

**LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN
SETTLEMENT AT BOZEAT
QUARRY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
EXCAVATIONS 1995-2016**

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ARCHAEOPRESS ARCHAEOLOGY



ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD
Summertown Pavilion
18-24 Middle Way
Summertown
Oxford OX2 7LG

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978 1 78491 895 8
ISBN 978 1 78491 896 5 (e-Pdf)

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Cover: Plan of Northern Settlement in the late Iron Age to early Roman period.

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Acknowledgements

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology, gratefully acknowledges the generous support and understanding of our clients formerly Pioneer Aggregates Ltd who were then taken over by Hanson Aggregates. Of especial help were Roy Clarke (Quarry Manager) and Michael Long.

Initial metal detecting survey in 1996 was undertaken by Midland Archaeological Research Society (MARS). Subsequently from 2001 Steven Critchley kindly metal detected the site over many years and most of the metalwork was found by Steve. He also helped identify the coins recovered from the excavations. Thanks are also due to Sandy Kidd, formerly of Northamptonshire County Council, who monitored the early stages of the project.

The project was managed by Michel Audouy and Ian Meadows, who wrote the excavation result statements. Stephen Parry later took over control of the management of the project up to the start of the post-excavation work. The author would also like to thank the many specialist contributors to this project and illustrators who enhanced this project greatly. This is especially true of Rob Perrin who had the large undertaking of recording the Iron Age and Roman pottery and the kiln material. Rob also helped in answering many questions concerning the pottery kilns and their related assemblages. The report has been prepared by Rob Atkins with editorial comment and proof reading by Andy Chapman, Claire Finn, Mark Holmes and Stephen Parry.

Finally, as always, MOLA are indebted to the many staff who undertook the site fieldwork. This is especially true of this project which has been carried out over many years and involved a large number of people. The different evaluation and excavation areas were directed by Gemma Hewitt, Mark Holmes, Chris Jones, Alex Thompson and Tim Upson-Smith. Watching briefs were undertaken by Adrian Burrow, Simon Carlyle, Ann Foard-Colby, Chris Jones, Steve Morris, Tim Sharman, and Ed Taylor. Excavators included Adrian Adams, Hypatia Atheria, Amir Bassir, Laura Boardman, John Brown, David Browne, Jim Burke, W Card, Andy Chapman, Dan Cherry, Chris Chinnock, Paul Clements, Sam Egan, Jon Elston, Leon Field, Ian Fisher, Nathan Flavell, Miranda Haigh, David Haynes, Peter Haynes, Jennifer Kinsmen, Tomaz Kolesek, David Leigh, Paul Mason, Mark Patemall, Joe Prentice, Rob Smith, Keryn Stoppal and Simon Woods.

1: Introduction

Project background

Excavations found a range of archaeological remains from the early Iron Age to early/middle Anglo-Saxon, but the principal discoveries were two Iron Age into Roman settlements. For convenience the settlement on the northern side is called Northern Settlement and to the south of it is the Southern Settlement.

The Bozeat Quarry archaeological project was carried out intermittently as the quarry progressed over a 20 year period (1995-2016). It started on 15th November 1995 when an Archaeological Brief for evaluation was issued by Northamptonshire Heritage, Northamptonshire County Council. A site visit was carried out in December 1995. Work was then delayed until 1996 when Pioneer Aggregates (UK) Ltd now Hanson Aggregates was granted planning permission to extract sand at Bozeat Quarry over an area of 59ha (WP96/340C; Fig 1). An archaeological planning condition was applied to the permission prior to the commencement of quarrying. A three stage assessment of site was carried out in 1996 and 1997 comprising a desk-based assessment (stage 1; NA 1996); fieldwalking, geophysical and metal detecting surveys (stage 2; Holmes 1996); and trial trench evaluation

(stage 3; Holmes 1997). This work indicated the presence of extensive archaeological remains in the north and western portions of the quarry covering an area of c9ha with more dispersed features within the remainder of the survey area.

After the evaluation a Brief for Archaeological Recording Action was issued by Northamptonshire Heritage (subsequently the Historic Environment Team) on 11 June 1997, which outlined the steps required to record archaeological deposits to be affected by quarrying (Kidd 1997). Northamptonshire Archaeology prepared a Project Design (NA 2000) which fulfilled the requirements of the condition and this was been used when carrying out excavation and watching brief work ahead of each stage of extraction.

Archaeological mitigation work started in 2001 and continued intermittently until 2016. An archaeological summary was written for the 2001-2006 works (NA 2006) and short interim statements were produced in 2009, 2011 and 2013. In March 2016 after consultation with Lesley-Ann Mather, the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor, it was agreed that all archaeological work undertaken within the quarry would be reported on together as a publication report.

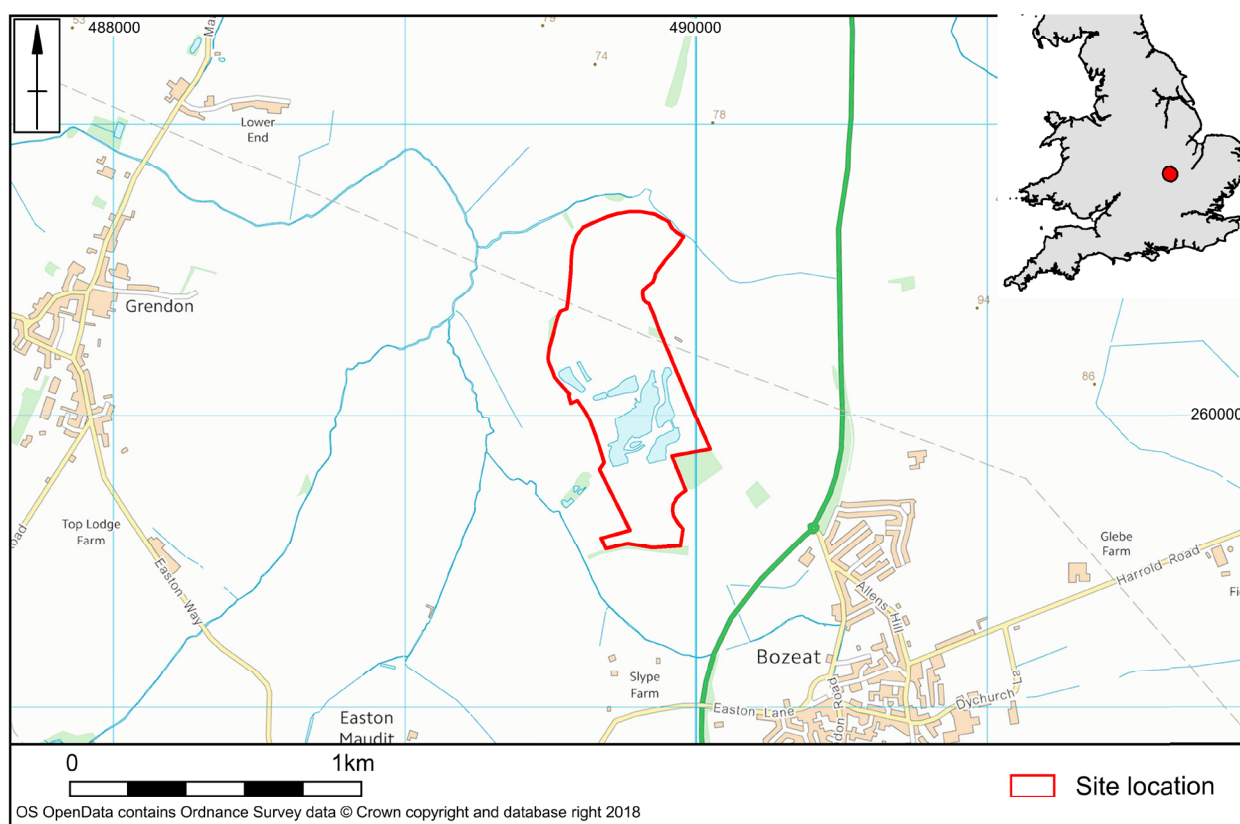


FIGURE 1.1. SITE LOCATION

Location, topography and geology

The quarry lies on the south and west facing side of a small valley, occupying the edge of Bozeat parish (Fig 1.1). The quarry lies close to the villages of Grendon and Easton Maudit. It is c1km to the north-west of the village of Bozeat and c3km to the south-west of Wollaston.

