

Record Name: Orgate Scar. Yew dominant woodland on the face and top edge of the Scar.

SWAAG ID Number: 709

Recorded Date: 2013-03-27 15:08:32

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-03-16

Location: Orgate Scar

Civil Parish: Marske

British National Grid: NZ 0945 0215

Altitude: 325m

Geology: Sheer cliff of Richmond chert strata overlying The Main Limestone

Description: Orgate Scar is the western section of Clints Scar which extends some 500m west of the wall forms the western edge of Limekiln Wood. Orgate Scar is a fully exposed, open and west facing limestone cliff in contrast to the Eastern section of Clints Scar which is well wooded. This record is the Part Four of a SWAAG Record in Five Parts each Part recorded on a separate record which together are intended to provide a photo portrait of the relict woodland which survives on and below Orgate Scar. The five parts to this Photo Record of Orgate Scar are defined as follows. SWAAG Record No 195 Part One A: An introduction to the Ash and Yew Dominant Woodland on and below Orgate and Clints Scars as seen in Early Summer. SWAAG Record No 700 Part One B: An introduction to the Ash and Yew Dominant Woodland on and below Orgate and Clints Scars as seen in Late Winter. SWAAG Record No 702 Part Two: Relict Limestone Ash Woodland below Orgate Scar, comprising photofile of ash trees selected to be representative of the final survivors of species rich limestone ash woodland once present across the whole of the fell side below Orgate Scar, now scattered old trees on open rocky scree and flower rich stony pasture. SWAAG RECORD No 708 Part Three: Four very large Yew trees and one ash tree all rooted at the top of the limestone scree below the cliff. SWAAG Record No 709 this record, Part FOUR: The Cliff Edge Yews and Trees of Other Species on the face of Orgate Scar. SWAAG Record for Part Five will follow when the vegetation has been fully recorded this summer.

Dimensions: See photographs.

Species: Ash, Yew, Elder, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Rowan, Ivy

Common Notable Species: See Part Five of this Record, SWAAG Record To follow.

Additional Notes: Orgate Scar is the western section of Clints Scar and extends for a distance of 500m west from the wall which forms the boundary between Orgate Scar and Clints Scar at NZ09520208.

This Record will provide a photographic record of the trees which grow on the face of the cliff and on the top edge of the cliff. The vegetation on and below Orgate Scar will be recorded as Part Five of this Five Part Record, see SWAAG Record No - To follow.

The yew trees which grow below the cliff, at the top of the scree below Orgate Scar, have been recorded on the previous SWAAG Record, No 708. The wind sculpted and stunted Yew Trees recorded here on the top edge of this exposed cliff are of exceptional interest. The petrified remains of several very large and ancient yew trees still remain on the cliff where they once grew, semi fossilised and impervious to rot or wind.

Last Update: 2013-03-28

Tree Geographical Area: Swaledale North Bank Catchment



Record Number 709 >>> Image 1: Orgate Scar in summer. View westward.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 2: Orgate Scar in summer. View westward.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 3: Wind sculpted yew at top of Scar with Blackthorn.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 4: Blackthorn at top edge of the Scar with unripe sloes. Fungal attack prevented any sloes from developing in 2012.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 5: The Scar from below.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 6: The Scar from below.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 7: Petrified remnant of an ancient yew, long dead, with living yew growing from the same root system.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 8: Mature yew on face of the cliff.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 9: Young ash tree on the face of the cliff. The question now exists as to whether this young ash tree will survive Ash Die Back pathogen.



Record Number 709 >>> Image 10: Petrified remains of a large yew tree , long dead. Impervious to rot and insect damage, the semi fossilised remains of old yews persist on the cliff until torn away piece by piece by high winds.

Record Name: Walden Moor. Depleted woodland in Deepdale Gill and on Deepdale Head Scar.

SWAAG ID Number: 720

Recorded Date: 2013-05-03 16:56:48

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-02

Location: Walden Moor. Deepdale Gill and Deepdale Scar

Civil Parish: Burton cum Walden

British National Grid: SD 9725 7970

Altitude: 430m to 490m

Geology: Main Limestone strata down to the Underset Limestone.

Description: Walden Moor. Depleted woodland in Deepdale Gill and on Deepdale Head Scar with a relict limestone woodland community now limited to a few rowans, stunted hazel in the Gill at 440m elevation (see photos) hawthorns, blackthorns and downy rose. Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) is surprisingly widespread, growing on cliff ledges by the stream and on the scar and this indicator points to the one time presence of a full limestone ashwood community here. Ferns are few. Maidenhair spleenwort and wall rue being the only species seen.

The fact that the limestone scars are not vertical and therefore accessible to rabbits would account for the absence of tree regeneration.

Species: Rowan. Hazel (stunted bushes on streamside cliff in Gill at 440m). Hawthorn. Blackthorn.

Downy rose.

Common Notable Species: Dog's mercury. Maidenhair spleenwort.

Tree Stems/Girth: All trees stunted and wind coppiced.

Additional Notes: In contrast to the waterfall ravines and limestone scars at the heads of tributary streams of Swaledale and of the Tees-Greta Uplands which generally support species rich relict woodland often with yew, juniper and aspen, the geologically very similar ravines of Wensleydale support very depleted, species poor relict woodland. Yew is present only at one location on the limestone scars of Wensleydale and is generally distributed throughout Swaledale (except in the Main Dale between Muker and Marrick. Juniper does not exist in Wensleydale and is present at more than 50 locations in Swaledale, see Laurie 2012. Aspen is present in Swaledale at more than thirty locations in Swaledale. Aspen is rare in Upper Wensleydale, being present only in hedgerows at lower elevations and very rarely seen in the upper Gills.

Last Update: 2013-05-03

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 720 >>> Image 1: Deepdale Gill at 440m elevation. Stunted hazel, rowan and downy rose on the low cliff above the stream.



Record Number 720 >>> Image 2: Deepdale Gill at 440m elevation. Stunted hazel, rowan and downy rose on the low cliff above the stream.



Record Number 720 >>> Image 3: View upward from the Gill towards towards Deepdale Head Scar.



Record Number 720 >>> Image 4: Two isolated small rowans with a few hawthorn bushes are the only surviving remnants of the woodland which once existed here.



Record Number 720 >>> Image 5: Recording at these cliff locations requires great care and these scars should not be climbed a they are not as easy to climb as they seem.

Record Name: Walden Head. Willy's Gill. Wind Egg Scar. Depleted limestone ashwood at 460m.

SWAAG ID Number: 722

Recorded Date: 2013-05-05 11:21:01

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-03

Location: Walden Head. Willy's Gill. Wind Egg Scar

Civil Parish: Burton cum Walden

British National Grid: SD 978 815

Altitude: 460m

Geology: Wind Egg is at 460m elevation and formed from The Main Limestone with overlying Richmond Chert and is the upper of three limestone scars or cliffs formed at different elevations on the eastern side of Willy's Gill Beck. Fairy Scar, the middle scar with the prominent the isolated slumped cliff stack being formed from The Underset Limestone. The lowest, Falls Scar is formed by the Middle Limestone.

Description: Relict depleted limestone ashwood community on small Scar or limestone cliff formed from the Main Limestone and overlying Richmond Chert strata.

Dimensions: See photos

Species: Rowan and Hawthorn only

Common Notable Species: Rowan, Hawthorn only. See photos and above.

Additional Notes: This records the trees on Wind Egg which is the Uppermost Scar in Willy's Gill at 460m elevation, at the upper limit of trees in the North East Pennine Dales. Wind Egg supports just isolated trees of Rowan and Hawthorn. Lower down Willy's Gill and in comparative shelter, the Middle and Lower Scars (see SWAAG Records to follow this) support a more varied limestone ashwood community with mature ash trees, a small cloned colony of about 12 aspens, a few downy birch, wych elms (all visibly dead, but probably springing from the roots, rowans, sallows, shrub willows, much vigorous bird cherry, rowan, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn and downy rose. Recorded and photographed from the opposite bank of Willy's Gill Beck. Notably absent are yews and juniper which would probably be present at similar elevation and localities in Swaledale.

Last Update: 2013-05-05

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 722 >>> Image 1: Walden Head. Willy's Gill. Wind Egg Scar from west.



Record Number 722 >>> Image 2: Walden Head. Wind Egg Scar. Limestone cliff accessible to sheep and with rowan and hawthorn only.

Record Name: Walden Head. Willy's Gill. The Fairy Scar. Relict Limestone Ashwood community.

SWAAG ID Number: 723

Recorded Date: 2013-05-05 16:18:30

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-03

Location: Walden Head. Willy's Gill. The Fairy Scar.

Civil Parish: Burton cum Walden

British National Grid: SD 9810 8097

Altitude: 430m

Geology: Underset Limestone exposed as a cliff with large slumped stack and scree talus slope below.

Description: This record is of the woodland which survives on the limestone cliff known as The Fairy Scar on the eastern side of Willy's Gill. This Scar is the middle of three scars at different elevations on the east side of Willy's Gill.

Trees as seen from the opposite side of the Gill include: ash, wych elm visible as dead fallen trunks, sallows, hazel, bird cherry, rowan, ivy. Hawthorn, blackthorn and downy rose may be present.

Dimensions: See photos.

Species: Ash

Common Notable Species: See above

Additional Notes: In contrast to the wealth of cliff yews and the widely distributed juniper on the limestone scars of Swaledale at similar elevation, yew and juniper are absent from this scar as elsewhere in Wensleydale where yew is recorded only at one cliff location.

Last Update: 2013-05-05

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 723 >>> Image 1: Willy's Gill. The Fairy Scar and slumped cliff stack seen from the west.



Record Number 723 >>> Image 2:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 3:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 4:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 6: The Fairy Scar- upper scar and Falls Scar-lower scar seen from opposite side of the Gill.



Record Number 723 >>> Image 7:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 8:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 9:



Record Number 723 >>> Image 10:

Record Name: Walden. Willy's Gill. The Waterfall Scar Relict limestone ash woodland community with aspen clones with

SWAAG ID Number: 725

Recorded Date: 2013-05-10 14:00:56

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-02

Location: Wensleydale, Walden Head. Willy's Gill

Civil Parish: Burton cum Walden

British National Grid: SD 9830 8092

Altitude: 380m

Description: This record is of the woodland which survives on the small outcrop of limestone on the east bank of Willy's Gill below the waterfall and directly below The Fairy Scar. This Scar is the lowest of three scars at different elevations on the east side of Willy's Gill. Trees as seen from the opposite side of the Gill include: ash, aspen, sallows, hazel, bird cherry, rowan.

Dimensions: See photos

Species: Aspen.

Scientific Name: *Populus tremula*

Common Notable Species: Ash, Sallow (*Salix* spp), Rowan. Hazel.

Note a further visit to this location will be made in summer to record the vegetation.

Additional Notes: The presence here of a cloned colony of aspen (*Populus tremula*) is of special interest since whereas aspens occur within hedgerows lower down in Wensleydale, this is the first record of aspen above 350m in Wensleydale. In contrast, aspens are recorded as present above 350m at many locations in Swaledale and often in association with juniper. Juniper was recorded by Percival at four locations in Wensleydale but none of these records has been recently confirmed. (Millward, 1988. Juniper is now probably absent from the entire Ure Catchment. Fossil juniper has however just now been recognised below thin blanket peat above Walden Head above Fossedale Gill at an elevation of 540m some 2km to the SW.

Reference:

Millward, D. 1988. 'A Flora of Wensleydale.' The Yoredale Natural History Society.

Last Update: 2013-05-10

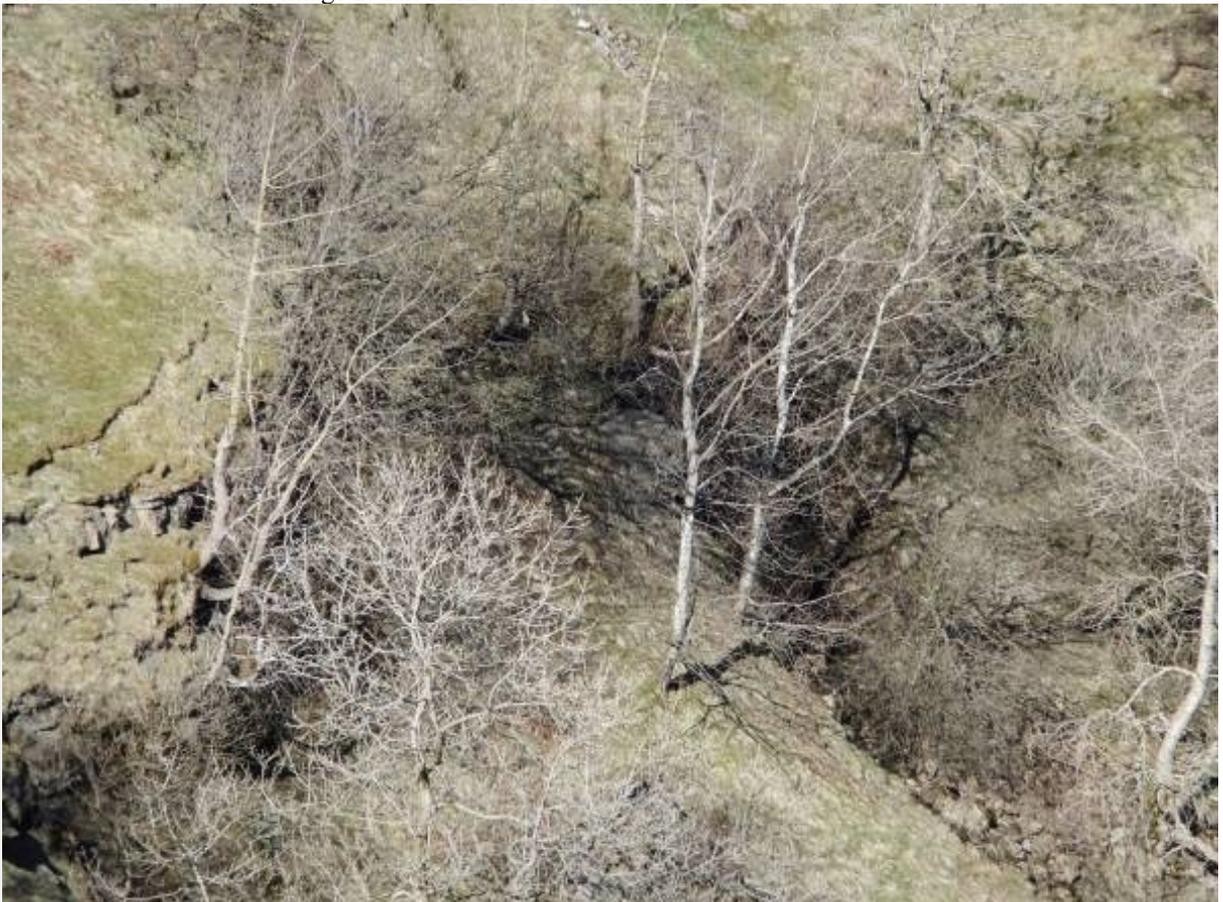
Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



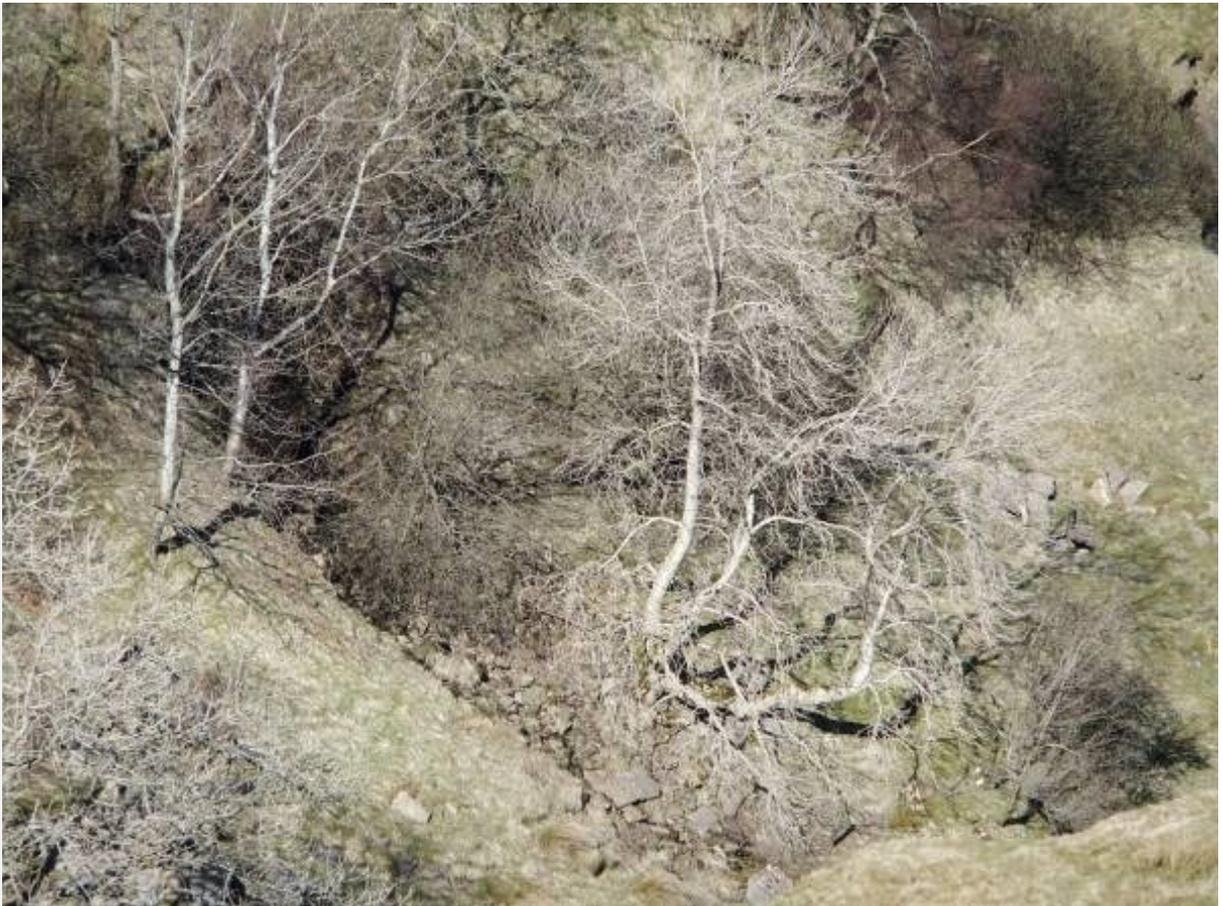
Record Number 725 >>> Image 1: Walden. Willy's Gill. The Waterfall Scar Relict limestone ash woodland community with aspen clones.



