Cotswold Archaeology

Pitworthy
Pancrasweek
Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Pegasus Group

on behalf of

SunEdison

CA Project: 4472
CA Report: 13516

September 2013

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Pitworthy
Location:	Pancrasweek, Devon
NGR:	SS 228582 104930
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	5-9 August 2013
Planning Reference:	1/0833/2012/FULM
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon
Accession Number:	NDDMS2013.31
Site Code:	PTW 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2013 at Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon. Nine trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features, comprising ditches and a single pit or posthole, within the targeted areas of the site. These features generally correlated well with the results of a preceding geophysical survey. The majority of features identified during the evaluation remained undated, however a number have been tentatively assigned to one of two broad periods; prehistoric/Roman or post-medieval/modern, by examination of feature form or by reference to cartographic sources.

A number of substantial ditches, identified in the northern part of site, appear to confirm the presence of a postulated prehistoric/Roman field system previously identified by the geophysical survey. A single worked flint flake recovered from the upper fill of one of these ditches suggests a possible prehistoric date for these features; however, the possibility that this find is residual should not be overlooked. Further ditches identified in Trenches 2-9, may represent additional elements of this field system although they differ substantially in both depth and profile across the site.

Two curving ditches identified in the northern part of site may be prehistoric in date and could represent the remains of ring-ditches or circular drip-gullies associated with possible funerary or settlement activity. However, the limited exposure of these features within the

excavated trenches, along with a lack of dating evidence and associated features makes the exact date and function of these ditches unclear at present.

An undated pit/posthole, identified in Trench 3, contained a quantity of charcoal and may have been used for the disposal discarded hearth waste material. However, due to its isolated nature the exact function of this feature remains unclear.

A ditch corresponding to a former field boundary depicted on the 1888 first edition OS map was identified in Trench 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Pegasus Group on behalf of SunEdison at Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon (centred on NGR: SS 228582 104930; Fig. 1). Planning permission has been granted by Torridge District Council for the installation of a solar farm on the site (ref: 1/0833/2012/FULM), conditional (18) on a programme of works, commencing with archaeological evaluation. Previous works on the site include a desk-based assessment (CA 2012) and a subsequent geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for a staged programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET 2013) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Ann Dick, Archaeological Officer, DCCHET. The evaluation also followed the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development site is located approximately 5.5km to the west of Holsworthy, and east of Stratton, close to the Cornwall/ Devon border, within the Torridge District of Devon. It is set within a rural, agricultural landscape of irregularly-shaped open fields of varied sizes, with hedge-bank field boundaries, scattered farms and agricultural buildings, small wooded areas, minor water courses and lanes. The surrounding landscape is characterised by low hills and undulating ground, with the proposed site lying on south and west-facing slopes at approximately 105-125m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The proposed development site is approximately 44.5ha in size and is located to the south of the A3072. The site currently comprises fourteen fields, some of which lie only partially within the site boundary. The fields are demarcated by hedge-banks, and are currently in use as either pasture or meadow, with small areas of woodland. Pitworthy Farm, cottages, and a wooded area, are surrounded by the proposed development site, but do not fall within the site boundary.

1.4 The solid geology of the proposed development site comprises mainly Carboniferous bedrock of the Bude Formation, with sedimentary sandstones interspersed with mudstone and siltstones (BGS 2013). Superficial deposits, recorded within the western part of the site, comprise sands and gravels of the Quaternary Tamar River Terrace Deposits. The westernmost part of the site contains alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel associated with the River Tamar.

1.5 The proposed development site lies on mainly sloping ground at about 105-125m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), on the south and west slopes of a hill, though incorporates flat areas on the Tamar river terrace. The land continues to rise to the east, where it peaks at 130m. To the east lie a series of hills, peaking at between *c.*140- 150m AOD, while to the west the hills are slightly lower, reflecting a gradual loss in altitude in the direction of the sea, 8km to the west. These high points, as well as the site, overlook lower lying valley areas. The River Tamar lies within 40m of the western site boundary, and a tributary, named Small Brook runs within 70m of the southern site boundary. The western part of the site lies on the Tamar river terrace.

Archaeological background

1.6 During the Bronze Age upland areas of Devon were favoured for the construction of funerary monuments, represented in large numbers on Exmoor and Dartmoor by round and bowl barrows (Whybrow 2010: 26). There are six tumuli in the wider vicinity of the site, two located 1.8km to the north-east, one 1km to the south-east and three 1.8km to the west. All are located on areas of high ground, just below hill tops. Evidence of settlement in this period, as with earlier periods, is scarce.

1.7 The Dumnonii Tribe occupied Devon, Cornwall and west Somerset during the Iron Age. Iron Age sites from across Devon comprise mainly upland hillforts, and lowland enclosed and unenclosed settlements identified primarily through aerial photography. An Iron Age hillfort is located c.5.5km to the south-west of the proposed development site. The site is located on sloping land, incorporating a river terrace, at the confluence of a smaller tributary with the River Tamar, and is therefore in a favourable position for prehistoric activity, particularly of Bronze and Iron Age date. However, no cropmarks or earthworks, indicative of such activity, are recorded within the site, and as such the potential for such remains to occur is considered to be low.

1.8 Approximately 300m to the north of the site, the modern A3072 has been identified as a possible Roman Road, leading between Oakhampton and Bude.

1.9 The shire of Devon is thought to have come into existence around the 8th/9th centuries AD, as a sub-division of the Iron Age Dumnonian Kingdom (Higham 2008: 2). No evidence from the early medieval period is recorded within the site or its immediate environs.

1.10 Following the Norman Conquest the manor of Pancrasweek, located 1km to the north-east of the site, belonged to William Brewer (Lysons & Lysons 1822). The Domesday Book of 1086 indicates that the parish included three settlements at this time, at Dunsdon, Hamsworthy and Virworthy. The church at Pancrasweek (1km to the north-east of the site) is thought to have Norman origins, indicating medieval settlement in this area.

1.11 The 1842 Tithe Map of Pancrasweek Parish shows that the fields north of the site, and those within the north-eastern part of the site, exhibit characteristics of medieval strip fields. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for the area indicates that these fields are modern enclosures based on medieval fields, with sinuous medieval boundaries surviving in places, concordant with their probable origins as strip fields. Thus the site is likely to have been within the open field system of Pancrasweek. The archaeological assessment which preceded the Holsworthy to Hesham pipeline recorded the presence of a medieval settlement at Grimscott, c.2.5km to the northwest of the site (Turton & Weddel 1990). Youlden Farm, c.630m to the north-east of the site, also dates to the medieval period, and is recorded in documents from 1333 (Turton & Weddel 1990: 2-3). It is thought that the name 'Youlden' means 'old land'

1.12 Areas of post-medieval ridge and furrow were observed across the site, during a site visit and on aerial photographs dating to 1946 and 1967. Their linear nature and narrow spacing indicates a post-medieval origin. The ridge and furrow remained extant as slight earthworks particularly in the western part of the site.

