



**Kenniford Farm
Clyst St George
Devon**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Solstice Renewables


CA Project: 5118
CA Report: 14538

November 2014

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Devon

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date	24 November 2014
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Kenniford Farm
Location:	Clyst St George, Devon
NGR:	SX 9900 8925
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	10–12 November 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with The Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Site Code:	KFC 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon. Seven trenches were excavated.

Field boundary ditches and a pond, all identifiable on the 1839 Tithe Map of Clyst St George and which survived until the compilation of late 20th-century cartographic sources, were recorded during the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Solstice Renewables at Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 9900 8925; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to East Devon District Council (EDDC) for the development of a solar farm.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation (DCCHET 2014) prepared by Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), archaeological advisor to EDDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) 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.

The site

1.3 The proposed development site is situated to the north of Clyst St George, Devon. It comprises an irregular parcel of land, approximately 7ha in extent, situated on a north-facing slope in a rolling lowland landscape characterised by shallow valleys, farmland and frequent commercial development (Landscape Character Type 3B: EDDC 2008). The site is currently occupied by a single field under arable cultivation, the boundaries of which comprise mature hedgerows incorporating trees. Topographically, the site comprises a relatively steep north-west-facing slope, with a plateau formed by the gravel terrace in the southern area.

1.4 The bedrock geology at the site comprises Triassic mudstone of the Exmouth Mudstone and Sandstone Formation (BGS 2014). The northern boundary of the site is adjacent to a narrow band of Head – Sand and Gravel which forms part of a former tributary of the River Clyst running to the north of the site. The southern half of the site is overlain by Pleistocene sands and gravels mapped as Terrace 6 of the River Exe.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and its immediate surroundings has previously been undertaken in support of the application (CA 2014b). A brief summary of the findings set out in that document is given below:
- 1.6 The assessment noted that no designated or non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the proposed development site. Consulted historic and cartographic sources indicated that the site had been agricultural land since at least the medieval period (ibid.). The assessment considered there to be limited potential for remains of pre-medieval date to be present within the proposed development site. However, it did note that archaeological evaluation trenching undertaken 450m to the north of the current site (at Shepherd's Farm, Clyst St Mary) had recorded a Roman field boundary, suggesting the landscape formed part of the agricultural hinterland of a Roman period rural settlement. As such, the assessment concluded that there may be some limited potential for similar agricultural remains to survive within the current site, although the topography, a relatively steep north-facing slope, suggests it was unlikely to have been conducive for occupation in these periods (ibid.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource 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). This information will enable EDDC 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

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches (1, 2, 4–8), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 3 was, following consultation with Stephen Reed, not excavated. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).

- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 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); no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2 - 4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The general stratigraphy encountered throughout the site comprised gravel within an orange and red silty clay matrix, overlain by a layer of subsoil, 0.12m to 0.36m thick, which was in turn sealed by up to 0.43m of topsoil. Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

- 2.3 Ditch 103 cut subsoil 101 on a broadly north/south alignment. It measured 1.6m in width and contained silty clay fill 104 from which modern ceramic building material was recovered (although not retained).



Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 3)

- 2.4 Pond 203 cut subsoil 201 throughout the south-western extent of the trench. It measured at least 28m in length and contained silty clay fill 204 from which modern ceramic building material and plastic was recovered (although not retained).

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 - 4)

- 2.5 In Trench 6, two ditches, 603 and 605, forming the flanking ditches of a probable hedgebank were recorded cutting subsoil 601 on a broadly parallel north-east/south-west alignment. Ditch 603 was 2.5m wide, 0.39m deep with a stepped north-western side, a steep south-eastern side and a concave base (Fig. 4 section AA). It contained dark grey-brown silty clay fill 604 within which a modern shotgun cartridge was noted but not retained. Ditch 605 was located approximately 3m to the east of ditch 603 and was 1m wide, 0.27m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 4 section BB). It contained grey-brown silty clay fill 606 from which no artefacts were recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the evaluation, with all identified features correlating with historic boundaries and features depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map of Clyst St George. The ditches (103, 603 and 605) most probably represent the alignment of a single, broadly north/south orientated boundary that survived until the compilation of late 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping. Pond 203 does not correlate as closely with the Tithe map evidence as the field boundary evidence although later Ordnance Survey mapping does indicate that the pond was enlarged in the late 19th century.
- 3.2 Despite the potential for Roman agricultural activity in the area, as identified at nearby Shepherd's Farm, Clyst St Mary (CA 2014c), no evidence for Roman activity was revealed during the current works on site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard, assisted by Jon Pick and Robert Reichert. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were

prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 14 November 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA 2014b *Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment, CA Report No 14257*

