmost and largest of the Three Hills Barrow Group, the monument was reduced to a diameter of 24 metres and a height of 1 metre when it was investigated by the Rev WC Lukis in 1864 (Lukis 1870). A quantity of burnt bone and charcoal was discovered 0.2 metres from the apex and a large collection of cobbles and a fragment of burnt bone 0.6 metres further down. No other finds were recovered.
Date	Bronze Age
Significance	National A
Designation	Scheduled Monument 29508
Issues	Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits and reducing visible surface expression of the barrow Lack of access and interpretation
Sources	NMR: SE28SE6 SMR: 21011 SAM: NYORKS984 NMR Aerial Photograph Library: JH87; OS72; OS118; OS667; OS668; AHU51; AKC14
Use	Arable

Asset	CP12
Site Name	Centre Hill Barrow
Site Type	ROUND BARROW
Documentary History	Lukis, W, 1870 <i>Of the flint implements and tumuli of the neighbourhood of Wath</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 1, 116-128; Thomas, N 1955 <i>The Thornborough Circles near Ripon, North Riding</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 38, 425-445; Harding, J, 1999. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle
Description	A large barrow lying on a slight ridge on the axis between the Central and Southern Henges. The monument was reduced by ploughing to 18 metres diameter and 1 metre high when it was investigated by the Rev WC Lukis in 1864 (Lukis 1870). At a depth of 1.5 metres from its apex, small unburnt bone fragments were found in the remnants of a wooden coffin aligned north-east to south-west (the same axis as the henge monuments). A 'rudely ornamented jar of coarse earthenware' and an Early Bronze Age flint implement formed on a flake, were associated with the body.
Date	Bronze Age
Significance	National A
Designation	Scheduled Monument NYORKS36
Issues	Barrow mound no longer easily visible to naked eye Ploughing in past has damaged archaeological deposits associated with the monument Lack of access and interpretation

Sources	Harding, 1999 <i>Round Barrow 'O'</i> NMR: SE27NE3 SMR: 21543 SAM: NYORKS36 NMR Aerial Photograph Library: BTY27; BTY28; CQJ16; CQJ17; CQJ18; BTY33; BZG84; BZG86; CHJ14; CQJ14; CGJ15; SE2879/13; SE2879
Use	Pasture
Asset	CP13
Site Name	Camp House
Site Type	FARMHOUSE
Documentary History	Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 2003 <i>Nosterfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , DBA18
Description	Grade II Listed Building of 2 storeys, three bays with the lower being a later 19 th century wing. The main body of the building comprises an early 19 th century farmhouse having coursed squared stone with stone dressings and graduated stone slate roof. All windows are 16-pane sashes with stone sills and flat stone arches. The building is shown on the 1853 1 st edition OS map but not on the 1796 Thornborough draft enclosure map.
Date	Post-medieval
Significance	Regional C
Designation	Listed Building Grade II
Issues	
Sources	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Map 1853 1 st edition 6" OS sheet 102
Use	Private residence
Asset	CP14
Site Name	Two possible enclosures
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 2003 <i>Nosterfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , DBA55 WYAS 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i>
Description	Two possible enclosures lying to the east of the Central Henge, identified on aerial photographs. No detailed archaeological investigations have been undertaken on these features.
Date	Undated
Significance	Local / Regional C (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Nature, extent, date and significance of the cropmarks are not currently well understood Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits
Sources	-
Use	Arable

Asset	CP15
Site Name	Possible enclosure
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 2003 <i>Nosterfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , DBA58 WYAS 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i>
Description	A possible enclosure lying to the south-east of the Central Henge, identified on aerial photographs. There has been no detailed archaeological investigation undertaken on this asset.
Date	Undated
Significance	Local / Regional C (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and whether they are closely associated with the prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Sources	
Use	Pasture

Asset	CP16
Site Name	Linear cropmark to the east of the North Henge
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 2003 <i>Nosterfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , DBA72 WYAS 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i>
Description	Small linear feature to the east of the Northern Henge. Without further archaeological investigation the exact nature of the feature is unknown.
Date	Undated
Significance	Local C (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and whether they are closely associated with the prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits
Sources	
Use	Arable

Asset	CP17
Site Name	Cropmark to the east of CP16
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 2003 <i>Nosterfield, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , DBA50 WYAS 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i>

Description	Cropmark identified on aerial photographs possibly representing a double pit alignment, ring ditch and linear feature to the east of CP16 . These have not been tested by archaeological intervention so their exact nature is unclear although it would appear possible that they are associated with the similar pit alignments within the Conservation Plan area.
Date	Possibly Neolithic / Bronze Age (tbc)
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and whether they are closely associated with the prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Arable cultivation is likely to be degrading archaeological deposits
Sources	NMR Aerial Photograph Library: ANY91
Use	Arable
Asset	CP18
Site Name	New Lane
Site Type	TRACKWAY
Documentary History	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Plan <i>Moorhouse, S Thornborough Henges, A Landscape Through Time</i>
Description	Trackway running NW-SE between Moor Lane and Back Lane. It is shown on the 1796 Thornborough draft enclosure map which shows the outlines of the Northern and Central Henges.
Date	Post-medieval (possibly medieval)
Significance	Local C
Designation	-
Issues	Surviving hedgerows running along the road are possibly subject to Hedgerows Regulations 1997.
Sources	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Map
Use	In use as a road
Asset	CP19
Site Name	Green Lane
Site Type	TRACKWAY
Documentary History	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Plan <i>Moorhouse, S Thornborough Henges, A Landscape Through Time</i>
Description	Green Lane runs NW-SE between Moor Lane and Back Lane and is shown on the 1796 Thornborough draft enclosure map. The hedges along the lane may qualify for SINC status due to their ecological value. The hedges may also qualify as "important" under the terms of the 1997 hedgerow regulations
Date	Post-medieval (possibly medieval)
Significance	Local / Regional B
Designation	-

Issues	Eutrophication and gaps emerging in hedges
Sources	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Map
Use	In use as a byway
Asset	CP20
Site Name	Moor Lane
Site Type	TRACKWAY
Documentary History	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Plan <i>Moorhouse, S Thornborough Henges, A Landscape Through Time</i>
Description	Moor Lane runs NE-SW separating the North Henge from the Central and South Henges. It is shown on the 1796 Thornborough draft enclosure map.
Date	Post-medieval (possibly medieval)
Significance	Local C
Designation	-
Issues	Surviving hedgerows running along the road are possibly subject to Hedgerows Regulations 1997.
Sources	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Map
Use	In use as a road
Asset	CP21
Site Name	Field boundary north of North Henge
Site Type	FIELD BOUNDARY
Documentary History	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Plan <i>Moorhouse, S Thornborough Henges, A Landscape Through Time</i>
Description	Field boundary shown on 1796 Thornborough draft enclosure map survives to the north of the North Henge.
Date	Post-medieval (possibly medieval)
Significance	Local C
Designation	-
Issues	-
Sources	1796 Thornborough Draft Enclosure Map
Use	Field boundary
Asset	CP22
Site Name	Levelled ridge and furrow to east of Northern Henge
Site Type	RIDGE AND FURROW CROPMARK
Documentary History	Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i> Report 1358
Description	Identified on aerial photograph, no further detailed archaeological investigation has been undertaken.
Date	Medieval / post-medieval (tbc)
Significance	Local C

Designation	-
Issues	Not currently visible on ground Arable cultivation may be degrading deposits
Sources	Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project
Use	Arable
Asset	CP23
Site Name	Ditch/cut feature to east of Northern Henge
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i> Report 1358
Description	Identified on aerial photograph and on NMR. A possible prehistoric / Roman pit alignment, and a quarry and ditches of uncertain date, are visible as cropmarks on air photographs.
Date	Prehistoric / Roman (tbc)
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of the nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and whether they are closely associated with the prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources	NMR: 1406695 Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project
Use	Arable
Asset	CP24
Site Name	Ditch cut / feature to east of Northern Henge
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i> Report 1358
Description	Identified on aerial photograph and NMR. A possible prehistoric/Roman pit alignment, and a quarry and ditches of uncertain date, are visible as cropmarks on air photographs and have not been subject to detailed archaeological investigation.
Date	Prehistoric / Roman (tbc)
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources	NMR: 1406695 Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project
Use	Arable

Asset CP25
Site Name Circular mound to south-east of Northern Henge
Site Type MOUND
CROPMARK
Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358
Description Identified on AP, no detailed archaeological investigation has been undertaken and it is unknown whether the mound represents a prehistoric burial site or not. Further archaeological investigation would assist in further interpretation.
Date Undated
Significance Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation -
Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project
Use Arable

Asset CP26
Site Name Cropmarks to the east of Three Hill Barrow Group
Site Type CROPMARK
Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358
Description A complex of linear cropmarks identified on aerial photographs during the Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project.
The NMR has recorded this complex as being a prehistoric/Roman trackway and ditch; and several pits, ditch, and a quarry.
Date Prehistoric / Roman (tbc)
Significance Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation -
Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources NMR: 1406706
Thornborough Henges AP Mapping
Use Arable

Asset CP27

Site Name Complex of pits shown on aerial photographs to west of Three Hills Barrow Group

Site Type CROPMARK
PIT

Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358

Description Possible single pit alignment identified on aerial photographs. They are not recorded on the NMR or SMR and have not been subject to detailed archaeological investigation.

Date Undated

Significance Local C (Could change depending on results of further investigations)

Designation -

Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains

Sources Thornborough Henges AP Mapping Project

Use Arable

Asset CP28

Site Name Complex of cropmarks shown on aerial photographs to south-west of Three Hills Barrow Group

Site Type CROPMARK

Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358

Description Complex of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs consisting of pit alignment and possible oval enclosure/burial mound

Date Neolithic / Bronze Age (tbc)

Significance Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)

Designation -

Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains

Sources Thornborough Henges AP Mapping

Use Arable

Asset CP29

Site Name Three possible pits to the south-east of the South Henge

Site Type CROPMARK

Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358

Description Short lengths of possible prehistoric / Roman ditches and pits are visible as cropmarks on air photographs, and are recorded on the NMR.
Four of the pits are aligned in an arc and to the north-west another four form a regular rectangle with a fifth aligned with them.

Date Prehistoric / Roman (tbc)

Significance Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)

Designation -

Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains

Sources NMR: 1406234;
Thornborough Henges AP Mapping

Use Arable

Asset CP30

Site Name Possible pit identified on aerial photograph to the south of the South Henge

Site Type CROPMARK

Documentary History Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 *Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project* Report 1358

Description Identified during the aerial photographic mapping project undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS. The cropmarks represent a possible pit although this has not been tested by archaeological investigations.

Date Undated

Significance Local C (Could change depending on results of further investigations)

Designation -

Issues Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area
Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains

Sources Thornborough Henges AP Mapping

Use Arable

Asset	CP31
Site Name	Complex of possible pit features identified on aerial photograph to north-east of Centre Hill Barrow
Site Type	CROPMARK
Documentary History	Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005 <i>Thornborough Henges Air Photo Mapping Project</i> Report 1358
Description	A possible cluster of pits identified during the aerial photograph mapping project undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS. The cropmarks have not been investigated archaeologically and their exact nature remains uncertain.
Date	Neolithic / Bronze Age (tbc)
Significance	Regional B (Could change depending on results of further investigations)
Designation	-
Issues	Current lack of understanding of nature, extent and significance of the cropmarks, and their association with other prehistoric remains within the Plan Area Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources	Thornborough Henges AP Mapping
Use	Arable

Asset	CP32
Site Name	Barrow 'L' of the Three Hill Barrow Group
Site Type	BARROW
Documentary History	Harding, J, 1999. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , Desk top assessment University of Newcastle
Description	Recorded as 'Barrow L' in Harding's assessment of the area, this barrow appears to have removed by ploughing and it's exact location is currently unknown
Date	Bronze Age
Significance	Regional B (<i>tbc as Barrow no longer appears to be extant</i>)
Designation	Scheduled Monument 29508 <i>Falls within scheduled area</i>
Issues	Barrow is no longer extant Ploughing causing damage to the buried archaeological remains
Sources	Harding 1999 <i>Barrow L</i>
Use	Pasture

Asset	CP33
Site Name	WWII ammunition dump in Central Henge
Site Type	AMMUNITION DUMP
Documentary History	Harding, J, 1999. <i>The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context</i> , <i>Desk top assessment</i> University of Newcastle
Description	The middle of the Central Henge was used during the Second World War as an ammunition dump. Part of the outer bank was removed to accommodate ammunition and for access to the dump.
Date	Modern
Significance	Local C
Designation	Scheduled Monument NY36
Issues	-
Sources	-
Use	Pasture



Appendix 2: Background Tourism Data



District Tourism Offer - Summary

- **Craven District Council**, which is predominantly rural with the majority of its boundary falling into the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It also has a number of well known market towns such as Skipton.
- **Hambleton**. Branded 'Herriot Country', this area is nestled between the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks and is pre-dominantly rural with a number of market towns.
- **Harrogate**. The town of Harrogate has the only dedicated conference, exhibition and banqueting facilities in Yorkshire, which generates a significant level of business tourism for the area. Harrogate District stretches to the Eastern Dales and includes three market towns and Nidderdale, which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- **Richmondshire**. Richmondshire is pre-dominantly rural with most of its boundary falling into the Dales National Park. It has a number of market towns and a significant Ministry of Defence (MOD) presence.
- **Ryedale**. This area has a diverse landscape with its boundary falling into the North York Moors National Park as well as the Wold's. Flamingo Land, the most visited paid admission attraction in Yorkshire is based in the district as well as a number of historic and medieval towns.
- **Scarborough**. The coastal area of North Yorkshire is dominated by three coastal resorts, including Scarborough, which is widely accepted as the first holiday resort in the UK. In addition to its appeal as a holiday and day visitor destination, Scarborough is also a conference location. The area borders the North York Moors National Park.
- **Selby**. Selby is the most southerly of the eight North Yorkshire local authorities. It generates the lowest revenue from tourism due a lack of leisure and business tourism product (when compared to other areas in North Yorkshire). This area has a number of market towns and also has Europe's largest coal-fired power station.
- **York**. York is an established tourist destination and one of the finest historic cities in Britain. There are a large number of heritage attractions (including York Minster), as well as cultural events. York attracts the highest proportion of overseas visitors in North Yorkshire as the city is a 'milk-run' destination for international tourists.

