



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT**

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**WINDY HILL QUARRY
MARWOOD, COUNTY DURHAM**

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WINDY HILL QUARRY, MARWOOD, COUNTY DURHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Windy Hill Quarry, Marwood, near Barnard Castle in County Durham (NZ 023 217). Archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenches was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of F & R Jackson in accordance with a condition of planning (ref. CMA/6/43).

Four trial trenches were excavated in positions that had been agreed with the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council. The four trial trenches yielded scant archaeological data. The three eastern trenches (2, 3 and 4) were completely sterile, while Trench 1 recorded the remains of a lynchet, with a shallow slot at its foot suggesting that it had built up behind a field boundary wall. The field boundary was recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859 (Old Maps online) but had been removed prior to the 3rd Edition of 1920.

Ploughing against the boundary wall had created a lynchet, and had removed almost all trace of the ridge and furrow, presumably medieval in date, which was still visible to the north of the lynchet. The subsoil encountered in all four trenches was likely to represent the remnants of the medieval ploughsoil.

It is considered that the evaluation has sufficiently characterised the area of quarry extension, and that no further archaeological intervention is necessary. However, if future extensions to the quarry are planned in the field to the north, where remnants of the medieval ridge and furrow survive as earthworks, then archaeological investigation may be appropriate in advance of development.

The site record will be archived internally at NAA. An OASIS record has been initiated for the project (ref. Northern1-280817).

WINDY HILL QUARRY, MARWOOD, COUNTY DURHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) were commissioned by F & R Jackson to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of four trial-trenches at Windy Hill Quarry, Marwood, County Durham (NZ 023 217). This document presents the results of that evaluation, which was carried out in February 2017.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was specified by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council (DCC) as a condition of planning consent for the extension of a pre-existing stone quarry (planning ref CMA/6/43). The works followed a strategy set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (NAA 2016), which was submitted to and approved by DCC. All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with relevant standards, guidance and best practice published by English Heritage (2008) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site, and to ascertain the extent, condition, character and date of any such remains. This information will be used by DCC to ascertain the need for further archaeological mitigation.
- 1.4 Paragraph 141 within the National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') was located to the north of the B6278, a minor road leading north-westwards from Barnard Castle to Egglestone (Fig. 1). The site was bounded on the north, east and west sides by open farmland (Plate 1) and to the south by B6278. It measured 0.45 hectares, with a gradual northern slope towards the banks of Howe Gill.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the quarry comprised Carboniferous sandstone of the Stainmore Formation; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 313 to 326 million years ago (British Geology Service online); there were no superficial deposits recorded in the area (*ibid.*). The soils in the vicinity are mapped as well drained loams of the Rivington 2 association (Jarvis *et al.* 1984, 262-5), with slow permeable, seasonally waterlogged loams of the Brickfield 3 association alongside the road to the south (*op. cit.*, 123-6).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are no previously recorded heritage assets (archaeological sites or findspots) within the extent of the quarry (which is of 19th-century origin), but a number of

prehistoric cup-marked stones have been recorded at Hawksley Hill (Durham Historic Environment Record (HER) reference D5685), 1km to the east, and there was a settlement of probable prehistoric to Roman date near Knot Hill, Marwood, 2.5km to the south-east (Durham HER D6858).

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 In order to demonstrate the presence or absence of archaeological remains, four trenches were excavated across the extension area. Trench 1 was excavated within an area intended for imminent stripping and quarrying. The other trenches were distributed across the remaining area, which will be retained under pasture until a later date.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the methodology detailed within a Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2017).

5.2 Four trenches were excavated within the development area in positions that had been agreed during consultations with DCC. The trenches were 20m in length and were approximately 2m in width. The location of each trench was surveyed using a Topcon GRS-1 GPS. Information was transferred to AutoCAD 2012 software and reproduced for incorporation within this report.

5.3 The trenches were stripped of soils using a 360° excavator with a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision at all times. The machine removed topsoil and subsoils down to a level at which archaeological deposits were identified or down to natural deposits. Topsoil was stored by the edge of each trench and was kept separate from any subsoils. The trenches were backfilled upon the conclusion of the fieldwork.

