

# WESTWARD HO! TENNIS COURTS

## WESTWARD HO!

### NORTH DEVON

### DEVON

Results of Archaeological Monitoring



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 180718



[www.swarch.net](http://www.swarch.net) Tel. 01769 573555

# Westward Ho! Tennis Courts, Westward Ho!, North Devon, Devon

## Results of Archaeological Monitoring

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By P. Webb  
Report Version: Final  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Work undertaken by SWARCH for  
Andy Champion of  
Torridge District Council (the Client)

### Summary

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*This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. at Westward Ho! tennis courts, Westward Ho!, North Devon, Devon. The site is located in an area of known archaeological potential with prehistoric activity identified in the immediate vicinity.*

*The monitoring did not identify any archaeological features but demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site, the areas trial-pitted appearing undisturbed despite the historic presence of a railway; and containing lithic artefacts suggesting prehistoric activity.*

*Given the site's proximity to known important Mesolithic archaeology and its survival in part as undeveloped agricultural land there is relatively high potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site.*



July 2018

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANDY CHAMPION OF TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL (THE CLIENT)  
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## PROJECT CREDITS

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	WESTWARD HO!
<b>PARISH:</b>	NORTHAM
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	NORTH DEVON
<b>COUNTY:</b>	DEVON
<b>NGR:</b>	SS 243455 129305
<b>PLANNING NO.</b>	PRE-PLANNING
<b>DC HET REF.</b>	Arc/DM/TO/33059
<b>SWARCH REF.</b>	WHT18

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Andy Champion of Torridge District Council (the Client) to undertake archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial holes at Westward Ho! tennis courts, Westward Ho!, Northam, Devon, in support of a planning application for development of the land. This work was undertaken in consultation with Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) and in line with best practice and ClfA guidelines.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located in the centre of Westward Ho!, approximately 3.2km north-west of Bideford, on the North Devon Atlantic Coast at Bideford Bay, approximately 250m south-east of the sea-front. The site comprises a single parcel of land divided between public tennis courts and playground between residential properties at an altitude of c.10m AOD (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association bordering the well drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the mudstone and siltstone of the Ashton Mudstone Member & Crackington Formation (BGS 2018).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Westward Ho! is located mid-way along the northern edge of the parish of Northam. The parish lies within the deanery of *Hertland* and the Hundred of Shebbear (Lysons 1822). The current settlement of Westward Ho! developed on land that was formerly only occupied by isolated farmsteads until c.1865 when the *Westward Ho! Hotel* was constructed, using the name from the Charles Kingsley novel, alongside adjacent villas. The village expanded through the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a popular seaside resort, the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore railway being in operation from 1901-1917. The proposal site is depicted on the c.1840 tithe map as part of two field under arable cultivation owned by Doctor Robert Barry and occupied by Richard Berry; later being part of the land used by the railway; and becoming tennis courts by the 1930s.

The site lies within a landscape of known prehistoric activity. Peat deposits, shell middens and submerged prehistoric forests lie along the shoreline. Flint tools, wooden stakes possibly forming fish traps or walkways and prehistoric pottery sherds demonstrate the use of this area by people from the Mesolithic onwards. Radiocarbon samples have been taken from a number of features along the beach and produced dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium BC to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Geophysical survey to the south of Westward Ho! showed possible round houses or ring ditches.

Other archaeological work in the area has uncovered evidence for medieval and post medieval settlement around Westward Ho!

#### 1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring was conducted in consultation with Stephen Reed (DCHET) and in line with best practice. Four trial-pits, each measuring 1.70m×0.45m were excavated by JCB with back actor to a depth of up to 2.15m. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with ClfA guidelines.

The monitoring was designed to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the site to inform any further planning decisions. The archaeological monitoring took place on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

