



OAKFORD  
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Archaeological Evaluation of land at  
North Hall Manor,  
Widcombe-in-the-Moor  
Devon**



*on behalf of*  
**Margaret Rogers and Michael Lamb  
Glebe Farm Partnership**

**Report No. 16-06**

**Project No. 1217**

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Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road,  
Wonford  
Exeter,  
Devon  
EX2 6HN  
tel: 07834 591406  
e-mail: [info@oakfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oakfordarch.co.uk)  
web: [www.oakfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oakfordarch.co.uk)

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## AUTHOR

MFR Steinmetzer

## WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

John Allan and Imogen Woods

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## Summary

*This report records the excavations undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in 2012 and 2015 of the moated manor house at North Hall which had been completely lost to view for the last 300 years and which was formerly the centre and origin of the village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7184 7690). The work comprised the hand-excavation of seven trenches totalling 148.2m in length and 1-1.6m wide.*

*Trenches 2, 4 and 6 exposed the remains of a substantial, though heavily robbed, stone building and were designed to provide further insight into the distribution and layout of the building or buildings and their relationship with the moat and defences. Trenches 3 and 5 provided complete cross-section across the earthen defences along the inner edge of the moat where they were best preserved, while Trench 7 targeted anomalies identified in the field to the north of the site.*

*The works exposed the heavily robbed out remains of three walls, while large areas at the centre of the site were covered in small, loose stone rubble. Apart from a single granite floor slab no evidence for internal floors or external surfaces was uncovered and it is probable that the site was comprehensively robbed from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The remains of three beam slots and six postholes were identified below the rubble spread, suggesting an earlier building phase. Evidence from trenches 3, 4 and 5 suggests that the rear of the buildings defined by the beam slots also revetted the rear of the earth bank. Five sherds from a possible 'North French Barrel Costrel', dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered from the infilling of a beam slot behind the earthen bank in Trench 3, while three coarseware sherds, dating to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered from a posthole in Trench 4.*

*Excavations at the western end of the site revealed at least two phases of earthen bank, with a small ditch and earth bank being superseded by the substantial moat visible today and a larger bank. No finds have been recovered from these.*

*The finds recovered from the site contained a small quantity of mid-10<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery, while large quantities of medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century were recovered, including two sherds of Valencian lustreware, a 15<sup>th</sup> century high status import from western Spain. By the early post-medieval period the assemblage is dominated by local coarsewares from North Devon, while Low Country stonewares and tin-glazed pottery has also been recovered. By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century these are replaced by English wares.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in July 2015 on land at North Hall, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7184 7690). The work was commissioned by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and the Glebe Farm Partnership.

### 1.1 The site

Located to the north of the church of St Pancras and the village green, the site (Fig. 1) is defined by a large infilled moat and earthen bank with a 'raised' central platform. The site is located at a height of approximately 240m AOD. The underlying solid geology consists of granite laid down in the carboniferous period, and overlain by clay, silts and peat deposits (BGS Sheet 326).

The site was discovered as a result of extensive documentary research carried out by Peter Rennells and the Widecombe History Group being reported to the DNPA. An initial geophysical survey was carried out by Dr Penny Cunningham (University of Exeter), with a further survey (resistivity) undertaken by Substrata in 2011. Evidence for a possible medieval building and associated moat were recorded on the main site, while a large concentration of linear and other anomaly patterns was identified in the field to the north of the site. The interpretation of the survey is shown on Fig. 2.

Under the direction of the Dartmoor National Park Authority it was decided in 2012 to excavate a preliminary series of targeted trenches (Trench 1-3) to establish the nature and survival of the archaeological remains. The trenching established that the site contained remnants of earthen defences enclosing a heavily robbed stone building. In addition, 62 sherds of medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century were recovered, as well as two sherds of 'Valencian Lustre Ware', a high status, good quality pottery from western Spain. This seemed to confirm that the site was the location of the 'lost' manor of Widecombe.

In light of these findings it was decided to expand on the earlier work and excavate a further four trenches (Trench 4-7) in 2015. The work included the field to the north of the site. This was meant to have been investigated in 2012 but had to be abandoned following severe weather.

### 1.2. Objectives and aims of the excavations

The objectives of the project are to recover the ground plan and building sequence of the moated manor and to ascertain the presence or absence of an early 13<sup>th</sup> century timber phase. Trial trenching has established the presence of a moat marking the northwest and southwest limit of the complex and further work will need to be undertaken to establish the remaining circuit of the inner court, the location of the inner gatehouse and the presence of any structures within the outer curia and barton, either through further excavation and/or geophysical surveys.

The aims of the post-excavation work will be:

- To integrate all phases of work and re-assess the dating of the stratigraphic sequence, with specific reference to the pottery;
- The structures and features identified at North Hall will have to be placed in their archaeological and architectural context, where possible, by comparing them to

contemporary castle, palace and manorial structures in plan, elevation and architectural detail;

- To examine the historical context for the construction and development of the manor house at North Hall and the later post-medieval development of the site;
- To assess the significance of North Hall as a manorial estate centre at Widecombe;
- Reassess the pottery for the light it might shed on the supply of ceramics in medieval Devon, with particular reference to comparison with Exeter;
- To examine the status and economy of the site in light of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence in comparison with other sites in the region.

## 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is evidence for prehistoric settlement dating back to the second millennium BC on the moorland heights and lower slopes surrounding Widecombe-in-the-Moor. However, little is known of settlement activity and land use in the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval periods. This may simply reflect a recent bias in the archaeological record, with greater emphasis on development in urban areas. With regards to the early medieval period this may also reflect the misinterpretation or lack of pottery industry prior to the late Saxon period, and the differential survival of artefacts such as leather and wood, rather than a genuine absence in the archaeological record. Excavations undertaken in the 1960's at South Rowden or Hutholes exposed six buildings and three crofts and suggest that the site was in occupation from the early 9<sup>th</sup> century and not finally abandoned until the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup>

During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest and recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 the manors of *spicewite* (Spitchwick), *bechedona* (Blagdon Pipard) and *notesworde* (Natsworthy) are recorded.<sup>2</sup> No mention is made of Widecombe suggesting the settlement was founded at a later date.

It is likely that the original settlement grew up around the parish church, where four routeways converged. These roads still converge today on a triangular site to the west of the church. The village does not display signs of a planned layout with 'burgage' plots, but rather reflects the strong influence of the road system with most of the buildings strung out along the length of the main roads.

The earliest Lords known to have occupied Widecombe manor were the Fitz-Ralphs. The family is thought to have held the manor from *c.* 1216, although the early beginnings of the family are unclear. It is possible that they were related to the Rous family of Little Modbury in South Devon.<sup>3</sup> Radulph le Rous or Rufus was a knight in service to William I, and following the Conquest likely received land in recognition of his service. It is unclear if these initial grants were located in Devon but by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century Radulph was wealthy enough to contemplate marrying his son and heir, Radulph, to the daughter of Ascelin de Yvery, a powerful baron during the reign of William Rufus and Henry I. Their son, William, became one of the Justices itinerant of the counties of Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devonshire and Cornwall under Henry II and Sheriff of Devonshire during the latter part of Henry's reign and his son and grandson prospered under Henry III.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Henderson et al. 1994, Gent 2007.

<sup>2</sup> French 1963, French et al. 1963.

<sup>3</sup> Betham 1805, Gilbert 1817, Westcote 1845.

<sup>4</sup> Westcote 1845.

By 1283 the manor had passed to the Shillingford family. They had held the manor since the reign of Henry I and had long played a part in the affairs of the city; Ralph Shillingford was recorder of Exeter in the 1350s, having represented Devon in Parliament in 1343, and John (*d.*1406) and his brother Baldwin (*d.*1417/18) were both canons of the cathedral. Baldwin's son John was MP for Exeter and Mayor five times before inheriting the family estates in Shillingford, 'Stapilhull' and Farringdon, along with the advowsons of Shillingford and St. Mary Steps, Exeter in the 1430s. They had passed to him from his 'cosyn' William, with whom he had shared a quarter of a knight's fee in Widecombe-in-the-Moor in 1428.<sup>5</sup>

By the 1460s the estate had passed to his son William who held them until 1482 when he sold the manors of Shillingford, Widecombe and Farringdon to Lord Hudderfield, Attorney General to Edward IV. Upon the death of Lord Hudderfield in 1499 the estate passed first to the Carews and then, following the Dissolution, to the Southcote family.<sup>6</sup>

A 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian book provides a brief description of the site in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century as given by Robert Prideaux, a lawyer from Ashburton. *'It was not a castle, but a massive stone house around a paved courtyard; outside were herbgardens, farm buildings and an orchard, all encircled by a broad moat of water crossed by a drawbridge opposite the large porch which served for a gateway. On the left of the building was the common room or large hall, which occupied almost one side of the mansion. [...] At one end was a very large fireplace and at the other a gallery reached by a flight of stairs in the corner and communicating with the room over the gateway [...] there were stables [...] ranges of tumbledown building's in which numbers of men could live, store houses for corn, and cellars for beer, cyder or wine [...] then beyond the kitchen were rooms with great wooden vats and stone troughs for salting and storing meat [...].'*<sup>7</sup> However, no sources are mentioned and it is unclear how much of the account has been made up for the sake of the story.

During the medieval period the nobility and the church formed the twin pillars of feudal society. It is perhaps not surprising that the manor house and the church lie directly opposite each other at the heart of the village. The presence of a church is attested as early as 1260 in Bishop Bronescombe *Ordinacio de Lideford*, while another document dated to the same year confirms that a large portion of the forest of Dartmoor extending beyond Two Bridges was attached for ecclesiastical purposes to the parish of Widecombe.<sup>8</sup>

In 1285 King Edward I licensed Serlo de Lanladron to assign the church of Widecombe to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral, and an early 14<sup>th</sup> century copy of this deed in the Exeter Cathedral archives describes that Ralph, son of Sir Ralph le Rous of Little Modbury, sold to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter an acre of land at *Wydecomb* with the advowson of the church of St Pancras and the chapel of St Leonard at *Spikewyk*. The parcel of land is described as lying adjacent to the mother church of the parish and as lying in *Wodehaye* hard by the sanctuary of the church.<sup>9</sup>

The church is mentioned again in a roll of the visitation in 1313 of Richard de Morcestria and Thomas de Stapledon, and in an ordinance by Bishop Stapledon in 1315.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Roskell 1993.

<sup>6</sup> Westcote 1845.

<sup>7</sup> Amery 1891.

<sup>8</sup> Dymond 1876.

<sup>9</sup> Dymond 1876.

<sup>10</sup> Dymond 1876.



The present church was built in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century either on or near the site of the earlier building and meant that John Shillingford, Canon of Exeter, was able to request in his will in 1406 that he be buried in St Catherine's Chapel in the new church 'near my honoured mother'. The tower was added later, probably towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the expansion of Widecombe. The wealth generated by tin mining provided the impetus for this growth and this was augmented by profits made from the woollen industry. By 1725 there was a cloth weaving boom and eight mills operating in Widecombe. As the tin industry declined so did the population, and in the following centuries Widecombe remained a small centre serving a very large but sparsely settled agricultural parish – very much sustained by the trade in wool that continued to thrive well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

From 1626 the property was leased to the Andrews family, included in the lease was '*a mansion, a barton, three grist mills and a supply of clean water*'. Several further leases dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century suggest that the moats surrounding the site were by that point part of a system of ponds and leats serving two mills. These were North Hall Mill and Smitha Mill, the latter probably occupying the site where Old Mill House was built between 1886 and 1905. Schoolmaster Richard Hill wrote in 1688 of the remains of a stately house, buildings and cottages, surrounded by a moat of standing water. The water was fed by streams of clear water, and a good store of fish was bred in these.

In 1703 the Wootons had become the new owners of the manor, and by 1769 the estate had been leased to John Dunning, later Lord Ashburton. It seems likely, however, that the building was by then in a state of serious disrepair, for in 1803 a visiting botanist noted Valerian growing from the ruins, while in 1880 an excursion to view 'the ruins of North Hall' was reported in the *Daily Western Times*. The lease was purchased by Mrs Caroline Drake in 1845, the land being subsequently let to a number of different local landowners.

Nothing much is known about the site and its development throughout this period. An 18<sup>th</sup> estate plan shows three small parallel buildings in the centre of the site, with a larger structure to the east, although because the site is not shown in great detail the nature of the buildings is not known.

