Wessex Archaeology

Deep Moor Landfill Site, High Bullen Torrington, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 67510.02

November 2007

DEEP MOOR LANDFILL SITE, HIGH BULLEN, TORRINGTON, DEVON

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of their client Devon County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed In Vessel Composting facility at Deep Moor Landfill Site, High Bullen, Torrington, Devon centred on National Grid Reference 252954 120959.

A planning application to construct an In Vessel Composting facility was submitted by Viridor Waste Management Limited to Devon County Council (Planning application No: DCC/466/2007). RPS Planning and Development were commissioned to produce a desk-based archaeological assessment of the proposed development as part of this application.

Following the results of the desk-based assessment a programme of archaeological evaluation was required by Devon County Council to assist in determination of the planning application.

The evaluation was undertaken over a 6 day period from the 18th to the 25th of October 2007.

The evaluation identified a roughly north-south aligned trackway which was identified as a crop mark on aerial photographs from 1992. The trackway was formed by two parallel ditches with evidence of external banks revealed in seven of the excavated trenches. The trackway was dated to the post-medieval period. The western ditch of the trackway was seen to continue to the north where it was still evident as an extant earthwork in an adjacent area of woodland.

The trackway is likely to been used as a 'Ride', an avenue through trees for horse riding. This Ride appears to have linked Stevenstone House Park with a series of kennels identified on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps and would have been used for the movement of people, horses and hunting dogs around the estate and the surrounding countryside.

A number of land drains were also identified, thought to have been put in place to aid the drainage of the site for use as agricultural land. Evidence of short-lived plough activity was also identified during the evaluation.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Devon County Council to undertake the archaeological works and we would like to thank Dan Slatcher of RPS for his assistance during the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Lock of Pell Frischmann and Colin Browne of Devon Waste Management for their assistance in facilitating the fieldwork.

Ann Marie Dick, Archaeological Officer for Devon County Council monitored the fieldwork and her help during the course of the project is also gratefully acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson, assisted by Chloe Hunnisett, Ramon Ferrer and Caesar Perez. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialist finds report by Lorraine Mepham and report illustrations by Kenneth Lymer.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd and Brigitte Buss.

DEEP MOOR LANDFILL, HIGH BULLEN, TORRINGTON, DEVON

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Devon County Council to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on an area of proposed construction comprising an In Vessel Composting Facility at Deep Moor Landfill Site, High Bullen, Torrington, Devon, (hereafter the 'Site')

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The proposed development site is located adjacent to and within the boundary of the Deep Moor Landfill Site. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference 252954, 120959 and located approximately 3km north east of Great Torrington and 1km north of High Bullen. The Site is located on the western side of an unnamed single carriage way road which joins the B3232 to the north with the B3227 to the south.

1.2.2 The Site comprises of two rectangular pasture fields (divided by an east-west aligned fenceline) covering an area of 1.8 hectares. The northern limit of the Site is situated at a height of 177m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping gently down in the centre to a height of 175m aOD. The land flattens out and maintains a level of approximately 175m aOD to the southern limit.

1.2.3 Where the land drops to the centre of the Site, it is extremely wet with standing ground water and areas of reed growth, an indication of the wet and heavy underlying soils.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is of shales and sandstone of the Bude formation with clay soils of the Hallsworth Series. (Exeter Archaeology, 1998, 1)

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application to construct an In Vessel Composting facility was submitted by Viridor Waste Management Limited to Devon County Council (Planning application No: DCC/466/2007). As part of the pre determination works and in line with PPG16, RPS Planning and Development were commissioned to produce a desk-based archaeological assessment of the proposed development as part of this application.

1.3.2 Following the results of the desk-based assessment a programme of archaeological evaluation was required by Devon County Council to assist in determination of the planning application.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed assessment of the archaeological background and potential of the Site is contained within the desk-based assessment compiled by RPS (RPS, 2007A) a summary is included here.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A number of later Neolithic or Bronze Age round barrows are located approximately 900m to the west of the Site on Darracott Moor. The barrow cemetery is considered of national importance and the earthworks have been designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments. (English Heritage SAM Nos. 10501, 13601, 13602, 13603 and 13604).

2.2.2 Numerous finds of prehistoric flint work have been made in the vicinity of the proposed development Site including a barbed and tang arrow head, a thumb nail scraper, a small blade core and two flakes (SMR number 67696) recovered during work 600m north west of the Site in 1998. A further 39 pieces of worked flint were recovered at a later date. These finds have a broad date range from the late Neolithic to Bronze Age.

2.2.3 A number of potential prehistoric features were identified in archaeological evaluation work undertake to the north of the Site, these features were undated.

2.2.4 Later prehistoric activity has been identified at Berry Castle Camp approximately 3 km to the north, which has been potentially dated to the Iron Age. (RPS, 2007A, 6)

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 No archaeological remains of this date have been identified within the vicinity of the Site.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and early medieval

2.4.1 Little evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity has been identified within the vicinity of the Site, and the first documentary evidence of nearby settlements appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 with the naming of Torrington and Horwood (located 7km to the north). Place name evidence of this area in the early medieval period indicates much of it was wooded, though the proposed development area was potentially heath and moorland.

