Cotswold Archaeology

Dolyhir Quarry
Dolyhir
Powys

Archaeological Evaluation

for
SLR Consulting Limited

on behalf of
Tarmac Trading Limited

CA Project: 5817
CA Report: 16547

November 2016

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Dolyhir Quarry
Dolyhir
Powys

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5817
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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	14 October 2016	Greg Crees	Ian Barnes	Internal review		
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C	10 November 2016	Greg Crees	Steve Sheldon	Internal review	Final	Ian Barnes

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Dolyhir Quarry
Location:	Dolyhir, Powys
NGR:	SO 2436 5843
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	29 September – 7 October 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with National Museum of Wales
Site Code:	DOQ 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September to October 2016 at Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys. A total of nine trenches were excavated.

Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity was identified in the south-western part of the site where a number of shallow plough furrows were identified cutting the subsoil.

Three undated ditches, correlating closely to linear anomalies previously identified by geophysical survey, were identified in the south-western part of the site. The exact function of these ditches remains unclear. However, they may relate to tracks leading to a former quarry, as shown on historic mapping of the area.

No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September and October 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for SLR Consulting Limited, on behalf of Tarmac Trading Limited, at Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys (centred at NGR: SO 2436 5843; Fig. 1). The evaluation is to support a cultural heritage study included within an Environmental Statement (ES) which accompanied a planning application for an extension to Dolyhir Quarry submitted to Powys County Council (PCC) in April 2016.

1.2 Consultation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process with Mark Walters (Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust [CPAT]), archaeological advisor to PCC, determined that the cultural heritage study would require support from archaeological fieldwork. Discussions between the involved parties (CPAT, CA and SLR Consulting) culminated in the agreement of the scope of required trial trenching required. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (February 2016) and approved by Mark Walters. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

1.3 It was not possible to complete the trial trenching and evaluation in advance of the submission of the planning application and ES in April 2016. The ES thus made a commitment that the trial trenching and evaluation would be undertaken post submission but prior to the determination of the application. This in turn would ensure that the outcome would be available to inform the advice on the cultural heritage aspects of the development to be provided by CPAT to PCC as their consultation response to the application (ref ES Sections 14.4.2, 14.7 and 14.9).

The site

1.3 The undisturbed areas of the planning application site (hereafter the site) is approximately 25ha in extent, and comprises a series of open fields extending to the west and north of the existing worked area of Dolyhir Quarry. The site is bounded by open fields and tree covered areas. The site lies at approximately 210m AOD, undulating across the area.

1.4 The solid geology of the area of proposed new extraction/tipping is mapped as Silurian Rocks (undifferentiated) siltstone and mudstone, Dolyhir Limestone

Formation shell-limestone and Strinds Formation sandstone. No drift deposits are mapped within the area (BGS 2016). Natural substrate consisting of stony, silty clay was encountered in all trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has been subject to geophysical survey (GSB 2015) and historic environment desk based assessment (SLR 2016) as part of the EIA and planning application process. The results are set out in Chapter 14.0 of the ES and accompanying Appendix 14 (ES Volume 2), as summarised below.

2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity within the site and the study area is primarily represented by prehistoric flint. These include knife fragments and a polished axe head recovered from within the site. In addition blades, scrapers and debitage have been recovered from the vicinity of Old Radnor, *c*.0.5km to the east (SLR 2016).

2.3 Neolithic monuments in the area surrounding the site include the Hindwell Palisaded Enclosure (*c*.1.6km to the north) and the Hindwell Cursus. Bronze Age Barrows are recorded along the route of the A44 between Harpton Court and Walton (SLR 2016).

2.4 Roman evidence includes Hindwell Fort *c*.1.6m north of the site. Three Roman marching camps, identified as cropmarks, are recorded *c*.960m north-east of the site (SLR 2016).

2.5 Medieval settlement earthworks are recorded at Old Radnor: archaeological works at Court Fold identified a possible holloway and pottery of medieval date. Documents from the 17th-century note the existence of the moated earthwork of Old Radnor Castle, suggesting it may have earlier origins. Castle Nimble, to the north-west of Old Radnor, has been interpreted as a medieval motte. Earthworks to the south of Castle Nimble include ridge and furrow of possible medieval origin (SLR 2016).

2.6 Limestone quarries and limekins are recorded in the area surrounding the site from the 19th-century onwards; small scale limestone extraction may well have been undertaken at an earlier date (SLR 2016).

2.7 Harpton Court Registered Park, which dates primarily to the 18th and 19th centuries, is located to the north-west of the site. Other post-medieval and modern sites recorded in the wider area include farmsteads, scattered settlement and a World War I Prisoner of War camp (SLR 2016).