Record Number 725 >>> Image 2: The Falls with rowan and willows.



Record Number 725 >>> Image 3:



Record Number 725 >>> Image 4: The Waterfall Scar Relict limestone ash woodland community with aspen clones.



Record Number 725 >>> Image 5: Ash tree, detail.



Record Number 725 >>> Image 6: Ash tree, detail.

Record Name: Walden. Fosse Gill Head. Depleted limestone ashwood community in waterfall ravine.

SWAAG ID Number: 727

Recorded Date: 2013-05-11 11:39:12

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-06

Location: Walden. Fosse Gill Head Waterfall Ravine.

Civil Parish: Burton cum Walden

British National Grid: SD 9706 7889

Altitude: 514m

Geology: Stream cut waterfall ravine through The Main Limestone

Description: Depleted limestone ashwood community in ravine at 500m elevation. The only trees seen at this visit in early May 2013 were a solitary ash tree (at the local altitudinal limit for this tree) and several rowans including several very old examples. A further visit will be made in summer to record the vegetation and any further trees present.

Dimensions: See photos. Not yet surveyed.

Species: Ash, a solitary example at its local altitudinal limit.

Common Notable Species: Rowan.

A further visit will be made in summer to record the vegetation and any further trees present.

Additional Notes: By comparison with the vegetation of limestone scars of Swaledale at similar aspect and high altitude, for example Oxnop Scar (SWAAG Record No 350) and Long Scar in Great Sleddale (SWAAG Record No 327 ) the ashwood communities here at Fosse Gill Head and the adjacent Raven Scar (SWAAG Record No 721 and ) are very depleted.

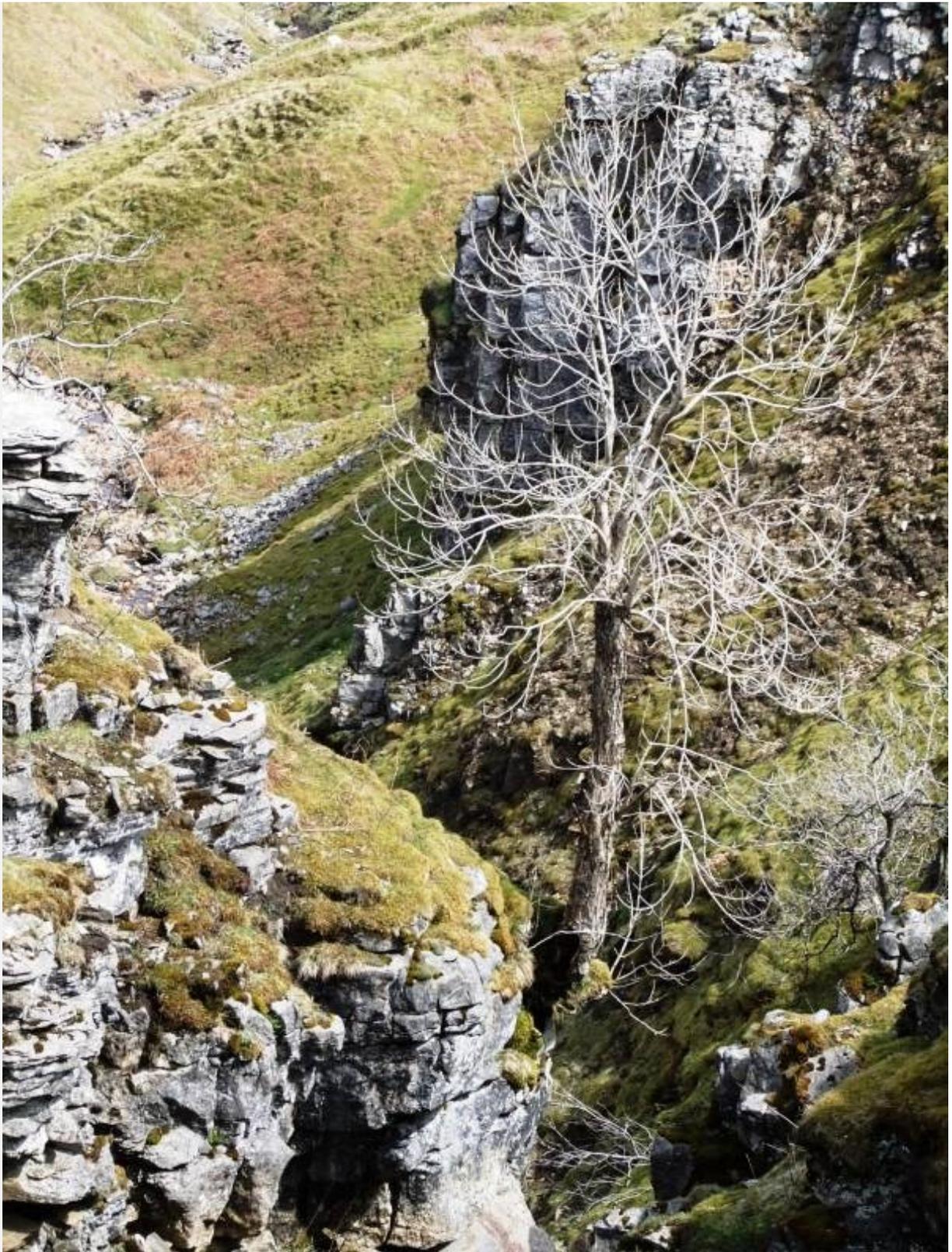
A further visit will be made in summer to record the vegetation and any further trees present.

Last Update: 2013-08-28

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 727 >>> Image 1: Walden. Fosse Gill Head with ash tree and rowans. View from above the waterfall



Record Number 727 >>> Image 2: Walden. Fosse Gill Head with solitary ash tree above the waterfall. Late Spring.



Record Number 727 >>> Image 3: Walden. Fosse Gill Head with ancient multi stem rowan tree above the waterfall. Late Spring.



Record Number 727 >>> Image 4: Walden. Fosse Gill Head with solitary ash at 500m Elevation. Ancient cliff rowans the only other trees. Seen from above the waterfall



Record Number 727 >>> Image 5: Walden. Fosse Gill Head with solitary ash at 500m Elevation. Ancient cliff rowans the only other trees. Seen from above the waterfall



Record Number 727 >>> Image 6: Small falls on chert strata above the crinoid rich Main Limestone.

Record Name: Walden Head. Raven Scar. The Upper Main Limestone Scar. Depleted limestone woodland on scar

SWAAG ID Number: 728

Recorded Date: 2013-05-11 14:06:05

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-05-06

Location: Walden Head. Raven Scar. The Upper Main Limestone Scar.

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: SD 9771 7845

Altitude: 488m

Geology: The Main Limestone with underlying sandstone strata exposed below. See also SWAAG Record 721

Description: Sheer inaccessible limestone cliff facing North West, well vegetated at top edge and with many well vegetated cliff ledges and relict depleted limestone woodland with many rowans, willow and, bird cherry the only trees seen. A further visit will be made later in the season to record the vegetation on the cliff ledges and on the scree below the Scar.

Dimensions: See photos

Species: Bird cherry.

Common Notable Species: Rowan, Willow, Hazel

Last Update: 2013-05-11

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 728 >>> Image 1: Raven Scar from below.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 2: Raven Scar from Deepdale above Walden Head.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 3: Raven Scar. Upper section of Scar with Bird cherry, rowan, sallows and hazel the only trees.



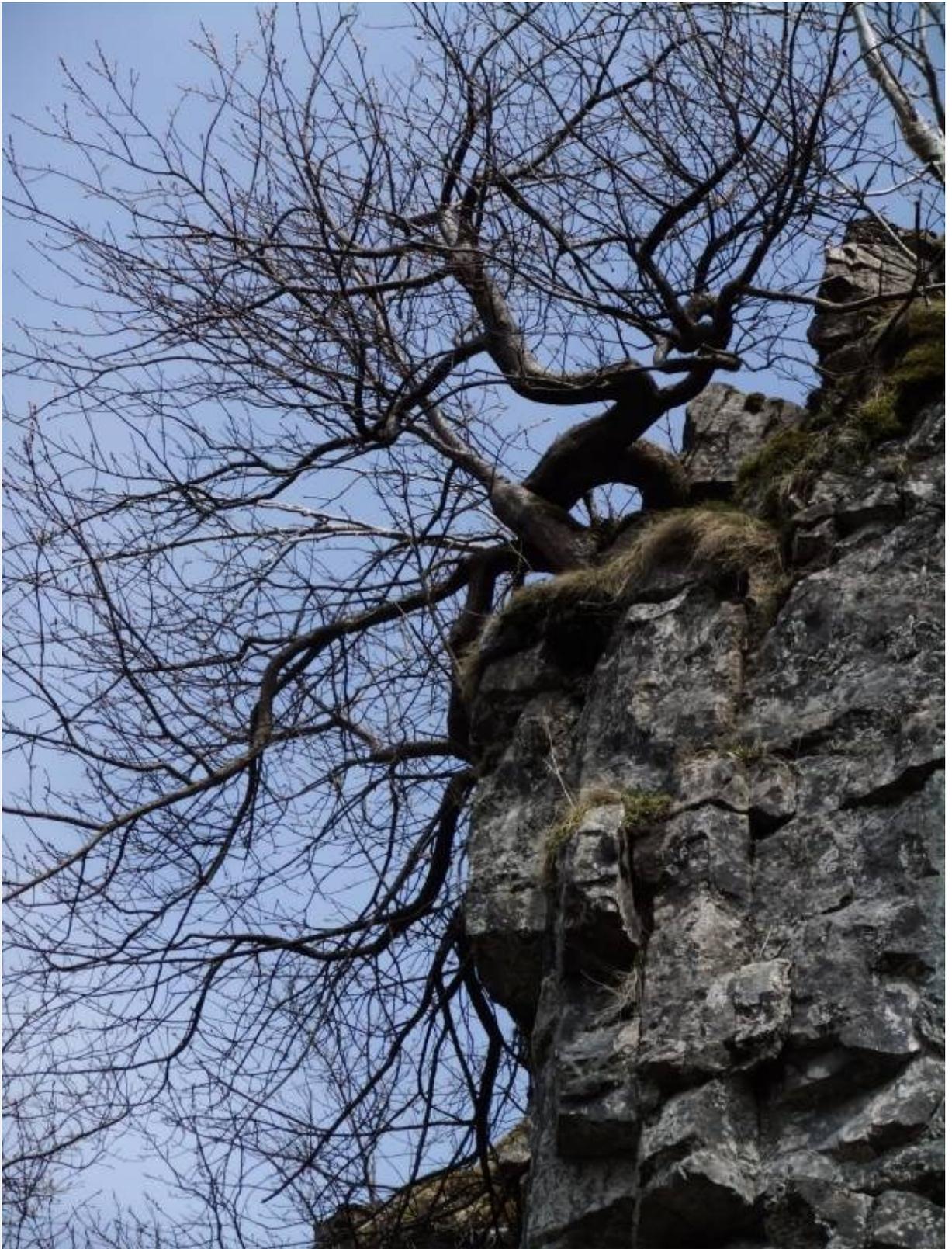
Record Number 728 >>> Image 4: Raven Scar. Upper section of Scar with Bird cherry, rowan, willows and hazel the only trees.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 5: Hazel on cliff ledge at 480m. This is the local altitudinal limit for hazel.



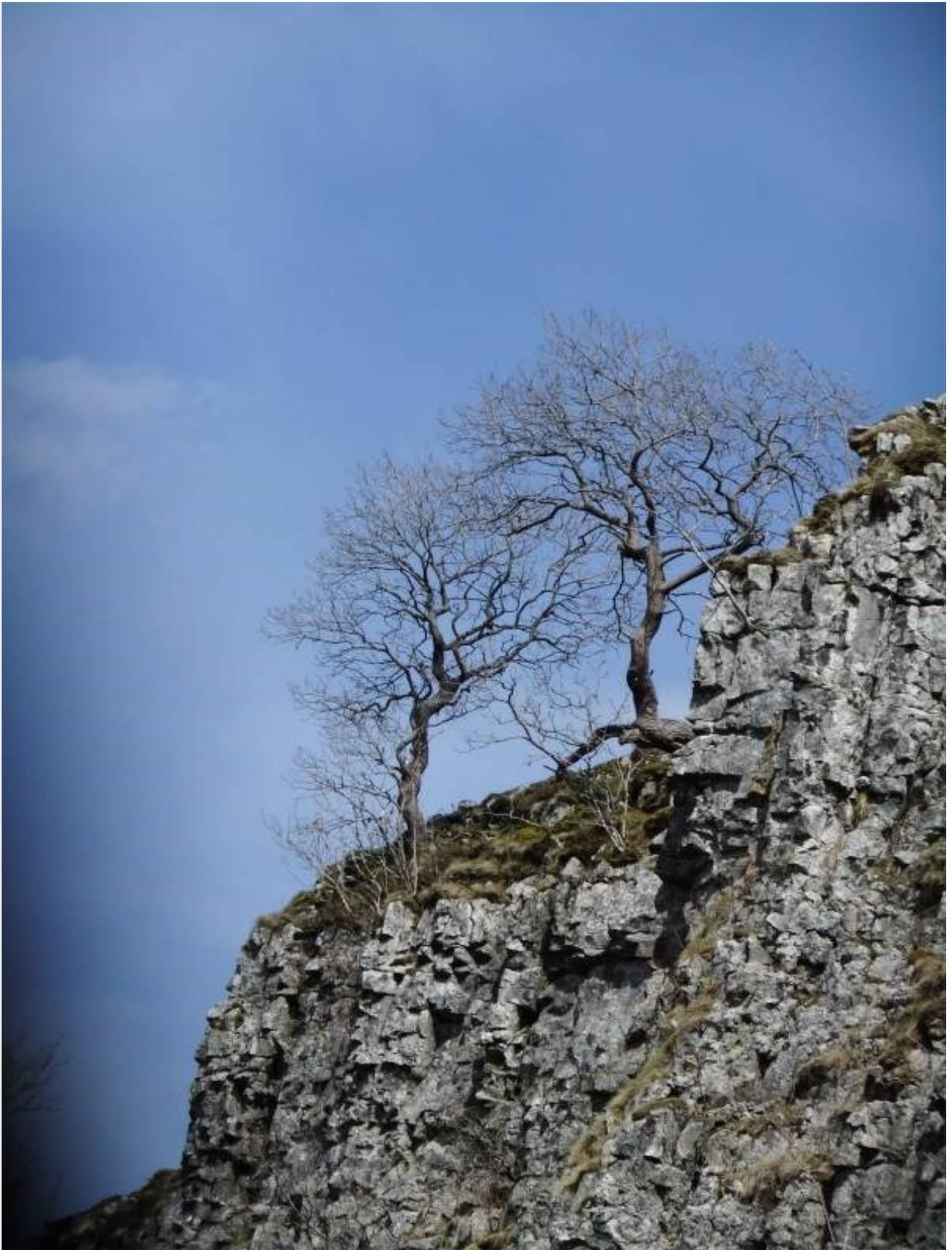
Record Number 728 >>> Image 6: A rich flora on the cliff ledges remains to be recorded.



