

**Land Adjacent to the
Fountain Head Inn,
Berry Hill,
Branscombe,
Devon**

**Archaeological Evaluation and
Excavation**



(Photo courtesy of Churchwood Construction Ltd)

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	Land Adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn
Location:	Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon
Type:	Evaluation and excavation
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Planning reference	15/1291/MOUT
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Location of Archive:	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, Devon
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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology in August 2021 at Land Adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon. A total of two trenches and an excavation area (measuring 605m²) were investigated.

The archaeology present was concentrated to the southern part of the Site and consisted of two possible enclosures dating to the late medieval period. Since neither enclosure was fully exposed, their exact function remains unclear, but they are likely to be separate phases of in-field land divisions. The pottery recovered suggests that these enclosures were in use between the 13th – 15th centuries. No direct evidence of settlement activity, such as structural remains, postholes, or beam slots, were noted, although the unabraded pottery suggests that there was a settlement or settlements nearby.

The two earlier enclosure ditches were truncated by two further ditches of a 16th – 18th century date, which are likely to have been part of a larger field division and/or drainage ditches.

The evaluation trenches produced evidence of a single undated burnt-out tree throw to the north-west, and a modern borehole to the south-west.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out a report of an archaeological evaluation carried out by ISCA Archaeology (ISCA) between 9 – 20 August 2021 at Land Adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’) centred at NGR SY 1874 8886 (Fig. 1). The evaluation and excavation were commissioned by Avalon Planning and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Churchwood Construction Ltd. This report sets out the background, methodology and the results of the evaluation and excavation undertaken as a requirement of Condition 8 of outline planning permission (15/1291/MOUT) for proposed residential development of the Site, consisting of 10 new-build houses and associated landscaping and services.

1.2 The evaluation and excavation were carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced prior to the commencement of the works (Avalon 2021) and drawn up in consultation with Devon District Council Historic Environment Team (DCC HET.) The archaeological works were also carried out in line with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (CIfA 2020).

The Site

1.3 The proposed application Site is within an area totalling approximately 0.3 hectares, which is presently in use as pastoral land and is located on the western edge of the village of Street, to the west of the village of Branscombe. The Site is a triangular plot of land sloping steeply between 103m aOD at its higher, north-west corner and 82m aOD at its lower eastern end. It is bounded by Branscombe Lane to the north, Berry Hill to the south and the Fountain Head Inn to the east (Figs. 1 and 2, both of which have utilised satellite imagery rather than the standard Ordnance Survey mapping, as there was a discrepancy with the base maps. These Figures have included site co-ordinates for reference).

1.4 The underlying geology is mudstone of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial Head deposits in the valley base (British Geological Survey 2021). Soils across the Site are comprised of coarse loamy sands of the Bromsgrove Association.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Site has been the subject of a previous archaeological evaluation (AC Archaeology 2015) and a WSI (Avalon 2021). The following sections utilise information contained in those documents, which should be referred to for full archaeological details.
- 2.2 Branscombe village lies c. 0.8km to the east of the Site. The village was established by the Saxon period, with a church dedicated to Saint Winifred suggesting a date after AD 650. The present church of Saint Winifred is of Norman construction.
- 2.3 There are no historic environment records within the Site itself, however several medieval and post medieval quarries are located close by.
- 2.4 The Tithe Map of 1840 (Fig. 12) shows the plot of land divided into two parts; to the south-east is a pastureland, and on the higher, steeper ground to the north-west an orchard. The Fountain Head Inn had not yet been founded and the site is occupied by a small cottage and associated garden plot. By the later first and second editions of the Ordnance Maps of 1888 and 1903 respectively, the Site is shown as a single plot of land, with the orchard still depicted, along with The Fountain Head Inn (Fig. 13).
- 2.5 An archaeological trench evaluation of the Site was carried out in 2015 (AC Archaeology 2015) in relation to the application for outline planning permission. The results of this work demonstrated the presence of a group of linear ditch-like features within the southern part of the Site. These were broadly dated by the recovery of datable ceramic artefacts to the 11th – 15th centuries. The evaluation also produced a small number of residual prehistoric flints but did not suggest the presence of significant prehistoric remains on the Site.
- 2.6 The features recorded in the 2015 evaluation predate the earliest surviving elements of Street and have been interpreted as possible infield land divisions relating to a former medieval farmstead in the near vicinity. It has been noted that no evidence was recovered to suggest that settlement or structural remains were present within the Site.
- 2.7 No recorded environmental samples were recovered during the 2015 evaluation to assess the paleoenvironmental potential of deposits on the Site.

2.8 The results of the 2021 evaluation of Trench 8, undertaken as part of this programme of archaeological works, were summarised in a separate stand-alone summary report (ISCA Archaeology 2021) but have also been fully integrated into this report.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The overarching aims of the evaluation were to:

- 🌀 Establish whether any remains related to medieval activity which were identified in the on-going excavation area to the immediate east of the Site extended into the lower portion of the application site.
- 🌀 To assess the nature and extent of any previous impacts to archaeological remains on the Site.
- 🌀 Provide information on the significance and survival of archaeological deposits, in order to assist in the formation of a mitigation strategy if required.

3.2 Specific project objectives were to:

- 🌀 To assess the character, date, depth, location, and preservation of any archaeological deposits on the Site.
- 🌀 To prepare a summary report on the findings to include a comment on the quality and significance of any remains.

Research Aims

3.3 All archaeological work was undertaken with the aim of furthering research into the archaeological resource and our understanding of human history and development. The currently understood state of archaeological knowledge in the area is contained in the document 'South West Archaeological Research Framework' (Southwest Heritage Trust 2012).

3.4 From the current assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site, investigation of the Site had some potential to contribute to the following regional research aims:

- 🌀 **Research Aim 33:** Widen our understanding of the origins of villages in the Devon region.

The presented information will facilitate East Devon District Council in identifying and assessing the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets noted at the Site, and in considering the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation work in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological evaluation

4.1 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is:

‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.’ (CifA, 2020)

4.2 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation is to:

‘to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- a. The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- b. The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- c. The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research’. (CifA 2020)

4.3 The fieldwork evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches (Trenches 7 and 8) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The dimensions of each were Trench 7, 23.2m

long by 1.85m wide, and Trench 8, 20m long by 1.85m wide, providing a total area of 79.92m². Trench 7 was located to the north-west of the main excavation area and Trench 8 to the south-west. Both trenches were designed to further refine the scope of the archaeological works. Trench 7 was intended to ascertain the presence of any archaeological resource and, if present, this area was to be extended and would have formed a separate contingency excavation area. The paucity of archaeology present here negated the further excavation area being required, as agreed in person by Steve Reed (DCC HET) during a site visit on 12 August 2021.

- 4.4 Both trenches were slightly adjusted from their original intended locations due to the proximity of buried services, and their final locations are shown in Fig. 2.

Archaeological field excavation

- 4.5 The definition of an archaeological field excavation is:

‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives, which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’. (ClfA, 2020)

- 4.6 The purpose of an archaeological field excavation is to:

‘examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them’.

- 4.7 Excavation may arise:

- a. in response to a proposed development which would threaten the archaeological resource: -
 - i. as part of the planning process (within the framework of appropriate national planning policy guidance notes) and/or development plan policy

- ii. as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment
 - iii. outside the planning process (eg ecclesiastical development, coastal erosion, agriculture, forestry and countryside management, works by public utilities and statutory undertakers)
- b. within a programme of research not generated by a specific threat to the archaeological resource
 - c. in connection with management plans and mitigation strategies by private, local and national or international bodies
- 4.8 Excavation may therefore be instigated or commissioned by a number of different individuals or organisations, including local planning authorities, national advisory bodies, government agencies, private landowners, developers or their agents, archaeological researchers, etc. (CifA 2020)

4.9 The Excavation Area (Figs. 2 and 3) measured at its maximum c. 25m by c.25m, giving a total area of 605m². The excavation was located to provide further information about the archaeological resource noted in the previous evaluation trenching undertaken in 2015 (AC Archaeology 2015). The excavation targeted the locations of Trenches 3, 4 and 5 (Fig. 3), where several linear gullies and ditches had been recorded and appeared to be of medieval to post-medieval date (11th – 15th century). The main excavation area was located based on the positions of the three earlier evaluation trenches. However, these earlier trenches did not completely tie-in with the Ordnance Survey data, and subsequently the extent of the excavation did not fully expose Trench 5 to the south. This area would have been difficult to excavate in any event, due to the presence of substantial vegetation and new tree growth.

General Archaeological Methodology

4.10 The trenches and the excavation area were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained ISCA Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the ISCA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services.

- 4.11 Both trenches and the excavation area were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator (360°) equipped with a toothless grading bucket, and machining was conducted under constant archaeological supervision, ceasing when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately.
- 4.12 Following machining, any archaeological features revealed were excavated by hand, planned and recorded. Archaeological features were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description. All excavation of exposed archaeological features was carried out stratigraphically by hand and in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and recorded according to CIfA guidelines and best practice. All features/deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:10 and 1:50) and drawn sections (scale 1:10) and located using a site grid, which in turn was surveyed using a Leica GPS with aOD levels. Deposits were also assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential (see Section 7).
- 4.13 An adequate digital photographic record of all the archaeological works was compiled in both section and plan. All excavated trenches, areas, features and deposits were photographed. A selection of representative feature group/area shots were also taken along with general working shots to illustrate the overall nature of the works. A photographic scale and north arrow were included in detailed photographs.
- 4.14 All archaeological features and their subsequent spoil heaps, along with the removed topsoil and subsoil were scanned with a metal detector for artefact retrieval.
- 4.15 Upon completion of the evaluation, all trenches were backfilled by mechanical excavator in reverse order, with plough soil and subsoil backfilled separately, whilst the excavation area was left open, with the agreement of the client, for backfilling later.
- 4.16 ISCA will make arrangements with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter, Devon for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive (comprising digital photographs and other relevant digital data) will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

4.17 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix 4, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation and excavation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix 1. Details of the artefactual materials recovered from the Site are given in Section 6, and the environmental evidence in Section 7.

5.2 The natural geology consisted of a varied yellow-brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular quartz stones and sub-rounded gravels in Trench 8 to the south of the Excavation Area, and a finer yellow-brown clay sand in the northern half, as well as within Trench 8. It was exposed at a depth of 0.45m – 0.63m below the present ground surface. It was sealed by a yellow-brown sandy silt subsoil, between 0.18m – 0.43m thick. This was in turn covered by 0.15m – 0.3m of plough soil. At the time of the evaluation the Site was under rough pasture and long grass.

