

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H W E S T

**Chicksgrove Quarry, Upper Chicksgrove,
Tisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Joanna Pine

Site Code: CQW13/230

(ST9605 2940)

Chicksgrove Quarry, Upper Chicksgrove, Tisbury, Wiltshire

**An archaeological recording action
for Lovell Purbeck**

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CQW13/230

January 2014

Summary

Site name: Chicks Grove Quarry, Upper Chicks Grove, Tisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: ST9605 2940

Site activity: Archaeological recording action

Date and duration of project: 26th November - 20th December 2013

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Jo Pine

Site code: CQW13/230

Area of Site: c. 1ha

Summary of results: The recording action recorded a sinuous medieval (or later) field boundary ditch redefined on a number of occasions: its finds included neolithic or Bronze Age lithics and Saxon and Roman pottery, all of which are residual, along with Medieval pottery. A substantial pit of Roman/Medieval or later date contained some Middle Iron Age pottery. A number of small undated pits were also recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 31.01.14
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Chicks Grove Quarry, Upper Chicks Grove, Tisbury, Wiltshire

An archaeological recording action

By Jo Pine

with contributions by Malcolm Lyne and Steve Ford

Report 13/230

Introduction

Planning permission (S.04.1407) has been gained from Wiltshire Council to extract limestone from a parcel of land located within an active quarry at Upper Chicks Grove, Tisbury, Wiltshire (ST9605 2940) (Fig.1). The consent is subject to a condition (22) which requires a programme of archaeological works to excavate and record deposits prior to extraction or other damage. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Clare King, Planning Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council, who also monitored the fieldwork. This is in accordance with *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990) and the Council's policies on archaeology, in order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on the planning permission. It is acknowledged that *the National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) has superseded PPG16.

The site is situated on the north-facing slopes of the Nadder Valley immediately above the working face of the quarry at a height of between 105–113m above Ordnance Datum. The quarry is on an outcrop of Upper Jurassic Inferior Oolite. The area stripped of topsoil covered *c.*1 ha. The geological deposits exposed during the topsoil strip varied across the site. In the northern part of the site a pale yellowish-brown silty clay mixed with large slabs of limestone bedrock was observed with occasional patches of pale grey clayey silt also recorded. In the southern half of the site the natural geology consisted of yellowish-brown silty-clay mixed with small pieces of limestone and areas of weathered limestone.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been addressed in a desktop study which accompanied the planning application. The archaeological potential derives from the results of a project carried out between 1976 and 1978 which investigated the archaeology of the Vale of Wardour included the fieldwalking of a number of fields in the Upper Chicks Grove area. This included the field where the present site is located. A collection of Neolithic worked flint and chert, including cores, flakes and scrapers was recovered from this field. The adjacent field to the east produced flint and chert flakes, a knife and two scrapers. Further collections of worked flint and chert were recovered from fields to the north of Upper Chicks Grove, *c.*460 m to the north of the site.

An archaeological watching brief took place during topsoil stripping for an earlier extension to the quarry adjacent to the site to the north-east (Terrain Archaeology 2008). An area of approximately one hectare was

stripped and the remains of a possible hedge line were revealed in the north-east part of the area. A single; probable quarry pit containing a small quantity of Roman pottery was also found along the line of this possible hedge line.

Approximately one kilometre to the south of the site is the multivallate Iron Age hillfort of 'Castle Ditches' (Fig. 1) with further earthworks to the northwest. The village of Upper Chicks Grove is probably medieval in origin and there are still some medieval settlement earthworks surviving. Some medieval pottery was recovered from the field in which the present site is located during fieldwalking in 1976-78 (Terrain Archaeology 2008). Several quarries in the Chicks Grove area have medieval origins, including Chicks Grove Quarry, Quarry Hill and Dumpling Down .

Methodology

Machine stripping of the site involved removal of topsoil across the whole of the site; in the eastern part of the site a subsoil was also removed, onto the natural geology. This material was removed by 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned as a minimum objective. Isolated features such as pits and postholes were half sectioned and linear gullies and ditches relating to agricultural activity were sampled at a minimum of 5% of their length. All termini and intersections were examined.

