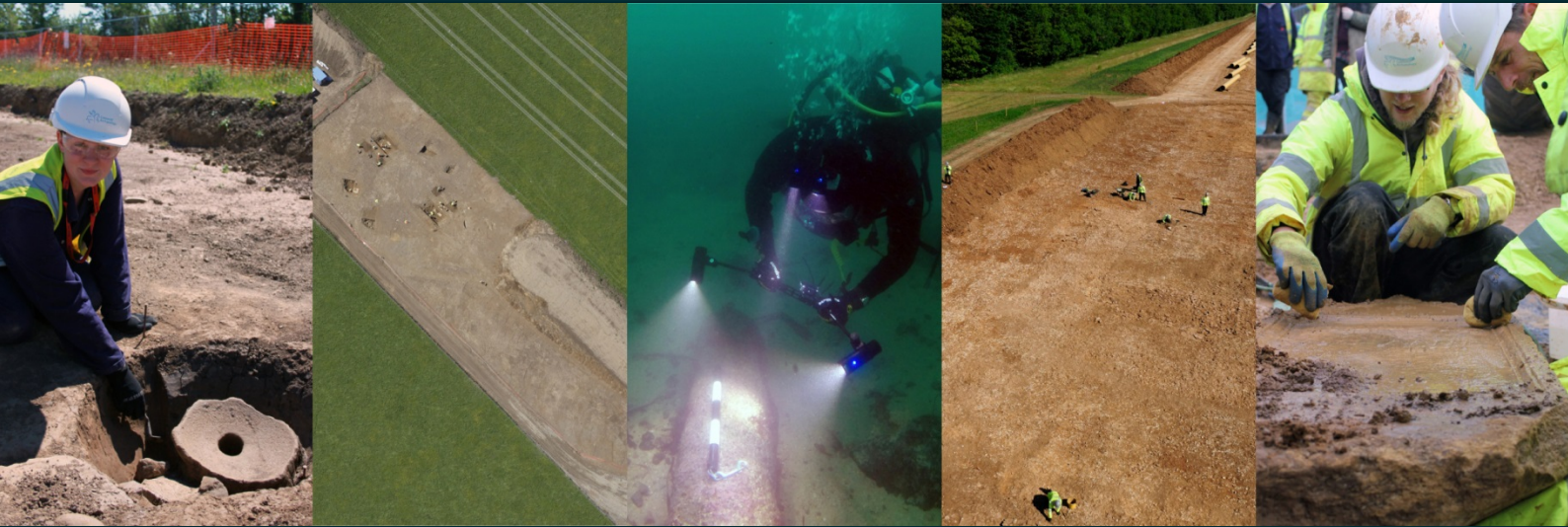


Land south of Yalberton Road Paignton Devon

Archaeological Excavation



for
Barrett David Wilson
Homes

CA Project: 880399
CA Report: 880399_1

August 2019



Land south of Yalberton Road
Paignton
Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 880399
CA Report: 880399_1



| Document Control Grid | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Revision | Date | Author | Checked by | Status | Reasons for revision | Approved by |
| A | 2 August 2019 | Jerry Austin | Derek Evans | Internal review | - | Duncan Coe |
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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project Name: | Land south of Yalberton Road |
| Location: | Paignton, Devon |
| NGR: | 287000 058960 |
| Type: | Excavation |
| Date: | 11–14 February 2019 |
| Planning Reference: | P/2014/0983/MOA |
| Location of Archive: | N/A |
| Accession Number: | N/A |
| OASIS ID: | cotswold2-361193 |
| Site Code: | YALB19 |

In February 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon. Three excavation areas were opened; these were centred on early Neolithic pits and a possible further pit/ditch terminal recorded by a previous trial trench evaluation.

