LAND OFF GUNSWELL LANE, SOUTH MOLTON, DEVON

CENTRED ON NGR SS 708 263

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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AC archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a forthcoming planning application for residential development on land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon (NGR SS 708 263) was undertaken by AC archaeology during October and November 2012. The site occupies approximately 13 hectares of land, to the northwest of South Molton. It lies within an area of limited known prehistoric remains, although a possible prehistoric kite-shaped enclosure has been identified within the site. A geophysical survey identified a number of linear anomalies suggestive of field boundary ditches, in addition to a double ring ditch, a smaller ring ditch and two possible enclosure ditches.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 28 trenches totalling 920m in length, with each trench measuring 1.60m in width. These were positioned to target the geophysical anomalies and to provide additional coverage across the site.

Archaeological features were recorded across most of the site and largely confirm the results of the geophysical survey. A prehistoric circular double-ditched ring ditch with internal features and containing Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recorded within the western part of site and targeted by Trenches 8 & 9. This comprised an outer ditch with a diameter of 15m and an inner ditch of approximately 8m diameter, within which was a total of six internal pit-like features. There was no conclusive evidence for the existence of the possible prehistoric kite-shaped enclosure identified to the north of the site, or of the two possible enclosure ditches identified from the geophysical survey. There was, however, partial evidence of the existence of the small ring ditch targeted by Trench 5. The remaining features comprised mostly linear ditches of medieval and post-medieval date which are likely to form part of former field boundaries.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during October and November 2012. The work was commissioned by Linden Homes and was carried out in support of a forthcoming planning application for residential development, following consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (DCCHES). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.

1.2 The site (NGR SS 708 263) is situated immediately to the northwest of South Molton and occupies an area of approximately 13 hectares of mostly arable land, although two fields to the northeast of the site are overgrown pasture. The site comprises ten plots of land which are mainly divided by hedgebank boundaries. It is bounded to the south by Gunswell Lane, to the east by North Road and by arable fields to the north and west. The site occupies a small hilltop on land lying at around 164m aOD, sloping down gently to the west, south and east to approximately 145m aOD along the south boundary.

1.3 The underlying geology across the site comprises Shale and Sandstone, with patches of Mudstone and Siltstone of the Crackington Formation (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 293).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A desk-based assessment of the site (Wessex Archaeology, 2011) indicated the site lies in an area of limited known prehistoric remains, although the presence of a possible prehistoric enclosure has been identified within the site, towards the top of the hill by the northern boundary (Devon County Historic Environment Record ref. 16910). This is recorded as kite-shaped and measures approximately 40m by 45m, with a 0.25m high bank.

2.2 South Molton was mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) as *Sud Moltona*, although it is likely to have earlier, probably Saxon origins. The town is situated along the London to Barnstaple road and as a result developed as a trading centre. The characteristic burgage plots of the medieval period can still be identified in the properties of the town. The site, which lies to the northwest of the town, would have been defined by medieval field enclosures, and evidence of this in the form of ridge and furrow and strip-field systems has been recorded nearby.

2.3 The post-medieval period would have seen further changes made to the character of the site and a re-organisation of its field boundaries to their present form. These changes had already taken place by the time of the South Molton tithe map of 1841.

2.4 A geophysical survey (Carey 2012) has identified a number of anomalies across the site. These include a possible prehistoric circular double-ditched feature, a possible smaller ring ditch, two possible enclosures and a number of linear features suggestive of former field boundaries (Fig. 2).

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, and more particularly to investigate the 'kite-shaped' enclosure in the northern part of the site and other anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The results as set out in this report will be reviewed and may be used to formulate a programme of further work in mitigation of the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource, should planning permission be granted.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation initially comprised the machine-excavation of 30 1.6m wide trenches with a total combined length of 990m, although in recognition of the absence of features within parts of the site this was reduced to 28 trenches totalling 920m in length. Trenches were positioned both to target anomalies identified from the geophysical survey and to provide a representative sample of the site. Turf and soils were removed using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct supervision of the site archaeologist. Machining ceased at the point at which either archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned and investigation continued by hand.

4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

The recorded layer sequence observed across the site generally comprised between 0.10-0.40m of topsoil, over between 0.13-0.38m of agricultural subsoil, onto natural clay subsoil. Additional subsoil layers comprising a buried soil horizon and colluvial deposits were present within Trenches 10, 13 and 18. Archaeological features were present within 18 of the trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 5, 7-10, 13-17 and 20-25) and are discussed below. Owing to the absence of archaeological features within the central southern part of the site, Trenches 26 and 28 were omitted altogether, whilst Trench 2 to the north was shortened in length and Trench 29 re-

orientated and repositioned further to the west to avoid an access track. All trenches are summarised in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figures 3-12, and photographs as Plates 1-10.

5.2 **Trench 1** (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and sections Figs. 3b-c)
This trench measured 29m long and was aligned north-south to target a single linear geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.35m below ground level onto natural subsoil (102) consisting of mid yellow and grey clay with occasional large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.10m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (100), over 0.25m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (101). A single linear ditch (F105) and probable natural depression (F103) were recorded. A total of 4 sherds of medieval pottery and 7 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil layer 101, as well ceramic building material and glass.

Ditch F105 was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 0.30m wide by 0.10m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted light grey brown silty clay fill (106). The ditch represents the anomaly identified from the geophysical survey.

Feature F103 was aligned east-west, and measured 3m wide by 0.10m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single mottled mid grey and yellow clay fill (104).

5.3 **Trench 3** (Detailed plan Fig. 4b and section Fig. 4a)
This trench measured 48m long, was aligned north-south and, together with adjoining Trench 4, was positioned to target a possible sub-oval enclosure ditch identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (302) consisting of mid orange brown and light yellow brown clay with frequent medium-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of mid grey brown clay silt topsoil (300), over 0.30m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (301). A single linear ditch (F303) was recorded, located towards the north end of the trench.

Ditch F303 was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 1m wide by 0.15m deep, with gentle to moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a single, naturally silted fill of mid brown silty clay (304). The ditch is unlikely to represent the enclosure ditch identified from the geophysical survey, which lies further to the south. No evidence was found for the geophysical anomaly, either towards the southern end of the trench or within adjacent Trench 4.

5.4 **Trench 5** (Detailed plan Fig. 4c and section Fig. 4d)
This trench measured 16m long, was aligned east-west and was positioned to target a possible ring ditch identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level onto natural subsoil (502) consisting of light yellow brown clay with abundant large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (500), over 0.20m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (501). A single ditch (F503) was recorded towards the western end of the trench.

Ditch F503 was aligned broadly north-south, measured 0.60m wide by 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a narrow, concave base. The ditch contained two fills (504) and (505). Basal fill 504 measured 0.25m in depth and consisted of light yellow brown silty clay derived from initial weathering of the side of the trench. This was overlain by fill 505, which measured 0.20m in depth and consisted of light-mid orange brown clayey silt. Ditch F503 broadly corresponds to the western edge of the possible ring ditch, although there was no evidence for a corresponding ditch to the east of the trench.

5.5 **Trench 7** (Detailed plan Fig. 5a and sections Figs 5b-c)
This trench measured 50m long, was aligned northwest-southeast and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (702) consisting of mid yellow brown clay with abundant small-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.18m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (700), over 0.32m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (701). Two features were recorded: a possible tree throw/pit (F703) and a probable shrub bowl (F705).

Possible tree throw/pit F703 was sub-oval in shape and measured 1.50m wide by 0.55m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single light brown clayey silt fill (704). Probable shrub bowl F705 was oval in shape and measured 0.48m long by 0.35m wide, by 0.04m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single light yellow brown silty clay fill (706).

5.6 **Trenches 8 & 9** (Detailed plan Fig. 6a and sections Figs 6b-g)
These trenches together measured 55m long, were T-shaped in plan with an east-west and north-south alignment and were positioned to target a double ring ditched feature identified from the geophysical survey. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.55m below ground level onto natural subsoil (902) consisting of light yellow brown and light grey clay with abundant medium-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (900), over 0.30m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (901). A total of eight features were recorded, including an outer ring ditch (segments F903, F914 & F915), an inner ring ditch (segments F905 & F913) and six discrete, internal features (F908, F912, F916, F917, F918 & F919). A single sherd of medieval pottery and 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil layer 901.

Outer ring ditch
This comprised ditch segments F903, F914 and F915, of which a section was hand-excavated through F903, within the western half of Trench 8. This measured 1m wide by 0.32m deep and featured moderately sloping sides a concave to flat base. It contained a single naturally silted mid grey brown clayey silt fill (904) with frequent medium-large stones. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Ditch segments F914 to the east and F915 in Trench 9 to the south, measured between 0.80-0.90m wide and both contained a mid grey brown clayey silt fill. The outer ring ditch measured approximately 15m in diameter.

Inner ring ditch
This comprised ditch segments F905 and F913, of which a section was hand-excavated through F905, near the junction of Trenches 8 and 9. This measured 0.18m wide by 0.10m deep with moderately sloping sides and a narrow, concave base. It contained two naturally silted fills (906) and (907). Lower fill 906 measured 0.04m in depth and consisted of mid brown grey clayey silt with moderate small-medium stones. This was overlain by 907, which measured 0.06m in depth and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small-large stones. F913 was located within the eastern half of Trench 8, measured 0.40m wide and contained a mid grey brown clayey silt fill. The inner ring ditch measured approximately 8m in diameter, although there was no clear evidence for its continuation to the south, within Trench 9.

Discrete features
A total of six discrete features, F908, F912, F916, F917, F918 and F919 were recorded, of which F908 was investigated. This was elongated/oval in plan and continued beyond the trench edge. It measured 1m wide by 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a sequence of three fills (909-911). Basal fill 909 measured 0.05m in depth and consisted of light yellow grey silty clay with frequent small-medium stones and is most probably the result of weathering of the ditch sides. This was overlain by fill 910, which

measured 0.07m in depth and consisted of mid orange grey brown clayey silt with rare small-medium stones. The upper fill (911) measured 0.12m in depth and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate-frequent small-large stones. A total of 3 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from this fill. Both upper deposits were derived from natural silting of the ditch.

The remaining, unexcavated features (with the exception of F918) measured between 0.50-1m in width and were partially exposed in plan. F918 was circular in plan and measured 0.20m in diameter. The features all contained a mid grey brown clayey silt fill.

5.7 **Trench 10** (Detailed plan Fig. 7a and sections Figs 7b-c)
This trench measured 50m long and was aligned northwest-southeast to target a sub-circular geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.50-0.60m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1003) consisting of light-mid yellow brown clay with frequent large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (1000), over 0.25m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (1001). A buried soil horizon consisting of mid-dark brown clayey silt (1002) and measuring 0.20m in depth was observed below subsoil layer 1001 within the southern part of the trench. A single posthole (F1005) was recorded within the northern part of the trench.

Posthole F1005 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.50m long by 0.44m wide by 0.14m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single mid brown clayey silt fill (1004) containing frequent large post-packing stones. There was no evidence for the existence of the sub-circular anomaly identified from the geophysical survey.

5.8 **Trench 13** (Detailed plan Fig.8a and section Fig. 8b)
This trench measured 50m long and was aligned east-west, positioned to target a single linear geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.70m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1303) consisting of light brown silty clay with abundant medium-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clay silt topsoil (1300), over 0.30m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (1301), over 0.15m of colluvial subsoil (1302) consisting of mid orange brown silty clay. A single linear ditch (F1304) corresponding to the geophysical anomaly was recorded to the west of the trench.

Ditch F1304 was aligned north-south and measured 0.97m wide by 0.42m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a narrow, flat base. It contained two fills: 1305 and 1306. Basal fill 1305 measured 0.09m in depth and comprised mid yellow grey silty clay with moderate small-medium stones, representing primary weathering of the ditch sides. This was overlain by 1306, which measured 0.33m in depth and consisted of mid brown silty clay with rare small-large stones, derived from natural silting.

5.9 **Trench 14** (Detailed plan Fig. 8c and section Fig.8d)
This trench measured 10m long and was aligned north-south, positioned to target a single linear geophysical anomaly. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.48m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1402) consisting of mid yellow brown clay with abundant small-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (1400), over 0.23m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (1401). A single linear ditch (F1403) was exposed, corresponding to the geophysical anomaly.

