

LAND off ALSWEAR OLD ROAD SOUTH MOLTON DEVON

Results of Archaeological Evaluation Trenching



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

Tel: 01769 573555
Email: mail@swarch.net

Report No.: 150904
Date: 04.09.2015
Author: P. Webb

Land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton, Devon

Land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton, Devon

Results of Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

For

Neil Kingdon

On behalf of

South Molton Rugby Club

By



SWARCH project reference: SMR15

National Grid Reference: SS 71669 25132

Planning Application Ref: Pre-planning

Project Director: Dr. Bryn Morris

Fieldwork Managers: Dr Bryn Morris

Project Officer: Joe Bampton, Peter Webb

Fieldwork: Joe Bampton, Dr. Bryn Morris; Peter Webb

Research: Joe Bampton

Report: Peter Webb

Report Editing: Dr. Bryn Morris; Natalie Boyd

Graphics: Peter Webb

September 2015

South West Archaeology Ltd. shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project.

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton in Devon, as part of the pre-planning requirements for a proposed rugby pitch.

The four evaluation trenches targeted a series of geophysical anomalies identified in an earlier survey, including the northern edge of a small sub-rectangular enclosure previously noted on aerial photographs. One trench caught the eastern edge of an undated penannular gully, indicating the present of a Prehistoric or Romano-British settlement on at site. A small number of other features were identified. The results indicate this gently-sloping south-facing site formed part of a wider pattern of Prehistoric or Romano-British activity.

Contents

	Page No.
Summary	3
List of Appendices	5
Acknowledgements	5
1.0 Introduction	6
1.1 Project Background	6
1.2 Topographical and Geological Background	6
1.3 Historical Background	6
1.4 Archaeological Background	6
1.5 Methodology	7
2.0 Archaeological Evaluation	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Results	9
2.2.1 Trench #1	9
2.2.2 Trench #2	9
2.2.3 Trench #3	11
2.2.4 Trench #4	11
2.2.5 Finds	11
3.0 Discussion and Conclusion	15
3.1 Discussion	15
3.2 Conclusion	15
4.0 Bibliography & References	16

List of Figures

Cover plate: View of ring-gully [401] within Trench #4; viewed from the north-north-east (scales 0.4m and 2m).

Figure 1: Site location.	7
Figure 2: Site plan showing location of trenches in relation to geophysical anomalies.	8
Figure 3: Post-excavation view of Ditch [201] and Pit [203]; viewed from the south-west.	9
Figure 4: Trenches #1 and #2, in plan with sections.	10
Figure 5: Post-excavation view of Ditches [301] (in the foreground) and [303].	12
Figure 6: North-east facing section of Ditch [303]; viewed from the south-east.	12
Figure 7: Post-excavation view of penannular gully [401]; viewed from the north-north-east.	13
Figure 8: Post-excavation view of penannular gully [401]; viewed from the north-north-west.	13
Figure 9: Trench #3 and #4, plans and sections.	14

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Project Design	17
Appendix 2: Key Heritage Assets	21
Appendix 3: Context List	22
Appendix 4: Concordance of Finds	24
Appendix 5: Photographs	25

Acknowledgements

Thanks for assistance are due to:

Neil Kingdon, on behalf of South Molton Rugby Club
Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET)
The Staff of the Devon Record Office

1.0 Introduction

Location:	Land adjacent to Alswear Old Road
Parish:	South Molton
District:	North Devon
County:	Devon
NGR:	SS 71669 25132

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton in Devon (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Neil Kingdon on behalf of South Molton Rugby Club (the Client) in order to identify any archaeological sites or features that might be affected by the creation of a proposed rugby pitch.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The site is located on south-facing summit of a low hill at a height of 144-149m AOD, at the south-west corner of a large rectangular field on the southern side of South Molton (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils over slate or rubble of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie mudstones and siltstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2015).

1.3 Historical Background

The place-name South Molton (unknown element *mol* + *OE Sud* and *tūn*) means 'the south estate at a place called mol' or 'south estate on the River Mole' (Watts 2004). In 1086 William I held the Manor of South Molton (*Sudmoltone*), and four priests held c.30 acres of land from the king. In the 13th century it was held by Lord Martin, under the Earl of Gloucester. It later passed to Lord Audley and then back to the crown. It was then held by royal grant by the Hollands, Dukes of Exeter and then Margaret Countess of Richmond in 1487. Queen Elizabeth I granted it to Thomas Whitmore from whom it passed to Hugh Squier. The executors of William Squier purchased the manor in 1700. South Molton was created as a borough in the 12th century and a fair was granted in 1327 (Beresford and Finberg 1973). Numerous boroughs were created in this period, principally with the purpose of boosting manorial incomes. The prosperity of the borough relied on the woollen trade and through the marketing of livestock. Its prosperity declined in the 19th century and was modestly restored in the later 20th century. In 1839 the land specific to the site was owned and occupied by one James Huxtable. The fields were under pasture and called 'Broom Park' and 'Broom Close'. *Broom* presumably refers to the common flowering shrub. These fields clearly lay within the open fields associated with South Molton, as the morphology of this fieldscape and the intermingled landholding would indicate.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The site is located on land characterised as *modern enclosures adapted from post-medieval fields* (Devon HLC). The land surrounding the site, particularly to the west, is characterised as *medieval enclosures based on strip fields* thus falling into the category of *Anciently Enclosed Land* (AEL).

There has been little or no archaeological investigation within the immediate area of the proposed site. However, a cropmark enclosure and relict fieldscape immediately to the south (MDV29582) may extend into the proposed site area. There are no Scheduled Monuments listed in the town. The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) shows a number of various Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II Listed buildings throughout South Molton. Some of these are identified in Appendix 2, along with the other immediate heritage assets.

1.5 Methodology

The evaluation trenching was carried out in accordance with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 2015* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2015*. The location of the trenches was determined in consultation with Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET); the methodology is detailed in the Project Design (see Appendix 1).

