



**Former Milber Down Abattoir  
Newton Abbot  
Devon**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Smiths Gore**

*on behalf of*

**Milber Developments Limited**


CA Project: 5127  
CA Report: 14604

January 2015

Former Milber Down Abattoir  
Newton Abbot  
Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5127  
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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Former Milber Down Abattoir site, Newton Abbot
<b>Location:</b>	Newton Abbot, Devon
<b>NGR:</b>	SX 8862 6964
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation and Watching Brief (Geotechnical investigations)
<b>Date:</b>	22 October – 4 November 2014
<b>SMC:</b>	
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service and The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
<b>Accession Number:</b>	RAMM: 14/69
<b>Site Code:</b>	MBDD 14

An archaeological evaluation and a watching brief of associated geotechnical investigations was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2014, at the Milber Down Abattoir site, Newton Abbot, Devon (centred on NGR: 88629 69649) for Smiths Gore on behalf of Milber Developments Limited.

The 0.77 ha site contains part of the Scheduled Monument of Milber Down Camp (Iron Age Hillfort) and Enclosure (Roman 'Small Camp'); SM No.s 1003178 and 1031242 respectively. The site had previously been investigated by local archaeologists in 1937-38, and 1964, as well as being subject to two earlier archaeological evaluations undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in 1993 and 2009, as part of an earlier planning application.

The current evaluation comprised a total of seven targeted trial trenches, targeted on features highlighted by early mapping evidence (when earthworks were extant), the earlier archaeological investigations, as well as the results of a geophysical survey in 2014. The site is crossed by a length of the outermost (4th) ditch circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort as well as the west, and part of the southern, side of the known ditched Roman 'Small Camp' enclosure.

The evaluation has been successful in not only investigating known archaeological features on the site, but also adding a number of previously unknown features. These include a number of ditches, pits and post-pits both 'outside' the Roman Small Camp and within the outer (4th) ditch circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort complex. These were generally recorded at depths of 0.25-0.4m depth, although archaeological features have been recorded at

depths of 0.14–0.2m, even within the modern abattoir building complex (in earlier investigations).

A single piece of unstratified earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age) worked flint was recorded. The only dated features were the Small Camp ditch and a single urned cremation burial just within the interior of the Small Camp, both of which contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery, consistent with previous investigations of the Small Camp enclosure.

Although mostly undated, because of relative paucity of stratified finds, the results of the evaluation has revealed a greater complexity and successive phases of activity on the site from that previously known. Although the absolute dating of features or deposits recorded during the evaluation was poor, the stratigraphic sequences and spatial dispositions and alignments of many of the linear features in particular, do indicate successive phases of use of the Milber Hillfort outer (4th) ditch circuit, and its possible re-use in the Roman period, during the construction and use of the Small Camp enclosure. Although mostly undated, discrete features comprising post-pits, large pits and an urned cremation burial, strongly indicate settlement activity on the site, probably also of later Iron Age and Roman date.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In late October/early November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of the 0.77 ha, former Milber Down Abattoir site, Newton Abbot, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 8862 6964; Fig. 1). for Smiths Gore on behalf of Milber Developments Limited.
- 1.2 The site contains the Scheduled Monument (SM) of Milber Down Camp (Iron Age Hillfort) and Enclosure (Roman 'Small Camp'); SM Nos 1003178 and 1031242 respectively. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was approved by English Heritage (EH) and Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET) with Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) granted by English Heritage and the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport prior to the evaluation being undertaken. The works were required to inform a planning application to be made for the development of the site, specifically the proposed construction of 20 live/work units, a shared courtyard, walled garden, allotments and an orchard. The site had previously been investigated by local archaeologists in 1937-38, and 1964 and earlier archaeological evaluations of the site were undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in 1993 and 2009 as part of an earlier planning application.
- 1.3 The current evaluation comprised a total of seven targeted trial trenches, targeted on features highlighted in a Heritage Statement (Ecus 2014a), including early mapping evidence (when earthworks were extant), the results of earlier archaeological investigations, as well as a geophysical survey in August 2014. The site was crossed by a length of the outermost (4th) ditch circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort as well as the west and part of the southern side of the known ditched Roman 'Small Camp' enclosure.
- 1.4 The evaluation and a watching brief on associated geotechnical site investigations was carried out in accordance with a *brief* prepared by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), the archaeological advisors to Teignbridge District Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)), in conjunction with English Heritage (DCCHET 2014, Ref: ARCH/DM/TE/2226).. A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by Ecus (2014b) and approved by DCCHET (Stephen Stephen Reed) and English Heritage (Nick Russell).



- 1.5 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (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 site visits on 23th, 28th and 29th October 2014 and by Nick Russell and Vanessa Straker (both English Heritage) on 29th October 2014.

### ***The site***

- 1.6 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.77 ha on the south-eastern outskirts of Newton Abbot, Devon. It comprises existing buildings and hard standing areas of the former Milber Abattoir, still in use as a meat packing facility, while the western part of the site is an open field of pasture. The site lies on a ridge at approximately 127-128m above Ordnance Datum (m AOD), which dips gently down to the west and the south. Differing levels of the existing abattoir site suggest terracing and/or 'build up' of the prevailing slope of the modern land surface.
- 1.7 The underlying geology of the site is the Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 2014), which forms part of the Aller Gravels, which overlap directly onto the gritty red sandstones and conglomerates of the Permian Late Palaeozoic formation.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.8 Much of the site background, aims and objectives and methodology are derived from detailed information contained within the Heritage Statement (Ecus 2014a) and the WSI (Ecus 2014b). It is not deemed necessary to repeat the texts directly here in full, though the salient points of the sections below have been taken from these documents.

### ***Previous Archaeological Investigations***

- 1.9 The site, or nearby areas, have been subject to a number of archaeological investigations since the 1930s. Excavations have been undertaken in 1937 – 38 (Fox *et. al.* 1949/50) and 1964 (Vachell 1964). These early investigations included investigations of the core area of the Milber Hillfort approximately 230m to the north-west of the present site (Fig. 1).

- 1.10 In addition, to the immediate east of the present site, a number of observations were made during the construction of a reservoir (Fig. 2), as it was known that the site contained remains, including extant earthworks, of the eastern side of the Roman camp as well as the eastern part of the camp's interior (Fox *et. al.* 1949/50; Ecus 2014a, figs 5a, 5b).. The Roman camp has been variously described as the 'Small Camp' (Fox *et. al.* 1949/50) or 'Little Camp' (EA 2009).
- 1.11 These excavations, in conjunction with later ones in 1963 during the extension of the earlier reservoir (Vachell 1964), confirmed an entrance into the 'Small Camp' on its east side, a north/south aligned ditched outwork, truncated 'ramparts' to the east of the hillfort ditch and the 'inner' side of the west and eastern sides of the Small Camp. The hillfort was dated to the Iron Age and the Small Camp to the Roman period. A small number of posthole and gully features were recorded within the Small Camp enclosure which contained 'pre-Roman' and 'early Roman' pottery (Fox *et. al.* 1949/50, 37-38). Early Roman pottery was also recorded from the ditch of the east side of the Small Camp enclosure.
- 1.12 As part of an earlier planning application on the site, two archaeological evaluations were undertaken by Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU) in 1993 (EMAFU 1993a, 1993b) and 2009 (Exeter Archaeology 2009). The evaluations comprised the excavation of a number of trial trenches and test pits, targeted mainly on the Small Camp and Milber Down Hillfort ditches known to cross the site, as well as areas to the immediate west and east of the existing abattoir buildings. These latter areas were within the proposed development of the abattoir site at that time (EMAFU 1993, fig.3; EA 2009, Fig. 2). The evaluations showed that archaeological deposits and features survived at depths of 0.15–0.3m below the current abattoir site and at 0.4–0.5m depth outside of this area, but still within the current site (EA 2009, 4).
- 1.13 These investigations recorded probable Late Iron Age micaceous pottery within a layer below the modern topsoil, which was cut by the Milber Down Hillfort ditch (3.5m deep) and Roman Small Camp ditch (2.5m deep). Shallow, undated gullies were recorded sealed below this deposit, suggesting prehistoric activity of Iron Age or earlier date on the site. Very truncated rampart remnants were recorded to the east of both the hillfort and the Roman camp ditches.

- 1.14 Although no pottery was recovered from the primary fills of the Hillfort or the Small Camp ditches, some (potentially later Iron Age) micaceous pottery and Early Roman sherds (AD 50 – 80) were recorded from the secondary (and possibly tertiary) fills of both ditches. In addition, waterlogged deposits containing preserved plant remains were recorded in the base of the Roman Small Camp ditch (EMAFU 1993, 4; EA 2009, 1).
- 1.15 In May 2014 a desk-based Heritage Assessment was undertaken as part of a new planning application for the development of the site (Ecus 2014a). The early mapping for the site clearly showed that earthworks associated with the outlying ditched circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort defences and the Roman Small Camp enclosure were extant until at least 1942 (Ecus 2014a, fig. 5b).
- 1.16 Following the Heritage Assessment a geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan of the green space pasture area within the site boundary, which comprised 0.5ha (65% by area) of the whole site (Stratascan 2014).
- 1.17 A number of archaeological features were identified from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2) including two large parallel cut features crossing the survey area aligned north-east/south-west. These correlate with the known ditches of the Milber Down Hillfort and the Roman Small Camp. Three parallel anomalies in the north of the site indicated possible further ditches. Other anomalies included a small number of isolated magnetic spikes, which may be of modern origin (possibly bits of plough/metal relating to the previous agricultural activity in the area), as well as some areas of magnetic disturbance thought to possibly relate to nearby fences and field boundaries. The resistivity survey results showed areas of high archaeological potential as well as possible structural features of uncertain date.

### ***Archaeological aims and objectives***

- 1.18 The overall aim of the current archaeological evaluation was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature, extent and significance of potential archaeological remains that will be directly impacted upon by the proposed development. The concurrent geotechnical site investigation (SI) work was a Phase 2 (intrusive) SI to inform a geotechnical and geo-environmental assessment in support of the proposed development of the site.

- 1.19 The information from the current evaluation will enable the LPA and English Heritage 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**

- 1.20 All evaluation trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated using a 180° JCB, wheeled mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. All modern overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was removed by machine under constant archaeological supervision until the top of archaeological horizons or the surface of the underlying natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 1.21 All excavation of archaeological deposits or features was by hand. The stripped area was cleaned by hand, where necessary, to help define the presence and extent of any archaeological feature. The stripped area and any archaeological deposits were surveyed using a Leica GPS equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid with heights recorded to Ordnance Datum (m AOD). Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.22 Archaeological 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) and a number of bulk samples and monolith samples were taken from specific features following advice from Steve Reed (DCCHE) and Vanessa Straker (English Heritage). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995). All the spoil from the evaluation trenches was scanned both visually and with a metal detector, as were all archaeological features, to recover any unstratified and/or metalwork artefacts.
- 1.23 Initially, the geotechnical SI trial pits were to be excavated by mechanical excavator. However, these were hand excavated by Ecus geotechnical specialists to <0.2m depth into the natural geology entirely within the footprint of each of the

archaeological evaluation trenches. A series of boreholes were also undertaken by Ecus across the site which were monitored by CA. Separate borehole records were compiled by CA during these works but no significant archaeological results were obtained.

- 1.20 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under accession number RAMM: 14/69, 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)

### *Introduction*

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B; Appendix C, dealing with the palaeoenvironmental evidence, will be issued as an addendum report. Trenches 1 – 7 all contained archaeological features, predominantly comprised of linear ditches as well as a small number of pits, post-pits, and a single, Roman urned cremation burial. Only a very small finds assemblage was recorded from the evaluation, and very little of that was derived from stratified contexts.
- 2.2 Aside from the 1st century AD urned cremation burial pottery vessel and 1st century AD pottery from the large Roman (Small Camp) ditch in Trench 7, there was a very small assemblage of unstratified Iron Age/Roman pottery, Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint and post-medieval metalwork from the current fieldwork. The results of each of the evaluation trenches will be dealt with in turn below.
- 2.3 All archaeological features cut the prevailing subsoil (or equivalents) or the natural geology. All except modern features were sealed by topsoil, and mostly by the subsoil. The topsoil was a mid brown slightly clayey silt which was generally around 0.35m thick, although it was thicker (0.45, 0.52) in Trenches 4 and 7 respectively. This was probably due to hillwash action (Trench 4) and probable build-up from modern groundworks associated with the abattoir entrance-way and car parking area (Trench 7). The subsoil was generally 0.25m thick and was a light yellowish-brown sandy clay or sandy clayey silt. In Trench 7 this was represented by deposit

707, which was a buried archaeological deposit cut by hillfort ditch 711 and Roman Small Camp ditch 708. The natural geology was consistent across the site and was characterised by a light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant angular stone (<0.15m) and patches of yellowish-brown coarse sand in places.

