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Cloud Hill Quarry, Leicestershire -
Southern Extension: Addendum to
WSI Ref: 421.03523.

Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. -

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**Cloud Hill Quarry
Southern Extension
Leicestershire**

**Archaeological
Strip and Map and Evaluation**

Report No. Y337/18

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. WORKING METHODS.....	5
3. RESULTS.....	6
4. CONCLUSION	7
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	8

Appendices

- 1: Context Register
- 2: Inventory of Primary Archive

Figures

- Fig.1: Site location and trench layout
- Fig. 2: Photographs

SUMMARY

An archaeological strip and map and an evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology on land at Cloud Hill Quarry, north-west Leicestershire, during April 2017 and February 2018. This strip and record was carried out in advance of the construction of a screening landform (bund), and five trenches were excavated in advance of screening tree planting further south. The trenches and the strip and record produced no evidence for surviving archaeology and no finds were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during February 2018 on the southern extension of Cloud Hill Quarry, Leicestershire, (Fig.1, NGR: SK 41219 20769). The work was commissioned by Breedon Aggregates and was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by SLR consulting (2014) and addendum to the WSI produced by CFA Archaeology (CFA 2017b) and agreed with the county council archaeological officer for Leicestershire. The work was carried out in advance of the proposed extension of the existing extraction area towards the south; the construction of a new screening landform ('bund'), on the south and southwest sides, and; additional screening planting further south.

1.1 Site Location and Description

The site comprised of one field situated to the south of Cloud Hill Quarry,-. The site was bounded by a service road directly adjacent to the 'bund' to the north which provided access to the site, Worthington lane to the east, woodland to the west, and arable land to the south. The site was planted with new saplings at time of excavation.

The soils of the area are variable and are described as 'slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage' (Landis 2018). The geology of the area consists of 'Radcliffe Member - Mudstone and Siltstone' (BGS 2018).

1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

Examination of pre and post-World War II Ordnance Survey maps shows there has been no development on the site during the modern period. The only features depicted on the 1861 Ordnance Survey maps of the area are field boundaries which still exist in the same locations today.

Cloud Hill Quarry is depicted on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map as 'Cloud Hill Works (lime)' adjacent to Breedon Cloud Wood, with buildings depicted to the north-west labelled 'Holly Brush Inn'. The 1967 Ordnance Survey map shows that by this time quarrying had expanded further south into Breedon Cloud Wood.

The WSI (CFA 2017) identified a number of post-medieval features: including a stone sluice associated with Worthington Mill at Mill House Farm (LCC HER ref. MLE4946), the remains of a post-medieval settlement (MLE4941, MLE4942, MLE4943), an east/west trackway, and a prehistoric flint scatter (SLR 2014).

1.3 Project Aims

The aim of the strip and map and the trenching was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains which may be present. The evaluation specifically targeted remains associated with the post-medieval settlement located at Area D.

2. WORKING METHODS

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2014a-b and EH 2008).

Linear features (ditches and gullies) were sample excavated at a minimum of 10% of their length and a minimum of 1m per section at regular intervals where encountered. Intersections were investigated to establish relationships between features. Pits and post holes were sampled at a minimum of 50%.

Archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (CIfA 2014a) and CFA's quality manuals. All features were planned and drawn at appropriate scales. The trenches, section lines and drawing points were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish levels above Ordnance Datum for the trenches.

All finds were treated in accordance with relevant guidance (CIFA 2014b). Modern finds were recorded and then discarded.

A summary of the results of archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS. The OASIS reference is cfaarchal-310814.

2.1 Strip and map

An area 75m in length by 18m wide, across the full width of the eastern field, was excavated using a tracked back-acting excavator, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, in shallow even spits to remove all overburden to the first layer of archaeological horizon or natural geology, under constant archaeological supervision. The reporting of these works formed an interim report which informed the following scheme of trial trenching in the plantation area.

2.2 Trial Trenching

Six evaluation trenches were proposed to be excavated within the plantation area. However, the northernmost trench was omitted as it fell outside the safety fencing for the 'bund' of the currently active quarry. The five trenches excavated measured 20m in length; deposits were removed in even, shallow spits by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a 2m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

2.2 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at a relevant museum within an agreed timescale. The archive will be ordered, indexed and conform to the requirements of that museum and to all relevant professional guidance (CIfA 2014c).