Results (Figs 2-4; Pls1-4)

A modest volume of pits and linear features were recorded. Along the western edge of the excavation area a linear ditch (Figs 2 and 3) was recorded which was redefined on a number of occasions. It is likely there was an accompanying hedge line, which has been lost due to later ploughing. Appendix 1 provides a summary of all excavated features with summary dating evidence.

The first permutation of the intercutting linear features was gully 101.

Gully 101

This was observed for c.80m on a north-south axis. It was between 0.50–0.60m wide and 0.10m–0.30m deep. It was seen in three sections (7, 10, 21) (Pl. 3). It contained a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments. One fragment of slightly-abraded New Forest greyware (c.AD.240-400) was recovered from this gully and this is likely residual. This linear was replaced by a larger more substantial ditch, ditch 102.

Ditch 102

This was observed for *c.*100m on an approximate north-south axis but being sinuous in nature. It varied between 0.95–1.80m wide and between 0.22–0.44m deep (Pls 3 and 4). It contained a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments. From ten slots across this ditch (5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 22, 23, 26, 30 and 31) were recovered three abraded Roman pottery sherds and one slightly abraded Saxo-Norman cooking-pot sherd (*c.* AD 1050-1150). This ditch in turn was partly truncated by ditch 100.

Ditch 100

This was also observed for *c.*100m on an approximate north-south axis and also being sinuous in nature (Fig. 3; Pl. 4) . It was between 0.44–0.85m wide and between 0.10–0.26m deep. Nine slots across its length (4, 6, 14, 17–20, 24 and 28) showed that it contained a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments and in stretches of the ditch; larger limestone slabs. This feature contained just one slightly-abraded fragment from a ?Middle Saxon cooking-pot which given the stratigraphy sequence is residual.

Observed between 1m and 2m to the east of the above linear features, was another gully (103) on a north-south alignment; this being shallow and intermittent on the ground surface. It is not possible, due to lack of stratigraphic evidence to say whether it was an earlier or later permutation of the linear sequence described above. Given that it is following a similar orientation it is likely to be associated with the above and used in the ground marking of a north-south boundary.

Gully 103

This was observed for *c.*50m on a north-south axis. It was between 0.50m- 0.60m wide and 0.10m - 0.20m deep. It contained a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments. It contained no dating evidence.

Pit 1

This was circular, 0.71m in diameter and 0.20m deep. It had concave sides and a rounded base (Pl. 1). It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments (56) with a thin charcoal lens. This overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments (57). It contained no dating evidence.

Pit 2

This was circular, 0.53m in diameter and 0.13m deep (Pl. 2). It had concave sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled with fragmented limestone with a clayey silt lens (52). This was sealed by a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (51). It contained no dating evidence.

Pit 3

This was circular, being 1.30m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It had concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (53) with occasional limestone fragment inclusions and a small amount of burnt limestone (not retained). This was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty clay (54) with moderate amounts limestone fragments. Above this was a light yellow brown silty clay (55). It contained no dating evidence.

Pit 16

This was a large circular pit, 1.10m in diameter and 0.67m deep (Pl. 2). The primary fill was a mid grey brown silty clay (78) with occasional limestone and charcoal fragments. Above this was a dump of redeposited natural geology slump on the northern side of the pit (84). Sealing this was a mid grey brown silty clay (70) with occasional limestone and charcoal fragments; this being overlain by a firm mid grey brown silty clay (79) which contained numerous lumps of burnt limestone (over 30 lumps, not retained). Above this was a firm mid reddish brown silty clay (80), resembling a deliberate capping. A very abraded sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery, tile and fired clay was recovered from this pit, as well as three pieces of struck chert. The tile, albeit tiny chips, indicates that the pottery must be residual, and the chert even more so.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

The site yielded six sherds of Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery and a lump of fired clay from excavated contexts. A further sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery, two tiny fragments of Roman tile and 11 abraded pellets of fired clay were retrieved from environmental samples.

Gully 101 yielded just one fragment of slightly-abraded New Forest greyware (c.AD240–400).

