



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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**RAYDALE ESTATE,  
WENSLEYDALE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

on behalf of

Yorkshire Peat Partnership

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**RAYDALE ESTATE, WENSLEYDALE,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
PEAT RESTORATION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

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**RAYDALE ESTATE, WENSLEYDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
**PEAT RESTORATION AND GRIP BLOCKING WORKS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*Northern Archaeological Associates were commissioned by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) to undertake a rapid archaeological survey and assessment in advance of peat restoration works on the Raydale Estate, Wensleydale, North Yorkshire (NGR SD 90105 82745). The project area comprised approximately 5.66km<sup>2</sup> of upland (Fig. 1) defined by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) as requiring assessment.*

*The aims of the survey were to provide a pre-intervention record of any archaeological remains and historic features within these areas; to evaluate the significance of these; assess any potential impact from the restoration works, and advise on a suitable strategy to mitigate against the occurrence of any such damage during the consolidation works.*

*In advance of the fieldwork, an HER audit was undertaken to inform the subsequent survey. This combined NMR and HER data, modern aerial photographic material and First, Second and Third Edition Ordnance Survey map data, with the aim of establishing the known archaeological resource; defining the extent of identified sites and plotting any potentially new monuments. This information was compiled into a GIS prior to survey commencing, and the database and plots were provided to the survey teams as baseline data, to be edited and updated in the field. All identified archaeological sites were visited during the survey and their vulnerability to potential damage during groundworks was assessed. Any previously unknown archaeological remains were also recorded and their vulnerability similarly evaluated.*

*A total of 26 archaeological remains and historic features were surveyed, including 8 newly discovered sites, expanding the existing knowledge and understanding of the archaeology of Wensleydale. The overwhelming majority of the archaeological features were post-medieval in date, and related to agricultural features (sheepfolds, and peat cutting), land ownership (boundary stones and drystone walls) and grouse shooting (including a shooting hut and grouse butts). Some potentially medieval features were recorded including a small rectangular, two celled building and an associated marker cairn. No prehistoric features were recorded from within the survey area.*

*In terms of monument condition, the majority of standing structures were subject to gradual decline; predominately from weather erosion, vegetation encroachment and grazing animals. This included: collapsing drystone walls of boundaries and structures that are no longer maintained.*

**RAYDALE ESTATE, WENSLEYDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
**PEAT RESTORATION**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates were commissioned by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) to undertake a rapid archaeological survey and assessment in relation to peat restoration works at the Raydale Estate, Wensleydale, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The survey comprised an area of approximately 433 hectares, defined by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) as requiring assessment.
- 1.2 The aims of the survey were to provide a pre-intervention record of any archaeological remains and historic features within these areas; to evaluate the significance of these; assess any potential impact of the restoration works, and advise on how such damage could be avoided.
- 1.3 This report presents the results for the survey including a table (Table 1) of all identified archaeological and historical features; both known sites which already appear on the YDNPA Historic Environment Record (HER) and/or the National Monument Record (NMR). All sites identified during the survey were assigned a Unique Identification Number (UIN), and cross-referenced to existing recorded sites in both datasets where correlation existed. All sites are illustrated in Figure 2.
- 1.4 The significance of each asset has been assessed individually, and as part of a cluster, or group of monuments within their landscape context. This information has been used to compile a plan of important archaeological sites and historic features using a simple 'traffic light' coding system. This is intended to facilitate the grip blocking and consolidation work, and where appropriate, identify proposed 'safe' access routes (Green Zones).
- 1.5 The surveys and all post-survey work was undertaken according to national guidelines (EH 2007, 2008; IFA 2009) and conformed to the agreed project designs and briefs (NAA 2012; YDNPA 2012).

## 2.0 ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 All of the known archaeological sites recorded in the YDNPA HER and the NMR were visited during the survey, and their potential vulnerability to damage during the groundworks was assessed. The area was also surveyed for previously unknown archaeological remains; the vulnerability of these was also assessed.
- 2.2 A number of datasets were assessed prior to the survey commencing, and the results compiled into a GIS. Aerial photos were used to complement the data gathered on the ground and to accurately define the full extent of the archaeology present. First, Second and Third Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps were also used to inform the field survey.
- 2.3 A total of 26 heritage assets were recorded within the survey area. Of these, 11 were sites recorded in the HER and/or the NMR; 7 were sites identified from the desk-based annotation of the available datasets, and 8 were 'new' sites identified during the field survey. Based on significance these were divided into three categories: Red Zones; Amber Zones; and Green Zones as defined below.

