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Date of report: June 2009
Client: Aggregate Industries Ltd



Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Angus

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief Phase 8/3

Elizabeth Jones
BSc MA MIFA

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES LTD
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NO 609 702
<i>Address</i>	ARNHALL QUARRY, EDZELL, ANGUS
<i>Parish</i>	FETTERCAIRN
<i>Council</i>	ANGUS
<i>Planning Application No</i>	N/A
<i>NMRS No</i>	NO67SW 56 & NO67SW 57
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-58758
<i>SMR No</i>	N/A
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
<i>Listing Category</i>	N/A
<i>Project Manager</i>	SIMON STRONACH
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<i>Typesetting</i>	CAROLINE NORRMAN
<i>Fieldwork</i>	ELIZABETH JONES
<i>Specialists</i>	N/A
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	APRIL 2009
<i>Report</i>	JUNE 2009

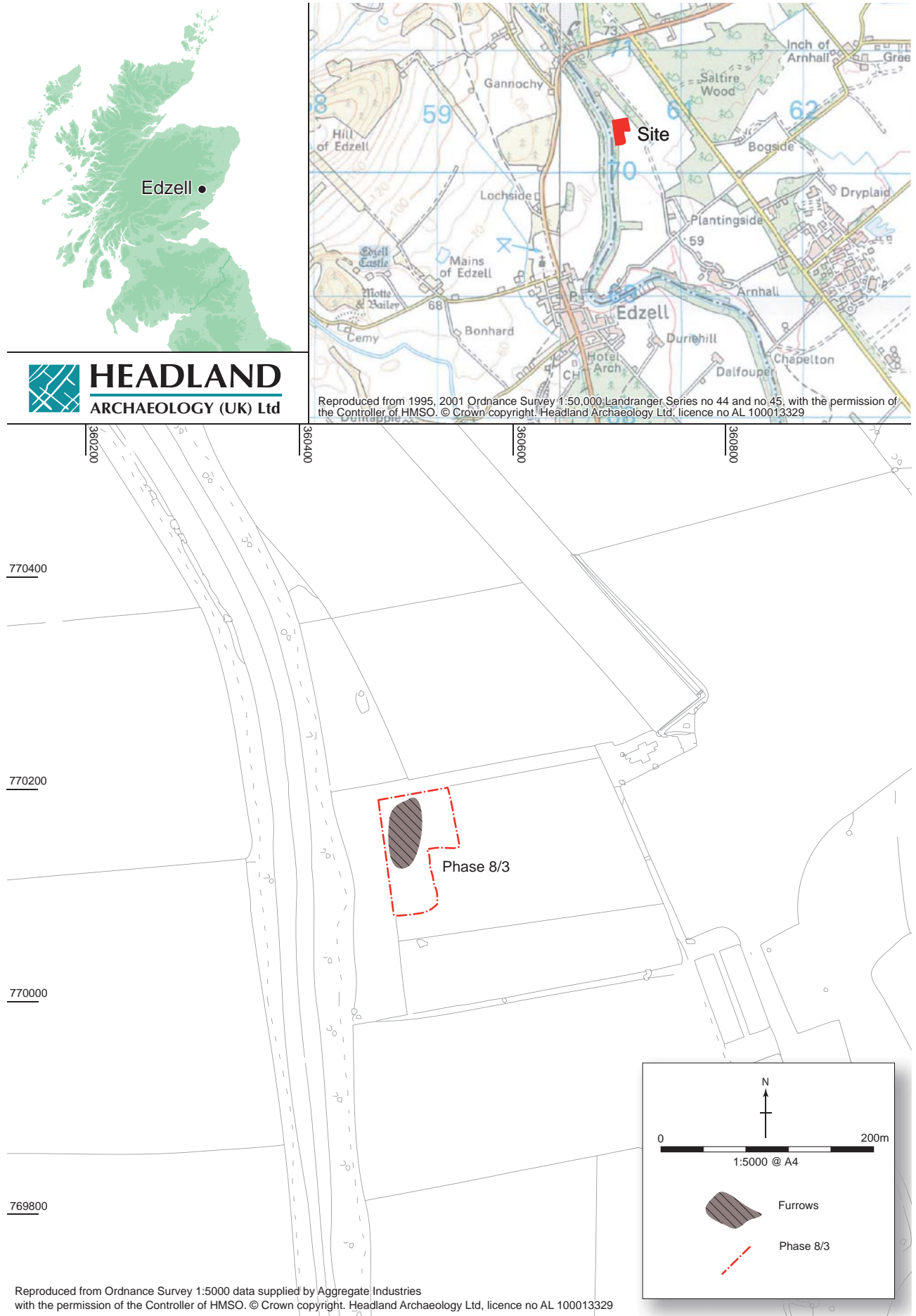
Signed off by:

Simon Stronach BSc MIFA, Project Manager

Date:.....

