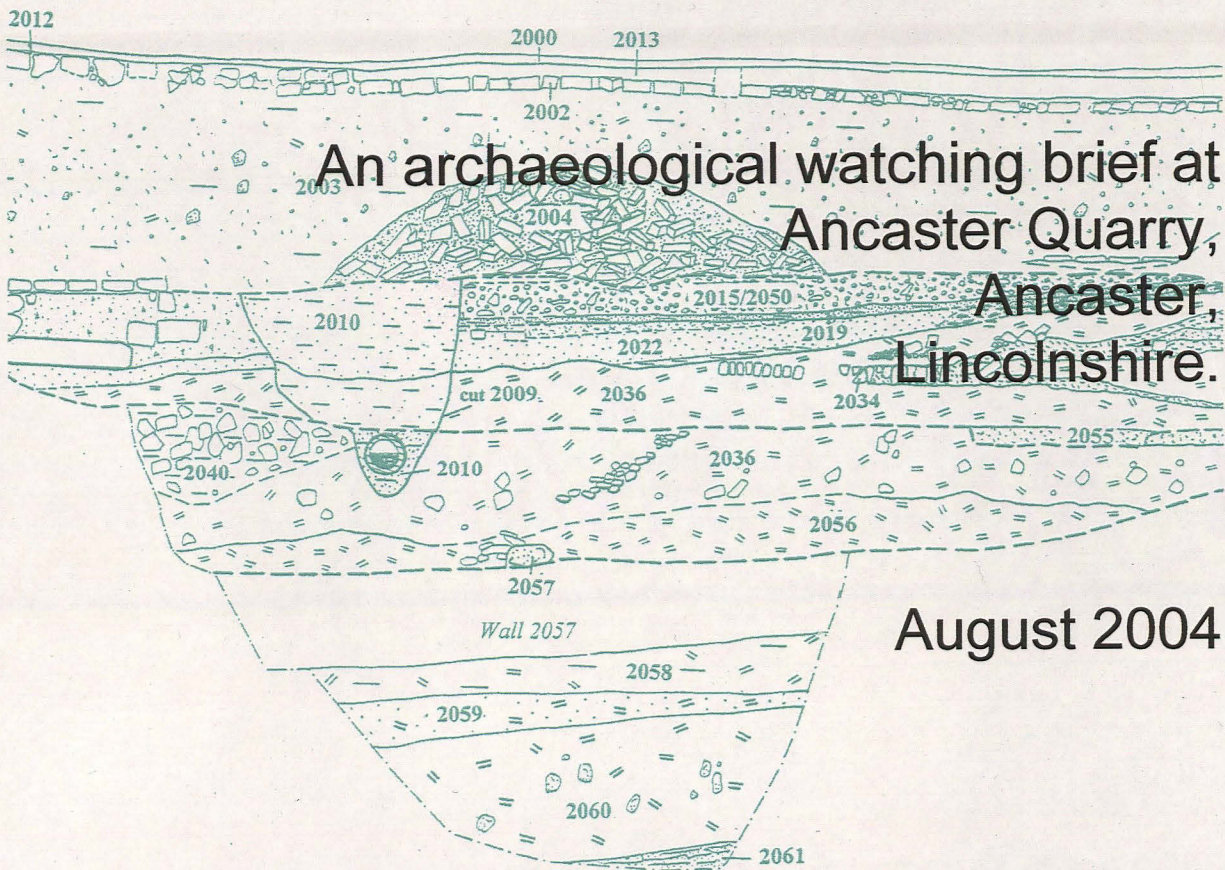




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Project Report 821.1



By Sean Bell

Prepared For:

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CONTENTS

<i>Non-technical Summary</i>	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 SITE LOCATION AND LAND USE	4
1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	4
2.1 FIELDWORK PROGRAMME	4
3 RESULTS	5
4 ARCHIVE	5
5 BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
6 ILLUSTRATIONS	6
7 PLATES	7

