Cotswold Archaeology

Land at Island Farm
Ottery St Mary
Devon

Archaeology Assessment Report and Updated Project Design

for

Bovis Homes Ltd

CA Project: 9175

CA Report: 15791

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land at Island Farm
Location:	Ottery St Mary, Devon
NGR:	SY 0902 9503 (centre)
Type:	Strip, map and sample excavation
Date:	March – April 2014
Location of archive:	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Accession Number:	RAMM 14/19
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A programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March and April 2014 at the request of Waddeton Park Ltd at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, in advance of subsequent housing development by Bovis Homes Ltd. In compliance with an approved WSI (CA 2014), four separate areas were excavated across the 8.6ha development site.

The four excavation areas, which had been chosen for their archaeological potential as identified in previous evaluations, all revealed archaeological features. These included pits yielding flints of Mesolithic and early Neolithic date, and most significantly, a medieval building that had apparently suffered fire damage and preserved evidence of its wooden structure and stored crops. There were numerous drainage ditches, some of which may have been prehistoric, but most medieval and later. Some corresponded to 19th-century mapped field boundaries. This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its context, and presents proposals to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During March and April 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon (centred on NGR: SY 0902 9503; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Waddeton Park Ltd following the specification by Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team, acting as adviser to East Devon District Council (EDDC), for archaeological investigations as a condition of planning consent for development. A subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CA (2014) and approved by EDDC acting on the advice of Stephen Reed. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* issued by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (2014), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Stephen Reed.

Location, topography and geology

1.2 The development site encompasses an area of *c.* 8.6ha in six pasture fields on the western outskirts of Ottery St Mary, about 150m west of the River Otter. The site is bordered to the north by Barrack Road, to the south by Strawberry Lane, to the west by another minor road and to the east by lower agricultural land adjacent to Island Farm (Fig. 2). The site straddles the floodplain and first river terrace of the Otter, with the land sloping from a height of 51m AOD on the terrace on the western side, to 39m AOD on the floodplain to the east.

1.3 The underlying geology was shown to comprise river terrace deposits of sand, gravel, overlain by alluvial silts to the east (BGS 2014). Soil stripping in Area 2 revealed a silted-up palaeochannel running approximately north to south that had been cut by archaeological features (see Fig. 5).

Archaeological background

1.4 Archaeological and historical baseline information was researched and presented in an assessment by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2011). There were no specific archaeological constraints identified within the development site, although the presence of earthworks, probably related to former watercourses, was recorded in the eastern field. It was noted that alluvial deposits in the eastern part of the site had the potential to conceal deposits of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest. The river terrace on the western side of the site, with its free-draining

geology, was considered to have potential for remains of prehistoric and Roman date.

1.5 In the immediate vicinity of the site, the location of an infantry barracks relating to the Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815) was thought to lie to the west (near the location of the present Barrack Farm), although the suggestion was tentative as the farm name is a relatively recent one. More generally, prehistoric activity is widely attested in the Otter Valley though scatters of worked flint, although there does not seem to have been a specific focus in this area.

Archaeological field evaluations

1.6 Geophysical survey of the site was undertaken and identified limited traces of potential archaeological features in the form of possible pits and some linear ditches (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2012).

1.7 An initial archaeological evaluation was undertaken by CA (CA 2012). Three trenches targeted geophysical anomalies (T1-T3; Fig. 2). A ditch of probable 18th-century date with a cobble base was found in Trench 1, while Trench 2 revealed a medieval charcoal spread and wall footing, and Trench 3 a clay-extraction pit containing brick wasters of 18th or 19th-century date.

1.8 An additional archaeological evaluation of 22 more trenches was undertaken in 2013 (T4-T25; Fig. 2). This identified an area of Mesolithic or early Neolithic flintwork, and several ditches of medieval, post-medieval and possible prehistoric date. These had not been identified by geophysics, although some correlated with cartographic evidence (CA 2013).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 As set out in the WSI, the objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- Assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and artefactual remains
- Assess the overall presence, survival, condition and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

2.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- Record any evidence of past settlement and other land uses
- Recover artefacts to date evidence of past settlement and land use
- Sample and analyse palaeo-environmental remains to create an understanding of past land use and economy

2.3 Provision for appropriate reporting and publication was also included (CA 2014, Section 3).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The methodology for the excavation detailed in the WSI was adhered to without significant variations. The areas mechanically stripped of overburden comprised: Area 1, 20m x 20m; Area 2, 30m x 30m; Area 3, 25m x 25m; and Area 4, 20m x 25m. The contingency to expand the excavation areas if necessary was not used.

3.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from each excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket as far as the first encountered archaeological horizon, under archaeological supervision.

3.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. Generally all discrete features (pits, postholes and tree throws) were 50% sampled by hand excavation and linear features sampled up to 10% by length. In Area 2, the discovery of domestic occupation deposits led to 100% excavation of destruction deposits in 1m-grid squares to identify any spatial patterning. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (CA 2013). Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and sampled appropriately in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking of samples for paleoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic analysis from archaeological sites* (CA 2012). All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation* (CA 1995).

4 RESULTS

Fieldwork summary

4.1 Archaeological features were found in all four excavation areas. They have been assigned to the following periods:

- Period 1: prehistoric (*c.* 8500 – 1000 BC)
- Period 2: possibly prehistoric (*c.* 2500 BC – AD 50)
- Period 3: medieval (c. AD 1100 – 1500)
- Period 4: post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1900)
- Period 5: modern (1900+)

Undated features have been assigned Period 6 for data-handling purposes

4.2 The earliest features were probable tree-throw holes in Area 3 containing worked flint, some of which is diagnostically Mesolithic in date. A radiocarbon measurement on hazelnut shell returned a date in the 7th millennium BC, but it is not clear that any of the flintwork was directly related to this activity. Flints were recovered from other features in this area, a proportion of them being residual.

4.3 Possible prehistoric features have been identified in Area 3 based on the presence of flintwork, the nature of their fills, the absence of later finds, and their stratigraphic position pre-dating the field ditches of more recent date.

4.4 The remains of a building of medieval (13th to 14th-century) date, with associated ditches and other cut features, was found in Area 2. Unusually well preserved burnt botanical remains, including timbers and a range of plant remains, suggest the presence of relatively undisturbed destruction deposits from a conflagration that resulted in the abandonment of the building.

4.5 Post-medieval remains comprised a number of field ditches and probable drains in other parts of the site, some of which related to field boundaries shown on the Tithe map of 1841.

4.6 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (biological evidence) are to be found in appendices 1 - 10.

Area 1: possible prehistoric gully and post-medieval ditch

4.7 Area 1 (Fig. 3) was approximately 400m2 in extent, and located on relatively level ground at approximately 52m AOD, *c.* 450m west of the River Otter. Barrack Road (B3174) lay a short distance to the north and a minor road to the west.

4.8 Geophysical survey in 2012 identified a north-west/south-east-aligned linear feature in this location (PCG 2012), the presence of which was confirmed by subsequent archaeological evaluation in 2012 (CA 2012). The feature was found to comprise a partly stone-lined ditch with a cobble base, and four sherds of post-medieval pottery and two clay-pipe fragments were recovered from its fill. It was interpreted as a possible foundation trench, possibly for a building associated with the putative Napoleonic barracks to the west of the site. Excavation Area 1 was targeted at this feature.

4.9 Natural substrate 26002, comprising red-brown sand and gravel, was encountered at 0.5m below present ground level. It was covered by subsoil, 26001, comprising red brown sandy silt which was 0.2m in depth, and which was in turn sealed by grey brown sandy silt topsoil, 26000. Two features were present: gully A, which cut natural substrate and was sealed by subsoil, and ditch B, which cut the subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil.

Period 2: Possible prehistoric gully (A)

4.10 This shallow east/west-aligned gully measured 0.8m in width and 0.23m in depth. Its western terminus was identified approximately 6.3m from the eastern limit of excavation. It contained two fills comprising red-brown and grey-brown silty sand, from which a fragment of struck flint was recovered. The feature may be indicative of prehistoric agricultural use of the site, although the finds may have been residual in a later context.

Period 4: Post-medieval ditch (B)

4.11 North-west/south-east-aligned ditch B corresponded to the linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and to the stone-based ditch of the evaluation (Fig. 4). It was found to be 1.6m wide and 0.55m deep, with the same sequence of fills as was found in the evaluation; the cobble base lined with packing stones was overlain with a single fill. Finds included late 18th-century Creamware, earthenwares, brick fragments, clay tobacco-pipe fragments and window glass, all of which may be compatible with an 18th or early 19th-century date for its use. This feature was most likely a drain, as, whilst it is possible that it was a

foundation trench, with the cobbles providing support for a superstructure, no complementary sides to such a structure were present within Area 1. It remains possible that this well-made drain was associated with the Napoleonic barracks to the west, if such a site existed there (CA 2012).

Area 2: medieval building and drainage features

4.12 Area 2 (Figs 5, 6) comprised an area of approximately 900m2 located at the edge of the First River Terrace. The north-western corner of Area 2 lay at approximately 46.9m AOD with the ground sloping gently from north-west to south-east. The area lay adjacent to the B3174 (Barrack Road).

4.13 The geophysical survey identified a limited number of potential pit-type features in this location (PCG 2012) and subsequent archaeological evaluations identified ditches, pits, postholes, two spreads of charcoal-rich material and a wall footing in this area (CA 2012, CA 2013). Features identified in the 2012 evaluation are included in the description below.

4.14 The excavation in Area 2 targeted the main area of interest identified by the preceding phases of archaeological work. Natural substrate 27004/2002, comprising gravel and sand, was at depths of approximately 1.0m at the western side of the area and 0.7m at the eastern side of the area. Along the western side of the site it was overlain by alluvial deposit 27163, which comprised brownish blue silty clay. A superficial layer of buried topsoil/colluvium 27002/2009 extended over the north-western part of the area. This deposit was in turn overlain by subsoil 27001/2001, which was sealed by topsoil 27000/2000, both deposits extending over the whole of Area 2. The alluvial deposit, 27163, recorded along the western side of the area, was cut by ditch O and is therefore likely to have pre-dated the medieval occupation. It appears that the area originally lay on a spur of dry land, with the river Otter to the east and a palaeochannel or embayment to the west. In the south-eastern part of the area, subsoil 27001/2001 directly overlay natural substrate 27004/2002. In the north-western part of the Area all features were sealed by buried topsoil/colluvial deposit 27002/2009, elsewhere they were sealed by subsoil 27001/2001.

4.15 In the central part of the area were deposits relating to a medieval building, with associated internal and external features along with a number of surrounding

ditches and gullies representing elements of agricultural enclosures, boundaries and drainage features (Fig. 13).

Period 3: Medieval building and associated features

4.16 The building appears to have been constructed on a levelling platform, 27071, of re-deposited natural gravel. This platform was constructed within a horizontal cut, 27164, terraced into the north-west to south-east slope of the site to a depth of approximately 0.2m (Fig. 7, section AA). Ditch O, which was L-shaped in plan, surrounded this platform on its northern and western sides. It is likely this ditch was contemporary with the construction of the building serving to channel water away from the structure. In general, Ditch O was wide and shallow, and in places its southern side appeared to have been revetted with rubble 27049, possibly to hinder the subsidence of the northern edge of levelling platform 27071 (Fig. 7, section AA). Ditch O cut alluvial clay 27163, while terrace cut 27164 did not have a relationship with this deposit and cut natural substrate 27004. Ditch O contained both natural silt fills (27050, 27052, 27076, 27089, 27125, 27155) and dumped deposits (27051, 27087), which may be associated with levelling following the dis-use of the building. Pottery of 13th to 14th-century date was recovered from the earlier silty fill (27089 and 27155), along with an iron nail. The southern terminus of the north/south-aligned stretch of this ditch was cut by east-west aligned gully N (para. 4.32). A possible partial re-cut 27088 was recorded cutting into the upper silted fill, 27087, of ditch O and its fill comprised mostly rubble, 27085. Ditch O and re-cut 27088 were sealed by deposit 27053 (Fig. 6) (also recorded as 27086/27128/27156/27160) which also sealed elements of the structure (beam-slot P) and represents a post-abandonment infill.

4.17 A number of structural features were recorded cutting levelling platform 27071. These included a beam-slot P, a posthole 27151 (Fig. 8, section FF) and possible stakeholes 27108, 27110, 27112 and 27114 (Fig. 5, inset). Beam-slot P comprised a three-sided narrow, shallow gully with steep sides and a flat base, which is likely to represent part of rectangular structure measuring at least 9m in length and 4.5m in width. The gully was no more than 0.5m at its widest point and does not seem to have been a foundation trench for a stone footing (Fig. 8, section BB; Fig. 14). It is likely that the south-eastern wall of the structure was constructed on a plinth at the same height as the base of the beam-slot, no evidence of which survives. A terminus of the beam-slot was identified in the north-eastern side of the structure which may indicate the presence of a north-east facing entrance, and perhaps marked the

threshold to an additional eastern room, constructed on levelling platform 27071, of which no structural remains survived. The four stakeholes around the eastern and southern sides of this terminus, and another internal stakehole, 27116, could indicate the former presence of a wattle panel or other structure here (Fig. 5; inset). A single sherd of pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from the only fill of beam-slot P, and three sherds of 13th to 14th-century date were recovered from internal stakehole 27116. Posthole 27151, which may have marked an internal doorway, was circular with vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, section FF). This feature could have contained a post acting as a roof support.

4.18 A beaten earth floor 27070, lying directly on levelling platform 27071, was identified within the internal space demarcated by beam slot P (Fig. 5). Several internal features cut this floor surface and a number of occupation/use deposits (2010/2014, 27072, 27084 and 2019/27107) overlay it. It is probable these deposits were laid down at different stages during the use of the structure; layer 2010/2014 pre-dated two internal features, layer 20107 appeared to be contemporary with the use of a cut feature, and layers 27084 and 20072 sealed an internal feature. The internal cut features included a probable hearth 27091/27095 (Fig. 9, section JJ; Fig. 11), pit 2007, oven 27101 (Fig. 8, section DD; Fig. 12), pit 27119, pit 27122, pit 27131 and oven 27137 (Fig. 8, section CC). Pit 2005 (Fig. 8, section EE), probably internal to the structure on its south-eastern side, did not have a surviving relationship with floor 27070, which is likely to have been horizontally truncated in this area.

4.19 Occupation/use deposit 2010/2014 of evaluation trench T2 comprised burnt black and orange sand with frequent charcoal inclusions located in the southern part of the structure. A double looped palstave of Middle Bronze Age date (Fig. 24), which must represent a collected item, an iron axe-head of probable medieval date, an iron nail, and twelve sherds of mid 13th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from this deposit. It was cut by postholes 2013 and 2015, and by ditch 2021 (not illustrated) which may have been a robber cut of internal rubble wall 2011 (same as 27028). In the subsequent excavation the northern part of the wall was found to have been laid directly onto beaten earth floor surface 27070. The wall was poorly built with no bonding material and would not have served to support the roof, but is likely to have acted as an internal division, or perhaps a foundation for a bench (Fig. 10), and was aligned on posthole 27151. Pottery from construction cut backfill 2020 dates to the 12th to 14th century.

4.20 Hearths 27091 and 27095 were two adjacent contemporary pits, 27091 being rectangular and 27095 being sub-circular. A surface of cobbles 27093 set onto a sand levelling deposit 27092, and bonded and overlain by a layer of compacted pink clay 27094, was laid into the rectangular part of the hearth as a surface (Fig. 9, section JJ; Fig. 11). Evidence for exposure to heat was recorded on upper surface of the clay layer. The upper fill, 27097, of the shallow sub-circular part of the hearth sealed an earlier sandy fill 27096 (which may be the same as deposit 27092) and also partially overlay clay surface 27094. It comprised heat-affected sand, probably resulting from the use of the feature. No dateable evidence was recovered from this feature.

4.21 With the exception of ovens 27101 and 27137, all the internal pits (2007, 27119, 27122 and 27131) cutting floor surface 27070 were circular and shallow, of similar dimensions and contained single silted fills. The function of these pits is not known, but pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from both 27119 and 27131. Pit 2007, which was not sealed by burnt layers, may have been later. Ovens 27101 and 27137 exhibited evidence of *in situ* burning. Oven 27101 (Fig. 8, section DD; Fig. 12) was rectangular in shape, measured 0.78m in length, 0.38m in width and 0.17m in depth, and had notably scorched sides. The basal fill, 27102, comprised mostly charcoal, whilst the later fills 27103 and 27104 comprised dumped sandy silt containing frequent fragments of burnt clay. Oval oven 27137 Fig. 8, section CC) 0.96m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.23m in depth, contained a similar sequence of fills, the earliest (27136) comprising mostly charcoal and the later fills 27135 and 27134 most likely dumped deposits. Three sherds of 13th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from the latest fill, 27134. The scorching of the sides of this feature was less apparent than in 27101, suggesting a lower intensity of burning.

4.22 A charcoal-rich spread 2019/27107 extended over the area immediately surrounding hearths 27091 and 27095. This deposit overlay clay surface 27094 in part and butted internal ‘wall’ 2011. It is possible this deposit results from the raking out of material burnt in the hearths during the use of the structure. A similar charcoal-rich deposit 27084 which is likely to be associated with the use of the structure, was recorded in the north-western corner of the building overlying oven 27137. A probable occupation deposit 27072 was recorded overlying charcoal-rich deposit 27084. This deposit appeared to have built up against the walls of the north-western corner of the structure. A deposit of silt, 27099, overlay hearths 27091 and 27095 and charcoal rich spread 2019/27107 (Fig. 9, section JJ).

4.23 These deposits, and all the internal features, were further overlain by an extensive charcoal rich layer 27027, which covered the entire internal space of the building and which contained several large burnt timbers and timber fragments 27058, 27118, 27138, 27139, 27140, 27141 (Fig. 6). It is believed this layer represents a catastrophic burning down event, the burnt timbers representing parts of the collapsed roof.

4.24 A number of copper-alloy objects and a stone, probably used in metal-working, were recovered from layer 27027, in addition to the residual Bronze Age palstave and a medieval iron axe-head from underlying layer 2010 of Trench 2. These objects are unlikely to have been deliberately discarded and, along with the large burnt timbers, further attest to the probable abandonment of the building without any tidying up.

4.25 Also within layer 27027 were large quantities of burnt grain and legumes, mostly comprising oats, but also wheat, barley, rye, broad beans, peas and vetches. Soils samples were taken from grid squares to plot the distribution of these remains (Appendix 9, Fig. 25). It appears that certain materials were concentrated in particular parts of the building, particularly in the western room. It is likely that the cereals and legumes represent food stores in the room, or in an attic above the room, which were burnt and left where they had fallen. Other burnt botanical remains may represent the remains of containers such as baskets, the wall structure and roof thatching.

4.26 A deposit of silt 27022 which overlay the burnt layer was recorded, overlain by buried topsoil, 27002, which spread over the north-western corner of the site sealing all features associated with the building.

4.27 A large, irregular oval pit 27036, cutting levelling platform 27071, lay to the east of beam-slot P and is believed to be contemporary with the structure (Figs 5, 6). The pit, which was 6.2m long, 2.4m wide and up to 0.3m deep contained three fills, the earliest of which 27037 contained a small sherd of pottery dating to the 13th to 14th century (Fig. 7, section AA; Fig. 8, sections GG, HH). The middle fill 27038 was a charcoal-rich deposit (perhaps derived from the conflagration of the building) whereas the latest fill 27039 appeared to have derived from silting following the dis-use of the feature. It is possible that pit 27036 lay in an eastern room of the building, but no evidence of structural components of this room survived. A possible external

localised occupation deposit 27054 was identified to the north of pit overlying levelling platform 27071 (in section only). This deposit, which comprised dark grey-brown silty sand, was cut by posthole 27161 (Fig. 7, section AA), which had a tapered base and contained vertically arranged packing stones. Both this posthole and occupation deposit 27054 were overlain by a charcoal-rich deposit 27055 which may have come from the same source as the burnt material in 27038 deposited in pit 27036. Similar charcoal-rich deposits, which may also be contemporary with the dis-use of the structure and its associated features, were found in ditch O (deposits 27051 and 27087 – see para. 4.16).