Ditch F1403 was aligned east-west and measured 1.30m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1404) from possible deliberate backfilling, which consisted of light brown silty clay with moderate small-large stones.

5.10 **Trenches 15-16** (Detailed plan Fig. 9a and sections Figs 9b-g)

These trenches were T-shaped in plan, together measured 60 long and were aligned north-south (Trench 15) and east-west (Trench 16). They were positioned to target a series of linear anomalies identified from the geophysical survey and were excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1602) consisting of light yellow brown and orange brown clay with frequent large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (1600), over 0.20m of mid brown silt clay subsoil (1601). A total of six linear ditches (F1603, F1609, F1611, F1613, F1619 & F1620) were recorded, corresponding to the geophysical anomalies.

Ditch F1603 was aligned north-south and measured 0.60m wide by 0.25m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single naturally silted fill of mid brown silty clay (1604) containing frequent small-large stones. A total of two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this fill. The ditch was cut on its western side by later ditch F1605.

Ditch F1609 was aligned north-south and measured 2.10m wide by 0.73m deep, with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a gentle concave base. It contained a single light yellow brown silty clay fill (1610) with frequent small-large stones. The ditch cut through linear/curvilinear ditch F1619.

Ditch F1611 was similarly north-south aligned and measured 0.60m wide by 0.19m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill of mid grey brown silty clay (1612) containing moderate small-medium stones.

Ditch F1613 was aligned north-south with a partly exposed rounded terminus at its southern extent. The ditch measured 0.75m wide by 0.34m deep, with shallow to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted mid yellow brown silty clay fill (1614) containing moderate medium and rare small stones.

Ditch F1619 was broadly east-west aligned. Three segments were hand-excavated (1605, 1607 and 1616) providing ditch dimensions of between 0.70-0.80m wide by 0.05-0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave-flattish base. Ditch segments 1605 and 1607 were filled with a single mid brown and light yellow brown silty clay fill (1606 and 1608 respectively), whilst ditch segment 1616 contained two fills. Basal fill 1617 measured 0.25m in depth and comprised mid brown silty clay with frequent small-large stones, and was overlain by 1618 which similarly measured 0.25m in depth, and comprised light yellow brown clay backfill containing abundant small-large stones. The ditch was cut at its western extent by ditch F1609, and cut ditch F1603 to the east.

Ditch F1620 was unexcavated, but forms part of the same ditch as F1403, as investigated in Trench 14. The feature was aligned east-west, measured 1.50m in width and contained a mid brown clayey silt fill.

5.11 Trench 17 (Detailed plan Fig. 10a and sections Figs. 10b-d)
This trench measured 30m long and was aligned broadly east-west, positioned to target linear anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.53m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1702) consisting of mid yellow brown clay with abundant small-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.15m of mid grey clayey silt topsoil (1700), over 0.38m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (1701). A total of three features were recorded: linear ditches F1703, F1708 and possible pit/ditch terminus F1705.

Ditch F1703 was aligned north-south and measured 1.15m wide by 0.40m deep, with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (1704) comprising light brown clayey silt with moderate small-medium stones and rare amounts of charcoal.

Ditch F1708 was similarly north-south aligned and measured 0.40m wide by 0.15m deep, with a gently sloping west edge, a moderate to steeply sloping east edge and a narrow, pointed base. It contained a single, naturally silted mid grey brown silty clay fill (1709) containing moderate small-medium stones. This ditch was cut by F1705.

Possible ditch terminus/pit F1705 was sub-oval in shape and measured 1.05m wide by 0.15m deep, with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. It contained a sequence of two fills (1706, 1707). Basal fill 1706 was located along the western edge of the feature and measured 0.15m in depth. It consisted of mid yellow grey silty clay containing moderate medium-large stones derived from primary weathering of the natural subsoil. This was abutted by 1707, which measured 0.15m in depth and consisted of mid grey brown naturally silted silty clay and containing moderate medium-large stones. A total of 7 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this fill.

5.12 **Trench 20** (Detailed plan Fig. 10e and section Fig. 10f)
This trench measured 27m long, was aligned north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.43m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2002) consisting of light yellow brown clay with frequent medium-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.25m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (2000), over 0.18m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2001). A single linear ditch (F2003) was recorded within the southern extent of the trench.

Ditch F2003 was approximately north-south aligned and measured 0.72m wide by 0.10m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill of mid orange brown silty clay (2004) with rare small-medium stones.

5.13 **Trench 21** (Detailed plan Fig. 11a and section Fig. 11b)
This trench was 30m long, aligned north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2102) consisting of light yellow brown and light orange clay with frequent large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.28m of mid grey brown topsoil (2100), over 0.22m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2101). A single linear ditch (F2103) was recorded, located towards the northern end of the trench.

Ditch F2103 was aligned broadly east-west and measured 1m wide by 0.22m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (2104) of mid brown silty clay with occasional medium-large stones. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe fragment were recovered from this fill.

5.14 **Trench 22** (Detailed plan Fig. 11c and sections Fig. 11d)
This trench measured 30m long was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2202) consisting of light-mid yellow brown clay with small-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil, over 0.25m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2201). A single linear ditch (F2203) was recorded within the northeastern half of the trench.

Ditch F2203 was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 3.70m wide by 0.75m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a sequence of three fills (2204-6). Basal fill 2206 measured 0.40m in depth and was located along the northeastern edge of the ditch. It comprised light yellow brown silty clay with occasional small-medium stones and was derived from primary weathering of the trench side. This was overlain by 2205 which measured 0.13m in depth and comprised a naturally silted mid brown clayey silt containing moderate small-large stones. Upper fill 2204 measured 0.62m in depth and comprised mottled light yellow grey and yellow brown clay backfill containing moderate small-large stones.

5.15 Trench 23 (Detailed plan Fig. 11e and sections Fig 11f)
This trench measured 25m long, was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2302) consisting of light grey and light-mid yellow clay with common small-medium stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.15m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (2300), over 0.25m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2301). A single linear ditch (F2304) was recorded towards the northeastern end of the trench.

Ditch F2304 was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 1.20m wide by 0.08m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (2303) of light-mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small-medium stones. The ditch corresponded to a faint linear geophysical anomaly.

5.16 Trench 24 (Detailed plan Fig. 11g and section Fig 11h)
This trench measured 30m long, was aligned broadly east-west and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2402) consisting of light grey brown clay with frequent medium-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.22m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (2400), over 0.13m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2401). A single linear ditch (F2403) was recorded, located at the northeastern extent of the trench.

Ditch F2403 was northeast-southwest aligned and measured 0.65m wide by 0.07m deep, with a gentle east sloping edge, a moderate west sloping edge and a flat base. It contained a single fill (2404) of light orange brown silt clay with frequent small stones and derived from primary silting.

5.17 Trench 25 (Detailed plan Fig. 11i and sections Figs 11j-k)
This trench measured 30m long and was aligned northwest-southeast, positioned to target two linear anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.47m below ground level onto natural subsoil (2502) consisting of mid yellow brown clay with occasional small-large stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.28m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil (2500), over 0.19m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil (2501). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil 2501. A total of two linear features corresponding to the geophysical anomalies were recorded (F2504 & F2507).

Ditch F2504 was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 0.60m wide by 0.13m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally silted fill (2503) consisting of mid brown clayey silt with moderate small-large stones.

Ditch F2507 was aligned north-south and measured 1.40m wide by 0.55m deep, with a moderately sloping southwest edge, a gentle-moderately sloping northeast edge and a narrow, concave base. The ditch contained two fills (2505-6). Basal fill 2506 measured 0.29m in depth and comprised light grey brown silty clay with moderate small-medium stones derived from primary weathering of the ditch sides. This was overlain by 2505, which measured 0.26m in depth and comprised naturally silted mid brown clayey silt with moderate small-large stones. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this fill.

6. THE FINDS
By John Allan and Naomi Payne

6.1 Introduction
All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. The metal objects have been stabilised by suitable packaging to prevent further corrosion. Finds have been quantified according to material type within each context, then scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented.

Of the 28 evaluation trenches excavated, seven produced finds. Much of this material was of post-medieval date, but there were also small assemblages of late prehistoric and medieval pottery. The finds are summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Finds summary (weight is in grams; CBM = Ceramic Building Material

Trench	Context No.	Description	Prehistoric Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Clay pipe		CBM		Glass	
			No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
1	101	Subsoil			4	38	7	84			1	7	1	3
9 9 9	901	Agricultural subsoil			1	2	4	34						
	904	Fill of ditch F903			1	1								
	911	Fill of ditch/pit F908	3	13										
16	1604	Fill of ditch F1603			2	9								
17	1707	Fill of ditch terminus/ pit F1705			7	23								
21	2104	Fill of ditch F2103					1	3	1	8				
23	2301	Agricultural subsoil					1	32						
25	2501	Agricultural subsoil					1	49						
	2505	Fill of ditch F2507			1	5								
Totals			**3**	**13**	**16**	**78**	**14**	**202**	**1**	**8**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**3**

6.2 Prehistoric pottery

Three sherds of prehistoric pottery (13g) were recovered from the fill of a ditch or pit in Trench 9. This feature lay within the double ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey. At least two of the three body sherds conjoin along old breaks, and all three have a thick black residue on the internal surface. They are well-fired and mostly reduced, although there is patchy oxidation on the external surface. They are most likely to date from the Middle to Late Iron Age.

6.3 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Six contexts within five trenches produced a total of 16 sherds (78g) of medieval pottery. Most of the medieval sherds are from North Devon medieval coarseware cooking pots dating from c. 1200-1450. The external surface of one sherd has an applied strip so it can be dated slightly more closely, to the late 13th or 14th century. Two of the coarseware sherds are just possibly from North Devon ridge tiles. Three sherds that have been included in the medieval count are from North Devon gravel free jug sherds dating from the 15th to early 17th centuries.

14 sherds (202g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from five trenches. The majority of the sherds are from 17th-and 18th-century North Devon products and the diagnostic pieces include a rim sherd from a gravel-tempered tripod cauldron or chamber pot, and base and handle sherds from a gravel-free tankard. There were also two topsoil finds of industrially made pottery, a body sherd of Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slip ware dating from c1670-1750 and a rim sherd from a post-1780 blue and white transfer-printed dish or saucer.

Although the total volume of medieval pottery is small, the presence of seven sherds from the fill of a ditch terminus or pit in Trench 17 and four residual sherds in the subsoil in Trench 1 is likely to indicate that a medieval domestic building was once located nearby. The relatively unweathered state of the material supports this conclusion. Likewise, the scatter of post-medieval pottery suggests the presence of a farmstead nearby during this period. As might be expected, the entire collection of pottery was produced in the Barnstaple/Bideford area, with

the exception of the industrial pottery. It is useful to have even a small sample of medieval pottery from South Molton as the town lies some distance from other excavated assemblages.

6.4 Other finds

A small quantity of other post-medieval finds was recovered, including a clay pipe stem (8g) dating from the 17th or early 18th century, a fragment of brick (7g) and a fragment of English green bottle glass (3g).

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of a large number of archaeological features distributed across the site. The majority of these features closely correspond to the anomalies identified from the geophysical survey, although a number of anomalies also relate to variations within the natural geology. Of the 28 trenches excavated, features were present within 18. These include a number of medieval/post-medieval field boundaries, several undated pits/postholes, a prehistoric double ring ditch, with associated discrete features and a possible prehistoric ring ditch.

7.2 Double ring-ditch

This was recorded in Trenches 8 and 9 and was located within a prominent area of high ground providing commanding views across the surrounding landscape. It consisted of two circular ring ditches. The outer, larger ditch (F903, F914 & F915) measured between 0.80-1m wide by 0.32m deep, with an approximate diameter of 15m.The inner ditch (F905 & F913) measured between 0.18-0.40m wide by 0.10m deep, with an approximate diameter of 8m. The absence of a third segment of this inner ditch within Trench 9 may be due to the shallow nature of this feature. The single sherd of medieval pottery recovered from the outer ring ditch (F903) is clearly intrusive.