Ditch 102 cut and replaced this feature: the various sections across it produced one very abraded fragment of Dorset BB1 (c.50BC–AD400+), an abraded rim chip from a New Forest greyware storage-jar of Fulford(1975) type 35 (c. AD270–350) and a small equally-abraded beaker sherd in an indeterminate Roman greyware. A slightly abraded Saxo-Norman cooking-pot sherd (c. AD1050–1150) is also present.

Ditch 100 yielded just one slightly-abraded fragment from a ?Middle Saxon cooking-pot in handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. quartz-sand and buff-grog filler.

These sherds are all probably from field-marling and indicate arable cultivation from at least the Middle Iron Age, through the Roman period into the 12th century. They are of limited value in dating the various field boundary ditch recuts. It is quite possible that the whole ditch sequence is medieval or later, with old field-marling sherds washing into the various fills. The Middle Iron Age fragment from Pit 16 is very abraded and quite clearly residual in its context.

Lithics by Steve Ford

A small assemblage comprising 3 pieces of struck chert were recovered from the site, all from a sieved sample of feature 16 (70). The assemblage comprised 2 flakes, one of which was patinated, and a patinated spall (a piece less than 20x20mm). The pieces seem to have been made on a fine grained dark grey chert suggesting a (local) limestone origin, rather than from a chalk source. The pieces are not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Environmental Remains by Jo Pine

Although fourteen bulk soil samples of between 10 and 40 litres were processed; an examination of the resultant flots showed that apart from charcoal in pit 16, the remaining flots contained no charred seeds or charcoal.

Conclusions

The excavation has uncovered a modest amount of archaeological deposits and artefacts. The re-cut linear boundary ditch is possibly part of a larger field system and would likely have had an accompanying hedge line. The boundary features produced a total of only five sherds from its various permutations and therefore provide limited dating evidence. It is unlikely that Ditch 101 is Roman and its recut, Ditch 102 is medieval (or later). Ditch 100 must also be medieval or later. It is quite likely that the whole ditch sequence is medieval or later, with residual sherds washing into the various fills. The reversed S-shape bend is typical of fields formed by enclosure reducing the size of larger areas after repeated ploughing has created a headland. This could also explain why the only subsoil deposit was west of (upslope) from the ditches.

The residual sherds of Roman and Saxon date albeit very few in number, would appear to indicate that the area had been farmed during these periods with their presence here a product of the manuring of farmland.

A pit 16 with residual middle Iron Age pottery sherds points to a low level of activity in the Iron Age although the feature also contained tile and is therefore of Roman/medieval or later date. The lithics point to a little activity in the Neolithic or Bronze Age, as already indicated from the previous fieldwalking results. Three smaller pits (1-3) were also recorded which contained no datable artefacts.

References

- Fulford, M G, 1975, *New Forest Roman Pottery*, BAR Brit Ser 17, Oxford
- PPG16 1990, Archaeology and Planning, Department of the Environment Planning and Policy Guidance, HMSO, London.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Terrain Archaeology, 2008, 'Chicks Grove Quarry, Upper Chicks Grove, Tisbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation and Recording', unpubl rep 53275, Dorchester

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Topsoil			
	75	subsoil			
1	56-57	pit		-	
2	51-52	pit		-	
3	53-55	pit		-	
4	58	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Saxon pottery; Stratigraphy
5	59	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Medieval pottery
6	60	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Roman pottery; Stratigraphy
7	61	gully	101	Medieval or later	Association
8	62	ditch	103	Medieval or later	Landscape
9	63	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
10	64	gully	101	Medieval or later	Association, Pot residual
11	65	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Roman pottery;
12	66	ditch	103	Medieval or later	Roman pottery; Landscape
13	67	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
14	68	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
15	69	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
16	70,78-80,84	pit		Roman/Medieval or later	Middle Iron Age pottery; Tile
17	71	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
18	72	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
19	73	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
20	74	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
21	76	gully	101	Medieval or later	Association, Pot residual
22	77	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
23	81	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
24	82	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
25	83	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
26	85	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
27	86	gully	103	Medieval or later	Landscape
28	87	ditch	100	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
29	88	ditch	103	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
30	89	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy
31	90	ditch	102	Medieval or later	Stratigraphy

