Land North of Abbotsham Road Bideford, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, between 19th February to 19th March 2018, on a 14.75 hectare area of land located on the western side of Bideford, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 243385 126835. The work was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd, and carried out as part of a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, ahead of the proposed development of housing, public open space, landscaping, drainage and vehicular access. A total of 23 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation recorded a Late Neolithic pit, several undated pits and an enclosure. The Neolithic pit contained an assemblage of worked flints, two sherds of Grooved Ware pottery and three collected pebbles. An enclosure with outer and inner ditches, identified at the base of a coombe by geophysical survey, was investigated. Dumps of marine shell were recorded in its fills. The environmental remains, dominated by naked wheat and barley, are suggestive of a medieval or later date for the feature, but no datable artefactual material was found. Post-medieval field boundaries were recorded across the site, as well as modern water management systems.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Pegasus Group, on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd., for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Donald Sutherland. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Stephen Reed Senior Historic Environment Officer, who monitored the project for Torridge District Council and to Roy Proust Contractors for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Stephen Legg, with the assistance of Alin Fuior, Cordelia Laycock, Will Smith, Mark Stewart, Hilde van der Heul and Roy Krakowicz. The finds were recorded by Lorraine Mepham, Erica Gittens (flint), Matt Leivers (prehistoric pottery) and Lorrain Higbee (animal bone). The samples were processed by Sam Rogerson, Samira Idriss, Jenny Giddins, Eva Estela Jaume, Andy Sole, Marijane Porter and Bethany Pratt. The flots were sorted by Nicki Mulhall and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga. The sediments were described by Nicki Mulhall. This report was written by Stephen Legg and edited by Grace Jones. The graphics were prepared by Will Foster, Karen Nichols and Nancy Dixon. The project was managed by Andy King on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

Land north of Abbotsham Road, Bideford, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group, on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 14.75 hectare area of land located on the western side of Bideford, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 243385 126835 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the erection of up to 260 dwellings with public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and two vehicular access points from Abbotsham Road.

1.1.3 An outline planning application (1/0605/2017/OUTM) was submitted to Torridge District Council and is awaiting determination.

1.1.4 This evaluation was part of a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site and followed non-intrusive archaeological work, including a desk-based assessment (Pegasus 2016) and a geophysical survey (SUMO Survey 2017) requested by Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHO).

1.1.5 Stephen Reed further requested that in order to understand the significance of features identified by the geophysical survey (SUMO Survey 2017) a programme of intrusive archaeological excavation by trial trenching was required to test such anomalies, as well as any apparently blank areas.

1.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The WSI was approved by Stephen Reed, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.7 The evaluation, comprised 21 trial trenches each measuring 50 m by 2 m, and two trial trenches each measuring 30 m by 2 m, was undertaken 19/02/18 – 19/03/18.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site comprises three complete fields and the southern half of a fourth field. The fields are configured in a U-shaped arrangement around a large area of woodland known as Badgershill Wood, which straddles a small coombe and also has a watercourse running through it. The land is currently used as pasture, delineated by hedgerows, woodland and fencing. There are a number of hedgerows within the site, some of which are traditional hedgebanks retaining their drystone wall base.

1.3.2 The site lies to the north of Abbotsham Road and to the west of Osborne Lane, with Londonderry Farm Housing Estate beyond. It is bounded to the west by the A39 and fields beneath the A39 viaduct. To the north it is delimited by Northdown Road, with a field and woodland beyond.

1.3.3 The core of the settlement of Bideford is located around 1.7 km to the east of the site, with the Londonderry Farm Housing Estate abutting the eastern boundary.

1.3.4 The site slopes from south-west to north-east, declining some 20 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in height from its southern (c. 42 m OD) to northern (c. 20 m OD) extent. Individual fields show greater variations of undulating landscape within this general trend.

1.3.5 The underlying geology is mapped as Bude Formation Mudstone and Siltstone although the British Geological Survey mapping shows that this area includes two small areas of Bideford Formation Sandstone and one area of Bude Formation Sandstone. No superficial geology is recorded within the site (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a previous desk-based assessment (Pegasus 2016), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development site. A summary of the results is presented below.

2.1.2 A recent geophysical survey (SUMO Survey 2017) identified anomalies indicative of archaeological features. The results included a possible irregularly shaped enclosure of potential archaeological interest and a number of former historic field boundaries.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (pre AD 43)

2.2.1 Within the site boundary, to the east of Badgershill Wood, cropmarks of a possible ring ditch and field boundary are recorded (MDV65346). This was identified from aerial photographs and is currently classified as being of unknown date as it had not been tested archaeologically. Its location on higher ground, overlooking the watercourse and the Kenwith Valley to the north, was thought to be indicative of a prehistoric date.

2.2.2 A number of flints have been identified during fieldwalking events within a 1 km radius of the site (MDV25573, MDV25574, MDV25575, MDV25577, MDV35549, MDV35552, MDV35555, MDV35556, MDV35557, MDV35559 and MDV35563). The majority of these have been found to the west of the site and range in date from the Mesolithic to Neolithic period.

Roman (AD 43 – 410)

2.2.3 There is very little evidence for Roman activity in the wider area, although a possible Bronze Age or Roman square enclosure (MDV102159) has been tentatively identified to the north-west of the site, directly south of Orchard.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

2.2.4 A number of the settlements within the surrounding locality of the site were established in the early medieval period. The settlement of Abbotsham, to the west of the site, is recorded in Domesday (MDV18912, MDV67617) as Hama, indicating that it was already of taxable size by AD 1086.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

2.2.5 The village of Abbotsham contains a medieval core with a number of surviving assets from this period. To the north lies the deserted medieval village of Cornborough (MDV56008), although extant remains are no longer visible.

2.2.6 Although there is evidence of medieval strip field systems within the surrounding landscape it is considered unlikely that the site itself was used agriculturally during this period.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1750)

2.2.7 The majority of nearby elements dating from the post-medieval period are the records of field boundaries noted from aerial photographs and recorded as part of the National Mapping Programme (MDV102116, MDV102120, MDV102121, MDV102123, MDV102126, MDV102128, MDV102131, MDV102133 and MDV104113). A number of these field boundaries are no longer extant, having been removed by modern development, but those remaining illustrate post-medieval field systems within the surrounding landscape. At least some of these field boundaries are likely to be ones identified on the geophysical survey report (SUMO Survey 2017).

2.2.8 Abbotsham continued to expand throughout the post-medieval period, with a number of assets of this date recorded within the DHER.

Early Modern (AD1750 – present)

2.2.9 Only one early modern site is identified within the site boundary. This is the former location of a milestone located on the southern boundary (MDV34049). It was shown on the 1932 Ordnance Survey Map but is no longer extant.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the CIfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation'* (CIfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features uncovered;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations (Fig. 1) were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). In consultation with the client and Stephen Reed four trenches (1, 2, 25 and 26) were not excavated due to the constraints detailed below (4.2.2), whilst an additional trench (27) was included in the evaluation.

4.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were not excavated due to access-to-field constraints as they lay on a sub-surface stoned trackway forming a hard-standing field access from Abbotsham Road. The excavation of these trenches was considered to pose a potential detriment to the farmer either during excavation, or following re-instatement. Trenches 25 and 26 were not excavated as they lay in a field to which access would prove difficult without undertaking further works to facilitate tracked plant movement; it was considered that trench 24 might be representative of archaeological potential in that part of the site.

4.2.3 The additional trench (27) was sited between trenches 24 and 20 to investigate an anomaly identified on aerial photographs and tentatively defined as a possible Bronze Age round barrow. Stephen Reed had pointed out that similar anomalies are sometimes the result of up-thrusts of bedded geology. It was also noted that the geophysical survey had not identified this area as of archaeological potential (SUMO Survey 2017). Trench 27 was therefore located to determine the nature of the anomaly.

4.2.4 Four trenches (9, 13, 17 and 21) had side or end extensions. Trench 9 was extended slightly to the east to ensure there were no more archaeological features at that end of the trench as a land-drain occurred at the end point.

4.2.5 Trench 13 was extended at the east end to ensure the inner enclosure ditch was fully exposed beneath the colluvial deposits. It was also extended to the north to provide safe access to the outer enclosure ditch intervention.

4.2.6 Trench 17 was extended towards the west to ensure that the full width of a linear anomaly was uncovered. It was also subsequently extended to the north of this to demonstrate it was terminating in that direction. Further extensions were made north and south of the outer enclosure ditch located in this trench so that safe access to the ditch intervention could be made and so that the general orientation of the feature could be confidently established.

4.2.7 Trench 21 was extended to the east to confirm the presence of a shallow coombe at that end of the trench which was not obvious from the ground surface level.

4.2.8 At the request of Stephen Reed a profile of the coombe base extending from the outer enclosure ditch in trench 13, to the outer enclosure ditch in trench 17, was made by GPS (Fig. 5). This gives an effective profile of the internal aspects of the enclosure where it is cut through by the stream.

4.2.9 A total of 23 trial trenches (21 each measuring 50 m by 2 m, and two measuring 30 m by 2 m), were excavated in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. This was done under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist with machine excavation proceeding until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.10 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand. A sample of identified archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.11 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from hand-excavated contexts were retained.

4.2.12 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the SHO were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.13 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated.

4.2.14 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.15 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which have embedded appropriate metadata within the image, ensuring long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.3.2 It was agreed on site with Stephen Reed that obtaining environmental assessments of contexts from appropriate samples within the enclosure ditches, at this evaluation stage, would remove the need for further mitigation in this area, if the ditches are not to be impacted by the forthcoming development. The full sampling strategy was formulated for the outer and inner enclosure ditches in trenches 13, 14 and 17. This consisted of 40 litre samples from each deposit within each ditch segment, where possible. A single monolith sample was taken from the outer enclosure ditch in trench 13; all other ditch sections were too stony to successfully obtain a monolith.

4.3.3 The single Late Neolithic pit in trench 11 was whole-earth sampled as a significant feature. All depositional material in this feature was collected for artefactual and environmental evidence.

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Stephen Reed (SHO) monitored the evaluation on behalf of Torridge District Council (LPA) and inspected the evaluation progress on the 22nd February 2018. Donald Sutherland was the consultant for Pegasus Group acting on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd. All variations to the WSI, as required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the SHO.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Thirteen of the 23 excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present across the site (Fig. 1). Two trenches revealed only modern field drains.

5.1.2 The uncovered features include evidence for activity in the Late Neolithic and post-medieval/modern periods, however several features, including the enclosure, are undated.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period, and summarised by trench in Table 1.

5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 depicts all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (SUMO Survey 2017).

Table 1. Summary of archaeology, by trench

Trench	Summary	Text reference
4	Buried ploughsoil 402; modern made ground deposit 404.	5.5.2
6	Undated pits 605 and 607; modern field drain.	5.7.1; 5.5.1
7	Post-medieval field boundary ditch, possibly part of a double ditch with central bank system. Possible redeposited bank material deposit 704.	5.4.2
8	Undated ditch 804, probable post-medieval field boundary ditch.	5.4
9	Undated pits 905 and 908; five field drains.	5.7.3; 5.5.1
11	Late Neolithic pit 1105; post-medieval field boundary ditch 1110.	5.3; 5.4.3
13	Inner enclosure ditch 1305; outer enclosure ditch 1309; undated pit 1315.	5.6; 5.7.2
14	Inner enclosure ditch 1404; outer enclosure ditch 1409.	5.6
16	Undated ditch 1604, probable post-medieval field boundary ditch.	5.4
17	Outer enclosure ditch 1705.	5.6
18	Post-medieval field boundary ditch 1804.	5.4
20	Post-medieval field boundary ditch 2005, possibly part of a double ditch with central bank system.	5.4.2
22	Undated ditch 2204, probable post-medieval field boundary ditch; field drains 2207 and 2209.	5.4
23, 24	Modern field drains.	5.5.1
3, 5, 10,12, 15,19,21,27	No archaeological features or deposits.	5.7.4

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The topsoil across the site was determined to be a ploughsoil of modern date, with the fields last being ploughed in the late 1990s. The ploughsoil invariably contained pottery of post-medieval and modern date, glass and clay pipe fragments. Concentrations of finds tended to occur in downslope locations, or on the hill-tops where ploughing had not overly cut into the underlying geology.

5.2.2 The subsoil across the site was sporadic and determined by the extent of modern ploughing. A number of hill-tops and upper scarps had been ploughed to natural so the subsoil was missing. Elsewhere, especially towards the lower slopes of the hills and coombe bases, the subsoil component was effectively colluvial in nature, and at least some of this would have been due to earlier ploughing episodes. Colluvial deposits were noted in trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23.