5.4 All the trenches were photographed and a pre-excavation plan was created. All potential archaeological features and deposits were investigated by hand excavation. All archaeological features were then photographed and recorded.

6.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

6.1 Trench 1 was located in western portion of the site, orientated approximately north to south. The northern end of the trench crossed a slight, but notable, east/west orientated lynchet that was visible across the full width of the quarry extension area.

6.2 Natural clay and sandstone (003) were encountered at a maximum depth of 0.46m. Cutting into the natural clay some 1.25m from the northern end of Trench 1 was the foundation slot (004) for a now removed field boundary wall (Figure 2; Plate 2). The slot was 1.02m wide, with a surviving depth of 0.23m, and contained a few large stones (006) which were presumably remnants of the stone wall. These were within a matrix of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt (005) which had in-filled the cut after the removal of the wall.

6.3 To the south of slot 004, the natural bedrock was overlain by a subsoil layer of pale brown clayish silty sand (002) that was up to 0.11m thick. Overlying this was a deposit of relict topsoil up to 0.34m deep (007), which formed the lynchet previously seen as a shallow earthwork (Plate 3). The features in the trench were sealed by between 0.27m and 0.43m of orangey brown sandy silt topsoil (001).

6.4 None of the features or deposits produced artefactual material.

Trench 2

6.5 Trench 2 was located 10m to the south-east of Trench 1, orientated approximately north-west to south-east, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m.

6.6 Like Trench 1, the natural clays and sandstone (003) in Trench 2 were overlain by a thin subsoil layer (002) and up to 0.43m of topsoil (001). No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trenches 2, 3 or 4.

Trench 3

6.7 Trench 3 was located in the northern portion of the site, c. 20m to the east of Trench 1 and orientated approximately east to west (Plate 4). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m, and had a similar soil profile to Trench 2.

Trench 4

6.8 Trench 4 was orientated approximately north to south in the southern corner of the site. Natural clays and sandstone (003) were recorded at a depth of 0.52m, overlain by some 0.11m of subsoil (002) and up to 0.41m of topsoil.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The four trial trenches yielded scant archaeological data. The three eastern trenches (2, 3 and 4) were completely sterile, while Trench 1 recorded the remains of a lynchet, with a shallow slot at its foot suggesting that it had built up behind a field boundary wall. The field boundary was recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859 (Old Maps online) but had been removed prior to the 3rd Edition of 1920.

7.2 Ploughing against the boundary wall had created a lynchet, and had removed almost all trace of the ridge and furrow, presumably medieval in date, which was still visible to the north of the lynchet. The subsoil encountered in all four trenches was likely to represent the remnants of the medieval ploughsoil.

7.3 It is considered that the evaluation has sufficiently characterised the area of quarry extension, and that no further archaeological intervention is necessary. However, if future extensions to the quarry are planned in the field to the north, where remnants of the medieval ridge and furrow survive as earthworks, then archaeological investigation may be appropriate in advance of development.

7.4 The site record will be archived internally at NAA. An OASIS record has been initiated for the project (ref. Northern1-280817).

REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*

English Heritage (2008) *MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3 Archaeological Excavations*.

Jarvis R A, Bendelow V C, Bradley R I, Carroll D M, Furness R R, Kilgour I N L and King S J (1984) *Soils and Their Use in Northern England Soil Survey of England and Wales* Bulletin no. **10**

Northern Archaeological Associates (2016) *Archaeological Trial Trenching, Windy Hill Quarry, Marwood, County Durham: Written Scheme of Investigation*. NAA report **16/130**

