FORCETT QUARRY
EAST LAYTON,
RICHMONDSHIRE,
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
CP. NO: 1058/09
05/05/2010

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

REVISION SCHEDULE			
	01	**02**	**03**
PREPARED BY: **POSITION:** **DATE:**	Natalie Ward Asst. Supervisor 27/04/2010		
EDITED BY: **POSITION:** **DATE:**	Matthew Town Project Manager 28/04/2010		
APPROVED BY: **POSITION:** **DATE:**	Frank Giecco Technical Director 03/05/2010		

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Andrew Josephs, Environmental Consultant, on behalf of his client Hanson Aggregates, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the removal of topsoil, to a depth of 0.30m, at Forcett Quarry, East Layton, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 159 106). Rathmell Archaeology Ltd., undertook a desk-based assessment in 2005 (revised 2007) in order to establish the scope of the archaeological work required to fulfil the archaeological conditions of the planning decision. A detailed magnetometer survey of the area was undertaken in 2006 (Heapy and Webb 2006). These reports did not identify any historic structures or features within the proposed development area dating to before the 19th century, but did identify numerous sites of archaeological significance relating to medieval and later rural activity just outside the proposed ground works area, concluding that there remained the potential for similar, buried and unrecorded archaeological remains within the proposed area of ground works. As a result, the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section, who advise Richmondshire Council, granted planning consent for the development, on the condition that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during topsoil and subsoil strips.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over four days between the 13th November and 14th December 2009. The watching brief monitored the removal of 1800m^3 of topsoil and a small amount of subsoil at an area to the north east of the existing quarry workings to be used to create the final restoration of landform in Area 2, an area to the west of the main quarry workings. No archaeological remains were noted.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the topsoil strip to the north east of the existing quarry workings, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank to Dominic Doyle, Manager at Forcett Quarry, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. We would also like to extend thanks to Andrew Josephs, Environmental Consultant. NPA Ltd would also like to thank the staff at North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section, for all their assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to all staff at the Forcett Quarry and the staff of Alf Kitchings Ltd., for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Natalie Ward, Debra Moretti and Tony Liddell. The report was written by Natalie Ward and the drawings were produced by Natalie Ward. The project was managed by Matthew Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matthew Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In 2007, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Andrew Josephs, Environmental Consultant, on behalf of his client, Hanson Aggregates, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Forcett Quarry, East Layton, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 159 106; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the expansion of the quarry workings. A previous desk-based assessment had also been produced by Thomas Rees, of Rathmell Archaeology Ltd., (Rees 2005, revised 2007), concluded that despite there being no historic structures and features within the proposed extraction, there remained the potential for buried and unrecorded archaeological remains. As a result, the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section, who advised Richmondshire Council, requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).

1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the expansion of the quarry extraction area had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002), and were consistent with the specification provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (Town 2007) and generally accepted best practice.

1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Andrew Josephs, Environmental Consultant, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, 35mm colour slide and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 An area to the north east of the existing quarry workings was stripped of soil (0.30m of topsoil), which was stored for later restoration purposes. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 13th November 2009. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Northallerton, North Yorkshire, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA09, FOR-B, CP 1058/09.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and North Yorkshire County Council Heritage and Environment Team, support the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S** (**OASIS**) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 Forcett Quarry lies within a rural context, in the Pennines on the northern edge of the village of East Layton, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire, approximately 12km north of Richmond, and 20km south- west of Darlington, in North Yorkshire. It lies between the Yorkshire Dales to the south-east and the Vale of York to the south and east. The site lies at a height of approximately 150m AOD, on ground that rises up from Cadwell Beck to the north of the site and is located just off the A66 in North Yorkshire. The land within the proposed development area has been utilised for a tree plantation, and improved for arable growth in the late 19th century. The area is shown in Figure 2.

3.1.2 The underlying geology comprises of Great Limestone and Four Fathom Limestone overlain by drift deposits of boulder clay. The soils which are classified in the Dunkeswick association are described as fine loams that are prone to water-logging (Heapy and Webb 2006)

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. Investigations into the historical context of the area were undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology (Rees 2005), and by the Yorkshire Dales National Mapping Programme, conducted by the National Archaeological Record and the Air Photography Unit of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England between 1988 and 1992.

3.2.2 *Prehistoric and Roman:* no prehistoric or Roman remains survive within the immediate area of the topsoil strip. Neither have any been identified within the proposed extraction area.

3.2.3 *Medieval:* no medieval remains were known to occur within the immediate area of the topsoil strip. However, within the proposed extraction area there were numerous areas of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. Of the surviving medieval remains the site of East Layton DMV is of particular note. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, consisting of two moated sites, a dovecote and various other ancillary features. Aerial photographs suggest that part of the village lay to the east of the road from East Layton to Forcett, although no earthwork remains survive (NMR Monument No.21859).

3.2.4 *Post-medieval and Modern:* a number of post-medieval remains lie within the proposed area of extraction, although none occur within the immediate area of the topsoil strip. Most post-medieval features are of an industrial nature, relating to mine, quarry and kiln workings, and also a railway and a well.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

3.3.1 The desk based assessment (Rees 2005, revised 2007) identified that there had been no previous archaeological excavations and investigations within the extraction area.

3.3.2 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS in 2006, on a roughly rectangular block of land, 4ha in extent and centred on NZ 164 105, but did not include the plantation area stripped during the watching brief. The survey identified several linear anomalies dating back to 19th century agricultural practices and land division, but revealed an absence of earlier archaeological features (Heapy and Webb 2006).

3.3.3 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2008 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in the immediate vicinity of the proposed topsoil strip, which identified no features, layers or deposits of archaeological interest (Gaskell 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in a single phase of controlled topsoil stripping, commencing on 13th November 2009, followed by a further three days work (Figure 2).

4.2 THE TOPSOIL STRIP

4.2.1 The Phase 1 Watching Brief covered the controlled stripping of deposits around the site (Figure 2).

4.2.2 The topsoil was stripped by a 360 degree hydraulic excavator fitted with a 2.0m toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil **(100)** comprised of a dark greyish-brown silty-clay, and was present across the site to a depth of 0.30m. Beneath the topsoil, the subsoil drift geology **(101)**, light greyish-brown, silty-sandy-clay, was visible. No archaeological features were noted.

Plate 1: General shot of stripping in progress.

Plate 2: Stripped Area, looking west.

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 The site was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision. No archaeological remains were observed.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the topsoil strip of an area to the north-east of the existing quarry workings, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, due to the presence of archaeological remains in the wider area, as identified in the desk-based assessment (Rees 2005, revised 2007), it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

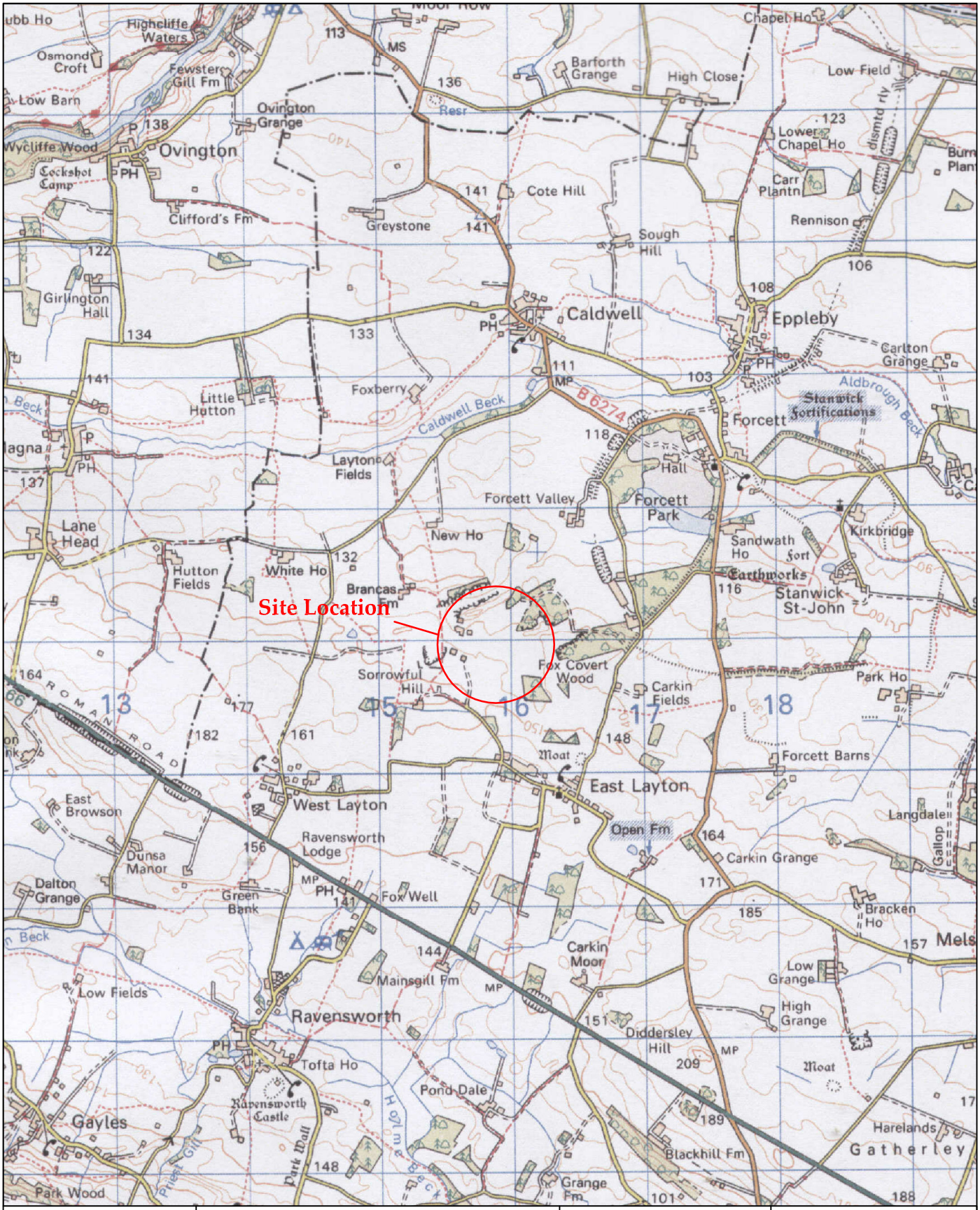
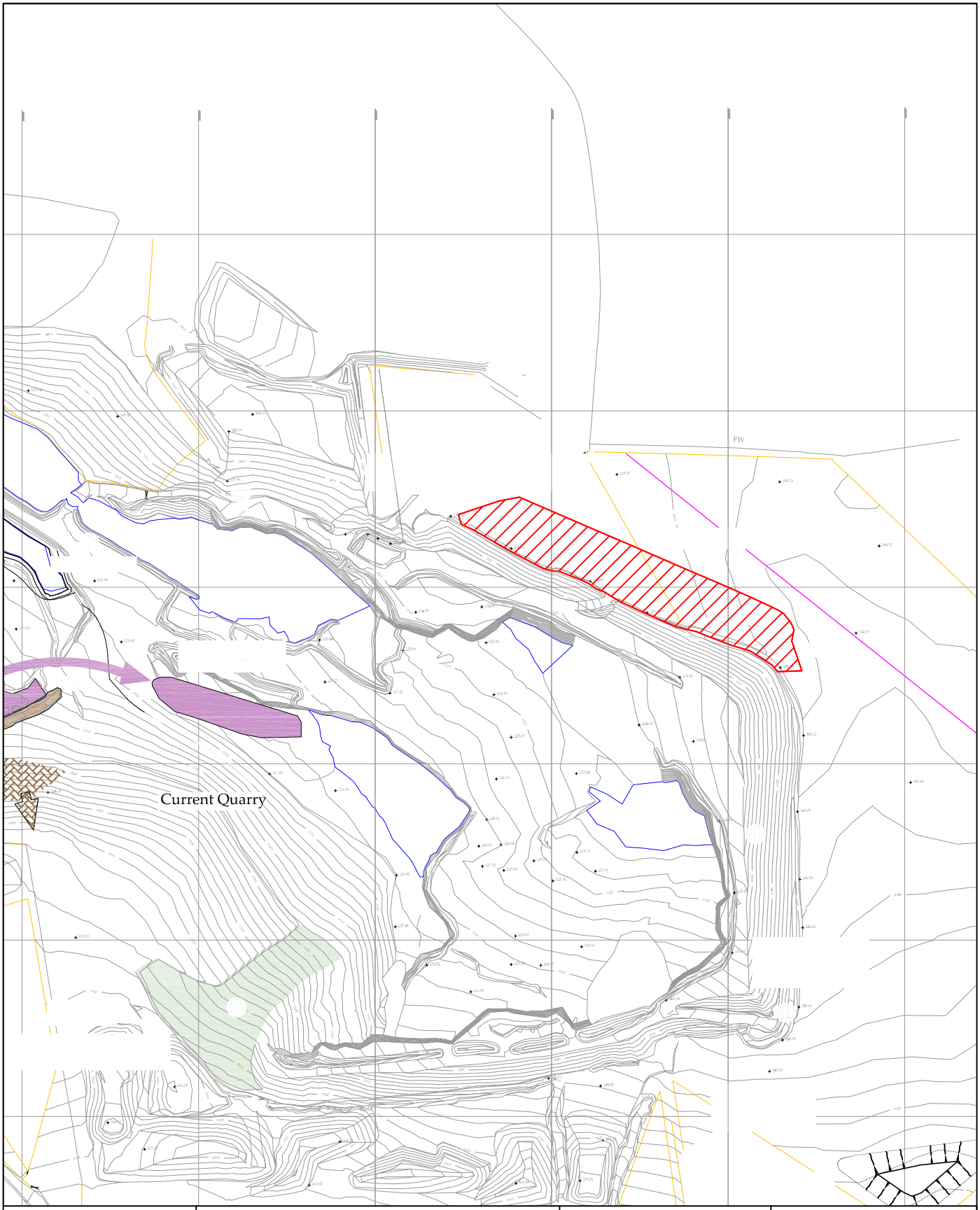


Figure 1 : Site Location



PROJECT:	Forcett Quarry, N. Yorkshire
SCALE:	1:3000 at A4
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CLIENT	Hanson Aggregates Ltd.
DRAWN BY:	MT
DATE:	30/04/2010
FIGURE:	Figure No. 2

KEY:

Watching Brief Area

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Figure 2 : Watching Brief Location