By 1844 the Widecombe tithe map (Fig. 3) shows that two of the smaller buildings have disappeared and only the northern and eastern buildings surviving. The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1886, when the site was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 4). The northern building had been demolished and only the eastern building remained. No alterations are shown on the 1905 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance survey map and the site remained unchanged until the 1950's when the current buildings are shown.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The work comprised the hand excavation of 7 trenches totalling 148.2m in length, with each trench 1-1.6m wide. Trenches 1-3 and 7 were positioned to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, while Trenches 4-6 were positioned to further investigate features previously identified. The position of all trenches were agreed with the Dartmoor National

Park Authority Archaeologist prior to commencement on site. The positions of the trenches as excavated are shown on Fig. 2.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

#### 4. RESULTS

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of agricultural topsoil onto weathered natural subsoil was encountered in all areas. The depth of the overlying deposits ranged from 0.2-0.75m. Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 9-15 and context descriptions for each trench are set out in Appendix 1.

##### 4.1 Trench 1 (Detailed plans and sections Fig. 9)

This trench measured 32.6m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. It was sited to investigate a number of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and interpreted as a possible building and associated demolition deposits. A single linear feature (107), a large pit (101) and an extensive demolition deposit (103) were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 1, Appendix 1.

The earliest feature identified was a single, large pit (101) exposed at the centre of the trench, underneath demolition deposit 103. This measured 1.1m in diameter and 0.4m deep, had sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (102). This consisted of a uniform dark brown silty clay based deposit.

The building identified by the geophysical survey in the centre and southern end of the trench was not uncovered; instead it is likely that the geophysical survey picked up the granite bedrock located in this position. However, an extensive deposit of granite building rubble (103) was uncovered in the centre and northern end of the trench. Although no structural elements of a potential building were identified this deposit has been interpreted as robbing. The deposit contained 2 sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century and 3 sherds of later 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

A large linear 107 was exposed at the northern end of the trench. Aligned broadly E-W it measured 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. It contained a single mid to dark reddish brown silty clay based fill (108) similar to the overlying topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. In light of new evidence uncovered in 2015 this is interpreted as a continuation of the early ditch identified in trenches 3, 4 and 5. Immediately to the north of this feature were the backfilled remains of the moat (105-106). This was not investigated.

##### 4.2 Trench 2

This trench measured 13.4m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately E-W and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The trench was sited to investigate the remains of a possible medieval building identified by the geophysical survey. Archaeological features identified included building remains, represented by a N-S aligned wall foundation (201) at the western end of the trench, and extensive demolition deposits (202 and 203). Natural subsoil (200) was

encountered at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 1.

The building identified by the geophysical survey was not uncovered in the trench; instead it is likely that the geophysical survey picked up the granite bedrock located in this position. At the western end of the trench a N-S aligned wall foundation (201) was uncovered. Built of roughly squared granite rubble, only the very lowest foundation course survived. This was sat directly on top of the natural subsoil and was approximately 1m wide and 0.2m high. Due to the limited exposure it was not possible to recover the plan of the structure. An extensive deposit of granite building rubble (202 and 203) was uncovered on either side of the wall. The topsoil (204) contained 19 sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century, and 209 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

#### 4.3 Trench 3 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 11)

This trench measured 8m x 1.2m, was orientated NW-SE, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m. It was sited to investigate an extensive earthwork at the rear of the moat-potentially an earthen bank. A small bank (303) and associated ditch (302) were exposed. These were superseded by a larger bank (307-8) and beam slot (309). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 3, Appendix 1.

Immediately on top of the natural subsoil beneath the centre of the bank was a 0.10m thick preserved soil horizon (301) predating the banks construction. This consisted of a mid-brown silty clay although due to heavy root disturbance no soil samples were taken. On the surface of this was a small earth bank (303), sealed underneath a more substantial later bank (307-8). This was broadly aligned NE-SW before curving to the S and SE; it measured 2.15m wide and 0.5m high. It was composed of a single mid yellow-brown loamy clay deposit and no dating material was recovered. Immediately to the north-west were the partially excavated remains of an infilled ditch (302) contemporary with bank 303. This was deliberately backfilled with deposits (304-6) excavated from the later moat (318). The lower fill (304) consisted of mid-grey-brown clay with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the overlying deposit (305) consisted of light yellow clay with frequent gravel. The upper deposit (306) comprised light to mid-yellow-grey clay with occasional gravel. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

Following the infilling of the earlier ditch a new bank was constructed with the up-cast from the moat. This was composed of two deposits; the lower deposit (307) was composed of mid-brown silty loam with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the upper deposit (308) comprised light yellow-brown silty loam with frequent sub-angular gravel. No finds were recovered from these deposits. At the rear of the bank was a shallow linear (309). It measured approximately 0.8m wide and 0.36m deep, with a steep-sided and flat-based profile, and contained a single, mid reddish brown loamy clay fill (310) from which five sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered.

An auger survey was undertaken in 2012 in the centre of the moat immediately opposite Trench 3. The results showed that the upper 0.4m consisted of modern disturbed deposits (317). Immediately underneath was a 0.75m thick, very clean dark orange silty loam (316), which was in turn overlying a 0.75m thick light to mid-grey clay containing fine gravels and grits (315). Underneath this deposit was a 0.85m thick mid grey clay (314), which in turn sealed a mid to dark grey clay (313). The survey did not encounter deposits consistent with the base of the moat.

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 12, pls. 1-12)

This trench measured 43m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. It was sited to investigate the wall identified in Trench 2 and to provide a complete cross-section through the moat. The trench exposed building remains (403) and extensive demolition deposits (402) and (434). In addition, two beam slots (414 and 417), five postholes (404, 406, 408, 410 and 412), a single linear feature (419), a small ditch (421) and a large wet ditch (425) were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 4, Appendix 1.

Because of extensive later truncation no evidence of the earthen banks survives in this area of the site. However, a small, approximately NE-SW aligned linear (421) is likely to represent the ditch identified in trenches 1, 3 and 5. The ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.75m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fills (422, 423 and 424). These consisted of mid-reddish brown silty loam based deposit.

Immediately to the north of this feature was the moat (425). Aligned broadly NE-SW it measured 9.9m wide with gradually breaking sides. It was excavated to a depth of 2.1m, however, due to the depth the feature was not fully excavated. No finds were recovered from its fills (426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432 and 433). The lower fills (426-429) consisted of dark grey silty clay based deposit, while the upper deposits consisted of mid to dark brownish grey silty loam, similar to the overlying topsoil.

A large linear (419) was exposed immediately south of ditch (421). Aligned broadly N-S it measured 5.3m long, 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. It contained a single dark reddish brown silty clay based fill (420) similar to the overlying topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

At the rear of inferred line of the bank were two parallel NE-SW aligned linears (414 and 417). Feature 414 was a probable beam slot, was 0.85m wide and 0.14m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill (415). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. Feature 417 was a probable beam slot, was 1.2m wide and 0.21m deep, with fairly steeply sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill (418). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. This feature probably continues into Trench 3 and 5. Located between the two linears were two postholes (410 and 412). Posthole 410 measured 0.34m in diameter and 0.2m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (411). Feature 412 was a small circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a diameter of approximately 0.4m and was 0.17m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (413). It is possible that the two linears and postholes may correspond with elements of a timber-framed building set against the earth bank.

The earliest feature identified at the southern end of Trench 4 was a single, small posthole (404) exposed at the western end of the trench underneath the putative line of wall (403). This measured 0.54m in diameter and 0.19m deep, had sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (404). This consisted of a uniform dark reddish brown silty loam based deposit. Immediately to the west were two intercutting postholes (406 and 408). Posthole 408 was roughly 0.35m in diameter and 0.16m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its dark reddish brown silty loam fill (409). Posthole 406 was approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.21m deep with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. One sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-mid-15<sup>th</sup> century Totnes-type pottery

and two sherds 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century Totnes-type plain ridge tile were recovered from its fill (407). This consisted of a uniform dark reddish brown silty loam based deposit.

At the southern end of the trench are a number of contemporary wall foundations. The N-S aligned wall foundation uncovered in Trench 2 (403) was c. 3m long and may originally have extended for another 5m north as indicated by the survival of pockets of large stone rubble in the section of Trench 4. Built of roughly squared granite and granite rubble, only the very lowest foundation course survived. This was sat directly on top of the natural subsoil and was approximately 1m wide and 0.2m high. To the south wall (403) was contemporary with an E-W aligned 5.2m long section of masonry (435). This was approximately 2m wide and survived to a height of 0.35m. A further contemporary wall was identified along the western edge of the trench. Wall (436) was aligned N-S and survived to a length of approximately 1.75m. Interestingly a single large granite floor slab (437) survived in the corner between walls (425) and (436). Due to the limited exposure it was not possible to recover the plan of the building. In addition, extensive deposits of granite building rubble (402 and 434) were uncovered in the centre and southern end of the trench. The former contained five sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered ware and a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century stained Delft ware.

The topsoil (400) and subsoil (401) contained a single sherd of mid-10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century Upper Greensand derived pottery and eight sherds of 1250-1450 Saintonge pottery from western France, as well as 18 sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and 125 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

#### 4.5 Trench 5 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 13, pl. 13)

This trench measured 9.5m x 1.2m, was orientated NW-SE, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. It was sited to investigate an extensive multi-phase earthwork and the moat. A small bank (507/508) and associated ditch (505) were exposed. These were superseded by a larger bank (511-514) and moat (509). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 5, Appendix 1.

Immediately on top of the natural subsoil (500) was a 0.4m thick buried soil horizon (501/502). This consisted of mid-brown silty loam, although due to heavy root disturbance no soil samples were taken. This was cut to the north by ditch (505) and overlain in the centre by a small earth bank (507/508). Both features were aligned roughly NE-SW. The ditch was approximately 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep, while the bank measured 2.35m wide and 0.9m high. The fill (506) of ditch (505) consisted of a uniform mid-grey gleyed clay deposit; deliberately backfilled material excavated from the later moat. The bank was composed of a mid to dark reddish brown silty loam (507) overlain by mid-reddish brown silty loam (508). No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

Following the infilling of the earlier ditch a larger bank was constructed with the up-cast from the moat (509). This was composed of four deposits; the smaller lower deposits (511-512) were composed of mid-reddish brown silty loam with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the upper deposits (513-514) comprised light greyish yellow clay with frequent sub-angular gravel and decayed granite. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

At the rear of the banks was a NE-SW aligned linear (503). This probable beam slot measured approximately 1m wide and 0.4m deep, with a steep-sided and flat-based profile.

No finds were recovered from the single fill (504). This consisted of a mid-reddish brown loamy clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 3 and 4.

Immediately to the north were the backfilled remains of the moat (509). This was not investigated.

#### **4.6 Trench 6**

This trench measured 4.7m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The trench was sited to investigate the remains of a possible medieval building identified in Trench 4. Archaeological features identified included building remains, represented by a N-S aligned wall foundation (602) at the northern end of the trench, and extensive demolition deposits (601 and 603) and described under Trench 4 above. Natural subsoil (604) was encountered at a depth of 0.6m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 6, Appendix 1.

The topsoil (600) and subsoil (601) contained 6 sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and 125 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

#### **3.3 Trench 7 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 14)**

This trench measured 37m x 1m, was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was sited to investigate linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The only features present was the remains of a palaeochannel (702); no pre-modern archaeological features or finds were recovered. Natural subsoil (701) was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 7, Appendix 1.

At the northern end of the trench a NE-SW aligned linear (702) was uncovered. It measured 3.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m; with gradually breaking sides. It contained a single mid to dark brown black peaty loam based fill (703) similar to the overlying topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. This probable palaeochannel was the anomaly identified by the geophysical survey in this position.

## **5. THE FINDS**

by John Allan and Imogen Woods

### **5.1 Introduction**

This is an interesting assemblage from a relatively remote settlement on the edge of Dartmoor. The assemblage is mainly composed of late medieval and post-medieval finds with some interesting imports. The sherds are largely in a good condition, although some of the material is abraded. Most of the pottery comes from unsealed contexts with evidence of truncation through late post-medieval activity. The jugs and plates shown in Plates 17 - 23 are examples of complete vessels from which the sherds were recovered on site. They have been reproduced with the kind permission of The Courtauld Institute and The Museum of London. The finds are briefly described below and itemised in Appendix 2.

### **5.2 Lithics**

The lithic assemblage comprises a total of 5 struck flints from trenches 1, 4 and 6. Four are flakes, including one retouched as a scraper, while one is a rejuvenated core. All date from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods and were residual in the topsoil.

