

**NORMANTON QUARRY,
NORMANTON,
WEST YORKSHIRE**

**WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
CP. No10884
21/08/2015**



archaeology

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Naylor Industries PLC, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Normanton Quarry, Normanton, West Yorkshire (NGR 3750 2250). The site has previously been extensively disturbed because of clay extraction; however, two areas on the eastern and southern site boundary remain undisturbed. The potential for archaeological remains being undisturbed remains low, however, but because of the extent of the site a strip, map and record on the undisturbed area will identify if any archaeological features may remain.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 14/01/2015. The watching brief monitored the excavation of topsoil from an area of ground previously undisturbed by clay extraction. No archaeological remains were noted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Andy Manning with Naylor Industries PLC, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Rebecca Remmer, of West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, for all their assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to Robert Braithwaite of Braithwaite Excavations, and all staff at Normanton Quarry, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Ed Johnson. The report was written by Ed Johnson and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Nick Daffern, Senior Project Manager for WAA. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-ex Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In January 2015, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were invited by Naylor Industries PLC, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Normanton Quarry, Normanton, West Yorkshire (NGR 3750 2250; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with clay extraction on the site of Normanton Quarry. A previous desk-based assessment had also been produced by Cat Peters (Peters, 2014), which identified a number of historic structures and features within the development area that were likely to be impacted by the proposed development. As a result, Rebecca Remmer Senior Archaeologist of West Yorkshire Archaeology Service requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with clay extraction at Normanton Quarry had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved professional guidelines (CifA 2014), and were consistent with the specification provided by WAA (Daffern, 2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Naylor Industries PLC, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Rebecca Remmer of West Yorkshire Archaeology Services, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2014), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital format.
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) standards.

2.2.3 An area of approximately 0.6 hectares was stripped of soil, which was stored in storage area for later restoration purposes. The trenches formed a square approximated to 60m x 10m. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 14/1/2015. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Wakefield, West Yorkshire, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA15, NQY-A, CP10884/15.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, and West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Normanton Quarry lies within the undulating farmland of West Yorkshire west of Wakefield and east of Pontefract. The development is situated to the west of Normanton and north of Newland Lane with the quarry site covering approximately 5.5 hectares.
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology comprises Pennine Middle Coal Measure Formation consisting of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone and formed approximately 309 312 million years ago. (BGS, 2015)

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* A bronze age henge is thought to have existed along with probable iron age earthworks to the north-west and north-east of site respectively. Prehistoric pits along with post holes and gullies were encountered during excavations to the south-west of the site prior to the opening of St. John's opencast site.
- 3.2.3 *Roman:* It is believed that there may have been a roman encampment by the site of Normanton railway station however more tangible evidence for roman activity comes from the excavation of two probable Roman ditches excavated within the vicinity of Newland Hall. Other Romano-British ditches and numerous finds of Romano-British material from the grounds of the hall were also located on excavations at the site of St. John's Opencast.
- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* Normanton is recorded in the Domesday book of 1086 as an established settlement during the early medieval period with this continuing into the later medieval periods. The nearby Newland Hall was a preceptor of the Knights Templar and then later the Knights Hospitaller.
- 3.2.5 *Post-medieval and Modern:* Normanton was heavily affected by the industrial revolution and the arrival of trains on the Manchester- Leeds line in 1840. Normanton became a hub for several rail lines with a growing community based around this. Later with the arrival of mining brought into the area due to the growing export trade Normanton's population grew to approximately 15,000. A number of the buildings within a 1km vicinity are from this period of expansion by 1906 mining and the railways accounted for 70% of employment in Normanton with other linked employers such as Normanton Brickworks also emerging.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 No archaeological work is known to have been undertaken within the site boundary of Normanton quarry.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in 1 phase. This was completed on the 14/1/15 and was related to the stripping of topsoil on the eastern boundary of the site.

