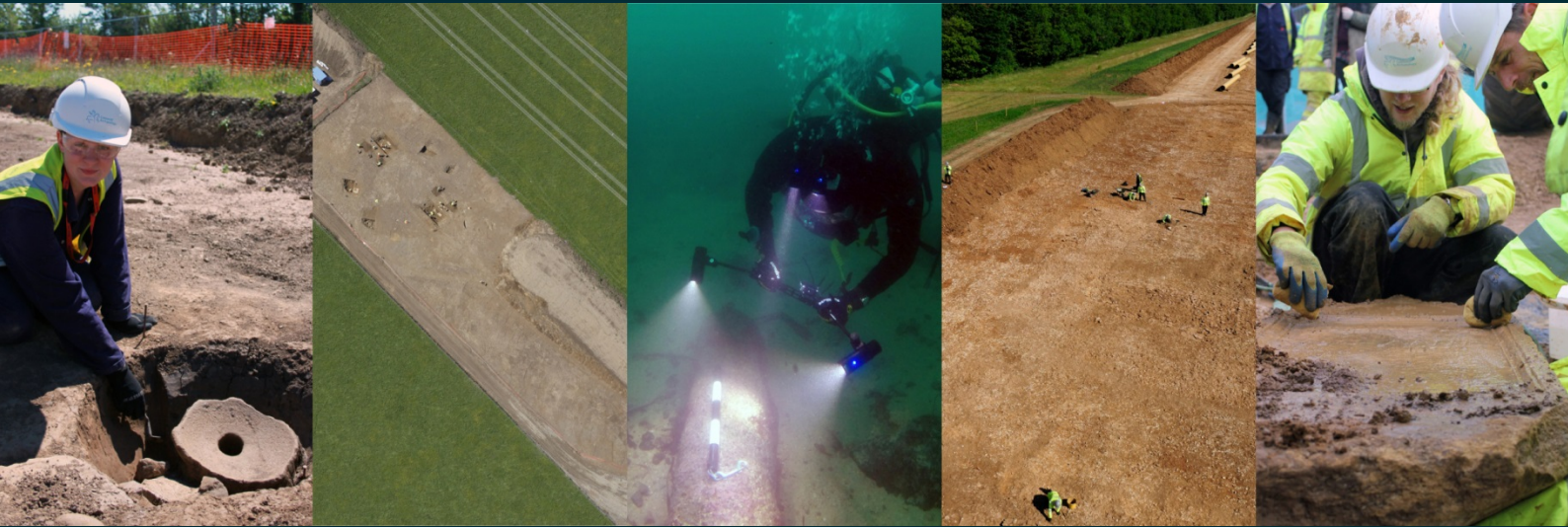


Land at West Buckland Junction, A361 Devon

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Devon County Council

CA Project: 880347
CA Report: 18525

October 2018



Land at West Buckland Junction, A361 Devon

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 880347

CA Report: 18525



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	18 October 2018	Derek Evans	Duncan Coe	Internal review	–	Duncan Coe

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS	6
6. THE FINDS	7
7. DISCUSSION.....	7
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
9. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:750)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan, sections and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 4 Trench 4: plan, sections and photograph (1:20)
- Fig. 5 Trench 5: plan, section and photograph (1:20)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at West Buckland Junction
Location:	A361, Devon
NGR:	265602 129582
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	24–25 September 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	WBJ18

In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the A361 West Buckland Junction, Devon. A total of six trenches was excavated within the site.

The evaluation recorded three ditches. These ditches were undated artefactually, but were on a different alignment to the present field system, which probably evolved from the enclosure of medieval agricultural fields. It is likely that the three ditches recorded by the evaluation represent elements within a pre-medieval field system.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the A361 West Buckland Junction, Devon (centred at NGR: 265602 129582). The evaluation was undertaken for Devon County Council.
- 1.2 The evaluation results will inform the proposed improvement strategy for the North Devon Link Road, as developed by Devon County Council. The proposed scheme comprises a number of separate elements, including road widening, junction improvements, junction upgrades and areas of new land take alongside the road to provide additional vegetation screening.
- 1.3 The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions with Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Stephen Reed. The fieldwork also followed *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Devon County Council 2017), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 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).
- 1.5 The evaluation fieldwork was monitored by Stephen Reed, including a site visit on 25 September 2018.

The site

- 1.6 The evaluation site is situated some 1.75km south of West Buckland. It lies to the immediate north-west of the junction between the North Devon Link Road (the A361) and the road leading northwards to West Buckland.
- 1.7 The evaluation site encloses c. 2.77ha and currently comprises the southern half of a pasture field. It is bounded by the A361 to the south, by the road to West Buckland to the east, and by further pasture/arable land to the north and west.

