

# LAND TO THE SOUTH LANGAGE BUSINESS PARK SPARKWELL DEVON

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 191130



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# Land to the South of Langage Business Park, Sparkwell, South Hams, Devon

## Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

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By Dr Samuel Walls and Amelia Allen  
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### SUMMARY

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. on land south of Langage Business Park, Sparkwell, South Hams, Devon, in advance of a proposed potential development. The evaluation targeted a rectilinear enclosure, c.75m in width, identified by geophysical survey.*

*The seven evaluation trenches identified a total of 14 archaeological features, eight of which were portions of the two enclosure ditches, the possible trace of an internal bank to the enclosure was noted within Trench 1. A section was also excavated through the extant hedgebank, which demonstrated that the earthen bank had been constructed directly on top of the natural, and that the field had seemingly been stripped along the length of the bank prior to its construction. The bank was flanked by two shallow infilled ditches.*

*The evaluation validated the results of the geophysical survey. It confirmed the presence of a Romano-British enclosure, with 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Century occupation and use. The site then appears to have been largely abandoned, although tentatively the enclosure may have remained at least partially evident in the landscape, as the upper homogenous silty fill produced a fragment of post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century?) hand-made brick.*

*Whilst many of the features did not produce artefactual evidence, the assemblage of Roman pottery recovered is typical for the region. Other examples of similar enclosures have been excavated elsewhere in the South Hams and it therefore fits in within the regional pattern. As such a typically worded archaeological condition, for a limited area of strip, map and sample would be a suitable mitigation strategy for the age and significance of the archaeology encountered.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE CLIENT  
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	LAND TO THE SOUTH OF LANGAGE BUSINESS PARK
<b>PARISH:</b>	SPARKWELL
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	SOUTH HAMS
<b>COUNTY:</b>	DEVON
<b>NGR:</b>	SX 56897 55562
<b>PLANNING NO.</b>	PRE- APPLICATION
<b>OASIS NUMBER:</b>	SOUTHWES1-369814
<b>SWARCH REF.</b>	SLS19

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the south of Langage Business Park, Sparkwell, South Hams, prior to planning submission for an extension of the park. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET); it was carried out in line with best practice and ClfA guidelines. This phase of work follows on from a geophysical survey that identified several anomalies and a small enclosure, with features similar to that of Romano-British enclosed farmstead.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development is located to the south of the existing Langage Business Park and is made up of two fields in an area of agricultural landscape. The site lies on a gentle west slope at a height of between c.90 and 70m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained, slightly acidic soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the sedimentary slates of the Middle Devonian Slate Formation (BGS 2019).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Lysons (1822) records Sparkwell as a part of the parish of Staverton, in the hundred of Haytor and the deanery of Ipplepen. In 1884, Sparkwell, was joined with the hamlets of Lee Mill Bridge, Venton, Hemerdon and Bottle Hill to form the ecclesiastical parish of Plympton St. Mary (Kelly's 1902). Sparkwell is now a civil parish in its own right.

The locality is seemingly rich in archaeological study. Although the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) confirms there are no known heritage assets within the site itself or immediately within the vicinity, geophysical works approximately 500m west of the site discovered multiple phases of field boundaries, two enclosures and roughly four circular structures, with following archaeological evaluations determining an active area dating from prehistoric through to post-medieval (MDV115067). On land south of Langage Dairy Farm, approximately 550m east from the site, ditches, pits, enclosures and lithics were identified, providing evidence of late Neolithic to Romano-British occupation (MDV106140). A survey carried out by *SUMO Survey* in August 2019 identified a double-ditched rectilinear enclosure c.75m in width, which is suggestive of a Romano-British enclosed farmstead or similar and provided the basis for further evaluation. A similar enclosed farmstead has been identified at Stoggy Lane, Hemerdon (MDV126322) (c.1.5km north-west) and an Iron Age hillfort at Wasteberry Camp (MDV2292) (c.1.5km south). Extensive prehistoric and Romano-British activity has also been identified within the Sherford Development area, notably a double-ditched enclosure south-east of Sherford Cottages (MDV60834).

## 1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET), and in line with best practice. Seven trenches, each c.1.50m wide and totalling c.188m in length, were laid out using a Leica GPS and opened by tracked mechanical excavator to the depth of *in situ* weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand and in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines.

The evaluation was designed to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any *in situ* archaeological deposits; the trenches being located to target anomalies identified by geophysical survey (SUMO 2019); and to inform any further planning decisions. The archaeological evaluation took place in October 2019.

