

**A report on the archaeological watching brief at the
Phase 28 quarry extension at Finningley Quarry,
South Yorkshire.**

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General shot of stripping at Phase 28

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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SUMMARY

Trent & Peak Archaeology undertook a watching brief on Phase 28 of Finningley Quarry, Misson Deep, on behalf of Lafarge-Tarmac Aggregates Ltd, intermittently from the 15th of September to the 1st of October 2014.

The watching brief followed on from previous aims to identify and preserve by record any archaeological features that may be destroyed by proposed quarrying works, as per the SYAS approved Programme of Archaeological Work (WSI) (MJ Carter Associates, 2006).

The area designated Phase 28 (figure 1), was stripped in order to relocate an existing trunk road through the quarry. This meant that approximately 400mm OD of topsoil was excavated to reveal the subsoil, which in places exposed the underlying natural silt and clay substrate, with patches of sand, upon which the road surface could be built.

The topsoil stripping in Phase 28 of Finningley quarry revealed no archaeological features. At present, the area stripped is destined to become a trunk road and hence will be built up however, at the point of extraction (when the stripping of the subsoil is undertaken) a little additional watching brief may be useful to formally confirm that this site is devoid of archaeological interest at depths below the topsoil base.

The results of this watching brief seem to confirm the suspicion of the low archaeological potential of the silt and clay areas around Finningley Quarry.

Report on the archaeological watching brief for Finningley Quarry, Phase 28

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FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of intermittent watching brief in Finningley quarry Phase 28.

PLATES

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- Plate 2: West Facing Section showing topsoil (0001)
- Plate 3: General shot of topsoil stripping, looking south (16/09/2014)
- Plate 4: General shot of topsoil stripping, looking west (18/09/2014)
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- Plate 6: General shot of topsoil stripping, looking west (25/09/2014)
- Plate 7: General shot of topsoil stripping, looking west (1/10/2014)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology carried out a watching brief on behalf of Lafarge-Tarmac Aggregates Ltd, intermittently from the 15th of September to the 1st of October on phase 28 at Finningley Quarry.
- 1.2 The topsoil strip was monitored intermittently in order to identify and preserve by record any archaeological features that may be destroyed by proposed quarrying works, as per the SYAS approved Programme of Archaeological Work (WSI) (MJ Carter Associates, 2006).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2003 the site (now labelled Phase 28 (southwest) was the subject of a programme of archaeological fieldwalking (MAP 2001) and trench evaluation by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (MAP 2003). Further to the north and west within Area C (later labelled Phase 20/21) Roman and prehistoric features were recovered during the evaluation, and this led to a Strip and Record Excavation which recovered extensive prehistoric features including ditched enclosures, Roman water management features including a timber lined well, and a post-medieval brickworks (MAP 2010) .
- 2.2 Within Area B, however, no archaeological features of note were identified and subsequently it was agreed that an intermittent watching brief would be maintained during top-soil stripping in Area B (MJCA 2006, 10).
- 2.3 This document is the report on the intermittent watching brief results.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND SITE SETTING

- 3.1 **Topography:** Prior to stripping was the site (centred on SK 68389 98486) was a flat field of around 7.5 hectares and at a height of 3-4m AoD, that had been cropped and left fallow.
- 3.2 **Geology:** The study area overlies bedrock of the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation incorporating several elements of superficial geology (BGS: Geological Solid and Drift Survey Sheet.88). The solid geology is overlain in Phase 28 by silts and clays laid down during the Dimlington stadial when human activity was intermittent or ceased altogether. Past fieldwork indicates it to be devoid of palaeoenvironmental material.
- 3.3 **Archaeology:** The site lies within an area of known Prehistoric and Romano-British significance as indicated by surrounding cropmarks which may constitute elements of the Romano-British Brickwork Plan field system. This landscape around Finningley quarry has been more systematically explored from the late 1990's onwards. As noted above, immediately to the north and west within Phase 20/21, extensive Roman and prehistoric remains was recovered during excavation including ditched enclosures and Roman water management features including a timber lined well. A post-medieval brickworks was also identified and recorded (MAP 2010). Excavated examples of such rural kilns remain rare regionally providing the potential for dated brick typologies to be identified.

- 3.4 However, despite the evident archaeological potential on the slightly elevated land to the north of Phase 28 site earlier trench evaluation (MAP 2003) identified no archaeological features in this part of the quarry. This suggests that Silt and Clay areas within the Finningley landscape were not areas of concentrated human activity in antiquity.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 General methodology:

- 4.1.1 All archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Schemes of Investigation ((MJCA 2006) and current industry best practice and guidance (IFA 2008a and 2008b).
- 4.1.2 The WSI considered that Phase 28 was an archaeologically less sensitive part of the site and therefore an Intermittent Watching Brief was carried out.
- 4.1.3 *Staffing.* The work was undertaken by a suitably qualified member of TPA according to accepted archaeological practice and the 'Standard & Guidance' produced by the Institute for Archaeologists.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 TPA monitored the machine excavation of all groundworks, with the prior agreement of Lafarge-Tarmac, to a predetermined depth of around 400mm. As per the WSI, provision was made for archaeologists to visit the site once top soil operations had been completed. A rapid walk-over and inspection of the stripped areas was then undertaken. If any archaeological features were identified then provision was to be made to allow the archaeologist to plan, record and rapidly sample-excavate the features.
- 4.2.3 A toothless ditching bucket was used so that a clean surface was exposed and the archaeologist could inspect the deposits revealed. There was no trafficking by vehicles on exposed surfaces until the archaeologist had agreed that there were no archaeological deposits of significance or until any deposits were appropriately recorded.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Topsoil, Subsoil and Natural Substrate

- 5.1.1 Machine stripping of the topsoil (0001) across the entire demonstrated that this deposit was a mid-dark brown silty clay (containing occasional sub-rounded stones) a maximum of 0.35m-0.4m in depth. Removal of this deposit revealed a mixed deposit of thin mid-light brown silty clay sub-soil (0002) and in some areas the natural substrate of mid orange to yellow brown clay with occasional sandy patches (0003) (Plate 4-7).
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features were visible at the level (0.4m) of the machine strip. In some areas around the margins of the site only topsoil was stripped and, although it is considered unlikely, any archaeological features present in these areas may have been masked by remnant subsoil (Plate 3).

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The topsoil stripping in Phase 28 of Finningley quarry revealed no archaeological features. At present, the area stripped is destined to become a trunk road and hence will be built up however, at the point of extraction (when the stripping of the subsoil is undertaken) a little additional watching brief may be useful to formally confirm that this site is devoid of archaeological interest at depths below the topsoil base.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey. Natural Environment Research Council. Geological Solid and Drift Survey Sheet.88 or <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

MAP 2001. Finningley Quarry, North-Eastern Extension. South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, Proposed Extension. Fieldwalking Survey.

MAP 2003. Finningley Quarry, North-Eastern Extension. South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, Proposed Extension. Archaeological Evaluation.

MAP 2010. . Finningley Quarry Phase 21. South Yorkshire. Archaeological Strip and Record.

MJ Carter Associates 2006. A Programme of Archaeological work for Finningley Quarry northern extension. Condition 25 of 02/4515/P/MINA.

APPENDIX 1 Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching brief record sheets	Record of visit and work carried out	6
Photographs:-		
Digital	All views	19
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1

The paper archive is currently held in the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited at an appropriate museum by the completion of the Finningley Quarry Scheme Scheme.

APPENDIX 3 Figures



APPENDIX 2 Plates



Plate 1: General shot of area before strip



Plate 2: Section showing topsoil (0001)



Plate 3: General shot of stripping 16/09/2014



Plate 4: General shot of stripping 18/09/2014



Plate 5: General shot of stripping 22/09/2014



Plate 6: General shot of stripping 25/09/2014



Plate 7 : General shot of stripping 1/10/2014