### **Trench 1 (Fig. 3)**

- 2.4 This trench was targeted across a near-east/west aligned anomaly, which was also investigated in Trench 5 to the immediate east. Archaeological deposits/features were recorded at 0.25m depth. Shallow tree throw 103 was recorded in the north of the trench. The WNW/ESE aligned ditch 105 cut the subsoil and was only 0.8m wide and 0.29m deep was recorded in the south of the trench. This correlated with the linear geophysical anomaly characterised as '*possible structural remains or compacted ground*' in the earlier geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). This aspect is probably a reflection of the relatively high density of stone rubble inclusions within the ditch fills (as seen also for some of the ditches recorded in Trench 3).

### **Trench 2 (Fig. 4)**

- 2.5 This trench partially investigated an area of '*possible archaeological activity*' in the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). East/west aligned ditch 203 was recorded in the north of the trench and cut the subsoil 201, but did not correlate with any plotted geophysical anomaly (Stratascan 2014, fig.3). The ditch was recorded at 0.34m depth, and was 1.34m wide and 0.7m deep. It was not recorded continuing into Trench 6 to the east, but this may have been due to truncation by north-west/south-east ditch 606 that is present in that trench.
- 2.6 In the south of Trench 2, WNW/ESE aligned ditch 205 was 0.93m wide and 0.3m deep, and was recorded at 0.33m depth. It was 'respected' by the perpendicularly aligned ditch terminal 207 to the south-west, with which it is probably contemporary. The WNW/ESE ditch was cut by later, large, post-pit 212 at its west end. The post-pit was 0.6m diameter and 0.65m deep. This might suggest that the post-pit was a separate phase of activity or may have been the re-use of a ditched field boundary to construct a palisaded/fenced boundary.

### **Trench 3 (Fig. 5)**

- 2.7 This trench was targeted on a wide, near-east/west aligned anomaly recorded as '*possible structural remains or compacted ground*' (Stratascan 2014). A series of

five, near-parallel, WNW/ESE aligned, undated ditches were recorded (305, 307, 309, 311, 313). They were all approximately 1m wide and relatively shallow (<0.35m), and were recorded on the same alignment as the wide geophysical anomaly. The ditches were recorded at depths of 0.29 – 0.4m and were all sealed below the subsoil 301. The relatively abundant natural stone inclusions and very compacted fills of the ditches correlate well with the geophysical responses recorded in the geophysical survey. To the immediate north of these, linear feature 303, which was on an identical alignment, was a modern land drain.

- 2.8 The ditches were all perpendicular to the main Iron Age Hillfort ditch running north-east/south-west across the site. They may represent internal (possibly radial) field boundary divisions of the land between the 3rd and 4th 'outer' circuits of hillfort ditches. They are all therefore possibly of Late Iron Age, or possibly Early Roman date, if the hillfort ditch (4th circuit) which crosses the site, was re-used as an 'outer' defence during the use of the Roman Small Camp.

#### **Trench 4 (Fig. 6)**

- 2.9 This trench was targeted on earlier earthworks, based on historic mapping evidence indicating the location of the 4th, outer circuit of enclosure ditches of Milber Hillfort. It was also located to investigate the possibility of a sharp turn in this ditch direction (to the east) indicating that the Roman 'Small Camp' was actually bivallate in construction, as had been suggested in the 2009 report by Exeter Archaeology. Three ditches (403, 405, 410) and a small pit (407) were recorded in the trench at depths of 0.44 – 0.68m. A small worked flint core of Neolithic/Bronze Age date was recovered from topsoil 400.
- 2.10 Small circular pit 407 was 0.78m diameter, 0.24m deep and sealed by the subsoil 401. Charcoal-rich basal fill 408 was 100% bulk sampled. It was truncated by later, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 403, which had abundant stone inclusions in the very compacted fill 404. Although not plotted in the geophysical survey results, the ditch corresponds exactly to a linear anomaly clearly visible in this part of the site (Stratascan 2014, Fig.3). The ditch was 0.66m wide and 0.56m deep. It truncated cut feature 405 visible in the north section, west end, of the trench which is probably an earlier phase of the hillfort ditch. This in turn was later re-cut by the very distinctive Iron Age hillfort ditch 410. Earlier ditch 405 was approximately 2m wide



and 0.3m deep and had been cut by the 3.4m wide hillfort ditch 410. All the ditches were sealed below the subsoil 401.

- 2.11 The ditch sequence indicates that the Roman Small Camp was not bivallate, but univallate in construction, as all the earlier earthwork mapping evidence indicates (Ecus 2014a, figs. 5a, 5b). The alignment of north-west/south-east ditch 403 was perpendicular to the possible early phase of hillfort ditch 405. Later, both features were physically truncated by the larger, very distinctive, outer ditch (410) of the Milber Hillfort complex. This ditch was also recorded in the west end of Trench 7 to the north. This may mean that there was a re-use of the Iron Age Hillfort ditch in the Roman period as a second line of earthworks on the west side of the Roman Small Camp.

### **Trench 5 (Fig. 7)**

- 2.12 This trench was targeted across an east/west aligned geophysical anomaly and a number of parallel, north/south aligned anomalies in the north-west of the site (Stratascan 2014). There were two large pits (503, 505) and two ditches (507, 509) recorded in the trench. All the features were recorded at 0.26 - 0.3m depth. A modern foul sewer pipe trench 509 was clearly visible in the north end of the trench, which was also recorded 741 cutting the Iron Age hillfort ditch in the very west of Trench 7 to the south.
- 2.13 Although modern ditch 509 does not exactly correlate with a singular, linear north/south geophysical anomaly, this is undoubtedly one of the plotted anomalies as it lies on exactly the same alignment. The other north/south anomalies would seem to be linear geophysical 'trends' in the ploughsoil rather than the 'possible ditches' of the geophysical survey report as, aside from modern foul sewer trench 509, no linear cut features were present corresponding to the anomalies.
- 2.14 In the middle of the trench east/west aligned ditch 507 correlated with the targeted east/west anomaly on the geophysical survey and constituted a continuation of ditch 105 in Trench 1 to the west, though in Trench 5 the ditch was wider (2.3m) and deeper (0.56m).
- 2.15 The two large pits 503, 505 were recorded in the south of the trench, neither of which were discernible in the geophysical survey results (Stratascan 2014). The south-western pit 503 was stratigraphically the earliest. It was at least 2.3m diameter



and 1.1m deep with a fill sequence (504, 512, 513, 514) that strongly indicates the deliberate backfilling of the pit with a number of redeposited natural geology deposits, probably from excavations in the immediate vicinity. It is possible that these deposits derive from the excavation of the north-eastern pit 505 after a short period of initial silting of pit 503. The north-eastern later pit 505 was at least 2.12m diameter and 0.84m deep. The fill sequence was indicative of slow silting over time as well as possible deliberate dumps of material (516) against the pit's north-east side, some including charcoal flecks. A number of bulk samples were taken from these fills (515, 516, 517, 518, 520). Possible re-cut 519 was discernible in the upper part of the initial pit fill sequence.

- 2.16 The lack of finds for dating or functionality purposes makes it difficult to interpret these features further. Their morphology and fill sequences do not strongly suggest they are re-used grain storage pits associated with the hillfort occupation, but they may be quarry pits for natural stone and/or clay.

#### **Trench 6 (Fig. 8)**

- 2.17 This trench was targeted across one of the north/south aligned geophysical anomalies in this part of the site as well as the northern extent of an area anomaly defined as '*probable archaeological activity*' during the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). The trench contained north-east/south-west aligned ditch 606 and post-pit 610, neither of which correlate with the plotted geophysical anomalies or other ditch alignments on the site. The features were recorded at 0.32m depth. The ditch was 1.62m wide and 0.46m deep and contained primary fills 607 and 608. To the immediate south of this ditch, post-pit 610 was 0.7m diameter and 0.64m deep; very similar dimensions to post-pit 212 recorded in Trench 2. Post-pit 610 had been partially truncated (<0.28m) by irregular tree throw 605.

#### **Trench 7 (Figs 9-13)**

- 2.18 This trench was targeted on both the Milber Down hillfort and the (Roman) Small Camp ditches. These were known from earlier investigations (Fox *et. al.* 1949/50; EMAFU 1993, 2009), mapping evidence (Ecus 2014a) and the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014), to cut across the site on a north-east/south-west alignment. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded at a depth of only 0.25m. Truncated Roman urned cremation burial vessel 704, of 1st century AD date, was recorded at the east end of the trench at the very base of the ploughsoil at 0.52m

depth. 1st century BC to mid to late 1st century AD pottery and a 20th-century copper alloy coin were recovered from the topsoil 700. Modern ditches 729 and 741, a probable modern posthole 716, and a small pit 748 were also recorded from this trench.

- 2.19 The trench was parallel to, and 17m to the south-west of, Exeter Archaeology's 1993 evaluation *Trench 3* (EMAFU 1993) and the 2009 *Trench 6* (EA 2009). Trench 7 contained both the hillfort ditch 711 and Roman Small Camp ditch 708. These were clearly visible because of the relatively dark and thick tertiary fills infilling the final upper parts of the cuts of both ditches. Both ditches cut 0.19m thick deposit 707, a light yellowish-brown clayey silt. This was consistent with a layer containing micaceous pottery of later Iron Age date recorded in *Trench 3* of 1993 (EMAFU 1993, 4). No pottery was recorded from this deposit in the present fieldwork.
- 2.20 Both ditches 708 and 711 were extensively bulk sampled and monolith sampled throughout their fill sequences. Unfortunately, the modern foul sewer trench 741 cut the hillfort ditch 711 at this point in the west of the trench. Following approval from English Heritage and DCCHET, hillfort ditch 711 was not fully excavated, and hand excavation was discontinued at the base of the foul sewer pipe (at 1.4m depth). Previously, this ditch had been recorded as having a maximum depth of 2.56m (EMAFU 1993, 3).
- 2.21 Iron Age hillfort ditch 711 was 3.98m wide and >1.4m deep with a steep profile and a number of fine silting deposits and possible dump deposits visible within the fill sequence (712, 739, 742, 743, 744, 745). A relatively darker deposit 745 near the base of the excavated section was visible against the east side of the ditch which was bulk sampled. No rampart deposit was visible to the east side of this ditch as recorded in the 1937 trench (Fox *et.al.* 1949/50) and the 1993 evaluation and designated as 'the outer rampart' (EMAFU 1993, 3). This ditch was also recorded in the very west end of Trench 4 (410) approximately 49m to the south-west.
- 2.22 The Roman Small Camp ditch 708 (and its three re-cuts 760, 762 and 759) were parallel to, and 17m to the south-east of, the hillfort ditch in Trench 7. The Small Camp ditch was 4.9m wide and approximately 3.7m deep, with very steep sides and a narrow 'ankle breaker' slot (0.3m wide and deep) at the base.