2.4.2 To the south of the Site is Stevenstone House, which was a major estate which included a deer park (SMR No. 11943) and *'a warren for conies'* (SMR No. 64346) during the medieval period, the Site would have probably been located within this estate.

2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 The post-medieval landscape appears to have remained one of marginal land, perhaps heath and moorland, although sometime during the 19th century the area became part of a large plantation. The first edition one-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1809 shows roughly the modern layout of the roads in the area, with Deep Moor identified and little woodland shown, though features marked adjacent to the road may be trees. It does not however show the arrangement of the parcels of land.

2.5.2 The St.Giles in the Wood Tithe map of 1842 show that the fields within the area were laid probably being laid out at this time as they are very similar to the first edition twenty-five-inch OS map of 1887. (RPS, 2007A, 7)

2.5.3 The first edition six-inch OS map of 1886 shows the Site as part of a long strip of tree plantation running parallel with the un-named road which joins the B3232 to the north with the B3227 to the south. The parcel of land to the left of the road where the Site is situated can be clearly seen to have been divided longitudinally by a boundary which continues to the north running on the eastern side of the building marked '*Zeabanker'* and *'kennels'.* To the south the longitudinal boundary joins a north south aligned trackway which leads to a footpath leading to *'Diana Lodge'*. The lodge (SMR No.64783), now demolished, was located at the northern extent of Stevenstone House Park.

2.5.4 The 1906 six-inch OS map shows *'Zeabanker'* as *'Belle Vue Lodge'* with the long strip of plantation marked as *'Belle Vue Plantation'* and the longitudinal boundary is still visible running to the east of what is now *'Belle Vue Lodge'.*

2.5.5 Aerial photographs of the area from 1945 show that much of the land has been cleared of trees and turned over to agriculture, and photos from 1992 clearly show the landfill site well established and a wide roughly north-south aligned crop mark running longitudinally through the site. The longitudinal division shown on the early maps has been removed (RPS, 2007A, 8).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 A project design for the archaeological evaluation was compiled by RPS Planning and Development (RPS 2007B) which provided full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is given below.

3.1.2 The aims of the project were to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area and, if such remains were present to determine their date, nature, extent, quality and preservation and to enable an assessment of their relative importance in a local, regional, national or international context.

4 METHODS

4.1.1 The evaluation of the Site was undertaken by the mechanical excavation of nine 50m long by 1.8m wide trial trenches excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 20 ton 360º tracked excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation by machine ceased at the top of the archaeology or the top of the natural basal geology, whichever was encountered first. The machine excavated material was scanned for finds. Following the identification of archaeological features these were hand cleaned and a sample of each feature excavated.

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

4.1.3 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

4.1.4 At the completion of the work, all trenches were backfilled with the excavated material in the order that they were removed.

4.1.5 A unique site code 67510 was agreed prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out between the 18th and 25th October 2007. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report. The excavated material and archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 67510.

4.1.6 It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited in the Barnstaple and North Devon Museum (Accession No. NDDMS2007.87)

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive and a detailed summary of the excavated sequences and features can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.2 The results of the evaluation are presented below with reference to the site as a whole and not on a trench by trench basis.

5.2 Site Wide Stratigraphy

5.2.1 Each trench saw the removal of on average of 0.27m of turf and topsoil before the underlying natural basal geology and subsequently the archaeological features were identified. It was clear that ploughing had occurred previously as plough scars were clearly visible cutting the very top of the natural basal geology, these scars which ran parallel with the road that bounded the Site to the east, were removed by machine to provide a clean and clear view of the underlying archaeology.

5.3 The Archaeology

5.3.1 A number of tree throws were identified on the Site, and though all were undated at least two phases of tree growing activity were observed, the first probably natural and the second as the result of deliberate plantation. The probable earliest features are tree throws (**102**), (**508**) and (**707**) identified in Trenches 1, 5 and 7.

5.3.2 Following the opening of the trenches it was clear there was little archaeology within the proposed development Site however a large feature was identified which ran roughly north to south longitudinally through the Site.

5.3.3 The feature comprised two parallel ditches running north south for a distance of over 190m and identified in 7 of the 9 opened trenches. The western ditch was recorded as Group (**215**) and was revealed in Trenches, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. The eastern ditch was recorded as Group (**216**) and was revealed in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. The two ditches form a trackway or drove-way, still visible as an earthwork, running through the landscape.

5.3.4 The backfilling of the ditches appears to have occurred predominately through natural silting events, with repeated depositions of similar material over time resulting in homogenous deposits of topsoil derived material combined with natural clay from the feature edges. The majority of the fills within the ditches are this type of deposit. In Trenches 2 and 4, evidence of a period of stasis and the formation of topsoil deposits were identified overlying the natural silting events.

