



**Winham Farm
Cullompton
Devon**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Pegasus Planning Group Ltd
on behalf of
Hive Energy Ltd


CA Project: 4871
CA Report: 14199

May 2014

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Devon

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CA Report: 14199

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Winham Farm
Location:	Cullompton, Devon
NGR:	ST 0145 0345
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	6-12 May 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Accession Number:	RAMM: 14/29
Site Code:	WINC 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon. A total of six trenches was excavated.

Evidence was found for early prehistoric activity in the form of two ring ditches and a ditch in the central part of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. A circular, vertically-sided pit immediately adjacent to the ditch was undated but may be broadly contemporary with the earlier prehistoric activity. A co-axial field system and a possible drying oven were identified in the western part of the area and produced finds broadly dating to the late Roman period.

A small group of features dating to the post-medieval period were identified in the south-western corner of the area and probably relate to agricultural activity.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Planning Group Ltd on behalf of Hive Energy Ltd at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon (centred on NGR: ST 0145 0345; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological works in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site. An earlier geophysical survey had identified anomalies of probable archaeological origin in the central part of the southern field (Field 1); the extent defined as the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity (Fig. 2; shaded in green). Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), archaeological advisor to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. The evaluation aimed to determine the significance of these features and to assess the impact of the development upon them. There was no requirement for archaeological evaluation outside this area.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Stephen Reed. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Stephen Reed, including a site visit on 8 May 2014.

The site

- 1.4 The site is located approximately 1.5km east of Bradninch and approximately 2.3km south of Cullompton to the west of Garlandhayes Farm. The whole site (Fields 1 and 2; Fig. 2 inset) is 12.05ha in area and is divided into two separate irregularly shaped fields (Fields 1 and 2; Fig. 2 inset). It lies to the east of the River Culm on land that gently rises towards the east (to c. 50m AOD) away from the river. The Area of Archaeological Sensitivity lies within the southern field (Field 1) which is bordered by low hedges on its eastern, western and southern sides while its northern border is a low bank of nettles, beyond which is a path separating it from the northern field

(Field 2) of the site. The northern field is bordered on its eastern and north-western side by hedges while its western side is bordered by a stream.

- 1.5 The underlying geology of the site consists of a number of different formations: Clyst St Lawrence Formation siltstone and sandstone forms a central band across the site, a band of Cadbury Breccia Formation runs across the northern part of the site while alternating bands of Cadbury Breccia Formation and Aylesbury Mudstone run across the southern part of the site (BGS 2014). The Drift geology includes bands of alluvium and river terrace deposits owing to the close proximity of the river Culm which runs south-west/north-east immediately to the west of the M5. Differing natural substrates were encountered across each of the trenches during the evaluation. These comprised mixed yellowish brown sand, pinkish orange sand with pebble inclusions and coarse sandy gravel, often overlying pink sandstone and clay at the base of the features.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site and its immediate surroundings was carried in support of the application (CA 2013). A brief summary of findings set out in that document is given below:

Earlier prehistoric

- 1.7 The earliest evidence for activity within the vicinity of the site is provided by two artefact scatters dating to the early prehistoric period, although a more precise date for either group is at present unknown. The first artefact scatter consisted of 14 pieces of flint, of which one was burnt, and three pieces of chert (approximately 1km west of the site). The second artefact scatter consisted of three pieces of flint (approximately 800m east of the site).

Later Prehistoric (c. 2500 BC to AD 43) and Roman (AD 43 to 410)

- 1.8 Cropmarks are recorded in the vicinity of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity (Fig 3) and immediately to the south-east (CA 2013, Fig. 3) , although currently undated, these cropmarks appear to represent later prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement activity.
- 1.9 The cropmarks appear to represent a number of different types of activity; two relatively large enclosures are represented, both of which are approximately 40m in width. Enclosure 'A' (Fig. 3) lies on either side of Winham Lane but only a small part

of its northern-most extent lies within the site. An internal ditch is recorded parallel to the outer one on the southern side and no further internal features are recorded. Enclosure B, located c. 100m to the east of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity (CA 2013, Fig. 3) is a 'D'-shaped enclosure, commonly associated with later prehistoric settlement activity. Again, however, no internal features such as ring ditches (which may represent later prehistoric roundhouses) are visible on aerial photographs. This may, however, be due to lack of visibility rather than absence. Dotted lines (CA 2013, Fig. 3) represent less clear features, which include a possible ring ditch around 100m to the north of Enclosure 'A': This may feasibly comprise the ring ditch of a barrow. Remaining cropmarks recorded in the vicinity of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity comprise both distinct and less distinct linear features, which probably represent former field boundaries; those in the vicinity of the enclosures appear to go through them and are likely to be later features. At least two of the linear marks correspond with former field boundaries depicted on the 1838 Tithe Map.

- 1.10 A further ring ditch is recorded on the HER as a crop mark within Field 2; this cropmark was not visible on aerial photographs examined for the DBA.
- 1.11 Further cropmarks of possible prehistoric date are recorded within the wider area of the site, namely; a ring ditch (approximately 1km to the west of the site); two round barrow sites around 500m east of the site and 1km west of the site; a probable multi-ditched enclosure (around 800m east of the site); a group of enclosures including a large single-ditched 'D'-shaped enclosure associated with a possible prehistoric field system (around 800m east of the site); an enclosure (around 800m north of the site); and a double-ditched rectilinear enclosure (around 1km west of the site).

Early medieval (AD 410 to 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 to 1539)

- 1.12 The site lies approximately 1.5km to the east of the town of Bradninch, which is recorded in the Domesday Book as belonging to William Cheever prior to the Norman Conquest and having 42 villagers, 16 smallholders, 15 ploughs and a mill. Approximately 1km to the south-east of the site is the small hamlet of Langford, which was recorded by the Domesday Book as belonging to Brismer or Brismar before the Norman Conquest and which consisted of 1.5 hides of land (Devon HER no. MDV16220). Despite the close proximity of two early medieval settlements, there is no evidence of activity from this period within the vicinity of the site.

- 1.13 Evidence for medieval activity is well attested within the vicinity of the site by a number of medieval cottages and farmhouses. The site of the medieval manor of Whiteheathfield Barton is recorded in a 1566 survey of the estates of Lord Dynham, approximately 450m to the south-west of the site. Possibly associated with the medieval activity recorded within the vicinity of the site are two areas (c. 0.7km to the south-east and c. 0.6km to the north of the site) of field systems, although they may instead date to (or have developed through) the post-medieval period. Field enclosures both within and around the site are fairly irregular, and probably represent a process of both informal and later formal enclosure from the medieval period onwards. It is likely that the site formed a part of the medieval hinterland of the nearby settlement foci during the medieval period.

Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and modern (1801 – present)

- 1.14 Post-medieval activity is again largely attested by the presence of cottages and farmhouses. The surviving medieval and post-medieval archaeology gives a picture of isolated farmsteads and cottages in a rural landscape. Three paper mills were known to have been located within the vicinity of the site, and which are recorded as having been in operation between 1767 and 1890. It seems likely that much of the agriculture during the medieval and early post-medieval periods was associated with Devon's flourishing wool trade until its decline in the 1800s (Croslegh 1911, 299). In addition, arable farming would also have been practised and aerial photographs taken on 13 April 1946 may reveal the presence of post-medieval ridge and furrow in a large field approximately 200m to the south of site.
- 1.15 The picture of a predominantly rural landscape continues into the modern, and indeed present, era as represented by a number of isolated farmsteads and structures within the vicinity of the site.
- 1.16 A geophysical survey carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (2014) identified anomalies indicative of pits and ditches in Field 1 and the results of this survey were used to define the Area of Archaeological Significance (Fig. 2). The survey identified magnetic traces of a ring ditch (1) previously recorded as a cropmark, a linear feature (2) also associated with a cropmark and additional, previously unknown, anomalies (Fig. 1). A number of the linear anomalies appeared to pre-date the pattern of post-medieval field boundaries in the vicinity of the site.

- 1.17 Field 2 contained anomalies relating to a backfilled quarry and a modern service. The ring ditch recorded by the HER and that identified by a possible cropmark within Field 2 were not identified by the geophysical survey.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.18 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable MDDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.19 The evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches (each 20m long and 1.8m wide) shown on Figure 2. The trenches were located to avoid an overhead service and associated buffer zone.
- 1.20 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013). Features which produced a paucity of artefacts were 100% excavated for finds recovery.
- 1.21 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). Two features were sampled and processed (Appendix C). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

- 1.22 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (under Accession Number RAMM: 14/29), along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-11)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results and attempts to correlate the findings with anomalies detected during the 2013 geophysical survey, which are depicted along with the evaluation results on Figure 2 and the previously identified cropmarks depicted on Figure 3. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

General Stratigraphy

- 2.2 The natural substrate, comprising a mixed yellow brown sand, a pink orange sand with pebble inclusions and a gravel and coarse sand deposit, often overlying pink sandstone and clay at the base of the features, was recorded at a depth of between 0.22m and 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was generally overlain by an orange brown silty sand subsoil, measuring between 0.12m and 0.4m in thickness. The subsoil was covered by a dark greyish brown topsoil measuring between 0.24m and 0.3m in thickness.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)

- 2.3 The natural substrate, 102, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.53m bpgl in Trench 1. It was cut by pit 105 and north-west/south-east aligned ditch 106.
- 2.4 Large, oval pit 105 was exposed towards the south-western end of Trench 1 and corresponded to an anomaly on the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). It measured 2.34m in width and 0.63m in depth and had an asymmetrical profile; the south-western side was nearly vertical, while the north-eastern side had a shallow slope breaking in to a near vertical slope towards a flat base (Fig. 4, section AA). A sherd of pottery broadly dating to the Roman period was recovered from primary fill 104, a black charcoal-rich deposit. A bulk sample <2> was recovered from this fill for

palaeoenvironmental analysis. The sample contained charred cereal remains dominated by spelt wheat and emmer/spelt cereal grains and including barley, emmer wheat and oat cereal grains but notably an absence of chaff. The pit was orientated north-east/south-west, possibly to allow the prevailing wind to assist a fire in the south-western end of the feature, and it may represent the truncated remains of a drying oven. However, it should be noted that there was no evidence for *in situ* scorching/heating of the natural substrate and it is possible that the charcoal-rich deposit was derived from elsewhere. Burnt flint and chert fragments were also retrieved from the bulk sample and these are considered to be residual. A rimsherd from a mortarium dating to the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries AD and a residual worked flint were recovered from stoney upper fill 103.

