

# LAND WEST OF DEERPARK FARM CHARLES, BRAYFORD DEVON

Results of Archaeological Monitoring & Recording



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**Land west of Deerpark Farm  
Charles, Brayford  
Devon**

**Results of Archaeological Monitoring & Recording**

*For*

Mr Ian Rice

*Of*

C & R Construction (SW) Ltd

*on behalf of*

H.R. and D.E. Tolley

*By*



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## *Summary*

*South West Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording of land west of Deerpark Farm, Charles, Brayford, Devon, in advance of the construction of a stable and fodder store. A series of shallow linear features containing North Devon medieval coarsewares were uncovered on the western edge of the development, suggesting a contemporary farmstead lay somewhere in the immediate vicinity.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

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**Location:** Charles  
**Parish:** Brayford  
**District:** North Devon  
**County:** Devon

### 1.1 Background

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) were commissioned by Ian Rice (the Agent) on behalf of H.R. and D.E. Tolley (the Client) to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks relating the construction of a stable and fodder storage building. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix 1) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

### 1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The site is located within a field to the west of the village of Charles in North Devon, *c.*200m west of Deerpark farmhouse. It lies near the crest of a north-south ridge, in a saddle of land between two low heights, at approximately 225m AOD. The field slopes from south-west to north-east.

The underlying bedrock forms part of the Pilton Mudstone Formation (BGS 2012), overlain by the soils of the fine well-drained loamy soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983).

The field is currently under pasture and used for the keeping of horses.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been represented by a single pit containing late Neolithic pottery south-east of Charles Town Barton and the single, unprovenanced, find of a possible contemporary macehead. The presence of Bronze Age burial mounds in the landscape within a few kilometres also hints at the potential for prehistoric activity or settlement in the area.

There is extensive evidence of Romano-British iron-smelting from within and around Brayford village, which lies in the valley to the north of the site. Recorded sites in the vicinity consist of furnaces and spreads of iron slag and charcoal dated to *c.* AD20 – AD230, suggesting activity in the late Iron Age period, prior to Roman establishment. Geophysical survey and subsequent excavation to the north and the east of site have ditched enclosures and archaeological horizons containing 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century Roman pottery. These enclosure ditches may be associated with the as undated geophysical anomalies identified at Welcombe Farm less than a kilometre to the north of Charles Town Barton. These constituted a sub-rectangular enclosure with 3 or 4 concentric ditches, a ditched trackway leading to an entrance and suggestions of an accompanying field system.

Activity from the post-Roman period onwards is evident in the historical record through place-name and documentary evidence.

## 1.4 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012, when an area 660m<sup>2</sup> in extent was stripped of topsoil (see Figure 2). The site was excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist (J. Bampton) to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits, whichever was highest in the stratigraphic sequence. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

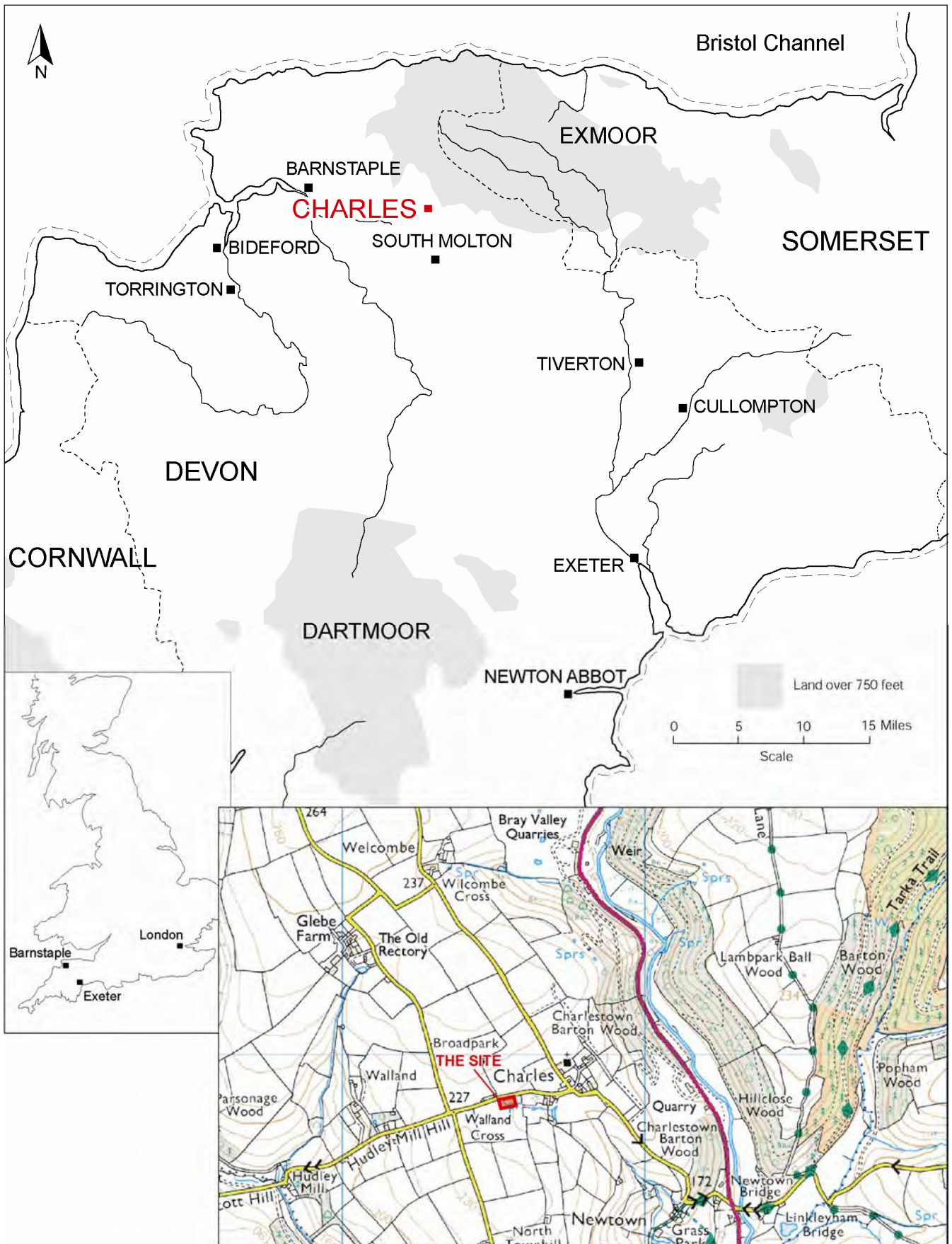


Figure 1: Site location map.



## 2.0 Desk-Based Assessment

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### 2.1 Introduction to Charles

The settlement of Charles is first documented in 1086. The main village at Charles Town Barton lies 13km due east of Barnstaple on the brow of a hill overlooking the valley of the River Bray at an elevation of around 200m. Nearby settlements of medieval origin are Walland, Shutscombe and Welcombe. Formerly the centre of its own ecclesiastical parish, Charles is now subsumed within the civil parish of Brayford. The church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, but may originally have been dedicated to St Petrock, a Celtic saint with dedications throughout the South-West (Grinsell 1970, 210). Now bypassed by the A399, which runs through the Bray valley, it appears that in the days of transport by pack-horse Charles was on the road from Barnstaple by way of Goodleigh, Gunn and Huntley Mill to North Molton (Joyce 1937, 13). The 18<sup>th</sup> century turnpike road left Charles isolated and remote. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century R.D. Blackmore stayed in Charles with his uncle, the rector of Charles, and while there he wrote much of *Lorna Doone* (Hoskins 1992, 362).

### 2.2 The Historical Context

#### 2.2.1 The Manor of Charles

The earliest traceable documentary reference to the area about the River Bray is contained in a 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century manumission in which it is stated that a woman called *Æbelgyfy* was freed at “four ways” on the eve of midsummers mass at Bray (Hooke 1994, 226). On the face of it this should refer to High Bray, but that village is not located at a crossroads. Alternatively, it could refer to Brayford, where numerous route ways meet, but it could also conceivably refer to the area immediately around Charles and Walland, where the church stands about half a mile from Walland Cross, a fourway junction.

Apart from this rare but enigmatic reference, Charles receives its first explicit mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. At the time of the Domesday survey Charles was among the lands of Baldwin the Sheriff. It was recorded that “*Carnes*” was held by Robert of Pont-Chardon, whose principle manor was Heanton *Punchardon*. Before the conquest it had been held by Brictrmer. It paid tax for one virgate of land, having land for 12 ploughs, 100 acres of woodland and 53 acres of pasture. It was valued at 40 Shillings. The small neighbouring manor of Mockham, separately listed in Domesday, appears to have been incorporated with Charles after 1086 (Thorn and Thorn 1985; see also Mortimer 1999). The de Punchardon family held Charles until the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, when it passed by way of a daughter to the de Raleigh line in the person of Henry de Raleigh. In 1298 a portion of the manor was conveyed by Henry de Raleigh to Thomas de Dune in a financial settlement, but in 1324 Sir John de Raleigh retrieved all of the manor and was lord of the manor until the 1340s, when he was succeeded by Sir Thomas de Raleigh who died in 1398 (Reichel 1928-38, 481-2). De Raleighs apparently continued to hold the land until at least the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century, when it is known that the family owned Walland (Joyce 1937, 12). By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Inledon family of Buckland (Braunton) were in possession of properties in the manor, specifically Charles Town Barton. The tithe map apportionment records that Sir Thomas Palmer Acland was a major land owner, as was Earl Fortescue.

