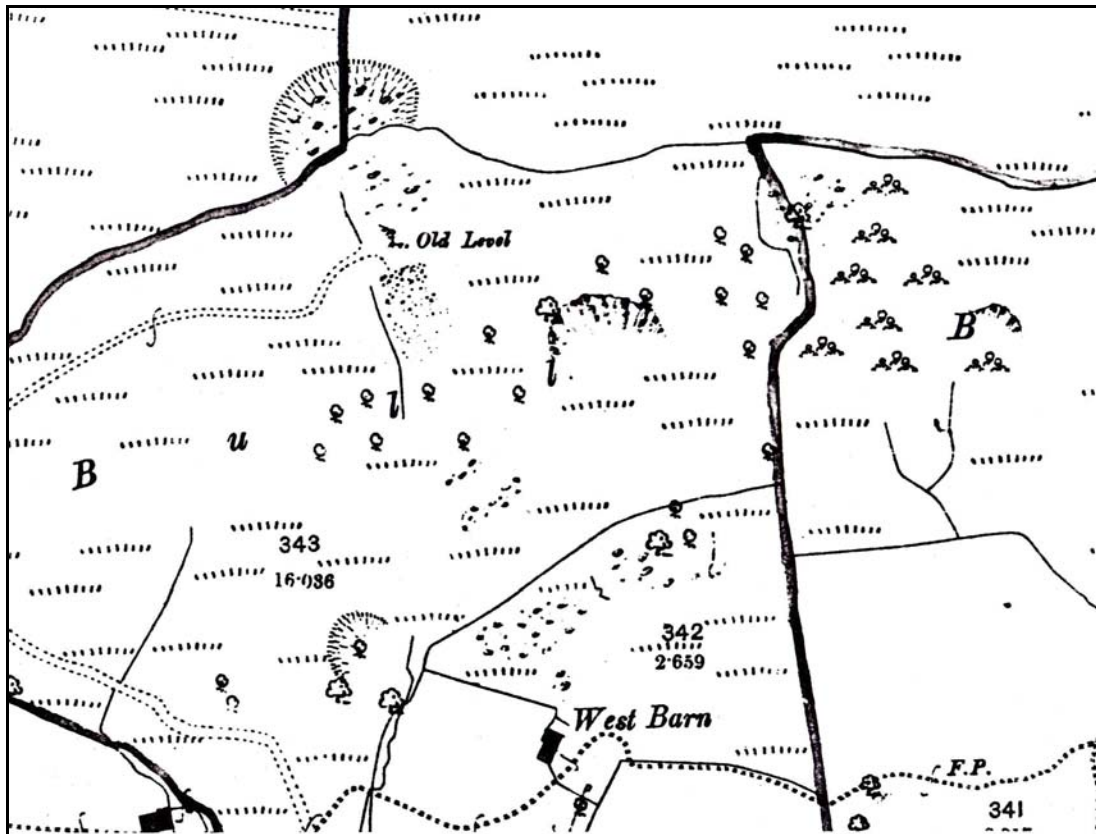


UPPER NIDDERDALE TREE PLANTING,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

Nidderdale AONB.

January 2012

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Front Cover: *Bull Brea on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" Series 1892*

**UPPER NIDDERDALE TREE PLANTING,**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

*Summary*

*A rapid assessment in to the potential for the survival of archaeological remains in six areas of proposed tree planting in Upper Nidderdale was undertaken. The assessment undertook a rapid study of historic mapping and aerial photographs along with a walkover survey of the sites.*

*The results of the assessment were that three of the sites contained no archaeological remains (Sites 2, 4 and 5) and two of the sites (Sites 3 and 6) contained a very small number of mainly linear features (boundaries, hollow-ways and track ways). Site 1, however, was found to contain a large number of well preserved features relating to coal and stone extraction and processing. The number and extent of the features are such that they cover the majority of the site. The identified sites were mapped, photographed and described briefly.*

*Suggestions as to areas to avoid for planting have also been made.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

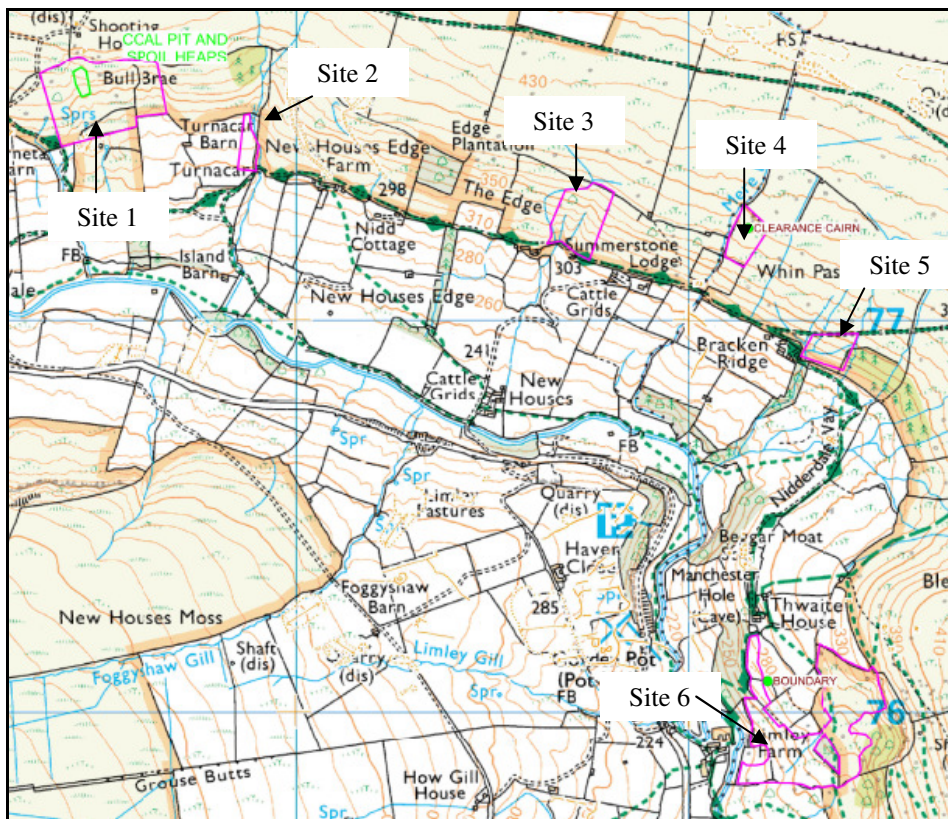
1.1 As an integral part of the feasibility study to assess the suitability for tree planting in selected areas in Upper Nidderdale a rapid archaeological assessment was undertaken of the selected areas. This was in order to assess the historic/archaeological potential of the various sites and to record the location of any remains as they currently exist. This assessment would then inform any tree planting regime and on how to minimise the impact of the planting on any surviving archaeological remains. The sites lie along the eastern side of the River Nidd in the upper reaches of Nidderdale (Figure 1).

