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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry
Norton Disney, Lincs.**

NGR: SK 8875 5965

Site Code: NDTF 04

LCNCC Museum Accn No.:2004.138

Lincs. C.C. Planning Application: 66/0360/00/MR

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report for
RMC Aggregates**

by G. Tann

**LAS Report No. 794
January 2005**

Conservation
Services

14 JAN 2005

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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EVENT: L15571
INTERVENTION: L19727
EXCAVATION: L19728

PRN 62645. medwal

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Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry, Norton Disney, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

The watching brief recorded evidence of ridge and furrow to the east of Butt Lane. No other significant archaeological features were found.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by RMC Aggregates in June 2004 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a further phase of topsoil and overburden removal at Norton Disney, Lincs. (Figs 1 and 2). This work was in preparation for extension of the Tonge's Farm sand and gravel quarry.

Monitoring was conducted by G. Tann and D. Young between June 10th and 25th 2004; five visits were made.

Site Location and Description

Norton Disney Quarry is situated close to the border between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, NE of the village of Norton Disney. The Tonge's Farm area of the quarry extension lies to the east of Butt Lane and in total consists of 48ha of agricultural land. At the time of the watching brief, the monitored area was farmland, at about 15m OD.

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for extension of the existing gravel quarry at Tonge's Farm, with a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping and removal of overburden.

Archaeological Background

Aerial photographs taken in August 1959 show several cropmarks of linear and pit-like features to the east of Butt Lane (Fig. 2; RAF verticals 543/673-2114-53-58). Most are probably of geological or glacial origin, but some appear to be of archaeological interest, suggesting enclosures similar to known examples c.1km to the west. An archaeological evaluation in September 2000 of land to the north of the bend in Butt Lane found nothing dating to before the medieval period (Armour-Chelu 2000). A watching brief in 2003 (on blocks of land east and south of Norton Low Wood) and archaeological excavation (east of Norton Low Wood) demonstrated that significant archaeological remains were present within other parts of the quarry extension, although very few features were identified (McDaid *et al* 2004). No dating evidence was found from some features, but most of the features within an unexpected Romano-British enclosure contained fragments of pottery. It appeared

that past occupation has been restricted to small habitation sites, and that there had been no spread of ceramic artefacts across the surrounding ground. No worked flints were seen. More recent topsoil stripping to the south of Tonge's Plantation has produced no artefacts or features.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 2)

Topsoil stripping was undertaken using a 360° machine equipped with a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket (Pl. 1).

The only archaeological features recorded were furrows from medieval ploughing. The east-west aligned furrows were about 2m wide, filled with a brown sandy loam, and at spaces of about 3m (Pl. 2). Many of the furrows were barely visible in the stripped surface. Other irregular anomalies proved to be of natural origin, probably the throw-holes left by wind-toppled saplings (Pls. 3 and 4). No artefacts were found.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank RMC Aggregates (Eastern Ltd) and their contractors (Fox Plant Ltd) for their assistance. Illustrations were prepared by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
6th January 2005

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Archive Summary

Correspondence

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 04/55/4-13; 04/60/29-37; 04/87/17a-27a.

THE FIGURES



Fig. 1. Location of Norton Disney plan (inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map Sheets SK 85 and SK 86)

