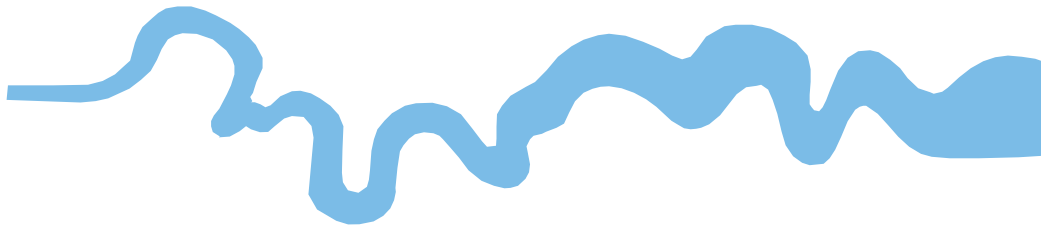


T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

**Land at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road,
Brinklow, Warwickshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Luis Esteves and Steve Ford

Site Code: BVQ16/67

(SP 4090 7900)

**Land at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road,
Brinklow, Warwickshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation
for Brinklow Quarry Ltd**

by Luis Esteves and Steve Ford

TVAS East Midlands

Site Code BVQ18/67

November 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Warwickshire

Grid reference: SP 4090 7900

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 2nd June to 24th August 2018

Project coordinator: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: BVQ18/67

Area of site: c. 3ha in seven areas within a 12ha application area

Summary of results: The excavation comprised seven area strips that were targeted at features found during an evaluation. The majority of features revealed were linear in nature and probably represent one or more field systems. Some of the linear features contained post-medieval artefacts and others corresponded with boundaries depicted on 19th-century maps. The majority of the features were technically undated but are also thought to be of post-medieval date due to similarities with the dated examples. Levelled medieval/post-medieval furrows were episodically encountered in the excavation areas.

Roman finds and artefacts from the excavation phase of the project were exclusively recovered from Area G, which corresponds with the main findings of the evaluation. The deposits comprised a shallow hollow or cluster of intercutting pits containing at its latest 2nd-3rd century AD pottery along with an L-shaped ditch, probably part of a rectangular enclosure. Residual Roman pottery was also recovered from nearby post-medieval features.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited with Warwickshire Museums Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston✓ 19.11.18

Land at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Warwickshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Luis Esteves

Report 18/67

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Warwickshire (SP 4090 7900) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage, Dairyhouse Lane, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 2PW on behalf of Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 0NJ.

Planning permission (application ref: RBC/16CM004) has been granted by Warwickshire County Council to extend the quarry to extract mineral. The planning permission has been granted with a condition (16) which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Martin-Bacon 2018) approved by Ms Anna Stocks, Archaeological Officer for Warwickshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves assisted by Luiciano Cicu, Helen Daniel, Andy Muddin, Joam Oliviera, Tom Stewart and David Wallace, between 2nd June and 24th August 2018 and the site code is BVQ 18/67. The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited at Warwickshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Brinklow is located between Rugby and Coventry with the site located west of the village itself (Fig. 1). The site was under pasture and lies on more or less level ground at a height of approximately 82m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Thrussington till (pebbly clay) to the south-west above Wolston clay (stone free silt and clay) to the north-east (BGS 2018).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in the written scheme of investigation for the project (Martin-Bacon 2018) drawing on the results of an earlier evaluation (Huxley 2017). In summary a

number of findspots in surrounding areas include two bronze statue heads from a location to the north and undated linear features are recorded from the air to the south. Fieldwork to the east during earlier phases of the quarry extraction revealed few features of archaeological interest. The recent evaluation for the site itself located a number of shallow cut features several of which contain Roman material with others of post-medieval date. A main area of interest identified by the evaluation (examined in Area E) located a number of postholes, a pit cluster, ditches and gullies with the ditches thought to form an enclosure of Roman date.

Objectives and methodology

The principal aim of the excavation was to characterize archaeological features and deposits which may survive within the area of development and interpret and fully characterize any phases of archaeological activity in any encountered remains. Based on the results of the trial trenching evaluation, seven areas of open excavation were proposed (Fig. 2: A-G). Topsoil and any other overburden was removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels by a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Archaeological features and deposits exposed were then excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

General aims of the project as outlined in the WSI were:

- to elucidate the results of the earlier evaluation;
- to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the target areas prior to development commencing;
- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological remains and their potential significance in accordance with NPPF 2012;
- to produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded;
- to establish the character of these features and deposits in order to define functional areas and spatial relationships between differing zones of activity;
- to produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region; and
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of publication.

Specific research objectives of the project as outlined in the WSI relate to:

- when the site was first occupied and is there evidence for multi-period activity beyond that of Roman and early prehistoric within the site;
- the date at which the Roman site was abandoned and why;
- the nature of the Roman settlement and any evidence for industrial and/or other activities;
- the date and nature of the archaeological features and deposits identified in the previous programme of trial trenching;
- the nature of the early prehistoric activity identified during the trial trenching, and whether it relates to settlement or transitory activity;
- any comparable contemporary settlement and/or activity in the vicinity;
- the date and nature of any landscape features encountered, for example, field boundaries, enclosures, and their spatial organisation;
- the chronology and pattern of any field systems uncovered;
- how landscape features relate to settlement spots;
- the palaeo-environmental setting of the area.

Results

Each of the areas was investigated as set out in the agreed scheme of works (Figs 3-8). The stratigraphy of the site primarily consisted of c. 0.25m of brown loam topsoil above c. 0.1m of subsoil above the natural geology.

Area A (Fig.3)

This area was lozenge-shaped and 1.225ha in extent. The stripping revealed four linear features and four pits.

Gullies 500 and 501

These two gullies were aligned north-south with a sinuous plan and were spaced 3.2m apart and appear to be a trackway. They were c. 67m long and both terminated within the trench at either end with neither end indicating a reason for the placement of this trackway here. It is possible that it is not a trackway but a double ditched boundary. However, it seems to be present in isolation.

Gully 500

Gully 500 was typically about 1m wide but only 0.1m deep (Fig. 7). It was investigated by seven slots (105, 111, 112, 114, 116, 118 and slot 44 in the evaluation) with post-medieval brick/tile recovered from slots 105,112, 116 and 44. Gully 500 seems to have been recut at its southern end (111) with an earlier version of the terminal bending to the south-west and crossing the line of gully 501.

Gully 501

Gully 501 was also about 1m wide and 0.1m deep (Fig. 7). It was investigated by six slots (108, 110, 113, 115, 117, 119). Post-medieval brick/tile was recovered from slots 115 and 117.

