

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION ON LAND AT SENTRY'S FARM,  
EXMINSTER, DEVON**

**prepared for Bellway Homes Ltd.**

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with a contribution by T. Gent**

**Exeter Archaeology**

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## *Summary*

*An archaeological trench evaluation of land with archaeological potential at Sentry's Farm, Exminster was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during June 2010. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of eleven trenches totalling 460m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide.*

*The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological features in eight of the eleven trenches evaluated. Although only one of these features can be dated with any certainty they appear for the most part to be early in the archaeological sequence lying below soil deposits and episodes of ploughing that have taken place in antiquity.*

*A ditch recorded on a NE-SW alignment and recognised in three separate trenches in the main area of proposed development may represent a field boundary or an enclosure which could be prehistoric or Romano-British in date. A charcoal-rich pit, also in the main proposal area within trench 10, produced a Radiocarbon date which lies with the pre-Conquest (Saxon) period.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Bellway Homes Ltd. and presents the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) in June 2010 on land at Sentry's Farm to the southeast of the village of Exminster, Devon. It represents archaeological evaluation work required by Teignbridge District Council as advised by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service (DCCHES) in support of a forthcoming planning application for the development of the site as residential accommodation.

### 1.1 **The site** (SX 9490 8709 Figs. 1 and 2)

The evaluation site comprises an irregular-shaped area within fields immediately to the south of existing housing on the site of Sentry's Farm just to the west of the A379 Exeter to Dawlish road. Existing field boundaries were utilised to delineate specific site areas; thus the larger part of the proposed development area lies within field 1 which forms a near rectangle approximately 115m E-W by 95m N-S whilst field 2 is a narrower strip approximately 225m NW-SE by 40m NE-SW immediately to the east of field 1.

The underlying geology of the site consists of Triassic and Permian Breccia and conglomerate (IGS 1971).

## 2. PROJECT SPECIFICATION

Specifications for archaeological evaluation were set out in a brief provided by DCCHES (ref. Arch/dc/te/16435). The principal requirements were:

- production of a desk-based assessment to place the development site in its historical and archaeological context;
- evaluative trenching to investigate a representative sample (5%), by area, of the proposed development site;
- the production of a report and archiving as appropriate.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was subsequently produced by EA, which described the precise methodology to be employed for the archaeological trench evaluation (see 5 below).

## 3. AIMS

The principal aim of the project was to establish the presence or absence, character extent, depth and date of archaeological deposits within the site. The results of the evaluation will inform the planning process and may form the basis of a subsequent programme of archaeological investigation or mitigation within the site either prior to, and/or during construction, should the planning process proceed.

## 4. RESULTS OF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

The results of the desk-based assessment are presented in EA Report 10.28 (Manning 2010).

In summary, the assessment identified that the site lies within an area of dense prehistoric activity, with a double-ditched enclosure some 100m to the west, and four

other prehistoric or Roman sites within 500m of the site. The nearby village of Exminster is a Saxon foundation and was a Royal Manor in AD881. Sentry's Farm itself is of medieval (or earlier) origin and is first documented in the early 14th century. It was considered possible therefore that remains and deposits dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods could survive within the site. Both fields were down to pasture at the time of the assessment and evaluation although both are recorded as having being under arable cultivation in 1842 (Exminster Tithe Map).

## 5. METHOD

The agreed WSI for the evaluation proposed fourteen trenches totalling 500m in length to be excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. Trenches were positioned to achieve a representative spatial sample of 5% of the proposed development site. However, access to the northeastern corner of the proposal site was not possible at the time of the evaluation and it was agreed with DCCHEs that it would not be possible to accomplish the excavation of trenches 1-3. However, trenches 4-14 proceeded as per the original programme the only difference being that a slightly wider grading bucket, at 1.8m, was employed.

Machining continued until either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were reached. Where archaeological deposits were exposed, trenches were cleaned back by hand and the deposits investigated and recorded.

Standard EA recording procedures were employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on pro-forma single context record sheets, a drawn record was compiled in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a photographic record was prepared in black and white film and digital (colour) format.

## 6. RESULTS (Figs. 2 - 4)

The locations of the evaluation trenches are found on Fig. 2.

Note: as discussed above, Trenches 1-3 were not excavated. Trenches 4-7 were positioned in field 2, the easternmost of the two fields under investigation; the remaining trenches (8-14) were positioned in field 1.

### **General deposit sequence**

A broadly consistent soil profile was encountered across the site consisting of an undisturbed natural subsoil of reddish-brown sandy clay with some colour variations encountered at a depth of between 500mm and 1.6m, overlain by a layer of colluvial soil of mid-brown sandy clay with some colour variations and varying in thickness between 400mm and 760mm, in turn sealed by up to 200mm of topsoil. The colluvial soil may have been subject to periods of ploughing in antiquity and ploughing is certainly thought to have taken place in the mid 19th century (see above: Section 4). All excavated features were found beneath the colluvium.

### **6.1 Trenches 1- 3**

Not excavated, see above.

### **6.2 Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 3)**

Trench 4 was aligned ENE-WSW in field 2 and measured 20m in length. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 750mm. The typical deposit sequence comprised natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 600mm, overlain by up to 450mm of colluvial soil (402), in turn sealed by 200mm of topsoil. A single NW-SE aligned linear feature (403) interpreted as a ditch was exposed below the colluvial soil towards the eastern end of the trench.

Feature 403 was a linear feature (ditch) 600mm wide narrowing to 300mm at the base, on a NW-SE alignment. It was 300mm deep with a flat base (Fig. 3). It contained a single fill (404) consisting of mid-brown sandy clay.

