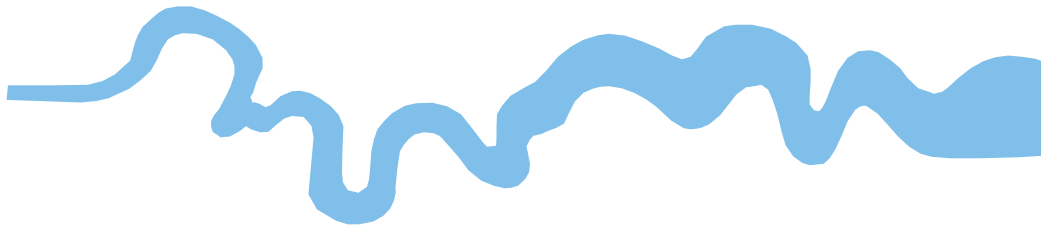


**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Binnegar Lane,  
Wareham, Dorset Area B2**

**Extraction phases 1B part and 1C**

**Archaeological Excavation**

**by Andrew Weale**

**Site Code: BQW15/273**

**(SY 8877 8743)**

**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension,  
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset, Area B2**

**Phases 1B part and 1C  
Archaeological Excavation**

**for**

**Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd**

by Andrew Weale  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code

BQW 15/273

**February 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset Area B2

**Grid reference** SY 8877 8743

**Site activity:** Excavation

**Date and duration of project:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Project manager:** Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

**Site supervisor:** Mariusz Paszkiwicz, Andrew Weale, Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

**Site code:** BQW 15-/73

**Area of site:** c.3.3 ha

**Summary of results:** No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed. A small number of modern features disturbed parts of the site

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS Southwest, Taunton and will be deposited with Dorchester Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 18.02.19 Steve Preston ✓ 18.02.19
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# **Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset Area B2 Archaeological Excavation phases 1B part and 1C**

by Andrew Weale

**Report 15/273b**

This report documents the results of an excavation and watching brief carried out in 2017 and 2018 at Binnegar Quarry. Planning permission (6/2015/0421) has been gained from Dorset County Council to extract mineral from a c. 13.ha parcel of land at Binnegar Quarry, Binnegar Lane, Dorset (SY885 875) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Robert Westell on behalf of Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd, 160 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3AR. The consent includes a condition (23) relating to archaeology as guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the County Council Mineral Policies. The report deals with part of extraction phase 1B, phase 1C (Fig 2).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist of Dorset County Council. The project was funded by Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd and managed by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz. The fieldwork was supervised by Mariusz Paszkiewicz, Andrew Weale and Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz. The fieldwork took place between 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and the Site Code is BQW 15/273. Nicholas Dawson together with author prepared plans and figures.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with Dorset Museum Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Binnegar Quarry is 3km west of Wareham, Dorset, the greater part of which lies on the north side of Puddletown Road (Fig. 1). The extension is to the south of the road and east of Binnegar Lane. The site of the exaction and watching brief is to the east of the current quarry workings (Fig. 2). It is a mixture of heathland, plantation and rhododendron. The site is level in the north and south west (approximately 34 m aOD) but a dry valley runs from the western boundary with the current quarry works running south east across the site to approximately 24.5m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Quaternary River Terrace Deposits, 8 - Sand and Gravel which overlies Paleogene Broadstone Sand Member -sedimentary sand (BGS 2001).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a cultural heritage assessment (AJA 2015). In summary the site lies in an area rich in archaeological sites and finds. There are numerous barrows of late Neolithic/Bronze Age date, many of which occur in discrete groups probably representing small cemeteries. Such a group lies about 500m to the north of the site on Farm Heath in East Stoke, comprising 5 mounds. At least three mounds are bowl barrows and a further two are possibly either further barrows or natural gravel mounds. Two barrows lying just to the south of the Site on high ground overlooking the Frome valley are heavily overgrown. Their location was visited as part of the cultural assessment guided by GPS, and one mound probably located. A group of three barrows to the south east of the site contains two bowl and one bell barrow. In addition to these well-defined groups several further round barrows are also recorded overlooking both the Frome and the Piddle valley reflecting the significance of this location for higher status burial in the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age. Other than the funerary monuments an area of possible prehistoric field system was identified from aerial photographs to the south west of the site. It comprises enclosure, field boundaries, pits and trackways and is not closer dated than late Prehistoric. A group of trackways to the north-east of Stokeford Farm may be prehistoric but the nature of the landscape means they might equally be related to more recent gravel extraction. A similar ambiguity also exists with the trackways identified on South Heath.

