Cotswold Archaeology

Excavation at Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

for

Luscombe Maye,

on behalf of

J.H. Smerdon &Co.

CA Project: 889016

CA Report: 17144

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Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Excavation at Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon.

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and
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CA Report: 17144

prepared by date	Jonathan Orellana, Project Officer 13/04/18
checked by date	Richard Massey, Post-excavation Manager 02/07/2018
approved by signed date	Karen Walker Principal Post-excavation Manager 16/07/2018
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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land at Combe Cross,
Location:	Filham, Ivybridge, Devon
NGR:	265159 055501
Type:	Excavation
Date:	27 November 2017-8 December 2017
Location of archive:	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery and the ADS (Archaeological Data Service)
Accession Number:	PLYMG.2018.8
Site Code:	CCF17

A programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at the Combe Cross site in November and December, 2017, at the request of Luscombe Maye, on behalf of J.H. Smerdon & Co. An area of 0.09ha was excavated within Area 8 of the development site, together with seven exploratory trenches.

Excavation confirmed the results of evaluation, and identified two adjacent, hollow-floored buildings of Middle Bronze Age date. Of these, the western example was the larger, and of more substantial construction, with surviving stone-built walls enclosing a central hollow of 7.8m external diameter. Within a sequence of internal fills, including a dark occupation layer, deposits of large, unabraded sherds of Trevisker type may be associated with the abandonment of the house.

The eastern hollow-floored roundhouse was smaller and more irregular in plan, and of simple post-ring construction. Very sparse pottery within its fills suggested a more temporary structure, of non-domestic function. The two roundhouses were separated by a distance of 5.8m, within which was located a group of six pits, of which at least four comprised settings for a four or five-post structure of substantial size. Undated features included a length of ditch to the north of the western roundhouse, and a number of pits. Seven exploratory trenches outside the excavated area identified only a few undated features, including a ditch and seven isolated postholes. The undated ditches may represent elements of a contemporary field system.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During November and December, 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a strip, map and sample archaeological excavation on land at Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon (centred on NGR 264684 655470; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Luscombe Maye, acting as agents on behalf of the client, J.H. Smerdon and Company. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2018), and a brief for archaeological recording, prepared by Stephen Reed, of the Devon County Historic Environment Team, the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

1.2 The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): *Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015a), and accompanying PPN3: *Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015b). It was monitored by Stephen Reed, including site visits made on 1 and 6 December, 2017.

The Site

1.3 The site is situated c.2km to the south-east of Ivybridge, and 0.25km south of the A38, and to the immediate south-west of the minor road junction at Combe Cross. The site encloses an area of approximately 1.5ha, and comprises part of a larger pasture field. It is bounded by hedge-banked, sunken lanes immediately to the north and east, and by pastoral land to the south and west. Filham House is situated c.150m to the west. The topography of the site slopes down from north to south, from an elevation of 75m aOD, to 64m aOD.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Middle Devonian slate, bordering pyroclastic or basaltic rocks within that series (BGS 2018). No superficial deposits are recorded. Soils within the site comprise well-drained fine loams and silty soils of the Denbigh I Association (SSEW 1983).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Limited evidence of later prehistoric activity has been recorded within the environs of the site, principally comprising cropmark evidence of enclosures and field systems, and lithic surface scatters of Bronze Age and Neolithic date. Archaeological data relating to the site and its environs are principally derived from the Devon and

Dartmoor Historic Environment Record (DDHER), and from the published archaeological record.

2.2 Relatively little recent archaeological work has been undertaken within the area surrounding the Combe Cross site, although an investigation was associated with the installation of a gas pipeline to the south (CA 2001; CA 2010, Mudd & Joyce 2014; Fig. 1), where a Middle Bronze Age pit and evidence for Iron Age activity were recorded. The fill of the pit contained worked flint and charcoal, which produced a radiocarbon date within the Middle Bronze Age period. A ditch, identified as a post-medieval field boundary, was also recorded (CA 2014, 64).

2.4 Areas to the south and south-west of Filham House are associated with recorded flint scatters of broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date, which may indicate a settlement focus (respectively SX 649 552, DDHER MDV 115158; SX 647 551, DDHER MDV 115160; Fig. 1).

2.5 Investigation, within the field to the south-west of the excavation site, recorded deposits of fired clay, probably representing hearths, which were dated by sherds of Iron Age pottery. These features were associated with a group of stake-holes (CA 2010, 64; Fig. 1)

2.6 A sub-rectangular enclosure, recorded by geophysical survey, at Godwell Lane, Ivybridge (SX 646 558; DDHER MDV 119715; Fig. 1), *c.* 600m to the north-west, may be of later prehistoric date. Cropmark evidence of a double-ditched rectangular enclosure at Ermington (SX 545 650; MDV 56042; Fig. 1), *c.* 2.2km to the south-west, may be of similar date. Cropmark evidence of a further prehistoric enclosure and associated linear features, possibly representing elements of a field system, were recorded to the north of Penquit (SX 647 545, DDHER MDV 56041; Fig. 1), *c.* 1.2km to the south.

2.7 No archaeological finds or features of confirmed Roman or early medieval date have been recorded within the environs of the site. Evidence of later medieval settlement is attested in a number of surrounding nucleated villages, and in the locally-dispersed pattern of historic farmsteads, including nearby Keaton (SX 639 545, DDHER MDV 22076), *c.*1.2 km to the south-west. The Grade II-listed remains of St Andrew's Chapel, south of Filham House (SX 649 553, DDHER MDV 2826) are also of medieval date. Post-medieval activity is most notably represented by the remains of

the eighteenth and nineteenth-century Filham silver-lead mine (SX 646 550; DDHER MDV 2842), and by a number of local quarry pits.

Evaluation

2.8 Geophysical survey (South West Archaeology (SWARCH) 2017) identified 15 groups of magnetic anomalies of potential archaeological origin, which were subsequently targeted by four evaluation trenches (SWARCH 2017). Evaluation identified and investigated six archaeological features, or groups of features, including one historical field boundary, one large pit, one posthole, two ditches, and what appeared to the excavators to be part of a large terraced platform. The fill of this feature produced Trevisker-type pottery of Middle Bronze Age date, and was subsequently interpreted as a hollow-floored building of circular plan.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the excavation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and significance of structural and occupational remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains; and
- to date and characterise the archaeological features identified during the geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

3.2 The specific aims of the excavation were to:

- record any further evidence of prehistoric evidence that may relate to past settlement, and associated activity;
- to define the nature of the evidence for Middle Bronze Age occupation identified during the evaluation;
- to plan and characterise the two roundhouses identified by evaluation, and assess and date evidence of settlement activity;
- to determine, where possible, the date of the linear ditch, and other features identified by evaluation and geophysical survey, and their possible relationship to the roundhouses;
- recover artefact evidence to further refine the dating of the settlement features identified by evaluation; and

- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land-use and economy.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The programme of archaeological work comprised a strip map and sample (SMS) excavation in Area 8, and the excavation of seven exploratory trenches to identify archaeological features within the immediate environs of Area 8.

Strip Map and Sample excavation

4.2 The strip map and sample excavation area measured 30m x 30m in extent, and was centred on the remains of Middle Bronze Age roundhouses identified by the previous geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (SWARCH 2017).

4.3 The SMS excavation area was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and was scanned for live services by trained CA staff, using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for Avoiding Underground Services*.

4.4 Topsoil and subsoil layers were stripped from the excavation area, by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under close archaeological supervision, and ceased when the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed. The extent of the SMS excavation area was kept under review during the course of stripping, and provision was made for the boundaries of the excavation area to be adjusted in accordance with what was found, in agreement with DCCHET and the client.

4.5 Archaeological features revealed were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet, by written and measured description. Principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically, using Leica GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS/TST, this was carried out in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate.

4.6 The investigation of archaeological features concentrated on recovering their plan and any stratigraphic sequences, together with obtaining secure dating for the site, and evidence for its function. All discrete features were sampled by hand

excavation, and discrete features associated with the Middle Bronze Age roundhouses (roundhouse hollows, postholes, pits) were 100% excavated.

4.7 Artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis, in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*. Particular care was taken to identify deposits displaying environmental potential, and environmental sampling was undertaken where appropriate. This followed the guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

5. STRATIGRAPHIC RECORD: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

5.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015a). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence, together with a site matrix, was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The fieldwork record comprises the following:

Table 1: Quantification of fieldwork records

Fieldwork record	No. Sheets
Context sheets	69
Context Register	3
Trench sheets	8
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	25
Sample sheets	11
Sample Register	1
Drawing Register	2
Photographic Register	3
Digital photographs	334
Matrices	1

5.2 The survival and intelligibility of site stratigraphy was relatively good, with archaeological remains surviving as negative features, structural remains, layers and fills. Despite a relative paucity of stratigraphic relationships, most features have been assigned a preliminary period based on context dates and/or spatial associations.

Soils and subsoils

5.3 Topsoil (800) comprised a loose, grey/brown silty clay, averaging 0.46m depth across the site. This overlay a yellow/brown silty clay subsoil, 801, which averaged 0.22m in depth, and contained abundant inclusions of shillet and sub-angular stone. This overlay in turn a natural deposit, 802, comprising abundant degraded shillett above bedrock, with pockets of grey/brown and red/brown silty clay.

Phasing

5.4 All features dateable by finds or stratigraphic relationships were of Middle Bronze Age date. While a number of features contained no dateable material, these have generally been assigned a Middle Bronze Age date, on the basis of form or spatial relationships. A small number of features which did not conform to these criteria remain undated.

Area 8 (Figs. 2-12)

5.5 Area 8 comprised by far the most significant aspect of archaeological interest on the Combe Cross site, and investigated the features identified within Trenches 1 and 8 of the 2017 evaluation (Fig. 2). Recorded archaeological features in Area 8 included two hollow-floored buildings of sub-circular plan, Roundhouse 1 and Roundhouse 2, together with a length of ditch and eight pits (Fig. 3).

Roundhouse 1 (Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6)

5.6 Roundhouse 1 was the western and more substantial of the two sub-circular structures in Area 8 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). It included the remains of a stone-built external wall (8033/8013) enclosing a hollow floor, within which a series of deposits had accumulated. The margins of the sub-circular hollow (8011) defining the extent of Roundhouse 1, displayed an maximum diameter of 7.8m, with a minimum diameter of 7.6m and a depth of 0.72m. It was investigated by Quadrant 1 on the north-east side, and by Quadrant 2 on the south-west (Fig. 2; Fig. 5, section AA; and Fig. 6, section BB).

Quadrant 1

5.7 Quadrant 1 contained the partly-preserved remains of a low, stone-built wall, 8033, which extended around much of the eastern and northern perimeter of the roundhouse, and which enclosed its hollow floor (Figs. 4, 5 and 6). Evidence of this

wall was largely absent in Quadrant 2, on the south and west sides of Roundhouse 1. The lowest fill, 8029, within Quadrant 1 comprised a loose, dark, black/brown silty clay, of *c.* 0.2m depth, which represented a probable occupation layer, and corresponded to a thinner layer, 8012, in Quadrant 2. This layer was intermittent across both quadrants, but appeared to extend across much of the roundhouse interior. It contained abundant shillet and sherds of Trevisker-type Middle Bronze Age pottery. Samples 1 and 8 from this fill contained charred cereal grains, crop processing remains and weed seeds, together with a range of wood charcoal, principally oak and alder (Table 5).

5.8 Deposit 8033 within Quadrant 1 comprised a compact, light-grey, silty layer of shillet, averaging 0.2m in depth, which incorporated large stones of *c.* 0.4m diameter, comprising the remains of the roundhouse wall, and which partly overlay fill 8029. Context 8033 corresponded to context 8013 in Quadrant 2 (Figs. 5 and 6). These stones were broadly aligned around the roundhouse periphery, and a number appeared to have been laid longitudinally, within the curvature of the wall. Fill 8029, of maximum 0.07m depth, represented a continuation of the dark occupation deposit 8012, which extended intermittently across much of the roundhouse interior. Samples 5 and 9, of context 8029, contained charred cereal remains, including hulled barley and wheat, together with a range of wild and weed species and well-preserved charcoal, principally of oak (Table 5).