### **6.3 Trenches 5 and 6 (Fig. 2)**

Trench 5 was aligned NNW-SSE in field 2 and measured 20m in length. Trench 6 was aligned NW-SE in field 2 and measured 50m in length. Both trenches produced a similar sequence of deposits with natural subsoil encountered at a depth of 500-860mm, overlain by up to 600mm of colluvial soil which was in turn sealed by topsoil.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

### **6.4 Trench 7 (Figs. 2 and 3)**

Trench 7 was aligned NW-SE in field 2. It measured 50m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 740mm. The deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 740mm, overlain by up to 600mm of colluvial soil (702) which was in turn sealed by up to 200mm of topsoil. A NE-SW aligned linear feature (703) interpreted as a ditch was exposed in addition to a small pit (705); both were exposed below the colluvial soil.

Feature 703 was a linear feature (ditch) on a NE-SW alignment, at the southeastern end of the trench. It measured 1.32m wide and was 500mm deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3). It contained a thin base fill of soft light grey-brown sandy clay (707) which appeared to have developed while the ditch was still open. This deposit was overlain by mid-brown sandy clay (704) which infilled the ditch.

Feature 705 was a small sub-circular pit located at the southeastern end of trench 7. It was 640mm wide and 280mm deep with a flat-bottomed bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (704) consisting of mid-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

### **6.5 Trench 8 (Fig. 2)**

Trench 8 was aligned ENE-WSW in field 1. It measured 30m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 860mm. The deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 500-860mm, overlain by up to 600mm of colluvial soil (801) which appeared to have been re-worked as a cultivation soil and contained 19th-century pottery. This was in turn sealed by up to 200mm of topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

### **6.6 Trench 9 (Figs. 2 and 3)**

Trench 9 was aligned NNW-SSE in field 1. It measured 50m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 960mm. The deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 960mm, overlain by up to 760mm of colluvial soil (901), in turn sealed by up to 200mm of topsoil.

A NE-SW aligned linear feature (904) interpreted as a ditch was exposed in addition to a small shallow pit (905); both were sealed by colluvial soil 901.

Feature 904 was a linear feature (ditch) located at the northern end of the trench on a NE-SW alignment. It measured 800mm wide and 360mm deep with a flat-bottomed V-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (903) consisting of grey-brown gravelly silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

Feature 905 was a small pit located centrally within the trench. It measured 800mm wide and 160mm deep with a wide bowl-shaped profile. The pit contained a single fill (902) consisting of light brown clayey-silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

### **6.7 Trench 10 (Figs. 2 and 3)**

Trench 10 was aligned ENE-WSW in field 1. It was 30m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m. The typical deposit sequence within the trench comprised undisturbed natural subsoil encountered at a depth of 1.6m, overlain by up to 400mm of dark brown soil (1002), in turn overlain by up to 500mm of pale colluvium (1001), sealed by 200mm of topsoil. Layer 1002 appears to represent the localised survival of a ploughsoil which was not recognised in the adjacent trench 14 whilst layer 1001 represents a layer of colluvium consistently encountered across the site.

A charcoal-rich sub-circular pit (1006) was exposed in addition to an approximately NW-SE aligned linear feature (1008) which is interpreted as a ditch. Both features cut natural subsoil and were sealed by soil layer 1002. The presence of pieces of fired clay along with abundant charcoal in pit 1006 suggests that the fill may have derived from a hearth or oven. Concentrations of charcoal present in layer 1002 above and to the west of pit 1006 suggest that cultivation associated with ploughing has truncated the upper fill of the pit which is therefore likely to have cut originally from a higher level.

Feature 1006 was a small pit located near the east end of trench 10. It was 860mm wide and 360mm deep with an asymmetrical profile (Fig. 3). It contained a single fill (1007) consisting of very dark-brown clayey-silt with significant amounts of charcoal and some lumps of low-fired clay. The charcoal was sampled <001> for wood identification and radiocarbon dating.

Feature 1008 was a linear feature (ditch) on a NW-SE alignment 8.3m from the western end of the trench. It measured 240mm wide, narrowing to 180mm on the north side of the trench, and 280mm deep with a wide bowl-shaped profile and a central U-shaped slot. It contained a single fill (1009) consisting of dark-brown/grey-brown gravelly silt with occasional small angular stones and charcoal flecks.

### **6.8 Trench 11 (Figs. 2 and 4)**

Trench 11 was aligned ENE-WSW in field 1. It measured 50m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 820mm. The typical deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 820mm, overlain by up to 700mm of colluvial soil (1102), in turn sealed by up to 100mm of topsoil. Two linear features (1105 and 1107) and two small sub-circular post holes or small pits (1103 and 1110) were exposed. All features cut natural subsoil and were sealed by layer 1102.

Feature 1105 was a linear feature (ditch) on a NW-SE alignment. It measured 1.1m wide and 340mm deep with an irregular profile, near vertical on the southern side with a gentle slope on the north. It contained a single fill (1106) consisting of dark-brown sandy clay.

Feature 1107 was a linear feature (ditch) on a N-S alignment. It measured 1.7 m wide and 300mm deep with a wide bowl-shaped profile; almost flat-bottomed. It contained two fills; a primary fill (1108)

comprising reddish-brown coarse sandy clay, which may have derived from the weathering of the sides of the ditch when it was open, and an upper fill (1109) comprising dark-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A fragment of cow femur was recovered from this deposit.

Feature 1103 was a small post-hole located near the west end of the trench. It measured 320mm deep. It contained a single fill (1104) consisting of light-grey to brown sandy clay.

