



**LAND AT SHERRING'S GREEN CLOSE,
BLANDFORD ROAD, PUDDLETOWN, DORSET
Archaeological Evaluation**

Prepared on behalf of:

**Mr Peter Rodale
22 Greville Drive
Edgebaston
BIRMINGHAM
B15 2UU**

Through his agent:

**David Illingworth Architects
4 The Square
Puddletown
Dorchester
Dorset
DT2 8SL**

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Land at Sherring's Green Close, Blandford Road, Puddletown, Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation, August 2000

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Summary

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in a field, known as Sherring's Green Close, off Blandford Road, Puddletown. A number of earthwork banks and lynchets survive in this field. They were surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England in 1988. Four machine trenches were excavated by Terrain Archaeology in August 2000 to evaluate the earthworks.

The evaluation revealed that only one of the earthworks was associated with sub-surface features — a boundary ditch and hedge. The lynchets and other earthworks were entirely composed of agricultural soils. These earthworks all appear to be post-medieval in date.

Beneath the agricultural soils a number of archaeological features was discovered. In the southwestern part of the field, a complex of possible palisade ditches and gullies was exposed in Trench 1. The interpretation of these features is difficult on present evidence and their date is uncertain. It has been tentatively proposed that they are prehistoric, perhaps Bronze Age in date, and are part of a palisaded enclosure or round barrow.

A late medieval boundary ditch was discovered in Trench 3 in the northwestern part of the field.

Land at Sherring's Green Close, Blandford Road, Puddletown, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation, August 2000

1 INTRODUCTION

This archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the landowner, Peter Rodale, through his agent, David Illingworth, as part of the preparation for a planning application for a proposed residential development off Blandford Road, Puddletown. This work is being undertaken following advice from Steven Wallis, Dorset County Council Archaeology Service, in order that the archaeological impact of the proposed works be assessed prior to determination of planning permission. This is in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

The site is situated on the western side of the village of Puddletown, on the east side of the A354 Blandford Road (centred at SY 7559 9448). It comprises a single field presently under grass and used as a paddock. The site lies on the lower slopes of a chalk ridge, immediately above the first river terrace above the floodplain of the River Piddle. The ground slopes down to the north to the mill race, which forms the northern limit of the site. It lies between 60 – 61 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 328 *Dorchester* 1981 Drift).

The fieldwork was carried out between 7th – 11th August 2000.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of David Illingworth, architect, and Peter Rodale, joint landowner, during this project. We are grateful to Philippa Rodale for her tolerance of our intrusion into her horses' grazing. Thanks are also due to Steven Wallis, Dorset County Council Archaeological Service, for his advice and help and to Peter Woodward, Assistant Curator Dorset County Museum, for his useful comments on site. The fieldwork was supervised by Paul 'Cedric' Pearce, with help from Dan Ford and Peter Bellamy. This report was compiled by Peter Bellamy. The pottery was examined by Jo Draper FSA.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A number of low earthworks are visible in this field. These were surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) in 1988. The most notable features are a ?property boundary comprising a slight bank, running roughly north-south along the length of the field. Two lynchets run off this bank extending eastwards for about 25 m. Another north-south ?property boundary runs parallel to and about 16 m east of the other. In the northwest part of the field is a large flat hollow, which may have at some stage accommodated a building structure.

No other archaeological records from this field are known.

The field is named as Sherrings Green Close on the 1842 Puddletown Tithe Map and was in pasture at that time. The field boundaries have altered since 1842.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



The objective of the archaeological works is to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, that is, to appraise the nature, extent, level of preservation and importance of any archaeological deposits.

The evaluation will aim to record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site and present the results in a report.

4 METHODOLOGY

The observations were carried out in accordance with the specification prepared by Terrain Archaeology and approved by Dorset County Council's Archaeologist and in compliance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1994, rev. 1999).

The specification states that the evaluation will comprise four trenches (one 30 m by 1.5 m and three 10 m by 1.5 m) in specified locations, primarily in order to investigate visible earthworks. In the event, Trench 3 was moved northwards from its specified location in order to evaluate the flat levelled area in the northwest corner of the field, rather than the mapped earthwork, which, in the field, appeared just to be the result of the creation of the levelled area.

The trenches were located by taped measurements taken from plans provided by the client.

The trenches were dug by machine to the top of the *in situ* archaeological deposits, or the top of the natural, whichever was the highest. The base and sides of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and all deposits recorded using Terrain Archaeology's standard pro forma recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated 9 m north of the southern boundary of the site. It was oriented east-west and measured 28.5 m long by 1.5 m wide and up to 1.5 m deep, cutting across two of the visible earthworks (Figure 1). These two north-south banks were interpreted as property boundaries by the RCHME survey.

Stratigraphic Sequence

The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench:–

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.4 m	Earthworks and ploughsoils	101, 104, 105
0.3 – 1.4 m	post-medieval and medieval features	117–129, 145–146
0.3 – 1.8 m	prehistoric features	106–116, 130–144, 147–155
>0.4 m	natural deposits	156

A list of all contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Natural Deposits

At the base of the trench, the top of the natural (156) consisted of reddish brown clay or yellowish brown clay with decayed chalk in solution hollows, with small patches of broken chalk bedrock between. Solid chalk bedrock was visible on the sides and base of the majority of cut features.

Prehistoric Features

In the western part of the trench, was a series of features cut into the natural deposits. These were roughly parallel and their fills were similar in character, so it is likely that these features form part of a coherent group and are of a similar date. No dating evidence was recovered, but the leached character of the fills suggests that they are ancient and most probably prehistoric.

