



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**ON**

**PROPOSED EXTENSION TO HATFORD QUARRY,**

**SANDY LANE, HATFORD, OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SU 3275 9570**

*On behalf of*

*Earthline Ltd.*

**MAY 2012**

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**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Origins of the report	1
1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies	1
1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives	3
1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology	3
<b>2 THE SITE</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Location	4
2.2 Description	5
2.3 Geology and Topography	5
<b>3 PROPOSED SCHEME</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 The Historical Development of Hatford	5
4.2 Known Archaeological Sites	6
4.3 Cartographic Research	10
4.4 Air Photography	13
4.5 Site Visit and Area Reconnaissance	14
<b>5 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site	15
5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains	16
5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains	16
<b>6 CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED</b>	<b>17</b>
7.1 Books and Documents	17
7.2 Historic Maps	18
7.3 Gazetteer of Historic Environment Records	19

**FIGURES**

Figure 1	Location	2
Figure 2	HER Data, all periods	9
Figure 3	Rocque's map of 1761 (BRO T/M 128)	11
Figure 4	Tyrrel's estate map, c. 1750 (BRO D/E BP P5)	12
Figure 5	Cropmarks on potential quarry site	14

## **SUMMARY**

*This document is an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment that forms an Appendix of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed western extension of Hatford Quarry (NGR SU 3275 9570) prepared for Earthline Limited c/o Stephen Bowley Planning Consultancy. The site lies in a landscape that contains a semi-nucleated Iron Age settlement up the Sandy Lane Ridge. This Iron Age settlement pattern coalesced into a Roman nucleated town at Chinham Farm that lies about 1km from the proposal site adjacent to the A417. The proximity of this small Roman market town means that associated satellite agricultural field systems, settlement sites (including villas) are to be found in a higher than normal concentration in the vicinity of the Frogmore Book and the Sandy Lane ridge. Aerial photographs showed that there are potentially cropmarks located on the proposal site that may form part of this Iron Age settlement or later Roman activity. Suggestions are made for the mitigation strategy.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Origins of the Report**

Stephen Bowley of Stephen Bowley Planning Consultancy, on behalf of Earthline Limited of Ogbourne Saint George, has commissioned this archaeological desk-based assessment on land adjacent to Hatford Quarry, Hatford, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire. The reason for this is that a further extension to that quarry is being proposed. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area of the surviving archaeology on the proposal site and within a designated radius of that site.

### **1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies**

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012), from now *NPPF*, provides guidance related to archaeology and built heritage within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

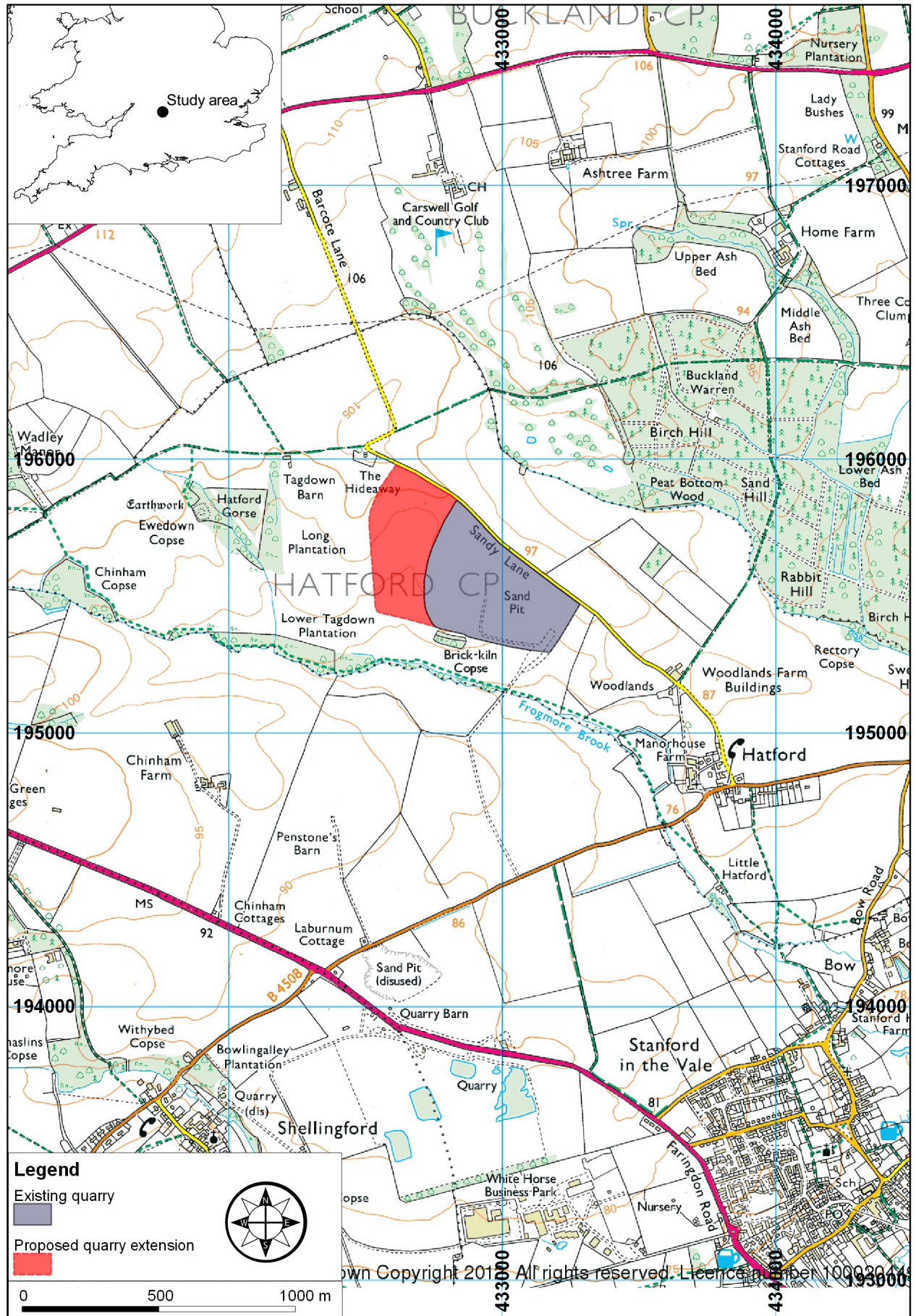


Figure 1. Site location

In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

### **1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives**

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site in accordance with the *NPPF* (2012) that provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process.

