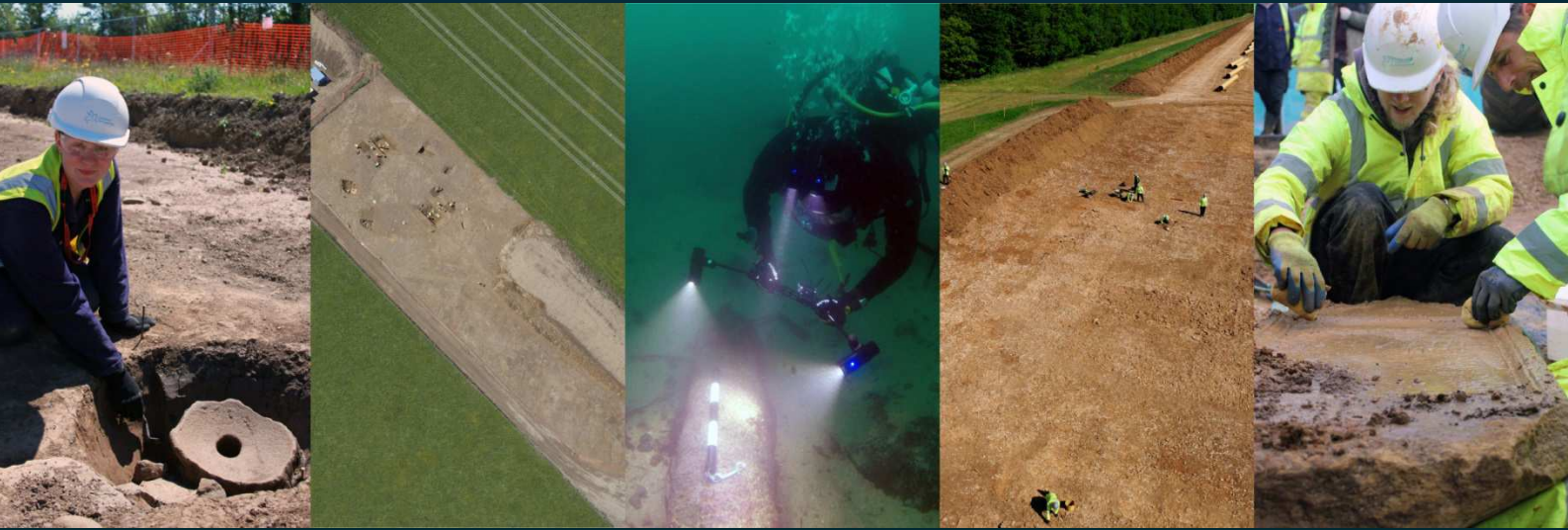


Old Park Farm Pinhoe Devon

*Publication Report
for Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings*



for
BDW Exeter

CA Project: 889001

CA Report: 16447

November 2016



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Pinhoe
Devon

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Fragments of a lowland landscape: Archaeological Investigations at Old Park Farm, Pinhoe, 2009–2014

By ANDREW MUDD *and* THOMAS WEAVILL

With contributions by Andy Clarke, Sarah Cobain, E.R. McSloy and Jacky Sommerville

A programme of archaeological investigation, including geophysical survey, trial trenching and excavation, was undertaken between 2009 and 2014 in advance of development at Old Park Farm, Pinhoe. Scattered prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later features were found over 7.4 ha of the 19.7 ha development site. Dating evidence was sparse, but earlier prehistoric activity was represented by flintwork, particularly in the eastern part of the site. A few pits contained evidence of probable Middle Bronze Age occupation. In the north-western area, part of what appears to have been an oval double-ditched enclosure was probably of later Iron Age date, running into the Roman period. There were Roman ditches in the south-central area, although the probable focus of Roman settlement was taken out of the development. Medieval pottery came from ditches in the same area as the Roman ones, and there was more widespread post-medieval activity in the form of ditched enclosures probably relating to Old Park Farm itself, a building with likely medieval origins.

INTRODUCTION

Between November 2012 and May 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation at Old Park Farm, Pinhoe, Devon (centred on NGR SX 9658 9518; Fig. 1) on behalf of David Wilson Homes (DWH) in respect of planning consent for mixed residential and amenity development. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Nexus Heritage and CA (2011) and approved by Stephen Reed of Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (DCCHES) as archaeological adviser to East Devon Council. The work represented a third stage of archaeological fieldwork, following earlier geophysical survey (Stratascan 2009) and trial trenching (CA 2010a) undertaken ahead of planning determination.

The development area of c. 19.7 ha lies to the north of the village of Pinhoe, on the northern outskirts of Exeter. Within this area, c. 7.4 ha was subject to excavation, split over five areas examined by the earlier evaluations where potentially significant archaeological remains had been identified (Fig. 2). Most of the site lies on the floor of the Clyst valley, at 30–40 m OD,

to the north-east of Beacon Hill and Pinn Hill, but the south-western margin extends up Beacon Hill to a height of c. 50 m OD. The land drains eastward towards the River Clyst. Most of the site lies on Mudstones and Sandstones of the Crackington Formation, covered to the north by superficial sands, clays and gravels (BGS 2015). Fieldwork showed the geology to be mixed silt and clay with sandy lenses. Correlation between the geophysical survey and later excavation was generally imprecise, the sandier parts, such as Area 7, showing reasonably good results while the clayey areas, particularly Area 4, were poorer (CA 2010a, 2015a).

Following excavation, an assessment typescript report was produced and submitted to DCCHEs (CA 2015a). The present report is a summary of the assessment report, to which the reader is referred for a fuller description of the findings (also CA online resource). The interpretation has, however, been refined for publication, including reconsideration of some of the phasing, and this publication therefore represents an update where the two reports diverge. The site archive and the finds are to be deposited with RAM Museum, Exeter, under accession number RAMM:12/92.

Methods

The archaeological mitigation required excavation and recording in five areas (Fig. 2, Areas 2, 4, 6, 7a and 7b). The remainder of the site had either shown little of archaeological significance from the evaluations, or was avoided by intrusive groundworks so that remains were left *in situ*. Within each of the mitigation areas, topsoil, subsoil and other archaeologically sterile overburden were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The archaeological features exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. The excavation sampling strategy and standards followed orthodox professional practice (Nexus Heritage and CA 2011).

EXCAVATION RESULTS

Archaeological features were identified across all the excavation areas. Features were not densely distributed and many were shallow, clearly having been subject to truncation. The results are described and discussed by period.

Earlier Prehistoric

A relatively large quantity of flintwork (and four items of Greensand chert) provides evidence for intermittent prehistoric activity widely scattered across the site. Most of the material consists of debitage and is not closely dateable. It is likely to be largely of later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date. No features were positively identified as being earlier than the Middle Bronze Age, so it appears that the large majority of the lithic material was redeposited in later features and superficial soils.

Of interest are a small number of Mesolithic pieces. These include an obliquely blunted point that may be of earlier Mesolithic date (*c.* 10,000–6500 BC) from possible Roman ditch AD, along with less diagnostic knapping debris. It appears likely that the ditch (in Area 7B) was cut through an area of Mesolithic and/or later activity, for which all other evidence has been lost. There were also two other microliths, one from later prehistoric/Roman ditch C, and the other from pit 400103, both in Area 4.

The earliest dated features are of probable Bronze Age date, for the most part in Areas 7A and 7B. A cluster of pits in Area 7A included circular pit 700063, 0.6 m in diameter and just 0.2 m deep, which contained 28 sherds of a probable Middle Bronze Age jar-like vessel together with a charred hazelnut shell and frequent oak and cherry wood charcoal (Fig. 3, inset 1; Fig. 4, section BB).

Pit 700063 cut earlier small pit 700061 and lay adjacent to pits 700090 (Fig. 3, inset 1; Fig. 4, section CC) and 700092, of similar form and with similar fills, so this would seem to be a Middle Bronze Age pit cluster, albeit of uncertain interpretation. Lying 140 m to the south-east, small pit 14005 (found within an earlier evaluation trench; Fig. 3) contained a heavily truncated pottery vessel dated to the Bronze Age or early Iron Age, likely to have been deposited whole. It contained only alder charcoal without cremated bone and is thought unlikely to have been a cremation burial. In Area 2, a prehistoric potsherd from elongated pit 37003 (which was cut by a tree-throw pit) suggests that this may have related to Bronze Age activity (Fig. 2). A larger pit, 200003, 1.5 m in diameter and 0.8 m deep (Fig. 2, inset; Fig. 4, section AA), yielded a small quantity of hazelnut shell and an indeterminate cereal grain. There was a possible Bronze Age potsherd from the subsoil here and a Bronze-Age date seems likely for the pit.

Seven shallow pits in Area 7B may also have been of Bronze Age date, although they yielded little. Pit 700162 (Fig. 3, inset 2; Fig 4, section DD) contained a flint knife of identifiable date and function, while pits 700149 and 700122 also contained worked flint, and

pit 700124 had a charcoal-rich fill containing oak, hazel and cherry wood charcoal. Worked flint and six sherds of Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery were recovered from subsoil across both excavation areas of Area 7, suggesting a low level of prehistoric activity here, perhaps mostly Bronze Age in date.

Later Prehistoric to Roman enclosure

On the western side of Area 4 what appears to be the eastern side of a large double-ditched enclosure was revealed (Fig. 5). There was also at least one later phase of internal ditches. The parallel inner and outer enclosure ditches, C and D, more or less following the 40-metre contour, were shallow with generally steep-sided and flat-based profiles, and their fills were largely sterile except for occasional worked flints. The inner ditch (ditch C) was on average c. 1.0 m wide and 0.2 m deep, and the northern arm of the outer ditch (ditch D) was of similar size (Fig. 6, sections EE, FF). The southern arm of ditch D was a little larger with a clear terminal, 0.5 m deep. The opposed terminal shallowed to 0.1 m deep and may have been significantly truncated, but there was clearly a 20 metre-wide entrance causeway here that was not mirrored by the inner enclosure. Geophysical survey has revealed the possibility of a third parallel ditch in the field to the west (Fig. 5).

