

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY  
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**An Archaeological  
Watching Brief: Bent  
Farm Quarry, Congleton,  
Cheshire**

J. Hovey

*B.U.F.A.U.*



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 256**  
July 1998

**An Archaeological Watching Brief:  
Bent Farm Quarry, Congleton, Cheshire**

by  
J. Hovey

*For further information please contact:*  
Simon Buteux, Iain Ferris or Peter Leach (Directors)  
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
Tel: 0121 414 5513  
Fax: 0121 414 5516  
E-Mail: [BUFAU@bham.ac.uk](mailto:BUFAU@bham.ac.uk)  
Web Address: <http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief: Bent Farm Quarry, Congleton, Cheshire**

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*

### **SUMMARY**

Archaeological monitoring during topsoil stripping was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit at Bent Farm Silica Sand Quarry, Wallhill Lane, Congleton, Cheshire (Fig. 1) in April/May 1998. The monitoring was undertaken due to evidence for a possible Roman temporary marching camp nearby at NGR SJ 8370 6195. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping undertaken at Bent Farm Silica Sand Quarry, Wallhill Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, prior to quarrying (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and fulfilled criteria set by Cheshire County Council. The work was undertaken on behalf of Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd.

The watching brief was required due to the proximity to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument no.106) located at NGR SJ 8370 6195. This is believed to be the remains of a Roman temporary marching camp, although trial archaeological excavations in 1967 and 1970 by G.D.B. Jones recovered no datable evidence, leaving the exact period of its occupation uncertain.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the archaeological work was to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds exposed as a result of topsoil stripping.

### **METHODS STATEMENT**

The topsoil stripping was undertaken mechanically, and in order to identify any archaeological features it was monitored continually. Subsequently any identified possible archaeological features were cleaned manually and partially excavated.

All archaeological features were recorded using a continuous numbered context system and BUFAU pro-forma record cards. All identified deposits were photographed and a full drawn record at an appropriate scale was maintained.

## **RESULTS**

Topsoil stripping over the area was generally to a depth of 0.3-0.5m., an exception to this was the area furthest north which was deeper (approximately 0.6-0.8m.). Underlying the topsoil was a yellow/grey sandy clay, consistent across the area, excepting a few areas of orange/brown clay.

The existence of features cut into the natural subsoil was limited to several modern land drains running east-west across the area monitored, and field boundary ditches: visible extensions of still existing boundary lines. The field boundary ditches were sample excavated by hand, they contained a fill very similar to topsoil and no archaeological finds were recovered.

No archaeological features were identified. No finds were recovered.

## **DISCUSSION**

The features identified during the topsoil stripping were representative of previous and relatively recent agricultural activity. No archaeological evidence for activity other than this was present.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are grateful to Mr. Rob Davenport and other staff of Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd, for their assistance during the field monitoring programme.

The fieldwork was carried out by J. Hovey. The report was prepared by J. Hovey and edited by S. Buteux. Figures were prepared by N. Dodds.