Battery Bank runs across the site and can be traced discontinuously for a total length of 5.5km. Where well preserved it comprises a bank up to about 1m high, about 8m wide at the base and with a ditch visible at both ends. This earthwork runs along and below a ridge between Stoke Heath and Jubilee Plantation. An evaluation trench was excavated across the course of Battery Bank using an old break within it as a proposed access route to the new quarry workings (Tabor and Weale 2015). The evaluation showed that previous use of make-up layers and geotextile sheet had been effective in protecting the Battery Bank scheduled monument. The work also identified historic rutting on top of the possible residual bank material and a massive ditch, presumably the original quarry ditch for the bank's construction, which had been re-cut on a smaller scale parallel to its northern edge. No dating was found for the ditch and re-cuts, nor for the construction of the bank or its subsequent breaching.

Roman pottery (Black burnished ware and New Forest ware) found to the south of the site in 1947. The material appears to have been recovered with some worked flints but no indication of contemporary Roman occupation was recorded.

No medieval activity is specifically recorded near the site although the post medieval Holme Bridge is almost certainly on the site of an earlier medieval bridge mentioned in 1530.

There is a large amount of evidence of post-medieval to early modern gravel extraction reflecting the long history of this activity in the area. In addition to the gravel working, a brickworks is present to the east of the site. The brickworks, associated brick kiln and clay pit are all depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey (1902).

The long history of military activity in the area is reflected by the presence of some probable First World War practice slit trenches observed on 1945 aerial photographs, the presence of a Second World War tank training area, and also a group of possible military structures.

## **Original Objectives**

The general objectives of the project are to:

- Sample excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development.

- Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.

- Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

- Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations or palaeoenvironmental studies in the region.

Specific research objectives of this project were:

- When was the site first occupied?

- When was the site abandoned?

- What activities were taking place on the site?

- The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in eg. English Heritage Research Agendas (English Heritage, 2005) or the overview of the archaeology of South West England (Webster 2007).

## **Methodology**

Subsequent to rhododendron clearing and tree felling but before stump removal and overburden stripping, a walkover survey of the area was to take place to search for upstanding earthworks of archaeological interest. If discovered, these would be investigated/ excavated according to the methodology below but prior to the main overburden stripping.

The site, (namely, extraction areas, soil storage areas, temporary haul roads) were to be stripped of topsoil and any subsoil by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision to fully expose any archaeological deposits. Any features deemed to be of archaeological origin were to be examined by hand.

## Results

### *Walkover survey*

No upstanding earthworks were encountered during the walkover survey after clearance of the rhododendron across the site, apart from a previously known demolished military bunker within area 1C and a trackway shown on the 1960 Ordnance Survey map.

### *Overburden removal*

Subsequent to the removal of the rhododendron and the felling of the trees three areas (1-3) of topsoil were stripped down to underlying gravel natural geology to provide areas for bush and stump controlled burning (Fig. 2). The removal of stumps were observed in case such removal disturbed subsoil archaeological features. No features were encountered during this watching brief and only occasional modern tile, or modern ceramic pipe were seen along with three fragments of burnt flint.

The remainder of the areas were then stripped of overburden as necessary. During the excavation only three features were encountered.

### *Feature 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 5)*

Within the dry combe which ran North West to South East across Area 1C a large irregular feature was encountered. Feature 1 was over 123.5m long a maximum of 18.2m wide and 1.45m deep. A single slot was excavated through this feature by machine. The machine dug slot was 4m long by 4m wide and a maximum of 1.6m deep. Feature 1 had two distinct fills. The upper of the two was (52) a mixed brown yellow clay with light brown clay and brown sand and gravel the full width of the feature and a maximum of 10.3m thick. However deposit (52) contained no datable artefacts. Beneath Deposit (52) was Deposit (53) a mixed dark brown to black organic rich loam with lenses of grey and yellow sand the full width of the feature and a maximum 0.74m thick. Towards the base of (53) was a lens of charcoal which was 0.03m thick however deposit (53) contained no datable artefacts.

### *Linear Features 2 and 3 (Fig. 2 Pl. 6)*

Running across the site aligned West North West to East South East were two parallel linear features 2 and 3. These features were most noticeable within the centre of the site but could be followed discontinuously across

the site from west to east. On excavation these linear appeared to be straight sided and flat bottomed and contained 20<sup>th</sup> century iron toe ropes and chains. The linears were cut by modern ruts from the trackway within the combe running north west to south east across the site. The linears were most distinct in the area of the combe but could be followed across the higher areas to the west and east. These linears were thought to be track ruts and may be part of military training across the site or relate to previous gravel extraction to the west and were planed only.

## **Conclusion**

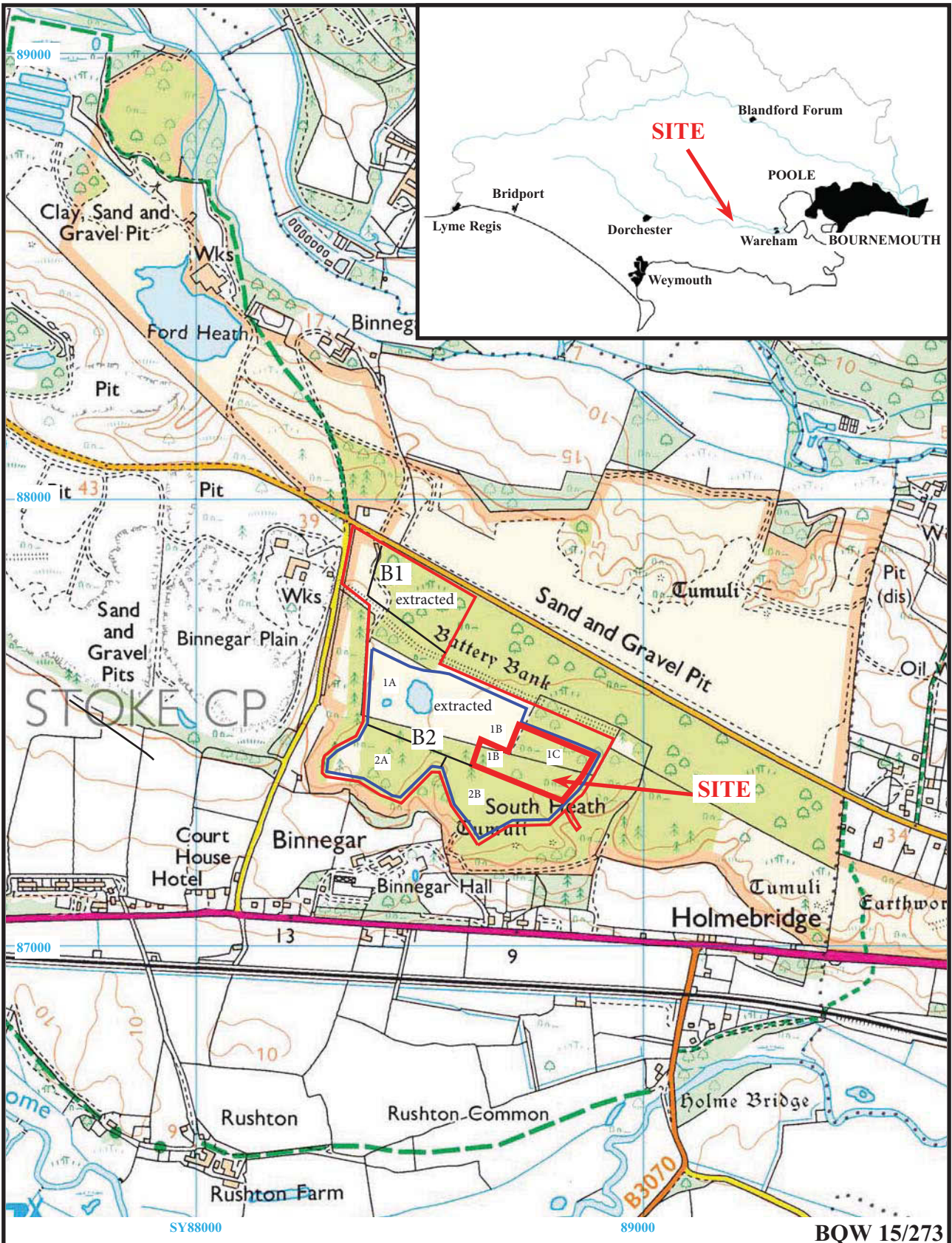
No pre-modern archaeological features were encountered within the stripped area. The large feature towards the south of the excavated area, feature 1, resembles a naturally occurring erosion feature such as a Rill or Gully which has silted up after an organic rich brown earth had been deposited within its base.

The parallel linear features 2 and 3 appear to be the remains of ruts left by a heavy tracked vehicle. This could be from military training, previous gravel extraction or forestry. The metal tow ropes and chains could have been used in any of these activities and are not diagnostic

## **References**

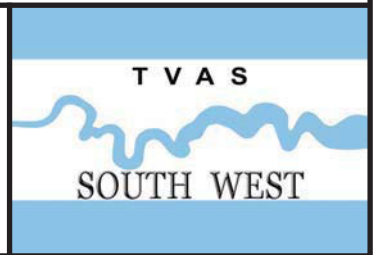
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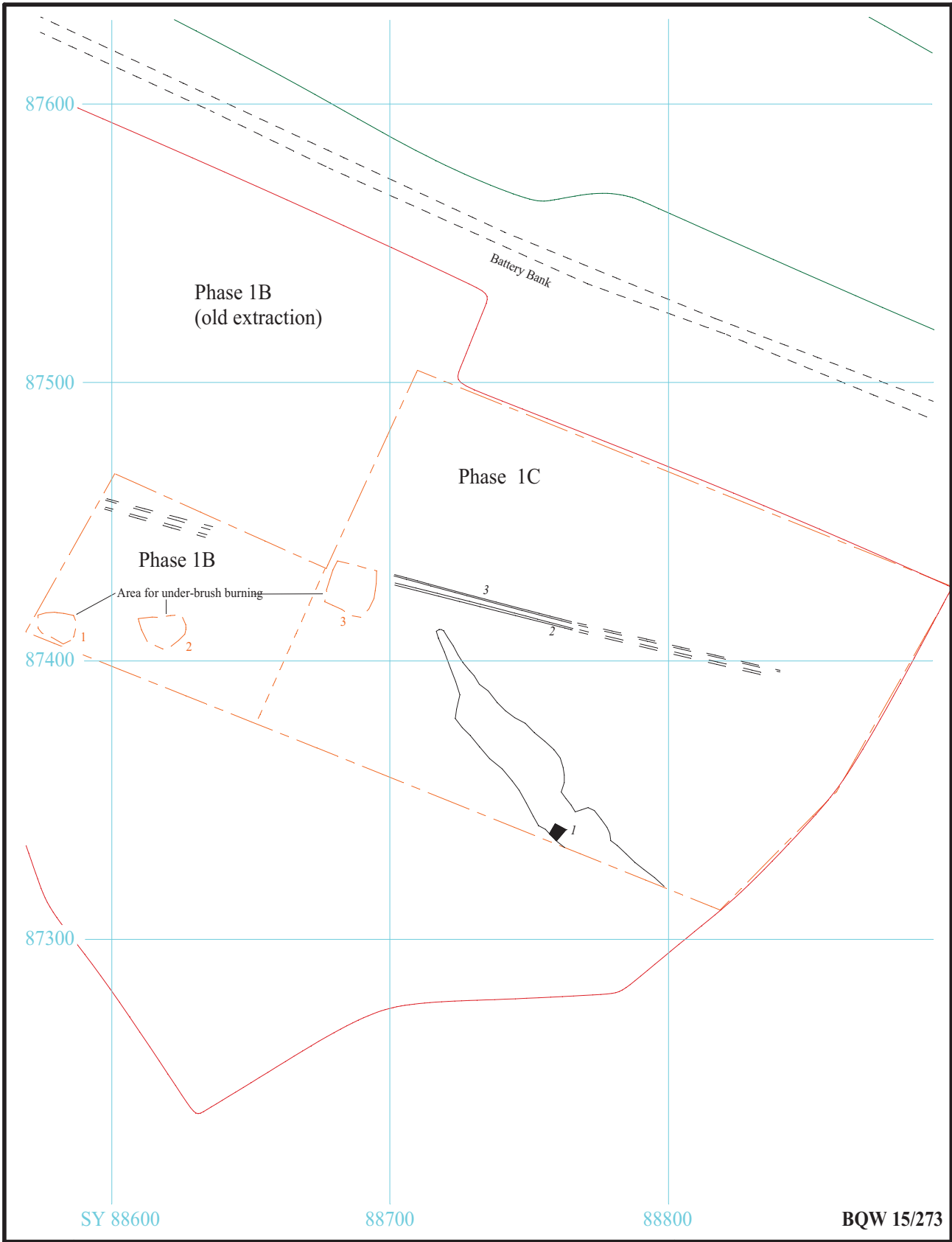




**Extension to Binnegar Quarry,  
Binnegar Lane, Dorset, Area B2  
Archaeological Excavation, phases 1B part and 1C  
Figure 1. Location of site within Binnegar and Dorset.**

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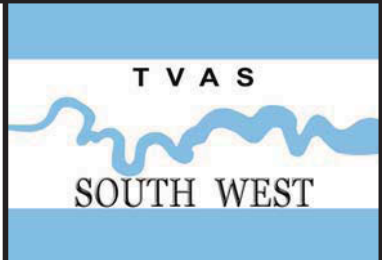


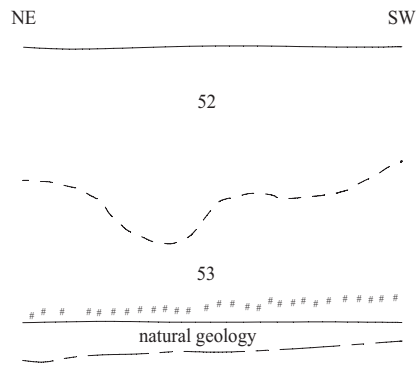
BQW 15/273



**Extention to Binnegar Quarry,  
Binnegar Lane, Dorset, Area B2  
Archaeological Excavation Phases 1B part and 1C**

Figure 2. Site plan.





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**Extention to Binnegar Quarry,  
Binnegar Lane, Dorset, Area B2  
Archaeological Excavation phases 1B part and 1C**

Figure 3. Sections.

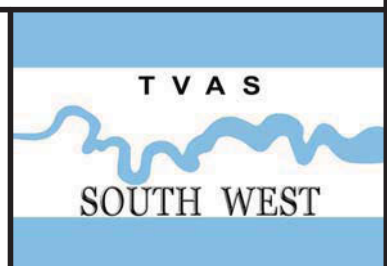




Plate 1. Site before rhododendron removal looking south



Plate 2. Site during earthwork walk over after rhododendron removal

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**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension**  
**Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset**  
**Archaeological Excavation**  
Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Site looking west after tree felling and stump removal



Plate 4. Site looking west whilst topsoil stripping

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**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension**  
**Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset**  
**Archaeological Excavation**  
Plates 3 and 4.