### **Red Zones: Absolute constraint areas**

- 2.4 Red Zones include scheduled sites and other remains which are potentially of national significance. These areas must be avoided during the groundworks. No vehicles or plant must track through, work within, or be stored in these zones. Scheduled monument sites are protected by law under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. It is a criminal offence to undertake work of any kind in these areas without prior written consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports.
- 2.5 As no scheduled or equally important sites exist within the survey boundary, no Red Zones have been defined within the surveyed areas.

### **Amber Zones: No access areas**

- 2.6 Amber Zones include significant remains that appear on the YDNPA HER or have been identified as part of the rapid archaeological survey (Fig. 4). These areas should be avoided during the peat restoration and grip blocking works.
- 2.7 If, due to the practicalities of the restoration works, access through an Amber Zone is required then this should only be undertaken after consultation with the NYCC Rural Archaeologist. Such access has the potential to cause damage to significant archaeological remains and, therefore, should be kept to a minimum.

### **Green Zones: Potential access areas**

- 2.8 Green Zones are areas within the Amber Zones which have been identified as

potential access routes. There is still known archaeology in these areas but this has been assessed as of lesser significance than elsewhere, usually due to preservation or prevalence. Vehicles can be tracked across these routes in order to reach those areas of grip blocking cut off from other access.

- 2.9 The remainder of the surveyed areas are free from significant visible archaeological remains, although sub-surface material might still be identified during the course of the restoration works. It is advised, however, that all care should be undertaken during the groundworks to avoid damage to any obvious upstanding remains not covered by the scope of the archaeological survey and assessment. Such remains may include gateways, boundary stones, drystone walls, sheepfolds, grouse butts and cairns (constructed piles of stones).

### **3.0 RESULTS AND SIGNIFICANCE**

- 3.1 The results of the survey, and assessment of the survey area, are summarised within Table 1 which includes an outline assessment of significance. The archaeological and historical features within the survey area include some which potentially date from the medieval period to the present day. The potentially medieval features include a small building and its associated marker cairn. In the post medieval period the area was used for sheep farming. The moor was divided by a series of boundaries including lines of cairns and drystone walls; two sheepfolds and a farmhouse were also located. The area was also used for the extraction of resources including stone quarrying and peat cutting. Other features identified relate to more recent use of the moor for recreational shooting including trackways, grouse butts and a hunting lodge.

#### ***Medieval features***

- 3.2 A possible medieval or early post-medieval building was identified in the south western part of the survey area (Site **10004**). It was constructed in a somewhat sheltered hollow, near the top of a steep slope, overlooking the area to the northwest. The building was ruined, but the shape in plan was still outlined by tumbled stones. It was roughly rectangular, with a central internal wall dividing it into two cells and the alignment of the building was approximately east to west. The building was constructed with drystone walls, utilising the stones available in the immediate vicinity. No doorways or architectural features survived except for two large boulders, which appeared to mark the corners of the structure on the exposed northern face. It is probable that the structure was used seasonally and possibly served as a shieling.
- 3.3 Associated with the building was a small marker cairn (site **10019**) that was positioned at the top of a prominent spur in the hillside, overlooking the building (site **10004**). The cairn was to the south west of the building,

approximately 50m away and it survived to a diameter of 1m and was around 0.5m high.

- 3.4 A series of graded trackways (site **10003**), identified by the HER as hollow ways, were identified in a comparatively flat area to the north west of the building and the cairn. No evidence of these was found during the survey and it is possible that they were desire trails, however heavy snow during the survey may have obscured these features.

### ***Boundaries***

- 3.5 This area of Raydale has been subdivided using boundary mounds and drystone walls, some of which are no longer in use. A series of mounds and / or cairns (sites **10005 - 10009**), marked on the 1846 Ordnance Survey map as "stones and mound" formed a boundary division in the south eastern part of the site, near Deepdale Haw. No trace of any of the stones or mounds were located during the survey and it may be that they no longer exist.
- 3.6 The remains of a wall predating the south western boundary of the site were visible within the survey area (site **10001**). The wall may have formed an enclosure with a section of wall to the south of the survey area that still exists. A flat, vegetation free area to the east of the wall may represent a parallel trackway that accompanied the wall. Both appear to have gone out of use by 1856, as the Ordnance Survey map depicts the wall alignment that exists today.
- 3.7 An unusual drystone wall (site **10024**) was visible but derelict and located in the centre of the survey area. It was present on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map, but unusually it ended in the centre of the moor, without joining any other wall. Stones from the derelict wall were later reused to make a trackway, grouse butts and a shooting lodge (site **10010**).
- 3.8 In the north east of the survey area, two drystone walls (sites **10012, 10013**) still partially survived. They were not present on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map but did appear on the 1896 map and were depicted as enclosing Lang Gill Plantation. Further up Long Gill to the south west were three wall remnants (sites **10015 - 10017**), which partially survived. These were constructed within the same date range as the Lang Gill Plantation walls and they enclosed Billinside Plantation and subdivided Billinside Moor. Part of the stone from the derelict walls had been reused for a trackway that was parallel for a short section.

### ***Agriculture***

- 3.9 The construction of walls to form the boundaries for tree plantations has already been mentioned, however some of the walls (sites **10001, 10010, 10012, 10015, 10017**) may have been partially constructed to divide up the



moor for sheep farming and as ownership boundaries. In the far east of the site, a large farmhouse (site **10014**), called Long Gill House, was located. The house, which is entirely ruined and depicted as such on the 1856 Ordnance Survey mapping, looked to be 18th century in date. The north-east and north-west corners stood to at least 2m in height, and comprised very thick walls. The remainder were collapsed to the foundations, but the wall-lines were discernible in the ruins. The north-east corner looked like it may have originally incorporated a staircase. Internally, stone partition walls were evident, the central wall having a doorway slightly south of centre. The house was crossed by the later (?19th century) enclosure wall, roughly on the line of its southern wall and further structures were apparent south of this wall, potentially of a similar date.

- 3.10 In the vicinity of the farm house were two sheepfolds. The first sheepfold (site **10011**) was 0.5km to the north of Long Gill House on the edge of Cragdale Water; the sheepfold now only survives as isolated lengths of drystone walling.
- 3.11 The second sheepfold was 0.4km to the west of Long Gill House, further upstream along Long Gill (site **10021**). This sheepfold consisted of a short straight section of wall, which together with the steep topography nearby, enclosed a small bend in the Gill. A possible second segment of wall was set at a right angle to the main section and may have once been a small dam. Both parts of the sheepfold were ruinous but enough survived to see that it was of drystone construction. The small area that was enclosed and the position by the Gill suggest that the main wall was used for corralling the sheep and the possible dam created a small pool adjacent to the sheepfold that could be used for washing the sheep. The sheepfold is shown on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map but it is not labelled as such.

### ***Resource Extraction***

- 3.12 A small area of peat cutting (site **10020**) was located in the north of the survey area. Three sides of a rectangle were visible, cut into the existing slope up to a depth of 0.3m. Aerial photography revealed what appeared to be another area of peat cutting (site **10018**) to the east of site **10020**, however it was not located during the survey and was most likely caused by vegetation differences.
- 3.13 Along the south eastern boundary of the survey area, a series of three small quarry pits were located (site **10022**). They were spaced alongside the wall and had been excavated to acquire stone with which to build the wall. The largest quarry pit had traces of a narrow entrance on the south western edge where the gradient was not as steep. Another quarry (site **10025**) was located in the centre of the survey area on Billinside Moor. This small area of stone quarrying was cut into a pre-existing stone outcrop and the stone was probably used to construct the nearby field walls (sites **10015**, **10016**).