4.2 TOPSOIL STRIP

4.2.1 The Watching Brief covered 0.6 hectares of the eastern boundary of the site and was associated with the stripping of topsoil from this area

4.2.2 The topsoil was stripped by a 360 excavator. The topsoil (**100**) comprised of a mid brown silty clay mix with some infrequent inclusions of modern brick, tile and glass. It was present across the site up to a depth of 0.8m in areas. No archaeological features were noted.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 No archaeological finds of note were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The site was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision, no archaeological remains were noted.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

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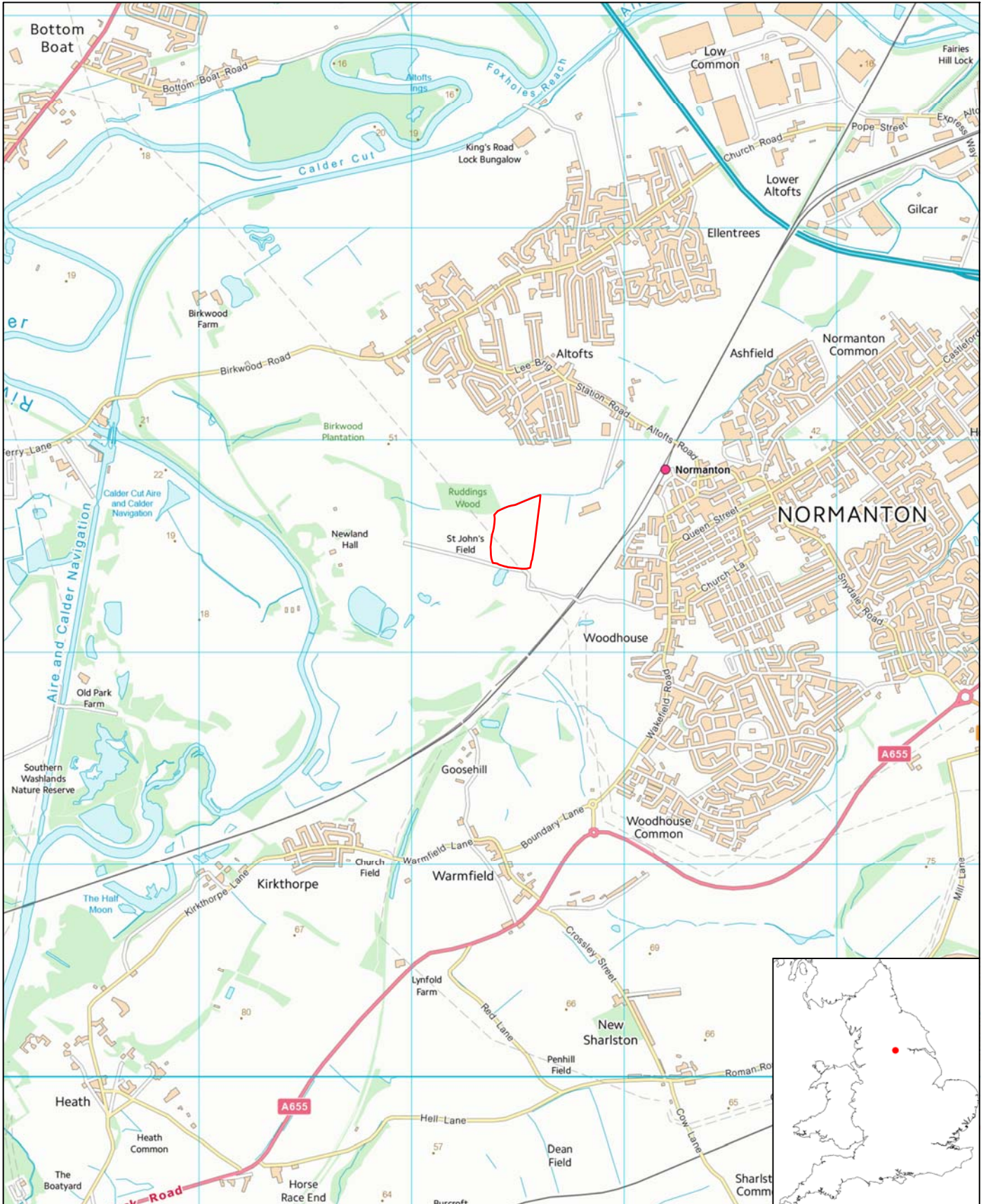
NPPF (2012) *National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning*. Department for Communities and Local Government

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES






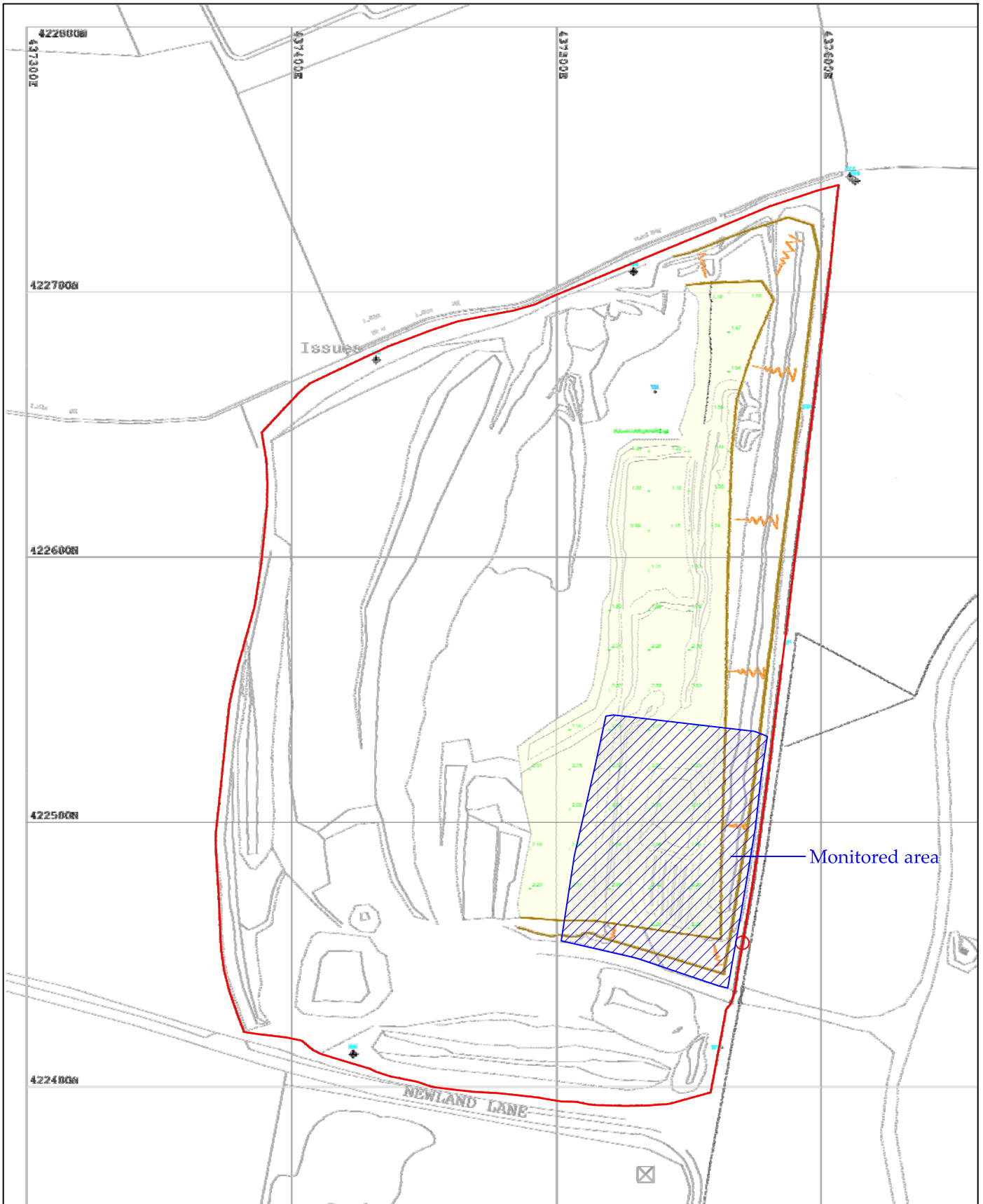
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Normanton Quarry, Normanton, West Yorkshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10884</p> <p>CLIENT: Naylor Industries PLC</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Normanton Quarry, Normanton, West Yorkshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10884</p> <p>CLIENT: Naylor Industries PLC</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site boundary</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Location of watching brief.