



Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire

Archaeological Observations and Recording during Stripping of Extension Area A, Phase 1



Report No. 53455/3/1

April 2018

Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire

Archaeological Observations and Recording during Stripping of
Extension Area A, Phase 1, September-October 2017

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Document Version History

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Draft	M Trevarthen		18/04/2018
2	Final	P Bellamy		30/12/2018
3				

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-339976		
Project Title	Extension Area A, Phase 1, Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire		
Short Description of Project	<p>Terrain Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observations and recording during mechanical soil-stripping of approximately 1.6 ha of land, carried out as a prelude to the expansion of existing bulk sand extraction works into Phase 1 of new extension area A, RBMR Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire.</p> <p>The only archaeologically significant feature revealed during the works was a short length of shallow, undated ditch seen adjacent to the track marking the eastern side of the site.</p>		
Project Dates	Start: 29-07-2017	End: 06-10-2017	
Previous/Future Work	Yes/Yes		
Project Code	53455		
Monument Type and Period	Ditch (Uncertain)		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Wiltshire/ Salisbury/ Whiteparish		
Site Address	Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire SP5 2QE		
Site Coordinates	SU 229 227		
Site Area	15750 m ²		
Height OD	92.6 – 96.1 m aOD		
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Mike Trevarthen		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Raymond Brown Quarry Products		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	None	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.
Contents	None	Digital photographs	Site recording sheets, report

Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire

Archaeological Observations and Recording during Stripping of Extension Area A, Phase 1, September-October 2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Raymond Brown Quarry Products to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording during groundworks associated with the expansion of sand extraction works into Extension Area A, Brickworth Quarry, Harestock, Whiteparish, Wiltshire.

The planning application for the extraction of sand, infilling with imported inert materials and quarry waste and restoration to woodland at original ground levels (Application No. 16/09386/WCM) was granted permission on 26 April 2017. Condition No. 4 states *"No development shall commence until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Mineral Planning Authority and that programme shall thereafter be implemented as approved. REASON: To enable sites of archaeological interest to be adequately investigated and recorded."*

Fieldwork was carried out in two stages, from the 29th August – 6th September 2017, and from the 3rd – 5th October 2017, by Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons.) ACIfA.

1.2 Project Brief and Specification

No written brief for the scheme of works was issued by, or on behalf of Wiltshire Council. The programme of archaeological works was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Terrain Archaeology 2017), submitted to and approved by Wiltshire Council prior to the commencement of site works.

1.3 Site Location

Brickworth quarry lies to the southeast of the A36(T) and the A27 Brickworth Corner junction, about 2km SSW of Whiteparish. The current extraction site (Figure 1) is centred at SU 229 227 and comprises a long, relatively narrow strip of land on the east-facing slope and part of the base of a dry coombe. The land to the west has previously been quarried (Round Copse North and Lowden's Copse extraction areas) (Figure 2). The land rising east of the site is currently occupied by conifer plantation, although it is proposed that this be felled and cleared in the near future.

1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Sand of the Reading Formation, with no recorded superficial or drift deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Previous observations at the Round Copse North quarry site have shown the reading Formation Sands to be up to c. 20 metres deep and to directly overlie weathered Chalk.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The wider archaeological background of the site has been considered in detail in the Heritage Statement on the Brickworth Quarry Extension (Terrain Archaeology 2016) and is summarised here.

There have been relatively few prehistoric finds from the area. There are scatters of prehistoric flint found in Brickworth Park and around Whelpley Farm, and some cropmarks of field systems and enclosures that may be prehistoric in date. A number of archaeological discoveries have been made within Brickworth Quarry itself (Cave

Penney 2006; Terrain Archaeology 2010; Terrain Archaeology, forthcoming). No Early Prehistoric features have been found, but a very small component of the worked flint collected from Round Copse North may be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. The majority of the flint from Round Copse North appears to be Early Bronze Age, but only a single pit of Early Bronze Age date has been found, containing some Beaker pottery and quantities of flint tools and flint knapping waste. A small urned cremation cemetery of Late Bronze Age date was discovered just to the south of the Early Bronze Age pit, comprising at least six cremation burials deposited in inverted urns (Figure 2).

