

14.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Introduction

- 14.1 This chapter contains an overview of the known archaeological sites within and immediately surrounding the proposed mineral extension area. The application site comprises of the proposed extension area, and an area of the quarry previously worked for mineral which would be used for the deposit of mineral overburden. It is not considered necessary to consider the previously worked area of the application site. This section of the ES is a synthesis of information in the Leicestershire County Council Heritage Environment Record (HER) and a desk-based assessment and report on fieldwork by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) completed in 1995. It is intended to provide an overview of the archaeological resource and the likely risks to the development of the site.
- 14.2 The application site is located on the southern edge of the existing quarry, 2km south-east of Breedon on the Hill and 0.3km north-east of Worthington village centre.
- 14.3 The proposed scheme would involve the extension of the quarry and the formation of a screening bund along its southern edge, with an area of planting south of that (Figure 14/1). The extension to the mineral extraction operation covers an area of some 6.4ha.

Methodology

Consultations undertaken

- 14.4 Sources consulted in the preparation of this chapter have included
- Leicestershire County Council Heritage Environment Record (HER; reference numbers are prefixed with “MLE”)
 - A desk-based assessment and report on fieldwork by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS 1995a, 1995b)
 - *MAGIC* website at <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>
 - English Heritage digital data for listed buildings and scheduled monuments at <http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/NMRDataDownload/>
 - *North-West Tip Extension Evaluation Report* (OA 2005).

Industry Good Practice Guidance

- 14.5 The assessment conforms to IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (2008).

Limitations

- 14.6 Although the Leicestershire County Council HER is the most comprehensive single source of information on archaeological remains in the county, it is possible that other work has been carried out which is not recorded in the HER, and has therefore not been included in this study.

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- 14.7 Although fieldwalking has been carried out over much of that part of the application site which would receive direct impact from the development, an area in the north-west corner (centred on 4410, 3211) has not received any form of investigation. No intrusive archaeological site investigations have been carried out within the application site boundary, although intrusive investigation has taken place immediately adjacent to the application site.
- 14.8 At present therefore, the nature, extent and level of survival of potential archaeological remains within the application site boundary have not yet been fully established.

