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## A33 D190–192 Blaxton Common

### Site information

**Site name:** Blaxton Common

**Site key:** D190, D191, D192

**Grid reference:** [SE 685 015] (centred on)

**Site type:** disused quarries, pits and cuttings

**Local authority:** Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, South Yorkshire

**Site dimensions:** 1800 x 1500 m

**Site owner:** Tarmac Quarry Products

**Conservation status:** Regionally Important Geological Site **Date:** 16/9/97

**Field surveyor:** Scott Engering **Date:** 16/2/07

### Stratigraphy and rock types

**Time unit:** Triassic **Rock unit:** Sherwood Sandstone Group

**Rock type:** Sandstone (undifferentiated) **Details:** Massive cross-bedded sandstone with marl pebbles

**Time unit:** Anglian, Middle Pleistocene **Rock unit:** Older River Gravel (River Terrace Deposits)

**Rock type:** Sand and Gravel **Details:** Cross-bedded sands and gravels

### Site map

(Figure 155) — D190–192 Blaxton Common

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### Site description

Large area of old sand and gravel pits that have long since been disused. The site is understood to be in multiple ownership but the only known owner is Tarmac, whose representative accompanied me on the visit to the Levels Lane Quarry. The principal feature of interest here is a large flooded pit with an exposure of up to 6 m of Sherwood Sandstone along the entire length of its western side. Photos taken from [SE 68716 02029]. The pit has been fenced off since the date of the last survey in 1997 and old bits of plant and machinery etc have been cleared away.

The exposure is in effect now inaccessible. The entrance to the quarry is gated and is used by a farmer on adjoining land. Waterside exposure limits safe access to study rock.

The site is now much more overgrown than in the 1997 survey and exposures of the Older River Gravel are not easy to find. Many exposures are adjacent to flooded parts of the site and are thickly vegetated and are not generally safely accessible. Occasional exposures can be seen beneath tree roots as at [SE 66879 01714] or larger expanses as seen at [SE 68491 01742] but detailed assessments of the potential value of these exposures was not ascertained due to access problems.

## **RIGS assessment of site value**

Ratings: 1–2 very poor; 3–4 poor; 5–6 acceptable/useful; 7–8 quite good; 9–10 very good/excellent; N/A not applicable; D/K don't know

### **Access and safety**

Aspect/Description/Rating

**Road access & parking** Very limited at gated entrance. 2-3 vehicles. Rating: 5

**Safety of access** Access along established footpaths pass close to flooded pits access across uneven ground and embankments. Rating: 5

**Safety of exposure** Sandstone inaccessible. Water hazards of flooded pits. Rating: 4

**Permission to visit** From Tarmac, although public footpaths cross the land. Rating: 5

**Current condition** Sandstone exposures clear and visible but Older River Gravels are increasingly becoming overgrown. Rating: 6

**Current conflicting activities** Vegetation growth

**Restricting conditions** Private ownership. health and safety hazards associated with water and steep, overgrown embankments

**Nature of exposure** Quarried faces

**Multiple exposures/ prospect for trail** Has potential for interpretation as a nature reserve

**Notes** Overgrown and potentially hazardous site

### **Culture, heritage & economic**

Aspect/Description/Rating

**Historic, archaeological & literary associations** None known. Local industrial archaeology interest only. Rating: 5

**Aesthetic landscape** The area has been recolonised by plants and would make a good nature reserve. Rating: 6

**History of earth sciences** No associations known. Rating: 0

**Economic geology** Former sand and gravel extraction site. Potentially a good example of restoration and landscape. Rating: 7

**Notes** Limited value as part of industrial archaeology of the area

### **Education and science**

**Surface processes** Erosional surfaces, fluvioglacial deposition and modern weathering and erosional processes. Rating: 6

**Geomorphology** Ancient erosional surface on Sherwood Sandstone. Rating: 7

**Sedimentary** A range of lithologies and sedimentary structures. Rating: 8

**Fossils** Not applicable. Rating: 0

**Igneous** Not applicable. Rating: 0

**Metamorphic** Not applicable. Rating: 0

**Tectonic: structural** Unconformity between Triassic and Quaternary. Rating: 0

**Minerals** Not applicable. Rating: 7

**Stratigraphy** Good site for correlating Quaternary Stratigraphy. Rating: 7

**Notes** Good exposures suitable for research, advanced students and group visits under supervision of experienced leader. Regeneration of vegetation at advanced stage