Evaluation

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 and 4)

5.3 Located to the north-west of the Excavation Area, this trench extended downslope, from the higher ground (93.19m aOD) to the south-west, to the lower ground (88.41m aOD) to the north-east. The subsoil (701) was generally 0.43m thick, overlain by a 0.2m thick topsoil (700) layer. The natural substrate (702) was visible throughout the trench.

5.4 To the centre of the trench was an irregular, oval feature [706] which was clearly sealed by the overlying subsoil (701). The irregular nature of this feature suggested a probable tree throw, with former rooting still visible. The single fill (705) of the tree throw contained a high proportion of charcoal; this, and the scorched surrounding natural substrate, potentially suggested that the fallen tree had been burnt *in-situ*. An environmental sample was recovered from the fill.

5.5 To the lower, north-east end of the trench was what initially appeared to be a possible ditch, aligned roughly east/west. Upon further investigation, it was revealed to be a layer (703) of

colluvial hill wash and was investigated by hand and fully removed to check that there were no earlier features sealed underneath.

- 5.6 The field boundary that is shown on the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 12) was not seen in either this trench, or in Trench 8, and may have only been shallow, and subsequently ploughed out.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

- 5.7 This trench was located within the lower reaches of the valley, c. 5 – 6m to the north of Berry Hill and extended from the higher ground to the south-west. Here the subsoil (801) measured 0.3m thick, with overlying topsoil (800) varying between 0.16m thick to the south-west and 0.25m thick to the north-east. The natural substrate (802) was visible throughout the trench.

- 5.8 A single feature [803] was observed towards the south-west end of the trench. Upon initial machining, this feature appeared as a circular cut resembling a posthole. Once excavated this was clearly shown to be a modern borehole, most likely as part of a geological survey. The borehole measured 0.3m diameter and initially 0.43m deep but with an unfilled borehole shaft, 0.1m diameter and extending 2.6m below the natural substrate. Material recovered from the top of the borehole dated from the 17th – 18th century, but this is likely to have been residual, deriving from the infilling of the borehole with the overlying topsoil/subsoil material.

Excavation Area (Figs. 2, 3 and 5 – 11)

- 5.9 The excavation area measured at its maximum extent c. 25m by 25m and was divided into two separate areas by a live service that ran roughly north-east/south-west across the Site. A spur branched off this service to the east, which extended to the south-east. A safety buffer was retained around the service and no archaeological works were undertaken within this easement area.
- 5.10 This excavation area was located to further investigate several linear gullies/ditches that were recorded in the 2015 evaluation phase. The area encompassed, from the AC Archaeology evaluation, Trenches 3 and 4 and was just to the north of Trench 5. Within the excavation area, four ditches (Ditches A – D) were noted, predominantly located to the south and eastern sides of the excavated area. All the ditches were fully investigated (profile slots

and all the relationships, amounting to between 30 – 45% of each feature's extent). The ditches are described below:

Late Medieval

Ditch A (Figs. 3 and 6)

Contexts [2018], [2027], [2035], [2042], [2047], [2058], [2060], [2066], [2090], [2093], [2099] and [2110]

- 5.11 The earliest ditch recorded within the excavation area (Ditch A) was visible within the application site, but also extended beyond both the southern and western limits of the excavation area. This regular ditch was aligned east/west for 26.2m, from the western extent of the excavation area, turning sharply to the south-east for 8.62m and continued straight, beyond the southern boundary with a total exposed length of 34.82m. The ditch was roughly 0.6 – 0.7m wide by 0.2 – 0.3m deep and contained a single fill consisting of a light grey silty clay. This ditch was clearly cut by the later ditches (Ditches B and C). In the south-east corner, where the ditch extended beyond the excavation area, there appeared to have been considerable truncation, which is likely due to its proximity to the field entrance, causing repeated churning of the ground.
- 5.12 Ditch A had been previously investigated in Trench 3 (features F305 and F307) in the earlier evaluation phase (AC Archaeology 2015). Material recovered indicated a pottery date of '1250 – 1400AD'. Material recovered from this ditch by ISCA in the excavation phase produced pottery dating to between the mid-13th – mid-15th century (Ditch fills (2059) and (2089)).

Ditch B (Figs. 3 and 7)

Contexts [2010], [2020], [2022], [2025], [2033], [2037], [2040], [2044], [2056], [2068], [2070] and [2082].

- 5.13 Ditch B had also been previously investigated in Trench 3 (feature F309) in the earlier evaluation phase (AC Archaeology 2015) where it contained pottery dating between '1000 – 1400AD'.
- 5.14 The ditch was roughly 0.5 – 0.7m wide by 0.15 – 0.35m deep, although there appeared to be some later truncation to the western side, where the ditch only survived to a depth of 0.08m. The ditch contained a single fill consisting of a light brown-grey silty clay and contained pottery dating to between the mid-13th – mid-15th century (Ditch fills (2009), (2019), (2032), (2036),

(2043), (2067) and (2069)), with a small residual sherd of pottery dating to after 950AD from the eastern terminus (fill (2055)).

- 5.15 Ditch B formed a sub-circular enclosure, measuring a total of 29.2m in length, and enclosing an area of c. 17.5m, on an east/west axis. To the higher, eastern, side of the enclosure the ditch was not present; its potential terminus truncated by a later field drain. The absence of a ditch on this side may have been an original design, although the possibility of truncation through later ploughing is possible.

Post-medieval

Ditch C (Figs. 3, 8, 9 and 10)

Contexts [2006], [2016], [2049], [2052], [2064], [2080], [2095], [2103], [2107] and [2112].

- 5.16 Ditch C extended across, and beyond the south-east extent of the excavation area for 24.12m, and was aligned predominantly south-west/north-east, turning to the south on its western edge and extending beyond the southern limit of the excavation area. The ditch had been cut by on its southern side by later Ditch D. the full dimensions of ditch C are likely to have measured up to 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep. It contained a single fill consisting of a firm mid-grey clayey silt.
- 5.17 The ditch extended beyond both the southern and the north-eastern limits of the excavation area but was not noted in any of the earlier evaluation trenches (AC Archaeology 2015). Material recovered from the fill of this ditch dated to the 16th century (Ditch fills (2016) and (2079)).

Ditch D (Figs. 3, 8, 9 and 10)

Contexts [2004], [2008], [2014], [2031], [2054], [2078], [2087], [2097] and [2101].

- 5.18 Ditch D was up to 1.6m wide by 0.2 – 0.4m deep and extended across the site for 20.89m, containing a single fill consisting of a dark grey-brown silty clay. The ditch followed an almost identical alignment to the earlier Ditch C. To the southern end of the ditch there was a well-defined terminus, which may have originally formed an entranceway. A continuation of this ditch was not seen in the excavation area; however, the evaluation trench (Trench 5) indicated the presence of a potential continuation of this ditch (F510) to the south, so an entranceway is plausible.

- 5.19 Pottery recovered from Ditch D indicated a post-medieval date, dating to the 16th century (fill (2100)) and late-17th – 18th century date (fill (2007)). A single small residual sherd of pottery dating to after 950AD was recovered from the western terminus (fill (2003)).

Modern (Fig. 3)

- 5.20 Numerous field drains were noted across the Site, with the majority following the downslope south-west/north-east alignments of Ditch C and D. These field drains varied from stone-filled drains to gravel and plastic perforated pipe drains.
- 5.21 Crossing the Site was a modern service; recorded during the evaluation phase as a water pipe. However, during this excavation phase it was recorded as an electric cable due to the response from the CAT Scanner and was therefore treated as live and avoided. The cut for a possible cast iron drain was seen to the higher south-west end of Trench 7, and this too was avoided. A modern borehole was seen in Trench 8.

6. ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

Evaluation (AC Archaeology 2015)

- 6.1 Pottery recovered from ditch F404 (Trench 4) was dated between '1250 – 1400AD', although it is not clear whether it was recovered from Ditch C or D as only a single ditch was recorded within the trench.
- 6.2 Two sherds of pottery dating to '1500AD+' were recovered from the surface of either Ditch C or D (fill (313), no cut number assigned) in Trench 3.

Excavation and evaluation 2021 (by John Allan)

- 6.3 The pottery collection from the excavation consists of 78 sherds from 23 contexts (Appendix 2). Except for four later sherds, the material is medieval in date, and could belong to the years c. 1200 – 1350/1400, although the types represented have a wider date-span. It is not impossible that a few individual sherds (e.g. that from 2055) are in fact 11th to 12th-century but there is no clear evidence for this earlier date.

Methodology

- 6.4 The collection has been listed by sherd count and Minimum No. of Vessels (MNV). The overall weight of the collection is 558g. No petrological work or other forms of scientific analysis are

justified at this stage, but samples of this material would be suitable for a future regional/local programme of analysis.

Fabrics and pottery types

- 6.5 The collection consists of two main fabric groupings, with a miscellaneous scatter of other sherds:

Fabric 1: Upper Greensand-Derived wares (Allan *et al* 2010; 2018; most recent distribution and discussion in Allan 2020): sherds tempered with quartz sand, flint-/chert and other rarer inclusions which represent the products of the major early medieval industry based in the Blackdown Hills on the Devon/Somerset border. This industry had its origins in the Late Saxon period and supplied a large area of the south-west through to the early 14th century. There is little typological development over this long period.

All sherds are unglazed and hand-made; they are mainly reduction-fired to various shades of grey and black.

Fabric 2: Finer red earthenware, also with quartz sand inclusions and scatter of angular flint, finer than fabric 1. Thin sherds are unglazed, oxidised and wheel-thrown and hand-made; they are mainly reduction-fired to various shades of grey and black. The source is unknown, though likely to be local, and probably date the mid-13th – mid-15th century (1250–1450AD).

Fabric 3: Calcareous fabric: ware with fine quartz sand and pronounced vesicles indicating former calcareous inclusions. Thin, (c. 4–5mm), unglazed and oxidised unless stated otherwise. The source is unknown, though, likely to be local, and probably dates to the 13th – 14th century.

