



Land at Southwood Meadow Buckland Brewer Devon

Archaeological Evaluation



for Savills UK Ltd

on behalf of Mrs. P. Bromell

CA Project: 880141 CA Report: 16484

October 2016



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Document Control Grid							
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by	
А	21 October 2016	Simon Sworn	Derek Evans	Internal review	-	John Dillon	

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Southwood Meadow

Location: Buckland Brewer, Devon, Torridge District Council

NGR: SS 42049 20911

Type: Evaluation

Date: 24–26 August 2016
Planning Reference: 1/0099/2016/OUTM

Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

Site Code: LABB 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 at Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon. A total of ten trenches was excavated.

The evaluation recorded four ditches, possibly associated with a late medieval/post-medieval field system.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon (centred on NGR: SS 42049 20911; Fig. 1). The evaluation was carried out for Savills UK Ltd, acting on behalf of Mrs. P. Bromell.
- 1.2 An outline planning application for residential development of the site (planning ref: 1/0099/2016/OUTM) has been made to Torridge District Council (TDC; the local planning authority). The results of this evaluation will inform the determination of the outline planning application. This evaluation was requested by Stephen Reed (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team), the archaeological advisor to TDC.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Stephen Reed. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site lies on the north-eastern edge of Buckland Brewer village. It encloses *c*. 1.5ha and currently comprises a single pasture field defined by hedgerow boundaries. Farm buildings lie to the north-east of the site; a modern residential estate lies to the south-west; further fields lie to the north-west and south-east. The site slopes downward from *c*. 150m AOD at its north-western edge to *c*. 140m AOD at its south-eastern boundary.
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site is mapped as Bude Formation Sandstone of the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site has been the subject of a desk-based heritage assessment (AB Heritage 2016a) and a geophysical survey (AB Heritage 2016b). The following section is summarised from these sources.
- 2.2 Buckland Brewer has early medieval origins. The settlement's name is partially derived from the Saxon term 'charter land,' which referred to an estate with certain rights and privileges created by royal diploma.
- 2.3 Cropmarks indicative of a sub-rectangular enclosure have been recorded in the north-western corner of the site (Fig. 2).
- 2.4 The geophysical survey recorded a small number of linear and pit-like anomalies suggestive of below-ground archaeological features (Fig. 2). These were concentrated mainly towards the north-western site boundary. Two parallel linear anomalies were in the location of the north-western arm of the cropmark enclosure. There were no anomalies corresponding to the remainder of the enclosure.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource at the proposed development site. This information will enable TDC to identify and assess the significance of any heritage assets at the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage conservation and the proposed development, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of ten trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches were located to test cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, as well as to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. Four trenches were 20m long; one was 25m long; three were 30m long; two were 40m long. All trenches were 1.6m wide. At the request of Stephen Reed, there were two

revisions to the trench plan specified in the WSI (CA 2016): TR6 was altered so that it dog-legged to the south in order to pick up any continuation of the ditches recorded in TR1 and TR3, and TR7 was extended and dog-legged to the north-east in order to follow the potential alignment of the ditch visible in TR5.

- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites. Three bulk soil samples were taken, from deposits 107 (fill of ditch 106, TR1), 112 (fill of ditch 111, TR1) and 505 (fill of ditch 503, TR5). All three samples will be processed and analysed; the results of this analysis will be included in an updated version of this report.
- 4.5 All recovered artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3:***Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- The fieldwork archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA. The deposition archive will consist of two elements: the material (finds) archive and the digital archive. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the material (finds) archive will be deposited with Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. The digital archive (consisting of all born-digital data and digital copies of the primary fieldwork record) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and thus made publicly accessible, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2011).
- 4.7 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered during the evaluation can be found in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised mid brown silty clay with frequent angular stones and was exposed 0.35m–0.52m below the present ground surface. It was sealed in all trenches by 0.15m–0.2m of silty clay subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.2m–0.33m of modern topsoil.
- 5.3 Archaeological features were exposed in TR1, TR3, TR4 and TR5 only. These trenches are discussed in more detail below.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- Two parallel north-east/south-west aligned ditches were present in the south-eastern end of the trench (Fig. 3, Sec. AA).
- Ditch 111 was 1.2m wide and 0.59m deep, with two silty clay fills, 112 and 113. Upper fill 113 produced a single fragment of medieval pottery. Ditch 111 was re-cut along its north-western edge by ditch 109, which was 0.9m wide and 0.38m deep, with a single undated fill, 110.
- 5.6 Ditch 106 was 1.75m wide and 0.6m deep, with two silty clay fills, 107 and 108. A single fragment of mid-16th to 18th-century pottery was recovered from basal fill 107. A thin layer of redeposited natural 115 lay along the eastern edge of this ditch; this material may represent the remains of a bank, although there was no evidence of a former soil horizon below this layer.
- 5.7 A small part of feature 104 extended into the north-western end of TR1. This feature may represent part of a pit or a ditch terminus. It contained a single undated silty clay fill, 103.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

- 5.8 Parallel north-east/south-west-aligned ditches 303 and 306 (Fig. 4, Sec. BB) lay towards the centre of the trench. These ditches were the continuations of ditches 106 and 111 (TR1), respectively.
- 5.9 Ditch 303 was 1.58m wide and 0.51m deep, with two silty clay fills, 304 and 305. No artefactual material was recovered from the fills of ditch 303, although ditch 111 (TR1) produced medieval pottery. There was no indication that recut 109 (TR1) continued into TR3.
- 5.10 Ditch 306 was 1.98m wide and 0.5m deep, with two silty clay fills, 307 and 308. No artefactual material was recovered from the fills of ditch 306, although ditch 106 (TR1) produced mid-16th to 18th-century pottery. There was no indication that possible bank 115 (TR1) continued into TR3.

Trench 4 (Fig. 5)

5.11 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 403 (Fig. 5, Sec CC) was 1.01m wide and 0.41m deep, with two undated silty clay fills (404 and 405).

Trench 5 (Fig. 6)

5.12 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 503 (Fig. 6, Sec. DD) was 1.9m wide and 0.52m deep, with two undated fills, 506 and 506. A thin layer of redeposited natural 504 lay along the north-eastern edge of ditch 503; this material may represent the remains of a bank, although there was no evidence of a former soil horizon below this layer.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 The artefactual material recovered during the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed below.

Pottery

6.2 A total of two sherds (13g) of pottery was recovered from two deposits. A 'T'-shaped rimsherd from a jar in a coarse quartz-tempered fabric (Qz), was recovered from fill

113 (ditch 111, TR1). It is dateable to the medieval period, probably within the 12th–14th century range. An unfeatured bodysherd occurring in a glazed earthenware fabric, probably of South Somerset type, was recovered from fill 107 (ditch 106, TR1). It is broadly dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries.

Other finds

6.3 A black glass button was recovered from subsoil 101 (TR1). It dates to the early modern period, probably the 19th century.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken, from deposits 107 (fill of ditch 106, TR1), 112 (fill of ditch 111, TR1) and 505 (fill of ditch 503, TR5). All three samples will be processed and analysed. The results of this analysis will be included in an updated version of this report.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation recorded a small number of features, all of which were located in the north-western part of the site. There was a variable correspondence between the evaluation results, the anomalies detected by the previous geophysical survey (AB Heritage 2016b) and the cropmarks (Fig. 2).
- 8.2 The parallel linear ditches recorded in TR1 and TR3 were in the broad location of linear cropmarks and geophysical anomalies, but the match was not exact. Similarly, ditch 503 (TR5) was on the same alignment as parallel linear cropmarks, but did not correspond exactly in location with either of them and had not been detected by the geophysical survey. Ditch 403 (TR4) showed neither as cropmarks nor a geophysical anomaly. Conversely, the geophysical anomalies sampled by the northwestern end of TR1, TR6 and TR10 were found to have been caused by variations in the natural substrate.
- 8.3 There were no features or natural variation corresponding to the linear cropmarks sampled by TR8. This supports the geophysical survey results in this area and

indicates perhaps that any features in this part of the site have been lost to ploughing since the cropmarks were recorded.

