



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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**HEYSHAW AND FLAT MOORS,
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NORTH YORKSHIRE**

on behalf of

Yorkshire Peat Partnership

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HEYSHAW AND FLAT MOORS, PATELEY BRIDGE, NIDDERDALE

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 Heyshaw and Flat Moor, Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 154 625). The project area comprised approximately 1.2km² of upland landscape (Fig. 1) 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 6 heritage assets were surveyed, of which 2 were previously recorded in the HER. The remainder are newly discovered sites, expanding the existing knowledge and understanding of the archaeology of this area of moorland. The overwhelming majority of the archaeology was post-medieval in date, and related to extraction (sandstone quarrying). Two undated earthworks, possibly a small mound and enclosure, were noted within Area A. An air crash site was also recorded, which is protected by law.

During the survey, a number of issues and concerns came to light in terms of the reliability of the North Yorkshire HER data and the condition of the archaeological remains. Several shortfalls in the HER data were identified, many of which are endemic to the HER/SMR system and are shared across all counties and regions. Primarily, many assets lacked accurate or meaningful location information. This is a common HER problem which predominantly arises from the plotting of material from aerial photographs and other mapping. The only way to properly validate HER information is through combined field survey and HER audit. 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 majority of earthworks were stable, though the undated enclosure and mound could be affected by further works on the grips and damage from grazing animals.

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 Heyshaw and Flat Moor, Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The survey comprised an area of approximately 1.2km², defined by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership as requiring assessment. Two distinct areas were surveyed: Area A, centred on Flat Moor (Plate 1); and Area B, a section of Braithwaite Moor within the larger Heyshaw Moor survey area.



Plate 1: Flat Moor, SE13142 63264, facing east

- 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 (Table 1) of all identified heritage assets; both known sites which already appear on the North Yorkshire 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; YPP 2014).

2.0 ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 All of the known archaeological sites recorded in the North Yorkshire 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 6 heritage assets were recorded within the survey area. Of these, 2 were sites recorded in the HER and/or the NMR; 2 sites were identified from the desk-based annotation of the available datasets, and the remainder 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 North Yorkshire 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 North Yorkshire County Council. 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 at Heyshaw and Flat 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).

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 overwhelming majority of the heritage assets within the survey area relate to extraction (predominantly sandstone quarries), and undated earthworks. Other assets identified and assessed included an air crash site, which was not located on site.



Plate 2: enclosure bank 10001, facing north.

Area A

Undated enclosure and platform

- 3.2 A sub-rectangular enclosure **10001**, measuring broadly 11m wide on its east side and 8m wide on its south side, was identified during the walkover survey (Plate 2). The north side of the enclosure had been destroyed by a grip, which had also partially truncated the east side of the enclosure to 7m. The enclosure was formed of well-defined banks with a sharp break of slope at their base, approximately 2m wide and 0.6m in height. All the banks had distinctive rounded profiles, with no evidence of stonework within them, suggesting they were of earthen construction originally. There was no obvious entrance to the enclosure, which presumably must have originally lain on the truncated north side. A short distance to the south, a square earthwork platform **10002** was identified (Plate 3), approximately 5m square with a more pronounced eastern side, and a flat top. Again, no stone was evident in its construction. The function and date of these features are unclear, though they do not appear to be of recent (19th century) date and may be earlier.



Plate 3: platform 10002, facing north

- 3.3 There is a general paucity of prehistoric or Roman features in the Pateley Bridge area (LUAU 2000, 24) though the earthworks could be of that date. The earthworks could equally be of medieval or post-medieval date, perhaps the remnants of a shieling. Shielings served as temporary, summer, accommodation for people involved in transhumance (the removal of cattle from permanent dwellings to exploit areas of summer pasture some distance away from the main settlement). These are commonly located adjacent to watercourses which served as routes into the uplands or along those boundaries of the territory allotted for grazing (English Heritage 2011, 3). The area is likely to have mostly been waste up until the 12th century, when Fountains and Bylands Abbey began opening the area for agricultural

exploitation (LUAU 2000, 28), and as such a post-12th century date seems most likely.