5.3.5 Evidence from interventions excavated through the western ditch Group (**215**) in Trenches 2, 4 and 6 revealed there was a possible bank situated on the western side. Overlying the silt deposits in these cuts were deposits (**210**), (**413**) and (**610**), layers of re-deposited natural clay potentially derived from an external bank formed from the excavated up-cast of the ditches.

5.3.6 In Trench 5, western ditch (**505**) cut through tree throw (**508**) indicating the presence of some woodland prior to the creating of the drove/trackway.

5.3.7 In Trench 9, western ditch (**Group 216**) was cut through by two tree throws (**907**) and (**913**). (**913**) contained pieces of modern plastic bag, indicating tree establishment and subsequent clearance following the filling in of the ditches.

5.3.8 The latest archaeological features identified were a number of agricultural land drains put in place to aid the drainage of the topsoil within the Site. A total of 13 land drains were identified in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, running either perpendicular or parallel to the road bounding the eastern side of the Site. The land drains were very shallow and cut just into the top of the underlying basal geology, the drains contained no ceramic or plastic pipe and appear to have relied upon the loose fill of the drains (topsoil derived material) to allow water to flow through more easily than the natural clay and so aid drainage.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 The evaluation produced very few finds; these derived from five contexts within four of the Trenches excavated (Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6). The finds comprised worked flint, pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe and ironwork (see **Table 1** for contexts and quantities).

6.1.2 The worked flint is of prehistoric date, but comprises a waste flake which does not allow any closer dating than broadly Neolithic or Bronze Age. The CBM, clay pipe and pottery are all of post-medieval date, the pottery dating to the 19th or 20th century. The iron objects are not datable.

Table 1: Finds by context

Context	Material	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
303	CBM	1	90	post-medieval brick
305	pottery	1	4	modern refined whiteware
404	iron	2	207	2 looped pieces interlocked
404	clay pipe	1	1	stem
507	iron	2	2	nail?
601	worked flint	1	5	waste flake

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was demonstrated to be present within the evaluation trenches.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The project at Deep Moor Landfill, High Bullen was successful in identifying the presence of archaeological features within the proposed development site, and providing a date, the extent, nature, quality and preservation of the features and a proposed function of the features within the immediate landscape.

8.1.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is evident from the recovery of a possible Neolithic or Bronze Age flaked flint from the topsoil, though no features of this date were identified. Burial activity from this period is known from the barrow cemetery located to the west, and the flaked flint may represent a piece dropped during the movement of people through landscape.

8.1.3 The two parallel ditches (Groups (**215**) and (**216**)) forming the drove/trackway are likely to be post-medieval in date as identified from the finds recovered from within the backfilled features and from the cartographic evidence. It would appear that sometime between 1809 and 1842 the land was divided roughly into the parcels which exist today, and that the land was used for tree plantation. The Site, which is now two fields divided by an east-west fence, was originally two fields divided longitudinally north-south. This north-south longitudinal division is evident on the OS maps dating to 1886, 1887 and 1906.

8.1.4 It would appear that the longitudinal division was not just a boundary but was a trackway used for the movement of either people or animals within the woodland plantation, potentially acting as a 'Ride'. The 'Ride' (technically an avenue cut through trees for the purpose of horse riding) (Symes, 2002, 99) can be still be partially seen as an upstanding earthwork within the area of woodland directly to the north of the proposed development site. The western ditch and bank are clearly visible and have been retained as a boundary; however the eastern bank and ditch have been levelled, though the line is still clearly marked by a line of trees creating an avenue.

8.1.5 The trackway is likely to be part of the Stevenstone House Park, and is associated with hunting either on the estate or the surrounding land. It leads from the *'Diana Lodge'* on the edge of the Stevenstone House Park to the kennels and beyond. It was usual for the dogs of the hunt to be kept away from the main house so that their noise did not disturb the occupants and guests at the house. The 1886 six-inch OS map shows a trackway or avenue leading away from Stevenstone house running roughly north towards *'Diana Lodge'*, through an area of parkland with no trackways shown.

8.1.6 The clearance of the woodland plantations is seen to have occurred between 1906 and 1945 when aerial photographs show few trees present, (RPS, 2007A, 8). The clearance potentially occurred as a result of the Second World War with a need for more land to be turned over to agriculture, and it is possible the plough scars observed cutting the top of the natural basal geology date to this period, however the heavy clay soils would not have been suitable for arable land and so land drains were put in place in an attempt to keep the land dry. Ploughing of the Site appears to have been relatively short lived.

8.1.7 The latest feature was a modern service pipe trench which was traced from within the current Deep Moor Landfill site through Trenches 7 and 9 and towards the entrance into the landfill site where it stopped at a man hole.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK

9.1.1 The evaluation has been successful in the identification of the extent and quality of the archaeology of the Site. Though this archaeology will be heavily impacted upon by the proposed development; no further information is likely to be gained from further archaeological work on the proposed development area.

