

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of  
Wessex Solar Energy

Beaford Brook  
Upcott Barton  
Devon

archaeological evaluation

report 3058  
December 2012



## Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	Project background	2
3.	Landuse, topography and geology	2
4.	Historical and archaeological background	3
5.	The evaluation trenches	3
6.	The finds	7
7.	The palaeoenvironmental evidence	10
8.	The archaeological resource	11
9.	Impact assessment	11
10.	Recommendations	11
11.	Sources	12
Appendix 1: Data tables		13
Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix		16

## Figures

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Location of trenches
Figure 3:	Trench plans and sections
Figure 4:	Ditch F27, looking east
Figure 5:	Ditch F40, looking north
Figure 6:	Ditch F28, looking south
Figure 7:	Ditch F9, looking south
Figure 8:	Ditch F37 and gully F39, looking east
Figure 9:	Ditches F21 and F23, and linear feature F25, looking east
Figure 10:	Gully F32, looking south-east
Figure 11:	Pit/ditch or natural feature F52 north
Figure 12:	Gully F34, looking north-west
Figure 13:	Gully F5=F7, looking northwest
Figure 14:	Hollow or trackway F12, looking north
Figure 15:	Ditches F42 and F44, looking north

## 1. Summary

### The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development at Beaford Brook, Upcott Barton, Devon. The works comprised the excavation of 13 trenches.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Wessex Solar Energy and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

### Results

- 1.3 No archaeological resource was identified in the eastern part of the site (Area 1).
- 1.4 Archaeological deposits were identified in the central (Area 2) and western (Area 3) parts of the site.
- 1.5 In Area 2, two pits and a gully were identified.
- 1.6 In Area 3, ditches, gullies and pits were identified, most of which correspond with the results of the geophysical survey. The features confirm the presence of a series of enclosures of two or more phases, covering a minimum of 0.6 hectares. The precise function of these enclosures is unclear: a medieval manor lay approximately 300m to the west of Area 3 and the finds assemblage suggests that the activity in Area 3 would be contemporary with the manor.
- 1.7 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered in Area 3. The majority of finds, including all of the artefacts recovered from the archaeological features, dated to the medieval period. Prehistoric flints were recovered which may be residual. Analysis of samples from the features indicates that they contain very little significant palaeoenvironmental data.

### Recommendations

- 1.8 No archaeological resource was identified which requires preservation *in situ*.
- 1.9 In Area 1, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.
- 1.10 In Areas 2 it is recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is undertaken in the vicinity of the archaeological resource during groundworks associated with the development
- 1.11 In Area 3 it is recommended that a programme of archaeological strip and recording is completed prior to development works.

## 2. Project background

### Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The proposed development area was located at Upcott Barton, approximately 500m north of Beaford Brook, in Beaford parish, Devon (NGR centre: SS 5713 1564). The study area was surrounded by open farmland.

### Development proposal

- 2.2 The development proposal is for a solar farm.

### Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.
- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS12.493rev) and approved by the planning authority.

### Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken between 19th and 28th November 2012. This report was prepared for December 2012.

### Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Sophie Laidler, Nathan Thomas, Dave Webster, and Jamie Armstrong (supervisor). This report was prepared by Jamie Armstrong, with illustrations by David Graham. Specialist reporting was conducted by Alejandra Gutierrez (pottery), Helen Drinkall (flint), Jennifer Jones (industrial waste) and Lorne Elliott (palaeoenvironmental). Sample processing was undertaken by Janet Beveridge, Janice Adams and Sophie Laidler. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

### Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The site code is **UBB12**, for Upcott Barton, Beaford Brook 2012. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon in due course: the accession number is **NDMS 2012.48**. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-139355**.

## 3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of excavation the proposed development area comprised two fields of arable land and one of pasture.
- 3.2 The proposed development area was situated on top of and along the north-west-facing slope of the western spur of a small hill, with a minimum elevation of approximately 140m OD and a maximum elevation of approximately 166m OD.

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous Crackington Formation Sandstone, which is overlain in the northern part of the site by river terrace deposits.

## **4. Historical and archaeological background**

### **Previous archaeological works**

- 4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has previously been undertaken for the proposed development area (Archaeological Services 2010). The results of that report are summarised here.
- 4.2 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area but a number of sites are recorded in the wider area, including a multivallate enclosure at Cowflop Cross 1km south-east of the present site, indicating that an as yet unidentified resource has the potential to exist within the proposed development area.
- 4.3 The proposed development area is situated in an area of medieval manors and farmsteads, the nearest probably being 300m to the west at Upcott Barton. This is believed to have been the location of the manor of Higher Upcott and a chapel is thought to have stood here. While there is no direct evidence that the site was exploited during this period it is likely that it was used for farming practices at this time.
- 4.4 During the post-medieval period the site was used for farming, and this has remained the case through to the present day. Field boundaries removed during these periods of activity have the potential to survive as buried features.
- 4.5 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services in October 2012 (Archaeological Services 2012). This established the presence of a series of ditches forming a multi-phase enclosure system in Area 3. These enclosures probably reflect a relatively long-lived defended occupation site. A former track was also detected in Area 3. Possible soil-filled ditches were detected in Areas 1 and 2. Intense anomalies resulting from the modern plough regime were detected in Areas 1 and 2, which could obscure other small or weak anomalies of possible archaeological origin. Land drains were detected in all the areas surveyed.

## **5. The evaluation trenches**

### **Methods**

- 5.1 Thirteen trenches were excavated, by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to the base of the topsoil [53] and then cleaned, recorded and, where appropriate, further excavated by hand. All of the trenches were 2m wide. Archaeological methods for excavation and post-excavation were defined within the Written Scheme of Investigation (DS 12.493rev) produced by Archaeological Services and approved by the County Historic Environment Service.

### **Trench location**

- 5.2 Nine of the thirteen trenches (1-8 and 13) were located within Area 3, over the geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible prehistoric enclosures. The anomalies were on a gentle north-facing slope, just short of the summit of a slight hill. A single

trench (9) was located in Area 2, on a series of potential anomalies. The final three trenches (10-12) were situated over anomalies in Area 1.

