HAMPSON FARM
BOW
MID DEVON
DEVON

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

South West Archaeology Ltd. Report no.190515

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGY

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Hampson Farm, Bow, Mid Devon
Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

By Dr Bryn Morris
Report Version: FINAL
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Work undertaken by SWARCH for the landowner (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by the landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation across a Scheduled Monument at Bow in Mid Devon containing a Class II Henge and a pair of Prehistoric enclosures. The programme of works was designed to record the thickness of the topsoil/subsoil, to assess the current state of the monuments in order to draw up an appropriate management strategy for the site, and to facilitate long-term monitoring of their condition.

The Class II henge was identified in 1984 and has been the subject of fieldwalking and geophysical survey; this is the first intrusive intervention to be undertaken. The evaluation fulfilled its principal objective and determined that the soils covering the site, while fairly shallow, do include the minimum sustainable buffer required to resume arable cultivation across most of the site with the exception of the north-east corner of the field. The COSMIC assessment of the field would indicate the site to be at low risk of damage, again excepting the north-east corner.

The secondary objective of the work – to use this opportunity to explore the archaeology of the site – has also been richly rewarded. The trenches exposed a large number of archaeological features, from which a limited but useful volume of stratified archaeological material was recovered. In particular, the work appears to demonstrate that the henge did not exist in isolation and that there is an intriguing post-abandonment narrative to the monument.

May 2019

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	HAMPSON FARM
PARISH:	BOW
DISTRICT:	MID DEVON
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	SS 70789 01631
SWARCH REF:	BHH18
OASIS No:	southwes1-322360
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	RAMM 18/38
SMC No:	S00205143

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by the landowner (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation across a Scheduled Monument at Bow in Mid Devon containing a Class II Henge and a pair of Prehistoric enclosures. This work was carried out in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Morris 2018) drawn up in consultation with Nick Russell (Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) and CIfA guidelines. This work was not undertaken within a formal planning context. The Scheduled Monument did form part of a Higher Level Stewardship scheme, but this agreement came to an end in 2016. This programme of works is designed to record the thickness of the topsoil/subsoil, to assess the current state of the monuments in order to draw up an appropriate management strategy for the site, and to facilitate long-term monitoring of their condition. Works on the site were carried out under Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site falls within a single field which is located c.750m west of the village of Bow, bounded to the north by the A3072 and the lane leading to Hampson Farm to the east. The fields here are large and essentially rectangular, characterised as *Barton Fields* (enclosed c.1500-1800 from medieval strip fields) by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC). The field covers an area of c.5ha just off the summit of a long ridge between the River Yeo and a tributary known as Kenn Lake, on a gentle north and east facing slope at an altitude of 115-125m AOD. The soils are the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils over breccias of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the Permian sedimentary bedrock of the Bow Breccia Formation (BGS 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

These monuments form one part of a Neolithic and Bronze Age landscape. The Scheduled area contains a Class II henge, two barrows, two ring ditches, two enclosures and part of a linear feature. These monuments were first identified as cropmarks by former county archaeologist Frances Griffith in 1984. The field was subject to a geophysical survey by Eileen Wilkes of the University of Bournemouth in 2005 (see Appendix 4). Fieldwalking in 1984 recovered 828 pieces of flint from the field; there were two main concentrations of material: one corresponded to the henge itself, the second to a rough arc to the north-east (Griffiths 1985a). The bulk of the flint dated to the late Neolithic. 111 flints were deposited with the RAMM in Exeter in 2003, and the RAMM does not hold the corresponding spatial information (J. Durrant *pers. comm*.). The henge is defined by an oval ditch 60m by 50m wide enclosing an area of 45m by 40m; the geophysical survey appears to indicate the survival of an external bank to the north. It has two opposing entrances, one to the east and one to the west. The interior contains 19 pits that define an irregular oval 30m by 17m across. An earthwork platform up to 0.2m high was identified on the

ground. To the east of the henge are two intersecting enclosures. The larger enclosure is sub-rectangular and measures 85m by 73m across; the smaller enclosure is polygonal and measures 43m by 33m across. A probable (sunken-featured?) roundhouse is located in the north-east corner of the larger enclosure, and there is the ringditch of a possible barrow just outside the larger enclosure. These monuments are located within an area containing numerous *nymet* place names. Nymet is derived from *nemeton,* a Celtic word signifying a sacred space; it has been suggested the presence of a henge is relevant to the cluster of nymet place-names (Griffith 1985b).

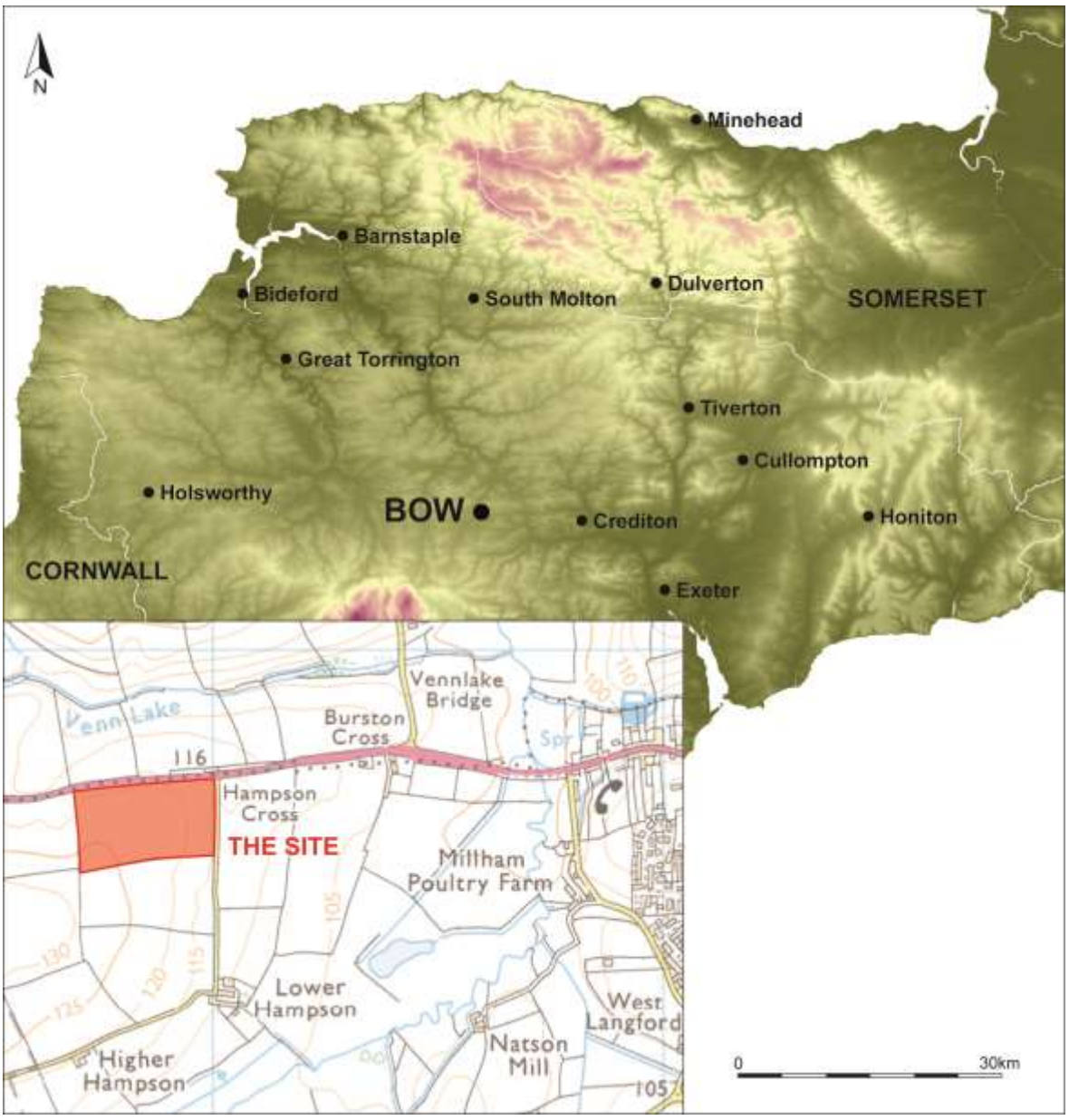


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a WSI (Morris 2018) and SMC. The WSI was drawn up in consultation with Nick Russell (Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) and CIfA guidelines (2015).

A total of 28 1×1m test pits and four long evaluation trenches (190m total) were dug across the site (see Figure 2). The test pits and trenches were laid out with reference to the approved plan by

a Leica dGPS. The test pits were all hand-dug; the trenches were dug by a tractor-mounted back actor fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket under strict supervision and informed by the results of the hand-dug test pits. Excavation was to the base of the subsoil or the top of any archaeological features or layers; no archaeological features were excavated, although finds and samples were taken from the topsoil and the surface of features during cleaning (see Appendix 3). The base of every test pit and trench was cleaned and recorded, as was one long section of each trench. 12 of the test pits and the trenches were seeded with clearly modern blue glass chips. These chips were deposited in the soil profile at a level close to the base of the ploughsoil, as determined in consultation with Nick Russell (HE). Some of the test pits and all of the trenches were backfilled by machine; where the blue glass chips were deposited the test pits and trenches were backfilled by hand.

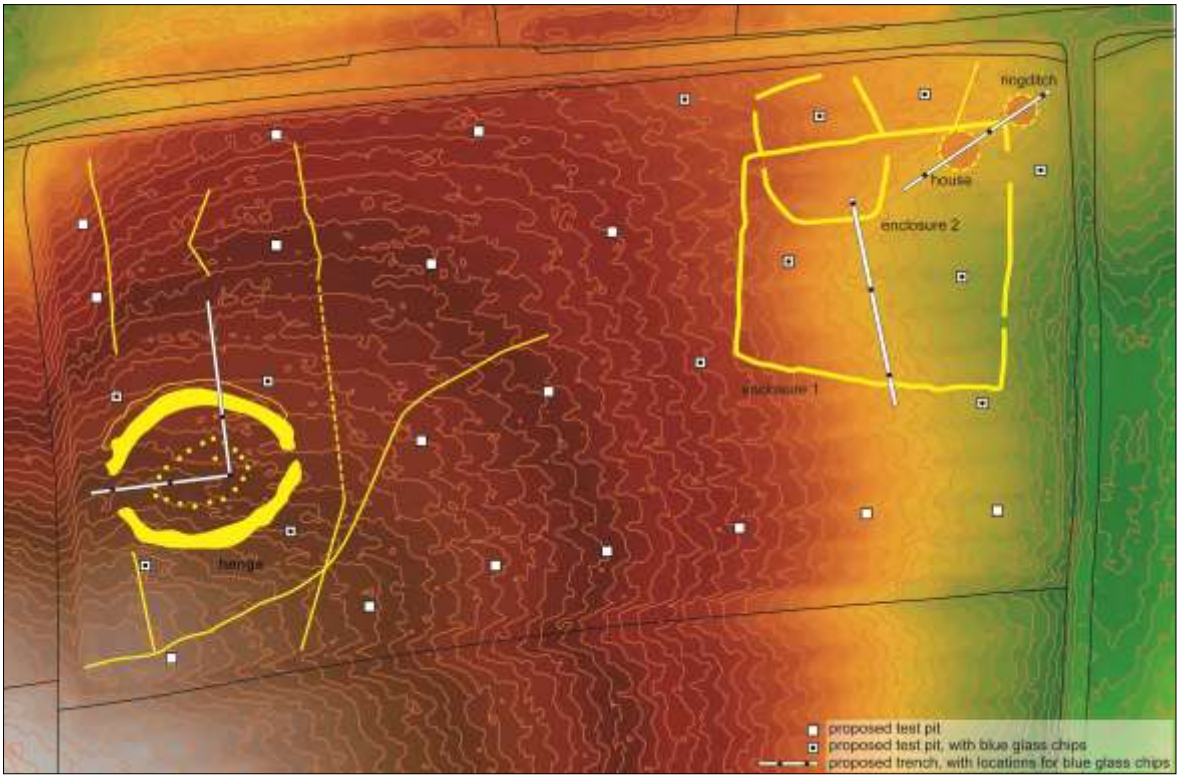


FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE TRENCHES AND TEST PITS IN RELATION TO THE MONUMENTS (AS DETERMINED BY THE RESULTS OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND CROPMARKS – SEE APPENDIX 4) AND A DETAILED TERRAIN MAP GENERATED FROM TELLUS PROJECT LIDAR DATA FOR THE SITE (CONTOURS AT 25CM INTERVALS; IMAGE BASED ON 1M DSM LIDAR DATA PROCESSED USING QGIS VER.2.18.4 TERRAIN ANALYSIS>SLOPE; © DATA COPYRIGHT UK OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE 2019).

