



# Northumberland

## County Council

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL  
22 November 2018

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### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK OVER BEWICK MOOR

Report of the Executive Director of Local Services  
Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

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#### **Purpose of report**

In this report, the North Northumberland Local Area Council is asked to consider proposals to extinguish, downgrade and create a number of public rights of way in the vicinity of Bewick Moor, in the Parishes of Bewick and Eglington.

#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Council agrees that:**

- (i) Alleged Public Bridleway No 29 over the route J-X be extinguished [see Plan 1];**
- (ii) the 'possible' Public Bridleway over the route Q-kk-mm be Extinguished [see Plan 3];**
- (iii) Public Bridleway No 31 over the route J-S be downgraded to public footpath status with minor realignment of western end [see Plans 1 & 2];**
- (iv) Public Bridleway No 16 over the route C-D be downgraded to public footpath status [see Plan 4];**
- (v) a new public bridleway be created over the route S-gg-Z, along a track over Harehope Hill [see Plan 2];**
- (vi) a new public bridleway be created over the route A-B [see Plan 4],**
- (vii) a new public footpath be created over route R-hh-jj [see Plan 2].**

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

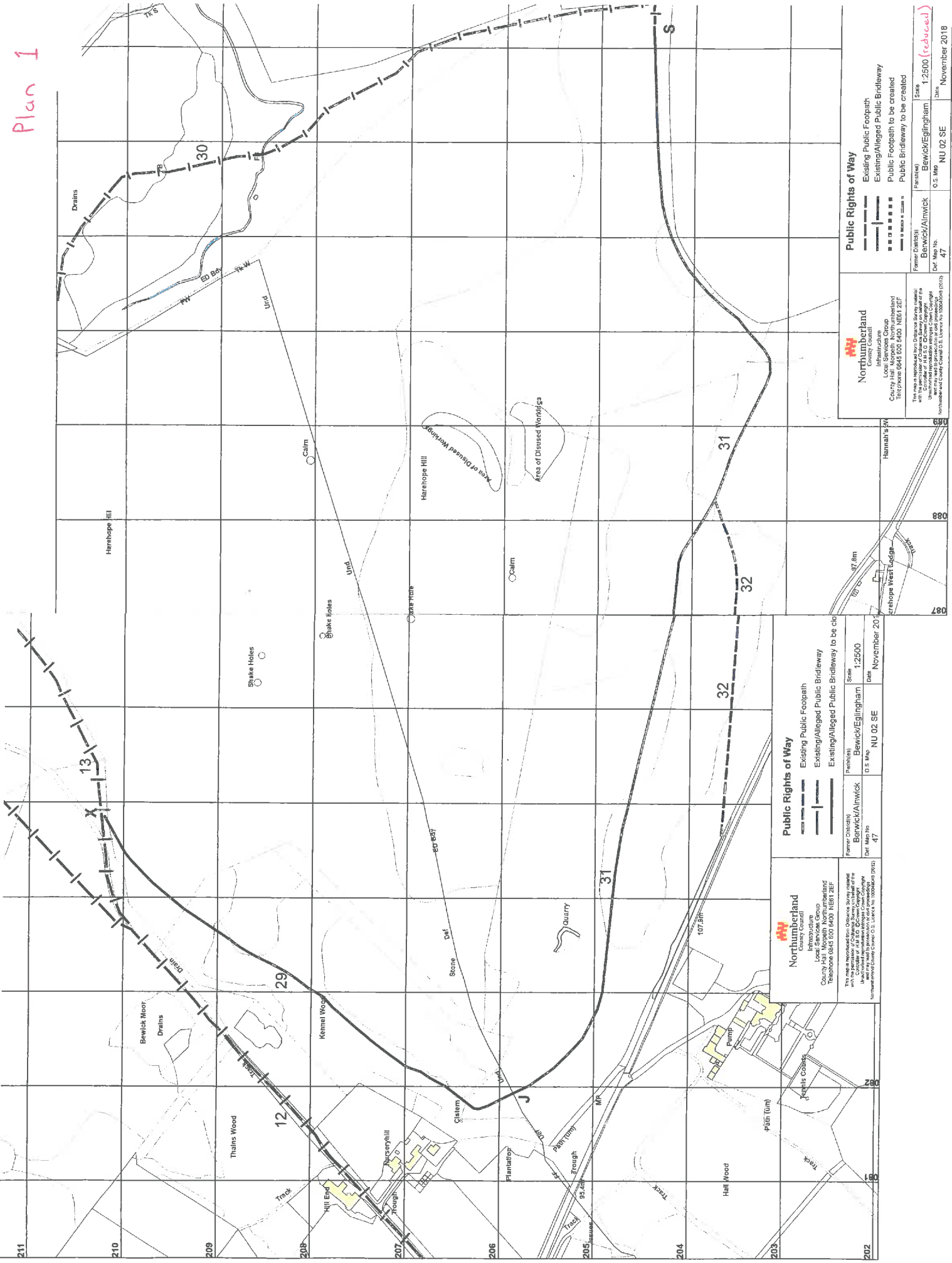
- 1.1 In March 2018 the Rights of Way Committee agreed that public bridleway rights had been reasonably alleged or shown to exist on a balance of probabilities over three routes over Bewick Moor. Each of these routes was the continuation (within Bewick Parish) of existing Public Bridleways in Eglington Parish. Following discussions with the British Horse Society and