- 6.6 Although the pottery assemblage is small, it is of some interest, since surprisingly little medieval pottery has been recovered from this area of east Devon. The most important local collection of medieval and later ceramics found in the past was the large unpublished assemblage discovered by T.C. Lethbridge at Hole, Branscombe, between 1957 and 1971, much of which is now held in the collections of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, but this mainly of 16th century date and is quite different in character. Further afield in east

Devon, the best-studied collection is than from Membury (Allan & Langman 2002), and there are also small collections from Honeyditches, Seaton and Dunkeswell.

- 6.7 The presence of both jars and jugs in a fabric (Fabric 2) containing flint and quartz is different from the local pottery of the Exeter area, and from the known South Somerset/east Devon wares. It was presumably local to south-east Devon and may relate to documented potters in the locality such as Reginald the Potter who was taxed at Ottery St Mary in 1332 (map in Allan *et al.* 2018a).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE (by Stacey Adams)

Introduction

- 7.1 Five bulk environmental samples were taken during the second phase of evaluation and the subsequent excavation at Berry Hill, Branscombe for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. Samples were taken from a sequence of ditches (2006 (Ditch C, fill 2005), 2032 (Ditch B, fill 2033), 2035 (Ditch A, fill 3034) and 2087 (Ditch D, fill 2086)) as well as a possible tree bowl (706 (fill 705)). The following report assesses the potential of the charred plant macrofossils and wood charcoal to inform on the arable economy, fuel use and selection and the local environment.

Methodology

- 7.2 The bulk environmental samples, ranging from 20 to 40 liters in volume, were processed by flotation, in their entirety, using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot before being air dried. The residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 1, Appendix 3). The flots were scanned, in their entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 2, Appendix 3). Identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on minimum number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.
- 7.3 Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler, 2000; Hather, 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident

light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Schoch et al, 2004; Hather, 2000; Schweingruber, 1990). Ten fragments were submitted for identification from tree bowl [706] as it contained >3g of charcoal from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) and the results are recorded in Table 2.

Results

- 7.4 The bulk environmental samples contained infrequent domestic refuse in the form of charcoal and charred plant macrofossils as well as artefactual debris of pottery, ceramic building material and mortar. Ditch D (fill 2086) contained frequent slag and several animal bone fragments, of which, some were burnt. Charred plant macrofossils were identified in all the ditch features and largely consisted of cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). General distortion to the grain, likely caused by thermal degradation during the charring process, was frequent and hindered the identification of a large proportion of the small assemblage. In addition to cereal caryopses, Ditch B (fill 2032) contained a straw fragment, a large wild grass (*Poaceae*) caryopsis and a split large legume (*Fabaceae*), likely of a cultivated variety.
- 7.5 Preservation of the charred plant macrofossils was mostly poor, with those from Ditch B (fill 2032) slightly better-preserved. The flots contained abundant modern roots and frequent uncharred seeds, potential indicators of contamination. The charcoal identified within tree bowl 706 (fill 705) was exclusively of oak (*Quercus* sp.), fragments of which were highly distorted by radial cracks and vitrification. Radial cracks appear as blown-up ray cells causing cracks of missing or exploded tissue. They are associated with presence of moisture in the wood and thus possibly reflect the burning of fresh wood (Fiorentino and D'Oronzo 2010). Vitrification is a process that distorts the anatomical features of the charcoal, giving it a glassy appearance. It has often been suggested that vitrification is a result of high burning temperatures and prolonged exposure to heat (Gale & Cutler 2000; Prior & Alvin 1983), although recent experiments claim that it is not induced by such factors and that the cause is still unknown (McParland et al, 2010). Two of the oak fragments were round wood deriving from small branch or twig wood.

Significance and Potential

- 7.6 The environmental samples indicate the ditches were utilised for the discard of domestic refuse, including spent burnt material. The charred plant macrofossils may be indicative of small-scale domestic crop processing, potentially carried-out on a day-to-day basis. Wheat and oat were common medieval cultivars in the south of England, along with legumes (Giorgi, 2006: 125; Greig, 1991: 321). The absence of weed seeds suggests the crop was 'clean' prior to burning; the term 'clean' referring to a cereal crop that has been fully processed in preparation for cooking or grinding into flour.
- 7.7 The infrequent cereal assemblage can be placed in a regional context when compared to the large quantities of cereals identified at Ottery St Mary (Haynes 2016), which had been burnt in-situ within a wooden medieval building. The charred plant macrofossils at Berry Hill are of little significance due to their paucity.
- 7.8 There is no potential for further work on the remains as they have been identified and quantified during assessment. The charcoal identified in tree bowl [706] may represent the in-situ burning of a standing timber or tree. The high frequency of radial cracks attests to this as they suggest that the wood was relatively fresh prior to burning. The round wood within the assemblage likely represents the twigs and branches burnt along with the trunk wood. The absence of other ecofactual or artefactual material potentially confirm this interpretation. Further identification of the wood charcoal would be able to certify this interpretation although it would add little archaeological data to the narrative of the site.

Further Work

- 7.9 No further work is recommended on the charred plant macrofossils from Berry Hill as they have been identified and quantified during assessment.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Although no worked flints were recovered during the excavation phase, the recovery of three flint fragments, clearly residual, from the initial 2015 evaluation phase indicates background activity within the area in the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods. The flints from the 2015 evaluation were recovered from features F305 and F307 (both Ditch A) and a spread of material (504) in Trench 5, which may have sealed Ditches C and D.

- 8.2 The evaluation and excavation has identified a small concentration of two late-medieval infield enclosures adjacent to Berry Hill Lane in use between the 13th – 15th centuries. These two enclosures consisted of shallow ditches, but with no evidence of a former associated bank or hedge line remaining. No evidence of any structural remains was noted, such as post holes or beam slots.
- 8.3 The earliest of the two enclosures comprised of a rectilinear ditch, extending east/west, and then turning south at the eastern end. The later, smaller enclosure was curvilinear and extended beyond the southern excavation boundary. This enclosure had a potential opening/entrance to the western side, although this may have been formed through later ploughing truncation. The later enclosure may represent a contraction of the earlier enclosure, to form a sub-circular enclosure/paddock.
- 8.4 Enclosures of similar forms and dates have been recorded locally, such as the partial enclosure at Payhembury, Honiton, which dated to the 13th or 14th centuries (Exeter Archaeology 2009). A 2014 excavation at Hill Farm, Dalwood, Kilmington, revealed a 11th to mid-12th century rural farmstead with associated enclosure systems (AC Archaeology 2016). Further afield, a sequence of four medieval enclosures were excavated between 2007 and 2012 at Twinyeo Quarry, Chudleigh, Knighton, which dated to between 1250 to 1400AD and showed a contraction in enclosure size throughout the period (AC Archaeology 2014). Medieval rural remains have also been extensively researched on Dartmoor, where numerous deserted medieval villages, hamlets and farmsteads have been investigated.
- 8.5 The two later ditches (Ditch C and D) exposed at Berry Hill contained pottery dating from the 16th century through to the 18th century, suggesting that these ditches (or at least the later Ditch D) were in use through to the 1700s. Neither of these ditches appear on either the 1840 parish Tithe Map, or the later 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map, although there is field boundary on a similar orientation approximately 16m to the east (Figs. 12 and 13). The location of these two later ditches may have formed a field boundary but would have also acted as drainage downslope towards the valley bottom. The hollow in which they are set continued to function as drainage once the ditches had become redundant, as noted by the numerous later field drains following the same downhill alignment.

- 8.6 The charcoal filled feature (706) within Trench 7 is likely to represent a burnt-out tree or tree stump and is of unknown date.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The archaeology present within the Site was concentrated to the southern extent of the Site and consisted of two possible enclosures dating to the late medieval Period. The earliest enclosure consisted of predominantly linear ditches, whilst the second enclosure was more of a circular/oval shape. Since neither enclosure was fully exposed, their true form remains unclear but were likely to have been two phases of in-field land divisions. The pottery recovered suggested that these enclosures were in use between the 13th – 15th centuries. Although the pottery assemblage was relatively small, the general unabraded nature of the pottery suggests there was settlement nearby.

- 9.2 The two earlier enclosure ditches were truncated by two further ditches of a 16th – 18th century date and are likely to have been part of a larger field division and/or drainage ditches.

10. ISCA PROJECT TEAM

- 10.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, with assistance by Tim Brown and Parris Stubbings. This report was written by Simon Sworn and edited by Caroline Playford. The finds and environmental reports were written by John Allan and Stacey Adams respectively. The illustrations were compiled by Tim Brown. The project was managed for ISCA by Simon Sworn and Parris Stubbings.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DISCRPTIONS (BY TRENCH AND AREA)

Trench 7								
Length – 23.2m Width – 1.8m Depth – 0.69m Orientation – NE/SW								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date (AD)
700	Layer		Plough soil	Mid-dark brown-grey loose sandy silt, with rare sub-angular stones.	>23.2	>1.8	0.2	
701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown firm sandy clay, with rare sub-angular stones.	>23.2	>1.8	0.43	
702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-grey firm sandy clay with rare sub-angular stones.	>23.2	>1.8	-	
703	Layer		Colluvial	Mid grey with yellow mottling, firm sandy clay.	>2	>1.02	0.13	
704	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
705	Fill	706	Tree Bowl	Mid grey firm sandy clay, with occasional charcoal flecks.	>0.8	>0.6	0.12	
706	Cut		Tree Bowl	Cut of tree bowl, sub-circular in plan, with gentle concave irregular sides and a flat base.	>0.8	>0.6	0.12	

Trench 8								
Length – 20m Width – 1.9m Depth – 0.6m Orientation – NE/SW								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date (AD)
800	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown friable silty clay, with small sub-angular flints.	>20	>1.9	0.3	
801	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints.	>20	>1.9	0.18	
802	Fill	803	Borehole	Mid-dark brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones.	0.43	0.43	2.6	17th/18th C
803	Cut		Borehole	Cut of borehole, circular in plan, with steep vertical sides and a gentle concave base with a steep sided vertical cut in the centre.	0.43	0.43	2.6	
804	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown firm silty clay, frequent small sub-angular stones	>20	>1.9	-	

Excavation Area								
Length – c. 25m Width – c. 25m Depth – 0.45m Orientation – N/A								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Spot-date (AD)
2000	Layer		Plough soil	Dark brown friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints.	>25	>25	0.15	
2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>25	>25	0.3	15th/16th C
2002	Layer		Natural	Mid red-yellow firm silty clay, with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded	>25	>25	-	
2003	Fill	2004	Ditch	Mid grey-brown firm sandy silty, with rare sub-angular stones.	>1	0.95	0.36	After 950

