

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Brayford, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 68651 33192	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring at Gards Quarry, Brayford Quarry		<b>Photo attached?</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 02/14/25237.98	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-85917	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS 2010.56	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  EA7334	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  22-25 October 2010	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>A strip, map and record exercise was undertaken during topsoil stripping within a field to the west of Gards Quarry (Fig. 1). The field lies to the north of the hamlet of Charles. A geophysical survey of the field in 2002 identified the presence of a ring ditch, probably representing the remains of a Bronze Age barrow.<sup>1</sup> During an archaeological watching brief on topsoil tripping of the adjacent part in the field in 2002 no features were exposed.<sup>2</sup> However, previous archaeological investigation within a different part of the quarry complex some 200m to the southeast identified a late Iron Age and a subsequent Roman enclosure (Reed 1999).<sup>3</sup></p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>An area of 5500sqm was stripped of topsoil (1000) and subsoil (1001) onto the natural silty clay and shale. Two archaeological features (and a third possible feature) were exposed cutting into the natural. Pit 1006 measured 0.70m long by 0.60m wide by 0.18m deep and had steep sides and a fairly flat base. The pit contained a single fill of yellowish-brown silty clay with flecks and fragments of charcoal (1005). Posthole 1008 had a diameter of 0.38-0.39m and was 0.09m deep. The posthole contained a single fill of dark reddish-brown silty clay (1007).</p> <p>The third feature (1004) was initially thought to be a pit on the basis of its very clean fill (1003), i.e. it lacked the shale inclusions observed in other natural pockets of clay. However on excavation, its irregular, linear nature indicated that it was probably of natural origin.</p> <p>No finds were recovered from any of the contexts.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>The presence of relatively few features within the area recorded is consistent with the geophysical survey and the results of the earlier watching brief within this field. With the exception of the Bronze Age barrows the flatter ground to the immediate north-northwest of Charles appears to have been relatively 'unoccupied', with known prehistoric and Roman settlement being located closer to the top of the river valley to the east. The two definite excavated features are undated.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> A.E. Johnson 2002 <i>Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon (6) magnetometer (Gradiometer) Survey</i> (Survey Ref: 2641102/BRD/HAN).  <sup>2</sup> <i>Bray Valley Quarry, Brayford, DCC HER entry</i> (EA project number 6156).  <sup>3</sup> Reed, S.J. 1999 <i>Archaeological evaluation of a proposed tipping site at Bray Valley Quarries, Brayford, Devon</i>. EA Draft Report <b>99.68</b></p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b>  Fiona Pink and Andrew Passmore (Exeter Archaeology)	<b>Date sent to HER:</b>  25 November 2010	

