

SANDY HEATH QUARRY

Sandy, Bedfordshire

HN1291

Report No. 1021

Site name and address:	Sandy Heath Quarry, Potton Road, Sandy, SG19 2NW		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Sandy	Parish:	Sandy
Planning reference:	n/a	NGR:	TL 200 495
Client name and address:	Tarmac Trading Ltd, Portland Hse, Bickenhill Ln, Birmingham, B37 9DF		
Nature of work:	Quarry	Present land use:	Field
Site Status:	n/a	Reason for investigation:	Direction of minerals planning authority (MPA)
Position in planning process:	Post-determination	Project brief originator:	Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd
Size of affected area:	39.2ha	Size of area investigated:	3000m ²
Site Code:	HN1291	Museum Accession:	BEDFM 2016.62
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Observation and Recording	Archive Recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	05/09/2016	Finish of work	23/09/2016
Related HER Nos:	1658; 13679; 13736	Periods represented:	n/a
Oasis UID:	heritage1-259668	Significant finds:	none
Monument types:	none		
Physical archive:	none		
Previous summaries/reports:	Bedfordshire County Archaeological Services. 1996. <i>Sandy Heath, Sandy, [Bedfordshire] Archaeological Evaluation</i> . BCAS Report No. 96 Howlett, C & Lisboa, I. 1996. <i>Archaeological Desk-Based study: Sandy Bedfordshire</i> . Tempvs Reparatvm Report No. TR51135DCA Palmer, R. 1996. <i>Sandy Heath, Sandy Bedfordshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment</i> . Air Photo Services, September 1996, Report No. R105 Turner C. & Saunders, G. 2003 <i>Sandy Heath Quarry: Archaeological monitoring report</i> . Heritage Network report no.190		

Narrative:

The Heritage Network was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd., acting on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring on a proposed extension to Sandy Heath Quarry.

Tarmac Trading Ltd has permission to extract sand from an extension to the company's existing quarry at Sandy Heath, which lies about 2.5km east of the town of Sandy in Bedfordshire. The permitted area is centred on NGR TL 200 495 and extends to 39.2 ha.

The present archaeological monitoring forms part of an ongoing series of archaeological investigations at Sandy Heath Quarry, undertaken in order to investigate cropmarks noted on aerial photographs that were thought to indicate late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement on the site. A preliminary geophysical survey suggested the presence of kilns or ovens on the site, and subsequent trial trenching recovered two flint blades of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date, and revealed three shallow undated ditches, thought to relate to the site's use as a World War II training ground (BCAS 1996). Although the evaluation revealed little of archaeological significance, the current works have been undertaken at the request of the Archaeology Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council, as adviser to the minerals planning authority (MPA), because the valley of the River Ivel is considered to be of archaeological interest.

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Fieldwork:

The present works have involved the intermittent monitoring of the excavation and removal of topsoil and subsoil from two fields to the south-west of the existing quarry workings (Figure 1). Field 1 formed the northern area and measured approximately 150m by 180m. It was bounded to the south-west by heathland, to the south-east by an existing track, and to the north-east and north-west by the quarry (Figure 2). Field 2 lay to the south of Field 1 and measured approximately 140m by 50m. It was bounded to the north-west and south-west by heathland and to the north-east and south-east by the quarry.

The mechanical stripping revealed a friable topsoil of greyish brown (10YR 5/1) sandy silt, 0.40m in depth, above a friable subsoil of pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4) silty sand, 0.10m in depth. This overlay the natural substrate of fine brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sand with frequent shale banding.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the course of this work.

Conclusions:

The present project involved the monitoring of a top and subsoil strip in two separate fields to the south-west of the existing quarry workings, prior to the extension of quarrying into these areas. Natural banding of sand and shale was observed, which is consistent with the findings from previous work on the site. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the course of this work.

Site Visits:

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
22/08/2016	DJH	1	Site meeting
05/09/2016	GAJ	9	Site visit
06/09/2016	GAJ	2	Site visit
09/09/2016	GAJ	1	Site visit
15/09/2016	GAJ	1	Site visit
20/09/2016	GAJ	1	Site visit
23/09/2016	GAJ	1	Site visit

Illustrations:

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site layout

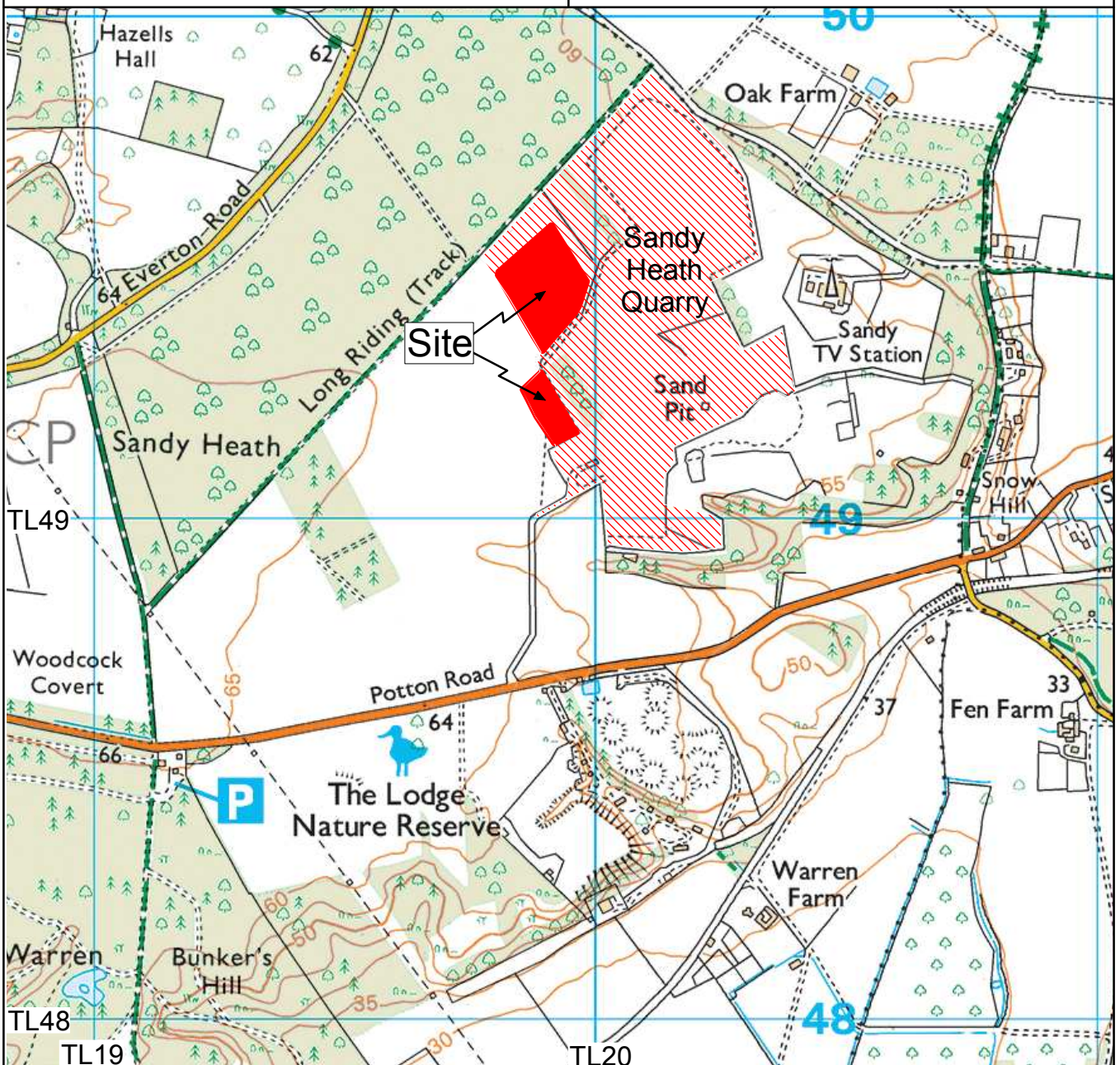
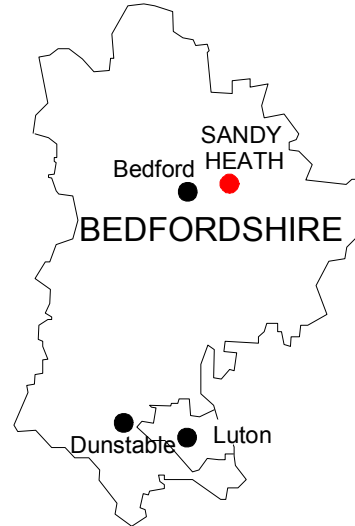
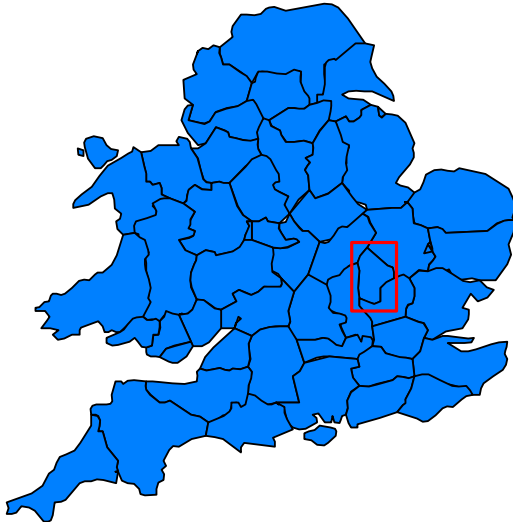
Plate 1 Field 1, looking north