1.4.1 EVALUATION OF THE METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken over the course of several weeks in late January/February 2019. The weather during this period was variable, including both warm and cold dry days, snow and heavy rain. The variability of the weather made recording difficult or impossible on some occasions, and, unexpectedly, Trench #4 filled to the brim with water over the course of one day. In general, the interface between the subsoil and the undisturbed natural substrate was fairly clear, as the natural consisted of a fairly compact sandy gravel; however, the tractor-mounted back actor was not ideal for stripping trenches, and where the natural substrate was softer (as across most of the southern part of Trench #4, or indeed the fill of larger features) or more variable (as in much of Trench #2) the result was less satisfactory. However, the interface between the subsoil and what lay beneath was visible in section, and did not appear unduly disturbed. On the whole, the test pits provide a good indication of the overall depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site; evidence of plough damage (i.e. plough scars) was surprisingly limited and limited to the north-east corner of the field. The test pits and trenches were laid out using a Leica dGPS (see Figure 3).

2.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

28 hand-dug test pits, each approximately 1×1m across, were opened across the site, together with four long trenches. The test pits were located around the monuments and across the field in relation to the topography, in order to determine if and how soil thickness varied according to the topography. The trenches targeted the monuments in order to determine whether they had been damaged by recent ploughing.

It is likely that two of the test pits were located over archaeological features, but it is difficult to be conclusive given the limited size of these interventions. 40+ features were identified in the trenches, including a surprisingly large number of features outside and to the north of the henge and across the fills of its ditch. None of these features could be fully characterised as they were not excavated; a small number of finds were recovered during cleaning, and the opportunity was taken to recover charcoal from the surface of two features (a large posthole/pit in TR#1 and a post pipe in TR#4) to set aside for future analysis. What follows is a summary of the results; full context descriptions can be found in Appendix 1; the finds list in Appendix 2; sample list in Appendix 3; cartographic and photographic sources in Appendix 4; and the photographic archive in Appendix 5.

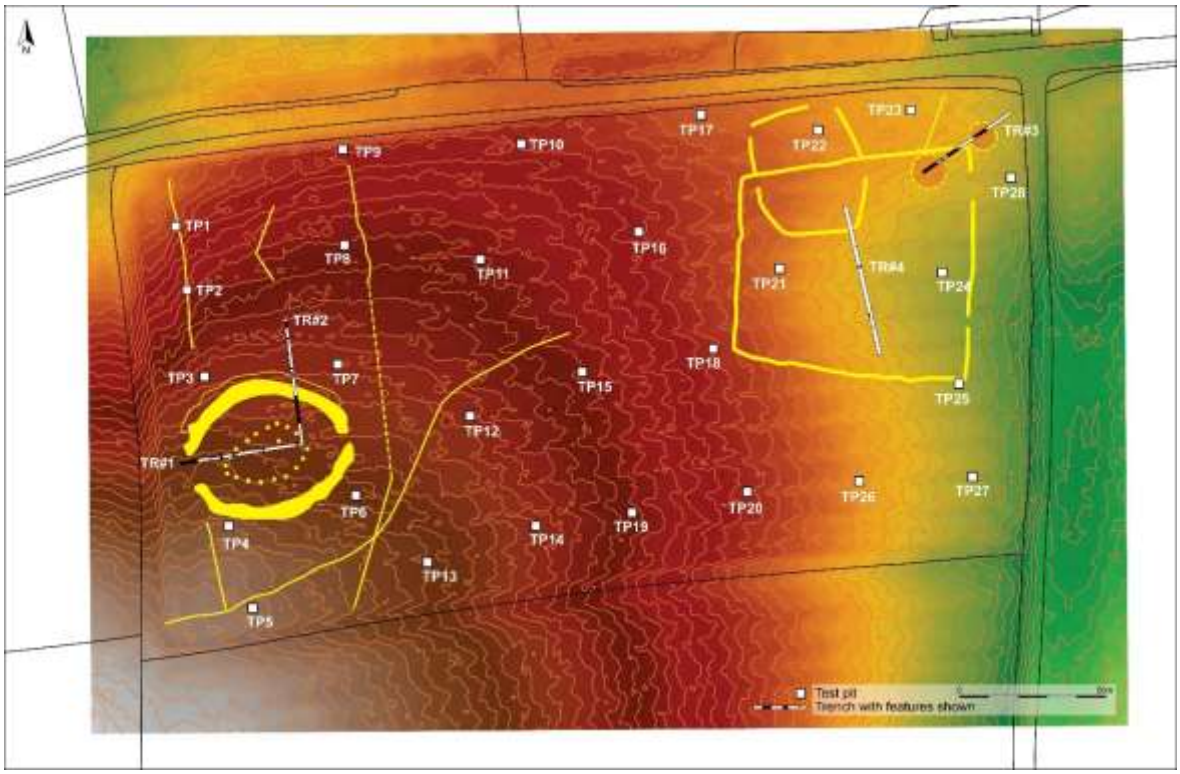


FIGURE 3: AS FIGURE 2, WITH TEST PITS AND TRENCHES LABELLED.

2.2 DEPOSIT MODEL

The sequence is fairly consistent across the whole field: a soft and friable mid pinkish-grey silty-sand loam topsoil c.0.2m thick overlying a subsoil 0.08-0.15m thick. The subsoil is very similar to the topsoil, but is much more compact and contains a higher proportion of (generally fairly small) sub-angular stone. In the bulk of the test pits the natural substrate was also very consistent, being a compact mid pinkish-brown or pinkish-grey sandy gravel. However, the larger areas exposed in the trenches determined that the natural was much more variable, with spreads of more stony,

more clayey, and more sandy material. A subsoil was only absent in the north-east corner of the site (adjacent to the gateway onto the road), with only 0.2m of topsoil above the natural, and it was here that the clearest evidence for plough damage was identified.

2.3 TEST PITS

The results from the test pits are summarised in the following table:

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS FROM THE TEST PITS.

TP	TOPSOIL	SUBSOIL 1	SUBSOIL 2	TOTAL DEPTH	FINDS	NOTES
1	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.35m	-	0.35m		
2	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.32m	-	0.32m	×1 NDGT ×1 Eng sw ×1 glass	
3	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.31m	-	0.31m		
4	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m	×1 P Pot ×1 flint	Possible edge of feature to NW corner
5	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.28m	-	0.28m		
6	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.28m	-	0.28m		
7	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.28m	-	0.28m		
8	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		
9	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.35m	-	0.35m		
10	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		Uneven surface to natural
11	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m	×1 WRE ×1 glass	
12	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m	×2 flint	
13	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		
14	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		
15	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m	×1 S. Som.	
16	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.32m	-	0.32m		
17	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		Two narrow linear marks (not excavated); possible plough scars
18	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		
19	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		
20	0.0-0.18m	0.18-0.31m	0.31-0.41m	0.41m	×1 WRE ×1 flint	Filled with water
21	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.38m	-	0.38m	×1 S. Som. ×1 flint	Darker patch, possible feature; filled with water
22	0.0-0.2m		-	0.2m	×4 CBM	Clear narrow grove parallel with hedgeline, possible plough scar
23	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.28m	-	0.28m		
24	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.40m	-	0.4m	×1 S. Som.	Not bottomed, fill of a feature; filled with water
25	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.35m	-	0.35m		Not bottomed, fill of a feature
26	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.28m	-	0.28m		Stony natural
27	0.0-0.2m	0.2-0.30m	-	0.30m		Large stone in top of natural
28	0.0-0.21m	0.21-0.30m	-	0.30m		N-S linear groove, possible plough scar

The results from the test pits would seems to indicate that, under normal conditions, ploughing on the site does not drop below 0.2m below ground level, and that a relatively stony and compact subsoil has developed below this horizon. However, the potential evidence for plough scars in TP17 and TP28 would suggest that deep ploughing in the past has reached the top of the natural

substrate. In terms of observations, TP20, TP21 and TP24 filled with water during the excavation, and this would suggest higher groundwater levels and/or groundwater flow in those areas.

FIGURE 4: TEST PIT #12; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

FIGURE 5: TEST PIT #12, THE SOUTH-FACING SECTION (SCALE IN CM); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.

FIGURE 6: THE EASTERN END OF TRENCH #1; THE LOCATION OF PIT [2920] IS INDICATED. VIEWED FROM THE EAST, LOOKING WEST (SCALE 2M).

2.4 TRENCHES

2.4.1 TRENCHES #1 AND #2

TR#1 and TR#2 were located over the Class II Henge monument at the western end of the field. In general, the depth of the topsoil and subsoil was similar to that observed in the test pits, with the archaeological features sealed by c.0.3m of soil.

The western end of TR#1 clipped the terminus of the henge ditch [2902], which was at least 4.6m wide. The firm slightly mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt fill (2903) was very similar to the natural here, perhaps hinting it had been deliberately backfilled. Further to the east were several small (<0.25m diameter) postholes [2912] [2914] and [2918], and a single large posthole or pit at least 1.38m across [2920]. The latter feature corresponds with the cropmark of one of the large central pits. Its irregular form could suggest multiple re-cuts, and its fill (2921) contained charcoal (S3). Towards the middle of the trench was a probable linear feature/ditch [2908] 0.7m wide, orientated north-south. The trench also featured three groups of spreads consisting of narrow irregular parallel features: [2904] [2906] [2910] and [2916]. [2904] and [2906] form part of the same spread of grey sandy silt, forming a thin band below the subsoil similar to layer (3003) in TR#2. [2910] and [2916] *could* represent plough scarring, but this remains unclear as it is so restricted in extent.

TR#2 contained a large number of probable features. Three small postholes were identified within the henge itself [3004] [3006] [3008]. The henge ditch [3010] was almost 10m wide and contained several different fills. Central fill (3013) was a firm mid-brown slightly clayey sandy silt, with fills (3011) and (3015), firm mottled pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silts (probably forming part of the same layer), to the north and south. Fill (3013) was cut by six narrow parallel features <3014> 0.12-0.23m wide, all containing firm greyish-brown gritty silty sand fills. While these could be interpreted as plough scars, they are sealed below layer (3003), a band of grey sandy silt 0.1m

thick that sits below the subsoil but above the ditch fills. Curiously, there was no sign of a bank, and the width of the ditch is much greater than that indicated by the geophysical survey. North of the ditch there are: a group of features [3016] [3018] [3020] and [3022] that contain at least one clear posthole, but may relate to a natural feature like a tree throw; a ditch [3034] 0.55m wide; a small isolated posthole [3024]; a clear posthole with post pipe [3026]; a group of three postholes <3028>; another ditch [3029]; and a large irregular pit [3031] 2.3m across. A small assemblage of flint (15 pieces, 98g, mainly comprised of waste material) and one sherd (4g) of possible early medieval pottery came from the trench.

FIGURE 7: GROUP CONTEXT <3014> IN THE TOP OF THE HENGE DITCH; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALE 2M).

FIGURE 8: HENGE DITCH [3010]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M). LAYER (3003) CLEARLY SHOWS IN SECTION.

2.4.2 **TRENCH #3**

TR#3 was located to the north-east corner of the field, targeting the corner of the larger enclosure and the cropmark of what could be interpreted as a structure or ringditch. The depth of the soils in this trench were similar to those elsewhere (i.e. c.0.3m), somewhat shallower to the eastern end of the trench closest the gateway. The archaeological features in this trench were more difficult to interpret, but it appears that there is a double enclosure ditch, features [3103] and [3105], each perhaps 3m wide, and containing firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand fills (3104) and (3106). Outside of the enclosure were two small postholes [3114] and [3116]. Inside the enclosure were a *possible* section of ring ditch [3109] with terminal posthole [3107], and a larger, poorly-defined feature at the western end of the trench (perhaps a sunken-featured Bronze Age roundhouse?), layers (3102) and (3113). Relevant finds were restricted to 5 sherds (41g) of possible early medieval pottery, and 4 small (830g) rounded granite pebbles.

