



Cloughton Moor Quarry, Cloughton, Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Cloughton Moor Quarry, Cloughton, Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Steve Clarke

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Contents

Summary	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Aims	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
3 RESULTS	4
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results	4
3.2 Results.....	4
4 DISCUSSION	5
4.1 Results and Interpretation.....	5
5 FIGURES	6
APPENDIX A BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
APPENDIX B SITE SUMMARY DETAILS	8
APPENDIX C PROJECT DESIGN.....	9

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Plan showing previous works superimposed on current scheme

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Working Shot of Topsoil Strip, looking north

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North were commissioned by Forterra Building Products Ltd to undertake a watching brief over land at Claughton Moor Quarry, Lancashire (centred SD 579649) which they propose to quarry to extract brick shales. The work forms a continuation of the assessment of the archaeological potential at Claughton Quarry, with previous phases including a desk-based assessment (undertaken by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd (OAA) (2001b), walkover surveys and watching briefs (OA North 2003 and 2015). Hanson Building Products (UK) Ltd were granted planning permission on February 14th 2000 (Application Ref 1/98/29), and the planning permission subsequently passed to Forterra Building Products Ltd.

A brief for the archaeological fieldwork was issued in 2001 by OAA (2001a). A walkover survey and watching briefs were carried out during three successive seasons of fieldwork from 2001-2003. The first phase was carried out by OA North in 2001, under the former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), and was limited in area by the Foot and Mouth epidemic. In 2002, the walkover survey was completed and a further season of watching brief was maintained on the extension to the quarry. Wet weather conditions meant that the poorly drained peat prevented work being completed on the quarry extension. Instead, a further season of fieldwork in 2003 saw topsoil stripping being completed under a watching brief.

The archaeological resource within the study area consisted mainly of features relating to post-medieval mineral extraction, but also included several earthwork enclosures probably associated with the earlier pastoral use of the land. There was also potential for Mesolithic flint scatters.

The quarry was mothballed in 2010 but recently reopened and expanded. This recent expansion began in July 2015 with the stripping of topsoil and overburden. The watching brief undertaken in September 2018 is a further expansion of the quarry.

An area measuring approximately 25m wide and 180m long was stripped of topsoil and overburden. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown peat some 0.3-0.4m thick, whilst the overburden comprised a mottled yellow plastic clay 0.4m thick merging into blue-grey plastic clay some 0.3m thick.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were noted within the area of ground disturbance during this and previous phases of fieldwork. Consequently, the site as a whole seems to be generally of low archaeological potential, reflecting its use over time for mainly pastoral activities.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Forterra Buildings Products Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Peter Iles, who monitored the work on behalf of Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was undertaken by Becky Wegiel and Steve Clarke, with illustrations being produced by Mark Tidmarsh.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Forterra Building Products Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the site of Claughton Moor Quarry, Claughton, Lancashire (NGR: SD 579 649), during the removal of overburden for the extraction of brick shale.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 1/98/29) granted to Hansen Brick (UK) Ltd in February 2000. A scheme of archaeological works was set out by Oxford Archaeological Associates (OAA 2001a) and a project design (*Appendix C*) was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition. The current phase of fieldwork was undertaken between the 12th and 26th September 2018. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south-east of the village of Claughton, Lancashire, on the northern slopes of Claughton Moor overlooking the Lune Valley, with views to the coast and inland to the north-east (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 The proposed extension is situated on the side of a typical Pennine moor and is poorly drained. It slopes gradually from c 290m at the southern edge of the area to c 280m in the north-west where it meets the edge of the current workings.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as an area of Millstone Grit overlain by mudstones, shales and sandstone (BGS 2018). The soils are made up of peaty gleys, clay and organic material, forming poorly drained moorland and rough pasture unsuited to arable farming (Cranfield 2018).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in the desk-based assessment undertaken by OAA in 2001 (OAA 2001b) and will only be summarized here.
- 1.3.2 There are no known sites or finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic date within the area of works.
- 1.3.3 A number of sites and finds have been recorded in the local area. These include the find of a bronze socketed spearhead and two bronze socketed axes, of Bronze Age date, found with a socketed stone axe, in the garden of Bank House farm, Claughton. At Quarry House Farm a standing stone is assumed to be prehistoric.
- 1.3.4 Several earthwork and cropmark enclosures have been noted on the lower slopes of the moor both to the east and west of the site, the nearest being a D-shaped enclosure with a secondary enclosure opposite Claughton Hall. These are closely associated with a sub-rectangular enclosure to the south. Others in the area include two triangular banked enclosures at Manor House, Farleton. To the north of these is a further sub-

rectangular enclosure with cropmarks to the east showing probable field boundaries or trackways.