On the western side of Round Copse North, a concentration of postholes and small pits and a scatter of burnt flint probably represent the remains of an Early-Middle Iron Age settlement (Figure 2). A number of undated ditches were also recorded in this area.

There are a number of Roman villas and other Romano-British buildings in the wider area, but little evidence for Roman activity in the Study Area. A number of stray finds around Whiteparish suggest there may have been some late Roman occupation here. In the northern part of the quarry, a concentration of Roman pottery was found (Cave-Penney 2006).

The area appears to have been substantially wooded after the Roman period and became part of Melchet Forest. Much of the forest in this area was cleared during the Saxon period. The settlements locally appear to have grown from two original Saxon settlements at Frustfield (now Whiteparish) and Cowesfield, with a slightly later settlement at Whelpley (Taylor 1967, 1968).

At Domesday there were five separate land holdings for Frustfield, with the largest settlement at Whelpley. A church was built by around 1190 and subsequently the name of the settlement changed to Whitechurch (first recorded in 1278). The name was changed again to Whiteparish by 1301. During the thirteenth and fourteenth century there was much clearing and enclosing of the forest and new settlements and farms were established, including Blakeswelle (now Blaxwell Farm) by 1242, Chadwell (now Chadwell Farm) by 1268, Newton by 1289 and Harestock by the early fourteenth century.

By the mid sixteenth century most of the population of the parish was concentrated in Whiteparish village. The seventeenth century saw the gradual enclosure of the open fields. Substantial farmhouses were erected, including Morrisholt Farm (by 1675), Legges (now Chalkpit) Farm (early 17th century), Alderstone Farm (early 17th century), Dry Farm and Gill's Hole Farm (by 1689). During the 18th century many of the farms were rebuilt with bricks and tiles made locally. In 1756 the Salisbury to Romsey road was tumpiked.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There have been three previous episodes of archaeological fieldwork recorded in Brickworth Quarry.

An intermittent watching brief was maintained during topsoil stripping of Brickworth Quarry by the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service from 2003–2007. This revealed a small quantity of prehistoric, Roman and later finds (Cave-Penney 2006). A concentration of Roman pottery was found about 300-400 m north of the present site. A spread of burnt flint was found adjacent to the north edge of Round Copse North.

A watching brief was undertaken by Terrain Archaeology in September/October 2010 during stump clearance and soil stripping for the north east part of the Round Copse North extraction area, which revealed an undated ditch and a widespread but low-density scatter of flaked flint (Terrain Archaeology 2010). Between May–December 2012 Terrain Archaeology undertook a series of watching briefs and limited excavation of the remainder of Round Copse North. An Early Bronze Age pit, a small Middle Bronze Age urned cremation cemetery and an area of Iron Age pits and postholes were identified and investigated, together with a number of undated ditches (Terrain Archaeology, forthcoming) (Figure 2).

In December 2015 and January 2016, Terrain Archaeology carried out a watching brief during soil stripping at the Lowdens Copse extraction area immediately north of Round Copse North (Terrain Archaeology 2016). No archaeological features were discovered in this area.

1.7 Aims and Objectives

1.7.1 Aims

- The principal aim of the Archaeological programme of works was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site in fulfilment of the Archaeological Planning Condition.
- The programme of works aimed to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

1.7.2 Objectives

- To investigate and record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the programme of works to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Groundworks

Initial clearance of PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Soils) topsoil was carried out by quarry contractors using a tracked mechanical excavator and dumper (Plate 1) and had no appreciable impact on any potential buried archaeological remains. Removal of felled plantation conifer stumps was carried out in stages using a tracked mechanical excavator, with stumps removed from site.

Stump removal was followed by a programme of archaeological 'Strip, Map, Sample and Record' work, with removal of overburden (former 'pre-plantation' agricultural soil and associated colluvium) to the top of potentially archaeological levels carried out by quarry contractors using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and supported by two 30 tonne wheeled dumpers.

1.9 Methods

All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014a).

The initial clearance of PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Soils) topsoil was carried out by quarry contractors using a tracked mechanical excavator and dumper had no appreciable impact on any potential buried archaeological remains, so was not closely monitored. Also, previous monitoring of stump-clearance over a larger area at Round Copse North had indicated that, within the quarry, there was limited value in close archaeological monitoring of such work (Terrain Archaeology 2010).

