# ESTATE SHOOTING TRACK, NORTH-EAST OF NORTH INGS PLANTATION, SKELDERSKEW MOOR, NEAR COMMONDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF EROSION REPAIRS



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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In June 2020, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Ellie Leary, Monuments for the Future Project Officer for the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA), to undertake the archaeological monitoring of erosion repairs to a shooting track adjacent to a prehistoric cairn on Skelderskew Moor, near Commondale, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 64589 12155).

The repairs took place in seven specific areas over a 50m length of the track, and involved the localised infilling of vehicular wheel ruts and reducing or infilling some areas of undulating ground, and the excavation of three short drainage trenches to deflect water run-off from the track. The work was designed to prevent future erosion and water ponding, and also potential movement of the track closer to a prehistoric cairn. The project was wholly funded by the NYMNPA, and the fieldwork was undertaken on 14th July 2020, with a second visit on 24th July 2020 to create 'ascomplete' records.

Although there was some potential for remains to be disturbed by the erosion repairs, particularly given the proximity of the prehistoric cairn, no archaeological features or deposits were identified as part of the monitoring process.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### **Reasons and Circumstances of the Project**

- 1.1 In June 2020, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Ellie Leary, Monuments for the Future Project Officer for the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA), to undertake the archaeological monitoring of erosion repairs to a shooting track adjacent to a prehistoric cairn on Skelderskew Moor, near Commondale, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 64601 12094) (see figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The repair work involved the localised infilling of vehicular wheel ruts and reducing or infilling some areas of undulating ground, and the excavation of three short drainage trenches to deflect water run-off from the track. The work was designed to prevent future erosion and water ponding, and also potential movement of the track closer to a prehistoric cairn. This part of the track, together with the adjacent cairn and a barrow, forms part of a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England 1015406). The extent of the project was defined by discussions between Ellie Leary of the NYMNPA and EDAS; the project was wholly funded by NYMNPA.

#### Site Location

- 1.3 The cairn is located on the western flank of Skelderskew Moor, a moorland plateau, some 2km north-west of the centre of Commondale in North Yorkshire (see figure 1). It lies some 600m north-north-east of the north-east corner of North Ings Plantation, within heather moorland managed for grouse shooting, at an elevation of c.330m AOD. The monument is set immediately to the west of the shooting track, although Ordnance Survey maps show that it formerly crossed the cairn (see figure 2).
- 1.4 The area of the Scheduled Monument encompasses the cairn, this part of the shootting track, and a barrow located a short distance to the north-east. The site was subject to a detailed survey by EDAS in October-November 2019 (Dennison & Richardson 2019), and this survey was used to formulate the track erosion repairs (see Appendix 2). The cairn is included on Historic England's National Record of the Historic Environment (Pastscape 28672) and the NYMNPA Historic Environment Record (HER site 4043), while the barrow to the north-east is identified as Pastscape 28480 and HER site 4040.

#### Aims and Objectives of the Project

1.5 The aims and objectives of the project were to monitor the erosion repairs, specifically any ground disturbance, make appropriate records, and produce a report, and place this and the resulting archive in the public domain.

#### **Fieldwork Methodologies**

1.6 The archaeological monitoring work was carried out using a combination of photographic, hand-based survey techniques and written descriptions, in accordance with the original discussion between EDAS and the NYMNPA. The monitoring of the repairs took place on 14th July 2020, with a second visit on 24th July 2020 to create 'as-complete' records.

- 1.7 The areas of repair and ground intervention were surveyed onto a general site plan at a scale of 1:100 using traditional hand-held techniques involving taking measurements at right angles to a base line; the existing EDAS survey plan was used and augmented as appropriate. The resulting site survey was produced at a scale of 1:100 and is presented as a hand-drawn wet ink hachure plan using conventions analogous to those used by English Heritage (2002, 14; 2007, 31-35). A number of digital photographs were taken, both during the repair work and after completion, and these include both general views and more detailed shots. The colour photographs were taken using an SLR digital camera with 12 megapixel resolution, and Historic England photographic guidelines were followed (English Heritage 2007, 14). All photographs have been clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and have been cross-referenced to digital files etc (see Appendix 1). The digital photographs are referenced in the text below in italic type and square brackets, the numbers before the stroke representing the film number and the number after indicating the image e.g. [1/032]. Finally, sufficient notes were also taken in the field to provide a detailed written description and account of the erosion repairs.
- 1.8 The resulting EDAS survey report assembles and summarises the available evidence for the site in an ordered form, synthesises the collected data, and comments on the quality and reliability of the evidence. The report is also illustrated by reduced versions of the site survey, as well as historic maps and plans, and a selection of photographic plates.
- 1.9 A properly ordered and indexed archive resulting from the project was deposited with the NYMNPA at the end of the project (EDAS site code NIP 20).