Feature 1110 was a shallow post-hole measuring 800mm deep and 430mm wide. It appeared to have been truncated as a result of ploughing. It contained a single fill (1111) consisting of light-grey to brown sandy clay.

### **6.9 Trench 12 (Figs. 2 and 4)**

Trench 12 was aligned NNW-SSE in field 1. It measured 50m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 800mm. The typical deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 560mm, overlain by up to 400mm of colluvial soil (1201), in turn sealed by up to 160mm of topsoil. A NE-SW aligned linear feature (1203) was exposed below layer 1201.

A single worked flint (subsequently identified as a borer) was recovered from the fill of an amorphous tree-throw pit (not illustrated) which was also sealed by colluvium 1201.

Feature 1203 was a linear feature (ditch) on a NE-SW alignment. It measured 1.7 m wide and 560mm deep with a wide v-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (1204) consisting of dark-brown clayey silt.

### **6.10 Trench 13 (Figs. 2 and 4)**

Trench 13 was aligned NNW-SSE in field 1. It measured 60m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 840mm. The typical deposit sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 840mm, overlain by up to 700mm of colluvial soil (1302), in turn sealed by up to 140mm of topsoil. A single linear feature (1303), interpreted as a ditch, was exposed in addition to a small sub-circular pit (1305). Both features were exposed beneath colluvium 1302.

Feature 1303 was a linear feature (ditch) on an ENE-WSW alignment. It measured 900mm wide and 240mm deep with a shallow V-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (1304) consisting of grey-brown sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecks.

Feature 1305 was a shallow pit measuring 520mm wide and 80mm deep. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile, indicating a degree of truncation by ploughing. It contained a single fill (1306) consisting of dark-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and some small angular stones.

### **6.11 Trench 14 (Figs. 2 and 4)**

Trench 14 was aligned ENE-WSW in field 1. It measured 50m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 830mm. The typical layer sequence comprised undisturbed natural subsoil, encountered at a depth of 830mm, overlain by up to 660mm of colluvial soil (1401), in turn sealed by up to 170mm of topsoil. Two intercutting features (1402 & 1406) were exposed below layer 1401. The earlier of the two (1402) was a pit. The later feature (1406) was somewhat irregular in plan with indistinct edges and may have been formed naturally (e.g. a tree-throw pit).

Feature 1402 was a pit and measured at least 1.2m wide and 440mm deep with a wide bowl-shaped profile (Fig. 4). It contained three fills:

The primary fill (1405) comprised reddish-brown sandy clay-silt with small stones and gravel; it had a maximum depth of 120mm. This was overlain by a thin deposit of grey clayey-silt (1404) up to 80mm thick containing some gravel inclusions. The upper fill of the pit (1403) comprised reddish-brown



clayey-silt with small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks on the western edge; it had a maximum depth of 230mm.

Pit 1402 had been disturbed on its northeast side by a later feature (1406). This measured 1.4m wide and 320mm deep. It had very indistinct edges and a bowl-shaped profile. It is interpreted as a tree throw.

## 7. THE FINDS

### 7.1 Lithics

<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
Unstrat	Trench 10	1	flake with retouch Neo/EBA
Unstrat	Trench 12	1	Struck flake cortical flint Neo/EBA
Unstrat	Trench 14	1	Cortical flint Neo/EBA
402	Trench 4	1	Struck flake cortical flint Neo/EBA
901	Trench 9	1	Cortical flint Neo/EBA
1101	Trench 11	1	Struck flake cortical flint Neo/EBA
1207	Trench 12	1	Borer with much retouch and small area of cortex
1302	Trench 13	1	Scraper on cortical flint, v black, Neo/EBA
1302	Trench 13	1	fragment

Table 1: Quantification and description of lithic finds by context

All nine flints have been struck from the dark- to mid-grey mottled grey flint so often recovered in Devon. A significant proportion, five in total, display large areas of unabraded cortex, with a rough end scraper and flake from colluvium (1302) representing primary flakes from the initial reduction of nodules. One piece, from 901 (also in a deposit of colluvium) represents the trimming of a core.

Other tools comprise a finely retouched borer in a dark flint from 1207 (a tree-throw), and what closely resembles a thumbnail scraper, which may have been reworked around its full circumference to produce seven evenly spaced blunt points. This last rather odd piece recovered from colluvium (1302) may be of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date, possibly reflecting a date for the assemblage as a whole.

### 7.2 Pottery & Dating Evidence

<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>comments/dating evidence</i>
602	Trench 6	1	1	Low-fired thick prehistoric sherd ?BA
801	Trench 8	1	1	Roman Black-burnished ware
801	Trench 8	1	1	Medieval fabric 21, granite derived C13 <sup>th</sup> -C14 <sup>th</sup>
901	Trench 9	1	1	?Roman sherd
1001	Trench 10	1	1	Medieval fabric 20, Oxidised C10 <sup>th</sup> C14 <sup>th</sup> , most likely C10 <sup>th</sup> -C12 <sup>th</sup> .

Table 2: quantification and description of pottery finds by context

All of the pottery finds were recovered from colluvial soil which may have been subject to cultivation in antiquity. Layers 801 and 901 also produced 19th-century pottery which was discarded.

### 7.3 Miscellaneous

<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
1007	Trench 10	3	Thick low-fired clay lumps, possibly from a hearth.

Table 3: quantification and description of miscellaneous finds by context

## 8. RADIOCARBON DATING

A sample of charcoal from the fill (1007) of pit 1006 (trench 10) was submitted for identification and subsequent dating by C<sup>14</sup> testing. A date of 1150 BP was obtained with a 95% probability that the charcoal dated to the period AD770 to AD980.