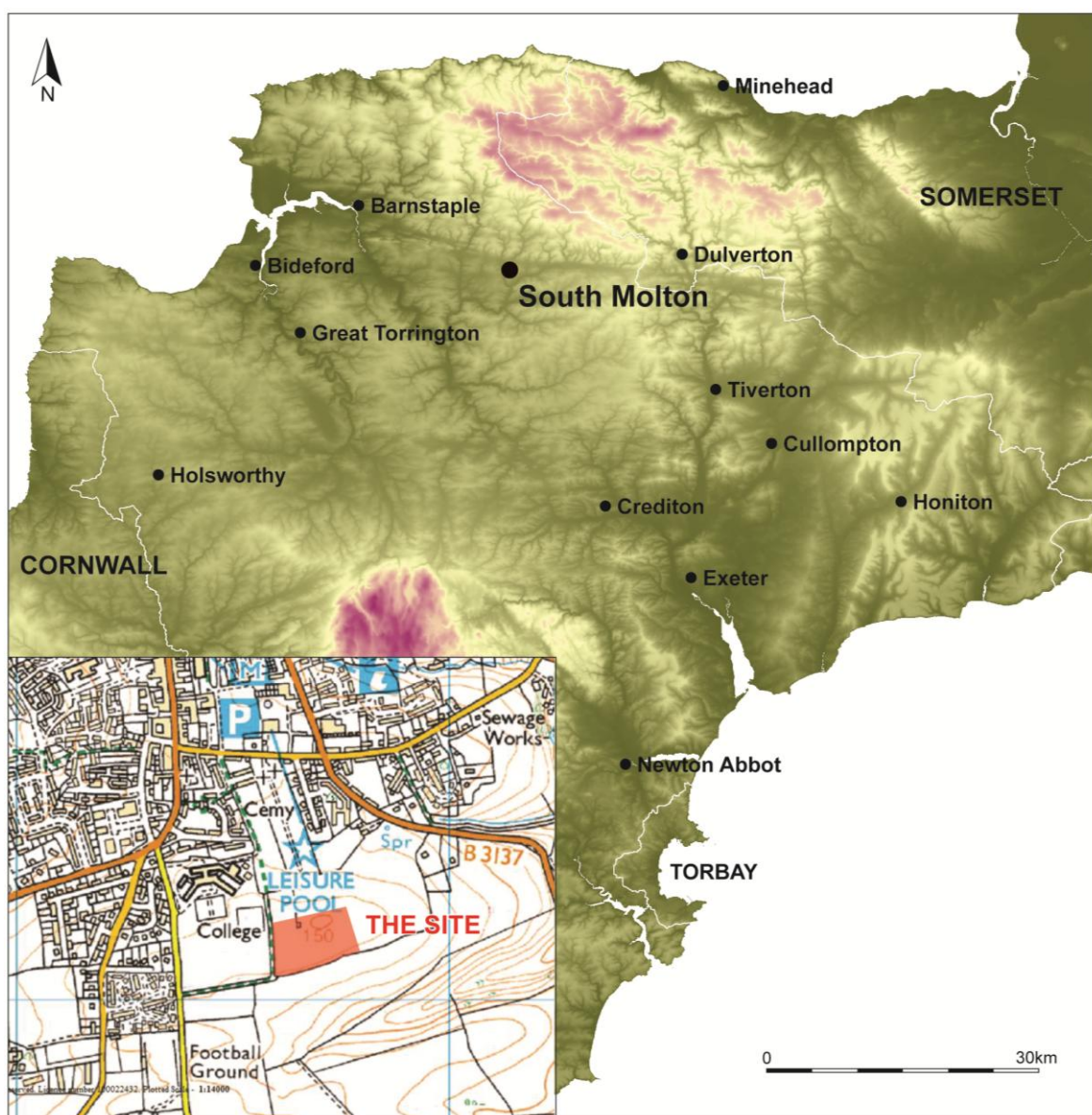


Figure 1: Site location (the location of the proposed development area is indicated).

2.0 Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Introduction

Four trenches, with a total length of 100m, were opened across the site (see Appendix 1). The trenches were opened by a JCB with a back actor fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket and the work took place under strict archaeological supervision. The topsoil across the site was a light-mid grey-brown friable silt-loam; this overlay the natural shillet. A total of 6 archaeological features were encountered: three ditches, one pit, one post-hole, and one penannular gully. A modern service trench was also exposed. All features cut the subsoil/natural and all but one was sealed by the shallow topsoil. Ditch [303/315/316] was sealed by layer (312). Only one of the features produced finds – two sherds (10g) of North Devon medieval coarseware – with further medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil. A detailed context list can be found in Appendix 3; the finds are listed in Appendix 4.

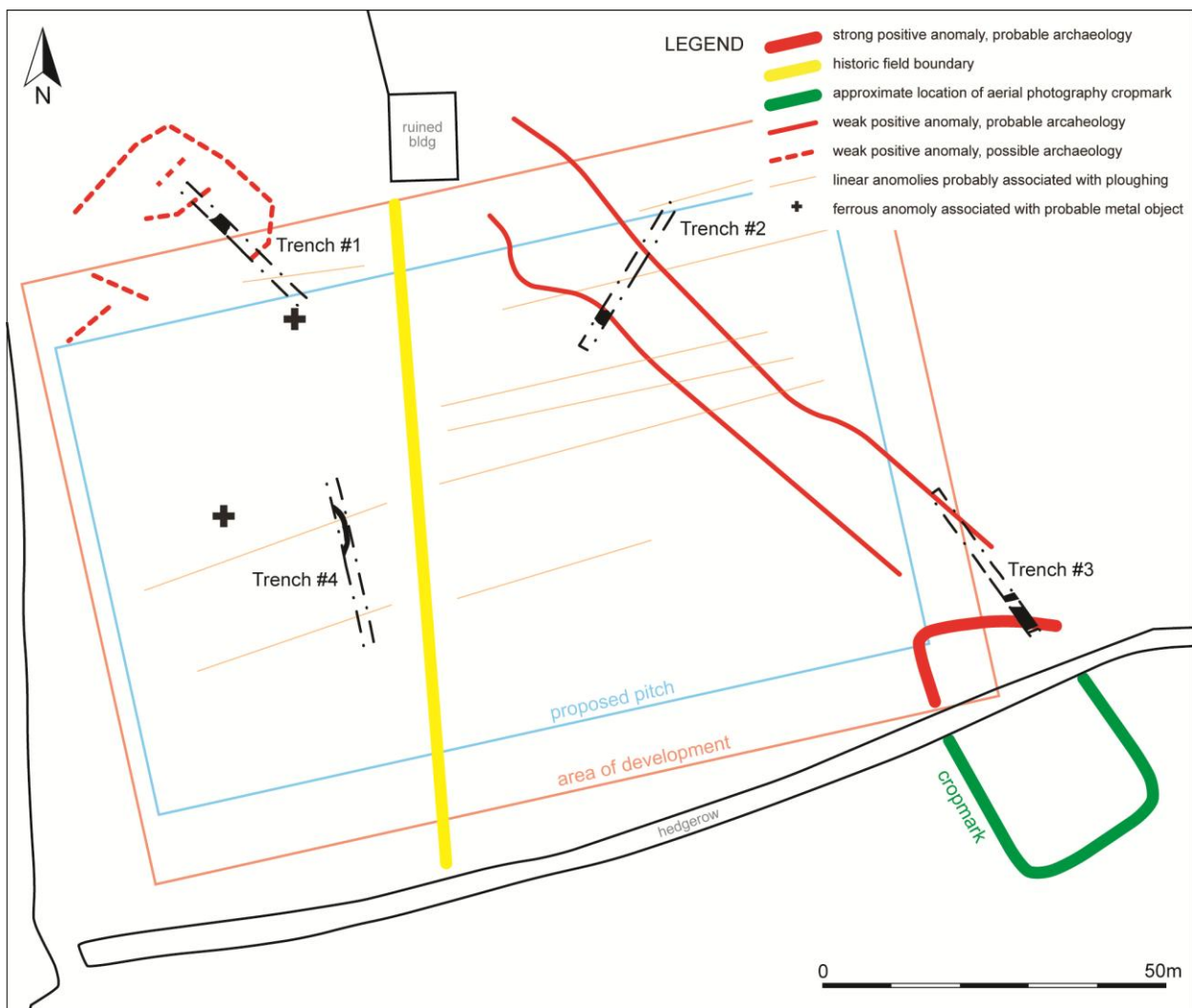


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of trenches in relation to anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