The eastern limit of these features is defined by, what appeared on the surface, to be a large ditch about five metres wide and oriented roughly NNW-SSE. However, upon excavation it became clear that this feature was more complex and consisted of a number of ditches and recuts (Figure 2). On the eastern side were the remains of a steep-sided ditch (112) with a slightly rounded base. This was 1.35 m deep and over 1.02 m wide. It was filled with a thin layer of chalk rubble and silt (111) and a layer of reddish brown clay (110) above. Only a very small part of this ditch survived, as it had been almost completely removed by a substantial recut (155). This used the same eastern edge as ditch 112 and had a slightly uneven concave base about 2.4 m wide and 0.9 m deep. It was filled with chalk rubble (109) with a layer of yellowish brown silty loam (108) above. Ditch 155 was disturbed by a further recut (107), which removed much of its western side. This cut was about 1.98 m wide and 0.5 m deep with a moderately sloping eastern side. The western side had collapsed and slumped (Figure 2). It was filled with chalky yellowish brown silty loam (106). Immediately to the west of ditches 107/112/155 was a steep, almost vertically-sided flat-bottomed ditch (116), 1.9 m wide and 0.85 m deep, filled with reddish brown clay and chalk (115) and yellowish brown silty loam (114) above. The narrow ridge of chalk between ditches 116 and 107/112/155 had collapsed and slumped into the top of ditch 107 (113). The stratigraphic sequence of ditches 112, 155, and 107 is clear but it is not certain where ditch 116 fits into this sequence. The fact that the eastern edge of 116 has collapsed into 107 argues that ditch 107 is the later ditch. What is not clear is whether ditch 116 was contemporary with either 112 or 155, that is, whether there was a double ditch system or whether all of these ditches described above are simply enhancements of a single boundary. There is no trace of an accompanying bank.

To the west of this sequence of ditches was another group of features, distinguished by the occurrence of post- or stakeholes along the base (Figure 2). About 3.25 m west of ditch 116 was a 0.9 m wide, steep-sided ditch or gully (130), 0.6 m deep, aligned roughly north/south. Along the base of the 0.5 m wide excavated section were two postholes (134), spaced about 0.25 m apart. These measured about 0.2 m in diameter and were cut 0.45 m below the base of the ditch. The postholes were filled with dark reddish brown silty clay (133) and were surrounded by large lumps of degraded chalk (132) within the dark reddish brown silty clay ditch fill (131). These chalk lumps probably represent packing material around the posts.

About 0.75 m further west was another complex of four or five gullies or small ditches with posts or stakeholes along the base (Figure 2). The most coherent of these features is a steep-sided almost V-shaped ditch (151), about 1.0 m wide and 0.6 m deep, which forms the western edge of the complex. It was aligned roughly north/south and had a line of closely-spaced stakeholes (149) along the eastern edge of its base. The stakeholes were between 12–15 cm in diameter and about 0.35 m deep and were filled with reddish brown silty clay (150). Ditch 151 was filled with chalk rubble (152). On the eastern edge of ditch 151 was a large sub-circular posthole (142), about 0.5 m across and 0.6 m deep, filled with chalk rubble (143) and dark reddish brown silty clay (144) above. This posthole appeared

to be part of an alignment, but this cannot be proved without further excavation. The relationship between posthole 143 and ditch 151 is not clear as the edges of these features had been destroyed by a small gully (147) which ran along the eastern edge of ditch 151. It was filled with mid brown/dark yellowish brown silty loam (148). Running along the eastern side of posthole 142 was another gully (139) which appeared to cut the upper edge of 142. This rather irregular feature seemed to consist of a series of conjoining post- and stakeholes aligned roughly north/south. It was filled with compact chalk rubble (141) in the base and dark reddish brown silty clay (140) above. The eastern edge of this feature was cut by another small gully (135) with a series or rather irregularly-spaced stakeholes along the base. A postpipe filled with reddish brown silty clay (138) and surrounded by degraded chalk rubble block packing (137) was visible in the dark reddish brown silty clay fill (136) of the gully (Figure 2). A number of the features described above had slumped and collapsed.

To the west of ditch 151 was another ditch (153), 0.8 m wide and oriented roughly north/south (Figure 2). It was filled with reddish brown silty clay loam (154). This ditch was not excavated due to time constraints. It is not clear whether it is associated with the other features in this area or whether it is a later feature.

It is difficult to adequately interpret the complex of features described above within the confines of a narrow evaluation trench. The assumption has been made that all the features described above are part of a larger structure. However, it is not clear whether the ditches and gullies are part of a linear or a circular monument, nor what the overall size is likely to be. There is no clear dating evidence available for these features, however, the general nature of the features and their leached decalcified soil fillings suggests a prehistoric date. The overall character of the features is suggestive of a Bronze Age date, perhaps part of a complex round barrow or a palisaded enclosure.

Finally, a note of caution about the above interpretation must be interjected. Given that it lies along the line of the earthwork boundary, it is possible that it is somehow related to this earthwork, perhaps part of a hedged boundary of medieval date.

Medieval and Post-medieval features

At the east end of the trench was a wide flat-bottomed ditch (119), 1.7 m wide and 0.55 m deep, oriented roughly north/south (Figure 2). This ditch was filled with dark reddish brown silty clay and chalk (118) and yellowish brown, slightly sandy, silty loam (117). On the east side of this ditch were five parallel rows of large stakeholes or small postholes (120, 122, 124, 126, 128), some within small narrow gullies. Although superficially similar to the features at the west end of the trench, the soils in these features was richer in organic material suggesting they are more recent in origin. This is confirmed by the discovery of a sherd of 14th century pottery in ditch 119 and a sherd of probable 16th century pottery in gully 126. These features probably form part of a ditched and hedged boundary.