FIGURE 9: POST-EXCAVATION VIEW OF TRENCH #3; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SCALE 2M).

2.4.3 **TRENCH #4**

TR#4 was located south and west of TR#3, targeting the interior of the larger enclosure. The depth of the soils in this trench were similar to those elsewhere (i.e. c.0.3m), slightly deeper to the centre of the trench, which corresponds to the lowest point on the slope. The natural substrate differed markedly from north to south: to the north it comprised a compact pinkish-brown gravel, running with water; to the south it consisted of a softer pale brown silty sand. Both deposits were mottled black with manganese, with one area of gravels near the centre of the trench cemented with manganese. During the excavation groundwater filled this trench to the brim, and an overflow channel was cut on its eastern side to allow it to drain. The flow of water flooded and masked features across the northern half of the trench. Nonetheless a linear feature [3206] 0.5m wide (possibly the smaller enclosure ditch but it seems too narrow), and a large posthole with packing stones [3204], were identified at the northern end of the trench. A group of three large postholes [3208] [3210] and [3212], the latter with a very clear charcoal-rich post pipe (S1 and S2), together with a sub-rectangular pit at least 0.82m across, were identified in the southern half of the trench. There were no finds.

FIGURE 10: THE WEST-FACING SECTION OF TRENCH #4; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

FIGURE 11: POSTHOLES [3208] AND [3210]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SCALE 2M).

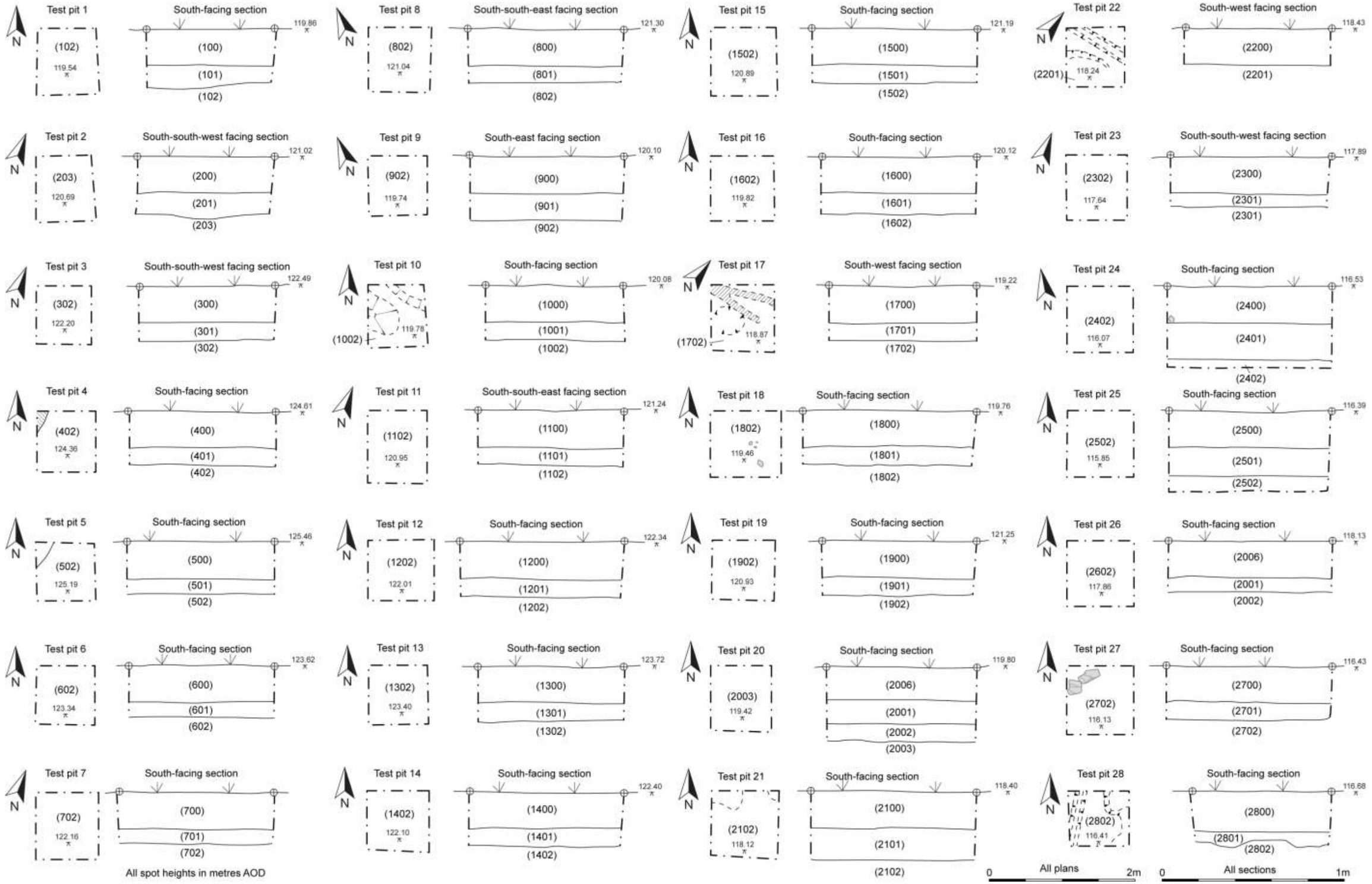


FIGURE 12: PLANS (AT 1:50) AND SECTIONS (AT 1:20) OF THE 28 TEST PITS.

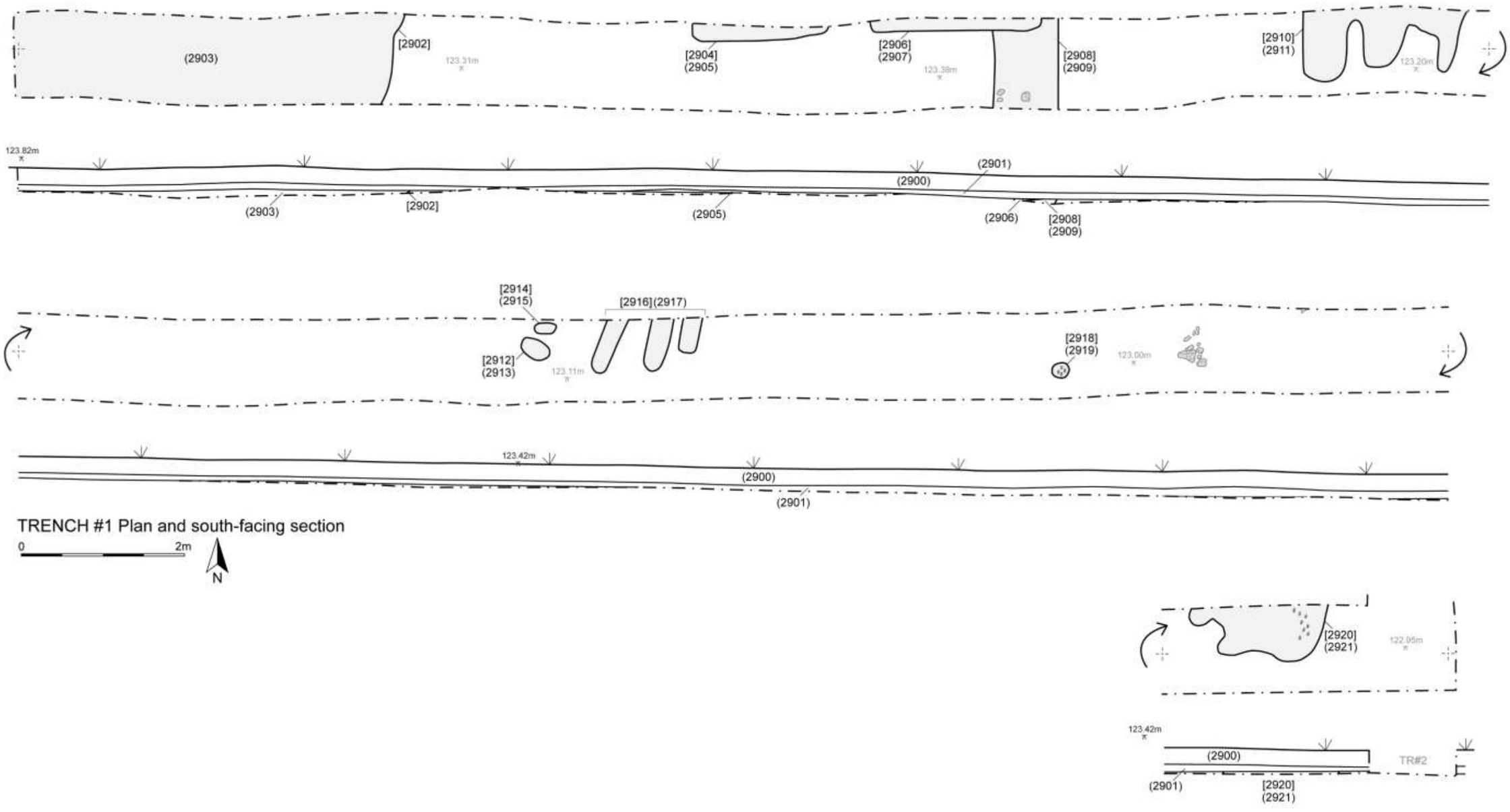


FIGURE 13: PLAN AND SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF TRENCH #1 (ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT 1:50 AND 1:20).

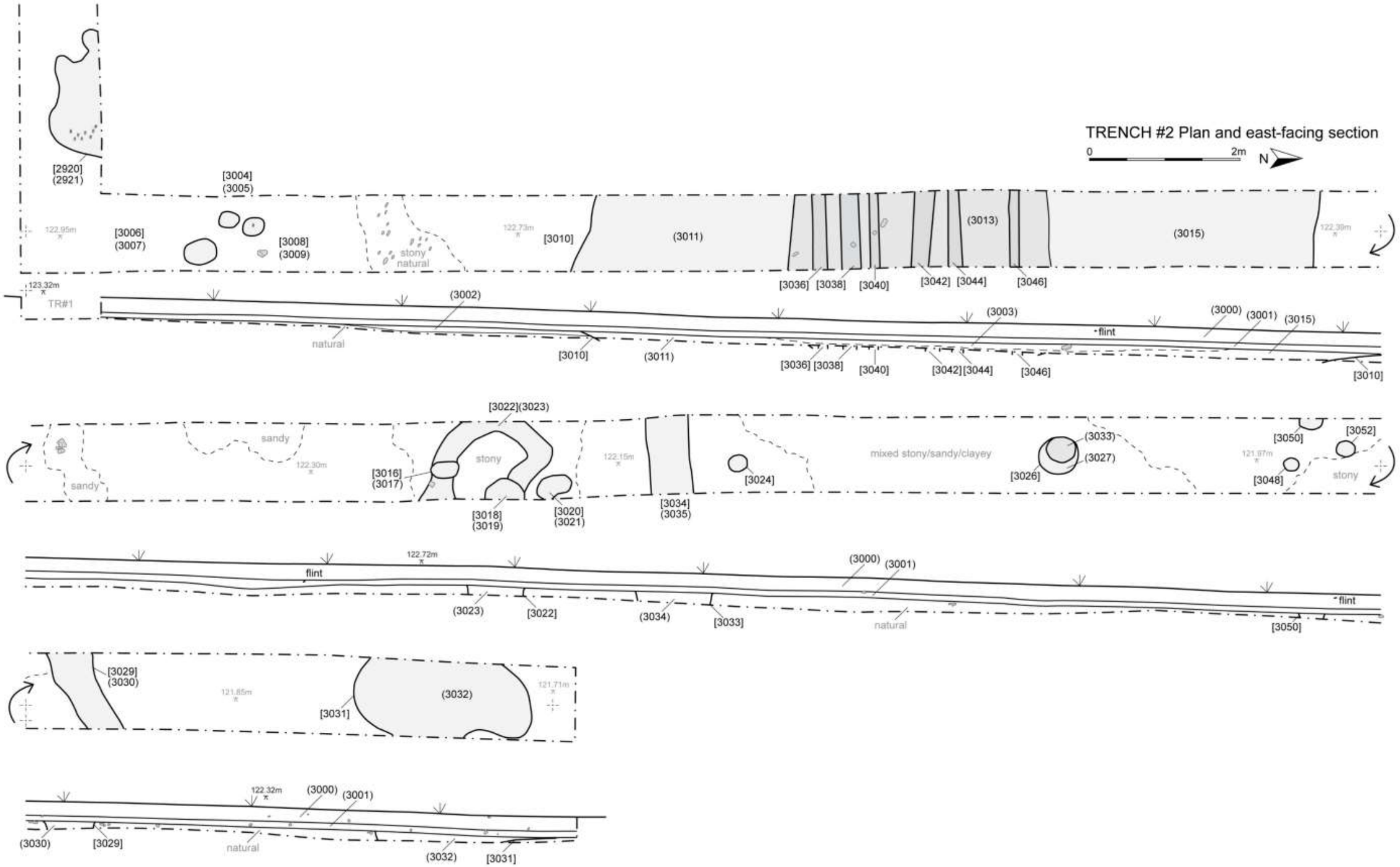


FIGURE 14: PLAN AND EAST-FACING SECTION OF TRENCH #2 (ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT 1:50 AND 1:20).