### 5.3 Medieval pottery

The medieval pottery assemblage comprises 172 sherds and ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to late medieval period. The condition of the assemblage is variable with sherd sizes ranging from large with reasonably fresh breaks to small and somewhat abraded. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

#### *Saxo-Norman coarseware*

Three sherds of chert-tempered Upper Greensand derived pottery were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 4 and 5. They are mid-10<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century in date. Although few in number their provenance, through petrological analysis, is likely to help shed further light on early medieval pottery distribution patterns. Allan suggests that a picture is emerging from recent archaeological work that throughout the Saxo-Norman period pottery was supplied in considerable quantities from potteries in the Blackdowns to communities as much as 90km away, before the emergence of more localised industries in north and south Devon in the early and mid-13<sup>th</sup> century (Allan 2010). The small quantity of chert-tempered material recovered from the site to-date would certainly support this view.

#### *Saintonge*

A total of 8 body sherds belonging to a single unglazed vessel displaying no diagnostic features were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4. The vessel broadly dates to the period 1250-1450 (Pls. 17-18). This is an imported pottery from western France (Barton 1963). The trade in pottery from the Saintonge area to Devon probably began in the mid-13<sup>th</sup>-century, with the earliest examples found in Exeter dating to *c.* 1240, and lasted until the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. At the start of this period Gascony was part of the Duchy of Aquitaine, then a royal fief, and many of the vessels that have been found in Devon probably made their way from the ports of La Rochelle and Bordeaux as part of mixed cargoes. By the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Exeter was a major port for importing wine, on a par with Southampton, Hull and Sandwich and only just behind Bristol and Boston, then the leading provincial ports in the wine trade (Allan 1984). In terms of distribution Saintonge pottery has therefore been for the most part found at coastal or urban sites, locations more easily accessible to traders, and only very occasionally in remote upland sites.

#### *Valencian lustreware*

Two sherds of Valencian lustreware from a closed form, either a cup or bowl, tin-glazed with distinctive metallic copper-coloured decoration were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (Pls. 19-20). By the early 1400s, the potteries of Valencia in southern Spain had started to produce fine tin-glazed earthenwares decorated with glossy designs in copper or gold. The pottery often included religious symbols and inscriptions or armourials on a highly decorated background of stylised botanical motifs. By the mid-1400s Valencia had become the most important centre of lustreware production in Spain, and the pottery was exported via Genoa around the Mediterranean and to northern Europe and the Baltic. This high status pottery was imported from Valencia from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century for use as tableware. It has been found in Exeter and Totnes and other medieval urban centres in southern Devon, but rarely on rural sites.

#### *North French Barrel Costrel*

A total of 5 sherds belonging to a possible North French Barrel Costrel fragment with a buff coloured surface, whitish grey sandy fabric and green external glaze were recovered from ditch fill (304). The vessel dates to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. The 5 co-joining sherds form the

domed end of a Costrel are the least abraded in the assemblage and come from a sealed context, making this unique find of even greater value. It is of regional significance as Costrels, especially North French Costrels are rare in Devon, the most comparable fabric and form example is from South Street, Exeter, which John Allan (1984, 21, 83) has said was a remarkable find on an English site and dates to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. They originate from France and were used in southern Britain from the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries to carry water or alcohol (Dunning 1964). Costrels were barrel-shaped, and had lugs with holes on either side of the mouth so that they could be carried on a cord worn on the belt or round the neck. The word costrel comes from the French word *costerel*, *coste* meaning ‘side’ – the flask would be worn to one side while the owner was working. Other Costrels recorded by Dunning in Devon have been found in the River Teign (non-French 15<sup>th</sup> century) and Cockington (brown fabric green glaze), both in south Devon.

#### *Coarsewares*

The coarseware sherds are mostly small body sherds and display few diagnostic features. The majority of the medieval pottery is locally sourced with Totnes-type fabric dominating the assemblage. The recognisable local fabrics include 117 sherds of Totnes-type, including one jug and one thumbled base from 400 and 401; and 3 sherds of South Somerset red ware (or derivatives of) from 109, 204 and 400; while medieval pottery from an unknown source accounts for a further 26 sherds. These all span the period 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Ridge tile*

Seven fragments of 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6, including a single tile crest with high peak and scrape marks dated to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Other*

A single flat tile with chamfered sides and slightly wedge shaped, probably from an oven and dated to the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century, was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4.

### **5.4 Post-medieval pottery**

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprises 874 sherds and ranges in date from the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

#### *Stonewares*

Three sherds of Frechen stoneware with mottled glaze dating to the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, including a sherd from a Bellarmine jug, three sherds of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century Raeren stoneware and a single sherd of salt-glazed Westerwald were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2 and 6 (Pls. 21-23). By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Rhenish stonewares were imported to Exeter in large quantities from Raeren and Frechen, and at a later date Westerwald material, representing nearly half of the cities imports throughout this period (Allan 1984). They were common imports to the region, though not to Dartmoor.

In addition, 16 sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century English stoneware and 2 sherds of unprovenanced stoneware dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century were also recovered.

#### *Tin-glazed wares*

Six sherds of Dutch tin-glazed pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 4. The two sherds with blue painted decoration recovered from Trench 1 were probably made in



London in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the 4 sherds from Trench 4 are delftware attributed to the Netherlands and dating to the period 1670-1760.

By the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Dutch produced tiles and pottery using a new manufacturing technique, Delftware, the term describing earthenware with a lead glaze to which tin oxide has been added. The first Delftware factory in England was established in Norwich in 1567 although production soon moved to London. The earliest Dutch potters settled in Aldgate and Southwark, but by the mid-1600s a flourishing industry developed in Southwark and Lambeth. This industry thrived throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, although it began to decline by c.1760, when it was overtaken by cream-ware, cream coloured earthenware, produced in Staffordshire and across England (Allan 1984).

#### *English wares*

2 sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware, including a posset pot with yellow/brown trails were recovered from the topsoil. These were exported to Exeter from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, although their number rapidly increased from c.1720 onwards before going out of use by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

By far the largest proportion of pottery was composed of industrial wares, represented by 569 sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire transfer decorated white earthenware, including shell edge ware, hand painted pearl ware and cream ware.

Other English wares recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 included 4 sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century Devon white ware, a single sherd of sherd of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Agate ware, 5 sherds of Bovey Tracey white ware, 2 sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century Brown stain ware and a single sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century Basalt ware.

#### *Coarsewares*

The coarseware sherds consist mostly of small body sherds and display few diagnostic features. The majority of the post-medieval coarseware assemblage is dominated by North Devon and South Somerset fabrics, with only one-fifth of the pottery coming from Totnes, perhaps surprising given the location of the site. The recognisable local fabrics include 43 sherds of Totnes-type, including one type 2A flared bowl and one tripod pot; and 83 sherds of South Somerset red ware (or derivatives of) including 13 sherds with trailed slip decoration and a single sheerd with copper green slip decoration; while North Devon gravel tempered wares account for a further 85 sherds, including a single type 3 bowl, two type 2 jugs and a single large jar. 5 sherds North Devon sgraffito and slipware were also recovered. These all span the period 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Ridge tile*

22 fragments of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 4, 5 and 6, including a single tile fragment with incised line dated to between 1500-1750.

#### **5.5 Glass**

28 fragments of late 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century English green bottle glass were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, including a single onion bottle base, one apothecary bottle and one wine glass.

In addition, 10 sherds of window glass were recovered from Trenches 5 and 6.

### 5.6 Clay pipe

There are two early bowls dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a further 94 clay pipe stems dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining 7 bowls date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including a single bowl with reeded decoration marked RC. R Chapple was working at Newton Abbot in 1866-73 (Allan 1984, 293).

### 5.7 Roofing slate

Large quantities of south Devon roofing slate were recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6. This is likely to come from Norton in the South Hams and Garington near Ashburton, and dates to the period before the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 5.8 Metal

An incomplete medieval copper alloy Jetton, probably of Charles VI of France (AD 1380-1422) was recovered from the topsoil. Obverse description: Beaded circle containing shield of France, containing three lys. Obverse inscription: AVE.[MARI]A.GRACIA.[... ] (L.V.?) Reverse description: Short cross with four pellets lining both sides of each arm, rose or quatrefoil at centre. Large lys at the end of each arm, each arm contained within an arc of a four arched tressure. Small stylized X and pellet within the outer spandrel of each tressure. The surface of the Jetton is worn, and has a hard dark to mid-green patina. The word jeton comes from the French verb "jeter," used in the sense of "to push," because the counters were pushed over the counter board. The earliest English jetons date to c.1280. After the reign of Edward 1, the production of English jetons diminished in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and French jetons were imported in large quantities.

In addition, the metal detecting uncovered a further 8 18<sup>th</sup> century Tombac buttons, zinc-copper alloy and lathe turned and a single 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy button; a single c. 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy star shaped mount, a 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century lead bullet; a Copper penny of George II dated 1750; a farthing of George IV third or fourth issue (c. 1799 – 1820); two copper half pennies of either George IV or William IV (c. 1820-1837); a lead, cast running chicken figure; a lead bar, bent, with a T-shaped cross section and a possible lead window came fragment.

84 Fe fragments were also recovered from the topsoil.

### 5.9 Conclusion

With a few exceptions the assemblage is fairly typical for a rural settlement of this time period. The presence of a small quantity of chert-tempered pottery suggests a certain level of early 13<sup>th</sup> century activity. It is thought that the moated manor at North Hall was established sometime around 1216 and although no early features have been identified to-date it is possible that there may have earlier occupation of the site.

The presence of a small number of imports, in particular the two very abraded Valencian lustreware sherds, is suggestive of high status activity in the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century. The Costrel is of regional significance providing valuable evidence for possible links between rural settlements on Dartmoor and their connection with the Continent in the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition, the presence of Saintonge pottery (1250-1450) from western France and an incomplete copper alloy jetton, probably of Charles VI of France (1380-1422) further emphasises the high-status nature of the site.

As expected, Totnes-type fabrics dominate the assemblage throughout the medieval period at North Hall, but by the post-medieval period the trend is reversed, with North Devon material dominating the assemblage, perhaps surprising given the location of the site.

The imported pottery from North Hall echoes trends identified in Exeter, with the presence of Rhenish stonewares and Dutch or London tin-glaze wares reflecting the cities trade patterns in the late 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; before being replaced by English wares from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, reflecting a decline in trade with the Low Countries. The presence of decorative Staffordshire/Bristol and South Somerset slip-wares suggests the continued consumption of fine table wares in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, while the presence of bottle glass suggests the consumption of wine, rather than cider associated with agricultural occupation. Although the assemblage is relatively small it possibly indicates a certain level of occupation of the site beyond the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it has been assumed the manor house was demolished.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The evaluation has exposed extensive medieval and post-medieval activity. A number of deposits contained sufficient finds to allow them to be assigned within broad historical periods on the basis of dating evidence alone, and stratigraphic information has allowed for some phasing of features within trenches. Where such stratigraphic information and dating evidence is absent, some relative phasing has been attempted on the basis of similarities of alignment and nature and character of features. The distribution and interpretation of archaeological features identified during the evaluation is shown on Fig. 15.

Evidence for building activity is limited to three heavily robbed walls in Trenches 2 and 4. Only the lowest course of masonry survived and, apart from a single large granite floor slab, no evidence for internal floors and external surfaces was uncovered. The areas to the west and east were covered in small, loose stone rubble directly overlying natural subsoil suggesting that any laid flooring material had been removed at the time of demolition. No dating evidence was found associated with the walls and it is unclear whether these are the remains of the manor house or part of the buildings shown on the 1844 Tithe map.

Further evidence of demolition activity was uncovered in Trench 1. This consisted of an extensive layer of small, loose stone rubble overlying natural subsoil.

The earliest feature of the moated manor was the multi-phase earthen bank exposed within Trenches 3 and 5. The primary phase is defined by a small ditch and earth bank. While evidence for the bank is restricted to the western part of the site the ditch has also been identified in Trenches 1 and 4, the banks having been removed by modern activity. In addition, both banks would have stood much higher; their current profile being the result of later erosion. The bank material for the early bank is predominantly soil-based, while the construction of the later bank entailed the significant excavation of the local granitic natural subsoil. Partial excavation of the moat showed that it was 10m wide and at least 2m deep. The auger survey undertaken in 2012 would suggest a depth for the moat in excess of 2.75m.

The construction of both banks represents a significant investment of both time and effort. The complete absence of dating evidence is unfortunate as it has not been possible to establish a date for the construction and abandonment of the two phases.