After the removal of the PAWS topsoil and tree stumps, the overburden (former 'pre-plantation' agricultural soil and associated colluvium) was stripped by machine under the close direction of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, with ongoing excavation and recording of any archaeologically significant remains revealed in a process of 'Strip, Map, Sample and Record'. In order to prevent dumper rutting of subsoil and damage to potential archaeological deposits below, overburden was removed in a series of nominal 5m wide strips, machining from east to west (Plate 2) and progressing from north to south within the site. Each strip was inspected by the attending archaeologist before being released for dumper tracking and initial sand extraction.

All deposits revealed during the groundworks, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. A photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and includes aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

1.10.1 Paper Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, has been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; CifA 2014b). Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum is the designated recipient museum for the area, however this museum is currently not accepting archives. The archive is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53455.

1.10.2 Artefacts

No artefacts were retained from the present phase of works.

1.10.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Wiltshire Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-339976*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits (502) comprised weathered and re-worked Reading Sands. These were seen as loose- to poorly consolidated sand in varied pale yellows, mid- to light browns and red/orange browns. Sporadic outcrops of pale grey- and yellow-grey pipeclay and sandy clay were also present across the site.

2.2 Archaeological Features and Deposits

Only one feature of archaeological interest was noted. This was a ditch (503) aligned E-W recorded adjacent to the eastern edge of the site (Figure 2). Its fill was overlain by subsoil 501 and was traced for a length of approximately eight metres before becoming truncated on slightly rising ground to the west. The ditch survived to a maximum depth of c. 0.25 m and was up to 1.10 m wide. Its single fill (504) was of loose mid yellow-brown loamy sand containing occasional small pebbles. No artefacts were noted and the feature remains undated beyond its relationship with soil layer 501.

2.3 Subsoil

Subsoil (501) across the site comprised a c. 0.3 m – 0.4 m thickness of homogenous mid-brown silty sand with occasional gravel clasts. Many minor localised disturbances were seen, but none were archaeologically significant and all post-dated the last agricultural use of the site. Most probably represent later 20th- and early 21st century activity relating to the creation, maintenance, felling and clearance of the former conifer plantation, or mechanical removal of felled tree-stumps prior to sand extraction. A similar soil was noted across the entirety of the Round Copse North and Lowdens Copse extraction zones, and the layer appears to represent a relict (pre-plantation) agricultural soil, accentuated in places by downslope soil movement.

2.4 Topsoil

Topsoil (500) across the site comprised c. 0.15 m of dark humic mulch, grading downward to a thin dark grey humic sand with occasional gravel clasts. In lower-lying parts of the site, the unit was firmer, containing a higher proportion of clay and silt, and lay below a deposit of felled wood waste. The deposit probably dates mainly to the second half of the 20th century, representing soil formation during the lifetime of the former conifer plantation.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

Archaeologically significant finds across the site were entirely residual in subsoil 501 and consisted of worked flint and burnt unworked flint. None of the finds from the site were of sufficient significance or intrinsic value to warrant retention for archival deposition. All finds were quantified then discarded in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Terrain Archaeology 2017, section 9.3.4).

3.2 Worked Flint

Seven struck, but otherwise unmodified, flint flakes (115g) were recorded. These comprised six primary and secondary flakes and one small tertiary flake. This material was unpatinated or incipiently patinated, and appears to represent hard hammer mode production utilising small, locally available secondary flint nodules derived from on-site deposits. No tools, cores or other diagnostic pieces were found. The material is not closely chronologically diagnostic, but its relatively unsophisticated production and an absence of blades or blade-like flakes suggests it can be very broadly assigned to the Later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

3.3 Burnt Unworked Flint

Twenty-one pieces (1236g) of burnt unworked flint were collected from across the site. This material is not intrinsically dateable and no significant concentrations were noted.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The only feature of potential archaeological interest was a short length of truncated ditch seen on the flat coombe base near the eastern edge of the site. The feature cannot be dated and no link could be made to other archaeological remains recorded at the quarry.

The low numbers of residual artefacts recovered from the pre-plantation soil (501) indicate little more than sporadic, opportunistic human activity, probably over an extended period of time.

The paucity of archaeological remains within Phase 1 corresponds with the largely negative findings of the archaeological observations at Lowdens Copse and on the eastern side of Round Copse North.