A total of six pit-like features (F908, F912, F916-19) were recorded within the inner ring ditch, of which F908 was investigated. Pottery recovered from this feature suggests a Middle to Late Iron Age date. Whilst the nature of these features remain unclear, it is possible they are contemporary to the ring ditches and may represent evidence of internal features associated with a possible roundhouse.

The features within Trenches 8 and 9 were all cut into natural subsoil and were sealed by an agricultural subsoil layer (901), with no evidence for the presence of prehistoric soil horizons or other such deposits.

7.3 Possible ring ditch

The single ditch (F503) identified in Trench 5 corresponds approximately to the western side of a faint circular anomaly identified from the geophysical survey. The eastern side of this possible feature was not, however, apparent, although the abrupt change in the nature of the natural subsoil from clay to solid geology comprising abundant large angular blocks may have masked any possible return of this feature.

7.4 Linear features

These constituted the majority of features recorded as part of the evaluation and were present within Trenches 1, 3, 13-17 and 20-25. The ditches ranged in size from 0.30-2.10m in width by 0.05-0.73m in depth and generally respected the existing field patterns. The linear features identified from the geophysical survey and recorded within Trenches 14-17 to the southeast of the site confirm the presence of a pattern of small, enclosed rectangular shaped in-fields which similarly respect the layout of the existing field boundaries. Finds recovered from the linear features in Trenches 16 and 17 suggest these in-fields are of medieval origin and were

possibly associated with a domestic building located nearby, as supported by the unweathered state of the pottery recovered.

The majority of the remaining linear features present across the site are likely to represent former field boundaries relating to medieval and post-medieval land division. Pottery recovered from these features is sparse and includes a single medieval sherd recovered from ditch F2507, Trench 25, and a post-medieval sherd from ditch F2103, Trench 21.

The nature of feature F2203 within Trench 22 to the west of the site was less clear; it was considerably larger at 3.70m wide by 0.75m deep, and was subject to a substantial episode of deliberate backfilling. The feature may form part of a much larger field boundary or perhaps a large elongated agricultural pit.

Linear ditch F2304 recorded towards the eastern end of Trench 23 may represent a boundary of a former trackway or hollow way which may have formed part of the continuation of Frog Lane to the southeast, and which may have also continued further to the northwest into the adjoining field where there is partial evidence for the continuation of this trackway.

The linear features recorded across the site had seemingly all been removed by 1841 when the South Molton parish tithe map was produced.

7.5 Discrete features

A total of three discrete features were recorded. The two features recorded in Trench 7 (F703 & F705) are likely to be the result of natural disturbance. The posthole recorded in Trench 10 (F1005) was undated, although given the unconsolidated nature of its fill it is unlikely to be of any great antiquity.

7.6 Other features/deposits

Remnants of a buried soil horizon (1002) were recorded within the southeastern part of Trench 10, within the base of gently south-sloping ground, beneath subsoil layer 1001 and topsoil 1000. The layer was exposed over a distance of 7.80m and closely resembled that of topsoil layer 1000 in composition, and as such, is unlikely to be of great antiquity. Evidence of colluvial deposits was also present, most notably within Trench 18, located on lower-lying ground to the northeast of the site. This comprised a sequence of three layers (1802-4) located on gently north-sloping ground. The linear feature (F103) within Trench 1 is likely to represent a natural hollow, or a variation in the natural subsoil.

7.7 The finds recovered from overlying subsoil layers within the trenches comprise a mix of medieval and post-medieval pottery and were most probably deposited through the process of manuring.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The main area of archaeological interest is that within and surrounding Trenches 8 and 9 where the evaluation has confirmed the presence of a double ring ditched enclosure, with possible associated internal features. Whilst the form of this feature closely resembles that of a Bronze Age round barrow, pottery recovered from an internal feature, however, suggest a Middle to Late Iron Age date. This may suggest that either the feature had formed part of a roundhouse, or originally formed part of a Bronze Age barrow that was subject to later alteration/disturbance in the later prehistoric period. These features were present at depths of around 0.44m below ground level and, as such, are likely to be impacted upon by any development within the area. The two discrete features identified in Trench 7 (F703 & F705) to the east, are likely to be the result of natural disturbance. The single posthole (F1005) recorded in Trench 10 to the west was undated, although is unlikely to be of great antiquity.

8.2 The evaluation has not identified any clear evidence for the presence of the possible prehistoric kite-shaped enclosure recorded as a shallow earthwork, or for any associated features within the area.

8.3 Evidence for the presence of the possible ring ditch identified from the geophysical survey and targeted by Trench 5 was not conclusive, although a single ditch was recorded which broadly corresponds to the western edge of the circular anomaly. The nature of the natural subsoil within the eastern half of the trench may have masked any return of this ditch.

8.4 Elsewhere across the site, the evaluation has established the presence of medieval to post-medieval field boundaries forming a pattern of smaller land divisions that generally respect the existing boundaries, all of which had been removed by the time of the 1841 South Molton parish tithe map. The pattern of small in-fields recorded to the east of the site suggests that they are medieval in origin and likely to represent a different form of land use and ownership within the area. There was little evidence to support the presence of any earlier pattern of land division across the site. Whilst any potential development is likely to impact upon these features, the evaluation has adequately established and defined their nature, date and character.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

9.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ, prior to deposition under a museum-allocated accession number at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.

9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier 143263, which includes a digital copy of this report

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Linden Homes. The site work was undertaken by Clive Meaton, Richard Sims, Vince Simmonds, Frances Ward and Kieran Gibbons. The illustrations were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore.

11. REFERENCES

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Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:50,000 sheet 293: Barnstaple

Wessex Archaeology, 2011. *Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon*. Report No. 76470.03

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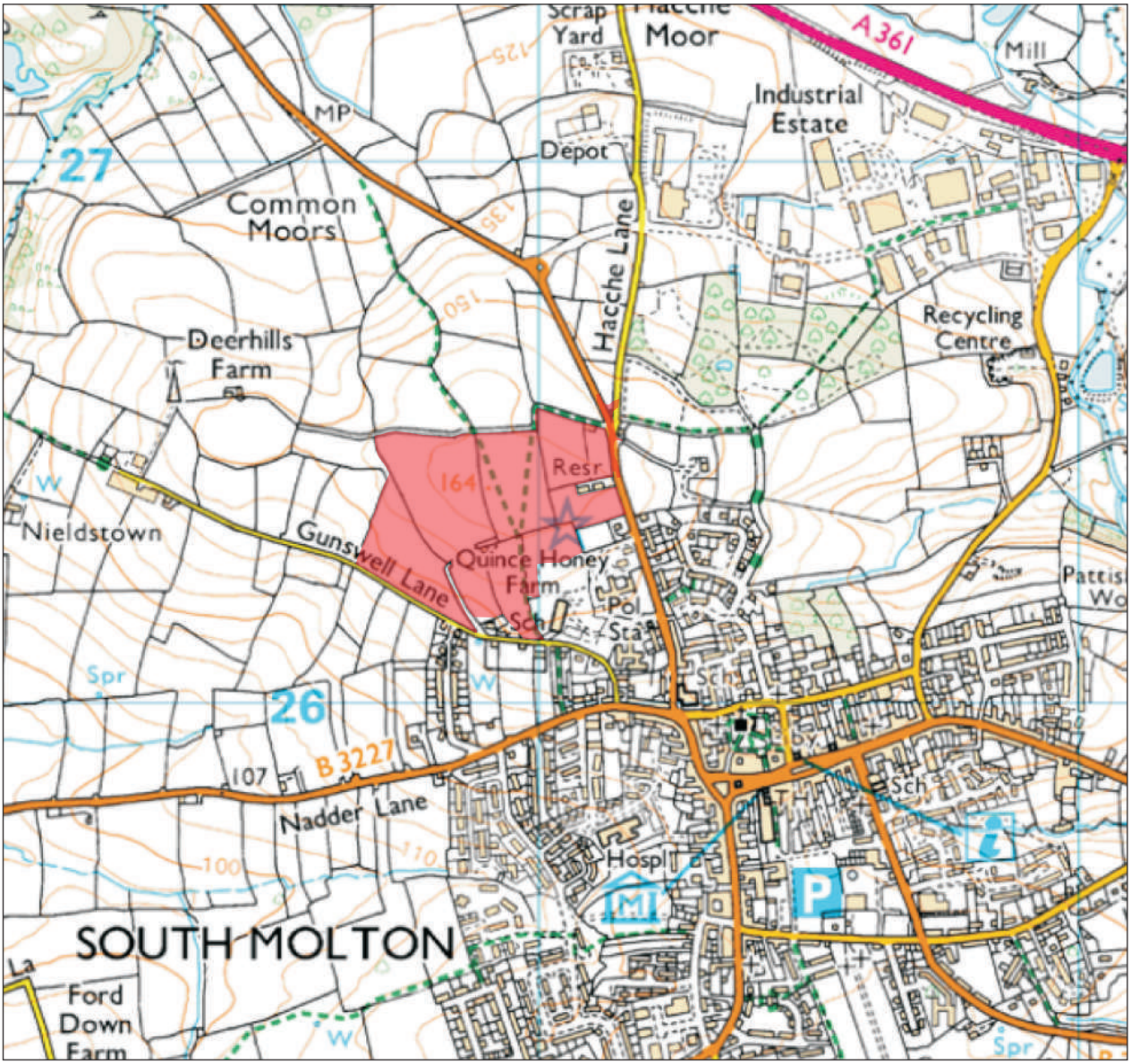

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Scale 1:12,500@A4

Site area

PROJECT

Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

AC archaeology

PROJECT

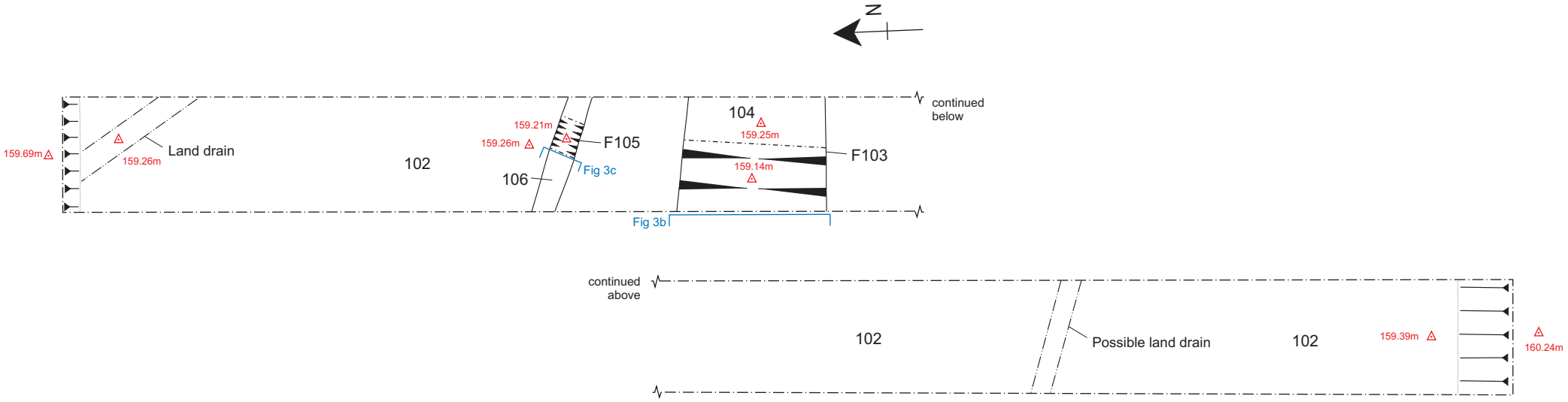
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

