

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hatherleigh, West Devon	National Grid Reference SS 5415 0485	Number:
Subject: Evaluation Trenches & Hedgebank Recording		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: (H13) – 8461/2006/OKE and (H14) – 8462/2006/OKE	Recipient museum: Plymouth	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-36387	Museum Accession no: AR.2008.7	
Contractor's reference number/code: HOC06/HOC07	Dates fieldwork undertaken: Evaluation 12-18.12.2006 Recording 15.08.07/09.09.07/10.09.07/01.12.07	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>South West Archaeology excavated 6 evaluation trenches over the three field site (see attached Fig.1 site plan), positioned to sample a range of slight earthworks visible on the ground and noted in an earlier desktop assessment (SWARCH Report 061115), but not shown on any 1880-90s OS maps.</p> <p>Trench 1. Two 1m wide gullies 2.5m apart were noted cut into the natural subsoil from beneath the dark brown topsoil. That to the SW [107] had a single clay fill that to the NE [105] contained a succession of brown silty-clay fills and irregularly stepped sides suggesting it had been re-cut or cleaned. [105] appeared to correspond to a slight, curvilinear earthwork, also identified in T2 and T6 ([205] and [603]) and wider to the E. Natural geological clay subsoil lay at a depth of 0.5-0.7m.</p> <p>Trench 2. Two features were identified; a broad shallow gully [205] identified as corresponding to the visible earthwork (see above) at this point 2m wide and 0.35m deep and cutting from below the topsoil into the natural subsoil, with brown silty-clay fills. Also a narrow gully [204] 0.6m wide 0.4m-0.5m deep with steep sides and a rounded base with a single fill of dense silty clay. Natural clay subsoil lay at a depth of 0.5m at the SE (up-slope) end and 0.7m at the NW (down-slope) end.</p> <p>Trench 3. Two gullies visible on the surface were identified; a very broad shallow gully [309] on a SE-NW orientation was cut into natural subsoil, 0.2m-0.3m deep and 6.5m wide with a junction between two ceramic land drains at the base. Its fill of mid brown silt clay was identical to the subsoil between topsoil and natural elsewhere. The second ditch feature [302] (see Fig. 2), 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep, was cut from below the topsoil into subsoil and natural geological clay, and had a gradual profile on the NE side, with a series of silty-clay fills and a stepped profile on the SW side indicating re-cutting, with a ceramic land drain inserted at a depth of 0.8m. Natural geological subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.4m-0.5m.</p> <p>Trench 4. 6m from the SW end the slight gully visible on the surface overlaid a 2m wide shallow cut [405] into the natural subsoil, filled with a dense blue-grey clay. 2.5m to the SW a very similar clay-filled cut [403] in natural subsoil was observed, although there was no trace of this feature in the field's surface. Natural geological subsoil of dense clay lay at a depth of 0.5m at the NE end (up-slope), and 0.75m at the lower lying SW end.</p> <p>Trench 5. A broad shallow gully on the same alignment as, and of similar proportion to that seen in T3 [309] was recorded, presumably a continuation of that ditch. A ceramic land drain had been inserted running SE-NW along the approximate centre of the gully.</p> <p>Trench 6. An additional section through the SW part of the curved linear gully visible in the surface of field A was noted [603], cut from below topsoil into natural geological subsoil, 1.4m wide and 0.35m deep with a compact fill of silty clay.</p> <p>The earthworks were all interpreted as drainage features with those in Field B as post medieval field drains. No finds were recovered from the site.</p> <p>Four hedgebanks were recorded as they were breached (see attached context lists and Fig. 2 - section drawings). No samples were taken of the buried soil in Hedgebank D [556] as it contained little organic matter and was therefore unsuitable for sampling.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Jon Freeman & Chris Preece South West Archaeology		Date sent to HER:

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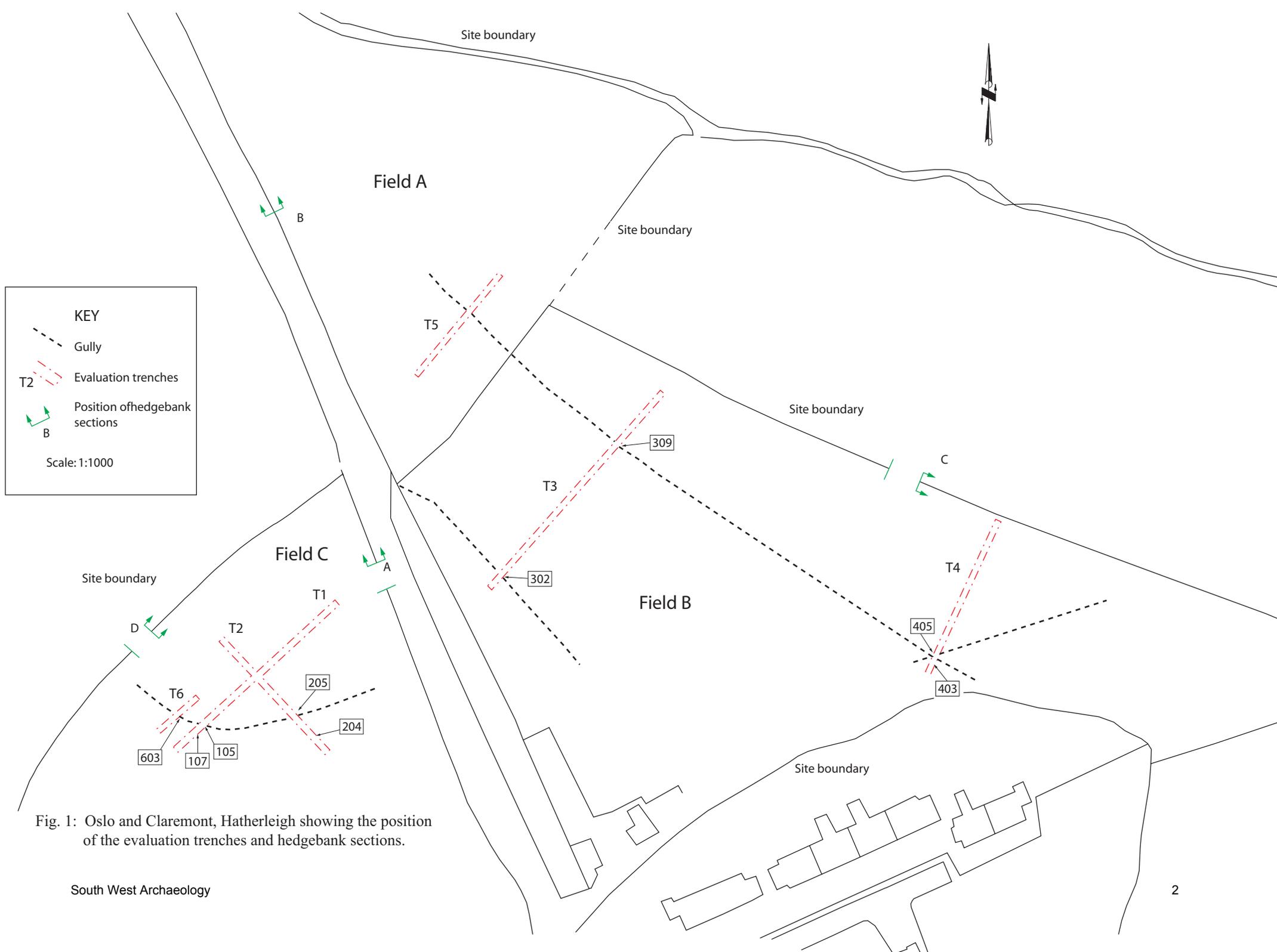
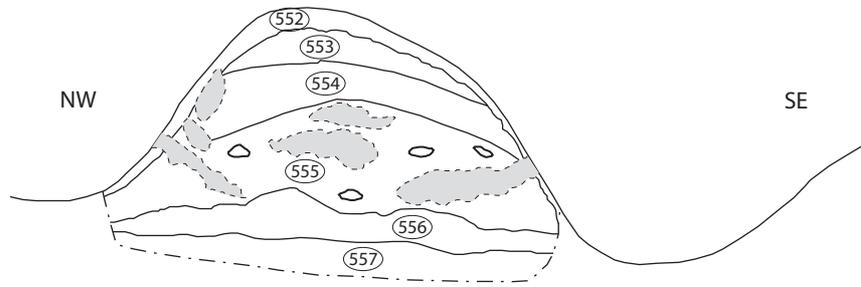
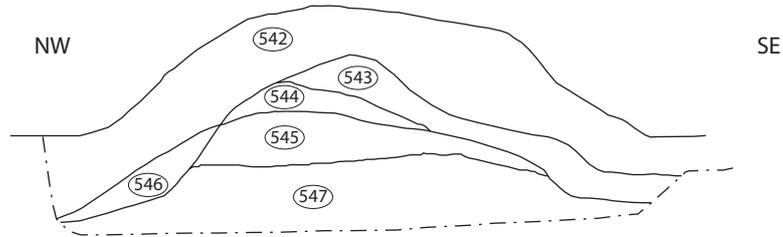


