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nationalgrid

Yorkshire GREEN Project, Marston Moor, North Yorkshire Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	National Grid c/o LSTC Group Yorkshire House York Road Little Driffield East Yorkshire YO25 5XA
National Grid Reference (NGR):	SE 49714 52674 and SE 49562 52447
AOC Project No:	53009
Fieldwork undertaken by:	Max Greeves
Fieldwork undertaken:	15 th November 2021 – 16 th November 2021
Report prepared by:	Toby Smith
Illustration by:	Tom Howe, Rebecca Jarosz-Blackburn
Date:	April 2022

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Authors: Toby Smith	Date: 4 th March 2022
Approved by: Rebecca Jarosz-Blackburn	Date: 7 th April 2022
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Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
The Raylor Centre
James Street
York
YO10 3DW
Tel. [REDACTED]
e-mail. york@aocarchaeology.com

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Non-Technical Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by LSTC Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a programme of upgrades and repairs to overhead powerlines over Marston Moor.

The works involved monitoring the excavation of trenches at the bases of two of the pylons, sited in the vicinity of the battlefield of Marston Moor. These revealed the excavations made during the installation of the pylons, and no archaeological features or deposits were present. The watching brief produced no finds.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by LSTC Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the site of a programme of upgrades and repairs to high voltage overhead power lines between Shipton-by-Beningbrough and Newthorpe/South Milford, North Yorkshire. The watching brief formed part of a programme of archaeological works at the site, which is designed to inform a planning application for the development. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by AOC Archaeology (2021) and approved by the North Yorkshire County Council's (NYCC) planning archaeologist. The work also met the requirements of nationally recognised guidance for archaeological excavations, including the professional standards published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (specifically, the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014a)).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was managed to the standards laid down in the Historic England guideline publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2015), and the *MoRPHE: Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3)* (2008). It also met the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; MHCLG 2019).

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is situated at Marston Moor which lies between the villages of Moor Monkton and Long Marston in North Yorkshire. The two pylons are located in a field immediately to the west of Atterwith Lane at NGRs SE 49714 52674 and SE 49562 52447 and are referred to as XC443 and XC444. The current ground level at the site lies at approximately 16m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2 The solid geology of the area consists of sandstone from the Sherwood Sandstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 237 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods. The bedrock geology is overlain by superficial deposits of clay and silt of the Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation which were formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022). The local soils are slowly permeable, seasonally wet slightly acid loams and clays (Soilscapes 2022).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The two pylons located between Moor Monkton and Long Marston lie at the site of the Battle of Marston Moor. The battle was one of many that took place in the mid-17th century (the Civil Wars) as a result of profound political, constitutional and religious conflict (National Heritage List for England, Entry 1000020). Two Royalist armies, those of the Marquess of Newcastle and those under Prince Rupert, met three Parliamentarian forces at Marston Moor on 2nd July 1644. It was the largest battle of the Civil War and, in bringing about the defeat of Prince Rupert, had profound consequences. The Royalists lost control of the North of England and the defeat reduced their capacity to continue prosecuting the war (Historic England 1995).

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains within the areas to be impacted by the development, and to inform further archaeological mitigation strategies should they be necessary.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were to:

- Locate, record and characterise any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains within the site
- Provide an assessment of the potential significance of any identified archaeological remains in a local, regional and (if relevant) national context
- Produce a comprehensive site archive and report.

4.3 The specific research objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were to:

- Determine whether significant artefacts and/or features relating to the Battle of Marston Moor survived at the site, and at what depth.

5. Methodology

5.1 Archaeological monitoring took place on intrusive groundworks at pylons XC443 and XC444.

5.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist. The ground works contractor appointed by the client allowed sufficient time for the on-site archaeologist to assess any exposed natural substrate or deposits and determine whether archaeological features or deposits were present.

5.3 Where archaeology was judged to be present, the excavated area was cleaned and the need for further work assessed. The following sampling policy was applied, where practicable within the confines of a watching brief:

- a 100% sample was taken of all stake-holes
- a 50% sample was taken of all post-holes, and of pits with a diameter of up to 1.5m
- a minimum 25% sample was taken of pits with a diameter of over 1.5m; this included a complete section across the pit to recover its full profile
- a minimum 25% sample was taken of all linear features, up to 5m in length; for features larger than this, a 10% sample was taken
- Deposits at junctions (and interruptions) in linear features were excavated to determine the relationships between the different components
- Any *in situ* building remains were fully recorded for the extent that they were exposed
- Significant features were 100% excavated, if required by NYCC

5.4 A full written, drawn, and photographic record was made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation, in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (MOLAS 1994). Plans were completed at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 (as appropriate), and section drawings at a scale of 1:10. Digital photography was undertaken using a camera with a resolution of at least 10 megapixels using a digital SLR camera.