5.3 Late Neolithic (3000 BC – 2400 BC)

Trench 11

5.3.1 Only one pit (1105) contained artefactual material indicative of a Late Neolithic date (Fig. 4, Plates 1, 7-10). It was found at the north-western end of trench 11, in an up-slope location towards the crest of an ENE facing slope with a commanding view through two headlands towards the River Torridge. The pit was oval in plan (orientated approximately north to south) and measured 1.04 m x 0.94 m, and 0.3 m deep. It had very steep, concave sides and a slightly concave base, cut into the degraded natural shillet. It contained a primary fill (1107) of reddish brown silty clay, from which four worked flints (including scraper ON 3010) and a single fragment of fired clay (5 g) were recovered. The primary fill was overlain by a yellowish brown silty clay deposit (1108) and a rough circle of stones defining a central area in which a group of 13 worked flints and a Grooved Ware rim sherd were found. Small, abraded fragments of fired clay (21 pieces, 31 g) were also recovered from a bulk soil sample of this deposit. A reddening of the soil was noted during excavation, within the area bounded by the stones. The uppermost fill (1106/1109) was a reddish brown silty clay, containing 24 worked flints and a single, abraded sherd of Grooved Ware (3 g). Three sandstone pebbles were retained from the pit, none showed signs of working or utilisation but were probably deliberately collected and deposited.

5.3.2 Pit 1105 was whole-earth sampled to maximise artefactual and environmental evidence. The charred plant assemblage from this feature was dominated by hazelnut shell fragments with a small quantity of cereal grains (see section 7.3.3).

5.4 Post-medieval (AD 1500 – AD 1800)

Trenches 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22

5.4.1 Eight trenches (7, 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22) contained elements of post-medieval field boundary ditches. All of these features, except that from trench 16, were identified in the geophysical survey (SUMO Survey 2017). They mostly survived as relatively wide, shallow features which appeared to have been ploughed-in during the modern era; their fills were generally similar to the ploughsoil and they contained artefactual materials of the same type.

5.4.2 In two trenches (7 and 20) there were hints that parts of the field boundary system were double ditched. In both cases the downslope ditch (both occurring on the northern sides) had been so severely plough-damaged that this second ditch had effectively been ploughed away. All that remained of the field system in trench 7 was a deposit of probable redeposited bank material (context 704). One ditch survived in trench 20, and contained two fills.

5.4.3 In trench 11 the north-south part of the ditch appeared to terminate to the north, and earlier maps of the field systems appear to show a field entrance in this approximate position (Pegasus 2016, pl. 8). The ditch in trench 11 also had a flanking element, which ran roughly parallel to the ridge on which it lay, tangential to the north-south portion. There was no cut differentiation between the two parts of the field ditch and it is suggested they functioned as a contemporary unit with the flanking component assisting in channelling the movement of livestock between fields.

5.5 Modern (AD 1800 – present)

Trenches 6, 9, 23 and 24

5.5.1 Modern features were mostly land-drains or field-drains, positioned to aid water management. Some of these were filled with local stone and some were soil filled. They were mostly identified without excavation or, where tested, sufficient to demonstrate they were modern. They occurred in trenches 6, 9, 23 and 24.

5.5.2 Trench 4 lay parallel to and beside the modern A39 road. It was also the deepest trench excavated. The upper 0.9 m of material was made ground of a modern appearance, mostly comprising clays with some admixture of soil in small dumped patches overlying a buried compacted ploughsoil virtually indistinguishable from the ploughsoil found elsewhere on the site. The surface ploughsoil of trench 4 had much less surface collection material. Decomposing wooden post fragments were present within and immediately below the made ground component, and at the boundary between the buried ploughsoil and the natural. The water table was reached at this depth. The coombe in which this made ground was situated was not obvious at ground surface level.

5.6 Undated – enclosure

5.6.1 Trenches 13, 14 and 17 were positioned to target a series of geophysical anomalies (SUMO Survey 2017) interpreted as forming an enclosure with inner and outer ditches (Fig. 3). The outer enclosure ditch was represented in all three trenches; the inner enclosure ditch was present only in trenches 13 and 14.

5.6.2 The enclosure was such that the interior was set in a depression through which a stream now flows. The full extent of the ditches is not known as the geophysical survey did not extend into the lower ground towards the stream, and the proposed construction plans for the site show no impact upon this area, so it was not trenched.

5.6.3 The outer ditch (interventions 1309, 1409 and 1705) was the widest and deepest of the two enclosure ditches, varying in width from 2.25 m to 2.68 m, and in depth from 1.04 m to 1.24 m. The nature of the local geology influenced the profile, but they were roughly U-shaped, with moderate to steep sides and a relatively concave base (Fig. 5, sections 6 and 8; Fig. 6, section 9). These ditch segments were all on relatively flat ground.

5.6.4 The inner ditch averaged 1.12 m in width but the two excavated slots (1305 and 1404) revealed a depth of 0.87 m and 0.63 m respectively. They were roughly U-shaped in profile with moderate to steep sides (Fig. 5, section 7; Fig. 6, sections 10 and 11). The ditch had been dug on the steeper downslope of the hillside so that there was a significant drop in elevation between the outer and inner enclosure ditches, as well as between the upslope and downslope edges of the inner ditch itself.

5.6.5 The outer ditches generally show primary fills below a secondary stabilisation horizon with a possible tertiary fill sequence above. This structure is slightly less well-represented in the downslope inner ditch segments.

5.6.6 The fills of all ditch segments were characteristic of the bedrock geologies through which they were cut. The outer ditch segment in trench 13, being cut through a clay-rich medium, provided the only monolith sample for the ditches (described in section 7.3.6); all the other segments having predominantly stony fills.

5.6.7 Both inner and outer ditch segments in trench 14 (1404 and 1409 respectively) produced concentrations of marine shell (composed mostly of limpet, with smaller quantities of mussel, cockle, periwinkle and carpet shell). In the inner ditch (Fig. 6 ,section 11) this was a dump of material (1407) on the upslope side of the feature (Pls 2 and 3). The outer ditch segment also contained this deposit (1413; Fig. 6, section 9), but here it was more widespread and deeper, extending almost the full width of the feature (Pl. 4) and certainly the full width of the segment, and being over 0.3 m thick and including a localised lens of soil (Pl. 5). Stabilisation occurred after the deposition of the marine shell in both inner and outer ditch segments.

5.6.8 Few finds were recorded from the ditches. A small spindle whorl came from the tertiary fill of outer ditch 1309 (Pl. 11); two rounded, but unworked pebbles were also recovered. Fragments of animal bone were found throughout the fills of outer enclosure ditch 1409, and a small quantity from one fill of inner enclosure ditch 1305. A small iron nail head came from a tertiary fill of inner ditch 1305, and amorphous fragments of fired clay from outer ditch 1309. A single piece of iron-working slag from the lower fill of outer ditch 1705 (Pl. 12) is indicative of a date not earlier than the Iron Age, however no pottery was recovered from either ditch.

5.6.9 The charred plant remains from the inner and outer ditches are dominated by naked barley and naked wheat, suggesting a medieval or later date for these features (see section 7.3.4).

5.7 Undated- other features

Trench 6

5.7.1 Two pits were identified in trench 6 (605 and 607). They were shallow and contained large amounts of charcoal, although only southern pit 605 could be excavated (Fig. 4, section 2; Pl. 6). It was fully sampled in an attempt to characterise and date it. Pit 605 contained elements of fire-reddened soils combined with an assemblage of oak charcoal and a fragment of hazelnut shell (see section 7.3.2). A single, amorphous fragment (20 g) of fired clay was recovered from a bulk soil sample of the feature. Northern pit 607 was extremely shallow and occurred almost as a dump of charcoal on coombe deposits; no fire-reddened soil was noted. This area filled with water and required machine bailing, which thinned pit 607 out further and necessitated recording in section only. Neither pit produced dateable material.

Trench 13

5.7.2 A similar shallow pit, 1315, located immediately outside and west of, outer enclosure ditch 1309 in trench 13, was half-sectioned and sampled but did not contain any dating evidence (Fig. 4, section 5). Its composition was not dissimilar to that of 605, and contained oak charcoal (see section 7.3.2).

Trench 9

5.7.3 Two pits (905 and 908) were identified within trench 9 (Fig. 4, sections 3 and 4 respectively). They were relatively shallow with steep sides and tended to have stony fills in their lower aspects. No artefacts were recovered from them.

Trench 27

5.7.4 Trench 27 was excavated to investigate a possible archaeological feature previously identified from aerial photography, however excavation confirmed Stephen Reed's suggestion that it is a geological anomaly - an up-thrust of vertically bedded sandstone, and not a Bronze Age round barrow.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A relatively small assemblage was recovered during the evaluation, deriving from contexts in 22 of the trenches excavated. Of particular interest was the recovery of two sherds of Neolithic pottery, and a few other associated finds, from a pit in trench 11. There is also a small quantity of struck flint. The majority of the assemblage, however, consisted of post-medieval/modern material (pottery, glass, ceramic building material, clay pipe, etc) which came from topsoil contexts across the Site.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised in **Table 2**.

Table 2. All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Clay Pipe	Flint (no.)	Glass	Iron (no.)	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
301			1	6/21		12/54		1 CBM
401						10/77		1 CBM; 1 slag
501				2/24		12/134		
601			5	5/30		18/114		
606								1 fired clay
801		1/7		5/45		10/61		
901		9/31		77		236/1272		
1001		3/11	1	9/98		38/244		1 CBM
1002			1					
1101	2/39			11/198		61/240		
1106			4					
1107			4					1 fired clay
1108			11			1/8		21 fired clay; 2 stone
1109			20			1/3		1 stone
1111				3/66		7/42		
1201		1/4		1/4		40/261		
1301			1	6/15		12/65		
1308	11/4				1			
1314								8 fired clay; 2 stone
1401				7/36		27/116		
1407	62/185						1517/2406	
1408	7/2		1					
1410	2/1						2/6	2 burnt flint
1411	8/4						18/8	
1412	14/3						53/64	
1413	7/19						894/1399	
1501		2/4	1	21/273				1 burnt flint; 1 CBM; 1 slag
1601		2/9		5/18		19/147		

Context	Animal Bone	Clay Pipe	Flint (no.)	Glass	Iron (no.)	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
1602						1/6		
1701		1/2	1	1/10		5/32		
1706								
1707								1 slag
1708								1 stone
1801						14/40		
1901				1/10		4/7		
2001	1/15	1		1/3	3	155/1086		1 burnt flint; 2 CBM
2007						10/182		
2101				4/32	2	16/138		
2201		3		7/25		19/92		1 CBM
2301	1/1	1		11/48		30/99		1 CBM
2401				1/5	3	31/184		
2701		1		1/97		11/39		1 CBM
Total	**115/273**	**25/95**	**51**	**185/1590**	**9**	**800/4743**	**2484/3883**	

CBM = ceramic building material

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 800 sherds (weighing 4743 g). Of this total, two sherds are Neolithic, four medieval, and the remainder are post-medieval/modern.

6.2.2 Condition is fair to poor. The assemblage is very fragmentary, which probably at least in part reflects its provenance (mostly from topsoil contexts). Sherds are small, and apart from the hardest fired wares (such as stonewares), most show signs of surface and edge abrasion. Mean sherd weight is 5.9 g.

6.2.3 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type and by context. Totals by ware type are given in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Quantification of pottery, by ware (number / weight in grammes)

Ware	No. sherds	Wt. (g)
Prehistoric	2	11
North Devon coarseware	4	54
Bone china	50	199
Creamware	2	7
English stoneware	5	80
English stoneware (Bristol glazed)	32	316
North Devon gravel-tempered	118	1476
Pearlware	1	3
Porcelain	7	39
Post-medieval redware	85	687
Refined white ware	438	1648
Staffordshire-type mottled ware	2	7
Staffordshire-type slipware	23	80
Tin-glazed earthenware	2	3
Westerwald stoneware	3	23
White salt glaze	19	35
Yellow ware	7	75

Prehistoric

6.2.4 Two small sherds were recovered from two fills of pit 1105, one a rim (Pl. 7). Both are small and very abraded. The fabric of both appears detrital (voids, clay pellets, perhaps grog, burnt flint, stone). The rim is upright, pointed to rounded, with a slight internal bevel, and definitely decorated on both surfaces with very worn horizontal or sub-horizontal grooves. The material appears to be Grooved Ware, of Late Neolithic date.

Medieval

6.2.5 Four sherds were tentatively identified as North Devon coarseware (NDCW; e.g. Allan and Perry 1982, fabric 1), although this is visually very similar to the later gravel-tempered ware (see below). These included one diagnostic sherd - a jar rim (*ibid*., fig. 46, 49). These sherds could date anywhere between the 13th and 15th centuries. They were recovered from the topsoil of trench 10 and subsoil of trench 16.

Post-medieval

6.2.6 The remaining 794 sherds are post-medieval/modern, and apart from ten sherds from a secondary fill (2007) of ditch 2005, all came from topsoil or subsoil contexts.

