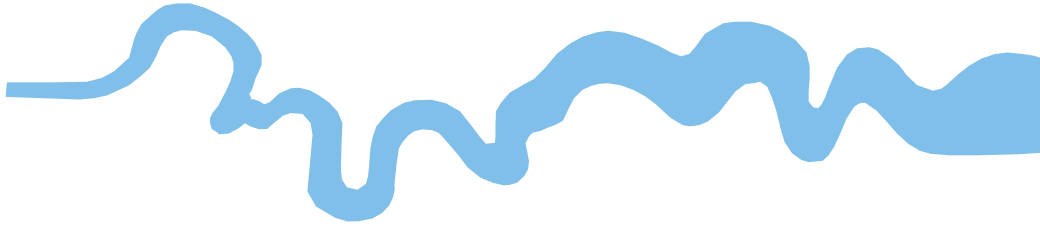


T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
Near Kenilworth, Warwickshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Luís Esteves

Site Code SKW 18/71

(SP 3228 7343)

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh
near Kenilworth, Warwickshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation
for ECUS Ltd**

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SKW18/71

July 2018

Summary

Site name: Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh, nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Grid reference: SP 3228 7343

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 30th April - 23rd May 2018

Project Manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: SKW18/71

Area of site: Application area = 9.6ha. Stripped area total = 0.72ha

Summary of results: Of the six areas stripped of topsoil and subsoil, three areas contained further or additional deposits to the undated features found in the evaluation. Three features contained pottery, which were prehistoric in date and a single sherd of Roman date was recovered the ditch in Area A. This ditch cut a ring gully, though no datable material was uncovered from its fill.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 09.08.18
	Steve Preston ✓ 06.08.18

Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh, nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Luís Esteves

Report 18/71

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh, nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2IZ (SP 3228 7343) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul White of ECUS Ltd, Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4JX.

Outline planning permission (W/17/1578) has been granted by Warwick District Council for the relocation of Rugby Farmers Market, (currently in Stoneleigh Park) to this new site, with associated access and ancillary infrastructure. The outline consent is subject to a condition (3) requiring a programme of archaeological ‘works and investigations have been secured and initiated’ before development commences, in order to ensure any remains of archaeological importance are recorded, preserved and protected. The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a desk-based assessment with peripheral finds close to the environs of Stoneleigh Park (Smith 2017) and geophysical survey (Davies 2017) and field evaluation (Hunt 2017) located a number of undated archaeological features and deposits. As a result, an excavation was requested targeting six areas of the site on which the evaluation had located deposits deems worth further investigation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a ‘written scheme of investigation’ (WSI) supplied by ECUS Ltd (Gallagher 2018), and approved and subsequently monitored by Mr John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist with Warwickshire County Council Heritage and Environmental Advice Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves and Andrew Mundin and the site code is SKW 18/71. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Warwickshire Museums in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 1km north-west of the village of Stoneleigh, 4km to the east of Kenilworth in Warwickshire (Fig. 1) and 8km south of Coventry. The village lies west side of the River Sowe, a tributary of the Avon of which it joins 2km to the south. The site is east of the Kenilworth/Stoneleigh junction of the A46 Dual

carriageway, both sides of Stoneleigh Road, to the north and south, are characterised by large arable fields. The site is on a relatively flat plateau at a height of 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The topography falls away significantly at the northern boundary down to the adjacent field. The overall site measures approximately 9.6ha and comprises a single arable field. The natural bedrock geology is mapped as Kenilworth Sandstone with red-brown sand and silts (BGS 1984). No superficial deposits are recorded across the site.

Archaeological background

The site's archaeological background has been summarized by a desk-based assessment (ECUS 2017) which the WSI drew upon. In summary, the immediate environs of the site have provided very limited evidence for prehistoric occupation, in the form of stray finds such as eleven pieces of prehistoric flint only broadly dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age (including from within the site itself), and an Iron Age *stater* coin (Hunt 2017). Occupation in the Roman period is more evident, with partially excavated Roman settlement at Glasshouse Wood (SAM 1005723) 1.5km south-west and. Evidence of a Roman estate (villa?) and later (possible Post-Medieval) glass-making evidence were also discovered. The construction of the Kenilworth bypass in 1971 (A46) also uncovered Early Roman structural remains, suggesting additional small-scale settlement north of Crewe Lane and to the west of the A46, and within 1km of the current site to the south west. Nearby Crewe Gardens Farm has 18th-century origins and is on an estate map of 1780 (Walford 2013). Recent investigation in the field to the west (Fig.2) found minimal deposits of archaeological interest (Rann 2017) ahead of improvements to the road junction.

Further afield, a 1st-century Roman fort site known as 'The Lunt', which has been partially reconstructed after excavation, is 8km to the north-east (SAM 1017245). Roman stray finds, from fieldwalking and metal detecting have also been found locally. Stoneleigh village itself has medieval origins, and there is also a deserted medieval village at King Hill (SAM 1005724), 1.5km to the north. The Grade II* Registered Parkland of Stoneleigh Park is to east and south of the village (1000377), which contains the Grade I Listed, 12th century Abbey complex (1035149).

The evaluation

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the site itself, by means of a geophysical survey (Davies 2017) and 34 trial trenches, which revealed the presence of archaeological deposits (Hunt 2017). Two pits and a ditch terminus were suggested as possibly prehistoric, on the basis of one or two struck flints in each, while the

presence of burnt clay was also associated. A series of ditches and further pits could not be dated but could also be related to the prehistoric phase. Other ditches appeared to match boundaries identified on historic maps. The features in the evaluation trenches included some which had not been suggested by the geophysical survey.

Objectives and methodology

The principal aim of the excavation was to gain information about the archaeological resource within the site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context.

