

**Jackdaw Crag Quarry
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

August 2009

Report No. 1981

C L I E N T

Waste Recycling Group

Jackdaw Crag Quarry North Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken for land proposed for a southern extension of Jackdaw Crag Quarry, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Although there are no significant archaeological sites known to exist within the proposed extraction area, there is considerable potential as cropmarks representing field systems and boundaries of probable later prehistoric or Romano-British date have been identified throughout the study area. Additionally, the courses of three Roman Roads are located in the northern part of the study area. There is a long history of limestone extraction in the area and documentary sources suggest that the Jackdaw Crag quarry, known previously as 'Thevesdale', had been established by the 13th century.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
WYAS

Report Information

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Address: 6, Sidings Court, White Rose Way, Doncaster, South Yorkshire
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Report Type: Desk-based Assessment
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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Waste Recycling Group, via Turley Associates, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the south of Jackdaw Crag Quarry, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. The assessment was undertaken in advance of the proposals to extend the existing quarry.

Site location and topography

Jackdaw Crag Quarry is located approximately 3km to the south-west of Tadcaster and 1.6km west of Stutton, on the south side of the A64 (SE 4650 4105; Figs 1 and 2). The proposed southern extension comprises six hectares of arable land, which is bounded to the south by a trackway and Warren Cottage, and to the east and west by arable fields. Markers show the route of a gas pipeline running east-west through the site (Plates 1 to 3).

The east end of the proposed southern extension lies at a height of approximately 60m AOD. From here the land falls away to the west, before levelling out in the centre of the site at approximately 50m AOD.

The study area comprises all the land within 1km radius of the proposed southern extension, which consists predominately of farm land.

Geology and soils

The underlying solid geology in the study area consists of Lower Magnesian Limestone, overlain by glacial sand and gravel drift. Outcrops of Upper Magnesian Limestone surrounded by a belt of Middle Permian Marl lie to north-west and south-east of Jackdaw Crag Quarry (British Geological Survey 1974). The overlying soils are of the Aberford classification, described as shallow, locally brashy, well drained calcareous fine loams (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

2 Methodology and Sources

The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment and are in line with guidelines laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

Archaeological archives and databases

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was obtained from the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Northallerton and from the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>). The North Yorkshire Record Office and Archives, Northallerton, was consulted for historic maps and plans, antiquarian histories and other relevant documentary sources.

Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

Details of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments were obtained from the National Monuments Record .

Published and unpublished sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography. The crop marks were mapped by the Vale of York National Mapping Project (NMP)(Kershaw 2001).

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (1974) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1980).

Site Visit

A site inspection was undertaken on the 15th July 2009, the site being viewed from the access track from the Gas Valve Compound to the west.

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of 32 archaeological sites, features and historic buildings have been identified within the study area. These are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites and areas

The study area contains one Listed Building (A). Apart from the Towton Registered Battlefield, the northern boundary of which lies approximately 1.3km south-east of the proposed quarry extension (Fig. 2), no other designated areas (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields) lie near the site.

Previous archaeological investigations

Archaeological investigations were undertaken in advance of the construction of the Tadcaster by-pass in 1976. As part of these investigations, a section was excavated through the Roman Ridge (8) in the northern part of the study area (MNY23487).

Archaeological background, sites and features

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age periods (c. 10,000 BC – 2500 BC)

The earliest human activity within northern Britain probably followed the retreat of the ice sheets from around 10,000 BC, By the early Mesolithic period, about 7600 BC, the barren

post-glacial landscape had given way to woodland as the climate improved, increasing the potential for human activity. The nomadic nature of Mesolithic groups mean that they have left few remains and archaeological evidence for this period is largely limited to finds of flint implements.

The Neolithic and Bronze Age periods mark the introduction of farming, as nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence gradually gave way to agriculture and the domestication of animals. The population largely remained semi-nomadic at this time however, and sites are typically represented by scatters of flint, pottery, burnt stone and, latterly, copper working technology. The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods are also characterised by the introduction of large ceremonial and funerary monuments, including henges, stone circles and barrows, and the remains of a henge and barrows has been identified at Newton Kyme, approximately 4km to the north of the study area.