Major free and paid visitor attractions in Yorkshire

Major Paid Admission Attractions in Yorkshire & The Humber 2003

Attraction	County/Unitary Authority	Visits 2003
Flamingo Land Theme Park & Zoo	North Yorkshire	1,398,800E
Jorvik Viking Centre	York	435,353
Cannon Hall Open Farm	South Yorkshire	400,000E
Dalby Forest Drive & Visitor Centre	North Yorkshire	364,600
Harewood House	West Yorkshire	348,659
Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal	North Yorkshire	317,018
North Yorkshire Moors Railway	North Yorkshire	297,000
Wensleydale Cheese Visitor Centre	North Yorkshire	250,000E
Castle Howard	York	195,542
Sewerby Hall & Gardens	East Riding of Yorkshire	150,000E

Major Free Admission Attractions in Yorkshire & The Humber 2003

Attraction	County/Unitary Authority	Visits 2003
National Railway Museum	York	746,055
National Museum of Photography, Film & Television	West Yorkshire	723,889
Leeds City Art Gallery	West Yorkshire	233,307
Whitby Lifeboat Museum	North Yorkshire	150,000E
Bronte Weaving Shed	West Yorkshire	148,000
The Moors Centre	North Yorkshire	120,258
National Coal Mining Museum for England	West Yorkshire	118,573
Wolds Village	East Riding of Yorkshire	100,000E
WR Outhwaite & Son, Ropemakers	North Yorkshire	100,000E
Sheffield Botanical Garden	South Yorkshire	100,000E

Source: Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions England 2003

Note: The table above contains data only for attractions which responded to the survey and gave permission for their total visits to be published. E=estimate



Appendix 3: Landscape Character Areas



06 Well Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 4 Intensively Farmed Lowland [varied topography], 4b Intermediate enclosure)

As its name suggests this area is centred on the village of Well which seemingly derives its name from the holy well of St. Michael, which lies in a secluded position to the south of Masham Lane. Wells along with streams, rivers, fountains and springs have been accounted sacred from the earliest times, long before Christianity when the wells became named after saints. The settlement of Well may have developed here, in part, because of the well. There are also the remains of a roman bath house at Well, possibly associated with St. Michael's Well.

Woodlands along with tree clumps and hedgerow trees are a significant element in the landscape of this area and on the whole confine views to within the character area. In particular, the area is bounded to the north by a very linear tree belt. Also this tree cover tends to hide the presence of any farmsteads and leaves views of hedgerow field enclosure and isolated tree clumps.

There is a distinct slope in the land from west to east. The settlement of Well sits at the eastern base of this slope some 70m below this character area's western boundary along the B6267, and lies hidden behind pockets of woodland when viewed from the west.

07 Langwith Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5b Intermediate enclosure)

This area is bounded to the south by Ings Goit and much of the area has a distinctive patchwork of drains running across its fields. The area is fairly flat with a slight slope to the north. There are no significant settlements of any note in the area, except for isolated farmsteads and cottages. The distinct element within this area is the very straight Long Lane, which crosses the area from the east to the neighbouring settlement of Well in the west. There is some significant woodland cover provided by House Close Wood and The Stripes.

08 Camp Hill Estate

(Hambleton LCA - 5 Intensively Farmed Lowland [simple topography], 5a Enclosed)
(Hambleton LCA - 7 Estate landscape [including parkland], 7b General interest)

Camp Hill Estate now operates as a single site provider of teambuilding and corporate entertainment programmes along with Aerial Extreme, an outdoor adventure tree top rope course. Camp Hill House, East Lodge and West Lodge form the main buildings within the estate.

Camp Hill has a prime position on top of the Southern Magnesian Limestone eastern escarpment. To the north along this escarpment lies the settlement of Carthorpe and to the south lies the settlement of Kirklington. Today the house is fairly enclosed by woodland but at some stage it may have had good views south down the escarpment ridge and east across the lowland vales.

Woodland forms the main element within the landscape. The large managed Camp Hill Plantation takes up most of this area, which also includes Kirklington Low and High Woods to the south. Most of the farmland consists of permanent pasture.

09 North Tanfield Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 4 Intensively Farmed Lowland [varied topography], 4c Open)

The North Tanfield area sits at an elevated position (between 80 and 120AOD) on the eastern side of the Southern Magnesian Limestone western escarpment with good views east across the Southern Magnesian Limestone ridge. The lakes at Nosterfield Nature Reserve and Nosterfield Sand and Gravel Pit are particularly noticeable.

Woodland, tree and hedgerow cover is relatively insignificant and therefore long distance views are possible, confined only by topography. Settlement is predominately confined to the North Tanfield Farm and cottages. The landscape has an ordinary, but slightly degraded quality resulting from the decline in hedgerow frequency and quality.

13 Kirklington Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 4 Intensively Farmed Lowland [varied topography], 4c Open)

This character area is very similar to that of Sutton Howgrave (18). Its farmland is centred on the settlement of Kirklington. Kirklington has a prime position on top of the Southern Magnesian Limestone eastern escarpment. To the north along this escarpment lies Camp Hill and to the south lies the settlement of Sutton Howgrave. From various locations around the settlement there are good views west across the escarpment ridge and east across the lowland vales. Earthworks next to Kirklington mark the remains of the medieval village of Yarnwick, which indicates the prominent position in the landscape that this location has had over the centuries for settlement.

The large wooded area of the Camp Hill Estate defines a distinct northern boundary to the area. Woodland cover is relatively insignificant within the area. Significantly the area is bisected and bounded by a number of becks, inges and drains. The area is bounded by Inge Goit to the west, Healam Beck to the north and a beck to the east. Also on the northern side of the settlement of Kirklington there is a spring and well.

15 River Ure Corridor (West Tanfield)

(Hambleton LCA - 6 Linear River Landscape, 6a Enclosed valleys)

This area is the moderately broad and flat corridor of the River Ure, which includes the settlements of West Tanfield and Low Sikes. Here, the river forms the district boundary between Hambleton District to the north and Harrogate Borough to the south. The river is broad and shallow and meanders sharply to and fro through large arable fields. The river itself is partly enclosed by trees offering dispersed outward views across the open fields where tree cover is sparse. The area is bounded to the north by a dismantled railway.

Altogether the landscape is pleasant and the river is attractive with many riffles and abundant wildlife. Prominent features include Tanfield Bridge, the Marmion Tower and church in West Tanfield.

18 Sutton Howgrave Farmland

(Hambleton LCA - 4 Intensively Farmed Lowland [varied topography], 4c Open);

This character area is very similar to that of Kirklington (13). Its farmland is centred on the settlement of Sutton Howgrave. Sutton Howgrave has a prime position on top of the Southern Magnesian Limestone eastern escarpment. To the north along this escarpment lies the settlement of Kirklington and to the south lies the settlement of Wath. From various locations around the settlement there are good views west across the escarpment ridge and east across the lowland vales. Earthworks next to Sutton Howgrave mark the remains of the medieval village of Howgrave, which indicates the prominent position in the landscape that this location has had over the centuries for settlement.

Woodland is very sparse within this area with Howgrave Wood being the only significant area of woodland. Water plays a significant element with Holme Beck bounding the area to the east and Upland Stell running through the area to the west.



Appendix 4:
Secretary of State's Criteria for
Scheduling Ancient Monuments



As presented in PPG 16 - Archaeology and Planning (1991)

Annex 4 - Secretary Of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

(i) *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

(ii) *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which still retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and a regional context.

(iii) *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

(iv) *Group Value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

(v) *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

(vi) *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection which scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed historic buildings.

(vii) *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

(viii) *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.



Appendix 5:
Visitor Management & Facilities:
Comparator Sites



Introduction

A5.1 Visitor infrastructure and management at other heritage sites in the British Isles varies greatly. Influencing factors are the ownership of the site, the location, management aims and available resources. A range of sites are discussed briefly below.

Sites with minimal infrastructure

A5.2 This category includes a large number of small, though not insignificant, sites such as West Kennet Long Barrow, Arbor Low, and Mayburgh Henge. These typically have a car park or large layby and an interpretation panel. Visitor numbers vary and are difficult to estimate, with few formal counts having been carried out, though sites on popular touring routes such as in Wiltshire can receive up to tens of thousands of visitors per year.

A5.3 Such sites are often used as destinations for local walkers or cyclists, or as 'stop-offs' for visitors en route to other destinations and can have a visit time of as little as 10 minutes. Many visitors passing by may not have background information, and therefore any interpretation provided on-site may be the only knowledge they will receive.

A5.4 Payment, if any, is often through an 'honesty box' donation system and management, if not carried out by English Heritage, National Trust or equivalent, is often undertaken by volunteers as at the Rollright Stones. At Beaulieu Priory in the Highlands, for example, a local resident acts as key keeper and oversees the property on an informal basis.

Clava Cairns, near Inverness

A5.5 This site is unmanned with minimal facilities. There is a picnic area and car park with interpretation boards, as well as a limited number of interpretation panels around the site. These advertise that a leaflet can be purchased from Fort George Visitor Centre or from Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, 5 minutes away. A recent visitor survey indicated approximately 14-15000 visitors in July and August 2003, and the average stay at the site tends to be approximately 30-40 minutes. This site is often combined with Culloden as part of organised day excursions and the car park has recently been altered to provide for coach parking bays. Landscaping is 'soft' with harder earth surfaces to protect against erosion protection in areas of heavy footfall. The site is free, open year-round and managed by Historic Scotland.

Rollright Stones, Oxfordshire

A5.6 As with Thornborough Henges, these are located in a popular touring area with many other attractions. Visitor numbers are not available – the range is from 'a couple' of visitors on a winter's day to approximately 1100 over a

sunny bank holiday weekend, many of whom are en route to other areas of the Cotswolds and stop for short visits.

- A5.7 The infrastructure is minimal, with roadside parking in two large laybys catering for approximately 20 vehicles, no toilet facilities, a small visitor centre 'hut' manned at weekends and in high summer, a small entrance charge (50p adults) and an honesty box for visitors when the site is unmanned. Sales of guidebooks, T-shirts and other items along with occasional fund-raising activity for infrastructure projects make the site, which is predominantly run by volunteers, self-funding. In high season parking extends along the roadside; the road is unclassified. This site has recently been made fully wheelchair accessible but retains 'soft' reinforced grass pathways.
- A5.8 The Rollright Trust keeps the site low-key through avoiding the use of brown signs and not publicising it. However, there are strong bonds with the local community and events are occasionally staged. These include a school play production performed at the site, advertised only locally, but also a modern sculpture exhibition among the stones which attracted 13500 visitors over a 6 week period. Links have been established with national archaeology clubs and local schools.