8.4 It is possible that the ditches recorded in TR1, TR3, TR4 and TR5 represent former field system boundaries and/or drainage ditches. The dating of these ditches is uncertain: while one of the parallel ditches in TR1/TR3 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, the other produced a single sherd of mid-16th–18th century pottery and the ditches in TR4 and TR5 were undated. It is known, however, that the fields around Buckland Brewer were probably first enclosed during the later medieval period (AB Heritage 2016a). Furthermore, the earliest available map of the site (the 1842 *Tithe Map of Buckland Brewer*, reproduced in AB Heritage 2016a, Plate 1) shows the site boundaries as they are today, with no internal divisions. It is therefore likely that the field system ditches recorded by the evaluation were established in the later medieval period and went out of use prior to 1842, which fits with the pottery recovered from the TR1/TR3 ditches.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, assisted by Jerry Austin, George Gandham and Parris Stubbings. This report was written by Simon Sworn. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

10. REFERENCES

AB Heritage 2016a Buckland Brewer, Devon: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

AB Heritage 2016b Land at Buckland Brewer, Devon: Geophysical Survey Report

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 Geology of Britain

Viewer http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Accessed 4 August 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.3	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
1	103	Fill	104	?Pit fill	Mid grey brown friable silty clay			>0.1	
1	104	Cut		?Pit	Partially exposed cut. Steep sides with flat base	>1.24	>0.23	>0.1	
1	105	Void							
1	106	Cut		Ditch	East/west aligned linear cut. Moderate concave sides, shallow concave base. Same as 306	>1.8	1.75	0.6	
1	107	Fill	106	Lower ditch fill	Mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent sub- angular stones. Same as 307			0.2	MC16- C18
1	108	Fill	106	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones. Same as 308			0.47	
1	109	Cut	400	Ditch	East/west aligned linear cut. Steep irregular sides, gentle concave base	>1.8	0.9	0.38	
1	110	Fill Cut	109	Ditch fill Ditch	Mid grey brown compact silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones East/west aligned linear cut. Moderate/steep	>1.8	>1.2	0.38	
			111		sides 'V' shaped base. Same as 303	>1.0	>1.2		
1	112	Fill	111	Lower ditch fill	Yellowish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Same as 304			0.16	C40, C44
1	113		111	Upper ditch fill	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones. Same as 305			0.43	C12-C14
1	114	Void	1	- OD 1		4.0			
1	115	Layer		?Bank	Orangey brown silty clay, rare small sub- angular stones	>1.6	0.8	0.1	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.25	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.15	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses			0.0	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
3	303	Cut	000	Ditch	East/west aligned linear cut. Moderate/steep sides, concaved base. Same as 111	>1.8	1.58	0.51	
3	304	Fill	303	Lower ditch fill	Yellowish grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Same as 112			0.51	
3	305	Fill	303	Upper ditch fill	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones. Same as 113			0.29	
3	306	Cut		Ditch	East/west aligned linear cut. Moderate concave sides, shallow concave base. Same as 106	>1.8	1.98	0.5	
3	307	Fill	306	Lower ditch fill	Mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent sub- angular stones. Same as 107			0.5	
3	308	Fill	306	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stones. Same as 108			0.5	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.3	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
4	403	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch. Moderate, irregular sides with 'V' shaped base	>1.8	1.01	0.41	

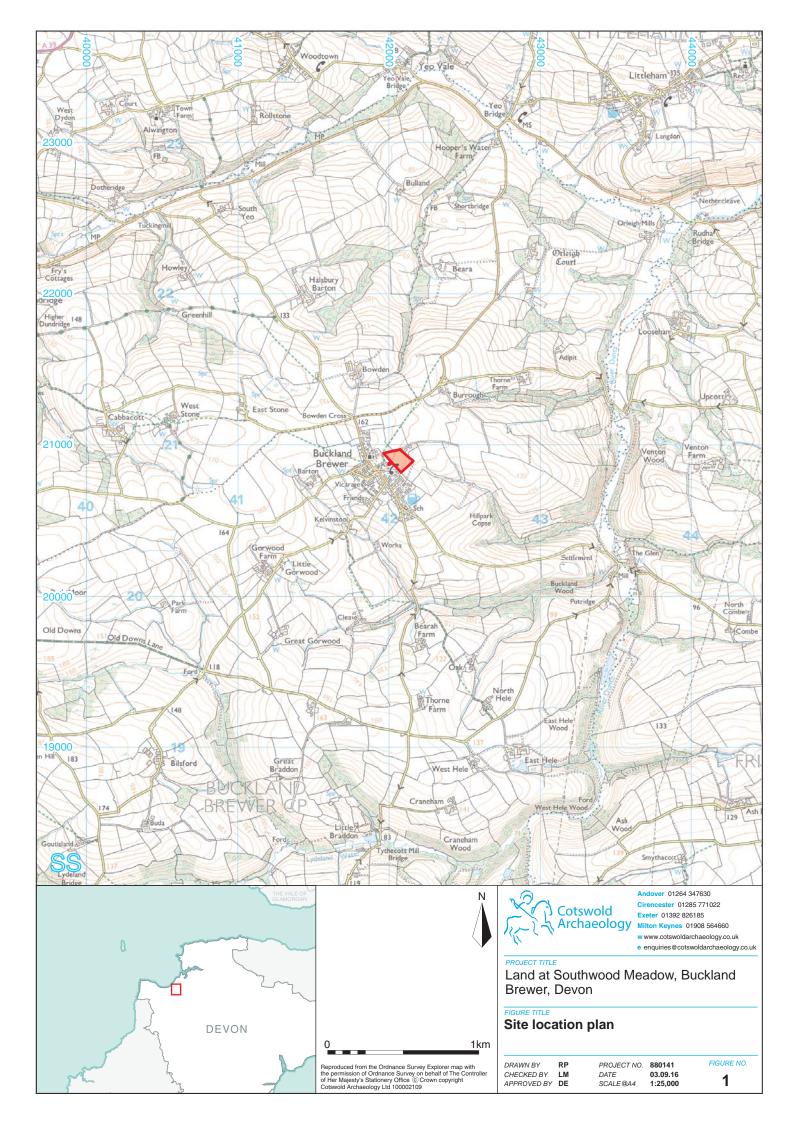
Trench No.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot date
4	404	Fill	403	Lower ditch fill	Mid brownish orange silty clay, rare sub- angular stones			0.16	
4	405	F≡	403	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.25	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.32	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
5	503	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned cut, Steep concave sides, gentle concave base	>1.8	1.9	0.52	
5	504	Layer		?Bank	Mid reddish brown compact silty clay with frequent angular stones			0.1	
5	505	Fill	503	Lower ditch fill	Mid-dark yellowish brown compact silty clay with large sandstone inclusions			0.19	
5	506	Fill	503	Upper ditch fill	Mid-light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks			0.33	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.15	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.23	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.16	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.21	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.15	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.33	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.28	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.2	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Mixed variable orangey red silty clay with stone and sand lenses				

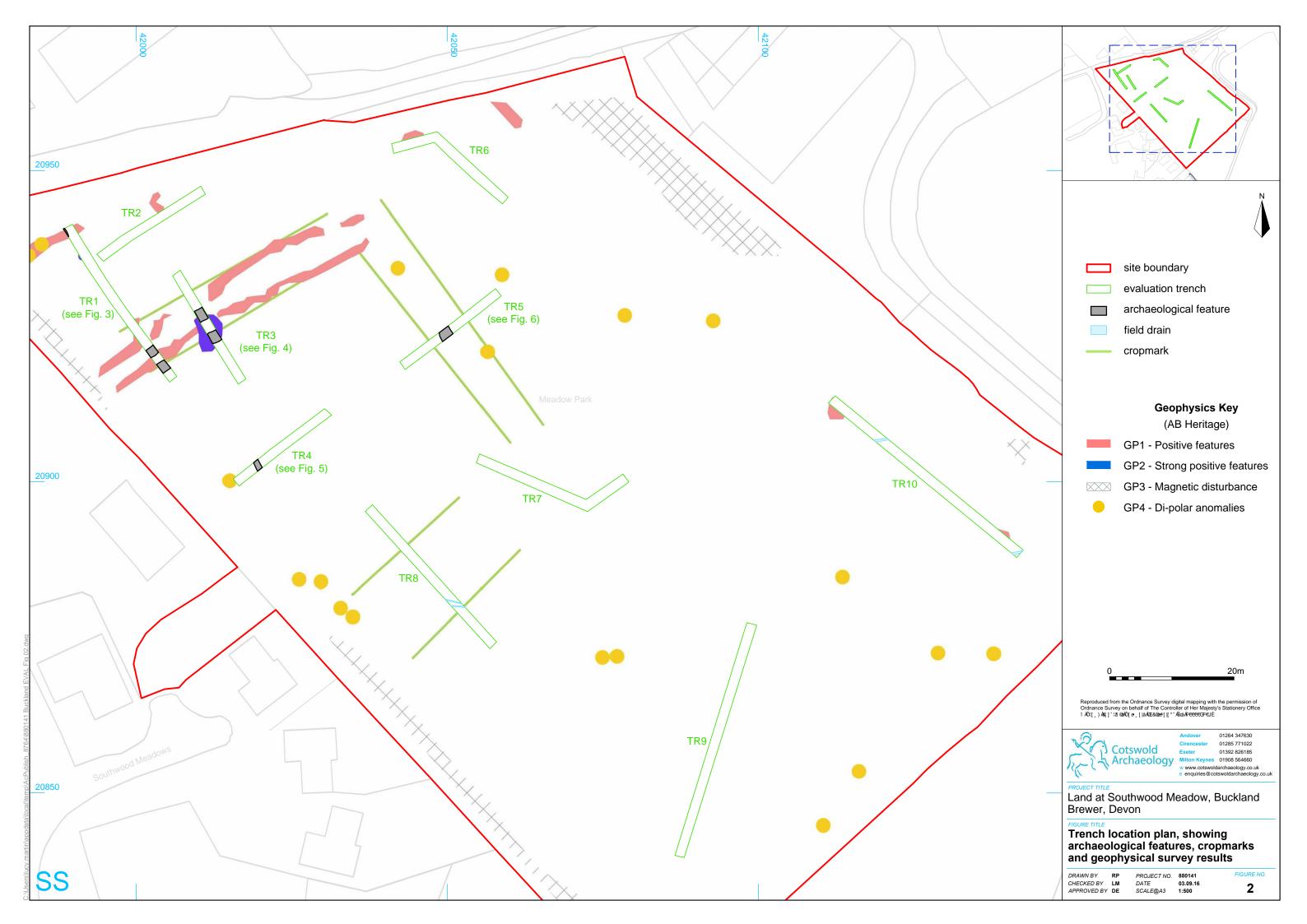
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