1.13 Recent archaeological investigations associated with the site, include a desk-based assessment (CA 2012) and a subsequent geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013). The geophysical survey was undertaken over a 19ha area of land at the site and identified a number of anomalies of probable archaeological origin within the

northern area of the site which might be related to prehistoric/Romano-British boundary ditches. Anomalies of a possible archaeological origin were also evident in western and eastern areas of the site. These features might be associated with pits and ditches or be of a non-archaeological origin caused by localised changes in pedology or geology. Other 'features' identified in the survey data included areas of magnetic variation likely to be of a geological origin and linear anomalies related to land drains.

Archaeological objectives

1.14 The principal objective of the programme was to evaluate the survival of any below-ground archaeological deposits across the agreed targeted areas of the proposed development site. The results will allow the nature, extent, and date of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area to be understood and to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Torridge District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). These investigations therefore represent the first stage of a programme of archaeological mitigation. The information gained will enable the requirement for any further investigations to be determined and - if required - the scope of any subsequent programme of archaeological work undertaken in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

Methodology

1.15 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches each measuring 30m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).

1.16 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant

archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.17 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and were sampled and processed where appropriate. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

1.18 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under accession number NDDMS2013.31, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

2.2 All identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trench 1.

2.3 In Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 a number of field drains were noted. These field drains contained distinctive mixed fills, often including large pieces of redeposited natural yellow and grey clay, and where tested, ceramic drain pipes were normally encountered at depths of 0.6m or more below the level of the natural substrate.

2.4 In Trenches 7 and 9 a number of irregular pit-like features were identified. However, subsequent excavation revealed that these features had highly diffuse edges and contained sterile clay fills, similar in nature to the underlying geological substrate. Therefore, they were interpreted as localised changes in geology.

General Stratigraphy

2.5 In Trenches 1-6 the natural substrate, comprising light yellow grey clay with frequent bands of horizontally bedded sandstone, was recorded at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl). In these trenches the natural substrate was overlain by clay silt subsoil, ranging between 0.14m and 0.29m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil, ranging between 0.13m and 0.35m in thickness.

2.6 In Trenches 7 and 9 the natural substrate, comprising light yellow grey clay with occasional patches of blue grey silt clay, was recorded at a depth of between 0.31m and 0.64m bpgl. In these trenches the natural substrate was overlain by two sterile deposits ranging between 0.08m and 0.29m in thickness, that probably represent episodes of colluviation or alluviation. These deposits were overlain by clay silt subsoil, ranging between 0.17m and 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil, ranging between 0.05m and 0.15m in thickness.

2.7 In Trench 8 the natural substrate, comprising light yellow grey clay with occasional patches of blue grey silt clay, was recorded at a depth of 0.6m bpgl, this was overlain by a sterile silt clay deposit, probably representing an episode of colluviation or alluviation, and measuring 0.05m in thickness. This deposit was overlain by clay silt subsoil, measuring 0.23m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by a dump of modern concrete and red brick measuring 0.25m in thickness across the centre of the trench. This was in turn sealed by topsoil measuring 0.05m in thickness.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

2.8 The natural substrate, 202, was identified at a depth of 0.4m bpgl in Trench 2. It was cut by three undated ditches 203, 205 and 207, all of which broadly correspond to linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

2.9 Ditch 203 was identified at the south-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned east-west and was 0.5m wide and 0.24m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a generally concave base. It contained a single stony clay silt fill, 204.

2.10 Ditch 205 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench. It was aligned north-east/south-west and was 2.14m wide and 0.39m deep. It had an open 'U'-shaped profile with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single sterile clay silt fill, 206, which appeared to have derived from silting.

2.11 Ditch 207 was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It was aligned north-east/south-west and was 1.07m wide and 0.24m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single stony clay fill, 208.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

2.12 The natural substrate, 302, was identified at a depth of 0.46m bpgl in Trench 3. It was cut by two undated ditches, 305 and 307 and undated small pit/posthole 303. Ditches 305 and 307 and pit/posthole 303 broadly correspond to anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. A further anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and located towards the south-eastern corner of the trench was not identified. However, its location corresponds closely with an observed change in the geological substrate from clay to horizontally bedded sandstone.

2.13 Ditch 305 was identified in the north-western half of the trench. It was aligned north-south and was 1.41m wide and 0.29m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained single, sterile clay silt fill 306 which appeared to have derived from silting.

2.14 Ditch 307 was located towards the centre of the trench. It was aligned north-south and was 1.9m wide and 0.5m deep. It had moderate to steep sloping sides and an irregular, though generally concave base. It contained three undated fills, 308, 309 and 310, all of which appeared to have derived from silting.

2.15 Small, sub-circular pit/posthole 303 was identified in the south-eastern half of the trench. It measured 0.27m diameter and had a depth of 0.15m, had steep sides and a flat base. It had a single silt clay fill, 304, which contained occasional charcoal flecks. An environmental sample from this material, <2>, contained a moderate amount of well-preserved charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus*) and alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*).

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

2.16 The natural substrate, 402, was identified at a depth of 0.41m bpgl in Trench 4. It was cut by four undated ditches 403, 405, 407 and 409. Two of which, 405 and 409, correspond to linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

2.17 Slightly curving ditch 403 was located towards the north-western end of the trench. It measured 1.05m in width and was 0.24m deep. It had an open 'U'-shaped profile, moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single stony clay fill, 404,

which contained occasional charcoal flecks. An environmental sample from this material, <1>, contained a small amount of moderately well-preserved charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus*), cherry sp (*Prunus*) and alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*).

2.18 Ditch 407 was partially exposed in the north-western half of the trench. It was aligned north-south and was 0.7m wide. It was not excavated within the trench due its limited exposure. Ditch 407 appeared to be cut by ditch 405 in plan; however this relationship was not tested due to the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013).

2.19 Ditch 405 was aligned east-west and was 0.98m wide and 0.31m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single silt clay fill, 406, which contained occasional sandstone fragments.

2.20 Ditch 409 was identified in the south-eastern half of the trench. It was aligned north-south and was 0.51m wide and 0.21m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single silt clay fill, 410, which contained occasional sandstone fragments.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

2.21 The natural substrate, 502, was identified at a depth of 0.34m bpgl in Trench 5. It was cut by curving ditch/gully 507 and by ditch 505. Ditch 505 corresponds with a linear anomaly depicted by the geophysical survey. Two further anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were investigated and found to be land drains.

2.22 Curving ditch/gully 507, possibly representing a ring ditch or roundhouse drip gully, was identified towards the centre of the trench. It measured 0.45m in width, was up to 0.16m in depth, and had steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a single stony clay silt fill, 506. This feature was not identified by the geophysical survey. Cleaning of the trench revealed that ditch/gully 507 was cut by ditch 505 at its eastern extent.

2.23 Ditch 505 was aligned north-south and was 1.56m wide and 0.63m seep. It had steeply sloping stepped sides and a flat base. It contained two stony clay silt fills, 504 and 503. A single worked flint flake was recovered from the latest of these fills, 503.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3 & 7)

2.24 The natural substrate, 602, was identified at a depth of 0.46m bpgl in Trench 3. It was cut by two undated ditches, 603 and 607. Ditch 607 corresponds with a linear anomaly depicted by the geophysical survey.

2.25 Ditch 603 was partially exposed at the north-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned east-west, had moderately sloping sides and was >0.95m wide and 0.44m deep. It contained a basal fill, 604 that was similar to the natural substrate, which appeared to derive from initial weathering of the ditch edges, a stony-clay secondary fill 605 and a tertiary silt clay fill 606.