Nosterfield Nature Reserve

- A5.9 The Nosterfield Nature Reserve adjacent to the Henges site is a good example of an unmanned visitor centre. The building contains display boards on the species present as well as information on the history and context of the area. Doors are locked overnight by means of a solar-powered switch and there are no toilets or other facilities. A car park catering for approximately 20 cars is provided - this is considered by the warden to be adequate under most circumstances, and the car park is used by local walkers, dog-walkers and visitors to the Henges as well as visitors to the reserve and bird hide.
- A5.10 The site receives approximately 5-10,000 visitors annually, fluctuating throughout the year dependent on the birds present. If there are large influxes of visitors due to the presence of a rare bird, volunteers help with traffic and visitor management. The site is managed by the Lower Ure Conservation Trust.

Arbor Low Stone Circle, Derbyshire

- A5.11 This monument is in the care of English Heritage. The landowner requests a 50p admission fee via an honesty box in a small car park. There are no other facilities, and visitor numbers are unavailable.

Sites with visitor centre and facilities

Neolithic Orkney

- A5.12 Creation of upgraded visitor facilities at the principal sites, as well as marketing, consultation and cooperation with the travel trade on route planning has helped manage visitors at the Neolithic Orkney sites which were suffering wear due to visitor numbers. Maes Howe, for example, uses a timed ticket system to manage visitor pressures, while an all-weather visitor centre at Skara Brae and the offer of combined tickets with a nearby historic property, Skail House, has relieved visitor pressure and increased economic benefits.
- A5.13 The visitor centre offers interactive displays, original artefacts and an audio-visual show to tell the story of the village and its people. There is also a shop, toilets and café. The area around the monument was also opened up to allow improved circulation of visitors, and on-site interpretation has been improved. A replica house helps prepare and inform visitors before they go to the real village site. This has also reduced wear on the site as periodic visitor surveys have shown that some people no longer feel the need to visit the monument itself. The replica also has wheel chair access and thereby allows people to actually enter into spaces that they couldn't get to at the real village. Visitor numbers at Skara Brae are approximately 70,000 per year and all monuments are overseen by Historic Scotland. Smaller sites offer parking and on-site interpretation boards.

Calanais Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis


- A5.14 This site is open free all year, seven days a week, and has a small visitor centre open daily except Sunday. This has a shop and tea room, and there is a relief model of the site outside the visitor centre and a video presentation in Gaelic and English.

Hadrian's Wall

- A5.15 The individual sites within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site are under varying ownership and management. Tourism is estimated to be worth around £200 million in the whole area.
- A5.16 The museums at Hadrian's wall offer a good example of infrastructure for differing levels of visitors. Housesteads Museum is owned by The National Trust, and managed by English Heritage, with visitor figures averaging about 130,000 a year. Based on the plan of one of the buildings in the civil settlement, Housesteads Museum is a modest building, in keeping with the landscape around it, serving as an introduction to both the fort and the Wall. There is a paid carpark at the foot of the hill (0.8km distant from the site) with space for 20 coaches, and a café and toilets near the car park. Entrance is

£3.10 for adults and the average visit time is 1.5 hours. The museum and site are open daily until 6pm in summer and 4pm in winter, though entrance to the site itself is difficult to prevent outside these times.

A5.17 Corbridge, with similar prices and opening times, receives just 21,000 visitors per year despite easier accessibility, while Chesters Fort receives approximately 80,000 visitors pa. The visitor infrastructure at both sites is not significantly different given the visitor numbers, with display areas, small shop and ample parking including coach bays. While visitor numbers vary enormously at the sites, the level of infrastructure varies mainly in the amount of parking provided. Management of visitor numbers between sites is influenced by various means, including marketing, events and signposting.



Appendix 6: Brief Archaeological & Historical Background



Palaeolithic (c. 500,000BC - c. 10,000BC)

- A6.1 The known history of human occupation in the environs of the Plan Area began after the retreat of the glaciers around 12,000 years ago. The first period of human occupation began in the Palaeolithic period and finds and features associated with it are sparsely distributed. However, they can provide valuable information on a period which is not very well represented within this part of the British Isles.
- A6.2 This period is not represented within the Plan Area, however within its environs at Nosterfield Quarry a suggestion of activity has been identified. The preliminary assessment of a group of column samples taken from a series of deep solution holes near the margin of a former lake during archaeological work in 2003 produced an exceptional pollen sediment record for the early Holocene or Flandrian period, roughly 11,500 years ago. A preliminary radiocarbon C14 analysis was made of these which indicated a sequence dating from the early Holocene through to the Late Iron Age (FAS 2003). Further samples of peat taken from the edge of this former lake suggest that the lake may have been formed in the early Holocene at the end of the last glaciation (Berg 1991). The proximity of these deposits suggest that the potential exists for the presence of similar remains within the Plan Area, although this will need to be clarified with further investigations.

Mesolithic (c. 10,000BC - c. 4000BC)

- A6.3 The Mesolithic period is characterised by a rise in temperature at the end of the Ice Age, at around 10,000BC, which caused a change in climate. Transient Mesolithic groups moved across the landscape, as evidenced by scattered flint artefacts. The period is similar to the Palaeolithic in that remains are not as dramatic as the later prehistoric monuments, and mainly consist of small lithic tools (microliths), small features (pits and ditches) associated with temporary settlement activity and palaeoenvironmental deposits (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 4).
- A6.4 The earliest evidence for human activity within the environs of the Plan Area is represented by a small number of Mesolithic flint blades and artefacts. The majority of this material was found in the ploughsoil during fieldwalking undertaken by Newcastle University. Almost 8% of the total material collected between 1994 and 1997 has been ascribed to this period. Whilst the most of this material is not diagnostic, microburins, triangles, pyramid cores, edge blunted points and various forms of scraper have been found (Harding & Johnson, 2004).
- A6.5 There does not appear to be any significant pattern in the distribution of this material within the Plan Area and in no case has any diagnostic Mesolithic material been found in association with a contemporary feature during

fieldwork. This would be consistent with a model of low level occupation or exploitation of the wider area with Mesolithic peoples attracted to the tree covered wet areas as a focus for hunting, bird fowling and gathering (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 6).

- A6.6 Within this general picture the discovery of a series of pits at Nosterfield Quarry may, however, indicate a more substantial presence in this early period of prehistory. A radiocarbon date of 4,675 BC was recovered from sediment from a large pit in the south western part of the quarry. The pits were regularly spaced at intervals of between 5.5m and 11.0m and formed two rows some 25.5m apart. The sections from the features revealed a variety of fill systems. Some pits appeared to have been dug, filled and then recut, whilst others appear to possibly have been left open. Some of the profiles even suggested that some of these features may have been natural in origin (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 6).
- A6.7 Whilst the pits are evenly spaced and produce a corridor effect there is no evidence that they were excavated in a single event. 30 metres to the north a series of four regularly spaced sink holes were recorded which ran along the same alignment as the western row of pits. Is it possible that the pits were emulating or continuing a series of natural features. The possible incorporation or extension of a series of natural sink holes into a human made feature would be an interesting phenomenon. Whilst the excavators have exercised an understandable degree of caution as to the dating and interpretation of this feature, its presence could have important implications for our understanding of the Plan Area and environs at this time (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 6).
- A6.8 Recent landscape studies have suggested that natural places and features that were visited with regularity during the Mesolithic sometimes came to have a permanent significance for societies, which '*ultimately set the scene for the construction of monuments in the Neolithic*'. Such a scenario may present a possible context for the construction of the double pit alignment at Nosterfield in the Late Mesolithic (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 6).

Neolithic (c. 4,000BC – c. 2,300BC)

- A6.9 The evidence from the environs of the Plan Area suggests that during the Early Neolithic the character of human activity within the landscape began to change. Environmental evidence recovered from Nosterfield Quarry concurs with the widely held view that much of the area was still wooded at this time, with larch and alder predominating. Within this landscape the archaeological evidence for sporadic possibly seasonal occupation has been recovered (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 7).

Early Neolithic (4,000BC – 2,300BC)

- A6.10 During the early part of the Neolithic period the environmental evidence that has been collected from the environs of the Plan Area, in particular from Nosterfield Quarry, suggests that it was a heavily wooded landscape. Evidence for large scale forest clearance at this time is generally limited to coastal regions and the rich chalklands of southern England (Evans, 1978). Woodland clearance in other areas appears to have been localised, small scale and frequently followed by periods of forest regeneration.
- A6.11 Pollen evidence recovered from sink holes on Nosterfield Quarry shows that around 3,000BC this was woodland and supported a substantial cover of trees which included larch, alder, pine and oak. Also at Nosterfield Quarry a total of six shallow pits containing fragments of Grimston Ware pottery were recorded. Five of these were located to the south and west of the infilled lake while a single pit containing Grimston Ware was found during the Ladybridge Farm evaluation (Griffiths & Timms, 2005).
- A6.12 All of these features are indicative of limited occupation or activity occurring during the Early Neolithic period in this area. The sparse distribution of these features would fit well with a model of dispersed activity in small clearances within a predominantly wooded landscape. (Griffiths & Timms, 2005).
- A6.13 In terms of monumental archaeological sites, two particular features have been identified in and around the Plan Area. Firstly, the “double-ditched barrow” which lies roughly 450m to the southeast of the Southern Henge, has been partially excavated and dated (through radio-carbon dating) to the period c.3800 to 3500BC; with a predominance of dates in the 3800-3600BC range (Harding pers comm.). The barrow appears to have had three consecutive phases of construction, it contained a ditch and three pits within its circuit. Two of the pits were interpreted as burial pits and contained quantities of fragmentary human bone relating to six individuals. The radio-carbon dates would place this feature in the Early Neolithic and perhaps make it the first known monument to be constructed in the environs of the Plan Area, however future archaeological work may identify other early remains.
- A6.14 The largest known monument constructed during the Early Neolithic period is the cursus (CP4). Originally it would have been a substantial monument, over 1.2 km long and 43 metres wide (Harding 2003, 13). It was identified from aerial photographs between 1945 and 1952 (St Joseph 1977) and comprised a double ditched avenue, aligned east west. Whilst an early date has been suggested for this feature (Harding & Johnson, 2004), archaeological investigation has not produced any dating evidence to corroborate this. Small scale excavations of the cursus which were undertaken by Nicholas in 1952 and Vatcher in 1955 (Vatcher 1960) did not produce any finds. Analysis of

the soils indicated that the fills of the cursus "...suggests a forest soil, - relatively close woodland under an oceanic climate with plentiful rainfall. From this we may conclude that the Thornborough cursus was constructed in the Pre-Bronze Age climatic phase." (Thomas 1955).

- A6.15 Even so, the cursus remains a poorly understood and dated phenomenon. Based on the available evidence collected since 1955 we can state that the monument had fallen into disuse prior to the construction of the Central Henge, however the date of its construction is still in question. As Jan Harding has stated in his recent work *"It is supposed, rather than demonstrated, that both the Cursus and the Oval Enclosure date to the fourth millennium BC"* (Harding, 2003, 2.2 para. 3).
- A6.16 Another possible cursus monument (CP5) has been identified to the east of the Northern Henge within the Plan Area. Surviving for a length of 240 metres and a width of 72 metres, the feature has a squared terminal immediately west of the Northern Double Pit Alignment (CP7). It is possible, but not proven that this feature is contemporary with CP4. Geophysical surveys undertaken by Jan Harding were inconclusive about the nature of this monument (Harding 1999b).
- A6.17 Of a less specific nature, other evidence for Early Neolithic activity was recovered predominantly from wide spaced surface collection undertaken by Newcastle University within the Thornborough Henge complex and environs. Early Neolithic lithics comprised around 14% of the total collected and included a number of leaf shaped arrowheads, polished axe fragments, a sickle fragment and various forms of scraper and retouched flakes (Harding & Johnson, 2004). This widespread, unfocussed distribution across the gravel terrace and around the monument complex has been interpreted as an increase in the population or level of activity from the Mesolithic period (Griffiths & Timms, 2005).
- A6.18 Other remains within the environs of the Plan Area that may date to the Early Neolithic period have also been recorded. Approximately 350m to the east of the cursus (CP4) a small oval cropmark was the subject of investigation in 1996. The excavations revealed a ditched enclosure 17 metres north-south by 25 metres east-west with a bank which suggested that the feature was originally an open monument. It has been suggested that this feature is of an Early Neolithic date from its similarity in shape with ploughed out long barrows and 'long mortuary enclosures'. As no finds were recovered during the excavation, however, it is impossible to corroborate this assumption without further excavation (Harding & Johnson, 2004).
- A6.19 The archaeological investigations on Nosterfield Quarry and in the work undertaken by Newcastle University record that all of the monuments have

been heavily degraded by the plough. With the exception of Double Ditched Round Barrow, no excavated examples retain even traces of their original mounds and even in this particular case the mound material had been reduced to a shallow spread. Topographic survey undertaken by the University of Newcastle in 2003 indicated that between 1864 and 2003 all of the remaining barrows in the Thornborough landscape had been reduced to less than 0.5m in height or were no longer visible (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 9).