2004	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with gentle concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch D)	>1	0.95	0.36	
2005	Fill	2006	Ditch	Mid grey firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.65	0.38	
2006	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	0.65	0.38	
2007	Fill	2008	Ditch	Dark blue-grey compact clay, with frequent sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal.	>1	0.61	0.37	L17th/18th C
2008	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep regular sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch D)	>1	0.61	0.37	
2009	Fill	2010	Ditch	Mid grey firm sandy clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.53	0.16	13th/14th C
2010	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, curvilinear in plan with gentle concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.53	0.16	
2011	Fill	2012	Field Drain	Yellow-brown loose clay with frequent sub-angular stones and one plastic pipe.	>1	0.4	0.37	Modern
2012	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of N/S aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep straight sides.	>1	0.4	0.37	Modern
2013	Fill	2014	Ditch	Dark blue-grey compact clay, with frequent sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal.	>1	>1	0.23	
2014	Cut		<u>Ditch</u>	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep regular sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch D)	>1	>1.05	0.35	
2015	Fill	2016	Ditch	Mid grey firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	>0.6	0.45	
2016	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	>0.6	0.45	
2017	Fill	2018	Ditch	Light grey soft silty clay, with abundant sub-angular stones.	>1	0.61	0.17	
2018	Cut		Ditch	Cut of E/W aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	0.61	0.17	
2019	Fill	2020	Ditch	Mid grey with brown patches, firm sandy silty, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.43	0.13	1250–1450
2020	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, curvilinear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.43	0.13	
2021	Fill	2022	Ditch	Mid grey with brown patches, firm sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.71	0.14	
2022	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, curvilinear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.71	0.14	
2023	Fill	2014	Ditch	Dark brown silty clay	>1	>0.92	0.12	
2024	Fill	2025	Ditch	Mid grey with brown patches, firm sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.31	0.19	

2025	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, curvilinear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.31	0.19	
2026	Fill	2027	Ditch	Light grey soft silty clay, with abundant sub-angular stones.	>1	>0.35	0.2	
2027	Cut		Ditch	Cut of E/W aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	>0.35	0.2	
2028	Fill	2029	Field Drain	Mid yellow-brown compact clayey silt, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1	0.46	>0.17	Modern
2029	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of field drain, NE/SW aligned with steep sloping sides. Not fully excavated. Same as 2062 and 2076.	>1	0.46	>0.17	Modern
2030	Fill	2031	Ditch	Mid grey with red-yellow mottling, compact silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	1.2	0.21	
2031	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with gentle to moderate sloping sides and an irregular flat base. (Ditch D)	>1	1.2	0.21	
2032	Fill	2033	Ditch	Dark brown-grey firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones and charcoal.	>1	0.58	0.21	1250–1450
2033	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.58	0.21	
2034	Fill	2035	Ditch	Mid grey-brown firm sandy clay, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1	0.61	0.2	
2035	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	0.61	0.2	
2036	Fill	2037	Ditch	Dark grey with occasional dark yellow-red mottling, compact sandy clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.72	0.22	1250–1350
2037	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.72	0.22	
2038	Fill	2040	Ditch	Mixed brown compact sandy silt with patches of red-grey silty clay, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1	0.6	0.26	
2039	Fill	2040	Ditch	Mid-dark grey firm sandy silt, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1	0.63	0.42	
2040	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate steep sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.78	0.42	
2041	Fill	2042	Ditch	Mid grey-brown firm sandy silt, with abundant sub-angular stones.	>1	0.5	0.29	
2042	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	0.5	0.29	
2043	Fill	2044	Ditch	Mid brown-grey firm sandy silt, with rare sub-angular stones.	>1	0.55	0.18	1250–1450
2044	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch B).	>1	0.55	0.18	

2045	Fill	2047	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch, mid yellow-brown with a green hue, firm silty clay, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1.5	1	0.27	
2046	Fill	2047	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch, light-mid yellow-brown with a green-grey hue, friable clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.	>1.5	0.66	0.15	
2047	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch A)	>1	1	0.38	
2048	Fill	2049	Ditch	Mid grey firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.4	0.14	13th/14thC
2049	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	0.4	0.14	
2050	Fill	2052	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch, mid grey-brown firm clayey silt, with occasional charcoal.	>1	0.36	0.17	
2051	Fill	2052	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch, mid grey firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.35	0.12	
2052	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan, with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	0.38	0.26	
2053	Fill	2054	Ditch	Mid grey-brown firm sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>0.52	0.54	0.13	
2054	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch terminus, linear in plan, with gentle concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch D)	>0.52	0.54	0.13	
2055	Fill	2056	Ditch	Mid grey friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints.	>1	0.4	0.13	After 950
2056	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, curvilinear in plan with gentle concave sloping sides and rounded base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.4	0.13	
2057	Fill	2058	Ditch	Light-mid blue-grey loose silty clay, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1.5	0.44	0.28	
2058	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep straight sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch A)	>1.5	0.44	0.28	
2059	Fill	2060	Ditch	Mid brown-grey friable clayey silty, with occasion-frequent sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.	>1	0.36	0.2	1250–1450
2060	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides, nearly vertical towards an irregular flat base. (Ditch A).	>1	0.36	0.2	
2061	Fill	2062	Field Drain	Mid brown-yellow with grey mottling, firm but friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones. Not fully excavated.	>0.38	>0.22	>0.22	Modern
2062	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of N/S aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep straight sloping sides. Not fully excavated. Same as 2029 and 2076.	>0.38	>0.22	>0.22	Modern
2063	Fill	2064	Ditch	Mid brown-grey with yellow mottling, friable sandy clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>0.6	>0.36	0.3	

2064	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a sloping flat base. (Ditch C)	>0.6	>0.36	0.3	
2065	Fill	2066	Ditch	Mid grey with brown mottling, loose sandy clay, with frequent sub-angular stones.	>0.45	0.5	0.24	
2066	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep straight sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch A)	>0.45	0.5	0.24	
2067	Fill	2068	Ditch	Mid grey firm bur friable silty clay, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.	>1	0.58	0.13	1250–1450
2068	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with steady concave sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.58	0.33	
2069	Fill	2070	Ditch	Mid grey firm but friable silty clay, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.4	0.08	1250–1450
2070	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with gradual concave sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch B)	>1	0.4	0.08	
2071	Fill	2072	Field Drain	Yellow loose pea-gravels with two plastic pipes.	>1	0.43	0.15	Modern
2072	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of N/S aligned field drain, linear in plan with vertical sloping sides and a flat base.	>1	0.43	0.15	Modern
2073	Fill	2074	Field Drain	Yellow-brown loose clay with frequent sub-angular stones and one plastic pipe.	>1	0.4	0.12	Modern
2074	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of N/S aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Same as 2084.	>1	0.4	0.12	Modern
2075	Fill	2076	Field Drain	Mid yellow-brown, loose silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones.	>1	0.4	>0.35	Modern
2076	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of N/S aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep straight vertical sides. Not fully excavated. Same as 2029 and 2062.	>1	0.4	>0.35	Modern
2077	Fill	2078	Ditch	Mid grey-brown firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint.	>1	>1.6	0.3	
2078	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with gentle concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch D)	>1	>1.6	0.3	
2079	Fill	2080	Ditch	Mid brown-grey firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	>0.55	0.2	13th/14th C
2080	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	>0.55	0.2	
2081	Fill	2082	Ditch	Light brown-grey firm silty clay, with occasional small gravels.	>2.7	0.6	0.25	
2082	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with concave sloping sides and a gentle concave base. (Ditch B)	>2.7	0.6	0.25	
2083	Fill	2084	Field Drain	Mixed gravel with a plastic pipe.	>1	>0.5	0.4	Modern
2084	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of NE/SW aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Same as 2074	>1	>0.5	0.4	Modern

2085	Fill	2087	Ditch	2nd fill of ditch, mid grey-brown firm clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.64	0.21	
2086	Fill	2087	Ditch	1st fill of ditch, dark blue-grey compact clay, with frequent sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal.	>1	0.75	0.43	
2087	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch D)	>1	0.75	0.43	
2088	Fill	2090	Ditch	2nd fill of ditch, mid yellow-grey with red mottling, friable silty clay, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.	-	0.45	0.15	
2089	Fill	2090	Ditch	1st fill of ditch, mid blue-grey with red mottling, friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones and rare charcoal.	>1.2	0.56	0.26	1250–1450
2090	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NW/SE aligned ditch, linear in plan with a sharp right-angle corner, with steep straight sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1.2	0.64	0.29	
2091	Fill	2093	Ditch	2nd fill of ditch, mid grey-brown with occasional red mottling, friable silty clay, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.59	0.1	
2092	Fill	2093	Ditch	1st fill of ditch, mid blue-grey friable silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.57	0.17	
2093	Cut		Ditch	Cut of E/W aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	0.59	0.26	
2094	Fill	2095	Ditch	Mid brown-grey firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	>0.35	0.2	
2095	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a gentle rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	>0.35	0.2	
2096	Fill	2097	Ditch	Light-mid grey friable silty clay, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones.	>0.4	>0.38	0.19	
2097	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a flat base. (Ditch D)	>0.4	>0.38	0.19	
2098	Fill	2099	Ditch	Light brown-grey firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint.	>0.5	>0.25	0.13	
2099	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a gentle concave base. (Ditch A)	>0.5	>0.25	0.13	
2100	Fill	2101	Ditch	Dark grey-brown firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	>1	0.24	After 1500
2101	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with gradual concave sloping sides and a gentle concave base. (Ditch D)	>1	>1	0.24	
2102	Fill	2103	Ditch	Mid brown-grey firm silty clay, with occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.57	0.17	
2103	Cut		Ditch	Cut of N/S aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a gentle concave base. (Ditch C)	>1	0.57	0.17	
2104	Fill	2105	Field Drain	Mixed silty clay and gravels with plastic sheeting.	>1	0.4	0.6	Modern