3. RESULTS

The following results should be read in conjunction with figures 1-4. A summary of all trenches form Appendix 1. A summary of all contexts from the strip and map and evaluation appear in the table below.

Context	Phase	Type	Max Depth (m)	Description
000	All	Layer		Natural substrate for site area purple/reddish brown firm clay, with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone
001	All	Layer	0.21-0.40m	Dark brown, friable clay, with fragments of CBM and occurring throughout
002	All	Layer	0.00-0.42m	Mid/dark orange brown silty clay, with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone, was present in all five trenches, excluding Trench 5

Table 3.1: Context Summaries

Topsoil on the site consisted of dark brown, friable clay, with fragments of CBM present throughout (001) and varied in depth across the site from 0.21m to 0.39m. Subsoil (002), measuring up to 0.42m in thickness, consisted of mid/dark orange brown silty clay, with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone and was present four out of the five trenches. The natural substrate for the area consisted of a mixture of purple/red-brown firm clay, with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone (003).

4. CONCLUSION

The results of the strip and map and the trenching were both negative. No archaeological features pertaining to the post-medieval settlement identified in 'Area D' were present. The only features observed were plough scarring and field drainage of modern date. The results of the strip and record show that there were no archaeological remains present in the area of the 'bund' while the results of the trenching suggest that there is no potential for the disturbance of any archaeological features within the planting area.