Period 3: Surrounding agricultural ditches and gullies

4.28 A number of ditches, gullies and hollows lay to the south, east and north-east of the medieval building. In general, these features were aligned east/west and north/south. It is likely that they represent elements of agricultural enclosures, boundaries and drainage features. It is possible the two broad shallow hollows, K and L (Fig. 9, section II), to the south of the building resulted from trampling and erosion of the ground in the vicinity of the entrance to the building.

4.29 Ditch E**,** in the eastern part of the area, may represent an agricultural boundary. It was truncated on its western side along its length by ditch D**.** This re-cutting suggests the boundary was maintained over a period of time, and it may have had a bank or hedge along its eastern side. The southern terminals of both ditches lay within the excavated area and pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from the fills of the earlier ditch E. These ditches were sealed by buried subsoil layer 27003 from which pottery of 13th to 14th-century date was recovered.

4.30 Heavily truncated east/west-aligned gully F was one of the earliest of a complex of features in the southern part of Area 2. No dating evidence was recovered from this narrow, shallow feature, which is likely to have performed a drainage function, conducting water downslope to the east. It pre-dated north/south-aligned possible boundary ditch I and enclosure ditch H, both of which contained pottery of 13th to 14th-century date. The western terminus of gully F was identified where it was intersected by enclosure ditch H, its eastern end appeared to have suffered significant horizontal truncation. The northern terminus of ditch I was identified where it met gully F.

4.31 Hollow K had a shallow V-shaped ditch profile at its western end, but was very broad and shallow towards the east. A very similar broad shallow hollow, hollow L, L was identified immediately to the north of hollow K. Pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from hollow L in Trench 2, and hollow K pre-dated enclosure ditch H, which contained two sherds of pottery of 13th to 14th-century date. Gullies M and N lay to the west. The relationship between them could not be established but they were both shallow and narrow.

4.32 In the south-western corner of Area 2, ditches G and J cut alluvial deposit 27163. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these features. The eastern terminal of ditch J was identified whilst the northern terminus of ditch G was possibly identified in Trench 11 (CA 2013). Ditch J exhibited a shallow U-shaped profile whilst ditch G had near vertical sides and a flat base. It is probable that both ditches represent boundaries and drainage features. Ditch H defined the northern side of an enclosure approximately 13.4m in width. It is likely that it was a small stock enclosure.

4.33 Buried subsoil layer, 27003, in the north-eastern corner of the area, was cut by a small curvilinear gully C. Only a small part of this gully was exposed during the excavation and its full extent and shape in plan remain unknown. It may have been part of a stock enclosure or agricultural drain and, although without dating evidence, its stratigraphic position suggests that it post-dates the medieval building and other ditches and gullies in Area 2.

Area 3: early prehistoric pits, possible prehistoric ditches and post-medieval ditches

4.34 Area 3 was 600m2 in extent, and located on level ground at 41m AOD, *c.* 250m west of the River Otter (Fig. 2).

4.35 The geophysical survey did not identify any definitive magnetic traces of archaeological remains (PCG 2012), but subsequent archaeological evaluation recovered worked flint and chert of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date from ditches and from the fill of a shallow, irregular pit or infilled hollow in this area. It is possible that the ditches represent elements of a prehistoric field system, although they equally may relate to medieval agricultural use of the site (CA 2013).

4.36 Area 3 was targeted at features proven to contain prehistoric material. Natural substrate, 28002, which comprised light yellow sandy clay was revealed at

approximately 0.4m below present ground level. It was overlain by a layer of brown sandy silt subsoil 28001 which measured 0.2m in depth. This deposit was in turn sealed by grey brown sandy silt topsoil 28000, which was also approximately 0.2m in depth. All archaeological features described below cut the natural substrate and were sealed by the subsoil.

4.37 The excavation in Area 3 revealed a number of discrete features containing worked flint and chert, many of which may represent tree-throw pits used for the disposal of waste flakes or as working hollows in the prehistoric period (Fig. 15; Fig. 18). Several other small possible pits and/or postholes, from which no dateable material was recovered, were also identified. Undated ditches and gullies on broadly north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west alignments also were recorded. These may relate to both prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval field systems.

Periods 1 and 2: possible Prehistoric discrete features (pits, postholes and tree-throw pits)

4.38 A number of discrete features, 28003, 28022, 28051, 28063 and V, containing worked flint and chert, were identified. In general, these features exhibited irregular sides and bases and are likely to represent tree-throw pits used as working hollows, or open for the accumulation of waste flakes in the prehistoric period. Notably, tree throw pit 28051 (Fig. 16, section KK; Fig. 17) contained 89 pieces of flint and chert, in addition to 20 flakes recovered from evaluation trench T15 (CA 2013, feature 15012), which included cores and blades as well as flakes. A bladelet from fill 28064 of tree throw pit 28063 is dated to the late Mesolithic period.

4.39 Two postholes, 28029 and 28065, which also contained prehistoric flint artefacts were recorded. Posthole 28029 which was circular and measured approximately 0.25m in diameter and 0.11m in depth, was cut into the uppermost fill 28024, of tree-throw pit 28022 (Fig. 16, section LL). It is possible that the broken, burnt flint blade from the posthole may be residual. A charred hazelnut shell,from this posthole's fill, 28030, was radiocarbon dated in the range 7057–6779 cal. BC (7998 ±32 BP: SUERC-58849, 95.4% probability), but this may also be residual. Posthole 28065 was 0.32m in diameter and 0.06m in depth and contained a single fill 28066 from which five pieces of worked flint and chert were retrieved. It was cut by a later undated posthole 28067 on its south-eastern side.

Period 2: possible Prehistoric field system

4.40 Gullies S, T and U could relate to the reputed prehistoric field system identified from the evaluation (CA 2013). These gullies, which were narrow and shallow with U-shaped profiles, were oriented broadly north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west (Fig. 16, section NN). A prehistoric flint scraper was retrieved from fill 28044 of Gully T, whilst a flint blade and flake were recovered from fill 28032 of Gully S. While no dateable material was recovered from Gully U, it aligned with and was similar in appearance to Gully T and is likely to have been contemporary. It is possible that the prehistoric finds retrieved from gullies T and S are residual in later contexts and that these gullies are medieval precursors to the more substantial later ditches Q and R which are aligned on broadly the same orientations; however no finds post-dating the prehistoric period were recovered from them. Possible terminals of gullies T and U could suggest a 9.3m-wide south-west/north-east entrance to a field, but these features were significantly truncated and it is possible they originally formed one continuous gully. Posthole 28029 on this alignment may have been associated. Gully S was truncated along most of its length by Ditch R which relates to a field system of medieval or post-medieval date. Both of these features were identified by the preceding archaeological evaluation in 2013, gully 15006 and ditch 15005 respectively.

Period 4: possible medieval/post-medieval field system

4.41 Two ditches, Q and R, may represent elements of a medieval or post-medieval field system. These ditches were orientated on broadly the same alignments as the earlier possible prehistoric field system, and Ditch R truncated prehistoric gully S along most of its length. Ditch R measured between 1.08m and 1.84m in width and 0.23 and 0.57m in depth, and contained three silted fills (Fig. 16, section MM; Fig. 18). Two worked prehistoric flakes of flint and chert were recovered from the latest fills 28100 and 28101 in one excavated section but are likely to be residual. Ditch Q, which was perpendicular to Ditch R, measured 0.93m in width and 0.42m in depth (Fig. 19). A total of four pieces of flint/chert were recovered from its silted fills along with undated fragments of burnt clay. While no medieval/post-medieval artefacts were recovered from ditches Q or R during the evaluation or excavation, Ditch R was proven to post-date probable prehistoric gully S and both appear to relate to a field system of probable medieval/post-medieval date identified more widely across the site in the evaluation (CA 2013; Fig. 22).

Period 4: medieval/post-medieval posthole

4.42 Posthole 28047, in the central part of Area 3, was circular and measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. It contained a single fill 28048 from which an iron nail was recovered which may be of medieval or post-medieval date.

Undated discrete features

4.43 In addition to the features from which artefacts were recovered, a number of tree-throw pits including 28027; pits 28071, 28075, 28077, 28079, 28081 and 28083; and postholes 28056, 28058, 28061, 28067, 28069, 28087 and 28108 were recorded, from which no dateable evidence was retrieved.

4.44 Tree throw pit 28027 was large, measuring 2.6m in length, 1.75m in width and 0.4m in depth. It truncated gully S and ditch R and hence is likely to post-date the medieval period.

4.45 Pits 28071, 28075 and 28077 were circular or oval in shape and were between 0.53m and 0.99m in length and 0.14 to 0.17m in depth. All contained single fills, 28072, 28076 and 28078 respectively, which comprised yellow grey clay sand. Pits 28079, 28081 and 28084 were intercutting. The earliest pit, 28079, was circular and contained a single grey sand fill 28080. It measured 0.52m in diameter and 0.43m in depth and was cut on its south-eastern side by pit 28081, which was of similar dimensions and which contained a blue grey sand fill, 28082. A much smaller pit, 28083, was cut into the top of pit 28081. It was circular, measuring 0.33m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, and also contained a single fill 28084 which comprised grey sand. Whilst the function and date of these pits remains uncertain, they are likely to relate to either prehistoric or medieval/post-medieval use of the site.

4.46 Postholes 28056, 28058, 28061, 28067, 28069, 28087 and 28108, also remain undated. They measured between 0.2m and 0.46m in diameter and 0.04 and 0.28m in depth and contained single fills, 28057, 28059, 28062, 28068, 28070, 28088 and 28109 respectively. Posthole 28067 post-dated posthole 28065 (described above, para 4.39) which could be prehistoric in date. Whilst, it is possible they could be contemporary with prehistoric activity on site although they equally could be associated with posthole 28047 (described above, para 4.42) which is unlikely to pre-date the medieval period. No clear alignments could be identified.

Area 4: Possible prehistoric ditches and ?medieval hearth

4.47 Area 4, 500m2 in extent, was situated on a gentle slope, dropping from approximately 48m AOD in the west to 46m AOD in the east.

4.48 The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies in the immediate vicinity of Area 4 (PCG 2012), but the evaluation identified two ditches, a possible hearth and a posthole in this location (CA 2013, Trench 12). One of the ditches contained two prehistoric worked waste flakes of greensand chert whilst the other ditch, possible hearth and posthole contained no dateable artefacts. The ditches were believed to form part of a possible prehistoric or medieval and/or post-medieval field system. Area 4 was targeted at these features.

4.49 Natural substrate, 29002, comprising red-grey sand and gravel was recorded at 0.6m below present ground level. It was overlain by red-brown sandy silt subsoil, 29001, which was 0.28m in depth and was in turn sealed by grey-brown sandy silt topsoil, 29000, 0.3m in depth. Four gullies W, X, Y and Z, a tree-throw pit and a hearth (18009/29013) were recorded (Fig. 20). Two of the gullies, X and Y, and the hearth, corresponded to features identified in the evaluation. The four gullies and the tree-throw pit cut the natural substrate and were sealed by the subsoil. The possible hearth cut the subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil. It is possible the gullies date to the prehistoric period, whilst the hearth is unlikely to pre-date the medieval period. The tree-throw pit remains undated.

Period 2: possible Prehistoric gullies

4.50 Gullies X and Y were aligned broadly north-east/south-west and both were approximately 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep. No additional finds were recovered from either gully, which contained single orange-grey silty sand fills. Gullies W and Z, which most likely represent elements of the same layout, were aligned perpendicular to gullies X and Y. The north-western terminal of gully W and the south-western terminal of gully X appeared to respect one another, suggesting they were likely to be contemporary. Gully W measured 0.82m in width and 0.21m in depth whilst gully Z measured 0.47m in width and 0.08m in depth. Both contained single fills from which no dating evidence was recovered. Whilst no artefacts were recovered from any of these gullies during the excavation, two prehistoric worked waste flakes of Greensand chert were recovered from gully X during evaluation. The gullies were parallel and perpendicular to similar features recorded in Area 3 (gullies S, T and U),

which also contained finds exclusively dating to the prehistoric period. Whilst it is possible the finds are residual in later contexts and that the gullies in areas 3 and 4 (S, T, U, W, X, Y and Z) relate to medieval/post-medieval agricultural use of the site, it is possible they could be indicative of a prehistoric field system on the same alignment as the subsequent medieval/post-medieval system.

Period 3: medieval/post-medieval possible hearth

4.51 Possible hearth 29013 comprised an oval pit measuring 1.62m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.23m in depth. It had been partly excavated in evaluation trench T12 (as 18009). The base and sides were lined with yellow-grey clay 29014, into which a layer of large stones 29015, had been set (Fig. 21). The stones, which were laid flat and which are likely to have been used as a surface, were overlain by dumped deposit 29016 - a grey-brown clay-sand mixed with frequent burnt clay. A fragment of a glass vessel appears modern and is likely to be intrusive. The hearth was similar in construction and appearance to hearths 27091 and 27095 in the medieval building in Area 2, and it seems likely to have been broadly contemporary with them. Being isolated from other known medieval features, the hearth's function remains uncertain.

Undated

4.52 A single posthole, 18011, was identified approximately 0.2m to the south-east of the hearth in evaluation trench T12 and it may have been associated, but no dateable evidence came from the single fill, 18010, of this feature (CA 2013). An undated tree throw pit, 29019/29021, located immediately to the north of gully Y, was also recorded.

5 FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

5.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence and a site matrix was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The fieldwork comprises the following records:

Context sheets	300
Plans (1:10, 1:20, 1:100)	5
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	94
Sample sheets	49
Digital photographs	725
Matrices	2

5.2 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was varied overall, most of the site being heavily truncated, features scattered without clear patterning and of uncertain interpretation or date. In exception to this, Area 2 contained the recognisable albeit truncated remains of a medieval building with evidence for destruction by fire. The overall plan of the building had not survived and evidence of walls was limited, but it has been possible to suggest a typical three-roomed domestic range comprising a central hall, a 'service area' (perhaps a byre) to the east, and a 'chamber' to the west. While the stratigraphy was not deep, it has been possible to define broadly three stratigraphic horizons – construction deposits, use deposits and destruction deposits. Geoarchaeological assessment of a soil column through the sequence on the eastern side was unable to provide any further information on the nature of the deposits (Appendix 10) and interpretations of sediments remain tentative.

5.3 Other areas give partial information about the stratigraphy of the site. The earlier prehistoric pits/tree-throw pits in Area 3 had no clear spatial pattern. There are ditches that underlie subsoil in the same area, but, while these may be prehistoric it is not possible to reach firm conclusions. The fact that their alignments are not dissimilar to those of post-medieval times may indicate a more recent origin. A ditch in Area 1 is of 18th or early 19th-century origin, but its wider significance is not known within the limitations of the excavation area. Many features would appear to relate to attempts to provide drainage to a naturally wet area throughout the historical period.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

5.4 There is little scope for refining the stratigraphic understanding of the site. The nature of some of the features may be better defined by further consideration of topographic setting and the interpretation of features in Area 2 will be advanced with reference to medieval building traditions more widely.

Artefactual record: factual data

5.5 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Medieval	272	2479
	Post-medieval/modern	34	721
	Total	306	3200
Flint and chert	Worked	203	2761
	Burnt unworked	506	304
Fired Clay	All	365	706
Brick/tile	All	23	731
Tobacco pipe	All	11	47
Glass	Post-medieval/modern	7	135
Metals	Iron	96	-
	Copper alloy	222	-
Stone	Objects	1	-

5.6 The collection of worked flint and chert indicates prehistoric occupation on the site, but there was little material diagnostic of date or the activities undertaken. There was no prehistoric pottery and no pottery dating to before *c.* AD 1250 when medieval occupation started in Area 2 associated with the domestic dwelling. There was also an unusual quantity of metalwork from this area, including one Bronze Age and one medieval axe-head, although most consisted of iron and copper-alloy scraps. Other pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and glass largely relates to post-medieval uses peripheral to settlement.

Worked flint and chert

5.7 There was a moderately large quantity of worked flint and chert from the site, around half of the collection coming from a tree-throw pit (28051) in Area 3 and the rest distributed more widely. There was very little material diagnostic of date and an unusually low number of tools. Some retouched blades indicate activity of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date, but there is nothing demonstrably contemporary with the radiocarbon date of 7057–6804 cal. BC (SUERC-58849; 95.4%) on hazelnut shell from pit 28029 (Appendix 11).

Pottery

5.8 The moderately large assemblage of medieval pottery provides evidence that the Area 2 saw a relatively brief occupation between *c.* AD 1250 and 1350 associated with the domestic building. It is not possible to refine the chronology of the building any further on the basis of the pottery.

5.9 The range of fabrics and forms is typical of a peasant household of the period and was acquired from the expected regional pottery production centres. The pottery does not provide particular insights into the activities undertaken.

5.10 The smaller group of post-medieval pottery derives more widely from field ditches and superficial deposits, and is unremarkable.

Other ceramic and glass finds

5.11 Almost all of the small amount of fired clay was amorphous and most came from hearth 29013 in Area 4. A possible piece of daub came from pit 2005 in Area 2 and this might have derived from the wall of the medieval building. Small quantities of ceramic building material and glass are of post-medieval/modern date and therefore do not relate to the medieval building.

Metal finds

5.12 Of unusual interest is a Middle Bronze Age copper-alloy palstave axe-head from the medieval house in Area 2. This may have been collected as a curio or charm, although the large group of strips and sheet fragments also present suggest that the repair or manufacture of metal vessels may have been practised as a domestic craft, and so the palstave may have been for use as a tool or as scrap. The other copper-alloy and iron fragments are not informative with regard to this suggestion. The items of iron include a medieval axe-head and a knife blade, as well as a large number of other fragments such as nails from furniture or domestic fittings.

Metalworking stone

5.13 A distinctive stone found in burnt deposit 27027 in the medieval building appears to have been used as a ‘cushion’ stone or small anvil in metalworking.

Artefactual record: statements of potential

Worked flint and chert

5.14 The lithics are significant in providing evidence of occupation from perhaps as early as the Mesolithic period. However, there are no associated finds and there would seem to be little scope for any greater understanding of any prehistoric occupation here. The lithics themselves have been recorded and have little potential for further analysis. A summary report is recommended for publication.

Pottery

5.15 The medieval pottery provides relatively secure dating for the occupation associated with the medieval building, but it has limitations with regard to refining the site sequence. The vessel forms and fabrics are as expected on this type of site. The material has been recorded to the appropriate standard and the report will be summarised for publication.

Metal artefacts and metal-working stone

5.16 The metal objects and stone have been recorded as far as necessary. Further work will comprise an examination of their distribution within the medieval house, and consideration will be given to publishing these results along with a summary of the reports included here. The metal-working stone will also be illustrated as photograph or drawing.

Biological record: factual data

5.17 All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A total of 45 bulk samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains.

Type	Category	Count
Animal bone	Fragments	29
Samples	Environmental	45

Animal bone

5.18 There was a small quantity (30.6g) of animal bone, most from the medieval building in Area 2 but unidentifiable to species. Some fragments of ovicaprid bones came from post-medieval Ditch B in Area 1.

Plant macrofossil and charcoal

5.19 There are unusually well preserved remains associated with the latest phases of the medieval building in Area 2 where a layer of burnt material included charcoal identified as the wooden structure of the building, as well as crops stored within it. The deposits would seem to represent the *in situ* remains of a domestic building destroyed by fire and then abandoned. Linear patches of charcoal, mainly of oak, suggest the location of fallen beams or other parts of the upper structure. The material includes some heavily charred pegs or dowels (Figs 26–30).

5.20 Extensive sampling included a 1m grid over the charcoal spread 27027 to examine the spatial distribution of wood and plant species. Crops identified included oats,

wheat, rye, barley, peas and broad beans (Fig. 31), and there is some suggestion that they were stored as mixtures in different parts of the western room (Fig. 25).