Later Neolithic (3,400BC – 2300BC)

- A6.20 Archaeological evidence taken from work within the Plan Area and its environs indicates an increased level of activity in the Late Neolithic period. This activity is represented by an increase in the number of archaeological features at Nosterfield Quarry in addition to the quantity of material recovered during surface collection by Newcastle University within the Plan Area. It has been argued that this intensification of activity is contemporary with the construction of the Henges (Harding & Johnson, 2004).
- A6.21 Most of the lithic material within the Plan Area and at Nosterfield Quarry (Rowe, 2005) is not chronologically diagnostic and is consequently severely limited as a dating tool. The grouping of artefacts into a category of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age puts the finds into a temporal framework which covers a period of approximately 1000 years. In the absence of other dating material within a primary context these lithics have a limited value as dating evidence.

The Thornborough Henges

- A6.22 The three Henges (CP 1, 2 & 3) are the only particularly visible upstanding prehistoric archaeological remains in the Plan Area. Each Henge formerly consisted of a circular outer ditch (now only visible as a slight earthwork to the south-east of the Northern Henge CP1) with a large bank, berm and inner ditch all surrounding a flat circular inner area. The Henges are approximately 240m in diameter and are laid out in a broadly linear alignment over a distance of some 1.7km. The linear alignment of the Henges is extremely unusual, although the now ploughed down four Priddy Circles in the Mendips have a similar linear alignment.
- A6.23 The woodland covered Northern Henge (CP 1) is the best preserved of the three in terms of its physical form, although archaeological deposits within the Henge would have been disturbed by root action and burrowing animals. The inner ditch survives up to a depth of 2.6m with the bank standing up to 3.2m (Dennison 1996). In terms of its earthworks it is one of the best preserved Henges in the North of England (Harding and Lee 1987) and in the whole of the UK. The Central Henge (CP 2) survives in relatively good condition although its banks and ditches have been degraded, predominately in the 20th

century, by ploughing and other activity. However, its form and character are still clearly recognisable. This Henge was built over the earlier Cursus (CP 4). The Southern Henge (CP 3) is the least well preserved of the three Henges but although its banks and ditches have been denuded by ploughing and other activity it is still a prominent and striking feature whose form and layout can easily be appreciated.

A6.24 Despite being the subject of limited archaeological investigation since 1952, the Thornborough Henges are still a poorly understood phenomenon. Recent investigations of the Central Henge by Newcastle University have suggested that there were at least two phases of construction; the first comprised the excavation of an interrupted outer ditch with an external bank, the second the excavation of a substantial inner ditch and massive bank, the earthworks of which can be seen today. On the basis of its similarity with causewayed enclosures elsewhere, it has argued that first phase of construction may be Middle / Late Neolithic in date.

A6.25 The excavations on the Henges have failed to produce quantities of dating material and only one absolute date has been obtained so far. A single radio-carbon date resulting from the excavations at the Southern Henge (CP 3) produced a date of between 1,800 and 1,500BC for a small piece of charcoal recovered from the top of the primary fill of one ditch. This fill could have resulted from the re-cutting of the ditch at a later date and consequently this date tells us no more than the fact that the Henge was constructed before c.1800 to 1,500BC. Further investigation is required to accurately date all of the Henges as this would significantly enhance our understanding of the Plan Area.

A6.26 Over 120 henges have now been identified in the United Kingdom. The interpretation of the function and role of henges in later Neolithic society has been a matter for considerable debate for over 100 years. Current interpretations tend to consider Henges as centres for religious and / or ceremonial activity. They may have served local and more distant communities and perhaps in some cases acted as focal points for pilgrimages. As such they are viewed as highly significant and important places within later Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes. The study of henges and associated remains is therefore seen as important in the study of these two periods.

A6.27 Another aspect of the Thornborough Henges is their possible astronomical relationships. Recent work by Clive Ruggles (Ruggles 2005) has postulated that there are relationships, in terms of demonstrable alignments, between the layout and form of the Henges and astronomical features including Orion's Belt. Relationships between prehistoric monuments and the sun and moon

have been identified at a range of other sites e.g. Stonehenge but relationships between prehistoric sites and stellar phenomena are harder to identify and establish with any degree of confidence. Should these stellar relationships be confirmed through further analysis and study then this would make the Thornborough Henges a very rare and important site in terms of understanding these aspects of Neolithic cultures.

Other monuments

A6.28 Within the Plan Area there are also various features which have been recorded during aerial photographic analysis which may potentially be of Late Neolithic origin (CP14 – CP31). Further investigation of these features may well add to the archaeological significance of the Plan Area and add further to our understanding of it's development and use during this period.

Bronze Age (2,300BC - 700BC)

A6.29 In the Bronze Age the pollen record from Nosterfield Quarry indicates a period of substantial but temporary woodland clearance and agriculture. By the Bronze Age the climate in Britain appears to have been drier and warmer than it is today and in many areas this period is associated with an increased level of agricultural exploitation and forest clearance. Pollen evidence from Nosterfield Quarry indicates that a major phase of woodland reduction occurred at some point during this period (between 2,000BC and 1,000BC). This was associated with tree clearance and the cultivation of cereals.

A6.30 During the Bronze Age, the Henges appear to have remained significant landscape features, and formed a focal point for Bronze Age burials, often beneath barrows or within ring-ditches. Society in the Bronze Age has been traditionally characterised by a shift from communal power structures to those that focus on individual status and power, and superficially this interpretation would appear to fit with the nature of the known monuments (Harding 2000, 4). Although they have not yet been subjected to the same modern levels of investigation, the numerous Bronze Age barrows distributed around the wider landscape possibly indicates that a continued ideological significance was attached to this landscape during later centuries (Harding 2003).

A6.31 The double pit alignment excavated by Newcastle University in 1998 and 1999 (CP6) comprised two rows of forty four post pits 10m apart which were recorded for a distance of 350m. From the excavation results that are currently available it would appear that many of the features have been badly truncated by ploughing, in some cases only surviving to a depth of 0.25m. The dating evidence recovered during the excavation of the pits would indicate a Bronze Age origin.

A6.32 In the Plan Area's environs, Bronze Age activity is characterised by a series of barrows visible as cropmarks or recorded during excavation. The only feature of this type to be securely dated so far is a ring ditch that was excavated in the western half of Nosterfield Quarry. A burial central to this feature produced a radiocarbon date of 1,605 – 1,640BC and a badly truncated inhumation immediately outside it produced a date of 1,240 – 1,280BC. A group of ten cremations located to the north-east of this were focused around a second ring ditch and produced radiocarbon dates of between 1,000BC and 1,170BC (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 16). Four of these barrows were also subject to excavation in the 1860s (Lukis 1870a). Fortunately, Lukis and his contemporaries left some account of their activities, though the records are notably cursory. Prior to recent excavations at Nosterfield Quarry and the Plan Area these were the only 'archaeological' records pertaining to Bronze Age monuments in the immediate vicinity (FAS 2003, 7).

A6.33 Of those barrows excavated by Lukis (1870a 1870b), the first, known as Centre Hill (CP12), lies between the South and Central Henges, where a burial in a wood lined cist, interpreted by Lukis as a coffin, was recovered. A series of three barrows is located in a field to the north of the central henge, oriented SW/NE, giving 'Three Hills Field' its name (CP9 - CP11). Only one of these is located on modern Ordnance Survey maps (CP11), and the remains of the other two have been largely ploughed out (CP9 & CP10), although they can be seen as cropmarks and remain part of the Scheduled Monument. One of the mounds (CP10) contained only a scatter of cremated human bone, whilst the others revealed more complex structural evidence.

A6.34 With the exception of the Bronze Age elements within the lithic scatters, no evidence for settlement activity from this period has been recorded in excavations (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 16).

Iron Age (700BC - AD43)

A6.35 The Early Iron Age in Britain is characterised by a period of climatic decline. It is at this time that the widespread disappearance of woodland cover is recorded in the pollen record on many sites. This process was initially a gradual one which was triggered by an increase in rainfall and a drop in temperature but was later accelerated by the actions of people opening up the landscape for farming on a vast scale.

A6.36 The pollen record from Nosterfield Quarry records the gradual decline of woodland with a complete lack of indicators for agricultural clearance in the landscape in the middle of the 1st millennium BC. By the later Iron Age there is a dramatic increase in the presence of cereal, grass and weed pollen with a sharp decline in the few remaining tree types. This apparent opening up of the landscape around that area for cultivation is seemingly contemporary with the

division of the larger landscape in series of ditches and enclosure to the north and west of the quarry (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 5).

A6.37 By the Iron Age it appears that the Plan Area was no longer in intensive use as there is a lack of evidence for activity from the results of archaeological investigations to date. However, future investigations may well prove this statement to be inaccurate. There are various cropmarks within the Plan Area which could possibly represent Iron Age agricultural and settlement activity, cropmarks CP17 & CP26 would appear to be the most suitable candidates for further investigation.

A6.38 However, despite this assumption, Iron Age activity within the immediate environs of the Plan Area, both from palaeoenvironmental and archaeological remains, have been recorded during the on-going work at Nosterfield Quarry. This included a series of pit alignments and ditches recorded during excavations. These contained a quantity of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds in the upper fills indicating that they were still open and visible within the landscape until at least the Roman period. Human remains, radiocarbon dated to 40AD, were recovered from the top of one pit in the pit alignments. The analysis of the bones suggested that the body had been exhumed prior to careful burial in the pit, which at that time was already partially infilled. It is possible that these remains mark the southern end of an Iron Age estate, the majority of which was located on the limestone escarpment, and presumably more favourable soils to the north towards Well (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 17).

A6.39 Just to the north-east of Nosterfield Quarry on the gravel soils close to Well, there is evidence for burial and ritual deposition in the form of two square ditch enclosures. A study of the enclosures suggested that originally the ditch may have held a series of upright posts along its circuit. Whilst no dating material was found during the excavation, its form and association with a pit feature 8 metres to the south-east suggested that it was Iron Age in date. The pit contained the remains of four horses. The animals had been carefully laid out in two pairs, back to back in the bottom of a hole. Only the lower pair had survived intact due to later disturbance. Radio-carbon analysis of the horse bone provided a Late Iron Age/Early Roman date of between 15 and 85AD (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 17).

Roman Period (AD43 - AD450)

A6.40 Whilst the pollen evidence for the quarry does not survive beyond the Iron Age, evidence elsewhere in Britain indicates a similar vegetational history for the landscape throughout the Roman period. In northern Britain the creation of fields and opening up of the landscape is traditionally associated with stock management as opposed to intensive agriculture (Griffiths & Timms, 2005, 5).

- A6.41 It is thought that the Roman invasion of Yorkshire took place in AD69 and although there was continued unrest among the local tribes, it is clear from the majority of sites and finds that the area was well settled by the end of the second century AD.
- A6.42 Within the Plan Area there is very little currently known about Roman activity. A single find of a 1st century AD brooch was made during excavations at the Southern Henge. This find could have been the result of accidental deposition or deliberate action; it may have also been deposited at a later period. As such it can provide limited information on the Roman use of the Henges.
- A6.43 However, work at Nosterfield Quarry and around Well has once again provided further important evidence for activity in periods not well represented within the Plan Area. The settlement of the area around Well as evidenced by the Iron Age remains recorded north of Nosterfield Quarry, continued into the Roman period. A possible villa / estate was recorded in the village (Gilyard-Beer, 1951; Moorhouse 2005) and produced evidence for a bath house with a tessellated pavement, which was dated to 160-190 AD (Smith, 1969, 78). Fragments of building material, including a mosaic pavement, have also been found at Langwith House in secondary deposits (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 18).
- A6.44 In contrast to the funerary nature of earlier periods, Roman remains within the Plan Area's environs appear to have been associated primarily with agricultural activity. Such evidence has been found in the western part of Nosterfield Quarry and corresponds with the location of activity recorded in the Iron Age. A possible corn-drying kiln was excavated on the quarry. It comprised a series of large pits or chambers, a stone-built oven, a stoke hole, and associated post-holes. Archaeomagnetic dating of this feature provided a date for the last firing of the kiln between AD100 and AD180 (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 18).
- A6.45 A small number of pits in the vicinity of the kiln also produced Roman pottery. The pottery recovered from these pits, and from the upper fills of a number of pits in the Iron Age pit alignment, suggests that a highly Romanised settlement may have existed in the area probably at Well; a number of imported wares were identified, with amphorae, mortaria and various domestic vessels present (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 19).
- A6.46 The archaeological and historical evidence suggests that during the Roman period the environs of the Plan Area was part of an agricultural estate apparently centred on Well (Moorhouse 2005). This occupation appears to be focussed on the limestone soils to the west and north of Nosterfield as opposed to the gravel terraces and peat areas in and around the Henges. The

cropmark evidence supports this distribution and shows an extensive system of enclosures and ditches running towards Snape.

