

**RUGELEY QUARRY
RUGELEY
STAFFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

CEMEX UK OPERATIONS LTD

CA PROJECT: 2713
CA REPORT: 08234

NOVEMBER 2008




**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

RUGELEY QUARRY
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STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2713
CA REPORT: 08234

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date	21 November 2008
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date	25 November 2008
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signed	
date	27 November 2008
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rugeley Quarry
Location:	Rugeley, Staffordshire
NGR:	SK 0045 1865
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3–4 November 2008
Planning Reference:	CH.00/0577 and S.400/18
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Potteries Museum, Staffordshire
Accession Number:	2008.LH.53
Site Code:	RQR 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2008 at the request of CEMEX UK Operations Ltd at Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire. Three trenches were excavated across the lines of two possible banks associated with Wolseley Park, which was created as a deerpark at the end of the 15th Century.

The evaluation demonstrated that one of the banks survives as an earthwork, with an adjacent ditch along part of its length. The other bank does not survive as an earthwork, but is visible below the subsoil. No dating evidence was recovered during the evaluation, but the form and location of the boundaries is consistent with them having formed part of the deerpark.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CEMEX UK Operations Ltd at Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire (centred on NGR: SK 0045 1865; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the proposed extension of the quarry.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008a) and approved by Stephen Dean, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology), the archaeological advisor to Staffordshire County Council (SCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). The fieldwork was monitored by Mr Dean.

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises a triangle of mature woodland within the Wolseley Plain region of Wolseley Park. It covers approximately 5.3ha and is bordered by the existing quarry to the east and by Forestry Commission woodland to the north, south and west (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 169m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Cannock Chase Formation, also known as 'Pebble Beds', and part of the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group (BGS 1982).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The area of the proposed extension has been the subject of a previous planning application for which a Cultural Heritage Statement was produced by Oxford Archaeological Associates. The archaeological background presented below is based on the findings of this report which is summarised within a report on fieldwork undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Rugeley Quarry in 2001 (OA 2001).

- 1.6 The site lies within Wolseley Park, which was created as a deer park at the end of the 15th Century. It is probable that a ditch and bank would have delineated the park boundary. Within the site itself earthwork banks and ditches were recorded during the fieldwork undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 2001 (OA 2001). These were labelled banks 13 and 14 and it was suggested that they might represent internal divisions within the park.
- 1.7 In September 2008 CA carried out an earthwork survey of the earthworks within the site (CA 2008b). This demonstrated that bank 13 was a real archaeological feature but that bank 14 had been levelled during the recent creation of a forest track.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains surviving within the site. This information will assist Staffordshire County Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 2 targeted bank 13 whilst trench 3 targeted the recorded location of bank 14. Trenches 1 and 2 measured 10m in length whilst trench 3 measured 20m in length. All trenches were 0.9m wide. The locations of trenches 2 and 3 were altered from those proposed in the WSI due to the location of trees within the site.
- 1.10 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 natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The Potteries Museum, Staffordshire under accession number 2008.LH.53. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.2 The earliest encountered deposit was silty sand and gravel geological substrate 1003, exposed at 0.4m below present ground level (BPGL). This was overlain by a 5m wide and 0.5m high bank formed from redeposited natural 1002. The bank was partially overlain by subsoil 1001 and was otherwise sealed by topsoil 1000. Although the bank had been disturbed by tree roots, it survived as a north-east/south-west aligned earthwork 3.5m wide and up to 0.6m high. No artefactual material was recovered from any of the deposits within trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 The earliest encountered deposit was silty sand and gravel geological substrate 2002, exposed at 0.4m BPGL. The natural substrate had been cut by north-east/south-west aligned ditch 2006. This ditch was V-profiled and was 0.7m deep and 1m wide (Fig. 3).
- 2.4 Along the eastern side of the ditch, the natural substrate was overlain by a sequence of three deposits (2003-2005) which formed a bank 2.1m wide and 0.6m high. All of these deposits were derived from the natural substrate, most probably as upcast from the adjacent ditch.

- 2.5 This banked material was partially overlain by subsoil 2001 and was otherwise sealed by topsoil 2000. As within trench 1, the bank survived as a north-east/south-west aligned earthwork 2.5m wide and up to 0.8m high. The ditch was partially filled with material derived from the bank (2007 and 2008), and with part of the topsoil, but also survived as a slight earthwork. No artefactual material was recovered from any of the deposits within trench 2.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

