



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd

Marwood House  
Harmire Enterprise Park  
Barnard Castle

Co. Durham  
DL12 8BN

t: 01833 690800

f: 01833 690801

e: [mt@naa.gb.com](mailto:mt@naa.gb.com)

w: [www.naa.gb.com](http://www.naa.gb.com)

## **Cragdale Moor Bainbridge North Yorkshire**

on behalf of

Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Project No.: 1212  
Text: Matt Town  
Illustrations: Cath Chisman  
Edits: Richard Fraser

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Cragdale Moor, Bainbridge

North Yorkshire

Peat Restoration and Grip Blocking Works

Archaeological Survey Report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd was commissioned by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) to undertake a rapid archaeological survey and assessment in advance of peat restoration works on Cragdale Moor, North Yorkshire (NGR SD 918 825). The project area comprised approximately 2.8km<sup>2</sup> of upland landscape defined by YPP 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 heritage assets; 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 5 heritage assets were identified in the HER, with a further 5 new sites being added following the survey. All of these sites were post-medieval in date, and agricultural in nature, comprising collapsed drystone walls, quarries for their construction, and sheepfolds. A line of modern shooting butts were also noted.*

*During the survey, accurate information regarding the location and extent of archaeological remains has been collated. It is hoped that this information will be useful in updating the HER. In terms of monument condition, the monuments were stable.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd was commissioned by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) to undertake a rapid archaeological survey and assessment in relation to peat restoration works on Cragdale Moor, Bainbridge, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The survey comprised an area of approximately 2.8km<sup>2</sup>, defined by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership as requiring assessment. The upper reaches of the moor within the survey area include Green Scar Top, West Fell, Middle Tongue and West Side, all of which are broadly flat, with a slight northerly slope. On the north side of the survey area, however, the land falls away steeply down to Raydale Water, and its tributaries (South Grain Gill, Middle Tongue Gill and Thornrake Gill; Plate 1, Fig. 2).



*Plate 1: view north over Thornrake Gill from southern end of survey area*

- 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 heritage assets; 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 of all identified heritage assets (Table 1); known sites which already appear on the Yorkshire Dales National Park 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 on 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 2014; YDNPA 2014).

## **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 photographs 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 10 heritage assets were recorded within the survey area, five of which had been previously recorded in the HER and/or the NMR, and were confirmed through annotation of the available datasets. An additional five ‘new’ sites were also identified during the field survey. Based on significance, the sites 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. 2). 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 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Such access has the potential to

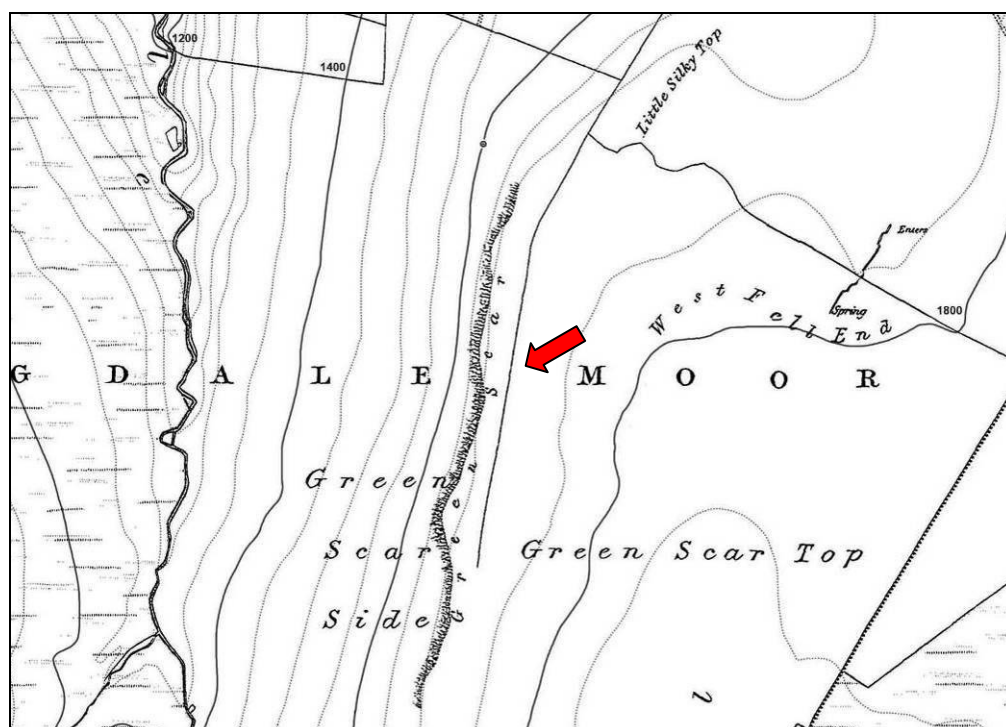
cause damage to significant archaeological remains and, therefore, should be kept to a minimum.