Illustrations

- 1 Site location
- 2 Site plan

Plates

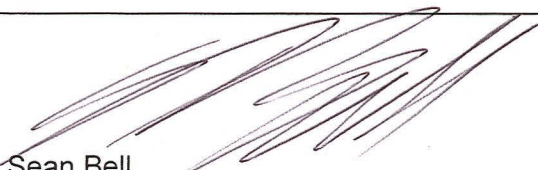
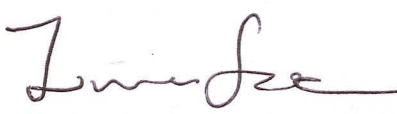
- 1 General view of work in progress
- 2 General view of exposed subsoil, looking southeast
- 3 General view of exposed subsoil, looking southeast

Non-technical Summary

ARCUS was commissioned by Smiths Gore (Wrexham), on behalf of Blockstone Limited, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the machine-stripping of topsoil as a part of a scheme to extend Ancaster Quarry, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 9915 4095). The archaeological fieldwork was a requirement of the planning permissions, S42/1560/87 and S42/400/03, issued in line with the 1995 Environment Act.

The watching brief was undertaken in July 2004 during topsoil stripping in advance of the extension of the quarry, and covered a total area of approximately 0.55 hectares.

No material or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief

Checked by Project Officer	Passed for submission to client
Date 01/09/04	01/9/04 Date
 Sean Bell Project Archaeologist	 Anna Badcock Assistant Director PB

1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS was commissioned by Smiths Gore (Wrexham), on behalf of Blockstone Limited, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the machine-stripping of topsoil as a part of a scheme to extend Ancaster Quarry, Lincolnshire (**Illustration 1**).

Planning permission for the extraction of limestone from the quarry was granted on 9th March 1988, under permission S42/1560/87. A set of new conditions for the quarry was issued on 13th June 2003 under the 1995 Environment Act, (Ref: S42/0399/03). These applied to an area of approximately 1.5 hectares lying to the southwest of the current quarry. Condition 17 required that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping. 1.25 hectares of this land has already been worked. Therefore, the archaeological watching brief related to the remaining 0.25 hectares of agricultural land with an additional 0.3 hectares granted for which planning permission was granted on 13th June 2003, (permission S42/400/03) (**Illustration 2**).

1.1 Site location and land use

Ancaster Quarry (NGR centred on SK9915 4095) is a limestone quarry, situated approximately 3km south of Ancaster, in Lincolnshire, and lies within sedimentary rocks of Jurassic age. The Lincolnshire Limestone, which is the main stone within the quarry, is a competent, yellow to buff coloured limestone, which occurs in beds up to 1 metre thick. The limestone is overlain by the Upper estuarine beds, which comprise a series of grey, mudstones containing a single, thin competent limestone band.

1.2 Archaeological and historical background

No known sites of archaeological significance are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the area to which this brief relates. Roman remains have been identified throughout the Ancaster area, and a number of cropmarks, probably of prehistoric date, have been identified in the surrounding area.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were;

- to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the site works,
- to collect any artefacts disturbed by the site works,
- to produce an assessment report detailing the recording and interpretation undertaken and setting that into local and historical context.

All excavation and recording work was carried out in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the project design produced by ARCUS (Bell, 2004), with guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and with current industry best practice.

2.1 Fieldwork Programme

The project was managed by Anna Badcock, ARCUS Assistant Director. The fieldwork was co-ordinated by Sean Bell, ARCUS Project Archaeologist. The on-site fieldwork and archaeological recording was undertaken by Owen Raybould, ARCUS

Archaeological Assistant.

Machine excavation commenced on Monday 26th July, and was completed on Wednesday 28th July 2004.

3 RESULTS

Context numbers are given in square brackets following their description.

Earth-moving activities were undertaken using a 360°-tracked machine. The topsoil material excavated was loaded directly on to a wheeled off-highway truck for removal from the site. Excavation commenced at the quarry-edge and continued towards the southeast (**Plate 1**).