10 REFERENCES

Exeter Archaeology, 1998, *Archaeological Assessment of a Proposed Extension at Deep Moor Landfill Site, Great Torrington.* EA Report No. 98.06. Client report for Devon Waste Management

RPS Leeds, 2007A, *A Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment in Connection with the Proposed Construction of an In Vessel composting facility at Deep Moor Landfill Site, High Bullen, Torrington, Devon.* unpublished client report

RPS Leeds, 2007B, *A Specification for Trial Trenching in Connection with the Proposed Construction of an In Vessel composting facility at Deep Moor Landfill Site, High Bullen, Torrington, Devon*. Unpublished client report

Symes.M, 2002, *A Glossary of Garden History*. Shire Garden History

11 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Trench 1			Type: Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 48m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.35m		**Ground level:** 177.20m aOD
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
100	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark yellow brown silty clay loam with rare inclusions of shale/mudstone <0.03m, clear interface with underlying natural basal geology (101). Evidence of ploughing is evident though this has not been for some time, no subsoil evident.	0-0.26
101	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, mid to light yellow with orange brown patches, silty clay with mudstones fragments and areas of shillet.	0.26m +
102	***Cut***	**Cut of tree throw, irregular in shape and recorded as 0.92m long by 0.47m wide and 0.13m deep, which cuts directly into the natural geology.**	**0.13m deep**
103	*Fill*	Single fill of tree throw (**102**), mid reddish brown, naturally derived deposit following the removal of the tree/shrub.	0.13m thick

Trench 2

Trench 2			**Type:** Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 49m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.70m		**Ground level:** 177.00m aOD
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
200	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, dark yellow brown silty clay loam with rare inclusions of shale/mudstone <0.03m, clear interface with underlying natural basal geology (201). Evidence of ploughing is evident though this has not been for some time, no subsoil evident.	0-0.23
201	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, mid to light yellow with orange brown patches, silty clay with mudstones fragments and areas of shillet.	0.23m+
202	***Cut***	**Cut of land drain, recorded as 1.85m long and 0.40m wide and 0.07m deep and orientated roughly north south. No ceramic or plastic pipe was identified, the gully was filled with topsoil derived material and this would have allowed water to flow through it better than the natural clay and help the drainage of the field.**	**0.07m deep**
203	*Fill*	Fill of land drain (**202**), mid yellow grey brown silty clay.	0.07m thick
204	***Cut***	**Cut of land drain. See (202).**	**0.08m deep**
205	*Fill*	Fill of land drain (**204**), mid yellow brown silty clay.	0.08m thick
206	***Cut***	**Cut of NE SW aligned land drain. See (202).**	**0.09m deep**
207	*Fill*	Fill of land drain (**206**), mid to dark orange grey brown silty clay.	0.09m thick
208	***Cut***	**Cut of NNW SSE aligned ditch recorded as 2.28m long by 1.51m wide and 0.39m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (211). Ditch (208) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (209) and (210). Component of Group (215).**	**0.39m deep**
209	*Fill*	Earliest secondary fill of drove way ditch (**208**), dark brown silty clay, deposit is very organic with preserved tree roots and wood fragments. Deposit appears to be natural silting of feature, erosion of feature sides but predominately material washed in from surrounding topsoil. Deposit sealed by (210).	0.18m thick

210	*Fill*	Upper fill of drove way ditch (**208**), mid yellow brown silty clay, appears as a mix of re-deposited natural clay and topsoil, potentially representing the collapse of a bank situated to the west.	0.21m thick
211	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly north south aligned ditch recorded as 2.76m long by 1m wide and 0.23m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (208) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (212), (213) and (214). Component of Group (216)**	**0.23m deep**
212	*Fill*	Earliest fill of drove way ditch (**211**), mid orange brown silty clay natural silting event, sealed by (213).	0.18m thick
213	*Fill*	Fill of drove way ditch (**211**), very dark grey brown silty clay, quite organic and potentially represents a stasis layer, where the beginnings of a topsoil deposit have begun to form.	0.04m thick
214	*Fill*	Upper fill of drove way ditch (**211**), dark yellow brown silty clay, mix of topsoil and natural, natural erosion deposit.	0.06m thick
215	***Group***	**Group number for the western drove way ditch composed of cuts (208), (303), (406), (410), (505), (606), (618), (705) and (903).**	**-**
216	***Group***	**Group number for the eastern drove way ditch composed of cuts (211), (403), (503), (603), (703), (909) and (911).**	**-**

