

**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES**

*Arcow Quarry, Horton in Ribblesdale*

**NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Site name:** Arcow Quarry, Horton in Ribblesdale  
3803 4723

**Grid reference:** SD

**Parish:** Horton in Ribblesdale

**District:** Craven

**County:** North Yorkshire

**Administrative authority:** North Yorkshire County Council

**Development:** Railhead linking quarry to Settle – Carlisle Railway

**Client:** Tarmac

**Contractor:** Story Construction

**Planning application reference:** C/44/101 D&E

**Site project officer:** Alistair Zochowski

**Project manager:** Matthew Town

**Date(s):** 16/09/2015 - 17/09/2015

**NAA project number:** 1275

**Site code:** AQH 15

**Reasons for watching brief:**

A watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of a railhead for the quarry to connect it to the main Settle to Carlisle branch line located to the east of the area.

URS conducted a walkover survey of the proposed area in 2014 and identified ridge and furrow and a possible hillside enclosure at the north end of the strip. Discussion with the senior historic advisor for National Yorkshire Dales Park recommended a watching brief be undertaken during the strip and that no further work was required.

**Results:**

During September 2015 NAA conducted a watching brief on a topsoil strip associated with the construction of a new rail link for the Arcow quarry located at Horton in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire (Figs 1 and 2).

An area of topsoil measuring 17m by 100m was stripped by a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket down to the underlying clay natural. This topsoil was dark brown to black in colour and consisted of a heavy silty clay. The topsoil was highly waterlogged in places as the area of strip ran through a pre-existing pond.

The only observed feature present within the stripped area was the lowest course of a modern dry stone field boundary wall. This wall ran on a roughly east-west alignment

and had an observed length within the stripped area of roughly 17m and a width of 0.70m (Plates,1 and 2).