Gully 502

This gully was aligned NW-SE and cut across both 500 and 501. It was typically 1m wide and 0.1m deep. It was investigated by seven slots but contained no dating material though stratigraphically it is clearly of post-medieval or modern date.

Gully 120

This gully lay at the south end of the site aligned roughly east- west. It was located as slot 40 in evaluation trench 50. It was 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep but contained no dating evidence.

Pits

Four pits were recorded (121-124). They were 0.3m–1.2m across and 0.13m–0.71m deep with bowl-shaped profiles. They contained no dating evidence.

Area B

This area was L-shaped and 525 sq m in extent. The stripping revealed two linear features. A posthole was also found during the evaluation (Fig. 4).

Gully 503

Gully 503 was aligned N-S and extended beyond the baulks at either end. It was *c.* 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep. It was examined by four slots (126, 127, 129 and 42 from the evaluation). It contained no dating evidence.

Gully 504

Gully 504 was aligned NW-SE and also extended beyond the baulks at either end. It was *c.* 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep. It was examined by three slots (128, 130 and 46). It contained one tiny fragment of Roman pottery which does not necessarily date it closely. The relationship between ditches 503 and 504 was unclear.

Posthole

A single possible posthole (ev48) was found during the evaluation. It was undated.

Area C

This area was almost triangular in shape and 1244 sq m in extent. The stripping revealed two linear features (Fig. 4).

Gully 505

Gully 505 was aligned NE- SW and extended beyond both baulks. It was in part parallel to gully 506. It was *c.* 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. It was examined by three slots (131, 133 and 60). It contained no dating evidence.

Gully 506

Gully 506 was aligned NE- SW and its southern end terminated within the trench. It was up to 0.55m wide and up to 0.1m deep. It was examined by four slots (132,134, 135 and 58). It contained no dating evidence. It is possible that it was the same feature as gully 503 in Area B, although the gap between them is wide.

Area D

This area was roughly square and covered 460 sq m. The stripping revealed no additional features to add to a single undated pit (50) found in evaluation trench 31 (Fig. 5).

Area E

This area was rectangular and was 7940 sq m in extent. The stripping revealed three linear features (Fig. 5).

Gully 507

Gully 507 was aligned NE- SW and extended beyond both baulks with a slight curve to the south-west. It was parallel to 508 which lay just 3m to the west. It was *c.* 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. It was examined by three slots (145, 146 and evaluation slot 34). Slot 145 contained post-medieval brick/tile. This gully corresponds well with a field boundary depicted on the Enclosure map and Ordnance Survey First Edition map.

Gully 508

Gully 506 was aligned NE- SW parallel to 507. It curved sharply to the south-east and merged or more probably was cut by 507. It was up to 0.8m wide and up to 0.38m deep. It was examined by three slots (140, 143 and evaluation slot 38). It contained no dating evidence. As it is closely aligned with gully 507, it demarked the same boundary and thus is also of late post-medieval date. However its potential association with gully 509 brings this into question and it may be of Roman date.

Gully 509

Gully 509 was L-shaped in plan. It appeared to butt gully 508 leaving only a 0.5m gap. It was up to 0.9m wide and up to 0.33m deep. It was examined by nine slots (125, 136, 137, 138, 139 and 141 in the excavation and three in the evaluation: 11, 13 and 66). Some 75 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from slots 125, 136, 13 and 66 and is reasonably confidently considered to be of Roman date. However, the feature also produced a fragment of coal (slot 137), usually regarded as being indicative of late post-medieval date, although coal was used where locally available in Roman times as in this region. If 508 and 509 are associated then the parallel line of 508 with 507 is just a coincidence.

Hollow 204

This feature or complex of features was revealed in evaluation trench 25 (features 25-6, 32-3). It was *c.* 7.5m x 3.5m across with an irregular, lobate plan. It was only 0.24m deep and at its deepest had two fills. It produced 113 sherds of Roman pottery of 1st –early 3rd century date all from the evaluation features.

Postholes and pit

A single possible posthole (36) was found during the evaluation. It was undated but contained a few charcoal flecks. Possible pit 30 also contained charcoal flecks but was undated. Feature 15 was also located during the evaluation and contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. However, the excavation did not confirm its form as being a ditch but is possibly a natural hollow or elongated pit..

Furrows

Two furrows (142,144) were investigated in this trench to confirm their nature and interpretation.

Area F

This area was square in shape and 890 sq m in extent. The stripping revealed no additional features to add to a single undated pit (23) found in evaluation trench 28 (Fig. 5).

Area G

This area was of irregular shape and 6600 sq m in extent. The stripping revealed two linear features (Fig. 6). A pit and two postholes were recorded in the evaluation.

Gully 510

Gully 510 was aligned E- W and extended beyond both baulks. It was up to 1m wide and up to 0.53m deep. It was examined by six slots (147-149, 200-1, evaluation slot 3). It contained no dating evidence.

Gully 511

Gully 511 was aligned E- W and extended beyond both baulks. It was up to 0.8m wide and up to 0.24m deep. It was examined by two slots (202-3). It contained no dating evidence.

Postholes

Postholes 7 and 9 were found in evaluation trench 4. Neither contained dating evidence other than a few flecks of charcoal.

Pit 5

Pit 5 was found in evaluation trench 1. It contained no dating evidence.

Finds

Roman Pottery by Alice Lyons

Introduction

A total of 53 sherds (578g) of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavations, to add to a larger group from the evaluation (Table 1). No complete vessels were found, and the fragmentary remains are severely abraded with an average sherd weight of only *c.* 11g. The pottery is similar in character, although less abraded, than the ceramic material retrieved in the same area during evaluation (Johnson 2017).

Table 1. The evaluation and excavation assemblages compared

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Sherd Count</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>	<i>Publication</i>
Evaluation	120	620	51.75	
Excavation	53	578	48.25	This report

The pottery was analysed following national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016). The pottery was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x15 magnification and classified using the Warwickshire County series for Roman pottery, with reference to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Coarse ware

The majority of pottery recovered during this excavation are locally produced utilitarian sandy reduced ware jar and storage pottery fragments. Most of the material found was typologically undiagnostic body and base sherds

with only one large rolled rim from a globular storage jar (30cm rim diameter) identified. No decoration or surface residues survive.

Table 2. The Roman pottery

<i>Area</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Fabric: Warwickshire fabric codes [National Roman Fabric Reference]</i>	<i>Forms</i>	<i>No Sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
B	Ditch 504	Sandy reduced fabrics: R20	Fragment	1	0.5
E	Ditch 509	Sandy reduced fabrics: R20	Jar and storage jar	49	507
		Mancetter-Hartshill: M22 [(MAH WH)]	Mortaria	2	68
		Central Gaulish Samian: SAMCG [LEZ SA 2]	Dish	1	3

Fine ware: samian

A single small fragment from a Central Gaulish dish was found.

