

Collyweston Quarry (Western Extension) Duddington Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation



For
Heaton Planning Ltd

Acting for
Bullimores Sand & Gravel

CA Project: 660768
CA Report: 16552
Site Code: CWQ16

November 2016



Collyweston Quarry (Western Extension) Duddington, Northampton

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SUMMARY

Project location:	Collyweston Quarry, Duddington, Northamptonshire
NGR:	SK 9931 0076
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	20th-21st September 2016
Planning ref:	Northamptonshire County Council planning ref. 14/00035/MINFUL and 14/01037/NCC
Location of Archive:	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (when open)
Site Code:	CWQ16

In September 2016, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at Collyweston Quarry, Duddington, Northamptonshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Heaton Planning Ltd, acting on behalf of Bullimores Sand & Gravel, was carried out in order to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a western extension to the quarry. The evaluation comprised the excavation of eleven trial trenches.

A geophysical survey of the site had indicated that it had a low potential for archaeological remains, although a rectilinear anomaly, suggestive of a possible enclosure but interpreted as being of natural origin, was identified. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the nature of the geophysical anomaly and to test the effectiveness of the survey in the apparently 'blank' areas. The natural origin of the anomaly, which was probably formed by glacial and periglacial processes, was confirmed and no archaeological remains were encountered elsewhere within the site. Despite visual scanning of the excavated ploughsoil, no artefactual material was found.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bullimores Sand & Gravel (BSG) have been granted planning consent by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC planning ref. 14/00035/MINFUL and 14/01037/NCC) to extend their workings at Collyweston Quarry, Duddington, Northamptonshire (site centred at NGR: SK 992 006; Fig. 1). To fulfil a condition for a programme of archaeological investigation attached to planning consent (Condition 34), BSG commissioned Cotswold Archaeology (CA), through their agents Heaton Planning Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site, which was undertaken in September 2016.
- 1.2 The scope of the investigation had previously been agreed between Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (NCCAA), and Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd (PC). The discussions were informed by the results of a desk-based assessment (Flitcroft 2013) and a geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2014), which showed that it had a low potential for archaeological remains, although NCCAA suggested that across a part of the site 'an apparent rectangular enclosure may exist' and recommended that this feature be investigated further by trial trenching. The scope was formalised in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by PC (Richmond 2015), which was referred to in the preparation of the WSI produced by CA (2016) and approved by NCCAA.
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CA 2016) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The site of the proposed western extension, which covers an area of c. 17ha, is located east of Duddington Village, on agricultural land south of the A47 and east of the A43 (Fig. 1). The proposed quarry extension encompasses four fields, three of

which were lying fallow at the time of the evaluation and one under a crop of turnips (Figs 3 and 4).

- 2.2 The site is located on the upper edge of the Welland Valley, with views towards the west. Ground levels slope from a high point of approximately 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its boundary with the existing quarry site, down to approximately 72m aOD at its western edge. An east-west aligned dry valley runs across the site on the southern edge of the northernmost field.
- 2.3 The bedrock geology within and around the site comprises Jurassic rocks of the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member (BGS 2016). Borehole data indicates that there are shallow depths of overburden above the bedrock, although a band of deeper material lies within the aforementioned dry valley.

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.4 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs (Flitcroft 2013), the results of which are summarised below.

Pre-Iron Age (pre 700 BC)

- 2.5 No Palaeolithic finds have been made within a 1km radius of the site. The majority of evidence from the wider region is from stray artefacts with few *in situ* finds (Knight *et al.* 2012). Flint scatters including Mesolithic and Neolithic material are recorded as surface finds from the valley side to the north (HER 9314/0/0 and 9315/0/0), and also from the valley floor north-west of Duddington village (2892/0/0). The evidence suggests a level of transient exploitation of the local landscape for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.
- 2.6 The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) locates a Bronze Age funerary barrow immediately east of the site (NHER 1276). The monument was initially identified as a cropmark (NHER 1276/0/1). Archaeological excavation in 2000 confirmed its early Bronze Age date. A second possible Bronze Age round-barrow has been identified to the north-west of Duddington village (NHER 2892/0/1).

