

The South West Coast Path 'Unlocking our coastal heritage' project: South Down Common, Beer, East Devon

NGR SY 22437 88531

Results of archaeological investigations

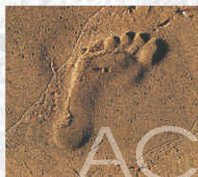
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archaeology

**THE SOUTH WEST COAST PATH
'UNLOCKING OUR COASTAL HERITAGE' PROJECT:
SOUTH DOWN COMMON, BEER, EAST DEVON
(Centred on SY 22437 88531)**

Results of archaeological investigations

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Summary

A staged programme of archaeological investigations comprising an earthwork survey, aerial photographic transcription, geophysical survey and targeted trench excavation was undertaken on land at South Down Common by AC archaeology during June and July 2011. The surveys were carried out as part of the 'Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage' project led by the South West Coast Path Team, which aims to improve the visitor experience along the South West Coast Path.

A number of features were identified during the earthwork survey and aerial photographic transcription, which are indicative of later prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement and subsistence. Medieval/post-medieval cultivation remains were also identified across the main survey area and its immediate environs. The later prehistoric/Romano-British features include the remains of a sub-circular hillside enclosure within the survey area, together with three possible enclosures in the immediate vicinity. The main enclosure appears to be associated with a relict prehistoric field system, which was later superseded by medieval/post medieval cultivation, surviving variously as field boundaries and ridge and furrow. The geophysical survey results were disappointing with very few of the responses appearing to tie in with features recorded during the earlier earthwork survey, the aerial photographic transcription and the subsequent targeted trench excavation.

Very few archaeological features were identified during the targeted trench excavation, with the only recorded in situ feature comprising a very shallow, east to west orientated linear ditch, which was identified in the vicinity of the probable entrance of the principal enclosure identified during the earthwork survey. The majority of the finds from the excavation comprise sherds of Roman pottery dating to the 3rd to 4th century AD, which was recovered from an occupation layer within the main enclosure. This layer partially sealed the original earthwork bank of the enclosure. A fragment of copper alloy bracelet was also recovered from the occupation layer together with a quantity of beach pebbles. Evidence for earlier activity is represented by a small Neolithic/early Bronze Age assemblage of worked flint.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A staged programme of archaeological investigations comprising aerial photographic transcription, earthwork and geophysical surveys and targeted trench excavation was undertaken on land at South Down Common, Beer, East Devon (SY 22437 88531) by AC archaeology during June and July 2011. The programme of archaeological investigations was commissioned by the South West Coast Path Team (hereafter SWCPT) as part of the 'Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage' project. The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The 'Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage' project, led by the SWCPT, aims to improve the visitor experience along the South West Coast Path as part of a Sustainable Rural Tourism theme. It has been awarded European grant aid through the Rural Development Programme for England. The project will involve a three-year series of investigations to conserve, enhance and interpret some 40 nationally important historic and archaeological sites along the South West Coast Path (hereafter SWCP), which are 'currently at risk of being irreparably damaged or lost, or which could be made more accessible for wider audiences' (Horner 2010).

- 1.3** The total survey area on South Down Common covers approximately 4.7 hectares and includes one field (and parts of the Common to the north and west), which lies to the south of a track leading onto South Down Common (Fig. 1). The topography of the survey area comprises a narrow plateau of land above a steep-sided, northeast facing combe, which runs down to Beer Head Caravan Park and the cliffs at Big Ledge and West Ebb.
- 1.4** Prior to the commencement of the project it was agreed with Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (hereafter DCCHES) and East Devon AONB that there would be suitable opportunities for volunteer participation and community involvement throughout the duration of the site investigations.
- 1.5** The survey area generally slopes from the west down to the east and lies between 93mOD and 106mOD. The underlying solid geology is chalk and the land use permanent grassland, which is currently in a Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England due to its restoration for species-rich grassland. A large tin-roofed barn is located in northeast corner of the site and there are several quarry pits along the southern side of the combe; the presence of both has restricted to a certain degree the extents of the various surveys.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An initial desk-based appraisal has been undertaken. This has comprised a review of:

- Archaeological and historical data held by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Record (hereafter DCCHER); and,
- Historical cartographic and documentary information at Devon Record Office (DRO) and Westcountry Studies Library (WCSL), both in Exeter.

2.2 The prehistoric and Romano-British periods

The survey area lies within an area containing a wealth of evidence for activity during the prehistoric period. This evidence generally survives as extensive lithic scatters and the earthwork and/or soilmark remains of field systems, an enclosure and flint cairn barrows. A large number of worked Beer flint has been recovered to the south of the survey area at Beer Head. The assemblage includes cores, scrapers, burins, borers, points and blades, which range in date from the Palaeolithic to Neolithic period (DCCHER Nos. 11093 - 11096, 22369, 60120 & 74302). This group of finds forms part of an extensive area of early prehistoric activity, which extends to the west of Beer Head across South Down Common (DCCHER No. 74302). The area was first excavated in the 1920s with more recent investigations published as a BAR Monograph (Tingle 1998).

A group of four flint cairn barrows located on a slight elevation and scattered with worked flints was recorded on land to the west of the survey area (DCCHER No. 11104 -11107) during the 1950s. Later in 1983 evidence for a Neolithic flint working floor sites was found in a ploughed field to the north of these barrows (DCCHER Nos. 11102 & 22355). Finds recovered include waste flints, cores and flakes. More recently in 1991, some 160 retouched flint and chert tools were recovered during a programme of fieldwalking to the north of the barrows and the Neolithic working floor sites (DCCHER Nos. 42513 &

42514). A large rectilinear enclosure (DCCHER No. 39952) noted on air photographs in 1986 to the south of the barrow group, is also believed to be prehistoric in origin.