2105	Cut		Field Drain	Cut of NE/SW aligned field drain, linear in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a rounded base.	>1	0.4	0.6	Modern
2106	Fill	2107	Ditch	Light-mid grey with a yellow hue, firm sandy clay, with rare sub-angular stones.	>1	0.82	0.35	After 1500
2107	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	0.82	0.35	
2108	Fill	2110	Ditch	Secondary fill of ditch, mid brown-grey friable silty clay, with rare sub-angular stones.	>1	0.7	0.16	
2109	Fill	2110	Ditch	Primary fill of ditch, mid grey loose clayey silt, with rare-occasional sub-angular stones.	>1	0.59	0.18	
2110	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with steep straight sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch A)	>1	0.7	0.34	
2111	Fill	2112	Ditch	Mid grey firm sandy clay, with rare sub-angular stones and charcoal.	>1	>0.6	0.42	
2112	Cut		Ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch, linear in plan with moderate concave sloping sides and a rounded base. (Ditch C)	>1	>0.6	0.42	

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

Context	Sherds MNV fabric 1	Sherds MNV fabric 2	Sherds MNV fabric 3	Comments	Proposed date
703	1/1			With vesicles	
802	1/1	5/1	1/1	Fabric 1: oxidised sherd, prob. jar Fabric 2: one glazed jug sherd Also 1 Donyatt sgraffito sherd, 1660–1800AD	17th/18thC with residual medieval
2001	9/3	2/2		Fabric 1: 2 reduced Fabric 2: unglazed ox thumbled jug base Also a late med/post-med sherd	15th/16thC with residual medieval
2003	1/1			With glistening quartz grains	After 950AD
2007	1/1			Bristol/Staffordshire 'treacle-brown glazed' tankard, C. 1690–1740	L17th/18thC with residual med
2009	5/2				13th(?)/14thC
2013	1/1			Reduced	
2019		1/1		Jug sherd	1250–1450AD
2032	3/1	1/1		Fabric 1: jar rim Fabric 2: unglazed with horizontal combing	1250–1450AD
2036	7/2	7/2		Fabric 1: 2 jars; Fabric 2: all ox & unglazed	1250–1350AD
2043	1/1			Wheel-thrown jug with white-painted vertical stripes, cf Exeter fabric 42.	1250–1450AD
2045	2/2	1/1	1/1(?)	Fabric 2: ox & unglazed, sooted exterior	
2048	1/1	1/1		Fabric 1: oxidised sherd, prob. jar	13th/14thC
2055	1/1			Rim, small jar(?) Polished grains	After 950AD
2059		1/1		Oxidised, unglazed	1250–1450AD
2067	3/1	1/1		Fabric 2: unglazed with horizontal combing	1250–1450AD
2069		1/1			1250–1450AD
2077	1/1	1/1		Fabric 1: reduced Sand-tempered east Devon/south Somerset rim probably 16thC	
2079	2/2	5/2			13th/14thC
2089	2/2	1/1		Fabric 2: unglazed with horizontal combing	1250–1450AD
2100				1 redware, 16th–18thC, south Somerset(?)	After 1500AD
2106				Also: south Somerset bowl rim, 16th–17thC	After 1500AD

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

TABLE 1: ECOFACTS AND ARTEFACTS FROM BULK ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES FROM BERRY HILL, BRANSCOMBE.

QUANTIFICATION: * = 1-

10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250 AND WEIGHTS IN GRAMS.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charred Plant	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM (inc. brick/tile)	Weight (g)	Fired Clay/ Daub	Weight (g)	Mortar	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Coal (presence only)	Magnetic Material (presence only)
<1>	(705)	Tree bowl/ Rooting [706]	20	**	4	**	1																		
<2>	(2032)	Ditch B	40	**	<1	**	<1	*	<1					*	14	*	<1			**	81				
<3>	(2034)	Ditch A	40	**	2	**	2	*	<1					*	6					**	41				
<4>	2005)	Ditch C	40	**	2	**	2	*	<1					*	14	*	9								*
<5>	(2086)	Ditch D	40	*	<1	**	<1	**	<1	*	5	*	<1	**	38					*	<1	*****	99	*	*

TABLE 2: FLOT ASSESSMENT OF BULK ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES FROM BERRY HILL, BRANSCOMBE. QUANTIFICATION: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250. PRESERVATION: + = POOR, ++ = MODERATE, +++ = GOOD. KEY: ARN = AVERAGE RING NUMBER, RC = RADIAL CRACKS, V = VITRIFICATION, RW = ROUND WOOD.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)		Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm		Charcoal Identifications	Preservation		Charred Plant Macrofossil Identifications	Preservation	Modern Roots
<1>	(705)	Tree bowl/ Rooting [706]	20	25	80	65		<i>Carex</i> sp. 2-sided * <i>Ranunculus acris</i> *	***	*****	*****		<i>Quercus</i> sp. (10) [ARN:7, RC:8, V:6, RW:2]	++				****
<2>	(2032)	Ditch B	40	2	10	95		<i>Sambucus nigra</i> **** <i>Rubus</i> sp. *		**	****					<i>Avena</i> sp. (1) Straw frag (1) Poaceae large (1) <i>Triticum</i> sp. (2) <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> (2) Fabaceae large (1) <i>Cerealia</i> indet. (3)	++	****
<3>	(2034)	Ditch A	40	3	15	80		<i>Sambucus nigra</i> **** <i>Ajuga</i> sp. *		***	*****					<i>Triticum</i> sp. (4) <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> (1) <i>Cerealia</i> indet. (3)	+	****
<4>	2005)	Ditch C	40	2	10	75		<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ***	*	***	*****					<i>Avena</i> sp. (1) <i>Cerealia</i> indet. (3)	+	***
<5>	(2086)	Ditch D	40	4	10	99		<i>Sambucus nigra</i> *** <i>Rubus</i> sp. *			****					<i>Triticum</i> sp. (7) <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> (1) <i>Cerealia</i> indet. (9)	+	*****

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: iscaarch2-502492

Project Name Land adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon

Project Type Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

Short description An archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology in August 2021 at Land Adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon. A total of two trenches and an excavation area (measuring 605m²) were investigated.

The archaeology present was concentrated to the southern part of the Site and consisted of two possible enclosures dating to the late medieval period. Since neither enclosure was fully exposed, their exact function remains unclear, but they are likely to be separate phases of in-field land divisions. The pottery recovered suggests that these enclosures were in use between the 13th – 15th centuries. No direct evidence of settlement activity, such as structural remains, postholes, or beam slots, were noted, although the unabraded pottery suggests that there was a settlement or settlements nearby.

The two earlier enclosure ditches were truncated by two further ditches of a 16th – 18th century date, which are likely to have been part of a larger field division and/or drainage ditches.

The evaluation trenches produced evidence of a single undated burnt-out tree throw to the north-west, and a modern borehole to the south-west.

Project dates 9 – 20 August 2021

Previous/Future work Archaeological Evaluation – AC Archaeology 2015

Associated project reference codes Site code: BHB21
Planning application: 15/1291/MOUT

Type of project Field evaluation and excavation

Site status None

Reason for Investigation National Planning Policy Framework

Position in planning process Application

Current land use Pasture

Monument type None

Significant finds None

Methods and techniques Targeted trenches and excavation

Development type Housing

PROJECT LOCATION

Site location Land adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon

Study area (size) 0.3ha

Site coordinates SY 1874 8886

Height (aOD) 103m (max), 82m (min)

PROJECT CREATORS

Name of Organisation ISCA Archaeology

Project Manager Parris Stubbings

Project Supervisor Simon Sworn

Type of sponsor/
funding body Developer

PROJECT ARCHIVES

Physical Pottery

Digital Photographs, survey, report

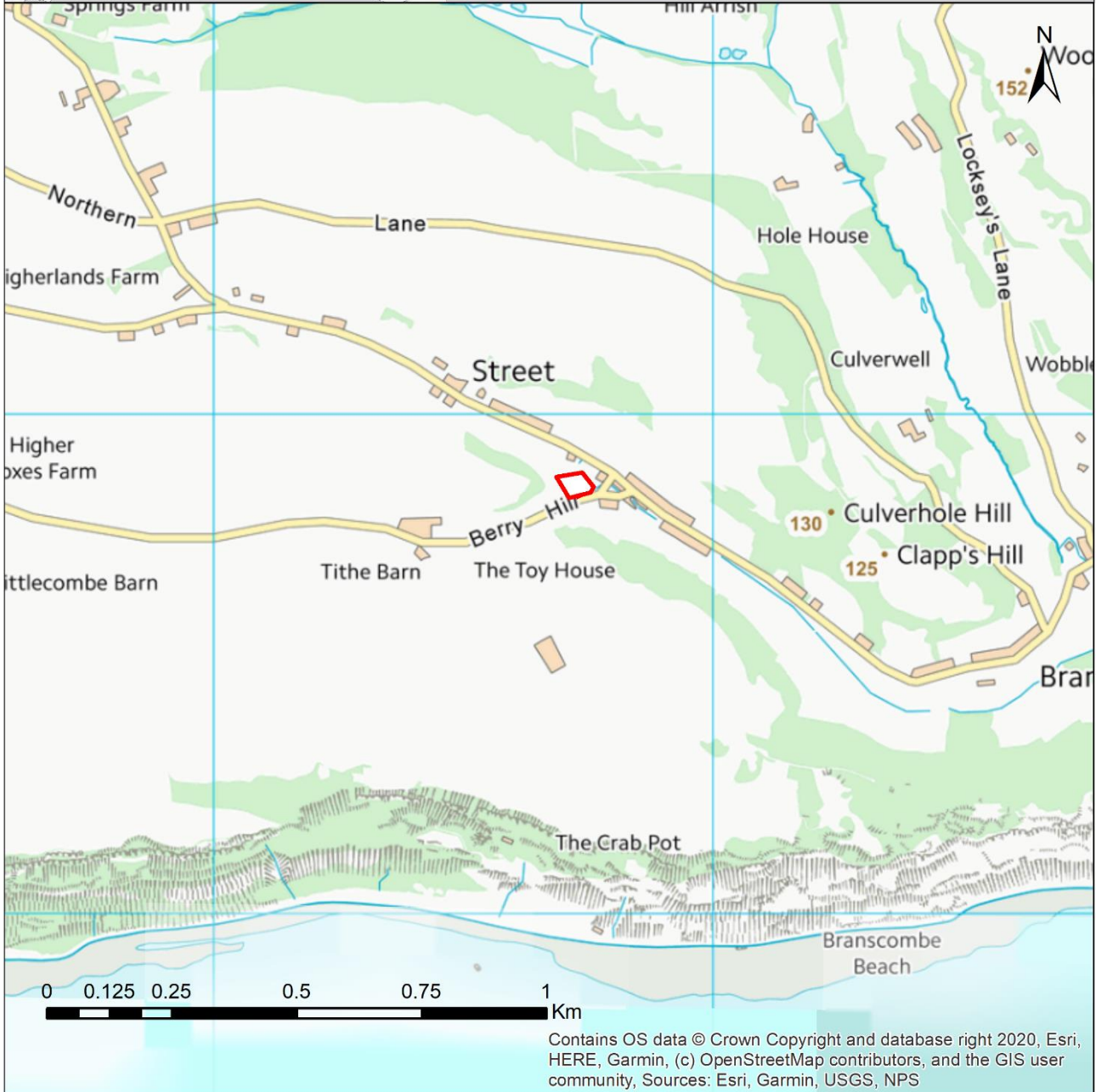
Paper Trench sheets, Photograph sheets, drawings

Archive destination Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, Devon

PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

ISCA Archaeology 2021 *Land adjacent to The Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation.*
ISCA typescript report R01-00004-1

ISCA Archaeology 2021 *Land to the North of Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon: Additional Trench.* **ISCA typescript report R01-00004-2**



PROJECT TITLE

Land Adjacent to the Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

FIGURE NO.

