



global environmental solutions

Huntsmans Quarry, Naunton, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Monitoring of Soil Strip

2010 - 12

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April 2012



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings from several periods of archaeological monitoring after topsoil stripping at Huntsman Quarry, Naunton, Gloucestershire. The quarry received consent for extension to extraction of hard stone in 2006, and an archaeological condition attached to that consent required monitoring of each phase of topsoil stripping. Initial management of the archaeological programme was undertaken by Entec, who undertook monitoring from 2002. This was followed by SLR Consulting who conducted monitoring on four subsequent phases, in 2010, 2011 and twice in 2012.

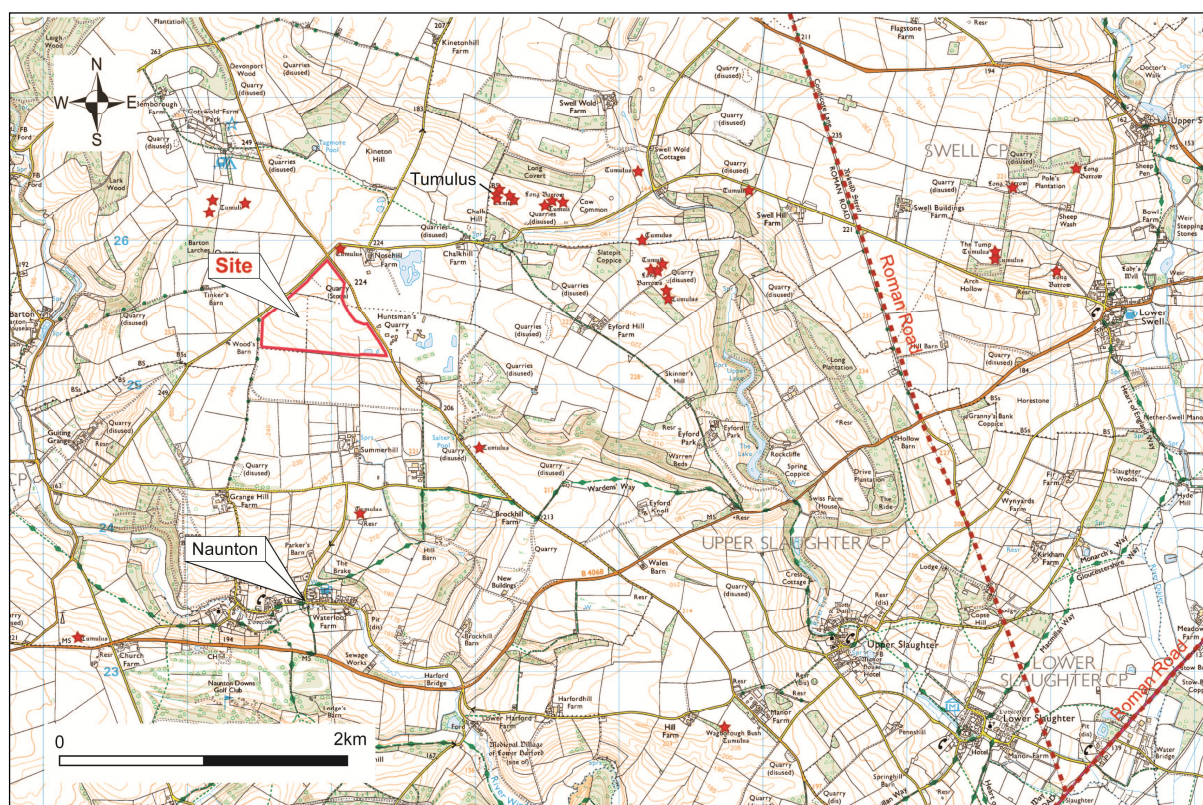
1.1 Location, geology and topography

The site lies within the limestone formation of the Great Oolite Group laid down in the Middle Jurassic era. The topography is gently undulating with drainage to the southeast along a small tributary valley for the River Eye. The height rises from 208m AOD in the southeast of the site, to 238m AOD in the west.

1.2 Historical location

The site lies within a landscape dominated by Bronze Age burial monuments, visible as barrows along the crest of the ridge, marked as red stars on Figure 1. Ancient routes probably existed as precursors for the existing system of small roads and paths running through the quarry, and around its northern edge, but the focus of the Roman road network appears to have been further east. Part of the site lies in Naunton parish, with Upper Slaughter to the east and Kington to the north.