- 2.23 The fill sequence comprised a number of primary, secondary and tertiary fills, with secondary fills and dump deposits clearly visible against the south-east side of the ditch, including a relatively charcoal-rich dump (726). Secondary fills 754 and 763, of the Small Camp ditch re-cut 762, contained a small assemblage of mid to late 1st century AD pottery, including sherds of a single vessel (RA 2) from context 763. A particular stratigraphic event of note from the Small Camp ditch section was a layer of large, sub-angular, natural stone boulders (<0.5m) in the base of the latest ditch re-cut 759. This deposit is consistent with the 'redeposited rampart' deposit noted in the 1993 evaluation (EMAFU 1993, fig.5). The large boulders would suggest originally a stone facing or revetting to the outer face of the Roman Small Camp rampart base, to stabilise the rampart base and reduce collapses. Therefore, its deposition into the ditch suggests natural collapse of the rampart, or the rampart had been deliberately slighted. However, the occurrence of a number of blocks of *'lightly cemented chalky sandstone...together with lumps of Greensand chert'* was noted during the 1963 excavations of the ditch to the east of the site in the area of the water reservoir. The blocks were reported as appearing to be concentrated at the junction between the ditch fill and the natural, whilst those on the western side *'appeared...to have been intelligently laid as a lining to the ditch'* (Vachell 1964, 29).
- 2.24 To the immediate east of the ditch a series of deposits were recorded (731, 732, 734, 735, 747) some of which were buried soils and some comprised probable early rampart material. The latest rampart deposit 715, is identical to that recorded as the 'inner rampart' in the 1993 evaluation *Trench 3* (EMAFU 1993, 3). It comprised an approximately 3m wide and 0.22m thick truncated layer of redeposited natural geology.
- 2.25 At the very east end of the trench, a very truncated, urned cremation burial vessel 704 was recorded at the very base of the ploughsoil. Although no burial cut was discernible, the 0.16m diameter and 0.08m high cinerary urn (of middle to late 1st century AD), was buried upright, into deposit 720, which was stratigraphically below the latest rampart layer 715 mentioned earlier. The urn fill 703 was a mid-grey, fine sandy silt which contained rare, small fragments (<3mm) of cremated bone throughout.
- 2.26 Modern ditch 729, (3.3m wide and 0.33m deep), including a re-cut (710), and a probable modern posthole 716 (>0.3m diameter and 0.4m deep) were all recorded

cutting deposit 707 in the centre of the trench. All contained topsoil-like fills with modern artefacts (brick fragments, plastic, etc).

### ***The finds***

- 2.27 A small assemblage of mostly unstratified material was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage includes pottery, metal objects and worked flint.

#### *Pottery: Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman*

- 2.28 A total of 116 sherds of pottery (1161g) were hand-recovered from four deposits. The condition of the pottery is good with minimal surface loss and mean sherd weight moderately high (10g).
- 2.29 Ditch fill 754, a secondary fill of the Roman Small Camp ditch re-cut 762 (Fig. 9), produced a total of 11 joining sherds in a wheelthrown fine, black-firing sandy fabric. The form represented appears to be a shouldered bowl with short, everted rim and a prominent cordon at the shoulder. Three joining rimsherds in a similar fabric and from a vessel also with short, everted rim, were recorded from secondary ditch fill 763, also from ditch 762. A further 76 sherds of pottery were recorded from this deposit, representing a single vessel, Registered Artefact (RA) 2. This vessel, occurs in a (wheelthrown) coarser and micaceous, reduced quartz-tempered fabric. The vessel represented is an ovoid-profiled jar with simple, everted rim. It exhibits evidence for use in the form of light external sooting and internal carbonised (burnt food) residue. The pottery from secondary ditch fills 754 and 763 probably dates from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (c. 1st centuries BC/AD). The shouldered bowl shares characteristics of form with *Cordoned wares* common to this period in the south-west.
- 2.30 A total of 26 sherds in micaceous, reduced-firing fabrics, recovered from topsoil 700 and cremation burial 704 are likely to be related to South Devon (Micaceous) Reduced ware which was manufactured throughout the Roman period (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 178). The 24 sherds from deposit 704 represent the lower portion of an undecorated vessel (RA 1) containing a cremation burial. The two sherds from the topsoil appear to be part of the same vessel.

#### *Metal objects*

- 2.31 A copper alloy coin of George V (1910-1936) was recorded from topsoil 700.

- 2.32 A distorted (molten) fragment in a lightweight light-coloured metal (tin or aluminium?) was recovered from topsoil deposit 500.

*Worked flint*

- 2.33 A multi-platform flint core was recorded in topsoil 400. It was used to produce flakes and is most likely of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has been successful in not only investigating known archaeological features on the site, but also identifying a number of previously unknown features. These include a number of ditches, pits, post-pits and a Roman (1st century AD) urned cremation burial. These indicate a greater complexity and successive phases of activity on the site from that previously known from earlier investigations.
- 3.2 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded at varying depths on the site, but generally at 0.25 – 0.4m depth. Archaeological features were recorded at 0.44 – 0.68m depth in Trench 4, slightly downslope, in the south-western part of the site, where the natural soil overburden of topsoil and subsoil is thicker. Of most significance is the recording of the Small Camp rampart remnant at 0.25m depth (0.14m in 1993), and a truncated urned cremation burial at 0.52m depth in the eastern end of Trench 7.
- 3.3 Despite the relative paucity of dateable finds from stratified contexts, the Roman pottery from the Roman Small Camp ditch and the cremation urn are of middle to late 1st century AD; consistent with earlier investigations of the Roman camp in the 1937-39 and 1993. A single piece of worked flint from the topsoil of Trench 4 indicates ephemeral, earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age) activity on the site.
- 3.4 Although the absolute dating of features or deposits recorded during the evaluation was poor, the stratigraphic sequences and spatial dispositions and alignments of many of the linear features in particular, do indicate successive phases of use of the Milber Hillfort outer (4th) ditch circuit. It was possibly re-used in the Early Roman period as an 'outer' defence for the Small Camp enclosure along with an east/west aligned ditch in Trench 4 (see below). Most of the ditched boundaries recorded in

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 (possibly palisaded at times), were perpendicular to, and to the west of, the hillfort ditch. Their alignment would suggest a possible series of 'radial' field boundaries between the third and fourth circuits of the Milber Down hillfort defences.

- 3.5 Although undated, the results from the Trench 4 stratigraphic sequence are particularly significant for the site's interpretation. The results prove that the Roman Small Camp enclosure was not bivallate in form, as tentatively proposed from earlier investigations (Exeter Archaeology 2009). There seems to have been at least two phases of the hillfort ditch recorded in Trench 4, the latest phase of which (410) cut an earlier east/west ditch (403). Ditch 403 could be associated with an Iron Age use of the hillfort outer circuit ditch, as it is perpendicular to it. However, ditch 403 may also represent the re-use of the hillfort ditch in the Roman conquest period, during the Roman camp's construction and as a second line of defensive earthworks, as suggested by Fox *et.al.* (1949/50, 32). A rampart remnant ('outer rampart') was recorded on the east side of the hillfort ditch in the 1993 evaluation (EMAFU 1993) though this was not discernible in the current fieldwork. Also, a small section of north/south aligned ditch in the 1937/38 excavations of the eastern side of the Small Camp enclosure (Vachell 1964, 28) could well have been used in conjunction with east/west ditch 403 to construct an outer defence circuit, exploiting the pre-existing Iron Age hillfort 4th circuit ditch .
- 3.6 Although only a small number of undated pits were recorded, their morphologies and fill characteristics indicate possible refuse disposal and stone/clay quarrying on the site. The post-pits indicate post-built structures on the site lying 'within' the outer hillfort ditch across the site, possibly indicating Iron Age activity.
- 3.7 Earlier investigations of the interior of the Roman Small Camp have shown that archaeological features survive at depths of 0.14–>1.0m (generally 0.4–0.8m) depending on whether the intervention was located in an area of modern disturbance and/or modern structures. However, even on the abattoir site, between extant structures, archaeological features and natural geology has been recorded at only 0.2m depth (EA 2009, 2). The current topography within the abattoir building complex clearly shows that terracing and ground disturbance associated with the abattoir construction and use has undoubtedly occurred. However, the earlier archaeological investigations indicate that there is the potential for in-situ

archaeological features and deposits to be present in this particular area, as well as on the green space parts of the site.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Ellis and Alastair Barber, assisted by Tom Hackett, Jack Marten-Jones, Christina Tapply, Seeko van der Brug, James Green, Sam Wilson and Claudia Pinci. The report was written by Chris Ellis, assisted by Jacky Sommerville and Ed McSloy ( Finds) and Sarah Cobain (Environmental evidence). The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Chris Ellis, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

N.B. All archaeological features and deposits highlighted in **bold**.

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown slightly clayey silt.	-	-	0.32
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.22
1	102	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	>0.19
1	103	Cut	Tree throw	Irregular, sub-oval (incomplete) shallow cut with	>1.02	1.68	0.24
1	104	Fill	Tree throw fill	Fill of 103. Mid yellowish-brown clayey silt.	>1.02	1.68	0.24
<b>1</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	WNW/ESE ditch. Correlates with linear geophysical anomaly.	>1.7	0.8	0.29
<b>1</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Secondary ditch fill</b>	Latest fill of ditch <b>105</b> . Mid brown silty clay.	-	-	0.15
<b>1</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Primary ditch fill</b>	Basal fill of ditch <b>105</b> . Light yellowish-grey clayey silt.	-	-	0.14
1A	150	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown slightly clayey silt.	-	-	0.38
1A	151	Layer	Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy clayey silt.	-	-	<0.18
1A	152	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	-
1A	153	Layer	Natural geology	Light brown sandy clay patch within 152.	11.8	1.6	>0.1
1A	154	Layer	Natural geology	Light brown sandy clay patch within 152.	3.2	>0.5	>0.04
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown slightly clayey silt.	-	-	0.29
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.31
2	202	Layer	Natural	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	>0.1
<b>2</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	E/W ditch. Filled by <b>204</b> , <b>209</b> .	>1.6	1.34	0.7
<b>2</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Secondary ditch fill</b>	Latest fill of ditch <b>203</b> . Mid yellowish-grey brown silty clay. Deliberate backfill.	-	-	0.5m
<b>2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	WNW/ESE ditch.	>1.74	0.93	0.3
<b>2</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>?Secondary ditch fill</b>	Fill of ditch <b>205</b> . Mid greyish-brown silty clayey sand.	-	-	0.26
<b>2</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	NNE/SSW ditch terminal. Cuts 219.	>3.3	>1.15	0.37
<b>2</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Secondary ditch fill</b>	Latest fill of <b>207</b> . Mid greyish-brown slightly silty sand.	-	-	0.2
<b>2</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Primary ditch fill</b>	Basal fill of ditch <b>203</b> . Mid reddish-yellow slightly sandy silty clay.	-	-	0.2
2	210	Cut	?Tree throw	Irregular feature, possible tree throw. Filled by 211.	1.4	1.4	0.64
2	211	Fill	?Tree throw fill	Single fill of ?tree throw 210. Dark yellowish-brown clayey sand.	1.4	1.4	0.64
<b>2</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Post-pit</b>	Large post-pit with c.0.3m diameter post-pipe. Filled by <b>213</b> , <b>217-218</b> .	1.04	0.6	0.65
<b>2</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Post-pit fill</b>	Latest fill of <b>212</b> . Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.27
<b>2</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Primary fill</b>	Basal fill of <b>207</b> . Dark reddish-brown clayey sand.	-	-	0.2
<b>2</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Primary fill</b>	Basal fill of <b>205</b> . Mid reddish-brown clayey sand.	-	-	0.11
<b>2</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Post-pit tertiary fill</b>	Fill of <b>212</b> . Mid yellowish-grey sandy gravel. Above <b>217</b> .	-	-	0.27
<b>2</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Post-pit fill</b>	Fill of <b>212</b> . Mid reddish-brown sandy clay. Below <b>216</b> , above <b>218</b> .	-	-	0.17

2	218	Fill	Post-pit fill primary fill	Fill of 212. Mid greyish-brown clayey sand. Below 217.	-	-	0.15
2	219	Fill	Geological feature fill	Upper fill of natural hollow. Mid yellowish-grey sandy silt.	-	-	0.2
2	220	Fill	Geological feature fill	Basal fill of 221. Mid reddish-brown clayey sand.	-	-	0.16
2	221	Cut	Geological feature	Natural hollow infilled with 219, 220.	>0.47	-	0.25
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown slightly clayey silt.	-	-	0.32
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.24
3	302	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	>0.2
3	303	Cut	Land drain	Modern E/W aligned stone-filled land drain.	>1.6	0.74	>0.6
3	304	Fill	Land drain fill	Fill of 303, identical to 300 but containing abundant crushed stone shingle.	>1.6	0.74	>0.6
3	305	Cut	Ditch	WNW/ESE ditch.	>1.6	0.97	0.33
3	306	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 305. Light greyish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay. Very compacted. Very common stone,	-	-	0.33
3	307	Cut	Ditch	WNW/ESE ditch.	>1.6	0.7	0.31
3	308	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 307. Medium greyish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay. Very compacted. Very common stone,	-	-	0.31
3	309	Cut	Ditch	WNW/ESE ditch.	>4.3	1.0	0.37
3	310	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 309. Light greyish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay. Very compacted. Very common stone,	-	-	0.37
3	311	Cut	Ditch	WNW/ESE ditch.	>4.3	1.0	0.46
3	312	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 311. Light greyish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay. Very compacted. Very common stone,	-	-	0.46
3	313	Cut	Ditch	WNW/ESE ditch.	>4.3	1.0	0.3
3	314	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 313. Light greyish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay. Very compacted. Very common stone,	-	-	0.3
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown medium sandy silt. Contained a flint core of Neolithic/Bronze Age date.	-	-	0.46
4	401	Layer	Subsoil	Pale yellowish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay, with a pale reddish tinge.	-	-	0.23
4	402	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	0.38
4	403	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE ditch. Cuts ditch 405 and pit 407, Cut by 410.	-	-	0.69
4	404	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 403. Mid orange/brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.69
4	405	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW ditch only seen in north section of trench. Part of Milber Down hillfort ditch. Cut by ditches 403 and 410..	>1.6	2.26	0.36
4	406	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 405. Light yellowish-brown sandy silt.	-	-	0.36
4	407	Cut	Pit	Circular pit. Cut by ditch 403.	0.78	0.78	0.25
4	408	Fill	Pit fill	Basal fill of pit 407. Very dark brown/black sandy silt, charcoal-rich dump.	-	-	0.11
4	409	Fill	Pit fill	Latest fill of pit 407. Greyish-brown silty clay.	-	-	0.18
4	410	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW ditch. Milber Down Hillfort ditch. Cuts ditch 403 and 405.	>1,6	3.2	>0.32
4	411	Fill	Tertiary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 410. Mid brown sandy clay. Same as 712.	-	-	>0.32
4	412	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 405. Mid orange/brown coarse clayey sand	-	-	>0.28

