

**Guiting Power Quarry Extension
Stanway, Gloucestershire**

SP 080 310

Archaeological Assessment

**Oxford Archaeological Unit
August & September 1989**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

GUITING POWER QUARRY EXTENSION, STANWAY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

An assessment was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit on behalf of ARC to provide archaeological information for a planning application for an extension to their existing limestone quarry at Guiting Power.

The assessment site is in an area of oolitic limestone on the Cotswold uplands. It covered two fields, totalling 17 hectares, which lie on a small spur with a south and east facing slope draining to tributaries of the Windrush (260m - 288m OD). The fields are at present, used as arable land.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (fig 1)

The North Cotswold area is known to have been used extensively in the prehistoric period, for settlement, agriculture and burial.

Intensive fieldwalking by the Cotswold Archaeological Research Group produced evidence of early prehistoric settlement sites in the vicinity and, in particular, flint scatters in fields to the west and north of the assessment area (SMR 5991, 5992 and 5598) (Marshall A, 1985, Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement in the northern Cotswolds. Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, vol 103). Several Bronze Age barrows are also located in the surrounding area. No cropmarks have, however, been observed in these fields.

STRATEGY (fig 2)

The aim of the assessment was to locate possible archaeological sites and define their extent, character and state of preservation.

Thirty nine 30m long trenches were laid out on a systematic grid pattern to achieve a 1% sample of the entire site. The trenches were excavated by a JCB machine with a 5 foot ditching bucket.

RESULTS

No archaeological features were found on the site.

The depth of modern ploughsoil varied over the site from as little as 0.16m on the top of the slope to 0.30m lower down and over natural hollows to the west field. Finds were discovered in the ploughsoil. These comprised 2 struck waste flint flakes and 2 unworked but imported pieces of flint (one burnt), 1 sherd of Roman coarseware pottery (part of a base), 1 tile fragment and 1 lump of fired clay. The flints are consistent with a general background scatter of material from early prehistoric sites in the area. The other finds were probably introduced during manuring of the field.

There was a small area of hillwash in the south west of this area, up to 0.16m deep. The natural limestone was very fragmented and vertical fractures and natural hollows were filled with clay and brown silt.