No archaeological finds of Palaeolithic to Bronze Age date have been identified within the study area, although a Bronze Age axe hammer was found near Cock Beck in the 1960s, approximately 1.3km to the south-east of the proposed development site (NMR No. SE 44 SE 17) while a number of flint artefacts, axes, a palstave and a socketed copper alloy celt have been found in the vicinity of Tadcaster (Page 1907; 1912).

Iron Age and Romano-British periods (c. 800 BC – AD 410)

Evidence for enclosed and unenclosed settlements, comprising of one or more roundhouses and accompanied by trackways and field systems, increases in both upland and lowland areas of North Yorkshire during the Iron Age (Vyner 2003). Although their date is unconfirmed, it is possible that the linear cropmarks of probable field systems in the northern part of the study area are of Iron Age date, particularly given that the Roman Roads in this area appear to respect a different alignment (12, Fig. 2). A late Iron Age / Romano-British date for the cropmark complexes is supported by archaeological investigations elsewhere on the Magnesian Limestone belt, mainly to the south of Tadcaster (Chadwick 2009; Roberts 2009; Roberts *et al.* 2008; Roberts *et al.* forthcoming).

By the Late Iron Age, the study area probably lay within the territory controlled by the Brigantes, however, by AD 72, the area was in the full control of the Romans. Numerous forts were established throughout the region, including one at York (*Eboracum*), approximately 18km to the north-east of the study area, and at Newton Kyme, approximately 4km to the north. A settlement known as *Calcaria* was established at what is now Tadcaster, approximately 3km to the north-west of the study area, and villas have been recorded at Dalton Parlours and Kirby Wharfe, located some 7km to the north-west and 4km to the east respectively. Extensive evidence for late Iron Age and Romano-British activity has recently been recorded alongside the A1 between Bramham and Wetherby (Martin 2009).

A number of Roman roads appear to converge to the west of Tadcaster, including the roads from Ilkley and Castleford (Margary 1973, Roads 72b and 28b, respectively). The latter,

‘Roman Ridge’ (8) runs east-west through the study area close to the northern edge of Jackdaw Crag Quarry. A further road, known as ‘Rudgate’ (7) is thought to have branched off from the Roman Ridge approximately 300m to the west of Jackdaw Crag Quarry, running northwards towards the fort and river crossing at Newton Kyme (Margary 1973; Ramm 1976, Road 280). A third possible road, running from ‘Rudgate’ to join ‘Roman Ridge’ closer to Tadcaster, to the north-east of the study area (Fig. 2), represents just one a series of roads speculated to focus upon the Tadcaster crossing of the River Wharfe (Ramm 1976, 5).

In Roman times Tadcaster was known as *Calcaria* in reference to its importance as a source of limestone and it has been suggested that quarrying may have been undertaken at the Jackdaw Crag site (23) since Roman times (Page 1974, 367; LUAU 1999), although there is no firm evidence for this.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods (c. AD 410 to c. 1500)

Following the end of Roman rule the former province fragmented into a number of small kingdoms, although by the 7th century, they had been subsumed into the Kingdom of Northumbria. Tadcaster appears to have been continuously occupied during this time and by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, it had grown into a sizeable settlement (Garmonsway 1972; Stenton 1971, 589, 594fn, Williams and Martin 2003). The settlement was probably focussed around the motte and bailey castle built by the Percy family, possibly during the 11th century (Roberts 1999) and the church, in the northern part of town.

The Domesday survey also records manors in Stutton and Hazlewood, which suggests settlement had been established here also by the later Anglo-Saxon period (Williams and Martin 2003). The origins of the place-name ‘Stutton’ are not clear, and suggestions include ‘a stumpy hillock’, or ‘*Stuftr’s tun*’ (Smith 1961, 75). The place-name ‘Hazlewood’ is likely a reference to the presence of hazel woods in the area (Smith 1961, 75) and the manor of Hazlewood was held by the Vavasour’s during the medieval period. In 1290 William le Vavasour was granted permission to crenellate his mansion at Hazlewood, the result being Hazlewood Castle, located approximately 2km to the west of the study area (Pevsner and Radcliffe 1986, 256-7). The Vavasour family was responsible for a number of the limestone quarries in the area, including what is now known as Jackdaw Crag Quarry (23), but formerly called ‘Thevesdale’, the quarry that in the early 13th century was supplying stone for use at York Minster (Page 1974, 376).