A second phase of ditches comprised a series of east/west internal divisions (ditches E, F, G) and perhaps also a north/south division (ditch H). The east/west ditches cut and respected ditch C. There seems to have been a third phase to this complex with further rectilinear ditches (I, J, K and L) forming a rectangular pattern cutting through ditch C, apparently after it had gone out of use and silted up.

The dating evidence from the complex is minimal. A single Roman sherd came from single fill 400064 at the southern end of ditch C. However, a radiocarbon date on alder/hazel roundwood charcoal from the same fill returned a date in the earlier part of the middle Iron Age (541–392 cal. BC, 94.8% probability; SUERC-58719), and another from fill 400060 (cut 400059) yielded a middle Iron Age date (366–200 cal. BC, 95.4% probability; SUERC-58718). Although the dates do not overlap, it is considered probable that the ditches have an Iron Age origin, the Roman sherd being either intrusive or deriving from a later stage of infilling.

Roman ditches near Old Park Farm

In Area 7A Roman activity was represented by two ditches 35–40 m apart (Fig. 7). Ditches P and Q were similar in form, averaging 1.3–1.5 m wide and 0.30–0.35 m deep (Fig. 8, sections GG, HH). A total of 195 sherds of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered

from these ditches. There was also a 3rd/4th-century coin (not closely identifiable) from Ditch Q as well as a possible double-spiked loop of iron, thought to be a Roman building fitting, and a fragment of Roman tile. Ditches and one pit containing Roman pottery and other finds were also found in evaluation trenches in the southern part of Area 7. These appear to confirm to an approximately north-west/south-east-aligned network of ditches, initially identified in the geophysical survey. Finds include a Roman steelyard from ditch 15004/15006 in T15. Several other ditches in the evaluated area without finds also may have been part of the Roman-period occupation, but given the presence of medieval and later ditches in Area 7A, it is possible that they were later. There was not consistency to the size or profile of these ditches to suggest the density or pattern of Roman features, and the form of the occupation is ill-defined. The southern part of Area 7 was reserved as open ground within the development and so no further archaeological work followed the evaluation.

Possible Roman ditches were also found further to the north-east in Area 7B. Ditches AD, AE and AF were of ambiguous dating, a probable Bronze Age date being initially suggested by the large quantity of worked flint from these features (83, representing almost half the entire collection from the site). There was also, however, a single sherd (8 g) of Black-burnished Ware and, at face value, this indicates a Roman date. Charred hazelnut shells from a soil sample from ditch AD appear to have been redeposited, along with the flintwork that includes blades and bladelets diagnostic of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic activity. Ditch AD was 0.62 m wide and 0.2 m deep with a clear north-western terminal (Fig. 7, inset 1; Fig. 8, section II), although it shallowed to the south-east suggesting that this end had been truncated. Ditches AE and AF, originally probably one continuous length, were slighter (Fig. 7, inset 2; Fig. 8, section JJ). The location of these ditches, close to the alignment of the extant field boundaries, raises the possibility that they are more recent field divisions, although they were sealed by the subsoil and their fills were not modern. On balance, their 'modern' alignment would appear to be coincidental. They would seem to represent a field or enclosure peripheral to the main area of activity near Old Park Farm.

While the form of the Roman-period occupation here remains unresolved, the quantity of pottery and the nature of some of the other finds, such as the steelyard and charred grain, would suggest some kind of rural settlement rather than simply peripheral fields or enclosures. It is possible that evidence for shallow-founded structures has been lost to truncation and there remains the potential for further remains surviving in the unexcavated part of Area 7.

Medieval and later ditches

Remnants of a series of small enclosures in the eastern corner of Area 7A contained a total of six sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries AD and no later material (Fig. 7). Post-medieval dating came from ditch T and the converging double-ditched boundaries. These appeared to have silted up in the late 18th to 19th centuries, a date supported by the correspondence of these ditches to field boundaries on the 1839 Pinhoe Tithe Map (DHC). The ditches here would seem to show the development of a small part of the farming landscape in historical times, although this cannot be examined in any detail. It is not clear if the medieval pottery provides secure dating for the early phase of this development, but it can be assumed to have been related to Old Park Farm. The present farmhouse, a Grade II* Listed Building named Old Park, Broadclyst (British Listed Buildings 2016, Historic England ref. 88358), is a cob-walled, cruck-roofed construction of three-room cross-passage plan, thought to date from the 14th or early 15th century. There seems therefore to have been a medieval origin to the present farming landscape. It is not been possible to trace this development with the evidence available as there is no known pre-19th century cartographic depiction of the area, and the plot in which the farmhouse lies was retained without archaeological investigation. The 1889–90 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (Old Maps online resource) shows little change from the 1839 Tithe Map (DHC) with the exception of the loss of buildings to the east of the farmhouse and a new boundary to the field corner here (Fig. 9). It is possible that the farm was in decline by the late 19th century.

THE FINDS

Worked flint and chert by Jacky Sommerville

A total of 182 worked lithics (1044g) and three pieces of burnt, unworked flint (128g) was recorded. Twenty-one items were retrieved from bulk soil sampling of four deposits. Just over a third of the lithics (66 items) were recovered from subsoil or as unstratified finds. The vast majority of the remaining 116 items derived from ditch fills, with just a handful from pits and/or postholes.

The primary raw material was flint and four pieces were made on Greensand chert, which outcrops in the region of the Blackdown Hills on the Devon/Somerset border (Barton *et al.* 1995, 90). Cortex is present on 78 items. On 48 of these it is abraded or ‘chattered’, indicating the use of a secondary source such as river gravels. Twenty-seven items (35%) feature chalky cortex which suggests a primary source (e.g. chalk). Possible sources for the chalk flint include: the area near Beer Head (c. 32 km to the east of Exeter); Haldon Hills (c.

8 km to the south-west); and the Bovey/Decoy basins near Newton Abbot (c. 24 km to the south-west) (Newberry 2002, 14–9). Flint from the latter area is of particularly good quality (*ibid.*, 18). It is not generally possible to distinguish specific flint sources on the basis of appearance.

The condition of the unburnt lithics from archaeological features suggests that much was residual but that it had not moved far from where it was originally deposited (only 20% are moderately/heavily rolled). Only seven worked flints were retrieved from features with prehistoric dates (pits 20003, 700143, 700149 and 700162).

The assemblage comprises: 147 pieces of debitage; 15 cores; and 20 retouched tools (Table 1). The debitage includes elements suggestive of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic dating (17 blades and 13 bladelets); and three cores which retain blade/bladelet scars, including one from early prehistoric pit 700149. A Mesolithic single-platform bladelet core was retrieved from subsoil in Area 7B. Two discoidal cores from subsoil are of probable Later Neolithic date (Edmonds 1995, 82). More typical of Bronze Age technology are unsystematically reduced, multi-platform flake cores (Butler 2005, 181) from post-medieval field boundary Ditch M (Area 4) and subsoil in Area 7A/B.

Retouched tools mostly consist of scrapers, and notched and retouched flakes, none of which are diagnostic types. The only closely dateable tools are three microliths, retrieved from Iron Age Ditch C (Fig. 10.1), undated pit 400103 (Fig. 10.2) and probable Roman Ditch AD (Fig. 10.3). Those from Ditches AD and C are obliquely blunted points (Clark 1934, 56), which were in use throughout the Mesolithic period. The example from Ditch AD, at 11 mm wide, is most likely to belong to the Early Mesolithic (10,000–6,500 BC) (Jacobi 1976, 67). The microlith from pit 400103 is a trapezoid (Clark Type D6, *ibid.* 58), which is a Later Mesolithic type, dateable to c. 6500–4000 BC (Jacobi 1978, 19–21). A knife from Iron Age Ditch C is a double-sided type, broken in three pieces (Fig. 10.4).

Ditch AD

Almost half (46%) of the lithics were recovered from Ditch AD (Table 1). Mesolithic or Early Neolithic material from this ditch comprises: eight blades, seven bladelets and one core with dual-opposed platforms that feature blade and possible bladelet scars; and three flakes that display evidence of soft hammer percussion. Fill 700127 also produced a microlith, which is a diagnostic Mesolithic tool (Fig. 10.3).

Conclusion

The lithics assemblage is small and is almost entirely residual. Almost half of the recovered material, including Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic items, has been redeposited in Ditch AD, which is probably a Roman feature. Formal tools are mostly undiagnostic types typical of domestic activity.

Catalogue of illustrated pieces (Fig. 10)

- 1 Microlith. Fill 400128 of Iron Age ditch 400126 (Ditch C)
An obliquely blunted point (Clark Type A1) featuring steep, fine, quite regular retouch along the straight, truncated left dorsal edge. It has suffered some edge damage on the opposing edge.
- 2 Microlith. Fill 400104 of undated pit 400103
A trapezoid (Clarke Type D6) which displays very fine, steep retouch along the shorter edge and truncation, and semi-abrupt retouch on the longer, right dorsal edge.
- 3 Microlith. Fill 700127 of ditch 700126 (Ditch AD)
A Clark Type B4 obliquely blunted point with the left edge blunted and the opposite edge trimmed with fine, regular semi-abrupt retouch.
- 4 Knife. Fill 400056 of Iron Age ditch 400057 (Ditch C)
A knife made on a thin flake and broken in three pieces. It displays shallow to semi-abrupt, regular retouch along the proximal and distal edges on both faces.

Pottery by E.R. McSloy

A total of 508 sherds (5309 g) was hand-recovered. The assemblage includes material from both the evaluation and the area excavation (Table 2). The pottery has been fully quantified; scanned by context, sorted by fabric/vessel form and quantified according to sherd count, weight and rim EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents). Fabric codings utilised for the majority Roman group correlate where appropriate to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and a concordance is provided, linking types to the Exeter pottery type series (summarised in Holbrook and Bidwell 1991). Codings for prehistoric and post-Roman types are based on primary/secondary inclusion type or aspects of firing/use of glaze.