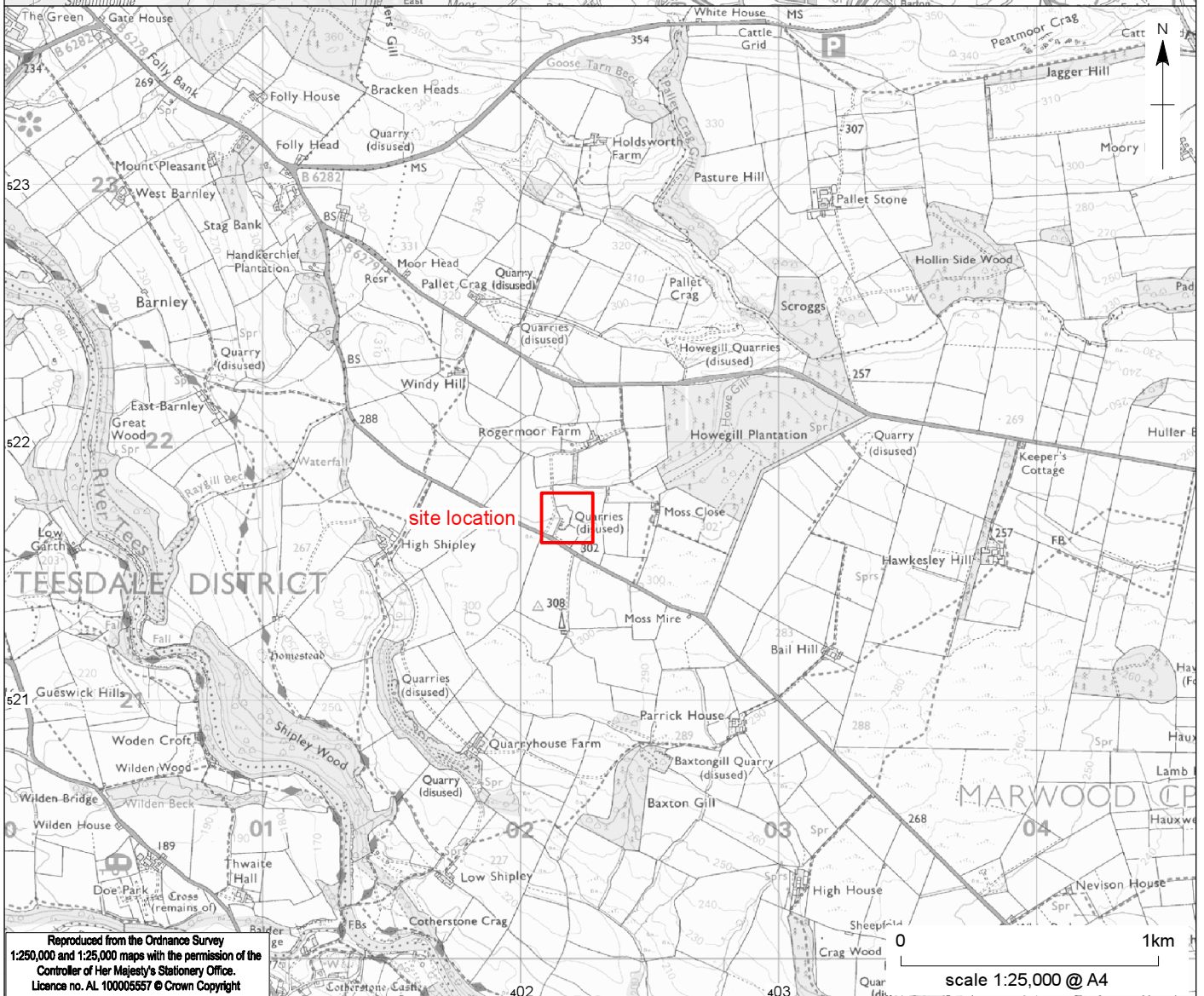