6.2.7 The range of wares encountered (see **Table 3**) is entirely as expected for the area. Coarsewares are represented by both gravel-tempered and gravel-free redwares, and these include a small proportion of white-slipped and sgraffito wares, as well as a few later slipwares (19th/20th century ‘souvenir’ wares). There is little in the way of 17th-/18th-century finer wares, but there are a few sherds of tinglazed earthenware, porcelain and Staffordshire-type (or, more probably in this case, Bristol-type) slipwares, as well as Westerwald stoneware (no other German stonewares are represented). From the 18th century there are small quantities of white salt glaze and other salt-glazed English stonewares. The majority of this assemblage, however, comprises sherds of later refined wares (late 18th century and later). Creamware and pearlware are notable by their relative scarcity, but whitewares are well represented, including transfer-printed, banded, sponged and hand painted wares, and there is also a small proportion of bone china. These refined wares were supplying tea- and tablewares, while kitchen wares are represented by a few sherds of yellow ware, and containers (mostly ribbed preserve jars, including one from Hartleys of Liverpool) by feldspathic-glazed stoneware.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.3.1 Nine fragments of CBM were recovered, all from topsoil contexts. Eight are brick fragments, two from air bricks. There are no surviving original dimensions, and apart from the air bricks (19th/20th century) these fragments are not closely datable. There is also one fragment from a salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe (19th/20th century).

6.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.4.1 The clay pipe (25 fragments) consists mostly of stem fragments, with two small (undatable) bowl fragments. This small assemblage can therefore only be broadly dated as 17th-century or later. All fragments came from topsoil contexts.

6.5 Glass

6.5.1 The glass assemblage totals 185 fragments (weighing 1590 g). Nearly all came from topsoil contexts. Of this total, 41 fragments are from free-blown or mould-blown green wine bottles dating between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. Few of these fragments are more closely datable, but a rim/neck from the fill of ditch 1110 is mid/late 17th century (Dumbrell 1983, 38), while base fragments from trenches 9 and 15 (topsoil in both cases) are from squat cylindrical or cylindrical bottles (1740s or later).

6.5.2 The remainder consists of modern (19th/20th century) vessel and window fragments. Most of the vessels are containers (bottles and jars), and although these are too fragmentary to determine function, there are a few embossed fragments (graded Tablespoons and one from a coffee essence bottle) to indicate that these included containers for foodstuffs and pharmaceutical products.

6.5.3 Three fragments provide dating evidence (19th-/20th-century) for ditch 1110.

6.6 Flint

6.6.1 Fifty-one pieces of flint were recovered (**Table 2**). The condition of the flint was for the most part good, with the majority of pieces being fresh and unrolled. Raw material consisted of three types: pebble flint from topsoil 301 and 601, one pale grey piece from a polished flint axe from topsoil 1001, and a dark grey flint with a sandy cortex (the remainder).

6.6.2 The pebble flint consists of little more than smashed nodules and could be of any date. The piece from the polished axe is very small (<10 mm square) and may be an accidental spall from a Neolithic implement. With the exception of individual pieces from topsoil 1301, fill 1408 of ditch 1404, topsoil 1501 and topsoil 1701 (all flakes or broken flakes) the dark grey flint was recovered from the fills of Neolithic pit 1105 (Pl. 8). The raw material is uniform and may derive from one or a small number of nodules and seems to represent knapping waste. Two scrapers indicate campsite activities (Pl. 9). The technology is hard hammer and dorsal scar patterns, indicating a mixed flake and blade technology. This material is therefore clearly Neolithic, and would not be out of place in the later part of the period.

6.7 Iron

6.7.1 The nine iron objects recovered all appear to be of structural origin. They include large nails and a bolt, as well as bar, rob and plate fragments. One small nail head came from a tertiary deposit in inner enclosure ditch 1305, but is not closely datable. The other objects are likewise undatable but, given their provenance (topsoil) and associated pottery, are likely to be of post-medieval/modern date.

6.8 Stone

6.8.1 Six pieces of stone were recovered, three from the backfill of Neolithic pit 1105 and three from outer enclosure ditches 1309 and 1705. They include a small spindle whorl in a pale grey siltstone, or fine-grained sandstone, from the tertiary fill of outer enclosure ditch 1309 (deposit 1314, ON 3003, Pl. 11). The object is flat on the top and bottom, with convex, rounded sides, and is decorated with four incised concentric rings. It is 24 mm in diameter and 15 mm high; it weighs 12 g. It would have been suitable for use with fine thread but cannot be closely dated. The other pieces are all are rounded sandstone pebbles, of varying sizes. None show any obvious signs of working or utilisation, although (particularly the objects from the Neolithic pit; Pl. 10) they may have been deliberately collected and deposited. Their lithology suggests that they may have been collected as beach pebbles from the nearby coast.

6.9 Animal bone

6.9.1 Animal bone was recovered from five of the evaluation trenches. A total of 115 fragments (or 273 g) came from topsoil deposits in trenches 11, 20 and 23, and from the fills of the inner and outer enclosure ditches identified in trenches 13 and 14.

6.9.2 Identified bones from topsoil include a fragment of cattle scapula, two sheep/goat tibia and the pelvis from a rabbit. The identified bones from the inner enclosure ditch 1305 and 1404, belong to cattle, while cattle and sheep/goat bones came from the outer enclosure ditch. Cattle is represented by fragments of skull, a vertebra, first phalanx and mandible, and several pieces of degraded tooth enamel. Tooth wear indicates that the mandible is from an adult animal (mandible wear stage G after Halstead 1985). Sheep/goat is represented by fragments of scapula and tibia.

6.9.3 The assemblage is extremely small but there is an apparent bias towards cattle cranial fragments. Large animals such as cattle are more likely to be slaughtered and butchered away from domestic areas and elements from surface accumulations of primary butchery waste could easily have been redeposited into the enclosure ditches.

6.10 Shell

6.10.1 Shell occurred in significant quantities (2484 shells), all from trench 14. One large deposit of 1517 shells came from the inner enclosure ditch 1404 (fill 1407), with the remainder from the outer enclosure ditch 1409 (fills 1410, 1411 and 1412, but mostly from 1413). Limpet was the most commonly occurring species (2129 shells), with smaller quantities of mussel (164), cockle (93), periwinkle (88) and carpet shell (2); eight fragments were too small to identify.

6.11 Other finds

6.11.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of fired clay, slag and burnt (unworked) flint.

6.11.2 Most of the fired clay (22 fragments) came from Neolithic pit 1105, but comprises small, abraded fragments of unknown function, as do the remaining nine fragments (one from pit 605 and eight from outer enclosure ditch 1309).

6.11.3 One large piece of smelting slag was recovered from fill 1707 of ditch 1705 (Pl. 12). Two other fragments from topsoil contexts could also represent ironworking. None of the slag is datable.

6.11.4 The burnt flint came from outer enclosure ditch 1409, but is undatable.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Thirty bulk samples and a monolith sample were taken from a range of features of Neolithic and uncertain chronology such as pits and ditches, and were processed, described and assessed for the presence of environmental evidence and potential (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Sample provenance summary

Phase	Monolith samples	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Neolithic	-	4	58	Pit
Uncertain	1	24	796	Enclosure ditches
Uncertain	-	2	27	Pit and posthole
Totals	**1**	**30**	**881**	

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.

Plant macrofossils

7.2.2 The size of the samples varied between 8 and 40 litres, and on average was around 30 litres. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Syraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. A riffle box was used to split large flots into smaller flot subsamples when appropriate. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (*Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as molluscs and animal bone was recorded.

7.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.2.4 *Sediments*

7.2.5 The monolith samples were cleaned prior to recording and standard descriptions were used (following Hodgson 1997), including Munsell colour, texture, structure and nature of boundaries, as given in **Table A2.1**.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The flots were of variable volumes, and there were high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements (**Table A2.2**). Remains of marine and terrestrial molluscs were present in some of the samples from the inner and outer enclosure ditches.

Plant macrofossils

7.3.2 Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation, including poorly and fairly preserved assemblages. Variable amounts of wood charcoal, mostly mature, was noted. An almost pure assemblage of mature oak (*Quercus* sp.) wood was recovered from undated posthole 1315 and pit 605, together with a fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell, a trefoil/clover/medick (Trifoliae) seed and a couple of roundwood fragments from the latter.

7.3.3 The assemblages from the Neolithic pit 1105 were dominated by hazelnut shell fragments, but also included a few cereal (Triticeae) fragments, among which wheat (cf. *Triticum* sp.) was tentatively identified, as well as false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*) tubers and other grass (Poaceae) seeds and culm fragments.

7.3.4 In the assemblages from both the inner and outer enclosure ditches, naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *vulgare*) was the dominant taxa, followed by naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*). Unfortunately, the absence of any chaff (rachis segments, particularly) prevented the identification of the remains from this latter crop group to species level. A relatively large oat (*Avena* sp.) grain from a possible domestic crop (*A. sativa*) was also found in one of the assemblages. However, on the absence of chaff (lemma bases) the domestic status of the plant cannot be confirmed due to the absence of morphological criteria in the grains to distinguish wild from domestic taxa.

7.3.5 These assemblages also contained smaller amounts of remains from other taxa such as seeds of blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus* sp.), elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.), wild grasses (Poaceae, including smaller seeded *Avena* sp.), Trifoliae, plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), vetch (Vicieae), sedges (Cyperaceae), violet (*Viola* sp.), together with fragments of tubers and roots from undetermined taxa.

Sediments

7.3.6 Monolith sample 5011, taken from the south facing section of inner enclosure ditch 1309, shows a sequence in which the primary fill, 1310, probably derived from initial side collapse, is overlain by a series of secondary fills. The primary fill has been subject to redoximorphism (wetting and drying), caused by periods with standing water at the bottom of the ditch, as indicated by the presence of iron and manganese. The secondary fills are fairly similar in nature: a friable silty clay with varying amounts of sandstone and mudstone inclusions, although context 1311 also shows evidence of redoximorphism. The boundaries between these fills are generally either clear or gradual indicating that the ditch has probably filled in slowly.

7.4 Discussion and Further potential

Plant macrofossils

7.4.1 The assemblage from the Neolithic pit is fairly typical, being dominated by hazelnut shell fragments and with a small amount of cereal grains. This evidence is however rare in the area and very significant for the study of the first agricultural societies in SW England.

7.4.2 The cereal assemblages from both the inner and outer enclosure ditch were consistent, due to the presence of naked wheat, with a medieval or later chronology. It is recommended that radiocarbon dating is carried out on the assemblage from this feature to confirm its chronology.

7.4.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Table A2.2**. All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the <4 residues and the flot, which may be subsampled with the aid of a riffle box in the case of very rich assemblages. The analysis will involve the full quantification (Antolín *et al*. 2016) and taphonomic assessment (López-Dóriga 2015) of the charred plant assemblages.

7.4.4 The analysis of the wood charcoal has little potential since the assemblages are small or dominated by a high quantity of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and they would therefore provide little information on the species composition or the existence of fuel selection.

7.4.5 *Sediments*

7.4.6 The sequence in the monolith sample shows the gradual infilling of the enclosure ditch as suggested by the lack of sharp boundaries between contexts, with evidence of intermittent standing water conditions, as indicated by the presence of iron and manganese. There is no visible evidence of stabilisation periods.

7.4.7 There is potential for the preservation of pollen which would be especially useful in the lower fills of the ditch. Analysis of pollen from these fills has the potential to give basic information on the local vegetation and change of land use as well as the levels of concentration and preservation of pollen on site. Three pollen subsamples have been taken from contexts 1313, 1313 and 1310 at 20 cm intervals, as shown on **Table A.2.1** and are recommended for analysis. No further work is recommended on the monolith sample *per se* but it should be retained for potential further subsampling until the pollen analysis has been concluded. The pollen subsamples would be chemically prepared, following standard procedures, for the retrieval and assessment of pollen preservation on site. Should the pollen evidence be preserved appropriately, a full palynological analysis may be undertaken.

7.5 Scientific dating

7.5.1 It is recommended that a total of four radiocarbon samples from the Neolithic pit and the enclosure ditches are submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast. The dates will be calculated using the IntCal13 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2013) and the computer program OxCal (v4.2.3) (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013) and cited at 95% confidence. The degree of reliability of the radiocarbon date and the event which is aimed to be dated will be assessed following Waterbolk (1971) and Pelling et al. (2015).

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary and discussion

8.1.1 Archaeological features were revealed in 13 of the 23 trenches excavated, with the significant features located in the northern part of the site. Overall there was good correlation between the features identified on the geophysical survey and those examined in the evaluation trenches.

