

## 1.0 RESULTS OF MONITORING OF AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS AT BOW HENGE, BOW, MID DEVON

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	HAMPSON FARM
<b>PARISH:</b>	BOW
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	MID DEVON
<b>COUNTY:</b>	DEVON
<b>CENTROID NGR:</b>	SS 70789 01631
<b>PLANNING REF:</b>	N/A
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER:</b>	RAMM 18/38
<b>SMC NUMBER:</b>	S00205143
<b>SWARCH REF:</b>	BHH23
<b>OASIS REF:</b>	SOUTHWES1-522056

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by the landowner (the Client) to undertake a programme of monitoring of cultivation impacts across a Scheduled Monument at Bow in Mid Devon, which containing a Class II Henge and a pair of Prehistoric enclosures. This work was carried out in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with Nick Russell (Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) and ClfA guidelines. The Scheduled Monument did form part of a Higher Level Stewardship scheme, but this agreement came to an end in 2016. This programme of works is undertaken as part of the ongoing management strategy for the site, and to facilitate long-term monitoring of the monuments condition.

This work follows on from a programme of test-pitting and evaluation undertaken by SWARCH in 2019 (Morris 2019). During these works 12 of the test pits around the principal monuments, and the four trenches, were seeded with modern blue glass chips to serve as damage indicators – if cultivation resumed and the site is ploughed, the chips would be brought to the surface if ploughing dropped below a certain depth, at the base of the topsoil, typically c.0.3m below the present ground level. A site visit and condition monitoring report was also produced by SWARCH in 2020 (Walls 2020) and 2021 (Walls 2021).

### 1.2 METHODOLOGY

The site was visited by Dr. S. Walls in April 2023 following the first sustained rain after cultivation had occurred, the new crop had not yet started to emerge (see Figure 1). The visit occurred in dry conditions on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, by Dr. S. Walls, MCIfA, who carried out a brief walkover of the entire field, focused upon those areas known to be seeded with blue glass chips (see Figure 2).

### 1.3 RESULTS

In general, it was clear that ploughing had been undertaken very carefully. However, a small and very scattered group of blue glass chips (twenty-three of them) were noted in one location. These were seen in the approximate position of Test Pit 23 (see Figure 1). The visible glass chips were recovered, and it is recommended that monitoring continues to see if this process becomes more widespread following another year of ploughing and agricultural activity. Given the small number of glass chips visible it is likely that the plough only just caught the cache of buried glass. But this not makes two caches which have been lightly caught by ploughing activity.

Four flint flakes (1x retouched blade) were recovered during the site visit, all from near the Henge location (see Figure 2), and these will form part of the site archive for the site to be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter.



FIGURE 1: PHOTO OF THE SITE, DURING THE INSPECTION VISIT, WITH A SMALL AND SCATTERED AREA OF BLUE GLASS VISIBLE (ARROWED), VIEWED FROM THE EAST-SOUTH-EAST.

#### 1.4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boyd, N. 2020: Hampson Farm, Bow, Mid Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation – Monitoring of Cultivation v2. South West Archaeology Ltd. WSI no. BHH20v2
- Morris, B.W. 2019: *Hampson Farm, Bow, Mid Devon: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*. South West Archaeology Ltd. Report no.190515
- Walls, S.H. 2020: *Results Of Monitoring Of Agricultural Impacts At Bow Henge, Bow, Mid-Devon*.
- Walls, S.H. 2021: *Results Of Monitoring Of Agricultural Impacts At Bow Henge, Bow, Mid-Devon*.