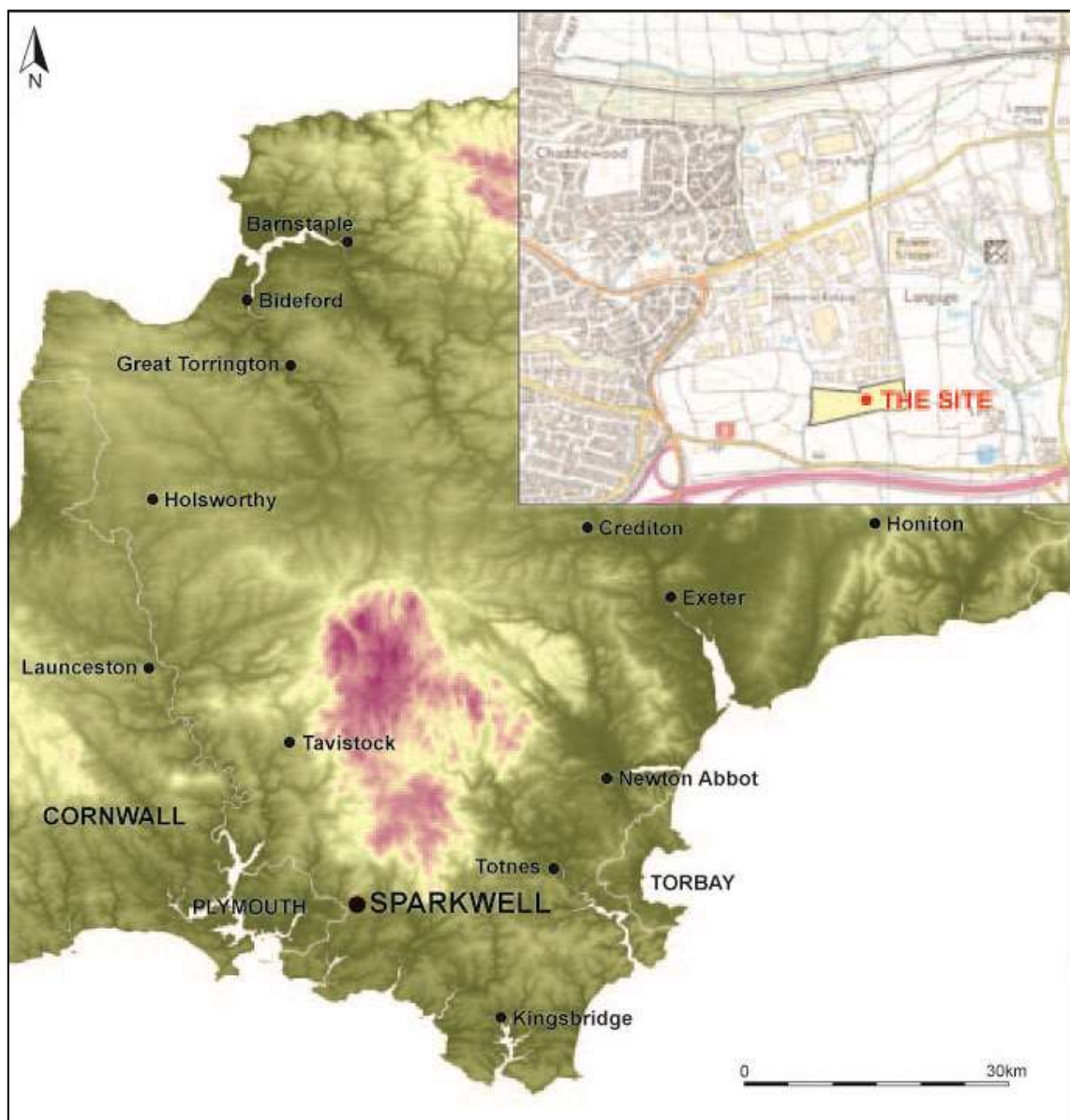


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.

## 2.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The evaluation was undertaken to investigate a series of geophysical anomalies identified in an earlier geophysical survey (SUMO 2019) of the site, to establish the presence or absence, condition, date and significance of any archaeological features that might be present; in order to inform and guide the need, nature and extent of any further archaeological mitigation. The overall site comprises two sub-rectangular fields, sub-divided by a hedgebank.

A total of 14 features were identified in the seven evaluation trenches; including 11 ditches, 1 trace remnant of a bank, 1 stone-pull or post-hole and 1 shallow hollow. A section was also excavated through the extant historic hedgebank that divides the two fields. What follows is a summary of each trench with finds noted where they occur; see Appendix 1 for detailed context descriptions; Appendix 2 for a full concordance of finds; Appendix 4 for a list of environmental samples taken; and Appendix 5 for a set of baseline photographs.

### 2.2 DEPOSIT MODEL

The stratigraphy was fairly consistent across the whole site. A mid reddish-brown, clay-silt topsoil measuring between c.0.22-0.4m thick, overlaid a mid-yellow-grey shillet with clay-silt subsoil c.0.10-0.3m thick, and a mid-red-yellow-brown silt subsoil up to 0.2m thick. These soils sealed the natural yellow-brown silt with shillet. The thickness of these soils was largely consistent across the site, the greater depths being down-slope.

### 2.3 TRENCH 01

Trench 01 was located at the south-eastern end of the western field and lay on an east-west alignment. This 53m long trench targeted the enclosure ditches visible on the geophysical survey. The topsoil was of a consistent depth of 0.30m-0.35m thick and overlay a thin subsoil of up to c.0.1m thick. A shallow scoop [102], a stone pull [110], two enclosure ditches [104] and [114], and the possible trace remnant of a bank deposit [108] were identified within this trench.

Outer Enclosure Ditch [114] lay at the very west end of Trench 01. It had sloping sides and a steep sloping broad v-shaped base. It measured c.1.1m wide, and was 0.5m deep, orientated north to south, c.4.2m to the west and parallel to the inner enclosure ditch [104]. Ditch [114] contained a single clean mid-red brown clay-silt fill (115), with common shillet fragments. The nature of fill (115) meant that the feature was largely indiscernible from the subsoil. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Inner Enclosure Ditch [104] was located towards the west end of the trench and was filled with multiple deposits. It was c.3 m wide and 2m deep with steep sloping sides 'v'-shaped profile and a slightly concave to flat 'ankle-breaker' base. It contained fills (103), (106), (112), (113) and (107). Upper Fill (103) was overlaid by topsoil (100), and was a thin, upper layer of re-deposited natural, measuring up to 0.1m deep, similar in nature to subsoil (101). Fill (106) was a clean homogenous, yellow-grey clay-silt, with common shillet inclusions and small sub-angular stones; this filled the majority of the ditch and was up to c.0.75m in depth. This overlaid the less silty and variously stoney fills (112), (113) and (107). Fill (112) was measured up to c.0.22m deep and, contained common to abundant sub-angular small stones. Basal fill (107) comprised a clean yellow clay-silt with common shillet. An assemblage of Romano-British pottery types were recovered from the fills of this ditch (see Appendix 3).



To the immediate east (i.e. internal) of Enclosure Ditch [104] was a 0.11m thick deposit (109) of soft reddish-yellow silt-clay, which could represent the trace remnant of an earthen bank.



FIGURE 2: FEATURE [104]; POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE WEST (WITH 1M SCALE).

A shallow cut feature [102] was located towards the eastern end of the Trench (internal to the enclosure). This was a shallow, sub-oval feature, which extended beyond the limits of the excavations, but measured c.2.22+m by c.1.10m wide with gentle concave sides and flat base. There was a single fill (103) of mid-greyish yellow silt-clay, with occasional shillet fragments and rare quartz pebbles. Feature [102] was a possible area of activity - producing charcoal flecks and small abraded Roman pottery sherds; although it was also noted that this was the area where water seemed to pond during the evaluation, so could reflect a natural process.

There was a single other feature contained inside the enclosure an irregular shallow sub-ovoid stone pull [110], c.0.22m diameter and 0.07m deep. No other stones or stone pulls were encountered within the evaluation trenching, so it is plausible that this represented the base of a post-hole, with stone packing.

Trench 01 produced the most finds; from feature [104] 48 sherds (652g) of Roman wares, including grey wares (2 sherds, 13g), black burnished wares (3 sherds, 7g) and (43 sherds, 642g) of



a single South Devon Ware Jar were recovered and recorded from fills (107) and (106). In addition, fill (103) produced more 3 sherds of a further South Devon Ware cooking vessel (24g).

