

Lithalun Quarry Ewenny, Bridgend Vale of Glamorgan

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Hanson UK

CA Project: 6383
CA Report: 17589

October 2017



Lithalun Quarry Ewenny, Bridgend Vale of Glamorgan

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Lithalun Quarry
Location: Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan
NGR: 289395 176624
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 25-29 September 2017
Planning Reference: 1999/00459/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with RCAHMMW
Site Code: LQE 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2017 by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Hanson UK at Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan (centred at NGR: 289395 176624; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 21) attached to a planning consent for an extension of the current quarry, granted by Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC, Planning ref: 1999/00459/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CA (2017) that was approved by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Curatorial Division, archaeological advisor to VGC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is bounded to the north by woodland, to the east by the present quarry and to the south and west by fields. The site lies at approximately 90m AOD, the ground level dropping away to the north-east.
- 1.4 The site is approximately 1.1ha in extent and comprises grass fields used as pasture, with a quarry haul road running along the east edge and spoil bunds from the previous quarry extension in 2002 along the north-west and south-west edges.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Friars Point Limestone Formation of the Carboniferous period with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of heritage desk-based assessment (Evans 1999), and an archaeological watching brief was undertaken within the adjacent quarry (GGAT 2002), immediately to the east of the current site. The following section provides a summary of information provided by these investigations. The site lies within the Ogmores Down Historic Landscape Aspect Area (Aspect Area Code

VLFGHL034) and is close to a Registered Historic Landscape Area, recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, namely Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows. The site lies immediately to the east of areas Ogmoredown Historic Characterisation Landscape Area (HCLA) 016 and Ogmoredown HCLA018. These areas are important as they are the last surviving unenclosed upland common in the Vale of Glamorgan and contain a range of archaeological sites of all periods. The Primary Record Numbers (PRN) below refer to entries in the GGAT Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistoric

- 2.2 No prehistoric activity has been recorded within the site. Within the vicinity a Neolithic axe head (PRN 1560m) was recorded approximately 600m to the north-west (Evans 1999). Flemming's Down (PRN 00467m), an Iron-Age promontory fort, is located 500m to the west. The fort is a Scheduled Monument (GM466). During the previous watching brief a single Neolithic arrowhead was recovered to the south of the current site (PRN 07942m; GGAT 2002).

Post-Medieval

- 2.3 Within the immediate vicinity of the site three post-medieval quarry pits have been identified (PRNs 09943m, 07944m and 07945m). Within the wider landscape further quarry pitting has been identified, of which several are marked on historic OS mapping (Evans 1999).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising stripping of turf and topsoil to reveal the natural substrate, and the dismantling of dry-stone walls (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 Natural geological substrate 101, consisting of outcropping limestone bedrock within an orange brown clay, was revealed throughout the site at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level. This was overlain by silty clay turf and topsoil 100 averaging 0.3m in thickness. No subsoil was apparent between topsoil and natural substrate.
- 5.2 Two derelict dry-stone walls (W1 and W2), running roughly west to east across the site, remained as relics of the post-medieval agricultural landscape, and were associated with a barn and walls that survive to the west of the site.
- 5.3 A small hollow or depression (TP1) was observed on the north side of W2. This was most likely a tree-throw pit as recent aerial photographs show a small patch of woodland in this area, and was recent enough to be overgrown but not filled in.
- 5.4 The line of a temporary haul road (LQ10) used during the previous quarry extension was revealed below the topsoil. It comprised dark silty clay and limestone boulders.
- 5.5 No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. The artefactual material was not retained.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may suggest that no activity pre-dating the post-medieval period, and which might leave archaeological traces, took place within the development area. Although the absence of a subsoil between the topsoil and natural substrate could suggest truncation of the substrate deposits it is more likely that subsoil never developed in this exposed hilltop location.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Noel Boothroyd. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Noel Boothroyd, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 4 September 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Evans 1999 *Lithalun Quarry Extension: Archaeological Assessment*, GGAT Report No. **97/085**

GGAT (Gwent-Glamorgan Archaeological Trust) 2002 *Lithalun Quarry Vale of Glamorgan: Archaeological Watching Brief*, GGAT Report No. **2002/069**