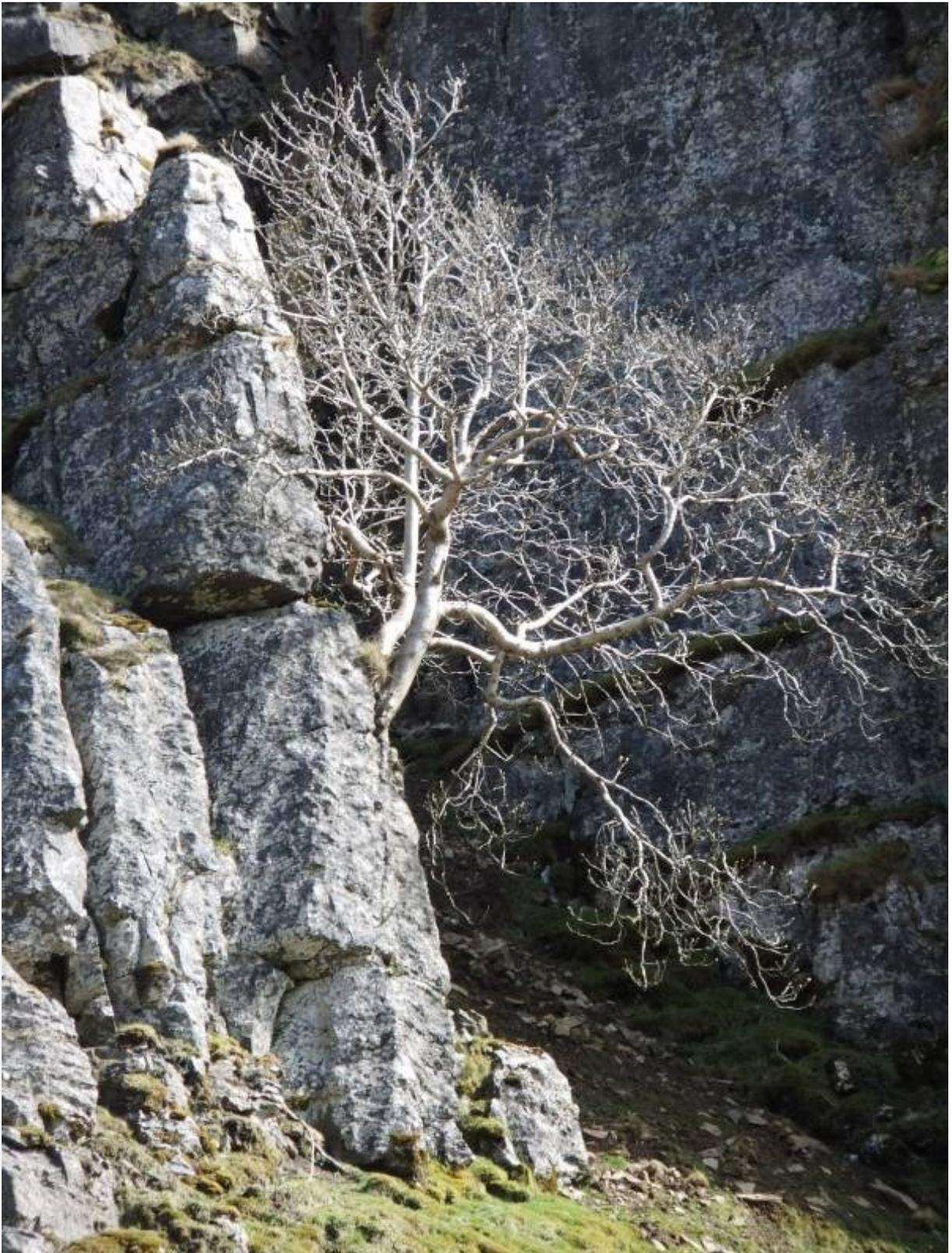
Record Number 728 >>> Image 7: Bird cherry on the top edge of the cliff.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 8: Sallows at the top edge of the cliff.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 9: Sallows.



Record Number 728 >>> Image 10: A fine Rowan, representative of the many rowans on this cliff.

Record Name: Little Punchard Gill. Lower Ravine. Relict woodland with ancient Wych Elms.  
SWAAG ID Number: 729  
Recorded Date: 2013-06-08 19:28:51  
Recorded by: Tim Laurie  
Category: Tree Site Record  
Record Type: Botanical HER  
Record Date: 2013-06-06  
Location: Little Punchard Gill  
Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale  
British National Grid: NY 9628 0405  
Altitude: 408m-427m  
Geology: Stream cut ravine through faulted Main Limestone Strata  
Description: Fragment of relict upland limestone ash/wych elm woodland with several ancient wych elms, a single mature ash tree, one downy birch, several old rowans and willow.  
Dimensions: From NY96280405 upstream to the falls at NY96200398  
Species: Wych elm,ash, bird cherry,rowan,sallow  
Common Notable Species: List to follow  
Additional Notes: A full list of the vegetation here is in preparation.  
Last Update: 2013-06-09  
Tree Geographical Area: Swaledale North Bank Catchment



Record Number 729 >>> Image 1: The approach to the Lower Ravine.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 2: Ancient wych elm, now dead and old rowan at lower end of ravine.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 3: Detail of dead wych elm



Record Number 729 >>> Image 4: Detail of dead wych elm.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 5: Wych elms grow from the low cliff just above stream level.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 6: Wych elms, bird cherry and willow.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 7: Very large self coppiced wych elm .



Record Number 729 >>> Image 8: Detail of this tree



Record Number 729 >>> Image 9: Detail of flowering shoot with winged seed.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 10: Detail of flowering shoot with winged seed.



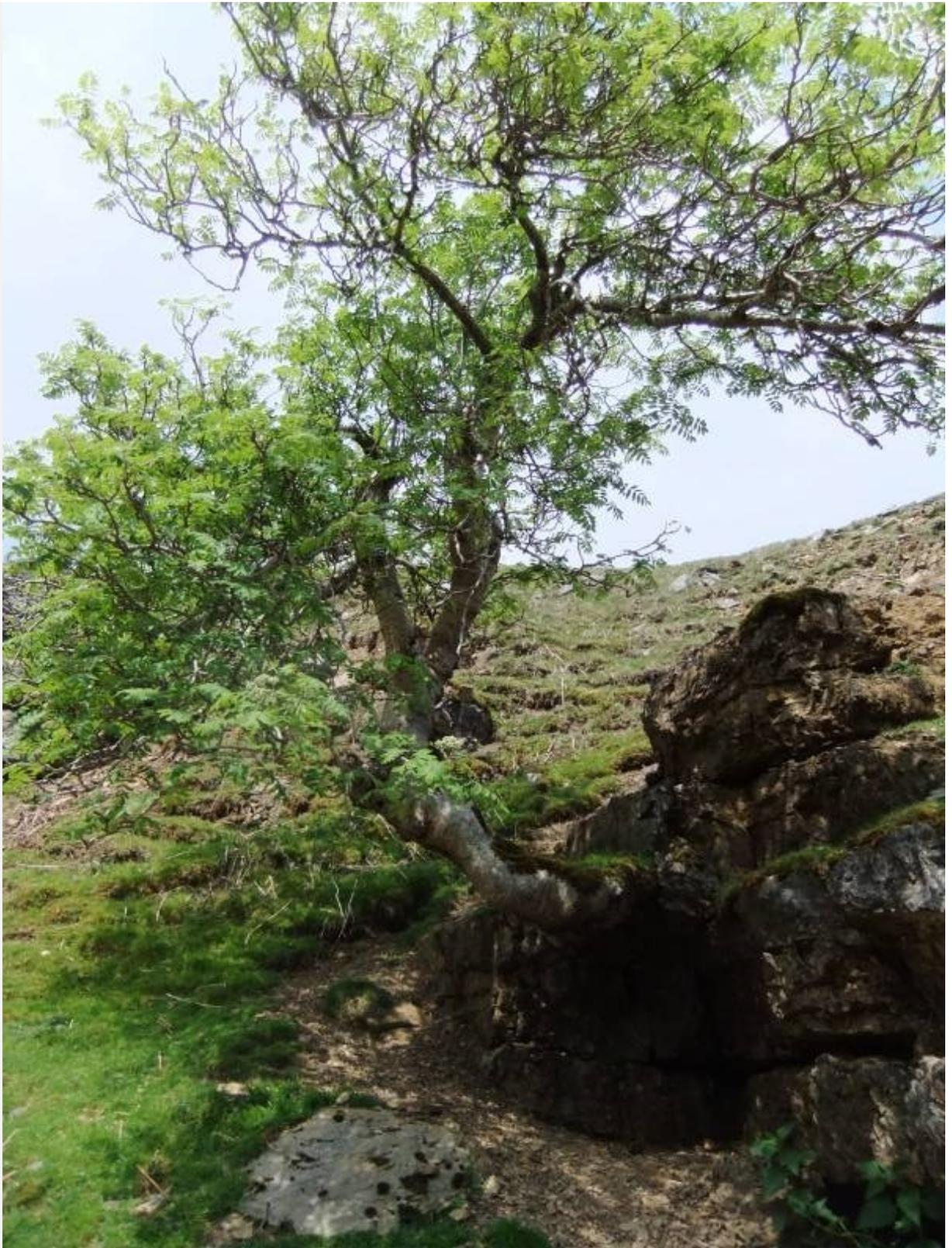
Record Number 729 >>> Image 11: Base of large self coppiced wych elm on low cliff above stream.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 12:



Record Number 729 >>> Image 13: View down from top of lower ravine.



Record Number 729 >>> Image 14: Rowan at falls



Record Number 729 >>> Image 15:



Record Number 729 >>> Image 16: Starving rabbits can reach the base of inaccessible trees on snow banks, ring bark and kill ancient trees

Record Name: Little Punchard Gill. Upper Ravine. Relict limestone ash woodland with wych elms, bird cherry and isolated junipers.

SWAAG ID Number: 730

Recorded Date: 2013-06-09 16:52:42

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2013-06-07

Location: Little Punchard Gill. Upper Ravine. From NY9596 0364 to NY9590 0351

Civil Parish: Arkengarthdale

British National Grid: NY 9593 0358

Altitude: 460-480m

Geology: Stream cut ravine through faulted Main Limestone.

Description: This species rich fragment of limestone woodland survives at the local altitudinal limit for wych elm and ash. Two isolated cliff junipers (one of which is the prostrate sub species, *J. communis* ssp. *nana*) were recorded two years ago. One of these has since died.

Trees present here include a very old and large self coppiced cliff ash, wych elms, rowans, large bird cherries, sallow, isolated birch, downy rose. Surprisingly hazel is absent.

Isolated colonies of the beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) and oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) were recorded.

Ground flora included *Galium steneri*, *Myosotis silvestris*, *Epilobium Montana*, *Moschatel*, *Luzula silvatica*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* and *Phegopteris connectilis*.

Dimensions: See photofile.

Species: Wych elm, ash, bird cherry, rowan, sallow, juniper

Common Notable Species: List of vegetation to follow.

Additional Notes: A more complete list of the vegetation here was recorded by Mrs Linda Robinson for BSBI Records.

Last Update: 2013-06-09

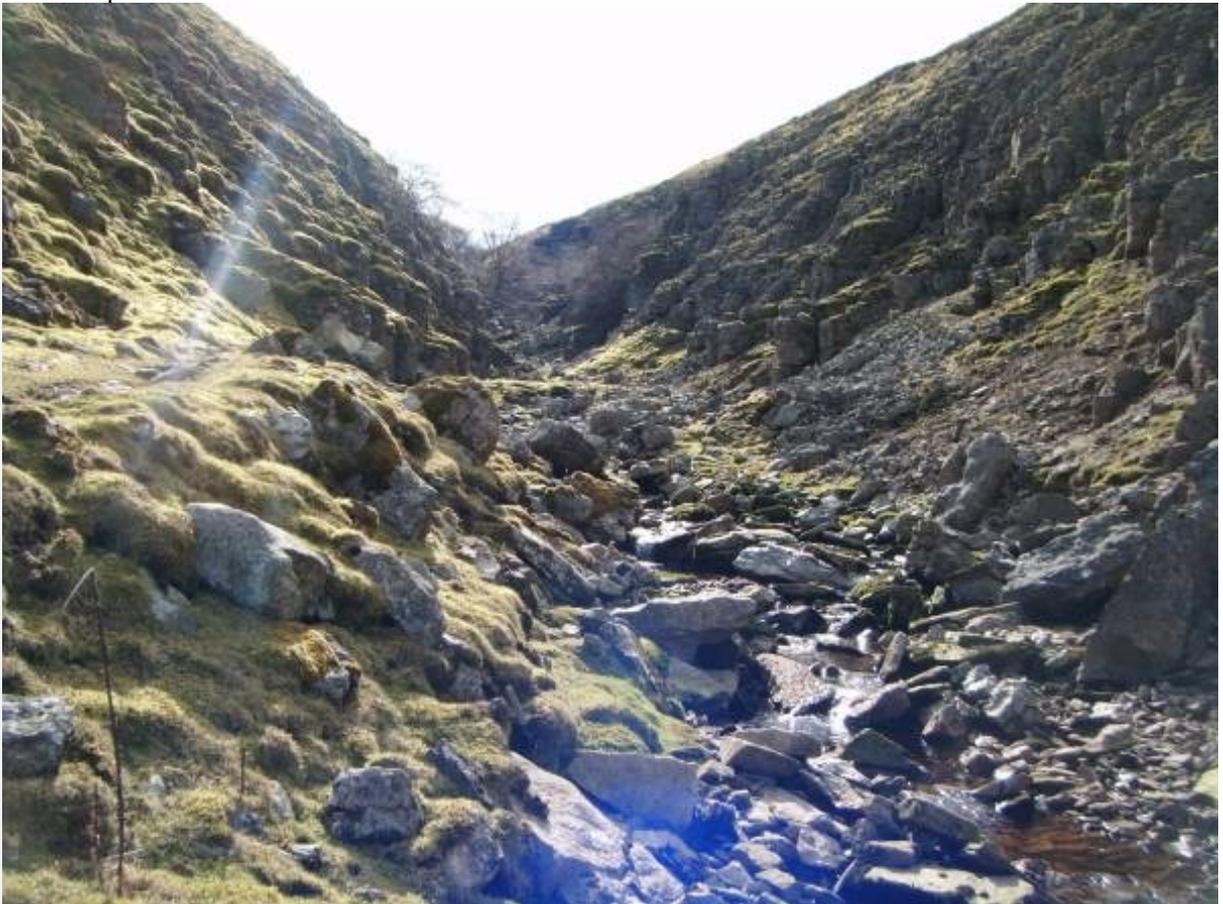
Tree Geographical Area: Swaledale North Bank Catchment



Record Number 730 >>> Image 1: Little Punchard Gill from Great Punchard.



Record Number 730 >>> Image 2: View downstream from the Upper Ravine towards Little Punchard Mine Shop



Record Number 730 >>> Image 3: View upstream into the Upper Ravine



Record Number 730 >>> Image 4: Approaching the Upper Ravine



Record Number 730 >>> Image 5: The Upper Ravine with Wych Elms, Bird Cherries, Ash and Rowans



Record Number 730 >>> Image 6: The Upper Ravine with Wych Elms, Bird Cherries, Ash and Rowans



Record Number 730 >>> Image 7: The Upper Ravine with Wych Elms, Bird Cherries, Ash and Rowans



Record Number 730 >>> Image 8: The Upper Ravine with Wych Elms, Bird Cherries, Ash and Rowans



Record Number 730 >>> Image 9: The Upper Ravine with Wych Elms, Bird Cherries, Ash and Rowans



Record Number 730 >>> Image 10: The Upper Ravine, Moschatel.



Record Number 730 >>> Image 11: View down the ravine



Record Number 730 >>> Image 12: View down the ravine



Record Number 730 >>> Image 13: View down the ravine with rowan



Record Number 730 >>> Image 14: View from top of ravine.



Record Number 730 >>> Image 15: Beech fern unfolding



Record Number 730 >>> Image 16: Beech fern , detail.

Record Name: Ancient woodland within Stainton Middle Wood.

SWAAG ID Number: 778

Recorded Date: 2014-02-19 11:10:48

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 2014-02-19

Location: Stainton Middle Wood below Spring Scar.

Civil Parish: Stainton

British National Grid: SE 0895 9700

Altitude: 290m

Geology: a) Spring Scar: Limestone cliff formed from massively bedded strata of The Main Limestone with overlying strata of Richmond Cherts. b) Richmond Chert Strata which outcrop above the Main Limestone. c) Limestone Scree and consolidated talus below the cliff. d) Kame terrace. e) Protallus rampart and the glacial hill slope deposits below. All these features are within Stainton Middle Wood east of the Ellerton Parish Boundary.

