

NYCC HER	
SNY	18692
ENY	5970
CNY	6130
Parish	6014
Rec'd	29/09/2011



ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
WYAS

**Ripon Quarry Southern Extension  
Area of Proposed Soil Storage  
North Yorkshire**

*Trial Trench Evaluation*

*September 2011*

*Report No. 2253*

CLIENT  
**Hanson Aggregates**

NYCC HER	
SNY	18692
ENY	5970
CNY	6130
Parish	6014
Rec'd	29/09/11

**Ripon Quarry Southern Extension  
Area of Proposed Soil Storage  
North Yorkshire**

RECEIVED BY  
EPDS ADMIN

29 SEP 2011

**Trial Trench Evaluation**

*Summary*

*A trial trench evaluation covering the area proposed for the location of overburden storage mounds and haul roads for the Southern Extension to Ripon Quarry has confirmed the presence of a prehistoric pit alignment and identified an undated ditch feature. Although this latter feature was not identified by a geophysical survey which covered the whole of the field no other archaeological features were identified in the remaining 25 trenches. The evaluation has clearly demonstrated the low archaeological potential of this part of the field and therefore confirmed its suitability for the short term storage of overburden.*

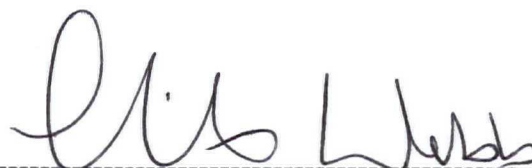


ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
WYAS

## Report Information

Client: Hanson Aggregates  
Address: Clifford House, York Road, Wetherby, LS22 7NS  
Report Type: Trial Trench Evaluation  
Location: Ripon Quarry  
County: North Yorkshire  
Grid Reference: SE 298 764  
Period(s) of activity: Iron Age/Romano-British?  
represented  
Report Number: 2253  
Project Number: 3753  
Site Code: RIQ11  
Planning Application No.: Pre-application  
Museum Accession No.: n/a  
Date of fieldwork: September 2011  
Date of report: September 2011  
Project Management: Alistair Webb BA MifA  
Fieldwork: David Williams BA PIfA  
Louise Felding Mag. Art.  
Report: David Williams  
Illustrations: Alex Grassam  
David Williams  
Photography: David Williams  
Research: n/a

Authorisation for  
distribution:

  
\_\_\_\_\_



© Archaeological Services WYAS 2011  
PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG  
Telephone: 0113 383 7500.  
Email: admin@aswyas.com



## Contents

Report information .....	ii
Contents.....	iii
List of Figures .....	iv
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Site location, topography and land-use .....	1
Geology and soils.....	1
<b>2 Archaeological background .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Aims and Methodology .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Results .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Environmental Record .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6 Discussion and Conclusions .....</b>	<b>12</b>

### Figures

### Plates

### Appendices

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts

Appendix 3: Written scheme of investigation

### Bibliography

### **List of Figures**

- 1 Site location (1:50000)
- 2 Detailed trial trench location showing magnetic anomalies and archaeological features (1:2000)
- 3 Plan and section of Trench 13
- 4 Plan and sections of Trench 22

### **List of Plates**

- 1 General view of evaluation in progress, looking north-west
- 2 Pit 105, facing west
- 3 Pit 103, facing west
- 4 Ditch 112, facing south-east
- 5 Plan of Trench 22 showing Pits 103, 105 and 107, facing north-west
- 6 Trench 25, facing north-east
- 7 Trench 27, facing south
- 8 Trench 18, facing north-west

### **List of Tables**

- 1 Summary table of pits within Trench 22.
- 2 Summary of environmental samples taken



## **1 Introduction**

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Ltd on behalf of their client Hanson Aggregates to carry out a trial trench evaluation as part of pre-determination work at Ripon Quarry, near North Stainley (see Fig. 1). The results of the trial trenching will help assess the extent of the archaeological resource and thereby inform the location of soil and overburden storage. This material will be generated by the Phase 3 soil strip, part of the proposed southern extension to the quarry. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is in course of being produced for the extension scheme, however, the current area of interest was not initially considered within the EIA scoping, and has been added as a result of the EIA process and design requirements. The scheme of work was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 5. The trenching was undertaken between September 12th and September 16th 2011.

