

Finningley Quarry South Yorkshire, Phase 29. An Archaeological Watching Brief.



For Tarmac

Prepared by: Victoria Owen

Report Number: 113/2018

TPA Project Code: FME9

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Date	
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Signed	
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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology (&TPA) were contracted on behalf of Tarmac to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Phase 29 of the proposed Finningley Quarry extension, South Yorkshire. The site is centred on NGR SK 69120 99151 at a height of c.2m OD.
- Prior to this evaluation a geophysical survey of the area was carried out which identified the presence of potentially significant buried archaeological features spread across adjacent fields within the Phase 26 extension (Johnson 2014). These potential features were then resolved by targeted investigation through trial trenching, which did not reveal the presence of significant archaeological finds features or deposits.
- Topsoil and subsoil removal was monitored along an approximate 3-hectare wedge of land located south-east of the current permitted quarry boundary between 25th May – 26th June 2018.
- Groundworks revealed the presence of two former field boundaries aligned north by south which probably relate to an earlier 20th century division of land for plantations. Ordnance Survey mapping show the field boundaries in place by c.1901, which appear to have been removed around 1958, during a period of spatial reorganisation which saw the clearance of the nearby Pickle Wood woodland.
- A series of pits and probable tree throws were also identified, and whilst undated, likely relate to a contemporary period of land clearance.
- With the exception of modern field boundaries, no archaeological features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief

Contents

Summary	4
Contents	5
List of Figures	5
List of Plates.....	5
Acknowledgments.....	6
1 Introduction.....	7
2 Topography and Geology.....	7
3 Historical and Archaeological Background	7
4 Aims and Objectives	8
5 Methodology	8
6 Results	9
7 Conclusion.....	10
8 Bibliography	11
9 Context Register	12
10 Figures.....	13
11 Plates.....	18
Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition.....	19
Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form	20

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Location Plan. Scale @A4 1:10,000
 Figure 2: Site Plan. Scale @A3 1:1000
 Figure 3: Section Drawings 01-07. Scale @A4 1:20
 Figure 4: Ordnance Survey Map c.1901 with site boundary. Scale varied.

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Overview of the stripped area around Finningley Quarry Phase 29.
 Plate 2: Post-ex image of slot [0003] through the eastern north by south field boundary. Looking north; scale 1m.
 Plate 3: Post-ex image of slot [0009] through the eastern north by south field boundary. Looking north north-east; scale 1m.
 Plate 4: "Terminus" of a probable elongated pit [0007]; south-east facing section. Looking north; scale 1m.
 Plate 5: Post-ex slot through a probable elongated pit [0007]. Looking north-east; sale 1m.
 Plate 6: South facing section of pit [0001]; Post-excavation. Looking north-west, scale 1m.

Acknowledgments

Thanks are extended to Tarmac for facilitating site access and aiding archaeological works.

This project was managed by Ed Talor (TP&A) and undertaken in the field by Senior Project Archaeologist Andy Douthwaite, Project Supervisor Carmen Dhalke, and Project Officer Pete Watkin.

Illustrations have been compiled by Project Officer (Geomatics) Norma Oldfield.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) were contracted by Tarmac to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Phase 29 of the current Finningley Quarry workings. The site was centred on NGR SK 68319 98198 at a height of c.2m AOD.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out between May 25th and June 26th 2018 and consisted of monitored removal of top and upper subsoil across a c.3Ha area of land within an area of low archaeological potential, as defined by the earlier desk-based assessment (Elliott, Platt and Webb 2013).

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The underlying geology comprises Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation and sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 246 to 251 million years ago in a local environment previously dominated by rivers (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.2 The superficial geology comprises Hemingborough Glaciolacustrine Formation Clays and Silts, formed up to 2 million years ago in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.3 Phase 29 of the proposed quarry extensions sits within a low-lying plateau situated at c.2m AOD. The site is bounded on all sides by rural farmland, roadways, and closely managed woodland to the west and east.

