Mancetter Quarry,
Atherstone, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation, Second Phase

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: MQN14/180

(SP3070 9490)
Mancetter Quarry, Atherstone, Warwickshire

An Archaeological Evaluation, Second Phase

for Lafarge Tarmac Ltd

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MQN 14/180

April 2015
Summary

Site name: Mancetter Quarry, Atherstone, Warwickshire

Grid reference: SP3070 9490

Site activity: Evaluation, Second Phase

Date and duration of project: 30th–31st March 2015

Project manager: Andy Taylor

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: MQN 14/180

Area of site: c.3.6 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Warwick Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✔ 10.04.15
                      Steve Preston✔ 09.04.15
Mancetter Quarry, Atherstone, Warwickshire
An Archaeological Evaluation, Second Phase

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/180b

Introduction

This report documents the results of a second phase of pre-development archaeological field evaluation carried out at Mancetter Quarry, Atherstone, Warwickshire (SP 3070 9490) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd on behalf of Lafarge Tarmac Ltd.

A planning application is to be made to Warwickshire County Council for an extension to the quarry with a pipeline and bridleway diversion. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits existing on the site which may be liable to be destroyed by extraction, a geophysical survey and trial trenching were requested in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site and provide information on which to base a mitigation scheme if required. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), and the County Council’s policies on archaeology. Part of the area of the proposed quarry extension has already been evaluated (see below) and the current report covers a pasture and arable field across part of which a pipeline and bridleway will cross, as well as part of the overburden mound. This areas was not previously available due to the potential present of great crested newts, and the current evaluation had to stand-off ponds by 100m as a precaution.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Lizzi Lewins between 30th–31st March 2015 and the site code is MQN 14/180. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Warwick Museum in due course.
Location, topography and geology

The site is located c.2.5km south of Atherstone (Fig. 1), on land which has pronounced undulations in its topography. The current land use is pasture on the western side and ploughed arable farmland in the east. The underlying geology is mapped as Thrussington Till (BGS 1994) which was observed in the trenches as a sandy clay with frequent sandstone gravel inclusions. The site slopes from c.166m above Ordnance Datum on the southern side of the site to c.137m in the north.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a cultural heritage assessment (AJA 2014). In summary the site contains no known archaeological sites but lies within a zone containing a wide range of sites and finds, listed buildings and industrial archaeological sites. The Roman and medieval town of Mancetter is approximately 2km to the north-east. Numerous archaeological investigations have examined the archaeology of the urban, suburban and hinterland context of the town. Closer to the site are three scheduled monuments; the Iron Age hillfort of Oldbury Camp lies to the east, with a Bronze Age round barrow beyond and an early medieval castle at Hartshill further to the east. A geophysical survey (Archaeophysica 2014) on land for the proposed extension, immediately to the south west of the current area, identified anomalies which a subsequent evaluation (Mundin and Taylor 2014) identified as mostly modern or geological. One trench identified a small iron smelting site of either Iron Age or Saxon date.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development not previously evaluated.

The specific research aims of the project were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

A total of 18 additional trenches were to be dug, each 20m long and 2m wide. The locations of these were to provide a 5% sample of the pipeline diversion route and bridleway and to test topographically suitable land elsewhere in the pasture field. These locations were agreed on site with Mr. Ian Meadows of Andrew Josephs Ltd. The trenches were opened using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. These were to cover the route of the pipe diversion. Where archaeological
features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of this project and according to an agreed sample fraction.

**Results**

The 18 trenches were dug as intended, each measuring 2.20m wide and between 18.30m and 24m in length and between 0.30m and 1.12m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Trench numbering (60–77) continues the sequence established in the initial phase of evaluation (Mundin and Taylor 2014).

**Trench 60 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)**
This trench was aligned North-South and measured 20m in length and 1.12m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying 1.02m of subsoil overlying clayey sand with gravel natural geology.

**Trench 61**
This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 21.70m in length and 0.46m deep. It consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of subsoil overlying clayey silt with sandstone natural geology.

**Trench 62 (Fig. 3)**
This trench was aligned approximately North-South and measured 21.40m in length and 0.41m deep. It consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying clayey silt with sandstone natural geology. Ridge and furrow was observed crossing the trench at regular intervals.