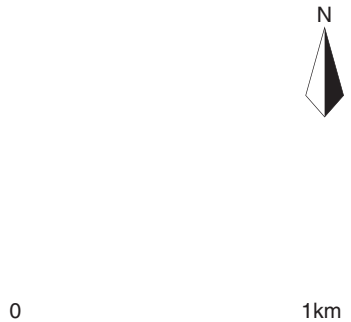
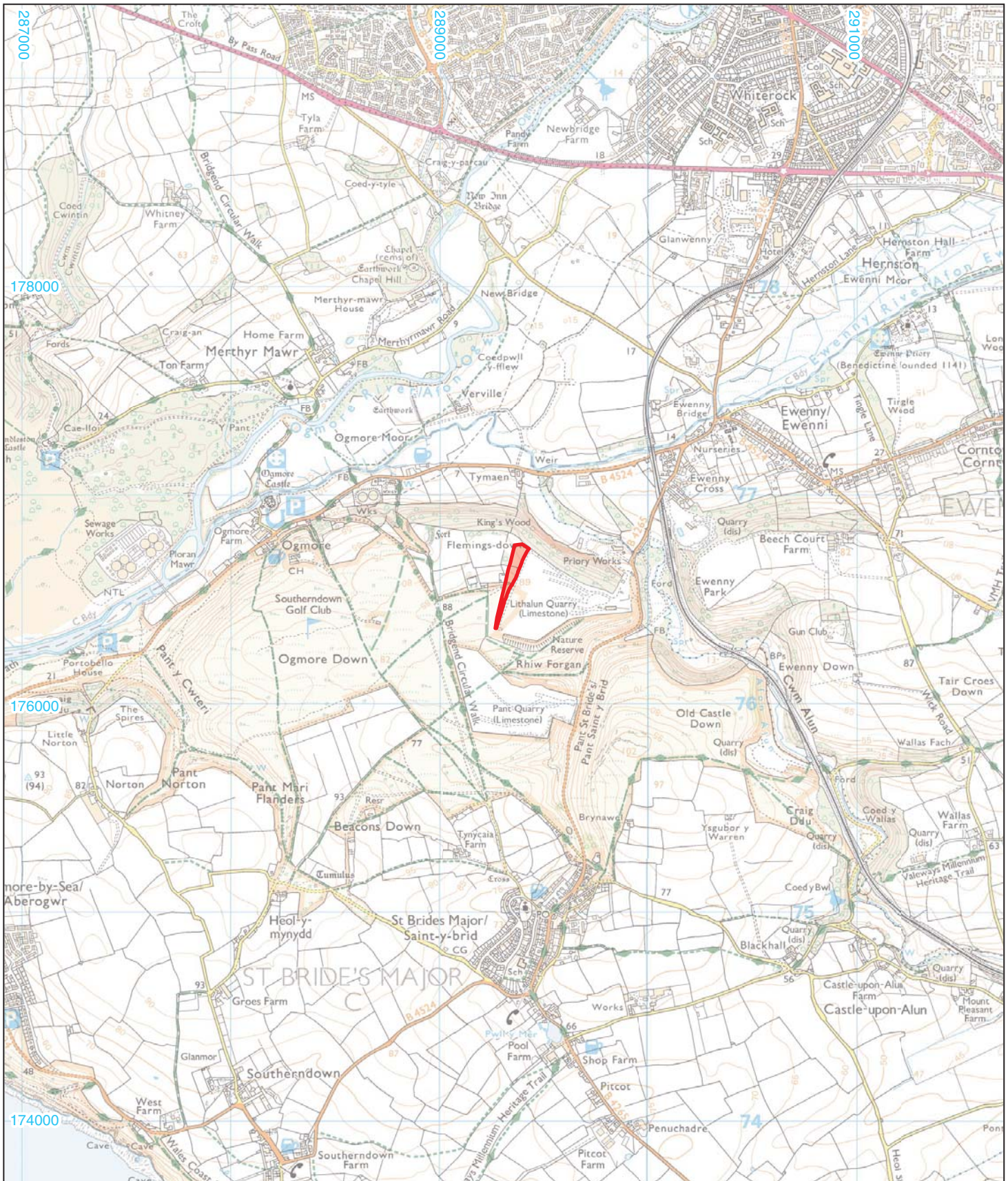


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid/dk brown silty clay			0.3	
101	Layer		Natural	Limestone outcrop within orange-brown clay				
W1	Str		Wall	Dry-stone field boundary	33	0.6	0.7	Post-med
W2	Str		Wall	Dry-stone field boundary	49	0.55	0.7	Post-med
TP1	Cut		Tree throw pit	Sub-oval shallow depression	3.6	2.6	0.5	Post-med
LQ10	Feature		Temporary haul road from previous quarry extension	Dark silty clay and limestone boulders	61	4	>1	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2017 by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with an extension to Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	25-29 September 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Watching brief GGAT 2002	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	289395 176624	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd	
MONUMENT TYPE	Wall, field boundary	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	RCAHMMW	Context sheets, registers
Digital	RCAHMMW	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 17589		