#### **Scheduled Monument Consent**

- 1.10 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the erosion repairs was granted by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, via Historic England, on 15th January 2020 (ref S00234201).
- 1.11 The SMC contained a number of conditions, those most directly relevant to this report being:
  - (vii) Any works to which this consent relates shall be carried out under the curatorial supervision of Ms Mags Waughman, Head of Historic Environment, NYMNPA, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, N. Yorks., YO62 5BP, who shall be given at least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be agreed) in writing of the commencement of work. No works shall commence until Ms Waughman has confirmed in writing to Historic England that she is willing and able to undertake the agreed supervision;
  - (viii) The conservation repair shall be carried out in accordance to the agreed Schedule of Works using sandstone aggregate and heather turves to the depth of the current surface damage.
- 1.12 As noted above, EDAS were appointed to undertake the archaeological monitoring work, and Historic England were informed on this on 16th June 2020.

#### 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

#### The Prehistoric Cairn

- 2.1 A detailed description of the cairn, located immediately adjacent to the west of the shooting track (NGR NZ 64589 12155) was provided with the previous survey report (Dennison & Richardson 2019). The earthwork appears to be marked as a 'Tumulus' on Ordnance Survey mapping from the mid 19th century onwards, but is marked on the modern maps as a 'Cairn'.
- 2.2 In summary, the cairn is broadly sub-circular in plan, with maximum measurements of 4.50m east-west by 4.00m north-south. Two kerb stones were visible on the south-east side, one of which is set on edge. Although there is no encircling depression suggesting a ditch, there is a small, shallow, sub-oval depression to the immediate south-west that may have furnished material for the cairn when it was built.
- 2.3 The monument stands up to 0.50m in height, with all sides defined by relatively spread, gently sloping, scarps [2/875-2/877] (see plate 1). The exception is to the north-east quadrant, where it appears that the outer edge has been cut back or otherwise truncated. The flattened top surface of the earthwork is broadly subrectangular in plan, measuring a maximum of 3.00m north-south by 2.00m eastwest. The break of slope at the edge of the top may once have been edged or defined by larger stones, and a number of stones remain visible in the upper surface, including one set on edge (Dennison & Richardson 2019). Scheduled Monument description notes that there is a hollow in the top of the cairn where it has been dug into in the past, although this was not clearly visible at the time of the previous EDAS survey. There is nothing in the surviving structure of the cairn or the surrounding topography to suggest that the monument was formed around a natural rock outcrop, and so it assumed that all of the stone used in its construction was gathered specifically for that purpose. There is no evidence for the trackway crossing the top of the earthwork, as suggested by the modern Ordnance Survey map (see figure 2).

#### **Grouse Butt**

2.4 A grouse butt (butt no. 10) is located c.16m to the north-north-west of the cairn. This is a traditionally-built structure, measuring 4.60m north-south by 4.10m eastwest, with a slight bulge to the earthwork in the south-east corner. The narrow 0.50m wide entrance into the sunken interior lies on the west side, and this steps down and opens out into a 1.60m square area which is revetted on all sides against the surrounding earthwork and spoil with drystone walling. The base of the sunken area lies 0.70m below ground level, and the embanked earth around the butt is typically c.0.50m high.

#### **Shooting Track**

2.5 The shooting track runs on a broadly north-south alignment, 1.20m to the east of the cairn and 6.70m to the east of the shooting butt [1/674]. It is between 2.50m and 3.00m wide, and its slightly sinuous course is undulating, formed by occasional sections of stone rubble (representing previous attempts at erosion control), some hollows or depressions in which run-off accumulates, and areas of degraded vegetation with some vehicle ruts (see plate 2).

- 2.6 At the time of the previous EDAS survey (Dennison & Richardson 2019), there was no clear evidence for damage to the earthwork from vehicles using the shooting track, despite its proximity. Adjacent to the cairn, the track does contain two wheel ruts, that to the west being 0.5m wide and up to 0.3m deep, while the one of the east is shallower. There is therefore potential for additional erosion here, and it is also possible that the alignment of the track might move west, i.e. nearer the cairn, to avoid further rutting.
- 2.7 The NYMNPA HER suggests that the cairn lies on a broader man-made platform which has been exposed by erosion to the shooting track. However, no clear or definite evidence for this was noted by the previous EDAS survey. Nevertheless, there is a south-facing slope in the shooting track to the east, forming one side of a shallow east-west ditch holding ponded water to the south, and there is a similar but less pronounced ditch to the north, again holding water and partially infilled with stone rubble to prevent erosion. It can be seen how the two slopes in the track could be interpreted as the sides of an east-west aligned man-made platform, but it does appear to be a natural feature, the slopes being emphasised by erosion from the track. The possibility of it being a natural feature is strengthened by an area of higher and denser heather growth on the east side of the track, which corresponds to the mound shown on a LIDAR scan provided by the HER, but there is no obvious earthwork beneath, and indeed, one part of the mound which had been burnt revealed no underlying earthwork. It was therefore concluded that, while there is no man-made platform underlying the cairn, it could well have been placed on a slightly elevated patch of undulating ground resulting from the natural topography.