The cross-sections through the rampart have so far failed to uncover evidence for a timber revetment of the bank. The palisade structure defending the lower bailey at Hen Domen, Montgomery, consisted of a series of postholes set approximately 3-4m apart. No postholes have yet come to light at North Hall, although this is perhaps not surprising considering the narrow nature of Trenches 3 and 5. The beam slots located at the tail of the bank in Trenches 3 and 5 were probably excavated to hold a post and wattle structure. It is possible, in view of the results from Trench 4 below, that they represent possibly open-fronted buildings and may also have helped to revet the rear of the bank. Significantly five sherds of a possible 'North French Barrel Costrel', dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered from the infill of this feature in Trench 3.

To the east two parallel beam slots, set 6.5m apart, were exposed in Trench 4. These are possibly contemporary with postholes 410 and 412, suggesting the presence of a timber building set against the rear of the rampart. No beam slots were uncovered in Trench 1 and it is possible that buildings did not extend into this area. However, a further four postholes were uncovered in Trenches 1 and 4 sealed by demolition deposits. Three sherds of coarseware dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from posthole 406, suggesting that further timber buildings extended towards the centre of the site in the medieval period.

Trench 7 identified the remains of a palaeochannel, suggesting that the field to the north of the manor house and identified as North Hall Moor on maps, was an ancient river valley.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Although limited in scope, the trench evaluation has established that the geophysical survey, which indicates a dense concentration of archaeological activity, is only partly reliable. All of the anomalies investigated were located and proved to be mainly geological in origin, while a number of additional features were also exposed, demonstrating that the site is more archaeologically complex than previously thought.

The exposure of the earthen banks represents the first exposure of the medieval manor. Preservation is generally good along the western edge of the site. The banks have largely escaped the post-medieval levelling and agricultural erosion that has been noted along the northern edge of the site. The primary and secondary defences, along with the remains of a possible timber-framed structure have been identified and a number of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds were recovered from the latter.

Further evidence for timber buildings has been exposed in Trenches 1 and 4, sealed underneath extensive demolition deposits associated with the robbing of a later building. Several sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from these, suggesting an extensive range of timber buildings on the site throughout the medieval period.

Finally, the structural remains of a large stone building have been identified, including three walls, the remains of flooring and extensive demolition deposits. It is unclear from the limited exposure and lack of secure dating whether the activities identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 are contemporary with some of the timber buildings and it is possible that they represent separate phases of activity.

By its nature, the evaluations can only provide an initial indication of the nature of the medieval manor and its subsequent development during the post-medieval period. Additional

trench evaluation targeted perhaps on the building and location of the possible gatehouse, as well as further excavation of the moat should further assist in a broad characterization of the site, but a degree of area excavation will be required to more fully understand its origins and development.

## 8. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1217) pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-241209).

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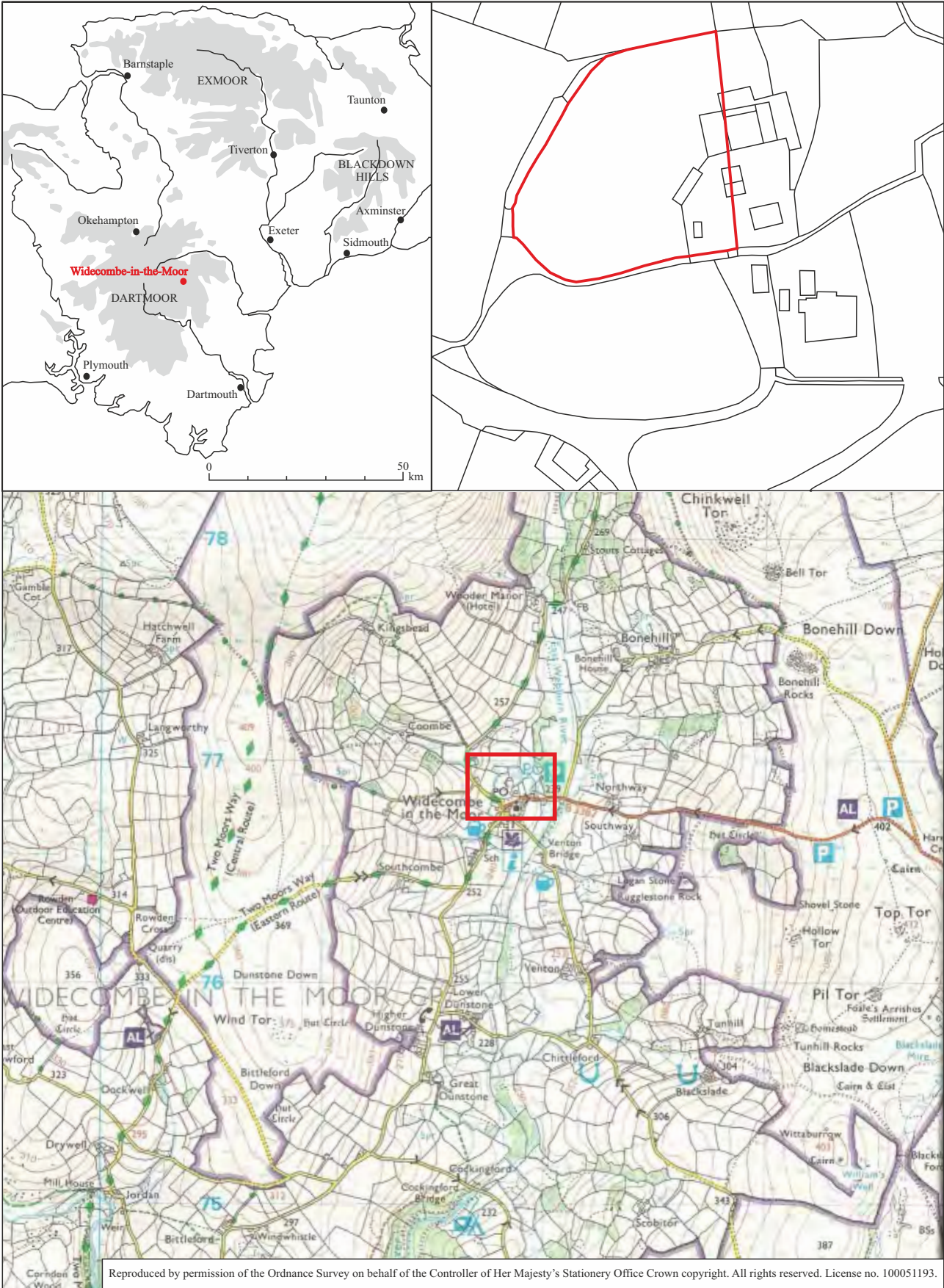


Fig. 1 Location of site











-  survey boundary
-  likely archaeology, high anomaly (supporting evidence)
-  possible archaeology, high anomaly
-  possible archaeology, low anomaly
-  likely archaeology, extant mound
-  possible archaeology, mound of material

Fig. 2 Trench location plan and summary results of geophysics.

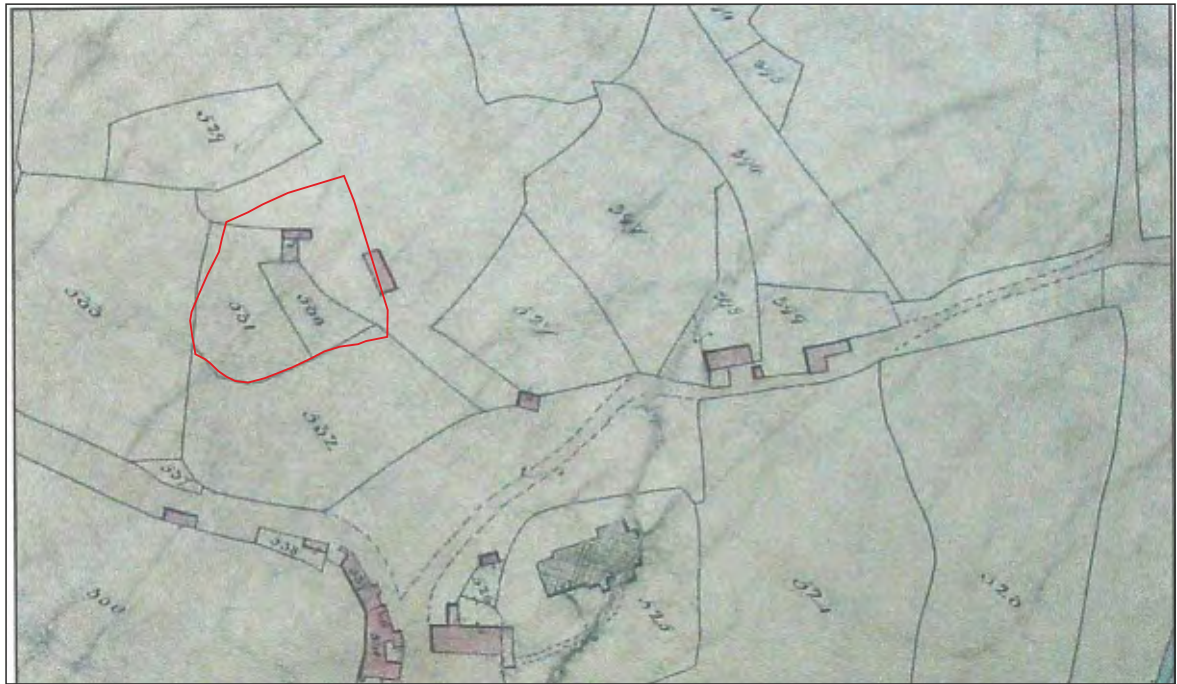


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1844 Widecombe Tithe map.

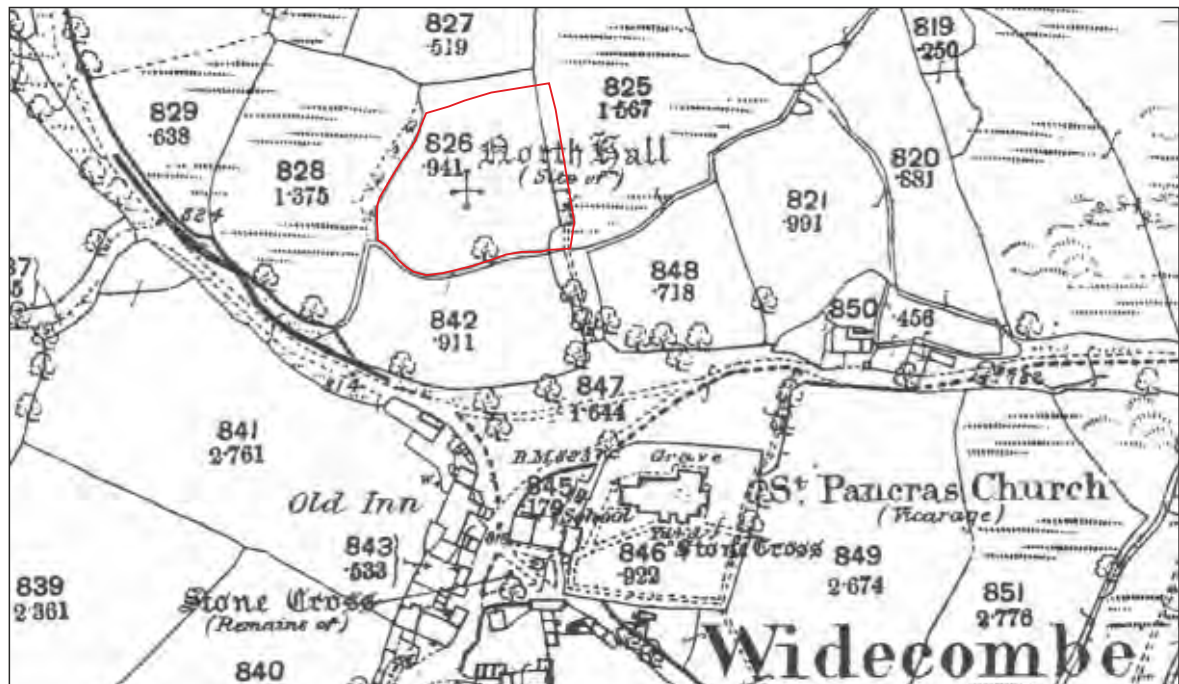


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1st edition 1886 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.

