

Newbigging Quarry 2011: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21987

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12th October 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Newbigging Quarry 2011: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Tarmac Ltd
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 0425 4580
AOC Project No:	21987
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed extension to the existing Newbigging Quarry, Newbigging, South Lanarkshire.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of 504 m². Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Tarmac Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior to an extension to the existing Newbigging Quarry, Newbigging, South Lanarkshire. The development lies within the administrative area of the South Lanarkshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in accordance with South Lanarkshire Council requirements as advised by WOSAS.

1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with WOSAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed quarry extension comprises an approximately rectangular-shaped land parcel located east of the settlement of Newbigging, north of South Medwin Water, on land currently occupied by open ground immediately west of existing quarry workings (centred NGR: NT 0425 4580 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development area has previously been subject to desk-based study that was intended to inform the WSI by collating both map-based and aerial photographic evidence in order to ascertain the extent to which the site may have been previously disturbed (Lovekin and Olesky 2011). Consideration was given to the extent to which previous activities on the site could have disturbed any archaeological resource which may be present. Analysis of historic maps and aerial photographs indicate that much of the land with Areas A and B of consented extraction areas has already be subject to disturbance thus compromising the archaeological potential of the area (Lovekin and Olesky 2011, Figure 8).

1.3.2 Aerial photographs have indicated that approximately 0.63 ha or 22.5% of Area B (which is approximate 2.79 ha) has been subject to ground disturbance. This disturbance includes the digging of the pond for drainage purposes in the early 1970s and a slight encroachment of the existing quarry in the area's northeast corner in the 2000s. The western extents of Area B appear to be undisturbed though they are historically rather boggy.

1.3.3 No archaeological remains were known within the consented quarry extension however archaeological features of prehistoric, possible Roman and potential early historic date are known to the west and south-west of the extension area. Excavations by AOC Archaeology in advance of quarrying operations 1.23 km to the south-west have recorded settlement and possible ritual remains

stretching from the Mesolithic to early historic periods; although most of the remains encountered are of Neolithic date (Cook *et al* forthcoming). Thus there was clearly the potential to encounter hitherto unknown remains within the undisturbed portions of the consented extraction areas.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The results of the desk-based assessment have highlighted both the archaeological potential of Area A and heavy truncation that has affected Area B. In consultation with WoSAS the evaluation comprised two main parts, the targeted trenching of the disturbed area of terracing and the trenching of the non-disturbed part of Area A.

3.2 The evaluation of the smaller undisturbed area (Figure 1) comprised machine trenching of an 8% sample. The area amounts to 0.169 ha; thus trenching consisted of no less than 67 m² (total basal trench dimensions). Trenches were 2.4 m wide and of various lengths and orientations (Figure 1).

3.3 The trenching of the disturbed area comprised the excavation of two north-west to south-east aligned trenches (each 70 m in length), splitting the area in to three (Figure 1).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry

4.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 11th October 2011. Overall the weather conditions were overcast, with slight showers. Good archaeological visibility was present throughout the evaluation. Neither archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were found in any of the trenches. However it was noted that the overburden in Trench 1 consisted of modern madeground directly above a sealed turf layer approximately 0.2 metres thick and 0.8 metres below the current ground surface (Plate 1). Natural subsoil comprised sands and gravels.



Plate 1: South facing section of Trench 1 showing turf layer and madeground



Plate 2: General shot of Trench 1 from SW



Plate 3: General view of Trench 2 from the west



Plate 4: General view of Trench 3 from W

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Despite the presence of significant archaeological remains within both the immediate vicinity of the development area and more generally within the wider area neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation. However, the absence of archaeological material as either structural remains or unstratified artefacts should not be considered as conclusive proof that no anthropogenic activity has taken place here. Rather, it confirms the suggestions made by the desk-based assessment in identifying the previous disturbance caused by human activity.
- 5.2 The significant balance of probability is that Areas A and B are now archaeologically sterile.

