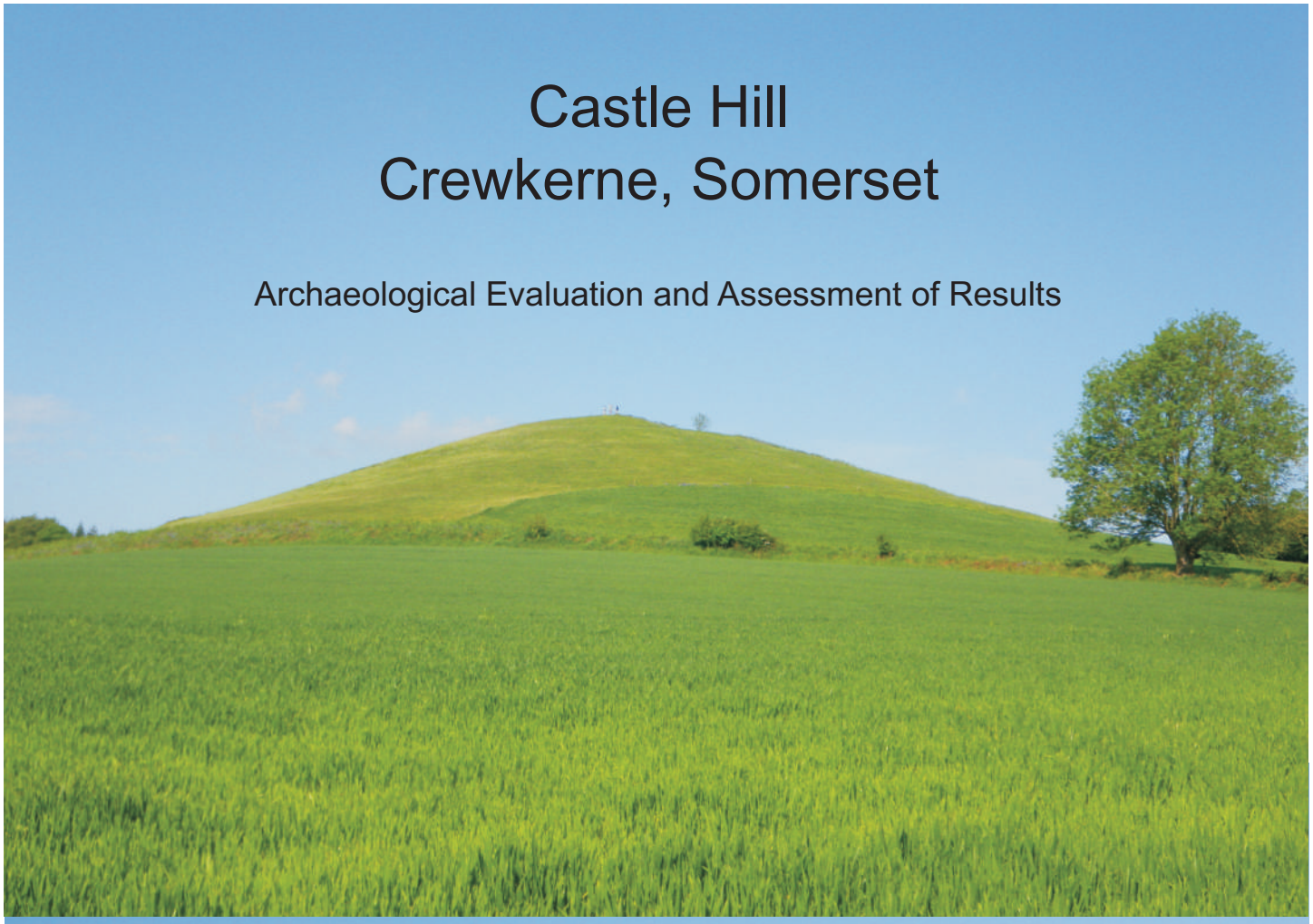
Wessex Archaeology

Castle Hill
Crewkerne, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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December 2011

CASTLE HILL
CREWKERNE, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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CASTLE HILL
CREWKERNE, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Contents

Tables

Figures

CASTLE HILL
CREWKERNE, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Castle Hill, Crewkerne, Somerset (NGR 342035, 110811).

This evaluation clearly identified a fortified, stone-built square structure on the top of the hill, surrounded by defensive ditches circling the summit. However, despite evidence that this was originally a substantial structure, relatively little stonework remained, indicating that the building was likely to have been systematically deconstructed and the re-usable stone removed from the Site. The majority of the finds support the idea that this fortification was in use for only a short time during the early medieval period.

A small amount of residual prehistoric and Romano-British material was also found.

Given the relatively small scale of the evaluation, and the limited results, no further analysis of the stratigraphic, artefactual or environmental data is proposed. It is recommended that a short summary of the results should be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society* to be included in their annual roundup of archaeology in the county.

CASTLE HILL
CREWKERNE, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Jobim Sampson (Series Editor), Toby Lee (Director), Val Croft (Head of Production), Katy Daykin (Production Co-ordinator) and Alex Rowson (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Graeme Attwood and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Alex Langlands. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Brennan, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Ellie Brook, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Ian Powlesland, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave and Cassie Newland, assisted by Paul Pearce, James Brigers, Keith Faxon, Richard Broomhead, Faith Cairns and Mark Cox. The metal detector survey was carried out by Brian Riley.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was written and compiled by Brennan with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mepham with Lorrain Higbee (animal bone) and Sarah J. Wyles (palaeoenvironmental), and with geological identifications by Kevin Hayward. The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

Finally thanks are extended to the Irish family for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation and to the County Archaeologist Bob Croft, Finds Liaison Officer Laura Burnett (all of Somerset County Council), and Jo Mills (freelance finds specialist) for help and advice on site.

CASTLE HILL
CREWKERNE, SOMERSET

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Castle Hill, Crewkerne, Somerset (NGR 342035, 110811) (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located within the parish of West Crewkerne, approximately 1.8km south of Hinton St George and 2.5km to the north-west of Crewkerne.

1.2.2 The Site is a conical hill which rises from a height of around 100m aOD to a height of 139.5m aOD. Although Liddon Hill lies to the south it has commanding views to the west, north and east. The summit is a relatively small but fairly level platform and there is a break of slope about three-quarters of the way up, meaning that the summit is hidden from the immediate approach. A lower level platform lies about halfway down the south-west slope. A low mound lies just to the north-west of the hill.

1.2.3 The Site is currently under grass but has been ploughed in the past.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is the Bridport and Yeovil Sands (BGS Sheet 312).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 A hoard of Roman coins was discovered in the 19th century near Coombe, to the south-west of the Site, (Somerset Historical Environment Record (SHER) number 54670), and a few findspots of Roman coins have also been made in Crewkerne (SHER number 53811).

1.3.2 The town of Crewkerne, which lies to the south-east, is documented as a manor from the 9th century and was the site of a Saxon minster church. The settlement grew and there is evidence of a mint there in the 10th and early 11th centuries. *Domesday* survey records the holding of a market (Richardson 2003). Recent evaluations undertaken in the town have found evidence of 12th/13th century occupation as well as some residual Roman and prehistoric material (SHER numbers 16906, 16994, 17072 and 28334).

1.3.3 Another hill to the east is called Crow Castle, and 12th century pottery has been found in this area (SHER number 53803).

1.3.4 Thirteenth century records suggest that the castle may have been built by Richard or Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, between 1100 and 1150. By 1267 the castle was reported to be in the hands of Isabel de Forz, Countess of Devon and Aumale. Some fragments of 12th century pottery have been discovered on the Site (SHER number 54678). The Bodleian Library holds the last known reference to the castle, consisting of accounts for the manor from 1267-8, including rents, crops, stock and wages. The castle itself is supposed to have been abandoned in 1268 (Dunning 1995, 36).

1.3.5 Immediately to the west is the Grade II listed park and garden of Hinton House (reference number 2151). This was originally a medieval manor house and garden but was rebuilt and re-landscaped in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 In 2010 a geophysical survey was commissioned by Somerset County Council and undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd (GSB 2010; **Figure 2B**). The majority of the summit and upper slopes of the hill were subjected to a magnetic survey. The results show an area of increased response on the summit of the hill that could indicate the presence of a former castle keep; the data demonstrate a definite rectilinearity and the anomalies are typical of those associated with building remains / rubble. Ditches are also visible in the data surrounding the 'castle' on the gentler slopes and on the 'south-western plateau'.

1.4.2 The magnetic survey mapped a complex of anomalies, including a clear zone of enhanced readings and several linear anomalies, suggesting a probable castle keep surrounded by ditch and bank defences. Overgrown vegetation and very steep slopes prevented a more extensive survey. On the 'south-western plateau', below the summit, are several magnetic responses which are also thought to be of potential archaeological interest.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2011), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Of particular importance was to establish the date of construction of the archaeological remains on Castle Hill, and to verify whether it was the site mentioned in the documentary sources.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical and Topographical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.1.2 At the same time, a topographical survey was carried out, the results of which are presented in **Figure 2 (B)**.

3.2 Landscape Survey and Cartographic Analysis

3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Alex Langlands. A summary of the findings are included here.

3.3 Evaluation Trenches

3.3.1 Six trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.3.7 The work was carried out on the 3rd-6th May 2011. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Copyright

3.4.1

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features and the full geophysical report (GSB 2011) are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Results

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of 0.6 hectare using a magnetometer and 0.15 hectare using a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) (**Figure 1**). The following discussion and accompanying data is taken from the report complied by GSB (2011).

Magnetic Survey (Figure 2)

4.2.2 Results are, as expected very similar to those from the survey conducted in 2010 (GSB 2010), clearly defining a series of ditches surrounding a rectilinear area of increased magnetic response. Lower down the hill a third ditch was detected. These ditches clearly reflect the topography.

4.2.3 A number of weaker linear anomalies throughout the data have been classified as archaeology and ?archaeology according to the confidence in the interpretation. These may form ancillary features to the main castle complex.

4.2.4 Small scale ferrous anomalies ('iron spikes') are present throughout the data. These responses are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris in the topsoil and are commonly assigned a modern origin.