2.8 Geophysical survey identified a number of curvilinear linear and linear anomalies, including a ditch-like anomaly of possible archaeological origin, as well as features of natural, agricultural or uncertain origin (GSB 2015).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable PCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with Planning Policy Wales and Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches measuring 1.8m in width and between 15m and 50m in length, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual: 4 *Survey Manual*.

4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision 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*.

4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*: no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

5.2 The natural substrate, comprising stony silt clay, was identified in all of the excavated trenches. In Trenches 1, 2 and 5 the natural substrate was overlain by a sterile silt clay deposit, probably representing an episode of colluviation, measuring up to 0.3m in thickness. This was overlain by subsoil, measuring between 0.1m and 0.3m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil measuring between 0.2m and 0.3m in thickness. In Trenches 3, 4 and 6-9 the natural substrate was directly overlain by subsoil, measuring between 0.1m and 0.3m in thickness. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil measuring between 0.1m and 0.3m in thickness.

5.3 A number of east/west aligned plough furrows were recorded cutting the subsoil in Trench 9. Two ditches, cutting the natural substrate, were identified in Trench 9. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 East/west aligned ditch 904 was identified in the southern half of the trench and correlates closely to a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey (GSB 2015). It had a shallow, gently sloping profile and measured 3.8m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained a single undated silt clay fill, 904.

5.4 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 910 was identified towards the northern end of the trench and corresponded closely to a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey (GSB 2015). It measured 2.58m in width and 0.4m in depth and contained two undated fills, 908 and 909. Two small fragments of burnt clay were recovered from the latest of these fills, 908. Ditch 910 was re-cut along its south-western edge by north-west/south-east aligned ditch 907. Ditch 907 measured 2.06m in width and 0.4m in width. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular profile and contained a single, undated fill 906.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from three deposits (a ditch fill, subsoil and topsoil). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern period. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric.

Pottery: post-medieval/modern

6.2 Pottery from this date range totalled four sherds (47g). Subsoil 901 produced two joining sherds of glazed earthenware (GRE) which dates to the mid-16th to 18th centuries. Two sherds of brown-glazed earthenware (BGRE) of 18th to 19th century date were recovered from topsoil 900.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 Ditches, 904, 907 and 910, identified in the south-eastern part of the site (Trench 9) cut the natural substrate but remain undated. These ditches correlate closely with two linear anomalies identified during the preceding geophysical survey; they were interpreted as probably representing tracks leading to and from a former quarry, now ponds, in the south of the field (GSB 2015). No evidence of a track was identified during the evaluation. The ditches are not shown on the 1841 Tithe Map (SLR 2016).

8.2 Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were targeted on a linear anomaly, previously identified by the geophysical survey. No evidence of this anomaly was identified within these

trenches, although it was noted that the anomaly appeared to correspond with a natural ridge of land.

8.3 Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity was restricted to Trench 9 where a number of shallow plough furrows were identified cutting the subsoil within the trench.

8.4 The results of the evaluation confirmed the results of the preceding geophysical survey (ref ES Appendix 14.2 and ES section 14.7) which had indicated that the majority of the anomalies identified were likely to be of natural origin (GSB 2015).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees. The report was written by Greg Crees. The finds evidence report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer google/googleviewer.html Accessed 24 February 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

GSB (GSB Prospection) 2015 *Land at Dolyhir Quarry, Powys – Geophysical Survey Report* GSB Report No. **G15137**

SLR (SLR Consulting Ltd.) 2016 *Environmental Statement: Dolyhir Quarry – Northern Extension*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Comment	Context Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-Date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.3	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.1 - 0.3	
1	102	Layer		Colluvial subsoil	Compact Light yellow grey brown silty clay			0.3	
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney siltty clay				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.24	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.2	
2	202	Layer		Colluvial subsoil	Compact Light yellow grey brown silty clay			0.14	
2	203	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney siltty clay				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.25	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.22	
3	302	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney siltty clay				
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.24	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.21	
4	402	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney siltty clay				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.24 - 0.3	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.14 - 0.3	
5	502	Layer		Colluvial subsoil	Compact Light yellow grey brown silty clay			0.24	
5	503	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney siltty clay				
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.24	
6	600	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.13	
6	600	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney sandy clay				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.2	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.1	
7	702	Natural		Natural substrate	Hard/compact stoney sandy clay, bedrock at western				