2.26 Ditch 607 was located towards the centre of the trench. It was aligned north-west/south-east, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.73m in width and was 0.26m deep. It contained two stony clay silt fills, 608 and 609, both of which appeared to have derived from silting.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 4 & 7)

2.27 Natural substrate 704 was identified at a depth of 0.3m bpgl in Trench 7. It was cut by undated east-west aligned ditch 705 which broadly corresponds to an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It measured 0.84m in width and 0.32m in depth, had a 'U'-shaped profile, moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill, 706, that was similar in nature to the natural substrate and appeared to derive from initial weathering of the ditch edges, a silt clay secondary fill 707 and a tertiary silt clay fill 708.

Trench 8 (Figs 2, 4 & 8)

2.28 Natural substrate 804 was identified at a depth of 0.53m bpgl in Trench 8. It was cut by undated north-west/south-east aligned ditch 805 which was not identified by the geophysical survey. A number of further anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were not identified within the trench. However, these may relate to an episode of modern dumping identified during machine excavation of the trench.

2.29 Ditch 805 measured >1.2m in width and 0.84m in depth, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill 806 that was similar in nature to the natural substrate and appeared to derive from initial weathering of the ditch edges, a silt clay secondary fill 807 and a tertiary silt clay fill 808.

Trench 9 (Figs 2, 4 & 8)

2.30 The natural substrate, 910, was identified at a depth of 0.64m bpgl in Trench 9. It was cut by two undated ditches 904 and 908, both of which correspond to a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

2.30 Ditch terminal 908 was partially exposed in the north-western half of the trench. It was aligned south-east/north-west and contained a single clay silt fill, 909, which appeared to be derived from natural silting. Ditch terminal 908 appeared to be cut in plan by ditch 904.

2.31 Ditch 904 was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 0.8m in width and 0.26m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and contained three clay silt fills 905, 906 and 907, all of which appeared to have derived from silting.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

The Finds

2.32 A single worked flint flake was recovered from deposit 503 (the upper fill of ditch 505). It was a decortication flake on flint from a secondary source (e.g. river gravel), as evidenced by the smooth, abraded cortex. It cannot be dated more precisely than to the prehistoric period.

Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

2.33 Two environmental samples (36 litres of soil) were retrieved from two deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

2.34 Samples were taken from ditch 403 (SS 1) and pit/posthole 303 (SS 2) of undated period. No carbonised plant macrofossils were recovered from either feature. Ditch 403 contained a small amount of moderately-well preserved charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus*), cherry sp (*Prunus*) and alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*). Pit/posthole 303 contained a moderate amount of well-preserved charcoal identified as oak and alder/hazel. The relatively small quantity of this material suggests that the charcoal from ditch 403 is residual, derived from scattered or wind-blown hearth waste material and in the case of pit/posthole 303, may be residual or

may represent discarded hearth waste material. The paucity of finds or other ecofacts means it is not possible to deduce whether activity on the site was domestic or industrial.

2.35 The charcoal (excluding oak) from either feature would be suitable for radiocarbon dating if required.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The evaluation has identified numerous archaeological features throughout the targeted areas of the proposed development area. Where linear archaeological features were encountered there was a good correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey. However, the targeting of some geophysical anomalies in Trenches 1 and 3 revealed no archaeological features, although observed abrupt changes in the natural substrate noted in these trenches may explain some of the ditch-like anomalies.

3.2 The majority of features identified during the evaluation remained undated despite sample excavation, however a number of identified features may be tentatively assigned to one of two broad periods; prehistoric/Roman or post-medieval/modern, by examination of feature form or by reference to cartographic sources.

3.3 Shallow curving ditches 403 and 507, located in Trenches 4 and 5 respectively, were not identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Although a circular form cannot be definitively attributed to these features at present due to the limited view afforded by evaluation trenching, it is conceivable that they represent ring-ditches or circular drip-gullies. No dateable material was recovered from these features; however their form suggests a prehistoric date. The lack of artefacts recovered from the excavated slots and the absence of any definitively associated postholes, pits, hearths etc. in close proximity to these curving ditches makes clear identification of settlement remains problematic, although removal of such features by later ploughing is conceivable. Although a funerary association for these features is possible, especially for curving ditch 403 due to its location on an area of high ground just below the top of a hill (see archaeological background above), no burnt or unburnt bone was discernible and no internal cremation pits or inhumation burials were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

3.4 Within Trenches 3, 5 and 6 substantial ditches 307, 505 and 607 (measuring between 1.01m and 1.9m in width and up to 0.63m in depth) confirm the presence of a postulated prehistoric/Roman field system previously identified by the geophysical survey (see archaeological background above). It is possible that ditch 603, identified in Trench 6, represents an eastward continuation of this field system due to its similarity in depth and profile to ditches 307, 505 and 607. This suggestion is further supported by the presence of a faint linear anomaly on the geophysical survey grey-scale which seemingly connects ditch 603 to the wider field system. A single worked flint flake was recovered from the upper fill of Ditch 505 suggesting a possible prehistoric date for these features. However, the possibility that this find is residual should not be overlooked. In Trench 5 ditch 505 clearly cut possible ring-ditch 507 in plan, suggesting that at least some parts of this field system post-date earlier prehistoric features.

3.5 A number of undated ditches were identified in Trenches 2-9 (ditches 207, 407, 409, 705, 805, 904 and 908). In general these features appeared to be relatively shallow in nature (typically <0.3m in depth) and largely corresponded to positive linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. It is possible that at least some of these ditches, particularly those located in the northern part of the evaluated area, relate to the possible prehistoric field system discussed above (see 3.4). However, due to the difference in depth and profile between these ditches and those known to be part of this field system this suggestion remains tentative at best.

3.6 Undated pit/posthole 303, identified in Trench 3, contained a quantity of charcoal and may have been used for the disposal discarded hearth waste material. However, due to its isolated nature the exact function of this feature remains unclear. The absence of further discrete features across the site suggests that they were either not exposed by the evaluation or that they do not survive possibly due to later truncation by the employment of modern agricultural methods.

