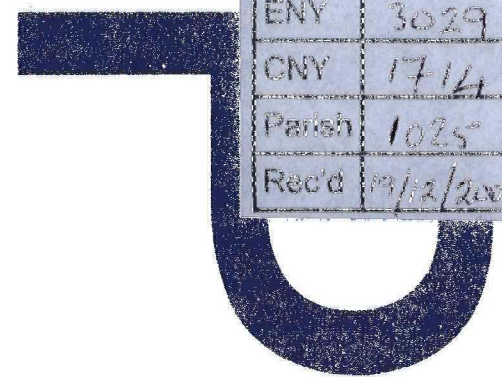
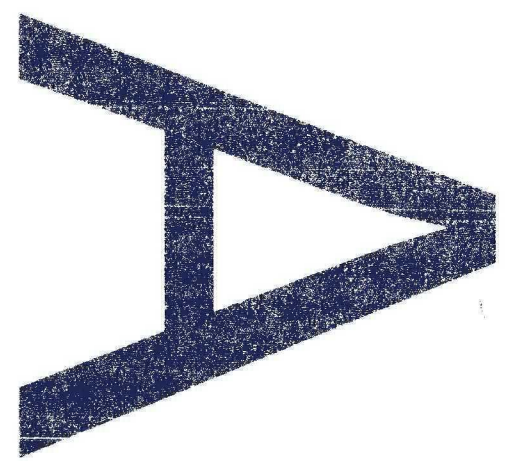
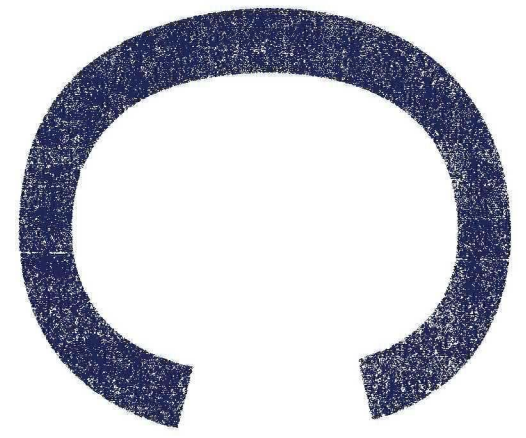


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CNY	1714
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Rec'd	19/12/2008



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (PHASE 2)
AT GATHERLEY MOOR QUARRY, GILLING WEST,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**



Rec 19/12/05

1025 parish

E3029

(prior WB - E 218
Geo - E 591)

S10025

**An Archaeological Watching Brief (Phase 2) at Gatherley Moor Quarry,
Gilling West, North Yorkshire**

C1/25/146/PA/F

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 1916 0678

Site Code: GMQ 05

Commissioning Client:

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Wingerworth
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December 2005**

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CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
2. INTRODUCTION	2
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	7
4. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	8
5. CONCLUSIONS	9
6. REFERENCES	10
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS	11

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location	5
Figure 2	Area of investigation	6

