NOSTERFIELD QUARRY, OAKLANDS EXTENSION.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA05EV07.

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OSA

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Report Summary

REPORT NO: OSA05EV07

SITE NAME: Oaklands Extension, Nosterfield Quarry

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 2770 8140

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PERIODS REPRESENTED: Post-Medieval

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1 0 Introduction

On-Site Archaeology were commissioned by Mike Griffiths & Associates to undertake a field walking survey in fields to the north of Nosterfield Quarry as part of an ongoing archaeological assessment of the area

The results from the evaluation identified the geophysical anomalies in Area A as representing sub-soil natural features relating to glacial activity The evaluation in Area E identified tentative evidence for medieval peat cutting in Trial Trench E1, a probable post-medieval dump deposit in Trial Trench E2 and linear drainage/boundary ditches associated with a wider field system of a probable late 18th/early 19th century date in Trial Trenches E1 and E3

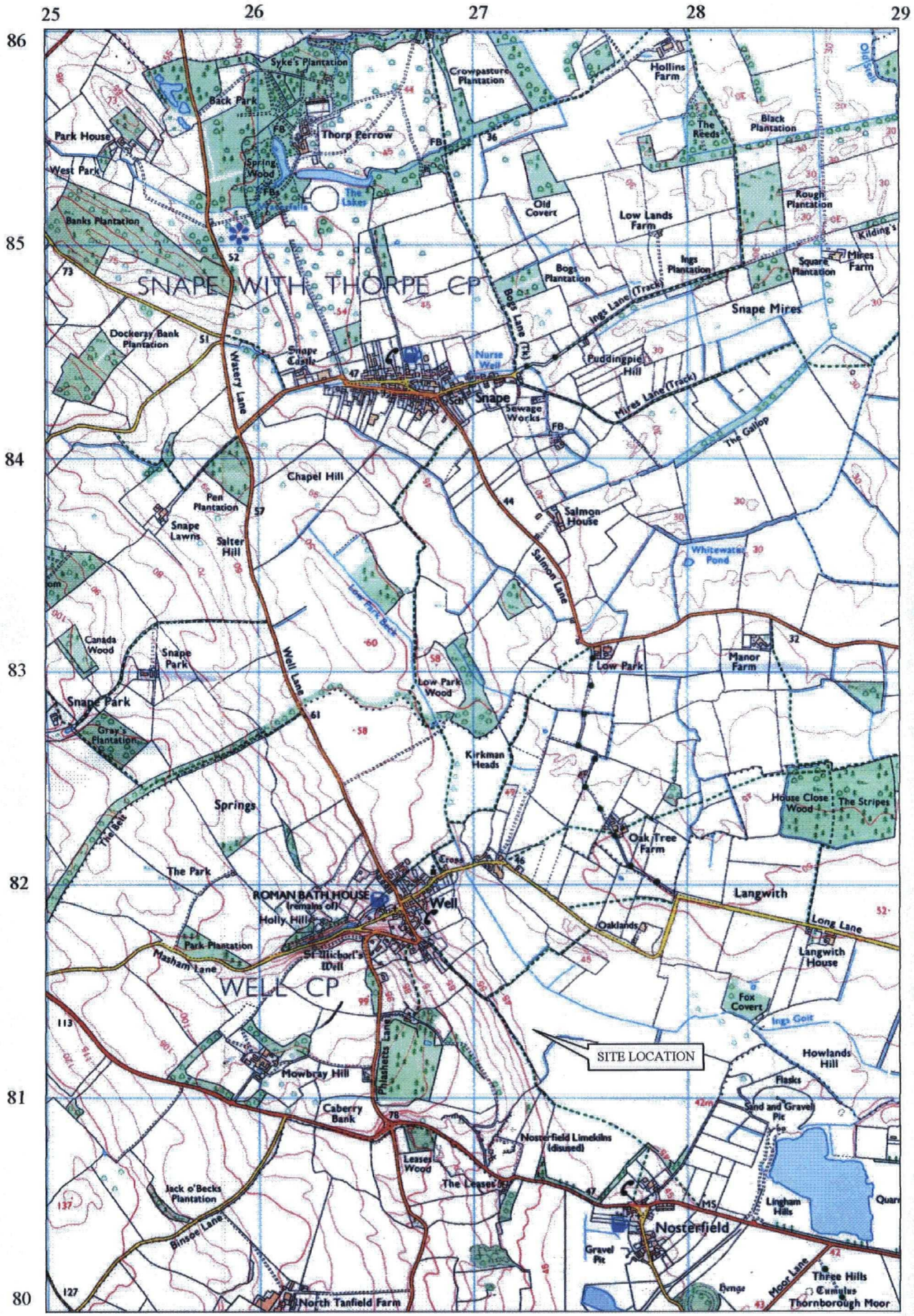

Figure 1. Site location. (NGR SE 2770 8140).