Trench 3

Trench 3			**Type:** Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 49m by 1.8m		**Max. depth:** 0.60m	**Ground level:** 176.32m aOD
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
301	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid to dark brown loose silty loam. Clear interface with underlying natural basal geology (301). Evidence of ploughing is evident though this has not been for some time, no subsoil evident.	0-0.26m
302	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, light yellow brown silty clay, with common mudstone blocks >0.25m	0.26m +
303	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly north south aligned ditch recorded as 3.10m long by 0.88m wide and 0.23m deep, with concave sides and a concave base. (303) is the western ditch of the drove which runs centrally through the site. Component of Group (215).**	**0.23m deep**
304	*Fill*	Single fill of drove way ditch (**303**), dark brown silty clay, natural silting deposit, repeated depositions of similar material over time resulting in homogenous fill.	0.23m thick
305	***Cut***	**Cut of land drain, aligned north south.**	**0.06m deep**
306	*Fill*	Fill of land drain (**305**), dark brown silty clay.	0.06m thick
307	***Cut***	**Cut of land drain, aligned north south aligned.**	**0.05m deep.**
308	*Fill*	Fill of land drain (**307**), dark brown silty clay.	0.05m thick

Trench 4

Trench 4			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 44m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.75m		**Ground level:** 176.19m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
401	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid to dark brown loose silty loam. Clear interface with underlying natural basal geology (301). Evidence of ploughing is evident though this has not been for some time, no subsoil evident.	0-0.30m
402	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, light yellow brown silty clay, with common mudstone blocks >0.25m	0.30m +
403	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 2.60m long by 0.80m wide and 0.22m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (406) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (404) and (405). Component of Group (216)**	**0.22m deep**
404	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay natural silting event, lower fill of drove way ditch (**403**).	0.22m thick
405	*Fill*	Very dark brown organic rich silty loam, probable stasis deposit and represents a stasis layer, where the beginnings of a topsoil deposit have begun to form	0.15m thick
406	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 4.60m long by 1.10m wide and 0.18m deep with moderate sloping sides and an irregular/concave base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (403). Ditch (406) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (407), (408) and (409). Equal to (410). Component of Group (215).**	**0.18m deep**
407	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay fill of ditch (**406**), charcoal rich, deposit very similar to natural silting events observed in other slots through the drove way ditches. Homogenous fill the result of multiple depositions of similar material overt time. Charcoal likely to be derived from surrounding area.	0.28m thick
408	*Fill*	Dark brown silty loam very organic fill of drove way ditch, probable stasis layer, where the beginnings of a topsoil deposit have begun to form	0.08m thick
409	*Fill*	Mixed orange yellow silty clay deposit, re-deposited natural layer. Potentially derived from a bank situated on the western side which has been pushed back into the ditch.	0.12m thick
410	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 4.60m long by 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep with moderate sloping sides and an irregular/concave base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (403). Ditch (410) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (411), (412) and (413). Equal to (406). Component of Group (215).**	**0.40m deep**
411	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay fill of ditch (**406**), charcoal rich, deposit very similar to natural silting events observed in other slots through the drove way ditches. Homogenous fill the result of multiple depositions of similar material overt time. Charcoal likely to be derived from surrounding area.	0.40m thick
412	*Fill*	Dark brown silty loam very organic fill of drove way ditch, probable stasis layer, where the beginnings of a topsoil deposit have begun to form	0.10m thick
413	*Fill*	Mixed orange yellow silty clay deposit, re-deposited natural layer. Potentially derived from a bank situated on the western side which	0.16m thick

		has been pushed back into the ditch.	
414	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned land drain.**	**0.07m deep**
415	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay land drain fill.	0.07m thick

Trench 5

Trench 5			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 41m by 1.8m		**Max. depth:** 0.76m	**Ground level:** 175.36m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
501	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey brown silty loam, which directly overlies the natural geology (502). No subsoil identified. Ploughing has occurred in the past.	0-0.26m
502	*Natural*	Natural basal geology. Light to mid yellow clay with occasional mudstone fragments. Evidence of ploughing clear in the very upper part of the natural, this was removed during machining.	0.26m+
503	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 2.05m long by 1.08m wide and 0.18m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (505) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (504). Component of Group (216)**	**0.18m deep**
504	*Fill*	Dark grey brown silty clay single secondary fill of drove way ditch (**503**), appears as a natural silting event, repeated depositions of similar material over time resulting in a homogenous deposit. Material derived from the surrounding ground surface and the feature edges.	0.18m thick
505	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 1.80m long by 1.28m wide and 0.48m deep with concave stepped sloping sides and irregular/concave base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (503). Ditch (505) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (506) and (507) and cuts through fill (509) of tree throw (508). Component of Group (215).**	**0.48m deep**
506	*Fill*	Light to mid grey silty loam fill of drove way ditch (**505**), natural silting deposit, material appears derived from fill (509) fill of (**508**), though which (**505**) cuts.	0.16m thick
507	*Fill*	Mid brown silty loam, upper fill of (505), natural silting deposit.	0.27m thick
508	***Cut***	**Cut of irregular shaped tree throw with concave sides and an irregular base, recorded as 1.80 long and 0.57m wide and 0.20m deep.**	**0.20m deep**
509	*Fill*	Dark grey brown black humic silty loam fill of tree throw (**508**)	0.20m thick