### **Confidence rating**

- 5.3 The initial machining was conducted during good weather conditions and identified a number of archaeological features, demonstrating that the methodology was successful. Despite subsequent poor weather, including heavy rain and flooding, archaeological features were excavated and recorded, and a modest assemblage of finds was collected. The confidence rating is therefore good.

### **Trench 1 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.4 This trench was 15m by 2m, and was located over an east/west linear geomagnetic anomaly. It was placed perpendicular to the western end of the shorter trench 2. Natural subsoil, a red-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.3-0.4m. An east/west ditch [F27: over 2.0m by 2.6m, 0.7m deep; Figure 4] was cut into this at the southern end of the trench. This had a V-shaped profile and was filled with a light brown sandy clay silt [26]. Seven sherds of medieval pottery and a single flint, probably of the later Neolithic period, were recovered from the fill. At the northern end of the trench was an east/west drain with almost vertical sides [F49: over 2m by 0.37m, over 0.33m deep], filled with angular stones [48: over 0.3m thick], overlain by light grey clay [0.13m thick]. Immediately above the natural and covering the features was topsoil [53: 0.3-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. Eight unstratified sherds of pottery were recovered: this comprised seven medieval sherds and a single fragment dating to the 18th century.

### **Trench 2 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.5 This trench was 10m by 2m, and was located over a north/south linear geomagnetic anomaly. It was placed perpendicular to the north end of trench 1. Natural subsoil, a brownish-yellow clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.3-0.4m. A north/south ditch [F40: over 2.0m by 1.2m, 0.47m deep; Figure 5] was cut into this at the southern end of the trench. This had a V-shaped profile and contained a primary fill of dark grey silty sand [50: over 1m by 0.3m, 0.1m thick]. Over this was a light brown sandy silty clay [41: 0.3m thick]. Immediately above the natural and covering the features was topsoil [53: 0.3-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. Twenty-three unstratified sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

### **Trench 3 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.6 This trench was 10m by 2m and was located over three north/south linear geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a brownish-yellow and pink clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.2-0.4m. Two features were identified cutting this. At the west end of the trench was a north/south ditch with a V-shaped profile [F28: over 2m by 1.6m, 0.68m deep; Figure 6]. The primary fill comprised mottled light yellow-brown clayey silt [29: over 1m by 0.65m, 0.24m thick]. This was overlain by a secondary fill of light brownish-grey clay [30: 0.44m thick]. 1.9m to the east was a second north/south ditch [F9: over 2m by 1.2m, 0.43m deep; Figure 7]. This had a U-shaped profile and contained a primary fill of light greyish-brown clayey silt [10: over 2m by 1.2m, 0.25m thick]; a fragment of worked flint was recovered from this deposit. Above this was a secondary fill of light reddish-pink clayey silt [11: over 2m by 1.1m, 0.14m thick]. Immediately above the natural and covering the features was topsoil [53: 0.2-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt.

**Trench 4 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.7 This trench was 10m by 2m, and was located over two east/west linear geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a light brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.3m. Several features were identified cutting this. At the south end of the trench was an east-west ditch [F37: over 2m by 1.23m, 0.46m deep; Figure 8]. This had a V-shaped profile and contained a primary fill of grey clayey-silt [36: over 1m by 1.15m, 0.43m thick]. Above this was the secondary fill of brownish-red silty-clay [35: over 2m by 0.87, 0.14m thick]. This was cut by an east/west gully with a U-shaped profile [F39: over 2m by 0.56, 0.16m deep]. This was filled with a brown clayey-silt [38]. 3m to the north was a second east/west ditch: this had been truncated on its south side [F21: over 2m by at least 1.04m, 0.55m deep; Figure 9]. This had a V-shaped profile and contained a thin primary deposit of light brownish-yellow slightly silty clay with small sub-rounded stone inclusions [20: over 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.13m thick]. Above this was a grey silty clay which also contained sub-rounded stone inclusions [19: over 2m by 1.04, 0.51m thick]. Immediately south of this the uppermost fill [19] was cut by another east/west ditch [F23: over 2m by over 0.57m, 0.34m deep]. Truncation on the south side made identification of the profile difficult, but it appeared to be an elongated V-shape with a flattened base. It contained a single fill of dark brown clayey silt [22]. Immediately south of this was a third east/west linear feature with a U-shaped profile [F25: over 2m by 0.95m, 0.36m thick]. It appeared to have been backfilled in a single event, as the single fill comprised redeposited red brown and yellow natural clay [24]. Immediately above the natural subsoil and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.3m thick], a brown clayey silt. A single unstratified fragment of ceramic building material or pottery was recovered.

**Trench 5 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.8 This trench measured 17m by 2m and was located over three north/south linear geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a yellow and brownish-yellow clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.2-0.4m. Three features were identified, although only one corresponded with one of the geophysical anomalies. At the east end of the trench was the butt-end of a probable north-west/south-east gully with a U-shaped profile [F32: over 1m by 0.45m, 0.11m deep; Figure 10]: not enough of the feature was exposed to determine whether or not it was curvilinear in shape. It was filled with a greyish-brown clayey sandy silt [31]. 0.7m to the west was a possible north/south ditch or gully, although it may have been a natural feature [F52: over 2m by 0.5-1.2m, 0.09m thick; Figure 11]. This had a U-shaped profile and regular sides, and was filled with a mixed deposit of light brown and light grey clayey sand [51]. 8m to the west was a further shallow north-west/south-east gully with a shallow U-shaped profile [F34: over 2.3m by 0.8m, 0.13m deep; Figure 12]. This was filled with a grey-brown clayey sandy silt [33]. Immediately above the natural subsoil and covering all of these features was topsoil [53: 0.2-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. A single unstratified fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material or pottery was recovered.

**Trench 6 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.9 This trench was 20m by 2m and was located over three geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a brownish-yellow and brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.4-0.5m. Immediately above the natural and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.4-0.5m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified. Eleven unstratified sherds of

medieval pottery were recovered, along with a single fragment of ceramic building material or pottery.