4.2 Conclusions

Despite its largely negative results, the programme of archaeological observations and recording at Extension Area A Phase 1 has been successful in offsetting the impact of quarry expansion on the site's potential heritage value, and has contributed toward a better understanding and appreciation of past human activity and landscape development within the wider Brickworth Quarry landscape.

5. References

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- Terrain Archaeology forth-coming *Round Copse North Extension, Brickworth Quarry, Whiteparish, Wiltshire: Archaeological Investigations, May–December 2012*. Terrain Archaeology report.

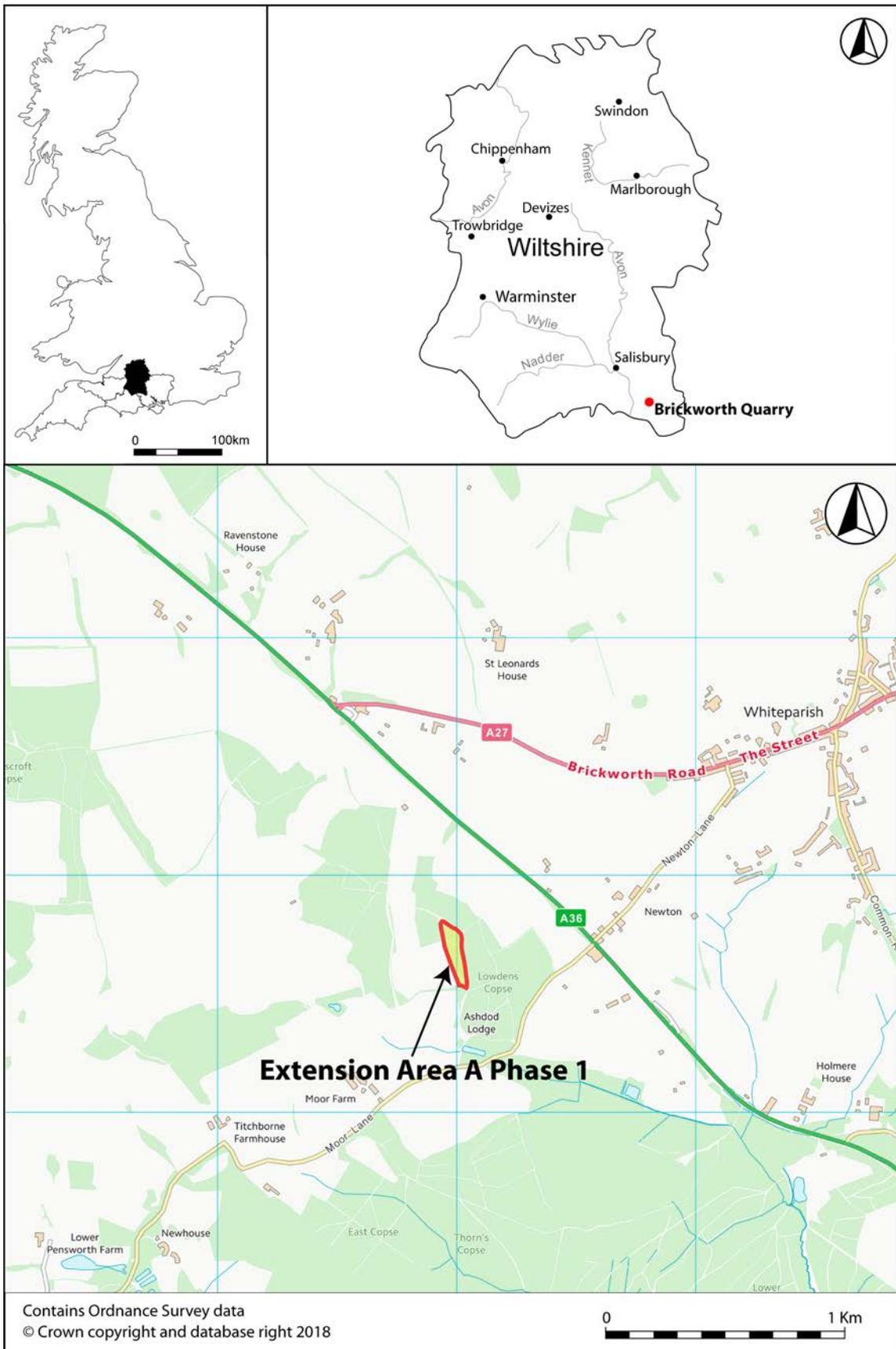


Figure 1: Site Location.