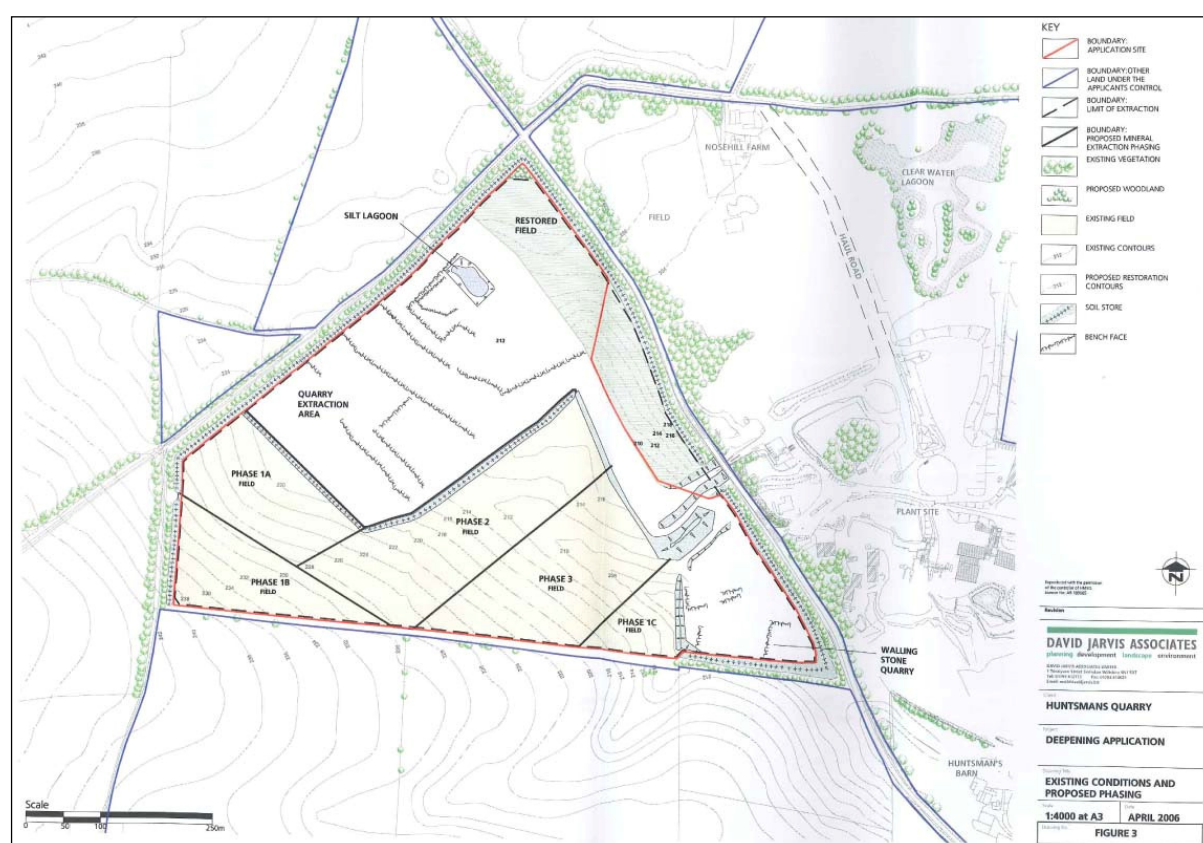
Figure 1
Location map showing consented extraction area in relation to Bronze Age barrows



1.3 Planning background

Extension to the existing hard rock quarry was consented in 2006, and a phased approach towards extraction was proposed (Figure 2). Although this has been followed in general terms, operational needs have led to some alteration of the sequence of phases as new cells were required to service the demands of the market place.

**Figure 2
Consented scheme**



1.4 Previous phases of monitoring

The 2009 monitoring was undertaken by Entec and their report is reproduced below.

In addition to an overall inspection of the site, a random sample of areas were hand cleaned. No archaeological features were identified through either process. As in previous inspections (2002 2004 and 2007), there was evidence of plough damage to the surface of the underlying limestone.

Although no archaeological features were identified, a small scatter of lithics (8 items in all) was recovered. Some of these are apparently Mesolithic but the scatter possibly represents a variety of periods. The scatter consists of a microlith core, a small broken blade displaying possibly use-wear, a notched scraper displaying some retouch and a number of debitage/cortex removal pieces. None of these pieces were recovered in situ, all being surface finds. They were not felt to represent a spatially or temporally coherent grouping.

Each piece was photographed in the position it was found and a GPS point taken (measured with a Garmin GPSmap 60Cx with an accuracy approximately in the range of +/- 5m).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The strip back area was zigzag traversed in 2m intervals. Finds were flagged and a handheld GPS was used to log the location. The spoil heap surrounding the site was scanned for artefacts and finds located were bagged and recorded as un-stratified. The strip-back area was plotted onto an OS survey map. Context sheets were filled out for each deposit located within the strip-back area. Photographs of the site were taken with a high resolution digital camera.

