# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON THE SWW PIPELINE ROUTE FROM THE RESERVOIR SOUTH WEST OF BOVEY CROSS, NORTH BOVEY TO SANDY PARK, DREWSTEIGNTON, DEVON

Prepared for Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions on behalf of South West Water by M. J. Dyer and J. P. Salvatore with contributions by H. Quinnell, T. Gent J. Allan and C. Coles

**Exeter Archaeology** 

Report No. 11.20

Project No. 7237

June 2011

# CONTENTS

## Summary

| 1. Introduction  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.1 The pipeline route   | 1 |
| 1.2 Archaeological and historical background                             | 1 |
| 2. Methodology   | 1 |
| 3. Summary of Results  | 2 |
| 3.1 Route from Bughead Cross (SX 7342 8540) south to reservoir southwest |   |
| of Bovey Cross (SX 7418 8450)  | 2 |
| 3.2 Route from Bughead Cross (SX 7342 8540) north to fields opposite     |   |
| Sandy Park (SX 7110 8970)  | 3 |
| 4. Finds   | 6 |
| 4.1 The lithics by Tim Gent  | 6 |
| 4.2 The prehistoric pottery by Henrietta Quinnell                        | 7 |
| 4.3 The Roman pottery by John Allan                                      | 7 |
| 5. Conclusion and suggested recommendations for further study            | 8 |

Site Archive Acknowledgements Bibliography

Appendix 1 Result of Radiocarbon dating

## List of illustrations

- Fig. 1. Location of pipeline route (red)
- Fig. 2. Southern section of pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue)
- Fig. 3. Middle section of pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue)
- Fig. 4. Northern section of pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue)
- Fig. 5. Ditch 522, location, plan and section.
- Fig. 6. Pits 531 (structured deposition) and 535, location, plans and profiles
- Fig. 6a Linear feature 533, location plan and sections
- Fig. 7. Pit 575, location, plan and section.
- Fig. 8. Pits 577 and 582, location and section.
- Fig. 9. Ditches 588 and 590, location, plan and section.

## **Photographs**

- Photo. 1 Pit 531 in early stages of excavation. 0.25m scale to W.
- Photo. 2 Pit 531 under excavation. In-situ pottery sherds including inverted base sherds. 0.25m scale to N.
- Photo. 3 Pit 531 under excavation showing inverted base sherds. 0.25m scale to N.
- Photo. 4 Pit 531 under excavation. Sherds at base of pit. 0.25m scale to W.
- Photo. 5 Pit 531 and pit 535 fully excavated. 0.25m scale to W.

Photo. 6 Pit 575 part excavated. 1m scale.

#### SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the insertion of a water main pipeline from the covered reservoir south west of Bovey Cross (SX 7414 8443) in the parish of North Bovey, to Sandy Park (SX 7110 8970) in the parish of Drewsteignton, Devon. The work was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology between July and November 2010 with the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).

Worked lithics from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age were recovered with evidence of blade production along the whole pipeline route suggesting activity in the early Neolithic or Mesolithic period. Two Bronze Age pits were excavated, one of which produced evidence for structured deposition of ceramics and other artefacts and the seemingly deliberate burning of some of the pit contents. The latter is highly significant as it is the first clear example of structured deposition of ordinary domestic artefacts in Devon. A radiocarbon date of 1260-1010BC was subsequently obtained from a burnt hazel nut recovered from the pit.

A number of other features including a Roman pit and ditches of medieval or post-medieval date were also recorded during the course of the easement work whilst small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds (mostly North Devon wares) were recovered from the majority of fields investigated during initial field walking and/or during the watching brief.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides the results of a watching brief carried out by Exeter Archaeology (EA) between July and November 2010 as part of the archaeological mitigation required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA), as advised by the DNPA's Historic Environment Service (HES), on the Bovey Cross reservoir to Sandy Park Water Mains Rehabilitation scheme (SX 7418 8450 to SX 7110 8970). The work was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions on behalf of South West Water (SWW).

#### **1.1** The pipeline route (Fig. 1)

The full pipeline route extended over a total distance of approximately 8.5km from the reservoir southwest of Bovey Cross in the parish of North Bovey northwards to Turnpike Road at Whiddon Down. However, in agreement with the HES the northern section of the route from Sandy Park to Whiddon Down was not observed as the pipeline largely re-used an existing mains trench.

An archaeological assessment of the route was carried out prior to groundworks (Manning, 2010). This included examination of records held by the Devon County Council HER and records provided by DNPA, and also entailed a walkover survey of the route. Just prior to commencement of works the route was altered slightly from that previously assessed; comparison of the figures showing the route presented in this report and those found in Manning (2010) will make clear where deviations have occurred. Apart from at its very northern and southern ends the route passes through fields close or immediately adjacent to the A382 south of Whiddon Down and the B road south from Whiteabury Cross to Bovey Cross. The route crosses a number of roads and farm access tracks/lanes, and crosses the River Teign to the east of Dogmarsh Bridge. From the reservoir southwest of Bovey Cross northward as far as the fields opposite Sandy Park the route represents a completely new section of pipeline. To the north of Sandy Park the pipe largely replaces an existing main.

The works commenced at the site compound at Bughead Cross (SX 7342 8540) approximately 1.2km northwest of Bovey Cross and the watching brief thus commenced at the same point. The new pipeline passed through in excess of 40 fields with the majority of these (Fields 11-44) lying to the north of Bughead Cross whilst Fields 1-10 were located to its south.

#### 1.2 Archaeological and historical background

The assessment produced by Manning (2010) as EA Report 10.40 was referred to throughout in order to inform the watching brief exercise. The report drew particular attention to known prehistoric activity in the area of Meacombe Farm north of Bughead Cross and to field boundaries and roads of possible medieval or earlier origin. The Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 1:10560 maps and Donn's Map of Devon (1765) were also examined as part of the assessment and the new section of pipeline route was noted to pass across two historic parish boundaries; those between North Bovey and Chagford, and North Bovey and Moretonhampstead.

#### 2. METHODOLOGY

A rapid walkover survey took place of the revised sections of the route prior to commencement of works. The stripped easement was between 5-10m in width and the pipeline trench measured approximately 500mm wide. It had previously been agreed that that

the pipeline would be tunnelled under the numerous historic field boundary banks which would be encountered rather than cut through them. In the event only one hedgebank was breached and this is discussed below (see Field 23). All elements of the groundworks were monitored and features, where exposed, were investigated and recorded as appropriate within the wider easement, or excavated or part-excavated where they were likely to be destroyed as part of the pipeline trenching.