5.21 Samples from other areas include the identification of fuel wood of various species from other parts of the building, including material from ovens. There is also a presence of burnt waste plant remains in the eastern part of the building (feature 27036).

5.22 Charred plants were sparse from other areas of the site. Hazelnut shell from posthole 28029 (Area 3) was radiocarbon dated to the early Mesolithic period (SUERC-58849), but it may well have been redeposited as it was associated with a possible oat grain.

Biological record: statements of potential

Animal bone

5.23 The remains were meagre and provide no significant information.

Plant macrofossil and charcoal

5.24 The potential of the plant macrofossils and charcoal relates to the medieval building and their relatively good preservation in what appear to be destruction layers caused by fire. Some of the larger spreads of charcoal appear to be the remains of the wooden structure of the building, while others may have derive from wattle walling, furniture and fittings, stored wood, or fuel. There is also a range of crops that represent what was stored, and a variety of non-food plants from a number of possible sources, including crop-processing residue and thatch.

5.25 The plant and charcoal remains are unusual and further work will be directed to exploring their origin through analysis of their nature and distribution.

6 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.1 The earliest features of archaeological interest relate to a small group of worked flint and chert from Area 3, some of which is of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. About half of the material came from three-throw pit 28051 and this includes cores, flakes and blades. The lack of tools or any associated material limits its significance and its potential contribution to an understanding of the activity it represents. It is proposed to publish the results in summary form, with consideration of the wider prehistoric landscape.

6.2 The other remains of significance relate to the medieval building in Area 2, where burnt wood, crops and other plant remains, apparently carbonised when the building caught fire, provide rare evidence of a medieval peasant dwelling and its contents. This provides not only evidence of crops that are seldom preserved by fire (peas and beans) but also where they were stored. A spatial distribution plot indicates that crops were stored in or above the western room – usually referred to as the 'chamber' beyond the central 'hall' – and it is possible that storage areas for individual crops can be identified.

6.3 Further consideration of the nature and distribution of the plant remains and their taphonomies will contribute to an account of the building. Attention will also be paid to the structure and layout of the building itself and the derivation and distribution of other charred remains.

6.4 Other material from the building is less significant, although the type and distribution of metalwork is of some interest since it may relate to the repair of metal vessels. There is further evidence for this activity in the form of 'cushion stone'. However, there is no indication of smithing or other fabrication processes.

6.5 The wider picture across the site largely comprises ditches of unknown or post-medieval date. A plan of the layout of ditches in post-medieval and earlier times has been constructed (Fig. 22), although the limited areas excavated and the lack of secure dating in many cases make the extrapolation of ditches across the site to some degree unreliable.

6.6 The excavation in Area 1 has not led to a better understanding of the location of the barracks constructed in the Napoleonic Wars. The ditch here has compatible dating but it is an isolated feature (most likely a drain) and need not have had any connection with the barracks, identified to the west on cartographic grounds.

6.7 In summary, the fieldwork has resulted in the unexpected discovery of a medieval building of unusual regional interest which deserves further analytical consideration and publication.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Kemble, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project the site archive and, with the agreement

of the legal landowners the artefactual collection, will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (accession number: RAMM 14/19), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

8 PUBLICATION

8.1 The results from the investigations of the medieval remains at Island Farm are of regional significance and merit publication. These relate to the medieval house and the unusually well-preserved remains of charred wood and other botanical remains, which enable some interpretation of both the building's structure and its contents at its demise. It is proposed that a summary report is published on this aspect of the archaeology, with brief reference to the earlier prehistoric occupation as well. It is proposed that this should be published in the Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings, subject to approval by the editor.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

A medieval building and its contents at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary

by Charlotte Haines and Sarah Cobain

		Words
Summary		200
Introduction		500
Excavation Results		
	Early prehistoric activity	800
	The medieval building	3000
	Medieval pottery	800
	Other finds	500
	Plant macrofossil and charcoal	1500
Discussion		2000
Acknowledgements		200
Bibliography		800
Appendices		
	Total words	***9800***
	Approximate pages @ 700 words/page	14
		Pages
Tables		
	Plant macrofossil and charcoal	4
Illustrations		
	Location of site	1
	Site plan	1
	Building use phase	1
	Building disuse phase	1
	Building interpretation	1
	Finds plot	1
	Sections	1
	Pottery	0.5
	Photographs of selected features and finds	2
Total publication estimate		**27.5 pages**

9 PROJECT TEAM

9.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Martin Watts MCIfA** (Head of Publications: HoP) and managed by **Andrew Mudd FSA MCIfA;** (Post-excavation Manager: PXM), who will contribute to the discussion as senior author and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Charlotte Haines (Senior/Project Officer: SPO):
Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive

Ed McSloy MCIfA (Principal Finds Consultant: PFC):
Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing.

Sarah Cobain ACIFA (Environmental Manager: EM)
Specialist report preparation plant macrofossil and charcoal and scientific liaison

Lucy Martin (Senior Illustrator: ILL):
Production and/or co-ordination of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings

Peter Davenport MCIfA (Historic Buildings Consultant: HBC)
Overview of medieval building

9.2 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management, and externally refereed by Prof. Christopher Dyer (University of Leicester).

10 TIMETABLE

10.1 CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within 12 months of approval of the updated publication project design and confirmation of the suitability of the proposal from the journal editor. A detailed programme can be produced if desired on approval of the updated publication project design.

11 REFERENCES

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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation* typescript report **12021**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation* typescript report **13649**

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EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*. Second Edition (MAP2) English Heritage (London)

Pre-construct Geophysics 2012 *Land at Island Farm Ottery St Mary, Devon: Archaeological geophysical survey* Pre-construct Geophysics

Cartographic source

1841 Ottery St Mary Tithe Map (DRO: electronic copy)

APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSEMENT BY ANDREW MUDD AND HAZEL O'NEILL

A total of 348 contexts were recorded during the evaluation (Area 2, Trench 2) and excavations as detailed below:-

	Period 1 prehistoric	Period 2 possible prehistoric	Period 3 medieval	Period 4 post-medieval	Period 5 modern	Period 6 undated
Area 1	-	5	-	9	1	-
Area 2	-	1	143	2	2	4
Area 3	19	23	-	35	11	26
Area 4	-	14	4	1	1	2
Area 2, Trench 2	-	-	24	2	1	-

The most significant contexts relate to the Period 3 medieval deposits in Area 2, where there is a certain amount of vertical stratigraphy relating the construction, occupation and destruction of the medieval building. These contexts have the potential for further detailed investigation of their nature and associated finds.

Elsewhere there is little secure medieval phasing, the hearth in Area 4 being the only potential feature, based on its form. There is therefore little indication of the nature of other medieval activity on the site.

The prehistoric features are discrete pits/ tree-throws without distinctive deposits or significant finds other than sparse flintwork. There is little to be gained from further analysis of these contexts. The possible prehistoric features are worthy of further consideration to establish whether they are likely to be prehistoric, or perhaps later, despite the absence of diagnostically later material from them.

APPENDIX 2: FLINT AND CHERT BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Introduction and methodology

A total of 203 struck lithics (2.761kg) was recovered from the evaluation and excavation of 47 deposits, in addition to 506 pieces of burnt, unworked flint and chert (317g). Of these, 28 worked lithics (26g) and 502 burnt, unworked items (304g) were recovered from the bulk soil sampling of 15 deposits. Of the latter, 186 (123g) derived from the soil sampling of medieval layer 27027.

The artefacts were recorded according to broad artefact/débitage type and catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database. Attributes recorded include: raw material; dimensions; weight; degree of edge damage (microflaking), rolling (abrasion) and recortication; colour; cortex description; presence of breakage and burning; and for débitage: butt and termination type; whether hard or soft hammer-struck; and evidence of preparation of the striking platform and utilisation.

Provenance

The 203 worked lithics were recovered from 36 separate deposits. Of these, 171 (84%) derive from cut features, which break down as follows: 11% from ditch fills; 3% from postholes; 2% from pits; 1% from gullies; 1% from tree throws; 0.5% from land drains; and 65% from features which may be pits, ditches, tree throws or hollows. The remainder were retrieved from: layers (12.5%); topsoil/subsoil (3%); and a burnt timber sample (0.5%). Eighteen percent of the worked lithics were residual in deposits which were dated to the medieval period or later, on the basis of associated pottery, or in topsoil/subsoil.

The only features to produce more than 10 worked lithics are: pit/tree throw 28051/15012 (112 from fills 28052, 28054 and 15009); and Medieval-dated layer 27027 (24 items). A quarter of the lithics were recovered from undated features (excluding pit/tree throw 28051/15012) and no prehistoric pottery was retrieved from the site. However, a radiocarbon determination from pit 28029 (7998 ± 32 yr BP; SUERC 58849) provides evidence for Mesolithic activity at the site; and a palstave of Middle Bronze Age type was a residual find from medieval-dated layer 2010.

Raw material and condition

Raw material includes flint (47%), Greensand chert (42%) and Portland chert (11%). Several of the flint sources in Devon identified by Newberry (2002, 2) are within relatively easy reach of the site, the closest being Widworthy/Wilmington/Offwell (*c*. 12 km away), which is a source of particularly good quality flint (*ibid*., 11–2). Greensand chert outcrops in the region of the Devon/Somerset border and is often found in Early Mesolithic assemblages from those counties (Barton *et al*. 1995, 90). A closer source, however, is on the south edge of the Otter Valley on the scarp of Honiton Hill, Gittisham Hill and Westgate Hill (Edmonds *et al.* 1975). Portland chert outcrops in Dorset.

Of the 85 items retaining cortex, it is chalky in 48% of cases and abraded in 49%, demonstrating a mixture of primary (chalk or clay-with-flints) and secondary (pebbles from river or beach gravels) sources. Two items retain previously worked and recorticated surfaces, indicating the reuse of flint which had been worked in an earlier period.

Sixty-three (31%) of the lithics are broken and 29 (14%) of the worked items have also been burnt. Despite the high proportion of breakage, condition is generally very good with 86% displaying slight or no edge damage and all items minimally rolled. Of the unburnt and uncorticated flint, 53% is grey and the remainder displays brownish, greenish or honey-coloured staining. Only four items have been recorticated to any degree (a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from the burial environment [Shepherd 1972, 109]).

Range and variety

The breakdown of the assemblage is detailed in Table 2.1. Retouched items/tools amount to 12 items.

Primary technology

The débitage (flakes, blades, bladelets, chips and shatter) totals 150 items. Five flakes, four blades and one notched flake display evidence of utilisation. Nine percent of the débitage comprises blades and bladelets (the latter defined as blades measuring <12mm wide) (Table 1). Their presence is suggestive of Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic activity. One burnt medial fragment from a blade was the only lithic item recovered from fill 28030 of posthole 28029: hazelnut shell from this deposit returned a radiocarbon date from the early part of the Later Mesolithic period (see Provenance, above).

A core rejuvenation flake was recovered from fill 28050 of undated pit/ditch 28049: the rejuvenation of a core's striking platform is a knapping strategy confined to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic periods. Other attributes dating to the same periods are: evidence of platform preparation, noted on two flakes, and soft hammer percussion, recorded on 16 flakes and three blades. The Mesolithic/Early Neolithic aspects recorded from the assemblage are displayed in Table 3.

Butt type was recorded on 105 flakes, blades and bladelets. The majority (87%) are plain, but a small proportion of dihedral (3%), linear (7%) and punctiform (3%) types were also recorded. Linear and punctiform butt types tend to indicate soft hammer percussion (Inizan *et al.* 1992, 80). Those which appear to be in stratified deposits are from: fill 28050 of undated pit/ditch 28049; fill 28054 of pit/tree throw 28051; and fill 28055 of undated pit/ditch 28060. All three deposits contain other evidence of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic dating (Table 3).

Of the six cores recovered, single-, dual- and multi-platform types are all represented. Most were used for the production of flakes, however, two (from fill 28054 of pit/tree throw 28051 and fill 28050 of

pit/ditch 28049) also features possible blade scars, suggesting Mesolithic or Early Neolithic dating. None of the other cores are inherently dateable types.

Secondary technology

The reworked items mostly comprise retouched flakes/blades and spurred pieces. Only one scraper (a combined tool, also a spurred piece) was present, which is an unusually small number. This tool has been produced using rather irregular, abrupt to semi-abrupt retouch along two edges, with a spur formed from a small number of removals on a third edge.

The only dateable tools are those made on blade blanks (retouched and backed blades), which also suggest a Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic date. The other tools (notched and retouched flakes, saw and spurred pieces/scraper) are broadly prehistoric in date.

Pit/Tree throw 28051/15012

Over half of the recovered lithics (112, 55%), made on flint, and Greensand and Portland cherts, was recovered from fills 28052, 28054 and 15009 of pit/tree throw 28051/15012 (Table 2.2). The small sherd of medieval pottery recorded in fill 15009 seems likely to be intrusive. Although several items demonstrate Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity (blades, a bladelet, a possible blade core, a core rejuvenation flake and a retouched blade) the overall character of some of the Greensand débitage is suggestive of later dating. The average flake thickness of the 42 flakes on Greensand chert, at 11.2mm, would be higher than expected even for a Late Bronze Age assemblage (Ford *et al.* 1984, 163). Although only three of these flakes have full cortex coverage on their dorsal faces, a sufficient number retain a high proportion of very thick cortex (up to 10mm) to suggest that they relate to the initial removal of cortex from a nodule of Greensand chert. The very thick flakes are, therefore, likely to be a reflection of the raw material and the stage in the reduction sequence, rather than a product of an opportunistic or careless (and more typically Bronze Age) knapping strategy.

There is no evidence that feature 28051/15012, or any pits containing lithics, represent structured deposition, as Neolithic pottery or other artefact/ecofact classes commonly characteristic of such deposits were not in evidence. However, the recovery of Early Neolithic artefacts from tree throw fills, generally interpreted as having been deliberately deposited, is not uncommon both in Devon and farther afield. For example, a possible tree throw at Willand Road, Cullompton, Devon produced four sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and five worked flints of possible Early Neolithic date. The lithics comprised two bladelets, a flake, a core rejuvenation flake, and a heavily burnt and broken possible knife (Hood 2010, 66–75). Sixty sherds of pottery and 33 worked flints, all of Early Neolithic date, along with a rubbing stone, were recovered from a tree throw at Waylands, Tiverton, Devon (Leverett and Quinnell 2010, 4–8). At Pixies Parlour, Ottery St Mary, 56 lithics were recovered from a probable tree throw in association with Early Neolithic pottery. The lithics are typically Early Neolithic in character, including blades, and evidence of soft hammer percussion and platform preparation (McSloy 2014, 58).

Statement of potential

The lithic assemblage from Ottery St Mary is rather small and 18% is known to be redeposited. A proportion of the assemblage derives from the Mesolithic and probable Early Neolithic periods: the Mesolithic radiocarbon date for fill 28030 of posthole 28029 provides further confirmation of Mesolithic activity on the site. The remainder of the material is only broadly dateable and may belong to the same periods or include later items. The small range of tool types represented is not strongly suggestive of particular behaviours: one scraper, one saw and the evidence for on-site knapping (cores and chips) hint at a domestic setting, however, this is only tentative.

Other sites in the locality which feature Mesolithic and Early Neolithic items, produced on flint and chert, include: Castle Hill, Feniton (*c*. 5.5km north of Ottery) (Bellamy 1999); and Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton (*c*. 10km to the west) (Sommerville 2014). However, the current site at Ottery does not compare closely with any of these.

At Castle Hill almost 800 worked lithics were recovered, half on flint and half on chert. A Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade industry and a later flake industry were identified. Pottery was recovered dating to the Middle Neolithic, Beaker, Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age periods, but a proportion of the lithics in the Middle Bronze Age ditch fills were considered to be residual. The Hayes Farm site produced 390 lithics, the vast majority of which were made on flint. Mesolithic activity was evidenced by a microlith and some bladelets, and 55% of the assemblage was recovered from Early Neolithic, Early Bronze Age or Middle Bronze Age features. Again, part of the assemblage had been redeposited.

The assemblage has been fully recorded for the purpose of this assessment. A summary report should be included in the site publication. No illustrations are necessary.

Table 2.1: Breakdown of the lithics assemblage

Primary technology	
Blade	13
Bladelet	3
Chip	23
Core	6
Core rejuvenation flake	1
Flake	142
Shatter	3
Secondary technology	
Backed blade	1
Notched flake	1
Retouched blade	2
Retouched flake	4
Saw	1
Scraper (side)/spurred piece	1
Spurred piece with retouch	2
Totals	**203**

Table 2.2: Lithics from pit/tree throw 28051

	Fill 28052 (basal)	**Fill 28054 (uppermost)**	**Fill 15009 (evaluation)**
Primary technology			
Blade	1	3	3
Bladelet	1	-	-
Chip	-	4	-
Core	1	3	1
Core rejuvenation flake	-	1	-
Flake	4	70	16
Secondary technology			
Retouched blade	-	1	-
Shatter	-	3	-
Total	**7**	**85**	**20**

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APPENDIX 3: MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY BY E.R. MCSLOY

The archaeological work at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, resulted in the recovery of 306 sherds (3200g), large majority dating to the medieval period, the rest later. The assemblage has been scanned by context and quantified according to sherd count, weight, Rim EVEs (estimated rim equivalents) per fabric. Vessel form/rim morphology and evidence for use (carbonaceous or other residues) have also been recorded. Pottery type codes utilised for recording are set out in Table 3.1, which also includes equivalent Exeter city fabric series numbers (Allan 1984).

Assemblage composition

The medieval group amounts to 272 sherds, weighing 2479g (1.15 EVEs). Almost all derived from Area 2, with much of the recovered material associated with the medieval building. The small post-medieval/modern group (34 sherds weighing 721g) was recovered primarily from topsoil/subsoil-type deposits and is not described in detail. Glazed earthenwares of south Somerset type and broadly dateable across the late 16th to 18th centuries are most common, with the remainder comprising whitewares and stoneware dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (Table 3.1).

The seeming abundance of glazed types is in part an effect of one well-fragmented (80 sh) vessel in Exeter fabric 41 from context group 27027 (layer internal to the building). This aside the assemblage is consistent with what is expected for an assemblage of the period from the area. The bulk of the unglazed coarsewares are of Upper Greensand-derived group (UGDG) type corresponding equivalent to Exeter fabric 20, and known to have been manufactured over a wide area of the Blackdown Hills of East Devon/Somerset (Allan and Langman 2002). The identifiable vessel forms in this type all consist of jars with rims (simple everted, everted with expanded top and 'cupped') which match those of vessels from Exeter (Allan 1984, 4, fig. 3). As is typical in the region there is some variance in the visible composition of this ware type although it is consistent in containing 'polished' coarse quartz grains and chert/flint inclusions. A variant, elsewhere described as Membury-type ware (*ibid*.) and distinguished by voids to the fabric deriving from leached calcareous inclusions, is present only in small quantities.

Unglazed coarsewares in finer sandy fabrics are more difficult to classify and source. The fabrics are unlike the pale-firing fabrics known from the region and manufactured in the Poole harbour area. They more closely compare to fabrics 24 and 26 described from Exeter (Allan 1984, 5). Illustrated vessel (Fig. 23b) is notable in exhibiting a wheel-finished rim, which is a feature of some late medieval vessels from Exeter (*ibid*. nos. 1457, 1510).

South Somerset glazed ware was recorded from four deposits, although with sherds from deposits 27027 and 27084 representing one, well-fragmented vessel (Fig. 23a). The form of no. 1, a globular-bodied jug with applied, thumbed strip below its rim, compares to examples known from Exeter (Allan 1984, 65, fig. 28 nos. 818–9). The Exeter vessels date to the 15th or 16th centuries although similar thumbed decoration is a feature of later medieval jugs elsewhere, including among Bristol-type glazed

wares (Ponsford 1993) and Donyatt vessels (Gutiérrez 2007, 612). The form of vessel no. 1 and absence of other decoration would fit best with a 14th-century date.