The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods (AD409 - AD1547)

- A6.47 The early medieval and medieval landscape of the Plan Area and its environs was characterised by a complex series of settlements and their associated field systems called “townships”. Several of these townships, such as West Tanfield and Wath appear to be in existence before the Norman invasion and are recorded in the Domesday book (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 19). Some of these townships may have had boundaries similar to the Roman estates that seemed to exist in the wider area.
- A6.48 These townships would have structured the landscape of the Plan Area and its wider environs and are therefore critical to understanding the development of this landscape throughout these periods. Initial work by Stephen Moorhouse (Moorhouse 2005) has begun to unpick this landscape through documentary analysis. Current evidence would indicate that the Henges were situated individually in three separate townships – Nosterfield, Thornbrough (this spelling of Thornborough is taken from the 1853 OS map and Moorhouse believes this to be the original spelling) and East Tanfield. The date that this division occurred is currently uncertain and may be later than AD1066.
- A6.49 This division of the Henges into three neighbouring townships may represent a desire on the part of local communities to include a Henge within their boundaries or may just reflect a need to supply different types of land and resources to different communities. The separation into the three areas was to have a profound affect on the survival of the three Henges.
- A6.50 The Central and Southern Henges were situated in the arable open fields of Thornborough and East Tanfield and this led to their erosion and alteration. Aerial photographs (WYAS, 2005) indicate that substantial areas of land to around the Central and Southern Thornborough Henges were once covered with ridge and furrow earthworks and archaeological evidence shows the area around these two Henges were cultivated (Griffiths & Timms 2005, 19). Geophysical survey undertaken by Newcastle University recorded evidence for furrows to the northeast of the Central Henge and subsequent test pitting confirmed the presence of a medieval soil (Harding & Johnson 2004). Excavations undertaken by Thomas and Newcastle University record that the inner ditches of the Henges were backfilled during this medieval period. The Northern Henge was however situated on common land which has in part led to the survival of its earthworks.
- A6.51 Place name evidence also represents some possible clues about the use and nature of the Henges in this period. For instance, Moorhouse (2005) argues that the name Nosterfield means “the sheepfold field” perhaps indicating the

use of the Northern Henge as a sheepfold or more sizable sheep farming complex in the open common land of the township. Thornburgh has been interpreted as “Thorn Hill” by Moorhouse (Moorhouse 2005). Given the fact that the area is relatively flat, Moorhouse suggests that the hill element may in fact refer to the Central Henge which was situated in the Thornborough township.

- A6.52 The most notable archaeological remains close to the Plan Area is the deserted settlement of East Tanfield, located 500 metres to the south of the Southern Henge. The presence of 14th and 15th century pottery, and an associated stone structure, discovered during excavations at the Southern Henge have been interpreted as suggesting the presence of a ‘fair’ associated with East Tanfield (FAS 2003, 26) or even a possible settlement (Moorhouse 2005).
- A6.53 Archaeological evidence from the wider environs includes evidence for burial, later ecclesiastical activity and settlement. Three areas are seen to be the foci for early medieval finds within this landscape, near Carthorpe to the north, to the south at Wath and to the west around Magdalen Field (Griffiths 1992). Further evidence of early medieval activity occurs in the region of Magdalen field, where finds of Anglian sculpture (Collingwood 1907; 1909-11) might indicate the presence of early foundations but further study of this site is required. The Domesday Book also mentions a church in existence at Well in 1086, which might be indicative of an early date for its foundation (Griffiths 1992).
- A6.54 In the 1870s, Reverend Lukis excavated burials at How Hill, near Carthorpe, to the northeast of Nosterfield. Lukis located and excavated four inhumation burials which were dated to the early medieval period, one of which had been truncated by the gravel quarrying that had begun to affect the landscape in the area. A further burial in the area might represent a continuation of this tradition, possibly of slightly later date. This burial was located near Camp Hill, at a prominent point in the landscape, and was described by Lukis as ‘*evidently of the Danish period*’ (Lukis 1870b, 180), due to the character of the iron sword and spearhead that were found with the inhumation.
- A6.55 The structure, form and use of the early medieval and medieval landscape of the Plan Area and its wider environs is currently poorly understood and further work on this is required. The role of the Henges in this landscape is also unclear. Current evidence could point to functional uses for the Henges and the division of the Henges between townships is a notable point that requires further analysis. It is clear however, that these periods are key to understanding the differential survival of the monuments.

Post-medieval (1547 – 1901)

- A6.56 Enclosure of fields took place prior to 1750 in some areas and this includes the area to the north east of West Tanfield and to the north of Nosterfield (FAS, 2003, 29; Moorhouse 2005), but for the most part the wider area was enclosed by Parliament in the 1790s. This resulted in the farming of larger fields as well as incorporation of previously 'common' land into ownership. The areas of Thornborough Moor, Tanfield Common and Nosterfield Common were enclosed in c.1796 and put to use as arable land. This resulted in the formation of new roads across the moor including Moor Lane and Green Lane (now only seen as a right of way and previously called Noster Road) within the environs of the Plan Area (Tonks, 4). The construction of Green Lane in the 1790s is shown on maps to have clipped the western edge of the north henge. Hedgerows which previously divided up small tracts of land were removed to create these larger fields (EDAS, 1998, 8; Moorhouse 2005).
- A6.57 On Jeffrey's Map dated 1771, the henges are shown as lying within an open landscape and by 1792 in the schedule attached to the map of the Lordships of East and West Tanfield the Northern Henge is described as being a plantation, although the map itself does not depict the henge as being wooded (EDAS, 1998, 7; Moorhouse 2005). This northern henge has remained wooded and un-cultivated from the 1790s until present day. By 1838 the agricultural activity in the area is predominantly arable and this included the Central and Southern Henges.
- A6.58 Extraction industries have taken place within the environs of the Plan Area since the Roman period, however the extraction of gravel and limestone increased during the post-medieval period. Numerous small quarries are shown on maps dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, some of which are described as disused or 'old' indicating the foundation of this industry prior to the post medieval period (FAS, 2003, 28). Extraction has taken place around Chapel Hill close to the Plan Area. Equally limestone extraction has taken place to the west of Nosterfield.

Modern (1901 – present day)

- A6.59 Mineral extraction within the Plan Area environs has taken place over large tracts of land. In particular this is concentrated to the west of the Henges and to the north and east of Nosterfield. Between the 1950s – 1970s quarrying has removed the land immediately to the west of the Central Henge and removed a portion of the bank and the outer henge ditch (Griffiths, 2004). A series of archaeological features have been destroyed through quarrying, most of which have been subject to archaeological recording. These features include barrows, the western end of the Cursus, pit groups and alignments, cemeteries and field systems.

- A6.60 The Central Henge was used as a munitions dump during World War II (CP33) when parts of the bank were removed to accommodate the armaments (Harding & Johnson 2004).
- A6.61 In addition to extraction, the landscape during the 20th century has been subject to intensive agricultural practices such as deep ploughing and potato farming. This intensive activity has taken place for most of the 20th century over the Henges themselves and adjacent land. The exception to this is the Northern Henge, where a plantation was created in the 1790s which remains to the present day. There is little evidence of the ridge and furrow earthworks associated with the strip farming practise which took place near Thornborough, presumably due to the modern day ploughing which has removed these earthworks.
- A6.62 In the 1960s the Southern Henge was bulldozed in an attempt to level the earthwork and the outside edge of the south henge has been sliced away due to ploughing. It also appears that a similar event occurred on western side of the Northern Henge where part of the bank has been removed (Author, site visit July 2005).
- A6.63 In 1998 a stewardship agreement was put into place at the two southernmost Henges and the area linking the three Henges in order to protect the monuments from any further damaging from cultivation.



Appendix 7:
English Heritage Policy
Statement on Restoration,
Reconstruction & Speculative
Recreation of Archeological
Sites including Ruins



**ENGLISH HERITAGE
POLICY STATEMENT
ON
RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND SPECULATIVE RECREATION
OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES INCLUDING RUINS**

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Annex One	The Venice Charter
Annex Two	The Lausanne Charter: International Charter for Archaeological Heritage Management
Annex Three	The Riga Charter on Authenticity and Historical Reconstruction in Relationship to Cultural Heritage
Annex Four	The Nara Document on Authenticity
Annex Five	English Policy Guidance on Reconstruction
Annex Six	Summary of Requirements for Documentation

February 2001

Introduction, Scope and Definitions

- 1 The aim of conserving the historic environment is to hand on to future generations what we value. Conservation involves many activities – maintenance, repair, use, access and interpretation. In some instances, conservation can also involve restoration, reconstruction or replication of historic fabric, usually as part of a programme of public interpretation. Unfortunately, such work also has the potential to damage places. Therefore, international and national guidance is that restoration or reconstruction of historic buildings and ruins should be approached cautiously and never carried out on a speculative basis.
- 2 This Policy Statement provides advice on how this general guidance should be applied to archaeological sites including ruins. It is intended primarily for those sites managed for public access or conserved as archaeological ruins. It is not intended to provide advice for the treatment of buildings in beneficial use (though it may apply to proposals for conversion of ruins to such use), for historic gardens and designed landscapes. Special consideration will also need to be given to buildings ruined by contemporary disasters such as fires
- 3 Industrial archaeological sites may also require special consideration, particularly with regard to the repair or restoration of machinery. Very often, much of the significance of the site may lie in the fact that the machinery is still capable of use. These guidelines should not be interpreted to prevent the restoration or reconstruction of machinery whose continued use is an integral part of the site's significance. The restoration, reconstruction or speculative recreation of machinery which was part of the original concept of the site but has subsequently been removed is a different matter. Proposals for this will be considered in the terms of this policy.
- 4 The advice in this Statement is intended to amplify and reinforce the well established criteria set out in *PPG15, Planning and the Historic Environment* and *PPG16, Archaeology and Planning*. It will be applied by English Heritage in its own work and is commended to others for adoption as best practice.
- 5 In this Statement, the following definitions have been used:

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material¹

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from **restoration** by the introduction of new material into the fabric²

Re-creation means speculative creation of a presumed earlier state on the basis of surviving evidence from that place and other sites and on deductions drawn from that evidence, using new materials

Replication means the construction of a copy of a structure or building, usually on

¹ *The Burra Charter* (ICOMOS Australia, 1999) Article 1.7

² *The Burra Charter* (ICOMOS Australia, 1999) Article 1.8

another site or nearby.

International Policy Background

- 6 Expert international opinion has been summarised in the Venice Charter (1964) (Annex 1), the ICOMOS Lausanne Charter for Archaeological Heritage Management (1990) (Annex 2), and most recently the Riga Charter (Annex 3).
- 7 The Venice Charter (Articles 9 - 13) adopts a cautious approach to restoration, saying that it must stop at the point that conjecture begins. In Article 15, restoration of archaeological sites is ruled out except for the re-assembly of existing but dismembered parts of the site (anastylosis).
- 8 The Lausanne Charter for Archaeological Heritage Management (Article 7) recognises the uses of reconstructions for experimental research and interpretation. It says that reconstruction '*should, however, be carried out with great caution, so as to avoid disturbing any surviving archaeological evidence, and they should take account of evidence from all sources in order to achieve authenticity. Where possible and appropriate, reconstructions should not be built immediately on the archaeological remains, and should be identifiable as such*'.
- 9 Most recently, a regional meeting in Eastern Europe has agreed the Riga Charter (2000) which has wider application (Annex 3). The Charter re-establishes the presumption against reconstruction except in very special circumstances and reiterates that it must in no way be speculative
- 10 Such Charters are of course for guidance only, but do represent the common views of the relevant professions at a particular point in time. These three charters, produced over a period of nearly 40 years demonstrate a consistent presumption against speculative recreation of the cultural heritage.
- 11 International Conventions are binding treaties once ratified by the state concerned, but contain little reference to reconstruction. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972, ratified by the UK in 1984, does not itself mention restoration, but its **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention**, UNESCO 1998, stress that World Heritage Sites must:
meet the test of authenticity in design, material, workmanship or setting and in the case of cultural landscapes their distinctive character and components (the Committee stressed that reconstruction is only acceptable if it is carried out on the basis of complete and detailed documentation of the original and to no extent on conjecture). (para 24(b)(I).
- 12 The World Heritage Committee has decided to follow the Nara Declaration on Authenticity (Annex 4) in assessing whether or not sites with which it deals retain their authenticity. Effectively the Declaration says that authenticity must be judged within the context of the particular cultural area and tradition of the world within which the site concerned is located. There is a strong European tradition placing a high worth on the conservation of the original fabric or structure as evidence of past human activity which should be conserved for future generations.