Description: This record will provide an introductory photographic record of the species rich coppiced oak /birch/hazel woodland with occasional yews which survive within Stainton Middle Wood, between areas of plantation or secondary woodland below the eastern section of Ellerton or Spring Scar. The limestone yew dominant woodland on and below the sheer face of the eastern section of Ellerton Scar or Spring Scar east of the Parish Boundary will form a separate record.

Dimensions: See photos

Common Notable Species: Fieldwork at the location is not yet complete. Further details of the vegetation will be added following further recording.

For details of the yew-rich woodland on the sheer limestone cliff named Spring Scar to the east of the Stainton/Ellerton Abbey Parish Boundary, see SWAAG Record No XXXX.

For details of the woodland on and below Ellerton Scar west of the Stainton/Ellerton Boundary, see SWAAG Record No YYY.

Additional Notes: The yew dominant woodland on and below Ellerton Scar to the east of the Parish Boundary has been recorded on SWAAG Record Nos ZZZ.

SWAAG Site: Stainton Moor

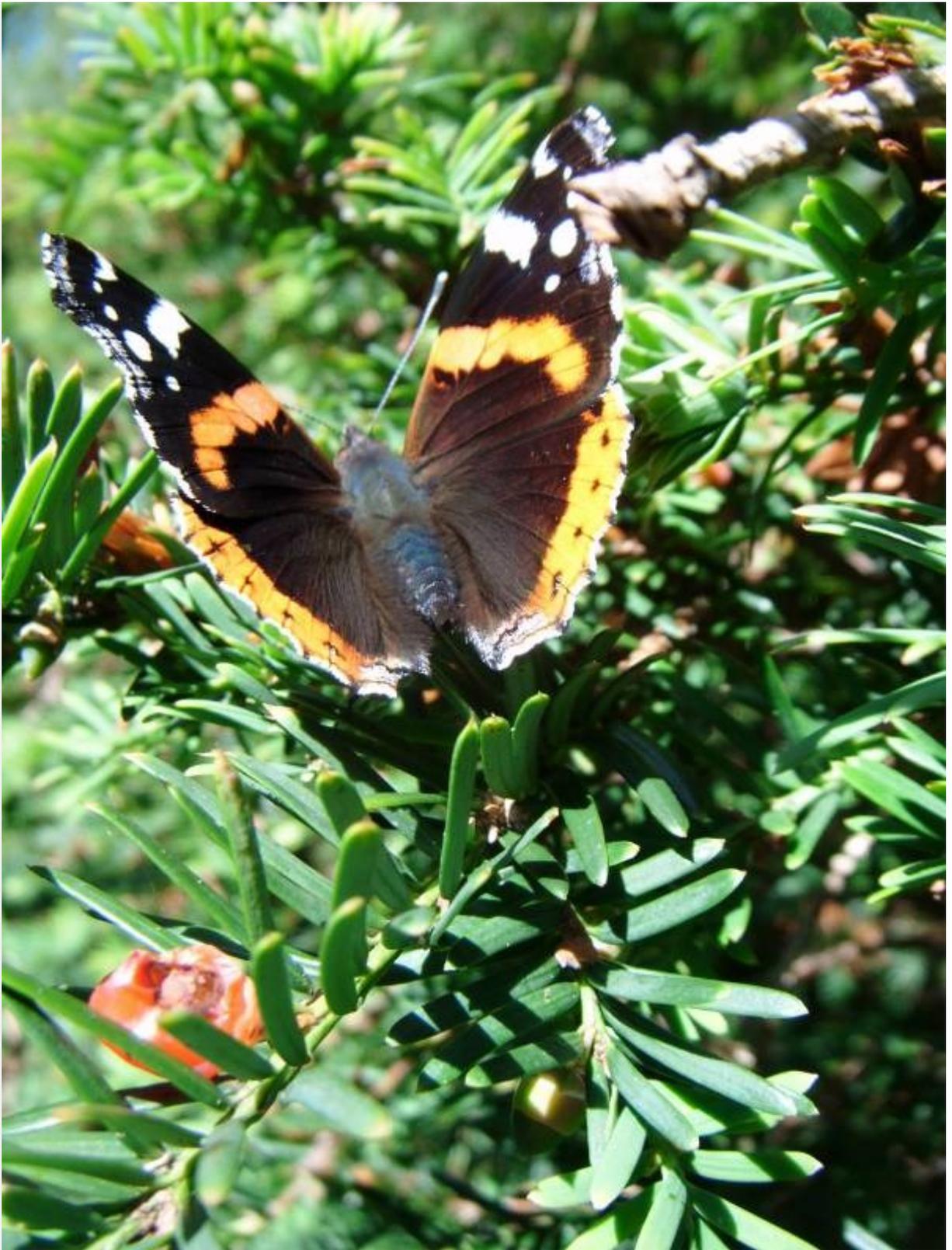
Last Update: 2014-02-20



Record Number 778 >>> Image 1: Relict oak/Birch/Hazel coppice woodland with occasional large yews.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 2: Red Admiral butterfly feeding on the fermenting juices of the red fleshy yew arils.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 3: Red Admiral butterfly on yew.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 4: The Stainton Oak. The largest oak coppiced tree recognised to date in Swaledale. Native oaks are virtually absent from Swaledale west of Marrick. Native oaks have been recognised to date only at Waitegate Wood, at the head of Marske Beck, and on How Edge Scars in Whitsundale.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 5: The Stainton Oak.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 6: Ellerton Scar west of the Ellerton/Stainton Parish Boundary



Record Number 778 >>> Image 7: Ellerton Scar within Stainton Middle Wood east of the Ellerton/Stainton Parish Boundary.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 8: Birch, hazel and bird cherry thicket on the protalus rampart at the edge of the kame terrace.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 9: Birch, oak, hazel and yew coppice.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 10: Birch, hazel and yew coppice.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 11: Isolated yew in Mid Stainton Wood, detail.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 12: Isolated yew in Mid Stainton Wood, detail.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 13: Oak coppice in Mid Stainton Wood.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 14: Oak coppice in Mid Stainton Wood.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 15: Birch coppice.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 16: Birch and hazel coppice.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 17: Mature downy birch with hazel.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 18: Hazel with bird cherry. Bird cherry is present within fenced woodland but not in pasture will not survive where subject to grazing pressure.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 19: Yew with exposed roots, note the amount of erosion of the land surface- an indicator of the age of this yew.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 20: Spring has arrived! But this was during 2010! Pussy willow, sallow or *Salix caprea*.



Record Number 778 >>> Image 21: Sallows, both *S.caprea* and *S. cinerea* are occasionally present on and below the limestone cliffs of Swaledale.

Record Name: Juniper woodland both relict native and recently planted at Juniper Gill.

SWAAG ID Number: 786

Recorded Date: 2014-03-06 11:44:35

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 2014-03-03

Location: Ellerton Moor. Juniper Gill.

Civil Parish: Ellerton Abbey

British National Grid: SE 078 962

Altitude: 240m

Geology: Stream cut ravine through glacial drift.

Description: This is an initial record of the small group of approximately 10 very fine native juniper bushes which have survived on the eastern bank of Juniper Gill. This record is to be considered together with the equally interesting and successful re-colonisation of the Gill with large numbers of juniper seedling bushes germinated from seed collected from the native bushes the Gill by Defence Estates Forestry Scientists.

More details to follow later.

Dimensions: See photographs.

Additional Notes: Defence Estates are to be congratulated for their successful and entirely appropriate replanting of Juniper Gill with junipers propagated from seed collected from bushes within the Gill. The success at Juniper Gill includes effective protection of the young seedlings from starving rabbits.

This planting programme could and must form the model for replanting areas of Swaledale where junipers once grew and areas which are currently infected at dire risk and which will soon be decimated by the airborne spore infection of *Phytophthora austrocedrae* pathogen which has been introduced to Britain from Patagonia where this scourge is endemic.

SWAAG Site: Ellerton Moor

Last Update: 2014-03-06



Record Number 786 >>> Image 1: Ellerton Moor. Army Firing Range Area. The remnant group of native Juniper bushes in Juniper Gill.



Record Number 786 >>> Image 2: Area with recently planted junipers protected by fencing and rabbit proof wire mesh tubes.



Record Number 786 >>> Image 3: Juniper Gill from the west.



Record Number 786 >>> Image 4: Detail of one of the largest junipers and other trees in Juniper Gill.

Record Name: Alderwoods on both banks of the River Cover upstream from the footbridge below Braidley.

SWAAG ID Number: 811

Recorded Date: 2014-06-07 10:58:15

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2014-06-06

Location: Both banks of the River Cover below and to the south of Braidley in Coverdale

Civil Parish: Carlton Town

British National Grid: SE 031 796

Altitude: 265m

Geology: Glacial till over the Middle Limestone series and River Cover flood plain.

Description: This record will provide photographic images taken both in winter and in early summer of the very fine, managed alder woods which survive today on the north bank of the River Cover below Braidley on the north bank and at Derry Close, Low pasture and at West Close on the southern side of the River Cover. These woodlands, once extended across the whole of lower, and most of the upper slopes of Coverdale. Alders are the dominant tree species on wet spring flushed soils over glacial boulder clays and colluvium on the lower dale sides. Alder woods, originally widespread and managed by coppice and pollarding for charcoal and useful small wood, have long been opened up as pasture. These woodlands are now largely confined to the riversides and to the confines of the many small stream-cut steep sided ravines on both sides of the river. Whereas alders are by far the most dominant tree in these woods, occasional isolated ash trees, old downy birch trees and rowan survive on the top edge of steep banks and on drier soils wherever the presence of glacial gravels and better drainage allows. Sallows are present, but not common anywhere.

For details of the species composition of Alderwoods, see J.S. Rodwell, 1991. Editor. British Plant Communities. Volume 1: Woodlands and Scrub, 102-112: W7 *Alnus glutinosa*- *Fraxinus excelsior*-*Lysimachia nemorum* woodland.

Dimensions: From the footbridge over the River Cover at Derry Close to the pastures upstream of West Close

Additional Notes: These images will be arranged to provide:

- a) Images of the Alderwoods as seen from the unfenced road west of Braidley.
- b) Images of the riverside woods.
- c) Images of the woodlands on the Dale side.
- d) Images of the alders, ash and downy birch trees.

NOTE!

During the most recent visit to Wensleydale to record individual trees for the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt Website, see <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/> it was apparent that very many mature and young ash trees throughout Lower Swaledale, Wensleydale, Coverdale, by the Motorway and nearby countryside were visibly distressed with evident leaf loss. Fearing the worst and that Ash Die Back had arrived in the area we looked at one or two visibly affected trees. The symptoms were of ash bud moth damage and no evidence of lesions or other known signs of ash die back were seen. Samples were taken for laboratory analysis and diagnosis. We await the results. Affected trees show severe leaf loss and deformation of the emerging leaf at the bud. Several ash trees were entirely leafless, leaf cover to most affected trees was very reduced. Affected trees can be seen everywhere. Such serious damage will weaken the ash trees and render them susceptible to ash die back fungus attack if and when this different scourge arrives.

This is a foretaste of the threat to come and drives home the need to record the trees while they are still alive.

Last Update: 2014-06-14



Record Number 811 >>> Image 1: View from Bradley towards Whernside over the alders of Low Pasture



Record Number 811 >>> Image 2: Ancient alder below the footbridge over the Cover at Derry Close



Record Number 811 >>> Image 3: River Cover. View upstream from the footbridge.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 4: River Cover. View upstream from the footbridge.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 5: The view down to Low Pasture Alderwoods across the Cover from Bradley



Record Number 811 >>> Image 6: West Close from the unfenced road west of Bradley



Record Number 811 >>> Image 7: Whernside across the moorland above the limit of the present alder wood.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 8: Whernside across the moorland above the limit of the present alder wood. Alders would previously have grown on the wet flushed moorland here also.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 9: Recording ancient coppiced alders on abandoned river bank.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 10: These ancient coppiced alders mark a previous line of the south bank of the River Cover



Record Number 811 >>> Image 11: Alders at ford.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 12: Low Pasture. Birch and alders line the streams.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 13: Low Pasture. Ancient alder with exposed root column denoting the amount of erosion since coppicing.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 14: Alder at top of stream ravine. Low Pasture.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 15: West Close.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 16: Detail of this streamside alder.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 17: The exposed, columnar structure of the alder root system and ancient soil line denotes the erosion since last coppiced.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 18: Alderwoods at Low Pasture and Derry Close from the road.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 19: This fine ash tree has suffered from the ravages of the ash bud moth and is distressed with much reduced and deformed leaf.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 20: Alders by the River Cover.



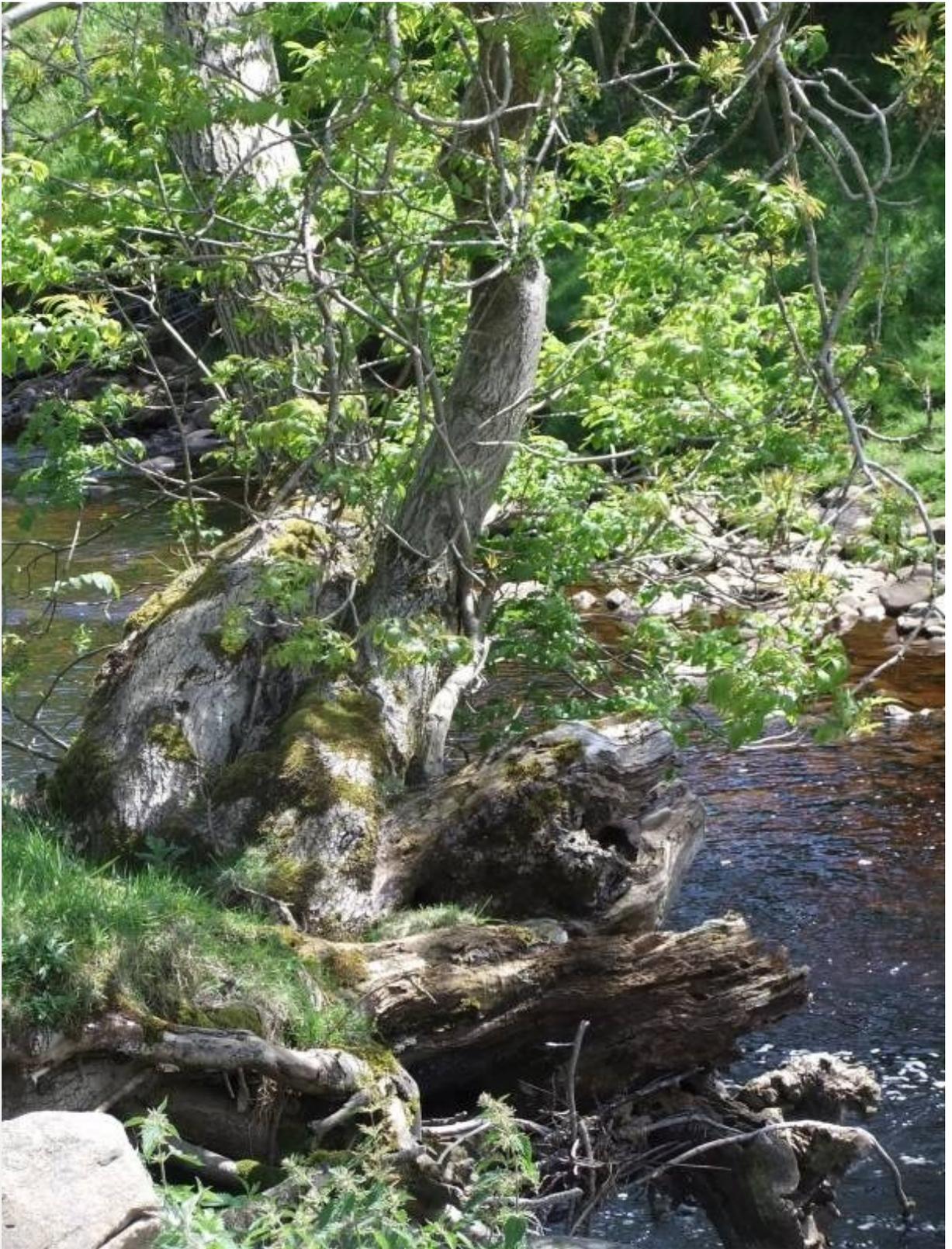
Record Number 811 >>> Image 21: Alder on the riverbank.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 22: Managed alder at old riverbank hedgerow.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 23: Large riverside ash coppice.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 24:



Record Number 811 >>> Image 25: Distressed ash tree by the Cover. The much reduced and deformed leafage of this fine tree is the consequence of Ash Bud Moth grub infestation. Very many ash trees show this damage.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 26: The same ash tree.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 27: Detail of the ash bud damage and deformation.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 28: Woodale, Ridge Scar. Very large and ancient Wych elm coppice on low limestone cliff upstream of the Alderwoods.



Record Number 811 >>> Image 29: The bole of this large cliff self or wind coppiced wych elm measured 7.8m girth at the base.