APPENDIX 2: Ceramics

Fabrics

Middle Iron Age

MIA 1, Silty carbon-soaked black with sparse <1.00mm calcined flint and red grog filler

Roman

R1. Dorset Black-burnished ware BB1

R2. New Forest greyware

R3. Miscellaneous greyware

?Saxon

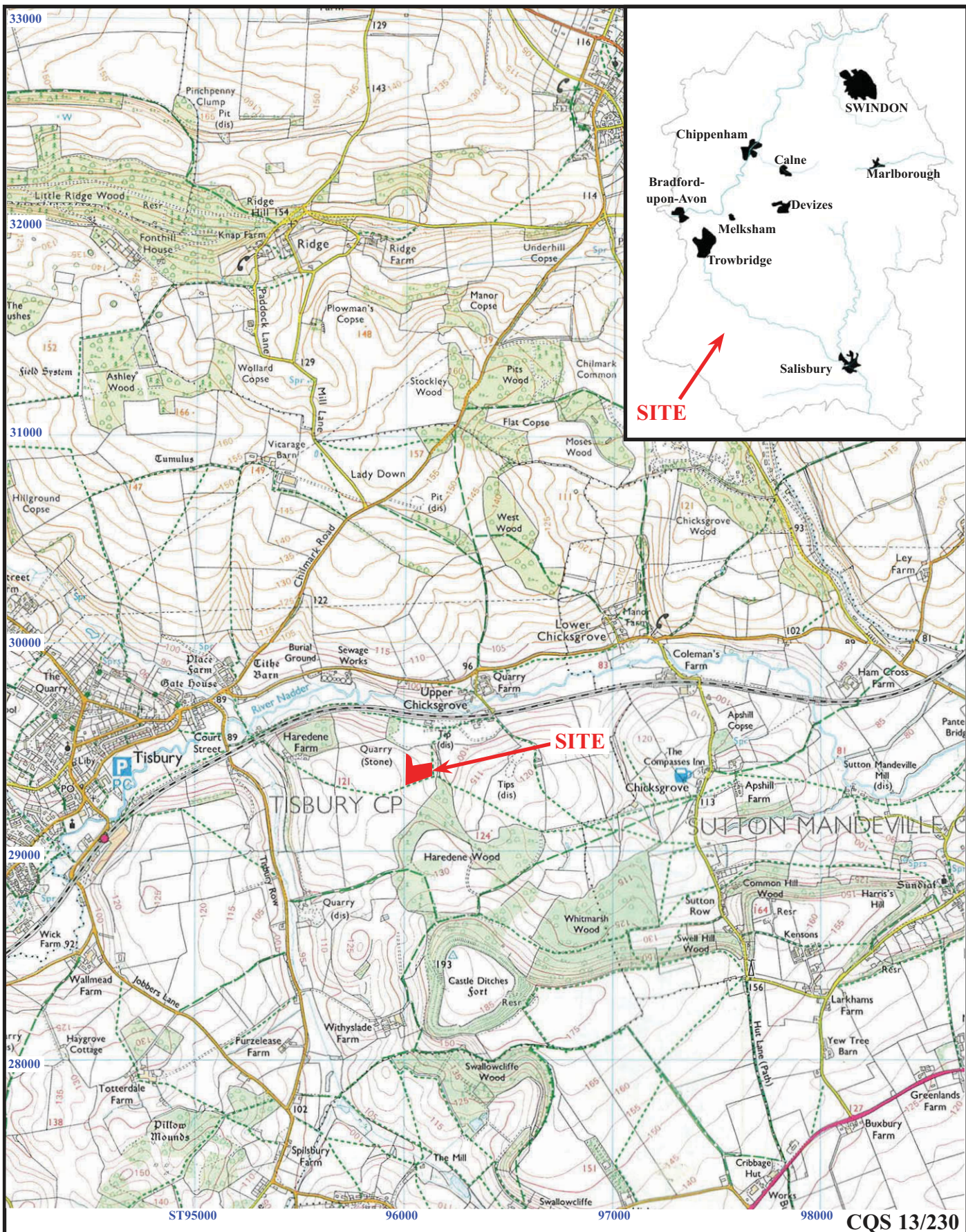
S1. Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse <0.30mm quartz sand and <1.00mm buff grog

Medieval

M1. Handmade carbon-soaked fabric fired rough brown externally with profuse sub-angular and angular <1.00mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.

