

**Philpots Quarry  
West Hoathly  
West Sussex  
Phase 2**  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Sussex Sandstone Ltd.

CA Project: 770604  
CA Report: 17439

August 2017



# Philpots Quarry West Hoathly West Sussex Phase 2

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770604  
CA Report: 17439



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- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2,000)
- Fig. 3 Working Shots



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Philpots Quarry  
**Location:** West Hoatley, West Sussex  
**NGR:** 535500 132200  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 11 July 2017  
**Planning Reference:** WSCC/011/13/HO  
**Location of Archive:** East Grinstead museum  
**Site Code:** PHIL17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2017 during groundworks associated with an extension to the existing quarry.

While it had been originally envisioned that the working face of the quarry would be cleaned using a toothless bucket, this was not possible in a safe manner due to the depth of the face and the amount of spoil on the top of the working face. The absence of archaeological deposits and finds may indicate that the levels below the spoil heap have definitely or very probably been too heavily disturbed to produce any useful archaeological information.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Sussex Sandstone Ltd. at Philpots Quarry, West Hoathly, West Sussex (centred at NGR: 535500 132200; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent (Planning ref: WSCC/011/13/HO) for an extension to the existing quarry.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013a) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, Planning Services, West Sussex County Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### *The site*

- 1.3 The quarry extension area lies adjacent to and north of the existing working quarry area (Fig. 2) and is for the extraction of the underlying Sandstone. Phase 2 is buried below the surface overburden storage mounds of the existing quarry, where the topsoil and subsoil have previously been stripped under planning consent (WSCC/020/12/MO) and the exposed surface was used for tracking machines and wagons across during formation of the mounds.
- 1.4 This quarry exposes the upper parts (4m) of the Ardingly Sandstone Member of the upper Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation and the lower member of the Grinstead Clay Formation (8.2m) capped by the base of the Cuckfield Stone Member (upper Hastings Beds Group). (English Nature 2013)

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background below is a succinct summary of the Written Statement of Investigation by Cotswold Archaeology (CA2013a). Although the site lies in an area of archaeological potential for the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods there were no recorded heritage assets within the site boundary.

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 Designated heritage assets within the vicinity include the Scheduled Monument of Philpots Camp Iron Age Hillfort (SM 27083, HER 4406), which lies 100m to the north-west. A roughly triangular Iron Age promontory or ridge-end fort of 15 acres, it was defended by a bank and external ditch to the northeast. Included in the Scheduled Monument are five probable Mesolithic rock shelter sites (HER 4405) located at the foot of the escarpments to Philpots Camp. The fort and rock shelters were excavated by I.C. Hannah in 1931. More recent investigations carried out within a cave at the west end of the Philpots Camp promontory (Allen and Maxted 2008) recovered charcoal identified as *Betula* (birch). Pollen samples indicated an Atlantic flora dominated by oak, lime, hazel and rare occurrence of holly, with some grass, and other acid loving ferns/polypodium and *Calluna*, and 1 of grain birch. This material is typical of the late Mesolithic and earliest Neolithic periods. Subsequently a small key hole trench 2m × 2m was hand excavated over the location of the colluvium and buried soil within the cave. This produced Mesolithic buried soils and c. 135 flints, mainly the by-products of Mesolithic blade and microlith production. Elsewhere small-scale test pit excavation was carried out by Karine Le Hegarat in 2008-9 at the foot of the promontory which uncovered Neolithic pottery (John Mills, pers. comm).

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 2.3 Stonehurst Garden, a Grade II Registered Garden (HER 5011) is located immediately to the west of the site. The gardens and pleasure grounds were laid out in 1907 by Thomas H Mawson, assisted by the architect Norman Searle. Two Grade II Listed buildings are located within 500m of the site. Chiddingly Farmhouse, a 15th-century timber-framed building, lies 390m north of the site and Lower Barn, a 16th-century tithe barn, lies 440m to the north-west on the edge of the village of West Hoathly. Several further Listed buildings are located in West Hoathly.
- 2.4 Two parkscapes are recorded on the OS 1898-9 map at Philpots (HER 2862), 60m south-west of the site and at Rockhurst (HER 2861), 400m north-west of the site. Historic Landscape Characterisation data records the majority of the site as post-medieval designed parkland, with a small portion recorded as part of a farmstead settlement. The surrounding land formally enclosed fieldscapes and woodland.

#### *Previous Investigations*

2.5 An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with Phase 1 of the extension of the existing quarry site in September and October 2013 (CA 2013b). A modern south-east/north-west aligned ditch, a possible pit, tree throws and a number of modern land drains were observed during ground works. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works as stated in the WSI (CA2013) were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013a). Cotswold Archaeology ascertained the degree of archaeological disturbance in the working face of Phase 2 of the geological clay substrate that overlies the stone bedrock, but underlies the spoil heaps.

4.2 Cotswold Archaeology monitored the existing working face and made an initial assessment of the degree of disturbance of the clay substrate in Phase 2. The working face inspection was to be undertaken using a smooth bucket to scrape the working face to a clean and even finish. If CA's assessment considered that the levels below the spoil heap have definitely or very probably been too heavily disturbed to produce any useful archaeological information, the review of Phase 2, in consultation with the County Archaeologist, would conclude that further SMS will be unprofitable.

- 4.3 Conversely, if there remains from CA's observation of the working face too much uncertainty on this point, or positive reason to believe that potential archaeological levels may indeed still survive in Phase 2, then the SMS would begin for the rest of Phase 2. CA could, in consultation with the County Archaeologist, suggest a level down to which the spoil heaps may be removed unsupervised, and below which an archaeologist must be present.
- 4.4 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5 The archive from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner site archive will be deposited with East Grinstead museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
- 5.2 Due to the height of the working face, for Health and Safety reasons, the working face inspection could not be undertaken.
- 5.3 Cotswold Archaeology's assessment considers that the levels below the spoil heap have definitely or very probably been too heavily disturbed to produce any useful archaeological information.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see section 2), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that the levels below the spoil heap



have definitely or very probably been too heavily disturbed to produce any useful archaeological information.

- 6.2 Following on from the results of the current and previous phase of works (CA2013b), in which no finds or features pre-dating the modern period were recovered, it is anticipated that no further archaeological works remain to be carried out on site. It is also anticipated due to the negative results from the previous and current phase of works that no further post-excavation works are required.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Charlie Patman. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

## 8. REFERENCES

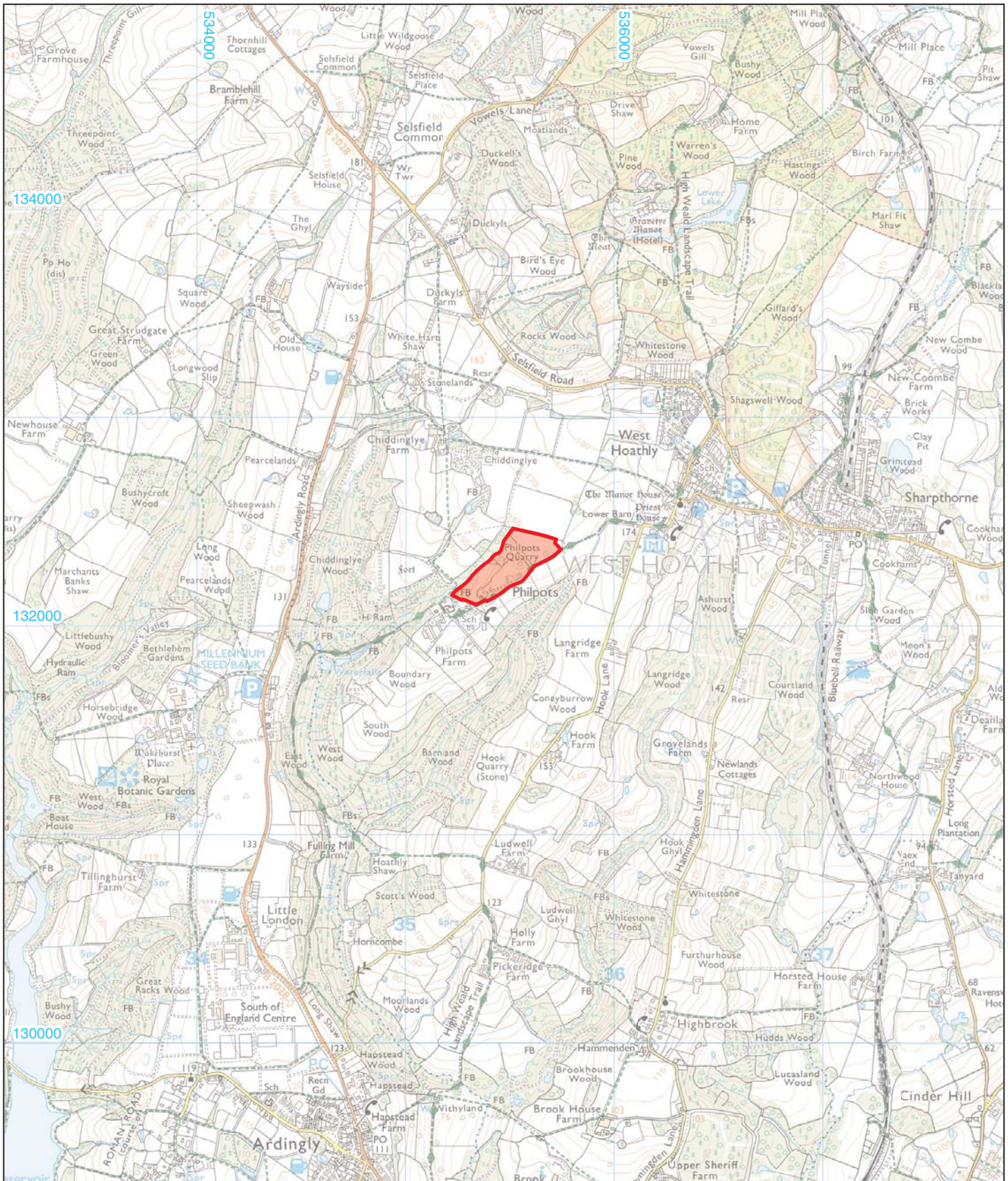
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**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project Name	Philpots Quarry, West Hoathly, West Sussex
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2017 during groundworks associated with the an extension to the existing quarry.</p> <p>It had been originally envisioned that the working face of the quarry would be cleaned using a toothless bucket, but this was not possible in a safe manner due to the depth of the face and the amount of spoil that had been placed on the top of the working face.</p> <p>It was therefore concluded that there had definitely or very probably been too much disturbance to produce any useful archaeological information.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>
Project dates	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief
Previous work	Cotswold Archaeology 2013, Lambs Philpots Quarry, West Sussex: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample. CA Report 13618
Future work	Unknown
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Site Location	Philpots Quarry, West Hoathly, West Sussex
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	
Site co-ordinates	535500 132200
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	WSSC
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy
Project Supervisor	Steve Bush
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	
None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	
None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
East Grinstead Museum	
Physical	
Paper	Context sheets
Digital	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Philpots Quarry, West Hoathly, West Sussex Phase 2: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **17439**



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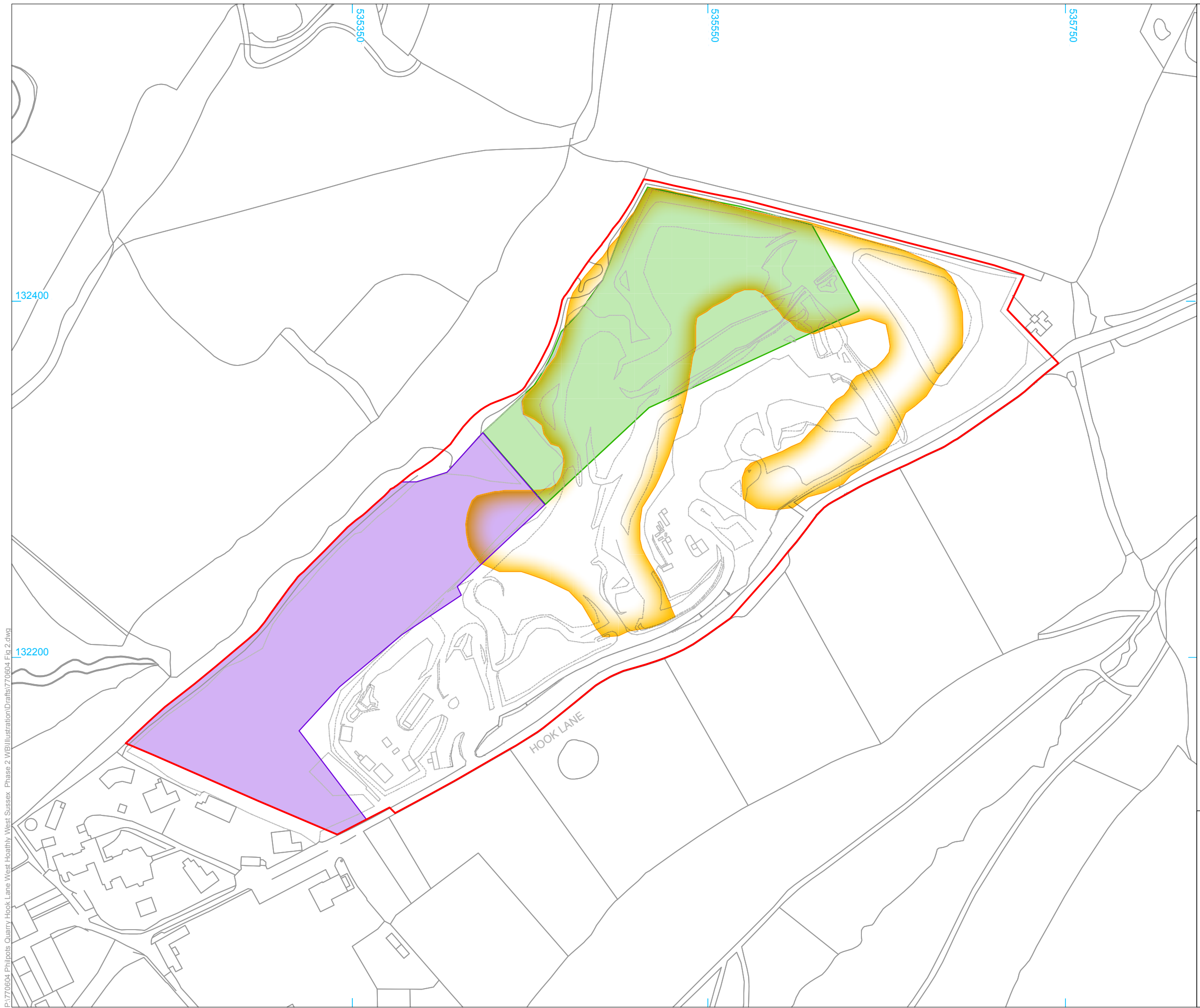
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Philpots Quarry, Hook Lane, West Hoathly, West Sussex

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

0 1km

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	CP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	770604	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>	
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	02/08/2017		
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	RK	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000		<b>1</b>



- site boundary
- phase 1
- phase 2
- soil heap



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Philpots Quarry, Hook Lane, West Hoathly, West Sussex

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Location of spoil heap

<b>DRAWN BY</b> CP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 770604	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 02/08/2017	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> RK	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:2,000	

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PROJECT TITLE  
Philpots Quarry, Hook Lane, West  
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FIGURE TITLE  
Working shots

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770604	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/08/2017	3
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	NA	

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