**Trench 7 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.10 This trench measured 12m by 2m and was located over a single geomagnetic anomaly. Natural subsoil, a brownish-yellow clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.3-0.5m. This was cut by a curvilinear gully with a U-shaped profile [F5=F7: 3m by 0.6-0.9m, 0.05-0.08m thick; Figure 13]. This was filled with a light greyish-brown clayey silt [6=8]. This gully broadly corresponds with the geophysical anomaly. It was partially obscured by a stone spread at the northern end of the trench. This and the gully were partly overlain by a yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil [55: 0.1m thick]. Immediately above the subsoil was topsoil [53: 0.3-0.5m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified. A single sherd of unstratified medieval pottery was recovered, along with a fragment of a 19th-century pantile.

**Trench 8 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.11 This trench was 10m by 2m and was located over a two geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a brownish-yellow clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.2-0.3m. Only one feature was identified, at the west end of the trench. This was a shallow north/south linear hollow or possible trackway [F12: over 2m by 4.56m, 0.03-0.24m deep; Figure 14]. This was filled with a dark brown sandy silty clay which was very similar to the topsoil [11]. Immediately above the natural and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.2-0.3m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified. One unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.

**Trench 9 (Area 2; Figure 3)**

- 5.12 This trench was 40m by 2m and was located over several geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a reddish-brown clay and gravel [54], was identified at a depth of 0.2-0.35m. At the south end of the trench was a possible pit [F3: over 0.85m by at least 2m, 0.45m deep]. This had a shallow U-shaped profile, and was filled with a light yellowish-brown clayey silt [4]: one fragment of flint was recovered. 9.7m to the north was a narrow east/west gully with a U-shaped profile [F1: over 2m by 0.9m, and 0.33m deep]. It was filled with a reddish-brown clayey-silt [2]. At the north end of the trench was a further possible pit [F14: over 1m by at least 1.15m, 0.21m deep]. This had a U-shaped profile, and was filled with yellowy-brown clayey silt [15]. Immediately above the natural and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.2-0.35m thick], a brown clayey silt.

**Trench 10 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.13 This trench measured 10m by 2m and was located over a single geomagnetic anomaly. Natural subsoil, a yellowish-brown and pinkish-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.25-0.45m. Immediately above the natural and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.25-0.45m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified and no finds were recovered.



**Trench 11 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.14 This trench was 10m by 2m and was located over a single geomagnetic anomaly. Natural subsoil, a yellowish-brown and pinkish-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.35-0.4m. Immediately above the subsoil and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.35-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified and no finds were recovered.

**Trench 12 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.15 This trench measured 10m by 2m and was located over a single geomagnetic anomaly. Natural subsoil, a yellowish-brown and pinkish-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.35-0.4m. A north-west/south-east field drain [F18] was excavated at the south-west end of the trench. This was filled with light yellowy-brown redeposited natural clay [17], overlain by a dark grey-brown silty clay [16]. A band of light grey clay [56: over 2m by 2m, 0.1m thick] was present in the centre of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment. Immediately above this and covering the natural and the field drain was topsoil [53: 0.35-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. No features of archaeological significance were identified and no finds were recovered.

**Trench 13 (Area 3; Figure 3)**

- 5.16 This trench was 10m by 2m and was located over a two geomagnetic anomalies. Natural subsoil, a brown and yellowish-brown clay with frequent stone inclusions [54], was identified at a depth of 0.35-0.4m. Cut into this at the centre of the trench was a shallow north/south ditch with a U-shaped profile [F42: over 2m by 0.9m, 0.26m deep]. This was filled with a brownish-grey clayey silt [43]. This was cut on its east side by a wider, deeper north/south ditch [F44: over 2m by 1.75, 0.38m deep; Figure 15] also with a U-shaped profile. This contained a primary fill of brownish-grey clayey silt [45: at least 1m by 1.75m, 0.08-0.24m thick], overlain by a secondary deposit of mottled yellow and grey clay [46: over 2m by 1.58m, 0.24m thick]. Immediately above the natural subsoil and covering all of the features was topsoil [53: 0.35-0.4m thick], a brown clayey silt. One unstratified fragment of medieval pottery was recovered.

**6. The finds****Pottery assessment****Summary**

- 6.1 A small assemblage of 61 ceramic sherds weighing 318g was recovered from excavations at Upcott Barton. All of these sherds are pottery wares except for a single sherd from a modern roof tile and two unidentifiable clay crumbs (pottery/tile/brick). The pottery was sorted into fabrics by eye, counted and weighed. The average weight of the sherds is 5g, too small to calculate minimum number of vessels present in the assemblage. The assemblage is mostly made up of small, eroded sherds. No complete or significant profiles were found, except for five small rim sherds.

**Results**

- 6.2 The fabric types identified are listed and described below. All the pottery is of medieval date, except for a single sherd of plain creamware dating to the 18th century (unstratified):

Fabric 1: grey fabric with orange exterior surface, or orange throughout; hand-made coarseware; gritty. North Devon Medieval Coarseware.

Fabric 2: variant of Fabric 1. Red fabric throughout; hand-made coarseware; finer and with more inclusions than Fabric 1. North Devon Medieval Coarseware.

Fabric 3: Post-medieval North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

Fabric 4: sandy, micaceous fabric with occasional large temper. Base of jug. Greyware. Green glazed on exterior surface only. Medieval.

- 6.3 12 sherds (46g) or 19% of the assemblage were stratified. The quantification of the assemblage by context is summarised in Table 1.2.
- 6.4 The range of fabrics is very limited, being dominated almost exclusively by North Devon medieval coarsewares, hand-made in a gritty fabric (Fabric 1); a few sherds have finer, more frequent temper (Fabric 2). Jars and tripod pitchers (?) are present. These are the predominant fabrics in North Devon, with parallels from other published sites where they are dated to the 13th-14th centuries (Allan 1978; Allan and Perry 1982; Allan 1994).
- 6.5 Fabric 4, a sandy jug fabric, may be a regional import, perhaps from Exmoor or Somerset. This is the only medieval glazed sherd found (unstratified) and it belongs to the plain base of a jug, perhaps also hand-made.
- 6.6 A single post-medieval sliver of North Devon gravel-tempered ware was also found (Fabric 3), also unstratified.