Existing research / surveys

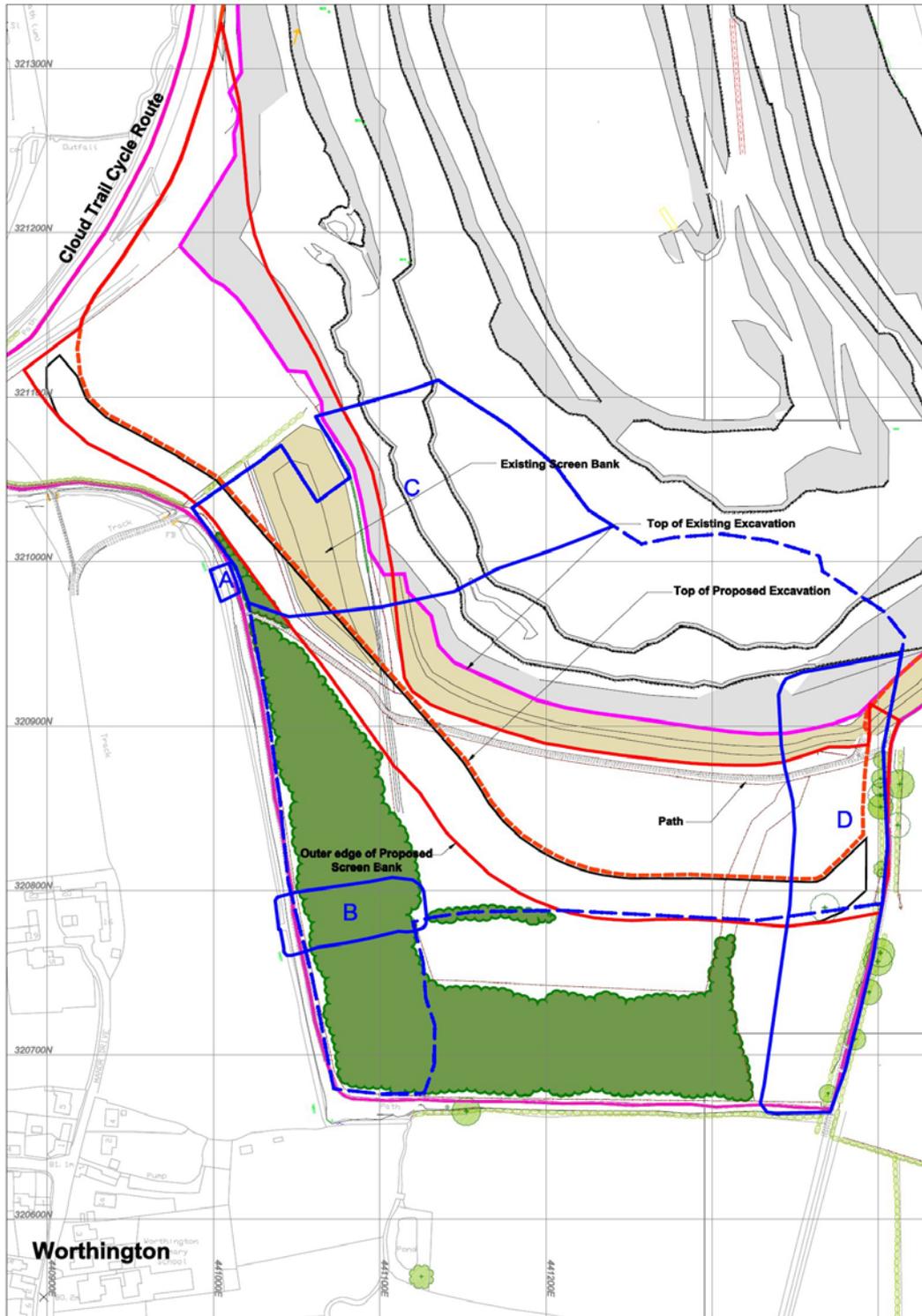
- 14.9 The desk-based assessment (DBA) and fieldwalking survey (ULAS1995a, 1995b) carried out in 1995 included all and part of the application site, respectively.
- 14.10 The DBA used information from the Leicestershire County Council Sites and Monument Record (now Historic Environment Record, or HER) aerial photographic coverage, historic mapping, records of previous quarrying and the highways construction compound, geological maps, geotechnical data and land classification records. In addition to the cottages within the application site (MLE4942) described in more detail below, three known sites were identified in the vicinity of the application site from the HER - a moated site (MLE4415-4417), a post-medieval water mill (MLE12293) and medieval earthworks related to settlement shift or shrinkage immediately south of Worthington village (MLE4940).
- 14.11 The 1995 fieldwalking by ULAS (MLE4941, 4942, 4944) was located partly within the application site and partly within what is now the existing quarry. It identified four areas of archaeological significance (described below). Eleven trenches were excavated by ULAS in 1996 (MLE4945), but found nothing but post-medieval remains. A watching-brief in 1997 (MLE4943) identified post-medieval house foundations. This work was located just north of the application site in areas now quarried or buried beneath bunds.
- 14.12 An archaeological site investigation was also carried out on the north-east edge of the existing quarry by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2005). The evaluation was based on a geophysical survey carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology and aimed to target known anomalies identified by the survey. The site investigation identified traces of a post-medieval field system with linear field boundary ditches and hedgerows, which appear to have been burnt out. Other features were tested, but these were geological in origin and the evaluation concluded that the area was of low archaeological potential.
- 14.13 Part of the Leicestershire County Council's scoping opinion dated 24th November 2008 refers to a sinuous linear cropmark running across the field located at 4410,3211, which may indicate the presence there of buried archaeological remains.

Baseline

Known sites within the application site boundary

- 14.14 Seven HER records (MLE4941-4945, 10504, 10505) relate to the four areas of archaeological importance within the application site which were identified in the ULAS desk-based assessment and subsequent fieldwork (summarised in Figure 14/1).
- 14.15 The four areas of archaeological importance comprised:
- the remains of a post-medieval leat system with two bridges associated with a mill lying outside the application site (A)
 - a trackway (B)
 - a flint scatter (C)
 - the cottages previously noted (D),
- 14.16 The remains of the leat system (A) run north-south along the edges of the boundaries of the western field, with a sluice noted in the northwest part of the application site. An area of debris, interpreted as a trackway (B), was noted on the western side of the application site; it might be related to the cottages, and extend to them across the edge of the application site. The prehistoric flint scatter (C) took the form of a concentration about 200x100m, comprising Mesolithic and Early Neolithic blades and blade cores; most of this has now been removed by quarrying but it may continue into the uninvestigated area within the application site to the north-west. The eastern half of the application site also showed a concentration of post-medieval pottery and building debris (D) with some late medieval sherds, relating to the cottages identified in the desk-based assessment.
- 14.17 Subsequent evaluation in 1996 found nothing but post-medieval remains. A watching-brief in 1997 identified the foundations of a post-medieval building.