Before quarrying took place, the site had comprised parts of six fields which were separated by hedges. Field 1 was bisected by an access road to the A509 Bozeat bypass (Fig 1.2). The highest point lay at over 76m aOD located at the eastern side of the quarry area and the ground generally sloped westward to between 64m and 66m aOD nearest to the Grendon Brook which flowed from south to north. The exception was at the northern side where the land fell towards an east-west tributary stream of the Grendon Brook which formed the boundary between the parishes of Bozeat and Grendon. The Grendon Brook feeds into the River Nene, some 5km to the north of Bozeat.

The underlying geology of the site consisted of glacial sands and gravels, except for Field 1 and the eastern part of Field 2 which were on Boulder Clay. A slade crosses the eastern half of Field 2 from east to west. It may be related to a spring and stream which are reported locally to have been culverted as part of a modern drainage scheme (Holmes 1997, 2.4).

Historical and archaeological background

Late Iron Age/Roman period

Directly to the west of the site a Roman building was excavated in 1964 by D N Hall and N Nickerson (Hall and Nickerson 1970) and further investigated by E Greenfield later that year (Meadows 1992). As well as ditches from the middle 1st century AD, a circular stone foundation, with a central arrangement of four circular stone-filled post pads was dated to the 2nd to early 3rd-century structure. A pit was also found and was dated to the 3rd-century.

In Bozeat, 1.5km to the south-east of Bozeat Quarry, four pottery kilns of the late 1st-century were found (Hall 1970). This site also produced several Roman rectangular and circular buildings dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD including one with painted plaster as well as three Saxon burials was also recovered. A further Roman pottery kiln was found 2.5km to the south-east by a farmer under his gatepost (Woods 1969, 79).

Bozeat parish has many recorded Iron Age and Roman sites. Indeed as early as 1979 the RCHME stated that, 'Intensive fieldwalking and air photography have led to the discovery of a notable number of Iron Age and Roman settlements, mainly on the Boulder Clay areas' (RCHME 1979, 3).

Saxon/medieval and later

Bozeat probably existed in Saxon times - an early spelling of Bozeat was *Bosgate*, suggesting Bozeat may have meant *Bosa(s) gate* (Mills 1998, 48; Gover *et al* 1975, 189). Bosa was a common Saxon name and a Saxon Earl Bosa held land near here. In the many spellings over the years there has been considerable hesitation between *yate* and *gate* in the second element of the name (Gover *et al* 1975, 189-190). In Old English *geat/gaet*, and in Middle English *yatt* and *zett* are all recognised as meaning gate, opening or entrance to woods or land. All the various spellings of Bozeat over the years show some link to both *Bosa* and *gate*.

One possible French influence is shown in the Domesday Book (1086) spelling *Bosiet(e)* and it is possible that the Normans slightly altered the name to make it more French. There may even be a link with the French *Bosquet* (small wood) or Latin *Boscus* (wood). With all the vagaries of spelling and spoken English over the centuries it is unlikely that Bozeat is still pronounced in the same way it was originally.

Bozeat was in the Higham Ferrers hundred. Before the Norman Conquest, the Saxon thane, Strix (of Strixton) held some of the land here under Earl Waltheof. At the Norman Conquest, William I gave most of the land locally to his niece Judith, who became the first Countess of Northampton. Judith married Earl Waltheof, so the Saxon Earl and the Norman Lady became joint owners of the parish.

The quarry lies within an area formerly known as Sandwell Field which was part of Bozeat township's three-field system from at least 1441 until enclosure in 1799 (Hall 1995, 203). A plan of the field system, based upon field observations and documentary research, has been published by Hall (1973). It shows the quarry area bounded by furlongs on its north-eastern side and wet meadows at the south-western edge.

No names exist for the individual furlongs within the open field and none of the fieldnames listed in 1932 are suggestive of former settlement activity (Northamptonshire Record Office, Bozeat 1932 Fieldname Survey). The surviving ridge-and-furrow cultivation earthworks within the quarry area were levelled by bulldozer in 1948 in order to facilitate ploughing (Hall and Nickerson 1970).

Residual hollows associated with previous quarrying were visible on the ground surface in the northern corner of Field 5 and in the northern part of Field 1 (Holmes 1997, 2-5).