Site Location

1

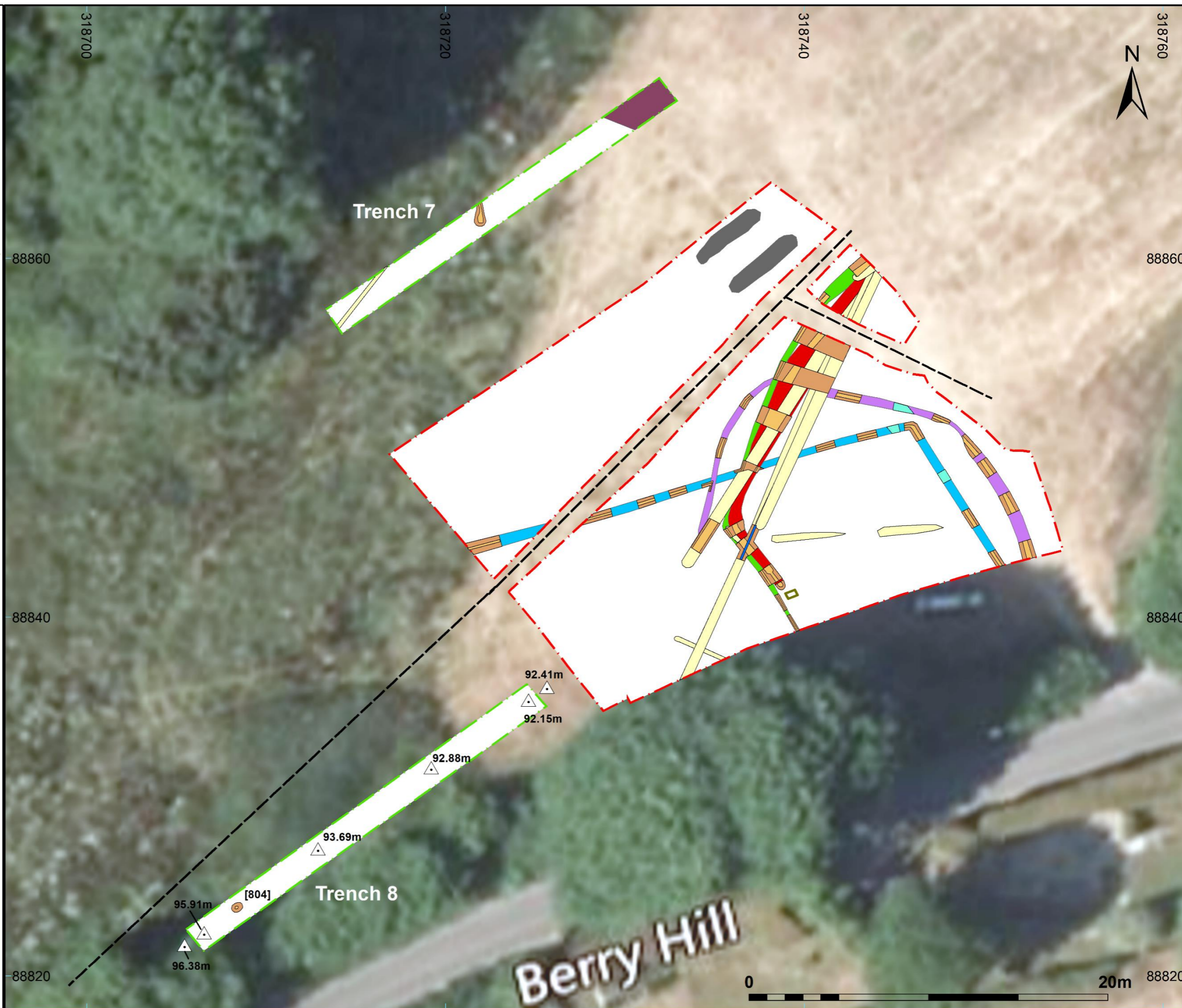


Site Boundary



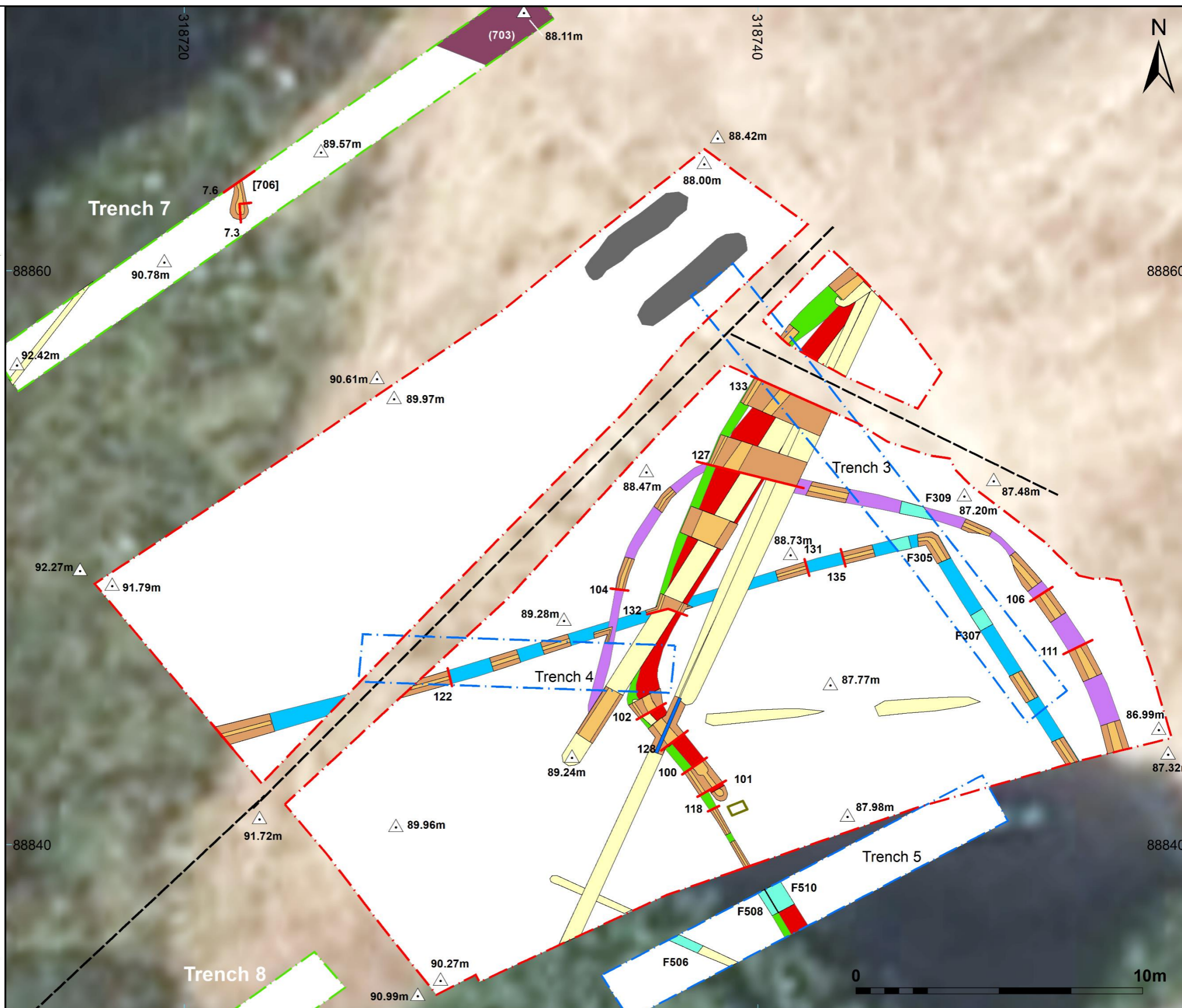
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- - - Evaluation Trench
- Ditch A
- Ditch B
- Ditch C
- Ditch D
- Spot Height - AOD
- Electric Cable
- Field Drain
- Excavated
- Excavated Base
- Excavated Sondage
- AC Evaluation Slot
- Plastic Pipe
- Deposit
- Modern Disturbance

