

GREAT COTTON FARM DARTMOUTH DEVON

Results of an
Archaeological Evaluation



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Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth, Devon

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

For

Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd (The Client)

By



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Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. undertook an archaeological evaluation in April 2013 on land at Great Cotton Farm, in the parishes of Dartmouth and Stoke Fleming, Devon. The positioning of the seven evaluative trenches was based upon the results of a geophysical survey (Dean 2010) which had revealed a number of archaeological features including recently removed boundaries; linear anomalies of possible earlier field systems; a large curvilinear anomaly; and two sub-circular features which were all targeted during the evaluation.

The archaeological evaluation revealed the majority of the geophysical anomalies as 'true' archaeological features. These included at least two phases of earlier field boundaries not in the cartographic record, including one at least one system dated to the Middle Bronze Age. In addition a curvilinear ditch, possibly part of a univallate-enclosure, dating to the late Iron Age or Romano-British period and an undated (Bronze Age?) ring-ditch were also sampled. A reasonable assemblage of struck flints, medieval and post-medieval pottery was also recovered from the topsoil.

Despite the reliability of the geophysical survey results there is still scope for further understanding and defining of the identified archaeology and potential for more undiscovered archaeological features on the site, especially in those areas not subject to geophysical survey. Therefore further targeted evaluation trenches and monitoring will be required.

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 Graham Tait of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET)

1.0 Introduction

Location: Great Cotton Farm
Parish: Stoke Fleming and Dartmouth
County: Devon
NGR: Centred on SX 857 506

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land at Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth and Stoke Fleming, Devon (Figures 1). The work was commissioned by Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd. (the Client) in order to identify any archaeological features or sites that might be affected by any proposed developments.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The location of the proposed housing development covers a number of fields (c.66 acres) 600m south-east of the hamlet of Norton; 1km west by south-west of the outskirts of Dartmouth (where the A379 meets the A3122); and 2.5km north of the coast. The fields investigated during this evaluation were split between two areas, with four trenches located directly north of Great Cotton Farm occupying a relative plateau in an otherwise hilly landscape which eventually slopes downwards to the north, where they meet the A3122 (Townstal Road) The other three trenches are within a single large field located south-east of Great Cotton Farm and constitutes a gently to moderately south-west sloping field on high ground, which incurs the brunt of prevailing winds. Both areas of the site are at a height of c.145m AOD.

The underlying bedrock is Lower Devonian Formation (undifferentiated bedrock), made up of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (in this case primarily shillet forms), formed in the Devonian Period (BGS Viewer 2013). The soils of this area are typically the shallow fine loamy- and silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

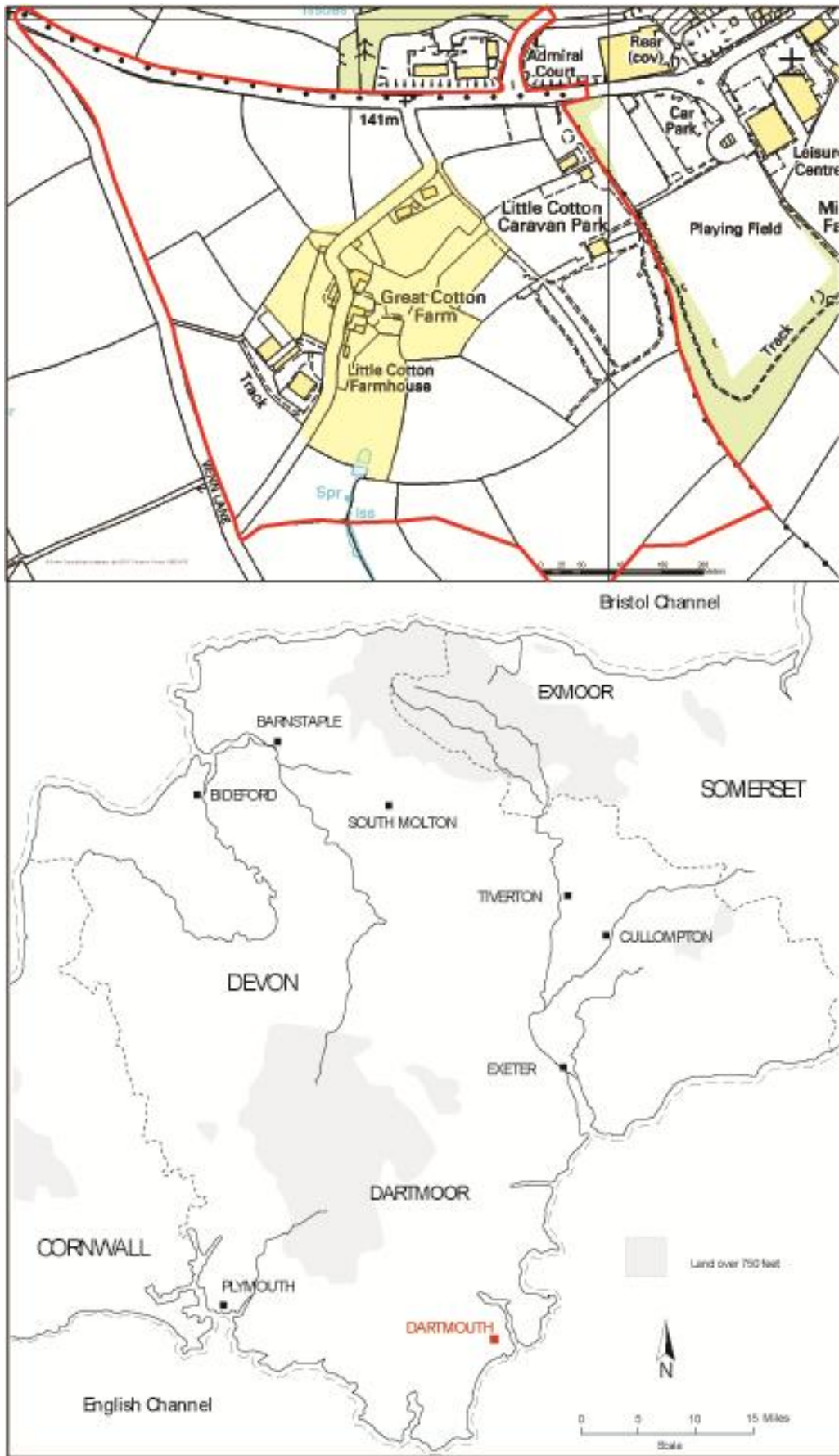


Figure 1: Site location. The site to be included in the outline application is bounded in red note that the area shaded in yellow around the farm is excluded.

1.3 Historical Background

A desk based assessment was produced by Southwest Archaeology in 2010 (report no.100224), a summary of which can be read below:

Most of the area lies within the parish and former manor of Stoke Fleming. Having been held in the 11th-12th century by the family of Fleming, the manor was passed by Sir William Fleming to Lord Mohun of Dunster. From Mohun it passed by marriage to the family of Carew. Sir Peter Carew gave it to Thomas Southcote whose descendant John Henry Southcote sold it around the turn of the 19th century to John Henry Seale of Mount Boone. Until the 1830s Miss Southcote, daughter of Henry Southcote retained ownership of part of the manor including Great and Little Cotton. By 1840 (the date of the tithe apportionment) Cotton had been sold to Robert Leach.

The portion of the site which lies in the parish of Dartmouth was historically part of Milton, a holding within Townstall parish and within the manor of Norton Downey. Held in the medieval and post-medieval period by Fitzstephens, then Downey, then Courtenay, the manor was sold in 1679 to a John Harris whose descendant sold it to John Henry Seal of Mount Boone. John Henry Seale is recorded in the Townstall tithe apportionment of 1840 as still being the owner of Milton. (The above is based on Lysons 1822 *et al.*)

The name 'Cotton' is first recorded in the Subsidy Rolls of 1333 in the form *atte Cotene*, ie. 'at the cottages' (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 331), suggesting a minor settlement existed here in the medieval period.

The potential development area embraces the medieval settlement of Cotton and its attendant fields together with fields associated with the neighbouring settlements of Broomhill, Worden and Wheatland. It also lies across the parish boundary between Stoke Fleming and Dartmouth (formerly Townstall), taking in land which was historically part of the settlement of Milton. While this latter area has been largely overtaken by modern developments, the land around Cotton to west and south – apart from some modern residential development, the use of part of the land as a caravan park, and the partial conversion of the traditional farm buildings to holiday accommodation – retains the late medieval and post-medieval character of its fieldscape.

Having been occupied historically as two holdings, Great and Little Cotton appear to represent the descendants of a medieval farmstead managed as an infield-outfield system, the evidence for which remains in certain field names and in the configuration of the historic boundaries. A long, curving boundary to the south of the farmstead is characteristic of an early stage of medieval settlement. Part of a long, curving boundary around Worden at the southern extremity of the area has similar implications. The buildings of the settlement were the subject of extensive redevelopment in the mid-19th century. While the residential element of Great Cotton is represented by the present farmhouse, any corresponding accommodation for Little Cotton had been removed or obscured by the early 19th century. A barn towards the far west of the potential development area was removed during the 19th century. Prehistoric features observed in the landscape to the south and the evidence of one nineteenth century field name may imply the presence of evidence for similar features within the proposed development area.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) holds only three records of sites of archaeological interest within the bounds of the land pertaining to the proposed development. There are however a small number of nearby sites that are recorded and which may be of relevance. The records are, in brief:

1. Within the Potential Development Area:
HER 55690: A World War 2 military building visible on a 1946 aerial photograph
HER 73291: Field name 'Long Cross Field' occurs in the tithe apportionment of 1840. This may incorporate a reference to a wayside cross or may refer to the road junction to the north-east.
HER 45723: Mile stone on the south side of the A3221.
2. To the South of the Potential Development Area:
HER 36970: A prehistoric ditched enclosure observed as a cropmark to the north-west of Broomhill.
HER 36969: Two parallel curvilinear features observed from the air as cropmarks to the north of Thorn.
3. In addition, it was noted during the course of the desk-based study (Green 2010) that the 1946 aerial photograph number CPE/UK/1890 10 Dec.46 F20//MULTI (4) 58 SQDN: 2969 (Plate 1) reveals in the north-western quarter of the large kite-shaped field (in the Tithe map/apportionment of 1841, field number 277: 'Great Inwells') a cropmark or soilmark outlining a large rectangular enclosure.

1.5 Methodology

The schedule of work regarding the archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Project Design (PD) devised in consultation with Graham Tait of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) (see Appendix 1).

The archaeological evaluation took place in April 2013. Seven evaluation trenches (one, 25m in length; one 75m in length; and five, 50m in length and each 1.5m wide) targeted representative areas of anomalies and absences identified in the geophysics survey. The trenches were all excavated to the depth of in situ weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. All potential archaeological deposits that were exposed were then excavated by hand and recorded in accordance with the PD and IFA guidelines.

2.0 Summary of the Geophysical Survey

The following is a summary of the results of a geophysical survey commissioned by Southwest Archaeology in 2010, conducted by Substrata (Substrata report no.101028).

This survey was designed to record magnetic anomalies. The anomalies themselves cannot be regarded as actual archaeological features and the dimensions of the anomalies shown do not represent the dimensions of any associated archaeological features. The analysis presented below attempts to identify and characterise anomalies and anomaly groups that may pertain to archaeological deposits and structures.

