

Fermoy's Garden Centre Ipplepen Devon

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Pegasus Group

on behalf of
Ipplepen Property
Holdings Ltd

CA Project: 880125
CA Report: 16327

July 2016



Fermoys Garden Centre
Ipplepen
Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

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B	12 July 2016	Jonathan Orellana	Derek Evans	Consultant review	Revisions to Discussion in line with Consultant comments	Laurent Coleman
C	14 July 2016	Jonathan Orellana	Derek Evans	Consultant review (2)	Revisions to para. 6.1 and references in line with Consultant comments	Laurent Coleman

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Fermoys Garden Centre
Location: Ipplepen, Devon
NGR: SX 8443 6759
Type: Evaluation
Date: 13 June 2016
Planning Reference: Teignbridge District Council 13/02543/MAJ
Location of Archive: N/A
Site Code: FGI 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon. A total of seven trenches was excavated.

The evaluation recorded a single undated shallow ditch.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Group, on behalf of Ipplepen Property Holdings Ltd, at Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 8443 6759; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Outline planning permission for the construction of a new garden centre at the site has been granted by Teignbridge District Council (TDC; the local planning authority), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (planning ref: 13/02543/MAJ; condition 12). The scope of this evaluation was defined subsequently in discussions with Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET; the archaeological advisors to TDC).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by DCCHET. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.4 The evaluation site lies on the western side of Totnes Road (the A381), some 0.6km north-east of Ipplepen. The site encloses c. 4.6 hectares in total. It is mainly occupied by a garden centre and associated access roads and parking, although there are agricultural and grassland fields in the north-western part of the site.
- 1.5 Further agricultural fields lie to the north and west of the site; a wooded area and a caravan park lie to the south; and a golf course lies to the east, on the opposite side of Totnes Road.
- 1.6 The solid geology of the site is mapped as Ugbrooke Formation sandstone of the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016). The natural substrate recorded in the evaluation trenches generally comprised orange clay with shillet outcrops, although in the south-western corner of the site (T6 and T7) it comprised red-brown clay with frequent sandstone inclusions.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following section is based on advice given by DCCHET, supplemented by a search of the Devon and Dartmoor Historic Environment Record (HER). Codes given in parentheses are HER references.
- 2.2 The evaluation site lies within an area of archaeological potential. There are two possible prehistoric funerary monuments c. 0.25km to the west of the site and others some 0.4km to the north-west, several of which are Scheduled Monuments (MDV8583, MDV8585, MDV8586 MDV8587).
- 2.3 The earthwork traces of possible prehistoric field systems have been identified to the west of Dornafeld Lane, c. 0.7km to the north-west of the evaluation site (MDV8642), and at Stallage Common, c. 0.7km to the west of the evaluation site (MDV8616).
- 2.4 A concentration of prehistoric and Roman settlement activity has been identified in fields to the east of Ipplepen, less than 0.8km to the south-east of the evaluation site (MDV81301; Exeter University 2016).
- 2.5 The cropmarks of at least two possible rectilinear enclosures and a trackway have been recorded near Rowden Barn, c. 0.47km to the south-east of the evaluation site (MDV21381).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the trial trench evaluation were to provide more information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and significance. This data will inform discussions between Pegasus Group, Ipplepen Property Holdings Ltd and DCCHET on the need for/scope of any further archaeological works to be undertaken under the planning condition (see 1.2, above).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. T1 and T3 were 50m in length; T2 and T4 were 20m in length; the remainder were 15m in length. All trenches were 1.8m in width. T1 was moved from the location proposed in the WSI (CA 2016) in order to avoid an aviary; this was done with the approval of DCCHET.
- 4.2 The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of those areas of the site not currently occupied by buildings, car parking areas or roads. The area of the site to be covered by solar panels in the proposed scheme was also excluded from the evaluation, as it was not practicable to evaluate this area.
- 4.3 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*; no deposits were identified that required sampling. Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.
- 4.5 A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. The final draft of this report will be uploaded to OASIS along with the summary.
- 4.6 In compliance with the WSI (CA 2016), a project archive will not be prepared as the evaluation identified no significant archaeological features. The results of the fieldwork will be held by DCCHET in the form of this report and the OASIS entry. The archaeological condition (see 1.2, above) will be fully discharged upon receipt of the final draft of this report by DCCHET and completion of the OASIS entry.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. A detailed summary of the recorded contexts is to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural substrate was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.3m–0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural generally comprised orange clay with shillet outcrops, although in the south-western corner of the site (T6 and T7) it comprised red-brown clay with frequent sandstone inclusions.
- 5.3 The natural substrate was generally sealed by the modern topsoil, although a 0.15m-thick clayey silt subsoil layer overlay the natural substrate in the western parts of T1 and T2.

