





FAS

LADYBRIDGE FARM

NOSTERFIELD

NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

REPORT
MARCH 2005

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LADYBRIDGE FARM NOSTERFIELD

NORTH YORKSHIRE

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NGR: SE 293 806

REPORT

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Summary

A scheme of archaeological evaluation was carried out at Ladybridge Farm, Nosterfield, North Yorkshire in support of a planning application for the extension of Nosterfield Quarry. The evaluation was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates for Tarmac Northern Ltd. The fieldwork was carried out between October 2003 and October 2004.

The evaluation was phased, with the results of preceding phases informing the strategy of each further phase of work. The evaluation programme consisted of a variety of non-invasive and invasive techniques including fieldwalking, topographic survey, auger survey, geophysical survey, test pit excavation and evaluation excavation. This fieldwork allowed various conclusions to be drawn regarding the survival and nature of archaeological remains in this area.

Topographic and auger survey allowed a contour map of the site to be produced, and also the deposit-modelling of subsurface strata. During this phase of work, a scarp to the west of Ladybridge Farm was identified as the extant edge of an in-filled lake, including deposits of marl which were identified during the auger survey.

The geophysical survey included pilot surveys of both magnetometer and soil resistance survey, in order to ascertain the effectiveness of both methods on the site. The results of the pilot survey resulted in area survey using both techniques. Both surveys were shown to be suitable for the detection of features with high humic content, which were subsequently shown by excavation to include sink holes and some former boundary features. Those features which were found to be backfilled primarily with redeposited subsoil were not detectable by these means. The geophysical results were partly obscured by modern ploughing.

Fieldwalking of the area recovered an assemblage of material, which was dominated by the presence of late post-medieval and modern material from manuring. The lithic material was found to be concentrated towards the southeastern corner of the site, with a more dispersed distribution throughout the remainder of the site. Similar results were produced from test pit excavation, and again, the same distribution of archaeological activity was identified during evaluation excavation.

Archaeological features identified during evaluation excavation were found to be badly truncated by ploughing, and comprised a number of small pits, geological features, and field boundaries. The ceramic assemblages from some of the pits suggested a late Neolithic date; many produced no securely datable remains. Notably, it was demonstrated that although the same broad distributions of finds and features was identified by the various phases of investigation, the lithic finds identified both on and within the ploughsoil could not be directly related to subsurface remains.

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