Record Name: Spring Wood, Gammersgill. Ancient managed alderwood with an associated iron bloomery industry.

SWAAG ID Number: 812

Recorded Date: 2014-06-16 15:31:01

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2014-03-24

Location: Coverdale. Gammersgill. Fleemis Gill. Spring Wood.

Civil Parish: Carlton Town

British National Grid: SE 0476 8312

Altitude: 280m

Geology: Glacial Till over the Middle Limestone. Stream cut ravine.

Description: This record will provide photographic images taken during March to May 2014, of the very fine, coppiced alder woods which, once more widespread here, survive today only in the shelter of the steep sided stream cut ravines of Fleemis Gill and Turn Gill. These streams which drain Gammersgill Moor join and fall into the northern bank of the River Cover below the hamlet of Gammersgill. Alder woodlands, once extended across the open rough pastures between Fleemis Gill and Turn Gill and also across the spring flushed, rushy pasture to the north of Turn Gill. Alders are the dominant tree species on wet spring flushed soils over glacial boulder clays and colluvium on the lower dale sides. These Alder woods, originally much more extensive but now opened up as rough pasture were managed by coppicing and pollarding for charcoal and useful small wood, . The presence of a substantial iron bloomery site close to Turn Gill which forms the present day upper limit of Spring Wood, indicates that the alder wood was managed for charcoal for use in a local iron smelting industry. These woodlands are now largely confined to the confines of the stream-cut steep sided ravines. Whereas alders are by far the most dominant tree, especially close to the streams, downy birch trees, isolated ash trees, old hollies and rowans survive on the top edge of steep banks and on drier soils wherever the presence of glacial gravels and better drainage allows. Sallows are present, but not common anywhere. For details of the species composition of Alderwoods, see J.S. Rodwell, 1991. Editor. British Plant Communities. Volume 1: Woodlands and Scrub, 102-112: W7 *Alnus glutinosa*- *Fraxinus excelsior*-*Lysimachia nemorum* woodland.

Dimensions: See photographs.

Species: Alders, Ash, Hazel, Rowan, Sallow.

Scientific Name: W7 *Alnus glutinosa*- *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland

Common Notable Species: Alders dominant, Ash Hazel, Holly and Rowan occasional, Sallows scarce.

All ancient coppice or pollards. No natural regeneration observed. Both hollies and rowans occur as mature epiphytes on the ancient alders.

Tree Stems/Girth: See Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt website for details of individual trees.

Additional Notes: Since this record refers to streamside alder woods across a fairly large area, this Record will be in two Parts. This record, Part One of the record, will provide a photo file of images of the trees within Fleemis Gill itself and will also include the small alder wood located some 300m to the north of Fleemis Gill, SE0485 8332 (centre). Part Two of this Record (see SWAAG Record 813 to follow) will provide images of the alders and other trees which are confined to the banks of Turn Gill.

Last Update: 2014-06-17

Tree Geographical Area: Wensleydale



Record Number 812 >>> Image 1: Fleemis Gill. Spring Wood. Alders with downy birch and occasional ash, hazels and rowans the stream



Record Number 812 >>> Image 2: The road from Gammersgill to Fleensop Farm with Fleemis Gill below.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 3: View down Fleemis Gill from New Close with old Scots Pine and Larch Plantation.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 4: Spring Wood across Fleemis Gill, from New Close



Record Number 812 >>> Image 5: Spring Wood across Fleemis Gill, from New Close



Record Number 812 >>> Image 6: View towards Coverdale from the upper edge of Spring Wood.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 7: Iron bloomery smelting site at Turn Gill, in pasture 300m north of Fleemis Gill the ravine of which is hidden to the right of the clump of Pine Trees.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 8: The iron bloomery site is visible as the bright green turf covered mound of iron slag. Alders in Turn gill visible downstream.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 9: Ancient birch and alder, Spring Wood



Record Number 812 >>> Image 10: Ash alder and downy birch in Fleemis Gill.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 11: Old rowan with root system exposed by erosion.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 12: Old birch coppice woodland towards the top of the Gill.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 13: Very large birch coppice stool .



Record Number 812 >>> Image 14: Alders by the stream.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 15: Alders at the upper end of Spring wood, near the fir plantation.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 16: Alder, Downy Birch with Holly epiphyte on the slope above Fleemis Gill



Record Number 812 >>> Image 17: Alders by the stream.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 18: Alders on the south slope.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 19: Keeping upright on a 70 degree slope in Fleemis Gill in June. Better than the Gym and just as good for the figure.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 20: Fleemis Gill in June



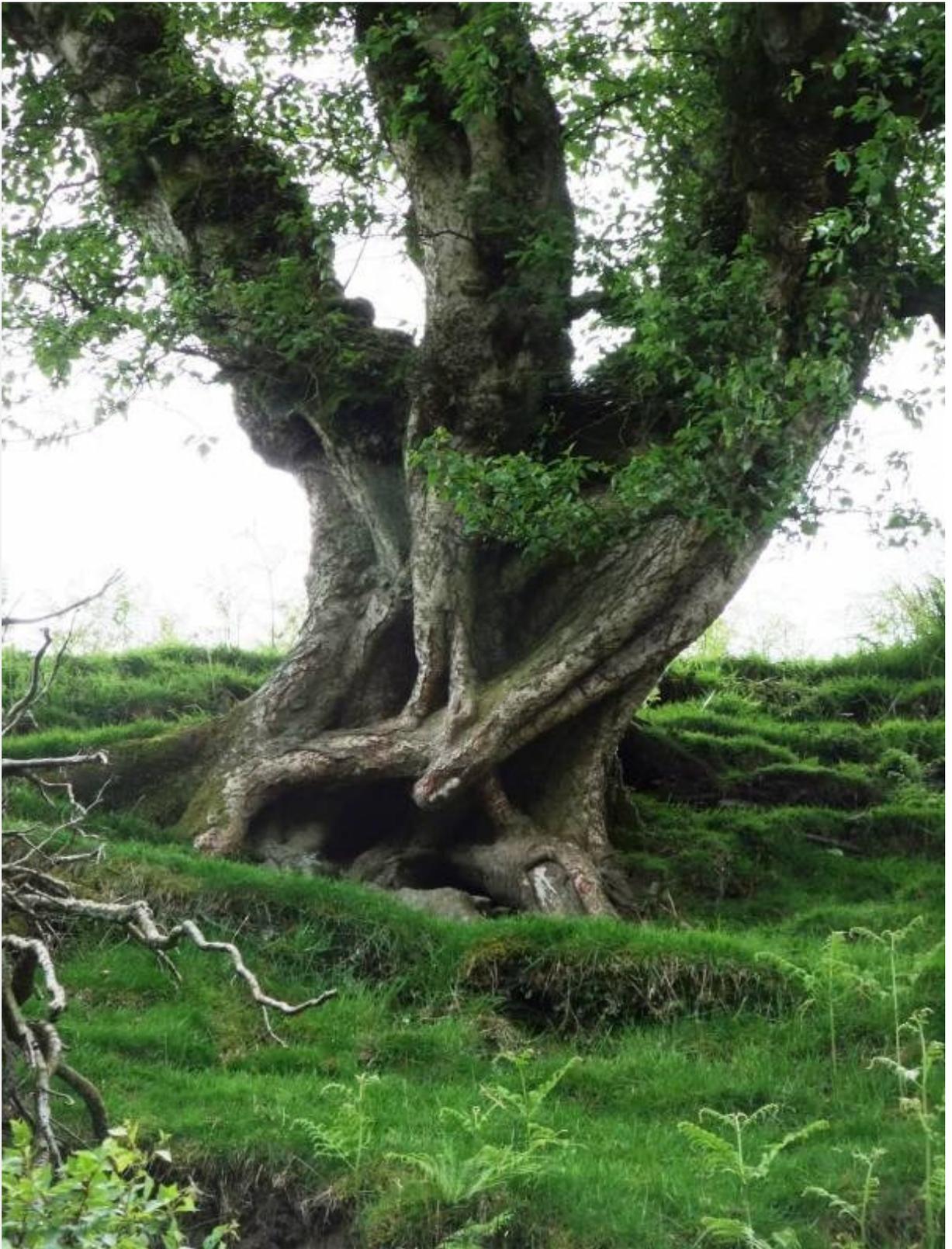
Record Number 812 >>> Image 21: Fallen alder over loaded with very large rowan epiphyte



Record Number 812 >>> Image 22: Detail of the parasitic rowan.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 23: Fleemis Gill with birch, alders and hazel in June.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 24: Birch at the top of the Gill, north side.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 25: Discussing the trees.



Record Number 812 >>> Image 26: Alders at SE0485 8332



Record Number 812 >>> Image 27: Alders at SE0485 8332

Record Name: Mixed deciduous, species rich, woodland with native small leaved lime trees on cliffs with tufa springs.

SWAAG ID Number: 825

Recorded Date: 2014-08-02 12:13:27

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2014-04-14

Location: Teesdale. River Tees North Bank. Stony Bank Wood.

Civil Parish: Winston

British National Grid: NZ 1405 1605

Altitude: 100m

Geology: Tufa Springs rising below marine shales or thin limestones of Namurian age. The spring seepages have formed thick tufa sheet deposits on and over the face of the sandstone outcrop. These tufa coated cliffs outcrop intermittently above the North Bank of the River Tees upstream of Winston Bridge. The *Tilia cordata* trees grow on the top edge and in the scree below these tufa covered cliffs in close association with old *Quercus robur* and *Ulmus glabra* coppice trees. Ancient coppiced Alders with *Paris quadrifolia*, *Caltha palustris* and *Carex pendula* can be seen close to the tufa spring streams between the cliffs and the River.

Description: This is the first of a series of records which will place on record the existence of a substantial population of native lime trees of both small and large-leaved species (*Tilia cordata* and *T. platyphyllos* and natural hybrids of these species) on and below inaccessible cliffs at intervals on both banks of the River Tees downstream of Cotherstone to Winston Bridge, a distance of some eight miles.

The *Tilia* trees grow as small clusters of usually less than 12 trees located at the top edge of the riverside cliffs and on the talus slopes below the cliffs.

These records will commence with this record of Stony Bank Wood on the North Bank and continue with several further location-specific records of the fine woodlands which include native looking *Tilia* trees, on both North and South Banks of the Tees upstream of Winston Bridge and downstream of Ovington.

In contrast to the *Tilia* trees of Lower Swaledale, which are predominantly Large-leaved Limes (*T. platyphyllos*) or hybrids, the majority of the Lime (*Tilia*) trees recorded to date on both banks of the River Tees are Small Leaved Limes (*Tilia cordata*). However a small cluster of five Large Leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) trees have been recognised on the South Bank of the Tees, at the confluence of Fewster Gill Beck with the Tees. Just one *Tilia platyphyllos* tree has been recognised to date on the North Bank of the Tees, at Low Barn.

However this reconnaissance is work in progress and further trees are expected to be located.

Dimensions: See photographs

Species: Small and large-leaved limes.

Scientific Name: *Tilia cordata*

Common Notable Species: Trees, shrubs and climbers

Pedunculate or English oak\*. Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*, 12 trees). (*Qu. robur*). Wych elm\* (*Ulmus glabra*). Ash\* (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Alder\* (*Alnus glutinosa*). Aspen (*Populus tremula*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Hazel\* (*Corylus avellana*). Gean or wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). Bird cherry (*Prunus padus*). Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*). Sycamore\*. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). Ivy (*Hedera helix*) Sycamore\* (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

\* Indicates old managed coppice trees.

Ground flora (Selected, and rare) species:

Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perenne*) Enchanters nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) Wood anemone (*Anemone nemoralis*). Ramsons or wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*). Sanicle. (*Sanicula europaea*) Herb paris. (*Paris quadrifolia*). Northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*): on rocks in the river bed. Early purple orchis (*Orchis mascula*). Broad Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). Harts Tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*). Polypody. (*Polypodium vulgare*).

Additional Notes: The river scenery on the River Tees which is the largest of the NE Pennine Rivers, is second to none.

Public footpaths which include the waymarked Teesdale Way, give access to both banks of the River. By the best of good fortune, considerable lengths of woodland exist on and below sheer cliffs which protect some very special areas of native woodland. The inaccessible areas of these woodlands have survived largely unaltered by human extraction and planting. All the largest and oldest *Tilia* trees are located on the top edge of sheer cliffs. These special lime trees can live indefinitely and throw up new saplings from the roots when a stem of the tree falls away from the cliff. Small leaved limes do not reproduce from seed but

characteristically produce long, self layering branches which can root where they touch the soil. Large-leaved limes do produce viable seed in favourable years, but few if any seedlings survive. Any seedlings which are produced being usually eaten by voles.

Notwithstanding these difficulties with reproduction, it is evident that some reproduction has been possible in the past and most of the very large old lime trees grow today in company with a small cluster of lime trees of different age. Cloning is probable but seedling lime trees are short lived or non-existent. Lime trees which grow on the edge of the cliffs are multi-stemmed and the root boles of these wind coppiced trees attain great dimensions, being formed through time by the constant renewal of wind-blown stems.

However very frequently, the only evidence that a lime tree once existed on the cliff edge is the roothole in the cliff caused by recent tree fall and numbers of small shoots which have sprung from the damaged roots of the lost tree.

Almost all the lime trees which grow on the accessible steep slopes below the cliffs are coppiced and have been managed for useful timber in the past.

Last Update: 2014-08-04



Record Number 825 >>> Image 1: River Tees and riverside woodland upstream from Winston Bridge.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 2: Stony banks Wood from across the Tees



Record Number 825 >>> Image 3: *Tilia cordata* in flower.



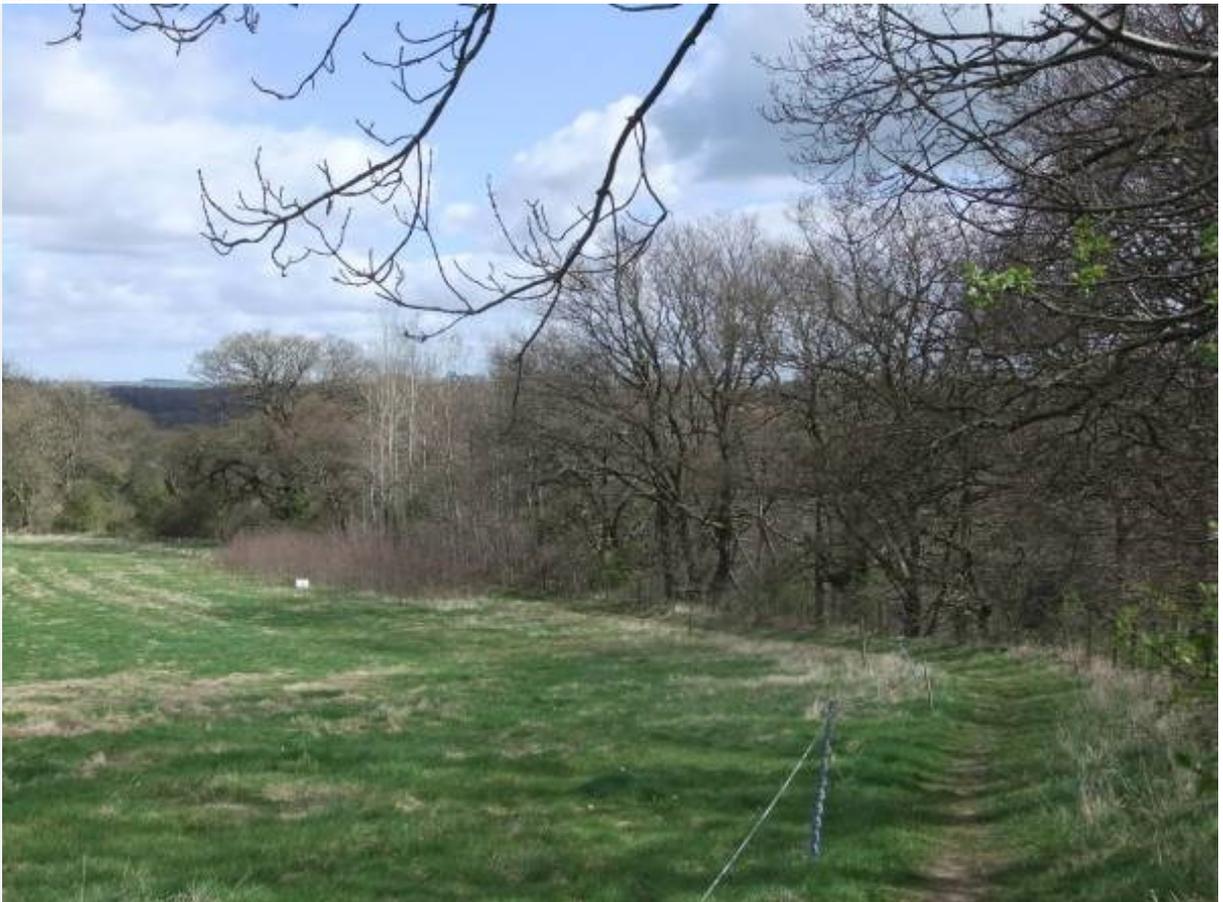
Record Number 825 >>> Image 4: The Falls



Record Number 825 >>> Image 5: View upstream from the Falls.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 6: The Teesdale Way passes above Stony Bank Wood and through a strong copse of aspen trees with masses of root shoots, each could form a fresh replacement clone for the mature trees.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 7: The aspen grove.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 8: The aspens grow above the cliff edge which is home to very old oak coppice, holly, wych elm and small-leaved lime trees.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 9: Oak coppice with wood anemone in Stony Bank Wood.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 10: Broad buckler fern.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 11: Hazel coppice.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 12: I think that there is an interesting plant here.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 13: A very large colony of Herb paris with ancient alder coppice by the tufa springs.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 14: Herb paris, a scarce and interesting flower found only in pristine ancient woodland.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 15: Sweet woodruff



Record Number 825 >>> Image 16: Lesser celandine.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 17: This self coppiced Small-leaved Lime tree has, together with native Pedunculate Oak colonised the whole of a 10m length of cliff edge.