2.2 Results

2.2.1 Trench #1

Trench #1 was located in the north-western corner of the site and targeted geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and was 25m long. The topsoil in this area was very shallow, being only 0.25m thick (Figure 4). No archaeological features were identified in this trench, although a deep geological feature [101] was investigated. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

2.2.2 Trench #2

Trench #2 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site and targeted a possible double-ditched trackway. The trench was aligned north-east to south-west and was 24.85m long. The topsoil was again very shallow: 0.2-0.3m thick (Figures 3-4). Three features were identified in this trench, all towards the south-western end: ditch [201], pit [203], and posthole [205], all of which were cut into the natural. Medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of [201], and post-medieval pottery from the topsoil.

Ditch [201] was orientated north-west to south-east, located towards the southern end, and running across the trench, 0.7m wide and up to 0.45m deep with steep to moderate sides, with clear breaks of slope and gently concave base. It contained a single fill: (202) a bluish-grey clayey silt. Two sherds (10g) of medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of the feature. It cut the south-western edge of pit [203], elongate in plan and terminating within the trench. This feature measured 0.9m wide by 0.52m deep with steep to near vertical sides, clear breaks of slope and a base that sloped to the south-east. It contained two fills: (204) and (207); brown and grey clay-silts. The lower fill (207) was sampled. There were no finds. Posthole [205] cut the northern edge of pit [203]. It was sub-circular in plan, 0.32m in diameter and 0.2m deep with a concave profile. It contained a single fill: (206) a red-brown silt-loam. There were no finds.



Figure 3: Post-excitation view of Ditch [201] and Pit [203]; viewed from the south-west (2m scale).

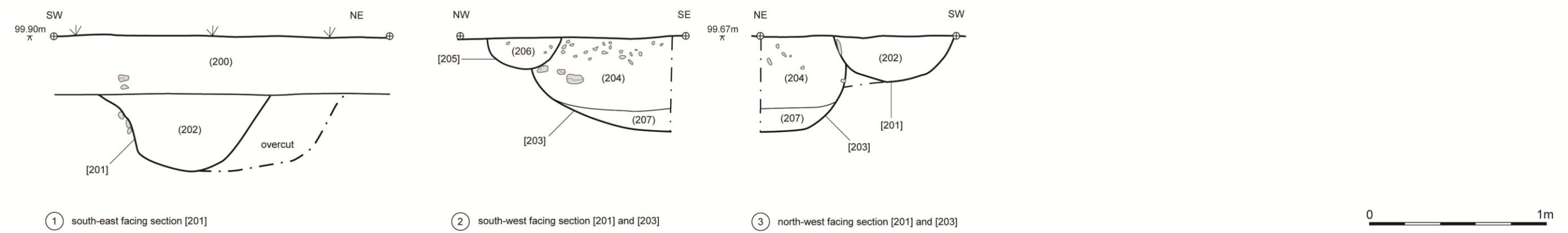
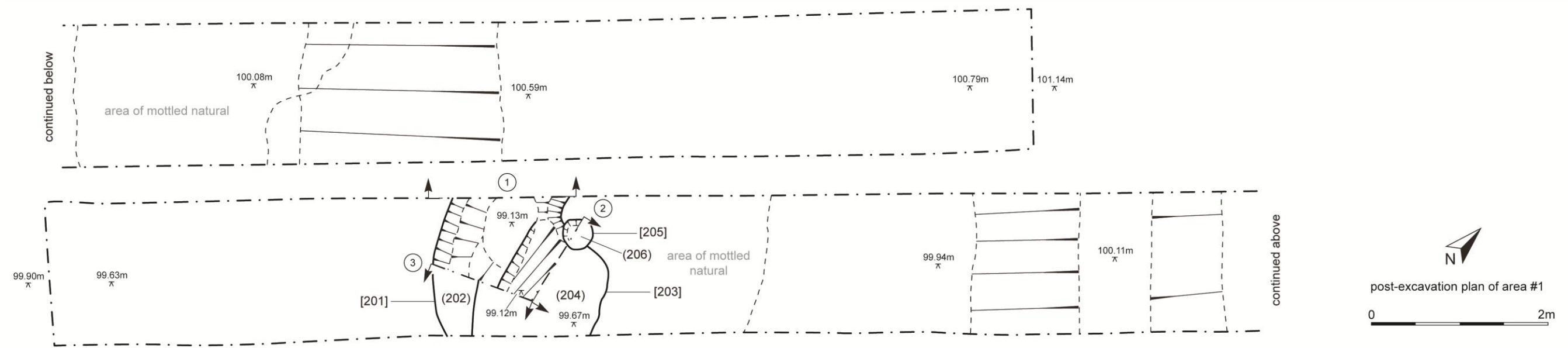
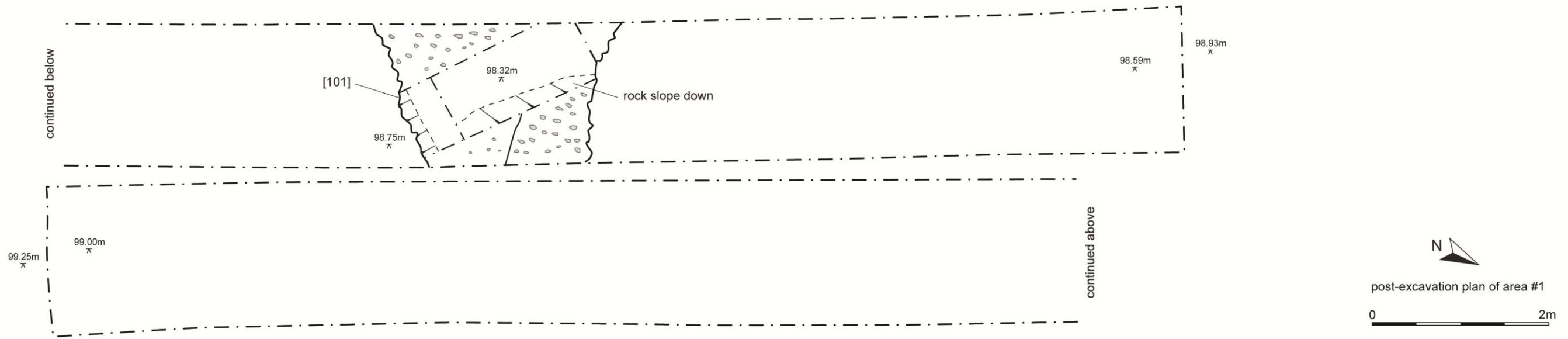


Figure 4: Trenches #1 and #2, in plan with sections (arbitrary TBM of 100m).