#### **Recommendation**

- 6.7 The assemblage has been quantified and recorded and no further work is recommended.

#### **Flint assessment**

##### **6.8 Summary**

The flint assemblage comprises five pieces, one flake [u/s], a bladelet from environmental sample <13> context [33], one blade fragment [10], a retouched piece [26] and a fragment of an arrowhead [4].

##### **Results**

- 6.9 The unstratified flake is made on good quality dark grey flint. It exhibits a hinge termination and marginal butt, with five removals on the dorsal surface and no remaining cortex. There is damage to the right dorsal distal end. Dimensions: L=17.29mm, W=25.93mm, Th=6.30mm.
- 6.10 The bladelet from sample <13> context [33] is very finely made with a feather termination and soft hammer butt. It appears to be in mint condition and is made on dark grey flint. There are three removals on the dorsal surface and the distal end terminates in a curved, pointed profile, similar to a borer. However, it is unlikely to have been used as such due to the delicate nature of the piece. Dimensions: L=17.31mm, W=6.22mm, Th=1.17mm.
- 6.11 The blade fragment from context [10] is from a thin, slightly curved piece made on dark grey good quality flint similar to the flake [u/s] above. There is one removal shown on the dorsal surface, but all four sides exhibit breaks. The overall shape of

the piece is diamond in form; however, the removals on all four sides are too irregular to be retouch and are therefore likely the result of edge damage. Dimensions: L = 17.24mm, W = 10.69mm, Th = 1.36mm.

- 6.12 The retouched flake [26] has an abrupt step termination, which exhibits part of an older white patinated surface. The left dorsal side also shows a surface which is more patinated, and therefore likely older than the three removals on the dorsal. There is also damage to the proximal dorsal end. The flake has a very thick, plain butt, but the point of impact has been removed, most likely as a result of internal flaws. This may be related to the raw material as this appears to be of lesser quality than the other artefacts from the site. There is non-invasive, shallow, parallel retouch present on the right ventral, along 25% of the circumference of the piece. Dimensions: L=40.29mm, W=23.30mm, Th=11.34mm.
- 6.13 The last artefact, from context [4], is manufactured on a blade, with three regular, parallel removals on the dorsal surface. The presence of non-invasive, parallel retouch on the ventral side, forming a concave edge running perpendicular to the dorsal removals creates a narrowing of the piece at one end. This end also shows evidence of a retouched notch. The dorsal removals form a tranchet edge opposite this narrowed end. Whilst there is a break opposite the retouched edge which makes it difficult to see the original form of the piece, the combination of the position of the break, location and shape of the retouch, and position and nature of the dorsal removals suggests that this is a fragment of a Tranchet Arrowhead, dating to the later Neolithic, similar to those described by Butler (2005, 159). This artefact is also made on good quality dark grey flint, similar to the flake and blade fragment above. (Dimensions: L=27.62mm, W=17.00mm, Th=4.04mm.

#### **Discussion**

- 6.14 The assemblage appears to comprise two different types of raw material. The majority of pieces are made on good quality dark grey flint, including the arrowhead from context [4]. The remaining artefact from context [26] is more rolled and damaged than the rest, and is manufactured on brown grey flint with a coarser grain. In terms of date, the tranchet arrowhead suggests a later Neolithic time frame, and the size and thickness of the retouched flake is in keeping with this.

#### **Recommendation**

- 6.15 No further work is recommended.

#### **Industrial residues assessment**

##### **Results**

- 6.16 Context [36], the primary fill of ditch [F37], produced two pieces of possible industrial residue. They are roundish but irregularly shaped and together weigh 768g. Two small pieces (401g) of unworked but probably deliberately broken pink sandstone had become incorporated into the material. When broken open, the interior of the residue was found to have numerous black/rust coloured lenses of iron-rich, but soft material surrounded by hard clayey soil and small stones. No evidence of vitrification was observed in the dark areas, but the surrounding soil appears to have become lightly fused, probably by heating.
- 6.17 The material is not the result of metalworking. It may be debris from a hearth or other conflagration, which was disposed of in the ditch whilst still hot enough to

cause fusing of the surrounding soil. The material remains unidentified. It may represent the unwanted debris - rather than the product - of an unspecified process. If it is indeed the result of a deliberate 'industrial process', this unfortunately cannot be identified from these remains.

#### **Recommendation**

- 6.18 No further work is recommended.

## **7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence**

### **Methods**

- 7.1 A palaeoenvironmental assessment was carried out on 20 bulk samples taken from ditches, gullies, pits and a possible trackway. The samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500µm mesh. The residues were examined for shells, fruitstones, nutshells, charcoal, small bones, pottery, glass and industrial residues, and were scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were examined at up to x60 magnification using a Leica MZ7.5 stereomicroscope for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Habitat classification follows Preston *et al.* (2002).
- 7.2 Where possible, charcoal fragments were identified, in order to provide material suitable for radiocarbon dating. The transverse, radial and tangential sections were examined at up to x600 magnification using a Leica DMLM microscope. Identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Schweingruber (1990) and Hather (2000), and modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University.

### **Results**

- 7.3 Finds and plant macrofossil remains were sparse throughout the samples. Ditch fills [26] and [50] each comprised a fragment of pottery, and ditch fill [33] contained a small fragment of flint. Charred plant macrofossils occurred in very low numbers in eight of the samples and included fragments of hazel nutshell in contexts [2], [31], [33] and [51] and a few weed seeds of grass, sedge or heath-grass in fills [6], [13], [20] and [33]. Poor preservation prevented identification of the cereal grain noted in ditch fill [10]. Charred rhizomes occurred in low numbers in seven of the samples and small fragments of charcoal were present in all but three of the fills. Identified charcoal, in order of abundance, included oak, gorse, alder, hazel, willow/poplar and holly. Due to the well-drained nature of the soils and the presence of modern roots, the uncharred seeds (including bramble, grass and goosefoot) are almost certainly modern intrusions. Material suitable for radiocarbon dating is present in seven of the samples, although there may be insufficient weight of carbon for several of these. The results are presented in Table 1.3.