5.9 The upper fill, 8032, of Quadrant 1 comprised a light-red/brown silty clay, which corresponded directly with fill 8015 of Quadrant 2 (Figs. 5 and 6). This overlay fill 8031, a light-grey silty clay, which contained abundant shillet, rare charcoal and sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery, and corresponded to fill 8014 of Quadrant 2. Context 8033 comprised the remains of the stone-built roundhouse wall, which survived around the eastern, southern and western sides of hollow 8011 (Figs. 5 and 6). Reflecting the somewhat better levels of preservation within Quadrant 1, the line of large, undressed stones, principally representing sandstone and mudstone clasts, displayed maximum measurements of 0.6m in width by 0.12m depth, but averaged *c.*0.4m in width. Many of the larger stone elements were laid longitudinally and flat, with some forming a distinct, neatly-laid kerb. As in 8013, in Quadrant 1, these were incorporated with smaller, interstitial stones, of *c.* 0.2m diameter. Many stones appeared to have been pitched along the edge of a construction cut defining the edge of 8011, with the most neatly-laid construction evident on the interior side of the wall (Fig. 5 photograph). This suggested that the low wall effectively

functioned as a structural revetment, enclosing the sunken floor of the roundhouse. Within fill 8031, a tumbled deposit of large stones on the north-west side of Roundhouse 1, 8030 (Fig. 5), was recorded as a separate context. This material had clearly derived from the closely adjacent wall, 8033.

Quadrant 2

5.10 Deposit 8013 in Quadrant 2 comprised a light-grey, silty layer of shillet, which incorporated stones of *c.* 0.2-0.3m diameter, comprising the remains of the roundhouse wall. Deposit 8013 corresponded to 8033 in Quadrant 1, but was nowhere as well preserved. Remains of the roundhouse wall survived only partially within Quadrant 2, and had been removed entirely in places (Fig. 5, section AA).

5.11 Within Quadrant 2, the lowest fill, 8012, a dark, black/brown silty clay, represented a probable occupation layer. This was overlain by fill 8017 towards the south-east side, and by 8014 towards the centre of the roundhouse (Fig. 5, section AA). Fill 8014 comprised a light-grey silty clay, of 0.22m depth, containing abundant shillet, rare charcoal and sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery. It corresponded to Fill 8031, in Quadrant 1, with which it displayed a comparable depth. Fill 8014 was separated from fill 8017 by a deposit of large stones, although the stratigraphic relationship between these two fills was unclear (Fig. 5, section AA). An apparent association with these stones suggested that fill 8017 originated from the demolition or collapse of the adjacent surrounding wall, 8013.This fill, located towards the east side of Quadrant 2, had no corresponding context in Quadrant 1, and comprised a light-yellow/brown sandy silt, containing occasional shillet, but no dateable material.

5.12 Fills 8014 and 8017 were both overlain in Quadrant 2 by fill 8015, which comprised a deposit of light red/brown silty clay, which averaged 0.46m in depth. This contained abundant shillet, but no dateable material (Figs. 5, section AA; Fig.6, section BB). Fill 8015 corresponded to fill 8032 in Quadrant 1. The mixed character of this fill suggested to the excavator that it represented a backfill deposit.

Features within Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 3)

5.13 Two small negative features were recorded within the interior of Roundhouse 1, which were cut into the underlying natural within both Quadrants 1 and 2 (Fig. 3). These appear to represent post settings for an internal subdivision or structural supports.

5.14 Posthole 8062 was located within the centre of Quadrant 1, and towards the northern edge of 8011, the roundhouse hollow. It was of sub-circular plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.13m and depth of 0.15m, with vertical sides. A single fill, 8063, of brown/black clay silt, contained occasional charcoal, mostly of alder, and unquantifiable fragments of charred plant remains.

5.15 Posthole 8060 measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, with steep sides and a concave base. It was located towards the east side of Roundhouse 1. A single fill, 8061, of dark-grey/brown sandy silt, contained only occasional charcoal. The excavator interpreted this fill as an occupation deposit which had compacted within the posthole. Sample 10 from this fill contained a small number of charred cereal grains, together with a range of wood charcoal, principally of oak.

5.16 Towards the centre of Roundhouse 1, two irregular deposits, 8064 and 8065, appeared to display evidence of burning, and were interpreted as possible hearths (Fig. 3). Deposit 8064 comprised a spread of burnt brown/pink silty clay, measuring *c.* 0.4m by 0.34m, with a depth of 0.07m (not shown in section). Context 8065, located to the north-east of 8064, comprised a spread of dark, fire-affected subsoil on the natural substrate, near the centre of the roundhouse hollow.

Roundhouse 2 (Figs. 3, 7 and 8)

5.17 Roundhouse 2 comprised a small, hollow-floored building of irregular, sub-circular plan, which was located 5.8m to the south-east of Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 3). The 'cut', or hollow, comprising the footprint of this building, was represented by context 8026, which measured 6m in length (north-west/south-east) and 4m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.27m. This hollow displayed moderately-sloping, concave sides and a flat base. It was investigated by two quadrants; Quadrant 1 to the north, and Quadrant 2 to the south (Figs. 3, 7 and 8).

5.18 Both quadrants exhibited two fills in section (Fig. 8, section CC). The lower of these, 8027, was a friable, grey/brown sandy silt, which was present at a depth of 0.1m across the extent of the roundhouse interior. It contained occasional charcoal, and a single sherd of Middle Bronze Age date.

5.19 An upper fill, 8028, of mid-red/brown sandy silt, averaged 0.19m in depth, but was of greater depth towards the northern and eastern sides of the roundhouse interior (Fig. 8). This fill also contained only a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery. Two

environmental samples (2 and 3), and a monolith sample (4) were taken from fills 8027 and 8028. These produced no identifiable charred plant remains or charcoal.

Individual features within Roundhouse 2

5.20 Six postholes were recorded around the periphery of Roundhouse 2, which clearly represented surviving elements of post-ring construction (Fig. 3). The arrangement of these was of strikingly irregular plan, with large intervals between individual examples, possibly implying that some structural evidence had been lost through truncation. This irregularity of plan appears to be typical of post-circle roundhouses of this period in the South-West (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 56-8). Recorded peripheral postholes comprised 8053, 8051, 8049, 8047, 8045 and 8043, of which posthole pairs 8053 and 8051, and 8049 and 8047, were separated by intervals of 1.4m and 1.8m respectively. It is probable that any missing postholes within this circuit wouldl have been located at comparable distances. On the south side of the roundhouse, postholes 8043 and 8045 were separated by an interval of only 0.4m, which is too narrow to have functioned as a doorway.

5.21 The six peripheral postholes displayed considerable conformity in terms of dimension and fill, with an average diameter of 0.24m and depth of 0.33m. Diameters ranged from 0.2m (8053 and 8045) to 0.3m (8043). All displayed vertical sides, and contained dark-brown/grey or dark-brown silty clay fills, some of which included occasional charcoal. None of these fills contained finds, but all appeared to derive from floor deposits within the roundhouse, most particularly 8027.

5.22 Pit 8059, located towards the eastern side of the interior of Roundhouse 2, was a slightly larger, sub-circular feature of 0.5m maximum diameter, and depth of 0.3m. It displayed near-vertical sides with a concave base, and contained a single fill, 8058, of compact, dark-brown silty clay, which included no dateable material. Posthole 8057 was located immediately adjacent to 8059, on its north-west side, and may represent repair or replacement within the roundhouse. Of circular plan, it measured 0.17m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, with vertical sides. A grey/brown silty clay fill, 8056, contained no dateable material.

5.23 Circular-plan posthole 8055 was located closer to the centre of Roundhouse 2, and slightly to the north-east of the intersection of Quadrants 1 and 2. It measured 0.2m in maximum diameter and 0.17min depth, with vertical sides and a concave base. A grey/brown silty clay fill, 8054, contained no dateable material.

Pits between Roundhouses 1 and 2 in Area 8 (Figs. 3, 9 and 10)

5.24 Roundhouse 1 was separated from Roundhouse 2 by a minimum distance of 5.8m, within which was located a group of six pits or large postholes (Fig. 3). These include pit 103, identified within evaluation Trench 1 (SWARCH 2017), together with pits 8018, 8022, 8008, 8025 and 8009 recorded by the excavation. Evaluation pit 103 measured 2.2m in width and 0.46m in depth, with moderately-sloping sides, and a slightly concave/flat base. The lowest of three fills, a dark-grey silt, contained a small fragment of burnt clay, while a middle fill, 105, of grey silty clay, contained large sub-angular stones and quartz fragments, of up to 0.5m diameter. This possible evidence of packing material suggests that, in common with adjacent pits, evaluation pit 103 represented the setting of a large post.

5.25 Pit 8025 was located 0.5m to the north-east of evaluation pit 103 and immediately west of Roundhouse 2 (Fig. 3). It was oval in plan, with a maximum diameter of 1.25m and depth of 0.25m, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, 8024, of light orange/brown silty clay, which contained no dateable material.

5.26 Pit 8022 comprised the northernmost of this group, and was located equidistantly between Roundhouse 1 and Roundhouse 2, at distances of 3.75m (Figs. 3 and 9). This pit was sub-circular in plan, with steep, partly undercut sides, and a flat base. It displayed a maximum diameter of 1.1m and a depth of 0.76m, with a single fill, 8023, of light-red/brown silty clay with abundant inclusions of shillet, with large quartz and sandstone elements of up to 0.4m in diameter. These were distributed as packing material around the outer edges of the pit, and appeared in section (Fig. 9, section FF) to enclose a post setting of approximately 0.4m in diameter. However, no trace of a post pipe was detected within this fill.

5.27 Post pit 8008 was centrally placed within the rectangular configuration represented by pits 8018, 8022, 8009 and evaluation pit 103, and was located 2m to the east of Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 3). It was of oval plan, and measured 0.96m in maximum diameter and 0.62m in depth, with steeply-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. A single fill, 2007, of grey/brown silty clay, contained a high concentration of shillet. One large stone was positioned at the top of this fill, and one at the base. It is possible that these represent packing material, although the otherwise low incidence of large stones within this fill, compared to that within surrounding pits, suggested

that although pit 8008 appeared to comprise part of a five-post structure, it may not have had a primarily supportive function.

5.28 Sub-circular post pit 8018 was located on the north-west side of the pit group, and 0.5m to the west of Roundhouse 1 (Figs. 3 and 9, section EE). It displayed a maximum diameter of 1.16m and depth of 0.75m, with vertical, partly undercut sides and a flat base. A single fill, 8019, of compact, light-brown silty clay, contained abundant shillet and large packing stones, which appeared to be concentrated around the south-east edge of the pit. This fill contained no dateable material.

5.29 Post pit 8009 was located at the south-west corner of the group of pits, and 0.8m to the south-east of Roundhouse 1 (Figs. 3 and 10, section GG). It was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.2m and depth of 0.55m, with symmetrical, concave sides and a concave base. Its single fill, 8010 comprised a loose, brown/grey clay silt, with abundant large stones and occasional, poorly-sorted shillet, but no dateable material.

5.30 The group of six substantial pits located between Roundhouses 1 and 2 appears to represent a substantial post-built structure (Structure 1, Fig. 3), although it is possible that not all of these features (i.e. 8008 and 8025) represent post settings. The rectangular arrangement of four 'corner' pits, 8018, 8022, 8009 and evaluation pit 103, all contained significant quantities of large stones as post-packing material, and these clearly represent a structure of substantial size and construction, incorporating at least four supporting posts (cf. Cunliffe 2005, 411-2). The space enclosed by packing stones in pit 8022, of *c*. 0.4m diameter, together with a ground-plan approaching five metres square, makes this structure particularly large in comparison with locally-recorded examples (see Fitzpatrick *et al*. 1999, figs. 18, 20, 51-3). Assuming that the two features are contemporary, the immediate proximity of Structure 1 to Roundhouse 1 may also be significant. Such an interpretation does not, however, account for the possible function of pits 8008 and 8025. While the former may have provided an additional, central support for an above-ground structure, the fill of pit 8025 was notably devoid of large stones, suggesting that, while of comparable dimensions to the other pits of the group, it did not support a structural post, and is unlikely to be related to this structure.