### **Recreation**

- 3.14 A small shooting box (site **10010**) was located in the centre of the survey area along the alignment of a field wall (site **10024**). It was constructed using drystone walls in a rectangular shape. The outline of the building was still visible during the survey but it was in a ruined condition. It was associated with a series of grouse butts that ran along the same alignment as the field wall and a trackway was present along the north east side of the wall and grouse butts. The shooting box, grouse butts and trackway all appear to have been constructed using stones reused from the ruined wall. The wall appears on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map, the shooting box on the 1889 map and the grouse butts do not appear until the 1978 Ordnance Survey map. The latest addition is a turning area (site **10026**) on the current track to access the moor for shooting. This may have originally been used as a quarry for stone to make the track.

## **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Due to the lack of scheduled or nationally significant archaeological remains, no Red Zones were defined within the survey area.
- 4.2 The Amber Zones around discrete archaeological remains should be avoided. However, if restoration works are required in these areas, or if contractors need to track vehicles across an Amber Zone, then contact should be made with the YDNPA, as even tracking a vehicle through these Zones could potentially damage archaeological remains.
- 4.3 Three Green Zone have been designated where access may be required across an Amber Zone (sites **10001, 10013, 10015**). These zones are necessary to allow access across former drystone walls that have now become derelict. Areas have been chosen that should allow easy access with minimal or no damage to the sites. However, care should still be taken when crossing these areas with machinery.

## REFERENCES

English Heritage (2007) *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes*

English Heritage (2008) *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*

Institute for Archaeologists (2009) *Standard and Guidance for Stewardship of the Historic Environment*

Northern Archaeological Associates (2012) *Raydale Estate, Bainbridge, North Yorkshire, Peatland Restoration Works, Rapid Archaeological Survey and Assessment of Palaeoenvironmental Potential: Project Design and Fee proposal*, unpublished client report

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) (2012) *Raydale Estate (Cunningham), Bainbridge, North Yorkshire Peat restoration and grip blocking works, SD905830, Historic environment survey and assessment of palaeoenvironmental potential*

**Table 1: Assessment of archaeological sites**

Key: Red = within Red Zone; Amber = within Amber Zone; White =No archaeological risk