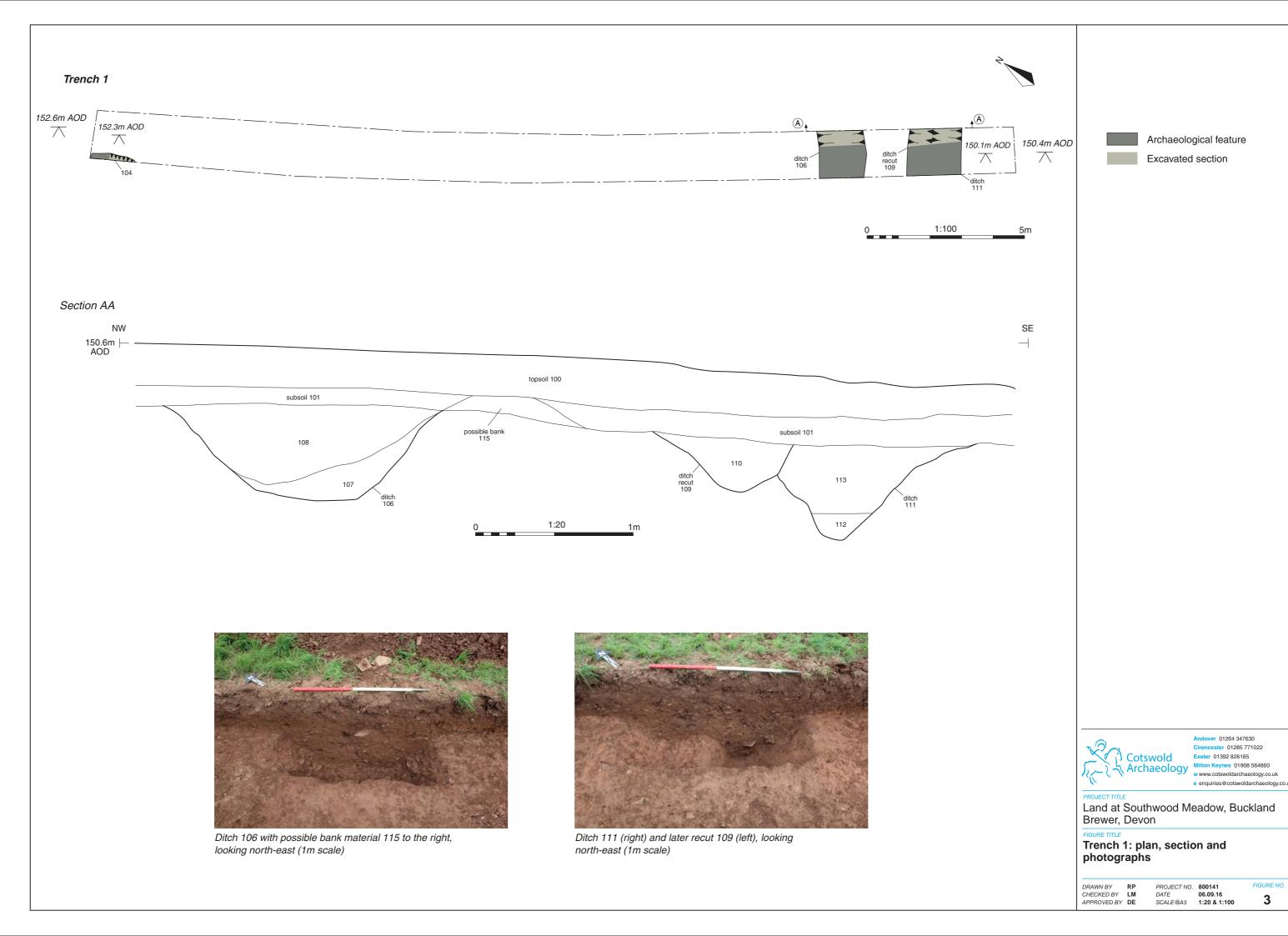
Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
101	Glass	button	1	2	
107	post-medieval pottery	glazed earthenware (GEW)	1	5	MC16-C18
113	medieval pottery	Quartz- tempered (Qz)	1	8	C12-C14