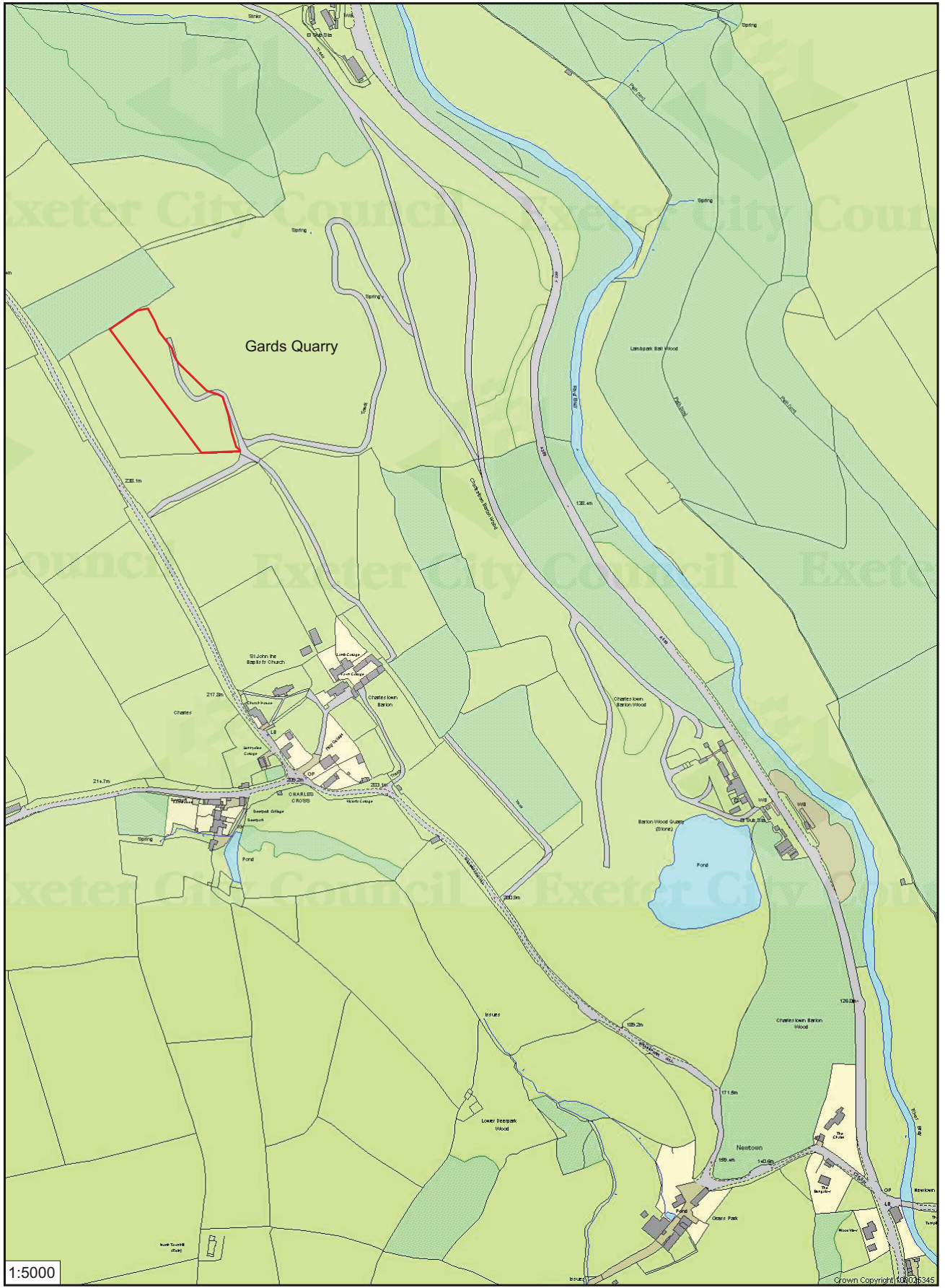


Fig. 1 Location of site.