English Policy Background

- 13 There is a strong presumption against restoration in British building conservation practice, based on the influential writings of William Morris and John Ruskin. The presumption in UK guidance on the treatment of historic buildings and ruins is that restoration or reconstruction is something that should be approached cautiously and never carried out on a speculative basis. This is summarised in official guidance such as PPG 15 (Annex C, paras C5 - C6), the British Standard on The principles of the conservation of historic buildings (BS7913: (1998); paras 6.2.4 (e), 7.3.2.1-3), and in English Heritage's own publications (e.g. Brereton, Principles of Repair, pp 5-6) (see Annex 5 of the Draft Guidelines). General guidance and policy therefore is that speculative reconstruction is wrong because it may damage original fabric and may affect authenticity.
- 14 In practice, each case has been approached on its merits within these general guidelines and judgement has been based on a wide variety of factors. These include the impact of the proposal on the significance of the site including its fabric and appearance, the academic basis for what is proposed and whether what is proposed is reversible.
- 15 In addition to the effect of what is proposed on the integrity of the site or structure itself, any proposals also have to be considered, as with any other proposed development, in terms of their impact on the local environment and how they meet agreed planning policies contained within Local Plans and other guidance.
- 16 These general principles hold good for both buildings in use and for ruins and archaeological sites. Restorations or reconstructions of ruins and archaeological sites are more problematic than those of buildings in use, because less evidence survives and the potential for speculative work is higher. Reconstruction can also frequently be more destructive of significant fabric or structures. There can also be more pressure for recreations of structures or parts of structures.

Current Practice on Restoration, Reconstruction and Recreation on archaeological sites, including ruins

- 17 In England, there is a strong presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological sites and their settings, set out most clearly in PPG16. Any intervention on an archaeological site, including ruins, has the potential to change character and substance. Excavation removes deposits which cannot be replaced, and even the repair of masonry or other structures inevitably introduces changes. In order to minimise such changes and preserve the fabric, evidential quality and character of each site as far as possible, English Heritage policy is to carry out the minimum conservation work necessary for the long term survival and, where possible, display of a site. Any decisions on what should be done to a site must be derived from a thorough understanding of that site and its significance and values.
- 18 Preservation of the surviving fabric and archaeological deposits is fundamental because such fabric is, in effect a historical document which should be capable of re-appraisal by future scholars. Such preservation is an essential part of maintaining the authenticity and integrity of such sites

- 19 Substantial interventions can mislead future generations in the matter of original form and appearance of monuments (by its nature any restoration, reconstruction or replication is only as good as the extent of knowledge at the time it was built and can quickly become out-dated). There is also the potential damage that substantial reconstruction or recreation might do to the original fabric. For these reasons even valid additions to a monument must be 'reversible' so that the original fabric is available for reassessment.
- 20 The removal of later 'accretions' or changes to a site can damage a place either through the loss of historical information about how that place was constructed, used or altered through time (perhaps in association with significant events or people), or through loss of its aesthetic qualities.
- 21 Buried archaeological remains may also be damaged through excavation and subsequent exposure to weathering and to potential damage through vegetation growth. Once exposed, archaeological remains generate a long term requirement for regular maintenance.
- 22 This is not to say that nothing can or should be done which adds to the surviving remains. The treatment of ancient monuments over the past century has allowed the replacement of fallen details, the reconstruction of certain elements for which there can be no doubt, reformation of earthworks in some instances and the occasional restoration or reconstruction of some elements of a building in order to give structural stability to the whole. Examples of this approach can be seen on various sites and it has been used for masonry, timber and earthwork features.
- 23 Limited reinstatement of masonry has normally been carried out for structural reasons. Elsewhere, the heightening of low walls has been related to health and safety or to create a sacrificial layer which can protect historical masonry from weathering. .
- 24 Quite substantial restoration and reconstruction of timber buildings for display has been carried out on the basis of surviving evidence. The reasons have been the better conservation of the surviving fabric and the improved understanding of the building that results from greater clarity of its form and structure. The necessary works were preceded by exhaustive analysis of the buildings which provided the basis for the work.
- 25 Like any other type of site, earthworks are subject to decay and damage. A standard technique for repair of earthwork sites, damaged for example through cattle poaching, involves the restoration of turf and areas of lost fill.
- 26 As part of a programme of interpretation and display, defensive ditches may be excavated to their original profile or ramparts recreated. Again, such features once exposed, require long term maintenance.
- 27 English Heritage also recognises that it is desirable on some occasions to make additions to a site or to an individual structure within a site. This can be for repair needs (for example the reinstatement of a roof to protect the interior of a ruin or the reinstatement of a missing timber or stone in order to improve structural integrity).

- 28 Additions to a site may also be appropriate as part of a programme of development, such as the provision of visitor services or to bring it back into some other beneficial use. In such cases, restoration or reconstruction of elements of a site may be an appropriate design solution in some instances. In others, modern but sympathetic design may be a more suitable approach. As noted above (para 16), the decision on what course should be adopted will depend on an assessment of the values and significance of the site and what is the most appropriate solution to protect them.
- 29 In certain exceptional cases, very strong arguments are made for the recreation of buildings or structures. Such arguments normally relate not to repair needs of the site but to the development of the site for education or tourism, or to generate revenue. The case for re-creation can also be argued on the basis of the knowledge it will bring about how a building was built or used. It is recognised that such full scale recreations can be powerful tools for interpretation, but this should not be achieved at the expense of original fabric or significance, or with the loss of the evidential quality of the site. A more acceptable approach in many cases may be recreation on a different site.

English Heritage Policy on restoration, reconstruction, and recreation on archaeological sites including ruins

- 30 **The conservation of an archaeological site may potentially involve an element of restoration or reconstruction as well as repair, alteration, use, management and interpretation. The aim of conservation is to retain the significance of the site and to avoid damage. Therefore, as in the case of any proposals for works to elements of the historic environment, the significance of what is affected must be properly understood before proposals can be formulated leading to decisions about the scope of alterations or repairs.**
- 31 **Within that overall need, English Heritage believes that its current approach to restoration and reconstruction as set out above is in accordance with international and national guidance and is wholly justified in terms of its duty to conserve the evidence of the historic environment. It will continue, therefore, to consider proposals for restoration or reconstruction as it has done in the past, and will judge each proposal on its merits and within an overall assessment of how the works proposed will impact on the significance of the site concerned.**
- 32 **Significance involves a detailed understanding of the historic fabric of the site and how it has changed through time, and then an assessment of the values – both historic and contemporary – ascribed to that fabric. Significance may lie both in the earliest phase of the site, and in any changes to it. If the site has been deliberately ruined in the past, this may be an important factor of the site’s significance as may its previous history of repair and conservation. Any assessment of significance should be based on an appropriate programme of conservation-based research, analysis and investigation.**
- 33 **In order to establish whether or not a proposal for repair, restoration or recreation is appropriate, it will then be necessary to assess the impacts of any proposals on the significance of the site and to establish whether any damage can be mitigated. Proposals which damage the significance of the site – and where that damage cannot be mitigated through careful design or the consideration of**

alternative solutions - are not likely to be acceptable.

- 34 If proposals for restoration or reconstruction are intended in whole or in part to improve a site's interpretation, it is essential to consider whether the same result can be achieved by other means.**
- 35 It is also important that those proposing such works assess the long term requirement and cost of maintenance, and can demonstrate that such work can be sustained economically**
- 36 English Heritage will in no case support proposals for speculative recreation. Nor will English Heritage support proposals which destroy, or damage significant original fabric or archaeological deposits.**
- 37 Any proposals for restoration or reconstruction must be acceptable in terms of their impact not only upon the site itself but also on its setting. They must therefore be acceptable also in the context of the local planning authority's development plan.**

Criteria for assessing proposals for restoration or reconstruction

- 38 Subsequent paragraphs set out more detailed criteria and the information which will be required by English Heritage in order to come to a view on the acceptability or otherwise of particular proposals. The amount of information and detail required will obviously vary according to the nature of what is proposed.
- 39 Early consultation of English Heritage is advisable since this may prevent abortive work in working up a full proposal. Early consultation of the local planning authority and County Archaeologist is also advisable. If proposals are likely to affect nationally important habitats (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and/or species (particularly bats), the local office of English Nature should also be consulted at an early stage.
- 40 Proposals for restoration, reconstruction or recreation should retain the significance of the site.
- 41 Proposals must be based on a full understanding of the fabric of a site – including buried and above ground structures, as well as landscape, ecology, planting and habitats, and an assessment of how that fabric is significant. The assessment of significance should address archaeological potential and importance, as well as aesthetic, landscape, natural, community, spiritual and other values. This list is not exhaustive.
- 42 Proposals for restoration or reconstruction should be framed within an overall conservation strategy for the site showing how they will contribute to retaining the site's significance. In all but the most minor cases there will need to be an agreed Conservation Plan or Conservation Statement for the site based on a full understanding and analysis of its significance and ways in which all its values are vulnerable.
- 43 Proposals must not damage the original fabric or archaeological context of the site since these should be available for future study. Their implementation should not

adversely affect archaeological contexts elsewhere including stratified deposits below ground as well as visible structures above it. Nor should they adversely affect the setting or appearance of the site, or other non-archaeological values (eg wildlife habitat and associated species).

- 44 Proposals must not be hypothetical or speculative but based on the best available evidence, which must be sufficient in terms of quality and quantity to justify the detailed design of the scheme.
- 45 Proposals must be reversible so that they can be removed if they are subsequently shown to be wrong.
- 46 It should be demonstrated that the future maintenance and repair of any works proposed is economically sustainable
- 47 Any restoration or reconstruction should be clearly distinguishable from original fabric, whilst still being visually acceptable; the grounds for restoration or reconstruction should be clearly explained to visitors.
- 48 Proposals must be acceptable in terms of policies contained in the relevant Local Plan or similar guidance.

Information required by English Heritage

- 49 In order to judge whether the proposals meet the criteria set out above, English Heritage will need information under the following headings. Early consultation with English Heritage, before the scheme is developed, may be helpful in determining how much information is required in support of a particular proposal
 - i An understanding of the site, which includes a description of the site and statement of its significance, an analysis of how that significance is vulnerable and a set of policies for the future management, use and repair of the site. In all but the most minor cases, this should be in the form of a Conservation Statement or Conservation Plan; it should be accompanied by a set of overall management objectives and proposals.
 - ii If the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on surviving fabric or be contentious, it may be useful to use the Conservation Plan or Statement to undertake an initial options appraisal to select the least damaging option, before working up detailed designs. Early discussions with English Heritage or the local planning authority should be carried out at this stage.
 - iii Once the least damaging option has been selected, more detailed survey and analysis of the fabric which will be affected by the proposals should be prepared. More detail on what is required is contained in Annex 6.
 - iv assessment of the impact of the proposal on the archaeology and the historic fabric of the site in the form of a table, which identifies the proposals, the significance of the fabric affected, the impact of the new work, and any mitigation measures identified. This should include an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the setting of the site and on any non-

archaeological value, including wildlife habitats and associated species, together with proposals for any necessary mitigation measures; as well as assessment of the impact of the proposal in terms of Local Plan policies or similar guidance

- v identification and assessment of anachronistic features proposed as part of the work as a consequence of current legislation or building practice
 - vi Where an otherwise beneficial scheme may cause minor losses of fabric, a full archaeological mitigation strategy will be required, including detailed description of the methods to be used to record features that will be lost.
 - vii full analysis of the proposal against available evidence from the site concerned and elsewhere. Although evidence from elsewhere can be useful, greater weight should be attached to the information available at the site where the reconstruction is proposed;
 - viii A justification for the work, in terms of an analysis of the long-term benefits of the proposals, which should relate to the defined values of the site and should identify both direct benefits to the site as well as other wider benefits and an assessment of the research benefits of the proposals, both during planning and execution and subsequently during the life of the reconstruction;
 - ix assessment of educational and interpretational gain;
 - x assessment of the extent to which the identified benefits of the proposals could be achieved either by reconstruction alongside or near to the original, or through other forms of interpretation and representation of the original structure as it might once have been
 - xi full financial assessment of the proposal and its long-term impact on the site's future maintenance and viability;
 - xi feasibility study of the practicality of what is proposed.
- 50 In each case, English Heritage's advice or decision will be based on an assessment of the impact of the proposals on the overall significance of the site as well as directly on its archaeological content.