5.5 All identified finds and artefacts were collected and retained. Finds were bagged according to their context, and significant finds were allocated a recorded finds number and their positions surveyed individually. Finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 and the ClfA guidelines Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). Where required, conservation was undertaken by approved conservators in line with the First Aid for Finds guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

- 5.6 Excavated spoil from the inspection pits was scanned for archaeological artefacts and metal detected. All identified finds and artefacts were collected and retained.
- 5.7 The paleoenvironmental sampling strategy comprised the removal of a bulk sample from environmentally informative contexts. Bulk samples comprised a representative 40 litre sample, or, from small features, the maximum amount of material that it was practicable to collect.
- 5.8 At the remaining inspection pits, guidance was provided to the GI contractor with regard to identifying archaeological remains. Archaeological remains of significance were not anticipated in these areas and the majority of the excavated material was expected to be backfill deposited when the pylon bases were constructed.

6. Results

Natural deposits

- 6.1 The natural substrate (10003)=(20003) was a light brown-yellow sandy deposit, encountered at between 0.32-0.36m below ground level.

Trench 1 (pylon XC443), Plates 1 and 2

- 6.2 Trench 1 was excavated at the south-eastern edge of pylon XC443, and was square in plan measuring 3.40m by 3.40m. The trench was initially excavated to a depth of c. 0.6m, revealing the natural clay (10003) and the construction cut [10002] for insertion of the pylon (Plate 1). A narrower excavation was subsequently dug within the backfill (10001) of the pylon cut, to a total depth of 2.61m below ground level (Plate 2). The fill (10001) consisted of dark grey-brown firm and sticky clay mixed with pale grey-brown and pink sandy clay and occasional gravel. The base of this deposit was not reached. A mid-dark brown clay topsoil sealed the area around the pylon, measuring 0.32m thick.
- 6.3 All soil excavated from Trench 1 was visually inspected and scanned with a metal detector for finds; no finds were present.

Trench 2 (pylon XC444), Plates 3 and 4

- 6.4 Trench 2 was excavated at the north-eastern edge of pylon XC444, measuring 3.32m northeast-southwest and 3.75m northwest-southeast. The trench was initially excavated to a depth of c. 0.75m, encountering the natural clay (20003) and the construction cut [20002] for insertion of the pylon (Plate 3). Like Trench 1, a narrower central excavation revealed a backfill (20001) from the installation of the pylon, excavated to a depth of 2.01m which did not expose the base of the deposit (Plate 4). The fill (20001) consisted of dark grey-brown firm and sticky clay mixed with mid brown and pink sandy clay and occasional gravel. A mid-dark brown clay topsoil sealed the area around the pylon. The topsoil was 0.36m thick.
- 6.5 All soil excavated from Trench 2 was visually inspected and scanned with a metal detector for finds; no finds were present.

Finds and environmental samples

- 6.6 The watching brief produced no finds from the two trenches or from metal detecting the excavated spoil. As no archaeological deposits were discovered, no samples were taken from either trench.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The watching brief established that much of the area affected by the proposed development had already been disturbed by the initial installation of the pylons. A small amount of previously undisturbed

ground was visible to either side of the deeper pylon excavations, and no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

7.2 With regard to the specific aims and research objectives of the watching brief, the following comments can be made:

- The watching brief has successfully located, recorded and characterised the sub-surface deposits at the site, none of which are of an archaeological nature.
- The site archive has no further potential to answer the research objectives of the watching brief with regard to recovery of artefacts or features relating to the battle of Marston Moor.

8. Archiving

8.1 A full site archive will be produced which will contain all the data collected during the archaeological works, including the finds (if required by the receiving institution). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent, and will be deposited at the appropriate local museum.

8.2 The archive will be assembled in line with the recommendations provided in Historic England's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3) (2008), and in accordance with the Guidelines for the *preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).

8.3 An OASIS form has been completed and uploaded for this project and a copy of this is provided in Appendix 2.

9. Bibliography

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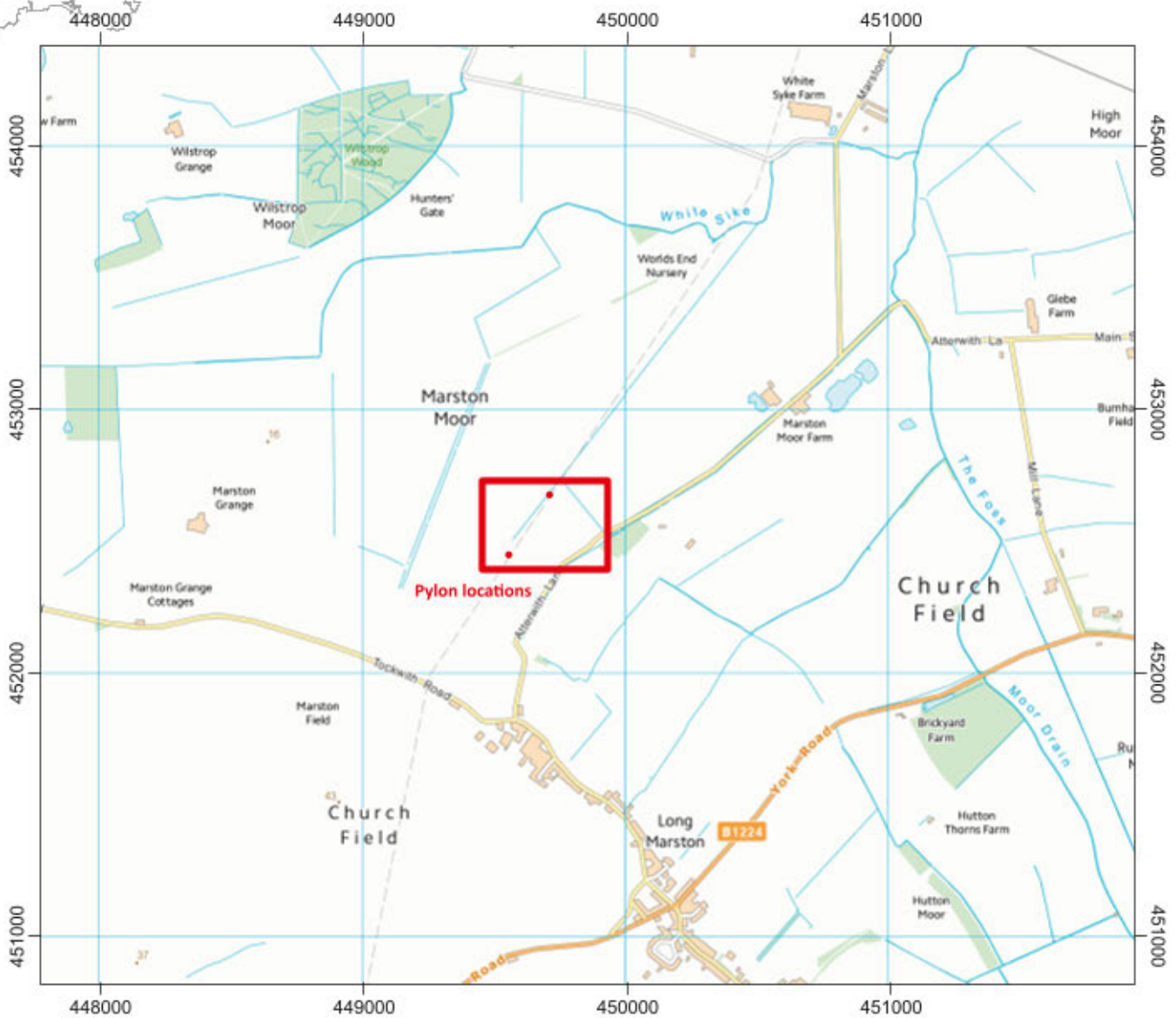
Figures

YORKSHIRE GREEN PROJECT, MARSTON MOOR, NORTH YORKSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



Figure 1	
Site location	
Based on data provided by the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. License no. AL 100016114	

01/53009/REP/01/01



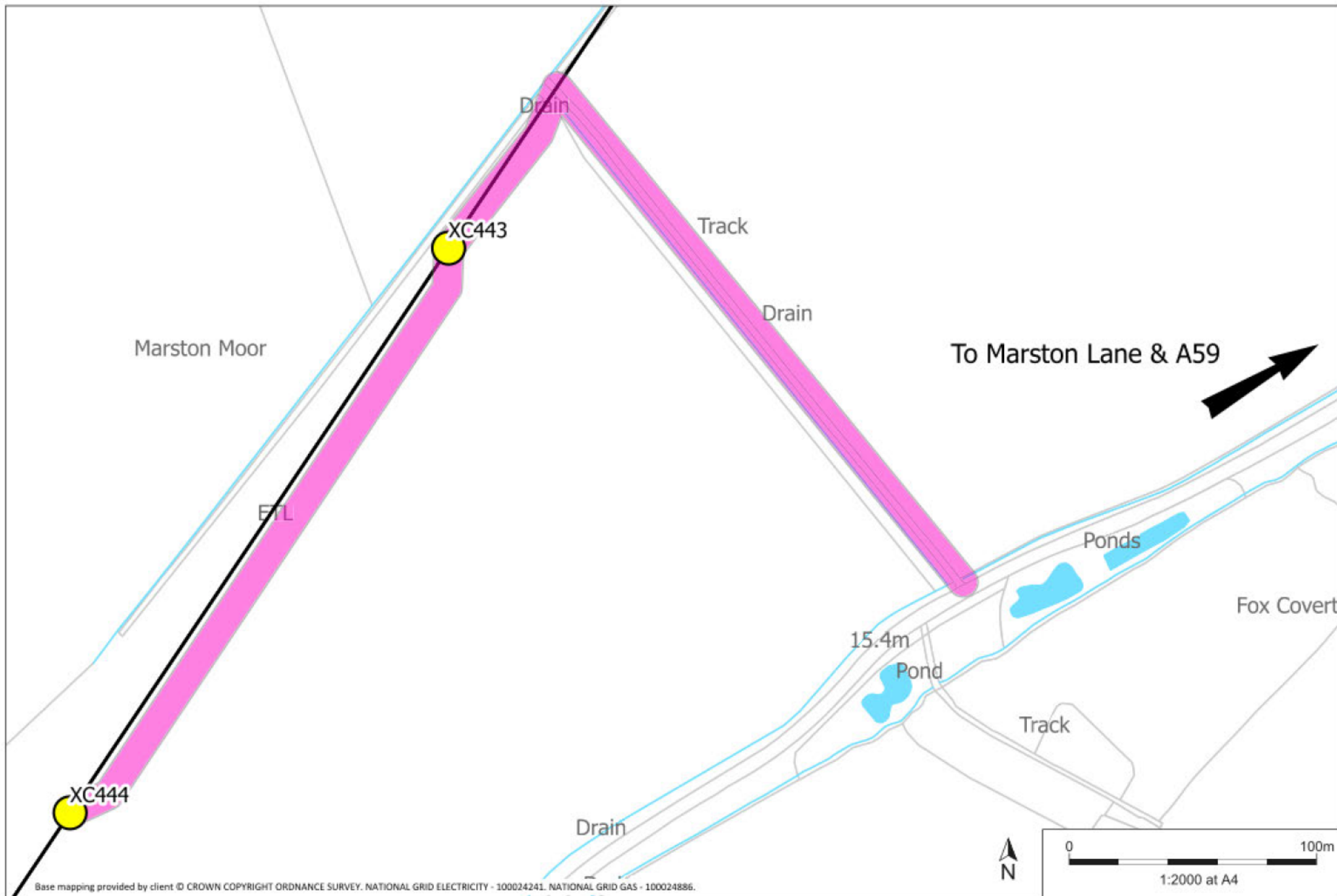
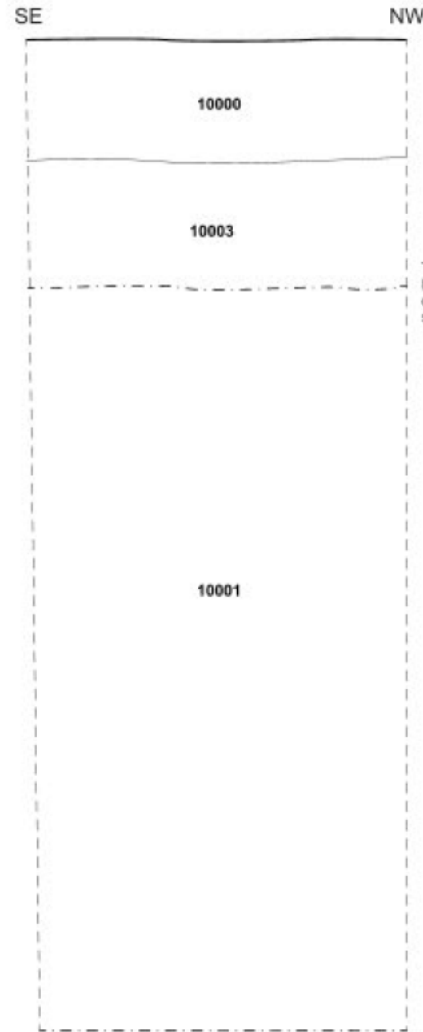


Figure 2: Detailed site location

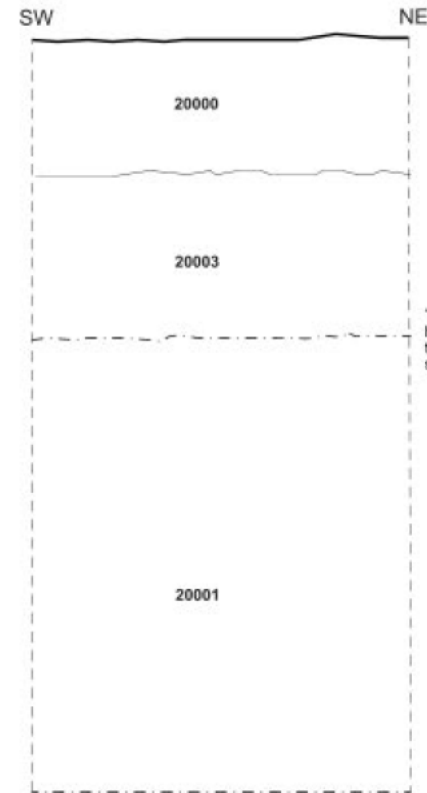
01/53009/REP/02/01

Trench 1 Representative section



Trench section stepped here - (10001) is within the cut [10002] (not seen in section)

Trench 2 Representative section



Trench section stepped here - (20001) is within the cut [20002] (not seen in section)



Figure 3: Representative Sections

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 mid-excavation, showing pylon cut [10002] in plan. Facing northwest.



Plate 2: Trench 1 post-excavation, showing excavation through deposit (10001) within pylon cut [10002]. Facing northwest.



Plate 3: Trench 2 mid-excavation, showing pylon cut [20002] in plan. Facing southeast.



Plate 4: Trench 2 post-excavation, showing deposit (20001) in section. Facing southeast.

Appendix 1

Context Summary Table

Context No	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
10000	Deposit	Mid-dark grey brown clay	3.4m<	3.4m<	0.32m
10001	Fill of [10002]	Mixed pale and dark greyish brown clay, with mid pink throughout. Inclusions: gravel.	1.75m<	2.10m<	2.61m<
10002	Cut	Rectangular in plan. Profile not seen.	1.75m<	1.75m<	2.61m<
10003	Deposit	Light Tan-Yellow sand.	3.4m<	3.4m<	0.35m<

Context No	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
20000	Deposit	Mid-dark grey brown clay	3.75m+	3.22m+	0.36m
20001	Fill of [20002]	Mixed mid and dark greyish brown clay, with mid pink throughout. Inclusions: gravel.	2.22m+	1.85m+	2.01m<
20002	Cut	Rectangular in plan. Profile not seen.	2.22m+	1.85m+	2.01m<
20003	Deposit	Light Tan-Yellow sand.	3.75m+	3.22m+	0.43m<

Appendix 2

OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-436489

Project details

Project name	Yorkshire GREEN Project, Marston Moor
Short description of the project	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a programme of upgrades and repairs to overhead powerlines over Marston Moor. The works involved monitoring the excavation of trenches at the bases of two of the pylons, sited in the vicinity of the battlefield of Marston Moor. These revealed the excavations made during the installation of the pylons, and no archaeological features or deposits were present. The watching brief produced no finds.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2021 End: 16-11-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	53009 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	General Permitted Development

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH YORKSHIRE HARROGATE LONG MARSTON Yorkshire GREEN Project, Marston Moor, North Yorkshire
Postcode	YO26 8JW
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 49714 52674 53.967553784968 -1.242090517416 53 58 03 N 001 14 31 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
----------------------	-----------------------

Project brief originator	No formal brief issued
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Stephen Potten
Project supervisor	Max Greeves
Type of sponsor/funding body	Engineering Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	LSTC Group

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	To be confirmed
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	To be confirmed
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Yorkshire GREEN Project, Marston Moor, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith, T.
Date	2022
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
Place of issue or publication	York
Description	A4 Unbound Report
Entered by	Rebecca Jarosz-Blackburn ([REDACTED]@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	7 April 2022

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