The general aims from the WSI (Gallagher 2018) were:

- ‘to identify and record through excavation all archaeological features within the development site;
- ‘to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- ‘to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- ‘to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual and environmental evidence to help inform understanding of the layout, date, function, phasing, development an economic basis of each area of activity;
- ‘to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the site work in advance of their loss through construction works.
- ‘to prepare an appropriate archaeological archive of the site including the treatment and preservation of any finds. Including those recovered during the earlier phase of evaluation
- ‘to publish the results of the archaeological programme of work if appropriate.’

Six areas (A–F) targeted deposits identified in the evaluation with excavation. This included, Area A =720.5 m²; Area B = 340 m²; Area C = 4970 m²; Area D = 354 sq²; Area E = 383 sq²; Area F = 484 m² (Fig.2). Topsoil was to be stripped from all areas by 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. This excavation was to be undertaken in spits and to stop at the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, the natural subsoil, or the formation depth required for construction, whichever was encountered first. All archaeological features were to be excavated by hand or sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them, to an agreed a sampling fraction dependent on the nature and significance of each feature, as outlined in the WSI.

Results

The six areas were stripped as intended (Fig. 2). Agricultural topsoil was mechanically removed which was a depth of 0.33m deep. Subsoil was then excavated exposing the natural horizon generally to a depth of 0.45m. Deposits encountered were hand cleaned and sampled appropriately for their size. Evaluation trenches had been previous stripped to the top of the natural horizon and were only partial visible in the base of excavation. Slots of slots from the evaluation were, however, visible. A complete list of features excavated is given in Appendix 1.

Area A (Fig. 3)

The previous evaluation trench in this area had exposed three linear features (16, 18 and 20). Two of these were re-examined in the excavation but the southern investigation in the trench (cut 16) was just infill of a natural depression.

The main feature was a curvilinear, penannular ditch (1000), forming approximately two-thirds of a circle, with a likely diameter of around 21m, but open at the south end. Besides the slot investigated in the evaluation (18) eleven segments were dug (slots 104, 106–8, 118–120, 123, 124, 125 and 126) between 0.8–0.9m wide and 0.06–0.24m deep (Fig. 6; Pls 1–4). The excavation area was extended by roughly an additional 100 sq m to clarify the nature of this feature. Only tiny crumbs of prehistoric pottery were (slots 104 and 107) recovered but this feature may be interpreted as a ring gully of likely prehistoric date. The pottery is similar to that from pit 127, which very tentatively suggests an early to middle Iron Age date, which would not be incompatible with the structural interpretation.

Ditch 1001 was investigated in four slots (20, 105, 109, 122). It was aligned north-east to south-west, and some 30m long within the excavated area. It cut across the ring ditch, and although only a single sherd of probably Roman greyware pottery was recovered, which is very slender dating evidence, a Roman date is at least possible.

Area B (Fig. 4)

In area B one gully (1002), aligned almost north–south, was investigated (slots 128 and 129) showing it to be 0.35m wide, 0.11m deep part (Fig. 6; Pl. 5). This was the same as a linear feature (10) noted the evaluation. No finds were recovered from either the evaluation or excavation phases of investigation.

Area C (Fig. 5)

In area C, nine pits and two linear features were investigated (Fig. 7) to add to the eight or nine pits from the evaluation. From the gully (slots 100 and 101, 0.4m wide, 0.14m deep) and the ditch (slots 102 and 103, 0.5m wide, 0.2m deep) no finds were recovered. From the nine pits (110–117, 127, which were all between 0.5m–1m in diameter and 0.08m–0.35m deep) only pit 127 (in an extension of the stripped area northwards) produced five sherds of prehistoric pottery (Bronze Age/Iron Age). Pit 127 was roughly circular with a diameter of 0.90m and a concave profile to a flat base at a depth of 0.26m (Pl. 6) Its single fill (186) of mid grey-brown sandy silt with a

few small stones also contained a white quartzite pebble (1021g), unworked, but possibly non-local. Pits 116 and 117 (Pls 7 and 8) were very irregularly shaped, with charcoal rich fills, and some burnt flint but sieving of these produced no material of interest. Six of the pits appeared to be arranged in three pairs, and perhaps formed a double row aligned roughly west–east (and extended by pits 29 and 31 in the evaluation trench), but this grouping could be coincidental and does not closely resemble the more tightly-packed pattern seen in pit alignments, for example.

Areas D, E and F (Fig. 5)

In areas D, E and F no further archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the stripping. Pits seen in the corresponding evaluation trenches (27, 41, 43, 47) all remain undated.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The fieldwork produced a very small assemblage of 14 sherds of pottery weighing 97.5g from four features (Appendix 2). Provisionally the assemblage appears to date to the later prehistoric and Roman periods.

Nine sherds, including a rim, belong to a single vessel recovered from pit 127 (fill 186). This is a large, thick-walled vessel (15 mm) with a diameter of around 28mm. The exterior surface is irregular and the rim curved. The fabric comprises an orange-brown fine sandy ware with well-sorted, fine, quartz sand and occasional iron. Dating this single vessel is difficult; the fabric and technology might suggest an early-middle Iron Age date but additional material would be required to confirm this. Four further very small pot crumbs of potentially similar date came from ring gully cuts 104 and 107.

Cut 105 (158) produced a small sherd of grey fine sandy ware which suggests a Roman date.

The assemblage is very small and slightly enigmatic and biased towards a single vessel. There is no potential for any further work on this assemblage.

Unworked stone

Pit 127 also contained a white quartzite pebble (1021g), unworked, but possibly non-local.

Conclusion

The work has successfully dated a small sample of the deposits present on the site. Most of the features in most of the site areas contained nothing of archaeological interest, and cannot be dated, but in Area C pit 127 held nine sherds of pottery from a single prehistoric (possibly Early to Middle Iron Age) vessel.