3.0 2010 INSPECTION

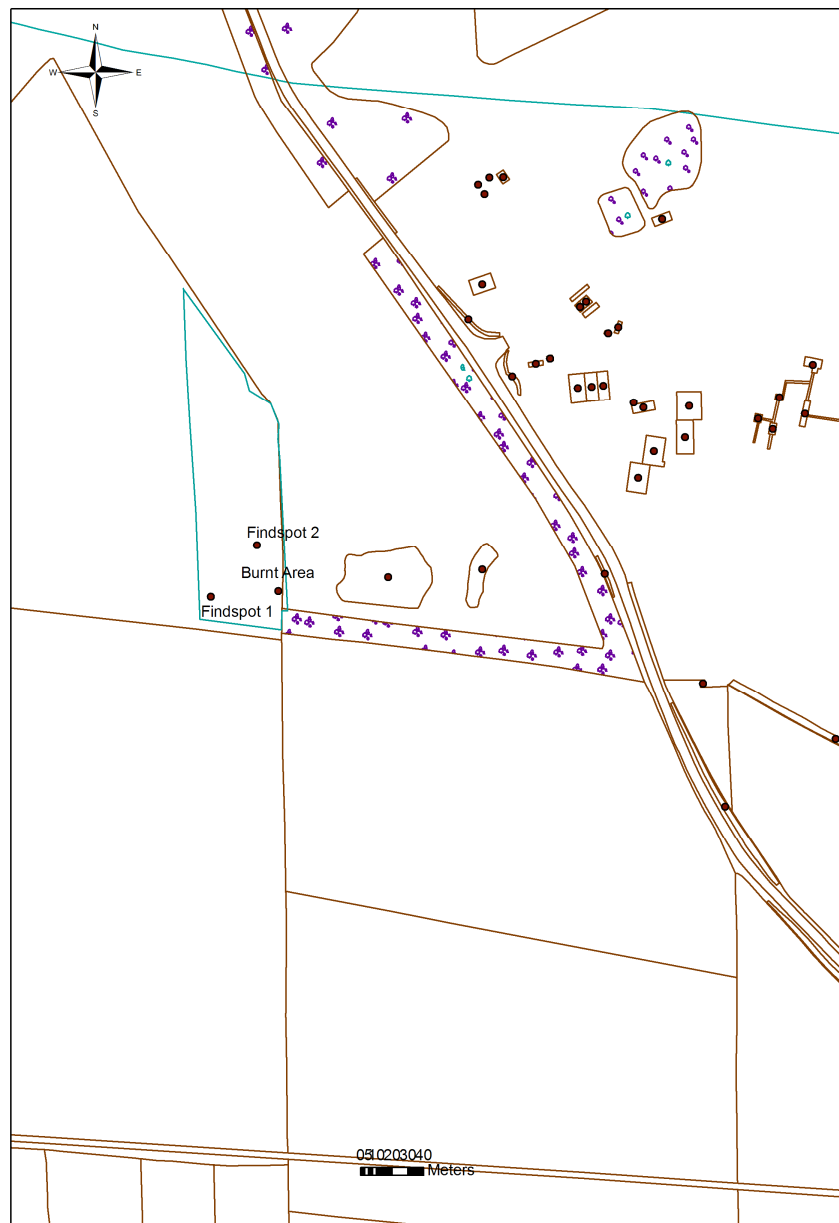
On the 27th May 2010 a systematic fieldwalking survey was conducted in a zigzag pattern across the surface that had been stripped of topsoil more than two weeks previously (Figure 3). This topsoil was originally c.400mm thick and overlay two types of sub-soil: a light brown clay with occasional limestone up to 300mm in thickness in undulating depressions, and a thinner deposit of slightly more yellow clay which was restricted to the rises in sub-surface topography.

Figure 3
2010 stripped area looking northeast



In summary two worked flint flakes were found, as well as a small patch of burning (1.5 x 0.3 x <0.04m) located on an old field boundary (Figure 4), and sealed by the ploughsoil. These finds were located by GPS and their grid coordinates referenced to NGR are also attached. A photograph of this feature and of general views of the stripped surface are also attached.

Figure 4
Area monitored and finds recorded 2010



Worked flake (find-spot 1):

Worked flake, measuring 26 x 19mm, translucent to blue lustre body with creamy cortex on one edge. Bulb of percussion on one side with clear striking edge (secondary shell fracture on opposite edge). Possible secondary flaking but also upper section (dorsal) belonging to a long blade with cutting edge on one side. Damage to blade(?) on non-cortex edge. Undetermined period.

Worked Flake (find-spot 2)

Worked flake, measuring 23 x 16mm, opaque creamy mottled lustre body cortex on one edge, possible blade on the opposite side; secondary worked flint. Broken at distal end and therefore may represent a long blade. Bulb of percussion at dorsal end, some secondary damage on the edges. Undetermined period but could date from the Neolithic.

