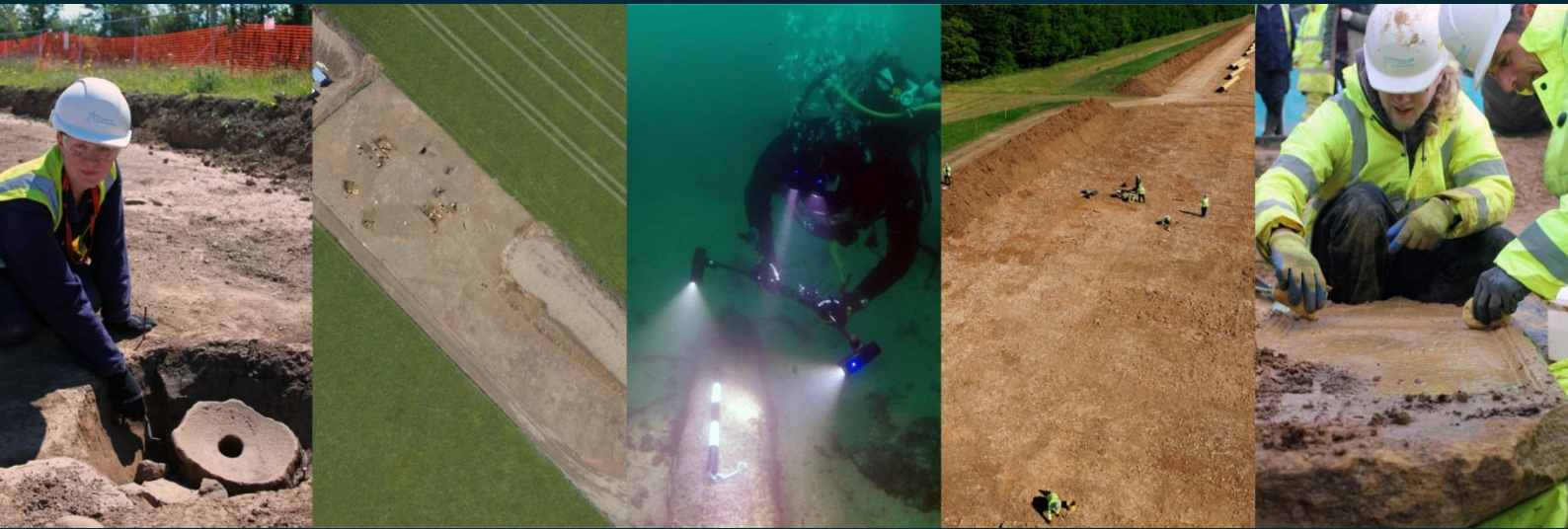


# Winham Farm Cullompton Devon

## *Archaeological Excavation*



for  
Hive Energy Ltd

CA Project: 880073  
CA Report: 16251

December 2017



Winham Farm  
Cullompton  
Devon

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Winham Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Cullompton, Devon
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 0164 0366
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	23 November 2015-19 January 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Royal Albert Memorial Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	RAMM 15/53
<b>Site Code:</b>	WSFW 15

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between November 2015 and January 2016 during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon.

The archaeological works identified a substantial number of archaeological features corresponding with anomalies detected by geophysical survey, and confirmed the results of the preceding evaluation.

Evidence for early prehistoric activity comprised a small amount of early Neolithic pottery from two ditches in the eastern part of the site. A possible ring ditch located towards the northern extent of the site had been previously investigated, and contained pottery of similar date.

Evidence for a Roman co-axial field system and a possible corn drying oven was recovered from the western part of the site, which was also consistent with the results of earlier investigation.

A number of possible post-medieval quarry pits and undated pits and posthole/pits were recorded in the south eastern corner of the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between November 2015 and January 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation for Hive Energy Ltd at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon (centred on NGR: ST 0164 0366; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The strip, map and record investigation was requested by Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), archaeological advisor to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), and was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Mr Reed. The fieldwork followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). Guidelines relevant to the two stage process as set out in the WSI (CA 2015) were applied. It was monitored by Mr Reed, including a site visit on 3 December 2015.

### ***The Site***

- 1.3 The site is located approximately 1.5km east of Bradninch and approximately 2.3km south of Cullompton. The site is 12.05ha in extent, and lies to the east of the River Culm at approximately 44m AOD to the west and south, gently rising to approximately 50m AOD towards the north-east, away from the river. The site is bounded by low hedges on its eastern, western and southern sides while its northern border is a low bank of nettles, beyond which is a path separating it from the northern field of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the site consists of a number of different formations: Clyst St Lawrence Formation siltstone and sandstone forms a central band across the site, a band of Cadbury Breccia Formation runs across the northern part of the study area while alternating bands of Cadbury Breccia Formation and Aylesbury Mudstone run across the southern part of the site (BGS 2014). The drift geology includes bands of alluvium and river terrace deposits owing to the close proximity of the river Culm which runs south-west/north-east immediately to the west of the M5. The natural substrate revealed on site comprised sand and coarse sandy gravel.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site and its immediate surroundings was carried in support of the application (CA 2013), which was followed by geophysical survey (PCG 2013) and trial trench evaluation (CA 2014). The DBA established an Area of Archaeological Sensitivity, shown on Fig. 1. The following is a brief summary of these works.

### ***Earlier prehistoric***

- 2.2 The earliest evidence for activity within the vicinity of the site is provided by two artefact scatters dating to the early prehistoric period, although a more precise date for either group is at present unknown. The first artefact scatter consisted of 14 pieces of flint, of which one was burnt, and three pieces of chert (approximately 1km west of the site). The second artefact scatter consisted of three pieces of flint, approximately 800m east of the site (CA 2013).

### ***Later Prehistoric (c.2500 BC to AD 43) and Roman (AD 43 to 410)***

- 2.3 Cropmark recorded in and around the southern part of the site, comprised relatively large enclosures (both are approximately 40m in width). One lies to either side of Winham Lane, a short distance to the east of the site, with a small portion of its northernmost extent within the site. The second enclosure is a 'D'-shaped enclosure, commonly associated with later prehistoric settlement enclosures. No internal features are visible on aerial photographs within either enclosure which may be due to lack of visibility rather than absence. Further, less clear, features include a possible ring-ditch within the site which may indicate the presence of ring-ditch of a barrow. Remaining cropmarks recorded in this area comprise both distinct and less-distinct linear features, which probably represent former field boundaries: those in the vicinity of the enclosures appear to go through them and are likely to be later features. At least two of the linear marks correspond with former field boundaries depicted on the 1838 tithe map (CA 2013).
- 2.5 A further crop mark was recorded within the central part of the site on the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER), interpreted as a ring ditch. It was not visible on aerial photographs examined as part of the DBA (CA 2013).

***Early medieval (AD 410 to 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 to 1539)***

- 2.6 The site lies approximately 1.5km to the east of the town of Bradninch, which is recorded in the Domesday Book as belonging to William Cheever prior to the Norman Conquest. Approximately 1km to the south-east of the site is the small hamlet of Langford, which was recorded by the Domesday Book as belonging to Brismer or Brismar before the Norman Conquest (Devon HER no. MDV16220). Despite the close proximity of two early medieval settlements, there is no evidence of activity from this period within the vicinity of the site (CA 2013).
- 2.7 Evidence for medieval activity is well attested within the vicinity of the site by a number of medieval cottages and farmhouses. The site of the medieval manor Whiteheathfield Barton is recorded in a 1566 survey of the estates of Lord Dynham, approximately 450m to the south-west of the site. Possibly associated with the medieval activity recorded within the vicinity of the site are two areas of field systems although they may instead date to (or have developed through) the post-medieval period. Field enclosures both within and around the site are fairly irregular, and probably represent a process of both informal and later formal enclosure from the medieval period onwards. It is likely that the site formed a part of the medieval hinterland of the nearby settlement foci during the medieval period (CA 2013).

***Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and modern (1801 – present)***

- 2.8 Post-medieval activity is again largely attested by the presence of cottages and farmhouses. The surviving medieval and post-medieval archaeology gives a picture of isolated farmsteads and cottages in a rural landscape. Three paper mills were known to have been located within the vicinity of the site, and which are recorded as having been in operation between 1767 and 1890. It seems likely that much of the agriculture during the medieval and early post-medieval periods was associated with Devon's flourishing wool trade until its decline in the 1800s (Croslegh 1911, 299). In addition, arable farming would also have been practised and aerial photographs taken on 13 April 1946 may reveal the presence of post-medieval ridge and furrow in a large field approximately 200m to the south of site (CA 2013).
- 2.10 The picture of a predominantly rural landscape continues into the modern, and indeed present, era as represented by a number of isolated farmsteads and structures within the vicinity of the site. Further modern heritage assets within the vicinity of the site include the Bristol to Exeter railway, which was completed in 1842.

A linear feature shown on the 1880s OS map is believed to be a modern leat (CA 2013).

- 2.11 A geophysical survey carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (PCG; 2014) identified anomalies indicative of pits and ditches. The survey identified magnetic traces of a ring ditch previously recorded as a cropmark, a linear also associated with a cropmark and additional, previously unknown, anomalies. The anomalies appeared to pre-date the pattern of post-medieval field boundaries in the vicinity of the site. Field 2 contained anomalies relating to a backfilled quarry and a modern service.
- 2.12 The trial trench evaluation identified two ring ditches and a ditch (all of likely prehistoric date) in the central part of the Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. A circular, vertically-sided pit immediately adjacent to the ditch was undated but may be broadly contemporary with the earlier prehistoric activity. A co-axial field system and a possible drying oven were identified in the western part of the site and produced finds dating to the late Roman period. A small group of features dating to the post-medieval period were identified in the south-western corner of the site and probably relate to agricultural activity (CA 2014).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were to:
- Ensure the adequate recording of any buried archaeological remains that may be exposed within the current defined limits of the excavation areas prior to their removal by development
  - Produce a plan of all archaeological features exposed within the excavation areas
  - Investigate and record exposed archaeological features/deposits in order to clarify both their date, character, and significance and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology
  - record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
  - assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
  - Make available the results of the investigation

3.2 The specific aims of the archaeological works were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy
- determine which of the archaeological features uncovered are sufficiently stable to enable their preservation *in situ* (subject to the agreement of a suitable reinstatement methodology)

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). The archaeological excavation was carried out as a two stage process. The Stage 1 comprised the 'strip and map' of the archaeological investigation areas (indicated as Trenches 1.1 – 10.1 on Fig. 2), followed by an assessment of the extent of required hand excavation of archaeological assets. Where features were identified, but were determined to not be subject to impact from groundworks, they were recorded in plan only with the agreement of Stephen Reed. In addition to this the removal of the site compound was also observed and no archaeological features were identified (see Figure 2, insert). Stage 2 comprised the excavation of an agreed sample of features of archaeological interest. Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation areas by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision. The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.2 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and three features, an early prehistoric ring ditch, and a Roman ditch and corn drying oven were considered to have potential for characterising these phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

- 4.3 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 will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum under accession number RAMM 15/53, 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-17)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of a mix of sand and coarse sandy gravel was revealed in all excavation areas at a typical depth of 0.55m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil in Trenches 1.1-4.1, 6.1 and 10.1, which was in turn sealed by topsoil. At the northern extent of the site (Trenches 7.1-9.1) and within Trench 5.1, no subsoil was observed. However, subsoil was observed close to these locations during the evaluation (CA 2014). The sporadic presence of subsoil could be related to changes in topography, localised topsoil/subsoil mixing or truncation: none of the explanations are entirely robust based on the available evidence. All features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil or topsoil.
- 5.2 Trenches 1 to 6 and three digit context numbers refer to the evaluation phase of the project (CA 2014). Trenches 1.1 to 10.1 and four digit context numbers refer to the excavation phase of the project and is the subject of this document. With the agreement of Stephen Reed, hand excavation of archaeological features did not proceed in instances whereby they would not be disturbed by the groundworks, or they had been previously investigated (either during this phase of work or during the preceding evaluation (CA 2014)).

### ***Trench 1.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 7, 8 and 11)***

- 5.3 Curvilinear ditch 1003 corresponded with a semi-circular anomaly from the preceding geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2013), which had been investigated during the previous evaluation: Mesolithic/Neolithic flint flakes were recovered (CA 2014, paragraph 2.13, ditches 403 and 405). Ditch 1003 measured 2.2m in width by 0.44m in depth and contained silty sand fill, 1004 (Fig 5, section AA). A fragment of a worked flint blade was recovered from this fill along with a very small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm, but no charred plant

remains were recovered from sample <104>. The charcoal was dispersed throughout the fill, and was of insufficient quantity for <sup>14</sup>C dating.

- 5.4 The north-east/south-west orientated ditch, 1005 (ditch A), corresponded with a linear anomaly from the preceding geophysical survey and had investigated during the previous evaluation (CA 2014, paragraph 2.11, ditch 308). It was 1.3m in width by 0.47m in depth, and had a V-shaped profile and concave base (Fig. 5, section BB). Its silty sand fill, 1006, contained seven sherds of Roman pottery.

***Trench 2.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 12)***

- 5.5 In the eastern half of Trench 2.1, two ditches and a pit were identified. North-south aligned ditch 2003 was not excavated. It formed part of ditch D (Fig. 9), also recorded in Trenches 3.1 and 4.1, which had not been recorded during the previous evaluation or the geophysical survey. It was 0.92m in width and contained sandy clay fill 2004, from which a small amount of fragmented early prehistoric pottery and a fragment of worked flint was recovered.
- 5.6 Ditch 2005, part of ditch C, correlated closely with a north-west/south-east orientated anomaly from the geophysical survey. It continued into the eastern end of Trench 3.1 as ditch 3003. It was 0.92m in width by 0.3m in depth and had steep sides and flat base, containing silty sand fill 2006 (Fig 6, section DD). A fragment of early prehistoric pottery was retrieved from this fill. The northern side of the ditch fill was cut by undated, oval pit 2009. It was 0.85m in length by 0.65m in width by 0.18m in depth, and contained silty sand fill 2010.
- 5.7 In the western end of the trench, north-west/south-east orientated ditch, 2007, part of ditch B, was identified but not excavated. The ditch matched with a linear anomaly from the geophysical survey. It was 4.07m in width and contained sandy clay fill 2008; during surface cleaning, three sherds of Vein-quartz tempered pottery (total weight 3g) and a flint blade dating to the Early Neolithic were recovered.