Iron Age and Roman (700 BC to AD 410)

- 2.7 A number of Iron Age and Roman sites are recorded in the surrounding landscape. A possible Roman settlement (NHER 2891) has been identified from surface finds of

pottery (NHER 2891/0/0) and probable hut circles and enclosures are recorded from aerial photography north-west of Duddington (NHER2891/0/1; 2891/0/3). Further Roman settlement evidence has been identified to the south (NHER 2887) and west of the village (HER 2889). Evidence for Roman iron smelting (NHER 2886) has been recorded south-west of the site during archaeological monitoring of pipeline work in 1977.

Medieval (AD 410 to 1485) and post-medieval (1485 to 1815)

- 2.8 The Rockingham Forest area is believed to have remained a focus for iron production in the Saxon period. The HER records little confirmed Saxon evidence within the surrounding area aside from a hoard of silver pennies found in Duddington, dating from the 860s-870s (NHER 6737/0/1).
- 2.9 The manor of Duddington is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and the village (NHER 2888) developed adjacent to a crossing point on the River Welland. During the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site lay within the arable open fields of Duddington. Reconstruction of the local medieval landscape shows the site contained blocks of east-west aligned cultivation strips. The open fields of Duddington were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1774 and the enclosure map records the site as formerly lying within 'Lang Ridge Furlong' and 'The Acres Furlong', both parts of Wood Field. The site would appear to have remained open, undeveloped farmland throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Modern (1815 to present)

- 2.10 The HER records the site of a Royal Observer Corps monitoring post, built in 1961, mapped to the west off the site (NHER 8510). It formed part of a national network of 1500 posts intended to allow monitoring and reporting in the event of a nuclear war. For security reasons the monitoring post site (in common with other military sites) was not shown on earlier edition Ordnance Survey maps. The 1975 map, however, confirms that the HER mapped location is imprecise, and that the monitoring post was actually located at the top of valley side, within the site. The site owners have confirmed that the monitoring post was demolished, with both above-ground and below-ground parts cleared before the 1990s.

Previous fieldwork

- 2.11 The geophysical survey was carried out across the whole of the site (Stratascan 2014). The report concluded that 'no features of archaeological origin were located'.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2016), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Northamptonshire County Council, as advised by NCCAA, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eleven trenches, all measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide, totalling 330 linear metres of trench at 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). Trenches were positioned to provide a representative sample of the proposed quarry extension area, with Trenches 7–9 targeting a geophysical response that was interpreted as a potential enclosure ditch. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009).
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Features and deposits were investigated and recorded in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). There were no finds and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental sampling.
- 4.3 The archive from the evaluation, which is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes, will be deposited with the *Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre* (NARC) when this facility eventually opens. A summary of

information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eleven 30m trenches (330 linear metres of trench at 1.8m wide) in the locations shown on Figure 2. No archaeological remains or deposits were revealed; details of the deposits encountered are presented in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The trenches were machine-excavated to the surface of the geological substrate, which consisted of brashy limestone in a matrix of reddish brown clayey silty sand (Figs 5 to 8). The geological substrate was sealed by mid-yellowish brown ploughsoil, which ranged between 0.25m and 0.40m thick. No archaeological features were encountered and there was no artefactual material in the ploughsoil.
- 5.3 The large north-south aligned linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014), including the potential enclosure ditch, were found to be associated with naturally-formed deposits of sterile, soft, light orangey brown clayey silty sand, infilling ice-scoring and striation of the limestone bedrock.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The trial trench evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) and found no evidence for archaeological remains within the site. The potential enclosure ditch targeted by Trenches 7–9 were found to correspond with geological features of probable glacial origin. The lack of subsoil in any of the trenches suggests that the ploughsoil is seasonally affected by colluvial and aeolian erosion, removing enough mass from the ploughed soil surface to effectively negate the development of a 'B' horizon (subsoil). Lack of cover from a well-developed subsoil would have exposed any shallow archaeological features to plough damage, effectively removing them from the archaeological record. Taking these factors into account, the balance of probability suggests that no archaeological features are preserved within the proposed quarry extension.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Jake Streatfeild-James, assisted by Ešthèr Escudero and Jon Hardisty. The report was written by Jake Streatfeild-James and the illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 16 September 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Collyweston Quarry, Western Extension, Duddington, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching*, unpublished document