Specialist ware: mortaria

Two body fragments from a single Mancetter-Hartshill white ware *mortarium*, with distinctive grey grog trituration grits, was recovered. This vessel dates to the second half of the 2nd century, possibly into the early 3rd century, AD.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage is small, severely abraded and not in good condition. Even so analysis has revealed, in addition to locally produced sandy reduced ware jars and storage jars, the presence of both Mancetter-Hartshill *mortarium* and a Central Gaulish samian dish - which suggest an assemblage date of the second half of the 2nd century AD. It should be noted that nearly all the pottery was retrieved from Area E – the same area as most pottery was found during the evaluation and a similar range of mid-Roman fabrics and forms were found. The small size of this material is consistent with an assemblage that has not been deliberately placed, rather it is probably residual within later deposits.

The presence of this material, although heavily post-depositionally disturbed, indicates a nearby Roman settlement, with access to local, regional and imported pottery, that was depositing material during the later 2nd century AD. As such it adds to the growing corpus of ceramic data and increases our understanding of Roman pottery use and deposition in the region.

Charred plant remains

Twenty-five soil samples of 8-40L were collected during the excavation to be sieved for the recovery of charred plant remains and artefacts. The samples were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh then air dried. No artefacts were recovered and only a few flecks of unidentified charcoal were observed.

Conclusion

The fieldwork was carried out as intended. It revealed a number of mainly linear features which are thought to represent one or more field systems of post-medieval date. Several of the boundaries corresponded with some shown on the enclosure and First Edition Ordnance Survey maps. The majority of the features were undated but on occasion produced brick/tile and stratigraphic relationships. Vestigial traces of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow were observed episodically across the site.

The anticipation of extensive Roman occupation deposits, as suggested by the evaluation results, was not realised. Roman finds and artefacts from the excavation phase of the project were exclusively recovered from the vicinity of the main findings of the evaluation and examined here in Area G with the exception of a single tiny sherd in Area B. The deposits revealed comprised a shallow hollow or cluster of intercutting pits of 2nd /early 3rd century date AD, a ditch and a pit or scoop.

Interpretation of these deposits is unclear. The paucity of other contemporary features seems to argue against them being a typical occupation site, and much of the pottery recovered was small and abraded indicating a lack of primary deposition. Bone did not survive on the site but in any case the hollow features seem unlikely candidates for rubbish disposal pits. It is a frequent observation that house sites are rarely recorded on rural Roman sites, presumably because of shallow foundations which are easily subject to plough erosion. Perhaps an occupation site at this location was short-lived, with no need for the digging of numerous deep features and therefore with later ploughing removing most traces.

A final suggestion is that it is possible to suggest that they are small quarries despite the small output of mineral. Several shallow, irregular but large area hollows are recorded in the archaeological literature such as the 'working hollows' of Iron Age into Roman times as at Little Woodbury or Winnall Down (Bersu 1940; Fasham, 1985). Perhaps these are of similar function here but located away from the core of an occupied area.

The assignment of ditch 509 to the Roman period on the basis of the large number of pottery sherds recovered from several different excavated slots seems straightforward. However, its spatial association with ditches 508 and 507 initially led to the suggestion that 509 too was of post-medieval date. On balance it is now concluded that both ditches 509 and 508 are of Roman date and that ditch 507 of post-medieval is coincidentally on the same alignment.

On the basis of the results of the excavation and previous evaluation it is considered likely that the modest density of artefacts and deposits recorded indicate that the Roman activity on the site was marginal to a principal

occupied settlement, located elsewhere but that these deposits reflect activities of uncertain function which took place within an organised landscape of field boundaries.