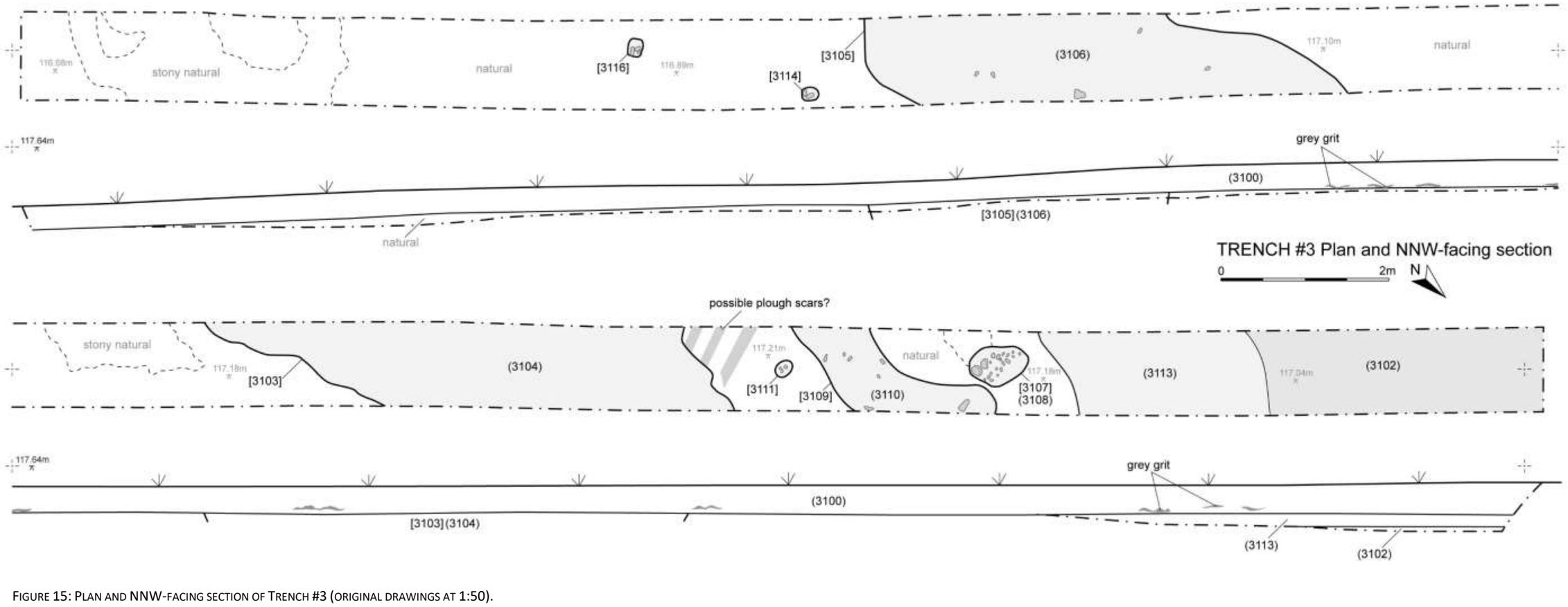


FIGURE 15: PLAN AND NNW-FACING SECTION OF TRENCH #3 (ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT 1:50).

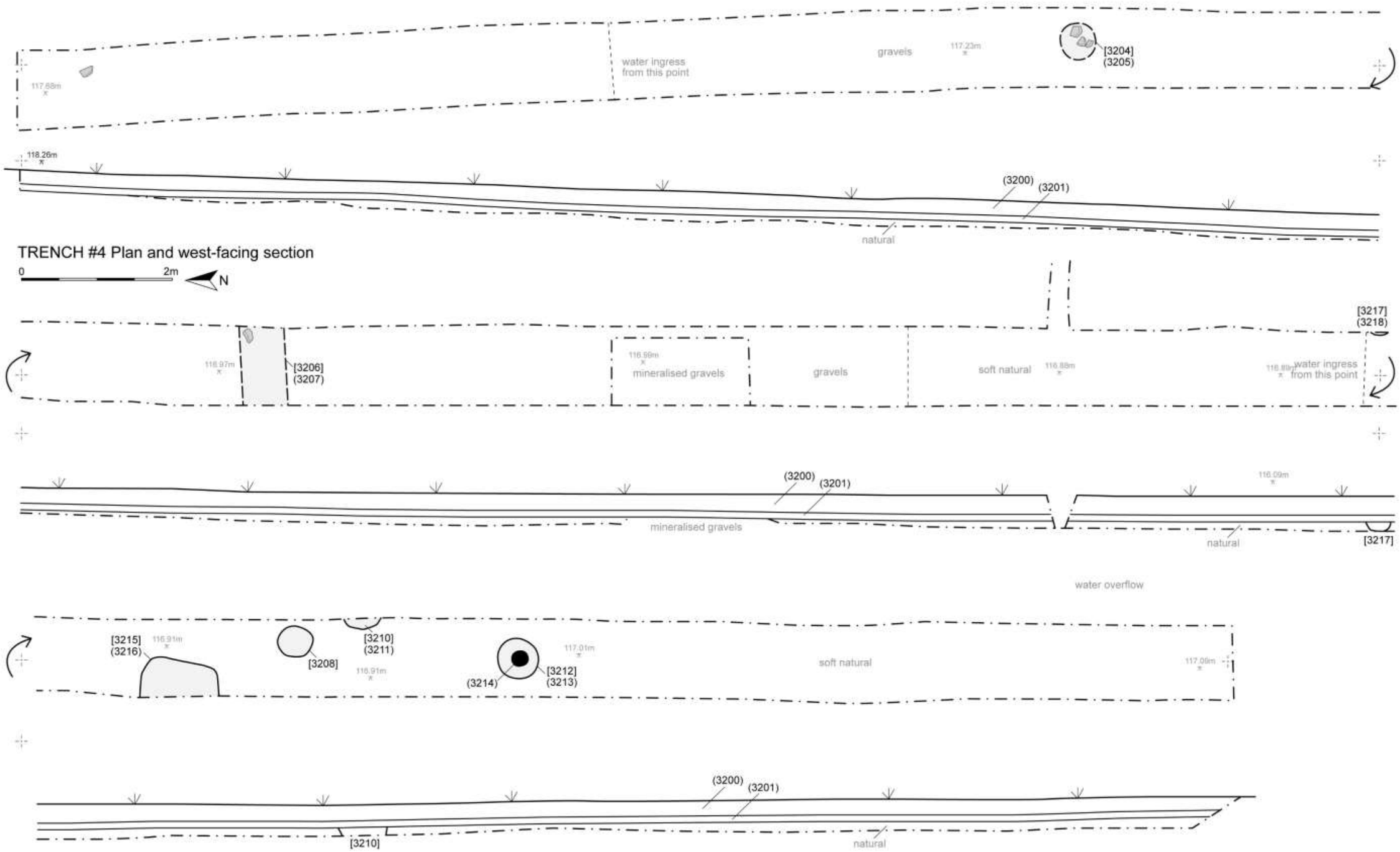


FIGURE 16: PLAN AND WEST-FACING SECTION OF TRENCH #4 (ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT 1:50).

2.5 FINDS

Relatively few finds were recovered due to the sampling strategy employed (see Appendix 2). None of the features identified were excavated, and thus finds came from the monitoring and the cleaning of the sections and bases of the trenches and test pits. Surface finds were also collected where observed. The post-medieval assemblage contained both North Devon and South Somerset medieval and post-medieval pottery, together with white refined earthenware and 19th-20th century vessel glass. The assemblage of Prehistoric pottery was very small (1 sherd, 4g), an undiagnostic but possibly Gabbroic fabric. Interestingly, most of the pottery associated with the monuments (5 sherds, 41g) appears to be early medieval (i.e. Saxon-Norman or slightly later) granitic fabrics rather than Prehistoric; however, all these sherds were highly abraded and largely undiagnostic, and it is possible they represent fine earlier Neolithic fabrics . The largest single class of material was flint (37 pieces, 278g), some of which was stratified, but largely comprised of waste flakes. There was one clear blade and a broken core, but little to provide closer dating than Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. Several rounded granite pebbles, some broken, from Trench #3 are of interest given the location of the site relative to Dartmoor (pot boilers?).

3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 DISCUSSION

The principal purpose of this evaluation was to determine the depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site and, insofar as was possible, determine whether recent ploughing had damaged the uppermost level of the archaeological features revealed. In addition to this functional purpose it represented an opportunity to investigate and characterise archaeological features of national importance that had hitherto only been investigated via non-intrusive methods.

Addressing the latter issue first, the opportunity afforded by the evaluation trenches has revealed a great deal about the site. The henge ditch was determined to be much more substantial than the cropmarks and geophysical survey would have suggested: even accounting for the fact it was not trenched at 90° to the feature it is likely to be eight to ten metres wide. The number and density of features encountered outside the henge is also something of a surprise; this is most clearly demonstrated in Trench #2, but the fact that Test Pit #4 may have clipped the corner of a feature to the south of the henge (and therefore one under the henge bank?) would imply the distribution also extends to the south. While it is entirely possible some of these features are natural (i.e. burrows, tree-throws etc.), clear, identifiable features were present and this implies that the henge at Bow has more in common with the rather better understood monuments in Wessex than previously appreciated. The absence of dating evidence is, however, acknowledged in this context. The density of features would imply the geophysical survey and cropmark evidence underestimates the archaeological potential of the site.

The afterlife of the henge is also opened to question, in that the similarity of the uppermost fills to the natural substrate could imply the deliberate backfilling of bank material rather than the steady accumulation of soft silty soils over an extended period. This interpretation is reinforced by the apparent absence of a bank. The thin band of grey silty material (3003) over the ditch is of interest: it is either the uppermost fill of the henge ditch or the surviving remnant of an earlier – and quite different – subsoil. The six narrow linear features <3014> encountered below (3003) to the centre of the ditch are also intriguing: the fills are similar to those of (3003) but the depth at which they were encountered, and their restricted distribution, would indicate they are not simply plough scars.

On the eastern part of the site, Trenches #3 and #4 revealed the ditch of the larger enclosure and several internal and external features. It is possible that the enclosure was bivallate but this is not corroborated by the geophysical survey or the cropmark evidence. The trench clipped the edge of what may prove to be a Bronze Age sunken-featured structure, together with several other probable features. Trench #4 was difficult to work and interpret due to the ingress of water: the ditch of the smaller enclosure was not identified, but several postholes and a small pit were identified towards the southern end of the trench. Despite the absence of excavation, stratified finds have been recovered and these afford some measure of dating evidence. In addition, the opportunity was taken to recover charcoal from the surface of two features – a pit in Trench #1 and a posthole in Trench #4 – to set aside for scientific dating in the future.

In terms of the primary purpose of the exercise, digging the test pits and opening the trenches has determined the depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site is very consistent: c.0.3m thick, slightly shallower (0.2m) to the north-east and south-west (0.28m), and slightly thicker (up to 0.35m) on the downslope side to the north and east. The modern topsoil was consistently 0.2m thick across the whole field, with the variation in the total dependant on the thickness (or absence) of the subsoil. Differentiating between the topsoil and subsoil was very straightforward in the hand-dug test pits: while essentially identical, the topsoil was soft and friable whereas the subsoil was more compact and contained a higher proportion of small stones. Given the similarities, it is likely the

field has been ploughed down to the surface of the natural substrate in the past, but not recently. Subject to the caveats expressed elsewhere, the evidence for plough damage (i.e. plough scars) was restricted to Trench #3 and the test pits (TP17, TP22 and TP28) in the north-east corner of the field; not coincidentally, this was also where the soils were thinnest.