Undated features (Figs. 3 and 11)

Ditch 8003

5.31 Ditch 8003 was a WSW/ENE-aligned linear feature which ran *c.* 0.8m to the north of Roundhouse 1 (Figs. 3 and 10, section HH). A 12m length of Ditch 8003 was revealed within Area 8, before it terminated to the east. At intervention 8003, at the western edge of Area 8, this feature measured 0.72m in width and 0.24m in depth, with asymmetrical sides, which were both steep and rounded in places, and a rounded, concave base (Fig. 10, section HH). It contained a single fill, 2004, of light-brown/orange clay silt with shillet inclusions, but no dateable material. The dimensions of ditch 8003 declined considerably towards its eastern terminal, where at intervention 8005 it measured 0.5m in width an 0.17 in depth, with a notably asymmetrical profile.

5.32 Ditch 8003 was undated, but was found to be cut into the subsoil layer that sealed the other features identified in Area 8. This ditch was therefore a stratigraphically later feature, which appeared not to relate to Roundhouse 1. The geophysical survey (SWARCH 2107) tentatively suggested a relationship between Ditch 8003 and an adjacent north/south-aligned linear feature of post-medieval date (Fig. 2), in which case Ditch 8003 may represent a relatively recent field boundary. Such an interpretation is entirely plausible, although evaluation and excavation provided no indication of such a north/south ditch linear ditch. It is also possible that ditch 8003 may relate to ditch 101, identified within evaluation Trench 1, which was of comparable profile and alignment.

Pit 8034

5.33 Pit 8034 was identified by evaluation trench 2 (SWARCH 2017), and was partly exposed within the northern margins of Area 8. It was investigated by interventions 8034 and 8037 (Fig. 3). It was a feature of oval plan, measuring (as excavated) 1.08m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.39m in depth, with asymmetrical, rounded/steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, of which the lower, 8035, of mid-red/brown silty clay, contained abundant shillet and occasional charcoal flecks, but no finds. An upper fill, 8036, of orange/brown silty clay, contained no dateable material.

Pit 8040

5.34 Pit 8040 was of irregular plan, and was partly exposed 1.5m to the north-west of pit 8034, on the northern margins of Area 8 (Fig. 3). As excavated, it measured 1.15m

in maximum length, 0.85m in width and 0.15m in depth, with concave sides and base. A single fill, 8041, of red/brown silty clay, contained no dateable material.

Archaeological Features outside Area 8 (Fig. 2)

5.35 Seven exploratory trenches (Trenches 1-7) were excavated outside Area 8, to qualify the results of the evaluation, and to identify any archaeological features within the area surrounding Area 8 and the two roundhouses. These were identified in Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 6, and principally comprised a number of small, isolated postholes which did not appear to relate to any coherent structure (Fig. 2).

Trench 1

5.36 Trench 1 was located towards the western margins of the site, and contained ditch 103 and posthole 105 (Fig. 2). Within the short length exposed, Ditch 103 was aligned WSW/ENE, and displayed a width of 0.88m and depth of 0.35m. It displayed symmetrical, steeply-sloping sides and a rounded, irregular base. Although showing evidence of greater truncation on the south side, this feature was clearly visible within trench sections. A single fill, 104, comprised a light-orange/brown clay silt, with occasional inclusions of shillet, but no dateable material. This feature may represent a field or enclosure boundary of unknown date, but possibly contemporary with Ditch 8003, recorded in Area 8, or Ditch 101 in evaluation Trench 1.

5.37 Irregular posthole 105 was located towards the eastern end of exploratory Trench 1, and was exposed in the south section of the trench (Fig. 2). It measured 0.46m in maximum diameter and 0.17m in depth, with rounded, asymmetrical sides and a concave base. This feature was sealed by subsoil 102, and may therefore pre-date adjacent linear feature 103, which was cut into both this subsoil and the underlying natural.

Trench 4

5.38 Trench 4, located towards the south-eastern boundary of the site, contained two intercut postholes, 404 and 406, of which 406 appeared to be stratigraphically earlier (Fig. 2). Post hole 406 was oval in plan, measured 1.1m in maximum diameter and 0.19m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a fill, 405, of dark, yellow/brown clay silt, with occasional gravel and shillet inclusions, but no dateable material. Posthole 404 cut 406 on its east side, and measured 0.6m in maximum

diameter and 0.26m in depth, with vertical sides and a concave base. A single fill, 403, of dark-red/brown clay silt, contained no dateable material.

Trench 5

5.39 Trench 5, located towards the south-east corner of the site, contained a single posthole, 503, of sub-circular plan, which measured 0.58m in maximum diameter and 0.2m in depth (Fig. 2). It displayed asymmetrical steep/rounded sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill, 504, of brown/grey silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and medium-sized fragments of shillet. The latter may represent post-packing material.

Trench 6

5.40 Trench 6, located 8m east of Area 8 at its closest extent, also contained a single posthole, 603, which measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.24m in depth, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 2). A dark-orange/brown silty clay fill, 604, of probable sedimentary origin, contained inclusions of shillet, but no dateable material.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

5.41 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential for elucidating the form, purpose, date, organisation and development of the various phases of activity represented on the site. This can be achieved through the detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood.

5.42 While the stratigraphic record forms a complete record of the archaeological features uncovered, the relative lack of inter-relationships between these features, and the limited amount of dating evidence available from other datasets, limits the potential for further stratigraphic assessment of the site. There is scope for obtaining radiocarbon dates from charcoal from deposits within both roundhouses, which may complement the broad dating evidence of the pottery, and assist in refining a chronological framework for the development, occupation and abandonment of the site.

5.43 The survival and intelligibility of stratigraphy across the site was relatively good, with archaeological remains surviving as negative features, layers and fills. However,

historical truncation had reduced depths of horizontal stratigraphy across the site, which greatly limited opportunities for interpreting chronological relationships between stratigraphically-isolated features. In addition, the exclusive presence of Middle Bronze Age material, and its general typological conformity, limited scope for more refined phasing of site development. Despite this, most features have been assigned to this period, on the basis of context dates and/or spatial associations.

5.44 Scope for the further analysis of spatial and stratigraphic relationships within the site is very limited. However, the following aspects of stratigraphy may merit further assessment:

- The large post pits associated with Structure 1, interpreted as a four-post structure of atypically large size and robust construction, merit further analysis. The pits commonly contain substantial post-packing stones, but apparently no evidence of post pipes as such. The distribution of packing stones may provide further evidence of construction, and may provide some indication of whether Structure 1 was a temporary or longer-term feature ie. of whether posts were deliberately removed. Detailed assessment of regional or national comparators may provide some indication of why Structure 1 was located so close to Roundhouse 1, and whether the two structures are likely to be contemporary. Such assessment may also provide further information regarding the function of apparently anomalous pit 8008.

- Undated ditch 8003 was discontinuous, and while undated appeared not to relate to Roundhouse 1 or other Middle Bronze Age features. Geophysical survey (SWARCH 2107, 11, fig. 4; 12, fig. 5) suggested a possible relationship between ditch 8003 and an adjacent north/south-aligned linear feature of post-medieval date, in which case ditch 8003 may represent a relatively recent field boundary.

6. FINDS: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.1 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. The finds are quantified in Table 2, below:

Table 2: Quantification of finds

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	1216	8166
Worked Stone	Quern fragments	2	2127

6.2 The finds are limited in quantity and range, and overwhelmingly comprise Middle Bronze Age pottery, of which 341 sherds are of Trevisker type. Two fragments of worked stone represent the remains of querns of probable Bronze Age date. Detailed assessments of finds are presented in Appendices C and D, of this report. The absence of worked flint within the finds assemblage is worthy of note.

Artefactual record: statement of potential

Pottery

6.3 The assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery comprises a significant group, and one providing a regional comparator, particularly within the context of hollow-floored house types, which are locally rare. It is recommended that up to eight drawings should be prepared of the pottery from Roundhouse 1. The presence of large, unabraded sherds within the upper fill of the hollow of Roundhouse 1, suggests that these do not relate to domestic activity, and therefore any data relevant to the positions of artefacts within the Roundhouse plan is pertinent to this question.

6.4 If possible, a total of eight thin-sections could be obtained to enable a detailed study of the gabbroic and composite fabrics. Where possible, there exists scope for a microscopic study of additional sherds.

Worked Stone

6.5 No further assessment is required, as the fragments of stone rubber or small quern have been fully reported on here (Appendix D). The assessment contained in this report is considered sufficient for the purposes of the archive. However, this text should be included in any published report, with the addition of relevant context information.

7. BIOLOGICAL RECORD: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1 No bone was recovered from excavated features. A total of nine bulk and two monolith samples were taken, for the recovery of environmental remains. The results of the assessment of wood charcoal and charred plant remains are presented in Appendix E of this report.

Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal

7.2 Six samples were assessed for wood charcoal and charred plant remains, all from contexts within Roundhouse 1, including occupation deposits 8012 and 8029, and two associated postholes. A range of wood charcoals was identified, of which oak and alder were the most widespread taxa. The most common charred plant remains comprised cereal grains of hulled barley and glume wheats. Small quantities of wheat and barley chaff, and a range of weed seeds, were also identified.

Biological record: statements of potential

Wood charcoal

7.3 In view of the variation in the wood charcoal from the same occupation layers, it is recommended that one sample from each occupation layer (samples 8 and 5) is fully analysed, and the other two samples (samples 1 and 9) are rapidly analysed. Full analysis would involve the identification of 100-plus charcoal fragments, while for the rapid analysis this would be around 60 fragments. Sample preparation and 25-30 initial identifications have already taken place during the assessment, so this should be relatively quick.

7.4 The range of wood charcoal remains in the posthole samples 10 (Roundhouse 1, posthole 8060) and 11 (Roundhouse 1, posthole 8062)is unusual, and it is recommended that both are rapidly analysed. Again, this would be a quick process, as around half of the proposed fragments have already been identified. The posthole charcoal most probably relates to the occupation of Roundhouse 1, although it is possible (at present) that the oak charcoal in monolith sample 10 represents a post that was burnt *in situ*.

Charred plant remains

7.5 The most common charred remains were cereal grains, represented by hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and glume wheat(s). The latter appear to be largely from emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). Some oat and oat/large grass grains were seen. Small quantities of wheat and barley chaff are present, and seeds of wild species (including *Corylus avellana,* and possible bramble (*Rubus* sp.), and weeds of cultivation) were noted in five of the six samples, again in small to moderate quantities. An uncharred grape (*Vitis vinifera*) pip from occupation layer 8029 is likely to be a recent contaminant but should be investigated further. This sample has quite large quantities of apparent vitrified material, and there is some possible mineralised wood. Hulled barley and emmer wheat are the most commonly

encountered cereal species on Bronze Age sites in southern England. As at sites elsewhere in the south-west, hulled barley (rather than wheat) seems to be most frequent. The presence of cereal grains, chaff and possible weeds of cultivation, in samples from domestic contexts on sites in south-west Britain is still relatively rare. It is therefore recommended that the four samples from the Roundhouse 1 occupation layers are investigated in further detail, with samples 1 (layer 8012) and 9 (layer 8029) to be fully analysed, and samples 5 (8029) and 8 (8012) are rapidly analysed (via fractions of the flots).

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 The Combe Cross site includes two examples of a locally-rare type of hollow-floored buildings of Middle Bronze Age date which, along with four other sites in South Devon, appear to represent an eastward extension of a tradition which is well represented in Cornwall. Excavated features are chronologically discrete, and there is no evidence of activity on the site before, or after, the Middle Bronze Age period. Within a regional context, the site has a number of contemporary comparators, and comprises a relatively unusual example, within a lowland context, of prehistoric domestic structures which are very much better known on the neighbouring uplands of Dartmoor.