GPR survey (Figure 3)

Area 1

4.2.5 The natural deposits at Castle Hill comprise a relatively homogeneous sandy matrix, with few inclusions; the result is that almost any anomalies within Area 1 will be born of activity on site. Perhaps the exception that proves the rule is that the anomalies (1) are from a badger sett, visible at the surface.

4.2.6 In the centre of the survey area is the rectilinear outline of the castle keep with stronger anomalies seemingly representing *in situ* remnants as opposed to the weaker responses from the more robbed-out sections. The overall shape is better appreciated by looking at the full dataset rather than just the summary diagrams, as the variation in response around the walls varies quickly with depth. Anomalies around the keep's footprint represent demolition spreads and hard-standing/cobbling.

4.2.7 Data from inside the keep presented an area of uncertainty surrounding the central anomalies (2). Originally it was felt that the high amplitude, circular zone of response could be a substantial foundation for a support pillar as this seemed a likely feature to find centrally within the keep. The reality was quite the opposite: a large cut feature had been deliberately back-filled. The purpose of this cut remains unclear, it may have been an unfinished attempt to cut either a well or cellar structure.

4.2.8 The origin of anomalies west of the keep is unclear; they have very little depth extent which might suggest that they are not a result of badger activity but, equally, they are unlikely to be substantial structural features. They could be from material or temporary structures associated with the construction of the keep which, it is now believed, was never completed.

Area 2

4.2.9 On this level platform, on the flank of the hill, the results are far from conclusive. Certainly there seems to be a large spread of reflections from increased variation within the natural deposits compared to the top of the hill. A linear anomaly up the eastern edge of the survey block may be the edge of a shallower slope on the hill used as a trackway to the top. The remaining linear responses are not sufficiently defined to interpret as either archaeological or natural features. However, the platform looks ripe for occupation and if there had been timber structures in this area they would be difficult to detect, leaving only ephemeral geophysical evidence of their presence.

Conclusions

4.2.10 The magnetic survey has revealed a rectilinear spread of increased magnetic response, encircled by a series of concentric ditches round the flanks of the hill. The GPR survey confirmed the presence of a rectilinear keep at the top of the hill which by the varying strength of response looked to have been heavily robbed. Areas of demolition material and cobbling also produced anomalies in the GPR data as well as a curious and deeply cut feature inside the keep.

4.2.11 The platform halfway down the flank of Castle Hill produced no anomalies that could be definitively interpreted as archaeological and natural features could be responsible. It is entirely possible, however, that any timber structures present would only produce ephemeral geophysical responses.

4.3 Landscape and Documentary Survey

4.3.1 Existing maps, plans and background documentary material provided as part of the project were used as the base for analysis.

4.3.2 The earliest reference to *Cruc Castle* appeared in a charter dated to the mid 11th century. However, the place name *Crow Castle* appears immediately to the north-west of Crewkerne and both names may share a common etymological root.

4.3.3 View shed analysis demonstrates that Castle Hill had a far superior view-shed to the Crow Castle site. At Crow Castle the view-shed seemed focused primarily on the Anglo-Saxon town of Crewkerne which is known to have had a mint and market at this time. Similar sized settlements throughout Somerset are recorded as having immediate post-conquest Norman fortifications in close proximity (Rippon and Croft 2008, 205-7). It therefore seems likely that Crow Castle was an early Norman fortification from which the Normans could impose a curfew on the town - perhaps related to the popular uprising of 1069-70.

4.3.4 The view shed from Castle Hill took in sections of the Fosse Way, including where it crossed the River Parratt. It also provided a line of sight to the tower of Montacute Castle and Lamyatt Beacon beyond.

4.3.5 Local knowledge suggested that the majority of stone recovered from site was likely to have come from the immediate vicinity. There was known to have been a quarry in the parish of Hinton and this may have provided the majority of the stone for the Site.

4.3.6 The area of the keep was located towards the centre of a low platform at the summit of the hill. On the north-facing slope of the site a marked change in vegetation was observed on a continuation of the line of this low platform. Elsewhere, the slope is uniformly covered in bracken and bluebells whilst in a semi-circular arc around the geophysical anomaly over which Trench 1 was located, nettles predominated. This line was surveyed in and may represent the slumping of a softer earth/material down the slope or ground disturbance in this area. This change in vegetation was picked up on the aerial photographs taken.

4.4 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

4.4.1 Six trenches were excavated, Trenches 1 and 5 on the summit of the hill, Trenches 2, 3 and 4 on the southern slope and Trench 6 on the lower south-west platform. The size and shape of the trenches varied according to the potential targets on which they were sited, and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*. Due to the topography there was a large degree of variation in height. Trench 6, mid-way down the hill was situated at the lowest point at just above 129m aOD while Trenches 1 and 5 at the summit were situated at a height of around 139.5m aOD.

4.4.2 Depth of topsoil varied considerably according to the topography and ranged 0.12-0.40m. Subsoil depth also varied with Trenches 1 and 5 on the summit of the hill having little or no subsoil horizon whereas Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 on the slopes of the hill saw a depth of around 0.45m of subsoil due to the addition of colluvial material. Where encountered the natural geology was sand.

Trench 1 (Figures 4 and 5)

4.4.3 Trench 1 was situated on the summit of the hill and located on the area identified by geophysical survey as the likely location of the keep.

4.4.4 At the north-western end of the trench was a large, deep anomaly identified by the GPR survey. Excavation proved this to be a large, straight-sided feature (**109**) of considerable depth (**Figure 5, Plate 1**). Due to its size it was not possible to establish its full depth despite widening and stepping out the trench a number of times, but it was at least 3.5m deep. Geophysical survey seems to indicate that it was a square or sub-rectangular feature measuring 7-8m across. Infilling it were a number of deliberate backfill deposits (**119**, **120**, **121**, **122** and **123**), many of which contained large proportions of gravel. The lowest exposed deposit (**123**) contained large fragments of angular stone rubble. Sealing these deposits was a fine sediment tertiary deposit (**133**).

4.4.5 The position of feature **109** suggests that it is structural, comprising the basement portion of a tower or keep. The backfilled deposits are likely to contain discarded material from the demolition of the castle.

4.4.6 Enclosing **109** was another rectangular geophysical response. Initial excavation to the east of **109** showed this to be a north-north-east – south-west-west aligned, flat bottomed trench (**105**). It was not, however, clear whether this was a construction cut or possible robber cut. An extension of the trench to the south located the *in situ* remains of the corner of a wall (**128**), confirming that **105** was a robber feature which had removed the majority of this wall (**Figure 5, Plates 2 and 3**).

4.4.7 Wall **128** was stone-built, its considerable width of 2.9m suggesting a substantial structure, probably of two or more storeys. The stone was confirmed as being locally sourced. The construction cut for the wall (**131**) cut through **129**, a sandy made ground.

4.4.8 Also preserved against the south-east corner of wall **128** were the remnants of surfaces **126** and **127** (**Figure 5, Plate 2**). Deposit **127** in particular was a hard compact surface formed from chert pebbles and a pale grey mortar. Within **126** more pebbles but less mortar were visible, and this variation between **126** and **127** may be due to differences in preservation. Deposit **130** along the south-east edge of **128** could be the lower remnants of **127** or equally could be demolition debris which has formed in the void where **127** has been removed.

4.4.9 A separate extension to Trench 1 (Trench 1b) was situated on its northern edge but a baulk was left in place for heath and safety reasons. This located the north-east edge of robber cut **113** and revealed further traces of the wall, here labelled **115** (facing stones) and **116** (stone and chert rubble core) (**Figure 5, Plates 4 and 5**) .

4.4.10 In the south-eastern part of the main trench a well defined area of rubble (**104**) was revealed. This lacked structure and was concluded to be a deposit associated with the demolition of the castle. Beneath it a north-east – south-west aligned construction cut (**125**) was seen, filled with rubble (**124**). Excavation of the north-east terminus of this uncovered a flat stone slab with two uprights forming a post setting (**132**). The shared alignment of this and wall **128** to the west suggest that **125** also relates to the castle.

Trench 2 (Figure 6)

4.4.11 Trench 2 incorporated a linear geophysical anomaly thought to be an upper defensive ditch, located just beneath the hill's summit, and two discrete anomalies.

4.4.12 The linear anomaly was confirmed as a south-east – north-west aligned ditch (**206**) with a very distinctive profile (**Figure 6, Plate 6**). The northernmost edge was very steep and convex while the southernmost edge was shallower and more concave. The base was virtually flat. This was clearly a defensive profile designed to complement the topography. No clear dating material was obtained from the single secondary deposit **207**.

4.4.13 Directly downslope from ditch **206** was the first of the discrete anomalies identified in the 2010 geophysical survey (GSB 2010). This proved to be a

large sub-rectangular pit (**204**) (**Figure 6, Plate 7**). The pit was 2.65m wide and over 2m deep, and the geophysical survey suggests that it was around 4m long. Secondary deposits **205** and **210**, which accounted for the majority of the infilling, contained abundant pottery and animal bone. The pottery includes several sherds from a late 12th century or early 13th century tripod pitcher. A number of other objects were recovered from this feature, including an iron arrowhead and an iron prick spur, while a second, similar spur was recovered from the topsoil. This amount of artefactual material indicates that this feature was being used as a refuse pit, although its size and profile suggest that it could have originally served another function, perhaps as a cess pit. There is, however, no evidence from the environmental sample to support this idea.

4.4.14 The second discrete anomaly proved to be a shallow, irregular feature (**208**), likely to be the result of bioturbation.

Trench 3 (Figure 7)

4.4.15 Trench 3 was located over the lower of the two ditches identified encircling the hilltop. The extent of the ditch was initially obscured by an overlying buried soil horizon (**303**), composed of material washing down from further upslope. This layer was virtually indistinguishable from **304**, the uppermost fill of ditch **309**. Excavation showed this ditch to have a very similar profile to that in Trench 2, with a steep, convex northern edge and a shallower concave southern edge (**Figure 7, Plate 8**).

4.4.16 The main secondary fills within the ditch (**305** and **306**) contained significant amounts of charcoal and well as fragments of burnt bone. Lenses within both these deposits suggest multiple episodes of silting. No closely datable material was found in either of these two fills. A lower energy silting deposit (**307**) lay beneath **306** and the earliest deposit was a band of re-deposited sand (**308**), which had eroded from the northern edge.