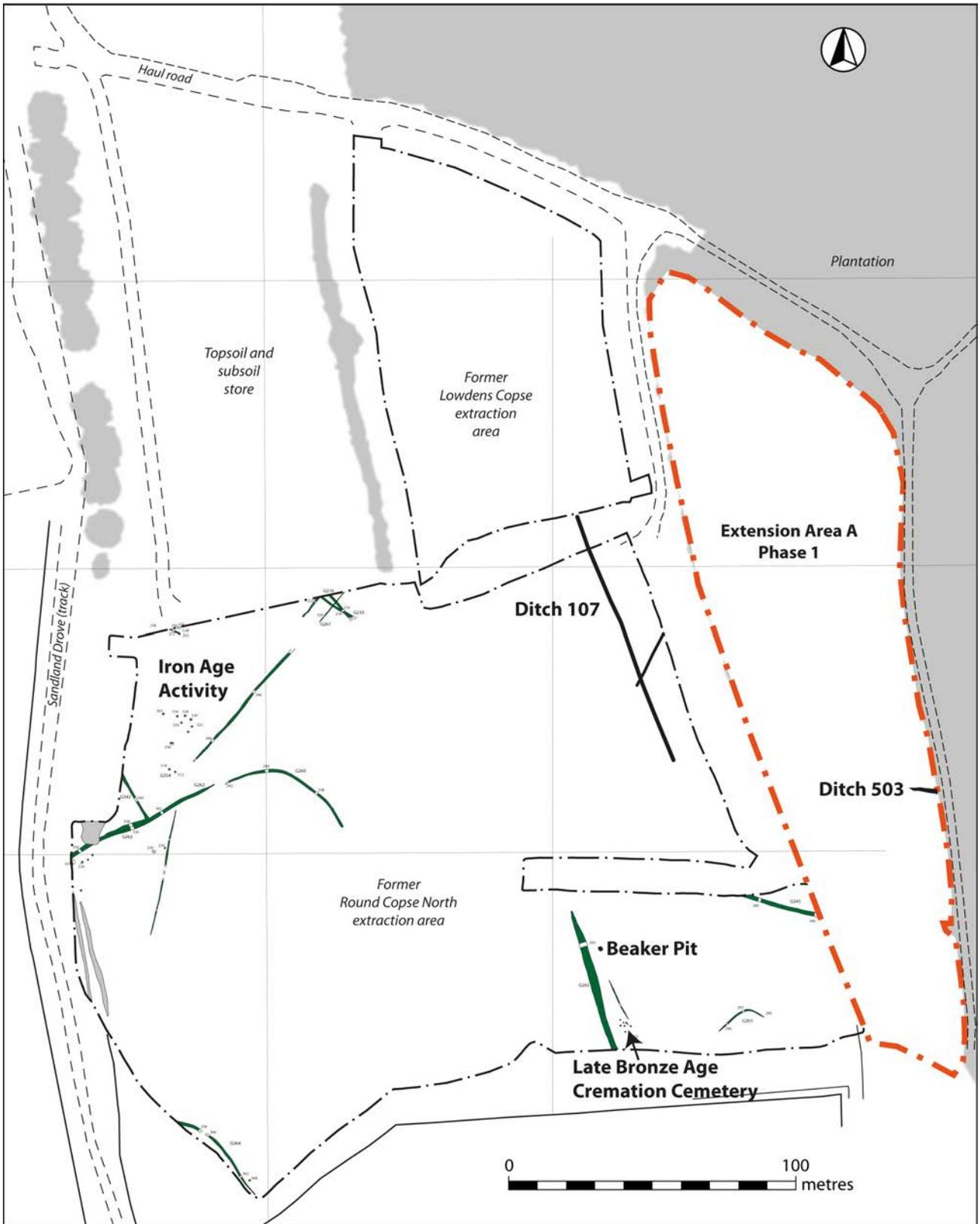


Figure 2: Plan showing location of site in relation to previous areas of archaeological investigation.