3.2 COSMIC ASSESSMENT

COSMIC (*Conservation Of Scheduled Monuments In Cultivation*) is a methodology for assessing risk to Scheduled Monuments that was developed by Oxford Archaeology in collaboration with English Heritage in the early 2000s (OA 2006).

The variables in the COSMIC system used to determine risk are:

- Crop and cultivation systems;
- Geology;
- Change of slope;
- Presence of earthworks;
- Average rainfall;
- Soil texture.

For the Scheduled Monument at Bow, the relevant responses for each category, modified by observations in the field, are:

- Formerly pasture (under HLS scheme), ploughed for arable before (and planned in future);
- Bow Breccia, reddish-brown, silty and sandy, with pebbles of mixed origin (BGS 2019). The R (rock) horizon was not reached during the evaluation. The C Horizon across the site was determined to be quite variable, with bands of stony, sandy or clayey material;
- East- and north-facing slope with a maximum fall of 10m, with a slight trough to the lower central area. This corresponds to an average slope of 1.9° (*gentle*);
- Imperceptibly slight earthworks over the henge, none in the north-east corner of the field;
- Average rainfall of 1053.3mm per year at North Wyke recording station (5.1km to the south-west, the closest Met Office recording station; note this is the average figure for the period 1981-2010 and thus may no longer be representative). North Wyke is more elevated (177m AOD) and closer to Dartmoor, but the average rainfall figures for Bow are still likely to exceed the threshold 800mm deemed to indicate susceptibility to flash flooding events;
- Crediton Association, well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils over breccias (SSEW 1983). The evaluation would indicate pinkish soft gritty sandy loam across the site.

3.2.1 RISK CALCULATION

Risk levels are determined by three main factors, as outlined in Model 4 of the COSMIC approach:

- Site intrinsic variables (slopes and soils);
- Management factors (cultivation regime, depth and drainage);
- Archaeological factors (significance and vulnerability).

TABLE 2: COSMIC: SITE INTRINSIC FACTORS.

Site Intrinsic Variables						
Soil Texture	*Steep Slopes*	*Moderate Slopes*	*Gentle Slopes*	*Level Ground*		*Score*
Light Soils	Serious (Score 5)	High (Score 4)	Medium (Score 3)	Minimum Score 1		3
Susceptibility to deeper cultivation through soil movement or wind erosion						
Main soil group	*Peats*	*Silts/Sands*	*Loams*	*Sand Clay/Silt Clay*	*Clay*	
Likelihood of Occurrence	Serious (Score 5)	High (Score 4)	Medium (Score 3)	Low (Score 2)	Minimum (Score 1)	4
Susceptibility to deeper cultivation through soil loss during harvesting						
Crop Type	*Roots/Tubers*		*Combinable Crops*		*Not Under Cultivation*	
Likelihood of	Serious (Score 5)		Medium (Score 3)		Minimum	3/0.5

Occurrence					(Score 1)	
Site Intrinsic total – current (grass ley) (score included weighting)						7.5/30
Site Intrinsic total – desired (cereal use, no beet or potatoes) (score included weighting)						10/30

TABLE 3: COSMIC: SITE MANAGEMENT FACTORS.

Site Management Factors						
	Serious Risk (Score 5)	*High Risk (Score 4)*	*Medium Risk (Score 3)*	*Low Risk (Score 2)*	*Minimum Risk (Score 1)*	*Score*
Buffer Zones	New cultivation or cultivation encroaching on new areas	Present cultivation likely to interface with archaeology	Shallow buffer (0.1-0.2m) present	Consistent undisturbed buffer (0.2-0.25m)	Deeply buried (0.25m+)	3
Cultivation Method	New deeper ploughing, fresh subsoil exposed	Regular deep ploughing, rotavating , stone cleaning (0.26-0.3m)	Normal ploughing (0.2-0.25m)	Shallow minimum cultivation methods (0.1-0.2m)	Continuous direct drilling with no subsoiling (<0.1m)	3
Cropping Regime	Sugar beet, potatoes	-	Cereals, non-root crops	-	Long-term grass leys	3/1
Compaction and Drainage	New regular subsoiling	Regular or occasional subsoiling or pan-busting	Rare subsoiling, moling and drains	No subsoiling	-	2
Management total – current (grass ley) (score included weighting)						9/50
Management total – desired (cereal use, no beet or potatoes) (score included weighting)						11/50
Management total north-east corner of field – current (grass ley) (score included weighting)						12/50
Management total north-east corner of field – desired (cereal use, no beet or potatoes) (score included weighting)						14/50

TABLE 4: COSMIC: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FACTORS.

Archaeological Factors						
Scale of Archaeological Risk	*Serious Risk (Score 5)*	*High Risk (Score 4)*	*Medium Risk (Score 3)*	*Low Risk (Score 2)*	*Minimum Risk (Score 1)*	*Score*
Archaeological Survival and Vulnerability	Clear earthworks; low earthworks with buried ground surface; Soft horizontal stratigraphy, floors and occupation surfaces	Settlement activity, shallow negative features with important contents	Unknown archaeology or stratigraphy, shallow negative features, surface finds not reflected in underlying archaeology	Site already substantially damaged, only deep negative features likely to survive	Site largely destroyed leaving little potential	8
Archaeological Significance	SM/national importance	Regional importance	County Importance	Clear Local Importance	No obvious importance	10
Archaeological total (score included weighting)						18/20

TABLE 5: COSMIC ASSESSMENT (EXCLUDING NORTH-EAST CORNER OF FIELD).

The field excluding the north-east corner	Grass Ley	Cereal Use
Site Intrinsic Variables (out of 50)	*7.5*	*10*
Management Factors (out of 30) – most of the field	*9*	*11*
Archaeological Factors (out of 20)	*18*	*18*
TOTAL RISK SCORE (out of 100) 0-29 minimum risk; 30-39 low risk; 40-49 moderate risk; 50-59 high risk; 60+ serious risk	**34.5** **low risk**	**39** **low risk**

TABLE 6: COSMIC ASSESSMENT (NORTH-EAST CORNER OF FIELD).

The north-east corner of the field	Grass Ley	Cereal Use
Site Intrinsic Variables (out of 50)	*7.5*	*10*
Management Factors (out of 30) – most of the field	*12*	*14*
Archaeological Factors (out of 20)	*18*	*18*
TOTAL RISK SCORE (out of 100) 0-29 minimum risk; 30-39 low risk; 40-49 moderate risk; 50-59 high risk; 60+ serious risk	**37.5** **low risk**	**42** **moderate risk**

Based on this analysis of risk, for most of the site the risk is at the mid to upper end of *low*; for the north-east corner of the field where the soil is shallower, the risk is at the lower end of *moderate* but only if cultivation resumes. In all instances, the scoring is distorted by the significance of the site (i.e. a Scheduled Henge monument), which registers a *low* risk for a grass ley that is subject to no disturbance, with a difference of only 4.5 points between that and continuous cultivation.

3.2.2 MITIGATION STRATEGY

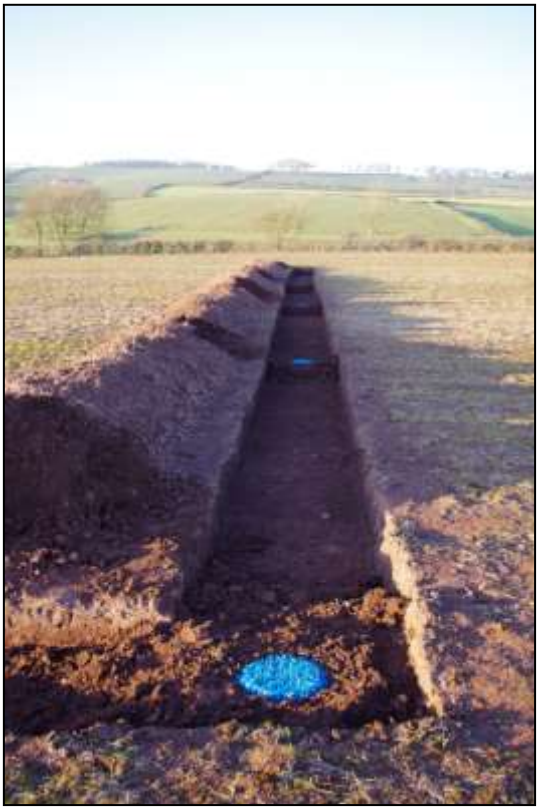
In order to return the field to cultivation, COSMIC determines that a minimum sustainable buffer deposit (i.e. undisturbed subsoil) should be maintained, the thickness of which is dependent on the nature of the site and its soils. If a sustainable buffer deposit cannot be maintained under normal tillage, then reduced tillage measures should be initiated, or else part or the entire field should be taken out of cultivation (subject to the caveat that returning the field to pasture would require the ground to be worked down and re-seeded).

Specific to the site at Hampson Farm, the test pits and evaluation trenches demonstrated the topsoil to be 200mm thick over a subsoil of c.100mm across most of the field except the north-east corner; here the topsoil directly overlay the natural substrate and the clearest evidence for plough scars was encountered. In terms of a minimum buffer deposit, COSMIC advises on a flat site with moderate soil (defined as one with minimum problems arising from poor drainage and/ or compaction) the buffer would need to be a minimum of 100mm, rising to 150mm on slopes where erosion could be an issue. Under these guidelines the case for returning the Hampson site to cultivation is equivocal: for most of the site the minimum sustainable buffer deposit is present, and the north-east corner of the site would be taken out of cultivation entirely (in this context, it would probably be worthwhile closing the gateway here as vehicles tracking in and out of the field will contribute to erosion in this area). Minimum tillage strategies (i.e. direct drilling) may be acceptable alternative.

FIGURE 17: TEXT PIT #18, SHOWING THE BLUE GLASS CHIPS; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.

3.3 MONITORING

As agreed with Historic England, 12 of the test pits around the principal monuments, and the four trenches, were seeded with modern blue glass chips to serve as damage indicators – if cultivation resumes and the site is ploughed, the chips would be brought to the surface if ploughing dropped below a certain depth. Each deposit of blue glass chips was c.0.35m across and 0.05-0.08m deep, and it was agreed with Historic England that they be positioned within each test pit and trench to the base of the topsoil. The test pits and trenches were then backfilled.



(LEFT) FIGURE 18: TRENCH #1 WITH BLUE GLASS CHIPS IN PLACE; VIEWED FROM THE EAST.
(RIGHT) FIGURE 19: TRENCH #2 WITH BLUE GLASS CHIPS IN PLACE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.