					end of trench				
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.17	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			<0.05 - 0.08	
8	802	Natural		Natural substrate	Sand clay and bedrock				
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Friable grey brown silt			0.24	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Compact yellow grey brown silty clay			0.1 - 0.3	
9	902	Natural		Natural substrate	Compact yellow grey stoney silty clay				
9	903	Fill	904	Fill of ditch	Friable yellow brown grey silty clay	>1.8	3.8	0.32	
9	904	Cut		Ditch, east-west oriented	Linear with concave (northern) and slightly convex (southern) sides, gentle sloping gradient, flat base	>1.8	3.8	0.32	
9	905	VOID							
9	906	Fill	907	Fill of ditch	Friable yellow grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2.06	0.4	
9	907	Cut		Ditch, north-west/south-east oriented	Linear, concave profile with moderate gradient to sides, rounded base	>1.8	2.06	0.4	
9	908	Fill	910	2nd fill of ditch	Friable brown grey silty clay with some orange mottling	>1.8	1.96	0.34	
9	909	Fill	910	1st fill of ditch	Compact to friable grey silty clay with moderate orange mottling	>1.8	2.5	0.4	
9	910	Cut		Ditch, north-west/south-east oriented	Linear, moderate to steep rounded profile, flat base	>1.8	2.58	0.7	

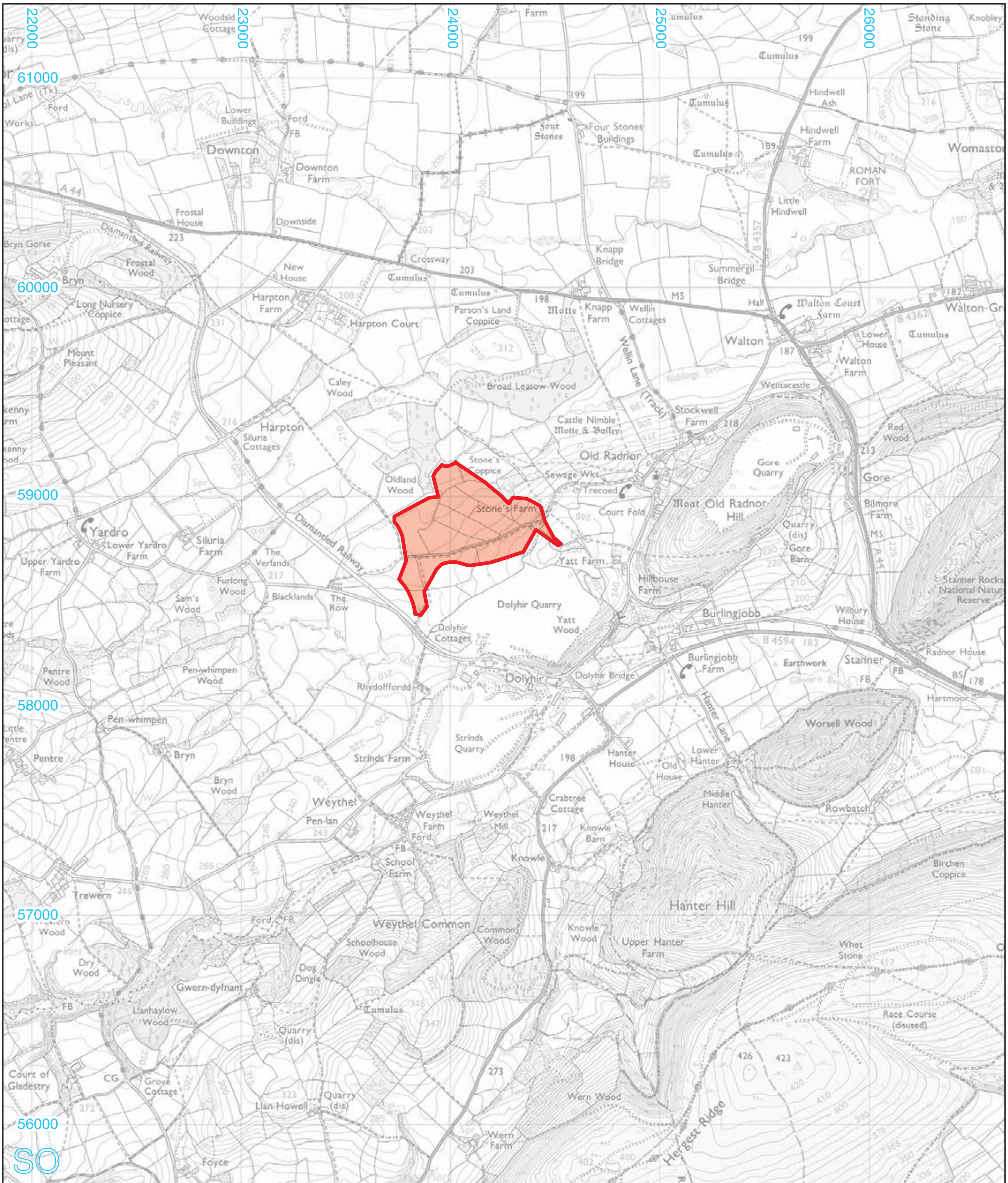
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
900	Post-medieval/ modern pottery	Brown-glazed earthenware	BGRE	2	17	C18-C19
901	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	2	30	MC16-C18
908	Fired clay			1	2	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys: Archaeological evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September to October 2016 at Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys. A total of nine trenches were excavated. An east-west oriented ditch and north-west/south-east orientated ditch and re-cut were recorded in the south-western part of the site. The ditches were undated and correspond with two linear anomalies highlighted in the results of a preceding geophysical survey.	
Project dates		
Project type	Field evaluation (trial trenching)	
Previous work	Environmental Statement: Dolyhir Quarry – Northern Extension SLR (SLR Consulting Ltd.) 2016 Geophysical survey GSB (GSB Prospection) 2015 Report No. **G15137**	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys	
Study area (M^2/ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SO 2436 5843	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		None
Paper	National Museum of Wales	Pro-forma recording hseets, permatrace drawings
Digital	National Museum of Wales	Raw survey data, Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys: Archaeological evaluation* CA typescript report **16547**		