1.2 Brief documentary research into the site was undertaken in January 2012 and the site visit was undertaken on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Location

2.1 The sites lie along an area of extensive upland moors along the northern and eastern side of the River Nidd in Upper Nidderdale. The most northerly site is at Bull Brae, Woogill (Site 1) with the next four sites lying along the edge of the moor running to the east to Bracken Ridge (Site 5). The final and most southerly site (Site 6) is to the east of the Nidd. The sites are in Stonebeck Up civil parish, Harrogate District, North Yorkshire.



Site Locations

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### **Geology and soils**

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site and the immediate surrounding area is Namurian ‘millstone grit’ of the Upper Carboniferous (British Geological Survey, 2001). Overlying this, the quaternary geology is one of upland peat (British Geological Survey, 1977). The soils for Sites 1 to 5 that have developed from this are of the Winter Hill association, which is a thick, very acid blanket peat. At Site 6 lower down the valley the soil is the Belmont association which is coarse loamy, very acid soil found over rock (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

### **Topography and land-use**

- 2.3 Sites 1 – 5 are located on the northern side of the upper reaches of Nidderdale on a moderately steep slope at a height of c.350-400mOD. The surrounding landscape is used for rough summer sheep grazing and shooting. Site 6 is located to the east of Limley Farm on the eastern side of the valley at a height of c.250-330mOD. The surrounding landscape is used for sheep grazing.

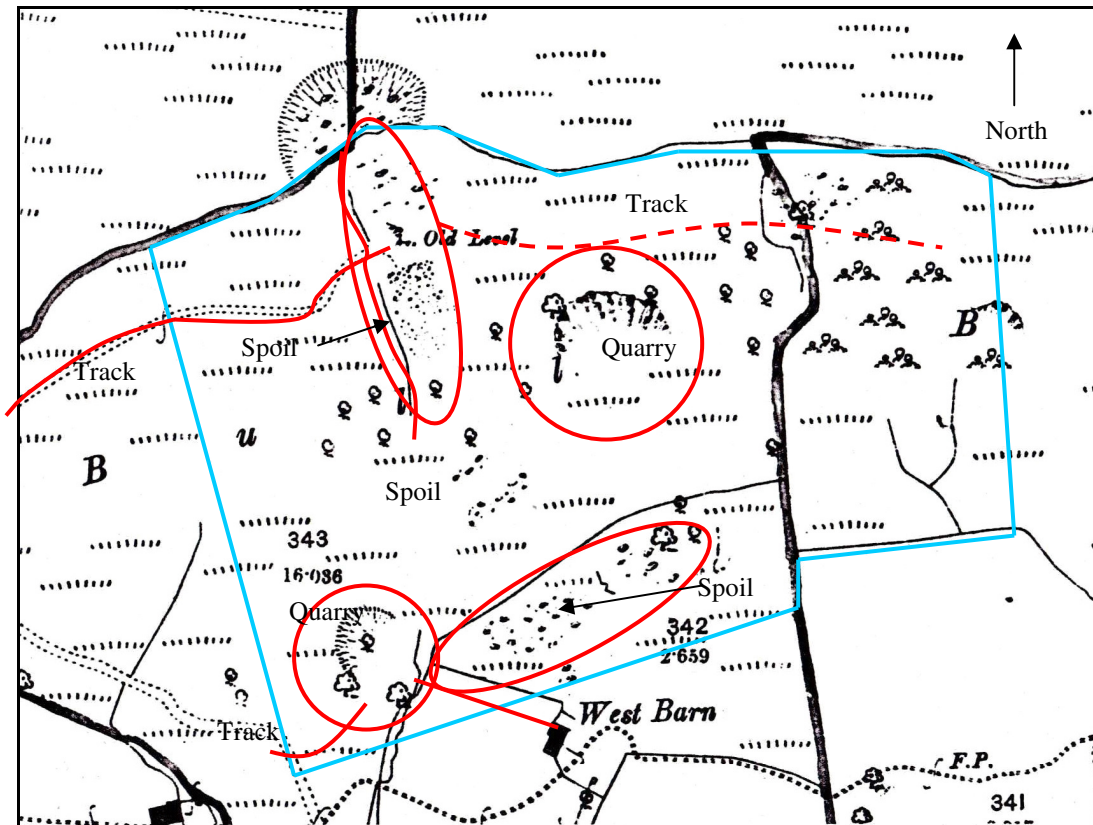
## **3.0 METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

- 3.1 The assessment followed an outline specification produced by Linda Smith the Rural Archaeologist for North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).
- 3.2 The principal aims of the assessment were to:
- locate and map any archaeological and historic features within the landscape and carry out a rapid archaeological walkover to assess their importance and to then:
  - identify their potential to contain any unrecorded archaeological and/or historical remains
  - assess the effects that the proposed planting works would have upon known and potential archaeological/historical remains
- 3.2 This report is based upon the review of readily available documentation relating to the site and its environs. Brief documentary research was undertaken and included a review of cartographic sources. The reviewed resources are located on the NYCC website (historic OS and aerial photographs) and English Heritage Pastscape website.
- 3.3 A rapid walkover survey was carried out with following aims, to:
- confirm, or otherwise, those features identified from the historic mapping and aerial photographs;
  - locate and identify any additional features not recorded on the extant mapping;
  - assess the condition and vulnerability of the features and
  - locate and record any features identified at an accuracy of +/- 2m on an OS map base.