In Area A, although finds were again very rare, the main feature revealed was a penannular ditch or gully forming approximately two-thirds of a circle, with a diameter of around 21m, but open at the south end. Only tiny crumbs of pottery were recovered, in a similar fabric to the pottery in pit 127. If an early to middle Iron Age date is accepted for this, then the gully was probably structural and formed part of a large round house. However, it seems on the large size for this (both in diameter and in the width of the cut itself) and the pottery chronology is unclear. A Bronze Age date cannot be ruled out based purely on fabric, and the size could be more suggestive of a ploughed-out barrow ditch. The ditch was cut by a straight ditch which, based on a single sherd of pottery, is Roman or later. No material suitable for radiocarbon dating (or any other absolute dating method) came from the ring ditch.

The results from this investigation, while modest in themselves, represent a small addition to the previously meagre knowledge of prehistoric settlement in the area, and it is to be expected that further work on other sites in the wider environs could contribute to refining the local pottery chronology.

References

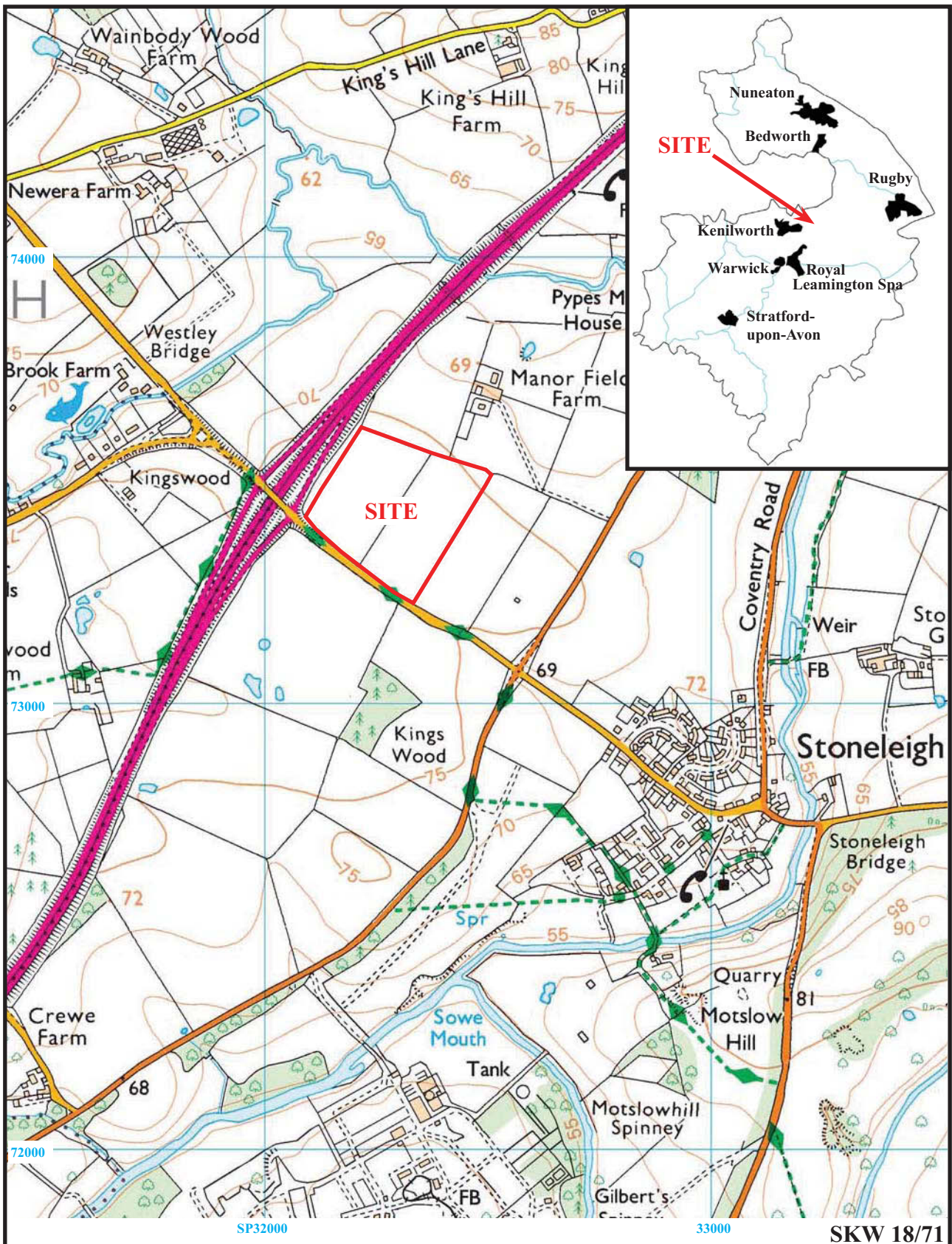
- BGS, 1984, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **184**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hunt, R, 2017, 'Land at Rugby Farmer's Mart Stoneleigh, Kenilworth Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation Report', CFA Archaeology Ltd unpubl rep Y299/17, Sheffield
- Davies, R, 2017, 'Stoneleigh Park Arena and Rugby, Farmers Market Relocation, Stoneleigh Road, Warwickshire: Geophysical Survey Report', SUMO Services Ltd, Upton upon Severn
- ECUS, 2017, 'Rugby Farmers' Mart, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire – Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment', ECUS Ltd, Sheffield
- Gallagher, S, 2018, 'Land to the north of Stoneleigh Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation', ECUS Ltd, Sheffield
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Rann, C, 2017, 'Stoneleigh Junction, A46 and Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire', Archaeology Warwickshire Rep **1778**, Warwick
- Walford, J, 2013, 'Archaeological geophysical survey at Crew Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, December 2013', Northamptonshire Archaeology unpubl client rep **13/259**, Northampton