- 1.8 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Pilton Mudstone Formation, which formed during the Devonian and Carboniferous periods. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2018).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the evaluation site and the wider North Devon Link Road improvement scheme will be detailed in a desk-based heritage assessment (CA, forthcoming (a)), a cultural heritage impact assessment (CA, forthcoming (b); to be included in the scheme environmental statement) and a geophysical survey report (Stratascan 2018). The following text is summarised briefly from these sources, which should be referred to for a full background.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

- 2.2 There is only very limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the area, and no known evidence for Roman activity.

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

- 2.3 There is no known evidence for early medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. The site is likely to have been in agricultural use during the medieval period.

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

- 2.4 It is likely that the present field plan evolved from the enclosure of medieval agricultural fields. The tithe map for Chittlehampton (1840) records a number of field boundaries within the site which had been removed by the time of the later 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 2.5 The former route of the mid-19th century Devon and Somerset Railway is closely followed by the A361 (which runs along the southern boundary of the evaluation site). The old railway cutting survives on the southern side of the road and it was considered possible that further associated remains may survive within the evaluation site. Any such remains would be considered of low significance.



Geophysical survey

- 2.6 The geophysical survey recorded a series of linear anomalies running on a different alignment to the extant field system. It was considered possible that these represent part of an earlier, pre-medieval field system.
- 2.7 The survey also recorded anomalies associated with former field boundaries depicted on the 1840 tithe plan.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the evaluation was to provide further information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable Devon County Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG2018).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches (Fig. 2). All trenches were 20m long and 1.2m wide. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the site. 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*.
- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 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*. All recovered artefacts were processed in

accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The project archive and artefacts are currently held by CA. It is anticipated that a combined project archive will be prepared once the proposed programme of archaeological mitigation works at the site has been completed.
- 4.5 The archive will consist of two elements: the material (finds) archive and the digital archive. The material archive will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (subject to landowner permission). The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 4.6 A summary of information from this project, set out in Appendix B, 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 (finds) from the site are given in Section 6.
- 5.2 The natural substrate comprised grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.32m–0.58m below the present ground level. The natural substrate was generally sealed by 0.2m–0.32m of silty subsoil, which was covered in turn by the modern topsoil. The only exception was T5, wherein the natural substrate was sealed directly by the modern topsoil, without an intervening subsoil layer.
- 5.3 Archaeological features were recorded in T1, T4 and T5. These are discussed in more detail below. All archaeological features were cut into the natural substrate.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.4 North-east/south-west aligned ditch 103 was 2.24m wide and 0.67m deep (Fig. 3, Secs. AA and BB). It had three fills (104–106), the middle of which (105) contained a single worked flint flake of possible Mesolithic or Neolithic date. The condition of this

flint was poor; it displayed extensive edge damage consistent with re-deposition in a later feature.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

- 5.5 East-north-east/west-south west aligned ditch 403 was 0.57m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 4, Secs. CC and DD). It contained two undated fills (404 and 405).

Trench 5 (Fig. 5)

- 5.6 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 502 was 1.72m wide and 0.74m deep (Fig. 5, Sec. EE). It contained four undated fills (503–506).

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The assemblage was limited to a single item of prehistoric worked flint, weighing 2g, which was recovered from deposit 105 (middle fill of ditch 103, T1). This item is a flake with blade-like proportions, of possible Mesolithic or Neolithic date. Its condition is poor; the extensive edge damage is consistent with re-deposition.

Table 1: finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)
105	Flint	Flake (blade-like proportions)	1	2

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation recorded three ditches at the site. These ditches all corresponded to linear anomalies detected by the previous geophysical survey (Stratascan 2018). The only discrepancy was T3, where a weak geophysical anomaly was found not to correspond to a below-ground archaeological feature.
- 7.2 The ditches were undated artefactually. A single worked flint of possible Mesolithic or Neolithic date was recovered from ditch 103 (T1), but the poor condition of this flint was consistent with re-deposition in a later feature. The ditches were on a different alignment to the present field system (which probably evolved from the enclosure of medieval agricultural fields); as such, they are likely to be pre-medieval in date.