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Illus 1
Site location

Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Angus

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief Phase 8/3

by Elizabeth Jones

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief at Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Aberdeenshire, on behalf of Aggregate Industries UK Ltd. This was the third phase of work undertaken at Phase 8 of the quarry.

The watching brief identified a group of features, thought to be of prehistoric date. One of the pits probably functioned as a hearth, while the rest may be the remains of a possible structure in the area. Together with the results from previous phases the watching brief has demonstrated low level of perhaps sporadic activity on the site in prehistory as well as a series of post-medieval furrows. The spacing of these indicates they belong to a pre-improvement field system.

INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Aggregate Industries UK Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Aberdeenshire, in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent. The work was undertaken under the terms of a Written Scheme of Investigation produced in 2005 and agreed with the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeologist. This report presents the results of monitoring in the western part of Phase 8 of the quarry. The quarry is located approximately 1km to the northeast of Edzell (NO 609 702; Figure 1). The area subject to the watching brief measured approximately 5000m² and is the third episode of work in Phase 8 of the quarry workings. Previous monitoring at the site has recorded a set of pre-improvement cultivation furrows across Phases 8/1 and 8/2 and two small, undated pits in Phase 8/2 (Corney 2006; Bailey 2007).

The field was under pasture at the time of the watching brief. Areas to the south and east have been quarried since the 1960s. The work was carried out between 16th – 19th June 2008 and 20th – 21st April 2009.

AIMS AND METHODS

The watching brief was intended to ensure that any archaeologically significant deposits that would be destroyed by quarrying operations might be appropriately recorded.

The topsoil strip were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Any potential features identified during the strip were hand cleaned, investigated and recorded appropriately.

RESULTS

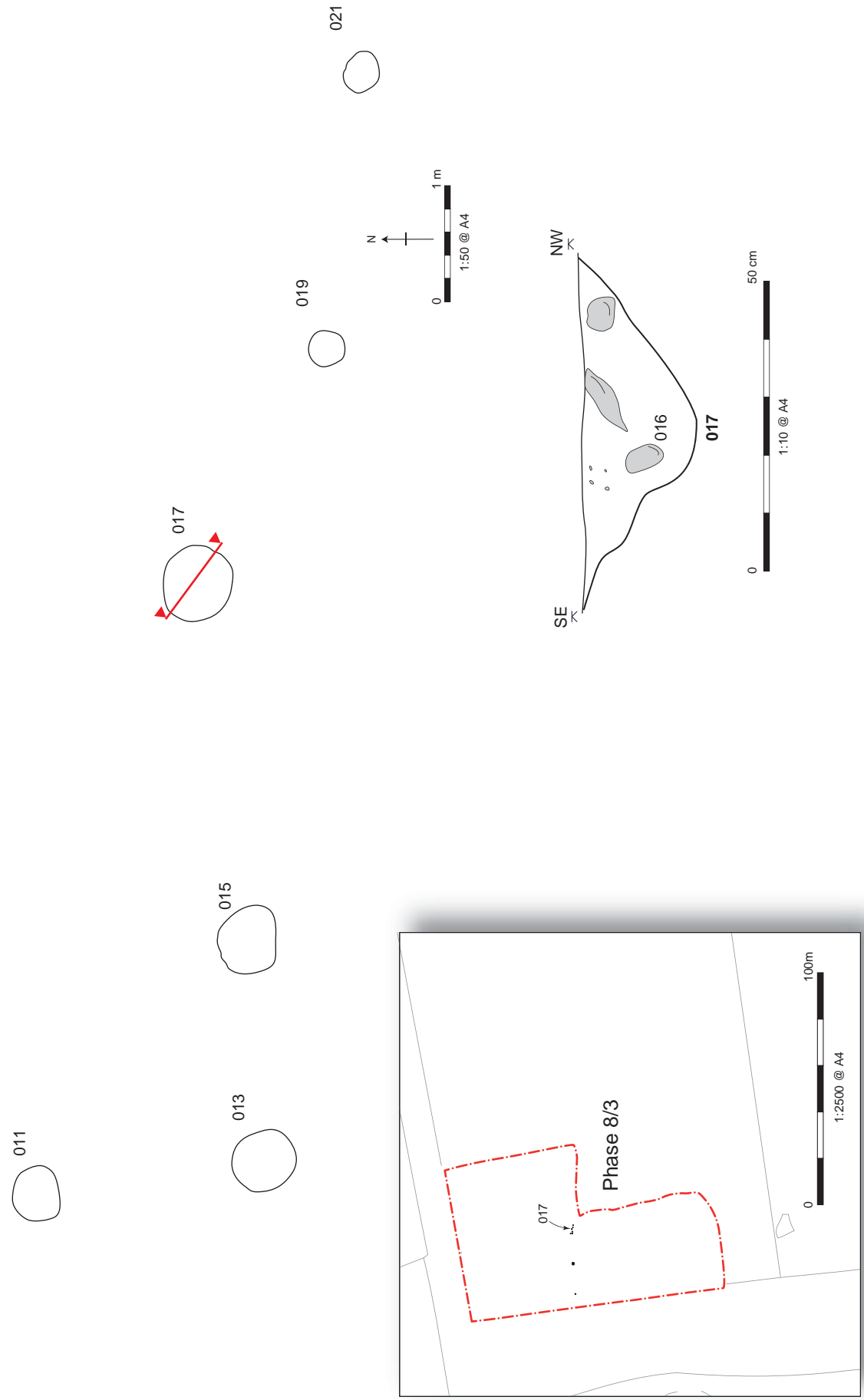
A small group of features was found towards the centre of the stripped area (Illus 2). There was a cluster of features that may represent the remains of a structure, although no pattern was clear. These comprised a group of small postholes [011], [013], [019] and [021]. These measured on average 0.4m in diameter and were between 0.12 – 0.20m in depth. Each was filled with homogenous mid brown silty sand. Also within this cluster were two slightly larger pits [015] and [017], 0.60m in diameter and 0.3 and 0.2m in depth respectively. These contained occasional medium sized burnt stones with rare charcoal flecks. The burnt stones may have been used as packing for a post or may represent evidence for cooking within the pits. This group of features were located at the base of a short sharp slope, which may have provided some shelter if they do represent a structure of some sort. The fills of the features were significantly weathered and contained little charcoal so were not environmentally sampled.