The magnetic response across all fields provided sufficient contrast for potential archaeological feature evaluation. A total of 139 groups of anomalies pertaining to potential archaeological deposits and structures were identified. A number of the anomaly sets representing potential archaeological features fade within the data set in a manner suggestive of destruction by ploughing and/or burial beyond the reach of the survey instrument (usually at depths of over 1 to 1.5m depending on localised soils and geology). Given these conditions, it is possible that more archaeological features exist than those potential features identified in the data set.

In this simplified summary of the geophysical survey the potential archaeological features area represented by 6 categories labelled 'a' to 'f' below and on Figure 2. The majority of these potential archaeological features are linear and multi-linear.

- a. Linear anomalies conforming to directional trends of recently removed boundaries.
- b. Linear anomalies suggestive of more than one phase of enclosure that do not conform to directional trends of recently removed field boundaries.
- c. Sub-circular anomaly relating to potential archaeological structure with an internal diameter of approximately 35m.
- d. A linear anomaly with associated visible earthwork, which is not recorded on available maps from 1841 onwards.
- e. Two sub-circular anomalies. Potential structures but with tenuous patterns that may be due to modern ploughing disturbance.
- f. Linear anomalies that follow the trend of recent ploughing although relatively substantial. Therefore these may be plough scars or potential archaeological deposits.

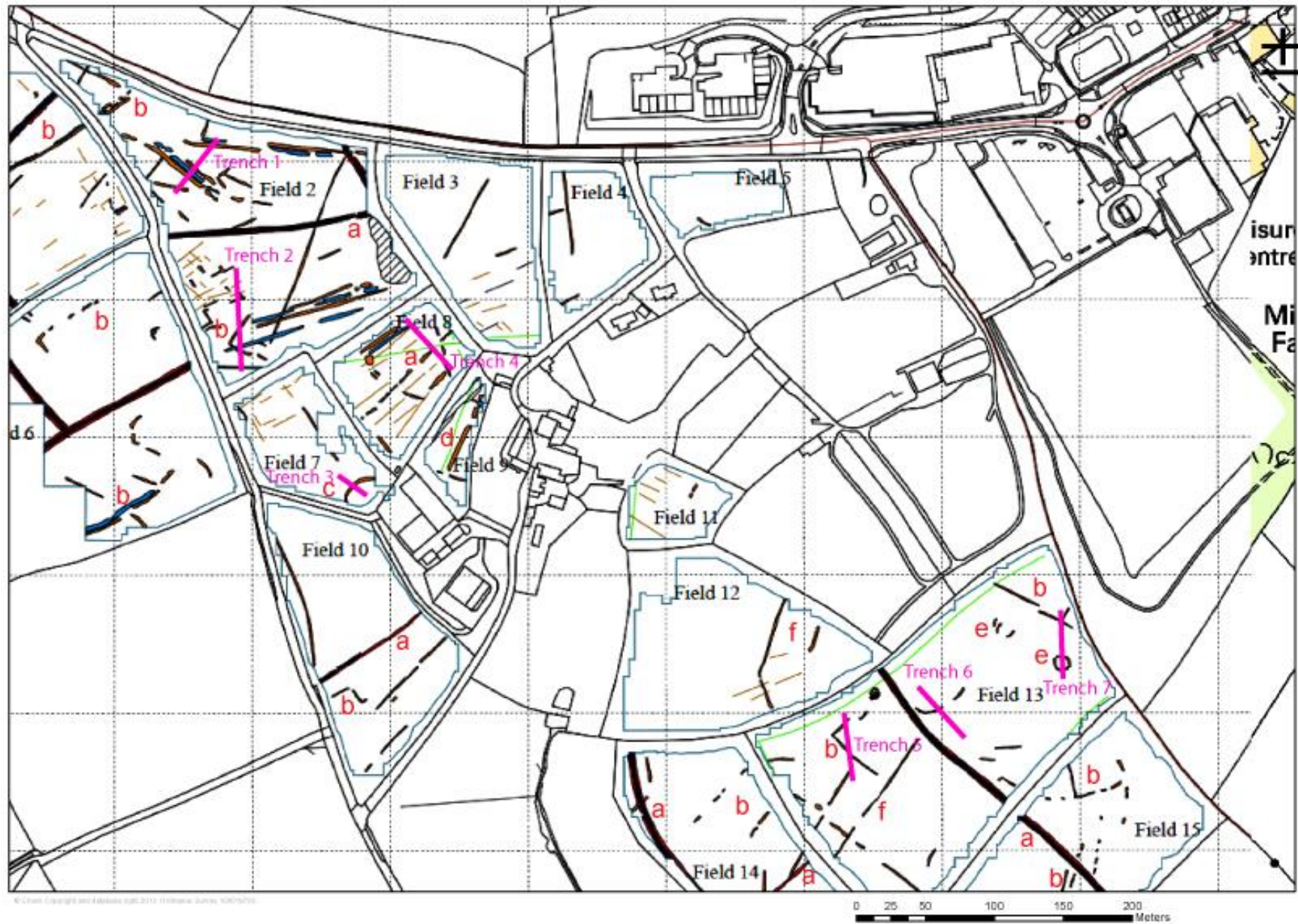


Figure 2: Geophysical Survey interpretation. Proposed trench locations shown in pink.

3.0 Archaeological Evaluation

Seven archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated in accordance with the PD and as described in the methodology above.

Trench 1 targeted several linear geophysical anomalies. Trench 2 targeted a possible enclosure represented by two linear geophysical anomalies. Trench 3 targeted a curvilinear anomaly, possibly representing a prehistoric enclosure. Trench 4 targeted a number of linear geophysical anomalies that may represent earlier field systems. Trench 5 targeted two linear anomalies at right angles that may represent an earlier field system or enclosure. Trench 6 targeted a relatively quite area of geophysical results with a single possible curvilinear anomaly. Trench 7 targeted a 'ring'-shaped anomaly at the top of a slope and a linear anomaly of a possible earlier field system. These trenches would sample the proposed site and test the validity of the geophysical survey results. The locations of the trenches can be seen on Figure 2.

In the fields to the north-west of Great Cotton Farm four features (linear and curvilinear ditches) were encountered; including that of a possible Romano-British univallate enclosure and another which produced Bronze Age pottery. In the fields to the south-east of Great Cotton Farm all the features had been severely truncated by ploughing, possibly leaving only bases of most surviving features. These included seven gullies, three ditches, six pits and some natural features, none of which produced any finds. The majority of the linear ditches equate to multiple agricultural phases, while two equate to a single ring-ditch near the top of the slope in Field 13 (see Figure 2).

All four trenches to the north-west of Great Cotton revealed a similar stratigraphy with a mid-brown, soft silty loam topsoil with moderate small sub-rounded stones and up to 0.20m in depth, overlaying a subsoil of mid-orange to buff-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional-moderate sub-angular stones also c.0.20m in depth. The topsoil in this area produced a small assemblage of finds including flint flakes, post-medieval ceramics, and a sherd of 16th century Frechen Barlarmive Base (see Appendix 3 for full finds concordance).

Evaluation trenches 5 to 7 were located in Field 13, south-east of Great Cotton Farm. All three trenches had the same stratigraphy of a fine ploughsoil directly overlying natural. The ploughsoil (500) was a c.0.30m deep mid brown-grey, soft-friable clay-silt loam with moderate shillet fragments. A much larger assemblage of finds were recovered from this topsoil, including a range of 16th-18th century imports (Chinese Porcelain, Beauvais Sgraffito, Westerwald Stoneware, etc in addition to a larger assemblage of medieval and post-medieval Totnes Type Wares and a small number of worked flints (see Appendix 3 for full finds concordance).

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in Field 2. It was aligned north-east by south-west and was 50m in length. It revealed a possible shallow east-west orientated lynchet toward its north-east end and a single wide ditch [102]. Ditch [102], aligned north-west by south-east, was 4.10m wide and has been tentatively interpreted as a hollow-way given its shallow sides and flattish base (see Figure 3). It contained two fills; (103) and (104) neither of which produced any dateable evidence and both of which were extremely clean.



Figure 3: Hollow-way [102], viewed from the east (2m scales).

3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was also located in Field 2. It was aligned north-south and was 75m in length. It revealed two possible shallow lynchets orientated east-west and a modern service trench. In addition to these features a single ditch [202], aligned north-east by south-west, was excavated by hand (Figure 4). Ditch [202] was 0.99m wide and 0.43m deep with steep sides and a flat base, it contained a single fill (203), which produced two small sherds of decorated Trevisker Ware of Middle Bronze Age date. Ditch [202] had been overlain/cut by one of the lynchets.



Figure 4: Ditch [202] viewed from the south (1m scale).

3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in Field 7. It was aligned north-west by south-east and was 25m in length. It revealed a single ditch [302] and a variation in the natural subsoil. Ditch [302] was a curvilinear ditch orientated north-east by south-west, but with the north-east end curving slightly east and the south-west end curving slightly south. It was 2.11m wide and 1.11m deep with very steep sides and a slightly concave base (Figure 5).

Ditch [302] contained eight fills; (303), (306), (307), (308), (309), (310), (311) and (312), of which fill (307) produced six sherds of the same Roman vessel (see Appendix 4). The lowest fills; (311) and (312), appear to have been made up of primary deposits possibly mixed with a little secondary silting-up of the ditch. These were overlain by secondary deposits (natural silting-up); fills (309) and (310), and possibly (308). These were overlain by tertiary backfills (303) and (306). Fill (307) may be a remnant basal fill or a secondary fill occupying a step in the slope of the feature, buried by the backfilling process. Layer (305) was a lens of subsoil material occupying an undulation in the natural.



Figure 5: Ditch [302], viewed from the south-west (2m scale).

3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in Field 8. It was aligned north-west by south-east and was 50m in length. It revealed a single ditch [402] and a similar variation in the natural (404) as seen in Trench 3 (305). Deposits (404) and (305) were at best lenses of subsoil material occupying undulations in the natural, box sections were excavated through these variations in both trenches to ensure that they were not archaeological.

The single Ditch [402] was orientated north-east by south-west was 0.65m wide and 0.15m in depth with a gentle u-shaped profile (Figure 6). It contained a single fill, (403), which produced no finds. It most likely represents part an earlier (prehistoric?) field-system. Several modern service trenches and iron pipes were located centrally and at the south-eastern end of the trench.



Figure 6: Ditch [402], viewed from the south-west (0.4m scale).

3.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located at the western end of Field 13. It was aligned broadly north-south and was 50m in length. It revealed two gullies ([503] and [505]), two natural features ([507] and [509]) and a severe amount of plough damage. Gully [503] was a curvilinear feature orientated roughly south-west by north-east across the trench but curving northwards at its north-east end. It was 0.42m wide and 0.25m in depth with a very steep south-east slope and moderate north-west slope and concave base. It contained a single fill, (504), which produced no finds. It was cut by linear gully [505], which was aligned north-west by south-east. Gully [505] was 0.40m wide and 0.26m in depth with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, (506), which produced no finds.

