



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry Phase 3

Norton Disney, Lincs.

NGR: SK 8880 5970

Site Code: NDTF 05

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2005.34

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

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Cemex

(Formerly RMC Aggregates (Eastern Ltd.))

by M. Jordan, G. Tann and I. Rowlandson

LAS Report No. 853

August 2005

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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).

Plates

Pl. 1 Phase 3 topsoil stripping in progress. Looking south.

Pl. 2 Phase 3, north end, stripped of topsoil. Looking north-west. Note modern pipe in foreground ditch.

Pl. 3 Phase 3, north end, stripped of topsoil. Looking south-west.

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**Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry, Norton Disney, Lincs
Archaeological Watching Brief, Phase 3**

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Summary

Monitoring of topsoil stripping in the phase 3 area of the quarry failed to locate archaeological remains although modern features were present. However, three archaeological artefacts were recovered from the subsoil in the north half of the area.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Cemex in January 2005 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during further phases of topsoil and overburden removal at Norton Disney, Lincs. (Figs 1 and 2). This work was in preparation for extraction in the phase 3 area of the Tonge's Farm sand and gravel quarry.

Monitoring of the north half of Phase 3 was conducted by G. Tann on January 13th and 27th, and Ian Rowlandson on February 7th 2005. Matt Jordan monitored the southern half of the site during June of 2005.

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 quarry lies to the east of Butt Lane and extends over 48ha of agricultural land of which phase 3 is 2.5 ha. 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. Topsoil stripping to the south of Tonge's Plantation in 2004 revealed ridge and furrow, but produced no artefacts or features (Tann 2005).

The Watching Brief

Topsoil stripping was undertaken (using a 360° machine equipped with a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket), excluding land below overhead cables at the northern end of the area (Pl. 1).

Phase 3: Northern half(Fig. 2)

Unlike the adjoining Phase 2 area to the west, no identifiable trace of ridge and furrow was found. A long north-south aligned backfilled field ditch was seen close to the western edge of the stripped area, with a piece of steel pipe in the fill (Pl. 2). This ditch was about 10m east of the removed hedge boundary. Other short segments of linear (and slightly curvilinear) ditches appeared to cut that ditch, and a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was found beside one of these. All ditches contained a grey/brown slightly silty sand, with frequent pebbles.

Close to the north-east corner of the stripped area, a fragment of Niedermendig lava stone, probably from a quern, was found on the stripped surface, but not in association with any feature. Within 5m of that find, a sherd of Iron Age/Roman pottery was seen, as well as a small glazed sherd of medieval pottery. The sherds may have derived from a light brown, slightly sandy deposit, 1, interpreted as a patch of remaining subsoil.

Phase 3: Southern half (Fig. 2)

No archaeological features were revealed during this phase of the watching brief. Occasional traces of plough scores running northwest/southeast were visible cutting the natural deposits, but there was no trace of the ridge and furrow cultivation remains seen elsewhere in the quarry. The compacted remains of a northwest/southeast orientated modern farm track was visible crossing through the centre of the area. Running parallel to the north of this track were two modern ditches. They measured 1m wide and 0.15m deep, with vertical sides, flat bases and contained a yellow grey silty sand fill which produced modern pottery. In the southern part of the area was a series of east/west orientated agricultural field drains and two shallow ditches on the same alignment. No finds were recovered. They are also likely to be remains of recent agricultural features and contained a brown grey sand fill.

Discussion

The single sherd of Iron Age/Roman pottery from this part of the quarry may have derived from an occupation site in the vicinity. No trace of any contemporary site or any similar pottery has been seen during the previous watching briefs to the south or west, and at present the nearest known

archaeological features are to the east of Norton Low Wood, 500m to the north-east (McDaid *et al*, 2004). Part of the land between these locations has been stripped of topsoil in previous years and inspected without any archaeological remains being found, implying that any remaining substantial spread of occupation material is to the east or south-east of the Phase 3 findspot. The subsoil layer which contained the Iron Age/Roman and medieval sherds is the product of medieval or later ploughing (although no ridge and furrow was evident) that may have damaged or even removed shallow archaeological features.

The watching brief of the southern half of Phase 3 was able to establish that the occupation site hinted at during the monitoring of the north half of Phase 3 was not present to the south.

Conclusion

No archaeologically significant features were disturbed by Phase 3 of the quarry extension.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank RMC Aggregates (Eastern Ltd) and their contractors (Fox Plant Ltd) for their assistance. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid. Naomi Field edited the report. The report was collated by Doug Young.

Matt Jordan, Geoff Tann and Ian Rowlandson
Lindsey Archaeological Services
August 2005

References

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Archive Summary

Correspondence

Sketch Plan

Notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 05/54/1–12 and 05/55/6a–15a.