- 2.5 Ditch 106 corresponded to a geophysical anomaly and was 2.06m wide and 0.7m deep, with a 'V'-shaped profile, moderately-sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 4, section BB). It contained primary fill 107 which contained two sherds of 4th-century AD pottery. Secondary fill 108 and third sand clay fill 109 were devoid of artefactual evidence. Both features were sealed by subsoil 101, which was covered by topsoil 100.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

- 2.6 The natural substrate, 202, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.62m bpgl in Trench 2. It was cut by two curving ditches, 203 and 209 (both identified by the geophysical survey and as cropmarks), and pits 207 and 213.
- 2.7 Ditches 203 and 209 corresponded to a semi-circular anomaly on the geophysical survey (Fig. 2) and a circular cropmark (Fig. 3) and appear to form either side of a ring ditch. Ditch 203 was 1.9m wide and 0.6m deep, with an irregular, 'U'-shaped profile and a flat base (Fig. 5, section CC). Sterile primary fill 204 was overlain by secondary fill 206 which comprised sandy silt and contained worked chert and flint, including flakes, blades and a burnt bladelet dating to the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods. Ditch 209 was 2.02m wide, 0.7m deep and had a 'V'-shaped profile with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, section CC). Primary fill 210 was overlain by stoney secondary fill 211 which appeared to represent slumping/collapse from an internal mound that has since been ploughed away. Secondary fill 211 contained a sherd of early prehistoric pottery, 12 chert flakes and 3 worked flint artefacts, including a retouched scraper and a flake with

platform preparation, a technique employed during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. Upper sandy silt fill 212 was devoid of artefactual material.

- 2.8 Features 207 and 213 were not detected by the geophysical survey and were not fully exposed in plan. Pit 207 was 0.5m wide and 0.23m deep and had a vertical slope on the eastern side, a moderate slope of the western side and a flat base. A single sherd of early prehistoric pottery was recovered from single fill 208. Pit 213 was 0.84m wide and 0.29m deep with a moderately sloping western side and a shallow eastern side (Fig. 5, section DD). It contained a single, sterile sandy silt fill, 214. All features were sealed by subsoil 201, which was covered by topsoil 200.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

- 2.9 The natural substrate, 302, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.42m bpgl in Trench 3. It was cut by north-west/south-east aligned ditch 303 and north-east/south-east aligned ditch 308, both of which correspond to anomalies on the geophysical survey. It is probable that the two cropmarks identified in the vicinity of Trench 3 correspond to the geophysical anomalies (one, to the west, is a recent field boundary) but that there are discrepancies in the mapping/plotting.
- 2.10 Ditch 303 was 3.42m wide and 0.87m deep with a moderately sloping eastern side, a shallow western side and a concave base (Fig. 6, section EE). Primary fill 305 had a sandy silt composition and contained a charcoal-rich lens and two sherds of pottery broadly dated to the Roman period. Sterile reddish brown secondary fill 304 appeared to comprise redeposited natural substrate.
- 2.11 Ditch 308 was partially exposed at the western extent of the trench to a width of 1.77m. The south-eastern side had a shallow slope breaking in to a more moderate slope towards a concave base (Fig. 6, section FF). Primary fill 307 had a sandy silt composition and secondary fill 306 was stoney and contained charcoal flecks, suggesting an episode of deliberate backfilling once the ditch had gone out of use. A single rimsherd of Dorset Black-burnished ware dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and twelve sherds of 4th-century AD pottery were recovered from secondary fill 306. Both features were sealed by subsoil 301, which was covered by topsoil 300.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 & 7)

- 2.12 The natural substrate, 402, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.7m bpgl in Trench 4. It was cut by two curving ditches, 403 and 405.

- 2.13 Ditches 403 and 405 corresponded to a semi-circular anomaly on the geophysical survey and appear to form either side of a ring ditch. Ditch 403 was 1.86m wide and 0.44m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 7, section GG). A chert flake and two flint flakes dating to the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods were recovered from single sandy fill 404. Ditch 405 was 1.52m wide and 0.32m deep and had the same profile as ditch 403. A chert flake and a dual platform chert core broadly dating to the prehistoric period were recovered from single sandy fill 406. Both features were sealed by subsoil 401, which was covered by topsoil 400.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 & 8-10)

- 2.14 The natural substrate, 502, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.47m bpgl in Trench 4. It was cut by ditch 509, pit 511, pit 506 and pit 504. All features corresponded to anomalies on the geophysical survey.
- 2.15 Ditch 509 was 1.73m wide and 0.76m deep, with moderately sloping sides breaking into a vertically-sided channel with a flat base (Fig. 8, section II). Primary fill 508 was overlain by sandy silt secondary fill 507, which contained two sherds of early prehistoric pottery. This fill contained charcoal flecks and a bulk sample <1> was recovered for palaeoenvironmental analysis: The charcoal was identified as oak which appeared to represent discarded firing debris. Undated pit 511 was circular in plan, 1.45m in diameter and in excess of 1.22m deep, with near vertical sides (Fig. 8, section JJ). Safety considerations prevented the excavation of this feature to its full depth. Lower fill 512 comprised a yellow brown sandy silt, while stoney upper fill 510 may represent the deliberate backfilling of the feature. Both features were covered by subsoil 501, which was sealed by topsoil 500.
- 2.16 Pit 506 was located at the south-eastern end of the trench and had an irregular oval shape in plan measuring greater than 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, section HH). It contained a single, sterile sandy silt fill, 505. This fill was truncated by pit 504, the extent of which was not visible in plan. Pit 504 was 1.07m wide and 0.4m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained sandy silt fill 503, from which a clay pipe stem fragment dating to the 16th to late 19th centuries and a sherd of 16th to 18th-century glazed earthenware were recovered. No subsoil was present in this part of the trench, therefore pit 506 was immediately sealed by topsoil 500.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3 & 11)

- 2.17 The natural substrate, 602, was identified at a maximum depth of 0.6m bpgl in Trench 6. It was covered by subsoil 601, averaging 0.4m in thickness, which had been cut by north-west/south-east orientated ditch 603 and pit 605. Both features were sealed by topsoil 600 and correspond to anomalies on the geophysical survey.
- 2.18 Ditch 603 was 2.52m wide and 0.32m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 11, section KK). A total of eleven sherds of earthenware and two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from clayey sand fill 604, providing dating evidence from the 16th to 18th centuries. An iron object, possibly a stirrup or pipe fitting, was also recovered from this fill. Pit 605 was 2.64m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. A single sherd of glazed earthenware dating to the 16th to 18th centuries was recovered from clayey sand fill 606. Both features were sealed by topsoil 600.

The finds evidence

- 2.19 Finds recovered from evaluation include pottery, clay tobacco pipe, metal objects, and worked flint and chert. Codings for Roman fabrics correspond to those defined in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery: prehistoric

- 2.20 Four small and unfeatured sherds of pottery were recorded, which are broadly dateable to the earlier prehistoric period (Neolithic or Bronze Age). Ditch fill 507 (ditch 509) produced two joining sherds in a handmade grog-and-quartz tempered fabric; one sherd in a handmade fabric with sparse, coarse chert or flint inclusions was recorded from pit fill 208 (pit 207); and one sherd from ditch fill 211 (ditch 209) occurred in a handmade fabric with quartzite and (igneous) rock inclusions.

Roman

- 2.21 Pit fill 103 (pit 105) produced a rimsherd from a mortarium in New Forest (Fine) White ware 2 (NFO WH2). It was identified as a Type 103, which is late 3rd to mid 4th century in date (Fulford 1975, 74-79).
- 2.22 A single rimsherd of Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1), from a (Seager Smith and Davies) Type 3 everted rim jar, was recovered from ditch fill 306 (ditch 308). Black-burnished ware was produced near Poole in Dorset, and when found outside

Dorset it typically dates to the second to fourth centuries (Davies *et al.* 107, 1994). The Type 3 jar can be more narrowly dated to the late 3rd to 4th centuries (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 230–1).

- 2.23 A total of 14 sherds of South Devon (micaceous) Reduced ware (SOD RE) was recorded in ditch fills 107 (ditch 106) and 306 (ditch 308). Both deposits contain rimsherds from jars with slightly everted rims, which is a 4th century form (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 179-180).
- 2.24 Pottery which cannot be dated more precisely than to the Roman period consisted of: an unfeatured bodysherd in a fine, buff-firing fabric from ditch fill 104 (ditch 105); and two unfeatured bodysherds in a black-firing, sand-tempered fabric recovered from ditch fill 305 (ditch 303).

Post-medieval

- 2.25 A total of 12 sherds of glazed earthenware were recovered from ditch fill 604 (ditch 603), and pit fills 503 (pit 504) and 606 (pit 605), in addition to a single bodysherd of unglazed earthenware from ditch fill 604. Both types of pottery date to the 16th to 18th centuries.
- 2.26 One bodysherd of black basalt stoneware, featuring relief decoration, was recovered as an unstratified find. This type of pottery was produced during the 18th to 19th centuries.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 2.27 A total of three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from two deposits. The stem fragment from pit fill 503 (pit 504) is broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries. A fragment from a spurred bowl from ditch fill 604 (ditch 603), however, was identified as an (Oswald) Type 20 or 21 pipe, which dates to c. 1690 to 1740 (Oswald 1975, 38-41).

Metal objects

- 2.28 Two iron objects were recorded: a nail from subsoil 401 and an object from ditch fill 604 (ditch 603) which is tentatively identified as either a stirrup or a pipe fitting.