### **Discussion**

- 7.4 Due to the absence of diagnostic palaeoenvironmental remains the assessment provides little information about the age or nature of the deposits. The fragments of charred hazel nutshell present in several of the samples are recorded in deposits from the Mesolithic onwards. Gorse charcoal was present in association with charred rhizomes in several of the contexts including [6], [10] and [45]. These

remains may be the result of clearance burning (large areas of gorse (Furze) are noted on the 1900 OS map of the area but are absent on more recent maps).

### **Recommendations**

- 7.5 No further analysis is required for the plant macrofossils due to their low numbers and poor preservation. If additional work is undertaken at the site, the results of this assessment should be added to any further palaeoenvironmental data produced.

## **8. The archaeological resource**

- 8.1 No archaeological resource has been identified in the eastern part of the site (Area 1).
- 8.2 Archaeological deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches in the central (Area 2) and eastern (Area 3) parts of the site. This encompassed trenches 1-5, 7-9 and 13. No archaeological deposits were identified within trench 6.
- 8.3 In Area 2 the archaeological resource comprised two pits and a gully.
- 8.4 In Area 3 the archaeological resource comprises ditches, gullies and pits, most of which correspond with the results of the geophysical survey. The features excavated confirm the presence of a small intensively-occupied series of enclosures with at least two phases covering at least 0.6 hectares. The precise function of these enclosures is presently unclear: a medieval manor probably lay approximately 300m to the west of Area 3 and the finds assemblage suggests that the activity in Area 3 would be contemporary with the manor. The South West Archaeological Research Framework indicates that isolated farmsteads were characteristic of the medieval landscape, and suggests that some modern isolated farmsteads such as Upcott Barton may originally have been small hamlets during the medieval period (Webster 2007, 197).
- 8.5 A small assemblage of mostly medieval pottery was recovered in Area 3, both from the archaeological features and from the unstratified spoil of trenches 1-8 and 13. The majority of finds, including all of the artefacts recovered from the archaeological features, dated to the medieval period, probably the 13th and 14th centuries. Prehistoric flints recovered may be residual. Palaeoenvironmental analysis of samples from the features indicates that they contain little significant information on the settlement economy and the environment.

## **9. Impact assessment**

- 9.1 Groundworks associated with the development have the potential to remove or truncate significant archaeological deposits across parts of the central and western areas of the site (Areas 2 and 3).

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 No archaeological resource was identified which requires preservation *in situ*.

- 10.2 In Area 1, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.
- 10.3 In Areas 2 it is recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is undertaken in the vicinity of the archaeological resource during groundworks associated with the development
- 1.11 In Area 3 it is recommended that a programme of archaeological strip and recording is completed prior to development works.

## 11. Sources

- Allan, J, 1978 The pottery, in D Austin, Excavations in Okehampton Deer Park, 1976-78, *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 36, 226-236
- Allan, J, 1994 *Medieval pottery and the dating of deserted settlements on Dartmoor*, *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 52, 141-147
- Allan, J, & Perry, I, 1982 Pottery and tiles, in R A Higham, J Allan & S R Blaylock, Excavations at Okehampton Castle, Devon: Part 2: the Bailey, *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 40, 86-103
- Archaeological Services 2010 *Land at Upcott Barton, Devon: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Unpublished report 2520, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2012 *Beaford Brook, Upcott Barton, Devon: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report 3017, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Butler, C, 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Stroud
- Hather, J G, 2000 *The identification of the Northern European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators*. London
- Preston, C D, Pearman, D A, & Dines, T D, 2002 *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford
- Schweingruber, F H, 1990 *Microscopic wood anatomy*. Birmensdorf
- Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge
- Webster, C J (ed), 2007 *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework – Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Taunton

## Appendix 1: Data tables

**Table 1.1: Context data**

The \* symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of finds of the following types: P pottery, F flint, I industrial residues

No	Trench	Description	P	F	I
F1	9	Cut of curvilinear feature			
2	9	Fill of curvilinear feature F1			
F3	9	Cut of pit			
4	9	Fill of pit F3		*	
F5	7	Cut of ditch			
6	7	Fill of ditch F5	*		
F7	7	Cut of ditch			
8	7	Fill of ditch F7			
F9	3	Cut of ditch			
10	3	Primary fill of ditch F9		*	
11	3	Secondary fill of ditch F9			
F12	8	Cut of possible trackway			
13	8	Fill of possible trackway F12			
F14	9	Cut of pit			
15	9	Fill of pit F14			
16	12	Fill of drain F18			
17	12	Fill of drain F18			
F18	12	Cut of drain			
19	4	Secondary fill of ditch F21			
20	4	Primary fill of ditch F21			
F21	4	Cut of ditch			
22	4	Fill of ditch F23			
F23	4	Cut of ditch			
24	4	Fill of linear feature F24			
F25	4	Cut of linear feature			
26	2	Fill of ditch F27	*	*	
F27	2	Cut of ditch			
F28	3	Cut of ditch			
29	3	Primary fill of ditch F28			
30	3	Secondary fill of ditch F28			
31	5	Fill of gully F32			
F32	5	Cut of gully			
33	5	Fill of ditch F34		*	
F34	5	Cut of ditch			
35	4	Secondary fill of ditch F37			
36	4	Primary fill of ditch F37			*
F37	4	Cut of ditch			
38	4	Fill of gully F39			
F39	4	Cut of gully			
F40	1	Cut of ditch			
41	1	Secondary fill of ditch F40			
F42	13	Cut of ditch			
43	13	Fill of ditch F42			
F44	13	Cut of ditch			
45	13	Primary fill ditch F44			
46	13	Secondary fill of ditch F44			
47	1	Fill of drain F49			
48	1	Stone fill of drain F49			
F49	1	Cut of drain			
50	2	Primary fill of ditch F40	*		
51	5	Fill of possible ditch or pit, possible natural feature F52			
F52	5	Cut of possible ditch or pit, possible natural feature			
53	1-13	Topsoil			
54	1-13	Natural			