Catalogue

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
4	58		S1	Closed	c.650–850	1	3	SI abraded
2	52	2	<i>Fired clay</i>			1	1	<i>Minute chip</i>
5	59		M1 <i>Fired clay</i>	Cooking-pot	c.1050–1150	1 1	4 5	SI abraded
5	59	6	<i>Tile</i> <i>Fired clay</i>		?Roman	1 2	1 1	<i>Tiny chip</i> <i>Tiny pellets</i>
6	60		R2	Jar	c.240–400	1	4	SI abraded
11	65?		R1 R2	Fulford 35 jar	c.50BC–AD400+ c.270–350	1 1	1 6	v.abraded abraded
12	66		R3	Beaker	Roman	1	1	Abraded
16	70	14	MIA1 <i>Tile</i> <i>Fired clay</i>		c.300–50 BC Roman or medieval	1 2 7	1 2 4	V.abraded <i>Minute chips</i> <i>Pellets</i>

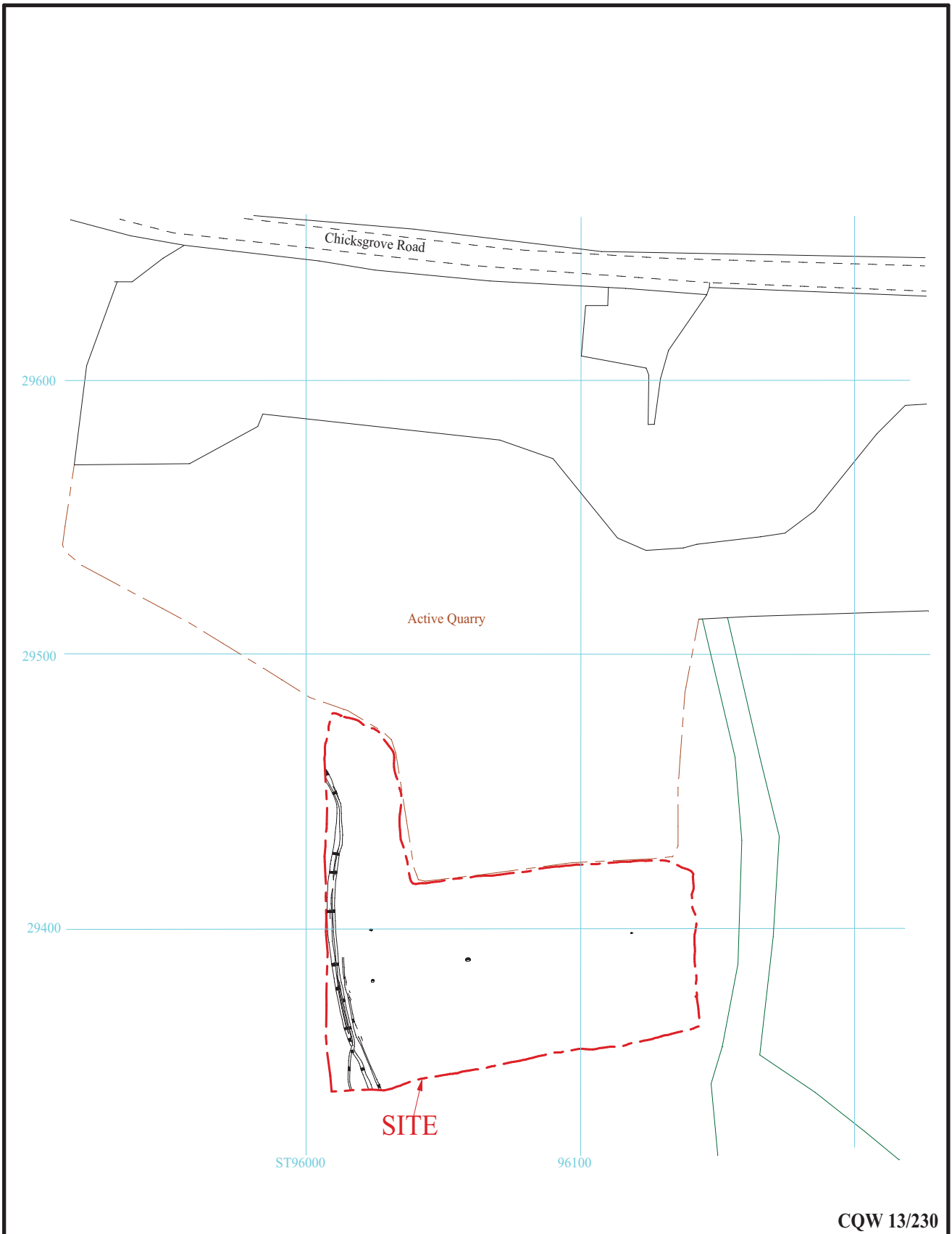


**Chicksgrove Quarry, Upper Chicksgrove,
Tisbury, Wiltshire, 2013**

Archaeological Recording action

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Chicksgrove, Tisbury and within Wiltshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of the site.