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The initial desk-based assessment (Elliott *et. al.* 2013) considered the archaeological potential of Phase 29 to be unknown or low. High potential for archaeological remains dating from the later Prehistoric to modern periods have been identified within adjacent fields (Davies 2014; Elliott *et. al.* 2013).
- 3.2 Silt and clay deposits were identified as present across much of the proposed quarry extension, with archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of these deposits deemed low (geoarchaeological survey failed to identify the presence of preserved organic or palaeoenvironmental material).

Prehistoric Flint Scatter

- 3.3 Previous flint finds have already been made within Phase 26: NMR 320789 (30 flints) and SMR01832 (4 flints). Activity from this period (Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze-Age) within the Trent Valley and catchment area remains relatively rare. Such scatters, if present, could provide significant evidence for the material culture and settlement patterns of this period.

Romano-British Landscape

- 3.4 As indicated by surrounding crop marks and the result of the excavation in Phase 20, the potential for Romano-British remains on the terrace deposits within Phase 26 was high. These are likely to comprise enclosure and field ditches, along with pits and possible wells. Together they may constitute elements of the Romano-British Brickwork Plan field system

or other possible field systems previously recorded across north Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire.

17th-19th Century Rural Brick Production

- 3.5 A 17th/18th century brick kiln was discovered along the terrace/sand boundary with the silt and clay in Phase 20. Excavated examples of such rural kilns remain rare regionally but provide the potential for dated brick typologies to be identified. Further examples may survive along the terrace edge.

4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development, and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record*. Where practical within the constraints of the watching brief and development, this included an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation.
- 4.2 Any archaeological remains encountered during the archaeological watching brief presented an opportunity to address research questions as set out in the East Midlands Heritage Research Agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012)

5 Methodology

- 5.1 Topsoil and subsoil was excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision and continued to either the first archaeological horizon or the natural substratum if archaeological remains were not present.
- 5.2 The site boundary and the presence of archaeological features were located using a Leica System 1200 GPS. All trench locations were scanned with the Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation.
- 5.3 The location of any artefacts recovered in the subsoil or in features was recorded three dimensionally or by context as appropriate.
- 5.4 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by GPS survey, measured drawing and photography. The features and deposits investigated by hand excavation were recorded on individual context recording sheets. Sections of excavated features were also recorded (at a scale of 1:20). Spot heights were recorded relative to the Ordinance Datum.
- 5.5 All works were carried out in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Davies 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014b).
- 5.6 Supervision of topsoil and subsoil stripping was maintained across the boundary of the Phase 29 quarry extension (Fig 1).

6 Results

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of low archaeological potential, adjacent to a closely managed modern waterway known as Deeps Drain. Subsoil (0015) and topsoil (0014) was stripped under archaeological supervision across an approximate 3 hectare wedge of land located immediately south of the current quarry boundary (Fig 1). Observation of topsoil and subsoil stripping was sought to ascertain the potential for archaeological finds, features or deposits within a supposed 'blank area'.

Stratigraphy

- 6.2 Where identified, stratigraphy across the site comprised superficial deposits of natural substratum (0013) formed of grey-yellow clay-silt deposits which was the same across the site. This was overlain by a thin, sporadic lens of upper subsoil (0015), formed of a light brownish grey silt-clay, and brownish-grey silt cultivated topsoil (0014) to a combined depth of c.0.3m.
- 6.3 Two modern field boundaries and several undated pit features were identified during monitored excavation (figure 2).

Modern

Field Boundary [0003 & 0009] (Figs 2 and 3)

- 6.4 A north by south aligned ditch was identified within the western portion of the stripped area, extending into the baulk on both the northern and southern limits of excavation, which ran broadly parallel with the current site boundary to the east. The ditch was investigated with two sondages, [0003, 0009], revealing, in places, a badly truncated ditch base (plates 2,3). The ditch measured between c.0.5-0.8m in width, which tapered to the south. Depth varied between c.0.1-0.34m, with the northern sondage displaying a shallow, flat ditch base which became steeply sloped with a U-shaped profile to the south. This difference in profile likely owes much to differential truncation through later agricultural activities, however it is possible that these reflect differential land divisions.
- 6.5 The ditch was infilled with a similar homogenous deposit of light grey-brown silt-clay that produced no datable material. Leeching of natural yellowish-grey clay and silt was observed within both sondages, suggesting that the ditched boundary may have been a hedge or small tree line. Whilst no datable material was recovered from either fill, map regression indicates that the boundaries were put in place in or around the time of the Ordnance Survey c.1901 (figure 4).