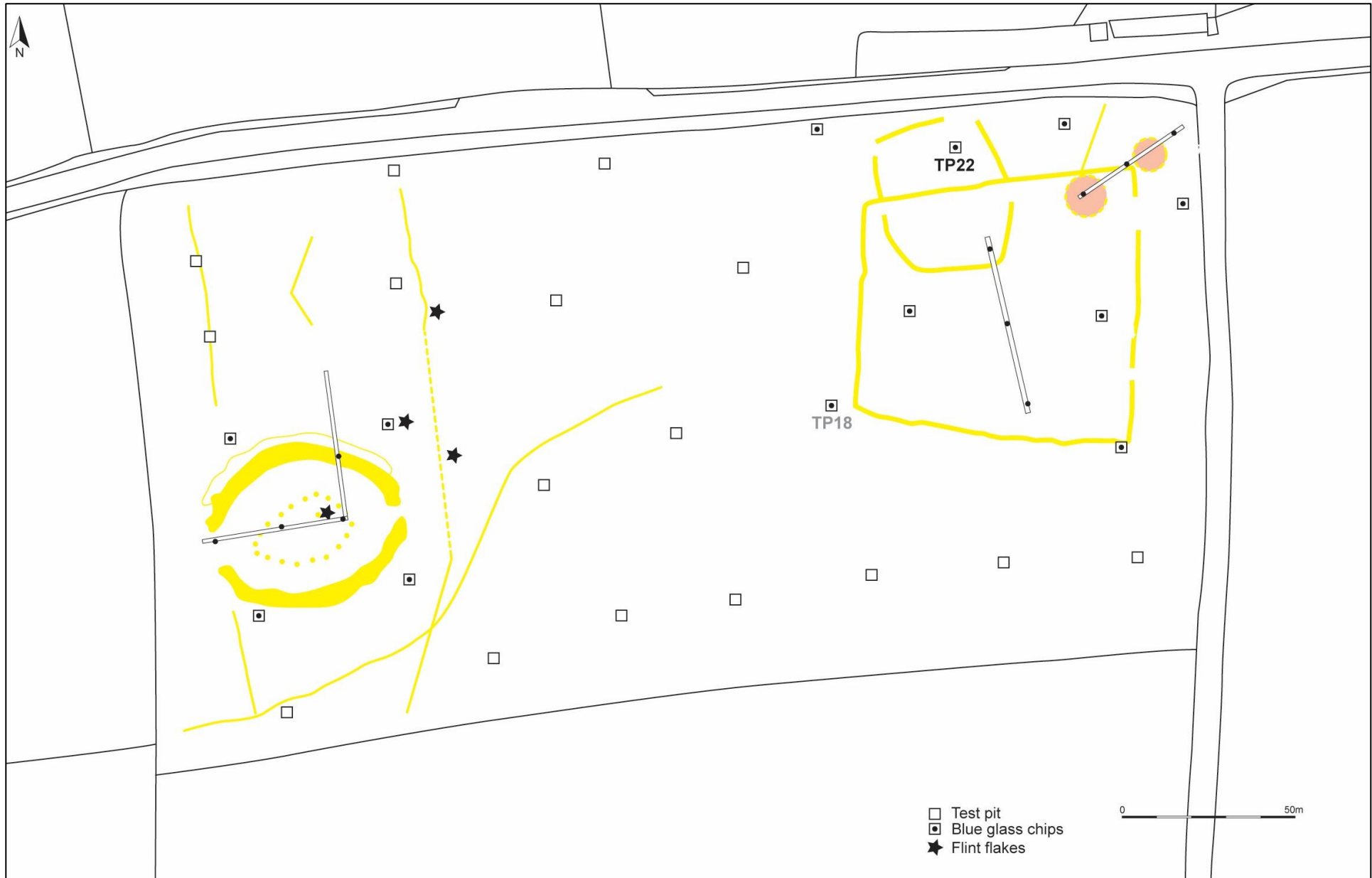


FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATIONS OF THE TEST PITS SEEDED WITH BLUE GLASS CHIPS IN 2018. TEST PIT 22 AND THE LOCATIONS OF RECOVERED FLINT FLAKES FROM THE VISIT ARE INDICATED. TEST PIT 18 ALSO INDICATED WAS THE LOCATION OF THE RECOVERY OF BLUE GLASS FLAKES IN 2021 (SEE WALLS 2021).



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