Standard EA recording procedures were employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* single context record sheets, a drawn record was compiled in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate and a photographic record was prepared in black and white film and digital (colour) format.

## 3. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The results are presented in two sections Section 3.1 Bughead Cross south to reservoir southwest of Bovey Cross (Fields 1 to 10). Section 3.2 Bughead Cross north to fields opposite Sandy Park (Fields 11 to 44).

# 3.1 Bughead Cross (SX 7342 8540) south to reservoir southwest of Bovey Cross (SX7418 8450, Fig. 2)

This section of the route is approximately 1.2km in length and crosses fields 1-10. The original route southeast of Field 4 was intended to run parallel with the course of the B road from Bughead Cross to Bovey Cross within the fields immediately to its south. The revised route tunnelled under the road from Field 4 to Field 9 and then ran parallel to the road on its northern side through Fields 9 and 10 before re-crossing the road and entering Field 6. The corridor, which varied between 8-9m wide, then followed a field boundary through Fields 6-8 to its final destination at the covered reservoir 300m southwest of Bovey Cross.

#### Field 1

The initial easement strip within the compound area in Field 1 removed material to a depth of approximately 250mm. The general sequence exposed comprised a 100mm thick deposit of turf and topsoil overlying a yellowish-brown gritty clay-silt with frequent angular stones (including fragmented granite) to a further exposed thickness of between 100-150mm; this soil may be a former ploughsoil. This field, together with Field 2 to the south and Field 11 to the north, produced a high number of prehistoric flint blades (see section 4. below).

#### Fields 2-3

No significant archaeological features or deposits.

#### Field 4 (Figs. 2 and 5)

A 3m wide ditch (522) on a NW-SE alignment was observed beneath the topsoil within the pipeline easement within Field 4. The ditch, which survived to a maximum depth of 425mm, was flat-bottomed with a steeper north-eastern side (Fig. 5). The ditch contained two fills – the lower fill (521) was a medium yellow-brown clay-silt with a maximum depth of 320mm whilst the upper fill (520) was a dark brown gritty silt with a maximum depth of 105mm. Sherds of a ?medieval coarseware were recovered from the upper fill of the ditch.

## Field 5

This field was not disturbed due to a revision of the route. The route was amended to cross and then recross the road to Bovey Cross passing through fields 9 and 10 (see below).

## Fields 6-8

No significant archaeological features or deposits.

## Fields 9 and 10

Activity in the prehistoric period was evidenced by the recovery of flint blades from Field 10 (see section 4 below). A post-medieval hedgebank ditch (not illustrated) was located within Fields 9 and 10 (502 and 511 respectively). This ditch ran parallel to the hedge flanking the northern side of the adjacent B road to Bovey Cross. The roadside boundary bank on the southern side of the road to the east of Youlden is particularly massive, perhaps due to it following the line of the parish boundary between North Bovey and Moretonhampstead (Site 7 in Manning 2010). The bank was unaffected as the pipeline was tunnelled beneath the road.

# **3.2** Bughead Cross (SX 7342 8540) north to fields opposite Sandy Park (SX 7110 8970, Figs. 2-3)

This section of route is approximately 4.9km in length and crosses through Fields 11-44. The original route south of Drewston Cross more closely followed the B road whilst the revised route dog-legged through Lower Drewston. (Fig.3).

The initial assessment had identified prehistoric archaeology in the region of Fields 18-21 including a prehistoric enclosure close to Field 20 and a standing Neolithic burial chamber in Field 21 (Sites 10 and 14 in Manning, 2010).

Fields 11-13

No significant archaeological features or deposits. Prehistoric flint blades were recovered from Fields 11, possibly part of the same activity represented by the high number of blade finds from Fields 1 and 2 (see section 4 below). Late post-medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil in Field 11.

Field 14

A post-medieval hedgebank ditch (518) was observed in this field (not illustrated).

Fields 15-20

No significant archaeological features or deposits.

The hedgebank dividing Fields 20 and 21 and which forms the medieval parish boundary between North Bovey and Chagford (Site 12 in Manning, 2010) was undisturbed as the pipeline was tunnelled beneath the bank.

Field 21 (Figs. 3 and 6 and Photos. 1-4)

Two intercutting pits (531 and 535) were exposed within the pipeline corridor in Field 21. The pits first showed as an oval area of darker soil within the surrounding subsoil; this area was just over 1m in length by 500mm wide. The northern end was darker and a small piece of prehistoric pottery was exposed on the surface.

On further investigation it became clear that the northern part of the feature represented a roughly circular pit (531) with good cut edges approximately 520mm E-W by 450mm N-S and with a maximum depth of about 250mm. The removal of the top 100mm of fill (532)

exposed a piece of worked stone, 250mm long by 200mm wide lying flat in the centre of the pit with sherds of prehistoric pottery surrounding it, including a rim sherd (with the exterior facing upwards) and an inverted base sherd (Fig. 6). Charcoal was noted around the southern edge of the pit. Upon excavation the worked stone was found to be part of a saddle quern with a convex upper surface (Photo. 1). Also visible within the top fill of the pit when first exposed was a thin broken pebble showing evidence of burning (it was later identified as a possible whetstone - see section 4.2 below). Underneath the saddle guern was a concentration of large fragments of suspected Bronze Age pottery. Rim and body sherds lay above large pieces of base, which had been placed upside down in the pit (Photo. 2). Body sherds were packed together (Photo. 2) and one body sherd had been placed upright against the west side of the pit with the interior facing inwards to match the curve of the pit (Photo. 3). The final two sherds lay at the bottom of the pit in the centre, and consisted of a piece of inverted base overlain by a body sherd with the interior facing upwards (Photo. 4). Some sherds appeared to have blackened residue on the interior faces. The arrangement of the sherds indicated that the vessel had been broken before being placed in the pit. In some cases the sherds were separated by fill. The fill also contained a number of sub-angular stones. Further finds, including burnt material, were recovered from bulk samples taken at the time of excavation (see Section 4.2.1 below).

Pit 535 was stratigraphically earlier, having been cut through by pit 531. It was the shallower of the two, was oval in shape and measured approximately 550mm in length N-S (although its full extent had been lost to the cut of 531 to the north - see Fig. 6 and Photo. 5). The pit had a maximum surviving depth of about 80mm. It was filled with a pale yellow gray claysilt which lacked the charcoal concentration characteristic of pit 531 and it contained far fewer sherds of pottery – only four in total.

A shallow linear feature (533) with a north-south orientation was recorded just to the southwest of pit 531 (Figs. 6 and 6a). The feature was 7.2m in length and 520mm wide with a depth of 100mm. It was filled with a loose, light red-brown silt (534) which contained granite fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. The feature had a flat-bottomed bowl-shaped profile (Fig. 6a) which became shallower as it curved to the east in the vicinity of pit 531. The feature may be prehistoric but if so it is uncertain whether it is contemporary with the structured deposit pit 531.

## Field 22

No significant archaeological features or deposits.

# Fields 23-24

Works within a small quarry pit at the junction between Fields 23 and 24 revealed the truncated remains of a NE-SW aligned hedgebank (553-6) in the sides the quarry. A section was drawn through the hedgebank and its presumed associated ditch (566) although a right angle for the section could not be achieved due to the relationship of the works to the hedgebank. Given this, and the disturbance caused by the quarry, the section drawing is not reproduced here but is retained in the site archive.

## Fields 25-32

No archaeological features other than two shallow undated pits (567 and 569) recorded in Field 28. No finds were recovered from these pits.

## Field 33 (Fig. 7)

At least 25 sherds of Roman pottery of the 3rd-4th centuries were recovered from a pit (575). The pit was circular with a diameter of 3.1m and a depth of about 400mm beneath the removed topsoil (Photo. 6). The pit had a bowl-shaped profile with a shallow lip around the edge. The fill of the pit was a black silty soil with a high degree of charcoal deposit although with no evidence of burning in situ. The pit was located close to a suspected prehistoric enclosure site known from aerial photographs (see Site 21 in Manning, 2010).

#### Field 34

No significant archaeological features or deposits.

#### Field 35 (Fig. 8)

Two pits (577 and 582) were exposed in Field 35. Both pits were exposed in section on the south side of the trench, pit 582 being approx. 400mm to the NW of 577. Pit 577 was 520mm wide by 210mm deep with a flat-bottomed profile. It contained two fills, a primary fill (578) of soft black silt with abundant charcoal and carbonised wood fragments and an upper fill (579) of dark grey-brown clayey silt.

Pit 582 was 410mm wide by 130mm deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It had two fills; a primary and main fill (583), identical to the primary fill of pit 578, and a shallow upper layer (584) with a depth of 10mm. Both pits were located at a considerable depth (620mm) below the present ground surface and both were sealed by a ploughsoil (580) which may be of some antiquity. It seems likely that both pits have been heavily truncated and it is possible that both could be prehistoric in origin.

#### Field 36

A short length (5.45m) of a shallow linear feature (585) was recorded in Field 36. No finds were recovered and the feature is undated. Prehistoric flint blades and blade production waste were recovered from Field 36; this represented similar activity to that seen in Fields 1-2 and 11 to the south (see section 4 below).

Fields 37-39

No significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

Field 40 (Fig. 9)

Two parallel ditches (588 and 590) were exposed. The ditches, which were on a NE-SW alignment, were both 1.5m wide with a similar surviving depth of about 320mm; the ditches were just over 2m apart. Ditch 588 was filled with a medium yellow-brown sandy silt (589) whilst ditch 590 had a similar fill (591) but with more inclusions of yellow sand from the surrounding natural subsoil. The ditches may represent the flanking ditches of a former ploughed out hedgebank possibly of late medieval or post-medieval date.

Fields 41-44 No significant archaeological features to report.

#### 4. FINDS

## 4.1 Lithics by Tim Gent

The 168 worked lithics recovered were spread relatively evenly, perhaps surprisingly so, along the length of the pipeline. Raised density levels were encountered in Fields 1 and 2, producing 20 and 17 pieces respectively, Fields 10, 11 and 12 (the latter two situated alongside Fields 1 and 2), with 15, 14 and 10 pieces recovered, and Fields 22 and 23, producing 17 and 6 respectively.

The collection is dominated by mottled grey flint. Less than 20 pieces varied notably from this predominant group, with pale grey flint and pale grey cherty flint representing the bulk of the variation, which also included a piece of pale brownish grey greensand chert. Cortex was present on 47 pieces. The number of primary flakes is relatively low, probably indicating only minimal initial reduction of raw material on site. Of the 47 pieces with cortex, at least 17 came from abraded, or pebble sources. Material from Field 11 was dominated by pale grey cherty flint from a pebble source. A pebble core in the cherty pale grey flint of the type found on the Haldon ridge was recovered from Field 3. Further cores came from Fields 2, 6, and 13.

In addition to a high incidence of abraded cortex, the assemblage from Field 11 also contained a significant number of blades, broken blades or debris from a blade production industry. Products of a blade industry were relatively common within the assemblage as a whole, with 33 identified pieces. Fields 1 and 2, located directly alongside Field 11, produced 8 and 9 blade-like pieces whilst 5 came from Field 10 nearby. Blades or blade production waste are also common from Field 36, one blade being retouched along a single edged. Although the proximal end is not removed, as is common in Mesolithic industries when producing microliths, this retouched piece may date from early in this period. Field 36 also produced a flake core with abraded cortex. A blade core trimming flake was recovered from Field 16

Thirty pieces from the assemblage as a whole have been burnt. Accompanying the numerous blades, a total of 4 burnt pieces were recovered from Field 1, another 5 from Field 2 and a further example from Field 3. Further concentrations were encountered in Field 21 and 22, with 11 burnt flints recovered, one a burnt core.

In addition to the retouched blade from Field 36, a further 17 pieces from the full collection had been modified, eight of these probably resulting from use. A broken flint hammer-stone accompanied a retouched burnt blade and a rough scraper from amongst the high proportion of blades and burnt material from Fields 1, 2 and 3. A tiny end scraper was recovered from Field 41. Further scrapers came from Field 16 - on the end of broad broken blade segment and Field 10 - a steep end scraper. A poor thumbnail type and a fine composite knife/scraper, with retouch on all edges came from amongst the 10 pieces of worked flint from Field 12.

As might be expected of an assemblage collected over such an area, the flints appear to represent industries from a broad temporal range, with material from the general Neolithic period and Bronze Age fully represented. The high densities of blades along the whole pipe route suggests activity in the early Neolithic or Mesolithic period, with densities of activity suggested around Fields 1, 2 and 10, Field 11 and Field 36 some way to the north. The scraper from Field 16, produced by retouching one end of a broad broken blade segment, is very similar to blade segment implements of a proposed Mesolithic date recovered elsewhere along this edge of the moor (Greig and Rankine 1953).

# 4.2 Prehistoric pottery and other finds from pit 531 by Henrietta Quinnell

The most significant finds were those from the fill (532) of pit 531 in Field 21. The pottery comes from, probably, three vessels. Most sherds represent perhaps 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a large straight-sided vessel, undecorated except for plain lugs. There is considerable difference in the oxidisation of the sherds, causing unusual colours. This difference is almost certainly caused by refiring, deliberate or otherwise, of sherds after breakage. The principal vessel represents a plain example of Trevisker ceramics, the main ceramic style in Devon and Cornwall through the 2nd millennium BC. Two other vessels are represented: one has a similar straight side and plain rim, the other has a body sherd suggesting a curved sided vessel. The fabrics of all three vessels are different; only the single sherd vessel is made from granitic clay.

There are two stone artefacts. One is a broken large saddle quern, possibly deliberately broken, and also burnt. This would be entirely at home in Middle Bronze Age assemblages. However contexts with Early Bronze Age stonework are rare, sites of this date being at present almost entirely concerned with ritual and burial. If the pit does date to the Early Bronze Age the quern would be a unique find from this period from Devon. The second stone artefact is a fire-shattered beach or river cobble that can be seen to have a facet appropriate to whetstone use. Both stone artefacts were found in the top of the pit.

The pottery lies under the stonework. This does not appear to have been thrown at random in the pit but shows evidence for deliberate placement of sherds, so-called structured deposition. Thus a number of base sherds are placed on edge around the pit with the under base side inward and the wall-stubs outwards. The two lowest sherds were a wall sherd with the interior facing upwards over an-up-side-down base sherd. It is possible that the colour difference caused by refiring shows a degree of patterning in deposition. It is noteworthy that the sherds were separated by soil and charcoal infill, not all dumped in together.

# **4.2.1** Prehistoric pottery and other finds from pit 531 (recovered from bulk samples) by C. Coles

Further pieces of Bronze Age pottery, similar to the larger pieces of the main vessel (see above) were retrieved from pit 531 were recovered from the fill (532). In addition, there were approximately 20-30 small pieces of burnt stone, one piece of burnt worked flint flake, eight very small pieces of burnt bone, 20 small pieces of burnt clay (some of which had the appearance of slag) and many unidentified tiny burnt metallic fragments. The burnt clay and metallic fragments were examined by an XRF spectrometer. This showed that the burnt clay material contained a lot more iron than is typical, the most likely cause of which was iron-rich stones in the clay. The presence of ash demonstrated that an organic material had been burnt at the same time as the clay; a reaction between the two caused the slag-like appearance some of which was magnetic (Paynter, pers. comm.).The suspected metal fragments were found also to be burnt clay magnetised by the iron minerals present Traces of copper and arsenic were also detected which might suggest the presence of a corroded copper alloy artefact although none was recovered during excavation.

Recovery of the burnt fragments of a least two hazel nut shells allowed a C14 determination to be made which returned a date of Cal. 1260-1010B.C. (see Appendix 1).

#### 4.3 Roman pottery by John Allan

At least 25 sherds of Roman pottery of the 3rd-4th centuries were recovered from the fill (576) of pit 575 in Field 33. The sherds included one rim piece of a South Devon ware flanged bowl which is likely to date to the end of the 3rd century or early 4th century.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The structured deposition of the artefacts found and recorded in pit 531 is strongly reminiscent of patterning found in deposits structured over the infill of Middle Bronze Age houses in Cornwall such as Trethellan or Boden. It has not so far been noted in Devon although, in retrospect, a number of pits with Middle Bronze Age pottery may have had elements of arrangement in their finds which was not noticed at the time. If, as seems probable, the pit belongs to the Middle Bronze Age (a C14 date of 1260-1010BC was later obtained), it belongs to a period after barrow use, in which various patterns of ritual activity were incorporated into domestic contexts. The pit is highly significant as the first clear example of structured deposition of ordinary domestic artefacts in Devon.

It is recommended that the principal vessel of the structured deposition be drawn, and also the saddle quern. A photograph should be published of the other, very broken, stone artefact. The petrology of all three vessels requires examination. Recent studies of Trevisker ceramics in Devon have demonstrated that the clays and the filler or temper used might travel long distances and come from different places. The two principal vessels certainly have clays mixed with rock inclusions. It is possible that the clays are gabbroic, from Cornwall, as demonstrated in some instances in recent analysis of ceramics from a hut circle at Teigncombe on Dartmoor and at Plymstock Quarry near Plymouth. In addition, the material recovered from the dry sieving of bulk samples from the fill of 531 perhaps warrants further study, in particular the evidence for burning deriving from the presence of burnt clay and burnt organic material, the copper traces also require explanation.

The Roman pit of 3rd-4th century date was an unexpected discovery although a Roman coin hoard of late 2nd to early 3rd century date was located on farmland at Whiddon Down, only a few kilometres north of Field 33, was reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in 2008 (Ghey, Moorhead and Abdy, 2008). The dispersed hoard comprised 205 copper alloy coins and three *denarii*; the latest identifiable coin of the hoard was a *sestertius* of Septimius Severus (A.D. 193-211). A Roman presence in the area, at least from the later Roman period, appears therefore to be attested by these two discoveries.

#### SITE ARCHIVE

The site records, which include recorded information on post-medieval and modern features of limited archaeological significance, have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Exeter Archaeology's offices under project number 7237, pending deposition at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum under Accession number (133/2010). A report of the project (including a Pdf version of this document) has been submitted to the on-line database OASIS (exeterar1-90688).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was administered by Jean-Paul Staniforth for Balfour Beatty, Jenny Thorne for SWW Ltd. and by Tim Gent for Exeter Archaeology. The project requirements were provided by Andy Crabb of the DNPA. The fieldwork was carried out by Martin Dyer, Andrew Passmore and Gary Young of EA and compilation of the report was carried out by Martin Dyer and John Salvatore. Henrietta Quinnell provided comment on the prehistoric pottery and Tim Gent provided comment on the lithics. Sarah Paynter of English Heritage kindly provided comment on the burnt clay from pit 531. Danielle Wotton, the Finds Liaison

Officer for Devon provided information on the Roman coin hoard at Whiddon Down. Sarnia Blackmore prepared the illustrations and photographs for the report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Unpublished

Ghey, E. Moorhead, S. and Abdy, R., 2008 British Museum coin report on hoard at Whiddon Down, Devon (BM Ref. 2008T168).

# Published

Greig, O. and Rankine, W.F. 1953 A Stone Age settlement system near East Week, Dartmoor: Mesolithic and post-Mesolithic industries. *Proceedings of the Devon* 

Manning, P. 2010 Archaeological Assessment of a proposed SWW pipeline from Bovey Cross to Whiddon Down. Exeter Archaeology Report **10.40**.

Archaeological Exploration Society V, part 1, 8-26.

# APPENDIX 1 RESULT OF RADIOCARBON DATING

## **RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE**

| Laboratory Code<br>Submitter       | SUERC-33382 (GU-23385)<br>Charlotte Coles<br>Exeter Archaeology<br>Custom House<br>The Quay<br>Exeter<br>Devon EX2 4AN |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Site Reference                     | Bovey Cross Pipeline   |
| <b>Context Reference</b>           | 532  |
| Sample Reference                   | 300  |
| Material                           | Charcoal: Corylus spp (burnt hazel nut)  |
| d <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB | -24.3 ‰  |

 $2920\pm30$ 

# Radiocarbon Age BP

- **N.B.** 1. The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
  - 2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
  - 3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :-

Date :-

Date :-

Checked and signed off by :-

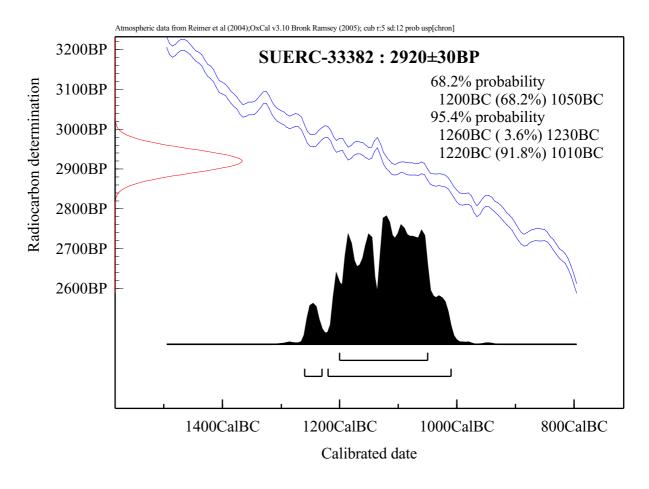


The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401



The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336

# **Calibration Plot**



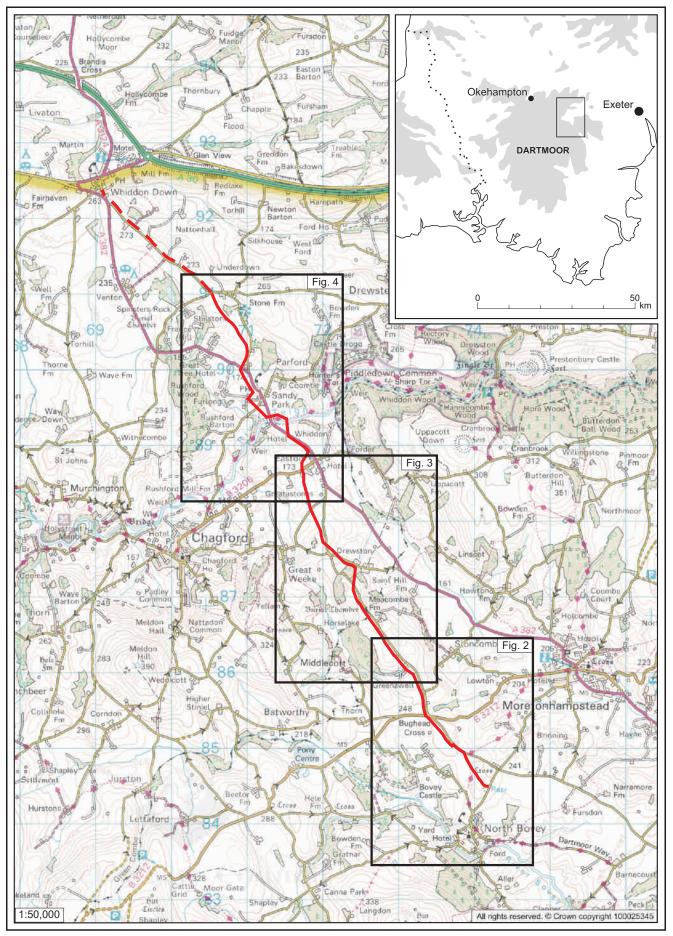


Fig. 1 Location of pipeline route (red).

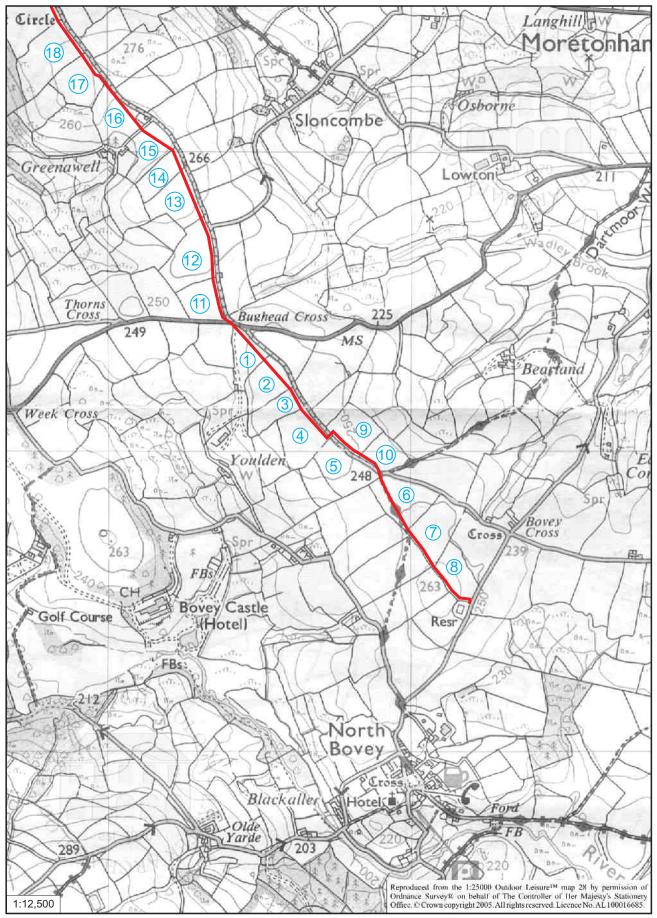


Fig. 2 Southern section of Pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue).

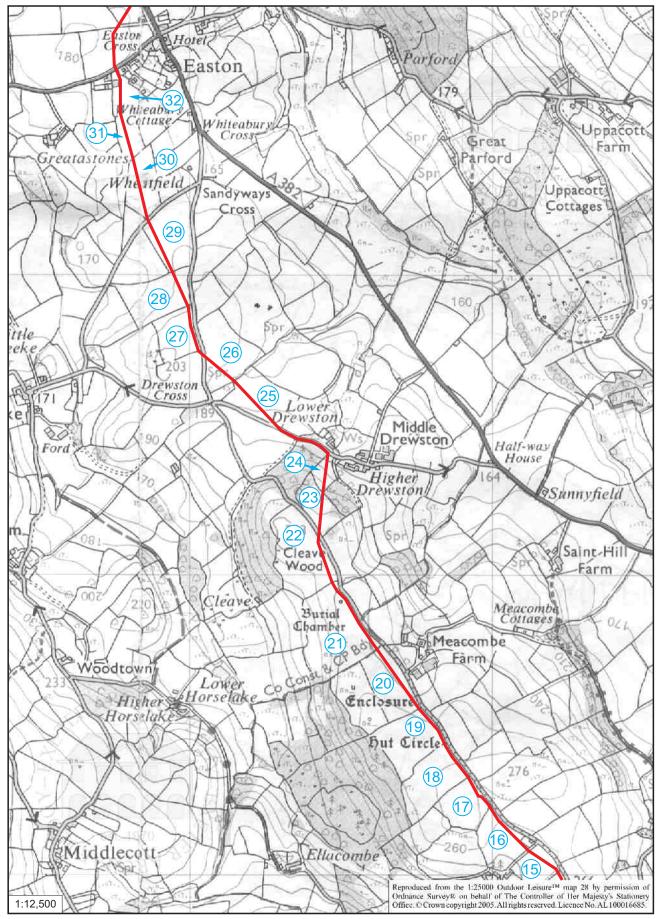


Fig. 3 Middle section of Pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue).

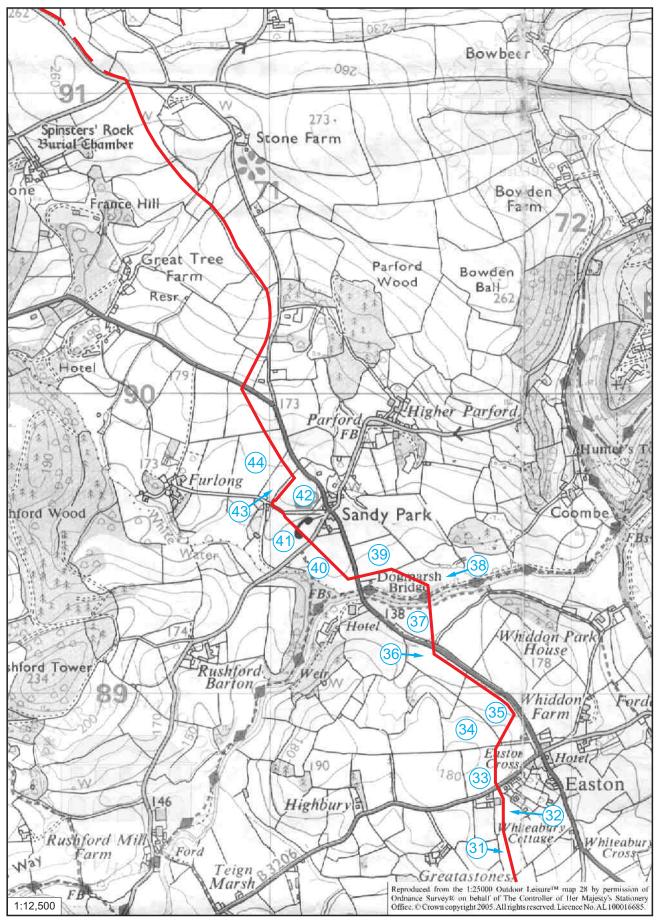


Fig. 4 Northern section of Pipeline route observed (red): numbered fields (blue).

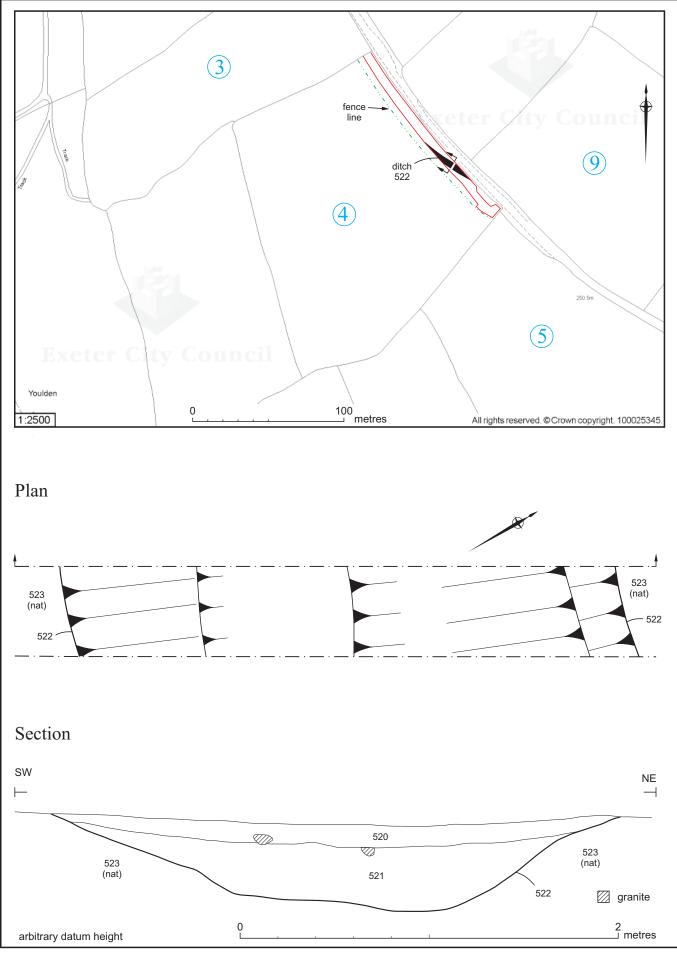


Fig. 5 Ditch 522: location, plan and section.

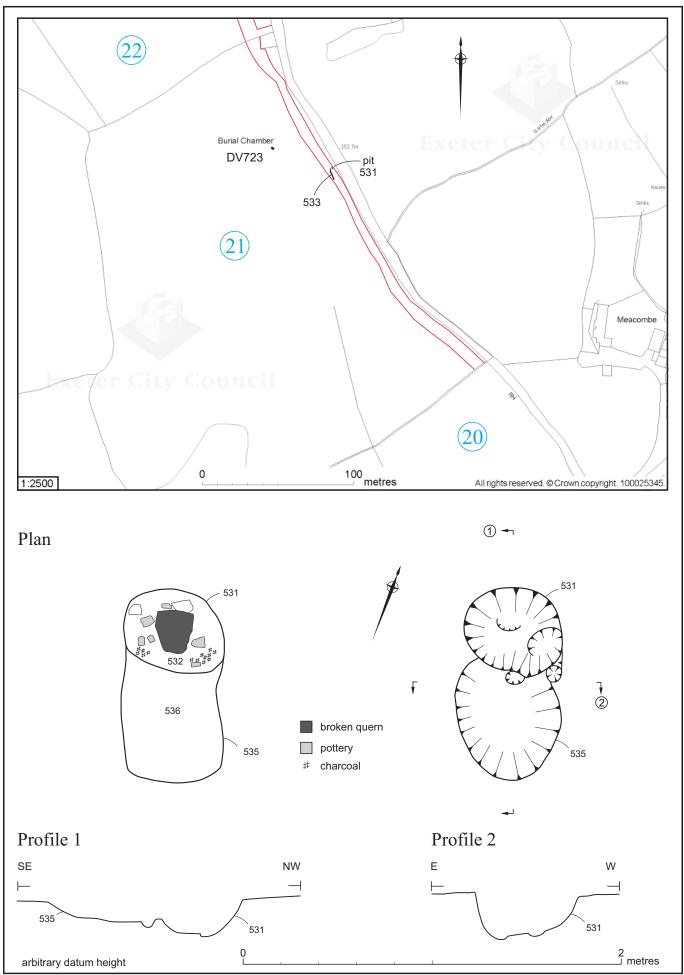


Fig. 6 Pits 531 (structured deposition) and 535: location, plans and sections.

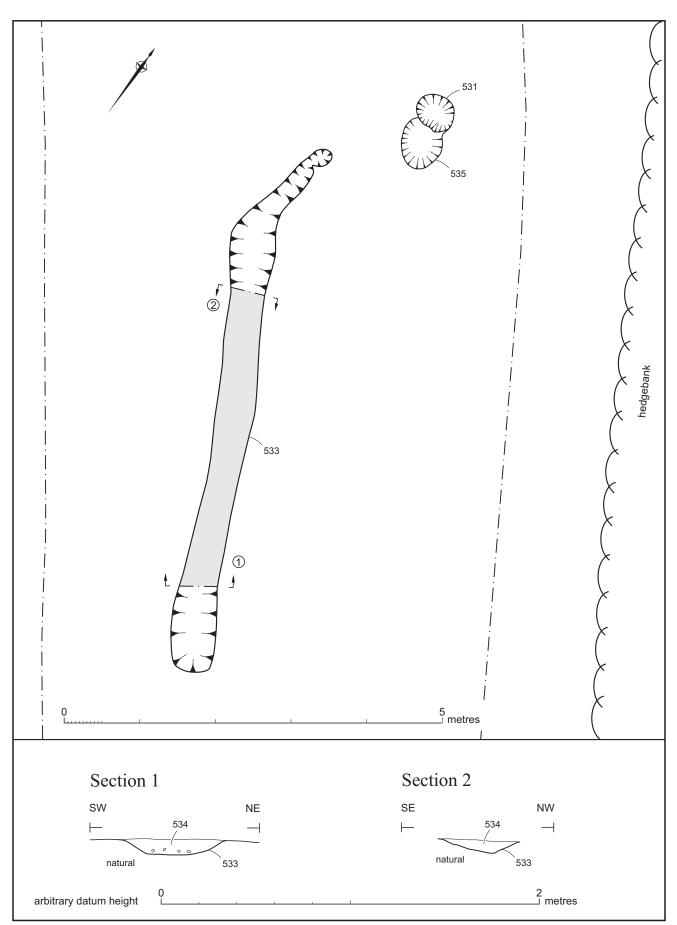


Fig. 6a Linear feature 533: location, plan and section.