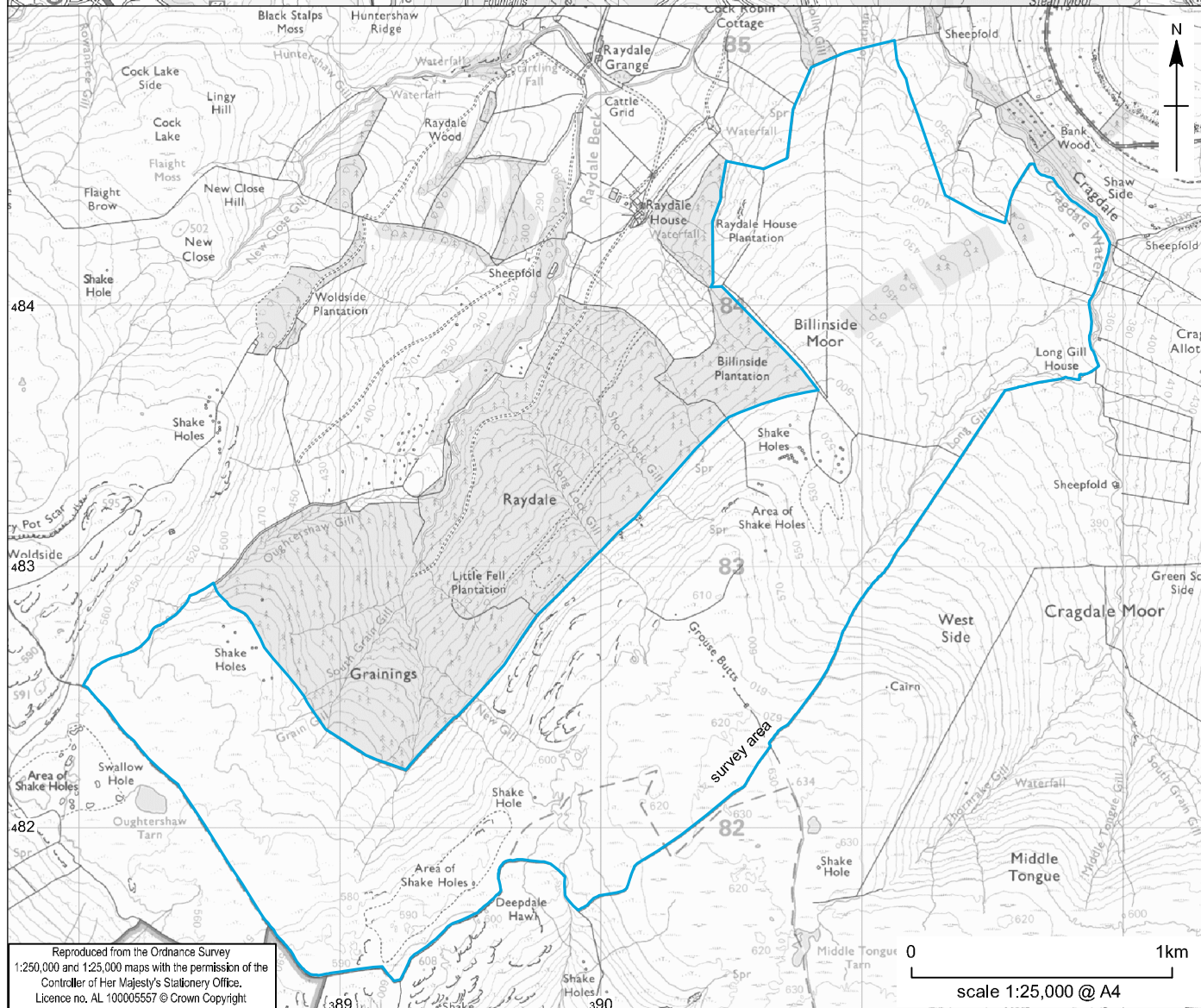
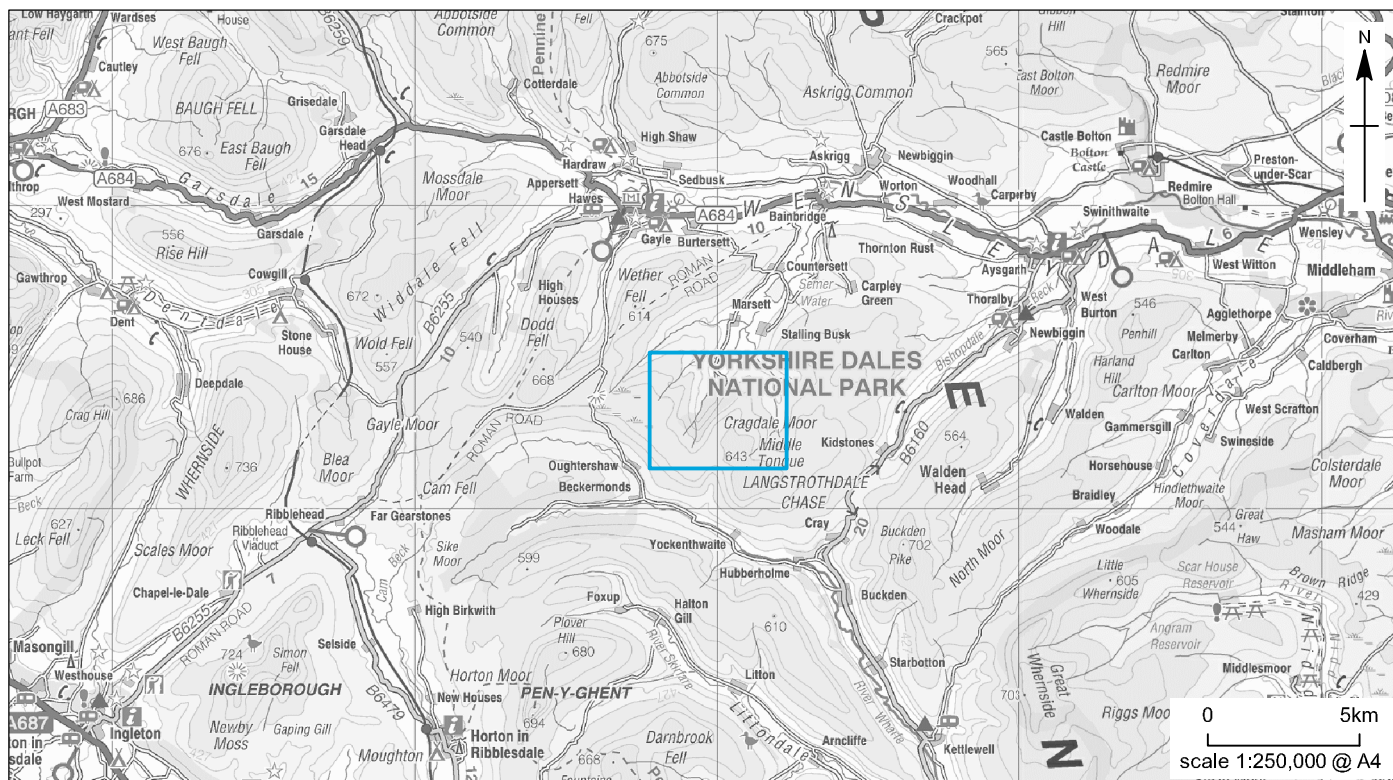
Survey UID	MonUID	Name	Easting	Northing	Mon. Type	Period	Description	Site Description	Significance
10001	MYD46040	Enclosure	388453	482091	Enclosure	Post Medieval	(HER) probable field boundary of post medieval date (GIS) looks like field boundary rationalised to S, this is a relic of earlier enclosure	(Survey) former boundary has associated trackway running along eastern edge	Low
10002	MYD53477	Leat?	388792	482329	Leat	Post Medieval	(HER) probable post-medieval leat	(Survey) no evidence of leat feature, probably a modern trackway	N/A
10003	MYD53478	Graded Trackways	388896	482094	Trackway	Medieval	(HER) graded trackways above Grainings plantation	(Survey) not found	N/A
10004	MYD46039	Building	389011	481698	Building	Medieval	(HER) remains of building of potentially medieval date (GIS) digitised, one internal partition wall into two cells, EW aligned. Ruined. On NMP transcription. Not on OS.	(Survey) located approximately 60m to the north of the NMP transcription, set into a somewhat sheltered hollow overlooking the area to the north. An associated marker cairn (10019) was located on a prominent spur 50m to the southwest.	High