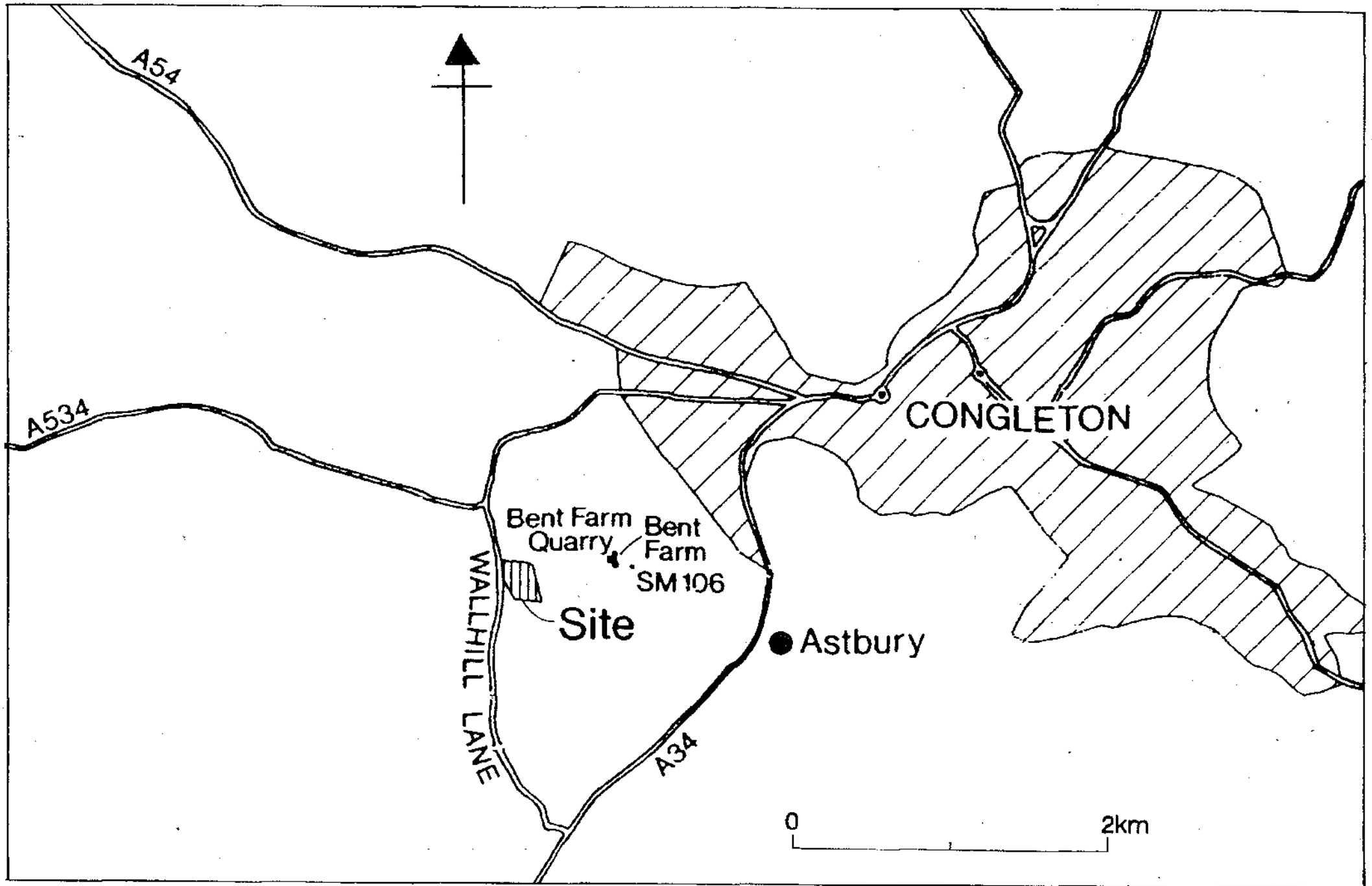


Fig.1

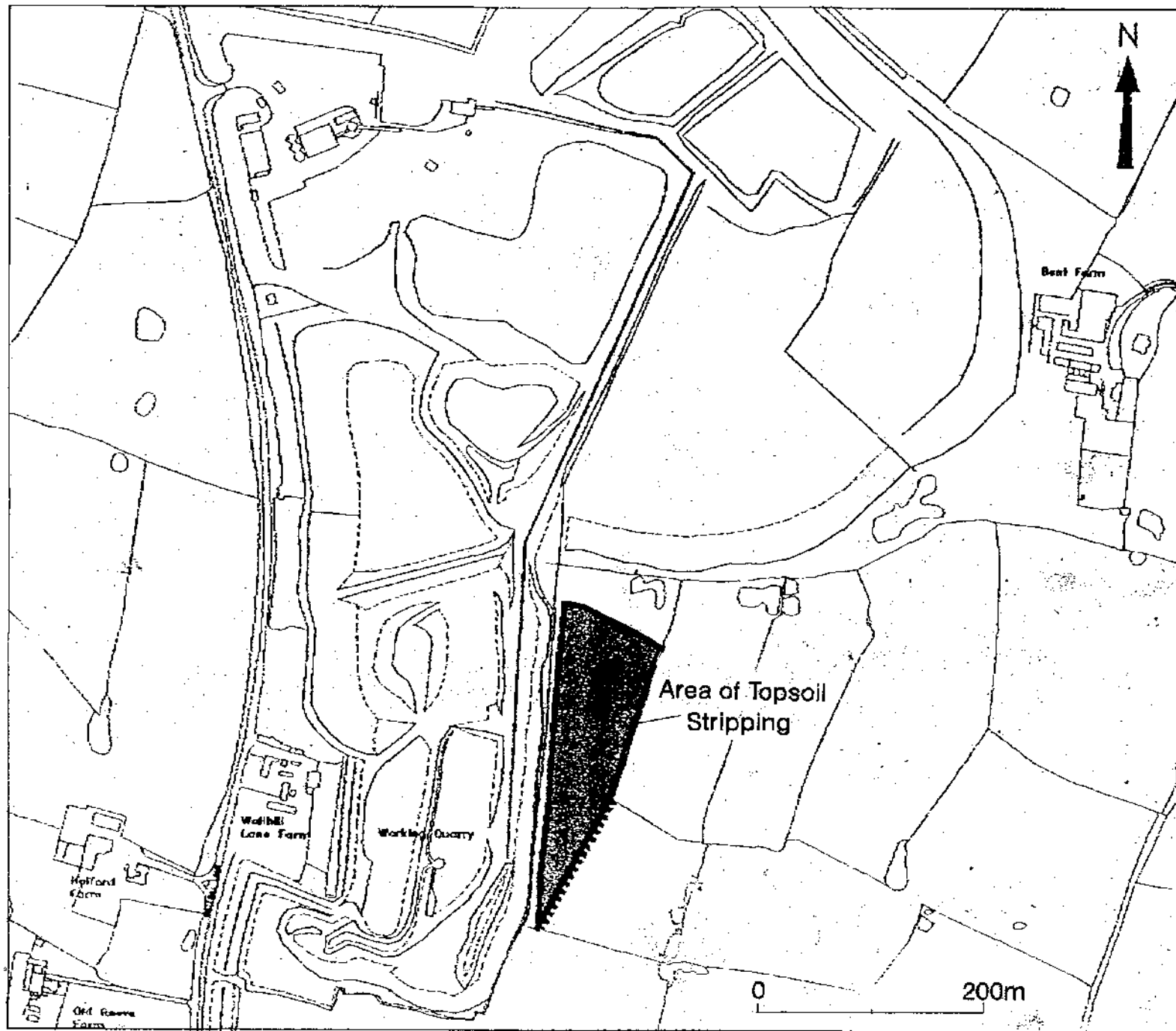


Fig.2