55	7	Subsoil			
56	12	Clay band			

Table 1.2: Ceramic quantification by context

Context	Fabric	Date	Form	Sherds	Wt	Rims	Bases	Use
6	1	medieval		4	15			
50 <19>	1	medieval		1	1			
26	1	medieval		6	27			soot/burning ext surface
26 <11>	1	medieval		1	3			heavily soot on ext surface
u/s Tr.6	2	medieval		11	22			
u/s Tr.6	crumb brick/tile/pot			1	1			
u/s Tr.8	1	medieval		1	2			
u/s Tr.1	1	medieval		6	22			some very eroded sherds
u/s Tr.1	1	medieval	pitcher	1	11	1		
u/s Tr.1	plain creamware	18thC		1	1			
u/s Tr.2	1	medieval	jars	23	58	4		1 wall with heavy soot ext surface
u/s Tr.4	crumb brick/tile/pot			1	1			
u/s Tr.7	2	medieval		1	1			
u/s Tr.7	modern pantile	19thC	roof tile	1	75			
u/s Tr.5	3	post-med		1	2			
u/s Tr.13	4	medieval	jug	1	76		1	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>61</b>	<b>318</b>			

Fabric 1: grey fabric with orange exterior surface, or orange throughout; hand-made coarseware; gritty. North Devon Medieval Coarseware.

Fabric 2: variant of Fabric 1. Red fabric throughout; hand-made coarseware; finer and with more inclusions than Fabric 1. North Devon Medieval Coarseware.

Fabric 3: Post-medieval North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

Fabric 4: sandy, micaceous fabric with occasional large temper. Base of jug. Greyware. Green glazed on exterior surface only. Medieval.



Table 1.3: Data from palaeoenvironmental assessment

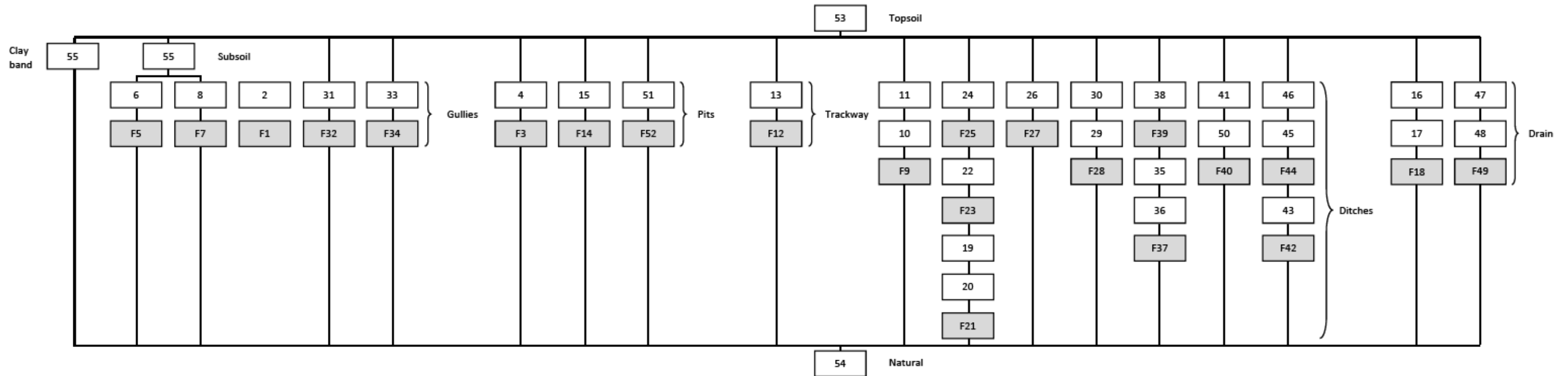
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Context	2	4	6	10	15	13	20	22	29	30
Feature No.	F1	F3	F5	F9	F14	F12	F21	F23	F28	F28
Feature	gully	pit	gully	ditch	pit	track	ditch	ditch	ditch	ditch
Material available for radiocarbon dating	-	(☐)	☐	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volume processed (l)	7	7	7	8	6	7	4	6	7	9
Volume of flot assessed (ml)	15	10	40	60	25	20	10	30	40	10
<b>Residue contents</b>										
Charcoal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flint (number of fragments)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pot (number of fragments)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Flot matrix</b>										
Charcoal	+	++	++	+	+	+	(+)	(+)	(+)	-
Rhizomes (charred)	(+)	-	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	-	(+)	-	-
Roots (modern)	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+
Uncharred seeds	-	(+)	-	-	+	-	+	++	-	-
<b>Charred remains (total count)</b>										
(c) <i>Cerealia</i> indeterminate grain	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
(h) <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (Heath-grass) caryopsis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
(t) <i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel) nutshell fragment	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(w) <i>Carex</i> sp (Sedges) trigonous nutlet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(x) Poaceae undiff. (Grass family) >1mm caryopsis	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

