

# Ivonbrook Quarry, Ivonbrook Grange, Derbyshire

NGR SK 4237 3583

Report on the Fieldwalking Survey: Field 1



Oxford Archaeological Unit

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## Report on the Fieldwalking Survey: Field 1

### *Summary*

*A fieldwalking survey was carried out on a field, designated Field 1, to the south-east of Ivonbrook Quarry. No significant clusters of material were revealed by the survey. The small quantity of randomly distributed artefacts included a few pieces of flint, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

On the 19th of December 1996 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a fieldwalking survey on behalf of Bardon Roadstone Limited in advance of a proposed quarry extension of Ivonbrook Quarry in north Derbyshire (cf. Figure 1). The following report documents the results of this exercise.

### 1.1 Archaeological Background

The area of the proposed quarry extension lies within an area of demonstrated prehistoric, Anglian and medieval archaeological activity. The principal sites in the surrounding area are the remains of two prehistoric Barrows, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments, which are located on the summit of Green Low 600 m to the south-west of the current quarry. These include Green Low Chambered Tomb (SAM no 13368), a late Neolithic round cairn with a facade of coursed limestone blocks on the south side. This barrow was excavated in 1843 and then again in 1964 and found to contain disarticulated human bones and late Neolithic pottery and flint. The cairn produced a chance find of Roman coins and pottery, possibly suggesting that it was opened or investigated in the Roman period. To the west of this lies Green Low Bowl Barrow West (SAM no 13331), a Bronze Age Round Barrow, also excavated in 1843, which contained a primary cremation, secondary inhumation and flint implements.

Field walking of the slopes of the hill adjacent to the area of the proposed development to the east has produced evidence of prehistoric activity, including Mesolithic flints, Neolithic pottery and flints and Bronze Age flintwork (DSMR 8603-8605, 8609-8610).

Anglian Settlement in the area is indicated by the, now destroyed, Anglian Barrow on Winster Moor. This monument, whose exact location is now lost, was opened in 1765 during the enclosure of the moor and found to contain a number of rich grave furnishings including a silver bracelet, circular gold brooch, a decorated gold cross and pottery and glass vessels.

Ivonbrook is mentioned in Domesday as containing land for 1 plough although the parish was then described as 'waste', a term used by most commentators to refer to areas left devastated by William I's campaign following the Mercian Revolt of 1069 (Holly 1962: 313). During the medieval period it appears that the development area and its immediate surrounding area formed part of the landholdings of two large monastic houses. Ivonbrook Grange is listed by Hart (1981: 155) as being a grange belonging to the Cistercian abbey at Buildwas in Shropshire. A medieval monastic grange was an independently controlled estate, usually located at some distance from the mother Abbey and possibly in this instance sited to exploit the sheep farming potential of the area. To the north of Wigleymeadow Farm lies a large undated earthwork enclosure (NAR 3), long described as a Roman camp, but now considered by the NAR to possibly be a pastoral enclosure connected to Ivonbrook Grange..

To the east of the current quarry, and across the road which acts as the parish boundary, lies Aldwark Grange, described as the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (DSMR no 135), as the site of a grange belonging to the Augustinian Monastery at Darley near Derby.

No medieval buildings or finds have been recorded from either Ivonbrook Grange or Aldwark Grange. A 1988 excavation of the Ivonbrook Grange enclosure produced no dating evidence.

The present Fieldwalking Survey forms part of a staged series of works associated with various extension phases for Ivonbrook Quarry. In December 1995 OAU undertook an evaluation of a putative barrow to the north of the present quarry (OAU 1995). An Earthwork Survey of all the fields affected by the quarry extensions is currently ongoing. In addition, a study of the relationships between the drystone to be affected by the quarry expansion is to be carried out in the near future.

## 1.2 Topography and Geology

Field 1 is located to the south-east of Ivonbrook Quarry (cf. Figure 2). It slopes gently up-hill from south to north. In the north-east of Field 1 an outcrop of the underlying natural limestone protruded above the turf line; the outcrop corresponds to the hachured area on Figure 2.

## 1.3 Crop and Ground Conditions

Field 1 had not been under cultivation and was ploughed specifically for fieldwalking. The ploughing did not include the limestone outcrop area in the north-east of Field 1. The ploughed turf was heavy and had not significantly weathered. The weather conditions were difficult, wet and overcast.

## 1.4 Methodology

A series of north-south aligned transects, spaced at 10 m intervals, was set out on the National Grid. Each transect was walked in 20 m 'stints' and any surface artefacts within the scanned width of 2-5 m collected, bagged and labelled to the corresponding middle point of that 20 m length; i.e. any artefacts from 0-20 m would be labelled as 10, from 20-40 m as 30 and so on. 'Stints' were measured cumulatively on the ground using fixed length strings to avoid variation in individual pace. The process was repeated until the end of the transect was reached. Extra transects were to be interspersed between the original transects if significant artefact clusters were recognised.

## 2 RESULTS

A total of 14 transects numbered A-L, corresponding to a linear distance of *circa* 560 m were fieldwalked in Field 1. An extra 2 transects of 20 m length, M and N, were walked in order to see if any further flints would be found in the areas between Transects I-J and G-H, respectively. No finds of any kind were recovered from either of these transects.

The results from Transects A-L are presented in Table 1. Overall the density of finds across the field was low and most of the artefacts appear to have been the result of post-medieval activity. No significant artefact clusters were recognised.

All the pottery that was recovered dated to the post-medieval period and it seems likely that the distribution of this material, together with the few pieces of slag, tile, coal and the more numerous fragments of clay pipe, was the result of relatively recent (i.e. post-medieval) agricultural activity; manuring and the like. The discovery of four undiagnostic flint flakes was not significant. A general scatter of flint would be expected in an area of demonstrated prehistoric activity.

## 3 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the Fieldwalking Survey strongly suggest that no deposits and/or features of archaeological importance are present in Field 1. No significant clusters of material were recognised and the vast majority of the finds that were recovered dated to the post-medieval period. The southern extension of Ivonbrook Quarry into this area is therefore unlikely to have any significant archaeological impact.

Table 1: Surface Collection Results from Transects A-L

Transect	Co-ord	Post-Medieval Pottery	Clay Pipe	Slag	Flint	Tile	Misc
A	10	2	2				
B	10	1					
C	10	2	2	1			
D	10	1					
E	10	1	2				
	30	3	2				
	50	1					
F	10	1	1				2 (coal)
	30				1		
	50	2					
G	10	1	3				
	30	4	9				
	50	5	2		1	2	
H	10	2					
	30	3					
	50	2	4		1		
	70		3			1	1 (coke)
I	10	3					
	30						
	50	1					
	70	1					
J	10	4	2				
	30	2					
	50	1	2		1	1	
K	10	5	1				
	30	2					
L	10	7					
	30	2					
	50						

#### 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Holly D (1962) 'Derbyshire' *The Domesday Geography of Northern England*  
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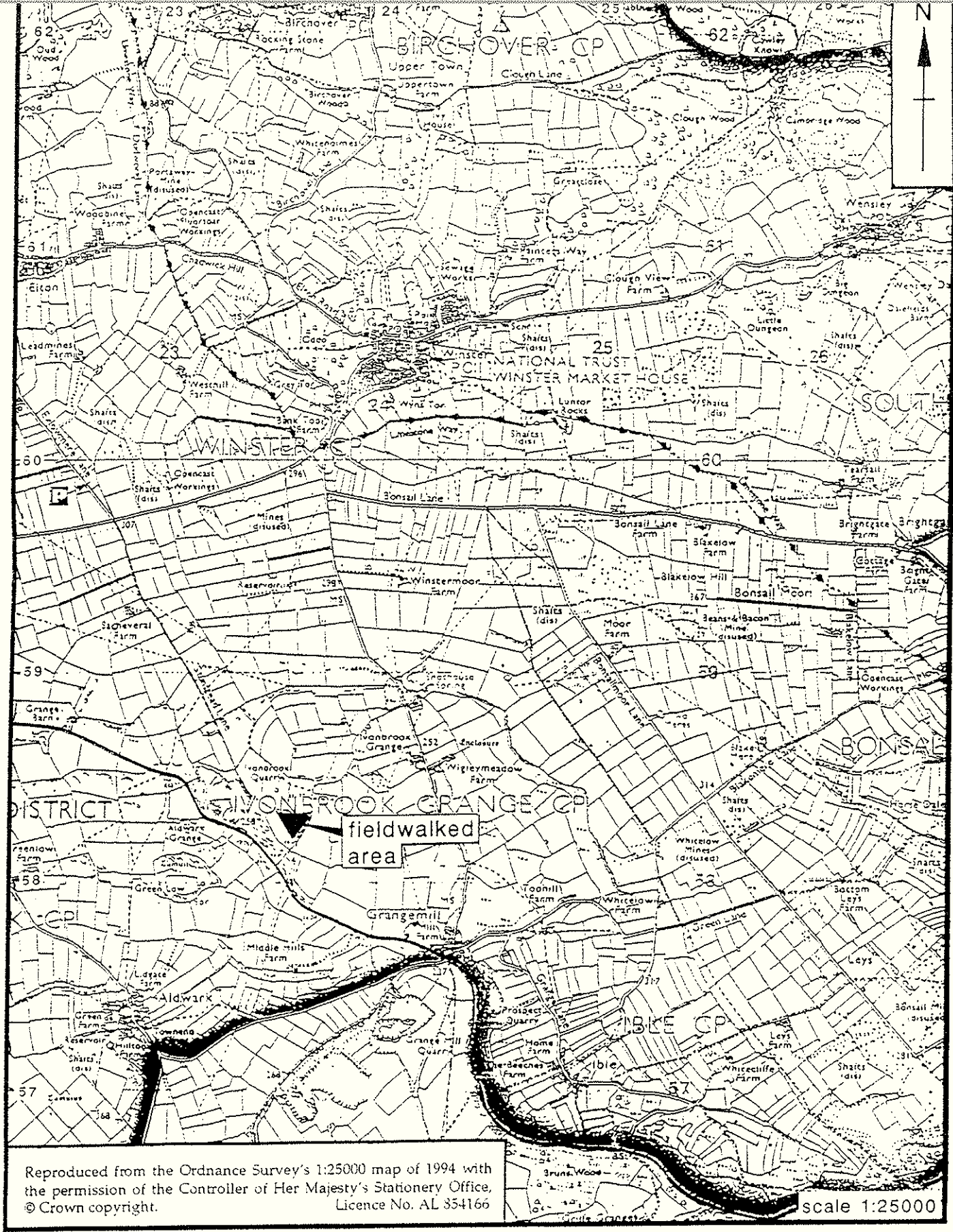


Figure 1: General Location Plan

Ivonbrook Quarry Archaeological survey - field 1  
scale 1:1250

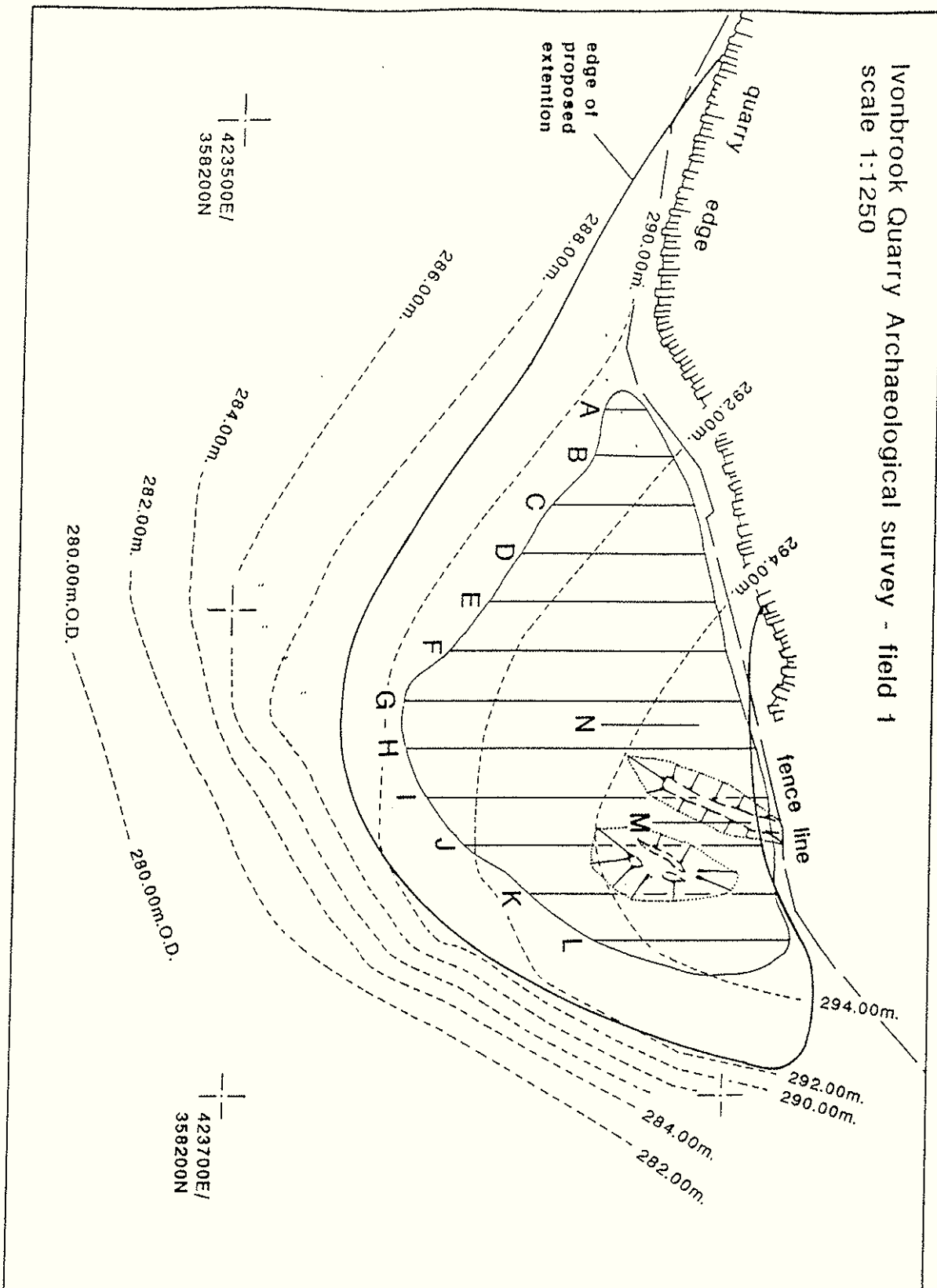


Figure 2: Plan of Field 1 showing location of Fieldwalking Transects





## OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES  
Telephone: 01865 243888 Fax: 01865 793496



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Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.  
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