Plate 4: quarry **10003**, facing east

Post-medieval extraction

- 3.4 Three small-scale sandstone quarries were identified during the walkover survey (**10003**, **10004**, and **10006**). The quarries are located on a band of Libishaw sandstone, with a band of Millstone Grit immediately north-east of the boundary of Area A (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer). The physical dating of quarries is generally difficult, especially where only earthworks of small quarry pits survive, as is the case here. Such quarry pits can date back to the medieval period; the grants to mineral for Fountains and Byland Abbeys included stone, and commoners had rights to cut stone for building purposes (Jennings 1992, 316). However, a medieval date is tentative at best, and, in view of the marginal location of the quarry pits identified, seems fairly unlikely.
- 3.5 In the post-medieval period, small pits such as those identified were usually cut by an individual or family for field walls or general construction and are seen throughout the study area. The quarry pits are shown clearly on the Ordnance Survey mapping, particularly from the later 19th century, and are marked as 'old' by 1910. The line of quarries appears to form a band running north-east towards the main sandstone quarries on Middle Tongue Bank, below Peat Lane, and is certainly dated to at least the mid 19th century on cartographic evidence. It seems likely given the close association of these pits that they form a coherent group dated to between the 18th and 20th centuries.
- 3.6 The quarries vary in morphology, comprising: shallow hollows, 12m in diameter and 1.2m deep, cut into the hillside along the edge of a natural beck (**10003**; Plate 4), or hollows of varying depths and sizes, cut into the ground surface, with heaped spoil adjacent (**10004**, **10006**). Little stone dressing is

evident adjacent to the hollows, so the stone was presumably removed in blocks for working elsewhere. No hollow ways are visible running to these quarries, so any extraction is likely to have been very minor, episodic, and short-lived.

Aircrash

- 3.7 Flat Moor is the given location of an air crash, Site **10005**, though this was not located during the survey. The aircraft, XM368, was a Jet Provost, which crashed on the 29th April 1963 whilst undertaking a training flight. Both the pilot and the trainee survived, and the aircraft was recovered. The site of the crash is described in accounts of the time as being 'on Pockstones Moor', which lies several kilometres to the south-west of the survey area; it is possible, therefore, that the crash site has been incorrectly located (<http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/planes/dales/xm368.html>).

Please note that air crash sites are protected by the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986, and a licence to excavate or recover remains from a military aircraft crash site must first be obtained from the Ministry of Defence before any such investigations may take place.

Area B

- 3.8 Area B formed a steeply sloping bank running down from the flat top of Braithwaite Moor to Fosse Gill, towards the northern end of the survey area. The area, known as Sweet Earth, was devoid of archaeological features.



Plate 4: peat in side of grip at SE 13509 62684, facing west



Plate 5: peat in side of 'The Hole', SE 13511 62676

Palaeoenvironmental assessment

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 The survey area mostly comprises: stable grassland with large patches of heather, cut (in the case of Area A) by a series of modern narrow and shallow grips running broadly east-west or north-west south-east across the moor (Plate 6), and draining into Greenhow Sike; and in Area B by a combination of grips and gullies, which drain northwards to Fosse Gill. No hagged peat was visible across the survey areas, though this may exist in places. The peat coverage across the moor was mostly very thin (Plate 4), appearing section to be little more than 0.4m in depth, and appeared moderately humified. Better preserved peat deposits were identified along the edges of water courses and boggy areas, particularly 'The Hole' which runs south-eastwards through Area A, and drains into Greenhow Sike. Here, the peat was up to 1m in depth along the edges of the drainage channel, and was in better condition (Plate 5).
- 3.11 No sites of significant potential were identified and no artefacts (worked flint) or ecofacts i.e. tree trunks, timbers etc. were identified within the peat sections. Based on these findings a programme of further investigation and/or sampling was not warranted.



Plate 6: a grip on Flat Moor, SE 12999 62990, facing west

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. Green Zones, which represent areas where access routes are required across Amber Zones, are not needed as all the Amber Zones should be easily avoidable by the contractors. 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 North Yorkshire County Council, as even tracking a vehicle through these Zones could potentially damage archaeological remains.