8.2 The survival and intelligibility of stratigraphy across the site was relatively good, with archaeological remains surviving as negative features, layers and fills. The sequence of fills within both roundhouses was well preserved and intelligible, and sufficient remained of structural features to enable the character and appearance of both buildings to be interpreted. However, the generally reduced depth of horizontal stratigraphy across the site greatly limited opportunities to interpret chronological relationships between stratigraphically-isolated features. Consequently, the potential for further stratigraphic analysis is considered to be very limited

8.3 The site included relatively well-preserved structural remains which related to two adjacent buildings of contrasting construction and character. Evidence for the stone-built walls of Roundhouse 1 survived within much of their original circuit, as did deposits within its enclosed hollow, whereas Roundhouse 2, an irregular, and possibly ephemeral, post-built structure, was of altogether different character and probable function. The two buildings were stratigraphically isolated, and may

possibly not be strictly contemporary, although the very limited pottery evidence from Roundhouse 2 broadly indicated a Middle Bronze Age date.

8.4 The artefactual record was limited in range and quantity, and overwhelmingly comprised pottery, of which a significant component comprised Trevisker-type ware. This material, together with evidence of gabbroic and other tempers, provides additional evidence of patterns of clay and temper sources, and of pottery manufacture and use, within this part of the south-west peninsula. In particular, the presence of freshly-broken sherds within the upper fills of Roundhouse 1, together with quern fragments, suggests further evidence of activities associated with the end of occupation, and accords with contemporary evidence elsewhere in the region. Scope for limited additional assessment of the pottery assemblage has been described in section 6 of this report.

8.5 Assessment of wood charcoal and charred plant remains, particularly from occupation deposits in Roundhouse 1 has indicated scope for further analysis of both bulk and monolith samples. It is recommended that bulk samples 1-9 should be fully analysed. It is noted that the range of wood charcoal taxa in posthole samples is potentially interesting, and may relate to the occupation of Roundhouse 1. Charred plant remains, including in this case cereal grains, cereal processing waste and weed seeds, is relatively rare from Bronze Age domestic contexts in south-west Britain, and justify further analysis.

8.6 The excavation has substantially addressed the original objectives set out in section 3 of this report, and accords with the criteria relating to Theme A: Settlement Sites and Landscapes, and Theme B: Artefacts and the Built Environment, in the current *South West Regional Research Framework* (Grove and Croft (eds), 2012). The potential for further analysis in this case is limited, and this has been set out in the Updated Project Design in Section 11. The results of excavation on the Combe Cross site represent a further addition to the growing record of lowland Bronze Age occupation sites in Devon, and merit publication as a short article in a future volume of the *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society.*

9. STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Exeter, while post-excavation work proceeds. On completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with the

Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery (accession number: PLYMG.2018.8), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. The born digital data and a copy of the site archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

10. DISCUSSION

Roundhouses 1 and 2

10.1 Evaluation and excavation have identified the remains of a small, Middle Bronze Age settlement, which comprised two circular-plan buildings of a hollow-floored type which is better known in the lowlands of Cornwall (Jones and Quinnell 2011, 217-221). These distinctive structures have been identified in a number of lowland contexts in south Devon, including examples at Staddon, Plymouth (Gent 2003) and Plymstock Quarry (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 87-9). Of the four south Devon examples recorded to date, those at Combe Cross are the most easterly. More general evidence of Bronze Age roundhouses within lowland areas to the south of Dartmoor remains comparatively rare, which may partly reflect poor levels of survival (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 85-6). More recently, sites incorporating remains of both houses and contemporary field systems have been recorded (Mudd and Joyce 2014, 184-86). East of the River Avon, Middle Bronze Age houses are generally of post-ring construction, without hollow floors. A house of this type was excavated at Langage, Sparkwell, Devon, but even here the ceramics were of Cornish type (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011). Current evidence overall suggests socio-cultural influences from Cornwall into parts of West Devon in the 15th and 14th centuries BC, based on the style of house construction, the types of ceramics used, and the formalised end of house use.

10.2 The two Combe Cross buildings are of notably contrasting modes of construction. Roundhouse 1 is the larger, and considerably the more substantial, of the two, with robust stone side-walls appearing to enclose a hollow floor. These walls presumably supported radial roof timbers, at a height of perhaps 1m, or less, above ground level. With an internal diameter of 7.8m, Roundhouse 1 is smaller than many other contemporary examples (cf. Gent 2003; Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 89), but compares closely in terms of dimensions and stone-walled construction with many contemporary Dartmoor examples (Fleming 2008, 111, fig. 54, 112 fig. 55; Smith *et al*. 1981). It thus represents a distinctive regional adaptation of a type of Middle Bronze Age roundhouse, which is well-attested elsewhere across southern Britain,

but largely on the basis of post settings (cf. Rahtz and Apsimon 1962). These examples generally lack the size and developed symmetrical plan of their Iron Age successors, although that at Staddon Heights, Plymouth, measured 12.5m by 16m externally (Gent 2003). Functional relationships between circular-plan buildings may, as here, be inferred from close associations, although it is rarely possible to demonstrate this on the basis of artefact distributions (Harding 2009, 127). In this case, such a distinction can be readily deduced from differences in mode of construction, and from marked disparities in artefactual and biofactual associations.

10.3 Despite the survival of surfaces beneath the fills of the hollow within Roundhouse 1, surprisingly little internal structural evidence was encountered. In the absence of evidence for a central supporting post, it appears probable that radial roof timbers were supported only by a low stone foundation (cf. Harding 2009, 133). By contrast, Roundhouse 2, represented by a hollow surrounded by a presumably incomplete circuit of post settings, was of notably irregular plan, and may be representative of another recognised class of Early and Middle Bronze Age building (Harding 2009, 127). The irregularity of plan in this case suggests a hastily-constructed, relatively transient structure and one, judging from a distinct lack of artefactual evidence, not associated with domestic occupation, although excavation provided no other evidence of function. The highly irregular plan and construction of many post-ring buildings of this date is exemplified locally by the small excavated example at Sparkwell, South Devon (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 56-60), *c.* 8km to the west, which provides a rare comparator within surrounding lowland areas of South Devon.

10.4 While the lengths of undated ditch investigated in Area 8 may represent a contemporary field system, further speculation is difficult. Such evidence was confirmed at Sherford, 7km to the north-east of Combe Cross (Exeter Archaeology 2000), and a closely integrated relationship between settlement and field boundaries is well attested within neighbouring upland areas of Dartmoor (Fleming 2008, 88-90, fig. 38). Such basic settlement components, each comprising a principal dwelling with one or more ancillary buildings, have been widely recognised across southern Britain as representing single extended family units (Ellison 1981; cf. Brück 1999, 55), within relatively dispersed patterns of settlement and land tenure (cf. Johnston 2001, 101). A number of commentators (Bradley 1978, 56-7; Fleming 2008, 128-9) have speculated on the possible seasonal or episodic occupation of some sites, particularly within the context of transhumant movements. This may be of relevance in view of the proximity of the Dartmoor uplands. While there is tentative evidence of

replacement or repair of posthole elements (ie.8057/8059), overall evidence indicates very little change or adaptation of Roundhouses 1 and 2 over time, suggesting that the lifetime of the settlement may have been short, and possibly incorporated within the span of a generation or human lifetime (Goodman 1999, 153; Sharples 2010 224; Gerritsen 1999, 80-81).

Evidence for Structured Deposition

10.5 Quinnell (this report) has observed that, while many of the contexts in Roundhouse 1 have been characterised as 'occupation layers', a significant proportion of sherds, particularly of Trevisker-type vessels from contexts 8012, 8014 and 8029, in Roundhouse 1, are large and in a freshly-broken, unabraded condition. These are clearly not characteristic of sherds from a floor deposit, and appear unlikely to have been subject to trampling after deposition. Quinnell (this report) concludes that this material does not relate to domestic activity, and is more likely to result from activities associated with the abandonment of the site. Such evidence of apparently intentional deposition has numerous British and continental parallels (cf Sharples 2010, 228), and may represent a pervasive later prehistoric tradition in which the demise or abandonment of a settlement, possibly associated with the death of its principal inhabitant, is formally marked (Hill 1995, 100-1, 108; Bradley 2005, 114, 119).

10.6 In such cases, the settlement itself may only represent a single, relatively short-lived phase of occupation which was coeval with the lifetime of its principal inhabitant (Gerritsen 1999, 80-81; Bradley 2005, 79-80; Sharples 2010, 222-3). The choice of distinctive Trevisker vessels in abandonment ritual may be significant in this context. Nowakowski (1991; 2001, 140-141), in noting evidence of ritualistic abandonment practices at the Middle Bronze Age settlement at Trethellan Farm, Newquay, has drawn attention to the manner in which features within house interiors were buried beneath levelling layers, which were themselves associated with a large pottery assemblage, including Trevisker vessels. Within a number of investigated houses, the small artefact assemblages associated with principal phases of occupation contrasted markedly with the quantities of material recovered from abandonment layers. Comparable patterns of infilling and deposition have been associated with contemporary sites at Indian Queens, Cornwall (Nowakowski 1998; 2001, 145), and at Trevisker itself (Apsimon and Greenfield 1972, 334), where infilled house hollows incorporating freshly-broken sherds were recorded.

10.7 The substantial south-east/north-west aligned ditch identified by geophysical survey (SWARCH 2017, 11, fig. 4) appeared to conform to the course of a known historic field boundary of post-medieval date, which had been removed in the twentieth century. Undated ditch 2003 may relate to this former field boundary, but differed from it in terms of dimensions and profile. However, the feature recorded by excavation as pit 8034 was confusingly identified within the eastern end of evaluation Trench 2, as ditch 214 (SWARCH 2017). Although undated, the profile and dimensions of the feature recorded by evaluation were very similar to those of ditch 2003, and suggest possible contemporaneity. The processed greyscale image of the geophysical survey suggests the possible presence of other linear features across the site (SWARCH 2017, 13, fig. 6), and there is an emerging body of evidence for the widespread presence of Bronze Age field systems within lowland areas to the south of Dartmoor, some displaying co-axial patterning (Pearce *et al*. 2011, 47-49, fig. 15; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, figs. 30 and 90; Yates 2007, 65-7). Evidence of surviving co-axial patterning is apparent in modern field boundaries only 0.75km to the north-east of the site (Fig. 1).

10.8 The large four or five-post structure between Roundhouses 1 and 2 was supported by substantial posts of *c*.0.4m diameter. This is considerably larger than most recorded contemporary structures of this type in Devon (cf. Butterworth 1999a, 98, fig.46; 101, fig. 51), although structure 127, recorded at Blackhorse, Exeter, in association with the A30 road scheme, offers a valid comparison (Butterworth 1999b, 167, fig. 85). Lambrick (2009, 272-4) has identified a class of comparably large four-post structures elsewhere in southern Britain, principally in association with settlement sites of Middle Iron Age date. He considered the commonly-suggested function of such structures as granaries, or agricultural fodder stores (Cunliffe 2005, 411-2) to be plausible, but not conclusive. It is possible that these structures may have served a number of purposes, and in this context their frequently close association with houses may be significant, particularly on pastoral settlements. Four or five-post structures do not appear to be a feature of Cornish Middle Bronze Age settlements, but are known on sites of that date further east in Devon, notably in the Exeter area, at Digby (Quinnell and Farnell 2016, Fig 3), and at Hayne Lane, Honiton (Butterworth 1999a, 91-129). If the Combe Cross structure can be demonstrated to be contemporary with the two houses, this may indicate a cultural influence from further east in Devon which appears to conflict with prevailing trends from Cornwall, to the west.