A small ditch or gully (145) was dug through the fills of the prehistoric ditches 151, 147 and 139 and posthole 142. This flat-bottomed feature was about 1.5 m wide and 0.25 m deep and was filled with mid brown silty clay loam (146). This ditch contained some 13th/14th century pottery.

Earthworks and Ploughsoils

Overlying all of the features described above, was a layer of yellowish brown silty clay soil (104), up to 0.25 m thick. Beneath this layer, over the prehistoric ditches 116/112/155/107, was a layer of mid brown silty loam (105) up to 0.8 m thick. Above context 104 was a 0.4 m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil (101). These layers represent soils created by ploughing since medieval times — 13th/14th to 16th century pottery was recovered from context 104.

The two linear earthworks comprise only ploughsoils. The western earthwork is the more prominent and runs across the top of the prehistoric 'palisade gullies' (Figure 2) and comprises a thicker deposit of layer 104. The earthwork was very spread, about 0.4 m high and 9 m wide. The eastern earthwork was much slighter and overlay the hedged boundary 120/122/124/126/128. It may be the last remnants of the hedgebank on this boundary. The western earthwork does not appear to be directly associated with the underlying archaeology.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned roughly north-south in the middle of the eastern half of the field (Figure 1). It measured 9.6 m by 1.5 m across and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95 m. It was dug to investigate the slight lynchet visible running eastwards from the spinal 'property boundary' and which also seemed to mark the northern extent of the eastern 'property boundary'. A section through the lynchet was obtained. No features other than a treehole of uncertain date were noted.

Stratigraphic sequence

The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in all three trenches

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.35 m	turf and topsoil	201
0.35 – 0.75 m	colluvium	202-203
0.75 – 0.9 m	treehole	206, 207
>0.75 m	natural deposits	204, 205

A list of all contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Natural Deposits

At the base of the trench, at the southern (uphill) end, was a deposit of natural flint gravels in a dark reddish brown silty clay matrix (205), which were overlain by a layer of yellowish brown silty clay (204), which was interpreted as a natural subsoil.

Treehole

Cut into subsoil 204, at the base of the negative lynchet (Figure 3), was an irregular, rather convoluted feature (207) filled with greyish brown silty clay loam (206). The irregular nature of this feature suggests that it is probably a treehole. A single sherd of 15th/16th century pottery was recovered from the fill.

Colluvium

Overlying the natural deposits was a deposit of colluvium up to 0.7 m thick. This comprised a layer of reddish brown silty clay loam with fairly frequent flint gravel (203) and a greyish brown silty loam layer (202) above). A fairly well-defined positive lynchet, about 0.4 m high, can be seen at the southern end of the trench with a corresponding negative lynchet to the north (Figure 3). This is clearest in layer 203, as the upper layer of the lynchet has been clearly truncated by later ploughing episodes.

Topsoil

The topsoil comprised a layer of dark brown silty loam up to 0.35 m thick. It was thickest where it overlay the negative lynchet in the underlying colluvium (Figure 3). The positive lynchet was not so pronounced in the topsoil as in the underlying deposits, indicating that it has been reduced by more

recent ploughing.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated along a level area, slightly lower than the rest of the area, in the northwestern part of the field (Figure 1). It measured 9.4 m by 1.5 m across and was excavated to a depth of about 0.8 m. The terminal of a ditch, oriented roughly north-south, was uncovered beneath layers of colluvium and levelling material.

Stratigraphic sequence

The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in all three trenches

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.25 m	turf and topsoil	301
0.25 – 0.75 m	levelling and colluvium	302 – 305
0.75 – 1.2 m	boundary ditch	307 – 311
>0.75 m	natural	306

A list of all contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Natural

At the base of the trench was a deposit of yellowish brown silty clay (306), interpreted as a natural subsoil.

Boundary ditch

The south terminal of a ditch (311), oriented roughly north-south, was exposed at the northern end of the trench (Figure 4). This ditch had a flat bottom and rounded sides with a rounded terminal to the south. It measured about 1.3 m wide and 0.4 m deep and was cut into the natural deposits in the base of the trench. The primary fill was a thin, rather discontinuous, layer of yellowish brown silty clay (310), which was probably derived from the weathering of the sides. Above this was a layer of dark yellowish brown gravelly silty clay loam (309). The main part of the fill of ditch 311 was a layer of densely-packed flint nodules (308), together with one piece of burnt limestone and two pieces of heathstone. No structure was evident in this flint rubble, which is probably the result of field clearance. The upper fill of the ditch was a layer of mid brown silty clay loam (307). Five sherds of pottery were recovered from the uppermost layer of the ditch: four 14th/15th century sherds and one 17th/18th century sherd.

Without further investigation, the function of this ditch is unclear and it is not known whether it is part of a larger system of ditches. However, it is most likely to be a field boundary ditch. Its precise dating is unclear, as the only datable material — the pottery — comes from the uppermost layer and may only date its final silting. It is likely to be medieval or early post-medieval in date.

Ploughsoils and levelling layers

Sealing ditch 311 was a 0.45 m thick layer of reddish brown silty clay loam (305), which is probably colluvial in origin. To the south was a rather poorly sorted layer of greyish brown silty clay and flint gravel (304). Overlying layers 304 and 305 was a greyish brown silty loam layer (303), 0.25 m thick.

Over the northern part of layer 303 was a thin layer of chalk rubble (302). It is unclear whether this represents the remains of a chalk rubble surface or whether it is simply the result of modern dumping. If it is the remains of a surface, it may be related to the possible structure postulated for this area by

the RCHME survey.

Topsoil

All the contexts described above were sealed by a 0.25 m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil (301).