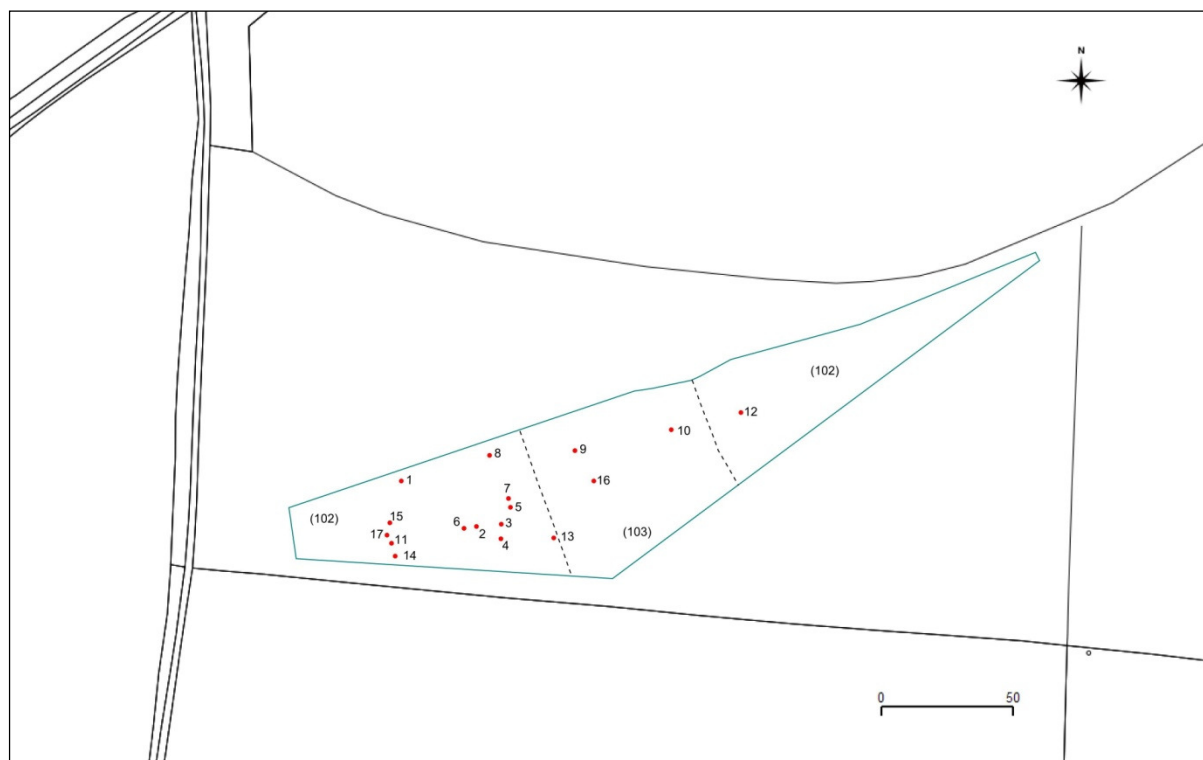
4.0 2011 INSPECTION

No features were located during the course of the walkover survey. The topsoil strip revealed that the topsoil (101) and subsoil (102), overlying the natural limestone (103) were particularly thin and shallow and in places the removal of the overlying cultivation soil was almost complete. The presence of re-deposited limestone within the topsoil and subsoil suggests ploughing/ cultivation had already been disturbing the underlying geology in this area (Figure 5 and Table 1).

Figure 5
2011 stripped area and surrounding undulating landscape looking northeast



Figure 6
Area monitored and finds recorded 2011



Eleven pieces of flint were located (Figure 6 and Table 2), with ten of these being from the strip-back area and one piece being located in the strip-back spoil heap. Most of these flints were situated around the crest of the hill at the NW, with no flints being found in the SW part of the strip. The flints appear from initial inspection to be predominately flakes/ débitage or scrapers. One piece of pot was located in the strip-back area as well as two pieces of quartz, which judging by other quartz inclusions may be natural, although there may be a small possibility of importation. Two other stones, appearing to be natural iron rich, were also located.

Table 1
Context Register

Context No.	Description
101	Loosely compacted mid-brown silty clay sand with occasional limestone inclusions. Dimensions: Covers all of strip back area x 0.15- 0.25m thick. Overlies 102.
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Topsoil/ cultivation soil</i>
102	Loosely to moderately compacted brownish red clayey sand with moderate limestone inclusions. Occasional worked flint, occasional pot (post medieval and prehistoric (x 1). Dimensions: Covers all of strip-back area x 0.10 – 0.20m. Underlies (101). Overlies (103).
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Cultivated sub-soil</i>
103	Loosely to moderately compacted limestone. Dimensions: Covers entire of strip back area x >0.10m thick. Underlies (102).
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Natural eroded limestone</i>

Table 2
Finds recorded and plotted on Figure 6

X	Y	Find No. (See map)	Find Tag.	Bag	Type of Find
411578	225292	1	Flint 1		Scraper/ flake
411604	225275	2	Bullet 1		NA
411613	225275	3	Flint 2		Flake
411613	225270	4	Flint 3		Flake/ débitage?
411616	225281	5	Flint 4		Scraper/ Flake
411600	225274	6	Iron stone/nugget		Probably natural
411616	225284	7	Flint 5		Flake/ débitage
411610	225300	8	Flint 6		Un-worked?
411640	225300	9	Flint 7		Flake
411674	225305	10	Flint 8		Flake
411574	225270	11	Quartz pebble		Not retained
411699	225311	12	Quartz pebble		Not retained
411631	225270	13	Flint 9		Scraper?
411575	225265	14	Bullet 2		NA
411574	225278	15	Iron stone/nugget		Probably natural
411646	225289	16	Pot 1		Prehistoric?
411572	225273	17	Flint 10		Scraper?
NA	NA	18	Flint 11		Flake/ débitage?

5.0 2012 INSPECTION

5.1 February 2012 inspection

Conditions for the walkover survey were poor with frozen ground and patches of snow (Figure 7).

No features were located during the course of the walkover survey. The topsoil strip revealed that the topsoil (101) and subsoil (102), overlying the natural limestone (103) were particularly thin and shallow and in places the removal of the overlying cultivation soil was almost complete. The presence of re-deposited limestone within the topsoil and subsoil suggests ploughing/ cultivation had already been disturbing the underlying geology in this area (Table 3).

Figure 7
Photograph of February 2012 stripped area looking northeast



Eight pieces of flint were located (Figure 8 and Table 4), with all eight of these being from the strip-back area with no flint being found in the spoil heap. Most of these flints were situated around the crest of the hill at the NE, with no flints being found in the SW part of the strip. The flints appear from initial inspection to be predominately flakes/ débitage. No other finds were located in the strip-back area.