## 2.4 TRENCH 02

Trench 02 was located towards the western corner of Area 1 and targeted a largely blank area of the geophysical survey. It was orientated approximately east to west and measured 21.5m long; the topsoil measured up to 0.2m thick and the subsoil up to 0.18m thick. No finds were recovered, and no features identified from this trench. It was noted that to the eastern end of the trench that a number charcoal flecks were present on the top of the natural surface, but these did not seem to relate to any visible feature.



FIGURE 3: TRENCH 2; POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF THE TRENCHES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES (OVERLAYING GEOPHYSICS DATA FROM SUMO 2019).

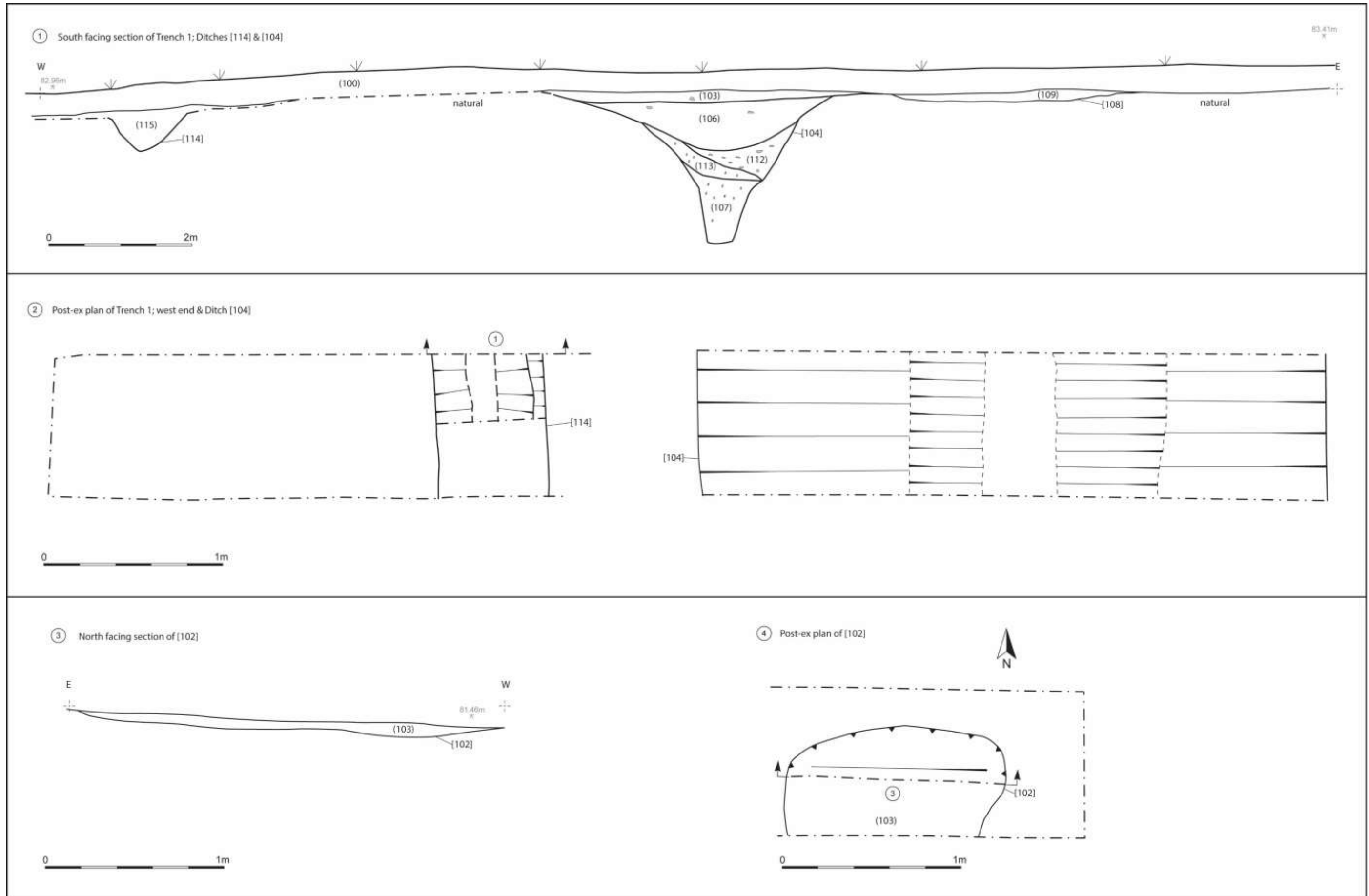


FIGURE 5: TRENCHES 01; PLANS AND SECTIONS.