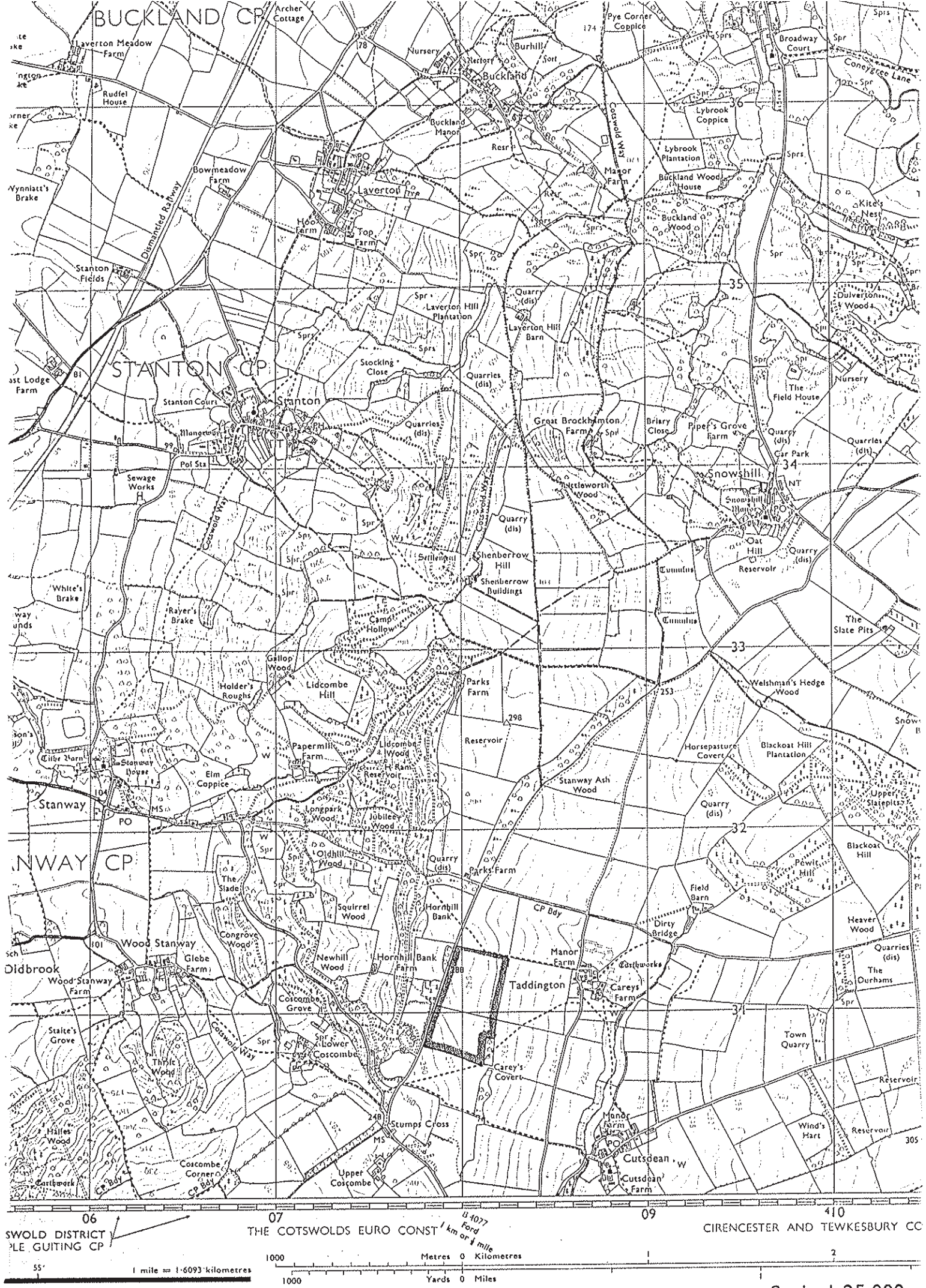


Fig 1

Scale 1:25 000

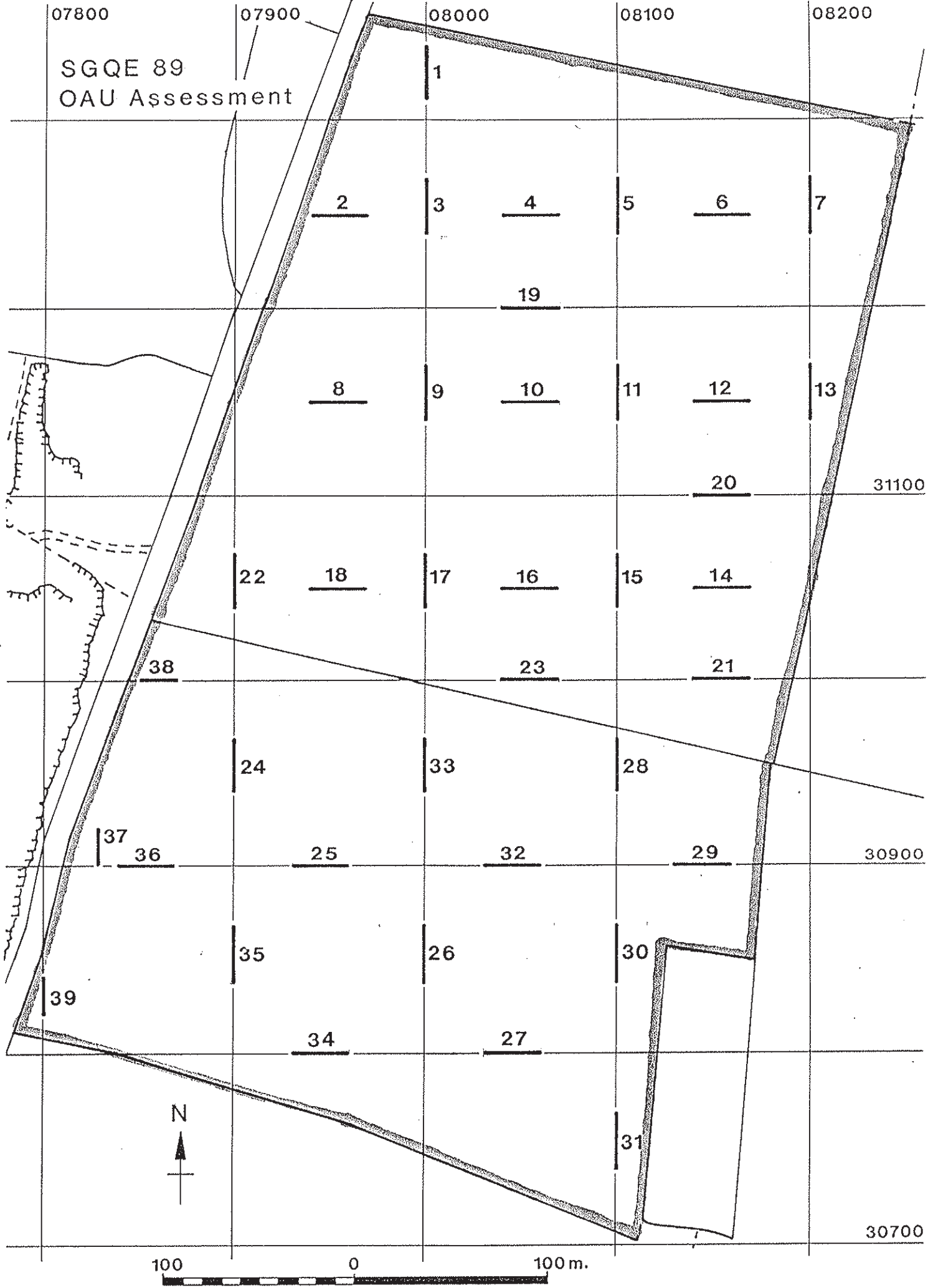


Fig 2