3.7 Ditch 203, identified in Trench 2 corresponds to a former field boundary shown on the 1888 first edition OS map. This field boundary is no longer shown on the 1954-1956 edition of the OS map.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Andrew Loader, Sarah Foster and Dan Sausins. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Description	L(m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.29	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.2	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.15	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.25	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.1	
2	203	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>1.7	0.5	0.24	
2	204	Fill	203	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt with sandstone fragments, single fill of ditch 203	>1.7	0.5	0.24	
2	205	Cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>2	2.14	0.39	
2	206	Fill	205	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt with sandstone fragments, single fill of ditch 205	>2	2.14	0.39	
2	207	Cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned, moderate to steep sides, flat base	>2	1.07	0.24	
2	208	Fill	207	Fill	Mid-dark grey brown clay with sandstone fragments, single fill of ditch 207	>2	1.07	0.24	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.19	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.27	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.1	
3	303	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub-circular, steep sides, concave base	0.3	0.27	0.15	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks,	0.3	0.27	0.15	

					single fill of pit/posthole 303			
3	305	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, moderate sides, irregular base	>2	1.41	0.29
3	306	Fill	305	Fill	Mid yellow brown clay silt with sandstone fragments, single fill of ditch 305	>2	1.41	0.29
3	307	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, moderate to steep sides, concave base	>2	1.9	0.5
3	308	Fill	307	Fill	1st fill of ditch 307, light brown grey silt	>2	1.35	0.22
3	309	Fill	307	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 307, mid brown yellow clay silt, occasional sandstone fragments	>2	1.68	0.22
3	310	Fill	307	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 307, dark yellow brown silt clay, occasional sandstone fragments	>2	1.9	0.17
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.13
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.28
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.5
4	403	Cut		Ditch	Slightly curving, moderate sides, concave base	>2	1.05	0.24
4	404	Fill	403	Fill	Mid grey brown stony clay, occasional charcoal flecks, single fill of ditch 403	>2	1.05	0.24
4	405	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>2	0.98	0.31
4	406	Fill	405	Fill	Mid brown grey silt clay, occasional sandstone fragments, single fill of ditch 405	>2	0.98	0.31
4	407	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, unexcavated	>0.6	0.7	N/A
4	408	Fill	407	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay	>0.6	0.7	N/A
4	409	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>2	0.51	0.21
4	410	Fill	409	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with occasional sandstone fragments,	>2	0.51	0.21

					single fill of ditch 409			
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.2
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.14
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.2
5	503	Fill	505	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 505, dark grey brown clay silt, occasional sandstone fragments	>2	1.56	0.3
5	504	Fill	505	Fill	1st fill of ditch 505, light yellow grey clay silt, frequent sandstone fragments	>2	0.55	0.37
5	505	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, moderate sides, flat base	>2	1.56	0.63
5	506	Fill	507	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt, abundant sandstone fragments	>3	0.45	0.16
5	507	Cut		Ditch/gully	Curving ditch/gully, shallow sides, uneven base	>3	0.45	0.16
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.35
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.2
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional bands of horizontally bedded sandstone	>30	>2	>0.1
6	603	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>3	>0.95	0.44
6	604	Fill	603	Fill	1st fill of ditch 603, mid yellow grey silt clay	>3	0.13	0.11
6	605	Fill	603	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 605, mid dark grey silt clay with occasional sandstone fragments	>3	0.72	0.28
6	606	Fill	603	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 307, mid brown grey silt clay, occasional sandstone fragments	>3	>0.95	0.18
6	607	Cut		Ditch	NW-SE aligned, moderate sides, flat base	>2.2	1.01	0.26
6	608	Fill	607	Fill	1st fill of ditch 607, dark brown grey clay silt, moderate	>2.2	0.61	0.1

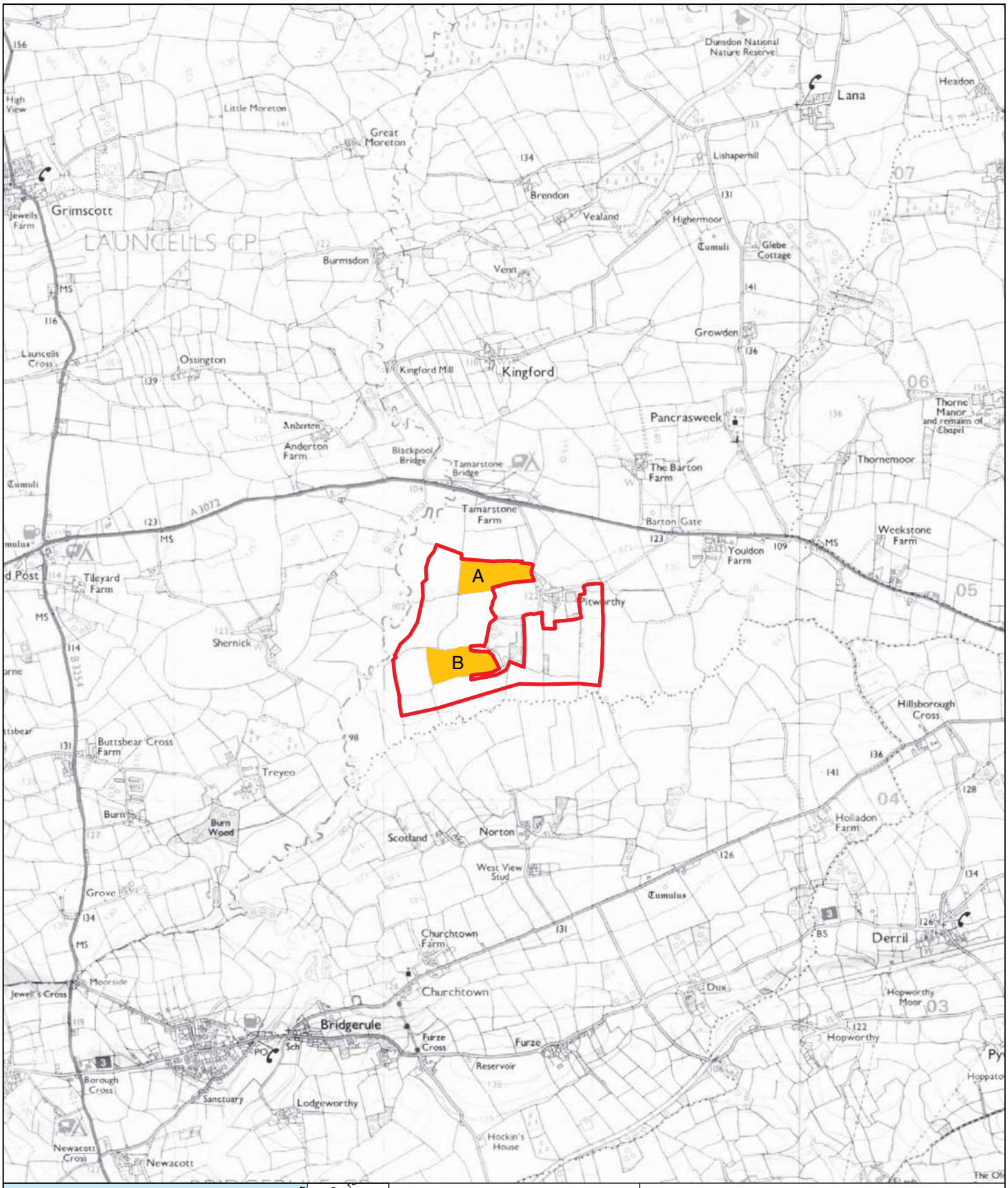
					sandstone fragments			
6	609	Fill	607	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 607, mid light grey brown clay silt, rare sandstone fragments	>2.2	1.01	0.15
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.05
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.17
7	702	Layer		Colluvium/alluvium	Sterile light yellow clay silt	>30	>2	0.03
7	703	Layer		Colluvium/alluvium	Sterile red grey clay silt, frequent manganese flecks	>30	>2	0.05
7	704	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional patches of blue grey silt clay	>30	>2	>0.1
7	705	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned, moderate to steep sides, concave base	>2	0.84	0.32
7	706	Fill	705	Fill	1st fill of ditch 705, mid grey yellow clay silt	>2	0.43	0.05
7	707	Fill	705	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 705, mid dark grey silt clay, rare sandstone fragments	>2	0.48	0.08
7	708	Fill	705	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 705, mid yellow grey silt clay, rare sandstone fragments	>2	0.84	0.21
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.05
8	801	Layer		Modern dump	Mixed concrete, red brick and sand located at the centre of trench	>2	9	0.25
8	802	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.23
8	803	Layer		Colluvium/alluvium	Sterile light yellow clay silt	>30	>2	0.05
8	804	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional patches of blue grey silt clay	>30	>2	>0.1
8	805	Cut		Ditch	NW-SE aligned, moderate to steep sides, concave base	>30	>1.2	0.84
8	806	Fill	805	Fill	1st fill of ditch 805, light yellow grey clay silt	>30	0.34	0.06
8	807	Fill	805	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 805, mid grey yellow clay	>30	>0.8	0.69