- 7.3 The ditch fills appear to have accumulated through natural silting and there was no clear evidence of function, although the relatively substantial nature of ditches 103 (T1) and 403 (T4) might indicate that they were boundary features. As such, it is likely that the three ditches recorded by the evaluation represent elements within a pre-medieval field system.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by Parris Stubbings and Jake Godfrey. This report was written by Derek Evans. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 8 August 2018

Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Land at West Buckland Junction, A361, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Cotswold Archaeology, forthcoming (a) *North Devon Link Road Scheme, Borners Bridge to Buckleigh Road, Devon: Heritage Assessment CA Report: 18005*

Cotswold Archaeology, forthcoming (b) *A361 North Devon Link Road Improvement (NDR), Portmore Roundabout (Barnstaple) to Filleigh Cutting: Cultural Heritage* (Environmental Statement chapter)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Stratascan 2018 *An archaeological magnetometer survey: Land at West Buckland junction, A361, Devon*

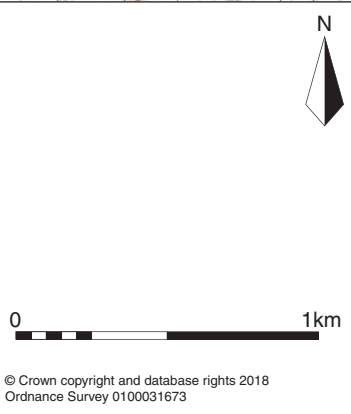
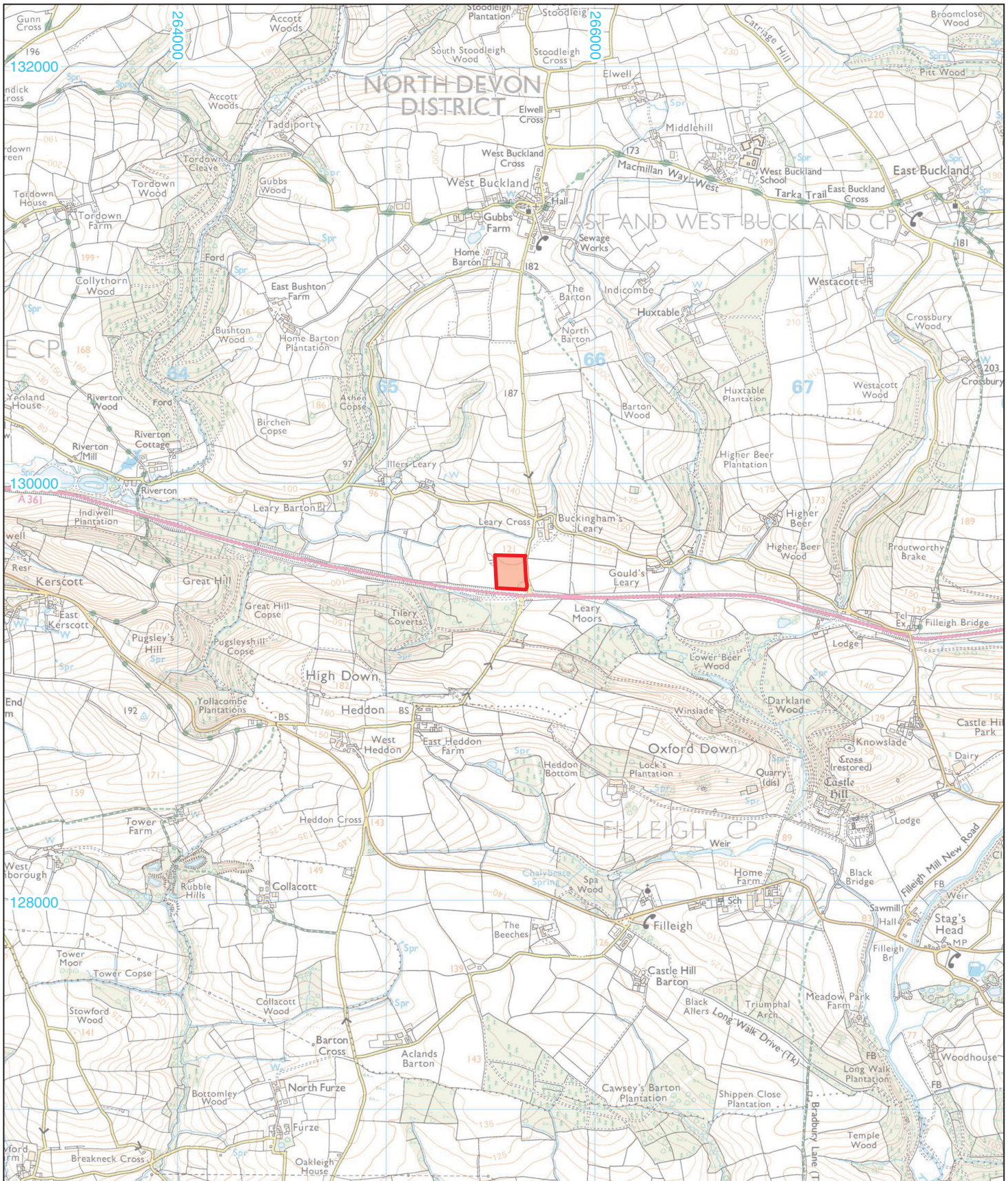