It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF*, the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

### **1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology**

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Oxfordshire County Historic Environment Record
- The National Monuments Record, Swindon
- The Berkshire Record Office

The National Monuments Record, Swindon and Oxfordshire County Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 1 kilometre of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 3275 9570, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record belongs to Oxfordshire County Council.

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location (Figure 1)**

The site is located on the south side of Sandy Road north of the village of Hatford, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 3275 9570), previously in the historic county of Berkshire.



## **2.2 Description (Figure 1)**

The proposal site is in open fields to the north of the village and lies next to previous workings at present that are shielded from public view by a bund, which it is proposed should be extended.

## **2.3 Geology and Topography**

Topographically the village lies on a spur of land that is bounded by streams on the south, north and southeast sides. The south stream is now called the Frogmore Brook, which is closest to the site. One of the OHER records refers to peat deposits along this brook.

Geologically the ridge that lies north of the Frogmore Brook is in ground formed by the Corallian beds (BGS 1971, sheet 253). The area around the village of Hatford is indicated as being located on Limestone. The map also shows a further outcrop of limestone running to the north of Sandy Lane and then extending across the road into the area of the proposed quarry extension. Between these outcrops are deposits of sand. The Aerial Photographs show an area of limestone in the proposed extension area, with blocked cropmarks indicative of a limestone landscape.

The soil is a loose red sand turned by the plough.

## **3 PROPOSED SCHEME (Figure 1)**

The proposal is for the extension of the gravel working site towards the northwest, which will extend the mineral extraction area to 24ha.

## **4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figure 2)**

### **4.1 The Historical Development of Hatford**

The parish of Hatford, was an isolated parish attached to Marcham Hundred in 1086 but is later recorded as part of Ganfield Hundred (VCH 1924, 452) along with Stanford, Shellingford, Buckland, Hinton Waldrist and Longworth. This formed a large cohesive territory extending from the Thames to the Ock. The meeting place of the latter hundred was at Ganfield Farm, but no specific feature on that farm has yet been associated with this meeting place. Ganfield was located on the northern boundary brook of Hatford parish.

The manor is first mentioned historically in 1086 when it formed a manor of Gilbert of Bretteville and was held from him by Payne. There is mention to two halls that were held by two brothers, who are not named, and that the estate covered 10 hides (Morgan 1979, 36.4). The estate contained 3 villagers, 11 smallholders, and 3 slaves along with a church.

In the reign of Henry III (1216-72) the manor is known to have been in the hands of Robert de Hatford and remained in the Hatford family until it was sold c. 1380 to Sir Gilbert Talbot (VCH 1924, 461-3). In 1415 the manor was

sold to John Phelipp and Alice his wife. Alice later married a third husband William la Pole, Earl of Suffolk. This then descended to John, Duke of Suffolk, in 1463. A later Duke of Suffolk was executed in 1513 and the estate forfeited to the king. In 1539-40 the estate was granted to Cecily Unton, and in 1597 the estate was purchased by Francis Piggott. In 1690 John Hyde the manor was sold to Edward Jennings of Harwell and in 1720 John Jennings sold the manor and estate to William Tyrrell. In c. 1761 the manor was sold to Joseph Nutt. Post 1813 the manor passed to Philip Pusey and the lords of Pusey.

There was a church at Hatford in 1086 (Morgan 1979, 36.4), but the present church is considered to date from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The advowson descended with the manor (VCH 1924, 461-3).

#### **4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 2)**

A 1km search was carried out around the site on the Oxfordshire Historic Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record. Normally this search produces a series of corresponding accounts, but in this case there were divergences in the two in the coordinates given against the national grid and potentially some cropmarks obtained from the Thames Valley Mapping programme.

The oldest recognised site was a scatter of Mesolithic finds located approximately 1km to the southwest of the site in the vicinity of Chinham Farm (HER 3228-MOX9615: SU 32 95; JMHS 1).

There are a few Bronze Age finds recorded in the area. The first of these is a Bronze Age spearhead recovered from the Hatford Brook peat deposits (HER 7569-MOX9632: SU 3263 9530: MNR SU 39 NW 85, UIN 229478; JMHS 2). The remains of a further Bronze Age spearhead was recovered from Hatford Manor (HER 27659-MOX24171: SU 33649 94860; JMHS 3).

Archaeological investigation was carried out on the quarry on three occasions and at two previous dates (Booth and Simmonds 2004, 319-54). The first excavations were carried out by Tempvs Reparatum in 1991 and the later group of excavations by Oxford Archaeology in 2003. The earliest of these sites are classed as having a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date. These include two features identified in the quarry area (HER 15823-MOX23677: SU 3283 9543; JMHS 4), which has been given the event number (EOX667). The remains of an inhumation of this date were also recovered from the quarry (HER 15220-MOX9705: SU 3313 9537; JMHS 5). The Early Iron Age settlement is known to have continued along the ridge to the southeast of the site where it is regarded as being destroyed or disturbed by early mineral extraction (D7570-MOX10815: SU 3338 9532; JMHS 6).