To the west of this cluster were two isolated pits (Illus 3 & 4). Pit [009] measured 1.5 by 1.1m and was 0.28m deep. It contained burnt stone although the fill contained little organic material and no charcoal. Pit [023] was around 0.5m in diameter and only 0.1m deep but was rich in charcoal and contained burnt stones, indicating its use as a hearth. Both were relatively isolated and so were not environmentally sampled. No finds were recovered from any of these features but their nature and the mineralisation apparent in their fills suggested they are prehistoric.

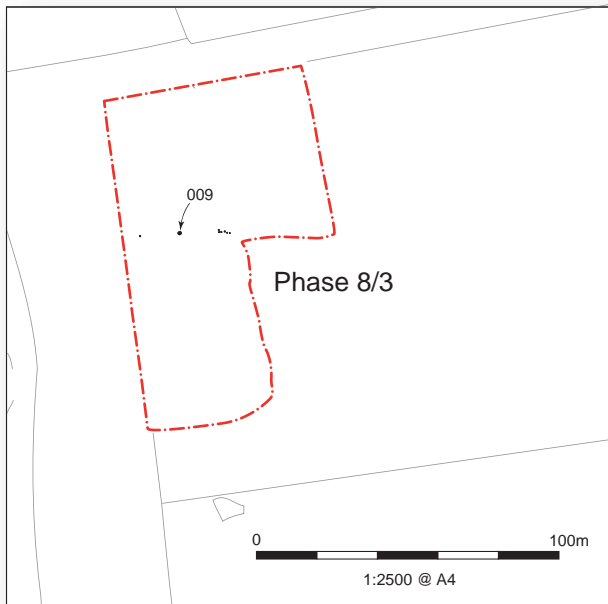
A series of cultivation furrows, presumably the same system as seen in previous phases, was noted across the western part of the area (Illus 1).

DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified a group of features, of probable prehistoric date and of a similar nature to the pits

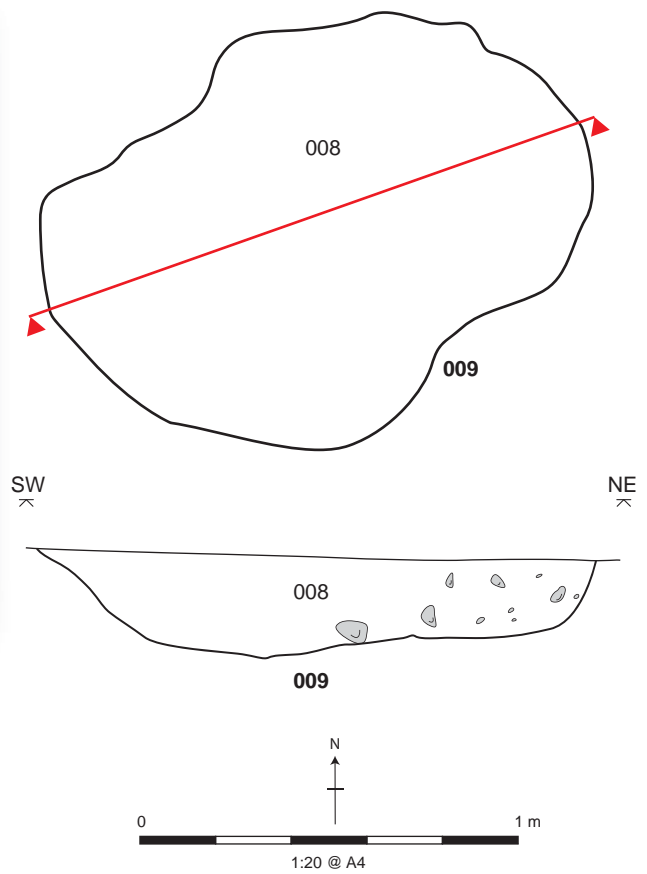


Illus 2
Postholes [011], [013], [019] and [021] and pits [015] and [017]



Illus 3
Pit [09]

found in phase 8/2. One of the pits was rich in charcoal and probably functioned as a hearth, the rest may be related to settlement in the area but all were significantly truncated. Together with the results from previous phases the watching brief has demonstrated a low level of perhaps sporadic activity on the site in prehistory as well as a series of post-medieval furrows. The spacing of the latter indicated that they belonged to a pre-improvement field system.

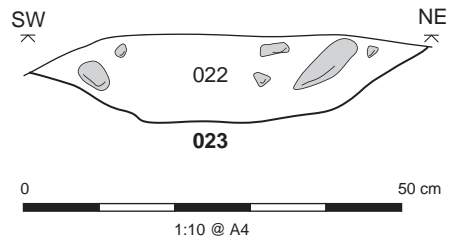
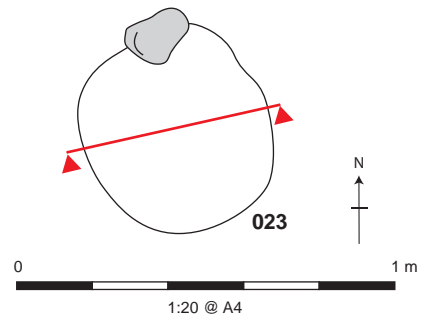
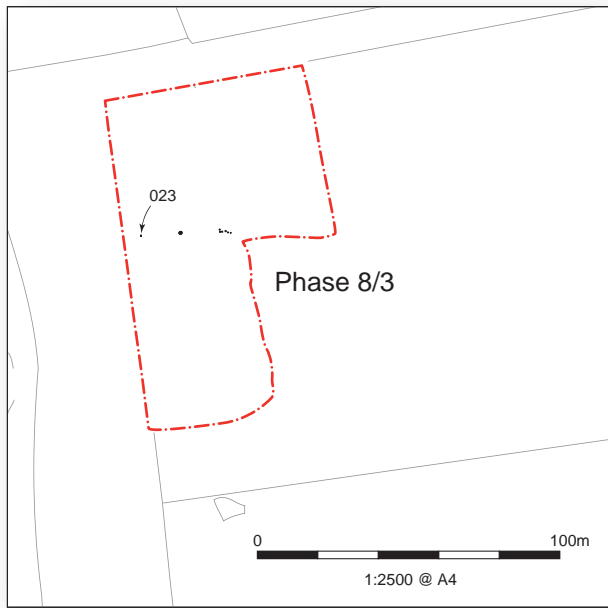


BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bailey, E 2007 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Aberdeenshire: Phase 8/2*, Headland Archaeology client report.
- Corney, M 2006 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Aberdeenshire: Phase 8/1*, Headland Archaeology client report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Suzie Urquhart, Quarry Manager and staff at Arnhall Quarry for assistance during the watching brief.