CA 2014c *Shepherd's Farm, Clyst St Mary, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report 14182*

DCCHET (Devon County Council Historic Environment Team) 2014 *Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Undertaken in Support of a Planning Application*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

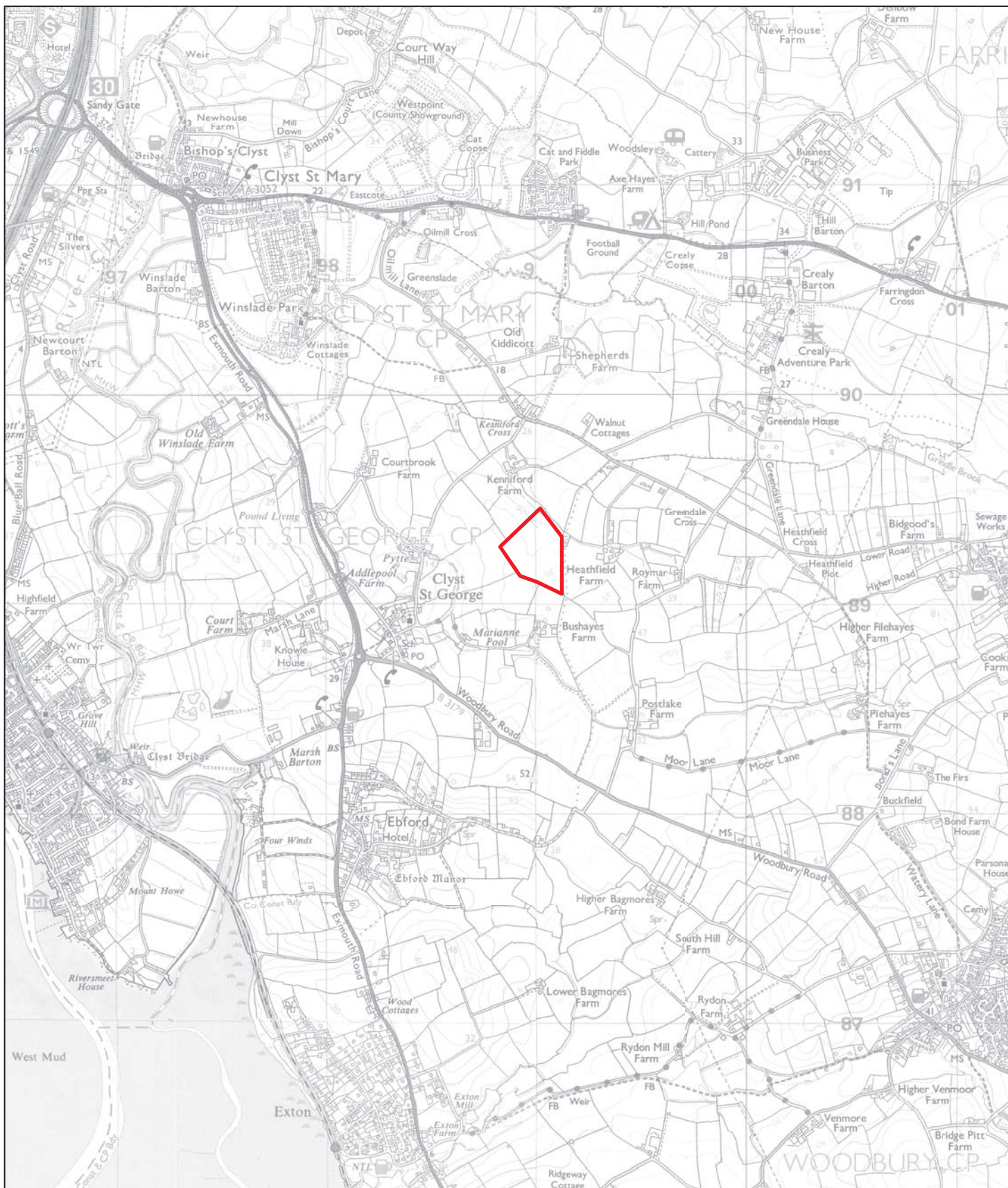


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark yellow-brown silty clay	50	1.8	0.29
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown silty clay	50	1.8	0.27
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Gravel in orange and red silty clay			
1	103	Cut		Ditch	Modern ditch. Linear in plan. Unexcavated	>1.8	1.62	
1	104	Fill	103	Ditch fill	Dark yellow-brown silty clay. Modern CBM noted	>1.8	1.62	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.43
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.16
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
2	203	Fill	204	Pond fill	Mid red-brown silty clay. Modern rubble and plastic noted	>1.8	>30	
2	204	Cut		Pond	Unexcavated modern feature	>1.8	>30	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.3
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.2
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.36
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.12
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.36
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.12
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
6	603	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides, stepped to SE, and concave base	>1.8	2.5	0.39