#### 3 RESULTS OF THE MONITORING WORK

3.1 Several pieces of work were undertaken to alleviate the problems of erosion and run-off water ponding along this section of the shooting track, as set out below. In all, the extent of the works covered a length of 50m along the track, ending at a point 7.00m to the south of the cairn (see figure 3). The work was undertaken using a Kubota mini-digger with a 0.90m wide ditching bucket, with some additional hand excavation as required.

#### **Area 1 Drainage Ditch**

3.2 The northernmost element of work involved the excavation of a short drainage ditch, 2.00m long, 0.45m wide and 0.30m deep, running from the east side of the track in an easterly direction to allow water run-off to flow into an existing apparently natural channel just to the east [1/686]. This excavation was accompanied by a slight reduction of the ground surface in the centre of the track, and spoil was then placed across the track as a narrow 0.3m high bank to force run-off into the channel [1/689, 1/690; 2/847, 2/849, 2/850, 2/880] (see plate 3).

#### **Area 2 Repair of Vehicle Ruts**

3.3 To the south of Area 1, there was some slight vehicle rutting in the track, including one more pronounced on the west side, extending over an area of 3.50m north-south by 0.75m wide. This was infilled with sandstone rubble aggregate brought in from outside the site and compacted, and some new turves were added to the western edge [2/852, 2/881] (see plate 4).

#### **Area 3 Drainage Ditch**

3.4 Some 7m to the south, another drainage ditch was excavated from the west side of the track, in a south-west direction for a distance of 5.00m towards the south-east corner of the shooting butt [1/691, 1/693] (see plate 5). This ditch was 0.45m wide and 0.40m deep, and again water run-off flowing down the track was channelled into it by constructing a 0.30m high slightly angled bank across the track [1/694, 1/697-1/699; 2/853-2/855, 2/857] (see plate 6).

#### **Area 4 Stone Rubble Regrading**

3.5 At this point, a small area of stone rubble had been placed on the west side of the track, as part of previous repairs [1/678] (see plate 7). This area was subject to some limited regrading and re-covered with sandstone rubble aggregate brought in from outside the site, and then compacted. The repairs covered an area measuring 2.75m north-south by 2.00m wide [2/858, 2/860] (see plate 8).

#### **Area 5 Stone Rubble Regrading**

3.6 A larger area of stone rubble had been placed in the track as part of previous repairs, and this was becoming eroded and its surface being damaged, especially on the east side [1/677, 1/679, 1/695, 1/696] (see plate 9). The effect of this rubble was to produce a localised higher area and pond water immediately to the south, which was evident at the time of the previous survey. The rubble was reduced in height by no more that 0.20m in depth, the area of 'excavation' covering an area of 3.90m north-south and almost across the full width of the track (2.50m) [1/700-1/703]. Slightly more than the reduced area was then covered with sandstone rubble aggregate brought in from outside the site, and compacted to create a more level surface. New turves were also placed on the east side of the repair [2/862-2/864] (see plate 10).

#### **Area 6 Repair of Vehicle Ruts**

3.7 Prior to the repairs, there were two vehicular ruts in the shooting track adjacent to the cairn [1/675, 1/680] (see plate 11). The western rut measured 5.50m long, 0.50m wide and up to 0.35m deep, while the eastern rut was 3.50m long and slightly shallower and narrower, a maximum of 0.20m deep [1/683-1/685]. The ground surface between the ruts was also eroded and devoid of vegetation, as was the eastern part of the track, which would result in future erosion. The repair involved scraping out the loose soil and stones from the two ruts, which slightly extended the ruts to the south [1/704-1/706], and then infilling them with sandstone rubble aggregate brought in from outside the site. Once the ruts had been infilled and compacted, the slightly higher and eroded ground between them was reduced and levelled off slightly, and new heather turves, dug from the moor outside the scheduled area, were placed on the exposed surfaces [2/865, 2/868-2/870, 2/874, 2/879, 2/833, 2/887 (see plate 12). This work was designed to prevent further erosion in the wheel ruts, and to provide a firm surface for estate vehicles so there was no western encroachment onto the cairn.

#### **Area 7 Drainage Ditch**

3.8 A third drainage channel was excavated at the southern end of this section of the track, from its east side in a south-easterly direction, again to link up with an existing natural drain. There was a depression in the track at this point,

emphasised by the natural slope across the track here adjacent to the cairn, in which run-off naturally ponded [1/682; 2/878, 2/888] (see plate 13). This channel measured 3.00m long. 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep [1/708, 1/709; 2/871, 2/872], and was designed to remove water which had a tendency to pond in this area.