					silt			
8	808	Fill	805	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 805, mid grey brown silt clay, rare sandstone fragments	>30	>1.2	0.49
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-light grey brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.15
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>2	0.2
9	902	Layer		Colluvium/alluvium	Sterile light yellow clay silt	>30	>2	0.14
9	903	Layer		Colluvium/alluvium	Sterile red grey clay silt, frequent manganese flecks	>30	>2	0.15
9	904	Cut		Ditch	NNE-SSW aligned, moderate sides, concave base	>2	0.8	0.26
9	905	Fill	904	Fill	1st fill of ditch 904, mid yellow grey clay silt	>2	0.76	0.1
9	906	Fill	904	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 904, dark brown grey clay silt	>2	0.5	0.03
9	907	Fill	904	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 904, mid brown grey clay silt, rare sandstone fragments	>2	0.77	0.16
9	908	Cut		Ditch	SE-NW aligned, shallow sides, concave base	0.8	0.5	0.11
9	909	Fill	908	Fill	Mid brown grey clay silt, rare sandstone fragments	0.8	0.5	0.11
9	910	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with occasional patches of blue grey silt clay	>30	>2	>0.25

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2013 at Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon. Nine trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features, comprising ditches and a single pit or posthole, within the targeted areas of the site. These features generally correlated well with the results of a preceding geophysical survey. The majority of features identified during the evaluation remained undated, however a number of identified features have been tentatively assigned to one of two broad periods; prehistoric/Roman or post-medieval/modern, by examination of feature form or by reference to cartographic sources. A number of substantial ditches, identified in the northern part of site, appear to confirm the presence of a postulated prehistoric/Roman field system previously identified by the geophysical survey. A single worked flint flake recovered from the upper fill of one of these ditches suggests a possible prehistoric date for these features; however, the possibility that this find is residual should not be overlooked. Further ditches identified in Trenches 2-9, may represent additional elements of this field system although they differ substantially in both depth and profile across the site. Two curving ditches identified in the northern part of site may be prehistoric in date and could represent the remains of ring-ditches or circular drip-gullies associated with possible funerary or settlement activity. However, the limited exposure of these features within the excavated trenches, along with a lack of dating evidence and associated features makes the exact date and function of these ditches unclear at present. An undated pit/posthole, identified in Trench 3, contained a quantity of charcoal and may have been used for the disposal discarded hearth waste material. However, due to its isolated nature the exact function of this feature remains unclear. A ditch corresponding to a former field boundary depicted on the 1888 first edition OS map was identified in Trench 2.
Project dates	5-9 August 2013
Project type	Field evaluation
Previous work	DBA CA 2012 Geophysics Stratascan 2013
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon
Study area (M^2/ha)	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SS 228582 104930
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon
MONUMENT TYPE	None

SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon/ NDDMS2013.31	Flint
Paper	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon/ NDDMS2013.31	Context sheets, trench recording forms, section drawings, photographic registers, sample recording sheets
Digital	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon/ NDDMS2013.31	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **13516**		



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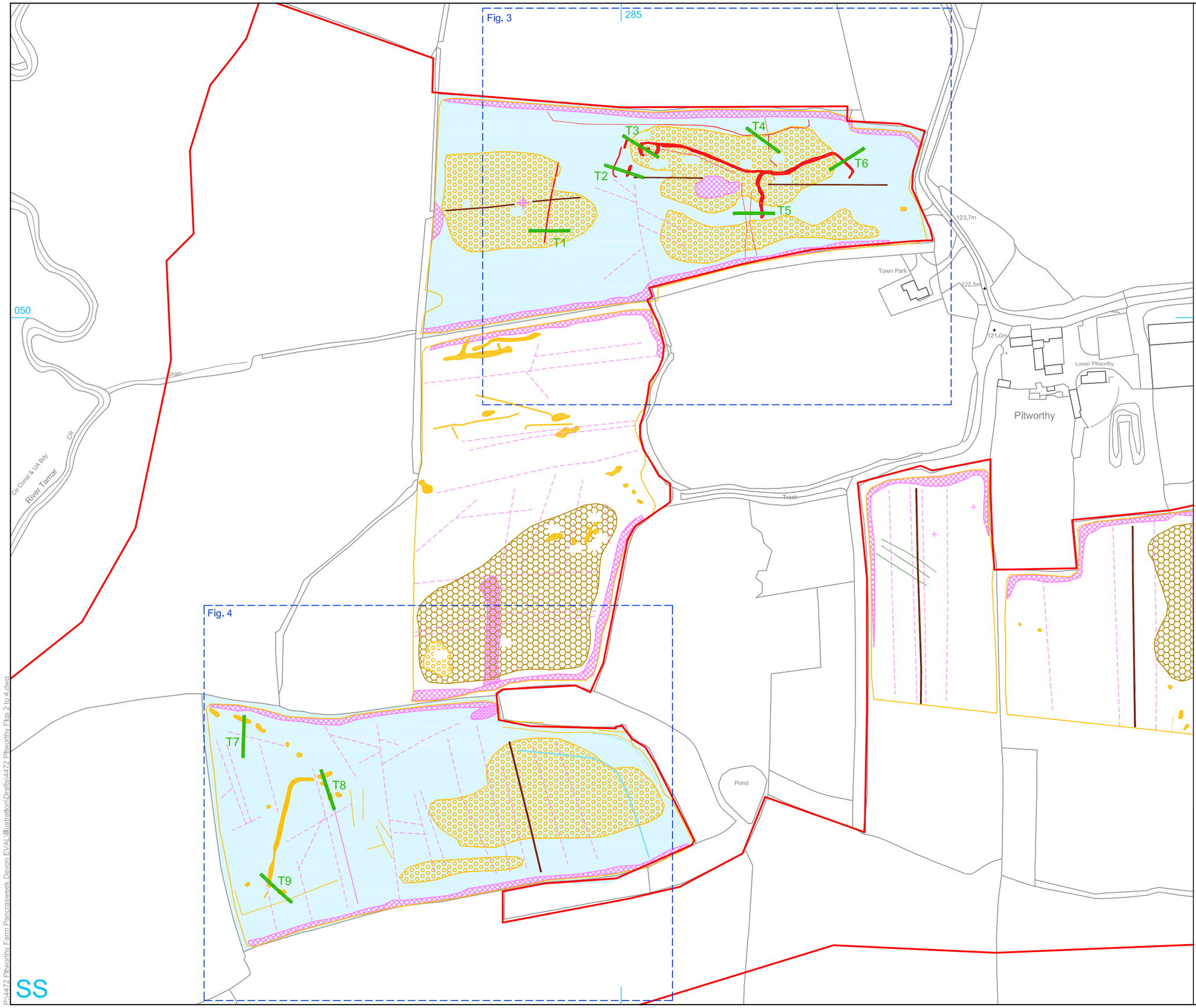
PROJECT TITLE

Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	**4472**	*DATE*	**02-09-2013**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**JB**	*REVISION*	**00**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**LG**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



N

site

evaluated area

evaluation trench

Geophysics key
(Stratascan 2013)

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Linear anomaly likely to be related to former field boundary

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - possibly related to ridge-and-furrow
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Area of pit like anomalies of a possible archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

0 100m

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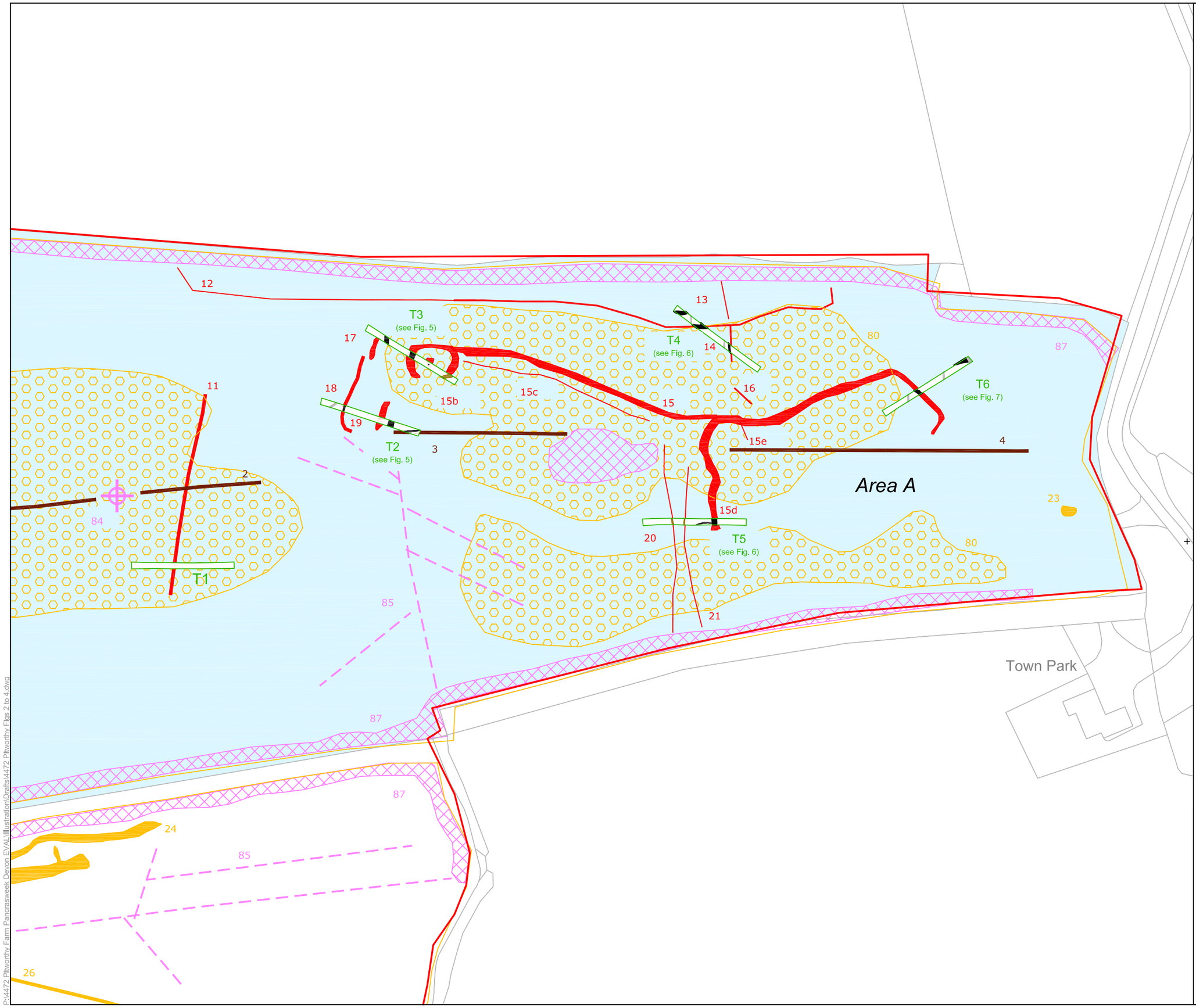
PROJECT TITLE
Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	4472	DATE	02-09-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:2500	

P:\4472 Pitworthy Farm Pancrasweek Devon EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\4472 Pitworthy Figs 2 to 4.dwg



N

site
evaluated area
evaluation trench
archaeological feature
modern
geological

Geophysics key
(Stratascan 2013)

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Linear anomaly likely to be related to former field boundary

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - possibly related to ridge-and-furrow
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Area of pit like anomalies of a possible archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

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- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
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- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE
Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Area A, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	4472	DATE	02-09-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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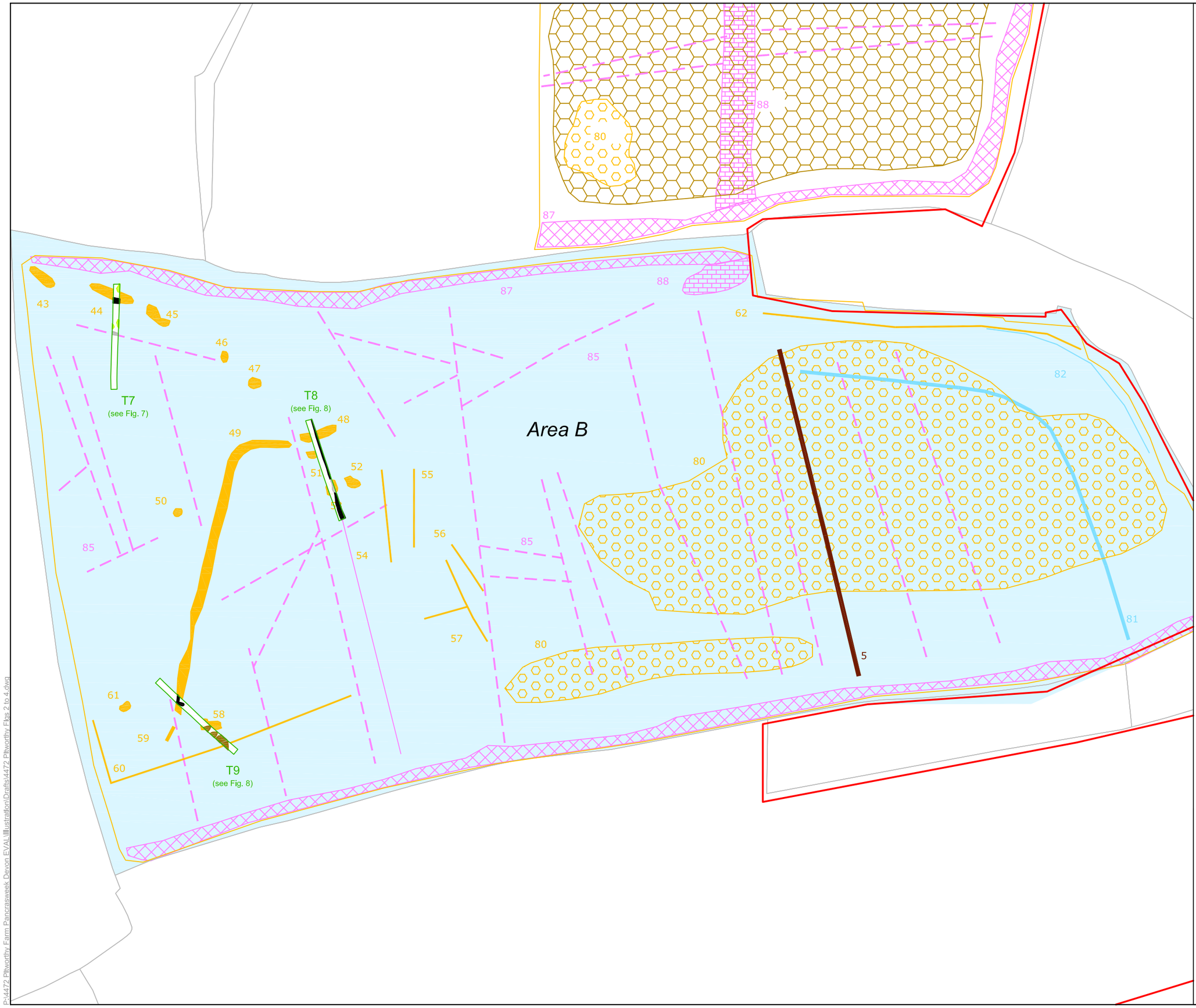