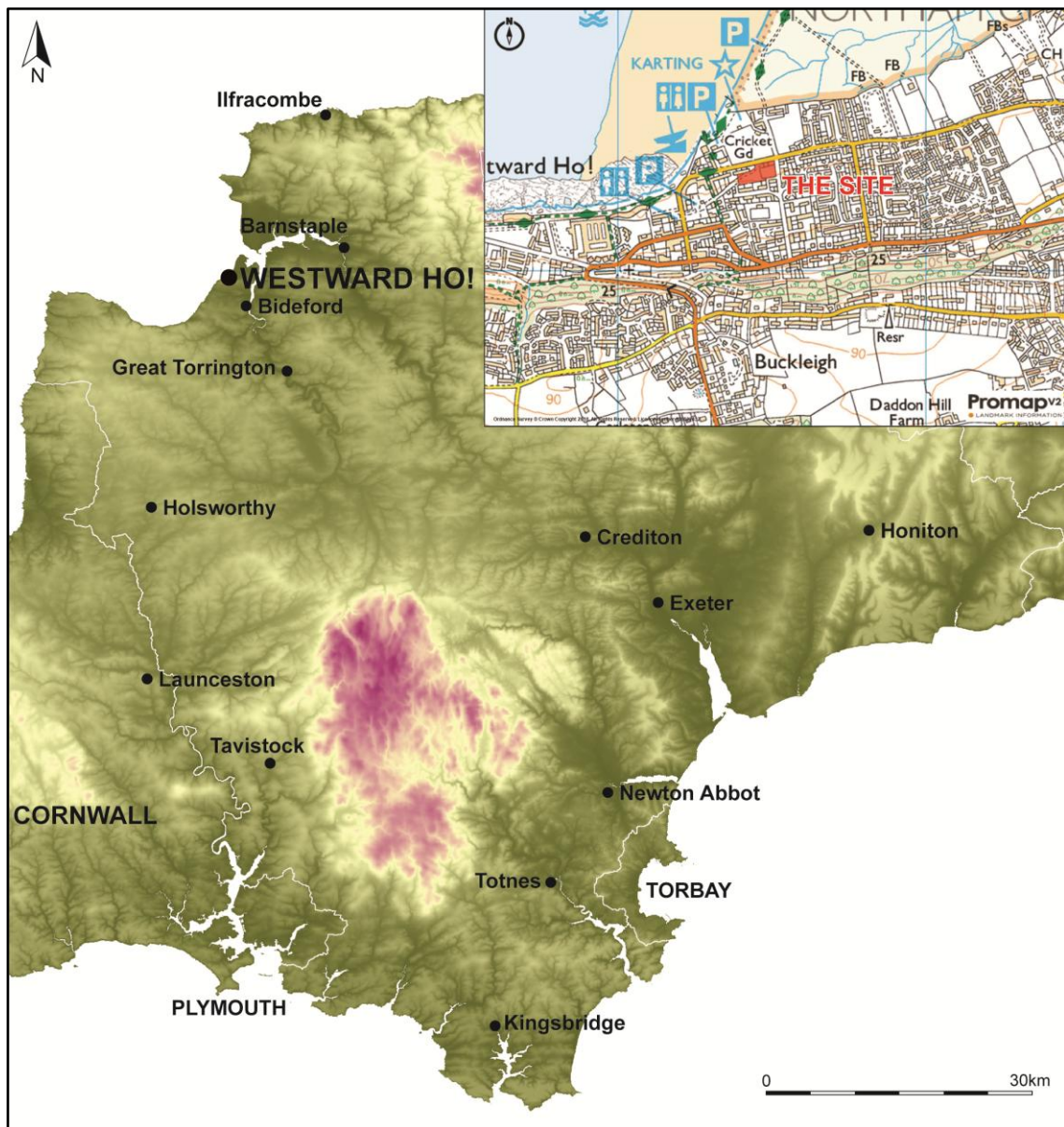


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

## 2.0 BRIEF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Westward Ho! is located mid-way along the northern edge of the parish of Northam. The parish lies within the deanery of *Hertland* and the Hundred of Shebbear (Lysons 1822). The current settlement of Westward Ho! developed on land that was formerly only occupied by isolated farmsteads until c.1865 when the *Westward Ho! Hotel* was constructed, using the name from the Charles Kingsley novel, alongside adjacent villas. The village expanded through the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a popular seaside resort, the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore railway being in operation from 1901-1917.

The proposal site is situated towards the northern edge of the settlement across land that was previously split into two agricultural fields and recorded in 1838 as belonging to Doctor Robert Barry; and occupied by Richard Berry (46), living at *Muderbors Cottate* [sic] with his wife Mary (45); children Ann (15), Elizabeth (18), and Sarah (9); and mother Ann (88).

### 2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

The first cartographic source is the Ordnance Survey (OS) Surveyor's draft map of 1804 (Figure 2). The scale of this map makes it difficult to discern any real detail, but farmsteads at Ventown and Youngington can be seen amongst what appears to be a largely agricultural landscape. The earliest accurate cartographic source available to this study is the Northam tithe map of c.1840 (Figure 3). The slightly curving boundaries of long rectangular fields of the wider landscape suggest that the irregularly shaped but straighter bounded post-medieval fields (including of the development site) sit within a wider medieval fieldscape. All of the field names are prosaic, those such as *Doctors Ground* reflecting land ownership (see Table 1). The site itself falls within two plots to the west of Ventown, listed as *Doctors GroundNo.1* (no.618) and *Nalls* (no.620); both are listed as under arable cultivation.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP OF 1804; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (BL).



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE NORTHAM TITHE MAP OF C.1840; THE EXTENT OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (DRO).

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1838 NORTHAM TITHE APPORTIONMENT.

Number	Landowner	Tenant	Field Name	Cultivation
617	John Pyke	William Lashbrook	Higher Garden	Arable
<b>618</b>	Doctor Robert Barry	Richard Berry	<b>Doctors Ground No.1</b>	<b>Arable</b>
619			Doctors Ground No.2	Arable
<b>620</b>			<b>Nalls</b>	<b>Arable</b>

The landscape as depicted by the 1887 OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (Figure 4) shows that there had been significant development since 1840, the settlement of Westward Ho! having been created with numerous hotels, villas and public amenities including two colleges and Holy Trinity Church. In immediate proximity to the proposal site there had been the construction of new roads and a gas works; whilst the removal of field boundaries (including those between plots *no.618* and *no.620*) allowed the creation of recreation grounds to both the north and south of the site.

By 1904 (Figure 5) there had been limited further growth of the settlement, the most significant development being the construction of the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore railway, the main branch line running along the northern edge of the proposal site and a siding (presumably to access the gas works) to the south; alongside further field boundary rationalisation and land division. Significant alteration and development had again occurred by 1934 (Figure 6); most significantly the loss of the railway; but also including the further growth of the settlement. The proposal site had become the tennis courts and parkland, the building along the northern edge being constructed by this time. From the late 20<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup> century there has been significant development of the settlement, small estates filling all of the open fields and areas of recreation ground up to Hanger’s Lane (now renamed Beach Lane).