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was excavated at the south east corner of the field (Figure 1). It measured 10 m by 1.5 m across and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.1 m. This trench was excavated by machine and due to the depth, this trench was not entered and all recording was done from the side of the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Stratigraphic sequence

The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed in this trench:–

<i>depth</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>context nos</i>
0 – 0.7 m	ploughsoils	401, 402
0.7 – 1.75 m	colluvium/alluvium	403
>1.75 m	natural	404

A list of all contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

Natural

At the base of the trench was a compact layer of flint gravels in a dark reddish brown silty clay matrix (404). This was interpreted as natural valley gravels.

Colluvium/alluvium

Overlying the natural gravels was a deposit of compact reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with bands of flint gravel and sparse charcoal flecks (403), up to 1.35 m thick. The deposit became progressively darker towards the base of the layer. This layer appears to be the result of more than one episode of deposition, however, it is unclear whether it was the result of colluvial or alluvial processes. No dating evidence for the timescale of this deposit was recovered.

Ploughsoils

The upper part of the stratigraphic sequence was composed of a 0.4 m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown sandy loam with occasional flint gravel (401) above a rather diffuse layer of reddish brown sandy clay loam (402), about 0.4 m thick. Both of these layers appear to be part of the buildup of ploughsoils in the field. The only dating evidence is some modern building material (not collected) in the upper part.

5.5 Finds

The finds have been rapidly scanned to provide spot dates and any other information which may aid in interpretation of the excavated deposits. They have not been examined or described in detail. All finds are tabulated by context in Table 1.

context	description	medieval pottery	post-medieval pottery	flaked stone	animal bone	burnt flint	burnt stone
104	ploughsoils	3/27	1/8	1/2	1/26		
105	ploughsoils			5/141		1/18	
106	fill of possible prehistoric ditch			6/53			
117	fill of medieval boundary ditch	1/17		2/27			
127	hedge boundary		1/2				
146	fill of possible prehistoric ditch	2/21		2/17	19/109		
201	topsoil			3/19		1/21	
206	fill of treehole	1/19		2/65		1/52	
307	field boundary ditch fill	4/73	1/5				
308	field boundary ditch fill						1/830
401	ploughsoils			6/81	1/1		
<i>total</i>		12/157	3/15	27/405	21/136	2/39	1/830

Table 1: All finds (no/wt (g)) by context

Pottery

Twelve sherds of medieval pottery and three post-medieval sherds were recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). Almost all the sherds were undiagnostic body sherds, with two rim and one base sherds. The majority of sherds were of 13th century, or possibly 14th century, cookpots and were recovered from contexts 146 and 104. Similar vessels are common in Dorchester and have also been found at West Stafford. Coarseware vessels dating from the 14th century were found in contexts 117 and 307. Post-medieval sherds include two probable 16th century sherds from contexts 104 and 127 and one 17th/18th century sherd from context 307.

Flaked Stone

A total of 27 pieces of worked flint and chert was recovered. The majority of the assemblage was chert, generally with a rather worn cortex and perhaps derived from a clay-with-flints source and one piece of Portland chert. In general the assemblage was in a rolled condition with a small number of pieces with a bluish patination. It appears to be a rather mixed assemblage with two blade fragments (from contexts 201 and 401), which may be Early Neolithic (*c.* 4400 – 3700 BC) in date. The bulk of the assemblage would fit more comfortably within an Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2600 – 1600 BC) flintworking tradition. Two multi-directional cores and a number of preparation and core trimming flakes were present indicating some knapping in the vicinity. The only formal tool is a rather rough scraper (from context 104).

Animal Bone

All the bone recovered was sheep/goat. Part of a sheep and a lamb skull and jaw was recovered from context 146.

6 CONCLUSIONS



This evaluation represents a 2% sample of the area of the proposed development, which is the normal sample size applied to evaluations of this sort. The evaluation has effectively sampled the visible earthworks.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the earthworks consist of ploughsoils and have no underlying structure. The only exception may be the eastern linear bank which may be the remains of a ditched hedgebank. These earthworks are not closely dated but appear to be post-medieval. The interpretation of the RCHME survey appears to be largely correct.

The evaluation has also shown that there are a number of surviving archaeological features which are not visible on the surface and which do not relate to the earthworks. The ditch in Trench 3 suggests that there may be traces of an earlier, possibly medieval, field system surviving beneath the present arrangement. This of local significance as almost no traces of medieval field systems survive in Puddletown parish (RCHME 1970; Hearne and Birbeck 1999).

The most significant discovery is the possible prehistoric monument in Trench 1. Unfortunately too little was exposed to be able to determine the form and function of this feature. Its extent is not known and it cannot be determined on present evidence whether it is a circular or linear feature. It has been tentatively suggested that it is a Bronze Age monument, perhaps a round barrow or palisaded enclosure. The location is not typical for a round barrow, being on the lower slopes above a river terrace. Most of the round barrows in Puddletown parish are on the high ground on heathland soils (RCHME 1970). It is perhaps a more likely location for a palisaded enclosure or another form of ritual monument. However, on present evidence, it is unwise to speculate too much on the form, function and date of these features.

In conclusion, it can be said that the evaluation has adequately investigated the earthworks visible on the ground surface, but has done no more than highlight the occurrence of further, more deeply buried, archaeology on the site.

7 PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project TA5067) will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, who have agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives.