10005	MYD26059	Stones And Mound	389730	482020	Boundary Mound	Post Medieval	(HER) U Boundary Mound; with assoc. Stones - ? Cairn. (GIS) on OS 1846 as 'stones and mound'	(Survey) not located	N/A
10006		Stones And Mound	389860	482080	Boundary Mound	Post Medieval	(NMR) U Boundary Mound; with assoc. Stones - ? Cairn. (GIS) on OS 1846 as 'stones and mound'	(Survey) not located	N/A
10007	MYD26057	Stones And Mound	389890	482130	Boundary Mound	Post Medieval	(HER) U Boundary Mound; with assoc. Stones - ? Cairn. (GIS) on OS 1846 as 'stones and mound'	(Survey) not located	N/A
10008	MYD28422	Stones And Mound	390210	482230	Boundary Mound	Post Medieval	(HER/NMR) U Boundary Mound; with assoc. Stones - ? Cairn. (GIS) on OS 1846 as 'stones and mound'	(Survey) not located	N/A
10009		Stones And Mound	390160	482100	Boundary Mound	Post Medieval	(NMR) U Boundary Mound; with assoc. Stones - ? Cairn. (GIS) on OS 1846 as 'stones and mound'	(Survey) not located	N/A
10010		Shooting Box	390563	482466	Hunting Lodge	Post Medieval	(GIS) on second edn OS 1889 and subsequent; now a ruin, on line of field wall and adjacent to	(Survey) located, now entirely collapsed and little more than a rectangular arrangement of stones.	Low