#### **Archaeological Results**

3.9 All the above repair works were subject to monitoring, but no archaeological features or deposits were identified. The depth of the existing stone rubble that was reduced in height was not sufficient to expose natural deposits, only previous rubble and an orange-brown sandy soil that probably represented an earlier phase of repair. No archaeological deposits were identified during the work to the existing vehicle ruts. Despite there being some potential for archaeology to be revealed in the slightly deeper excavations for the new drainage ditches, which were generally 0.30m-0.40m deep, this work only revealed a soft dark brown topsoil with significant heather and grass root content between 0.10m-0.20m deep, overlying a light grey sandy natural deposit containing frequent darker grey clay lenses.

#### 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

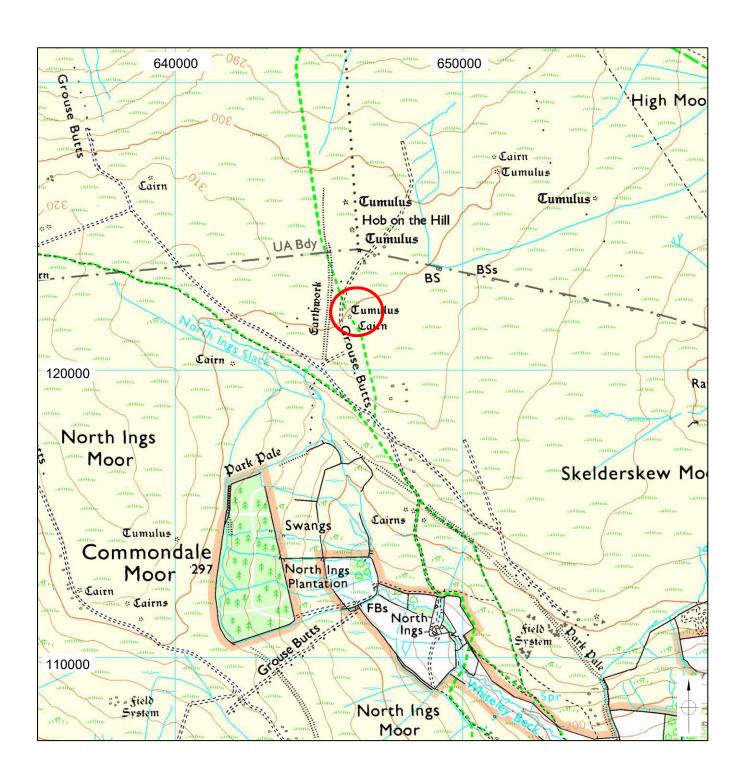
Dennison, E & Richardson, S 2019 Round Barrows, north-east of North Ings Plantation, Skelderskew Moor, Near Commondale, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Survey (unpublished EDAS report 2019/602.R01 for NYMNPA)

English Heritage 2007 Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice

English Heritage 2002 With Alidade and Tape: Graphical and Plane Table Survey of Archaeological Earthworks

#### 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

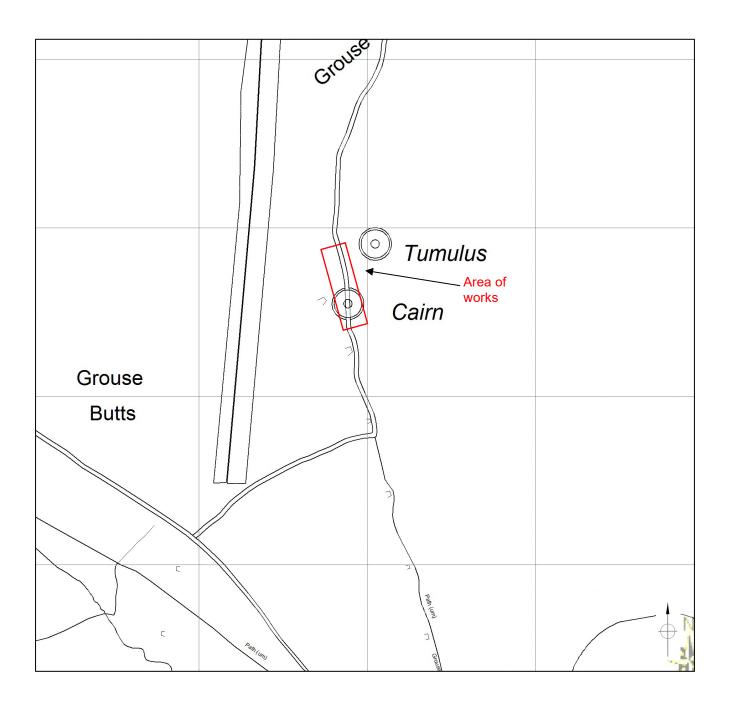
5.1 The archaeological monitoring work was commissioned and funded by the NYMNPA, and thanks are extended to Ellie Leary, Monuments for the Future Project Officer at the NYMNPA for initiating the project and facilitating site access. The shooting track is owned by the Commondale and Guisborough Estate, and permission for the survey was given by Robert Close (agent) and Nigel Brooks (game keeper). The assistance provided by the site contractors is also acknowledged. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Ed Dennison, who assumes responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies in the final report.





