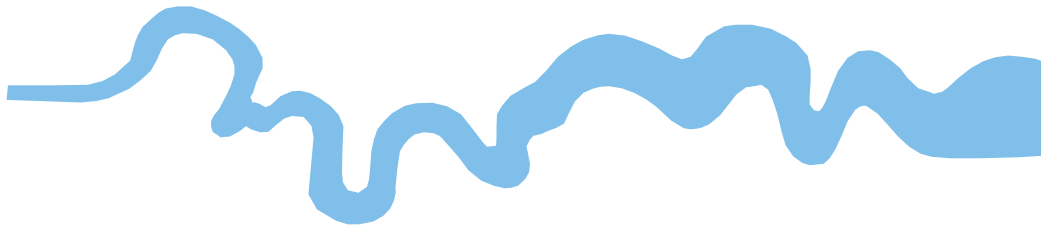


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

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

(Phases 1C and 2B)

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Weale

Site Code: BQW15/273

(SY 8877 8743)

**Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Phases 1C and 2B,
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset**

Archaeological Excavation

For Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BQW15/273

November 2019

Summary

Site name: Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset (Phases 1C and 2B)

Grid reference: SY 8877 8743

Site activity: Excavation, watching brief and walkover survey

Date and duration of project: 16th January to 5th August 2019

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Site supervisor: Andrew Weale

Site code: BQW 15-273

Area of site: c.13.7 ha

Summary of results: No datable archaeological features were encountered in this phase of work. Large features resemble naturally occurring erosion features such as a rill or gully which naturally silted up after an organic rich brown earth had been deposited. A gully towards the centre of the site contained no datable artefacts and does not appear to match any feature on the historic Ordnance Survey maps of the area, so could be of any date.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.11.19 Steve Preston ✓ 20.11.19

Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension, Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset Archaeological Excavation (Phases 1C and 2B)

by Andrew Weale

Report 15/273c

This report documents the results of an excavation and watching brief carried out in 2019 at Binnegar Quarry, Wareham, Dorset. The work was commissioned by Mr Rob Westell of Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd, 160 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3AR.

Planning permission (6/2015/0421) has been granted by Dorset County Council to extract mineral from a c. 13ha parcel of land at Binnegar Quarry, Binnegar Lane, Dorset (SY885 875) (Fig. 1). The consent is subject to a condition (23) relating to archaeology as guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the County Council Mineral Policies, requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring in advance of extraction. The report deals with part of extraction phase 2A (Fig 2) and is the third report on archaeological work within the quarry extension.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist of Dorset County Council. The fieldwork was supervised by Andrew Weale, this phase taking place between 16th January and 5th August 2019. Illustrations are by Nicholas Dawson and the author.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with Dorset County Museum in due course. The Site Code is BQW 15/273.

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 excavation 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 generally a level plateau (c. 34m aOD) but three dry valleys run across it. The first is in the north-west corner of the current extraction phase, the second forms the northern boundary of the phase from the mid point to the east and the last is in the middle, running south (Pls 1–3). 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 cemetery groups. One such group, comprising five mounds, lies about 500m to the north of the site on Farm Heath. Two barrows just to the south of the site on high ground overlooking the Frome valley are heavily overgrown. There is another group of three barrows to the south-east. In addition to these well-defined groups several further round barrows are also recorded overlooking both the Frome and the Piddle valley.

Other than the funerary monuments an area of possible prehistoric field system was identified from aerial photographs to the south-west of the site. 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 (a Scheduled Monument) crosses the quarry site (though not within the area covered by this report) for part of its 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. An evaluation trench was excavated across the course of Battery Bank within the quarry using an old break within it (Tabor and Weale 2015). The evaluation showed that previous use of make-up layers and geotextile sheet had been effective in protecting the monument, and identified historic rutting on top of 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 or re-cuts, nor for the construction of the bank or its subsequent breaching.

Roman pottery was found to the south of the site in 1947 but with no indication of Roman occupation.

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. Evidence of post-medieval to early modern gravel extraction reflects the long history of this activity in the area. In addition to the gravel working, a brickworks, brick kiln and clay pit are all depicted to the east of the site on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1902). The long history of military activity in the area is reflected by the presence of probable First World War practice slit trenches observed on 1945 aerial photographs, a Second World War tank training area, and a group of possible military structures.

Excavations in the phase to the north (Weale 2019) revealed no deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest. A small number of modern features disturbed parts of the site.

Objectives and Methodology

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 to gather data to address the following questions:

When was the site first occupied?

When was the site abandoned?

What activities were taking place on the site?

Is there any evidence of occupation contemporary with that of the Battery Bank?

If, when and how was the site used in the later prehistoric and Roman times for occupation, burial, agricultural or other purposes?

Do the undated gullies and ditches seen in the evaluation relate to field systems that have changed through time?

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as set out in eg. James and Millet (2001) or the overview of the archaeology of South West England (Webster 2007).

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

The site was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to expose any archaeological deposits in phases, by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Any features of archaeological origin were then cleaned by hand. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, with excavation or sampling to an agreed sample fraction depending on feature type and significance.

Results

Earthwork Survey and watching brief

No upstanding earthworks were encountered during the walkover after clearance of the rhododendron (Pls 1 and 2) across the site, however a possible terrace was noted beyond the south west boundary of this phase of work, which will be examined in further work on the site

The removal of tree stumps in the eastern part of Area 2B was monitored as a watching brief in case such removal disturbed subsoil archaeological features (Pl. 3). No features were encountered during this watching brief and only occasional modern tile, or modern ceramic pipe and ceramic building material were seen.

Excavation

The site was stripped of overburden as planned under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 2; Pl. 4). Only one feature of possible archaeological interest was revealed, although three natural features were also planned.

Gully 1000 (Pls 5 and 6)

Gully 1000 was aligned approximately SSW–NNE, 18.0m long, between 0.36m and 0.43m wide and 0.07–0.10m deep. Two sections (10 and 11) excavated through gully 1000 showed similar fills (61 and 62) of friable mid brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel, however no artefacts were recovered from either cut.

Feature 1001 (Pl. 7)

Along the northern edge of this strip, aligned NW–SE, a large irregular feature appears to be a continuation of feature 1 from the 2018 phase of work. This feature was a dry combe or valley, 82m long, 47m wide and up to 8m deep and continues to the eastwards out of the site.

Feature 1002 (Fig 2, Pl. 8)

In the north-western corner of the site and running south-west to north, another large irregular feature was also a dry combe or valley, 17m long, 51m wide and 5m deep and continues to the south-west off the site.

Feature 1003 Fig. 2

A third dry combe or valley lay in the the south-western corner of the site running south-west to north-east. This feature was 100m long, 71m wide and 4.5m deep and continues to the south-west.

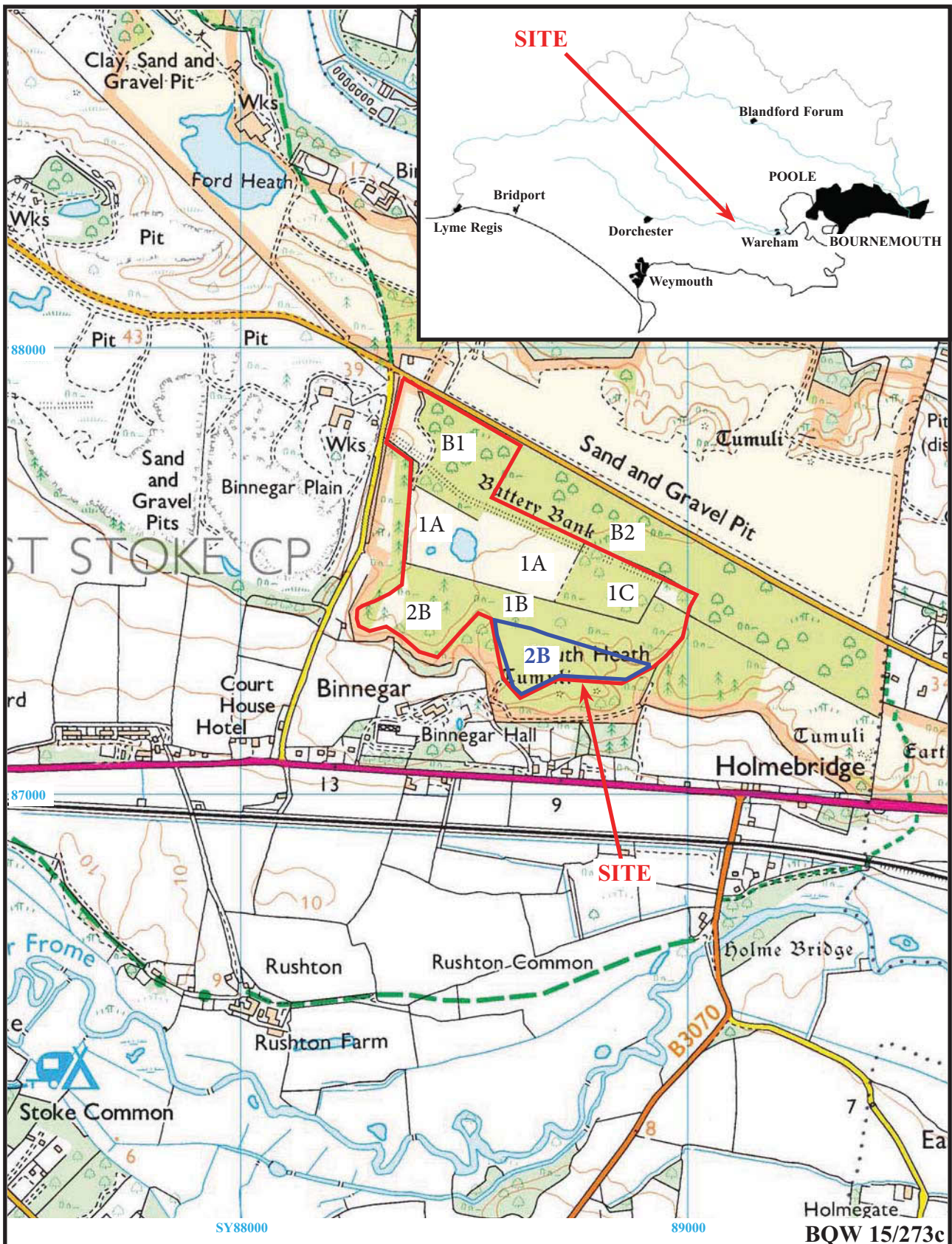
Conclusion

No datable nor non-naturally occurring archaeological features were encountered within the stripped area. The large features across the excavated area (1001, 1002 and 1003), resemble naturally occurring erosion features such as a rill or gully which silted up after an organic rich brown earth had been deposited within their base. A single gully towards the centre of the site contained no datable artefacts and does not appear to match any feature on the historic Ordnance Survey maps of the area, so could be of any date.

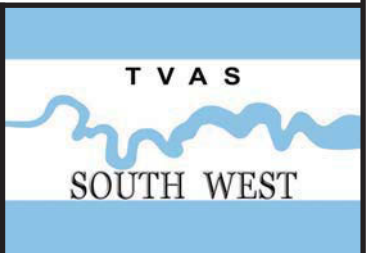
Although no datable features were discovered, the presence of an undated feature is of minor note even if it's interpretation and significance are not clear.

References

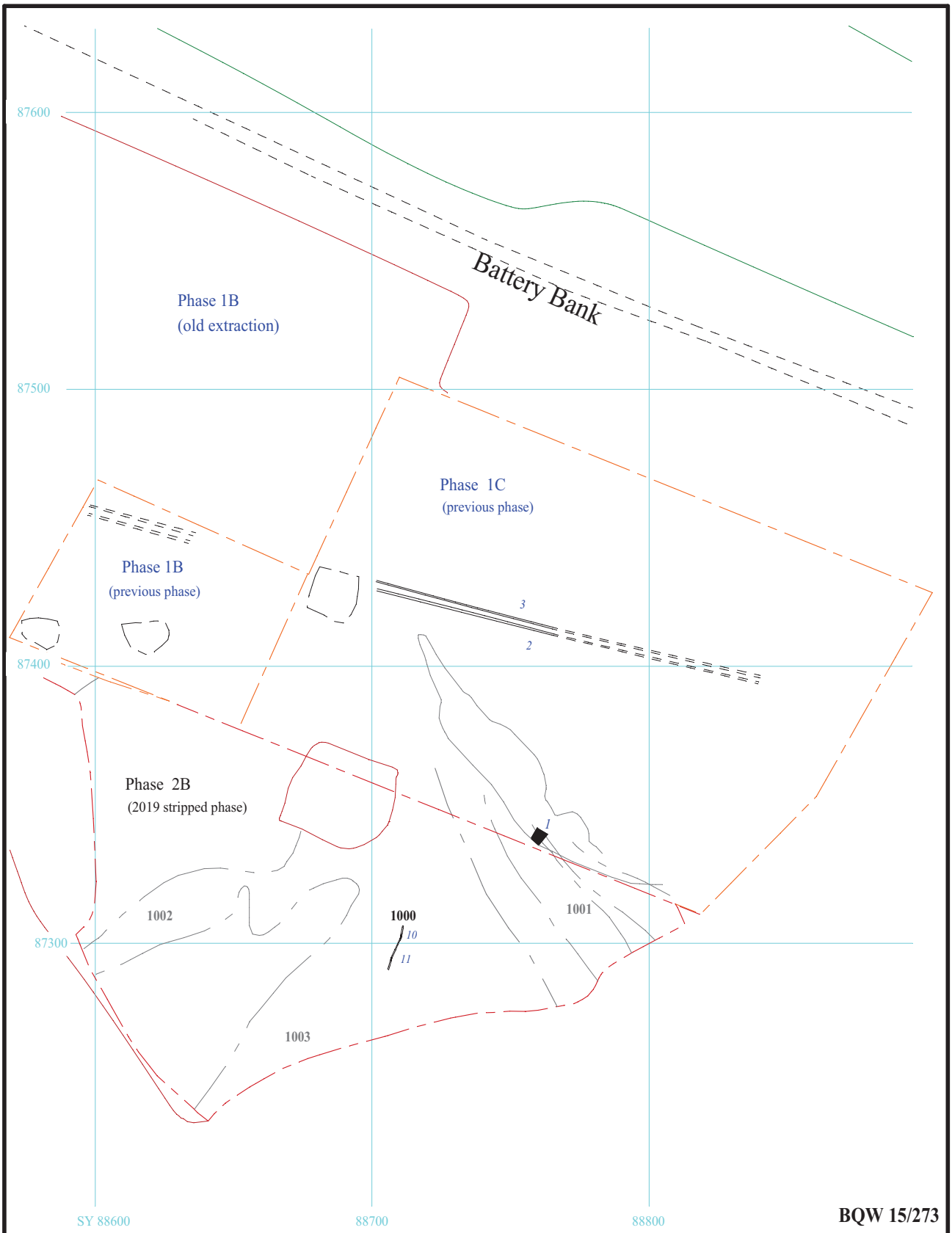
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**Exension to Binnegar Quarry,
Binnegar Lane, Binnegar, Wareham, Dorset, 2019
Archaeological Excavation**
Figure 1. Location of site within Binnegar and Dorset.



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**Extention to Binnegar Quarry,
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Area B2
Archaeological Excavation Phases 1C part and 2B**

Figure 2. Site plan.

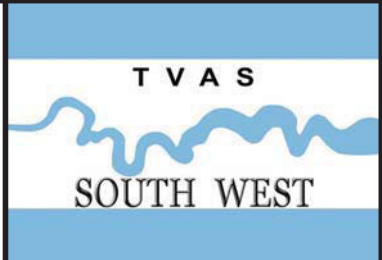




Plate 1. Phase 2 during rhododendron removal looking south



Plate 2. Phase 2 during earthwork walk over after rhododendron removal and tree felling

BQW 15/273

Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset, August 2019
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Phase 2 looking north east after tree felling during stump removal



Plate 4. Phase 2 looking west whilst topsoil stripping

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Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset, August 2019
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Gully 1000 Cut 10 looking North East Scales 0.5m and 0.1m



Plate 6. Gully 1000 Cut 10 looking North East Scales 0.5m and 0.1m

BQW 15/273

Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset, 2019
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 5 and 6.