Trench 4 (Figure 7)

4.4.17 Trench 4 was located on the south-eastern terminal of ditch **404** (**Figure 7, Plate 9**), apparently a continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 3. Excavation of the ditch at this point showed a similar, though shallower profile, to that seen in Trench 3 and confirmed that this was a true terminal. While the upper two deposits (**405** and **406**) consisted of washed-in occupational material eroded from further upslope, the lower deposit (**407**) appeared to be a lower energy deposit. Fine lenses and laminations within this deposit suggested multiple episodes of silting and deposition. Other than some residual pieces of prehistoric struck flint, no further dating was obtained for the feature at this point.

Trench 5 (Figure 4)

4.4.18 Trench 5 was located to confirm the position of the south-west corner of the structure located in Trench 1.

4.4.19 The probable location of the corner of the wall was discovered but found to have been removed by robber cut **503**. A single sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of the robber cut. The position of the robber cut suggests that the wall was 1.7m wide.

Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.4.20 Trench 6 was situated on the lower platform on the south-west slope of the hill (**Figure 8, Plate 10**). It was targeted on a linear response identified from the geophysical survey.

4.4.21 The linear feature was confirmed as a ditch (**604**), north-east – south-west aligned with a U-shaped profile (**Figure 8, Plate 11**). The geophysical survey suggests that it delineates the eastern edge of the platform. Of the three secondary fills within the feature (**605**, **606** and **607**), the middle deposit (**606**) contained significant amounts of charcoal, suggestive of occupational material washing in from further upslope. The feature was undated but is likely to relate to the medieval occupation of the Site.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all six of the trenches excavated; most were concentrated in Trench 2, and quantities recovered from Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were minimal. The assemblage is almost entirely of medieval date, with a handful of earlier items (prehistoric and Romano-British), and one post-medieval object.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the totals by trench are given in **Table 1**. All finds have subsequently been at least visually scanned, in order to provide basic identifications, and to ascertain the date range where possible.

5.1.3 This section discusses the finds briefly within their local and regional context, and assesses their potential to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the construction, occupation and abandonment of the castle.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 With the exception of three sherds, all of the pottery is of medieval date. Potentially the earliest sherd came from Trench 6 topsoil. This is a small rim sherd in a fine-grained fabric with a silty matrix and slightly soapy feel. It has been tentatively identified as later prehistoric.

5.2.2 The other two earlier sherds both came from ditch **206**. Both are small, abraded body sherds, one grog-tempered and the other sandy, and both can be dated as Romano-British, although clearly residual in this context.

5.2.3 The medieval assemblage (308 sherds) is in relatively good condition, with low levels of abrasion; mean sherd weight is 12.2g. The assemblage comprises a very restricted range of types. The overwhelming majority of sherds are in coarseware fabrics, hand-made and hard-fired, containing quartz grains and prominent fragments of flint/chert. Such wares are well paralleled in the region; they predominate, for example, amongst the early medieval assemblages from Ilchester and Taunton (Pearson 1982, pottery groups 16 and 18; Pearson 1984), ranging in date from 11th to 13th century. Originally thought to have an origin in the Ilchester area, these flint/chert-tempered wares have recently been demonstrated to have a source in the Blackdown Hills to the south of Taunton (Allan 2003).

5.2.4 Rim sherds seen here suggest that the emphasis in these coarsewares is on jar forms. Similar rim profiles did occur on pitchers, and the base of one such tripod pitcher was found in pit **204**, decorated with applied vertical ribs and combing, with a thin, patchy external glaze (compare, for example, Pearson 1982, fig. 94, no. 1065), but the uniqueness of this vessel within the assemblage is suggested by the absence of handles, and of glaze or decoration on any of the other sherds. Tripod pitchers of this type are dated at Ilchester to the late 12th or 13th century, and the jar rims could also be accommodated within this date range (which would fit very well with the presumed period of occupation of the castle), although these functional forms changed little through time, and some could just as easily date to the 11th or earlier 12th centuries, and an earlier date for some of the pottery cannot be ruled out

5.2.5 Finer glazed wares were instead supplied by sandy wares, including three sherds in a fine, wheelthrown fabric, with traces of applied decoration; the latter can be identified as products of the Donyatt kilns, located about 10km to the north-west of the Site. These sandy wares have a likely date range of 13th to 14th century although, given the probable abandonment date for the castle of 1268, they probably fall within the earlier part of that range.

5.3 Stone

5.3.1 The stone recovered from the Site comprised three fragments from ashlar blocks; fragments of unworked stone that could also have been used as building material were also collected and retained for identification, but were then discarded. All of the ashlar fragments utilise locally available rock types. Two of the fragments (both from Trench 1) are in a ferruginous oolitic limestone identified as probably Burton Bradstock or Sherborne Freestone, or from other beds in the Inferior Oolite near Crewkerne (Torrens 2002). The third fragment, found unstratified, is a shelly limestone identified as Ham Hill stone from Hamdon Hill, Somerset, or another local outcrop.

5.3.2 The unworked fragments possibly also used as building material include Forest Marble, probably from the Bathonian outcrops 2-4 km to the south-east; chert/dogger from the local Lower Jurassic material; greensand probably from a local Lower Cretaceous (Upper Greensand) source; sandstone from the local Yeovil Beds (Upper Lias); and further fragments of Burton Bradstock or Sherborne Freestone. All, in other words, are local rock types.

5.3.3 From further afield are a single possible quern fragment in a quartz conglomerate, probably a Permo-Triassic Breccia from the Exeter region; and a small (possibly partially worked) fragment of a granite contact rock from the Dartmoor/Bodmin Moor area. Both these pieces came from context 405.

5.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

5.4.1 The worked flint also includes some pieces of chert, indicating at least two different sources for the raw materials. There is one end scraper (ditch **309**), and a hammerstone (ditch **206**), both in chert, but otherwise all the pieces are waste flakes, some broken, with one broken blade from ditch **206**. In the absence of any chronologically distinctive tool types, this small group cannot be dated more closely.

5.4.2 In addition, a few pieces of burnt, unworked flint were recovered. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity.

5.5 Metalwork

5.5.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, lead and iron. No coins were recovered. With the exception of a post-medieval cutlery handle from Trench 6 topsoil, all of the copper alloy objects are likely to be medieval in date, and most appear to be fittings of some kind. The objects include a small bell on a short shaft with a suspension loop (Trench 1 topsoil), possibly part of a harness fitting (e.g. Griffiths 1986, fig. 20), or a clothing accessory (e.g. Bailey 1999, 36, no. 3). Also present are a small, narrow strip, gilded, with punched ring and dot decoration (pit **204**), a small, rectangular plate, possibly silver plated, with rivets at each corner (ditch **309**), a cross-shaped piece, gilded (pit **204**), and a short length of wire, bifurcated at one end, and again gilded (pit **204**). The other objects comprise small scraps of sheet or plate of uncertain function.

5.5.2 The three fragments of lead are all small offcuts or waste fragments.

5.5.3 Nails make up most of the ironwork (at least 42 examples, including fiddle-key headed nails probably from horseshoes. The only other identifiable objects are a rectangular buckle (trench 2 topsoil), two prick spurs and an arrowhead.

5.5.4 The two spurs, both from Trench 2 (one from pit **204** and one from topsoil), are both heavily corroded, but the detail visible on the X-ray indicates that they are so similar in form as to suggest that they form a pair. They have the curving sides characteristic of spurs from the 12th century, superseding earlier examples with straight sides; by the early 14th century prick spurs had been largely superseded by rowel spurs (Ellis 2002). Detail of the terminals is only partially visible on one spur, and indicates small terminals with double perforations (e.g. *ibid*., fig. 4, 15); one may have a rivet *in situ*.

5.5.5 The arrowhead, also from pit **204**, is a socketed form with a small, triangular head; using Jessop's chronology, this can be identified as a multi-purpose type with a wide date range from 11th to 14th century (Jessop 1997, fig. 6); it could have been used either in hunting or warfare.

5.6 Animal Bone

Introduction

5.6.1 The assemblage comprises 750 fragments (or 6.329kg) of hand–recovered bone and a further 64 fragments (or 0.066kg) from sample residues. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 689. Small animal and fish bones were also noted in one of the environmental samples (from pit **204**; see below), but these are not included in the quantification. The assemblage includes material of medieval and post-medieval date.

Methods

5.6.2 The assemblage was rapid scanned and the following information quantified were applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion data, tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was

directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information and spot dating evidence.

Results

Condition of material

5.6.3 The general condition of most fragments is extremely good, cortical surfaces are intact and details, including fine cut marks are clear and easily observed. A small proportion (*c.* 5%) of fragments, however show signs of weathering. This takes the form of flaky and cracked cortical bone with a brittle texture. The majority of these fragments are from pit **204** and topsoil. Gnaw marks were evident on *c.* 5% of fragments. The amount of detailed information available (**Table 3**) is, however, of limited interpretive value.

Species represented (**Table 2**)

5.6.4 Approximately 28% of fragments are identifiable to species and skeletal element. Eighty-eight percent of identified fragments belong to livestock species, of which cattle is the most common, followed by sheep/goat and then pig. Domestic fowl bones are also relatively common. Less common species include horse, red deer and goose. The sieved assemblage includes a small number of bones from livestock species and a small number of fish bones.

5.6.5 A large proportion (81%) of the assemblage is from just one feature, early medieval pit **204**. The pit includes a large quantity of domestic food refuse, mixed with a small amount of primary butchery waste. Cattle bones are common, in particular elements from the hindquarters such as the pelvis and femur. This area of the body includes some of the best cuts of meat. Sheep/goat bones are also fairly common and again good quality meat cuts are well-represented. The body part representation for pig suggests that whole carcasses are represented. The available age information for livestock species is difficult to interpret due to small sample size, both juvenile and adult cattle and sheep/goat are present, and most pigs were killed while immature. Some cattle and sheep/goat vertebrae were split in half down the mid-line, this butchery technique is common from the Saxo-Norman period onwards (Sykes 2007).

5.6.6 Domestic fowl bones are relatively common and most are from pit **204**. Over half of the domestic fowl bones are from juvenile birds and this suggests that meat production was more important than egg production. It may also mean that male capons were specifically fattened for eating at a relatively young age.