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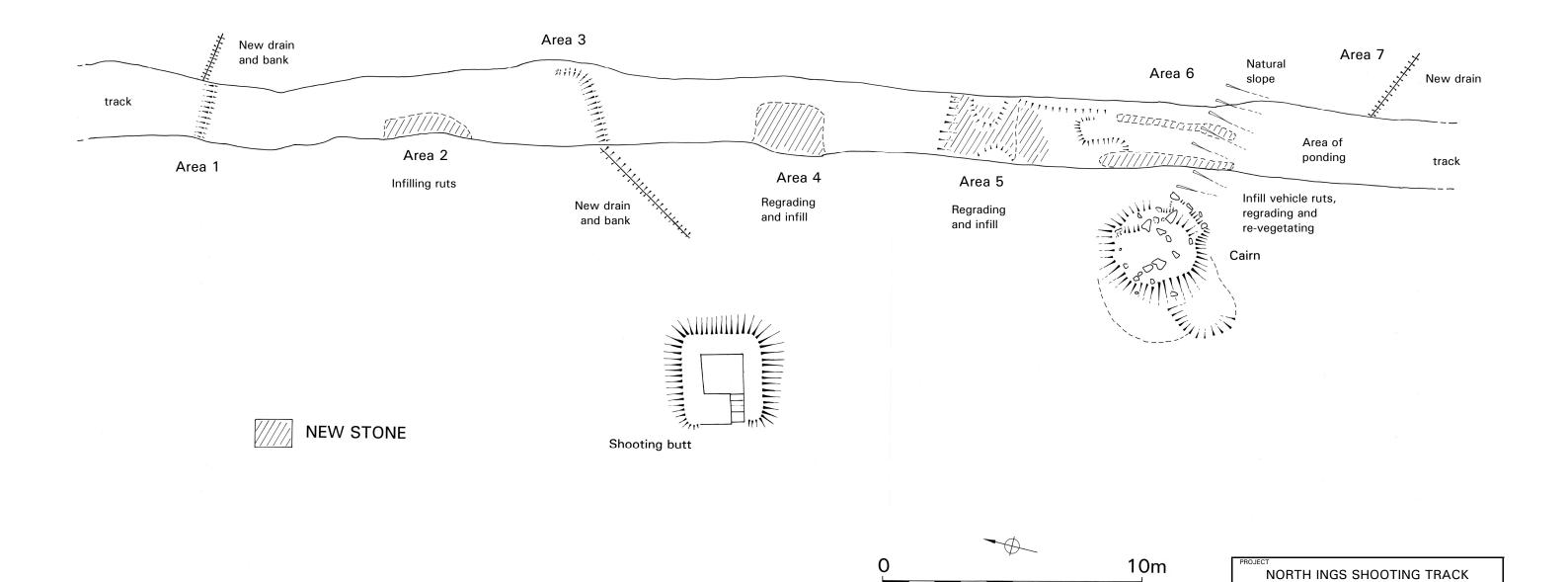
NORTH INGS SHOOTING TRACK		
GENERAL SITE LOCATION		
AS SHOWN	AUG 2020	
EDAS	FIGURE 1	



0 200m

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NORTH INGS SHOOTING TRACK		
DETAILED SITE LOCATION		
AS SHOWN	AUG 2020	
EDAS	FIGURE 2	



SITE PLAN

AUG 2020

3

AS SHOWN

EDAS



Plate 1: Cairn, looking W (photo 2/875).



Plate 2: General view of shooting track showing proximity to cairn, water ponding and previous repairs (10th October 2019).



Plate 3: Area 1 - drain and bank across track complete, looking S (photo 2/849).

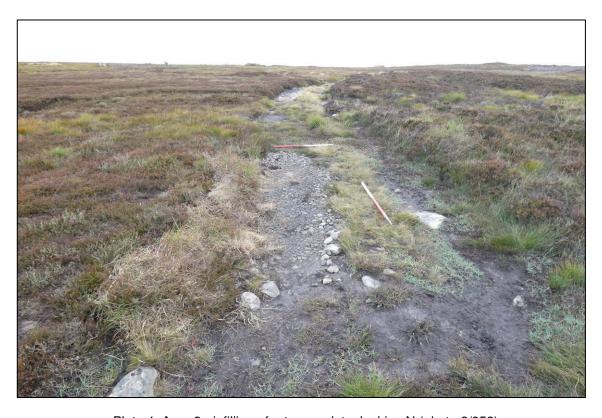


Plate 4: Area 2 - infilling of ruts complete, looking N (photo 2/852).



Plate 5: Area 3 - start of drain excavation, looking NE (photo 1/693).



Plate 6: Area 3 - drain and bank across track complete, looking SW (photo 2/854).



Plate 7: Area 4 - stone rubble in track prior to repairs, looking N (photo 1/678).