6	604	Fill	603	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	2.5	0.39
6	605	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and concave base	>1.8	1.02	0.27
6	606	Fill	605	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	1.02	0.27
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.36
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.12
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.3
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.18
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon. Seven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Field boundary ditches and a pond, all identifiable on the 1839 Tithing Map of Clyst St George and which survived until the compilation of late 20th-century cartographic sources, were recorded during the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	10–12 November 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (CA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Clyst St George, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 9900 8925	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	The Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Context sheets, matrices
Digital	The Royal Albert Memorial Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14538		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 5118 DATE 19/11/2014
DRAWN BY AO REVISION 00
APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1

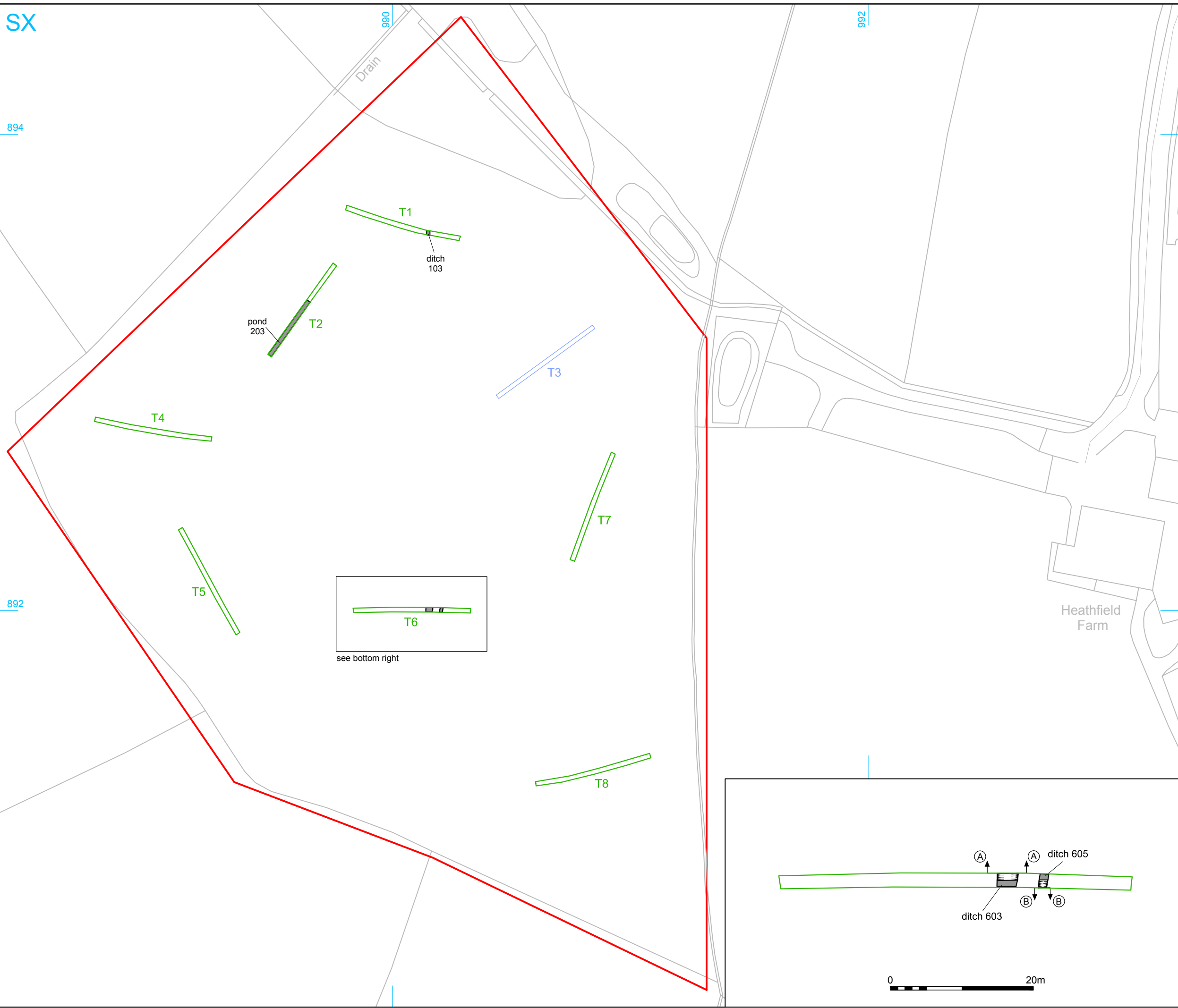
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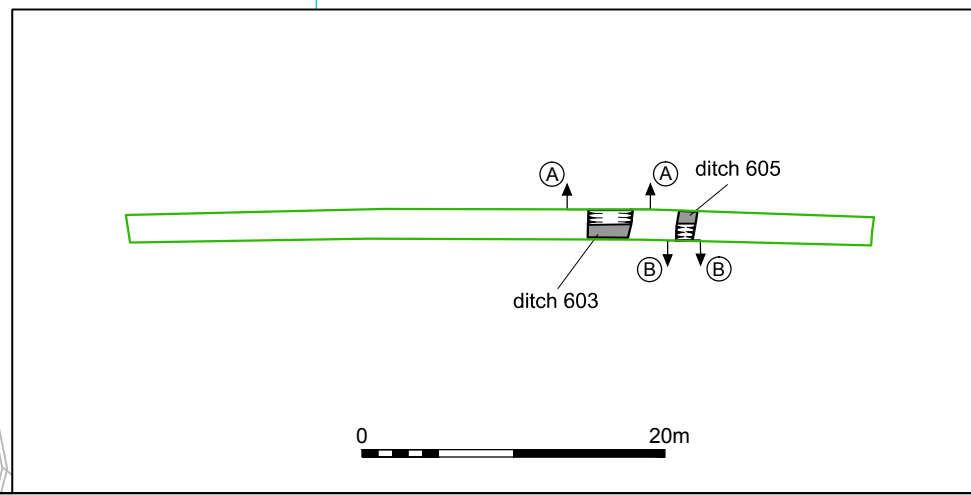
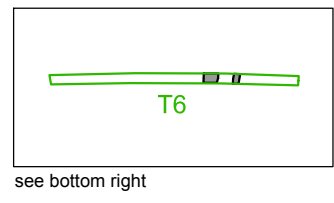
992