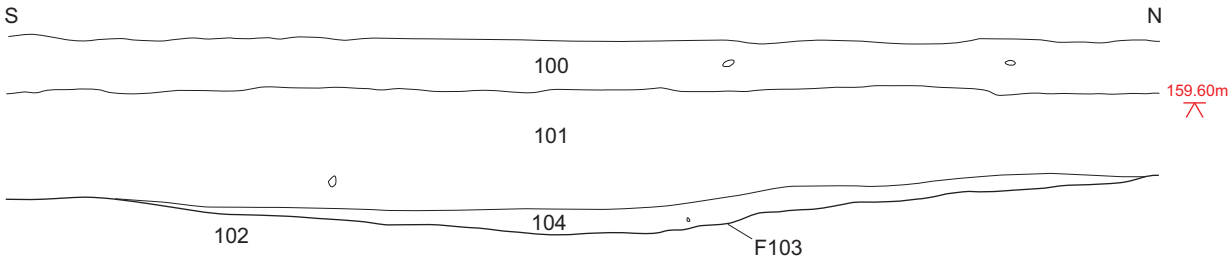
Fig. 2 Location of trenches in relation to the geophysics

AC archaeology

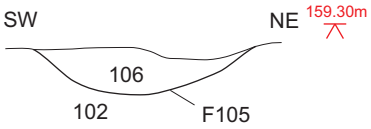
a) Trench 1, plan



b) East facing section of feature F103



c) Southeast facing section of feature F105



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Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

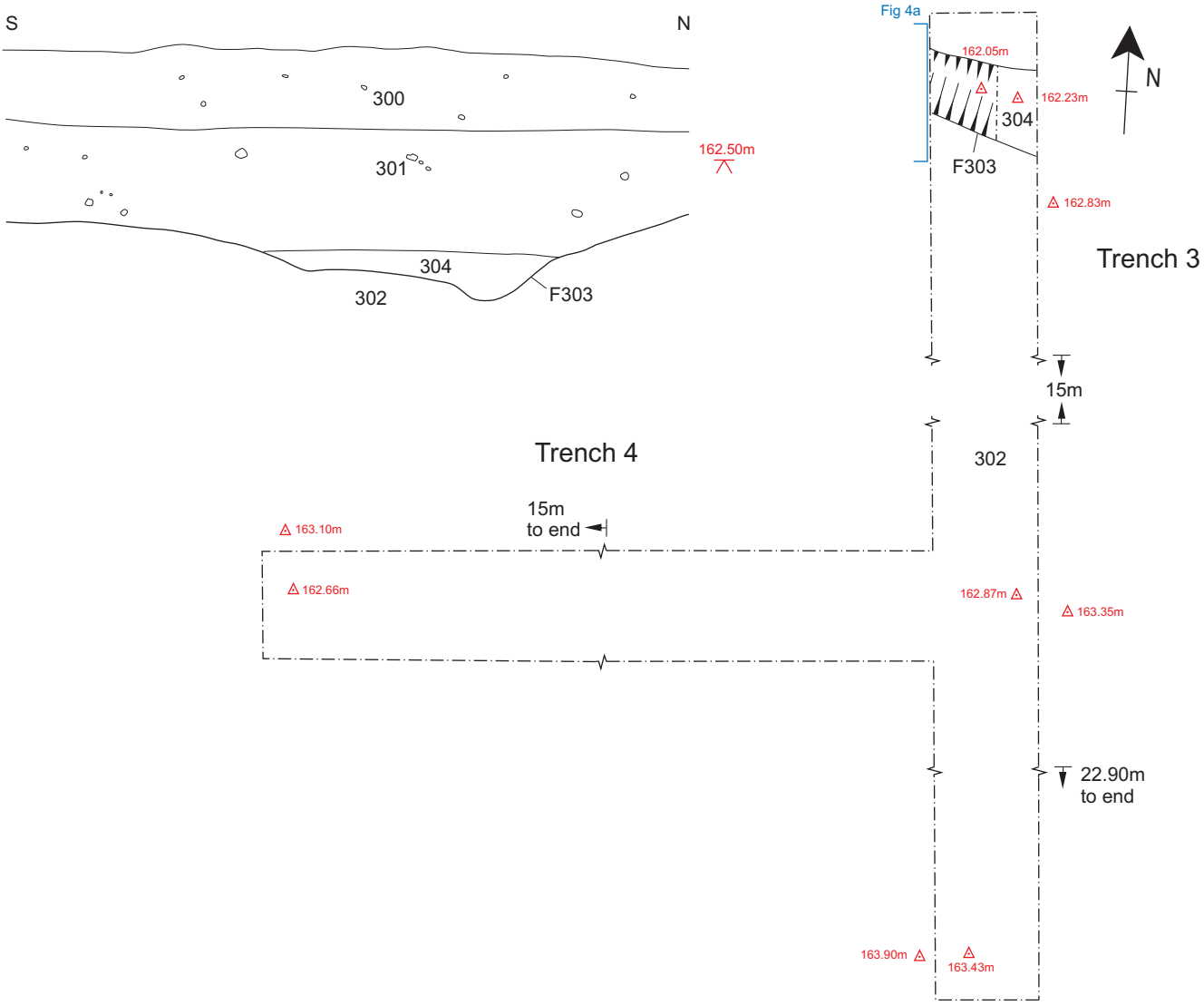
TITLE

Fig. 3: Trench 1, plans and sections

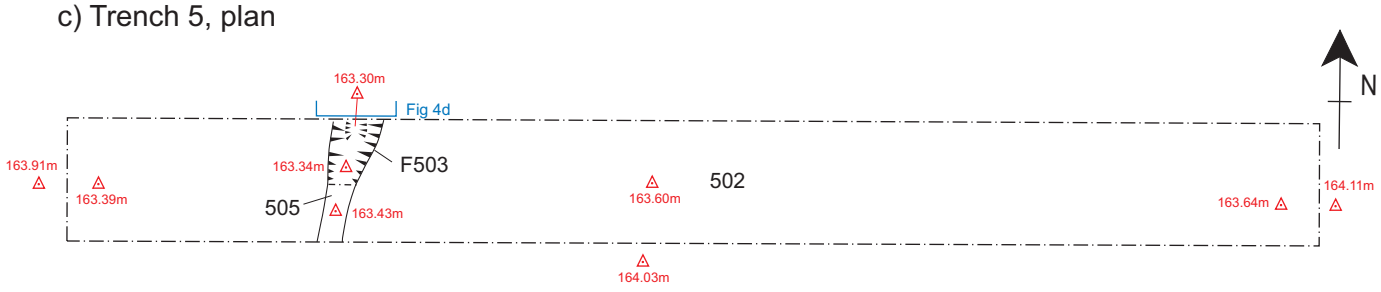
AC archaeology

a) East facing section of feature F303

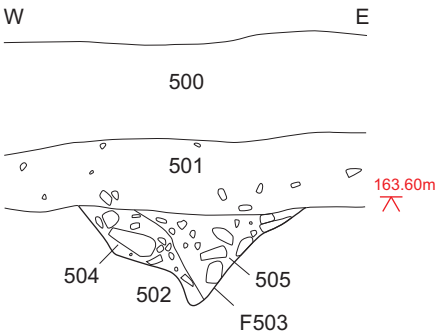
b) Trenches 3 and 4, Plan



c) Trench 5, plan



d) South facing section of feature F503



PROJECT

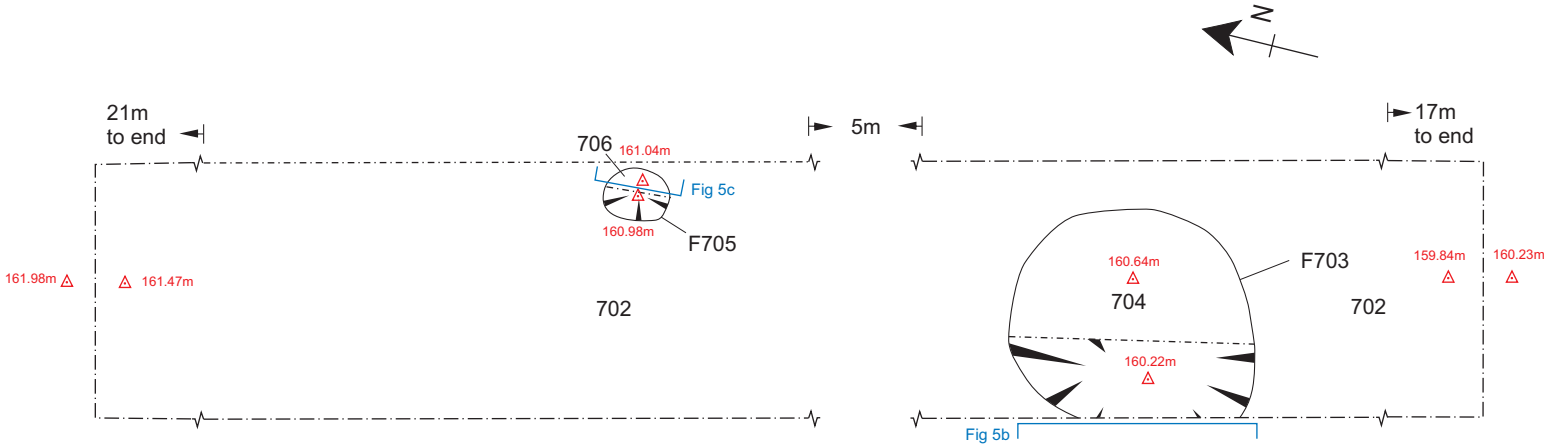
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

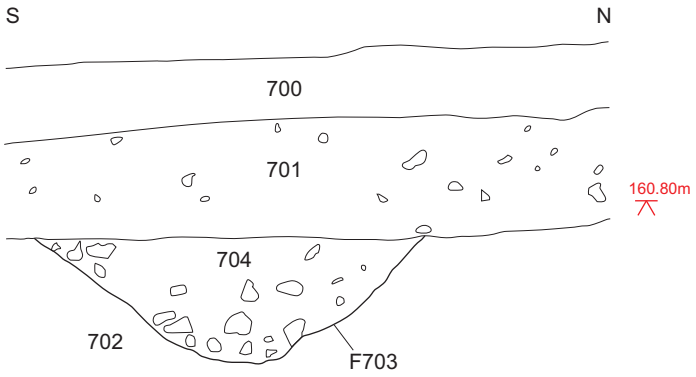
Fig. 4: Trenches 3, 4 and 5, plans and sections

AC archaeology

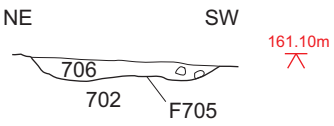
a) Trench 7, plan

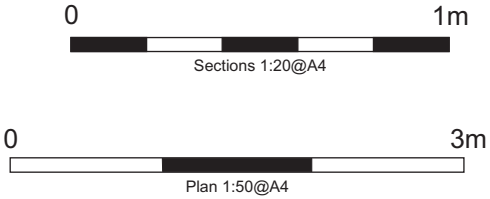


b) East facing section of pit F703



c) Northwest facing section of feature F705





PROJECT

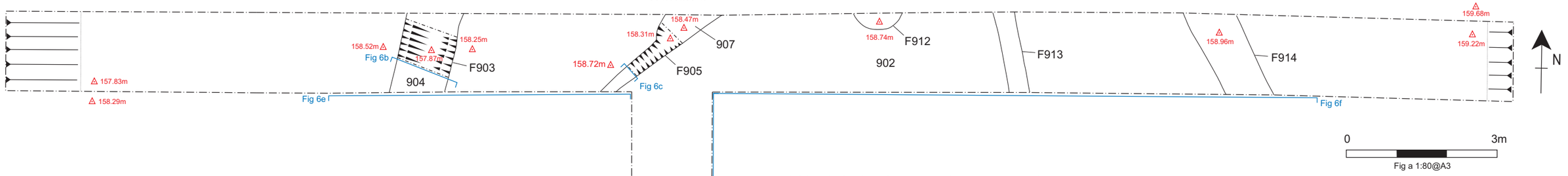
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