#### 2.2.2 The Church

The parish church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, and it seems clear that a church has existed here from at least Norman times. Bishop Bronescombe’s Register records that William de Braunton was installed as subdeacon in the *ecclesia de Charnes* on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1279 (Hingeston-Randolph 1889). Bishop Stapledon’s Register records that in 1317 Walter le Wolfe, rector of the

church of Carnes, was permitted to retain the patronage of the Prior of Pilton (Hingeston-Randolph 1892). However, little if any early fabric remains. The Reverend W.W. Joyce (1937, 13) was of the opinion that the church at Charles was founded by the monks of Pilton Priory to whom, apparently, the patronage belonged until the Dissolution. On the other hand, Bishop Bronescombes Register states that Sir John de Punchardon was the patron in 1279. Reichel wrote (1928-38, 482) that in 1398 Sir Thomas de Raleigh died seised of the manor of Charles and the advowson of the church; in other words, the lord of the manor held the patronage and the right to appoint a priest to a living and thus to share in the tithe revenue.

In the early days of the manor there was a chantry chapel at Walland associated with the name of St Petrock. Joyce suggests that this was eclipsed by the building of the present church, but Walland continued as a house chapel with its own chantry priest. The present St Petrox cottage apparently stands on the site of the chapel, which was in ruins by 1825 (Joyce 1937, 11). Built into the 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolmaster's house west of the church are the remnants of a medieval priest's house (SMR SS63SE/6). After the Reformation, the priest's house was turned into the church house and in 1856 was incorporated by the Rev. Richard Blackmore into the new National School.

### 2.2.3 The Landscape Context

It is suggested that the place name Charles is of Celtic origin and represents the West Welsh *carn + lys* (Gover *et al.* 1931, 61) meaning something like “chieftan’s hall on/by the rock”. If this interpretation is correct, it suggests a “central place” whose distinctive nature was sufficient enough to be commemorated by the retention of a native British name in an area where names of British origin are otherwise extremely scarce. On the other hand, nearby Walland, Walscott (on the other side of the Bray) and Wallover (beyond High Bray to the north-east) all contain the *Walh-*element which, at least in the case of Wallover, is accepted as signifying “Britons” (Gover *et al.* 1931, 30). It is worth considering therefore that Charles lies at the centre of an area that retained its British character until well after the West Saxon takeover of the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

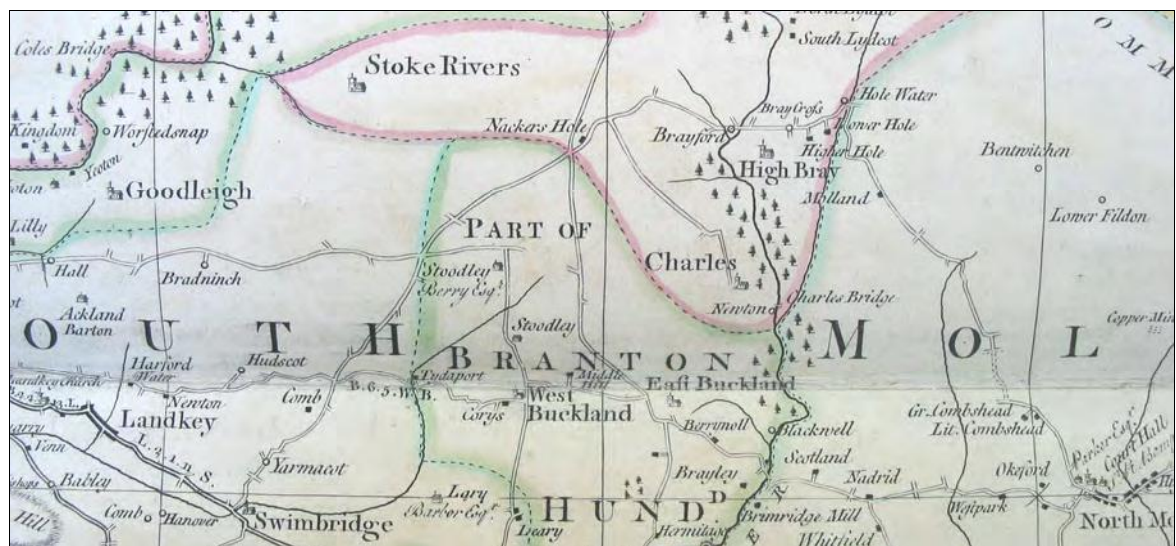


Figure 2: Charles in the context of routeways and hundred boundaries (pink indicates the boundary of Shirwell Hundred) as depicted in Donn's map of 1765 (DRO).

The location of Charles would now be considered remote. However, archaeological discoveries indicate that in the Romano-British period the area around Brayford was the centre of a very considerable iron-smelting industry, a vital adjunct of which would have been an infrastructure of roads and trackways useable in all seasons in order to carry the product away. It is noticeable that from Brayford there exists a route which proceeds without steep inclines straight to the riverside at

Barnstaple. The association with St Petrock would then place Charles among those locations apparently reached by Welsh missionary monks in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries and which are all relatively accessible from the Bristol Channel coast (Porter 1971, map). Within this part of North Devon Charles, only Parracombe shares an association with St. Petrock.

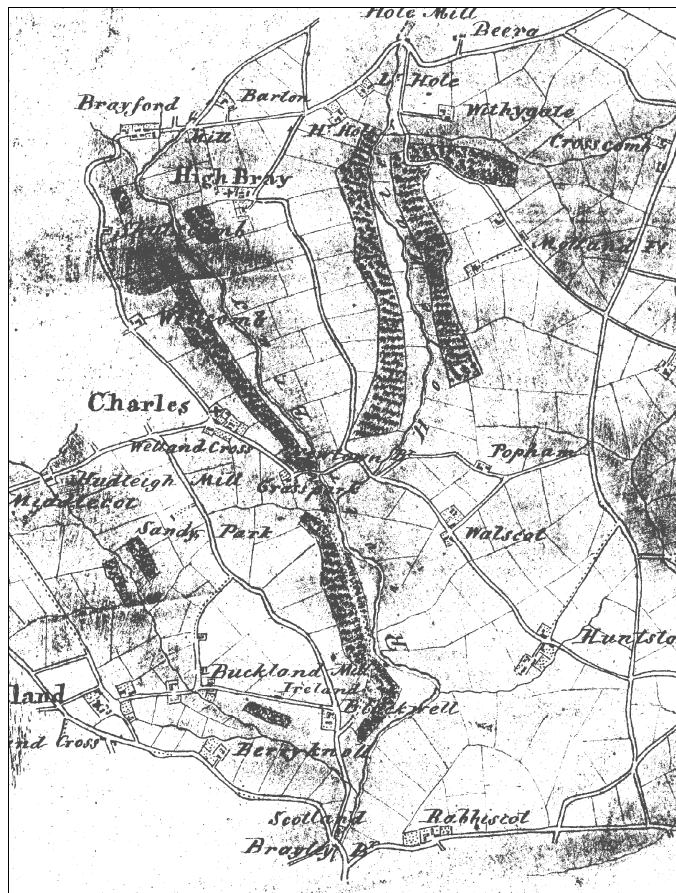


Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft of 1804-5 (DRO).

In this context it should be noted that Charles lies at the southern extreme of Shirwell Hundred. In the Domesday Book and in the Geldroll Braunton and Shirwell Hundreds were treated as one (Reichel 1928-38, 387 & 461), suggesting a shared history as a single territory (or estate). Charles also lies very close to the edge of a detached portion of Braunton Hundred comprising East and West Buckland and Filleigh. The suspicion that Braunton and Shirwell Hundreds represent two halves of the same ancient territory to which Charles was integral is borne out by the fact that in Domesday Charles was held by Robert of Pont Chardon whose principle manor was Heanton (Punchardon). This was itself a quite considerable manor within Braunton Hundred worth £4 in 1086 and therefore one of the largest manors in the hundred. Sir John de Punchardon was patron of the church here in 1279. Braunton was a royal manor, a status that probably descends from that of *caput* of a large territory which may be identified as Braunton and Shirwell Hundreds combined. In this territory stretching from the coast to Exmoor upland, Charles would have represented a boundary location on an important route.

