

# Bray Valley Quarries Brayford Devon

*Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation*



for  
Hanson UK

CA Project: 880306  
CA Report: 18566

OASIS ID: cotswold2-366588

September 2019



# Bray Valley Quarries Brayford Devon

## Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation

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A	17 September 2019	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Duncan Coe

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Bray Valley Quarries
<b>Location:</b>	Brayford, Devon
<b>NGR:</b>	268750 133315
<b>Type:</b>	Strip, Map and Record
<b>Date:</b>	10–20 September 2018
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	N/A
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	cotswold2-366588
<b>Site Code:</b>	QBF18

In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map and record (SMR) excavation during quarry extension works at Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon (Areas B and E).

The archaeological works recorded a posthole and a pit, both of which were undated.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Record (SMR) excavation during quarry extension works at Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon (centred at NGR: 292550 092875; Fig. 1). This work was conducted for Hanson UK.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2018) and approved by Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHEM).
- 1.3 Planning permission (planning ref: DCC/0518/1998) for extension works to the extant quarry has been granted by North Devon District Council, conditional on a programme of archaeological investigation. The scope of the required archaeological works was defined subsequently by Stephen Reed as the SMR investigation of the five proposed quarry extension areas (Strip Areas A–E; Fig. 4). This report presents the results of the Area B and Area E SMR works (Fig. 2). The Area A works took place in December 2015/January 2016 and have been reported on separately (CA 2016). Works in the remaining areas (Areas C and D) will be carried out on a phased basis (see Fig. 4 for provisional timescales).
- 1.4 The SMR fieldwork was in line with *Specification for Archaeological Excavation* (Devon County Council 2016), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### **The site**

- 1.5 Prior to the SMR works, Areas B and E comprised grassland to the immediate north-west of the existing quarry.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as alternating bands of sandstone and limestone of the Pilton Mudstone Formation, which formed in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2018).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A series of archaeological investigations took place during the establishment and expansion of the existing quarry (EA 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2007, 2010; OA 1999a, 1999b, 2000a, 2000b, 2001, 2002). Additionally, the SMR excavation of extension Area A was undertaken in December 2015/January 2016 (CA 2016; to the immediate south of Area B; Figs. 2 and 4). The following section provides a brief summary of the results of these investigations.

**Neolithic (4000 BC–2400 BC)**

- 2.2 Archaeological works east of Charlestown Barton Farm (c. 240m south-east of Area A) identified two late Neolithic pits.

**Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)**

- 2.3 A ring ditch associated with a ploughed-out Bronze Age barrow has been identified c. 85m east of Area A. The archaeological works in Area A (to the immediate south of Area B) recorded a pit dating to the Early/Middle Bronze Age.

**Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)**

- 2.4 Archaeological works east of Charlestown Barton Farm recorded a series Iron Age and Roman features, including two ditched enclosures, pits, postholes, further ditches and an iron-smelting site.
- 2.5 Geophysical surveys of the land to the immediate north of Charleston Barton Farm (c. 150m south of Area A) and land east of Welcombe Farm (including most of Area C) have indicated the presence of further enclosures and associated features of probable Iron Age/Roman date.

**Post-medieval (1540–1800)/undated**

- 2.6 The archaeological works in Area A recorded an undated pit and an undated ditch. The ditch ran broadly parallel to the extant field boundaries and may therefore represent a post-medieval boundary/agricultural feature.

**3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 As defined in the WSI (CA 2018), the objective of the programme of archaeological investigation was to investigate, characterise and preserve by record any archaeological remains present at the site prior to their loss through development.

**4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2018). Overburden deposits were stripped from extension Areas B and E by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.2 As no significant archaeological features were identified during the present phase of archaeological works, no archive will be prepared for this phase. The results of the fieldwork will be held by DCCHEM in the form of this report and the creation of an OASIS entry (see below).
- 4.3 A summary of information from this phase of the project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain

(OASIS ID: cotswold2-366588). This OASIS entry will include an uploaded copy of the present report.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the SMR results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Figure 2 presents a plan of the recorded archaeological features.
- 5.2 The natural substrate comprised clay and shillet and was exposed at a depth of 0.4m below the pre-strip ground level. It was sealed by 0.1m of clayey subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.3m of modern topsoil.
- 5.3 Two archaeological features were exposed in Area E. Both these of features were cut into the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil.
- 5.4 Posthole 203 was 0.55m in diameter and 0.27m in depth. It had a single undated fill (204), which contained probable packing stones.
- 5.5 Pit 205 was 1.1m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single undated fill (205).

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological works recorded a posthole and a pit, both of which were undated. The previous archaeological works in Area A (to the immediate south of Area B; Figs. 2 and 4) recorded two pits, one of which was dated to the Early/Middle Bronze Age. It is possible that the Area E features are of similar date, although this cannot be confirmed.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The SMR fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Clarke. This report was written by Paul Clarke. The report illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown and Amy Wright. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

## 8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 6 November 2018

Cotswold Archaeology 2016 *Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Barnstaple, Devon: Programme of Archaeological Investigation* CA typescript report no. **16123**

- Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Barnstaple, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works*
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- Oxford Archaeotechnics 1999b *Land at Charleston Barton Farm, Charles, Brayford, Devon (2): Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*
- Oxford Archaeotechnics 2000a *Land at Charleston Barton Farm, Charles, Brayford, Devon (3): Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*
- Oxford Archaeotechnics 2000b *Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon: Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*
- Oxford Archaeotechnics 2001 *Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon: Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*
- Oxford Archaeotechnics 2002 *Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon (6): Magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey*



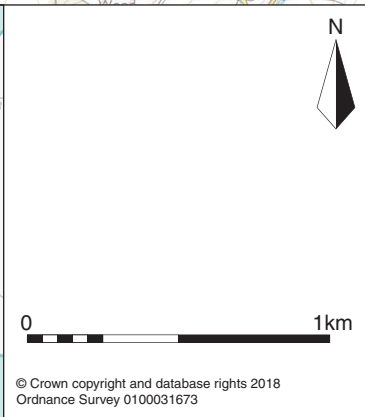
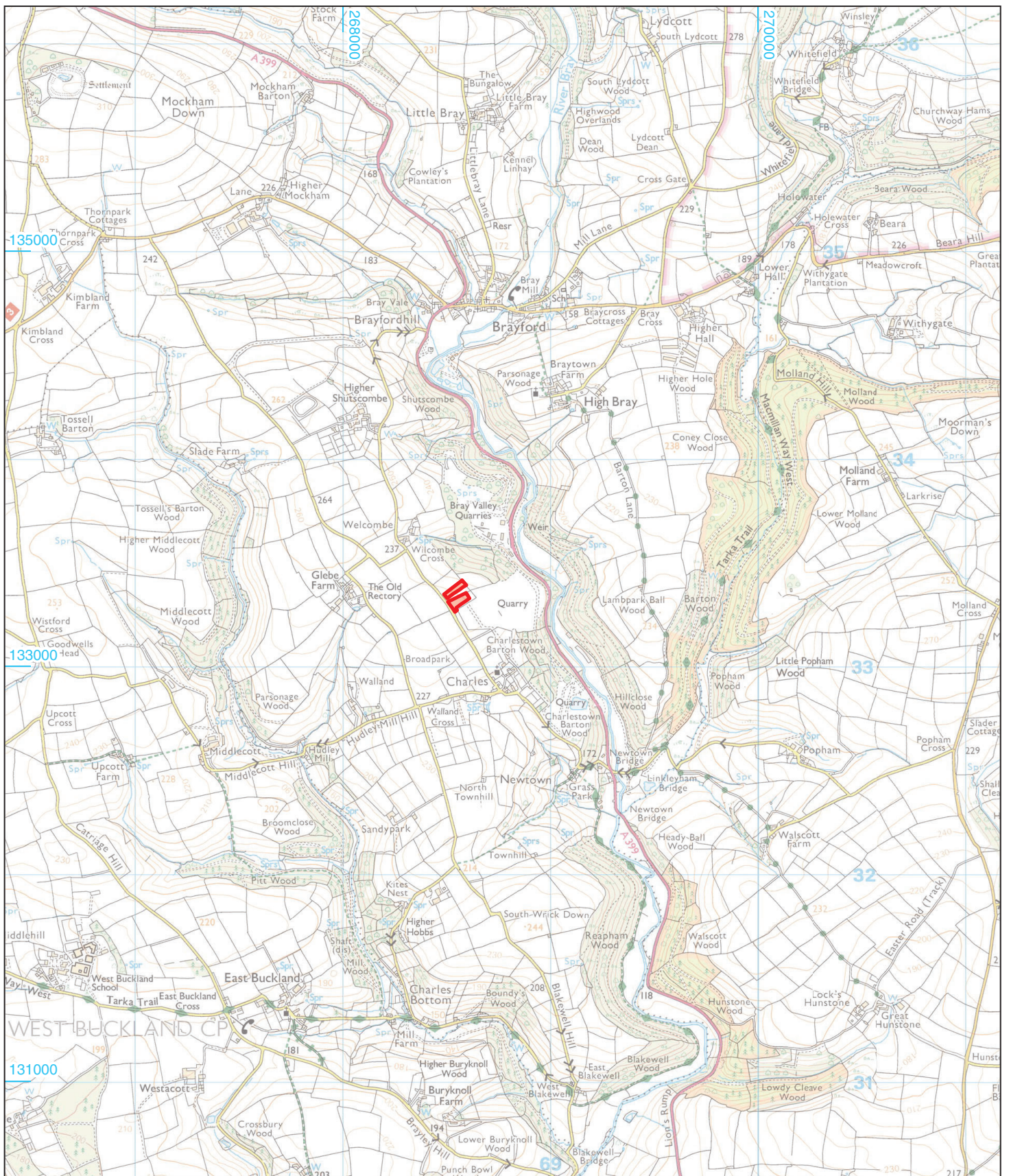


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
E	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay			0.35
E	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light reddish brown silty clay			0.1
E	202	Layer		Natural	Light grey broken shillet to the SW and mid reddish brown silty clay with common angular stones to the NE			
E	203	Cut		Posthole	Ovoid discrete; rounded corners; steep/straight sides to W; moderate/irregular sides to E; stepped to E	0.6	0.53	0.27
E	204	Fill	203	Fill of posthole	Dark purplish brown firm silty clay loam; occasional charcoal, occasional angular pebbles and cobbles; poorly sorted	0.6	0.53	0.27
E	205	Cut		Pit	Subcircular discrete; shallow concave sides; concave base	1.11	1.03	0.2
E	206	Fill	205	Fill of pit	Dark purplish brown firm silty clay loam; occasional charcoal, occasional subangular pebbles	1.11	1.03	0.2
B	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam; waterlogged; common subangular stones			0.3
B	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay; abundant angular gravel			0.1
B	302	Layer		Natural	Light reddish brown silty clay; abundant subangular pebbles			

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon	
Short description	In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map and record (SMR) excavation during quarry extension works at Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon (Areas B and E).  The archaeological works recorded a posthole and a pit, both of which were undated.	
Project dates	10–20 September 2018	
Project type	Strip, map and record	
Previous work	Exeter Archaeology 2010: Evaluation	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.42ha	
Site co-ordinates	268752 133315	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Paul Clarke	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	<b>Intended final location of archive</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2019 <i>Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation</i> CA typescript report <b>18566</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon

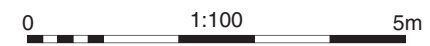
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	TB	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	880306	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	13.11.18	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	DE	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	

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- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature
- Base of feature
- Previous area (CA 2016)
- Archaeological feature from previous area
- A A Section



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PROJECT TITLE  
 Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
**Excavation area plan, showing archaeological features**

DRAWN BY <b>AW</b>	PROJECT NO. <b>880306</b>	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
CHECKED BY <b>DJB</b>	DATE <b>15.11.18</b>	
APPROVED BY <b>PC</b>	SCALE@A3 <b>1:500; 1:100</b>	

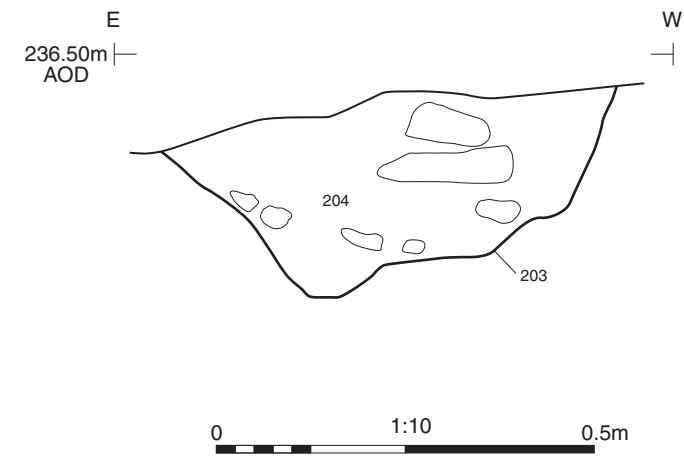


Posthole 203, looking south (0.3m scale)

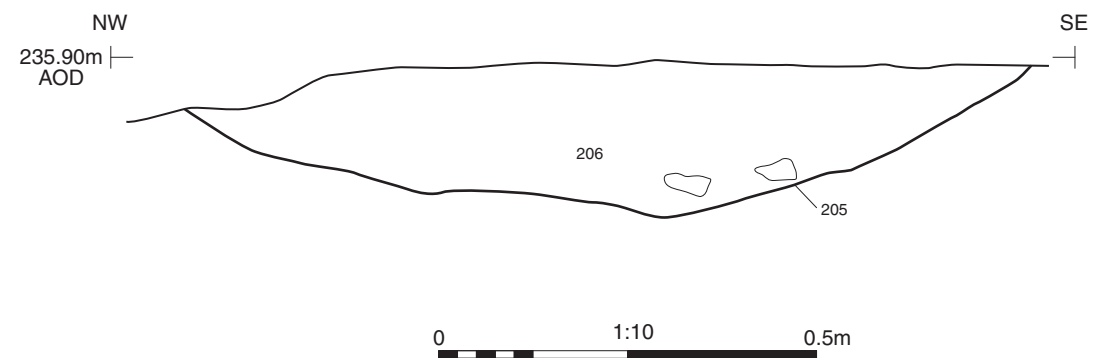


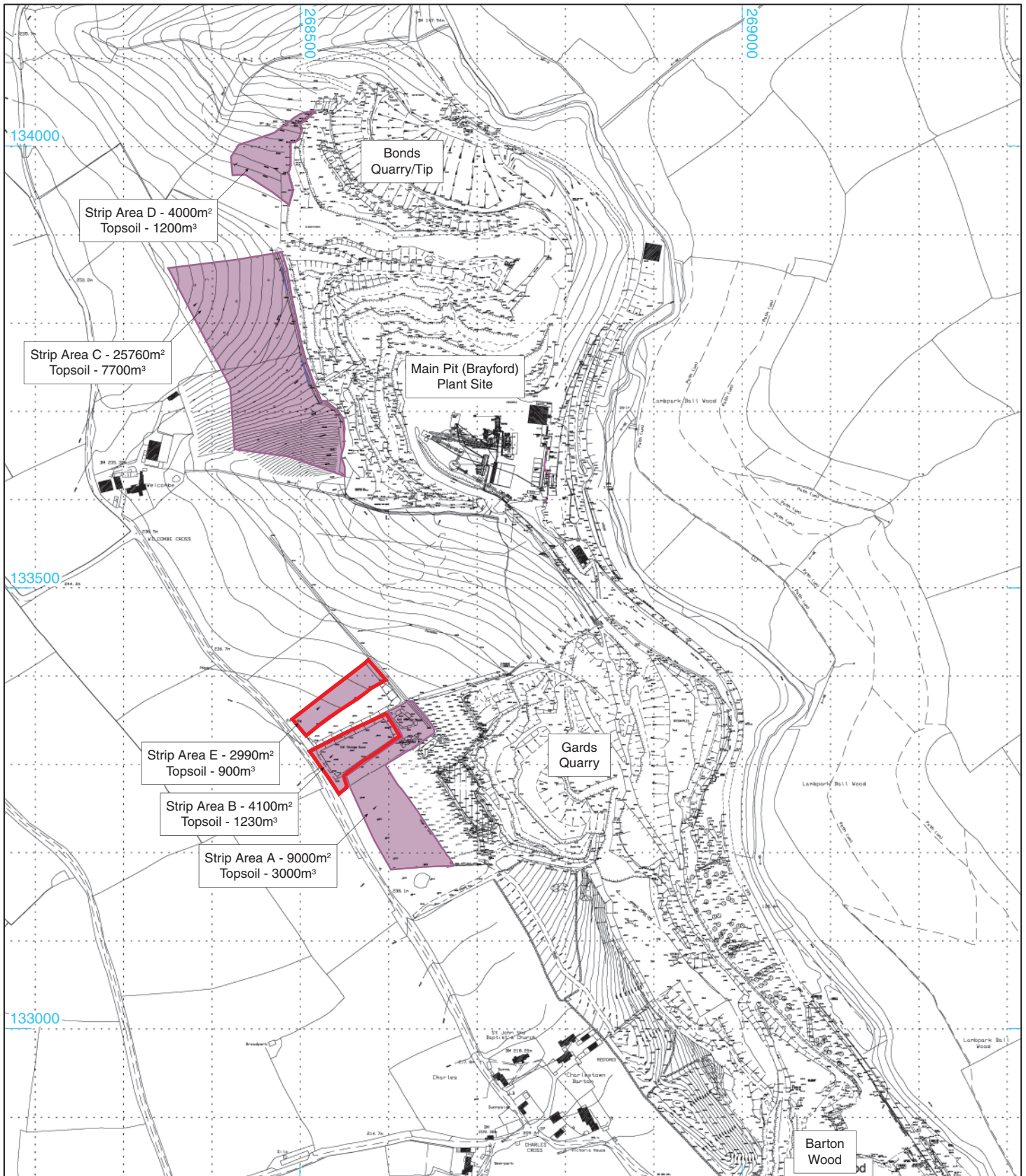
Pit 205, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

Section AA



Section BB





- Site boundary
- Proposed quarry extension area

0 1:6000 300m



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon

**FIGURE TITLE**

Proposed Quarry Extension Areas

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	880306	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	11.09.19	<b>4</b>
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:6000	

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