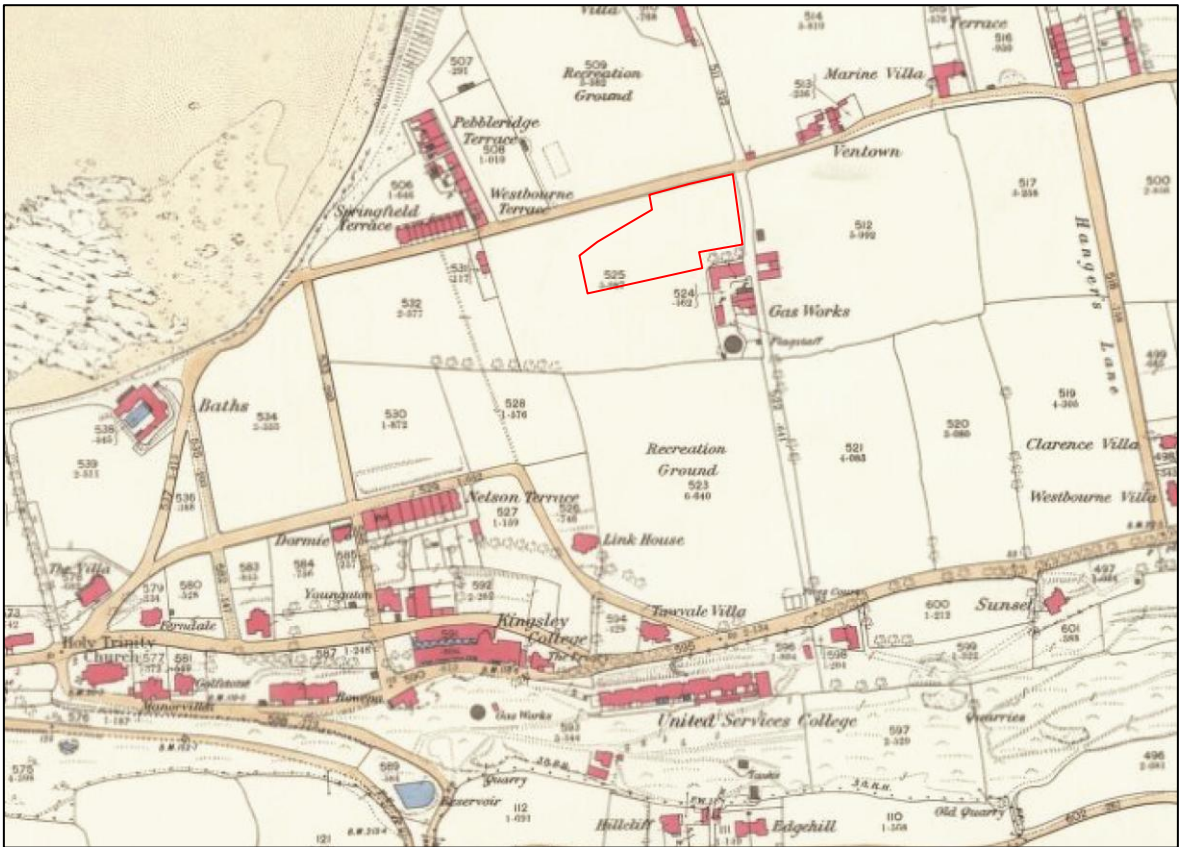


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY FIRST EDITION 25" MAP OF 1887; THE EXTENT OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY SECOND EDITION 25" MAP OF 1904; THE EXTENT OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 25" MAP OF 1934; THE EXTENT OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

## 2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The locality has seen a modest amount of archaeological fieldwork, including evaluation trenching off Pebbleridge Road (Webb 2015) which identified only drainage and modern features;

The site lies within land recorded on the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) as *medieval enclosures based on strip fields* and is likely to have been under intensive cultivation since the medieval period or earlier. Given limited development it has potential for the survival of archaeological remains of prehistoric and early historic periods.

### 2.3.1 PREHISTORIC AND ROMANO-BRITISH 4000BC - AD409

There is relatively extensive evidence for prehistoric activity in the area of Westward Ho! from the peat deposits, shell middens and submerged prehistoric forests which lie along the shoreline. Flint tools, wooden stakes possibly forming fish traps or walkways and prehistoric pottery sherds demonstrate the use of this area by people from the Mesolithic onwards. Radiocarbon samples have been taken from a number of features along the beach including charcoal from middens and clay, waterlogged wood from the wooden stakes and animal bones uncovered in middens and produced dates from the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium BC to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Geophysical survey to the south of Westward Ho! showed possible round houses or ring ditches.

### 2.3.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL AD410 – AD1065

The archaeology of the early medieval period is poorly represented, and there is no archaeological evidence for early medieval settlement

### 2.3.3 MEDIEVAL AD1066 – AD1540

A sixteenth century Spanish coin is the old medieval find within 1km of the settlement. Archaeological work off Pebble Ridge Road showed evidence for medieval pottery, suggesting a

settlement to be well established here by this date. A field system to the south east of the settlement has a similar open field appearance to Braunton Great Field, providing further evidence for reasonably extensive medieval settlement.

#### 2.3.4 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AD1540 - PRESENT

Population and settlement expanded during the post-medieval period, most notably reflected in the creation of the settlement of Westward Ho! during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was largely due to popularity of seaside holiday resorts, which necessitated the creation of a railway. The settlement of Tealta is first recorded as such in 1662, although is likely to have existed prior to this date. A number of field boundaries and enclosure ditches around Westward Ho! are likely to date to the post medieval period. Features associated with the seaside tourist aspect of Westward Ho! including swimming baths and sports and recreation fields started to appear in the late post medieval period and the use of the North Devon Coast for military training during World War Two has left traces of former military buildings and defences in this area.



TABLE 2: TABLE OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: DEVON HER).