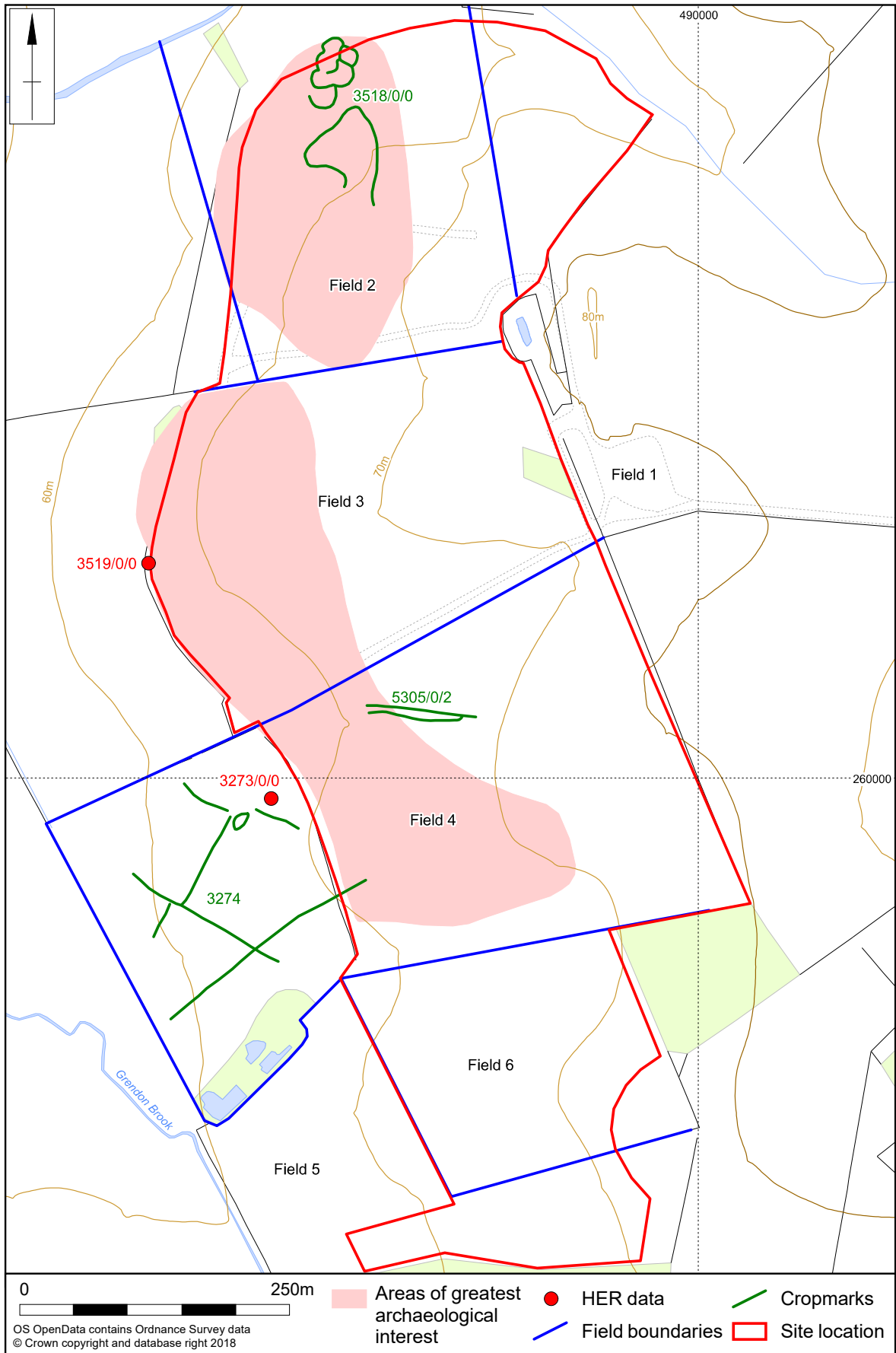


FIGURE 1.2. CONTOURS, CROPMARKS, FIELD BOUNDARIES AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) OVERLAID BY THE AREAS OF GREATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST DEFINED IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF (KIDD 1997)

Archaeological work within Bozeat Quarry 1996-2016

1996

Archaeological assessment of the area in 1996 comprised a desk-based assessment (NA 1996), a fieldwalking, metal detector survey and geophysical survey (Holmes 1996) and a trial excavation (Holmes 1997).

Desk-based assessment (NA 1996)

No earthworks were apparent during a site visit in December 1995 when all of the six fields were under arable cultivation. The 1996 desk-based assessment was carried in February-March 1996 (NA 1996). This recorded known sites within and adjacent to the proposed quarry area (Fig 1. 2). In the area directly to the west of the quarry (central area) was the site of the Roman round stone building excavated in 1964 (Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) ID number 3273; Hall and Nickerson 1970; Meadows 1992). Possibly related to the excavated building was a set of rectilinear cropmarks directly to the west of it (NHER 3274), but these were also outside the quarry limits.

About 150m to the north-east of the building was a cropmark feature (NGR SP 898 601), which comprised either parallel ditches or a pipeline (NHER 5305; NA 1996, 4.3). A further area of cropmarks at NGR SP 8965 6065 in the northern end of the quarry comprised an 'accreted curvilinear interrupted ditch enclosure complex' (NHER 3518; NA 1996, 4.2). These cropmarks proved, in the subsequent 2001 excavation, to be the Northern Settlement (Field 2; Area 1; Fig 1.8). At the western extent of the quarry edge a scatter of Roman pottery had been found (NHER 3519; NGR 3519). Excavations in 2001 and 2006 found this area to be part of the Southern Settlement (Field 3; Area 2; Fig 1.8). The desk-based assessment recorded other archaeological sites beyond the proposed quarry and excavation areas (not recorded on Fig 1.2).

Fieldwalking (Holmes 1996)

A fieldwalking reconnaissance, geophysical and metal detecting surveys were carried out between July and November 1996. Of the six fields within the quarry area Fields 2, 3, 5 and 6 were walked along parallel lines (transects) spaced at 20m intervals. Finds were collected and subsequently plotted into 20m units along each transect (stints). Two areas of Roman and early-middle Saxon activity were identified in Fields 2 and 3, around the areas of known cropmarks. In Field 2 there were 57 worked flints, but in no concentrations (Holmes 1996, fig. 4; not illustrated). Seven Iron Age, 350 Roman and 111 early-middle Saxon pottery sherds were found in the field with a concentration of Roman pottery over a c200m by 150m area in the centre of the field (Fig 1.3). Early to middle Saxon pottery was largely in the same area as the Roman (Fig 1.4).

The lack of Iron Age pottery recorded is interesting as is the quantity of early-middle Saxon pottery. It is likely that a number of Iron Age sherds were misidentified as Saxon, as subsequent archaeological work (see below) found a middle to late Iron Age settlement – the precursor of the southern latest Iron Age to Roman settlement. In contrast very few Saxon features were found in the excavation. Alternatively, it is possible the Saxon pottery lay mostly only in the topsoil whereas middle Iron Age pottery is less likely to be found by fieldwalking due to fragility of the pottery (Parry 2006, 65 -71). In the Raunds Area Survey it was found that middle Iron Age pottery survived well in features in contrast to the top and subsoil (*ibid*, table 4.24).

Field 3 produced a general scatter of 37 worked flints. A total of 912 Roman pottery sherds were found largely in a c200m by 200m area in the south-western part of the field (not illustrated). The 90 sherds identified as early-middle Saxon were also recovered from this location (Fig 1.4). Fields 5 and 6 did not produce a significant quantity of finds (not illustrated). The two other Fields (1 and 4) could not be fieldwalked.

Geophysical Survey (Holmes 1996)

The geophysical gradiometer survey took place in Fields 2 and 3 where cropmarks and ceramic concentrations had been found as well as in Field 4 in the area next to the excavated Roman building (Fig 1.5). The survey was based on 20m by 20m grid-squares. Readings were logged at intervals of 0.25m along transects spaced 1m apart using Geoscan FM18 and FM36 fluxgate gradiometers set at 0.1nT sensitivity.

Field 2 (Northern Settlement area)

On the eastern side of Field 2 an area of 2.08ha was investigated. A series of ditched enclosures and associated features were detected. The interpretation of the geophysical plot shows two parallel ditches aligned east to west along the slade, possibly marking the boundaries between the two separate enclosure systems. The southern enclosure was c35m wide, open to the east with rectilinear sub-divisions. In contrast, the northern system of enclosures was amorphous. Some of the smaller curvilinear features might have been the remains of ring gullies. Insubstantial rectilinear features marked the western extent of both enclosure systems although their association was unclear. To the east of the two enclosure systems there were two tangential circular or sub-circular enclosures, each c25m in diameter.