Figure 8
Area monitored and finds recorded February 2012

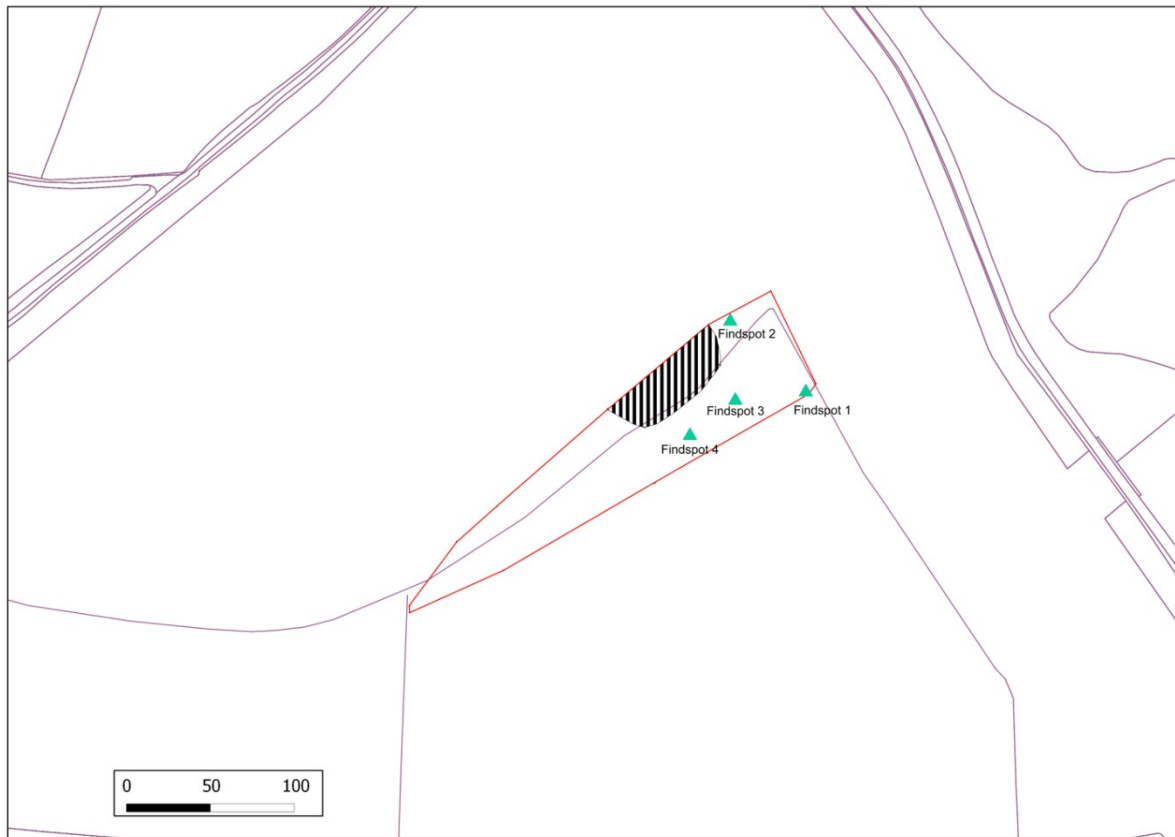


Table 3
Context register

Context No.	Description
101	Loosely compacted mid-brown silty clay sand with occasional limestone inclusions. Dimensions: Covers all of strip back area x 0.15- 0.25m thick. Overlies 102.
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Topsoil/ cultivation soil</i>
102	Loosely to moderately compacted brownish red clayey silt with moderate limestone inclusions. Occasional flint flake inclusions. Dimensions: Covers all of strip-back area x 0.10 – 0.20m. Underlies (101). Overlies (103).
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Cultivated sub-soil</i>
103	Loosely to moderately compacted limestone. Dimensions: Covers entire of strip back area x >0.10m thick. Underlies (102).
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Natural eroded limestone</i>

Table 4
Finds recorded and plotted on Figure 8

X	Y	Find Tag.	Bag	Type of Find
412068	225503	1		3 x flint flakes
412023	225545	2		1 x flint flake
412026	225498	3		1 x flint flake
411999	225477	4		3 x flint flakes

5.2 2012 April inspection

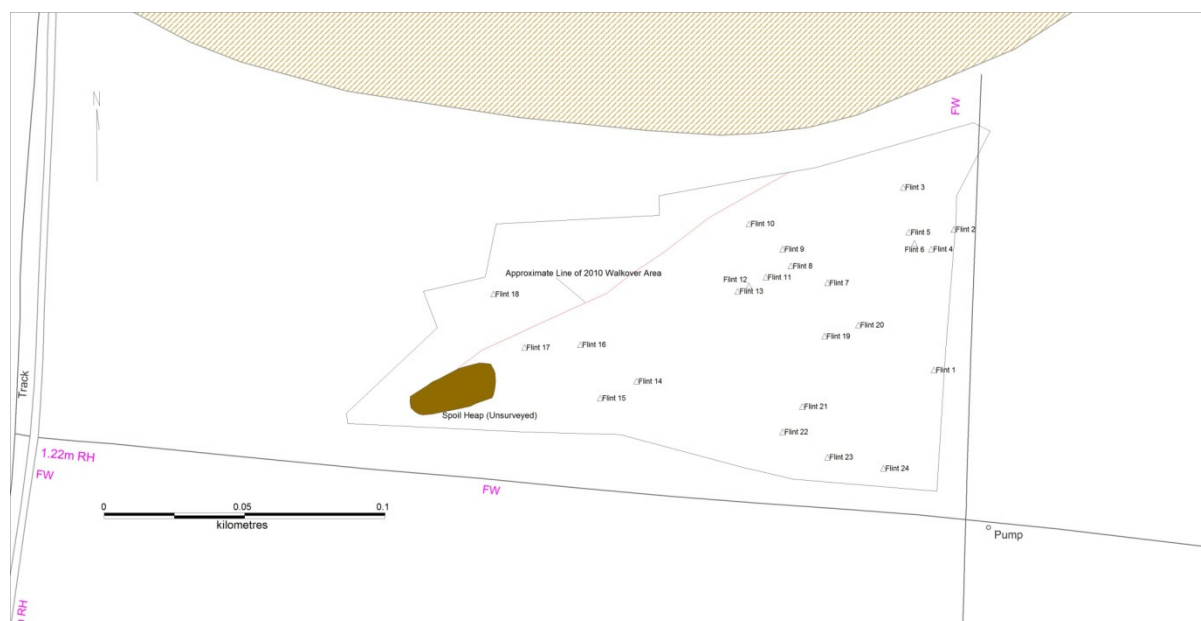
Conditions for the walkover survey were cold with outbursts of rain but generally good with clear visibility. In addition the shorter time span between the strip-back occurring and the walkover survey being conducted seems to have potentially increased the number of finds located, although the larger area walked may also have contributed to this (Table 6). The strip-back area partially incorporated the earlier walk-over area carried out in 2011. This was re-walked, and one flint was located.