The main activity recognised previously in the quarry site at Manorhouse Farm appears to be part of a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement (HER 15220-MOX9705: SU 3313 9537; JMHS 7). Other recorded features in the quarry include the remains of a prehistoric settlement and field system that probably

developed into a Roman villa site (HER 15221-MOX9706: SU 3295 9560: NMR SU 39 NW86, UIN 1058263; JMHS 8). These have been given the event numbers (HER EOX1677, EOX663, and EOX670: NMR 1312320, 1342746, and 1433952), see Booth and Simmonds (2004, 319-54). The NMR reference describes what must be a pre-quarry photograph in which two large but incomplete rectangular enclosures can be identified, which measured 150m by 57m and the smaller enclosure 115m by 65m (NMR SU 39 NW 84, UIN 1058261: SU 3293 9559; JMHS 9). Inside the larger of these two enclosures there was an asymmetrical polygonal enclosure. This would appear to be one of a number of settlements in the area that started off as an Iron Age settlement and continued in some form into the Roman period. The report states that there is evidence for multiple phases evident in the cutting of the features and that the enclosures are considered to be associated with animal control (Booth and Simmonds 2004, 319-54). If houses had existed on the site they were considered to be of turf construction which left no discernible remains.

Immediately to the north of the site are the remains of a large enclosure essentially undated but presumed of an Iron Age or Roman date (HER 12157-MOX9684: SU 3295 9593; JMHS 10). The NMR account of this site (NMR SU 39 NW 87, UIN 1058264) gives further information on the site describing it as the possible remains of a large asymmetrical polygonal enclosure measuring 170m by 95m and which is defined by a ditch on 5 sides and with a south facing entrance. The site is potentially the size of a small fort (about 1.5ha), although it may simply be the main enclosure of this semi-nucleated spread. A further Iron Age to Roman site is an oval enclosure and ditch at Carswell Home Farm also to the north of the site (HER 12158-MOX9685: SU 3313 9621; JMHS 11). Iron Age and Roman features including pits and ditches have been identified to the east of the site (HER D9728-MOX10816: SU 335 955: NMR SU 39 NW 3, UIN 229475; JMHS 12). There is also the remains of an inhumation and a building of a Roman date.

A number of sites are recorded as being simply of a Roman date. The most significant of these is that on Chinham Farm (HER 7061-MOX946: SU 3201 9489; JMHS 13). This site in antiquity has accounts of large quantities of Roman coins, pottery and other artefacts being recovered. The Chinham Farm site was reputed to be the location of a Roman town or other unspecified complex, and subsequently the field names Chinham Town or the City were subsequently used for it. In modern times the site has not properly been defined, however, the settlement is located in the larger parochial system of Stanford in the Vale (with its chapel of Goosey and probable chapel of Shellingford). It is not that much of a surprise that a potentially large Roman settlement occurs adjacent to what would appear to be a folk-group name. Shellingford was first recorded as Scaringaford in AD 931, which takes its name from *Scearingas* (Gelling 1974, 396-7). This arrangement is apparent at other places in Oxford for example Ducklington/Gill Mill.

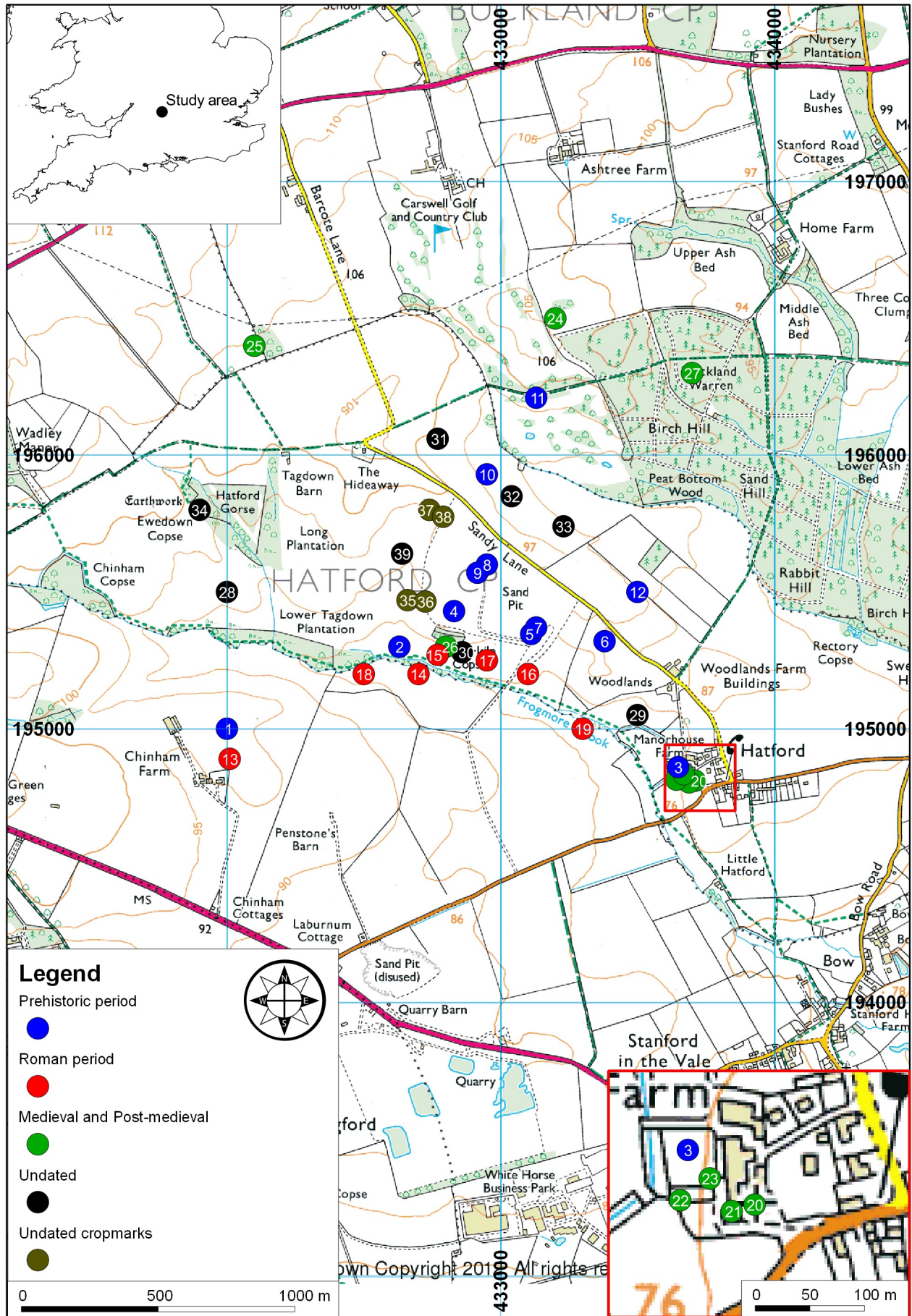
Other Roman sites in the search area, including the Brick Kiln site to the southwest of the site (HER 12490-MOX9692: SU 327 952: NMR SU 39 NW 23, UIN 662153; JMHS 14). In close proximity to that site or part of it are the