The northern end of the Towton Registered Battlefield lies approximately 1.3km to the south-west of the quarry extension area. Extending over some 380 hectares, the site was the scene of a battle between the Yorkists and the Lancastrians in 1461, which is estimated to have resulted in the death of approximately 28,000 people (Young 2003, 87). The battle is reputed to be not only the bloodiest of those seen during the War of the Roses, but the bloodiest ever fought in England (English Heritage 1995).

Post-medieval and modern period (c. 1500 to the present day)

Limestone quarrying remained an important part of the local economy in the study area throughout the post-medieval period and the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3) shows the location of a number of extraction sites (**1, 2, 9, 15, 19** and **27**), including the two sites that were to become the Jackdaw Crag Quarry (**16** and **23**). All except for Jackdaw Crag Quarry and White Quarry (**19**) had fallen into disuse by 1893-4 (Fig. 4). The 1849 Ordnance Survey also shows two gravel pits in the eastern part of the study area (**29** and **31**, Fig. 3), although again these were no longer in use by 1894 (Fig. 4).

The available cartographic evidence suggests that the area of the proposed southern extension was divided into two separate fields in 1849 by a north-south orientated boundary (**18**), although by 1893 this boundary had been removed (Fig. 4). Other field boundaries in the study area were also abandoned at this time, including one immediately to the north of the proposed development site (**14**).

4 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological features

Catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given a numerical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) number. Where an archaeological feature has an associated 'MNY' number the information has been obtained from the North Yorkshire HER. All further information is referenced in the bibliography.

1. Limestone quarry (site of) SE 4559 4147

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Fig. 3) on the north side of the Tadcaster Road at the Hill of Comfort (Ordnance Survey 1849b). The quarry is shown as disused by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

2. Limestone quarry (site of) SE 4560 4123

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Fig. 3) to the south of Headley Bar Plantation (Ordnance Survey 1849b). The quarry is shown as disused by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

3. Boundary cropmark MNY 16962 SE 4560 4083

A boundary of unknown date lies to the south-east of Headley Bar.

4. Cropmark of ditched enclosure MNY 16975 SE 4568 4119

A possible ditched enclosure has been identified to the south of the Hill of Comfort.

5. Linear and sub-circular cropmark **SE 4572 4059**

Cropmarks of a linear and sub-circular feature lie approximately 700m to the south of the A64 (Fig. 2).

6. Cropmark enclosures **MNY 16961** **SE 4585 4071**

Cropmark enclosures have been identified to the west of Warren House Farm.

7. Roman Road **SE 4587 4172**

A Roman road called 'The Rudgate' is recorded running northwards from the Roman Ridge to the west of Jackdaw Crag Quarry (Margary 1973, Road 280; Ramm 1976, 3). The route is labelled as 'suspected track of Roman Road' on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1893; Fig. 4).

8. Roman Ridge **MNY 23487** **SE 4592 4147**

The Roman road called 'Roman Ridge' runs south-west to north-east towards Tadcaster (Margary 1973, Road 28b).

9. Limestone quarry (site of) **SE 4593 4152**

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 on the north side of the 'Roman Ridge' road (Ordnance Survey 1849b; Fig. 3). The quarry is shown as disused by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

10. Field system **MNY 16960** **SE 4594 4050**

A former field system has been recorded to the north-west of White Quarry Cottages, although no cropmarks were recorded in the recent Vale of York NMP project.

11. Linear cropmark **SE 4602 4133**

A cropmark of a comparatively short, linear feature lies approximately 150m to the south of the A64 (NMR No. SE 44 SE 54).

12. Cropmark of field system **MNY 16978/16974** **SE 4609 4178**

A extensive rectilinear cropmark field system lies to the north of A64 (Fig. 2). It is orientated on an approximate north-south to east-west axis and therefore does not appear to respect the orientation of the 'Roman Ridge' road, nor the layout of the modern field system, which may indicate that it is of Iron Age or earlier date (Ford 2008).

13. Possible fossilised medieval strip fields **SE 4613 4197**

A series of parallel, narrow, strip fields are shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 to the south of Tadcaster Road (Ordnance Survey 1849a, Fig. 3). They may represent enclosure of medieval strip fields. The partial remains of the field system are shown on the modern Ordnance Survey mapping.

14. Linear ditch**MNY 16972****SE 4630 4117**

Field boundaries aligned east-west and north-south are shown the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Ordnance Survey 1849b, Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3). They were no longer in use by 1894 (Ordnance Survey 1894a, Ordnance Survey 1894b; Fig. 4).