One bag of finds

APPENDIX 1

Pottery Archive NDTF05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part description	date
1	MISC	Unidentified types	medium shelly	?	1	4	BS completely leached, thin walled	probably 10th to 12th
1	TOY	Toynton Medieval		jug	1	8	BS abraded	late 13th to 15th

THE FIGURES

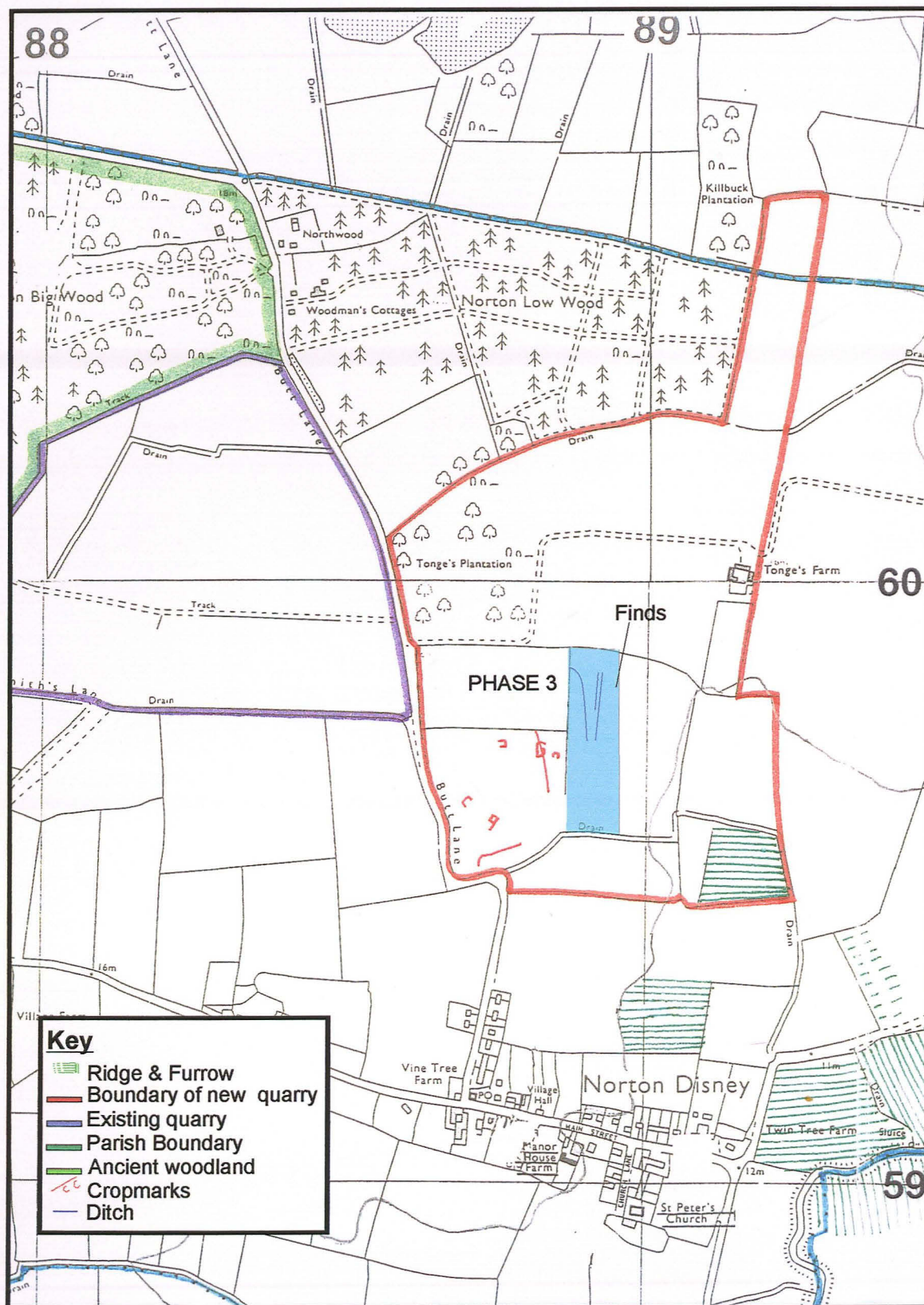


Fig. 2 Location of Tonge's Farm quarry (current workings in blue tone), showing the position of cropmarks in the vicinity. (Reproduced with minor alterations from OAA 1999. Based on the Ordnance survey 1:10,000 map sheets SK 86 SE and SK 85 NE. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller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

THE PLATES



PL. 1 Phase 3 topsoil stripping in progress. Looking south.



PL. 2 Phase 3, north end, stripped of topsoil. Looking north west. Note pipe in foreground ditch.



Pl. 3 Phase 3, north end, stripped of topsoil. Looking south-west.



Pl. 4 Phase 3, south end, stripped of topsoil. Looking west.