prehistoric or Roman hut circles (NMR SU 39 NW 82, UIN 1058174: SU 3277 9527; JMHS 15). There are two further pottery scatters recognised on the north side of the Frogmore Brook, the first site (HER 10616-MOX9656: SU 331 952; JMHS 16), and the second site (HER 12755-MOX9695: SU 3295 9525; NMR SU 39 NW 24, UIN 662154; JMHS 17). There are two further Roman sites on the south side of the Frogmore Brook, on one where a complex of stone walls has been recognised and claimed as a villa complex (HER 12754-MOX9694: SU 3250 9520; JMHS 18), and also Roman pottery and a wall at another site (HER 12756-MOX9696: SU 3330 9500; JMHS 19). These sites have been tentatively classed as villa sites, but this cluster of what is interpreted as villas in such a confined area and with no major Roman town (for example a *colonia* or *civitas*) is rare. Though some of these towns can have as many as 20 plus recognised villas within a 10km radius, others such as Gloucester (a significant *colonia*) only has five recognised at present. Such a concentration of structures would suit the arguments that Chingham was the location of a former vicus (if it is not conformed in modern times), but may also suggest that there is also a focus of activity on the Frogmore Brook. The nature of the focus, either domestic or ritual, has not been defined.

There are also a number of undated linear features that have been identified in the area, some of which can be interpreted as boundary banks, field systems, and drainage. A number of these due to their characteristics may belong to the later Prehistoric or Roman periods, while others could be inclosure field systems or leat drains of the medieval or post-medieval periods. To the west of the site is an undated field system (HER 15219-MOX9704: SU 3200 9550; JMHS 28) and north of Hatford an undated linear feature (HER 15225-MOX9710: SU 3350 9505; JMHS 29). There is a drain of an unknown date along the north side of the Frogmore Brook (NMR SU 39 NW 79, UIN 1058171: SU 3286 9528; JMHS 30). Three undated sites occur on the north side of Sandy Lane which include an irregular linear ditch of an unknown date interpreted as a possible boundary (NMR SU 39 NW 88, UIN 1058265: SU 3277 9606; JMHS 31), ditches described as being of an unknown date (NMR SU 39 NW 89, UIN 1058266: SU 3304 9585; JMHS 32), and also two ditches of a trackway 80m in length (NMR SU 39 NW 90, UIN 1058267: SU 3323 9574; JMHS 33).

Four undated cropmarks, of a probable late prehistoric or Roman date, have been identified on the proposal site (JMHS 35, 36, 37, 38), see section 4.4.

One site which is tentatively claimed to be medieval is a site in Ewedown Copse (HER 7039-MOX189: SU 319 958; JMHS 34) to the northwest of the proposal site. This site consists of a rectangular earthwork with a platform and a ditch and outer bank. The site is interpreted as a moat, but the site does not appear to sit within a broadly recognisable medieval landscape. The site may be medieval, but could feasibly be part of another period. If it is a moated manor site or hall then it is worth noting here that at the time of Domesday (Morgan 1979, 36.4) that the manor was served by two brothers who both had a hall. In later accounts the estate has been amalgamated. Presumably the surviving manor is the location of one of these halls, where the other hall was located has not been confirmed.



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Figure 2. HER Data, all periods

Medieval sites or post-medieval sites built on earlier medieval sites include the church of Saint George (HER 7056-MOX942: SU 3371 9481; JMHS 20) and the Manor House of Hatford (HER 22314-MOX18712: SU 33689 94804; JMHS 21), while ridge and furrow has been recognised at Hatford Quarry (Booth and Simmonds 2004, 352-3). Post-medieval additions to these sites that are recognised archaeologically are the manor house garden walls (HER 22315-MOX18943: SU 33642 94814; JMHS 22), and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century granary at the Manor House (HER 22316-MOX20295: SU 33669 94834; JMHS 23).

The remaining sites are of a post-medieval date, which included two stone quarries (HER 5189-MOX9618: SU 332 965; JMHS 24) and (HER 7282-MOX9631: SU 321 964; JMHS 25). One of these pits is documented in 1725 (Gelling 1974, 391). Adjacent to the site are the remains of a brick kiln and quarry (HER 5191-MOX9619: SU 328 953; JMHS 26), which is documented in 1839 (Gelling 1974, 391). Across the Buckland parish boundary are the remains of a rabbit warren that is documented in a 1648 survey as covering an area of 80 acres (HER 11919-MOX9676: SU 337 963; JMHS 27).