Trench 6

Trench 6			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 48m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.77m		**Ground level:** 174.83m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
601	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey brown silty loam, which directly overlies the natural geology (602). No subsoil identified. Ploughing has occurred in the past.	0-0.30m
602	*Natural*	Natural basal geology. Light to mid yellow clay with occasional mudstone fragments. Evidence of ploughing clear in the very upper part of the natural, this was removed during machining.	0.30m+
603	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 3.5m long by 1m wide and 0.18m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (606) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (604) and (605). Component of Group (216)**	**0.18m deep**
604	*Fill*	Fill of eastern drove way ditch (**603**), mixed and mottled mid grey and light yellow and mid yellow silty clay, re-deposited natural fill. Possible collapse of feature edges though potentially material washing in from the centre of the drove way.	0.18m thick
605	*Fill*	Mid brown silty loam fill upper fill of (**603**), mix of topsoil and re-deposited natural potentially derived from the feature edge.	0.15m thick
606	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 3.30m long by 1.04m wide and 0.44m deep with steep sloping sides and flat base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (603). Ditch (606) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (607), (608), (609), (610) and (611). Component of Group (215).**	**0.44m deep**
607	*Fill*	Mid to light grey silty clay earliest fill of (**606**), potentially primary fill.	0.08m thick
608	*Fill*	Mid brown loose silty loam, repeated depositions of similar material over time resulting in a homogenous fill of natural silting.	0.30m thick
609	*Fill*	Very dark brown black humic silty loam, probable stasis layer, where the beginnings of a topsoil deposit have begun to form.	0.08m thick
610	*Fill*	Mid yellow brown silty clay dump of re-deposited natural, potentially associated with bank located on the western side of the ditch which has been pushed back into the ditch.	0.14m thick
611	*Fill*	Mid grey brown silty clay fill of (606), mixed deposit of topsoil and natural washing in.	0.15m thick
612	***Cut***	**Cut of NE SW aligned land drain.**	**0.06m**
613	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay fill of land drain.	0.06m
614	***Cut***	**Cut of NE SW aligned land drain.**	**0.06m**
615	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay fill of land drain.	0.06m
616	***Cut***	**Cut of NE SW aligned land drain which cuts through drove way ditch (618).**	**0.12m**
617	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay fill of land drain.	0.12m
618	***Cut***	**Cut of NW SE aligned western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (607). Component of Group (215). Small intervention to check relationship with land drain (616). Equal to (606).**	**0.12m+**
619	*Fill*	Upper fill of (**618**) which is cut through by land drain (**616**).	0.12m+