8.1.2 A series of geophysical anomalies, appearing to represent an enclosure with inner and outer ditches, was investigated with trenches 13, 14 and 17. The outer ditch enclosed an area of approximately 110 m diameter, however the full extent of the features, particularly the inner ditch, is unknown as there was no geophysical survey of the lower ground towards the stream as this area will not be impacted by the proposed development. A single piece of iron-working slag from the lower fill of the outer ditch is indicative of a date not earlier than the Iron Age for the features, however no other datable artefactual material was recovered. Bulk soil samples were taken from each deposit within the inner ditch (seven samples) and outer ditch (17 samples). The cereal assemblages from both the inner and outer enclosure ditch were consistent, due to the presence of naked wheat, with a medieval or later chronology.

8.1.3 The finds recovered from pit 1105 in trench 11 included 39 pieces of worked flint, comprising knapping waste and two scrapers, indicative of campsite activities, and a Neolithic date. Two small and abraded sherds of pottery are in the Late Neolithic Grooved Ware ceramic tradition. Also found in this pit were three rounded sandstone pebbles, and although not obviously utilised or worked, they would have been brought to the site, potentially from the north Devon coast, and appear to have been deliberately deposited. The presence of Grooved Ware pottery, albeit just two sherds, is unusual for this area of Devon. The assemblage of plant macrofossils from pit 1105 is fairly typical of the period, being dominated by hazelnut shell fragments and with a small amount of cereal grains.

8.1.4 Several other pits were identified across the site; none could be dated. They include two shallow pits in trench 6, with charcoal-rich fills. Heat-reddened soils in one may be the result of the contents being dumped whilst still hot, or possibly burning in-situ. A similar pit was also recorded in trench 13. Two pits in trench 9 contained stony fills.

8.1.5 Post-medieval field boundaries were confirmed in trenches 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 22, with traces of a double-ditch system in trenches 7 and 20. A possible field entrance was revealed in trench 11.

8.1.6 Modern land drains and field systems were recorded in trenches 6, 9, 23 and 24.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **NDDMS4.2018a**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.1 Preparation of the archive

9.1.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

Physical archive

9.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Museum's accession number, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 4 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
- 01 A1 graphics.

Digital archive

9.1.3 The Barnstaple and North Devon Museum require that the digital archive (consisting of born-digital and digital copies of relevant written and drawn data produced during fieldwork) must be transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository instead of with the museum.

9.1.4 WA will therefore make arrangements with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) to deposit the digital archive, together with the appropriate metadata, and in general following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013, and online guidance).

9.2 Selection policy

9.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), with the aim of retaining only those finds which are considered have further research potential, or which fulfil other criteria within the Museum's collecting policy.

9.2.2 In this instance, the finds from the Neolithic pit, and from the enclosure ditches, although sparse, are considered to be significant and should be retained, as should the small quantities of worked flint from other contexts.

9.2.3 All other finds, however, deriving largely from topsoil contexts, predominantly of 19th-/20th-century date and some in relatively poor condition, are considered to have little or no further potential. Retention of this part of the assemblage is therefore not recommended.

9.2.4 This selection strategy will be agreed with the museum, and will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3 Security copy

9.3.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.4 OASIS

9.4.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench 3	***30.0 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243177.15, 126779.57	48.84 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
301	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Dark brown silt loam with occasional to moderate inclusions of degraded sandstone.	0.00–-0.20
302	Subsoil		Subsoil: Probably resulting from earlier ploughing episodes. Firm greyish brown silt loam with moderate to common inclusions of degraded sandstone.	0.20–0.24
303	Natural		Natural: Vertically bedded, degraded sandstone, occurring in sedimentary plates and masses. Plough-scarred surface. Towards south end of trench is a band of yellowish brown clay, the southern side exhibiting manganese rich sandstone.	0.24

Trench 4	***50.2 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243235.61, 126874.78	50.37 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
401	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Firm greyish brown clayey silt.	0.00–0.32
402	Buried soil		Buried ploughsoil: Firm dark brownish grey silty clay. Waterlogged towards bottom. More pronounced to south. May represent original soil level (ground surface) prior to deposition of man-made ground 403.	0.94–1.31
403	Natural		Natural: Areas of compact, vertically stratified grey sandstone mixed with areas of light greyish yellow compact silty clay.	1.31
404	Layer		Made ground: Compact greyish yellow clayey sand. Deposited to level out slope/hollow. Very recent deposit - contains plastic. Indistinct boundary between 404 and 401 in places.	0.32–0.94

Trench 5	***50.3 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243243.48, 126783.97	45.31 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
501	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt.	0.00–0.18
502	Subsoil		Subsoil: Possibly colluvium. Yellowish brown silty clay.	0.18–0.54
503	Natural		Natural: Areas of vertically stratified grey sandstone, with yellowish grey clayey sand at the eastern end of the trench.	0.54

Trench 6	***50.5 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243295.55, 126972.52	45.54 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
601	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Firm greyish brown clayey silt with common angular sandstone inclusions.	0.00–0.30
602	Colluvium		Colluvium: Firm grey silty clay with common manganese mottles occurring in coombe at north end of trench.	0.30–0.62
603	Colluvium		Colluvium: Compact light yellowish grey silty clay with common manganese mottles occurring in coombe at north end of trench.	0.62–0.76
604	Natural		Natural: Compact greyish yellow silty clay with common shillet inclusions in the northern area. A ridge of compact grey sandstone is present towards the southern end of the trench.	0.39
605	Pit		Small, circular feature with gently sloping concave sides and a concave base located at the southern end of trench. Diameter 0.50 m.	0.39–0.53
606	Deliberate backfill	605	Deliberate backfill: Firm yellowish brown clayey silt containing abundant charcoal, with red heat-affected clay above and slightly below charcoal-rich elements. Upper part of fill very mixed. Fire-related materials, presumed hot when deposited.	0.39–0.53
607	Pit		Very shallow irregular oval feature mostly seen in section and truncated by ploughing? 0.30 m x 0.40 m; 0.02 m deep.	0.76–0.78
608	Deliberate backfill	607	Deliberate backfill: Dump of charcoal, no burnt clay visible. Very thin deposit.	0.76–0.78

Trench 7	***50.7 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243362.87, 127059.44	42.44 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
701	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt with abundant angular sandstone inclusions.	0.00–0.26
702	Colluvium		Colluvium: Firm reddish brown clayey silt with occasional angular sandstone inclusions.	0.40–0.56
703	Natural		Natural: Variable across trench. Areas of yellowish sandstone and shillets; other parts of yellowish brown clayey sands. Plough-scarred throughout.	0.56
704	Layer		Possibly redeposited bank material from post-medieval field system, visible as a dark grey clayey silt with sandstone inclusions situated between 701 and 702.	0.26–0.40

Trench 8	***50.0 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243429.73, 127115.37	26.34 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
801	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Loose greyish brown silty clay with moderate shillet inclusions.	0.00–0.42
802	Colluvium		Colluvium: Brown silty clay with occasional to moderate shillet inclusions.	0.42–0.63
803	Natural		Natural: Mixed bandings of shillet and silty clay. Occurs at a depth of 0.50 m at the ends of the trench, shallowest in the centre.	0.36
804	Ditch		Field boundary ditch cutting colluvium 802. Linear feature oriented NW–SE, 1.40 m in width and 0.27 m depth.	0.27–0.54
805	Tertiary fill	804	Mid greyish brown silty clay - possibly plough-derived fill of ditch 804.	0.27–0.54

Trench 9	***52.3 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243351.50, 126901.35	43.13 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
901	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Friable dark brownish grey silt with poorly sorted shillet inclusions.	0.00–0.30
902	Subsoil		Subsoil: soil type dependant on underlying geology. Above shillet the soil is a dark brownish grey silt with a faint reddish tinge. Above the clays the soil is a yellowish brown clay silt. Mostly occurs towards eastern end of trench.	0.25–0.50
903	Natural		Natural: Occurs at variable depth along trench.	0.35
904	Colluvium		Colluvium: Dark brownish grey slightly clayey silt with a reddish tinge. Exists in western area of trench only, below ploughsoil 901.	0.30–0.57
905	Pit		Sub-circular feature with steep concave sides and an uneven concave base. Roughly orientated SE-NW, with NW end entering side of trench. 1.70 m long, 0.67 m wide, 0.40 m deep.	0.47–0.87
906	Deliberate backfill	905	Deliberate backfill: Pale grey silty clay with abundant large sub-angular shales and sandstone inclusions forming the basal fill of pit 905; deepest towards NW. Partly visible at machined surface level.	0.47–0.87
907	Deliberate backfill	905	Deliberate backfill: Pale grey slightly clayey silt with common medium-sized sandstone inclusions forming the upper fill of pit 905; deepest to SE.	0.47–0.75
908	Pit		Sub-circular feature with steep concave sides and concave base. Roughly oriented NW-SE, with eastern side entering side of trench. 1.70 m long, 0.75 m wide, 0.50 m deep.	0.46–0.96
909	Fill	908	Deliberate backfill: Mottled greyish brown clay silt with common sub-angular sandstone inclusions forming entire fill of pit 908.	0.46–0.96

Trench 10	***50.1 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243367.16, 126952.66	39.92 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1001	Topsoil		Ploughsoil: Dark brown silty clay loam with moderate sub-angular shillet inclusions.	0.00–0.30
1002	Subsoil		Subsoil: Pale yellowish brown silty clay, appearing pale grey over shillet geology. Average thickness 0.20 m. Occurs at interface between 1003 and overlying layers, which vary in depth according to trench location. In the coombe this layer begins at 1.20 m bgl.	0.3
1003	Natural		Natural: mostly degraded shillet, but in coombe it becomes a yellowish brown to yellow clay with manganese inclusions. Occurs at only 0.18 m bgl at south end which has been ploughed to natural.	0.18
1004	Colluvium		Colluvium: Dark brown silty clay loam with reddish tinge and moderate shillet inclusions.	0.30–0.60
1005	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid to pale brown silty clay loam with moderate degraded shillet inclusions.	0.60–1.00
1006	Colluvium		Colluvium: Pale greyish brown silty clay loam with poorly sorted, medium-sized shillet inclusions.	1.00–1.20

Trench 11	***50 m x 1.8 m***		**NGR** 243409.19, 127013.25	37.66 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1101	Topsoil		Topsoil: Reddish brown friable silty clay, sparse small shillet, common fine roots.	0-0.25
1102	Subsoil		Subsoil: Reddish light brown friable silty clay, sparse medium-sized sub-angular and angular sandstone. Located in western half of trench.	0.25-0.41
1103	Natural		Natural: Variable: shillet; brownish yellow clay; brownish yellow clay with moderate degraded sandstone, and sandstone. Some areas disturbed by ploughing.	0.41-0.52
1104	Geological feature		Geological feature.	
1105	Pit		Uncertain relationship to other features. Suggestion of placed deposits within feature. Most likely deliberately backfilled.	
1106	Deliberate backfill	1105	Reddish brown silty clay. Most likely part of deliberate backfill of pit 1105, predominantly deriving from topsoil related contexts. Mostly excavated as deposit 1109.	
1107	Primary fill	1105	Reddish brown silty clay. Possible primary fill or deliberate backfill. Basal fill of pit 1105.	
1108	Deliberate backfill	1105	Yellowish brown silty clay, containing circle of stones which had evidence of burning within, as well as hammerstones, scrapers, and pottery. Placed/structured deposition.	
1109	Fill	1105	Reddish brown silty clay - excavated soil from upper layers of pit 1105. This fill is considered to be mostly comprised of deposit 1106.	
1110	Ditch		Termination to field boundary ditch, with possible perpendicular element for managing livestock movement through entrance. Probably plough filled.	
1111	Tertiary deposit	1110	Reddish brown clayey silt. Probably filled by ploughsoil. Finds within fill are the same as in ploughsoil 1101.	