Plate 8: Area 4 - repairs complete, looking N (photo 2/858).



Plate 9: Area 5 - stone rubble in track prior to repairs, looking N (photo 1/677).



Plate 10: Area 5 - repairs complete, looking N (photo 2/862).



Plate 11: Area 6 - vehicle ruts prior to repair, looking N (photo 1/684).



Plate 12: Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete with re-turving, looking N (photo 2/868).



Plate 13: Area 7- area of ponding, looking SE (photo 2/878).



Plate 14: Area 7 - drain complete, looking E (photo 2/871).

# APPENDIX 1 EDAS PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

## **APPENDIX 1: EDAS PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE**

Film 1: Colour digital photographs taken 14th July 2020 (before and during work) Film 2: Colour digital photographs taken 24th July 2020 (as complete)

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
1	674	Area 6 - ruts in natural slope, prior to repair, looking N	2m
1	675	Area 6 - ruts in natural slope, prior to repair, looking N	2m
1	677	Area 5 - stone rubble in track, looking N	2m
1	678	Area 4 - stone rubble in track, looking N	2m
1	679	Area 5 - stone rubble in track, looking S	2m
1	680	Area 6 - ruts prior to repair, looking S	2m
1	681	Area 1 - area of ponded water, looking S	2m
1	682	Area 1 - area of ponded water, looking S  Area 1 - area of ponded water, looking N	2m
1	683	Area 6 - western rut prior to repair, looking N	1m/0.5m
1	684	Area 6 - eastern rut prior to repair, looking N	1m/0.5m
	685	Area 6 - western rut prior to repair, looking N	1m/0.5m
1	686	Area 1 - start of drain excavation, looking E	1
1	689	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking E	1m
1	690	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking SE	1m
1	691	Area 3 - start of drain excavation, looking SW	1m
1	693	Area 3 - start of drain excavation, looking NE	-
1	694	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking SE	1m
1	695	Area 5 - stone rubble prior to ground reduction, looking N	1m
1	696	Area 5 - stone rubble prior to ground reduction, looking S	1m
1	697	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking SW	1m
1	698	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking S	1m
1	699	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking NE	1m
1	700	Area 5 - ground reduction in progress, looking NE	-
1	701	Area 5 - ground reduction complete, looking N	1m
1	702	Area 5 - ground reduction complete, looking S	1m
1	703	Area 5 - ground reduction complete, looking NE	1m
1	704	Area 6- ruts after clearance, looking N	1m
1	705	Area 6 - ruts after clearance, looking N	1m
1	706	Area 6 - ruts after clearance, looking S	1m
1	708	Area 7 - excavation of drain in progress, looking E	1m
1	709	Area 7 - excavation of drain in progress, looking E	1m
2	847	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking E	2 x 1m
2	849	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking S	2 x 1m
2	850	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking SE	2 x 1m
2	852	Area 2 - repairs complete, looking N	2 x 1m
2	853	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking S	2 x 1m
2	854	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking SW	2 x 1m
2	855	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking SW	2 x 1m
2	857	Area 3 - drain and bank complete, looking NE	2 x 1m
2	858	Area 4 - repairs complete, looking N	2 x 1m
2	860	Area 4 - repairs complete, looking S	2 x 1m
2	862	Area 5 - repairs complete, looking N	2 x 1m
2	863	Area 5 - repairs complete, looking NE	2 x 1m
2	864	Area 5 - repairs complete, looking S	2 x 1m
2	865	Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete, looking S	2 x 1m
2	868	Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete, looking N	2 x 1m
2	869	Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete, looking N	2 x 1m
2	870	Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete, looking NW	2 x 1m
2	871	Area 7 - drain complete, looking E	2 x 1m
2	872	Area 7 - drain complete, looking NW	2 x 1m
2	874	Area 6 - repairs to ruts complete, looking SW	2 x 1m
2	875	Cairn, looking W	1m
2	876	Cairn, looking NE	1m
2	877	Cairn, looking SW	1m
2	878	Area 7- area of ponding, looking SE	-
2	879	Area 6 - repaired ruts and cairn, looking NW	1m
	0/3	Alea o - lepailed lute and cann, looking liviv	1111

2	880	Area 1 - drain and bank complete, looking S	-
2	881	General view of repaired track, looking S	1m
2	882	Barrow, looking NE	-
2	883	Area 6 - repaired ruts and cairn, looking NW	1m
2	887	Area 6 - repaired ruts and cairn, looking N	-
2	888	Area 7 - area of ponding, looking SE	1m

## APPENDIX 2 NYMNPA SPECIFICATION FOR EROSION REPAIRS

# Schedule of Works for the Archaeological Conservation of North Ings Round Barrows in the North York Moors National Park

#### LOCATION

Two round barrows 600m NNE of the north east corner of North Ings Plantation (NGR 464597, 512171); Scheduled Monument NHLE: 1015406 / SM 28288.