Field 3

The survey area of 3.6ha encompassed the Roman and early-middle Saxon pottery scatters. Two complexes of intercutting rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, with

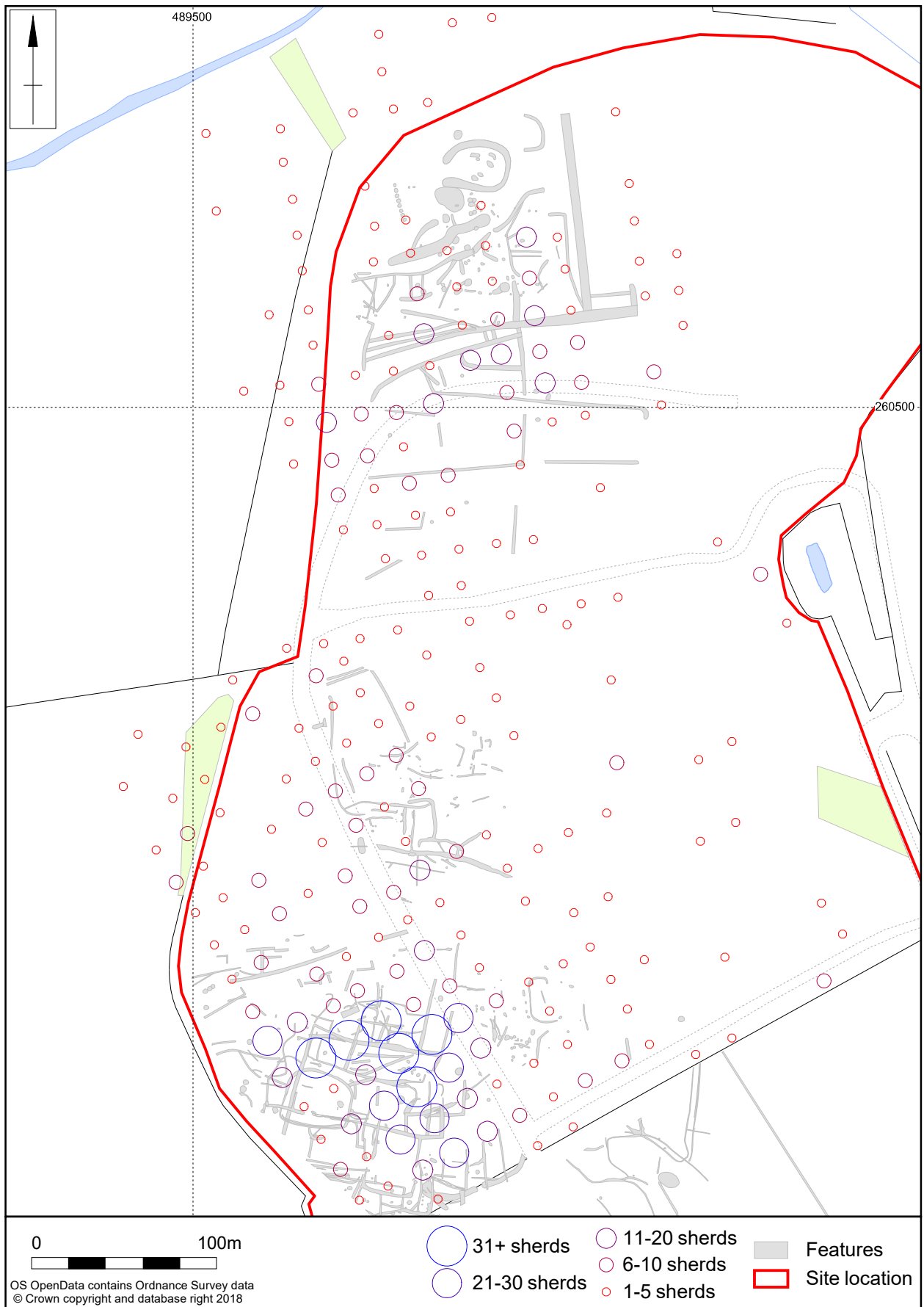


FIGURE 1.3. FIELDWALKING-ROMAN POTTERY DISTRIBUTION OVERLAYING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (AFTER HOLMES 1996 FIG 5)

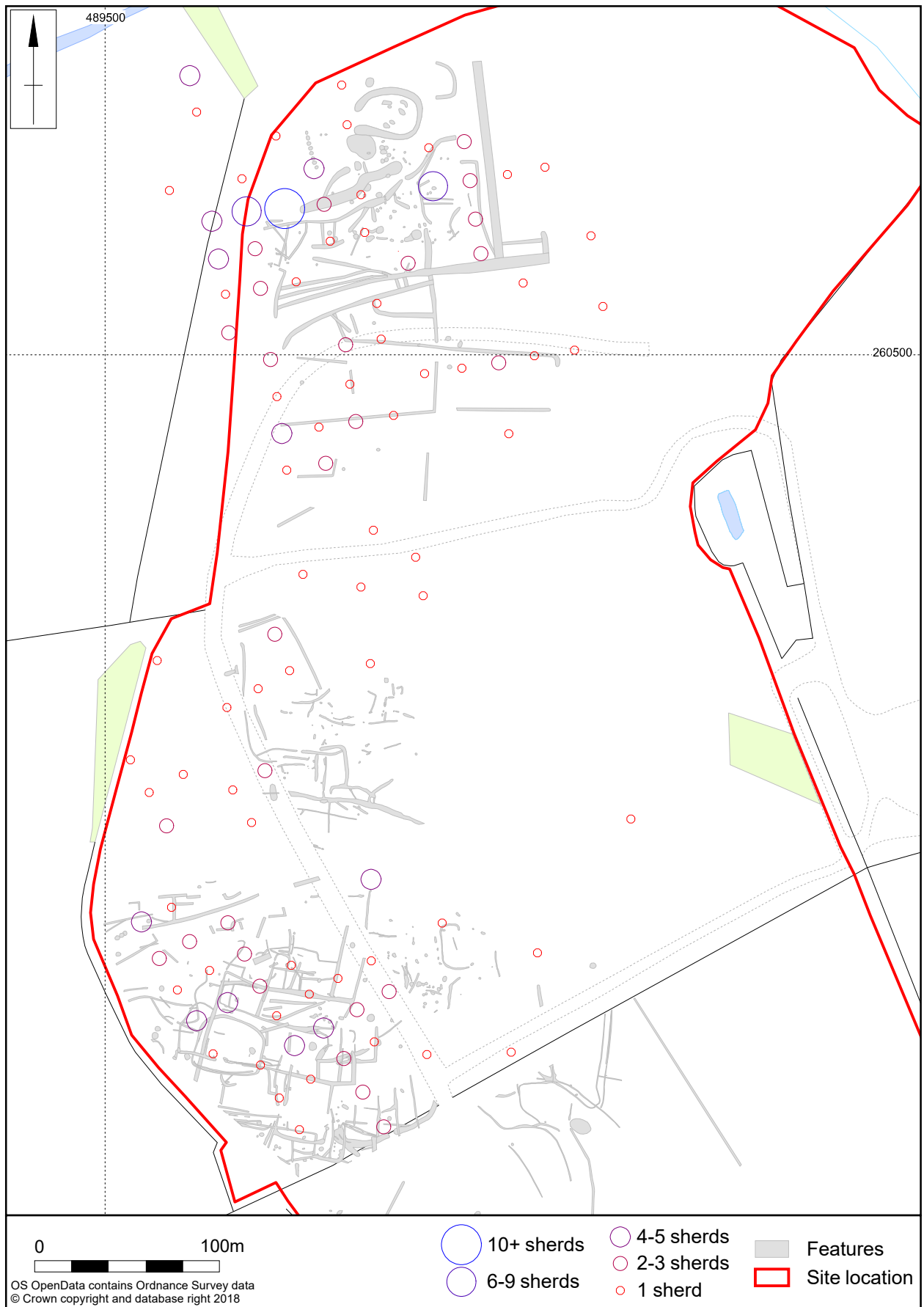


FIGURE 1.4. FIELDWALKING EARLY-MIDDLE SAXON POTTERY DISTRIBUTION OVERLAYING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (AFTER HOLMES 1996 FIG 6)