#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESMENT

*Site 1 – Bull Brae, southern edge Woogill Moor (centred SE 08395 77538)*

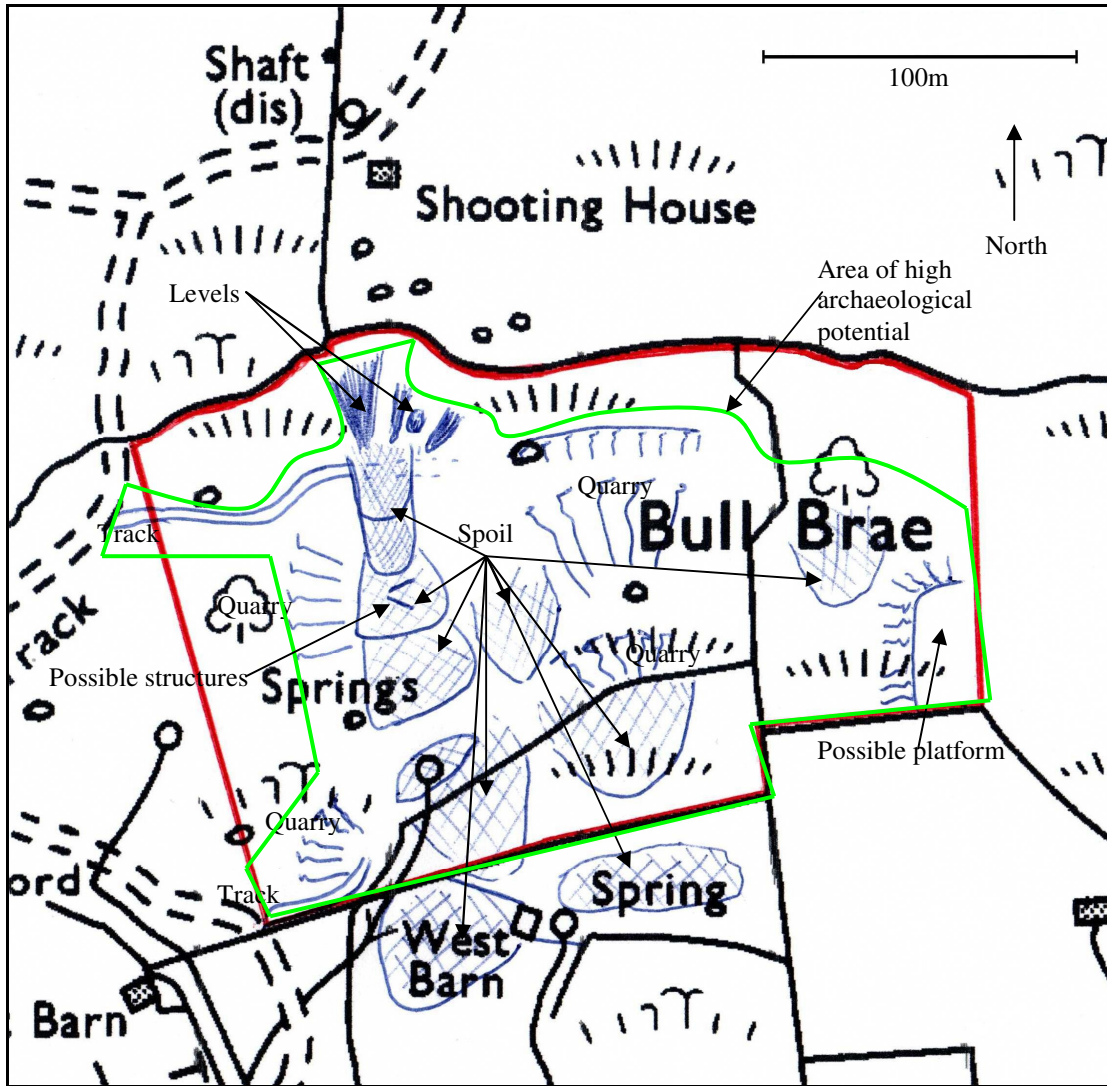
- 4.1 The place name for Woogill Moor is taken from Woogill stream which lies to the west of the site. The ‘-gill’ part of the name is from the Old Scandinavian word ‘-gil’ for a deep, narrow valley or ravine, whilst the ‘woo’ part is probably a corruption of ‘wood’ which simply means a wood or trees (Mills, 1998 and Gelling, 2000).
- 4.2 An earlier archaeological assessment on the capping of a coal shaft to the north-west (Buglass, 2011) identified extensive cartographic evidence for a series of coal shafts and levels. The 1856 OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6" series showed a series of shafts and levels running across the moor following the line of the coal seam underground and records the area as Woogill Colliery. Approximately 100m to the north of Bull Brae there is a disused coal shaft (SE 08437 77753) directly to the south of this and inside the study area there is a drainage level. This is one of a series of levels which would have acted to help manage the water levels within the shafts and galleries. The cartographic evidence and the aerial photographs (APs) show that the spoil from the level has been dumped in to form a linear tip running down hill in line with the mouth of the level. The APs evidence shows a small hollow-way to the west which splits from the main track way and runs directly towards the level. The APs evidence shows a small hollow-way to the west which splits from the main track way and runs directly towards the level.
- 4.3 The historic OS mapping also shows an abandoned quarry towards the eastern edge of the area at SE 08559 77619.