The principal prehistoric site recorded within the proposed survey area comprises the earthwork remains of a field system, which is spread across the fields on South Down Common leading down to the cliffs at Beer Head (DCCHER No. 19842). The field system comprises an extensive network of squarish fields surviving variously as low banks and lynchets, some nearly 2m high. The field system on the eastern side of the area (and within the survey area), where the land has a greater slope, is less regular, the lynchets more pronounced and some boundaries appear fossilised within the modern field pattern. A rapid earthwork survey of the area has been previously undertaken by Exeter University. A circular enclosure adjacent to the barn was believed on the basis of its morphology to be the remains of a Romano-British farmstead enclosure. Several evaluation trenches were also excavated within the site as part of the Exeter University rapid survey - the results are currently unavailable (Bill Horner *pers. comm.*). A single sherd of Romano-British Black Burnished ware (BB1) pottery was allegedly recovered from disturbed ground in the vicinity of the site (DCCHER No. 21684).

2.3 The post-medieval and modern periods

Sites of a post-medieval to modern date include Beer Coastguard Station and associated features (DCCHER Nos. 73115-73117), the Admiralty flag signal station (DCCHER No. 11097), a military building (DCCHER No. 39951), a semaphore station (DCCHER No. 73118), a lime kiln on Hooken Cliffs (DCCHER No. 20421), a WWII radar station (DCCHER No. 50874), a Coastguards lookout (DCCHER No. 50872) and the site of a battery at Beer Head (DCCHER No. 50873). All lie beyond the main survey area.

2.4 Cartographic and documentary evidence

The Beer and Seaton tithe map of 1840 depicts the site as lying within a large unenclosed area of land recorded in the 1840 apportionment as *Long Common*. Long Common, which is described as pasture, forms part of the *South Down Farm and Lloyds tenement*, owned by Lord John Rolle and occupied by Mary Hammett. Mary Hammett also occupies a substantial proportion of the enclosed land to the east of the survey area. No trace of the current field boundaries within the survey area or the quarry, now visible adjacent to the southwest boundary of the main survey area are recorded, suggesting that they are recent in origin. The Ordnance Survey first edition 25-inch map of 1889 shows a similar picture, although a number of additional trackways are present towards the southwest corner of the survey area. The area is depicted as rough pasture. A similar layout is also shown on the Ordnance Survey second edition 25-inch map of 1904. None of the prehistoric or Romano-British earthworks known to be present within the survey area are recorded on any of the maps reviewed and neither are any of the fieldnames considered to be indicative of their presence.

3. AIMS

3.1 The site investigations carried out for the 'Unlocking Our Coastal Heritage' project were concordant with a Level 3 archaeological landscape assessment, with the main aim being to provide '*an enhanced and integrated, multi-disciplinary record of an archaeological field monument or landscape, resulting from the process of field investigation*' (English Heritage 2007). The results of the investigations will be used to

provide information for a summary interpretation panel, which will be placed adjacent to the SWCP route, which lies to the south of the site. Additional aims were to provide appropriate and suitable opportunities for community engagement either as training, in the form of volunteer participation or by the provision of general information about the nature of the investigations being undertaken.

3.2 Earthwork Survey

The aim of the earthwork survey was to produce an accurate record of the surviving earthworks within the survey area shown on Fig. 1, with particular attention being given to the relationships between the junction of the sub-circular enclosure, the earthwork banks and lynchets.

3.3 Aerial photographic transcription

The aim of the aerial photographic transcriptions was to produce a geo-referenced digital transcription of the extent and form of all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs both within and adjacent to the main survey area shown on Fig. 1.

3.4 Geophysical survey

The principal aims of the geophysical survey were to:-

- Identify and accurately record the location of any magnetic anomalies that may be related to archaeological deposits, structures or artefacts within the survey area; and,
- Characterise any anomalies or patterns of anomalies and produce a summary that is sufficiently detailed to inform any subsequent archaeological investigations about the location and character of the recorded anomalies within the survey area.

3.5 Targeted trench excavation

The aim of the trench excavations was to investigate the relationship between the junctions of the sub-circular enclosure, the earthwork banks and lynchets, and any features identified during the air photographic transcription and earthwork/geophysical surveys within the survey area shown on Fig. 1.

4. SURVEY METHODOLOGIES

4.1 Earthwork survey

The survey was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the initial Project Design (James 2011) and the subsequent Method Statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2011). The earthwork survey was executed using a Topcon GPT-3007N Pulse Total Station, which was used to establish control points on the earthworks and modern features; additional fine detail was added by means of taped offsets.

The final hachured plan (Fig. 2) was produced at a scale of 1:1000 to English Heritage (2007) specifications and was digitally drafted in mixed media employing hand drawn detail and the Coreldraw Graphics program. All of the earthworks both within and immediately adjacent to the main survey area shown on Fig. 1, were recorded.

4.2 Aerial photographic transcription

The work was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the initial Project Design (James 2011) and the subsequent Method Statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2011). Aerial photographs consulted include the 1946 RAF vertical photographs (106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946) and the Devon Aerial Photographs (hereafter DAP) oblique collection for the area, held by DCCHEs (more detailed information is provided in Appendix 1). All vertical aerial photographs were viewed stereoscopically and all oblique photographs under magnification. The earthworks within the survey area (Fig. 1) together with any features which ran into the adjacent fields were also included in the survey, to provide a more complete record of the earthworks in the vicinity.