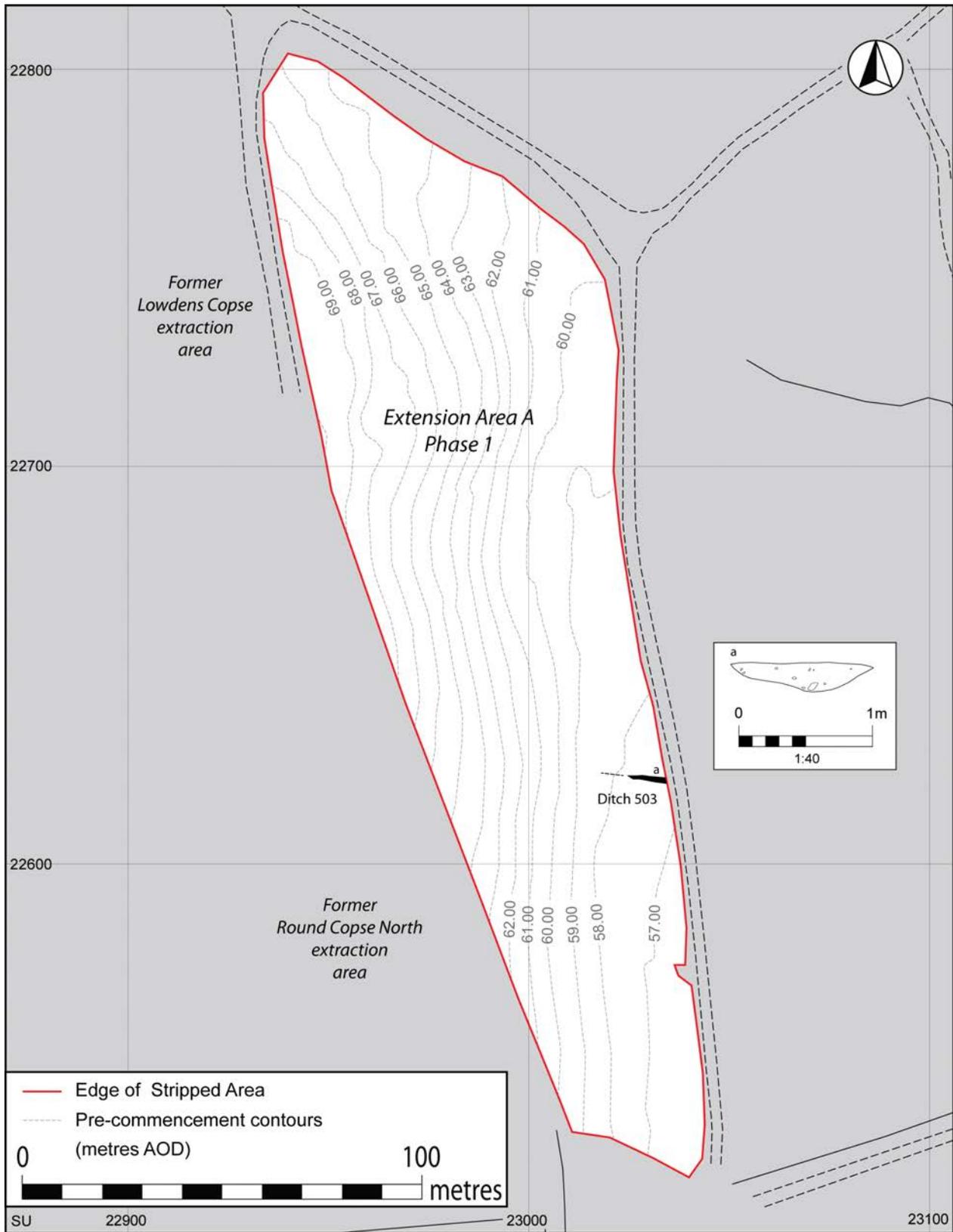


Figure 3: Plan of Observations



Plate 1: Overview of site during stripping of PAWS soil prior to stump removal. View from the south.



Plate 2: Stripping of subsoil/former ploughsoil. View from east.



Plate 3: Excavated segment of undated ditch 503. 0.2 metre scale. View from west.