- 2.6 The natural silty sand substrate, 3005, was exposed at 0.4m BPGL. It was overlain by a sequence of three deposits (3002-3004) which formed the remains of a north-west/south-east aligned bank. All of these deposits were derived from the natural substrate. The banked material did not survive as an earthwork and was sealed by subsoil 3001 which was itself sealed by topsoil 3000. No artefactual material was recovered from any of these deposits.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The results of the evaluation confirm the presence of former boundaries along the lines of banks 13 and 14. Although bank 14 does not survive as an earthwork, bank 13 does, and a ditch runs adjacent to its south-westernmost extent. Ditches and banks were a common form of boundary associated with the management of deer parks (Franklin 1989, 164, Rackham 1990, 125) and the boundaries identified during the current works are therefore consistent with the site's location within the former Wolseley Park deer park.
- 3.2 The management of deer parks was complex, often involving rotational use of several parcels of land within the park for keeping deer, open grazing, growing timber and growing firewood (Rackham 125-6). Uncompartmented deer parks allowed access to deer at all times, with tree growth protected by pollarding. Other parks were compartmented, being sub-divided by internal banks into coppices which were fenced off during new growth to keep the deer out. A full understanding of the role of the boundaries observed during the evaluation would need to take account of the broader geography of Wolseley Park, but they are suggestive of a compartmented deer park.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Pippa Mitcheson. This report was written by Sian Reynish, assisted by Pippa Mitcheson, with illustrations prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish and Pippa Mitcheson, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1982 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, England and Wales, Solid and Drift, Burton-upon-Trent, Sheet 140, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey*. CA typescript report **08214**

Franklin, P. 1989 'Thornbury Woodlands and Deer Parks, Part 1: the Earls of Gloucester's Deer Parks' *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* **107**, 149-169

OA (Oxford Archaeology) 2001 *Land at Rugeley Quarry, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire: Archaeological walkover survey results and recommendations for geophysical survey*, unpublished OA report

Rackham, O. 1990 *The History of the Countryside: the Full Fascinating Story of Britain's Landscape* J. M. Dent and Sons Ltd, London

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Width	Depth
1000	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt and overlying mulch	N/A	0.26m
1001	Layer	Subsoil: mid orangey brown sandy silt with common pebbles	N/A	0.20m
1002	Deposit	Redeposited natural forming NE/SW embankment	6m	0.54m
1003	Layer	Natural geology: pink orange silty sand and gravel	N/A	N/A

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Width	Depth
2000	Layer	Topsoil: organic dark brown and black clay silt with overlying mulch	N/A	0.17m
2001	Layer	Subsoil: mid orange brown sandy silt with common pebbles	N/A	0.25m
2002	Layer	Natural geology: mid reddish brown silty sand and gravel	N/A	N/A
2003	Deposit	Redeposited natural forming NE/SW embankment	2.10m	0.18m
2004	Deposit	Redeposited natural forming NE/SW embankment	2.10m	0.08m
2005	Deposit	Redeposited natural forming NE/SW embankment	1.92m	0.34m
2006	Cut	Linear ditch parallel to 2009	1.01m	0.48m
2007	Fill	Primary fill of 2006, natural silting	0.30m	0.12m
2008	Fill	Secondary fill to 2006, slumping of 2005	N/A	0.14m
2009	Feature	Earth bank made up of 2003, 2004 and 2005	2.10m	0.60m

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Width	Depth
3000	Layer	Topsoil: organic dark brown and black clay silt with common pebbles	N/A	0.20m
3001	Layer	Subsoil: mid brown clay sand	N/A	0.18m
3002	Deposit	Redeposited natural	N/A	0.14m
3003	Deposit	Redeposited natural	N/A	0.09m
3004	Deposit	Redeposited natural	N/A	0.14m
3005	Layer	Natural geology: pink orange silty sand and gravel	N/A	N/A
3006	Feature	Remnant of earth bank made up of 3002, 3003 and 3004	N/A	0.37m

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire.	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2008 at the request of CEMEX UK Operations Ltd at Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire. Three trenches were excavated across the lines of two possible banks associated with Wolseley Park, which was created as a deer park at the end of the 15th Century. The evaluation demonstrated that one of the banks survives as an earthwork, with an adjacent ditch along part of its length. The other bank does not survive as an earthwork, but is visible below the subsoil. No dating evidence was recovered during the evaluation, but the form and location of the boundaries is consistent with them having formed part of the Wolseley Park deer park.	
Project dates	3-4 November 2008	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Earthwork survey by Cotswold Archaeology October 2008. Walkover survey by Oxford Archaeology Unit 2001	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire.	
Study area	5.3 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SK 0045 1865	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Staffordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	The Potteries Museum, Staffordshire 2008.LH.53	Context sheets, drawings, photos
Digital	The Potteries Museum, Staffordshire 2008.LH.53	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b Rugeley Quarry, Rugeley, Staffordshire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey. CA Typescript report 08214		
Oxford Archaeology Unit 2001 Land at Rugeley Quarry, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire: Archaeological walkover survey results and recommendations for geophysical survey, unpublished OAU report		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Rugeley Quarry, Staffordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