## 2.3 The Archaeological Context

### 2.3.1 Prehistoric

Neolithic activity in the immediate area is indicated by the discovery in 2000 of late Neolithic (3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC) “beakers” in two pits at a point (SS6893632908) south-east of Charles Town Barton (Manning 2000, 2). A sandstone macehead of presumed Neolithic date has also been found in a cottage in Charles (SMR SS63SE/7).

The numbers of Bronze Age burial mounds located on the high ground of Exmoor a few kilometres to the east and north-east and a smaller concentration on Berry Hill to the north clearly suggest Bronze Age settlement in the area.

### 2.3.2 Later Prehistoric

The large banked and ditched enclosure on Mockham Down to the north-west and Shoulsbury to the north would appear to be of later prehistoric (Iron Age) date. Radiocarbon determinations obtained from deposits of charcoal found together with iron slag at Sherracombe Ford, 5km to the north-east, indicate a date range of 160BC – AD90 (Juleff 1999, 10). Analysis of similar material recovered during an archaeological evaluation carried out by Exeter Archaeology in 1999 on land contiguous to Charles Town Barton produced a date range (at 2 ) of AD20 – AD230 (Juleff 1999, 11). The suggestion therefore is that there was activity in the area in the late Iron Age period.

### 2.3.3 Romano-British

Geophysical survey carried out by Oxford Archaeotechnics in March and May 1999 ahead of quarry-waste tipping (Survey Ref: 1830399/BRD/HAN) on land immediately to the east and north of Charles Town Barton Farm (Figure 4) produced evidence of two ditched enclosures whose eastern and western boundaries overlapped each other, suggesting that one succeeded the other.

A subsequent archaeological evaluation carried out by Exeter archaeology (Report No. 99.68) involved trenching the features revealed by the geophysical survey. It concluded that one enclosure was later Iron Age date, while the latter was securely dated from pottery within its ditch to the Romano-British period. An area of burning located by geophysical survey was found to represent a spread of iron smelting debris. Associated with it were Roman pottery sherds to which a late 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date has been assigned. In a lower horizon, beneath the burning, Roman pottery of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century was found (Reed 1999, 3). The later enclosure and the deposit of slag and pottery appeared, therefore, to be contemporaneous. Since the Romano-British enclosure occupied an awkward position on a sharp break in slope, it was felt that it might represent a secondary enclosure to a larger enclosure further up the hill.

A further geophysical survey by Oxford Archaeotechnics in 2000 (Survey Ref: 2281200/BRD/HAN) at Welcombe Farm – less than a kilometre to the north of Charles Town Barton – revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure with 3 or 4 concentric ditches, a ditched trackway leading to an entrance and suggestions of an accompanying field system. Trial excavations in 2008 undertaken by XArch and the Brayford Community Archaeology Group confirmed a Romano-British date for this enclosure as well.

### 2.3.4 Post-Roman to Medieval

If the derivation of the name Charles from a British original is sound, it suggests a settlement of pre-Saxon, i.e. pre-8<sup>th</sup> century date. The chapel of St Petrock at Walland suggests the possibility of early (Celtic) Christian activity in the area. We know that at the time of the Domesday survey the manor of Charles held six villagers and six smallholders and their families. Indications in the landscape of medieval land organisation are Deerpark Wood (recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 6” map of 1891) to the south of Charles Town Barton; and a field lying to the west of the settlement

which, in the title apportionment of 1842, was called Cony Close (field number 479), recalling the medieval practice of warrening. The church is likely to be of at least 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century origin.



Figure 4: Results of geophysical survey at Charles Town Barton (from Reed 1999, Fig.4).

## 2.4 The Cartographic Analysis

The earliest accessible cartographic depiction of the field boundaries is that from the Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft of 1804-5 (Figure 3) in which the precise detail relating to the proposed location is unclear. However, those boundaries that are clear show a definite continuity with the title map of 1842 (Figure 5) and the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map of 1891 (Figure 6). This would support the proposal that the field boundary relevant to the proposed development at Land west of Deerpark Farm had shown the same longevity. This is not to say that boundaries of and remnants of field systems earlier than 1804 will not be present. As this area, despite its current sense of remoteness, has shown evidence of activity into prehistory with important local infrastructure links at least up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The 1842 Tithe map (Figure 6) shows the field in which the proposed development is to take place as number 520a, part of the North Town Hills tenement and owned and occupied by George Shapland. He also owned the tenements of Deer Park & Ridds and North Wrick Down. According to the 1841 Census he was a local farmer born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1828 in Landkey, west of Charles. The buildings immediately to the east of the site – Deerpark Farm – were owned and occupied by him. None of the field names recorded in the apportionment are particularly noteworthy, though no.479 *Cony Close* might hint at the presence of a warren. No.523 *Leworthys* refers to local farmers/landowners of that name.

No.	Tenement	Owner	Lessee	Field Name	Land Use
479	Broad Park	William Barimore Esq.	Michael Passmore	Cony Close	pasture
485	Broad Park	William Barimore Esq.	Michael Passmore	Western Close	arable
506	Deer Park & Ridds	George Shapland	Himself	buildings	buildings
507	Deer Park & Ridds	George Shapland	Himself	Meadow	meadow
519	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Orchard	orchard
520	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Home Park	pasture
520a	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Second Park	pasture
521	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Walland Crop	arable
522	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Garden	garden
523	North Town Hills	George Shapland	Himself	Leworthys	pasture
537	Home Parks	Thomas Acland Esq.	Samuel Collins	West Home Park	arable occ.
538	Home Parks	Thomas Acland Esq.	Samuel Collins	East Home Park	arable

The morphology of these fields suggest they are late enclosures or represent a rationalisation of an existing open field system, as the Devon HLC suggests (HLC accessed Sept. 2012). A notable feature of this landscape is the presence of what are shown as remote field barns. For example, as well as *Deer Park & Ridds* George Shapland holds *North Town Hills* and *North Wrick Down*, both single buildings within their fields. To this can be added *Broad Park* and *Townhills*. These may be simple field barns, but as some are also tenements, it implies they are the surviving remnant of former farmsteads.

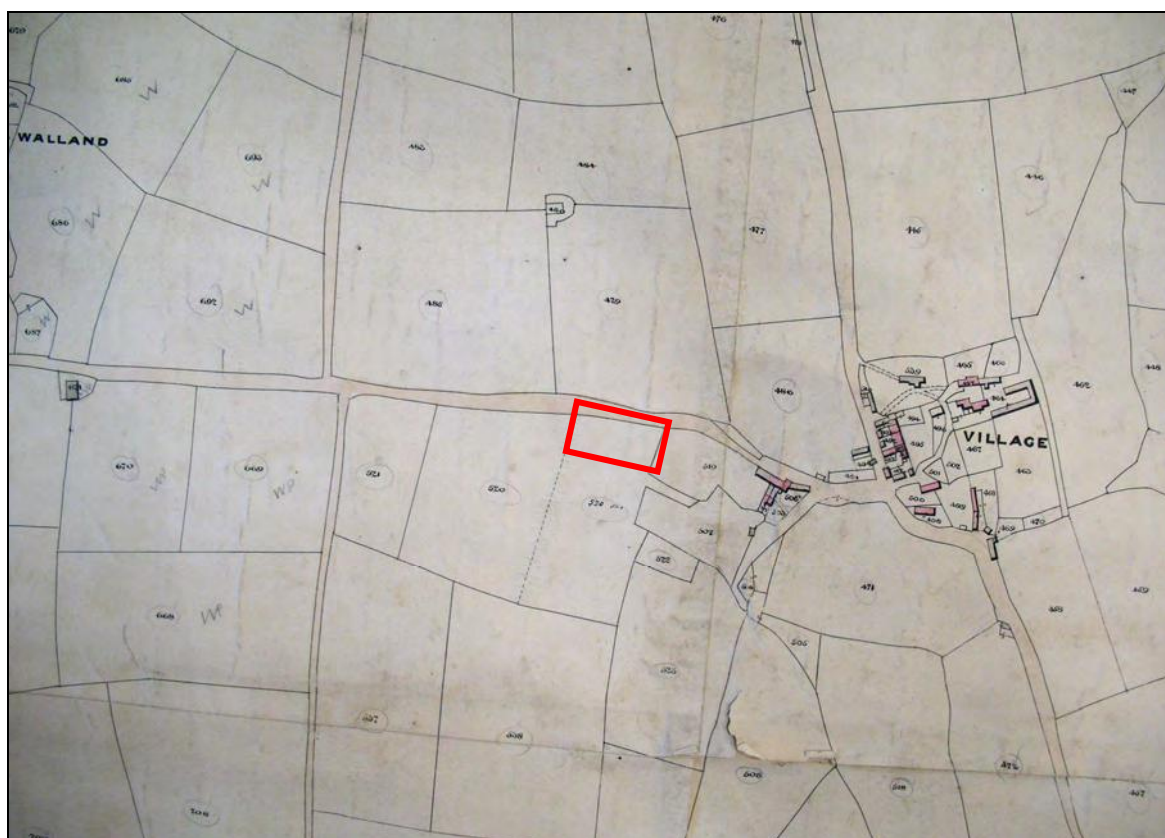


Figure 5: The village of Charles as recorded on the tithe map of 1842 (the site is indicated) (DRO).