2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

The site area encompasses an irregular parcel of land, which measures 1 32km east/west and 0 52km north/south The site is located to the north of Nosterfield Quarry (NGR centre SE 2770 8140), operated by Tarmac Northern Ltd, and approximately 0 5km to the southeast of the village of Well in the Vale of Mowbray, North Yorkshire (Fig 1) To the east, west and north of the site area lay tracts of enclosed farmland A single carriageway road, Long Lane, bounds the site on its northwestern edge while to the southwest the site area runs parallel to a ridge of Magnesium limestone (Fig 1) The site area comprises six enclosed fields (coded A through to F, Fig 2) covering a total area of 49 6 Hectares

The local geology is complex and changeable over site area To the south and west a ridge of magnesium limestones (Permian) rises locally to a height of approximately 90m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) To the north and east the bedrock consists of Triassic sandstones and mudstones Both areas of bedrock are largely concealed by Quaternary deposits comprising clayey sandy tills with glacial sands and gravels largely confined to a belt running parallel to the base of the limestone ridge Here the land is low lying reflecting the location of an extensive area of peat deposits, which lay in the bottom of a shallow valley in the basin of a former post-glacial lake To the south and west the peat deposits continue, however their extent is constrained within a narrow, sinuous channel, which probably represented one of the out flow channels of the post-glacial lake The course of a small stream, Ings Goyt, bisects the site area on an east/west axis and broadly follows the route of the relict channel in the eastern half of the site area, which exists as a much larger topographical feature (Fig 1)

The topography of the site area consists of gently sloping land to the east and north and a steeper slope on the limestone ridge to the southwest Both slopes fall to the margins of the peat deposits To the south the landscape has been drastically altered by the ongoing quarrying operations Upon the low slope to the east and north are occasional low mounds probably comprising till clay and cobble islands

The evaluation trenches were located in Areas A and E. In Area A the field was divided into set-aside to the north and east and arable to the southwest (Fig 3) The trenches were located in the set-aside area of the field which was under pasture At this location the remnants of a peat landscape located in the area of the former post-glacial lake are known to occupy the lower laying land of the site area. In area E the field is used for rough grazing and the topographic qualities touched on above are enhanced by a series of linear bank and ditched earthworks These broadly follow a north/south orientation, however, a couple of the ditches have an east/west orientation (Fig 3)

On the whole the land use is given over to dairy farming and animal husbandry with some arable farming and land under set aside also taking place Alongside farming quarrying also has a significant impact on the land use of the area

3 0 Archaeological Background

Oaklands extension lies on the periphery of an extensive multi-period landscape centred on three henge monuments known as the Thornborough Henges The presence of this monument complex has prompted an over-riding interest in the study of landscape development during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, however, it is clear that the later use of the landscape was and is as important especially in regards as to how early elements of the eariier landscape have been impacted on and survive to this day. In that respect this section seeks to draw on existing archaeological knowledge in order to summarise the development of the local landscape from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Post-Medieval/Eariy Modern period

Although no archaeological work has been undertaken within the Oaklands area itself the surrounding landscape has been the focus for a series of excavations and research projects since the 19th century The archaeological development of this landscape has been recently documented elsewhere (Harding 1994 and 1998, FAS 2003 and 2005, Mike Griffiths and Associates 2005) and these documents have been consulted widely in order to produce the brief period based discussions below Also in addition to published and unpublished sources two websites containing reports on archaeological investigations have also been extensively consulted www archaeologicalplanningconsultancy co uk/mga/projects/noster/speciali htm and www thornborough ncl ac uk. The latter is hosted by Newcastle University and summarises the results from fieldwalking and limited excavation undertaken as the Thornborough Landscape Project under the direction of Dr Jan Harding

3.1 Late Upper Palaeolithic (c. 10 000 - 7600 BC).

There is no direct archaeological evidence for human occupation in the surrounding area for this period However, recent palaeo-environmental analysis of column samples from a series of deep solution holes adjacent to a former lake, which was situated in the existing area of Nosterfield Quarry, has identified a pollen sediment record sequence dafing from the early Holocene through to the late Iron Age (FAS 2003). Alongside this, the analysis of peat from the margins of the afore mentioned lake indicate that the lake possibly formed in the eariy Flandarin period and that evidence for Palaeolithic occupation may be contained within these deposits (*ibid*)