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Online Resources

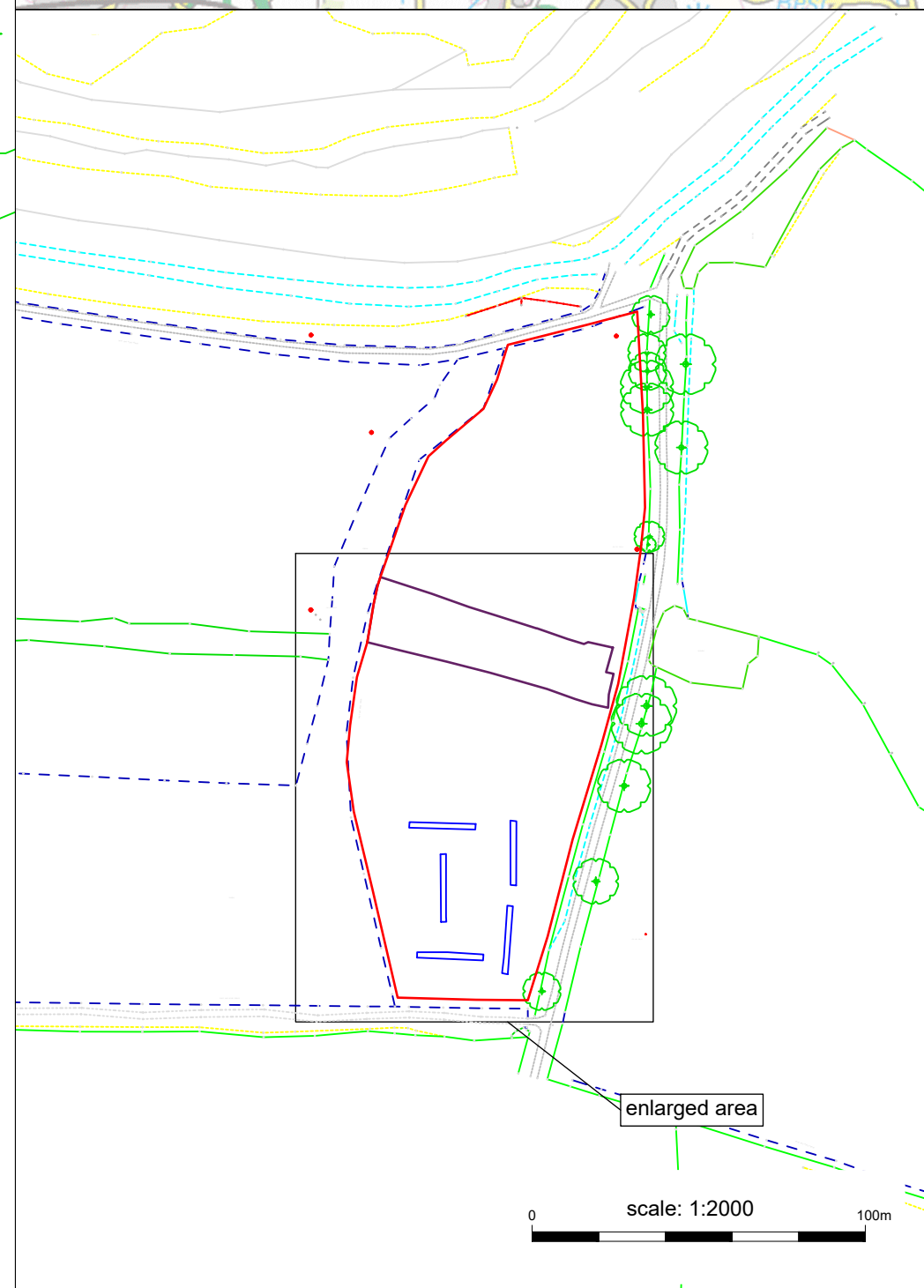
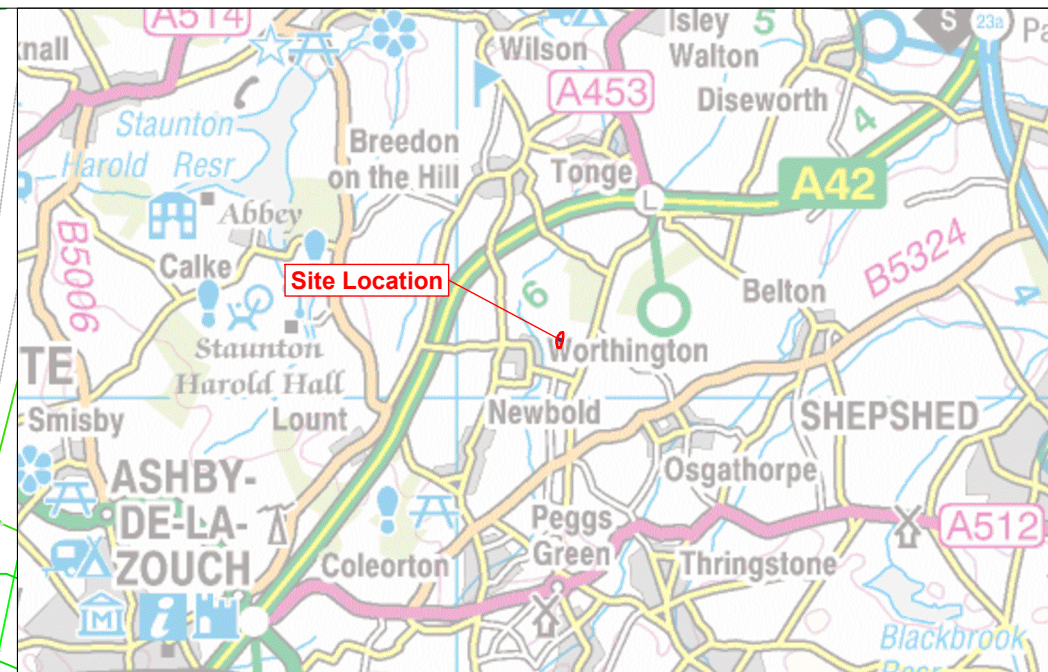
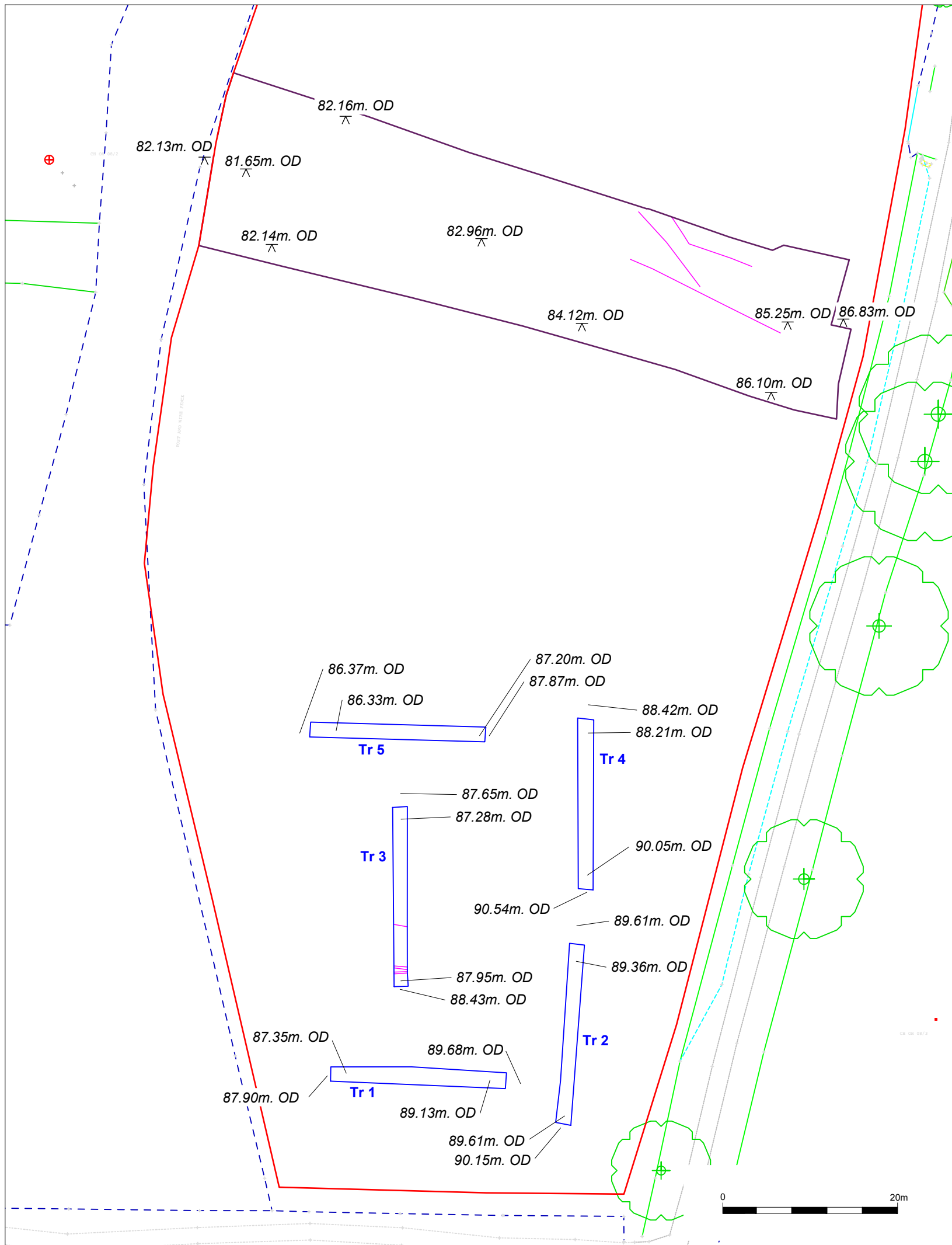
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Appendix 1: Trench Summary