ANNEX 1

THE VENICE CHARTER

Imbued with a message from the past, the historic monuments of generations of people remain to the present day as living witnesses of their age-old traditions. People are becoming more and more conscious of the unity of human values and regard ancient monuments as a common heritage. The common responsibility to safeguard them for future generations is recognised. It is our duty to hand them on in the full richness of their authenticity.

It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions.

By defining these basic principles for the first time, the Athens Charter of 1931 contributed towards the development of an extensive international movement which has assumed concrete form in national documents, in the work of ICOM and UNESCO and in the establishment by the latter of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property. Increasing awareness and critical study have been brought to bear on problems which have continually become more complex and varied; now the time has come to examine the Charter afresh in order to make a thorough study of the principles involved and to enlarge its scope in a new document.

Accordingly, the IInd International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments which met in Venice from May 25th to 31st 1964, approved the following text:

DEFINITIONS

Article 1: The concept of an historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilisation, a significant development or an historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time.

Article 2: The conservation and restoration of monuments must have recourse to all the sciences and techniques which can contribute to the study and safeguarding of the architectural heritage.

AIM

Article 3: The intention in conserving and restoring monuments is to safeguard them no less as works of art than as historical evidence.

CONSERVATION

Article 4: It is essential to the conservation of monuments that they be maintained on a permanent basis.

- Article 5:** The conservation of monuments is always facilitated by making use of them for some socially useful purpose. Such use is therefore desirable but it must not change the lay-out or decoration of the building. It is within these limits only that modifications demanded by a change of function should be envisaged and may be permitted.
- Article 6:** The conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting which is not out of scale. Wherever the traditional setting exists, it must be kept. No new construction, demolition or modification which would alter the relations of mass and colour must be allowed.
- Article 7:** A monument is inseparable from the history to which it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs. The moving of all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except where the safeguarding of that monument demands it or where it is justified by national or international interests of paramount importance.
- Article 8:** Items of sculpture, painting or decoration which form an integral part of a monument may only be removed from it if this is the sole means of ensuring their preservation.

RESTORATION

- Article 9:** The process of restoration is a highly specialised operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the monument and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and in this case moreover any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp. The restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by an archaeological and historical study of the monument.
- Article 10:** Where traditional techniques prove inadequate, the consolidation of a monument can be achieved by the use of any modern technique for conservation and construction, the efficacy of which has been shown by scientific data and proved by experience.
- Article 11:** The valid contributions of all periods to the building of a monument must be respected, since unity of style is not the aim of a restoration. When a building includes the superimposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is removed is of little interest and the material which is brought to light is of great historical, archaeological or aesthetic value, and its state of preservation good enough to justify the action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work.
- Article 12:** Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence.
- Article 13:** Additions cannot be allowed except in so far as they do not detract from the

interesting parts of the building, its traditional setting, the balance of its composition and its relation with its surroundings.

HISTORIC SITES

Article 14: The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner. The work of conservation and restoration carried out in such places should be inspired by the principles set forth in the foregoing articles.

EXCAVATIONS

Article 15: Excavations should be carried out in accordance with scientific standards and the recommendation defining international principles to be applied in the case of archaeological excavation adopted by UNESCO in 1956.

Ruins must be maintained and measures necessary for the permanent conservation and protection of architectural features and of objects discovered must be taken. Furthermore, every means must be taken to facilitate the understanding of the monument and to reveal it without ever distorting its meaning.

All reconstruction work should however be ruled out *a priori*. Only anastylosis, that is to say, the reassembling of existing but dismembered parts can be permitted. The material used for integration should always be recognisable and its use should be the least that will ensure the conservation of a monument and the reinstatement of its form.

PUBLICATION

Article 16: In all works of preservation, restoration or excavation, these should always be precise documentation in the form of analytical and critical reports, illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Every stage of the work of clearing, consolidation, rearrangement and integration, as well as technical and formal features identified during the course of the work, should be included. This record should be placed in the archives of a public institution and made available to research workers. It is recommended that the report should be published.

THE LAUSANNE CHARTER

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

It is widely recognized that a knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of human societies is of fundamental importance to humanity in identifying its cultural and social roots.

The archaeological heritage constitutes the basic record of past human activities. Its protection and proper management it therefore essential to enable archaeologists and other scholars to study and interpret it on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future generations.

The protection of this heritage cannot be based upon the application of archaeological techniques alone. It requires a wider basis of professional and scientific knowledge and skills. Some elements of the archaeological heritage are components of architectural structures and in such cases must be protected in accordance with the criteria for the protection of such structures laid down in the 1966 Venice Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites. Other elements of the archaeological heritage constitute part of the living traditions of indigenous peoples, and for such sites and monuments the participation of local cultural groups is essential for their protection and preservation.

For these and other reasons the protection of the archaeological heritage must be based upon effective collaboration between professionals from many disciplines. It also requires the cooperation of government authorities, academic researchers, private or public enterprise, and the general public. This Charter therefore lays down principles relating to the different aspects of archaeological heritage management. These include the responsibilities of public authorities and legislators, principles relating to the professional performance of the processes of inventorization, survey, excavation, documentation, research, maintenance, conservation, preservation, reconstruction, information, presentation, public access and use of the heritage and the qualification of professionals involved in the protection of the archaeological heritage.

The charter has been inspired by the success of the Venice Charter as guidelines and source of ideas for policies and practice of governments as well as scholars and professionals.

The charter has to reflect very basic principles and guidelines with global validity. For this reason it cannot take into account the specific problems and possibilities of regions or countries. The charter should therefore be supplemented at regional and national level by further principles and guidelines for these needs.

Article 1 Definition and introduction

The 'archaeological heritage' is that part of the material heritage in respect of which archaeological methods provide primary information. It comprises all vestiges of human

existence and consists of places relating to all manifestations of human activity, abandoned structures, and remains of all kinds (including subterranean and underwater sites), together with all the portable cultural material associated with them.

Article 2 Integrated protection policies

The archaeological heritage is a fragile and non-renewable cultural resource. Land use must therefore be controlled and developed in order to minimize the destruction of the archaeological heritage.

Policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage should constitute an integral component of policies relating to land use, development, and planning as well as of cultural environmental and educational policies. **The policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage should be kept under continual review, so that they stay up to date.** The creation of archaeological reserves should form part of such policies.

The protection of the archaeological heritage should be integrated into planning policies at international, national, regional and local level.

Active participation by the general public must form part of policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage. This is essential where the heritage of indigenous peoples is involved. Participation must be based upon access to the knowledge necessary for decision-making. The provision of information to the general public is therefore an important element in integrated protection.

Article 3 Legislation and economy

The protection of the archaeological heritage should be considered as a moral obligation upon all human beings; it is also a collective public responsibility. This obligation must be acknowledged through relevant legislation and the provision of adequate funds for the supporting programmes necessary for effective heritage management.

The archaeological heritage is common to all human society and it should therefore be the duty of every country to ensure that adequate funds are available for its protection.

Legislation should afford protection to the archaeological heritage that is appropriate to the needs, history, and traditions of each country and region, providing for in situ protection and research needs.

Legislation should be based on the concept of the archaeological heritage as the heritage of all humanity and of groups of peoples, and not restricted to any individual person or nation.

Legislation should forbid the destruction, degradation or alteration through changes of any archaeological site or monument or to their surroundings without the consent of the relevant archaeological authority.

Legislation should in principle require full archaeological investigation and documentation in cases where the destruction of the archaeological heritage is authorized.

Legislation should require, and make provision for, the proper maintenance, **management** and conservation of the archaeological heritage.

Adequate legal sanctions should be prescribed in respect of violations of archaeological heritage legislation.

If legislation affords protection only to those elements of the archaeological heritage which are registered in a selective statutory inventory, provision should be made for the temporary protection of unprotected or newly discovered sites and monuments until an archaeological evaluation can be carried out.

Development projects constitute one of the greatest physical threats to the archaeological heritage. A duty for developers to ensure that archaeological heritage impact studies are carried out before development schemes are implemented, should therefore be embodied in appropriate legislation, with a stipulation that the costs of such studies are to be included in project costs. The principle should also be established in legislation that development schemes should be designed in such a way as to minimize impact upon archaeological heritage.

Article 4 Survey

The protection of the archaeological heritage must be based upon the fullest possible knowledge of its extent and nature. General survey of archaeological resource is therefore an essential working tool in developing strategies for the protection of the archaeological heritage. Consequently archaeological survey should be a basic obligation in the protection and management of the archaeological heritage.

At the same time, inventories constitute primary resource databases for scientific study and research. The compilation of inventories should therefore be regarded as a continuous, dynamic process. It follows that inventories should comprise information at various levels of significance and reliability, since even superficial knowledge can form the starting point for protectional measures.

Article 5 Investigation

Archaeological knowledge is based principally on the scientific investigation of the archaeological heritage. Such investigation embraces the whole range of methods from non-destructive techniques through sampling to total excavation.

It must be an over-riding principle that the gathering of information about the archaeological heritage should not destroy any more archaeological evidence than is necessary for the protectional or scientific objectives of the investigation. Non-destructive techniques, aerial and ground survey, and sampling should therefore be encouraged wherever possible, in preference to total excavation.

As excavation always implies the necessity of making a selection of evidence to be documented and preserved at the cost of losing other information and possibly even the total destruction of the monument, a decision to excavate should only be taken after thorough consideration.

Excavation should be carried out on sites and monuments threatened by development, land-use change, lotting, or natural deterioration.

In exceptional cases, unthreatened sites may be excavated to elucidate research problems or to

interpret them more effectively for the purpose of presenting them to the public. In such cases excavation must be preceded by thorough scientific evaluation of the significance of the site. Excavation should be partial, leaving a portion undisturbed for future research.

A report conforming to an agreed standard should be made available to the scientific community and should be incorporated in the relevant inventory within a reasonable period after the conclusion of the excavation.

Excavations should be conducted in accordance with the principles embodied in the 1956 UNESCO Recommendations on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations and with agreed international and national professional standards.

Article 6 Maintenance and conservation

The overall objective of archaeological heritage management should be the preservation of monuments and sites in situ **including proper long term conservation and curation of all related records and collections etc.** Any transfer of elements of the heritage to new locations represents a violation of the principle of preserving the heritage in its original context. This principle stresses the need for proper maintenance, conservation and management. It also asserts the principle that archaeological heritage should not be exposed by excavation or left exposed after excavation if provision for its proper maintenance and management after excavation cannot be guaranteed.

Local commitment and participation should be actively sought and encouraged as a means of promoting the maintenance of the archaeological heritage. This principle is especially important when dealing with the heritage of indigenous peoples or local cultural groups. In some cases it may be appropriate to entrust responsibility for the protection and management of sites and monuments to indigenous peoples.

Owing to the inevitable limitations of available resources, active maintenance will have to be carried out on a selective basis. It should therefore be applied to a sample of the diversity of sites and monuments, based upon a scientific assessment of their significance and representative character, and not confined to the more notable and visually attractive monuments.

The relevant principles of the 1956 UNESCO Recommendations should be applied in respect of the maintenance and conservation of the archaeological heritage.

Article 7 Presentation, information, reconstruction

The presentation of the archaeological heritage to the general public is an essential method of promoting an understanding of the origins and development of modern societies. At the same time it is the most important means of promoting an understanding of the need for its protection.

Presentation and information should be conceived as a popular interpretation of the current state of knowledge, and it must therefore be revised frequently. It should take account of the multi-faceted approaches to an understanding of the past.

Reconstructions serve two important functions: experimental research and interpretation. They should, however, be carried out with great caution, so as to avoid disturbing any

surviving archaeological evidence, and they should take account of evidence from all sources in order to achieve authenticity. Where possible and appropriate, reconstructions should not be built immediately on the archaeological remains, and should be identifiable as such.

Article 8 Professional qualifications

High academic standards in many different disciplines are essential in the management of the archaeological heritage. The training of an adequate number of qualified professionals in the relevant fields of expertise should therefore be an important objective for the educational policies in every country. The need to develop expertise in certain highly specialised fields calls for international cooperation. Standards of professional training and professional conduct should be established and maintained.

The objective of academic archaeological training should take account of the shift in conservation policies from excavation to in situ preservation. It should also take into account the fact that the study of the history of indigenous peoples is an important in preserving and understanding the archaeological heritage as the study of outstanding monuments and sites.

The protection of the archaeological heritage is a process of continuous dynamic development. Time should therefore be made available to professionals working in this field to enable them to update their knowledge. Postgraduate training programmes should be developed with special emphasis on the protection and management of the archaeological heritage.

Article 9 International cooperation

The archaeological heritage is the common heritage of all humanity. International cooperation is therefore essential in developing and maintaining standards in its management.