- 1.3.5 There are two possible mounds in the area; neither have a secure date. The first is believed to be natural with a manmade bank added along with other features. The second mound is in Farleton and is thought to be medieval after the discovery of revetment walls during an excavation in 1956.
- 1.3.6 Roman activity in the area is limited. The presence of a Roman road is attested by the discovery of a milestone in Artle Beck in 1803. The inscription (RIB 2272) reads 'For the Emperor Caesar Trajan Hadrian Augustus, Chief Priest, with Tribunician power, three times Consul, Father of his Country, from... 4 miles'. It seems possible that another Roman route may have led along the valley floor towards Caton from the Roman brick, tile, and pottery kiln sites in Quernmore. Margary (1973, 382) identified a Roman road running along the Lune valley which has been seen in road works (Harrison 1893) and aerial photographs. At one site, that at Lythe Brow, there is a great deal of evidence in the form of debris resulting from pottery and brick making, which appears to fall within the period AD 80-150 (Shotter and White 1990, 51; OA North 2003a).
- 1.3.7 Medieval activity is evidenced in the area by sites such as the scheduled moated site at Camp House, Hornby. Further indications are provided by the crosses noted in the churchyard at Claughton and at Curwen Hill, Hornby. There is also place name evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation in Farleton. Documentary evidence exists for medieval pottery production supported by the results of recent archaeological work (OA North 2003b).
- 1.3.8 In the surrounding area there is a great deal of evidence for post-medieval quarries and mines. This evidence includes place names such as Coal Pit Holes, and the earthwork remains of bell pits. There is some documentary evidence for a coal mining lease on Claughton Moor in 1693. There are also the known sites of the nineteenth century adit mines. Also apparent are signs of low-level gravel quarries and higher level sandstone quarries. A further shale works and quarry at Caton can also be seen. Much of the evidence for these is from the nineteenth century although it is possible that their origins are earlier.
- 1.3.9 In the mid to late nineteenth century, brickworks were established at Claughton. There were two main Claughton works, Lunesdale Brick and Tube Company of Caton and a later one often referred to as 'Claughton Manor' which occupied sites either side of the Caton to Hornby Road (Winstanley 2000, 58-59). The earlier site was started in c 1874 and was amalgamated into the Claughton Brick Company in 1897. They brought clay and shale down via a tramway, parts of which still survive, from Potters Hill Wood to their works (*ibid*). This was closed by 1901 and the main works, 'Claughton Manor', was located further up the Hornby Road on two sites, East End (1898) and West End (1898). They both obtained their shale from pits on Caton Moor via aerial ropeways installed in 1900 (*ibid*).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The overall aims and objectives of the archaeological mitigation strategy are set out in the project design (*Appendix C*) to address research themes set out in An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England (Brennand 2006: 2007). The project aims and objectives were as follows:
- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
 - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A project design (*Appendix C*) was produced by OA North in response to the scheme of archaeological works set out by OAA (OAA 2001a). The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant ClfA and Historic England guidelines (ClfA 2014 a-c; Historic England 2015).
- 2.2.2 The overburden was removed using a 38-ton, 360°, tracked excavator (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and breaker) to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit, under direct archaeological supervision at all times. Subsequent cleaning and investigation of all archaeological deposits were undertaken manually, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded.
- 2.2.3 All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre of Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.2.4 Results of all field investigations were recorded on pro forma context sheets. The site archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10).
- 2.2.5 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix C*), and in accordance with current ClfA (2014c) and Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2015). The archive will be deposited with the Historical Environment Record (HER) Office in Preston.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the site. An area approximately 20 – 25m wide and 180m long was stripped in 6m wide sections, due to the size of the plant and ground stability. The area of the watching brief is plotted in Figure 2.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform (Plate 1). The natural geology was identified as blue grey plastic clay overlain by mottled yellow plastic clay, up to 1m thick. This was sealed by topsoil, which comprised a dark brown peat 0.3-0.4m in thick. No archaeology was observed and there were no finds.

3.2.2 A ditch approximately 1m wide and 180m long was excavated parallel with the eastern edge to allow water runoff to divert into the quarry's drainage system. The depth of this ditch varied from 0.4m to a max depth of 1.8m along the highest contour.