***Trench 3.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9)***

- 5.8 Four undated ditches (3003, 3005, 3009 and 3011) were identified in Trench 3.1; none were excavated. North-south aligned ditch 3005 (part of ditch D) was located at the eastern end of the trench. It was 0.98m in width and contained silty sand fill

3006, and was cut by ditch 3003 (part of ditch C). Ditch 3003 was a 0.75m in width and contained silty sand fill 3004.

- 5.9 Undated, north-east/south-west ditch 3009 was located towards the centre of the trench, and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. It was 0.66m in width and contained silty sand fill 3010.
- 5.10 At the eastern end of the trench was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 3011 (part of ditch B). It was 2.95m in width and contained silty sand fill 3012. This ditch was excavated in Trench 3 of the evaluation (CA 2014, paragraphs 2.9 and 10, ditch 303).

***Trench 4.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10)***

- 5.11 Two ditches and a pit (4004, 4010 and 4008) were identified in the Trench 4.1; none were excavated and no dating evidence was recovered. North/south orientated ditch 4004 (part of ditch D) was located at the eastern end of the trench. It was 0.8m in width and contained sandy clay fill 4003. North-west/south-east orientated ditch 4010 (part of ditch B) was located in the western end of the trench. It was 2.22m in width and contained fill 4009. Oval pit or posthole 4008 was 0.55m in length by 0.45m in width, and was located in the centre of the trench. It contained sandy clay fill 4007.

***Trench 5.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 10)***

- 5.12 North-west/south-east orientated ditch 5003 (part of ditch B) was located in the western end of the trench, corresponding with a geophysical anomaly. It was 2.24m in width and a fragment of greyware pottery, broadly dated to the Roman period, was recovered from the surface of its sandy clay fill, 5002. It was not excavated.
- 5.13 Isolated, undated pit or posthole 5005 was located towards the centre of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.68m in length by 0.64m in width, and contained silty sand fill 5004. It was not excavated.

***Trench 6.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 7 and 10)***

- 5.14 Four undated features were identified in the trench. North-west/south-east orientated ditch 6009 (part of ditch B) was located in the western end of the trench, corresponding with a geophysical anomaly. It contained sandy clay fill 6010, and was 2.45m in width. To the east of ditch 6009 two small sub-circular pits or

postholes (6004 and 6006) were identified; the former measured 0.6m in length by 0.5m in width, while the latter measured 0.6m in length by 0.4m in width. Both contained sandy clay fills (6003 and 6005 respectively). None of these features were excavated.

- 5.15 In the eastern end of the trench, pit 6007 was identified. It was irregular in plan and only partially visible in the trench: it measured in excess of 1.4m in length by 1.64m in width, and contained sandy clay fill 6008.

***Trench 7.1 (Figs. 2, 4, 6 and 13)***

- 5.16 In the central part of Trench 7.1, north-west/south-east aligned ditch, 7002, was identified. Ditch 7002 correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly, and was also observed in Trenches 8.1 and 9.1 forming ditch F. It was 0.76m in width by 0.44m in depth with moderate sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section EE). It contained two fills, 7003 and 7004. The lower fill, 7003, was light grey silty sand and the upper fill, 7004, was charcoal-rich brown silty sand. Six sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from upper fill 7004. Bulk sample <101> was taken from fill 7004: a small quantity of charred plant remains, probably result of dumping domestic settlement waste, was recovered.

***Trench 8.1 (Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6 and 14)***

- 5.17 Five features were identified within Trench 8.1. The undated, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 8006 (part of ditch F) was located in the eastern part of the trench and had been identified in a nearby evaluation trench (CA 2014, paragraph 2.5, ditch 106), where interventions recovered pottery of Roman date. It was 0.95m in width by 0.59m in depth with a 'U' shaped profile and a concave base (Fig. 8, section GG). It contained two fills: lower silty sand 8007 on western side of the cut and an upper silty sand fill 8008 on the eastern side of the cut.
- 5.18 A possible corn drying oven, 8011, was located at the eastern end of the trench. It corresponded to an anomaly on the geophysical survey, and had been excavated during the evaluation (CA 2014, paragraph 2.4, corn drying oven 105). A similar feature, possible corn drying oven 8002, was identified in the central part of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan and measured 2.24m in length and 1.24m in width (Fig. 8, section FF and photograph). The oven contained three fills: 8003, 8005 and 8004. Primary clay fill 8003 covered the whole of the base of the cut. Silty sand fill 8005 was confined to the northern portion of the feature. Silty sand fill 8004 was

confined to the southern portion of the feature. Fill 8003 contained burnt bone and fill 8005 contained burnt flint and a stone that may related to the opening or other structural element of the corn dryer. Two bulk samples, <102> (fill 8003) and <103> (fill 8005), were recovered for palaeoenvironmental analysis from pit 8002. The samples contained barley, wheat and spelt, which are consistent with the interpretation of a corn drying oven.

- 5.19 Towards the western half of the trench, north-west/southeast aligned ditch 8009 and irregular pit 8013 were identified. Undated ditch 8009 (part of ditch B) corresponded to a geophysical anomaly, and was not excavated. It was 1.45m in width and contained silty sand fill 8010.
- 5.20 Undated pit 8013 was located in the western end of the trench, and was not excavated. It was irregular in plan, and measured 4.14m in length by at least 1.2m in width, containing silty sand fill 8014. Its irregular shape suggests it may be natural in origin, possibly a variation in the geology.

#### ***Trench 9.1 (Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6 and 15)***

- 5.21 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 9002 (part of ditch F) was located in the eastern part of the trench, and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. It had a V-shaped profile measuring 1.03m in width by 0.47m in depth, which contained undated, silty sand fill 9003 (Fig. 9 section HH, and photograph).
- 5.22 Unexcavated pit 9004 was located in the western part of the trench. It measured >2.53m in length by >0.73m wide and contained silty sand fill 9005. Roman pottery, comprising nine sherds of Dorset black-burnished ware of late 3rd-4th century date, were recovered from the surface of fill 9005.

#### ***Trench 10.1 (Figs. 2, 3, 10 and 16)***

- 5.23 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 10020 (part of ditch B) was located towards the western end of the trench, and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. It had a V-shaped profile measuring 3.6m in width and 1.2m in depth (Fig. 10, section LL), and contained three undated fills: 10021, 10022 and 10023. Primary, silty sand fill 10021 was overlain by silty sand fill 10022. This was in turn sealed by silty sand fill 10023.
- 5.24 In the eastern part of the trench, two quarry pits (10003 and 10014) were identified. Pit 10003 was irregular in plan (measuring over 0.9m in length by 4.2m in width by

0.9m in depth) with steep sides and concave base (Fig 10, section JJ and KK). It contained a sequence of seven fills (10004, 10005, 10006, 10007, 10008, 10009 and 10010). Primary fill 10004 was a sandy clay. This was sealed by a succession of gravel and sandy fills (10005, 10006, 10007, 10008, 10009 and 10010), indicative of being dumped fills. Fill 10006 contained two sherds of early prehistoric pottery. Quarry pit 10011 likely predated quarry pit 10003, with the latter appearing to share part of the boundary of the former. Quarry pit contained silty sand fill 10012 and gravel fill 10013 (Fig 10, section JJ).

- 5.25 Quarry pit 10014 was partially exposed, and was located 11m west of pit 10003. It measured >1.3m in length by >0.67m wide by 1m in depth (Fig. 10, section II). It contained five undated fills: 10015, 10016, 10017, 10018 and 10019. These were a succession of dumped, gravels and sands.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from the archaeological investigation was hand-recovered from 10 deposits (ditch and pit fills). The recovered material dates to the early prehistoric and Roman periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Where possible, codings for Roman fabrics correspond to those defined in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

### *Pottery: Early prehistoric*

- 6.2 A total of six unfeatured bodysherds (9g) with coarse quartz inclusions (VQ) was recorded in fill 2004 (ditch 2003), fill 2006 (ditch 2005) and fill 10006 (quarry pit 10003). This pottery has been well fragmented and is in a poor to moderate condition in terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation. The level of fragmentation and absence of featured sherds makes dating uncertain. Vein quartz-tempered fabrics are known in Devon from the Early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Dating in the Early Neolithic period is suggested here as similar fabric, tempered with vein quartz, is known from sites of this period in east Devon (Quinnell 2010, 70).

*Pottery: Roman*

- 6.3 Pottery of this date totals 27 sherds (200g) from five deposits. The assemblage is well fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 7g: condition is poor to moderate.
- 6.4 Fill 9005 of pit 9004 produced nine sherds of Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) which included rimsherds from a (Seager Smith and Davies) Type 3 everted rim jar and a Type 25 conical flanged bowl. This type of pottery was manufactured near Poole in Dorset and when found outside the county it typically dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107). The forms represented, however, enable closer dating for this deposit, to the late 3rd to 4th centuries (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 230–4).
- 6.5 A total of six sherds of South Devon (Micaceous) Reduced ware (SOD RE) was recovered from two deposits, including a rimsherd from a necked jar from fill 7004 of ditch 7002. This ware type was manufactured throughout the Roman period (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 178). The remainder of the Roman pottery presents as unfeatured bodysherds in coarseware fabrics, probably of relatively local manufacture. Included are reduced (GW, BS) and oxidised (OXI) examples.

*Worked flint*

- 6.6 Two unretouched flint blades were retrieved, from fill 1004 of ditch 1003 and fill 2004 of ditch 2003. The latter item was recovered in association with Early Neolithic pottery (above) and both flints are consistent with this dating.

*Worked stone*

- 6.7 A fragment of worked stone, in two pieces, was recorded in fill 8005 of possible corn drying oven 8002. The upper surface is worn smooth and it may have been used for flooring or as a threshold stone.

**7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

- 7.1 Biological evidence recovered is listed in the table below. Details are to be found in Appendices C - E. The ecofact assemblage comprises two fragments of burnt bone, unidentifiable to the extent that it was impossible to ascertain a human or animal origin. In addition, there is a large assemblage of charred plant remains, including

mature and round wood fragments, a mixture of grains and weed seeds of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

### ***Animal Bone***

- 7.2 Two fragments of burnt bone were recovered via environmental bulk soil sampling from fill 7004 of ditch 7002 and fill 8003 of possible corn drying oven 8002. Due to their small size and severity of the burning, the fragments were unidentifiable to the extent that it was impossible to ascertain a human or animal origin.

### ***Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 7.3 A series of four samples (65 litres of soil) were processed from ditch 1003 within Trench 1.1, ditch 7002 in trench 7.1 and from corn drying oven 8002 in Trench 8.1.
- 7.4 The quantities of charred plant remains recovered from this site may well be representative of settlement waste. The samples taken show evidence of crop processing on site with a large number of mixed grains present including barley, hulled wheat and emmer or spelt. Spelt wheat is the predominant wheat in Southern Britain during the Roman period. The few weed seeds recorded were all those of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

### ***Plant Macrofossils***

- 7.5 A total of three bulk soil samples (54 litres of soil) were analysed from two Romano corn dryers on the site; 8002 from Trench 8 and 105 from evaluation Trench 1. The evaluation feature 105 was renumbered 8011 during the later excavation work and is located close to corn dryer 8002.
- 7.6 The samples taken are representative of material from the use of the corn dryers. There is no clear evidence from the environmental remains recovered that these particular corn dryers had been used during the malting process and brewing. It appears likely that these assemblages are indicative of material from the drying of grain, having already been processed. The cereal remains included high numbers of grains identified as being those of spelt wheat, free-threshing wheat and barley. The range of other species within the assemblages is indicative of a number of different soil types being exploited for crop production in the area.

### **Wood Charcoal**

- 7.19 The same 3 samples examined for charred plant remains were analysed for charcoal; from two corn dryers of Roman date. The charcoal evidence examined indicates the exploitation of oak-hazel woodland which would have grown in wet ground areas and is indicative of the exploitation of the landscape around. The use of immature stems and branches highlights that they would have been used as fuel for the corn dryers.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The archaeological investigation identified a number of archaeological features. The results were consistent with the geophysical survey results (PCG 2014) and previous evaluation (CA 2014). The archaeological features identified during this phase of work can be broadly grouped in to three phases: prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval. The prehistoric and Roman phases (including features tentatively identified to those periods) are illustrated on Fig. 17.
- 8.2 Trenches 1 to 6 and three digit context numbers refer to the evaluation, CA 2014. Trenches 1.1 to 10.1 and four digit context numbers refer to the excavation phase of the project.

### **Early prehistoric**

- 8.3 Following geophysical survey (PCG 2013) and evaluation (CA 2014), the two ring ditches were thought to be present. The evaluation produced worked chert and worked flint from the both features (displaying evidence of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic technologies). Pottery of prehistoric date was retrieved from a pit within ditch B (CA 2014). However, the results of this phase of work do not appear to support the above interpretation for the southerly ring ditch (recorded as ditches previously: ditches 403 and 405, CA 2014), as only an intermittent ditch was identified. Curvilinear ditch 1003 in Trench 1.1 correlated with the western arc of the recorded geophysical anomaly, but no evidence was identified for the eastern arch of the tentatively identified anomaly in Trench 1.1 or 2.1 (Fig. 2). No indication of truncation has been identified which might explain the absence of the eastern arc, and moreover the interventions along the posited western arc indicated varying profiles. As such the more likely interpretation, accepting the potential limitations of

observations within narrow trenches rather than open area observations, is the presence of a series of distinct archaeological assets.

- 8.4 Pottery and a flint blade were recovered from the surface of ditch D (fill 2004, ditch 2003), suggesting an Early Neolithic date for this ditch. It was in turn cut by the alignment of north-west/south-east orientated ditch C (fill 2004, ditch 2005, which is tentatively included within this phase.

### ***Roman***

- 8.5 In the western part of the site, ditches A, B and F (and possibly the undated ditch 3009) comprised parts of a probable Roman co-axial field system identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 17). It is unclear why expected alignments of ditches were not observed (i.e. in the continuation of ditches A and F within Trench 1.1), given no obvious truncation was noted. In the north of the site two elongated pits 8002 and 8011 (corn drying oven 105, CA 2014) may have represented the truncated remains of possible corn drying ovens. No dating evidence was retrieved from oven 8002. However, the comparable corn drying oven recorded during the evaluation (105) contained pottery broadly dating to the Roman period.