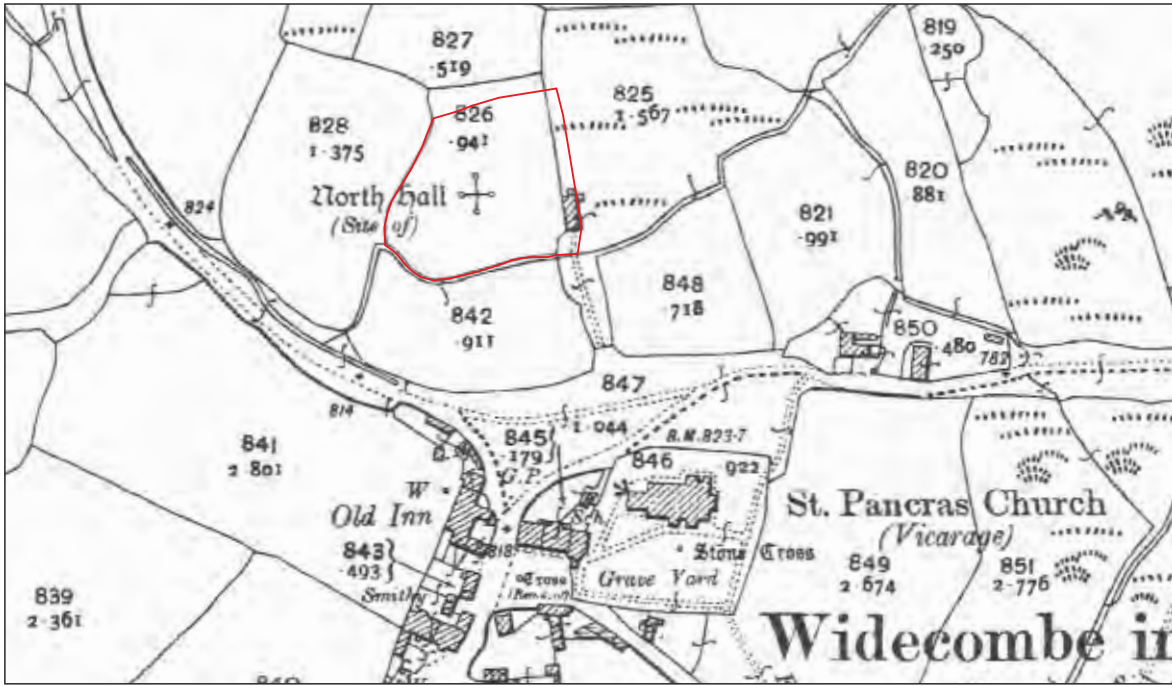


Fig. 5 Detail from the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.



Fig. 6 Detail from a RAF vertical aerial photograph taken in December 1946.

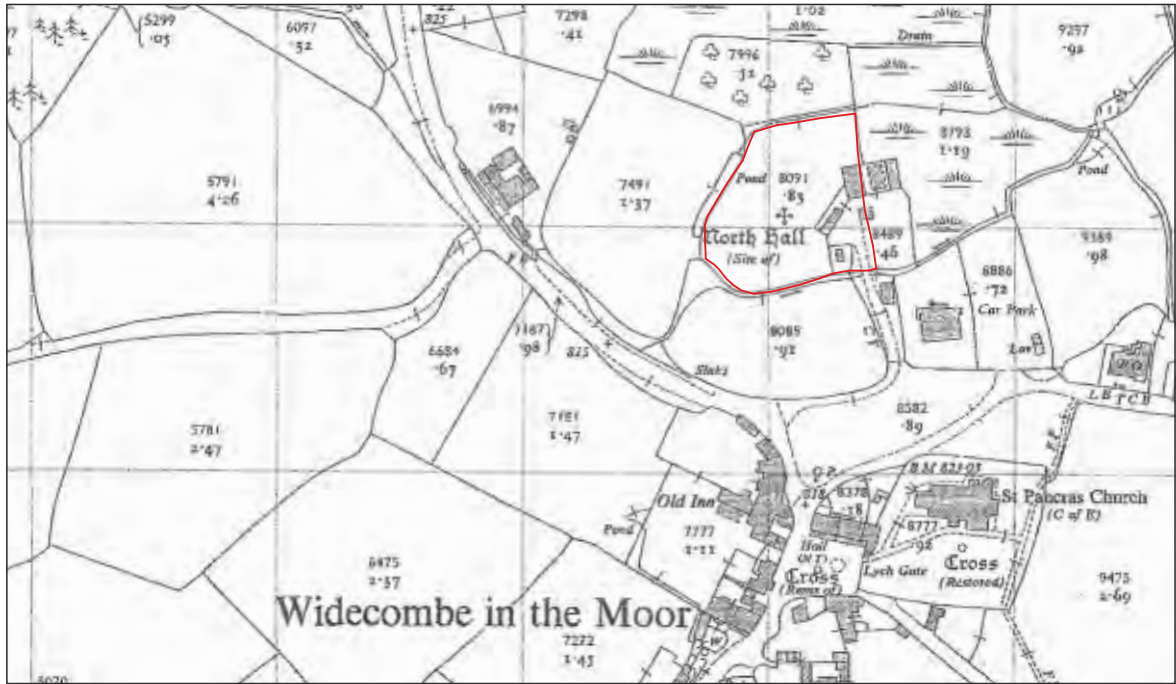


Fig. 7 Detail from the 1954 Ordnance Survey map.

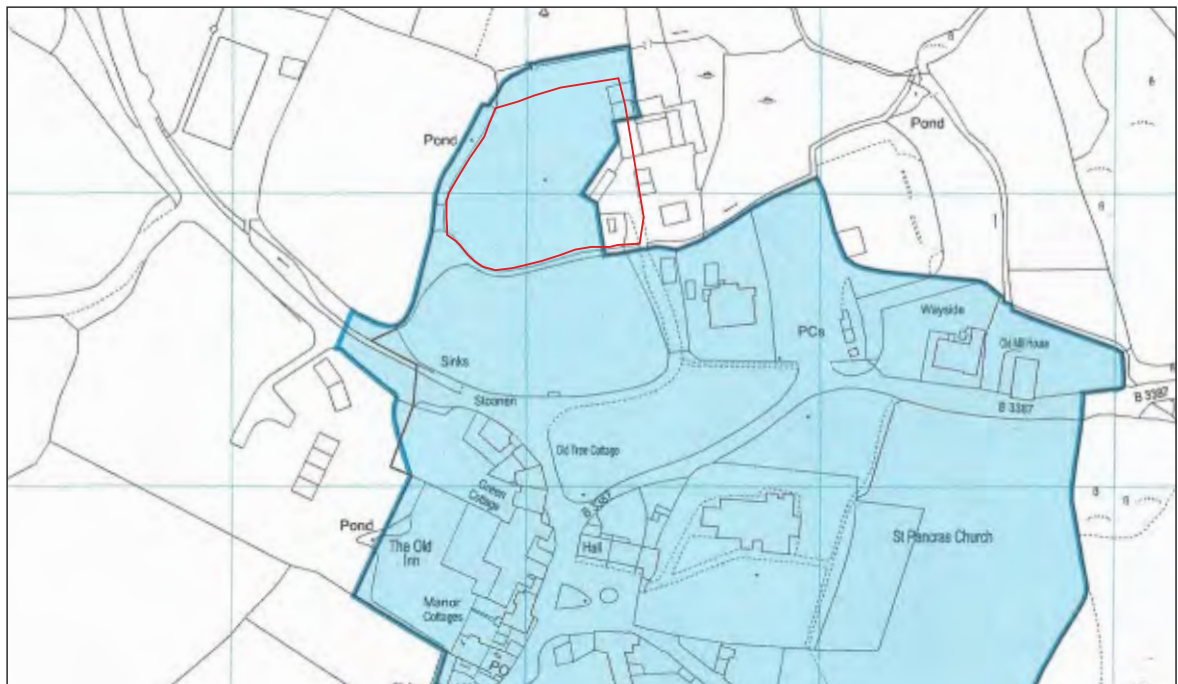
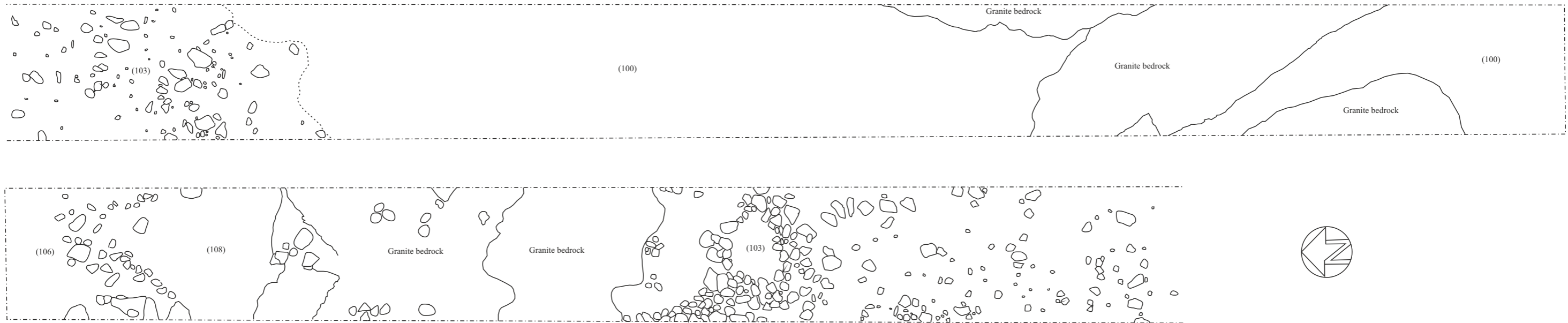


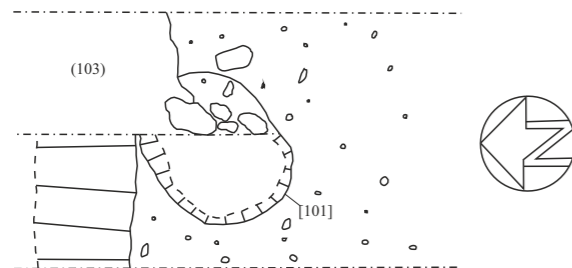
Fig. 8 Conservation Area showing location of site.

# Trench 1

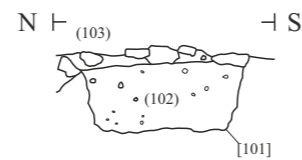
## Plan 1



## Plan 2



## Section 2



all datums are arbitrary

## Section 1

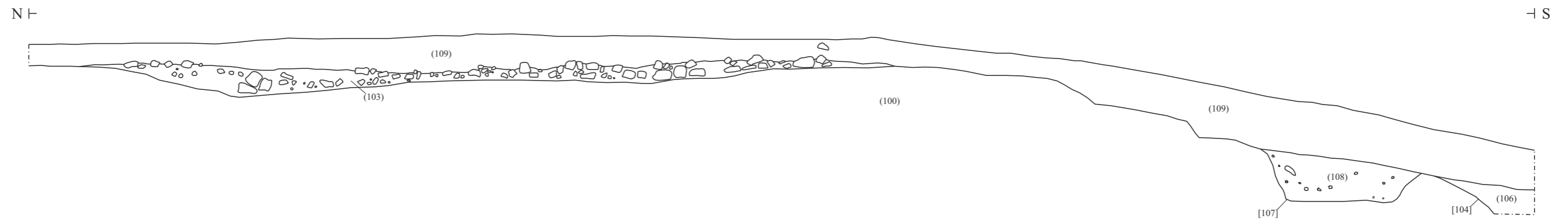
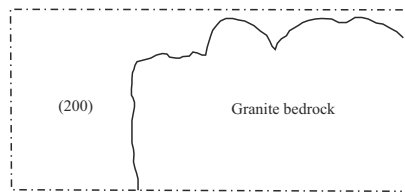


Fig. 9 Plans and sections Trench 1.

# Trench 2

## Plan 1



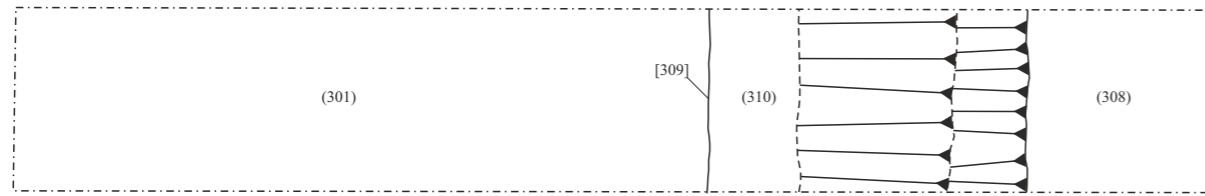
all datums are arbitrary



Fig. 10 Plan Trench 2.