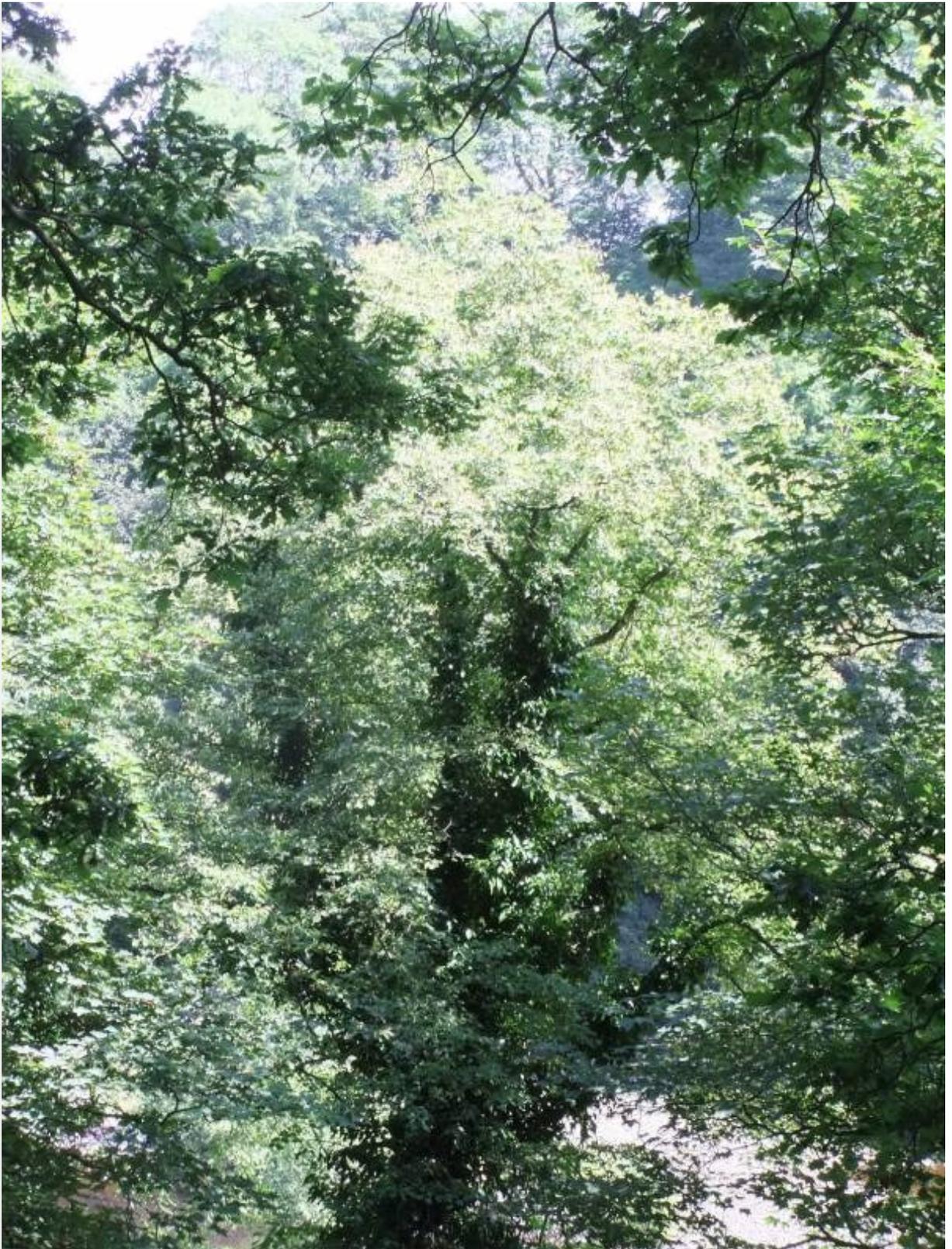
Record Number 825 >>> Image 18: Early purple orchis in flower at the base of the Lime tree on the cliff edge with wild garlic and blue bells.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 19: This structure is provisionally interpreted as an Elling hearth or chopwood kiln in ancient hazel coppice



Record Number 825 >>> Image 20: Small leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) tree, very conspicuous when in flower. This tree is located in woodland below the cliff close to the river bank.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 21:



Record Number 825 >>> Image 22: The Smallleaved limes grow at the top of the cliff. Their roots having first destabilised the sandstone of the cliff the mature trunks of the lime tree frequently fall away. New shoots spring from the broken roots.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 23: The roots are themselves coated with tufa.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 24: *Tilia cordata* trees on the cliff seen from below



Record Number 825 >>> Image 25: River Tees and Stony Bank Wood seen from the Falls.



Record Number 825 >>> Image 26: The Falls.

Record Name: Mixed deciduous woodland with both Small-leaved and Large-leaved Lime trees on riverside cliffs below the Winston Holiday Park

SWAAG ID Number: 826

Recorded Date: 2014-08-04 12:00:09

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 0000-00-00

Location: River Tees, South Bank, upstream from Winston Bridge to Fewster Gill.

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: NZ 142 161

Altitude: 100m

Geology: River gorge cut through thin limestones, mudstones and sandstones of Namurian Age. The presence of tufa forming seepages above shales within outcropping sandstones mark the outcrop of Marine Bands.

Description: This is the second of a series of records which will place on record the existence of a substantial population of native lime trees of both species, small and large-leaved limes (*Tilia cordata* and *T. platyphyllos*) and natural hybrids of these species. These trees grow on and below inaccessible cliffs, at intervals on both banks of the River Tees downstream of Cotherstone to Winston Bridge, a distance of some eight miles.

The Large leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) trees are at the northern and western limit of this species in Britain.

The *Tilia* trees grow as small clusters of usually less than 12 trees located at the top edge of the riverside cliffs and on the talus slopes below the cliffs.

These records of the *Tilia* trees on the Tees commenced with a record of Stony Bank Wood on the north bank of the Tees at Stony Bank Wood and will now continue with a brief photographic account of the lime trees on the south bank of the Tees upstream of Winston Bridge and across the river from Stony Bank. Future records will describe the remaining fine woodlands which include native looking *Tilia* trees, on both North and South Banks of the Tees further upstream.

In contrast to the *Tilia* trees of Lower Swaledale, which are predominantly Large-leaved Limes (*T. platyphyllos*) or hybrids, the majority of the Lime (*Tilia*) trees recorded to date on both banks of the River Tees are Small Leaved Limes (*Tilia cordata*). However a small cluster of five Large Leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) trees have been recognised on the South Bank of the Tees, at the confluence of Fewster Gill Beck with the Tees. Just one *Tilia platyphyllos* tree has been recognised to date on the North Bank of the Tees, further upstream at Low Barn.

However this reconnaissance is work in progress and further trees of both species are expected to be located.

Dimensions: See photographs

Additional Notes: A total of 12 Lime trees of native character have been located at this locality which are provisionally identified as follows:-

Small-leaved Limes, 7No. Large-leaved Limes 4No. and one hybrid Lime.

For details of individual specimen trees of *Tilia* and other species located in Riverside Woodland on the Banks of the Tees, see the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt following links from the Interactive Map.

Last Update: 2014-08-07



Record Number 826 >>> Image 1: River Tees south bank. View downstream towards Winston Bridge with large Tilia tree in mid frame.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 2: This large, copped Tilia tree grows on a low outcrop just above the River and beside the public footpath.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 3: Detail of the same tree.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 4: River Tees, south bank with small-leaved lime tree (*Tilia cordata*) overhanging the river.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 5: Detail of this very large cliff edge tree. Note that this tree grows on the top edge of a low cliff encrusted with white tufa.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 6: Detail of this very large cliff edge tree and the tufa deposit.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 7: View upstream with further Tilia riverside trees in fresh spring foliage.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 8: Small-leaved lime tree on the top edge of a cliff of sandstone with interbedded black shale coated with tufa.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 9: Green mosses mark the tufa which coats black shale revealed where the tufa has fallen away.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 10: Detail of the black shale and tufa.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 11: River Tees South Bank. Multi stemmed or self coppiced small leaved limes, with pendunculate oak, ash, holly and wych elm grow on the edge of the tufa coated sandstone cliff.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 12: Further detail of small leaved limes.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 13: River Tees South Bank. Small leaved limes on the edge of the tufa coated sandstone cliff.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 14: The species rich woodland which grows on these inaccessible cliffs includes many ancient native trees and has not been modified by human extraction or planting.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 15: Two Large-leaved lime trees (*Tilia platyphyllos*) grow on the steep slope above the river just below the confluence with Fewster Gill.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 16: The small population of native limes on both banks of the Tees includes individual trees of different age. These examples are mature trees but not ancient trees.



Record Number 826 >>> Image 17: Two *Tilia platyphyllos* trees on the river bank with *Quercus robur*.

Record Name: Uldale Lower Falls and relict woodland close to the present altitudinal limit of trees in Swaledale.

SWAAG ID Number: 833

Recorded Date: 2014-08-23 15:27:00

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Record Date: 2014-08-23

Location: Birkdale Common. Uldale Beck. Lower Falls.

Civil Parish: Muker

British National Grid: NY 81206 03287

Altitude: 530m

Geology: Waterfall formed by hard thin bedded strata close to the Crow Limestone.

Description: This record describes two living trees, the first being an ancient rowan, the other a very young seedling juniper. The remains of a third tree, long dead are also mentioned. This small juniper is a surprise, no living juniper survives here today. The nearest known living junipers are an isolated ancient juniper at the waterfall on Little Sleddale Beck and three junipers on Black Scar on Birkdale Beck, upstream of Ellers.

However there can be no doubt that that junipers were once widespread on all the tributaries of the Swale and the remains of fossil prehistoric juniper are present, together with birch and willow below deep blanket peat at elevation up to 640m at Lodge Hags and elsewhere on the eastern slopes Mallerstang Edge and on Birkdale Common, see photos.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: The existence of this isolated and very healthy seedling juniper on the steep heather dominated slope immediately above Uldale Beck Falls is very significant and certainly indicates that natural regeneration from long dormant seed can and does occur today. The locality of this seedling is characteristic of the localities where relict junipers do survive today, and the absence of mature living juniper today in Uldale Gill does not imply that junipers were not present here recently. The rotted remains, unidentified, of a dead tree which were seen on the cliff beside the falls does show that further trees or junipers were recently present here.

For an account of the present altitudinal limit of trees in the High Northern Pennines together with details of the existence and age of prehistoric tree remains below deep blanket peat, including Downy Birch, Willow, Aspen and Juniper, at elevations up to 760m in Upper Teesdale within the Moorhouse National Nature Reserve, see Johnson, G.A.L and Dunham, K.C. 'The Geology of Moorhouse' Monographs of the Nature Conservancy No 2. HMSO. 1963.

Last Update: 2014-08-24



Record Number 833 >>> Image 1: The Lower Falls, Uldale Beck.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 2: Approach to the Falls



Record Number 833 >>> Image 3: A good place for lunch. The multi stemmed rowan grows at the edge of the Beck below the Falls



Record Number 833 >>> Image 4: This old rowan has several stems or trunks. The base of the tree and each stem being concealed below moss.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 5: The Rowan in August.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 6:



Record Number 833 >>> Image 7: Hard fern, *Blechnum spicant* at the falls



Record Number 833 >>> Image 8: Hard fern and Broad Buckler Fern, *Dryopteris dilatata*, at the falls.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 9: Recording the seedling juniper in heather close to the falls.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 10: The small juniper in heather by the falls.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 11: Uldale Gill Beck above the Lower Falls



Record Number 833 >>> Image 12: Lodge Hags. Massed tree remains below residual mound of blanket peat, 2-3m deep.



Record Number 833 >>> Image 13: Detail of the fossil tree remains. Remains of Downy birch, Willow and Juniper have been identified below peat in this area.

Record Name: Gayles Moor. Ancient Alders below Shooters Well. Feldom Army Live Firing Range.

SWAAG ID Number: 843

Recorded Date: 2014-12-30 12:36:22

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 0000-00-00

Location: Feldom Army Ranges. Gayles Moor.

Civil Parish: Gayles

British National Grid: NZ 104 061

Altitude: 350m down to 270m

Geology: Springs rising below the Underset Limestone and streams cut through glacial drift .

Description: The woodland recorded here comprise four small surviving areas of alder wood located on both sides of the small dendritic streams which rise at Shooters Well and at spring flushes downstream. The alders extend downstream for a distance of 600m to disappear within the recently planted conifers of Stone Man Plantation.

These alders are centred at NZ104061.

Area One is a small group of alders on the eastern slope above the stream close to the Stoneman Plantation.

Area Two are the alders which line the stream upstream from the Plantation.

Area Three are alders which grow close to springs on the western slopes above the stream.

Area Four are the alders which grow at and below Shooters Well.

For details of individual trees recorded, see photographs of representative trees below and for further detailed descriptions of the recorded trees see The Woodland Trust Ancient Hunt Tree Database.

A total of sixty alders have been recorded on the Woodland Trust ATH Database to date as representative of the alders here, See <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>

Species Composition of the Alder Woodland:

Unusually, and with the sole exception of a solitary small rowan epiphyte, no other tree or shrub species grow with the alders within any of the four Woodland Areas at and below Shooters Well. Shooters Well will be revisited at a favourable time of year to record the ground flora.

Location Map 1. Woodland Trust Records. OS Historic Map series.

Dimensions: See photo images which illustrate the age characteristics of these fine old trees.

Additional Notes: The alders at and below Shooters Well are all ancient, twisted and wind blown. There is no regeneration. There are a number of exceptional specimen ancient alders and all the small alders show the characteristics of great age. For examples of these age characteristics, see captions to the photographs below.

Ancient relict alder woods are usually overlooked by those interested in woodlands but they deserve to be treasured as every tree shows the effects of their long hard life. Many were coppiced and managed as a source of small wood with special qualities, eg as the soles of clogs. Alder charcoal was the best available charcoal for the manufacture of gun powder. The trees of small dimensions today are often relict remains of large trees with hollowed stems revealing adventitious roots. Fallen trees can root and throw up healthy stems which will survive indefinitely. The very large alders located at the spring rise are of exceptional interest and it is an experience to stand close by the great root pedestals of these ancient trees which are so evidently the home of the fairies and of druidical ghosts.

NOTE! Gayle Moor Live Firing Range. No access without express permission from the Range Officer. No access at any time when Red Flags are flying.

Last Update: 2014-12-31



Record Number 843 >>> Image 1: Gayles Moor. Shooters Well. Area Four, the uppermost alders from the East.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 2: Gayles Moor. The Shooters Well Alders. Area Two the lower alders close to Stoneman Plantation.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 3: Gayles Moor. The Shooters Well Alders. Area Three. Alders at the western springs.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 4: Isolated alder an indication that alders were once more extensive here.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 5: Shooters Well. Area Four, the uppermost alders at the springs.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 6: Shooters Well. The uppermost alders. Detail of the highest alder. Revered by the Druids perhaps!