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Area</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Feature type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>Finds</i>
C		100	152	Gully			
C		101	153	Gully			
C		102	154	Ditch			
C		103	155	Ditch			
A	1000	104	156-7	Ring ditch	100		Pottery crumbs
A	1001	105	158	Ditch	101		pottery
A	1000	106	159-60	Ring ditch			
A	1000	107	161	Ring ditch	102		Pottery crumbs
A	1000	108	162 163	Ring ditch	103		
A	1001	109	164	Ditch			
C		110	165-7	Pit		?tree throw	
C		111	168	Pit			
C		112	169-70	Pit	105		
C		113	171	Pit	104		
C		114	173-4	Pit	106		
C		115	172	Pit			
C		116	175	Pit	107	charcoal rich	Burnt flint
C		117	176	Pit	108	charcoal rich	Burnt flint
A	1000	118	177	Ring ditch	109		
A	1000	119	178	Ring ditch	110		
A	1000	120	179	Ring ditch	111		
A	1000	121	180	Ring ditch			
A	1001	122	181	Ditch			
A	1000	123	182	Ring ditch			
A	1000	124	183	Ring ditch			
A	1000	125	184	Ring ditch			
A	1000	126	185	Ring ditch	112		
C		127	186	Pit	113		Pottery, white quartz pebble
B	1002	128	187	Gully			
B	1002	129	188	Gully			

APPENDIX 2: Pottery catalogue by context

<i>Area</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A	104	157	1	1	?Prehistoric	Dense sandy ware crumb
A	105	158	1	3	Roman	Small bodysherd in grey, fine sandy ware
A	107	161	3	0	Prehistoric	Crumbs
C	127	186	9	94	Later prehistoric	All from a single handmade vessel with a curved rim, possibly an open form. Wall thickness 15mm. Orange-brown sandy ware with well-sorted quartz sand and occasional iron. Irregular exterior surface.

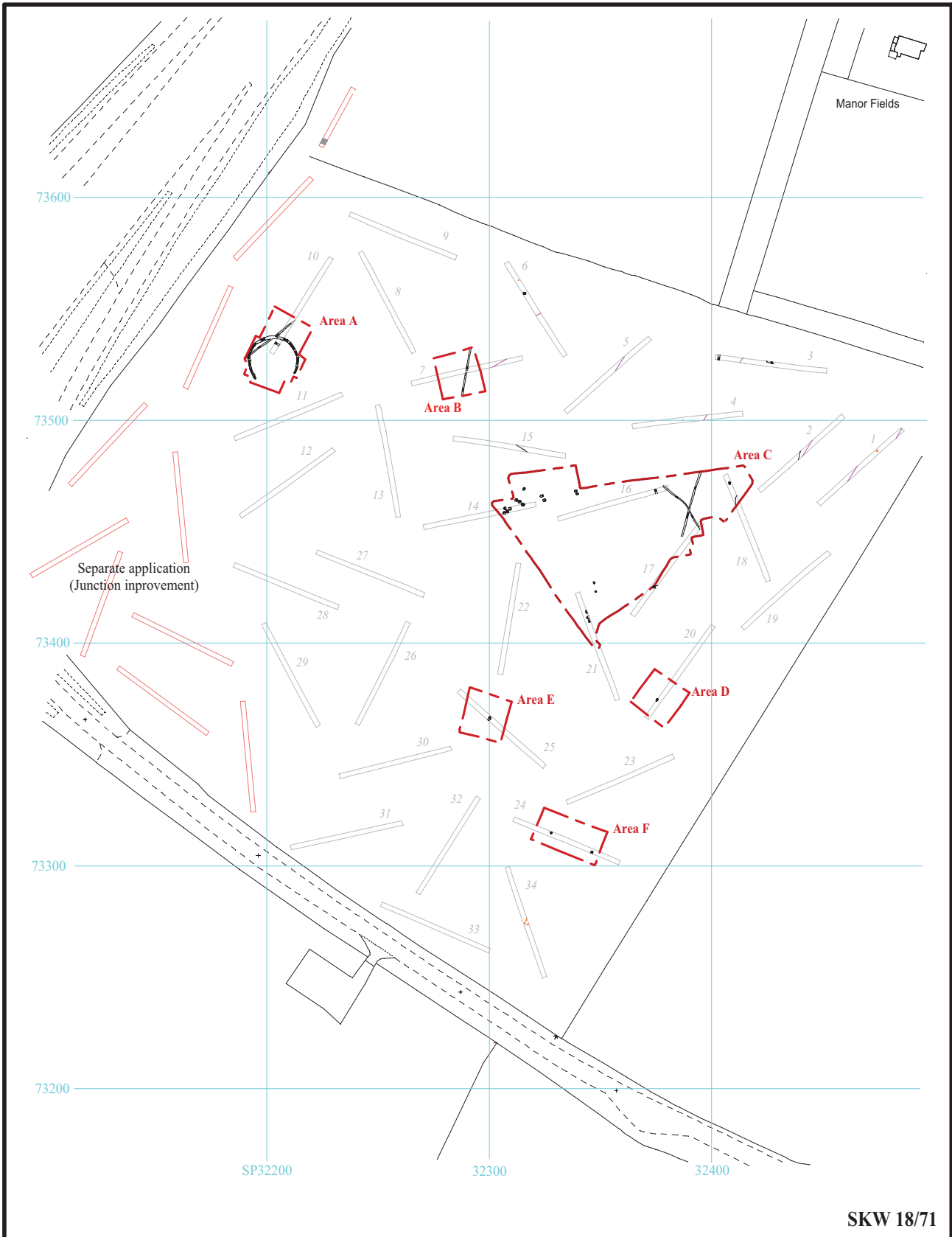


**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Stoneleigh and within Warwickshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved



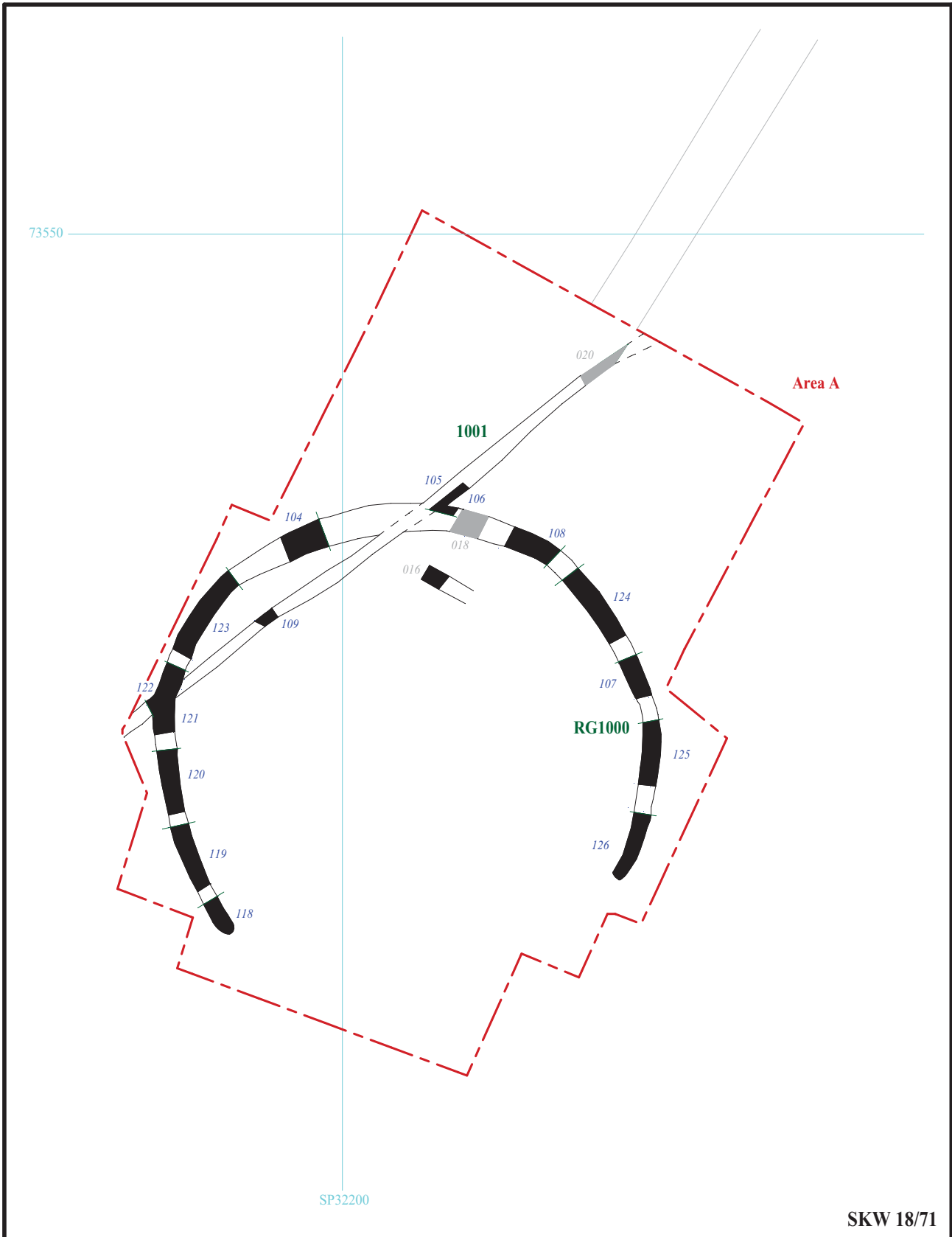


SKW 18/71

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Location of excavated areas.