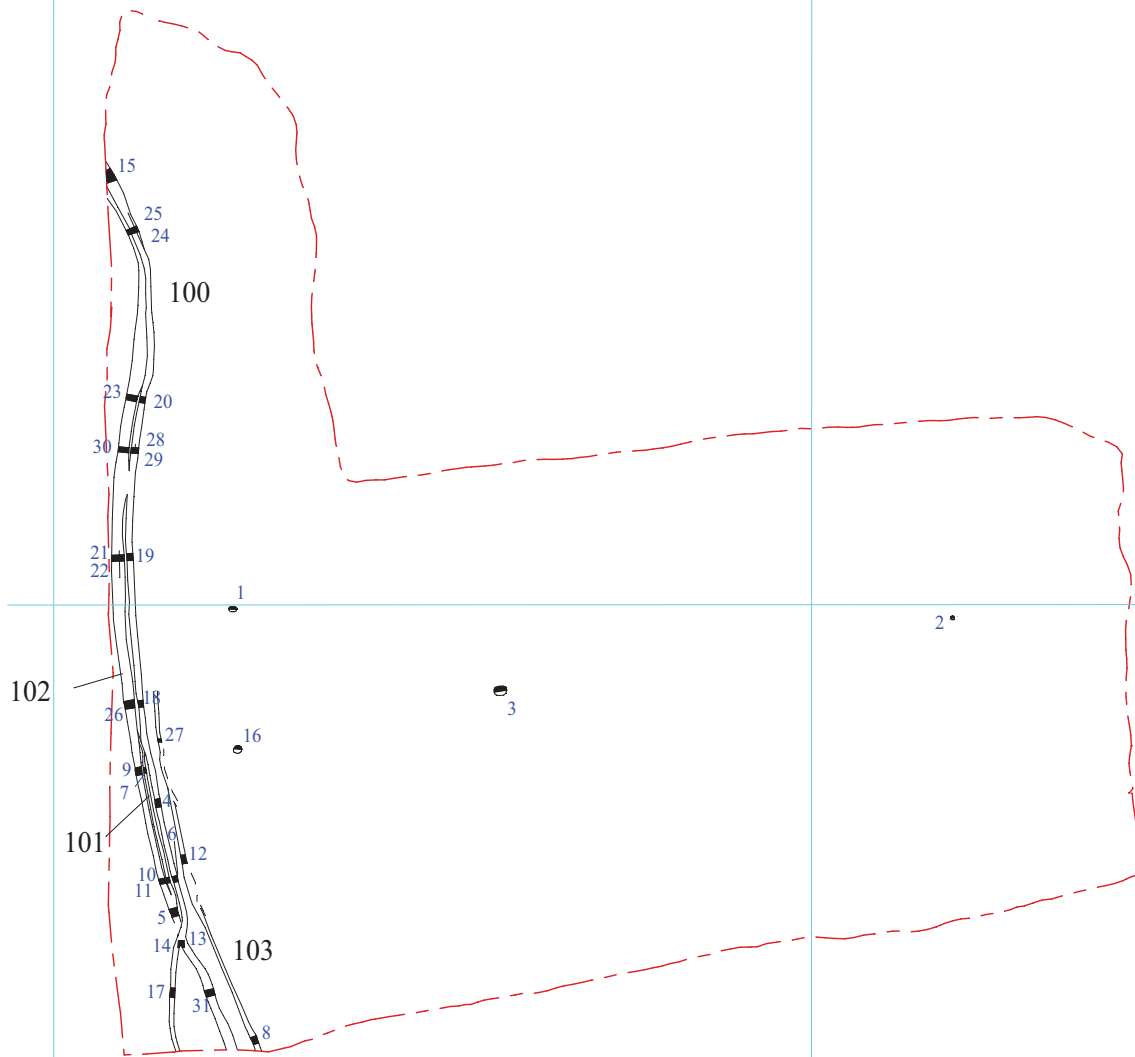


29500

29400

ST96000

96100