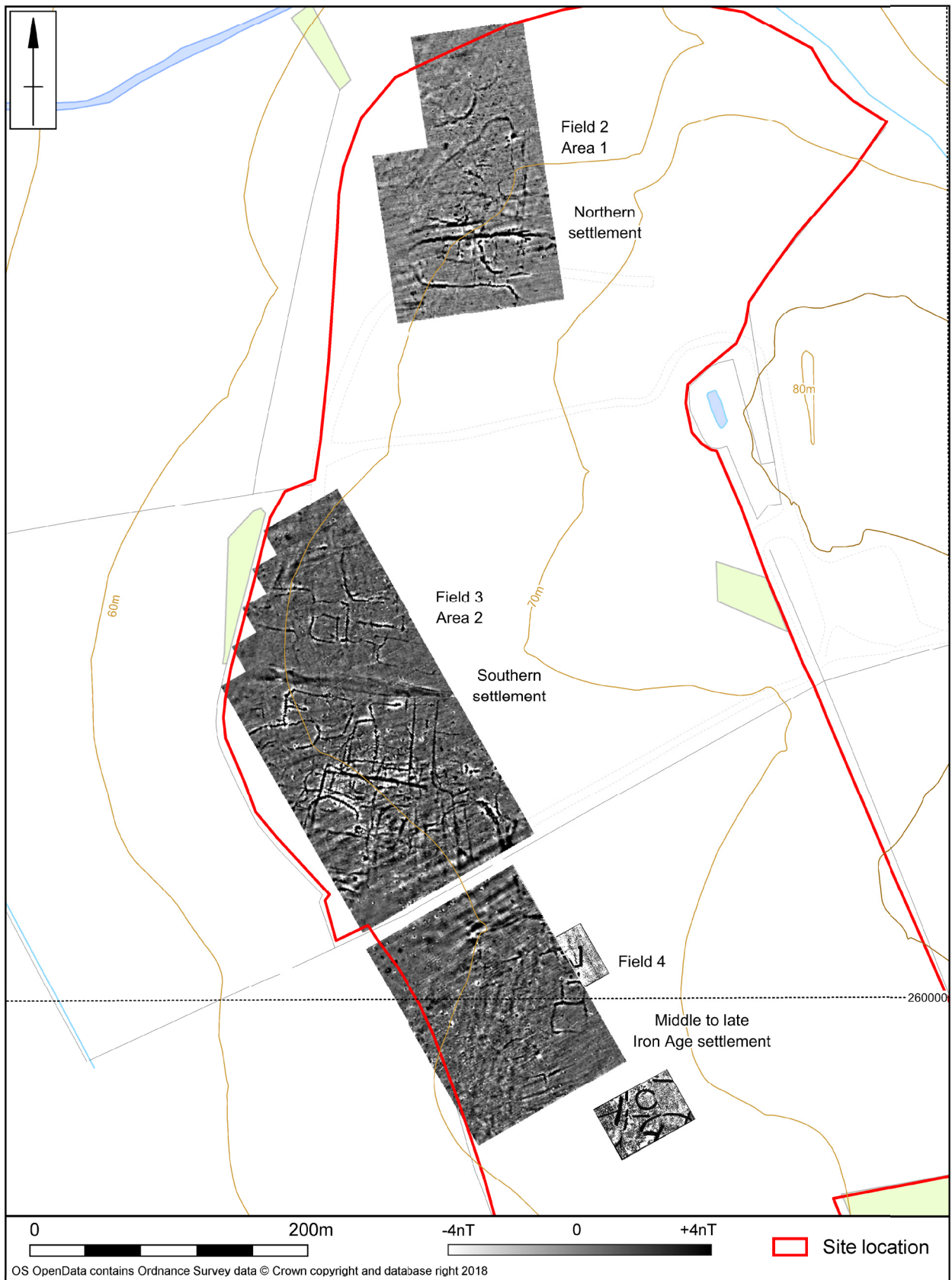


FIGURE 1.5. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

associated pits, were detected at either side of a linear feature which might denote a former watercourse or trackway aligned north-west to south-east across the site.

Both complexes appeared to have been laid out to respect its alignment. The south-eastern complex comprised more than one phase of activity. Its counterpart was

similarly rectilinear but had a less dense pattern with little intercutting.

Field 4

An area of 2.24ha was investigated. It was thought the pattern of magnetic features may have become fragmented by recent agricultural or possibly quarrying activities. Most of the survey area appeared to have been devoid of meaningful archaeological features, apart from a double rectilinear enclosure, aligned north-east to south-west and other linear anomalies at the east and southern edges.

Metal-detecting survey (Holmes 1996)

The metal detecting survey was undertaken by members of the Midland Archaeological Research Society (MARS). Fields 2 and 3, with part of Field 4, were surveyed. Finds were located along 50m lines marked at 5m intervals. The survey used Whites XLT and Fisher 1266X metal detectors. Discrimination was set at a minimum on all machines. In Field 2 there were two Roman coins (Ae 3 Crispus (317-326; Ae 4 Gratian (367-383), a jetton (Hans Krauwinkle 1580-1620) and a spoon bowl fragment. Field 3 produced four Roman coins (Ae 3/4 Constantine I (310-337), Follis of Maximianus, 2nd reign (306-8) and two illegible examples of Ae 3 3rd/4th-century). A 1st century thistle brooch fragment (leg and catch plate) was also uncovered with the other artefacts either undated or medieval/post-medieval in date.

Trial excavation (Holmes 1997)

A two-fold excavation strategy was defined by Northamptonshire Heritage, comprising a series of test pits in Fields 1 and 4 and targeted trial excavation in Fields 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Fig 1.6). The work took place between November and December 1996.

Test pits in Fields 1 and 4

The test pits were placed to verify the low archaeological potential of Fields 1 and 4 (Holmes 1997, 3.1). A series of 69 individual test pits, each approximately 5m long and 2m wide, were excavated on a regular 50m grid by a 360° mechanical excavator. None of the test pits in Field 1 or the eastern side of Field 4 contained archaeological evidence. Eleven test pits on the western side of Field 4 contained some archaeological evidence with features in five of them.

Trial trenching

Twenty-one trenches were excavated targeting geophysical anomalies or discrete concentrations of pottery from fieldwalking. Eight trenches were excavated

in Field 1 ranging in length from 30m to 73m. Late Iron Age and Roman features were found, comprising postholes, pits and ditches, as well as one early-middle Saxon pit. Ten trenches in Field 3 found Iron Age, Roman and a few early-middle Saxon features. Two trenches in Field 4 found late Iron Age-early Roman features and a single trench in Field 5 found no archaeological features. A moderate quantity of artefacts were recovered with 10.34kg of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, 2.98kg of Roman pottery and 23 sherds (0.46kg) of early-middle Saxon pottery. Other objects included two in copper alloy comprising a rod and a possible brooch pin, an iron ring and 21g of slag. There was 1.09kg of fired clay and 2.31kg of animal bone.

The work over 1996-7 showed that the majority of the features identified consisted of a sequence of enclosures dating to the later Iron Age and early Roman periods. The area of dense remains comprised some 7.8ha. The trial excavation suggested that the remains were in a poor state of preservation due to deep ploughing. Part of the area had been quarried previously, while one field had been bulldozed. However it was thought that small patches of deeper soils derived from hill wash might contain features protected from more recent ploughing.

The remains appeared to extend westward beyond the limits of the proposed quarry where the circular stone building had been found (Meadows 1992). The structure could suggest the presence of a nearby Roman villa, temple or other high status buildings. Within the proposed quarry area the enclosures probably had an agricultural function, though occasional pits and postholes found in the trial excavation may suggest a limited domestic occupation. There appears to have been a marked decline in activity in the later Roman period and it is possible that both the stone building and the enclosures were largely abandoned before the end of the 4th century. Subsequent early-middle Saxon activity has been identified through field walking and trial excavations. Features comprise two pits and the upper fill of a ditch which otherwise contained only Roman pottery. The interpretation of the type of activity during this period is uncertain, particularly because the heavy plough damage has probably removed many associated features.

