

Grange Farm, Kirkby on Bain Quarry Extension Phase 3 Archaeological Evaluation (Fieldwalking)

Report for

Woodhal Spa Sand and Gravel Co.

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Grange Farm, Kirkby on Bain Quarry Extension Phase 3 Archaeological Evaluation (Fieldwalking) NGR: TF237 620

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Introduction

Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Company propose to apply for planning permission to extend their sand and gravel working north of the proposed Phase 2 extension to their quarry at Grange Farm. Planning Permission was granted by Lincolnshire County Council in 1995 for the Phase 1A extension and in 1999 for Phase 1B.

Site Location

The quarry is located in the Bain valley at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The proposed Phase 3 quarry extension comprises 1 arable field, 4.1ha in area, immediately north of the Phase 2 part of the quarry extension.

Archaeological Background

A desktop study and geophysical survey covered both Phases 1 and 2 of the proposed quarry extension. Later phases of assessment were confined to the two easternmost fields (c.8.5ha) which comprise Phases 1A and 1B of the extraction programme. Quarrying has already commenced in the Phase 1 area and this part of the site has been the subject of a continued programme of archaeological evaluation, excavation and recording.

During his fieldwalking survey of the Bain valley between 1983 and 1986 Peter Chowne walked over the fields which are now part of the quarry extension. A flint core and two flint flakes were found within the Part 2 extension area immediately south of the proposed Phase 3 site.

The Phase 2 area was the subject of a geophysical survey covering 100m x 80m. It coincided with an area of enhanced magnetism revealed during the magnetic susceptibility survey and showed a weak linear anomaly crossing the survey area aligned approximately west-east. It is parallel with the modern field boundary to the south and may be of recent date.

Method

Fieldwalking is normally carried out on land which has been recently ploughed or sown, to retrieve artifacts such as worked flint or pottery whose spatial distribution can indicate zones of occupation beneath the ground surface.

The field was walked in transects 20m apart (giving a 5% coverage of the land) with finds individually recorded using a geodimeter 640 total station 1' machine

and geodimeter super prisms, providing a three-dimensional co-ordinate for each find.

Contact between the fieldwalkers and the surveyors was maintained using twoway radios. Each walker carried their own prism and reported directly to the surveyor when recording of a find was required. Pre-numbered bags were used to ensure that there was no duplication in the field.

Animal bones were not retrieved because bone found on the ground surface cannot be assigned to a specific archaeological period.

The fieldwalking finds have been plotted to distinguish between finds of different categories, such as flintwork and ceramics.

Results

The fieldwalking survey yielded very little in the way of archaeological material, with a total of only 7 finds recovered from the entire area. The nature of these finds is outlined in Table1 (below).

Table 1. Finds by type.

Find No.	Material	Description
121	Flint	Burnt, unworked
122	Flint	
123	Flint	Burnt, unworked
124	Flint	
151	Flint	
152	Ceramic	Pot, glazed
153	Flint	

The low numbers of finds collected were undoubtedly a product of a lack of archaeological material in this area generally, and may have been compounded by the low, very bright winter sun which made visibility very poor, particularly in the north-to-south transects which were walked directly into it.

It is also apparent from Table 2 (below) that one member of the fieldwalking team failed to recover any archaeological finds which may also have been detrimental to the overall amount of material collected.

Table 2. Finds recovered by individual fieldwalkers.

Fieldwalker	No. of Finds	Material Recovered
Fieldwalker 1	4	2 x Worked Flint, 2 x Burnt Flint
Fieldwalker 2	3	3 x Worked Flint, 1 x Glazed Pot
Fieldwalker 3	0	

The distribution of finds showed no obvious patterning or clustering, the amounts

being far too small for any conclusions to be drawn.

A marked dip was noted along the southern edge of the field which contained a much darker, loamier soil, this feature was also present in the area of Phase 2. The darker soil was also found to contain considerably less gravel than the lighter soil above it and to the north, suggesting the possible presence of an old watercourse or other linear depression.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it seems unlikely that this area contains anything close to the amounts of archaeology present in Phase 1 of the quarry. The material recovered from Phase 3 probably represents little more than 'background noise', due to the proximity of the Neolithic site in the Phase 1 area of the quarry next to the road .

Acknowledgements

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R. Armour-Chelu April 10th 2000

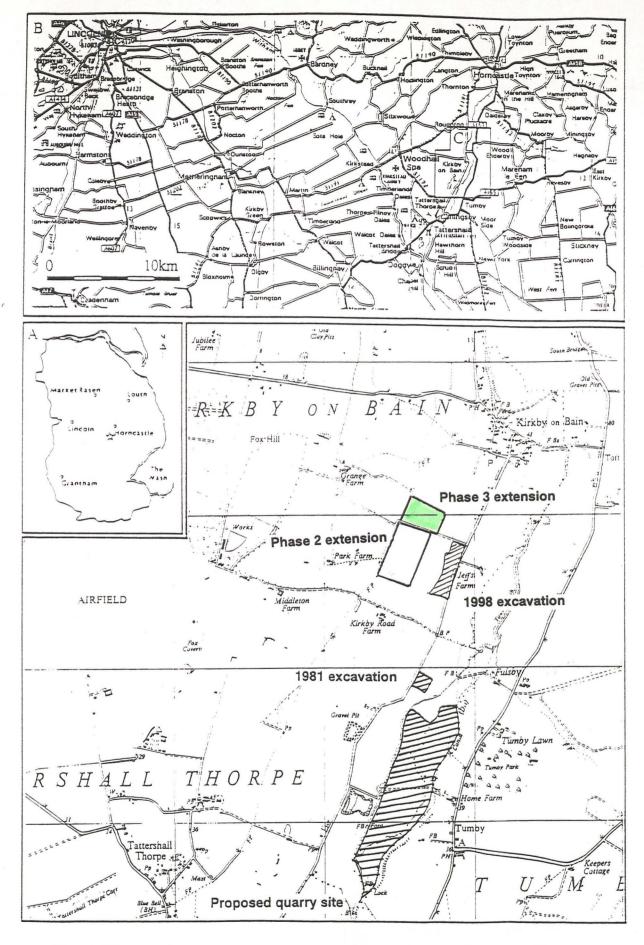


Fig. 1 Site location also showing excavation sites at Kirkby on Bain and Tattershall Thorpe. (Reproduced from the OS 1:25,000 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown copyright .LAS licence AL50424A.