2.2.3 Trench #3

Trench #3 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and targeted the enclosure ditch. It was aligned north-west to south-east and was 25.4m long. The topsoil increased in thickness towards the bottom (south) of the slope, and was 0.28-0.4m thick (Figure 7). Two features were identified in this trench: ditches [301] and [303], both of which were cut into the natural. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil within this trench; the ditches produced no finds.

Ditch [301] was orientated approximately east-to-west at the southern end of the trench, 0.78m wide and 0.2m deep with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill: (302) a brown clay-silt. There were no finds. The fill was sampled.

Ditch [301] was located just north of, and seemingly parallel to, ditch [303]. This ditch was orientated east-to-west, was at least 4.5m wide, narrowing to 0.8m at the base of the excavated section. It had steep sloping sides that dropped more steeply with depth. This feature was excavated to a depth of 1.42m below ground level, but was clearly deeper. It contained eight fills: (304), (305) and (307), all yellowish-brown clay-silts; (308) and (310), which were grey-brown silt-clays; (309), (311), and (312), which were yellowish-grey clay-silts. (306) was quite different, being comprised of loose angular slatey rock 80-180mm across set in a loose silty-clay matrix. Bulk samples were taken from two of the lower fills (306) (308). It is possible that two re-cuts are present in this sequence: a first ditch [303] that contains (304) and (305), a second ditch [315] that contains (306) and (307), and a final ditch [316] that contains (308), (309), (310) and (311).

The fills of [303] had been cut along its southern edge by modern service trench [313], which contained an alkathene water pipe. There were no finds.

2.2.4 Trench #4

Trench #4 was located in the south-western corner of the site, aligned approximately north-to-south and 25m long. The topsoil was 0.3-0.35m thick (Figure 7). One feature was identified in this trench: penannular gully [401], which was cut into the natural. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

Penannular gully [401] was curving in plan and was located towards the northern end of the trench. The exposed section measured 7.5m long, and it was 0.36m wide and 0.29m deep with steep rock-cut sides and a V-shaped profile. The observed section of the feature would suggest an overall diameter of 10-11m. It contained a single fill: (402), stony grey-brown clay-silt. There were no finds. This fill was sampled.

2.2.5 Finds

A small assemblage of finds was recovered, mainly from the topsoil. The only stratified finds were two sherds (10g) of abraded North Devon medieval coarseware from (202). The rest of the material was comprised of post-medieval North Devon gravel-tempered or gravel-free pottery and some white refined earthenwares. See Appendix 4 for the concordance of finds.



Figure 5: Post-excitation view of Ditches [301] (in the foreground) and [303]; viewed from the north-west (1m scale).



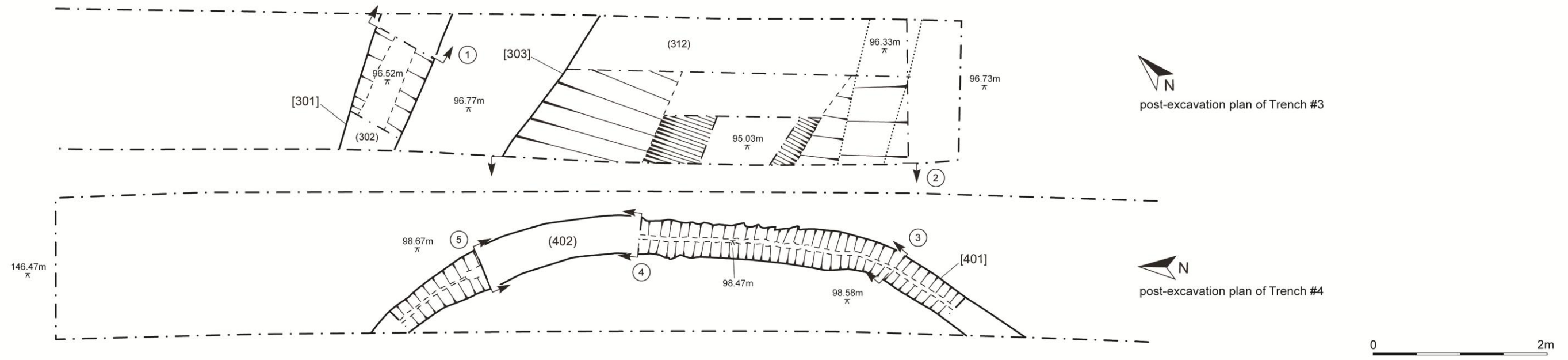
Figure 6: North-east facing section of Ditch [303]; viewed from the south-east (2m scale).



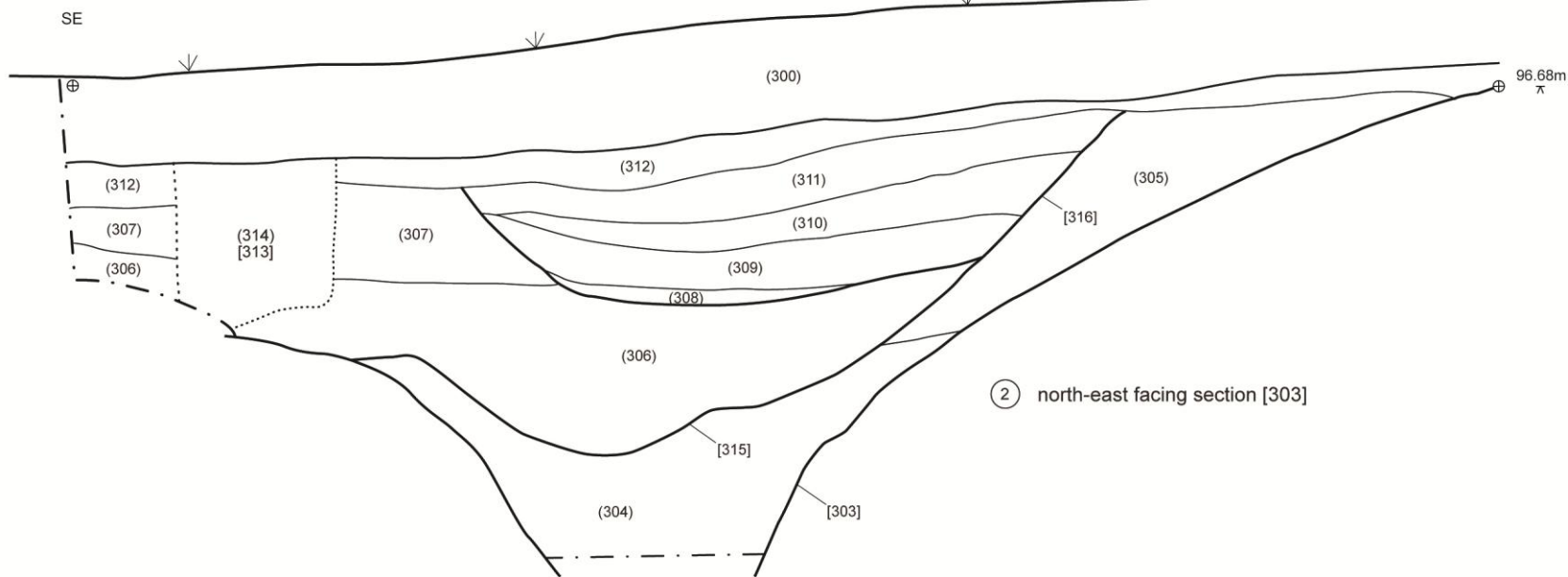
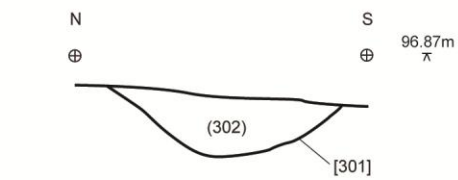
Figure 7: Post-excitation view of penannular gully [401]; viewed from the north-north-east (2m scale).