The certified results are presented in Appendix 1 and the charcoal identifications are presented in Appendix 2.

## 9. DISCUSSION

Virtually all of the lithic finds were recovered from field 1, with only a single cortical flake from field 2, and all flints were recovered from the colluvial soil deposits identified across the site. The worked flints and struck flakes hint at prehistoric activity in the area tentatively dated to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

A total of sixteen discreet archaeological features were located in eight of the eleven evaluation trenches which were opened (trenches 5 and 6 in field 2 and trench 8 in field 1 were devoid of features). All of the features were sealed by colluvium, up to 760mm thick, which indicates that they are relatively early in the archaeological record. The colluvium is likely to have undergone subsequent ploughing perhaps both in the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, in some cases it might be suggested that reworking of the colluvium during periods of cultivation has obscured the former ground level from which the features were originally cut.

Of the sixteen features recorded and investigated eight were interpreted as ditches, four as pits, two as post-holes and two as tree throws; none of these features produced any dating evidence. Those features identified as ditches were widely spread around the evaluation area and their alignments and characteristics suggest that none were contemporaneous with the exception of 904 in trench 9, 1203 in trench 12 and 1303 in trench 13 (all field 1). The near common alignment of all three over a distance of approximately 85m could be suggestive of a continuous feature, perhaps a field boundary or enclosure. Each of these separately recorded sections of ditch has similar profiles which might support an argument for their being segments of the same feature.

Of the four pits excavated only pit 1006 in trench 10 had the potential for providing dating evidence, a sample having been taken from its charcoal-rich fill (1007) for C<sup>14</sup> analysis; a Saxon date was subsequently obtained (see section 8 above). The charcoal and burnt clay in the fill perhaps indicates that the deposit was associated with cooking. Trench 10 was the only evaluation trench in which a distinct soil (1002), other than the homogenous colluvium seen elsewhere over the site, was recognised sealing natural deposits. The presence of 1002 appears to have been localised to this area and it was not present in the adjacent trenches 6 and 14.

There was a paucity of pottery evidence from the site with only one sherd of prehistoric (Bronze Age) pot from the entire evaluation exercise, two sherds of Roman pot and only two sherds of Medieval fabric, all from colluvial soils which appear, from the presence of post-medieval pottery also, to have been subject to mixing as a result of cultivation processes.

In summary the evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological features in most of the areas evaluated within fields 1 and 2. The features, almost without exception, were only apparent at the interface between a fairly homogenous layer of colluvial deposits and the underlying natural deposits. Although only one of these features can be dated with any certainty the truncation of the upper levels of some of these features, which may have occurred due to periods of ploughing in antiquity, suggests that they may be prehistoric, Romano-British or Saxon in origin. This is shown graphically in the case of pit 1006 in trench 10 where later ploughing has spread the upper fill of the pit which is known to have been backfilled in the Saxon period (see Fig. 4, section 2).

## 9. PROJECT ARCHIVE AND 'OASIS' REPORT

A fully integrated project archive has been compiled and will be deposited at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, under museum accession number 143/2010.

A report of the evaluation (including a pdf version of this document) has been submitted to the on-line database OASIS (On-line AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS), under OASIS ID: exeterar1-79591.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was commissioned by John Brindley of Bellway Homes Ltd. The project was managed by Peter Stead (EA). Site work was supervised by Alex Farnell with assistance from Andrew Passmore. The report was written by John Pamment Salvatore with assistance from Alex Farnell and with a contribution by Tim Gent on the flint assemblage. The illustrations were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The finds were catalogued by Charlotte Coles

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## SOURCES

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Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Sentry's Farm, Exminster, Devon. Unpub. document, Exeter Archaeology, May 2010.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**RESULT OF RADIOCARBON DATING**  
***RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE***

**Laboratory Code** SUERC-30753 (GU-22215)

**Submitter** Andrew Passmore  
 Exeter Archaeology  
 Custom House  
 The Quay  
 Exeter, Devon EX2 4AN

**Site Reference** Sentry's Farm, Exminster, Devon  
**Sample Reference** EA7273 Sample 001

**Material** Charcoal : maloideae

**d<sup>13</sup>C relative to VPDB** -27.0 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP** 1150 ± 35

- N.B.**
1. The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD). The error, which is expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.
  2. The calibrated age ranges are determined from the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program (OxCal3).
  3. Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. Any questions directed to the Radiocarbon Laboratory should also quote the GU coding given in parentheses after the SUERC code. The contact details for the laboratory are email [g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk](mailto:g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk) or Telephone 01355 270136 direct line.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :-