Field Boundary [0011] (Figs 2 and 3)

- 6.6 A parallel north by south aligned field boundary, [0011] was identified c.20m to the west of [0003 & 0009]. This measured a comparable c.1m in width and 0.48m in depth, with an irregular U-shaped profile that was infilled by a deposit of firm dark grey clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. Likewise, this feature appears on the c.1901 OS mapping, and was not in place before 1889. The two boundaries are likely contemporary modern land divisions. The date of their removal is unknown but may coincide with the clearing of an adjacent plot of land known as the Pickle Wood, occurring around 1958.

Undated (Figs 2 and 3)

Ditch/ Elongated pit [0007]

- 6.7 A short, sinuous ditch like feature was identified in plan towards the southeastern edge of the site boundary, measuring c.4.4m in length and 0.8m in width (plate 4). Excavation revealed an irregular rounded profile at a depth of c.0.24m, which had been infilled by a homogenous deposit of mid grey-brown silty clay (0008) that contained a moderate density of charcoal, but which yielded no other datable material. The date and function of the feature remains unclear, but it is possible that its semi-crescent moon shape and irregular base may better represent a tree throw.

Pits [0001 & 0005]

- 6.8 Two further pits were identified to the north-east and east of the site boundary. Each appeared sub-oval in plan, measuring c.1-1.2m in length along the long-axis. Pit [0001], identified to the north was revealed to have a shallow profile which formed a wide-U, at a depth of c.0.2m (plate 5). This was filled by a deposit of sterile light grey silt-clay, interpreted as a naturally formed hollow.
- 6.8 Identified c.20m south-east of [0001], pit [0005] was revealed to have an irregularly sloping base with a V-shaped profile, which contained a charcoal rich fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (0006). No datable material was recovered and its function remains unclear, however the irregularity in form and profile may suggest a burned tree hollow (plate 6).

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 An approximate 3 hectare area of the Finningley Quarry Phase 29 extension was stripped under constant archaeological supervision. This was conducted in line with the proposed methodology (Davies 2014), and in consideration of the 'low potential' for surviving archaeological remains as highlighted by the earlier DBA (Elliott, Platt and Webb 2013).
- 7.2 Excavation revealed a low density of archaeological remains, including two recent field boundaries which may have been removed around 1958 as part of the adjacent woodland clearance in the area of Pickle Wood, identified by OS mapping. Map regression suggests that the boundaries were not in place before 1889, and may represent one of a number of varied plantations which once enclosed the site on all sides. No other cultural material was retrieved from either of the boundaries.
- 7.3 The watching brief has established the low potential of the site to contain features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance, most of which relate to modern land divisions and undated but morphologically similar pit like features, most likely the result of tree clearance.
- 7.4 This relative dearth of archaeological remains suggest that the land was not closely managed or occupied, and may have retained a more rural scrubland character until the relatively recent agricultural development of the site in the early 20th century, coinciding with the construction of two temporary field boundaries, which probably took the form of small hedge or tree lines (Fig 4)

8 Bibliography

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Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Framework Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government; London.

