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**A fieldwalking survey in advance of
a proposed extension to Holywell
Quarry, Clipsham, Lincolnshire**

NGR: SK 988 162

John Thomas



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**A fieldwalking survey
in advance of a proposed extension to
Holywell Quarry, Clipsham,
Careby, Aunby & Holywell Lincolnshire**

NGR: SK 988 162

John Thomas

For: Stamford Stone Company

Approved By:

Signed:



Date: 23rd March 2012

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A fieldwalking survey in advance of a proposed extension to Holywell Quarry, Clipsham, Careby, Aunby & Holywell, Lincolnshire (SK 988 162).

1. Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS for Stamford Stone Company in February 2012. The survey took place on agricultural land north of the current Holywell Quarry site near Clipsham, Careby, Aunby & Holywell, Lincolnshire SK 988 162, which has been chosen for a proposed extension to the quarry area. A generally sparse scatter of finds was recovered, including a broken flint blade, dating to either, the Palaeolithic or the Neolithic/Bronze Age periods, a small concentration of heat cracked stones and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. The archive will be deposited with The Collection, Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire under accession code LCNCC: 2012.57 in due course

2. Location, Topography and Geology

A fieldwalking survey was carried out in advance of a proposed extension to Holywell Quarry, Clipsham, Careby, Aunby & Holywell parish, Lincolnshire and took place on 20-02-2012.

The survey area consists of a rectangular field around 6 hectares in extent, located to the immediate north of the current quarry workings in Holywell Quarry. The quarry itself lies on the very edge of the border between Lincolnshire and Rutland (Figure 1).

The survey area rises generally to the north between 74-84m OD, but also falls off from east to west and is currently in use as an agricultural land. At the time of the survey the field was under crop (oil seed rape) which was in a fairly advanced stage of growth, although cover was patchy across the fields resulting in variable visibility (Figures 2 & 3).

The British Geological Survey map of England and Wales (Sheet 143 – Bourne) shows that the underlying geology of the area is likely to be Blisworth Limestone Formation or Rutland Formation Sandstone & Limestone, overlain by Till or Glaciofluvial gravel.



Figure 1 Location of survey area (shaded)

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Figure 2 The survey area viewed from the north.