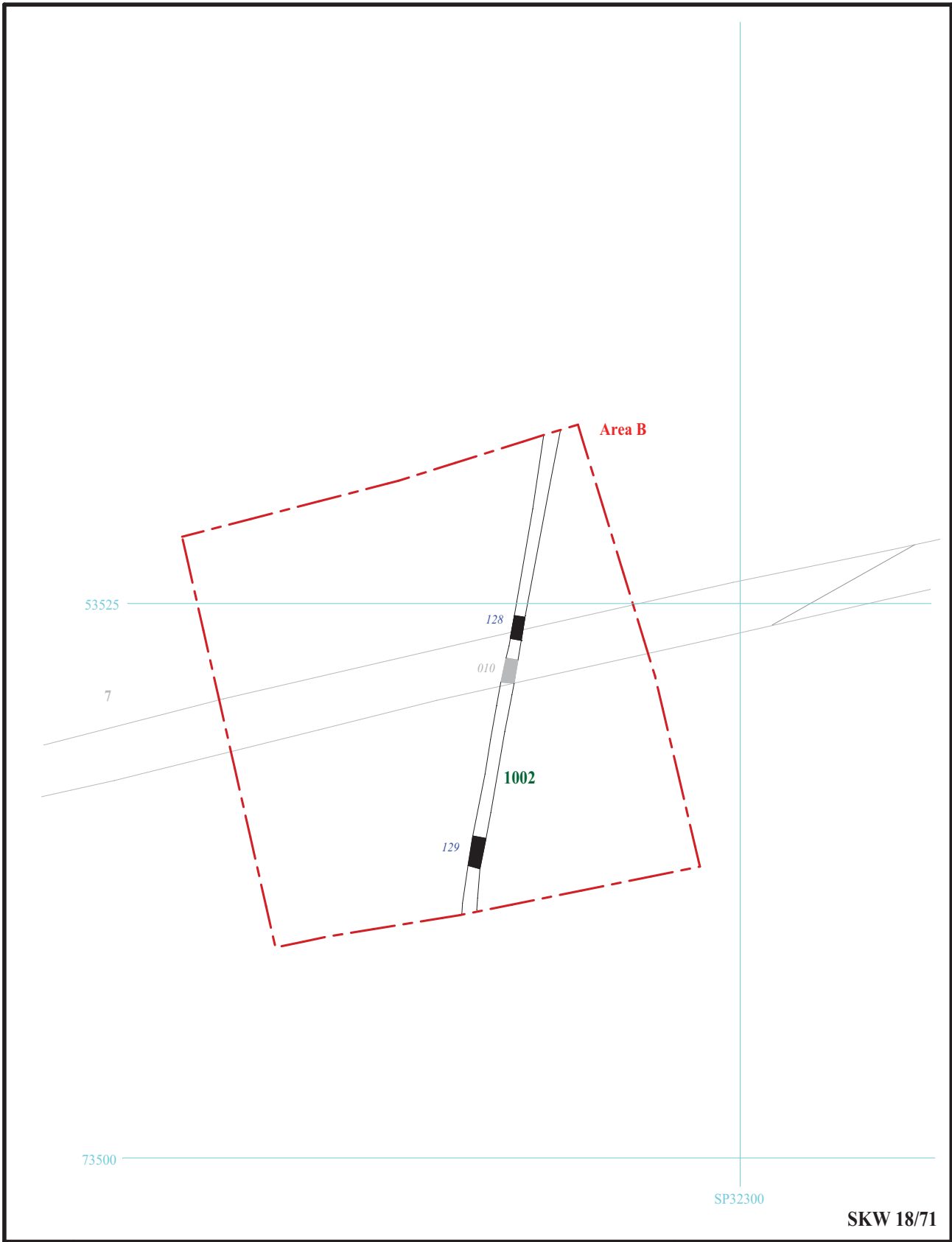


**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 3. Detail of Area A.



SKW 18/71



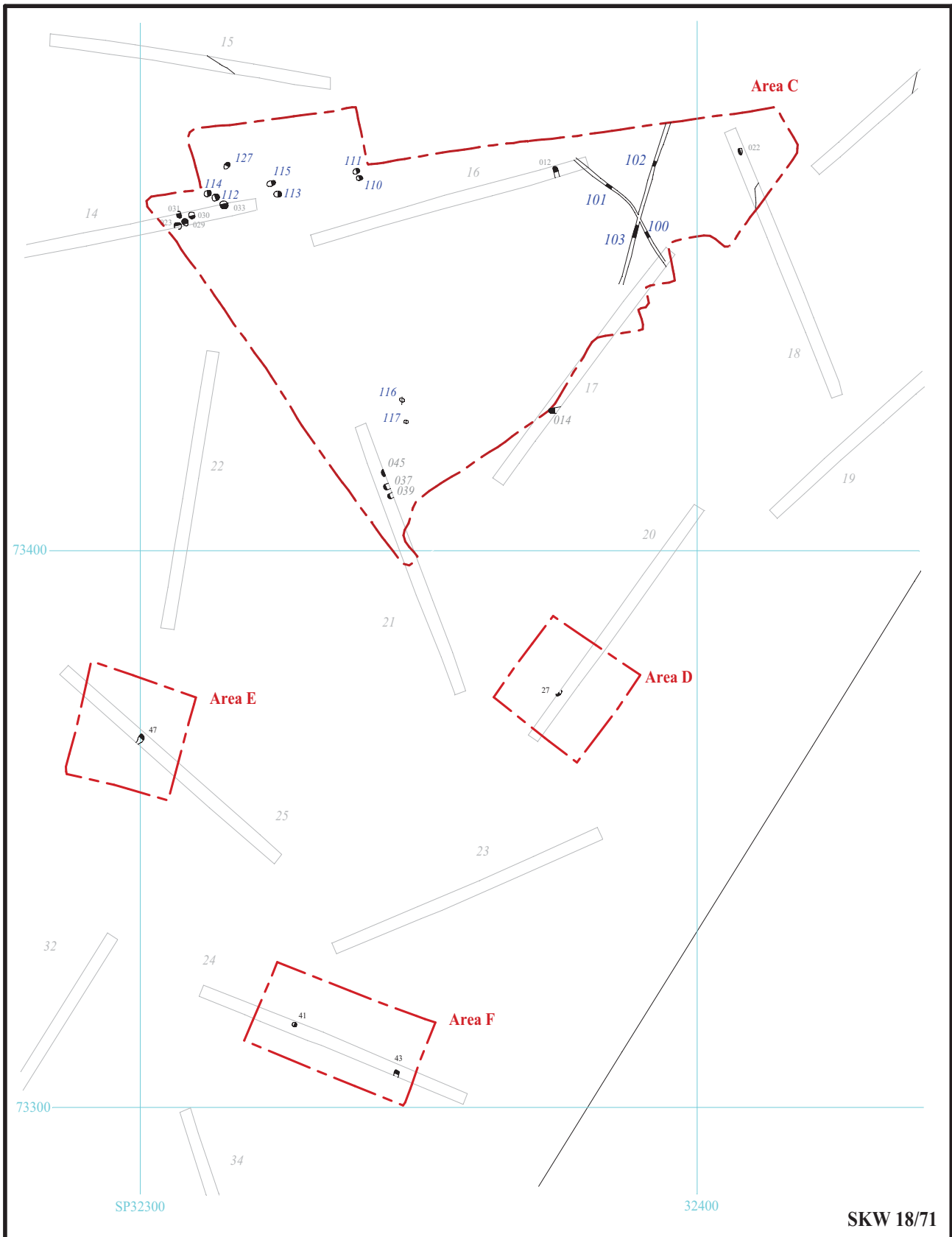
SKW 18/71



**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 4. Detail of Area B.



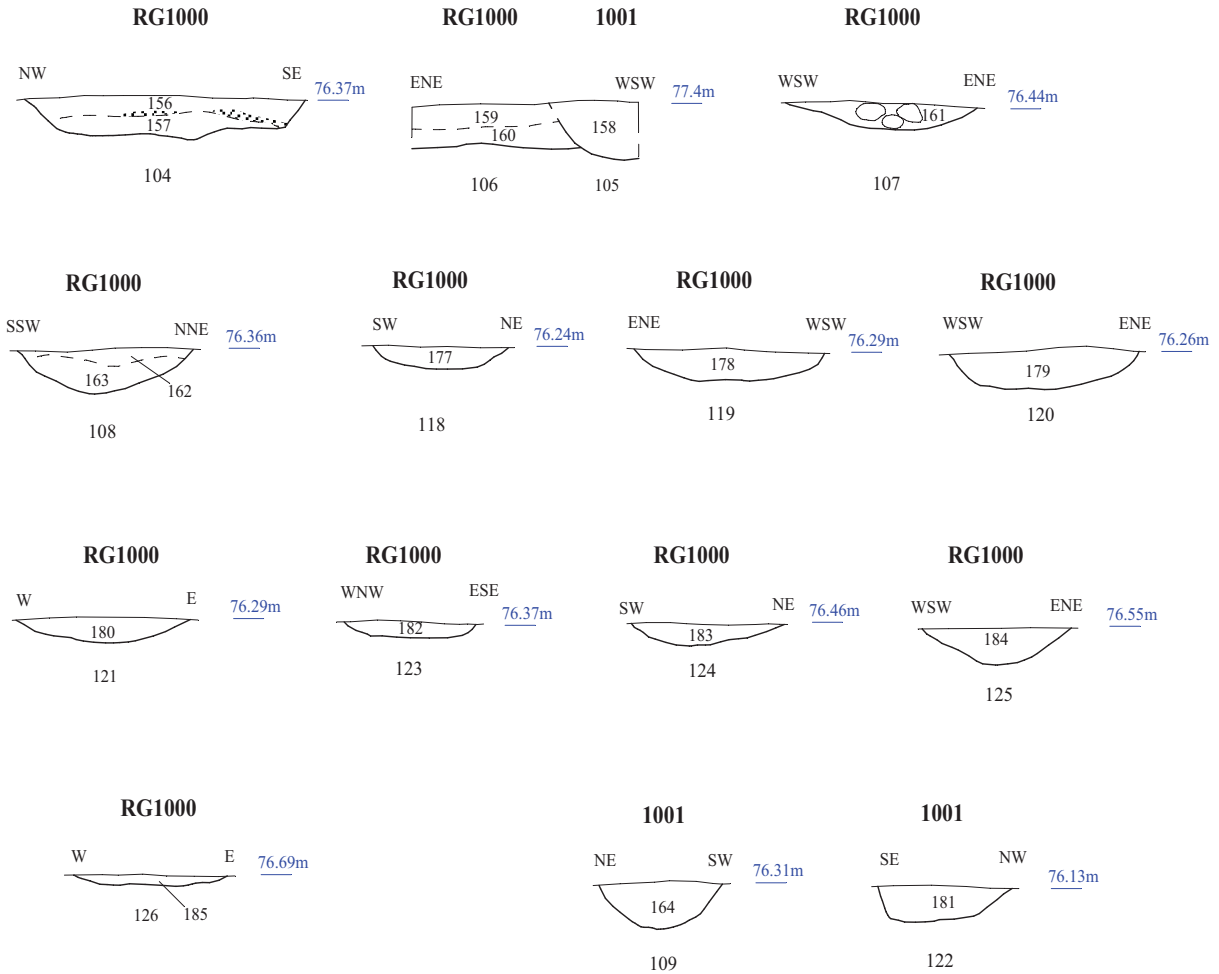