Date :-

Checked and signed off by :-

Date :-

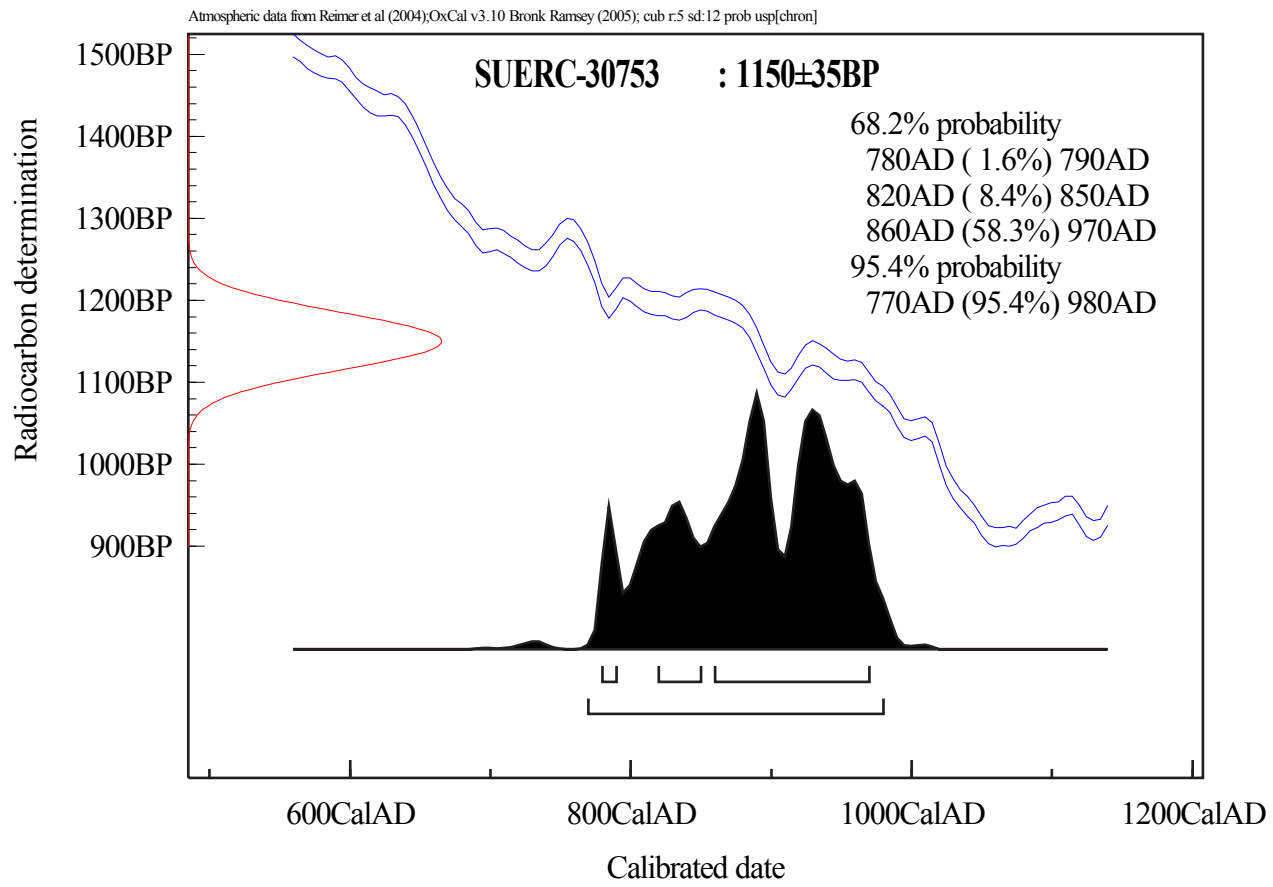


The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401



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## Calibration Plot



## APPENDIX 2

### CHARCOAL IDENTIFICATIONS

#### Wood charcoal identification - EA7273 <1> (1007) and material collected from (1006)

*Identifications carried out by Ellen Simmons (Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy, University of Sheffield)*

Wood charcoal fragments >2mm in size were fractured manually and the resultant anatomical features observed in transverse, radial and tangential planes using high power binocular reflected light (episcopic) microscopy (x50, x 100 and x 400). Identification of wood charcoal was carried out to as high a taxonomic level as possible by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Schweingruber, 1990; Hather, 2000). A record was also made, where possible, of the number of growth rings present as well as the ring curvature of the wood and details of the ligneous structure, in order for the part of the woody plant which had been burnt and the state of wood before charring, to be determined (Marguerie, & Hunot 2007). This data is recorded below in tables 1 and 2.

Of the 22 charcoal fragments examined, 21 were identified as black or grey alder (*Alnus glutinosa* / *incana*) and 1 as willow (*Salix* sp.). Due to the relatively small number of fragments identified however this species list cannot be assumed to fully represent the wood selected for fuel use at the site. The weak to moderate ring curvature exhibited by the majority of charcoal fragments analysed indicates that these fragments represent tree trunk rather than branch material. The presence of fungal hyphae in fragment number 16 further suggests that the wood from which this fragment originated was dead prior to charring (cf. Marguerie, & Hunot 2007).

Table 1 – Wood charcoal identification and dendro-anthracological information (cf. Marguerie, & Hunot 2007)

**Sample Number: 1**

**Context Number: 1007, collected from 1006**

**Weight of Sample (grams): 5.8**

Fragment Number	Fragment Size	Species	No. of Rings	Ring Curvature <sup>a</sup>	Fungal Hyphae <sup>b</sup>
1	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	3	1	
2	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	9	2	
3	>4mm	<i>Salix</i> sp.	9	2	
4	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	7	1	
5	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	6	1	
6	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	4	1	
7	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	5	2	
8	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	3	2	
9	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	8	1	
10	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	7	1	
11	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	5	2	
12	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	3	1	
13	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	2	
14	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	3	2	
15	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	2	
16	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	2	1
17	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	1	
18	>2mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	1	
19	>2mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	/	1	
20	>2mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	1	1	
21	>2mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> / <i>incana</i>	/	1	

<sup>a</sup> 1 = low curve rings; 2 = intermediate curved rings; 3 = strong curve rings

<sup>b</sup> 1 = yes

Table 2 – Wood charcoal identification and dendro-anthracological information (cf. Marguerie, & Hunot 2007)

**Sample Number: 1**

**Context Number: 1007, remainder of fragment sent for C<sup>14</sup> dating**

**Weight of Sample (grams): 0.2**

Fragment Number	Fragment Size	Species	No. of Rings	Ring Curvature <sup>a</sup>
1	>4mm	<i>Alnus glutinosa / incana</i>	5	1

<sup>a</sup> 1 = low curve rings; 2 = intermediate curved rings; 3 = strong curve rings

### References

- Hather, 2000. *The identification of the North European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators*. Archetype: London.
- Margueire, D. And Hunot, J-V. 2007. Charcoal analysis and dendrology: data from archaeological sites in north-western France. *Journal of Archaeological Science* **34**: 1417-1433
- Schweingruber, F .H. 1990. *Anatomy of European Woods*. Paul Haupt: Berne.