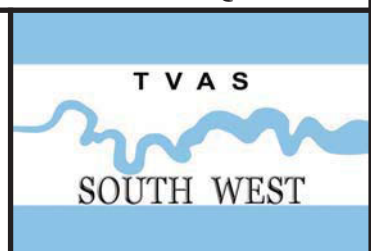




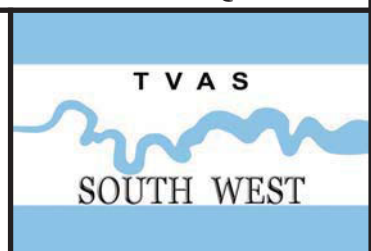
Plate 7 Feature1001 looking East



Plate 8. Feature 1002 Looking South

BQW 15/273

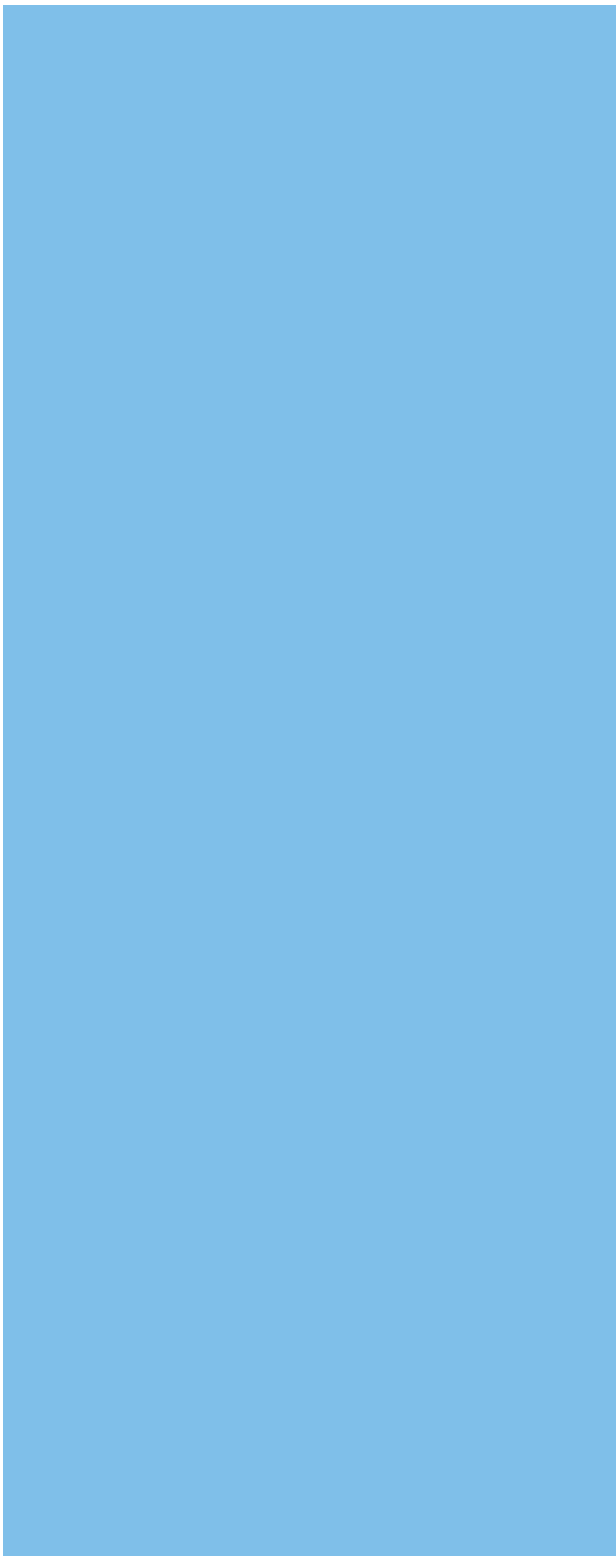
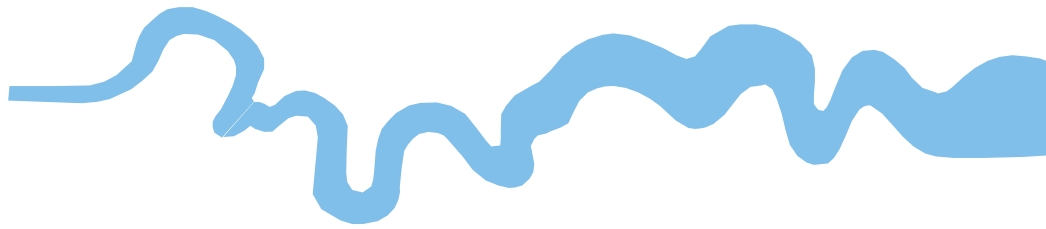
Binnegar Quarry, Southern Extension
Binnegar Lane, Wareham, Dorset, August 2019
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 7 and 8.



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





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