### **Site location, topography and land-use**

The evaluation area, centred at SE 298 763, comprised the south-western quarter of a triangular-shaped field of about 9 hectares which is currently under arable cultivation having been ploughed and re-seeded just prior to the evaluation. The field is located approximately 0.8km south of the main quarry facility which is 4km north of Ripon (see Fig. 1) on the river Ure. Topographically the field overlooks the floodplain of the Ure on higher ground gently rising from between 34m aOD on the eastern side of the field to 43m aOD in the west (see Fig. 2). The floodplain below is separated from the site by a steep river bluff, and lies at about 28m aOD.

### **Geology and soils**

The underlying bedrock comprises of the Edlington Formation – Calcareous mudstone which is overlain by till (BGS 2001). The soils in this area are classified in the Nercwys soil association, characterised as deep fine loams with slowly permeable sub-soils affected by seasonal waterlogging (SSEW 1983).

## **2 Archaeological background**

A scoping report, undertaken on behalf of Hanson by Andrew Josephs Ltd. as part of the southern extension EIA, noted that the extension area lies in the valley of the river Ure, a rich prehistoric landscape, containing prehistoric monuments of national importance, with scheduled henges at Thornborough to the north and Nunwick and Hutton Moor to the south. A pit alignment (MNY13755) lies 100m north of the existing plant site, with a round barrow (MNY24218) a further 300m north-west. An unusual Roman villa with associated defences, Castle Dykes (HER MNY21030), lies 650m to the south-west of the survey area. A possible rectangular enclosure (MNY19916) and other cropmarks have been recorded within the proposed survey area by the National Mapping Programme (see Fig. 3).



Nevertheless, it was noted that the proposed extension area had only a moderate to low archaeological potential due primarily to the fact that the land is low lying adjacent to the river and therefore likely to have been periodically flooded from the prehistoric period until post-medieval times.

A comprehensive geophysical evaluation, covering the proposed southern extension area (ASWYAS 2009), did not identify any anomalies of archaeological potential, although anomalies due to ploughing, drainage features and palaeochannels were identified. A programme of trial trenching subsequently confirmed the low potential of the southern extension area, as suggested by the scoping report and geophysical survey.

However, the new evaluation area (the subject of this report) is on much higher ground thereby increasing the likelihood of archaeological activity. This increased potential is reflected by the presence of a square cropmark, interpreted as a probable enclosure of late Iron Age or Romano-British date, located towards the eastern edge of the field, with other linear cropmark features noted towards the centre and western side of the same field (see Fig. 2). The location of these features was subsequently confirmed by a geophysical survey (Webb 2011) which also identified a pit alignment, of presumed prehistoric date, traversing north-west/south-east across the centre of the field. However, no anomalies of archaeological potential were identified in the western half of the field, the area evaluated by the programme of trial trenching described below.

### **3 Aims and Methodology**

The aim of the evaluation is to enable a decision to be made finalising the location of the overburden storage mounds and haul roads in areas which will minimise the impact on the archaeological resource.

To achieve this aim the first stage of the evaluation comprised a magnetometer survey to cover the whole of the field where it is proposed to store the topsoil and overburden, an area of approximately 9 hectares; the actual land-take for the soil storage is only approximately 3 hectares. This identified the western half of the field as having a significantly reduced archaeological potential compared to the eastern half of the field. The eastern half of the field was therefore more suitable for the storage of topsoil that can be placed directly onto topsoil.

The principal aim of the trial trenching was therefore to test whether the geophysical survey had given an accurate assessment of the archaeological potential of the south-western corner of the site where overburden would need to be stored.

The trenching proposals were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3) and approved and agreed by Lucie Hawkins from North Yorkshire Heritage Environment Section (NYHES) and Neil Redfern from English Heritage (EH).

All trenches were set out and their limits recorded using a Differential GPS (dGPS) accurate to +/- 0.01cm. All trenches were also tied in to local permanent features shown on published Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping.