**Trench 63**
This trench was aligned North East-South West and measured 21.60m in length and 0.76m deep. It consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.66m of subsoil overlying clayey sand with gravel natural geology.

**Trench 64**
This trench was aligned approximately North West-South East and measured 22.40m in length and 0.42m deep. It consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying silty clay with gravel natural geology.

**Trench 65**
This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 20m in length and 0.90m deep. It consisted of 0.19m of topsoil overlying silty clay and sandstone natural geology.
Trench 66
This trench was aligned approximately NNE–SSW and measured 21m in length and 0.61m deep. It consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.43m of subsoil overlying sandy clay with sandstone natural geology.

Trench 67
This trench was aligned approximately North West-South East and measured 20m in length and 0.56m deep. It consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying 0.42m of subsoil overlying sandy clay and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 68 (Pl. 2)
This trench was aligned approximately East-West and measured 21.70m in length and 0.51m deep. It consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.39m of subsoil overlying sandy clay and sandstone natural geology. Ridge and furrow was evident in the centre of the trench.

Trench 69
This trench was aligned North-South and measured 22m in length and 0.60m deep. It consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying sandy clay and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 70
This trench was aligned approximately East-West and measured 21m in length and 0.40m deep. It consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.32m of subsoil overlying silty clay and gravel natural geology.

Trench 71
This trench was aligned approximately North-South and measured 20.10m in length and 0.53m deep. It consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.41m of subsoil overlying silty clay and gravel natural geology.

Trench 72 (Pl. 3)
This trench was aligned approximately North-South and measured 21m in length and 0.80m deep. It consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.70m of subsoil overlying silty clay and gravel natural geology.

Trench 73
This trench was aligned approximately NNW–SSE and measured 18.30m in length and 0.40m deep. It consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 74 (Pl. 4)
This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 19m in length and 0.30m deep. It consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying clayey sand natural geology.
Trench 75
This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 20.90m in length and 0.53m deep. It consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil overlying clayey sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 76
This trench was aligned approximately North West-South East and measured 21.80m in length and 0.30m deep. It consisted of 0.05m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil overlying clayey sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 77
This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 24m in length and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.80m of subsoil overlying clayey silt natural geology.

Finds
No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion
No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation.

References
Mundin, A and Taylor, A, 2014, Mancetter Quarry Extension, Land at Oldbury Farm, Atherstone, Warwickshire, an Archaeological Evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 14/180, Reading
### APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-1.12m subsoil; 1.12m+ claysand and gravel natural geology. [PL 1]</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>21.70</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ claysilt and sandstone natural geology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>21.40</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ claysilt and sandstone natural geology. Ridge and furrow.</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>21.60</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.76</td>
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<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.42m+ silty clay and gravel natural geology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.84m subsoil; 0.84m-0.90m+ silty clay and sandstone natural geology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.61m subsoil; 0.61m+ claysand and gravel natural geology.</td>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ claysand and gravel natural geology. [PL 2], Ridge and furrow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m-0.60m+ claysand and sandstone natural geology.</td>
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<td>21.00</td>
<td>2.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>21.80</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0-0.05m topsoil; 0.05m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ claysand and sandstone natural geology.</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>24.00</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-1.00m subsoil; 1.00m+ claysilt and sandstone natural geology.</td>
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</table>
Mancetter Quarry Extension, Land at Oldbury Farm, Atherstone, Warwickshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Atherstone and within Warwickshire.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches and features. Previous trenches in blue.
Figure 3. Representative sections.

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Trench 60

N

Topsoil

Dark reddish brown clayey silt (Subsoil)

S

156.6m

Trench 62

NNW

Topsoil

Dark reddish brown clayey silt (Subsoil)

SSE

163.29m

Reddish brown clayey sand (natural geology)
Plate 1. Trench 60, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 68, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.
Plate 3. Trench 72, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 4. Trench 74, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
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<td>Bronze Age: Middle</td>
<td>1700 BC</td>
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<td>Bronze Age: Early</td>
<td>2100 BC</td>
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<td>Neolithic: Late</td>
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<td>Neolithic: Early</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mesolithic: Late</td>
<td>6000 BC</td>
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<td>Mesolithic: Early</td>
<td>10000 BC</td>
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<td>Palaeolithic: Upper</td>
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