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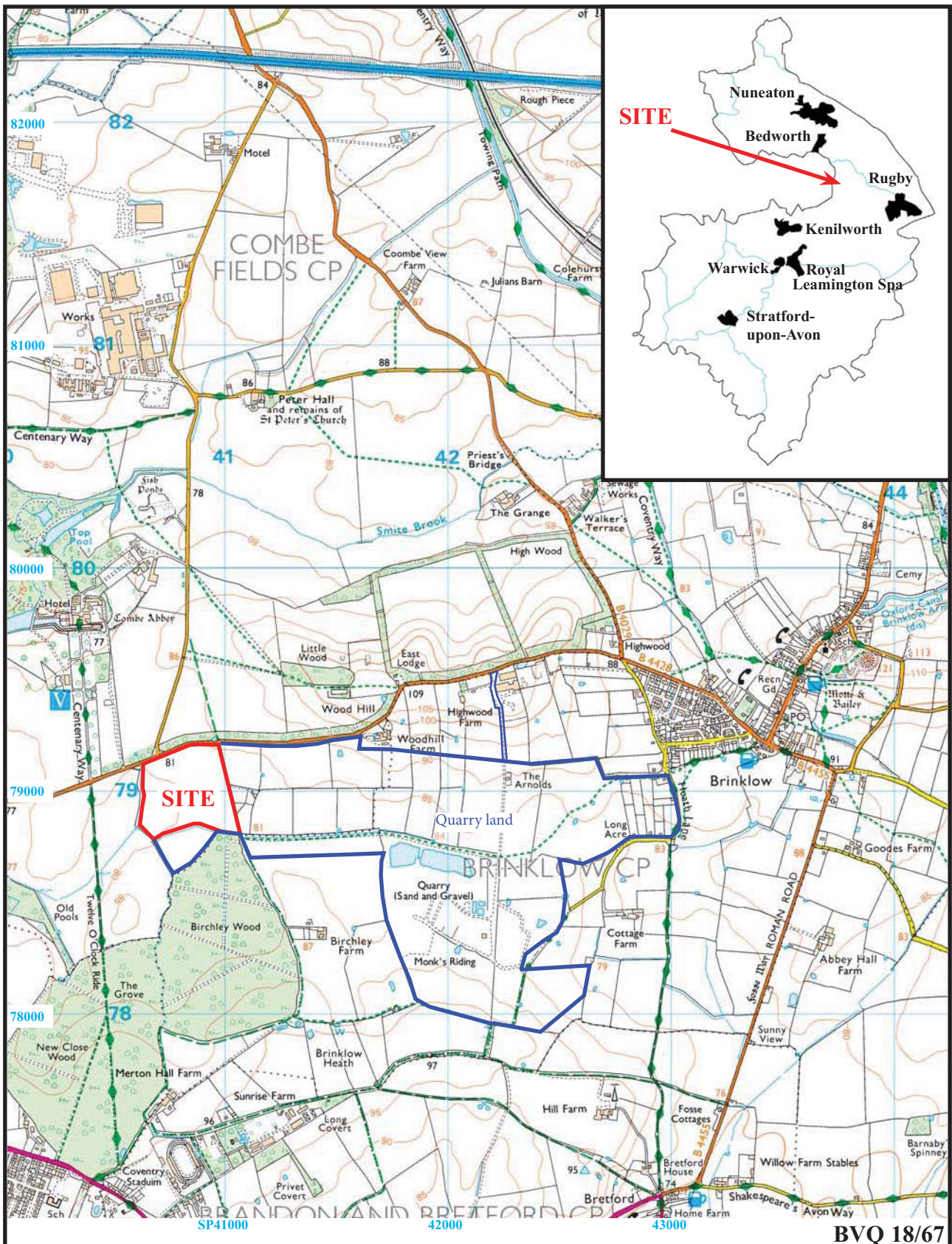
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APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Area</i>	<i>Cutt</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
A	101	150	502	Gully		
A	102	151	502	Gully		
A	103	152	502	Gully		
A	104	153	502	Gully terminal		
A	105	154	500	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
A	106	155	502	Gully		
A	107	156	502	Gully		
A	108	157	501	Gully		
A	109	158	500	Gully terminal		
A	110	159	501	Gully terminal		
A	111	160	500	Gully terminal		
A	112	161	500	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
A	113	162	501	Gully		
A	114	163	500	Gully terminal		
A	115	164	501	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
A	116	165	500	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
A	117	166	501	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
A	118	167	500	Gully terminal		
A	119	168	501	Gully terminal		
A	120	169		Gully		
A	121	170		Pit		
A	122	171		Pit		
A	123	172		Pit		
A	124	173		Pit		
E	125	174	509	Gully	Roman or later	Pottery
B	126	175	503	Gully		
B	127	176	303	Gully		
B	128	177	504	Gully		
B	129	178	503	Ditch	Roman or later	Pottery
B	130	179	504	Gully		
C	131	180	505	Gully		
C	132	181	506	Gully		
C	133	182	505	Gully		
C	134	183	506	Gully		
C	135	184	506	Gully		
E	136	185	509	Gully	Roman or later	Pottery
E	137	186	509	Gully		
E	138	187	509	Gully		
E	139	188	509	Gully		
E	140	189	508	Gully		
E	141	190	509	Gully		
E	142	191		Furrow	Medieval?	Form
E	143	192	508	Gully		
E	144	193		Furrow	Medieval?	Form
E	145	194	507	Ditch	Post-medieval on OS map	Brick/tile
E	146	195	507	Gully		
G	147	196	510	Gully		
G	148	197	510	Gully		
G	149	198	510	Gully		
G	200	199	510	Gully		
G	201	250	510	Gully		
C	202	251	511	Gully		
C	203	252	511	Gully		
E	204	253		Hollow	Roman or later	pottery

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Roman Pottery by context

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Warwickshire Fabric code</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Dsc</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Abrasion</i>	<i>Date</i>
509	125	174	R20	SGW(BLUE)	RU	SJAR	8	131	Severe	LC1-MC2
509	125	174	R20	SGW(Q)	RU	JAR	15	42	Severe	MC1-MC2
509	136	185	R20	SGW(BLUE)	UB	JAR	24	330	Severe	LC1-MC2
509	136	185	M22	SOW(Q)	U	MORT	2	68	Moderate	M/LC2
509	136	185	SAM CG	SAM CG	U	DISH	1	3	Very Severe	C2
509	136	185	R20	SGW(Q)	U	JAR/BOWL	2	4	Severe	MC1-C2
504	128	177	R20	SGW(Q)	U	FRAG	1	0	Very Severe	C2