Prehistoric

The Prehistoric group amounts to 69 sherds (314g) from five deposits, including six sherds from the subsoil. The pottery is well fragmented, reflected in a low mean sherd weight (4.6 g), although surface preservation is good.

The bulk of the prehistoric group derives from two features: pits 14005 (30 sherds) and 700063 (28 sherds), each from a single vessel. The original interpretation of feature 14005 as a cremation burial would seem to be invalidated by an absence of associated bone and both groups may relate to domestic activity.

The small size of the group and a scarcity of featured sherds make close dating problematical. Fabric PreRO2, which makes up the majority (Table 2), accords with the 'Exeter Volcanic' group of fabrics, which can characterise of Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age pottery groups from south Devon (Quinnell 2014, 54). The group from deposit pit 14005 consists of 30 sherds (52g) representing a single, small, straight-sided vessel with a simple rim. The second, larger group, from pit 700063 comprises joining sherds from the lower portion of a jar-like vessel in fabric PreRO2. In this instance the vessel thickness (8 mm) and firing characteristics would suit best a Middle Bronze Age date though this is by no means certain. Dating for the remaining pottery, which occurs mostly as small numbers of unfeatured bodysherds, is within the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age period.

Roman

Pottery of Roman date makes up the majority of the total, amounting to 348 sherds (4513 g). The mean sherd weight is moderately high (12.9 g) and not suggestive of a well broken-up group. Surface preservation is poor. This is particularly severe among the finewares including the samian, and is almost certainly a result of burial environment. The stratified Roman pottery was derived entirely from ditches, with the largest proportion (192 sherds) from ditch Q.

Composition (Table 2)

The assemblage is narrow in its range, the majority comprising reduced coarsewares from local or regional sources. Two types, 'South Devon wares' (SOD RE) and Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1), make up approximately 80% of the total (by sherd count).

Identifiable vessel forms among the coarsewares are representative of utilitarian classes: jars (everted-rim forms), plain-rim dishes and conical bowls with flat/grooved or flanged rims. Among the South Devon ware (type SOD RE) are large storage jars; some with pinched-out or applied strip 'decoration'.

Fineware/specialist ware types are all from regional Romano-British or continental centres. New Forest colour-coated/slipped types (NFO CC) include a probable bowl (evaluation Trench 15, ditch 15002) and joining sherds from an indented beaker (Fulford 1975, form

27.3) from ditch Q. Oxfordshire whitewares are present as sherds from two mortaria (Young 1977, form M22) from the subsoil and ditch Q.

Continental finewares are represented by small quantities of Central (LEZ SA2) and east Gaulish samian (EGSA) and Central Gaulish black-slipped ware (CNG BS). Identifiable forms among the samian are limited to decorated bowl sherds (Drag. 37), from ditch Q, which are described below. The Central Gaulish black-slipped vessel, from ditch Q, represents a beaker of uncertain form.

Discussion and dating

The occurrence of samian and Central Gaulish black-slipped ware is suggestive of some earlier Roman (2nd or earlier 3rd century) activity. All however appears to be re-deposited, occurring from deposits likely to post-date c. AD 250.

Compositional factors, notably the abundance of South Devon wares and Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware, are indicative of a 3rd or 4th century emphasis to the assemblage. More specific dating indicators come from Oxfordshire and New Forest types, which can be expected to date after c. AD 250/270, and from exclusively late forms among the coarsewares. Forms among the local (conical flanged bowls and jars resembling late series Black-burnished wares) are also consistent with later Roman chronology.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery from ditch Q (Fig. 11)

1. Globular jar/'cooking pot' with everted rim. Ditch section 700033 (fill 700034). Fabric SOD RE.
2. Necked jar with out-curved rim. Ditch section 700033 (fill 700034). Fabric GW2.
3. Large neckless jar with thickened/bead-like rim. Ditch section 700033 (fill 700034). Fabric SOD RE.
4. Large conical flanged bowl. Ditch section 700040 (fill 700039). Fabric SOD RE.
5. Flanged mortarium (as Young 1977, 76–77; Fig. 23 M22.4). Ditch section 700040 (fill 700039). Fabric OXF WH.

The decorated samian by G. Monteil

The three sherds of decorated samian ware are from ditch Q and represent one vessel in the style of Central Gaulish Antonine potter *Paternus* v.

Catalogue (Fig. 12)

Period 3 ditch fill 700040 (fill of ditch Q): one bodysherd; and Period 3 ditch fill 700034 (fill of Q): two joining rim sherds. Dr.37, Lezoux, in the style of *Paternus* v, AD 150–185. The slip and surface are

extremely abraded. Though they do not join, the three fragments are most probably from the same vessel, both display similar fabric and slip and the decoration on each is consistent. A detailed description of the decoration is in the data report (CA 2015a)

Medieval

The medieval pottery group amounts to 54 sherds (335 g), recorded from six deposits. The assemblage is moderately well broken-up (the mean sherd weight is 6.2 g). Surface preservation is however good and there is common survival of external carbonised residues (sooting) resulting from use.

A very narrow range of fabrics is represented (Table 2). Both types are variants of the dominant unglazed coarseware tradition of chert-tempered fabrics which is common to the area across the 12th to 14th centuries. Rim sherds were identified only from the largest context group from ditch S (cut 23013). Three vessels are represented consisting of jars with globular bodies and rims which differ in detail (convex/everted or everted with internally expanded tops).

Post-medieval/modern

A very small post-medieval/modern group was recovered (38 sherds, weighing 149 g). Most material occurs as small groups of sherds (up to 6) from ditch and posthole fills. The earliest material consists of sherds of red-fired glazed earthenwares or slip-decorated glazed earthenwares which may date as early as the later 16th century. A single sherd of Westerwald stoneware (ditch B fill 200039) dateable to the late 17th or 18th centuries is the sole imported type present. The majority of the group consists of clear-glazed white-firing types (crea; whch) common to the period after c. 1740 and produced on an industrial scale in centres in the midlands and elsewhere.

Metalwork and Ceramic Building Material by E.R. McSloy

Metalwork

A small group of six metal finds was recovered, all except an iron horseshoe from Roman-phased deposits. A copper-alloy coin from ditch Q cannot be identified but on the basis of size and general characteristics a date in the later 3rd or early 4th century AD is suggested. A fragmentary iron nail and strip are not intrinsically dateable although Roman dating is suggested by associated material. An iron object from ditch Q is fragmentary and tentatively identified as a double-spiked loop, a common form of Roman buildings fitting.

A second item dateable by form is a copper-alloy steelyard fragment RA 1 (Fig. 13) from ditch 15004 (fill 15005) in evaluation Trench 15. It is a notable find, unusual in a number of respects (below). Use of this form of asymmetrical balance is widely attested in Roman Britain and it appears to have been in use throughout the period. The wide size range (up to 1.m in length) reflects use with a variety of commodities. Portable examples such as this were most likely used by merchants or traders for the measurement of smaller quantities of foodstuffs or other goods. Later Roman dating is suggested by associated pottery.

RA 1 Steelyard fragment. The head section of the balance arm is flat in section, the (broken) scale arm lozengiform. The scale arm is marked on both faces, allowing use in either position. The scale (calibration) is marked at intervals by vertical incisions, or in some instances by one or two flanking diagonals. The spacing is regular but differing for each face. Untypically for this class of artefact, the fulcra perforations are located central to the head section (rather than as off-set lugs), which has necessitated the addition of lobed mouldings above or below in the corresponding positions. A steelyard of similar form is however known from Somerset as a metal-detector find recorded on the Portable Antiquities website (PAS 2016, Ref. WILT-08AC8D). A further unusual feature is the cast decoration to the head section. This takes the form of a double satire design of double grooves containing (?punched) dots and a cabled moulding at the junction of the head portion and ring terminal. An example of a steelyard with (less elaborate) decoration is that from South Shields Roman fort (Allason Jones and Miket 1984, 172–3, no. 468). Surviving length 110 mm; width at head 8 mm; thickness (scale bar) 5.5 mm. Period 2 Ditch 15004 (fill 15005).

Ceramic Building Material

Small quantities of Roman and later ceramic building material were recovered. The material was scanned by context and quantified according to date/class and by fragment count/weight. Fabric and features such as thickness and any pre-firing marks were also recorded for the Roman group. The assemblage is described below by broad period.

The Roman group amounts to seven fragments of tile (1023g) from two deposits: Roman ditch Q (four pieces) and medieval ditch R (three pieces). The group is limited in size and range and identified classes consist of tegulae (flanged roof tiles) only. Thickness for the tegulae and indeterminate tile fragments is in the range 21–25 mm. Joining tegula fragments in fabric F2 from ditch R, feature a semi-circular signature at the front edge of the tile.

Fabric summary (Roman)

- F1 Pale orange throughout. Soft, with powdery surfaces. Common fine (silt-sized) quartz; sparse red iron oxide 1–2 mm.
- F2 Pink-orange with grey core. Hard, with smooth feel. Common yellow unhomogenised clay lumps/streaks; common black ferrous inclusions (1–2 mm). Underside sanded with rounded quartz 0.5-0.8 mm.

A total of 10 fragments of medieval/post-medieval and modern ceramic material (607 g) was recorded from three deposits. Two small and joining flat tile fragments from Trench 15, ditch 15004, are 12 mm thick and might date to the medieval or post-medieval period but are considered possibly intrusive in a Roman ditch. Similar or later dating is probable for an unfeathered brick fragment from deposit 700117, ditch V. The remainder of the assemblage consists of modern earthenware drain fragments and those from ditch R are also probably intrusive given the medieval dating of this feature.

Animal bone by Andy Clarke

A very meagre collection of 23 fragments (20 g) of animal bone was recovered by hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from archaeological features dating to the earlier prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. None were identifiable to species. An unstratified fragment (48 g) of cattle bone (*Bos taurus*) was also recovered. The extreme poverty of this group undoubtedly reflects a burial environment inimical to the preservation of bone.