No.	Mon ID.	Name	Record	Details
1	MDV104112	Flint Blade Tool, Westward Ho	Findspot	Ovate flint blade tool of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, found in spring 2009 on the pebble ridge at Westward Ho!, exact location not known.
2	MDV107373	Mesolithic Midden and Submerged Forest, Westward Ho!	Environmental	A blue clay layer containing fragments of submerged forest and beneath the clay was a midden containing Mesolithic microliths. Further excavation and survey in 1980 identified the site as one of the earliest Mesolithic middens in Northwest Europe.
3	MDV107432	Organic Deposit and Submerged Forest, Westward Ho!	Environmental	A section through Braunton Northam Burrows showed bed of clay containing roots and trunks of trees with flint flakes.
4	MDV14854	Shell Middens at Westward Ho!	Documentary	Mesolithic shell middens at the south end of Westward Ho! Beach. No evidence remained in 2002.
5	MDV44568	Submerged Forest, Westward Ho!	Environmental	In 1863 the stumps of 70-80 large trees were visible which were part of the Prehistoric submerged forest at Westward Ho! In 2002 evidence of only a few trees remained.
6	MDV44569	Wooden Stakes at Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Two lines of wooden stakes, one semi-circular and one curving were found in the late 19th century. Dated to the Neolithic period.
7	MDV44570	Wooden Stakes at Westward Ho,	Extant Structure	Wooden stakes and stake lines identified in 1983-4 and dated to the Romano British period.
8	MDV44571	Wooden Stakes at Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Line of stakes identified at Westward Ho! Which may have been part of a fish trap or a trackway.
9	MDV468	Mesolithic Tools from Westward Ho!	Findspot	Late Mesolithic flint tools found at the site of the submerged forest at Westward Ho!
10	MDV477	ARTEFACT SCATTER in the Parish of Northam	Findspot	Small bag comprising various retouched flakes; points; piercers; a possible burin; small blades, some snapped with oblique ends.
11	MDV53224	Peat Deposit at Westward Ho!	Environmental	Peat deposit on the beach at Westward Ho! with evidence for Mesolithic and later activity. A nationally important site.
12	MDV70164	Beaker Sherds from Westward Ho!	Findspot	Seven beaker sherds found on the foreshore.
13	MDV76285	Mesolithic Flint tool from Westward Ho!	Findspot	Mesolithic flint tool found on the beach at Westward Ho! in 2009
14	MDV77890	Peterborough Sherd from the Beach at Westward Ho!	Findspot	Sherd of Peterborough ware found on the beach at Westward Ho!
15	MDV102445	Peat deposits, Westard Ho!	Environmental	Organic deposits exposed by the shifting sands on the beach at Westward Ho!, are visible in varying degrees on aerial photographs from the 1940s onwards.
16	MDV113798	Possible Round Houses, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam, Bideford	Geophysical Anomaly	Geophysical survey recorded anomalies which may represent Prehistoric archaeological deposits in the form of ring-ditches or round-houses.
17	MDV50845	Peat Deposit at Westward Ho!	Environmental	Area of peat where animal bones dated to the Roman era were found.
18	MDV11723	Sixteenth Century Spanish Coin	Findspot	Coin of Philip IV of Spain ad 1521-1525 found on surface of garden of house called "aysha" formerly "venton" by owner Mrs. Fulford in 1939 and who retains possession.

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19	MDV55991	FIELD SYSTEM in the Parish of Northam	Documentary	The field pattern in the area n + w of Northam has the appearance of a medieval open field system similar to that at Braunton great field (Turton + Weddell).
20	MDV32721	Holy Trinity Church, Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Built in 1860s.
21	MDV18272	Tealter Windmill, Abbotsham	Documentary	A windmill once stood on a small estate called tealter, in abbotsham. In about 1817 the materials of the building were used to construct fences (r. B. M. ). A mill mentioned in a lease of 1695 probably refers to a windmill.
22	MDV24316	Kipling Terrace	Listed Building	Grade II Listed Terrace, listed partly for its association with Kipling.
23	MDV30198	Tealta, Northam	Documentary	Tealta is so spelt in 1662 in the feet of fines and is to be associated with the family of Richard de Talte of the lay subsidy rolls of 1333. This is clearly allied to the old english teal meaning unsteady.
24	MDV102161	Former field boundaries north of South Pusehill, Abbotsham	Cropmark	An L-shaped former field boundary is visible as a cropmark or low earthwork bank on aerial photographs of 1946 to 1992.
25	MDV104114	Field Boundaries and Possible Enclosure Ditch, Land at Buckleigh Road, Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Linear features and a possible enclosure ditch were identified during archaeological evaluation at land at Buckleigh Road, Westward Ho! These appear to be of medieval date or later.
26	MDV32720	Baptist Chapel, Northam	Extant Structure	
27	MDV50848	Beached Vessel at Westward Ho! Northam	Extant Structure	The outline of a beached vessel is visible at low tide, both from the foreshore and on aerial photographs of 1989 onwards.
28	MDV57956	Westward Ho! Railway Station	Extant Structure	Westward Ho! Railway station.
29	MDV122299	Quarry to the south of Nassau Bath, Abbotsham, Devon	Documentary	Quarry visible on 19th century mapping to the south of Nassau Bath. No longer visible on early 20th century map.
30	MDV122309	Nassau Bath, Northam, Devon	Documentary	Late 19th century swimming baths shown as Nassau Bath on late 19th century mapping and later Patio Bath on mid-20th century maps. Early 21st century aerial photographs show that an apartment block has now been built in place of the recreational bath/swim
31	MDV120355	Anti tank cubes at Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Anti tank landing concrete blocks recorded on the shore at the Northam end of the shore at Westward Ho!
32	MDV50849	Site of Anti Glider Posts at Westward Ho!	Documentary	The beach at Westward Ho! was covered with anti-glider/landing posts during the Second World War.
33	MDV102162	Possible military structures, north of Tealta, Northam	Documentary	Three structures visible on aerial photographs of the 1940s situated within a disused quarry might be temporary military structures of Second World War date. The structures and quarry have now been removed.
34	MDV102447	Coastal anti-invasion barbed wire obstruction, Westward Ho!	Documentary	A Second World War coastal anti-invasion barbed wire obstruction is visible on the reclaimed saltmarsh at Northam Burrows, on aerial photographs of 1941. It appears to have been removed by 1946.
35	MDV102486	Possible barbed wire obstructions, Northam Burrows	Documentary	Possible anti-invasion coastal defence barbed wire obstructions of Second World War date are visible on Northam Burrows as structures on aerial photographs of the 1940s.
36	MDV103322	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps Camp at Hilltop Camp	Documentary	Hilltop holiday camp provided temporary accommodation to the newly formed companies of the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps from