*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. However, given the dispersed nature of archaeology on Cragdale Moor, and the absence of any large contiguous areas like mining complexes, it has not proved necessary to define green routes across most of the survey area.

*Other areas and remains*

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).



*Plate 2: drystone wall 10002, arrowed, above Green Scar; extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping 1856*

### 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. All the heritage assets within the survey area comprised sites of post-medieval date, related to agricultural practices.



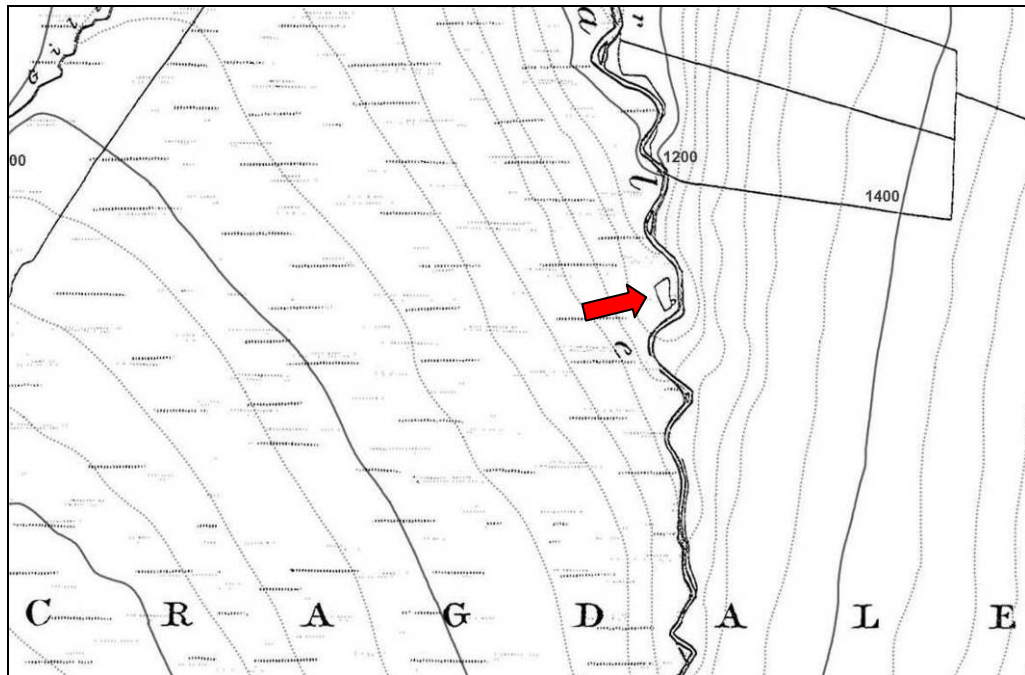
*Plate 3: drystone wall 10002, facing south*

#### *Drystone Wall*

- 3.2 The survey identified a section of collapsed drystone wall **10002**, not now marked on the modern mapping but depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1856 (Plate 2). The field systems on the moor appear to have been surveyed in 1807 and enclosed in 1816 as part of the Bainbridge Enclosures (NYCRO (PC/BAB) [MIC 1585/041, 1585/142, 1506/151]). The wall did not form part of an actual field, but appeared to run 275m south from an existing network of field walls before ending abruptly. At its southern end, the wall is abutted by a further field wall which runs south-westwards downslope for 140m and ends at Raydale Water. The wall may have been built to deflect livestock away from the steep crags of Green Scar, towards the



comparatively more gentle slopes of South Grain Gill. The wall presumably became redundant, following the changing fortunes of upland pastoral farming in the 19th century. The wall survived to up to 1m in height in places, and was built of limestone slabs, which look to have been quarried from a series of quarry pits along the west edge of the slope up to Green Scar Top (outside survey area). These quarries varied in diameter but were typically 5m across, and up to 1m deep, with working faces and quarry waste heaps evident. Further quarrying was also evident on Green Scar Top (**10004**, **10006**, **10007**, **10008**) associated with the construction of the drystone walling dividing West Fell from Stake and Cray Mosses.