1997 Brief (Kidd 1997); 2000 Project Design (NA 2000)

On 11th June 1997 a Brief for archaeological recording was issued and identified two areas of archaeological interest within the proposed quarry (Fig 1.2). In these areas top and subsoil were to be stripped under the control of an archaeologist and archaeological remains excavated before mineral extraction. In the remainder of the site there was to be an intensive watching brief during the stripping of the overburden.

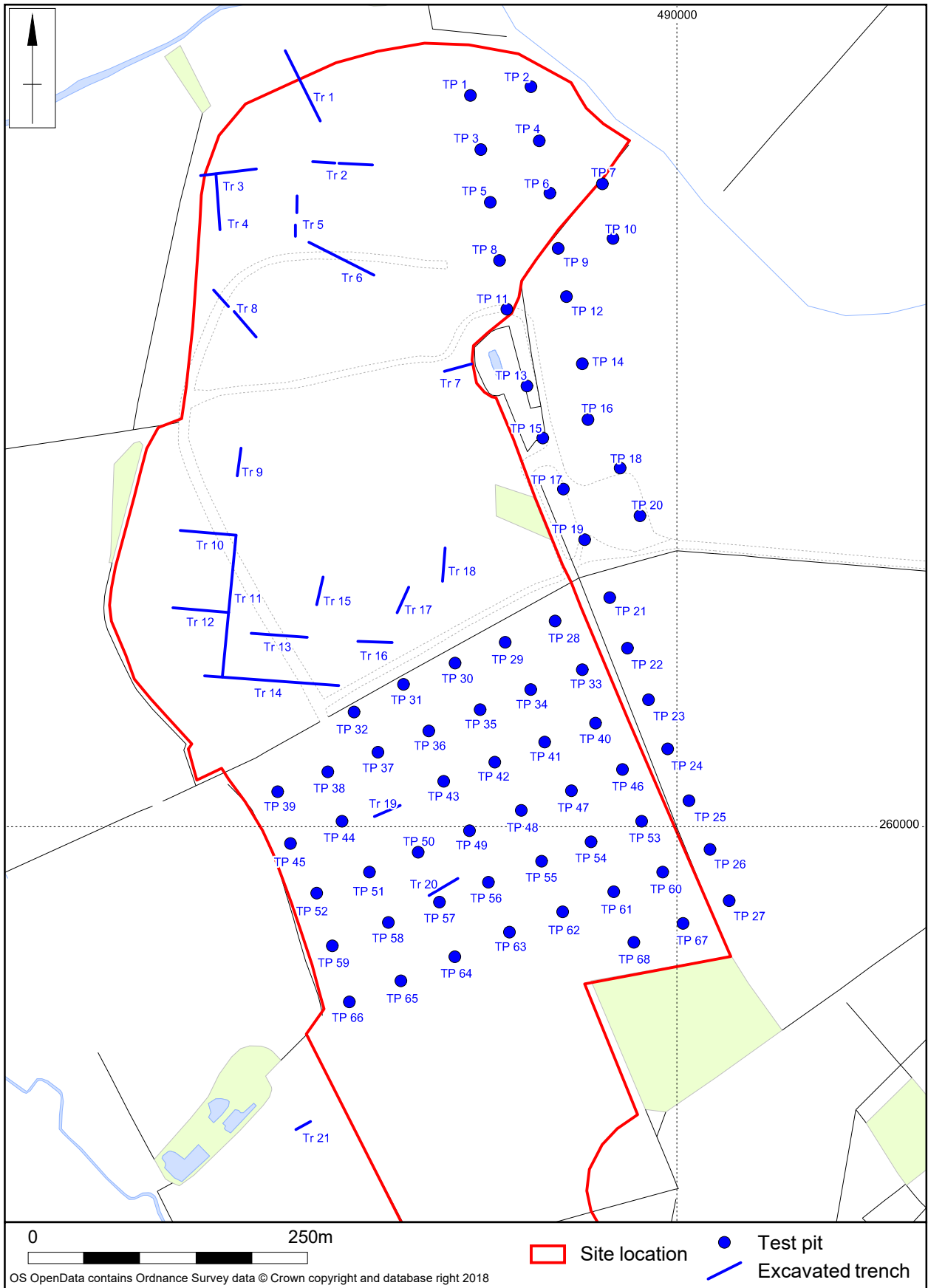


FIGURE 1.6. TRIAL TRENCHING AND TEST PITS 1997

In addition there was, ‘a contingency of 160 man days if new discoveries of county or national importance or to areas of particular significance related to the known remains (e.g. buildings where the preservation is fair to good). The contingency may also cover related investigations of adjacent areas allocated for, but as yet unaffected by, stripping.’

The mineral extraction within the application area was planned to take 15 years. The length of the project meant that the use of the contingency had to be carefully managed in case significant remains were found nearing the end of the extraction period.

The following objectives for the archaeological work were identified in the brief provided by the County Archaeological Service:

1. Investigation of the Iron Age remains and assessing their relationship to the Roman features can be directly related to the national archaeological objective of examining the transition between the pre-Roman and Roman periods (English Heritage 1991, 36 - Processes of change - Briton into Roman, c200BC - AD200). Of particular relevance would be whether the Iron Age remains were purely agricultural or whether there was any evidence of a high-status activity. The fulfilment of this aim may be made difficult due to important elements of the site being outside the area of quarry extraction and hence will not be investigated.
2. At the regional level it will be important to establish the origins and development of the remains and compare them to trends identified elsewhere in Northamptonshire. For example, there appears to be considerable continuity in the landscape between the middle and late Iron Age within the County (Kidd 1999), but as yet the Bozeat site appears to be created as late as the first half of the first century AD. The apparent absence of roads and trackways within the site, together with a possibly less rigid organisation in space and form is in contrast to the settlement remains within the valley bottom at Wollaston and requires confirmation through the proposed excavation. Other comparison of function with Wollaston will be informative where for example there was little evidence of ritual and funerary monuments.
3. The evaluation has shown that the site is rich in artefacts, especially pottery dated to the first century AD. The examination of the wares displaying Gallo-Belgic influence and their comparison with other locally manufactured pottery may provide a substantial contribution to analysis of the process of change in this period (Friendship Taylor 1998 and 1999). The chronology of the material may be enhanced by the use of carbon 14 dating.
4. The extensive nature of the work should allow characterisation of any late Roman and early middle Saxon remains which have survived the heavy truncation caused by ploughing. A high priority will be the excavation of early-middle Saxon settlement remains as few have been examined in the county (Foard 1999). Any such work has the potential to address questions of continuity from Roman Britain to Saxon England.
5. While the environmental potential of the site appears to be low, sampling of charred seeds and other organically rich deposits will provide an indication of the economy of the site through the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. This may enable an understanding of the relative roles of pasture and arable in the locality. A working hypothesis might be that a greater proportion of the economy was given over to grain production when compared to the valley bottom and boulder clay areas.

2001-2016 Excavations and watching briefs.

Excavations and watching briefs took place at Bozeat Quarry over a 15 year period (2001-2016) and took place before or during gravel extraction (Fig 1.7). In the first few years of archaeological work the machining of the overburden was carried out by box scraper. From 2006 this process changed with 360° machines used and the soil removed by large moxy dumpers.