5.6.7 Other identified species include goose, red deer and horse. Goose is represented by a single wing bone (carpo-metacarpus) from pit **204**. Cut marks on the proximal articulation suggest that the wing feathers were removed perhaps for use as quills or arrow flights. Red deer is represented by a 1st phalanx from pit **204** and a near complete metacarpal from possible structure **109**. Horse is represented by a metatarsal from layer **504** and a 3rd phalanx from pit **204**. The metatarsal is from an animal of c. 16 hands at the withers.

5.6.8 The 3rd phalanx has three equally sized inter-locking circles with a central dot, scored on the surface of the distal aspect (underside). This motif is commonly used to decorate bone objects and the horse hoof from pit **204** appears to have been used as a practice piece for this type of design. The precision of the scoring suggests that a compass type implement was used.

5.6.9 The fish bone recovered from pit **204** include vertebrae from whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) and a species of flat fish, most probably plaice/flounder (*Pleuronectes platessa*/*Platichthys flesus*), as well as a buckler spine from a thornback ray (*Raja clavata*). All of these species could have been caught in the Bristol channel.

5.7 Potential and further recommendations

5.7.1 The finds assemblage recovered from the Site is relatively small. Datable material (pottery, metalwork) has confirmed the supposed date of occupation of the castle. Relatively few finds were directly associated with medieval deposits, although the group of finds from pit **204**, including a spur and an arrowhead, copper alloy fittings, a ceramic tripod pitcher, and a range of animal bone (including red deer, horse and fish) is of interest, and tends to confirm the high status of the inhabitants of the castle.

5.7.2 No further analysis is proposed; the finds have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken during the evaluation from a large medieval pit 204 in Trench 2 and from a possible medieval ditch 309 in Trench 3. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

6.1.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 4**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 The flots varied in size and there were generally low numbers of roots and modern seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.2 A relatively large plant assemblage, both cereal remains and other charred plant remains, was recovered from pit **204**. The cereal remains included free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum*/*aestivum*), both grain and occasional rachis fragments, and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments. There were also a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell. The

weed seeds included seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* spp.) and oats/brome grass (*Avena*/*Bromus* spp.).

6.2.3 The sample from ditch **309** only contained a small quantity charred plant remains. These included a few indeterminate grain fragments and seeds of vetch/wild pea.

6.2.4 The plant assemblage from pit **204** is compatible with the medieval date, while that from ditch **309** had no diagnostic remains. The small range of weed seeds comprised those of common arable weeds and mainly those from larger weed seeds, which are difficult to clean from the grain. There is no evidence from the plant assemblage to suggest that pit **204** was used as a cess pit, e.g. no mineralised remains were recovered.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. A large amount of wood charcoal fragments >4mm was retrieved from ditch 309. These were mainly of mature wood pieces, e.g. no round wood was noted. There was a smaller quantity of both mature wood and twig wood fragments observed in pit **204**.

6.4 Small animal and fish bones

6.4.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 4**), in the sample flot from pit **204**. These included fish scales.

6.5 Potential and further recommendations

6.5.1 There is only a low potential for further analysis of the plant assemblage to provide some limited information on the local agricultural practices, range of crops and nature of settlement activities. The range of species recorded from pit **204** was not as large as those seen from other medieval deposits in the area, such as at Zinch House, Stogumber (Wessex Archaeology 2003) and Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984). No further work is proposed on these samples.

6.5.2 Although there is the potential for the analysis the wood charcoal to provide information on the nature of the species range and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource, it has not been related to any specific activity on the site and thus would be of more limited use in assisting in the understanding of the nature of the site. No further work is proposed on these samples.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This evaluation was successful in establishing the presence of medieval defensive structure on the site of Castle Hill. The material recovered suggests a fairly short period of occupation for this structure and there was little evidence for any earlier or later activity.

7.2 Prehistoric (-AD43) and Romano-British (AD43-410)

7.2.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity was restricted to one possible later prehistoric sherd and a small amount of struck and burnt flint. This does not suggest any more than ephemeral and probably transient prehistoric activity in the area. There were also two sherds of Roman pottery.

7.3 Medieval (1066-1500)

7.3.1 A number of medieval urban castles in the south-west region have been investigated, but rural castles are less well known archaeologically. Those that have been investigated, such as Okehampton and Launceston, were relatively secluded sites forming component parts of a characteristically dispersed settlement pattern. In Somerset the rural contexts of castle sites were more varied but, overall, the castles within the region seem to have been sited primarily to control resources and settlements, rather than conforming to any military rationale (Rippon and Croft 2008, 206).

7.3.2 The evaluation at Castle Hill has added little to the known evidence beyond a confirmation of its period of occupation. Geophysical survey and trenching clearly identified a fortified structure on the top of the hill consisting of a stone-built, rectangular structure some 17x13m, likely the base of a tower or keep. Within this was a square void at least 3.5m deep and around 7-8m wide. This may be footing for another internal, possibly timber structure or basement. Surrounding the summit of the hill at least on the southern and western sides was a defensive ditch with a steep edge of the hillward side. A second defensive ditch with a similar profile lies around 9.5m downslope with a possible third ditch around 12m below this.

7.3.3 Despite evidence that this was originally a substantial structure, relatively little stonework remained indicating that the building was likely to have been systematically deconstructed and the re-usable stone re-claimed and removed off site.

7.3.4 The majority of the finds would seem to support the idea that this fortification was in use for only a short time during the early medieval period.

7.4 Post-medieval (1500-1800)

7.4.1 Due to the proximity of Hinton Park and the commanding view from the hill it is likely that some of the slight earthworks visible, particularly on the northern side, relate to paths and use of this as a formal landscape feature.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry will be created for this evaluation and its findings and submitted to the website.

8.1.2 Given the relatively small scale of the Time Team evaluation, and the level of information already recorded for stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data, no further analysis of the results is proposed.

8.1.3 It is recommended that a short summary of the results should be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society* to be included in their annual roundup of archaeology in the county.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 77502. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Somerset County Museum, Taunton, under the accession code **TTNCM:31/2011**.

9.1.2 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the condition for acceptance of archaeological archives by Somerset County Council Museums Service, and generally following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2007).

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	unstrat	Total
Pottery	11/101	290/3633	1/1	-	1/30	8/37	-	**311/3802**
Stone	4/1436	4/1306	1/80	2/1361	-	-	1	**12/4896**
Worked Flint	1/2	8/412	5/64	1/2	-	1/4	-	**16/484**
Burnt Flint	-	2/151	6/17	-	-	-	-	**8/168**
Metalwork (no. objects)	10	48	5	-	-	2	-	**65**
Copper Alloy	*2*	*4*	*2*	-	-	*1*	-	***9***
Lead	-	*2*	*1*	-	-	-	-	***3***
Iron	*8*	*42*	*2*	-	-	*1*	-	***53***
Animal Bone	35/480	616/5348	143/156	14/9	11/387	12/6	-	**831/6386**

Table 2: Number of identified specimens present (or NISP)

Species	Pit 204	Other deposits/features	Total
cattle	60	24	84
sheep/goat	47	7	54
pig	31	1	32
horse	1	1	2
red deer	1	1	2
domestic fowl	10	1	11
goose	1		1
plaice/flounder	3		3
thornback ray	1		1
whiting	1		1
Total identified	**156**	**35**	**191**
large mammal	160	19	179
medium mammal	95	13	108
mammal	132	60	192
bird	6	2	8
fish	10	1	11
Total unidentifiable	**403**	**95**	**498**
Overall total	**559**	**130**	**689**

Table 3: Quantity and type of detailed information available from further study

Type of information	No.
Age - fusion	67
Age - mandibles 2+ teeth	2
Age - loose teeth	2
Biometric	17
Butchery	17

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcl > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 2 medieval Pit												
204	210	2	20	90	10	A	C	Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, free-threshing wheat rachis frags	A	*Corylus avellana* shell frags, *Vicia*/*Lathyrus, Avena*/*Bromus, Chenopodium* (prob. modern)	5/10 ml	Sab/f (A)
Trench 3 ?medieval Ditch												
309	305	1	20	200	3	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	*Vicia*/*Lathyrus*	60/50 ml	-

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			**Type:** Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 17.60x9.40m		**Max. depth:** 3.50m	**Ground level:** 138.47-139.52m aOD	
Annex 1B: 2.70x1.65m		1.06m		
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
101	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Loose and friable; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 102, 107 and 110.		0.00-0.25 bgl
102	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil, not seen across whole trench. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact but fairly friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies 133.		0.14-0.24 bgl
103	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; compact.		0.34+ bgl
104	*Layer*	Defined area of stone rubble. Pale grey-brown sandy silt loam. 50% stone, sub-angular, 3-30cm. 2% chert, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Occasional mortar fragments. Overlies 124 and 129.		0.30 deep
105	***Cut***	**North-north-east – south-south-west aligned robber cut, filled with 106. Straight, steep sides, flat base. 2.95m wide. Cuts 129; may also cut 104 but relationship uncertain.**		**0.70 deep**
106	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of robber cut **105**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 30% stone/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-25cm. Slightly mixed; bioturbated; moderately compact.		0.70 deep
107	*Layer*	Spread of demolition debris, probably material moved by ploughing. Mid grey sandy silt loam. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed; fairly compact. Overlies 104, 106, 127 and 130.		0.28 deep
108	*Layer*	Spread of demolition debris, likely material moved by ploughing. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed; slightly loose. Similar to 107. Overlies 133.		0.16 deep
109	***Cut***	**Large sub-square feature, thought to be structural. Filled with 119, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 133. Full extent and depth not seen. Straight, steep sides. Cuts 103.**		**3.5+ deep**
110	*Layer*	Probable fill of plough furrow. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 5% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 111.		0.25 deep
111	*Layer*	Spread of demolition debris, probably material moved by ploughing. Mid grey-yellow sandy silt loam. 10% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Slightly mixed; slightly loose. Overlies 112.		0.40 deep
112	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of robber cut **113**. Mid yellow sandy silt loam. 20% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-15cm. Slightly mixed, mid yellow-grey lenses. Some bioturbation; moderately compact. Overlies 114.		0.28 deep
113	***Cut***	**North-west – south-east aligned robber cut, filled with 112 and 114. Straight, steep sides, flat base. 1.88m+ wide. Cuts 116, may cut 118 but relationship uncertain.**		**0.31 deep**
114	*Deposit*	Primary fill of robber cut **113**, overlies stone of wall 115. Mid yellow sand. <1% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact.		0.08 deep
115	*Wall*	North-west – south-east aligned stone wall foundation, heavily robbed. Sub-angular – sub-rounded stone blocks 14-75cm long, 12-22cm wide. Mid yellow sandy lime mortar. 0.95m width remaining. Not clear whether 115 is cut through 118 or whether 118 has built up against it. Left *in situ.*		0.10 high
116	*Wall*	Core of wall 115. Mid yellow sand. 25% stone and chert, sub-angular,		0.20 deep