Trench 7

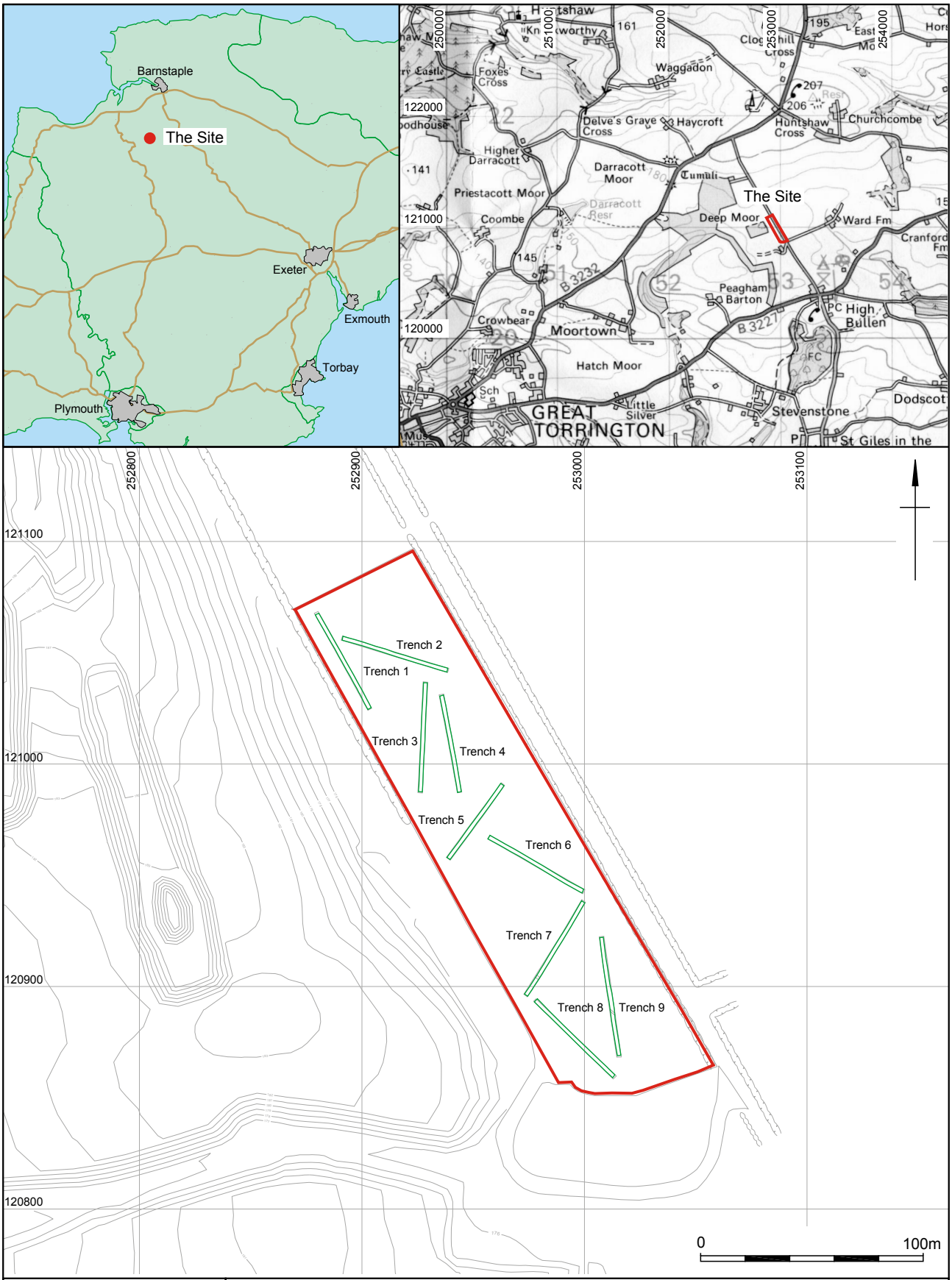
Trench 7			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 49m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.47m		**Ground level:** 175.55m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
701	*Topsoil*	Mid to dark greyish brown silty loam loose topsoil and turf of pasture field.	0-0.27m
702	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, evidence of plough marks cutting the very top of the natural.	0.27m+
703	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly N S aligned ditch recorded as 2.29m long by 0.73m wide and 0.16m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (705) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (704). Component of Group (216)**	**0.16m deep**
704	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay filling of drove way ditch (**703**), homogenous fill the result of multiple depositions of similar material over time.	0.16m thick
705	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly N S aligned ditch recorded as 2.30m long by 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep with irregular sloping sides and flat base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (703). Ditch (705) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (706). Component of Group (215). The ditch has been highly disturbed by root action potentially associated with a hedge on the proposed associated bank to the west.**	**0.20m deep.**
706	*Fill*	Mixed deposit of dark brown and light grey silty clay, highly disturbed deposit as a result of bioturbation.	0.20m thick
707	***Cut***	**Cut of tree throw, recorded as irregular in shape and roughly 1.5m in diameter and 0.15m deep.**	**0.15m deep**
708	*Fill*	Secondary fill of (**707**), mixed black and light grey silty clay.	0.15m thick
709	***Cut***	**Tree throw, irregular in shape and unexcavated.**	**-**
710	*Fill*	Upper fill of (**709**), mixed mid grey brown and light yellow silty clay.	-

Trench 8

Trench 8			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 49m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.36m		**Ground level:** 175.09m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
800	*Topsoil*	Mid to dark greyish brown silty loam loose topsoil and turf of pasture field.	0-0.28m
801	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, evidence of plough marks cutting the very top of the natural.	0.28m+
802	***Cut***	**Cut of E W aligned land drain.**	**0.03m deep**
803	*Fill*	Dark grey brown silty clay fill of land drain	0.03m thick
804	***Cut***	**Cut of irregular shaped tree throw. Recorded as 2.96m long by 1.36m wide and 0.08m deep**	**0.08m deep**
805	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay fill of tree throw (804)	0.08m thick

Trench 9

Trench 9			**Type:** Machine excavated
Dimensions: 53m by 1.8m	**Max. depth:** 0.59m		**Ground level:** m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth (bgl)**
901	*Topsoil*	Mid to dark greyish brown silty loam loose topsoil and turf of pasture field.	0-0.29m
902	*Natural*	Natural basal geology, evidence of plough marks cutting the very top of the natural.	0.29m +
903	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly NW SE aligned ditch recorded as 2.90m long by 1.30m wide and 0.08m deep with concave sloping sides and flat base. Ditch is running parallel to ditch (911). Ditch (903) is the western ditch of a drove way or track way which runs centrally through the site of the proposed development. The drove way is clearly visible as a crop mark within the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (904). Component of Group (215). The ditch is very shallow at this point.**	**0.08m deep**
904	*Fill*	Dark brown silty clay fill of (**903**).	0.08m thick
905	***Cut***	**Cut of irregular shaped tree throw.**	**0.05m deep**
906	*Fill*	Mixed dark grey mid yellow loose silty clay.	0.05m thick
907	***Cut***	**Cut of irregular shaped tree throw which cuts through ditch (909).**	**0.09m deep.**
908	*Fill*	Fill of (**907**) mid grey brown silty clay.	0.09m thick
909	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly N S aligned eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (910). Component of Group (216) and is cut through by tree throw (907). Small intervention to investigate relationship. Ditch equal to (911)**	**0.10m+**
910	*Fill*	Upper fill of (**909**).	0.10m thick+
911	***Cut***	**Cut of roughly N S aligned ditch recorded as 4.80 long by 1m wide and 0.30m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Ditch is parallel to ditch (903) and forms the eastern ditch of the drove way which runs centrally down the site and visible as a crop mark in the surface of the pasture field. Ditch is filled with (912). Component of Group (216)**	**0.30m deep**
912	*Fill*	Dark grey brown silty loam homogenous fill of drove way ditch, repeated depositions of similar material over time.	0.30m thick
913	***Cut***	**Cut of oval shaped tree throw which was recorded as 1.60m long by 2.30m wide and 0.30m deep, which cuts through ditch (911) fill (912).**	**0.30m deep**
914	*Fill*	Mixed mid grey and light yellow silty clay fill.	0.30m thick
915	***Cut***	**Cut of E-W aligned land drain.**	**0.25m deep**
916	*Fill*	Single fill of land drain (**915**) dark grey brown silty loam.	



