Hazel Lane Quarry, Phase D, Hampole, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation (second stage)

for Catplant Ltd

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HLH 02/04

October 2002
Summary

Site name: Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire

Grid reference: SE 4987 1135

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 20th and 21st October 2002

Project manager: Joanna Pine

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: HLH 02/04

Area of site: 3.2ha

Summary of results: A single Roman ditch was revealed.

Monuments identified: Roman ditch

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading and will be deposited with Doncaster Museum in due course, with accession code DONMG:2002.3

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Introduction

This report documents the results of a second stage of archaeological field evaluation carried out within Phase D at Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire (SE 4987 1135) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Reeves, Senior Archaeologist, of Wardell Armstrong Consulting Group, 1 Church Place, Piccadilly, London, SW1Y 6HU, on behalf of Catplant Limited.

Several phases of fieldwork have been carried out on this phase of the quarry operation (see below) and have revealed a variety of archaeological deposits of Roman date. A second stage of geophysical survey carried out in September 2002 had located three further areas of potential archaeological interest, which suggested the possible presence of further structures associated with the Roman deposits already encountered. In order to determine the nature and significance of these anomalies a further field evaluation was requested.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and Doncaster Borough Council’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roy Sykes, Assistant Archaeologist, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Pamela Jenkins between the 21st and 22nd October 2002 and the site code is HLH 02/04. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Doncaster Museum in due course, with accession code DONMG:2002.3.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on land to the north of an existing limestone quarry, just over 1km north-west of the village of Hampole (Fig. 1). The investigation areas are situated on agricultural land which currently consists of plough soil awaiting planning permission for continued quarrying. The site slopes gently from 60m above Ordnance Datum at the west to 55m AOD to the east, whilst the village of Hampole to the south-east lies at 25m AOD. The underlying geology is Permian Lower Magnesium Limestone (BGS 1993). This was encountered on site but was capped intermittently by an orange brown silty clay
**Archaeological background**

Several phases of archaeological work have taken place during the quarry development (Aitchison 2000; Hale and Noel 1994; Brown 1997; Lines 2001a and 2001b; Noel and Lambert 1994a and 1994b; Sidebottom 1999; Pine 2002a and b). These investigations comprised desktop assessments, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, evaluation trenching and area excavation. Evaluations and excavations have taken place to the south of the proposal site (phases A, B and C) and most notably further to the south uncovered a trapezoid segmented enclosure of 1st–2nd century date. Other features included a hearth possibly representing an occupation structure, a possible midden dating to a similar period to the enclosure (phase C) and undated pits in phase B. Further rock cut ditches of probable Iron Age and/or Roman date were also identified (phases A and B).

On the present site (Phase D), fieldwalking indicated widespread artefactual material including small quantities of prehistoric struck flint and Roman and medieval pottery (Aitchison 2000). An initial geophysical survey identified anomalies thought to represent an enclosure and associated ditches to the west of the site as well as possible occupation evidence. The subsequent evaluation identified a series of ditches, pits and possible hearths (Pine 2002a). This evidence lead to an area excavation which identified further ditches, pits, hearths, an articulated cow burial and the foundations and floors of a Roman stone building with remains of a possible hypocaust (Pine 2002b) (Fig. 2).

A second stage of geophysical work during September 2002 (Noel 2002) using both magnetic and resistance methods located additional anomalies which were the subject of the evaluation described below.

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits identified by the second stage of geophysical survey. Three areas had been identified as having potential as possible further building remains. Three trenches were to be excavated to assess the potential of these anomalies. These trenches were designed to measure 6x5m, 10x2m and 15x2m and would be numbered consecutively from the previous evaluation. The trenches were excavated by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. All potential archaeological features and deposits were cleaned and excavated using appropriate hand tools.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
Results

All trenches were longer and wider than was required in order to ensure the geophysical anomalies were not missed.

Trench 21
This trench was 12.8m x 6.2m and consisted of topsoil directly overlying fragmented limestone with patches of brown silty clay. No archaeological features were observed (Fig. 2)

Trench 22
Trench 22 was 13.6m x 4.6m and consisted of topsoil overlying limestone. The edge of a ditch aligned north-south was revealed (Figs 2 and 3). A small slot (119), 0.90m long and 0.5m wide) was excavated in order to retrieve dating evidence, which included pottery and tegulae and imbrex fragments (roof tiles) as well as several large pieces of burnt limestone stone (not retained) and a quartzite cobble. The slot revealed a shallow U-shaped feature 0.20m deep with a fill (156) of loose brown silty clay., The trench was extended and revealed that the ditch reached a terminal.

Trench 23
This trench which was 16.5m x 4.6m again showed topsoil overlying fragmented limestone with patches of brown silty clay. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

Pottery by Andy Taylor
Five sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill of ditch (119), weighing a total of 170g. One of these was a sherd from the base of a micaceous greyware vessel, probably a platter. One was a rimsherd from a sand-tempered greyware vessel. Two joining sherds, one of which was a rim sherd, came from a black shell-tempered vessel. The other piece is a small rim sherd in an orangey-red ware with occasional micaceous inclusions.

Animal Bone by Sian Anthony
Four pieces of animal bone were recovered from ditch (119), all in good condition. They are all likely to have come from the same right mandible of a cow.
Tile by Andy Taylor

Five pieces of tile were recovered from the fill of ditch 119. These comprised three pieces of *imbrex* weighing 768g and two pieces of *tegula* weighing 406g. These can possibly be associated with the tiles found in and around the nearby Roman stone building.

Burnt Stone by Andy Taylor

One piece of burnt quartzite cobble (52g) (retained), came from the fill of ditch (119).

Conclusion

One of the three trenches excavated contained an archaeological deposit in the form of a linear feature of Roman date, most probably a boundary ditch, as it is almost identical to ditches observed during the previous fieldwork. The geophysical anomalies which were identified as possible building remains, may have been produced by areas of compacted natural limestone as observed in the trenches as they did not correspond with any recordable archaeological deposits.

References

Aitchison, K, 2000, ‘An archaeological evaluation at Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, Doncaster’, ARCUS report 590b, Sheffield
Brown, K, 1997, ‘Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire, Archaeological Excavation’, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Wakefield
Lines, A, 2001a, ‘Archaeological Recording at Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole’, ARCUS report 590.1, Sheffield
Lines, A, 2001b, ‘Archaeological Recording at Area C, Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire’, ARCUS report 590c.2, Sheffield
Pine, J, 2002a, ‘Hazel Lane Quarry, Phase D, Hampole, South Yorkshire; an archaeological evaluation’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/04, Reading
Pine, J, 2002b, ‘Hazel Lane Quarry, Phase D, Hampole, South Yorkshire; an Interim report’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/04b, Reading
APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench No.</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>12.80</td>
<td>6.20</td>
<td>0.35(E); 0.50(W)</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ fragmented limestone natural with patches of brown silty clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>13.60</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>0.40(NE); 0.50(SW)</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ fragmented limestone natural with patches of brown silty clay. Ditch 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ fragmented limestone natural with patches of brown silty clay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hampole and South Yorkshire

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Figure 2. Showing second phase trench locations in relation to previous trenches, excavated features and previous geophysical anomalies.
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Figure 3. Plan and section of ditch 119 in trench 22.