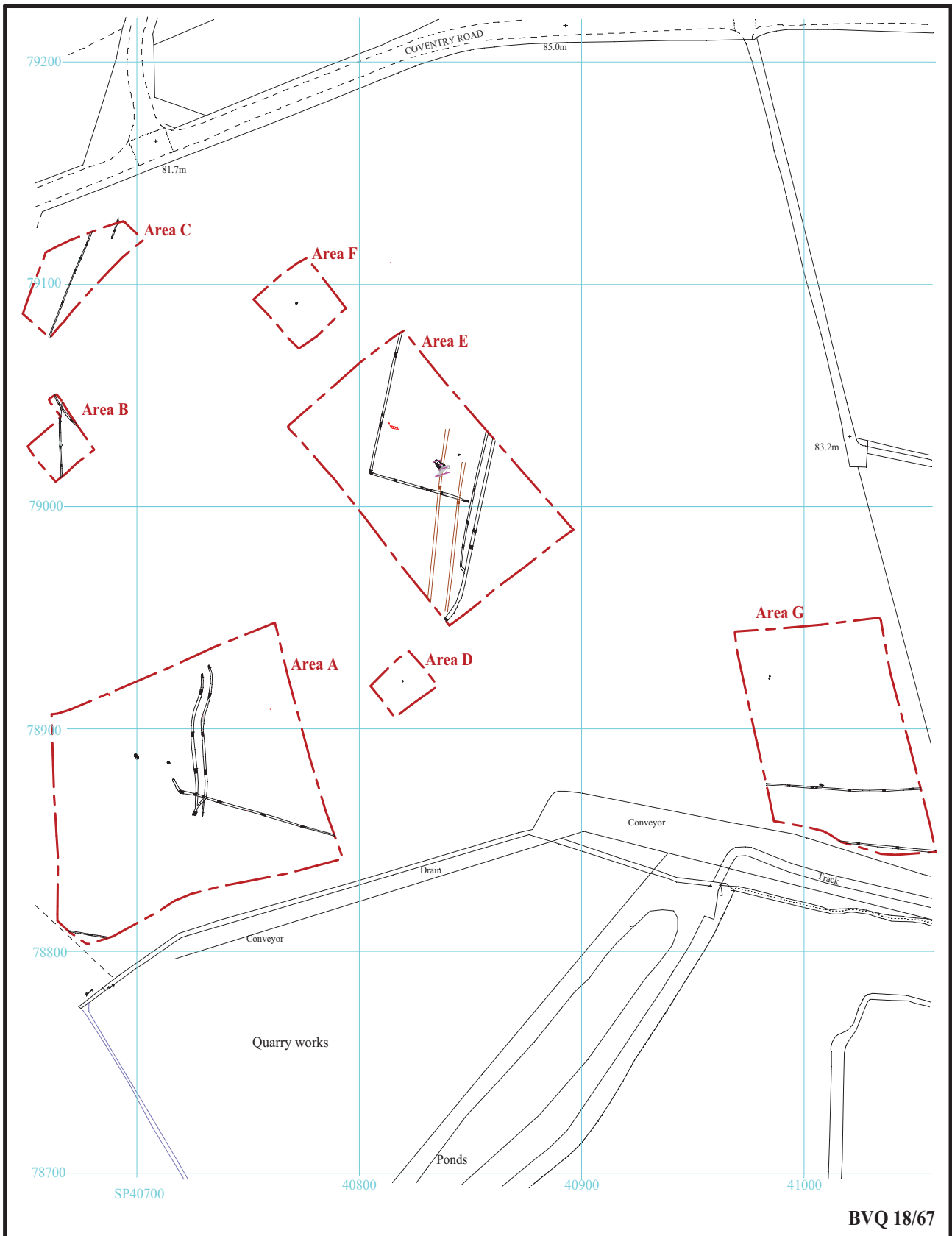


**Land at Brinklow Quarry, Brinklow,
nr Coventry, Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

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

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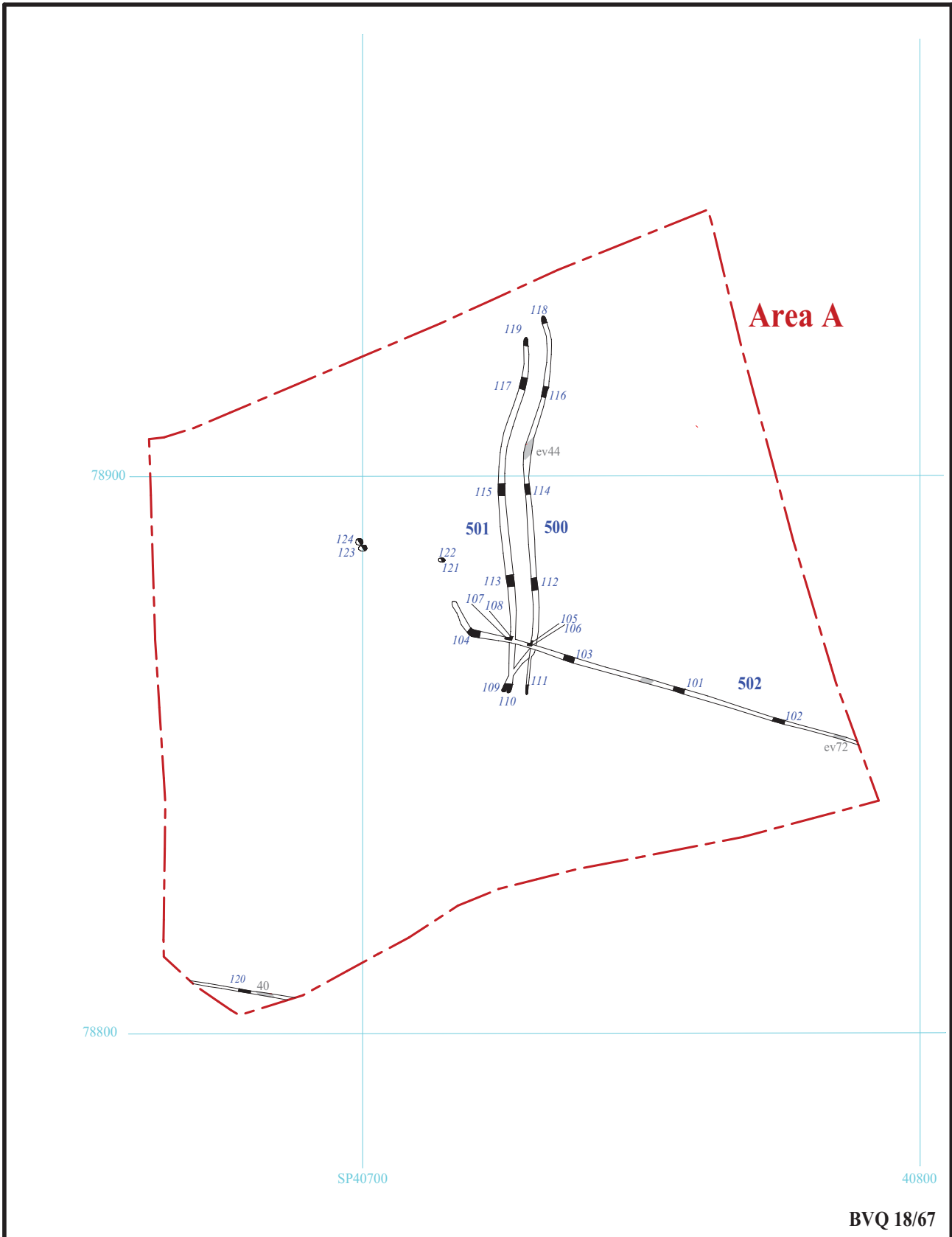




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Figure 2. Location of excavation areas within site.





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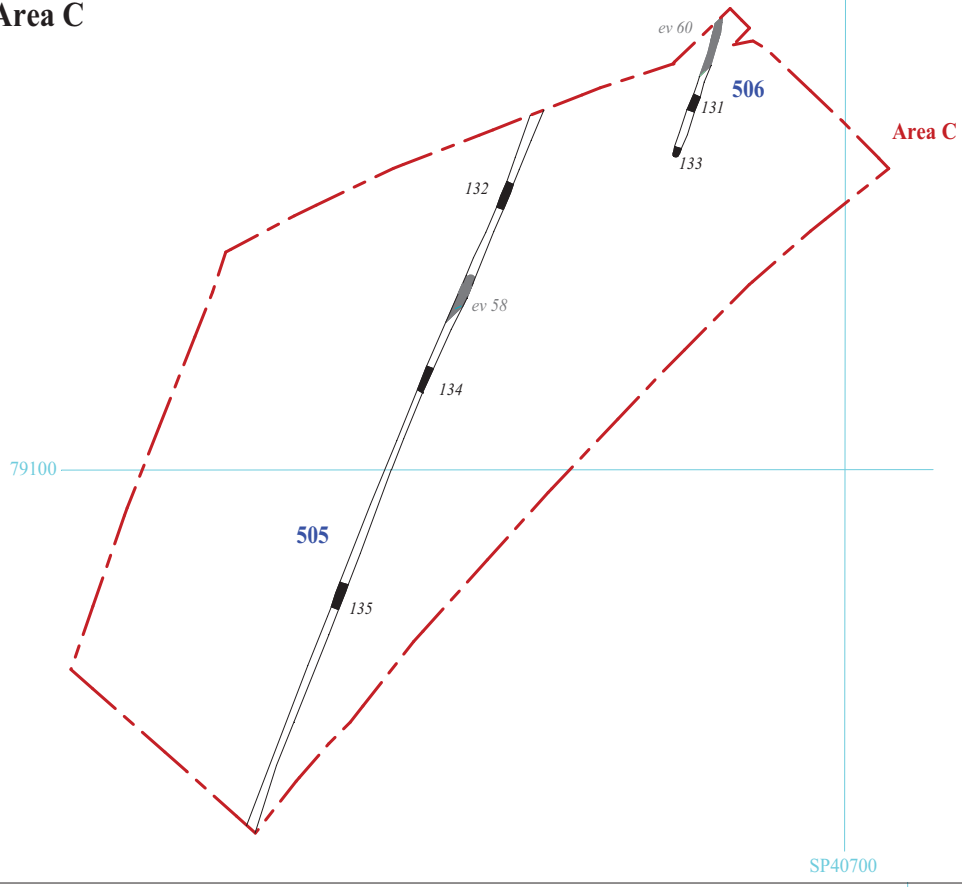