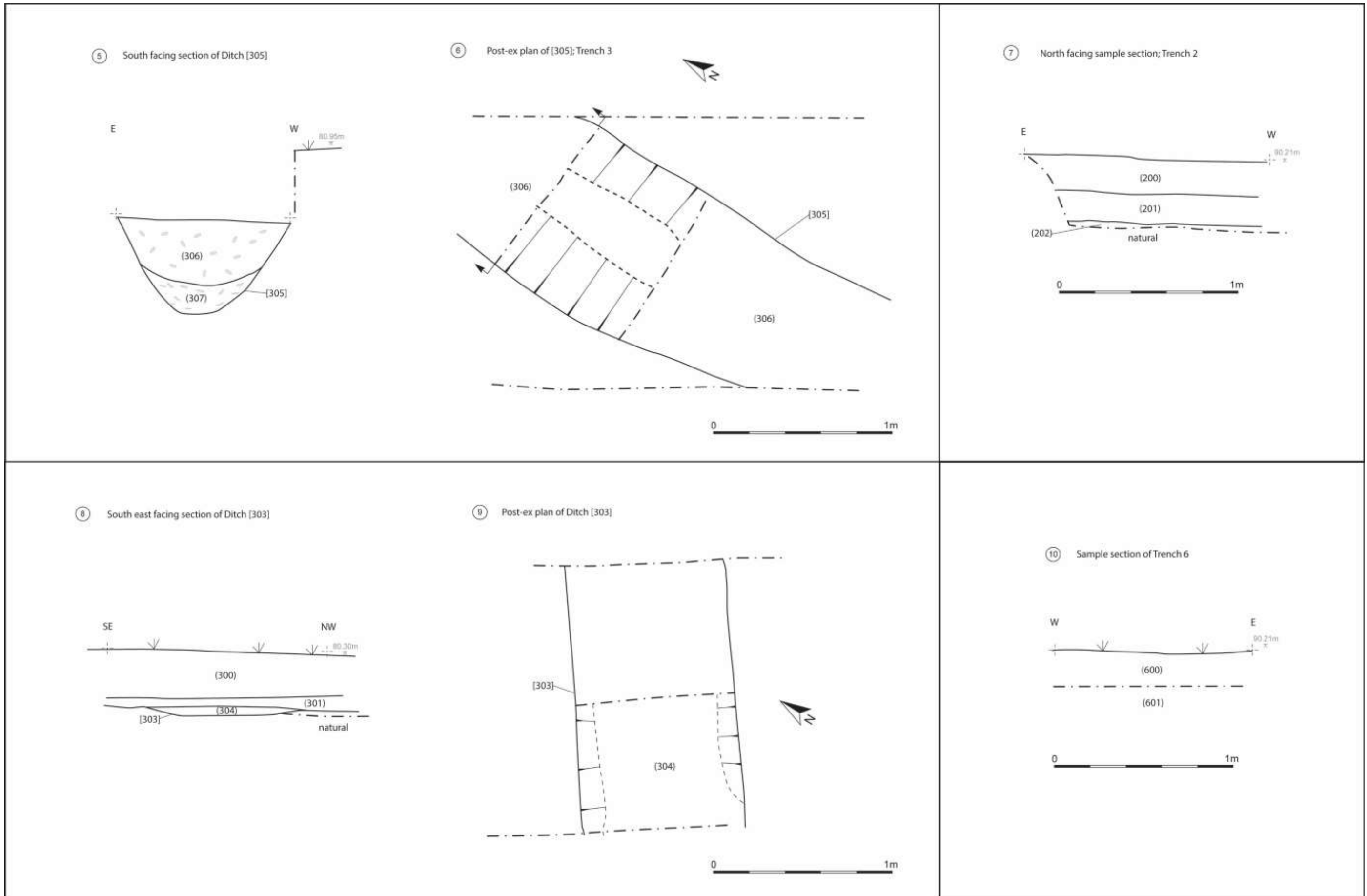


FIGURE 6: TRENCH 02, TRENCH 03 AND TRENCH 06; PLANS AND SECTIONS.



## 2.5 TRENCH 03

Trench 3 was located in the north eastern corner of Area 1 and excavated on a south-east to north-west alignment. It measured c.52.5m long, c.1.5m wide and was plotted to identify two linear anomalies noted on the geophysical survey. Two features were identified; ditches [303] and [305]. Topsoil (300) varied in depth, deepening from 0.15m to the south-west to a maximum depth of 0.35m to north-west. The subsoil also deepened from 0.02m to 0.3m.

Ditch [303] was a shallow (0.06m deep) liner orientated approximately north-east to south-west, it was 0.9m wide and had a gentle concaved profile. It contained a single reddish-grey silt-clay fill and produced no finds. This feature was not identified in the geophysical survey, not surprisingly given its slight nature, but a slight linear trend is identifiable.

Ditch [305] was a 1m wide and 0.45m deep linear orientated north to south. Ditch [305] had steep sloping sides and a steep concaved base, containing two fills. The upper clean fill (306) of grey silt-clay with occasional shillet fragments was a re-deposited natural and overlay a basal fill (307) of stoney grey silt-clay with abundant shillet fragments. Ditch [305] corresponded with the location of the outer enclosure ditch on the geophysical survey.

The strong irregular anomalies identified on the geophysical survey to the northern end of this trench were not evident as archaeological features but does appear to correspond with the location of a well-trodden path used by dog-walkers in the fields.

Topsoil layer (300) produced two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware and 1 small sherd of white refined earth-ware, and one small flint waste flake were recovered.



FIGURE 7: TRENCH 3, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH WEST (1M SCALE). THE ARROWS MARK PATHS USED BY WALKERS.



FIGURE 8: TRENCH 04; DITCHES [404], [406] & [402], VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).

## 2.6 TRENCH 04

Trench 4 ran between the east end of Area 1 and the west end of Area 2 – it cut through the extant hedgebank and was excavated on an east to west alignment. It measured c.18.4m long, c.1.5m wide and was plotted to follow the rectilinear enclosure and identify how well it survived beneath the Hedge. Three features were identified; two ditches [402] and [404] flanking the hedgebank; and Ditch [406] the outer enclosure ditch, which was cut the hedgebank ditches. The topsoil (400) was very thin in this area being 0.1-0.2m thick, and there was no subsoil evident. No finds were recovered from the trench.

Ditch [402], flanked the western side of the extant hedgebank. The ditch was a c.0.95m wide and 0.28m deep ditch with sloping sides and concaved base and a single mid-brown silt-clay fill (403), with abundant roots which was overlain by a thin modern topsoil (400).

Ditch [404], flanked the eastern side of the extant hedgebank. The ditch was c.0.55m wide and 0.16m deep ditch with sloping sides and a flat to slightly concaved base. Ditch [404] contained a single mid-brown silt-clay fill (405), which was overlain by a thin modern topsoil (400).

Ditch [406] was a 0.46m wide and 0.2m deep ditch with sloping sides, the southern side (internal to the enclosure) being much steeper a broad v-shaped base. Ditch [406] contained a single reddish-yellow silt-clay fill (407), with common shillet fragments.