Plate 1 showing field boundary wall  
looking West



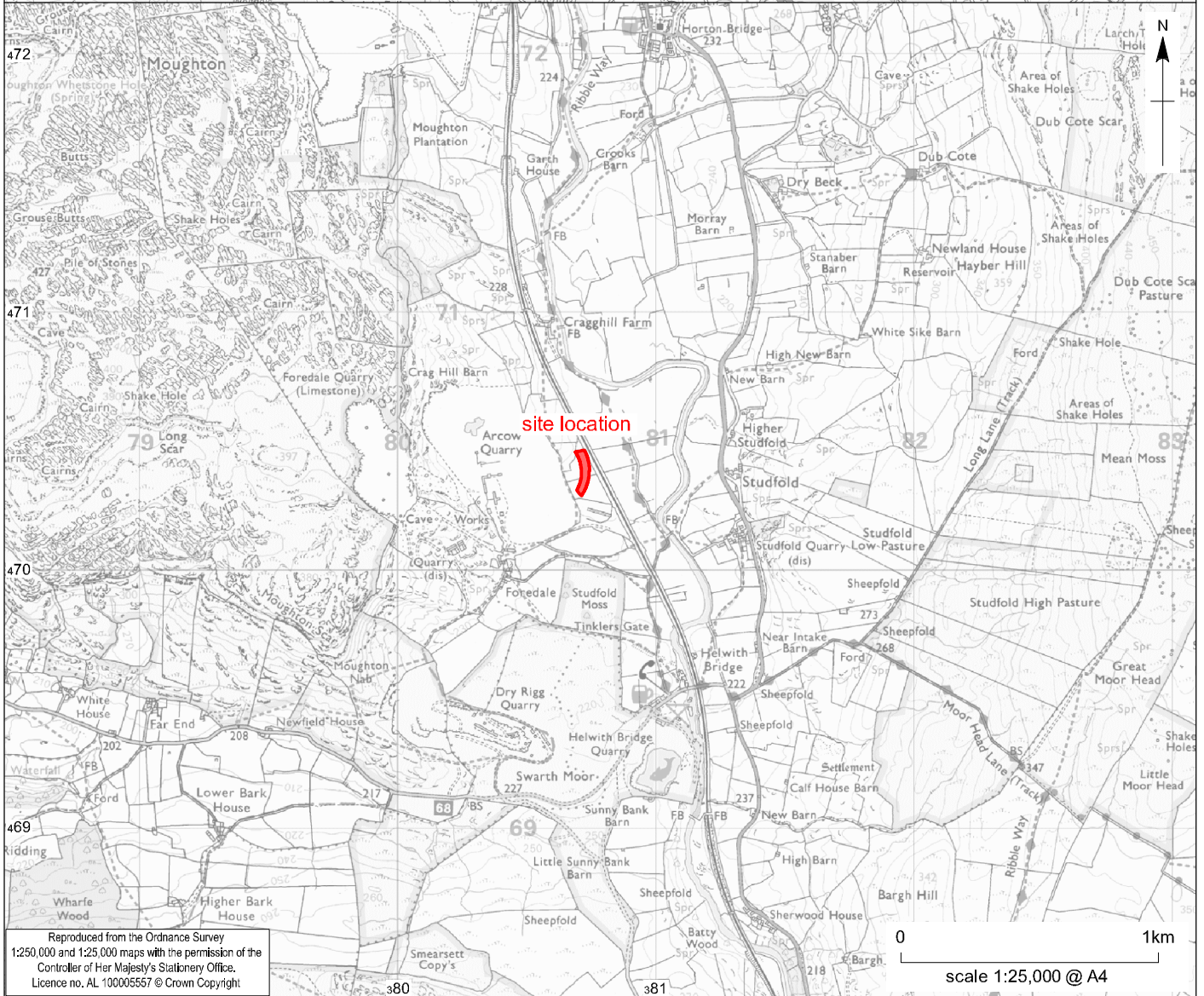
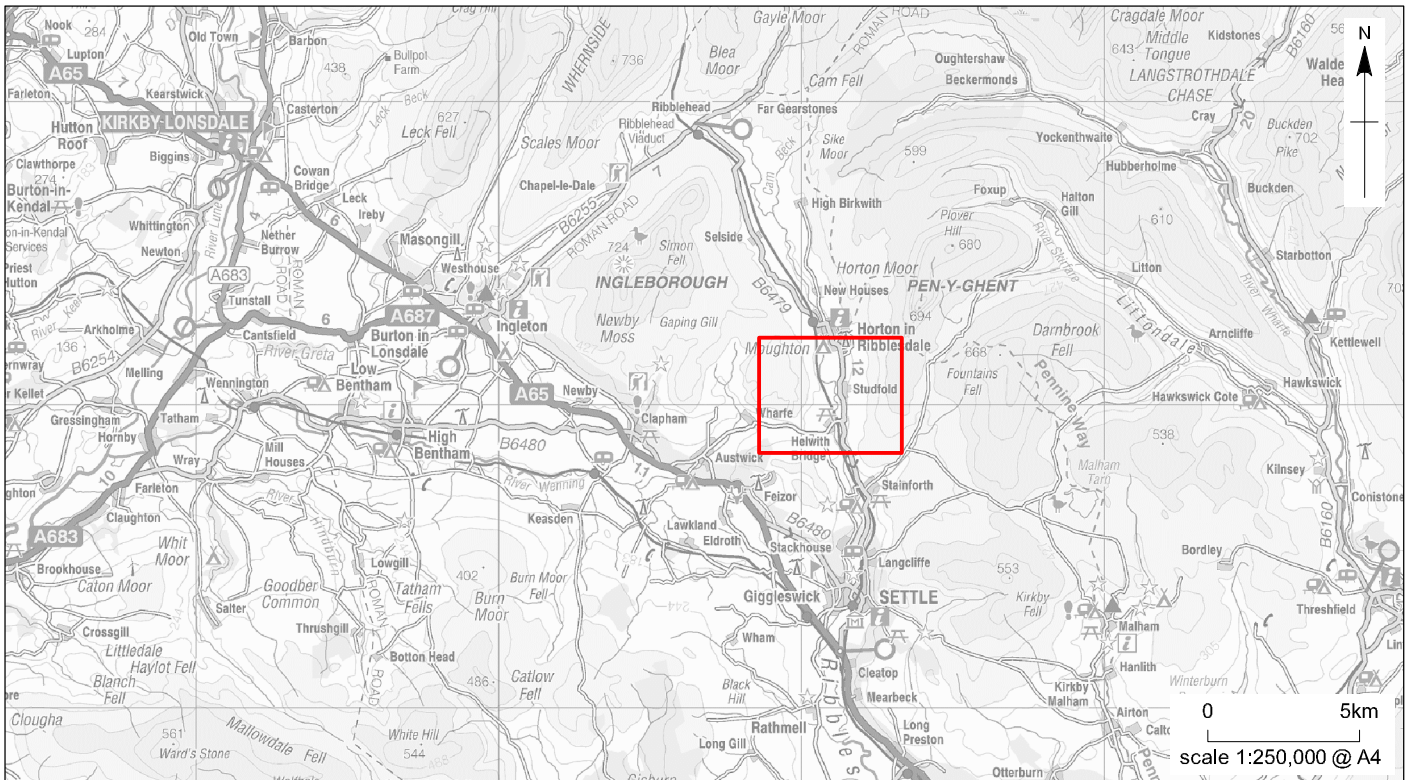
Plate 2 showing field boundary wall  
looking East

The underlying natural was a mottled blue yellow clay and this was subsequently excavated by a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a toothed digging bucket to a depth of roughly 1 metre below the topsoil to reach formation level. On completion of the excavation terram was laid across the area and compacted stone was deposited on this. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the.

**Documentation:** the archive consists of a hand drawn sketch plan and 31 digital photographs.

**Archive deposition:** Yorkshire Dales National Parks Authority

**Report number:** NAA 2015/108  
**Report date:** *September 2015*



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