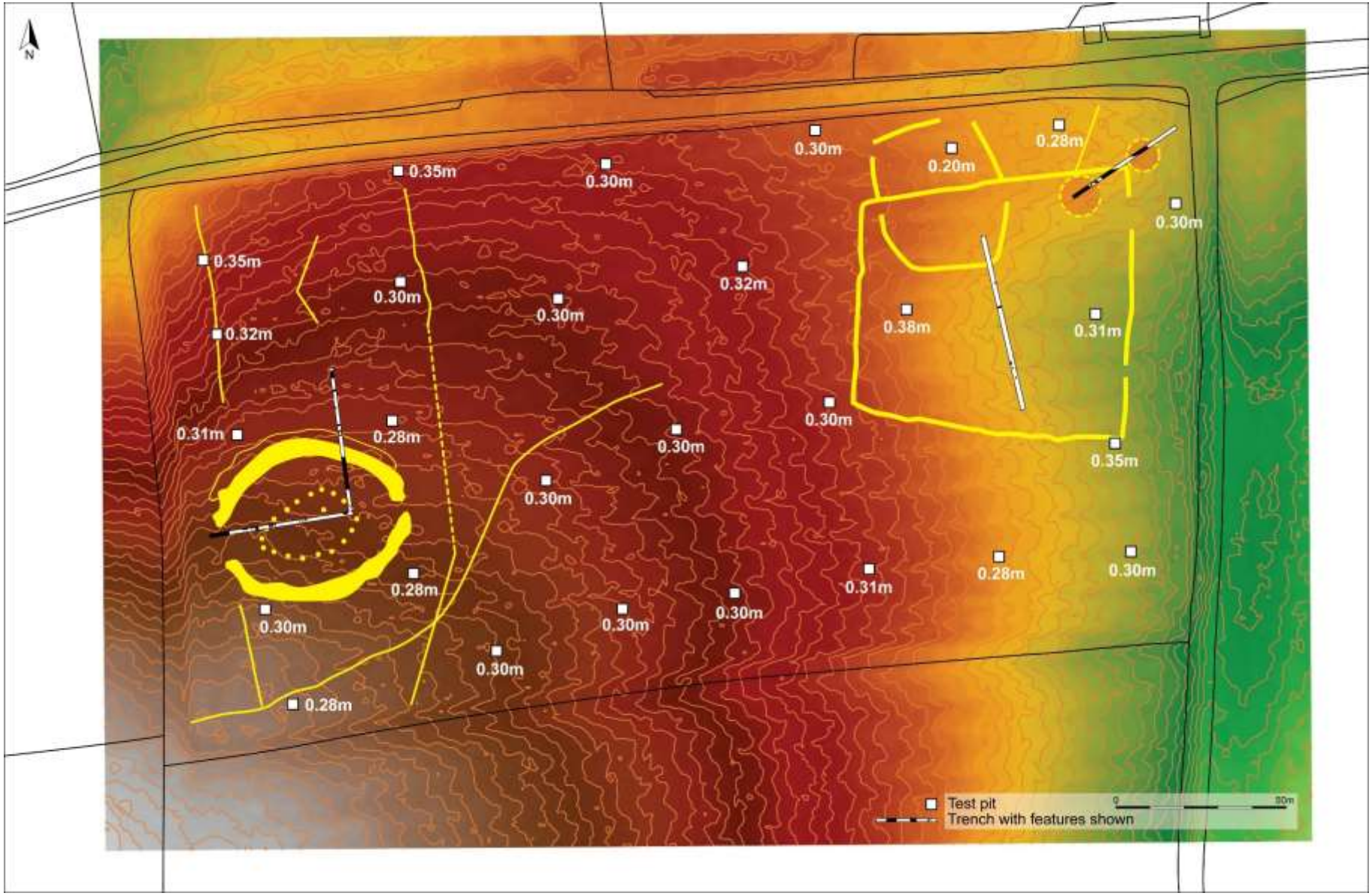


FIGURE 20: FIGURE SHOWING THE DEPTH OF THE TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL IN THE 28 TEST PITS.

3.4 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has fulfilled the principal objective of the work. It has determined that the soils covering the site, while fairly shallow, do include the minimum sustainable buffer required to resume arable cultivation across most of the site with the exception of the north-east corner of the field. The COSMIC assessment of the field would indicate the site to be at *low* risk of damage, again excepting the north-east corner, where the clearest examples of plough damage were recorded. It is therefore recommended that, if cultivation were to resume, the north-east corner of the field is either excluded from cultivation or else tillage methods are modified to reduce the impact. Furthermore, the gateway here could be closed to reduce erosion through vehicle traffic.

The secondary objective of the work – to use this opportunity to explore the archaeology of the site – has also been richly rewarded. The trenches exposed a large number of archaeological features, from which a limited but useful volume of stratified archaeological material was recovered. In particular, the work appears to demonstrate that the henge did not exist in isolation and that there is an intriguing post-abandonment narrative to the monument. Lastly, the recovery of charcoal from the cleaning of two features prior to recording opens up the possibility of the scientific dating in the future.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(100)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (101)	0.2m	
(101)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (102); overlain by (100)	0.15m	
(102)	*Natural*	Compact mid greyish pink gravelly sand; frequent sub-angular stones 20-40mm.		-	
(200)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (201)	0.2m	
(201)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (202); overlain by (200)	0.12m	
(202)	*Natural*	Compact mid greyish pink gravelly sand; frequent sub-angular stones 20-40mm.		-	
(300)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (301)	0.2m	
(301)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (302); overlain by (300)	0.11m	
(302)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(400)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (401)	0.2m	
(401)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (402); overlain by (400)	0.1m	
(402)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(500)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (501)	0.02m	
(501)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (502); overlain by (500)	0.08m	
(502)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(600)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (601)	0.2m	
(601)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (602); overlain by (600)	0.08m	
(602)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown (with lighter patches) sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(700)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (701)	0.2m	
(701)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (702); overlain by (700)	0.08m	
(702)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown (with lighter patches) sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(800)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (801)	0.2m	
(801)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (802); overlain by (800)	0.1m	
(802)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(900)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (901)	0.2m	
(901)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (902); overlain by (900)	0.15m	
(902)	*Natural*	Compact to loose mid pinkish brown sandy gravel with greyish pink sandy lenses; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1000)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1001)	0.2m	
(1001)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1002); overlain by (1000)	0.1m	
(1002)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gravel with sandy lenses; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1100)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1101)	0.2m	
(1101)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1102); overlain by (1100)	0.1m	
(1102)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown (with lighter patches) sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1200)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1201)	0.2m	
(1201)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1202); overlain by (1200)	0.1m	
(1202)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown (with lighter patches) sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1300)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1301)	0.2m	
(1301)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1302); overlain by (1300)	0.1m	
(1302)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown (with lighter patches) sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1400)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1401)	0.2m	

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(1401)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1402); overlain by (1400)	0.1m	
(1402)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1500)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1501)	0.2m	
(1501)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1502); overlain by (1500)	0.1m	
(1502)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1600)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1601)	0.2m	
(1601)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1602); overlain by (1600)	0.12m	
(1602)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1700)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1701)	0.2m	
(1701)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1702); overlain by (1700)	0.1m	
(1702)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel with soft mid pinkish grey sandy lenses; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1800)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1801)	0.2m	
(1801)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1802); overlain by (1800)	0.1m	
(1802)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(1900)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish brown silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (1901)	0.2m	
(1901)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish brown silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (1902); overlain by (1900)	0.1m	
(1902)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2000)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish brown silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2001)	0.18m	
(2001)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish brown silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2002); overlain by (2000)	0.13m	
(2002)	*Subsoil*	Firm mid greyish brown slightly clayey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.		0.1m	
(2003)	*Fill?*	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy gravel; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.		-	
(2100)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2101)	0.2m	
(2101)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2102); overlain by (2100)	0.18m	
(2102)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2200)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2201)	0.2m	
(2201)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2300)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2301)	0.2m	
(2301)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2302); overlain by (2300)	0.08m	
(2302)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey (with softer mid greyish pink patches) gritty sandy gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2400)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2401)	0.2m	
(2401)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2402); overlain by (2400)	0.2m	
(2402)	*Fill?*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy silt; occasional sub-angular stones <30mm.	Overlain by (2401)	-	
(2500)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2501)	0.2m	
(2501)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2502); overlain by (2500)	0.15m	
(2502)	*Fill?*	Firm mid-to-dark pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2600)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2601)	0.2m	
(2601)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2602); overlain by (2600)	0.08m	
(2602)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2700)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2701)	0.2m	
(2701)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2702); overlain by (2700)	0.1m	
(2702)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm; single large stone to base of test pit.		-	

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(2800)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2801)	0.21m	
(2801)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlies (2802); overlain by (2800)	0.09m	
(2802)	*Natural*	Compact mid pinkish grey sandy gritty gravel; frequent sub-angular stones <30mm.		-	
(2900)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish grey silty sand; occasional to common sub-angular stones 30-50mm.	Overlies (2901)	0.2m	
(2901)	*Subsoil*	Compact mid pinkish grey silty sand; common sub-angular stones 30-60mm.	Overlain by (2900); overlies (2922)	0.1m	
[2902]	*Cut*	Henge ditch, north-west terminus; at least 4.6m wide.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2903)	-	
(2903)	*Fill*	Fill of [2902]; firm mottled pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; clean; occasional charcoal flecks up to 5mm; occasional small (grit) stones.	Fill of [2902]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2904]	*Cut*	Narrow linear feature along the northern edge of the trench; 1.65m long by 0.15m+ wide; visible in section as at least 0.1m deep, and forming part of the [2906].	Cuts (2922); filled by (2905); part of [2906]	-	
(2905)	*Fill*	Fill of [2904]; soft to firm slightly pinkish-grey sandy silt; occasional sub-angular stones <50mm.	Fill of [2904]; sealed by (2901); same as (2907)	-	
[2906]	*Cut*	Narrow linear feature along the northern edge of the trench; 2.25m long by 0.15m+ wide; visible in section as at least 0.1m deep, and forming part of the [2904].	Cuts (2909); filled by (2905); part of [2904]	-	
(2907)	*Fill*	Fill of [2906]; soft to firm slightly pinkish-grey sandy silt; occasional sub-angular stones <50mm.	Fill of [2906]; sealed by (2901); same as (2905)	-	
[2908]	*Cut*	Linear ditch 0.6-0.7m wide; orientated north-south.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2909)	-	
(2909)	*Fill*	Fill of [2908]; soft to firm slightly pinkish brown gritty grey silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 80mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [2908]; cut by [2906]	-	
[2910]	*Cut*	Possible cut; three irregular conjoined lobate features; possibly patches of subsoil; from west to east measuring: 0.84×0.58m, 0.7×0.44m and 0.7×0.2m; extending from the northern edge of excavation.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2911)	-	
(2911)	*Fill*	Fill of [2910]; firm grey brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone <5mm.	Fill of [2910]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2912]	*Cut*	Possible posthole; 0.32×0.2m.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2913)	-	
(2913)	*Fill*	Fill of [2912]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [2913]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2914]	*Cut*	Possible posthole; 0.25×0.12m.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2915)	-	
(2915)	*Fill*	Fill of [2914]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [2914]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2916]	*Cut*	A group of three short linear features projecting from the north edge of excavation; each c.0.25m wide and extending 0.7m into the trench.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2917)	-	
(2917)	*Fill*	Fill of [2916]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; rare charcoal flecks.	Fill of [2916]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2918]	*Cut*	Possible posthole; 0.16m in diameter.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2919)	-	
(2919)	*Fill*	Fill of [2918]; soft to firm mid greyish brown silty sand; common charcoal flecks.	Fill of [2918]; sealed by (2901)	-	
[2920]	*Cut*	Large posthole or pit; probably one of the inner oval of postholes shown on the geophysical survey/cropmarks; irregular in shape or recut, extending beneath the northern edge of excavation; 1.38m by 0.7m+; ?oval with an irregular edge to the west.	Cuts (2922); filled by (2921)	-	
(2921)	*Fill*	Filled by (2921); heterogeneous firm grey-brown to pinkish brown gritty silty sand; common sub-angular stones 5-10mm up to 50-60mm; clear spread of charcoal fragments c.10mm across to east side (sample 3).	Fill of [2920]; sealed by (2901)	-	
(2922)	*Natural*	Compact slightly mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; largely stoneless and fairly homogeneous.		-	
(3000)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlies (3001)	0.2m	
(3001)	*Subsoil*	Soft to firm mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlain by (3000); overlies (3002) (3003)	0.1m	
(3002)	*Layer*	Layer of soft dark grey gritty sandy clay silt with a diffuse boundary to (3003); occasional sub-angular stone up to 100mm across; clean.	Overlain by (3001); overlies (3054)	0.1m	