3.2 Mesolithic (c. 7600 - 3500 BC).

A similar situation pertains for this period where the palaeo-environmental evidence indicates pine and scrub woodland developing into extensive forest cover of birch and pine Again no direct evidence for occupation at this time has been forthcoming, however, the discovery of random finds of small quantities of microliths and other diagnostic worked stone tools, during fieldwalking surveys in the area (Harding 1994 and 1998; FAS 2005), from this period indicate the presence of Mesolithic communities in the landscape More recent work in Nosterfield quarry and the landscape surrounding the henges has identified evidence for a more substantial Mesolithic presence in the area in the form of a larger concentration of worked stone (Harding

and Johnson 2004) and a pit which was radio carbon dated to 4675±BC (Mike Grlffiths and Associates 2005)

3.3 Neolithic (c. 3500 - 1700 BC).

Palaeo-environmental evidence indicates that during the early Neolithic the area was heavily wooded on the valley sides, while the valley bottoms comprised a wetland environment of lakes and marshes (FAS 2003) In the later Neolithic the environmental evidence is less forthcoming, however, a glimpse is afforded from the analysis of the fills from the ditches of the henges and a cursus monuments. This indicated a wooded environment 'under an oceanic climate with plentiful rainfall' (Thomas 1955, 432)

Traditionally the Neolithic has been divided into an earlier and later phase The earlier part of the Neolithic witnessed the introducfion of small-scale agrlculture, ceramics and the constmction of distinctive forms of funerary and ceremonial monuments (Thomas 1999) Without doubt elements of social existence from the preceding period continued in use but the introduction of new ideas regarding the perception and use of material resources and communities ties to the landscape and to each other appears to have undergone dramatic changes over time. Such changes in ideas and perception of the landscape continued into the later part of the period and further changes took place culminating in an emphasis towards the individual role in life and the mobilisation of large social groups in the constmction of a diverse range of funeral and ceremonial monuments at what must have significant places within the landscape

Similar to events in the Mesolithic evidence for settlement in the earlier part of the Neolithic is scarce and much of what can be said regarding the social organisation of communities relies on the evidence from the excavation of several pits in the area of Nosterfield Quarry and from fieldwalking of the wider Area Around the later henge monuments The results show that settlement was located to the east of the concentration of earlier and later Neolithic monuments suggesting that there was a long term distinction between areas where settlement and related activities took place and those where ceremonial activities took place (FAS 2003, FAS 2005, Harding 1998)

The earliest monument to have been constmcted in the area was a cursus (FAS 2003) The cursus is aligned northeast/southwest and is overlain by the central henge of the Thomborough complex The monument has been the subject of limited excavation, which verified its interpretation (Thomas 1955, Vatcher 1960), however, the date of the feature remains inconclusive Initially a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date was proposed, but it seems more likely that it may date to the earlier/middle Neolithic (Harding 1998). The latter date would be in keeping with other similar examples from the region (Manby 1988) and from further afield (Tilley 1994) Originally it was thought that the cursus existed as an isolated monument, however the discovery of a burlal within the internal area of the monument and a flinerary enclosure at the eastern end of the cursus suggests that it may form part of a group of monuments Again this would not be out of keeping with similar type sites from elsewhere in the country where it is known they utilised prominent landscape features and earlier

monuments to accentuate their creation in the landscape and also suggesting that their function involved linear movement along their route by communities which utilised the monuments (*ibid.*)

During the later Neolithic settlement activity appears to be confined to the east of the henge complex, although recent work in the westeru area of Nosterfield quarry identified a widely spaced double row of pits and several other pit alignments (FAS 2003 and 2005) Thus evidence for settlement takes the form of pit groups and alignments which have been dated to the late Neolithic from the analysis of pottery fabrics and the radio carbon dating of charred material recovered from the fills of several pits One pit alignment comprised a double row of features, which supported timber uprights and is reckoned to be broadly contemporary with the construction of the henges (Harding 1998)

The three henges at Thoruborough are aligned northwest/southeast, spanning a distance of 1 3km across the landscape. They have been classified as Class IIA based on the criteria that the henges comprise a predominantly regional group of monuments with two entrances and a large bank surrounded by two concentric ditches (FAS 2003) Recent excavation at the henges has revealed that the banks may have been coated with gypsum (Thomas 1955, 433) and that there was three distinct phases of construction comprising the cutting of the outer ditches, followed by further re-excavafion of the outer ditch and finally the excavation of the inner ditch Evidence for the silting of the ditches suggests some chronological depth between each phase and longevity to the use and function of the monuments (Harding 1998)

3.4 Bronze Age (c. 1700 - 600 BC).

Environmental evidence indicates that during the eariy Bronze Age in the area damp woodland conditions gave way to dry warmer conditions and more open vegetation cover A deterioration in the climate took place in the later Bronze Age (FAS 2003)