Worked flint and chert

- 2.29 A total of 20 items of worked flint and 40 of worked chert were recovered from eight deposits. In addition, a total of approximately 211 pieces of burnt, unworked flint and chert weighing 29g were recovered from bulk soil samples of ditch fills 104 (ditch 105) and 507 (ditch 509). The majority of lithics from the largest groups (those from ditch fills 206 (ditch 203) and 211 (ditch 209)) displayed minimal rolling and edge damage, suggesting that they were *in situ* finds. A number of the unstratified flints are indicative of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic knapping technology, including blade production and platform preparation.
- 2.30 The majority of these items are flakes and one broken flint flake from ditch fill 206 (ditch 207) displays evidence of utilisation along the left ventral edge. Two flake cores were included: a single-platform core on a flint flake from ditch fill 404 (ditch 403); and a dual platform chert core from ditch fill 406 (ditch 405).
- 2.31 The lithics from ditch fill 206 (ditch 203) include three broken blades and one burnt bladelet, all of which were made of flint. Blade technology features during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, and the bladelet is a typically Mesolithic item. The flint items in ditch fill 211 (ditch 209) included an end scraper made on a thin flake which features very fine, abrupt retouch on the dorsal distal edge and a flake displaying evidence of platform preparation: the latter strategy was employed during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

Faunal remains

- 2.32 A total of two fragments (5g) of animal bone was recovered from deposit 604 (ditch 603) associated with finds dating to the post-medieval period. Both were identified as ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) molar fragments. Due to the small size of the assemblage, no further interpretative data could be obtained beyond confirming the presence of this species on site.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.33 Two environmental samples (32 litres of soil) were taken with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Prehistoric

- 2.34 Sample <1> was recovered from fill 507 (ditch 509) dating to the prehistoric period. The sample contained no plant macrofossil material, however, it did contain a moderate assemblage of charcoal identified as oak. This material is indicative of discarded firing debris from a hearth, however the paucity of other ecofacts or artefacts means no further interpretative information can be deduced.

Roman

- 2.35 Sample <2> was recovered from the lower pit fill 104 (pit 105). This pit contained a large, moderately well preserved assemblage of charred cereal remains dominated by spelt wheat and emmer/spelt wheat cereal grains with smaller quantities of barley, emmer wheat and oat cereal grains. No cereal chaff was identified. In addition a small number of weeds including knotweeds, dock, mallow and goosefoots were identified. The charcoal, including the large fragment of charred timber recovered on site was identified as alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The absence of chaff within this assemblage is of interest: Although it is possible this is due to differential preservation, it may suggest the waste within the pit originated from an activity utilising processed, clean grain. A number of the grains (mostly spelt and emmer/spelt wheat) displayed some evidence of germination, although the preservation of the grain made this difficult to identify. Typically barley is known as the dominant cereal used for malting, although during the Roman period, in southern England, wheat was commonly used to make ale (van der Veen 1991, 312, Cool 2006, 141).
- 2.36 The oak charcoal from ditch 509 (sample <1>) would not be suitable for radiocarbon dating. The charred plant remains and charcoal from sample <2> would be suitable for radiocarbon dating if required.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has identified a number of archaeological features within the targeted Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. These can be broadly grouped in to three periods; early prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval. These are discussed in more detail below.

Early prehistoric

- 3.2 The two ring ditches (203/209 and 403/405), have internal diameters of 13m and 10m respectively and fills which produced worked chert and flint broadly dating to the prehistoric period. The flint blades recovered from ditch fill 206 (ditch 203) and the flake displaying evidence of platform preparation from ditch fill 211 (ditch 209) are examples of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic technologies.
- 3.3 Round barrows are known to have been present from the Early Neolithic (Woodward 2000, 36), therefore, together with the early prehistoric pottery recovered from pit fill 208 and ditch fill 211, an earlier prehistoric date seems probable and the identified features may represent the remains of ploughed-out barrows. Two artefact scatters dating to the early prehistoric period have previously been recorded within the vicinity of the site (see archaeological background above).
- 3.3 The interpretation may be supported by the identification of slumped deposit 211 on the eastern edge of ditch 209 which may suggest erosion and/or collapse from an internal mound. Although two discrete features were identified internal to ring ditch 203/209 (pits 207 and 213), no funerary remains were identified but they may exist elsewhere within the ring ditches and/or may have been destroyed by later agricultural activity. A ring ditch with an internal diameter of 10m was identified at Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton, approximately 9.4km to the south-west of the site. Early Neolithic pottery and a Neolithic flint axe flake were recovered from the uppermost fill, however later dating for the ring ditch has been suggested due to a radiocarbon date of 1613–1489 cal BC (85.9% probability; SUERC 44580) from a charcoal fragment and by the similarity of the feature to Bronze Age ring ditches such as those at Hayes Farm (CA forthcoming).
- 3.4 A ditch, 509, located to the south-east of the ring ditches also contained early prehistoric pottery and undated pit 511, immediately to the south of this ditch may be of a similar date, vertically-sided pits are not uncommon on Neolithic sites and parallels have been cited in Devon at Hazard Hill and Hembury (Gent and Quinnell 1999, 85). The cropmarks in the vicinity of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity, including enclosures 'A' and 'B' and associated features (Fig. 3 and CA 2013, Fig. 3), and the ring ditches and/or round barrows identified c. 1km to the east and west of the area, suggest that the ring ditches are located within a landscape of prehistoric activity.

Roman

- 3.6 In the western part of the site, ditches 106, 303 and 308 comprised parts of a probable Roman co-axial field system identified by the geophysical survey and possibly relating to recorded cropmarks (Fig. 3). Although the pottery from ditch 303 could only be broadly dated to the Roman period, the pottery recovered from ditches 106 and 308 suggests a Late Roman date. To the north-east of ditch 106, elongated pit 105 may have represented the truncated remains of a drying oven. The pottery broadly dating to the Roman period from primary 104 and the rimsherd of mortarium dating to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD from upper fill 103 provide evidence for contemporary domestic activity occurring adjacent to a field system containing an arable crop.

Post-medieval

- 3.7 An area of post-medieval activity comprising a ditch and two pits was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the site and probably relates to agricultural activity.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley, assisted by Mark Brett, Matt Nichol, Sian Reynish, Mary Lutescu-Jones, Michael Joyce and Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Rebecca Riley. The finds report was compiled by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke and the palaeoenvironmental report was compiled by Sarah Cobain. The illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	20	1.7	0.3	modern
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy silt	20	1.7	0.23	
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand and yellowish pink firm sand	20	1.7		geological
1	103	Fill	105	upper fill of pit	mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt	2.34		0.44	Roman
1	104	Fill	105	lower fill of ditch	black charcoal-rich deposit	2.29		≤0.25	
1	105	Cut		pit	cut of elongated oval pit	2.34	1	0.63	
1	106	Cut		ditch	cut of NW/SE orientated ditch	1.7	2.0 6	0.7	
1	107	Fill	106	lower fill of ditch	mid reddish/greyish brown sandy silt	1.7	0.8 6	0.3	Roman
1	108	Fill	106	2nd fill of ditch	light brown clayey silty sand	1.7	2.0 6	≤0.23	
1	109	Fill	106	upper fill of ditch	mid brown silty sandy clay	1.7	1.4 9	0.18	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	20	1.7	0.36	Modern
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy silt	20	1.7	≤0.3	
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand and yellowish pink firm sand	20	1.7		geological
2	203	Cut		ditch	cut of N/S orientated curvilinear ditch	>1.6	1.9	0.6	
2	204	Fill	203	lower fill of ditch	mid pinkish brown silty sand	>1.6	0.7 8	0.36	
2	206	Fill	203	upper fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown sandy slit	>1.6	1.9	0.38	prehistoric/ early prehistoric
2	207	Cut		pit	irregular pit, internal to ring-ditch 203/209		0.5	0.23	
2	208	Fill	207	fill of pit	dark greyish brown sandy silt		0.5	0.23	prehistoric/ early prehistoric
2	209	Cut		ditch	cut of N/S orientated curvilinear ditch	>1.7	2.0 2	0.7	
2	210	Fill	209	lower fill of ditch	mid pinkish brown silty sand	>1.6	0.9	0.22	
2	211	Fill	209	slumped fill of ditch	mid pinkish brown sandy silt	>1.6	0.7	0.22	prehistoric/ early prehistoric
2	212	Fill	209	upper fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown sandy slit	>1.6	1.9	0.38	
2	213	Cut		pit	irregular pit, internal to ring-ditch 203/209	1.99	0.8 4	0.29	
2	214	Fill	213	fill of pit	mid yellowish brown silty sand	1.99	0.8 4	0.29	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt	20	1.7	0.3	Modern
3	301	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown sandy clayey silt	20	1.7	0.12	
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravels and pink and yellow compact sand	20	1.7		geological
3	303	Cut		ditch	cut of NW/SE orientated ditch	>1.7	3.4 2	0.87	
3	304	Fill	303	upper fill of	mid reddish brown sandy silt	>1.7	3.1	0.17	

				ditch					
3	305	Fill	303	lower fill of ditch	dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1.7	3.2	0.68	Roman
3	306	Fill	308	upper fill of ditch	mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with pink and orange mottles	>1.7	≤0.55		Roman
3	307	Fill	308	lower fill of ditch	light pinkish/greyish brown sandy silt	>1.7	0.72	0.22	
3	308	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated ditch	>1.7	1.77	0.7	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid orangey brown silty sand	20	1.7	0.3	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	mid pinkish brown silty sand	20	1.7	0.4	
4	402	Layer		natural substrate	coarse sandy gravel and light yellowish brown sand	20	1.7		
4	403	Cut		ditch	cut of N/S orientated curvilinear ditch	>1.7	1.86	0.44	
4	404	Fill	403	fill of ditch	mid yellowish brown silty sand	>1.7	1.86	0.44	prehistoric/ early prehistoric
4	405	Cut		ditch	cut of N/S orientated curvilinear ditch	>1.7	1.52	0.32	
4	406	Fill	405	fill of ditch	mid orangey brown silty sand	>1.7	1.52	0.32	prehistoric
5	500	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown sandy silt	20	1.7	0.3	
5	501	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown sandy silt	20	1.7	0.17	
5	502	Layer		natural substrate	coarse sandy gravel and mid pinkish orange sand	20	1.7		
5	503	Fill	504	fill of pit	dark greyish brown sandy silt		1.07	≤0.4	post-medieval
5	504	Cut		pit	re-cut of pit 506		1.07	≤0.4	
5	505	Fill	506	fill of pit	mid orangey brown sandy silt		≥1.4	≤0.4	
5	506	Cut		cut of pit	cut of oval pit		≥1.4	≤0.4	
5	507	Fill	509	fill of ditch	mid orangey brown sandy silt	>1.7	1.73	0.62	prehistoric
5	508	Fill	509	fill of ditch	light greyish brown sandy silt	>1.7	0.33	≤0.17	
5	509	Cut		ditch	cut of NE/SW orientated ditch	>1.7	1.73	0.76	
5	510	Fill	511	upper fill of pit	light yellowish brown clayey sand		>1.45	0.86	
5	511	Cut		pit	cut of circular storage pit		>1.45	>1.22	
5	512	Fill	511	fill of pit	mid yellowish brown sandy clayey silt		1.35	>0.38	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown sandy silt				
6	601	Layer		subsoil	mid orangey brown silty sand				
6	602	Layer		natural substrate	coarse sandy gravel and mid pinkish orange sand				
6	603	Cut		ditch	cut of NW/SE orientated ditch	>1.7	2.52	0.32	
6	604	Fill	603	fill of ditch	dark grey sandy clay	>1.7	2.52	0.32	post-medieval
6	605	Cut		pit	cut of oval pit		2.64	0.4	
6	606	Fill	605	fill of pit	dark reddish brown sandy clay		2.64	0.4	post-medieval