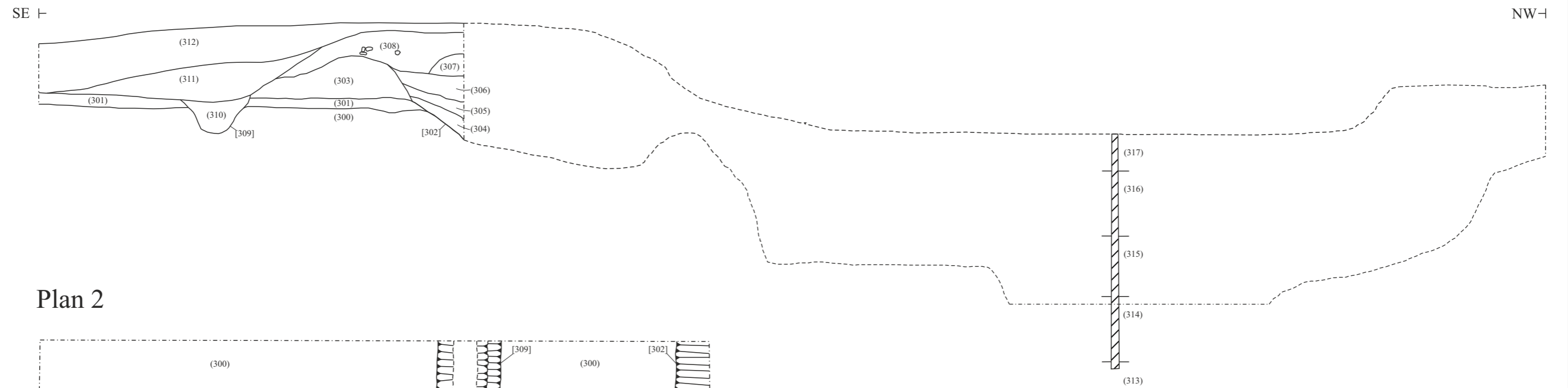
# Trench 3

## Plan 1



all datums are arbitrary

## Section 1



## Plan 2

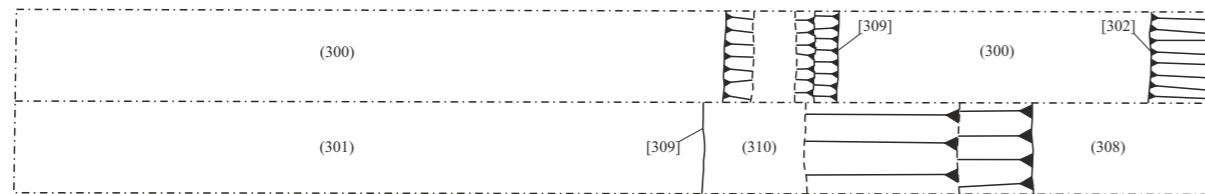
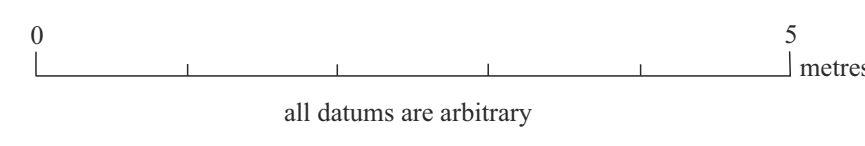
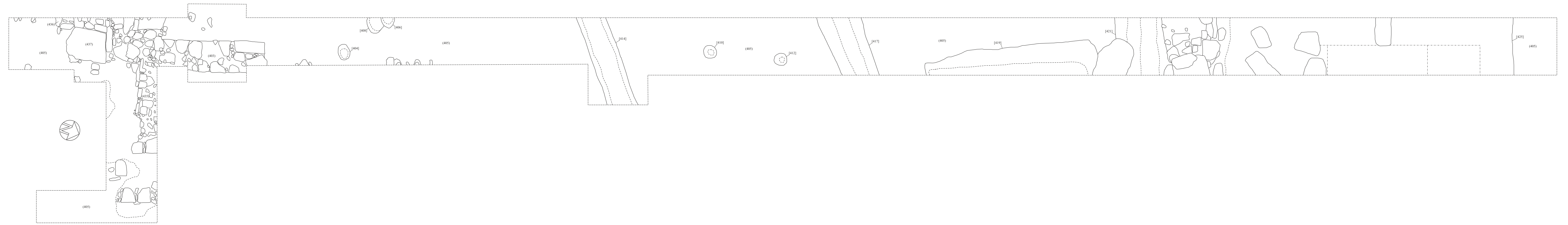


Fig. 11 Plan and section Trench 3.

# Trench 4

## Plan



## Sections

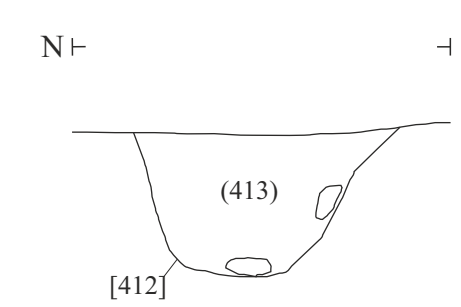
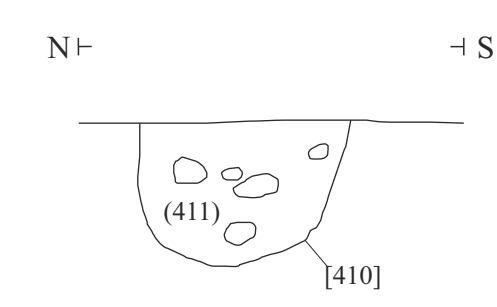
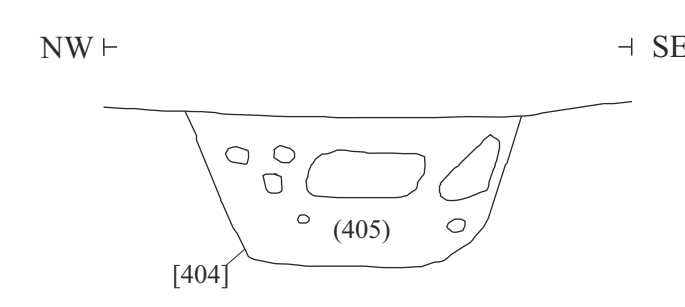
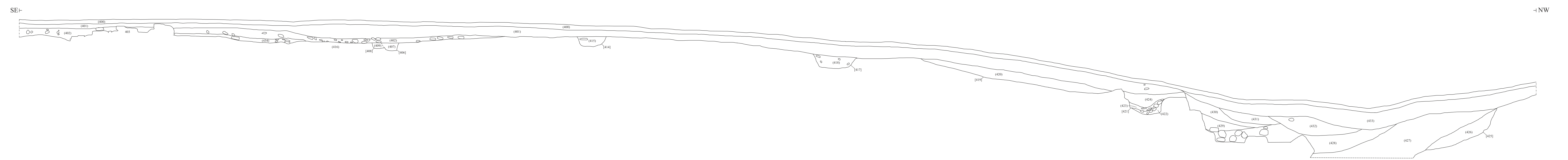


Fig. 12 Plan and sections Trench 4.



# Trench 5

## Section

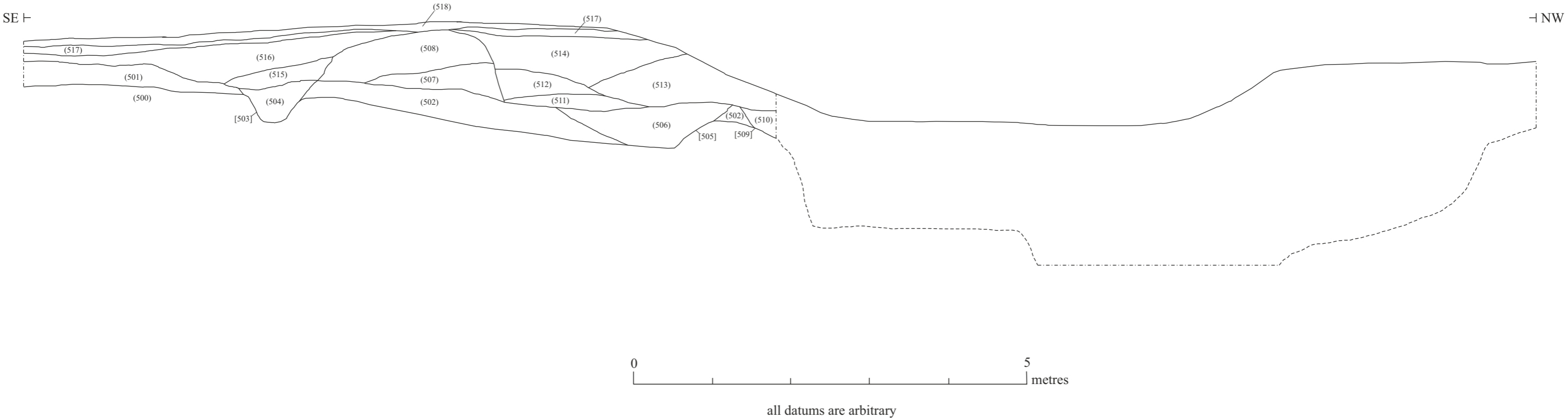


Fig. 13 Section Trench 5.

# Trench 7

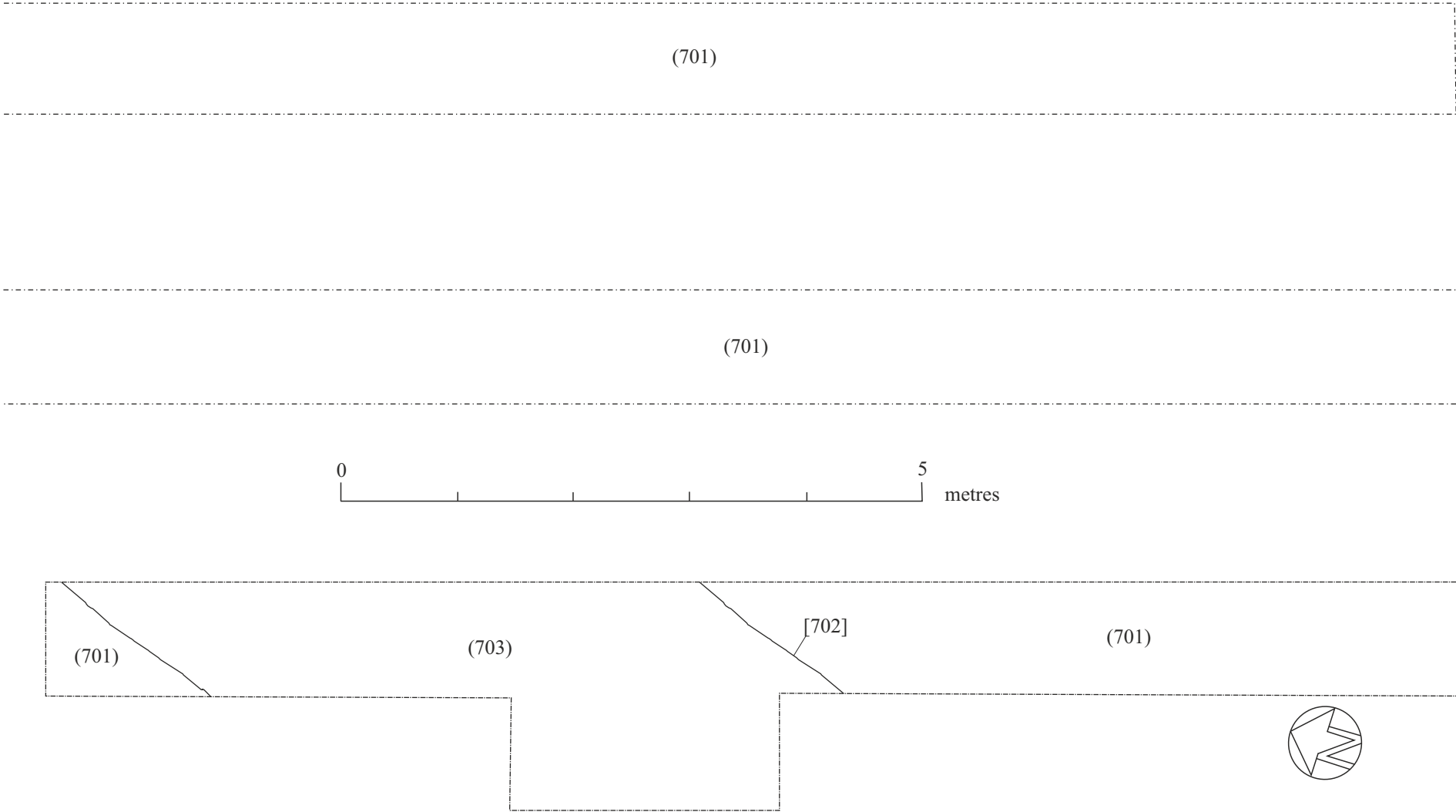


Fig. 14 Plan Trench 7.