with the landowner it became clear that there were opportunities to further improve the public rights of way network over the Moor. The proposed changes are briefly described in paragraphs 1.2 to 1.5, below.

- 1.2 The S-gg-Z bridleway creation is effectively a swap for the closure of alleged Bridleway No 29 (X-J) and downgrading of existing Bridleway No 31 (between J-S) to public footpath status. The British Horse Society has identified the S-gg-Z route as being of more utility than the X-J-S route which is currently overgrown in places and, even if it was cleared, would be more susceptible to being overgrown and difficult to use in the future.
- 1.3 The Q-kk-mm bridleway closure is simply a 'belt & braces' approach to remove future uncertainty regarding possible public bridleway rights which might exist over this less likely alternative as the historical westerly continuation of the Eglingham Bridleway No 31 route.
- 1.4 The R-hh-jj footpath creation was offered by the landowner, who recognized that this route had been made available to, and used by, members of the public for many years.
- 1.5 The A-B bridleway creation was identified by the British Horse Society as a valuable 'missing link' between the existing bridleway network on Bewick Moor and the 'new' route of Bridleway No 19. In return for public bridleway rights being created over this 930 metre long section, of existing track, they suggested that bridleway rights could be surrendered over the northernmost 2230 metres of existing Public Bridleway No 16. This section of Public Bridleway No 16 is very boggy in places and is likely to remain unsuitable for horses without major drainage work being undertaken.
- 1.6 Affected land owners / occupiers, path user organisations and Eglingham Parish Council were consulted regarding these proposals in September 2018. The consultation also contained proposals for some minor path realignments over the route of alleged Public Bridleway No 19, which will be dealt with under the delegated authority for routine diversions.
  - John Wrangham, on behalf of the Harehope Estate (the landowner) was extremely supportive of the proposals and suggested the addition of the R-hh-jj footpath link.
  - Jim Clark, tenant at Nursery House, also indicated that all the proposals seemed very sensible. He indicated that he, himself, kept the rhododendrons down over the J-S section of path but now, aged 83, he was finding it a struggle and hoped that the County Council might take over the task.
  - Cycling UK indicated that they didn't have any problems with the proposed changes. They supported all the proposed changes in the package, and suggested a further potential diversion of their own.
  - Natural England indicated that the proposed changes did not include anything that caused them any concern.
  - The Ramblers' Association indicated that whilst they weren't overjoyed at sharing the Z-gg-S route over Harehope Hill or the A-B route west of Hagdon with horses, identifying them as public bridleways would at



Plan 1



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**Public Rights of Way**

- Existing Public Footpath
- Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway
- Public Footpath to be created
- Public Bridleway to be created

Former Districts: Bewick/Ainwick  
O.S. Map No. NU 02 SE  
Date: 47

Scale: 1:2500  
Date: November 2018

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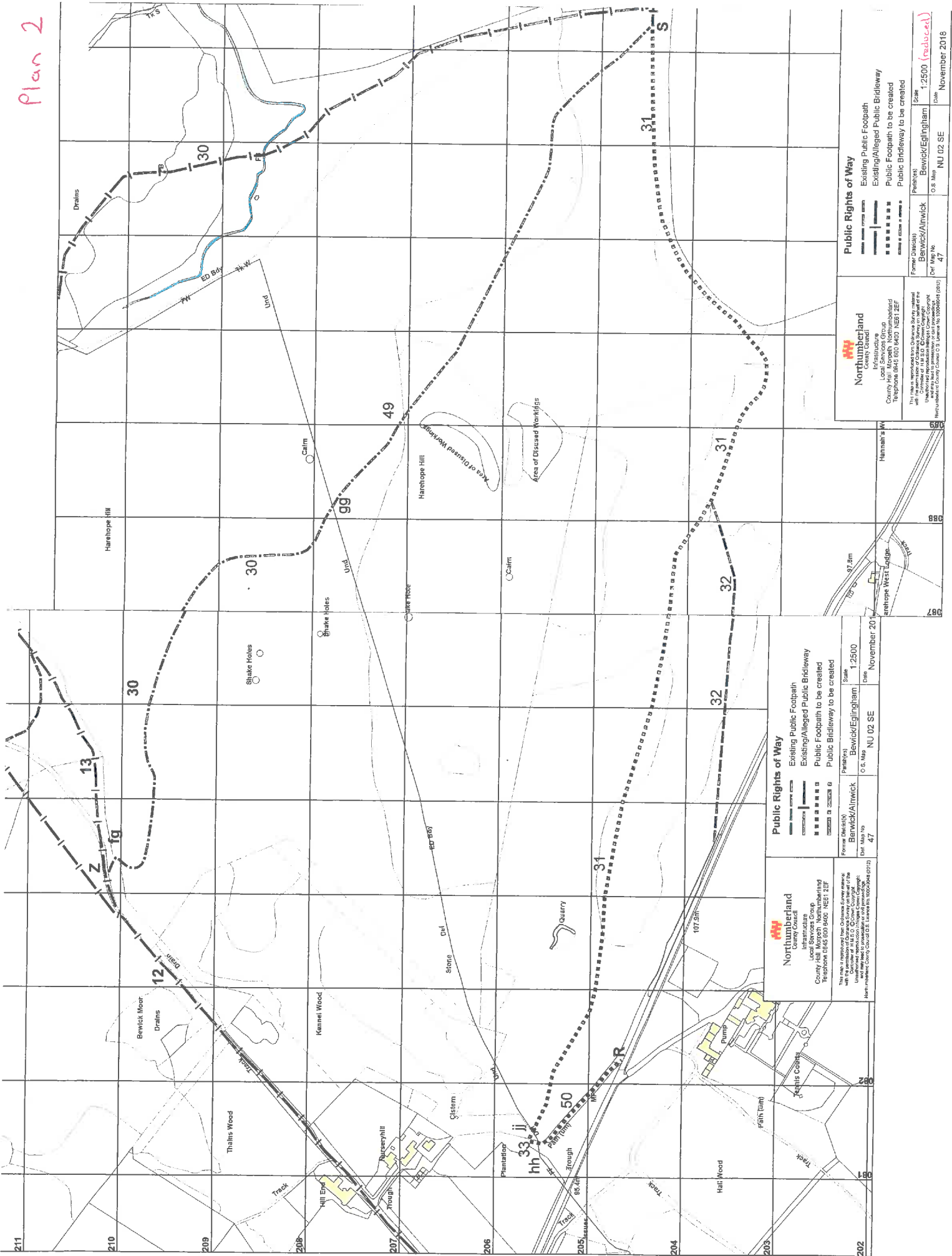
**Public Rights of Way**

- Existing Public Footpath
- Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway
- Public Footpath to be created
- Public Bridleway to be created

Former Districts: Bewick/Ainwick  
O.S. Map No. NU 02 SE  
Date: 47

Scale: 1:2500  
Date: November 2018

Plan 2



**Northumberland**  
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**Public Rights of Way**

Existing Public Footpath	Existing Public Footpath
Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway	Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway
Public Footpath to be created	Public Footpath to be created
Public Bridleway to be created	Public Bridleway to be created

Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001

Scale: 1:2500 (reduced)  
 Date: November 2018

**Northumberland**  
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 County Council  
 Local Planning  
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**Public Rights of Way**

Existing Public Footpath	Existing Public Footpath
Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway	Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway
Public Footpath to be created	Public Footpath to be created
Public Bridleway to be created	Public Bridleway to be created

Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001  
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Scale: 1:2500  
 Date: November 2018

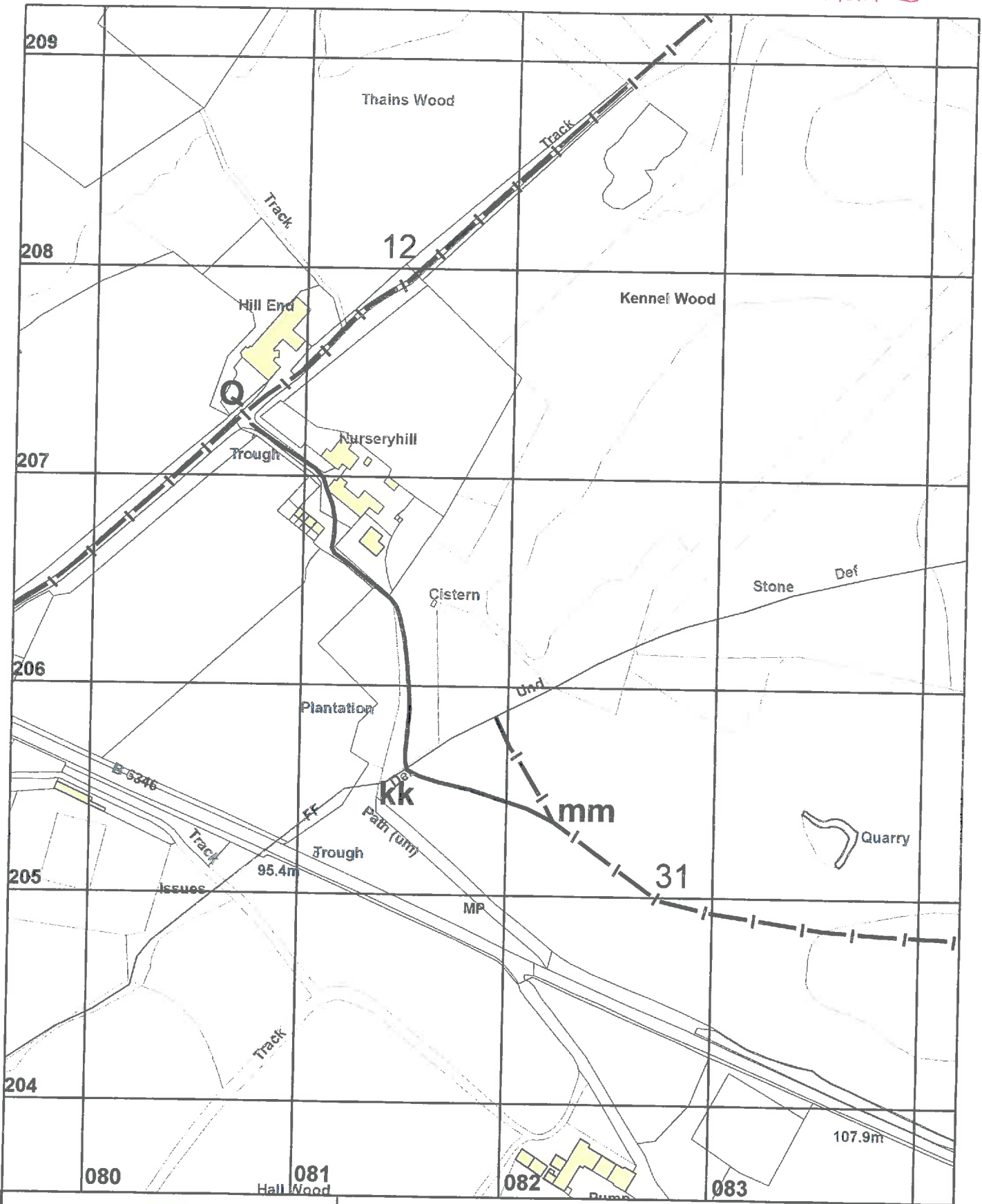
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**Public Rights of Way**


Existing Public Footpath	Existing Public Footpath
Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway	Existing/Alleged Public Bridleway
Public Footpath to be created	Public Footpath to be created
Public Bridleway to be created	Public Bridleway to be created

Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001  
 Form No. B1001  
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Scale: 1:2500  
 Date: November 2018



  
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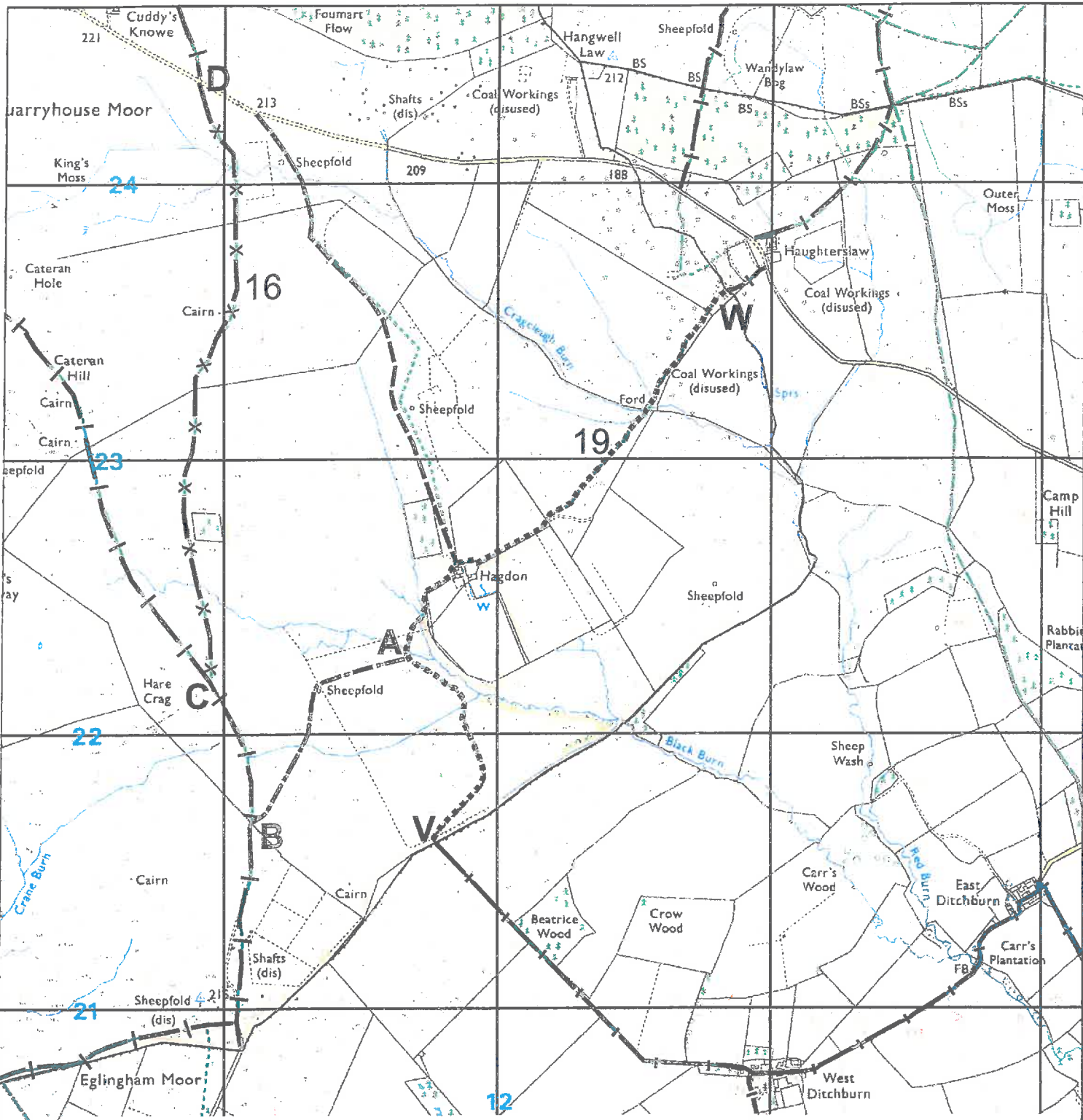
**Public Rights of Way**  

 Existing Public Bridleway  
 Alleged Public Bridleway to be closed

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Former District(s)  
**Berwick**  
 Def. Map No.  
**47**

Parish(es)  
**Bewick**  
 O.S. Map  
**NU 02 SE**








Scale  
**1:2500**  
 Date  
**November 2018**



Infrastructure Records  
Local Services  
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**Public Rights of Way**

-  Selected Existing Public Footpaths
-  Selected Existing Public Bridleways
-  Alleged Public Bridleway
-  Public Bridleway to be created
-  Public Bridleway to be downgraded to footpath status
-  Public footpath to be created
-  Public bridleway to be closed

Former District(s) <b>Berwick/Alnwick</b>	Parish(es) <b>Bewick/Eglingham</b>	Scale <b>1:20,000</b>
Def. Map No. <b>47/48</b>	O.S. Map <b>NU 02 SE/ NU 12 SW</b>	Date <b>July 2018</b>