*Plate 4: sheepfold **10001**, arrowed, on Raydale Water; extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping 1856*

### *Sheepfold*

- 3.3 A large sheepfold **10001** was recorded on the west side of Raydale Water from Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography. The sheepfold was large and sub-rectangular, measuring 27m by 16m and aligned broadly north south. The fold as depicted on the 1856 Ordnance Survey mapping has a small cell at its south-eastern corner, which survives within the modern arrangement; further internal sub-divisions have been added. The fold probably dates to the early 19th century, and is likely to be contemporary with the wider scale enclosure on the moor. The sheepfold has clearly been rebuilt many times, but the fold may originally have served as a washfold, used for sheep washing. Jennings (1992, 138) provides a detailed description of sheep washing being carried out early in the 20th century. Sheep held in the fold were thrown over the walls into the beck, where three men, up to their waists in water, would wash them. This appears to be the function of this

fold, perhaps with each of the cells performing a different holding function. The washing area presumably lies east of the fold, where it pools.



*Plate 5: sheepfold 10001, facing east*

- 3.4 A further sheepfold **10009** was recorded on Green Scar Top. In contrast to **10001**, this sheepfold was entirely collapsed to foundation level, and may be an earlier example. The sheepfold, which was of drystone construction, had two cells; the north-western cell measured 7m by 6m and the longer cell on the south-eastern side measured 11m by 6m. A possible entrance could be seen linking the two cells.



*Plate 6: sheepfold 10009, facing south*

- 3.5 All of these sites are of local significance in terms of understanding advances in animal husbandry in the harsh conditions of the moorland environment.

*Palaeoenvironmental assessment*

- 3.6 All the peat deposits were summarily assessed according to the sampling regime specified in the brief. Areas of exposed peat and the sides of drainage channels and grips were surveyed during the fieldwork and any sections of exposed peat were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential.
- 3.7 Large areas of hagged and bare peat, cut by gully channels, occupied the higher, flatter ground on Middle Tongue; most of this ground was in very poor condition and was hard to traverse. The peat banks were quite deep in places, where exposed; up to 2m of peat was identified, though this was clearly degrading. Elsewhere there were large patches where the peat has been eroded away to the natural mineral deposits. Most of this damage is presumably due to the elevated nature of this area, lying at between 610m and 640m AOD, which sees it undergo extremes of weather in both the summer and winter months.
- 3.8 The valley sides of Middle Tongue and West Side were relatively stable grassland, though cut through by the main tributaries to Raydale Water, and small streams which in turn fed these. The north-facing slopes of West Side, however, had also suffered from numerous runoff channels cutting into the hillside, with minor haggling along the upper fringes of these. Any 20th century gripping in the survey area was confined to the lower slopes of West Side, which were less steep.
- 3.9 No sites of significant potential were identified and no artefacts (worked flint) or ecofacts i.e. tree trunks, timber etc. were identified within the peat sections. Based on these findings a programme of further investigation and/or sampling was not warranted.

#### **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. All the identified sites lie beyond the boundary of the proposed work areas, and have therefore also not been given an Amber Zone, though care should be taken if working in the vicinity of these monuments.
- 4.2 The general absence of archaeological sites can be attributed in part to the topography. The slopes of the valley are very steep, dropping from 600m to 400m AOD in less than 1 kilometre. The upper slopes, whilst reasonable flat and accessible, are fairly inhospitable and would not have been attractive for either settlement or exploitation of resources due to their elevation.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