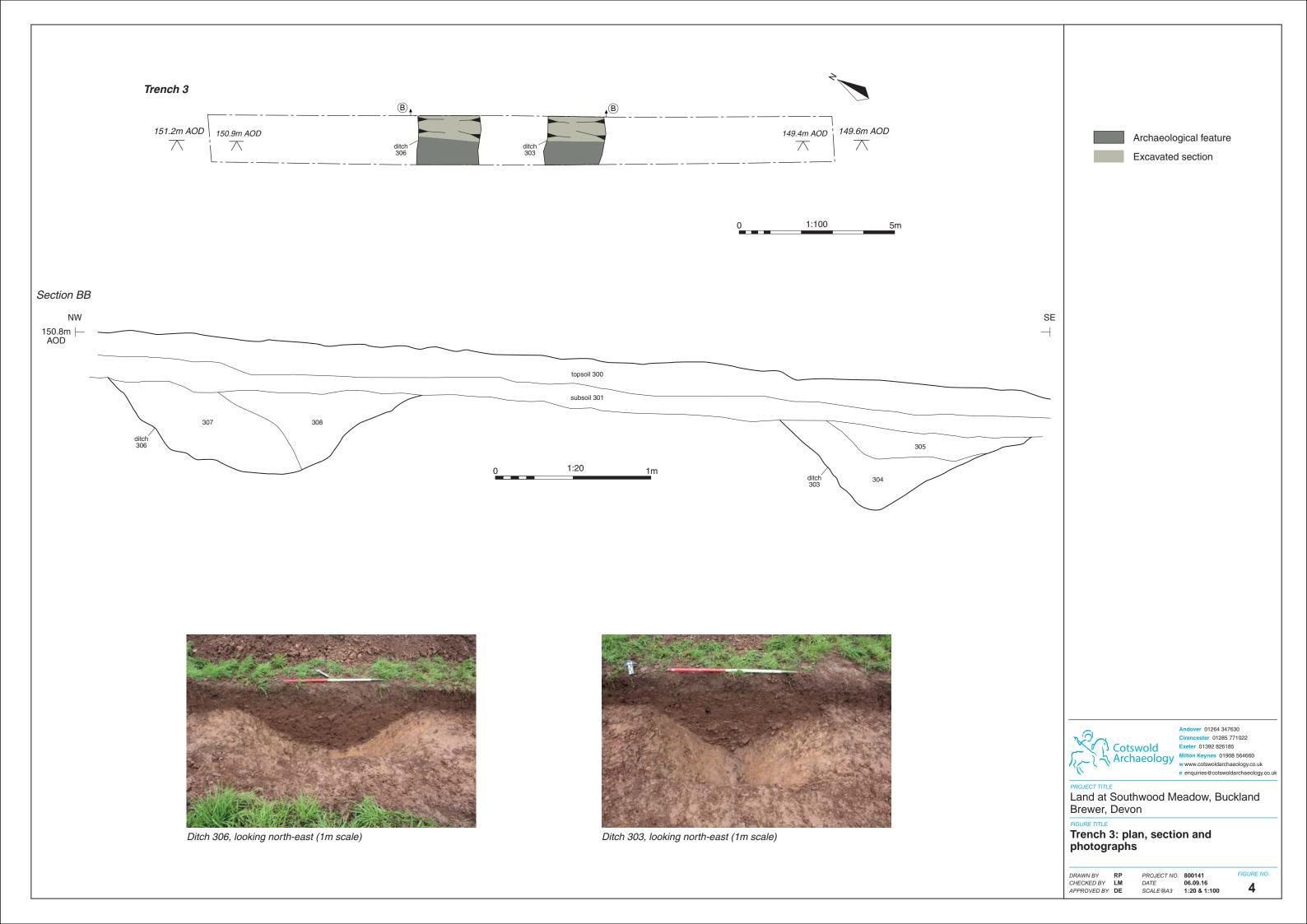
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

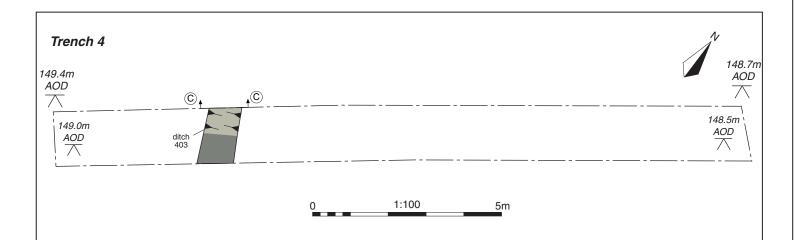
Project Name	ject Name Land at Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon					
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undert					
	Archaeology in August 2016 at Southwood					
	Brewer, Devon. A total of ten trenches wa	as excavated.				
	The evaluation recorded four ditches, po	ssibly associated with a				
	late medieval/post-medieval field system					
Project dates	24–26 August 2016					
Project type	Field evaluation					
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (AB Heritage :	2016); geophysical survey				
	(AB Heritage 2016)	,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
Future work	Unknown	Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Buckland Brewer, Devon					
Study area (M²/ha)	1.5ha	1.5ha				
Site co-ordinates	SS 42049 20911	SS 42049 20911				
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Brief originator	N/A					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Manager	Derek Evans					
Project Supervisor	Simon Sworn					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	Ceramics				
Paper	N/A	N/A				
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos				
		scans of primary site				
		archive				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						

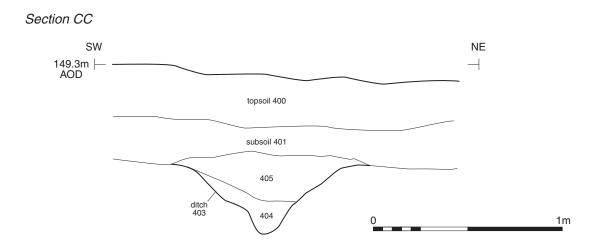






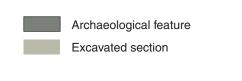








Ditch 403, looking north-west (1m scale)





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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY RP
CHECKED BY LM
APPROVED BY DE

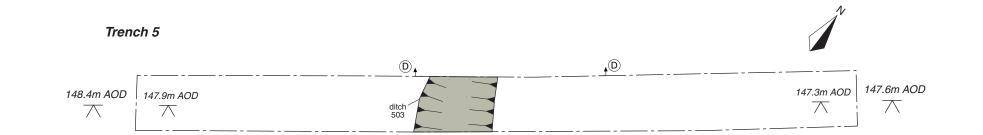
 PROJECT NO.
 880141

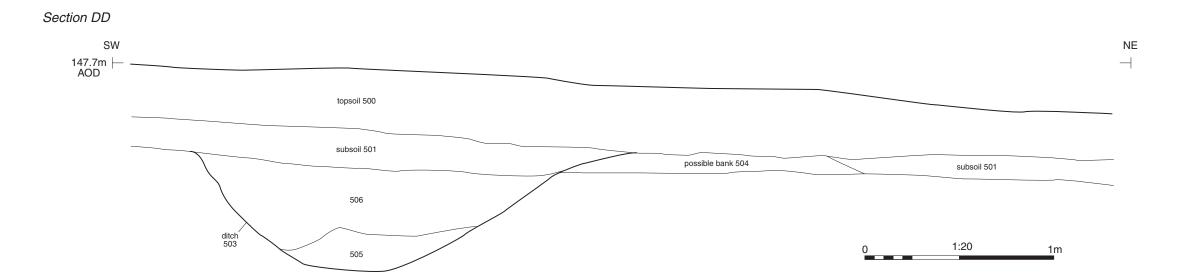
 DATE
 05.06.16

 SCALE@A4
 1:20 & 1:100

FIGURE NO.

5







Ditch 303 with possible bank material 504 to the right, looking north-west (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022

Excavated archaeological feature

Land at Southwood Meadow, Buckland Brewer, Devon

Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY RP
CHECKED BY LM
APPROVED BY DE

PROJECT NO. 800141 DATE 06.09.16 SCALE@A3 1:20 & 1:100

FIGURE NO. 6



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