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.24
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown clayey silt		0.26
1	102	Natural		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		
1	103	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch	2.24	0.67
1	104	Deposit	103	1st ditch fill	Grey-brown silty clay		0.17
1	105	Deposit	103	2nd ditch fill	Grey-brown clayey silt		0.19
1	106	Deposit	103	3rd ditch fill	Grey-brown clayey silt		0.25
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.24
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown clayey silt		0.26
2	202	Natural		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.23
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown clayey silt		0.2
3	302	Natural		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.27
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown clayey silt		0.26
4	402	Natural		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		
4	403	Cut		Ditch	ENE/WSW aligned ditch	0.57	0.27
4	404	Deposit	403	1st ditch fill	Yellow-grey silty clay		0.1
4	405	Deposit	403	2nd ditch fill	Mid brown silty clay		0.17
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.32
5	501	Layer		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		
5	502	Ditch		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch	1.72	0.74
5	503	Deposit	503	1st ditch fill	Grey clayey silt		0.19
5	504	Deposit	503	2nd ditch fill	Yellow-grey silty clay		0.35
5	505	Deposit	503	3rd ditch fill	Mid grey clayey silt		0.09
5	506	Deposit	503	4th ditch fill	Mid brown silty clay		0.15
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clayey silt		0.26
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown clayey silt		0.32
6	602	Natural		Natural	Grey-yellow clay with brown patches and stone inclusions		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at West Buckland Junction, A361, Devon: archaeological evaluation	
Short description	<p>In September 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the A361 West Buckland Junction, Devon. A total of six trenches was excavated within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded three ditches. These ditches were undated artefactually, but were on a different alignment to the present field system, which probably evolved from the enclosure of medieval agricultural fields. It is likely that the three ditches recorded by the evaluation represent elements within a pre-medieval field system.</p>	
Project dates	24–25 September 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land at West Buckland Junction, A361, Devon	
Study area (m ² /ha)	2.77ha	
Site co-ordinates	265602 129582	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	Worked flint
Paper		N/A
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, survey data, scans of primary site archive
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2018 <i>Land at West Buckland Junction, A361, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 18525		



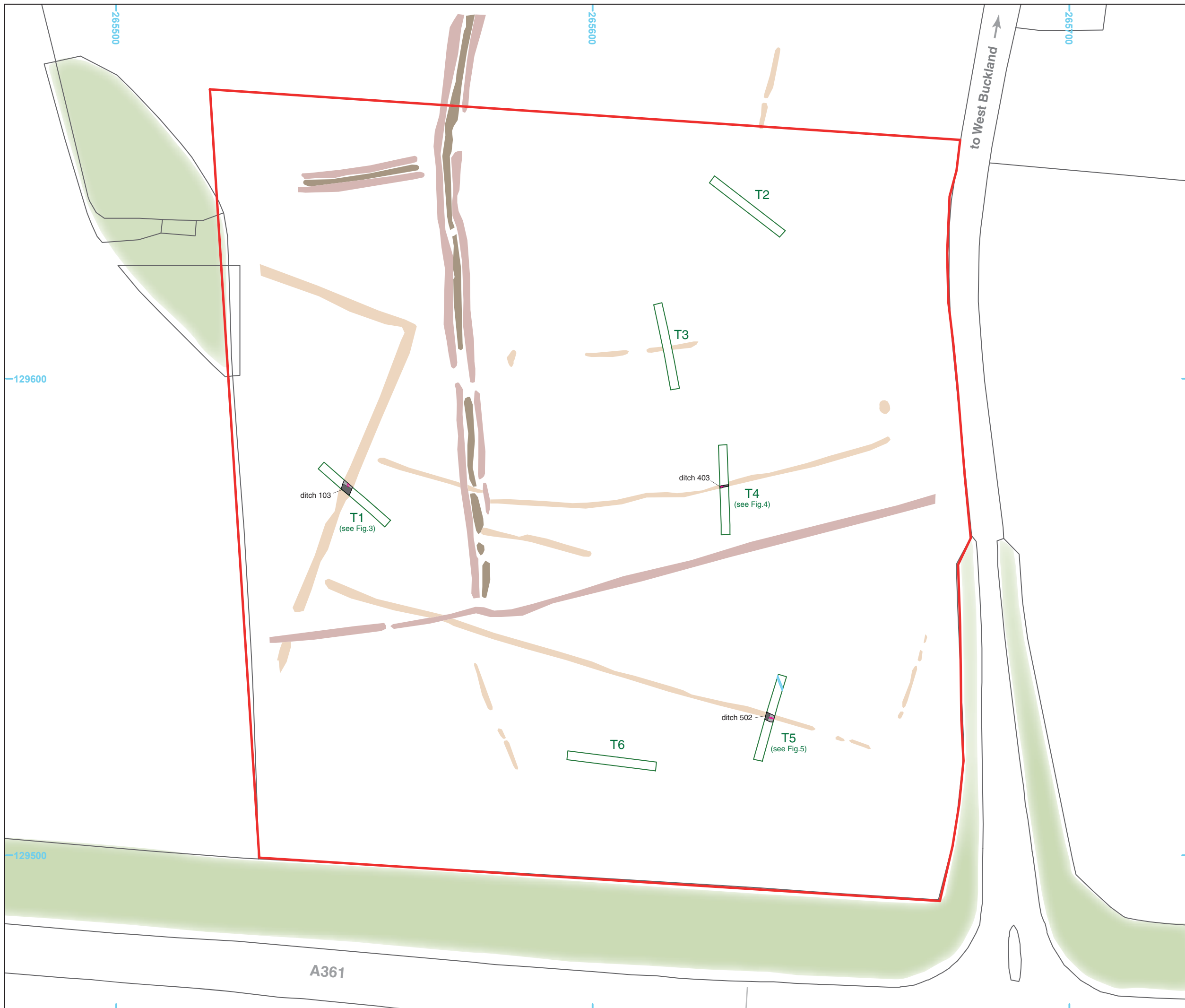
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at West Buckland Junction A361, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY EE **PROJECT NO.** 880347 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 10/10/2018 **1**
APPROVED BY DE **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