#### **SUMMARY**

The North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) is seeking quotes from contractors to undertake remedial works on the North Ings Round Barrows, a nationally important site which is protected in law. The monument lies within the National Park and also within the North York Moors SSSI, therefore the work must be carried out sensitively in order to protect both the archaeology and the natural environment.

This brief is for the remedial works to address the erosion issues and to successfully remove the monument off Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The North Ings round barrows are located on Skelderskew Moor within an area of numerous prehistoric monuments (Figure 1). The monument consists of a turf covered round barrow and a burial cairn 40m apart. A Public Right of Way crosses NW – SE through the northern end of the monument, crossing the northern barrow and a moorland access track runs roughly N-S through the centre of the scheduled area, clipping the eastern edge of the SW cairn. The northern barrow is a maximum of 8m across and 0.60m in height. The south-west cairn has been surveyed as a maximum of 4.50m across; but the scheduled mound is 6m in diameter. A raised area to the east of the cairn, crossed by the access track, may be the remains of a man-made platform, on top of which the cairn is located. However that the origin of this platform unknown and there remains the possibility that this is a natural topographical feature.

#### **SITE SPECIFIC ISSUES**

The identified erosion issues and schedule for remedial works has been informed by an interpretative topographic survey undertaken in October 2019. The results of the survey are presented in **Figure 2**.

The issue to be resolved by the remedial work is erosion caused by the moorland access track running through the centre of the scheduled area and clipping the eastern edge of the SW cairn (**Plates 1-4**). The track at this point is c.2.50m wide.

On the eastern side of the SW barrow the wheelings track has cut deep ruts, the deepest one (western most) measures approximately 6m N-S and 0.30m in depth and the eastern one

approximately 4m N-S and shallower than 0.30m in depth. As the track is only used infrequently some of the erosion is exacerbated by water running down the track. The track has moved slightly to the east to avoid the ruts and as such has created bare areas within the vegetation cover.

Where the track continues to the north and south of the cairn there are a number of areas of erosion within the scheduled area where water pools during wet periods (Plates 3 & 4).

#### PROPOSAL FOR REMEDIAL WORK

The following section provides a schedule of remedial work proposed in order to repair the erosion on the monument and protect it from future damage.

Schedule of Remedial Works			
Item	Tasks		
A	Infill the two existing deepest ruts to the east of the SW cairn with sandstone aggregate and consolidate the wheelings tracks. Extend the wheelings to c1m to the south of the cairn, removing, if necessary, a narrow strip of the surface peat and fill with sandstone aggregate (Figure 2).		
В	Infill areas of erosion where the track crosses the eastern edge of the SW barrow and the associated platform using heather turves (Figure 2).		
С	Within the scheduled area to the north and south of the SW cairn infill deeper areas of erosion with sandstone aggregate (Plates 3 &4).		

#### **General Measures**

- Vehicular access to the monument should be agreed in advance.
- No heavy machinery to be used on the monument.
- Only low ground pressure machinery must be used, and machine use on the monument should be avoided except along the existing wheelings tracks. Any ground disturbance should be avoided on the monument.
- All work must be carried out under archaeological supervision.
- Work should be timetabled to avoid the bird breeding season and to fit with the estates' shooting programmes.
- The monument is a popular walking destination. Care needs to be taken to protect members of the public during remedial works.
- This work is being carried out with the permission of Historic England through the North York Moors Monuments for the Future Project.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Due to the sensitivity of the archaeological monument the appointed contractor is to liaise with the NYMNPA archaeological contractor who will monitor the remedial works. At least a minimum of one week's notice will be required to be given to the commencement of works will need to be given by the appointed contractor to the archaeological contractor to ensure availability to attend the site.

#### **DELIVERY TIMETABLE**

All on sites work to be completed by end of March 2020.

#### **ACCESS**

Subject to final landowner agreements it is envisaged access during the works will be from the south via North Ings Farm and the access track to the north of the farm (Figure 3).

Delivery of imported material will be via the access track to the south from North Ings Farm (Figure 3).

The Monuments for the Future Officer will be available for site visits by prior arrangement.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Contractors are expected to abide by the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act and its subsequent amendments. Appropriate provision of first aid, telephone and PPE should be made. A risk assessment must be undertaken prior to any site work. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have adequate public and professional insurance cover.