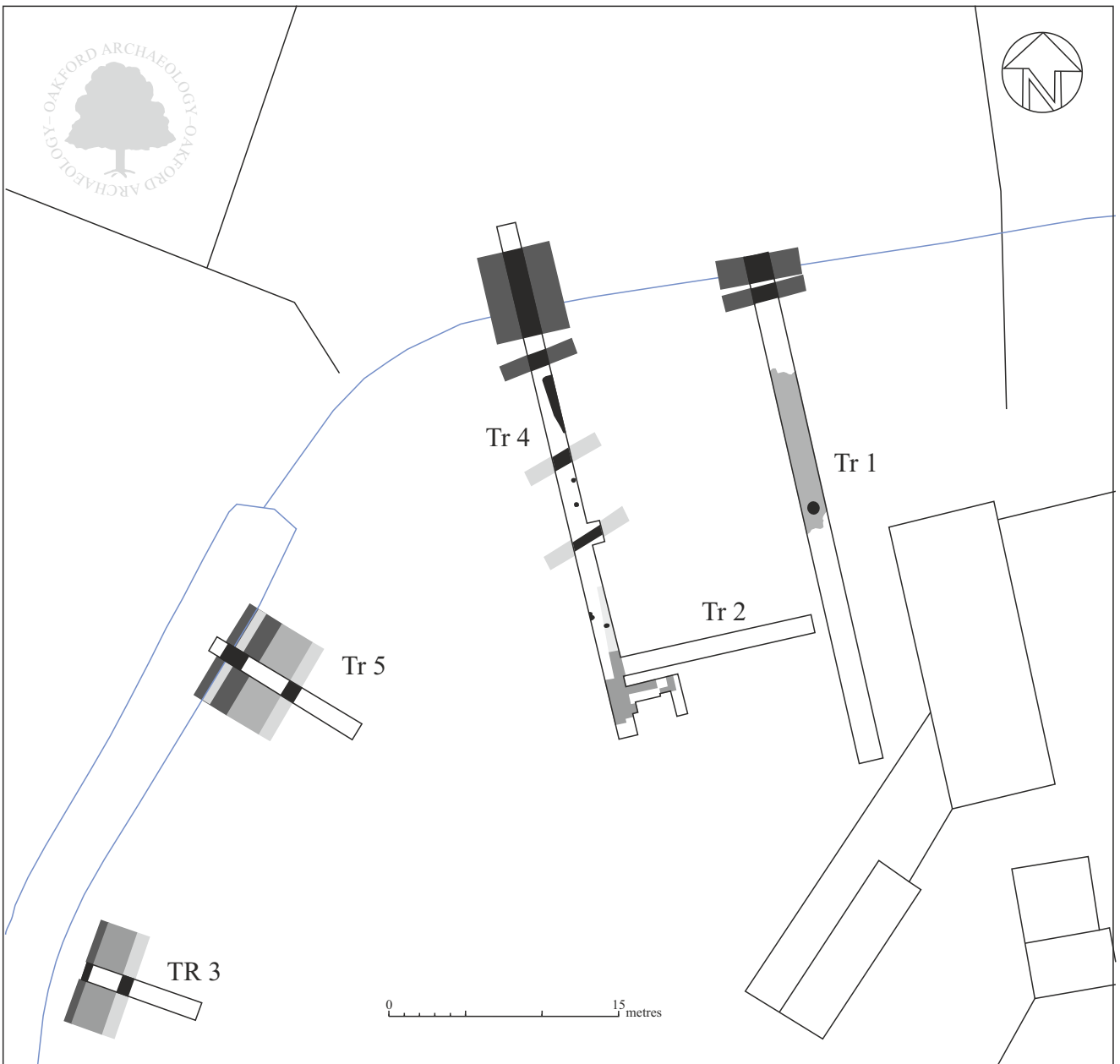


Fig. 15 Trench plan showing principal features identified.

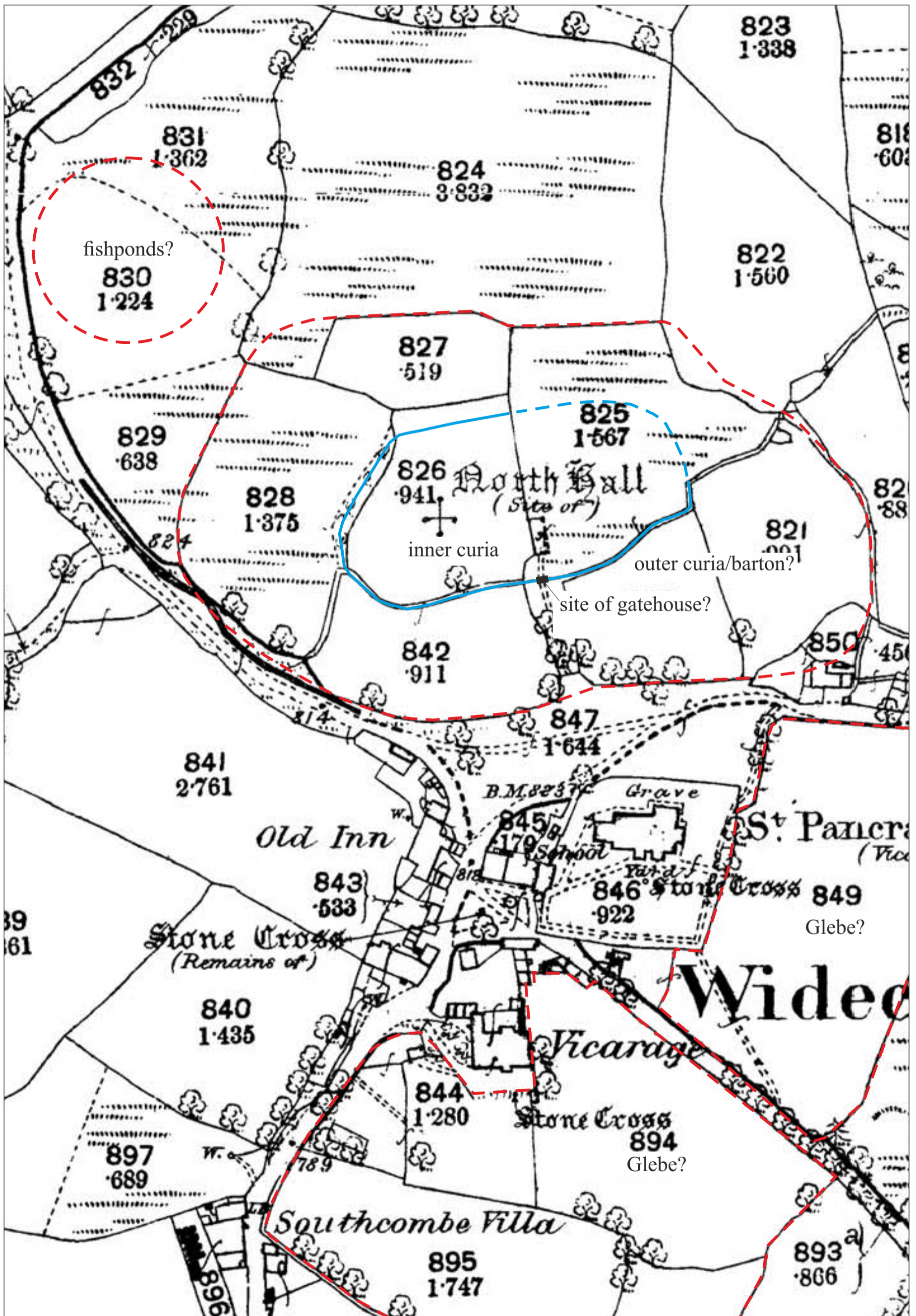


Fig. 16 Suggested location of outer curia/barton, fishponds and glebe.



Pl. 1 General view building 404 with moat [425] in background. 0.5m and 1m scales. Looking north.



Pl. 2 Close-up of building 404. 0.5m and 1m scales. Looking east.



Pl. 3 General view of beam slot [417]. 1m scale.  
Looking southwest.



Pl. 4 Section through beam slot [417]. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 5 Section through posthole [412]. 0.25m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 6 General view of possible structure defined by beam slots [414] (right) and [417] (left) and postholes [410] and [412] (centre). 0.5m and 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 7 Section through posthole [404]. 0.25m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 8 Section through postholes [408] and [406]. 1m scale. Looking west.





Pl. 9 Section through ditch [421]. 0.5m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 10 General view of ditch [419] (right) and moat [425]. 2m scale. Looking north.



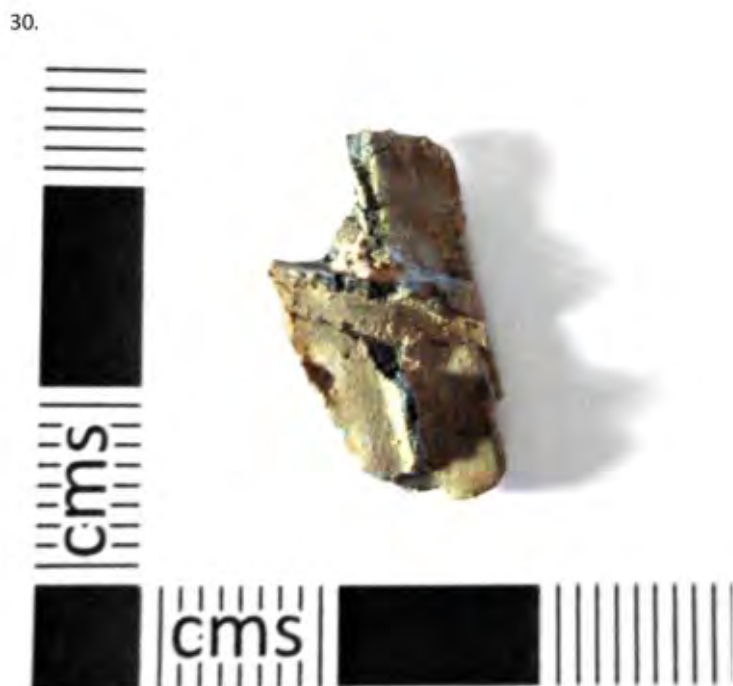
Pl. 11 General view of moat [425]. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 12 General view of moat [425]. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Plate 13 Composite section across defensive sequence showing defensive sequence with early bank 507/508 (centre) and ditch [505] (right), later bank 511-14 (centre right) and moat [509] (far right), and beam slot [ 503] (left). Looking southwest.



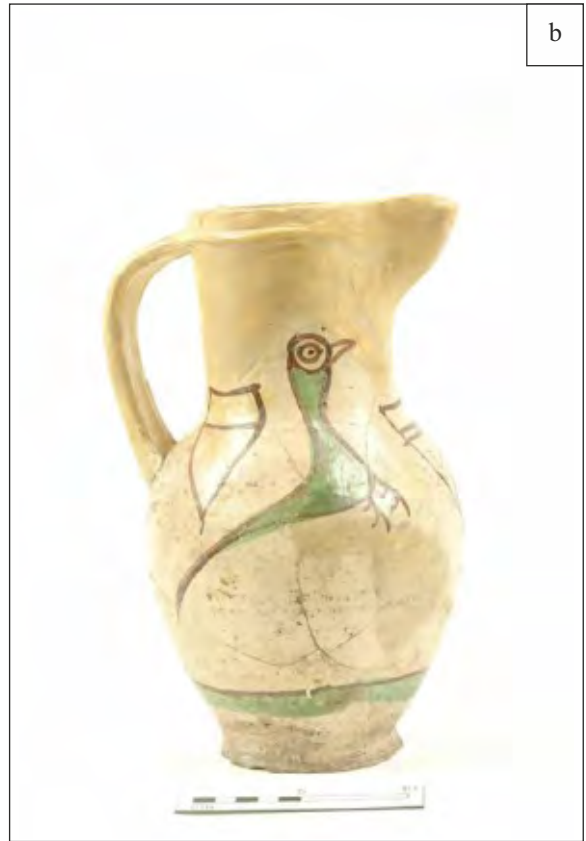
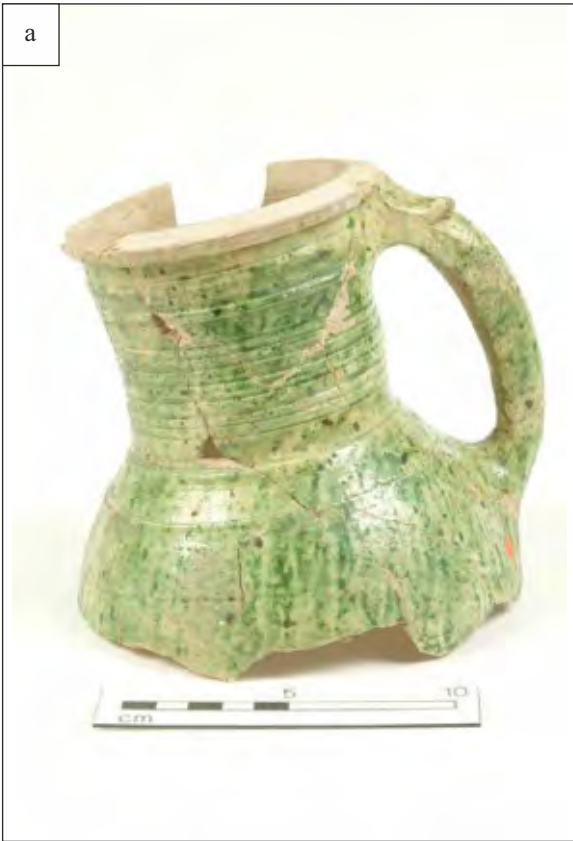
Pl. 14 (top) medieval copper alloy Jetton of Charles VI of France (AD 1380-1422); (bottom) lead, possible window-came fragment.