The remainder of the glazed fabrics consist of oxidised-firing (buff or pale-orange) fine sandy types thought to be manufactured in or close to Exeter (fabrics 40 and 42). There are few larger sherds permitting fullest identification of vessel forms but most sherds are representative of jugs. A jug base from evaluation deposit 2011 (the stone wall) features a thumbed base angle and some sherds exhibit plain applied strips, white 'painted' strips or white slip/coppery glaze. A sherd with internal glaze from deposit 27027 probably comes from an open vessel form, as described by Allan (1984, 5, fig. 4 nos. 4–5).

Chronology and interpretation

There is little clear evidence for differential chronology across the site, although small context groups of medieval pottery rarely lend themselves close dating. Nonetheless the period of activity represented appears to be a relatively short one: the presence of Exeter-type and South Somerset glazed wares, both of which occur from Exeter from c. 1250, implies dating after this date. Occurrence in most deposits of UDGD-type coarsewares suggests that the assemblage dates no later than *c.* 1350/1400. It is probably significant that the deposit containing South Somerset jug no. 1 and wheel-finished coarseware jar no. 2 comes at the end of the stratigraphic sequence, overlying the building. Both are forms which are suggestive of late medieval date, probably after 1300.

Further work

The assemblage has been recorded appropriately. No further work is proposed beyond including a summary of this report and the illustrations in any publication.

Illustration catalogue (Fig. 23)

a Jar with wheel-finished everted rim. Unglazed sandy fabric (Exeter type 24/26). Deposit 27027 (burnt clay rich deposit internal to the building).

b Globular jug with thumbed strip below rim and thumbed base ring. South Somerset glazed ware. Deposit 27027 (burnt clay rich deposit internal to the building).

Table 3.1: Pottery summary

Period	Description	Exeter Type	Ct	Wt (g)	EVEs
Medieval	Upper greensand derived /'chert-tempered'	22	79	642	0.11
(unglazed)	Upper greensand derived ('Membury type')	22	3	21	
	Sandy with sparse coarse quartz/chert	24/26	40	350	0.67
(glazed)	Local (Exeter) glazed	41	52	458	
	Local (Exeter) glazed (coarser)	42	5	54	
	South Somerset glazed	-	93	954	0.37

Period	Description	Exeter Type	Ct	Wt (g)	EVEs
Sub-total			*272*	*2479*	*1.15*
Post-medieval	South Somerset glazed earthenware	-	22	635	0.67
	Tin glazed earthenware	-	1	3	
	Creamware	-	5	34	
	Pearlware/refined whiteware	-	5	20	
	'Late' English stoneware	-	1	29	
Sub-total			*578*	*5679*	*0.67*

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APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL, FIRED CLAY AND CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Ceramic Building Material

The evaluation and excavation produced a total of 23 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 731g. All of the recovered fragments are of post-medieval or modern date. The majority are too fragmentary for close classification, however 7 fragments from deposit 313, a fragment from ditch 26012 (fill 26015), and an unstratified fragment were identifiable as brick.

Fired clay

A total of approximately 365 fragments of fired or burnt clay weighing 706g was recorded in ten deposits from evaluation and excavation. Of these, 351 fragments (408g) were retrieved from the bulk soil sampling of eight deposits. The number of fragments recovered from fill 29016 of hearth 29013 (Area 3) is estimated at 200.

The majority of fragments (89%) occur in an orange-fired, soft sandy fabric. A quantity of harder-fired fragments (Ra. 27.21) were recorded in association with burnt layer 27027 which was internal to the medieval buildings (Area 2). Almost all of the recovered fragments are amorphous and do not preserve original surfaces or features such as wattle impressions. An exception is a small fragment from pit 2005 (fill 2006) which retains two surfaces forming a right angle. It may represent structural daub or part of an object.

Clay tobacco pipe

A total of 11 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, with a combined weight of 47g, was retrieved from six deposits via evaluation and excavation.

Excepting one fragment, the group consists of unmarked stem fragments broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries. The form of the one bowl fragment, from evaluation deposit 107, approximates to Oswald's Type 12 (Oswald 1975, 37; Oswald 1984, 293). A relief letter "S" to one side of the spur is insufficient to identify the maker.

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Statement of potential

The material is of little significance and does not require publication beyond a note of its presence. There is no potential for further analysis.

APPENDIX 5: GLASS BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

A total of 7 fragments (135g) of vessel and window glass was recorded from the evaluation and excavation. The vessel glass includes three small fragments (<1g) retrieved from bulk soil samples.

The vessel and window glass is all of post-medieval or modern date. Three blue/green window glass fragments (from soil sample 19) were associated with medieval layer 27027 and would seem to be intrusive. The vessel glass all comprises green coloured glass 3–4mm in thickness and typical of wine or spirits bottles produced across the later 17th and 19th centuries. Included are two bottle base fragments (evaluation deposit 306 and 5004) which are too small for further classification.

The collection is of little archaeological potential and no further work is recommended.

APPENDIX 6: METAL ARTEFACTS BY E.R. MCSLOY

A total of 318 items of metalwork were recorded from evaluation and excavation phases of work (Table 6.1). The single most significant item was Bronze Age palstave Ra. 2.2 (Fig. 24) which is described individually. This was the only item of prehistoric metalwork recorded from the site and was associated with a large group of medieval metalwork and other material from layer 27027. The majority of the metal finds (271 items from deposits 27027 [evaluation deposit 2010] and 27084) were recovered from burnt deposits internal to the medieval building. This group, including palstave Ra. 2.2 has been interpreted as scrap material which may have been collected in this structure prior to its destruction by fire or abandonment.

A comprehensive catalogue describing all items has been prepared for the archive and the report presented here represents a summary. Object Identification has been assisted by x-radiography (in archive: Plates K15/119–125).

Copper alloy

Palstave Ra. 2.2 was recorded from evaluation deposit 2010 (equivalent to excavation layer 27027), which included pottery dating to the 13th or 14th centuries. The palstave is of double-looped form, a feature previously thought to indicate Iberian origin, but which is now considered an uncommon, but wholly native trait (Taylor 1982, 13). Other double-looped palstaves are known from the south-west; an example from a Taunton-phase hoard was placed by Smith in her 'south-western palstave' group (Smith 1959, 187). In respect of the deep and squared 'septum' and the bisected 'shield' motif, Ra. 2.2 can be accommodated within the Taunton phase and probably dates *c*. 1400–1100.

Ra. 2.2 Copper alloy palstave axe head. Double-looped, with square stop ridge and crescentic cutting edge. Deep septum (flange depth is 9mm at greatest). Shallow shield-shaped depression with bisecting ribbed moulding below stop ridge. Complete but with some damage to cutting edge and flanges. Length 146mm; width at cutting edge 58mm.

Most of the remaining copper-alloy items were recorded from medieval-dated deposits and include a large group of strip and sheet fragments from layers 27027 and 27084. The *c.* 220 fragments include folded/rolled sheet fragments, riveted strips and some larger, folded sheet fragments with folded sheet rivets of the kind known from the later medieval period and utilised for the repair of metal vessels (Egan 1998, 176–7).

Iron

The majority of the ironwork comprised mainly nails and sheet or strip-like fragments. Almost all material was derived from medieval-dated layers 27027 and 27084. Axe head Ra. 2.1 was recorded from evaluation deposit 2010, which is equivalent to layer 27027. It compares to medieval examples of Type 4 as described by Goodall (1980, 23), the blade form triangular and with square 'poll'. Other identifiable objects of medieval type include a fragmentary whittle tang knife (layer 27027); a possible

bucket handle strap (Ra. 27.19 from 27135 of oven 27137) and a probable staple/'joiner's dog' (also 27135). One strip (Ra. 27.14, from 27027) measures 150mm x 25–20mm wide and features an expanded/rounded terminal with rivet hole. It probably represents a hinge or binding strip from a door or chest (*ibid*. Fig. 77–79). The nails conform broadly to medieval types (Goodall 1980). Where complete, they measure *c*. 70–85mm and feature wide, flattened heads.

Table 6.1: Metalwork summary

Material	Deposit	Description	Count
Copper alloy	2010	palstave	1
	27027	sheet/strip	79
	27072	sheet/strip	17
	27084	sheet/strip	124
	27084	strip	1
Sub-total			*222*
iron	2010	axe head	1
	2010	nail	1
	2019	nail	5
	26015	strip	1
	27027	fragment	1
	27027	knife	2
	27027	nail	15
	27027	sheet/strip	4
	27027	strip	24
	27037	nail	1
	27058	fragment	3
	27070	nail	1
	27072	nail	1
	27102	nail	1
	27135	'joiners dog'/staple	1
	27135	nail	9
	27135	object - bucket handle strap?	1
	27135	sheet	1
	27135	strip	1
	27136	fragment	3
	27136	nail	1
	27140	fragment	1
	27141	fragment	9
	27155	nail	7
	28048	nail	1
Sub-total			*540*

Further work

The metal finds have little potential for further work, although an examination of their distribution within the building may shed further light on the activities undertaken.

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APPENDIX 7: METAL-WORKING STONE BY RUTH SHAFFREY

A single distinctively shaped stone was found in 'burnt' layer 27027 inside the medieval building. This stone is damaged at one end but the surviving end shows it to be tapered, with extensive wear through use as a whetstone. This wear has resulted in three smooth faces and two sharp arrises. The central of these faces also bears distinct dimples indicating its use as a metalworking stone (commonly known as cushion stones, or small anvils). The extent of use demonstrated by the stone indicates that it was a valuable part of someone's toolkit and its recovery in this context is consistent with the other light industrial evidence for metalworking.

The tool is made of fine-grained reddish brown micaceous sandstone. In hand this specimen looks like Old Red Sandstone of the Bristol area; however, it would require a thin section to clarify its source. Although it is possible that it is from the Triassic Otter Sandstone (New Red Sandstone), it is not as red as those stones typically are.

Catalogue entry

Large tapered / pointed whetstone. Fine-grained reddish brown micaceous sandstone, probably Old Red Sandstone. Three sides are extremely smoothed through use with the corresponding arrises being sharp. The fourth side, and the arrises between these, are rougher and not apparently used. The face opposite this (the middle of the three used sides), has also been used as a 'cushion' stone and has clear pecked damage all over it. The stone is damaged at one end and smoothed right up to the surviving pointed end, which also has some residues on it. Burnt/blackened at one original end. It looks like the other end was probably also pointed. Measures > 152 x 37mm max thickness in centre x 44mm high. Ctx 27027, 'burnt clay' layer internal to a medieval building containing 13th and 14th-century pottery.

Statement of potential

No further analysis of this artefact is necessary. A summary of this report and an illustration could be included in any publication.

APPENDIX 8: FAUNAL REMAINS BY ANDY CLARKE

A small collection of animal bones numbering 29 fragments (30.6g) was recovered by a combination of hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from five deposits. The bones were poorly preserved and highly fragmented, rendering 90% of the assemblage unidentifiable to species (Table 8.1).

It was possible to identify the presence of sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) from isolated molar teeth, recovered from Area 1 Ditch B (Cuts 26003 and 26012) and found in association with artefacts dating to the 18th to 19th centuries. They are recorded in such low numbers, and are of little significance

Table 8.1: Identified animals by fragment count (NISP), weight and context

Parent feature	context	O/C	un-id SS	Total	Weight (g)
		medieval			
Area 2 Pit 27036	27038	-	1	1	0.1
Area 2 occupation layer	27084	-	7	7	0.5
Area 2 layer 27027	27141	-	18	18	6
subtotal			*26*	*26*	*6.6*
		post-medieval			
26003	26006	1	-	1	10
26012	26015	2	-	2	14
subtotal		*3*	-	*3*	*24*
Total		**3**	**26**	**29**	
Weight (g)		**24**	**6.6**	**30.6**	

O/C = sheep/goat; un-id SS = unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

APPENDIX 9: PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND CHARCOAL BY SARAH COBAIN

A total of 45 bulk soil samples and a sample of hand collected seeds were recovered from a prehistoric posthole and a medieval structure and associated features. The aim of this report was to initially assess the type, preservation and quantity of plant macrofossil and charcoal remains, and where appropriate carry out full analysis to provide evidence of socio-economic activities being undertaken on the site (crop husbandry, diet, living conditions of communities, exploitation of woodlands for fuel, woodland management), and to infer the composition of the local flora and woodlands.

Methodology

Following flotation (CA Technical Manual No 2), the residue was dried and sorted by eye, the floated material scanned and seeds identified using a low power stereo-microscope (Brunel MX1) at magnifications of x10 to x40. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Cappers *et al.* (2006), Neef *et al.* (2012) Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand to reveal the wood anatomy on radial, tangential and transverse planes. The pieces were then supported in a sand bath and identified under an epi-illuminating microscope (Brunel SP400) at magnifications from x40 to x400. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Gale and Cutler (2000) and Schoch *et al.* (2004) and Wheeler *et al.* (1989). Nomenclature of species follows Stace (1997).

Results and Discussion

Area 2

Medieval

Area 2 contained the remains of a medieval building whose floor had been partly sealed by a layer of burnt material (27027) containing remains of large burnt timbers 27139, 27140, 27141 and 27138, suggesting a catastrophic burning event had occurred. In order to gain maximum information from this feature, the main burning deposit 27027 was gridded (1m x 1m grid squares) and sampled spatially. Samples were also recovered from beam slot P, internal pits, postholes and oven features and an external pit and ditch.

Medieval building - construction

Fill 27106 (SS 35) within beam slot P (intervention 27105) located to the north east of the medieval building and samples from deposit 27027 (SS 6–SS 12; SS 14–SS 30) (Tables 9.1–9.2) provide evidence for the building's construction which appears to have been timber-framed, with wattle-and-daub walls and a thatched roof.

Charcoal from beam slot P (intervention 27105) (SS 35) was identified as solely oak (*Quercus*) and burnt timbers 27139 (0.42m long; SS 43), 27140 (3.2m long; SS 44), 27141 (0.6m long; SS 45) and 27138 (0.4m long; SS 42) were also all identified as oak (Fig. 6). None of the oak fragments exhibited curved growth rings. In addition, timber 27058 (1.8m long; SS 31) was identified as willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*) roundwood and 27118 (0.2m long; SS 34) as alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) roundwood. This suggests the main beams were largely was constructed with oak timbers, also the willow/poplar branch was also substantial and may also have formed a beam. Woodlands had become increasingly depleted by the medieval period and ownership and rights were far more complicated than today (Rackham 2001, 62). It is possible the poles and structural timbers were locally sourced although it is more likely they were brought in from outside.

Wattle-and-daub is typically made up from a lattice framework of stakes/branches overlain by a mixture of clay, animal dung, sand and straw. There are several pieces of evidence suggesting the walls of this building were constructed from wattle-and-daub. The charcoal from deposit 27027 (Tables 9.3–9.5) was tricky to interpret as there are no concentrations of particular species within any area of the structure and it is likely to represent structural elements as well as items stored within the building. Overall the largest quantities of charcoal were recorded as alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*), oak, and willow/poplar, of which a good proportion are likely to be remains of the main structural timbers and wooden walls. However, other species identified include maple (*Acer campestre*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), birch (*Betula*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna/Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*), cherries (*Prunus*) and elm (*Ulmus glabra*). It is likely a number of these species represent remains of wattle poles and/or perhaps fuelwood, or containers such as baskets.

Evidence for daub is recorded within the plant macrofossil assemblage from deposit 27027 (Tables 9.6–9.8) and includes the identification of a large amount of vitrified material (probably highly fired clay) with preserved inclusions and impressions of straw and twigs. This would appear to represent tempering within the daub, which had been burnt before it had completely decayed. The straw mixture within the daub would likely originate from waste produced from threshing and winnowing crops, producing coarse straw fragments, rachis and lighter arable weed seeds (Hillman 1980, 134–135) such as corn marigold (*Glebionis segetum*), corn chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*) and black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), all of which are present within the plant macrofossil assemblage from deposit 27027. In addition, a number of medick (*Medicago*), clover (*Trifolium*), buttercup (*Ranunculus*) and cinquefoil (*Potentilla*) seeds were identified. These are typically pasture species may have been included within animal dung.

In addition, a number of sedge (*Carex*), amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphiba*), water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis*) seeds, grass stems/seeds and straw were identified. These are typical species used as components of thatch and their inclusion may suggest

that this building had a thatched roof, although the absence of stems makes it difficult to verify this suggestion. Given the location of the site with the floodplain of the river Otter to the east and a palaeochannel to the west, sedges for thatch would have been available locally.

Medieval building – function

Evidence for the use of the building derives from the remains found within burnt deposit 27027 (Tables 9.6–9.8). Crops identified include oat (*Avena*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/Triticum turgidum/Triticum durum*), rye (*Secale cereale*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), garden peas (*Pisum*), broad beans (*Vicia faba*) and vetches/peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*). The presence of a small number of cultivated oat (*Avena sativa*) floret bases suggests the oats stored were of the cultivated variety. In addition, a small number of wheat rachis confirms the cultivation of both bread wheat (hexaploid) (*Triticum aestivum*) and club wheat (tetraploid) (*Triticum durum*).

Spatial analysis of the plant macrofossils suggests that the western room was used to store grain and other beans/pulses. Whilst small numbers of remains were found across the grid squares in the eastern room, these are considered to be residual. Remains of each crop are found spread across all grid squares within the western room, and concentrations of particular species may provide some indication as to where the crops were being stored.

Initial analysis suggests that oats, broad beans and peas were being stored in the area of square/sample 16, vetches/peas in square/sample 30 and rye and free-threshing wheat in the area of square/sample 29 (Figure 25). There are also a moderate number of oat grains identified in squares/samples 11 and 15, although given the abundance of oat within square/sample 16, it is most likely these are just ‘overspill’.

There is no direct evidence to suggest how the crops were being stored or whether each crop was being stored in a separate container, although the presence of charred twigs/small roundwood fragments may be remains of baskets. However it was common during the medieval period for crops to be grown as mixed cereals/legumes, typically to buffer against crop failure (Moffett 2006, 50). Given the assemblages identified, it is possible that mixed crops were being stored unseparated within this building. For example, the grouping of oat, peas and broad beans within square/sample 16 may indicate the presence of a mixed crop known as bulmong/harascum used mainly for fodder, soil improvement by nitrogen fixing and for pottage (Fig. 31). The grouping of free-threshing wheat and rye in square/sample 29 may point towards a maslin/mancorn which was used for making bread (Stone 2006, 13).

The mixture of vetches (unidentifiable - but some appearing to be stored within their pods) within square/sample 30 to the south of the western room was of interest. These were all too small in size to be garden pea/broad bean - but may include common vetch (a known cultivar) or other wild vetches. Vetches were mostly used for fodder and were only used in human diets in years of very poor harvest

(Moffett 2006, 53). The crops stored unfortunately do not provide any seasonal indication for the building's demise as wheat/rye is winter-sown and oat/peas/broad beans are spring-sown crops.

Oats, wheat, barley and rye were typical crops cultivated in the medieval period in Devon. The dominance of oats within this assemblage is typical of other sites in Devon such as Exwell Barton (Cobain 2014, 164) and Sourton Down, near Okehampton (Straker 1997, 115) and provides additional evidence to support Rippon (2012, 258) who states oat is the most prevalent crop identified on sites located to the west of the Blackdown Hills.

Of interest is the presence of large number of vetches/peas, broad beans and peas. Archaeological evidence for the presence of legumes is often relatively limited as they do not require exposure to heat for processing. Taken together with documentary evidence cited by Fox (1991, 305–6) in Rippon (2015, 260) he has concluded that legume cultivation was less prevalent to the west of the Blackdown Hills, however evidence from this site does suggests they were being deliberately cultivated and utilised during this period.

Internal and external features associated with the medieval building

Main Room (Tables 9.9–9.10)
Rectangular oven 27101 (SS 33) was located in the north east corner of the structure. The primary fill 27102 contained a single vetch/pea seed and abundant charcoal representative of *in situ* firing debris identified as beech, alder/hazel, ash, oak and hawthorn/rowan/crab apple.