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5.0 REFERENCES

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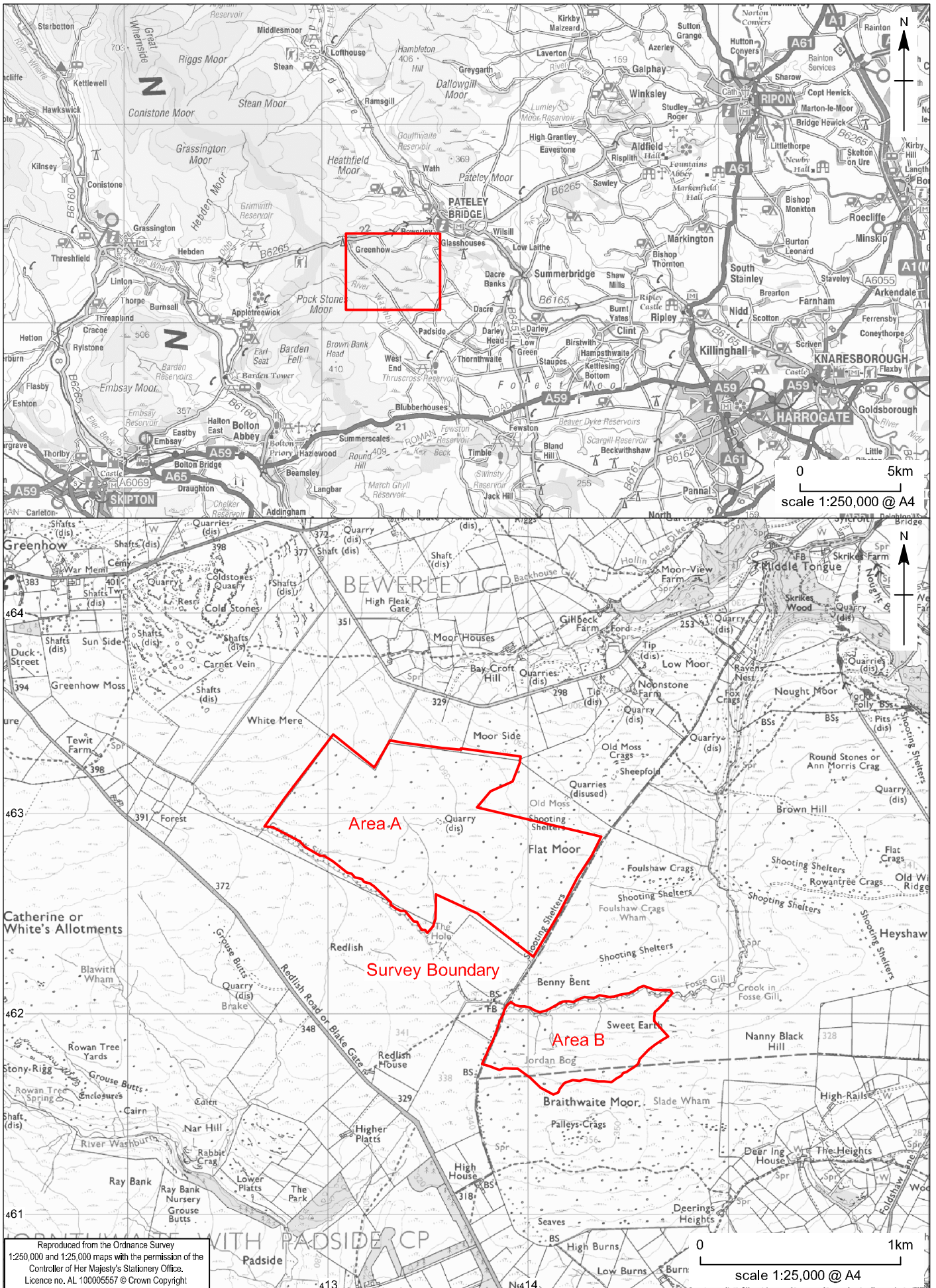
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Table 1: Assessment of archaeological sites

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

Survey UID	MONUID	Easting	Northing	Mon. Type	Period	Description	Digital photo	Vulnerability	Significance
10001		413470	463129	Earthwork	Unknown	(Survey) Sub-rectangular earthwork, banks c 2m wide, rounded profiles, sharp edge break with ground c 0.6m high. N side truncated by grip.. No stone, not peat cutting. Uncertain date. Not C19th	14, 15, 16	Moderate	Moderate – early landscape feature of unknown origin or date
10002		413465	463083	Earthwork	Unknown	(Survey) C5m square earthwork platform, more pronounced on E side. Fairly flat no stone evident. Short distance S of 10001. Uncertain date/function	17, 18, 19	Moderate	Moderate – early landscape feature of unknown origin or date
10003	MNY30113	413533	462677	Quarry	Post-medieval	(HER) undated enclosure (Survey) actually small quarry shown on OS 1895. Sub oval shape C12m square, worked from beck edge into hillside. Some stone apparent in centre spoil. Banks on S side. Very short working face c1.2m deep. No exposed stone.	20, 21, 22	Low	Moderate - part of extractive industries in Nidderdale and as such of local importance
10004		413831	462841	Quarry	Post-medieval	(Survey) Two quarry pits C2.3m in diameter and 1m deep, spoil heaps adjacent. A lot of scattered and broken stone.	29 - 34	Low	Moderate - part of extractive industries in Nidderdale and as such of local importance
10005	MNY30756	413487	462710	Aircrash	Modern	(HER) Aircraft crash Site, Jet Provost, Serial number XM368, Near Pateley Bridge (Survey) Not seen		Low	No longer extant
10006		413559	462961	Quarry	Post-medieval	(GIS) quarry marked on modern OS mapping (Survey) large area of quarrying c 40m in diameter and various depths, main pit 15m diameter with linear spoil heap to SW adjacent. A lot of scattered and broken stone.	29 - 34	Low	Moderate - part of extractive industries in Nidderdale and as such of local importance