No.	Description
1	<p>The trench was orientated East to West and the topography was downwards slope to the west, with recently planted trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m-0.30m in depth and overlay a band of dark orange brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone, measuring 0.35m-0.35m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.</p>
2	<p>The trench was orientated North to South and the topography was downwards slope to the west, with recently planted trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.37m-0.25m in depth and overlay a band of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone, measuring 0.25m-0.16m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench, notwithstanding a plow scar running North-East to South-West.</p>
3	<p>The trench was orientated North to South and the topography was downwards slope to the west, with recently planted trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.39m-0.35m in depth and overlay a band of dark orange brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone, measuring 0.13m-0.16m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench other than three ceramic field drains oriented east to west.</p>
4	<p>The trench was orientated North to South and the topography was downwards slope to the west, with recently planted trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.32m-0.27m in depth and overlay a band of dark orange brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and sandstone, measuring 0.19m-0.18m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.</p>
5	<p>The trench was orientated East to West and the topography was downwards slope to the west, with recently planted trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.21m-0.42m in depth. There was no subsoil. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.</p>

FIGURES 1-2



- Key:**
- Site Boundary
 - Area of Strip and Map
 - Trench Outline
 - Field Drain

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Title:
Site Location and Trench Layout

Project:
 Cloud Hill Quarry, Leicestershire,
 Southern Extension
 Archaeological Evaluation and
 Strip and map

Client:
 Breedon Aggregates

Scale at A3:
 main inset: 1:500

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 19/03/2018
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Report No: Y337/18	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2.1 - General site location looking north



Fig. 2.2 - General post excavation shot looking south

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Cloud Hill Quarry, Leicestershire, Southern Extension Archaeological Evaluation and Strip and map



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Fig. 2.3 - General shot of Trench 3, facing north



Fig. 2.4 - General shot of Trench 4, facing south

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Fig. 2.5 - General shot of Trench 5, facing east

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