Trench 3

- 5.4 T3 was the only trench which contained an archaeological feature. Natural substrate 301 was encountered 0.3m bpgl. It was cut towards the centre of the trench by east/west aligned ditch 302 (Fig. 3, Sec. AA). This ditch measured 0.34m in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single undated silty clay fill, 303, which was sealed by modern topsoil 300.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation recorded a single undated shallow ditch in T3. This ditch does not appear on the Ipplepen Tithe Map (c. 1839) or historic Ordnance Survey mapping but is broadly aligned with the extant field system.
- 6.2 There was no evidence for significant past activity at the site, indicating that the prehistoric and Roman activity recorded in the wider area (see Section 2, above) did not extend as far as the evaluation site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by Christina Tapply, George Gandham and Parris Stubbings. This report was written by Jonathan Orellana. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has

been compiled and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 26 May 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Exeter University 2016 *Fieldwork at Ipplepen* <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/archaeology/fieldwork/ipplepen/>

Cartographic sources

c. 1839 Ipplepen Tithe Map

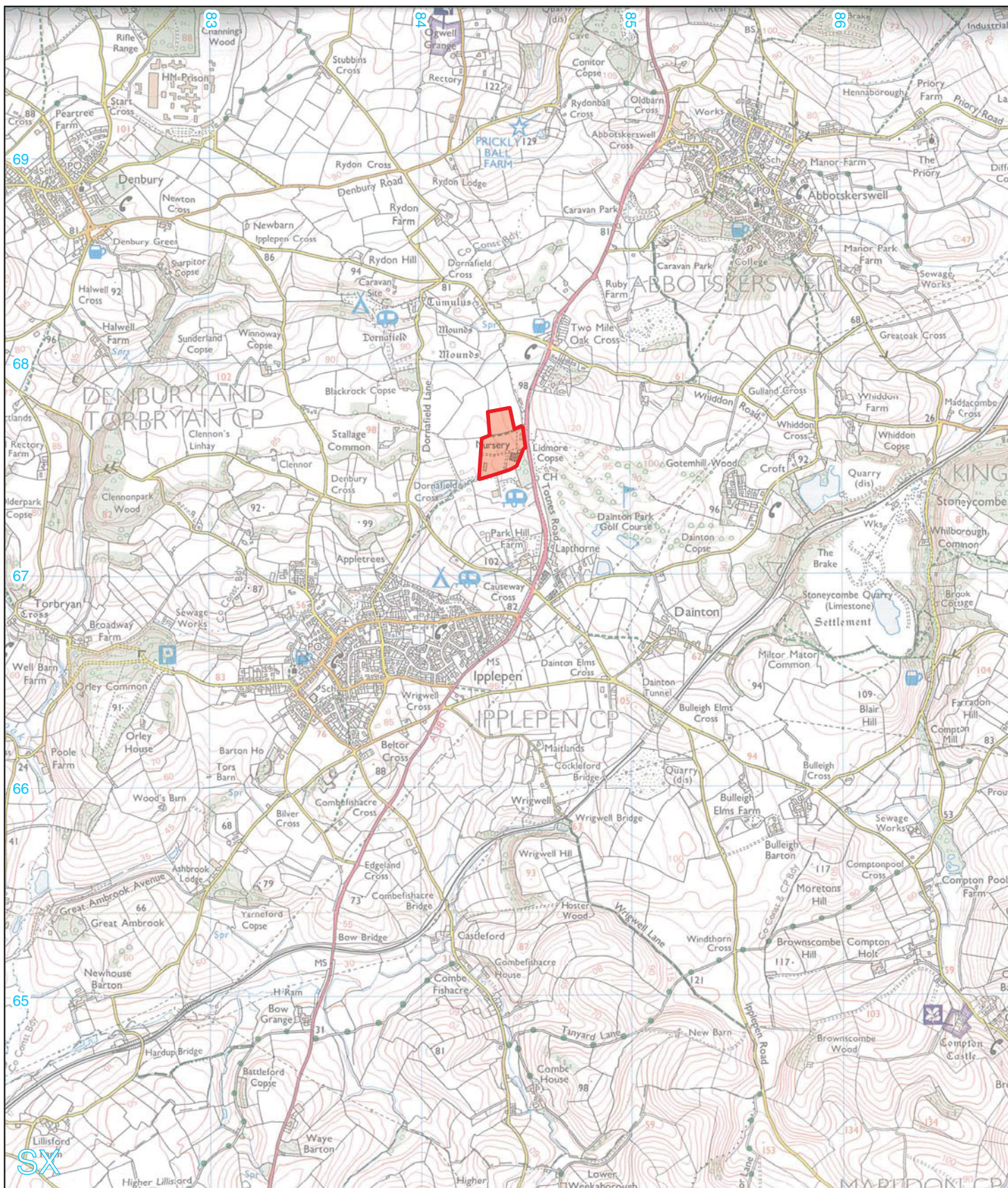


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark brown clay silt			0.35
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clay silt			0.15
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey clay with outcrops of shillet			
2	200	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.3
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy clay			0.15
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey clay with occasional outcrops of shillet			
3	300	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.3
3	301	Layer		natural substrate	mid orangey clay with occasional outcrops of shillet			
3	302	Cut		ditch	E/W aligned, moderate sloping sides and concave base	>1.8	0.34	0.2
3	303	Fill	302	single fill of ditch	mid grey silty clay		0.34	0.2
4	400	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.3
4	401	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey clay with occasional outcrops of stone and shillet			
5	500	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.35
5	501	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey clay with occasional outcrops of stone and shillet			
6	600	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.35
6	600	Layer		natural substrate	mid reddish brown clay with frequent sandstone			
7	700	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clay silt			0.4
7	701	Layer		natural substrate	mid reddish brown clay with frequent sandstone			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon. A total of seven trenches was excavated. The evaluation recorded a single undated shallow ditch.	
Project dates	13 June 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 4.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	SX 8443 6759	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2016 <i>Fermoys Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16327		