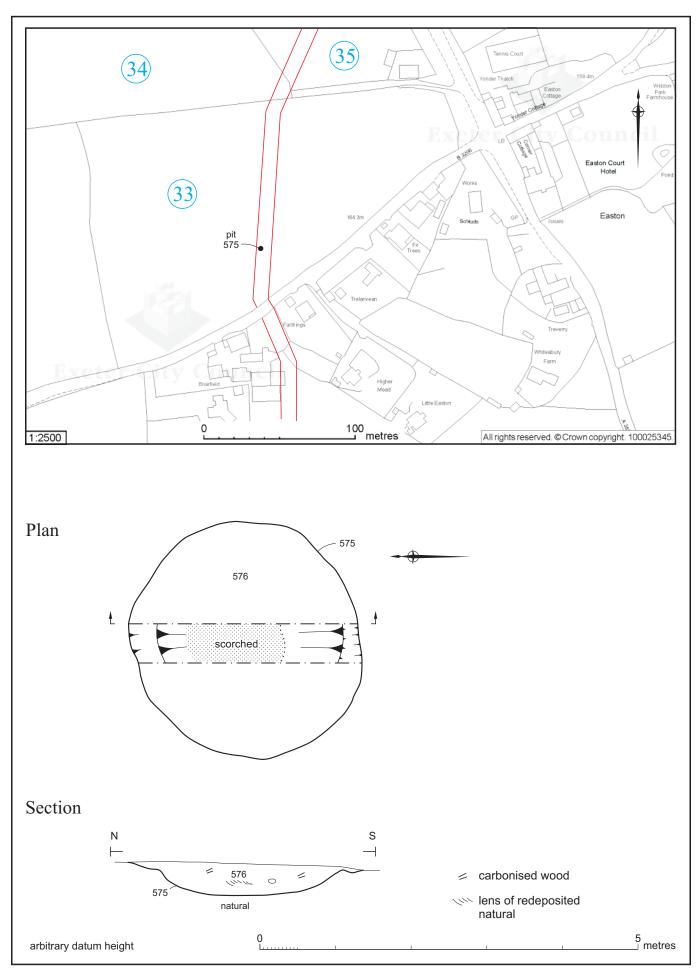


Fig. 7 Pit 575: location, plan and section.

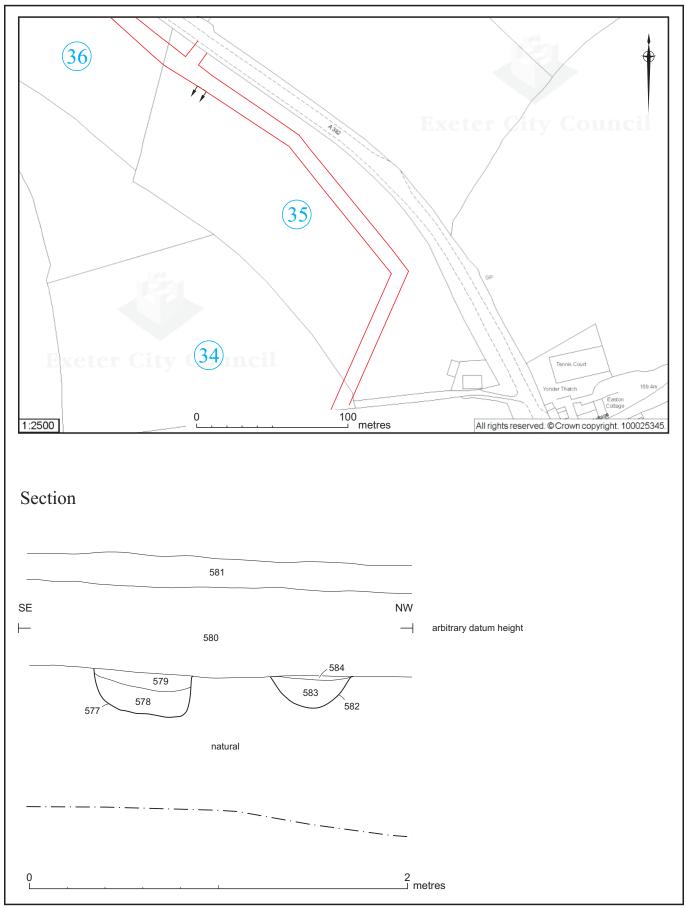


Fig. 8 Pits 577 and 582: location and section.

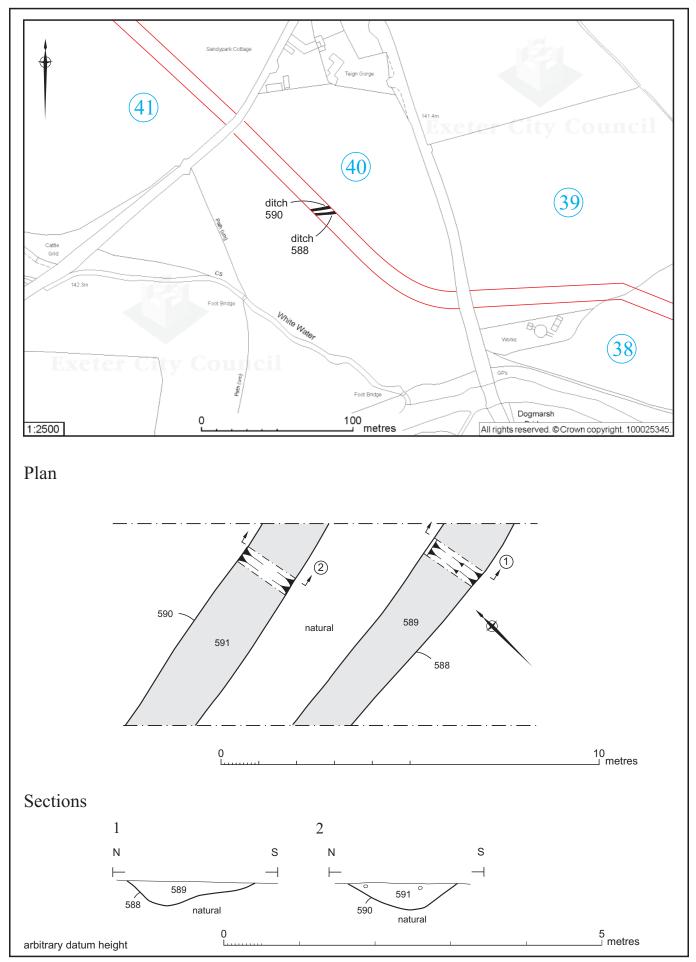


Fig. 9 Ditches 588 and 590: location, plan and section.



Photo 1 Pit 531 in early stages of excavation. 0.25m scale to west.



Photo 2 Pit 531 under excavation. *In-situ* pottery sherds including inverted base sherds. 0.25m scale to north.



Photo 3 Pit 531 under excavation showing inverted base sherds. 0.25m scale to north.



Photo 4 Pit 531 under excavation. Sherds at base of pit. 0.25m scale to west.



Photo 5  $\,$  Pit 531 and 535 fully excavated. 0.25m scale to west.



Photo 6 Pit 575 part excavated. 1m scale.