Photographic rectifications were carried out using Aerial 5.3 rectification software, providing rectified images of transcription accuracy within +/-2m. Transcription was carried out in MapInfo 10.5 GIS onto a digital map base of 1:10,000; the results have been included in this report as Fig. 3. The depiction of aerial photographic data followed the convention guidelines laid down in Edis *et al* 1989.

4.3 Geophysical survey

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the initial Project Design (James 2011) and the subsequent Method Statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2011). The geophysical (magnetometer) survey was also carried out with reference to standard guidance provided by the Institute for Archaeologists (2010) and Schmidt (2002). It was not possible to survey the whole of the area shown on Fig. 1 due to the topography and the presence of the metal barn in the northeast corner. The full extent of the geophysical survey area is shown on Fig. 4.

The survey used a temporary grid accurately positioned using a suitable DGPS system, co-registered to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using a digital map. The survey grid composed continuous sub-grids, which was extended over the boundaries of the proposed survey area where necessary, to maximise the area surveyed where practical. The survey grid location information and grid plan was recorded in a GIS system. Data processing was undertaken using appropriate software, with all anomalies being digitised and geo-referenced. The results have been included in this report as Fig. 4.

4.4 Targeted trench excavation

The results of the geophysical and earthwork surveys, together with the aerial photographic transcription were used to prepare a trench location plan (Fig. 5). This was submitted and agreed with DCCHEs, the Natural England Officer, and the landowner prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The investigation was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's document *Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation* (published September 1995, revised September 2001 and October 2008) and the methodologies outlined in the Project Design (James 2011) and the subsequent Method Statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2011).

All deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records and in accordance with AC archaeology's General Site Recording Manual, Version 2 (revised 2007).

5. EARTHWORK SURVEY RESULTS *Mark Corney* (Fig. 2)

5.1 Twenty features were identified during the earthwork survey; all are in a good state of preservation, comprising a series of lynchets, cultivation remains, enhanced natural scarps and a sub-circular hillslope enclosure. These earthworks are shown on Fig. 2 (Sites 1-20) and further discussed below.

5.2 The hillslope enclosure (Fig. 2: Sites 1-4)

The hillslope enclosure encompasses an area of approximately 0.5ha and measures 70m east to west and 35m north to south (Site 1). The enclosure slopes sharply to the east and is defined on the north, south and east by a raised platform with a maximum height of 1m. Along the southern perimeter there is an internal terraced area 2m wide. The western side of the enclosure has been cut into the slope and is defined by a raised platform 1.3m high. There are traces of an external bank 0.5m high at the southwest corner and along the northern side of the earthwork. In the northwest corner, a short length of bank standing 0.5m high may be associated with the enclosure.

Within the interior of the enclosure the western third is relatively level, and in the northwest corner there are two possible structures. The first of these is a circular terraced platform with an internal diameter of 6.5m and a slight bank on its east side (Site 2). Five metres to the west, abutting the western side of the enclosure, is another circular platform with a diameter of 7m (Site 3). There is no clear evidence for an entrance through the enclosure although a break at the eastern end (Site 4), now used by a modern track, may be utilising an original opening. Part of the northern side of the enclosure has been damaged by the construction of the modern barn.

5.3 The northern and central area (Fig. 2: Sites 5-12 & 20)

The enclosure is located within an extensive field system. To the north, three lynchets abut the northern side of the enclosure (Sites 5-7). Lynchet 5 is 1.3m high, tapering to 0.3m high at the northwest end. Lynchet 6 has a maximum height of 0.3m, while lynchet 7 is 1m in height. To the south of the enclosure, a natural break of slope has been enhanced through ploughing and forms a contour lynchet, up to 3m high (Site 8). To the southeast of lynchet 8 is another enhanced natural break of slope (Site 9). Along the western boundary of the field, a 2m high lynchet (Site 10) can be traced for 250m following the contour around the head of the combe. Fifteen metres to the west is lynchet 11, which is 1m high and marks the western limit of the survey. At its southern end lynchet 11 curves to the west where it has a slight bank 0.2m high and appears to be defining a small platform (Site 12).

Along the north western edge of the survey area, intermittent lynchets (Site 20) running parallel to a modern trackway were noted and have been interpreted as modern earthworks probably associated with the construction of the track.

5.4 The southern area (Fig. 2: Sites 13-19)

In the southern end of the main area of survey, there are three northeast facing scarps, each 0.3m high, spaced approximately 12m apart and each 45m in length (Sites 13-15). A further embanked lynchet (Site 16) is arranged on a similar alignment and lies 30m northeast of Lynchet 15. Lynchets 13, 14, 15 & 16 are slighter and narrower than the other recorded cultivation remains and are more likely to be of medieval date. Between these two lynchets is a small quarry of modern origin (Site 17).

Northeast of lynchets 16 are slight traces of ridge and furrow cultivation remains (Sites 18 & 19), these are a different alignment to the lynchets and may represent short-lived, small scale episodes of medieval or later cultivation.

6. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPTION RESULTS *by Cain Hegarty* (Fig. 3 & Appendix 1)

6.1 Twenty-nine possible features/groups of features have been identified both within the main survey area and on the surrounding land. These features are shown on the phased plan Fig. 3 (Sites AP1-AP29), further discussed below and described in detail in Appendix 1. All features have been ascribed an archaeological date purely on the basis of the morphological interpretation of visible features.

6.2 **Iron Age/Romano-British periods** (Fig. 3: Sites AP3-AP6, AP9, AP11, AP15, AP21 & AP29)

Nine features have been assigned a possible Iron Age/Romano-British date. These include four possible sub-circular or oval enclosures (Sites AP3, AP4, AP5 & AP29), which were identified as low earthworks on the RAF vertical aerial photographs of 1946.