Pit 27122 (SS 41) contained a single oat grain and a moderate amount of charcoal identified as alder/hazel, maple, elder, oak, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and cherries. This material most likely represents a dump of firing debris from oven 27101.

Western Room (Tables 9.9–9.10)
Posthole 27151 (SS 47) which marked the entrance to the western room contained no plant macrofossils and a moderate amount of charcoal identified as alder/hazel, hazel and oak. The origin of this material is not clear. Given the mixed charcoal assemblage it does not appear the post has burnt *in situ*. It is more likely the post was removed prior to the building fire and the posthole was backfilled with oven debris.

Oven 27137 (SS 46) contained a single free-threshing wheat grain and a small amount of charcoal identified as oak, alder/hazel, hazel and ash. The small amount of charred material within this feature suggests it had been raked out after its final use.

Occupational deposits 27072 (SS 36) and 27084 (SS 37, SS 38 and SS 39), close to oven 27137, are interpreted as being contemporary with use of the building. Charcoal was abundant and identified as

alder, alder/hazel birch, oak, ash, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple, cherry species and willow/poplar. Small amounts of charred material were recovered and included oats, barley, rye and free-threshing wheat grains, cereal chaff including culm nodes and straw and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) perianiths.

It is likely this charred material originated from rakings from nearby oven 27137. Given the limited number of charred plant remains within either oven (27137 or 27101) or occupational deposits 27072 and 27084, it is unlikely the ovens were being used for crop processing, and the relatively high number of culm nodes/straw is more likely to represent floor sweepings being burnt within the fires. Given one of the functions of the building was crop storage, it is possible the fires were lit to keep the building warm and dry. It is possible that the catastrophic fire originated in one of the two ovens or due to still lit raked out firing debris.

External features (Tables 9.9–9.10)
Fill 27047 within ditch O (slot 27047) (sample 32) contained a small number of plant macrofossils consisting of oat and rye cereal grain, wild radish perianiths, a small amount of vitrified material and two charcoal fragments identified as alder/hazel. This fill has been interpreted as a dumped deposit associated with levelling after the building went out of use. This being the case, the small amount of charred and vitrified material is likely to be residual originating from burnt debris associated with the burning of the medieval building.

Pit 27036 (SS 5) located within the possible Service Area of the building to the east of the main room or Hall contained a large assemblage of plant macrofossils including oat, barley, free-threshing wheat and rye cereal grains, cereal chaff including barley, rye and bread wheat rachis, cultivated and wild oat paleas, culm nodes, straw, broad bean and vetch seeds and a selection of arable (corn marigold, wild radish, corn cockle, hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis*)), opportunistic (bramble (*Rubus*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*)), grassland (grass species, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and marshland (sedge, water-pepper) seed. Charcoal was abundant and identified as oak, alder/hazel and willow/poplar.

This assemblage is typical of that from crop processing waste, and may reflect a dump of waste associated with the processing of the crops stored in the building. It is difficult to interpret which stage of processing this waste originates from as there is no real dominance of any particular type of processing waste (light/heavy weeds, grain, chaff). It is possible this represents a mixture of crop waste from threshing, winnowing and sieving activities which has been retained for future use (fodder, temper or fuel) and subsequently burnt as fuel.

Area 3

Prehistoric (Tables 9.11–9.12)

Posthole 28029 (SS 1) contained two hazelnut shells and a possible oat grain. Charcoal was moderately abundant and identified as oak. Hazelnuts are a common finds during the Prehistoric period, however the small quantity of charred remains means no further interpretation of activity is possible.

Post-medieval (Tables 9.11–9.12)
Ditch R (intervention 28033) (SS 2) contained no plant remains and a small amount of gorse/broom (*Ulex/Cytisus*) charcoal. The paucity of this material means no further discussion is warranted.

Area 4

Medieval (Tables 9.11–9.12)
Possible hearth 29013 (SS 3 and SS 4) contained a single indeterminate cereal grain fragment and rare charcoal identified as oak and alder/hazel. The small number of remains from this feature means no interpretation of function is possible.

Overall Statement of Potential
All the samples have been assessed and analysed as far as their potential has indicated and no further analysis is required. The charred botanical material from the medieval building in Area 2 is of great significance as an indicator of not only the range of crops grown and stored, but also their possible locations of storage, and offers potential insight into the structure of the building itself. Further work will therefore focus on presenting considered interpretations of these aspects of the data for publication.

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Table 9.1 Area 2 Charcoal identification - burnt timbers/beam slot

Context number			27058	27106	27118	27138	27139	27140	27141
Feature number			-	27105	-	-	-	-	-
Feature label				P					
Sample number (SS)			31	35	34	42	43	44	45
Flot volume (ml)			3895	23	865	2049	6087	502	1269
Sample volume processed (l)			16	3	1	4	18	5	6
Period			Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Charcoal quantity >2mm			++++++	++++	++++++	++++++	++++++	++++++	++++++
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**							
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.	Alder r/w			100				
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w					4		
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w twig						2	
Fagaceae	*Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak		50		100	94	98	98
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak r/w					2		
Oleaceae	*Fraxinus excelsior* L.	Ash							2
Salicaceae	*Salix L./Populus* L.	Willows/Poplars r/w	100						
		Total	100	50	100	100	100	100	100

Table 9.2 Area 2 Plant macrofossil identification - burnt timbers

Context number				27058	27106	27118	27138	27139	27140	27141
Feature number				-	27105	-	-	-	-	-
Feature label					P					
Sample number (SS)				31	35	34	42	43	44	45
Flot volume (ml)				3895	23	865	2049	6087	502	1269
Sample volume processed (l)				16	3	1	4	18	5	6
Period				Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				N/A	Good	N/A	Good	N/A	N/A	N/A
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**							
A/D	Brassicaceae	*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.	Wild Radish perianith whole				1			
E	Fabaceae	*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (Whole)				4			
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (half)		1		23			
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (whole)				19			
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (half)				104			
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments >2mm)				+++++			
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments <2mm)				+++++			
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain				5			
			Vitrified material				++++			
			Vitrified material with straw/grass				2			
			Total	0	1	0	158	0	0	0

Table 9.3 Area 2 Charcoal identification - deposit 27027

Context number			27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
Flot volume (ml)			101	212	348	230	1095	252	9	7.5
Sample volume processed (l)			7	8	9	9	7	8	3	8
Period			Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Charcoal quantity >2mm			++++	+++	+++++	+++++	++++++	+++++	++++	++++
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**								
Aceraceae	*Acer campestre* L.	Field maple					7			
Adoxaceae	*Sambucus nigra* L.	Elder		1						
	Sambucus nigra L.	Elder twig		1				1		
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.	Alder r/w							1	
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn.	Alder twig								
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel	3	1		1				6
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w							4	
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel twig	1			2		1		
	Betula L.	Birches								2
	Betula L.	Birches r/w	2		1			1		
	Betula L.	Birches twig								
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel			1					
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel r/w			3				2	
Fagaceae	*Fagus sylvatica* L.	Beech								
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	2	5	2		2	5	3	
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak h/w		1						
Oleaceae	*Fraxinus excelsior* L.	Ash	1							
	Fraxinus excelsior L.	Ash twig	1							
Rosaceae	*Prunus* L.	Cherries					1			
Salicaceae	*Salix L./Populus* L.	Willows/Poplars		1	1					2
	Salix L./Populus L.	Willows/Poplars r/w			1	6				
	Salix L./Populus L.	Willows/Poplars twig				1		2		
Ulmaceae	*Ulmus glabra* Huds.	Wych Elm			1					
		Total	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 9.4 Area 2 Charcoal identifications - deposit 27027

Context number			27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Flot volume (ml)			37	315	123	428	38	19.5	27	32
Sample volume processed (l)			9	7	9	10	8	8	8	2
Period			Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Charcoal quantity >2mm			+++++	++++++	+++++	++++++	+++	+++	++++	++++
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**								
Aceraceae	*Acer campestre* L.	Field maple								1
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.	Alder r/w	3							
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn.	Alder twig		1						
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel	2				4		3	2
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w	2				1			1
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w twig				1				
	Betula L.	Birches			2					
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel								1
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel r/w								
Fagaceae	*Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	2	7	5	2				
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak h/w			1					
Oleaceae	*Fraxinus excelsior* L.	Ash					1		6	3
Rosaceae	*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq./*Sorbus* L./*Malus sylvestris* (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/Rowans/Crab apple						2	1	1
	Prunus L.	Cherries twig	1							
	Prunus L.	Cherries					4			
Salicaceae	*Salix L./Populus* L.	Willows/Poplars		2	2	7		8		1
		Total	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 9.5 Area 2 Charcoal identifications - deposit 27027

Context number			27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Flot volume (ml)			410	392	269	193	485	28.5	465	825
Sample volume processed (l)			8	7	8	6	6	2	9	10
Period			Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Charcoal quantity >2mm			++++++	++++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	++++	++++++	++++++
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**								
Aceraceae	*Acer campestre* L.	Field maple		2						
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.	Alder twig		2	3		2			
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./*Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel	1				2			
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./*Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w						2		
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./*Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w twig			1				1	
	Betula L.	Birches twig							1	1
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel r/w							1	
Fagaceae	*Fagus sylvatica* L.	Beech	6				4	5		
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak		1		1	2	2	2	1
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak r/w	1							
Oleaceae	*Fraxinus excelsior* L.	Ash		2	1					
Rosaceae	*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq./*Sorbus* L./*Malus sylvestris* (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/Rowans/Crab apple						1		
	Prunus L.	Cherries r/w		1						
	Prunus L.	Cherries twig							2	
	Prunus L.	Cherries		2					1	1
Salicaceae	*Salix L./Populus* L.	Willows/Poplars	2		5	8			2	7
	Salix L./Populus L.	Willows/Poplars twig				1				
		Total	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 9.6 Area 2 Plant macrofossil identification - deposit 27027

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				RA 27.23	6	7	8	9	10	11
Flot volume (ml)				HC	101	212	348	230	1095	252
Sample volume processed (l)				N/A	7	8	9	9	7	8
Period				Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				Good	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**							
D/A	Amaranthaceae	*Chenopodium* L. (*Blitum* L.)	Goosefoots		2		1			
A/D	Asteraceae	*Anthemis cotula* L.	Stinking Chamomile		1					
A/D		*Glebionis segetum* L.	Corn Marigold		5			2		2
M/D	Cyperaceae	*Carex* L.	Sedges		18			10		12
P/D	Fabaceae	*Medicago* L.	Medicks					2		5
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (whole)	29						
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (half)	4						
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (whole)	34						
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (half)	25						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments >2mm)	44						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments <2mm)	++++						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (whole)							2
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 2-3mm (whole)							1
A/D	Lamiaceae	*Galeopsis* L.	Hemp-nettles							3
A	Orobanchaceae	*Odontites vernus* (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red bartsia		1					
P	Plantaginaceae	*Plantago lanceolata* L.	Ribwort Plantain					1		
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain		4	3	10		2	49
E		*Avena sativa* L.	Cultivated oat palea							1
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley rachis				3	5		9
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye grain		2			2		3
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye rachis							2
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L./*Secale cereale* L.	Barley/rye rachis				1	5		13
E		*Triticum aestivum* L./*Triticum turgidum* L./ *Triticum durum* Desf.	Free-threshing wheat						1	1
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (whole)							3
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment)		1	1				19
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment <1mm)							+++
E		*Poaceae*	Culm node (whole)					4		6

Table 9.6 (cont)

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				RA 27.23	6	7	8	9	10	11
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**							
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species stem							1
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species		2					
E		*Poaceae*	Straw							2
D/A/M	Polygonaceae	*Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria							1
D		*Polygonum aviculare* L.	Knotgrass					1		
P/D/A	Ranunculaceae	*Ranunculus* L.	Buttercups							1
			Vitrified material		++++++	++++++	++++	+++++	++++++	+++++
			Vitrified material with straw/grass		3	23	6	10	3	2
			Vitrified material with twig		2	10	2	4	5	1
			Total	136	41	37	23	46	11	139

Table 9.7 Area 2 Plant macrofossil identification - deposit 27027

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Flot volume (ml)				7.5	37	315	123	428	38	19.5	27	32
Sample volume processed (l)				8	9	7	9	10	8	8	8	2
Period				Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				Good	Good	Good	Good	N/A	Good	Good	Good	Good
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**									
D/A	Amaranthaceae	*Chenopodium* L. (*Blitum* L.)	Goosefoots		1	1					2	
A/D	Asteraceae	*Anthemis cotula* L.	Stinking Chamomile		1	1						
A/D		*Centaurea cyanus* L.	Cornflower			1						
A/D		*Glebionis segetum* L.	Corn Marigold		4	5	4		1	1	2	
A/D	Brassicaceae	*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.	Wild Radish perianith whole			1						
A	Caryophyllaceae	*Agrostemma githago* L.	Corncockle whole			1						
A		*Spergula arvensis* L.	Corn Spurrey		4		1					
M/D	Cyperaceae	*Carex* L.	Sedges		11	5	27		3			
M/W		*Eleocharis* R. Br.	Spike-rushes							1		
P/D	Fabaceae	*Medicago* L.	Medicks		6							
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (whole)		1	21						
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (half)			32						
P/D		*Trifolium* L.	Clovers									
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (whole)		1	41						
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (half)			39						
E/D		*Vicia sativa* L.	Common Vetch		1							
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments ? Broad bean)			158						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments >2mm)		1	++++++						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments <2mm)			++++++						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (half)			1						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (whole)		1	17			1		1	
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 2-3mm (whole)			3						
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain	3	46	1690	1		1	1	3	3
E		*Avena sativa* L.	Cultivated oat palea			3	1					
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye grain			1	1			3		
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L./*Secale cereale* L.	Barley/rye rachis		1							

Table 9.7 (cont)

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**									
E		*Triticum aestivum* L./*Triticum turgidum* L./ *Triticum durum* Desf.	Free-threshing wheat		1	3	1					
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (whole)	1								
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment)		1							
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment <1mm)		+++	+++++						
E		*Poaceae*	Culm node (whole)			1						
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species stem		2				2			
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species		5							
E		*Poaceae*	Palea			2						
D/A	Polygonaceae	*Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á. Löve	Black-bindweed			1						
M/W/D		*Persicaria amphiba* (L.) Gray	Amphibious Bistort			2						
D/A/M		*Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria		1	1						
HSW/D	Rosaceae	*Rubus* sect. 2 Glandulosus Wimm. & Grab. (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.)	Bramble (Blackberry)		?1	1						
			Vitrified material		+++		++++	++++	++++	+++	+++++	++
			Vitrified material with straw/grass				4		3			
			Vitrified material with twig				1					
			Total	4	90	2032	41	0	11	6	8	3

Table 9.8 Area 2 Plant macrofossil identification - deposit 27027

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Flot volume (ml)				410	392	269	193	485	28.5	465	825
Sample volume processed (l)				8	7	8	6	6	2	9	10
Period				Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**								
HSW	Adoxaceae	*Sambucus nigra* L.	Elder	1							
D/A	Amaranthaceae	*Chenopodium* L. (*Blitum* L.)	Goosefoots	4	1		1				
A/D	Asteraceae	*Glebionis segetum* L.	Corn Marigold	1	2	6	1		1	1	
A/D	Brassicaceae	*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.	Wild Radish perianith whole							1	
A	Caryophyllaceae	*Agrostemma githago* L.	Corncockle whole							2	
A		*Spergula arvensis* L.	Corn Spurrey	2			1				
M/D	Cyperaceae	*Carex* L.	Sedges	3		4	1		3		
P/D	Fabaceae	*Medicago* L.	Medicks		1					1	
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (Whole)								7
E		*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (half)						2		2
P/D		*Trifolium* L.	Clovers	2		1					
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (half)				3	1			1
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas (large fragments >2mm)						5		6
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (half)		4	1					
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (whole)	3	2						
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 2-3mm (half)								3
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 3-4mm (half)								127
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 3-4mm (whole)								50
E/D		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L. cf *Vicia sativa* L.	Vetches/Peas pods and seeds (fragments)								24
A	Orobanchaceae	*Odontites vernus* (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red bartsia				1				
P	Plantaginaceae	*Plantago lanceolata* L.	Ribwort Plantain		1	2	1				1
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain	10	1	2	1	5	6	18	10
E		*Avena sativa* L.	Cultivated oat palea			1					
D		*Bromus* L.	Bromes							1	2
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley grain (straight)						1		
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley grain						1		3

Table 9.8 (cont)

Context number				27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027	27027
Feature number				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample number (SS)				23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**								
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley rachis	3	5	1					
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye grain	2			2			41	6
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye rachis								
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L./*Secale cereale* L.	Barley/rye rachis	4	10	7				4	
E		*Triticum*	Wheat rachis			1					
E		*Triticum aestivum* L./*Triticum turgidum* L./ *Triticum durum* Desf.	Free-threshing wheat	2	2			2	2	44	4
E		*Triticum aestivum L.*	Bread wheat (hexaploid) rachis		2						
E		*Triticum durum* Desf.	Club wheat (tetraploid) rachis		1						
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (whole)					2		1	1
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment)	2	2	1				9	
E		*Poaceae*	Culm node (whole)		8	3				6	2
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species stem		4	3				2	
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species			1	1				
E		*Poaceae*	Straw		2	1				2	1
M/W	Polygonaceae	*Persicaria hydropiper* (L.) Spach	Water-pepper			2					
D/A/M		*Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria		1						
D/P	Rosaceae	*Potentilla* L. (*Comarum* L.)	Cinquefoils		1		4				
HSW/D		*Rubus* L.	Brambles	1							
HSW/D		*Rubus* sect. 2 Glandulosus Wimm. & Grab. (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.)	Bramble (Blackberry)			1					
A/D	Rubiaceae	*Galium aparine* L.	Cleavers	3							
			Vitrified material	++++	+++++	+++	++++	++++++		++++	
			Vitrified material with straw/grass		16	5	10	2			
			Vitrified material with twig	1	3		4				
			Total	44	69	43	31	12	21	133	250

Table 9.9 Area 2 - Charcoal identification - internal and external features associated with medieval building

Context number			27038	27051	27072	27084	27084	27084	27102	27123	27136	27150
Feature number			27036	27047	-	-	-	-	27101	27122	27137	27151
Feature label				O								
Sample number (SS)			5	32	36	37	38	39	33	41	46	47
Flot volume (ml)			871	31	81	318	138.5	127	277	90.5	502	55
Sample volume processed (l)			18	12	15	8	7	7	3	3	4	5
Period			Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Charcoal quantity >2mm			++++++	+++	++++	++++++	++++	++++	+++	++++	+++++	++++
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**										
Aceraceae	*Acer campestre* L.	Field maple								2		
Adoxaceae	*Sambucus nigra* L.	Elder								2		
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.	Alder twig				4						
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel	3	2	8	30				3	3	2
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w			5				6	2		
	Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ *Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel twig	17		3	25	1			11	2	
	Betula L.	Birches				5						
	Betula L.	Birches twig				8						
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel										1
	Corylus avellana L.	Hazel r/w									1	
Fagaceae	*Fagus sylvatica* L.	Beech r/w							16			
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	66		11	10	3	9	4			7
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak r/w									2	
	Quercus petraea (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak twig	2							4		
Oleaceae	*Fraxinus excelsior* L.	Ash				2			2			
	Fraxinus excelsior L.	Ash r/w									2	
Rosaceae	*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq./*Sorbus* L./ *Malus sylvestris* (L.) Mill.	Hawthorn/Rowans/Crab apple					2		2	1		
	Prunus L.	Cherries r/w					2					
	Prunus L.	Cherries twig				6						
	Prunus L.	Cherries					2			1		
Salicaceae	*Salix L./Populus* L.	Willows/Poplars	12		3	5		1				
	Salix L./Populus L.	Willows/Poplars twig				5						
		Total	100	2	30	100	10	10	30	26	10	10

Table 9.10 Area 2 – Plant macrofossil identification - internal and external features associated with medieval building