- site
- evaluation trench (excavated)
- evaluation trench (not excavated)
- archaeological feature



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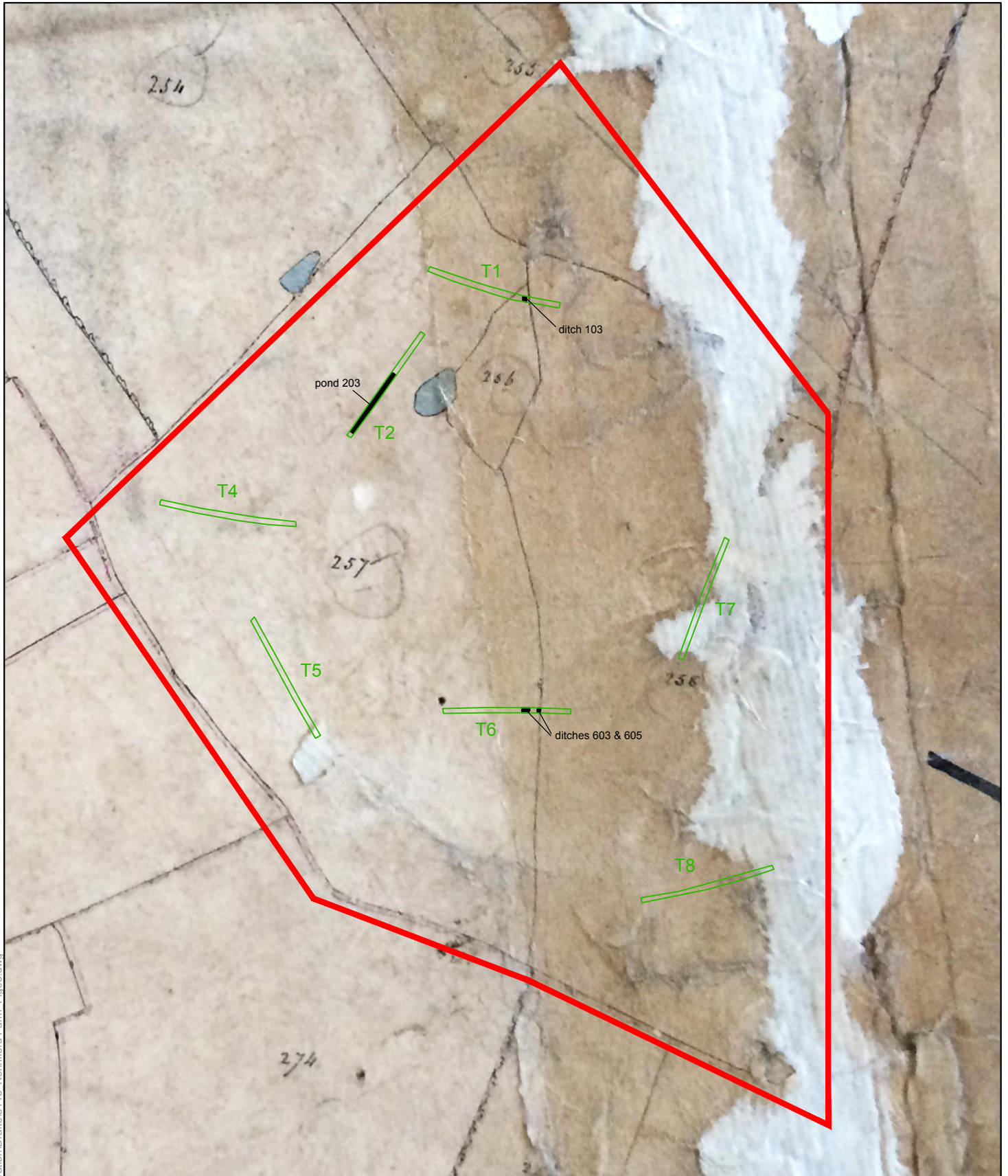
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PROJECT TITLE
Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	5118	DATE	19/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	JB/ATB	SCALE@A3	1:1500 & 1:500	