The general site plan (Fig 1.8) shows that a substantial quantity of archaeological features was found over the 15 year period. In certain areas including the Northern Settlement, more was found than the geophysical survey had suggested, whilst in other areas features were not uncovered where the geophysical survey suggested there had been remains (e.g. the north-western part of the central area). Collectively the geophysical survey and the excavations can be used to understand the remains. The circumstances under which the various excavations and watching briefs occurred had an impact on how the archaeological work was carried out. Therefore the different work has been described by year (below).

2001 excavations

Excavation was undertaken in 2001 in Field 2 (Area 1) and Field 3 (Area 2). These areas were stripped using a 360-degree excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and wheeled dumpers. To limit the risk of mixing different types of soil and to reduce damage to soil quality, topsoil, upper subsoil and lower subsoil were removed in sequence in strips between 5m and 10m wide. This working method meant a small archaeological team could operate closely with the quarry contractors to ensure that archaeological remains were revealed without damage. Outside the excavation areas watching briefs took place

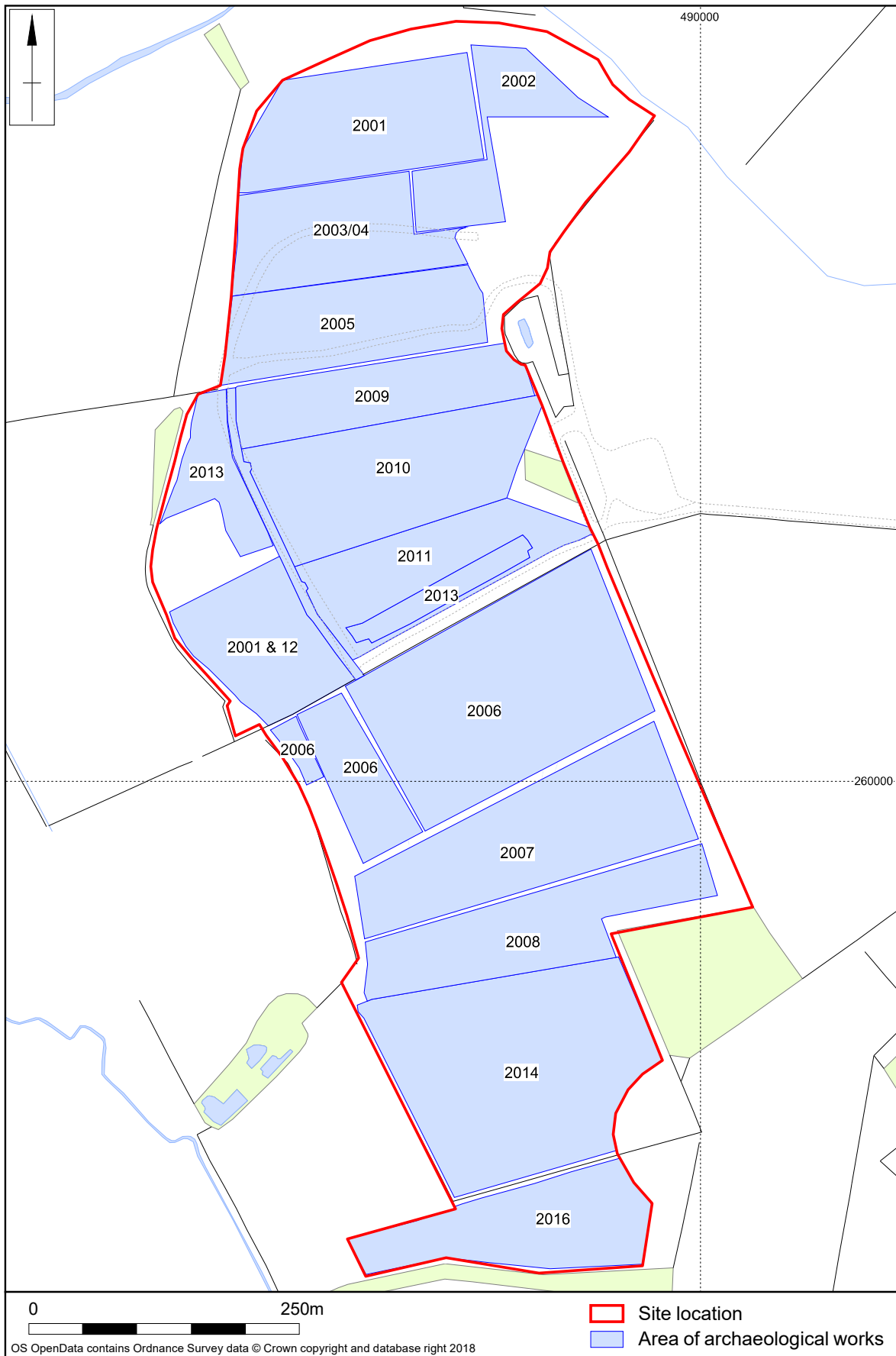


FIGURE 1.7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK BY AREA AND YEAR