Figure 9
View of stripped area April 2012 looking northeast



No features were located during the course of the walkover survey. Like earlier surveys the topsoil strip revealed that the agricultural topsoil/ plough-soil (101) and subsoil (102), overlaid the natural limestone (103) and were particularly thin and shallow (c. 0.30 – 0.40m). In places the removal of the overlying cultivation soil was almost complete. The presence of re-deposited limestone within the topsoil and subsoil suggests ploughing/ cultivation had already been disturbing the underlying geology in this area. Context (102) seems to have resulted from general bioturbation (probably relating to agricultural practise) between plough-soil (101) and natural (103) (Figure 9 and Table 5).

Figure 10
Area monitored and finds recorded April 2012



Twenty four pieces of flint were located (Table 6), with all of these being from the strip-back area with no flint being found in the spoil heap. A heavier concentration of flint was located in the eastern corner of the strip-back area, while the remaining flints seemed to be evenly distributed over the rest of the area. The flints appear from initial inspection to be predominately flakes/ débitage. One metal (Fe) nail, probably relating to post-medieval fencing/agricultural practice, but not retained.

Table 5
Context register

Context No.	Description
101	Loosely compacted mid-brown silty clay sand with occasional limestone inclusions. Dimensions: Covers all of strip back area x 0.15- 0.25m thick. Overlies 102.
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Topsoil/ cultivation soil</i>
102	Loosely to moderately compacted brownish red clayey silt with moderate limestone inclusions. Occasional flint flake inclusions. Dimensions: Covers all of strip-back area x 0.10 – 0.20m. Underlies (101). Overlies (103).
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Cultivated sub-soil</i>
103	Loosely to moderately compacted limestone. Dimensions: Covers entire of strip back area x >0.10m thick. Underlies (102).

<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Natural eroded limestone</i>
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Table 6
Finds recorded and plotted on Figure 9

X	Y	Find Tag.	Bag	Type of Find
411814	225277	Flint 1		Flint
411821	225327	Flint 2		" "
411803	225342	Flint 3		" "
411813	225320	Flint 4		" "
411805	225326	Flint 5		" "
411807	225322	Flint 6		" "
411776	225308	Flint 7		" "
411763	225314	Flint 8		" "
411760	225320	Flint 9		" "
411748	225329	Flint 10		" "
411754	225310	Flint 11		" "
411748	225307	Flint 12		" "
411744	225305	Flint 13		" "
411708	225273	Flint 14		" "
411695	225267	Flint 15		" "
411688	225286	Flint 16		" "
411668	225285	Flint 17		" "
411657	225304	Flint 18		" "
411775	225289	Flint 19		" "
411787	225293	Flint 20		" "
411767	225264	Flint 21		" "
411760	225255	Flint 22		" "
411776	225246	Flint 23		" "
411796	225242	Flint 24		" "

6.0 FLINT REPORT

6.1 Catalogue and description of worked flint 2010 – February 2012

This small imported flint assemblage (Table 7) contains a variety of worked pieces that appear to date from the Late Upper Palaeolithic (e.g. F15/2010-12) to the Bronze Age; not an uncommon period spread for this part of the British Isles. Based on the complex limestone geology of the immediate area, flint does not occur naturally. The flint geology comprises mainly of a creamy-white to blue opaque type. There were no clear diagnostic pieces within this assemblage except perhaps for a core and scraper (Flints F6/2010-12 & F9/2010-12). However, one must express caution as both types are found in Mesolithic and Bronze Age contexts. The remaining flints are considered to be either débitage or worked flaking; several pieces may show secondary use. This small assemblage was found on land that lies close to a series of Neolithic and Bronze Age burial-ritual monuments and it is more than probable that some form of settlement area exists within the vicinity.

Table 7
Combined flint assemblage found between 2010 and February 2012

Find No.	Quantity	Type	Discussion
F1/2010-12	1	débitage	Non-diagnostic naturally smooth patinated creamy white to blue worked (?) flake with possible retouched edge; cortex on upper edge.
F2/2010-12	1	flake	Grey to dark grey slightly mottled flake with cortex on one side. Bulb of percussion at proximal end with missing point. Possible worked blade on lateral edge.
F3/2010-12	1	flake	Dark grey to black, slightly translucent worked flake with bulb of percussion at distal end; cortex area at proximal end. Evidence of dorsal ridges down one face; possible worked blade on lateral edge.
F4/2010-12	1	flake	Creamy blue-white lustre worked flake, possibly broken/damaged at distal end; or platform abrasion scarring. Dorsal ridges on one face, whilst ventral section of a bulb of percussion on the ventral face.
F5/2010-12	1	Core?	Dark creamy to grey-blue mottled piece with cortex surface at distal end. Large flaking scars on one face forming dorsal ridges and scars. On reverse face is irregular scarring, possibly the result of plough damage.
F6/2010-12	1	Core	Creamy orange to brown cherty flint with a series of large dorsal ridges and scars running around the core's girth. Probable striking platform at distal end with platform abrasions around upper edge; damage to proximal end. Date range: Mesolithic to Bronze Age.
F7/2010-12	1	débitage	Mottled creamy blue flake with 50% surface as cortex. Bulb of percussion at distal end with percussion scar on one edge.
F8/2010-12	1	Natural flake	Patinated creamy blue to black flint piece.
F9/2010-12	1	Scraper	Grey to olive green flint piece with dorsal ridging and scarring around one face. Ventral face comprises cortex surface with possible working on one edge. Possible diagnostic piece, date range: Mesolithic to Bronze Age; type: thumb-nail scraper.
F10/2010-12	1	Scraper?	Creamy white to blue flake with clear worked edges along one side; cortex on other edge. At distal end is clear working that forms a scraper edge. Irregular dorsal ridges and scarring on one