Record Number 843 >>> Image 7: Shooters Well. The uppermost alders. Detail of the other side of this tree showing root pedestal.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 8: Alders close to the edge of Stoneman Plantation.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 9: Alder with exposed root pedestal close to the edge of Stoneman Plantation.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 10: Alder with exposed root pedestal close to the edge of Stoneman Plantation.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 11: Alder with exposed root pedestal close to the edge of Stoneman Plantation.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 12: Fallen alder which has re-rooted to survive a further 300 years.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 13: Fallen and rotted stem of this alder. Detail.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 14: Isolated alder with hollow stem and exposed adventitious roots.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 15: Detail of this small tree showing hollow stem and exposed adventitious roots.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 16: Isolated alder. The alders at the western springs, Area Three, in mid distance.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 17: Alders at the western springs from below.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 18: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age, namely fragmented and hollowed stems, split and rotting bark and exposed root pedestals.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 19: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 20: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 21: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 22: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 23: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 24: Alders at the western springs. All these alder trees show characteristics of age.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 25: Iridescent green beetle (unidentified) on alders below Shooters Well, Area 4



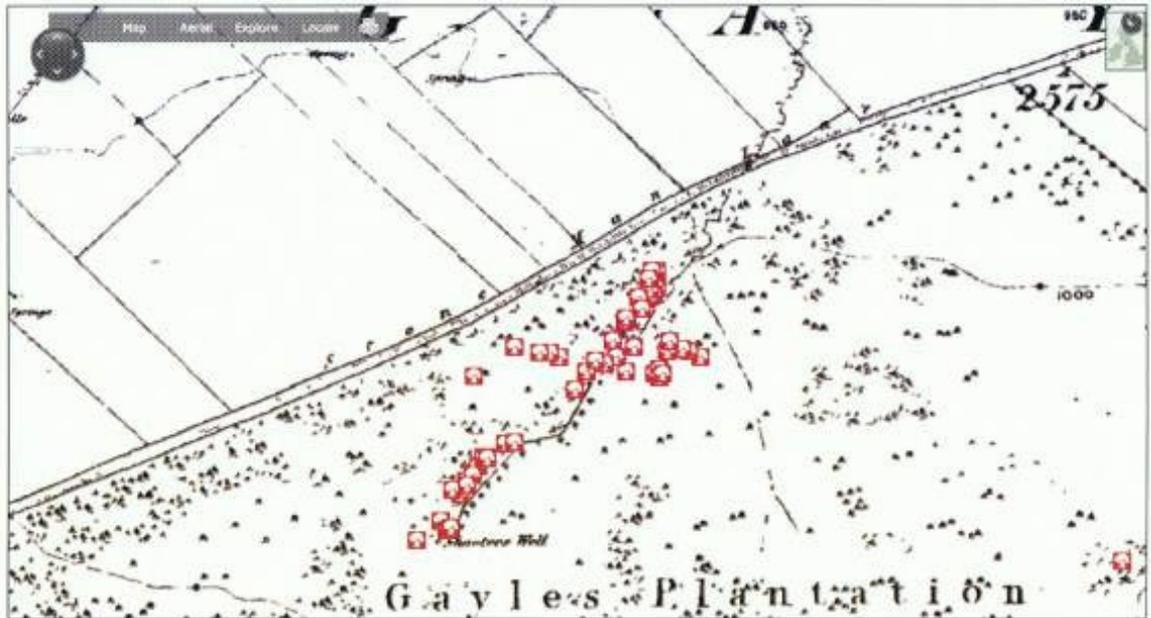
Record Number 843 >>> Image 26: Alders below Shooters Well, Area 4



Record Number 843 >>> Image 27: Alder bracket fungus on twisted alder.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 28: Alder with root pedestal below Shooters Well, Area 4



Record Number 843 >>> Image 29: Gayles Moor. Shooters Well and, with the exception of one or two living remnant larch trees, the now vanished Gayles Plantation. Woodland Trust ATH Records, OS 1893 Series Historic Map.



Record Number 843 >>> Image 30: Marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) dominant at spring rise below Shooters Well. A rare plant in Teesdale and Co Durham. This interesting plant occurs in Lower Wensleydale but has not so far been recorded in Swaledale

Record Name: Dalton Beck Upper Reach. Relict ash wood with aspen grove

SWAAG ID Number: 844

Recorded Date: 2015-01-01 15:55:25

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Army Range

Record Date: 2014-12-30

Location: Dalton Gill upstream from the farm access road at NZ10320707

Civil Parish: Gayles

British National Grid: NZ 1020 0700

Altitude: 270m

Geology: Stream cut ravine through glacial drift over strata below the Underset Limestone.

Description: Species rich stream side ash woodland with small grove of aspen trees, sallows, holly, old hazel coppice and ancient rowan with isolated stunted oak (*Qu. robur*), hawthorn and crab apple on a relict hedge bank lost within the woodland which was once pasture, possibly related to Crumma or the abandoned settlement of Hornbriggs.

Dimensions: See photos.

Additional Notes: This fragment of woodland which survives within the comparative shelter of the steep sided ravine at the upper reach of Dalton Gill is of considerable landscape interest, being of native tree species which have from time immemorial been managed as coppice. The small copse of aspens is of particular interest. This species, one of the colonising tundra tree species at the end of the last Glacial, reproduces from swarms of suckers (ramets) which spring from the roots of two or three generations of older trees to form characteristic cloned copses capable of living indefinitely. Individual trees grow rapidly and would be a very valuable and attractive commercial timber tree since as the tree regenerates from root suckers, no replanting would be necessary following felling.

Last Update: 2015-03-19



Record Number 844 >>> Image 1: Dalton Beck. The upper reaches and one of two deserted farm steadings at Hornbriggs.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 2: One of the two deserted farm steadings at Hornbriggs.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 3: One of two deserted farm steadings at Hornbriggs.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 4: The two deserted steadings at Hornbriggs. Not yet visited.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 5: Ash and birch trees at the top edge of the ravine



Record Number 844 >>> Image 6: Ash trees at the top edge of the ravine



Record Number 844 >>> Image 7: Ash trees at the top edge of the ravine



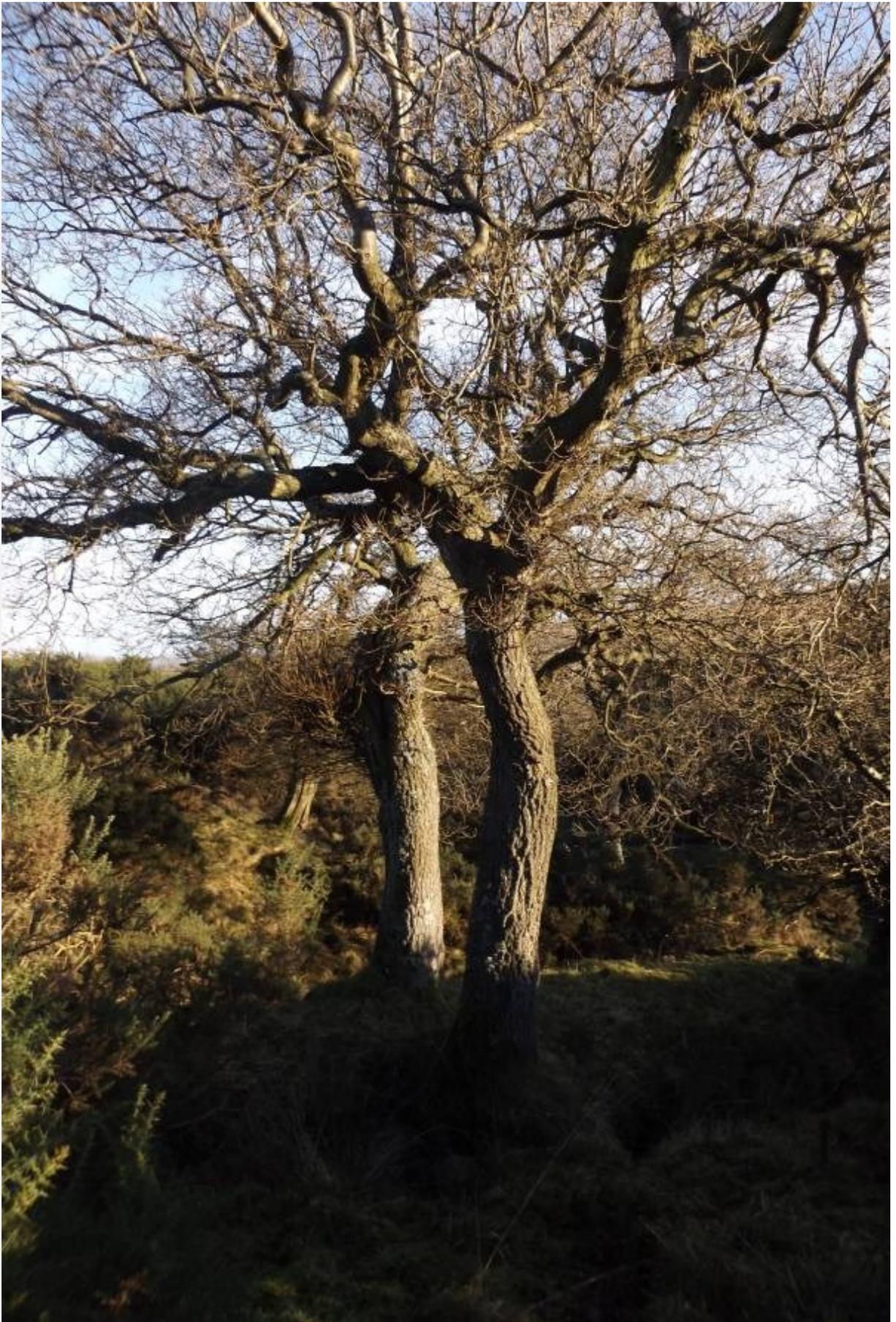
Record Number 844 >>> Image 8: Ash trees at the top edge of the ravine



Record Number 844 >>> Image 9: Ash trees at the top edge of the ravine



Record Number 844 >>> Image 10: Ash trees at the top edge of the ravine



Record Number 844 >>> Image 11: Two stunted and hollowing oak (*Qu. robur*) trees on relict field hedge bank.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 12: Fallen leaf of *Qu. robur*, the species of oak native to the NE Pennine fringe.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 13: The same hedge bank with hawthorn and stunted oak trees from below



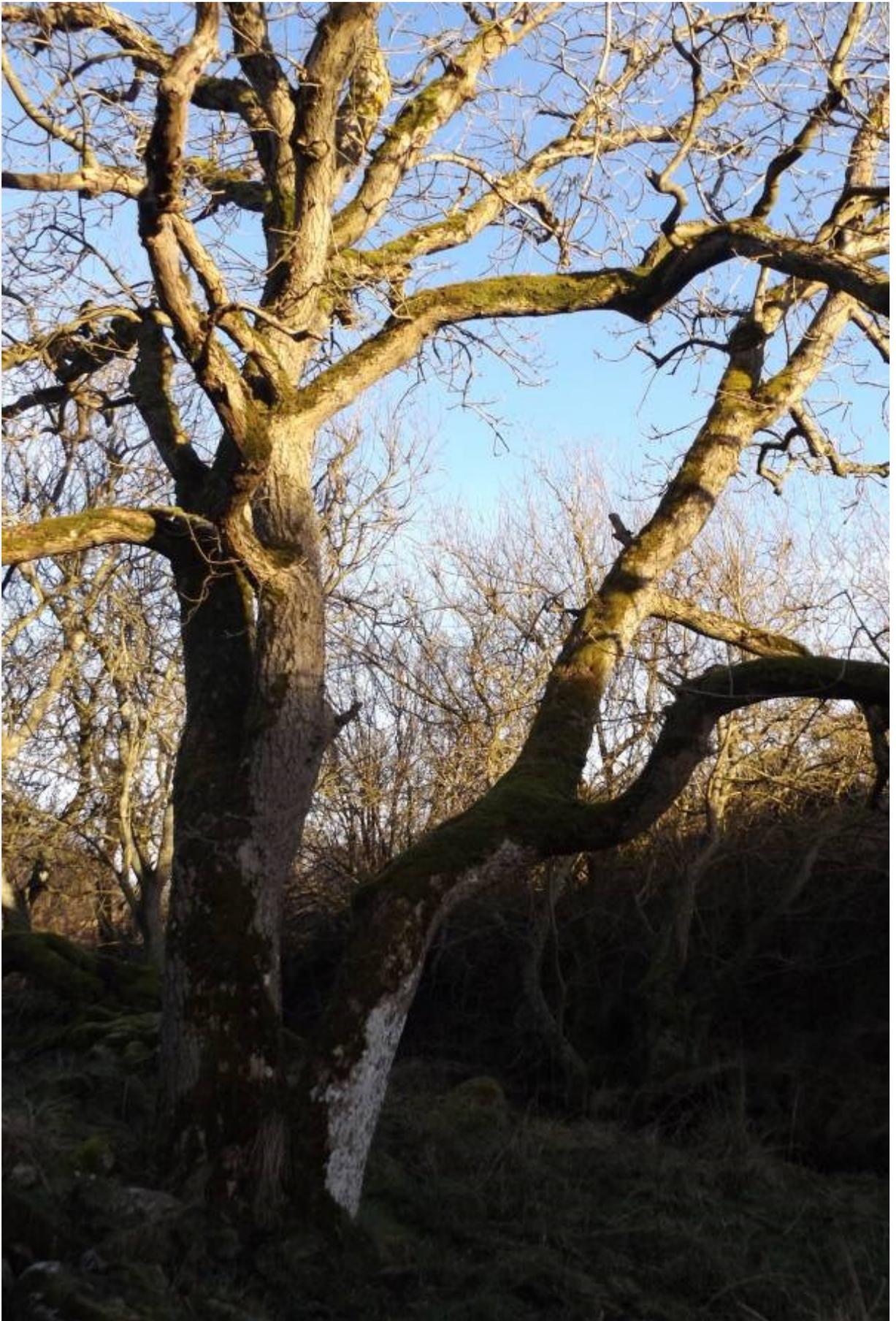
Record Number 844 >>> Image 14: Hawthorn and crab apple on the same hedge bank



Record Number 844 >>> Image 15: Old hollowed crab apple on the same hedge bank



Record Number 844 >>> Image 16: Ash coppice by the stream.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 17: Ash on ruined field wall by stream.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 18: Ash with self rooting willows on this wall.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 19: Very large Rowan on the same wall



Record Number 844 >>> Image 20: Very large Rowan with hazel forming a tangle on the same wall



Record Number 844 >>> Image 21: Old hazel coppice



Record Number 844 >>> Image 22: Large willow washed out by the last flood.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 23: Large coppiced down birch by the stream, growing through gorse



Record Number 844 >>> Image 24: Large coppiced downy birch by the stream



Record Number 844 >>> Image 25: This fine birch has fallen and re rooted to live again



Record Number 844 >>> Image 26: This fine birch has fallen and re rooted to live again



Record Number 844 >>> Image 27: Detail to show the fallen stems of this birch which have re rooted to live again



Record Number 844 >>> Image 28: Aspens with downy birch by the stream.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 29: Aspen grove, the oldest tree.



Record Number 844 >>> Image 30: Aspen Grove. group of young ramets which spring from an older tree.

Record Name: Orgate Falls, the old arched bridge below Telfit Farm and riverside alders upstream of the Bridge

SWAAG ID Number: 886

Recorded Date: 2015-08-02 20:30:17

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2015-07-29

Location: Orgate Falls and images of the alders which line the banks of Marske Beck upstream of the ancient arched bridge below Telfit Farm

Civil Parish: Marske

British National Grid:

Geology: Waterfall formed from hard strata of The Middle Limestone series.

Description: The alders which line the banks of Marske Beck can be viewed at the fine waterfall below Orgate Farm and, by walking on the right of way which passes below Orgate Farm for a distance of 1km further upstream, fine riverside alders and a small alder wood can be seen upstream of the old arched packhorse bridge below Telfit Farm.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: Orgate Falls are well hidden by riverside alders and gorse which line the eastern bank of Marske Beck but can be visited from the access road to Orgate Farm by means of a short path on the west bank of the Beck.