The indexed and cross-referenced project archive consists of:–

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|---|
| File 1: | 1.1 | Specification T3038 |
| | 1.2 | Evaluation report 5067.1 |
| | 1.3 | Trench record |
| | 1.4 | Context index |
| | 1.5 | Context record |
| | 1.6 | Context finds record |
| | 1.7 | Drawing register |
| | 1.8 | Photographic register and monochrome contact sheets |

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| File 2: | 2.1 | Monochrome negatives |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|

2.2 Colour transparencies

File 3: Drawings 1–5

Finds: 1 small box

8 REFERENCES

- Hearne, C. M. and Birbeck, V., 1999 *A35 Tolpuddle to Puddletown Bypass DBFO, Dorset, 1996-8 Wessex Archaeology Report No. 15.*
- RCHME 1970 *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset 3 Central Dorset.*

Appendix 1: List of all contexts

trench	context	description	interpretation	depth below surface
1	101	dark greyish brown sandy silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	turf and topsoil	0 - 0.38 m
1	102	yellowish brown silty clay loam with rare flint gravel and chalk lumps.	fill of drain trench 103	>0.4 m
1	103	linear cut, oriented roughly N-S. Not excavated.	drain pipe trench	>0.4 m
1	104	yellowish brown silty clay loam with occasional flint gravel.	agricultural soils	0.38 - 0.55 m
1	105	mid brown silty loam with moderate flint gravel and sparse flint nodules.	soils above settled prehistoric features	0.55 - 1.0 m
1	106	mid brown/yellowish brown silty loam with moderate chalk frags.	fill of boundary ditch 107	1.0 - 1.4 m
1	107	linear ditch, oriented c. NW-SE	boundary ditch	1.0 - 1.4 m
1	108	yellowish brown silty loam with occasional chalk frags and flint gravel.	fill of ditch 155	0.4 - 1.1 m
1	109	pale grey/pale yellowish brown chalk rubble and silt.	basal fill of ditch 155	0.9 - 1.5 m
1	110	reddish brown silty clay with frequent chalk frags.	fill in ditch 112	1.1 - 1.3 m
1	111	loose vacuous chalk rubble and silt.	primary fill of ditch 112	1.1 - 1.4 m
1	112	linear ditch, oriented roughly N-S, largely destroyed by later activity.	?prehistoric ditch	1.1 - 1.4 m
1	113	yellowish brown slightly sandy silty loam with occasional flint gravel and large chalk lumps.	collapsed part of 114	0.9 - 1.2 m
1	114	yellowish brown slightly sandy silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	upper fill of ditch 116	0.5 - 0.85 m
1	115	reddish brown silty clay with frequent chalk fragments.	primary fill of ditch 116	0.5 - 1.2 m
1	116	large flat-bottomed ditch aligned roughly NW-SE.	prehistoric ditch	0.5 - 1.2 m
1	117	yellowish brown slightly sandy silty loam with occasional flint gravel,	upper fill of ditch 119	0.45 - 0.8 m
1	118	dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent chalk lumps.	primary silting of ditch 119	0.8 - 0.95 m
1	119	linear flat-bottomed ditch, oriented N-S,	boundary ditch	0.45 - 0.95 m
1	120	truncated post/stake hole with V-profile	truncated post/stake hole	0.4 - 0.85 m
1	121	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags.	fill of 120	0.4 - 0.85 m
1	122	truncated V-shaped ditch with 'stakeholes' along the base, oriented N-S.	boundary hedge	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	123	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional/moderate chalk frags.	fill of 122	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	124	U-shaped ditch with 'stakeholes' along base, aligned N-S.	boundary hedge	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	125	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags.	fill of 124	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	126	U-shaped ditch with 'stakeholes' along base, aligned N-S.	boundary hedge	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	127	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags.	fill of 126	0.3 - 0.8 m
1	128	V-shaped ditch with 'stakeholes' along the base, oriented N-S.	boundary hedge	0.3 - 0.9 m
1	129	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags.	fill of 128	0.3 - 0.9 m

Appendix 1: List of all contexts (continued)

trench	context	description	interpretation	depth below surface
1	130	slightly irregular gully or ditch with postholes along the base.	prehistoric palisade ditch	0.65 - 1.3 m
1	131	dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional chalk frags.	fill of ditch 130	0.65 - 1.3 m
1	132	lumps of degraded chalk surrounding posthole 134.	packing material to support post in 134	0.5 - 1.2 m
1	133	dark reddish brown silty clay with sparse chalk flecks.	fill of posthole 134	0.5 - 1.7 m
1	134	deep sub-circular posthole or postpipe in ditch 130.	posthole for palisade post	0.5 - 1.7 m
1	135	slightly irregular gully or ditch with postholes along the base.	palisade ditch	0.8 - 1.5 m
1	136	dark reddish brown silty clay with sparse chalk flecks.	fill of posthole in 135	0.8 - 1.5 m
1	137	large degraded chalk blocks.	packing material to support post in 135	0.8 - 1.45 m
1	138	dark reddish brown silty clay.	fill of postpipe within 135	0.9 - 1.4 m
1	139	irregular gully with close set postholes in base.	palisade ditch	0.9 - 1.5 m
1	140	dark reddish brown silty clay.	fill of postpipe within 139	0.9 - 1.3 m
1	141	compact chalk rubble and pale grey silt.	lower fill of 139	1.3 - 1.5 m
1	142	large subcircular posthole	posthole	1.1 - 1.8 m
1	143	compact chalk rubble and pale yellowish grey silt.	lower fill of posthole 142	1.4 - 1.8 m
1	144	dark reddish brown silty clay.	upper fill of posthole 142	1.1 - 1.5 m
1	145	wide flat-bottomed ditch	ditch	0.8 - 1.1 m
1	146	mid brown silty clay loam with occasional flint gravel.	fill of ditch 145	0.8 - 1.1 m
1	147	slightly irregular ditch.	ditch	1.1 - 1.4 m
1	148	mid brown / dark yellowish brown silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	fill of ditch 147	1.1 - 1.4 m
1	149	stakeholes along base of ditch 151.	palisade	1.6 - 1.9 m
1	150	reddish brown silty clay	fill of stakeholes 149	1.6 - 1.9 m
1	151	steep V-shaped ditch with row of stakeholes along eastern edge. Oriented N-S.	palisade ditch	1.1 - 1.65 m
1	152	chalk rubble and silt.	basal fill of ditch 151	1.4 - 1.65 m
1	153	N-S linear feature, unexcavated	ditch?	>0.5 m
1	154	reddish brown silty clay loam with frequent flint gravel.	fill of ditch 153	>0.5 m
1	155	large steep-sided ditch, probably aligned roughly NNW-SSE.	ditch	0.3 - 1.5 m
2	201	dark greyish brown silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	turf and topsoil	0 - 0.25 m
2	202	greyish brown silty loam with moderate flint gravel.	ploughsoil / colluvium	0.25 - 0.8 m
2	203	reddish brown silty clay loam with moderate flint gravel.	colluvium	0.45 - 0.8 m

Appendix 1: List of all contexts (continued)

trench	context	description	interpretation	depth below surface
2	204	yellowish brown silty clay with sparse flint gravel.	?natural subsoil	>0.8 m
2	205	dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel.	natural	>0.8 m
2	206	greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional flint gravel.	fill of treehole 207	0.8 - 0.95 m
2	207	irregular disturbance.	tree hole	0.8 - 0.95 m
3	301	dark greyish brown sandy silty loam.	turf and topsoil	0 - 0.25 m
3	302	chalk rubble.	chalk rubble surface or levelling	0.25 - 0.45 m
3	303	greyish brown silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	ploughsoil/colluvium	0.25 - 0.5 m
3	304	mixed greyish brown silty loam with moderate-frequent flint gravel.	dump of soil and stone	0.5 - 0.75 m
3	305	reddish brown silty clay loam with occasional flint gravel.	colluvium	0.4 - 0.8 m
3	306	yellowish brown silty clay.	?natural subsoil	>0.75 m
3	307	mid brown silty clay loam.	upper fill of ditch 311	0.75 - 0.85 m
3	308	mid/dark greyish brown silty loam with frequent large nodular flint.	stony fill of ditch 311	0.8 - 1.05 m
3	309	dark yellowish brown silty loam with frequent flint gravel.	fill in ditch 311	0.85 - 1.15 m
3	310	yellowish brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel.	primary fill of ditch 311	0.95 - 1.2 m
3	311	N-S aligned ditch with rounded terminal to the south.	boundary ditch	0.75 - 1.2 m
4	401	dark greyish brown silty loam with occasional flint gravel.	modern turf and topsoil	0 - 0.4 m
4	402	reddish brown silty clay loam with sparse flint gravel.	colluvium	0.4 - 0.8 m
4	403	pale to dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel.	colluvium	0.8 - 2.1 m
4	404	flint gravels in a dark reddish brown silty clay matrix	natural	>1.8 m

