

Grassland restoration at Hell Wath

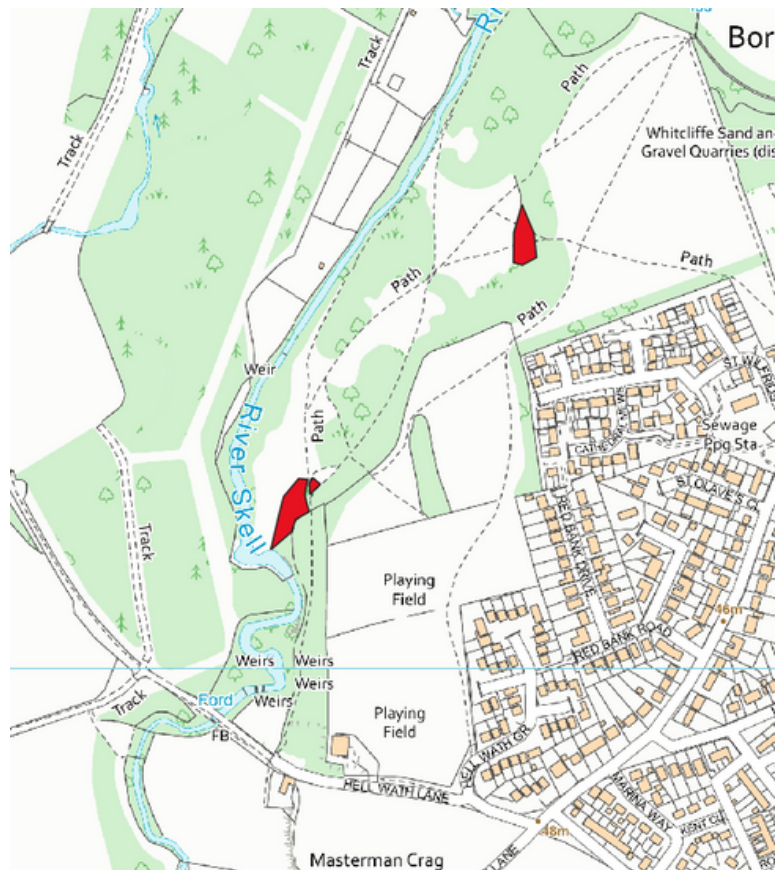
The Skell Valley Project, Friends of Hell Wath and North Yorkshire Council are working in partnership at Hell Wath. Together with the community we are striving to improve Hell Wath for people and nature.

Hell Wath is designated as a local nature reserve, precious for its species-rich grassland, which provide vital nectar sources for invertebrates. A large portion of the grasslands are being lost by the encroachment of scrub and woodland. If left unchecked these special grasslands will disappear.

Scrub is a temporary habitat that is the transition between open grassland and woodland. Despite its importance for animals and rare plants, if left unmanaged it can take over quickly. Scrub can be managed by cutting it down to allow it to regrow.

We will be removing the hawthorn and blackthorn scrub in the areas shown on the map in mid-January to slow the advance of the scrub into the grasslands. In some areas, the scrub will be allowed to regrow and be part of a cyclical cutting regime across the site.

Why cut scrub whilst also planting trees? We have planted trees on the site within the woodland areas, to replace the standing dead trees (ash and elm) and to increase the diversity on the site. One habitat corridor has been created to provide foraging routes for bat species, which are known to use the site.



How can I lend a hand?

There are a number of ways to get involved with nature conservation here at Hell Wath and we'd love your help!

- Drop-in practical volunteering sessions with both the Skell Valley Project and Friends of Hell Wath, at least one a month
- Butterfly monitoring on site weekly from April-September
- Bat monitoring on site, monthly April – September
- Balsam control events with both Skell Valley Project and Friends of Hell Wath over the summer.

To find out more information about these activities check both the Friends of Hell Wath and Skell Valley Project Facebook pages and websites. There is a noticeboard on site at the Ripon Panther's Clubhouse which is kept up to date with upcoming events.

If you have any questions about our work please email skellvalleyprojectteam@nationaltrust.org.uk

SKELL VALLEY PROJECT

Co-led by