Figure 14/1
Plan of proposed extension showing fieldwalking area (blue dashed) and finds (blue)



Known sites in the vicinity of the application site

- 14.18 For the surrounding historic landscape, the area is dominated by nucleated villages (Breedon on the Hill and Worthington) and outlying farms. Several of these show medieval or early post-medieval origins and suggest a substantial level of centralised organisation, which is reflected in the presence of Breedon Lodge (a former hunting lodge), the associated deer park, and Worthington Manor.
- 14.19 Prior to the 18th century, it appears that much of the land was attached to the manor of Breedon, which was held by several families. It passed into the hands of the Earl of Stanford by the post-medieval period.
- 14.20 The study area incorporates part of the old Breedon common, which also might possibly include the plantation of Cloud Hill, although its origins are not fully known. It does appear from the field pattern that the enclosures that characterise the area originate in the 18th century or earlier, and possibly predate the 1759 enclosures closer to Breedon.
- 14.21 On the eastern side of the application boundary, cottages and small enclosures were noted on a post-enclosure map, which also shows some commercial quarrying of the limestone on the edge of Cloud Wood. It appears that the cottages were situated on unenclosed land on the edge of the common; mapping shows that they remained in existence until the mid-20th century. It is possible that the cottages were built by squatters, who may have worked on the adjacent 18th century quarry. Remains of these buildings or their successors were found in the fieldwalking.

Impact Assessment

Direct Impact

Archaeological potential

- 14.22 Cloud Hill quarry and the proposed extension lie in an area of significant archaeological potential, largely relating to medieval and post-medieval activity within the area.
- 14.23 Relict land boundaries and evidence of settlement shrinkage or shift are evident, as is other evidence of a pattern of land use that has largely stabilised over the past 300 or so years, since Enclosure, thereby helping to preserve these features.
- 14.24 The area is agrarian in nature, with mixed woodland and arable, with more modern features, such as railways, cutting through this landscape. Settlement fluctuations and post-medieval land enclosures are still evident in the landscape and industrial archaeology, in the form of coal mining and early quarrying features, is well represented.
- 14.25 Within the application site, knowledge is relatively good, with clear zones of known archaeological activity identified during the fieldwalking survey. These relate to either post-medieval settlement and industry (milling and quarrying) or dispersed prehistoric activity. The worked flint also points to the possibility of remains earlier than Medieval in date surviving within the application site. The mill leat and perhaps the trackway would not be affected by the proposed scheme.

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- 14.26 The amount of plough damage resulting over the intervening period is likely to have had a considerable adverse impact on the survival of features and structures and limited survival is envisaged. However, it is likely, given the substantial nature of the sites identified - cottages and tracks in particular - that remains will survive despite this.
- 14.27 Nothing in the existing documentation suggests that the remains are of national importance, and therefore it is highly likely that any remains could be "preserved by record", or archaeologically excavated and recorded.

Impact

- 14.28 The extension of the quarry, the construction of the screening bunds, and planting is likely to cause complete or substantial damage to any surviving archaeological remains which might be present.

Mitigation Strategy

- 14.29 A staged programme of investigation would be required, designed to the approval of the MPA's archaeologist, to establish the date, nature, extent and quality of any archaeological remains which may exist within the areas of direct impact. Techniques which could be employed include
- Fieldwalking of the whole affected area including re-walking of the ULAS areas in order to assess subsequent disturbance from cultivation
 - Field survey of affected visible archaeological features
 - Programme of prospecting for currently-unknown buried sites using geophysical survey
 - Archaeological site investigations including trial trenches
- 14.30 An archaeological scheme of mitigation for the proposed development could then be drawn up probably comprising preservation by record through excavation and recording, prior to, or during the development works.

Residual Effects

- 14.31 There could be a permanent loss of any archaeological remains lying within the affected areas. The significance of this would depend on the importance of any archaeological remains which might prove to be present. It is therefore not possible to assess the significance of the impact at present.
- 14.32 There could be a beneficial impact from archaeological work carried out in mitigation, represented by a gain in knowledge. The significance of this beneficial impact would depend on the nature of the discoveries.

REFERENCES

- OA 2005. *Northwest Tip Extension at Cloud Hill Quarry, Leicestershire. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Job no 2604, site code X.A15.2005
- ULAS 1995a. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Cloud Hill Quarry Extension, Breedon on the Hill, Worthington, Leicestershire (SK411 215)*. Report 95/158.

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ULAS 1995b. *An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey of Cloud Hill Quarry Extension, Breedon on the Hill, and Worthington , Leicestershire (SK411 215)*. Report 95/167.