		2-32cm. Slightly mixed; moderately compact. Overlies 115.	
117	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; compact.	1.04+ bgl
118	*Layer*	Possible buried soil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Unexcavated.	0.40+ deep
119	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of feature **109**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 60% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. 4% flint, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Occasional degraded mortar. Contains multiple tiplines and lenses sloping in from the north and east. Moderately compact. Overlies 120.	~2.0 deep
120	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of feature **109**. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam but very little sediment. 60% gravel, flint and chert, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Moderately loose, very slightly mixed. Concentrated near centre of feature. Overlies 121.	~2.5 deep
121	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of feature **109**. Mid brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-rounded, <1cm. Fine lenses and laminations but overall fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies 122.	~2.0 deep
122	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of feature **109**. Mid grey-brown sandy gravel. 70% gravel, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies 123.	~1.0 deep
123	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of feature **109**. Mid yellow-brown sand but very little sediment. 60% stone rubble, sub-angular, 8-40cm. Frequent voids. Lowest deposit reached.	~0.5 deep
124	*Deposit*	Rubble fill of construction cut **125**. Pale grey-brown sandy silt loam. 50% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-20cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact. Overlies 132.	0.10 deep
125	***Cut***	**Construction cut, linear north-east – south-west aligned with post setting in north-east terminal. Filled with 124 and 132. Steep, concave sides. Base unexcavated. 0.75m wide. Cuts 103.**	**0.12 deep**
126	*Surface*	Possible surface remnant. Mid yellow-grey silty sand. 50% chert, sub-angular –sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Compact. Left *in situ*. Laid against wall 128.	-
127	*Surface*	Possible surface remnant or demolition debris. Mid yellow-grey silty sand. 5% chert, sub-angular –sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent mid grey mortar lumps. Compact. Left *in situ*. Laid against wall 128.	-
128	*Wall*	Stone built wall, south-east corner, fill of **131**. Sub-angular stone facing blocks with pale yellow-grey sandy lime mortar. Irregular jointing. Only three courses remaining. 2.90m wide. Stone rubble and chert core.	0.50 high
129	*Layer*	Possible made ground. Mid yellow sand. 1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Occasional mid grey-yellow and rare mid red mottles. Compact. Unexcavated.	-
130	*Layer*	Possible surface remnant. Mid grey-yellow silty sand. 8% stone/chert, sub-angular –sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Compact. Unexcavated. Overlies 129.	-
131	***Cut***	**Construction cut for wall 128. North-east – south-west with north-east return. Vertical straight sides, flat base. 2.9m wide. Cuts 129.**	**0.50 deep**
132	*Deposit*	Flat laid stone with two upright stones, setting for post at north-west terminus. Fill of construction cut **125**.	0.07 deep
133	*Deposit*	Tertiary deposit of feature **109**, windblown material. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, <1cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies 119.	0.38 deep

TRENCH 2			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 10.00x3.70m		**Max. depth**: 3.00m	**Ground level:** 133.57-136.48m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
201	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1cm. Loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 202.		0.00-0.12 bgl
202	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact but fairly friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies 203.		0.12-0.53 bgl
203	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. Compact; no coarse components; fairly homogeneous.		0.39+ bgl
204	***Cut***	**Large sub-rectangular refuse pit filled with 205, 210 and 211. Straight, steep sides. 2.65m wide. Base not fully exposed. Long axis south-west – north-east aligned, 2.4m+. Contains frequent pottery and animal bones. Cuts 203.**		**2.06+ deep**
205	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of pit **204**, includes occupational debris and refuse deposits. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone/flint/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 210. Overlies 210.		1.15 deep
206	***Cut***	**Cut of south-east – north-west aligned ditch, defensive enclosure ditch. Filled with 207. Northern edge steep and convex, south edge shallow and concave. Flat base. 2.56m wide. Cuts 203.**		**0.80 deep**
207	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **206**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 2% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2, 4-10cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous but rare mid yellow sand lenses. Moderately compact.		0.80 deep
208	***Cut***	**Possible tree-throw hole, filled with 209. Concave, shallow sides, flat base. 1.64m wide. Sub-oval in plan but full extent not seen. Cuts 203.**		**0.26 deep**
209	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of feature **208**. Mid yellow-grey sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1cm. Slightly mixed, occasional mid grey mottles. Moderately compact; some bioturbation.		0.26 deep
210	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of pit **204**, includes occupational debris. Dark brown-grey sandy silt loam. 5% stone/flint/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm, rare large sub-angular stone blacks, 10-32cm. Frequent charcoal flecks. Highly mixed with mid yellow and mid grey-brown mottles, also defined lenses of redeposited sand. Compact. Environmental sample 2. Overlies 211.		1.17 deep
211	*Deposit*	Primary fill of pit **204**, redeposited sand. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional mid yellow-brown mottles. Some bioturbation; moderately compact.		0.25 deep

TRENCH 3			**Type:**	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 7.74x2.75m		**Max. depth:** 1.66m	**Ground level:** 133.98-136.19m aOD	
Context	**Description**			**Depth (m)**
301	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1cm. Moderately loose and friable; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 302.		0.00-0.27 bgl
302	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. No visible coarse components. Moderately compact but friable; slightly mixed; bioturbated. Overlies 303.		0.27-0.65 bgl
303	*Layer*	Colluvium, material derived from upslope. Virtually indistinguishable from 304. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone/chert, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous;		0.22 deep

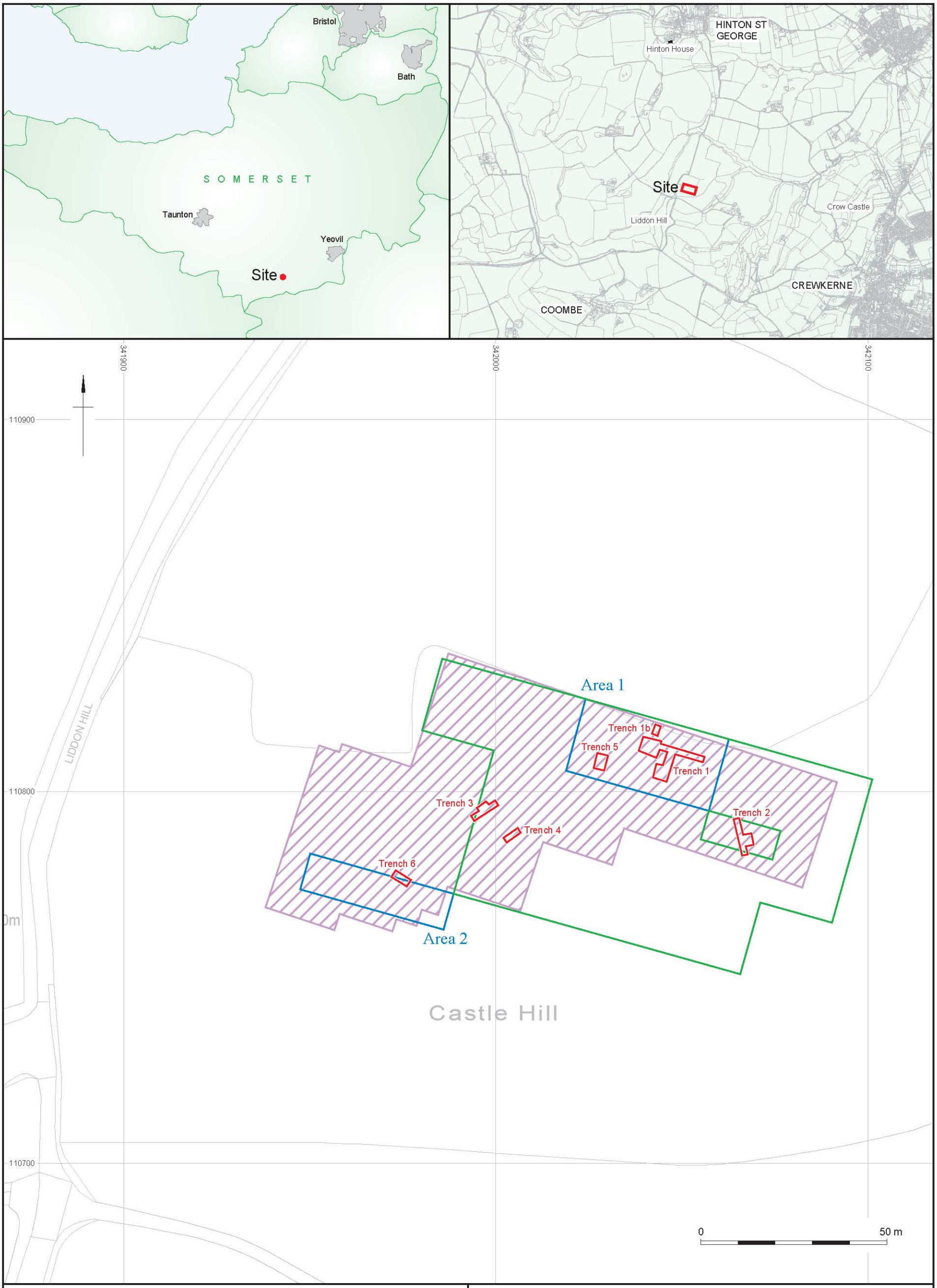
		moderately compact. Overlies 304.	
304	*Deposit*	Tertiary fill of ditch **309**. Virtually indistinguishable from 304. Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone/chert, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Overlies 305.	0.27 deep
305	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **309**, includes occupational debris. Dark grey-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt stone and bone. Fairly homogeneous but contains lenses of mid yellow-brown sand; some bioturbation. Moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 304 and 306. Environmental sample 1. Overlies 306.	0.76 deep
306	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **309**, includes occupational debris. Mid yellow-grey sandy silt loam. 1% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent charcoal flecks and burnt bone. Fairly homogeneous but contains lenses of mid yellow-brown sand; some bioturbation; moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 305 and 307. Overlies 307.	0.24 deep
307	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **309**. Pale yellow-grey sandy silt loam. <1% stone/chert, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent charcoal flecks at top of deposit. Fairly homogeneous but contains lenses of mid yellow-brown silt. Moderately compact. Slightly diffuse interface with 306 and 308. Overlies 308.	0.18 deep
308	*Deposit*	Primary fill of ditch **309**. Pale yellow sand. No visible coarse components. Rare charcoal flecks. Fairly homogeneous but contains occasional diffuse mid yellow-brown mottles; moderately compact. Derives from the north. Clear interface with cut. Overlies **309**.	0.20 deep
309	***Cut***	**Cut of south-east – north-west aligned ditch, defensive enclosure ditch. Filled with 304, 305, 306, 307 and 308. Northern edge steep and convex, south edge shallow and concave. Flat base. 4.70m wide. Cuts 310.**	**1.26 deep**
310	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. Compact. No coarse components.	0.88+ bgl