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
0	Post-medieval pottery: black basalt stoneware	1	7	-
	Worked flint: flakes, blade, side scraper	6	36	
103	Roman pottery: Oxford white ware	1	26	Roman
	Worked chert: flake	2	41	
104	Roman pottery: fine, buff fabric	1	10	Roman
	Worked flint & chert	3	0	
	Burnt flint & chert	c. 200	27	
107	Roman pottery: South Devon (micaceous) reduced ware	2	61	Roman
206	Worked flint and chert: flakes, blades, bladelet	18	154	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
208	Early prehistoric pottery: chert-tempered fabric	1	7	prehistoric
	Worked chert: flake	1	23	
211	Early prehistoric pottery: quartzite-and-igneous rock tempered fabric	1	3	prehistoric
	Worked flint and chert: flakes, end scraper	15	168	
305	Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	2	2	Roman
	Worked chert: flake	1	15	
306	Roman pottery: Dorset Black-burnished ware; South Devon (micaceous) reduced ware	12	120	C3-C4
	Worked chert: flake	1	3	
401	Iron object: nail	1	14	-
404	Worked flint and chert: flakes, core	3	32	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
406	Fired clay	1	0	-
	Worked chert: flake, core	2	48	
503	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	3	C16-C18
	Fired clay	1	0	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	4	
507	Prehistoric pottery: grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	2	5	prehistoric
	Worked flint and chert: flake, chips	8	1	
	Burnt chert and flint	11	2	
604	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware; unglazed earthenware	11	239	C18
	Clay tobacco pipe: bowl	2	9	
	Iron object	1	201	
606	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	10	C16-C18

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Plant macrofossil identification

Context number				507	104
Feature number				509	105
Sample number				1	2
Flot volume (ml)				15	79
Sample volume processed (l)				16	16
Soil remaining (l)				0	0
Period				Preh	RB
Plant macrofossil preservation				N/A	Moderate
Habitat Code	Family	Species	Common Name		
D/A	Amaranthaceae	<i>Chenopodium</i> L. (<i>Blitum</i> L.)	Goosefoots		+
D	Malvaceae	<i>Malva</i> L.	Mallows		+
E	Poaceae	<i>Avena</i> L.	Oats grain		++
E		<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Barley grain		+++
E		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat grain		+++++
E		<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> / <i>Triticum spelta</i>	Emmer/spelt wheat grain		+++++
E		Poaceae	Indeterminate cereal grain (whole)		+++++
D	Polygonaceae	<i>Persicaria</i> Mill.	Knotweeds		++

Table 2: Charcoal identification

Context number				507	104
Feature number				509	105
Sample number				1	2
Flot volume (ml)				15	79
Sample volume processed (l)				16	16
Soil remaining (l)				0	0
Period				preh	Ro
Charcoal quantity				+++++	+++++++
Charcoal preservation				Moderate	Good
Family	Species	Common Name			
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Alder			10
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	10		
Number of Fragments:			10		10

Key

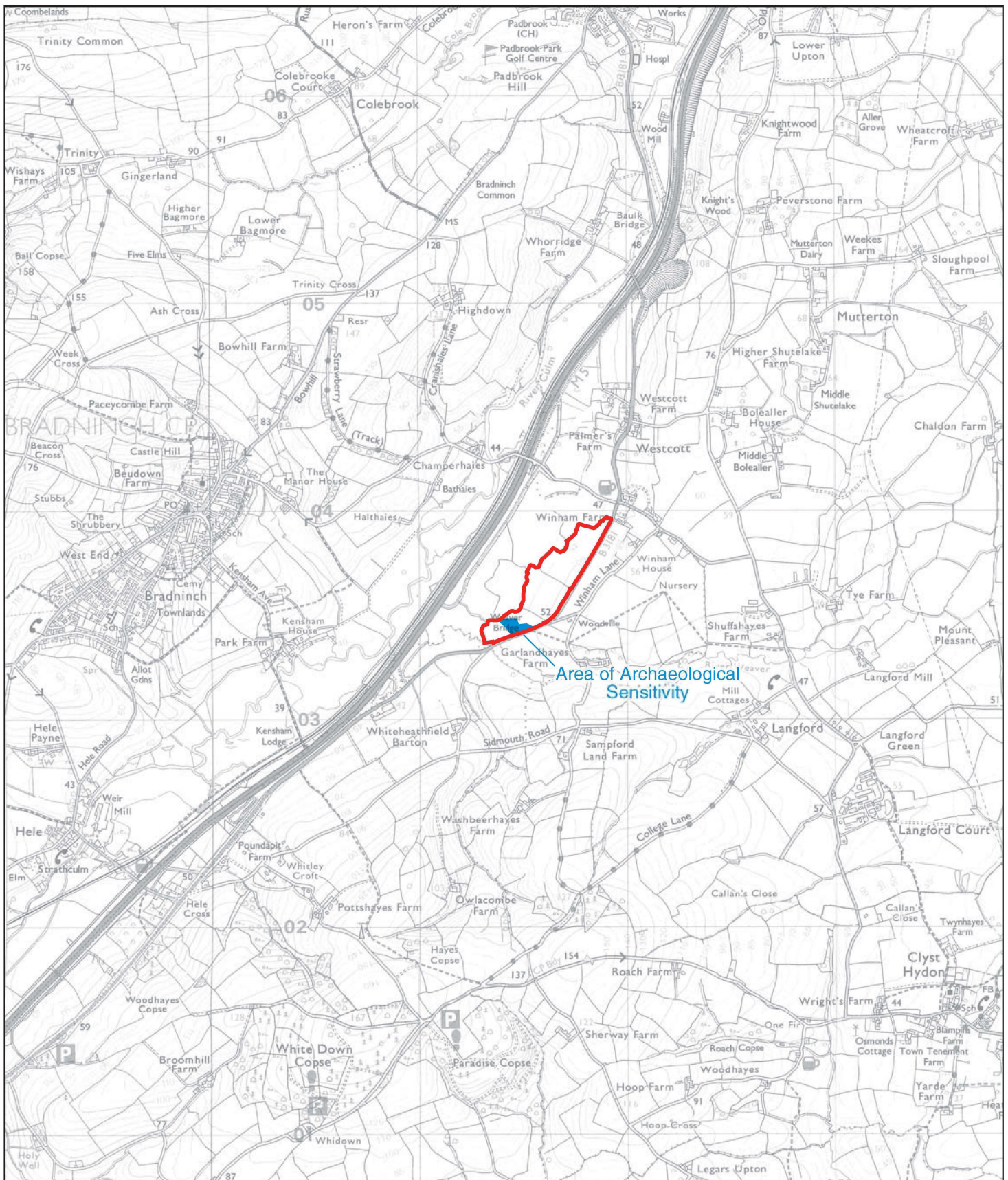
+ = 1-4 items; ++ = 5-20 items; +++ = 21-40 items; ++++ = 40-100 items; +++++ = 100-500 items; ++++++ = >500 items

Ro = Roman; preh = prehistoric

A = arable weed; D = weed/plant indicative of disturbance; E = economic plant

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon. A total of six trenches was excavated.</p> <p>Evidence was found for early prehistoric activity in the form of two ring ditches and a ditch in the central part of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. A circular, vertically-sided pit immediately adjacent to the ditch was undated but may be broadly contemporary with the earlier prehistoric activity. A co-axial field system and a possible drying oven were identified in the western part of the area and produced finds broadly dating to the late Roman period.</p> <p>A small group of features dating to the post-medieval period were identified in the south-western corner of the area and probably relate to agricultural activity.</p>	
Project dates	6-12 May 2014	
Project type	field evaluation	
Previous work (Heritage Desk-based Assessment (CA 2013) Geophysical Survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)	12.05ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 0145 0345	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Royal Albert Memorial Museum	ceramics, animal bone, flint, chert, clay pipe, FE objects, fired clay
Paper	Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Trench Recording Forms, Context Sheets, Photographic Registers, Permatrace drawings
Digital	Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Digital photos, Survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14199		



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PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