Features identified from historic mapping & APs. Based on 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" Series 1892

- 4.4 The walkover survey was hindered by the extensive cover of bracken. Although it had died back over winter, there was still a significant problem in examining the landscape. The walkover confirmed the presence of the features described above but also recorded the very widespread and overlapping remains of several phases of activity within the site. These remains include:
- a number of additional small quarries around the edge of the area
  - a track way towards a small quarry at the south-western end of the site
  - additional possible levels along the eastern side of the main level at the northern end
  - multiple spoil mounds, many of which overlap and could be examined in detail to produce a site phasing
  - two possible features built into the top of one of the spoil mounds
  - the large quarry to the west of the site noted above may even have bench worked.
  - the area around West Barn, just to the south of the site, may have been the location of some sort of processing as there is a dammed water feature and several ruinous walls and spoil mounds
  - it was also noted that many of the dry stone walls ran over the spoil mounds which in turn could provide some evidence for the dating sequence of the site
  - the spoil from the level could be seen to overlie other spoil-like material and would seem to suggest that the area was more extensively quarried prior to the coal level being built
- 4.5 It was rapidly realised that due to the overlapping nature and very wide extent of the archaeological remains present, it would not be possible to locate individual features with the desired accuracy within the time and budget allocated to the project. It was therefore decided to determine the limits of the areas containing archaeological remains (outlined in green on the map below) and to merely indicate the nature of the features within those areas. The recorded features all appear to be in a fair to good condition with the covering vegetation providing protection from animal erosion and weathering. The only area that appears to be vulnerable is the exposed spoil slope from the coal level.
- 4.6 As can be seen from the plan below, the majority of the proposed area contains some form of archaeological feature and the few areas that are unaffected are along the western and north-eastern edges.