***General Comment** by* Henrietta Quinnell

10.9 The two examples of hollow-floored roundhouses, at Plymstock Quarry and at Staddon Heights, were not fully excavated as development plans were adapted after their discovery, although radiocarbon dates of 14th and 15th centuries cal BC for their floor infills were obtained. These both contained good Trevisker assemblages (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, fig 13). Another site currently containing a single roundhouse, has been evaluated at Challongsleigh, Lee Mill (ACD1697). Extensive current excavations at Sherford New Town, by Wessex Archaeology, include Middle Bronze Age settlement with some similar features. Another site, with a single house only partially investigated, is located at Beneknowle, Avonwick (Mudd and Joyce 2014, figs 2.30-2.32). The most recent update on the house type in Cornwall is that on Roundhouse 1 at Tremough, Penryn (Jones *et al*. 2015), although several sites have been discovered subsequently, and await publication.

10.10 This group of sites in South West Devon, except the last, where no pottery was found, is linked by the presence of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker pottery, mostly made in gabbroic fabrics, for which the clay originated in the Lizard peninsula, but sometimes mixed with local components, suggesting that the clay, not the pottery, was transported.

11. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

11.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for the proposed further analysis:

Objective 1: to analyse patterns of artefact distribution in Roundhouse 1

11.2 Further analysis of the spread of freshly-broken sherds and quern fragments within the upper fills of Roundhouse 1 should be undertaken to obtain a more detailed understanding of post-abandonment patterns of deposition.

Objective 2: to analyse regional comparanda of Middle Bronze Age roundhouse types

11.3 Comparative regional examples should be assessed to provide a clearer interpretation of the Combe Cross site as a Middle Bronze Age social unit, and of the relative size of the roundhouses. Particular attention should be paid to examples of hollow-floored types.

Objective 3: to identify the origins of Middle Bronze Age pottery, and place it within regional traditions.

11.4 Where circumstances permit, thin-section analysis of gabbroic and composite-tempered fabrics could provide a basis for assessing the Combe Cross Middle Bronze Age assemblage with regional comparanda. Similarly there exists further scope for a comparative assessment of the forms and decoration of the Trevisker material with regional examples of this tradition.

Objective 4: to obtain secure dates for Roundhouses 1 and 2

11.5 Sealed deposits within Roundhouses 1 and 2 may contain charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. Subject to agreed budgets for further analysis and publication, the obtaining of one or two radiocarbon dates would offer a firmer basis for placing the Combe Cross site within established regional chronological frameworks.

12. PUBLICATION

12.1 The results from the investigations at Combe Cross, Filham, are of at least local and arguably of regional significance and merit publication. The two hollow-floored roundhouses comprise rare examples of this type in South Devon, and complement a growing body of evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement in this area. The roundhouses involve two different traditions of construction, with relatively well-preserved floor deposits and artefactual associations. A possibly contemporary four or five-post structure, of unusual type, is of particular interest. It is proposed that a short report is published in a future volume of the *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society.*

Synopsis of Proposed Report

12.2

Excavation of Middle Bronze Age Roundhouses and other features at Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge

by Richard Massey and Jonathan Orellana

	Words
Acknowledgements	50
Summary (plus German and French versions)	100
Introduction	
Location, topography and geology	100
Archaeological background	200
Project background	50

Excavation Results		
Chronological discussion of the major phases and features of the site		
	Site narrative	700
	Pottery (Henrietta Quinnell)	300
	Worked stone (Ruth Shaffrey)	50
	Plant macrofossil and charcoal (Sheila Boardman)	200
Discussion		
	Roundhouse construction and chronology	200
	Pottery and structured deposition	200
	Regional settlement patterns	100
Conclusion		200
Bibliography		300
Appendices		
	Finds catalogues	200
	Total words	***2950***
	Approximate pages @ 800 words/page	4
		Pages
Tables		
	Plant macrofossil and charcoal	1
Illustrations		
	Site plan with phasing	1
	Sections and photographs	2
Total publication estimate		**8 pages**

13. PROJECT TEAM

13.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Karen Walker MCIfA** (Principal Post-Excavation Manager) and managed by **Richard Massey MCIfA** (Post-Excavation Manager), who will contribute to the discussion as senior author, and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Jonathan Orellana (Project Officer: PO):
Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive

Charlote Patman ACIfA (Illustrator: ILL):
Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings (exc. pottery)

Contributions by the following external consultants will be managed by the Finds Officer:

Ruth Shaffrey: Worked Stone
Henrietta Quinell ??
Thin sections ?? Patrick Quinn ?? or Henrietta's favoured candidate ??

Contributions by the following external consultants will, where appropriate, be managed by the Environmental Officer:

Shiela Boardman, Archaeobotanist (Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal)
SUERC (East Kilbride): Radiocarbon dating

13.2 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management, and will be subject to an external review by a referee appointed by the county journal.

Task List

Table 3: Task List

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
Project Management		
	PXM	0.5 day
Stratigraphic Analysis		
	PO	0.5 day
Research, comparanda	PXM	0.5 day
Pottery		
Analysis and report	Specialist	fee
Illustration	Specialist	fee
Thin sections?		
Worked stone		
Report preparation	Specialist	fee
Radiocarbon dating		
Analysis	Specialist	fee
Report preparation	FO	0.25 day
Biological material		
Analysis of charcoal and charred plant remains	Specialist	fee
Report preparation	Specialist	fee
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	PXM	0.25 day
Excavation results	PO	0.5 day
Illustration	I	1 day
Compilation of specialist reports, tables etc.	PO	0.5 day
Discussion, conclusions	PXM	0.5 day
Acknowledgements, bibliography	PXM	0.25 day
QA	PPXM	0.5 day
Submission to external referees		
Editing & revisions	PXM	0.5 day
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Archive		
Research archive completion	FS	0.5 day
Deposition	FS	0.5
Museum Costs		fee
Publication		
Printing	PDAS	fee

14. TIMETABLE

14.1 For a journal publication project, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within six to nine months following approval of the updated publication project design. If desired, a detailed programme can be produced, subject to approval of the updated publication project design.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Table 4: Context Descriptions

Area/site_code	Context	Ctx_type	Fill_of	Ctx_Description	Group	Sample no(s)
CCF17 Trench 1	100	layer		Layer, topsoil, mid grey/brown clayey silt, with occasional shillet, 0.33m thick		
CCF17 Trench 1	101	layer		Layer, subsoil, light yellow/brown clay silt, with occasional small shillet, 0.22m thick		
CCF17 Trench 1	102	layer		Layer, natural substrate, light yellow/brown silty clay, with frequent shillet		
CCF17 Trench 1	103	cut		Ditch, linear in plan, SW/NE aligned, straight steep sides with irregular base, 0.88m wide x 0.35m deep		
CCF17 Trench 1	104	fill	103	Single fill of ditch, light brown/ orange clayey silt		
CCF17 Trench 1	105	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, Moderate, sloping sides and concave base, 0.45m diameter x 0.17m deep		
CCF17 Trench 1	106	fill	105	Single fill of posthole, mid- brown/red clayey silt		
CCF17 Trench 2	200	layer		Layer, topsoil, dark, grey/brown silty clay, 0.3m thick		
CCF17 Trench 2	201	layer		Layer, subsoil, mid-brown/grey silty clay, with frequent shillet, 0.35m thick		
CCF17 Trench 2	202	layer		Layer, natural substrate, firm shillet and mudstone, with a greyish silty clay matrix		
CCF17 Trench 3	300	layer		Layer, topsoil, dark, red/brown sandy clay/silt, with moderate shillet and gravel, >0.4m thick		
CCf17 Trench 3	301	layer		Layer, subsoil, mid-red/brown clayey silt, with occasional shillet and small stone, >0.25m thick		
CCF17 Trench 3	302	layer		Layer, natural substrate, pink/ grey to yellow/grey shillet, with irregular bands of a red/brown clayey silt matrix		
CCF17 Trench 4	400	layer		Layer, topsoil, dark, red/brown clayey silt, with occasional small stone and shillet, >0.4m thick		
CCF17 Trench 4	401	layer		Layer, subsoil, mid-red/brown clayey silt, with occasional shillet, >0.3m thick		
CCF17 Trench 4	402	layer		Layer, natural substrate, mid- grey/yellow shillet, with a red/ brown sandy clay matrix		
CCF17 Trench 4	403	fill	404	Single fill of posthole, dark, red/brown clayey silt		
CCF17 Trench 4	404	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, with steep sloping sides and concave base, 0.6m diameter x 0.26m deep		
CCF17 Trench 4	405	fill	406	Single fill of pit, dark yellow/brown clayey silt		
CCF17 Trench 4	406	cut		Pit, oval in plan, steep sloping sides and flat base, 1.1m long x 0.85m wide x 0.19m deep		

CCF17 Trench 5	500	layer		Layer, topsoil, mid-grey/brown clayey silt, with occasional small shillet, 0.38m thick		
CCF17 Trench 5	501	layer		Layer, subsoil, Mid-orange/brown clayey silt, with occasional to frequent shillet, 0.28m thick		
CCF17 Trench 5	502	layer		Layer, natural substrate, light-yellow/grey silty clay, with frequent shillet		
CCF17 Trench 5	503	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 0.58m long x 0.5m wide x 0.2m deep		
CCF17 Trench 5	504	fill	503	Single fill of posthole, mid- brown/grey silty clay		
CCF17 Trench 6	600	layer		Layer, topsoil, dark-grey/brown silty clay		
CCF17 Trench 6	601	layer		Layer, subsoil, mid-brown/grey silty clay with frequent shillet		
CCF17 Trench 6	602	layer		Layer, natural substrate, firm shillet and mudstone within a greyish silty clay matrix		
CCF17 Trench 6	603	cut		Pit, sub-oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base, 0.75m long x 0.7m wide x 0.24m deep		
CCF17 Trench 6	604	fill	603	Single fill of pit, dark-orange/brown silty clay		
CCF17 Trench 7	700	layer		Layer, topsoil, dark, grey/brown silty clay, 0.2m thick		
CCF17 Trench 7	701	layer		Layer, subsoil, mid-grey, silty clay, with frequent shillet, 0.2m thick		
CCF17 Trench 7	702	layer		Layer, natural substrate, firm shillet and mudstone within a grey clayey matrix		
CCF17 Area 8	8000	layer		Layer, topsoil, grey/brown silty clay, with frequent shillet and mudstone, 0.46m thick		
CCF17 Area 8	8001	layer		Layer, subsoil, yellow/brown silty clay, with frequent shillet, 0.22m thick		
CCF17 Area 8	8002	layer		Layer, natural substrate, frequent grey/brown shillet bedrock, with rare, red/brown silt clay patches		
CCF17 Area 8	8003	cut		Ditch, linear in plan, SW/NE- aligned, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 0.72m wide x 0.24m deep	Ditch 8003	
CCF17 Area 8	8004	fill	8003	Single fill of linear, light-brown/ orange clayey silt		
CCF17 Area 8	8005	cut		Ditch terminal, linear in plan, SW/NE-aligned, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 0.5m wide x 0.17m deep		
CCF17 Area 8	8006	fill	8005	Single fill of ditch terminal, light brown/orange clayey silt		
CCF17 Area 8	8007	fill	8008	Single fill of posthole, mid-grey/ brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8008	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, steep, sloping sides and concave base, o.96m long x 0.9m wide x 0.62m deep	Structure 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8009	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 1.2m diameter x 0.55m deep	Structure 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8010	fill	8009	Single fill of posthole, mid- brown/grey clayey silt, with occasional disturbed packing stones		