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(3003)	*Layer*	As (3011)/(3015) and forming part of these deposits?	Overlain by (3001); overlies (3011) (3013)(3015)<3014>	0.1m	
[3004]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.26×23m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3005)	-	
(3005)	*Fill*	Fill of [3004]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3004]; sealed by (3000)	-	
[3006]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.26×23m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3007)	-	
(3007)	*Fill*	Fill of [3006]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3006]; sealed by (3000)	-	
[3008]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.26×23m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3009)	-	
(3009)	*Fill*	Fill of [3008]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3008]; sealed by (3000)	-	
[3010]	*Cut*	Henge ditch; c.10m wide but probably not a true 90° section; multiple fills visible at the surface.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3011)(3013) (3015), possibly (3002)(3003)	-	
(3011)	*Fill*	Fill of [3010]; firm mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; occasional sub-angular stone 20-40mm.	Fill of [3010]; overlain by (3013); same as (3015)?	-	
3012	*void*	*Void*	*void*	*void*	*void*
(3013)	*Fill*	Fill of [3010]; firm gritty mid brown slightly clayey sandy silt; occasional sub-angular stone 20-40mm	Fill of [3010]; overlies (3011) and (3015); cut by <3014>	-	
<3014>	*Group*	Group of six narrow linear features.	Consists of [3036][3038][3040][3042] [3044] [3046]	-	
(3015)	*Fill*	Fill of [3010]; firm mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; occasional to common sub-angular stone 20-40mm.	Fill of [3010]; overlain by (3013)	-	
[3016]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.38×0.2m.	Cuts (3023); filled by (3017)	-	
(3017)	*Fill*	Fill of [3016]; soft darker grey brown sandy silt; rare sub-angular stone <40mm.	Fill of [3016]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3018]	*Cut*	Possible posthole, partly below the edge of excavation; 0.5×0.3m+ across.	Cuts (3023); filled by (3019)	-	
(3019)	*Fill*	Fill of [3022]; soft to firm pale greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone <30mm, rare up to 60mm; occasional charcoal fleck.	Fill of [3018]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3020]	*Cut*	Irregular posthole; 0.42×22m across.	Cuts (3054); filled by (2021)	-	
(2021)	*Fill*	Fill of [3022]; soft to firm pale greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone <30mm, rare up to 60mm.	Fill of [3020]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3022]	*Cut*	Curving narrow linear feature; 0.2-0.25m across and arcs round to [3016] and [3018]; possible tree-throw?	Cuts (3054); filled by (3023)	-	
(3023)	*Fill*	Fill of [3022]; soft to firm pale greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone <30mm, rare up to 60mm.	Fill of [3022]; cut by [3016][3018]	-	
[3024]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.24m in diameter.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3025)	-	
(3025)	*Fill*	Fill of [3024]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; charcoal to south side, fragments up to 15mm across.	Fill of [3024]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3026]	*Cut*	Clear posthole with post pipe; 0.5m in diameter; post pipe to the north-west side, 0.38×0.3m across.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3027)(3033)	-	
(3027)	*Fill*	Fill of [3026]; post-packing; firm mix of redeposited natural and greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; no obvious packing stones; patch of decayed charcoal to the south side.	Fill of (3027); around post pipe (3033)	-	
<3028>	*Group*	Group of three small postholes.	Consists of [3048][3050][3052]	-	
[3029]	*Cut*	Possible linear ditch; 0.5m wide; orientated east-west.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3030)	-	
(3030)	*Fill*	Fill of [3029]; soft mottled grey and light pinkish brown silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3029]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3031]	*Cut*	Large irregular pit; 2.3m long and the full width of the trench.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3032)	-	
(3032)	*Fill*	Fill of [3031]; soft to firm gritty slightly pinkish mid greyish brown silty sand; common sub-angular stone up to 40mm.	Fill of [3031]; sealed by (3001)	-	
(3033)	*Fill*	Fill of [3026]; post pipe; soft mid greyish brown silty sand; occasional sub-angular stones <20mm.	Fill of [3026]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3034]	*Cut*	Possible linear ditch; 0.55m wide; orientated east-west.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3035)	-	

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(3035)	*Fill*	Fill of [3034]; soft pale greyish brown sandy silt; clean; possibly natural.	Fill of [3034]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3036]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.15m wide; close to, and parallel with, [3038] and [3040].	Cuts (3013); filled by (3037)	-	
(3037)	*Fill*	Fill of [3036]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3036]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3038]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.2m wide; close to, and parallel with, [3036] and [3040].	Cuts (3013); filled by (3039)	-	
(3039)	*Fill*	Fill of [3038]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3038]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3040]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.12m wide; close to, and parallel with, [3036] and [3038].	Cuts (3013); filled by (3041)	-	
(3041)	*Fill*	Fill of [3040]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3040]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3042]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.23m wide; close to, and parallel to [3044].	Cuts (3013); filled by (3043)	-	
(3043)	*Fill*	Fill of [3042]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3042]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3044]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.17m wide; close to, and parallel to [3042].	Cuts (3013); filled by (3045)	-	
(3045)	*Fill*	Fill of [3044]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3044]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3046]	*Cut*	Narrow linear; 0.11m wide.	Cuts (3013); filled by (3047)	-	
(3047)	*Fill*	Fill of [3046]; firm greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stone up to 40mm; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3046]; sealed by (3003)	-	
[3048]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.2×0.18m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3049)	-	
(3049)	*Fill*	Fill of [3048]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3049]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3050]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.28×0.2m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3051)	-	
(3051)	*Fill*	Fill of [3050]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3050]; sealed by (3001)	-	
[3052]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.23×0.23m.	Cuts (3054); filled by (3053)	-	
(3053)	*Fill*	Fill of [3052]; soft to firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; clean.	Fill of [3052]; sealed by (3001)	-	
(3054)	*Natural*	Compact slightly mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; quite variable, with patches of stony material (sub-angular blocky stones 50-100mm across), pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt, and soft mid pinkish grey silty sand.		-	
(3100)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlies (3101)	0.2m	
(3101)	*Subsoil*	Soft to firm mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlain by (3000); overlies (3118)	0.0-0.1m	
(3102)	*Layer*	Layer; possibly an upper fill of a large feature; soft light brown or greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stones 30-40mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Overlain by (3113)	-	
[3103]	*Cut*	Large feature, possible wide linear ditch; c.3m wide and 5m exposed in trench; orientated east-west.	Cuts (3118); filled by (3104)	-	
(3104)	*Fill*	Fill of [3103]; firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stones 30-40mm, rare up to 100mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3103]; sealed by (3100)	-	
[3105]	*Cut*	Large feature, probably wide linear ditch; c.2.25m wide and 5.4m exposed in trench; orientated east-west, but hint at a return to the east end.	Cuts (3118); filled by (3106)	-	
(3106)	*Fill*	Fill of [3105]; firm mid greyish brown gritty silty sand; occasional sub-angular stones 30-40mm, rare up to 100mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3105]; sealed by (3100)	-	
[3107]	*Cut*	Possible posthole; 0.95×0.5m; possible extending to the south, and linked to [3109].	Cuts (3118)	-	
(3108)	*Fill*	Fill of [3107]; firm mid greyish brown very gritty silty sand; frequent poorly-sorted sub-angular stone 30-70mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of [3107]; sealed by (3100)	-	
[3109]	*Cut*	Possible curving linear or ringditch; 0.55m wide, exposed section 2.3m long; terminates close to	Cuts (3118); filled by (3110)	-	

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
		[3107].			
(3110)	*Fill*	Fill of [3109]; firm mixed mid brownish grey gritty silty sand; common sub-angular stone 20-40mm.	Fill of [3109]; sealed by (3000)	-	
[3111]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.2m in diameter.	Cuts (3118); filled by (3112)	-	
(3112)	*Fill*	Fill of [3111]; firm brownish grey gritty silty sand; common sub-angular stone 40-60mm.	Fill of [3111]; sealed by (3000)	-	
(3113)	*Layer*	Layer; possibly an upper fill of a large feature; soft pinkish grey brown sandy silt; occasional sub-angular platey stones up to 100mm across; occasional charcoal flecks.	Overlies (3102); overlain by (3101)	0.18m	
[3114]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.2m in diameter.	Cuts (3118); filled by (3115)	-	
(3115)	*Fill*	Fill of [3114]; firm brownish grey gritty silty sand; common sub-angular stone 40-60mm.	Fill of [3114]; sealed by (3000)	-	
[3116]	*Cut*	Small posthole; 0.2m in diameter.	Cuts (3118); filled by (3117)	-	
(3117)	*Fill*	Fill of [3116]; firm brownish grey gritty silty sand; common sub-angular stone 40-60mm.	Fill of [3116]; sealed by (3000)	-	
(3118)	*Natural*	Compact slightly mottled pinkish brown slightly clayey sandy silt; some variable, with patches of stony material (sub-angular blocky stones 50-100mm across).		-	
(3200)	*Topsoil*	Soft mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlies (3201)	0.2m	
(3201)	*Subsoil*	Soft to firm mid pinkish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt; common small sub-angular stones 20-60mm across, occasionally larger.	Overlain by (3200); overlies (3202)	0.1m	
(3202)	*Natural*	Compact pinkish brown gravel; cemented with manganese.		-	
(3203)	*Natural*	Soft to firm pale brown silty sand; manganese staining; otherwise clean.		-	
[3204]	*Cut*	Clear posthole with packing stones; c.0.48m in diameter.	Cuts (3202); filled by (3205)	-	-
(3205)	*Fill*	Fill of [3204]; very wet/waterlogged, probably a grey silty-sand; several sub-angular packing stones up to 120mm across.	Fill of [3204]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3206]	*Cut*	Narrow linear ditch, orientated east-west; c.0.5m wide.	Cuts (3202); filled by (3207)	-	-
(3207)	*Fill*	Fill of [3026]; firm grey sandy silt; one sub-angular stone 100mm across.	Fill of [3206]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3208]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.48×0.38m.	Cuts (3203); filled by (3209)	-	-
(3209)	*Fill*	Fill of [3208]; soft pale grey sandy silt; clean.	Fill of [3208]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3210]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.5×0.18m (extends under section); steep or vertical sides.	Cuts (3203); filled by (3211)	0.1m+	-
(3211)	*Fill*	Fill of [3210]; soft pale grey sandy silt; clean.	Fill of [3210]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3212]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.5m in diameter.	Cuts (3203); filled by (3213)(3214)	-	-
(3213)	*Fill*	Fill of [3212]; soft pale grey sandy silt; clean.	Fill of [3212]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
(3214)	*Fill*	Fill of [3208]; postpipe c.0.12m in diameter; soft dark grey/black charcoal-rich sandy silt; sample 1 and 2.	Fill of [3212]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3215]	*Cut*	Pit; 0.82m north-south by 0.5m+ east-west (extends under section).	Cuts (3203); filled by (3216)	-	-
(3216)	*Fill*	Fill of [3215]; soft pale grey sandy silt; clean.	Fill of [3215]; sealed by (3201)	-	-
[3217]	*Cut*	Posthole; 0.5m? in diameter (caught on the edge of the trench).	Cuts (3203); filled by (3218)	-	-
(3218)	*Fill*	Fill of [3217]; soft pale grey sandy silt; clean.	Fill of 73210]; sealed by (3201)	-	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

		POTTERY			Flint			OTHER			DATE
Context	Notes	Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frags.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frags.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
Surface Finds		2	74	North Devon Calcareous, x1 handle and chafing bowl base	8	5	Waste flakes	3	40	Slag	
		2	53	North Devon Gravel Tempered post med	1	10	Cortical flake	3	13	Glass	
		2	14	North Devon medieval coarseware	1	13	Primary flake	2	34	CBM, probably land drain	
		2	3	White Refined Earthenware	1	18	Chert				
		1	13	C19 English stoneware	1	54	Core fragment (burnt)				
		2	20	South Somerset post med							
200	TP2	1	6	North Devon Gravel Tempered post med				1	3	Thin green bottle glass	
		1	4	C19 English stoneware							
401	TP4	1	1	Medieval scrap	1	5	Waste flake				
Surface Finds	near TP5	1	45	North Devon Gravel Tempered post med	1	31	Cortical flake	1	12	Slag?	
					2	10	Waste flake	2	34	Thick green bottle glass	
1100	TP11	1	1	White Refined Earthenware				1	9	Thin green bottle glass	
								1	6	CBM	
1201	TP12				1	13	Cortical flake				
					1	2	Waste flake				
1500	TP15	1	5	South Somerset post-med							
		1	4	Medieval scrap							
u/s	TP17				1	1	Waste flake				
2000	TP20	1	2	White Refined Earthenware	1	16	Chunk				
2100	TP21	3	43	South Somerset post med	1	3	Waste flake				
2200	TP22							4	154	CBM, probably brick	
2402	TP24	1	1	South Somerset post med scrap							
2900	Trench 1	1	2	North Devon gravel-free	2	18	Waste flake	1	<1	Charred wood	
		1	3	Stoneware	1	20	Scraper (burnt)	2	46	CBM, probably brick	
2901	Trench 1				1	14	Primary flake				
u/s	Trench 2				1	3	Blade				
3000	Trench 2	1	10	South Somerset	1	1	Waste flake	1	3	CBM	
		1	1	Stoneware	1	3	Primary flake				
					1	14	Chunk				
3001	Trench 2				1	7	Cortical flake				
3007	Trench 2				1	3	Waste flake				
3013	Trench 2				1	<1	Chip				
3015	Trench 2	1	4	Prehistoric, possibly Gabbroic	2	3	Waste flake				
					1	4	Cortical flake				
3023	Trench 2				1	5	Primary flake				
u/s	Trench 3				1	2	Primary flake	4	830	Granite pebbles	
3100	Trench 3	1	1	White Refined Earthenware (WRE)				1	47	Coal	