Plant macrofossils and charcoal by Sarah Cobain

A total of 17 bulk soil samples from the excavation and 11 from the evaluation were retrieved for plant macrofossil and charcoal analysis to provide evidence of socio-economic activities being undertaken on the site (crop husbandry, diet, living conditions of communities, exploitation of woodlands for fuel, woodland management), and to infer the composition of the local flora and woodlands.

Plant macrofossil and charcoal remains were retrieved by standard flotation procedures. The seeds were identified with reference to Cappers *et al.* (2006), Neef *et al.* (2012) Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Up to 100 charcoal fragments (>2 mm) were identified with reference to Gale and Cutler (2000) and Schoch *et al.* (2004) and Wheeler *et al.* (1989). Nomenclature of seeds and charcoal species and ecologies follows Stace (1997). Full methodological details are available in the typescript report (CA 2015a, also online).

Results

A selection of the results from productive samples are presented in tabular form (Tables 3–4).

Earlier Prehistoric Period

Pit 14005 containing vessel 14010 was without cremated bone and the sole presence of alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), a poor fuel which is not typically used for cremation pyres, suggests that it was not related to cremation burial. The absence of other associated artefactual material precludes any further interpretation.

Material recovered from other prehistoric features included hazelnut shells (*Corylus avellana*), a possible fragment of (unidentified) fruit flesh, a single false oat-grass tuber (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and indeterminate cereal grains (Table 3). Charcoal, present in small to moderate quantities from pits 37005, 200003, 700063, 700124 and 700149, was identified dominantly as oak (*Quercus*) with smaller amounts of alder/hazel, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna/Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*) and cherry (*Prunus*) species (CA 2015a). The small quantity of material recovered suggests this material originates from wind-blown hearth debris, most likely associated with domestic activity.

Hazelnuts are a common find in prehistoric features and are indicative of locally sourced foodstuffs. The small size of the cereal assemblages means it is not possible to ascertain whether they are suggestive of crop processing or domestic food production. The small amount and/or poor preservation of the charcoal inhibits interpretation. The only exception is charcoal-rich fill 37006 of tree-hole 37005, which may represent a burnt out hazel tree root indicative of local woodland clearance. The identified charcoal suggests that local woodlands were composed of stands of oak along with shrub/scrubby species such as alder/hazel, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and cherry.

Roman Period

A small number of wheat grains were recovered from ditch AF (Table 4); however, given their small number they are likely to be residual along with the hazelnut shells from ditches AD and AE (Table 3). Charcoal was abundant but very poorly preserved inhibiting the potential for further analysis. The identified material appears similar to earlier prehistoric remains and may have been redeposited.

Evidence for crop processing came from dumps of charcoal-rich material within ditches Q and 15002. The cereals identified included spelt/emmer (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and spelt wheat along with a small number of oat (*Avena*) grains and spelt and emmer/spelt wheat glume bases (Table 4). The small number of oat grains can be attributed to crop contamination. Herbaceous taxa including pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), bromes (*Bromus*), vetches/peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium*) seeds and a heaths (*Erica*) perianth, are all species which readily establish within arable and disturbed areas. The presence of heaths perianth indicates a heathland environment nearby.

The assemblage of cereal grains, chaff and weeds is suggestive of the parching and subsequent winnowing/sieving of crops and thereby suggests some form of farming settlement within this field. Charcoal from these samples, whilst relatively abundant was poorly preserved. Where identification was possible, oak, maple (*Acer campestre*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), alder/hazel and hawthorn/rowan/crab apple were recorded. Of interest was the presence of heaths, perianth and gorse (from ditches 13003 and 15002 in Area 7; CA 2015a), which indicate a heathland environment nearby, perhaps suggesting habitation/exploitation of more marginal areas.

Radiocarbon dating by Sarah Cobain

Radiocarbon dating was undertaken to provide information on the date of Ditch C (ditch cuts 400059 and 400063) (Table 5). Two samples, both of wood charcoal, were analysed during March 2015 at Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 0QF, Scotland.

The uncalibrated dates are conventional radiocarbon ages. The radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal 4.2 (Bronk Ramsey 2009) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013).

DISCUSSION

Earlier prehistoric activity

The earlier prehistoric occupation on the site was light, scattered and difficult to date. Probable Bronze Age pottery came from individual pits in Area 7A, while pits in Areas 7b and 2, some containing flint and charred hazelnut shells, may be of similar date. The location of Old Park Farm was perhaps marginal to the centres of lowland settlement at this time, which included the Clyst and Otter valleys (Butterworth 1999; Yates 2007, 66; Hart *et al.* 2014), but

occupation in the landscape has been shown to have been widespread by the Middle Bronze Age, if imperfectly understood (Mudd and Joyce 2014, 185–6). The local context includes to the west, on the ridge below Beacon Hill, the site of a remarkable discovery in 1999 of a hoard of Bronze Age bronze palstave axe heads and arm rings, some of them broken. Excavation of the find-spot revealed no *in situ* evidence of the hoard, which has been dispersed by ploughing, nor any evidence of associated features (DDHER no. MDV61837).

The ditches in Area 7B were, in the early stage of analysis, tentatively considered to be Middle Bronze Age, and their rectilinear, discontinuous form, including the corner gap, is typical of those in the Middle Bronze Age landscape found in the Clyst valley at Hayes Farm (Hart *et al.* 2014). A sherd of Black-burnished Ware from ditch AD is now considered to be the likely indicator of date, although it remains possible that the sherd was intrusive. The large quantity of worked flint from here (ditch AD in particular) is enigmatic as flint is not necessarily common on Middle Bronze Age sites. Some of it is diagnostically Mesolithic and the probable explanation for its presence is that the ditch truncated an area of Mesolithic (and perhaps Neolithic) activity, which may have taken the form of a soil layer that has since been lost to the plough. The earlier prehistoric presence indicated by the flintwork is typical more widely in Devon where, with some exceptions, it is usually found redeposited with later material and difficult to interpret in term of date or activity (Hosfield *et al.* 2008, 53)

Iron Age to Roman enclosure

The Iron Age occupation has proved difficult to characterise. The large enclosure partly defined on the western side of the site is not securely of this date, although this is strongly suggested by the radiocarbon results. Geophysical and trial trench evaluation have been carried out in the field to the west as mitigation relating to a possible later stage of development (CA 2013; Fig. 5) This did not provide any definitive information on the course of these curving ditches, which may have stopped, shallowed, or run close to the present field boundaries. There is, however, another curving ditch following a similar trajectory, and, central to this field, about 150 m from the edge, were discovered three ring-ditches, possibly successive, and about 10–12 m in diameter. The deepest of these ditches (c. 0.3 m deep) registered as an anomaly on the magnetometer survey but the others did not. A complete lack of dating evidence from these features hinders interpretation but they appear likely to mark successive phases of roundhouse of Iron Age or perhaps Roman date. On current evidence then, the enclosure ditches in Area 4 probably defined an Iron Age occupation to the east on a ridge of higher land.

In the wider region the nature of Iron Age occupation is still enigmatic and appears to lack the density of features and tight ordering of settlement evidence found further to the east (Webster 2008a, 130; Mudd and Joyce 2014, 188). At Hayes Farm, c. 1.5 km to the east, a single roundhouse defined by a penannular gully contained Early Iron Age pottery and returned a radiocarbon date in the 5th to 4th centuries BC (Hart *et al.* 2014, 10–11). It appeared isolated from contemporary settlement. To the south-east of Old Park Farm, at Pinn Court, evaluation has indicated the presence of later Iron Age settlement in the form of two roundhouses, although the site awaits proper definition (CA 2010b). At Blackhorse, c. 2 km to the south-east, Iron Age settlement in the form of penannular gullies and postholes has been rather better defined. This may have been enclosed in its later phases (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, 160–76).

The purpose of the Old Park Farm enclosure is not clear but its form, with shallow ditches and a wide entrance, make it unlikely that it was designed with defence in mind. It can perhaps be assumed that the management of livestock was one of its functions. Its size and siting make it unlike the hill-top and hill-slope enclosures in the county (which in any case span the Roman and even later periods) but it may have had something in common with other multivallate enclosures, of which there are a variety, but mostly identified from cropmarks and poorly understood (Griffith 1994, 93–4).

Roman occupation

The Roman occupation on the site to the south-east of the present farmhouse is considered likely to have been a settlement. Its form and extent remain unresolved as a consequence of the limited excavations required, but it was probably a farmstead of native character. There is evidence for arable cultivation. Of interest is the quantity and range of pottery from quite small interventions, which suggest something of its status and its engagement with regional exchange networks. The steelyard is also suggestive of commerce of some description and scale. However, the site lies, c. 2 km north of the nearest known Roman road, that leading eastwards from *Isca Dumnoniorum* (later followed by the A30 trunk road from Exeter to Honiton), and so perhaps did not rely upon the infrastructure of Roman administration. The limited dating evidence is late Roman (3rd to 4th centuries), although earlier features may lie elsewhere. The samian and central Gaulish black-slipped wares suggest a 2nd to 3rd-century presence, unless these vessels were curated. There are no Roman settlements yet well defined in the vicinity (Allen *et al.* 2015), although evaluation at Mosshayne Farm to the south-east (CA 2015b) and Monkerton Way to the south (AC Archaeology 2013) have revealed what may have been rectangular Roman enclosures and attached fields. The dating at those sites remains provisional but the results give indications that the land north-

east of the Roman town was occupied and farmed in the Roman period, while also confirming the picture of an absence of villa complexes surrounding the town (Holbrook 2008, 154).

Medieval and later developments

Following abandonment of the Roman settlement, there were no features or finds apparent until ditches containing pottery of 12th to 14th-century date in the same area. There is a clear implication from the plan of these ditches that they formed precursors to the more pronounced ditch digging in post-medieval times, which in all probability related to Old Park Farm itself, lying within 100 m to the north-west. The fact that the present farmhouse has elements suggesting a 14th or 15th-century date is circumstantial evidence of continuity in the development of this farmstead from the medieval period. Archaeological evidence to help elucidate this development may survive closer to Old Park Farm.

The likely presence of a Roman farmstead on the same site, albeit with a focus further south-east, is intriguing in the context of a possible continuity of settlement here, but there is no evidence for activity in the thousand or so years between the Roman and medieval occupations. More widely the nature of settlement and landscape in the post-Roman and Saxon periods is still opaque despite its acknowledged formative significance for the region (Webster 2008b, 170–3; Rippon 2012, 301–7) and there is generally little evidence for continuity from the Roman period through to medieval times (Rippon, 2008, 132). At Hayes Farm, the post-Roman enclosure with a 5th to 6th-century radiocarbon date and the pit with charred grain and a 7th to 8th-century date (Hart *et al.* 2014, 3, 50–1, fig. 13) are perhaps features typical of a stretch of time that appears to have been largely aceramic except where imported pottery was used (Webster 2008b, 170).

Old Park Farm probably lay within a landscape of small villages and scattered farms until recent times. There are documentary records for Pin Court Farm (Pynne in 1370) and the Listed building is thought to have 14th or 15th-century fabric (HE ref. 88359). Pottery of comparable date was recovered from an evaluation on that site (CA 2010b, 26). A possible medieval enclosure and trackway have been discovered in an evaluation at Tithe Barn Green, c. 200 m south-west of Old Park Farm (CA 2012). In the mid 19th century the Tithe Map for Pinhoe (1839) shows a layout of fields and buildings very similar to how they appeared before the present development. The first edition OS map (1889–90) depicts an orchard north of Old Park. It is here that, in 1941, a Wellington Mark II aircraft operated by 104 Squadron from RAF Driffield in Yorkshire crashed, killing all the crew (DDHER

MDV67914). The crash site is now a Protected Place under the terms of the Military Remains Act 1986 and is to be retained as open space within the development.

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TABLES

	Total	from ditch AD
Burnt unworked	3	
Primary		
Blade	17	8
Bladelet	13	7
Chip	16	14
Core	15	5
Flake	101	45
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>79</i>
Secondary		
Knife	2	
Microolith	3	1
Miscellaneous retouched	1	1
Notched flake	4	1
Piercer	1	
Retouched flake	4	
Scraper (end)	3	
Scraper (end-and-side)	1	
Scraper (side)	1	1
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>4</i>
Total	185	83

Table 1: Breakdown of the lithic assemblage

Date	Fabric*	Ex. Fab.†	Short Description	Total		
				Ct	Wt (g)	EVEs
Prehist.	preCHq		Sparse chert	1	42	0
	preRO1		Sparse rock	5	12	0
	preRO2		Common rock (Exeter Volcanic)	63	260	.10
<i>Sub-total</i>				69	314	.10
Roman (local/ Un sourced)	SOD RE	5	South Devon reduced ware	185	2243	1.71
	LOC BS1		Black sandy sparse rock/clay pellet	8	66	.24
	LOC BS2	101/151	Dark grey/black-firing sandy	6	34	.08
	LOC GW1	101/151	Greyware; sparse rounded quartz	11	36	.05
	LOC GW2		Greyware; common quartz/clay pellet	7	99	.15
	LOC GW3		Greyware; common quartz/organic	7	35	.10
	VES		Vesicular fabric	1	2	0
	OX1		Oxidised	3	17	0
	<i>Sub-total</i>				7	241
(Regional)	SOW BB1	40/60	Southwest Black-burnished ware	7	241	.53
	OXF WH	FB1	Oxford whiteware (mortaria)	2	127	.19
	NFO CC		New Forest colour-coated	9	52	.20
(Continental)	DOR BB1	31	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished	90	1157	1.25
	LEZ SA2		Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian	4	199	.17
	CNG BS		Central Gaulish black-slipped ware	2	7	0
	EG SA		East Gaulish samian	1	11	0
	BAT AM		Baetican amphorae	5	187	0
<i>Sub-total</i>				348	4513	4.67
medieval	CH	20	Chert-tempered (sparse quartz)	27	208	.15
	CHqz	20	Chert-tempered (abundant quartz)	27	127	.13
<i>Sub-total</i>				54	335	.28
Post-med/ modern	crea		Creamware	14	46	0
	whch		Refined whiteware	13	50	0
	gre		Glazed earthenware (South Somerset?)	5	29	0
	gslw		Slipware (South Somerset?)	1	4	0
	lengsto		Late English stoneware	2	14	0
	yw		Yellow ware (including Mocha type)	2	3	0
	westw		Westerwald stoneware	1	3	0
<i>Sub-total</i>				38	149	

* types in bold equate to National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998)

† Exeter Fabric (Roman fabrics are summarised in Holbrook and Bidwell 1991; medieval types in Allan 1984, 4-5)

Table 2: Pottery summary. Quantities by sherd count, weight and rim estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs)

Area	2		7a	7b	7b
Context number	200005		700064	700119	700127
Feature number	200003		700063	700118	700126
Feature label				AE	AD
Sample number (SS)	200001		700002	700015	700014
Flot volume (ml)	2.5		<0.5	2.5	2.5
Sample volume processed (l)	30		21	35	36
Period	1		1	3	3
Plant macrofossil preservation	Mod		Mod	Mod	Mod
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name		
HSW	Betulaceae	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	Hazelnut shells		
P/D	Poaceae	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (L.) P. Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl	False Oat-grass		
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grain (whole)		
HSW	Rosaceae	cf <i>Prunus</i> L.	Fruit flesh cf cherry		
Total			5	1	11

Key

A = arable weed; D = opportunistic species; HSW = hedgerow/scrub/woodland species; P = grassland species; H = heathland species; M = marshland species; E = economic species

+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 5–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++=100–500 items; ++++++ = >500 items

Indet. = indeterminate

r/w = roundwood

Table 3 Plant macrofossil identifications; earlier prehistoric (Period 1) and Roman (Period 3)

Area				7b	4	7	7	7a
Context number				700167	400108	13004	15003	700040
Feature number				700166	400107	13003	15002	700039
Feature label				AF	L			Q
Sample number (SS)				700016	404	3	2	700005
Flot volume (ml)				1	2.5	82	15	89
Sample volume processed (l)				32	31	36	35	32
Period				3	3	3	3	3
Plant macrofossil preservation				N/A	Mod	Poor	Mod	Mod
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name					
D/A	Amaranthaceae	<i>Chenopodium L. (Blitum L.)</i>	Goosefoots					1
H/M	Ericaceae	<i>Erica L.</i>	Heaths perianth					1
D/A/P	Fabaceae	<i>Vicia L./Lathyrus L.</i>	Vetches/Peas					1
E	Poaceae	<i>Avena L.</i>	Oats grain					2
A/D		<i>Bromus L.</i>	Bromes			1		1
E		<i>Hordeum vulgare L.</i>	Barley grain					2
E		<i>Triticum</i>	Wheat species grain	1	4			
E		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat grain				1	
E		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat glume base				1	9
E		<i>Triticum dicoccum/ Triticum spelta</i>	Emmer/spelt wheat grain				9	10
E		<i>Triticum dicoccum/ Triticum spelta</i>	Emmer/spelt wheat glume base					1
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grain (whole)				2	4
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grain (fragment)			1	9	19
E		<i>Poaceae</i>	Indeterminate cereal grain (fragment <1mm)				++	+++
D/A/M	Polygonaceae	<i>Persicaria lapathifolia (L.) Gray</i>	Pale Persicaria					1
Total				1	4	2	22	52

Table 4 Plant macrofossil identifications, Roman (Period 3)

Feature	Lab No.	Material	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	Radiocarbon age yr BP	Calibrated radiocarbon age 95.4% probability	Calibrated radiocarbon age 68.2% probability
Cxt 400060 Ditch C, cut 400059	SUERC- 58718	Charcoal - <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>Corylus avellana</i> (alder/hazel twig)	-26.4‰	2210 ± 28	366–200 cal BC	358–347 cal BC (7.1%) 320–275 cal BC (28.0%) 259–207 cal BC (33.1%)
Cxt 400064 Ditch C, cut 400063	SUERC- 58719	Charcoal- <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>Corylus avellana</i> (alder/hazel roundwood)	-25.2‰	2377 ± 29	702–696 cal BC (0.6%) 541–392 cal BC (94.8%)	483–399 cal BC (68.2%)