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Phase 2 of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise was undertaken on land at Gatherley Moor Quarry, Gilling West, North Yorkshire. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 1916 0678. It is located at the junction of the A66 and Moor Road, approximately 2.5km north-west of Scotch Corner.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Block Stone Limited and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The work involved monitoring the removal of topsoil in advance of quarrying within the second of five areas at the site. The initial (Phase 1) extraction was undertaken in 2000, following geophysical survey across the majority of the proposed quarry area in 1999. Phase 2 of the programme of archaeological monitoring took place on 29th November 2005.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was undertaken following a recommendation by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council because of the archaeological potential of the area. Important Iron Age settlement remains have been investigated in the vicinity of the site. Directly to the south lies the A66, which follows the route of a Roman road, and an undated earthwork, Scots Dyke, lies less than 0.2km to the south-east. Further features, potentially Iron Age or Roman period in date, have been recorded as cropmarks in close proximity to the site.
- 1.4 Across the Phase 2 extraction area, removal of topsoil exposed natural boulder clay. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise ('watching brief') was undertaken on land at Gatherley Moor Quarry, Gilling West, North Yorkshire (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring of preparatory groundworks associated with the commencement of a second phase (Phase 2) of mineral extraction at the site. The groundworks involved mechanical removal of topsoil across the Phase 2 area, which was c. 0.5 hectare in size.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Block Stone Limited and the fieldwork was undertaken on 29th November 2005 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA). A 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (WSI) for archaeological work to be undertaken in association with the overall extraction programme was prepared by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council.¹
- 2.1.4 At the time of writing, the project archive is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, at Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham. The written and photographic records will be ultimately deposited with the Richmondshire Museum, under the site code GMQ 05. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-11919.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site is located on Gatherley Moor, north-east of Gilling West, at the junction between the A66 and Moor Road, c. 2.5km north-west of the A1-A66 junction at Scotch Corner. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 1916 0678.
- 2.2.2 The overall area of the quarry site on Gatherley Moor is 5.8 hectares. At the time of the archaeological work, the site contained two previously quarried areas, one of which – in the south-eastern corner – is a quarry plantation, the other – in the north-eastern corner – being the Phase 1 area of the current extraction programme. The remainder of the site, including the Phase 2 area, comprised undeveloped agricultural land. Access to the site was from Moor Road, the road leading north-east to Melsonby.
- 2.2.3 The Phase 2 area comprised part of a large arable field, previously used for cereal cultivation. The area was roughly triangular in shape and was located in the centre of the overall site, to the west of an existing quarry face.

¹ North Yorkshire County Council (Heritage Unit), 2000.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The geology of the area is characterised by drift deposits of boulder clays and moraine overlying Carboniferous sandstone.
- 2.3.2 The site lies on a ridge of high ground to the north of the Gilling Valley. The majority of the site lies between the 180m and 190m contour lines. The elevated position of the site allows for views across Gilling Valley to the south and the Tees Valley to the north and east.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.4.1 The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, particularly for remains of the Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval periods. Settlement sites of the Iron Age have been investigated in the vicinity at Scotch Corner and Rock Castle. At Scotch Corner, 5km to the south-east of the site, a late Iron Age settlement was identified, comprising two round houses, an enclosure ditch and other associated features.² At Rock Castle, c. 0.3km to the south-west of the site, the remains of an Iron Age farmstead, including a rectilinear palisaded enclosure, ditched enclosures, a field system, and two successive circular buildings, were recorded.³
- 2.4.2 A Roman road runs directly to the south of the site, along the line of the A66, and a further Roman road, Dere Street, lies approximately 2.5km to the north-east. Further features, potentially Iron Age or Roman period, have been recorded as cropmarks less than 0.2km to the west. Scots Dyke, an undated linear earthwork, lies less than 0.2km to the south-east.
- 2.4.3 Medieval remains exist at the rectangular moated site of Grange Castle, c. 1km to the north-west of the site, while a building of post-medieval date stands upon the quarry site itself.
- 2.4.4 The entire area proposed for quarrying was subject to geophysical survey in 1999.⁴ The main feature detected was interpreted as a possible linear ditch running east-west through the central part of the survey area. It was thought that it could represent an historic field boundary or a ditch of archaeological interest. Other geophysical anomalies recorded were interpreted as being less certainly of archaeological origin, possibly representing geological features. Any archaeological features at the site were thought to be most likely associated with agricultural activity of the late Iron Age-Romano-British or medieval periods.
- 2.4.5 Phase 1 of the programme of archaeological work was carried out in November 2000 in advance of extraction within the north-eastern portion of the quarry site. The archaeological work did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance.⁵

² Abramson *et al.*, 1995.

³ Fitts, *et al.*, 1994.

⁴ GeoQuest Associates, 1999.

⁵ PCA, 2002.

2.5 Planning Background

- 2.5.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a planning requirement associated with the second part of a long-term phased extension of Gatherley Moor Quarry. The land is owned by Wharton Estates based in Skelton, in Redcar and Cleveland. Block Stone Limited is leasing the quarry to extract dimensional stone for buildings and memorials. Permission was granted (Decision C1/25/146), subject to appropriate conditions. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, as outlined above.
- 2.5.2 The need for early consultation in the planning process in order to determine the impact of development schemes upon the archaeological resource is identified in the document '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*'.⁶
- 2.5.3 The aforementioned geophysical survey of the entire proposed quarry area was undertaken in 1999. This identified potential archaeological activity, as described above. Accordingly, a phased programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with preparatory groundworks for each phase of extraction was considered to be the appropriate mitigation strategy for the development.
- 2.5.4 The aforementioned WSI for archaeological work in advance of quarrying at Gatherley Moor was compiled in 2000 by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council. The scheme summarised the elements of archaeological work required for the site, namely a phased programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with preparatory groundworks. Phase 1 of the investigations was undertaken in November 2000.
- 2.5.5 The work herein described comprised Phase 2 of the investigations.

2.6 Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 In broad terms, the aim of the monitoring exercise was to provide a standard 'rescue' level of record for any archaeological remains that may be present on the site.
- 2.6.2 The archaeological methodology required to achieve these aims was detailed in the WSI.

⁶ Department of the Environment, 1990.

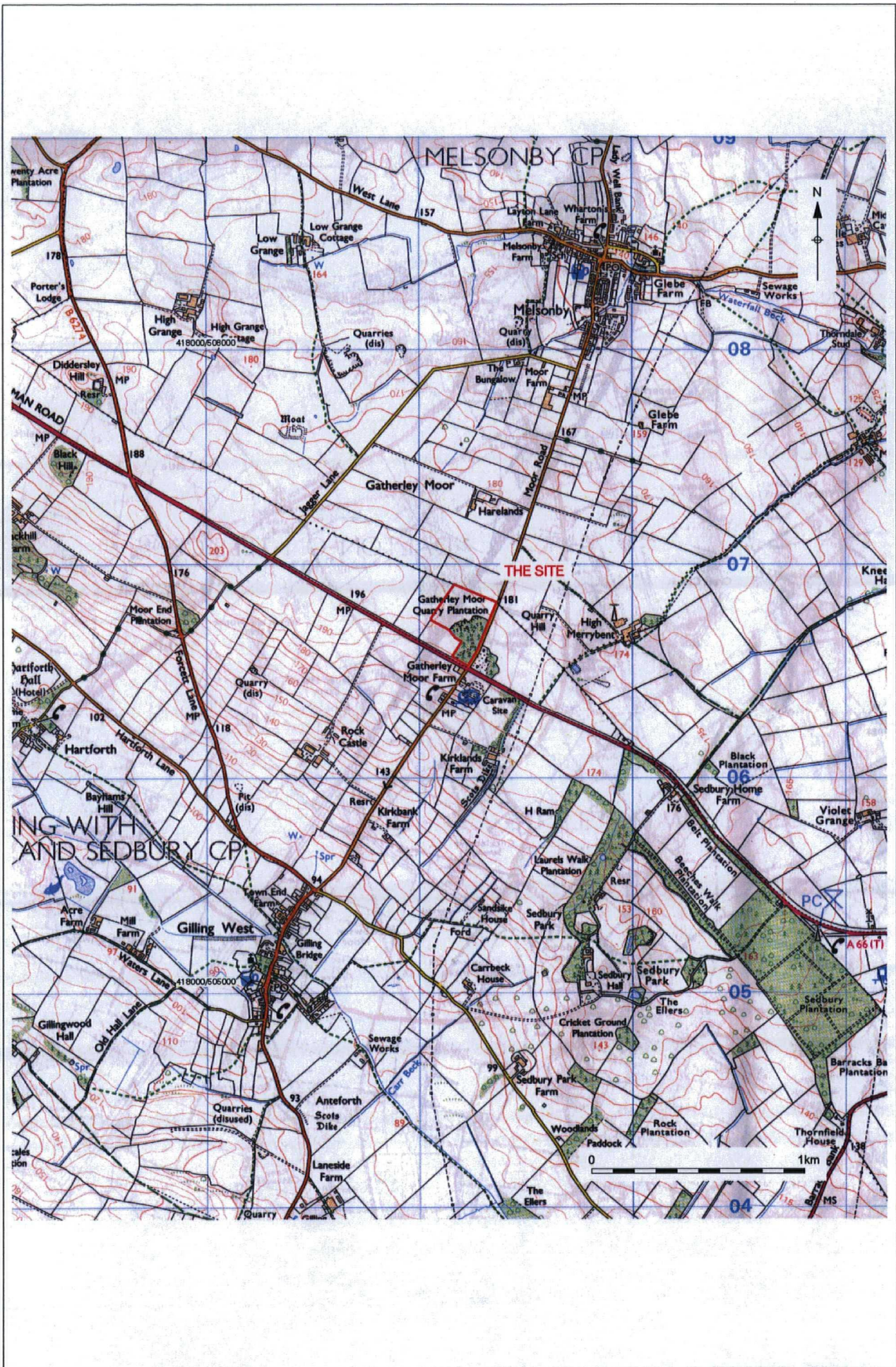


Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:25,000

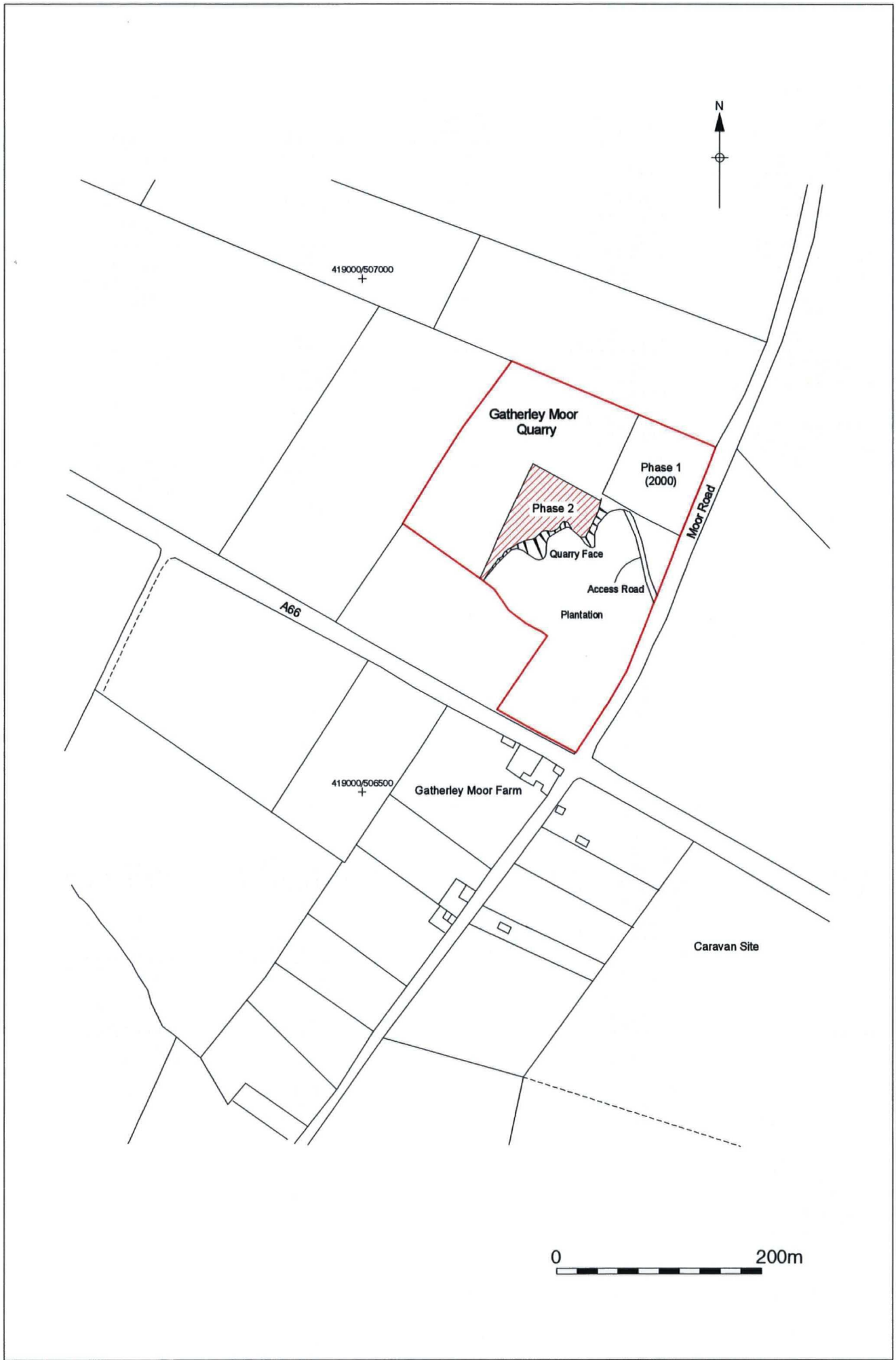


Figure 2. Areas of investigation
Scale 1:5,000

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work at Gatherley Moor Quarry was undertaken on the recommendation of the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).⁷ PCA is an IFA-Registered Organisation (RAO 23).
- 3.1.2 The fieldwork involved monitoring topsoil stripping across an area designated as Phase 2 of the quarry extension. The area covered c. 0.5 hectares and comprised the central portion of the overall extraction area (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 Topsoil covering the Phase 2 area was between 200mm and 380mm thick and was removed using a bulldozer fitted with a toothless, smooth-edged bucket. This produced a clean enough surface showing sufficient detail to allow for the identification of any archaeological features and deposits.
- 3.1.4 All topsoil stripping was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.5 A photographic record of the work was compiled using SLR cameras.

3.2 Post-excavation

- 3.2.1 The project's stratigraphic data is represented in the written and photographic records. In total, two archaeological contexts were defined during the archaeological work. Post-excavation work involved checking site records. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 4.
- 3.2.2 Survival of all materials from archaeological fieldwork depends upon suitable storage. The complete project archive, comprising written and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the Richmondshire Museum, will be met in full.

⁷ IFA, 1999.

4. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

4.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

4.1.1 The natural sub-stratum, [2], was exposed across the whole of the Phase 2 monitored area, although there was considerable variation within the glacial drift deposits observed. The deposits ranged in composition from firm to plastic clays through to firm sandy clays and loose clayey sands. There was also great variation in colour, with mid orange brown, mid yellowish grey, mid yellow, mid to light grey and dark greyish brown deposits all recorded. Moderate to frequent inclusions of medium and large sub-angular to angular sandstone fragments and occasional patches of manganese staining were observed within the natural deposits.

4.1.2 The natural sub-stratum was encountered at a depth of between 200mm and 380mm below the existing ground surface throughout the monitored area.

4.2 Phase 3: Modern

4.2.1 A layer of topsoil, [1], was recorded across the Phase 2 monitored area, with a thickness of between 200mm and 380mm. The topsoil comprised soft, clayey silt, which was mid brown to mid greyish brown in colour. Occasional small and medium sub-angular fragments of sandstone were observed within the deposit.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Mixed natural sub-strata were exposed throughout the monitored at relatively shallow depths.
- 5.2 No deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered during Phase 2 of the monitoring and recording programme.

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

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The input of Gail Falkingham, Senior Archaeologist, at the Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council, is acknowledged.

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