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				May 1940. Companies of the AMPC, later known as the Pioneer Corps and the Royal Pioneer Corps were formed and trained in Ilfracombe.
37	MDV104271	American Road, Northam Burrows	Extant Structure	Metalled track known locally as the American Road.
38	MDV118618	Union Building, 7 Atlantic Way, Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Nineteenth century workingman's club.
39	MDV34055	Former Sports Ground	Documentary	Sports ground shown on 20th century map now built over
40	MDV55670	Second World War military depot or workshop	Documentary	Probable military workshops or stores recorded on RAF 1946 ap. Area now occupied by ridgeway drive housing development and before this a caravan park.
41	MDV80763	96 Bay View Road, Northam	Extant Structure	96 Bay View Road, Northam. Application to add this building to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
42	MDV107376	Midden at Westward Ho!	Environmental	A kitchen midden overlaying estuarine clay is located at Westward Ho!. Uncalibrated date; 6585 ± 130 BP, calibrated date 4635 ± 130 BC
43	MDV107377	Midden at Westward Ho!	Environmental	A midden discovered at Westward Ho!
44	MDV107427	Peat Deposit at Westward Ho!	Environmental	A peat deposit located at Westward Ho!.
45	MDV107429	Peat Deposit at Westward Ho!	Environmental	A peat bed was exposed by exceptional storms in March 1970.
46	MDV30183	Buckleigh Quarry	Documentary	Large but overgrown quarry. Shown on 6" OS map 1975
47	MDV32719	Reservoir, Northam	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932
48	MDV32722	Quarry, Northam	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932. Quarry (disused) shown on 1975 OS 6" map.
49	MDV32723	Reservoir, Northam	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932
50	MDV32724	Reservoir, Northam	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932
51	MDV32727	Cricket Ground, Westward Ho!	Documentary	Recreation ground shown on OS 6" map 1932, Cricket ground shown on OS 6" map 1975.
52	MDV32731	Reservoir, Buckleigh, Northam	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932
53	MDV32732	Sports Ground, Buckleigh, Northam	Documentary	Sports ground shown on 1933 OS 6" map. Built on after property sold in 1975.
54	MDV32733	Buckleigh Place		'Buckleigh Place' shown on OS 6" (1975) map. Former 'school' was the junior school for the united services college at Westward Ho! which was the one Kipling attended. Later converted into holiday camp before demolition/construction of flats.
55	MDV32734	Reservoir, Westward Ho!	Documentary	Shown on OS 6" map 1932
56	MDV34054	Wind Pump south of Buckleigh, Northam	Documentary	Windpump shown on OS 6" map 1932
57	MDV57765	ROUTE MARKER NON SPECIFIC in the Parish of Northam	Documentary	Guidepost marked on 6" OS map 1932.
58	MDV57766	Northam, Coastguard Station	Documentary	Site of Coastguard Station.
59	MDV58099	Wooden Wreck, Northam	Extant Structure	Site of the smaller of two wooden wrecks which lies 570 yards due north of the base of the slipway.
60	MDV59277	Whalebone Harpoon from Westward Ho! Beach		Baleen whalebone harpoon found on Westward Ho! Beach was initially thought to be associated with mesolithic deposits but may be post medieval in date, associated with a wreck.
61	MDV63741	Wooden Wreck at Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Wooden wreck visible above the clay and sand at low tides.
62	MDV63743	Wooden wreck at Westward Ho!	Extant Structure	Wooden wreck visible above the clay and sand at low tides.
63	MDV71573	Westward Ho!, Peat Deposit	Environmental	Fragmentary outcrops of peat only exposed at very low water at Westward Ho!

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64	MDV102163	Possible enclosure, Westward Ho!	Earthwork	Subtle curvilinear earthworks are visible on aerial photographs of 1975 overlooking the slopes of Stanwell Hill, Westward Ho! The earthworks may be the remains of a small sub-circular enclosure or platform of unknown date.
65	MDV102445	Peat deposits, Westward Ho!	Environmental	Organic deposits exposed by the shifting sands on the beach at Westward Ho!, are visible in varying degrees on aerial photographs from the 1940s onwards.
66	MDV102445	Peat deposits, Westward Ho!	Environmental	Organic deposits exposed by the shifting sands on the beach at Westward Ho!, are visible in varying degrees on aerial photographs from the 1940s onwards.
67	MDV102445	Peat deposits, Westward Ho!	Environmental	Organic deposits exposed by the shifting sands on the beach at Westward Ho!, are visible in varying degrees on aerial photographs from the 1940s onwards.
68	MDV113797	Archaeological Features, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam, Bideford	Extant Structure	Archaeological investigations have identified a large number of features, many of which are associated to field boundaries, field tracks, enclosures and field systems.
69	MDV113799	Archaeological Features, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam, Bideford	Extant Structure	Archaeological investigations have recorded a number of features, which may be associated with large pits or natural deposits.
70	MDV118687	Quarry, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam	Extant Structure	Archaeological evaluation identified features relating to quarrying on land at Daddon Hill, Northam.
71	MDV32725	Commons Convent, Northam	Documentary	Site of a convent now occupied by Dolphin Court.
72	MDV43861	Rock Outcrops at Kipling Tors, Northam	Natural Feature	Natural features incorrectly identified as a barrow cemetery.