Possible enclosures – Sites AP3, AP4, AP5 & AP29

Site AP3 is the hillslope enclosure partially recorded as Enclosure 1 in the earthwork survey (Fig. 2). It is visible as an earthwork bank defined enclosure centred on SY22308820, on the east facing slopes of the northern section of the main survey area. The bank defining the southeast edge of the enclosure is the most visible element of the site and this correlates with the southeast boundary of Enclosure 1. While further, less obvious earthworks orientated northwest to southeast may define the southwest and northeast extent of the enclosure; both are similar in alignment to Lynchets 5 & 7 recorded in the earthwork survey and are therefore more likely to relate to these features. No internal features which correlate with the two circular Platforms 2 & 3 (Fig. 2) were identified.

Site AP4 is a possible small oval enclosure centred on SY22318837 immediately to the southwest of the main survey area. It measures approximately 70m northeast to southwest by 55m north to south, with the northwest edge of the enclosure apparently levelled by the trackway leading onto South Down Common. The enclosure is only visible on the 1946 RAF vertical photographs and not on the high-quality DAP oblique photography and may therefore be the result of vegetation growth.

Site AP5 is a possible large oval hillslope enclosure located on a false crest or spur on the southeast facing slopes of the combe, to the south of the main survey area, centred on SY22308820 (c. 400m to the south of Enclosure AP4). It appears to be an incomplete oval bank defined enclosure, measuring approximately 120m north to south by 80m east to west. Enclosure AP5 appears to have some relationship with elements of the surrounding relict prehistoric field system (Site AP15). It seems to respect or be partially respected by a curvilinear north to south aligned field bank immediately to the east (part of Site AP15), while also being overlain by three east to west aligned field boundaries (also part of Site AP15).

Site AP29 is visible as earthwork banks possibly defining the south-eastern half of a large oval enclosure, within and immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the main survey area, centred on circa SY 2235 8845. The earthwork appears partially levelled on its western side by the trackway

leading onto South Down Common. The visible extent of the possible enclosure is approximately 85m north to south by 30m east to west. The location of Enclosure AP29 does broadly correlate with Lynchet 11 identified during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2).

Field boundaries and field systems – Sites AP6, AP9, AP11 & AP15

Four field boundaries or field systems of a possible Iron Age/Romano-British date have been identified both within and beyond the survey area. These comprise the following:

- Site AP6 comprises L-shaped and inverted L-shaped fragments of field systems, which lie immediately to the south of the survey area. Both may be associated with relict field system Site AP15 (see below);
- Site AP9 is a narrow earthwork bank, which lies between the earthworks comprising Site AP6. It has been tentatively ascribed an Iron Age/Romano-British date on the basis of a possible association with Site AP6;
- Site AP11 is a broad, L-shaped earthwork bank to the northwest of the core survey area tentatively ascribed an Iron Age/Romano-British date on the basis of a similarity in alignment and appearance to Sites AP6 & AP15; and,
- Site AP15 is a series of northeast to southwest and north to south aligned linear banks, which appear to form an irregular (?multi phased) relict field system associated with Enclosure AP5.

Possible trackway - Site AP21

Site AP21 has been interpreted as a possible embanked trackway centred on SY 22318835 to the southwest of the core survey area. It comprises a short, sinuous earthwork some c. 40m long, flanked by earthwork banks c. 3-4m wide at its northern end. The trackway appears to overlie the southeast side of Enclosure AP4. It appears to continue southwards for approximately 100m towards Enclosure AP5.

6.3 Medieval to modern periods (Fig. 3: Sites AP1, AP2, AP7, AP8, AP10, AP12-AP14, AP20, AP22-AP26 & AP28)

The majority (15) of the earthworks recorded during the transcription survey appear to be medieval/post-medieval in date and include former field boundaries, areas of ridge and furrow, trackways and quarries.

Former field boundaries & terraces– Sites AP1, AP2, AP7, AP8, AP10, AP12, AP13, AP20, AP23 & AP26

Nine former field boundaries and one area of terracing have been identified. Several of these boundaries to the north and the northeast of the main survey area are only visible as earthworks on the 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs, with many subsequently levelled particularly during the creation of the holiday park (Sites AP1 & AP2).

Within the core survey area itself, Site AP10 partially defines the existing field boundary in the central northern section of survey area, while Site AP20 comprises a group of earthworks in the southern tip of the field containing Enclosure AP3. These earthworks comprise fragmentary trackways and cultivation lynchets along the contours of the hillside, which may be associated with Site AP10. Sites AP10 & AP20 broadly correspond with the location of Lynchet 10 and Scarps 13-15 identified during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2).

Further boundaries survive as curvilinear earthworks to the north and south of the survey area. These comprise Sites AP7, AP8, AP12, AP13 & AP23. Site AP7 may be the southern continuation of Site AP10. Terraced area AP26 lies to the south of the main survey area.

Ridge and furrow – Site AP28

Site AP28 comprises areas of ridge and furrow, which were identified as low, relatively narrow earthworks with ridges spaced between 5m-13m apart at a number of locations across the core survey area and its immediate environs. The survival of the ridge and furrow is fragmentary. It is likely to be associated with the cultivation and improvement of the common from the medieval period onwards. The areas of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photographs do not correspond with those identified during the earthwork survey. Rather, the two techniques are complementary, with the earthwork survey recording earthworks on the shaded, north-facing slopes within the survey area not clearly visible to aerial survey.

