

**CASTLE HILL QUARRY
CANNINGTON
SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

LAND AND MINERAL MANAGEMENT LTD

on behalf of

CASTLE HILL QUARRY COMPANY LTD

CA PROJECT: 2780
CA REPORT: 09030


MARCH 2009



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CANNINGTON
SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2780
CA REPORT: 09030

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date	13 March 2009
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date	16 March 2009
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signed	
date	17 March 2009
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Castle Hill Quarry
Location: Cannington, Somerset
NGR: ST 2440 4050
Type: Evaluation
Date: 28 January – 3 February 2009
Planning Reference: 1/13/08/028
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Somerset County Museum, Taunton
Accession Number: TTNCM 3/2009
Site Code: CHQ 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2009 at Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset. Four test pits were excavated.

Two track ways and a limestone rubble bank, all of modern date, were identified during the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Land and Mineral Management Ltd on behalf of Castle Hill Quarry Company Ltd at Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 2440 4050; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as a condition (no. 31) of the planning consent granted by Somerset County Council for a southern and western extension of the existing quarry (App. No. 1/13/08/028), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. Steve Membery, Development Control Archaeologist for Somerset County Council recommended that the first phase of this programme should be an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to the quarrying commencing.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008a) guided in its composition by an *Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement* (CA 2008b), the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and approved by Steve Membery.

The site

- 1.3 The extraction area is bounded to the east by Cannington Camp hillfort whilst the existing Castle Hill Quarry workings form much of the northern and eastern limit (Fig. 2). The land slopes fairly steeply downwards towards the north, to a height of around 15m AOD at its northernmost limit. The southern part of the site is more open, with patches of woodland and cleared grassland. The land within it slopes down towards the west and north, from a height of around 45m AOD at its south-west corner.
- 1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 1.4ha.
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site comprises Lower Lias clay with limestone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 1973). The underlying bedrock exploited by the adjacent quarry comprises Carboniferous limestone and was encountered in all the test pits.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location immediately to the west of Cannington Camp, an Iron Age hillfort and a Scheduled Monument. An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by CA in 2007 which, in summary, identified a further Scheduled Monument comprising a series of settlement earthworks probably dating to the Roman period to the south of the hillfort and the proposed extension area, as well as Cannington Cemetery, a large cemetery of mainly Roman and post-Roman date, to the east on a smaller hill. In addition, the desk-based assessment and a topographic survey (AS 2007) have identified the presence of several currently undated quarry hollows and mounds associated with limestone quarrying which has occurred potentially over a long period of time.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four test pits all measuring 4m in length and 2m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Test pit 2 was targeted on a raised earthwork thought to represent a former boundary wall. Test pit 4 was relocated 4m to the east of its original position due to the presence of trees.
- 1.9 All test pits were excavated by hand to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). No deposits were identified that required environmental sampling.

- 1.10 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Somerset County Museum, Taunton. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

- 2.2 During the evaluation two modern track ways and a modern rubble bank were identified within test pits 1 and 2. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the test pits. Undisturbed natural, comprising Carboniferous limestone was revealed within all of the test pits, at a depth of 0.08m to 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). Intermittent subsoil, potentially of colluvial origin was revealed in all the test pits up to 0.65m thick which in turn was sealed by topsoil up to 0.15m thick. No archaeologically significant features were revealed in test pits 3 and 4.

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 A modern hardcore track way 101 orientated south-east/north-west and turning to the south-west overlay colluvial subsoil 102 which in turn sealed natural carboniferous limestone 103. Fragments of modern clay pigeon were recovered from the track way.

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.4 Targeted on an earthwork thought to represent a possible former boundary wall, test pit 2 revealed a mixed silt and limestone rubble deposit 202 forming a north-west/south-east aligned bank and adjacent track way. The presence of large quantities of broken clay pigeons within 202 confirms a modern date for the bank and track. Very thin deposits of subsoil 201 and topsoil 200 overlay the track and bank deposit 202 which itself sealed natural limestone 203.

The Finds

- 2.5 No artefacts were collected during the investigations, although modern material was noted in test pits 1 and 2.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified no features associated with the adjacent Iron Age hillfort or to the other known archaeological sites nearby. The apparent dearth of archaeological activity within the application area is not entirely unexpected due to its largely precipitous location.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2007 *Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset: Topographic Survey*. AS typescript report **J211**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1973 *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 295, Bridgwater, Scale 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. CA typescript report **07100**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset: Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement*. CA typescript report **08025**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test pit 1.

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown silt			0.10	
101	Deposit	Hardcore track way			0.16	Modern
102	Deposit	Colluvial subsoil. Reddish brown silt			0.65	
103	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Carboniferous limestone				

Test pit 2.

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown silt			0.02	
201	Deposit	Subsoil. Reddish brown silt			0.03	
202	Deposit.	Bank and track. Limestone fragments with silt matrix			0.1-0.4	Modern
203	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Carboniferous limestone				

Test pit 3.

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown silt			0.06	
301	Deposit	Colluvial subsoil. Reddish brown silt	0.8	0.75	0.02	
302	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Carboniferous limestone				

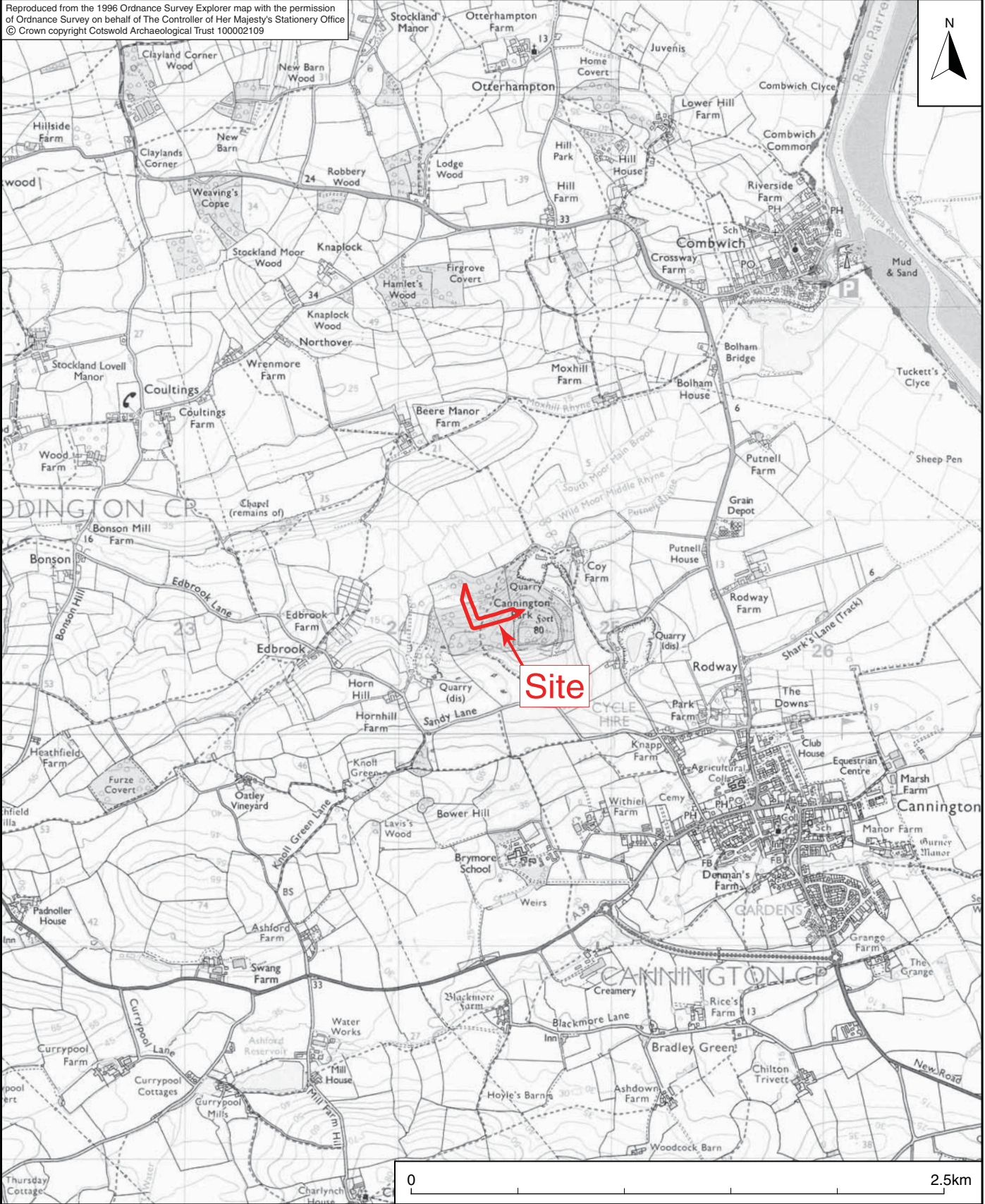
Test pit 4.


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown silt			0.15	
401	Deposit	Colluvial subsoil. Reddish brown silt			0.4	
402	Deposit	Natural Substrate. Carboniferous limestone				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

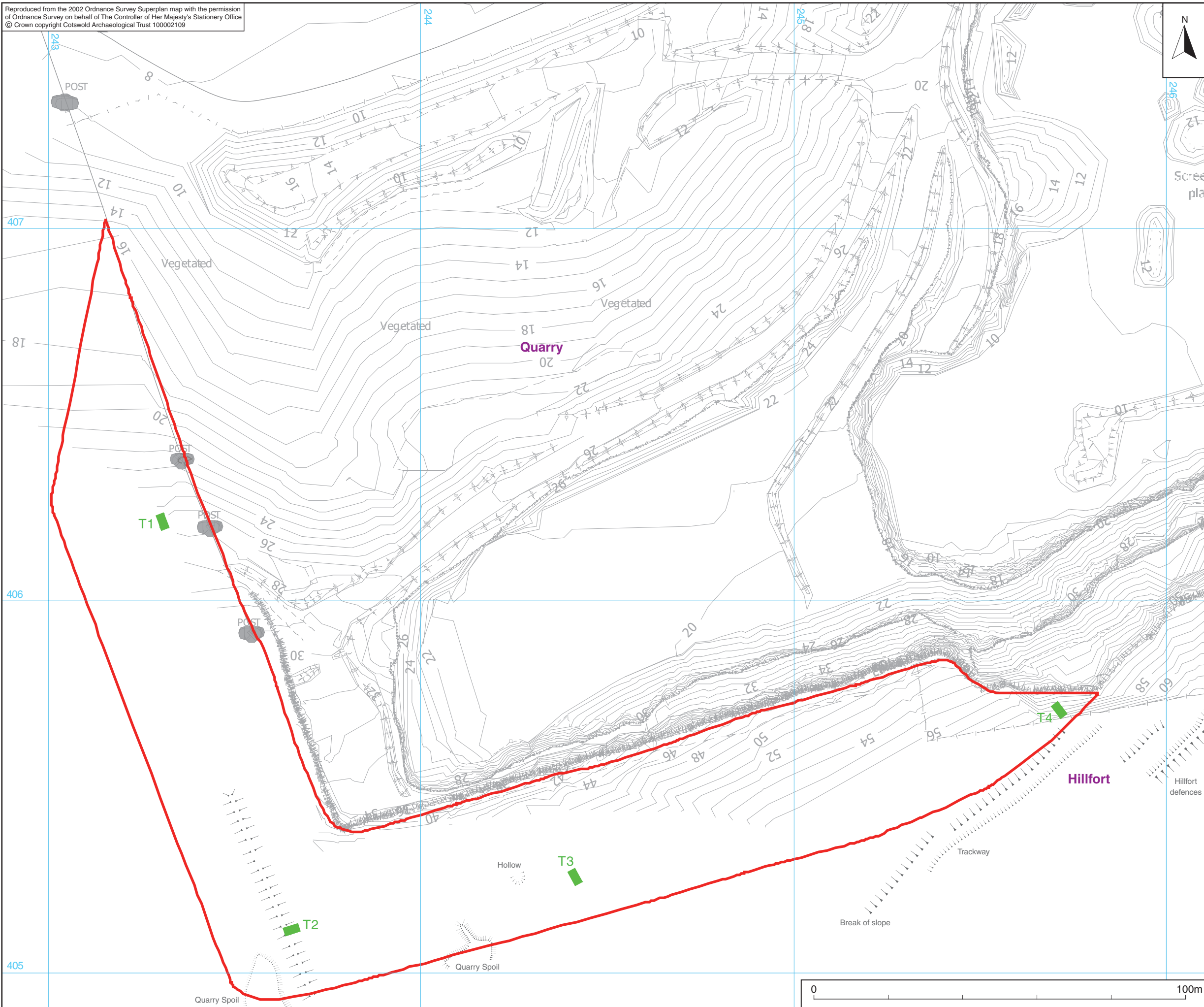
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2009 at Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset. Four test pits were excavated. Two track ways and a limestone rubble bank, all of modern date, were identified during the evaluation.	
Project dates	28 January – 3 February 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Yes	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 2440 4050	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Somerset County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Somerset County Museum, Taunton	
Paper	Somerset County Museum, Taunton	Trench Sheets; context sheets; matrices; photographic record sheets; colour slides; monochrome contact sheets and negatives; permatrace drawings; drawing record sheets.
Digital	Somerset County Museum, Taunton	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 09030		



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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington Somerset			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2780	1

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-  site boundary
-  test pit location

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington
Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Test pit location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	2780	2