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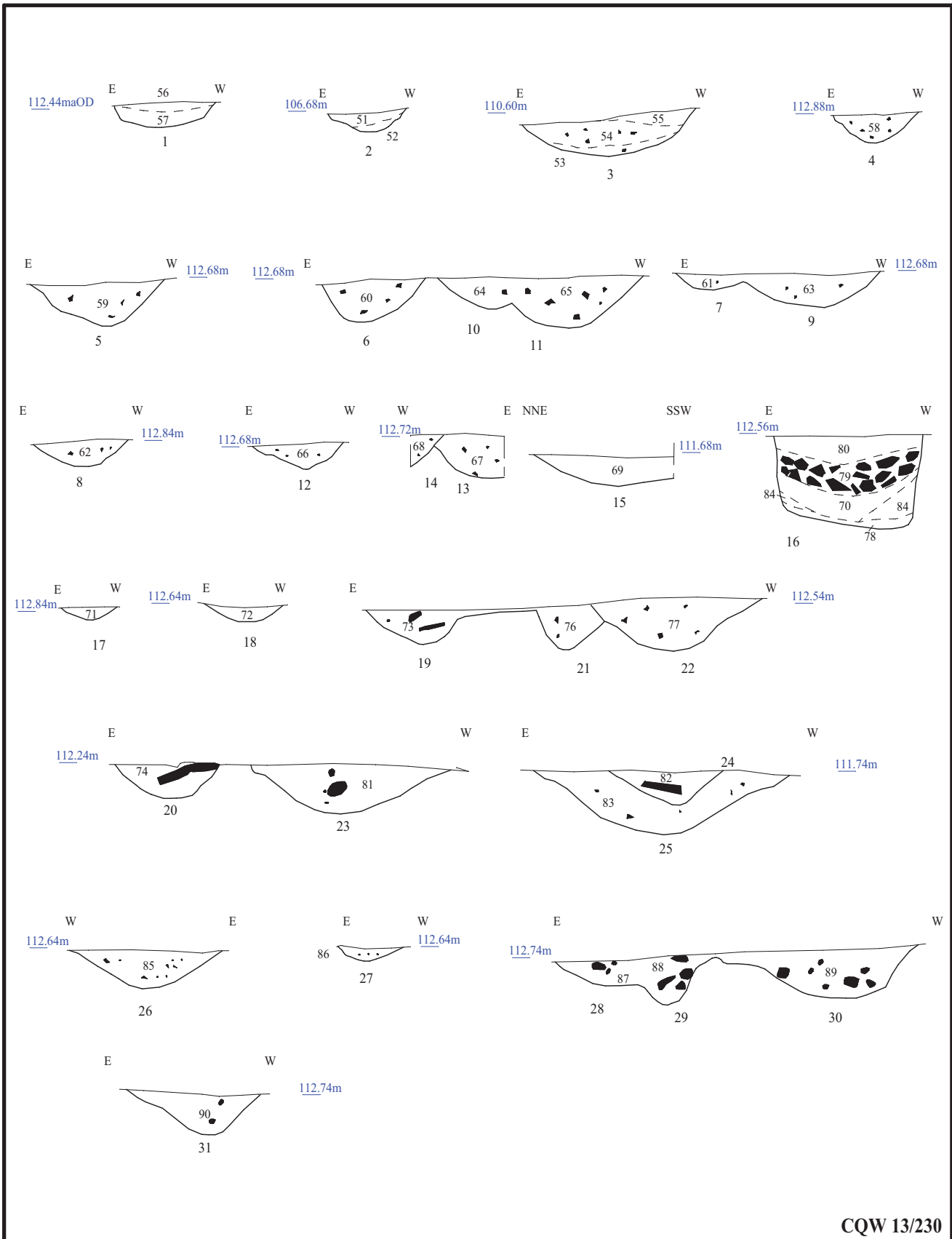