Plate 2 Field 1, looking south-west

Plate 3 Field 1, north corner, looking north

Plate 4 Field 2, looking north

Greg Jones
October 2016

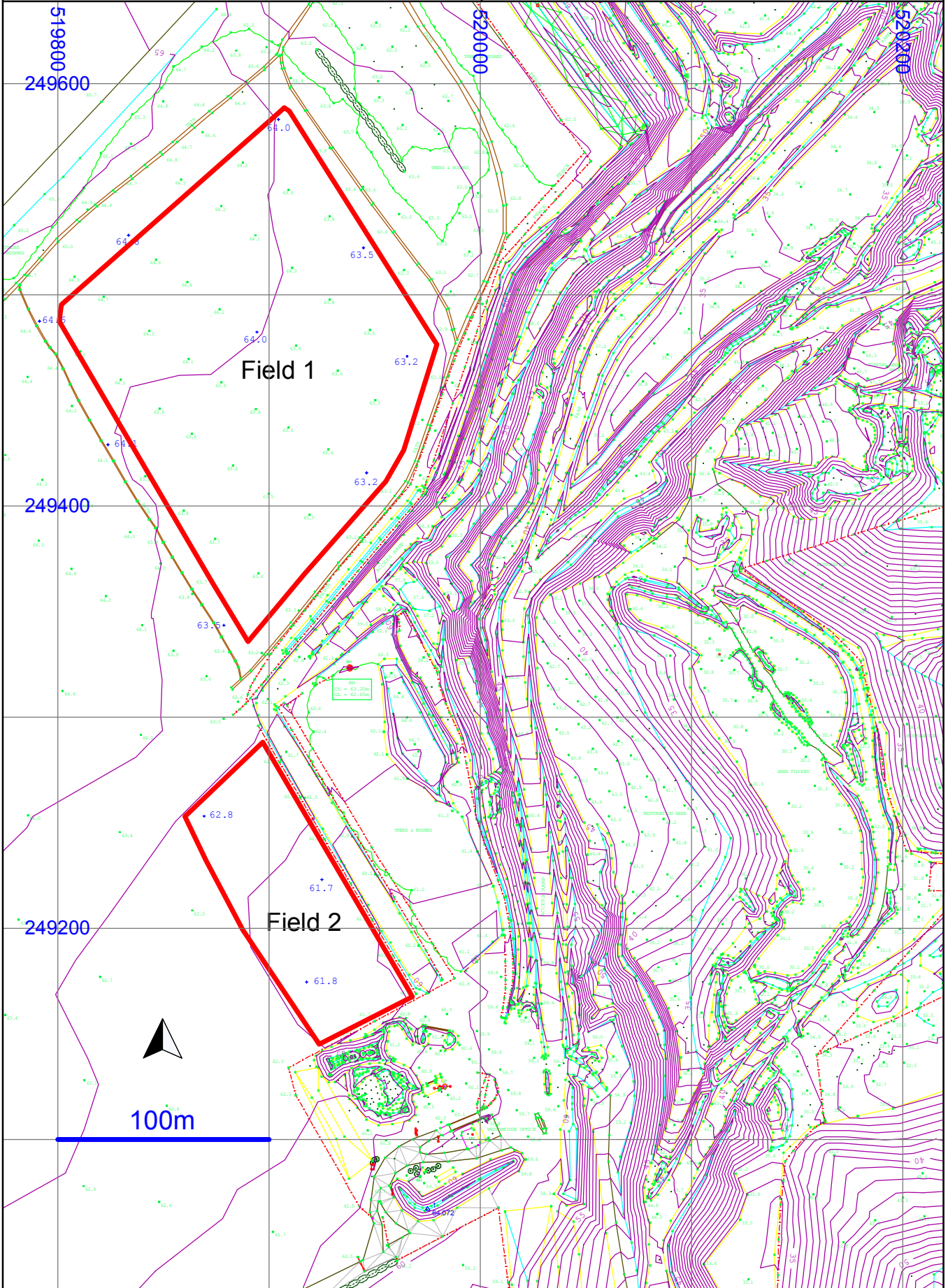


Site Location

Scale 1:12500

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Figure 1



Site layout

(Courtesy ASC Surveys Ltd)

Scale 1:2500

Figure 2



Plate 1: Field 1, looking north



Plate 2: Field 1, looking south-west



Plate 3: Field 1, north corner, looking north



Plate 4: Field 2, looking North