### ***Post-medieval***

- 8.6 An area of post-medieval activity comprising of a ditch and two pits, was recorded just to the east of the excavation area during the evaluation (CA 2014). The adjacent pit 6007 and quarry pits 10003, 10011 and 10014 uncovered during the excavation may also be part of this phase of activity and may represent the exploitation of the natural superficial deposits of sand and gravel deposits

### ***Undated***

- 8.7 Many of the remaining pits and pits/postholes are undated and are un-phased.

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by George Gandham, assisted by Victoria Parsons, Christina Tapply, Martin Gillard and Jeremy Austin. The report was written by Peter Busby and Jonathan Orellana. The finds, animal bone and charred plant remains and charcoal reports were written by Jacky Sommerville, Andy Clarke and Sarah Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska and Sam

O'Leary. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

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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	Feature No.
1.1	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown sandy silt	>105	>1	0.35		
1.1	1001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown clay silt	>105	>1	0.35		
1.1	1002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>105	>1	-		
1.1	1003	Cut		ditch	curvilinear in plan, NE/SW aligned with moderate sloping sides and flat base	>0.5	2.2	0.44		
1.1	1004	Fill	1003	fill of ditch	light yellowish brown silty sand	>0.5	2.2	0.44		
1.1	1005	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated linear with a V-shaped profile and concave base	>1.43	>1.3	0.47		Ditch B
1.1	1006	Fill	1005	fill of ditch	light pinkish brown silty sand	>1.43	>1.3	0.47	RB	Ditch B
2.1	2000	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown sandy silt	<94	>2	0.4		
2.1	2001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown clay silt	<94	>2	0.4		
2.1	2002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	<94	>2	-		
2.1	2003	Cut		ditch	N/S orientated linear, not excavated	>1.15	0.92	-		Ditch D
2.1	2004	Fill	2003	fill of ditch	light greyish brown sandy clay	>1.15	0.92	-	Early Neolithic	Ditch D
2.1	2005	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear with step sides and flat base	>6	0.65	0.3		Ditch C
2.1	2006	Fill	2005	fill of ditch	mid brown silty sand	>0.7	0.65	0.3	Early Neolithic	Ditch C
2.1	2007	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.37	4.07	-		Ditch B
2.1	2008	Fill	2007	fill of ditch	mid reddish brown sandy clay	>1.37	4.07	-		Ditch B
2.1	2009	Cut		pit	sub-oval in plan, moderate sloping sides and concave base	0.85	0.65	0.18		
2.1	2010	Fill	2009	fill of pit	mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.85	0.65	0.18		
3.1	3000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty sand	>100	>1.5	0.35		
3.1	3001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silty sand	>100	>1.5	0.35		
3.1	3002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>100	>1.5	-		
3.1	3003	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>4.53	0.75	-		Ditch C
3.1	3004	Fill	3003	fill of ditch	mid brownish orange silty sand	>4.53	0.75	-		Ditch C
3.1	3005	Cut		ditch	N/S orientated linear, not excavated	>1.11	0.9	-		Ditch D
3.1	3006	Fill	3005	fill of ditch	light brown silty sand	>1.11	0.9	-		Ditch D
3.1	3007	Cut		field drain	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>2.3	0.23	-		

3.1	3008	Fill	3007	fill of drain	mid brown silty sand	>2.3	0.23	-		
3.1	3009	Cut		ditch	NE/SW orientated linear, not excavated	>3.46	0.7	-		
3.1	3010	Fill	3009	fill of ditch	light brown silty sand	>3.46	0.7	-		
3.1	3011	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.34	2.95	-		Ditch B
3.1	3012	Fill	3011	fill of ditch	light brown silty sand	>1.34	2.95	-		Ditch B
4.1	4000	Layer		topsoil	dark brown sandy clay	>95	>1.5	0.3		
4.1	4001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy clay	>95	>1.5	0.35		
4.1	4002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>95	>1.5	-		
4.1	4003	Fill	4004	fill of ditch	light grey sandy clay	>1.16	0.8	-		Ditch D
4.1	4004	Cut		ditch	N/S orientated linear, not excavated	>1.16	0.8	-		Ditch D
4.1	4005	Fill	4006	fill of drain	mid brown silty sand	>2.06	0.31	-		
4.1	4006	Cut		drain	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>2.06	0.31	-		
4.1	4007	Fill	4008	fill of pit or posthole	mid brown sandy clay	0.55	0.45	-		
4.1	4008	Cut		Pit or posthole	oval in plan, not excavated	0.55	0.45	-		
4.1	4009	Fill	4010	fill of ditch	mid reddish brown sandy clay	>1.53	2.22	-		Ditch B
4.1	4010	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.53	2.22	-		Ditch B
5.1	5000	Layer		topsoil	dark brown sandy clay	>74	>1.5	0.25		
5.1	5001	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>74	>1.5	-		
5.1	5002	Fill	5003	fill of ditch	mid pinkish brown sandy clay	>1.7	2.24	-	RB	Ditch B
5.1	5003	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.7	2.24	-		Ditch B
5.1	5004	Fill	5005	fill of pit	mid brown silty sand	0.68	0.64	-		
5.1	5005	Cut		pit	sub-circular in plan, not excavated	0.68	0.64	-		
5.1	5006	Fill	5007	fill of drain	mid brown sandy clay	>2.3	0.28	-		
5.1	5007	Cut		drain	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>2.3	0.28	-		
6.1	6000	Layer		topsoil	mid brown sandy clay	>49.5	>1.5	0.3		
6.1	6001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown clay silt	>49.5	>1.5	0.3		
6.1	6002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>49.5	>1.5	-		
6.1	6003	Fill	6004	fill of pit or posthole	mid brown sandy clay	0.6	0.5	-		
6.1	6004	Cut		Pit or posthole	sub-circular in plan, not excavated	0.6	0.5	-		
6.1	6005	Fill	6006	fill of pit or posthole	mid brown sandy clay	0.6	0.4	-		
6.1	6006	Cut		Pit or posthole	oval in plan, not excavated	0.6	0.4	-		
6.1	6007	Cut		pit	irregular in plan, not excavated	>1.4	1.64	-		
6.1	6008	Fill	6007	fill of pit	mid brown sandy clay	>1.4	1.64	-		
6.1	6009	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.5	2.45	-		Ditch B
6.1	6010	Fill	6009	fill of ditch	mid reddish brown sandy clay	>1.5	2.45	-		Ditch B
7.1	7000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty sand	>26.7	>1.5	0.3		

7.1	7001	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>26.7	>1.5	-		
7.1	7002	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, moderate sloping sides and concave base	>1.2	0.76	0.44		Ditch F
7.1	7003	Fill	7002	lower fill of ditch	light grey silty sand	>0.5	0.76	0.14		Ditch F
7.1	7004	Fill	7002	upper fill of ditch	mid brown silty sand	>1.2	0.76	0.34	RB	Ditch F
8.1	8000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty sand	>60	>1.5	0.38		
8.1	8001	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>60	>1.5	-		
8.1	8002	Cut		possible corn drying oven	sub-oval in plan, moderate asymmetrical sides and concave base	2.24	1.24	0.22		
8.1	8003	Fill	8002	lower fill of possible corn drying oven	light pinkish grey clay	2.2	1.24	0.17		
8.1	8004	Fill	8002	upper fill of possible corn drying oven	light greyish brown silty sand	0.8	0.9	0.09		
8.1	8005	Fill	8002	upper fill of possible corn drying oven	mid blackish grey silty sand	0.8	0.75	0.1		
8.1	8006	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, U-shaped profile and concave base	>1.3	0.95	0.59		Ditch F
8.1	8007	Fill	8006	fill of ditch	light pinkish brown silty sand	>0.5	0.5	0.53		Ditch F
8.1	8008	Fill	8006	fill of ditch	light greyish brown silty sand	>1.3	0.83	0.54		Ditch F
8.1	8009	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, not excavated	>1.18	1.45	-		Ditch B
8.1	8010	Fill	8009	fill of ditch	light yellowish grey silty sand	>1.18	1.45	-		Ditch B
8.1	8011	Cut		possible corn drying oven	oval in plan, excavated during evaluation	2.36	0.86	-		
8.1	8012	Fill	8011	fill of possible corn drying oven	light greyish brown silty sand	2.36	0.86	-		
8.1	8013	Cut		pit	irregular in plan, not excavated	4.14	>1.2	-		
8.1	8014	Fill	8013	fill of pit	light pinkish brown silty sand	4.14	>1.2	-	RB	
9.1	9000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty sand	>55.5	>1.5	0.64		
9.1	9001	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>55.5	>1.5	-		
9.1	9002	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, V-shaped profile and concave base	>1.2	1.03	0.47		Ditch F
9.1	9003	Fill	9002	fill of ditch	light pinkish grey silty sand	>1.2	1.03	0.47		Ditch F
9.1	9004	Cut		pit	irregular in plan, not excavated	>2.53	>0.7	-		
9.1	9005	Fill	9004	fill of pit	mid brownish grey silty sand	>2.53	>0.7	-	LC3-	
10.1	10000	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown silty sand	>85	>1.5	0.3		
10.1	10001	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silty clay	>85	>1.5	0.3		
10.1	10002	Layer		natural substrate	yellow gravel with patches of brownish yellow sand	>85	>1.5	-		

10.1	10003	Cut		quarry pit	elongated in plan, E/W aligned, steep sides and concave base	>1.9	4.2	0.9		
10.1	10004	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	light brown sandy clay	>0.5	0.7	0.28		
10.1	10005	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid yellowish brown gravel	>0.5	1.2	0.4		
10.1	10006	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>0.5	1.4	0.6	Early Neolithic	
10.1	10007	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid pinkish brown silty sand	>0.5	2.4	0.36		
10.1	10008	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>0.5	2.4	0.3		
10.1	10009	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid pinkish brown gravel	>0.5	1.1	0.26		
10.1	10010	Fill	10003	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>0.5	0.7	0.39		
10.1	10011	Cut		quarry pit	irregular in plan, steep sides and flat base	-	3.4	0.5		
10.1	10012	Fill	10011	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	-	2.4	0.5		
10.1	10013	Fill	10011	fill of quarry pit	mid red gravel	-	1.2	0.2		
10.1	10014	Cut		quarry pit	circular in plan, steep sides and concave base	>1.3	>0.6	1		
10.1	10015	Fill	10014	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>1.3	>0.6	0.16		
10.1	10016	Fill	10014	fill of quarry pit	mid pinkish red gravel	>1.3	>0.6	0.1		
10.1	10017	Fill	10014	fill of quarry pit	mid brownish pink sandy gravel	>1.3	>0.6	0.3		
10.1	10018	Fill	10014	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>1.3	>0.6	0.2		
10.1	10019	Fill	10014	fill of quarry pit	mid brown silty sand	>1.3	>0.6	0.6		
10.1	10020	Cut		ditch	NW/SE orientated linear, steep sides and flat base	>0.6	2.36	1.2		
10.1	10021	Fill	10020	fill of ditch	mid brown silty sand	>0.6	1.1	0.5		Ditch B
10.1	10022	Fill	10020	fill of ditch	mid pinkish brown silty sand	>0.6	2.36	0.55		Ditch B
10.1	10023	Fill	10020	fill of ditch	mid brown silty sand	>0.6	2	0.4		Ditch B

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot- date
1004	Worked flint	Blade		1	6	-
1006	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	6	3	RB
	Roman pottery	Greyware	GW	1	35	
2004	Early prehistoric pottery	Vein-quartz tempered fabric	VQ	3	3	Early Neolithic
	Worked flint	Blade		1	5	
2006	Early prehistoric pottery	Vein-quartz tempered fabric	VQ	1	5	Early Neolithic
5002	Roman pottery	Greyware	GW	1	3	RB
7004	Roman pottery	South Devon reduced (micaceous) ware	<b>SOD RE</b>	1	5	RB
<101>	Roman pottery	South Devon reduced (micaceous) ware	<b>SOD RE</b>	2	17	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	3	13	
<101>	Fired clay			2	15	
<101>	Burnt flint			3	2	
<101>	Burnt stone			1	17	
<101>	Bone	Burnt, unidentifiable		1	0.1	
8003 <102>	Bone	Burnt, unidentifiable		1	0.1	
8005	Worked stone	Threshold stone?		2	3540	-
<103>	Burnt flint			2	37	
8014	Roman pottery	South Devon reduced (micaceous) ware	<b>SOD RE</b>	3	7	RB
9005	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	<b>DOR BB1</b>	9	113	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxidised fabric	OXI	1	4	
10006	Early prehistoric pottery	Vein-quartz tempered fabric	VQ	2	1	Early Neolithic

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

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## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

A series of four samples (65 litres of soil) were processed from ring ditch 1003 within trench 1, ditch 7002 in trench 7 and from corn dryer 8002 in trench 8 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals

The flots varied in size with generally low numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised various levels of preservation.

### ?Early Neolithic

The fill 1004 (sample 104) within ring ditch 1003 in trench 1 contained a very small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. No charred plant remains were recovered.

### ? Romano-British

Moderate quantities of charred plant remains were recorded in the samples (101, 102 and 103) from fill 7004 within ditch 7002 in trench 7 and fills 8003 and 8005 within corn dryer 8002 in trench 8. These assemblages included barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and rachis fragments, and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments. A number of these glume base fragments were identifiable as being those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Other remains included seeds of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) capsule.

Moderately large amounts of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were also recovered in these samples. The charcoal assemblages included mature and round wood fragments.

The assemblage from ditch 7004 may have been a result of dumping domestic settlement waste within the ditch, whilst those from corn dryer 8002 are likely to be from the use of this feature. The weed seeds are those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. Spelt wheat is the predominant wheat in Southern Britain during the Romano-British period (Greig 1991).

There is potential for the analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal to provide some information on the nature of settlement, the surrounding environment, the range of crops and local crop processing activities as well as providing some data on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. It may also assist with determining the function of corn dryer 8002.

**Table 1** Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
?Early Neolithic													
Trench 1 Ring Ditch													
1003	1004	104	9	0	20	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
Romano-British													
Trench 7 Ditch													
7002	7004	101	18	10	150	10	**	***	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags inc. spelt	**	<i>Galium, Polygonum, Avena/Bromus, Raphanus</i> capsule, bud, stem frags	****/*****	-
Trench 8 Corn Dryer													
8002	8003	102	20	20	70	15	**	*	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags, barley rachis frag	*	<i>Chenopodium</i>	***/*	-
8002	8005	103	18	30	185	10	*	**	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags inc. spelt	*	<i>Galium</i>	***/*	-

Key: + = 1–4 items; ++ = 5–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = >100 items

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## APPENDIX D: PLANT MACROFOSSILS REPORT by Sarah F. Wyles

A total of three bulk soil samples (54 litres of soil) were analysed from two Romano-British corn dryers on the site; 8002 from Trench 8 and 105 from evaluation Trench 1. The evaluation feature 105 was renumbered 8011 during the later excavation work and is located close to corn dryer 8002.

These samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 1 mm sieve for the collection of the residue. All identifiable charred plant remains were identified following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The results are recorded in Table 1.

### *Romano-British*

#### Corn dryer 8002

Moderate small quantities of charred plant remains were recorded in the samples (102 and 103) from fills 8003 and 8005 within corn dryer 8002 in trench 8. In both cases, the assemblages were dominated by cereal remains. These included barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and rachis fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments. A number of these glume base and grain fragments were identifiable as being those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). In the assemblage from the lower fill 8003 (sample 102) grain was more numerous than the chaff elements, whereas they were almost equal amounts in the assemblage from the upper fill 8005 (sample 103).

The small number of weed seeds within these assemblages included those of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), ribwort-plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Other remains include hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment, runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) capsule fragments, a conglomeration of seeds and the inside of a common/long-headed poppy (*Papaver rhoeas/dubium*) capsule and broom/gorse type (*Cytisus/Ulex* sp.) stem fragments. The weed seeds are species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

#### Corn dryer 105

The large plant assemblage recovered from lower fill 104 (sample 2) of corn dryer 105 was dominated by cereal remains, with grains representing c. 85% of the assemblage and chaff elements c. 3% of the assemblage. The cereal remains included high numbers of grains of hulled wheat, some of which were identifiable as being those of spelt wheat, free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley. A few of the hulled wheat grains showed traces of germination.

The predominant seeds within the weed seed assemblage were those of oat (*Avena* sp.) and oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.). Other remains included seeds of common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), goosefoot, fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), pale persicaria/redshank (*Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella* group), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), meadow grass/cat's tails, runch capsule fragments and hazelnut shell fragments. The weed seeds are species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

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## Discussion

These assemblages are likely to be representative of material from the use of the corn dryers. Corn dryers are thought to have been used for a variety of functions during the Romano-British period (van der Veen 1989). There is no clear evidence from the environmental remains recovered that these particular corn dryers had been used during the malting process and brewing. It appears likely that these assemblages are indicative of material from the drying of grain, which had already been processed by winnowing, threshing and some sieving. The mixture of grains recovered from corn dryer 105 may be indicative of the crops being grown together in a maslin.

Although free-threshing wheat became the predominant wheat in Southern Britain during the Saxon period (Greig 1991) and is more typically recovered in assemblages of Saxon or later date, it has been recorded in significant numbers together with spelt wheat in other late Romano-British assemblages.

The range of other species within the assemblages is indicative of a number of different soil types being exploited for crop production in the area. A number of species, such as common/long-headed poppy, ribwort plantain and common fumitory, favour lighter drier calcareous soils, whereas other species, such as sheep's sorrel, runc and broom/gorse, are typical of sandier more acidic soils. Fat-hen can be indicative of nitrogen rich soils. The presence of a number species which twine around the crop, such as black bindweed, and those which grow close to the ground, such as knotgrass, may be indicative of the crops having been harvested low down by sickle.

## References

- Greig, J. 1991 'The British Isles' in van Zeist, W., Wasylikowa, K. and Behre, K-E. (eds) 229-334
- Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press
- van der Veen 1989 Charred grain assemblages from Roman-period corn driers in Britain. *The Archaeological Journal* 146: 302-319.
- van Zeist, W., Wasylikowa, K. and Behre, K-E. (eds) 1991 *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*, Balkema Rotterdam
- Zohary, D., Hopf, M. and Weiss, E. 2012 *Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*, 4th edition, Oxford, Clarendon Press

**Table 1** Charred plant Identifications

Phase		RB		
Feature type		corn dryers		
Cut		8002		105
Context		8003	8005	104
Sample		102	103	2
Vol (L)		20	18	16
Flot size		70	185	80
%Roots		15	10	10
Cereals	Common Name			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	barley	1	2	130
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain still in husk)	barley	-	-	3
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (rachis frag)	barley	1	-	4
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. (grain)	spelt wheat	1	-	50
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	spelt wheat	-	3	-
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	3	3	195
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (germinated grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	-	-	20
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (glume bases)	emmer/spelt wheat	1	5	1
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (grain)	free-threshing wheat	-	-	150
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (rachis frags)	free-threshing wheat	-	-	19
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	1	-	210
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	3	3	70
Cereal frags (rachis frags)	cereal	-	1	-
Cereal frags (culm node)	cereal	-	-	1
Cereal frags (basal culm node)	cereal	-	-	1
Other Species				
<i>Papaver rhoeas/dubium</i> conglomeration(inside capsule)	common/long-headed poppy	-	1	-
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> L.	common fumitory	-	-	1
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	hazelnut	-	1	1
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	goosefoot	1	-	2
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	fat-hen	-	-	2
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa</i> (L.) Gray/Gray	pale persicaria/redshank	-	-	7
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	-	-	2
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Å. Löve	black-bindweed	-	-	4
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks	-	-	5
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> group Raf.	sheep's sorrel	-	-	2
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	runch	-	1	1
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	-	-	3
<i>Cytisus</i> sp. L. / <i>Ulex</i> sp. L type (stem frags)	broom/gorse type stem frags	-	2	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	ribwort plantain	1	-	-
<i>Galium</i> sp. L.	bedstraw	-	1	-
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	cleavers	-	1	-
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	nipplewort	-	-	3
<i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp.	rye-grass/fescue	-	-	5
<i>Poa/Phleum</i> sp. L.	meadow grass/cat's-tails	1	-	1
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (grain)	oat grain	-	-	40
<i>Avena</i> L./ <i>Bromus</i> L. sp.	oat/brome grass	-	-	38
Bud		-	1	-

## APPENDIX E: WOOD CHARCOAL By Dana Challinor

The same 3 samples examined for charred plant remains were analysed for charcoal; from two corn dryers of Romano-British date. Standard identification procedures were followed using identification keys (Hather 2000, Schweingruber 1990) and modern reference material. Nomenclature and classification follow Stace 1997.

The results are presented in Table 1. Preservation was generally good, with exceptionally clean and large fragments (up to 32mm) preserved in context 104 of corn dryer 105. Corn dryer 8002 produced an assemblage dominated by *Quercus* sp. (oak), with a range of other, supplementary taxa, including *Alnus glutinosa* (alder), *Corylus avellana* (hazel), Maloideae (hawthorn, apple, pear, rowan/service/whitebeam), *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/cherry) and *Acer campestre* (field maple). In contrast, corn dryer 105 was limited to two taxa – *Alnus glutinosa* (alder) and *Corylus avellana* (hazel).

Almost all of the material examined derived from roundwood of small diameter (4-8mm, with some larger up to 30mm in 105). These were mostly incomplete, but included some with pith (rarely cambial edge) and age ranges of 4 to 12 years. The *Alnus* in corn dryer 105 was notably light and spongy in texture. There was also evidence for extensive insect damage, with irregularly oval and asymmetric-shaped tunnels. This, and the texture, suggests that the wood had been heavily infested with wood boring beetles and was significantly decayed prior to burning.

	Feature	8002		105
	Context	8003	8005	104
	Sample	102	103	2
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	21 (rs)	28 (r)	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Gaertn.	alder		3r	26r
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	7r	3r	4r
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i>	alder/hazel		2r	
Maloideae	hawthorn, apple, service etc		4r	
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	blackthorn/cherry	1r	1r	
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	field maple	1	9r	
Bark		+	+	

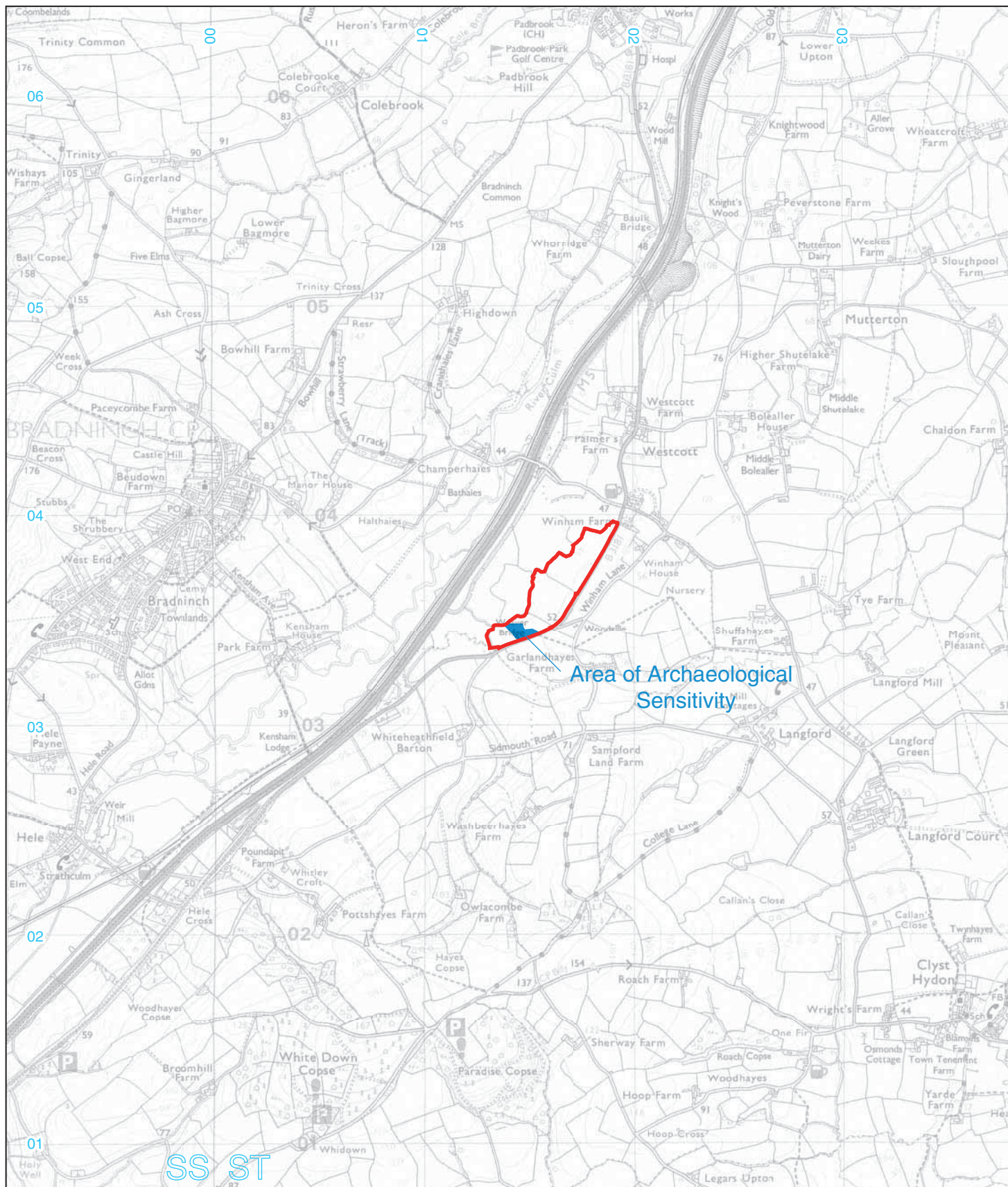
r=roundwood; s=sapwood

Table 1: Charcoal results (showing fragment counts)

The charcoal evidence indicates the exploitation of oak-hazel woodland, with a strong component of alder which would have grown in wet ground areas, such as adjacent to the river Culm and its tributaries. The character of the wood – immature stems/ branches – is appropriate for the fuel requirements for crop drying. A similar, diverse range of taxa was recorded in the charcoal remains from Romano-British settlement features at Shortlands Lane, Cullompton (Challinor 2012).

## APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between November 2015 and January 2016 during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm at Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon.</p> <p>The archaeological works identified a substantial number of archaeological features corresponding with anomalies detected by geophysical survey, and confirmed the results of the preceding evaluation.</p> <p>Evidence for early prehistoric activity comprised a small amount of early Neolithic pottery from two ditches in the eastern part of the site. A possible ring ditch located towards the northern extent of the site had been previously investigated, and contained pottery of similar date.</p> <p>Evidence for a Roman co-axial field system and a possible corn drying oven was recovered from the western part of the site, which was also consistent with the results of earlier investigation.</p> <p>A number of possible post-medieval quarry pits and undated pits and posthole/pits were recorded in the south eastern corner of the site.</p>	
Project dates	21 November 2015 – 19 January 2016	
Project type	Archaeological Strip, Map and Record	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2014) Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon	
Study area	12.05ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 0164 0366	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	George Gandham	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	co-axial field system; ring ditches	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM 15/53	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM 15/53	Context sheets, trench forms, section drawings
Digital	Royal Albert Memorial Museum RAMM 15/53	Digital survey, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon: Archaeological Strip, Map and record</i>. CA typescript report <b>16251</b></p>		



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#### PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