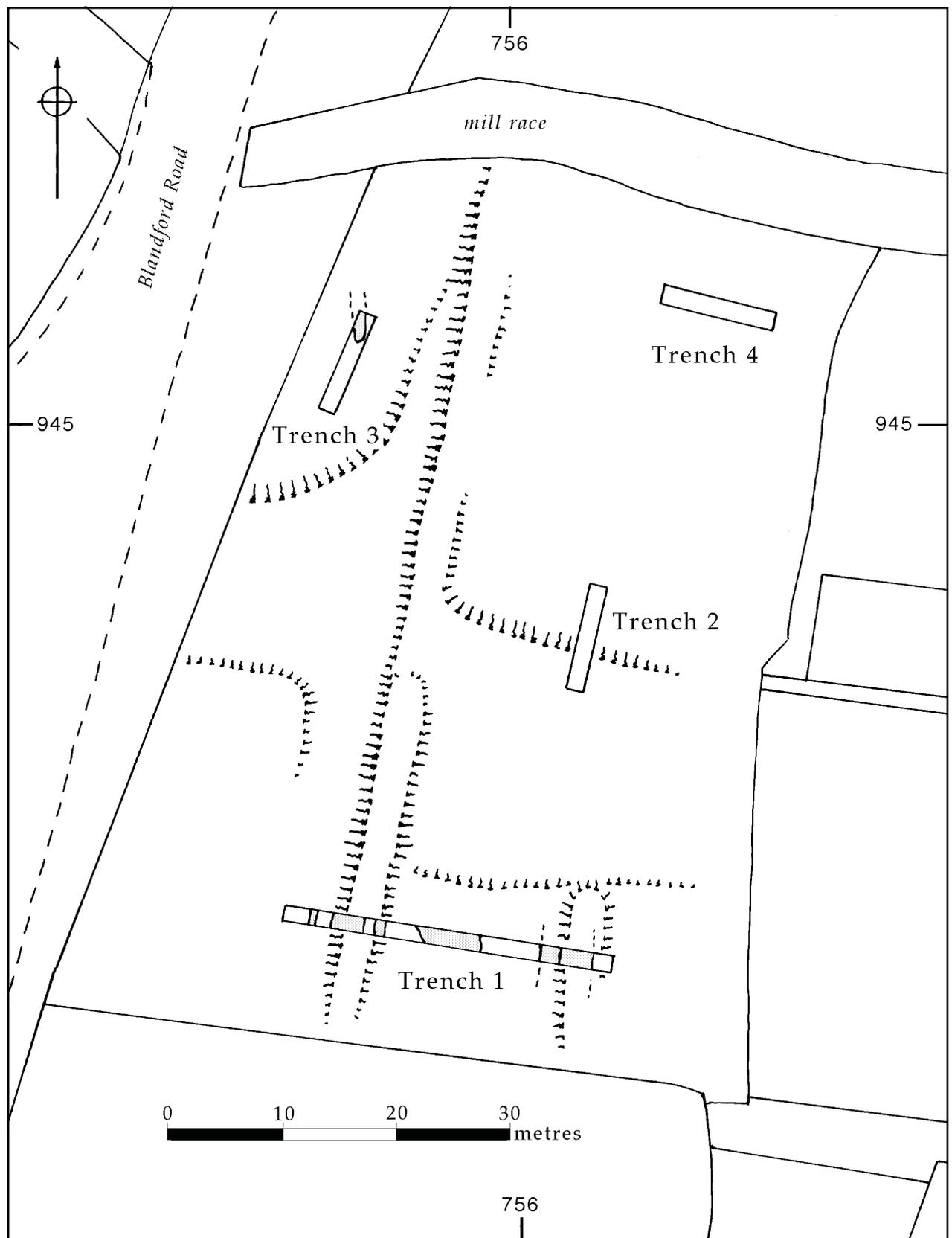


Figure 1: Location plan of evaluation trenches

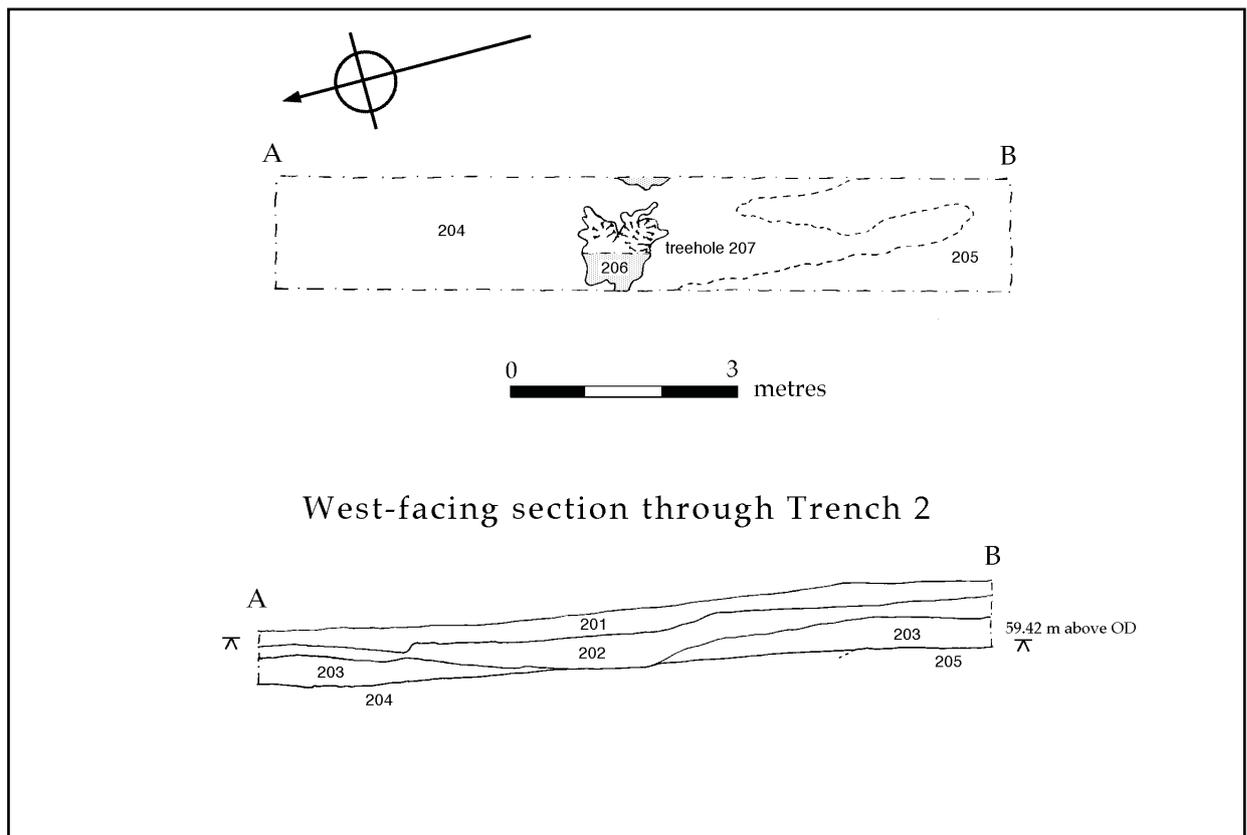


Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 2