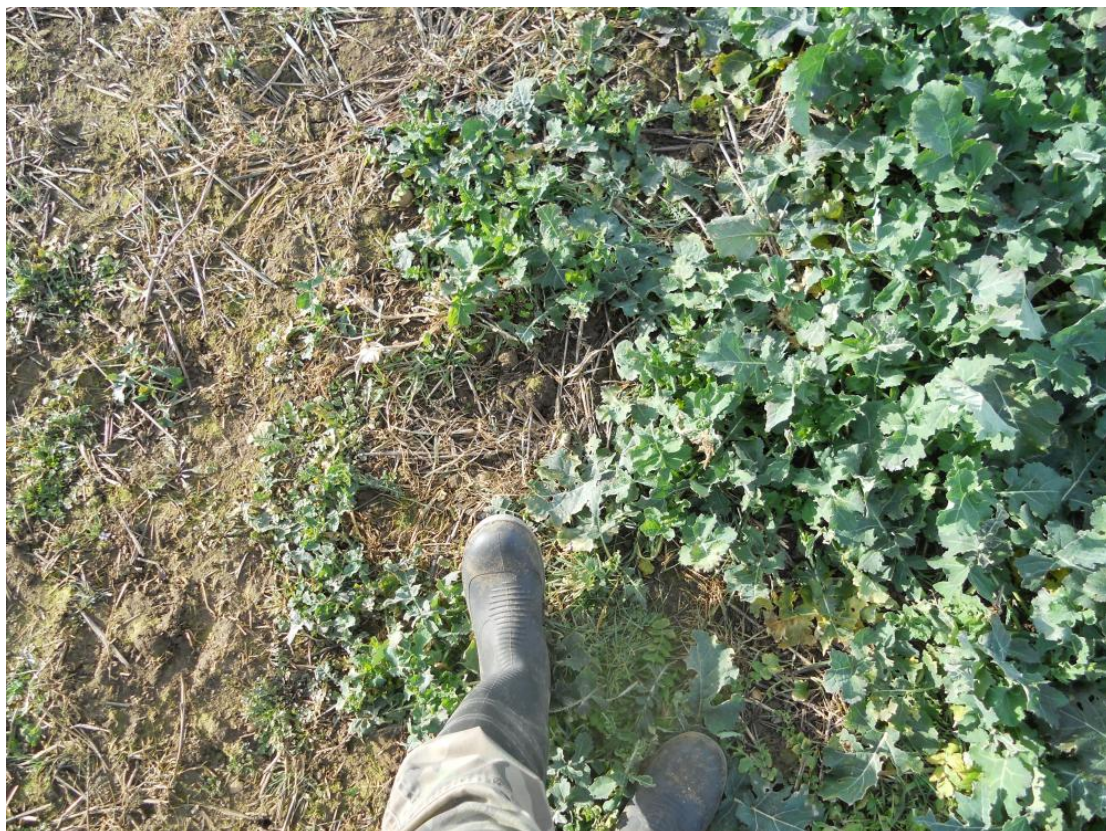


Figure 3 Illustration of crop growth and variability of ground conditions

3. Historical Background

A desk-based assessment for the proposed quarry extension has been undertaken by ULAS (Hunt 2012). The report considered a study area with a radius of 1km around the proposed quarry extension to assess the potential for archaeological remains on the survey site. The results of the assessment were based on records of known sites recorded on the Leicestershire & Rutland and Lincolnshire Historic Environment Records (HER's) of archaeological and historical significance.

The general conclusion of the desk-based assessment was that the archaeological potential of the proposed quarry extension remained largely unattested, but showed that the site lay within a wider area of archaeological significance (Hunt 2012, 10).

Evidence for prehistoric and Roman and Anglo Saxon occupation has been recovered from areas near to the survey area. Most pertinent to current survey, Roman remains, including evidence for a villa, were found within the now disused quarry to the south-west of the current quarry workings.

Slightly further afield prehistoric, Roman and Anglo Saxon artefacts have been found during fieldwalking surveys 700-800m to the south-east, including evidence for Roman period iron smelting.

4. Aims

The overall aim of the fieldwalking survey is to examine the surface of the fields for cultural material disturbed by ploughing in order to make an assessment of the presence, extent and date of any potential underlying archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

5. Methods

Within the survey area fieldwalking transects were laid out on a 10m grid and the ground scanned for artefacts approximately 1 metre either side of this transect line, giving a theoretical 20% sample coverage of the total area.

All pre-modern artefacts of any antiquity were recovered from the surface and their position logged as small finds with hand-held GPS units. These were showing an accuracy of 3m throughout most of the survey. Bearing in mind the dispersion factor found in fieldwalking surveys (Yorston *et al* 1990) this was an appropriate resolution for the aims of this project. Modern (i.e. post 1750) artefacts were not recovered deliberately, although inevitably some recovered artefacts turned out to be modern after cleaning and identification.

Two hand held GPS units were used, each generating a sequential run of small find numbers.

The light was generally good on the day the survey was undertaken, with continuous cloud cover and even sunlight throughout.

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

6. Results

The survey recovered very few artefacts, including only one post-medieval pottery sherd (018) found near the northern field boundary, and this general dearth of material was reflected across the field which appeared remarkably ‘clean’ in terms of evidence of past activities. There were virtually no modern artefacts visible in the field.

A broken flint blade (023) was found in the south western corner of the field reflecting prehistoric activity in the area. Near the western boundary of the field, at the top of the slope, a small concentration of heat-cracked stones (019-021) was recovered and this may also reflect prehistoric activity.