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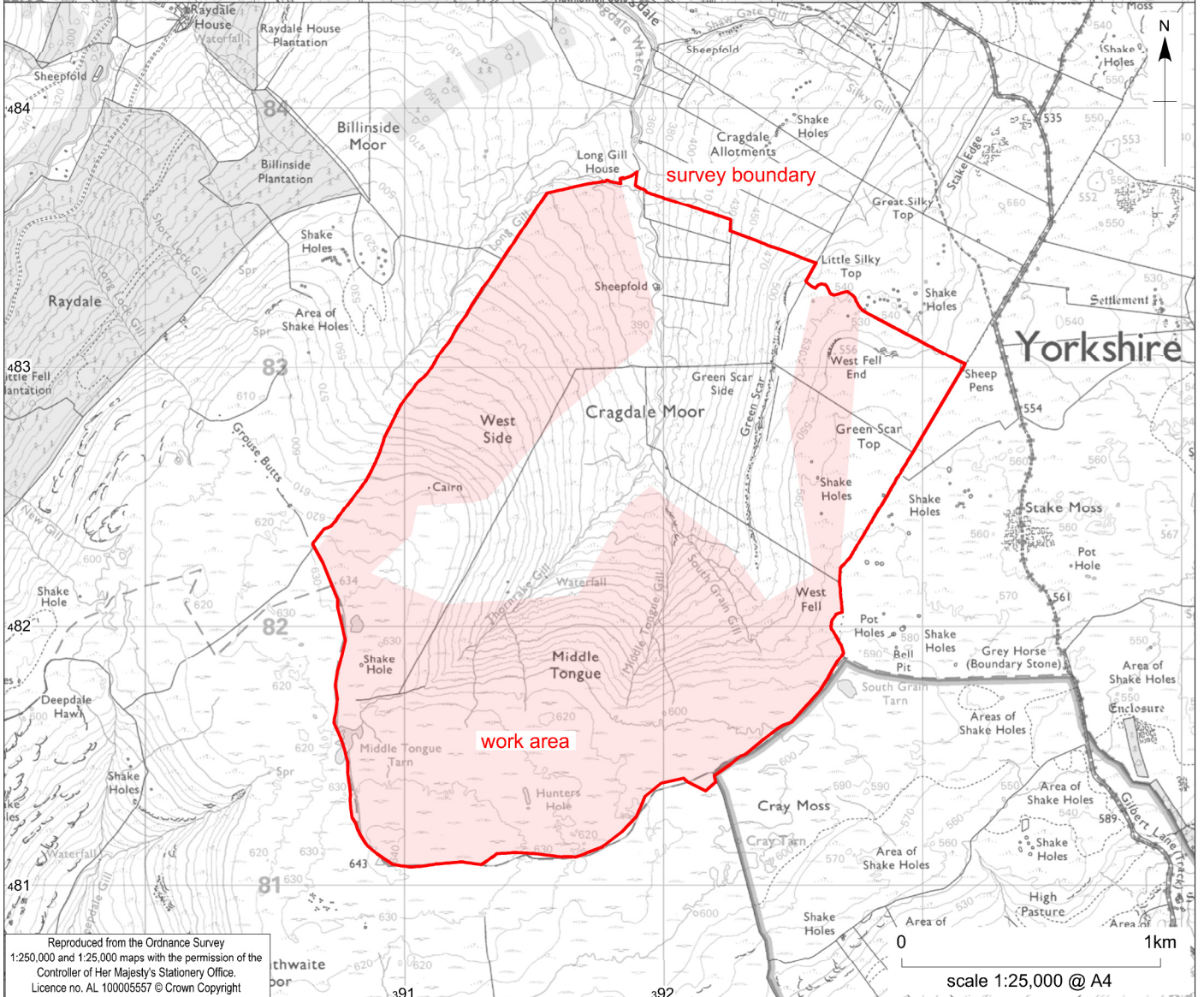
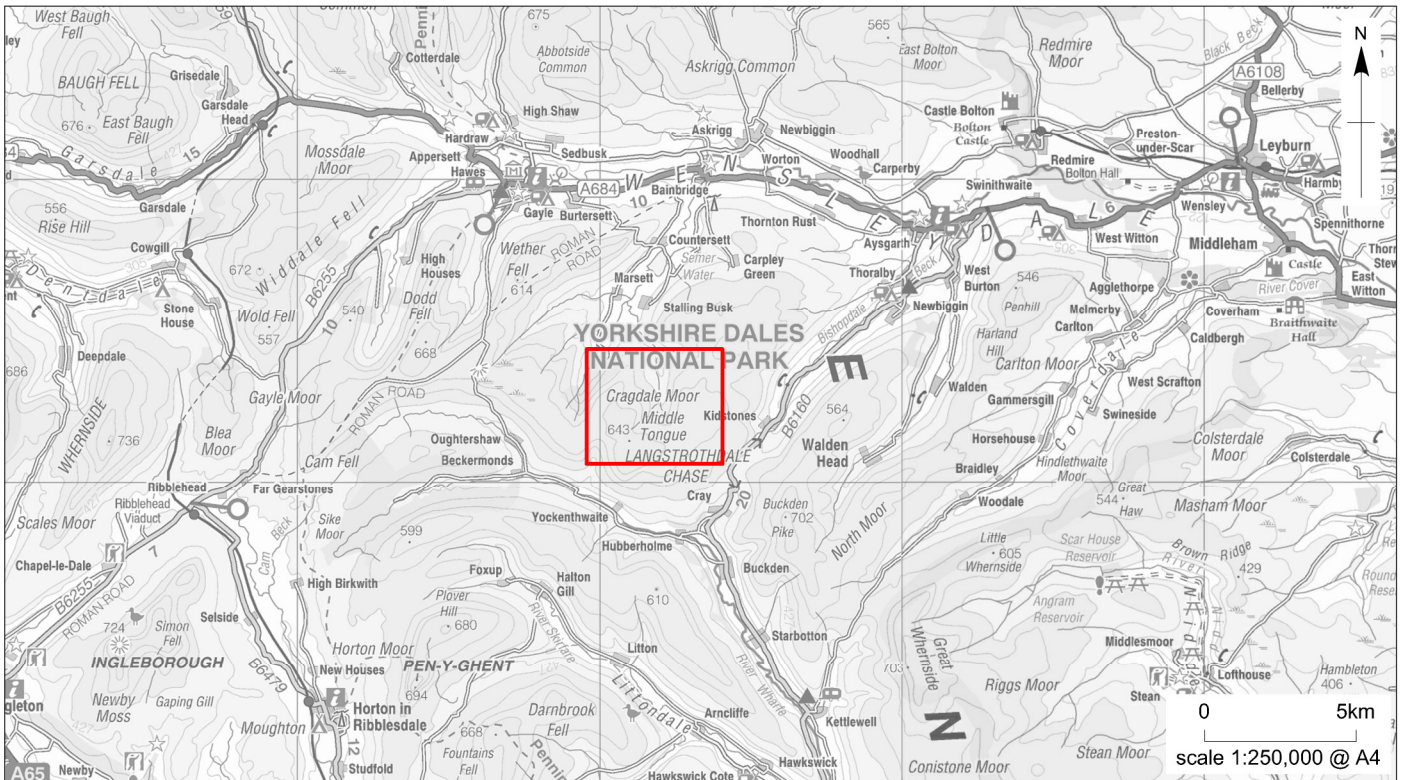
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (2014) *Brief for a Rapid Archaeological Assessment Survey and Assessment of Palaeoenvironmental Potential*