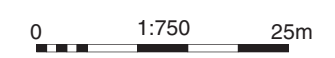
© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Base of feature
- Field drain

Geophysics Survey Results by Substrata, 2018

- Potential archaeology:
- likely, positive
 - likely, negative
 - possible, positive



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology

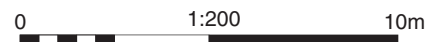
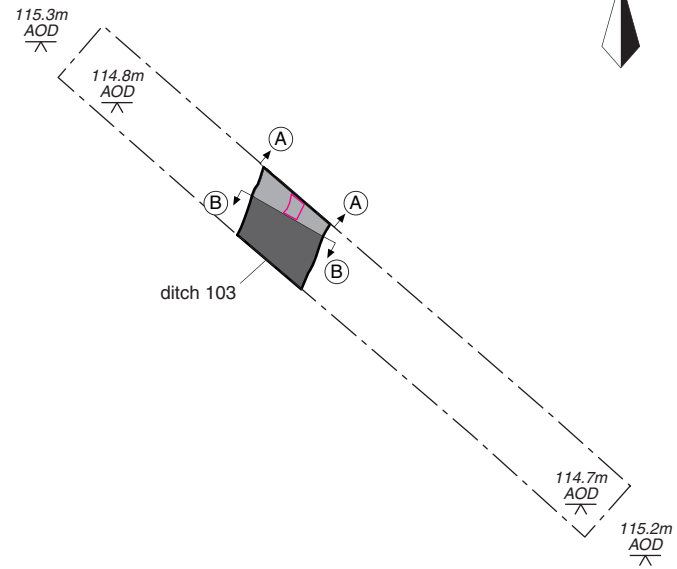
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at West Buckland Junction A361, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

<small>DRAWN BY</small> EE	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 880347	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 10/10/2018	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DE	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

Trench 1

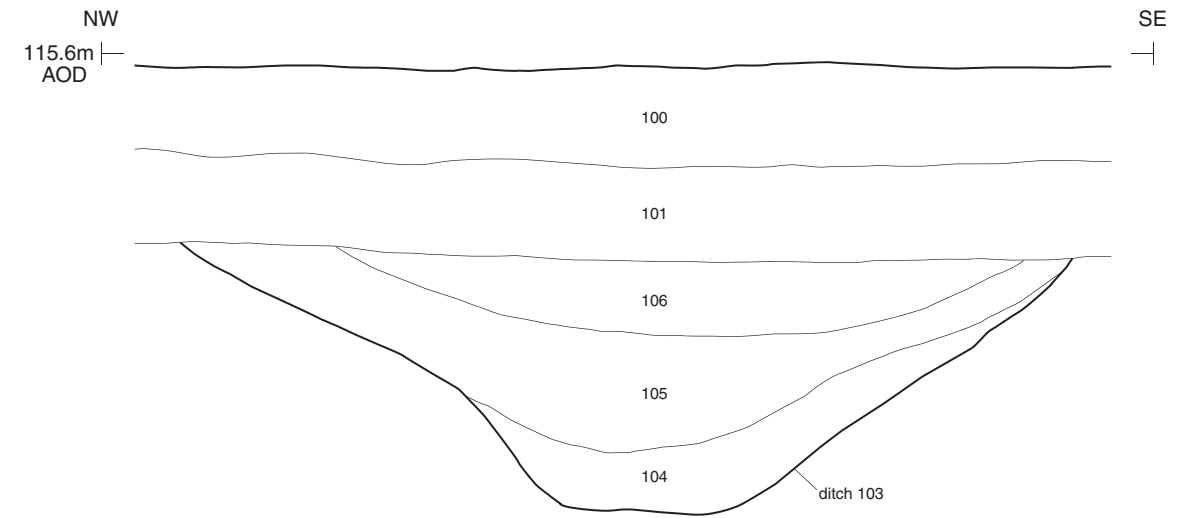


- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Base of feature
- Section location
- Spot heights

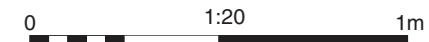
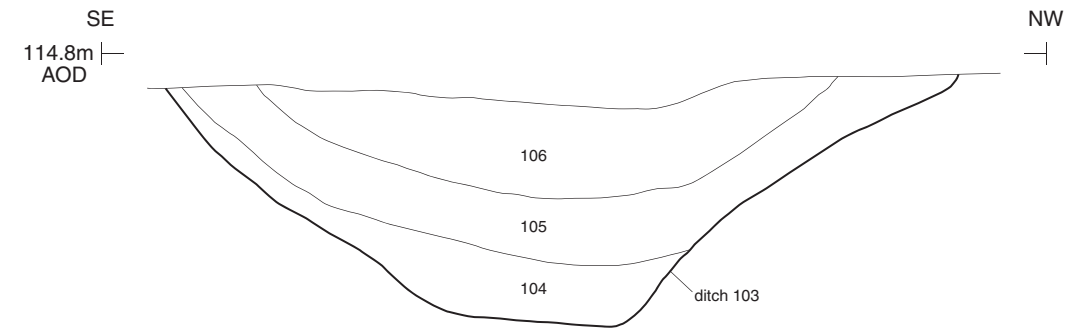


Trench 1, ditch 103, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section AA



Section BB



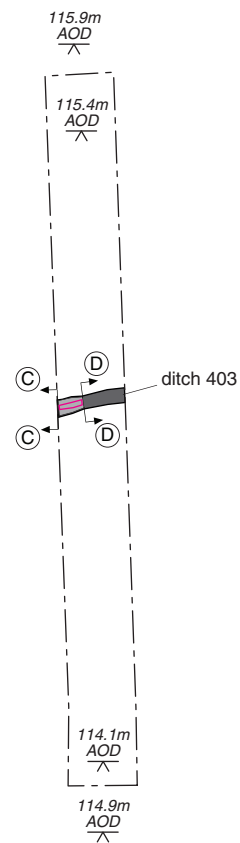

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**Land at West Buckland Junction A361,
 Devon**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 1: plan, sections and
 photograph**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880347	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/10/2018	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:200 / 1:20	3

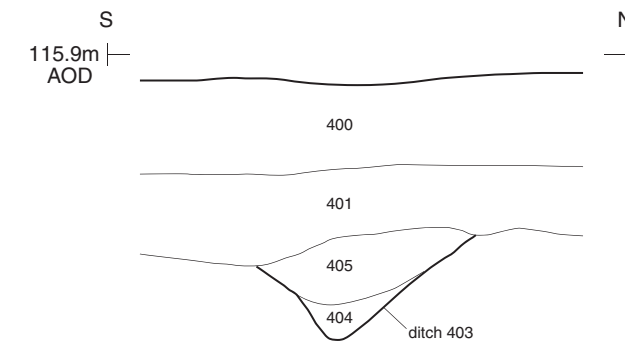
Trench 4



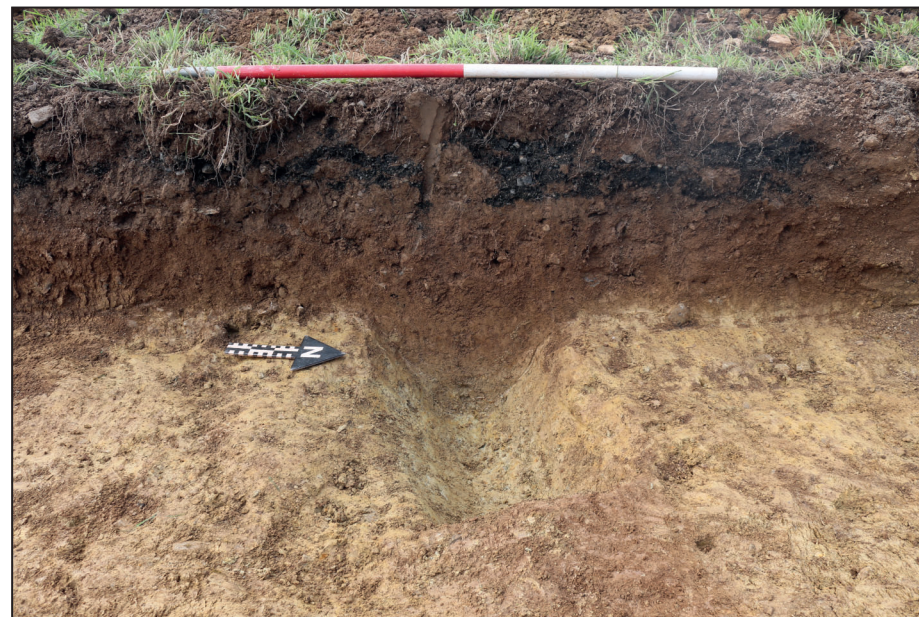
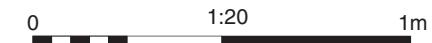
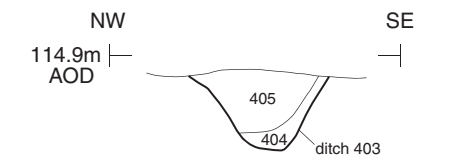
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Base of feature
- Section location
- Spot heights