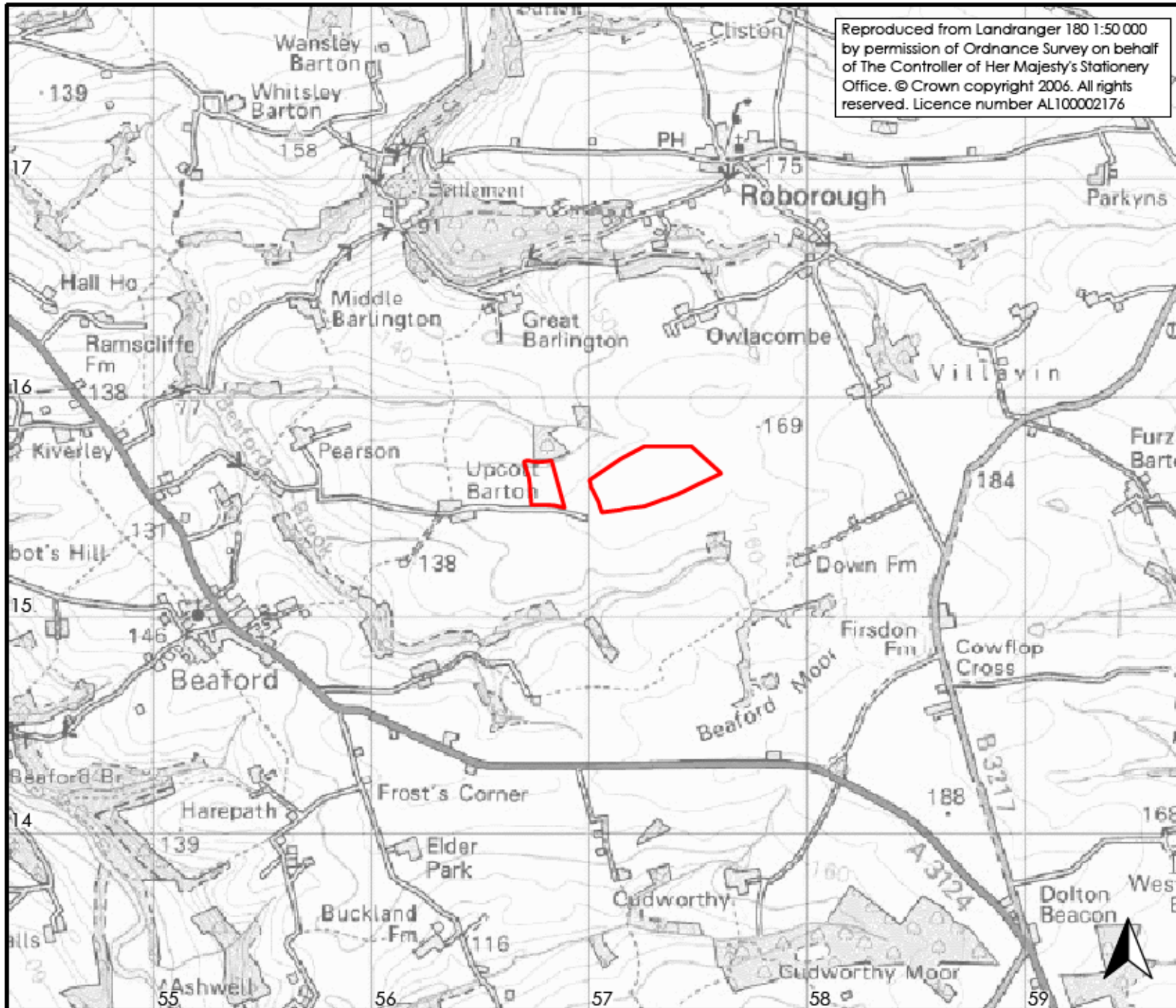
[c-cultivated plant; h-heathland; t-tree/shrub; w-wet/damp ground; x-wide niche

(+): trace; +: rare; ++: occasional; +++: common; ++++: abundant

(☐) there may be insufficient weight of carbon available for radiocarbon dating]

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix





Reproduced from Landranger 180 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number AL100002176

