

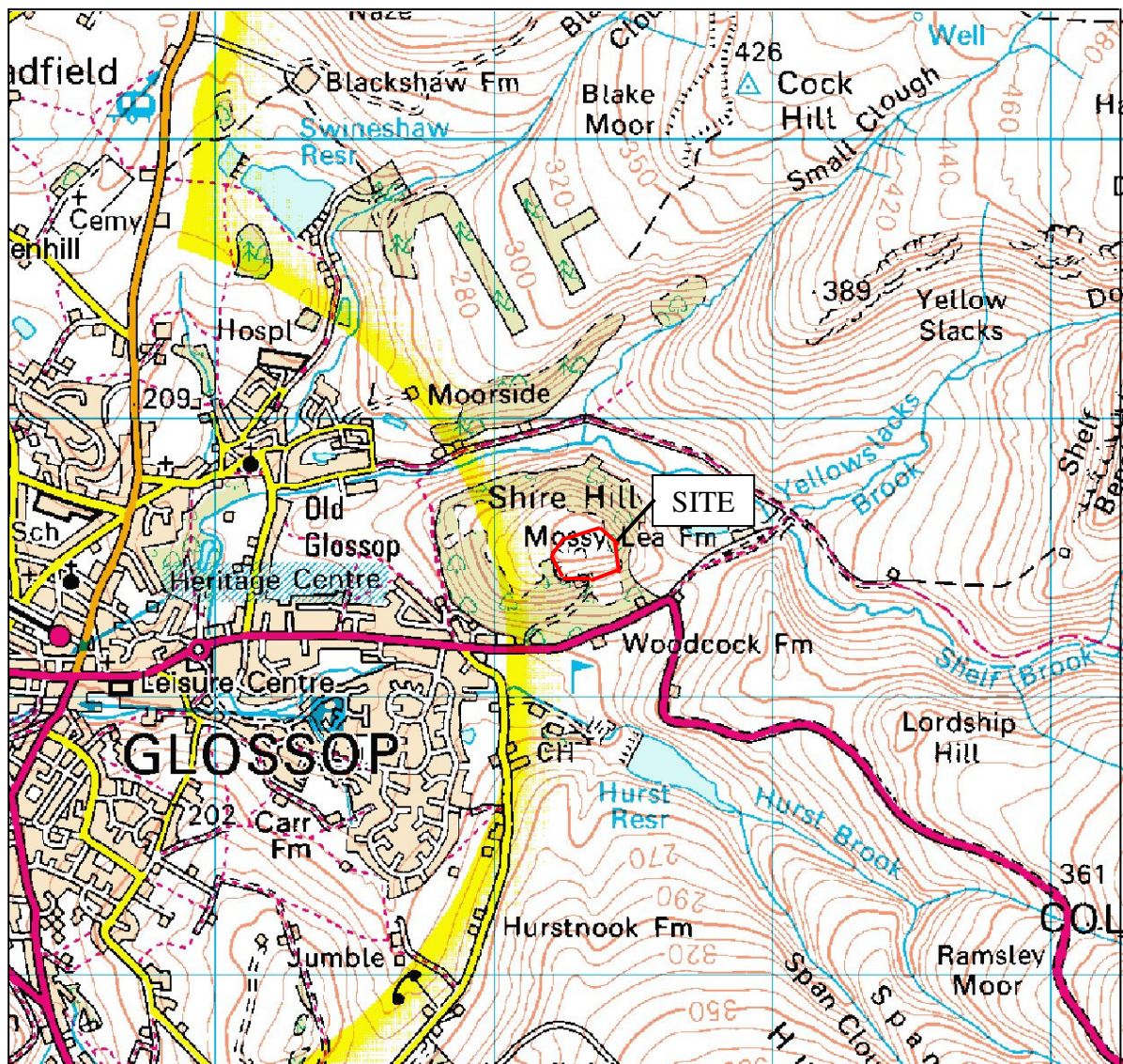
## Summary

*This archaeological assessment has been prepared at the request of Mineral Surveying Services, on behalf of the Marchington Stone Ltd, as part of an Environmental Impact Statement for Shire Hill Quarry, Glossop, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 05310 94449).*

*The site is currently occupied by a quarry that has been in use since at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Little, if any, of the original land surface survives within the proposed development site.*

*There has been little archaeological activity identified within the area of interest and no reports of any deriving from the site during previous quarrying.*

*The results of this report suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is negligible.*



**Figure 1** Site Location Plan (Scale 1:25,000)  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

This desk-based assessment has been undertaken for Mineral Surveying Services, on behalf of Marchington Stone Ltd. Its purpose is to assess the archaeological potential, without the use of intrusive methods, of Shire Hill Quarry, Glossop, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 05310 94449).