Plate 1: Working Shot of Topsoil Strip, looking north.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Results and Interpretation

4.1.1 The objectives of the watching brief, as set out in the project design (*Appendix C*), were:

- i. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

4.1.2 No archaeology was observed during the watching brief, and there were no finds retrieved. Despite the absence of any archaeological evidence or deposits during the fieldwork, the possibility still exists for archaeological remains to be present elsewhere on Cloughton Moor. Consequently, any further extension or works carried out to the quarry or within the study area should be investigated with a further watching brief.

5 FIGURES

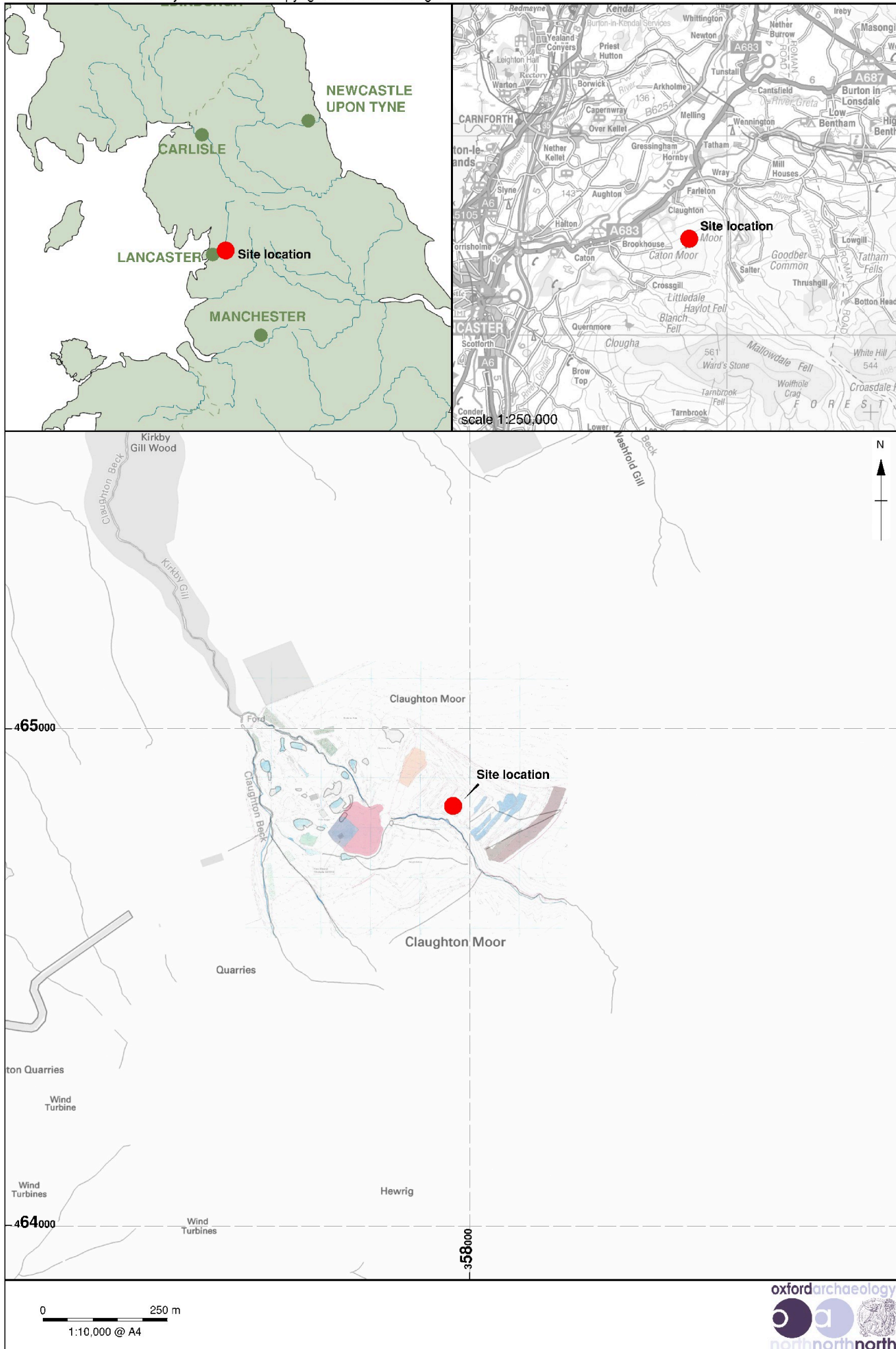


Figure 1: Site location

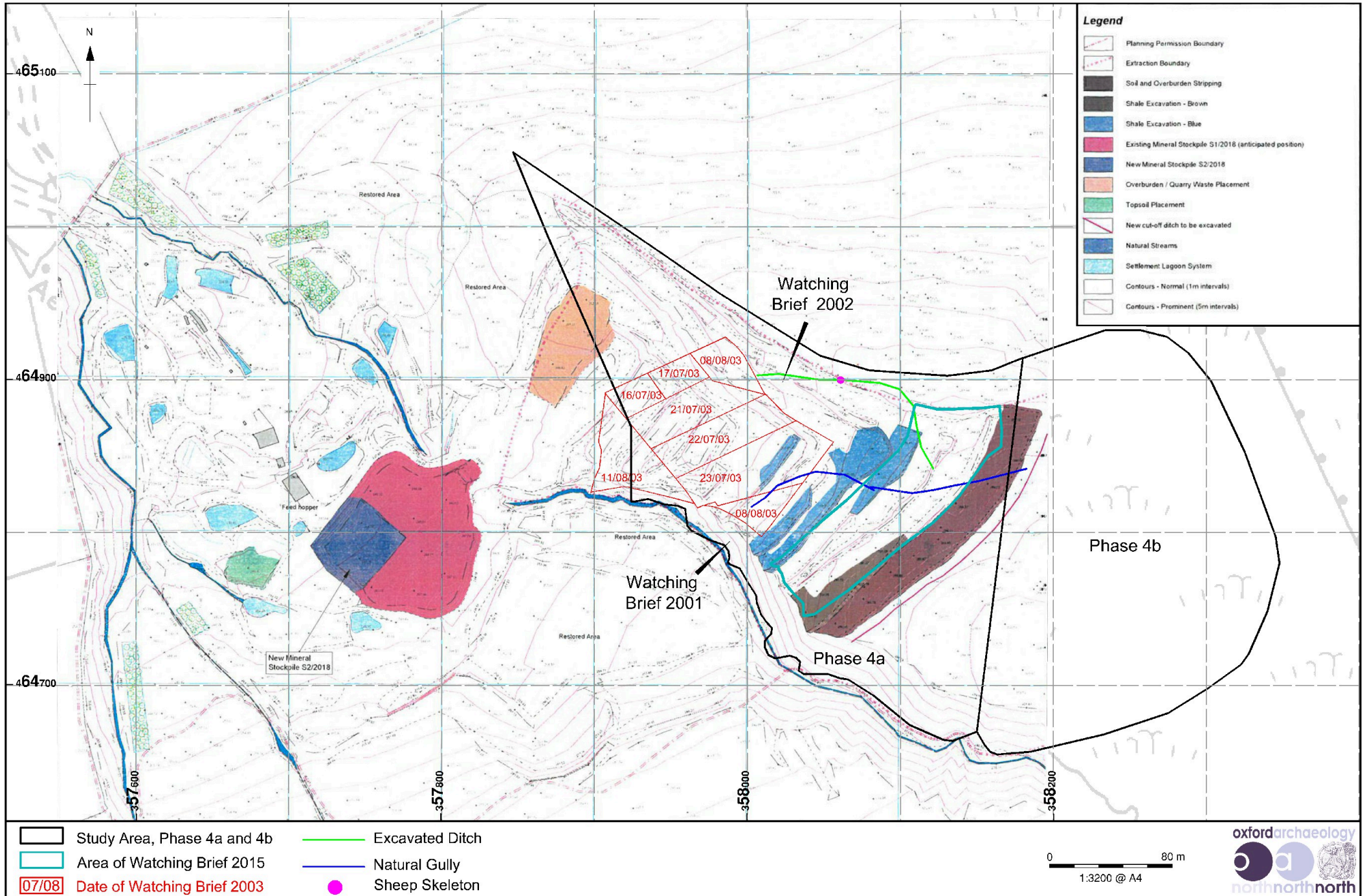


Figure 2: Plan showing previous works superimposed on current scheme

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APPENDIX B**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Cloughton Moor Quarry, Cloughton, Lancashire
Site code:	CMQ18
Grid Reference	SD 579 649
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	12 th – 26 th September 2018, 11 days
Area of Site	4500m ²
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record in due course.
Summary of Results:	The quarry extension was stripped of topsoil and subsequent overburden in wet conditions. There were no archaeological finds or features observed during the works.