15. Headley Bar Quarry**MNY 16973****SE 4631 4162**

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 to the south of the 'Roman Ridge' road (8), within the present site of Jackdaw Quarry (Ordnance Survey 1849b; Fig. 3). The site is labelled as 'Old Quarry' by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

16. Limestone quarry (site of)**SE 4632 4197**

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 on the south side of the Roman Ridge road (Ordnance Survey 1849b; Fig. 3). The quarry is shown as disused by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

17. Linear cropmark**SE 4647 4049**

A cropmark of a south-east to north-west aligned linear feature lies approximately 90m to the north of Chantry Lane (NMR No. SE 44 SE 57).

18. Post-medieval field boundary**SE 4649 4108**

A north-south orientated field boundary is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 running through the proposed southern extension (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3). It is not depicted on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1894b; Fig. 4).

19. White Quarry (site of)**SE 4653 4027**

White Quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3) to the south of Chantry Lane. It was still in use in 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909b; Fig. 5).

20. Post-medieval building**SE 4653 4092**

Warren House, which lies to the north-west of Chantry Road, is portrayed on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3).

21. Cropmark Enclosure and linear features**SE 4658 4195**

A cropmark of a sub-rectangular enclosure appended to the south-west side of a north-west to south-west aligned linear feature lies to the north of the route of the Roman Ridge. A second parallel linear feature lies approximately 100m to the north-east (Fig. 2). The enclosure and ditches were probably elements of the wider regime of former land division represented by the cropmark field system to the west (see 12).

22. Enclosure and three small hut circles MNY 16944/5 SE 466 407

A cropmark of a sub-circular shaped enclosure containing three possible small hut circles lie approximately 80m to the north of Chantry Lane (Fig. 2).

23. Jackdaw Crag Limestone Quarry MNY 16971 SE 4662 4153

The Jackdaw Crag Limestone Quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Ordnance Survey 1849c, Fig. 3). The quarry was formerly part of the 'Thevesdale' limestone quarry, which supplied stone to York Minster in the early 13th century (Page 1974, 376). In the later Middle Ages, the quarry at Hazlewood was owned by the Vavasour family (Parsons 1990, 12).

24. Rifle Range (site of) SE 4672 4143

The site of a 'Rifle Range' is shown on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map to the east of Jackdaw Crag quarry (Ordnance Survey 1894a; Fig. 4). It is shown as disused by 1909 (Fig. 5).

25. Field system cropmark MNY 16958 SE 4678 4093

Elements of a cropmark field system has been recorded to the east of Warren House Farm.

26. Possible field system MNY 16970 SE 4691 4163

A possible field system has been recorded to the north-west of Wingate Hill Farm.

27. Haber Rash Limestone Quarry (site of) SE 4700 4147

Haber Rash Limestone Quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 to the east of the Jackdaw Crag quarry (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3). The quarry is shown as disused by 1909 (Ordnance Survey 1909a; Fig. 5).

28. Linear cropmarks SE 4714 4167

Cropmarks of interrupted or segmented linear features have been recorded to the east of Jackdaw Crag Quarry (Fig. 2).

29. Gravel pit (site of) SE 4716 4119

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 to the west of Chantry Lane (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3).

30. Wayside cross MNY 16941 SE 4719 4108

A wayside cross is located on the west side of Chantry Lane. It was possibly originally constructed in the medieval period, although the shaft and head are late 19th or early 20th century in date (NMR No. SE 44 SE 11).

31. Gravel pit (site of)**SE 4730 4112**

A limestone quarry is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 to the east of Chantry Lane (Ordnance Survey 1849c; Fig. 3).

Listed Buildings

The Listed Buildings catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given an alphabetical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR), and the North Yorkshire HER DNY Number and Listed Building Reference.

A. Milestone**IoE No. 326043****DNY13053****SE 4583 4177**

A 19th-century ashlar milestone with cast-iron façade is located on the west side of Leeds Road, near the junction with Stutton Lane. It is inscribed ‘Tadcaster and Haltondial Turnpike Road’, with ‘Tadcaster 2 miles’ on the north face and ‘Leeds 12 miles’ on the south face. It is Grade II listed (ref. 4/125).