TRENCH 4			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.72x1.52m	**Max. depth:** 1.33m		**Ground level:** 135.82-135.45m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
401	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Moderately loose and friable; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 402.	0.00-0.40 bgl
402	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. No visible coarse components. Moderately compact but friable; slightly mixed; bioturbated. Overlies 403.	0.27-0.82 bgl
403	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. Compact. No coarse components.	0.51+ bgl
404	***Cut***	**Cut of south-east – north-west aligned ditch, south-eastern terminus, defensive enclosure ditch. Filled with 405, 406 and 407. Northern edge steep and convex, south edge shallow and concave. Concave base. 3.02m wide. Cuts 403.**	**0.62 deep**
405	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **404**, includes occupational debris. Dark grey sandy silt loam. 1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly mixed, common mid yellow-brown and mid yellow-grey mottles. Bioturbated; moderately compact but fairly friable. Fairly diffuse interface with 406 and 402. Overlies 406.	0.36 deep
406	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **404**, colluvial and redeposited natural material derived from upslope. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed with mid grey-brown mottles. Some bioturbation; moderately compact. Fairly diffuse interface with 407. Overlies 407.	0.26 deep

407	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **404**, low energy silting. Pale brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Composed of thin laminations of silt. Compact. Fairly diffuse interface with 406.	0.28 deep

TRENCH 5			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 3.95x2.90m		**Max. depth:** 1.20m	**Ground level:** 139.54-139.64m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
501	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 504.	0.00-0.28 bgl
502	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of robber cut **503**. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 30% stone/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed; bioturbated; moderately compact. Overlies **503**.	0.79 deep
503	***Cut***	**North-south aligned robber cut, filled with 502 and 507. Straight, steep sides, flat base. Full width not seen. Cuts 504.**	**0.93 deep**
504	*Layer*	Modern subsoil/interface. Mid yellow sandy silt loam. 5% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Very rare charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; slightly mixed; bioturbated. Overlies 503.	0.24-0.42 bgl
505	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. Compact. <1% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Compact; some bioturbation.	0.42+ bgl
506	*Natural*	Possible sandstone bedrock. Compact.	0.42+ bgl
507	*Deposit*	Deliberate backfill of robber cut **503**. Mid grey-yellow sandy silt loam. 2% stone/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous; bioturbated; moderately compact. Overlies 502.	0.16 deep

TRENCH 6			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 4.90x2.08m		**Max. depth:** 1.30m	**Ground level:** 129.18-129.50m aOD
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
601	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately loose and friable; homogeneous; bioturbated. Under grass; overlies 602.	0.00-0.34 bgl
602	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. <1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact but friable. Homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies 603.	0.26-0.80 bgl
603	*Natural*	Natural sand. Mid yellow. Compact. No visible inclusions.	0.54+ bgl
604	***Cut***	**Cut of north-east – south-west aligned ditch, marks eastern edge of lower platform. Filled with 605, 606 and 607. Straight, moderate sides, concave base. 2.92m wide. Cuts 603.**	**0.64 deep**
605	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **604**. Mid yellow-grey sandy silt loam. No visible coarse components. Rare charcoal flecks. Very mixed and bioturbated. Frequent mid grey, dark grey and mid yellow mottles. Moderately compact. Diffuse interface with cut. Overlies **604**.	0.23 deep
606	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **604**. Dark grey-black sandy silt loam. <1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent charcoal flecks. Mixed and bioturbated. Frequent mid grey and mid yellow-brown mottles. Moderately compact. Diffuse interface with 605 and 607. Overlies 605.	0.22 deep
607	*Deposit*	Secondary fill of ditch **604**. Mid yellow-grey sandy silt loam. <1% stone/flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Some bioturbation. Occasional diffuse mid grey mottles. Moderately compact. Diffuse interface with 606, similar characteristics to subsoil. Overlies 606.	0.32 deep



Evaluation trench

Gradiometer survey area

Gradiometer survey area 2010

GPR survey area

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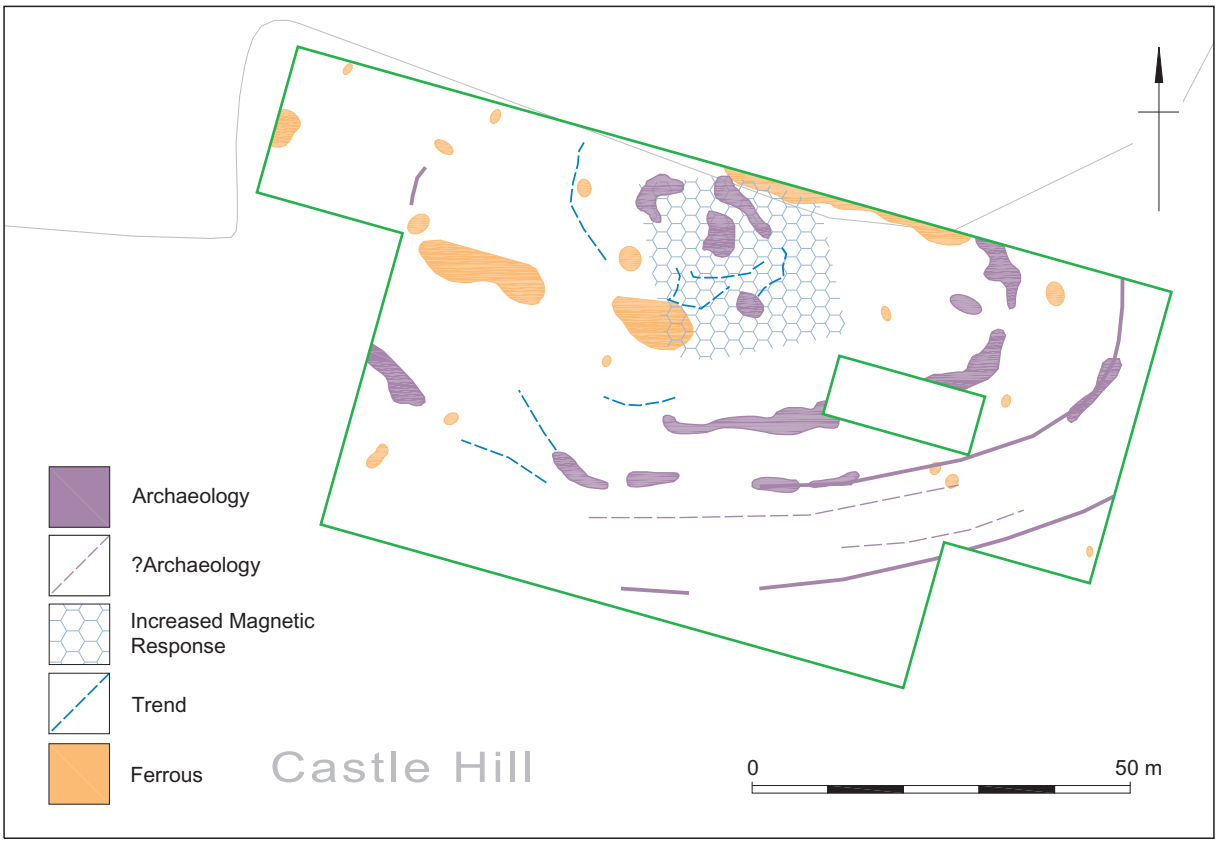
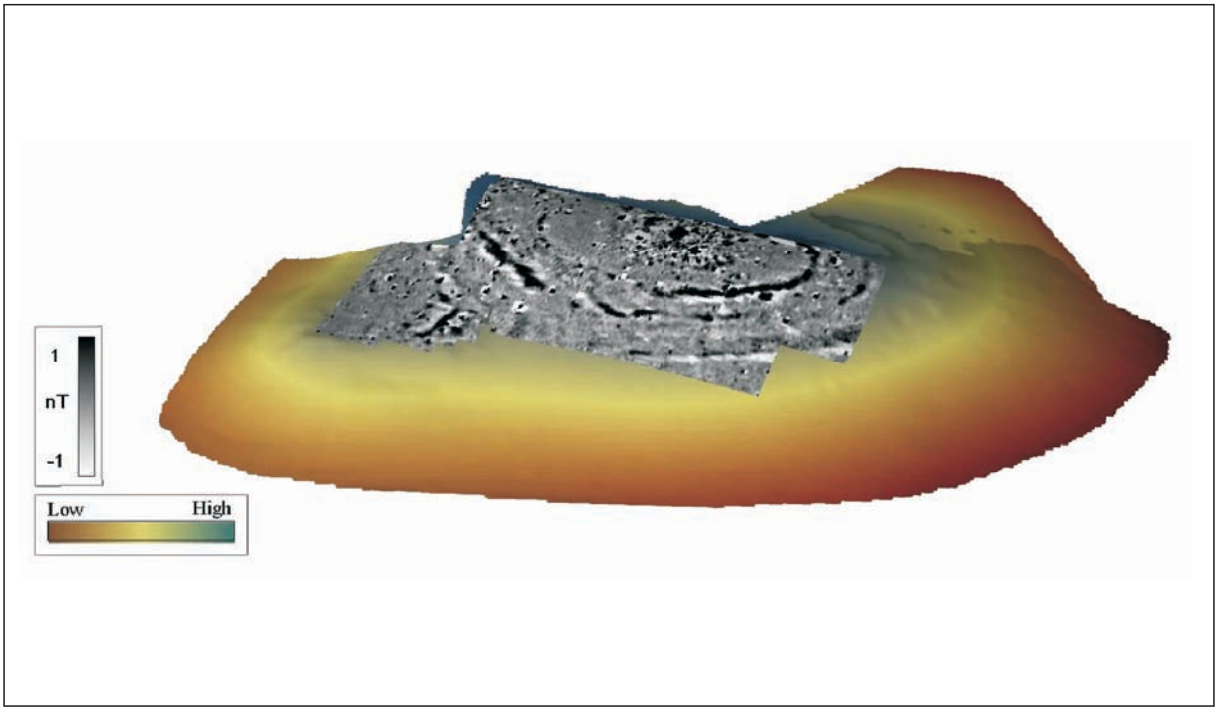
Location of Site, trenches and geophysical survey areas

