

NYCC HER	
SNY	871
ENY	601
CNY	1996
Parish	6003
Rec'd	

Archaeological Watching Brief 1995.

**Marfield Quarry,
Masham,
North Yorkshire**

Area D.

MARFIELD QUARRY, MASHAM

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Excavation Methods	4
3. Excavation Results	5
4. Conclusions	8
5. Recommendations for further work	9
6. Bibliography	10
Appendices	
1. Context listing	11
2. Finds Catalogue	12

Figure List

Page

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Site location plan | 3 |
| 2. Finds Distribution | 6 |
| 3. Artefact Distribution | 7 |

MARFIELD QUARRY, MASHAM

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

The site of Marfield Quarry is situated in the parish of Masham, North Yorkshire, to the north-west of the town of Masham and the A6108, Ripon to Leyburn road (SE 8277 2110 : Fig. 1).

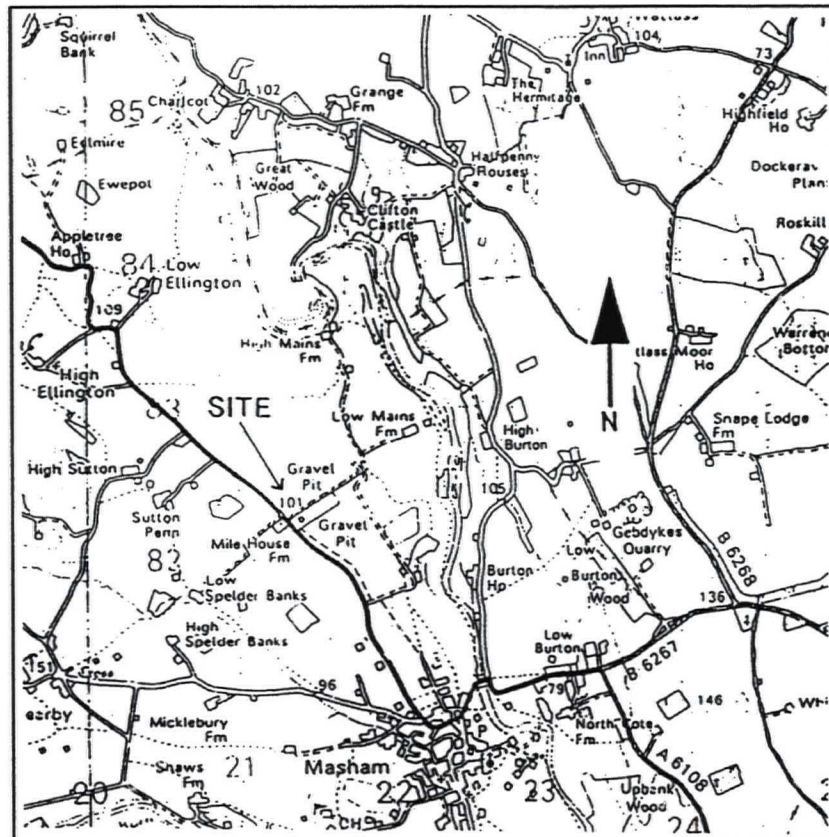


Figure 1.

The geology of the site is deep, well drained, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel, overlying glaciofluvial or river terrace drift (Mackney et al 1983).

In accordance with a planning constraint placed on Redland Aggregates, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in April 1995 during the topsoil stripping of an area measuring approximately 165m by 125m maximum (Fig. 2).

All work was funded by Redland Aggregates.

All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

Excavation Methods and Techniques

The site was mechanically topsoil stripped using a tracked rear-acting excavator with a toothless bucket. The stripped area was then shovel scraped and selected areas were trowelled. The hedge line as shown on Figure 2 (p. 6) represent the base line for measuring in the position of finds.

Finds located within Layer 1002 exposed by the stripping process are displayed by artefact category on Figure 3 (p. 7).

Excavation Results

The turf/vegetation, context 1001, and the topsoil, a silty sandy clay loam, context 1002, varied in depth over the site from 0.23m to 0.34m. This layer sealed a friable silty sand subsoil, context 1003, with a depth of 0.31m. Observation of the adjoining quarry face shows that below the plough and subsoil was a deposit of grey clay with boulders and cobbles up to 0.50m in diameter (context 1004). This clay deposit seals the undisturbed sand and gravel deposits.

The majority of pottery of the assemblage was recovered from the ploughsoil with only a small percentage (c. 10%) from the interface of layers 1002 and 1003. The distribution of the artefact assemblage is illustrated on Figures 2 and 3.