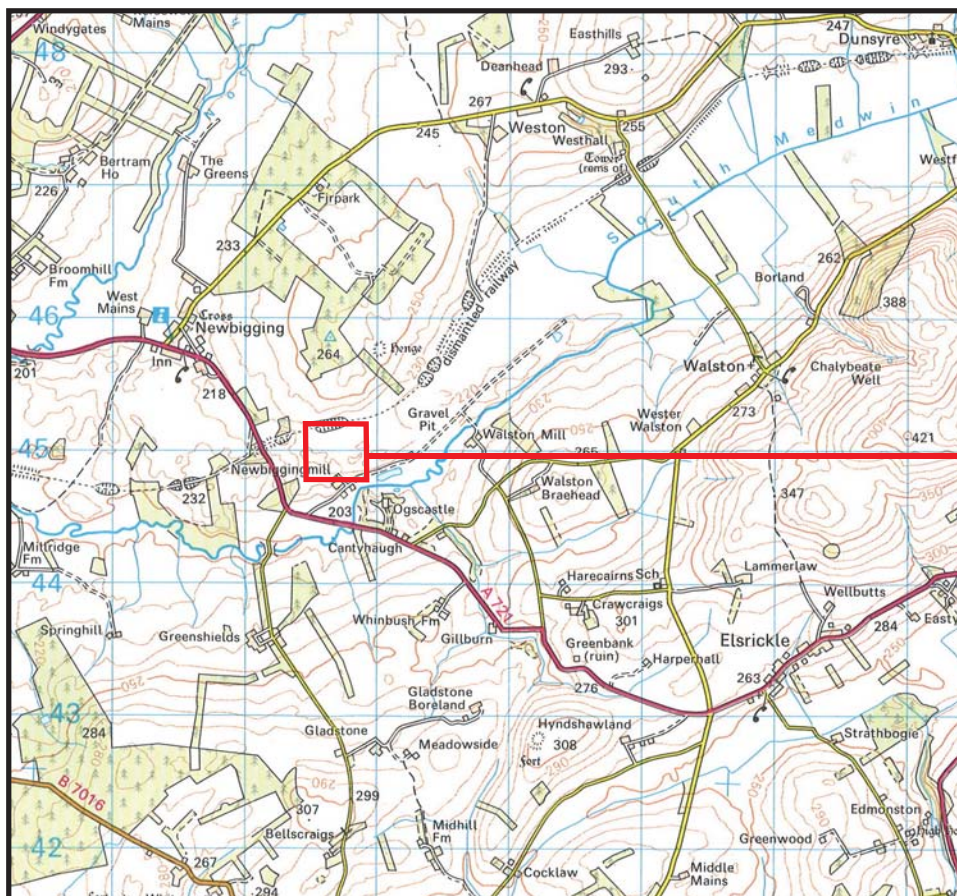
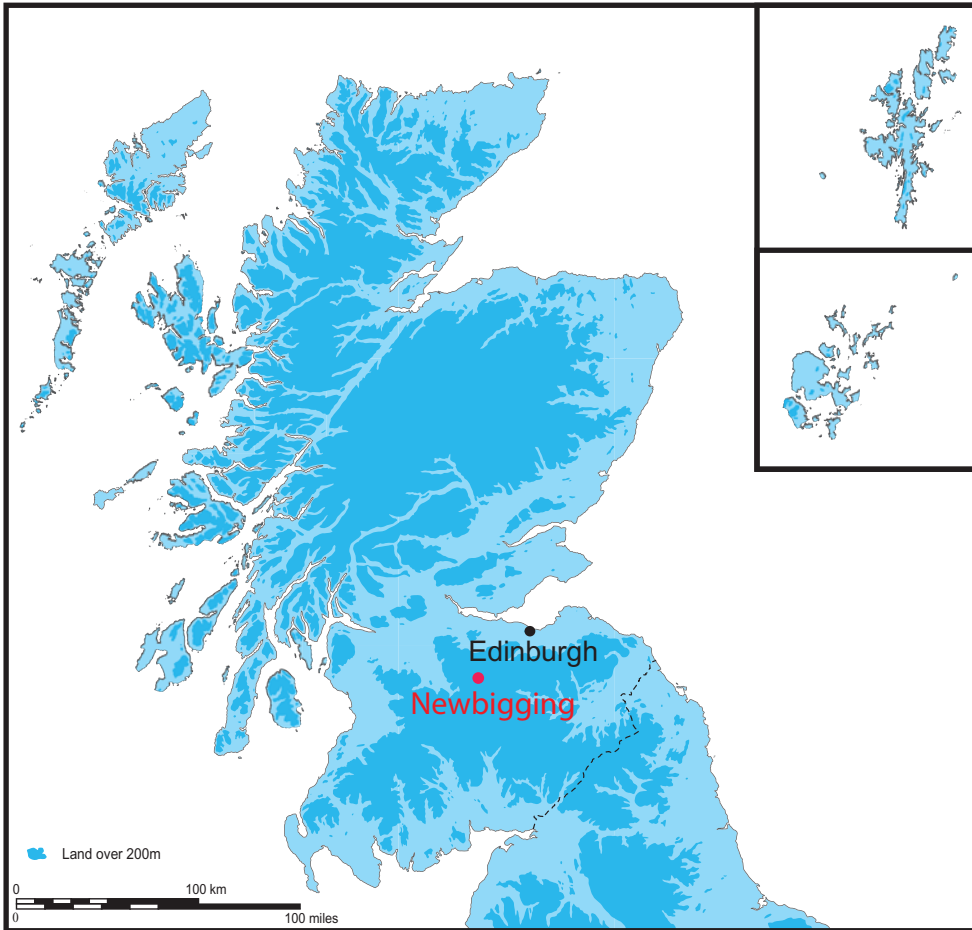
6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WOSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley-Lovekin, T and Olesky, V 2011 *Extension to Newbigging Quarry, Newbigging, South Lanarkshire Desk-Based Assessment*, Unpublished client report.