Figure 1



A. Summary gradiometer interpretation



B. Gradiometer results 2010 and 2011 and topographic survey (looking north-east from above)

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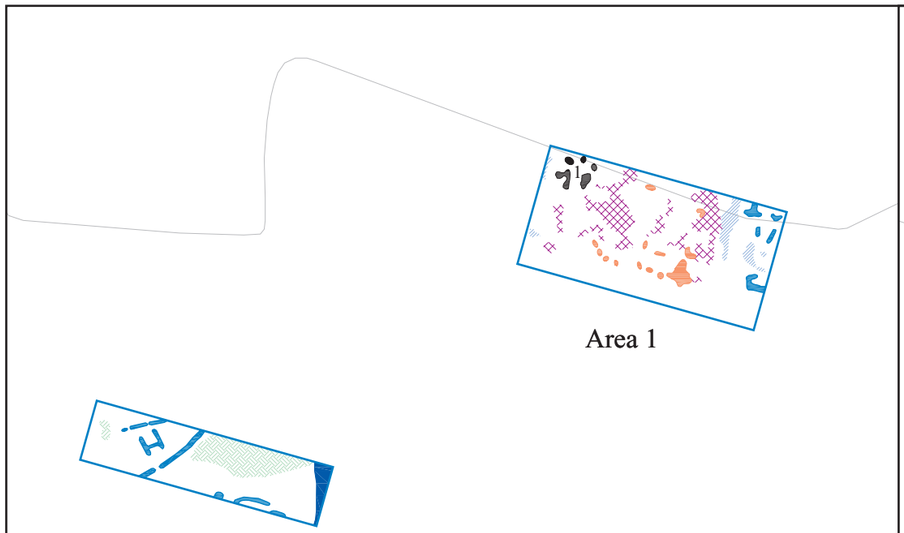
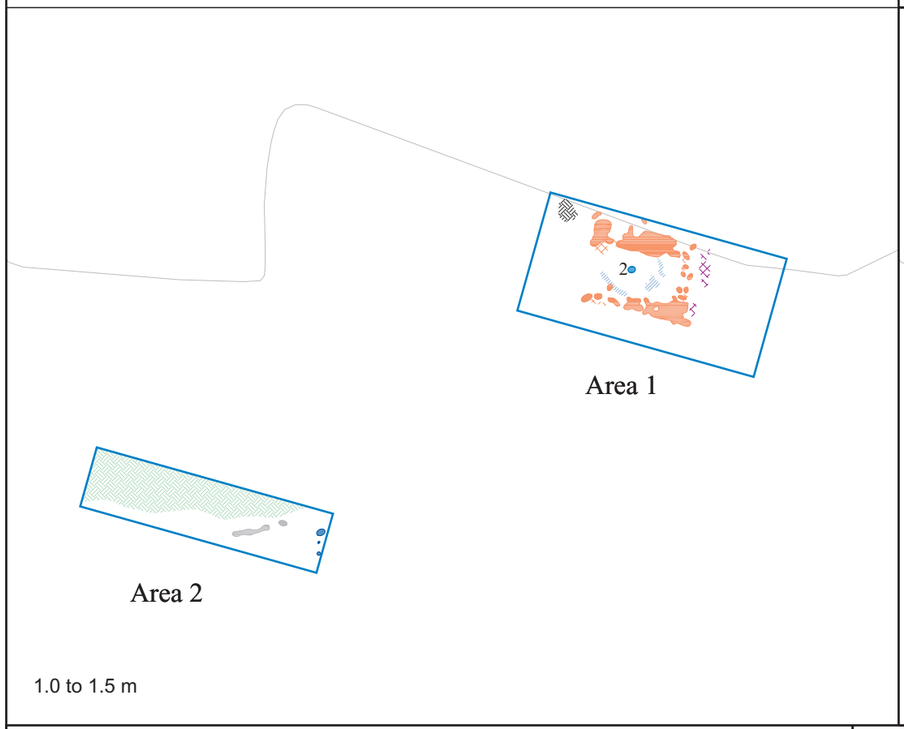
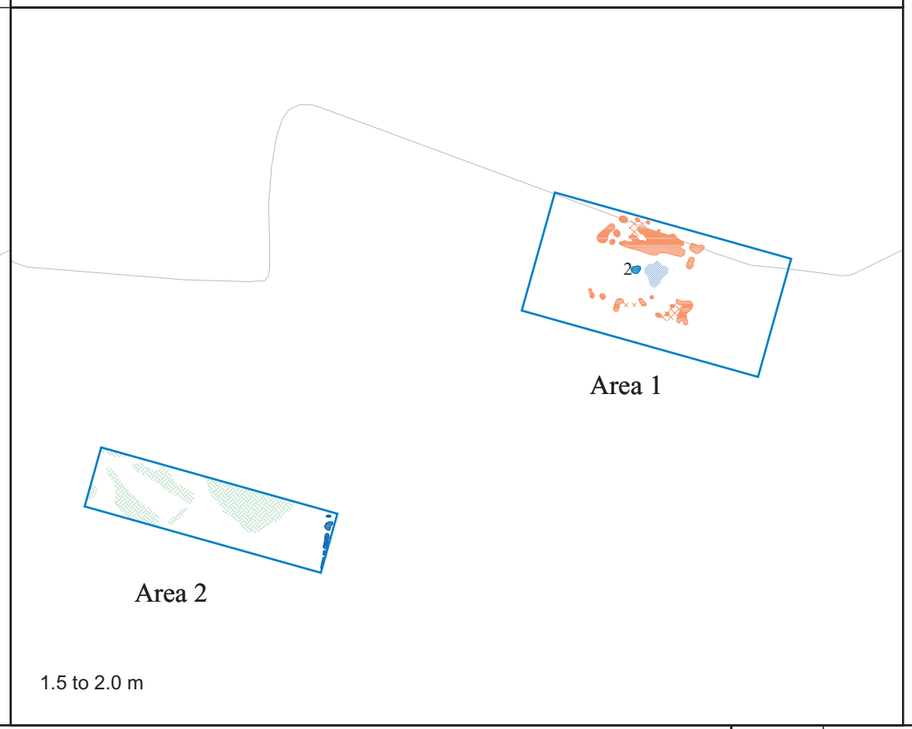
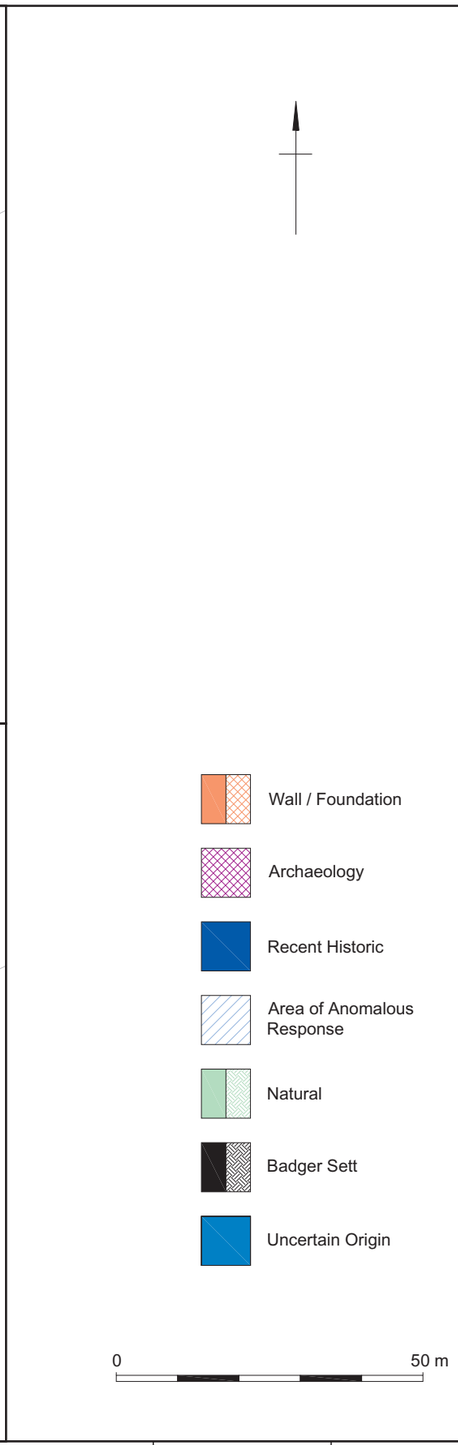
Results of magnetic and topographic survey (GSB 2010/2011) Figure 2









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Results of the GPR survey (GSB 2011)

Figure 3

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Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\77502TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_11\77502_eval_f4.dwg		

Trench 1: plan; Inset: Trenches 1 and 5, extrapolated size and position of structure

Figure 4

Plate 1: Mid-excavation view, feature 109, view from north

Plate 2: Wall 128, surfaces 126 and 127, view from south-west

Plate 3: Post-excavation view, wall 128 and robber cut 105,view from north-east

Plate 4: Post-excavation view, extension to Trench 1, view from north-east

Plate 5: South-east facing section robber cut 113

Date:	12/12/11	Revision Number:	0
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Trench 1: photographs