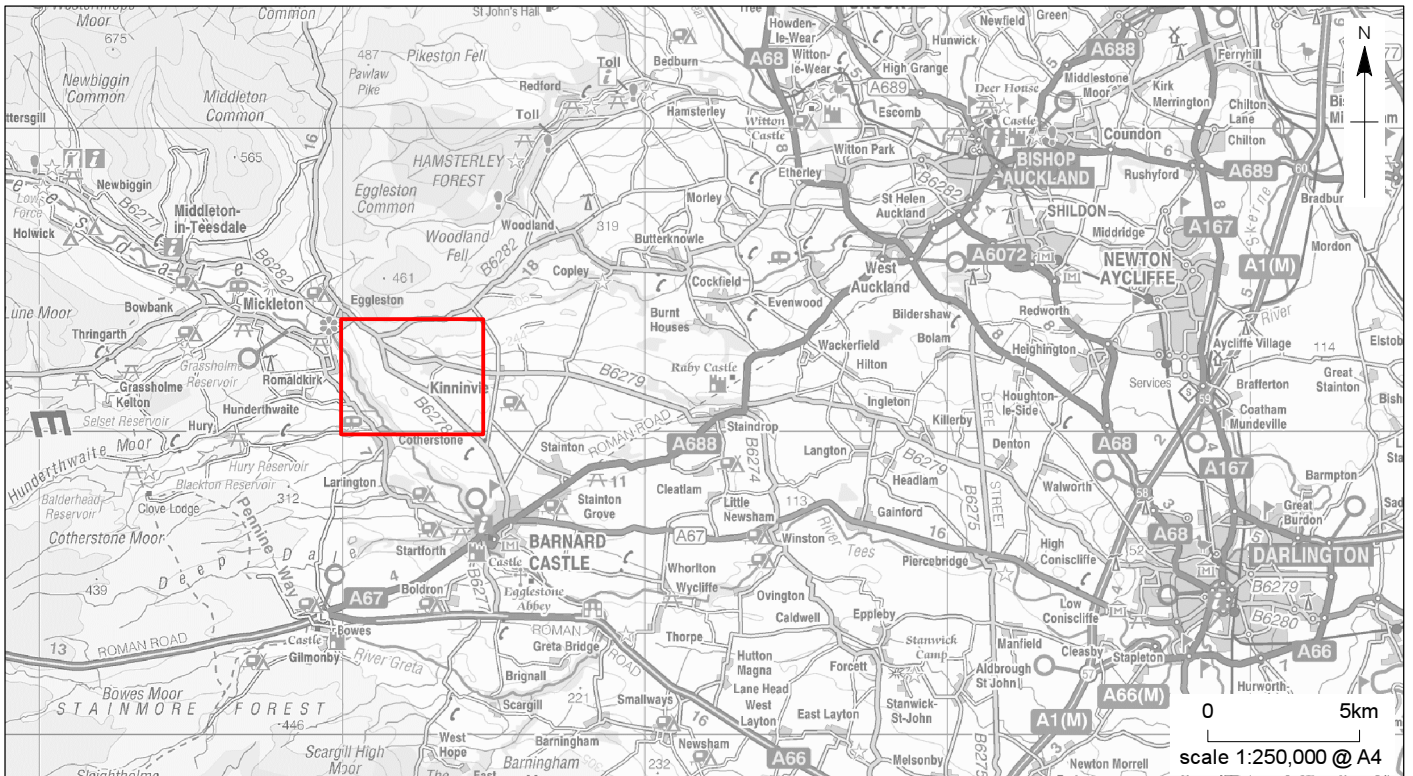
Online sources