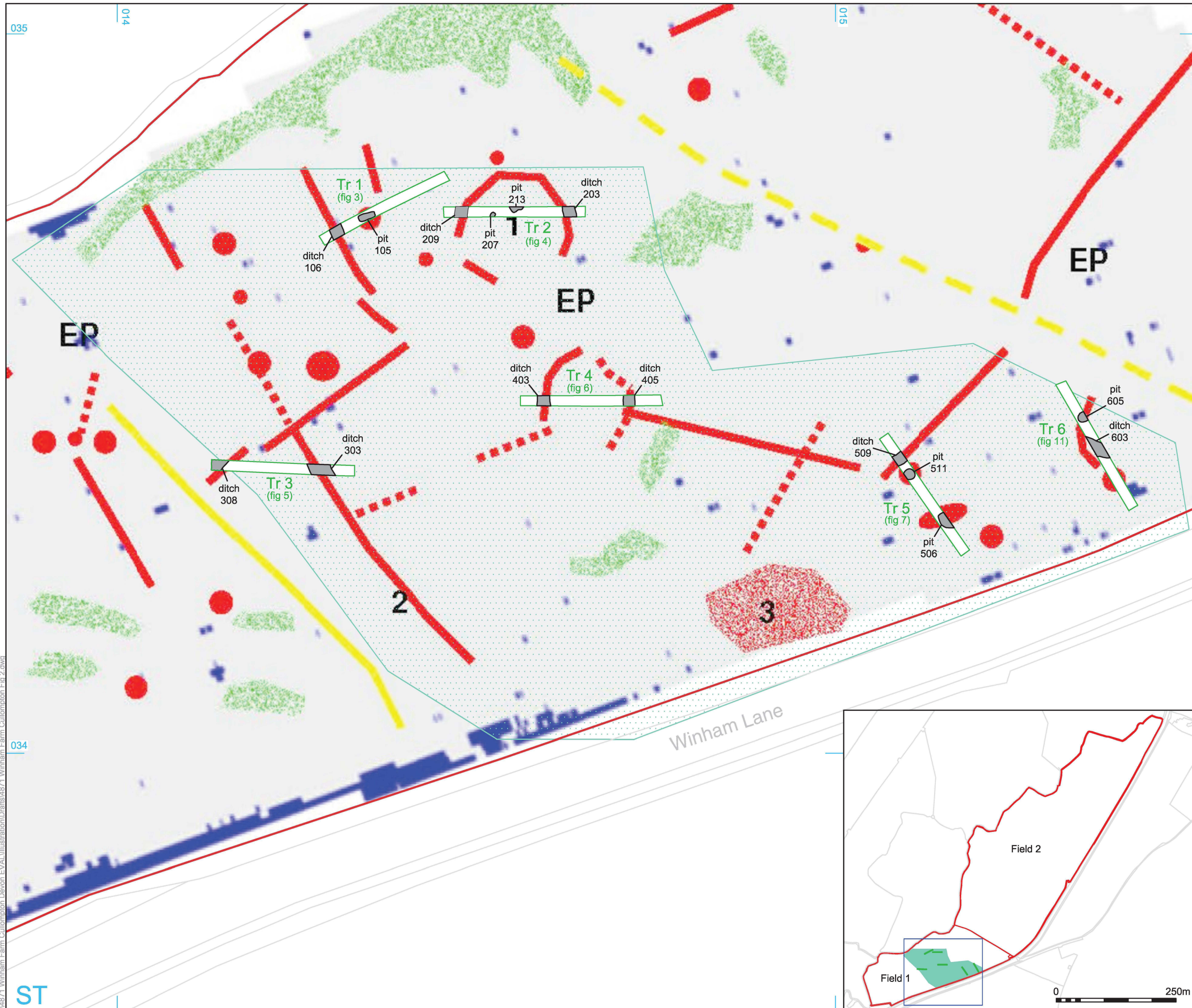


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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- Area of Archaeological Sensitivity
- archaeological feature

Geophysics key
(Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2014)

- - - Potential ditch
- Potential pit
- Potential quarry
- Recent boundary
- Typically modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- Suggested natural



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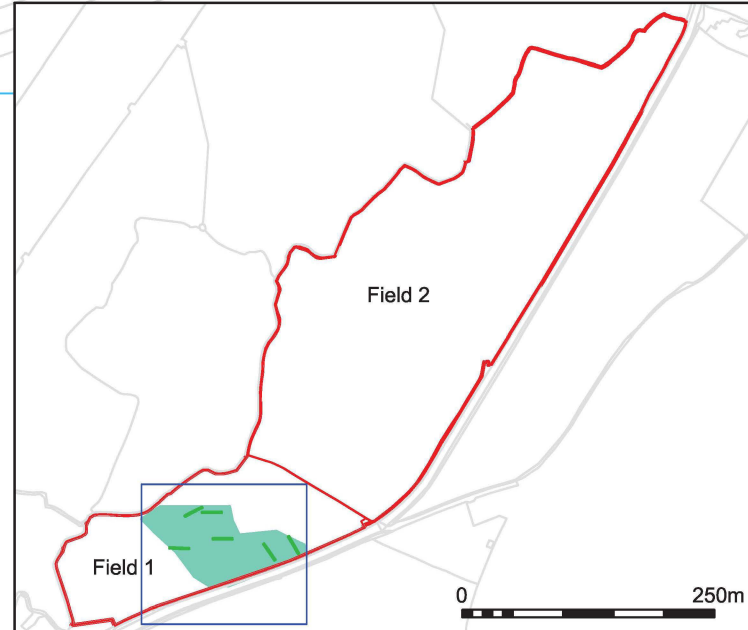
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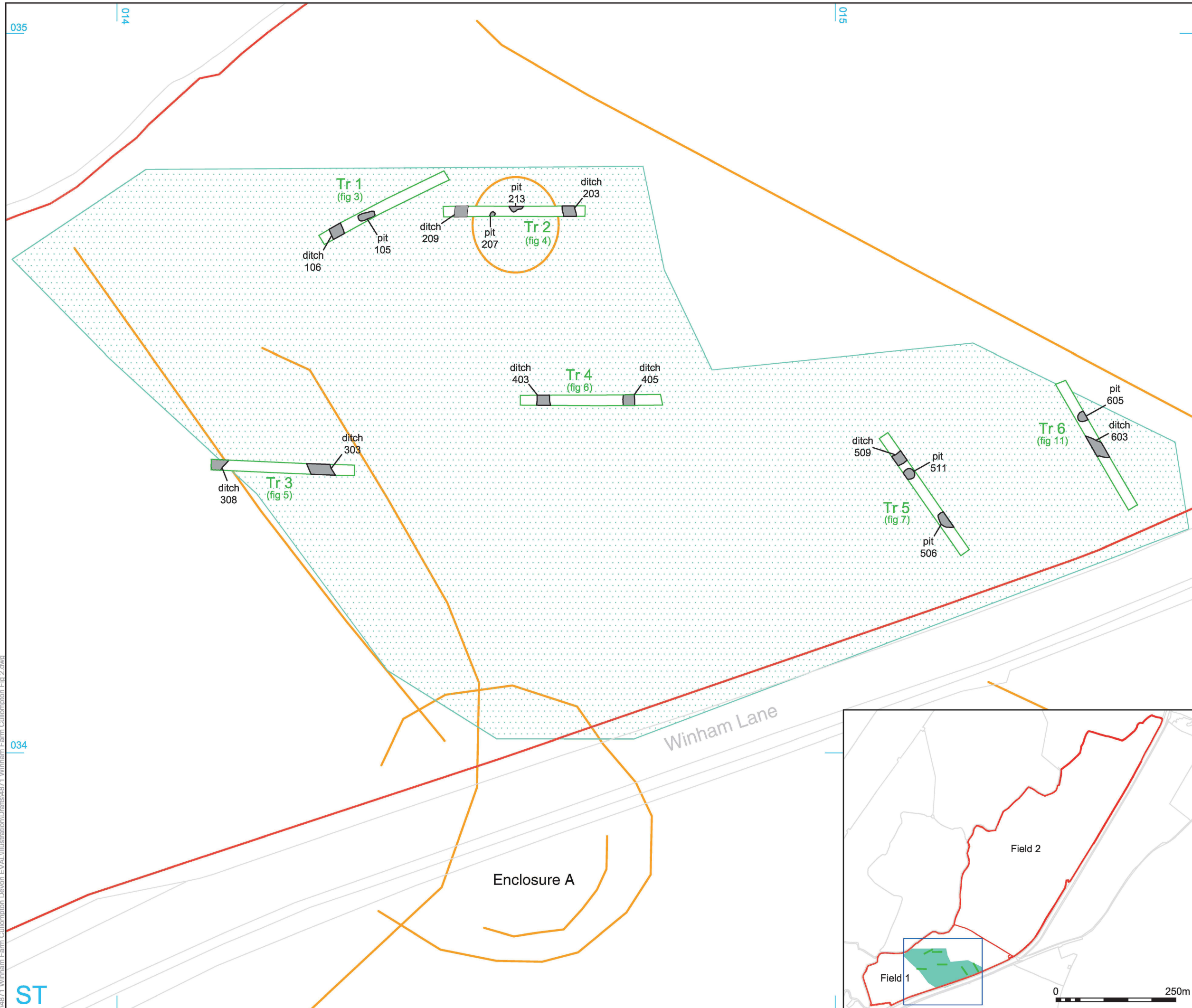
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Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:500 (inset 1:7500)	



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ST



- site
- evaluation trench
- Area of Archaeological Sensitivity
- archaeological feature
- cropmark



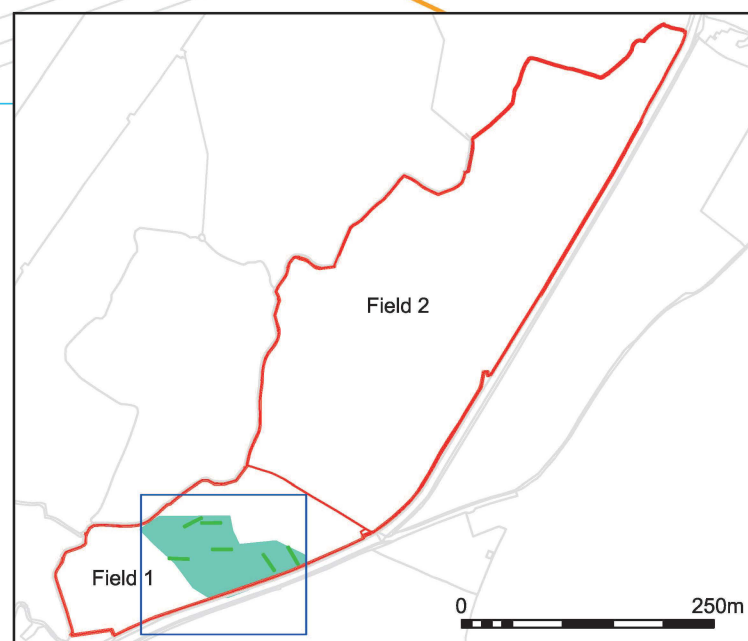
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PROJECT TITLE
 Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and cropmarks

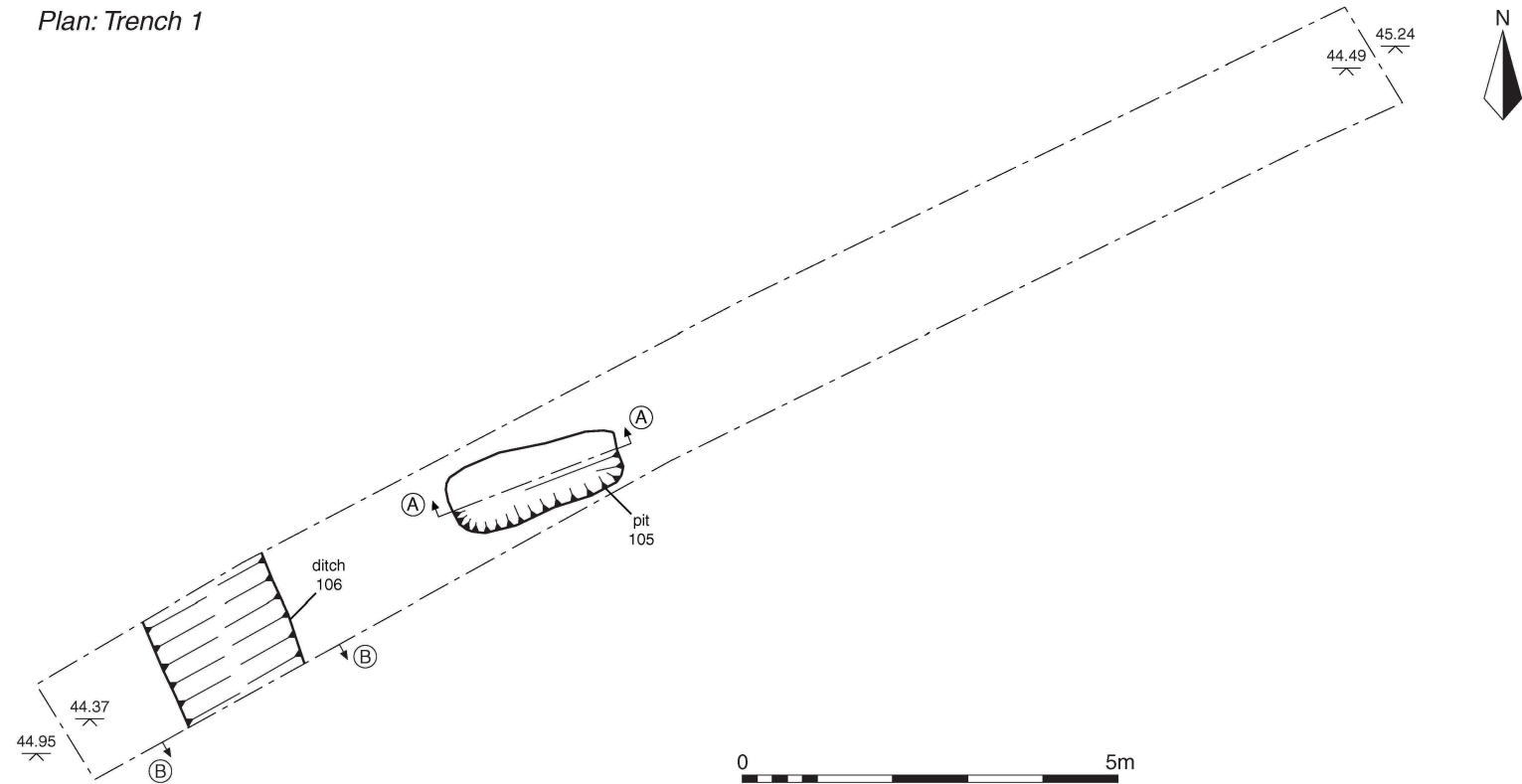
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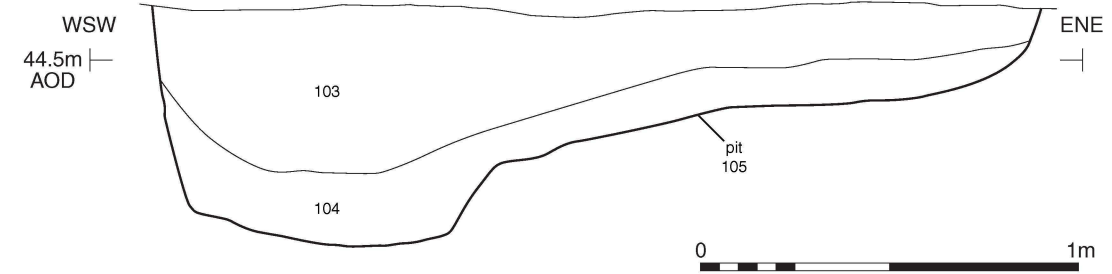
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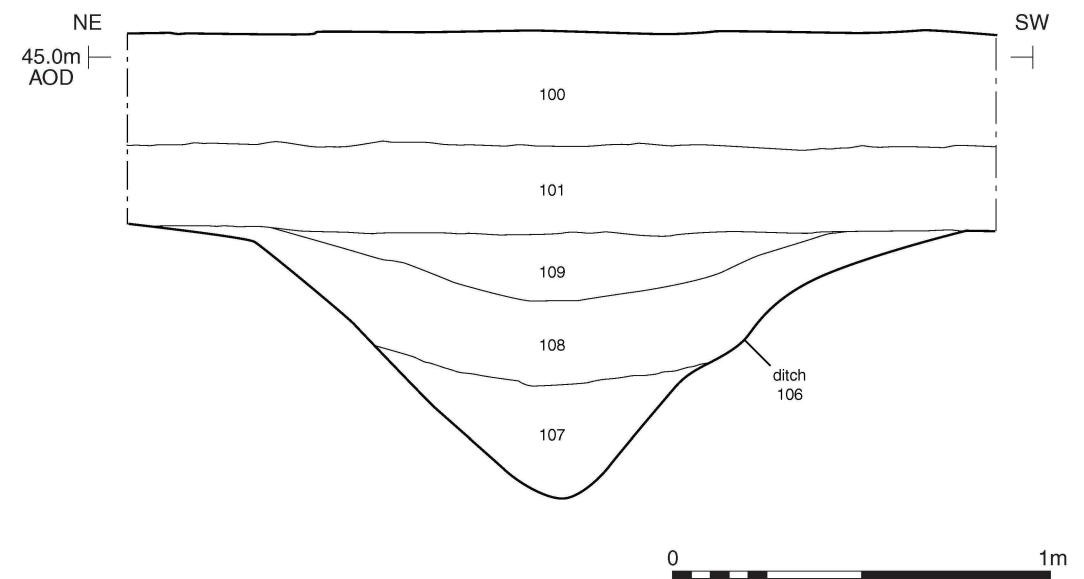
Plan: Trench 1



Section AA



Section BB



Pit 105, looking north-east (scale 1m)



Ditch 106, looking south-east (scale 1m)

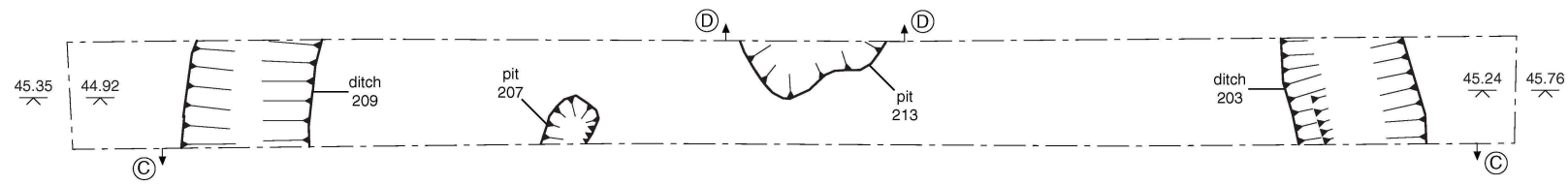
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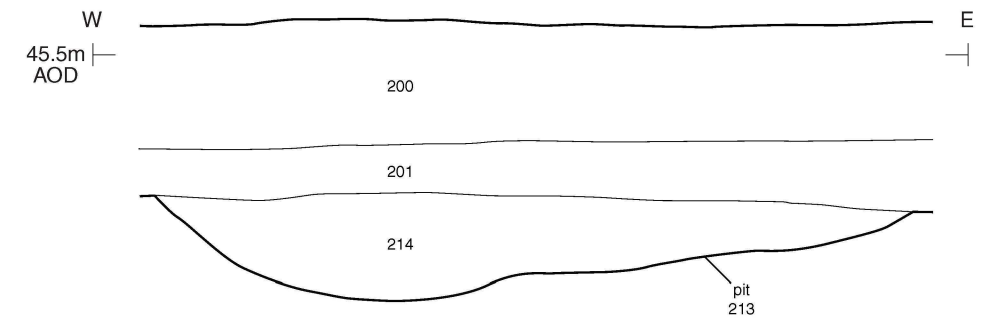
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Trench 1: Plan, sections and photographs

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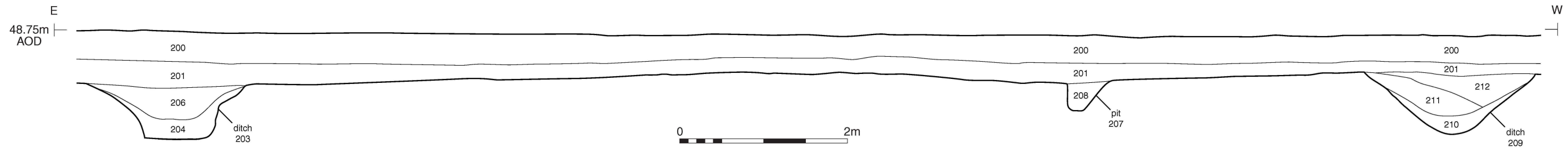
Plan: Trench 2