Figure 8: Post-excitation view of penannular gully [401]; viewed from the north-north-west (2m & 0.4m scale)



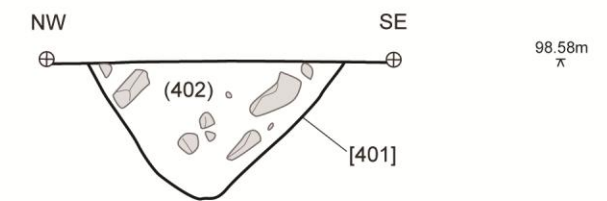
① west-facing section [301]



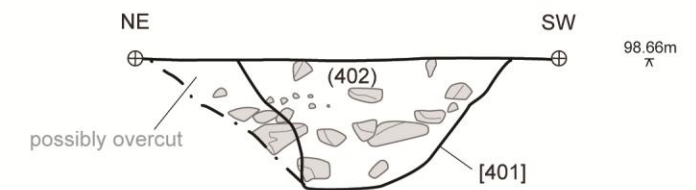
② north-east facing section [303]

0 1m

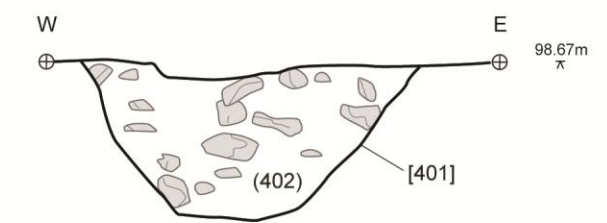
③ south-west facing section [401]



④ north-west facing section [401]



⑤ south-facing section [401]



0 0.5m

Figure 9: Trench #3 and #4; plans and sections (arbitrary TBM of 100m).

3.0 Discussion and Conclusion

3.1 Discussion

The trenches were located to target features identified in the geophysical survey: Trench #1 with a possible rectangular anomaly with subdivisions of possible archaeological origin; Trench #2 for a pair of narrow linear ditches; Trench #3 for the undated rectangular enclosure also identified on aerial photography; and Trench #4, a control trench in an area where no clear features had been identified.

The evaluation partly validated the results of the geophysical survey; the anomalies in Trench #1 appear to have been geological in nature, and the north-eastern linear anomaly in Trench #2 could not be located. The south-western anomaly in Trench #2 was located, but so were other (undated) features. The large anomaly in Trench #3 was confirmed as a substantial ditch. However, several other features that were not picked up by the geophysical survey were identified, most significantly the penannular gully in Trench #4. A reassessment of the results of the geophysical survey failed to identify a clear feature in this area, and it may be that this feature was simply too slight, and too stony, to be picked up. This finding has clear implications for the degree of reliance that can be placed on the survey as a guide to risk management.

Penannular gully [401] would suggest the presence of a roundhouse of Prehistoric or earlier Romano-British date, c.10-11m in diameter. The lack of dating evidence in relation to sites in North Devon is not uncommon, and bulk samples were taken in order to obtain material for scientific dating should the need or the funds arise. This structure joins a select group of excavated 'lowland' roundhouses in North Devon, the other examples being at Middle Burrow Farm, East Worlington (Gillard *et al.* 2012) and Holsworthy Farm, Parracombe (Green 2009). The scale of the enclosure ditch sectioned in Trench #3 is surprising (probably up to 2m deep) in relation to its location (i.e. on sloping ground and overlooked from the north) and the size of its internal area. The fact that there *may* be a contemporary but unenclosed settlement nearby and that a relict fieldsystem extends to the south-west, it is *possible* the enclosure might have been a refuge rather than a homestead. However, that would itself require further validation.

The only dated feature on the site was Ditch [201], which would suggest it was medieval in date. However, the character of the fill is markedly dissimilar from any other feature on the site, and on balance the pottery may well be intrusive.

3.2 Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation indicates that there are features of archaeological origin present within the area of the proposed development. Only one of the features is dated, that dating is not secure, and all of these features could be Prehistoric or Romano-British in date. The relationship between the enclosure sectioned in Trench #3, and what appears to be an unenclosed settlement is of interest if the two were contemporaneous. The discovery of the penannular gully in Trench #4 throws doubt on the reliability of the geophysical survey in relation to similar, very slight, features.

4.0 Bibliography & References

Published Sources:

- Beresford, M. & Finberg, H.** 1973: *English Medieval Boroughs – a Handlist*. Oxford.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists** 2015: *Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Gillard, M., Walls, S. & Morris, B.** 2012: 'Excavation of an Iron Age Roundhouse at Middle Burrow Farm, East Worlington', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 70, 107-132.
- Green, T.** 2009: 'Excavation of a Hillslope Enclosure at Holsworthy Farm, Parracombe displaying Bronze Age and Iron Age Activity', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 67, 39-98.
- English Heritage** 2008: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Lysons, D. & Lysons, S.** 1822: *Magna Britannia*, vol.6. London.
- 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)*.
- Watts, V.** 2010: *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Cambridge University Press.
- Williams, A & Martin, E.H.** (eds.) 2002: *Domesday Book*. Penguin Books, London.

Websites:

- British Geological Survey** 2014: *Geology of Britain Viewer*.
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 20.02.2015]
- Historic Environment Records** 2014: *Heritage Gateway*.
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> [accessed 20.02.2015]

Unpublished Sources:

- Bampton, J.** 2015: *Land near Alswear Old Road, South Molton, Devon: results of an archaeological gradiometer survey*. SWARCH report 150224.

Devon Record Office:

- South Molton Tithe Map 1844
South Molton Tithe Apportionment 1839
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1889

Appendix 1

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING AT LAND ADJACENT TO ALSWEAR OLD ROAD, SOUTH MOLTON.