Trackways – Sites AP14, AP22 & AP24

Three trackways of probable post-medieval/modern date have been recorded as earthworks. Site AP14 is a narrow northwest to southeast track approximately 175m long, which runs along the top of the cliff edge above Sherborne Rocks. Site AP22 lies within the survey area and running into the southeast side of Enclosure AP3, while Site AP24 lies beyond the survey area towards Beer Head, and appears to overlie curvilinear field boundary Site AP12. The location of Site AP14 corresponds with a footpath shown on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, while Sites AP22 & AP24 are negative features flanked by earthwork banks.

Quarry – Site AP25

Four pits (Site AP25) identified to the south of the survey area, are considered to be the remains of post-medieval/modern quarries.

6.4 Second World War features (Fig. 3: Sites AP16, AP18 & AP27)

Extensive Second World War military sites (Sites AP16 & AP18) were visible on the 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs as structures and earthworks immediately to the southwest of the survey area. Much of the visible military infrastructure relates to a radar station centred on SY22298822 (DCCHER Ref. No. 50874), and comprises temporary 'soft' defences such as barbed wire entanglements and Nissan huts, which were removed once the war ended. Only the core of the station, which comprised hard standing, is visible on recent aerial photography. Some 250-300m to the east of the radar station, two small pits (Site AP27) have been interpreted as the remains of WWII slit trenches. One appears to overlie field boundary AP12.

6.5 Features of an unknown date (Fig. 3: Sites AP17 & AP19)

Two sites of an unknown date have been identified. Site AP17 lies immediately to the south of the core survey area. It comprises five narrow east to west aligned, gently curving ditches roughly 3m wide, between 20-30m in length and approximately 10-15m apart. The function of these features is uncertain but their arrangement is reminiscent of post-medieval rifle butts (from a firing range), if less substantial.

Site AP19 lies 30m to the west of Site AP17 and consists of two parallel northeast aligned earthwork linear features approximately 30m apart and 150m long. The function of these features is uncertain, but they may be remains of post-medieval or modern agricultural features such as drainage ditches.

7. THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS *by Ross Dean* (Fig. 4)

7.1 The magnetic response across the survey area was relatively low with little difference between the anomalies representing possible archaeological features and general background magnetic responses. Nine potential archaeological features were recorded, including linear groups G1, G2, G4, G5, G7 & G9, and anomalies G3, G6 & G8. All are shown on Fig. 4.

7.2 **Linear features** (Fig. 4: G1, G2, G4, G5, G7 & G9)

Linear feature G1 may be a back-filled ditch or remnants of an earthwork bank extending north from a 1m high lynchet, mapped as Lynchet 11 on the earthwork survey and Enclosure AP29 during the aerial photographic transcription (Figs. 2 & 3). G2, G4, G5 & G9 are disrupted linear features, which have been interpreted as the remains of banks or ditches. However, given the ploughing traces recorded in the vicinity, these features may be associated with past ploughing activity. The locations of G4 & G5 broadly tie in with the undated earthworks Site AP17 (Fig. 3), which may be former rifle butts (from a firing range), while linear G9 appears to roughly correlate with part of Site AP20, a group of medieval/post medieval earthworks (Figs. 2 & 3). Linear G7 lies along the upper edge of the steep natural slope and may represent a former field boundary. Its location broadly corresponds with the northern extension of Lynchet 8 recorded during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2).

7.3 **Anomalies** (Fig. 4: G3, G6 & G8)

Anomalies G3 & G8 are most likely to represent small quarries now infilled with rubble. Anomaly G3 broadly corresponds with the southern extension of Lynchet 10 previously recorded during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2). Anomaly G6 is relatively distinct, possibly representing either an infilled hollow or a compacted surface. Its location broadly ties in with the position of Platform 2, which lies adjacent to the northern side of Enclosure 1 identified during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2).

8. THE TARGETED TRENCH EXCAVATION RESULTS (Figs. 5-7, Plates 1-4)

8.1 Five trenches between c.4.5-25m long and each c.1.6m wide were excavated within the core survey area (Fig. 5: Trenches 1-5). The results from all trenches are described in detail below, with relevant plans and sections included as Figs. 6-7 and photographs as Plates 1-4. The excavations were undertaken with volunteer participation (Plate 1).

8.2 **Trench 1** (Fig. 5, Plan Fig. 6a & Section 6b)

Trench 1 was aligned northeast to southwest and located towards the northern end of the core survey area. It measured 14.5m long by 1.6m wide, and was positioned across Lynchet 6, identified during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2). The trench lay on land which sloped down to the southeast, with the northeast end having a maximum depth of 0.18m and the southwest end being 0.42m deep.

The trench was excavated into the natural subsoil (102), which comprised a compact light brown, gravelly, sandy clay with common flint inclusions. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.16m of dark brown sandy clay topsoil (100), which overlay 0.06-0.2m of cultivation subsoil (101), a compact yellowish-brown sandy clay with frequent flint inclusions.

No archaeological deposits or features associated with Lynchet 6 were recorded. A small quantity of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil (100).

8.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 5, Plan Fig. 6c, Sections 6d-e & Plate 2)

Trench 2 was aligned northeast to southwest and located adjacent to the northeast boundary of the core survey area. It measured 4.5m long and 1.6m wide, and was positioned across the northeast end of Enclosure 1 identified during earthwork survey (Fig. 2). The trench lay on land, which sloped gently down to the northeast, with the northeast end having a maximum depth of 0.3m and the southwest end being 0.35m deep.