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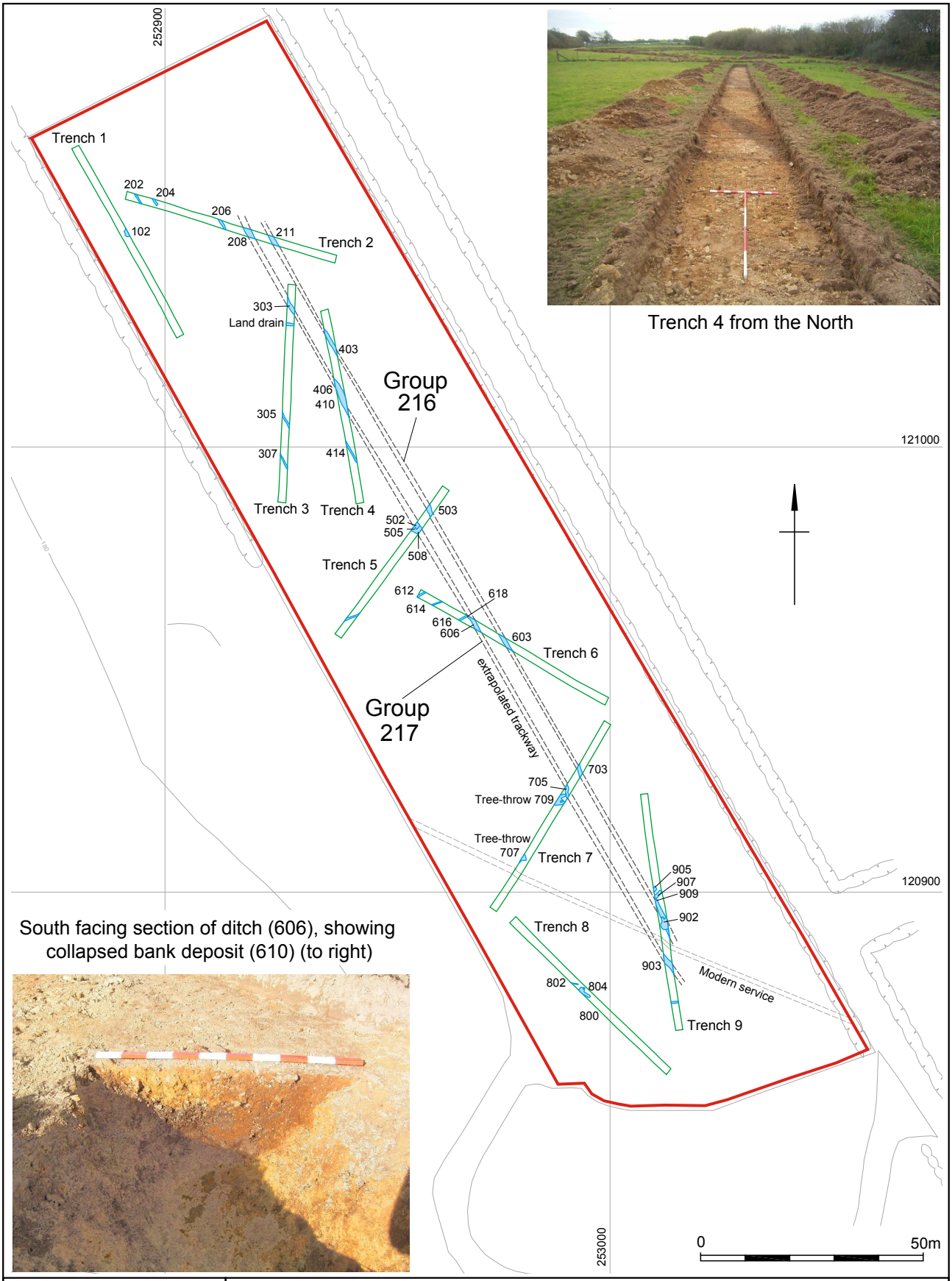
Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Trench 4 from the North

South facing section of ditch (606), showing collapsed bank deposit (610) (to right)

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All features plan

Figure 2

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