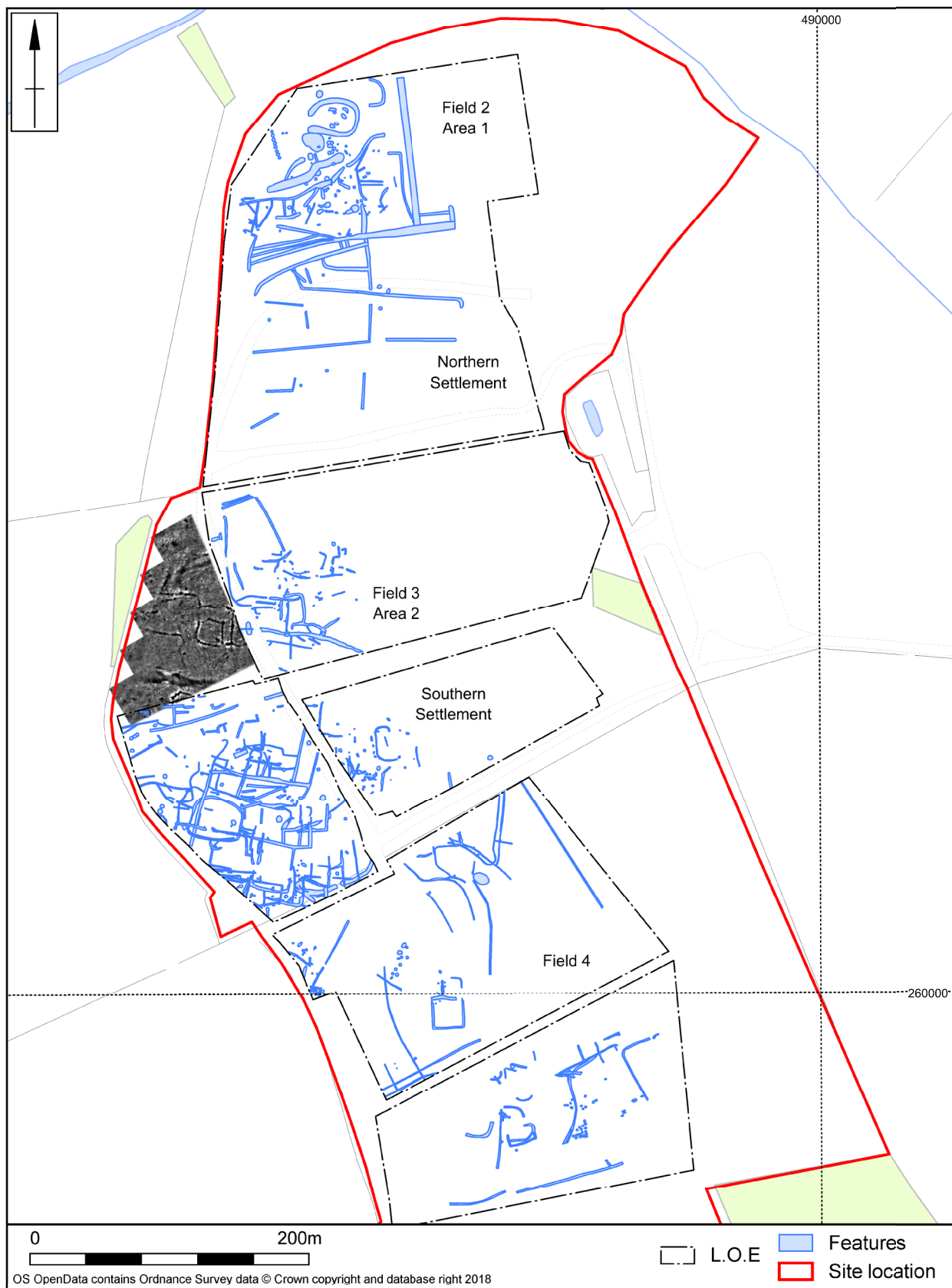


FIGURE 1.8. GENERAL SITE PLAN

within Fields 1 and 2. The excavation and watching briefs took place from 23rd-30th June, four days in July, and on 9th August to 22nd September.

The 2001 excavation in Area 1 revealed a Bronze Age/Iron Age cremation burial, a pit alignment and series of latest Iron Age and Roman ditches (enclosures and

paddocks), gullies, pits, up to twelve pottery kilns, a corn dryer/malting oven and four inhumation/cremation burials. The quantities of archaeological features recorded appear to fade out to the north of Area 1, indicating that these features could represent the northern edge of a large Roman landscape running to the south-west close to Area 2 (NA 2006).

Archaeological features were recorded at the south-western corner of Field 3 but even more at the northern side of Area 2 when topsoil was later stripped for the soil bunds and the quarry extended in later phases of extraction (Figs 1.7 and 1.8). Features were also seen to continue to the west and south into Field 4. Excavations in Area 2 in 2001 revealed an enclosure, fragmentary ditches and some pits, a cremation and an inhumation. A metal-detecting survey of the area uncovered a significant quantity of Iron Age and Roman coins and other metal objects.

2002 watching brief

In Field 1, at the far north-eastern area of the quarry, a watching brief took place over nine days in September and two in October. A single ditch was observed. Significantly the lack of remains indicated the eastern settlement boundary of the Northern Settlement had been found.

2003 and 2004 watching brief

A total of 8.5 days was undertaken for the watching brief in the middle of Field 2 to the east and south of the northern 2001 excavation area (Fig 1.7). Archaeological features were sparse and comprised a few ditches of boundaries and paddocks. The southern extent represented the field system of the Northern Settlement.

2005 watching brief

A watching brief took place in the far southern extent of Field 2, to the south of the 2004 watching brief. The watching brief took 13.5 person days with 10 days in July, two in August, one in September and a half day in October. Sparse features were recovered, mostly a continuation of the ditch field system from the north as well as a pit. No remains were found on the eastern side of the field. This work therefore found the south-eastern and southern limits of the Northern Settlement.

2006 watching brief

A watching brief over various stages took place during 2006 within the northern two-thirds of Field 4. Archaeological remains were found over most of this field. Most of this area was recorded during machining. This took place on days between the 22 May and the 14 July. Relatively sparse features were found, but

included a pottery kiln, ditches and pits within the middle of the field which comprised the middle to late Iron Age settlement and field systems of the Southern Settlement. At the south-western and western extents of the field significant features were found which resulted in further excavation with up to five people excavating features over three weeks spread out over September, October and November. The features recovered comprised isolated Roman linear ditches and pits with the remains of a possible square enclosure in the south-western area. At the far western end of the field Iron Age features were identified within a 46m long by 15m wide area. In addition the remains of up to two fragments of Roman stone structures, a kiln and some pits were also uncovered.

2007 watching Brief

The 2007 watching brief took place in the middle of Field 4 on nine days in September when fragmentary ditches were found and a day in October when a pottery kiln was uncovered. During a week in November human burials were excavated (Cemetery 2) as well as a few sparse ditches and pits.

2008 watching brief

Watching brief undertaken along the southern part of Field 4 from 24 to 27 June and 24 July to 1 August. Burnt areas and some Iron Age pottery were revealed as well as three fragmentary shallow ditches. Small quantities of work took place over five days in September and October, but no remains were found. This work defined the southern limit of the middle to late Iron Age settlement.

2009 watching brief

In September 2009 a watching brief observed a 60m wide stripped area running the length of the northern part Field 3. The archaeological area to the west of the haul road, next to the settling ponds was not excavated down to an archaeological level but cleared of vegetation and then used to stack the soils. Starting at the west end of the area a 360° excavator with a toothless bucket and dump trucks removed the topsoil in narrow strips to avoid the trafficking of unstripped soil layers by dump trucks. Time was allowed for the exposed surface to be examined by the archaeologist before the subsoil was removed to the natural substrate. It was at this level, after the subsoil was removed, that archaeological features were encountered. Five linear ditches were recorded on the west end of the excavated area but the remaining part was devoid of archaeological features.

2010 watching brief

In 2010 the middle half of Field 3 was examined by a watching brief which took place intermittently over 60

days from July to November. Features, ditches and pits were founded in the far western extent only. These were part of the northern fields of the Southern Settlement.

2011 watching brief

The final phase of quarrying for 2011 was on the south side of Field 3, and archaeological work took place between October and November 2011. A concentration of archaeology at the western end of Field 3 was revealed. The archaeology included a spread of pits, a number of enclosure ditches and drainage gullies. A few dispersed postholes were identified and a pottery kiln was also located. These features were the eastern extent of the latest Iron Age/Roman settlement.

2012 watching brief

This watching brief took place directly to the south and west of the Iron Age settlement uncovered 2001 Area 2 excavation. Continuation of this settlement was recorded. The area was stripped from the 11 to 21 September and then excavated. There was a fairly dense spread of ditches and pits recorded as well as two cremations.

2013 watching brief

In 2013 a watching brief took place intermittently between July and September. This work was in two places; the first comprised a 60m wide by 150m long stripped area at the north-west side of the quarry directly to the north of the 2001 excavation of Area 2, on an area where soils from earlier stripping had been stacked. No

archaeological features were observed. The second was a 20m wide by 190m long stripped area in the far south extent of Field 4, running east-west down the length of the field, to the north of the existing haul road. Only two features were revealed here, comprising a ditch and a pit.

2014 and 2016 watching brief

Intermittent watching brief took place at the far southern extent of the quarry. No archaeological features were found in this area.

Site phasing

Site phasing has been assessed and is as follows:

Period 1: Bronze Age to early Iron Age (c2000-400 BC)

Period 2: Middle to late Iron Age (c200 BC - cAD 30)

Period 3: Late pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman (cAD 30 – c400)

Period 3.1 cAD 30-100

Period 3.2 cAD100-150/175

Period 3.3 cAD 150/175-c400

Period 4: Early-middle Anglo-Saxon

Period 5: Medieval to post-medieval