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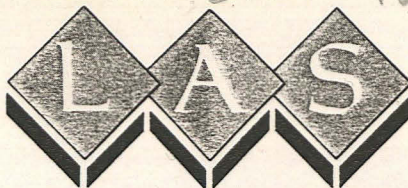
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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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South Thoresby (Haugh Lane) Quarry Extension

Archaeological Watching Brief 1995

NGR: TF 4065 7708
Site Code: STQ 95
LCNCC Mus. Accn No. 67.95

Report prepared for Singleton-Birch Ltd

August 1995

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Introduction

A watching brief was conducted by Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) on land off Haugh Lane, South Thoresby, while contractors were opening an extension to the quarry operated by Singleton Birch Ltd. The extension formed part of an area for which planning approval for chalk extraction had been given in 1992 (Figs. 1 and 2). Condition 4 of the Planning Consent (E163/418/92) had required a fieldwalking survey which was executed by LAS in March 1993 (Tann 1993). The survey produced late Neolithic worked flints and a thin spread of medieval pottery sherds. It was considered possible by the County Archaeology Section that prehistoric occupation features might be identified on the topsoil/subsoil interface during soil removal.

The Watching Brief

The archaeological watching brief started on April 26th, by which time part of the extension had been stripped of topsoil and removal of subsoil was in progress (Pls. 1-3). The ground conditions had become disturbed and trampled by mechanical movements, and the stripping technique offered little opportunity to inspect the subsoil horizon. A single deep ditch-like feature (Ditch 1) was seen but could not be fully recorded.

Monitoring was suspended while soil removal continued, and the Assistant County Archaeology Officer arranged for part of the area to be stripped more sensitively in order to permit a sample of the topsoil/subsoil interface to be inspected. A second visit was made to the quarry extension on May 1st 1995 when this had been done; although conditions were better no archaeological features of any date were identified and the watching brief was terminated by agreement with the County Archaeology Section.

Ditch 1

A NW-SE aligned feature was observed at the eastern edge of a small copse on the southern limit of the existing quarry (Fig. 2; Pls. 4 and 5). It was traced in plan across a stripped area about 30m wide, and recorded in a temporary working face parallel to the previous quarry limit (Pl. 5). The feature was 5m wide below the topsoil, filled with red/brown chalky clay loam, and sloped to a width of 1.8m at the limit of the working face 1.7m below the field surface.

No artefacts were found in the feature fill and it was not entirely clear whether it was naturally or artificially produced. It was suspected from its position that it represented the course of a medieval or later field ditch.

Casual Finds

Flints were recovered from the topsoil at four locations but in two instances were later discarded as unworked (Appendix 1). The unstratified finds confirm the thin scatter of prehistoric artefacts found during the earlier fieldwalking of the site.

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief recovered some additional flint artefacts but no evidence of prehistoric or later occupation on this site. An undated substantial ditch was not thought to be of great antiquity.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank S. Hill (Quarry Manager) and the personnel engaged in the earthmoving for their co-operation. Considerable support was given by Ian George (Assistant County Archaeological Officer).

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
28th July 1995

Archive Summary

Annotated field plan
Field Observation sheet
flints x 3

Appendix 1:

Report on Flints from South Thoresby Quarry Extension

by I.P. Brooks (Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd)
May 1995

Three flint artefacts were recovered from the watching brief, consisting 2 flakes and a core.

- 3 a multi-platform flake
a blade core (Clark, class C; Clark *et al* 1960, 216)
- 6 a secondary flake with multi-directional removals on the dorsal surface suggesting this was a thinning flake.
The distal end of a tertiary flake was also recovered.

All the artefacts were in a translucent, dusky yellowish-brown flint with eroded cortex, suggesting a derived source.

Reference:

Brooks, I.P. 1989 'Debugging the System: The Characterisation of Flint by Micropalaeontology' in Brooks, I.P. and Phillips, P. (eds.) *Breaking the Stony Silence* Papers from the Sheffield Lithic Conference 1988. BAR 213, 53-72.

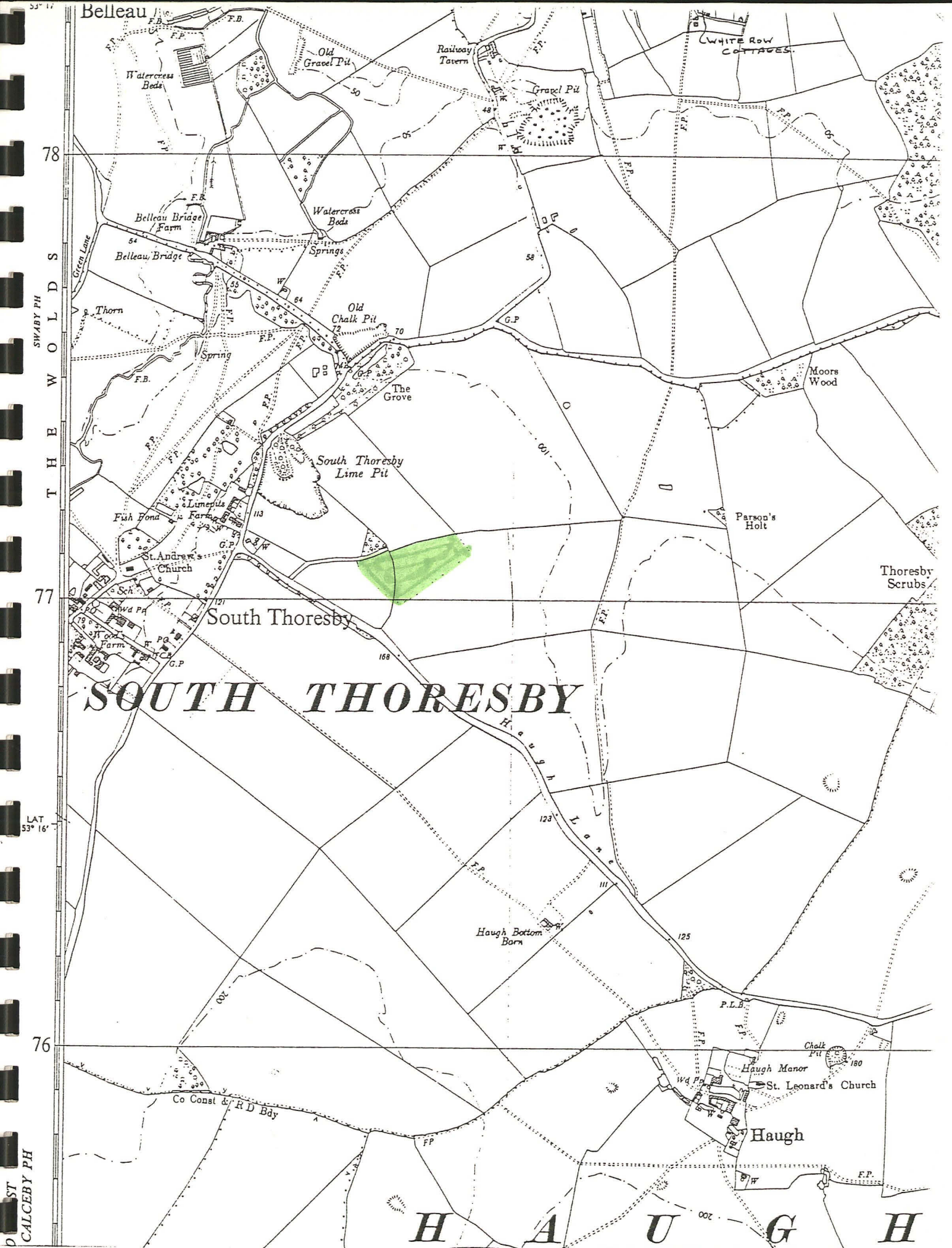


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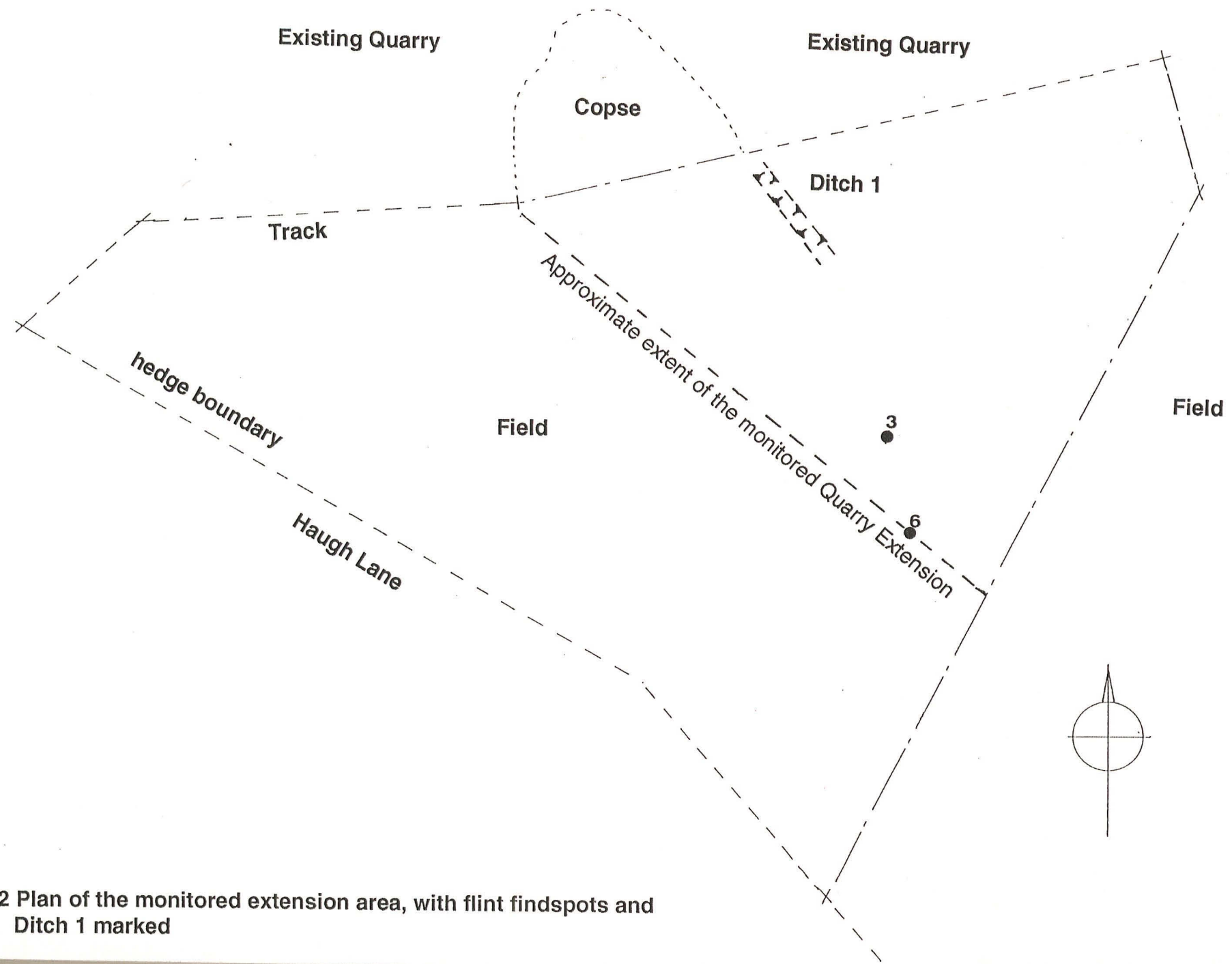
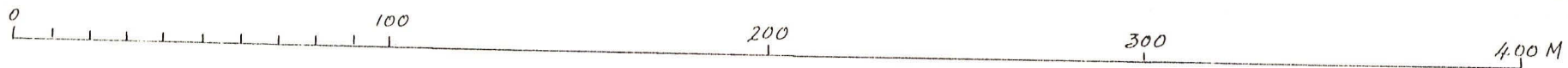


Fig. 2 Plan of the monitored extension area, with flint findspots and Ditch 1 marked



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