Features [507] and [509] were sub-ovoid features with irregular profiles and were possibly part of a single burrow or root system. Both [507] and [509] contained single fills of a similar nature and no finds. Two linear trends, [501] and [513], roughly 1m in width, aligned north-east by south-west were excavated and proven to be areas of dense, intercutting plough scars (see Figure 7). Plough scars were generally evenly spaced along the entire length of the trench.



Figure 7: Left - Gully [505] viewed from the south-east (0.4m scale). Right - Gullies [503] & [505] viewed from the south (2m scale.)



Figure 8: Intercutting plough scars [501,] viewed from the south-west (1m scale).

3.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in the middle of Field 13. It was aligned north-west by south-east and was 50m in length. It revealed three gullies ([602], [604] and [612]) and three pits ([608], [606] and [610]). Linear gully [604], aligned east-west was located towards the northern end of the trench. It was 0.45m wide and 0.22m in depth. It had steep sides and a steep concave base. It contained a single fill, (605), which produced no finds and was cut by Gully [602] (Figure 9). Linear Gully [602], aligned north-west by south-east was 0.75m wide and 0.12m in depth with a gentle concave profile and base. It contained a single fill, (603), which also produced no finds.

Gully [612], aligned slightly off east-west was located in the southern half of the trench. It was 0.71m wide and 0.32m in depth with a very steep concave north-west slope and a moderate south-east slope and gentle concave base. It contained a single fill, (613), which produced no finds. Gully [612] cut pit [608] (Figure 10). Ovoid Pit [608] was 3.25m wide and extended 1m into the trench. It was 1m in depth with near vertical sides and an irregular base (a possible gully on its western side), and it contained 4 fills, (609), (614), (615), (616), none of which produced any finds. South of Pit [608] was ovoid Pit [606], which was 0.4m x 0.7m and 0.09m deep, it had an irregular profile and had been severely plough damaged (see Figure 11). It contained a single fill, (607), which produced no finds. Pit [610], was located to the north of Pit [608] and measured 0.6 x 0.55 and was 0.18m deep with a slightly irregular profile of a moderate concave slope and concave base (Figure 10). It contained a single fill, (611), which again produced no finds.



Figure 9: Gullies [602] & [604], viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Figure 10: Pit [608] & Gully [612], viewed from the south-west (2m scale).



Figure 11: Pit [606], viewed from the south-west (0.4m scale).



Figure 12: Pit [610], viewed from the north (0.4m scale).

3.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located at the east end of Field 13. It was aligned north-south and was 50m in length. It revealed five linear features ([701], [705], [707], [713] and [716]), three pits ([703], [718] and [721]) and a tree-throw [711]. Beginning from the north end of the trench; linear Gully [701] was an ephemeral feature, 1m wide and up to 0.03m in depth, aligned east-west (perpendicular to plough scars) which contained a single fill (702), which produced no finds. Towards the middle of the trench was a sub-rectangular to sub-oval Pit [703] measuring 0.66 x 1m and 0.6m deep. The sides of Pit [703] were initially vertical before sharply undercutting the natural and then curving in a concave slope to a flat/slightly concave base (obscured by a large stone). It contained two fills, (704) and (709), neither of which produced any finds, but both of which had frequent-moderate charcoal fragments and flecks and appear recent in date.

South of Pit [703] was curvilinear Ditch [705], which was aligned east-west, but curving slightly to the south. Ditch [705] was 1.12m wide and 0.52m in depth with a steep curved slope and gentle concave base. It contained two fills, (706) and (710), neither of which produced any finds. South of this was curvilinear ditch [707], aligned east-west, but curving south. Ditch [707] was 0.7m wide and 0.69m deep with very steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, (708) and (723), neither of which produced any finds. Ditch [707] was cut by an ovoid Tree-throw [711]. Tree-throw [711] (2.2x1.4+x0.87m) contained primary fill (720) of natural shillet and secondary/tertiary fill (712), neither of which produced any finds. Against the west section of the trench south of Tree-throw [711] and near the middle of the identified ring-ditch (represented by [707] and [713]) was ovoid Pit [721]. Pit [721] measured 1.35m x 0.35m and was 0.44m deep with very steep concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, (722), which produced no finds.

Towards the southern end of the trench was curvilinear Ditch [713], linear Gully [716] and sub-ovoid Pit [718]. Ditch [713], aligned north-east by south-west, but curving north was 1m wide and 0.55m in depth with steep sides, curved break of slope and a flat base The base

contained an oval depression that may have represented a posthole base. It contained two fills, (714) and (715), neither of which produced any finds. Ditch [713] equates to the southern side of a ring-ditch with [705] to the north. The north slope of Ditch [713] cut Gully [716]. Gully [716], aligned north-east by south-west was 0.3m wide and 0.3m in depth and terminated within the trench. It contained a single fill, (717), which produced no finds. Gully [716] was cut on its north side by sub-ovoid Pit [718]. Pit [718] was 0.8m x 0.7m and survived to a depth of 0.24m, with an irregular profile but near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, (719), which again produced no finds.



Figure 13: Pit [703], viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 14: Ditch [705], viewed from the east (1m and 0.4m scales).



Figure 15: Ditch [707], viewed from the east (0.4m scale).



Figure 16: Ditch [707] & Tree-throw [711] viewed from the west (1m and 0.4m scales).



Figure 17: Pit [721], viewed from the east (2m scale).



Figure 18: Ditch [713], Gully [716] & Pit [718] viewed from the east (2m scale).

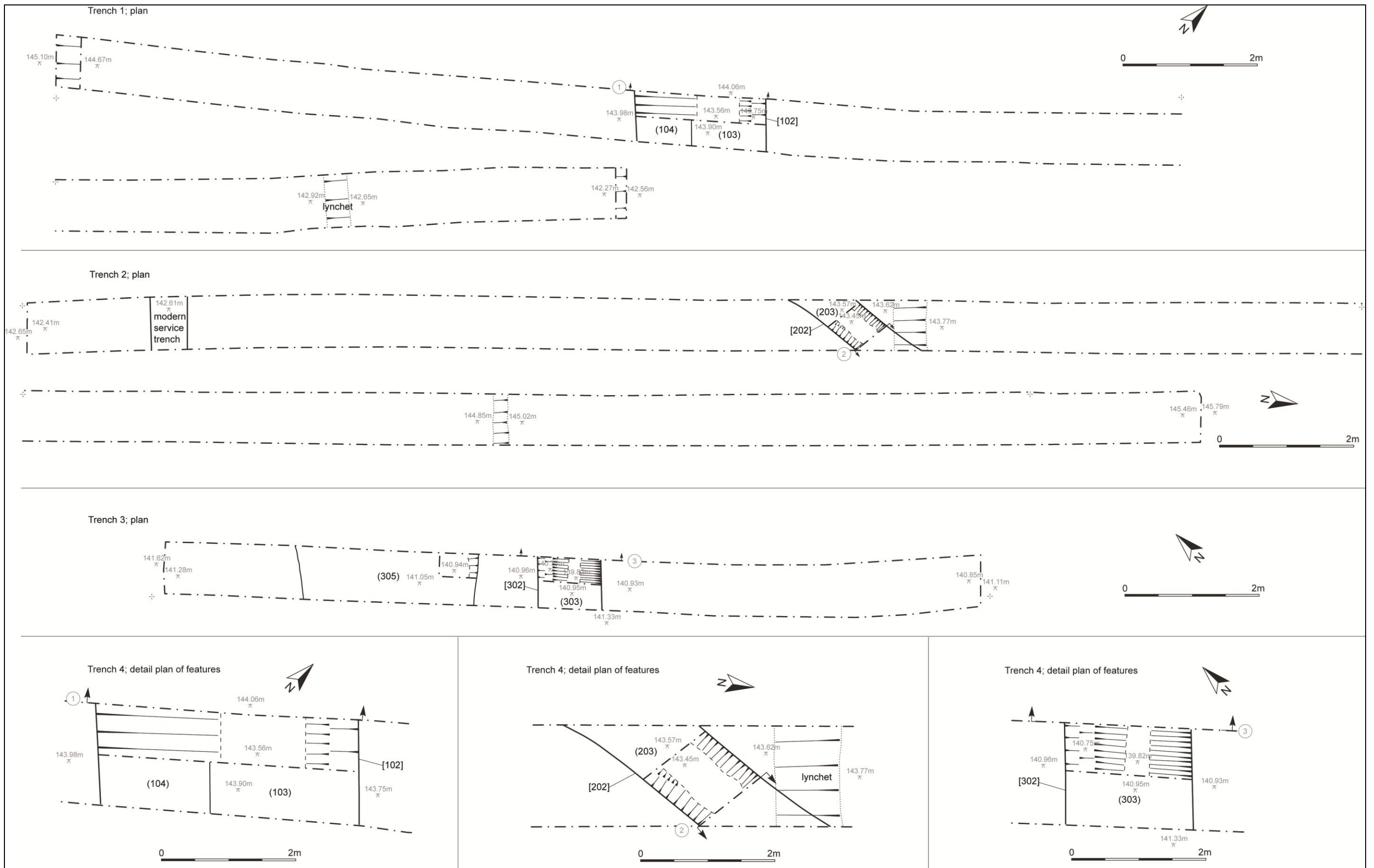


Figure 19: Plans for Trenches 1, 2 and 3 including section numbers and larger scaled plans of features.