Location: Land Adjacent to Alswear Old Road
Parish: South Molton
County: Devon
NGR: SS 71669 25132
Planning no: Pre-planning
Proposal: Creation of a rugby pitch.
Date: 29th May 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Ian Kingdon on behalf of South Molton Rugby Club. It sets out the methodology for archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken in advance of the application for planning for the above development and for related off site analysis and reporting. The Project Design and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies approximately 250m away from South Molton Community College and 290m away from Alswear Old Road. It is located on land assessed on the Devon County Historic Landscape Characterisation as modern enclosures adapted from post-medieval fields. The land surrounding the site, particularly to the west, is characterised as medieval enclosures based on strip fields thus falling into the category of *Anciently Enclosed Land* (AEL). There has been little archaeological investigation within the immediate area of the proposed site and there is nothing noted on the Devon Historic Environment Record for the proposed location or for the immediate area surrounding the site. However, there is documentary evidence of crop marks on the south-east edge of the site which may or may not extend into the proposed site area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments listed in the town, The HER shows a number of various Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II Listed buildings throughout South Molton. A geophysical survey carried out by SWARCH in February 2015 (Report number 150224) identified a small number of archaeological anomalies, including the northern edge of a small sub-rectangular enclosure previously noted on aerial photographs. An irregular possible ditched routeway extends north-north-west from the enclosure. A double-ditched anomaly corresponding with a historic field boundary was also identified, as well as recent plough scars.

3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

- 3.1.1 To assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.2 Produce a report containing the results of the evaluation trenching;
- 3.1.3 Provide a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, with recommendations for those areas where further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies may be required.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 Evaluation Excavations:

Four evaluation trenches will be dug on site, targeting features highlighted by the geophysics results (Fig. 1). The trenches will cover approximately 200m in total. The evaluation trenches will be opened by 360 degree tracked excavator with toothless bucket, but any archaeological features exposed would be excavated by hand by the site archaeologist to the depth of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.

- 4.1.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 2014 and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2014*.
- 4.1.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts, including the use of a metal detector, if necessary.
- 4.1.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to ClfA guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. An adequate photographic record of

the excavation will be prepared. Where digital imagery is the sole photographic record, archivable prints will be prepared by a photographic laboratory.

- 4.1.4 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) One long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.
- Should the above % excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with DCHET.
- 4.1.5 Artefacts will be bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained. Following post-excavation analysis and recording, further material may be discarded, subject to consultation with the appropriate specialists and the receiving Museum;
- 4.1.6 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.1.7 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. 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).
- 4.1.8 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.
- 4.1.9 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 will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.1.10 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, DCHET will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, DCHET and the client/applicant will be held to determine the appropriate response.

5.0 REPORTING

- 5.1 The type of report produced will be agreed with the HET in view of the results. If a full report is produced it will include the following elements:
- 5.1.1 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
 - 5.1.2 A copy of this WSI;
 - 5.1.3 A summary of the project's background;
 - 5.1.4 A description and illustration of the site location;
 - 5.1.5 A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
 - 5.1.6 Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
 - 5.1.7 A summary of the project's results;
 - 5.1.8 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
 - 5.1.9 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
 - 5.1.10 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
 - 5.1.11 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 5.1.12 A consideration of the evidence within its wider context;
 - 5.1.13 Specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken.
- 5.2 DCHET will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork.
- 5.3 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 reference Southwes1-204619 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork.

6.0 ARCHIVE

6.1 On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/>).

The digital element of the archive will be transferred to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) for long-term curation. A reference number will be obtained from the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND), with regard deposition of the material (finds) element of any archive created by these works.

6.2 The archive will consist of two elements, the digital archive and the material archive.

6.2.1 The digital archive, including digital copies of all relevant written and drawn records and photographs, will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and in compliance with their standards and requirements.

6.2.2 The material archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards of the MBND, and in a timely fashion.

6.2.3 If the MBND wishes to retain the hardcopy paper archive, it will be deposited with the rest of the material archive under the same accession number. Should the MBND decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to other appropriate museum bodies or the HET. If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed.

6.3 SWARCH will, on behalf of the MBND obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive to the receiving museum.

6.4 If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

6.5 SWARCH will notify the HET upon the completion of:

i) deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and

ii) deposition of the material (finds) archive with the museum.

6.6 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and submitted to the HET and the LPA, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form completed.

6.7 The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report.

7.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY PROTECTED SPECIES

Even where groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of SWARCH personnel, it remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to 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.

8.0 PERSONNEL & MONITORING

8.1 The project will be managed by Dr. Brynmor Morris; 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).

Natalie Boyd

South West Archaeology, The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfield Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH; Telephone: 01769 573555; email: mail@swarch.net

List of specialists

Building recording

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

Conservation

Alison Hopper Bishop 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 & Animal Wendy Howard Department of Archaeology, Laver Building, University of Exeter, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4QE

Land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton, Devon

w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk

Tel: 01392 269330

Lithics

Martin Tingle Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ
martin@mtingle.freereserve.co.uk

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
alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