CCF17 Area 1	8011	cut		Cut of roundhouse, quadrant 1, circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base, 7.8m diameter x 0.72m deep	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 1	8012	layer	8011	Layer, possible occupation layer, dark, black silty clay with frequent shillet and rare pottery fragments	Roundhouse 1	1, 6
CCF17 Area 8	8013	deposit	8011	Deposit, compact sandstone within a light-grey shillet matrix	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 1	8014	layer	8011	Layer, demolition layer within quadrant 1, light-grey silty clay, with frequent shillet and rare charcoal	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 1	8015	fill	8011	Backfill of roundhouse hollow: light-red/brown silty clay	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8017	layer	8011	Demolition layer: light-yellow/ brown sandy silt	Roundhouse 1	6
CCF17 Area 1	8018	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, w vertical sides and flat base, 1.16m wide x 0.75m deep	Structure 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8019	fill	8018	1st fill of posthole, light-brown silty clay, with some large packing stones present		
CCF17 Area 8	8020	fill	8018	2nd fill of posthole, light-brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8022	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sloping sides and flat base, 1.10m diameter x 0.76m deep	Structure 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8023	fill	8022	Single fill of posthole, light- red/brown silty clay, with disturbed packing stones		
CCF17 Area 8	8024	fill	8025	Single fill of pit, light-orange/ brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8025	cut		Pit, oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 1.25m long x 1m wide x 0.25m deep		
CCF17 Area 8	8026	cut		Sunken roundhouse, sub-oval in plan, w moderate sloping sides and flat base, 6m long x 4.5m wide x 0.27m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8027	fill	8026	1st fill of roundhouse, light- grey/brown silty sand	Roundhouse 2	2, 3, 4
CCF17 Area 8	8028	fill	8026	2nd fill of roundhouse 2, mid- red/brown sandy silt	Roundhouse 2	2, 3, 4
CCF17 Area 8	8029	layer	8011	Occupation layer in Roundhouse 1, quadrant 2, dark, black silty clay, with frequent shillet and occasional pottery fragments	Roundhouse 1	5, 7, 9
CCF17 Area 8	8030	layer	8011	Demolition layer in quadrant 2 of roundhouse 1, compact sandstone within a light-grey shillet matrix	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8031	layer	8011	Layer, demolition layer within quadrant 2, light grey silty clay, with frequent shillet and rare charcoal	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8032	fill	8011	Backfill of roundhouse hollow, light-red/brown silty clay	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 1	8033	masonry	8011	Wall within roundhouse, large sandstone/mudstone elements, 7m long x 6m wide x 0.7m high	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8034	cut		Pit, sub-oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base, 1.08m long x 0.4m wide x 0.39m	Pit 8034	
CCF17 Area 8	8035	fill	8034	1st fill of pit, mid-red/brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8036	fill	8034	2nd fill of pit, light-orange/brown silty clay		

CCF17 Area 1	8037	cut		Pit, sub-oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and flat base, 0.64m wide x 0.4m deep	Pit 8034	
CCF17 Area 8	8038	fill	8037	1st fill of pit, mid-red/brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8039	fill	8037	2nd fill of pit, light-orange/brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8040	cut		Pit, oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 0.96m wide x 0.18m wide		
CCF17 Area 8	8041	fill	8040	Single fill of pit, mid yellow/ brown clayey silt, with rare shillet		
CCF17 Area 8	8042	fill	8043	Single fill of posthole, dark-grey/ brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8043	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sloping sides and concave base, 0.3m diameter x 0.25m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8044	fill	8045	Single fill of posthole, dark-grey/ brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8045	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base, 0.2m long x 0.15m wide x 0.08m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8046	fill	8047	Single fill of posthole, dark-brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8047	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sloping sides and concave base, 0.25m diameter x 0.33m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8048	fill	8049	Single fill of posthole, dark brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8049	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, vertical sides and concave base, 0.25m diameter x 0.5m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8050	fill	8051	Single fill of posthole, dark brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8051	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, vertical sloping sides and concave base, 0.24m diameter x 0.43m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8052	fill	8053	Single fill of posthole, dark brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8053	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, vertical sloping sides and concave base, 0.2m diameter x 0.42m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8054	fill	8055	Single fill of posthole, dark brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8055	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, vertical sloping sides and concave base, 0.2m diameter x 0.17m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8056	fill	8057	Single fill of posthole, dark-brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8057	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, vertical sloping sides and concave base, 0.17m diameter x 0.2m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8058	fill	8059	Single fill of pit, dark-brown silty clay		
CCF17 Area 8	8059	cut		Pit, sub-circular in plan, vertical sloping sides and concave base, 0.5m long x 0.4m wide x 0.3m deep	Roundhouse 2	
CCF17 Area 8	8060	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sloping sides and concave base, 0.32m diameter x 0.2m deep	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8061	fill	8060	Single fill of posthole, dark, brown/grey sandy silt, possibly part of occupation deposit		10

CCF17 Area 8	8062	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sloping sides and concave base, 0.3m diameter x 0.15m deep	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8063	fill	8062	Single fill of posthole, dark, brown/black clayey silt		11
CCF17 Area 8	8064	deposit		Deposit, brown/pink silty clay, heat affected, possible remnant of hearth	Roundhouse 1	
CCF17 Area 8	8065	layer	8011	Layer: dark-brown sandy silt, possible hearth due to dark material	Roundhouse 1	

APPENDIX B: STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSEMENT

A total of 98 contexts was recorded during the excavation, including those recorded within trial trenches 1-7. The results of the excavation have broadly addressed the objectives stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation, in identifying dating and recording two hollow-floored buildings of Middle Bronze Age date, together with ancillary features, including a four or five-post structure of considerable size. Despite the effects of later truncation, archaeological features survived relatively well, and permitted deposition sequences and mode of construction of both buildings to be interpreted. Both have been subject to detailed recording in plan (Fig 3), and the survival of elements of stone-wall construction in Roundhouse 1 has been a notable feature (Figs. 4, 5 and 6). The survival of a sequence of occupational deposits within the hollow of Roundhouse 1 has enabled a programme of environmental sampling and an assessment of the character of occupation. Stratified finds, including pottery and quern fragments have provided possible evidence of activities associated with the abandonment of the dwelling. Recorded archaeological evidence appears to be exclusively of the Middle Bronze Age period, and no residual evidence of earlier activity on the site, including lithic items, was recorded. The artefactual record and character of floor deposits suggest that the period of occupation was limited.

The Combe Cross houses are the first of their type in Devon to be fully excavated and studied. They appear, compared with Cornish examples, to have few internal features and little structural complexity. Roundhouse 1 is at the small end of the size-range for Cornish houses, and Roundhouse 2 altogether smaller than any so far recorded (Nowakowski 1991, Table 16). The evidence for structured deposition in Roundhouse 1 very much mirrors that in a number of contemporary recorded Cornish houses. The small size, irregular, post-built construction and virtual absence of finds from Roundhouse 2 suggests clear functional differences between the two structures.

APPENDIX C: POTTERY

***Pottery** by* Henrietta Quinnell

Middle Bronze Age Trevisker Pottery

The Trevisker pottery assemblage consists of 341 sherds (14,015 grams).

Roundhouse 1

A total of 1,216 sherds (8166g) were recovered from layer 8012, in 2011, the hollow of Roundhouse 1. These include at least six rims of distinctive Trevisker type, one each with plaited cord-impressed design, incised chevron design, and rows of sparse fingernail impressions. There are base sherds, with parts of an internal crossed cordon, and also part of an oval lug. There are only five additional sherds with decoration, three of which have circular stamps, a feature virtually unknown in the Trevisker tradition. The sherds in general come from large vessels, although there appears to be very limited potential for conjoins. The sparsity of decorated sherds, together with their number and overall size, indicate that only small portions of vessels are present. The sherds are generally in fresh condition.

Most fabrics appear to contain gabbroic clay, but most are probably mixed with materials from other source(s). There is only one fabric which is probably non-gabbroic.

From 8014, the 'demolition layer', in context 2011, of Roundhouse 1, were recovered seven body sherds (487g), and a rim of the same cord-impressed vessel as in 8012. These are in markedly abraded condition. Two body sherds, which were not gabbroic (16g), were recovered from contexts 8027 and 8028, the successive fills of Roundhouse 2.

A total of 110 sherds (5295g) were recovered from the lowest layer, 8029, in Quadrant 2, within 8011 of Roundhouse 1. These included two rim sherds of a vessel with incised decoration (8012), a smaller rim with cord-impressed decoration below, and five other rims, including one only of *c.*14cm diameter. The body sherds display a horizontal line of fingernail impressions below a bordered design complex, featuring multiple twisted-cord impressions. Another body sherd has a flat girth-cordon below incised decoration. Again, there is limited potential for conjoins, and only small portions of vessels are present. Some sherds are in gabbroic fabrics, although these are mixed with other materials, and many sherds are in an apparently non-gabbroic fabric. Overall, the sherds are in generally fresh condition. Two sherds are from an internal deposit, (8064), possibly representing a hearth, in Roundhouse 1, plus four non-gabbroic body sherds (46g).

Roundhouse 2

From context (8042), in Roundhouse 2: probably stone-tempered, 2 sherds (5g).

Comment

This appears to be the fourth site in Devon on which Middle Bronze Age hollow-floored roundhouses, the common form in Cornwall, have been found, and is the furthest east discovered to date. The other examples are at Plymstock Quarry and at Staddon Heights, Plymouth, for both of which only a brief note with MBA C14 has been published (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 87-9). A third site is at Sherford New Town (currently under excavation by Wessex Archaeology).

The vessels belong principally to the Trevisker style, which is the most commonly encountered ceramic tradition of the Early and Middle Bronze Ages in Devon and Cornwall: most aspects of the style have been summarised in a recent paper (Quinnell 2012). Most Early Bronze Age material derives from ceremonial/burial contexts, while most Middle Bronze Age examples are from broadly domestic contexts dating between 1600 and 1100 cal BC. Both incised and cord-impressed forms of decoration were employed throughout the currency of the Trevisker style: early attempts to attribute chronological implications to different decorative styles have not been supported by more recent work.

While many of the contexts in Roundhouse 1 have been described as characteristic of 'occupation layers', it is significant that the sherds within Roundhouse 1 are for the most part large, and display a freshly-broken, unabraded condition. These are unlikely to have been much walked-over after deposition, and it is therefore probable that they do not relate to domestic activity within the Roundhouse, and are therefore more likely to result from activities associated with the abandonment of the site.

APPENDIX D: WORKED STONE

Worked Stone *by* Ruth Shaffrey

Two pieces of worked stone (RA 1) were retained and submitted for analysis. These comprise two adjoining fragments of a large rubber or small saddle quern (Roundhouse 1, 8012, RA1). The stone is neatly pecked all over, with significant wear at both the surviving end, and along one edge. Because the grinding surface is flat and measures 175mm wide, it could have been used as either a small saddle quern or a large rubber. It is made from a pale-pink micro-granite, which is typical of querns in the south-west, particularly near Dartmoor, where querns have been made throughout history and prehistory.

Catalogue of worked stone

Large rubber or small saddle quern. Granite. In two adjoining fragments. Neatly pecked all over, with a base that rounds right into the sides. Grinding surface is flat, neatly pecked, and worn smooth, especially at the surviving end and on one edge. Measures >175mm long x 175mm wide x 68mm thick. Ctx 8012. RA1

APPENDIX E: BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Wood charcoal and charred plant remains *by* Sheila Boardman

Introduction and methods

Six samples were assessed for wood charcoal and charred plant remains. All were from Roundhouse 1 (8011) contexts. Two samples each came from occupation layers 8012 and 8029, and two were from separate postholes (8060 and 8062) within the building. The samples were processed according to standard Cotswold Archaeology methodology, with flots collected in sieves with mesh-sizes of 1mm and 0.25mm, and heavy residues on 0.5mm meshes. The flots were submitted for assessment, together with wood charcoal and charred plant remains previously extracted from residues by Cotswold Archaeology staff.

The coarse (greater than 1 mm) flots and residue finds were first gently dry-sieved, at 4 mm and 2mm mesh-sizes. The approximate numbers of wood charcoal fragments were recorded for all the greater than 4mm, and 2-4mm fractions. About 25 - 30 charcoal fragments per sample were then extracted (from the various fractions) for identification and assessment. All the greater than 0.25mm flot fractions were scanned for charred plant remains, including cereals grains, chaff and straw, smaller seeds, remains of wild nuts and fruits and so on. The material encountered was roughly quantified and recorded in Table 5, below. The wood charcoal sub-samples were prepared and identified, using standard techniques (see Hather 2000; Gale & Cutler 2000), and the results were recorded qualitatively in Table 5, below. The results are discussed below, together with recommendations for further work.