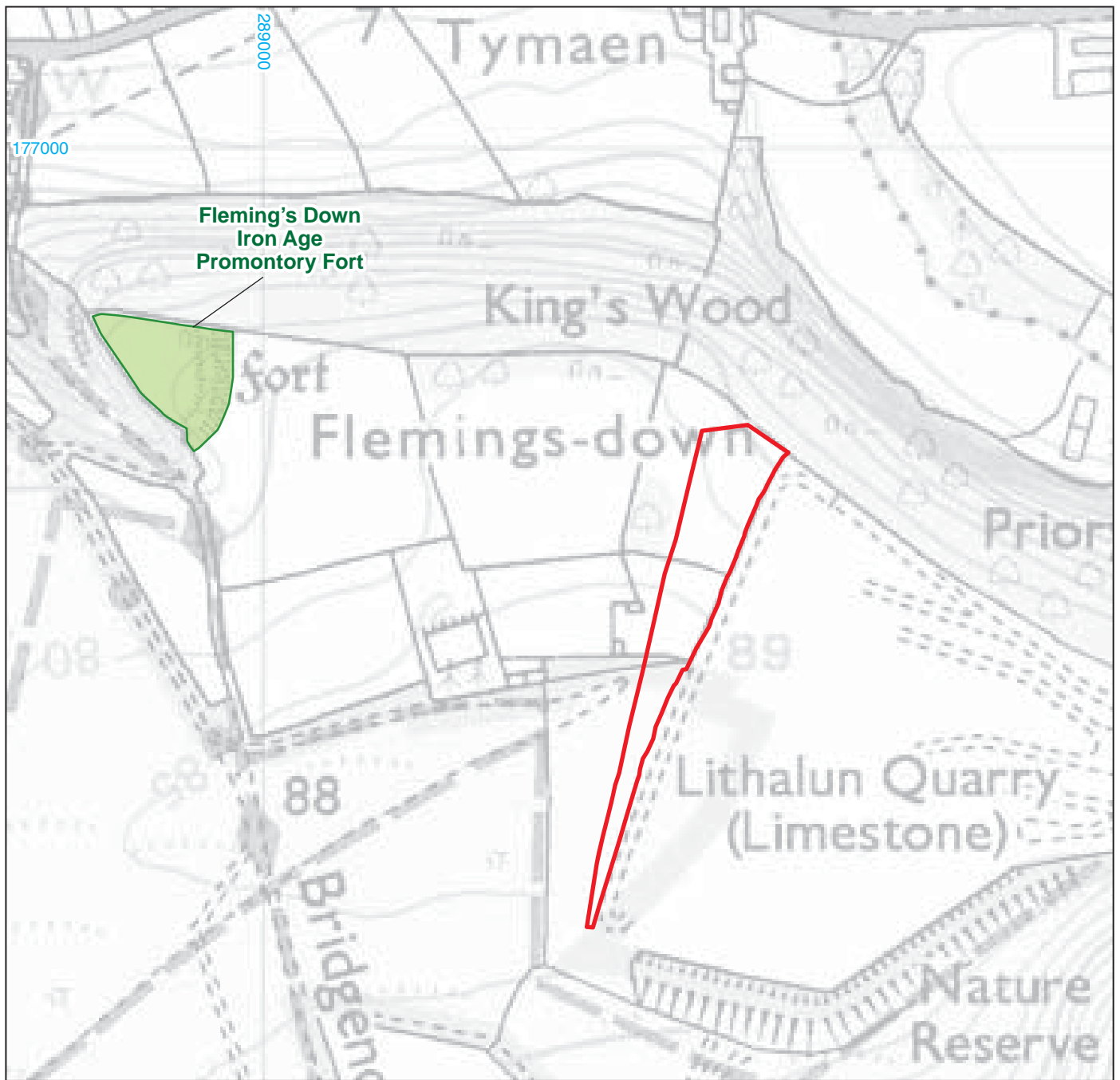
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PROJECT TITLE
 Litalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 6383	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 09/10/2017	
APPROVED BY RY	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