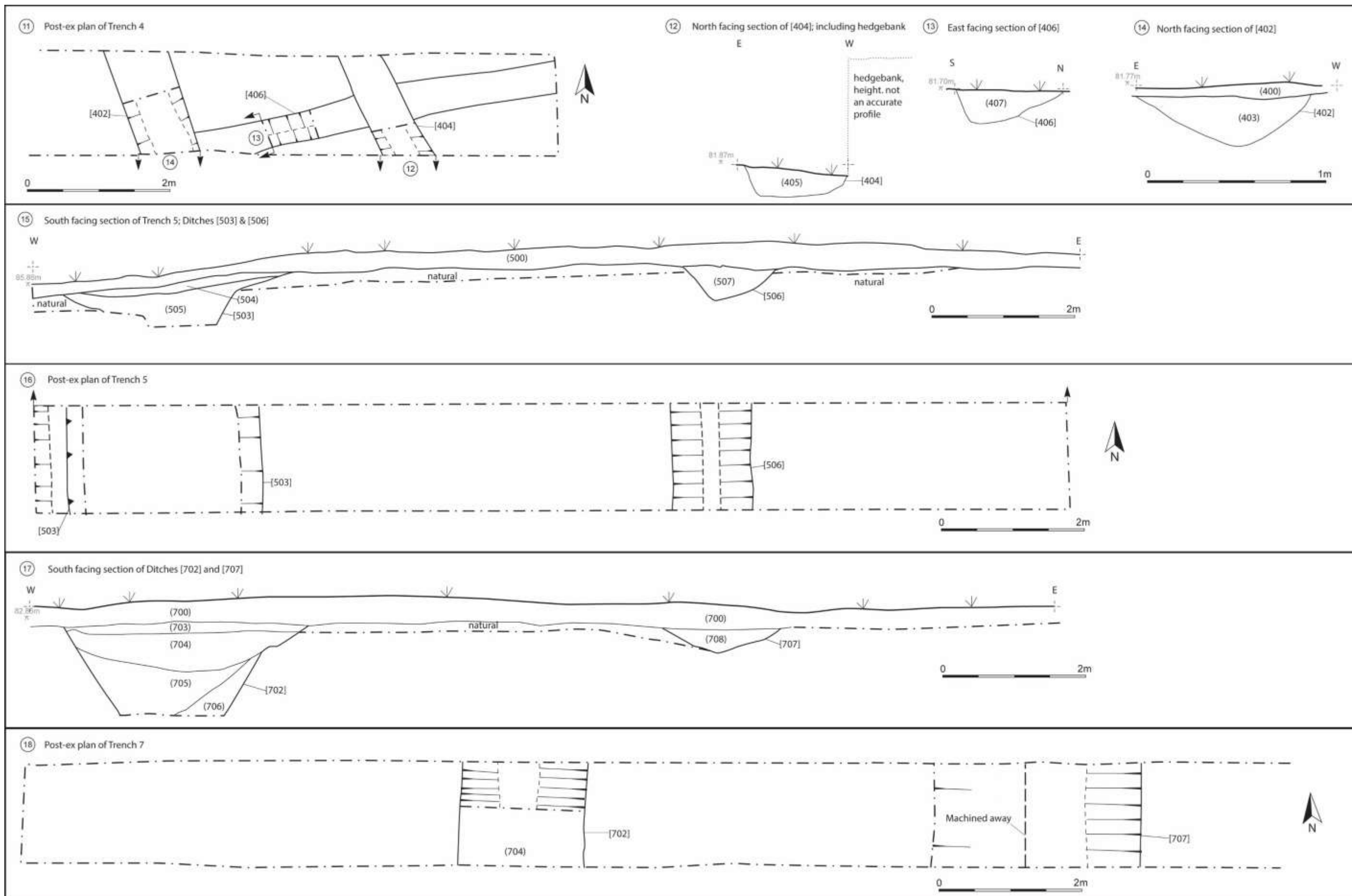


FIGURE 9: TRENCH 04, 05 & 07. HEIGHTS AT AOD.





FIGURE 10: DITCHES [503] AND [506] IN SECTION, POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE & 0.4M SCALE).

## 2.7 TRENCH 05

Trench 5 was in the eastern field, positioned over the enclosure ditches and to avoid an existing electric cable to the west. Trench 5 was excavated on an east-west alignment. It measured 16.8m long, c.1.5m wide, roughly c.0.2-0.4m deep. Two features were identified; ditches [503] and [506]. No finds were recovered from the trench.

Ditch [503] lay at the very western end of the trench, measuring up to c.2.7m wide. Only the top of the feature was excavated to demonstrate that it was part of the same large inner enclosure ditch. It had steep sloping sides. It was filled by contexts (504) – an upper, yellow, redeposited natural fill, and context (505) a homogenous, yellow, grey silt clay with common shillet fragments.

Ditch [506] lay at the east end of the trench and measured c.1.3m wide, c.0.5m deep steeply sloping sides with a sharp concave base. Ditch [506] was filled by a single fill (507) of yellow clay-silt with common shillet fragments.

## 2.8 TRENCH 06

Trench 6 was in the eastern field outside of the identified enclosure to sample a quiet area on the geophysics results. The trench was orientated north-east to south-west and measured c.17.6m long, c.1.5m wide. The topsoil was a consistent 0.2m deep. No features or finds were identified within this trench.



FIGURE 11: TRENCH 06; POST-EXCAVATION, FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

## 2.9 TRENCH 07

Trench 7 again sampled the enclosure ditches within the eastern field. Trench 7 was excavated on east to west alignment, and measured c.31.5m long, c.1.5m wide. Two features were identified; ditches [707] and the inner enclosure ditch of [702]. A single, small post-medieval brick fragment was recovered from Fill (704), likely intrusive, or reflecting the late final levelling of this feature.

Ditch [707], which is the outer enclosure ditch was largely excavated by machine, as its fill was very similar to the natural. Ditch [707] was c.1.5m wide and 0.35m deep, with sloping sides and a broad v-shaped shaped base.

Ditch [702], the inner enclosure ditch, was c.3m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.2m, but not fully excavated, due to the very loose nature of the fills. Ditch [702] had steeply sloping sides, and its base was not seen, due to the loose nature of the fills above. Ditch [702] contained four identified fills, a 0.2m thick upper fill (703) of clean yellow-grey silt-clay with common shillet fragments (i.e. a re-deposited natural), which overlay a fill (704) of homogenous soft grey clay-silt with common shillet fragments. Fill (704) overlay a loose grey shillet, with almost no soil matrix (705), which in turn overlay a much finer clean grey silt-clay.

## 2.10 FINDS

Overall, the total assemblage of finds was relatively small for a site so distinct. However, Trench 01 produced the only reasonable quantity of datable evidence, confirming a Romano-British (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) date for the enclosure. Fill (704) produced a single small hand-made brick fragment and the Topsoil layer of Trench 03 produced two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware, a single scrap of white refined earthenware, and one small flint waste flake.

## 2.11 DISCUSSION

The evaluation at Langage South identified 14 archaeological features, most of which related to a Romano-British enclosure or the subsequent agricultural use of the site in the post-medieval period. Where trenches targeted anomalies on the geophysical survey, the identified features largely correlated to the anomalies, whilst two additional shallow and one possible small discrete feature were also identified. Only two of the buried features produced dating evidence, Romano-British pottery being recovered from hollow [102] and from the inner enclosure ditch, [104]/[702]/[503]; one of upper fills of Ditch [702] also produced a post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) fragment of brick. The remaining artefacts being recovered from the topsoil of Trench 3, at the lower part of the site.

The poor survival of some of the features will reflect their ephemeral nature but also the damage arising from post-medieval agricultural activity. Most notably the creation of the hedgebank which divides the site, which was clearly constructed following the stripping of a corridor, and as such the (outer) enclosure ditch did not survive as well beneath the hedge as when encountered elsewhere on the site in the evaluation.

The Romano-British enclosure appears to have consisted of two ditches, with a much deeper and wider inner ditch, surviving up to 2m wide and 1.8m deep. The outer ditch survives to a maximum of 1m width and 0.55m depth. Both ditches appear to have been partially infilled through gradual silting up, possibly into the post-medieval period, given the presence of a brick fragment within the upper fills of Ditch [702]. Both enclosure ditches also contained extensive deposits of re-deposited natural, to the extent where (the outer ditch) in Trench 1 and 7 (Ditches [114] and [707]) were not identifiable during the machining. This re-deposited natural is presumed to have been derived from eroded/demolished adjoining banks. Trench 1 provided evidence for the trace of an internal bank surviving (109), whilst the sections through the inner enclosure ditch, suggest a primary collapse (or levelling) from the outside, (i.e. a second bank was located between the two ditches).

The presence of a shallow scoop in Trench 1, indicates that there is some potential for the survival of archaeological features or deposits inside the enclosure. Although this should be caveated, by the fact that this seemed to be the natural point at which water pooled, so the darker fill, charcoal flecks and finds could in theory of been washed down or into this feature.

The enclosure also appears to have either exploited a slight topographical change or to originally have been terraced into the hillside slightly, as Trench 7, demonstrated an admittedly slight

topographical change, and as such a slightly greater level of topsoil (c.0.3m-0.25m) exists over the enclosure (at least within the eastern field) than externally to the east (c.0.16m-0.2m).

The presence of a small double ditched Romano-British (farmstead) enclosure of this sort, is typical of the area, with other examples identified in the nearby Sherford developments, notably a double-ditched enclosure south-east of Sherford Cottages (MDV60834) (Wessex Archaeology Pending) and elsewhere in South Devon, e.g. a similar enclosed farmstead has been identified at Stoggy Lane, Hemerdon (MDV126322) (c.1.5km north-west). Other nearby Iron Age and Romano-British activity in Langage has also been identified with various other types of enclosures (e.g. see Hughes and Valentine 2008; Salvatore and Quinnell 2011). Other notable Romano-British sites in the area such as Mount Batten emphasise that the site did not exist within isolation but was part of a wider pattern of activity.

### 3.0 CONCLUSION

The evaluation identified a total of 14 (7 separate) archaeological features and validated the results of the geophysical survey. It confirmed the presence of a small (c.75m<sup>2</sup>) double ditched Romano-British enclosure seemingly of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date.

Following abandonment of the enclosure, it does not appear that the site was very intensively used until the post-medieval period, during this time the present field-boundary that divides the site, was constructed (with flanking ditches). Prior to constructing the hedgebank it appears that the site on which it was constructed was stripped.

Other examples of similar enclosures have been excavated elsewhere in the South Hams and it therefore fits in within the regional pattern of small enclosed farmsteads of this period. As such a typically worded archaeological condition, for a limited area of strip, map and sample would be a suitable mitigation strategy given the typical date range and significance of the archaeology encountered. Given the existing proposed development the footprint (see Figure 12), a strip, map and sample of the group of units centrally located within the enclosure with a narrow transect excavated across the enclosure ditches for retrieving suitable samples and further representative artefactual evidence seems more that proportionate for the archaeology encountered.



FIGURE 12: EVALUATION TRENCHES AND GEOPHYSICAL RESULTS, OVERLAIN ON PROPOSALS. AREA OF SUGGESTED STRIP, MAP AND RECORD OUTLINED IN BLUE.



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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Descriptions	Relationships	Measurements
<i>TRENCH 01</i>				
(100)	Layer	Topsoil – A mid, reddish brown, clay-silt; very homogenous; quite fine & soft. In places overlay a thin subsoil/hill-wash, but generally directly over the natural	Overlies (101); same as (200), (300), (400), (500), (600) & (700)	Between 0.2 & 0.4m thick
(101)	Layer	Natural - yellow to grey shillet with clay silt	Overlain by (100)	-
[102]	Cut	Cut of shallow sub-ovoid scoop at east end of trench, internal to enclosure	Filled by [103]	2m wide
(103)	Fill	A mid greyish-yellow silt clay; fill of [102]; occasional shillet fragments; rare quartz pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and pottery.	Overlain by (100)	0.2m thick
[104]	Cut	Cut of Inner enclosure ditch, c.2m wide and 1.8m wide V-shaped profile ditch.	Filled by (103) (106) (112) (113) and (107)	2.15m deep
(105)	Fill	Thin layer/ upper fill of [104], a reddish-yellow silt-clay (re-deposited natural), a result of ploughing? Across the top of the feature in recent past.		
(106)	Fill	Homogenous yellow-grey silt clay fill to Ditch [10], with common shillet fragments. Represents the final, gradual silting up of this ditch.	Overlain by (100) and (103); Overlies (112) (113) and (107)	0.65m thick
(107)	Fill	Basal fill of Ditch [104], a yellow clay silt, with abundant shillet fragments (re-deposited natural)	Overlain by (100), (103), (112) and (113)	0.9m thick
[108]	Cut	Cut/terrace of a possible remnant bank, immediately internal to Ditch [104]	Filled by (109)	
(109)	Fill	A soft reddish-yellow silt-clay deposit (a re-deposited natural), likely the remnant of a bank [108], internal to the inner enclosure ditch	Overlain by (100)	0.18m thick
[110]	Cut	Cut of a probable stone pull; could be a small post-hole, as no similar features noted in the evaluation, internal to the enclosure. Irregular in plan and profile.	-	-
(111)	Fill	A loose mid reddish-brown clay-silt fill of [110], with common small, sub-angular stones (re-deposited natural)	-	-
(112)	Fill	A grey silt-clay, with abundant shillet fragments, lower Fill of Ditch [104]. Likely washed in bank material/edge of cut.	Overlain by (100), (103) and (106); Overlies (107)	Up to 0.5m thick
(113)	Fill	Dark reddish-yellow silt clay fill of Ditch [104] with some charcoal inclusions.	Overlain by (100), (103) and (106); Overlies (107)	Up to 0.25m thick
[114]	Cut	Outer enclosure ditch, with wide v-shaped profile, 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep	Filled by (115)	0.5m deep
(115)	Fill	Single fill of Ditch [114]; a clean mid-reddish yellow clay-silt, with common shillet fragments. Note not visible during the trenching, only upon cleaning up the trench.	Overlain by (100)	Up to 0.55m thick



TRENCH 02				
(200)	Layer	Fine soft active topsoil; (as (100)	Overlies (201); same as (100), (300), (400), (500), (600) & (700)	Up to 0.19m thick
(201)	Layer	Slightly firmer; yellow-red subsoil	Overlain by (200); Overlies (202)	Up to 0.16m thick
(202)	Layer	Natural; as elsewhere	Overlain by (201)	Up to 0.04m thick
TRENCH 03				
(300)	Layer	Topsoil	Overlies (301) & (304); same as (100), (200), (400), (500), (600) & (700)	Up to 0.18m to 0.36m thick
(301)	Layer	Mid reddish-brown subsoil, to the north of the trench, petering out to the south; Likely a hill-wash layer/soil creep from up slope into natural coombe	Overlain by (300)	0.02m-0.25m thick
(302)	Layer	Natural	Overlain by (301)	
[303]	Cut	Cut of ditch shallow gently concaved ditch base	Filled by (304)	Up to 0.08m thick
(304)	Fill	Grey- red silt0-caly fill of Ditch [303]	Overlain by (300) and (301)	Up to 0.05m thick
[305]	Cut	Cut of v-shaped ditch	Filled by (306) and (307)	0.52m deep
(306)	Fill	Fill of [305]; a grey silt-clay with occasional shillet, likely redeposited natural	Overlain (300); Overlies (307)	Up to 0.37m thick
(307)	Fill	Basal Fill of Ditch [305], a grey silt-clay with common to abundant shillet	Overlain by (300) and (306)	Up to 0.18m thick
TRENCH 04				
(400)	Layer	Topsoil	Overlies (401); same as (100), (200), (300), (500), (600) & (700)	Up to 0.1m thick
(401)	Layer	Natural	Overlain by (400)	
[402]	Cut	Ditch with gentle concaved profile, flanking west side of extant hedgebank	Filled by (403)	Up to 0.3m deep
(403)	Fill	Dark, reddish brown silt-clay fill of Ditch [402], common roots	Overlain by (400)	Up to 0.3m thick
[404]	Cut	Ditch with gentle concaved profile, flanking east side of extant hedgebank, not as wide or deep at Ditch [402]	Filled by (405)	Up to 0.18m deep
(405)	Fill	Dark, reddish-brown silt clay fill of Ditch [404], common roots	Overlain by hedge bank material	Hedgebank up to 0.61m thick
[406]	Cut	Inner enclosure ditch; v-shaped profile with broad v-shaped profile with a flattish base	Filled by (407)	Up to 0.19m deep
(407)	Fill	Fill of [406], a reddish-yellow silt-clay with common shillet fragments	Overlain by hedge bank material	Up to 0.19m thick
TRENCH 05				
(500)	Layer	Topsoil	Overlies Natural (502); same as (100), (200), (300), (400), (600) & (700)	Up to 0.5m thick
(501)	Void	Void	Void	Void

(502)	Layer	Natural	Overlain by (500)	
[503]	Cut	Cut of Inner enclosure ditch, steep sloping sides, only partially excavated	Cut	Up to 0.7m deep
(504)	Fill	Upper fill of [503], a yellow silt-clay (re-deposited natural), again likely the results of ploughing	Overlain by (500)	Up to 0.15m thick
(505)	Fill	Homogenous, yellow-grey silt-clay fill of Ditch [503], with common small shillet fragments. Final silting up of Enclosure ditch [503]	Overlain by (500) and (504)	Up to 0.55m thick
[506]	Cut	Cut of outer enclosure ditch, broad v-shaped profile	Filled by (507)	Up to 0.45m thick
(507)	Fill	Soft yellowish-red silt-clay fill of [506], occasional to common shillet fragments.	Overlain by (500)	Up to 0.45m deep
<b>TRENCH 06</b>				
(600)	Layer	Active topsoil (as elsewhere)	Overlies (601); same as (100), (200), (300), (400), (500) & (700)	Up to 0.2m thick
(601)	Layer	Natural	Overlain by (600)	
<b>TRENCH 07</b>				
(700)	Layer	Active topsoil (As elsewhere)	Overlies Natural; same as (100), (200), (300), (400), (500) & (600)	Up to 0.4m thick to the west, and 0.19m to the east
(701)	Layer	Natural (as elsewhere)	Overlain by (700)	
[702]	Cut	Cut of inner enclosure ditch, steep sloping sides, not excavated to the base.	Filled by (703)	Up to 1.25m deep
(703)	Fill	Upper thin fill of slightly reddish yellow clay-silt with common shillet fragments (redeposited natural)	Overlain by (700); Overlies (704)	Up to 0.15m thick
(704)	Fill	grey-yellow, clay silt; common shillet fragments	Overlain by (703); Overlies (705)	Up to 0.54m thick
(705)	Fill	A fill of loose grey silt-clay, with abundant/dominant shillet fragments	Overlain by (704); Overlies (706)	Up to 0.9m thick
(706)	Fill	Clean soft to firm generally fine silt-clay fill with common small shillet fragments	Overlain by (705)	Up to 0.45m thick
[707]	Cut	Cut of outer enclosure ditch, excavated by machine	Filled by (708)	Up to 0.3m deep
(708)	Fill	Clean yellow, silt clay, common shillet fill of [707]	Overlain by (700)	Up to 0.3m thick

- [100] feature described in report  
 [100] natural feature  
 Archaeological feature - cut  
 Archaeological feature - structure

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery			CBM			Lithics			Date
	Sherd No.	Wgt.	Details	No.	Wgt.	Details	No.	Wgt.	Details	
Trench 03 Topsoil	2	0.028	Stoneware				1	0.002	Flint waste flake	Modern
	1	0.002	White refined earthenware							
103	3	0.024	South Devon Ware							2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Cent. AD
106	1	0.002	Black burnished ware rim							2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Cent. AD
107	43	0.642	South Devon Ware							2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Cent. AD
	2	0.013	Grey ware							
	2	0.005	Black Burnished Ware							
704				1	0.191	Brick Frag.				18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> cent.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0.716</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0.191</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0.002</b>		

## APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

BY DR. IMOGEN WOOD

**Summary**

This is an assessment report for a ceramic assemblage from SLS19 excavated in 2019 by Southwest Archaeology. The assemblage is very small, consisting of 51 sherds weighing 686g. Assessment of this material provides provisional dating evidence for many of the excavated features on the site, and supports the stratigraphical interpretation of the site.

**Methods**

47 sherds from one context were examined macroscopically with a hand lens at x2 magnification to identify initial fabric groups; these groups were then examined under a binocular microscope at a magnification of x10 to x40 (See Appendix 1). This enabled large areas of the surface and edges of sherds to be examined, and in many cases useful diagnostic mineral and rock components to be identified. Photomicrographs were taken and used for visual comparison with the database. Abrasion has been subjectively assessed using Sorensen's method (Sorensen 1996).

**Quantification**

The assemblage is composed of Romano-British pottery.

A context-by-context breakdown of fabrics, wares, abrasion and dating can be found in Table 2 (below).

Table 1: Quantification by period.

Period	No of sherds	Weight (grams)
Romano-British	5	20
RB Vessel 1 SDW	43	642
Other RB SDW	3	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>686g</b>

**Condition of the Assemblage**

The condition of the assemblage is poor, the South Devon Ware have been in a dynamic post depositional environment. The grey ware sherd is of a similar level of abrasion. The BB1 sherds are less abraded, mainly because the fabric of the pottery is more robust. Their discovery in the bottom of a feature fits this high level of abrasion.

**Results****Vessel 1**

South Devon Ware jar roughly 35% of the vessel is present. The sherds are reduced to a buff/light grey to mid grey brown. The everted rim is 50% complete con-joining sherds with a diameter of 140mm. There is a black organic burnished/residue on the edge and underneath the rim. This closed form jar has a base diameter of 120mm. The fabric can be assigned to the South Devon Ware Group, although there is a higher proportion of grey slate and less tourmaline present. There is a significant layer of internal charring suggesting this was a cooking vessel. This Ware generally dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Vessel 2**

Southeast Black Burnished Ware flat-rimmed bowl with curvilinear decoration under rim. Typical quartz rich fabric produced in Poole area, Dorset. Examples from Exeter date from the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Vessel 3**

Gritty Grey ware small fine jar with rolled out rim of small vessel with an 80mm diameter rim. Examples from Exeter have dated to 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Vessel 4**

South Devon Ware (jar or bowl) roughly 5% of the vessel is present. The sherds are reduced to a buff/light grey to mid grey brown. The fabric can be assigned to the South Devon Ware Group, although there is a higher proportion of grey slate and less tourmaline present. There is a slight internal charring suggesting this was a cooking vessel. This Ware generally dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

### **Significance of the Assemblage**

The pottery found at SLS is typical of that found in the Plymouth area and South Devon. This very small assemblage of pottery appears to date towards the end of the Roman period between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD which would make it most comparable with Mount Batten (Cunliffe 1988, 102).

### **References**

Sorensen, M. L. 1996: 'Sherds and pot groups as keys to site formation process', in S. Needham and T. Spence (eds.) *Refuse and disposal at area 16 East, Runnymede*. Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations 2, London, 61-74.

Cunliffe, B. 1988. *Mount Batten Plymouth, A Prehistoric and a Roman port*. Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph 26 (Oxford)

### **Recommendations**

Context	No.	Wgt (g)	Abrasion	Fabric group	Notes	Date	Illustration	Analysis
103	3	24	3	SDW	Slight charring	2-3rdnd c AD		
106	1	2	2	BB1	Rim sherd	2-early 3rdnd c AD		
107	43	642	2-3	SDW	30% of SDW jar. Abraded internal charring	2-3 <sup>rd</sup> AD	Y	
107	2	13	3	Grey ware	Fine Greyware everted flared rim of jar	2 <sup>nd</sup> c AD		
107	2	5	2	BB1	Rim sherds con-joining, decorated.	2-Early 3rd <sup>nd</sup> c AD		

APPENDIX 4: BULK SAMPLES

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Sample Type	No. Bags / Buckets	% Fill of Feature	Comments in the Field	Processed?	Comments During Processing	Macrofossils?
1	(103)	Pit/ Scoop	Bulk	2	0.20%	Fill of internal feature inside RB enclosure, some pottery noted.	N	-	-
2	(107)	Inner enclosure ditch	Bulk	2	0.02%	Basal fill of enclosure ditch. Charcoal and shillet inclusions.	N	-	-

APPENDIX 5: EVALUATION SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. DITCHES [104] AND [114]; POST EXCAVATION (1M SCALE). FROM THE SOUTH EAST.



2. SOUTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [114] (1M SCALES); FROM THE SOUTH.





3. RE-EXCAVATED DITCH [104] (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH.



4. RE-EXCAVATED DITCH [104] (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH.





5. DITCH [104]; OBLIQUE ANGLE; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH WEST.



6. DITCH [104]; OBLIQUE ANGLE; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH WEST.



7. DITCH [104]; OBLIQUE ANGLE; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.



8. DITCH [108] IN PLAN (1M SCALES). FROM THE WEST.





9. SOUTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [108] IN PLAN (1M SCALES). FROM THE WEST.



10. PIT/ SCOOP [102] (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH.



11. TRENCH 01 POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE EAST.



12. TRENCH 02; POST-EXCAVATION; SAMPLE SECTION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH.





13. LEFT: TRENCH TWO; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE EAST. 14. RIGHT: TRENCH 03; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH WEST.



15. SAMPLE SECTION; NORTH END OF TRENCH 03 (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH WEST.





16. NORTH EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [303] (1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.



17. NORTH EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [303] (1M SCALES); FROM THE NORTH EAST.





18. DITCH [303] POST-EXCAVATION; IN PLAN (1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.



19. NORTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [305] (1M + 0.4M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH.



20. DITCH [305] POST-EXCAVATION; IN PLAN (1M SCALE). FROM THE NORTH.



21. NORTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [404]; POST-EXCAVATION. FROM THE NORTH.





22. DITCH [406] IN PLAN; POST-EXCAVATION. FROM THE NORTH EAST.



23. DITCH [402] IN PLAN; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.





24. DITCHES [404] AND [406] IN SECTION (1M SCALES); POST-EXCAVATION. FROM THE NORTH.



25. TRENCH 04 INCLUDING DITCHES [404], [406] AND [402]; POST EXCAVATION. FROM THE SOUTH EAST.





26. TRENCH 05; POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE WEST.



27. DITCHES [502] AND [506] IN SECTION (0.4M AND 1M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.





28. DITCH [506] POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH WEST.



29. SOUTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [506] POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH.





30. TRENCH 06 POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE EAST.



31. SOUTH FACING SAMPLE SECTION TRENCH 06 (1M SCALE). FROM THE SOUTH.





32. DITCHES [702] AND [707] OBLIQUE ANGLE (1M AND 0.4M SCALES). FROM THE NORTH EAST.



33. SOUTH FACING SECTION OF DITCH [702] POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALE). FROM THE SOUTH.





34 SOUTH FACING SECTION OF DITCHES [702] AND [707] POST-EXCAVATION (1M SCALES). FROM THE SOUTH WEST.



35. DITCH [702] IN PLAN; POST-EXCAVATION. FROM THE EAST.



36. DITCH [707]; MACHINE EXCAVATED. FROM THE SOUTH.



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