The trench was excavated onto the natural subsoil (204), which comprised a compact light brown, gravelly, sandy clay with common flint inclusions. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.14-0.25m of dark brown sandy clay topsoil (200), which overlay 0.09-0.15m of compact yellowish-brown sandy clay with frequent flint inclusions >0.10m (201). Layer (201) may be an agricultural subsoil or disturbed enclosure bank material, which has been spread by later agricultural activities. Layer (201) sealed feature F202.

Feature F202 (Plan Fig. 6c, Section 6d-e & Plate 2)

Cut into the natural sandy clay subsoil was an east to west aligned linear feature (F202). This was 1.2m wide and 0.03m deep, and was exposed for a distance of 9m across the whole length of the trench (Plate 2). It contained a single fill (203), which comprised a dark brown, loose sandy clay with common flint nodule inclusions. No finds were recovered.

The orientation of the heavily truncated linear feature F202 broadly corresponds with the alignment of the earthwork bank of Enclosure 1 (Fig. 5). Two fragments of worked flint were recovered from the topsoil (200).

8.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5, Plan Fig. 6f, Section 6g & Plate 3)

Trench 3 was broadly aligned northwest to southeast and located in the central northern section of the core survey area. It measured 11m long and 1.6m wide, and was located across circular Platform 2 (geophysical survey anomaly GP6) and the northern side of Enclosure 1 identified during the earthwork survey (Figs. 2 & 4). The trench was positioned on a gradual incline, which sloped down towards the southeast, with the northwest end having a maximum depth of 0.68m and the southeast end being 0.34m deep.

The trench was excavated onto the natural subsoil (302), which comprised a compact light yellow, gravelly, sandy clay with common flint inclusions. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.1-0.16m of topsoil (300), a mid brownish-grey loamy silt, and 0.01-0.33m of plough-spread bank material (301), a light yellowish-grey loam with common flint gravel inclusions, which sealed 0.75m of compacted mid

light yellowish-grey gravelly clay with frequent flint inclusions (303). A small quantity of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil (300).

Layer 303 has been interpreted as being part of the original bank forming Enclosure 1, which has been spread across the immediate interior of the enclosure and later sealed by plough-spread bank material layer (301). No traces of Platform 2/geophysical anomaly GP6 were identified.

8.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 5, Plan Fig. 7a, Section 7b & Plate 4)

Trench 4 was also aligned northwest to southeast and located in the central northern section of the core survey area *c.* 10m to the southwest of Trench 3. It measured 25m long and 1.6m wide, and was located across circular Platform 3 and the northern side of Enclosure 1 both identified during the earthwork survey (Fig. 2). The trench was positioned on a gradual incline, which sloped down towards the southeast, with the northwest end having a maximum depth of 0.80m and the southeast end being 0.20m deep.

The trench was excavated onto the natural subsoil (402), which comprised a compact, mid orange-brown gravelly, sandy clay with common flint inclusions. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.24m of topsoil (400) above 0.1-0.55m of plough-damaged bank material (403), which was a compacted mid yellowish-grey, gravelly clay with frequent flint inclusions. This was above an occupation layer (404), comprising 0.10-0.25m of dark greyish-brown, gravelly silty clay with frequent flint inclusions, occasional beach pebbles and a number of finds. At the northwest end of the trench, layer 404 sealed deposit 405, comprising 0.02-0.45m of mid greyish-yellow, gravelly sandy clay with moderate very large flint inclusions. This deposit is likely to be the surviving remnants of the original bank of Enclosure 1.

The topsoil (400) was partially sealed at the southeast end of the trench by layer 406 a mid orangey-yellow, gravelly clay with frequent flint inclusions. Layer 406 appears to be redeposited natural gravelly clay subsoil, which may be derived from the excavations for the new barn in the northeast corner. This layer was not present in Trench 3.

Layer 404, produced a considerable quantity of Romano-British pottery, which ranges in date from the later 2nd to 4th centuries AD. It has been interpreted as being an occupation horizon. Layer 403 is the same as layer 303 in Trench 3 *i.e.* part of the plough-damaged earthwork bank comprising Enclosure 1, which has been spread across the immediate interior of the enclosure by later agricultural activities. No traces of Platform 3 were identified.

Trench 4 was subsequently extended by 10m to the southeast to determine whether there were any additional features. No further archaeological remains were identified.

8.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 5, Plan Fig. 7c & Section 7d)

Trench 5 was aligned northwest to southeast and located near the western corner of the core survey area. It measured 11m long and 1.6m wide, and was located across Lynchet 12 and Enclosure AP29 identified during the earthwork survey and aerial photographic transcription respectively (Figs. 2 & 3). The trench was positioned on a gradual incline, which sloped down towards the northwest, with the northwest end having a maximum depth of 0.54m and the southeast end being 0.48m deep.

Trench 5 was excavated onto the natural subsoil (502), which comprised a compact light yellow, gravelly, clay with common compacted flint inclusions. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.10m of topsoil (500) and 0.54m of cultivation subsoil (501), a light yellowish-grey loam with common flint gravel inclusions. Traces of Lynchet 12/Enclosure AP2 were noted in plan. No finds were recovered.

9. **THE FINDS** by Kerry Dean with contributions from Mark Corney, Julian Richards and Roger Taylor (Appendix 2)

9.1 **Introduction**

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate, then quantified according to material type within each context. The assemblage, which has been examined by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented, is further discussed below. Finds totals by material type are given in Appendix 2.

9.2 **The Romano-British pottery** Mark Corney

The Roman pottery assemblage comprises 138 sherds weighing 915g. The majority of the sherds are small with an average weight of 6.6g, and most are moderately abraded. The largest group (133 sherds) was recovered from context 404; the occupation horizon sealed by the later spread of the hillslope enclosure bank layer 403.