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

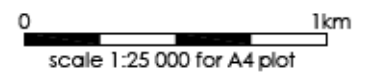
## DURHAM UNIVERSITY






on behalf of  
**Wessex Solar Energy**

Beaford Brook  
Upcott Barton  
Devon

archaeological evaluation  
report 3058

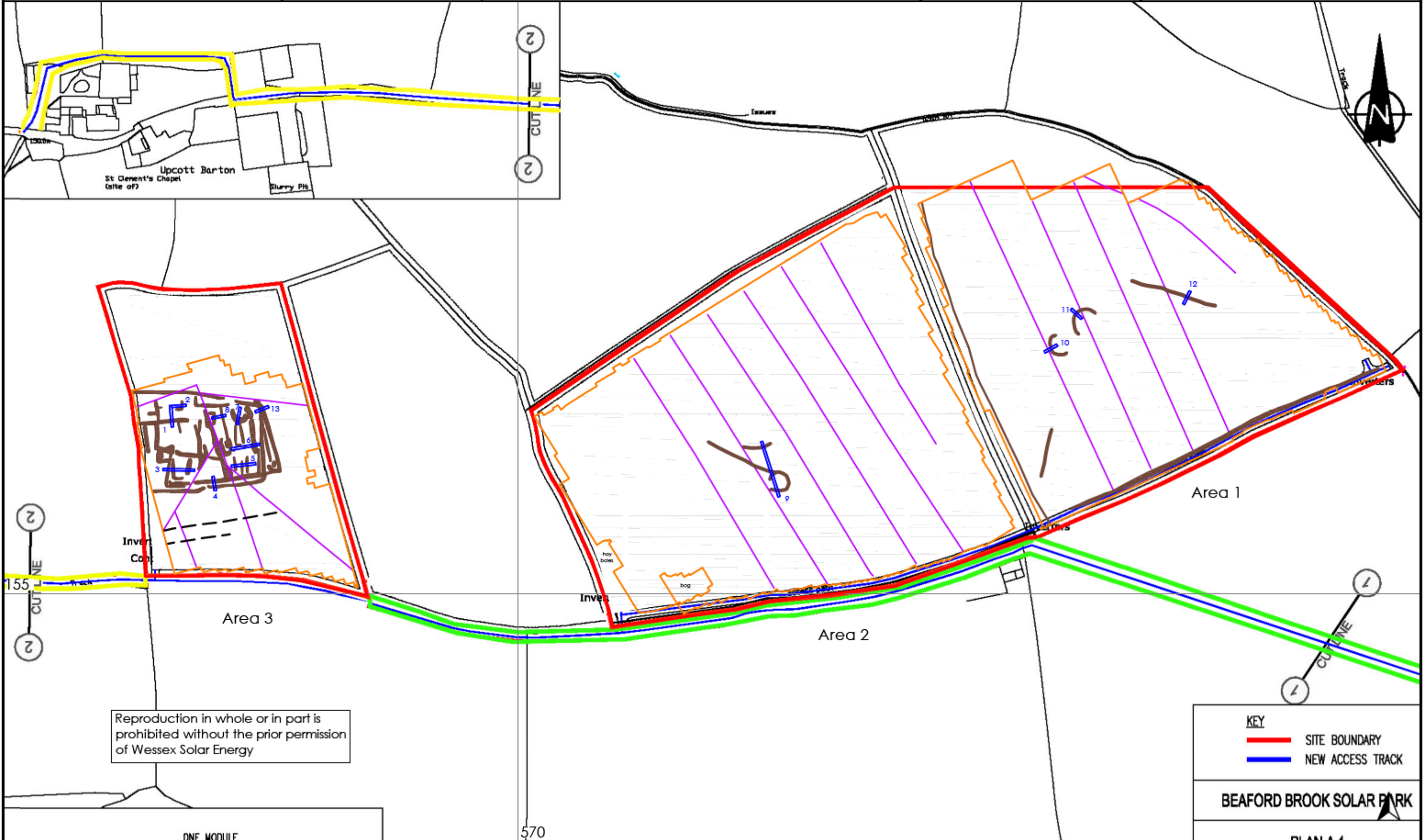
Figure 1: Site location



- |   |                     |   |                               |
|---|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  | magnetic survey     |  | land drain                    |
|  | proposed trench     |  | track / former field boundary |
|  | soil-filled feature |   |                               |



0 100m  
scale 1:2500 for A3 plot

Figure 2: Location of trenches



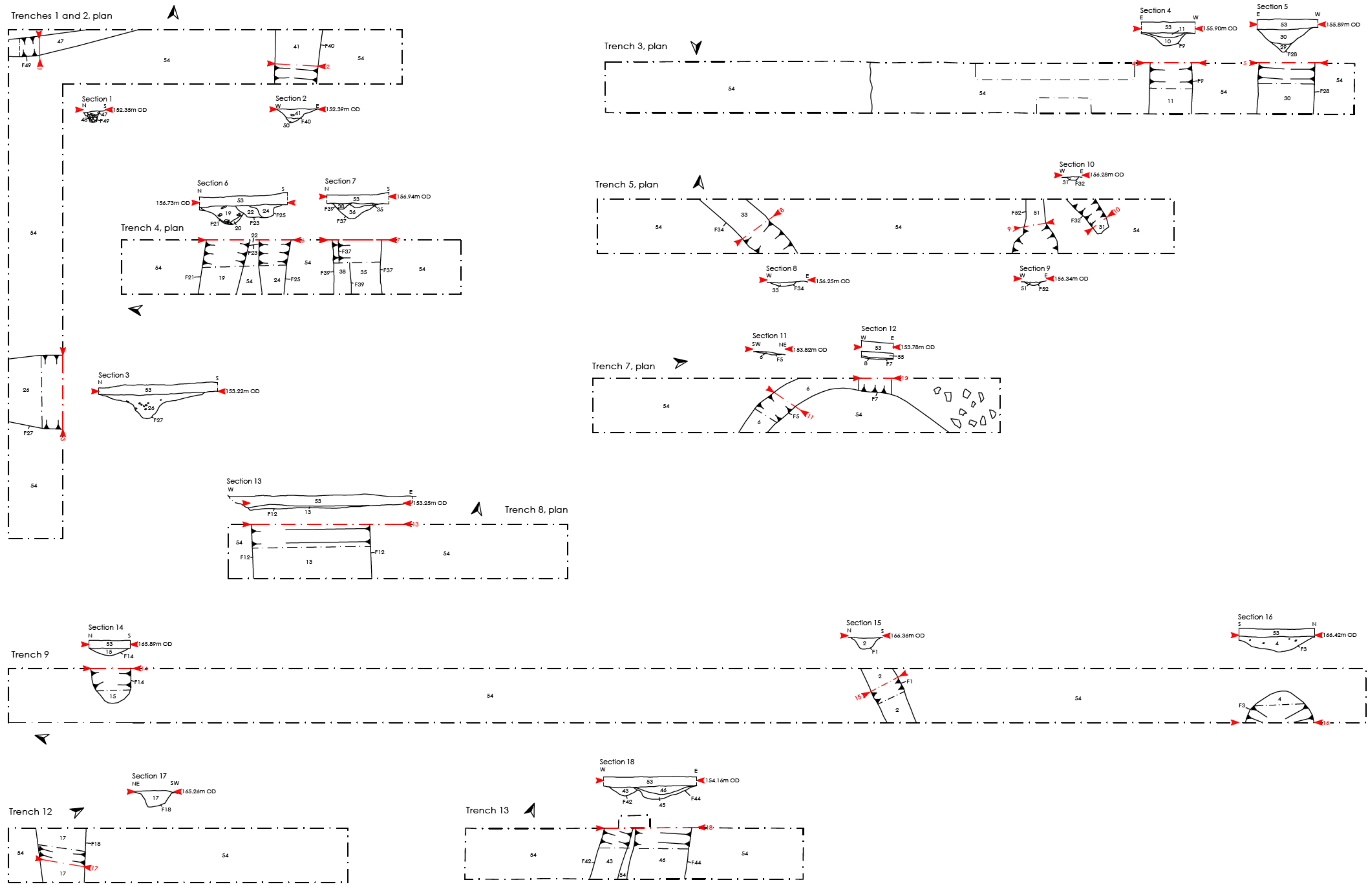
Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of Wessex Solar Energy

**KEY**

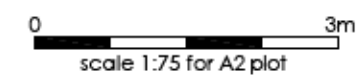
-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  NEW ACCESS TRACK

**BEAFORD BROOK SOLAR PARK**

PLAN A



extent of excavation  
 section



on behalf of  
Wessex Solar Energy

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Beaford Brook  
Upcott Barton  
Devon  
archaeological evaluation  
report 3058  
Figure 3: Trench plans and sections



Figure 4: Ditch F27, looking east



Figure 5: Ditch F40, looking north



Figure 6: Ditch F28, looking south



Figure 7: Ditch F9, looking south



Figure 8: Ditch F37 and gully F39, looking east



Figure 9: Ditches F21 and F23, and linear feature F25, looking east





Figure 10: Gully F32, looking south-east



Figure 11: Pit/ditch or natural feature F52 north



Figure 12: Gully F34, looking north-west



Figure 13: Gully F5=F7, looking northwest



Figure 14: Hollow or trackway F12, looking north



Figure 15: Ditches F42 and F44, looking north