The excavation confirmed that there were no additional Neolithic pits or further prehistoric activity in these areas of the site. The excavation also established that the previously-recorded unknown feature was probably a tree throw, rather than a ditch terminus or pit.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation of land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon (centred at NGR: 287000 058960; Fig. 1). This excavation was undertaken for Barrett David Wilson Homes.
- 1.2 Torbay Council has granted outline planning permission for phased residential and employment development, together with the provision of ecological mitigation measures, public open space and other associated infrastructure (planning ref. P/2014/0983/MOA). Condition 12 of this planning permission requires a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.3 The scope of this archaeological excavation was devised in consultation with Bill Horner (Devon County Council Archaeologist). The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Bill Horner. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014) *Specification for Archaeological Excavation* (Devon County Council 2018), *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 development site lies on the south-western fringes of Paignton, c. 0.6km north-east of Yalberton village. The site encloses c. 13 hectares in total. At the time of the archaeological fieldwork, it comprised six pasture fields split over two separate areas. The western area of the site (in which the present archaeological excavation took place) is bordered by Yalberton Road to the north, with an active quarry beyond; a supermarket lies to the north-east, with agricultural/pasture land on all other sides. The eastern area of the site lies to the south of the supermarket, with houses to the north-east and new residential/industrial developments on all other sides.
- 1.5 The development site lies on a north and north-west-facing slope, with a high point of c. 90m AOD within the south-eastern corner of the site, sloping downward to c. 50m AOD at the northern site boundary.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology at the site is mapped as igneous bedrock of the Devonian Ashprington Volcanic Formation, with areas of Brixham and Goodrington Formation limestone. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development site has been the previous subject of a desk-based heritage assessment (CA 2012), a geophysical survey (AB Heritage 2016) and a trial trench

evaluation (CA 2016). The following section is summarised from these sources, which should be referred to for a full archaeological background.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.2 Three early Neolithic pits were identified during the evaluation. Several undated pits were also recorded and could be part of the same phase of activity.

Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

- 2.3 No evidence for Roman occupation or settlement has been identified in the area around Yalberton and Paignton, although a single fragment of Roman pottery was recovered during geotechnical works c. 50m south-east of the site.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

- 2.4 Paignton and Yalberton have early medieval origins, but no early medieval remains are known within the immediate vicinity of the development site.

- 2.5 The Tithe Map and Apportionment of Paignton (1840) records one of the fields within the northern part of the site as ‘Berry Acre.’ This name might be derived from the Old English *burh*, relating to a fortified settlement or earthwork, although it may instead indicate a connection to nearby Berry Pomeroy. The trial trench evaluation recorded no archaeological features in this area of the site.

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

- 2.6 The site probably formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Yalberton throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. The 1803 Ordnance Surveyor’s drawing shows the site as an area of enclosed fields.

Geophysical survey

- 2.7 The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies within the site. The evaluation demonstrated that the majority of these anomalies were the result of variations in the natural substrate.

Evaluation

- 2.8 The evaluation recorded a total of 11 pits/postholes and a further pit/ditch terminus. Three of the pits (all within Trench 8) contained Early Neolithic/prehistoric artefacts; the remainder were undated artefactually but occupied the same stratigraphic position (i.e. cut into the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil) and may therefore be of similar date.

- 2.9 The evaluation also recorded five ditches which were cut into the subsoil layer and sealed by the topsoil. Although undated artefactually, the stratigraphic position of these ditches indicates that they are post-medieval/modern in date. Two of these ditches corresponded to former field boundaries depicted on the 1840 tithe map of Paignton.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The general objectives of the archaeological excavation were to:

- identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features at the site prior to their destruction by the proposed development;
- recover and analyse any artefactual evidence;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy; and
- archive, report on and publish the archaeological results at a level appropriate to their significance.

3.2 The specific aims of the archaeological excavation were to establish if further early Neolithic pits were present in the immediate vicinity of evaluation Trench 8, and to determine if feature 1210 recorded in evaluation Trench 12 was an elongated pit or a ditch terminal (CA 2016).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three areas (Figs. 2 and 3). Areas 1 and 2 were c. 10m x c. 10m in plan; Area 3 was c. 10m x c. 20m in plan. These excavation areas were centred on the early Neolithic pits and feature 1210 recorded by the previous evaluation (CA 2016).

4.2 All areas were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were stripped from the areas 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. Records were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4 As no significant archaeological features were identified during the excavation, no archive will be prepared. The excavation results will be held by Devon County Council in the form of this report.

4.5 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (OASIS ID: cotswold2-361193). The OASIS entry will include an uploaded copy of this report.

5. RESULTS

5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Figures 3 and 4 present plans and photographs of the excavation areas.

5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised yellow-brown clayey silt with mudstone inclusions. It was exposed in all three areas at a depth of 0.6m–0.8m below the present ground level. The natural substrate was overlain by 0.3m–0.5m of red-brown clayey silt subsoil, which was sealed in turn by 0.3m–0.45m of modern topsoil. All recorded features (with the exception of the Area 3 sheep burial; see below) were cut into the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil.

Areas 1 and 2

5.3 These excavation areas re-exposed the pits recorded previously by the trial trench evaluation (CA 2016). No further archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

Area 3

5.4 The possible pit or ditch terminus exposed by the trial trench evaluation (CA 2016; feature 1210) was re-exposed (excavation feature 3003; Fig. 5). It was shown to be a discrete feature, rather than a ditch terminus. It was 1.7m long, 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep, with a single undated fill (3004). The irregular nature of this feature's sides and base suggested that it was a tree throw, rather than a cut feature.

5.5 Two further tree throws (also cut into the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil) were recorded to the south-east of probable tree-throw 3003. A modern sheep burial was also recorded; this feature was cut into the subsoil and sealed by the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The excavation confirmed that there were no additional Neolithic pits or further prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the pits recorded by Trench 12 of the previous evaluation (CA 2016). The evaluation report noted that these pits resemble several other examples from Devon and that the deliberate placement of artefacts within such pits may have been an act of 'closing' carried out by mobile communities as they moved between different locations in the landscape. The paucity of further Neolithic activity at the site supports this notion of a transient community.

6.2 The excavation established that feature 3003 (recorded previously by Trench 12 of the evaluation) was probably a tree throw, rather than a ditch terminus or pit.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jerry Austin, assisted by Tim Brown and Jake Godfrey. This report was written by Jerry Austin. The report illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

AB Heritage 2016 *Yalberton, Paignton, Devon: Geophysical Survey Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 31 January 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Yalberton, Paignton, Torbay: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA typescript report **12316**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land south of Yalberton Road (Yannons Farm), Paignton, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **16287**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation*

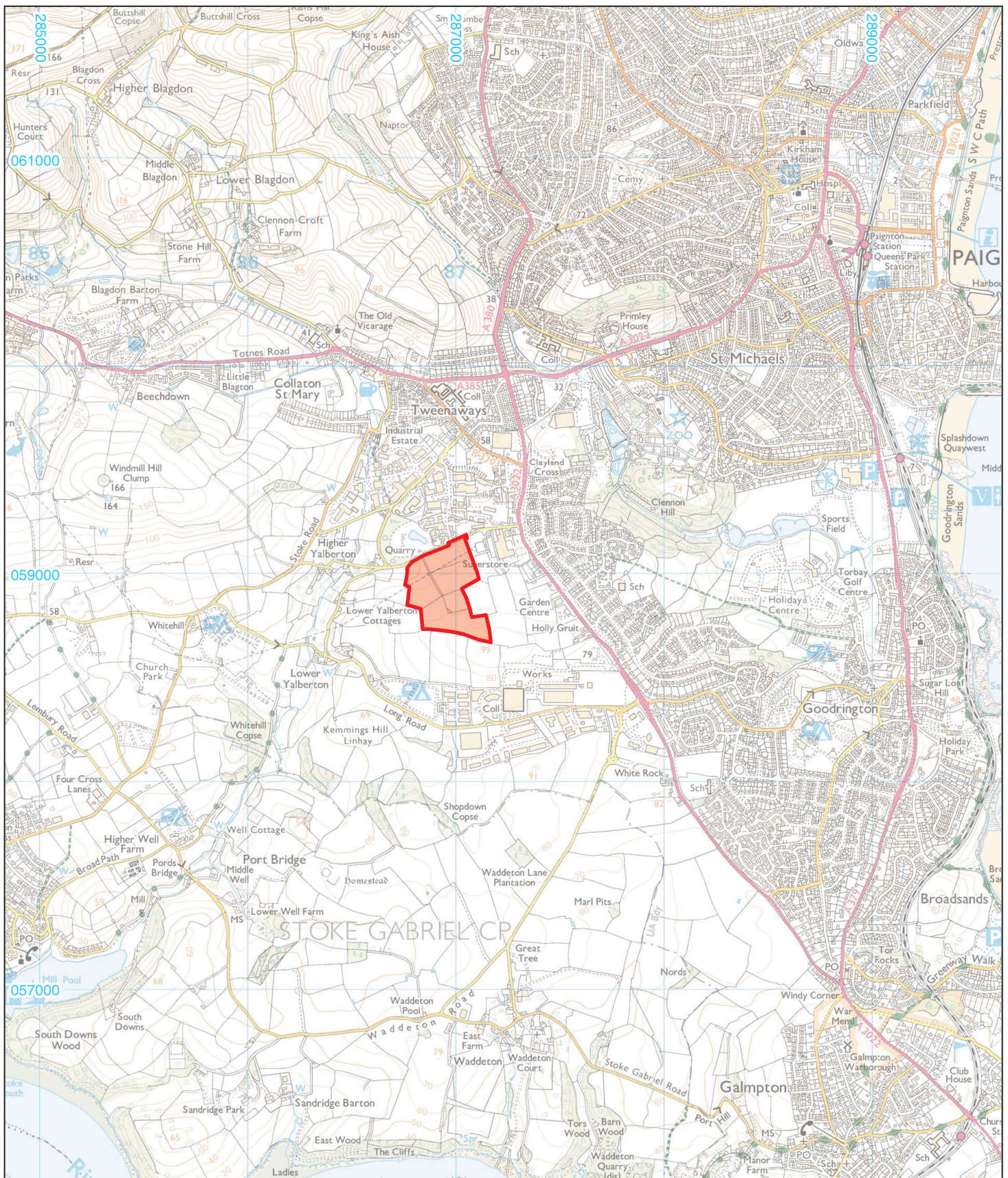


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Area No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth/thickness (m) |
|----------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1000 | Layer | | topsoil | mid red brown sandy silt | | | 0.29 |
| 1 | 1001 | Layer | | subsoil | red brown clay silt | | | 0.31 |
| 1 | 1002 | Layer | | natural | yellow brown clay silt with red brown mudstone bands | | | |
| 2 | 2000 | Layer | | topsoil | mid red brown sandy silt | | | 0.45 |
| 2 | 2001 | Layer | | subsoil | red brown clay silt | | | 0.35 |
| 2 | 2002 | Layer | | natural | yellow brown clay silt with red brown mudstone bands | | | |
| 3 | 3000 | Layer | | topsoil | mid red brown sandy silt | | | 0.3 |
| 3 | 3001 | Layer | | subsoil | red brown clay silt | | | 0.5 |
| 3 | 3002 | Layer | | natural | yellow brown clay silt with red brown mudstone bands | | | |
| 3 | 3003 | Cut | | tree throw | irregular shape and sides, stepped base | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| 3 | 3004 | Fill | 3003 | single fill | light red brown, silty clay | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.3 |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|---|---------|
| Project name | Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon | |
| Short description | <p>In February 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon. Three excavation areas were opened; these were centred on early Neolithic pits and a possible further pit/ditch terminal recorded by a previous trial trench evaluation.</p> <p>The excavation confirmed that there were no additional Neolithic pits or further prehistoric activity in these areas of the site. The excavation also established that the previously-recorded unknown feature was probably a tree throw, rather than a ditch terminus or pit.</p> | |
| Project dates | 11–14 February 2019 | |
| Project type | Excavation | |
| Previous work | Desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2012); geophysical survey (AB Heritage 2016), archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site location | Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon | |
| Study area (m ² /ha) | 400m ² | |
| Site co-ordinates | NGR: 287000 058960 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | N/A | |
| Project design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Derek Evans | |
| Project Supervisor | Jerry Austin | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | | |
| | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | | |
| | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | N/A | N/A |
| Paper | N/A | N/A |
| Digital | N/A | N/A |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| Cotswold Archaeology 2019 <i>Land South of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon: Archaeological Excavation</i> CA typescript report 880399_1 | | |



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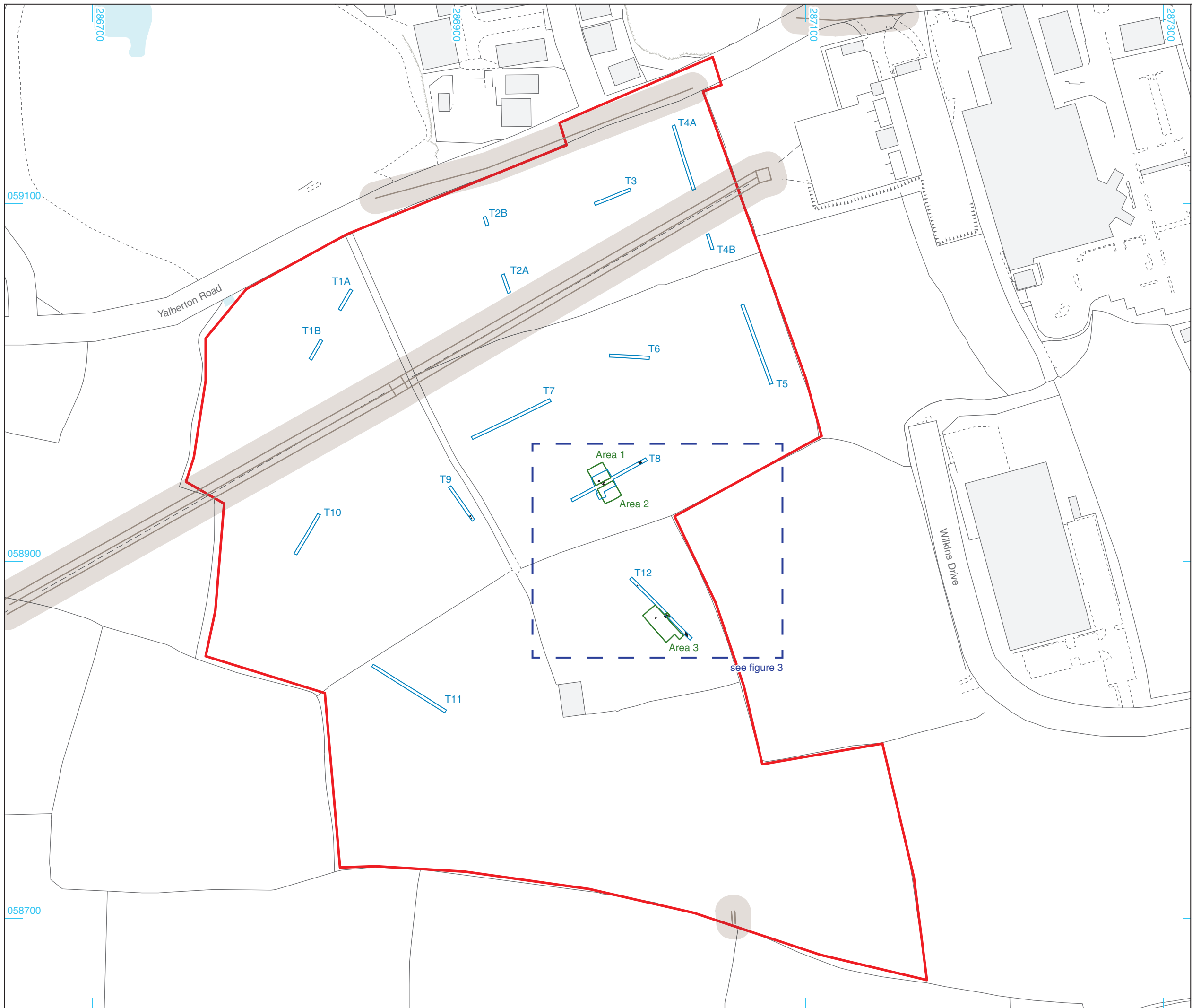
PROJECT TITLE
 Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton,
 Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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| DRAWN BY | AW | PROJECT NO. | 880399 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | RP | DATE | 21.02.19 | 1 |
| APPROVED BY | DE | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | |



- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Previous evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Overhead cable and 9m buffer



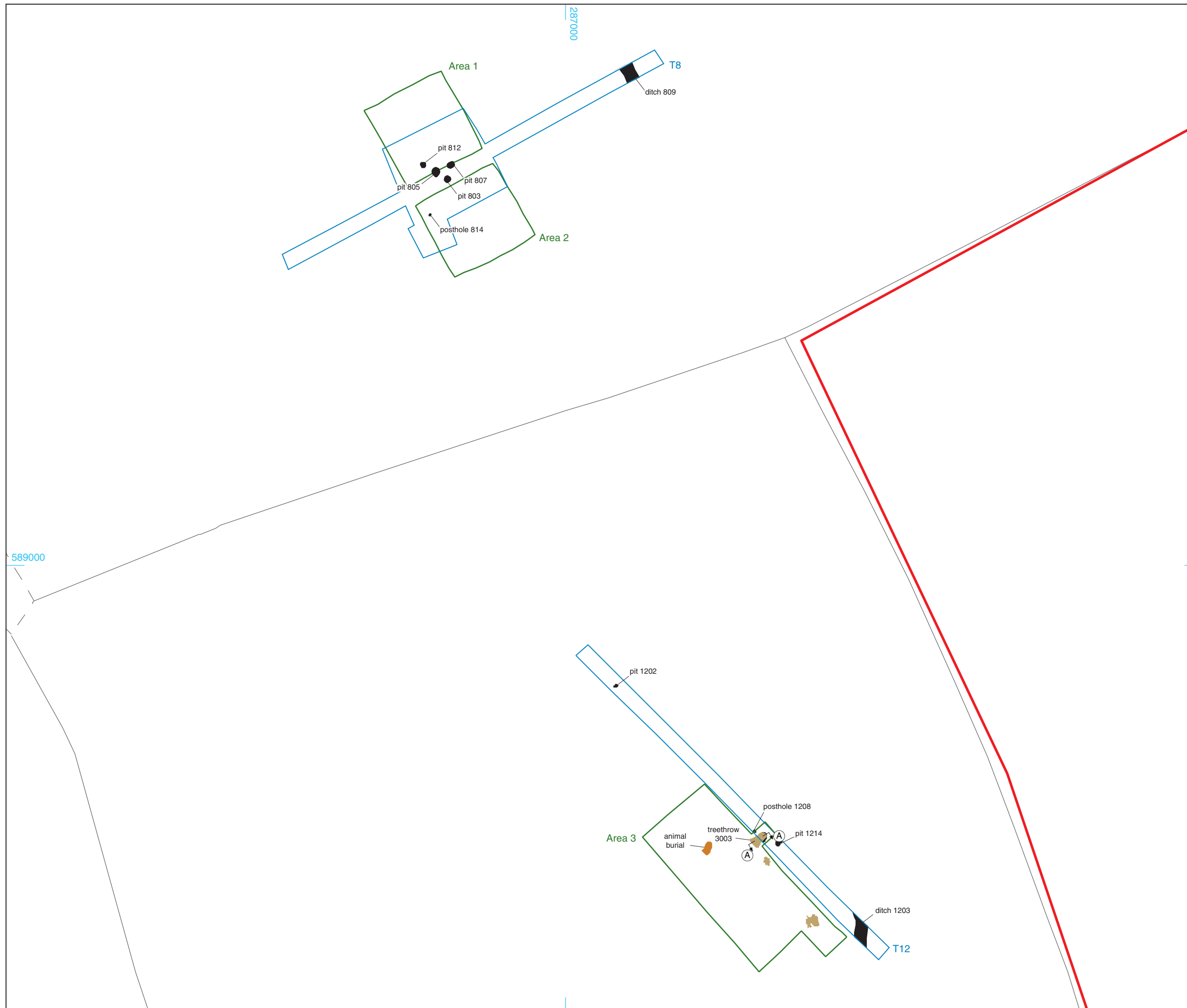
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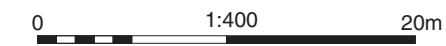
PROJECT TITLE
 Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan, showing excavation areas and previous trial trenches

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| <small>CHECKED BY</small> RP | <small>DATE</small> 22.02.19 | 2 |
| <small>APPROVED BY</small> DE | <small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:2000 | |



- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Previous evaluation trench
- Previous feature
- Modern
- Tree throw
- A Profile location



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton,
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FIGURE TITLE
Plan of Areas 1, 2, and 3

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <small>DRAWN BY</small> AW | <small>PROJECT NO.</small> 880399 | <small>FIGURE NO.</small> |
| <small>CHECKED BY</small> RP | <small>DATE</small> 22.02.19 | 3 |
| <small>APPROVED BY</small> DE | <small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:400 | |



Area 1, looking south-west (1m scales)



Area 2, looking north-west (1m scales)



Area 3, looking north-west (1m scales)

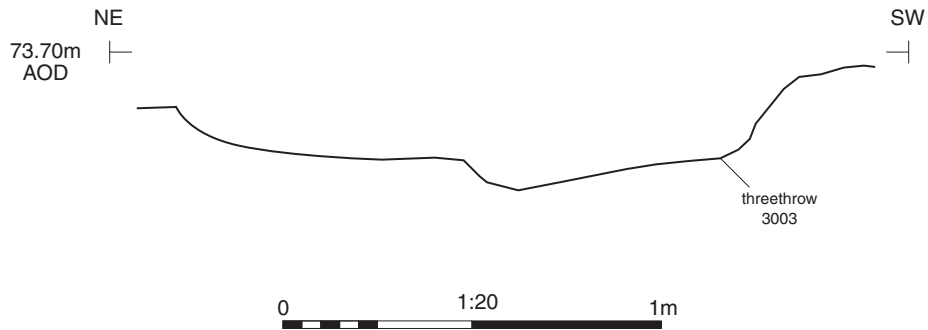

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton,
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | AW | PROJECT NO. | 880399 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | RP | DATE | 21.02.19 | |
| APPROVED BY | DE | SCALE@A3 | NA | 4 |

Profile AA



Treethrow 3003, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land south of Yalberton Road, Paignton,
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FIGURE TITLE

**Treethrow 3003: profile and
photograph**

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CHECKED BY RP DATE 22.02.19
APPROVED BY DE SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

5

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