Pl. 15      Thick lead bar with T shaped cross-section, blunted at ends.



Pl. 16 (top) copper alloy mount, c. 16th – 18th century, rose design, probably originally gilded; (centre) lead "running chicken" figure, traces of white paint, decoration or toy; (bottom) Tombac button c. 18th century, soldered copper loop.



Pl. 17-21 (a) Saintonge ware jug with mottled green glaze (15th-16th century); (b) Saintonge ware jug with polychrome decoration of two birds, three triangular shapes and a leaf-scroll (1275-1350); (c) and (d) tin-glazed earthenware plates (1500-1525).



Pl. 21-23

(a) Frechen stoneware Bartmann jug, with brown mottled glaze and decorated with a medallion on the body and a mask on the neck (1485-1714); (b) Raeren stoneware drinking mug (1481-1610); (c) Westerwald stoneware jug with cobalt blue decoration (1600-1650).



APPENDIX 1:  
CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.5m+	Mid yellow silty clay and granite	Natural subsoil
101	0.5-0.9m	Roughly circular feature	Cut of pit
102	0.5-0.9m	Dark brown silty clay	Fill of pit [102]
103	0.35-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
104	0.5-0.95m	Curvilinear feature	Cut of Moat
105	0.5-0.95m	Mid to dark brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [104]
106	0.5-0.95m	Mid brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [104]
107	0.65-1.15m	E-W aligned linear	Robber trench
108	0.65-1.15m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of Robber trench [107]
109	0-0.65m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.5m+	Mid yellow silty clay and granite	Natural subsoil
201	0.35m+	N-S aligned wall footing	Wall
202	0.35m+	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
203	0.35m+	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
204	0-0.5m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	1m+	Mid yellow silty clay	Natural subsoil
301	0.9-1m	Mid brown silty loam	Buried soil
302	0.65-1.4m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Ditch
303	0.5-0.85m	Mid yellowish brown silty loam	Earth bank
304	0.9-1.4m	mid greyish brown clay	Fill of ditch [302]
305	0.7-1.2m	light yellow clay	Earth bank
306	0.6-0.9m	light to mid-yellowish grey clay	Earth bank
307	0.48-0.73m	mid brown loamy clay	Earth bank
308	0.2-0.5m	light yellowish brown silty loam	Earth bank
309	0.88-1.24m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of beam slot
310	0.88-1.24m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of beam slot [309]
311	0.42-0.88m	Dark brown silty loam	eroded bank material
312	0-0.4m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
313	2.75m+	Mid to dark grey clay	Fill of Moat
314	1.9-2.75m	Mid grey clay	Fill of Moat
315	1.15-1.90m	light to mid-grey clay	Fill of Moat
316	0.4-1.15m	dark orange silty loam	Fill of Moat
317	0-0.4m	dark brown silty loam	Fill of Moat

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.32m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
401	0.32-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
402	0.55-0.75m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
403	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
404	0.75-0.94m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
405	0.75-0.94m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [404]
406	0.75-0.91m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
407	0.75-0.91m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [406]
408	0.75-0.96m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
409	0.75-0.96m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [408]
410	0.3-0.5m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
411	0.3-0.5m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [410]
412	0.32-0.46m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
413	0.32-0.46m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [412]
414	0.34-0.48m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of beam slot
415	0.34-0.48m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of beam slot [414]
416	0.5m+	Mid yellow silty clay and granite	Natural subsoil
417	0.5-0.71m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of beam slot
418	0.5-0.71m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of beam slot [417]
419	0.5-0.85m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of beam slot/ditch
420	0.5-0.85m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of beam slot/ditch [419]
421	0.4-1.15m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of ditch
422	0.65-1.15m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
423	0.65-1m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
424	0.4-0.85m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
425	0.1-2.1m+	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Moat
426	0.15-1.25m	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
427	0.15-2.1m+	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
428	0.5-1.75m	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
429	0.2-0.75m	Dark brown grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
430	0.2-1.25m	Mid to dark brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
431	0.7-1.15m	Mid to dark brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
432	0.95-1.5m	Mid brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
433	0.1-1.25m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
434	0.6-0.75m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
435	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
436	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
437	0.2m	Paving slab	Floor

Table 5: Trench 5

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
500	0.65m+	Mid yellow silty clay	Natural subsoil
501	0.25-0.65m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Buried soil
502	0.75-1.6m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Buried soil
503	0.7-1.1m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of beam slot
504	0.7-1.1m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of beam slot [503]
505	0.95-1.55m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of ditch
506	0.95-1.55m	Mid grey gleyed clay	Fill of ditch [505]
507	0.5-1m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
508	0.25-0.8m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
509	0.6-0.95m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Moat
510	0.6-0.95m	Mid to dark grey gleyed clay	Fill of moat [509]
511	0.9-1.1m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
512	0.6-0.95m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
513	0.35-1m	Light greyish yellow clay	Earth bank
514	0.1-0.8m	Light greyish yellow clay	Earth bank
515	0.35-0.75m	Dark brown silty loam	eroded bank material
516	0.05-0.7m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	eroded bank material
517	0.1-0.18m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Subsoil
518	0-0.1m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
600	0-0.32m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
601	0.32-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
602	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
603	0.5-0.6m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
604	0.6m+	Mid yellow silty clay and granite	Natural subsoil

Table 7: Trench 7

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
700	0-0.3m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Topsoil
701	0.3m+	Mid yellow silty clay	Natural subsoil
702	0.3-1m+	NE-SW aligned linear	Palaeochannel
703	0.3-1m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Fill of palaeochannel [702]
704	1m+	Mid greyish blue gleyed clay	Fill of palaeochannel [702]

APPENDIX 2:  
FINDS QUANTIFICATION

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
103			5	2 sherds Totnes-type unglazed pottery (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type glazed pottery (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd undiagnostic pottery (poss. 15 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd undiagnostic pottery (post-medieval).
109			575	1 lithics struck flake chert prob. Neolithic, 38 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds decorated Valencian Lustre ware (15 <sup>th</sup> century), 34 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 3 sherds Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 15 sherds sandy ware source unknown (medieval), 9 sherds pottery (medieval), 1 sherd Totnes-type bowl type 2A flared (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds Frechen stoneware (16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 3 sherds Raeren stoneware (16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Westerwald stoneware (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds Lambeth delft (early 17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Staffordshire/Bristol yellow slipware yellow brown trails posset pot (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 302 sherds transfer decorated white earthenware (post-1770-19 <sup>th</sup> century), 18 sherds South Somerset coarseware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 7 sherds South Devon white ware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Nottingham white stoneware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 33 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (post-medieval), 8 sherds English stoneware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 25 sherds undiagnostic coarseware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 58 clay pipe stems (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 8 clay pipe bowls (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 undiagnostic brick fragments, 52 Fe fragments, 10 sherds 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century bottle glass, 1 Cu Alloy button.
204			232	16 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd sandy redware (14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Frechen stoneware Bellarmine jug (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 161 sherds transfer decorated white earthenware (post-1770-19 <sup>th</sup> century), 4 sherds Devon white ware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 10 sherds South Somerset coarseware with trailed slip decoration (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Jackfield-type ware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 12 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 1 type 3 bowl rest type 2 jugs (post-medieval), 1 sherd redware source unknown (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd undiagnostic stoneware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds white refined earthenware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd flowerpot (20 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds undiagnostic grey ware, 15 clay pipe stems (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 undiagnostic brick fragments, 25 Fe fragments, 9 sherds of 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century bottle glass.
310	309	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	4	North French, Costrel, exterior green glaze (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century).
400			120	1 sherd Upper Greensand derived (mid-10 <sup>th</sup> -early 13 <sup>th</sup> century), 8 sherds Saintonge unglazed 1 vessel (1250-1450), 13 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed 2 vessels 1 jug (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century – not before 1250), 1 sherd South Somerset red ware (medieval), 3 sherds Totnes-type wheelthrown (15 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 tile flat with chamfered sides probably oven tile slightly wedge shaped (15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 complex glazing scheme c.f. Berry Pomeroy (late 16 <sup>th</sup> -early 17 <sup>th</sup> century), 16 sherds Totnes-type unglazed coarseware (1500-1750), Totnes-type ridge tile unglazed undecorated 1 with incised line (1500-1750), 3 sherds red ware source unknown (16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 20 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 10 vessels including 1 large jar (1500-1800), 3 sherds North Devon sgraffito and slipware 2 vessels (late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century), 3sherds Delft ware 1 vessel (1670-1760), 2 flakes polychrome painted porcelain scrap from ornament (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd South Somerset slip and copper green (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Bristol Staffordshire yellow slipware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 4 sherds South Somerset red ware (18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century), 13 sherds red ware source unknown (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Agate ware (mid-18 <sup>th</sup> century), 3 sherds stoneware undiagnostic (late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 5 sherds Bovey Tracey white ware (late 18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 early apothecary bottle (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 13 clay pipe stems (late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 brick fragment (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 5 sherds English green bottle glass 1 onion bottle base (19 <sup>th</sup> century).

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
401			52	1 flint flake retouched as a scraper Neolithic, 4 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed 3 vessels 1 thumbled base, 1 white painted base (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century), 13 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile (1500-1750), 8 sherds Totnes-type unglazed 1 cup 3 bowls (1500-1750), 4 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (1500-1700), 10 sherds Staffordshire white ware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 9 sherds South Somerset red ware (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 clay pipe stem bowl plain (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 clay pipe stem (late 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century), Slate South Devon roofing slate – Norton (South Hams) and Garington (Ashburton) before 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
402		18 <sup>th</sup> century		5 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 2 vessels (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd stained Delft ware (18 <sup>th</sup> century).
407	406	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century		1 sherd Totnes-type handmade 1 vessel (13 <sup>th</sup> -mid-15 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile unglazed undecorated (14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century).
518			63	2 sherds Upper Greensand derived (mid-10 <sup>th</sup> -early 13 <sup>th</sup> century), 7 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile (15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 4 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 12 sherds red ware (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 26 sherds Staffordshire white ware incl. transfer print and shell edge ware (late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Basalt ware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds Brown stain ware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 7 Fe nails, 1 fragment early window glass, 1 Cu Alloy coin?
600			144	3 flints including 1 rejuvenated core and two flakes Neolithic, 4 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed (13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile crest with high peak and scrape marks (14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century), 9 sherds early window glass (late 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type unglazed wheelthrown (15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile (14 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century), 8 sherds Totnes-type unglazed including 1 tripod pot (1500-1750), 4 sherds thin window glass (late 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 10 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd North Devon sgraffito (late 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 8 sherds English green bottle glass including 1 thick base onion bottle (1680-1730) and 2 curved shaft and globe bottles (late 17 <sup>th</sup> century), 68 sherds Staffordshire white ware incl. transfer print, hand painted pearl ware and cream ware (late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 8 sherds South Somerset red ware (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Delft ware (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 7 sherds Staffordshire stoneware (18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd red ware unknown location (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd wine glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 7 clay pipe stems including 1 with reeded decoration RC (Richard Chapple?) (1800-1830) 2 late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century rest 19 <sup>th</sup> century, 1 sherd glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century).
601			8	1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd North Devon gravel tempered 1 vessel probably jug possibly slip and sgraffito (17 <sup>th</sup> century), 3 sherds South Somerset trailed slipware 1 vessel 1 dish (18 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd undiagnostic stoneware (19 <sup>th</sup> century), 1 sherd glass (19 <sup>th</sup> century).