Table 5 Radiocarbon dating results

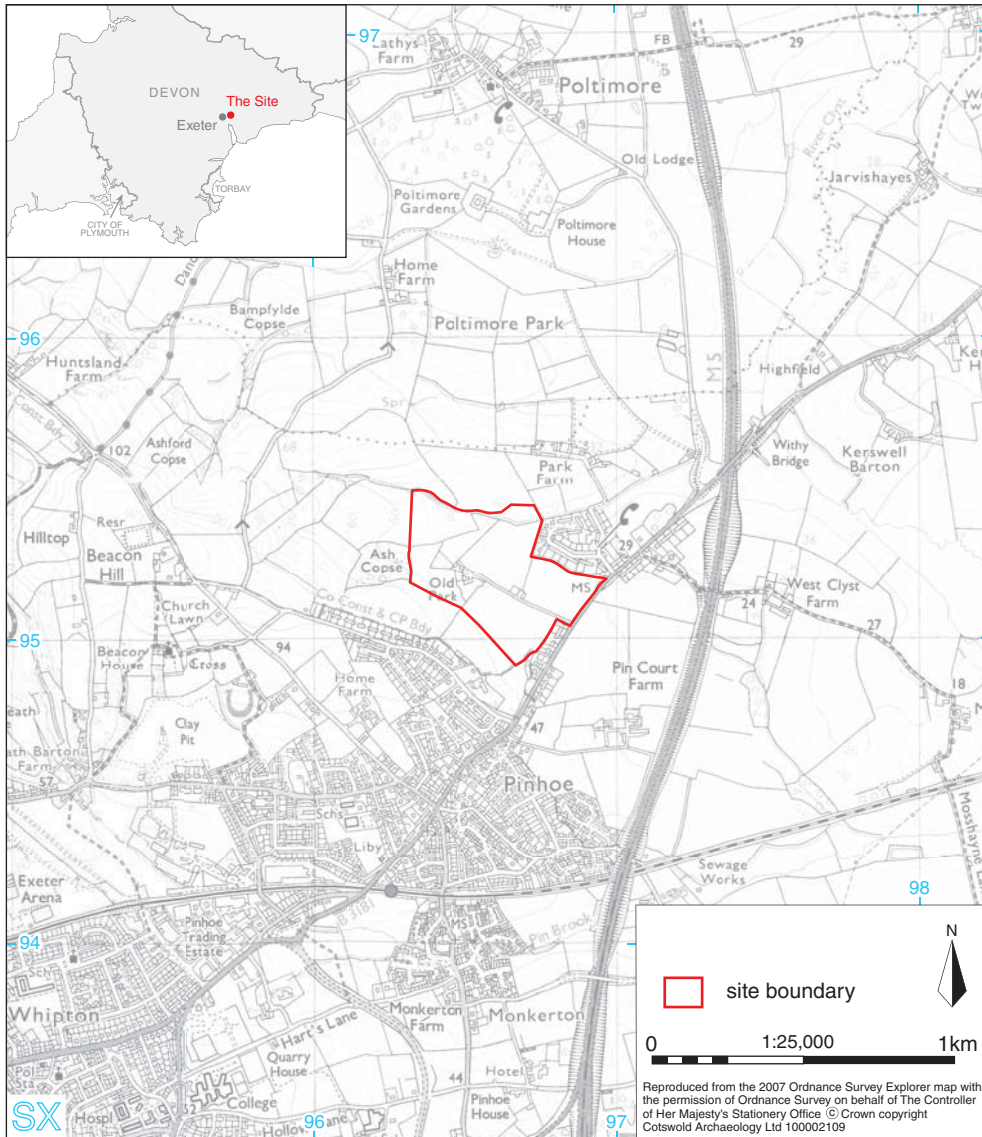


Fig. 1 Site location plan (scale 1:25,000)

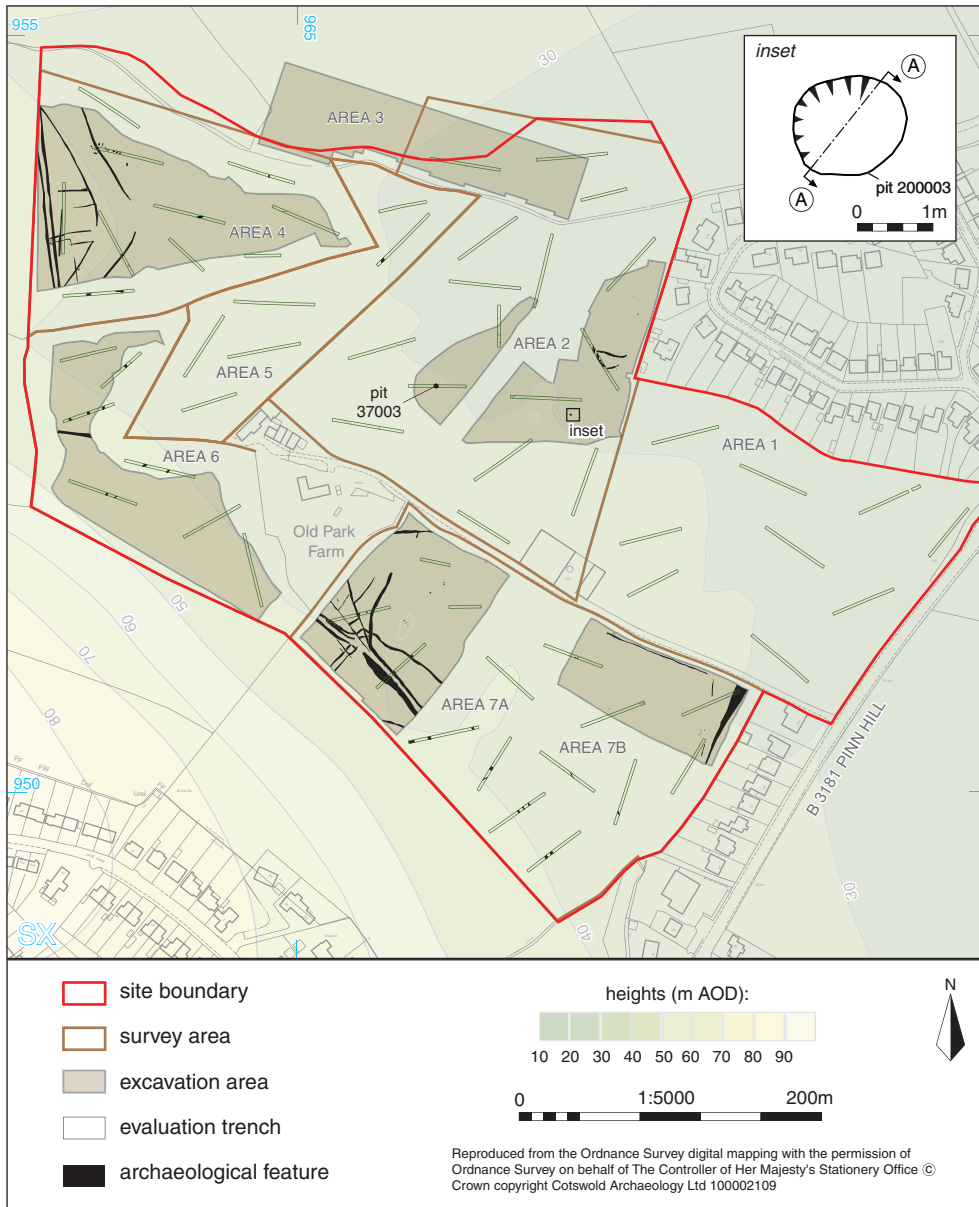


Fig. 2 Excavation and evaluation trench locations showing archaeological features (scale 1:5000)

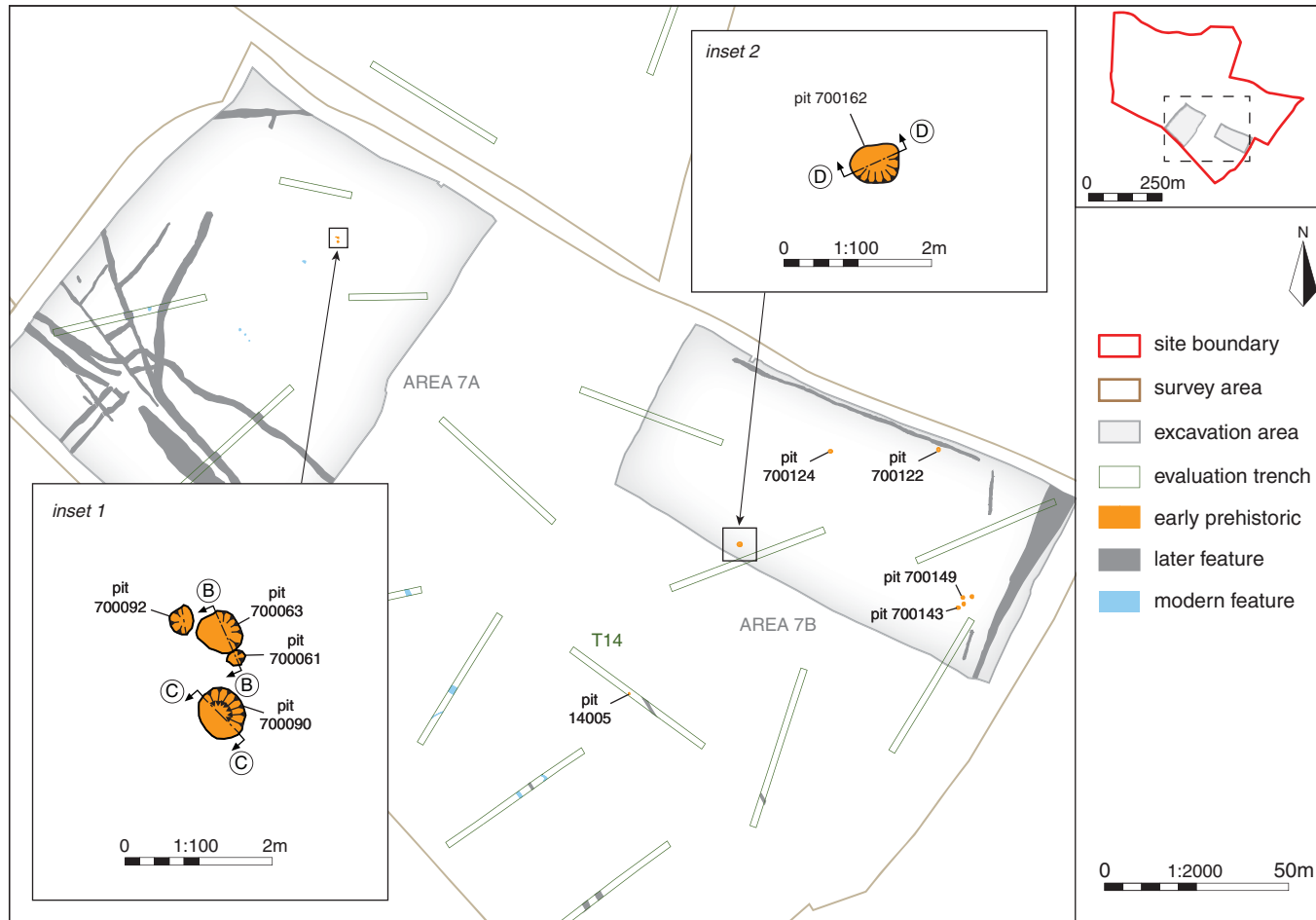


Fig. 3 Probable Middle Bronze Age features in Areas 7A and 7B (scale 1:2000)