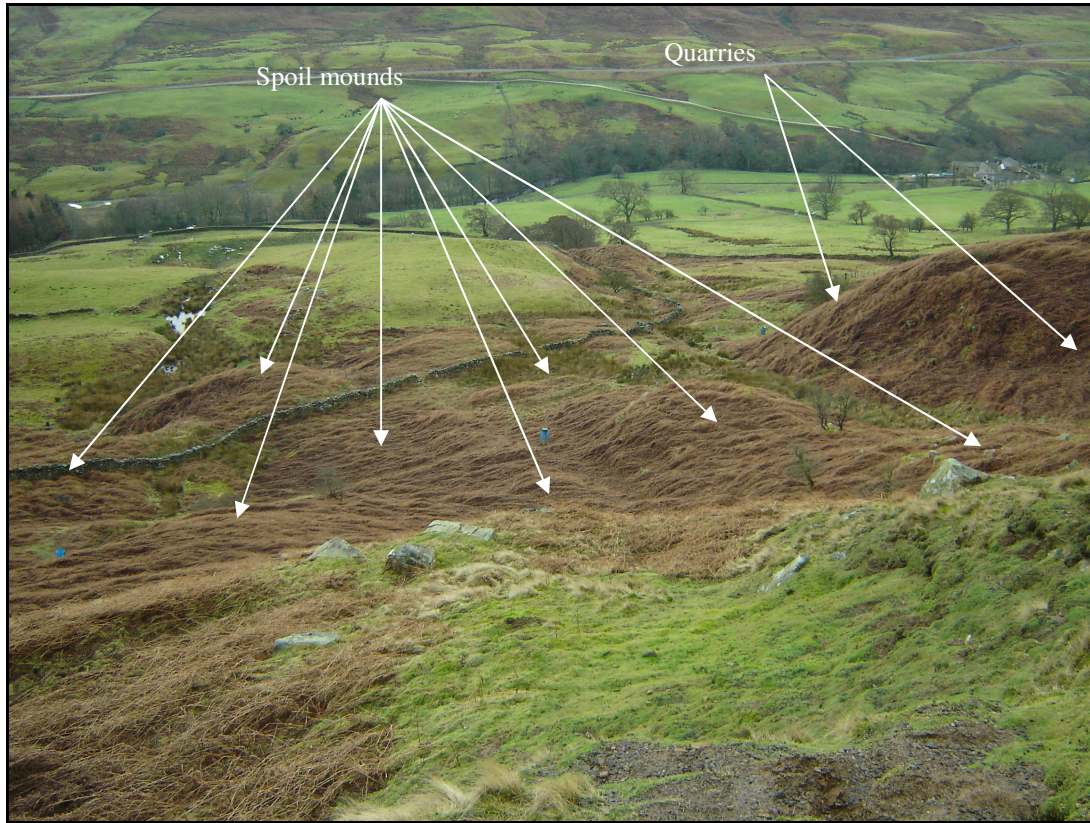




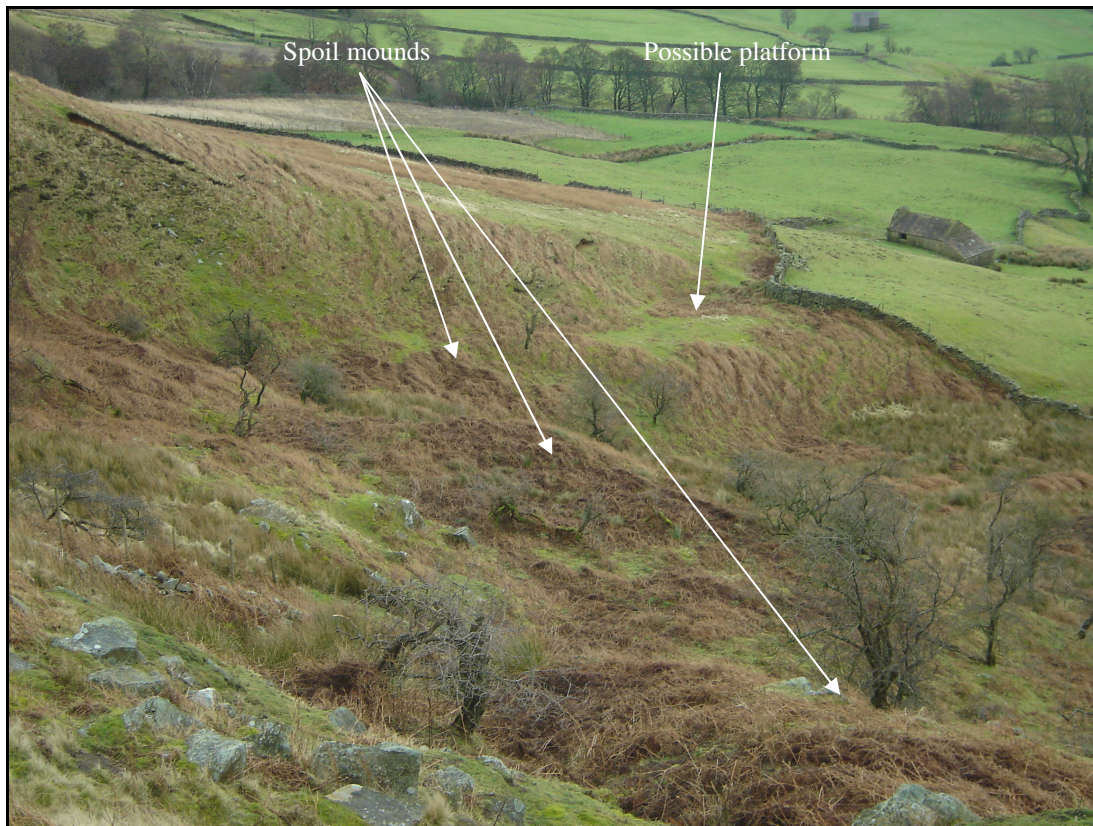
Sketch plan of the main archaeological features identified. Green line represent limit of observed archaeology.



Hollow way approaching level from NW, looking W from the coal level



Some of the features within the area, looking south from the coal level



Some of the features at the eastern end of the site, looking SE from coal level



Small levels of drifts on the east side of the main level, looking NE, scale 2m

- 4.7 Due to the high concentration of archaeological features within this site, it is suggested that if planting is to take place then an archaeologist should be present to advise on the areas to avoid.

*Site 2 – East of Turnacar Barn (centred on NGR SE 08893 77447)*

- 4.8 The only feature identified was from the examination of the historic mapping and was a track way running from Turnacar Barn to the west to join the main track just to the south of the area.
- 4.9 The walkover survey did not record any historic or archaeological features.

*Site 3 – North East of Summerstone Lodge (centred on NGR SE 09727 77277)*

- 4.10 An examination of aerial photographs noted two possible hollow-ways. The presence of these features was confirmed by the walkover survey. Both the hollow-ways were in a fair to good condition with some water erosion along their bases. The southerly of the two hollow-ways ran towards what appears to be a small quarry scoop (see images below).



Possible hollow-way, scale 2m, looking towards Nidd Cottage



Possible quarry scoop, scale 2m, looking N

A third hollow-way then ran down the hill some 110m to the main track below:



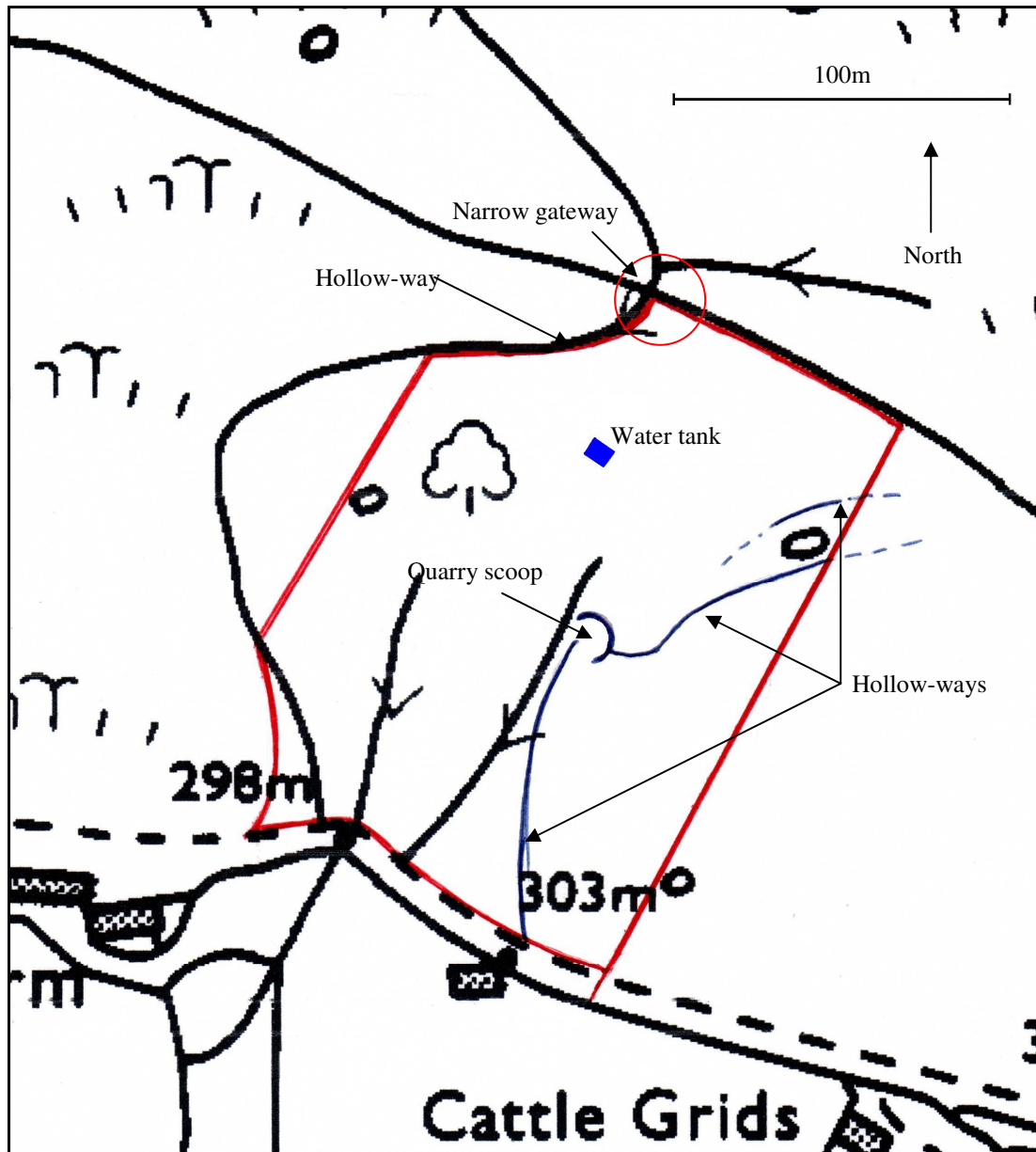
Hollow-way running down from quarry scoop, looking SE