The evaluation trenches were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist. Overburden was removed in successive spits until the archaeological horizon or natural deposits were encountered. Thereafter, all investigations were undertaken by hand. Artefactual evidence was collected whenever encountered and environmental samples were taken from significant and primary archaeological deposits. All archaeological features and deposits were photographed and drawn to scale as appropriate and recorded using a standardised *pro-forma* system. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and trench plans and sections were drawn at 1:50.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with recognised professional standards, specifically *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). ASWYAS's own methodologies (ASWYAS 2009) were also adhered to.

## 4 Results (see Figs 2, 3 and 4 and Plates)

### Summary

A total of 27 trial trenches were excavated across the proposed location of the overburden storage area (Fig 2; Plate 1). The majority of the trenches were blank and did not contain any archaeological remains. T13 and T22 did, however, contain archaeological features comprising an undated linear ditch feature and a series of pits identified by the geophysical survey. The topsoil and subsoil deposits were broadly similar across the whole of the evaluation area.

The results from each trench are tabulated below with detail on the depths and composition of the topsoil, subsoil and the ground level being noted. The difference in natural geological levels is also recorded. Plans of the two trenches containing archaeological features are presented with relevant sections in Figure 3 and Figure 4. A selection of images of the trenches are presented in Plates 1 to 8 inclusive.

#### Trench 1

Sample section: North-west end (0.00 = 43.76 aOD)		
Orientation: North-west/south-east		Dimensions: 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles



101	0.30 – 0.40m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.40m+	Natural. Greyish brown clay till deposit, contained mixed mudstone, sandstone and limestone inclusions with patches of yellow brown sand

## Trench 2

<b>Sample section: South-west end</b> (0.00 = 42.76 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Greyish brown clay till deposit, contained mixed mudstone, sandstone and limestone inclusions with patches of yellow brown sand

## Trench 3

<b>Sample section: Northern end</b> (0.00 = 42.52 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Greyish brown clay till deposit, contained mixed mudstone, sandstone and limestone inclusions with patches of yellow brown sand

## Trench 4

<b>Sample section: North-east end</b> (0.00 = 42.41 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North/south		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.35 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels, becoming more stony towards the north

## Trench 5

<b>Sample section: North-east end</b> (0.00 = 42.76 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> East/west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.70m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels, with bands of sand located in the centre of the trench

## Trench 6

<b>Sample section: Northern end</b> (0.00 = 43.05 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.33 – 0.65m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.65m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 7

<b>Sample section: North-west end</b> (0.00 = 42.26 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.65m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.65m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels with variable bands of sand

## Trench 8

<b>Sample section: Northern end</b> (0.00 = 42.08 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.55m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 9

<b>Sample section: North-western end</b> (0.00 = 41.93 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with cobbles

## Trench 10

<b>Sample section: North-west end</b> (0.00 = 41.82 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>



100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Greyish brown clay till deposit, with patches of yellow brown sand

## Trench 11

<b>Sample section: North-east end</b> (0.00 = 41.15 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-east/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.90m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.90m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels with patches of brown clay , some large sized cobbles

## Trench 12

<b>Sample section: North-east end</b> (0.00 = 41.57 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.58m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.58m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sand and gravels

## Trench 13 (Fig. 3; Plate 4)

<b>Sample section: North-east end</b> (0.00 = 41.97 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> East-west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.35 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

Trench 13 contained a single, linear, ditch feature located 5m from the western end of the trench and orientated north-west/south-east. The ditch (112) was 1.44m wide and 0.69m deep, with a V-shaped profile with near vertical sides into a tapering base. The ditch contained a sequence of three fills with the primary fill (111) comprising light grey brown silty sand. This was overlain by deposit 109 which was a mid orangey brown silty sand with very few inclusions. The final deposit (110) comprised mostly large stones and cobbles, ranging in size from 0.10m to 0.35m in diameter, which was confined to the eastern side of the ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch although the infill sequence would suggest that the ditch has been filled by cobbles from field clearance and as such



maybe a relict field boundary. The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping does show a boundary on the same alignment but 18m to the east of the recorded feature.