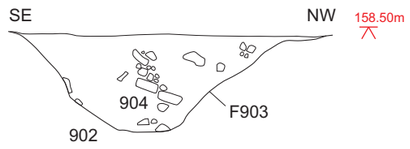
Fig. 5: Trench 7, plan and sections

AC archaeology

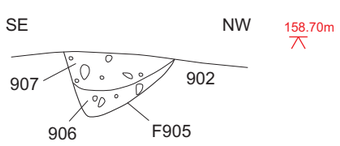
a) Trenches 8 and 9, plan



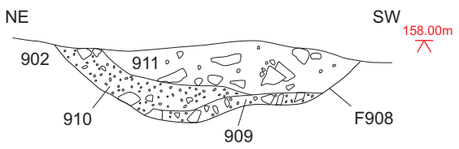
b) Northeast facing section of F903



c) Northeast facing section of gully F905



d) Northwest facing section of pit/terminus F908



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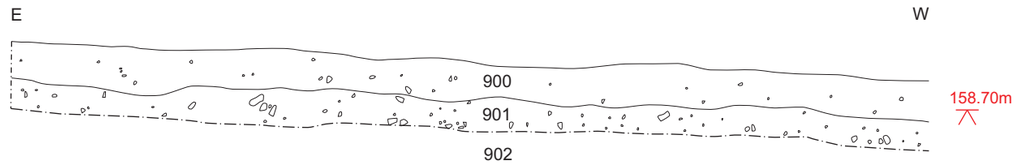
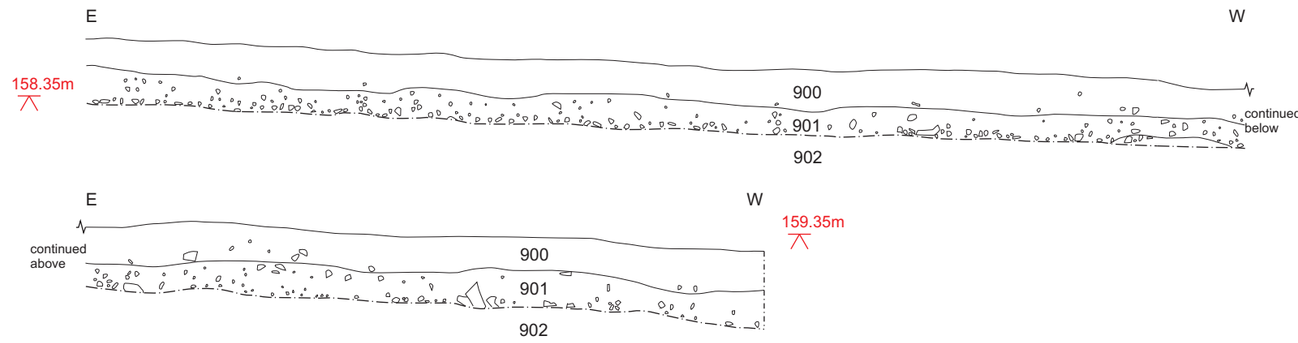
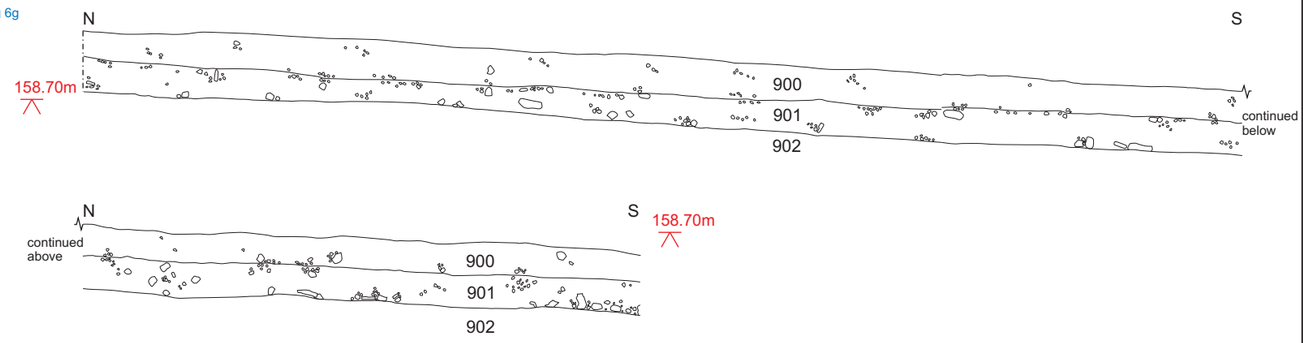
e) North facing long section, west end



f) North facing long section, east end



g) West facing long section



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Figs e; f & g 1:40@A3

PROJECT

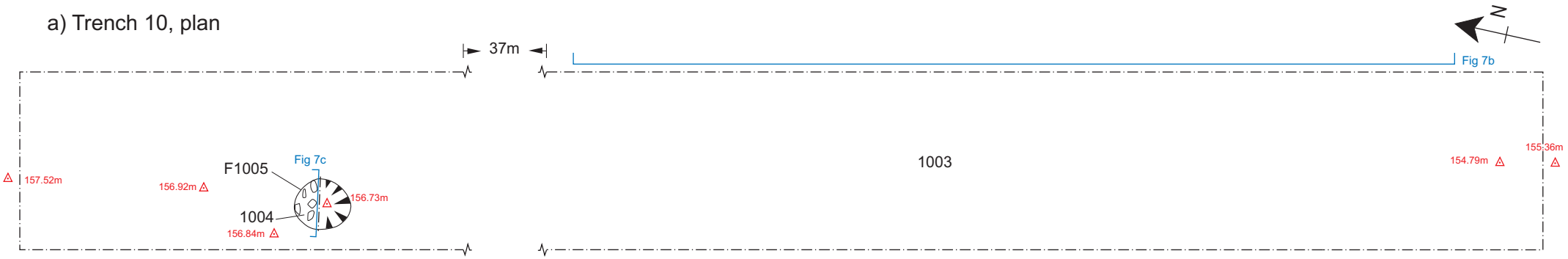
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

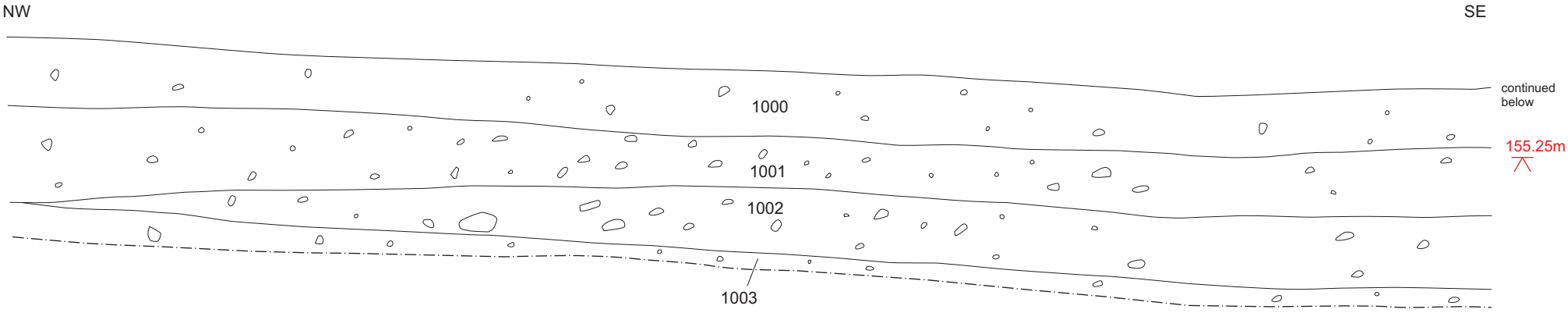
Fig. 6: Trenches 8 and 9, plan and sections

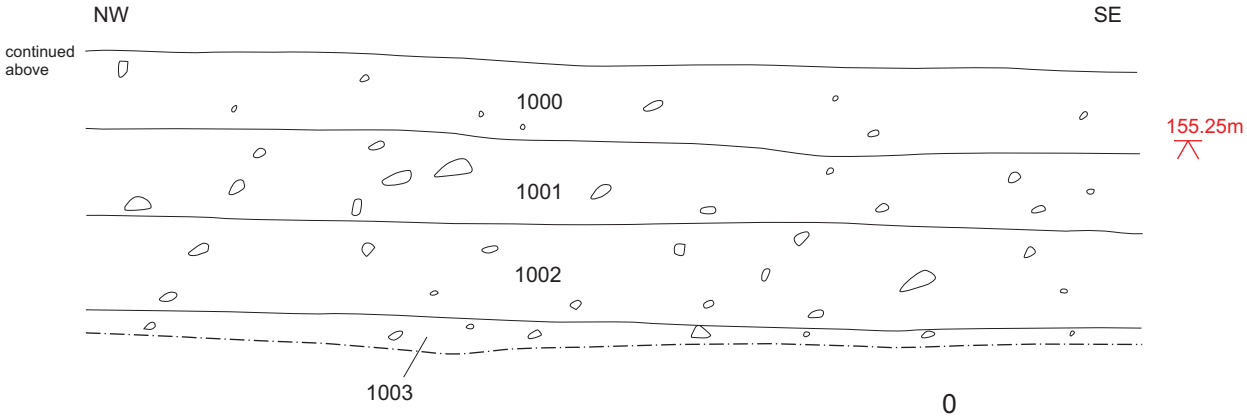
AC archaeology

a) Trench 10, plan

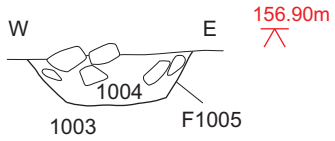


b) Southwest facing long section, south end





c) Southeast facing section of F1005



0 1m

Sections 1:20@A4

0 3m

Plan 1:50@A4

PROJECT

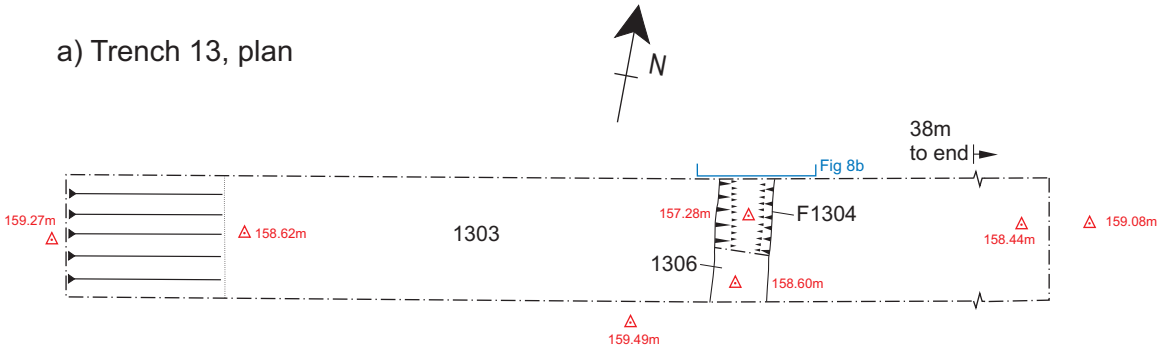
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