The final feature noted was a small stone built water tank, in good condition, at the head of the various springs the rise near the top of the slope.



Water tank, scale 2m

4.11 In addition to the features noted within the area, part of the northern boundary follows a well defined hollow-way which leads to a well preserved, noticeably narrow, paved gateway in the dry stone wall. Narrow gateways such as this on other sites have been tentatively given a late medieval/early post medieval date.



Plan of the archaeological features identified during the walkover survey

*Site 4 – South of Whin Pasture Crags (centred on NGR SE 10142 77215)*

- 4.12 A clearance cairn is recorded on the NYCC Historic Environment Record and was noted on the edge of the crag (see image below). The walkover survey noted the remains of wall running along the edge of the crag (see image below) but from its appearance it is not possible to determine its age. The cairn appears to be stable but the surviving sections of walling were all in a poor condition and prone to animal damage. As both of these features are located on the edge of the crag it is unlikely to be affected by any planting. No other features were noted within the site.



Clearance cairn on the edge of Whin Crag, looking west



Remains of walling along the edge of Whin Crag, looking north

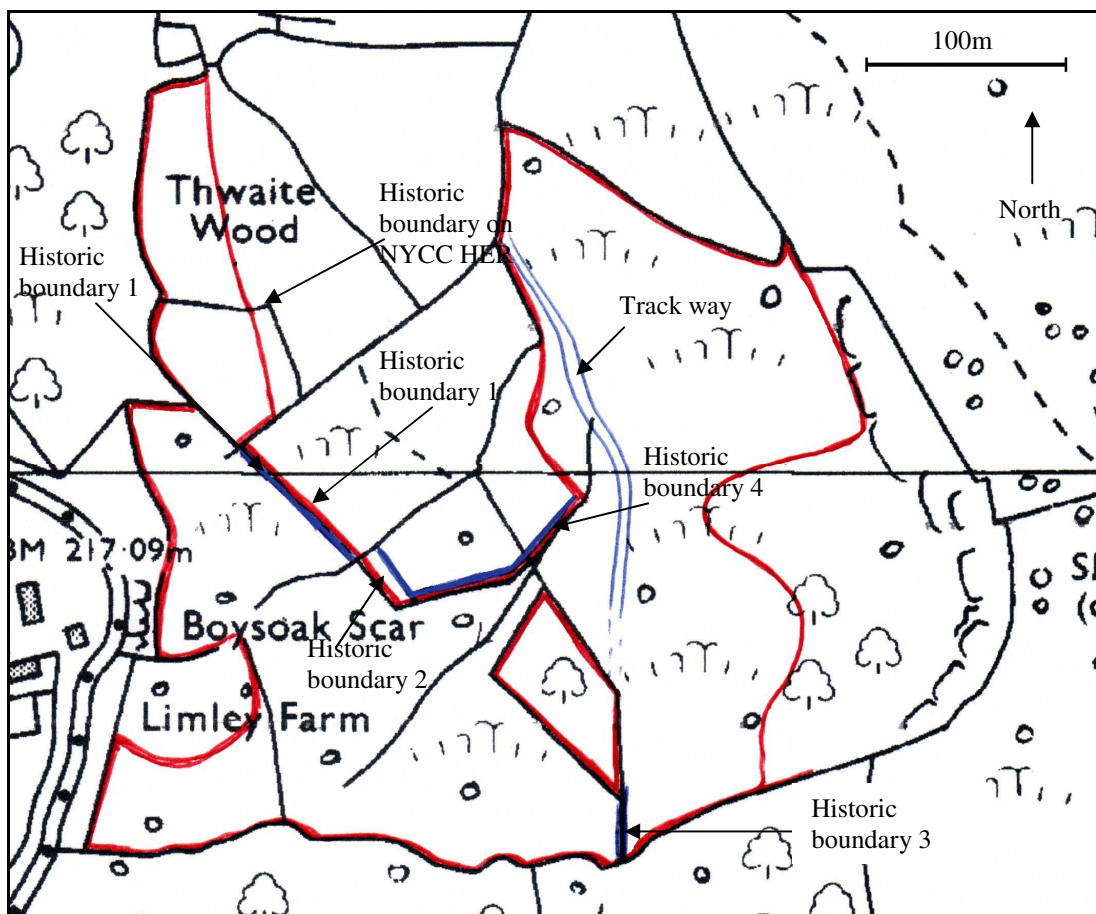
*Site 5 – East of Bracken Ridge (centred on NGR SE 10349 76928)*

- 4.13 A series of what appeared to be hollow-ways could be seen on aerial photographs running diagonally across the site. However the walkover revealed these to be deeply incised streams. No other features were noted.