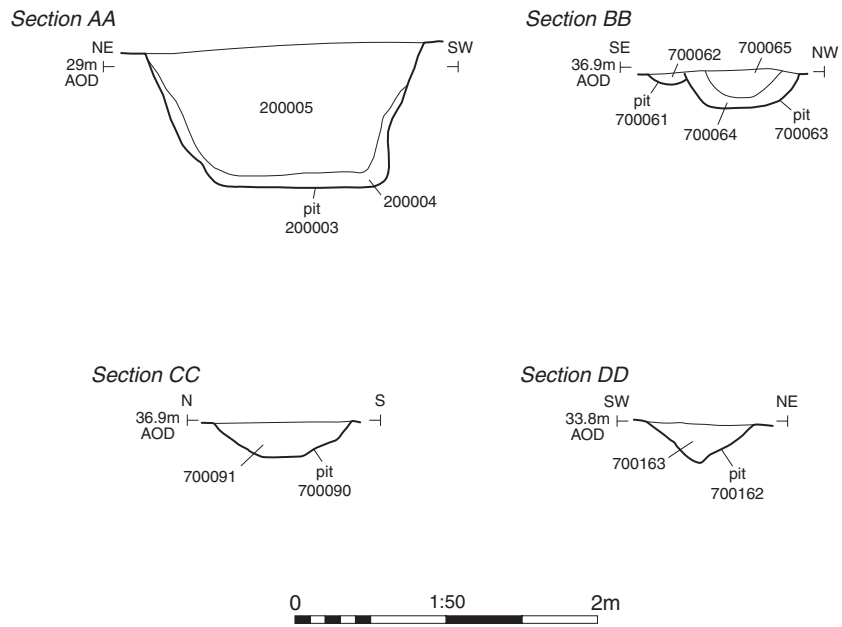


Fig. 4 Sections AA, BB, CC and DD (scale 1:50)

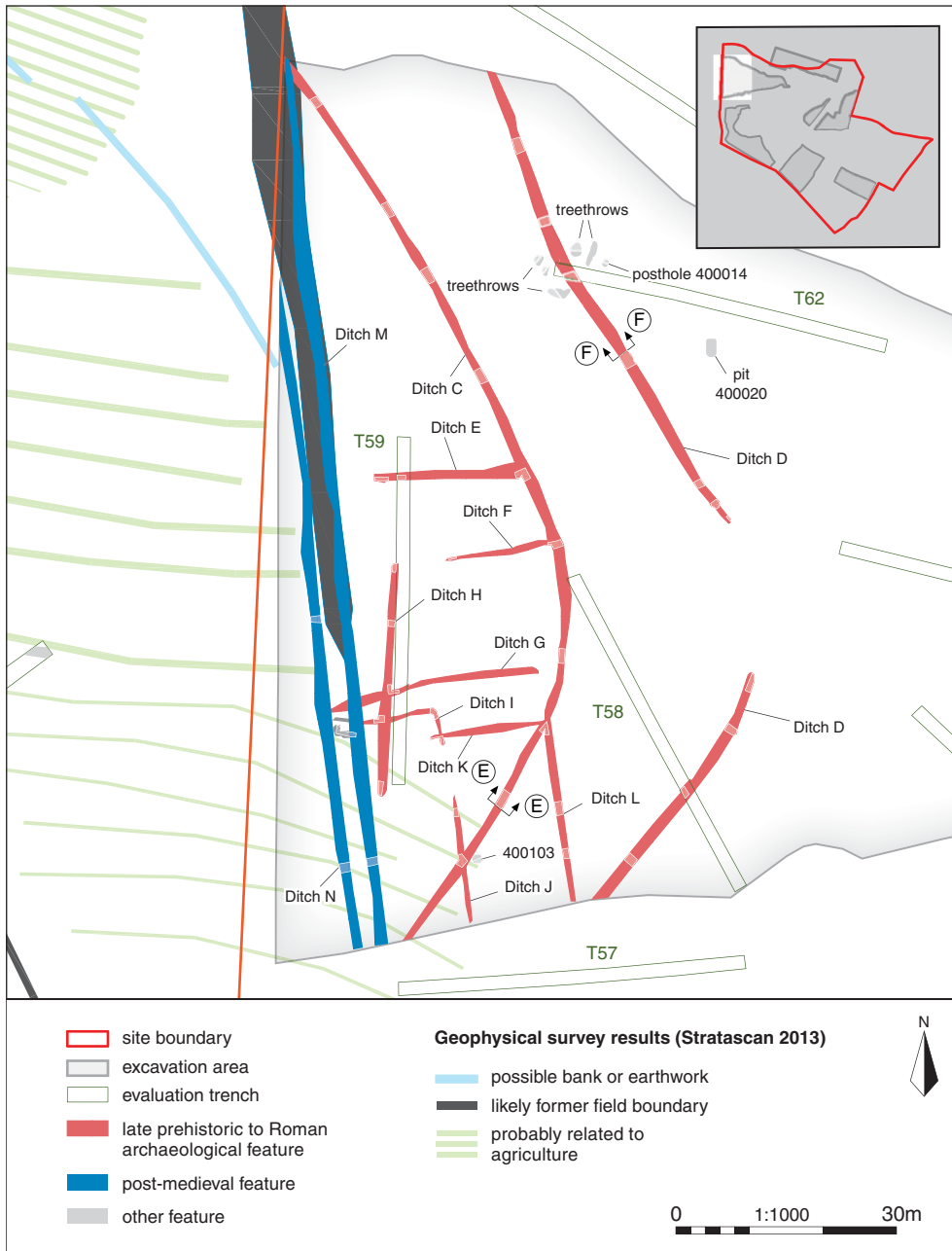


Fig. 5 Late prehistoric to Roman features in Area 4 (scale 1:1000)

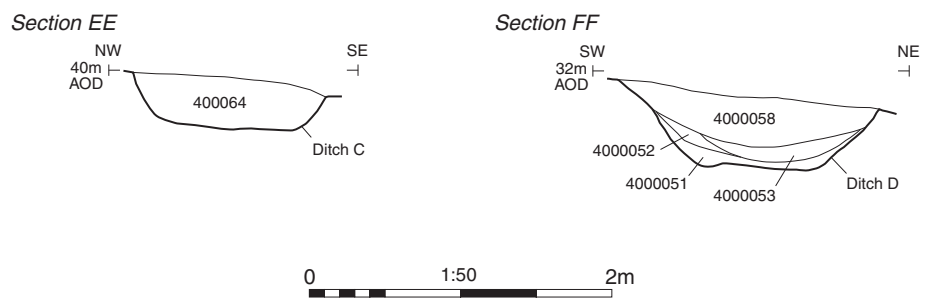


Fig. 6 Sections EE and FF (scale 1:50)

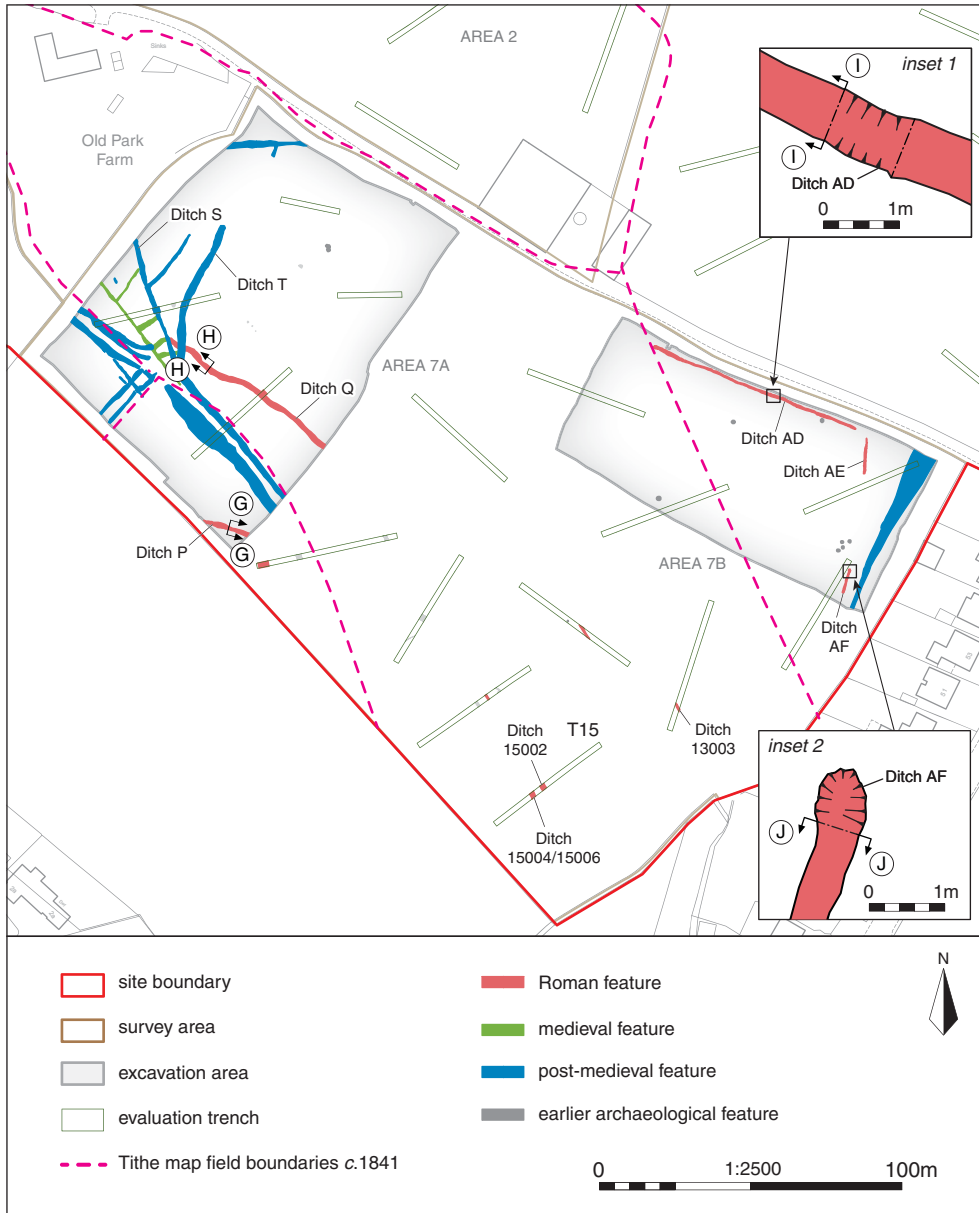


Fig. 7 Roman, medieval and post-medieval ditches in Areas 7A and 7B (scale 1:2500)