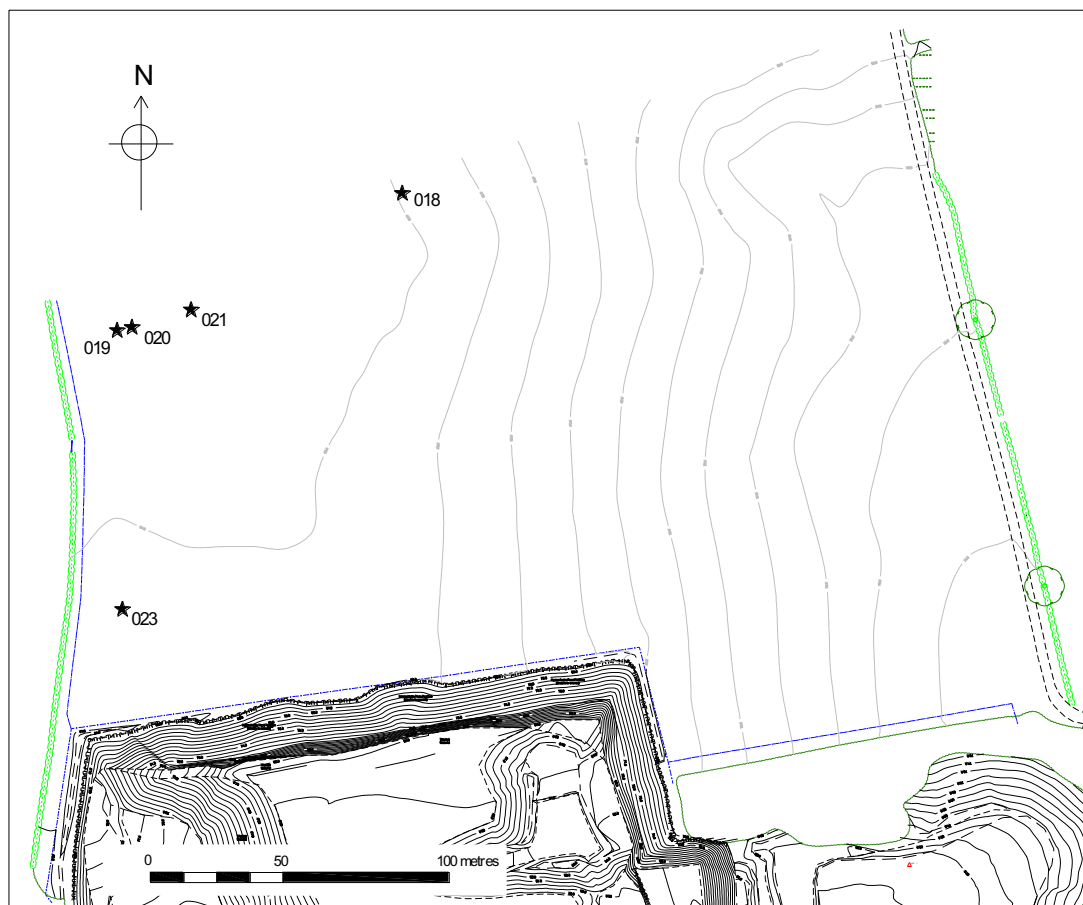


Figure 4 The study area showing the overall spread of finds (existing quarry to the south)

7. Discussion

The survey recovered a low amount of material with no suggestion of any clear foci of activity.

Prehistoric activity is indicated by the broken flint blade which is possibly of some significance, dating either to the Neolithic/Bronze Age period, or possibly to much earlier upper Palaeolithic activity.

The only clearly datable artefact recovered was a small sherd of 18th/19th century post-medieval pottery.

The small concentration of heat-cracked stones represented the nearest example to any clear spatial grouping of artefacts from the survey and may have been disturbed from an archaeological context beneath the plough soil.

The low numbers of artefacts recovered is unusual. Of note is the apparent absence of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds which are often found as manuring scatters on the fields surrounding settlements. The 1880 map of the Lordship of Holywell records the two fields as 'Upper Old Pasture' and 'Lower Old Pasture' (Hunt 2012 figure 5). This may indicate that the area had been pasture for a considerable length of time and that ploughing and manuring may have been rare occurrences which may account for the absence of manuring scatters.

8. Archive

The archive consists of:

1 copy of this report

1 *pro-forma* fieldwalking diary sheet

4 digital colour photographs and accompanying record sheet

1 small bag of finds

1 cd containing the report, GPS data and digital photographs

The archive will be deposited with The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire under accession code LCNCC: 2012.57 in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

The survey was undertaken by Andrew Hyam and John Thomas and the project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay. The post-medieval pottery was identified by Nicholas J Cooper and the flint by Lynden Cooper.

10. Bibliography

Hunt, L., 2012 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for a proposed quarry extension, Holywell Quarry, Careby, Aunby & Holywell Lincolnshire (SK 988 162)*. Unpublished ULAS Report No. 2012-008.

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Appendix 1: The Finds*The Flint – Lynden Cooper*

023 A deeply patinated piece appears to be a distal fragment of a retouched blade. There is shallow pressure flaking retouch covering the dorsal surface. There is some irregular inverse retouch. The piece may be a fragment of a plano-convex knife (Neolithic - Early Bronze Age) or feasibly a basal fragment of a leaf-point (early Upper Palaeolithic). The latter possible identification was made from a comparison with a basal leaf-point fragment from Glaston, Rutland where similar shallow retouch was noted.

The Pottery – Nicholas P. Cooper

018 A single small sherd of post-medieval Pancheon ware was recovered during the fieldwalking survey. This is a relatively small piece and was probably brought on to the field as part of a manuring scatter in the 18th or 19th centuries.

Appendix 2: Oasis

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Holywell Quarry, Clipsham, Lincs
Project Type	Fieldwalking
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	John Thomas
Previous/Future work	Previous: DBA. Future: unknown
Current Land Use	arable
Development Type	Quarry extension
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	TF 2286 2202 – TF 2260 2024
Start/end dates of field work	February 2012
Archive Recipient	The Collection: Art & Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Height min/max	74-84m OD
Study Area	6ha
Finds	Prehistoric, Post-medieval

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