Last Update: 2015-08-02



Record Number 886 >>> Image 1: Falls on Marske Beck after rain at Orgate.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 2: Detail of the Falls



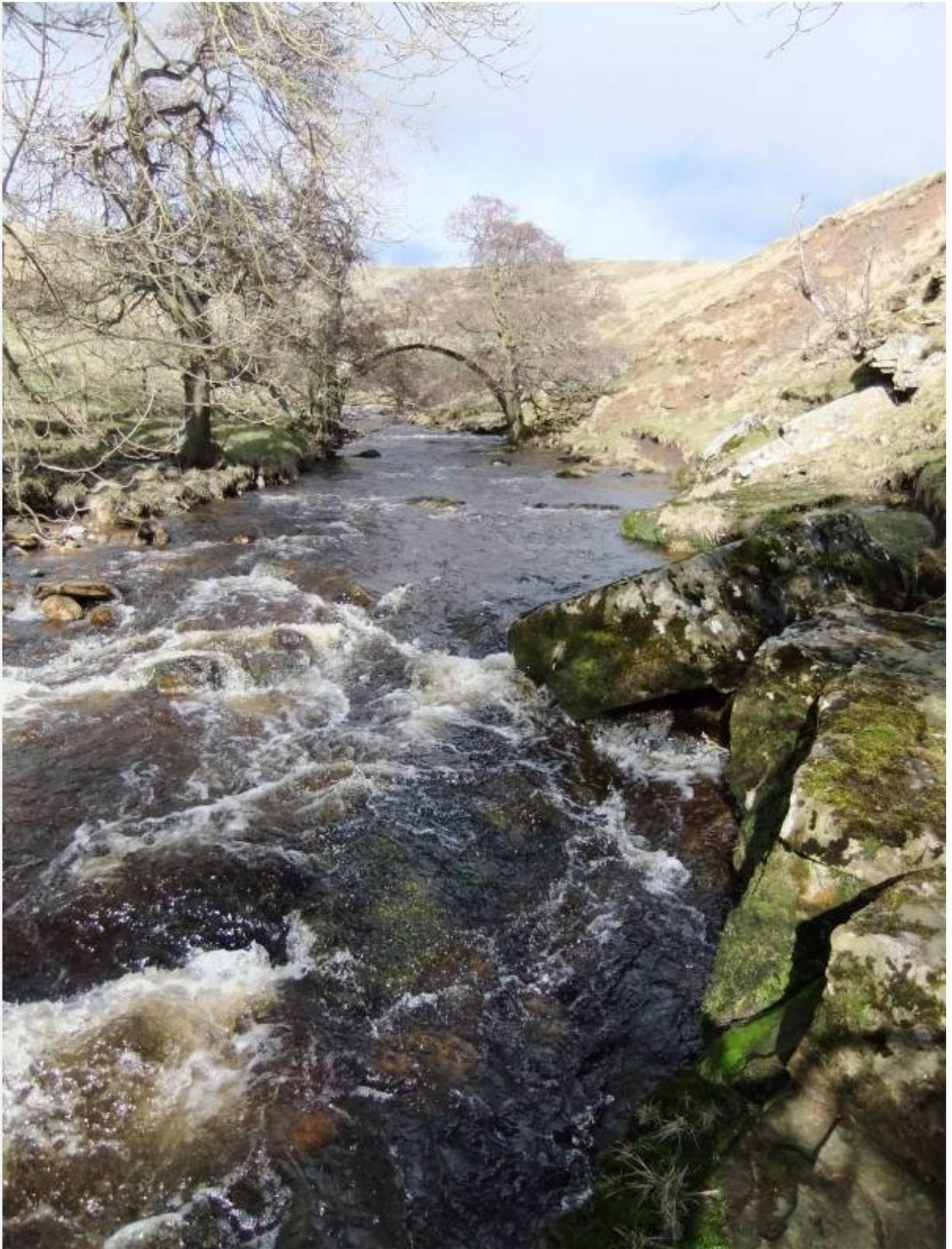
Record Number 886 >>> Image 3: Detail of the Falls



Record Number 886 >>> Image 4: Detail of the Falls



Record Number 886 >>> Image 5: Pack horse bridge near Telfit Farm.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 6: Pack horse bridge near Telfit Farm.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 7: Riverside alders and alder woodland enhance the landscape upstream from the Bridge.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 8: The alders appear timeless but are at severe risk of being cut off and washed out from the increasingly frequent high floods



Record Number 886 >>> Image 9: The root system of this fine alder has been exposed by flood water and the tree is at risk of washing out during the next flood.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 10: Fallen ash and the skeletal remnant of an ancient riverside alder .



Record Number 886 >>> Image 11: Alder woodland, with ancient coppiced alders, on the boundary with the Army Range.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 12: Remnant of a wych elm, long dead from the elm beetle fungal pathogen. Wych elms and ash, now vulnerable to die back, are two other tree species which grow on the banks of dale becks.



Record Number 886 >>> Image 13: Very delicate fungus found in woodland below the alders



Record Number 886 >>> Image 14: Can anyone identify this small fungus?



Record Number 886 >>> Image 15:



Record Number 886 >>> Image 16: Hope for the future! Young shoots spring from the root system of riverside alders which have washed out.

Record Name: Horse Pasture Wood. A rare fragment of uncleared relict Dale Side woodland.

SWAAG ID Number: 931

Recorded Date: 2016-05-01 17:28:43

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Private

Record Date: 2005-01-01

Location: Low Whita

Civil Parish: Grinton

British National Grid: SE 00700 97800

Geology: SE 400700 497800 centre

Description: Horse Pasture Wood is a fragment of the mixed deciduous woodland which would certainly have once been widespread on the calcareous drift covered lower slopes of Swaledale, now fully deforested. Protected behind a shelter belt of scots pine, a community of mixed deciduous woodland has survived with alder, birch and ash predominant but with hazel, crab, bird cherry, hawthorn also. Several very large coppiced alders and birches are present. The field layer includes areas of bluebells, ramsons, and other indicators of ancient woodland.

Dimensions: See photos

SWAAG Site: Low Whita

Last Update: 2017-06-06

Record Name: Muker CP. Birkdale Common. Fox Holes. Pine stump possibly humanly worked. Below 1-2m deep peat.

SWAAG ID Number: 936

Recorded Date: 2016-08-01 08:23:13

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Archaeology

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-31

Location: Birkdale Common. Foxholes.

Civil Parish: Muker

British National Grid: NY 84255 01916

Altitude: 500m

Geology: Eroding Peat Mire with remnant hags (remnants of 1.5m deep blanket peat dissected by many branching gutters or deep channels formed by low energy sikes or seasonal streams). This extensive blanket peat mire has formed over millstone grit and sandstone strata of Late Carboniferous, Namurian Age.

Description: Single fossil pine stump in situ on ground surface of an actively eroding gutter within an area of blanket peat which is 1-2m deep. The pine tree was of relatively slight diameter and was clearly stunted, close to the altitudinal limit of trees in this highly exposed location. This pine stump bears what appear to be the clear cut concave facets from a stone axe indicating that it has been humanly worked during prehistory for firewood. This interpretation is tentative and not yet confirmed.

Slight remains of thin-stemmed stunted birch are present at the base of some peat sections at Fox Holes. No other pine stumps have been located here. This indicates that this tree stump is that of an isolated stunted pine tree located within a mainly treeless area, with some birch scrub but otherwise mainly open of trees. The underlying rock strata being sandstone is deficient in plant nutrients and any soil present would not have supported woodland except for scrub and very stunted trees.

Dimensions: See photos.

Additional Notes: Fossil pine is uncommon under peat in the catchments of the Ure and Swale whereas pine is relatively frequent elsewhere in Pennine Blanket Peats. This reflects the predominantly limestone strata of the Swale and Ure Catchments below 500m. Limestone soils support mixed deciduous woodland. To the south, Nidderdale has more sandstone at both high and lower levels.

The rapid onset of Peat formation and probable Age of this Pine Stump across the Pennine Uplands. The Boreal/Atlantic Transition:

The pine stump grows directly on the mineral soil below the base of the 1.5m deep blanket peat. This small tree was almost certainly overwhelmed by the initial onset and rapid growth of peat mires across the Pennine Uplands at around 5,500BC (7,500 years ago). The onset and rapid growth of blanket peat across the Pennine Uplands at this time was initiated by climatic change- from a more Continental (warm and dry) climate to a more Oceanic (warm and wet) climate. This climatic change is termed the Boreal/Atlantic Transition.

The presence of one or more zones of very dark, highly humified peat which has lost all plant structure and so very different from the rapidly growing fibrous peat marks periods of dryness with no peat growth and with drying out of the peat surface.

References: Sir Harry Godwin. 'History of the British Flora.' Second Edition 1975. Cambridge.

Reference: Tallis, J.H. 1983. 'Forest and Moorland in the Southern Pennine Uplands in the mid Flandrian Period' *Journal of Ecology*, Vol 71.

Last Update: 2016-08-04



Record Number 936 >>> Image 1: Muker CP. Birkdale Common. Fox Holes. Isolated stump of a stunted Scots Pine Tree at base of 1.5m deep blanket peat.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 2: Detail of this pine stump showing possible axe cut facets. Photographed when first recognised in April 2002.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 3: This pine stump is located at the base of the peat within a Gutter or active erosion channel.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 4: This pine stump is located at the base of the peat within a Gutter or active erosion channel.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 5: A recent visit by SWWAG members to the Foxholes Scots Pine Tree stump.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 6: The direct GPS approach to the Foxholes Pine Tree from Birkdale Tarn directed by Mike Walton was the across these peat hags.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 7: Foxholes peat hags.



Record Number 936 >>> Image 8: Foxholes peat Hags.

Record Name: Gilmonby Moor. West Plantation. The best example of a mature conifer plantation in the N.E. Pennines.

SWAAG ID Number: 938

Recorded Date: 2016-08-06 10:31:01

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Access Land

Record Date: 2016-07-27

Location: Gilmonby Moor. West Plantation.

Civil Parish: Gilmonby

British National Grid: NY 986 123

Altitude: 345m

Description: West Plantation is a mature plantation of mature larch, scots pine, pedunculated oak, downy birch and a single beech. West Plantation is located on the lower slopes of Gilmonby Moor astride the unfenced road from Bowes/Gilmonby Bridge to Sleightholme and thence to the Tan Hill road as an unsurfaced track. As all good mature plantations should be, the trees are widely spaced and able to reach their natural full proportions. West Plantations is unfenced and is readily seen and can be admired from the unfenced road.

Dimensions: See photos

Additional Notes: The mature larch trees attain their full proportions and have the appearance of large Bedouin tents as their long lower branches rest on the ground and are capable of self layering. These fine trees are a refuge for many species of birds which are, today, all too uncommon. At my brief recent visit, I recognised song thrush, common wren, siskin and several unidentified small birds in the the upper foliage of the trees. Beside several tit species, gold crested wrens will surely be present.

Last Update: 2016-08-06



Record Number 938 >>> Image 1: Specimen larch trees are a feature of West Plantation.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 2: View westward across Stainmore to Mickle Fell from West Plantation.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 3: Specimen larch trees



Record Number 938 >>> Image 4: Scots pine.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 5: The plantation as seen from the unfenced road to Sleightholme.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 6: The plantation as seen from the unfenced road to Sleightholme.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 7: West Plantation. Foliage of larch in May.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 8: West Plantation. Downy birch with witches broom



Record Number 938 >>> Image 9: West Plantation. Downy birch, detail.



Record Number 938 >>> Image 10: Detail at base of larch and track to the open moor.

Record Name: Fine specimen alders and willows on the banks of the Tees at Gainford.

SWAAG ID Number: 961

Recorded Date: 2016-11-14 15:52:46

Recorded by: Tim Laurie

Category: Tree Site Record

Record Type: Botanical HER

Site Access: Public Footpath

Record Date: 2016-11-07

Location: Gainford. The North Bank of the River Tees at the ancient river crossing named Geneford.

Civil Parish: Not known

British National Grid: NZ 168 164

Geology: Riverside silts.

Description: The fine coppiced alder photographed below measures approximately 5m girth at ground level. This tree grows on the North Bank of the Tees at the landing place of the ancient ford once named 'Geneford'. This river crossing is still very shallow and just about passable at low water in wellington boots.

The river scenery at every bend and pool on the Tees, once a fine salmon river, is second to none. The quality of these riverside landscapes owes much to fine trees like the alder and the multi stemmed willow, probably crack willow, (*Salix fragilis*), recorded here.

The Present Day Value of Alders:

The over-riding significance of alders and willows today lies in their ability to form large root boles with many stems or trunks, and their very extensive root system, thus protecting river banks from erosion from high floods and consolidating river bank silt.

Cattle drinking at in protected river banks make all river bank alders vulnerable to being cut out progressively by flood erosion getting behind the riverside trees.

The multitude of uses to which alder coppiced timber and foliage were once put is summarised below.

Dimensions: The alder recorded above measures approximately 5.0m girth

Additional Notes: ALDER WOOD

Historic uses mentioned by James Sowerby in his description of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) Reference: James Sowerby, "English Botany"™ Volume Eight, pp178-180.

1. The alder grows- to form Alder Car- where very few other trees will grow- in the wettest, most swampy conditions.
2. Alder was used extensively in Flanders and Holland to make the piles of bridges and flood protection dikes.
3. Alder wood makes very durable fence posts in water but is vulnerable to rot when in dry ground.
4. Earliest boat building (mentioned by the Roman Poet Vergil).
5. Large quantities used in making herring barrels.
6. Bark of alder is "very astringent"™ and used in tanning.
4. Young shoots used both for tanning and for dyeing red, brown, yellow and, in combination with copperas "black."
7. Alder catkins dye green.
8. Alder female catkins used by fishermen to float their nets in place of cork. Highlanders make their own shoes and use alder and birch bark for tanning.
9. French cabinet makers use the knotty parts of the roots of alder as inlays.
10. Alder leaves were used as a "detersive"™ and as a gargle.
11. Alder foliage spread over fields through winter to rot and fertilise before ploughing.
12. Alder foliage strewn over floors to attract fleas which stick to the glutinous sap. Like birdlime.
13. Mr London tells us that the chief use of alder is as coppice wood cut down every five or six years and made into gun powder. Alder charcoal grinds down to the finest particle size and thus makes the best quality gun powder. Extensively used by the lead miners of Swaledale.

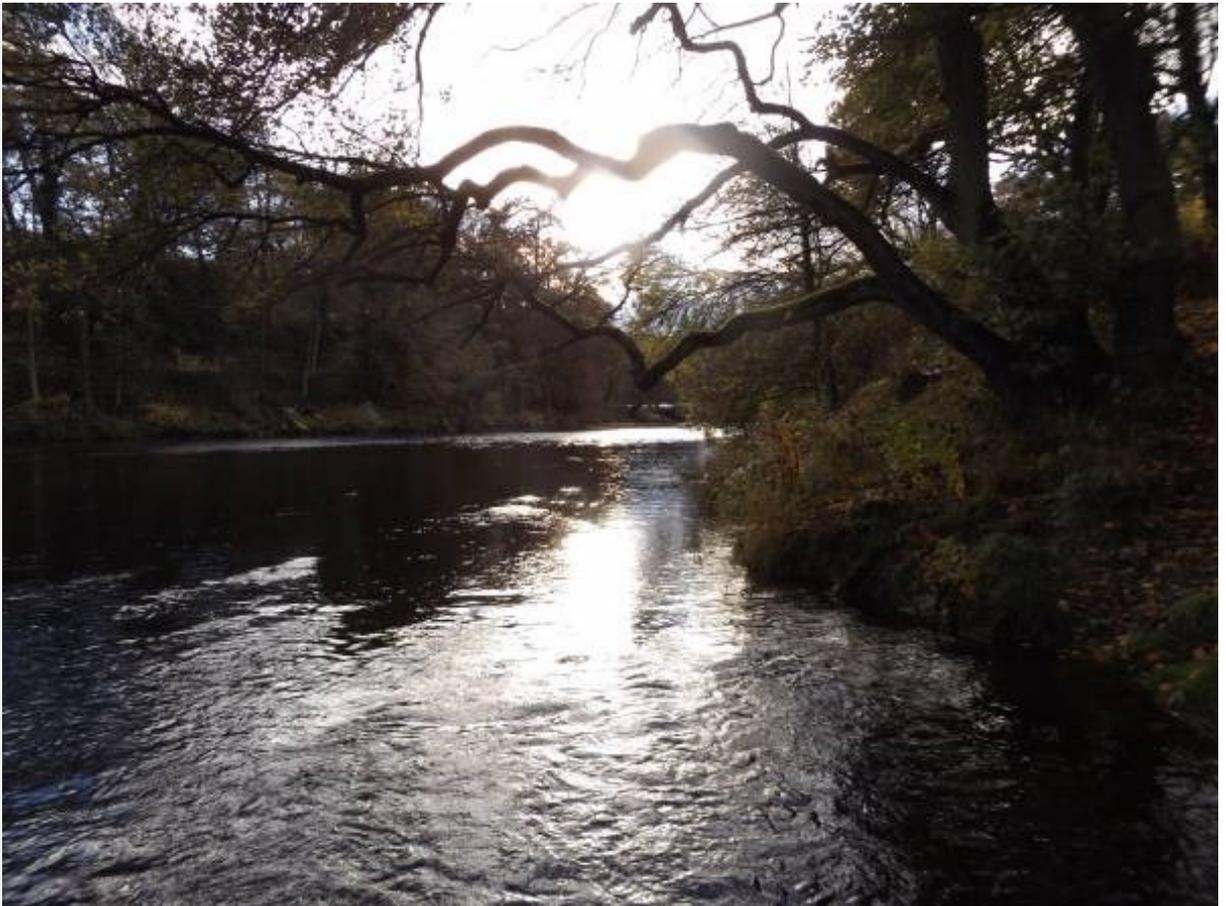
Last Update: 2016-11-14



Record Number 961 >>> Image 1: A fine old alder on the north bank of the River Tees at the River Crossing at Gainford



Record Number 961 >>> Image 2: The same alder



Record Number 961 >>> Image 3: The River Tees at Gainford, at the ancient ford connecting Gainford with the old village of Barforth and all points south.



Record Number 961 >>> Image 4: A fine clump of willows probably *Salix fragilis*, on the south bank of the Tees at Gainfrd.