**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

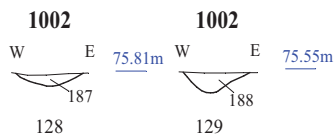
Figure 5. Detail of Area C - F.



AREA A



AREA B



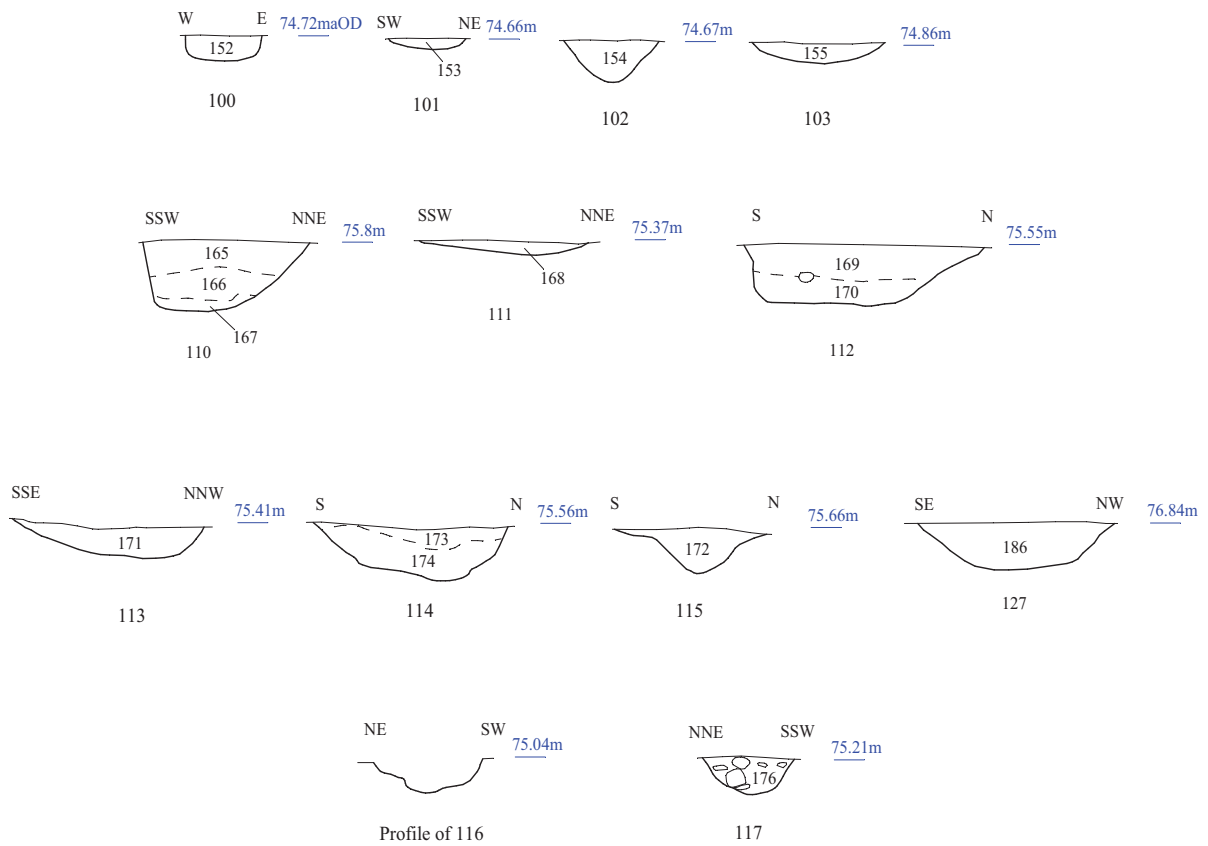
SKW 18/71

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 6. Areas A and B Sections.