Tel: (0191) 454 4093

Medieval

John Allan, 22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154

john.p.allan@btinternet.com

Post Medieval

Graham Langman Exeter, EX1 2UF

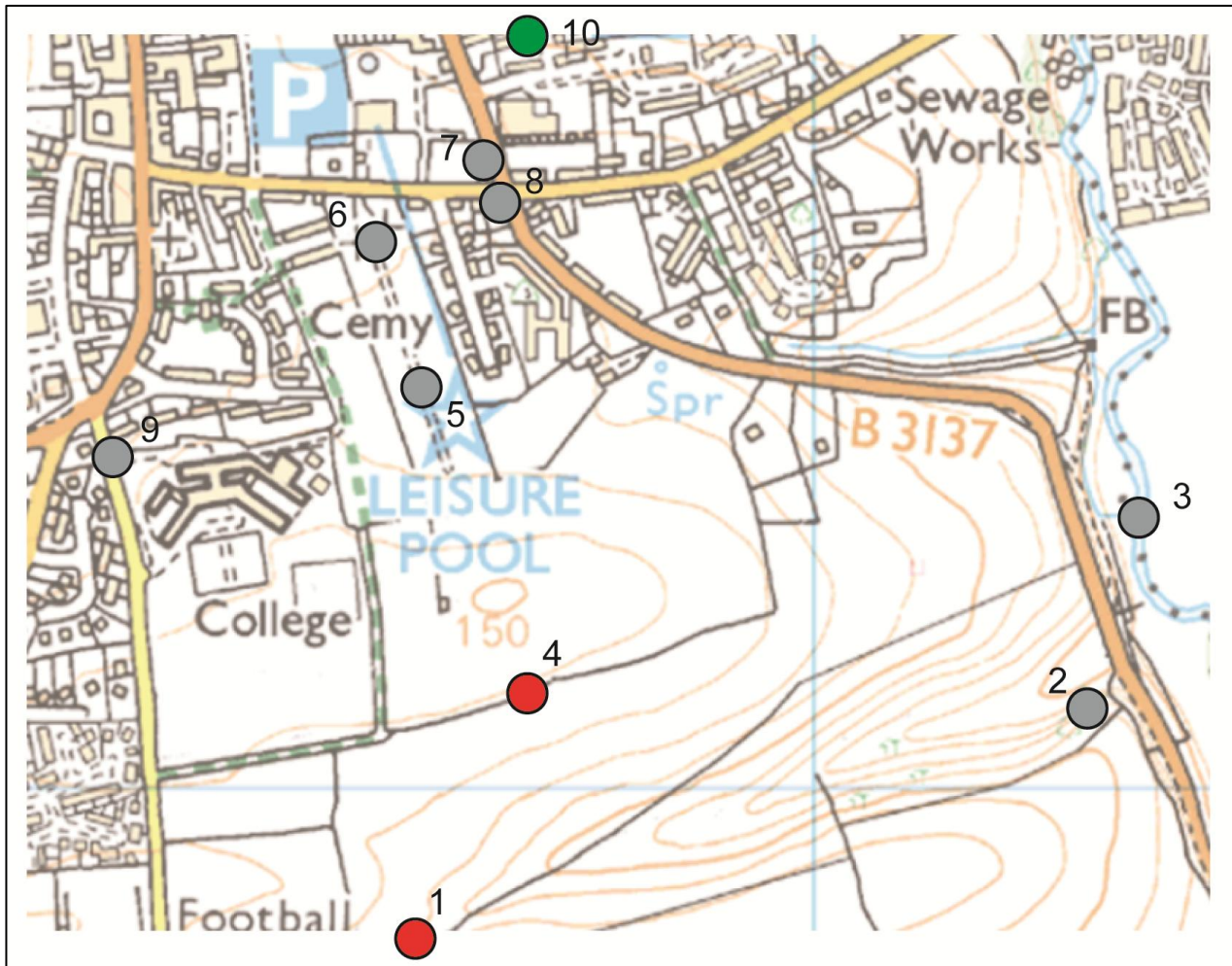
Tel: 01392 215900

su1429@eclipse.co.uk



Figure 1: Proposed trench locations.

Appendix 2
Key Heritage Assets



Map of nearby heritage assets according to the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER).

No.	HER No.	Site Name	Record	Notes
1	MDV29062	-	Cropmark	Several superimposed, possibly Prehistoric, enclosures
2	MDV34458	-	Cartographic	Quarry, modern
3	MDV34457	-	Cartographic	Disused tucking mill, modern
4	MDV29582	-	Cropmark	Prehistoric enclosure
5	MDV51875	South Molton Cemetery	Extant Structure	Laid out in 1857
6	MDV51877	Pair of Chapels	Extant Structure	Grade I Listed
7	MDV51873	New Road	Extant Structure	'Bunker's New Road' built in 1840's
8	MDV51874	Toll House	Extant Structure	Junction of New Road Mill Street and entrance to Alswear New Road
9	MDV97874	32, Woodville, South Street	Extant Structure	Grade II Listed late 19 th century house
10	MDV60809	Burgage plots	Cartographic	12 th century on ward, running south from Broad Street
Other 18 th and 19 th century buildings listed on the Historic Environment Record can be found in the north-west corner of the map extract above. Some examples of these have been given above.				

List of nearby heritage assets (source: Devon HER).

Appendix 3

Context descriptions

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/THICKNESS	NOTES		
(100)	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil. Light-mid grey-brown friable silt-loam.		Overlies Natural	0.25m deep	
[101]	<i>Natural</i>	Linear probable natural feature 2.3m wide with steeply-sloping rock face to north, shattered stone to south-west. Filled by abundant shattered angular rock within a loose-friable mid brown to gingery brown silt. Possible tree throw?		Overlain by (100)	0.5m+	
(200)	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil. Light-mid grey-brown friable silt-loam.			0.2-0.3m deep	
[201]	<i>Cut</i>	Linear cut across width of trench. 0.7m wide and up to 0.45m deep. Slightly curving south-west side with steep upper slope, flattening out to base, bowl shaped/concave depression to centre.		Cuts [203] Filled by (202)	0.45m deep	
(202)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [201]. Blue-grey silt with lots of little shillet flakes. Possible animal burrows within – filled by dark brown soil.		Fill of [201]	0.45m thick	Medieval pottery
[203]	<i>Cut</i>	Possible pit. Elongate in plan orientated north-west to south-east. Measures 0.9m wide by 0.52m deep with steep to near-vertical edges, sloping to base.		Filled by (204) (207)	0.52m deep	
(204)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [203]. Mid red-brown, becoming yellow-brown with depth, soft slightly gritty clay-silt with common angular to sub-angular stone 30-80mm diameter.		Overlies (207) Fill of [203] Cut by [201]	0.4m thick	
[205]	<i>Cut</i>	Possible posthole. Sub-circular in plan measuring 0.32m in diameter by 0.2m deep. Concave profile.		Cuts (204) Filled by (206)	0.2m deep	
(206)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [205]. Mixed deposit. Dark red-brown soft-friable silt-loam with reddish-brown soft silt-loam inclusions. Common to frequent sub-angular stone c.40mm.		Fill of [205]	0.2m thick	
(207)	<i>Fill</i>	Lower fill of [203]. Mid olive-grey soft-moist clay-silt with abundant shillet, infrequent charcoal.		Fill of [203] Overlain by (204)	0.12m thick	Bulk sampled
(300)	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil. Dark-mid grey-brown friable silt-loam.		Overlies (302) (312)	0.28-0.4m thick	
[301]	<i>Cut</i>	Linear ditch orientated north-west to south-east across trench, measuring 0.78m wide by 0.2m deep with shallow sloping sides, gradual to clear break of slope and slightly concave base.		Filled by (302)	0.2m deep	
(302)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of ditch [301]. Mid grey-brown friable clay-silt with moderate small angular stone and very small CBM fragments/flecks.		Fill of [301]	0.2m thick	Bulk sampled
[303]	<i>Cut</i>	Enclosure ditch. Linear ditch orientated north-west to south-east across trench, measuring 4.5m wide by 1.42m deep (not fully excavated) with moderate to steep sloping sides, sharp break of slope and flat base.		Filled by (304) (305)	1.42m deep	
(304)	<i>Fill</i>	Lower fill of [303]. Light grey-yellow soft silt-clay with shillet inclusions.		Fill of [303]	Up to 0.5m thick	