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PROJECT TITLE

Fermoy's Garden Centre, Ipplepen, Devon

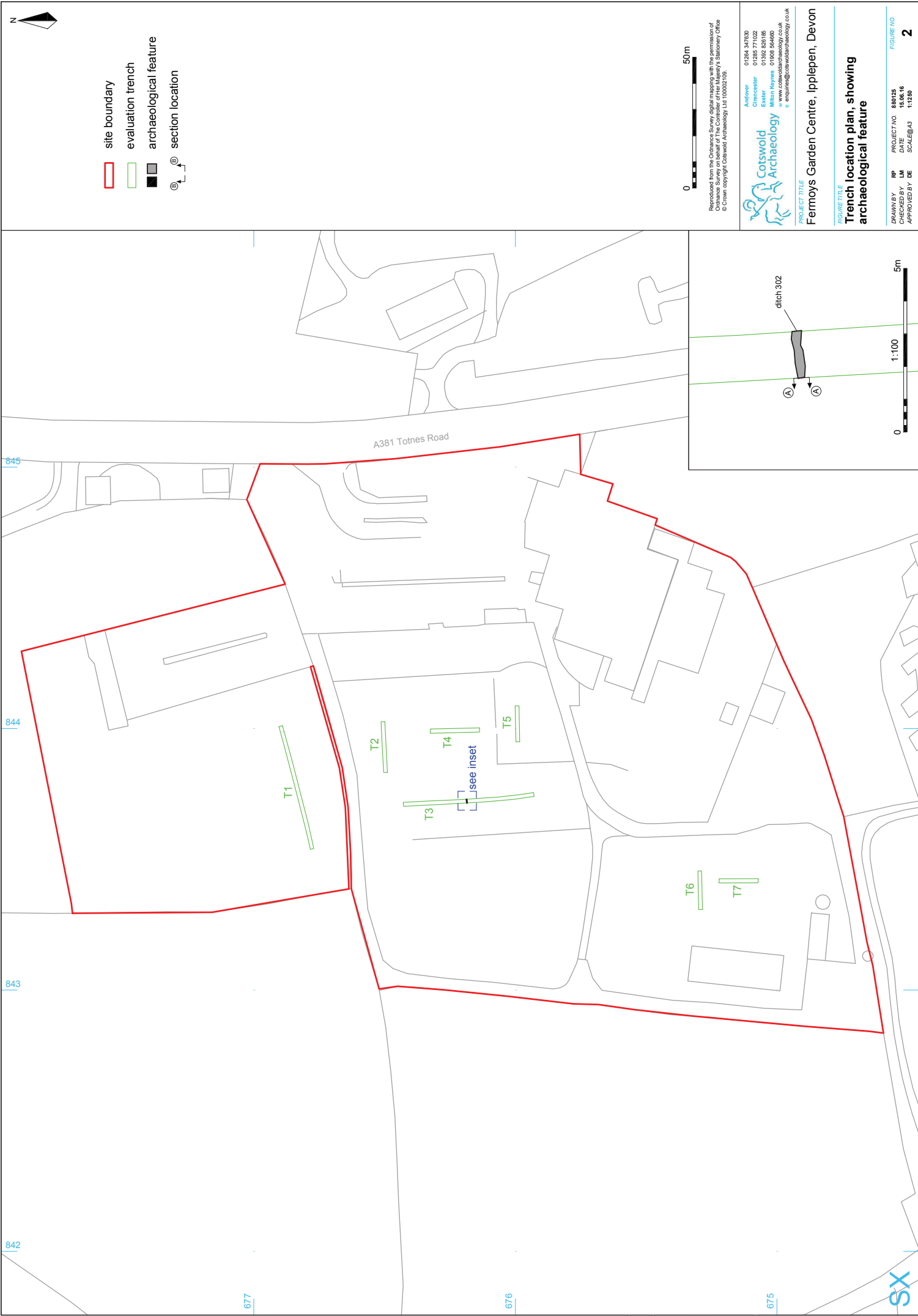
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

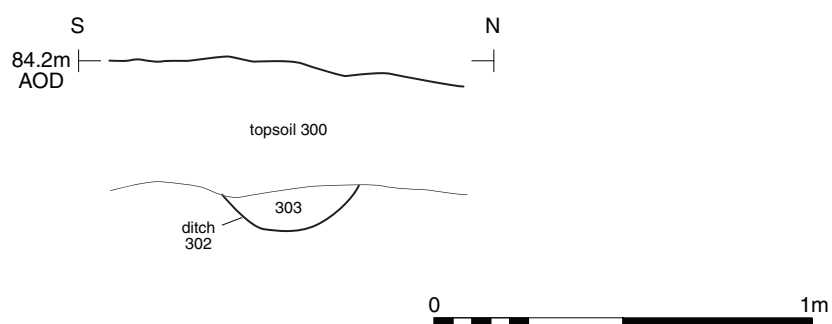
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FIGURE NO.

1



Section AA



Ditch 302, looking west (0.4m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3

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