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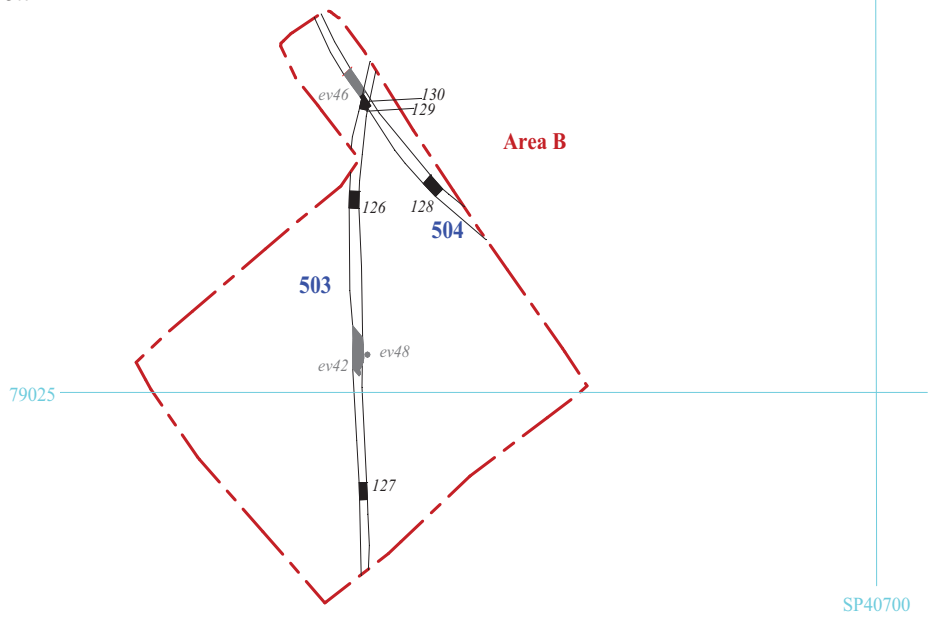
Figure 3. Area A.



Area C



Area B



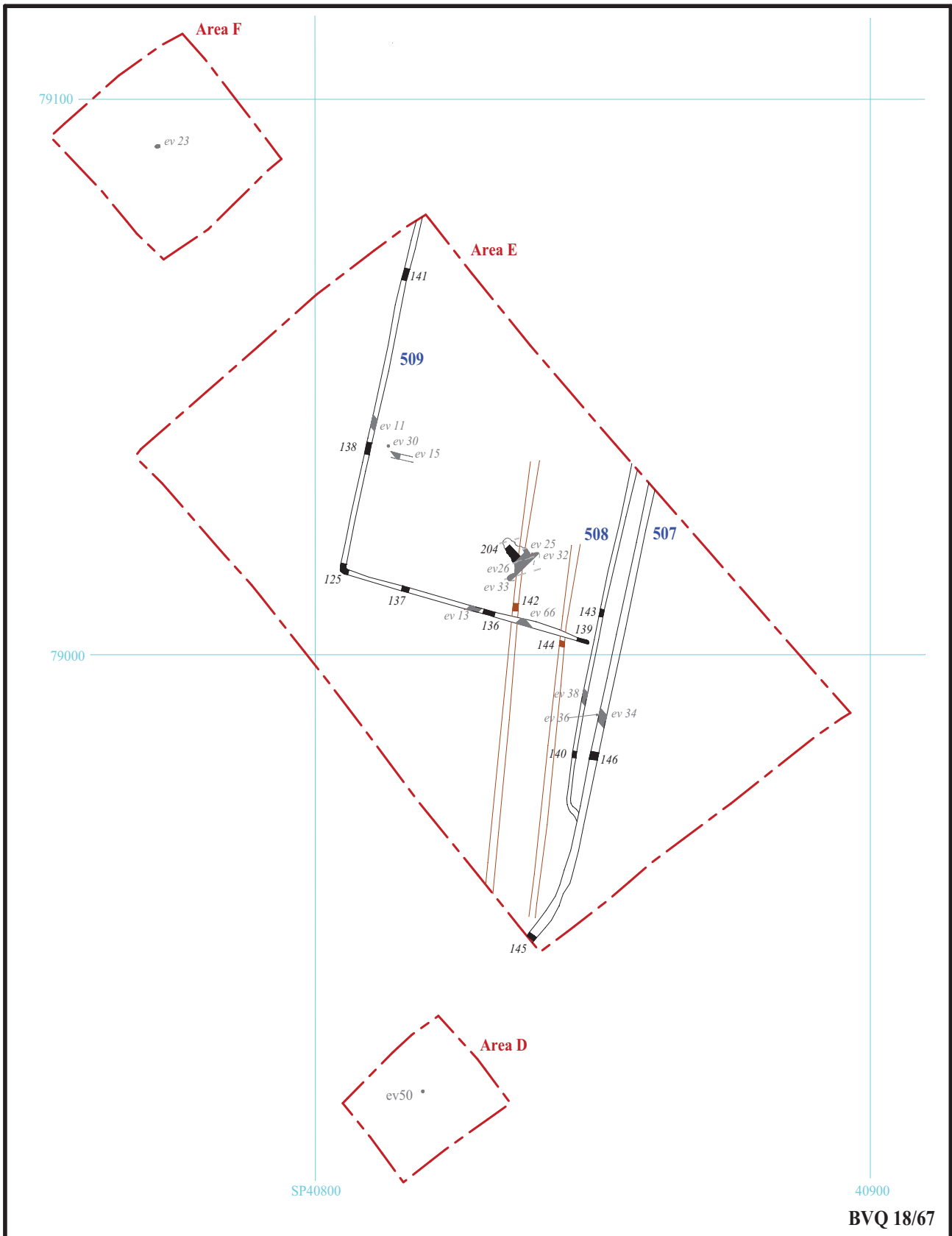
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Figure 4. Area B and C. Evaluation numbers in green,
excavation numbers in blue.