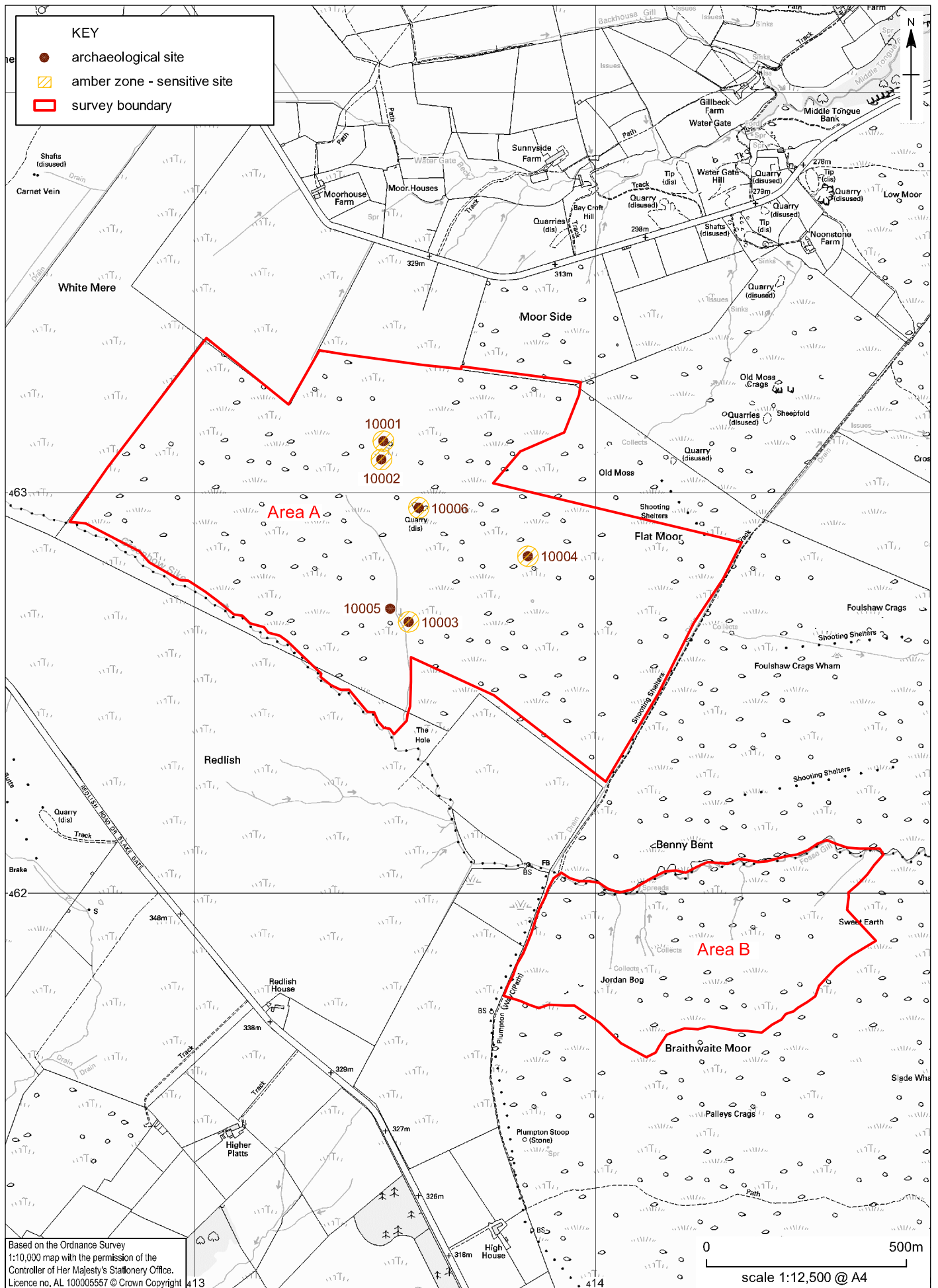


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Heyshaw and Flat Moor: site location

Figure 1



Heyshaw and Flat Moor: heritage assets in the survey area

Figure 2