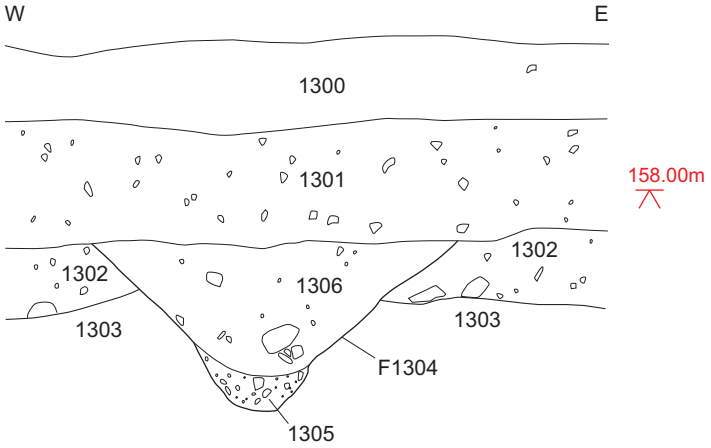
Fig. 7: Trench 10, plan and sections

AC archaeology

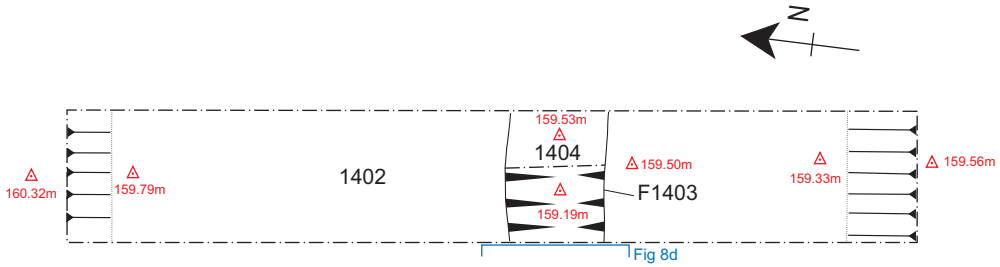
a) Trench 13, plan



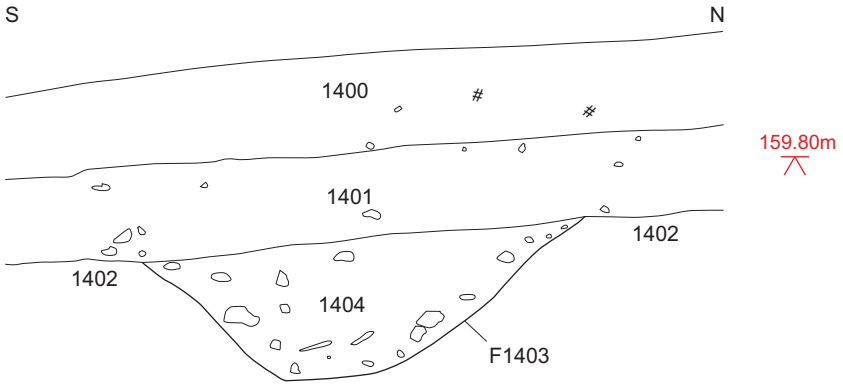
b) South facing section of ditch F1304



c) Trench 14, plan



d) East facing section of F1403



Key

Charcoal

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0 5m

Plans 1:100@A4

PROJECT

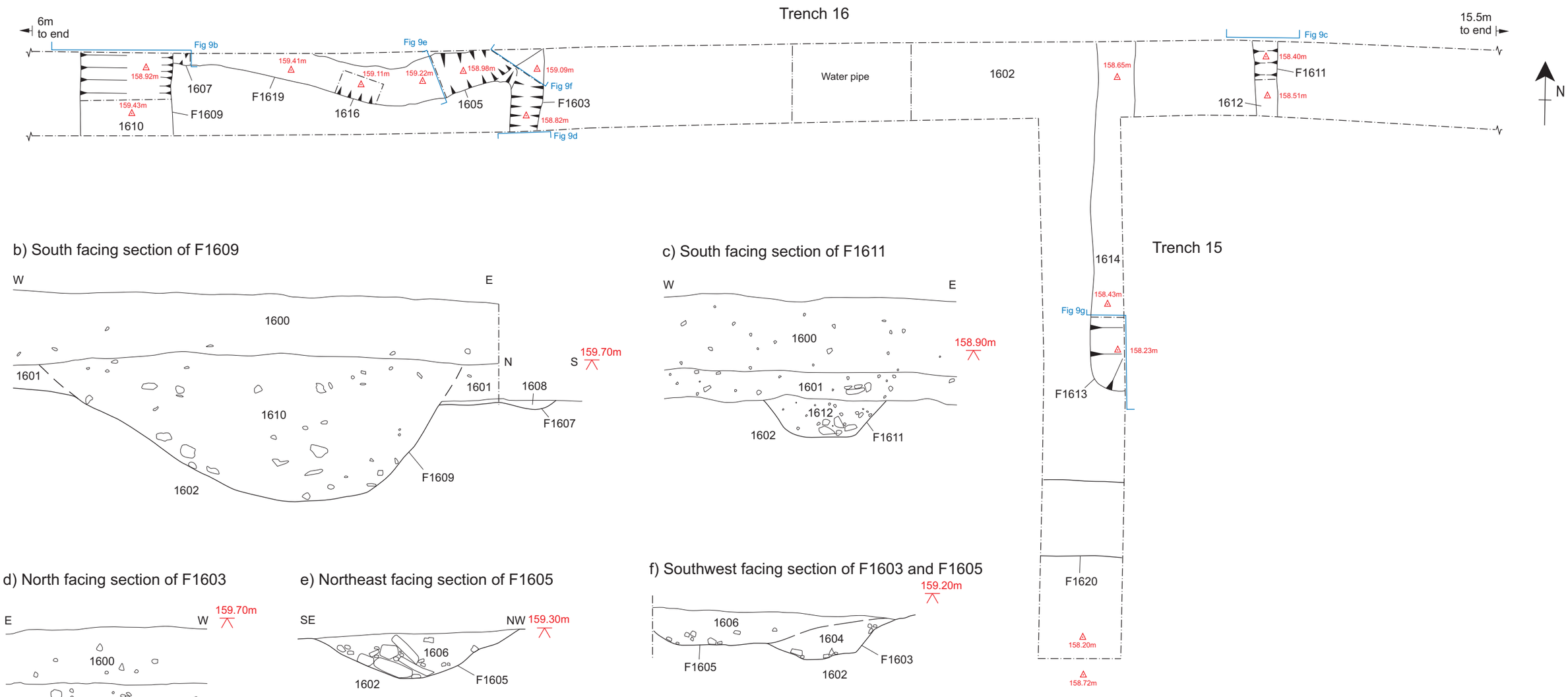
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 8: Trenches 13 and 14, plans and sections

AC archaeology

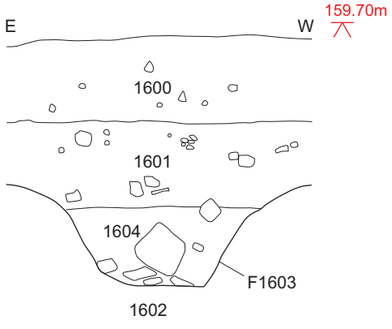
a) Trenches 15 and 16, plan



b) South facing section of F1609

c) South facing section of F1611

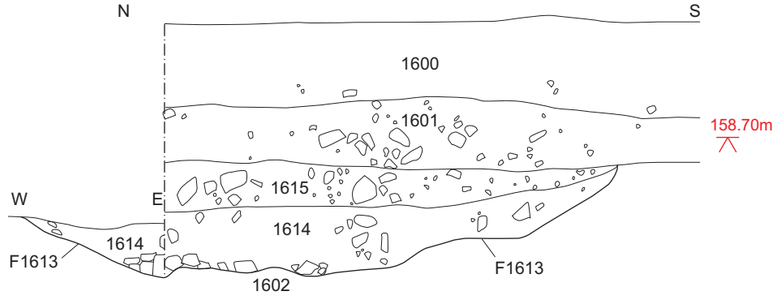
d) North facing section of F1603



e) Northeast facing section of F1605

f) Southwest facing section of F1603 and F1605

g) West facing section of F1613



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Sections 1:20@A3

PROJECT

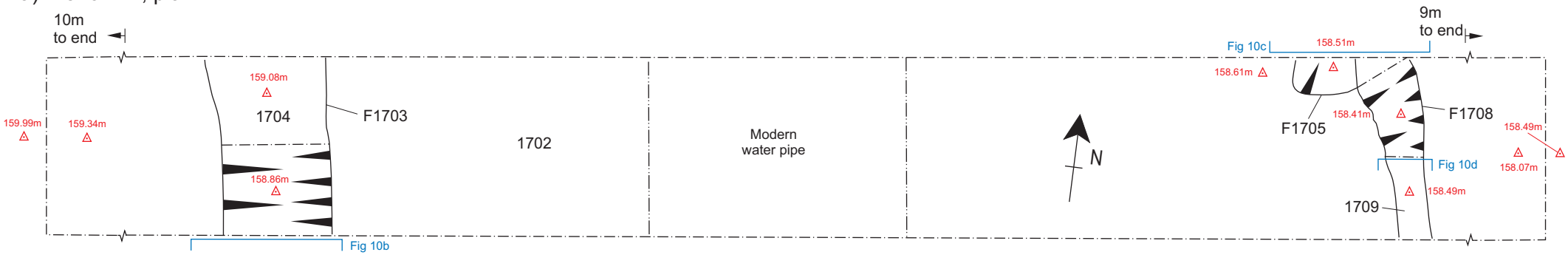
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

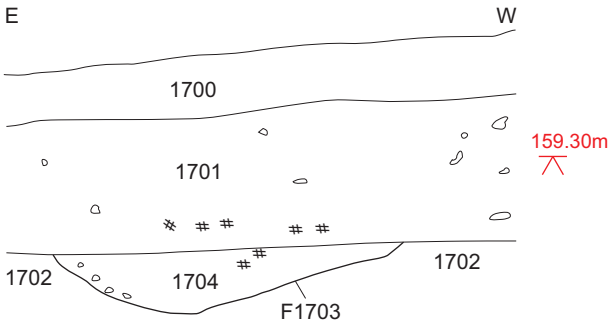
Fig. 9: Trenches 15 and 16, plan and sections

AC archaeology

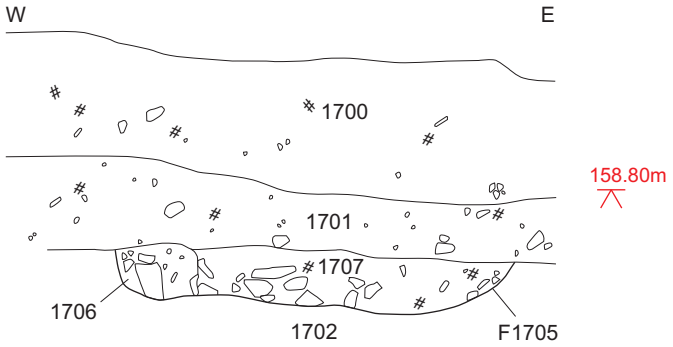
a) Trench 17, plan



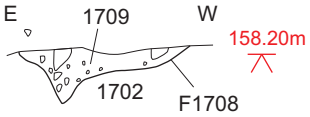
b) North facing section of F1703



c) South facing section of F1705



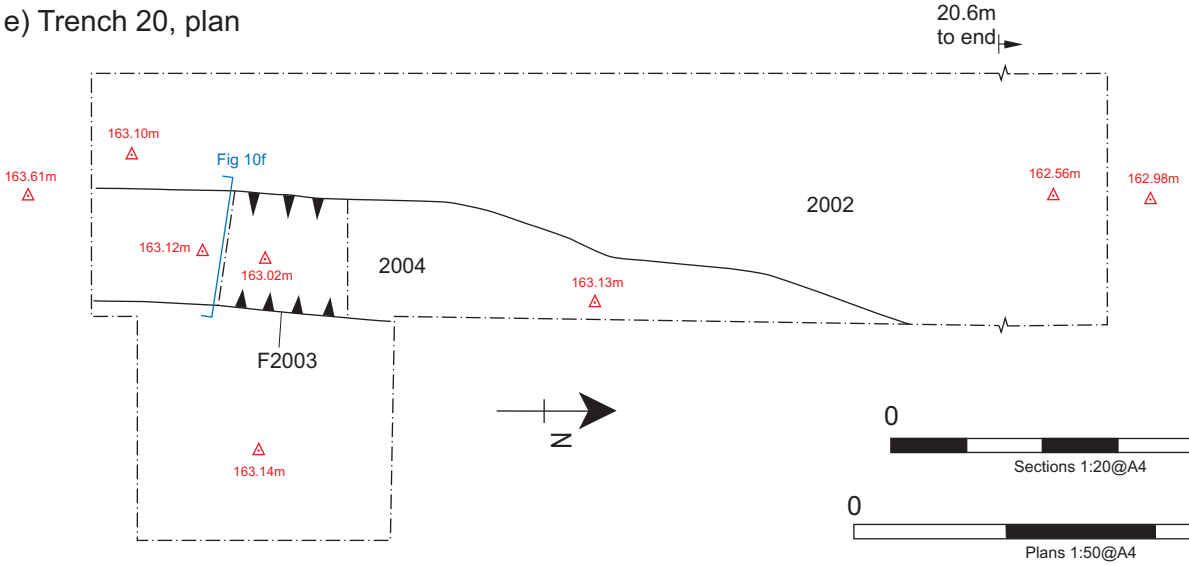
d) North facing section of F1708



Key

Charcoal

e) Trench 20, plan



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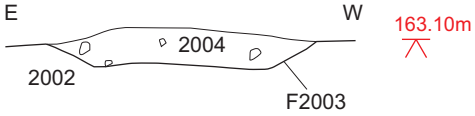