Within the excavated are the following sequence of deposits was identified (from highest to lowest):

- mid-brown topsoil, [100] with an average thickness of 0.1m. Overlying;
- mid-brown sub-soil with an orange hue [101], containing moderate amounts of sub-angular fragments of limestone (**Plate 2**). The thickness of this deposit varied across the site from less than 0.1m up to 0.3m with no discernable pattern. Overlying;
- limestone bedrock [102] (**Plate 3**) with a degraded surface ranging from coarse-grained sand to large sub-angular fragments.

Amorphous patches of topsoil were seen within the exposed surface of [101]. A number of these were investigated by hand and were interpreted as animal burrows.

No material or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the archaeological watching brief.

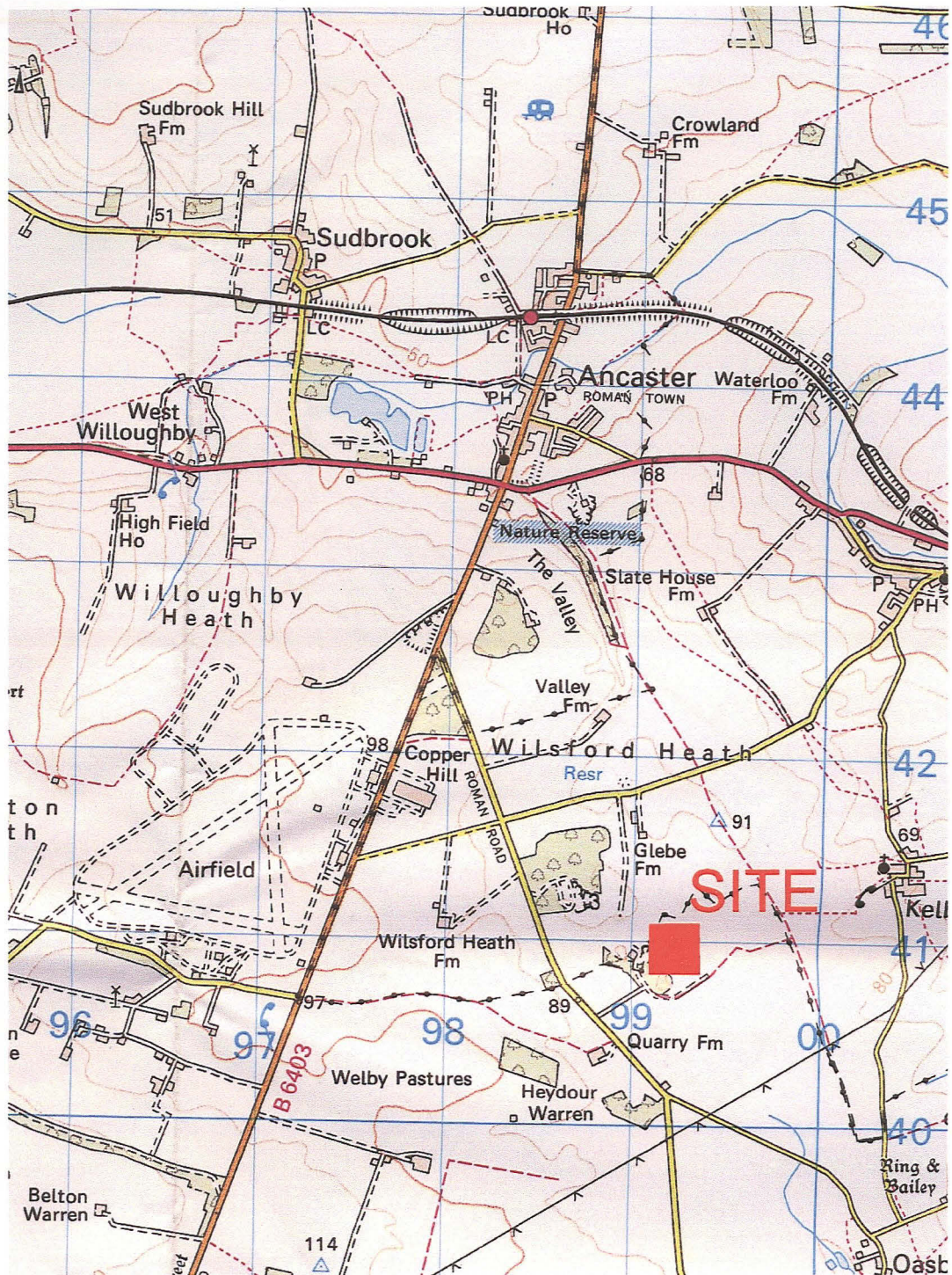
4 ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln under the accession number LCNCC:2004.197 with the site code AQA04. Copies of the report will also be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and with the client, Smiths Gore (Wrexham).