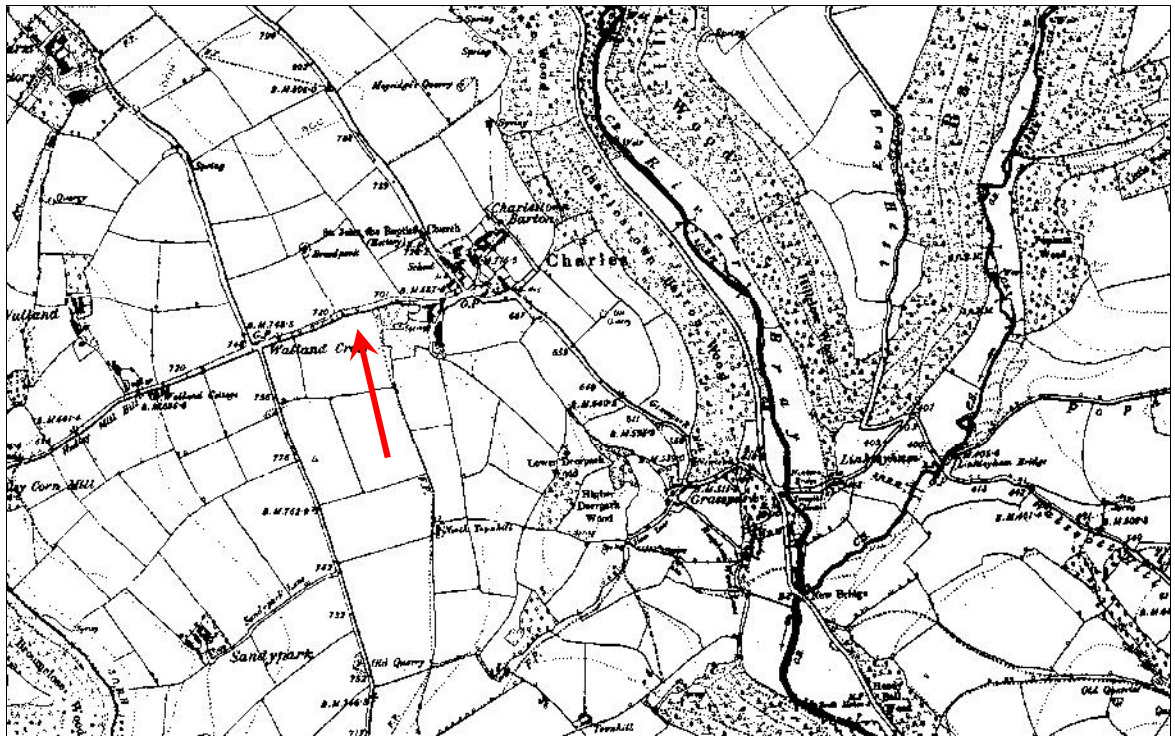


Figure 6: Extract from the OS First Edition 6" map of 1891 (the site is indicated) (NDRO).

## 2.5 Conclusion

Archaeological investigation in the vicinity indicates that the village of Charles lies astride an area of late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. The interpretation of place-name and documentary evidence strongly suggests that this location retained importance from before and right through the Saxon period, attracting the attention of early Christians and occupying a notable position within a territory comprising the Hundreds of Braunton and Shirwell. It is probable that the manor of Charles was administered from Charles Town (Church Place or Church Town). The introduction of the turnpike road along the Bray Valley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century consigned Charles to remoteness. The area to the west of the village contains a number of isolated field barns that may represent the remains of a series of small farmsteads.

### 3.0 Deposit Model

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#### 3.1 Sample Sections

Sample Section 1 (Figure 9.1) 0.00m = 9.94m according to site datum		
0.00-0.17m	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones.
0.17-0.46m	Subsoil	Dark brownish-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent small sub-angular stones, moderate gravels and occasional charcoal flecks. It contained fragments of slag.
0.46m+	Natural	Mid brownish-yellow, firm-to-compact clay beneath a patchy layer or band of shillet with frequent poorly-sorted sub-angular rocks and gravel.

Sample Section 2 (Figure 9.2) 0.00m = 8.30m according to site datum		
0.00 -0.16m	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones.
0.16 - 0.33m+	Subsoil	Dark brownish-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent small sub-angular stones, moderate gravels and occasional charcoal flecks. It contained fragments of slag.

*Note all spot heights are to an arbitrary datum.*

#### 3.2 Deposit model

The whole site was covered by a layer of active topsoil 0.15-0.20m thick, overlying a lower soil c.0.30m thick (total thickness: 4.50-0.50m), which in turn overlaid the undisturbed natural. These soils derive from the erosion of silt-clay and sandstone formations in the surrounding landscape and the underlying bedrock (Pilton Mudstone Formation). Figure 7 shows the location of the sample; it is certainly possible the gradient of the slope has led to more material collecting on the eastern or downslope part of the site. As the eastern half of the site is to be raised, while the western half lowered thus the depth of formation/construction was reached in the western half of the site before archaeologically significant layers. It should be noted that regardless, the archaeology seems to have ceased before this point.



## 4.0 Results of the Archaeological Monitoring

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### 4.1 Site Summary

Due to the terrain – i.e. the site slopes from south-west to north-east – levels were reduced on the western upslope side of the site in order to build up the land on the eastern downslope side. For this reason, the eastern end of the site (*c.*270m<sup>2</sup> or about one third of the total area) was only excavated to just below the level of the turf.

On the western part of the site, five definite and one possible linear feature were identified; these features all contained North Devon medieval coarseware pottery. Two or possibly three phases are evident, with a system of fairly slight linear features cut by a later and more substantial ditch on a slightly different alignment. Given the quantity of medieval pottery recovered (52 sherds weighing 0.5kg), and its relatively good preservation, it seems likely a contemporary settlement lay nearby.

A small amount of undiagnostic iron slag was also recovered, though given the proximity of the Romano-British iron industry in the Bray Valley, this is not unexpected. It could suggest iron-smelting took place nearby, but could equally have been brought to site as hardcore at a later date.

### 4.2 Results

All of the archaeological features and finds observed were located within 12m of the western boundary of the excavated area. Most of the features identified were very shallow and had clearly been truncated; they also contained very similar fills, being slightly yellowish grey-brown clay-silts. See Appendix 2 for more detailed context descriptions. On the basis of their stratigraphical relationships, the features can be grouped into two main phases.

#### 4.2.1 Phase 1

Three linear features can be attributed to Phase 1. Linear features [1003], [1009] and [1005] appear to form part of a contemporary trackway and field boundary.

Linear features [1009] and [1013] ran east-west in parallel, separated by a distance of *c.*3m. Both features were approximately 0.7m wide and 0.15-0.34m deep and contained single fills. Linear feature [1013] re-cut an earlier linear feature [1011] on the same alignment. Linear feature [1009], together with linear feature [1005], may form the corner of a field or close, but the relationship was obscured by linear feature [1003].

Linear feature [1007], and the possible traces of a similar feature extending to the east of [1013], appear to modify these earlier features, either extending the trackway to the east or modifying the entrance.

#### 4.2.2 Phase 2

Linear feature [1003] was orientated roughly north-south. It was much wider than the earlier linear features (1.37m) but just as shallow (0.32m). It ran across the site and cut all the other linear features, blocking the earlier trackway. It contained a single fill (1004), and this produced North Devon medieval coarseware pottery and a little iron slag.