Land off Alswear Old Road, South Molton, Devon

			Overlain by (305)		
(305)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper surviving fill of [303]. Probably natural weathering. Light yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt.	Fill of [303] Overlies (304) Cut by [315]	Up to 0.43m thick	
(306)	<i>Fill</i>	Lower fill of [315]. Angular stone c.60mm within matrix of mid yellow-brown soft-loose silt-clay.	Fill of [315] Overlain by (307)	Up to 0.58m thick	Bulk sampled
(307)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper surviving fill of [315]. Probably natural weathering/slump. Light yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt with occasional shillet inclusions.	Fill of [315] Overlies (306) Cut by [316]	0.33m thick	
(308)	<i>Fill</i>	Lower fill of [316]. Dark brown-grey soft-friable silt-clay with frequent mineral and charcoal inclusions.	Fill of [316] Overlies (307) Overlain by (309)	0.05m thick	Bulk sampled
(309)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [316]. Light yellow-grey soft-friable clay-silt with occasional small angular stone.	Fill of [316] Overlies (308) Overlain by (310)	0.17m thick	
(310)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [316]. Mid grey-brown soft silt-clay.	Fill of [316] Overlies (309) Overlain by (311)	0.16m thick	
(311)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [316]. Mid yellow-grey friable clay-silt with occasional stone and shillet.	Fill of [316] Overlies (310) Overlain by (312)	0.18m thick	
(312)	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown-grey soft-friable clay-silt with frequent pea-grit.	Cut by [313] Overlies (311)	0.06-0.14m thick	
[313]	<i>Cut</i>	Modern service trench. Linear service trench orientated east-west across trench, measures 0.55m wide and 0.58m deep with vertical sides, sharp break of slope and flat base.	Cuts (312) Filled by (314)	0.58m deep	
(314)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of modern service trench. Mixed natural, grey-brown friable silt-clay, with a blue alkathene water pipe at the base.	Fill of [313]	0.58m thick	
[315]	<i>Cut</i>	Possible re-cut of [303], c.3m across and 1.08m deep. Broad concave profile.	Cuts (305); filled by (306) (307)	1.08m	
[316]	<i>Cut</i>	Possible re-cut of [315], c.2.35m across and 0.55m deep. Broad concave profile.	Cuts (307); filled by (308) (309) (310) (311)	0.55m	
(400)	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown friable slightly clay-silt-loam with common to abundant angular shillet.		0.3-0.35m deep	
[401]	<i>Cut</i>	Pennanular gully measuring 7.5m long within trench, 0.36m wide by 0.29m deep with 45° sloping sides forming a V-shaped profile.	Filled by (402)	0.29m deep	
(402)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [401]. Mid grey-brown friable slightly clay-silt with frequent to abundant angular and sub-angular shillet 40-60mm.	Fill of [401]	0.29m thick	Bulk sampled

Appendix 4
Concordance of Finds

Context	Notes	POTTERY			OTHER			DATE
		Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
100	TR1	1	1	White refined earthenware				
		1	1	North Devon, gravel tempered, flake				
		1	3	North Devon, gravel free, rim fragment				
200	TR2	4	24	North Devon, medieval coarseware, abraded				
		1	15	North Devon, yellow slip, handle				
202	TR2	2	10	North Devon, medieval coarseware, everted rim cooking pot, 1 vessel				
300	TR3	1	3	North Devon, post-medieval, highly abraded	1	1	Burnt flint fragment	
		3	8	Industrial wares, 19 th century				
		1	13	North Devon, gravel tempered, post-medieval				
400	TR4	1	6	Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slipware, closed form	1	18	Dark green vessel glass	
		3	17	White refined earthenware				
		5	73	North Devon, gravel tempered, later medieval/post-medieval				
		3	12	North Devon, gravel-free, post-medieval				

Appendix 5
Photographs



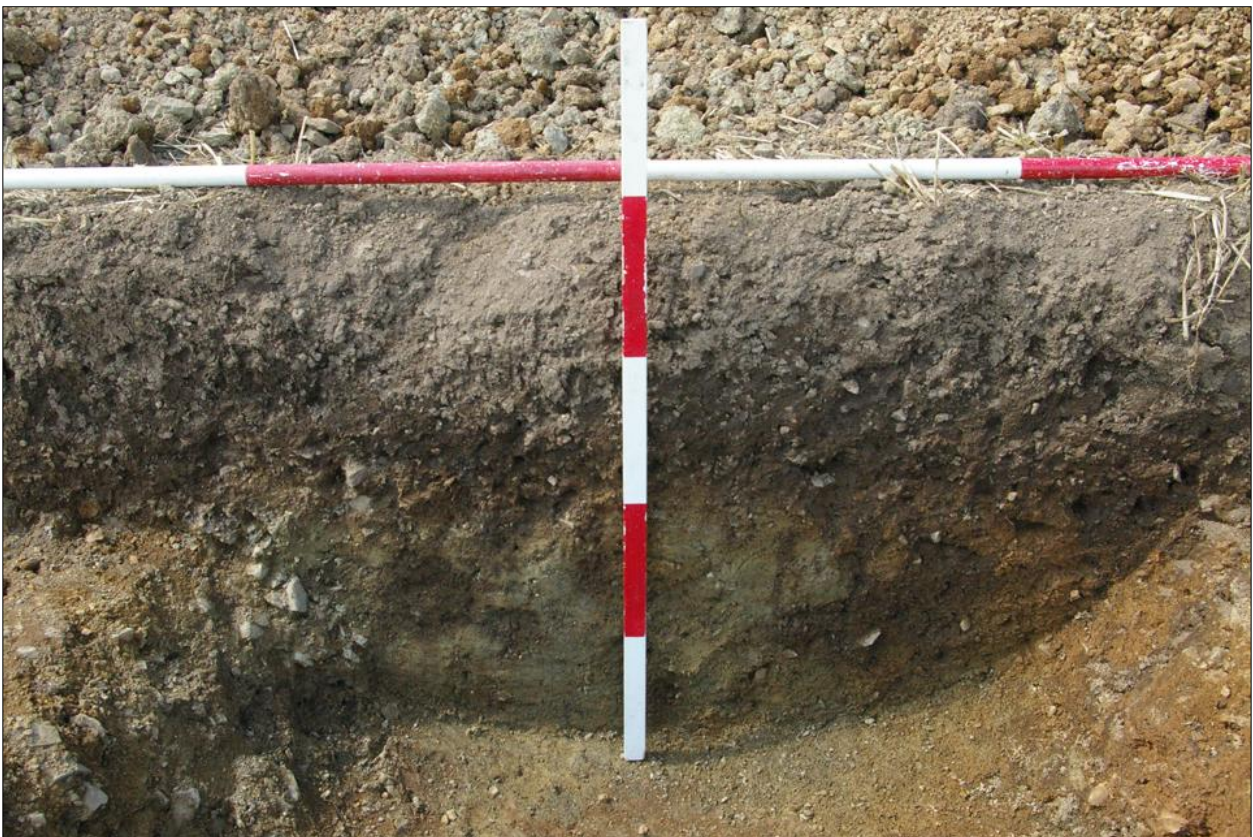
Trench #1, viewed from the north-west (scale 2m).



Trench #1, viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



Feature [101] during excavation, showing rock strata, viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



South-east facing section of ditch [201] (scale 2m & 1m).



Trench #2, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).



Trench #2, viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



South-west facing section of pit [205] and posthole [203] (scale 1m & 0.4m).



North-west facing section of ditch [201] and pit [205] (scale 1m & 0.4m).



Trench #3, viewed from the north-west (scale 2m).



Ditch [301] and [303] post-excitation; viewed from the north-west (scale 1m).



West-facing section of [301] (scale 0.4m).



North-east facing section of [303] (scale 2m).



As above, viewed from the north (scale 2m).



Trench #4, viewed from the north (scale 2m).



Trench #4, viewed from the south (scale 2m).



Penannular gully [401], viewed from the south-south-west (scale 2m & 0.4m).



As above, viewed from the south.



South-south-west facing section of [401], block 1 (scale 1m).



South-facing section of [401], block 2 (scale 0.4m).



North-west facing section of [401], block 3 (scale 0.4m).



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

Tel: 01769 573555
Email: mail@swarch.net