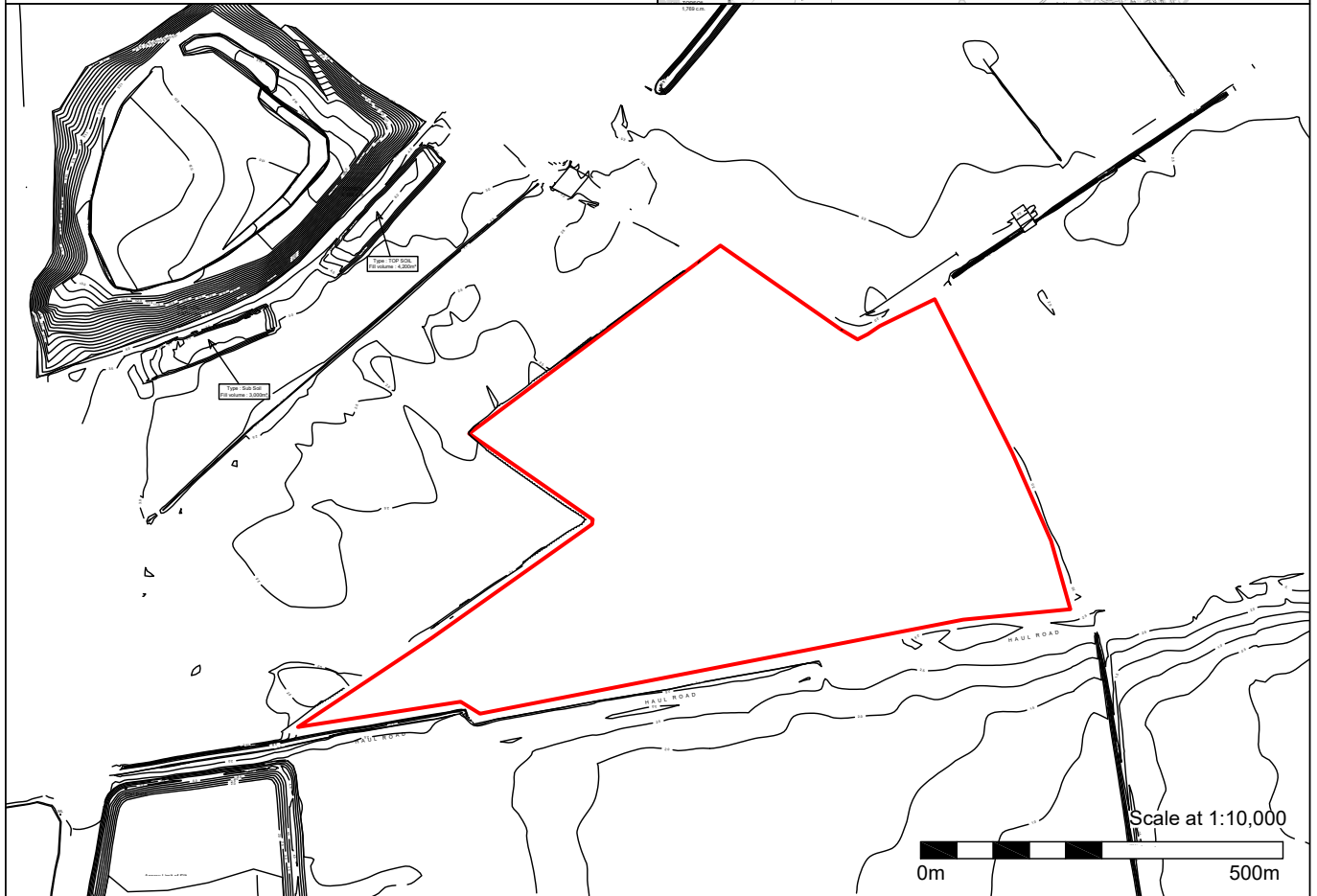
Elliott, L., Platt, L & Webb, P. 2013. *Finningley Quarry Extension. (Phase 25, 26, 27, 29 & 30) Finningley, South Yorkshire and Mission, Nottinghamshire. An archaeological desktop assessment for Larfarge Aggregates Ltd*. Trent & Peak Archaeology unpublished report