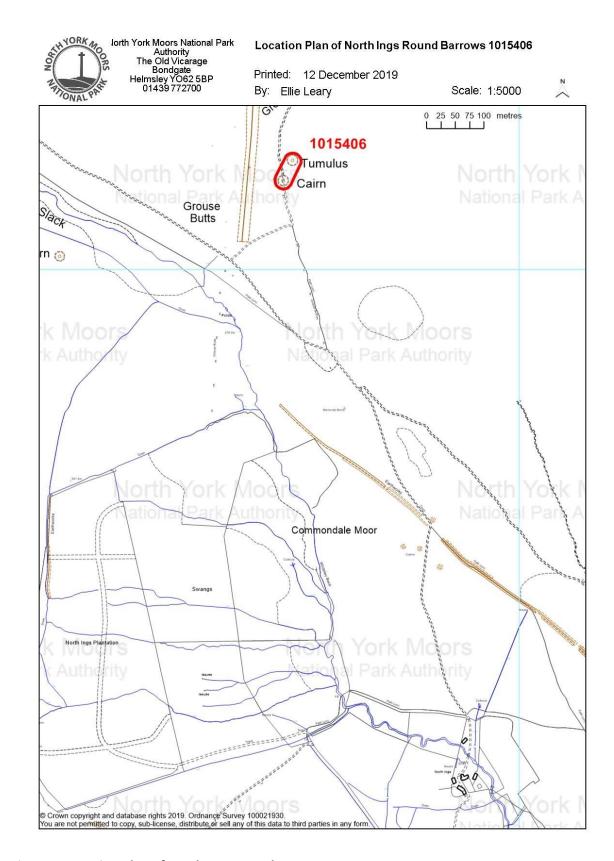


Figure 1: Location plan of North Ings Round Barrows

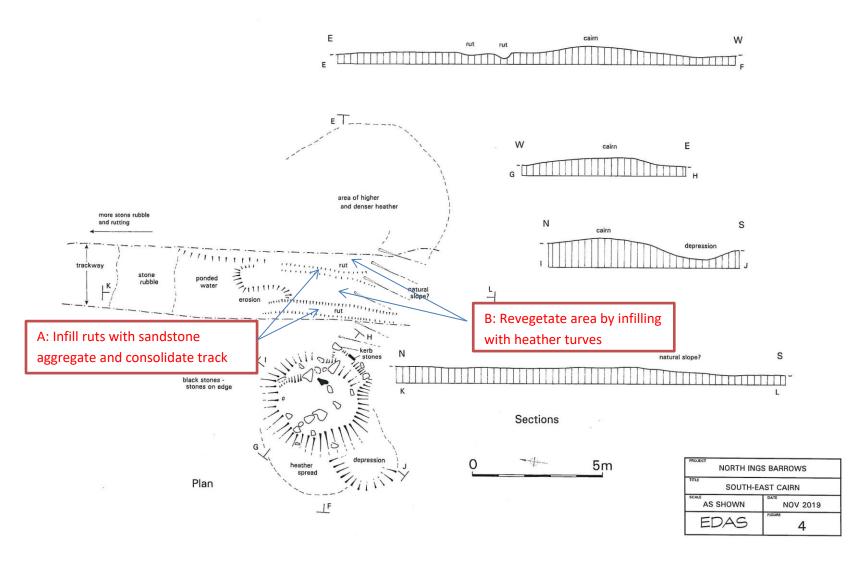


Figure 2: EDAS Survey Plan with NYMNPA annotations

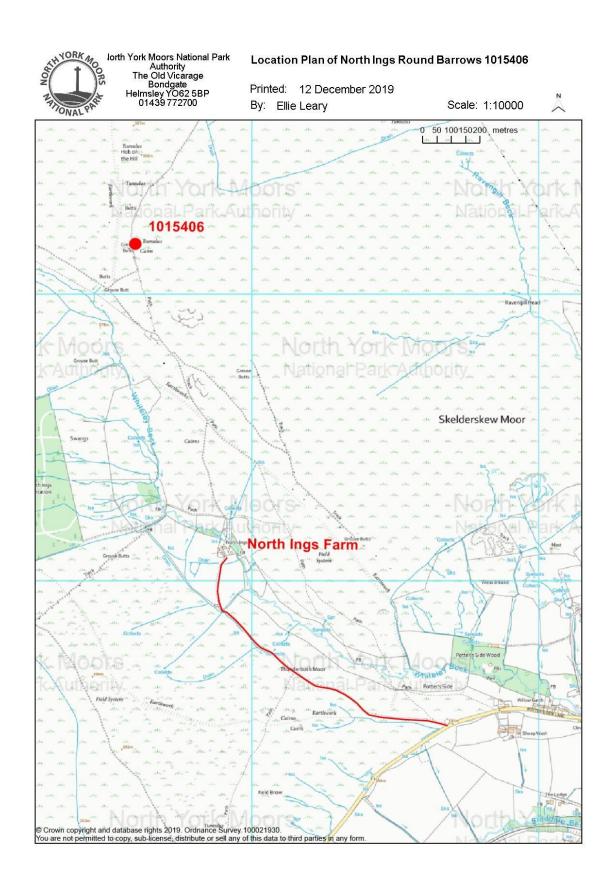


Figure 3: Access route to North Ings Farm

# **PLATES**



Plate 1: SW cairn with track - looking NW (Photo: EDAS)



Plate2: Track erosion looking NE (Photo: EDAS)



Plate 3: Area between barrow and cairn with track – looking SE



Plate 4: Track running towards SW cairn – looking SE