Illus 4
Pit [023]

APPENDIX 1 - SITE REGISTERS

Context Register

Context no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
Contexts 1-7 used in previous phases.		
8	Mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal, occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones, some burnt. Fill of [009]	D: 0.28
9	Sub-oval cut with regular sloping sides to concave base. Pit.	L: 1.5, W: 1.1, D: 0.28
10	Mid brown sandy silt, occasional small-medium pebbles, rare charcoal. Fill of [011]	D: 0.20
11	Rounded cut, regular sides, rounded base. Posthole.	Ø: 0.4, D: 0.20
12	Mid brown fine sandy silt, occasional small stones, rare charcoal. Fill of [013]	D: 0.20
13	Rounded cut with concave sides and rounded base. Posthole.	L: 0.50, W: 0.40, D: 0.20
14	Mid brown fine silty sand, occasional medium stones, some burnt, rare charcoal and small rounded stones. Fill of [015]	D: 0.30
15	Oval cut with steep near vertical sides N&S, gentler E&W, rounded base. Pit/Posthole.	L: 0.6, W: 0.5, D: 0.30
16	Mid brown fine sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, some broken and some burnt, occasional charcoal. Fill of [017]	D: 0.20
17	Sub-rounded cut with regular sloping sides to rounded base. Pit/posthole	Ø: 0.60, D: 0.20
18	Mid brown sandy silt with rare small stones. Fill of [019]	D: 0.12
19	Rounded cut with concave sides and rounded base. Posthole.	Ø: 0.25, D: 0.12
20	Mid brown silty sand, occasional charcoal and small pebbles. Fill of [021]	D: 0.07
21	Rounded cut, regular sides to flattish base. Posthole.	Ø: 0.35, D: 0.07
22	Mottled brown and black silty sand with frequent charcoal, moderate small fragments burnt stone, occasional large rounded unburnt stone. Fill of [023]	D: 0.11
23	Sub-oval cut with very gradually sloping sides to slightly uneven base. Pit.	L: 0.55, W: 0.50, D: 0.11

Drawing Register

Drawing no.	Scale	Description
5	01:20	Section through pit [009]
6	01:20	Plan of pit [009]
7	01:20	Plan of postholes [011], [013], [015], [017], [019], [021]
8	01:10	NW facing section through posthole [011]
9	01:10	N facing section through posthole [013]
10	01:10	N facing section through posthole [015]
11	01:10	W facing section through posthole [017]
12	01:10	NE facing section through posthole [019]
13	01:10	NE facing section through posthole [021]
14	Not to scale	Location plan of features
15	01:10	SE facing section through pit [023]
16	01:20	Plan of pit [023]

Photo Register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
17	SW	General view of stripped area June 2008
18	S	General view of stripped area June 2008
19	N	Section through pit [009]
20	S	Group of postholes [011], [013], [015], [017], [019], [021]
21	W	Group of postholes [011], [013], [015], [017], [019], [021]
22	SE	Posthole [011]
23	E	Posthole [013]
24	S	Posthole [015]
25	SE	Posthole [017]
26	SW	Posthole [019]
27	SW	Posthole [021]
28	N	General view of stripped area to west June 2008
29	W	General view of stripped area to east June 2008
30	NW	Pre-ex pit [023]
31	NW	Section through pit [023]
32	NW	General view of area - new strip April 2009

APPENDIX 2 - DIGITAL ARCHIVE METADATA

Digital Data Monitoring Record

Project: Arnhall Sand and Gravel Quarry, Edzell, Angus
 Project Code: AQE05
 Project Manager: Simon Stronach
 Project Officer: Elizabeth Jones

Digital Data: Primary Archive

File Name	Description	Folder	Linked Files	Software	Version	3rd party data
None						

Digital Data: Report Archive

File Name	Description	Folder	Linked Files	Software	Version	3rd party data
AQE05-phase8-3-Digital-archive-metadata.xls	This file	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	MS Excel	2003	N
AQE05-8.3-Report.pdf	Report PDF	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	Adobe Acrobat	8 Pro	N
AQE05-report-phase-8-3-ej-v01.doc	Report text	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	MS Word	2003	N
AQE05-Phase8-3-summary.doc	Summary	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	MS Word	2003	N
AQE05-phase8-3-illustration-list.doc	Illustration list	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	MS Word	2003	N
AQE05-Phase8-3-Appendix-1.xls	Site registers	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/	-	MS Excel	2003	N
AQE05_Illus_01_v-01_afp.ai	Illus 1	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/AQE05-8-3-Illustrations	Landranger no 44	Adobe Illustrator	CS3	Y
AQE05_Illus_02_ts.ai	Illus 2	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/AQE05-8-3-Illustrations	-	Adobe Illustrator	CS3	N
AQE05_Illus_03_ts.ai	Illus 3	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/AQE05-8-3-Illustrations	-	Adobe Illustrator	CS3	N
AQE05_Illus_04_ts.ai	Illus 4	AQE05-Project-Archive/AQE05-Phase_8-3/AQE05-8-3-Illustrations	-	Adobe Illustrator	CS3	N