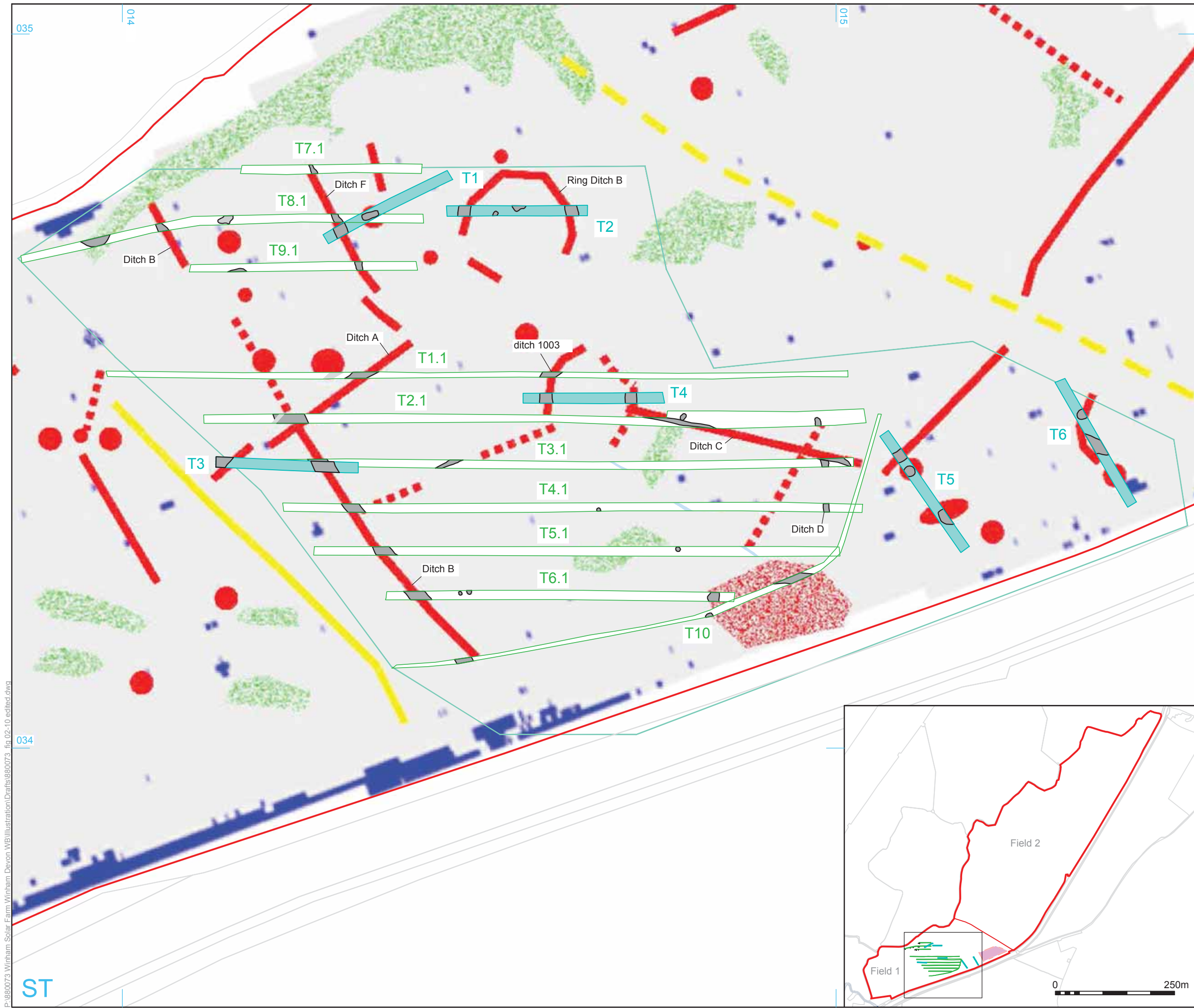
#### FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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014

015

034

ST

site

previous evaluation trench (CA 2014)

area of observed groundworks

Area of Archaeological Sensitivity

archaeological feature

modern

field drain

area of watching brief observations

Geophysics key (Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2014)

potential ditch

potential pit

potential quarry

recent boundary

typically modern (rubble, metal etc)

suggested natural

0 20m

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PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of observed groundworks, archaeological features, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results

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SO/AO

DATE

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PROJECT NO. 880073

14/06/2016

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FIGURE NO. 2

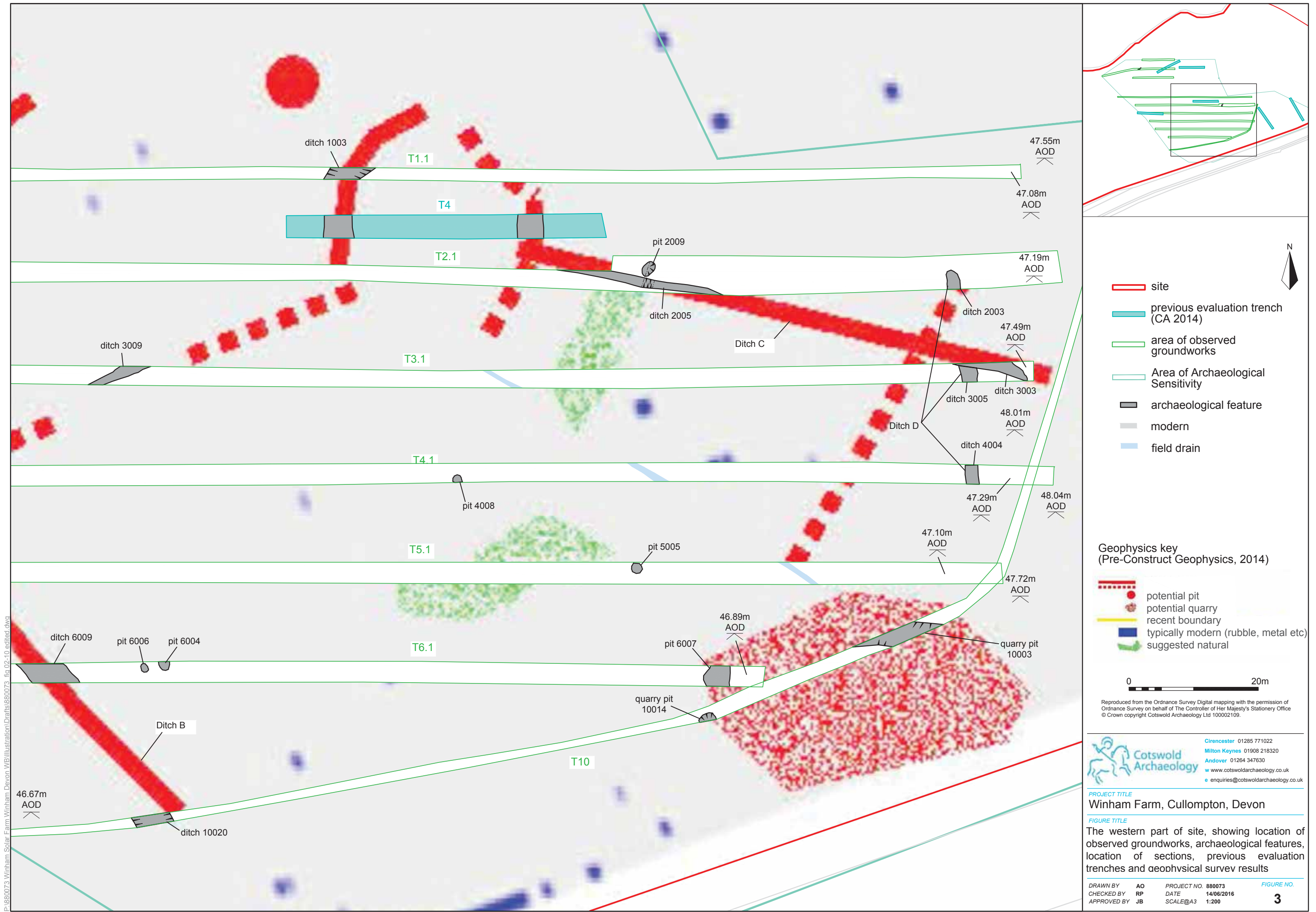
Field 1

Field 2

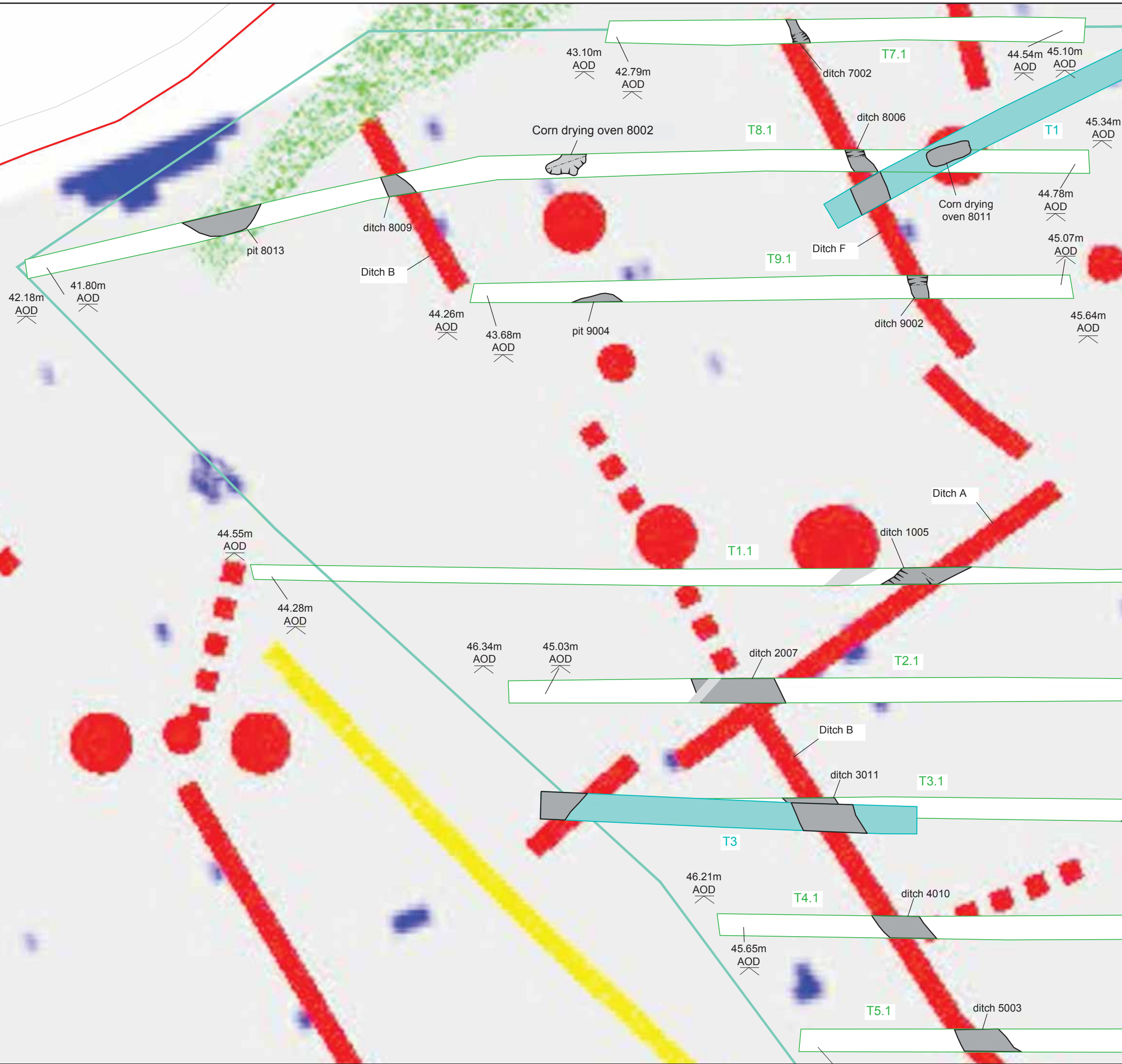
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site

previous evaluation trench (CA 2014)

area of observed groundworks

Area of Archaeological Sensitivity

archaeological feature

modern

field drain

Geophysics key  
(Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2014)

potential ditch

potential pit

potential quarry

recent boundary

typically modern (rubble, metal etc)

suggested natural

0 20m

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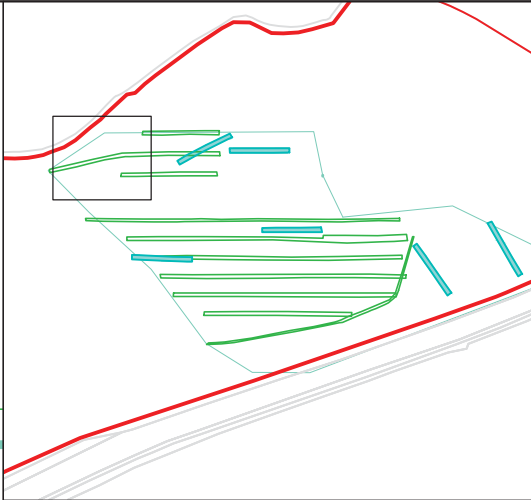
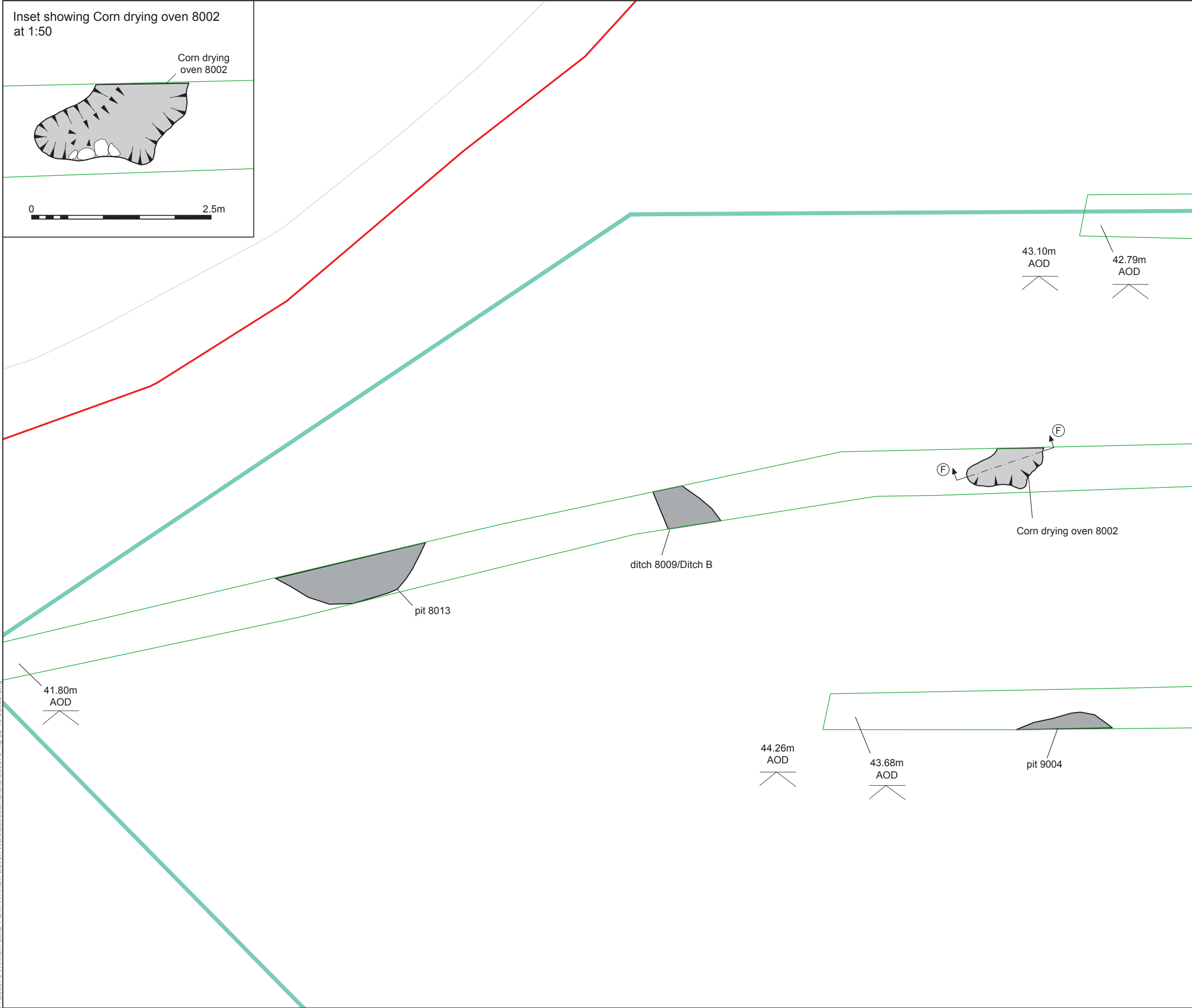
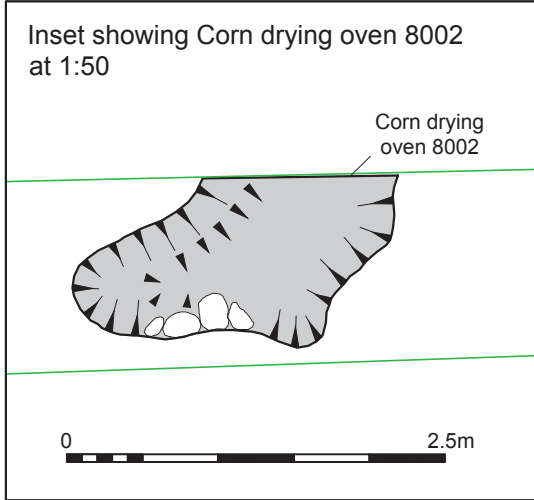
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PROJECT TITLE  
Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
The eastern part of site, showing location of observed groundworks, archaeological features, location of sections, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results