PROJECT

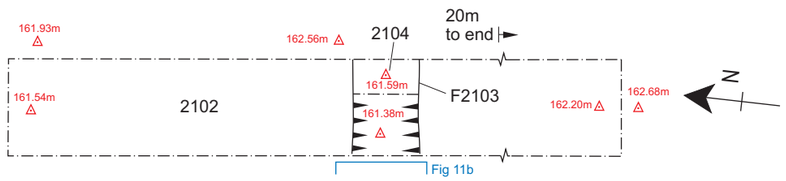
Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

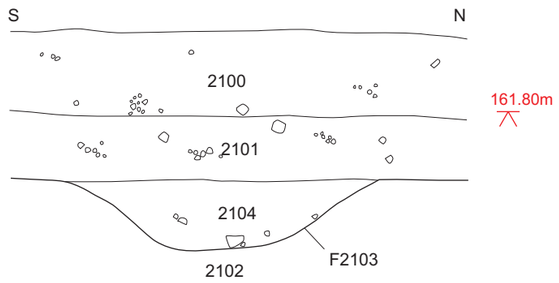
Fig. 10: Trenches 17 and 20, plans and sections

AC archaeology

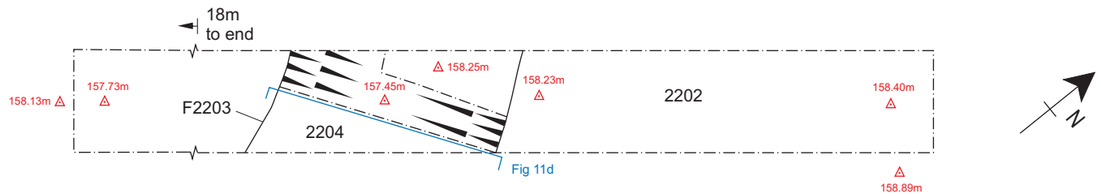
a) Trench 21, plan



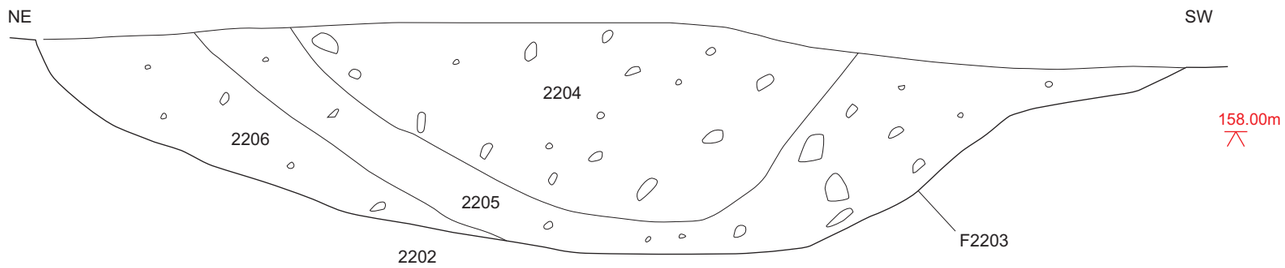
b) East facing section of F2103



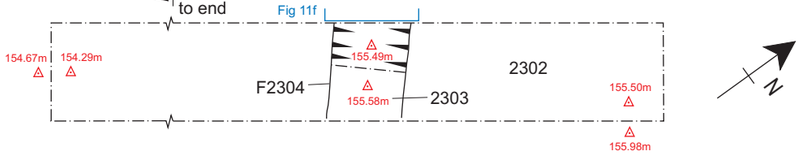
c) Trench 22, plan



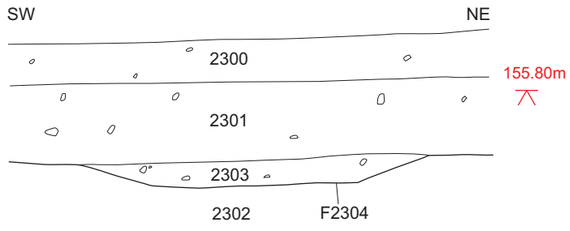
d) Northwest facing section of F2203



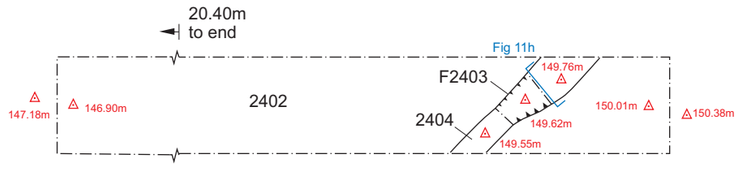
e) Trench 23, plan



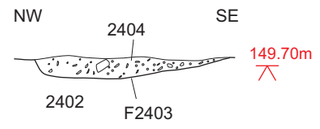
f) Southeast facing section of F2304



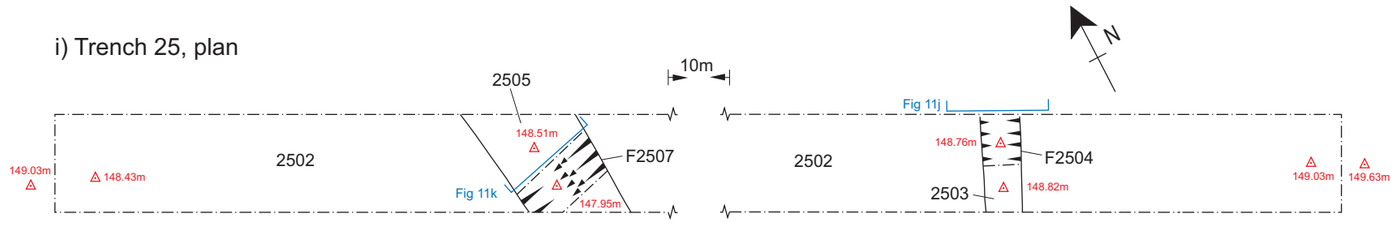
g) Trench 24, plan



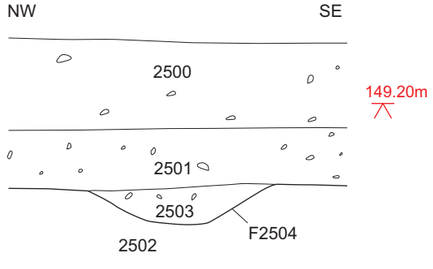
h) Southwest facing section of F2403



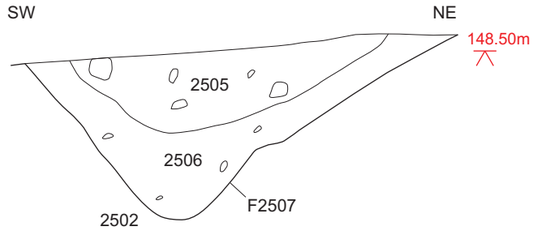
i) Trench 25, plan



j) Southwest facing section of F2504



k) Southeast facing section of F2507



0 1m

Sections 1:20@A4

0 5m

Plans 1:100@A4

PROJECT

Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 11: Trenches 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25, plans and sections

AC archaeology

BEERHILL LANE (Track)

Tr 22
F2203
Tr 12
Tr 21
F2103
Tr 20
F2003
F303
Tr 3
Tr 2
Tr 4
F503
Tr 5
Tr 19
Tr 6
Tr 1
F105
F103
Tr 18
Vicarage Lodge
N
155.7m
Reservoir (covered)
Tr 23
F2303
F1005
Tr 10
F905
F912
F913
F903
Tr 8
F914
F917
F916
F908
F918
F915
F919
Tr 9
Tr 7
F705
F703
F1705
F1708
F1703
Tr 17
F1603
F1611
F1609
Tr 16
F1619
F1613
F1620
Tr 15
F1403
Tr 14
The Highlands
Francis Close
F1304
Tr 13
Tr 30
Tr 24
F2403
Tr 11
Tr 29
Tr 25
F2504
F2507
Tr 27
FROG LANE
South M
Commu

Key

- Site boundary
- Former field boundaries
- Excavated features shown on geophysical survey
- Excavated features not shown on geophysical survey

0 50m

Scale 1:1250@A3

PROJECT

Land at Gunswell Lane, South Molton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 12 Location of features identified during excavation

AC archaeology

Plate 1: General view of site. Looking to southwest

Plate 2: Trench 5, section of possible ring ditch F503. Looking to north (scale 0.50m)

Plate 3: View along Trench 8 section with outer ring ditch F914 in foreground. Looking to southwest (scale 2m)

Plate 4: General view of Trench 8 with outer ring ditch F903 in foreground. Looking to east (scale 1m)

Plate 5: Trench 8, section of inner ring ditch F905. Looking to northeast (scale 0.25m)

Plate 6: Trench 9, section of possible pit F908. Looking to southeast (scale 1m)

Plate 7: Trench 10, section of posthole F1005. Looking to northwest (scale 0.25m)

Plate 8: Trench 16, section of ditch F1611. Looking to north (scale1m)

Plate 9: Trench 22, section of ditch F2203. Looking to south (scale 1m)

Plate 10: Trench 25, section of ditch F2507. Looking to northwest (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated context descriptions

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1			**Length** 29m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
100	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.10m	Topsoil		
101	Mid grey brown and mottled mid orange brown firm silt clay with occasional small-large sub-angular stones	0.10-0.35m	Subsoil		
102	Mottled mid yellow and grey firm clay with occasional large sub-angular stones	0.35m+	Natural subsoil		
103	E-W aligned linear feature, 3m wide by 0.10m deep, with very shallow sloping sides and a flattish base	0.35-0.45m	Probable natural depression		
104	Mottled mid grey and yellow firm clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.35-0.45m	Fill of natural feature F103		
105	WNW-ESE aligned linear feature, 0.30m wide by 0.10m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.35-0.45m	Cut of possible ditch		
106	Light grey brown firm silt clay with rare small-large sub-angular stones	0.35-0.45m	Fill of ditch F105		

Trench 2			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
200	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
201	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.25-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
202	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant medium-large sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 3			**Length** 48m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
300	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Topsoil		
301	Mid brown soft clay silt with occasional small-large sub-angular stones	0.20-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
302	Mottled mid orange brown and light yellow brown firm clay with frequent medium-large sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		
303	E-W aligned linear feature, 1m wide by 0.15m deep, with gentle-moderate sloping sides and an irregular base	0.50-0.65m	Cut of probable field boundary ditch		
304	Mid brown soft silt clay with occasional medium-large sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0.50-0.65m	Fill of ditch F303		

Trench 4			**Length** 20m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
400	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Topsoil		
401	Mid brown firm clay silt with occasional small-large sub-angular stones	0.20-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil		
402	Mottled mid orange brown and light yellow brown firm clay with frequent medium-large sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 5			**Length** 16m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
500	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
501	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil		
502	Light yellow brown firm clay with abundant medium-large sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		
503	Possible circular feature, 0.60m wide by 0.25m deep, with moderate sloping sides forming a pointed base	0.45-0.70m	Cut of possible ring ditch		
504	Light yellow brown soft silt clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.45-0.70m	Fill of ditch F503		
505	Light-mid orange brown friable clay silt with moderate-frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.45-0.65m	Fill of ditch F503		