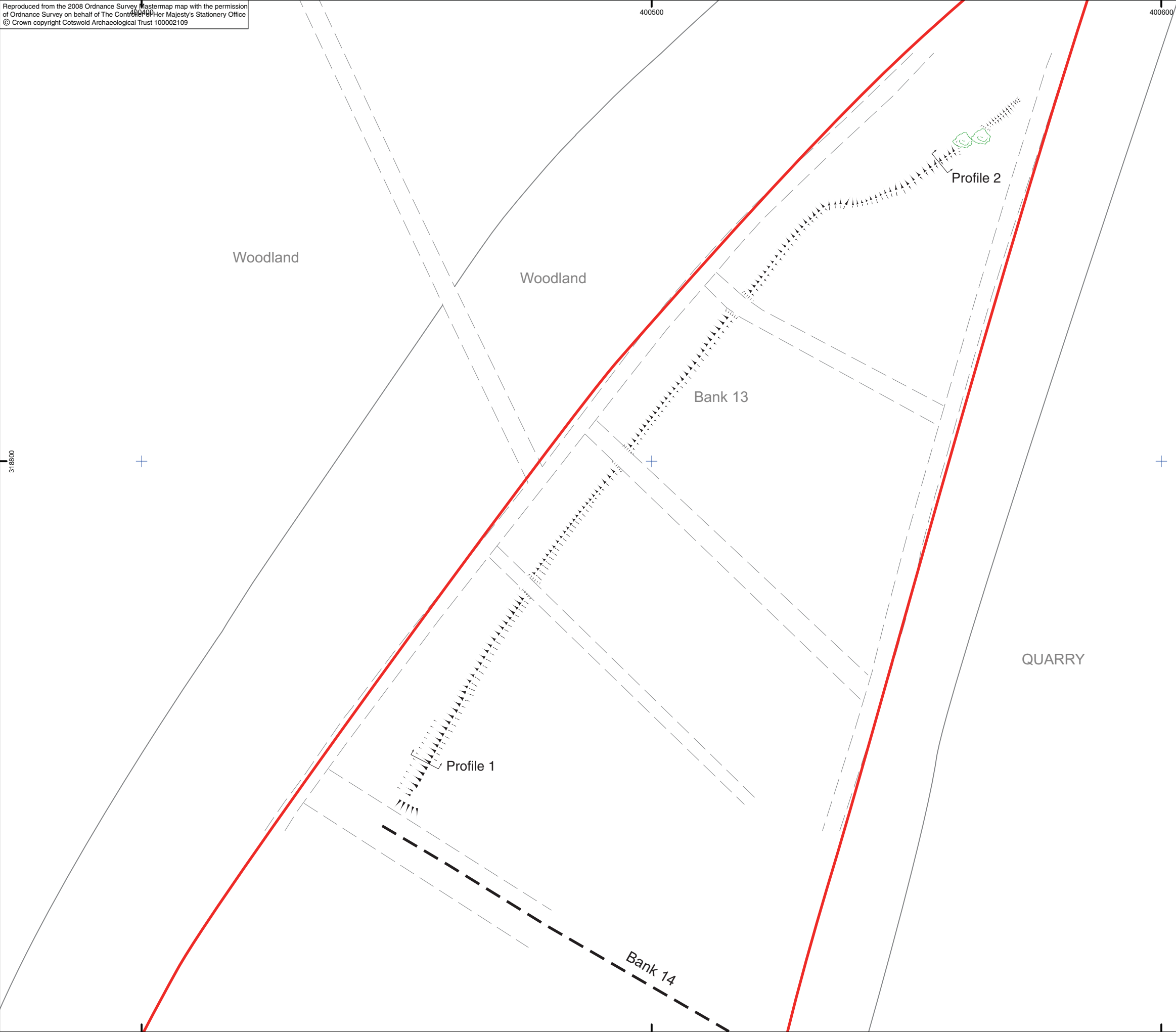
PROJECT NO.





2713

FIGURE NO.

1

Reproduced from the 2008 Ordnance Survey Mastermap map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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-  site
-  obstructing tree
-  path/track
-  recorded line of Bank 14

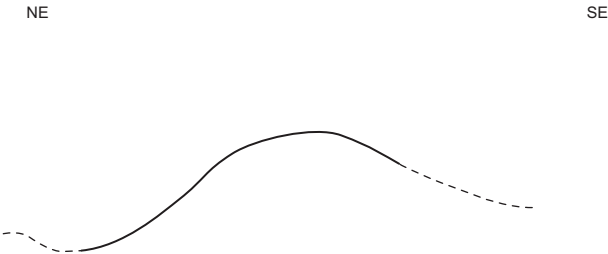


PROJECT TITLE
Rugeley Quarry, Staffordshire

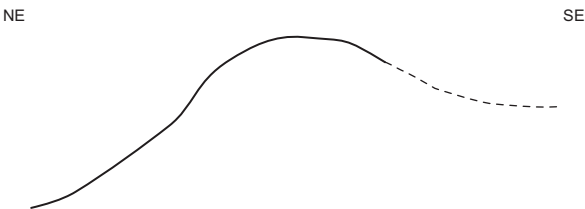
FIGURE TITLE
Earthwork survey of Bank 13

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RL	1:750@A3	2713	2

Profile 1



Profile 2



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Rugeley Quarry, Staffordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Indicative profiles of surveyed feature

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RL

SCALE

Not to scale

PROJECT NO.

2713

FIGURE NO.

3