5 Conclusions

The proposed quarry extension lies in an area known to have been exploited during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, with the Roman settlement of *Calcaria* lying just 3km to the north-west and the fort of Newton Kyme lying approximately 4.5km to the north. While no direct evidence for occupation during these periods has been confirmed within the study area, it is most likely that the cropmarks represent the remains of extensive land division of later Iron Age and/or Romano-British date. The cropmarks occur mainly in the northern part of the study area, close to the courses of the Roman Roads, although the alignment of roads compared to that of the field systems suggests the latter are likely to have been established in the pre-Roman period. Although there is no evidence of field systems and enclosures from cropmarks within the proposed quarry extension, the extensive nature of these past agricultural regimes make this possibility highly likely. Whilst there is a long history of limestone extraction in this area, there is no known evidence of ancient extraction in the proposed extension area.

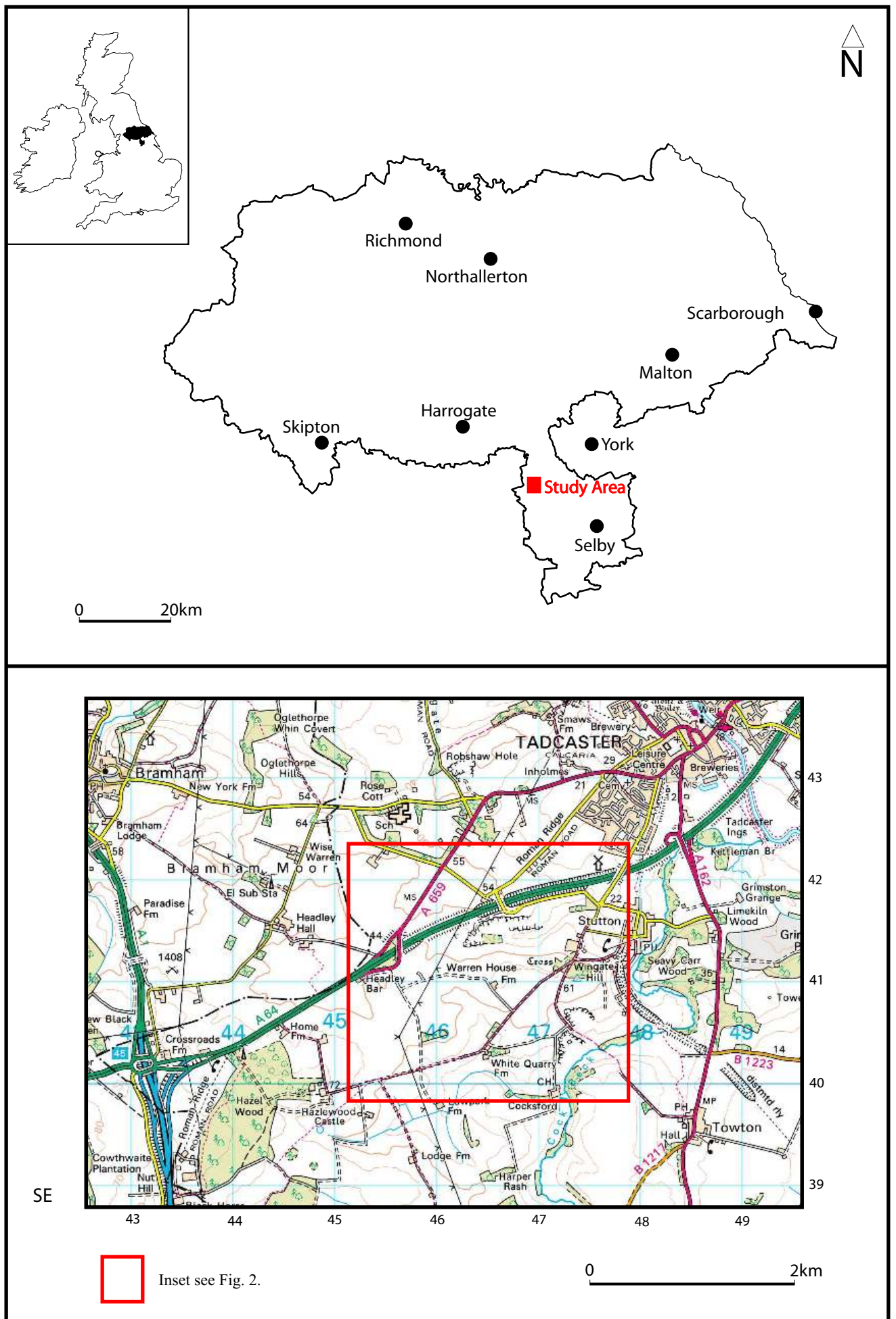


Fig. 1. Site location

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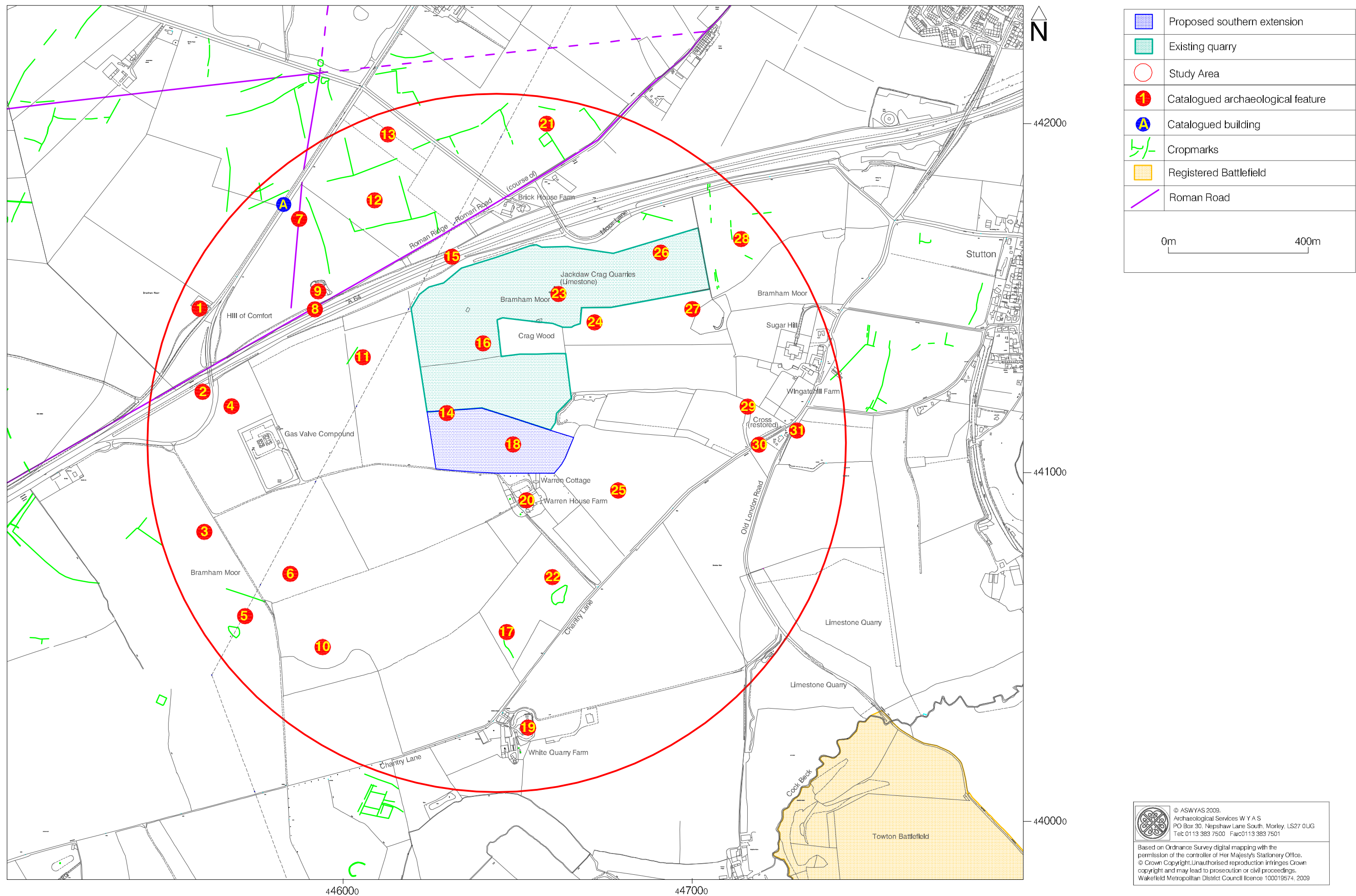