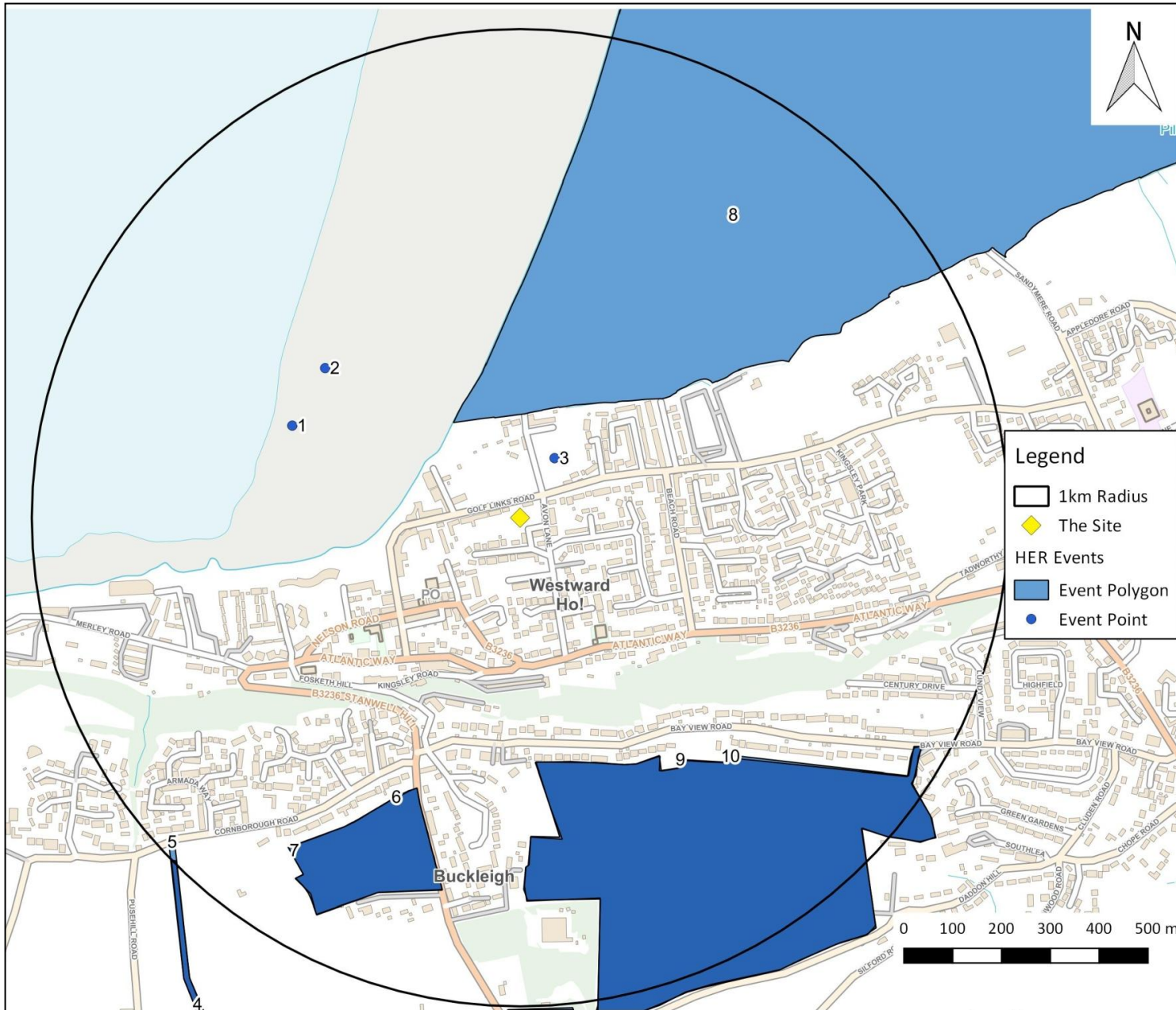


FIGURE 8: EVENT RECORDS IN THE DEVON HER WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE, WITH ADDITIONAL SITE FROM SWARCH RECORDS (SOURCE DEVON HER)

TABLE 3: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENT RECORDS IN DEVON HER WITH ADDITIONAL SITE FROM SWARCH RECORDS

No	HER No	Event	Details
1	EDV4758	Find of Neolithic Pottery at Westward Ho!	Sherd of Peterborough ware found on beach at Westward Ho!
2	EDV6709	Radiocarbon Sampling of Various Prehistoric Features on Westward Ho! Beach	Radiocarbon samples from waterlogged wood recovered from beach surface, charcoal recovered from upper part of Mesolithic midden, peat sealing the midden, charcoal from a gully cut into the lower blue clay and from the blue clay itself, charcoal from the lower part of the midden and from the upper 10cm of blue clay, waterlogged wood taken from a line of stakes on the foreshore, and animal bones recovered from an extensive midden-like deposit within the silted up estuarine channels produced dates between 8th millennium BC and 6th century AD. Locations are imprecise.
3	Not in HER	Evaluation Trenching at Land off Pebble Ridge Road	Ten evaluation trenches were excavated in 2014-15. These encountered a series of stone lined land drains with medieval and post medieval pottery. Modern ceramic drains were also identified
4	EDV4697	Assessment of South West Water Moorhead to Cornborough Water Main, North Devon	Assessment of documentary and cartographic sources for the area either side of the proposed pipeline route.
5	EDV4698	Watching Brief Along South West Water Moorhead to Cornborough Water Main, North Devon	The route of the pipeline was observed during topsoil stripping, and features encountered were recorded in section. Exeter Archaeology 2000
6	EDV5896	Geophysical Survey at Buckleigh Road, Westward Ho!	Gradiometer survey over 4.5 hectares of pasture identified a number of anomalies characterised as possible archaeological origin.
7	EDV6154	Trench Evaluation, Land at Buckleigh Road, Westward Ho! Devon	A total of four trenches was excavated with a combined length of 120m. These were positioned to target potential archaeological anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey. A number of linear features were identified probably relating to medieval and post-medieval land division. A single piece of prehistoric flint from a trench spoil heap and a sherd of medieval pottery from a ditch was recovered.
8	EDV6518	Archaeological Survey of Northam Burrows	An archaeological survey of Northam Burrows was carried out to inform future management. A total of 27 heritage assets were previously recorded and the survey identified a further seven sites. Of these 34 assets, remains of 24 were located, and a written record, accompanied by sketches where necessary was prepared using pro forma survey sheets.
9	EDV6871	Geophysical Survey, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam, Bideford	Geophysical survey undertaken in advance of a proposed development. 131 magnetic anomaly groups were identified as possibly representing archaeological deposits or features. Two of these groups could represent Prehistoric archaeological deposits in the form of ring-ditches or round-houses.
10	EDV7214	Evaluation, Land at Daddon Hill Farm, Northam	The evaluation has revealed the presence of a number of certain and possible archaeological features.

### 3.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The archaeological monitoring was carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018; and comprised the excavation of four trial pits, each 1.70m long and 0.45m wide by JCB with back actor to a depth of up to 2.15m as percolation tests. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with ClfA guidelines.

No archaeological features were identified; the excavations identifying a consistent stratigraphy of topsoil layers over subsoil and natural (Figure 8). What follows is a summary of each trial pit with finds noted where they occur; see Appendix 1 for detailed context descriptions; Appendix 2 for full finds concordance; and Appendix 3 for a set of baseline photographs.



