

LAND BETWEEN HAREPATH ROAD AND COLYFORD ROAD, SEATON, DEVON

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation
(CENTRED ON SY 2475 9173)

Prepared by
Richard Sims and
John Valentin

On behalf of
Mr David Cutler

Document No: ACD548/1/0

Date: September 2012



AC archaeology

LAND BETWEEN HAREPATH ROAD AND COLYFORD ROAD, SEATON, DEVON

(CENTRED ON SY 2475 9173)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

CONTENTS

Summary

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	The finds	7
7.	Discussion	11
8.	Conclusions	12
9.	Archive and OASIS	12
10.	Acknowledgements	12
11.	Sources consulted	13

List of figures

Fig. 1: Location of site

Fig. 2: Trench locations in relation to geophysical survey results

Fig. 3: Plans and sections, Trenches 2 and 3

Fig. 4: Plans and sections, Trenches 3 and 4

Fig. 5: Plans and sections, Trenches 6 and 7

Fig. 6: Plans and sections, Trenches 8 and 9

List of plates

Plate 1: General view of site, looking north towards Trenches 7 and 6

Plate 2: Trench 3, linear features F303, F304 and F305, looking to north

Plate 3: Trench 3, postholes F313, F315 and F317, looking to southwest

Plate 4: Trench 4, linear feature F403, looking to northwest

Plate 5: Trench 6, linear features F603 and F606, looking to northeast

Plate 6: Trench 7, section through occupation layers and sealed features, looking to west

Appendix 1: ACD548 Tabulated context descriptions by trench

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology in September 2012 on land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon (NGR SY 2475 9173). The work was undertaken in support of a planning application for mixed use development.

The site is located within agricultural fields on the northern outskirts of Seaton, occupying an area of approximately nine hectares. An earlier geophysical survey had identified generally limited potential across much of the site, but adjacent to Colyford Road a possible settlement enclosure and high contrast anomalies were recorded. A total of nine trenches was excavated, positioned to target anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. These identified a probable Romano-British enclosure, as well as three occupation spreads of the same date containing burnt material and iron working debris. Pits and postholes indicate the presence of a building or structure.

There was also evidence for archaeological activity of other periods, including features containing Late Bronze Age pottery and probable former field boundaries of medieval date.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology in September 2012 on land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon (NGR SY 2475 9173). The work was commissioned by Atkins Ltd on behalf of Mr David Cutler and was undertaken in support of a planning application for mixed use development. The evaluation was commissioned following consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (hereafter DCHES).
- 1.2 The overall proposed development site is located within agricultural fields on the northern outskirts of Seaton (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). It occupies an area of approximately nine hectares, with the underlying solid geology comprising Upper Keuper Marl.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site occupies an elevated position on the north side of Seaton, in an area where there is extensive evidence for late prehistoric and Romano-British occupation. The northern boundary is alongside a section of the probable course of the Fosse Way Roman road and an Iron Age settlement and possible Roman villa or mansio complex is located c. 800m to the southwest. An archaeological evaluation on the west side of Harepath Road (Robinson and Valentin 2008) established that archaeological features are present across large parts of the site, mainly comprising a network of ditches and gullies of varying size, profile and orientation. Other features recorded include a 7m diameter, probably prehistoric, ring ditch and associated features towards the centre of the site, a large possibly modern pit at the southern end and a spread/deposit in the SW corner, which contained a large quantity of worked flint and chert, including diagnostically prehistoric material alongside post-medieval gunflint.
- 2.2 A geophysical survey (Dean 2012) located a number of anomalies within the site, mainly concentrated on the eastern side adjacent to Colyford Road. In this area a potential prehistoric enclosure and possible areas of *in situ* burning were identified. Elsewhere on the site mainly linear anomalies were identified, which were thought to mainly relate to medieval and post medieval land division and drainage.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The principal aim of the trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of archaeological features or deposits within the site. This was to be achieved via the targeting of potential archaeological anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The results of the evaluation (this document) will be reviewed by East Devon District Council and may be used to inform a subsequent programme of archaeological investigation and recording within the site.

4. METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of nine trenches, each 2m wide and totalling 180m in length. The trenches were targeted to locate and characterise a number of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, all on the eastern side of the site.
- 4.2 Turf and ploughsoil were removed using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the direct supervision of the site archaeologist. Excavation continued until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was reached, at which point machining ceased and areas of archaeological survival were cleaned and investigated by hand.
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using the standard AC archaeology recording system, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (updated August 2012). Stratigraphic information was recorded using *pro-forma* context record sheets. Detailed plan and section drawings were produced at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, while a photographic record was compiled in high-resolution digital format. All site levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

The general layer sequence observed across the site comprised between 0.20-0.25m of ploughsoil over between 0.10-0.30m of subsoil onto mixed clay and gravel natural subsoil. Archaeological features were present within Trenches 2-4 and 6-9 and are discussed below. All trenches are summarised in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figs 3-6 and photographs as Plates 1-6.

5.2 Trench 2 (Plan Fig. 3a, section 3b)

This trench was northeast-southwest aligned within gently north sloping ground and was positioned to target a single northwest-southeast geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.48m below ground surface onto a natural subsoil of mid yellow-brown clay and gravels (202). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of mid brown clay silt ploughsoil (200), over 0.28m of mid brown silt clay subsoil (201). Two unexcavated features were present, comprising a probable posthole (203) and probable ditch (204). An occupation layer (205) was also recorded.

Posthole 203 was sub-circular in shape and measured 0.20m long by 0.08m wide. It contained a dark grey brown soft clay silt fill with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones.

Linear feature 204 was positively identified from the geophysical survey. It was northwest-southeast aligned, measured 0.43m wide and contained a dark brown soft clay silt fill with frequent medium-large sub-angular stones. Eight sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the exposed surface of this feature.

Probable occupation layer 205 was exposed to a length of 7m towards the southwest extent of the trench and was overlain by subsoil layer (201). It comprised a dark greyish-brown soft clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. Finds recovered from the exposed surface of this features include Romano-British pottery, iron slag, ceramic building material and prehistoric worked flint.

5.3 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 3c, sections Fig. 3b & 4a-c; Plates 2-3)

This trench was northeast-southwest aligned within gently north sloping ground and was positioned to target a single northwest-southeast aligned geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (302) of light yellow-brown and light yellowish-grey soft sand clay. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of mid brown clay silt ploughsoil (300), over 0.30m of mid yellow-brown clay silt subsoil (301). A number of archaeological features/deposits was recorded, including nine postholes (F313, F315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322 & 323), three linear ditches (F303, F304 & F305) and an occupation layer (311).

Postholes

The postholes were located within the southwest half of the trench. Of the nine postholes recorded, a total of three was investigated (F313, F315 & F317). F313 was oval in shape and measured 0.70m long by 0.60m wide by 0.24m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single dark brownish-grey sandy clay silt fill (312) with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.

F315 was oval in shape and measured 0.50m long by 0.30m wide by 0.30m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single mid yellow-brown silt sand fill (314) with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones.

F317 was circular-oval in shape and measured 0.40m wide, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single dark brown grey sand clay silt fill (316) with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. F317 truncated both F313 and F315 to the north and south, respectively. No finds were recovered from the excavated postholes.

The remaining unexcavated postholes (318, 319, 320, 321, 322 & 323) were generally circular or oval in plan with variable dimensions up to 0.70m. The majority of exposed fills comprised dark greyish-brown clay silts, with moderate sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. F318 was sub-oval in shape, measured 0.40m long by 0.25m wide and contained a dark grey brown clay silt fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. No finds were recovered from the exposed surfaces of the unexcavated postholes.

Linear features F303, F304 & F305

F303 was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 1.40m wide by 0.37m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a sequence of two fills. Basal fill (309) comprised naturally weathered light yellowish-grey sandy clay silt with frequent pea grit and occasional small-medium sub-angular stones. This was overlain with possible occupation backfill material (306) consisting of dark grey sand silt with common small-medium sub-angular stones and rare-occasional charcoal. Finds recovered include small quantities of Romano-British pottery, iron slag, ceramic building material and prehistoric worked flint.

F304 was similarly northwest-southeast aligned and lying adjacent to the northeast side of F303. It measured 1.08m wide by 0.47m deep and had gentle-moderate sloping sides and a gently concave base. It contained possible occupation backfill material (307) comprising dark brownish-grey clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare-occasional charcoal. Finds recovered comprised a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

Both linear features were positively identified as a single anomaly from the geophysical survey.

