

Report on negative watching brief: CAT Report 313

Site address: Villa Farm Quarry, Alresford, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 21st, 22nd and 24th March 2005
NGR: TM 0560 2185 (c)
Colchester Museums
accession code: 2004.347
CAT project code: 05/3a
ECC site code: ALVF04
ECC brief?: yes, from 1993
Plan attached?: yes (Fig 1)

Archaeological background

There are a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity. These include cropmark sites (EHCR nos 2361 and 2589-2591); among these are several ring-ditches, which, together with the find of a Bronze Age cinerary urn at Alresford Grange (EHCR no 2606), indicate that finds of prehistoric burials are particularly likely in the area.

A Roman villa has been recorded under Villa Farm (now known as 'Sunnymead Farm') to the north-west).

A watching brief was carried out on the eastern half of the same field by CAT in 2004, prior to quarrying (CAT project reference 04/4a: CAT Report 287). One possible prehistoric pit and two long undated ditches, which may have been field boundaries, were observed and recorded.

Brief report

The quarry is located 1km to the west of Alresford village, to the north of the railway line. An area of land was stripped prior to mineral extraction.

The field is on the western side of the quarry, and was formerly ploughed. To the east is Cockaynes Wood, part of which has been cleared and is currently being quarried. Three monitoring visits were made during and after topsoil stripping had taken place, prior to quarrying. No archaeological features were observed. This may be due to the wet conditions, the uneven stripping of the field and the fact that the field had been heavily tracked over by the mechanical excavator.

Finds

None

Acknowledgements

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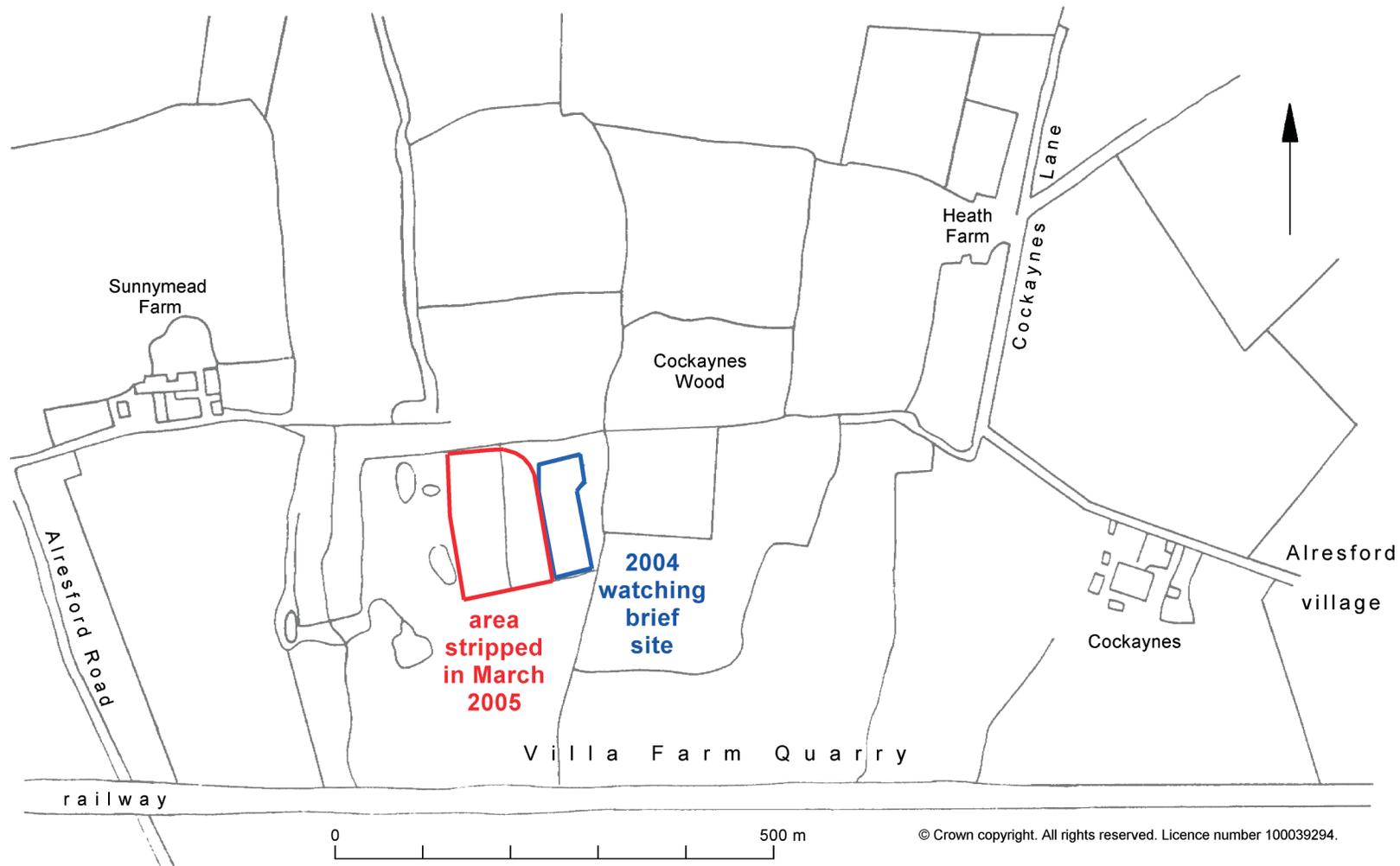


Fig 1 Location of Villa Farm Quarry, Alresford.