4	413	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 405. Light bluish-grey sand.	-	-	0.06
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown medium sandy silt. Contained a fragment of ?tin/aluminium.	-	-	0.3
5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Pale yellowish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay, with a pale reddish tinge.	-	-	0.13
5	502	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	>0.22
5	503	Cut	Pit	Large sub-oval pit (incomplete). Filled by 504, 512-514. Cuts pit 505.	>0.9	2.3	1.1
5	504	Fill	?Backfill	Fill of pit 503. Mid pinkish-red sandy clay.	-	-	0.11
5	505	Cut	Pit	Large sub-oval pit (incomplete). Filled by 521, 515-518. Cut by pit 503.	>0.9	2.12	0.84
5	506	Fill	Primary pit fill	Fill of pit 505. Mid reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.07
5	507	Cut	Ditch	E/W ditch, filled with 508, 510, 511. Correlates with linear geophysical anomaly.	>1.6	2.3	0.56
5	508	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of 507. Mid orange/brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.19
5	509	Cut	Modern	Foul sewer trench, also recorded in east of Tr.1A and in west of Tr.7.	-	-	>0.55
5	510	Fill	?Secondary ditch fill	Fill of 507. Dark brown/ sandy clay.	-	-	0.22
5	511	Fill	?Tertiary ditch fill	Fill of 507. Mid brown clayey silt.	-	-	0.39
5	512	Fill	Primary pit fill/?Backfill	Fill of pit 503. Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.18
5	513	Fill	Primary pit fill/?Backfill	Fill of pit 503. Mid yellowish-grey sandy clay.	-	-	0.55
5	514	Fill	Primary pit fill/?Backfill	Fill of pit 503. Mid reddish-brown slightly sandy clay.	-	-	0.4
5	515	Fill	Primary pit fill	Fill of pit 505. Mid reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.12
5	516	Fill	Secondary pit fill/?dump	Fill of pit 505. Mid greyish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.14
5	517	Fill	Secondary pit fill	Fill of pit 505. Light reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.17
5	518	Fill	Secondary pit fill	Fill of pit 505. Mid greyish-brown slightly sandy, silty clay.	-	-	0.08
5	519	Cut	Pit re-cut	Re-cut of pit 505. Filled by 520.	>0.9	1.64	0.3
5	520	Fill	Pit re-cut fill	Fill of pit re-cut 519. Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.3
5	521	Fill	Secondary fill	Fill of pit 505. Mid greyish-brown slightly sandy, silty clay.	-	-	0.72
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Mid brown medium sandy silt.	-	-	0.3
6	601	Layer	Subsoil	Pale yellowish-brown 'gritty' sandy clay, with a pale reddish tinge.	-	-	0.21
6	602	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand.	-	-	>0.29
6	603			VOID			
6	604	Fill	?Tree throw fill	Fill of 605. Light orange/brown clayey sand. Possibly thickening of subsoil into natural feature.	-	-	0.28
6	605	Cut	?Tree throw	Irregular, natural shallow feature. Cuts ditch 606 and post-pit 610.	>1.0	2.9	0.28
6	606	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE ditch. Cut by tree throw 605.	0.7	0.7	0.64
6	607	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 606. Reddish brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.09
6	608	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of ditch 606. Mid reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.16
6	609	Fill	Post-pit primary fill	Fill of post-pit 610. Light bluish-grey sandy clay.	-	-	0.65
6	610	Cut	Post-pit	Sub-circular post-pit. Cut by natural feature 605.	0.65	0.56	0.65

7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay. Contained a 20th cent. copper alloy coin.	-	-	<0.52
7	701	Layer	Natural geology	Light to mid reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant stone. Some patches of yellowish-brown sand matrix with stone fragments.	-	-	>0.2
7	702	Cut	Urned cremation burial pit	Urned cremation burial for pottery vessel <b>704</b> [RA 1]. No actual cut discernible.	0.16	0.16	0.08
7	703	Fill	Urn fill	Fill of cremation urn <b>704</b> [RA 1].	0.16	0.16	0.13
7	704	Pottery vessel	Urn	Cremation urn pottery vessel. Buried within layer <b>720</b> . Mid to late 1st century AD pottery.	0.16	0.16	0.08
7	705	Layer	Modern rubble	Modern stone rubble derived from natural geology, directly below topsoil 700. Probably from abattoir construction. Still visible as earthwork.	>7.7	10.7	0.3
7	706	Layer	Buried topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay with modern objects (metal pipe, degraded wood). Below 705. Identical to 700.	>7.7	9.5	0.48
7	707	Layer	Buried soil	Light yellowish-brown clayey silt. Only seen to north of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch <b>708</b> . Same as <b>736</b> .	>17.9	>1.6	0.3
7	708	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW aligned Roman 'Small Camp' ditch.	>7.7	4.9	3.7
7	709	Fill	Tertiary ditch fill	Latest fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch <b>708</b> . Mid brown sandy clay.	>4.7	>0.78	0.32
7	710	Cut	Modern ditch	NE/SW aligned narrow ditch. Cuts <b>729</b> , filled by <b>751</b> .	>1.6	0.7	0.33
7	711	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW aligned Milber Down Hillfort ditch. Cut by modern foul sewer trench 741.	>3.2	4.3	>1.42
7	712	Fill	Tertiary ditch fill	Latest fill of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> . Cut by 741.	-	-	0.6
7	713	VOID					
7	714	VOID					
7	715	Layer	Rampart	Remnant of 'inner' rampart of Roman 'Small Camp'. Above <b>707</b> . Light reddish-brown sandy clay with very common angular stone. Derived from natural geology.	>1.59	1.54	0.22
7	716	Cut	Posthole	Upper fill of ?modern posthole, above <b>753</b> . Identical to 706.	0.64	>0.3	0.4
7	717	Fill	Posthole fill	Latest fill of ?modern posthole 716. Identical to 700.	-	-	0.2
7	718	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of Small Camp ditch re-cut <b>759</b> . Dark brown silty clay. Very common large natural geology boulders (<0.5m) at interface with <b>764</b> below. Possible collapse from rampart.	-	-	1.2
7	719	Fill	Feature fill	Secondary fill of cut feature <b>746</b> . Above <b>732</b> . Only recorded in section. Mid reddish-brown, 'gritty', fine sandy silt.	>0.75	0.86	0.24
7	720	Layer	Buried soil	Number allocated to deposit containing urned cremation burial vessel <b>704</b> [RA 1]. Identical to <b>731</b> , sealed below rampart deposit <b>715</b> . Light yellowish-brown clayey silt with pinkish tinge.	0.16	0.16	0.08
7	721	Fill	Ditch fill	Possible secondary fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut <b>759</b> , below <b>718</b> .	-	-	0.38
7	722	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Primary fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch cut <b>708</b> , below <b>718</b> . Cut by ditch re-cut <b>760</b> . Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay	-	-	0.22

7	723	Fill	Ditch fill	Secondary fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut <b>759</b> , below <b>718</b> . Mid orange/brown silty clay.	-	-	0.28
7	724	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Primary fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch cut <b>708</b> , below <b>738</b> , above <b>725</b> . Cut by ditch re-cut <b>760</b> .	-	-	0.12
7	725	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Primary fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch cut <b>708</b> , below <b>724</b> , above <b>756</b> . Mid orange/brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.09
7	726	Fill	Ditch fill	Black silty clay. Dump deposit of charcoal-rich material and in-situ baking of contiguous deposits, on east side of ditch <b>708</b> . Above <b>738</b> , below <b>723</b> .	-	-	0.06
7	727	VOID					
7	728	VOID					
7	729	Cut	Modern ditch	NE/SW ditch. Cuts layer <b>707</b> , and cut by modern ditch <b>710</b> .	>1.7	>3.3	0.33
7	730	Fill	Modern ditch fill	Latest fill of ditch. Above <b>752</b> . Light reddish-brown 'gritty', sandy silt.	-	-	0.12
7	731	Layer	Buried soil	Light yellowish-brown clayey silt with pinkish tinge. Below <b>709</b> , <b>715</b> , above <b>723</b> . Identical to <b>720</b> .	>1.6	6.2	0.28
7	732	Fill	Feature fill	Basal fill of cut feature <b>746</b> . Below Above <b>732</b> . Only recorded in section	-	-	0.24
7	733	VOID					
7	734	Layer	Buried soil	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Above <b>735</b> , below <b>723</b> .	>1.6	3.4	0.16
7	735	Layer	Buried soil	Mid greyish-brown sandy clay. Above <b>701</b> , below <b>734</b> , <b>746</b> .	>1.6	9.8	0.2
7	736	Layer	Buried soil	Buried soil deposit, same as <b>707</b> . Cut by Roman ditch <b>708</b> .	>1.6	>1.4	0.16
7	737	Fill	Modern ditch fill	Fill of ditch <b>741</b> . Redeposited natural geology ( <b>701</b> ) and topsoil ( <b>700</b> ) over foul sewer pipe.	>3.2	0.8	>1.42
7	738	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Mid orange/brown sandy clay fill against east side of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch. Above <b>724</b> , below <b>726</b> ..	>1.6	0.9	0.12
7	739	Fill	Ditch fill	Dump deposit on east side of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> . Dark reddish-brown 'gritty' clayey silt with common charcoal. Above <b>742</b> , below <b>712</b> .	>0.75	3.0	0.16
7	740	VOID					
7	741	Cut	Modern ditch	N/S aligned modern foul sewer pipe trench. Cuts hillfort ditch <b>711</b> . Also recorded in Trs <b>1A</b> & <b>5</b> .	>3.2	0.7	>1.42
7	742	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> , above <b>711</b> , below <b>739</b> . Light brown with pinkish tinge, 'gritty' sandy silty clay.	>1.6	4.3	0.24
7	743	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> , above <b>744</b> , below <b>745</b> . Light reddish-brown, coarse, 'gritty' sandy clay.	>1.6	2.1	0.18
7	744	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> , below <b>743</b> . Pale reddish-brown, coarse, 'gritty' sandy clay. Not fully excavated.	>1.6	1.6	>0.06
7	745	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of hillfort ditch <b>711</b> . Above <b>743</b> , below <b>742</b> . Mid brown with reddish tinge, coarse, 'gritty' sandy clay.	>1.6	1.05	0.05
7	746	Cut	Feature	Unknown feature, only seen in trench section. Cuts <b>735</b> . Filled by <b>719</b> , <b>732</b> .	???	1.2	0.32
7	747	Layer	Buried soil	Light brown clayey silt. Above <b>719</b> , below <b>731</b> .	>6.4	>5	0.18
7	748	Cut	Pit	Oval pit, cuts <b>747</b> , filled by <b>749</b> , <b>750</b> .	1.32	0.94	0.13
7	749	Fill	Pit fill	Upper fill of pit <b>748</b> . Very dark grey/black fine silt, charcoal-rich. Deliberate dump. Above <b>750</b> , below <b>720=731</b> .	0.8	0.64	0.13
7	750	Fill	Pit fill	Basal fill of pit <b>748</b> , below <b>749</b> . Light brown (slight reddish tinge) fine sandy silt.	1.32	0.94	0.13

7	751	Fill	Modern ditch fill	Fill of modern ditch 710. Dark brown silty clay. Identical to topsoil (700).	>1.6	0.7	0.3
7	752	Fill	Modern ditch fill	Basal fill of ditch. Below 730. Dark red 'gritty' sandy silt.	-	-	0.33
7	753	Fill	Posthole fill	Basal fill of possible modern posthole 716, below 717. Mid brown 'gritty' silty clay with slight pinkish tinge.	-	-	0.2
7	754	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut 762. Above 762, below 761. Mid grey 'gritty' silt.. Contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery.	-	-	0.28
7	755	VOID					
7	756	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch 708. Above 757, below 725. Mid greyish-brown 'gritty' silt with reddish tinge.	-	-	0.3
7	757	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch 708. Above 766, below 756. Mid orange/brown to reddish-brown gritty' silt.	-	-	0.3
7	758	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Single fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut 760. Cut by ditch re-cut 762. Above 766, Mid reddish-brown with greyish tinge clay.	-	-	0.48
7	759	Cut	Ditch	Final re-cut of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch. Cuts 764, filled by 718. Cuts 722, 724, 763, 764. Filled by 758.	>0.75	2.3	1.8
7	760	Cut	Ditch	First re-cut of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch. Cuts 724, 722, 756, 757, 766. Filled by	>0.75	2.3	1.8
7	761	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut 762. Above 754, below 763. Mid reddish brown silty clay.	>0.75	0.8	0.16
7	762	Cut	Ditch	2nd re-cut of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch. Cuts 758. Filled 754, 761, 763, 764.	>0.75	2.3	1.4
7	763	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut 762. Above 761, below 764. Mid brown, slightly 'gritty', silty clay. . Contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery.	>0.75	1.84	0.28
7	764	Fill	Secondary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch re-cut 762. Above 763. Cut by ditch re-cut 759. Mid greyish-brown with reddish tinge, slightly 'gritty', silty clay.	>0.75	1.48	0.26
7	765	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Basal fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch 708. Below 766. Mid orange/ brown with light blueish-grey gleyed, 'gritty' sandy clay with waterlogged organic remains.	>0.75	0.34	0.3
7	766	Fill	Primary ditch fill	Fill of Roman 'Small Camp' ditch 708. Below 757, above 765. Cut by ditch re-cut 760. Mid orange/ brown with light blueish-grey gleyed, 'gritty' sandy clay with waterlogged organic remains.	>0.75	2.3	0.5
7	767	VOID					
7	768	VOID					

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Context Type	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
400	Topsoil	Worked flint: core	1	45	Neo/BA
500	Topsoil	Tin? fragment	1	2	modern
700	Topsoil	Roman pottery: South Devon (Micaceous) Reduced ware variant	2	34	
		Modern copper alloy coin	1	5	C20
<b>704</b>	Cremation Urn	Roman pottery: South Devon (Micaceous) Reduced ware variant (RA 1)	24	581	MC1-LC1
<b>750</b>	Fill of pit <b>748</b>	Natural stone (RA 3)	1	189	-
<b>754</b>	Secondary fill of RB Small Camp ditch re-cut <b>762</b> .	Roman pottery: fine, black-firing sand-tempered fabric	11	58	MC1-LC1
<b>763</b>	Secondary fill of RB Small Camp ditch re-cut <b>762</b> .	Roman pottery: fine, black-firing sand-tempered fabric; coarse quartz sand-tempered fabric (RA 2)	79	488	MC1-LC1

## **APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

To be produced as an addendum report



**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project Name	Milber Down, Newton Abbot, Devon
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation and a watching brief of associated geotechnical investigations was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2014, at the Milber Down Abattoir site, Newton Abbot, Devon (centred on NGR: 88629 69649) for Smiths Gore on behalf of Milber Developments Limited.</p> <p>The 0.77 ha site contains part of the Scheduled Monument of Milber Down Camp (Iron Age Hillfort) and Enclosure (Roman 'Small Camp'); SM No.s 1003178 and 1031242 respectively. The site had previously been investigated by local archaeologists in 1937-38, and 1964, as well as being subject to two earlier archaeological evaluations undertaken by Exeter Archaeology in 1993 and 2009, as part of an earlier planning application.</p> <p>The current evaluation comprised a total of seven targeted trial trenches, targeted on features highlighted by early mapping evidence (when earthworks were extant), the earlier archaeological investigations, as well as the results of a geophysical survey in 2014. The site is crossed by a length of the outermost (4th) ditch circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort as well as the west, and part of the southern, side of the known ditched Roman 'Small Camp' enclosure.</p> <p>The evaluation has been successful in not only investigating known archaeological features on the site, but also adding a number of previously unknown features. These include a number of ditches, pits and post-pits both 'outside' the Roman Small Camp and 'within the outer (4th) ditch circuit of the Milber Down Hillfort complex. These were generally recorded at depths of 0.25-0.4m depth, although archaeological features have been recorded at depths of 0.14-0.2m, even within the modern abattoir building complex (in earlier investigations).</p> <p>A single piece of unstratified earlier prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age) worked flint was recorded. The only dated features were the Small Camp ditch and a single urned cremation burial just within the interior of the Small Camp, both of which contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery, consistent with previous investigations of the Small Camp enclosure.</p> <p>Although mostly undated, because of relative paucity of stratified finds, the results of the evaluation has revealed a greater complexity and successive phases of activity on the site from that previously known. Although the absolute dating of features or deposits recorded during the evaluation was poor, the stratigraphic sequences and spatial dispositions and alignments of many of the linear features in particular, do indicate successive phases of use of the Milber Hillfort outer (4th) ditch circuit, and its possible re-use in the Roman period, during the construction and use of the Small Camp enclosure. Although mostly undated, discrete features comprising post-pits, large pits and an urned cremation burial, strongly indicate settlement activity on the site, probably also of later Iron Age and Roman date.</p>
Project dates	22 October – 4 November 2014
Project type	Evaluation & Watching Brief (Geotechnical Investigations)

Previous work	1937/38 Excavation (Fox <i>et al.</i> 1949/50) 1963 Excavation (Vachell 1964) 1993 & 2009 Evaluations (Exeter Archaeology 1993, 2009) Heritage Statement (Ecus 2014) Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Coffinswell Parish, Newton Abbot, Devon	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.77 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SX 8862 6964	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council Heritage Environment Team	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Ecus Limited	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	Chris Ellis	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Iron Age hillfort (SM 1003178) and Roman camp (SM 1031242)	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	Urned cremation burial	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive</b> (museum/Accession no.) Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter Acc. No. RAMM: 14/69	<b>Content</b>
Physical		Pottery, worked flint, metalwork, cremated bone
Paper		Trench Records, Context sheets, Photo Registers, Site Drawings (A3/A4), Sample Registers and Records, Registered Artefact Register,
Digital	Archaeology data Service	Database, digital photos, survey data, all site records and selected photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Milber Down, Newton Abbot, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>14604</b>		



- site boundary
- Scheduled Monument



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Milber Down, Newton Abbot, Devon

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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**FIGURE NO.**  
**1**

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970

988

P:\5127 milber down eval\illustration\Drafts\5127 Milber Down Fth 2.dwg



- ▬ site
- ▬ 2014 evaluation trench
- ▬ 2009 evaluation trench
- ▬ 1993 evaluation trench
- ▬ 1938 evaluation trench
- ▬ previous archaeological features
- ▬ projected ditches
- ▬ earthworks projected from historical mapping
- ▬ archaeology
- ▬ modern
- ▬ treethrow
- + environmental sample

**2014 Geophysics**  
(Stratascan LTD)

- ▬ Possible ditches
- ▨ probable archaeological activity
- ▭ probable structural remains



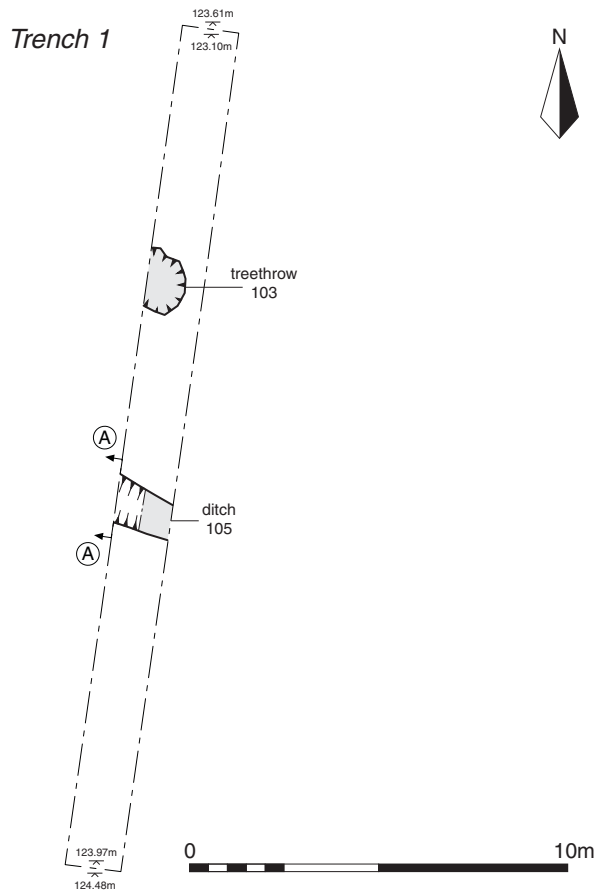
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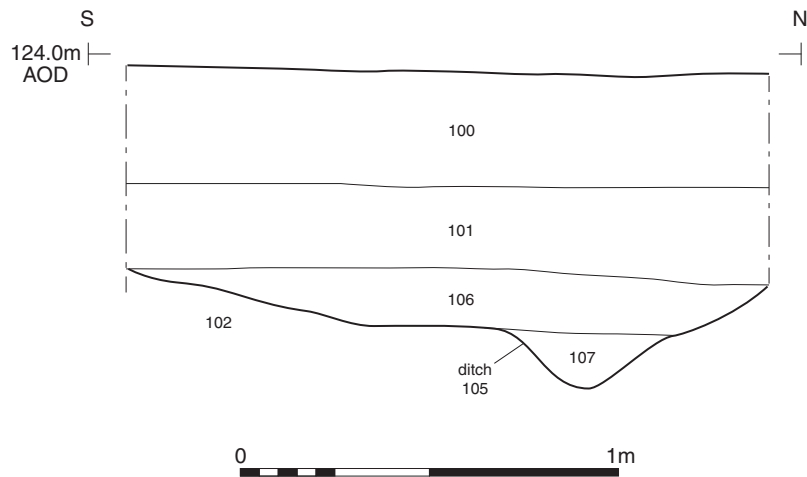
PROJECT TITLE  
**Milber Down, Newton Abbot, Devon**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Plan of current and previously excavated evaluation trenches and archaeological features**

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CHECKED BY	CE	DATE	11-11-2014	<b>2</b>
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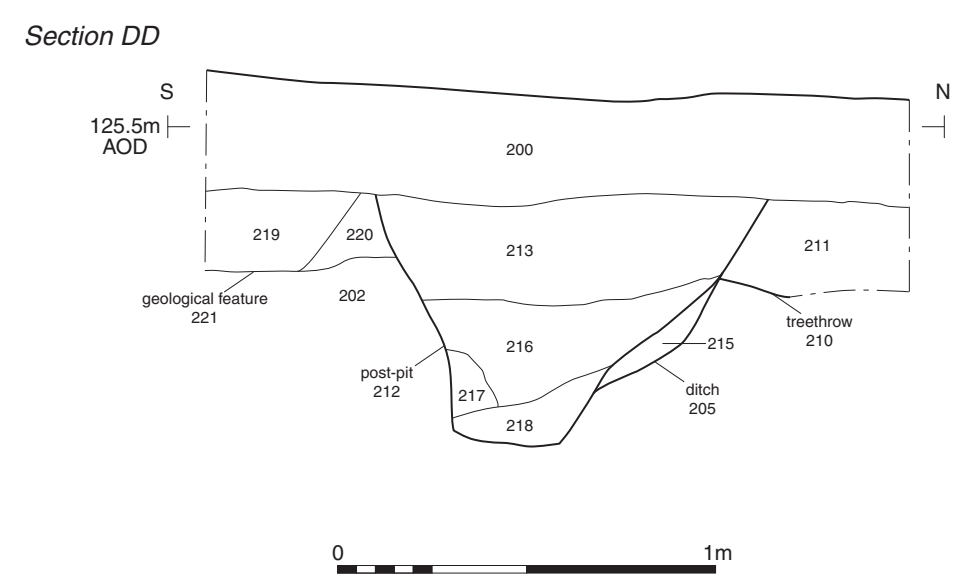
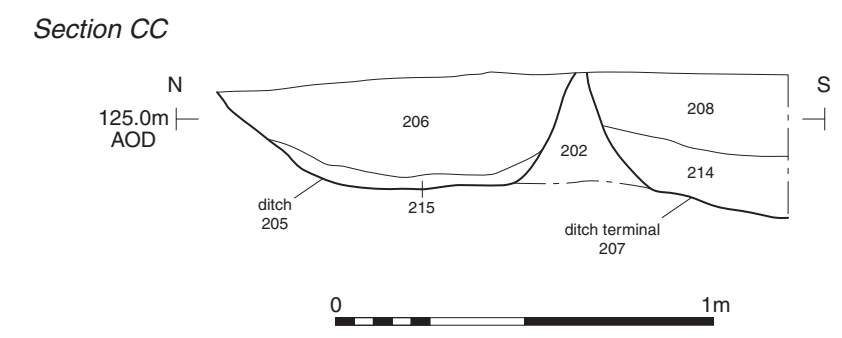
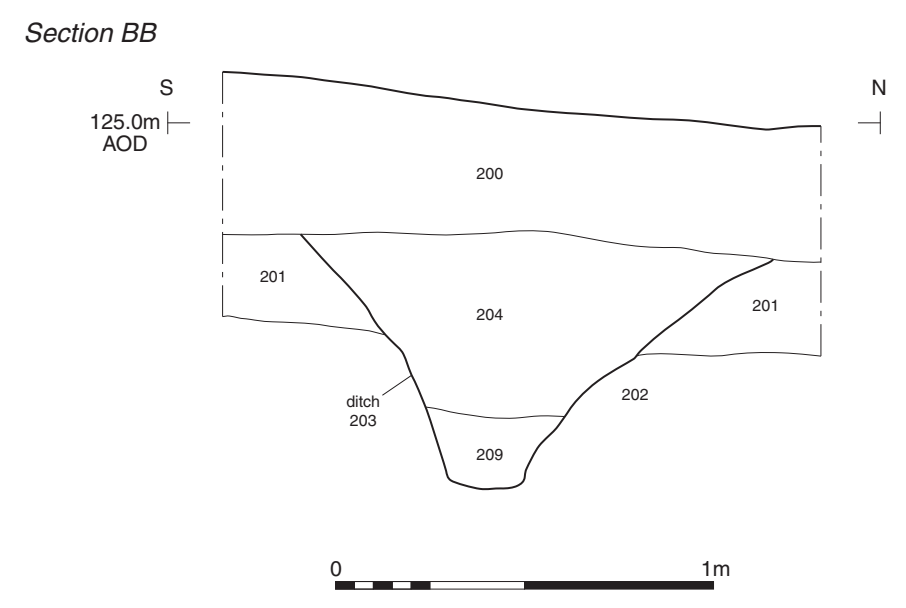
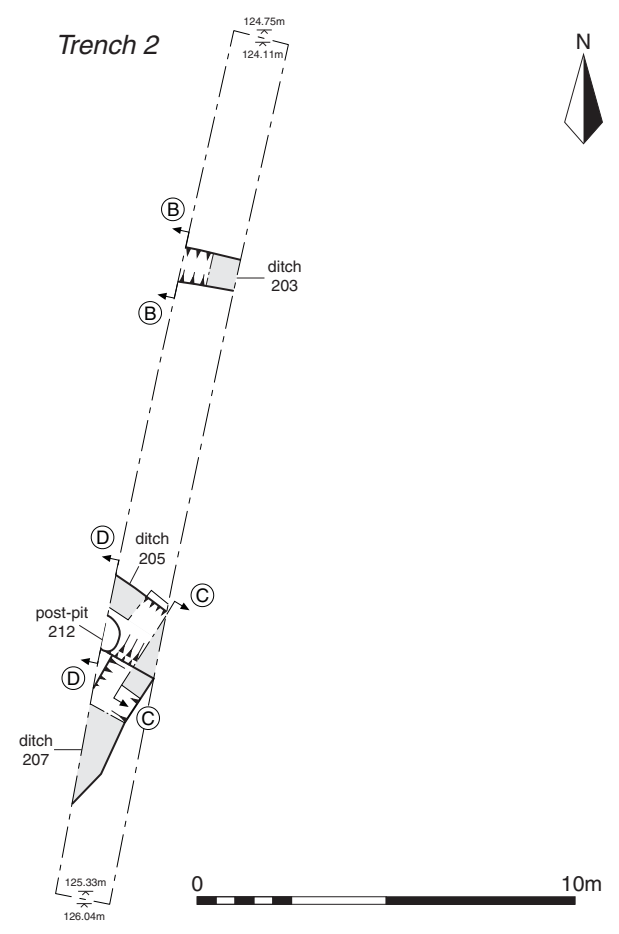
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**Trench 1: plan and section**

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**FIGURE NO.**

**3**



East-facing section of post-pit 212 in base of ditch 205 (scale 1m)

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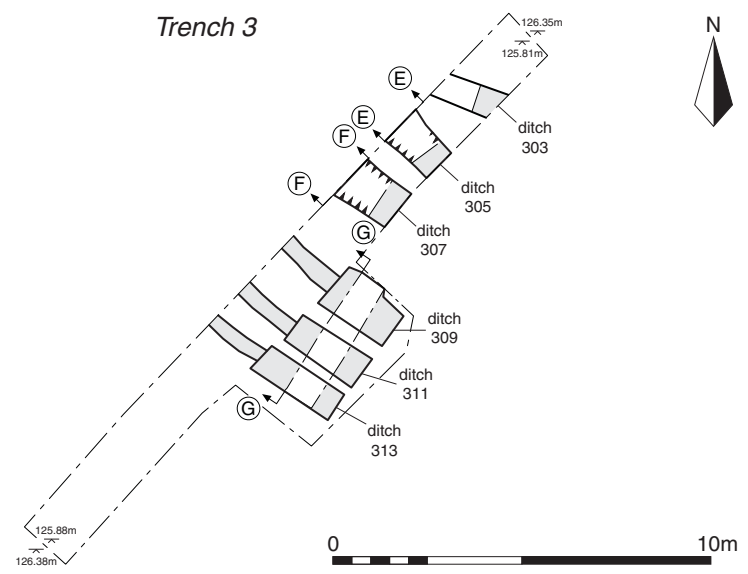
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 2: plan, sections and photograph**

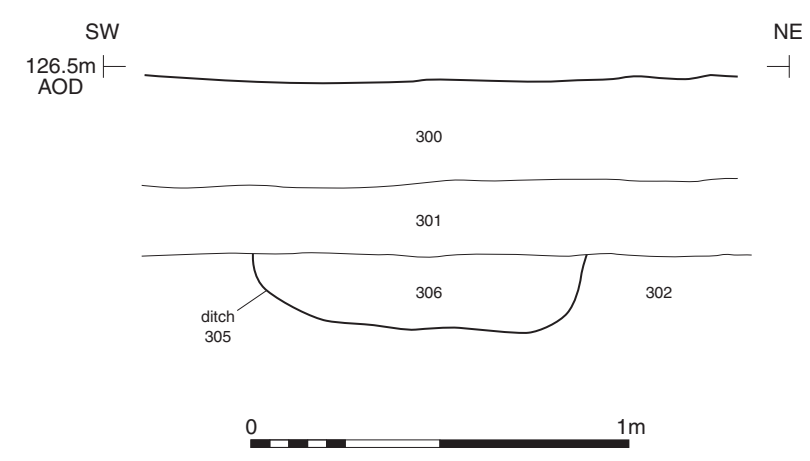
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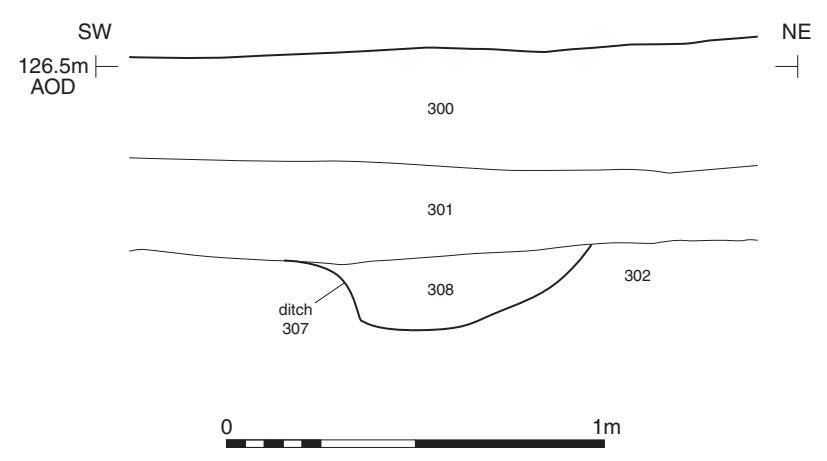


General view of ditches 309, 311 and 313, looking north-west (scales 1m)

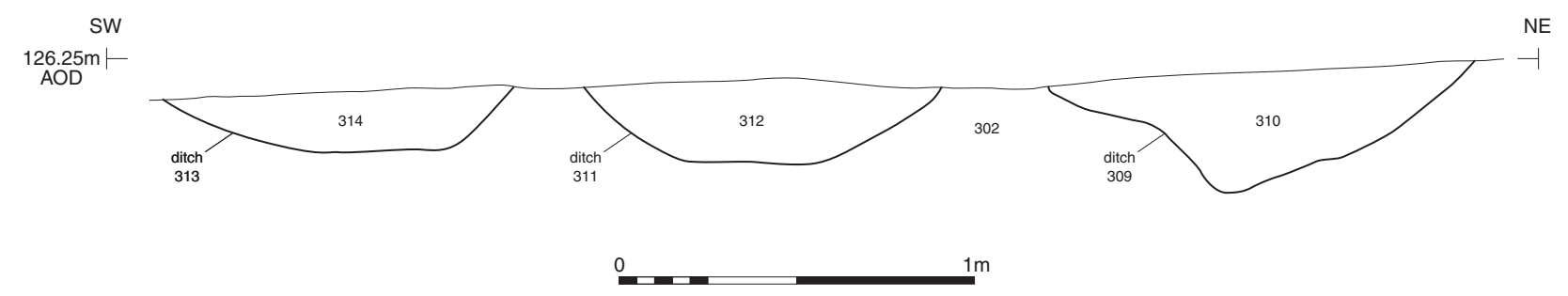
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Section FF



Section GG



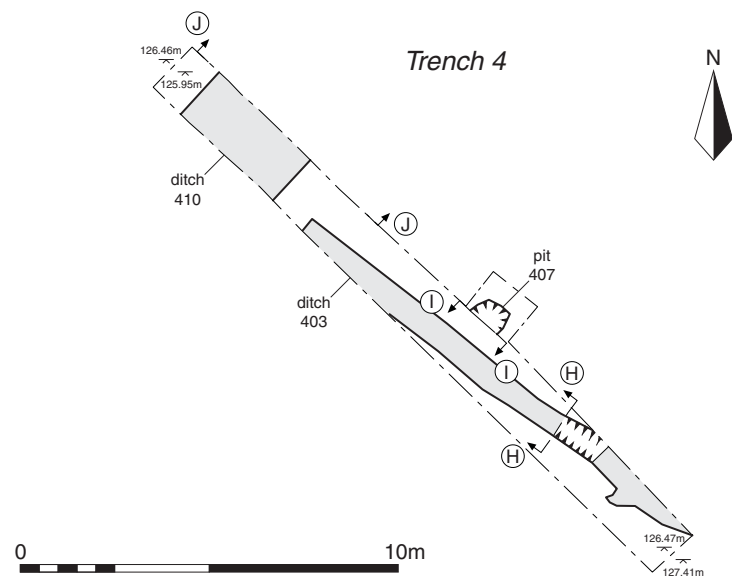
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 3: plan, sections and photograph

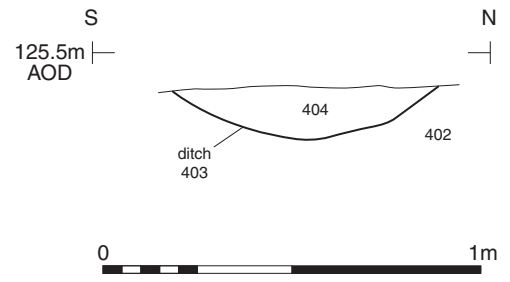
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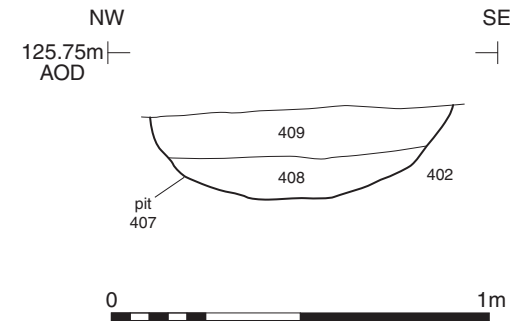


Oblique south-west facing section of ditches 410 and 405 looking north-west (scale 1m)

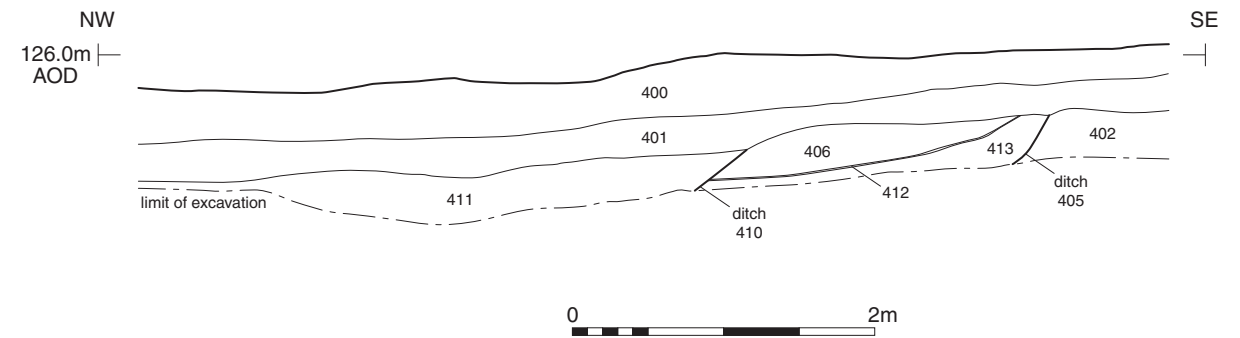
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Section II



Section JJ



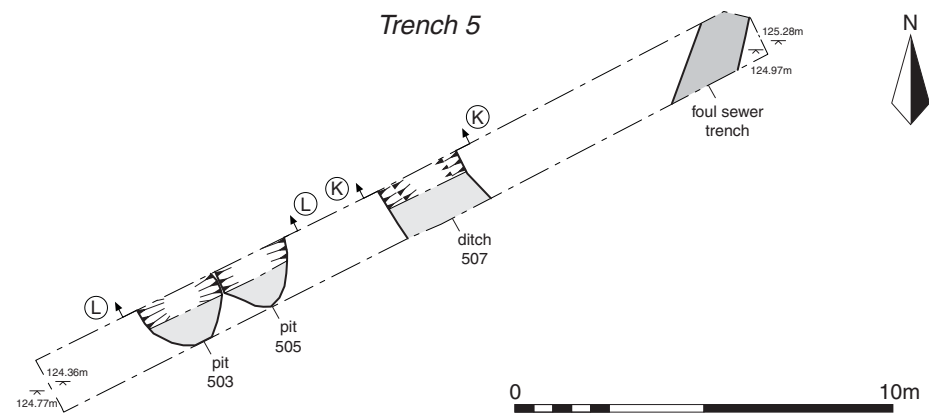
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 4: plan, sections and photograph**

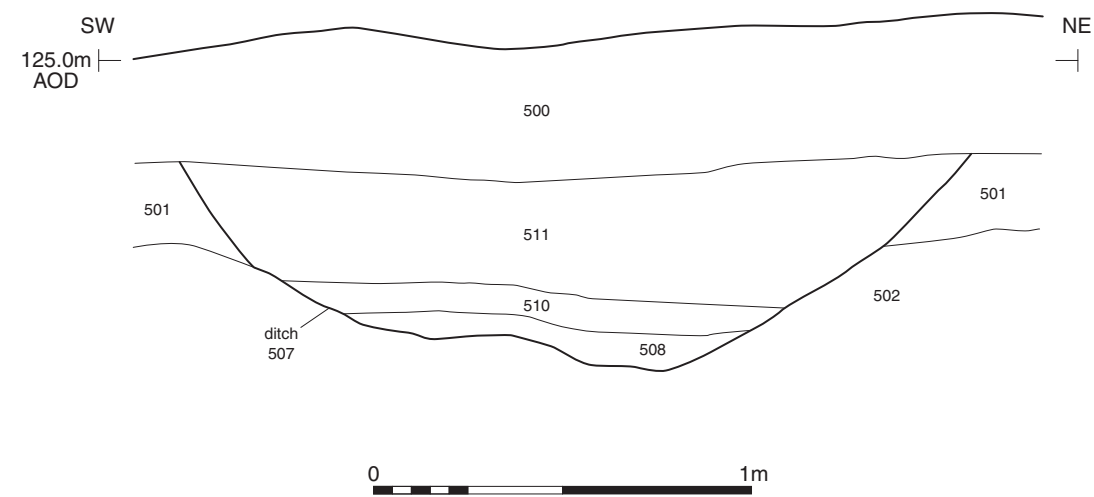
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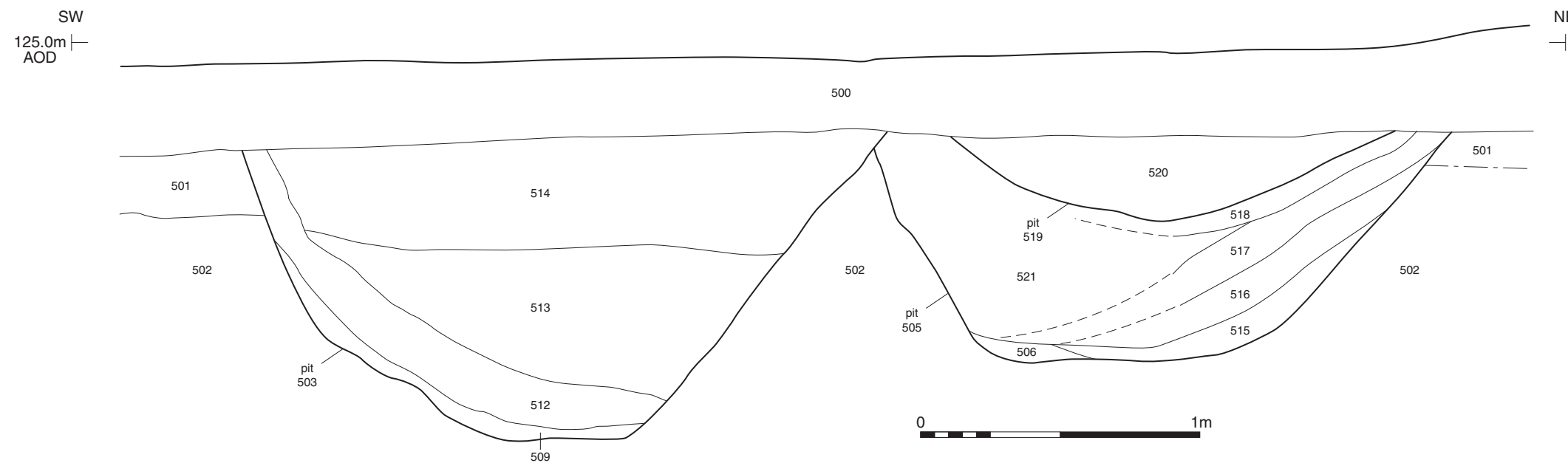


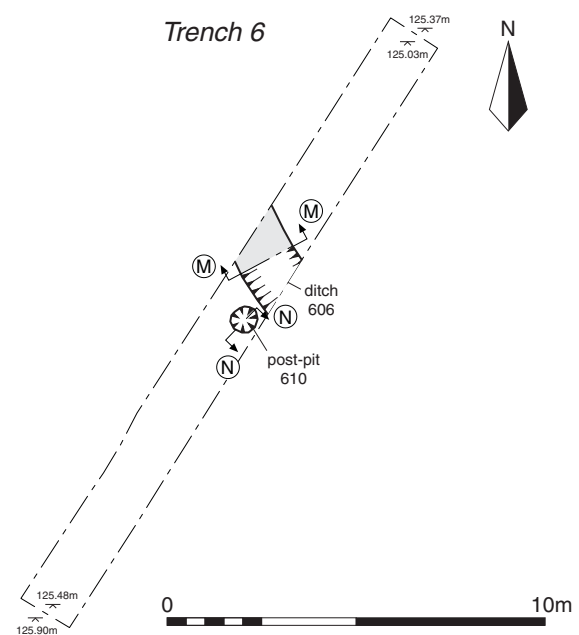
Oblique south-east facing section of large pits 503 and 505 looking west (scale 1m)

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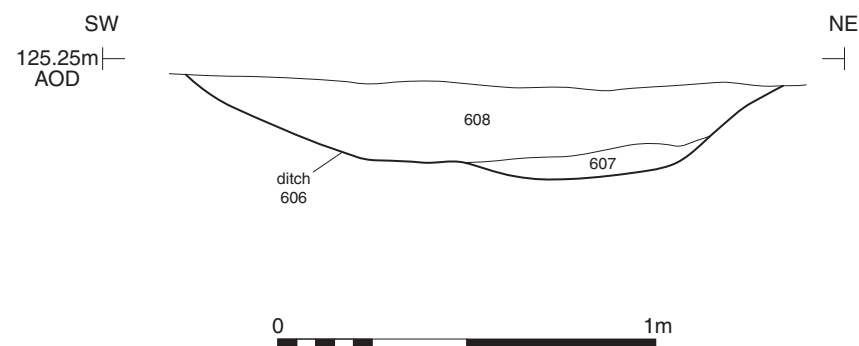
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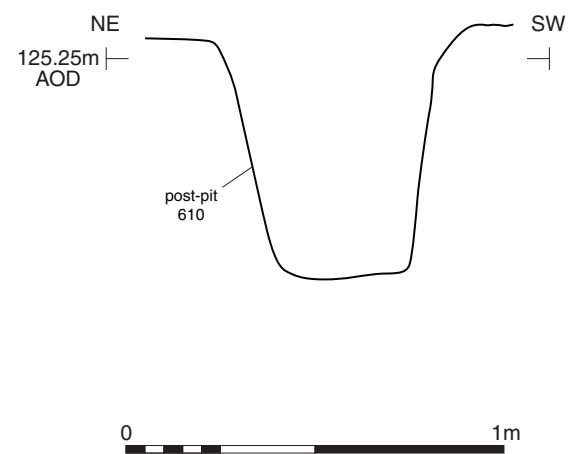


General view of ditch 606 and post-pit 610 looking north-east (scales 1m)

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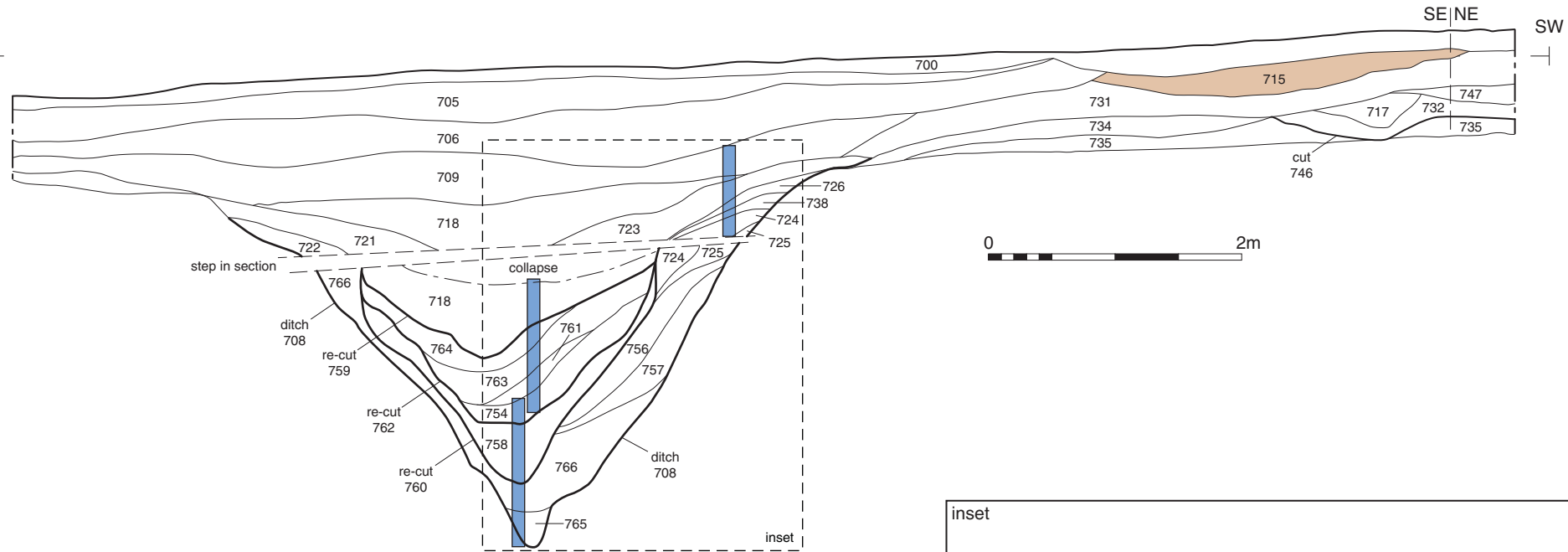


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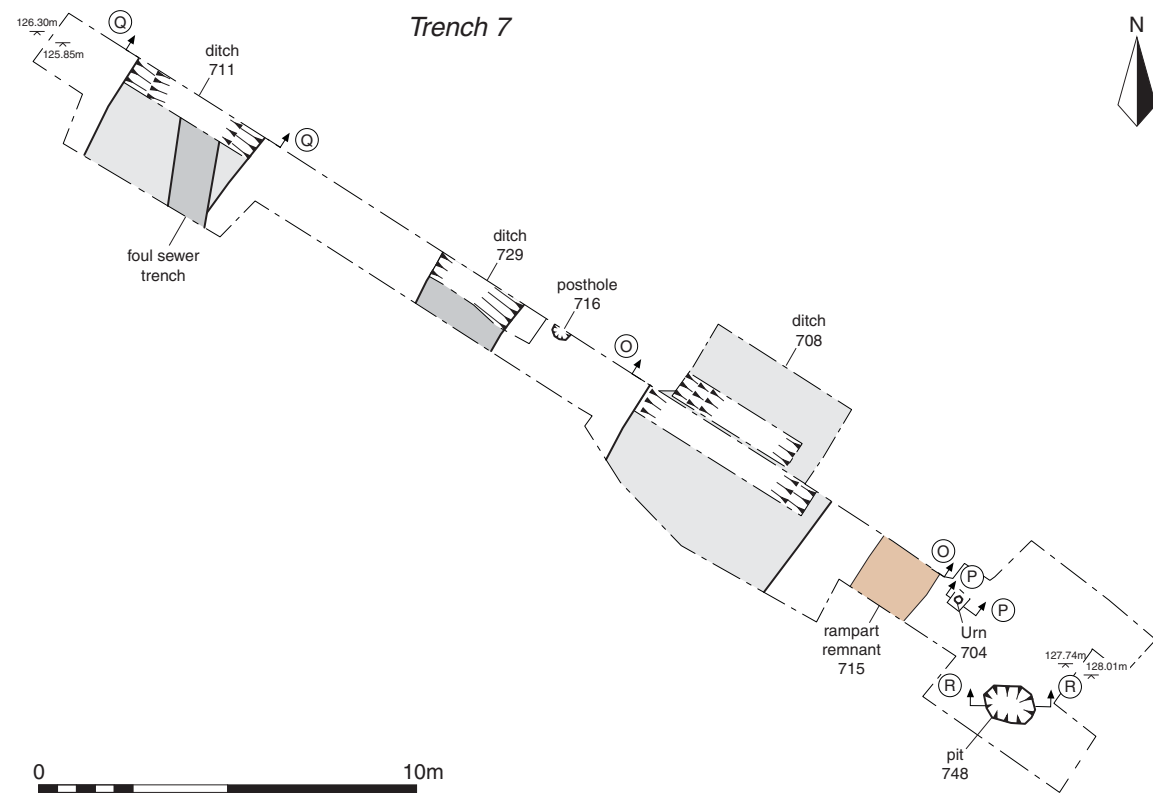


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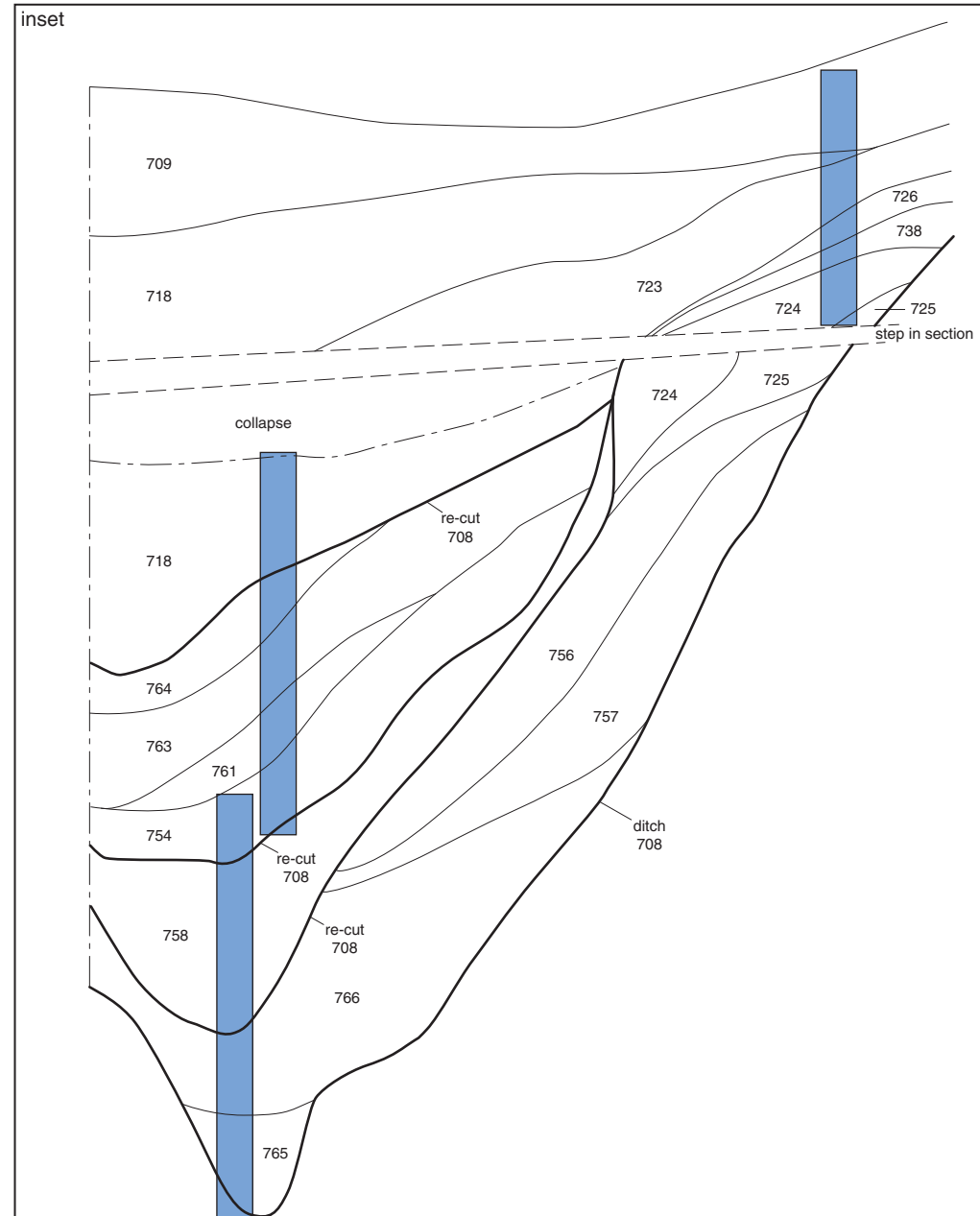
NW  
127.0m  
AOD



0 2m



0 10m



0 1m

- rampart remnant
- modern
- monolith sample

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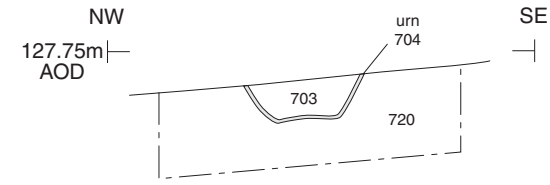
PROJECT TITLE  
 Milber Down, Newton Abbot, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 7: plan and section with inset showing location of monolith samples**

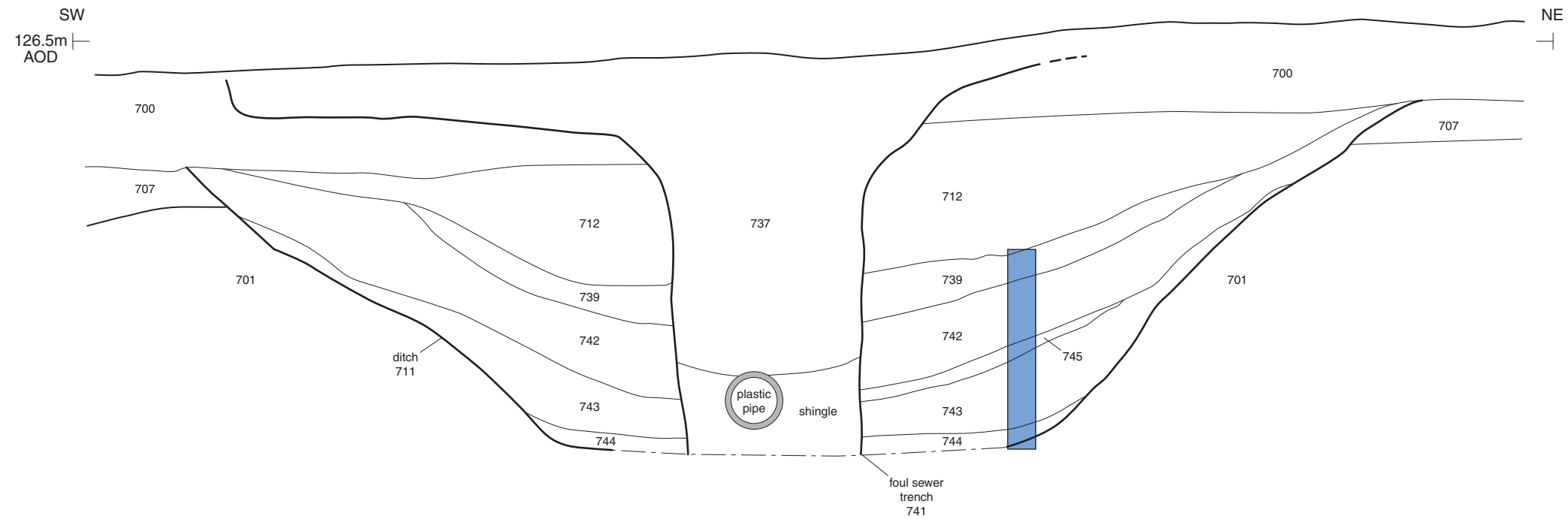
DRAWN BY DJB PROJECT NO. 5127  
 CHECKED BY CE DATE 7-01-2015  
 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A3 1:200 1:50 1:20

FIGURE NO.  
**9**

Section PP

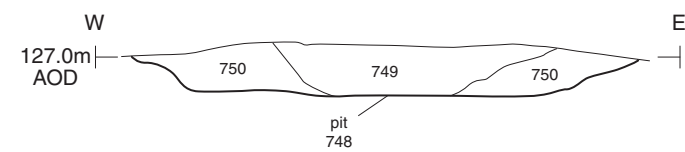


Section QQ



monolith sample

Section RR







11



12



13

- 11 General view of Roman Small Camp ditch 708 looking north-west (scale 0.4m)
- 12 Oblique north-east facing section (upper) of Roman Small Camp ditch 708 looking south (scale 2m)
- 13 Oblique south-west facing section of Milber Down Hillfort ditch 711 looking east (scales 1m)