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Flitcroft, M, 2013 *Collyweston Quarry, Western Extension, Duddington: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, report **MF/15429/01**

Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Nottingham Archaeology Monograph **6**, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust

Richmond 2015 *Specifications for a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching Collyweston Quarry Western Extension*, unpublished document

Stratascan 2014 *Collyweston Quarry, Western Extension, Duddington: Geophysical Survey*, report **J6364**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1**

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
101	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.30
102	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 2

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
201	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.25
202	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone with patches of brownish orange silty sand	-	-	-

Trench 3

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
301	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.31
302	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 4

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
401	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.30
402	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 5

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
501	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.30
502	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 6

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
601	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.30
602	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 7

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
701	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.35
702	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 8

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
801	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid brown clayey sand	-	-	0.33
802	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 9

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
901	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.37
902	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 10

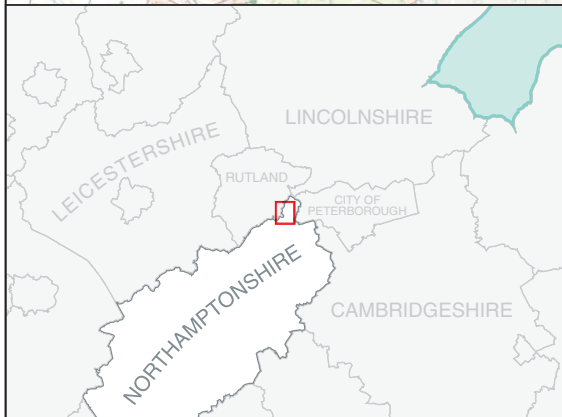
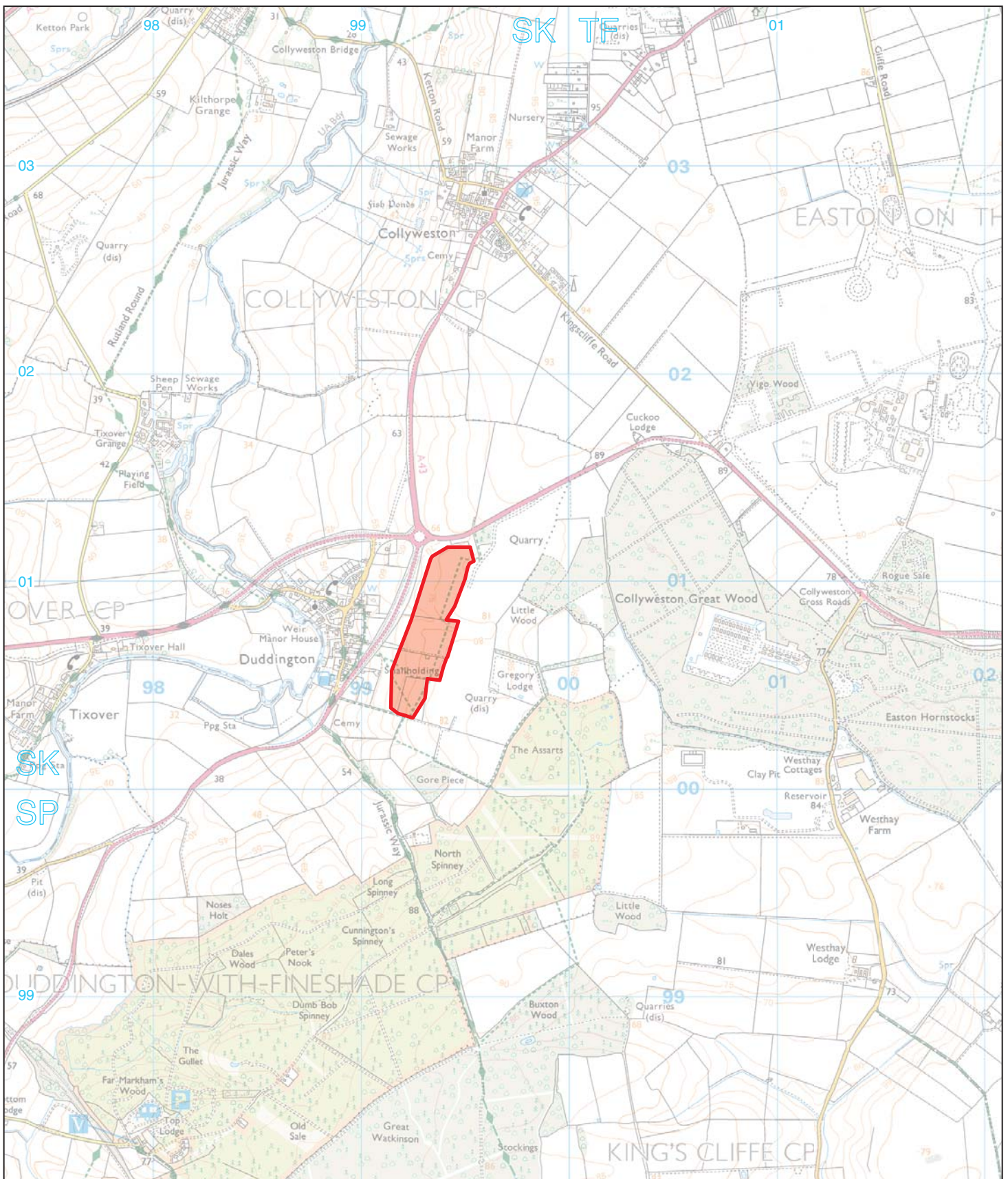
Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1001	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.40
1002	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