### **Geodiversity value**

Links well with biodiversity interests, but lithologies not easily studied due to access difficulties. Rating: 7

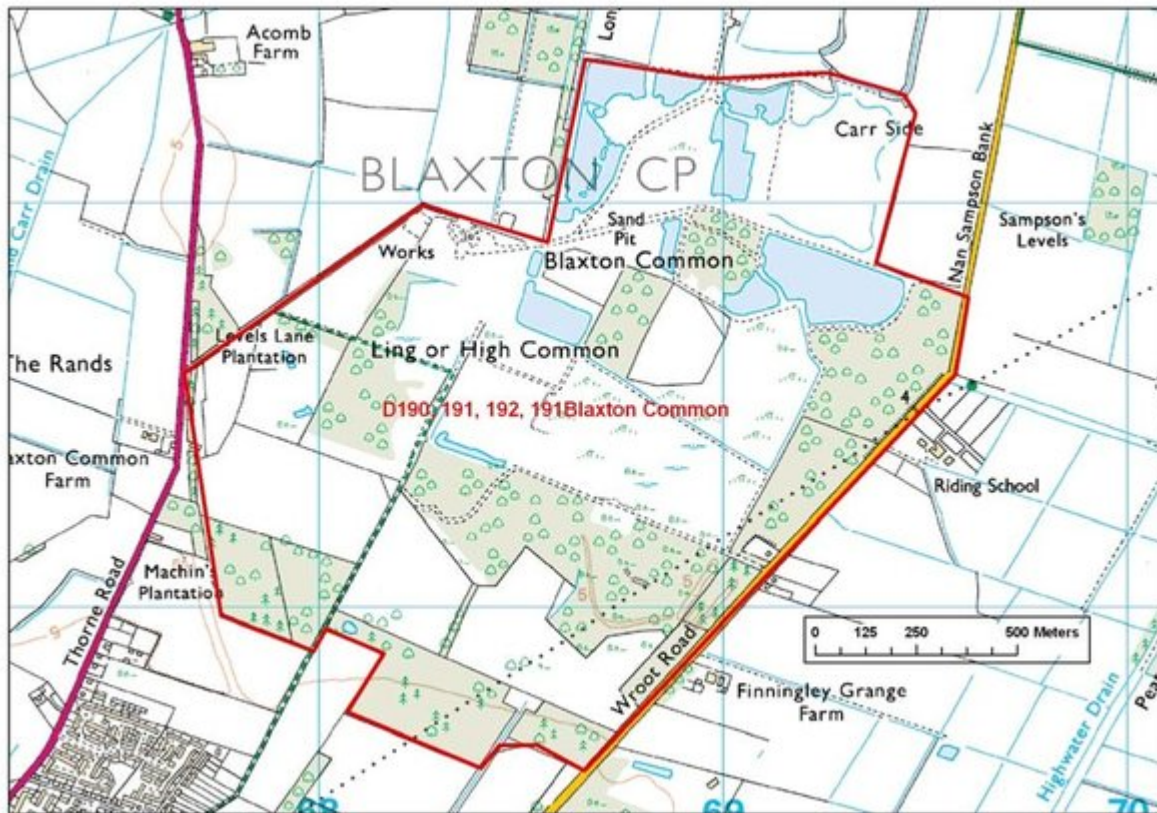
### **Site photographs D190–192 Blaxton Common**

(Figure 156) General view of old sand and gravel workings. [SE 68716 02029].

(Figure 157) Detail of Sherwood Sandstone in old sand and gravel workings. [SE 68716 02029].

(Figure 158) Residual exposure of sand and gravel. [SE 68491 01742].

(Figure 159) Detail of sand and gravel beneath tree roots . [SE 66879 01704].



(Figure 155) D190–192 Blaxton Common. This map is based upon Ordnance Survey topographic material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence Number: 100017897 [2007].



(Figure 156) General view of old sand and gravel workings. [SE 68716 02029].





*(Figure 157) Detail of Sherwood Sandstone in old sand and gravel workings. [SE 68716 02029].*



*(Figure 158) Residual exposure of sand and gravel. [SE 68491 01742].*



*(Figure 159) Detail of sand and gravel beneath tree roots. [SE 66879 01704].*