Cook, M., Hunter Blair, A., Engl, R., and MacSween, A., forthcoming, *The Ritual Landscape of Newbigging Quarry, South Lanarkshire*, for submission to the *Scottish Archaeological Journal*



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Newbigging Quarry

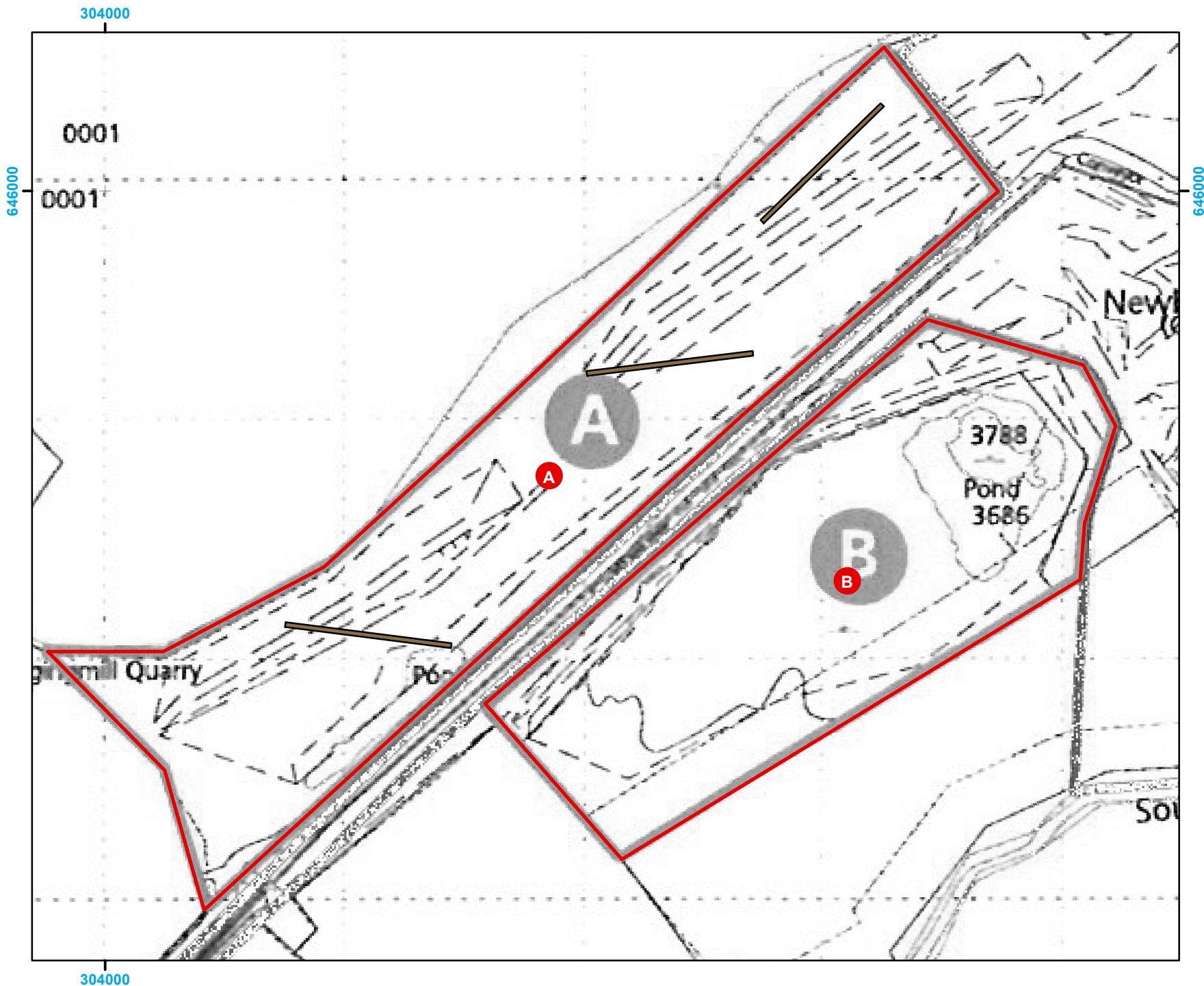
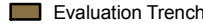

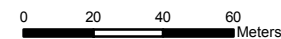


Figure 2: Evaluation trench layout, Newbigging Quarry

Legend

-  Evaluation Trench
-  Consented Extraction Areas



Project No.:	21987
Date:	12.10.11
Scale at A4:	1:2,163



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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	168 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE/SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m at NE; 0.25m at SW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m at NE; 1.05 m at SW
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	A buried soil was found to underlie the madeground.
<i>Subsoil</i>	sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	70m by 2.4m
<i>Total Area</i>	168 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2 m at E; 0.4m at W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m at E; 0.4m at W
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	70m by 2.4m
<i>Total Area</i>	168 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at E; 0.7m at W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m at E; 0.7m at W
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

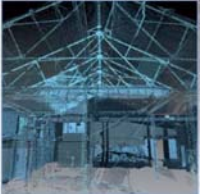
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1 and Black and White Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2		Registration Shot	
3-4	2	Overall shot of trench 2	W
5-6	1	Overall shot of trench 1	SW
7-8	1	S facing section of trench 1 at SW end	S
9-10	3	Overall shot of trench 3	W

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Newbigging Quarry 2011
PROJECT CODE:	21987
PARISH:	Carnwath
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Streatfeild-James, Jake
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 0425 4580
START DATE (this season)	11 th October 2011
END DATE (this season)	11 th October 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Desk-based assessment
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was undertaken prior to an extension to the existing Newbigging Quarry. This trenching, confined to previously undisturbed areas of the extension area, failed in identifying either significant archaeological features or unstratified artefacts.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tarmac Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS



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