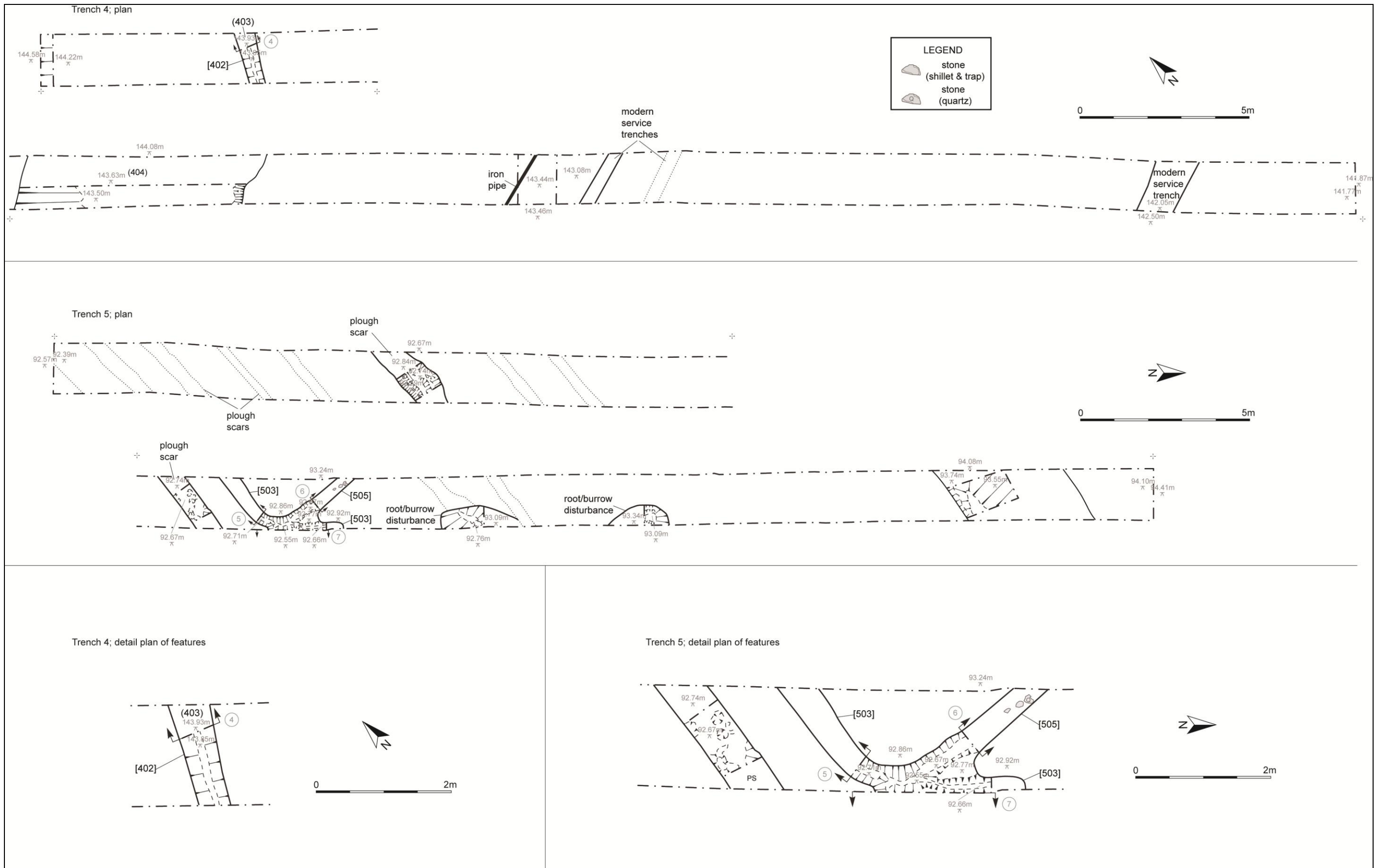


Figure 20: Plans for Trenches 4 and 5 including section numbers and larger scaled plans of features (n.b. levels of features from Trench 5 calculated in relation to an arbitrary TBM of 100.00m AOD)



Figure 21: Plan for Trenches 6 and 7 including section numbers and larger scaled plans of features (n.b. levels of features from Trenches 6 & 7 calculated in relation to an arbitrary TBM of 100.00m AOD).

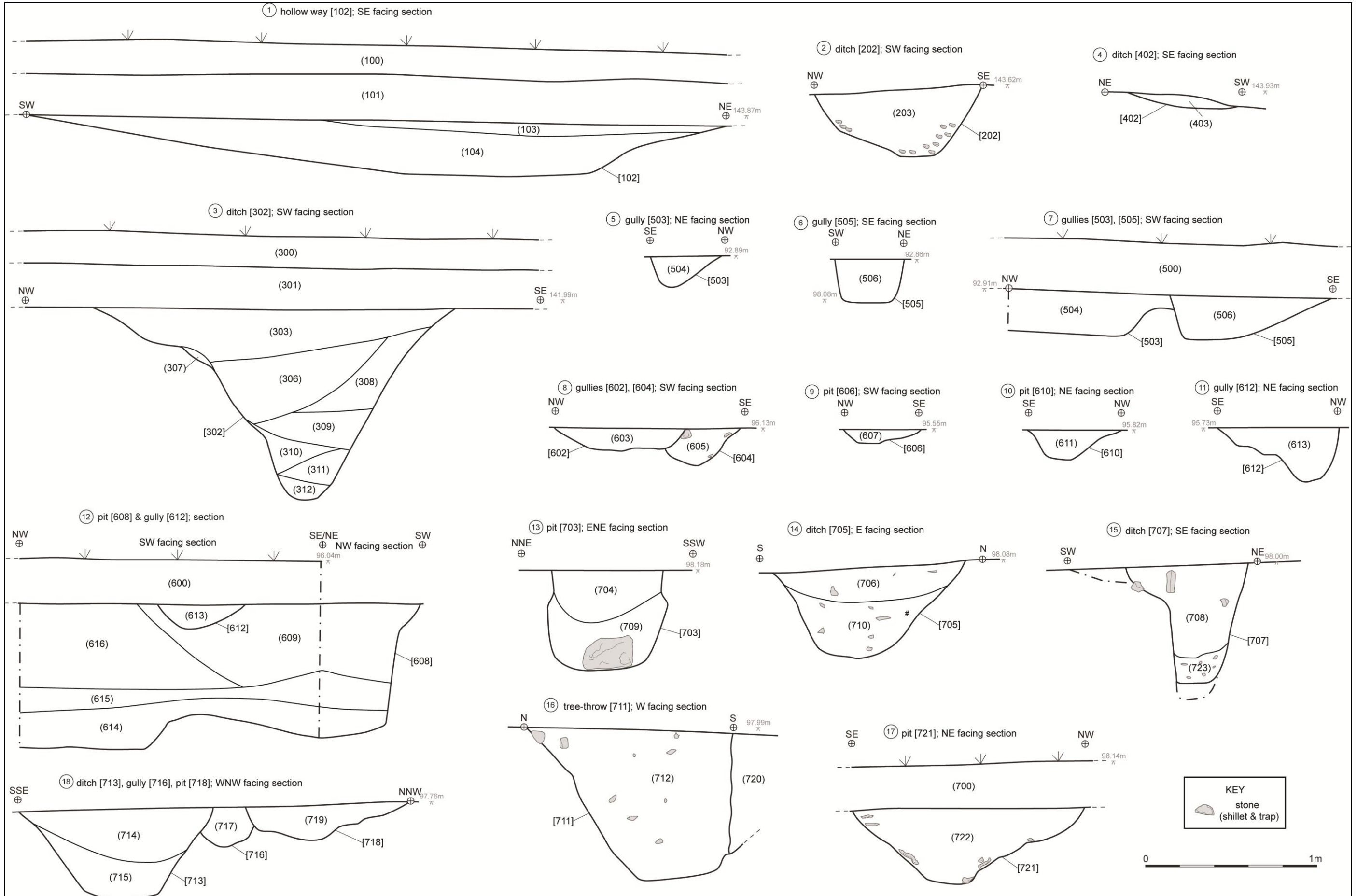


Figure 22: Section drawings. (n.b. levels of features from Trenches 5, 6 & 7 calculated in relation to an arbitrary TBM of 100.00m AOD).

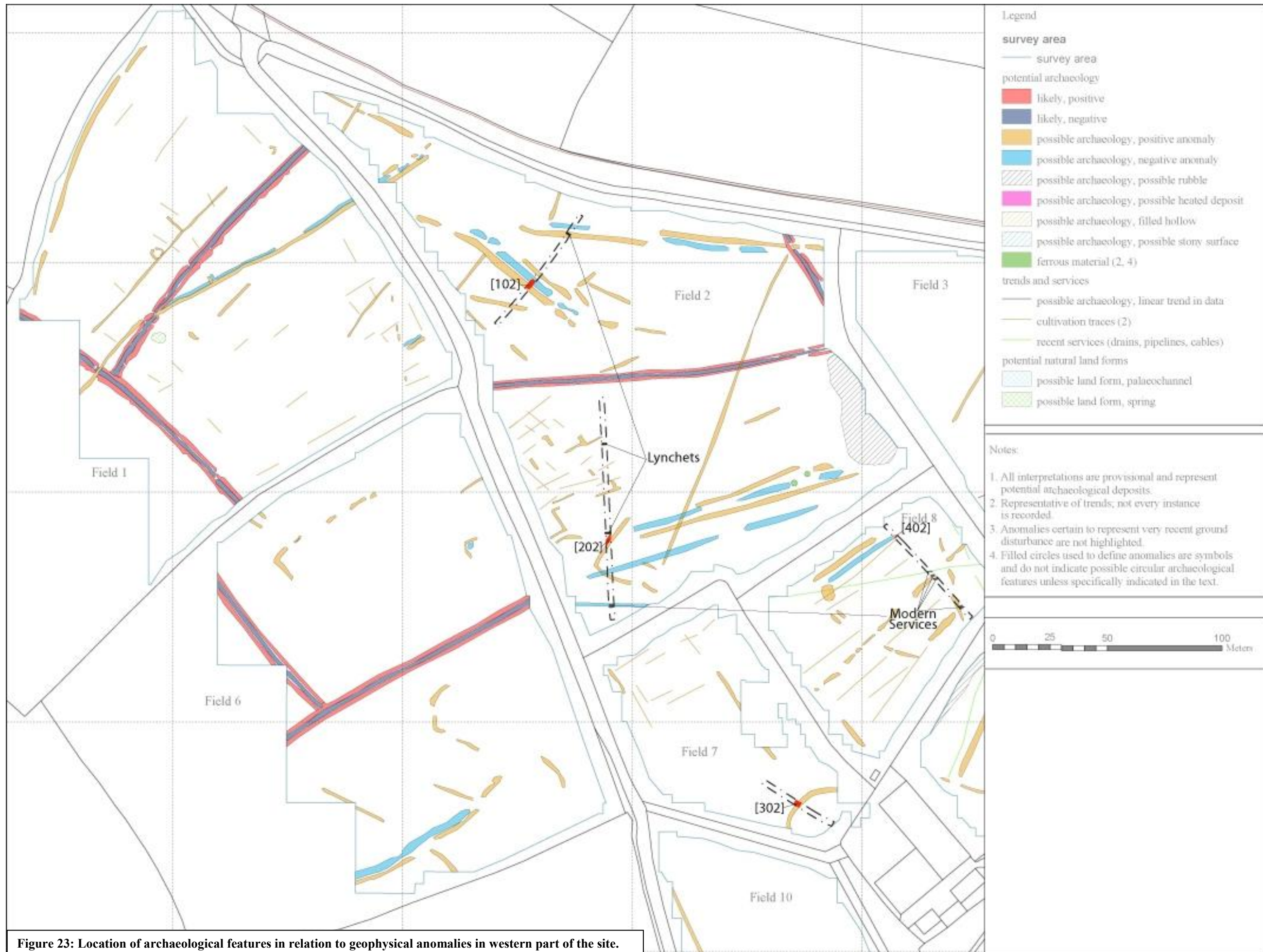


Figure 23: Location of archaeological features in relation to geophysical anomalies in western part of the site.