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Legend:

- site
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- area of observed groundworks
- Area of Archaeological Sensitivity
- archaeological feature
- modern
- field drain
- section location

0 5m

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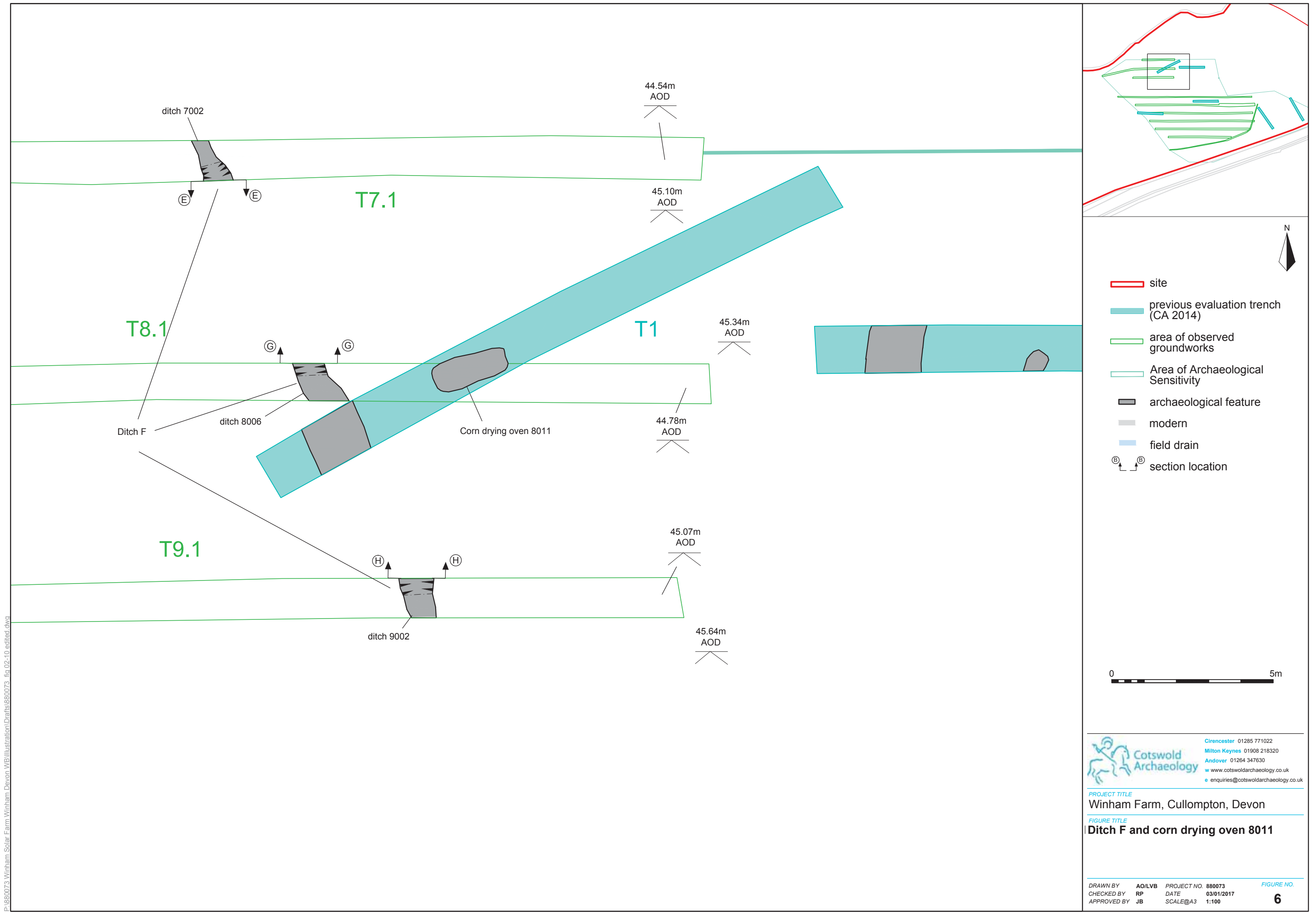
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PROJECT TITLE  
Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
Ditch B, pit 8013, corn drying oven 8002 and pit 9004

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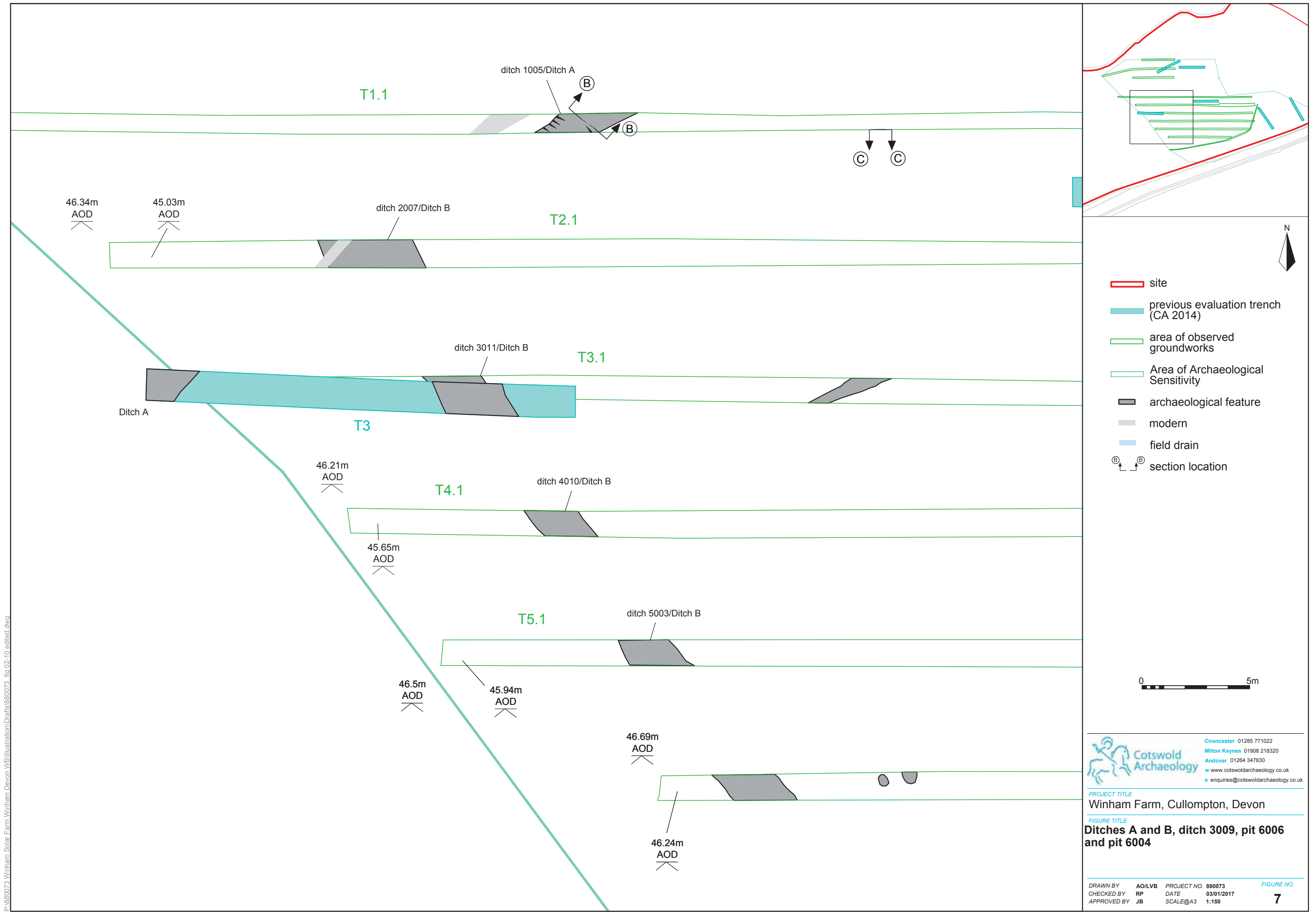
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Ditch F and corn drying oven 8011

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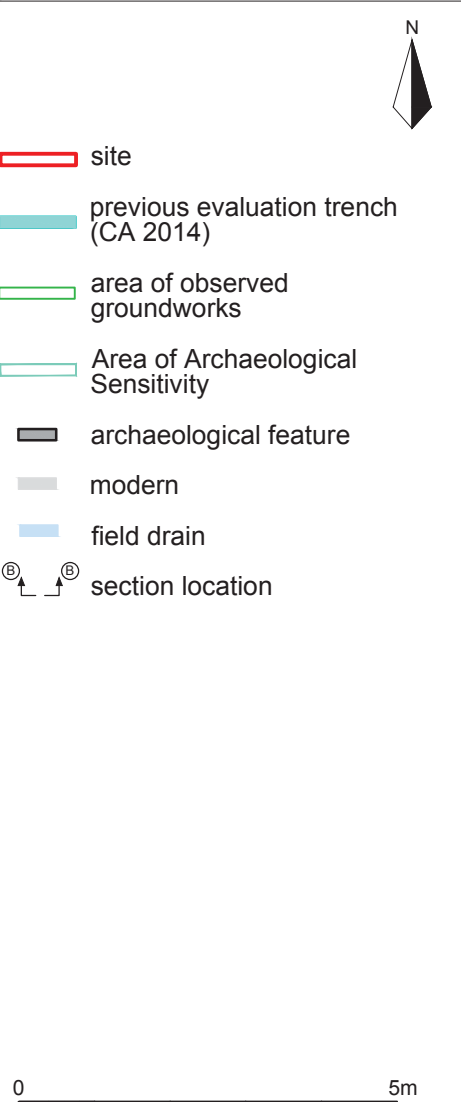
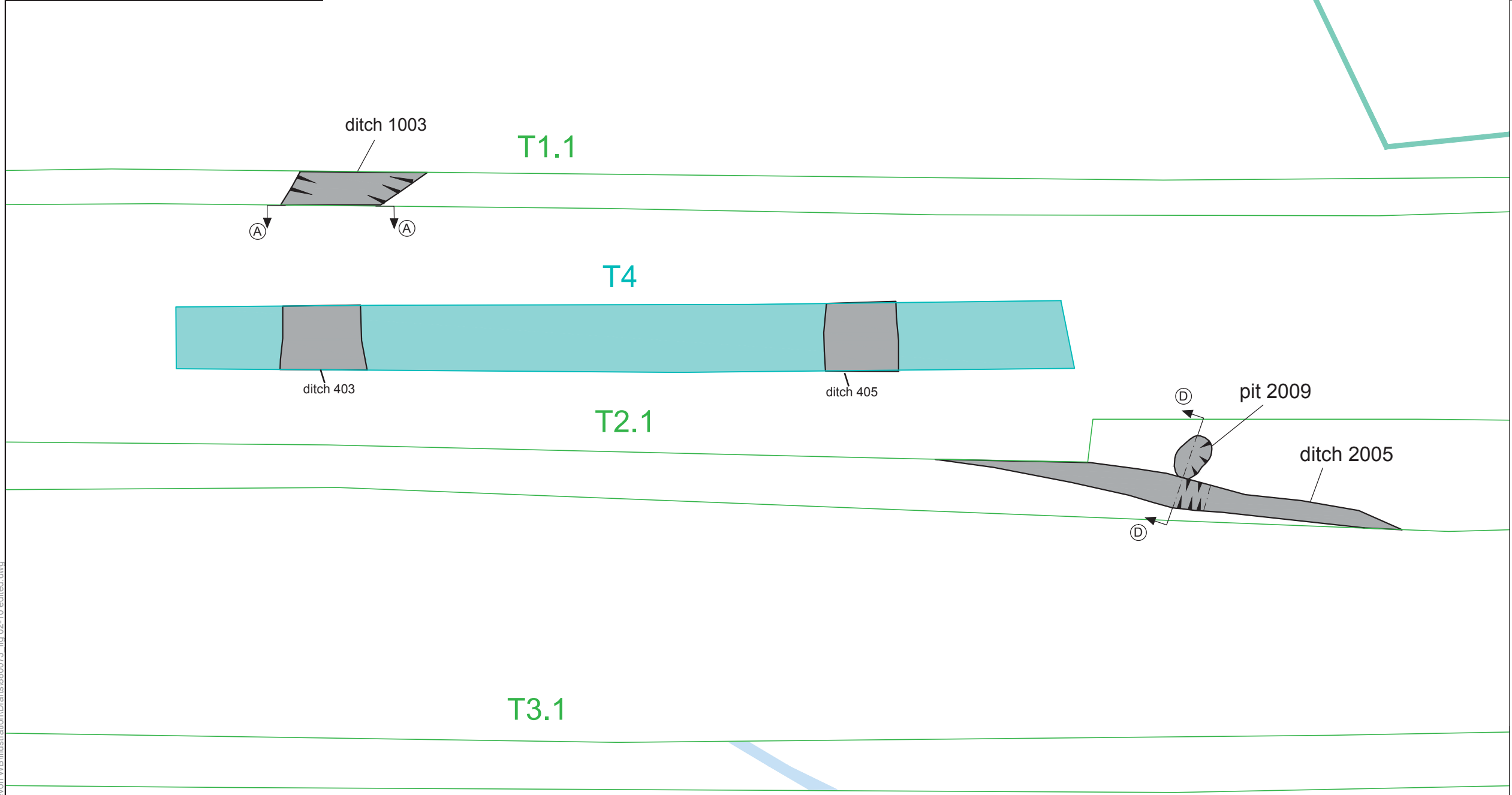
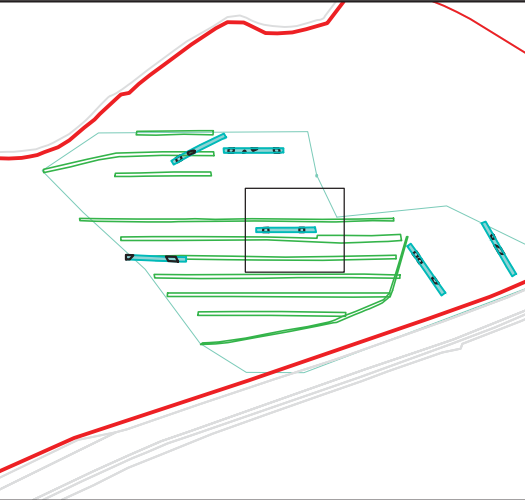
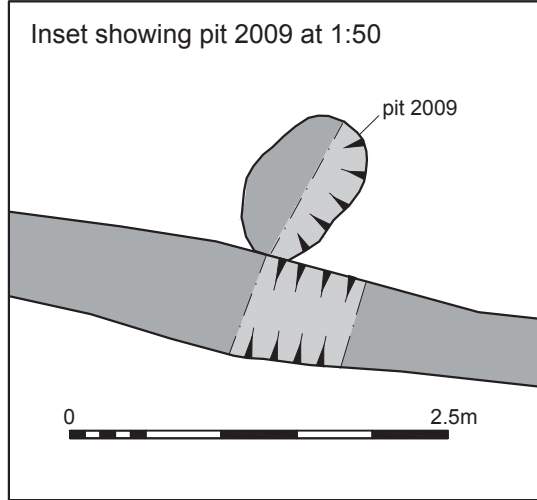
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Ditches A and B, ditch 3009, pit 6006 and pit 6004**