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bell, S. (2004) 'Project Design for an archaeological watching brief at Ancaster Quarry, Lincolnshire.' Unpublished ARCUS Project Design 821.2
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, (1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

6 ILLUSTRATIONS



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Project:
Ancaster Quarry, Lincolnshire

Title:
Site location

Scale:
 1:50 000

Date:
 08/04

NGR:
 SK 9915 4095

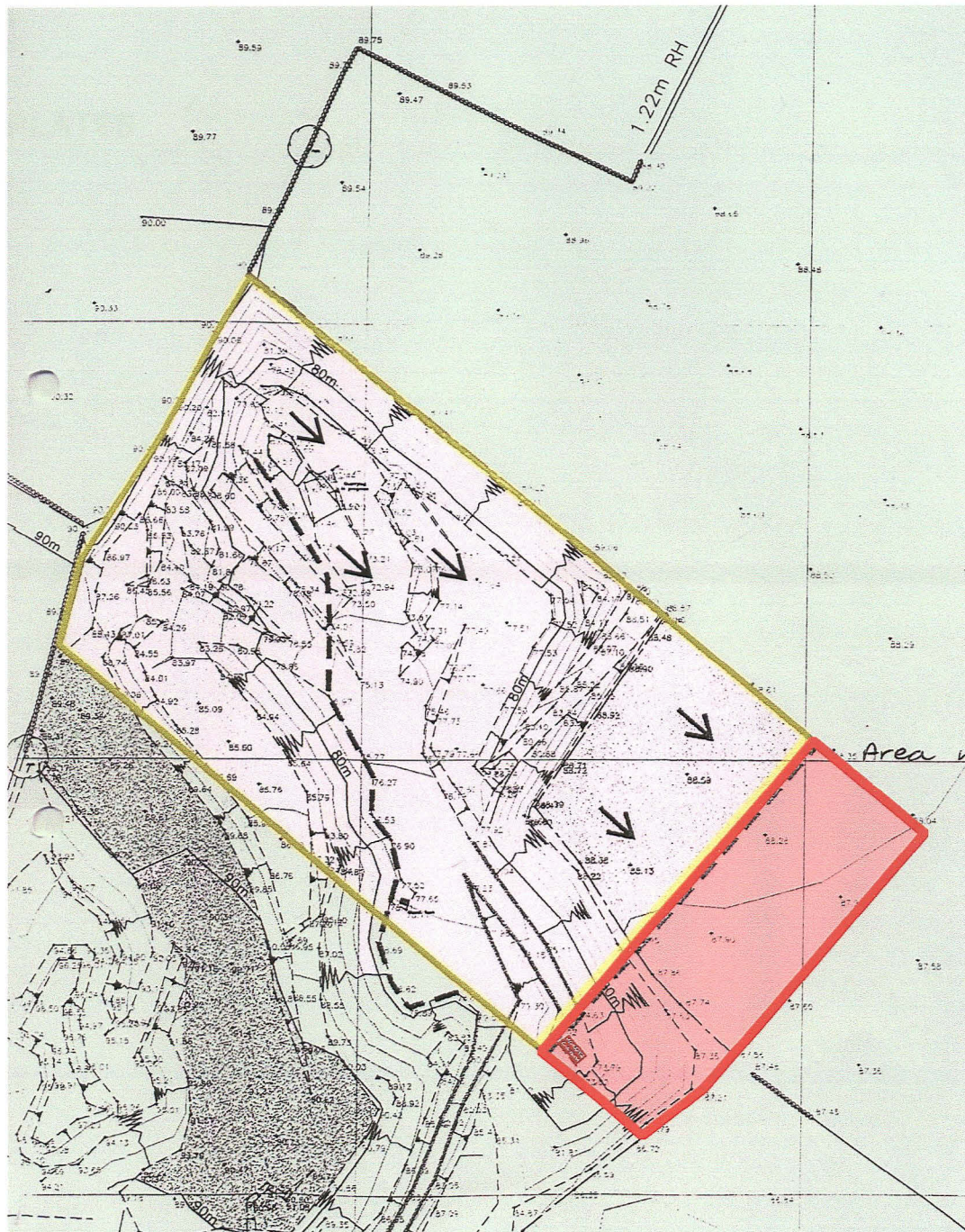
Drawn:
 S. Bell

Project No.:

821.1

Illustration No.:

001



KEY:

Red – Area of archaeological watching brief
Yellow – Boundary of application site (in white) related to
 Permission Ref. S42/1560/87

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Project: Ancaster Quarry, Lincolnshire	
Title: Site plan (from Plan R2124/Arch)	
Scale: nts	Date: 08/04
NGR: SK 9915 4095	Drawn: S. Bell
Project No.: 821.1	Illustration No.: 002

7 PLATES



Plate 1: General view of work in progress



Plate 2: General view of exposed subsoil, looking southeast

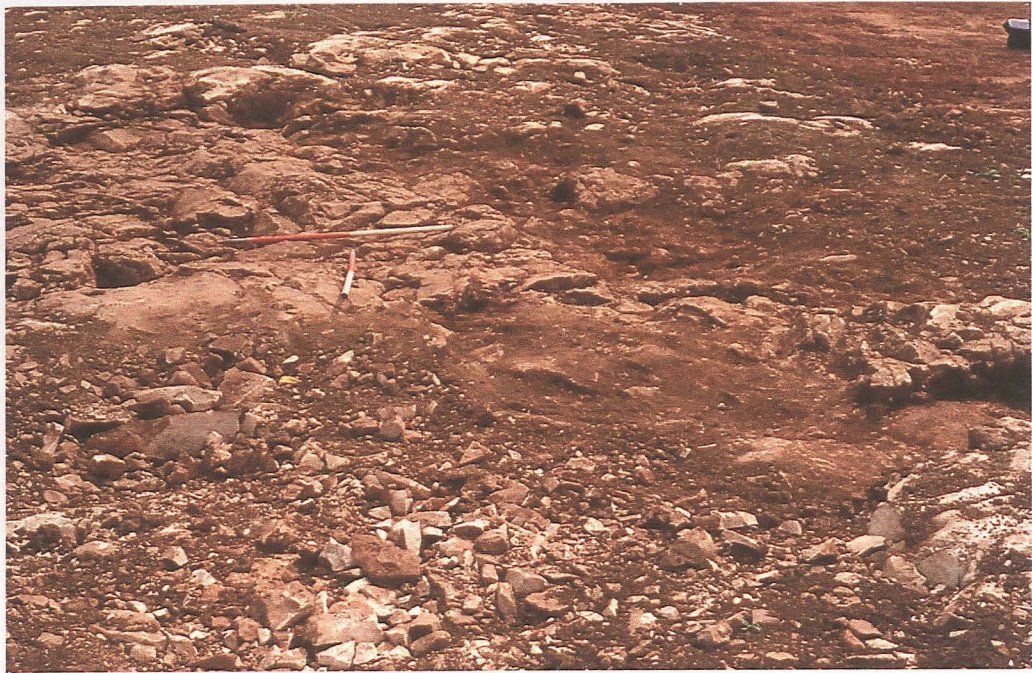


Plate 3: General view of exposed subsoil, looking southeast