Trench 6			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** ENE-WSW
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
600	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
601	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
602	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 7			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NW-SE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
700	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.18m	Topsoil		
701	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.18-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
702	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		
703	Partly exposed oval shaped feature, 1.50m wide by 0.55m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.50-1.05m	Cut of possible pit/tree throw		
704	Light brown firm clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0-50-0.55m	Fill of possible pit F703		
705	Oval shaped feature, 0.48m long by 0.35m wide by 0.04m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base	0.50-0.54m	Cut of probable shrub bowl		
706	Light yellow brown friable silt clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.54m	Fill of shrub bowl F705		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 8/9			**Length** 55m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S/E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
900	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-large sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
901	Mid brown grey soft clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.25-0.55m	Agricultural subsoil		
902	Light yellow brown and light grey firm clay with abundant medium-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.55m+	Natural subsoil		
903	Circular ring ditch, 1m wide by 0.32m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.44-0.76m	Cut of outer ring ditch		
904	Mid grey brown soft clay silt with frequent medium-large angular to sub-angular stones	0.44-0.76m	Fill of ditch F903		
905	Circular ring ditch, 0.18m wide by 0.10m deep, with moderate sloping sides forming a narrow, concave base	0.44-0.54m	Cut of inner ring ditch		
906	Mid brown grey soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.54m	Fill of ditch F905		
907	Mid grey brown soft clay silt with moderate small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.44-0.50m	Fill of ditch F905		
908	Elongated oval feature or linear terminus, 1m wide by 0.25m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.54-0.79m	Cut of pit/ditch terminus		
909	Light yellow grey soft silt clay with frequent small-medium angular and sub-angular stones	0.74-0.79m	Fill of pit/ditch F908		
910	Mid orange grey brown soft clay silt with moderate-rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.67-0.74m	Fill of pit/ditch F908		
911	Mid grey brown soft clay silt with moderate-frequent small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.54-0.67m	Fill of pit/ditch F908		
912	Unexcavated sub-circular feature, 1m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.44m+	Probable pit		
913	Unexcavated ring ditch, 0.40m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.44m+	Inner ring ditch		
914	Unexcavated ring ditch, 0.80m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.44m+	Outer ring ditch		
915	Unexcavated ring ditch, 0.90m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt	0.50m+	Outer ring ditch		
916	Unexcavated, possible oval shaped feature, 0.50m wide and containing a mid brown soft clay silt fill	0.50m+	Possible pit		
917	Unexcavated, possible oval shaped feature, 0.70m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.50m+	Possible pit		
918	Unexcavated circular shaped feature, 0.20m diameter and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.50m+	Possible small pit		
919	Unexcavated, possible oval shaped feature, 0.60m wide and containing a mid grey brown soft clay silt fill	0.50m+	Possible pit		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 10			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NW-SE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1000	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-25m	Topsoil		
1001	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
1002	Mid-dark brown soft clay silt with moderate small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.40-0.60m	Buried soil horizon		
1003	Light-mid yellow brown firm clay with frequent large sub-angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		
1004	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent large sub-angular stones	0.50-0.64m	Fill of posthole F1005		
1005	Oval shaped posthole, 0.50m long by 0.44m wide by 0.14m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a flattish base	0.50-0.64m	Cut of posthole		

Trench 11			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NE-SW
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1100	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.30m	Topsoil		
1101	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.30-0.60m	Agricultural subsoil		
1102	Mid yellow brown firm clay with moderate medium-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.60m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 12			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NNW-SSE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1200	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1201	Mid brown soft silt clay with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.25-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil		
1202	Light-mid yellow brown firm clay with frequent small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 13			**Length** 50m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1300	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1301	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent-moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.55m	Agricultural subsoil		
1302	Mid orange brown soft silt clay with frequent small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.55-0.70m	Colluvial subsoil		
1303	Light brown firm silt clay with abundant medium-large angular stones	0.70m+	Natural subsoil		
1304	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, 0.97m wide by 0.42m deep, with moderate sloping sides forming a narrow flat base	0-55-0.97m	Cut of field boundary ditch		
1305	Mid yellow grey soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.88-0.97m	Fill of ditch F1304		
1306	Mid brown friable silt clay with rare small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.55-0.88m	Fill of ditch F1304		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 14			**Length** 10m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1400	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1401	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.48m	Agricultural subsoil		
1402	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.48m+	Natural subsoil		
1403	ENE-WSW aligned linear feature, 1.30m wide by 0.35m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.48-0.83m	Cut of field boundary ditch		
1404	Light brown soft silt clay with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0-48-0.83m	Fill of ditch F1403		

Trench 15/16			**Length** 60m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S/E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1600	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1601	Mid brown soft silt clay with abundant small-large sub-angular stones	0.25-45m	Agricultural subsoil		
1602	Light yellow brown and orange brown firm clay with frequent large angular and sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		
1603	N-S aligned linear feature, 0.60m wide by 0.25m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flattish base	0.55-0.80m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1604	Mid brown soft silt clay with frequent small-large sub-angular-angular stones	0.55-0.80m	Fill of ditch F1603		
1605	E-W aligned linear/curvilinear feature, 0.80m wide by 0.20m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a flattish-concave base	0.45-0.65m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1606	Mid brown soft silt clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.45-0.65m	Fill of ditch F1605		
1607	Partly exposed segment of E-W aligned linear/curvilinear feature, 0.05m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.48-0.53m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1608	Light yellow brown soft silt clay with rare small sub-angular stones	0.48-0.53m	Fill of ditch F1607		
1609	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, 2.10m wide by 0.73m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides and a gently concave base	0.48-1.21m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1610	Light yellow brown soft silt clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.48-1.21m	Fill of ditch F1609		
1611	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, 0.60m wide by 0.19m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a flat base	0.50-0.69m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1612	Mid grey brown soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.69m	Fill of ditch F1611		
1613	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature with partly exposed rounded terminus, 0.75m wide by 0.34m deep, with a shallow-moderate sloping side and a concave base	0.45-0.80m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1614	Mid yellow brown soft silt clay with moderate medium sub-angular stones and rare small stones	0.60-0.80m	Fill of ditch F1613		
1615	Mid grey brown soft silt clay with frequent medium-large angular-sub-angular stones, moderate small stones and rare charcoal	0.45-0.60	Fill of ditch F1613		
1616	Partial segment through an E-W aligned linear/curvilinear ditch, 0.70m wide by 0.25m deep, with a moderate sloping side and a flattish base	0.45-0.70m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		

1617	Mid brown soft sand silt clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones	0.45-0.70m	Fill of ditch F1616
1618	Light yellow brown soft clay with abundant small-large sub-angular and angular stones	0.45-0.70m	Fill of ditch F1616
1619	Group number for E-W aligned linear/curvilinear feature, comprising segments [1605], [1607] & [1616]	-	Group number of ditch
1620	Unexcavated ENE-WSW aligned linear feature, 1.50m wide and containing a mid brown soft clay silt	-	Field boundary ditch

Trench 17			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1700	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.15m	Topsoil		
1701	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.15-0.53m	Agricultural subsoil		
1702	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant small-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.53m+	Natural subsoil		
1703	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, 1.15m wide by 0.40m deep, with gentle/moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.53-0.68m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1704	Light brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	0-53-0.68m	Fill of ditch F1703		
1705	Sub-oval shaped feature, or possible linear terminus, 1.05m wide by 0.15m deep, with moderate sloping sides and an uneven base	0.50-0.65m	Cut of possible linear terminus/pit		
1706	Mid yellow grey firm silt clay with moderate medium-large angular stones	0.50-0.65m	Fill of F1705		
1707	Mid brown grey soft silt clay with moderate medium-large sub-angular and angular stones	0.50-0.65m	Fill of F1705		
1708	NNE-SSE aligned linear feature, 0.40m wide by 0.15m deep, with a gentle sloping west edge, a moderate-steep sloping east edge and a narrow pointed base	0.50-0.65m	Cut of plot boundary ditch		
1709	Mid grey brown soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.50-0.65m	Fill of ditch F1708		

Trench 18			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NNE-SSE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1800	Mid brown friable clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.10m	Topsoil		
1801	Mid grey brown soft silt clay with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.10-0.28m	Subsoil		
1802	Mid orange brown soft silt clay with rare small-large sub-angular stones	0.28-0.46m	Colluvial subsoil		
1803	Mid grey soft silt clay with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.35-0.55m	Colluvial subsoil		
1804	Mixed mid orange yellow and grey soft clay with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.35-0.45m	Colluvial subsoil		
1805	Mixed mid yellow grey and orange soft clay with rare sub-angular small-medium stones	0.46m+	Natural subsoil		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 19			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NE-SW
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
1900	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1901	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-large angular-sub-angular stones	0.25-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
1902	Mid yellow brown firm clay with abundant large angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 20			**Length** 27m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2000	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
2001	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.25-0.43m	Agricultural subsoil		
2002	Light yellow brown firm clay with frequent medium-large angular stones	0.43m+	Natural subsoil		
2003	N-S aligned linear feature, 0.72m wide by 0.10m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a flat base	0.43-0.53m	Cut of probable field boundary ditch		
2004	Mid orange brown soft silt clay with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0.43-0.53m	Fill of ditch F2003		

Trench 21			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2100	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.28m	Topsoil		
2101	Mid brown soft clay silt with frequent small-large angular-sub-angular stones	0.28-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
2102	Light yellow brown and light orange brown firm clay with frequent large angular stones	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		
2103	ENE-WSW aligned linear feature, 1m wide by 0.22m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.50-0.72m	Cut of probable field boundary ditch		
2104	Mid brown soft silt clay with occasional medium-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.50-0.72m	Fill of ditch F2103		

Trench 22			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NE-SW
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2200	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Topsoil		
2201	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate-frequent small-medium sub-angular stones	0.20-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil		
2202	Light-mid yellow brown firm clay with common small-large sub-angular stones	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		
2203	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 3.70m wide by 0.75m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.45-1.20m	Cut of possible field boundary ditch		
2204	Mottled light yellow grey and yellow brown soft clay with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.45-1.07m	Fill of ditch F2203		
2205	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	1.07-1.20m	Fill of ditch F2203		
2206	Light yellow brown soft silt clay with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.45-0.85m	Fill of ditch F2203		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 23			**Length** 25m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NE-SW
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2300	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.15m	Topsoil		
2301	Mid brown soft clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones	0.15-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil		
2302	Light grey and light-mid yellow firm clay with common small-medium angular stones	0.40m+	Natural subsoil		
2303	Light-mid grey brown friable clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.40-0.48m	Fill of ditch F2304		
2304	NW-SE aligned linear feature, 1.20m wide by 0.08m deep, with gentle sloping sides and a flat base	0.40-0.48m	Cut of field boundary ditch		

Trench 24			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** E-W
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2400	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.22m	Topsoil		
2401	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.22-0.35m	Agricultural subsoil		
2402	Light grey brown firm clay with frequent medium-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.35m+	Natural subsoil		
2403	NE-SW aligned linear feature, 0.65m wide by 0.07m deep, with a gentle east sloping edge, a moderate west sloping edge and a flat base	0.35-0.42m	Cut of possible field boundary/ drainage ditch		
2404	Light orange brown soft silt clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and rare medium-large stones	0.35-0.42m	Fill of ditch F2403		

Trench 25			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NW-SE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2500	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.28m	Topsoil		
2501	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.28-0.47m	Agricultural subsoil		
2502	Mid yellow brown firm clay with occasional small-large sub-angular stones	0.47m+	Natural subsoil		
2503	Mid brown friable clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.47-0.60m	Fill of ditch F2504		
2504	NE-SW aligned linear feature, 0.60m wide by 0.13m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.47-0.60m	Cut of possible field boundary/ drainage ditch		
2505	Mid brown friable clay silt with moderate small-large sub-angular stones	0.47-0.73m	Fill of ditch F2507		
2506	Light grey brown soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.73-1.02m	Fill of ditch F2507		
2507	NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, 1.40m wide by 0.55m deep, with a moderate sloping SW edge, a gentle/moderate sloping NE edge forimg a narrow, concave base	0.47-1.02m	Cut of possible field boundary/ drainage ditch		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 27			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NW-SE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2700	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.30m	Topsoil		
2701	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small angular stones	0.30-0.55m	Agricultural subsoil		
2702	Light yellow firm clay with shillet	0.55m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 29			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** NNW-SSE
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
2900	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.20m	Topsoil		
2901	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	0.20-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil		
2902	Light grey brown firm clay with frequent medium-large angular and sub-angular stones	0.40m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 30			**Length** 30m	**Width** 1.60m	**Alignment** N-S
Context	**Description**	**Depth**	**Interpretation**		
3000	Mid grey brown friable clay silt with rare small-medium sub-angular stones	0-0.40m	Topsoil		
3001	Mid brown soft clay silt with moderate medium-large sub-angular stones	0.40-0.66m	Agricultural subsoil		
3002	Light brown firm clay with moderate-rare medium-large angular stones	0.66m+	Natural subsoil		

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