### **4.3 Cartographic Research (Figure 3-4)**

There are some four antiquarian maps that show this area of Hatford parish. These are Rocque's map of 1761 (BRO T/M 128), which shows a series of fields possibly with lines of ridge and furrow banding the ground (Figure 3). Mr Tyrrel's estate map is dated c. 1750 (BRO D/E BP P5), which shows an area with a series of ponds probably located on the site (Figure 4). These could be dew ponds, they are undated (JMHS 39). They are either produced with imported clay or clay may well run nearer the surface. The map also contains the reference to Brickkiln Field. The tithe map of 1840 (BRO D/D1/65 1) just shows field boundaries and reuses the same field names, no pond area is shown.

The Ordnance Survey series was examined, which included four maps drawn at a scale of 1:25,000 (1878, 1899, 1912, and 1974) and a further map of 1:10,560 (1960). None of these maps show any sign of quarry activity, but there is a persistent feature on the maps named as Brick Kiln Coppice.

The first series Ordnance Survey map dated 1878 shows Brick Kiln Copse as a small enclosed area of trees in a large open expanse. Extending north and clipping the southern edge of the present quarry is the outline of a rectangular field, which does not match any of the fields surviving on later maps or plans. The name Brick Kiln Coppice implies that there was a kiln site, quite likely with an adjoining quarry with access to clay rather than sand.

The second series Ordnance Survey map of 1899 shows Brick Kiln Coppice along with the surviving field boundary and a further field being enclosed on the southeast side of the present quarry.

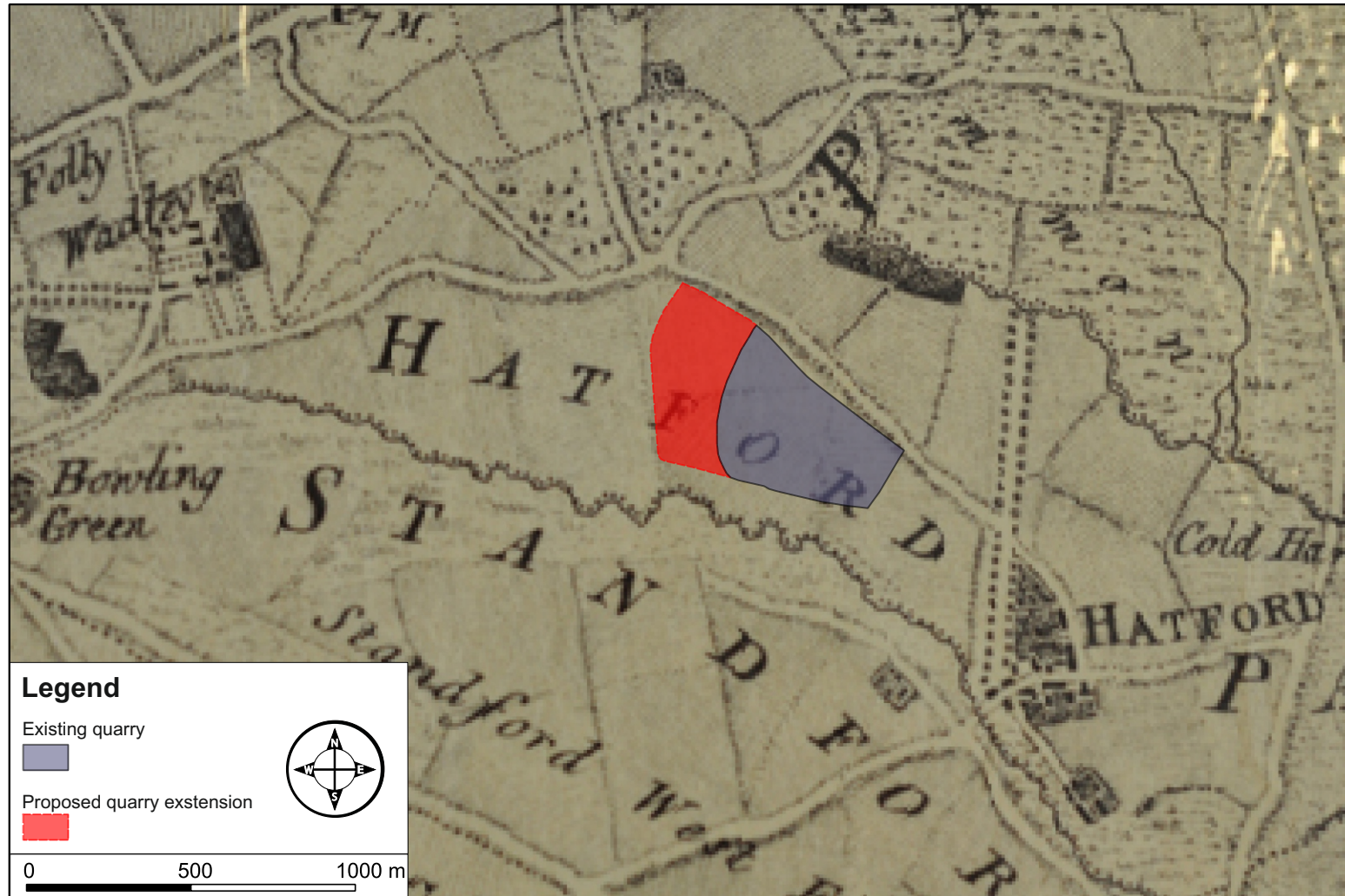


Figure 3. Rocque's map of 1761 (BRO T/M 128)



Scale c. 1:5000

- Key:**
- Outline of existing quarry
  - Outline of proposed quarry extension

Figure 4. Tyrrel's estate map, c. 1750 (BRO D/E BP P5)



The third series Ordnance Survey map is dated 1912; this shows the Coppice as before but indicates that the previous field boundaries on the southeast side of the quarry had been removed and that a new field boundary had been established.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1960 shows no significant boundaries across the area, and only the Brick Kiln Coppice surviving.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1974 shows the boundaries similar to what they were before the quarrying started, along with the Coppice.

