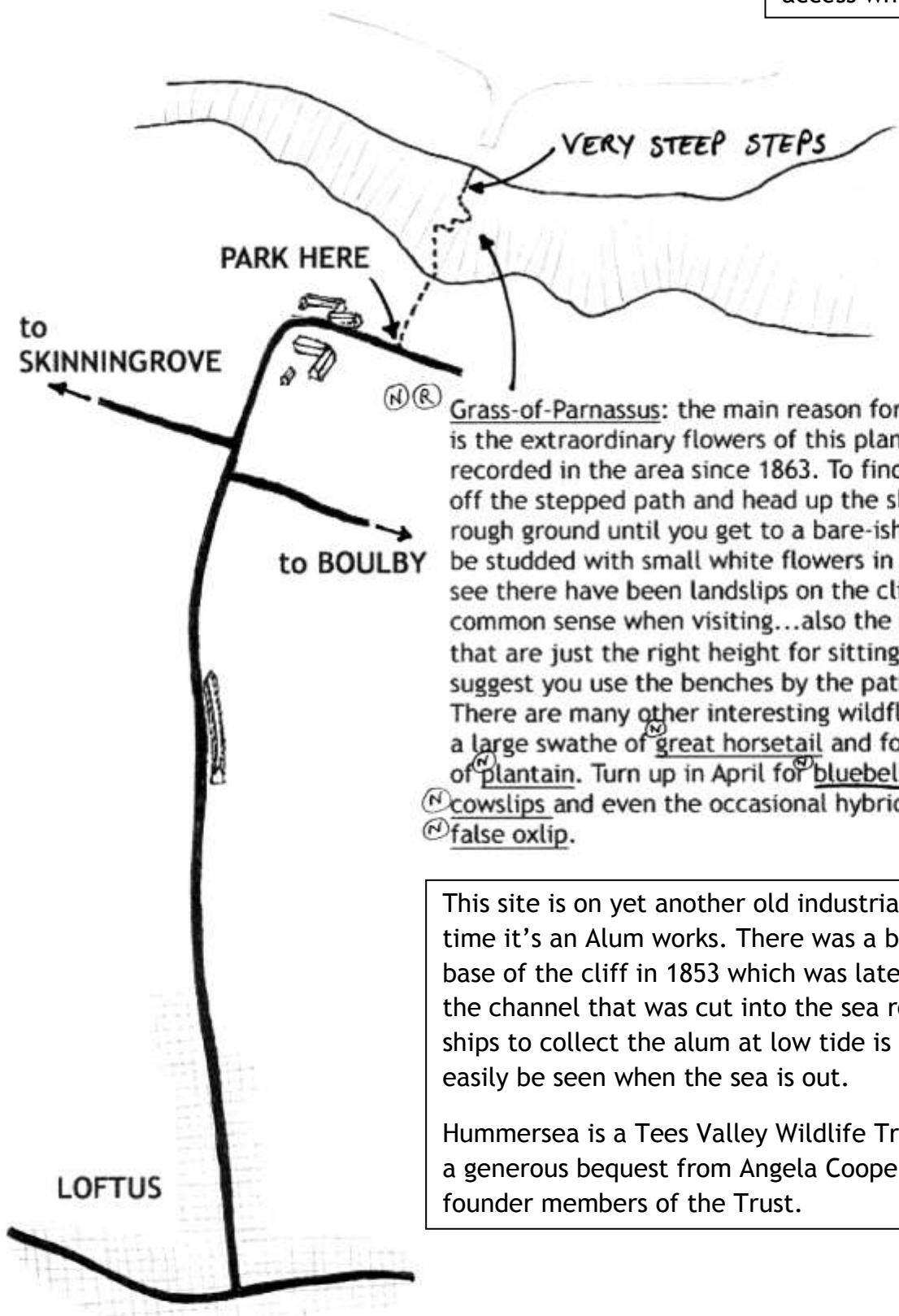


Hummersea

There is not much room for parking and the birdwatchers (who get up earlier than plant people) often nab them first. Please be careful not to block access when you park.



Grass-of-Parnassus: the main reason for visiting here is the extraordinary flowers of this plant, which has been recorded in the area since 1863. To find it you must walk off the stepped path and head up the slope over some rough ground until you get to a bare-ish wet bit which will be studded with small white flowers in August. As you will see there have been landslips on the cliff so please use your common sense when visiting...also the humps in the grassland that are just the right height for sitting on are ant hills; I suggest you use the benches by the path.

There are many other interesting wildflowers here including a large swathe of ^(N)great horsetail and four different species of ^(N)plantain. Turn up in April for ^(N)bluebells and ^(N)primroses, ^(N)cowslips and even the occasional hybrid between the two, ^(N)false oxlip.

This site is on yet another old industrial complex - this time it's an Alum works. There was a building here at the base of the cliff in 1853 which was later washed away, but the channel that was cut into the sea rock to allow the ships to collect the alum at low tide is still there and can easily be seen when the sea is out.

Hummersea is a Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve - a generous bequest from Angela Cooper MBE, one of the founder members of the Trust.

(N) Native
(R) Locally rare

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