Table 1: Assessment of archaeological sites

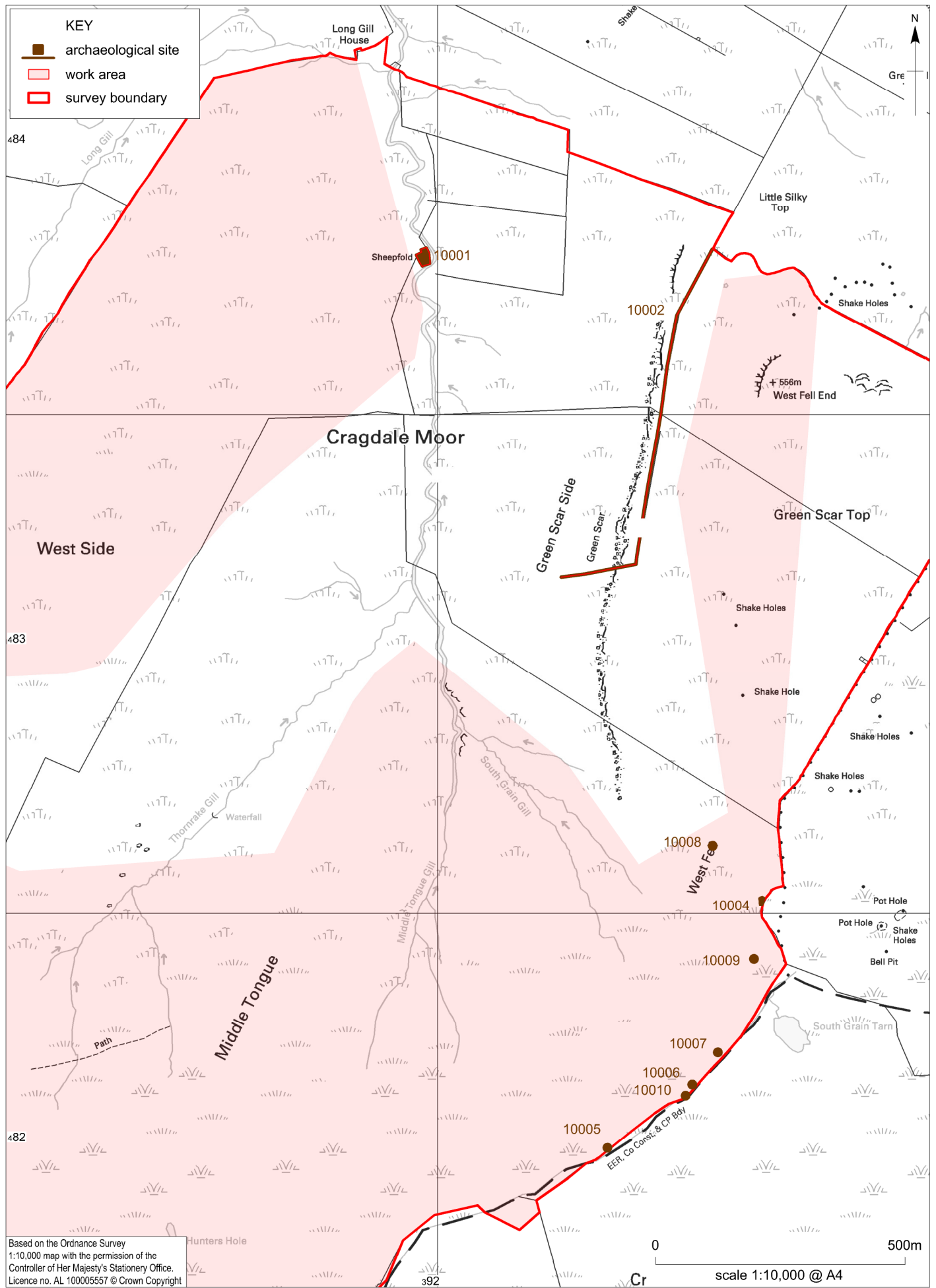
Key: Red = within Red Zone; Amber = within Amber Zone; White = No archaeological risk