APPENDIX C PROJECT DESIGN

CLAUGHTON MOOR QUARRY, CLAUGHTON LANCASHIRE

Watching Brief Project Design



Oxford Archaeology North

September 2018

Forterra Building Products Ltd

OA North Ref No: L11181

NGR: (centred): SD 579649

Planning Ref: 1/98/29

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Forterra Building Products Ltd (hereafter the client) have requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals to undertake a watching brief over land at Cloughton Moor Quarry, Lancashire (centred SD 579649) to extract brick shales. The proposed work forms a continuation of the assessment of the archaeological potential at Cloughton Quarry, with previous phases including a desk-based assessment (undertaken by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd (OAA) in 2001a), walkover surveys and watching briefs (OA North 2003 and 2015). This project design has been prepared in accordance with the Scheme of Archaeological Works provided by OAA (OAA 2001b) response to a Planning Permission granted to Hanson Brick (UK) Ltd on February 14th 2000 (Application Ref 1/98/29).
- 1.1.2 The site is positioned to the east of the Caton, east of Lancaster, towards the head of Cloughton Beck and south of the River Lune on Cloughton Moor and is at present rough pasture. It is located on poorly drained wet slopes of the Millstone Grit uplands of the West Pennines.
- 1.1.3 Despite recent archaeological investigations at the site there are no known archaeological remains or deposits of significance. There is almost no modern occupation, for this area of the 150m contour upwards, and there is no apparent evidence for occupation earlier than the nineteenth century. However, there is potential for the discovery of Mesolithic occupation in the form of flint scatters as the archaeology in the uplands of Lancashire has shown elsewhere. Furthermore, during the first millennium BC Iron Age farmsteads have been seen to recolonise the Pennine Uplands. Thereafter there was a dispersed settlement of isolated settlements through to the Middle Ages. Until the early nineteenth century enclosure the land was common pasture with evidence also of quarrying.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees with over 40 years of experience in archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost-effective service. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 300 members of staff throughout three regional offices in Oxford, Cambridge and Lancaster), and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations you or your clients may have.
- 1.2.2 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past three decades. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.3 In recent years, OA North has undertaken similar types of work in many parts of Lancashire but more specifically in the immediate environs to the site on Dowbridge Close and Myrtle Drive.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered archaeological organisation, registration (RAO) number 17, and all staff operate subject to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2014a).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by ground works for the proposed development. It has been designed, in accordance with Historic England (English Heritage 2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a, b and c) standards and guidelines.
- 2.2 **Watching brief:** a watching brief, during associated ground disturbance, will determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the proposed ground disturbance for the quarry. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including any other earthmoving activities.
- 3.1.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.4 Weekly updates of the progress of the watching brief will be made to the client, unless significant finds are discovered during the course.
- 3.1.5 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.6 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.1.7 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Quarry Manager/Deputy and client, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the Planning Archaeologist.
- 3.1.8 **Finds:** OA North will adhere to the finds Undertaking from the previous phases of archaeological investigation.
- 3.2.9 **Health and Safety:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 3.2.10 OA North staff will be wearing appropriate PPE, including steel toe-capped and midsoled safety boots, hi-visibility clothing, hard hat, safety glasses and gloves. All project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards.
- #### 3.3 Archive/Report
- 3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Heritage England guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, which will be catalogued by context.

- 3.3.2 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the Historic England Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire HER, Preston (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office (in this instance, that at Preston).
- 3.3.3 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum. Discussion regarding the museum's requirement for the transfer and storage of finds will be conducted prior to the commencement of the project, and LCAS will be notified of the arrangements made.
- 3.3.4 **Report:** a digital copy a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client and a digital copy submitted to the Lancashire HER within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above
- 3.3.5 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken by Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (LAAS).

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 OA North will commence the watching brief on Wednesday 12th September 2018.
- 5.2 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is likely to be 4 - 5 days, being dictated by the schedule of works and weather permitting.
- 5.3 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork although a short summary could be made available earlier.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Paul Dunn BA (Hons)** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief will be supervised in the field initially by **Becky Wegiel**. Depending on OA North's timetabling of works and weather this may be subject to change through the duration of the archaeological works to another OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 6.3 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by Dr **Denise Druce** (OA North project officer). Denise has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West.

7 INSURANCE

- 7.1 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £5,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

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