The framework for this document has been based on current national guidelines, as produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1994). This report is intended to assist the local planning authority with its decision-making in relation to archaeological matters, and will likewise inform the client of any potential archaeological constraints which may be of relevance to the proposed development.

## **2.0 Location and description (Fig. 1)**

The development site is on the southern side of Shire Hill, situated *c.*3.5km west of Glossop and 2km to the east of Kirkby in Ashfield in the parish of Glossop, which falls within the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire (centred on NGR: SK 05310 94449).

The A57 forms the southern boundary of the site, with the remaining boundaries demarcated by a post and wire fence with woodland scrub beyond. The site is *c.* 3.7 ha in extent and has been quarried since at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **3.0 Geology and topography**

The site is situated on the top of the southern side of Shire Hill, ranging from *c.*307m – *c.*260m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is Lower Kinderscout Grit, part of the Namurian (Millstone Grit Series) of the Carboniferous era (BGS 1974).

## **4.0 Planning background**

A planning application has been submitted to expand the existing quarry; this report has been requested by the Peak District National Park Archaeological Service to provide additional archaeological information to inform any subsequent planning decision.

## **5.0 Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess archaeological remains that may be vulnerable to the proposed development and, if necessary, to suggest methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of development.

Data for this report was, for the most part, obtained for a 1km radius, centred on the application area itself. This was drawn from the following sources:

- Records held by the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

- Records held at the Derbyshire Archives
- Records held at the Matlock Local Studies Library
- Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record, Swindon (NMR)
- Published and unpublished sources
- Information supplied by the client
- A detailed inspection of the site (undertaken by the author on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008)

## 6.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Peak District National Park has been subject to a Historic Landscape Character survey. This survey includes Glossop in the Dark Peak Western Fringe, an area that is more settled and cultivated than the open moor of the Dark Peak. Glossop and Shire Hill are a part of the landscape characterised as ‘pastoral valleys with industry’. This is a small scale settled pastoral landscape on the lower valley slopes, with stone built terraces associated with historic mills, while dispersed outlying farmsteads and small clusters of dwellings are linked by narrow winding lanes. The dispersed nature of settlement in an area that was formerly part of the Royal Hunting Forest has preserved scatters of ancient woodland, such as that on the western side of Shire Hill ([www.peakdistrict.gov.lca](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.lca) accessed 19/07/08).

During the prehistoric period much of the Peak District was most likely under woodland and scrub (Scott *et. al.* 1973, p9). Prehistoric activity is relatively well recorded, where a large number of worked flints have been recovered, particularly on the high ground. Flint is not natural to the area and therefore must have been transported here, possibly from Grimes Graves in Norfolk or the Lake District (Sharpe 2005, p15-16).

Prehistoric activity is also evident in monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles. Limited evidence of later prehistoric activity is visible in the form of defended settlements such as the hill fort at Mam Tor (*ibid.*, p17).

On the western edge of Glossop is a small Roman garrison fort known as Melandra Castle, which lies on the Roman road from Manchester to Borough. The fort was built using a simple earthen rampart with wooden palisade around 78 AD when the Roman army marched into northern Britain. It was rebuilt in stone during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD but was abandoned a short time later; evidence suggests that there was a general withdrawal of garrisons in Derbyshire at this time. Rescue excavations in the 1960s and 70s identified a *vicus*, a civilian settlement associated with the fort, as well as a bath-house (Sharpe 2005, p21). A small number of cremation burials and two possible cremation pyres were also identified during these excavations and a further Roman inhumation was identified in 1841 during improvements to a mill pond. The *vicus* identified at Melandra is part of limited evidence for settlement identified in the Dark Peak area of Derbyshire, though spot finds of beehive and flat quern stones indicate that further settlements are likely to exist but are yet to be identified (Hart 1981, p105).

There is little evidence for Saxon activity within the Peak District, particularly the Dark Peak area. It is thought that the area formed part of a royal hunting forest with settlements on its margins.

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 includes Glossop within the Longdale entry, as well as several other settlements. In total 12 manors are included in this entry, described as worth 40s before the conquest but now as 'waste' with woodland only suitable for hunting (Page 1905, p333). Many areas in the north are described as 'waste' after the 'harrying of the north'; in which concerted efforts were undertaken by the new Norman Overlords to quell all remaining resistance in the north. This group of settlements, on the edge of the forest that filled the valley, later became the manor of Glossop (Scott *et. al.* 1973, p41).

By the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Forest of High Peak included the whole of the north-west of Derbyshire. The status of 'Forest' is a legal term identifying an area reserved for Royal sport (Page 1905, p397). Areas designated as 'Forest' were subject to their own set of laws and legal system to protect the land and game from encroachment by the local population.

A part of the Forest Laws that governed this area allowed people to graze their animals in parts of the forest at certain times of the year in return for rents. From this settlements and isolated buildings started to encroach on the Forest. The punishment for this could be the confiscation of all lands but usually it was merely noted and a rent levied (Sharpe 2005, p41).

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century concerted efforts were made by parliament to enclose common ground. The enclosure of land enabled wealthy landowners to lay claim to common ground and to develop more profitable agricultural systems than the medieval open field system that is still evident across much of the country. There was little freehold land within the parish of Glossop to enclose; this suggests that the Lords of the Manor had already been undertaking this process without an act of parliament (Sharpe 2005, p43).

The development of turnpike roads and the cotton industry from 1700 onwards were important factors in the growth of Glossop (Scott *et. al.* 1973, p9). Glossop had a large water supply as well as easy access to stone and coal which all contributed to it becoming a mill town (Burgess 1993, p32). In a 75-year period from 1784 to 1859 the number of textile mills in Glossop rose from 1 to 60 (Christian 1978, p152). To cope with the influx of workers needed, the Duke of Norfolk, as lord of the manor, built a planned settlement to the south of Glossop called Howard Town (Burgess 1993, p32). This planned settlement is now called Glossop and the original settlement is called Old Glossop.

Glossop is first recorded as *Glosop* in the Domesday survey; interpreted as 'valley of Glott' from the *OE* personal name and *hop* meaning 'valley' (Mills 1993, p144). There are no interpretations for Shire Hill but other place names incorporating 'shire' often refer to a place marking the county boundary or the county meeting place (*ibid.*, p295).

## **7.0 Archaeological potential**

This section describes the information obtained from each source, where an assessment of the overall archaeological potential is considered.

### **7.1 Cartographic and aerial photographic information**

There are few early maps depicting the area of the proposed development held at the Derbyshire Archives. No enclosure or tithe maps showing the development area were identified. Where possible, copies of those maps consulted are reproduced, but this was not always possible.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1889) shows a quarry already active on the southern side of Shire Hill (Fig. 2). This occupies the same area as the present quarry, and there is little change by the 1898 edition. On the later 1921 edition the quarry is marked as 'Old Quarry', suggesting that it has fallen into disuse around the turn of the century (Fig. 3). Post-war editions of the Ordnance Survey map show little change in the area around the site beyond the expansion and infilling of Glossop.

A comprehensive NMR/EH aerial photographic cover search was undertaken (Appendix 3). This resulted in a list of 46 vertical aerial photographs for the 1km search area. In total, six photographs were selected for closer inspection, as they provided the lowest level and most suitable angle to examine the site. However, none of these provided any additional information (example: Fig. 4).

### **7.2 Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (Appendix 2)**

Within a 1km search radius of the proposed development area there were eleven SMR entries (Fig. 5). The earliest site identified is a Bronze Age cremation and urn, identified during construction work at the foot of Shire Hill (site 2). In the garden of the same site a Constantine II coin was found (site 3).

A routeway known as Doctor's Gate (site 4) is thought to be a Roman road with prehistoric origins, though there have not been any archaeological investigations of this feature. Earthworks identified by aerial photography *c.* 1km to the north of the proposed development site have been interpreted as 'ancient' field boundaries, and these are possibly of prehistoric or Roman date.

The remaining SMR entries are all post-medieval; they represent the industries that helped Glossop reach its height in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, such as cotton mills, a toll house and Shire Hill quarry, as well as agricultural activities.

No archaeological interventions have been undertaken within the search area.

### **7.3 Site visit**

The author visited the site on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008, which is already occupied by a quarry. A walkover identified that, apart from south-western edge, the original ground surface has been quarried away. The south-western edge of the site is under woodland scrub and does not appear to have been subject to topsoil stripping.

No earthworks or archaeological remains were visible and no archaeological finds were recovered from within any part of the site.

#### **7.4 General considerations**

In the light of information that has been compiled, it is possible to provide a generalised historical context for the site, before consideration is made of the impacts that have taken place in recent times, and which may have affected the quality and survival of any archaeological resources, if present.

For the prehistoric periods, there is no site-specific information. Related activity has been identified throughout the Peak District but little within the vicinity of the site. Possible prehistoric field boundaries (site 1) have been identified nearly 1km to the north-east, and a Bronze Age cremation (site 2) was identified at the foot of Shire Hill.

For the Romano period, there is no site-specific information either. Doctor's Gate is part of the limited evidence for Roman activity in this area, the Melandra Fort and *vicus* are 2km to the west of the site, and only a single coin found at the foot of Shire indicates a Roman presence. There is no record of any finds being made during previous quarrying work within the site, though a Roman hoard was recovered from another quarry at Padfield (Page 1905, p260).

For the medieval period, there is similarly no site-specific information. The site lies within the Royal Hunting Forest High Peak and was protected by Forest Law, though this does not appear to have been rigorously enforced after the Early Medieval period. Phases of famine and plague throughout the medieval period had a dramatic impact on population levels and it is likely that the general populous shifted towards the lowlands, as these areas are more fertile and easier to farm, and away from the Dark Peak area.

Post-medieval activity is mostly related to mills and turnpike roads as well as the quarry on Shire Hill. The quarry is already in evidence on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. Although a search was made through local Trade and Business directories, White's and Kelly's, dating between the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and 1921, no reference was made to a quarry based at Shire Hill.

#### **8.0 Impact to archaeological resources**

Cartographic sources indicate that the development site has been subject to quarrying since at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The walk over undertaken by the author demonstrated that little of the original land surface remains; therefore any archaeological remains that potentially may have existed on site will have already been quarried away.

## 9.0 Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the proposed development site is considered to be **negligible**. The post-medieval quarry has removed most of the original land surface and any potential archaeological remains with it.

The small area to the south-western edge of the site that appears to retain the original land surface will be partially quarried to create an access road (Figs. 6 and 7).

## 10.0 Mitigation

Only a small area of the proposed quarry extension has not already been subject to quarrying. However, the archaeological potential of this area is considered to be negligible, as the steep slope makes it an unlikely candidate for past human settlement and related activity.

## 11.0 Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the staff at the Derbyshire SMR, the Derbyshire Archives Office and Matlock Local Studies Library.

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## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Glossop Quarry south face, looking north-east



South-western boundary of site, looking south-west

**Appendix 2: Derbyshire SMR extracts**

Site No.	NMR No.	NGR	Period	Site Description
1	MDR3646	SK 058 954	Prehistoric	Earthworks identified on aerial photographs as ancient field boundaries. Possibly prehistoric or Roman.
2	MDR3617	SK 0494 9426	Bronze Age	An inverted Late Bronze Age cinerary urn with cremated remains was identified in 1950s during construction of a bungalow.
3	MDR6104	SK 0494 9425	Roman	A bronze coin of Constantine II was found in 1958 during the laying of a lawn.
4	MDR3636	SK 076 940	Roman	Possible route of Doctor's Gate (a Roman road between Shelf and Coldharbour Moors with possible prehistoric origins) through Charlesworth parish.
5	MDR690	SK 044 949	Post-medieval	Former cotton mill complex; A three-storey mill building, now swamped by modern buildings. Formerly a complex of six mills dating from 1784 onwards. The surviving buildings are part of what was known as the 'New Mill' in 1852, some of the earliest buildings on Shelf Brook to the south. Upstream there was a thread mill of 1789.
6	MDR691	SK 048 948	Post-medieval	The place name 'The Tanyard' on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 25" OS map suggests the presence of a tannery at some point in the past.
7	MDR692	SK 049 940	Post-medieval	Hurst Hill Cotton Mill, small early 19 <sup>th</sup> century two-storey gritstone cotton mill.
8	MDR700	SK 0554 9431	Post-medieval	Former Toll House, a 19 <sup>th</sup> century two-storey toll house at Shire hill.
9	MDR702	SK 063 946	Post-medieval	Stone field drains, Mossylee, Charlesworth
10	MDR703	SK 0616 9438	Post-medieval	Remains of a sheep wash on Shelf Brook, marked as 'sheepfold' on late 19 <sup>th</sup> century OS maps.
11	MDR704	SK 052 944	Post-medieval	Shire Hill Quarry, has origins in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

**Appendix 3: NMR listings**

## Vertical Aerial Photographs

Sortie Number	Start Frame	End Frame	National Grid Start	Reference End	Date Flown
RAF/58/1094	241	243	SK059941	SK045941	21-Apr-53
MAL/67096	30	32	SK048938	SK043938	07-Dec-67
MAL/67096	44	44	SK047934	SK047934	07-Dec-67
MAL/67096	57	59	SK048943	SK043943	07-Dec-67
OS/66172	169	172	SK042939	SK060940	21-Jul-66
OS/66172	187	189	SK045950	SK057950	21-Jul-66
OS/70379	238	241	SK042949	SK062950	23-Sep-70
OS/71463	27	31	SK058950	SK045950	05-Sep-71
OS/71463	58	61	SK046936	SK058937	05-Sep-71
OS/71463	62	65	SK058943	SK046943	05-Sep-71
OS/92319	71	74	SK043947	SK058946	18-May-92
OS/92319	76	79	SK060940	SK045940	18-May-92
OS/92320	17	20	SK044931	SK060931	18-May-92