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Figure 3. Plan of excavated features.



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Figure 4. Sections.





Plate 1. Pit 1, looking south, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Pit 16 looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**Chicks Grove Quarry, Upper Chicks Grove,
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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Linears from slot 21 and 22, looking south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Linears from slot 18 and 26, looking north, Scales: 0.5m, 0.3m and 0.1m.

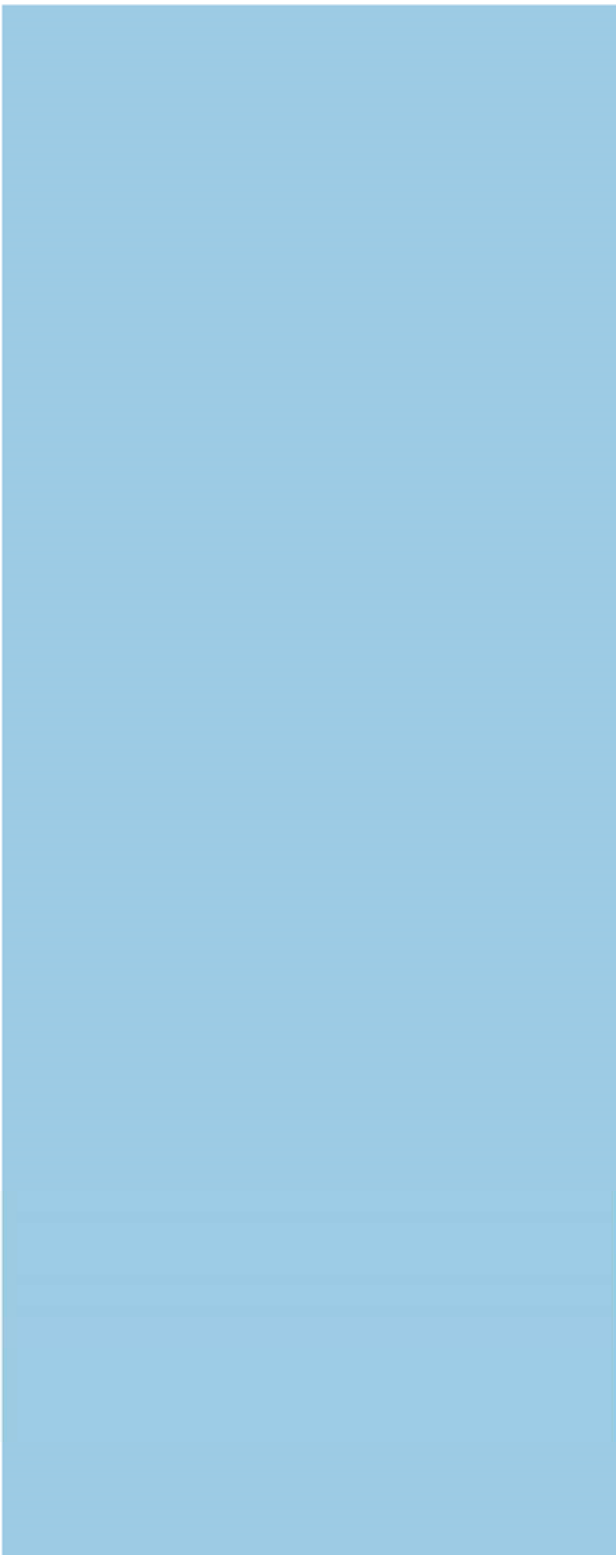
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**Chicks Grove Quarry, Upper Chicks Grove,
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Plates 3 - 4.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
↓	↓



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