Figure 5

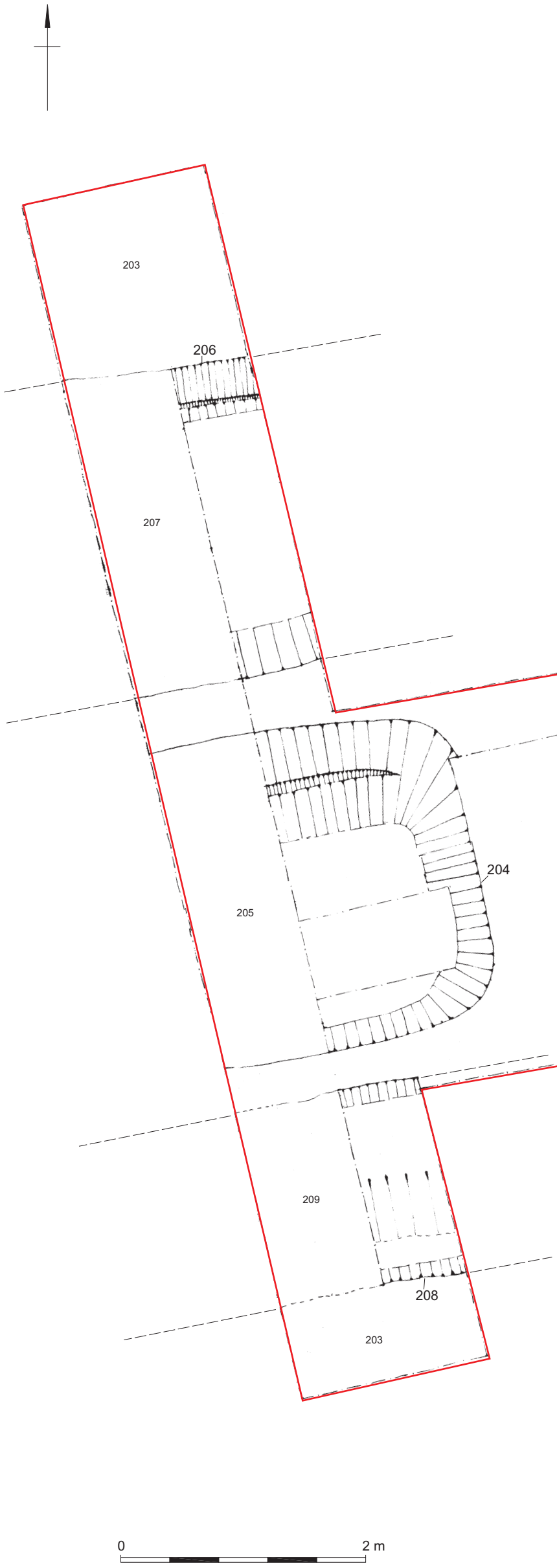

Plate 6: South-west facing section ditch 206

Plate 7: North-east facing section pit 204, view from east

Evaluation trench

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Scale:	Plan 1:40	Illustrator:	KL
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Trench 2: plan and photographs

Figure 6

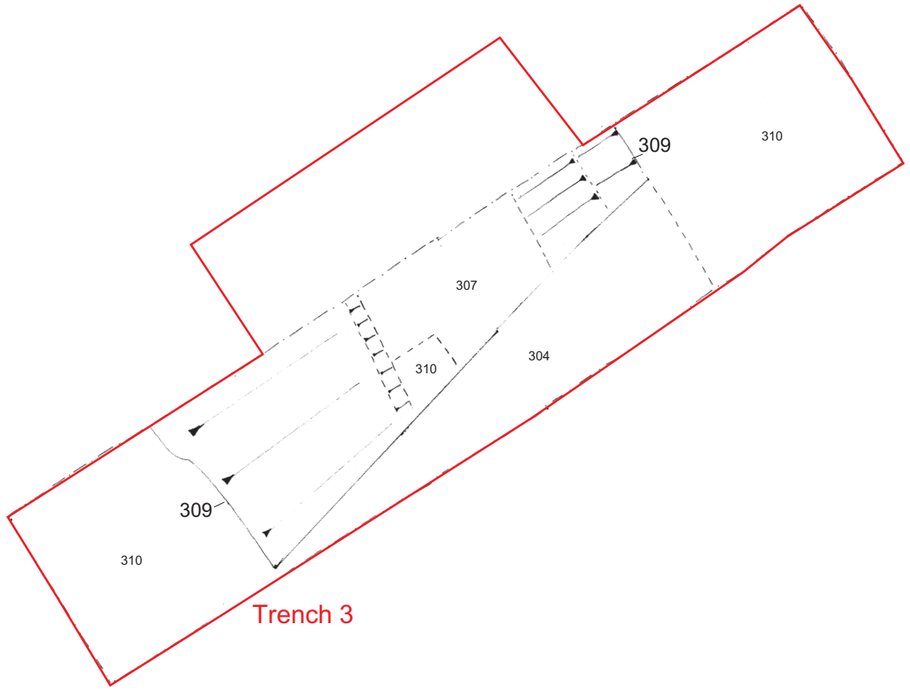
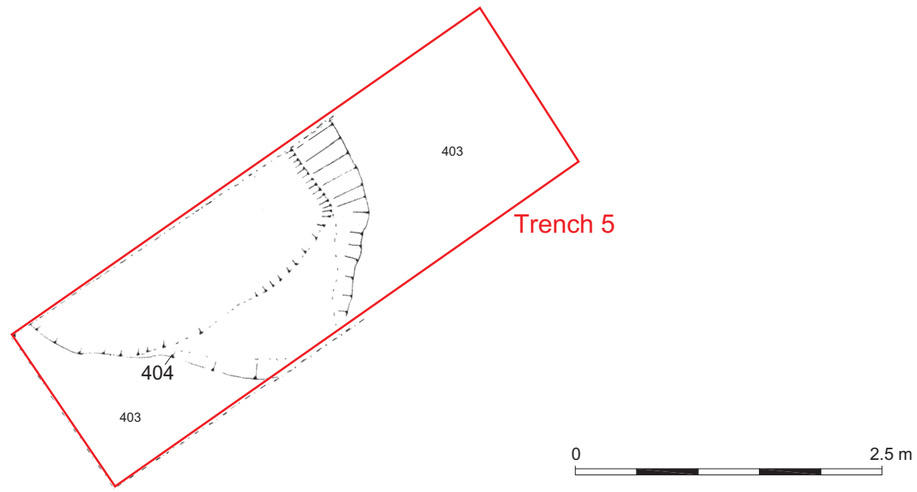


Plate 8: North-west facing section ditch 309, view from west

Plate 9: South-east facing section ditch 404, view from north-east



Evaluation trench

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Trenches 3 and 4: plan and photographs

Figure 7

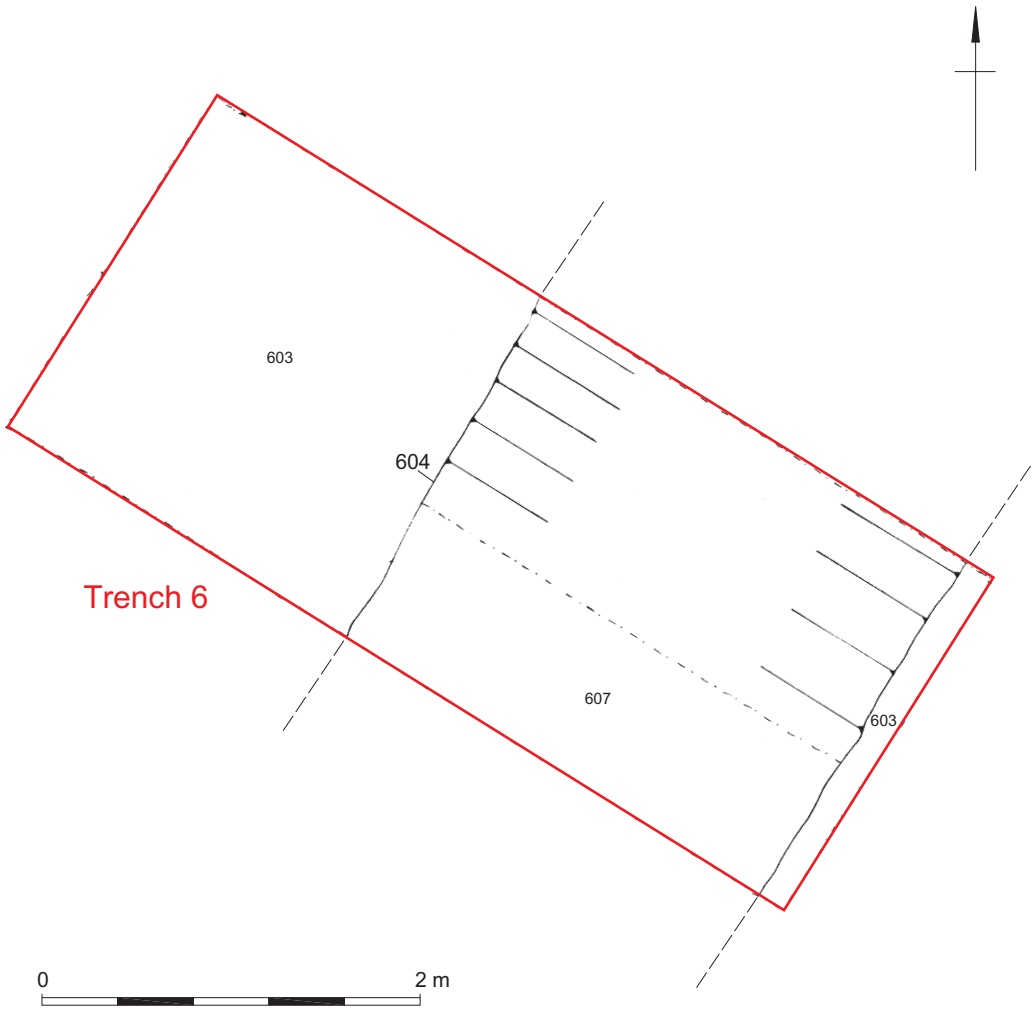

Plate 10: View of lower platform, view from north-east

Plate 11: South-west facing section ditch 604, view from south

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Evaluation trench

Date:	12/12/11	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Plan 1:40	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\77502TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\11_11\77502_eval_f4.dwg		

Trench 6: plan and photographs

Figure 8

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