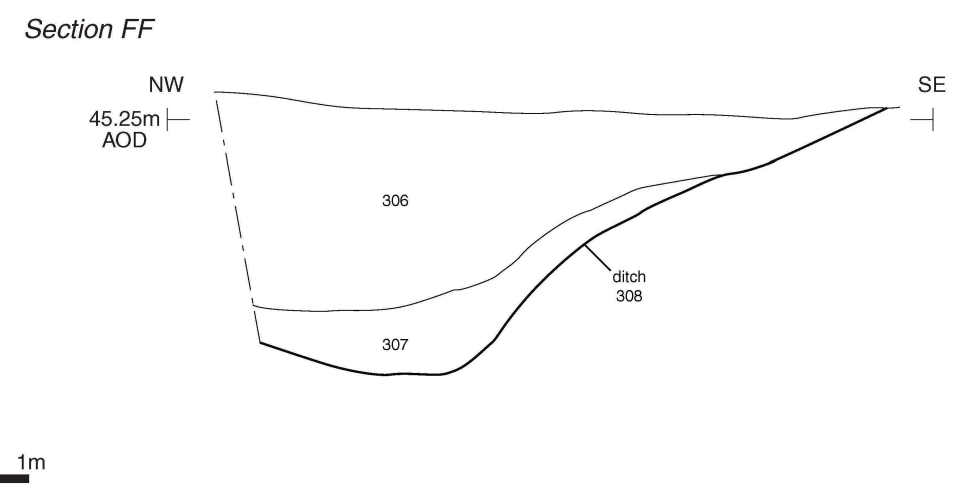
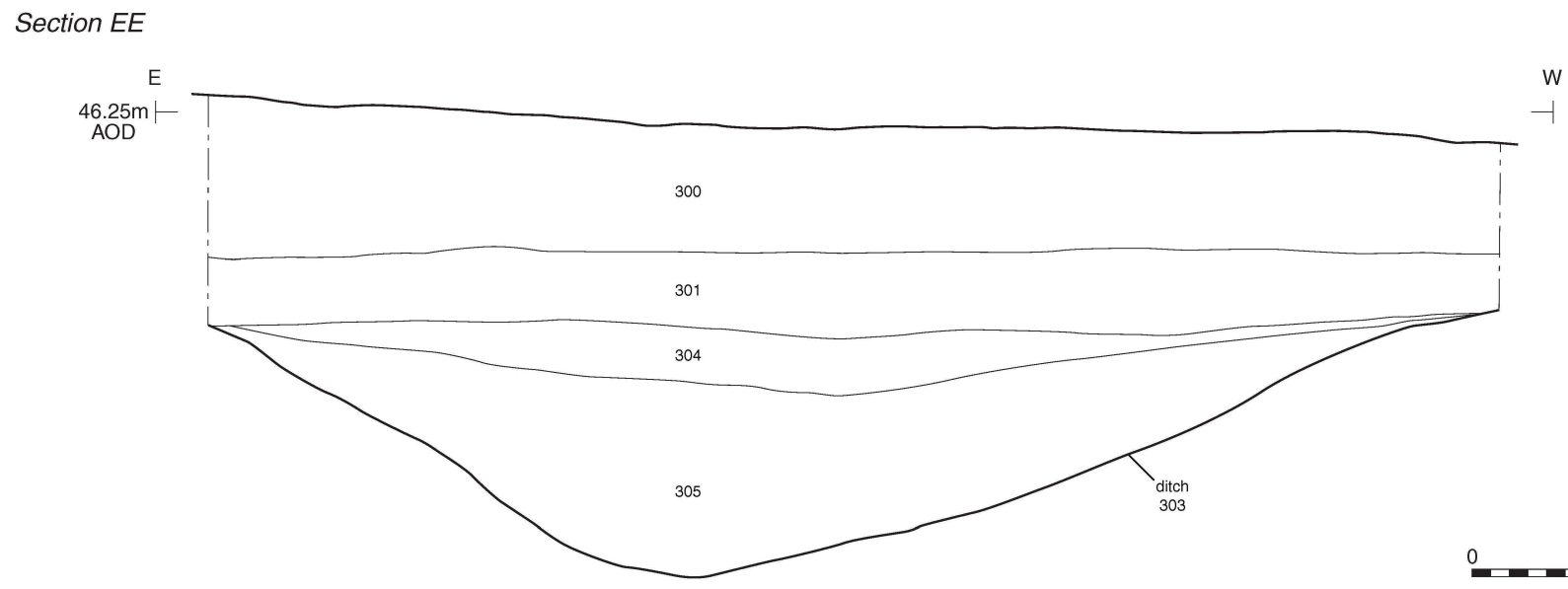
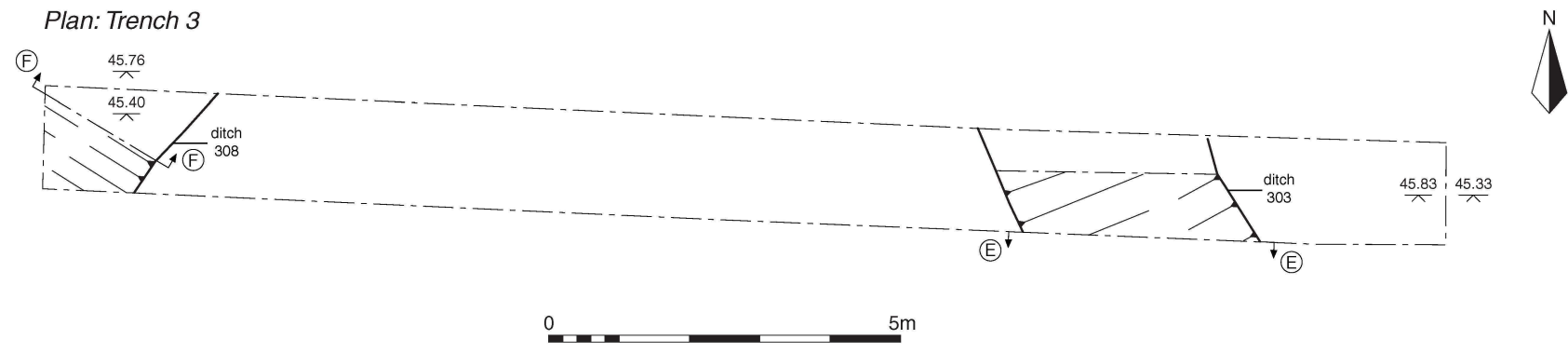
Section DD



Section CC



Ditches 203 and 209 and pit 207, looking south-east (scale 1m)



Ditch 308, looking north-east (scale 1m)

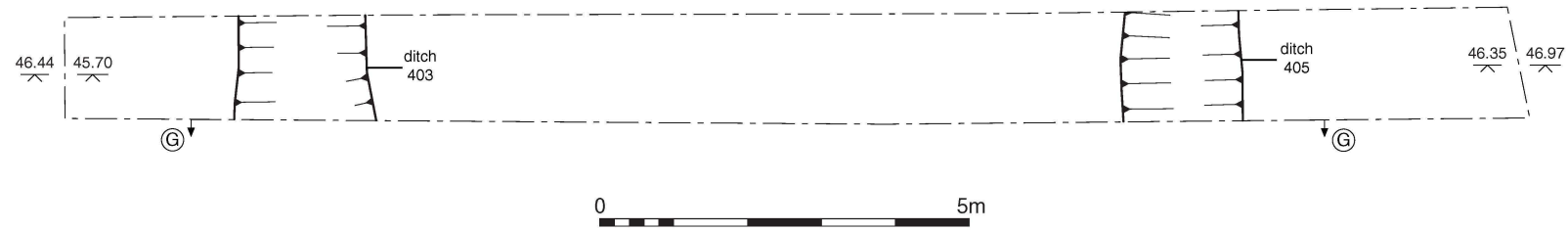
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PROJECT TITLE
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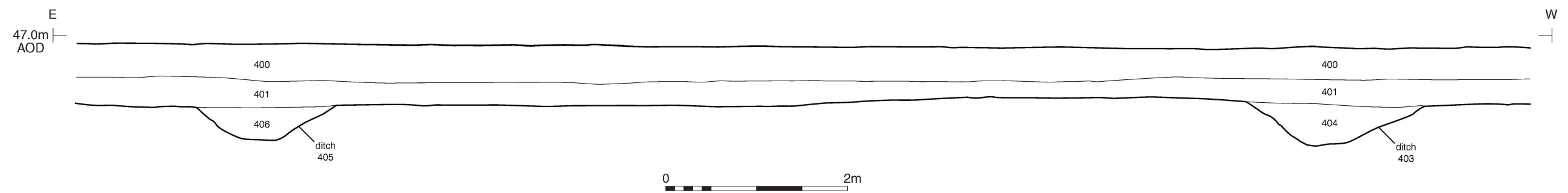
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 3: Plan, sections and photograph

PROJECT NO.	4871	DATE	16-05-2014	FIGURE NO.	6
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:100 1:20		