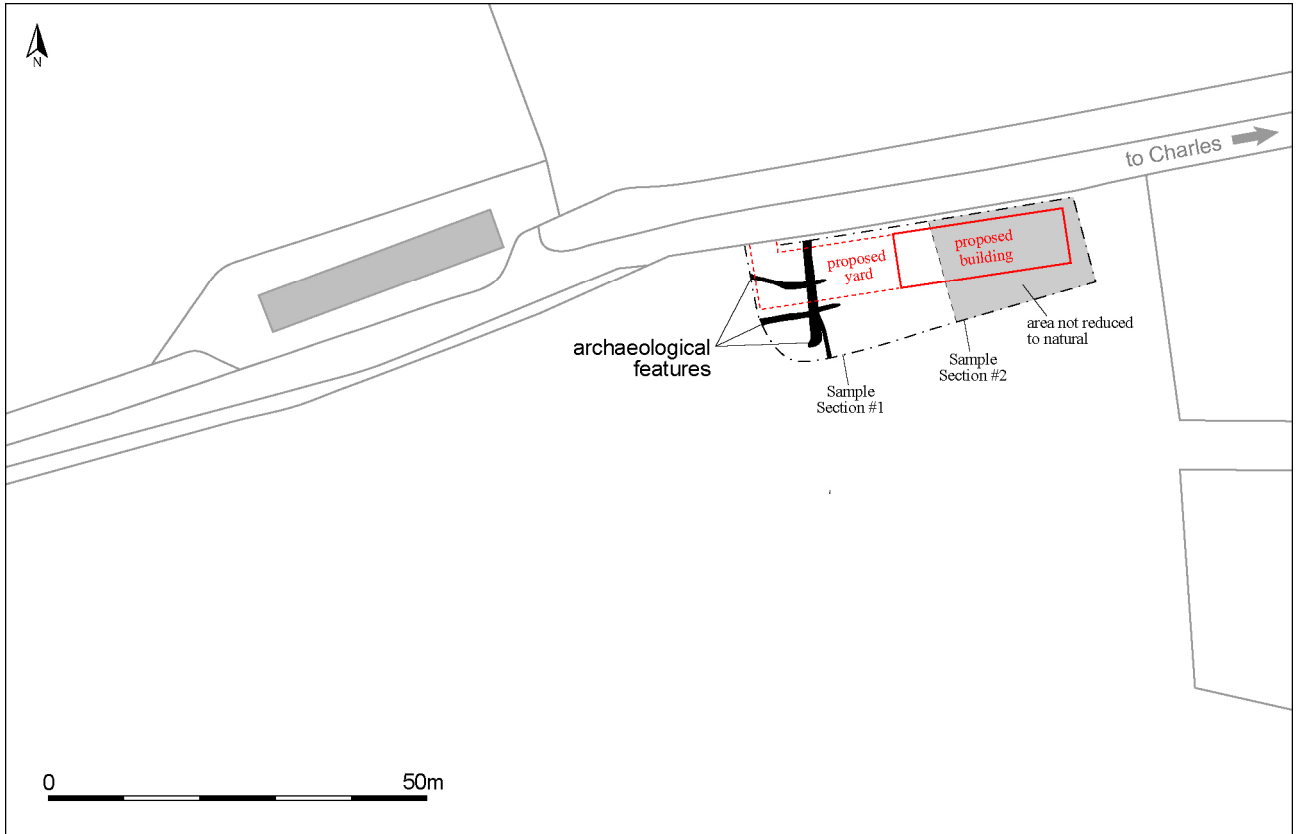


Figure 5: Location of the excavated area.

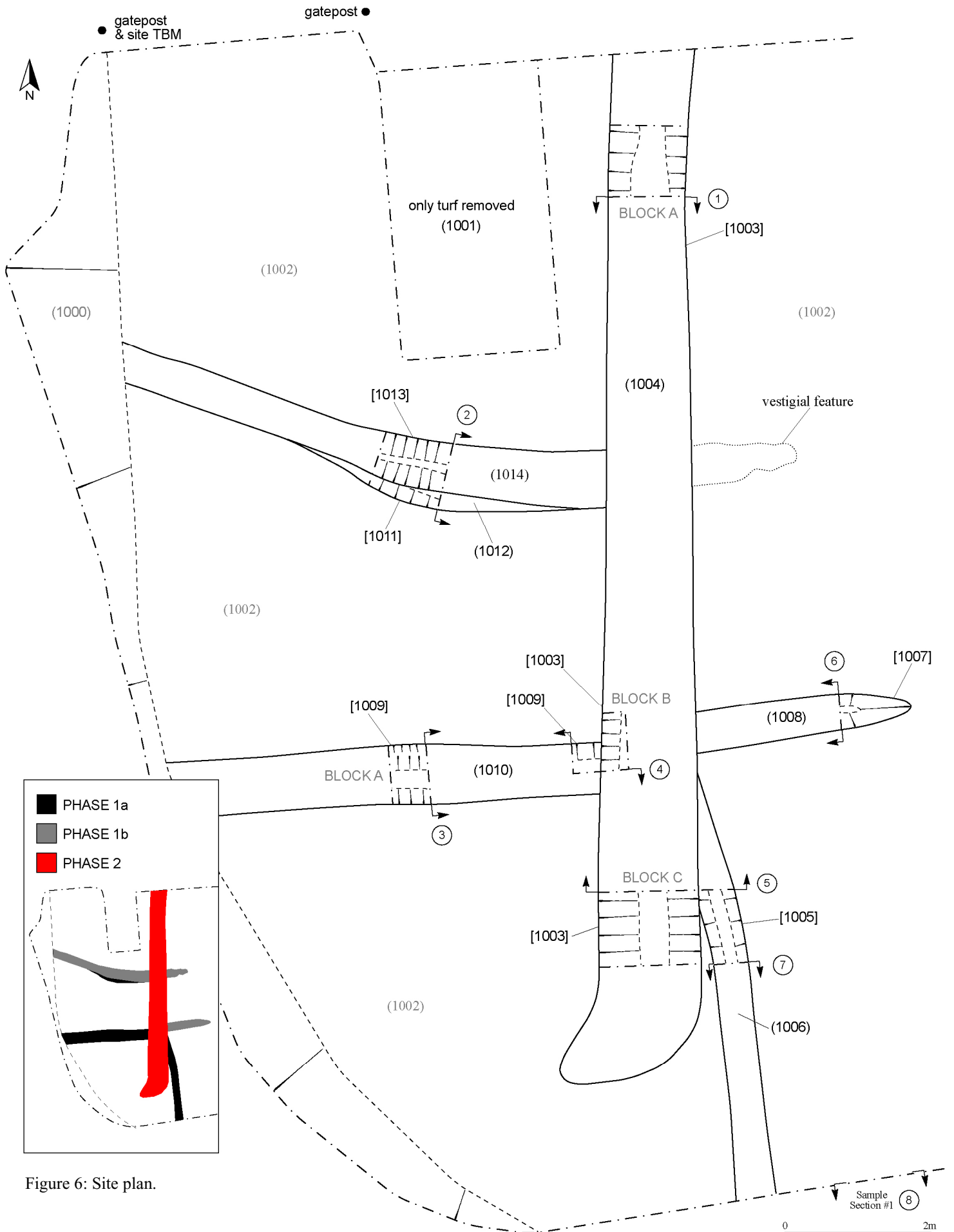


Figure 6: Site plan.

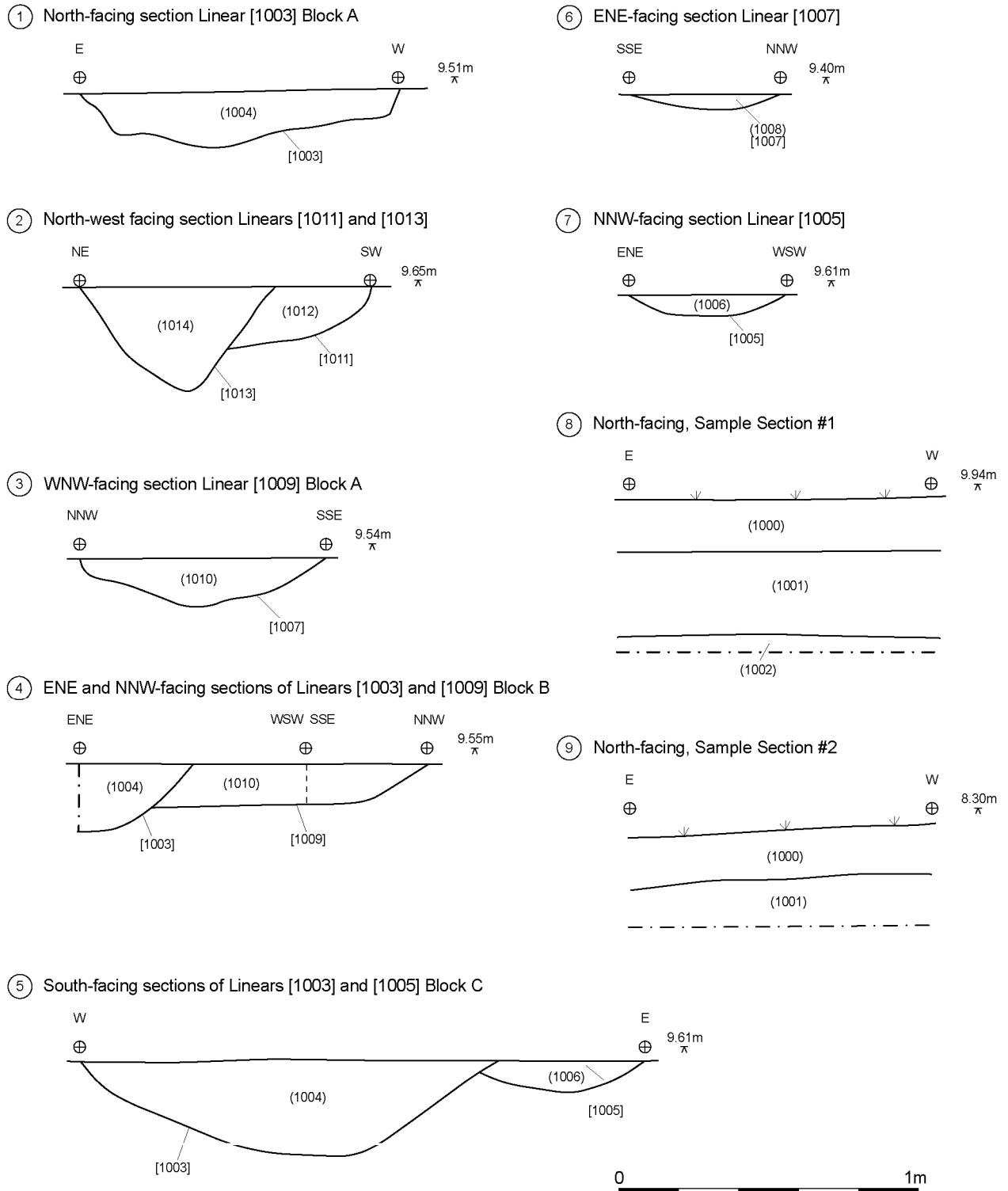


Figure 7: Section drawings.