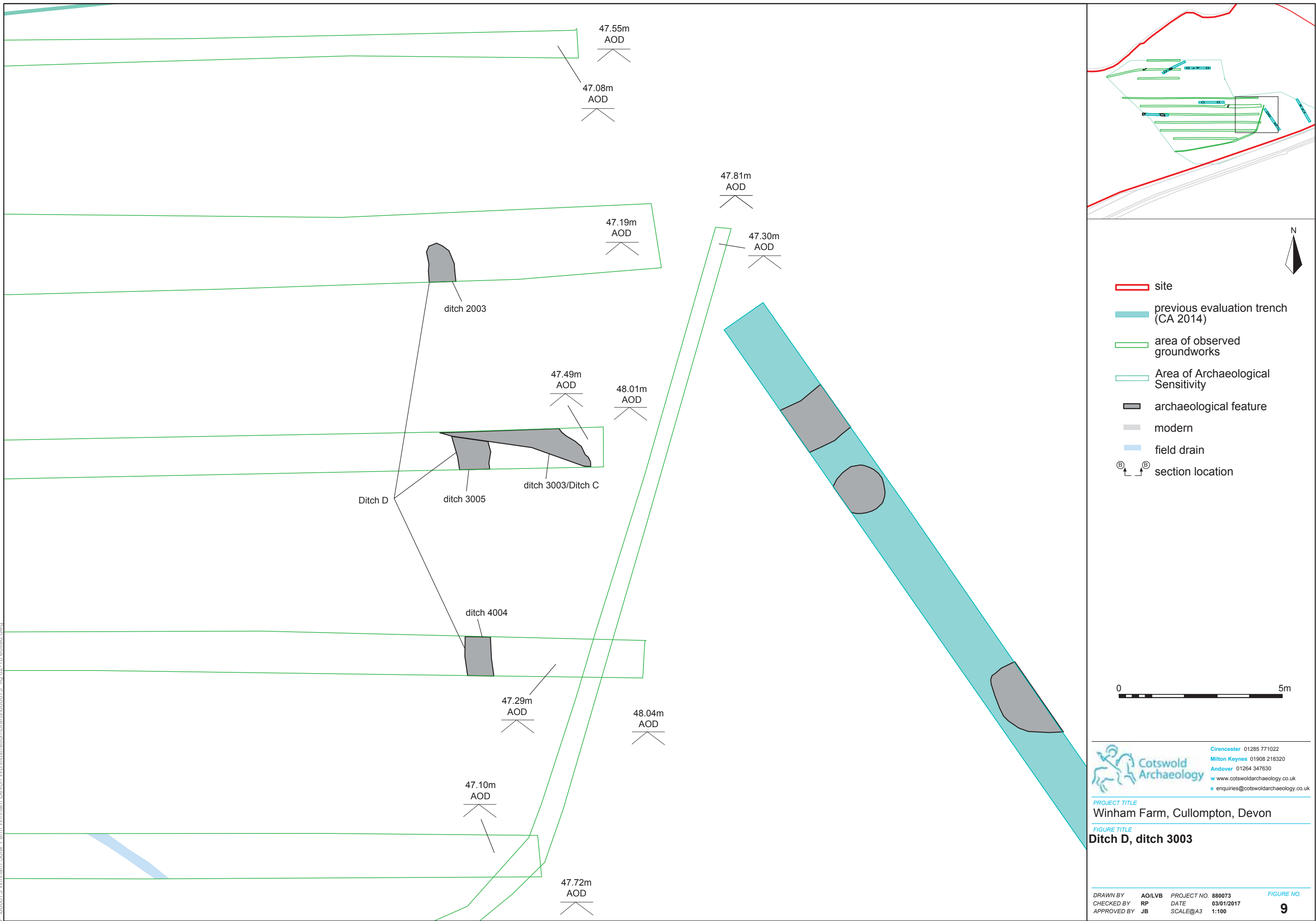
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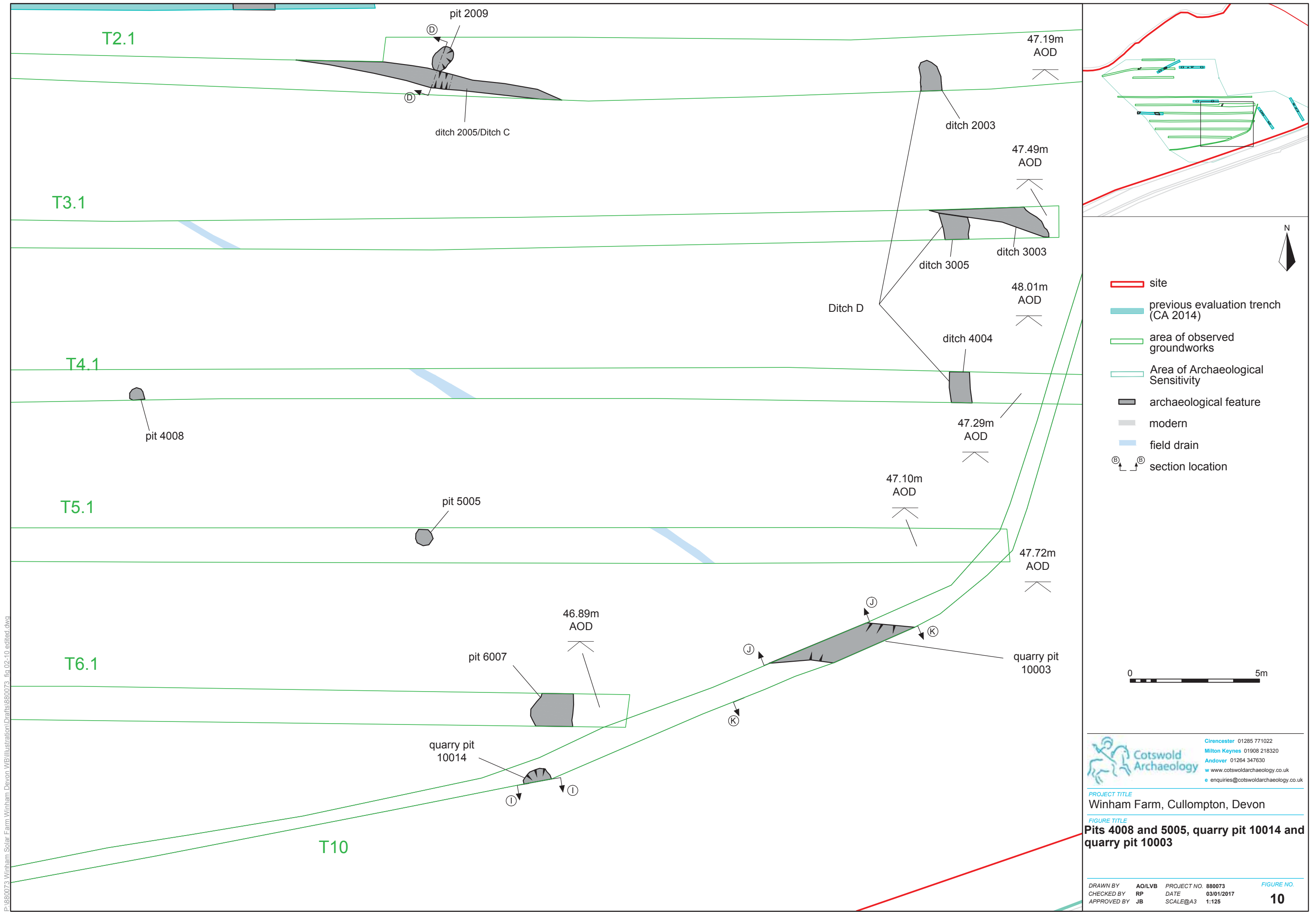


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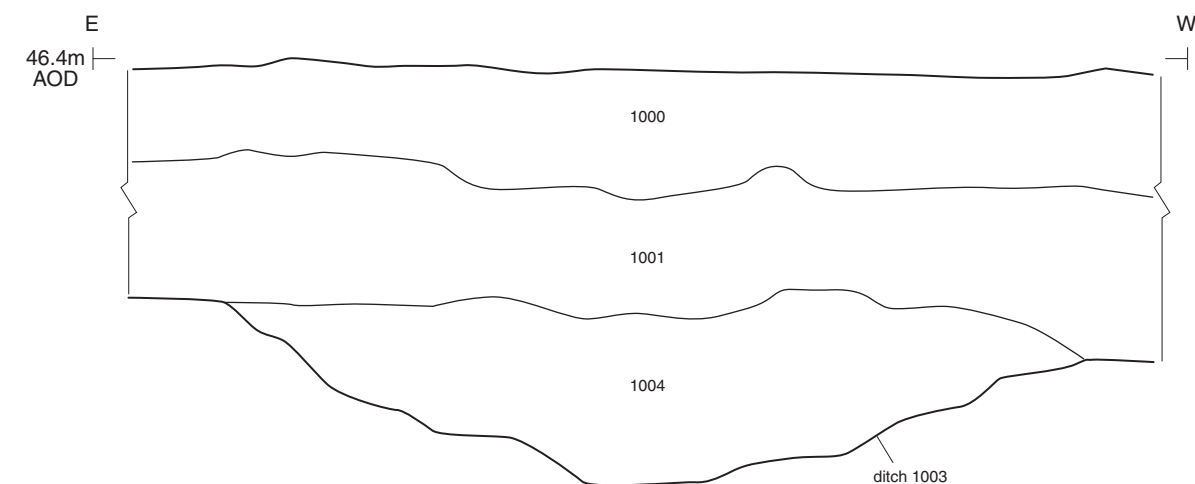
**FIGURE TITLE**  
Ditch D, ditch 3003

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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>DATE</b> 03/01/2017	<b>9</b>
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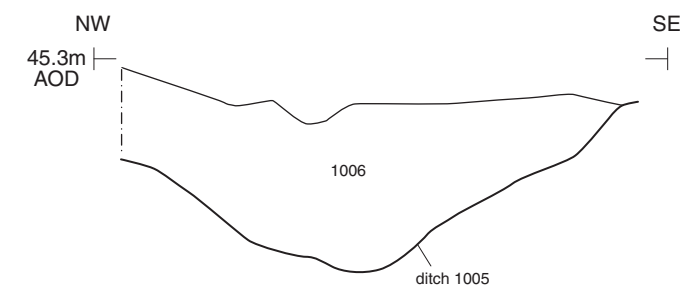


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Section AA

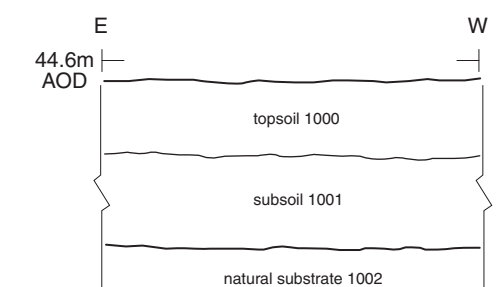


Section BB

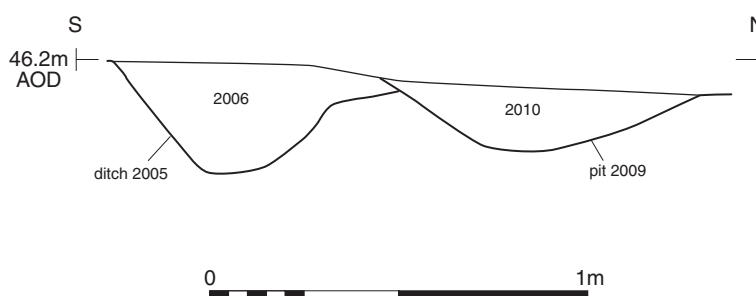


Ditch 1003, looking south (1m scale)