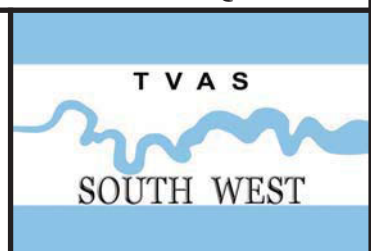




Plate 5. Feature 1 looking south Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 6. Ruts 2 and 3 looking west

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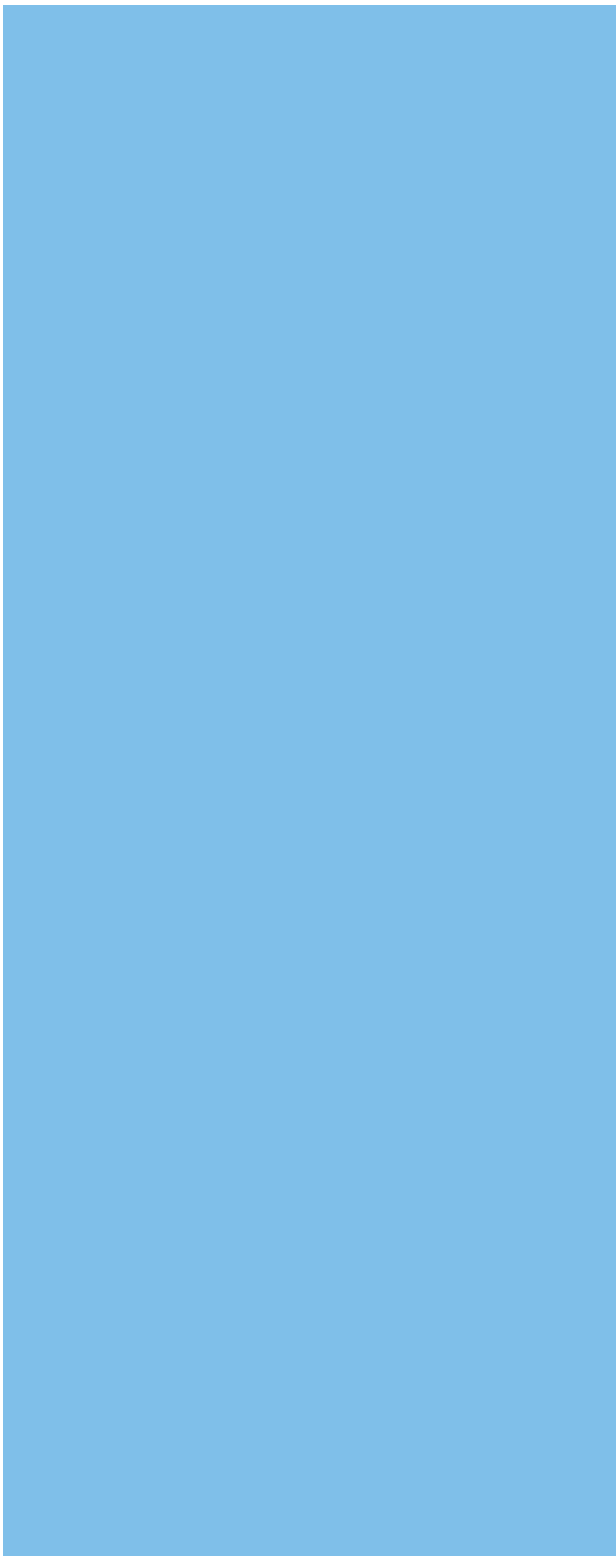
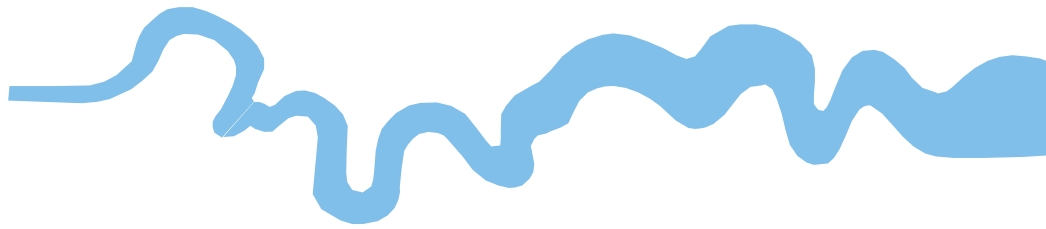
**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension**  
**Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset**  
**Archaeological Excavation**  
Plates 5 and 6.

T V A S  
  
SOUTH WEST

## 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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