			face and bulb of percussion of smooth ventral face. Non-diagnostic.
F11/2010-12	1	Natural flake	Patinated green to cream mottle flake.
F12/2010-12	1	flake	Translucent grey to black flint flake with cortex surface on one edge; irregular dorsal ridges and scars on upper face; bulb of percussion at distal end on smooth ventral face. Possible blade on lateral edge.
F13/2010-12	3	chips	Three patinated chips/flakes, each showing evidence of working. One piece probably forms the distal end of a small bi-facial blade; evidence of a bulb of percussion on the smooth ventral face whilst dorsal ridges and flaking scars on upper face. Point/upper section missing; [non- diagnostic] piece possibly Mesolithic.
F14/2010-12	1	débitage	White patinated chunky flake with evidence of working on one side (in the form of dorsal ridging).
F15/2010-12	1	worked flake	Patinated worked flake with evidence of a bulb of percussion on the smooth ventral face and dorsal ridges and flaking scars on upper face. Broken at proximal end, whilst at distal end, dorsal ridges extend to a [broken] point. Upper section has longitudinal ridge, whilst of ventral surface there are a series of pressure ridges. Piece may form the upper section of a diagnostic long blade; probably early prehistoric.
F16/2010-12	3	débitage	Three worked pieces, two of which are patinated, the other blue to grey mottled with one edge containing cortex.

6.2 Catalogue and description of worked flint April 2012

This small lithic assemblage (Table 8) can be divided mainly into two colour/lustre types: creamy opaque and blue mottled opaque pieces (or variants of the two). It is probable that this material has been imported as no natural flint occurs within the vicinity. In addition, those pieces that are considered diagnostic date to either the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods; the author of this report could not detect any clear Bronze Age material. Of those flints that are regarded as being tools (diagnostic or otherwise), the majority were identified as blade sections that had been probably broken due to rolling or plough damage. Also present and Mesolithic in date was several cores - F11/04.12 & F24/04.12 (Figure 11). The flaking scars from these two pieces clearly show the production of microlithic blades.

The presence of the two flint types could indicate that this part of the Huntsman's Quarry landscape was being utilised specifically by advanced hunter/fisher/gatherers, and later by agriculturists. However, one should note that both assemblages (including the 2010-12 assemblage) are too small to substantiate this scenario.

Table 8
Flint catalogue for April 2012

Find No.	Quantity	Type	Discussion
F1/04.12	1	flake?	Creamy-white opaque possible flake with probable bulb of percussion on one face.
F2/04.12	1	flake	Grey brown semi-translucent piece with cortex covering one face; other face has bulb of percussion extending to platform.
F3/04.12	1	blade section	Light grey to brown dorsal section of a broken blade (fractured on three edges). Clear worked face with pressure flaking; rear face has a bulb of percussion and platform on dorsal edge.
F4/04.12	1	débitage	Creamy-white to grey opaque piece with irregular pressure flaking on worked face; bulb of percussion of rear face.
F5/04.12	1	blade section	Creamy-white-blue/grey mottled piece forming the central section of a bi-facial blade that has clear retouch along one edge and central longitudinal ridge on one face. Possible Mesolithic/Neolithic in date.
F6/04.12	1	blade section	Creamy-white opaque piece that represents the probable central section of a long blade. No evidence of re-working but with central longitudinal ridge. Also broken on one of the blade edges; no bulb of percussion of rear face. Possibly Mesolithic/Neolithic in date.
F7/04.12	1	débitage?	Dark blue mottled piece with eroded pressure flaking on one face. On the same face is an extensive cortex. Possible bulb of percussion of rear face.
F8/04.12	2	flake and blade section	Two creamy white to light grey-blue pieces, one forming a piece of débitage with cortex on worked face along with pressure flaking and flake scarring. The other piece forms the lower section of a blade with central longitudinal ridge and platform at proximal end.
F9/04.12	1	bladelet?	Creamy-white opaque worked piece with tiny flaking scars along worked face; upper section once forming a point is missing; bulb of percussion on rear face. One edge may form a bladed edge. Diagnostic: Mesolithic in date.
F10/04.12	1	débitage?	Light blue to grey piece with probable natural scarring or irregular pressure flaking on worked face; possible bulb of percussion on rear face.
F11/04.12	1	core	Blue-mottled piece with missing platform but with longitudinal ridges forming flaking scars that continues to distal end; smooth un-worked forming rear face. Possible diagnostic piece dating to Mesolithic
F12/04.12	1	blade section	Creamy white to grey-brown broken proximal blade section with a single longitudinal ridge running down the centre; evidence of possible retouching along both blade edges. Piece probably dating to the Neolithic.
F13/04.12	1	flake	Creamy-white opaque piece from a curvilinear flake with bulb of percussion on one face and irregular scarring along the other.
F14/04.12	1	débitage	White to blue mottled piece with clear worked face.
F15/04.12	1	blade	Grey to blue mottled piece forming the upper section of a bi-facial blade/point. Clear single longitudinal ridge running down the centre the worked face; point at distal end contains cortex – probably forming a platform. Mesolithic/Neolithic in date.