FIGURE 9: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF THE TRIAL PITS.

#### 3.2 TRIAL-PIT 01

Trial-pit 01 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the evaluated area and measured 1.70m long on a north-west to south-east alignment and was excavated to a depth of 2m (Figure 9). The stratigraphy comprised: compacted friable mid grey-brown sand-silt topsoil/turf (100) c.0.10m thick; over a compacted friable mid yellow-brown lower topsoil (101), c.0.37m thick; a compacted friable mid yellow-brown clay-silt-sand subsoil (102), c.0.73m thick; and the stony mid green-grey-yellow soft clay natural (103). No features were identified within this trial-pit and no finds were recovered.

### 3.3 TRIAL-PIT 02

Trial-pit 02 was located towards the centre of the evaluated area and measured 1.70m long on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and was excavated to a depth of 2.10m (Figure 9). The stratigraphy comprised: compacted friable mid grey-brown sand-silt topsoil/turf (200) c.0.14m thick; over a compacted friable mid yellow-brown lower topsoil (201), c.0.30m thick; a compacted friable mid yellow-brown clay-silt-sand subsoil (202), c.0.96m thick; and the stony mid green-grey-yellow soft clay natural (203). No features were identified within the trial-pit. Finds recovered from this trial-pit included: one flint flake from subsoil (202).

### 3.4 TRIAL-PIT 03

Trial-pit 03 was located towards the centre of the southern evaluation area boundary and measured 1.70m long on an approximate east to west alignment and was excavated to a depth of 0.72m (Figure 9). The stratigraphy comprised: compacted friable mid grey-brown sand-silt topsoil/turf (300) c.0.13m thick; over a compacted friable mid yellow-brown lower topsoil (301), c.0.25m thick; a compacted friable mid yellow-brown clay-silt-sand subsoil (302), c.0.34m thick; and the stony mid green-grey-yellow soft clay natural (303). No features were identified within the trial-pit. Finds recovered from this trial-pit included: one flint flake and one sherd of post-medieval pottery from lower topsoil (301).

### 3.5 TRIAL-PIT 04

Trial-pit 04 was located centrally towards the western boundary of the evaluated area and measured 1.70m long on a north-east to south-west alignment and was excavated to a depth of 2.15m (Figure 9). The stratigraphy comprised: compacted friable mid grey-brown sand-silt topsoil/turf (400) c.0.15m thick; over a compacted friable mid yellow-brown lower topsoil (401), c.0.20m thick; a compacted friable mid yellow-brown clay-silt-sand subsoil (402), c.0.65m thick; and the stony mid green-grey-yellow soft clay natural (403). No features were identified within this trial-pit and no finds were recovered.

### 3.6 FINDS

A very small assemblage of finds was recovered during the trial-pitting, including: one flint flake (34g) from subsoil (202); and one flint flake (18g), and one sherd (9g) of post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century?) pottery from lower topsoil (301).

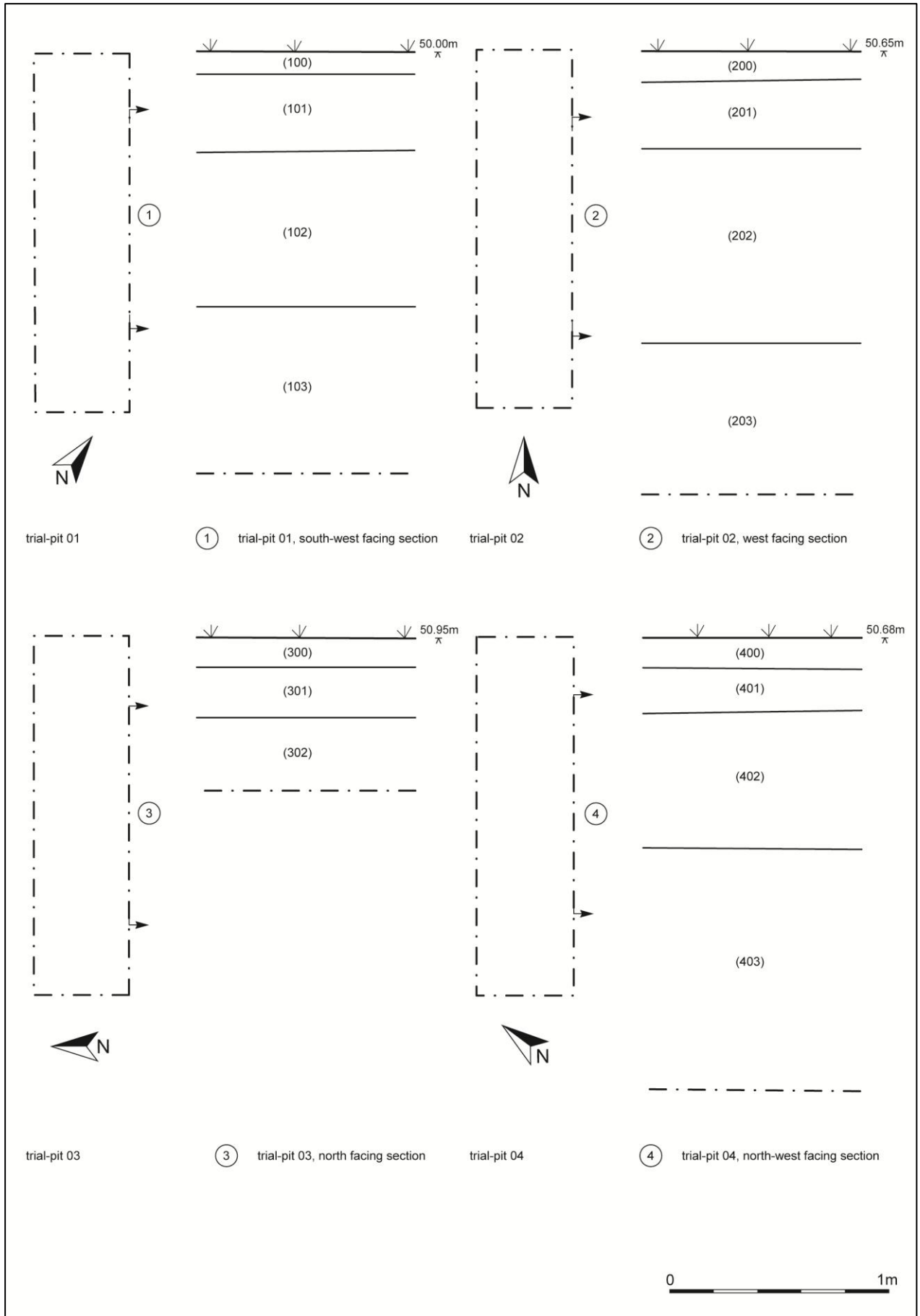


FIGURE 10: SITE PLANS AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50M AOD.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

The brief desk-based assessment identified that there is high potential for archaeological remains to be present on the proposal site, an extensive and important area of Mesolithic deposits having been identified at the southern end of Westward Ho! beach to the north of the site. These deposits are of particular significance as they are the only surviving remnant of a wetland occupation site dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC in South West England. It is listed in the English Heritage inventory of *Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage* (2013), which describes it as of national importance. There is potential for these deposits to extend inland as far as the application site; especially given the identification of further midden deposits on land to the east (MDV107376) and the recovery of lithic artefacts from the proposal site during the trial-pitting. However, parts of the site, particularly along the northern and southern boundaries, are likely to have been heavily disturbed due to the former railway running across the site.

The archaeological monitoring identified a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the whole evaluation area, comprising: topsoil layers overlying a sandy subsoil and the natural clay. Whilst no features were identified within the trial-pits, the presence a flint flake within the subsoil of trial-pit 02 indicates prehistoric activity on the site; a further flint flake within the lower topsoil of trial-pit 03 alongside 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery indicate that this had been disturbed by later agricultural use of the land.

### 4.2 CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring at Westward Ho! tennis courts did not identify any archaeological features, though lithic artefacts were recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers.

Given the site's proximity to known important Mesolithic archaeology and its survival in part as undeveloped agricultural land there is relatively high potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description	Relationships	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
<b>Trial-pit 01</b>					
(100)	Layer	Topsoil/turf - mid grey-brown compacted friable sand-silt.	Overlies (101); same as (200), (300), (400)	0.10m thick	Modern
(101)	Layer	Lower topsoil - mid yellow-brown compacted friable-loose sand-silt.	Overlain by (100); overlies (102); same as (201), (301), (401)	0.37m thick	Post-medieval / modern
(102)	Layer	Subsoil - mid yellow-brown friable clay-silt-sand.	Overlain by (101); overlies (103); same as (202), (302), (402)	0.73m thick	-
(103)	Natural	Natural – mid green-grey-yellow soft clay with dark red-brown friable silt-clay and occasional sub-angular large stone.	Overlain by (102); same as (203), (303), (403)	0.80+m thick	-
<b>Trial-pit 02</b>					
(200)	Layer	Topsoil/turf - mid grey-brown compacted friable sand-silt.	Overlies (201); same as (100), (300), (400)	0.14m thick	Modern
(201)	Layer	Lower topsoil - mid yellow-brown compacted friable-loose sand-silt.	Overlain by (200); overlies (202); same as (101), (301), (401)	0.30m thick	Post-medieval / modern
(202)	Layer	Subsoil - mid yellow-brown friable clay-silt-sand.	Overlain by (201); overlies (203); same as (102), (302), (402)	0.96m thick	-
(203)	Natural	Natural – mid green-grey-yellow soft clay with dark red-brown friable silt-clay and occasional sub-angular large stone.	Overlain by (202); same as (103), (303), (403)	0.72+m thick	-
<b>Trial-pit 03</b>					
(300)	Layer	Topsoil/turf - mid grey-brown compacted friable sand-silt.	Overlies (301); same as (100), (200), (400)	0.13m thick	Modern
(301)	Layer	Lower topsoil - mid yellow-brown compacted friable-loose sand-silt.	Overlain by (300); overlies (302); same as (101), (201), (401)	0.25m thick	Post-medieval / modern
(302)	Layer	Subsoil - mid yellow-brown friable clay-silt-sand.	Overlain by (301); overlies (303); same	0.34m thick	-



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			as (102), (202), (402)		
(303)	Natural	Natural – mid green-grey-yellow soft clay with dark red-brown friable silt-clay and occasional sub-angular large stone.	Overlain by (301); same as (103), (203), (403)	-	-
Trial-pit 04					
(400)	Layer	Topsoil/turf - mid grey-brown compacted friable sand-silt.	Overlies (401); same as (100), (200), (300)	0.15m thick	Modern
(401)	Layer	Lower topsoil - mid yellow-brown compacted friable-loose sand-silt.	Overlain by (400); overlies (402); same as (101), (201), (301)	0.20m thick	Post-medieval / modern
(402)	Layer	Subsoil - mid yellow-brown friable clay-silt-sand.	Overlain by (401); overlies (403); same as (102), (202), (302)	0.65m thick	-
(403)	Natural	Natural – mid green-grey-yellow soft clay with dark red-brown friable silt-clay and occasional sub-angular large stone.	Overlain by (402); same as (103), (203), (303)	1.15+m thick	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Notes	POTTERY			LITHICS			DATE
		Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
(202)					1	34g	Pebble flint flake. Broken. Probable core preparation flake	Prehistoric
(301)	Possible 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	9g	North Devon gravel free. Body sherd	1	18g	Pebble flint flake. Broken. Possible core preparation flake	Prehistoric

APPENDIX 3: EVALUATION SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. GENERAL SITE VIEW; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



2. TRIAL-PIT 01, SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



3. TRIAL-PIT 02, WEST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



4. TRIAL-PIT 03, NORTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



5. TRIAL-PIT 04, NORTH-WEST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



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