Fig. 2. The study area, proposed quarry extension and catalogued archaeological features (1:10 000 scale)



Fig. 3. Combined extracts from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch series maps of 1849 (sheets 189, 190, 204 and 205), with the study area and proposed quarry extension highlighted

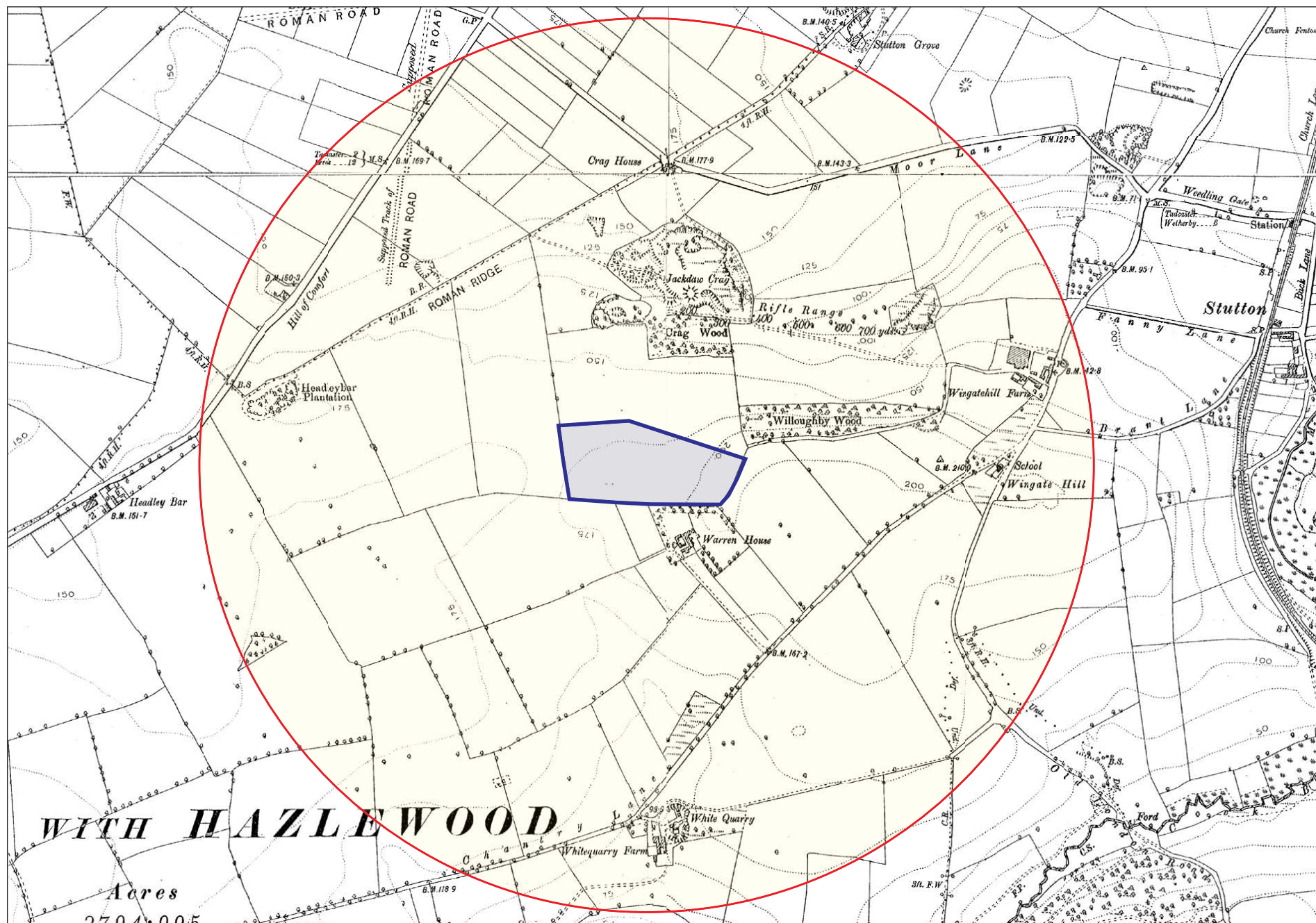


Fig. 4. Combined extracts from the Ordnance Survey 6 inch series maps of 1893 (sheet 189 SE) and 1894 (sheets 190 SW, 204 NE and 205 NW), with the study area and proposed quarry extension highlighted