Trench 12	***50 m x 2 m***		**NGR** 243442.92, 126954.74	33.43 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1201	Topsoil		Topsoil: Mid to dark brown friable silty clay with occasional small (20 mm) sub-angular slate and abundant fine roots.	0.2
1202	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid brown friable silty clay, common small and medium (20-50 mm) sub-angular slate, abundant fine roots.	0.2-0.35
1203	Natural feature		Natural: predominantly grey slate with intermittent patches of reddish brown silty clay with common small slate pieces. Patches of pale grey/yellow slate in southern end of trench. Plough-scars in south of trench.	0.35

Trench 13	***54 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243493.61, 127005.03	26.66 a OD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1301	Topsoil		Topsoil: Ploughsoil – dark brown loam, slightly silty and gritty with fairly common angular mudstone and sandstone fragments up to 10 mm. Slightly deeper downslope to the east.	0 – 0.3
1302	Colluvium		Colluvium: Similar to topsoil but slightly more red in colour. Only extant in easternmost 8 m of the trench and becoming deeper in that direction and to the south due to the angle of the slope. Plough-derived?	0.3 – 0.57
1303	Layer		Remnant ploughsoil or bank material: Pale yellowish-brown silty and gritty loam with common stone fragments up to 10 mm. Extant only where protected by the colluvium, thickening towards the SE.	0.57 – 0.68
1304	Natural		Natural: Weathered mudstone/shale bedrock with a central band of yellow clay. Present under topsoil/ploughsoil to the west, and under colluvium and remnant ploughsoil at the east (downslope).	W: 0.25 E: 0.68
1305	Ditch		Inner ditch of an enclosure. Also encountered in trenches 14 and 17. Associated with 1309.	0.55 – 1.33
1306	Primary fill	1305	Pale yellowish brown gritty silt. Primary erosion of the loose matrix material in the natural weathered bedrock; probably accumulated shortly after the ditch was cut.	1.08 – 1.33
1307	Primary fill	1305	Mid grey silty clay loam. Natural silting of inner enclosure ditch 1305. Some possibly derived from bank material, mostly appears to have derived from upslope.	0.65 – 1.25
1308	Tertiary deposit	1305	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam. Dumped materials possibly to level the out of use ditch 1305.	0.55 – 0.88
1309	Ditch		Outer enclosure ditch, also encountered in trenches 14 and 17.	0.27 – 1.41
1310	Primary fill	1309	Yellowish brown silty clay. Primary fill of ditch 1309. Eroded materials from the W edge of the ditch, a rather sterile deposit.	0.45 – 1.41
1311	Primary fill	1309	Primary erosion of silty clay (mid brown in colour).	0.76 – 1.41
1312	Primary fill	1309	Mid brown silty clay. Eroded materials in ditch 1309.	0.59 – 1.09
1313	Secondary fill	1309	Mid greyish brown silty clay, possible stabilisation layer.	0.28 – 0.74
1314	Secondary fill	1309	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Uppermost fill of ditch 1309, formed through natural silting.	0.29 – 0.59
1315	Pit		Undated pit situated just W of the outer enclosure ditch 1309.	0.36 – 0.42
1316	Deliberate backfill	1315	Burnt materials dumped in pit 1315.	0.36 – 0.42

Trench 14	***50 m x 1.85 m***		**NGR** 243508.13, 127035.62	26.41 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1401	topsoil		Topsoil: Mid greyish brown loose silty clay with frequent medium stones, rare CBM fragments and frequent roots.	0 – 0.22
1402	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid brown compact silty clay with common small and medium stone – discreet deposit at E end of trench.	0.22 – 0.8
1403	Natural		Natural: Bedrock with occasional silty clay pockets.	0.8 +
1404	Ditch		Inner enclosure ditch, also encountered in trench 13. A compact shell deposit situated on the W edge (upslope).	0.15 – 0.83
1405	Primary fill	1404	Yellowish brown silty clay. Collapsed materials - E edge of ditch 1404.	0.15 – 0.83
1406	Primary fill	1404	Mid grey silty clay. Collapsed materials - edge of ditch1404.	0.25 – 0.75
1407	deliberate backfill	1404	A well compacted dump of cockles, limpets and a few mussels shells in a relatively fine matrix of dark grey silty clay with few course components. Dumped above the upper primary fill of the ditch, on the western edge.	0.27 – 0.47
1408	Secondary fill	1404	Dark grey silty clay loam. Stabilisation layer in the top of ditch 1404.	0.18 – 0.54
1409	Ditch		Outer enclosure ditch, also encountered in trenches 13 and 17. Ditch is located towards crest of hillslope (elevated above 1405 by 5.9 m) therefore only a slight difference in height OD between W and E sides; E side is c 0.15 m	0.23 – 1.4
1410	Primary fill	1409	Mid brown sandy silt. Collapsed materials from the E edge of ditch 1409.	1.04 – 1.4
1411	Secondary fill	1409	Mid grey clayey silt. Natural silting of ditch 1409, most likely materials washed in from between the rocks forming the edges of the feature.	0.95 – 1.31
1412	Secondary fill	1409	Mid brown silty clay. Stabilisation layer in ditch 1404.	0.4 – 1.15
1413	deliberate backfill	1409	A considerable quantity of shells dumped in ditch 1409, in a dark grey clayey silt..	0.63 – 1.03
1414	tertiary deposit	1409	Uppermost fill of ditch [1409], perhaps ploughed in materials or an attempt to level off the area.	0.23 – 0.68

Trench 15	***50 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243529.37, 127107.27	18.34 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1501	Topsoil		Topsoil: Uppermost 0.1-0.2 m is heavily root disturbed from grass covering. Dark, yellowish brown ,slightly-clayey silt, common stones, sub-rounded to sub-angular, medium gravel-sized.	0 – 0.33
1502	Colluvium		Colluvium: Brownish orange in colour, dense sandy silt, common to abundant stones and shale fragments.	> 0.3
1503	Natural		Natural: shale bedrock.	0.3 – 0.4

Trench 16	***50 m x 1.85 m***		**NGR** 243662.76, 127064.55	15.59 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1601	Topsoil		Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small stones and occasional CBM.	0 – 0.32
1602	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid brown silty clay with moderate small stones and occasional fine roots.	0.32 – 0.43
1603	Natural		Natural: Shillet with patches of silty clay.	0.43 +
1604	Ditch		A N-S aligned ditch, possible field boundary. Undated.	0.43 – 0.51
1605	Secondary fill	1604	Natural silting of ditch 1604. No finds recovered.	
1606	Natural Feature			

Trench 17	***50 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243605.99, 126993.64	20.75 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1701	Topsoil		Topsoil: Dark brown sandy clay loam, sparse sub-angular gravels.	0 – 0.3
1702	Subsoil		Subsoil: Pale brown sandy clay loam, common sub-angular gravels.	0.3 – 0.43
1703	Natural		Natural: Uplifted fractured sandstone and shillet bedrock. Quite variable along trench,	0.43 +
1704	Geological feature		Geological feature, possibly associated with peri-glacial weathering of natural and/or erosion. Not archaeological.	0.43 – 0.83
1705	Ditch		Outer enclosure ditch with well-developed fill sequence. Corresponds with geophysical anomaly on survey.	0.38 – 1.61
1706	Primary fill	1705	Mid brown sandy clay. Initial primary fill in enclosure ditch 1705.	1.39 – 1.61
1707	Primary fill	1705	Mid grey brown sandy clay loam. Large primary fill in enclosure ditch 1705.	0.98 – 1.39
1708	Primary fill	1705	Mid brown sandy clay loam. Upper primary fill of enclosure ditch 1705, represents beginning of stabilisation of feature.	0.88 – 0.98
1709	Secondary fill	1705	Dark brown sandy clay loam. Thin stabilisation deposit in enclosure ditch 1705. Possible lense of occupation/activity related material within.	0.81 – 0.88
1710	Secondary fill	1705	Mid brown sandy clay loam. Secondary fill of enclosure ditch 1705. Much the same as preceding fill, but lacks occupation material within.	0.75 – 0.81
1711	Tertiary deposit	1705	Mid brown sandy loam. Upper fill of enclosure ditch 1705. Probably related to ploughing in of bank on western edge.	0.53 – 0.75
1712	Tertiary deposit	1705	Mid brown sandy loam. Uppermost fill of ditch 1705.	0.38 – 0.53
1713	colluvium		Greyish brown sandy clay. Lowest colluvial deposit collected in geological feature 1704.	0.72 – 0.83
1714	colluvium		Orange brown sandy clay. Sterile colluvium extending from just west of ditch 1705, infilling geological feature 1704.	0.52 – 0.72
1715	colluvium		Orange brown sandy clay. Colluvial deposit extending from just west of ditch 1705 to western end of trench 17.	0.33 – 0.52

Trench 18	***50 m x 1.8 m***		**NRG** 243612.43, 126961.61	24.88 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1801	Topsoil		Topsoil: Mid grey silty clay with sparse small stones and frequent rooting.	0 – 0.35
1802	Subsoil		Subsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent small slate fragments.	0.35 – 0.45
1803	Natural		Natural: Shillet with silty clay pockets.	0.45 +
1804	Ditch		A possible field boundary, running E-W in the NE end of trench 18. Cut in an area where a geological change from silty clay to slate can be observed.	0.45 – 0.66
1805	Secondary fill	1804	Mid grey silty clay. Natural silting of ditch 1804. Since pieces of rotting wood have been recovered, it can be concluded the feature is relatively recent.	

Trench 19	***50 m x 1.8 m***		**NRG** 243572.10, 126910.82	31.04 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
1901	Topsoil		Topsoil: Mid grey silty clay with common medium slate fragments.	0 – 0.4
1902	Subsoil		Subsoil: Mid brown silty clay with common medium and large slate fragments.	0.4 – 0.5
1903	Natural		Natural: Mixed shillet and silty clays	0.5 +

Trench 20	***50 m x 1.8 m***		**NRG** 243518.50, 126805.20	40.00 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2001	Topsoil		Topsoil: Dark grey silty clay, common slate fragments, fine roots, CBM fragments.	0 – 0.32
2002	Subsoil		Subsoil: Not present.	
2003	Natural		Natural: Mostly shillet with a strip of large shillet rubble mid trench.	0.32 +
2004	Natural feature		Recorded as natural feature, but may have been ploughed out remains of a ditch parallel to, and N of, ditch 2005.	
2005	Ditch		A NW-SE aligned post-medieval ditch. Most likely part of a field system.	0.32 – 0.78
2006	Primary fill	2005	Mid brown silty clay. Eroded materials from the edges of ditch 2005.	0.54 – 0.78
2007	Secondary fill	2005	Mid grey silty clay. Natural silting of ditch 2005.	0.32 – 0.54

Trench 21	***50 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243596.13, 126833.68	37.73 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2101	Topsoil		Topsoil:.Dark grey brown sandy loam, sparse sub-angular gravels, slightly gleyed.	0 – 0.33
2102	Subsoil		Subsoil:.Grey brown sandy clay loam, common sub-angular gravels.	0.28 – 0.51
2103	Natural		Natural	0.81 +
2104	Natural Feature		Coombe: Natural landscape feature. Shallow at east end, filled with colluvial deposits.	0.51 – 0.84
2105	Colluvium		Colluvium: Dark grey brown colluvium, fine sandy loam with sparse sub-angular gravels.	0.51 – 0.64
2106	Colluvium		Colluvium: Pale yellow grey clay loam, common mixed angular gravels, moderately gleyed.	0.64 – 0.74
2107	Colluvium		Colluvium: Dark blue grey with orange yellow flecks, clay loam, gleyed deposit in base of coombe.	0.74 – 0.81

Trench 22	***50.15 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243318.89, 126672.12	47.59 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2201	Topsoil		Topsoil: Dark greyish brown firm clayey silt with occasional shillet.	0 – 0.3
2202	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid yellowish grey compact silty clay.	0.3 – 0.61
2203	Natural		Natural: Grey sandstone and areas of yellowish brown compact sandy clay.	0.61 +
2204	Ditch		Likely a backfilled field boundary ditch containing shillet-rich bank material backfill. Two field drains located on either side; possibly related to same field system?	0.3 – 0.83
2205	Primary fill	2204	Light brownish grey clay. Primary fill at bottom of field boundary ditch, deposited through silting up of the ditch immediately after the ditch was dug or during its use.	0.8 – 0.83
2206	Backfill	2204	Mid greyish clayey silt. Overlies primary fill 2205. Perhaps related to field drains in same trench.	0.3 – 0.8
2207	Drain		Field drain.	0.3 – 0.65
2208	Fill	2207	Fill of drain.	0.3 – 0.65
2209	Drain		Field drain, similar to 2207.	
2210	Fill	2209	Fill of drain.	