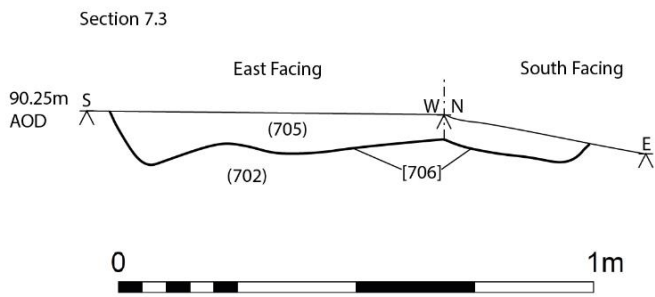
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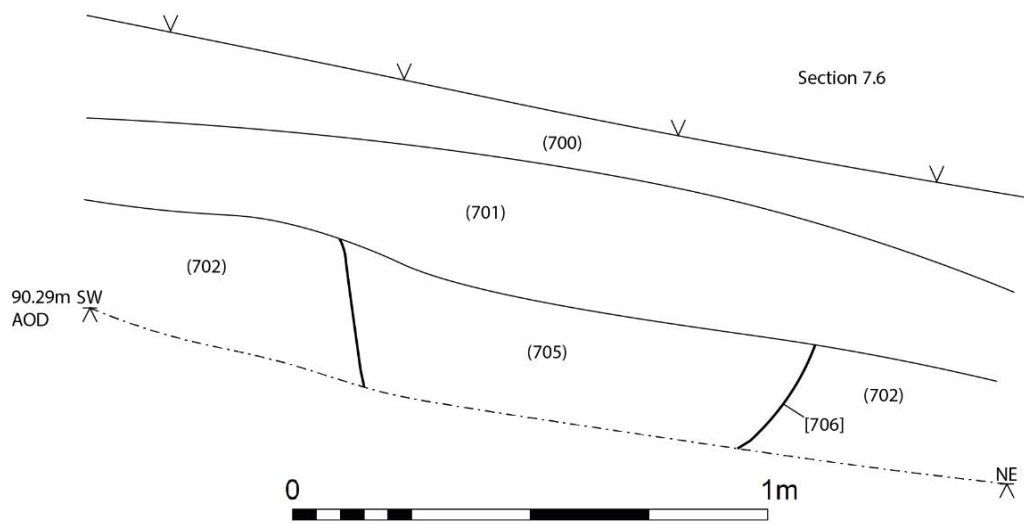
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- - - Evaluation Trench
- - - AC Evaluation Trench 2015
- Section Line
- △ Spot Height - AOD
- Ditch A
- Ditch B
- Ditch C
- Ditch D
- Excavated
- Excavated Base
- Excavated Sondage
- AC Evaluation Slot
- Plastic Pipe
- Deposit
- Field Drain
- - - Electric Cable
- Modern Disturbance

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Trench 7. Tree throw 706. Section 7.3. View to the west. (Scale at 0.4m)



Trench 7. Tree throw 706. Section 7.6. View to the northwest. (Scale at 1m)




Figure 4
Trench 7 - Sections 7.3 and 7.6



General view of Excavation Area, with Ditch A in the centre. View to the east. (Scales at 2x1m)



General view of Excavation Area, with Ditches A (left) and B (right). View to the north. (Scales at 2x1m)



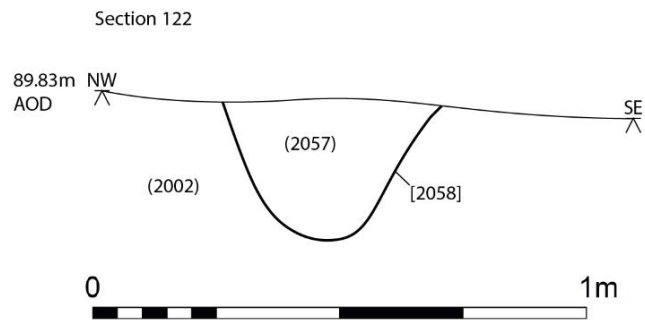
General view of Excavation Area, with Ditches C and D to the right. View to the southwest. (Scales at 2x1m)



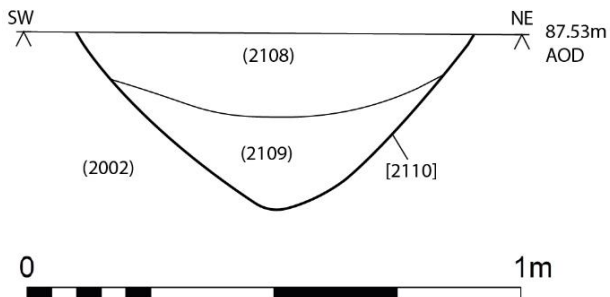
Figure 5
General views of Excavation Area



Ditch 2058 (Ditch A). Section 122. View to the east. (Scale at 0.4m)



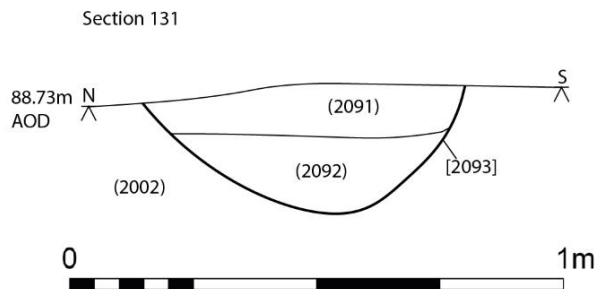
Section 135




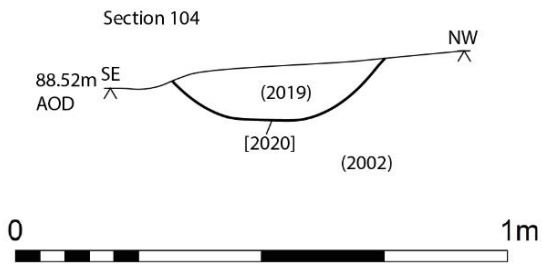
Ditch 2110 (Ditch A). Section 135. View to the southwest. (Scale at 0.4m)



Ditch 2093 (Ditch A). Section 131. View to the east. (Scale at 0.4m)



 **Figure 6**
Ditch A - Sections 122, 135 and 131



Ditch 2020 (Ditch B). Section 104. View to the southwest. (Scale at 0.4m)



Ditch 2033 (Ditch B). Section 111. View to the northwest. (Scale at 0.4m)

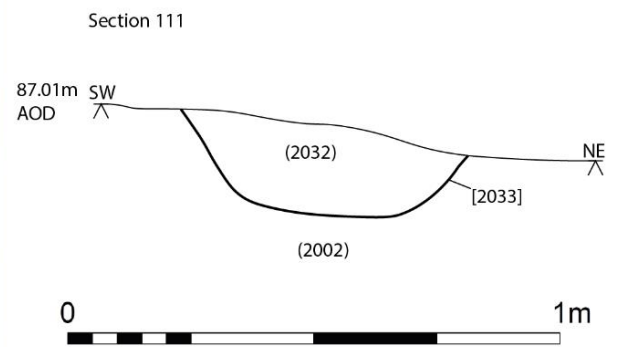
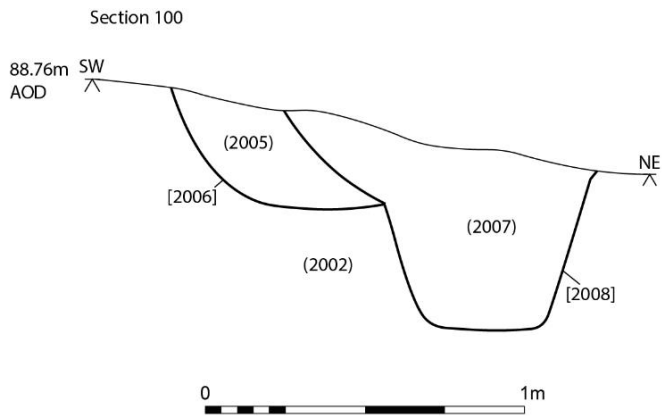


Figure 7
Ditch B - Sections 104 and 111



Ditches 2006 (left, Ditch C). 2008 (right, Ditch D). Section 100. View to the northwest. (Scale at 1m)



Ditches 2004 (left, Ditch D) and 2006 (right, Ditch C). Section 101. View to the southeast. (Scale at 1m)

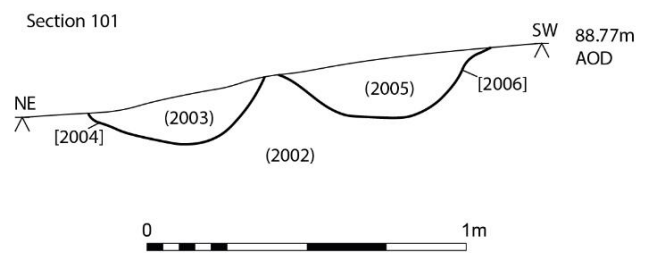
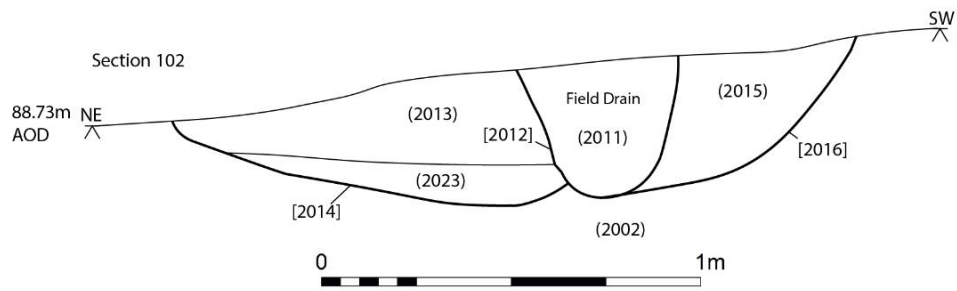
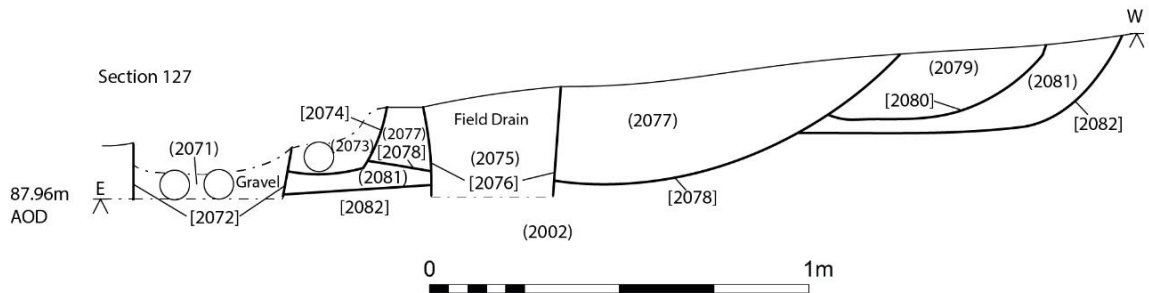