Section CC



Section DD



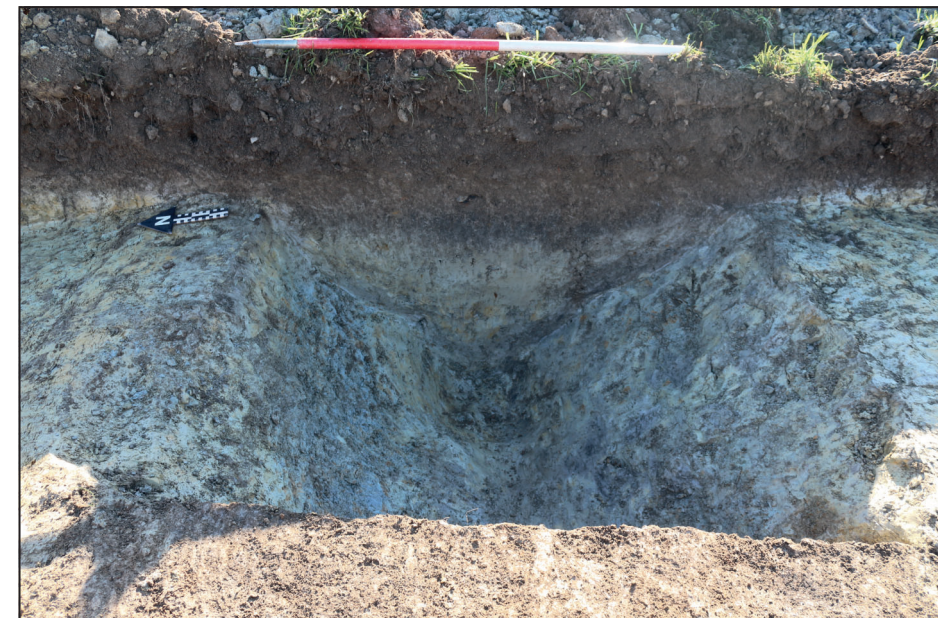
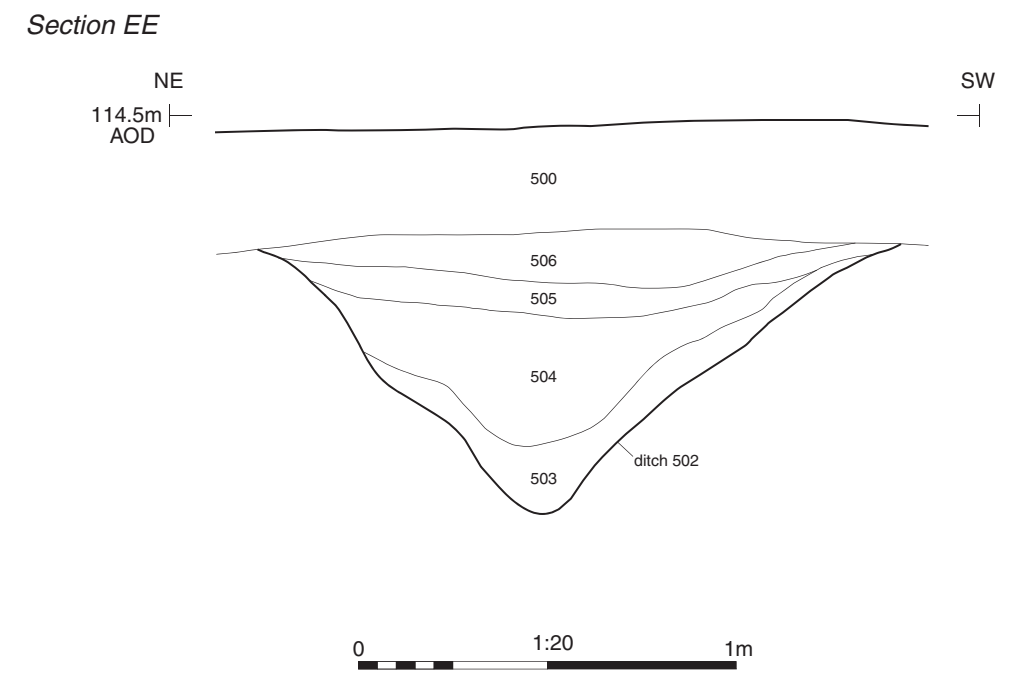
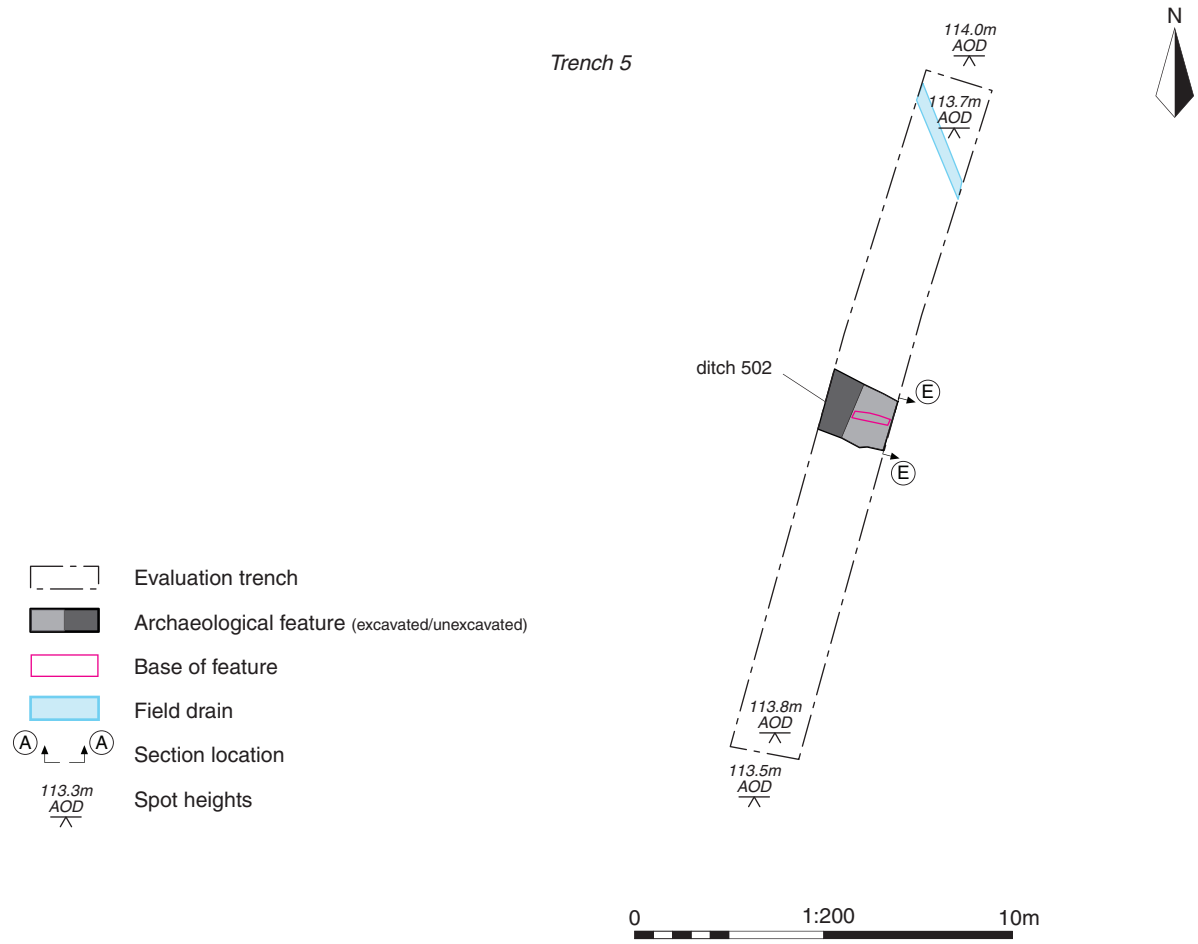
Trench 4, ditch 403, looking west (1m scale)


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**Land at West Buckland Junction A361,
 Devon**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 4: plan, sections and
 photograph**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880347	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/10/2018	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:200 / 1:20	4



Trench 5, ditch 502, looking south-east (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at West Buckland Junction A361, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880347	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/10/2018	5
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:200 / 1:20	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