Context number				27038	27051	27072	27084	27084	27084	27102	27123	27136	27150
Feature number				27036	27047	-	-	-	-	27101	27122	27137	27151
Feature label					O								
Sample number (SS)				5	32	36	37	38	39	33	41	46	47
Flot volume (ml)				871	31	81	318	138.5	127	277	90.5	502	55
Sample volume processed (l)				18	12	15	8	7	7	3	3	4	5
Period				Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				Good	Moderate	Poor	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	N/A
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**										
A/D	Asteraceae	*Anthemis arvensis* L.	Corn Chamomile	1									
A/D		*Glebionis segetum* L.	Corn Marigold	+++++									
A/D	Brassicaceae	*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.	Wild Radish perianith whole	8	4		1						
A	Caryophyllaceae	*Agrostemma githago* L.	Corncockle whole	5			1						
A		*Agrostemma githago* L.	Corncockle fragment	1									
M/D	Cyperaceae	*Carex* L.	Sedges	+++									
E	Fabaceae	*Pisum* L.	Garden Pea (half)	1									
E		*Vicia faba* L.	Broad Bean (whole)	1									
E/D		*Vicia sativa* L.	Common Vetch	2									
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 1-2mm (half)	1									
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 2-3mm (half)	2									
D/A/P		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L.	Vetches/Peas 2-3mm (whole)	3						1			
E/D		*Vicia* L./*Lathyrus* L. cf *Vicia sativa* L.	Vetches/Peas pods and seeds (fragments)	2									
A/D	Lamiaceae	*Galeopsis* L.	Hemp-nettles	2									
P	Plantaginaceae	*Plantago lanceolata* L.	Ribwort Plantain	1									
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain	382	2	4	12	6	12		1		
E		*Avena fatua* L.	Wild oat palea	1									
E		*Avena sativa* L.	Cultivated oat palea	1									
D		*Bromus* L.	Bromes	3									
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley grain (straight)	2									
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley grain	39		1	1						
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L.	Barley rachis	28									
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye grain	65	4		1						
E		*Secale cereale* L.	Rye rachis	9									
E		*Hordeum vulgare* L./*Secale cereale* L.	Barley/rye rachis	+++++									

Table 9.10 (cont)

Context number				27038	27051	27072	27084	27084	27084	27102	27123	27136	27150
Feature number				27036	27047	-	-	-	-	27101	27122	27137	27151
Feature label					O								
Sample number (SS)				5	32	36	37	38	39	33	41	46	47
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**										
E		*Triticum aestivum* L./*Triticum turgidum* L./ *Triticum durum* Desf.	Free-threshing wheat	67			1		3			1	
E		*Triticum aestivum L.*	Bread wheat (hexaploid) rachis	3									
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (whole)	11		3	2						
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment)	10	1		1	1	4				
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment <1mm)	+++++			+++						
E		*Poaceae*	Culm node (whole)	61			9						
E		*Poaceae*	Culm node (half)				1						
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species stem	6									
P		*Poaceae*	Grass species	+++									
E		*Poaceae*	Straw	5			18	1	1				
D/A	Polygonaceae	*Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) Á. Löve	Black-bindweed	6									
M/W		*Persicaria hydropiper* (L.) Spach	Water-pepper	2									
D/A/M		*Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) Gray	Pale Persicaria	++++									
D		*Polygonum aviculare* L.	Knotgrass	2									
HSW/D	Rosaceae	*Rubus* L.	Brambles	4									
HSW/D		*Rubus* sect. 2 Glandulosus Wimm. & Grab. (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.)	Bramble (Blackberry)	4									
A/D	Rubiaceae	*Galium aparine* L.	Cleavers	3									
			Vitrified material		+++								
			Vitrified material with straw/grass		3								
			Total	746	11	8	48	8	20	10	1	1	0

Table 9.11 Areas 3 and 4 Charcoal identification

Area			3	3	4	4
Context number			28030	28036	29014	29016
Feature number			28029	28033	29013	29013
Feature label				R		
Sample number (SS)			1	2	4	2
Flot volume (ml)			11.5	1	1.5	1.5
Sample volume processed (l)			3	16	15	15
Period			PRE	PMed	?	?
Charcoal quantity >2mm			++++	++	++	++
Charcoal preservation			Moderate	Poor	Moderate	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**				
Betulaceae	*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn./*Corylus avellana* L.	Alder/Hazel r/w			2	
Fabaceae	*Ulex* L./*Cytisus* Desf.	Gorses/Brooms r/w		2		
Fagaceae	*Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak	10		4	10
		Total	10	2	6	10

Table 9.12 Areas 3 and 4 Plant macrofossil identification

Area				3	3	4	4
Context number				28030	28036	29014	29016
Feature number				28029	28033	29013	29013
Feature label					R		
Sample number (SS)				1	2	4	2
Flot volume (ml)				11.5	1	1.5	1.5
Sample volume processed (l)				3	16	15	15
Period				Med	Med/P-med	Med	Med
Plant macrofossil preservation				Moderate	N/A	N/A	Poor
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**				
HSW	Betulaceae	*Corylus avellana* L.	Hazelnut shells	2			
E	Poaceae	*Avena* L.	Oats grain	?1			
E		*Poaceae*	Indet. cereal grain (fragment)				1
			Total	3	0	0	1

Key

+ = 1-4 items; ++ = 5-20 items; +++ = 21-40 items; ++++ = 40-99 items; +++++ = 100-500 items; ++++++ = >500 items

A = arable weeds; D= opportunistic species; P = grassland species (possible pasture); M = marshland species; W= wetland species; HSW = hedgerow/shrub/woodland plant; E = economic plant

? = morphology of seed/charcoal similar to this species

r/w = roundwood branch; h/w = heart wood (tyloses present)

indet. = indeterminate

APPENDIX 10: GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY NICK WATSON

This document reports on the stratigraphy of two monoliths extracted from a baulk section comprising deposits from the eastern exterior side of a probable medieval building. Shallow gully feature 27047 cut through the top 0.3m of the bedrock 27004. The upcast was overlain by localised occupation deposit 27054 which itself overlain by a charcoal rich dumped deposit 27055. A medieval buried soil sealed the dump and 0.3m of topsoil completed the sequence. The stratigraphy in total measured c.1.1m (Figure 10.1).

Methodology

In order to assess the palaeoenvironmental and archaeological significance of the monolith samples they were cleaned and photographed and then described according to standard geological procedure (Jones *et al.* 1999, Tucker 2011). They have been stored pending decisions on any future analyses that maybe undertaken. The report is intended to address the following aims:

1) To determine the manner in which the stratigraphic units sampled were formed;
2) To assess the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the units encountered and to provide recommendations for analytical work that could usefully be undertaken to better understand the archaeological stratigraphy and palaeoenvironments on the site.

Results

The Stratigraphy

Unit 4 is the basal deposit and is the top of the weathered bedrock (Figures 10.1 and 10.2). The British Geological Survey map (BGS 2014) lists the bedrock as the Otter Sandstone Formation of Ansian to Ladinian Age dating to the mid Triassic 241.7-227 million years BP. It is a fine to medium-grained sandstone that weathers to an orange, friable sand near the surface.

Archaeological features are cut into Unit 4 and deposited over it (Figure 10.1). Unit 3 has been interpreted by the excavator as 'redeposited natural' derived from upcast from the excavation of gully 27047 and the evidence from the monolith sample concurs with this interpretation. The deposit is a silt/clay with granular sized intraclasts. Here the term intraclast is used to describe a discrete granule or clast that has been eroded, dug up by the action of man, and redeposited along with the fine grained silt/clays (the matrix of 27048) of which the clast is, itself, composed. The resultant sediment has a distinctive fine scale 'conglomeratic' structure.

A relatively sharp boundary separates Unit 3 from Unit 2. Unit 2 is a friable, very dark grey silt/clay and is characterised by frequent fine sand-sized charcoal grains. Two different contexts have been recorded by the excavator: localised occupation deposit 27054 overlain by charcoal rich dumped

deposit 27055. Unfortunately these anthropogenic sediments were not separable either visually or texturally in the monolith samples. It is possible that one or the other pinched out back from the section face. No recognisable carbonised fragments were recovered even though a small sample was washed with water through a 250 micron sieve.

The final unit recorded in the monolith samples is Unit 1, a dark brown friable silt/clay with a weak to moderate ped structure. This deposit has been recorded in the field as two separate contexts: medieval buried soil 27002 overlain by the base of the modern soil profile. Unfortunately this was not recognisable in the monolith sample; the two deposits appear sufficiently similar over the width of the sample (100 mm) to make their separate identification impossible. On *prima facie* evidence the deposit could represent a palaeosol.

In general, it is noteworthy that all the units are siliceous containing a component of fine to very fine sand derived from the weathered bedrock. And biotubation by fine roots is present throughout the sequence.

Discussion and Recommendations

Of the four units described two are worthy of further discussion.

Unit 1, the possible medieval palaeosol, is a fine grained siliceous silt/clay which would favour the preservation of plant microfossils (pollen), however, it is bioturbated and its dimensions are unclear with respect to the modern soil.

Unit 2, an anthropogenic deposit, does not contain recognisable carbonised plant remains in the monolith sample, however it is possible that identifiable remains could be recovered from this context via a bulk processing method.

For the reasons outlined above the palaeoenvironmental potential of Unit 1 is low and the palaeoeconomical potential of Unit 2 is also low. The archaeological significance of the deposits has been fully realised by the excavators as far as can be judged from examination of the monolith samples and this report can add nothing of significance. It is recommended therefore that no further work be undertaken on the samples.

References

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Jones, A.P., Tucker, M.E. and Hart, J.K. 1999 'Guidelines and recommendations', in Jones, A.P., Tucker, M.E. and Hart, J.K. (eds.) *The description and analysis of Quaternary stratigraphic field sections*, Quaternary Research Association Technical Guide 7, 27–76

Munsell Color 2000 *Munsell soil color charts* New Windsor (NY), Munsell Color

Tucker, M.E. 2011 *Sedimentary rocks in the field* Chichester, Wiley

Figure 10.1 Monolith samples 48.1 (base) and 48.2 (top) with posthole 271610 immediately to the right cut into weathered bedrock 27004

Figure 10.2 Stratigraphic description of monolith samples 48.1 (base) and 48.2 (top).

	Depth (m)	Unit	Context	Description
	0-0.37	1	27001, 27002	10 YR 3/3 Dark brown friable silt/clay with a weak granular ped structure. Occasional to frequent fine to very fine sand- sized mineral grains. Rare, well rounded quartzite pebbles. Frequent fine rooting. Gradual boundary to:
	0.37-0.44	2	27055, 27054	10 YR 3/1 Very dark grey silt/clay with frequent very fine to fine sand-sized mineral grains and frequent finely comminuted charcoal. Occasional fine rooting. Diffuse to sharp boundary to:
	0.44-0.60	3	27048	7.5 YR 3/4 Dark brown silt/clay with frequent fine to very fine sand-sized mineral grains and occasional charcoal grains. Rare granual-size silt/clay 'intraclasts' (mixed archaelogical deposit). Dark orange iron oxide staining and occasional fine rooting. Diffuse boundary to:
	0.60-0.88	4	27007	7.5 YR 4/6 Strong brown friable fine sandy silt/clay (weathered top of Otter Sandstone Formation. Base of trench)

APPENDIX 11: RADIOCARBON DATING BY SARAH COBAIN

Radiocarbon dating was undertaken in order to confirm earlier prehistoric dating from pits in Area 3. A sample of charred hazelnut shell from posthole 28029, which cut pit/tree-throw 28022. Was sent for radiocarbon dating. The sample was chosen as the only datable material from this group of features. It was analysed during March 2015 at Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 0QF, Scotland.

The uncalibrated dates are conventional radiocarbon ages. The radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal 4.2 (Bronk Ramsey 2009) using the IntCal13 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013).

The result is shown in Table 11.1.

References

Bronk Ramsey, C. 2009 'Bayesian analysis of radiocarbon dates', *Radiocarbon* **51**, 337–360

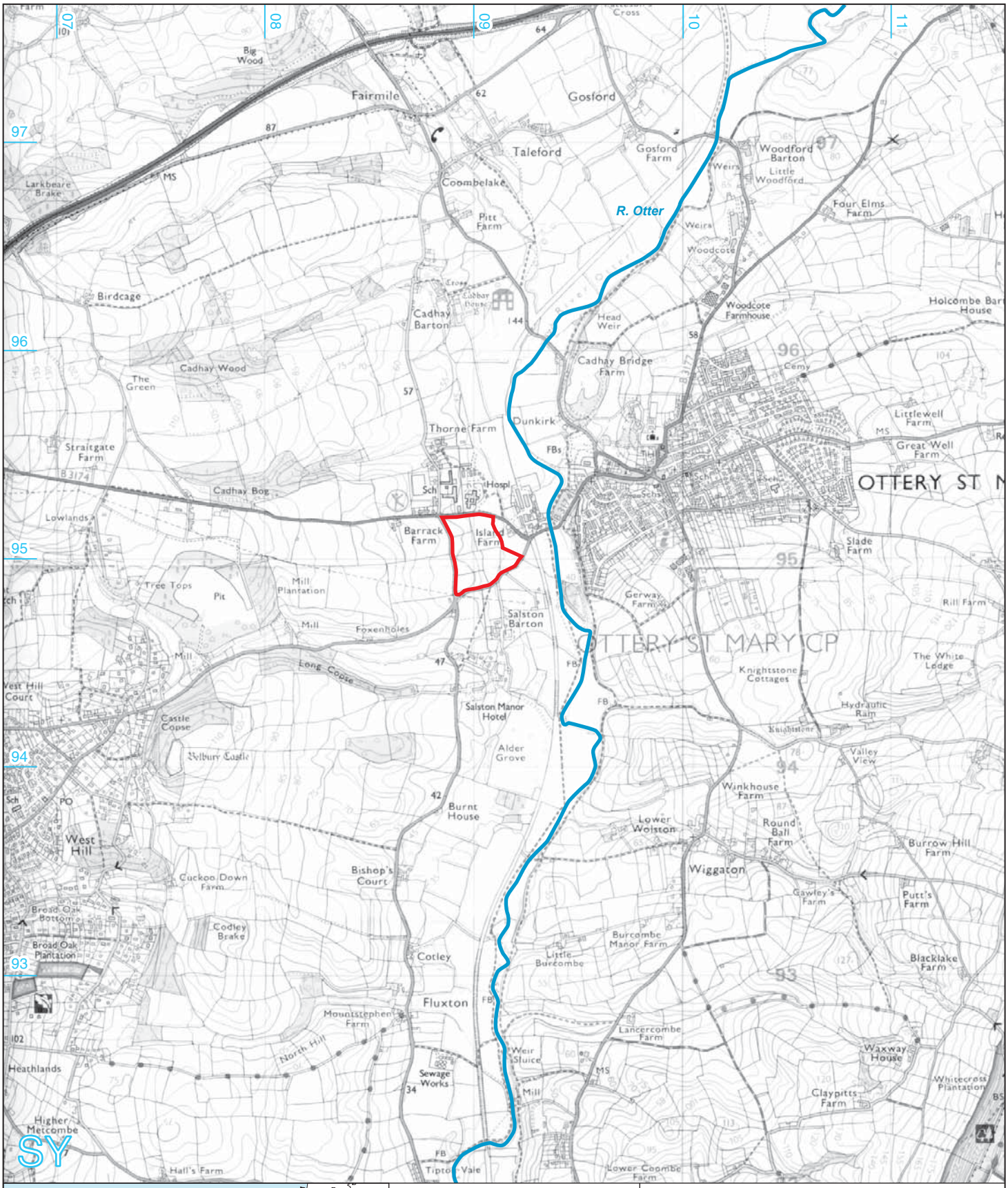
Reimer, P.J., Bard, E., Bayliss, A., Beck, J.W., Blackwell, P.G., Bronk Ramsey, C., Grootes, P.M., Guilderson, T.P., Haflidason, H., Hajdas, I., HattŽ, C., Heaton, T.J., Hoffmann, D.L., Hogg, A.G., Hughen, K.A., Kaiser, K.F., Kromer, B., Manning, S.W., Niu, M., Reimer, R.W., Richards, D.A., Scott, E.M., Southon, J.R., Staff, R.A., Turney, C.S.M., & van der Plicht, J. 2013 'IntCal13 and Marine13 Radiocarbon Age Calibration Curves 0–50,000 Years cal BP', *Radiocarbon* **55,** 1869–1887

Table 11.1 Radiocarbon dating results

Feature	**Lab No.**	**Material**	**δ ^{13}C**	**δ ^{13}N**	**C/N ratio**	**Radiocarbon age**	**Calibrated radiocarbon age 95.4% probability**	**Calibrated radiocarbon age 68.2% probability**
Context 28030 Pit 28029	SUERC-58849	Carbonised seed - *Corylus avellana* (Hazelnut shell)	-26.5‰	-	-	7998 ± 32 yr BP	7057–6804 cal BC (94.7%) 6785–6779 cal BC (0.7%)	7045–7002 cal BC (18.3%) 6971–6913 cal BC (25.7%) 6884–6831 cal BC (24.2%)

APPENDIX 12: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Archaeological strip, map and sample excavations were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March and April 2014 at the request of Waddeton Park Ltd at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, in advance of housing development by Bovis Homes Ltd. Four separate areas were excavated across the 8.6-ha development site. The four excavation areas, chosen for their archaeological potential as identified in previous evaluations, all revealed archaeological features. These included pits yielding flints of Mesolithic and early Neolithic date, and most significantly, a medieval building that had apparently suffered fire damage and preserved evidence of its wooden structure and stored crops. There were numerous drainage ditches, some of which may have been prehistoric, but most medieval and later. Some corresponded to 19th-century mapped field boundaries	
Project dates	March – April 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Strip, map and sample excavation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2012) Evaluation (CA, 2012 and 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon	
Study area (M^2/ha)	8.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SY 0902 9503	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	East Devon District Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Charlotte Haines	
MONUMENT TYPE	Mesolithic/Neolithic Pits Medieval Building	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Bronze Age palstave, Medieval iron axe and 'cushion stone', charred botanical remains	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter RAMM: 14/19	Ceramics, animal bone, CBM, metal finds
Paper	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter RAMM: 14/19	Context sheets, matrices, drawings, report
Digital	Archaeological Data Service	Database, digital photos, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land at Island Farm, Ottery St. Mary, Devon: Archaeology Assessment Report and Updated Project Design.* CA typescript report **15791**		