Results (Table 5)

Wood charcoal

Identifiable material was present in all six samples. The following species and genera were conclusively identified:

Taxus baccata - yew
Quercus spp., oak
Betula sp., birch
Alnus glutinosa, alder
Corylus avellana L., hazel
Alnus/*Corylus*, alder/hazel
Fraxinus excelsior, ash

Oak and alder charcoal were the most widespread. Sample 1 from occupation layer 8012 appears to have contained mostly oak charcoal (with some alder and ash), while sample 8 from the same context contained similar quantities of oak and alder.
The wood charcoal in the samples 5 and 9, from occupation layer 8029, appears to be mostly oak. In sample 5, this comprised largely oak heartwood, and alder was also identified. In sample 9, oak sapwood seems to be more common, and both hazel and alder were identified.
Sample 10 from posthole 8060 has a mixture of oak heartwood and sapwood, with birch and yew charcoal. The latter is represented solely by narrow-diameter roundwood.
The charcoal in sample 11, from posthole 8062, is dominated by alder charcoal. Much of this appears to be roundwood or immature timber. Some poorly-preserved oak timber and ash roundwood fragments are also present.

Charred plant remains
By far the most common charred remains comprise cereal grains, represented by hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and glume wheat(s). The latter appear to be largely from emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). Some oat and oat/large grass grains were seen in samples 1 (context 8012), and 5 (context 8029). Small quantities of wheat and barley chaff (glumes, rachis internodes) are present in sample 1, and seeds of wild species (including weeds of cultivation) were noted in five of the six samples, again in small to moderate quantities.
Wild edible species are presented by a couple of shell fragments of hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*) and a possible bramble (*Rubus* sp.) seed fragment (sample 8). An uncharred grape (*Vitis vinifera*) pip in sample 9 from roundhouse occupation layer 8029 is likely to be a recent contaminant but should be investigated further. This sample has quite large quantities of apparent vitrified material, and there is some possible mineralised wood.

Table 5 : Results of assessment of charcoal and charred plant remains

Sample No.	Context No.	Fill of	Feature type	Period	Soil Vol. (L.) add	Charred cereal grain	Charred legume, large	Charred chaff/straw	Charred weed seed	Charred nut/fruit frags.	Charred other	Mineralised seed	Clinker frags.	Charcoal >4 mm frags.	Charcoal 2-4 mm frags.	Potential CPR	Potential Charcoal	CPR comments	Charcoal comments
1	8012	8011	Occupation layer - Roundhouse 1	BA		80-		10+	12+		pod		+	85	250+	FA	RA	Silty. Mostly hulled barley. Wheat (cf. emmer) & oats. Barley & emmer chaff. Legume pod F. Seeds inc. *Galium, Polygonaceae & cf. Brassicaceae.*	Reasonably well preserved: mostly oak - inc. sapwood (SW), heartwood (HW) & roundwood (RW), with alder and ash (RW).
8	8012	8011	Occupation layer - Roundhouse 1	BA		30+			35	2			+	90+	650+	RA	FA	lled barley grains. Wheat inc. cf. emmer & emmer/spelt. No chaff. Small *Fabaceae, Poaceae, Plantago, Rumex, Cyperaceae* seeds. Hazel nut shell & *Rubus* frag. (F)	Alder dominant or co-dominant with oak. Other taxa inc. ash & hazel.

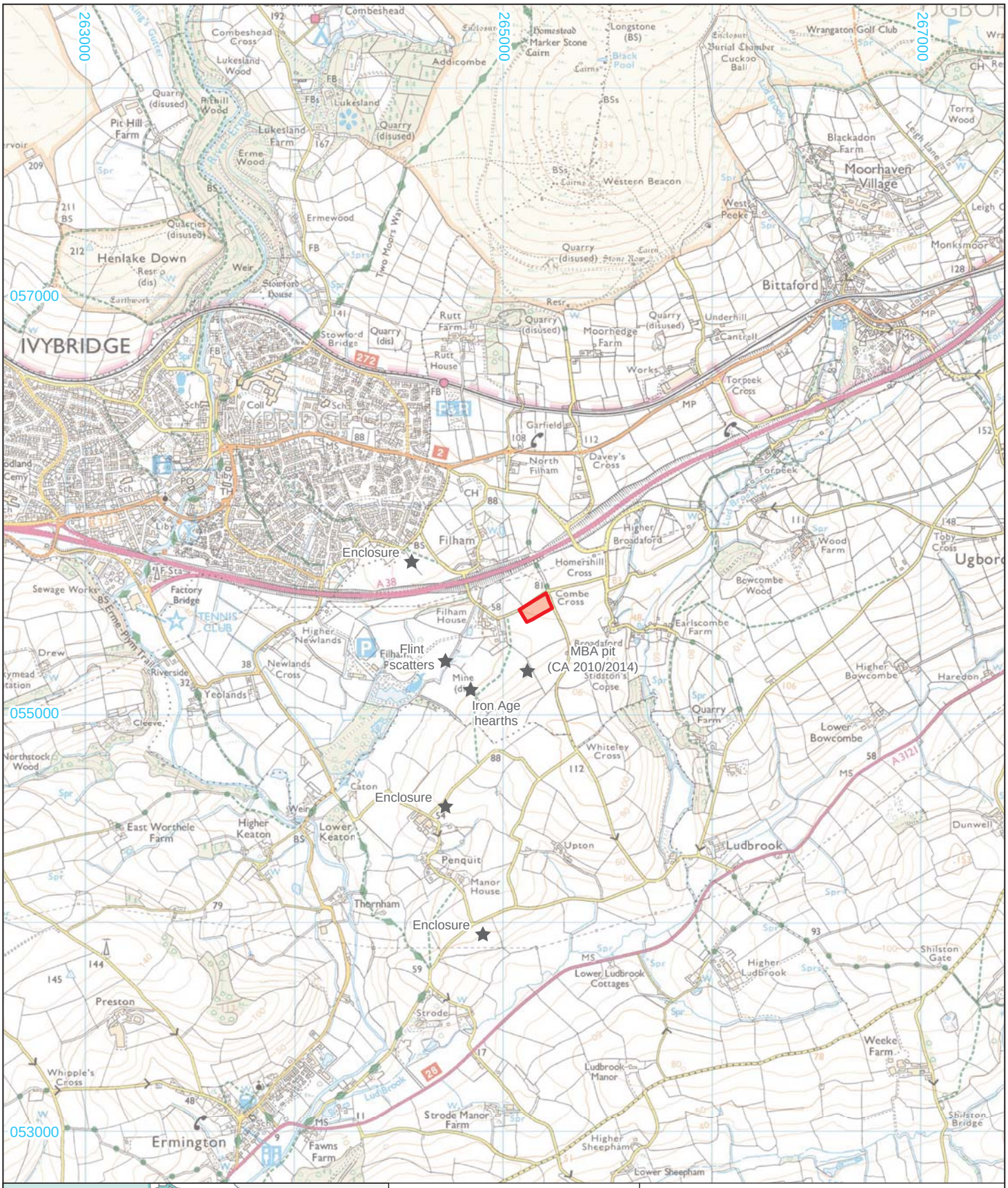
5	8029	8011	Occupation layer - Roundhouse 1	BA		25			10	1			+	650+	3000+	RA?	FA	Well preserved charcoal, poorly preserved CPR. Wheat with some hulled barley grains. No chaff. Wild species inc. *Galium, Plantago, Brassicaceae.*	Oak (largely HW) is dominant but up to 30% of charcoal is alder.
9	8029	8011	Occupation layer - Roundhouse 1	BA		150+	F?		20+			1+?	+	100+	600+	FA	RA	Lots of vitrified material (cess?). 1 uncharred grape pip - mineralised? Cereals mostly hulled barley. Some wheat & oats. Detached cereals embryos. Small legumes, *Poaceae, Lamiaceae*.	Mostly oak SW (also RW & HW). Some hazel and alder.
10	8061	8060	Fill of post hole	BA		10+								650+	2500+	NFW	RA?	Very few cereal grains. Hulled barley and wheat (inc. emmer). No cereal chaff/straw or smaller seeds seen.	Mostly oak HW. Oak SW also present, plus yew RW and birch.
11	8063	8062	Fill of post hole	BA		Fs			<5					55	200+	NFW	RA?	Tiny CPR (in 1-2 mm flot only). Indet. cereal grain Fs/seed - mostly non quantifiable fragments.	Two thirds of charcoal or more is alder - much of this is from RW/immature wood. A few indet. oak and ash RW frags.

KEY: BA - Bronze Age; FA - recommended for full analysis; RA - recommended for rapid analysis; NFW - no further work. + - present.

APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon
Short description	Excavation within Area 8 confirmed the results of evaluation and identified two adjacent hollow-floored buildings of Middle Bronze Age date. Of these, the western example was larger and of more substantial construction, with surviving stone-built walls of 7.8m external diameter. Within a sequence of internal fills, including a dark occupation layer, deposits of large, unabraded Trevisker sherds in upper fills may be associated with the abandonment of the house. The eastern hollow-floored roundhouse was smaller and more irregular in plan, and of simple post-ring construction. Very sparse pottery within its fills suggested a more temporary structure, of non-domestic function. The two roundhouses were separated by a distance of 5.8m, within which was situated a group of six pits, of which at least four comprised settings for a four or five-post structure of substantial size. Undated features included a length of ditch to the north of the western roundhouse, and a number of unassigned pits. Seven exploratory trenches outside the excavated area identified only a few undated features, including a ditch and seven isolated postholes. The undated ditches may represent elements of a contemporary field system.
Project dates	
Project type	Excavation
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (SW Archaeology 2017) Field evaluation (SW Archaeology 2017)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon
Study area (M^2/ha)	n/a
Site co-ordinates	264684 655470
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Derek Evans
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana
MONUMENT TYPE	Prehistoric roundhouses
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Middle Bronze Age pottery

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Pottery, stone objects
Paper		Context sheets, registers, matrices, drawn plans and sections etc
Digital		Database, digital photos, geomatic data etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Excavation at Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, CA Report No. **17144**, Project No. **889016**		



N

★ Recorded late prehistoric sites

0 1km

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**89016**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**9/05/2018**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	

N

- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench
- Previous evaluation trench (South West Archaeology Ltd 2017)
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Structural feature
- Layer/deposit

Geophysical Survey
(South West Archaeology Ltd 2017)