Plan: Trench 4

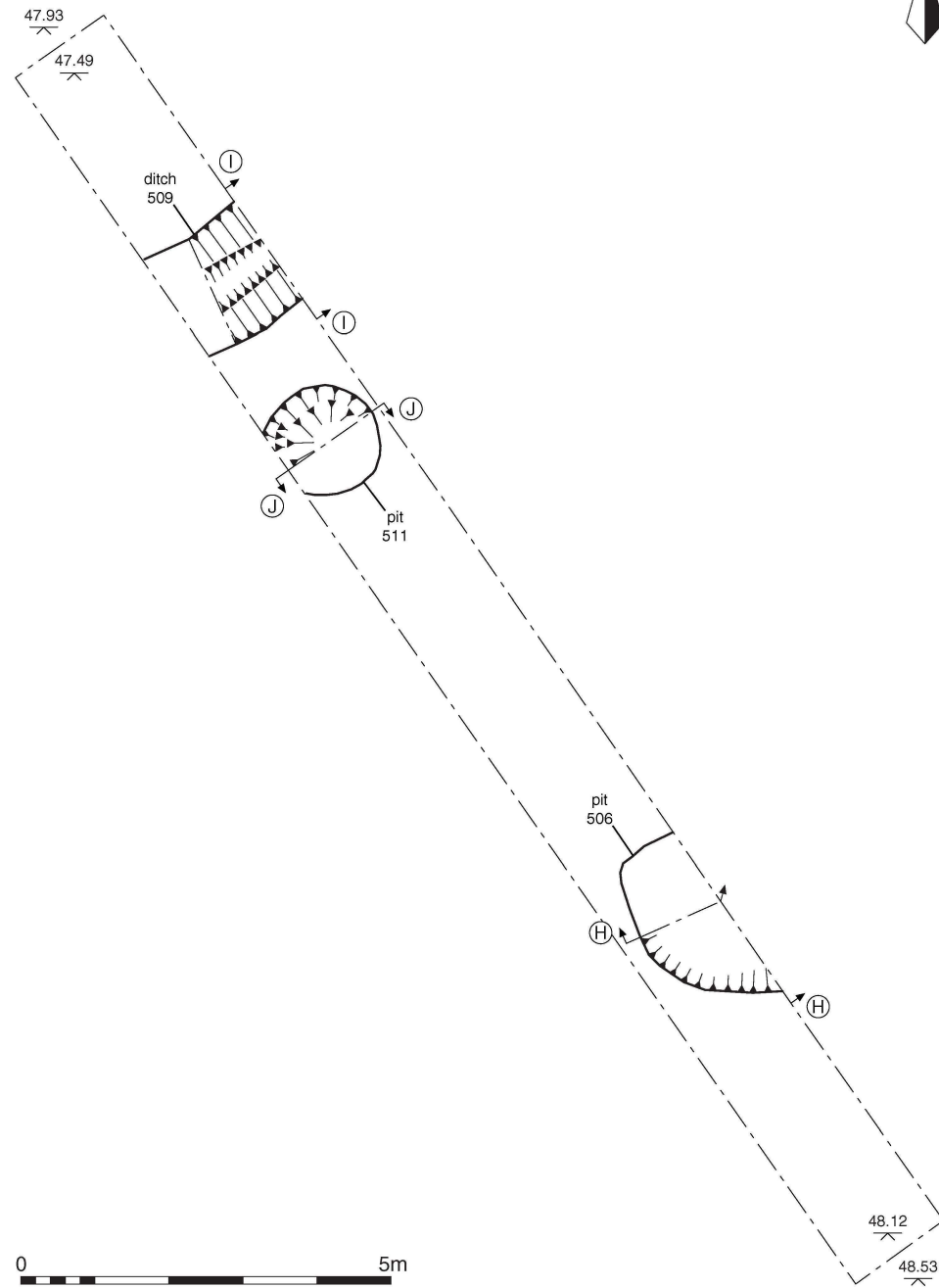


Section GG



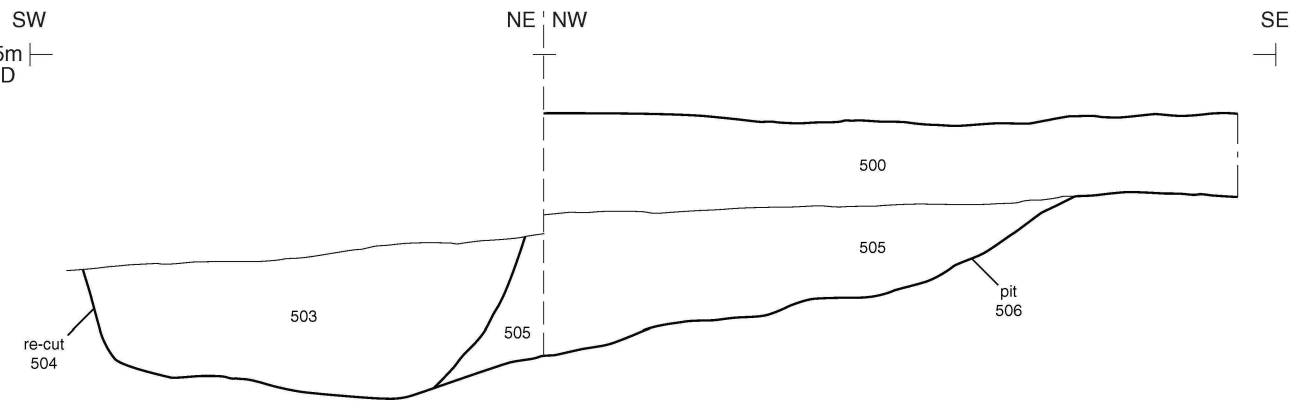
Ditches 403 and 405, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Plan: Trench 5



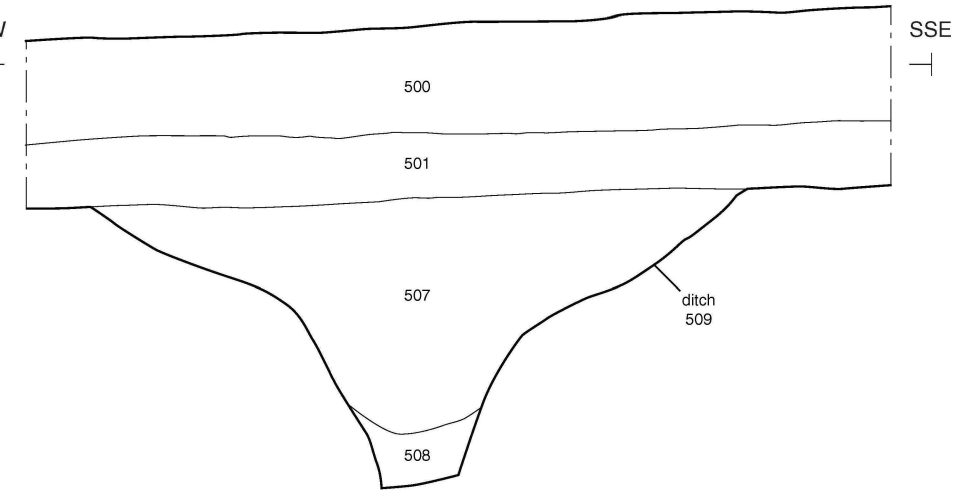
Section HH

SW
48.5m
AOD



Section II

NNW
49.0m
AOD



Section JJ

NE
47.5m
AOD



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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: Plan and sections

PROJECT NO.	4871	DATE	16-05-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00	8
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:100 1:20	



9



10

9 Ditch 509, looking north-east (scale 1m)

10 Pit 511, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

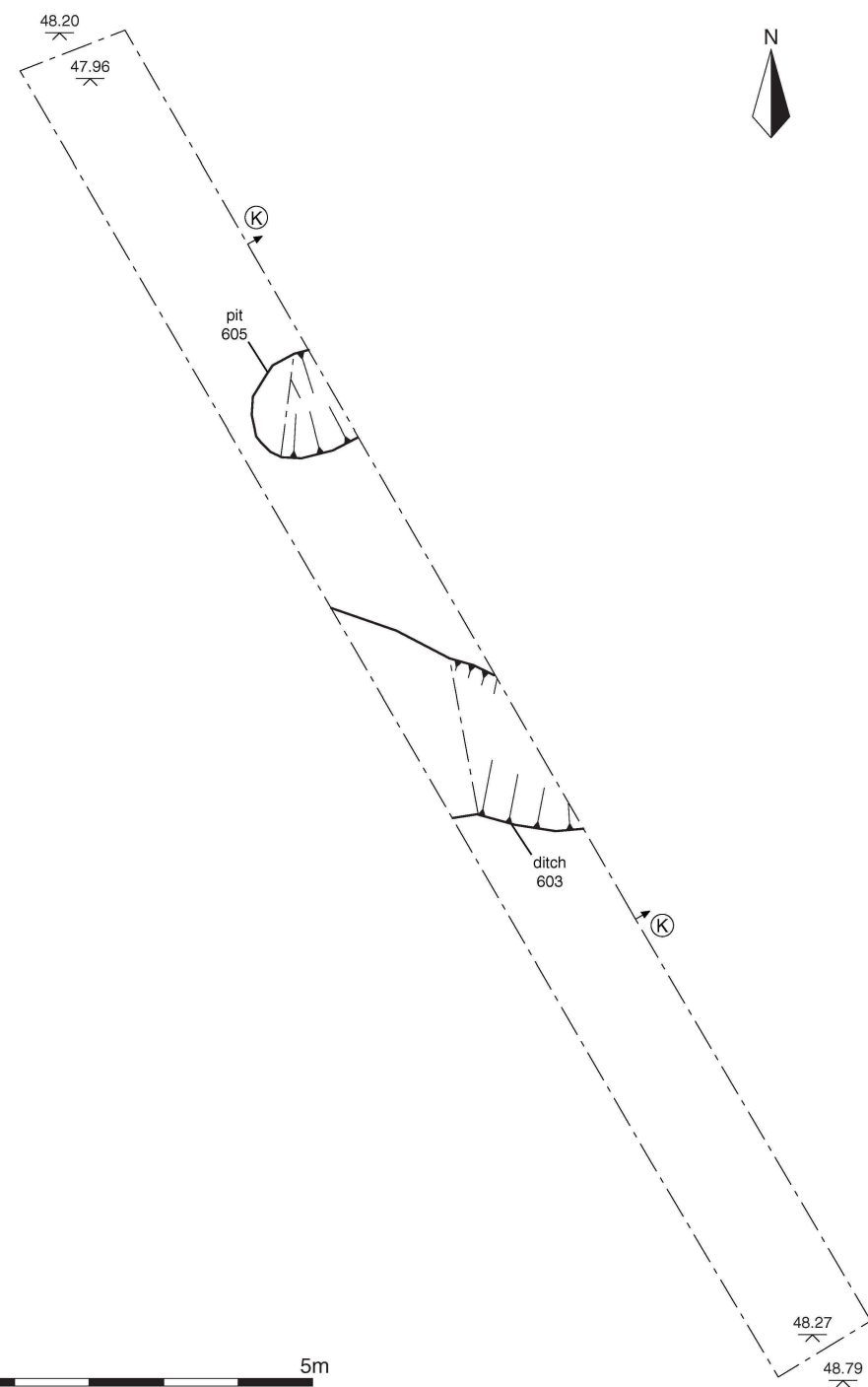
Trench 5; photographs

PROJECT NO. 4871 DATE 16-05-2014
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

9 & 10

Plan: Trench 6



Section KK