Methodology

In accordance with standard practice, the pottery has been examined by weight, context and details of the fabric related, where applicable, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Forms are cross referenced to the type series from Greyhound Yard, Dorchester, Dorset (Woodward *et al*, 1993). Principal diagnostic features are noted for each context and the date given is that provided by the ceramics alone. The composition of the assemblage is summarised in Table 1 below.

Forms

The majority of identifiable forms are jars, mainly with everted rims, in Black Burnished Ware, (DORBBI) of Greyhound Yard type 2 and 3 with a date range spanning the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Large storage jars with rolled rims and finger impressed decoration over the top of the rim are also present. Shallow bowls are rare, with three examples, two in Black Burnished Ware (DORBBI) of Greyhound Yard type 20 of later 2nd to 4th century AD date and another Oxidised Ware in fabric O1. There are two examples of a drop-flange bowl in Black Burnished Ware (DORBBI), Greyhound Yard type 25, of later 3rd to 4th century AD date.

The sherds of Oxford Ware (OXFRS) are all open forms but the small and abraded nature of the sherds precludes positive identification of form. Oxidised products of the Oxford industry occur from c. AD240 and continue in production until the early 5th century. The three sherds of Samian ware (LEXSA2) date to the 2nd century AD; two comprise body sherds and all are very abraded.

The one mortarium fragment of late second to early third century AD date, is a product of the Wigginholt industry, Sussex (Evans 1974 & Hartley 1993).

Table 1: Composition of the pottery assemblage

Context	Fabric type	Fine wares
Samian Ware		
300	LEZSA2	Central Gaulish, Lezoux. Drag. 37. Very abraded sherd with burnt slip. Surviving decoration comprises a very worn and abraded Ovolo with the tip of a vine leaf below. In general style, the Ovolo and vine leaf appear typical of mid-second century vessels, c.AD140-180
404	LEZSA2	Central Gaulish, Lezoux. Drag. 33. Very abraded body sherd with burnt slip. 2nd century
404	LEZSA2	Central Gaulish, Lezoux. Body sherd, form indeterminable. 2nd century
Coarse Wares		
Reduced wares		
404	DORBBI	South East Dorset Black Burnished Ware
404	G1	Fine grey sandy fabric with sparse, small mica plates. Soft and powdery to touch with slightly lighter coloured surfaces
404	G2	Medium grey hard, coarse sandy ware with occasional dark grey grog inclusions. Fabric appears to be restricted to large, thick walled storage jars
404	G3	General sandy grey fabric with small grog and ironstone inclusions. Surface colour can vary from grey to a buff/pale orange
Oxidised wares		
404	OXFRS	Oxford region colour coated ware (Young 1977)
404	O1	As G1 but oxidised throughout
404	O2	A hard, slightly sandy ware with frequent grog inclusions. Self-coloured pale orange/buff surfaces with a slight 'pimply' texture. This fabric shows considerable variation in texture within single sherds and may be handmade. Mainly occurs in large storage jars
Mortaria		
404	M1	A fine well sorted sandy pink/buff ware with few visible inclusions. With crushed flint trituration grits survive. Source, probably Wigginholt, Sussex (<i>cf</i> Hartley 1993)

Date Range

Where diagnostic features survive, the majority of the pottery appears to be of later 2nd to 4th century AD date. The generally poor condition of the material hampers precision, but the presence of Oxford colour coated wares and Black Burnished Ware (DORBBI) type 3 jars suggests a bias towards a later, mid 3rd to 4th century AD date for the main assemblage recovered from the occupation layer (404). The mortarium rim is typical of mid 2nd to early 3rd century AD products. The presence of the small quantity of Central Gaulish Samian ware from Lezoux (LEZSA2) suggests that there was an element of trade between this part of the southwest coast and the Central Gaulish area. Central Gaulish Samian ware pottery is one of the most common types of fine tableware in use during the 2nd century AD.

9.3 Worked flint *Julian Richards*

The assemblage consists of 18 pieces of worked flint weighing 190g, which was recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1-3 and occupation layer (404). The composition of the assemblage is broken down in Table 2 below. The condition of the worked stone is extremely rolled and/or battered as a result of agricultural activities. The raw material is exclusively Beer flint.

Table 2: Composition of the flint assemblage

Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Tools	
	Flake	Blade	Frag.	Whole	Broken	Retouched	Whole	Broken	Retouched	Scraper	Other
100				1	1					1	
200					1			1			
300				3	2						
Occupation layer 404	1			4	2	1					
Total	1			8	6	1		1		1	

Comment

There are few observations that can be made on such a small assemblage. The core and one flake from occupation layer 404 show signs of surface battering that may indicate that they are parts of hammerstones – both are likely to be intrusive. A broken blade that shows signs of retouch, also from layer (404), may indicate an earlier element to what otherwise appears (on technological grounds) to be a late Neolithic/early Bronze age assemblage. Such an assemblage would appear to be consistent with other assemblages recovered in the vicinity (see Section 2.2 above).

9.4 Worked stone

Two pieces of worked stone weighing 153g were recovered from the occupation layer (404) in Trench 4. One comprises a small, rounded, black flint pebble that has been struck. The other is a small irregular shaped stone with a perforation hole, which has evidence of working around both ends – possibly a natural hole that was widened for use as a loom weight. Its presence within layer 404 suggests a Roman date.

9.5 Beach pebbles *Roger Taylor*

A sample (17) of the beach pebbles from occupation layer (404) was retained. All are beach derived flint except one more tabular cobble of chert and one of Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds quartzite with an intact buff-weathered cortex; the latter two have clearly been introduced to the site. The height of the site rules out the possibility that the majority of the pebbles come from a natural deposit such as a raised beach. The quartzite pebble shows some evidence of battering around the perimeter and therefore indication of use as a hammer stone.