103.23 nT
82.85
62.47
42.10
21.72
1.34
-19.04
-39.42
-59.79
-80.17
-100.55 nT

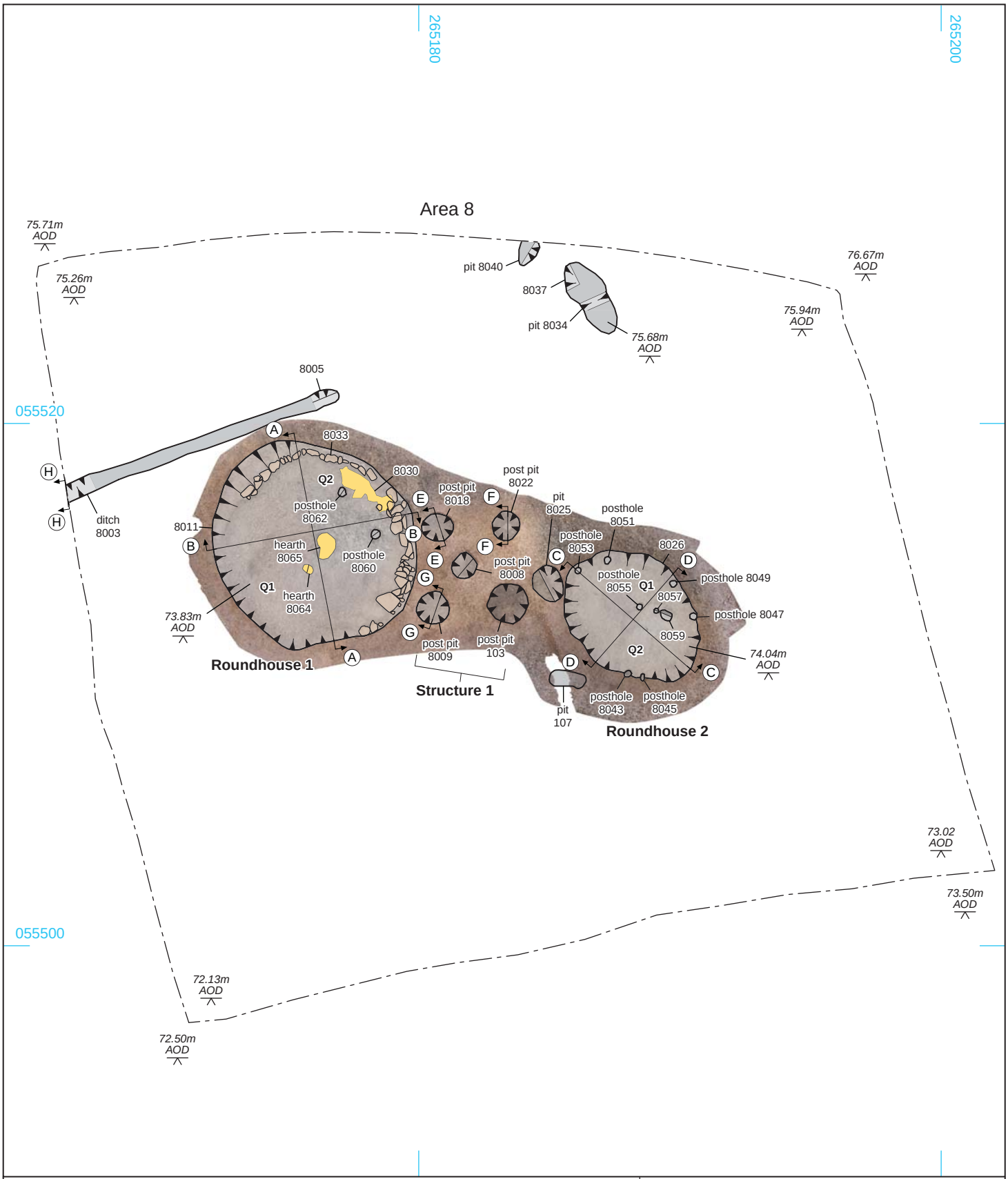
0 1:500 25m

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Site plan, showing archaeological features and evaluation trenches

DRAWN BY	**AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**889016**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**09/05/2018**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:500**	



Excavation area

Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)

Structural feature

Layer/deposit

N

0 1:200 10m

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 8: plan of excavated features

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APPROVED BY	RWM	SCALE@A4	1:200

FIGURE NO. **3**

Polecam image of Roundhouse 1, looking north-east (1m scales)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph: polecam image of Roundhouse 1

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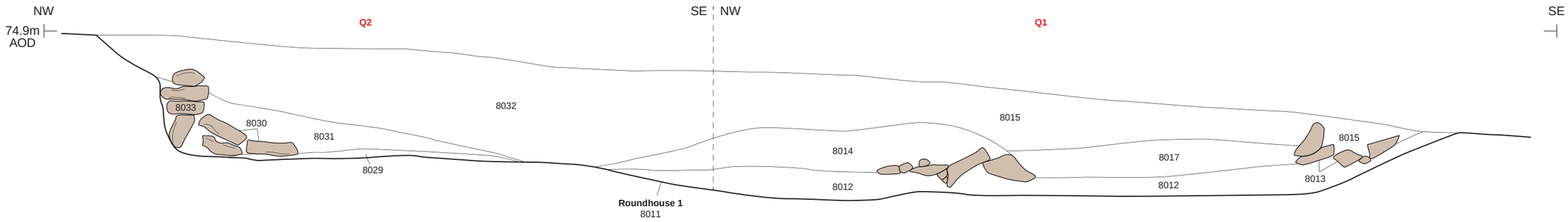
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**

FIGURE NO.

4

Section AA



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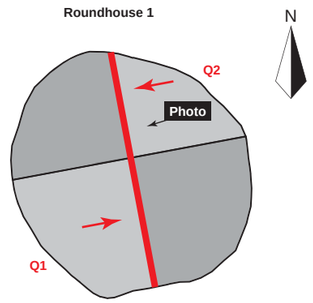

Roundhouse 1, Quadrant 2, looking south-west (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Roundhouse 1: south-west facing section of Quadrant 1 and north-east facing section of Quadrant 2, and photograph

DRAWN BY	**AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**889016**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**09/05/2018**	**5**
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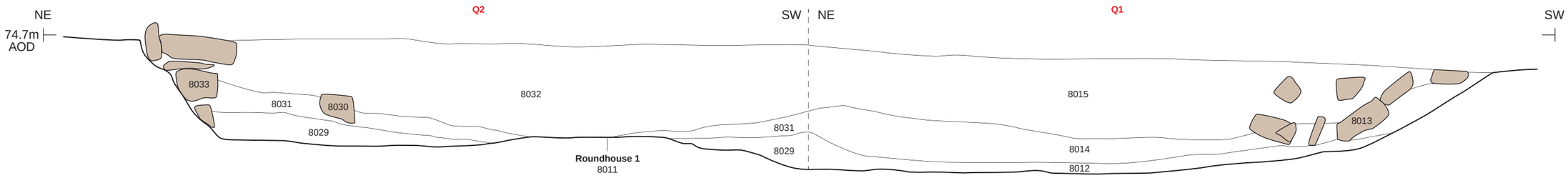

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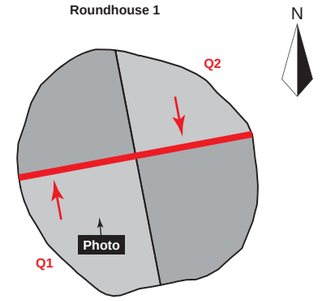

Roundhouse 1, Quadrant 1, looking north-west (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Roundhouse 1: south-east facing section of Quadrant 1 and north-west facing section of Quadrant 2, and photograph

DRAWN BY	**AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**889016**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**09/05/2018**	**6**
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:25**	

Polecam image of Roundhouse 2, looking north (1m scales)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph: polecam image of Roundhouse 2

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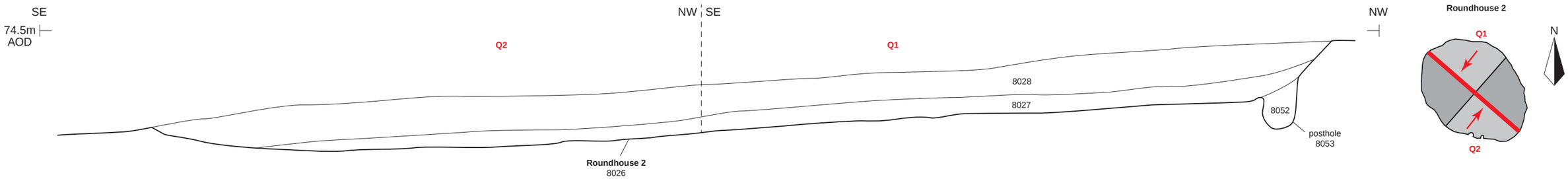
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**

FIGURE NO.

7

Section CC



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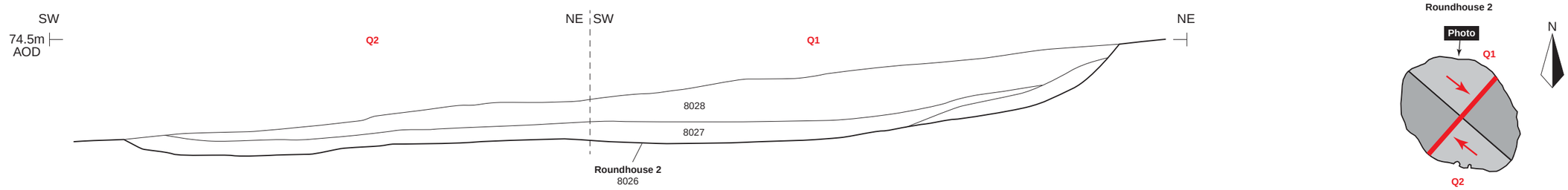

0 1:20 1m

Roundhouse 2, Quadrant 1, looking south (1m scale)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Roundhouse 2: sections of Quadrant 1 and Quadrant 2, and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**09/05/2018**	**8**
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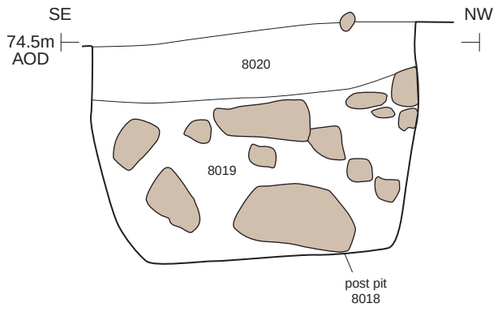

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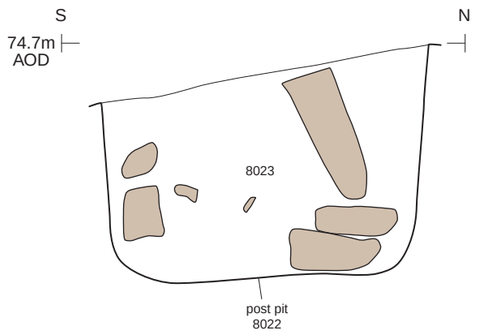
Post pit 8018, looking south-west (0.4m scale)

Section FF



Post pit 8022, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Post pit 8018 and post pit 8022: sections and photographs

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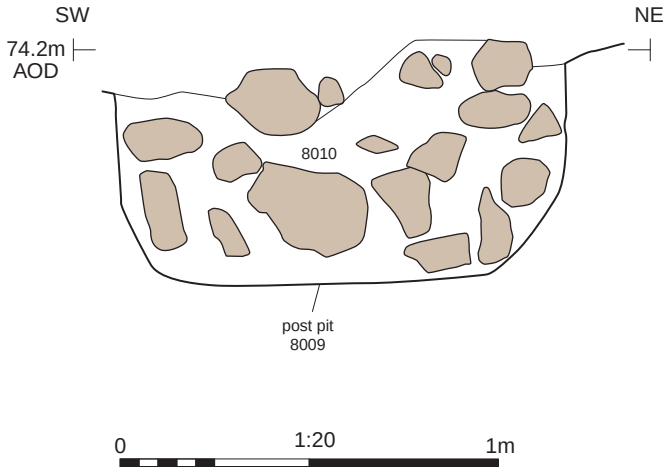

Post pit 8009, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Post pit 8009: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**10/05/2018**	**10**
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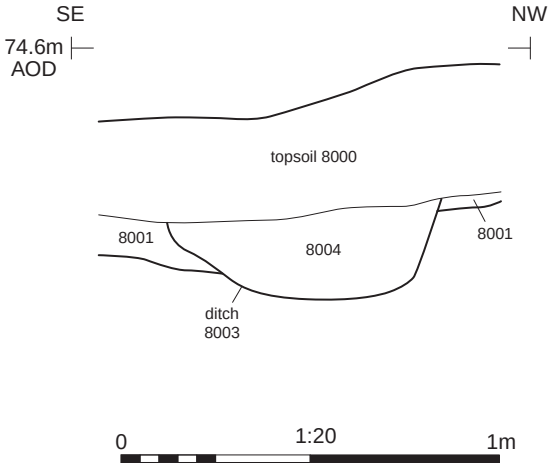
Section HH



Ditch 8003, looking south-west (0.4m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Combe Cross, Filham, Ivybridge, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 8003: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**10/05/2018**	**11**
APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

General view of Area 8 under excavation, with Roundhouse 1 (foreground) and Roundhouse 2

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph: general view of Area B, under excavation

DRAWN BY	**AO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**889016**	*FIGURE NO.*
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APPROVED BY	**RWM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk