

INVITATION TO TENDER AND PROJECT BRIEF
Bracken management and habitat restoration

Site Name: 1017506 Callow prehistoric settlement and field system, Carr Head Moor

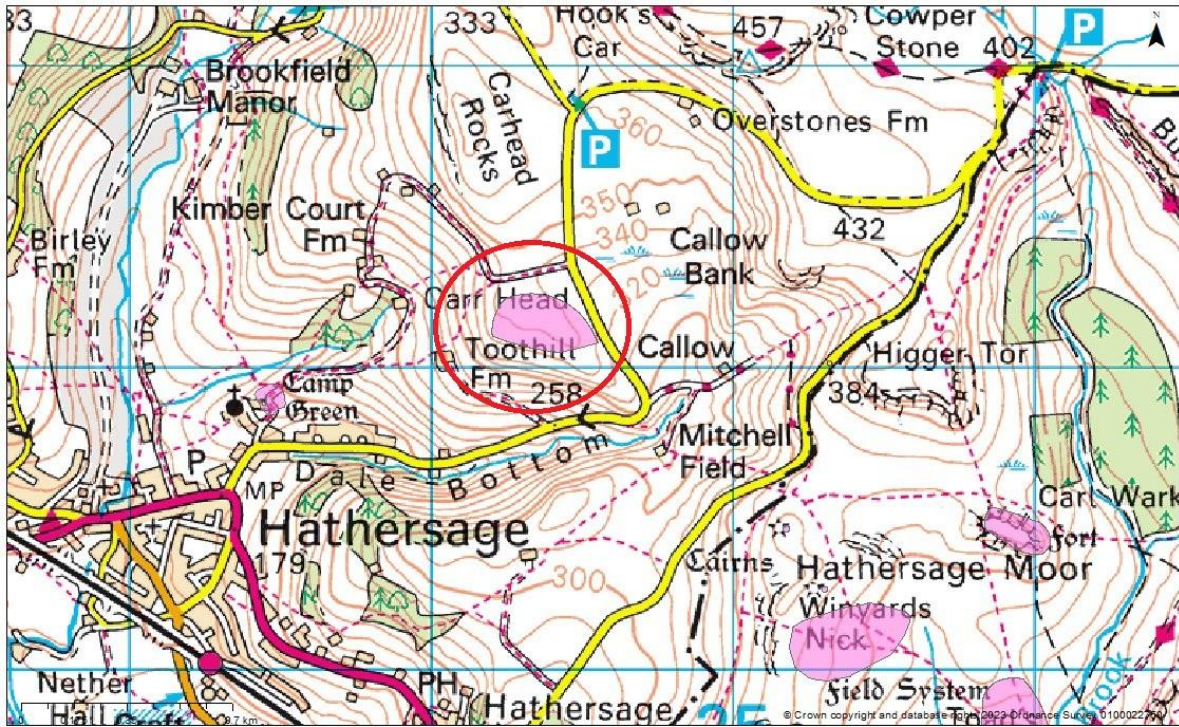


INTRODUCTION

- The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to carry out a programme of bracken management and habitat restoration on a Scheduled Monument **1017506 Callow prehistoric settlement and field system, Carr Head Moor**.
- The monument sits on field parcel that is part of the PDNPA-owned North Lees estate. It is currently not grazed and there is a large stand of dense bracken that has been spreading unchecked for several decades. The site is on the national Heritage at Risk Register due to the dense bracken.
- A programme of bracken management is required to address this issue and safeguard this important monument from future damage.
- Further photos at Appendix 1.

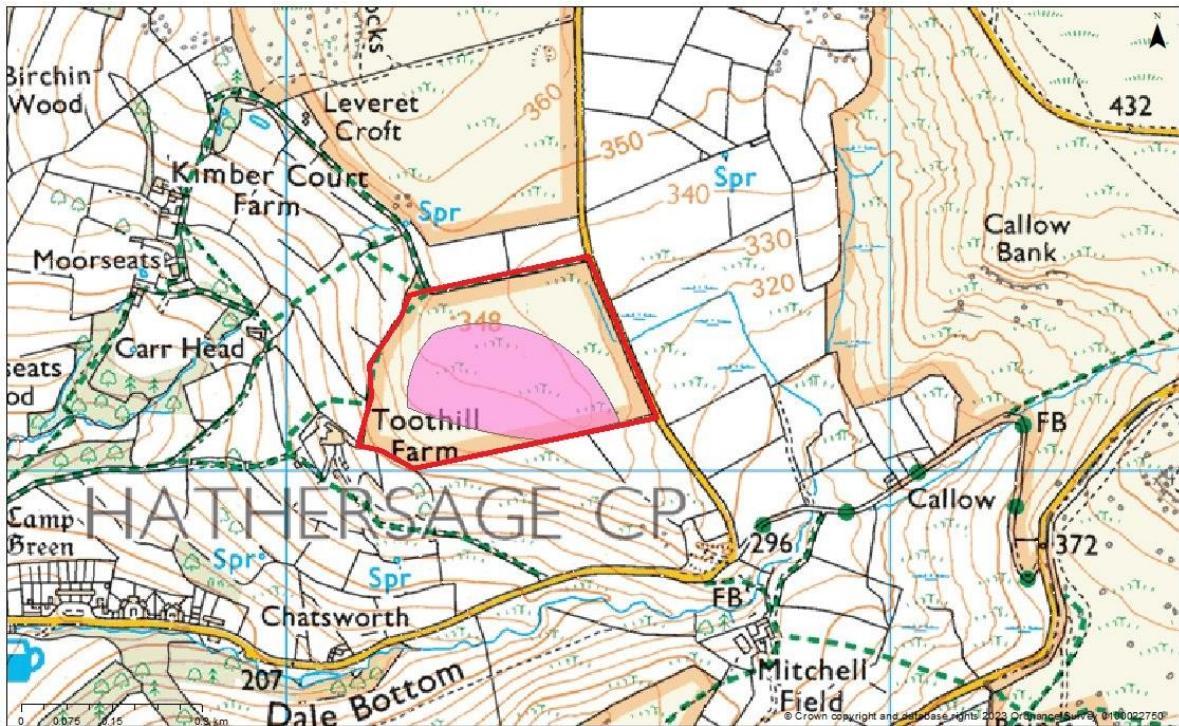
LOCATION

Grid Reference SK 24376 82149



Title: Callow Bank SM location plan

Map centre grid ref: 424,536 382,008
Scale: 1:13,228
Date: 04/03/2024



Title: Callow Bank SM location plan

Map centre grid ref: 424,509 382,174
Scale: 1:6,614
Date: 04/03/2024

BACKGROUND

Site Description:

- The land parcel that contains the scheduled monument is bounded to the east by a road - The Dale - which runs from School Lane, Hathersage to the junction with Ringinglow Road, between Stanage and Burbage North.
- It is bounded to the north by a farm access track. To the south and west are further fields under different ownership. To the west the land falls steeply away towards Toothill Farm.
- The field parcel is Access Land.
- Access is only currently possible through a gap in the drystone wall through which a public footpath passes and runs along the southern boundary of the field parcel.
- The scheduled monument is located c.75m above this access point, along an ill-defined route that is steep and winds between several 19th century quarry pits along the edge of the hill scarp.
- A new gateway access from the adjacent surfaced track is planned to allow easier access and facilitate the works.
- The site undergoes some management and some limited bracken spraying along the leading edge under the prescriptions of a Countryside Stewardship Agreement.

Bracken on the site:

- The monument is on the national Risk Register due to dense bracken growth covering c.50% of the schedule area and affecting key features of the monument.
- There is currently no management plan in place and management through grazing is not possible due to a restrictive covenant attached to the land.
- Bracken is spreading – the extent of bracken depicted on the 1987 archaeological survey demonstrates that the bracken is spreading west to east, and infilling between two dense areas. It has spread c.30m since the archaeological survey.
- The bracken is very dense with beds of litter over 1ft thick, excluding all other vegetation and creating a bracken mono-culture.
- Dense bracken is obscuring and masking many of the key features of the monument, compromising the physical and intellectual accessibility of site, and making the features more vulnerable to inadvertent damage from other management or operations.
- The bracken is also limiting the ecological potential of the site.

Archaeological significance:

- The site is of national archaeological significance and as such is scheduled. Scheduling information can be found here: [Callow prehistoric settlement and field system, Carr Head Moor, 300m ENE of Toothill Farm, Hathersage - 1017506 | Historic England](#)
- It is the site of a Bronze Age settlement and field system, which sits on a spur of land that slopes gently to the south-west. The monument includes house platforms, lynchets, linear clearance features and clearance cairns.
- The features at Callow/Carr Head Moor are one of the most important single-period prehistoric sites on the Millstone Grit East Moors of the Peak District of Derbyshire. Although there are many Bronze Age remains in this area, the site is of special importance due to the diversity of features relating to settlement and agriculture during

this prehistoric period. The remains are in a particularly good state of preservation with well-defined clearance banks and cairns together with evidence for dwellings in the form of platform earthworks. Together, the features comprise a composite prehistoric landscape of settlement and enclosure.

- As well standing archaeological features and earthworks the ground below them retains significance and potential for buried archaeological features and paleoenvironmental remains.

Ecological considerations:

- The land is use by nesting birds and a badger sett is located nearby.
- Appropriate ecological surveys are being undertaken to allow the implementation of measures minimise and mitigate impacts and disturbance to breeding birds and badgers during the work. This will inform the final areas subject to specific bracken treatment methods and some areas of stand off may be required during individual treatments.

PROJECT AIM

The aims of the project is to improve the condition of this monument to enable its removal from the Risk Register by managing the areas of dense bracken over a period of 3 year.

SCOPE OF WORKS

A programme of bracken management is planned. The nature of this is dictated by the needs of the scheduled monument, whilst minimising and mitigating disturbance to ecological interest.

Given the constraints of the site and the amount and density of bracken to be cleared it is anticipated that the best way forward is to deliver with a mixture of mechanical and chemical control combined with habitat restoration to help revegetate bare around under dense bracken canopy.

As a scheduled monument the site is legally protected and there can be no ground disturbance.

The works required are:

- 1) Two treatments (mechanical or chemical as appropriate, see below) a year to be delivered over 3 years. The first mid-May to mid-June then July-August for regrowth.
- 2) Prompt clearance of dense bracken litter from the site after each treatment.
- 3) Sourcing of heather brash with seed from within the field parcel, to be strimmed and collected at the appropriate time of year and stored until use.
- 4) Annual reseeding bare ground in treated areas with heather brash sourced from within the field parcel.

For the purposes of working up management proposals for the site it has been anticipated that there will be three main types of clearance:

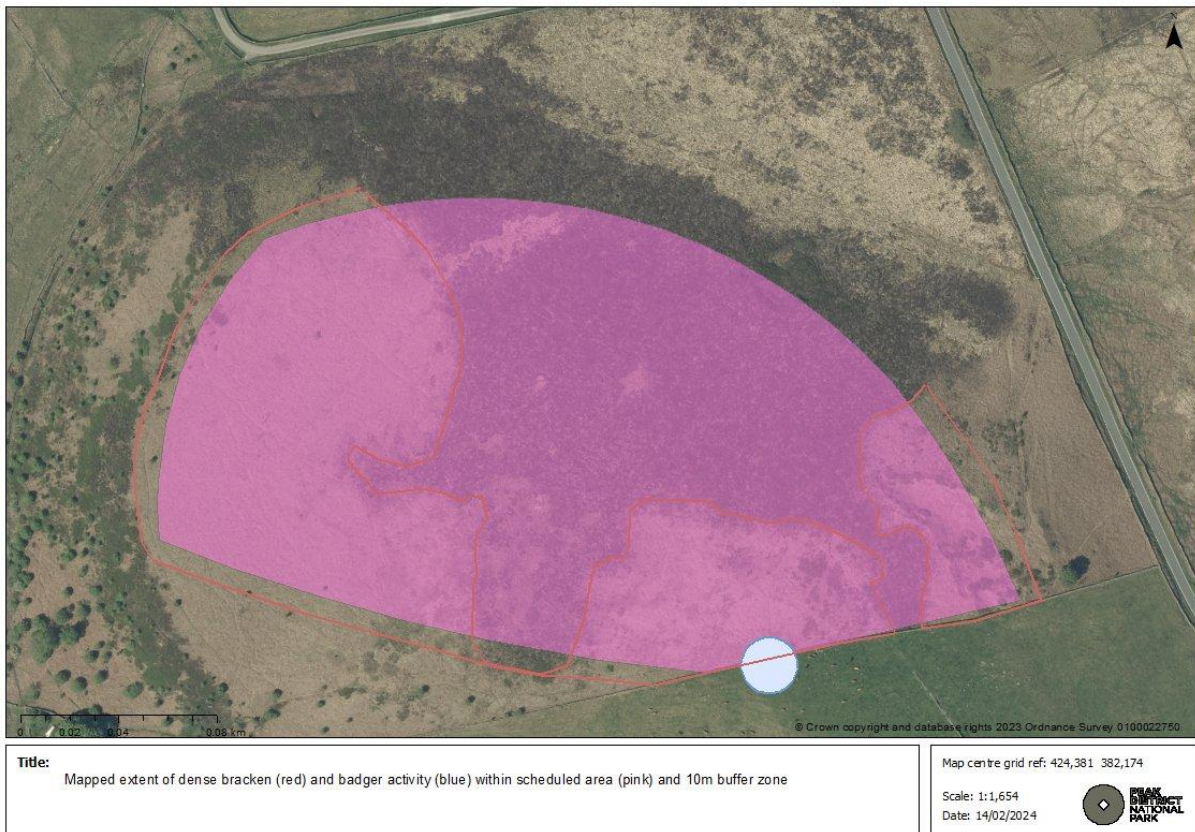
- Mechanical – hand clearance – by strimmer or hand flail will target earthworks in areas

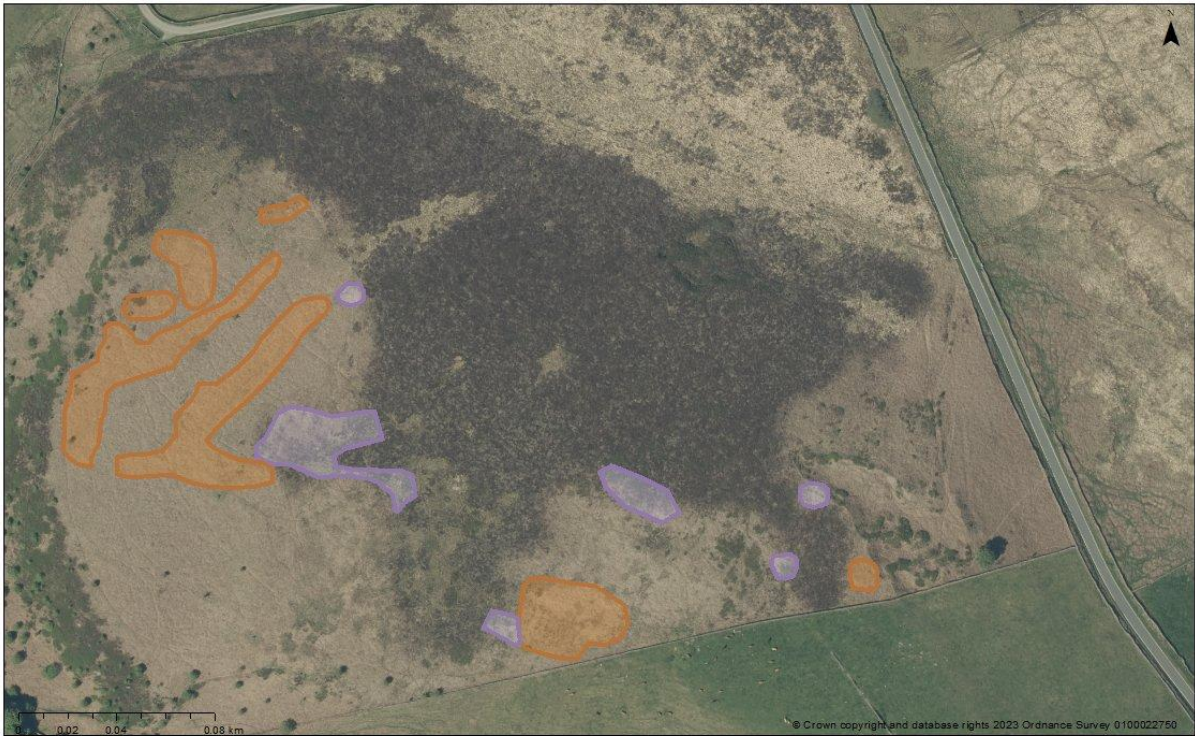
of sparser bracken, at edge of bracken field to protect and maintain understory vegetation whilst still clearing bracken. Marked in **Purple** on the plans. Area of c. 0.2 Hectares.

- Mechanical – by suitable machine (e.g. robocut/flailbot or similar, needs to be low ground pressure, and sufficient clearance to ensure **no ground disturbance or damage**) – will target areas with no earthwork remains of Bronze Age field system. This include large some larger continuous areas and areas between section of hand or chemical treatment that are targeting earthworks. Area of c. 2.5 – 3.0 Hectares.
- Spraying – glyphosate will target earthworks in dense area of bracken so understory vegetation not affected. Clearance of litter and habitat restoration will take place in these areas. Marked in **Orange** plans. Area of c. 0.54 Hectares

We are open to consideration of alternative methods and approaches based on contractor's expertise.