F16/04.12	1	débitage?	Blue-mottled to white piece with cortex or one face. No clear working but possible bulb of percussion on rear face.
F17/04.12	1	débitage	Dark blue/grey piece with cortex on one side and a bulb of percussion on one face.
F18/04.12	1	core?	Creamy-white opaque piece with possible worked scaring on all faces; however, no clear flaking scars and probable later [rolled] flaking on one face. Date: indeterminable.
F19/04.12	1	flake	Light blue/gray mottled piece with longitudinal ridges and flaking scars along worked face; bulb of percussion on rear face.
F20/04.12	1	débitage	Creamy-white blue veined opaque piece with probable natural scaring on one face. No obvious scaring created through human agency though but possible bulb of percussion of one face.
F21/04.12	1	natural	Creamy-white opaque piece with cortex on one face. No obvious scaring created through human agency.
F22/04.12	1	natural?	Blue/grey mottled piece with cortex present on two ends (piece represents the central section of a flint nodule). No obvious scaring created through human agency.
F23/04.12	1	natural?	Creamy-white opaque piece with two small exposed cortex areas. No obvious scaring created through human agency.
F24/04.12	1	core	Creamy white opaque piece with cortex covering most of the worked face, whilst a bulb of percussion on rear face. On the worked are a series of flaking scars that extend from a platform and along one edge. Flaking scars represent probable microlithic blades. Diagnostic piece, Mesolithic in date.

Figure 11
Worked flint, cores, F11 and F24 from April 2012 (scale cm on top and mm at base)

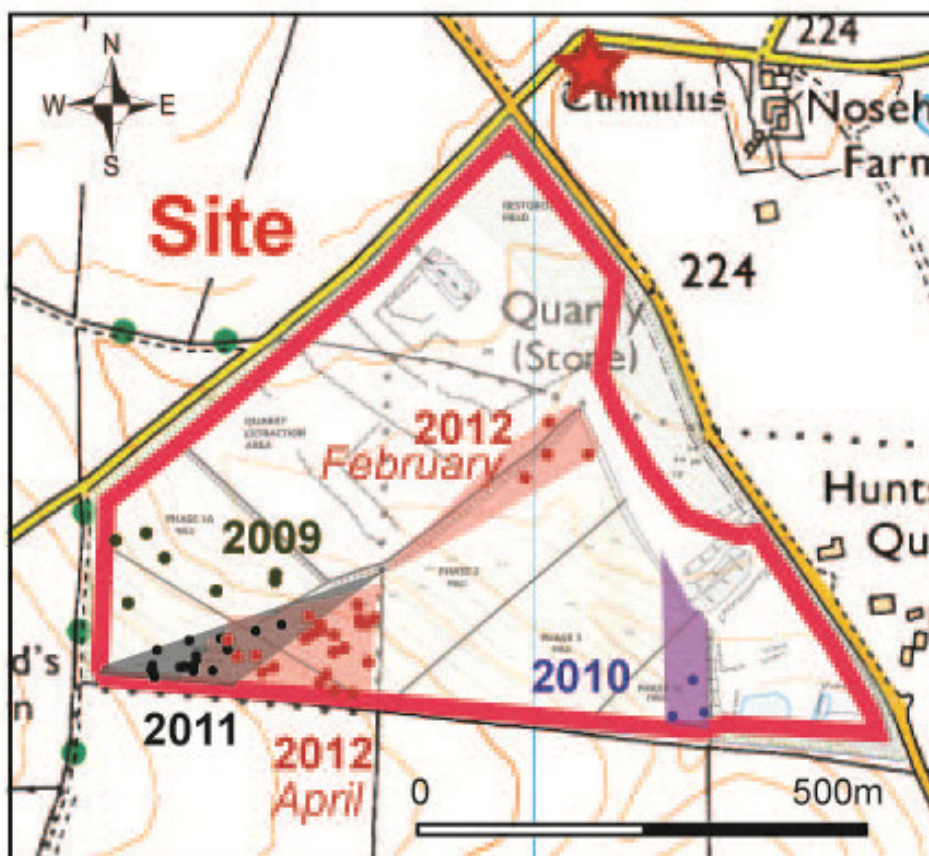


7.0 DISCUSSION

The flint finds appear concentrated around the crest of the ridge overlooking a shallow valley to the north-east which is now mainly quarried away (main quarry area). The location of worked flints on the higher areas within the monitored fields may have some significance, related to hunting activity or possibly associated with the ritual nature of the landscape for burial during the Bronze Age. Alternatively hillwash down the slopes might have masked further worked flints beneath colluvium, and thus provide a skewed picture of human activity in the area.

The barrows may also have been used to denote a boundary along the watershed between two communities, a tradition which could perhaps account for the later division of this area into the boundary between several parishes. Further monitoring in the future might add more significant data to this brief analysis.

Figure 12
Detail of site showing find spots from 2009 – 2012



8.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Huntsman Quarries Ltd; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.



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