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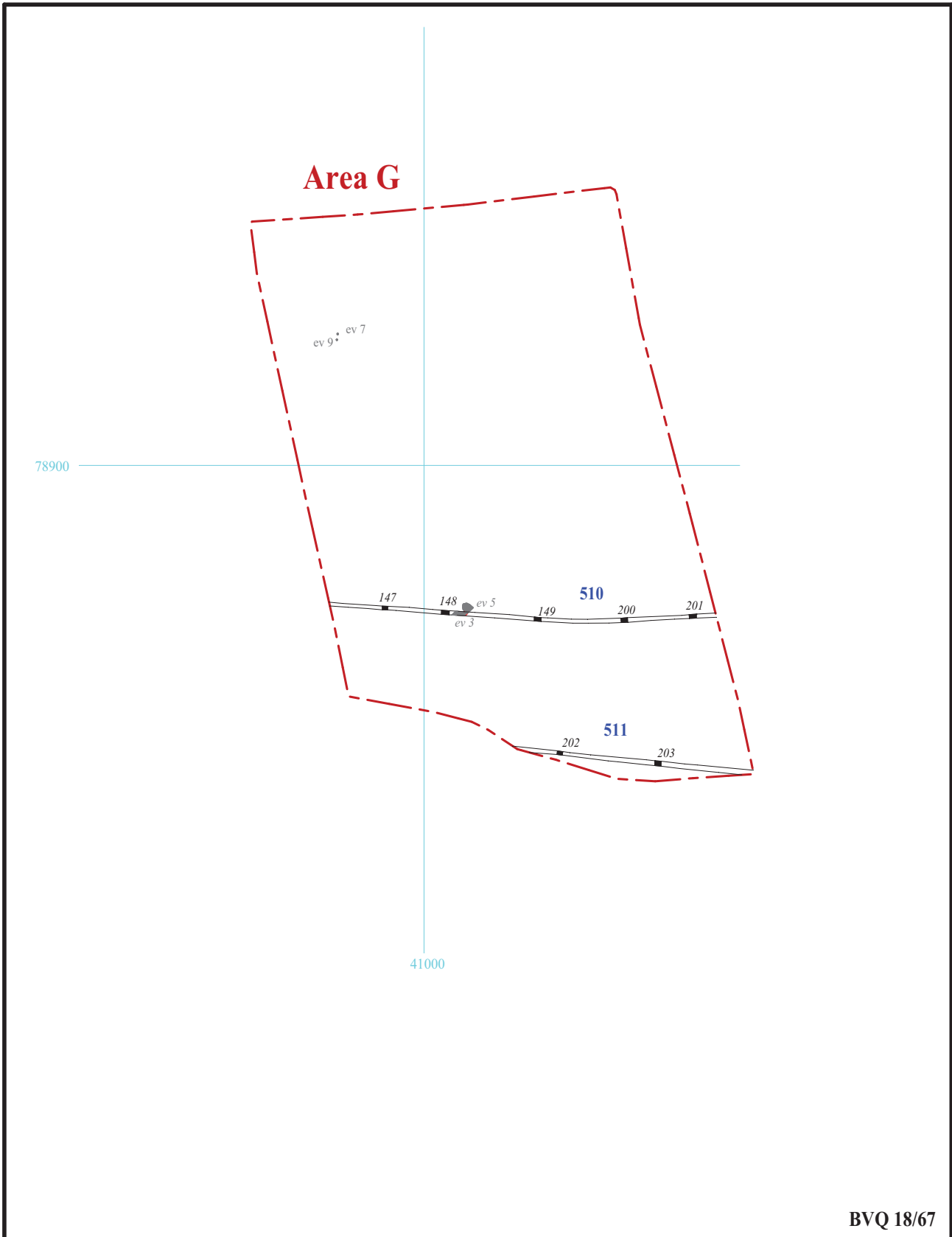


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Figure 5. Area D, E and F.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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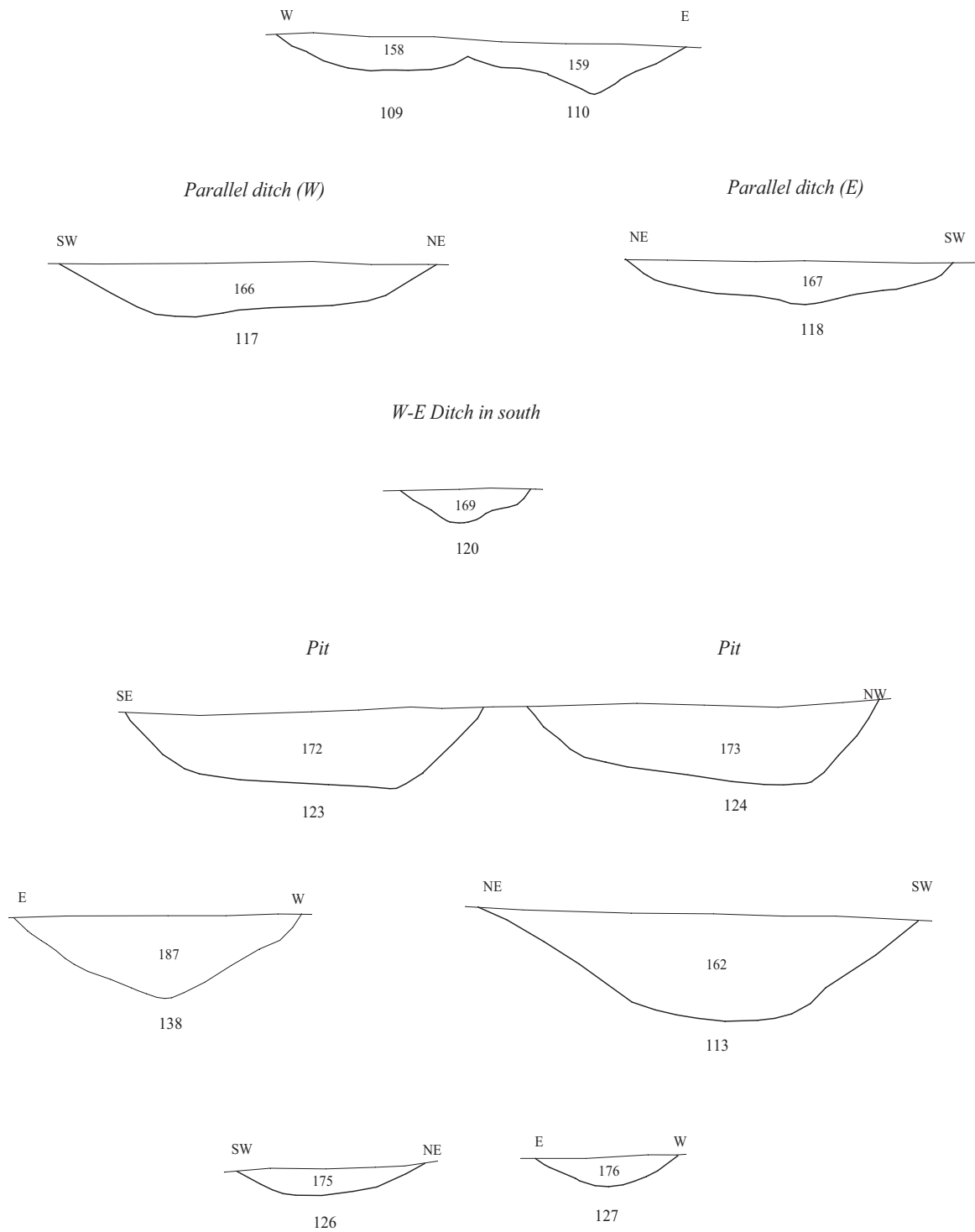