Trench 23	***50.1 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243393.87, 126663.66	47.42 a OD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2301	Topsoil		Topsoil: Dark greyish brown firm clayey silty with occasional angular shillets up to 50 mm.	0 – 0.32
2302	Colluvium		Colluvium: Mid yellowish brown firm clayey sand with common very small shillets less than 10 mm.	0.32 – 0.56
2303	Natural		Natural: Solid grey sandstone in W of trench; mid yellowish brown sandy clay wash in E of trench.	0.56 – 0.65 +

Trench 24	***50 m x 1.9 m***		**NGR** 243618.20, 126717.15	44.43 m OD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2401	Topsoil		Topsoil: Pale grey brown sandy loam, very sparse sub-angular gravels less than 20 mm	0 – 0.28
2402	Subsoil		Subsoil: Pale grey yellow sandy loam, sparse angular gravels up to 50 mm	0.28 – 0.35
2403	Natural		Natural.	0.35 +

Trench 27	***33.5 m x 1.8 m***		**NGR** 243575.75, 126761.95	43.26 m aOD
Context	**Interpretation**	**Fill of**	**Description**	**Depth bgl (m)**
2701	Topsoil		Ploughsoil/topsoil: Dark brown clay loam, deepest at NW end of trench, showing progressive plough movement of soil downslope. Sparse, poorly sorted stones (shillet). Sits directly onto natural at SE end.	0 – 0.38
2702	Subsoil		Subsoil: Brown clay loam, occasional to moderate shillet component with clast size dependent on underlying geology. Thickness varies, mostly occurs in NW half of trench.	0.3 +
2703	Natural		Natural: Large, vertically-bedded sandstone/siltstone in SE of trench; degraded shillet in NW.	0.24 +

Appendix 2. Environmental data

Table A2.1. Sediment descriptions and sub-samples taken

Location:		TR13	**Monolith sample:**	5011	**Comments: 201450 – Abbotsham Rd, Bideford.** **Monolith through S. facing section of ditch [1309]**	
Level (top):		26.78 mOD	**Drawing:**	1304		
Depth		**Context**	**Subsamples**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**	
Mono	mOD					
0.00-0.33	26.78-26.45	(1314)	-	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown fairly friable silty clay with common small stones <2mm and occasional larger inclusions of sandstone <4cm. Moderate fine rootlets throughout and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.3% fine pores. Gradual boundary.	Secondary ditch fill	Primary ditch fill from initial side collapse overlain by secondary fills of material derived from side collapse and water action. Iron and manganese suggest redoximorphism possibly occurring due to standing water in the bottom of the ditch. Clear/gradual boundaries suggest fairly slow processes.
0.33-0.64	26.45-26.14	(1313) (1312)	0.48 (P)	7.5YR 4/3 brown fairly friable silty clay with common small stones <2mm. Sparse to moderate subrounded to subangular poorly sorted stones throughout. Rare rootlets, 0.1% fine pores. Deposit becomes slightly more compact and less friable with depth but this appears to be the only difference between contexts. Clear boundary.	Secondary ditch fill	
0.64-0.85	26.14-25.93	(1312) (1311)	0.68 (P)	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown slightly friable silty clay with common small stones <2mm. Moderate indistinct mottles of iron stain (10YR 5/6 yellowish brown) and flat pieces of mudstone <2cm increasing slightly with depth. Sparse manganese concretions. Clear boundary.	Secondary ditch fill with occasional wetting and drying (redoximorphism) as indicated by the presence of iron and manganese	
0.85-1.00	25.93-25.78	(1310)	0.88 (P)	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown friable silty clay with moderate indistinct mottles of iron stain (10YR 5/6 yellowish brown) and sparse manganese concretions. Slightly more compact than above. Common flat pieces of mudstone <4cm with a concentration in the bottom 1cm (probable geology). Common small subrounded stones <5mm.	Primary ditch fill with occasional wetting and drying (redoximorphism) as indicated by the presence of iron and manganese	

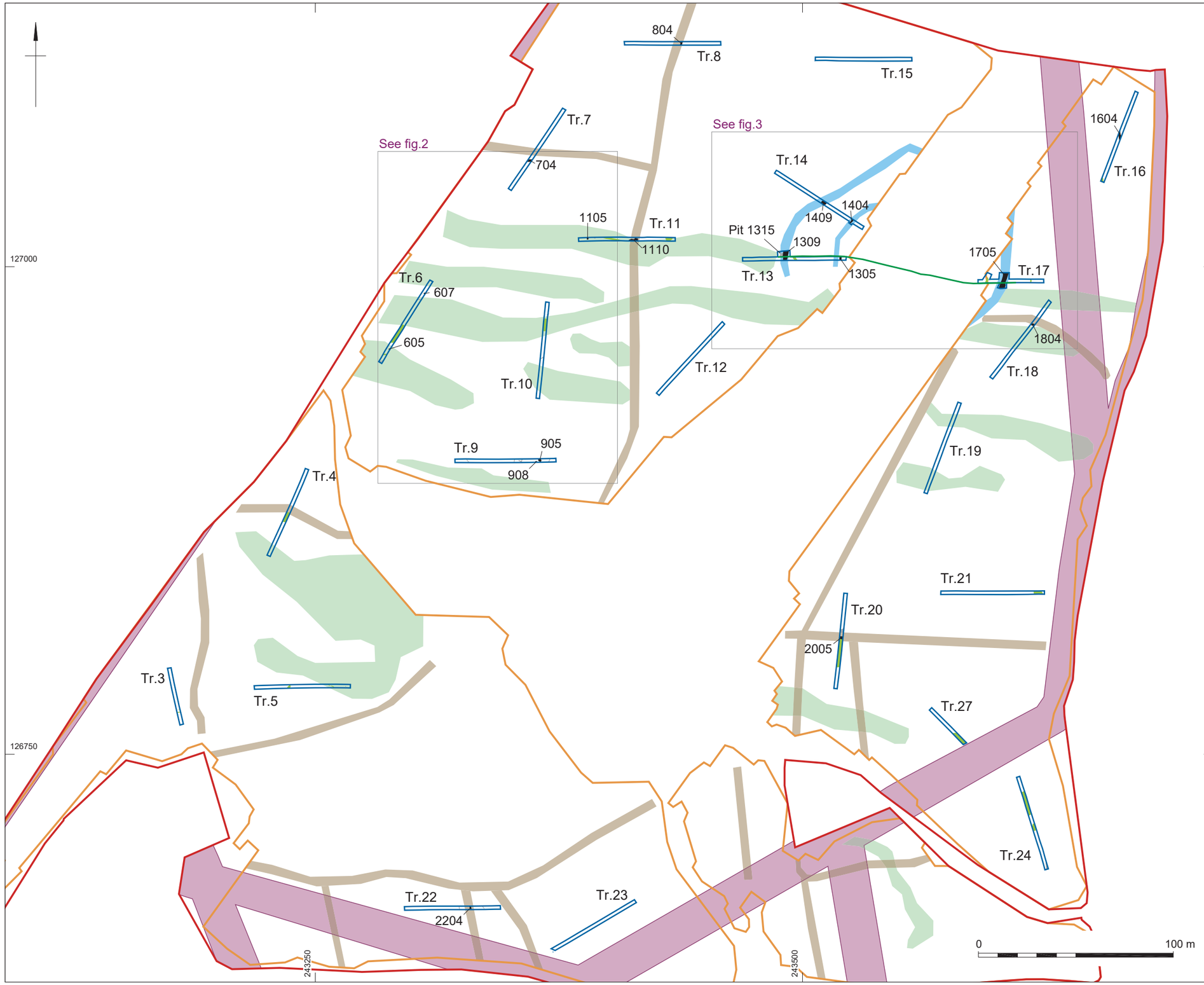
Table A2.2 Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Subsample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (preservation)
Neolithic Pit																
	1107	5021	9	50		50%	C	-	Triticeae	B	*Corylus avellana* shell, *Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*	10 ml	Mature	-	P	
	1108	5017	20	50		70%, C, E, I	C	-	cf. *Triticum* sp.	C	*Corylus avellana* shell, tuber, Poaceae culm	20 ml	Mature + roundwood	-	P, C14	Poor
	1108	5020	9	40		25%, C	C	-	Triticeae fragment	B	*Corylus avellana* shell, indet. parenchymatic tissue	10 ml	Mature	-	P, C14	Fair
1105	1109	5018	20	50		30%, B, E	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* shell, Poaceae	5 ml	Mature + roundwood	-	P	Poor
Inner Enclosure Ditch																
	1306	5010	8	4		10%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	<1 ml	Mature	-		-
	1307	5009	35	10		80%, C, E	B		*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae	1 ml	Mature	-		Fair
1305	1308	5008	38	40		60%, C, E	A	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	15 ml	Mature	Moll-t		Fair
	1405	5023	38	50		80%, A, E	C	-	*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*, *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	1 ml	Mature	Moll-m		Poor
	1406	5024	39	175		80%, A, E	B	-	*Triticum* sp. (cf. *aestivum/turgidum*), *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae, *Sambucus* sp.	5 ml	Mature	-		Poor
1404	1407	5022	38	400		85%, A*, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	Poaceae, *Rubus* sp.	1 ml	Mature	Moll-m, Moll-t		Poor

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Subsample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (preservation)
	1408	5025	39	250		80%, A*, E, I	A	-	*Triticum* sp.(inc. *aestivum/turgidum*), *Hordeum vulgare*, *Avena* sp., Triticeae	C	Trifoliae	10 ml	Mature + roundwood	-	P, C14	Heterogeneous
Outer enclosure ditch																
	1310	5012	18	20		80%, C, E	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae	Trace	Mature	-		-
	1311	5013	31	30		2%, C, E	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae roots	Trace	Mature	-		Poor
	1312	5014	40	40		75%, C	A		*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (C), *Hordeum vulgare* (A), Triticeae	-	-	<1 ml	Mature	-	P, C14	Heterogenous
	1313	5015	35	40		5%, C, E	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	-	-	1 ml	Mature	-		Poor
1309	1314	5016	39	50		80%, C, E	B	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	*Avena* sp.	5 ml	Mature	-		Fair
	1410	5027	34	30		90%, B, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	<1 ml	Mature	Moll-m, Moll-t		-
	1411	5028	32	15		90%, C, E	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	Moll-t, Moll-m		-
	1412	5029	35	20		20%, B	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	Moll-m, Moll-t		-
	1413	5030	33	15		20%, C	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	Moll-m, Moll-t		-
1409	1414	5031	33	125		90%, A, E, I	C	-	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	Poaceae, tubers	2 ml	Mature	-		Poor
	1706	5001	34	20		80%, C, E	-	-	-	C	Poaceae	1 ml	Mature + roundwood	-		-
1705	1707	5002	32	20		75%, C, I, E	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	Mature	-		-

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Subsample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (preservation)
	1708	5003	23	20		70%, C, E, F	-	-	-	B	Cyperaceae, tubers, roots, indet	<1 ml	Mature			Poor
	1709	5004	34	30		80%, C, E, F	-	-	-	A	Poaceae (inc. *Avena* sp.), Trifolieae, Vicieae, *Plantago lanceolata*, indet. tubers	<1 ml	Mature	-		Fair
	1710	5005	38	40		30%, C (inc uncharred hazelnut shell), E	C	-	*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*	A	Tubers and roots, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Viola* sp., Cyperaceae, Vicieae	<1 ml	Mature	-		Fair
	1711	5006	34	40		80%, C, E, F	C	-	*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*, *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae	C	*Viola* sp., indets, tubers/roots	<1 ml	Mature	-		Poor
	1712	5007	36	110		80%, C, E	C		*Triticum* sp. (cf. *aestivum/turgidum*),Triticeae	C	Fabaceae, Poaceae	2 ml	Mature	-		Poor
Undated pits																
605	606	5026	17	1550	30% >4mm	1%, E	-	-	-	C	*Corylus avellana* shell, Trifoliae	1550 ml	Mature (mostly *Quercus* sp.) + roundwood	-		
1315	1316	5019	10	400		1%	-	-	-	-	-	400 ml	Mature (mostly *Quercus* sp.)	-		

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhyzal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs; Analysis:, P = plant, C14 = radiocarbon



Site Boundary
Exclusion Zone
Evaluation Trench
Archaeology
Geology
Disturbance
Topographic profile (see fig.5)
Plate location

Geophysics
Geophysics - Area
Geophysics - Archaeology
Geophysics - Natural
Geophysics - Former Field Boundary

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Revision Number:	2
Scale:	1:2000 @ A3
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Site and trench location

Figure 1

Exclusion Zone
Evaluation Trench
Archaeology
Geology
Disturbance
Section line
Topographic profile (see fig.4)
Plate location

Geophysics
Geophysics - Area
Geophysics - Archaeology
Geophysics - Natural
Geophysics - Former Field Boundary

704
Tr.7
1105
Tr.11
Plate 1
Section 1 fig.4
127000
Tr.6
Pit 607
Pit 605
Plate 6
Section 2 fig.4
Tr.10
Tr.9
Section 3 fig.4
Pit 905
Pit 908
Section 4 fig.4
126900
243300
243400

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN02/OSGM02)