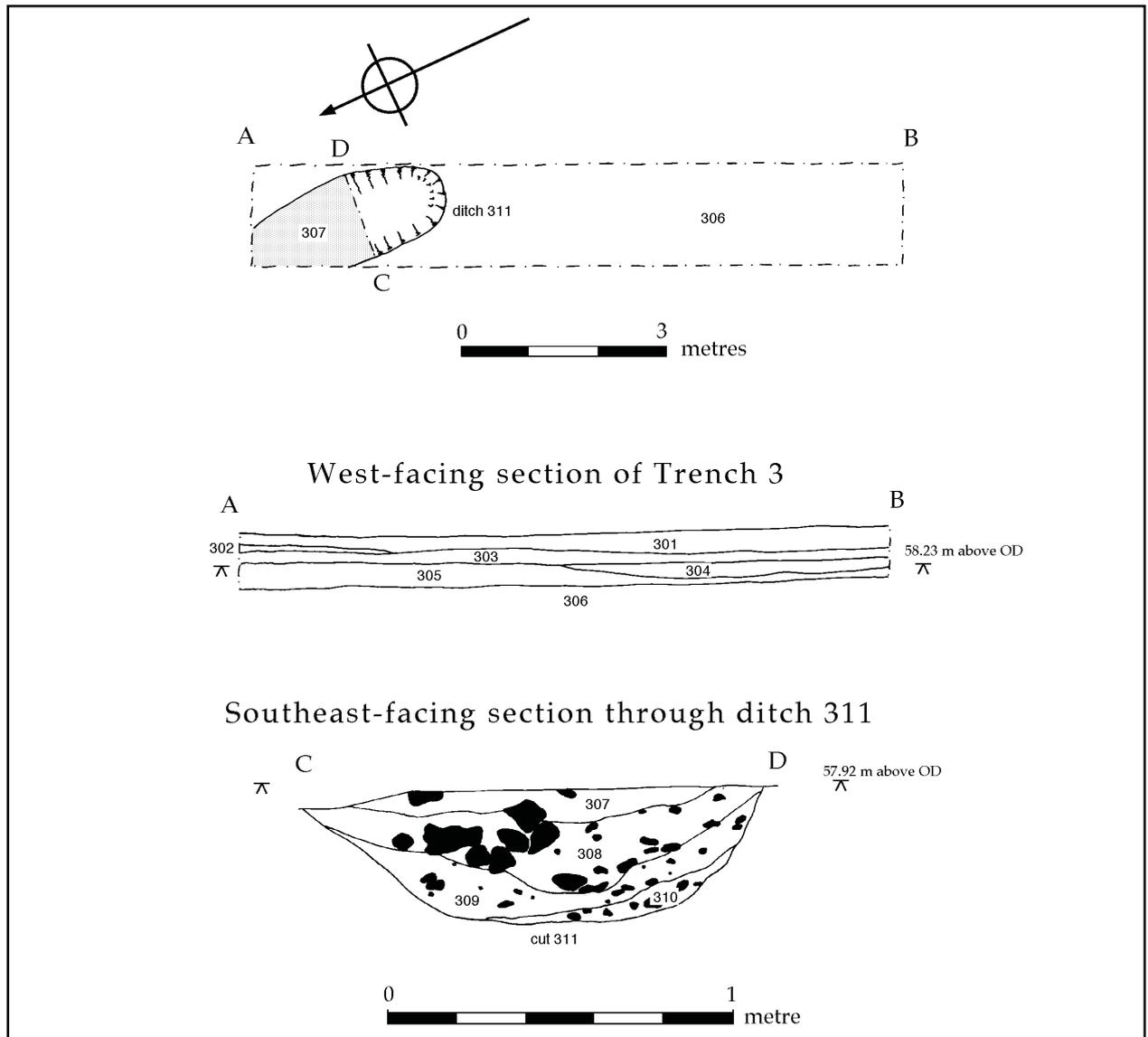


Figure 4: Plan and sections of Trench 3

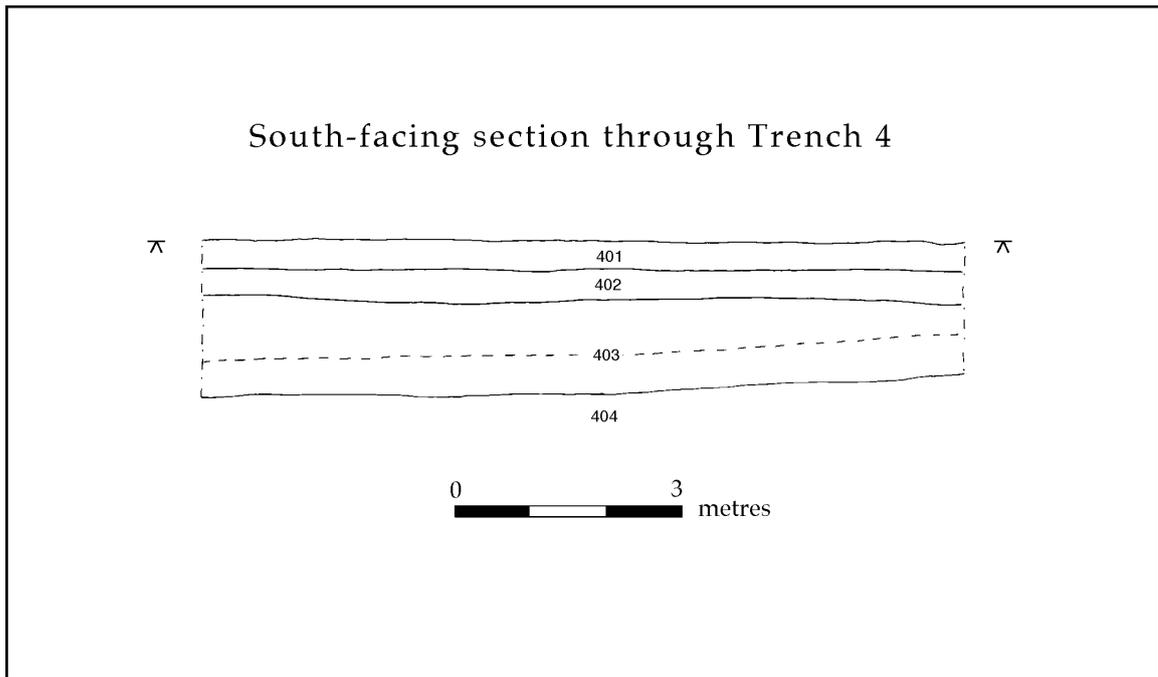


Figure 5: Sketch section of Trench 4