Figure 8
Ditches C and D - Sections 100 and 101



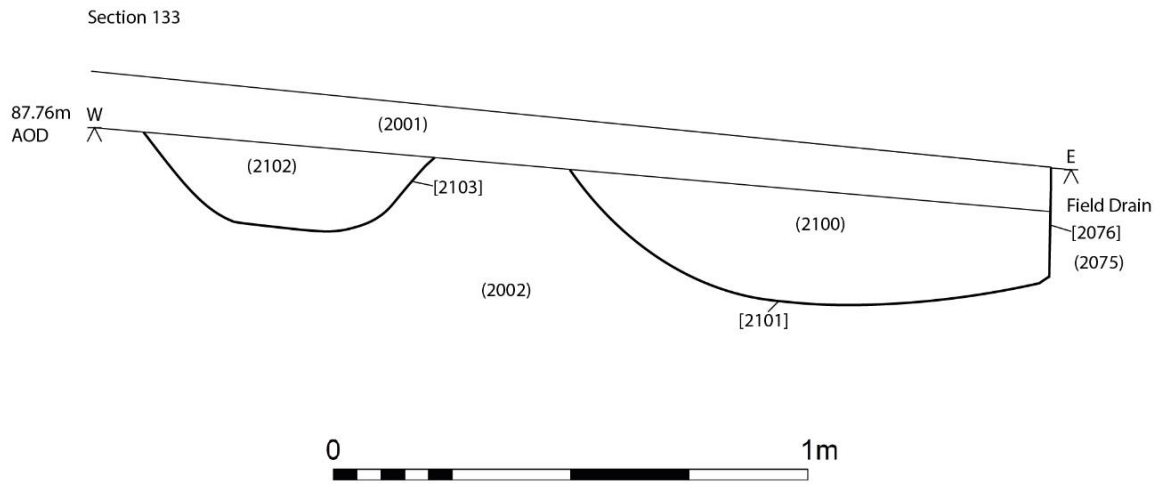
Ditches 2014 (left, Ditch D) and 2016 (right, Ditch C), cut by Field Drain 2012 (centre). Section 102. View to the southeast. (Scale at 1m)



Ditches 2078 (Ditch D), 2080 (Ditch C) and Ditch 2082 (Ditch B) truncated by Field Drains 2072, 2074 and 2076. Section 127. View to the south. (Scale at 1m)



Figure 9
Ditches C and D - Sections 102 and 127



Ditches 2103 (left, Ditch C) and 2101 (right, Ditch D) and Field Drain 2076. Section 133. View to the northeast. (Scale at 1m)




Figure 10
Ditches C and D - Section 133



General view of Excavation Area, with Ditch C (left) and the terminus of Ditch D (right). View to the north. (Scales at 2x1m)



Aerial view of Excavation Area. View to the northwest. (Photograph courtesy of Churchwood Construction)










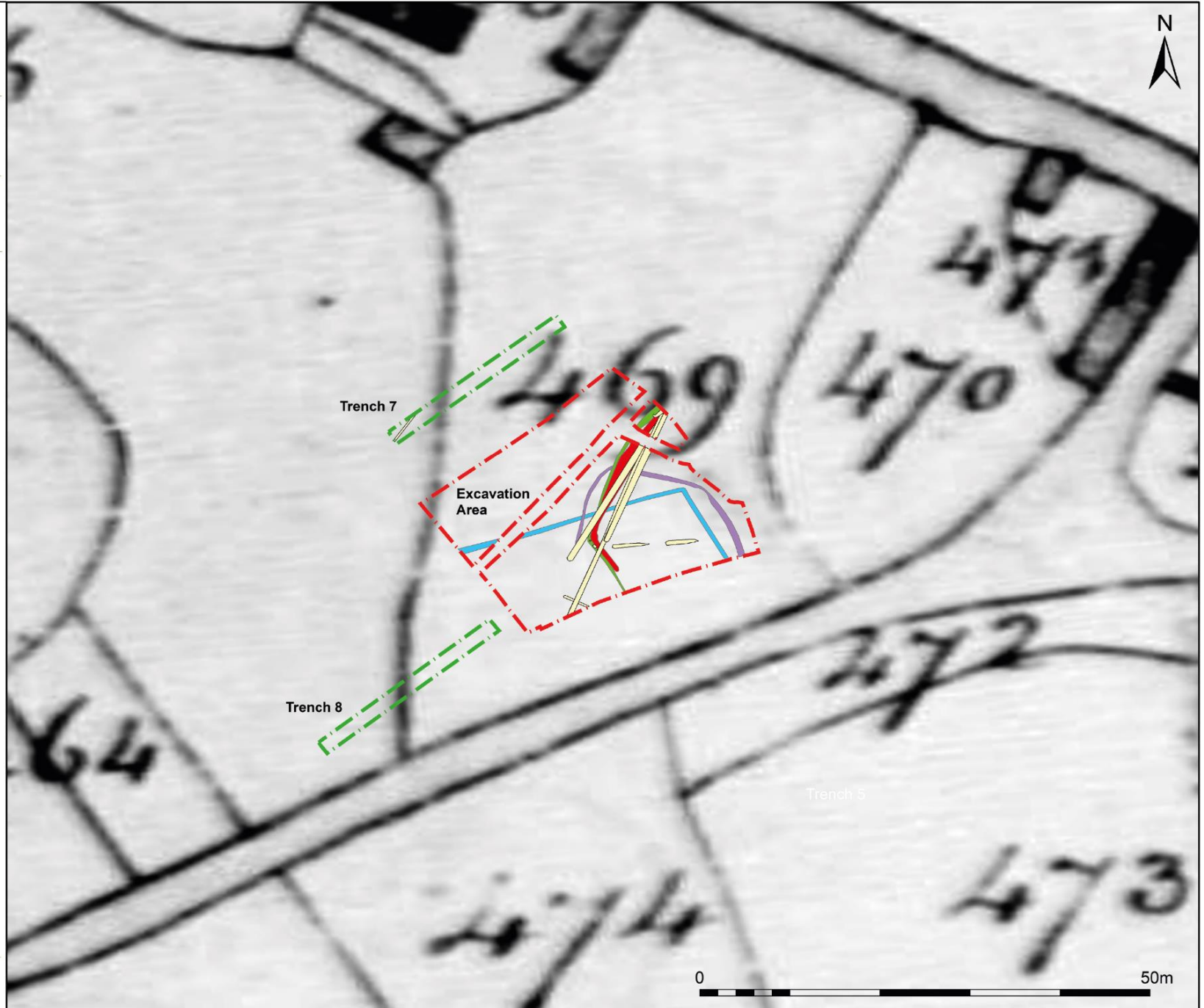
Figure 11

General view of Ditches C and D and aerial view of Excavation Area

PROJECT TITLE
Land Adjacent to the Fountain Head
Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon

FIGURE TITLE FIGURE NO.
Parish of Branscombe 12
1840 Tithe Map

-  Excavation Area
-  Evaluation Trench
-  Ditch A
-  Ditch B
-  Ditch C
-  Ditch D
-  Field Drain



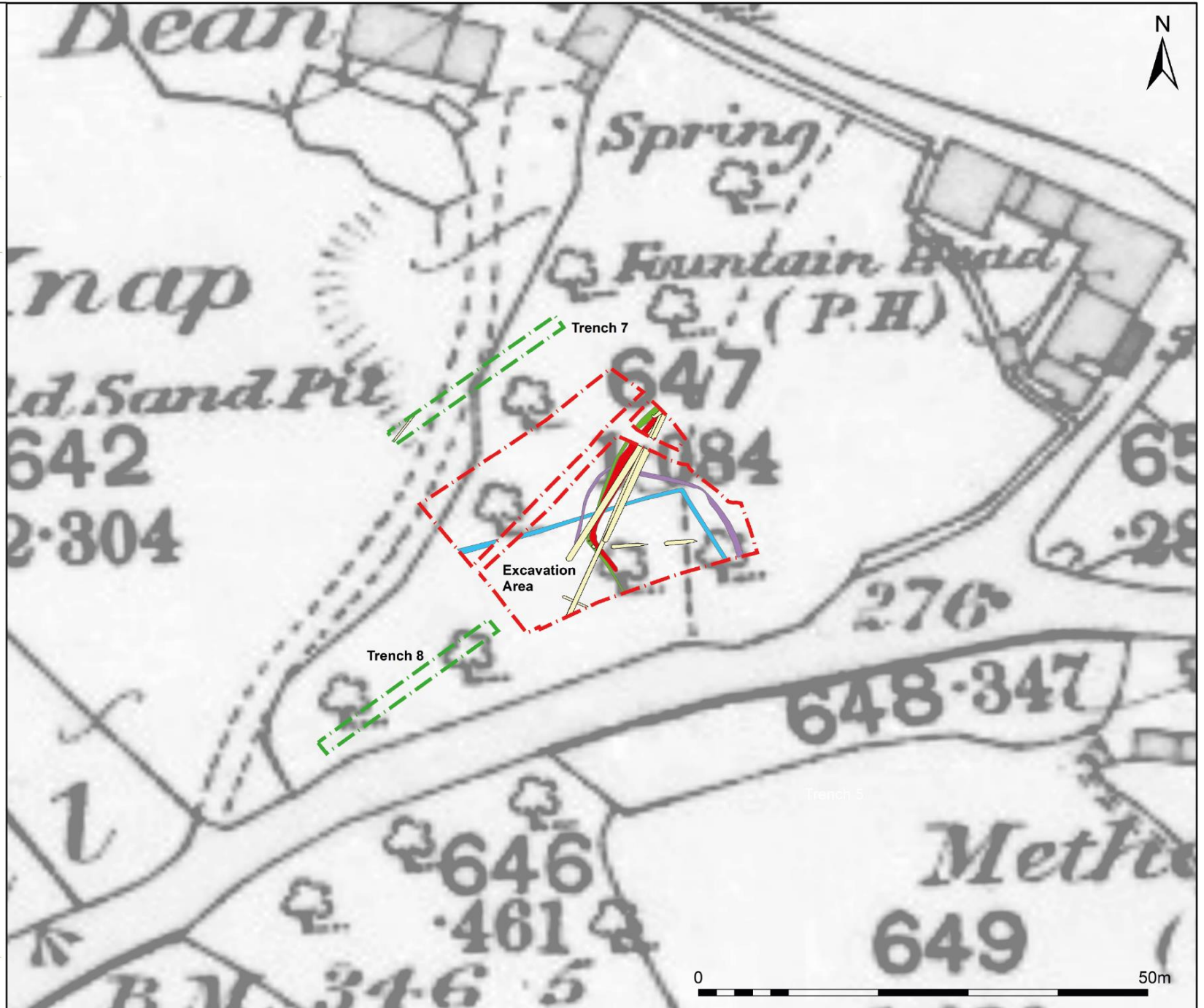
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PROJECT TITLE
Land Adjacent to the Fountain Head Inn, Berry Hill, Branscombe, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
**1889 25" to 1 mile
 1st edition OS map**

FIGURE NO.
13

- - - Excavation Area
- - - Evaluation Trench
- Ditch A
- Ditch B
- Ditch C
- Ditch D
- Field Drain



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