Nationally, the Bronze Age is divided in to earlier and later phases Similar to events in the later Neolithic emphasis focuses on the roles of certain individuals reflected in the number of distinctive barrow burials at this time In some cases the original individual burials become the focus for a series of later inhumations and cremations Many of the ceremonial monument types originating in the late Neolithic continue in use in the earlier Bronze Age and many go through subsequent phases of reconstruction and use Also the earlier phase is notable for a lack of evidence for settlement and most of the information regarding the organisation of early Bronze Age society is dominated by the results of the barrow excavations Furthermore, it has recently been suggested that the scarcity of built domestic structures during the eariy Bronze Age was due to the fact that social groups were still highly mobile and that both spheres of the every day and spiritual life overiapped (Bruck 1999). Thus permanent sites of an overtly domesfic nature were not of the norm and temporary settlement within a seasonal round associated with important places within the landscape formed the basis of every day existence (*ibid.*)

In contrast the later Bronze Age is characterised by distinct changes in several spheres of social organisation Where in the eariy Bronze Age burial and the construction and use of ceremonial

monuments played a significant role in society, such activity ceases in the later part of the period Instead there is an emergence of recognisable settlement sites, often enclosed, alongside a greater emphasis on agricultural production than that witnessed for preceding periods At this time social organisation apparently revolved around the household level

Within the area under consideration evidence for settlement for both the early and later Bronze Age is very scarce That is to say apart from the recovery of beaker pottery from several pits in Nosterfield quarry and scattered fragments of pottery from elsewhere in the area no direct evidence for settlements has yet been identified

In the eariier Bronze Age the Thornborough Henge complex remained a significant fixture within the landscape and formed a focal point for the location for burials under round barrows and in ring ditches These monuments have been found at several locations around the henge complex suggesting that a different perception of the surrounding landscape was taking place In Nosterfield quarry two ring ditches were identified which were associated with several urned and un-urned cremations Some of these burials dated to the middle Bronze Age indicating that regionally such burial traditions were longer lived than elsewhere

3.5 Iron Age & Romano-British (c. 600 BC - AD 410).

The deteriorafion in climate continued into the Iron Age and this was thought to account for the lack of evidence for occupation in the area during this period due to the abandonment of less favourable areas and a movement in to lowland areas Additionally soil exhaustion, believed to have taken place during the Bronze Age, is also proposed as being detrimental to occupation in the area (FAS 2003) However, recent excavations in Nosterfield quarry have produced some evidence for occupation This included possible evidence for funerary activity in the form of two square barrows with only one burial idenfified in the ditch of one of the features (FAS 2005). Along with the square barrows two pit alignments were also recognised as Iron Age in date and they were associated with a wider rectilinear field system that continues to the northwest of the quarry (*ibid*)

Evidence for occupation in the Romano-British period is more forthcoming Forts are known to have been established at Catterick and Aldborough and they were linked by a major Roman road known as Dere Street whose route is fossilised in part as the modern day A1 It is believed that the forts located along this major route would have been supplied with numerous resources from villas situated within their surrounding hinterlands Two such villa complexes have been identified in the area under consideration One was apparently located at Well where evidence for a bathhouse and a tessellated pavement have been identified (FAS 2003) However the location of this site close to a spring may suggest that the structural remains may be associated with a different type of site altogether such as a shrine Fragments of building material including mosaic pavement have been found at Langwith House in secondary deposits and are assumed to have derived from the stmctures at Well A second villa site has been recorded at Castle Dikes to the south of the area (*ibid*) More prosaic evidence for Romano-British occupation in the area was identified during excavations in Nosterfield quarry and included a drying oven dating to the 2nd century AD Pottery assemblages recovered from the

top fills of earlier features dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries have also been recovered from the quarry area

3.6 Anglo-Saxon to Post-Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1540).

Evidence for early medieval settlement is extremely scarce in the Area And is postulated from the presence of burial mounds at How Hill near Carthorpe and Camp Hill, both approximately 4km to the east of the area in question Evidence for ecclesiastical activity in the Nosterfield area durmg the early medieval period is also slight with several instances of Anglian sculpture recorded ftom the wider Area And the site of a chapel recorded at Carthorpe The Domesday book records the village of Well (Fern 2005) indicating that the village may have origins in the early medieval period and it has been suggested that the small number of records for other traceable modern day settlements indicates a dispersed settlement pattern in the early medieval period in the Nosterfield area. Similarly place name evidence indicates a widespread settlement pattem with a variety of settlement types surviving in the area (FAS 2003).

By the 12th and 13th centuries the pattern of dispersed settlement still continued and though the church held much of the land in the wider area, the manor of Well appears to have been under the tutelage of a series of lords and wealthy families, as recorded in the historical documentafion (Fem 2005) Much of the land within the Oaklands extension was common or meadow lands, with some woodland, which was utilised for grazing and peat cutting In fact many historical sources refer to the Area As swamp Aerial photographic evidence indicates that much of the surrounding land around Oaklands was utilised within the open field system of Well and nearby villages Further a field in the area, during the 16th century a shift in the organisation of settlement to a more nucleated pattern occurred Some villages expanded and survive as their modern day equivalent, while the many examples of deserted villages in the area indicate that many centres for one reason or another did not were abandoned (i e East Tanfield)

The largest upheaval to the organisation of the landscape took place in the post-medieval/eariy modern period when the open field system and much of the common land was divided and re-allocated under the Enclosure Acts Most of the land in the area under consideration was enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries, possibly on a local and private basis as no pariiamentary enclosure awards survive for Well (*ibid*). This included the peat and common grazing lands occupying the majority of the Oaklands area Surviving documentary sources show that much of this area was enclosed as a series of narrow rectilinear fields whose pattern and method of enclosure (ditched hedges) facilitated in the drainage of the newly enclosed fields (*ibid*)

It was also during this latter period that the exploitation of mineral resources took on an increase in activity The limestone ridge to the west of the area under consideration had been exploited for building material and lime burning and its related products from earlier times The presence of many lime buming kilns and quarries testily to the increase of this industry in the late medieval/post-medieval period Along side this, the quarrying of sand and gravel

deposits had also become established as an industry in the 19th and 20th centuries leading to the whole scale quarrying witnessed to this day at Nosterfield quarry

4 0 Methodology.

Topsoil deposits were removed by hand down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon or natural deposits On completion of topsoil removal the base of each trench and all the archaeological features identified in the site area were cleaned using appropriate hand tools The investigation of archaeological horizons was done by hand, with cleaning, inspection and recording both in plan and section A 20% sample excavation of linear features and a 50% sample of pits/postholes were followed during the investigation of the features In several cases natural features were identified in the trench and these were subjected to box sections in order to define their form and extent and to prove their interpretation as natural features

As excavation proceeded written descriptions of all features, comprising both factual data and interpretive elements were recorded on standardised context sheets and a register of all contexts was compiled producing a ftill and proper written record. Where stratified deposits were encountered, a 'Harris' type matrix was compiled as excavation progressed A full and proper drawn record of archaeological deposits was made· plans of excavated features were drawn at a scale of I 20 Sections of excavated features showing layers, deposits, cuts and any relationships were drawn at 1 10 and all sections were accurately related to Ordnance Datum Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking levels from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM), which was then tied in with an existing Ordnance Survey Benchmark Registers of sections, plans and levels were kept on standardised sheets

A full black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record was maintained and was supplemented by digital photographs. This illustrated the principal features and finds both in detail and in a general context Photographs of features were taken before and after excavation, using appropriate scales The photographic record also included working shots to represent more generally the nature of the work A register of all photographs was kept on standardised sheets.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with the standards and requirements of the *Archaeological Field Manual* (Museum of London Archaeology service 3rd edition 1994)

All identified finds and artefacts were collected and retained for study No finds were discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological representative of the local authority and the receiving museum Finds were placed into bags labelled with the project code and the context number When necessary finds of metal working, worked bone, worked stone and others deemed worthy of detailed recording were registered as recorded finds onto a finds register All other artefacts were collected as context groups Also the presence of finds from a context was recorded onto the relevant context sheets Consideration for finds of exceptional nature was made and if deemed necessary provision was made to seek professional help from a finds specialist and or conservator

All finds except prehistoric pottery were then washed, dried, marked, re-bagged and boxed according to material Prehistoric pottery was thoroughly air-dried and wrapped in acid free

tissue paper before being boxed Finds were then sent to the appropriate specialists for assessment reports to be prepared

For palaeoenvironmental research, different sampling strategies were employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation For carbonised remains, bulk samples of a minimum of 10 litres (but usually 30 litres) were collected Bulk samples of 10 to 30 litres were taken from waterlogged deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains and cultural artefacts Samples of up to 30 litres were taken of any deposit thought to contain useful environmental or dating evidence such as charcoal or molluscs Samples were sent to the *Palaeoecology Research Services* (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham) for analysis For each environmental sample recovered a sample record sheet was issued and then the sample number and context information was entered onto an environmental sample register

All finds and samples were treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum Finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned, stabilised, and or conserved when necessary, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*

5.0 Results

5.1 Introduction.

At this stage in the ongoing works associated with the evaluation of the potential survival of archaeological deposits in the area of the Nosterfield Quarry, Oaklands Extension, preliminary works were undertaken in Areas A and E only (Fig 2) Area A was partially under set-aside and partially under arable Area E is currently used as rough pasture

An archaeological desk based assessment prepared by Mike Griffiths and Associates (2005) identified the cropmark of a possible enclosure centrally located in Area A (Fig 2) The cropmark comprised a small rectilinear enclosure, 90m east/west by 55m north/south Ditches running midway from the western and eastern lengths of the ditch circuit suggested that the feature might be part of a more extensive system of ditches and/or enclosures, which were not visible in the confines of the survey area. Additionally, further cropmarks were visible within the area of the assumed enclosure

In response to the aerial photographic evidence Area A geophysical survey was undertaken over the site of the cropmark (Fig 4) A geomagnetic and an electrical resistance survey were carried out over an area of 2 ha in Area A The electrical resistance survey was undertaken over an area of 1 ha centred on the cropmark The geomagnetic survey was undertaken either side of the resistivity area (Fig 4) The interpretation of the results of the surveys indicated the possible existence of soil filled ditches and pits (ASUD 2005). The anomalies were found to closely correspond with the location of the cropmark and it was suggested that they might have been part of a multi-phase system of ditched enclosures.

Thus, it was decided to investigate the archaeological potential of the anomalies through a programme of hand dug Trial Trenches across a section of the anomaly In that respect a line of 2m x 2m Testpits comprising a total of eight trenches (Testpits 70 – 77) were located by total station to run at right angles across part of the anomaly in the southwest corner of the geophysical survey grid (Fig 4) Initially only three of the 2m x 2m Testpits were excavated Testpit 73, 72 and 74 They included the Testpit centred over the geophysical anomaly and the Testpits to either side Later it was decided to remove the baulks between Testpits 72 and 73, and Testpits 73 and 74 This effectively produced a trench that was 10m in length and 2m wide This trench was then given the code TPA73 and shall be referred to such through out this report A second trench comprising a length of 6m x 2m was positioned over another section of the anomaly in the southeastern area of the geophysical survey grid (Fig 4) This trench has been given the code TPA80 and shall be referred to that below

In Area E a topographical survey had revealed the existence of a number of linear ditched boundaries forming a series of narrow linear fields, a sinuous ditched feature, several low lying sub rectangular features and a sub rectangular raised platform (Fig 4) Three hand-dug Trial Trenches were positioned on the raised platform area in the southern corner of the field (Fig 4) They were positioned to investigate the archaeological potential of the platformed area, a low lying sub-rectangular feature adjacent to the latter and one of the ditched boundary

features which ran over the platform on its westem edge. The three trenches were coded TTE1, TTE2 and TTE3 (Fig 3)

5.2 *Area A.*

5.2.1 *Trench TPA73.*

The only feature identified in this trench was a natural linear gully, which has been identified as an ice wedge (Plate 1) The bedded natural deposits in this trench included contexts (TPA7313), (TPA7311), (TPA7310), (TPA7309), (TPA7308), (TPA7306) and (TPA7305) (Fig 5) They comprised compact greyish green silty gravels with abundant small to rounded stones to loose reddish orange altemating lenses of sand and gravels The deposits had a maximum depth of 0 90m in the excavated box secfion in the trench and obviously confinued for an unknown depth The lenses of sands and gravels were cut by context [TPA7314], which formed an irregular steep sided undercut interface (Fig 5; Plate 1) The interface was visible for a maximum depth of 0 85m and continued through the base of the trench for an unknown depth The interface was orientated east/west and contained contexts (TPA7312), (TPA7307), (TPA7301) and probably (TPA7302) (Fig 5) Contexts (TPA7312) and (TPA7307) comprised a compact clay silt with frequent gravels and moderate small rounded stones Context (TPA7301) was a compact brownish/greyish orange clay sand with orange mottles and occasional small sub angular stones Context (TPA7302) was compact grey green clay silt with frequent gravel and small sub-angular stones

In the southern end of the trench a recent land drain was identified The land drain comprised a straight sided cut, [TPA7304], which was filled by a weakly cemented mid greyish grey clayey sand with frequent gravel, (TPA7305)

The fill of the landrain and context (TPA7302) were overlain by topsoil deposits (TPA7300), which comprised a 0 28m thick friable dark brownish black humic sand with frequent sub angular small to medium stones and lenses of blueish grey clay

5.2 2 *Trench TPA80.*

Natural deposits were identified in this trench They included contexts (TPA8003), (TPA8004), (TPA8005), (TPA8006), (TPA8007), (TPA8008) and (TPA8009) These varied between a compact mid grey clay with small sub angular stones (TPA8009), compact sandy clays (TPA8008), compact light grey sands (TPA8007) and (TPA8006) and compact light grey gravels (TPA8003) and (TPA8005) (Fig 6) All the above appeared to be banded and were running on a general east/west orientation (Fig 6) One context (TPA8004) appeared to be contained in an interface, however, this was not clear during excavation Context (TPA8004) comprised a loose light orange grey gravel with small sub rounded cobbles Overlying the banded deposits was a layer, context (TPA8001) and (TPA8002), which comprised light grey silty gravels Context (TPA8001) was cut by a straight sided cut for a recent land drain, [TPA8010], which was filled by a light grey sandy clay, context (TPA8011) (Fig 6) Overlying context (TPA8011) was a 0 27m thick layer of topsoil, which comprised a friable dark brownish black humic sand with frequent sub angular small to medium stones

5.3 *Area E.*

5 3 1 *Trench TTE1*

Trial Trench TTE1 was 20m x 2m and was positioned over the eastern edge of the sub-rectangular platform Area And continued to the east part way into a low lying sub-rectangular hollow adjacent to the platform (Fig 7). The strafigraphically earliest deposit, context (TTE102) was a natural compact light bluish green sandy clay with rare small rounded stones This was overlain by a compact dark blue clay with occasional small to large sub angular cobbles, context (TTE103) (Fig 7) Context (TTE103) was overlain by two deposits contexts (TTE104) and (TTE105) (Fig 7) Context (TTE105) was a compact mid greyish blue clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular cobbles Context (TTE104) was a compact light greenish brown clay Context (TTE104) was overlain by an organic peat deposit which contained fragments of wood and bark, context (TTE100) (Fig 7, Plate 2) The peat deposit was up to 0 34m thick in the eastem end of the trench Overlying the peat was context (TTE101), which comprised a compact light mid greenish brown clay (Fig 7). This deposit was almost identical to context (TTE104) and the boundary between the two deposits was very diffuse In fact the only noticeable difference was that (TTE101) contained orange mottles, which may have been from discolouration caused by the underlying peat deposit Overlying context (TTE101) was a layer of topsoil, context (TTE106), which had a maximum depth of 0 27m (Fig 7) Context (TTE106) comprised a friable dark greyish brown clay silt

The topsoil had been cut by a shallow feature, which was more readily identifiable in plan as the linear earthwork of a ditched boundary, context [TTE107] (Fig 7) In section the ditch cut was difficult to identify and its location could only be postulated from the shape of the feature on the surface of the topsoil The cut did not penetrate the natural deposits below the topsoil so therefore it was very shallow and was up to approximately 1 00 m wide The ditch was orientated north/south and continued to the north for approximately 26 82m as an earthwork, however, it petered out past the southem edge of the trench and could not be identified any further in that direction. The fill of the ditch, context (TTE108), could not be identified in the trench section and it can only be postulated that it was very similar in composifion to the topsoil, if indeed the feature had one

5 3.2 *Trench TTE2.*

Trial Trench TTE2 was 5m x 4m in size and was located in the internal area of the platform area The trench was positioned over a low upraised area in the southwestem comer of the platform The earliest stratigraphic deposit was the natural, context (TTE202), which was a firm dark yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular cobbles (Fig 8, Plate 3) Overlying the natural was context (TTE201) (Fig 8), which was a firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub angular stones and frequent small flecks and fragments of fired clay, which appears to have been burnt accidentally (Appendix 3) The layer of material was up to 0 13m thick and covered the area of the trench (Fig 8) The layer also contained ceramic building material (CBM), pot sherds, glass shards and fragments of animal bone The fragments of pottery dated to the early/mid 18th century

while the glass dated to the 17th/eariy 18th century. Overiying context (TTE201) was a 0 15m thick layer of topsoil The topsoil, context (TTE200) was a friable mid brownish black clay silt with occasional small sub angular sub-angular stones

5.3.3 Trench TTE3.

Trial Trench TTE2 was 10m x 1m in extent and was located on the western edge of the platform area (Fig 9) The trench was also positioned over a linear ditch earthwork (Fig 3) Furthermore, due to the presence of extensive root intrnsion in the eastern and western areas of the trench only partial excavation could be undertaken in those areas (Fig 9)

Natural deposits, context (TTE306), (TTE304) and (TTE301) were identified in the base of the trench (Figs 9 and 10) Context (TTE306) comprised a compact light yellowish grey silt with occasional small rounded cobbles This was overiain by context (TTE304), which was a stiff dark greyish blue clay with occasional small to medium rounded cobbles. This deposit extended to east of the trench area. In the western end of the trench the natural comprised context (TTE301), which was a firm dark greyish brown silt clay with occasional small sub angular stones

The natural deposits were cut by a ditch, context [TTE305], which had steep concave sides on its western edge and irregular stepped sides on its eastern edge (Fig.10, Plate 5) The sides fell to a broad concave base The ditch was 1 00m wide and up to 0 28m deep The feature was orientated north/south and could be traced as a pronounced earthwork for a distance of 213 65m from the northern bank of the stream to where it joined an east/west orientated ditch to the north (Fig 9). The ditch contained a single fill, context (TTE302), which comprised a friable mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional small rounded cobbles A few fragments of CBM were recovered from the ditch fill, which unsurprisingly dated to the 17th/19th centuries (Appendix 3)

In the western end of the trench a linear steep sided cut, context [TTE307], contained a horseshoe shaped ceramic land drain, context (TTE308) (Figs 9&10) The drain was not fully excavated

Overiying the ditch fill was a layer of topsoil, context (TTE300) (Figs 9&10) The topsoil was up to 0 42m deep and comprised a spongy dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded and sub angular cobbles Fragments of CBM and a sherd of pottery were also recovered from the topsoil This material had a wide date range spanning the 12th to 18th centuries, although the top end of the date range is more than likely (Appendix 3)

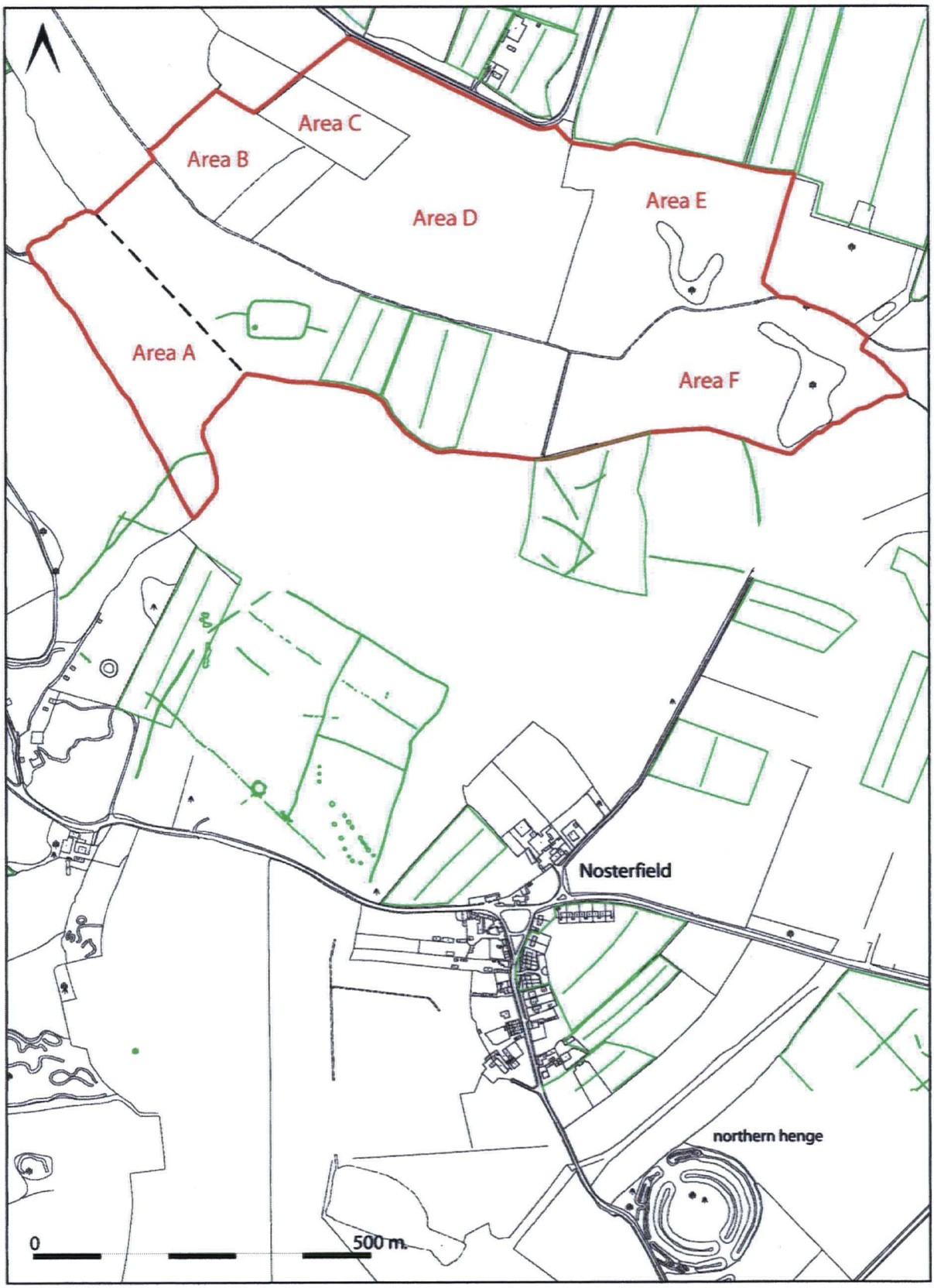

Figure 2. Plan of site Areas A-F, showing cropmarks.

Figure 3. Plan showing contour survey and location of Trial Trenches E1, E2 & E3.