Linear feature F305 was north-south aligned and was clearly cut into both F303 and F304. It measured 1.75m wide by 0.45m deep and had moderate sloping sides and a gently concave base. It contained a single naturally silted fill of mid brown clay silt (308) with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones. Finds recovered comprise small quantities of prehistoric worked flint, as well as Romano-British and medieval pottery.

Occupation layer 311

This layer was present within the southwest extent of the trench and within the northwest facing section. It comprised a spread of probable occupation material of a maximum depth of 0.30m and consisted of mid to dark brown grey clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare-occasional charcoal. No finds were recovered.

5.4 Trench 4 (Plan Fig. 4d, sections 4e-f; Plate 4)

This trench was east-west aligned within level ground and was positioned to target a single approximately north-south aligned geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m onto natural subsoil (402) of light-mid orange and light yellow-brown silt clay, containing patches of abundant small-large sub-angular stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid brown clay silt ploughsoil (400) over 0.20m of light brown clay silt subsoil (401). Two linear features (F403 & F407) were present.

F403 was north-south aligned, measured 2.80m wide by 0.50m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a series of three fills. Basal fill (406), resulting from primary weathering, comprised mottled light greyish-brown and light yellow-brown silt clay, with frequent pea-grit and small sub-angular stones. This was overlain by secondary silting (405), consisting of light greyish-brown sandy clay silt with moderate small sub-angular stones. The uppermost fill (404), consisted of occupation backfill material of dark grey clay silt, with common charcoal flecks and moderate small-medium sub-angular stones. Finds recovered comprise small quantities of prehistoric worked flint, as well as Romano-British and medieval pottery. The ditch was positively identified from the geophysical survey.

F407 was north-south aligned, measured 0.85m wide by 0.33m deep and had moderate sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single mid greyish-brown silt clay naturally silted fill (408) with common small-medium sub-angular stones. Finds recovered comprise two pieces of prehistoric worked flint.

5.5 Trench 6 (Plan Fig. 5a, section 5b; Plate 5)

This trench was northwest-southeast aligned, along the crest of very gentle south sloping ground and was positioned to target a single northeast-southwest aligned geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below ground level onto natural subsoil (602), comprising light orange-brown sand with patches of frequent small-large sub-angular stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid greyish-brown clay silt ploughsoil (600) over 0.15m of light-mid grey brown clay silt subsoil (601). Two linear features (F603 & F606) and an occupation layer (608) were recorded.

Linear features F603 & F606

F603 was northeast-southwest aligned and measured 1.50m wide by 0.90m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides forming a narrow, concave base. It contained two fills, with the basal fill (605) formed from primary weathering, and comprising a mid greyish-brown clay silt with frequent-common small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones. This was overlain by (604), a mid greyish brown silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones. Finds recovered comprised prehistoric worked flint and

small quantities of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery. The ditch was positively identified from the geophysical survey.

F606 was northeast-southwest aligned and was located to the northwest of F603. The feature measured 1.05m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides and an uneven base. It contained a single mid grey brown silt clay fill (607) with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones. Finds recovered comprised small quantities of prehistoric worked flint. No relationship between the two ditches could be established.

Occupation layer 608

This layer was located within the southeast extent of the trench for a total length of 3m. It comprised a dark greyish-brown clay silt with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal and was present below subsoil layer (601). This layer continued into Trench 7 to the southeast as layer (703). No finds were recovered from the exposed surface.

5.6 Trench 7 (Plan Fig. 5c, section 7d; Plate 6)

This trench was northeast-southwest aligned within very gentle south sloping ground and was positioned to target an area of high magnetic contrast interpreted as a multi-linear anomaly or area of industrial activity. The trench was cut through 0.24m of mid greyish brown clay silt ploughsoil (700), over 0.20m of mid brown grey clay silt subsoil (701) onto the top of archaeological layer 703, present at a depth of 0.44m below ground level. A hand-excavated slot, which measured 3.75m long by 1m wide and positioned centrally within the trench, was excavated through 703 onto natural subsoil (702) of mid orange clay with common small-medium sub-angular stones, present at a depth of 0.84m below ground level. Excavation of the sondage exposed archaeological stratigraphy, including two occupation layers (703 and (704), a buried soil layer (705), along with four phases of ditch construction (F706, F708, F710 & F713).

Occupation layer 703

This layer was sealed by subsoil (701) and comprised a mid grey/black clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks. Finds recovered comprised iron objects, worked and burnt flint, as well as Romano-British and medieval pottery. This secondary occupation layer measured 0.06m in depth and overlay linear feature F706.

Linear feature F706

This feature was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 0.82m wide by 0.30m deep, with steep sloping sides forming a concave base. It contained a single mixed dark grey sandy clay backfill (707) with moderate small-large sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and occasional fired clay. Finds recovered comprised worked and burnt flint and Romano-British pottery. This ditch was cut through primary occupation layer (704).

Occupation layer 704

This layer comprised a mid yellow-grey sandy silt clay, with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks. This layer measured 0.08m in depth and sealed both linear features F708 and F713. Finds recovered comprised worked and burnt flint, as well as prehistoric and Romano-British pottery.

Linear feature F708

This ditch was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 0.80m wide by 0.52m deep, with steep sloping sides forming a shallow concave base. It contained a single mid grey silt clay fill (709), with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. This ditch is a recut of larger ditch F710 to the southwest (see below) and much of the material constituting fill (709) most likely derives from deposits and possible bank material associated with this ditch. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature F713

This ditch was east-west aligned and measured 0.91m wide by 0.38m deep, with moderate sloping sides forming a concave base. It contained a lower fill of light yellowish-grey silt clay fill (714) with rare small sub-angular stones, likely forming from primary silting and weathering. The upper fill was a mid brownish-grey silt clay (715). Finds recovered include prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, worked and burnt flint and fired clay.

Linear feature F710

This ditch was cut along its northeast edge by later ditch re-cut F708. It was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 1.87m wide by 0.68m deep, with steep sloping sides and a wide, concave base. It contained a single fill of mid yellow brown silt clay (712) with common-abundant small-large sub-angular stones likely derived from the erosion of associated bank material. No finds were recovered.

Both ditch features F710 and F713 were cut into buried soil horizon (705).

Buried soil horizon (705)

This layer comprised a mid grey yellow sand clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones. It was 0.28m deep and overlay natural subsoil (702). No finds were recovered.

5.7 Trench 8 (Plan Fig. 6a, section 6b)

This trench was east-west aligned within very gentle south sloping ground and was positioned to target a single north-south aligned linear geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.80m below ground level onto natural subsoil (805), comprising light orange-brown sand with patches of frequent small-large sub-angular stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.26m of mid grey brown clay silt ploughsoil (800), over 0.21m of mid brown grey clay silt subsoil (801) with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones. This overlay two buried soil horizons including 802, which measured 0.23m in depth and comprised a mid grey silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones. Below this, layer 803 measured 0.10m in depth and comprised a mid brown yellow silt clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones. A total of three unexcavated features was recorded, including two possible postholes (806 and F807) and a linear feature (804).

Postholes 806 & 807

Possible posthole 806 was partially exposed with a sub-circular shape and measured 0.77m wide. It contained a mid-dark grey/black fill with charcoal. Posthole 807 was sub-oval in shape and measured 0.40m long by 0.30m wide. It contained a mid grey brown silt clay fill. No finds were recovered from the exposed surfaces.

Linear feature 804

This feature was northwest-southeast aligned and was 1.50m wide. It contained a mid yellow-brown silt clay fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered. This feature is likely to represent the linear anomaly identified from the geophysical survey.

5.8 Trench 9 (Plan Fig. 6c, section 6d)

This trench was approximately north-south aligned within very gentle south sloping ground and was positioned to target a single east-west linear geophysical anomaly. It was excavated to a depth of 0.56m below ground level onto natural subsoil (902), comprising a mottled mid yellow-brown and mid greyish-brown sand silt with abundant small-medium sub-angular stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.22m of mid brown clay silt ploughsoil (900), over 0.22m of light-mid brown clay silt subsoil (901), which was above 0.09m of light yellow/greyish-brown silt clay weathered natural subsoil (905). A single linear feature (F903) was recorded.

Linear feature F903

This feature was approximately east-west aligned and measured 1.30m wide by 0.33m deep, with initial gentle sloping sides breaking to moderate sloping sides forming a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted mid red brown silt clay fill (904) with occasional-moderate small-medium sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered. The ditch was positively identified as the linear anomaly from the geophysical survey.

6. THE FINDS

By Naomi Payne, with a contribution from Henrietta Quinnell

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds were then quantified according to material type within each context and scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is discussed below. The relative quantities of finds by material type are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Finds summary part 1 (weights in grams; CBM = Ceramic Building Material)

Context	Context description	Fe (Iron)		Slag		Burnt flint/chert		Worked flint/chert		Glass		CBM	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
000	General ploughsoil within field							27	374				
100	Trench 1 ploughsoil							11	255				
200	Trench 2 ploughsoil							19	331				
201	Subsoil							2	27				
205	Surface finds from unexcavated layer			1	4			2	10			4	434
300	Trench 3 ploughsoil							6	125				
306	Upper fill of ditch F303			3	104			3	104			1	63
308	Fill of ditch F305							4	26				
400	Trench 4 ploughsoil							33	814				
404	Upper fill of ditch F403							1	5				
408	Single fill of ditch F408							2	9				
600	Trench 6 ploughsoil							20	333				
604	Upper fill of ditch F603							10	74				
605	Lower fill of ditch F603							12	89				
607	Single fill of ditch F606							2	9				
700	Trench 7 ploughsoil							22	495				
701	Subsoil			2	157	2	87	19	155				
703	Occupation layer	2	68			4	183	4	32			1	6
704	Primary occupation layer					15	244	19	210				
707	Single fill of ditch F706					1	22	1	10				
714	Lower fill of ditch F713							4	26				
715	Upper fill of ditch F713					3	47	5	26				
800	Trench 8 ploughsoil							9	520				
900	Trench 9 ploughsoil					1	24	71	946	2	28		
TOTALS		2	68	6	265	26	607	308	5005	2	28	6	503

Table 2. Finds summary part 2 (weights in grams)

Context	Context description	Fired/burnt clay		Prehistoric pottery		Romano-British pottery		Medieval pottery		Post med/modern pottery	
		No.	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
204	Surface finds from unexcavated linear					8	62				
205	Surface finds from unexcavated layer					2	12				
306	Upper fill of ditch F303					3	33				
307	Fill of ditch F304					1	8				
308	Fill of ditch F305					2	32	2	11		
404	Uppermost fill of ditch F403	2	8			10	66	2	4		
605	Lower fill of ditch F603			1	8	1	2				
700	Trench 7 ploughsoil					1	87				
701	Subsoil					5	33	2	3		
703	Occupation layer					10	44	1	3		
704	Occupation layer			3	2	1	3				
707	Single fill of ditch F706					7	150				
714	Lower fill of ditch F713					1	5				
715	Upper fill of ditch F713	1	2	12	140						
900	Trench 9 ploughsoil									1	6
	TOTALS	3	12	16	150	52	537	7	21	1	6

6.2 Iron objects

Two iron objects (68g) were recovered from context 703, an occupation layer within Trench 7. Special Find 1 is a diamond-shaped drill bit or possibly a small auger. This is a rod 110mm in length with one expanded and flattened end and a circular sectioned shaft. The shaft is broken and there are no remains of a tang or lanceolate/pyramidal head. This object is not closely datable typologically and could potentially date from the Roman period right through to recent times. Both Roman and medieval pottery were recovered from context 703. Special Find 2 is a slightly curving iron rod, 150mm in length, with a circular section. A section about 30mm in length is expanded towards one end and the rod ranges in diameter from 8mm-15mm. It is difficult to discern the form of the expanded section and whether it reflects the object's original form or simply differing corrosion.

6.3 Slag

A total of six pieces of slag (265g) was recovered from Trenches 2, 3 and 7. Four pieces of undiagnostic iron-working slag came from contexts 205 (surface finds from unexcavated occupation layer), 701 (Trench 7 subsoil) and 306 (upper fill of ditch F303). From the latter context there is also a piece of furnace/hearth lining which has fuel ash slag adhering to one side and a piece of smithing pan. The latter is diagnostic of iron smithing and is usually formed from hammerscale which has fallen on the floor of the smithy and then been trampled.

6.4 Burnt flint/chert

A total of 26 pieces (607g) of burnt flint was recovered, most of which was from Trench 7. Over half (15 pieces) came from context 704, an occupation layer. One piece of burnt flint had been worked.

6.5 Worked flint/chert

The lithic assemblage consists of 309 (5028g) pieces of worked flint and chert (including the single burnt flake already mentioned, but not included under this category in Table 1). The assemblage has been sorted into conventional categories based on a lithic reduction sequence (cores/flakes and blades/whole/broken/ retouched). The results of this sorting, during which unworked material was counted and discarded, are presented in Table 3.

Condition

The condition of the majority of the material examined is unpatinated (corticated) and fresh, although there is evidence of mechanical edge damage to some pieces.

Raw material

The majority of the raw material employed is dark flint, most likely derived from the nearby sources in the vicinity of Beer/Seaton. There is also a small number of pieces utilizing coarse grained chert.

Assessment

The assemblage viewed as a whole suggests an emphasis on flake production, with very little evidence of systematic core preparation. As a result flake size is varied and there are many squat flakes, hinge fractures and wide angles of platform to bulb, all indicators of a later (Bronze Age) industry. A small number of blades (12, representing 4% of the total) may indicate low level earlier (Mesolithic or early Neolithic) activity in the vicinity. All stages of reduction are present, from wholly cortical to non-cortical flakes.

There are 42 pieces (14% of the total) which have been retouched. Fourteen of these can be described as scrapers and there are two other tools; a well-made notched piece from context 404 (Trench 4 ploughsoil) and a probable hammerstone fragment from context 600 (Trench 6 ploughsoil). Neither of these is diagnostic of a particular period.

Conclusion

This assemblage suggests that there was *in situ* activity taking place, utilizing readily available local raw material. There is no particularly concentrated area of activity. The product appears to be flakes, some of which would have been used for a range of simple domestic tasks, for example hide preparation. The relatively unsystematic nature of the reduction suggests that the majority of this activity was taking place during the Bronze Age.

Table 3. Worked flint and chert

Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Burnt Wkd	Tools		Chips	Rej	Total
	Flake	Blade	Frag	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret		Scraper	Other			
0	4		3	13	2	4					1			2	27
100	2			3	4								2	1	11
200	6			8	1	1					3			3	19
201			1			1									2
205					1					1					2
300	2		1	3										5	6
306				1	1										2
308				1	1					1			1		4
400	2			18	7	3					2	1		5	33
404						1									1
408					1	1									2
600	1			9	4	2		1			2	1		3	20
604			2	4	2		1	1						3	10
605				4	4	2	1						1	3	12
607				2											2
700	6		1	7	4	1				1	2			3	22
701	2		1	8	5		1	1					1	7	19
703				3							1			2	4
704			1	11	3	1	1	1			1			6	19
707				2											2
714				3		1								4	4
715				1	4									3	5
800	2		1	4	2									1	9
900	6		4	30	19	5		1		1	2		4	4	72
Total	33	0	15	135	65	23	4	5	3	1	14	2	9		309

6.6 Glass

Two pieces of dark greenish-brown bottle glass (28g) of post-medieval/modern date were recovered from ploughsoil in Trench 9.

6.7 CBM

A total of six pieces (503g) of ceramic building material was recovered from three contexts. From ditch fill 306 there is a moderately abraded fragment of a Roman tegula roof tile. There are four further tile fragments from 205, all surface finds from an unexcavated occupation layer, which are also probably tegulae. The other fragment is from 703, an occupation layer. It is likely to be of Roman date but it is too fragmentary to be certain of its original form.

6.8 Burnt/fired clay

Three pieces of burnt/fired clay (12g) were recovered, two from context 404 (the uppermost fill of enclosure ditch F403) and one from 715 (upper fill of ditch F713). One of the pieces from context 404 appears to be a fragment of furnace or hearth lining.

6.9 Prehistoric pottery by Henrietta Quinnell

A total of 16 sherds (150g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered. A single sherd came from the lower fill of a ditch in Trench 6, three very small sherds were found in primary occupation layer 704, and 12 sherds were recovered from context 715, the upper fill of ditch F713 in Trench 7.

The 12 sherds from 715 are in the same well-made fabric, with a range of large inclusions including flint or chert and probably grog. It is just possible that they are all from the same vessel, but differences in thickness suggest at least two vessels are represented. Four joining sherds come from the only sherd with a distinctive formal character, a flat-topped, slightly expanded rim from, probably a large bowl, just possibly a jar. There is no decoration. The form belongs best with Late Bronze Age plainware, c 1050 – 800 BC in Devon. This pottery has recently been discussed in the report on Lundy (Quinnell 2010) although this vessel form is not closely matched in Island assemblages. The author has examined the assemblages from Castle Hill and Hayne Lane near Honiton (Fitzpatrick et al 1999). This pottery was not well understood when it was published. The report indicates that most of the pottery from Castle Hill was Middle Bronze Age but a few Late Bronze Age vessels were also published. It is probable that rather more of this assemblage is Late Bronze Age than the report indicates. A good parallel to the Harepath Road rim is Castle Hill No 14 (Fitzpatrick *et al* 1999, Fig. 24). This was published as Trevisker but comes from upper ditch levels of a Middle Bronze Age enclosure. It is however possible that the sherds from context 715 are in fact Trevisker-related. This term has recently been used to describe a wide range of Middle Bronze Age vessels from contexts in south west England which vary from the classic Trevisker forms (Quinnell 2012). Castle Hill contains quite a range of this Trevisker-related material. New forms of Trevisker-related ware are being recognised very frequently.

The single sherd from context 605 (ditch F603) appears to be of the same general character and probable date as the sherds from context 715, but its fabric lacks the flint/chert inclusions. The three small sherds from context 704 are of a very different fabric to the preceding material and broadly of Middle Iron Age character. No sherds from the recently identified East Devon Late Iron Age style are present.

6.10 Romano-British pottery

A total of 52 sherds (537g) of Roman pottery was recovered from Trenches 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, in the northeast part of the site. Almost half the Roman pottery (25 sherds) came from Trench 7. The sherds span the whole Roman period, from the middle of the 1st century to the end of the 4th century AD. The largest sub-group is South East Dorset Black Burnished 1 coarseware pottery, which comprises 28 sherds overall (18 body sherds, 2 base sherds, 3 rim sherds from everted rim jars, 2 rims from bead-rim bowls, 1 rim from a plain rimmed dish and 2 rims from bowls with flat grooved rims). There are also 6 sherds of South Devon burnished coarseware (5 body sherds and a rim from an everted rim jar). The South East Dorset BB1 pottery is 1st to 4th century and the South Devon burnished ware is 3rd to 4th century in date. There are also two rim sherds from south-western greyware storage jars (2nd to 4th century AD), one

greyware body sherd (1st to 3rd century AD) and 11 sherds (9 body sherds and two rims, one from a bead-rim bowl and the other from an everted rim jar) with micaceous oxidised fabrics which are likely to be locally made.

The fine ware pottery includes three much abraded Samian body sherds (very worn but most likely 1st or 2nd century AD) and a body sherd from a Nene Valley colour coated ware indented beaker dating from the mid-2nd to the 4th century AD.

6.11 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

A small assemblage of seven medieval pottery sherds (21g) was recovered from Trenches 3, 4 and 7, again in the northeast of the site. In addition, a modern colour-glazed rim sherd was found in the ploughsoil of Trench 9. The medieval pottery from context 701 (subsoil) and context 703 (occupation layer) are all body sherds from medieval jugs. The fabric of the two conjoining sherds from the uppermost fill of the enclosure ditch, 404, is similar to the coarseware pottery produced near Totnes between c. 1250-1450. The remaining medieval sherds are from context 308. One is a glazed earthenware body sherd from a late medieval or early-post-medieval vessel (c. 1450-1600). The second is an abraded body sherd containing poorly-sorted rounded quartz and ferrous inclusions, and sparse mica. The fabric is similar to North Devon medieval coarse wares of 13th to 15th century date.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The evaluation has established that archaeological features and deposits were present in the majority of trenches, with these mainly dating from the Romano-British period, although evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity was also identified. Trenches 2, 3, 6 and 7 contained what have been interpreted as occupation layers/spreads and, where investigated in Trenches 3 and 7, were shown to be sealing archaeological features. Feature types present, comprising pits, postholes, ditches and gullies are all characteristic of settlement and/or industry.
- 7.2** Based on the results of the geophysical survey, it is likely that an enclosure is present on the site, as identified by portions of ditches in Trenches 3 and 4. The full extent of the enclosure is not known, as no eastern side was present and there is uncertainty as to the location of its southern extent. It is possible that geophysical anomaly 20 represents part of this side (see Fig. 2), or that the western arm continues through Trench 7, as identified in the sondage through the occupation layer.
- 7.3** In the southern part of Trench 3, but within the enclosure, a concentration of postholes and pits was identified, probably indicating the presence of a building or structure in this location. There was, however, no discernible pattern identified within the confines of the narrow trench and no finds were recovered from the features that were excavated. More isolated discrete features were also identified in Trenches 2 and 8. Finds recovered include a few small fragments of Romano-British tegula roof tile, normally an indicator of a higher status building. However, no other evidence for such a structure was identified either during the evaluation or geophysical survey.
- 7.4** Three occupation spreads were identified on the site, one of which encompassed all of Trench 7 and the southeast part of Trench 6, with the other two present in Trenches 3 and 2 (in the latter located outside the probable enclosure on higher ground to the north). The presence of frequent charcoal in some of the layers, as well as the finding of iron smithing slag and furnace lining from elsewhere, indicates that industrial processes are likely to have taken place on the site.

- 7.5** The relatively complex stratified sequence recorded in Trench 7 hints at more prolonged occupation on the site. The upper occupation layer sealed a probable ditch containing Romano-British pottery, which in turn cut a lower occupation layer (704), which contained both Romano-British and prehistoric pottery. This sealed further probable ditches, including F713, the upper fill of which (715) contained quantities of Late Bronze Age pottery. Unfortunately the fill layer beneath (714) contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery. It is possible that sherd is either intrusive (the context seems to come close to the top of gully F713) or that context 715 contains redeposited material.
- 7.6** Other features identified on the site include a ditch in Trench 9, the character and fill composition of which suggest that it was not part of the main settlement. This is also the case for F308 in Trench 3, which contained medieval pottery in its fill. Both features are likely to represent former field boundaries of probable medieval date.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** The geophysical survey of the site has clearly been effective in establishing the presence of buried archaeological remains, with in the majority of cases the anomalies identified representing cut features and occupation spreads. Areas interpreted as 'high contrast' (Dean 2012, Fig. 2) represent occupation spreads which do indeed contain burnt material. There were no archaeological features in Trenches 1 and 5, with the anomalies recorded there likely to be as a result of variations in the natural subsoil.
- 8.2** The evaluation has identified new evidence for early settlement and probable industry on the outskirts of Seaton, with finds recovered indicating that the principal phase appears to extend throughout most of the Romano-British period. There was also more limited evidence for *in situ* Late Bronze Age and medieval activity, while the moderate quantity of worked flint recovered from the site and overlying soils indicate that there may have been Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age settlement nearby.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 9.1** The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ.
- 9.2** The archive will continue to be stored under controlled conditions at the offices of AC archaeology in Bradninch, but will ultimately be deposited under the relevant accession number at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, at the earliest in 2013 when the current museum non-acceptance policy will be reviewed.
- 9.3** The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 134406.

10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by Anthea Hoey of Atkins on behalf of Mr David Cutler. The site trial trenching was carried out by Richard Sims, Paul Cooke and Naomi Hughes, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The helpful advice of Stephen Reed, Devon Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

11. SOURCES CONSULTED

Dean, R., 2012, *An archaeological gradiometer survey. Land at Seaton, Devon*. Unpublished Substrata report, ref. 120124

Fitzpatrick, AP, Butterworth, CA and Grove, J., 1999, *Prehistoric & Roman Sites in East Devon: the A30 Honiton to Exeter Improvement DBFO Scheme, 1996-9*. Wessex Archaeology

Holbrook, N., 1987, 'Trial excavations at Honeyditches and the nature of the Roman occupation at Seaton', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **45**, 59-74.

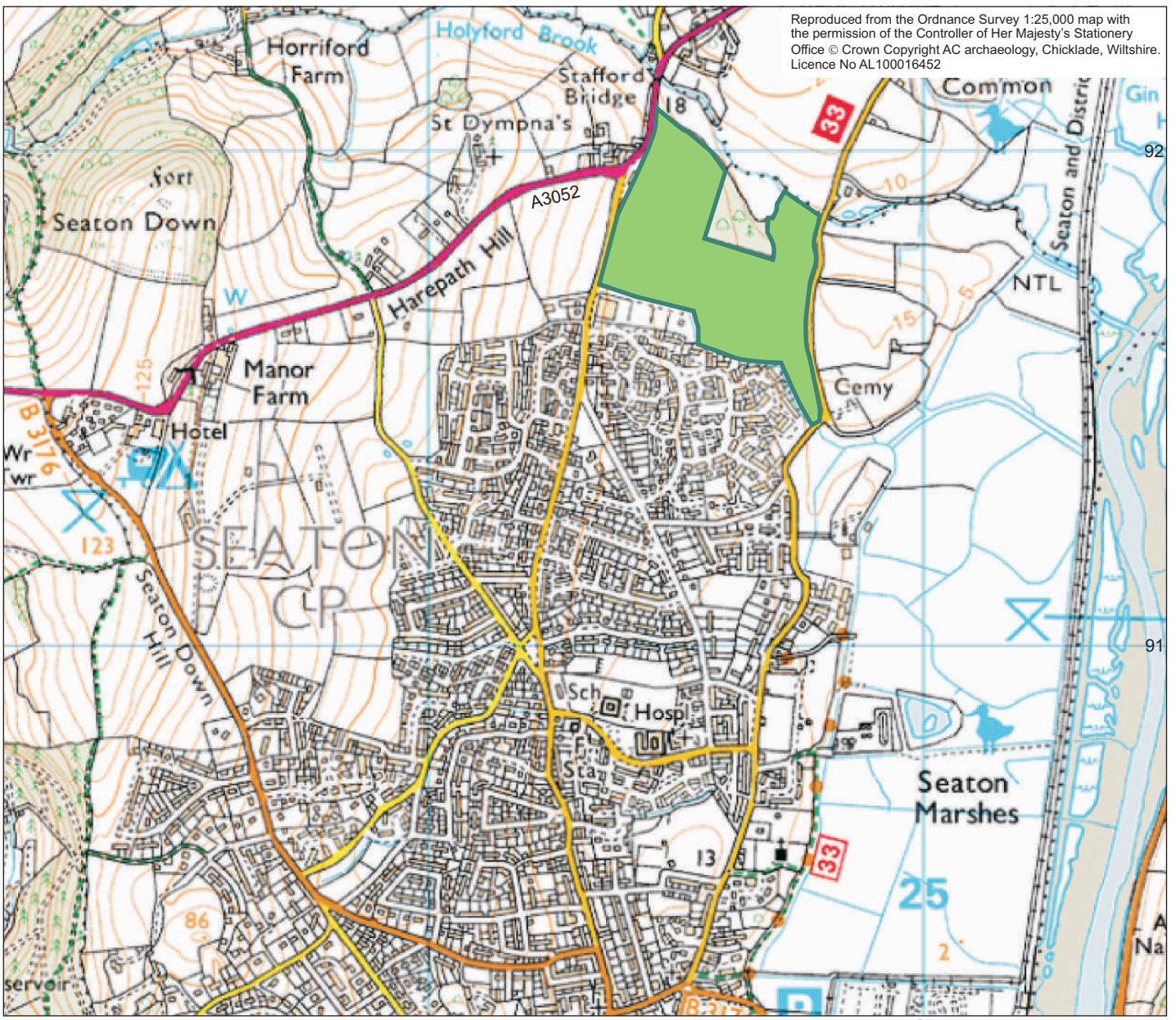
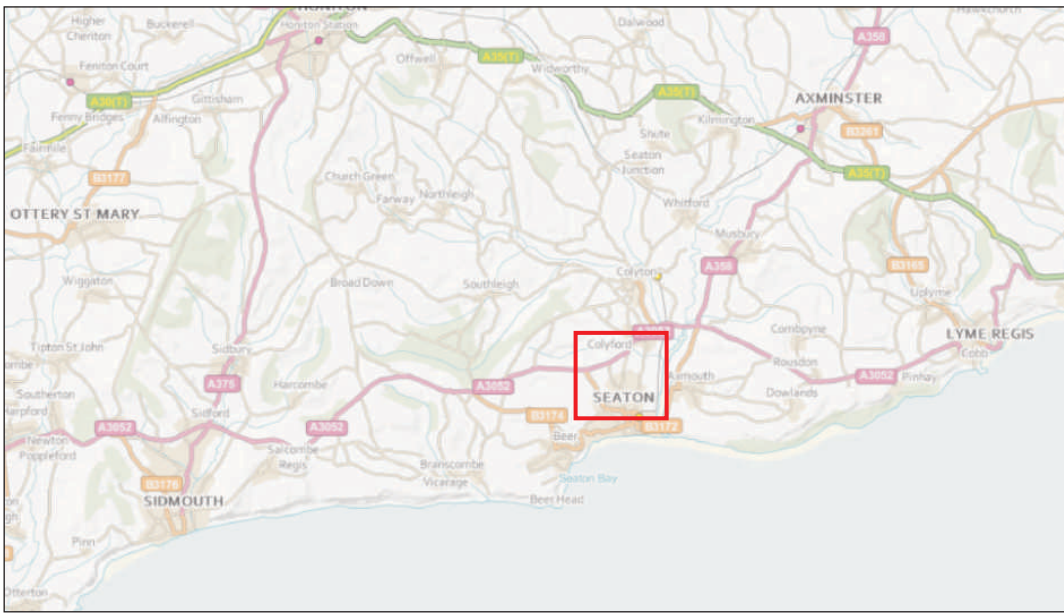
Miles, H., 1977, 'The Honeyditches Villa, Seaton, Devon', *Britannia* **8**, 107-43.

Quinnell, H., 2010, Prehistoric and Roman material from Lundy, *Proceedings Devon Archaeological Society* **68**, 61-84

Quinnell, H., 2012, Trevisker Pottery; Some Recent Studies, in W. Britnell & R.J. Silvester (eds) *Reflections on the Past. Essays in honour of Frances Lynch*. Cambrian Archaeological Association.

Robinson, S. and Valentin, J., 2008, *A proposed development at Harepath Hill, Seaton, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology report for client, ref. ACD06/3/0

Silvester, R.J., 1981, 'Excavations at Honeyditches Roman Villa, Seaton, in 1978', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **39**, 37-87.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright AC archaeology, Chicklade, Wiltshire. Licence No AL100016452



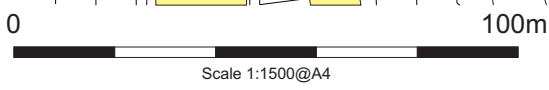
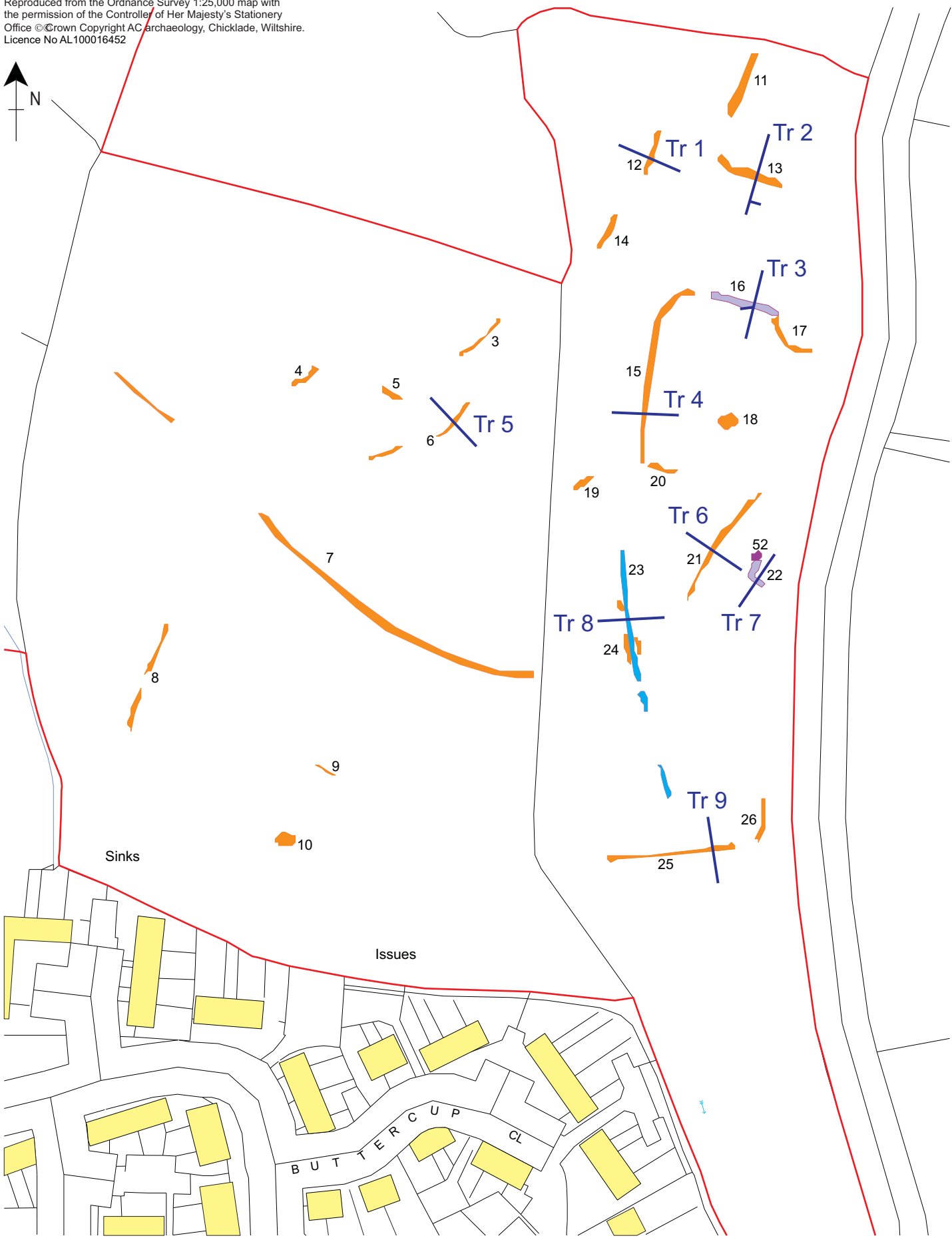
 Site

PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road,
Seaton

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





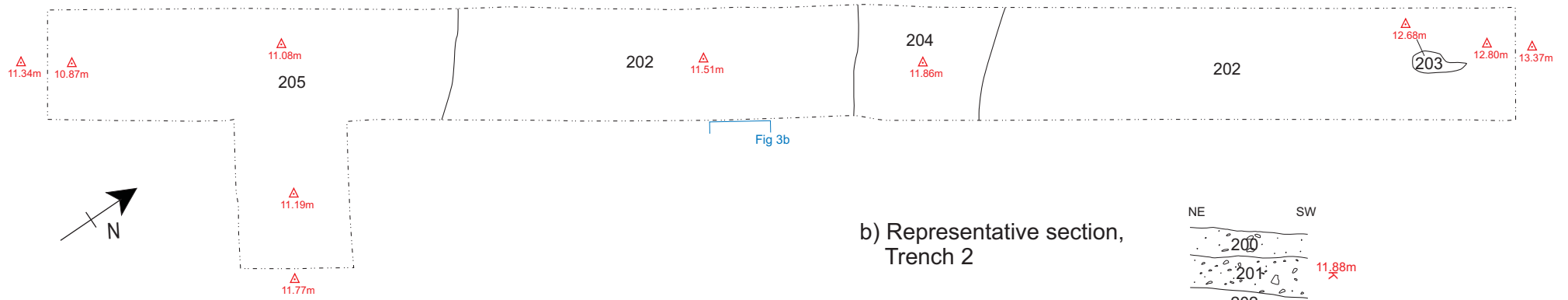
- Site outline
- Trenches
- Possible, high contrast
- Possible, north-south high-low
- Possible positive
- Possible negative

PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton

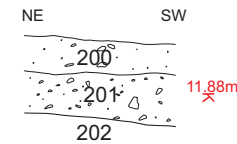
TITLE
Fig. 2: Trench locations, in relation to geophysical survey results



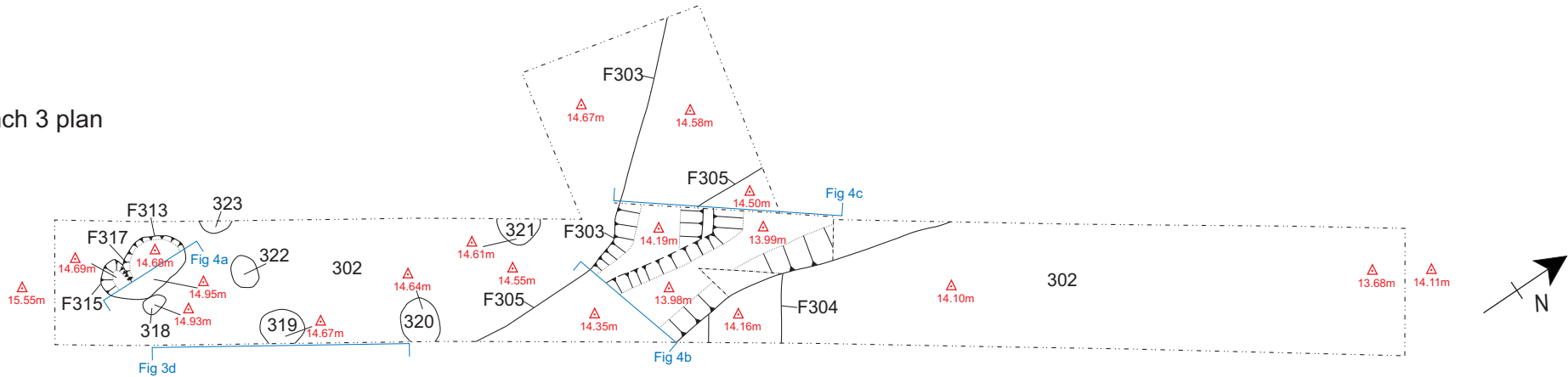
a) Trench 2 plan



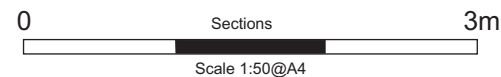
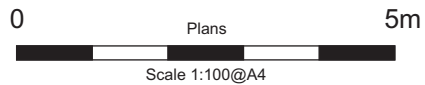
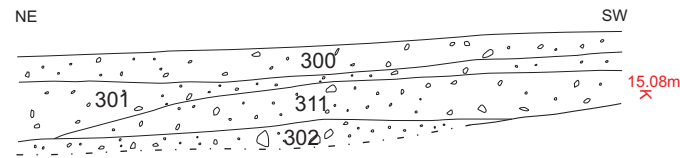
b) Representative section, Trench 2



c) Trench 3 plan



d) Representative section, Trench 3

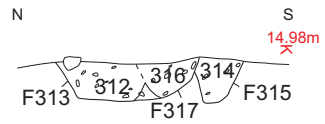


PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton

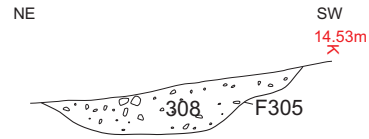
TITLE
Fig. 3: Plans and sections, Trenches 2 and 3



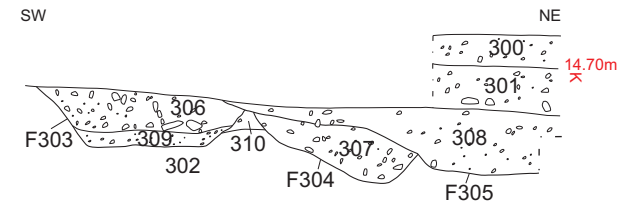
a) Section of F313, F317 and F315



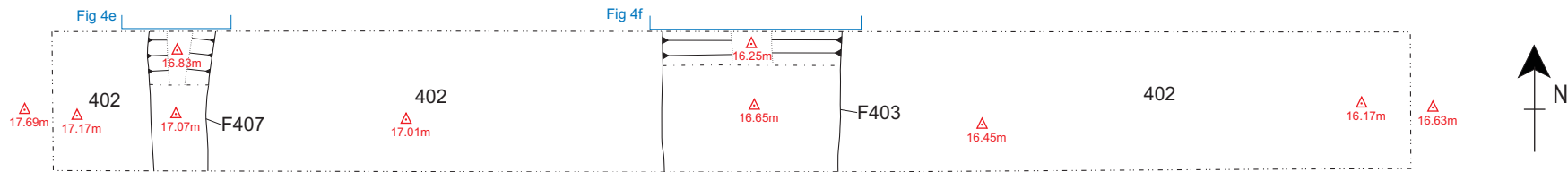
b) Section of F305



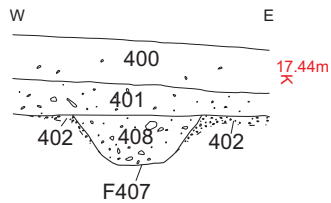
c) Section of F303, F304 and F305



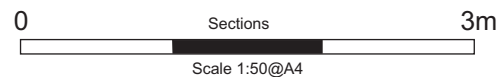
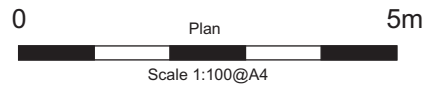
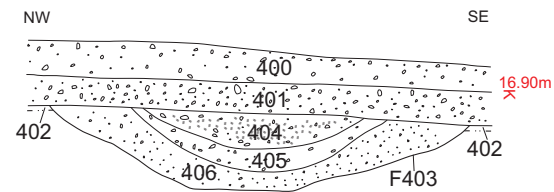
d) Trench 4, plan



e) Section of F407



f) Section of F403

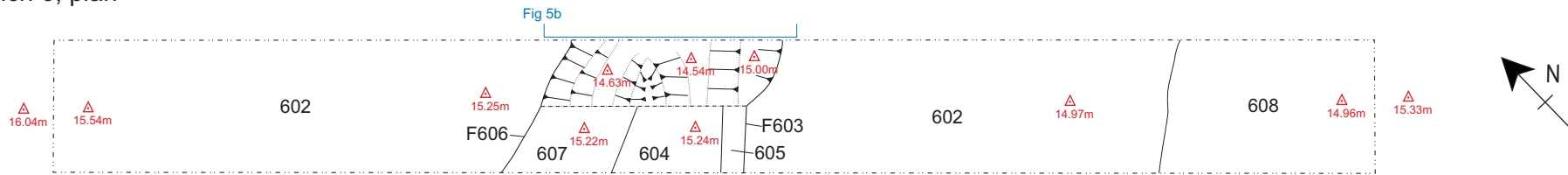


PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton

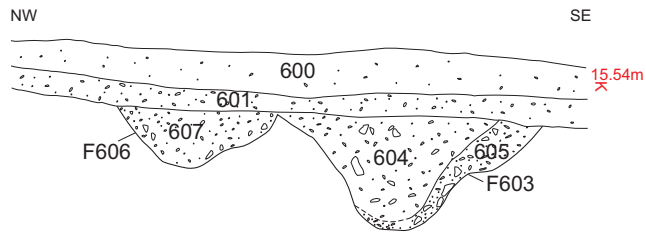
TITLE
Fig. 4: Plans and sections,
Trenches 3 and 4



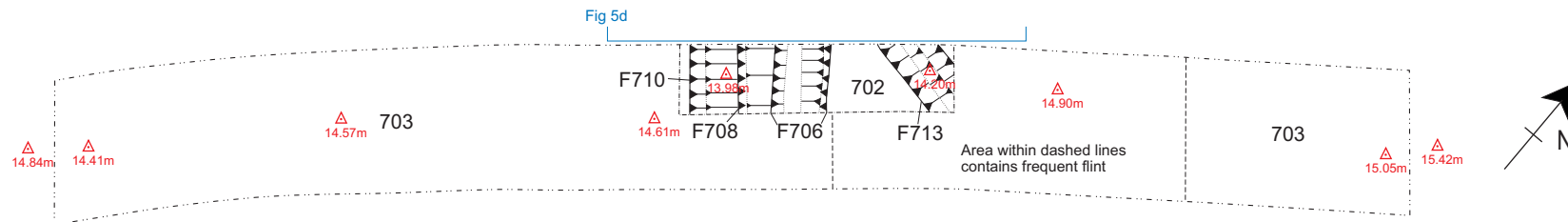
a) Trench 6, plan



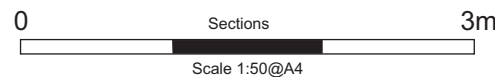
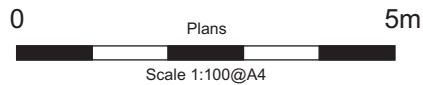
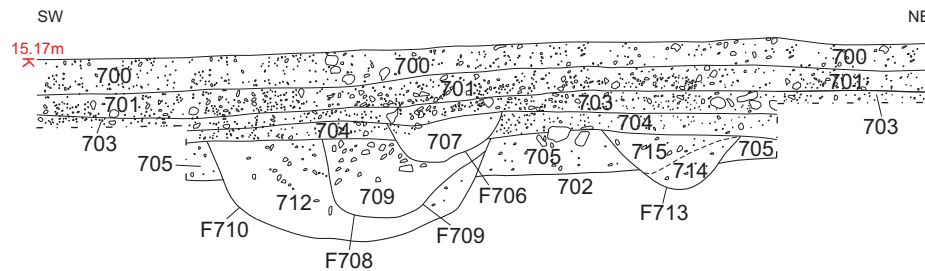
b) Section of F606 and F603



c) Trench 7, plan



d) Section of F710, F708, F706 and F713

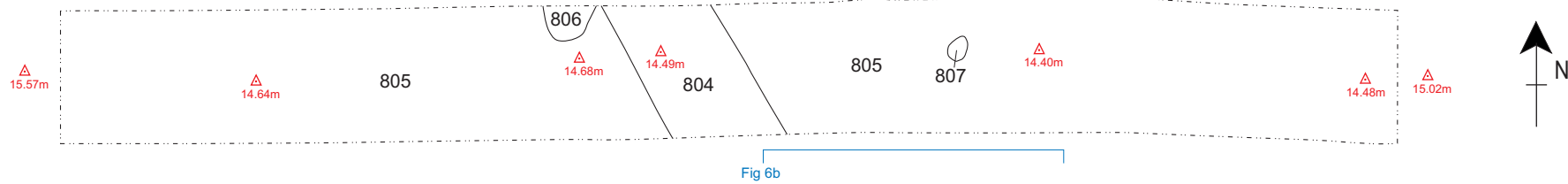


PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton

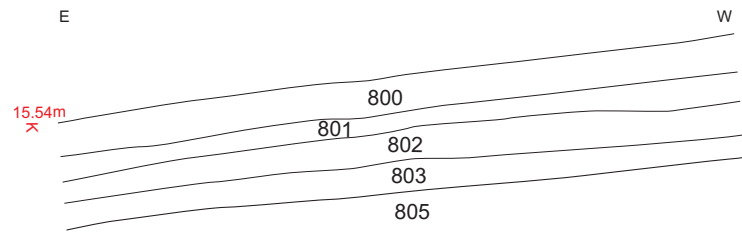
TITLE
Fig. 5: Plans and sections, Trenches 6 and 7



a) Trench 8, plan



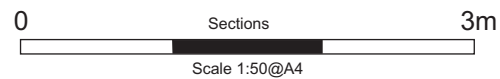
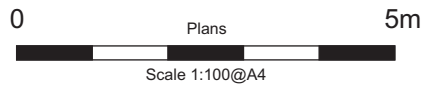
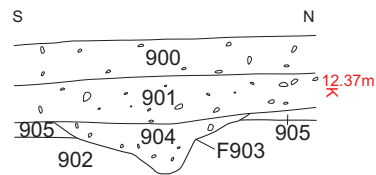
b) Representative section



c) Trench 9, plan



d) Section of F903



PROJECT
Land between Harepath Road and Colyford Road, Seaton

TITLE
Fig. 6: Plans and sections,
Trenches 8 and 9





Plate 1: General view of site, looking north towards Trenches 7 and 6



Plate 2: Trench 3, linear features F303, F304 and F305, looking to north (scale 2m)



Plate 3: Trench 3, postholes F313, F315 and F317, looking to southwest (scale 0.5m)



Plate 4: Trench 4, linear feature F403, looking to northwest (scale 2m)



Plate 5: Trench 6, linear features F603 and F606, looking to northeast (scale 2m)



Plate 6: Trench 7, section through occupation layers and sealed features, looking to west (scale 2m)

Appendix 1

ACD548 Tabulated context descriptions by trench



APPENDIX 1: ACD548 TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Ploughsoil	
101	Light-mid yellow-brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.20-0.30m	Agricultural subsoil	
102	Light-mid yellow-brown clay silt with abundant medium-large sub-angular stones and bands of mid red silt clay	0.30m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid brown friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Ploughsoil	
201	Mid brown soft silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.20-0.48m	Agricultural subsoil	
202	Mid yellow-brown clay with bands of abundant medium-large sub-angular gravels	0.48m+	Natural subsoil	
203	Dark greyish-brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal. Sub-circular in shape, measuring 0.20m long by 0.08m wide	0.48m+	Unexcavated possible post-hole	
204	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 0.43m wide and comprising a dark brown soft clay silt fill with frequent medium-large sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.48m+	Unexcavated linear feature	
205	Dark greyish-brown soft clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.48m+	Occupation layer	

Trench 3		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid brown friable clay silt with moderate medium-large sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Ploughsoil	
301	Mid yellow-brown friable clay silt with moderate-frequent medium-large sub-angular stones	0.20-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Light yellow-brown and light yellow grey soft sand clay with spreads of abundant medium-large sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil	
303	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 1.40m wide by 0.37m deep with moderate sloping sides and flat base	0.50-0.87m	Cut of enclosure ditch	
304	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 1.08m wide by 0.47m deep with gentle-moderate sloping sides and gently concave base	0.50-0.97m	Cut of enclosure ditch	
305	N-S aligned linear feature, 1.75m wide by 0.45m deep with moderate sloping sides and a gently concave base	0.50-0.95m	Cut of possible field boundary ditch	
306	Dark grey friable sand silt with common small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50-0.80m	Fill of ditch F303	
307	Dark brownish-grey friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50-0.97m	Fill of ditch F304	
308	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.95m	Fill of ditch F305	
309	Light yellowish-grey soft sandy clay silt with frequent pea grit and occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.80-0.87m	Fill of ditch F303	
310	Light-mid yellow-brown friable clay silt with occasional-moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.55-0.68m	Disturbed natural subsoil	
311	Mid-dark brownish-grey friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.26-0.56m	Occupation layer	
312	Dark brownish-grey friable sand clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones, rare large stones and rare charcoal	0.50-0.74m	Fill of F313	
313	Oval shaped feature, 0.70m long by 0.60m wide and 0.24m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base	0.50-0.74m	Cut of posthole/small pit	
314	Mid yellow-brown friable silt sand with moderate small-	0.50-0.80m	Fill of F315	

APPENDIX 1: ACD548 TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 3		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
	medium sub-angular stones and rare large stone			
315	Oval shaped feature, 0.50m long by 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.50-0.80m		Cut of posthole
316	Dark brownish-grey friable sand clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones, rare large stones and rare charcoal	0.50-0.72m		Fill of F317
317	Circular-oval shaped feature, 0.40m wide with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.50-0.72m		Cut of posthole
318	Sub-oval shaped feature, 0.25m wide by 0.40m long and comprising a dark greyish-brown friable clay silt fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole
319	Oval shaped feature, 0.50m wide by 0.70m long and comprising a dark greyish-brown friable clay silt fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole
320	Sub-circular shaped feature, 0.70m long by 0.60m wide and comprising a dark greyish-brown friable clay silt fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones, occasional large stones and rare charcoal	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole
321	Circular-oval shaped feature, 0.70m wide and comprising a dark brown friable clay silt fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole
322	Oval shaped feature, 0.50m long by 0.40m wide and comprising a dark brown friable clay silt fill with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones, moderate large stones and rare charcoal	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole
323	Partly exposed feature, 0.50m wide and comprising a dark brown friable clay silt fill with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50m+		Unexcavated posthole

Trench 4		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid brown friable clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones	0-0.25m	Ploughsoil	
401	Light brown soft clay silt with common small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones	0.25-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Light-mid orange and light yellow-brown soft silt clay with patches of abundant small-large sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil	
403	N-S aligned linear feature, 2.80m wide by 0.50m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base	0.45-0.95m	Cut of enclosure ditch	
404	Dark grey friable clay silt with common charcoal flecks, moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare large stones	0.45-0.68m	Fill of ditch F403	
405	Light greyish-brown soft sand clay silt with moderate small sub-angular stones and rare large stones	0.68-0.83m	Fill of ditch F403	
406	Mottled light greyish-brown and light yellow-brown soft silt clay with frequent pea grit and small sub-angular stones	0.83-0.95m	Fill of ditch F403	
407	N-S aligned linear feature, 0.85m wide by 0.33m deep with moderate sloping sides and flat base	0.45-0.78m	Cut of ditch	
408	Mid greyish-brown soft silt clay with common small-medium sub-angular stones	0.45-0.78m	Fill of ditch F407	

APPENDIX 1: ACD548 TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 5		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Ploughsoil	
501	Light-mid yellow-brown soft clay silt with occasional-moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.20-0.35m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Light yellow-brown soft clay silt with common small-large sub-angular stones and bands of mid red clay	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 6		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Ploughsoil	
601	Light-mid greyish-brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Light orange-brown compact sand with patches of dark yellow-brown clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.40m+	Natural subsoil	
603	NE-SW aligned linear feature, 1.50m wide by 0.90m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides with a narrow concave base	0.40-1.30m	Cut of ditch	
604	Mid greyish-brown soft silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones	0.40-1.15m	Fill of ditch F603	
605	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent-common small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones	1.15-1.30	Fill of ditch F603	
606	NE-SW aligned linear feature, 1.05m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides and uneven base	0.40-0.75m	Cut of ditch	
607	Mid greyish-brown soft silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and occasional large stones	0.40-0.75m	Fill of ditch F606	
608	Dark greyish-brown friable clay silt with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.40m+	Occupation layer	
609	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with abundant small-large sub-angular stones	0.40-0.80m	Probable variation in natural subsoil	
610	Light yellow-brown friable sand clay silt with abundant small-large sub-angular stones	0.80-0.95m	Probable variation in natural subsoil	
611	Light orange-brown compact sand with rare small sub-angular stones	0.95-1.05	Variation in natural subsoil	
612	Mid orange compact coarse sand	0.85-0.92m	Variation in natural subsoil	
613	Light orange-brown firm sand silt clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	1.00-1.12m	Variation in natural subsoil	

Trench 7		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.24m	Ploughsoil	
701	Mid brownish-grey friable clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.24-0.44m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Mid orange firm clay with common small-medium sub-angular stones	0.84m+	Natural subsoil	
703	Mid grey/black soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and frequent charcoal flecks	0.44-0.50m	Occupation layer	
704	Mid yellow-grey soft sandy silt clay with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.58m	Occupation layer	
705	Mid greyish-yellow soft sand clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.58-0.86m	Buried soil	
706	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 0.82m wide by 0.30m deep, with steep sloping sides and concave base	0.44-0.74m	Cut of enclosure ditch	

APPENDIX 1: ACD548 TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 7		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
707	Dark grey/black soft sand clay with moderate small-large sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks and occasional fired clay	0.44-0.74m	Fill of ditch F706	
708	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 0.80m wide by 0.52m deep, with steep-moderate sloping sides and a shallow concave base	0.60-1.12m	Cut of enclosure ditch	
709	Mid grey soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.60-1.12m	Fill of ditch F708	
710	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 1.87m wide by 0.68m deep, with steep sloping sides and a wide, concave base	0.58-1.26m	Cut of enclosure ditch	
711	Mid yellow soft sand clay with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.58-1.26m	Fill of ditch F710	
712	Mid yellow-brown friable silt clay with common-abundant small-large sub-angular stones	0.58-1.26m	Fill of ditch F710	
713	E-W aligned linear feature, 0.91m wide by 0.38m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.58-0.96m	Cut of ditch	
714	Light yellowish-grey soft silt clay with rare small sub-angular stones	0.58-0.96m	Fill of ditch F713	
715	Mid brownish-grey soft silt clay with moderate small sub-angular stones	0.58-0.73m	Fill of ditch F713	

Trench 8		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid greyish-brown friable clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.26m	Ploughsoil	
801	Mid brownish-grey friable clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.26-0.47m	Agricultural subsoil	
802	Mid grey friable silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.47-0.70m	Buried soil	
803	Mid brownish-yellow soft silt clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.70-0.80m	Buried soil	
804	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 1.50m wide and comprising a mid yellow-brown soft silt clay fill with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.80m+	Possible unexcavated ditch	
805	Light orange-brown compact sand with patches of dark yellow-brown clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.80m+	Natural subsoil	
806	Sub-circular shaped feature, 0.77m wide and comprising a mid-dark grey/black silt clay fill with charcoal flecks	0.80m+	Unexcavated possible posthole/pit	
807	Sub-oval shaped feature, 0.30m wide by 0.40m long and comprising a mid greyish-brown silt clay	0.80m+	Unexcavated possible posthole	

Trench 9		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid brown friable clay silt	0-0.25m	Ploughsoil	
901	Light-mid brown soft clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.47m	Agricultural subsoil	
902	Mottled mid yellow-brown-mid greyish-brown friable sand silt with abundant small-medium sub-angular stones and frequent large stones	0.56m+	Natural subsoil	
903	E-W aligned linear feature, 1.30m wide by 0.33m deep, with initial gentle sloping sides breaking to moderate sloping forming a concave base	0.47-0.80m	Cut of ditch	
904	Mid reddish-brown soft silt clay with occasional-moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.45-0.80m	Fill of ditch F903	
905	Light yellow/greyish-brown soft silt clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.47-0.56m	Weathered natural subsoil interface	

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk