

BANTHAM HAM, BANTHAM THURLESTONE SOUTH HAMS DEVON

Results of Archaeological Test Pitting



South West Archaeology Ltd. Report no. 190809



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Bantham Ham, Bantham, Thurlestone, South Hams, Devon Results of Archaeological Test-Pitting

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for the landowner (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of two areas of Bantham Ham, in advance of an agri-environment scheme of wildlife enhancement works. The programme of sampling via ten test pits was designed to record the thickness of the topsoil/subsoil, and to identify the presence of any archaeological features in order to inform proposed topsoil stripping works on the site.

This is the first known intrusive archaeological intervention to be undertaken on the Ham. The evaluation fulfilled its principal objective and determined that the soils on the site were shallow and wholly natural, synonymous with grazed coastal heath with episodic bracken and scrub interludes. Wind-blown sand was present beneath the topsoil to a depth of at least 0.50m within 50m of the cliff edge but became increasingly thin, only 0.10m being present 80m east of the cliff edge. From there to the eastern test pit c.135m east of the cliff edge, only a thin topsoil was present with a natural stony clay subsoil beneath.

The secondary objective of the work – to use this opportunity to explore the potential archaeology of the site – was disappointing. No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches and a large purple slate slab visible on the surface and investigated by TP 09 was not associated with any identifiable structure or feature, so its origins (e.g. rubbing post, boundary marker) remains unexplained.



August 2019

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CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	3
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i>	4
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 SITE LOCATION	5
1.3 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.5 METHODOLOGY	8
2.0 TEST PIT RESULTS	10
2.1 INTRODUCTION	10
2.2 TEST PITS	10
2.3 DEPOSIT MODEL	15
2.4 FINDS	17
2.5 DISCUSSION	17
3.0 CONCLUSIONS	18
3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS	18
4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	19

LIST OF FIGURES

COVER PLATE: PLAN OF THE TEST PITS ON THE HAM (DCHET).

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP.	8
FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE TEST PITS LOCATIONS. BURIED SAND DEPOSITS WERE PRESENT WITHIN TEST PITS 1, 2, 8, 9 AND 10.	9
FIGURE 3: TEST PIT 01, GENERAL VIEW FROM SOUTH-EAST (2M & 1M SCALES). ENTIRELY IN BLOWN SAND, WITH BRACKEN RHIZOMES.	11
FIGURE 4: TEST PIT 05, SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF THE SONDAGE, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).	12
FIGURE 5: TEST PIT 07, VIEW FROM EAST SHOWING SILT LOAM WITH SHILLET FRAGMENTS (701) (1M SCALE).	13
FIGURE 6: TEST PIT 09, WEST END WITH DISTURBED SLATE SLAB (908), VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALES).	14
FIGURE 7: TEST PIT 10; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).	15
FIGURE 8: DEPOSIT MODEL BASED ON TRANSECT ACROSS TEST PITS 1,2, 4, 6 AND 7.	16

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EVALUATION	20
APPENDIX 2: WSI	26
APPENDIX 3: CONTEXTS	35
APPENDIX 4: FINDS CONCORDANCE	37
APPENDIX 5: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF THE TEST PITS	38
APPENDIX 6: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE	43

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND AT BANTHAM HAM, BANTHAM
PARISH:	THURLESTONE
DISTRICT:	SOUTH HAMS
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	SX 66262 43960
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER:	N/A
SWARCH REF:	BET19
OASIS REF:	SOUTHWES1-357100

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by the landowner (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of two areas of Bantham Ham, in advance of an agri-environment scheme of wildlife enhancement works. The programme of sampling via ten test pits was designed to record the thickness of the topsoil/subsoil, and to identify the archaeological potential of the area in order to inform proposed topsoil stripping works on the site.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located c.500m west of the village of Bantham, on a low promontory projecting north into the River Avon; with Bantham Beach immediately to the south-east of the site. Access to the site was via a track running from Bantham, with entry restricted by the Bantham estate. The test pits were located in cleared areas, with much of the rest of the promontory still covered by scrub.

1.3 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bantham Ham is a distinctive low peninsula of mature sand dune and rock; its northern and north-eastern part covered by a mix of thorny scrub, bracken and short turf, with marram grass near the cliff edge, especially on the west. It lies at the northern end of the popular Bantham beach and is bordered on the west by the sea, and on the east and north by the River Avon's estuary mouth. To the south of this scrubland area lies an area of heaped dunes, to some extent actively mobile, with occasional narrow ridges of sand extending into the scrub to its east and a grassed carpark to the south-east. Further to the south, the dunes are lower and more overgrown; this zone terminates at the south side of a valley which drains from the east. To the south-east of the dune area, the carpark slopes down gently to a level marsh, filling the valley bottom and extending eastwards from the southern dune area for about 600m to a point just south of the present Bantham Village, which lies to the east of the Ham.

The site of the 2019 evaluation trenches lies in the central-southern part of the Ham, north of the main dune area at an altitude of c.9m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying soils are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association, which overlie the slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group (SSEW 1983), but variable quantities of wind-blown sand of Recent date overlie the site. Excavated evidence suggests that this was already present by the early 1st millennium AD and had quite probably been occurring for some considerable time previously.

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The northern end of the Ham has no statutory protection, but lies immediately adjacent to a large Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref: SM1019322) containing a range of nationally important

archaeological remains, principally a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site, which has had limited development related excavation and field observation.

Bantham Ham was first recognised as containing archaeological remains in the mid-19th century, large amounts of cattle bones being found when the former coastal lagoon to the south-east was drained for agriculture (Fox 1864, 132-33). Two early 20th century writers referred to an earthwork 'camp' approximately on the site occupied by the dunes today (Elliott 1901 and Jenkins 1902). Finds made at this time were dated to the later Prehistoric and Roman period and on this evidence the central dune area was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1922. It was not until 1955 that Lady Aileen Fox correctly identified the early 20th century finds as being post-Roman in date.

A small excavation in 1981 of eroding material in the centre of the dunes found post-Roman occupation structures and artefacts (Silvester 1982), but the majority of recent work has concentrated on the southern end of the dune area at the top of the beach. In 1982, a wooden culvert, probably inserted in the mid-19th century to drain the marsh behind, failed, and a deep trench was dug to replace it with a pipe. Salvage recording at the time (as excavation of the trench was not archaeologically monitored) produced bone and shell material, small amounts of ceramics and a hearth; the latter produced a C14 date range within the 3rd to 7th centuries AD, (later calibrated to AD 420-780). Another date from bone produced a date of AD 130-540 (Griffith 1986).

In 1997 (Griffith & Reed 1998), the monitoring of a soakaway trench in the car park to the south-east of the dunes revealed earthwork banks of a square or sub-rectangular defensive enclosure, faced with bands of coursed and herring-bone drystone walling. This was indirectly associated with Roman-period ceramics of the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. A redeposited shell midden in the same area conversely produced a C14 date from c.1375 to 945 cal BC, providing evidence for much earlier occupation at the site, supported by earlier finds of flint tools and a polished stone axe of Baltic pattern (Elliott 1901, 477; Jenkins 1902, 20, II). Fieldwork by the present author (Waterhouse 1999) for English Heritage revealed the presence of another stone-faced bank at surface a little to the north of the 1997 work; this and consideration of all the other reported finds since the mid-19th century, resulted in the Scheduled Monument area being greatly extended.

In 2001 the lifeguard's hut at the southern end of the beach was reconstructed. Archaeological excavations in advance of this (Reed, Bidwell & Allan 2007) produced deeply stratified deposits, C14 dated to the late 5th to early 6th centuries AD, comprising occupation layers containing post built structures, smithing hearths and several thousand artefacts (including imported Mediterranean pottery, glass, worked and unworked bone, shell, charcoal and charred plant macrofossils). Painted plaster was present in hillwash deposits above these deposits, suggesting the former presence of a Roman building on the hillside above.

The site has most recently been interpreted as a possible coastal feasting and trading post, but the current evidence is patchy and archaeological deposits and artefacts have been found both close to the surface and deeply buried, reflecting the dynamic coastal environment of the sand dune area.

The Scheduling text reads:

This monument includes a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site with evidence for earlier and later occupation, buried by sand dunes at the mouth of the River Avon. It lies behind a popular holiday beach, and part of its car park occupies the site. Bantham Ham has been known as an early settlement since the early 18th century, when a storm exposed midden deposits, while in the mid-19th century, cartloads of bones were taken for fertiliser from the marsh on the south side of the site, then being drained. Timber piles, pointed by burning, were also found here. Pottery and bone

artefacts collected from the dune area in 1902 were found in the 1950s to be of Late Roman or post-Roman date. These included spindle whorls, bone combs and amphora sherds, dating from the fifth to seventh centuries AD. An archaeological excavation in the centre of the dunes in 1978 found evidence for a temporary encampment of the same period with rough shelters and hearths. Finds suggested that a seasonal trading market had operated here at that time. A watching brief in 1982 showed that this occupation extended to the southern edge of the dunes. Monitoring of pipe trenches in the car park east of the dunes in 1997 revealed two earthwork banks, faced with coursed and herring-bone clay bonded masonry. A shell midden was associated with these walls and pottery sherds suggested a fourth to fifth century date. A rescue excavation in 2001 on the site of a lifeguard's hut at the south end of the beach revealed extensive and well-preserved deeply stratified deposits of the late 5th to early 6th century AD. These included several superimposed occupation layers containing iron smithing hearths, evidence for post built structures and many thousands of artefacts. These included butchered animal bones, metal pins and blades and pottery, comprising Cornish native wares, imported amphorae from the eastern Mediterranean and north African red slipped tablewares. Residual material in these layers included painted plaster and roofing tiles, suggesting the existence of an earlier Roman building nearby. Other finds on Bantham Ham during the 19th century include a Neolithic polished stone axe, Bronze Age arrowheads and Iron Age pottery. Later medieval and post-medieval finds are also known, including possible burials of shipwrecked sailors. A small number of earthworks survive on the Ham. An earth bank runs along the south side of a metalled road which bounds the north side of the car park. This is 3.2m wide by 0.7m high and 70m long, being truncated by later roads at both ends. There are traces of a revetment wall along its north side, 0.7m wide. Its position and size suggest that it is related to the Late Roman period banks found in 1997, immediately to its south. Other earthworks include a later medieval corn ditch, enclosing fields to the east of the Ham. This is about 3m wide, revetted on its north and west sides by a coursed drystone wall about 1.5m high. The bank slopes inwards behind this wall. The hillslope north of the car park contains a number of medieval lynchets, terraced into the hillslope. At the extreme southern edge of the dunes, the lifeguard station mentioned above is built upon a World War II pillbox. The pillbox is a square structure of cast concrete partly built into the cliff, and measures about 6m square by 2.5m high, with walls about 1m thick. A single gun embrasure faces west onto the beach. It was complemented by a second pillbox at the north west corner of the dunes which has since been removed. The modern lifeguard station built upon a World War II pillbox is excluded from the scheduling although the pillbox and the ground beneath it are included. Also excluded from the scheduling are all road surfacing and fence posts although the ground beneath these features is included (Waterhouse 1999 & Anon. 2002).

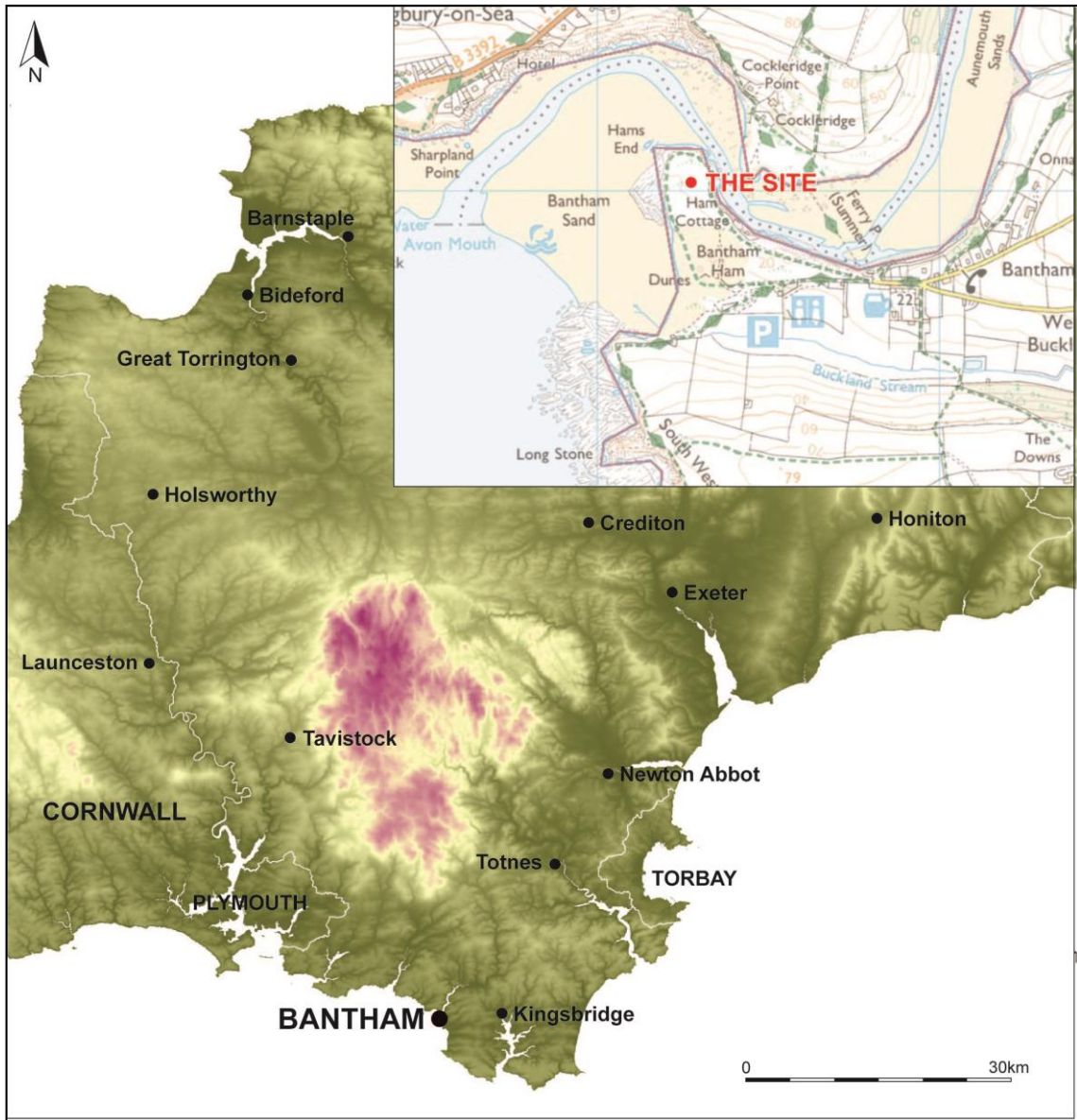


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring and recording were conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019). The schedule of work it proposes was drawn up in consultation with Cressida Whitton at DCHET. These documents *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2015) and best practice. The archaeological works in this instance aims to determine the archaeological potential of this area and broadly to determine the presence or absence-, extent, date, condition and complexity of archaeological remains within the site and to ensure the preservation by record of any encountered archaeological deposits or remains in accordance with current industry standards and best practice.

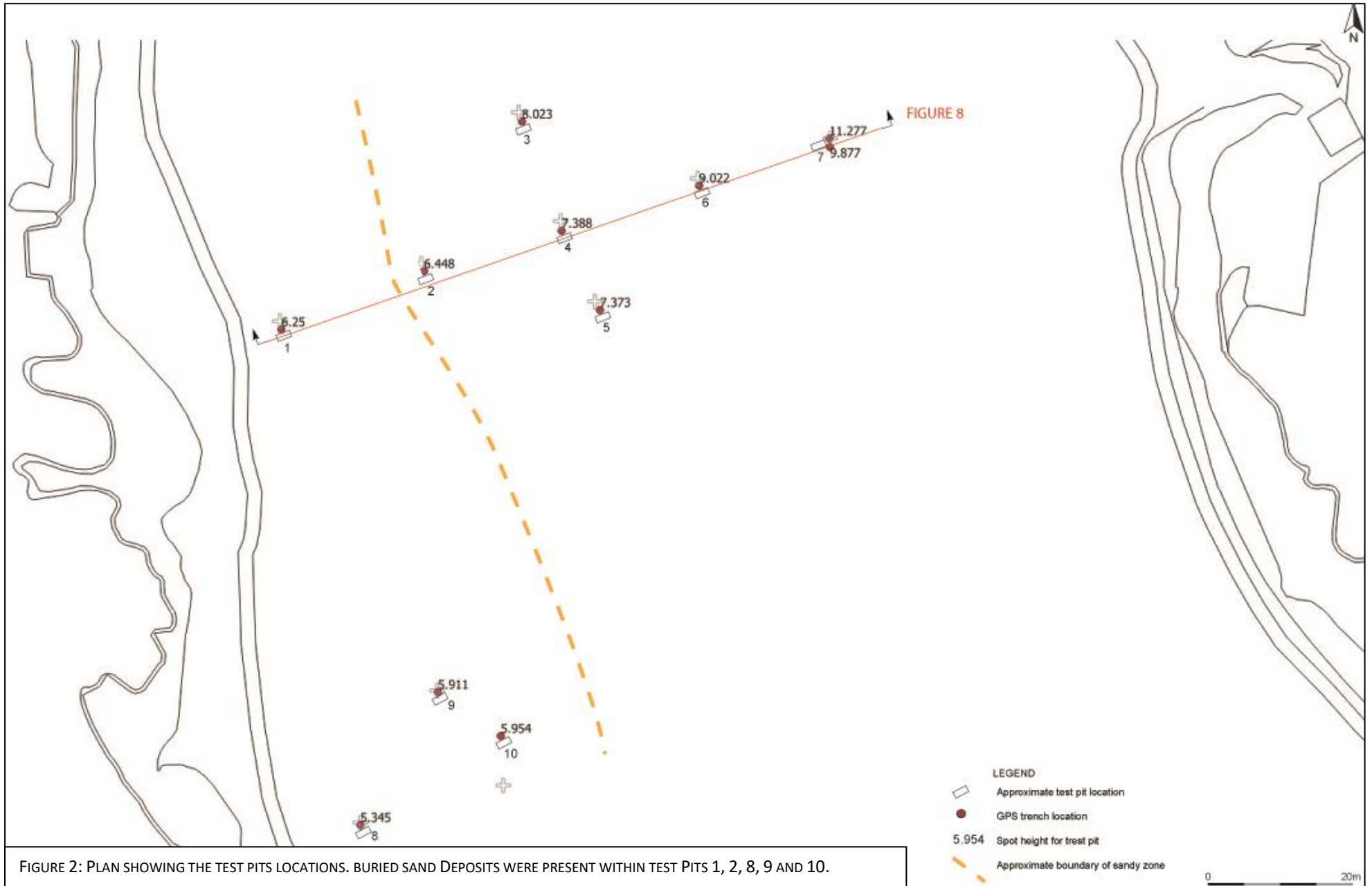


FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE TEST PITS LOCATIONS. BURIED SAND DEPOSITS WERE PRESENT WITHIN TEST PITS 1, 2, 8, 9 AND 10.

2.0 TEST PIT RESULTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The work was undertaken on the 24th and 25th July 2019, with at least two members of staff on site, with a volunteer assisting. The weather was mostly clear and dry whilst on site. The test pits 01 to 07 were located to gain an understanding of the site stratigraphy and strategic sample of the northern cleared area; with test pits 08 to 10 doing the same for the southern cleared area, as well as investigating a stone present partially above ground level. The test pits were excavated by hand and recorded before being backfilled. The test pits were laid out by tape and located using a Leica GPS and a Leica electronic theodolite (see Figure 3). The relevant illustrations for the test pits can be seen in Appendix 4.

2.2 TEST PITS

Ten hand-dug test pits, each approximately 1m north-south by 2m east-west, were opened across the site. In the northern area, Test Pits 01, 02, 04, 06 & 07 were located at 25m intervals on an approximately east-west alignment from a point 40m east of the cliff edge, with Test Pits 03 & 05 being 20m to the north and south of Test Pit 04. In the southern area, Test Pits 9 & 10 were placed 25m apart on an east-west alignment with Test Pit 10, located c.25m from the cliff edge. Test Pit 8 was 20m north of Test Pit 9.

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. 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 & SOMETIMES 3	TOTAL DEPTH	FINDS	NOTES
1	0.12-0.17m	0.24-0.25m	>0.12m	0.48m	x1, mod. rubber	
2	0.10-0.16m	0.16-0.23m	>0.20m	0.51m	None	
3	0.15-0.18m	0.11-0.14m	>0.20m	0.49m	None	
4	0.12-0.16m	0.10-0.20m	>0.25m	0.49m	None	
5	0.17-0.19m	0.14-0.15m	>0.20m	0.52m	1x chert flake 1x quartz pebble	
6	0.11-0.17m	0.18-0.19m	>0.09m	0.44m	None	Bedrock at bottom
7	0.07-0.12m	0.08-0.10m	0.19-0.24m	0.41m	None	Bedrock at bottom
8	0.16-0.19m	0.13-0.14m	>0.28m	0.58m	Modern plastic, Modern glass Barb wire	
9	0.04-0.12m	0.10-0.31m	>0.34m	0.55m	x1 bone x1 stone	
10	0.12-0.16m	0.16-0.17m	>0.23m	0.55m	Plastic frags	

Although the brief required for each sondage to be excavated to 0.50m below ground level, this depth was not reached in every case, due to the extremely hard and stony lower subsoil encountered in some of the test pits. In TP07, bedrock was encountered at 0.41m below ground level, and it was considered to be immediately beneath the 0.44m reached in TP06. In TP01 and TPs 08-10, the top of the natural subsoil was not seen, the 'subsoils' described being layers of blown sand. In the nearby cliff face, only 2m-3.5m to their west, can be seen a layer of blown sand up to 1.3m in depth, above a thin layer of stony subsoil on shattered bedrock. The lack of

evidence for blown sand extending more than 80m east of the cliff edge is interesting, as it shows that the dunes never extended a great distance inland from it.

The thin topsoil shows that the area has never been subject to regular ploughing, but evidence for bracken rhizomes (some ancient; others current) in the form of disturbed layer horizons, dark lenses and occasional roots was seen in TP02 and TP09, the latter displaying random dark stains into its lowest horizons, showing that vegetation has probably been colonising these areas of blown sand deposits for some centuries.

2.2.1 TEST PIT 01

A light to mid-brown silty sandy topsoil (100) lay over a light brown silty sand subsoil with reddish-yellow tints (101), heavily disturbed by root systems of bracken and marram grass. A number of land snail shells were present. This faded into a light reddish-brown sand (102) of aeolian origin, containing many land snails' shells, and continuing below the limit of excavation.



FIGURE 3: TEST PIT 01, GENERAL VIEW FROM SOUTH-EAST (2M & 1M SCALES). ENTIRELY IN BLOWN SAND, WITH BRACKEN RHIZOMES.

2.2.2 TEST PIT 02

A grey-brown fine sandy topsoil (200) with occasional land snail shells, lay over a light or grey-brown packed sandy silt subsoil (201) with occasional stones of up to 10mm in size. Several root pipes and hollows were observed, leading down from (200) into (201), in one case piercing natural subsoil (202) below. These are interpreted as being caused by bracken rhizomes. Subsoil (202) comprised a light reddish-brown clay silt with frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm. A thin lens of finer silt lay at its upper edge but is interpreted as part of this context.

2.2.3 TEST PIT 03

A grey-brown fine sandy topsoil (300) with occasional land snail shells, lay over a light or grey-brown packed sandy silt subsoil (301) with occasional stones of up to 10mm in size. Subsoil (302) comprised a light reddish-brown clay silt with frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.

2.2.4 TEST PIT 04

A grey-brown fine sandy topsoil (400) with occasional land snail shells, lay over a light or grey-brown packed sandy silt subsoil (401) with occasional stones of up to 10mm in size. Subsoil (402) comprised a light reddish-brown clay silt with frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.

2.2.5 TEST PIT 05

A grey-brown fine sandy topsoil (500) with occasional land snail shells, lay over a light or grey-brown packed sandy silt subsoil (501) with occasional stones of up to 10mm in size. Subsoil (502) comprised a light reddish-brown clay silt with frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.



FIGURE 4: TEST PIT 05, SOUTH-FACING SECTION OF THE SONDAGE, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

2.2.6 TEST PIT 06

A grey-brown fine sandy topsoil (600) with occasional land snail shells, lay over a light or grey-brown packed sandy silt subsoil (601) with occasional stones of up to 10mm in size. Subsoil (602) comprised a light reddish-brown clay silt with frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm. A Natural frost-shattered shillet bedrock, with occasional white quartz veins (603), was present in the bottom of the sondage.

2.2.7 TEST PIT 07

The easternmost of the pits in the northern area, this was sited c.30m south-west of a raised natural rock outcrop which forms the highest point on the northern part of the Ham. The soil was very thin here, with bedrock rather closer than to surface than in any of the other pits.

The topsoil (700) was a firm friable reddish-yellow silt-clay loam, with occasional to rare shillet fragments, up to 23mm in size. This overlay a greyish yellow silt loam (701), with occasional to common shillet fragments. Beneath this was a firm slightly reddish-yellow silt clay (702), with common shillet fragments, overlying the natural (703). No finds were recovered.



FIGURE 5: TEST PIT 07, VIEW FROM EAST SHOWING SILT LOAM WITH SHILLET FRAGMENTS (701) (1M SCALE).

2.2.8 TEST PIT 08

A sandy topsoil (800) overlay a dirty grey sand (801) which contained a fragment of modern plastic, showing it be of modern date. Beneath was a clean, slightly reddish-yellow aeolian sand (802). All layers contained copious quantities of land snail shells.

2.2.9 TEST PIT 09

A dirty brown sandy topsoil (900) overlaid a complex sequence of sand lenses, disordered by the effects of bracken rhizomes. Yellowy loose sand (901), (905) & (907) is considered to be disturbed natural blown sand, derived from natural sand (903) below, but it is interspersed with dark grey organic sand lenses and root pipes (902), (904) & (906). In the sondage, a firmer, moister yellow-red sand (903) clearly underlay (902), but the interface between these dipped below the limit of excavation towards the eastern end of the trench.

The large purple slate slab (908) at the south-west corner of the trench was seen to have been recently forced downwards into layers (900), (901) and (902), with grass stems being carried down with it. The stone was presumably tipped up when the southern area was mown for the first time in Autumn 2018, but its point of origin was not seen in Test Pit 09. Small fragments of purple slate were however found in the upper parts of natural blown sand (903) near the west

end of the test pit, suggesting that the stone was partly above ground in the immediate vicinity at the time this layer was formed.



FIGURE 6: TEST PIT 09, WEST END WITH DISTURBED SLATE SLAB (908), VIEWED FROM THE EAST. NOTE DARKER ROOT PIPE ON LEFT, PART OF BRACKEN RHIZOME LAYER (902) IN YELLOW-RED NATURAL SAND (903) (1M SCALES).

2.2.10 TEST PIT 10

A dirty brown sandy silt topsoil (1000) overlay a light grey sandy silt (1001). This was probably derived from a fine soft grey sand (1002) which lay beneath, but whose colour suggested a more organic content, perhaps derived from plant roots. The undisturbed slightly reddish-yellow windblown sand (1003) beneath contained many land snail shells.



FIGURE 7: TEST PIT 10; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, SHOWING ITS PROXIMITY TO THE FENCED CLIFF EDGE. NOTE THE LOW RELICT SAND DUNE BENEATH THE GRASS & BRACKEN BEHIND THE TEST PIT. THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER AVON IS UNDER THE CLIFF BEYOND (1M SCALE).

2.3 DEPOSIT MODEL

Table 1 (2.2) lists the depths and ranges of the various contexts across the site. The sequence is fairly consistent between the various trenches. Blown sand of various colours covered by thin sandy topsoils were encountered in TP01, TP08, TP09 & TP10, none of which reached natural subsoil or bedrock at their limits of excavation. The topsoil and upper subsoil in TP02 were sand-rich, overlying a clay silt subsoil with no sand, while TPs 03, 05, 06 and 07 only had sand in their topsoils, overlying upper subsoils of greyish-yellow silt loam with occasional to common small shillet and quartz fragments.

Their lower subsoils were slightly reddish yellow silt-clay with increasing amounts of shillet and quartz as the trenches gained in depth. In TP07, the natural was reached beneath these at 0.41m below surface, while it was also present immediately beneath the 0.44m limit of excavation in TP06.

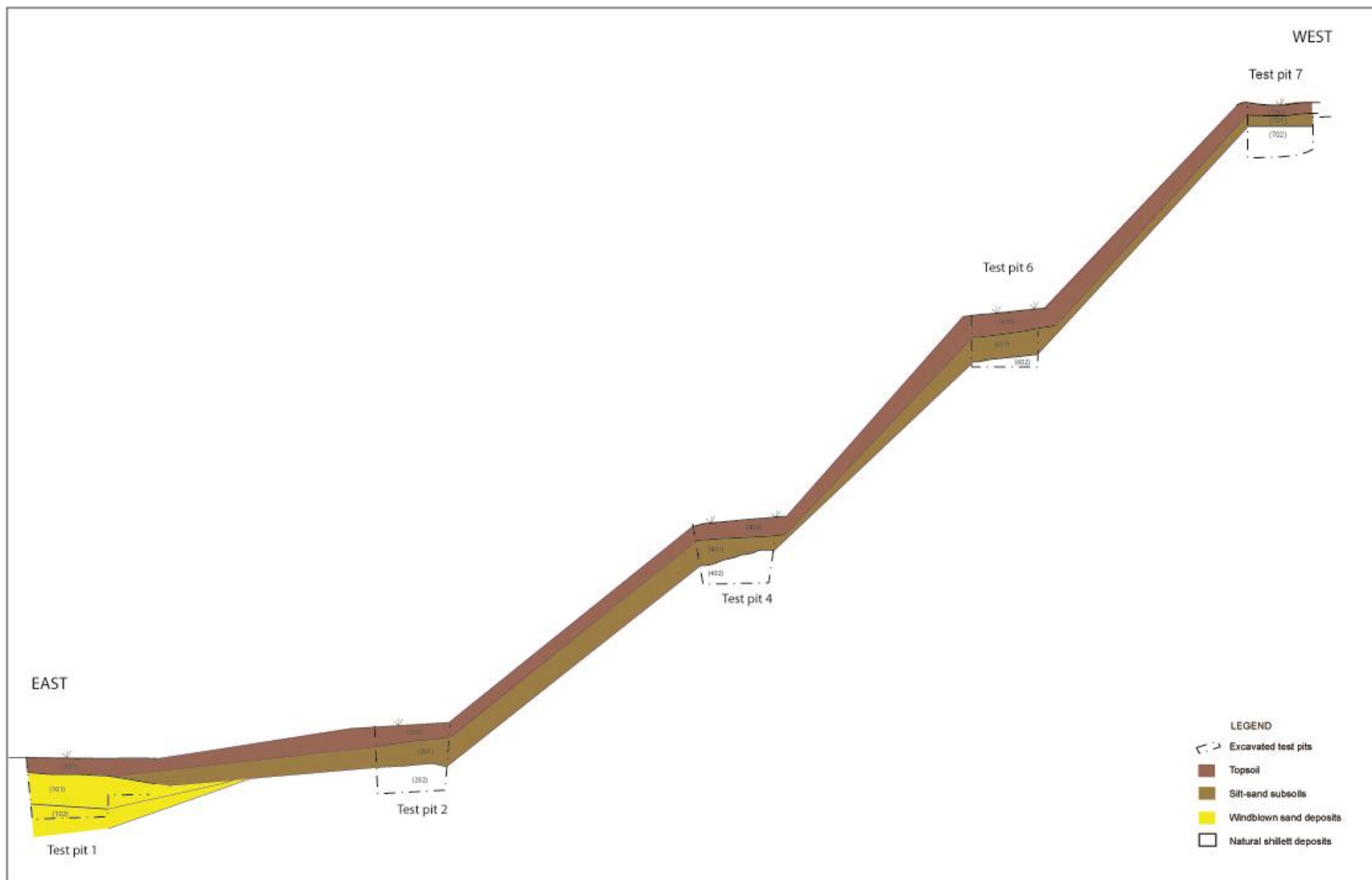


FIGURE 8: DEPOSIT MODEL BASED ON TRANSECT ACROSS TEST PITS 1,2, 4, 6 AND 7. SCALES HAVE BEEN COMPRESSED FOR VISUAL CLARITY.

2.4 FINDS

Only a very small number of finds were recovered, perhaps due to the sampling strategy employed (see Appendix 2), although as no definite man-made features were seen in excavation, this is not unexpected. The 20th century assemblage (all found in the vicinity of the test pits) included a short length of barbed wire and two brass cartridge cases; these probably date from the Second World War period, when there is known to have been military activity at Bantham, including anti-tank measures and two pillboxes at either end of the dunes. More modern finds included broken glass bottles, metal drinks can ring-pulls, a rubber shoe sole and a steel fishing hook. The assemblage also included 1 very small poor quality chert core, 8g; and 1x white quartz pebble, 14g). A few c.1cm to 3cm sea-worn pebbles were seen in the northern area.

No finds of any Roman or post-Roman ceramics, bone, shell or other materials were made; it is therefore assumed that the area examined never saw such activity.

2.5 DISCUSSION

The principal purpose of this evaluation was to determine the depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site in order to create a deposit model to inform the proposed topsoil stripping. In addition to this functional purpose it represented an opportunity to determine whether any archaeological features or deposits were present there.

Although the stratigraphic sequence was easily identified, no archaeological features were found in any of the test pits. This and the thin soils encountered reduces the likelihood that any archaeology is present on the Ham, although the percentage sampled was very small and it is not known what lies beneath the aeolian sand seen in Test Pits 1 and 8-10.

The very small amount of worked chert, is consistent with the 'background noise' of human activity in the Neolithic to early Bronze Age; but cannot be used to argue for anything more than an irregular human presence during the fourth to second millennia BC. The entire lack of Roman and post-Roman material culture – in fact any man-made artefacts older than the 20th century – tends to suggest that the Ham was never part of Bantham's principal human activities in those periods and indeed over much of its history. Instead, the lack of archaeological features and the thin topsoil and upper subsoil seen in Test Pits 2-7 suggests that the Ham has never been regularly ploughed and was probably used for stock grazing in the periods for which trading activities on the beach to the south are known, as well as in the more recent past.

The extent of aeolian sand was shown to have a lesser extent than previously thought, with overspill of thicker layers of sand from the dunes to the south and the cliff edge to the west, tailing off rapidly when moving away from their sources. In one case (Test Pit 01) a low dune mound could be seen, while other mounded features now covered with vegetation can be seen in the vicinity and may also be relict dunes. The possibility that the area of Test Pits 02-07 represents a formerly sand-covered area denuded by a historical storm event cannot be discounted and may explain the presence of occasional waterworn pebbles seen at surface during the site work. While these may have been dropped by children in the recent past, they are not close to any path.

This is likely to have a bearing on how much topsoil will need to be stripped from the areas sampled for the agri-environmental scheme.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has fulfilled the principal objective of the work. It has determined that the soils covering the site are shallow, appear to be of natural origin, and have developed through long-term grazing, with light periodic dustings of aeolian sand. Only in the immediate vicinity of the western sea cliff and towards the large dune system to the south do these sands become thicker and are thus likely to represent long-term dune formation. The large quantities of land snail shells encountered in these sands are of types common to marram grass on dune systems.

The secondary objective of the work – to use this opportunity to explore the archaeological potential of the site – would suggest that the potential is low. With the exception of the large slate slab in Test Pit 09, which was shown to have been disturbed in the recent past, no archaeological features or structures were identified as a result of this exercise.

The work appears to demonstrate that the northern area was never a part of the temporary occupation of the post-Roman trading port, instead having been used for rough grazing over many centuries and potentially millennia. An occasional human presence in the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, c.4500BC – c.1600BC is demonstrated by a very light scatter of flint and chert debitage.

The southern area was engulfed by aeolian sand at an unknown date and contained no artefacts other than a rabbit femur and sternum from Test Pit 09.

Although the large purple slate slab there was shown to have been moved in the recent past, evidence for its presence in this location for some time previously was shown by the presence of small fragments from it in natural aeolian sand (903), 0.27m from surface. This suggests that it was at surface, if not upright, in the immediate vicinity. The stone is geologically alien to its current location (the underlying slate is dark grey-blue), probably having been brought from the cliffs at the southern end of the beach, 400m to the south-south-west, although the steep cliffs a similar distance to the north-west are composed of the same material. Although its function as a prehistoric menhir cannot be discounted, it is much more likely that it is of more recent date, perhaps a post-medieval boundary stone or sea mark?

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1.1 NORTHERN AREA:

There appear to be no archaeological reasons why the proposed stripping cannot take place over much of this area, but it is noted that aeolian sand was only seen in its western third, so this will prevent the majority of the area being stripped back to an underlying sand, as there isn't one!

3.1.2 SOUTHERN AREA:

There appear to be no archaeological sensitivities here. The thickness of sand cover means that the proposed surface stripping could probably be carried out without issues over the whole of the cleared area.

Given the finds of nationally important archaeological remains on various parts of Bantham Ham, it is recommended that all stripping works or other sub-surface disturbances on these two areas and other parts of the property which lie close to the Scheduled area are monitored, possibly through a programmed watching brief.

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APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EVALUATION

Specification for a programme of Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

(REVISED 6TH November 2018)

Introduction:

This specification, prepared by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (HET), sets out the scope of the archaeological works required during wildlife enhancement works for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) at Bantham Ham. As part of the Bantham Land Management Plan (Figure 26) for this agri-environment scheme, two former mature scrub areas, are proposed for shallow litter/soil removal to a depth of 15-20 cm. The work will be carried out by a digger machine fitted with a grading bucket. In advance of this wildlife enhancement work, a test pit archaeological evaluation programme will be carried out. If significant archaeological features and deposits are found as part of the evaluation, the amount of litter/soil stripping may be reduced and/or avoided in the area of significant archaeology. If, following discussion with the HER stripping continues in some areas, it is likely that archaeological monitoring and recording will be required, which will be subject to a separate specification.

Bantham Ham is a distinctive peninsular of mature sand dune and rock, marking the northern end of Bantham beach. The northern end of the Ham is not scheduled but lies adjacent to a large area of Scheduled Monument (ref: 1019322) containing a range of nationally important archaeological sites, including principally a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site, which has had limited development related excavation. For example in 1997 (Griffith & Reed, 1997, 1998 & 2000), the monitoring of pipe trench in car park revealed two earthwork banks, faced with stone and a shell midden and later a rescue excavation on the site of the former lifeguard's hut, revealed deeply stratified deposits of the late C5th to early C6th century AD, including occupation layers containing post built structures, smithing hearths and several thousand artefacts (including imported pottery and bone pins). The site has most recently been interpreted as a possible coastal feasting and trading post, but the current evidence is patchy and archaeological deposits and artefacts have been found both close to the surface and deeply buried, reflecting the dynamic coastal environment of the sand dune area.

A site walkover of the two recently mowed areas has already been carried out by C. Whitton of the HET during a visit in February 2019. The areas had about 40% bare ground visibility and produced no archaeological artefacts, except a single bullet (probable WWII origin) and two unworked flints on the northern boundary (SX66224403) of the larger mowed area. In the smaller mowed area, a large schist stone (SX6624443944) which is marked on the attached test pit plans, had been exposed during the initial mowing. Preliminary checks suggest that the stone, which is not recorded on the Devon HER, has a possible worked base, but may also be natural in origin and should be investigated further as part of the test pit evaluation. A test pit has therefore been located over the stone. However, it is not proposed to remove the stone, only to investigate it as part of the test pit longitudinal section, and the test pit will later be infilled and stabilised, so that the stone is not further dislodged from its 'in situ' position. Investigation of any archaeological features, artefacts or deposits associated with the stone, may reveal if there is any association to significant archaeology contained within the Scheduled Monument area, whose northern boundary lies approximately 25m to the south of the stone. Another possible archaeological feature on the northern boundary of the SM, and just within the southern boundary of the smaller mowed area, is a broad, E-W oriented linear earthwork bank. The earthwork is relatively shallow and will not be investigated by test pit or disturbed by the soil/litter stripping, but the archaeological contractor should be aware of its presence on the ground and it's approximate location is marked 'bank', on the attached test pit plan.

The principal objective of the test pit evaluation programme will be to assess the archaeological potential of the two wildlife enhancement areas in advance of litter/soil stripping, through hand excavation of up to 10 small test pits. (2m x 1m). The latter will be laid out in two cross – transects within the two (currently) mowed areas on Bantham Ham intended for litter/soil stripping (see attached test pit plan (with alternate backgrounds of an Aerial Photograph 2015-17 and Devon Historic Environment Record (HER)). Each test pit will be hand-excavated to the level of intended litter/soil stripping (approx. 15-20 cm, but can be verified on site), but an additional deeper slit trench (50cm width) will also be excavated in the corner of the longitudinal section of each test pit (to a depth of 50cm) in order to investigate the presence of any changes at depth in sand dune layering, which might be archaeological in nature (e.g. buried soils) and/or contain artefacts or have environmental potential (e.g. presence of charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, molluscs or bone). A deposit model for each N-S and E- W transect, will be created from the slit trench sections within each test pit. The Deposit Model profile will provide information which may help to inform future scrub and wildlife management within the Countryside Stewardship scheme, as well as, help identify if there is potential for significant archaeological features and/or deposits within the currently unscheduled Ham peninsula, which is located adjacent to the north of a large Scheduled Monument Area (red hatched on mapping), containing significant prehistoric archaeology.

If artefacts or archaeological features/deposits are revealed in the test pit archaeological evaluation, the archaeological significance will be investigated by hand-cleaning of the test pit. In discussion with HET, a decision will then be made with regard to whether further excavation/evaluation is needed prior to litter/ soil stripping and if widespread/significant archaeology sites are likely. Based on the latter a decision will be made as to whether stripping can continue in the area. Any archaeological, artefacts, features and/or deposits exposed in test pits will be recorded and excavated in accordance with the methods described in section * (below).

Written Scheme of Investigation

This specification sets out the scope of archaeological works required and will form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be prepared by the archaeological consultant.

The Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted by the applicant or on their behalf by their agent or archaeological consultant and approved by the HET so that test pit archaeological evaluation may commence, and any archaeological evaluation work be completed on site, prior to any soil stripping. Depending on the archaeological potential revealed by test pit evaluation, monitoring of the wider stripping within the two mowed areas, may be carried out in consultation with the HET, but will be subject to a separate archaeological specification and WSI

The Written Scheme of Investigation must reference the collecting museum's accession number and the [OASIS](#) (Online Access to

the Index of archaeological investigations) identification number.

The Programme of Archaeological Work

Desk-based research:

An element of desk-based research will be required to inform the archaeological fieldwork and enable finds and features identified to be understood in their context. This work will need to be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork commencing.

Guidance will be provided by the HET on a site by site basis on the appropriate level of desk-based work that is required for a particular scheme.

As a minimum the desk-based research must take the form of an archaeological appraisal of the site to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER, as well as of archaeological reports on investigations undertaken in the vicinity.

Please note that the Historic Environment Record (HER) information that the Historic Environment Team (HET) make available online via Heritage Gateway and Devon County Council's Environmental Viewer are not 'live' datasets and so do not contain the most up to date HER information. Use of these for commercial purposes is not a substitute for requesting HER information from the HET. The HER contains the most up-to-date record of Devon's historic environment. The HET are also aware of information that has yet to be accessioned to the HER or is not otherwise publicly available. The HET can assist in accessing this material, which may be held at the HER or in the Devon Heritage Centre.

If reports are submitted without this reference number and no request for HER data from the Historic Environment Team has been made, then acceptance of the report by the Historic Environment Team is likely to be delayed or possibly refused.

Fieldwork – Test Pits transects x 2 and Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks:

Each test pit will be hand-excavated to the level of intended litter/soil stripping (approx. 15-20 cm, but can be verified on site), but an additional deeper slit trench (50cm width) will also be excavated in the corner of the longitudinal section of each test pit (to a depth of 50cm) in order to investigate the presence of any changes at depth in sand dune layering, which might be archaeological in nature (eg buried soils) and/or contain artefacts or have environmental potential (eg presence of charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, molluscs or bone). Significant archaeological features, if identified in the test pit evaluation, may be associated with the adjacent SM Bantham prehistoric settlement and further excavation/ soil stripping should be halted and avoided where feasible. Preservation of significant archaeological features/deposits in situ is the preferred option, where localised soil stripping can be avoided. Excavation of significant archaeological features (Section 3 below) will only be carried out in agreement with the HET.

A deposit model for each N-S and E- W transect, will be created from the deeper slit trench sections within each test pit. The deposit model profile will provide information which may help to inform future scrub and wildlife management within the Countryside Stewardship scheme, as well as, help identify if there is potential for significant archaeological features and/or deposits within the currently unscheduled Ham peninsula, which is located adjacent to the north of a large Scheduled Monument Area (red hatched on mapping), containing significant prehistoric archaeology.

Methodology:

Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and will be fully recorded by context. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit or feature to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. As a minimum:

- small discrete features will be fully excavated
- larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- long linear features will be sample excavated along their length – usually a 10% sample – with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.

Where excavation has been agreed with the HET (see Section 1 above), any variation of the above methodology will be undertaken only with agreement of the HET.

Fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' [Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief](#).

Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts and should be scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of metal objects. Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeo-environmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project must be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeo-environmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits – if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidance in [Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation](#).

There should be provision within the project organisation for the site attendance of specialists who can advise on sampling strategies for the recovery of palaeo-environmental information and with regard to specialist dating techniques, such as archaeomagnetic and OSL dating.

In the event of particularly significant discoveries or of the exposure of complex or deeply stratified archaeological deposits, the HET will be informed, and a site meeting will be arranged between the consultant, the HET and the client/applicant to determine the appropriate mitigation.

An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately sized scale. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. Digital images taken during the course of the fieldwork will form part of the digital archive to be submitted and curated by

the ADS – see archive section below. The drawn and written record must be on an appropriately archivable medium. Where human remains are encountered, their excavation and removal will only be undertaken on receipt of the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. Any consents or licenses required will be obtained on behalf of the client by the archaeological contractor. The District Coroner will be informed immediately.

Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

The results of the desk-based work and a copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation must be made available to the archaeological site director/supervisor to enable their adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and to ensure that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

Monitoring By The Historic Environment Team:

The archaeological consultant **will give two weeks' notice** to the HET, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork to enable monitoring of the fieldwork by the HET. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.

The archaeological consultant undertaking the fieldwork will notify the HET upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.

Reporting:

The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HET on completion of the site work. In the event that few or no archaeological remains are exposed, only minimal reporting would be required. The results may be presented in the form of a short entry to the Historic Environment Record (HER), sent to the HET digitally in an agreed format. However, if archaeological deposits or remains are exposed during the course of the works, then more detailed reporting will be required. This would take the form of an illustrated summary report submitted digitally and, if merited, wider publication.

Upon completion of the fieldwork and required post-excavation analysis an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined in section D above.

The report will include:

- a summary of the project's background;
- description and illustration of the site location;
- a methodology of the works undertaken;
- include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- a description of the project's results;
- an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map;
- a deposit model of E-W and N-S test pit transects for each mowed area showing the longitudinal profile and depth of natural and (any) archaeological sediments.
- A plan showing the location of the areas subject to the archaeological work and the exposed features and deposits in relation to the site boundaries;
- detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recorded, along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the site and features/deposits in relation to north and the location of section drawings. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeo-environmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeo-environmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- site matrices where appropriate;
- photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- a summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken;
- an evaluation of the methodology employed, and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating).

It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HET for comment prior to its formal submission to the Planning Authority. The timetable for the production of the report must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The HET would expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork – dependent upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc. the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated, then the HET must be informed of this and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HET and the archaeological consultant. If a substantial delay is anticipated, then an interim report must be produced within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, a digital copy of the report shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Team – in a format to be agreed in advance with the HET – on the understanding that it will in future be made

available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.

The archaeological consultant shall complete an online [OASIS](#) (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include the uploading of a digital version of the report. The report or short entry will also include the OASIS ID number.

Publication:

Where the exposure of archaeological, artefactual or palaeo-environmental remains is limited or of little significance the production of a summary report will follow on directly from the field work – see section D above. However, should particularly significant archaeological or palaeo-environmental remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HET.

Post Excavation Assessment, Analysis and Project Designs for publication:

Prior to the publication of the results of a programme of archaeological work a post-excavation assessment report and project design for publication will need to be produced and agreed with the HET. This will set out the scope of the post-excavation tasks to be undertaken as well as the timetable for undertaking this work. This will be required where excavations reveal archaeological evidence that is of sufficient interest and significance to warrant wider public dissemination. This will usually consist of publication in the Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society. However, for some sites it will involve publication in more specialist archaeological journals or as a stand-alone monograph or a popular publication.

Significant archaeological sites are likely to yield important information through specialist assessment and analysis of the site stratigraphy, artefact assemblages, palaeo-environmental deposits, etc. This assessment work will be undertaken and reported on in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design. This document may also fulfil the role of an interim report if a substantial publication delay is expected.

Where publication is deemed necessary this post excavation design document will be produced by the archaeological consultant within three months of completion of the fieldwork – specialist input allowing – and agreed with the HET. It will include:

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

Personnel:

The work must be carried out by a recognised archaeological consultant, agreed with the HET. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a specified Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA), or by a specified person of equivalent standing and expertise. The Written Scheme of Investigation will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works – excavation and post-excavation.

Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

Conflict with Other Conditions and Statutorily Protected Species:

If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological consultant then it is the consultant's responsibility – in consultation with the applicant or agent – to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted, and they should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

Deposition of Archive and Finds:

Completion of the project is dependent on the compilation of an ordered and integrated project archive by the archaeological consultant in accordance with this Specification and with [Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment \(MoRPHE\)](#). The archive must also be transferred for long-term curation to a recognised, accredited or trusted repository. An archive is defined as "all records and materials recovered during an archaeological project and identified for long term preservation, including artefacts, ecofacts and other environmental remains, waste products, scientific samples and also written and visual documentation in paper, film and digital form" ([ARCHES](#)).

The Archaeology Data Service advises that "Good data management from the very beginning of a project can be key to its success and makes preserving data and preparing it for deposit with ADS much easier". The Written Scheme of Investigation must include reference to the archaeological contractor's Data Management Plan.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital – the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies made of the primary site records and images. See section 9.7 below with regard to disposal of the primary hardcopy records.

The Written Scheme of Investigation must set out a timetable for the deposition of the site archive. The HET would normally expect this to be completed within six months of completion of the fieldwork element of the project.

Deposition of the archive:

As part of the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation or Project Design the archaeological consultant shall contact the relevant collecting museum to obtain a reference number and agree conditions for deposition of the material (finds) archive. The reference number must be quoted in the WSI and within the final report to the Historic Environment Record. If a museum accession or reference number cannot be quoted in the WSI, for whatever reason, the WSI should state the date on which the collecting museum was contacted to obtain the accession or reference number.

The collecting museums in Devon (Royal Albert Memorial Museum Exeter, Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon and Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery) require that the digital archive (consisting of born-digital and digital copies of relevant written and drawn data produced during fieldwork) must be transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository (see 'Deposition of the digital archive' – below) rather than the museum (see below).

The archaeological consultant will therefore need to make appropriate digital copies of all hardcopy elements of the site record (see below).

There is no requirement for the archaeological consultant to prepare an archive for fieldwork projects that do not expose deposits of archaeological interest and yield little or no artefactual material. The condition in these cases will be considered as discharged upon receipt of the report and completion of the OASIS entry.

The Material (Finds) Archive:

Items in the material archive must be cleaned (or otherwise appropriately treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards of the relevant museum. It is advised that early consultation with the museum will facilitate transfer of the material archive.

Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum – in a manner to be agreed with the museum – and within a timetable to be agreed with the HET. The composition of the archive shall conform to the collecting museum's accession guidelines for depositing archaeological material. The acceptance of an archive by the museum will be in accordance with the museum's accession/collection policies and early consultation with the relevant collecting museum is advised. The museum accession number must be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

The archaeological consultant must, on behalf of the museum, obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive to the receiving museum. It is preferable for this agreement to be made at the earliest possible stage following assessment after data-collection. It is not advisable to wait until the archive has been compiled before obtaining transfer of title.

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

Deposition of the Digital Archive:

The digital archive will consist of:

- all born-digital data (images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and
- digital copies made of all other relevant written and drawn data produced and/or collected during fieldwork – i.e. the primary record comprising context records and indices, sample sheets and indices, finds records and indices, site drawings – earthwork surveys, sections and plans, as well as relevant sketches or notes that aid the interpretation and understanding of the site and its recording, any relevant information undertaken as part of the post-excavation assessment or analysis, etc.

Digital archive must be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository and thus made publicly accessible, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2018). It is understood that the only suitable repository for digital archaeological archive is the [Archaeology Data Service \(ADS\)](#). Digital archive must be compiled in accordance with the [ADS Guidelines for Depositors](#). [Guidance on the Selection of Material for Deposit and Archive](#) is also available.

It is expected that a licence to copyright for documentary material, in both physical and digital forms, will be given to the receiving repository. This must be stated within the Written Scheme of Investigation, which should also identify the recipients of each element of the documentary archive.

Disposal of the primary hardcopy records:

The collecting museum may wish to retain the hardcopy archive to accompany the artefactual material. (For example: where the programme of archaeological works involves the investigation and analysis of regionally/nationally significant archaeological and/or artefactual deposits). In all cases the archaeological consultant must first offer the primary paper record archive to the museum prior to its disposal.

Once the digital archive has been transferred to the appropriate Trusted Digital Repository and the museum has confirmed that this has occurred satisfactorily and that they do not require the hardcopy archive, the archaeological consultant may retain, disperse or dispose of the primary hardcopy items as they see fit. Items may be retained for curation by the consultant, developer or applicant, or offered to a third-party organisation for public use or as a teaching resource. The WSI should state how primary hardcopy items will be treated.

Where the collecting museum does not require the hardcopy element disposal may mean physical destruction of the primary record. The WSI should state the proposed disposal method to be employed.

The archaeological consultant must notify the HET upon the completion of:

- deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and
- deposition of the material (finds) archive with the museum.

Public Outreach:

Should these excavations expose significant archaeological or artefactual deposits then the archaeological consultant should consider, with the developer or their agent, whether a programme of public outreach should be implemented. This may take a variety of forms, from the provision of notice boards on the site boundary with information on the site and the on-going results of the archaeological excavations, the preparation of press releases, through to public open day(s) and talks to local interested organisations. While the cost for undertaking such outreach is borne by the applicant/agent, in certain circumstances the HET may be able to offer assistance in any outreach undertaken.

APPENDIX 2: WSI

1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND AT BANTHAM HAM, BANTHAM
PARISH:	THURLESTONE
DISTRICT:	SOUTH HAMS
COUNTY:	DEVON
CENTROID NGR:	SX 66262 43960
OASIS NUMBER:	southwes1-357100

1.1. PROJECT SCOPE

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for land at Bantham Ham, Thurlestone, Devon just outside of a Scheduled Monument Area. It has been produced by South West Archaeology Ltd (SWARCH) on behalf of the Bantham Estate (the Client). It sets out the methodology for the archaeological works to be undertaken, and for related off-site analyses and reporting. This WSI was drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

1.2. PLANNING CONTEXT

This work is not being undertaken within a formal planning context. The work is being carried out as part of wildlife enhancement works for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Land Management Plan at Bantham Ham.

1.3. PUBLIC AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT¹

1.4.1. Social benefit can arise through learning and development, and community strength and local identity can be enhanced through contact with the historic environment.

1.4.2. Social benefit also arises from the net contribution to human knowledge (the *research dividend*) made by investigative works.

1.4.3. Economic benefit can arise from the regeneration of historic places, leading to the revitalisation of communities and neighbourhoods. Archaeology can make a meaningful contribution to place-making, which in turn enhances the image of a place and makes it a more desirable place in which to live.

1.4.4. Economic benefit can also arise from beneficial publicity, particularly through outreach, but also via public appreciation of due corporate diligence and care for the historic environment.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**2.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Bantham Ham is a distinctive peninsular of mature sand dune and rock, marking the northern end of Bantham beach. The northern end of the Ham is not scheduled, but lies adjacent to a large area of Scheduled Monument (ref: 1019322) containing a range of nationally important archaeological sites, including principally a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site, which has had limited development related excavation. For example in 1997 (Griffith & Reed, 1997, 1998 & 2000), the monitoring of pipe trench in car park revealed two earthwork banks, faced with stone and a shell midden and later a rescue excavation on the site of the former lifeguard's hut, revealed deeply stratified deposits of the late C5th to early C6th century AD, including occupation layers containing post built structures, smithing hearths and several thousand artefacts (including imported pottery and bone pins). The site has most recently been interpreted as a possible coastal feasting and trading post, but the current evidence is patchy and archaeological deposits and artefacts have been found both close to the surface and deeply buried, reflecting the dynamic coastal environment of the sand dune area².

The Scheduling text reads:

This monument includes a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site with evidence for earlier and later occupation, buried by sand dunes at the mouth of the River Avon. It lies behind a popular holiday beach, and part of its car park occupies the site. Bantham Ham has been known as an early settlement since the early 18th century, when a storm exposed midden deposits, while in the mid-19th century, cartloads of bones were taken for fertiliser from the marsh on the south side of the site, then being drained. Timber piles, pointed by burning, were also found here. Pottery and bone artefacts collected from the dune area in 1902 were found in the 1950s to be of Late Roman or post-Roman date. These included spindle whorls, bone combs and amphora sherds, dating from the fifth to seventh centuries AD. An archaeological excavation in the centre of the dunes in 1978 found evidence for a temporary encampment of the same period with rough shelters and hearths. Finds suggested that a seasonal trading market had operated here at that time. A watching brief in 1982 showed that this occupation extended to the southern edge of the dunes. Monitoring of pipe trenches in the car park east of the dunes in 1997 revealed two earthwork banks, faced with coursed and herring-bone clay bonded masonry. A shell midden was associated with these walls and pottery sherds suggested a fourth to fifth century date. A rescue excavation in 2001 on the site of a lifeguard's hut at the south end of the beach revealed extensive and well-preserved deeply stratified deposits of the late 5th to early 6th century AD. These included several superimposed occupation layers containing iron smithing hearths, evidence for post built structures and many thousands of artefacts. These included butchered animal bones, metal pins and blades and pottery, comprising Cornish native wares, imported amphorae from the eastern Mediterranean and north African red slipped tablewares. Residual

¹ CfA 2015: *Professional Archaeology: a guide for clients*.

² Specification for a programme of Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation (DCHET).

material in these layers included painted plaster and roofing tiles, suggesting the existence of an earlier Roman building nearby. Other finds on Bantham Ham during the 19th century include a Neolithic polished stone axe, Bronze Age arrowheads and Iron Age pottery. Later medieval and post-medieval finds are also known, including possible burials of shipwrecked sailors. A small number of earthworks survive on the Ham. An earth bank runs along the south side of a metalled road which bounds the north side of the car park. This is 3.2m wide by 0.7m high and 70m long, being truncated by later roads at both ends. There are traces of a revetment wall along its north side, 0.7m wide. Its position and size suggest that it is related to the Late Roman period banks found in 1997, immediately to its south. Other earthworks include a later medieval corn ditch, enclosing fields to the east of the Ham. This is about 3m wide, revetted on its north and west sides by a coursed drystone wall about 1.5m high. The bank slopes inwards behind this wall. The hillslope north of the car park contains a number of medieval lynchets, terraced into the hillslope. At the extreme southern edge of the dunes, the lifeguard station mentioned above is built upon a World War II pillbox. The pillbox is a square structure of cast concrete partly built into the cliff, and measures about 6m square by 2.5m high, with walls about 1m thick. A single gun embrasure faces west onto the beach. It was complemented by a second pillbox at the north west corner of the dunes which has since been removed. The modern lifeguard station built upon a World War II pillbox is excluded from the scheduling although the pillbox and the ground beneath it are included. Also excluded from the scheduling are all road surfacings and fence posts although the ground beneath these features is included.

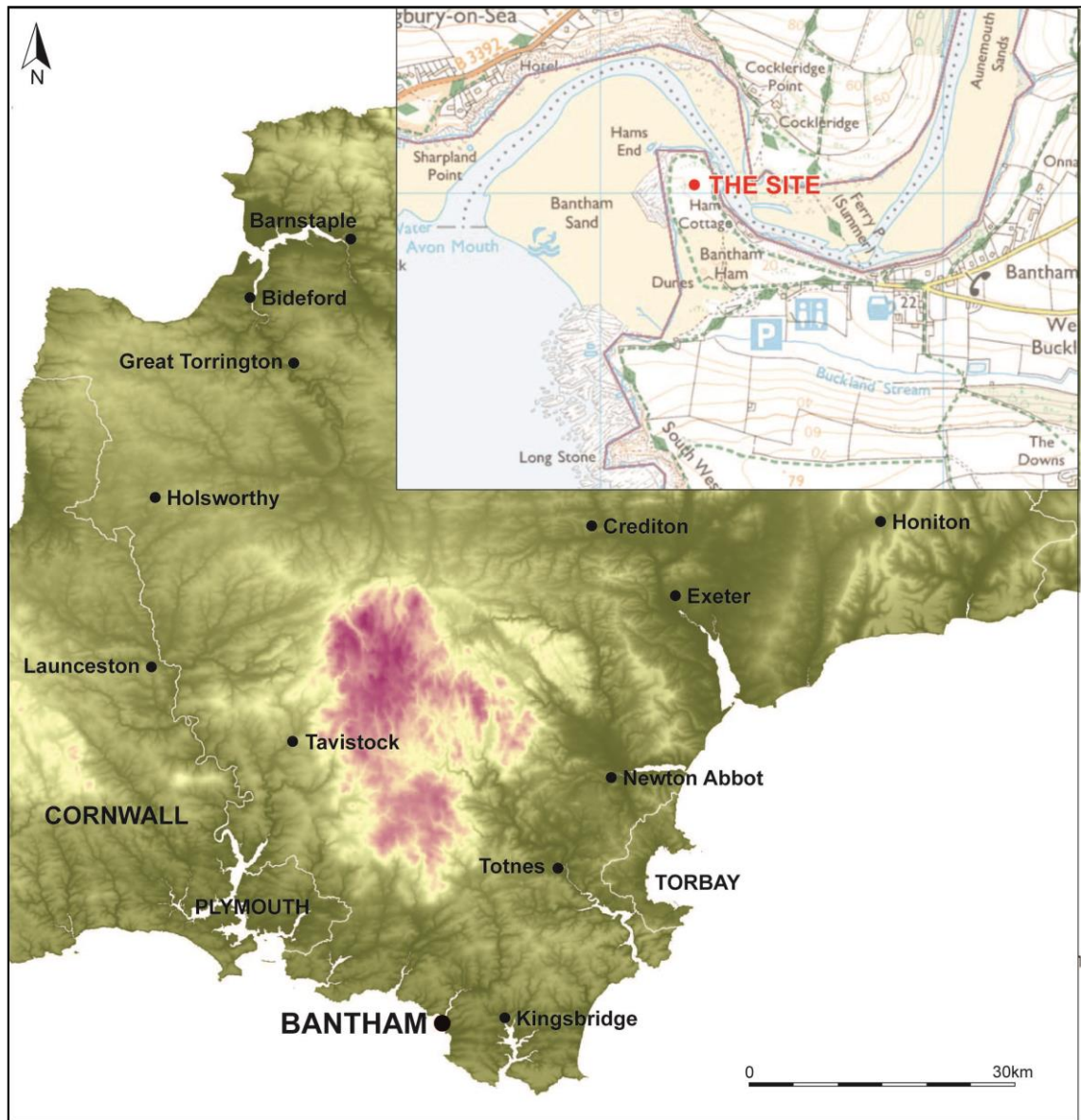


FIGURE 9: LOCATION MAP

2.2. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies on an area of sand dunes and rough ground on the peninsula west of Bantham, above Bantham Sand. The site lies at an altitude of c.9mAOD. The soils are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association³, which overlie the slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group⁴.

2.3. **SITE LOCATION**

The field is located c.500m west of the village of Bantham, on a promontory projecting north into the River Avon.

3.0 HEALTH & SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

3.1. **SWARCH H&S POLICIES**

SWARCH is committed to the highest standards of health and safety awareness. Works will be carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*, the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and other relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice. All SWARCH field staff hold current CSCS safety cards and EFAW or FAW qualifications. Specific RAMS and RA have been produced for this site, and will be taken onto site with any SWARCH personnel.

3.2. **SPECIFIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES**

- 3.2.1. The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client;
- 3.2.2. The Client will provide details of all and any known buried services likely to be encountered, and provide specific guidance on how works should be undertaken around those services;
- 3.2.3. These health and safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site;
- 3.2.4. Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear. Additional PPE (gloves, glasses) will be worn as required;
- 3.2.5. If the unlikely event trenching exceeds 1.2 metres in depth a dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the stability of excavations. If necessary, trench sides will be shored or stepped to enable archaeologists to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench/features.

3.3. **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES**

- 3.3.1. SWARCH is committed to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues and sustainability. These issues include air and water pollution, solid waste management, biodiversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species, energy or regulation of toxic substances including pesticides and many types of industrial waste;
- 3.3.2. As a provider of archaeological services, SWARCH, its employees and subcontractors have a responsibility for the protection of archaeological heritage. In line with the CifA *Environmental Protection Policy* para.1, SWARCH recognises that its responsibilities to the built heritage extend to the environment more generally, and that archaeological activities have the potential to affect the environment⁵;
- 3.3.3. SWARCH will adhere to the environmental policies of the client, and, if applicable, will take steps to minimise environmental damage or pollution arising from archaeological fieldwork.

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND TIMETABLE

4.1. **PROGRAMME OF WORKS**

- 4.1.1. Carry out a brief desk-based assessment for the site;
- 4.1.2. A series of test pits will be opened across the site to the level of intended litter/soil stripping, with a slit trench in the corner of each test pit
- 4.1.3. Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.2. **TIMETABLE**

- 4.2.1. Subject to the approval and deposition of this WSI, works will commence in summer 2019.

³ Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

⁴ British Geological Survey 2018: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> .

⁵ CifA 2016: *Policy Statements*.

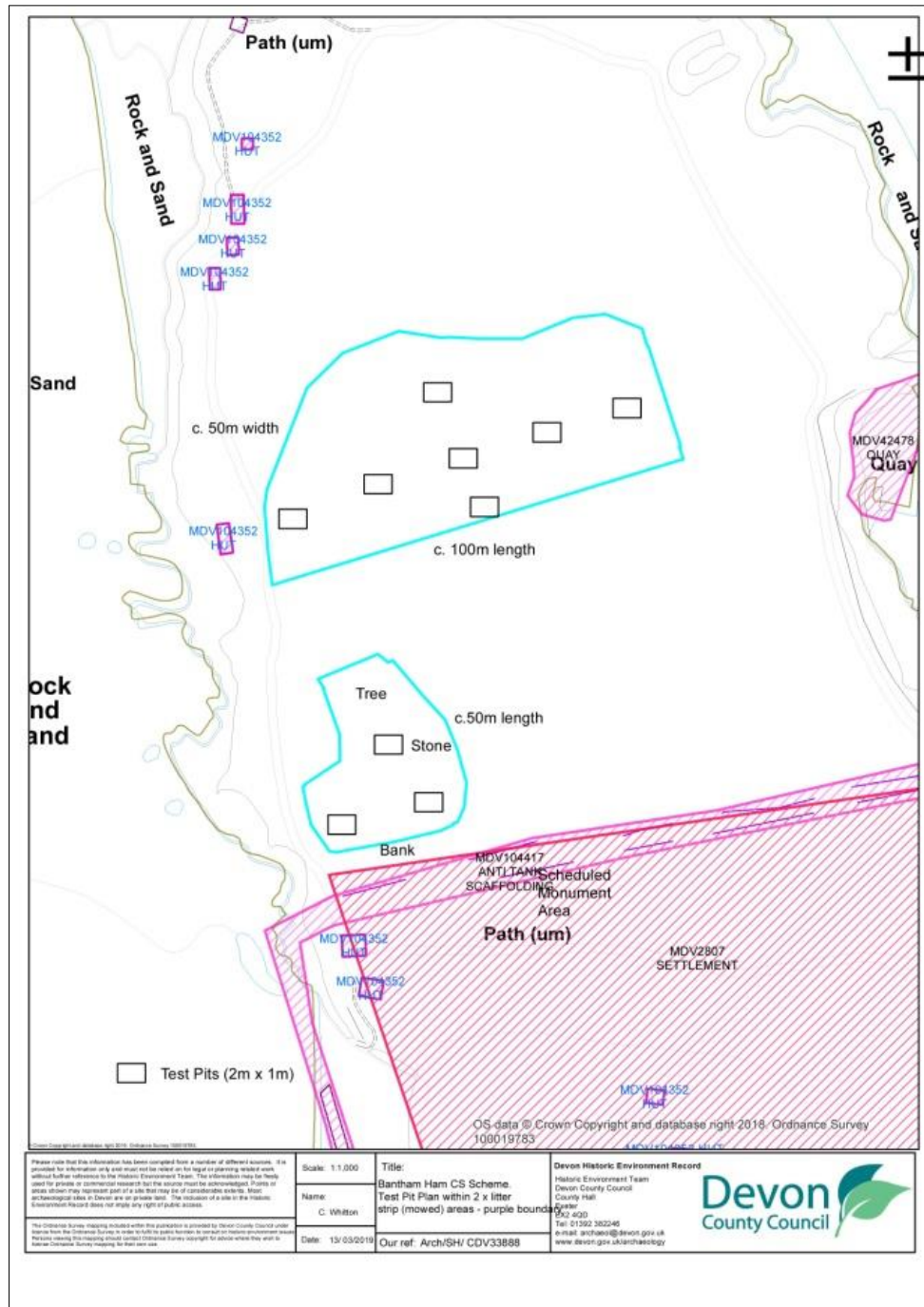


FIGURE 10: TEST PIT LOCATION PLAN (SUPPLIED BY DCHET).

5.0 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

5.1. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

5.1.1. This project has the potential to feed into several research aims as outlined in the regional archaeological frameworks document: SWARF⁶

The specific research aims from SWARF relevant to this project are:

5.1.2. Research Aim 29: Improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement.

5.1.3. Research Aim 26: Post-Roman to Early Medieval landscape changes.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

6.1. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

⁶ Webster, C.J. (ed.) 2007: *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework; Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Somerset County Council.

An element of desk-based research will be required to inform the archaeological fieldwork and enable finds and features identified to be understood in their context. This work will need to be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork commencing.

8. Guidance will be provided by DCHET on a site by site basis on the appropriate level of desk-based work that is required for a particular scheme.

9. As a minimum the desk-based research must take the form of an archaeological appraisal of the site to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER, as well as of archaeological reports on investigations undertaken in the vicinity.

10. Please note that the Historic Environment Record (HER) information that the Historic Environment Team (HET) make available online via Heritage Gateway and Devon County Council's Environmental Viewer are not 'live' datasets and so do not contain the most up-to-date HER information. Use of these for commercial purposes is not a substitute for requesting HER information from the HET. The HER contains the most up-to-date record of Devon's historic environment. The HET are also aware of information that has yet to be accessioned to the HER or is not otherwise publicly available. The HET can assist in accessing this material, which may be held at the HER or in the Devon Heritage Centre.

11. If reports are submitted without this reference number and no request for HER data from the Historic Environment Team has been made then acceptance of the report by the Historic Environment Team is likely to be delayed or possibly refused.

6.2. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

A total of 10 2x1m test pits will be dug across the site (see Figure 2). The test pits will be hand-dug. Excavation will be to the level of intended litter/soil stripping, likely to be 15-20cm. In the corner of each longitudinal section of each test pit, a slit trench will be dug to a depth of 50cm in order to investigate the presence of any changes at depth in sand dune layering which might be archaeological in nature and/or contain artefacts or have environmental potential. A deposit model for each N-S and E-W transect will be created from the slit trench sections. If artefacts or archaeological features/deposits are revealed in the test pit archaeological evaluation, the archaeological significance will be investigated by hand-cleaning of the test pit. In discussion with HET, a decision will then be made with regard to whether further excavation/evaluation is needed prior to litter/soil stripping and if widespread/significant archaeology sites are likely. Based on the latter a decision will be made as to whether stripping can continue in the area. Any archaeological, artefacts, features and/or deposits exposed in test pits will be recorded and excavated in accordance with ClfA guidelines and best practice.

Significant archaeological features, if identified in the test pit evaluation, may be associated with the adjacent SM Bantam prehistoric settlement and further excavation/soil stripping should be halted and avoided where feasible. Preservation of significant archaeological features/deposits in situ is the preferred option, where localised soil stripping can be avoided. Excavation of significant archaeological features will only be carried out in agreement with the HET.

6.3. **METHODOLOGY**

6.2.1. The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services, groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.

6.2.2. All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by stratigraphically by hand and recorded according to ClfA guidelines and best practice.

6.2.3. Where archaeological features are exposed, then as a minimum:

- i) Small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) Larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
- iii) Long linear features will be sample excavated along their length, with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature, and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.

6.2.4. Should the above proportions not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with DCHET.

6.2.5. Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts; a metal detector may be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds.

6.2.6. If articulated human remains are revealed, these will be left in-situ, covered and protected, and the Coroner notified. Removal will take place in line with the appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. A MoJ licence will be obtained prior to removal.

6.2.7. Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or Prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

6.4. SAMPLING STRATEGY

- 6.3.1. Where suitable deposits are exposed then samples will be collected in preparation for scientific assessment/analysis/dating. Sampling will be undertaken in line with the relevant guidance⁷. It is envisaged that samples will either consist of bulk soil samples [sampling 100% or 40 litres, in labelled 5 litre plastic sample tubs] or vertical sediment columns [monolith tins].
- 6.3.2. Suitable deposits are taken to include contexts where sampling will recover material for dating or palaeo-economic evidence (e.g. sealed pits, basal deposits), or waterlogged/well-preserved sediments with potential for palaeo-environmental remains.
- 6.3.3. Where preserved organics are encountered (e.g. leather shoes), the appropriate specialist will be contacted for guidance. In lieu of guidance, the artefact/ecofact will be placed to a sealed labelled container with sediments from their place of discovery and immediately transferred to a cool dark location. Prior to works starting onsite, SWARCH will investigate local facilities that can provide emergency storage, prior to delivery to conservators for long-term preservation.
- 6.3.4. Bulk samples will be stored in sealed containers until off-site processing by SWARCH personnel. The flots will be separated and the residue examined for small artefacts/ecofacts/hammerscale. The residue will be disposed of appropriately, and the flots/remnant forwarded for specialist analysis.
- 6.3.5. Monolith samples will be stored under controlled conditions before delivery to the appropriate specialist.
- 6.3.6. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants, and the regional Historic England science advisor, can be called upon during the works as necessary.

6.5. RECORDING

- 6.4.1. Standardised single recording sheets will be employed.
- 6.4.2. Survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100 will be prepared, as appropriate to the size and/or significance of archaeological features.
- 6.4.3. A photographic record of the excavation and will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological and architectural detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale.
- 6.4.4. Survey and location of features (metal finds to sub-metre accuracy).
- 6.4.5. All stratified finds, except when clearly modern, will be retained, bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 material may be discarded on site, but a representative sample will be retained.
- 6.4.6. Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts; a metal detector may be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds.
- 6.4.7. All retained artefacts will be processed (washed, identified, weighed, counted) and assessed for their stratigraphic and research potential.
- 6.4.8. Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with DCHET.

7.0 MONITORING

- 7.1.1. SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with DCHET and give two weeks' notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made
- 7.1.2. If significant or complex archaeological remains are uncovered, SWARCH will liaise with the client and DCHET to determine the most satisfactory way to proceed.
- 7.1.3. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.
- 7.1.4. SWARCH will notify DCHET upon the completion of each stage of fieldwork.

8.0 REPORTING**8.1. REPORTING STRATEGY**

- 8.1.1. Copies of the report(s) detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations*) database under reference southwes1-352720 within 6 months of completion of fieldwork, if longer timescales are required due to specialist reporting etc this will be agreed with DCHET. The type of report produced will be agreed with DCHET in light of the results.

8.2. ARCHIVE REPORT

- 8.2.1. The report will include the following elements:
- 8.2.2. A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
- 8.2.3. A summary of the project background;
- 8.2.4. A description and illustration of the site location;
- 8.2.5. A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
- 8.2.6. A summary of the results;

⁷ English Heritage 2011: *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.

- 8.2.7. An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
 - 8.2.8. A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
 - 8.2.9. A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
 - 8.2.10. Detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood;
 - 8.2.11. A deposit model for the site showing the thickness of topsoil and subsoil and identifying areas vulnerable to damage through cultivation. This will inform a management strategy for the site;
 - 8.2.12. Plans will be located using a dGPS with an accuracy of <20mm. Very large features may be recorded entirely using the dGPS and plotted directly into GIS;
 - 8.2.13. Section drawings of deposits with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown, with the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west shown;
 - 8.2.14. A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 8.2.15. Analysis, as appropriate, of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples;
 - 8.2.16. Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context;
 - 8.2.17. A consideration of the evidence within its wider context;
 - 8.2.18. Photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the caption;
 - 8.2.19. A brief consideration of evidence within its wider context;
 - 8.2.20. A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
 - 8.2.21. Specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken;
 - 8.2.22. DCHET will receive the report within six months of completion of fieldwork.
- 8.3. **PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**
- 8.3.1. It is not anticipated that the results of this phase of works excavation work will merit wider dissemination. However, if significant remains are recorded, Prehistoric, Romano-British or Medieval remains would be noted in the relevant journal (*Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Britannia, and Medieval Archaeology*). A synopsis of the work, with a focus on the significant archaeological remains and finds at an appropriate level of detail, would appear in the *Newsletter of the Devon Archaeology Society*.
 - 8.3.2. A short popular publication may also be prepared, for dissemination by the Client (via house packs, local churches etc.) to the local community.
- 8.4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 8.4.1. It is not anticipated, given character of this programme of fieldwork, that public participation will be feasible.
 - 8.4.2. However, where there is local interest, SWARCH personnel routinely give evening talks to local historical and/or archaeological societies, and would be happy to do so in this instance.
- 9.0 ARCHIVE**
-
- 9.1.1. On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the appropriate guidelines⁸.
 - 9.1.2. The archive will consist of two elements, the material archive and the digital archive.
 - 9.1.3. SWARCH will, on behalf of the Plymouth City Museum (PCM) obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive, should one be generated, to the Plymouth City Museum.
 - 9.1.4. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.
 - 9.1.5. The material archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards and selection strategies of the Plymouth City Museum and in a timely fashion. Should SWARCH be unable to attain a selection strategy from the Museum, specialists will be consulted to achieve an appropriate strategy in line with best practice.
 - 9.1.6. If the Plymouth City Museum wishes to retain the hardcopy paper archive, it will be deposited with the rest of the material archive under the same accession number. Should the Plymouth City Museum decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to other appropriate museum bodies or the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC). If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed.

⁸ Historic England 2015: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.

- 9.1.7. The digital archive, including copies of all relevant documentation relating to the project and digital copies of all photographs, will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in compliance with their standards and requirements and according to Historic England guidance⁹ for digital photography.
- 9.1.8. SWARCH will notify DCHET of the deposition of the material (finds) archive with the Plymouth City Museum, and the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS
- 9.1.9. The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report.

10.0 PERSONNEL

10.1. SWARCH PERSONNEL

- 10.1.1. The project will be managed by Samuel Walls BA MA PhD MCIfA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 12 years of experience in the commercial sector).
- 10.1.2. The fieldwork will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience, or supervised by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience: Bryn Morris BA MA PhD ACIfA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 10 years commercial experience); Joe Bampton BA MA MCIfA (10 years commercial experience); Peter Webb BA MA² (12 years commercial experience).
- 10.1.3. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be obtained.

10.2. SPECIALISTS

Bone	Hayley Foster MA
Building Recording	Richard Parker
Conservation	Alison Hopper-Bishop BSc
	Laura Ratcliffe BSc
Curatorial	Thomas Cadbury MA
	Alison Mills
	Fiona Pitt
Environmental Sample Processing	SWARCH personnel
	Geoflo
Lithics	Martin Tingle
	Peter Webb MA
Medieval Pottery	John Allan
Metal & Leatherwork	Quita Mould MA
Plant Macro-Fossils	Julie Jones
Pollen Analysis	Ralph Fyfe PhD
Post Medieval Pottery	Bryn Morris PhD
Prehistoric Pottery	Henrietta Quinnell
	Imogen Wood PhD
Roman Pottery	Alex Croom
	Imogen Wood PhD
Wood Identification	Dana Challinor PhD

10.3. TRAINING AND CPD

- 10.3.1. Where appropriate, SWARCH will seek to provide training opportunities to SWARCH personnel during the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation process. Training would be undertaken in order to enhance recording and recovery, and maximise the research gain.
- 10.3.2. SWARCH training plans (PDP) and CPD logs will be updated during the project, as appropriate to need and demand.
- 10.3.3. It is envisaged that artefact awareness and recognition are likely to require further training.

11.0 INSURANCES AND QUALITY CONTROL

- 11.1.1. SWARCH carry Professional Indemnity Insurance cover up to £5 million, Public Liability up to £5 million and Employers Liability up to £10 million.
- 11.1.2. SWARCH is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 11.1.3. SWARCH is committed to the highest standard of professional ethics and technical standards, and adheres to CIfA and Historic England guidelines in the conduct of our work.
- 11.1.4. The work undertaken will be carried out by professional archaeologists overseen by supervisors of ACIfA-level competence. The works and products will be overseen and checked by professional archaeologists with MCIfA-level competence.

12.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY RESTRAINTS

- 12.1.1. Even where groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of SWARCH personnel, it remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to

⁹ Historic England 2015: *Digital Image capture and File Storage: guidelines for best practice*.

have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

Appendix 3: Contexts

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(100)	<i>Topsoil</i> Soft light to mid-brown silty sandy topsoil; small land snail shells of circular and columnar form.	Overlies (101)	0.12m-0.18m	
(101)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light brown silty aeolian sand with reddish-yellow tints; land snail shells as (100).	Overlies (102); overlain by (100)	0.24m-0.25m	
(102)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown soft aeolian sand; many land snail shells of same species as (100).	Overlain by (101)	>0.12m	
(200)	<i>Topsoil</i> Grey-brown fine sandy soil; occasional land snail shells.	Overlies (201)	0.11m-0.15m with root/rhizome holes to 0.22m & 0.24m	
(201)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light or grey-brown packed sandy silt; occasional stones up to 10mm in size.	Overlies (202); overlain by (200)	0.15m-0.24m	
(202)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown clay silt; frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm. A thin lense of finer silt at its upper edge is interpreted as part of this context.	Overlain by (201).	>0.23m 0.06m	
(300)	<i>Topsoil</i> Grey-brown fine sandy soil; occasional land snail shells.	Overlies (301)	0.15m-0.18m	
(301)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light or grey-brown packed sandy silt; occasional stones up to 10mm in size.	Overlies (302); overlain by (300)	0.11m-0.15m	
(302)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown clay silt; frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm. Animal burrow seen in north section of sondage.	Overlain by (302).	>0.20m	
(400)	<i>Topsoil</i> Grey-brown fine sandy soil; occasional land snail shells.	Overlies (401)	0.11m-0.15m	
(401)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light or grey-brown packed sandy silt; occasional stones up to 10mm in size.	Overlies (402); overlain by (400)	0.10m-0.20m	
(402)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown clay silt; frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.	Overlain by (401)	>0.25m	
(500)	<i>Topsoil</i> Grey-brown fine sandy soil; occasional land snail shells.	Overlies (501)	0.17m-0.20m	
(501)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light or grey-brown packed sandy silt; occasional stones up to 10mm in size.	Overlies (502); overlain by (500)	0.14m-0.16m	
(502)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown clay silt; frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.	Overlain by (501)	>0.20m	
(600)	<i>Topsoil</i> Grey-brown fine sandy soil; occasional land snail shells.	Overlies (601)	0.10m-0.19m	
(601)	<i>Subsoil</i> Light or grey-brown packed sandy silt; occasional stones up to 10mm in size.	Overlies (602); overlain by (600)	0.18m-0.20m	
(602)	<i>Natural</i> Light reddish-brown clay silt; frequent shillet fragments measuring up to 40mm.	Overlies (603); overlain by (601)	0.09m	
(603)	<i>Bedrock</i> Frost-shattered shillet bedrock; occasional white quartz veins.	Overlain by (602)	>0.01m	
(700)	<i>Topsoil</i> Firm friable reddish-yellow silt-clay loam; occasional to rare shillet fragments, up to 23mm in size.	Overlies (701)	0.07m-0.12m	
(701)	<i>Subsoil</i> Greyish-yellow silt loam; occasional to common shillet fragments.	Overlies (702); overlain by (700)	0.08m-0.10m	
(702)	<i>Natural</i> Firm slightly reddish-yellow silt-clay 702; common shillet fragments.	Overlies (703); overlain by (701)	0.24m	
(703)	<i>Bedrock</i> Frost-shattered shillet bedrock.	Overlain by (702)	>0.01m	
(800)	<i>Topsoil</i> Sandy soil; small land snail shells.	Overlies (801)	0.17m-0.20m	
(801)	<i>Subsoil</i> Dirty grey sand; plastic fragment, land snail shells.	Overlies (802); overlain by (800)	0.30m-0.40m	
(802)	<i>Natural</i> Clean, slightly reddish-yellow aeolian sand; copious quantity of land snail shells.	Overlain by (801)	>0.28m	
(900)	<i>Topsoil</i> Dirty brown sandy soil; small land snail shells.	Overlies (901), (902), (904), (905)	0.04m-0.13m	
(901)	<i>Subsoil</i> Yellowy loose sand, same as 905 & 907, considered to be disturbed natural blown sand, derived from natural sand 903 below.	Overlies (902); overlain by (900)	0.05m-0.11m	
(902)	<i>Natural</i> Dark grey organic sand lenses and root/rhizome pipes.	Overlies (901)	0.02m-0.12m with root/rhizome hole to 0.24m	
(903)	<i>Deposit</i> Firm, moist yellow-red sand; copious land snail shells.	Overlain by (902)	>0.35m	
(904)	<i>Deposit</i> Dark grey organic sand lenses and root/rhizome pipes.	Overlies (905), (906); overlain by (900)	>0.16m	
(905)	<i>Deposit</i> Yellowy loose sand, probably derived from natural sand (903).	Overlies (902), (906), (907); overlain by (900), (904)	0.03m-0.07m	

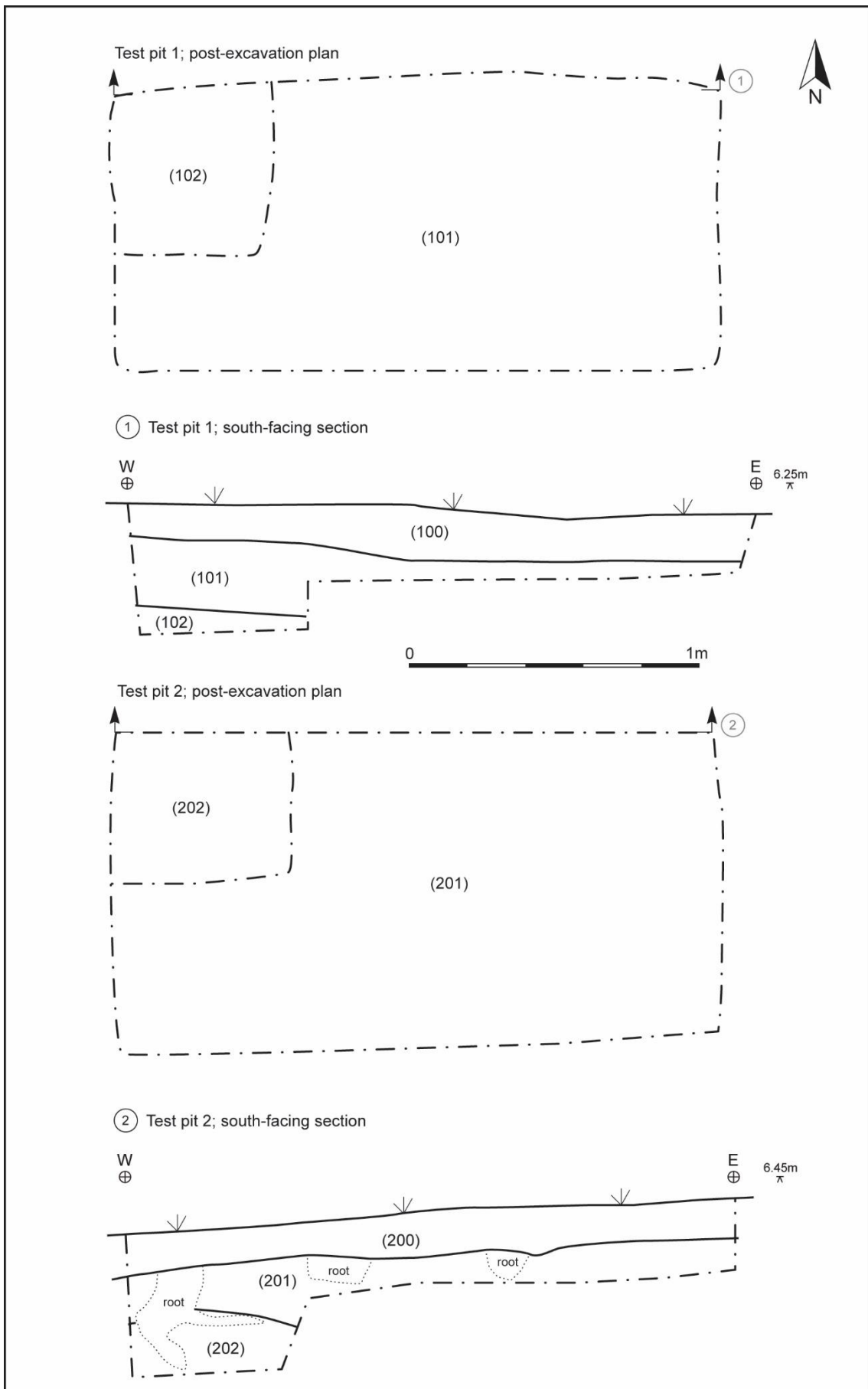
BANTHAM HAM, BANTHAM, THURLESTONE, DEVON: TEST PITS

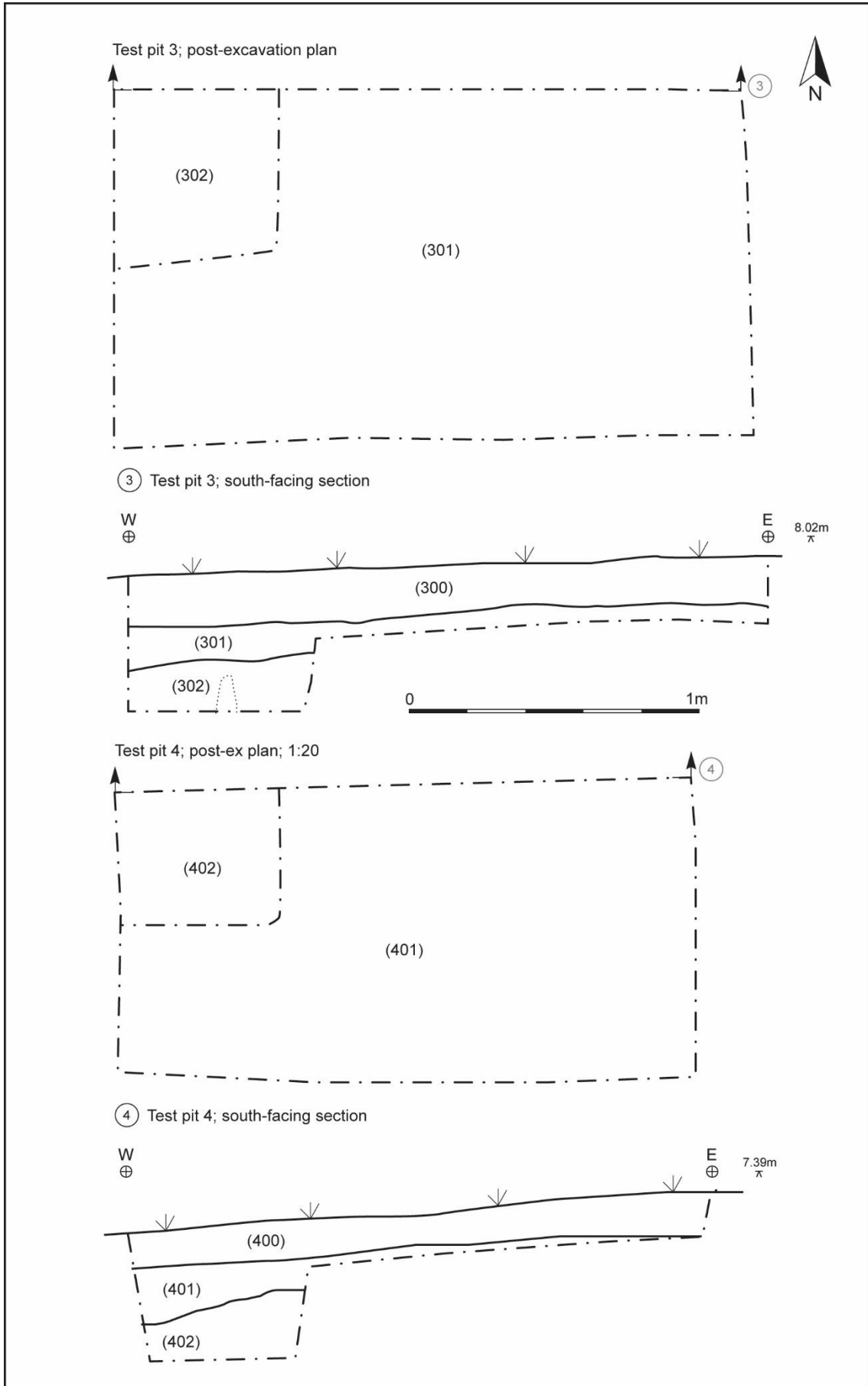
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(906)	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark grey organic sand lenses and root/rhizome pipes.	Overlies (907); overlain by (904), (905)	>0.12m	
(907)	<i>Deposit</i>	Yellowy loose sand, probably derived from natural sand (903).	Overlies (902); overlain by (905), (906)	>0.08m	
(908)	<i>Stone</i>	Large purple slate slab, forced down into (900), (901) & (902).	Overlies (900), (901), (902); originally in (903)?	0.22m; (1.10m long x 0.70m high x 0.15m thick)	
(1000)	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dirty brown sandy silt; land snail shells.	Overlies (1001)	0.12m-0.17m	
(1001)	<i>Subsoil</i>	Light grey sandy silt; land snail shells.	Overlies (1002); overlain by (1000)	0.17m	
(1002)	<i>Subsoil</i>	Fine soft grey sand; land snail shells.	Overlies (1003); overlain by (1001)	0.12m-0.14m	
(1003)	<i>Subsoil</i>	Slightly reddish-yellow aeolian sand; many land snail shells.	Overlain by (1002)	>0.10m	

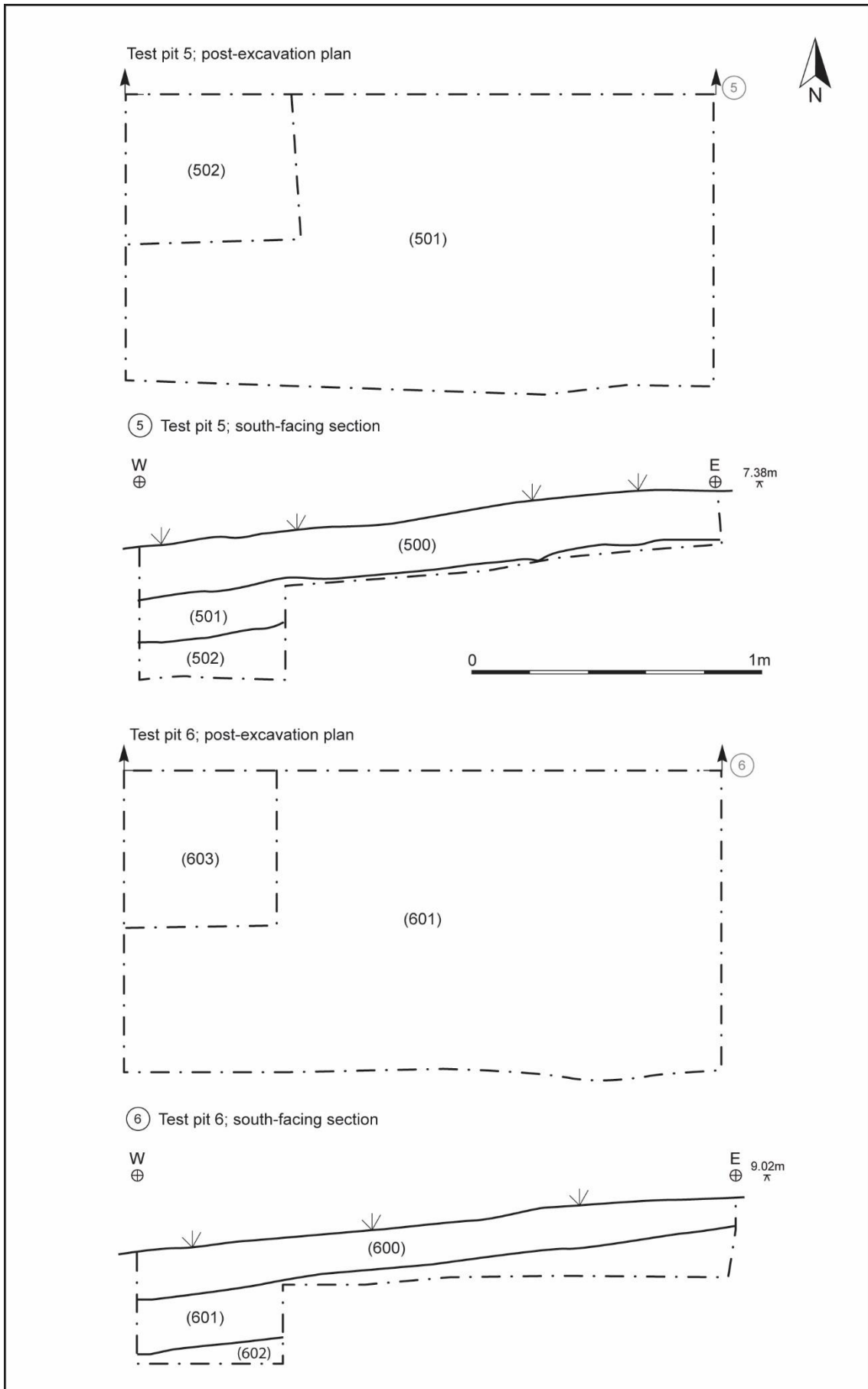
APPENDIX 4: FINDS CONCORDANCE

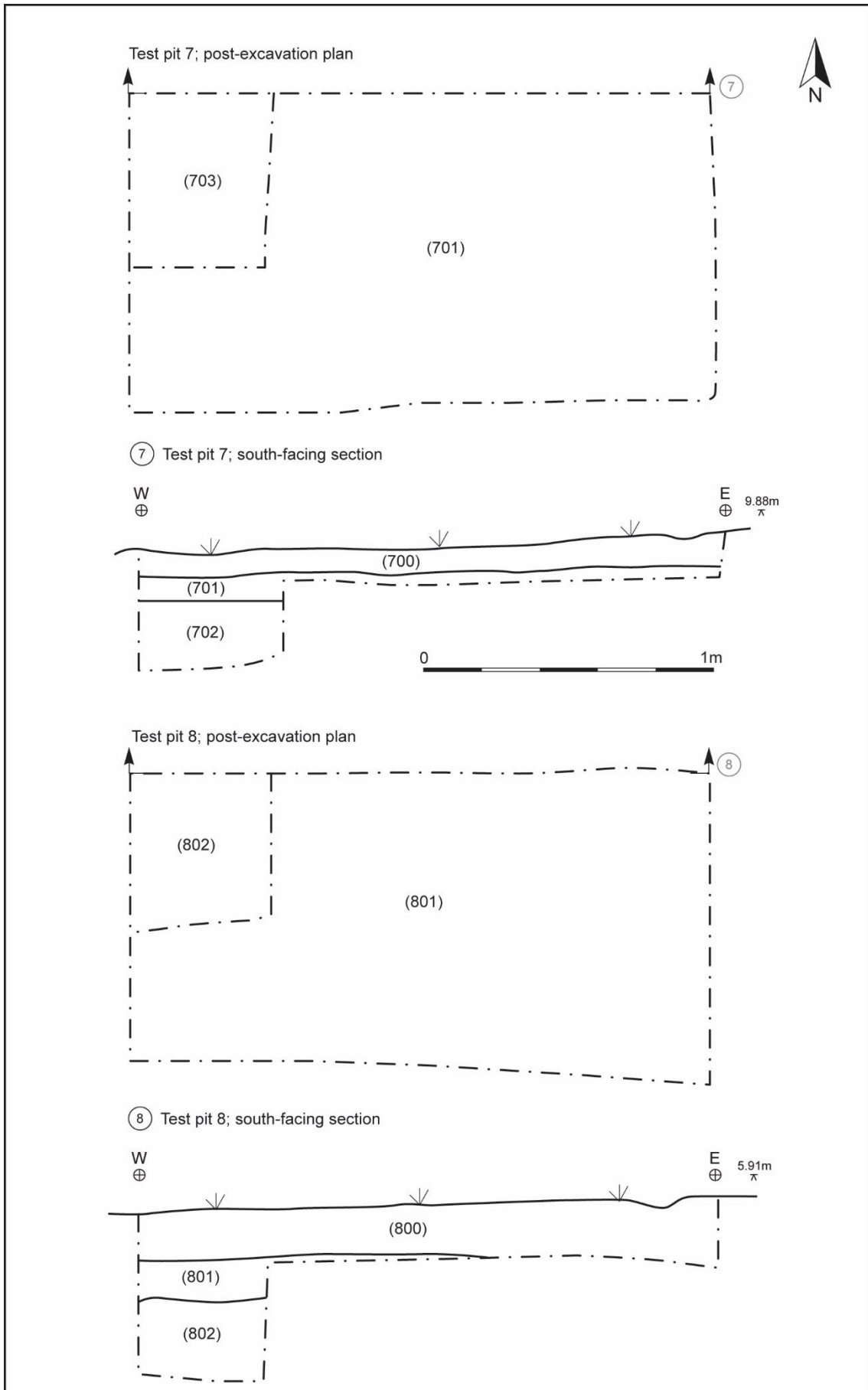
Context	Trench	POTTERY			Flint/Chert and stone			OTHER			DATE
		Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (kg)	Notes	
	Unstratified on cliff path to NW of TP 01				1	-	Primary flake of fawn-brown flint, sand-glossed. Left in-situ.				Neolithic/EBA
	Unstratified, near TP 02							1	0.017	Brass cartridge case (fired) with stepped base, marked RO 1943 LV. Neck broken away. Probably .303 ammunition for Lee-Enfield rifle.	WW2
	Unstratified, near TP 04							1	0.012	As above.	WW2
501	TP 05				1	0.008	Seaworn pebble of chert: Core with striking platform & 4x short wide flakes taken off, then discarded				Neolithic/EBA
					1	0.014	Seaworn pebble of white quartz: broken in half but repeated striking damage to one edge, so possibly a hammer stone.				Neolithic/EBA?
	Unstratified, on cliff path to NE of TP 07				1	-	Small chip of dull white flint	1	0.009	Fishing hook with lead sheathing	Neolithic/EBA? C21
	TP 08							1	0.054	Length of rusty barbed wire	WW2?
								1	0.033	Clear glass bottle base/wall sherd, marked 'Evans' (prob. Evans' Estates milk bottle)	Mid-late C20
								1	0.023	Clear glass shard	Late C20
								>1	0.001	Mixed plastic fragments	C20/C21
903	TP 09							2	0.007	Rabbit femur & sternum	Modern?
								>3	-	Fragments of purple slate, presumably from stone (908)	Medieval/post-Medieval
	TP 10							1	0.002	Plastic fragments	C20/C21
TOTAL	Finds	0	0	-	4	0.022		>13	0.158	-	-

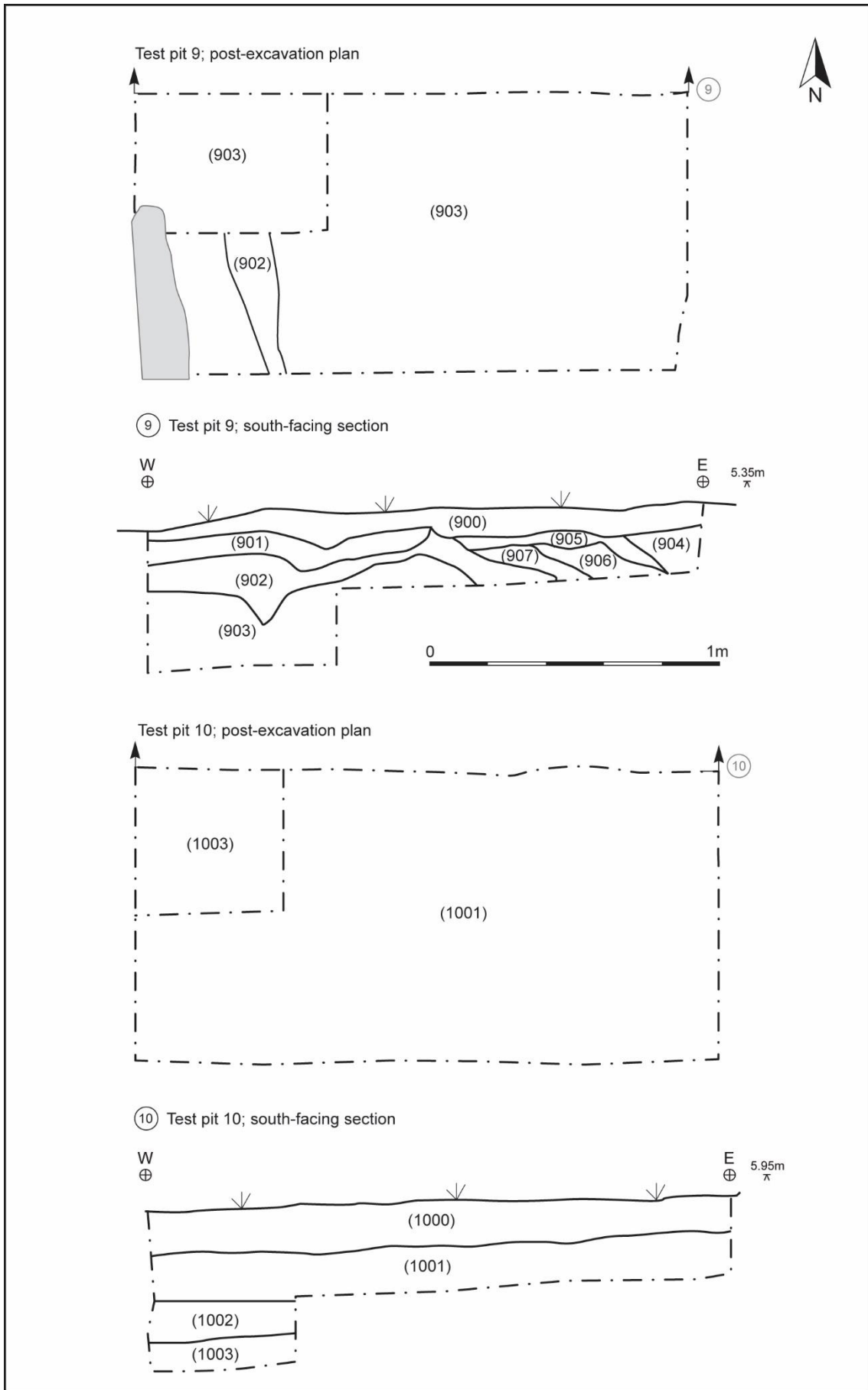
APPENDIX 5: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF THE TEST PITS











APPENDIX 6: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



1. TP 01 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM SOUTH (2M & 1M SCALES)



2. TP 01 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



3. TP 01 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



4. TP 01 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



5. TP 02 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M & 2M SCALE).



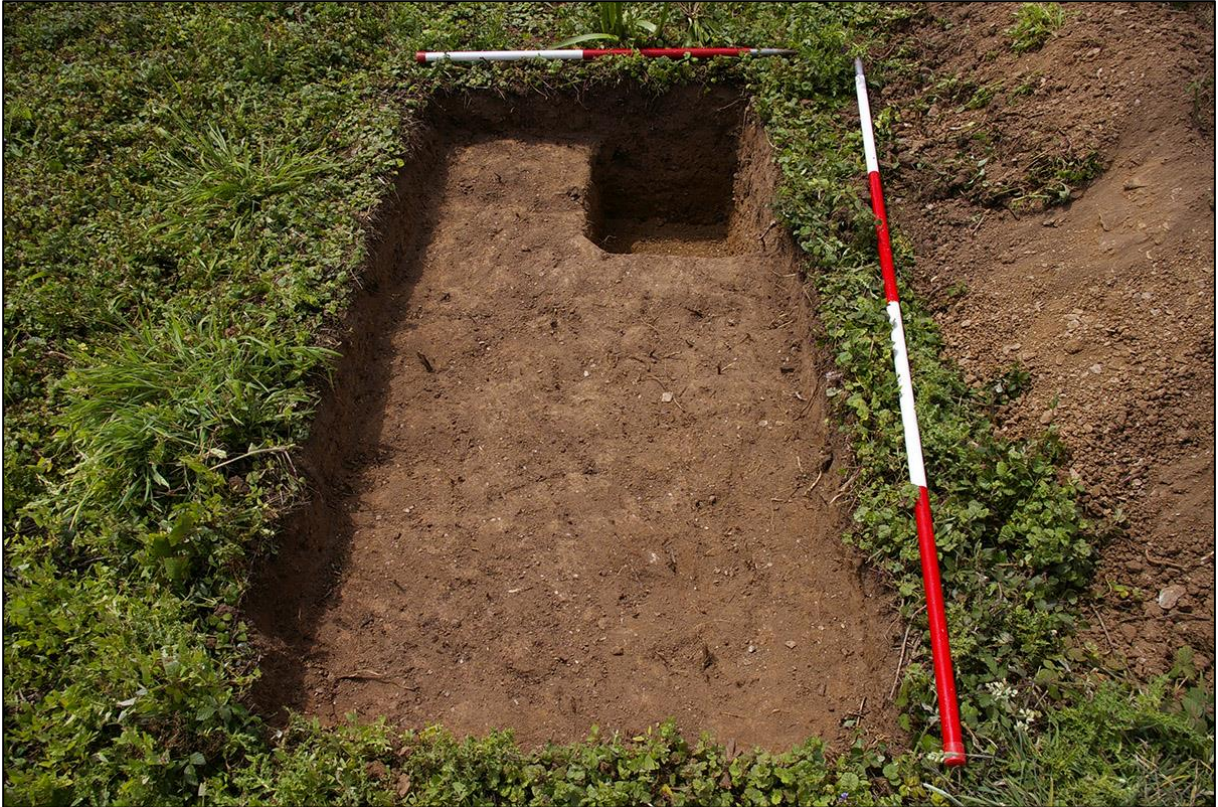
6. TP 02 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



7. TP 02 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALE).



8. TP 04 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



9. TP 04 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



10. TP 04 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



11. TP 04 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M & 2M SCALES)



12. TP 05 POST-EX SONDAGE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



13. TP 05 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



14. TP 05 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



15. TP 06 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



16. TP 06 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



17. TP 06 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



18. TP 03 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



19. TP 03 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



20. TP 03 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



21. TP 07 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



22. TP 07 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



23. TP 07 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



24. TP 09 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (PARTIAL SCALE).



25. TP 09 POST-EX, WEST END; SHOT FROM ABOVE, ORIENTATED FACING EAST (PARTIAL SCALE).



26. TP 09 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (PARTIAL SCALE).



27. TP 09 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (PARTIAL SCALE).



28. TP 09 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALES).



29. TP 09 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (PARTIAL SCALES).



30. TP 10 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



31. TP 10 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



32. TP 10 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



33. TP 08 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



34. TP 08 POST-EX, WEST END; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (PARTIAL SCALE).



35. TP 08 POST-EX; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (PARTIAL SCALE).



36. WORKING SHOT OF THE SOUTHERN OPEN AREA, WHICH WERE MOWN IN SEPTEMBER 2018; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.



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