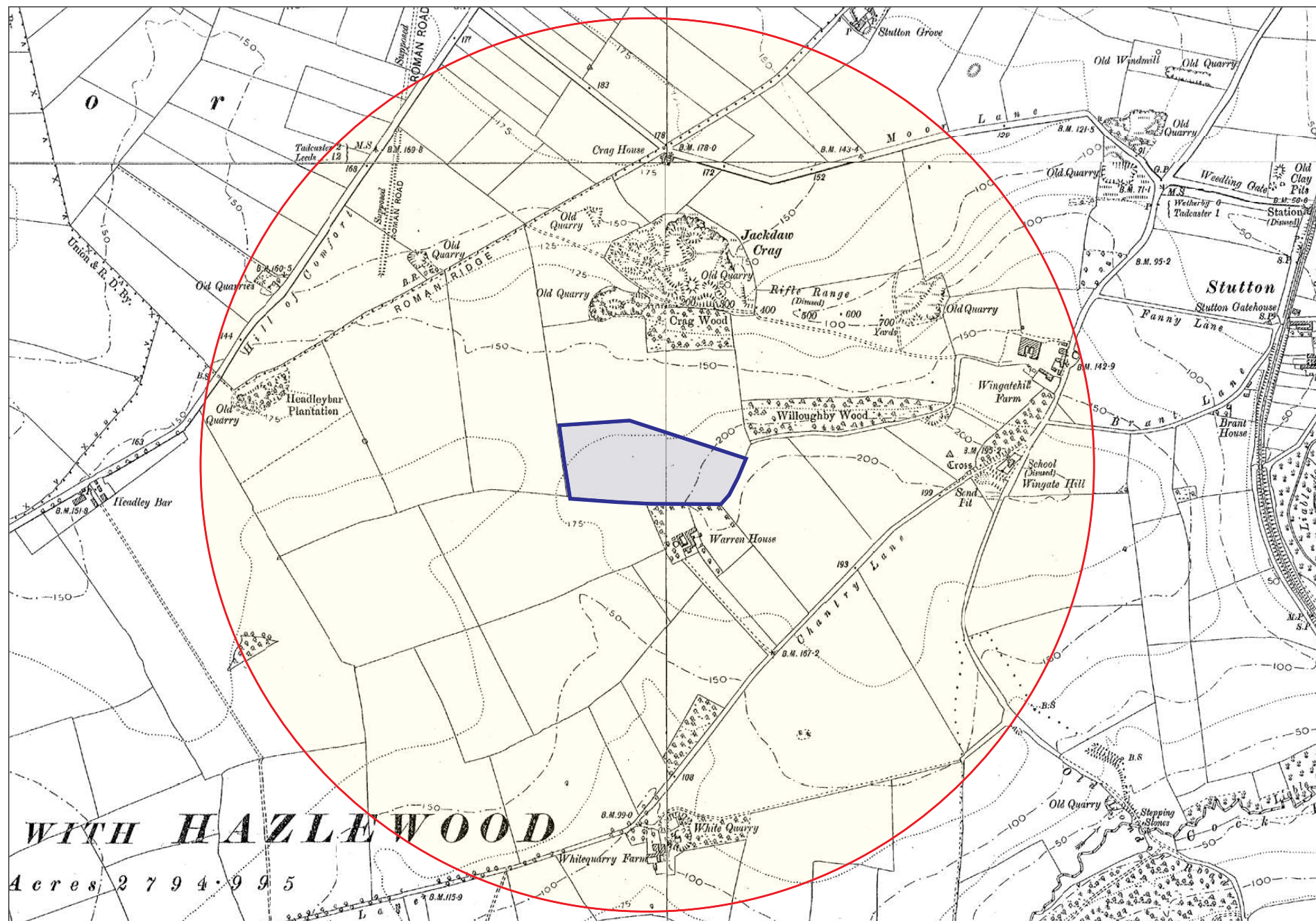


Fig. 5. Combined extracts from the Ordnance Survey 6 inch series maps of 1909 (sheets 189 SE, 190 SW, 204 NE and 205 NW), with the study area and proposed quarry extension highlighted



Plate 1. The south-eastern end of the proposed quarry extension, facing north-east



Plate 2. The south-eastern end of the proposed quarry extension, facing east



Plate 3. The southern end of the proposed quarry extension, facing north-west

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