#### Trench 14

<b>Sample section: Western end</b> (0.00 = 41.74 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> East/west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.45m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.45 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.70m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 15

<b>Sample section: South-east end</b> (0.00 = 41.28 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> East/west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 16

<b>Sample section: Northern end</b> (0.00 = 41.10 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.45m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.45m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 17

<b>Sample section: West end</b> (0.00 = 40.98 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> Square		<b>Dimensions:</b> 4m by 4m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 18 (Plate 8)

<b>Sample section: North-west end</b> (0.00 = 40.29 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.35 – 0.65m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.65m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 19

Sample section: North-west end (0.00 = 40.29 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 20

Sample section: North-east end (0.00 = 39.37 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-east/south-west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.35 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels with abundant cobbles

## Trench 21

Sample section: Eastern end (0.00 = 40.19 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> East/west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels with eastern end of the trench containing a grey clay till deposit.

## Trench 22 (Fig. 4; Plates 2, 3 and 5)

Sample section: North-west end (0.00 = 39.87 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> Irregular dumbbell shape with two areas of 4m by 4m linked by a corridor of 2m by 4m.
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels



Trench 22 was located across the line of the proposed haul road over a group of discrete anomalies that were identified by the geophysical survey and interpreted as a pit alignment. Four pits were identified within the trench area with a fifth partly revealed at the southern end of the trench. The three northern pits (103, 105 and 107) were half sectioned and the results summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary table of pits within Trench 22.

Pit cut number	Fill number	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Findings
103	104	1.55	0.50	None
105	106	1.50	0.35	None
107	108	1.35	0.35	Animal Bone fragments

The fills from each pit were identical comprising light brown slightly sandy silt with frequent amounts of stone that appeared to be packed into the features. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the pits although two small fragments of animal bone were recovered from pit 107.

#### Trench 23

<b>Sample section: North-east end (0.00 = 39.66 aOD)</b>		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-east/south-west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 10m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.25 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 24

<b>Sample section: North-east end (0.00 = 38.40 aOD)</b>		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-east/south-west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 10m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

#### Trench 25 (Plate 6)

<b>Sample section: North-eastern end (0.00 = 34.83 aOD)</b>		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-east/south-west		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>



100	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.40 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.70m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 26

<b>Sample section: South-east end</b> (0.00 = 38.82 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.70m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## Trench 27 (Plate 7)

<b>Sample section: North-west end</b> (0.00 = 37.10 aOD)		
<b>Orientation:</b> North-west/south-east		<b>Dimensions:</b> 2m by 20m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
101	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
102	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

## 5 Environmental Record

### Soil Samples

Thirty litre soil samples were taken from the primary fills of the four archaeological features excavated and are summarised in the table below.

Table 2. Summary of environmental samples taken

Context Number	Sample Number	Type of feature
104	1	Pit
106	2	Pit
108	3	Pit
111	4	Ditch

### Animal Bone

Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from pit 107, deposit 108. The fragments are likely to be part of the long bones of a medium to large sized mammal but are undiagnostic. No further analysis is possible.

## 6 Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation covering the area proposed for the location of the overburden storage bunds and haul roads for the Southern Extension to Ripon Quarry has confirmed the presence of a prehistoric pit alignment identified by the geophysical survey. The evaluation also identified an undated ditch feature that appears to be on a similar alignment to a first edition Ordnance Survey boundary but is depicted 18m to the east of the mapped feature. Although this latter feature was not identified by the earlier magnetometer survey it is not considered to be archaeologically significant. No other archaeological features were identified in the remaining 25 trenches confirming the low archaeological potential of this area as suggested by the geophysical survey.

In conclusion the evaluation has clearly demonstrated the low archaeological potential of this south-western part of the field and therefore confirmed its suitability for the storage of overburden. Whilst the haul road will have to cross the prehistoric pit alignment in order to access the proposed storage areas it is considered that the remaining unexcavated sections of the three pits that fall within the haul road corridor can be protected using a suitable depth of aggregate and a semi-permeable membrane to negate any potential adverse impact of the temporary road construction.