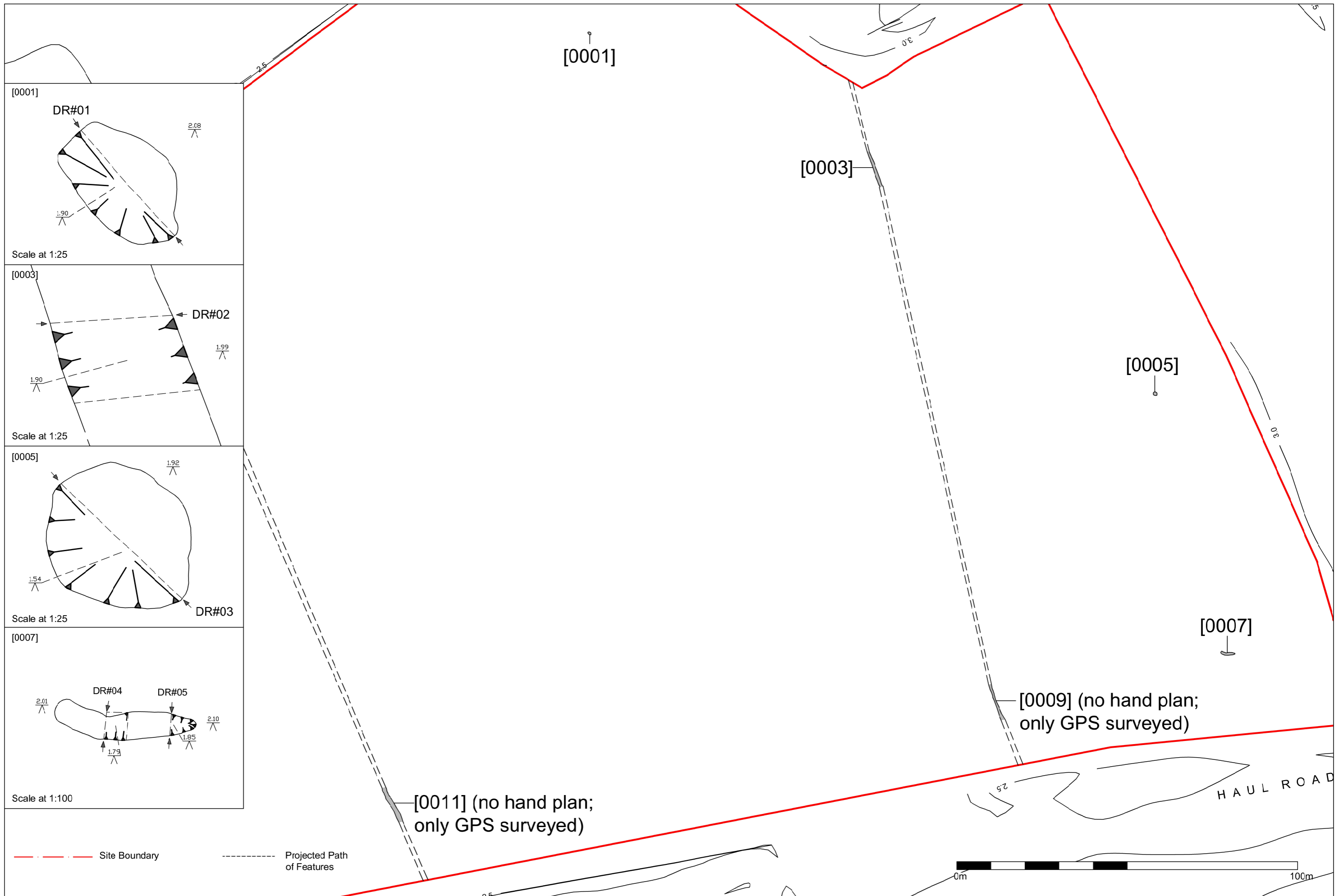
Johnson, P. 2014. *Finningley Quarry Extension Phase 26, Finningley, South Yorkshire: Report on geophysical and fieldwalking surveys conducted in October 2013-March 2014*. Trent & Peak unpublished report.