Figure 8: Linear features [1003] and [1009] Block B, north-facing section (scale 0.5m).



Figure 9: Linear features [1003] and [1005] Block C, south-facing section (scale 1m).



Figure 10: Linear feature [1003], from the east (scale 2m).



Figure 11: North-facing Sample Section #1 (scale 1m).



Figure 12: Linear features [1011] & [1013], west-facing section (scale 1m).



Figure 13: The site, post-excavation, from the west (scales 1&2m).

## 5.0 Discussion & Conclusion

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### 5.1 Discussion

While feature [1007] did not produce dateable evidence, the morphology and alignment of all the features suggests that most of them were contemporary. The truncation caused by feature [1003] at what would have been the nodal point of linear features [1005], [1007] and [1009] makes it impossible to determine their exact relationships, but it seems likely that they did indeed belong to one of two phases.

The condition of the terminus of linear feature [1007], and the presence of a vestigial smear of material aligned with linear feature [1013], suggests that the linear features and the field system they represent may originally have extended beyond this point. The orientation of these ditches is not radically different from the surrounding extant hedgebanks, and it is likely they form part of the historic fieldscape.

Linear features [1005] to [1013] appear to represent a single contemporary field system that was altered through design or maintenance by the cutting of the more substantial ditch [1003]. This activity all took place during the medieval period. More specific dating is hampered by the undiagnostic character of North Devon medieval coarsewares, although the glazed sherds did come from the stratigraphically later feature.

The archaeological evidence indicates the system of ditches uncovered was maintained for some time, with clear evidence for re-cutting and modification. The recovery of a relatively large assemblage of fairly well-preserved medieval pottery would suggest that a medieval settlement, probably a farmstead, lies nearby. The presence of some iron slag might indicate a possible link with the known smelting activity that occurred in and around Brayford, but equally it could have been transported to the site as hardcore.

The identified features were clustered on the extreme western edge of the monitored area, and this would suggest ploughing had destroyed or severely truncated any features to the east.

### 5.2 Conclusion

Monitoring at Deerpark Farm, Charles, Devon, uncovered part of a well-maintained medieval field system. The very slight nature of the ditches would suggest they have been truncated through later ploughing, but would also accord with observations that earlier medieval field ditches were not that substantial (e.g. see SWARCH report Walls 2012). The presence of a fairly large assemblage of North Devon medieval coarsewares would indicate these ditches probably formed part of an enclosure(s) that surrounded a contemporary farmstead. As noted (above), the fields to the west of the village contain a number of isolated field barns that may have originated as independent farmsteads. The morphology of the fields would suggest they have been enclosed and rationalised, perhaps from part of a common open field. That would suggest these farmsteads are post-medieval in origin. However, the archaeological evidence from this site might suggest they could be considerably earlier in date.

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### Online Sources:

The Geology of Britain viewer:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=devon>

Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/landscape-characterisation>

## Appendix 1

### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT TOWN BARTON, CHARLES, BRAYFORD, DEVON,

**Location:** Town Barton, Charles,  
**Parish:** Brayford  
**District:** North Devon  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** 268805.132970  
**Planning Application no:** 53830  
**Proposal:** Erection of stable & hay/straw storage incorporating a change of use  
**HES ref:** Arch/DC/ND/18944  
**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been produced by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Mr. Ian Rice (The Client). It sets out the methodology for archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during the above development and for related off site analysis and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (Stephen Reed, DCHES).

1.2 In accordance with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition (No. 4) requires that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

*'Reason: To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.'*

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed development lies in an area of known industrial activity associated with the smelting of iron ore, which dates to the Roman period. Recorded sites in the vicinity consist of furnaces and spreads of iron slag and charcoal and it is possible that groundworks for this development may expose archaeological deposits or artefacts associated with this activity.

#### 3.0 AIMS

3.1 To observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the proposed development;

3.2 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

#### 4.0 METHOD

4.1 Desk-based assessment:

The programme of work shall include a desk-based *appraisal* of the site to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER. The reporting requirements for the desk-based work will be confirmed in consultation with the HES.

4.1.1 This desk-based work will be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork commencing.

4.4.2 If a full report is prepared then this information will be presented as part of the final report along with the results of the fieldwork.

4.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording:

Topsoil and any groundworks associated with the development will be stripped under archaeological supervision. All groundworks including service trenching and topsoil stripping will be carried out by machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist, to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. If significant or complex archaeological remains are uncovered, SWARCH will liaise with the client and DCHES to determine the most satisfactory way to proceed. Archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand:

4.2.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)*.

4.2.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

4.2.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines.

4.2.4 If archaeological features are exposed, then as a *minimum*:

i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;

ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);

iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features;

iv) a minimum of one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

4.2.5 Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above or decisions regarding expansion will be considered in consultation with the Client and DCHES.

4.2.6 In exceptional circumstances where materials of a particularly compact nature are encountered, these may be removed with a toothed bucket, subject to agreement with archaeological staff on site.



- 4.2.7 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.2.8 Human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 4.2.9 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2<sup>nd</sup> Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.3 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the HES will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the HES and the client/applicant to determine the appropriate mitigation.
- 4.4 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.5 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.
- 4.5.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
- 4.5.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 4.5.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.6 Monitoring
- 4.6.1 SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with the HES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.
- 4.6.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 5.5 below.
- 4.4.3 SWARCH will notify the HES upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.
- 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**
- 5.1 This will be based on IfA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:
- 5.1.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate and digital photography.
- 5.1.2 Survey and location of features.
- 5.1.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with the DCHES.
- 5.2 A photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. The photographic record for the excavations will be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. However, if digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints will be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium in accordance with the current conditions of deposit of the Museum.
- 5.3 Should suitable deposits be exposed (e.g. palaeoenvironmental) then scientific assessment/ analysis/dating techniques will be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon. Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002* and if necessary with reference to and with advice from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.
- 6.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT**
- 6.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project. This will include relevant correspondence together with field notes and drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under accession number NDMS2012.26. The museum's current guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to.
- 6.2 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work. In the event that few or no archaeological remains are exposed, only minimal reporting would be required. The results may be presented in the form of a short entry to the Historic Environment Record (HER), sent to the HES either digitally or as a hard-copy. However, the results of the earlier evaluation work will need to be incorporated within this report, and appropriately archived with this. If archaeological deposits or remains are exposed during the course of the works, then more detailed reporting would be required, in the form of an illustrated summary report submitted both in hard-copy and digitally and, if merited, wider publication.
- A report will include the following elements:
- 6.2.1 A report number, date, version number and the OASIS record number;
- 6.2.2 A copy of the DCHES brief and this WS;
- 6.2.3 A summary of the project's background;
- 6.2.4 A description and illustration of the site location;
- 6.2.5 A methodology of the works undertaken;
- 6.2.6 A summary of the project's results;
- 6.2.7 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- 6.2.8 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- 6.2.9 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
- 6.2.10 Detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans will show the site and features/deposits in relation to north. Archaeologically sterile areas