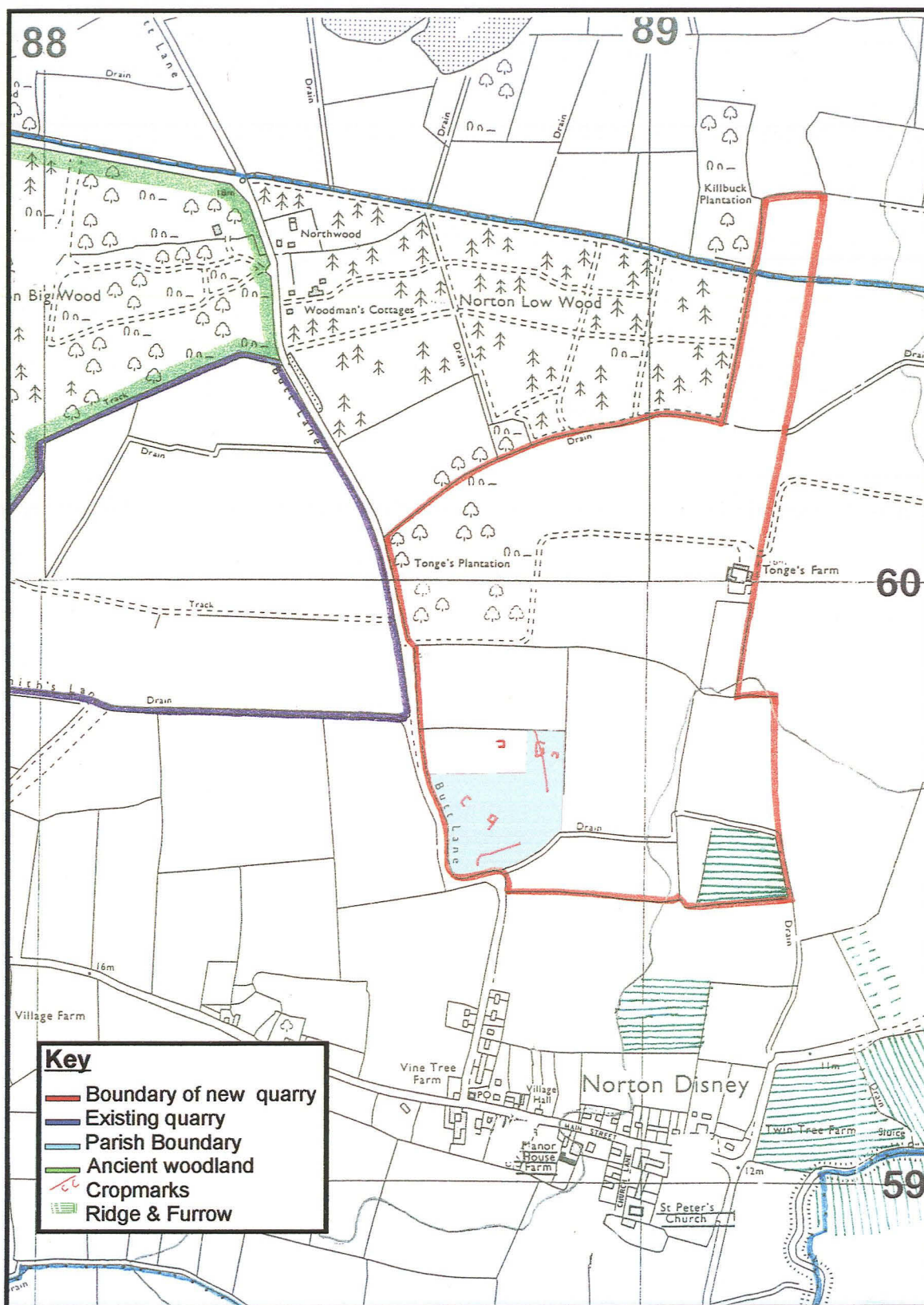


Fig. 2 Location of Tonge's Farm quarry (current workings in blue tone), showing the position of cropmarks in the vicinity. (Reproduced with minor alterations from OAA 1999. Based on the Ordnance survey 1:10,000 map sheets SK 86 SE and SK 85 NE. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence no. AL 100002165).

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Quarry extension area after topsoil removal (foreground, looking north across the previous extension phase to Tonge's Plantation).



PI. 2 Regular faint west-east striations of lighter soil in the stripped surface reflect the bases of medieval plough furrows (looking west to the bund beside Butt Lane).



PI. 3 Irregular feature filled with grey sand, near the northern side of the stripped area (looking north-west).



PI. 4 Partial excavation of the feature revealed irregular shape and depth, and it was interpreted as a hole left by an uprooted sapling.