Survey UID	Mon UID	Easting	Northing	Monument Type	Period	Description	Digital Photo No	Vulnerability	Significance
10001	MYD28421	391970	483315	SHEEPFOLD	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) large multi-celled sheepfold probably originally a wash-fold but now much altered and rebuilt.	019-21	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of agricultural management but fairly common across the moors
10002	MYD45957	392429	482903	WALL	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) drystone wall running north-south immediately east of Green Scar, turns south-west at southern end and runs downslope. Made of chunks of limestone.	01- 05	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of agricultural management but fairly common across the moors
10003	MYD45958	392455	483025	SHEEP FOLD	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) not seen during survey, nothing obvious on east side of wall 10002. Not in survey area.		N/A	<b>N/A</b>
10004	MYD59715	392650	482033	BUILDING	UNKNOWN	(Survey) this is in fact a stone quarry pit - see also 10006 and 10007, c1.5m in depth, worked north-south. Stone used for adjacent drystone walling		Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of extraction but fairly common across the moors
10005		392340	481530	BOUNDARY CAIRN	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) no obvious boundary marker or cairn present. Area of raised ground with possible fallen boundary stone on top. Quarries nearby.	47-49	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of agricultural management but fairly common across the moors
10006		392510	481657	QUARRY	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) small quarry adjacent to boundary wall. Rectangular in shape dimensions 3m x 10m.	44-46	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of extraction but fairly common across the moors
10007		392561	481721	QUARRY	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) small rectangular quarry adjacent to boundary wall and roughly 100m to the northeast of quarry 10006. Stone face visible on northern edge. Dimensions 10m x 3m	51-54	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of extraction but fairly common across the moors
10008		392551	482136	QUARRY	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) Large area of quarrying measuring 20m by 23m. Numerous exposed faces and large amount of angular stones. A possible trackway visible on northern edge of quarry.	61-63	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of extraction but fairly common across the moors
10009		392632	481908	SHEEP FOLD	POST MEDIEVAL	(Survey) Remains of structure with two cells. Northwestern cell measures 7m x 6m and	29, 57-60	Low	<b>Low/Moderate</b> – evidence of agricultural

Survey UID	Mon UID	Easting	Northing	Monument Type	Period	Description	Digital Photo No	Vulnerability	Significance
						the longer cell measures 11m x 6m. Possible entrance can be seen in-between two cells on northeastern face.			management but fairly common across the moors
10010		392497	481634	SHOOTING STAND	MODERN	(Survey) Line of modern shooting butts.	37-38	N/A	N/A



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*Cragdale Moor, Wensleydale, Yorkshire Dales National Park:  
heritage  
assets in the survey area*

*Figure 2*