N

site
evaluated area
evaluation trench
archaeological feature
modern
geological
treethrow

Geophysics key
(Stratascan 2013)

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Linear anomaly likely to be related to former field boundary

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - possibly related to ridge-and-furrow
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Area of pit like anomalies of a possible archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES
- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE
Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Area B, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	4472	DATE	02-09-2013	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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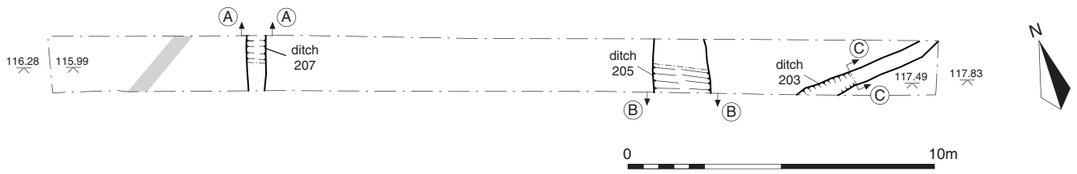
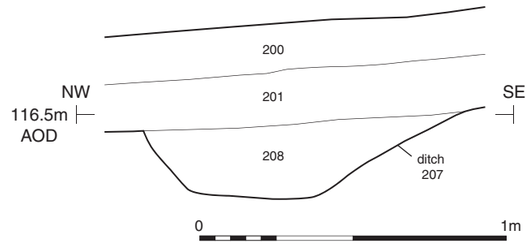
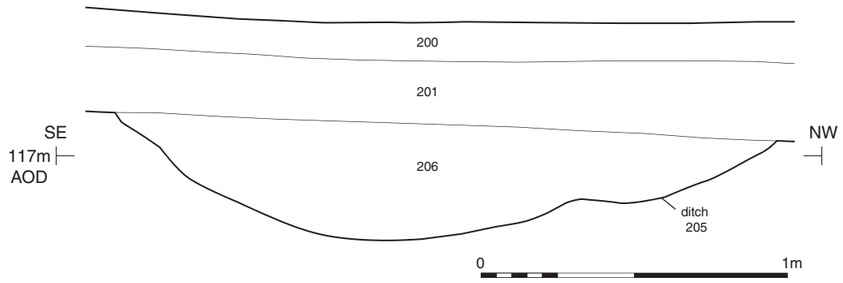
Trench 2, plan



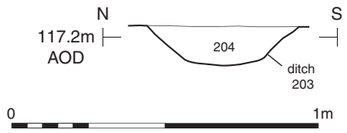
Trench 2, section AA



Trench 2, section BB

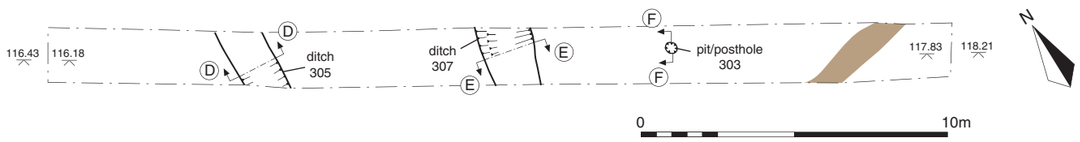


Trench 2, section CC

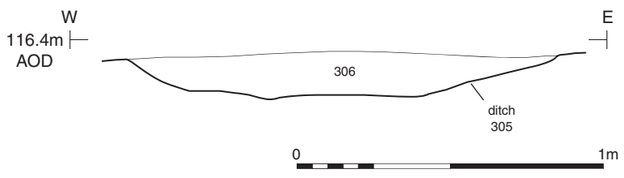


Ditch 207, looking north-east (scale 1m)

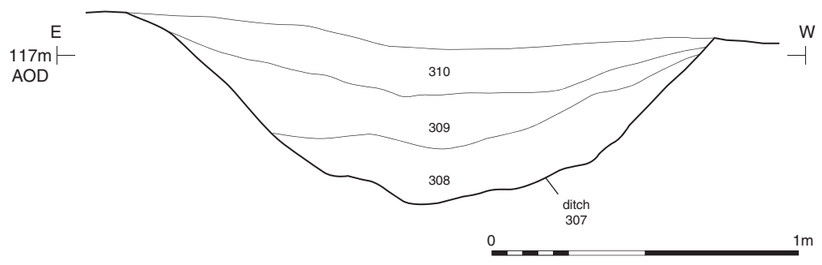
Trench 3, plan



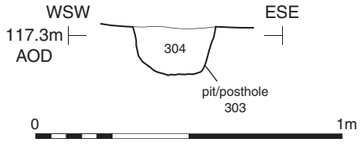
Trench 3, section DD



Trench 3, section EE



Trench 3, section FF



Pit/posthole 303, looking north-west (scale 0.3m)

modern

geological

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PROJECT TITLE

Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 2 & 3; plans, sections and photographs

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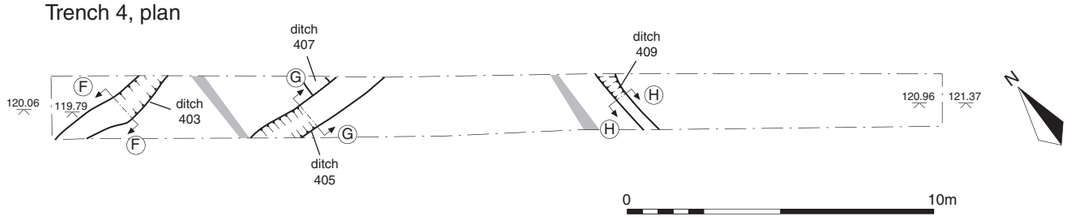
APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20	