- may not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- 6.2.11 Section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and will show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas may not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- 6.2.12 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 6.2.13 Assessment and analysis, as appropriate, of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples;
- 6.2.14 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 6.2.15 Site matrices where appropriate;
- 6.2.16 Photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- 6.2.17 A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- 6.3 DCHES will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced and a revised submission date for the final report agreed with the DCHES.
- 6.4 Should the development proceed in a staged manner, with each stage requiring archaeological fieldwork, and where a period of more than three months between each stage is anticipated or occurs, then SWARCH shall prepare an interim illustrated summary report at the end of each stage. The report will set out the results of that phase of archaeological works, including the results of any specialist assessment or analysis undertaken. The report will be produced within three months of completion of each phase of fieldwork. At the completion of the final stage of the fieldwork an overarching report setting out the results of all stages of work will be prepared. HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependent upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then the HES will be informed of this, an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the final stage of fieldwork, and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HES and the archaeological contractor.
- 6.5 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations*) database under record number southwes1-130525.
- 7.0 PUBLICATION**
- 7.1 Where the exposure of archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental remains is limited or of little significance reporting will follow on directly from the field work - see section 5 above. Should particularly significant archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance (PPS5). If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.
- 7.2 Post Excavation Assessment, Analysis and Project Designs for further work:  
Where excavations reveal archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits that have potential for yielding important information about the site or its environs, through specialist assessment and analysis, this assessment work will be undertaken and reported on in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design. This document may also fulfil the role of an interim report if a substantial publication delay is expected. This document will be produced by the archaeological contractor within three months of completion of the fieldwork - specialist input allowing - and agreed with the HES. It will include:
- 7.2.1 A summary of the project and its background;
- 7.2.2 A plan showing the location of the site and plans of the site showing the location of archaeological features, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits exposed;
- 7.2.3 The research aims and objectives;
- 7.2.4 Method statements setting out how these aims and objectives are to be achieved;
- 7.2.5 Details of the tasks to be undertaken;
- 7.2.6 The results of any specialist assessment work undertaken as part of the production of the formal Assessment and Project Design;
- 7.2.7 The proposed project team;
- 7.2.8 The overall timetable for undertaking the tasks as well as setting out monitoring points with the HES;
- 7.2.9 Details of the journal in which the material is to be published.
- 8.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES**
- If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is SWARCH's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.
- 9.0 PERSONNEL & MONITORING**
- 9.1 The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the archaeological monitoring will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

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#### List of specialists

##### Building recording

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##### Conservation

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#### **Curatorial**

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#### **Bone**

Human

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Animal

*Wendy Howard*

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#### **Lithics**

*Martin Tingle*

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#### **Metallurgy**

*Lee Bray*

Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton; TA22 9HL; Tel: 01398 324491

#### **Palaeoenvironmental/Organic**

Wood identification: *Dana Challinor*; Tel: 01869 810150; [dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk)

Plant macro-fossils: *Julie Jones* [juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk)

Pollen analysis: *Ralph Fyfe* Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

#### **Pottery**

Prehistoric

*Henrietta Quinnell*

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Roman

*Alex Croom*, Keeper of Archaeology

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Medieval

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Post Medieval

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## Appendix 2

## List of Contexts

Context	Description	Relationships	Thickness
(1000)	Topsoil. Dark greyish-brown friable clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones.	Overlies (1001)	0.17m
(1001)	Subsoil. Dark brownish-grey friable clay-silt; frequent small sub-angular stones; common gravel; occasional charcoal flecks.	Below (1000)(1002); seals all other features	0.29m
(1002)	Natural. Mid brownish-yellow, firm-to-compact clay beneath a patchy layer or band of shillet containing frequent poorly-sorted subangular stone.	Below (1001); cut by all other features	-
[1003]	Cut; linear ditch 1.37m wide by 14.25m long (as observed); steep-to-moderately sloping sides with a concave base; orientated approximately north-south.	Cuts (1006)(1008) (1010) (1014); contains (1004)	0.32m
(1004)	Fill of [1003]. Mid yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; frequent small-medium subangular stones; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1003]; overlain by (1001)	0.32m
[1005]	Cut; linear gully 0.52m wide and 5.75m long (as observed); gently sloping sides and flat base, orientated north-south.	Cuts (1002); contains (1006)	0.10m
(1006)	Fill of [1005]; light yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; frequent small-to-medium subangular stones; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1005]; cut by [1003]; overlain by (1001)	0.10m
[1007]	Cut; linear gully 0.5m wide by 3m long (as observed); gentle slope and flat base; oporientated east-west.	Cuts (1002), contains (1008)	0.05m
(1008)	Fill of [1007]; light yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; frequent small-to-medium subangular stones; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1007]; cut by [1003]	0.05m
[1009]	Cut; linear gully c.0.75m wide by 5.5m long (as observed); moderate slope with a sharp break and conave base; orientated east-west.	Cuts (1002); contains (1010)	0.15m
(1010)	Fill of [1009]; mid yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; moderate small-to-medium subangular stones; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1009]; cut by [1003]	0.15m
[1011]	Cut; linear gully 0.48m wide by 4m long (as observed); steep concave curved slopes with a flat base; orientated east-west, curving to NW at the east end.	Cuts (1002); contains (1012)	0.20m
(1012)	Fill of [1011]; light yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; occasional small-to-medium subangular stones, charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1011]; Cut by [1013]	0.20m
[1013]	Cut; linear gully 0.65m wide by 6m long (as observed); steep sides with concave base; orientated east-west, but curving the to NW at the east end;. Possibl re-cut of [1011]; perhaps ephemeral terminus east [1003] or else terminates within [1003].	Cuts (1012); contains (1014)	0.34m
(1014)	Fill of [1013]; mid yellowish-grey brown soft clay-silt; frequent small-medium sub-angular stones, charcoal flecks.	Fill of [1013]; cut by [1003]	0.34m

## Appendix 3

## Concordance of Finds

Context	Block	POTTERY			SLAG		
		sherds	Wgt.(g)	Notes	Frag.	Wgt. (g)	Notes
(1001)					2	228	Iron slag, incorporating elements of furnace lining
(1004)	A	3	10	North Devon medieval coarseware			
	B						
	C	19	181	North Devon medieval coarseware; ×1 rim; ×1 heavy exterior sooting; ×2 sherds jug with exterior glaze	5	472	Iron slag
(1006)	A	3	6	North Devon medieval coarseware	1	7	Fragment of furnace lining
(1008)					2	7	Iron slag
(1010)	A	2	4	North Devon medieval coarseware			
(1012)		2	41	North Devon medieval coarseware			
(1014)		17	214	North Devon medieval coarseware			
	B	6	57	North Devon medieval coarseware; ×3 rim			

## Comment

The pottery assemblage is relatively large, and fairly well-preserved, indicating a source not too far away. It is entirely composed of North Devon medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13-15<sup>th</sup> centuries and primarily composed of cooking pots with some external sooting. Two sherds have external glaze, which is slightly unusual and would indicate they come from a jug (see Appendix 4).

## Appendix 4

### Ceramics Report by Dr I Wood

Total of 46 sherds of pottery were analysed revealing four fabric groups. Fabric groups 2 and 3 are typical of North Devon and match Alan Vince's fabric descriptions presented in the Launceston Castle report (Brown *et al.*, 2006). Fabric 2 indicates it is a North Devon Coarse ware and Fabric 3 is a North Devon Slate Tempered Ware otherwise known as part of the Barnstaple ware group. Fabric 1 is as yet not comparable to other North Devon Wares, the inclusion of Granitic rock fragments and pink mudstone suggest a temper possibly derived halfway along the Taw River between Barnstaple and the eastern edge of Dartmoor. Fabric 4 is characterised by polished red sand grains suggesting a possible origin in the area of the New Red Sands outcrop which can be found around Exeter.

The Fabrics are described in more detail below. Abrasion levels relate to Sorensen's classification system (Sorensen, 1996).

#### **Fabric 1**

Temper 40%

- Quartz, translucent tinted reddish brown, some with traces of black manganese attached, abundant in fabric sub-angular in shape between 2mm-1mm in size.
- Feldspar grey/white in colour abundant in fabric sub-rounded shape generally between 3mm-0.5mm
- Mudstone, pink/buff in colour scatter in fabric well-rounded shape generally between 4mm-2mm.
- Limonite, reddish brown in colour sparse in fabric and well-rounded generally 0.5mm.
- Rock fragment, composed of smoky and translucent quartz, tourmaline and rare Biotite, common in fabric sub rounded in shape generally 3mm in size.

**Matrix-** Smooth soft micaceous (muscovite) clay

#### **Appearance**

Sherds oxidised throughout, soft fired with a poorly-sorted fabric. Hand made with evidence of clay added to exterior to consolidate form prior to firing. Sherds 6-7mm thick with level 3 abrasion recorded, very badly abraded.

#### **Comments**

The unusually coarse fabric of these sherds along with evidence suggesting it was poorly handmade suggest a vessel from a unique production site or perhaps household production. The inclusions suggest an clay or temper source along the Taw river valley between Kingford and Chenson. It most likely dates to the medieval period, but may be earlier.