N

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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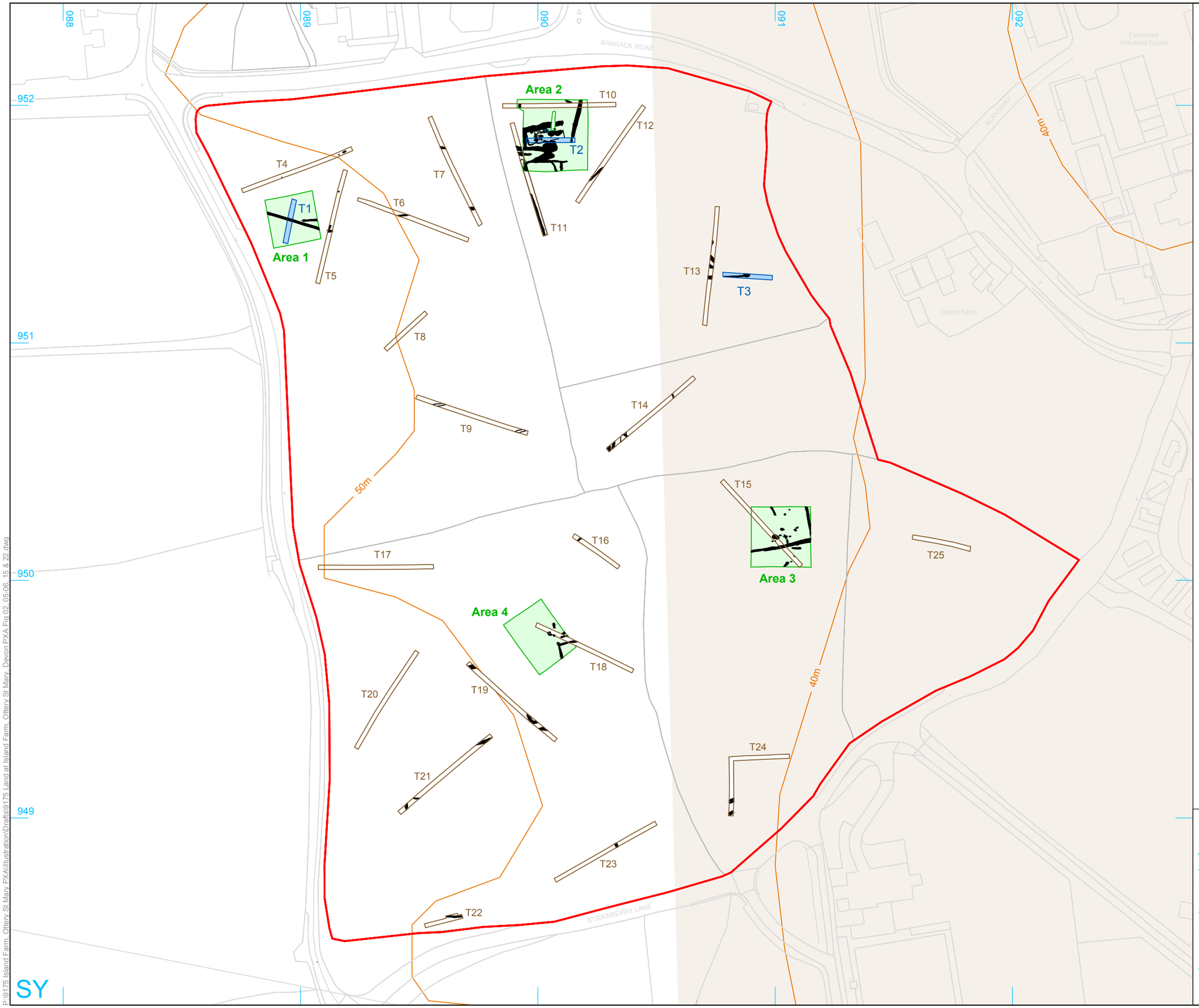
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Excavation areas

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	06.10.15	2
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:1500	

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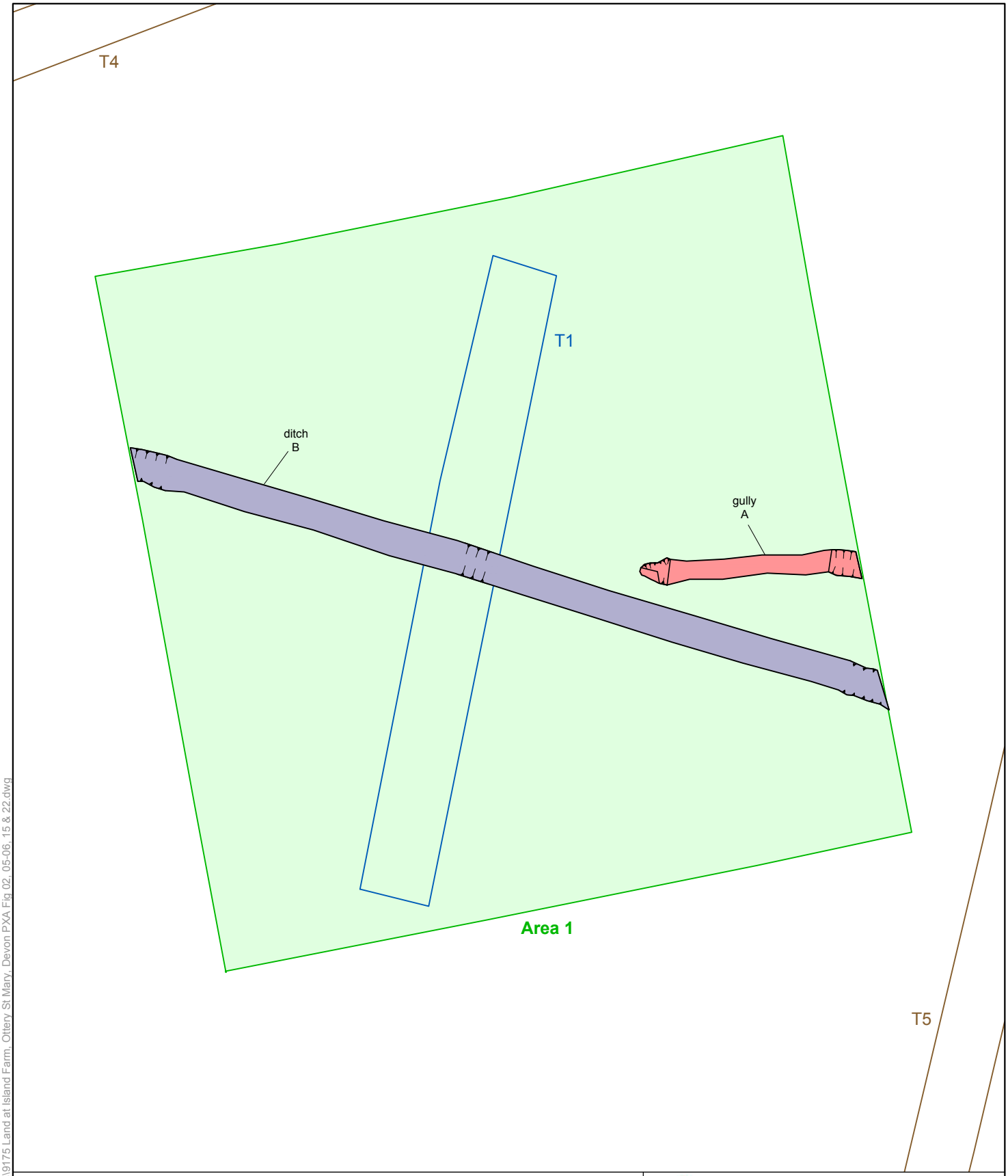

excavation area

previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)

previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)

Period 2 possible prehistoric

Period 4 post-medieval

N

0 5m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Plan of Area 1

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4

4 Area 1, 18th/19th century Ditch B, looking west (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Plan of Area 2, medieval building use phase

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APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:125	

T10

T11

T12

T2

Area 2

27163

27053

27036

27058

27141

27118

27151

27140

27139

27138

27027

2010/2014

2011

?doorway

C

D

E

O

P

N

L

M

J

K

G

H

F

I

A

B

Key

- excavation area
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)
- palaeochannel/alluvium
- archaeological feature
- structural feature
- destruction layer of burnt charcoal
- occupation layer with charcoal
- levelling platform
- beaten earth floor
- sealing deposit
- occupation/use deposits
- burnt timbers
- projected building wall
- section location

N

0 5m

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Plan of Area 2, medieval building disuse phase

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APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:125	

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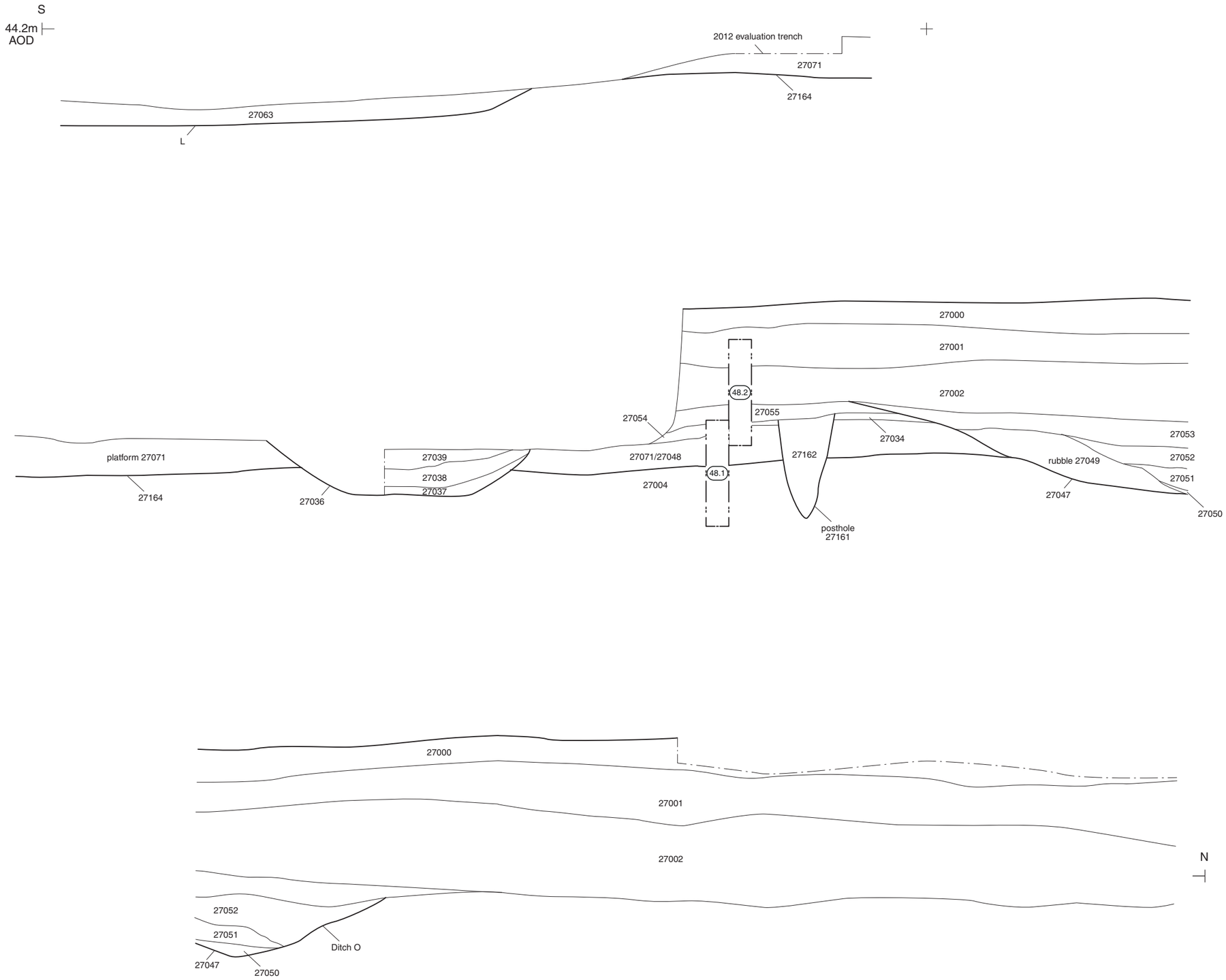

column sample

0 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2: section AA

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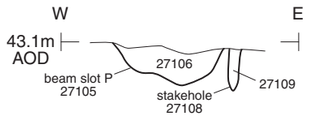

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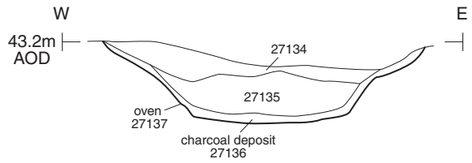

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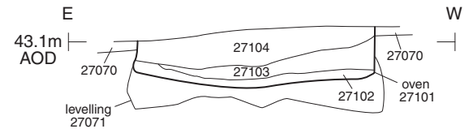

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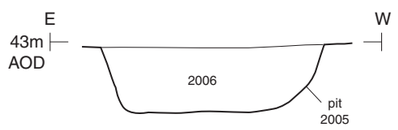

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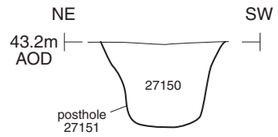

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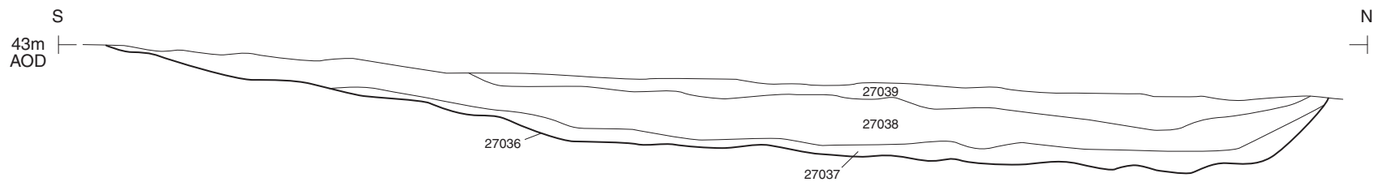

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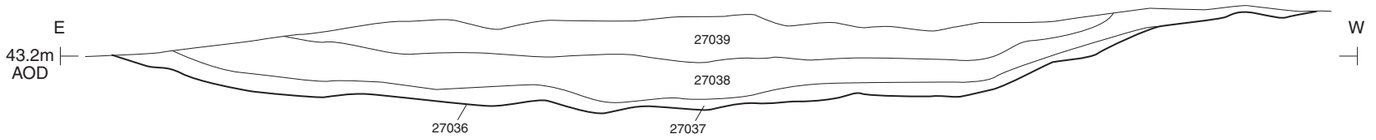

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2: sections BB - HH

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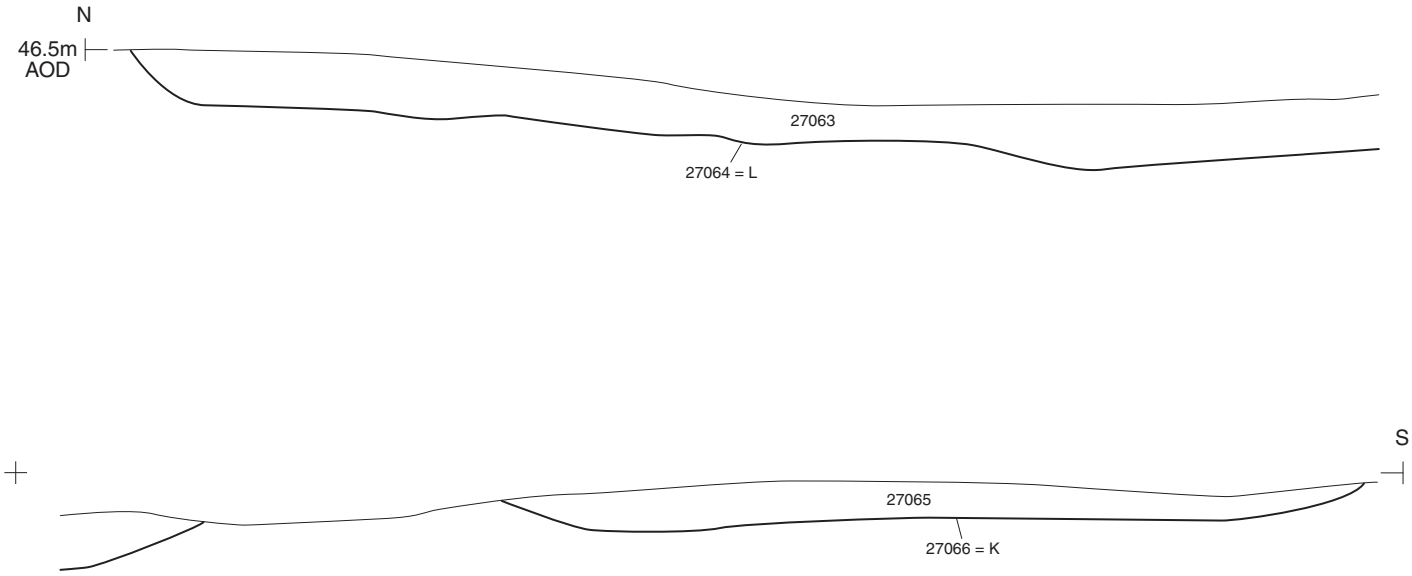

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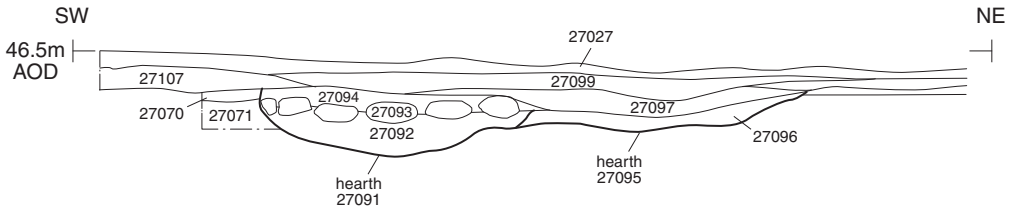

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Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 2: sections II - JJ

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10

11

10 **Wall footings 2011, looking north-east (scales 0.5m and 1m)**

11 **Hearths 27091 (L) and 27095 (R), looking north-west (scale 1m)**

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 2, photographs

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APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

12

13

12 Oven 27101, looking south (scale 0.5m)

13 Area 2, general view, looking north-east (scales 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2, photographs

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APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A4	N/A	

14

14 **Area 2, general view, looking south-west (scales 1m and 2m)**

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2, photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**07.10.15**	**14**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

T15

Gully U

28069

1 x flint blade
1 x chert blade

28071

Ditch Q

pit 28022
1 x burnt flint flake

28079-28083

28075

2 x burnt chert

posthole 28029
1 x flint blade

posthole 28065
1 x chert/4 x flint

posthole 28047
Fe nail

28067

28108

28077

tree-throw pit 28027

Gully S

tree-throw pit 28051
109 x flint and chert
cores/flakes/blades

28058

Gully T
1 x flint scraper

28056

Ditch R
1 x chert
1 x flint

tree-throw pit V
18 x flint flakes/blades

Gully S
2 x flint blade and flake

28087

tree-throw pit 28063
2 x flint (flake and blade,
late Mesolithic)

tree-throw pit 28003
1 x flint flake

28061

N

excavation area

previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)

archaeological feature

Period 1 prehistoric tree-throw pit

Period 2 ?prehistoric

Period 4 post-medieval

Period 4 post-medieval tree-throw pit

Period 5 modern

field drain

undated

section location

0 5m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Plan of Area 3 showing locations of lithic artefacts

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APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:100	

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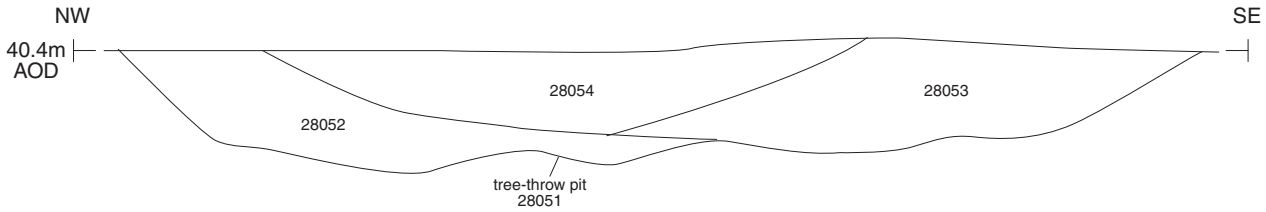

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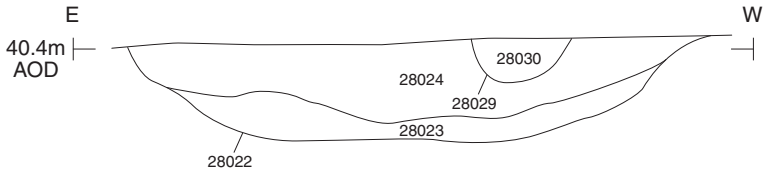