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Figure 6. Area G.



Area A

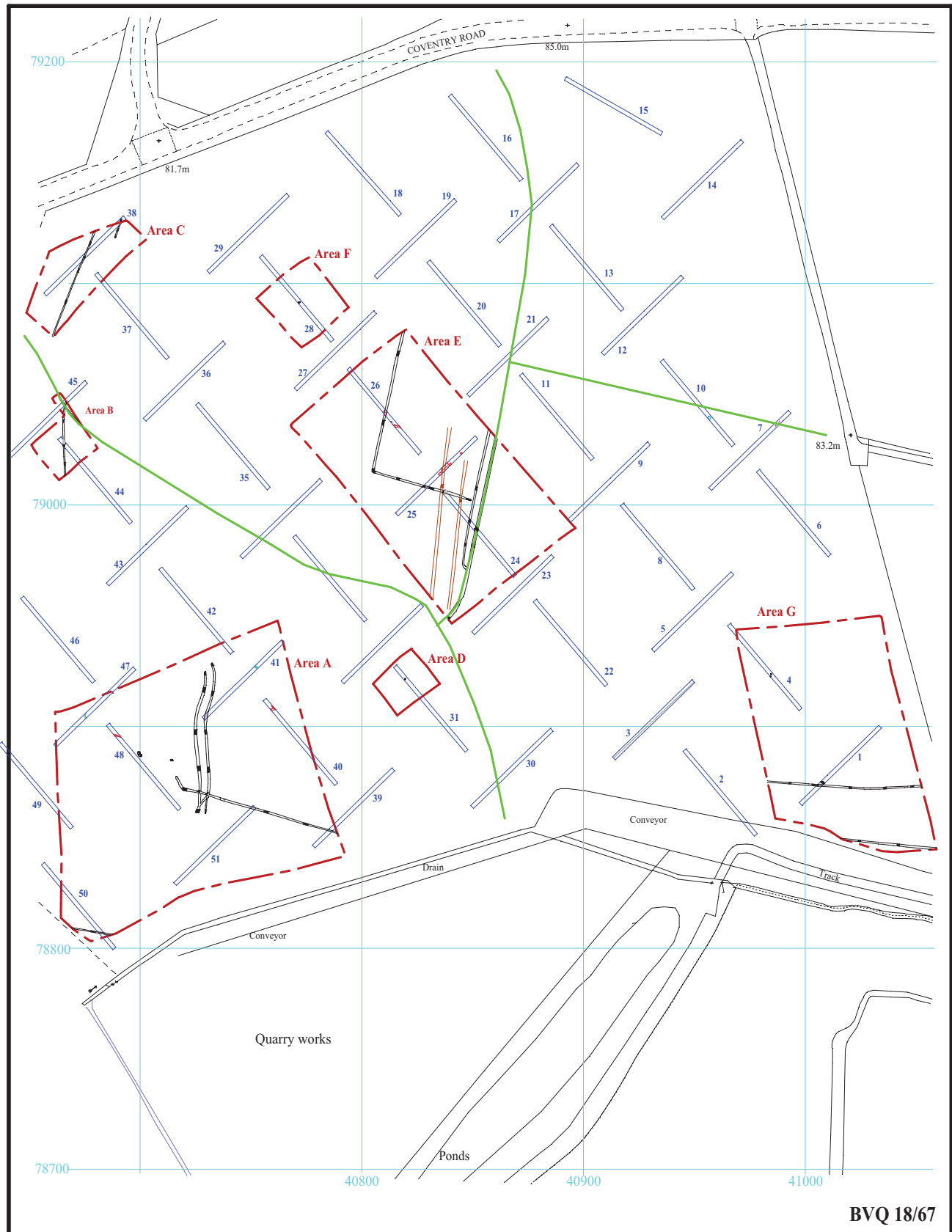


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Figure 7. Sections.





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**Land at Brinklow Quarry, Brinklow,
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Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 8. Location of excavation areas (red) within site; showing field boundaries from First Edition Ordnance Survey map (in green) and evaluation trenches (blue).





Plate 1. Area A, looking north west,
Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 2. Area B, looking west north west,
Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 1. Area C, looking north west,
Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 4. Example of pottery found from excavations.

BVQ 18/67

**Land at Brinklow Quarry, Brinklow,
Warwickshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 - 4.**

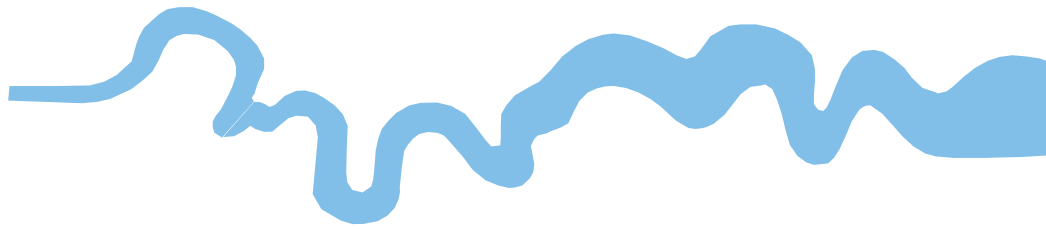
T V A S

EAST MIDLANDS

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





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