Trench 4, plan



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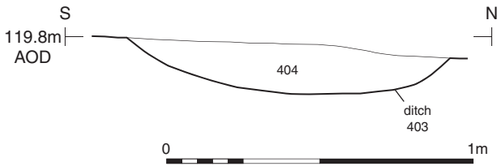

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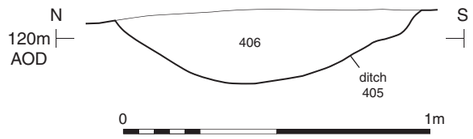
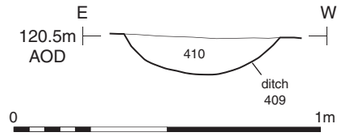
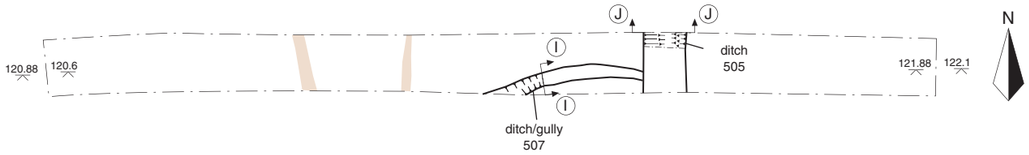


Trench 4, section HH



Trench 5, plan



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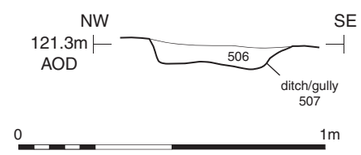
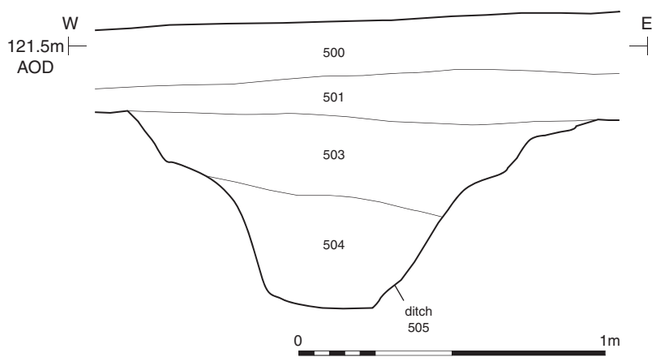


Trench 5, section JJ



Trench 5, showing ditch/gully 507 and ditch 505, looking east (scales 1m)

Trench 5,ditch 505, looking north (scale 1m)

modern

geological

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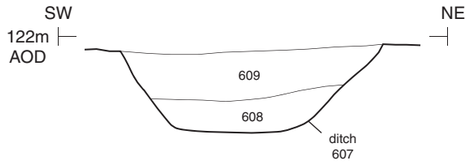
PROJECT TITLE
Pitworthy, Pancrasweek, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 4 & 5; plans, sections and photographs

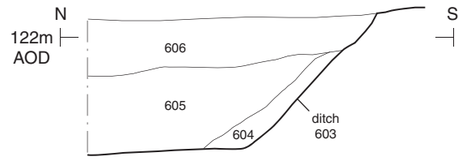
PROJECT NO.	4472	DATE	02-09-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	6
APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20	

Trench 6, plan

Trench 6, section KK

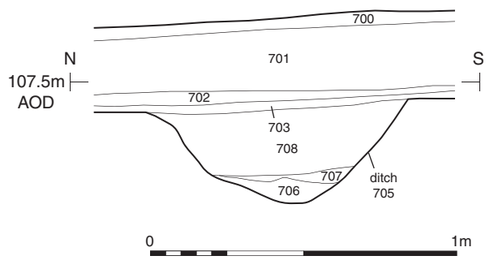


Trench 6, section LL



Trench 7, plan

Trench 7, section MM



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PROJECT TITLE

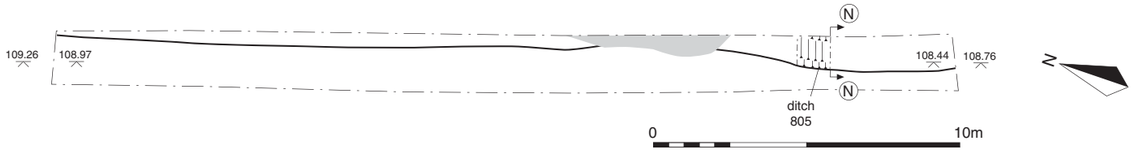
Pitworthy, Pancrasweek
Devon

FIGURE TITLE

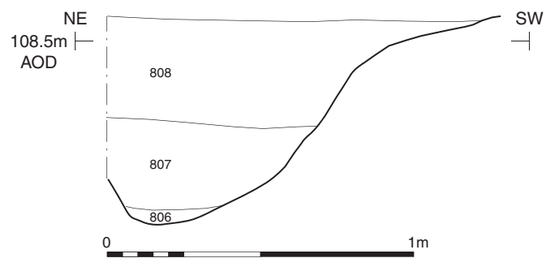
Trenches 6 & 7; plans & sections

PROJECT NO.	**4472**	*DATE*	**02-09-2013**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**JB**	*REVISION*	**00**	**7**
APPROVED BY	**LG**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200 & 1:20**	

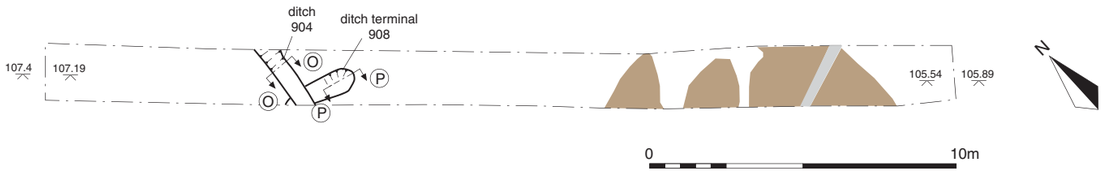
Trench 8, plan



Trench 8, section NN

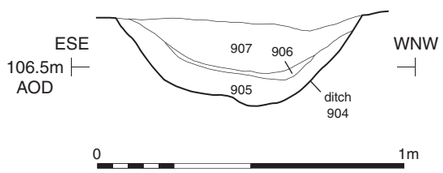


Trench 9, plan

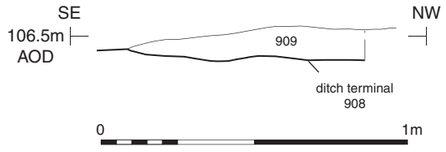


Trench 9, ditch terminus 908, looking south-west (scale 0.3m)

Trench 9, section OO



Trench 9, section PP



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 8 & 9; plans, sections and photograph

PROJECT NO.	**4472**	*DATE*	**02-09-2013**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**JB**	*REVISION*	**00**	**8**
APPROVED BY	**LG**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200 & 1:20**	