0 10 20m

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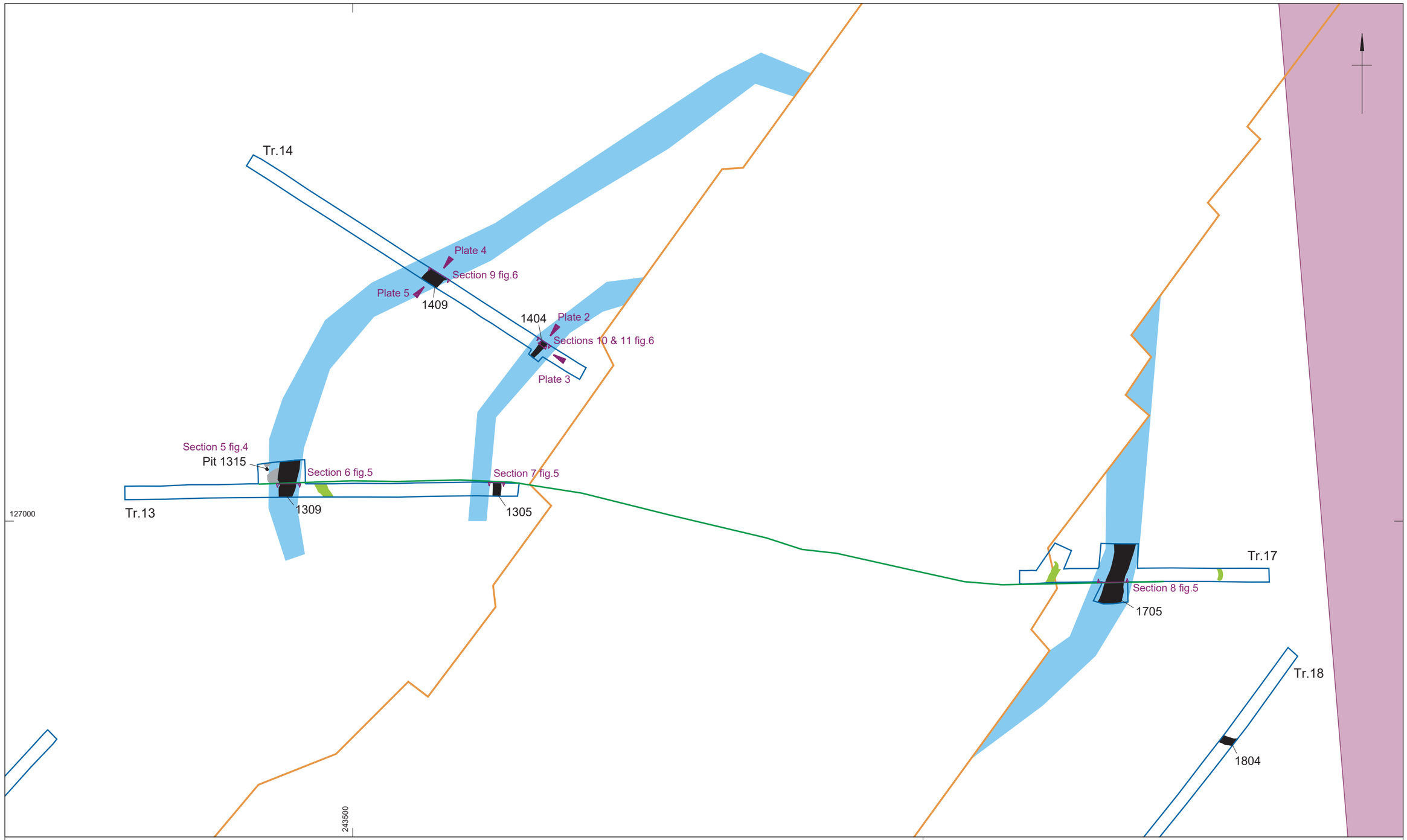
Detailed plan of trenches 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11

Figure 2



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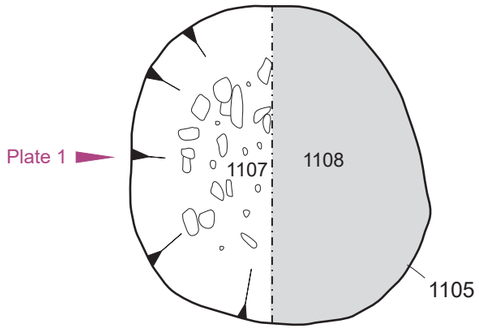
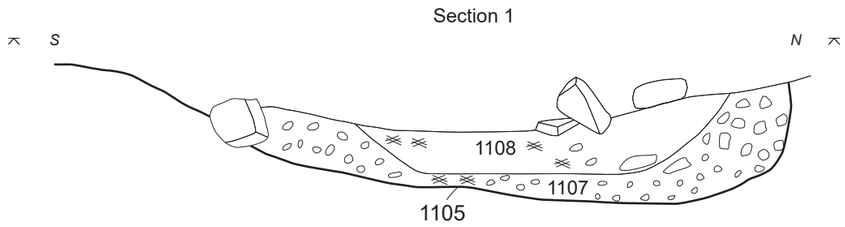
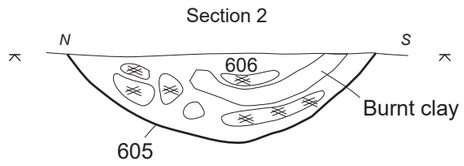
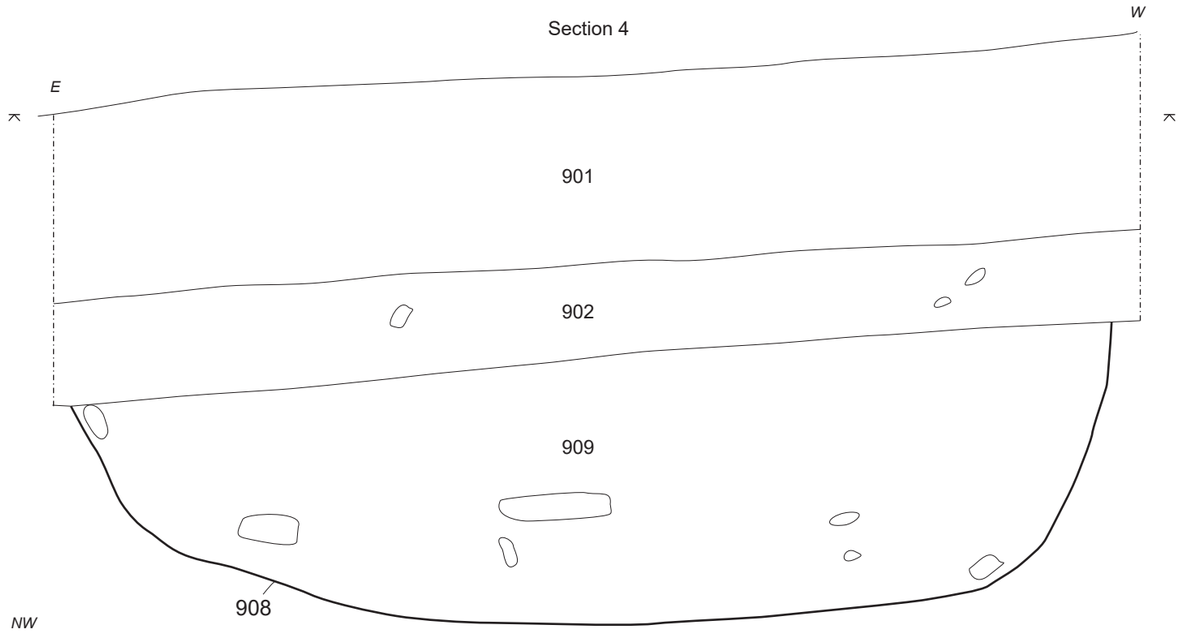
Detailed plan of trenches 13, 14 and 17, showing enclosure ditches

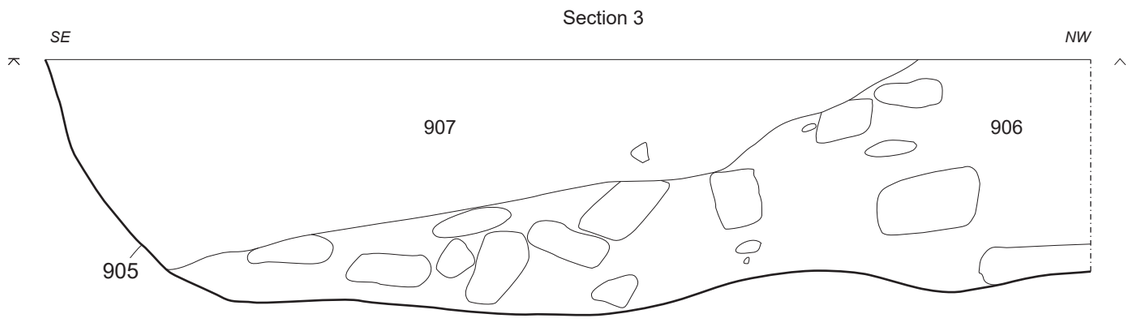
Figure 3

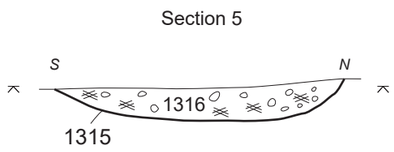












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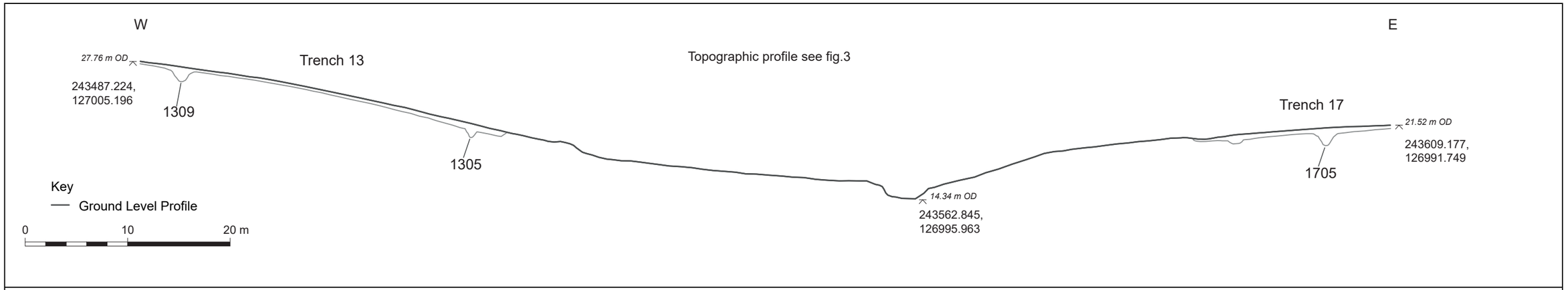
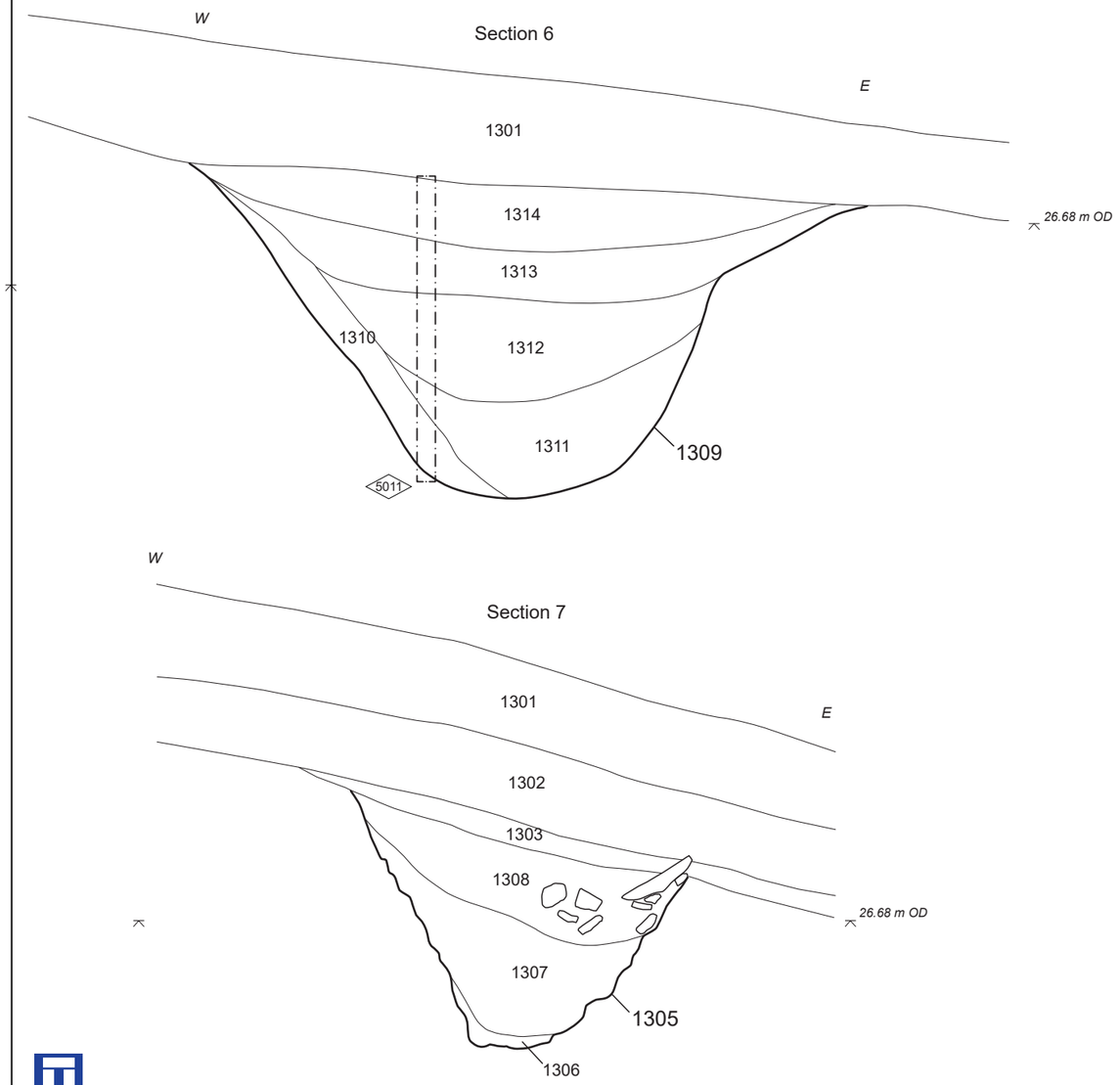
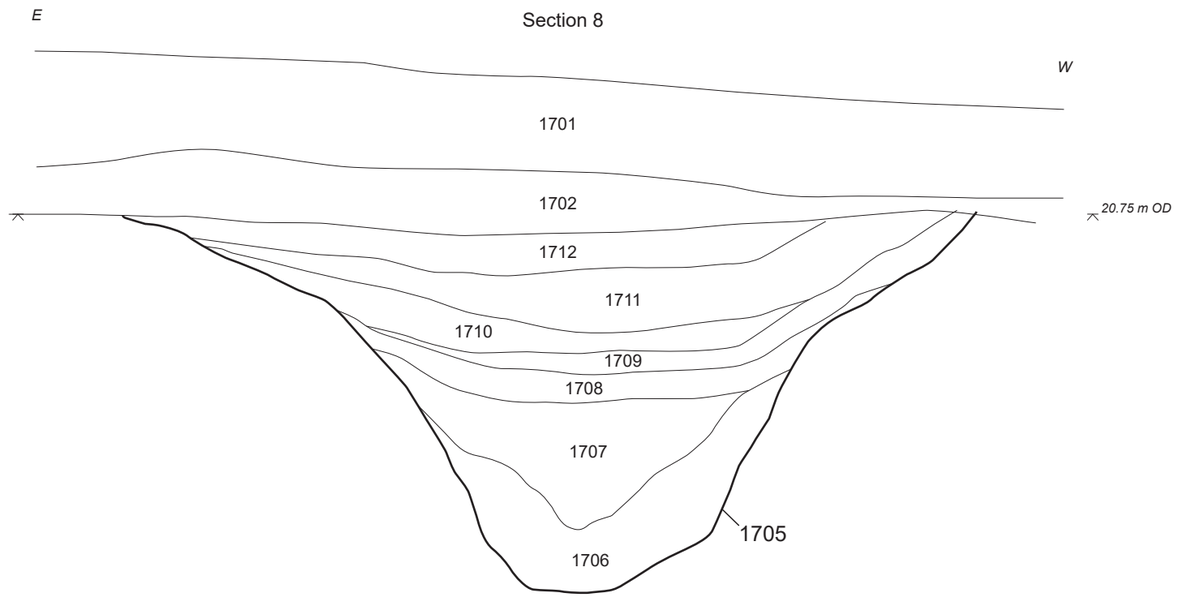
Plan and east-facing section of Late Neolithic pit 1105; sections of undated pits 605, 905, 908 and 1315 (see figs. 2 and 3)