The large open expanse is not indicative of a field system that has undergone inclosure, but is rather more typical of a heath or common. This would allow archaeology to survive better against ploughing but in these areas there was a tendency for mineral extraction; hence the quarrying.

#### **4.4 Air Photographs**

The NMR holds 84 photographs dating from 1944 onwards taken in the vicinity of the development site.

Field systems and associated rectilinear cropmarks are evident to the south of the present quarry on photographs taken between 1970 and 1990 (NMR4454/11, 12, 43; NMR 4575/35, 26, 27; NMR4514/24, 25 and NMR221/324). One photograph (NMR4575/24) suggests that these extend to the west into the proposed quarry extension area.

Rectilinear cropmarks are seen to the west of the proposed extension area on photographs from 1970 (NMR211/337 and 338). It is likely that these are associated with those seen to the east. Further cropmarks are evident to the north of the site on the other side of Sandy Lane on photographs taken in July 1972 (NMR407/227, 228, 229 and 230).

Photographs from June 1996 (OS/96127 139, 140, 141 and 142) show the quarry with some sub-circular marks to the west within the extension area, but these are thought to be geological. Similar marks are also seen on the earlier photographs from April 1971 (OS/71072 237, 238 and 239) and July 1970 (NMR211/331, 332, 329 and 330).

There appears to be significant geological features in the area of the proposed extension that may mask more subtle archaeological features. Although it is probable that photographs taken in July 1984 (NMR2169/1077, 1078, 1079, 1081 and 1083) show faint traces of linear and sub-circular features (Figure 5). These features lie at the following co-ordinates (SU 32660 95470, SU 32725 95465, SU 32740 95800, SU 32790 95775).

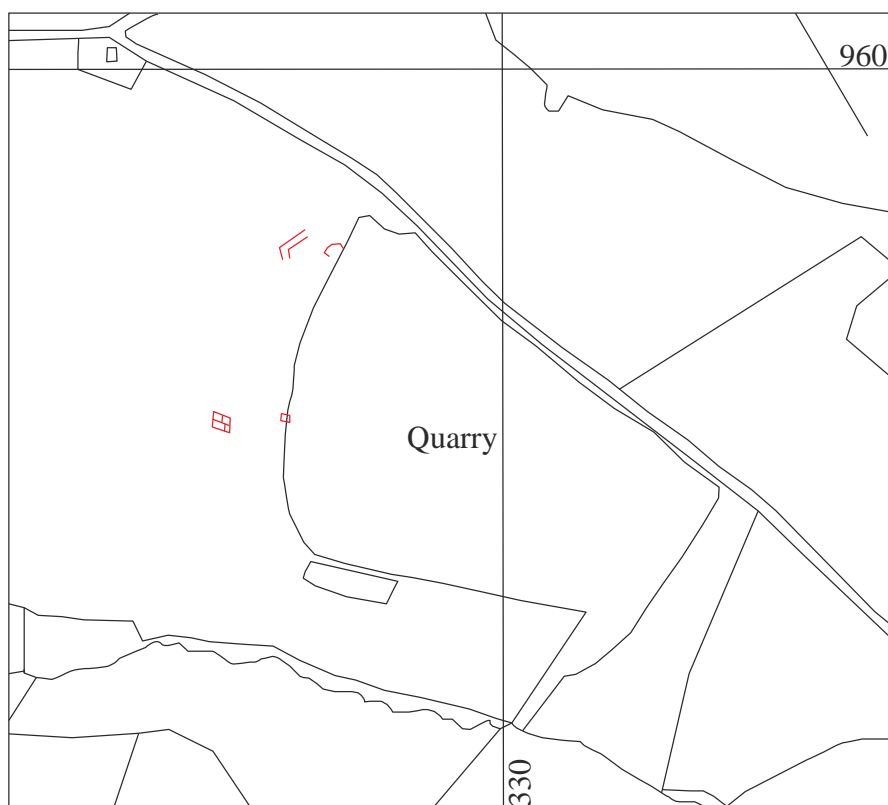


Figure 5: Cropmarks on Potential Quarry Site

Not to Scale

#### 4.5 Site Visit and area reconnaissance

A visit to the site noted no upstanding monuments other than the bund of the present quarry. The visit took place on the 8/5/12. The field had been ploughed earlier in the season and subsequently planted with crops. The crops were at a height of 0.15-0.2m, and thus it was not ideal for any form of field walking. Having said this there were two bands of unproductive ground which were the product of farm vehicle wheels. A quick walk along these blank rows recovered seven fragments of tile and pot. The field investigation was not carried out in a systematic fashion, with a laid out grid, but does indicate previous activity on the site.

All of the material recovered was of a red oxidised form, much of it too abraded to be diagnostic. It is possible that darker fabrics may have been present but not noticed. The largest piece was part of a rough surfaced tile. One of the ceramic sherds contained part of a dark green to brown glaze and could be of a medieval to early post-medieval date. A further sherd contained a grey core. None were retained.

The interest in the sherds was to ascertain the probable provenance of the material and ascertain any firm date. The reason for this is due to the proximity of the earlier Iron Age enclosures already recognised and excavated in the quarry. None of the sherds recovered could be positively identified as being of a Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Some Roman pottery fabrics and tiles do contain red oxidised fabrics, and as some of these pieces were too

fragmentary to be diagnostic then it is possible that one or two of these fragments could be of a Roman date.

It is certainly the case that some of the material recovered appears to have a medieval or an early post-medieval origin. No known sites of this date are recognised in close proximity to the proposal site apart from the Brick Kiln, although it is known that there were medieval sites within the wider study area, and that the location of an 11<sup>th</sup> century manor or hall is not specifically located. The other medieval sites of manor and church are known to have been located in the centre of the village.

The copse to the southwest of the site is called Brick Kiln Coppice. The exact location of the kiln and its associated quarries are not known. The date of the kiln is also not known but assumed to be post-medieval. The alternative to this is that it is the remains of an earlier brick kiln (Roman), and has been recognised at some point in time by being physically uncovered (this is the less likely possibility). The fragments of ceramic found across the field could be from such a site.

The present site is well hidden. In the near vicinity it is only visible from further up the bank from where it is located. This site can thus be seen from a house called the Hideaway. Beyond the Hideaway one is over the ridge and the quarry is not visible. It is presumed that this would be the case with the extension to the quarry.

The site is not visible from other advantage points in the area, for example the northern edge of the Berkshire Downs.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site**

The area of Hatford Quarry has already proved itself to be a rich area for archaeological finds. On the area of the quarry two enclosures were recognised on aerial photographs prior to the sand extraction. Two excavations in the quarry have produced evidence of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Material and Middle Iron Age to Roman material. A number of sites are known to the southwest of the present quarry site bordering the Frogmore Brook, and a further Iron Age settlement to the southeast with other cropmarks to the north including a large enclosure and a trackway. Investigation of the aerial photographs of the site revealed the remains of four cropmarks that could be identified on the proposal site proper.

The Sandy Lane ridge appears in the Iron Age to have been a major focus of settlement, which occupied the crest of the ridge and the slopes down towards the Frogmore Brook. Though the individual enclosures and occupation data yielded so far may be termed farmsteads it is possible that this activity could be viewed in a number of ways. Firstly, that it was part of a larger semi-nucleated settlement or secondly, that it was part of a series of rapidly moving

farmsteads. The excavation report indicates that the features were recut numerous times, which is indicative of longevity to the site.

In the Roman period what appears to be a Roman small town or religious complex has been identified at Chinham (JMHS 13). The site is primarily recognised through antiquarian accounts with numerous finds of Roman material. The NMR (UIN 229484) gives an account of over 1000 coins, miniature brasses from a shrine, numerous kilns and ovens, numerous buildings, and a mill all forming part of a settlement covering 12ha. The coin loss ratio is indicative of this site being the location of a small town or market place. Though the Roman small town is not specifically located on the quarry site it does in itself have implications for how we perceive the adjacent Iron Age complexes north of the Frogmore Brook. The Chinham settlement may simply be a migration of the earlier significant Iron Age settlement southwest towards the A417, a road that crosses the Thames near Lechlade, before linking the towns of Farringdon, Stanford-in-the-Vale and Wantage. The date of this road is not known but could, with a Roman small town at Chinham along its path, be fixed in the early Roman period. Settlement at this town continued into the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

The location of the Roman small or market town at Chinham may also imply why a number of the Roman sites in the vicinity of the Frogmore Brook are described as villa sites. The hinterlands of towns are far more active areas than those sites located further away from such centres.

## **5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains**

Excavations have previously been carried out on the adjacent Hatford Quarry site as part of a mitigation strategy. The question to a large extent is does the settlement recognised in other places along the Sandy Lane ridge continue into the area of the new proposal site. The investigation of the aerial photographs indicates that the settlement probably did continue beyond the bounds of the northern enclosure located on the northwest side of the present quarry, as four clear cropmarks can be identified.

Field walking in the area has suggested that ceramic debris, pot and tile, can be recovered from the site by field walking. However, though one sherd can be identified as a fragment of late medieval to early post-medieval pottery, the other sherds are on the whole too abraded and suggest that the archaeology here may be significantly degraded by ploughing. The damage, however, may be different on the limestone area of the field where this would be more resistant to the plough. Beyond this it is difficult without further investigation to suggest what other damage has occurred on the site, for example previous unrecorded quarrying.

## **5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains**

As the intention is to remove the bedrock, the sand and presumably the limestone cap that is marked on the geological map and evident on the aerial photographs to the north of the proposal site, then it is apparent that all the

surviving archaeology that can be recognised on the site will be destroyed. This archaeology includes four cropmarks and also an undated pond or ponds located on a map of c. 1750. Presuming there is no reason that destruction would not be allowed then it is likely that a mitigation strategy should be devised to record this archaeology.

There may be some affect on sites between the quarry and the Frogmore Brook, due to alterations in ground water levels. Other sites recognised in the search area beyond this will be unaffected by this development.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

The area around the Frogmore Brook and Sandy Lane ridge is known to contain a number of sites of archaeological note set in a wider landscape with moving foci. Within the 1km study area it is apparent that semi-nucleated Iron Age settlement coalesced into a nucleated Roman settlement of 12ha at Chinham, on the edge of our search area around the proposal site. This was presumably in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The Roman settlement has alternatively been described as a small town or a market place.

Aerial photographs taken before quarrying of the present quarry, and of the proposal site have cropmarks, thus indicating that archaeology continues along the Sandy Lane ridge. Abraded archaeological material has also been recovered from the field. Though we can recognise the former remains of archaeological material on the site, we are none the less not able to predict at present the nature of survival. The neighbouring excavations in Hatford Quarry produced evidence of ditches and pits, some of which had multiple cuts, but indicated that positive features, for example banks or other upstanding structures perhaps turf constructed buildings had already been removed by agricultural activity.

It seems likely that archaeology does survive on the site, but that the age and nature of the survival cannot be determined. As stated above, one can suspect that it is probably of an Iron Age date and it may have multiple truncations. A mitigation strategy is, therefore, necessary. This should perhaps involve a strip, map and record strategy (as discussed with the County Principal Archaeologist).