Section CC



# Section DD



Ditch 2005, looking east (0.3m and 1m scales)



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## PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

## FIGURE TITLE

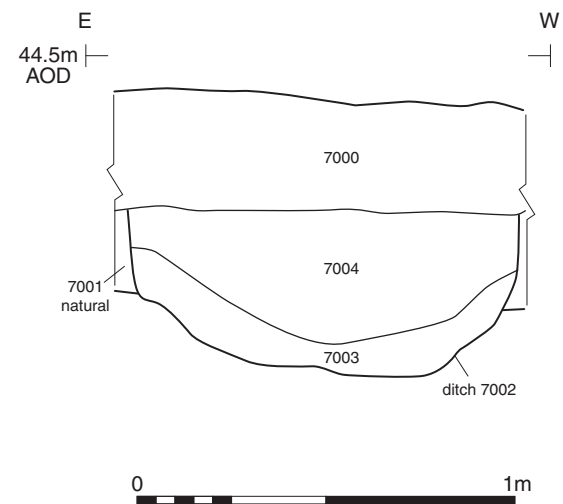
Trench 2: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

12

# Section EE

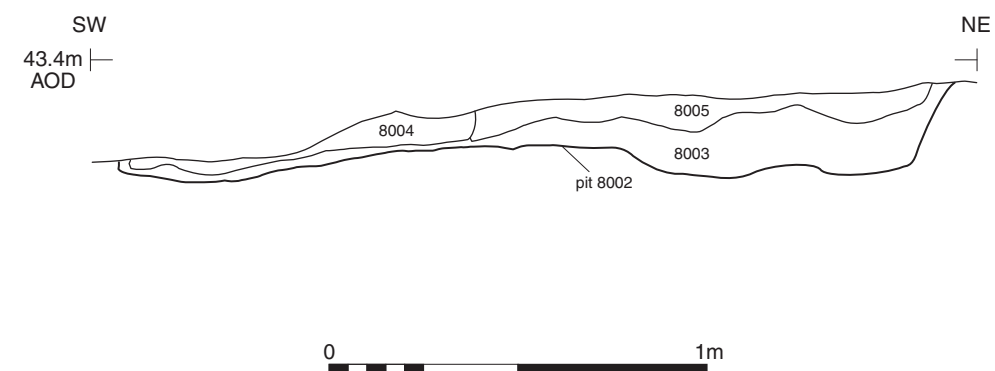


Ditch 7002, looking south (1m scale)



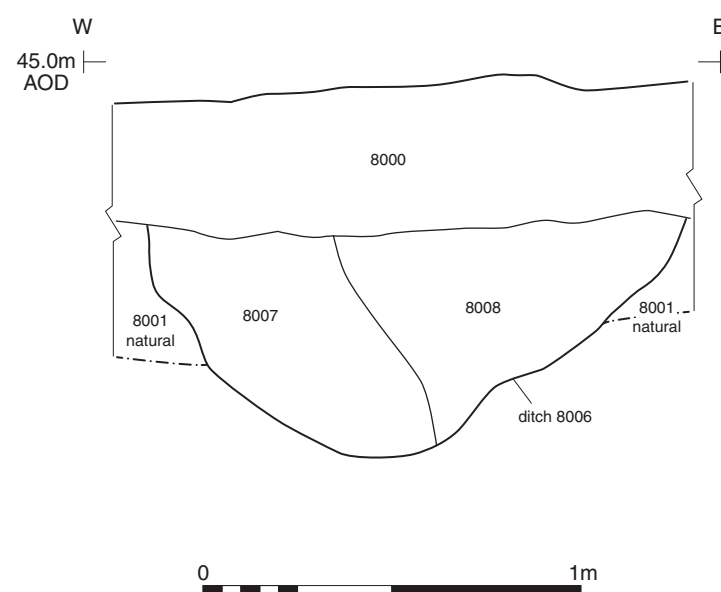
Trench 7, looking west (1m scales)

Section FF

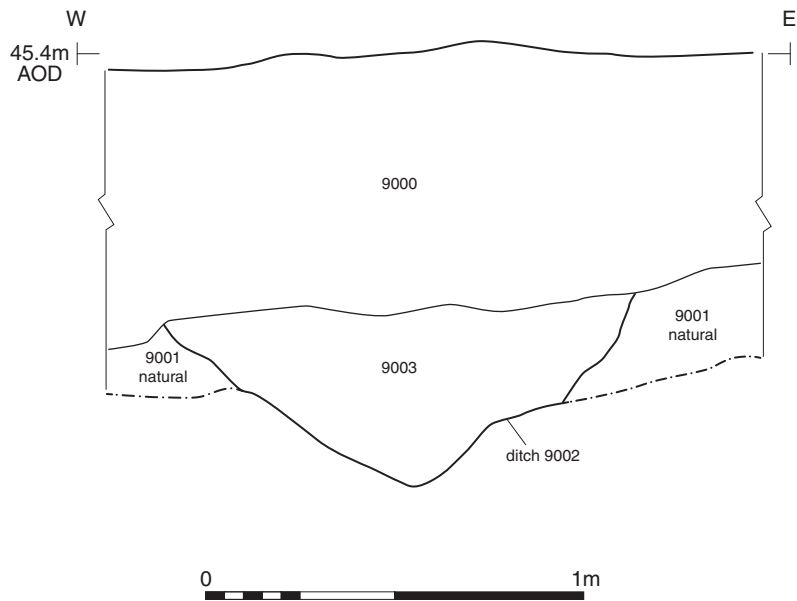


Corn drying oven 8002, looking north (1m scale)

Section GG



# Section HH



Ditch 9001, looking north (1m scales)



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## PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

## FIGURE TITLE

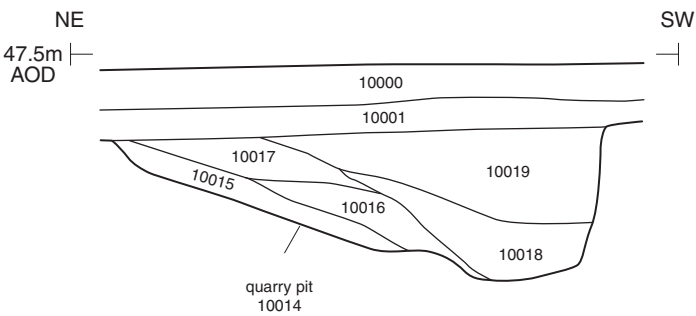
Trench 9: section and photograph

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 880073  
 CHECKED BY LM DATE 14/06/2016  
 APPROVED BY IB SCALE@A4 1:20

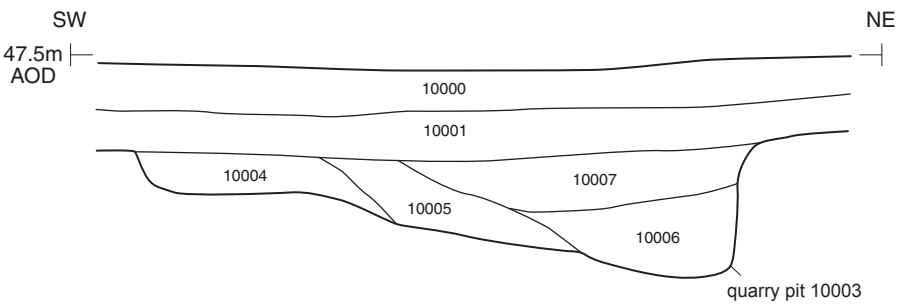
FIGURE NO.

15

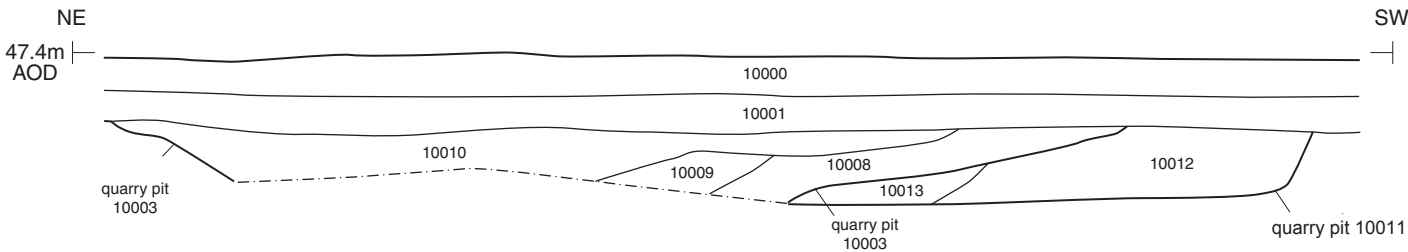
Section II



Section JJ



Section KK



Quarry pit 10014, looking south (1m scale)

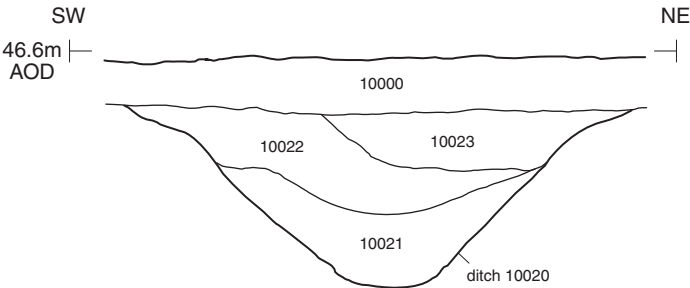


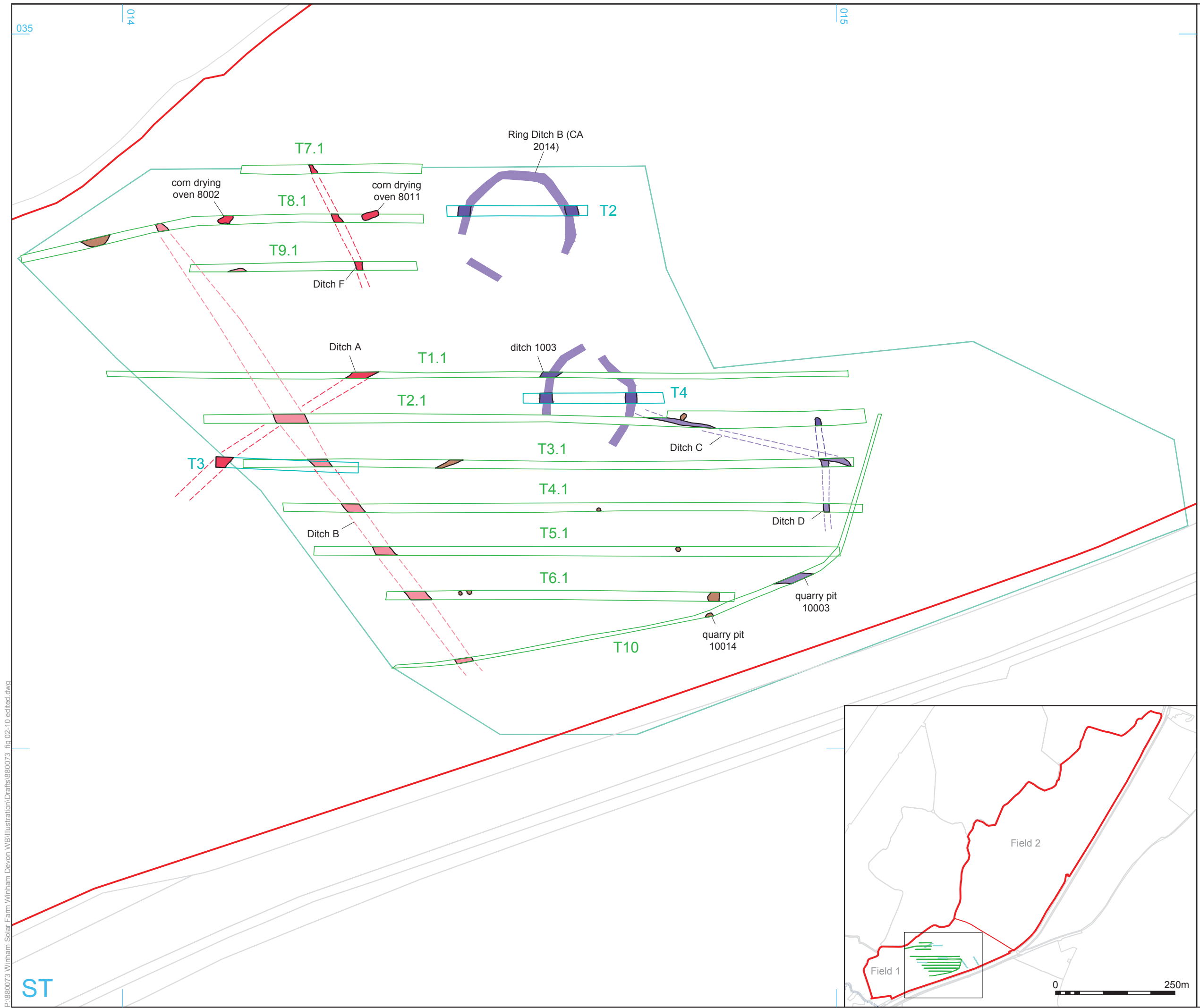
Quarry pits 10003 and 10011, looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 10020, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section LL





035

014

015

ST

Ring Ditch B (CA 2014)

corn drying oven 8002

corn drying oven 8011

Ditch F

Ditch A

ditch 1003

Ditch C

Ditch B

quarry pit 10003

quarry pit 10014

T7.1

T8.1

T9.1

T1.1

T2.1

T3.1

T4.1

T5.1

T6.1

T10

T2

T3

T4

site

area of observed groundworks

previous evaluation trench (CA 2014)

Area of Archaeological Sensitivity

Roman

Possible Roman

Prehistoric

Possible Prehistoric

Undated

Projected feature

Projected feature transcribed from geophysical survey results

0

20m

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PROJECT TITLE

Winham Farm, Cullompton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Phase plan of archaeological features

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CHECKED BY

APPROVED BY

AO

IB

IB

PROJECT NO. 880073

DATE 01/12/2017

SCALE@A3 1:500

FIGURE NO.

17

Field 1

Field 2

0

250m

P:\880073 Winham Solar Farm Winham Devon WB\Illustration\Drafts\880073\_fig 02-10 edited.dwg

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