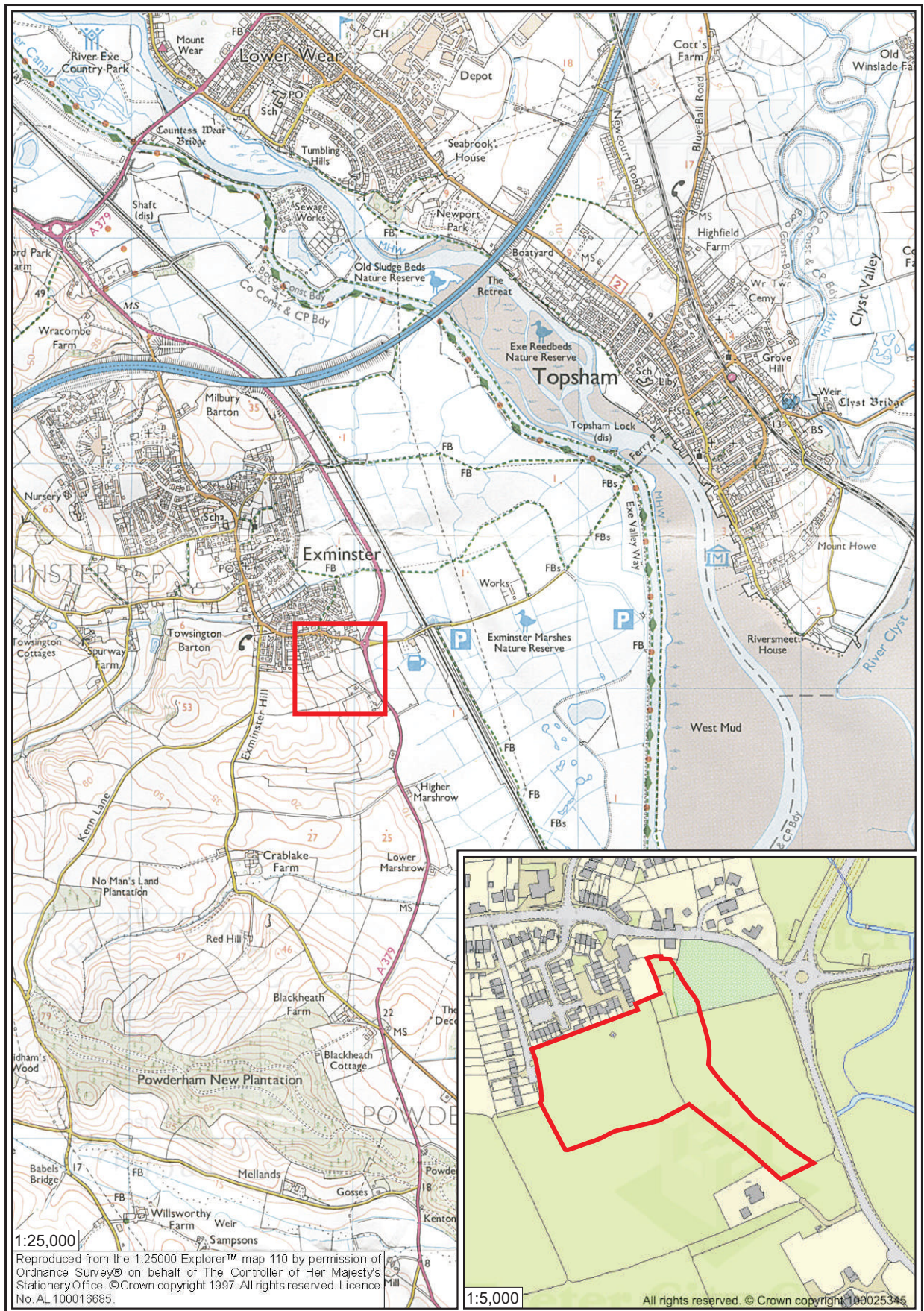


Fig. 1 Location of site.





Fig. 2 Location of trenches 1-14 , showing archaeological features. Trenches 1-3 not excavated.

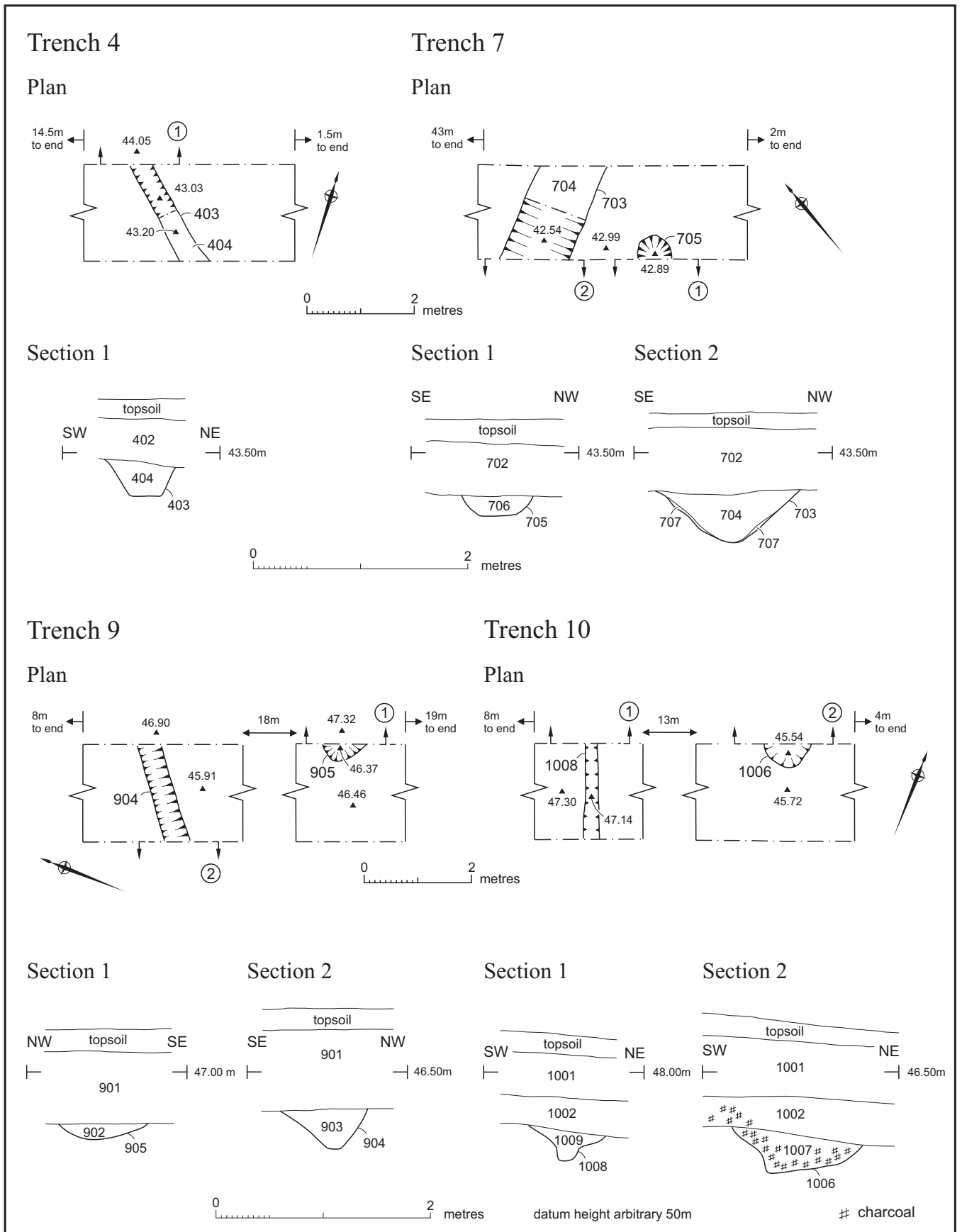
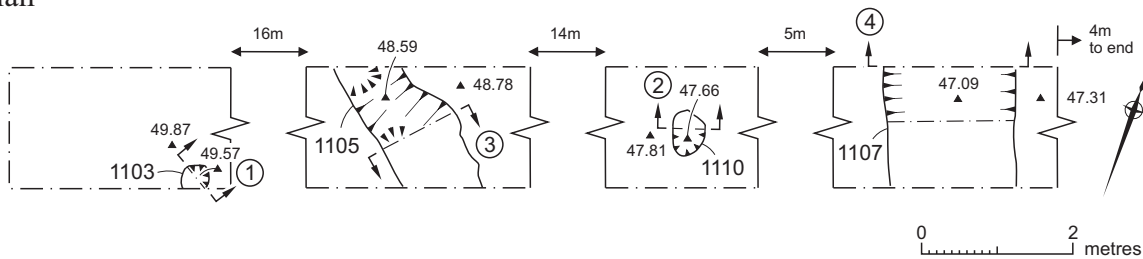


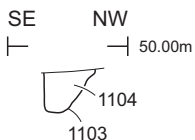
Fig. 3 Trenches 4, 7, 9, and 10: plan and sections.