Raydale Estate Peat Restoration Works: Archaeological Survey Report

Survey UID	MonUID	Name	Easting	Northing	Mon. Type	Period	Description	Site Description	Significance
							shooting butts.		
10011	MYD53479	Sheep Fold	391809	484265	Sheep Fold	Post Medieval	(HER) isolated lengths of walling east ( <i>sic</i> ) of Cragdale water (GIS) sheepfold on OS 1889	(Survey) located as described	<b>Moderate</b>
10012	MYD53479	Wall	391786	484253	Field Boundary	Post Medieval	(GIS) post med field wall, on OS 1889; part of Lang Gill plantation (HER) isolated lengths of walling east ( <i>sic</i> ) of Cragdale water	(Survey) located as described	<b>Low</b>
10013	MYD53479	Wall	391804	484063	Field Boundary	Post Medieval	(GIS) relic field boundary	(Survey) located - drystone wall remnant	<b>Low</b>
10014	MYD28406	Long Gill House	391835	483728	House	Post Medieval	(NMR) Long Gill House; ruinous at time of original survey 1847-8, and shown as roofless OS 1:10000 1979.	(Survey) large farmhouse, standing corners on NE and NW to 2m+, rest mostly collapsed to low walls. Interior partition wall evident, doorway slightly to south, possible stairwell in NE corner. Further structures apparent S of wall, which is later. C18?	<b>High</b>
10015		Field Wall	390436	482856	Field Boundary	Post Medieval	(GIS) field boundary depicted on OS 1846 and modern OS, now collapsing	(Survey) mostly collapsed field boundary wall, joins to wall 10024. Part of the wall stone has been re-used in a parallel trackway	<b>Low</b>
10016		Field Boundary - Billinside Plantation	390575	483302	Field Boundary	Post Medieval	(GIS) relic field boundary from billinside plantation OS 1889 and later.	(Survey) drystone wall, ruined but position is still visible in places.	<b>Low</b>
10017		Field Boundary	390961	483432	Field Boundary	Post Medieval	(GIS) relic field boundary first depicted on OS 1889	(Survey) drystone wall located	<b>Low</b>
10018		Earthworks?	390814	484562	Earthwork	Unknown	(GIS) three NWSE aligned parallel earthworks, perhaps peat cutting on side of hill east of Raydale grange. Digitised from DVAP	(Survey) not located, does not exist	<b>N/A</b>
10019			388962	481671	Marker Cairn	Medieval		(Survey) small pile of stones 1m x 1m x 0.5m high. This cairn was probably constructed to mark the position of building 10004, which lies 50m to the northeast.	<b>Moderate</b>
10020			390688	484540	Peat Cutting	Post Medieval		(Survey) small area of peat cutting approximately 10m x 2m x 0.3m	<b>Low</b>

Survey UID	MonUID	Name	Easting	Northing	Mon. Type	Period	Description	Site Description	Significance
10021			391492	483682	Sheep Fold	Post Medieval		(Survey) a small area is enclosed by the steep sides of Long Gill and the remains of a drystone wall which runs parallel to Long Gill in a north east to south west direction. Probably a sheep fold associated with long gill house (10014)	<b>Moderate</b>
10022			389610	481839	Quarry	Post Medieval		(Survey) a series of three stone quarry pits along the line of the nearby drystone wall.	<b>Low</b>
10023			388776	481649	Field	Post Medieval		(Survey) flat subrectangular area of land that has been subject to land improvement including drainage and removal of field boundary 10001 presumably to create a field	<b>Low</b>
10024			390379	482769	Field Boundary	Post Medieval		(Survey) drystone wall now mostly ruined, stone has been reused to create an adjacent trackway and several grouse butts	<b>Low</b>
10025			390484	483231	Quarry	Post Medieval		(Survey) small scale quarrying into exposed face of stone	<b>Low</b>
10026			390518	483105	Turning Circle	Modern		(Survey) area may also have been used as a quarry for stone for the nearby trackway	<b>Low</b>