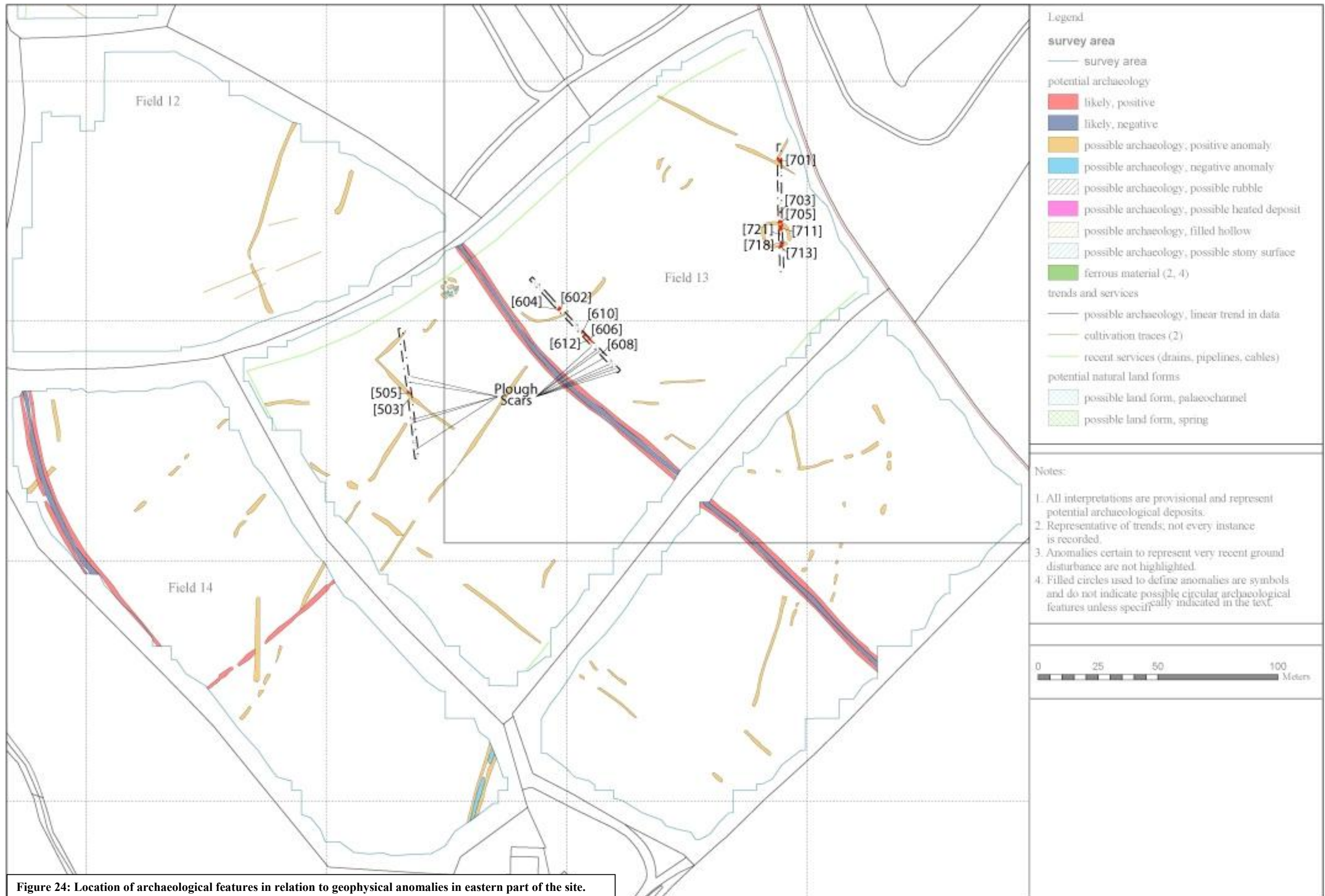


Figure 24: Location of archaeological features in relation to geophysical anomalies in eastern part of the site.

4.0 Summary

The potential earlier field patterns alluded to in the geophysical results were identified in the evaluation to constitute two or three phases of ditches and gullies. To the northwest of Great Cotton one of these field patterns is seemingly of Middle Bronze Age given the small pottery recovered from Ditch [202]. However although two further sides of this potential feature were targeted in the trench, no return ditches were identifiable and the survival of this single ditch may have been due to it having been overlain by the subsequent formation of a lynchet over the top. The three lynchets noted within the Trenches of Field 2 were not identifiable within the geophysical survey but indicate a second relic field pattern within this area, most likely of medieval date. The hollow-way [102] noted in this field may also relate to this phase of land-use.

In Field 13 to the south-east of Great Cotton Farm the potential earlier field patterns shown on the geophysical survey were identified in Trenches 5, 6 and 7. None of the ditches and gullies in these trenches produced any dateable evidence, however, relationships shown in section and comparable profiles allow two or three phases of field systems to be identified in this area. The first phase of gullies [604], [612], [701] and [503] were comparable in profile, while the second phase of gullies [505] and [602] had very different profiles from each other which may suggest that they actually belonged to two separate phases. The topsoil finds across the field included a single sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a small assemblage of late prehistoric flint work which tentatively suggest that these field systems may date to the same phase of activity as Ditch [202].

In addition to the field systems the other datable feature of note is the substantial ditch [302] which appears to be part of a sub-circular enclosure (on the top of the hill) partially identified on the geophysical survey, which produced sherds from a Gaulish vessel, of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date. This suggests that the ditch probably enclosed a contemporary settlement, and can be considered to be an example of a hillslope enclosure or round, much of which has been overlain or destroyed by the modern barns to the southeast.

One of the possible ring-ditches identified in the geophysical survey was targeted in Trench 7 where it was identified and excavated on its northern and southern sides (Ditches [705] and [713]). Unfortunately this produced no datable material, although soil samples were taken and processed which have produced a small quantity of charcoal. Contained within the ringditch were a number of features including pits [718] and [721]; a deep-narrow ditch, [707]; and a gully, [716] which terminated in the trench and was aligned with Ditch [713], possibly representing an earlier phase and/or entrance to the ring-ditch. None of these features produced any datable material, and some such as the tree-throw [711] clearly post-date the ring-ditch.

5.0 Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation largely supports and legitimises the results of the geophysical survey and supports the interpretation of a number of the indentified features as being Prehistoric, with subsequent phases of late prehistoric/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval activity.

Essentially there is evidence for at least two phases of an earlier field system from at least the Middle Bronze Age with evidence of at least one Bronze Age(?) monument (ring-ditch) at the top of a south-facing slope, which commands a grand vista across the landscape as far as the English Channel. There is also the existence of a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement or enclosure in the area immediately north of Great Cotton Farm. The medieval phasing is then represented primarily by topsoil finds across the site as the land has been farmed up to the present day.

The accuracy of the geophysics, as proven in the evaluation, may be used to represent an honest extent of survival of archaeological remains. However, smaller discreet features and features potentially confused with natural features by the survey equipment or in its interpretation may be unaccounted for. This, the confusion and destruction wrought by plough damage, and the lack of dateable evidence from the majority of features in the evaluation mean that a more complete picture of earlier field systems can only be obtained from further field work, particularly within those fields which are within the proposed development area but have not yet been subject to geophysical survey or evaluation trenching. In addition further targeted mitigation within the areas of the Romano-British enclosure and ring ditches will be required.

6.0 Bibliography & References

Published Sources:

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- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 2001 (Revised 2008): *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.
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- Soil Survey of England and Wales** 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*

Unpublished Sources:

- Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation:**
http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic_environment/landscapes/landscapecharacterisation.html
- Devon Record Office (DRO):**
Stoke Fleming tithe map 1841 and apportionment 1840.
Townstall tithe map 1841 and apportionment 1840.
- Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES)**
Historic Environment Records (HER) 36969, 36970, 45723, 55690, 73291
- Dean, R.** 2010: *An Archaeological Gradiometer Survey: Land at Dartmouth, Devon – Centred on 285713m 50630m*. Substrata Report No: 101028.
- Green, T.** 2010: *Land Centred on Great Cotton Farm, Devon: Results of a Historical and Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, SWARCH Report No.100224

Appendix 1

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MITIGATION AT GREAT COTTON FARM, DARTMOUTH, DEVON.

Location: Great Cotton Farm
 Parish: Dartmouth
 District: South Hams
 County: Devon
 Land centred on: SX 857506
 HET ref: Arch/dm/sh/ 19921
 SWARCH ref: SWARCH.DGC13.1
 Date: 5th April 2013

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd. (the Client). It sets out the methodology for an initial archaeological evaluation of land surrounding Great and Little Cotton Farms, Dartmouth, and related off-site analyses and reporting. This work is intended to inform and direct subsequent stages of archaeological intervention and mitigation, as appropriate.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The two farms Great Cotton and Little Cotton are likely to have once formed a single medieval farmstead managed as an infield-outfield system. Evidence for this can be found in some of the field names and the configuration of some of the field boundaries (SWARCH report no: 100224; Green 2010).

2.2 On the recommendation of Graham Tait, Devon Historic Environment Team (DCHET), a geophysical survey was undertaken across the accessible areas of the proposed development. The results of this work show the existence of a possible relict Prehistoric landscape (Substrata report no: 101028).

3.0 AIMS

3.1 The work detailed herein represents a first stage of work on site, the principal objectives of which will be:

- 3.1.1 To evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits within the accessible areas of the proposed development site. The results will inform as to the nature, extent, date, and preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area and enable the requirement for any further investigations to be determined;
- 3.1.2 To analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

- 4.2.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
- 4.2.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 4.2.3 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.

4.3 The desk-based assessment:

A comprehensive desk-based assessment for the site has already been produced (see SWARCH report no: 100224; Green 2010).

4.4 Evaluation excavations:

Seven trenches will be excavated within the proposed development area (see attached plan) by a 360° tracked or JCB-type machine – fitted with a toothless grading bucket – under the direct 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. Archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand:

- 4.4.1 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)*.
- 4.4.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
- 4.4.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines.
- 4.4.4 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.
- 4.4.5 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 & DCHET.
- 4.4.6 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.
- 4.4.7 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.4.8 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.
- 4.4.9 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 (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.4.10 Human remains will initially 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.
- 4.4.11 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.5 Archaeological Mitigation:
In the light of the results of the initial stage of archaeological investigation it will be possible to identify what further work, (e.g. further investigative work to clarify the site stratigraphy, area excavation, watching brief, etc), if any, is needed as mitigation for the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 4.5.1 Upon completion of the initial stage of investigative fieldwork and in the event of mitigation work following directly on from these investigations SWARCH will supply the HET with a *statement of impact* of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. This will be produced in a format agreed with the HET and will contain sufficient detail to allow the HET to determine the scope of further archaeological work that may be required.
- 4.5.2 The *statement of impact* will demonstrate the archaeological potential of the site and the impact upon it of the proposed development and may make suggestions as to appropriate mitigation of the archaeological impact of the proposal, but these will be subject to review by the HET, who will make final recommendations to the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.5.3 Should the site be demonstrated to be archaeologically sterile there will be no requirement for further archaeological fieldwork.
- 4.5.4 Any further stages of work undertaken will be carried out to the specification laid out in sections 4.4.1-4.4.11 above.
- 4.6 Archaeological monitoring and recording:
- 4.6.1 All groundworks carried out within the eastern area of the site will be undertaken by a 360° tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket where possible, 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. The work shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994), as amended 2008). Should archaeological features and deposits be exposed, they will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand to the specification at 4.4 above.
- 4.6.2 If the area is found to be archaeologically sterile there will be no further requirement for further archaeological fieldwork within this part of the site.
- 5.0 MONITORING
- 5.1 SWARCH have agreed monitoring arrangements with the DCHET and have agreed that the fieldwork will commence on the 9th April. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.
- 5.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 6.5 below.
- 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 Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number 2013:16. 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 HET on completion of the site work. A full, detailed and illustrated report setting out the results of these investigations will produced if these initial investigative excavations represent the only archaeological works undertaken or if there is to be a substantial period of time between the undertaking of the initial investigative work and the subsequent archaeological mitigation work.