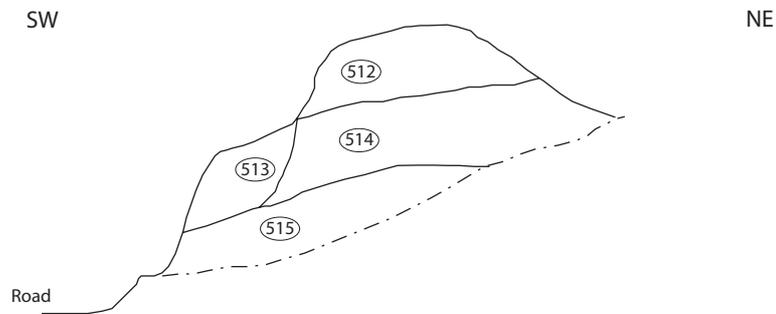
Fig. 1: Oslo and Claremont, Hatherleigh showing the position of the evaluation trenches and hedgebank sections.



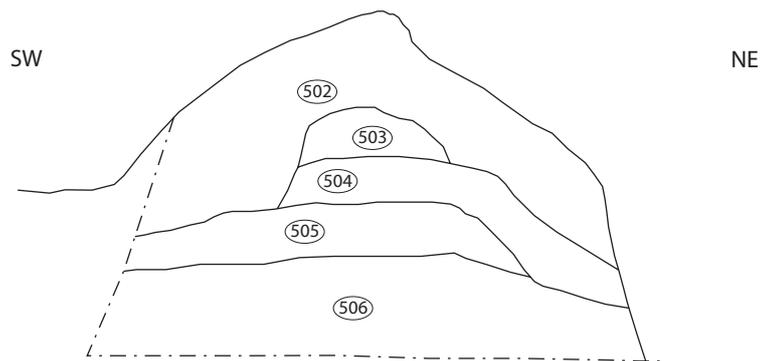
Hedgebank section D viewed from the southwest



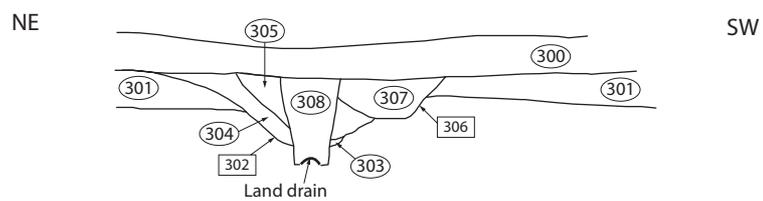
Hedgebank section C viewed from the northeast



Hedgebank section B viewed from the southeast



Hedgebank section A viewed from the southeast



Gully 302 in trench 3

Fig. 2: Oslo & Claremont, Hatherleigh, sections of hedgebanks and a typical gully, for positions see fig 1.

Hedgebank Context Lists

Hedgebank section A

Context Number	Description
502	Topsoil
503	Reddish-beige to mid-brown sandy clay
504	Beige-brown clay with red flecks
505	Compact beige-red clay
506	Natural gritty red clay

Hedgebank section B

Context Number	Description
512	Topsoil
513	Topsoil - slippage
514	Mid-brown red clay, fairly compact
515	Natural gritty red clay

Hedgebank section C

Context Number	Description
542	Topsoil
543	Reddish orange sandy clay
544	Friable orange clay, few inclusions (post med sherd)
545	Mid brown clay some small black stones (<5%)
546	Similar to topsoil – probably represents initial slippage to NW
547	Natural gritty red clay

Hedgebank section D

Context Number	Description
552	Root matter and humic soil
553	Firm pink clay
554	Reddish brown friable clay silt
555	Orange silty clay
556	Buried soil, grey orange/brown with mineralisation
557	Natural, dense red/orange clay

Gully [302]

Context Number	Description
300	Topsoil
301	Subsoil
302	Cut ditch/gully
303	Bottom fill of ditch/gully (302)
304	Fill over (303)
305	Fill over (305)
306	Cut (re-cut) to SW of (302)
307	Fill of (306)
308	Cut of land drain
309	Cut of shallow gully not on section drawing