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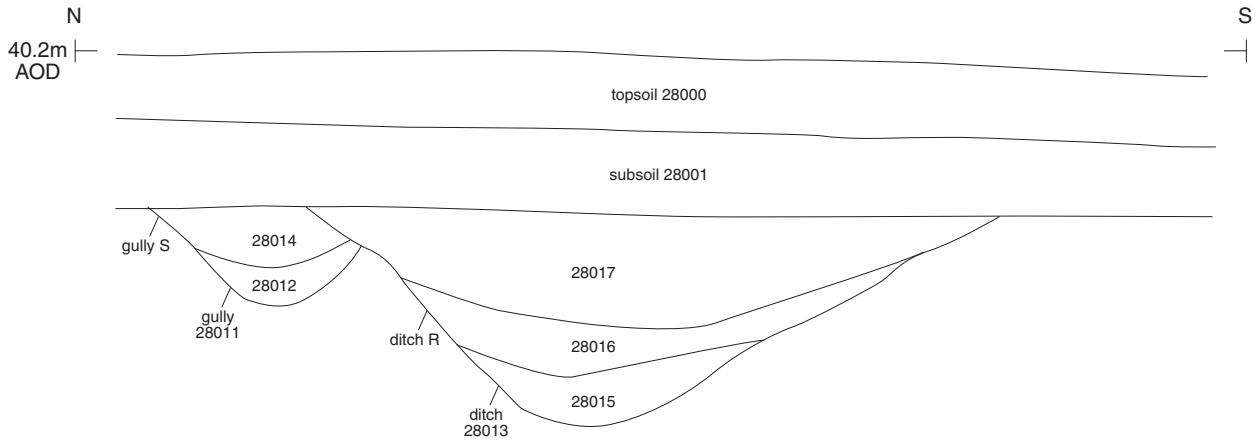

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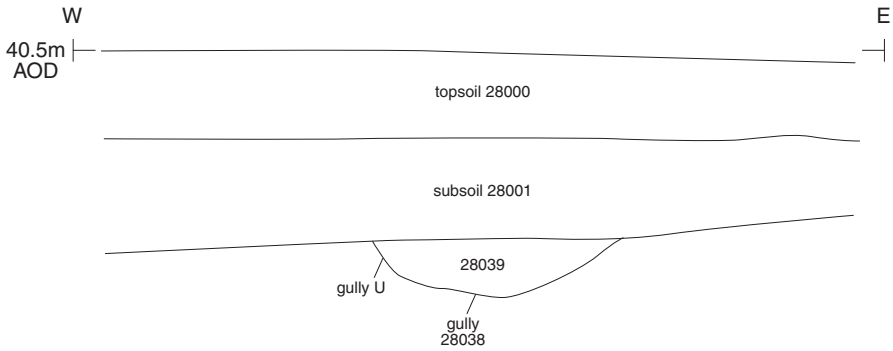

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 3 sections

DRAWN BY	**RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9175**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**07.10.15**	**16**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

17

18

17 **Pit 28051, facing north-west (scale 1m)**

18 **Area 3, general view of site, facing east (scales 1m and 2m)**

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 3, photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**07.10.15**	**17 & 18**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

19

19 **Area 3, general view with ditches, looking south-west (scales 1m and 2m)**

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Area 3, photograph

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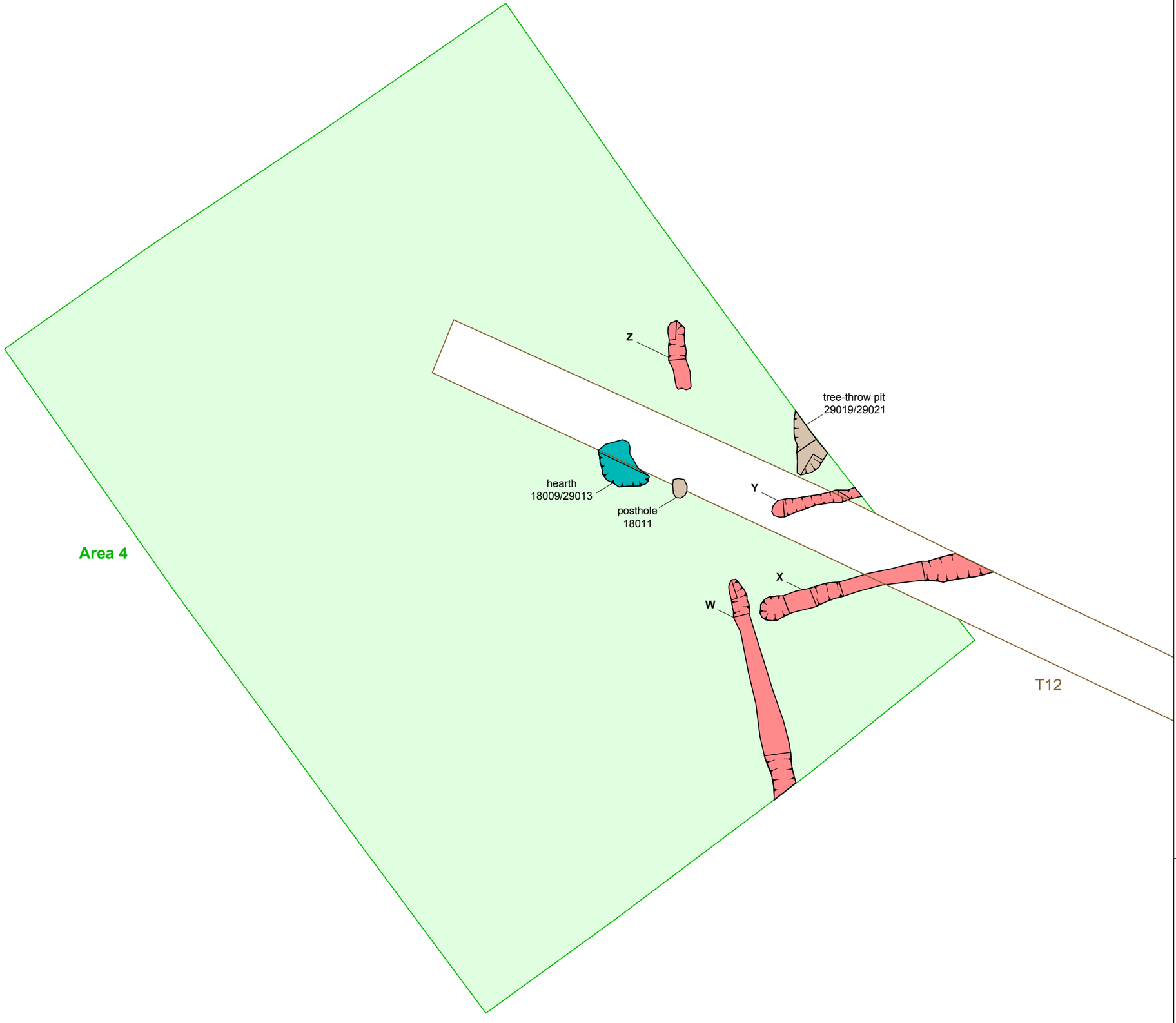
CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**07.10.15**	**19**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	



N

- excavation area
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)
- archaeological feature
- Period 2 possible prehistoric gully
- Period 3 medieval
- undated

0 5m

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Plan of Area 4

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	9175	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	07.10.15	20
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:125	

P:\9175 Island Farm, Ottery St Mary PXA\Illustration\Drafts\9175 Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon PXA Fig 02_05-06_15 & 22.dwg

21

21 Hearth 29013, facing south-west (scale 0.4m)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
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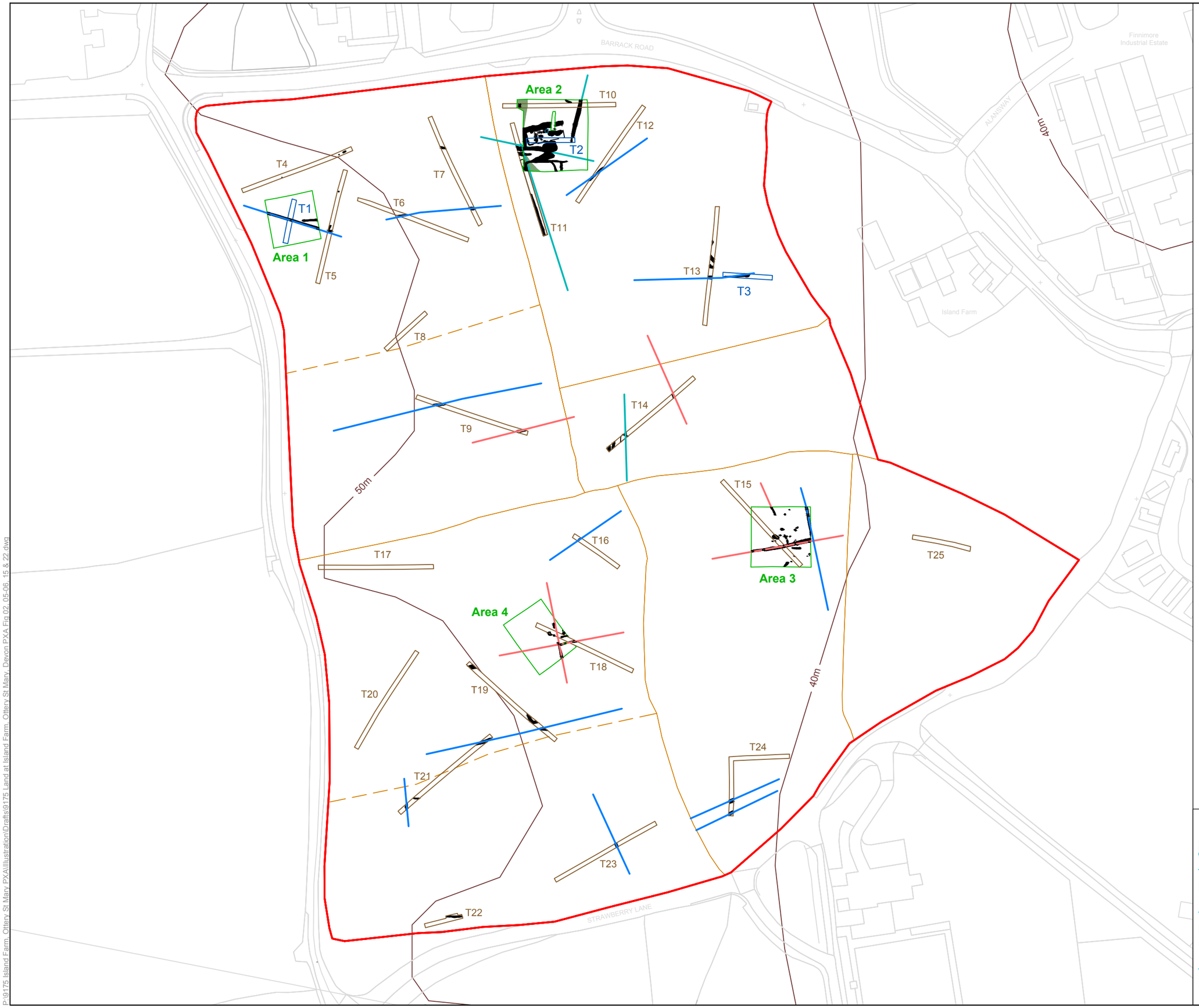
FIGURE TITLE
Area 4, photograph

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	9175	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	07.10.15	21
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A4	N/A	



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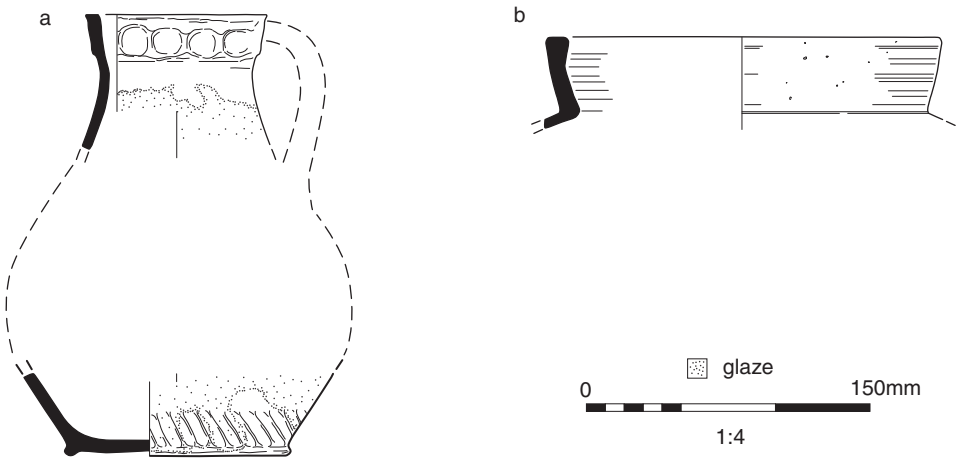
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Interpretation of site-wide ditches from evaluations and excavations

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	9175	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	28.10.15	22
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:1500	

P:\9175 Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, PXA\Illustration\Drafts\9175 Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary, Devon PXA Fig 02, 05-06, 15 & 22.dwg



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Pottery illustrations

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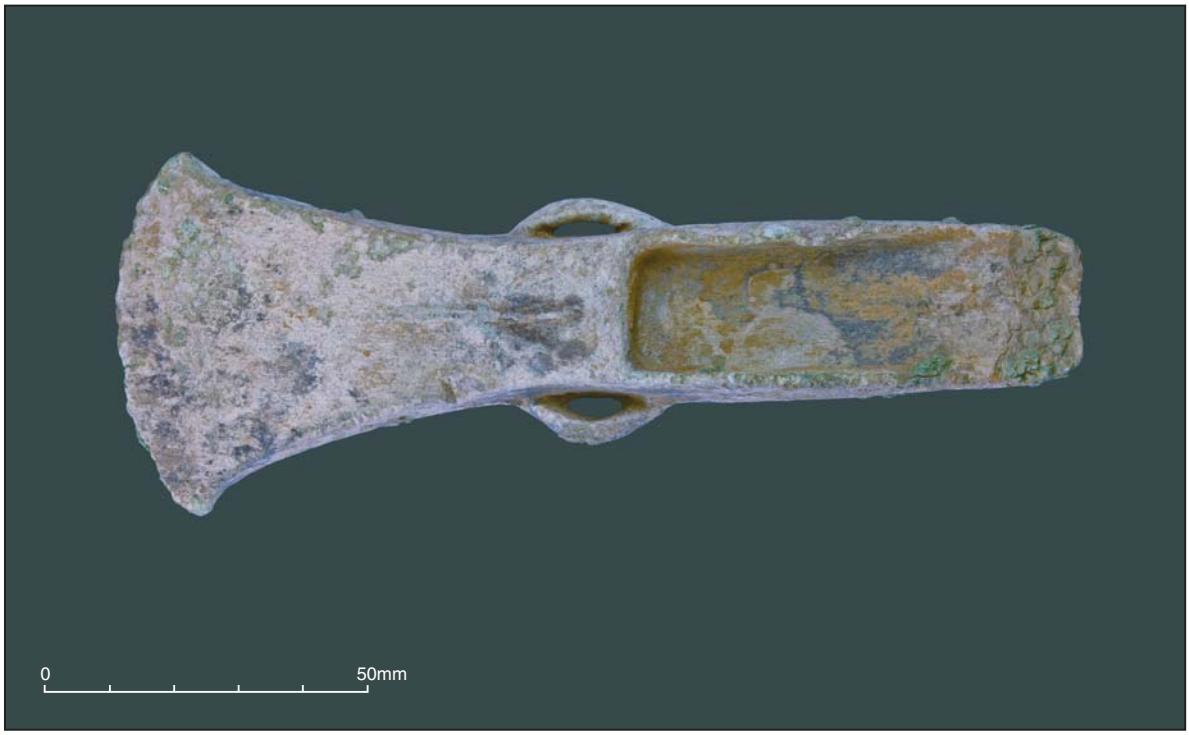
CHECKED BY	EMS	DATE	28.10.15	23
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A4	N/A	



24 Copper alloy palstave axe-head from deposit 2010, Area 2

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**08.10.15**	**24**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

N

excavation area

previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)

previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)

surveyed grid square

palaeochannel

archaeological feature

structure

burnt layer

16 sample no.

barley grain

rye grain

oats grain

free-threshing wheat

broad bean (whole)

?broad bean/pea (fragments)

garden pea (whole)

vetches/peas (whole)

vetches/peas (large fragments >2mm)

vetches/peas (large fragments ?broad bean)

vetches/peas pod (fragments)

0 1.5m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Density of plant remains from floor of Area 2 building (layer 27027, selected sample squares)

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	9175	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	28.10.15	25
APPROVED BY	AM	SCALE@A3	1:40	

26

26 Charred hawthorn/rowan/crab apple peg from occupation deposit 27072 (sample 36)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

DRAWN BY	**AO/RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9175**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**06.10.15**	**26**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

27

27 Charred hawthorn/rowan/crab apple peg from occupation deposit 27084 (sample 38)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
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FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**06.10.15**	**27**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

28

29

28 Charred ash stake/dowel associated with oak timber 27139 (sample 43)

29 Charred ash stake/dowel associated with oak timber 27139 (sample 43)

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PROJECT TITLE

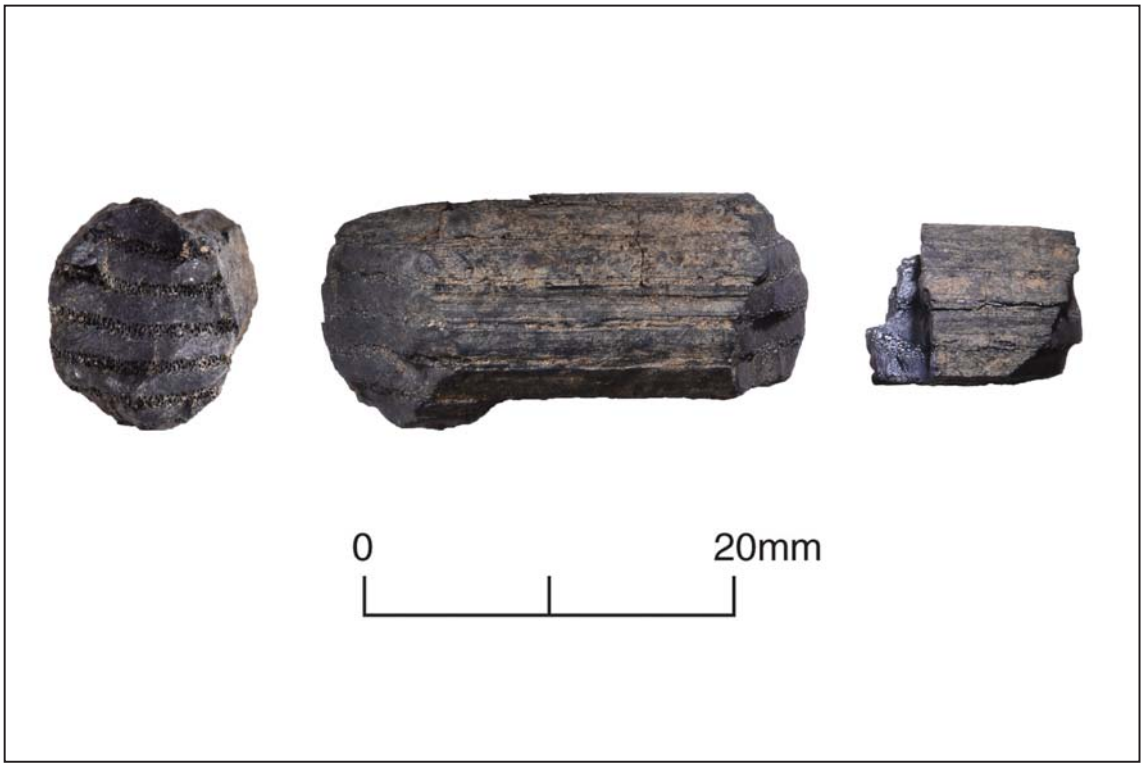
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	**AO/RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9175**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**28.10.15**	**28 & 29**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

30



30 Charred ash dowel associated with oak timber 27141 (sample 45)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

DRAWN BY	**AO/RP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**9175**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**28.10.15**	**30**
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31

31 Charred broad beans and peas from burnt deposit 27027 (ref. RA 27.23)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Island Farm, Ottery St Mary
Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DB**	*DATE*	**28.10.15**	**31**
APPROVED BY	**AM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

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