#### **Fabric 2 NDCW**

Temper 20-25%

- Rock fragments composed of translucent quartz, Biotite and tourmaline with granular texture common in fabric generally 1mm
- Mudstone pinkish/buff in colour scatter in fabric well rounded in shape generally 3mm-0.5mm, more common in matrix 0.5mm
- Ilmonite orange soft texture, common, rounded in shape and 1mm-0.5mm
- Feldspar off white/grey scatter in fabric sub-angular in shape generally 1mm in size
- Quartz grey opaque scatter in fabric angular in shape generally 1mm in size
- Quartz translucent, rare in fabric generally 1mm-0.5mm

**Matrix-** smooth soft micaceous clay with iron content

#### **Appearance**

Oxidised interior and exterior with reduced grey buff core, fairlywell sorted soft hard fired sherds with level 2 abrasion recorded. 5-6mm thick with evidence of riling and external charring.

#### **Comments**

North Devon Coarse Ware is part of the typical suite of pottery found in medieval Devon and East Cornwall. It has been classified by Brown *et al* at Launceston Castle as 12-13<sup>th</sup> century although examples in Exeter suggest it is in production into the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Brown *et al.* 2006).

**Fabric 3 NDSLW**

Temper 20%

- Slate/mudstone blue/grey/pink in colour with a micaceous fabric abundant and generally rounded in shape being between 3mm-1mm
- Limonite reddish brown, common in fabric generally well rounded 0.5mm in size
- Feldspar off white/grey in colour sparse in fabric sub-angular in shape generally 0.5mm in size

**Matrix-** smooth soft micaceous clay with iron**Appearance**

Sherds generally oxidised interior and exterior with reduced grey buff core, fairly well sorted fabric, soft high fired sherds with between 5-6mm. Glazed sherds had oxidised interior reduced core and brown glazed exterior 4-5mm.

**Comments**

North Devon slate-tempered ware is once again part of the typical suite of pottery found in medieval Devon and East Cornwall. It is distinctive due to the inclusions of grey slate and thought to be associated with the geology of the Barnstaple area and is thus also known as Barnstaple pottery. A suggested date range of 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> century.

**Fabric 4 Red sandy**

Temper 25%

- Quartz translucent polished and abundant in fabric, well-rounded grains generally 0.5mm in size
- Feldspar off white/yellow common in fabric and angular generally between 4mm-1mm in size
- Quartz opaque scatter in fabric in shape generally 1mm in size
- Mudstone sliver in colour rare in fabric rounded in shape generally 1mm in size
- Occasional voids on surface

**Matrix-** sandy silty clay**Appearance**

Red sandy, oxidised interior and exterior with reduced buff core, hard high fired poorly-sorted fabric abrasion level 3 recorded sherd width 4mm.

**Comments**

This fabric is very different to those provenanced to North Devon and its source may be near Exeter. The fine vessel form and the higher firing temperature could also indicate a different type of pottery presumably dating the 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> century.

**Quantification of assemblage in relation to fabric groups**

Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight
1004 A	NDCW	Body	3	9g
1004 C	NDSLW	Body	6	32g
		Rim	1	8g
		GLAZED Body	2	20g
	NDCW	Body	9	97g
	Red sandy	Body	1	2g
1006	NDSLW	Body	1	2g
	NDCW	Body	2	4g
1010 A	NDCW	Body	1	2g
	NDSLW	Body	1	2g
1012	NDCW	Body	2	41g
1014	NDSLW	Body	3	15g
		Rim	1	39g
	NDCW	Body	8	61g
		Rim	4	74g
		Base	1	24g

### Distribution of Fabrics in assemblage

Fabric	Count	Weight
NDSLW	15	118g
NDCW	30	312g
Red sandy	1	2g
<b>Total</b>	46	432g

### References

- Sorensen, M. L. 1996: Sherds and pot groups as keys to site formation process, In: Needham, S. and T. Spence (eds.) *Refuse and disposal at area 16 East, Runnymede*. Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations 2, London, 61-74.
- Brown, D.H, Thomson, R. & Vince, A. 2006 'The pottery', in A.D. Saunders (ed.), *Excavations at Launceston Castle, Cornwall*, The Society of Medieval Archaeology Monograph 24, Leeds: Maney Publishing, 269-281.



## Appendix 5

### Metallurgical Debris Assessment by Dr L Bray

Dr. L. S. Bray was engaged by South West Archaeology Ltd. to provide a quantification and assessment of a small assemblage of metallurgical debris recovered during excavation on land to the west of Charles, Brayford, in Devon.

The assessment was carried out visually on each fragment of material and is based on an identification of characteristic compositions, morphologies and textures apparent in the assemblage.

#### Description

Context	Max Dimension (mm)	Weight (g)	Identification	Abrasion	Notes
1001	70	130	Technical ceramic		amorphous, iron oxide staining, charcoal and stone inclusions, vitrified surface
1001	65	89	Undiagnostic slag	Slight	amorphous, vesicular texture
1004	85	363	Tap slag?		curved lower surface with stone inclusions and vesicular, fast cooled texture. Upper surface broken, slightly vesicular - looks like damaged ropey tap slag surface
1004	60	69	Undiagnostic slag	Slight	amorphous, massive texture
1004	55	30	Tap slag	Slight	planar morphology, large vesicles in upper surface
1004	30	7	Undiagnostic slag	Slight	vesicular texture
1004	20	5	Undiagnostic slag		massive texture
1006	25	6	Furnace debris		baked clay with redox colours and one flat, vitrified surface
1008	25	6	Technical Ceramic		vesicular, low density
1008	10	<1g	Technical Ceramic		vesicular, low density

**Table 1:** Details of BC12 metallurgical waste assemblage.

The assemblage consisted of 10 fragments of metallurgical debris derived from four different contexts and weighing a total of 705g.

The assemblage contains compositions, textures and morphologies identifiable as most likely being the result of metallurgical processes. Two basic types of material – slag and technical ceramics – were identified:

- *Slag*: Two types of slag were apparent in the assemblage. Most distinctive was tap slag, identifiable by a lower surface displaying textures consistent with flow over the ground and an upper surface with a smooth or ropey texture indicative of a molten, flowing state. This material is diagnostic of the smelting process. The second type of slag identified occurred in amorphous fragments with a massive or vesicular texture. This material is undiagnostic of any specific process other than metal production as a whole.

- *Technical Ceramic*: This material was of variable composition, but generally consisted of fired or vitrified clay sometimes displaying orange/red oxidation or grey reduction colours, and sometimes containing inclusions of fired clay, vitrification or slag. These features are consistent with an origin as part of a structure subject to elevated temperatures. In this context, the most likely explanation is that these fragments have derived from a smelting furnace or smithing hearth.

#### Discussion

Despite its small size of the assemblage, the presence of tap slag in particular suggests it was generated by smelting. During the Roman period, and potentially the Iron Age, Brayford and the surrounding area was the scene of extensive iron production. Thus it is most likely that the assemblage assessed here is associated with that activity.

The closest known iron smelting site, dating to the later Roman Period, is at Charlestown Barton, 400m to the north-east of the BC12 site. It seems unlikely that the BC12 assemblage has arrived on-site by natural movement from Charles Barton. Thus it is most likely that an unknown smelting site is present nearby, probably upslope to the south, or the material has been brought to the site as 'hardcore', as suggested by the excavator.

Alternatively, the context for the assemblage – found within in a series of field boundary ditches of medieval date – could indicate a later date for the metallurgical activity that produced the material. However, the generally small size of the

fragments and the incidence of abrasion indicate that the debris is best seen as residual and of Roman date, having been incorporated in the ditch fills by natural processes.

### **Recommendations**

The probable residual character of the assemblage, its small size and its unremarkable characteristics, grants it a low level of archaeological significance. As such, there is no requirement for archiving, although a careful discard policy should be pursued to avoid contaminating the archaeological record.

## Appendix 6

### List of jpegs contained on CD to the rear of this report

No.	Description	From	Scale
1	North-facing section of Linear [1003] Block A.	N	1m
2	East-facing section of Linear [1003] Block B & Linear [1009] Block B.	E	0.5m
3	North-facing section Linear [1003] Block A & Linear [1005].	N	1m
4	South-facing section Linear [1003] Block C.	S	1m
5	North-facing section Linear [1005].	N	0.5m
6	East-facing section Linear [1007].	E	0.5m
7	East-facing section Linear [1009] Block B.	E	0.5m
8	Linear [1003] Blocks C-A; viewed from the south, looking north.	S	2m
9	Linears [1007] & [1009] Block B; viewed from the east, looking west.	E	1m
10	Ditch [1003] Blocks A-C; viewed from the north, looking south.	N	2m
11	Sample Section #1; viewed from the north, looking south.	N	1m
12	Sample Section #2; viewed from the north, looking south.	N	2+1m
13	West-facing section of Linears [1011] & [1013].	W	1m
14	West-facing section of Linear [1009] Block A.	W	1m
15	Post-excavation view of the site; viewed from the south-west, looking north-east.	SW	2+1m
16	As above; viewed from the west, looking east.	W	2+1m
17	As above, the western part of the site; viewed from the south, looking north.	S	2m
18	General site shot (used as coverplate).	NNW	-



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