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **7.1 Books and Documents**

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Department of Communities and Local Government (DoCLG) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework* London: DoCLG

Gelling, M 1974 *The Place-names of Berkshire, part II*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

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VCH 1924 *A History of the County of Berkshire, volume 4*, London: Saint Catherine's Press

## 7.2 Historic Maps

BGS 1971 British Geological Survey: Abingdon map 253

Ordnance Survey maps 1:2,500 1878, 1899, 1912, 1960, 1974

### **Berkshire Record Office**

BRO D/D1/65 1 1840 Hatford Tithe Map

BRO D/E BP P5 c.1750 Mr Tyrrel's estate map

BRO D/E BP P7 1854 William Bryan Wood's survey map

BRO T/M 128 1761 Rocque's map of Berkshire

### **Vertical Photographs**

1944 US/7PH/GP/LOC164 5018-22

1946 RAF/106G/UK/1395 3290

1946 RAF/106G/UK/1395 4197-98

1946 RAF/106G/UK/1408 4086-88

1946 RAF/106G/UK/1408 4163-65

1946 RAF/106G/UK/1721 5033-36

1971 OS/1072 237-239

1994 OS/94147B 129-130

1996 OS/96127 57-60

1996 OS/96127 139-142

2000 OS/00014 9-10

### **Oblique Photographs**

1970 NMR211/324

1970 NMR211/328-338

1972 NMR407/227-230

1976 NMR970/248-249

1984 NMR10757/11

1984 NMR2169/1076-1084

1989 NMR4454/35-44

1989 NMR4514/23-25

1990 NMR4575/24-29

1990 NMR4372/30

1997 NMR15723/16-17

1997 NMR15696/34-35

**7.3 GAZETEER ON HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT RECORD**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Identifying Number</b>	<b>X coordinate</b>	<b>Y coordinate</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Mesolithic	HER 3228-MOX9615	432000	195000	Chinham Farm: Mesolithic Flints
2	Bronze Age	HER 7569-MOX9632	432630	195300	Hatford Brook peat: Bronze Age spearhead
3	Bronze Age	HER 27659-MOX24171	433649	194860	Hatford Manor: Bronze Age spearhead
4	Late Bronze Age	HER 15823-MOX23677	432830	195430	Manorhouse Farm Quarry: features of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date.
5	Early Iron Age	HER 15220-MOX9705	433130	195370	Manorhouse Farm Quarry: burial of a late Bronze Age or early Iron date.
6	Early Iron Age	HER D7570-MOX10815	433380	195320	An early Iron Age settlements with considerable numbers of pits, considered to be destroyed.
7	Iron Age	HER 15220-MOX9705	433130	195370	Manorhouse Farm: The remains of a settlement of the middle to late Iron Age.
8	Iron Age	HER 15221-MOX9706	432950	195600	Manorhouse Farm: later prehistoric settlement and field system that developed into a Roman villa.
9	Iron Age	NMR 1058261	432930	195590	Manorhouse Farm: Two enclosures of Iron Age date, one measuring 150m by 57m and the other 115m by 65m.
10	Iron Age	HER 12157-MOX9684	432950	195930	A large enclosure of an Iron Age date measuring 170m by 95m of which the ditch is defined on 5 sides. There is a S facing entrance.
11	Iron Age	HER 12158-MOX9685	433130	196210	Carswell Home Farm: An Iron Age to Roman oval enclosure and ditch.
12	Iron Age	HER D9728-MOX10816	433500	195500	Iron Age and Roman features.
13	Roman	HER 7061-MOX946	432010	194890	Chinham Farm: The remains of a large Roman occupation site. Antiquarian accounts describe vast quantities of coins, pottery and other artefacts. It is suspected that this is the remains of a Roman small town.
14	Roman	HER 12490-MOX9692	432700	195200	Brik Kiln Coppice: The remains of a Roman occupation site.
15	Roman	NMR 1058174	432770	195270	Prehistoric or Roman hut circles.
16	Roman	HER 10616-MOX9656	433100	195200	Roman pottery scatters.
17	Roman	HER 12755-MOX9695	432950	195250	Roman pottery scatter.
18	Roman	HER 12754-MOX9694	432500	195200	Stone walls associated with Roman pottery.
19	Roman	HER 12756-MOX9696	433300	195000	A stone wall associated with Roman pottery.
20	High Medieval	HER 7056-MOX942	433710	194810	Saint George's: The site of a church established in or before the 11th century, but surviving as a building of the 12th and 13th centuries.
21	Medieval	HER 22314-MOX18712	433689	194804	Hatford Manor: Two manorial halls are inferred as existing in 1086, but by the 13th century this had become one.
22	Post-medieval	HER 22315-MOX18943	433642	194814	Manorial garden walls.
23	Post-medieval	HER 22316-MOX20295	433669	194834	Manor House: 19th century granary.

*Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

24	Post-medieval	HER 5189-MOX9618	433200	196500	Stone quarry.
25	Post-medieval	HER 7282-MOX9631	432100	196400	Stone quarry.
26	Post-medieval	HER 5191-MOX9619	432800	195300	Brick Kiln Coppice: brick and kiln quarry site.
27	Post-medieval	HER 11919-MOX9676	433700	196300	Buckland Warren: A rabbit warren covering an area of 80 acres.
28	Undated	HER 15219-MOX9704	432000	195500	Undated field system.
29	Undated	HER 15225-MOX9710	433500	195050	Undated linear feature
30	Undated	NMR 1058171	432860	195280	Undated drain along north side of Frogmore Brook.
31	Undated	NMR 1058265	432770	196060	Undated irregular linear ditch.
32	Undated	NMR 1058266	433040	195850	Undated ditches.
33	Undated	NMR 1058267	433230	195740	Undated trackway with side ditches.
34	Undated	HER 7039-MOX189	431900	195800	Ewedown Copse: An earthwork of rectangular shape with a platform, ditch and outer bank. The site has been interpreted as a medieval moat, but is unsubstantiated.
35	Undated		432660	195470	Great Field: Undated cropmark
36	Undated		432725	195465	Great Field: Undated cropmark
37	Undated		432740	195800	Oakleys Piece: Undated cropmark
38	Undated		432790	195775	Oakleys Piece: Undated cropmark
39	Undated		432640	195640	Great Field Ponds: Ponds marked on a map of c. 1750