		1	10	North Devon							
		1	6	Prehistoric							
3102	Trench 3	1	15	Early medieval?							
3104	Trench 3	2	17	Medieval							
3106	Trench 3	2	9	Early medieval?							
TOTAL	**Pottery**										

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE LIST

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Sample Type	No. Bags/Buckets	% Fill/Feature	Date	Initials	Comments in the Field	Processed?	Comments During Processing	Macrofossils?
1	(3214)	Post pipe	Bulk	1 small bag	-	14.02.19	BWM	Cleaning across feature	No	-	-
2	(3214)	Post pipe	Bulk	1 small bag	-	14.02.19	LoD	Cleaning across feature	No	-	-
3	(2921)	Pit	Bulk	1 small bag	-	14.02.19	BWM	Cleaning across feature	No	-	-

APPENDIX 4: SUPPORTING CARTOGRAPHIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

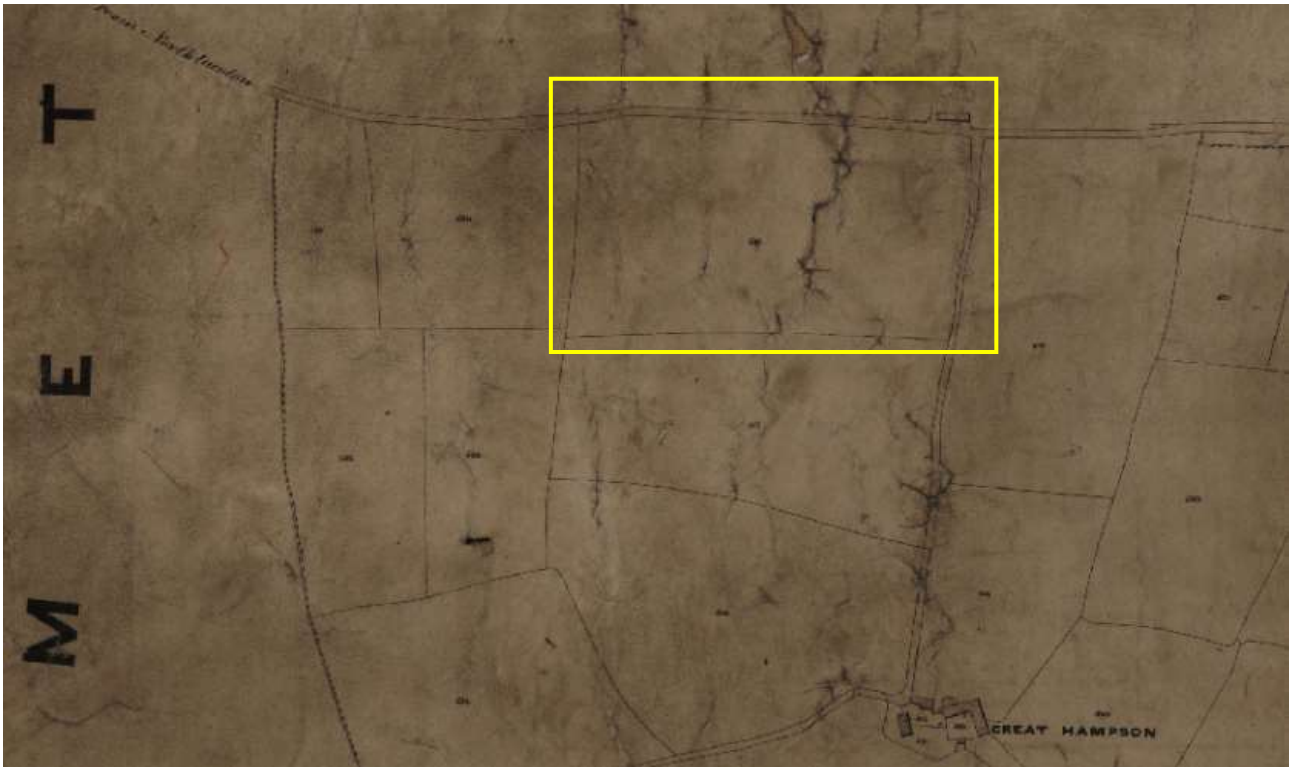

FIGURE 21: EXTRACT FROM THE C.1840 TITHE MAP FOR BOW PARISH; THE FIELD IS INDICATED.

FIGURE 22: 1984 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE MONUMENTS (©DCHET; PHOTO CREDIT: F. GRIFFITHS).

FIGURE 23: 1984 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE MONUMENTS (©DCHET; PHOTO CREDIT: F. GRIFFITHS).

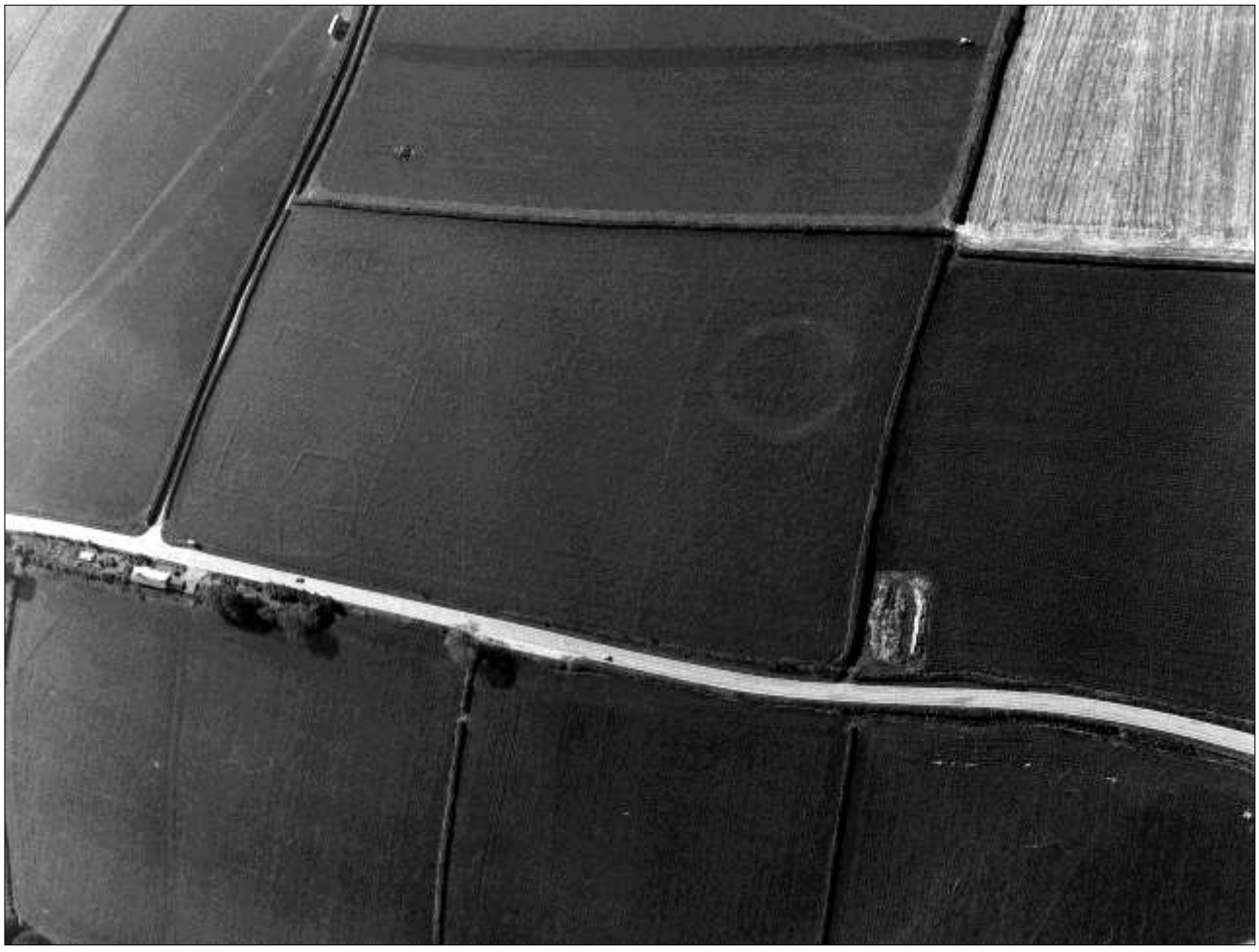

FIGURE 24: 1984 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE MONUMENTS (©DCHET; PHOTO CREDIT: F. GRIFFITHS).

FIGURE 25: 1984 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE MONUMENTS (©DCHET; PHOTO CREDIT: F. GRIFFITHS).

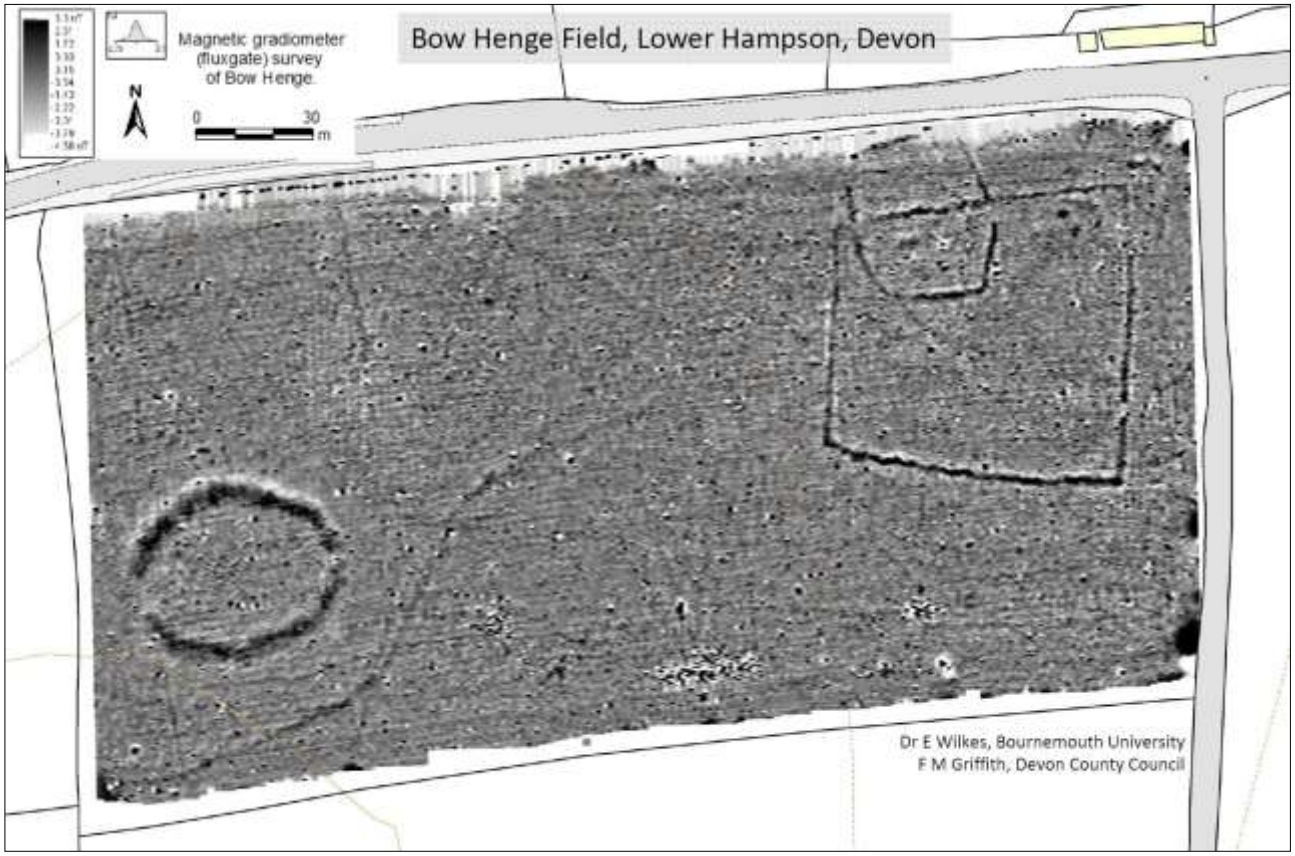

FIGURE 26: RESULTS OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY CARRIED OUT E WILKES (COURTESY OF E WILKES AND F GRIFFITHS).

APPENDIX 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

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