If the archaeological mitigation follows on directly from the initial investigations, an overarching report will be produced that collates the results of all of the archaeological works undertaken i.e. the results of the initial investigations and the subsequent archaeological mitigation and post-excavation analysis and dating undertaken.

The report will include the following elements:

- 6.2.1 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
- 6.2.2 A copy of the DCHET Brief and this WSI;
- 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 location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
- 6.2.9 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;
- 6.2.10 Site matrices where appropriate;
- 6.2.11 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 6.2.12 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 6.2.13 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;
- 6.2.14 A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- 6.3 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 will 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. The HET will 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 HET 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 HET and SWARCH.
- 6.4 On completion of the final report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HET on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Team in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HET - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.
- 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.
- 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 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 (paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012)). If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HET.
- 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 SWARCH within three months of completion of the fieldwork - specialist input allowing - and agreed with the HET. It will include:

- A summary of the project and its background;
- A plan showing the location of the site and plans of the site showing the location of archaeological features, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits exposed;
- Research aims and objectives;
- Method statements setting out how these aims and objectives are to be achieved;
- Details of the tasks to be undertaken;
- The results of any specialist assessment work undertaken as part of the production of the formal Assessment and Project Design;
- Proposed project team;
- Overall timetable for undertaking the tasks as well as setting out monitoring points with the HET;
- Details of the journal in which the material is to be published.

8.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

SWARCH will - in consultation with the applicant or agent - ensure that the undertaking of the required archaeological works does 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).

Colin Humphreys

South West Archaeology

The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH

Telephone: 01769 573555 email: colin@swarch.net

Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

Richard Parker 11 Toronto Road, St James, Exeter. EX4 6LE. Tel: 07763 248241

Conservation

Alison Hopper Bishop, The Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation service a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk

Richard and Helena Jaeschke 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD

mrshjaeschke@email.msn.com Tel: 01271 830891

Curatorial

Thomas Cadbury, Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

Bone

Human Professor Chris Knusel, University of Exeter Tel: 01392 722491 c.j.knusel@ex.ac.uk

Animal Wendy Howard, University of Exeter w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk Tel: 01392 269330

Lithics Martin Tingle, Higher Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ

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Palaeoenvironmental/Organic Wood identification Dana Challinor Tel: 01869 810150 dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk

Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Pottery

Prehistoric Henrietta Quinnell 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214

Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB Tel: (0191) 454 4093

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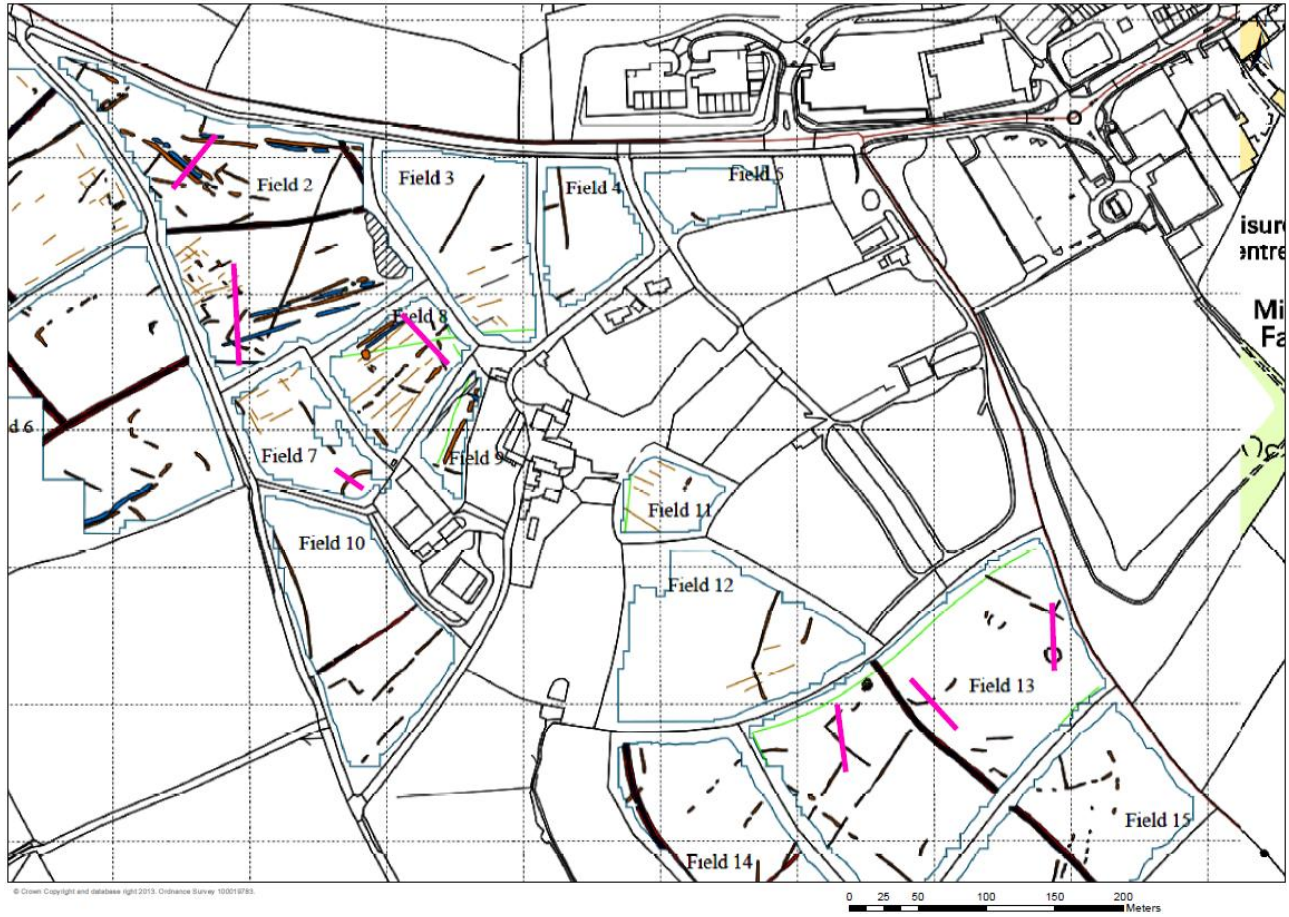


Figure 25: Proposed location of evaluation trenches.

Appendix 2

Context List

Context	Description	Relationships	Depth/Thickness	Spot Date	
(100)	Turf/Topsoil	Mid brown soft silty loam with moderate small sub-rounded stones.	Overlies (101)	0.20m	C20
(101)	Subsoil	Mid orange-buff brown, soft clay-silt with occasional-moderate sub-angular stones.	Overlain by (100), Overlies Natural	0.23m	C20
[102]	Cut of hollow-way	Linear cut of hollow-way aligned NW-SE (4.10m wide). Steep NE slope & gentle concave SW slope to flat base. 2 fills. Undated.	Cuts Natural, Contains (103), (104)	0.38m	Med?
(103)	Fill of (103)	Mid grey-brown, soft-firm silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks & fragments, & shillet fragments (<60mm). Upper fill of hollow-way [102]. No finds.	Fill of [102], Overlain by (101), Overlies (104)	0.06m	Med?
(104)	Fill of (103)	Mid yellow-grey, soft-firm clay-silt with very occasional charcoal flecks & occasional to moderate shillet fragments (<60mm). Very clean deposit. Lower fill of hollow-way [102]. No finds.	Fill of [102], Overlain by (103)	0.32m	Med?
(200)	Turf/Topsoil	As (100)	Overlies (201)	0.20m	C20
(201)	Subsoil	As (101)	Overlain by (200), Overlies Natural	0.20m	C20
[202]	Cut of ditch	Linear cut of ditch aligned NE-SW (0.99m wide). Steep sides to a flat base (slightly irregular in places due to collapse of looser shillet, resulting in some mix of primary deposit within fill). Cut by lynchet.	Cuts Natural, Contains (203)	0.43m	Middle Bronze Age
(203)	Fill of [202]	Mid orange-brown, friable-soft clay-silt with moderate shillet fragments (<30mm) and very occasional sub-angular quartz stones (<100mm).	Fill of [202], Overlain by (201)	0.43m	Middle Bronze Age
(300)	Turf/Topsoil	As (100)	Overlies (301)	0.18m	C20
(301)	Subsoil	As (101)	Overlain by (300), Overlies Natural	0.24m	C20
[302]	Cut of ditch	Curvi-linear cut of ring-ditch identified on geophysics results (2.11m wide). Very steep sides (slight step on outer NW side) to a slightly concave base. 8 fills. Romano-British.	Cuts Natural, Contains (303), (306), (307), (308), (309), (310), (311), (312)	1.11m	Late Iron Age/ Romano-British
(303)	Fill of [302]	Light-mid orange-brown, soft clay-silt with common small shillet fragments (<30mm). Very clean deposit. Uppermost fill of [302]. No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (301), Overlies(306)	0.30m	Late Iron Age/ Romano-British
[304]	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
(305)	Layer	Mid orange-brown, soft-firm slightly clayey silt with moderate-frequent shillet lithorelicts. Layer within 5.5m wide undulation in Natural. Natural feature? No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (301), Overlies Natural	0.10m	-
(306)	Fill of [302]	Light orange-brown, soft clay-silt with very frequent shillet fragments (70mm) very occasional shillet stones (150mm). No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (303), Overlies (308)	0.38m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(307)	Fill of [302]	Mid brown, soft clay-silt loam lens on NW side of cut with common shillet lithorelicts (<60mm). No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (306), Overlies Natural	0.05m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(308)	Fill of [302]	Mid grey brown, soft clay-silt with moderate shillet lithorelicts (<60mm & occasionally larger). No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (306), Overlies (309)	0.33m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(309)	Fill of [302]	Mid reddish-grey brown, soft clay-silt with common shillet stones (<70mm). No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (308), Overlies (310)	0.22m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(310)	Fill of [302]	Light orange-brown, soft clay-silt with common shillet stones (<50mm) and slightly gritty texture. Possibly a secondary fill from natural silting up of ditch? Finds = pottery.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (309), Overlies (311)	0.22m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(311)	Fill of [302]	Light orangey-brown, soft shillet & silty-clay. Likely mix of primary fill and silting up over time. No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (310), Overlies (312)	0.18m	Late Iron Age/ Romano
(312)	Fill of [302]	Light brown soft clay silt with frequent shillet lithorelicts (<30mm). Lowest fill of [302], initial silting up and primary fill. No finds.	Fill of [302], Overlain by (311),	0.11m	Late Iron Age/ Romano

Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth, Devon

(400)	Turf/Topsoil	As (100)	Overlies (401)	0.20m	C20
(401)	Subsoil	As (101)	Overlain by (400), Overlies Natural	0.20m	C20
[402]	Cut of ditch	Linear cut of ditch aligned SE-NW (0.65m wide). Gentle "U"-shaped profile. Only base survives. No finds.	Cuts Natural, Contains (403)	0.15m	? Prehistoric
(403)	Fill of [402]	Light yellowy-brown, soft silt-clay with very rare charcoal smears & small shillet fragments.	Fill of [402], Overlain by (401)	0.15m	? Prehistoric
(404)	Layer	As (305)	Overlain by (401), Overlies Natural	0.25m	-
(500)	Plough soil	Mid brown-grey, soft friable clay-silt with moderate shillet fragments.	Overlies Natural	0.30m	C21
[501]	Cut of plough scars	Intercutting plough scars aligned NE-SW (1m wide) that look like linear features in plan. Often vertical sides and irregular bases further eroded by dissolution.	Cuts Natural, Contains (502)	0.02-0.15m	C21
(502)	Fill of plough scars [501]	Mottled light orange brown soft clay-silt with frequent shillet fragments & lenses of pale yellow-orange degraded natural and very occasional charcoal flecks. No finds.	Fill of [501], Overlain by (500)	0.02-0.15m	C21
[503]	Cut of Gully	Curvilinear cut of gully aligned NE-SW but with a N-S knik/turn in it at its NE end (0.42m wide). Near vertical SE slope & moderate straight NW slope (on bend) to a concave base. 1 fill. Undated but possibly prehistoric.	Cuts Natural, Contains (504)	0.18-0.25m	? Prehistoric
(504)	Fill of [503]	Light-mid orange-brown, soft clay-silt with moderate sub-angular (<100mm) quartz & shillet stones & very occasional charcoal flecks. No finds.	Fill of [503], Cut by [505]	0.18-0.25m	? Prehistoric
[505]	Cut of Gully	Linear cut of gully aligned NW-SE (0.40m wide). Near vertical sides and flat base ("U"-shaped). 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts (504), Contains (506)	0.26m	? Prehistoric
(506)	Fill of [505]	Mid orange brown, soft clay-silt with occasional small (<50mm) sub-angular shillet and quartz stone & very occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of (505), Overlain by (500)	0.26m	? Prehistoric
[507]	Ovoid Cut	Sub-ovoid cut of probably animal burrow/large root system (0.6x2m) very irregular sides and base.	Cuts Natural, Contains (508)	0.35m	? Prehistoric
(508)	Fill of [507]	Dull buff greyish-brown clay-silt with common shillet lithorelicts & occasional charcoal flecks. No finds.	Fill of [507], Overlain by (500)	0.35m	? Prehistoric
[509]	Ovoid Cut	As [507]. Possibly part of the same system. (0.65x1.8)	Cuts Natural, Contains (510)	0.25m	? Prehistoric
(510)	Fill of [509]	As (508)	Fill of [507], Overlain by (500)	0.25m	? Prehistoric
[511]	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
(512)	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
[513]	Cut of plough scars	As [501]	Cuts Natural, Contains (514)	0.02-0.30m	C21
(514)	Fill of plough scars [501]	As (503)	Fill of [513], Overlain by (500)	0.02-0.30m	C21
(600)	Plough soil	As (500)	Overlies Natural	0.25-0.30m	C21
(601)	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
[602]	Cut of Gully	Linear cut of gully aligned SW-NE (0.75m wide). Gentle concave curved profile and base. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts (605), Contains (603)	0.12m	? Prehistoric
(603)	Fill of [602]	Light grey-buff, soft clay-silt, homogenous, clean deposit with occasional-rare shillet fragments. No finds.	Fill of [602], Overlain by (600)	0.12m	? Prehistoric
[604]	Cut of gully	Linear cut of gully aligned E-W (0.45m wide). Steep side and steeply concaved base (a soft "V"-shape). 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts Natural, Contains (605)	0.22m	? Prehistoric
(605)	Fill of [604]	Light grey-yellow, soft clay-silt with occasional quartz (<90mm) and shillet (<50mm) stones & very rare charcoal flecks.	Fill of [604], Cut by [602]	0.22m	? Prehistoric
[606]	Cut of Pit	Cut of sub-ovoid pit (0.4x0.7m). Irregular profile and base, damaged by plough scar. 1 fill. Undated. Possibly natural feature.	Cuts Natural, Contains (607)	0.09m	? Prehistoric
(607)	Fill of [606]	Buff-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional shillet fragments. No finds.	Fill of [606], Overlain by (600)	0.08m	? Prehistoric

Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth, Devon

[608]	Cut of Pit	Large sub-ovoid pit (3.25x1+m). Near vertical sides with an irregular base/gully around SW edge of base. 4 fills. Undated. Possible form of tree-throw?	Cuts Natural, Contains (609), (614), (615), (616)	0.86-1m	? Prehistoric
(609)	Fill of [608]	Mid orange-brown, friable clay-silt with very occasional charcoal flecks & occasional shillet & quartz stone (<100mm). No finds. Uppermost fill of [608].	Fill of [608], Cut by [612], Overlies (616)	0.48m	? Prehistoric
[610]	Cut of Pit	Cut of small ovoid pit (0.6x0.55m). Moderate irregular profile and concave curved irregular base. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts Natural, Contains (611)	0.18m	? Prehistoric
(611)	Fill of [610]	Mid buff-grey brown, soft-firm clay-silt with occasional shillet fragments (<60mm). No finds.	Fill of [610], Overlain by (600)	0.18m	? Prehistoric
[612]	Cut of Gully	Cut of linear gully aligned ENE-WSW (0.71m wide). Very steep concave NW slope & moderate SE slope to a slightly concave base. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts (609), Contains (613)	0.32m	? Prehistoric
(613)	Fill of [612]	Mid brown-orange, soft clay-silt with very occasional charcoal flecks & occasional shillet fragments. No finds.	Fill of (612), Overlain by (600)	0.32m	? Prehistoric
(614)	Fill of [608]	Light grey, loose & damp clay-shillet with very occasional charcoal flecks. Bottom fill of [608], possible primary fill of degraded natural shillet & clay. No finds.	Fill of [608], Overlain by (615)	0.24m	? Prehistoric
(615)	Fill of [608]	Light orange-brown, soft clay-silt with occasional moderate sub-angular shillet & quartz stone (<100mm) & very occasional charcoal flecks. Upper bottom fill of [608]. No finds.	Fill of [608], Overlain by (616), Overlies (614)	0.22m	? Prehistoric
(616)	Fill of [608]	Light buff-brown, soft clay-silt with frequent shillet fragments & very occasional charcoal flecks. Lower top fill of [608]. Mostly natural, so possibly backfill or pulled up natural if it's a tree-throw. No finds.	Fill of [608], Overlain by (609), Overlies (615)	0.49m	? Prehistoric
(700)	Plough soil	As (500)	Overlies Natural	0.30m	C21
[701]	Cut of Gully	Cut of very shallow/ephemeral gully (1m wide) aligned E-W. Possible base of plough truncated feature orientated at odds to plough scars. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts natural, Contains (702)	0.03m	? Medieval
(702)	Fill of [701]	Dark grey-brown, clay-silt & stoney fill. Very dark and possibly modern. No finds.	Fill of [701], Overlain by (700)	0.03m	? Medieval
[703]	Cut of Pit	Cut of sub-rectangular (round ended) pit (0.66m wide 1m+ long). Vertical sides, undercutting near top with curved (concave) break of slope and concave base (obscured by stone). 2 fills. Undated.	Cuts natural, Contains (704), (709)	0.60m	? C20
(704)	Fill of [703]	Dark orange-brown, friable-soft clay-silt with common sub-angular shillet fragments (<20mm) & frequent charcoal fragments & flecks. No finds. Upper fill of [703].	Fill of [703], Overlain by (700), Overlies (709)	0.30m	? C20
[705]	Cut of Ditch	Cut of NNW side of ring ditch (1.12m wide). Slight curve but running E-W in trench. Steep curved profile, with slightly steeper S side and slightly concave base. 2 fills. Undated.	Cuts Natural, Contains (706), (710)	0.52m	? Bronze Age
(706)	Fill of [705]	Mid grey-brown, soft-firm clay silt with occasional shillet fragments (<60mm). Seems like natural silting up (secondary fill). No finds.	Fill of [705], Overlain by (700), Overlies (710)	0.20m	? Bronze Age
[707]	Cut of Ditch	Cut of narrow curvilinear ditch aligned E-W but curves to S (0.70m wide). Very steep-vertical sides and flat base. Ring ditch? Round house foundation? One possible packing stone in section. 2 fills. Undated. Cut by [711].	Cuts natural, Contains (708), (723)	0.69m	? Bronze Age
(708)	Fill of [707]	Mid orange-red brown, soft clay-silt with common sub-angular shillet & occasional sub-angular quartz (<60mm) & occasional charcoal fragments. No finds. Sample <3>, 20l taken.	Fill of [707], Cut by [711], Overlies (723)	0.54m	? Bronze Age
(709)	Fill of [703]	Dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional large shillet & quartz (150mm) * occasional charcoal flecks. Large stone in base = 200x300mm. No finds.	Fill of [703], Overlain by (704)	0.28m	? C20
(710)	Fill of [705]	Mid ginger-grey, firm clay-silt with occasional to common shillet fragments (<80mm) & occasional quartz stones (<90mm) & rare to occasional charcoal flecks. No finds. Sample <1>, 20l taken.	Fill of [705], Overlain by (706)	0.32m	? Bronze Age
[711]	Cut of Tree-throw	Large ovoid cut of tree-throw (2.2x1.40+m). 2 fills. Undated. Cuts linear [707].	Cuts (708), Contains (712), (720)	0.87m	? Late prehistoric
(712)	Fill of [711]	Mid orange-brown, becoming more red to base, soft clay-silt with common sub-rounded shillet stone (<80mm) & occasional sub-angular quartz (<70mm) & occasional charcoal flecks. Otherwise quite clean. No finds. Deep asymmetric profile, crescent shaped?	Fill of [711], Overlies/abuts (720), Overlain by (700)	0.87m	? Late prehistoric
[713]	Cut of Ditch	Cut of linear (slight curvi-linear) ditch aligned NE-SW (1m wide). = SW side of ring-ditch. Very steep sides with curved break of slope to flat base. 2 fills. Undated.	Cuts (717), Contains (714), (715)	0.52-0.55m	? Bronze Age
(714)	Fill of [713]	Mottled mid orange-brown, soft-friable clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks & moderate shillet stone (<60mm). No finds.	Fill of [713], Overlain by (700), Overlies (715)	0.30-0.32m	? Bronze Age
(715)	Fill of [713]	Dark orange-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks & moderate shillet & quartz	Fill of [713], Overlain by (714)	0.20-0.25m	? Bronze Age

		stones (<150mm). No finds. Sample <2>, 20l taken.			
[716]	Cut of Gully	Cut of linear gully aligned NE-SW (0.30m wide). Very steep sides & narrow slightly concave base. May be step of larger ditch re-cut by [713]. It terminates c.0.50m SW of excavated segment. May have been original drip gully to round-house or entrance to ring ditch? Cut by ditch [713] and pit [718].	Cuts Natural, Contains (717)	0.30m	? Bronze Age
(717)	Fill of [716]	Light buff orange, soft clay-silt with frequent shillet fragments. No finds.	Fill of [716], Cut by [713], [718]	0.30m	? Bronze Age
[718]	Cut of Pit	Cut of sub-ovoid pit (0.80x0.70m). irregular-vertical sides & irregular-flat base. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts (717), Contains (719)	0.24m	? Late prehistoric
(719)	Fill of [718]	Mottled mid brown-orange, soft clay-silt with frequent shillet stones & fragments. No finds. Possible natural feature.	Fill of [718], Overlain by (700)	0.24m	? Late prehistoric
(720)	Fill of [711]	Not excavated. Greyish-white shillet bedrock in stiff silt-clay matrix. A reddish fill similar to (712)/Fe oxidation was visible around its edges. Natural shillet moved by tree-throw.	Fill of [711], Overlain by/abuts (712)	0.70m	? Late prehistoric
[721]	Cut of Pit	Cut of elongated oval pit (ellipse) (1.35x0.35+m). Very steep (near vertical in places) concave curved sides to a flat base. Located near centre of ring ditch. 1 fill. Undated.	Cuts Natural, Contains (722)	0.44m	? Bronze Age
(722)	Fill of [721]	Mid brown-orange, friable-soft silt-clay with occasional shillet & quartz sub-angular stone (<50mm) & occasional charcoal flecks. No finds.	Fill of [721], Overlain by (700)	0.44m	? Bronze Age
(723)	Fill of [707]	Mixed loose shillet (40-60mm) with light reddish-grey clay-silt.	Fill of [707], Overlain by [708]	0.14m	? Bronze Age