*Site 6 – Boysoak Scar, East Limley Farm (centred on NGR SE 10244 75896)*

- 4.13 An historic boundary is recorded on the NYCC Historic Environment Record and an examination of the historic mapping and APs suggested that at least one track way crossed the site.

- 4.14 The walkover survey confirmed the presence of this boundary and identified four further possible old boundary lines (see images below). These boundaries have decayed over time and are now only visible as a low ridge with some stone work protruding through the covering vegetation. The boundaries were all in a poor condition but where they were buried they appear to have become stable and will probably not decay further if left undisturbed.
- 4.15 In addition to this, the area to the west of the crags at the eastern side of the site may have seen some stone collection and preparation from the material falling from the crag face. However, this is an observation based on some spoil like bracken covered mounds and cannot be proved without a more detailed examination of the features.



Plan of the archaeological features identified during the walkover survey





Historic Boundary 1 forming a terrace. Scale 2m looking south



Historic Boundary 2 collapsed down slope. Looking north



Historic boundary 3 scales 1m looking south

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Overall the majority of the sites were found to contain little or nothing in the way of archaeological remains. Those remains that were identified are generally quite visible within the landscape (e.g. hollow ways) and thus easily avoided when planting. However, the landscape at Site 1 (Bull Brae) was found to be almost entirely composed of archaeological features associated with the coal level and stone extraction/processing. In order to mitigate against any inadvertent damage to known archaeological remains, the follow suggestions are made:

*Site 1 – Bull Brae, southern edge Woogill Moor (centred SE 08395 77538)*

5.2 Due to the high concentration of archaeological features within this site, it is suggested that if planting is to take place then an archaeologist should be present to advise on the areas to avoid.

*Site 2 – East of Turnacar Barn (centred on NGR SE 08893 77447)*

5.3 No further action.

*Site 3 – North East of Summerstone Lodge (centred on NGR SE 09727 77277)*

5.4 Avoid obvious hollow-ways and quarry scoop.

*Site 4 – South of Whin Pasture Crag (centred on NGR SE 10142 77215)*

5.5 Avoid disturbing the remains along the crag edge.

- 5.6 *Site 5 – East of Bracken Ridge (centred on NGR SE 10349 76928)*  
No further action.
- 5.7 *Site 6 – Boysoak Scar, East Limley Farm (centred on NGR SE 10244 75896)*  
Avoid identified historic boundaries.

### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks are extended to Marian Wilby of the Nidderdale AONB for inviting me to undertake the project and to Mr Graham for allowing access to the site.

### **Sources Consulted**

- Buglass, J., 2011 *Mining Shaft, Woogill Moor, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Survey and Watching Brief*. Unpublished Contractors Report to Yorkshire Water.
- Gelling M (2000) *Place-Names in the Landscape*. Phoenix Press. London.
- Mills AD (1998) *Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford University Press

### **Maps**

- 1778 *A Plan of the Allotments on Low Gatherley Moor, Moor Holme and the High Moor by John Graves, George Jackson and William Head with the Old Inclosures in the Townships of Rawson, Kirkby Ravensworth and Whaston.*
- 1805 *A Plan of that part of Riggs or West Moor Called Moorsdale in the Township of Stean Beck Up in the Manor of Netherdale otherwise Ramsgill in the Parish of Kirky Malzard in the West Riding of the County of York by Alexander Calvert.*
- 1839 *Plan of the Township of Stone Beck Up in the Parish of Kirky Malzard in the West Riding of the County of York.* Tithe Map. North Yorkshire Archives reference: T
- 1856 Ordnance Survey 6” series (1<sup>st</sup> edition)
- 1870 *Township of Stone Beck Up in the Parish of Kirky Malzard in the West Riding of the County of York – Plan of the Estates belonging to Thos Carter Esq. and Mrs Hutchinson.*
- 1892 Ordnance Survey 25” series (1<sup>st</sup> edition)
- 1977 Institute of Geological Sciences: *Geological Survey Ten-Mile Map, North Sheet, Quaternary*. British Geological Survey
- 2001 *Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map North Sheet Solid Geology*. British Geological Survey
- 1983 *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales*. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden

<b>Site</b>	<b>Upper Nidderdale</b>	<b>Film Number</b>	<b>Film Type</b>	<b>Pixels</b>
	<b>Tree Planting</b>	1	Digital	5m

<b>Frame</b>	<b>Facing</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who/Date</b>
1	NE	-	Site 1, general view across quarry spoil heaps	JB 25/01/11
2	N	2m	Site 1, small quarry at SW side of area	JB 25/01/11
3	N	2m	Site 1, small quarry at SW side of area	JB 25/01/11
4	E	-	Site 1, view across spoil mounds at S end area	JB 25/01/11
5	NE	2m	Site 1, view towards main quarry, scale in smaller quarry	JB 25/01/11
6	NW	-	Site 1, possible small quarry on western side	JB 25/01/11
7	N	-	Site 1, view towards the coal levels	JB 25/01/11
8	NE	-	Site 1, view towards quarry	JB 25/01/11
9	NE	-	Site 1, view towards NE portion of the site	JB 25/01/11
10	E	-	Site 1, spoil mound at S end of area, note wall runs over mound	JB 25/01/11
11	W	-	Site 1, small quarry on W side towards S end	JB 25/01/11
12	SE	-	Site 1, general view over S end of site	JB 25/01/11
13	S	-	Site 1, remains of West Barn and possible spoil mound to right, note feature running L-R in foreground	JB 25/01/11
14	S	-	Site 1, possible spoil mound W of West Barn	JB 25/01/11
15	E	2m	Site 1, spoil mound at S end of area	JB 25/01/11
16	N	2m	Site 1, possible stone feature in spoil below drifts	JB 25/01/11
17	E	2m	Site 1, possible stone feature in spoil below drifts	JB 25/01/11
18	NE	2m	Site 1, possible stone feature in spoil below drifts	JB 25/01/11
19	NE	-	Site 1, view towards quarry	JB 25/01/11
20	SE	-	Site 1, general view towards spoil with wall running over it	JB 25/01/11
21	W	-	Site 1, possible small quarry scoop on W side of site	JB 25/01/11
22	E	2m	Site 1, second possible feature in spoil below drifts	JB 25/01/11
23	NE	2m	Site 1, second possible feature in spoil below drifts	JB 25/01/11
24	S	-	Site 1, view down slope, stones showing possible feature	JB 25/01/11
25	SE	-	Site 1, general view over spoil mounds	JB 25/01/11
26	ESE	-	Site 1, general view over spoil mounds	JB 25/01/11
27	E	-	Site 1, possible track-way across slope	JB 25/01/11
28	N	-	Site 1, coal waste from drift overlying earlier quarry waste	JB 25/01/11
29	W	-	Site 1, hollow-way coming in from the west	JB 25/01/11
30	SW	-	Site 1, possible quarry waste mounds on W side	JB 25/01/11
31	S	-	Site 1, general view down from hollow-way	JB 25/01/11