N

0 1km

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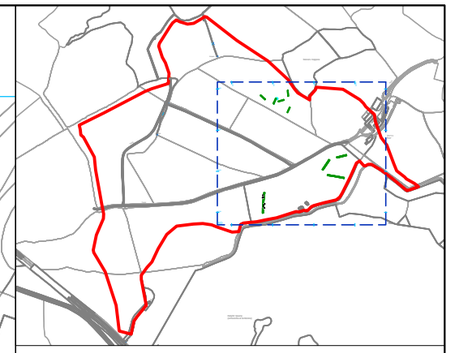
PROJECT TITLE
Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys, Wales

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RP	*PROJECT NO.*	5817	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	DJB	*DATE*	01.11.16	
APPROVED BY	IB	*SCALE@A4*	1:25,000	1



N

site boundary
evaluation trench
archaeological feature
furrow
section location

Geophysics Key
(GSB Ltd)

?Archaeology
(discrete anomaly / trend)
?Natural (positive / negative)
Uncertain Origin
(discrete anomaly / trend)
Ridge and furrow / ploughing
?Track / ?Old field boundary
Pipe
Ferrous / magnetic
disturbance

0 50m

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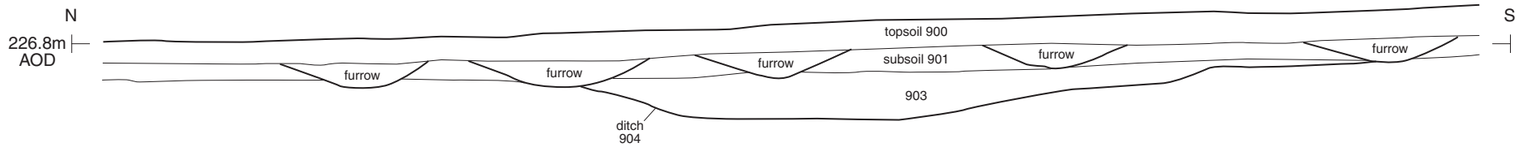
PROJECT TITLE
Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys, Wales

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5817	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	REVISION	01.11.16	2
DATE	IB	SCALE@A3	1:1250	

C:\Users\rosanna.price\appdata\local\temp\AcPublish_8472\5817 Dolyhir EVAL Fig 02.dwg

Section AA



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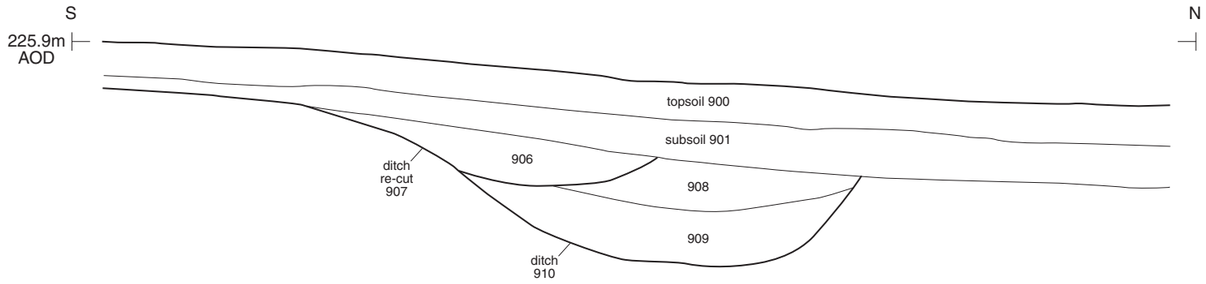

Ditch 904, looking north-east (1m scale)

Ditch 910 and ditch recut 907, looking north-west (1m scale)

0 1:20 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

Dolyhir Quarry, Dolyhir, Powys, Wales

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 9: sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5817**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**01.11.16**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**IB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

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