## Trench 11

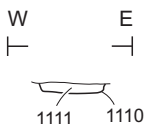
### Plan



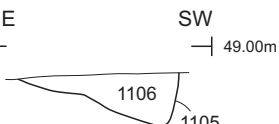
### Section 1



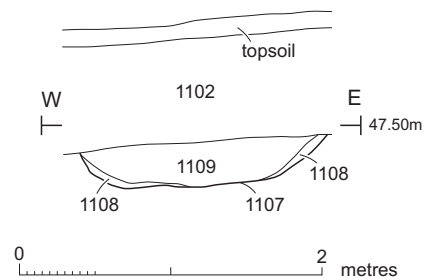
### Section 2



### Section 3

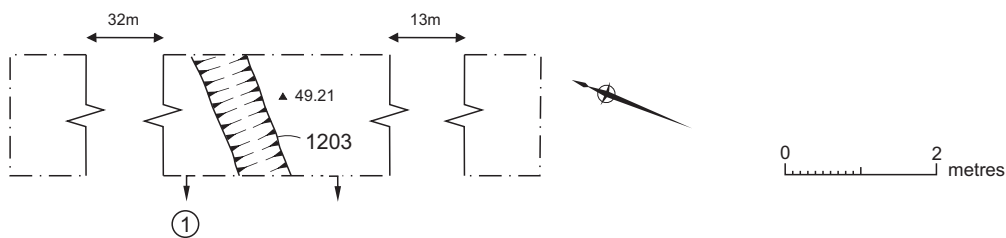


### Section 4

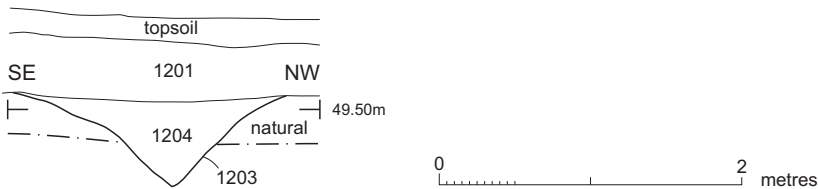


## Trench 12

### Plan

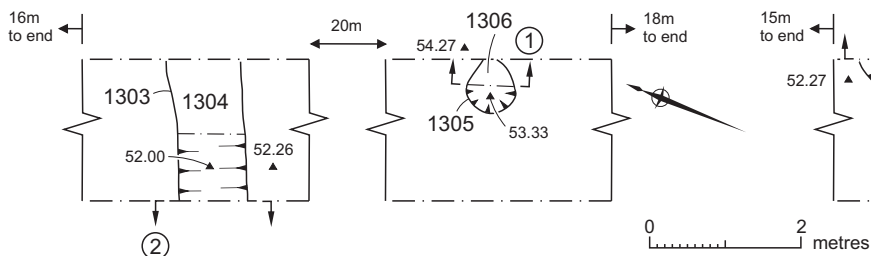


### Section 1

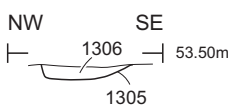


## Trench 13

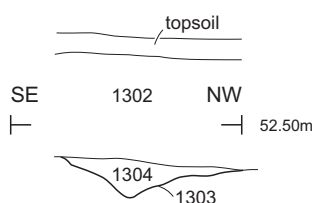
### Plan



### Section 1

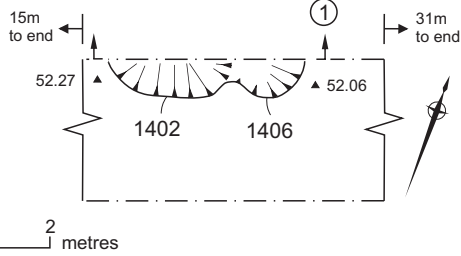


### Section 2

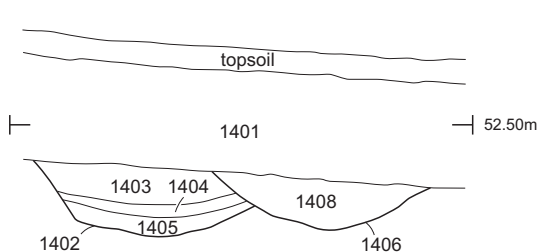


## Trench 14

### Plan



### Section 1



datum arbitrary 50m

Fig. 4 Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 14: plans and sections.



Pl. 1 Trench 7: general view looking northwest. 1m scale.

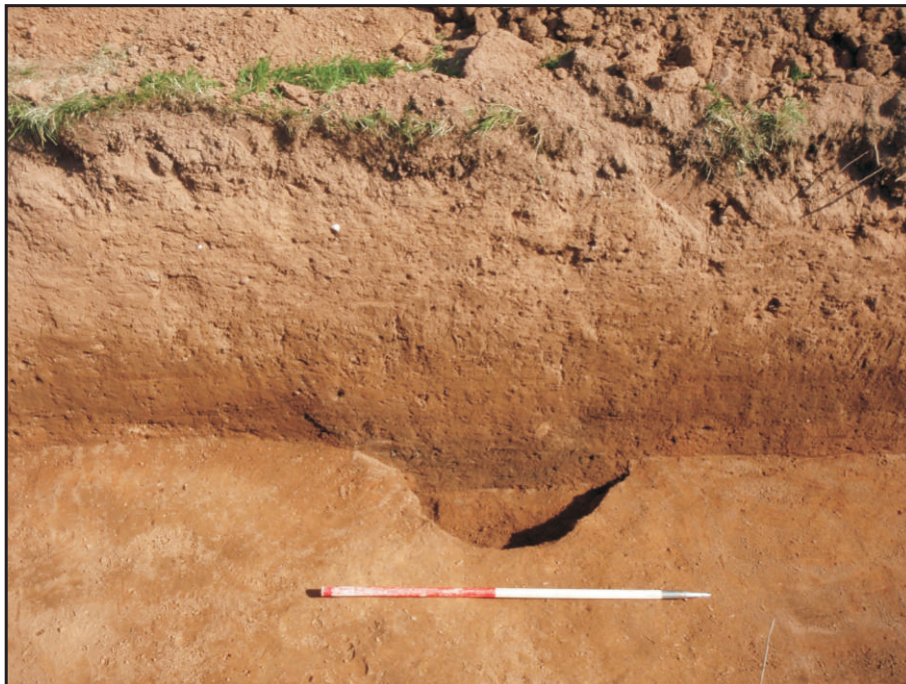


Pl. 2 Trench 8: general view looking west.





Pl. 3 Trench 4: ditch 403 looking northwest. 0.25m scale.



Pl. 4 Trench 10: pit 1006 looking north. 1m scale.



Pl. 5 Trench 12: ditch 1203 looking southwest. 1m scale.



Pl. 6 Trench 14: pit 1402 with tree-throw pit 1406 to east looking northwest. 1m scale.