Frame	Facing	Scale	Description	Who/Date
32	W	2m	Site 1, scale at entrance to possible secondary drifts	JB 25/01/11
33	W	2m	Site 1, scale at entrance to possible secondary drifts	JB 25/01/11
34	W	-	Site 1, hollow-way running over spoil mounds	JB 25/01/11
35	W	-	Site 1, hollow-way at RHS, with coal spoil to left and possible small quarry at LH side	JB 25/01/11
36	SW	-	Site 1, general view showing spoil and possible quarries	JB 25/01/11
37	SW	-	Site 1, general view showing spoil and possible quarries	JB 25/01/11
38	S	-	Site 1, general view, note walls running over spoil and small pond to LHS of ruined West Barn	JB 25/01/11
39	SE	-	Site 1, view towards possible platform S of quarry	JB 25/01/11
40	SE	-	Site 1, view towards possible platform S of quarry	JB 25/01/11
41	NE	2m	Site 1, view towards possible secondary levels	JB 25/01/11
42	NE	2m	Site 1, view towards possible secondary levels	JB 25/01/11
43	N	-	Site 1, view towards main level	JB 25/01/11
44	E	-	Site 1, view across path over coal waste	JB 25/01/11
45	SE	-	Site 1, general view across E side of site	JB 25/01/11
46	S	-	Site 1, general view south	JB 25/01/11
47	NE	-	Site 2, general view of area	JB 25/01/11
48	ENE	-	Site 2, general view of area	JB 25/01/11
49	N	-	Site 2, general view of area	JB 25/01/11
50	S	-	Site 2, general view of area	JB 25/01/11
51	NW	2m	Small hollow-way to E of Site 3	JB 25/01/11
52	SW	2m	Site 3, small hollow-way curving down hillside, Nidd cottage on roadside below	JB 25/01/11
53	N	2m	Site 3, possible quarry scoop, halfway up	JB 25/01/11
54	SE	2m	Site 3, small hollow-way leading from quarry scoop	JB 25/01/11
55	Down	2m	Site 3, water tank for sheep	JB 25/01/11
56	NE	2m	Site 3, stone feature associated with water tank	JB 25/01/11
57	N	2m	Site 3, top end of area, stone lined, narrow gateway in wall at top of hollow-way	JB 25/01/11
58	SE	-	Site 3, hollow-way forming part of NW boundary of area	JB 25/01/11
59	N	2m	Stone trough at S end of Site 3	JB 25/01/11
60	W	-	Site 4, clearance cairn on edge of outcrop	JB 25/01/11
61	N	-	Site 4, remains of walling along outcrop edge	JB 25/01/11
62	N	-	Site 4, remains of walling along outcrop edge	JB 25/01/11
63	S	-	Site 4, general view	JB 25/01/11
64	NE	-	Site 5, deeply incised stream running across the slope	JB 25/01/11

<b>Frame</b>	<b>Facing</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who/Date</b>
65	N	-	?root store on W side of Site 5, near Bracken Ridge	JB 25/01/11
66	N	2m	Feature in southern boundary wall of Site 5 (?sheep creep)	JB 25/01/11
67	NNW	-	Possible quarry face just to W of N end Site 6 in Thwaite Wood, note track-way	JB 25/01/11
68	S	-	Track-way to possible quarry face just to W of N end Site 6 in Thwaite Wood	JB 25/01/11
69	N	-	Track-way to possible quarry face just to W of N end Site 6 in Thwaite Wood	JB 25/01/11
70	N	2m	Track-way to possible quarry face just to W of N end Site 6 in Thwaite Wood	JB 25/01/11
71	SE	2m	Site 6, old boundary forming terrace	JB 25/01/11
72	SE	-	Site 6, general view across area	JB 25/01/11
73	SE	2m	Site 6, collapsed old boundary of orthostat stones	JB 25/01/11
74	SE	2m	Site 6, collapsed old boundary of orthostat stones	JB 25/01/11
75	NW	-	Site 6, collapsed old boundary of orthostat stones	JB 25/01/11
76	SE	-	Site 6, general view into possible area of stone recovery/working	JB 25/01/11
77	S	-	Site 6, general view into possible area of stone recovery/working	JB 25/01/11
78	SW	-	Site 6, general view over area	JB 25/01/11
79	S	1m	Site 6, line of old bank shown by scales	JB 25/01/11
80	NW	-	Site 6, general view towards Limley Farm	JB 25/01/11
81	NE	-	Site 6, general view of slope	JB 25/01/11
82	W	-	Site 6, general view of slope	JB 25/01/11
83	E	-	General view of Site 6	JB 25/01/11
84	E	-	General view of Site 6	JB 25/01/11