There is an urgent need to create international mechanisms for the exchange of information and experience among professionals dealing with archaeological heritage management. This requires the organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops etc on global as well as regional level, and the establishment of regional centres for postgraduate studies. ICOMOS, through its specialised groups, should promote this aspect in its medium and long term planning.

International exchanges of professional staff should also be developed as a means of raising standards of archaeological heritage management.

Technical assistance programmes in the field of archaeological heritage management should be developed under the auspices of ICOMOS.

THE RIGA CHARTER

ON AUTHENTICITY AND HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION IN RELATIONSHIP TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

We, the delegations of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, together with colleagues from ICCROM, Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, assembled here in Riga, Latvia, from 23rd to 24th October, 2000, for the Regional Conference on *Authenticity and Historical Reconstruction in Relationship to Cultural Heritage*, initiated by ICCROM, at the invitation of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia, in co-operation with the World Heritage Committee, and the Cultural Capital Foundation of Latvia,

recognising

that the body of international opinion as stated in the Venice Charter (1964) and other ICOMOS doctrinal texts including the Burra Charter (1979), the Florence Charter (1981), the Declaration of Dresden (1982), the Lausanne Charter (1990) and the Nara Document (1994), as well as, the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the UNESCO Nairobi Recommendation (1976) establish a presumption against reconstruction³ of the cultural heritage⁴, and

excepting circumstances where reconstruction is necessary for the survival of the place; where a 'place' is incomplete through damage or alteration; where it recovers the cultural significance of a 'place'; or in response to tragic loss through disasters whether of natural or human origin,

providing always that reconstruction can be carried out without conjecture or compromising existing *in situ* remains, and that any reconstruction is legible, reversible, and the least necessary for the conservation and presentation of the site,

noting that particularly in countries which have recently regained their independence, issues of reconstruction and authenticity have become of particular concern, because of the large number of proposals now being planned and realised,

agree that

1. the value of cultural heritage is as evidence, tangible or intangible, of past human activity, and that intervention of any kind, even for safeguarding, inevitably affects that evidential quality, and so should be kept to the minimum necessary,
2. the maintenance and repair of cultural heritage should be the primary focus of current conservation work, recognising that each historical period has its own particular style⁵

³ *Reconstruction*: evocation, interpretation, restoration or replication of a previous form

⁴ *Cultural heritage*: monuments, groups of buildings and sites and landscapes of cultural value as defined in Article 1 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention

⁵ *Style can be precisely identified by its morphological, aesthetic, economic and social aspects*

which does not replicate previously used formal vocabulary and means of expression,

3. the purpose of conservation⁶ (and/or reconstruction) is to maintain and reveal the significance of the cultural heritage,
4. authenticity is a measure of the degree to which the attributes of cultural heritage (including form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other factors) credibly and accurately bear witness to their significance

believe that

5. replication of cultural heritage is in general a misrepresentation of evidence of the past, and that each architectural work should reflect the time of its own creation, in the belief that sympathetic new buildings can maintain the environmental context,

but that

6. **in exceptional circumstances**, reconstruction of cultural heritage, lost through disaster, whether of natural or human origin, may be acceptable,

when the monument concerned has outstanding artistic, symbolic or environmental (whether urban or rural) significance for regional history and cultures;

when used as an administrative measure to fight against purposeful destruction of cultural heritage

provided that

- appropriate survey and historical documentation is available (including iconographic, archival or material evidence);
- the reconstruction does not falsify the overall urban or landscape context; and
- existing significant historic fabric will not be damaged; and

providing always that the need for reconstruction has been established through full and open consultations among national and local authorities and the community concerned

and urge

- 7 all concerned governments and administrations to integrate this document and those which give it context into national and local policies and practices, and academic institutions to include it in their training programmes.

The Riga Charter was composed by the Scientific Committee organised for that purpose during the Riga meeting. The Committee was chaired by Janis Lejnieks (Latvia), and included Christopher Young, U.K., (who acted as Rapporteur), Gediminas Rutkauskas, Jonas Glemza, (Lithuania), Hain Toss (Estonia), Janis Krastins (Latvia), Vasily Chernik (Belarus), Evnika Liniova (Ukraine), Herb Stovel (ICCROM). The work of the Committee was based on written drafts submitted by Janis Krastins, Herb Stovel and Juris Dambis.

⁶ *Conservation*: all efforts designed to understand cultural heritage, know its history and meaning, ensure its material safeguard, and as required, its presentation, restoration and enhancement

ANNEX 4

THE NARA DOCUMENT ON AUTHENTICITY

Preamble

1. We, the experts assembled in Nara (Japan), wish to acknowledge the generous spirit and intellectual courage of the Japanese authorities in providing a timely forum in which we could challenge conventional thinking in the conservation field, and debate ways and means of broadening our horizons to bring greater respect for cultural and heritage diversity to conservation practice.
2. We also wish to acknowledge the value of the framework for discussion provided by the World Heritage Committee's desire to apply the test of authenticity in ways which accord full respect to the social and cultural values of all societies, in examining the outstanding universal value of cultural properties proposed for the World Heritage List.
3. The Nara Document on Authenticity is conceived in the spirit of the Charter of Venice, 1964, and builds on it and extends it in response to the expanding scope of cultural heritage concerns and interests in our contemporary world.
4. In a world that is increasingly subject to the forces of globalization and homogenization, and in a world in which the search for cultural identity is sometimes pursued through aggressive nationalism and the suppression of the cultures of minorities, the essential contribution made by the consideration of authenticity in conservation practice is to clarify and illuminate the collective memory of humanity.

Cultural Diversity and Heritage Diversity

5. The diversity of cultures and heritage in our world is an irreplaceable source of spiritual and intellectual richness for all humankind. The protection and enhancement of cultural and heritage diversity in our world should be actively promoted as an essential aspect of human development.
6. Cultural heritage diversity exists in time and space, and demands respect for other cultures and all aspects of their belief systems. In cases where cultural values appear to be in conflict, respect for cultural diversity demands acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the cultural values of all parties.
7. All cultures and societies are rooted in the particular forms and means of tangible and intangible expression which constitute their heritage, and these should be respected.
8. It is important to underline a fundamental principle of UNESCO, to the effect that the cultural heritage of each is the cultural heritage of all. Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs, in the first place, to the cultural community that has generated it, and subsequently to that which cares for it. However, in addition to these responsibilities, adherence to the international charters and conventions developed for conservation of cultural heritage also obliges consideration of the principles and

responsibilities flowing from them. Balancing their own requirements with those of other cultural communities is, for each community, highly desirable, provided achieving this balance does not undermine their fundamental cultural values.

Values and authenticity

9. Conservation of cultural heritage in all its forms and historical periods is rooted in the values attributed to the heritage. Our ability to understand these values depends, in part, on the degree to which information sources about these values may be understood as credible or truthful. Knowledge and understanding of these sources of information, in relation to original and subsequent characteristics of the cultural heritage, and their meaning, is a requisite basis for assessing all aspects of authenticity.
10. Authenticity, considered in this way and affirmed in the Charter of Venice, appears as the essential qualifying factor concerning values. The understanding of authenticity plays a fundamental role in all scientific studies of the cultural heritage, in conservation and restoration planning, as well as within the inscription procedures used for the World Heritage Convention and other cultural heritage inventories.
11. All judgements about values attributed to cultural properties as well as the credibility of related information sources may differ from culture to culture, and even within the same culture. It is thus not possible to base judgements of values and authenticity within fixed criteria. On the contrary, the respect due to all cultures requires that heritage properties must be considered and judged within the cultural contexts to which they belong.
12. Therefore, it is of the highest importance and urgency that, within each culture, recognition be accorded to the specific nature of its heritage values and the credibility and truthfulness of related information sources.
13. Depending on the nature of the cultural heritage, its cultural context, and its evolution through time, authenticity judgements may be linked to the worth of a great variety of sources of information. Aspects of the sources may include form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other internal and external factors. The use of these sources permits elaboration of the specific artistic, historic, social, and scientific dimensions of the cultural heritage being examined.

The Nara Document on Authenticity was drafted by the 45 participants at the Nara Conference on Authenticity in Relation to the World Heritage Convention, held at Nara, Japan, from 1-6 November 1994, at the invitation of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Government of Japan) and the Nara Prefecture. The Agency organized the Nara Conference in cooperation with UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS.

This final version of the Nara Document has been edited by the general rapporteurs of the Nara Conference, Mr. Raymond Lemaire and Mr. Herb Stovel.

ANNEX 5

ENGLISH POLICY GUIDANCE ON RECONSTRUCTION

1 **Planning Policy Guidance: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG 15; DoE 1994)** Annex C, para C6

C.6 In general the wholesale reinstatement of lost, destroyed or superseded elements of a building or an interior is not appropriate, although where a building has largely retained the integrity of its design, the reinstatement of lost or destroyed elements of that design could be considered. In such cases there should always be adequate information confirming the detailed historical authenticity of the work proposed. Speculative reconstruction should be avoided, as should the reinstatement of features that were deliberately superseded by later historic additions.

2 **BS7913 (1998) Guide to the principles of the conservation of historic buildings**

Para 6.2.4 (e)

(e) Only on genuine structural or constructional grounds or where beauty clearly depends on formal design qualities which have been compromised by changes not themselves of significance merit, should restoration be considered.

Para 7.3.2.1 - 3

7.3.2 Restoration

7.3.2.1 The presumption against restoration

A presumption against restoration is a hallmark of the British approach to building conservation. Restoration can diminish:

- (a) the authenticity and thus the historic value of a building; and
- (b) the aesthetic value of a building especially one which depends for its interest more on its narrative or picturesque qualities and on the patina of age than on its formal qualities of design.

7.3.2.2 The case for restoration

A case for restoration can be made in certain circumstances, particularly in the case of younger buildings of formal, perhaps classical, design in which significant work is of a single period. The following factors support the case for restoration of a building as a whole, or part, or feature of it:

- (a) the existence of a lacuna or void in an otherwise complete or coherent design, whether of a house in a terrace, a wall in a house, a door in a wall, or a moulding on a door;
- (b) the absence or failure of significant secondary or later work which would have to be destroyed;
- (c) the existence of a known or proven design for the missing building, element, feature or detail; or
- (d) a functional, structural or constructional reason for the missing element.

7.3.2.3 Controls and records in restoration work

New work should be carefully matched and blended with the old in order to achieve an architectural whole, but it should not be the intention to deceive or to falsify the historical record as to the age or authenticity of any part of the work. As much old work as possible should be retained, and where it survives, even in the form of small or detached fragments, it should, if reasonably possible, be incorporated with the new, both for its authenticity and as a form of control. Substantial new or relocated work should be discreetly dated, separated from the old or otherwise made distinguishable to a discerning eye. Such identification should not, though, be visually distracting. Records of work done, and of the fabric before, during and after the work should be maintained, and properly deposited and stored.

C **Brereton Principles of Repair (English Heritage 1995) pp 5-6**

Restoration of lost features

Some elements of a building or monument which are important to its design, for example, balustrades, pinnacles, cornices, hoodmoulds, window tracery, and members of a timber frame or roof truss, may have been lost in the past. Where these are of structural significance, they will normally be replaced in the course of repair; but a programme of repair may also offer the opportunity for the reinstatement of missing non-structural elements, provided that sufficient evidence exists for accurate replacement, no loss of historic fabric occurs, and the necessary statutory consents are obtained in advance. Speculative reconstruction is hardly ever justified.

ANNEX 6

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION

- 1 The necessary detailed survey and analysis of the fabric should normally take the form of a set of plans and elevations capable of resolution at an appropriate scale (usually at least 1:20 or 1:50) identifying surviving masonry or features. Those drawings should be analysed to identify all previous phases of alteration. A short report should be prepared to accompany the drawings, placing that detailed analysis in the context of the overall understanding of the site and its significance, set out in the Conservation Plan (above).
- 2 These drawings should be used as a basis for a set of drawings explaining what is proposed, which will clearly identify the relationship between existing remains and what is proposed.
- 3 The drawings should be accompanied by a method statement and specification for work. The method statement should explain what measures will be taken to protect existing remains during works, as well as details of the materials and techniques to be used in the new work.
- 4 The method statement should also explain what arrangements will be made for the ongoing analysis of the structure during works, and for the creation of a proper record of the research, analysis, investigation and work. It is likely that an archaeologist (or other specialist identified in the mitigation strategy) will need to be part of the team supervising the work. The role of this specialist will be to update the base drawings as new information is revealed, and to feed the results of their analysis into the day to day decision making process. At the end of the works, they should prepare a final report detailing what has been found and the work undertaken. This will in turn feed into future revisions of the conservation/management plan,