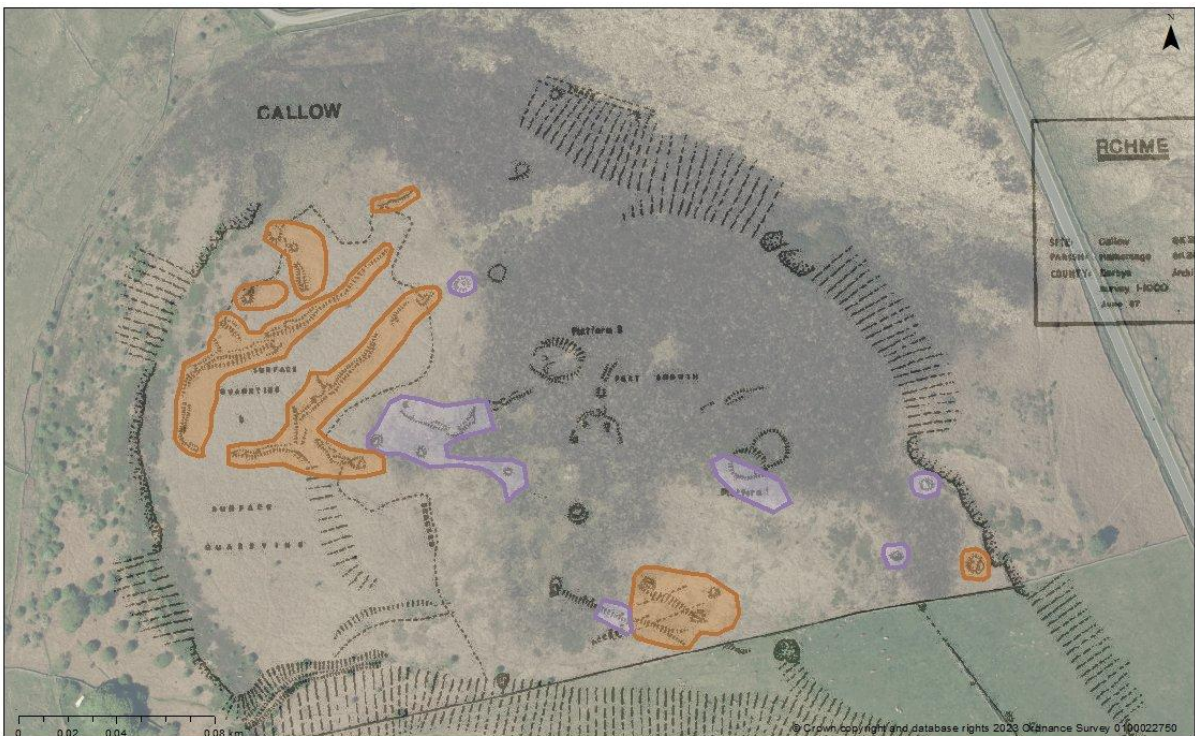
As the project is being carried out for the Peak District National Park Authority on national park authority owned land, volunteer support for some of the most labour intensive tasks, such as hand flailing, bracken litter clearance, heather brush spreading can be anticipated to support project delivery.





Title: Bracken clearance method by area - Orange spray, Purple hand clearance, Robocut other areas

Map centre grid ref: 424,414 382,167
Scale: 1:1,654
Date: 04/03/2024



Title: Bracken clearance method by area and relating to archaeological features - Orange spray, Purple hand clearance, Robocut other areas

Map centre grid ref: 424,368 382,162
Scale: 1:1,654
Date: 04/03/2024





INVITATION TO TENDER

This brief will be used to obtain **tenders** for the work outlined above from suitably qualified and experienced contractors. Tenders will be evaluated on cost, experience, and the ability to satisfy the Brief.

THE TENDER RETURN DATE IS 5PM ON 10 JANUARY 2025

Please see “Information and Instructions on Submitting a Tender” for further details.

Tenders for a work package shall include:

1. Individual annual costs for item 1-4 set out in the scope of above. Each area should be costed separately and day rates should also be provided.
2. A method statement describing and justifying the methods, machinery and equipment to applied in delivering the work contained in this brief.
3. Details of the appropriate qualifications, experience, certificates and tickets of contractor or sub-contractors (if appropriate) who will undertake the work.
4. The proposed timetable.
5. Cost to attend kick off meeting (if required).

Permission to visit the site prior to submitting a tender should be sought from Natalie Ward – contact details below

Natalie Ward, Senior Conservation Archaeologist

Email: Natalie.Ward@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Address: PDNPA, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, DE45 1AE

Tel: 01629 816243

APPENDIX 1

Photos of site taken August 2023