Trench 11

Context no.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1101	Layer	Ploughsoil	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand	-	-	0.37
1102	Layer	Geology	Weathered 'brashy' limestone	-	-	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Collyweston Quarry, Western Extension	
Short description	A geophysical survey of the site had indicated that it had a low potential for archaeological remains, although a rectilinear anomaly, suggestive of a possible enclosure but interpreted as being of natural origin, was identified. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the nature of the geophysical anomaly and to test the effectiveness of the survey in the apparently 'blank' areas. The natural origin of the anomaly, which was probably formed by glacial and periglacial processes, was confirmed and no archaeological remains were encountered elsewhere within the site. Despite visual scanning of the excavated ploughsoil, no artefactual material was found.	
Project dates	20th-21st September 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Flitcroft 2013); geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014)	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Collyweston Quarry, Duddington, Northampton	
Study area	17ha	
Site co-ordinates	SK 99313 00764	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Jake Streatfeild-James (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
		Content
Physical	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (when opened)	None
Paper		Site records
Digital	Northamptonshire HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Collyweston Quarry (Western Extension), Duddington, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16552		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Collyweston Western Extension
 Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 geophysical survey results

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	SO	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	660768	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>	2
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	LM	<i>DATE</i>	07/10/2016		
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General view of Field 2, looking south



General view of Field 3, looking south-west

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Collyweston Western Extension Northamptonshire					
<i>FIGURE TITLE</i>					
Photographs					
<i>DRAWN BY</i>	SO	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	660768	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>	3 & 4
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	LM	<i>DATE</i>	07/10/2016		
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	SCC	<i>SCALE @ A4</i>	NA		



Trench 4, looking south (scale 1m)



PROJECT TITLE

Collyweston Western Extension
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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Trench 5, looking west (scale 1m)



PROJECT TITLE

Collyweston Western Extension
Northamptonshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6



7

Trench 7, looking west (scale 1m)



8

Trench 11, looking west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

**Collyweston Western Extension
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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