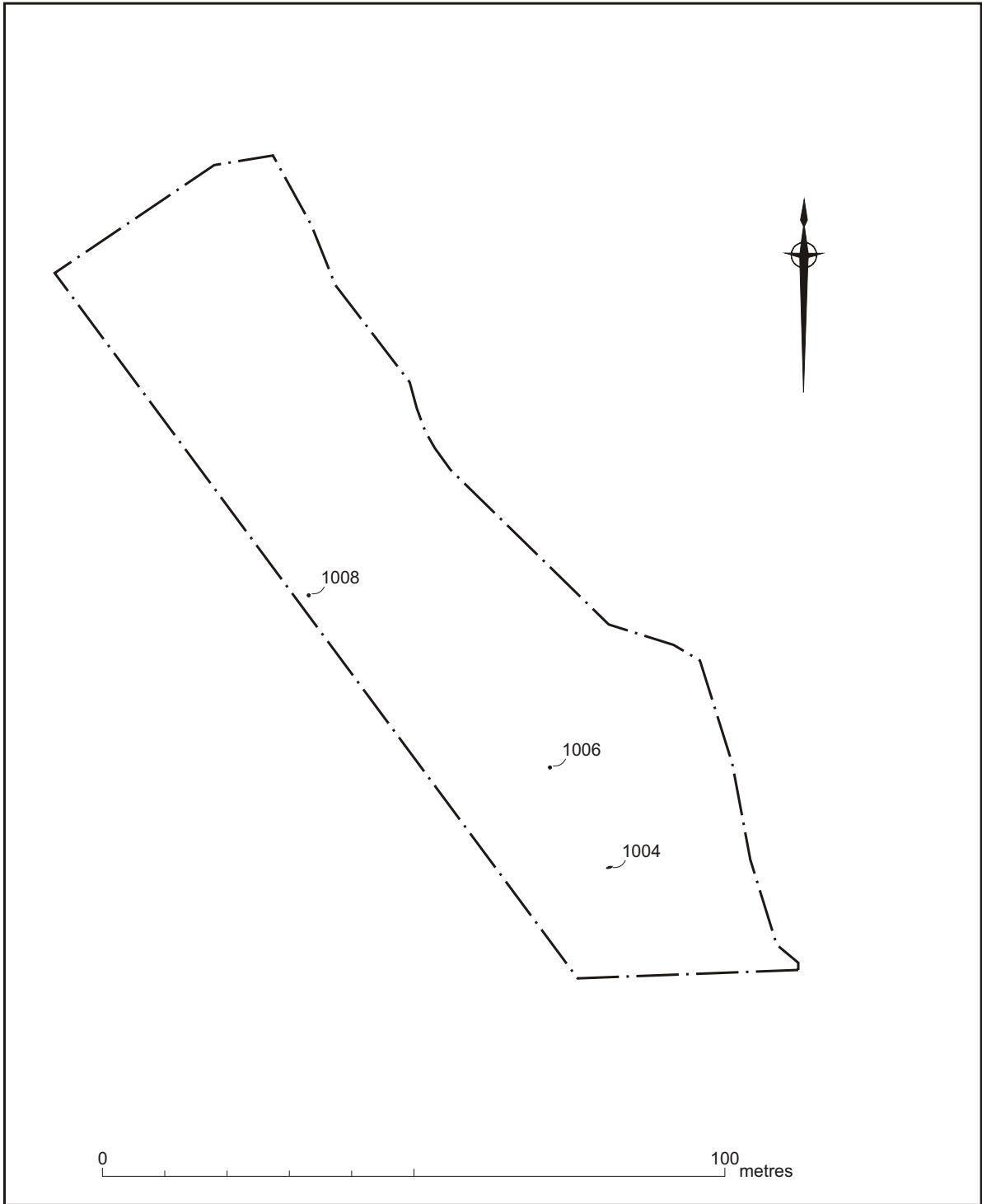


Fig. 2 Site plan.

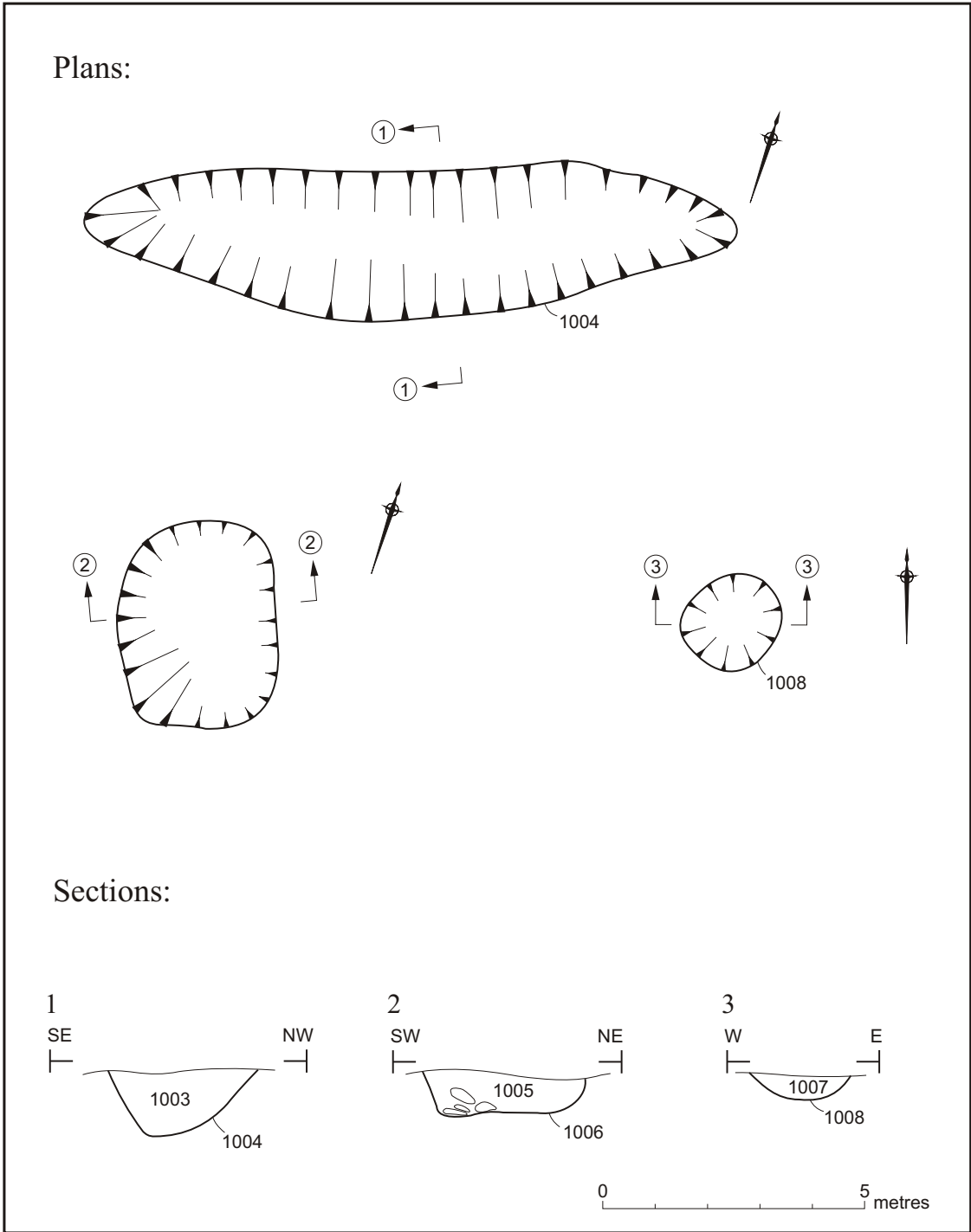


Fig. 3 Plans and sections.