British Geology Service: British Geology Viewer (accessed on 11/10/2016) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Old Maps (accessed on 28/02/2017) <http://oldmapsonline.org>

APPENDIX A
CONTEXT CATALOGUE

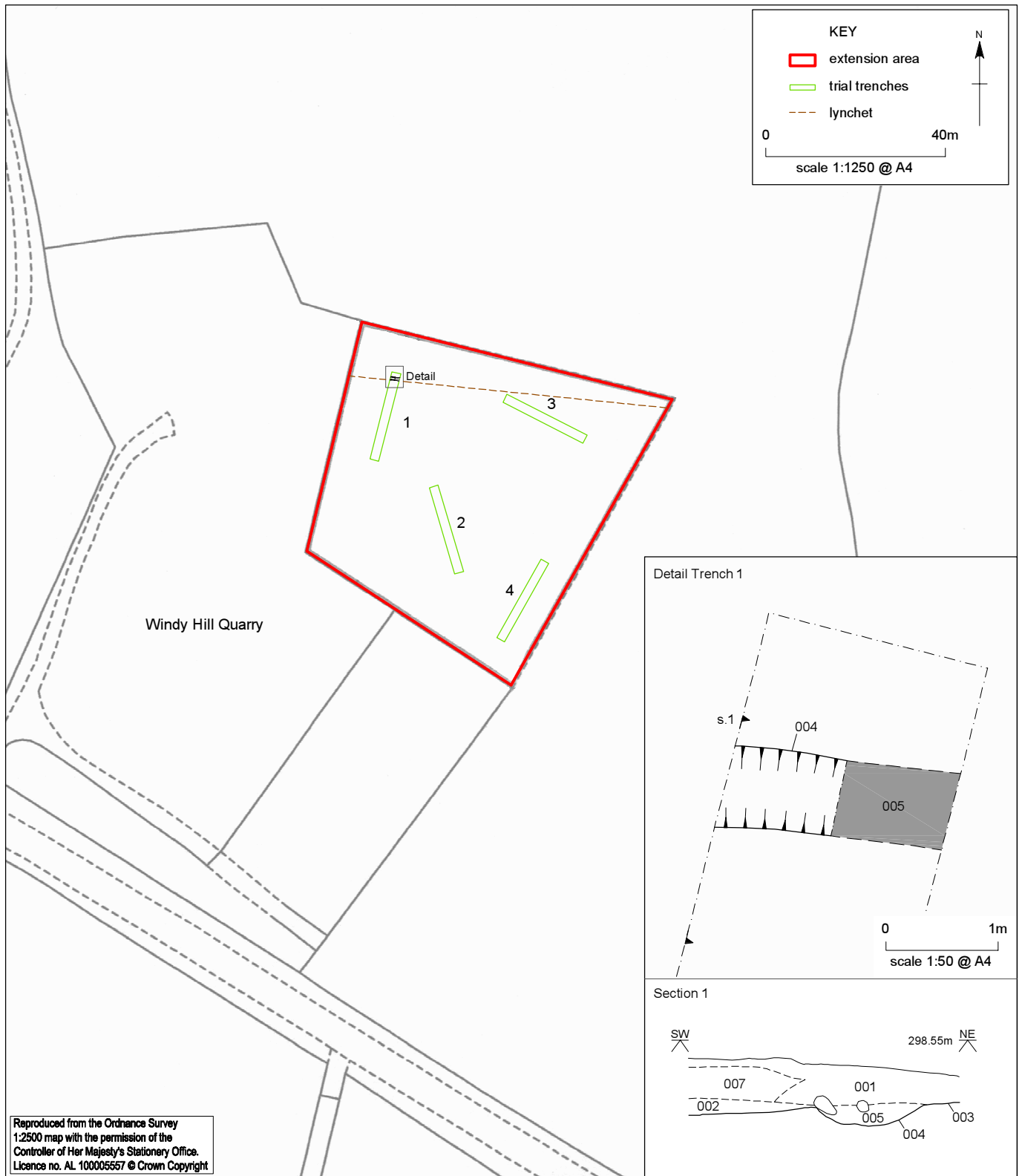
Context	Interpretative Description	Trench
001	Topsoil	1, 2, 3, 4
002	Subsoil	1, 2, 3, 4
003	Natural substratum	1, 2, 3, 4
004	Cut of stone wall	1
005	Fill of 004	1
006	Stone wall fragments in 004	1
007	Soil accumulation (lynchet) in 004	1



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Windy Hill Quarry: site location

Figure 1



Windy Hill Quarry: trial trench results

Figure 2



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Windy Hill Quarry: general view of site

Plate 1



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Windy Hill Quarry: Wall foundation slot 004

Plate 2



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Windy Hill Quarry: view of Trench 1 showing slight lynchet

Plate 3



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Windy Hill Quarry: Trench 3 showing eroded sandstone bedrock

Plate 4