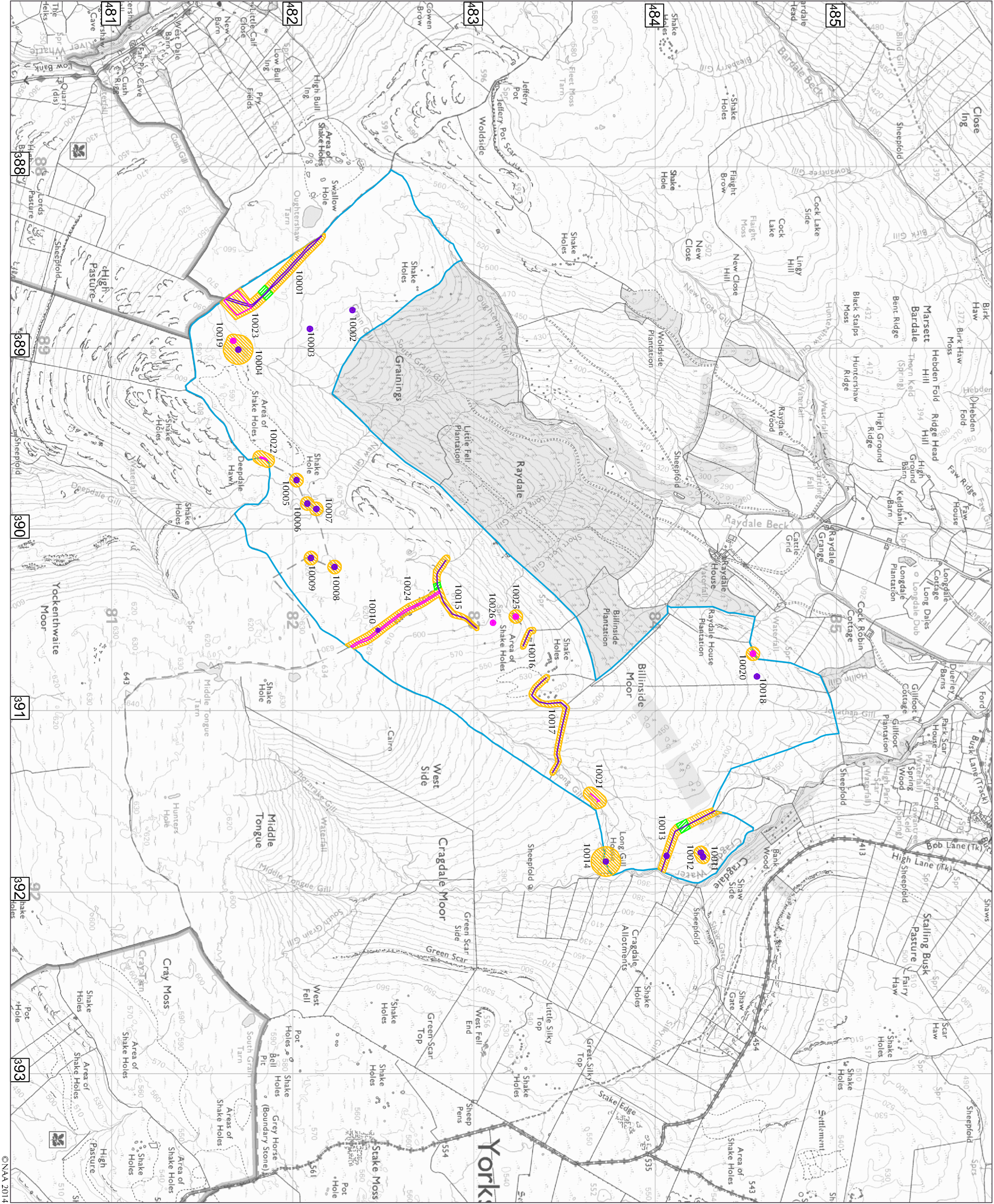
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Raydale Estate, Wensleydale, Yorkshire Dales National Park: site location

Figure 1

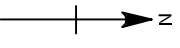




**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL  
PARK AUTHORITY  
PEAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

SITE Raydale Estate

TITLE  
Figure: 2  
Archaeologically sensitive areas



- KEY**
- VDNPA HER Site
  - New Site
  - /// Recorded Grips
  - Project Boundary
  - ▨ High: Do not cross
  - ▨ Moderate: Avoid
  - ▨ Some: May be crossed with care