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-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature



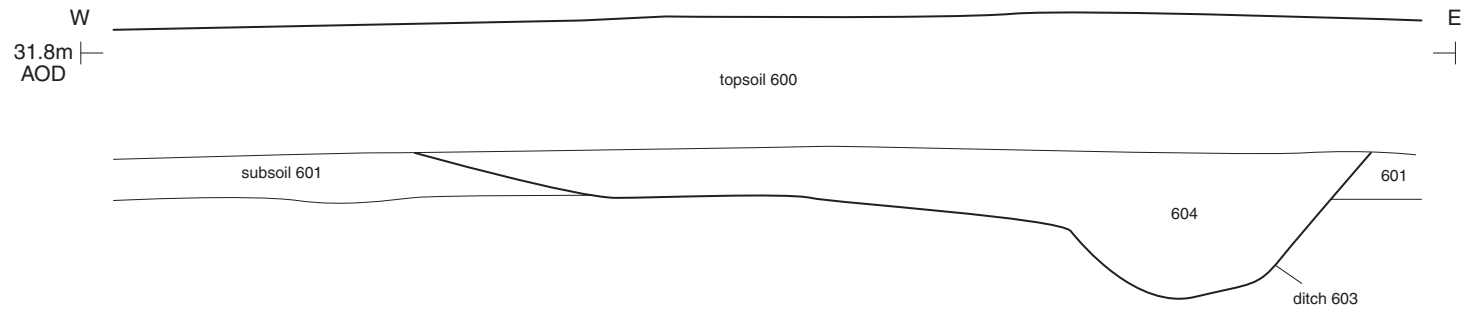
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PROJECT TITLE
 Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon

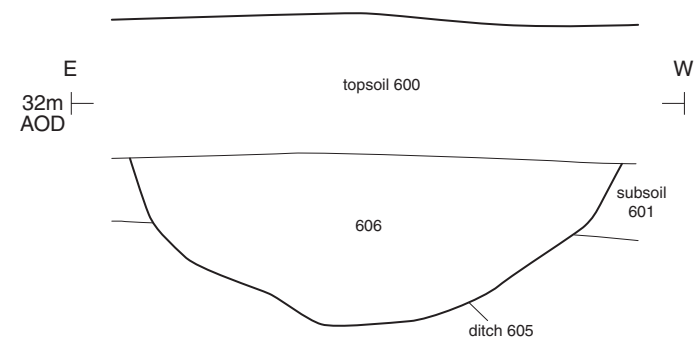
FIGURE TITLE
 Extract from Clyst St George Tithe map of 1839 showing archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	5118	DATE	26/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	JB/ATB	SCALE@A4	1:2000	

Section AA



Section BB



Ditch 603, looking north (1m scale)



Ditch 605, looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Kenniford Farm, Clyst St George, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6: sections and photographs

PROJECT NO. 5118 DATE 19/11/2014 FIGURE NO.
 DRAWN BY AO REVISION 00
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