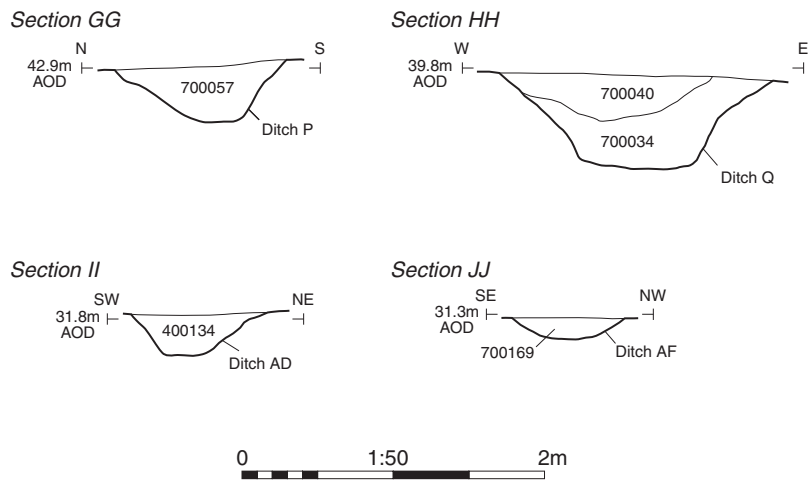


Fig. 8 Sections GG, HH, II and JJ (scale 1:50)

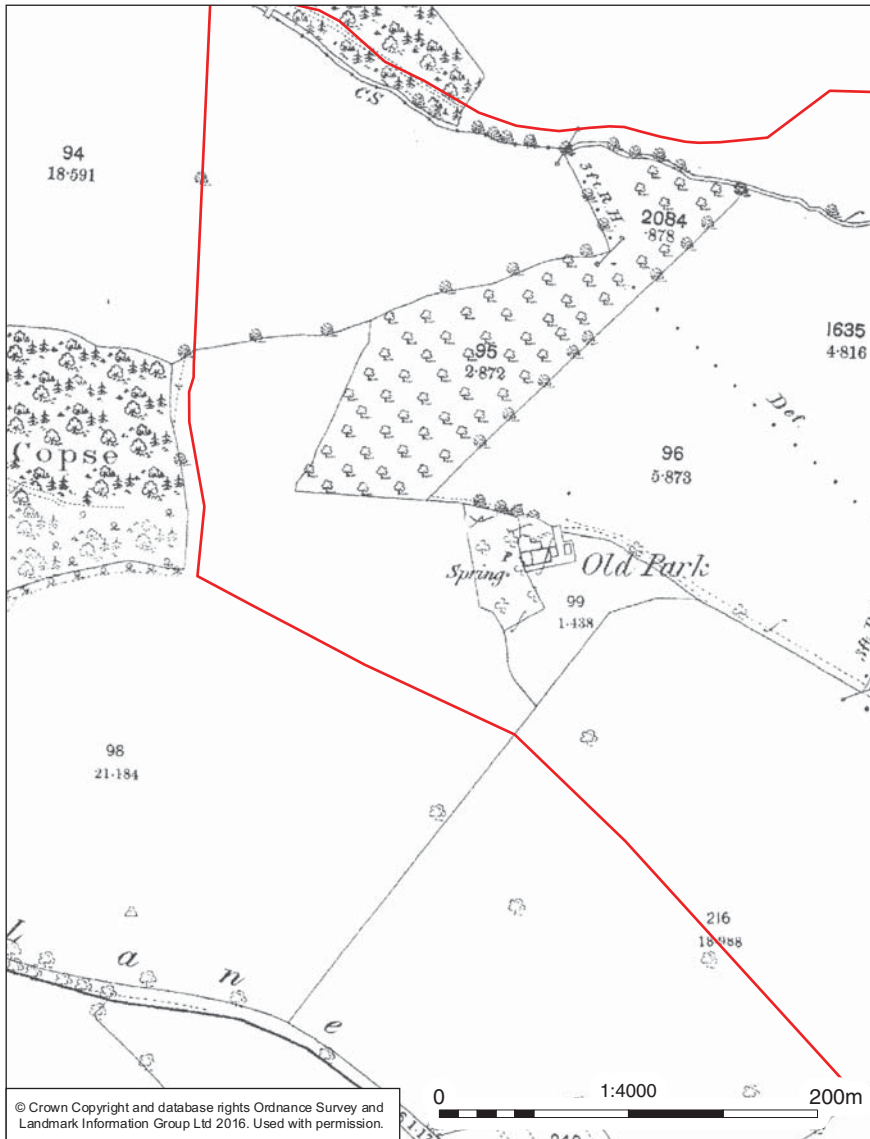


Fig. 9 OS first edition map of Old Park, Pinhoe, 1889-90 (scale 1:4000)

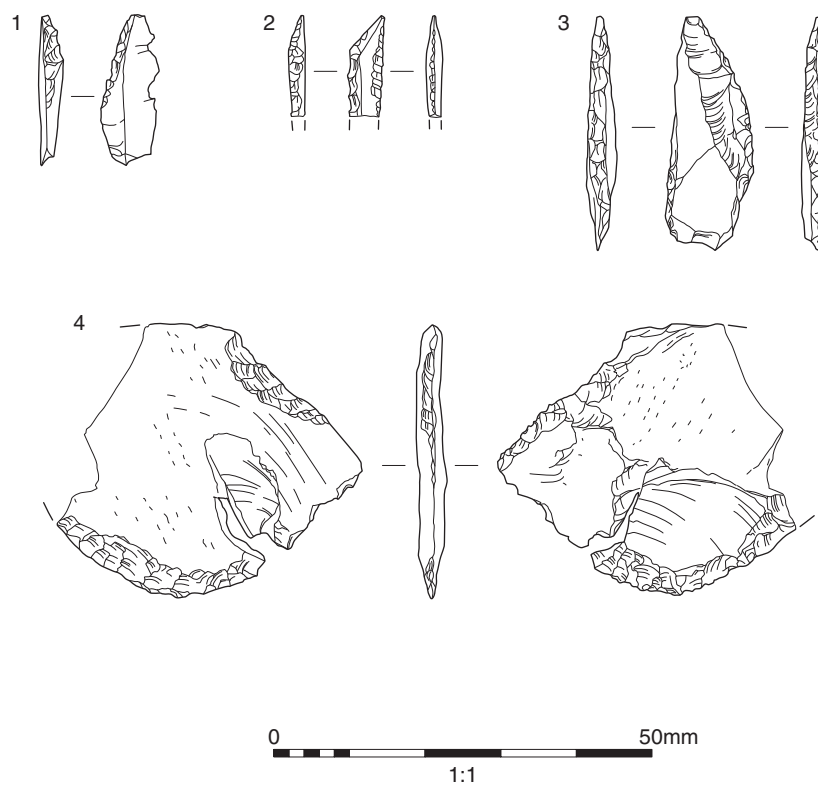


Fig. 10 Worked flints

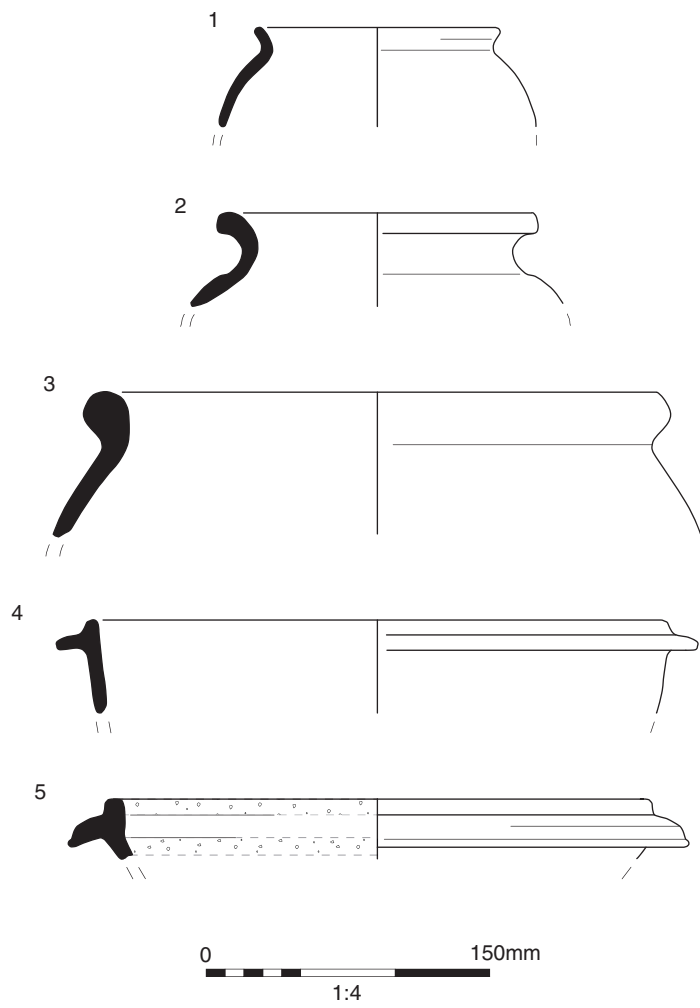


Fig. 11 Roman pottery



Fig. 12 Decorated Samian pottery sherds



0 1:1 20mm

Fig. 13 Roman steelyard

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