Figure 4







0 1 m

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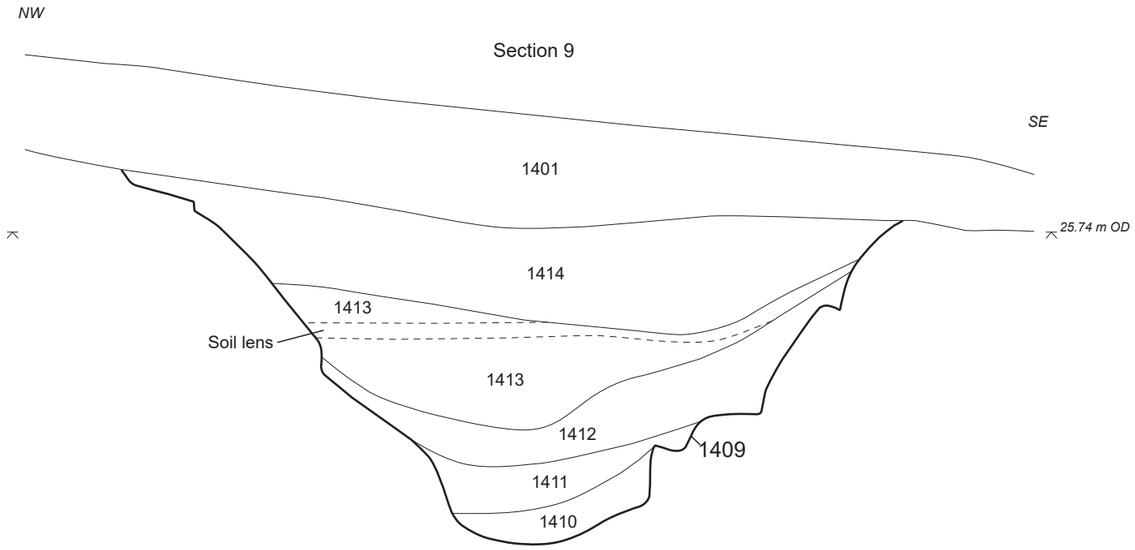
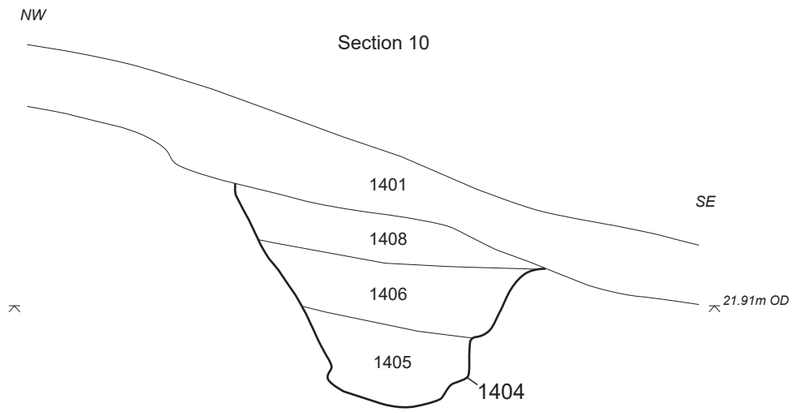
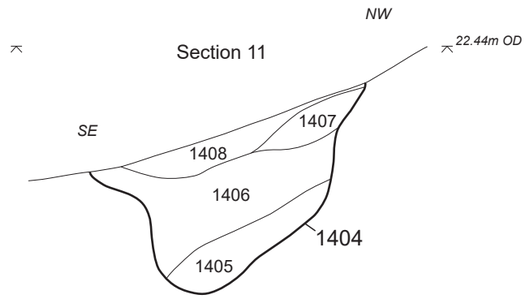
Topographic profile across coombe and enclosure ditches, with south-facing sections of outer enclosure ditch 1309 and inner enclosure ditch 1305, and north-facing section of outer enclosure ditch 1705 (see fig.3)

Figure 5







0 1 m

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South-west-facing section of outer enclosure ditch 1409, trench 14, south-west-facing section of inner enclosure ditch 1404, trench 14 and north-east-facing section of inner enclosure ditch 1404, trench 14 (see fig.3)

Figure 6

Plate 1: Late Neolithic Pit 1105, trench 11 viewed from the east (scale 0.5 m)

Plate 2: North-facing section of inner enclosure ditch 1404, trench 14 (scale 0.5 m)

Date:	18/04/2018	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\201450\GO\Rep figs\Evaluation\2018_04_17\201450_Evaluation_Plates.ai		

Plate 3: Plan view of shell dump within inner enclosure ditch 1404, trench 14 viewed from the south-east (scale 0.5 m)

Plate 4: Plan view of shell dump within outer enclosure ditch 1409, trench 14 viewed from the north-east (scale 2 m)

Date:	18/04/2018	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\201450\GO\Rep figs\Evaluation\2018_04_17\201450_Evaluation_Plates.ai		

Plate 5: South-west-facing section of outer enclosure ditch 1409, trench 14 (scale 2 m)

Plate 6: South-west-facing section of pit 605 in trench 6 (scale 0.4 m)

Date:	18/04/2018	Revision Number:	0
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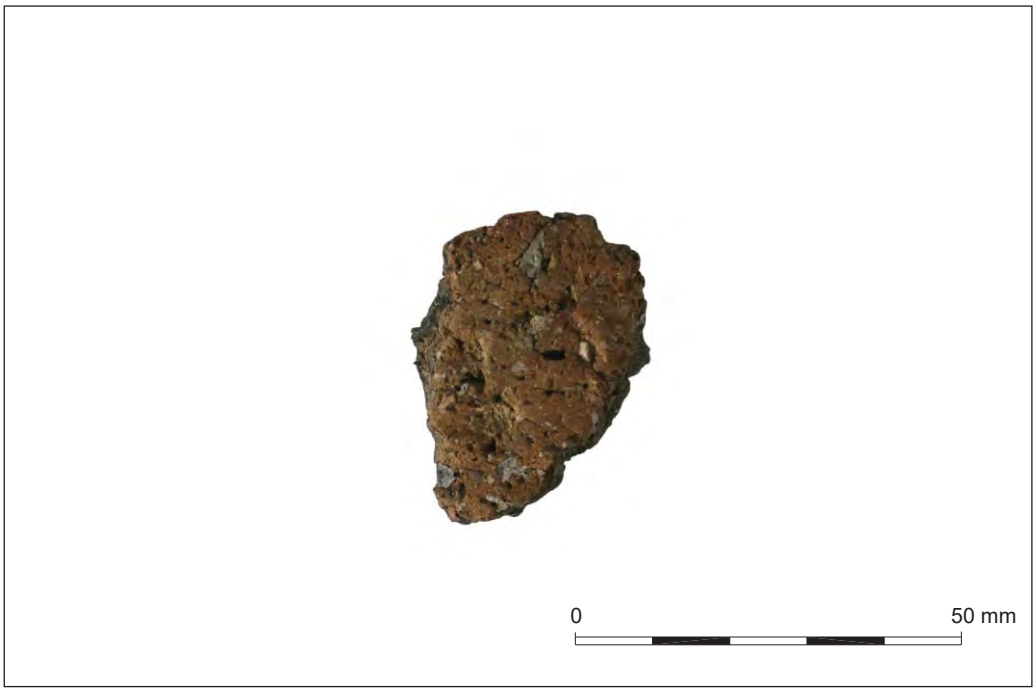

Plate 7: Grooved Ware rim sherd from Late Neolithic pit 1105

Plate 8: Selection of worked flints from Late Neolithic pit 1105

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Plate 9: Flint scraper from Late Neolithic pit 1105

Plate 10: Pebbles from Late Neolithic pit 1105

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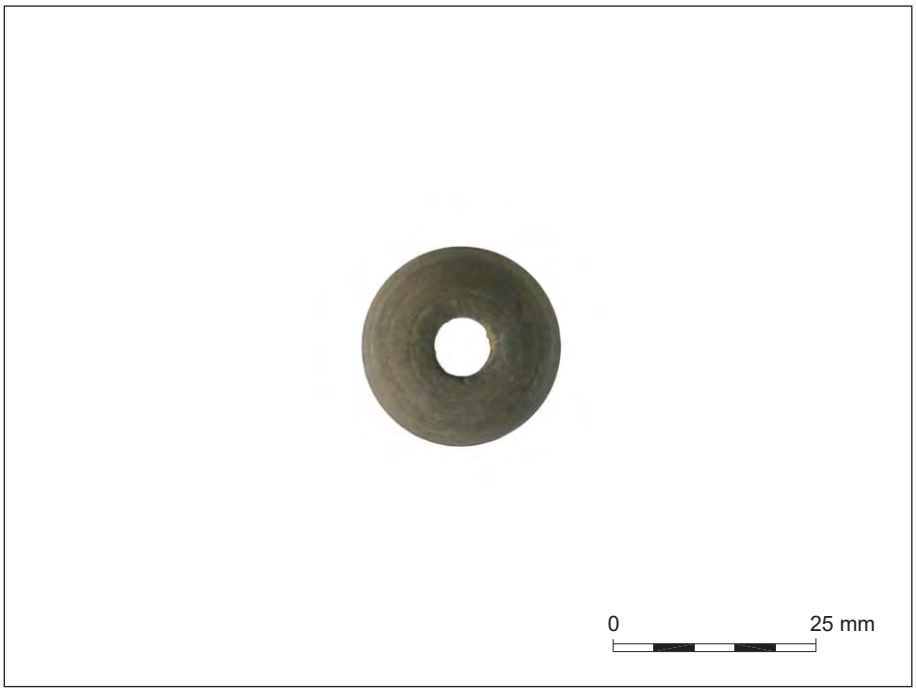

Plate 11: Stone spindlewhorl from outer enclosure ditch 1309

Plate 12: Iron slag from outer enclosure ditch 1705

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