9 Context Register

Context	Area	Category	Description	Date
0001	29	Cut	Cut of pit, shallow, sub-circular.	Undated
0002	29	Fill	Fill of [0001] Firm light grey silt-clay mix.	Undated
0003	29	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned. Shallow sides, mostly flat base.	Undated
0004	29	Fill	Of [0003] Light greyish-brown clay	Undated/ Modern
0005	29	Cut	Cut of pit, asymmetrical sides, irregular base. Probable tree throw.	Undated
0006	29	Fill	Mid-brownish-yellow clay fill, with occasional charcoal flecks, of [0005]	Undated
0007	29	Cut	Small ditch/ elongated pit? Aligned NW-SE. Steep sides, rounded base.	Undated
0008	29	Fill	Of [0007]; light-mid yellowish-grey clay/silt	Undated
0009	29	Cut	Ditch, N-S aligned. Same as [0003]. Steep sides, rounded base.	Undated/ Modern?
0010	29	Fill	Of [0009]; Light greyish-brown clay with occasional sub-rounded stones.	Undated/ Modern?
0011	29	Cut	Ditch, aligned N-S, running parallel to [0003]/[0009].	Undated/ Modern
0012	29	Fill	Of ditch [0011]; firm dark grey clay with moderate charcoal inclusions.	Undated/ Modern
0013	29	Layer	Natural clay and silt.	Undated
0014	29	Layer	Topsoil Grey/brown silt clay; depth c.0.3m	Modern

10 Figures

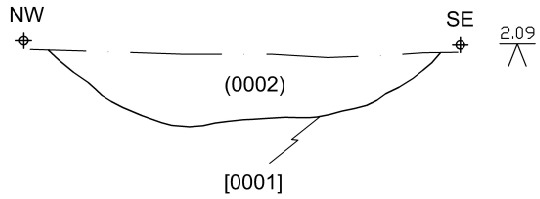




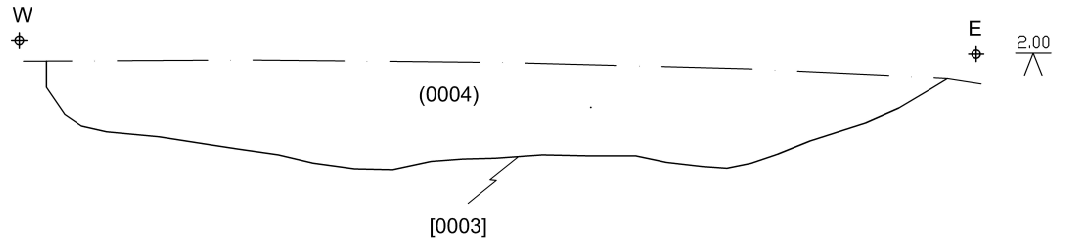

Figure 02 - Site Plan
FME9 - Fimmingley Quarry

Scale at A3 - 1:1000
 Drawn by Norma Oldfield

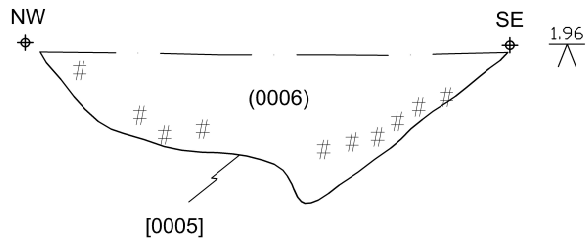
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South West Facing Section of [0001]



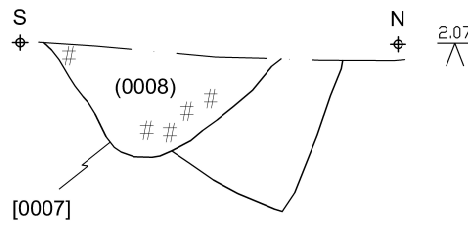
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South Facing Section of [0003]



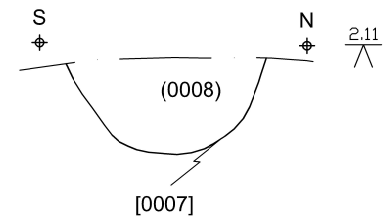
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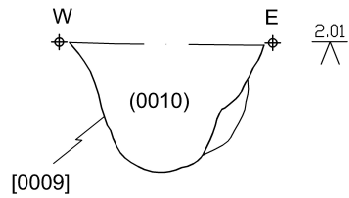
Dr#04
East Facing Section of [0007]



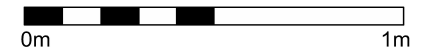
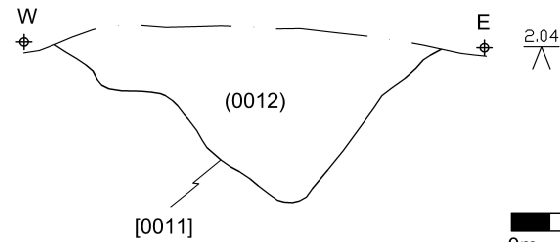
Dr#05
East Facing Section of [0007]




Dr#06
South Facing Section of [0009]



Dr#07
South Facing Section of [0011]






 Figure 04 - 1901 Historic Map with Site Location and Features
 FME9 - Finningley Quarry

Scale at A3 - 1:8000
 Drawn by NO

11 Plates



Plate 1: Overview of the stripped area around Finningley Phase 29



Plate 2: Post-ex image of slot [0003] through eastern north by south field boundary. Looking north; Scale 1m.



Plate 3: Post-ex image of slot [0009] through eastern north by south field boundary. Looking north north-east; Scale 1m.



Plate 4: "Terminus" of a probable elongated pit [0007] south-east facing section. Looking north; Scale 1m.



Plate 5: Post-ex slot through a probable elongated pit [0007]; south-east facing section. Looking north-east; Scale 1m.



Plate 6: Post-ex image of pit [0001]; south facing section. Looking north-west; Scale 1m.



Plate 7: Post-ex image of pit [0005]; south-west facing section. Looking north; Scale 1m.

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
Context register	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	14
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	69
Site drawings	Plan and section of site	11
<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
Find	Description	Number
Nil	Nil	0

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB.

Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-324574

Project details

Project name	FINNINGLEY QUARRY PHASE 29
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology (and TPA) were contracted on behalf of Lafarge Tarmac to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Phase 29 of the proposed Finningley Quarry extension, South Yorkshire. The site is centred on NGR SK 69120 99151 at a height of c.2m OD. Prior to this evaluation a geophysical survey of the area was carried out which identified the presence of potentially significant buried archaeological features spread across adjacent fields within the Phase 26 extension (Johnson 2014). These potential features were then resolved by targeted investigation through trial trenching, which did not reveal the presence of significant archaeological finds features or deposits. Topsoil and subsoil removal was monitored along an approximate 3-hectare wedge of land located south-east of the current permitted quarry boundary between 25th May - 26th June 2018. Groundworks revealed the presence of two former field boundaries aligned north by south which probably relate to an earlier 20th century division of land for plantations. Ordnance Survey mapping show the field boundaries in place by c.1901, which appear to have been removed around 1958, during a period of spatial reorganisation which saw the clearance of the nearby Pickle Wood woodland. A series of pits and probable tree throws were also identified, and whilst undated, likely relate to a contemporary period of land clearance. With the exception of modern field boundaries, no archaeological features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief
Project dates	Start: 25-05-2018 End: 26-06-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	FME9 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOUTH YORKSHIRE DONCASTER FINNINGLEY FINNINGLEY QUARRY
Postcode	DN9 3DW
Study area	3 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 468344 398229 52.953422336469 -1.302806862878 52 57 12 N 001 18 10 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Project brief originator Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Project design originator Dr. Gareth Davies
 Project director/manager Edmund Taylor
 Project supervisor Carmen Dahlke
 Project supervisor Andy Douthwaite
 Project supervisor Pete Watkin
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Tarmac

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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