AREA C



SKW 18/71

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 7. Area C Sections.





Plate 1. Area A, Ring gully 1000 (excavated), looking north, Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 2. Area A, Ring gully 1000, slot 104, looking north-east, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

SKW 18/71

**Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 and 2.**

T V A S

EAST MIDLANDS



Plate 3. Area A, Ring gully 1000, slot 107, looking north-west, Scales: 0.5 and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Area A, Ring gully 1000, slot 125, looking north-north-west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

SKW 18/71

Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Area B, Gully 1002, slot 129, looking south-south-west, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Area C, pit 127, looking south-west, Scales: 0.5 and 0.3m.

SKW 18/71

Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 5 and 6.





Plate 7. Area C, pit 116, looking east-south-east, Scales: 0.3 and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Area C, pit 117, looking east-south-east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

SKW 18/71

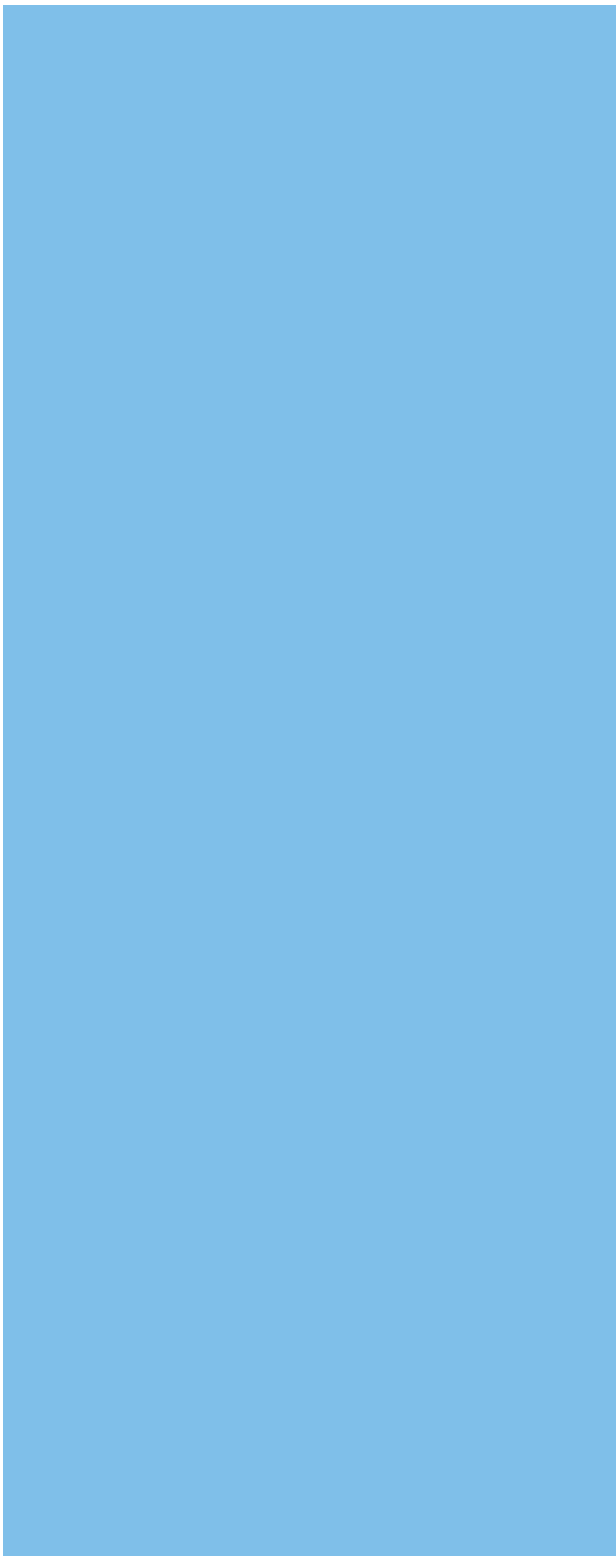
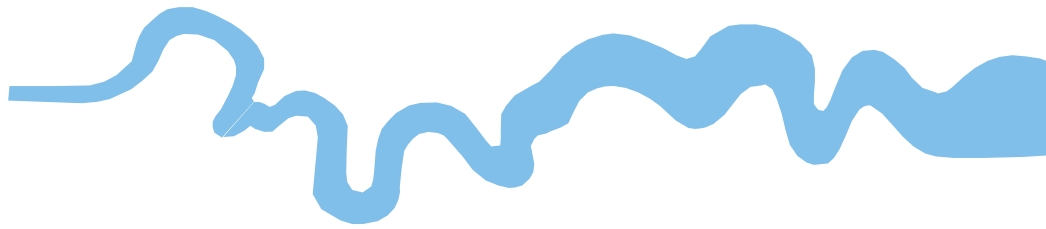
Land north of Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh,
nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 7 and 8.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





**TVAS (East Midlands),
4 Bentley Court, Wellingborough
Northamptonshire, NN8 4BQ**

**Tel: 01933 277 377
Email: eastmidlands@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/eastmidlands**

*Offices in:
Reading, Brighton, Taunton and Stoke-on-Trent*