Appendix 3

Concordance of Finds

Context	Clay pipe			Glass			Pottery				Other		
	No.	Weight/g	Notes	No.	Weight/g	Notes	No.	Type	Weight/g	Notes	No.	Weight/g	Notes
Trench 2 Topsoil	2	6	Stems Discarded				1	White Refined Eathernware	<1	Discarded			
203							1	Middle Bronze Age Body Sherd Exeter Volcanics 1 fabric	6				
							1	Middle Bronze Age Gabbro admixture	7	Impressed cord decoration			
307							6	Roman? Gaulish Jar/Jug	37				
Trench 4 Topsoil	1	7	C18 Stem and heel				2	White Refined Eathernware	8	Discarded	1	7	Burnt Flint Discarded
							1	C13-14 French White Micaceous Handle	13				
							1	Bristol Staffordshire Yellow Slipware Closed Form brown trails	2				
							1	Frechen Bellarmine Base C16	36				
							2	Polychromatic Tin glaze plate	4	Check import?			
Field 8 Topsoil							1	White Refined Earthen ware Ind. Slipware	4	Discarded			
Field 13 Topsoil	9	7	8 stems, 1 bowl Discarded	11	66	C19 Bottle Discarded	20	White Refined Earthen Ware Blue Transfer print	71	Discarded	3	21	Coal Discarded
	1	3	Mark on heel C19	8	129	C18-C19 Vessel Discarded	3	C19 Refined Redware Yellow glaze	25	Discarded	1	33	Flint pebble worn/nat
				1	38	C19 vessel Discarded	1	Westerwald Stoneware Scrap	<1		1	11	Fe Object Ag tine Discarded
				1	24	C19-C20 vessel Discarded	1	N. German Stoneware	6		2	24	Brick Fragment Discarded
							2	Chinese Porcelain Closed Form	9		2	42	Salt Glazed Sewer Pipe Discarded
							1	Jackfield Ware	<1		1	17	Fe Partial horseshoe Discarded
							1	S. Devon White Ware C18	<1		1	40	Fe Object Discarded
							6	Sandy Fabric, S.Somerset C18	33		1	31	Fe object punch? Discarded
							5	C19 Redwares	98	Discarded	1	5	Brick Fragment Discarded
							1	Beauvais Sgraffito Plate	17				
							1	Tin glaze Round flat base of a goblet? Closed form, trace of metallic pink colour	29				
							10	Totnes Type Post Med	142				
							9	Abraded Medieval Totnes Type, 2 of which probable from other S. Devon source	29				
							21	Refined wares, WRE	90				
							1	C19 English Porcelain	8	Discarded			
							4	English Stoneware C19	108	Discarded			
							1	Jackfield Ware	2	Discarded			
							2	Flowerpot	16	Discarded			
							1	North Devon GTP Post med	9				
							1	S. Somerset C18 plate	22				
							1	Westerwald Stoneware	10				
							3	Bristol Staffordshire Yellow Slipware closed forms	40				
							1	Totnes type Ridge tile	31				

						1	Delft-type Tin glazed closed form	9				
						1	French Green and Brown whiteware Dish rim	19				
						1	Handle - mottled ware?	4				
						1	Redware - polychromatic slipware	4				
						24	Totnes Type Post Med	281				
						1	Totnes type Post Med, curfew top?	33				
						20	Misc. Sandy wares Post Med, probably S. Somerset	23				
						2	C19 English Stoneware	70	Discarded			
						1	Bristol Staffordshire Yellow Slipware C18 Closed Form	13				
						1	C19 South Devon White Ware heavy bowl	56				
						1	North Devon? Calc. Ware, Cup Base	6				
						5	Misc. Sandy Redwares Post Med	33				
						1	White Ceramics? S.Devon White wares	5	Discarded			
						1	White bodied - Brown Glaze? Mottled ware cup base	4	Discarded			
						1	Middle Bronze Age – Gabbroic admixture rim	2				

Appendix 4

Pottery Specialist Report

By Dr. Imogen Wood

Summary

This is an assessment report for a small ceramic assemblage from Great Cotton Farm near Dartmouth, excavated in April 2013 by Southwest Archaeology. The analysed assemblage only consisted of 10 sherds weighing 64g from two stratified contexts and the topsoil. Assessment of this material provides provisional dating evidence for the excavated features on the site, and supports the stratigraphical interpretation of the site.

Methods

10 sherds were examined macroscopically with a hand lens at x2 magnification to identify initial fabric groups; these groups were then examined under a binocular microscope at a magnification of x10 to x40. This enabled large areas of the surface and edges of sherds to be examined, and in many cases useful diagnostic mineral and rock components to be identified. Photomicrographs were taken and used for visual comparison with the database. Abrasion has been subjectively assessed using Sorensen's method (Sorensen 1996).

Quantification

The assemblage is composed of Middle Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval pottery. A context-by-context breakdown of fabrics, wares, abrasion and dating can be found in Table 2 (below).

Period	No of sherds	Weight (grams)
Middle Bronze Age	3	14
Roman?	6	37
Medieval	1	13
TOTAL	10	64g

Table 1: Quantification by period.

Condition of the Assemblage

The condition of the unstratified sherds are typically highly abraded, the Trevisker pottery from (203) may not be far from its primary area of deposition. The soft fabric of the co-joining Roman vessel (307) makes it appear abraded, but is probably in its primary context as the fabric of the vessel would not have survived in any active post depositional environment.

Fabric

Vessel (307)

Soft fabric, oxidised interior and exterior with dark reduced core, well sorted. Very fine wheel-made flagon with traces of handle springing under everted rim. Post-ex manganese build up on surfaces.

Temper 2% few inclusions visible

Quartz, translucent, scatter, >0.5mm

Quartz, opaque, rare, sub-angular, 2mm

Fe, pellets, red/purple, scatter, rounded, (rare 2.5mm) generally 0.5mm

Muscovite, common, in matrix >0.01mm

Results

The fabric and decoration of the Middle Bronze Age sherds is typical of Trevisker Ware (see Quinnell 2012 for discussion). A sherd from (203) has impressed platted cord decoration making it comparable with Trevisker Style 1. Made in a Gabbroic Admixture fabric with abundant translucent quartz. The other sherd from (203) has an Exeter Volcanics Fabric derived from the Permian geology of the Exeter area (Peacock 1969). The unstratified sherd from Field 13 is a highly abraded basal angle sherd in a quartz rich gabbroic admixture fabric. Trevisker ware is relatively common in Devon with one example in a gabbroic fabric at Little Dartmouth (see Green, Morris *et al* 2012).

The sherds from (307) are from the same vessel, the narrow neck and general form suggests a fine wheelmade flagon, there are two incised lines below the everted rim and a reduced area with evidence of a handle springing from the rim outwards. The fabric is consistent with central Gaulish Roman pottery, however, the lack of slip and a handle springing from the rim is not readily comparable. There are comparable forms in the medieval period but the fabric is not consistent with native or imported wares of this period.

The medieval ribbon handle fragment recovered from the topsoil of Trench 4 is in a white micaceous fabric suggesting an imported ware possibly North French Micaceous Whiteware around the 13th - early 14th centuries (Brown 2002, 25).

Significance of the Assemblage

The Trevisker ware is of some significance in expanding the distribution of this style in Devon. The unstratified medieval imported sherd suggests activity in this area in the 13th century presumably related to the port at Dartmouth.

Recommendations

None

Context	No.	Wgt (g)	Abrasion	Fabric group	Notes	Date
Topsoil Field 13	1	2	3	Gabbro admixture	Rim	MBA
203	1	6	1	Exeter Volcanics 1	Body	MBA
203	1	7	2	Gabbro admixture	Impressed cord decoration	MBA
Topsoil T4	1	13	3	White micaceous	Ribbon Handle	Medieval
307	6	37	1	Gaulish	Fine jar/jug	Roman?

Table 2: Detailed concordance of analysed pottery.

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Appendix 5

Flint Report
By Martin Tingle

The assemblage is composed of 15 pieces weighing a total of 247g which were recovered from the topsoil at various locations (See Table). With the exception of a single piece of greensand chert, the worked stone is an unpatinated light grey flint some of which has a white speckling that is observed in chalk derived flint.

Location	Find	Weight (g)	Comment
Field 2	Core Frag	36	
Field 2	Uncorticated Flake	4	
Field 13	Core Frag	70	
Field 13	Core Frag	39	
Field 13	Broken Flake	2	
Nr Tr 2	Core Frag	43	Greensand Chert pebble
Nr Tr 4	Blade	4	
Nr Tr 4	Uncorticated Flake	5	
Nr Tr 4	Tertiary Flake	10	
Nr Tr 4	Broken Flake	11	
Nr Tr 4	Uncorticated Flake	2	Notched ?broken blade
Nr Tr 4	Uncorticated Flake	1	
Nr Tr 6	Core Frag	10	
Nr Tr 6	Broken Flake	3	
Nr Tr 6	Broken Flake	1	
Total		241	

There are no obviously datable pieces although the presence of a blade and a notched possible broken blade may indicate that some earlier prehistoric activity is evident. However, the assemblage is too small and dispersed for any firm conclusions to be made.

Appendix 6

Jpegs not reproduced in the report.



Left: Trench 4, pre-excitation, viewed from the north-west (2m scale) highlighting condition of the natural. Right: Trench 6, pre-excitation viewed from the south by south-east (2m scale) highlighting condition of the natural.



Left: Ditch [202], post-excitation, from above (1m scale). Right: Gullies [602] & [604] viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Left: Excavated plough scars [513] viewed from the south-west (1 & 0.4m scale). Right: Excavated plough scars [501] viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Left: Ditches [705] & [707], pre-excitation viewed from the south (1m scale). Right: Ditch [705] viewed from the west (1m scale).



Left: Pit [703], post-excitation viewed from above (1m scale). Right: Southern half of Trench 7 viewed from the south by south-east (2m scale), showing the limits and interior of the ring-ditch (Ditches [705] & [713]).



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