-  Site boundary
-  Iron Age Promontory Fort



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PROJECT TITLE

Lithalun Quarry, Ewenny, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan

FIGURE TITLE

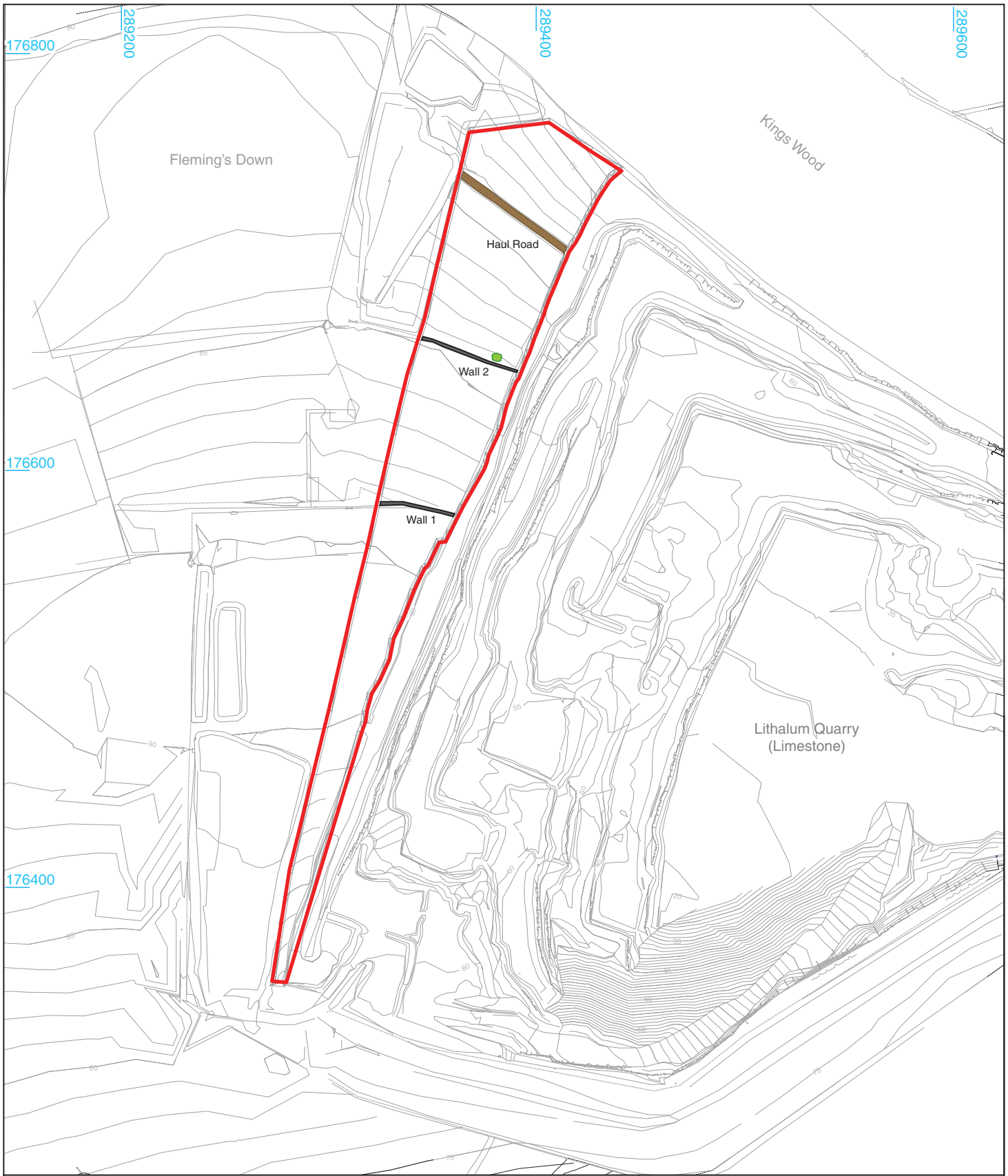
Watching Brief area in relation to Flemings-down Iron Age Promontory Fort







DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 6383
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 09/10/2017
 APPROVED BY RY SCALE@A4 1:5000

FIGURE NO.

2



-  Site boundary
-  Former Haul Road LQ10
-  Dry-stone wall
-  Tree-throw



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FIGURE TITLE
 Watching Brief area showing location of dry-stone walls and Former Haul Road LQ10

Reproduced from Drawing L74M/71
 supplied by Hanson (Heidelberg Cement Group)



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4

Dry-stone wall W2, looking east (0.5m scale)



5

Natural substrate limestone and clay below topsoil, looking south (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6383	FIGURE NO.
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