The size variation of the collection together with the general lack of spherical shape rules out the suggestion that the pebbles were collected as sling stones and it is therefore noteworthy that they were found spread throughout occupation layer 404 and not in discrete clusters or piles. Sling stones are generally spherical and of the order of 50mm diameter. The geological size distinction between pebbles and cobbles is at 64mm maximum dimension, with an upper size limit between cobbles and boulders at 256mm. It is therefore possible that these beach pebbles were collected to create a cobbled surface within the interior of Enclosure 1.

9.6 Animal bone

Eight fragments of animal bone weighing 29g were recovered from the occupation layer 404 in Trench 4. All are in a poor state of preservation. The majority appear to be pieces of long bone with one possible skull fragment. The bone fragments derive from domestic animals such as sheep or pigs and are considered Roman in date.

9.7 Fired clay

A total of 58 pieces of fired clay weighing 107g was recovered from the topsoil (300) in Trench 3 and occupation layer 404 in Trench 4. All are undiagnostic although some exhibit oxidisation on one side and a small amount of vitrification on the other, suggesting they are part of a furnace lining. The remaining fragments may relate to a domestic structure. All are considered Roman in date.

9.8 Ceramic building material

One fragment of modern red brick weighing 82g was recovered from the topsoil (100) of Trench 1.

9.9 Glass

One piece of glass weighing 179g was recovered from the topsoil (400) in Trench 4. It is a fragment of a clear glass from a 20th century condiment bottle.

9.10 Metal objects *Mark Corney*

A small assemblage of metalwork comprising 14 iron objects weighing 80g and one item of copper alloy weighing 0.6g was recovered. All apart from two iron objects, were recovered from layer (404), the occupation horizon sealed by the spread of plough-damaged bank material layer (403).

The fragment of copper alloy bracelet (SF1) is ovoid in section, 2mm wide and the surface undecorated. Bracelets of this simple form have long currency spanning the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The pottery from layer 404 is all Romano-British (later 2nd to 4th century in date) and therefore a date within that span would be appropriate.

Twelve of the fourteen iron objects recovered derive from Romano-British occupation layer (404) with the remaining two being unstratified. The majority comprise nail fragments or hobnails.

10. DISCUSSION

- 10.1** The earthwork survey and aerial photographic transcription have identified a number of features indicative of later Iron Age/Romano-British settlement and subsistence, as well as later medieval/post-medieval cultivation remains, across the main survey area and its immediate environs. While many of these features were previously known to be present (see Section 2.2), these surveys have helped provided much more detailed information about the form, relationships and survival of these earthworks both within the survey area and its immediate environs.
- 10.2** The remains of the principal hillslope Enclosure 1, despite some damage to the northern side, have survived remarkably well. The earthwork appears to have been created by terracing and scarping, there being no surface traces of a defining ditch. The enclosure is integrated within an extensive field system (Lynchets 5-8, 10-16 & 20), which continues beyond the western and southern limits of the survey area, traces of which were recorded during the aerial photographic transcription (Sites AP6, AP9 & AP11).
- 10.3** Three more possible enclosures were identified during the aerial photographic transcription. These comprise Enclosure AP4, located adjacent to the western edge of the survey area, Enclosure AP5, to the south of the survey area and Enclosure AP29, which lies partially within the main survey area, adjacent to the western boundary (Fig. 3). Enclosure AP29 appears to correlate with Lynchet 11 identified during the earlier earthwork survey; Enclosures AP4 & AP5 lie outside the main survey area. Enclosure AP5 appears to be associated with an irregular prehistoric field system which may have several phases (Fig. 3: Site AP15).
- 10.4** Traces of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation were identified during the earthwork survey to the southeast of Enclosure 1 (Fig. 2: Sites 18 & 19) and across the whole of the broader study area (Fig. 3: AP28) during the subsequent aerial photographic transcription. Further medieval and later

features comprising field boundaries, trackways and quarries (Fig. 3: Sites AP1, AP2, AP7, AP8, AP10, AP12-AP14, AP20, AP22-AP25 & AP28) were also identified during this later survey together with a number of more recent sites beyond the main survey area to the south. These modern sites include features associated with the Second World War radar station, a possible rifle butts and drainage (Fig. 3: Sites AP16-AP19 & AP27)

- 10.5 The geophysical survey results were disappointing with little difference between the anomalies representing possible archaeological features and general background magnetic responses. Very few of the responses appeared to tie in with features recorded during the earlier earthwork survey, the aerial photographic transcription and the subsequent targeted trench excavation.
- 10.6 Only one feature was recorded during the targeted trench excavation. This comprised a very shallow east to west orientated linear feature (F202), which was identified in Trench 2. Although no dating evidence was recovered, its orientation does broadly correspond with that of the earthwork bank of Enclosure 1. The shallow depth of the feature is likely to be the result of subsequent ploughing and suggests that any other subsurface *in-situ* features where present beyond those areas investigated, may be similarly truncated or disturbed.
- 10.7 Trenches 3 & 4 were located across the northern side of Enclosure 1 and across Platforms 2 & 3 located within the northwest corner of the interior. Although no features were recorded in Trenches 3 & 4, a number of Romano-British finds were recovered from occupation layer 404 in Trench 4, which had been sealed by plough-spread bank material (403). Occupation layer 404 appears to overlie part of the original enclosure bank (405), thereby demonstrating that it is Romano-British in origin. No traces of Platforms 2 & 3 were identified. The layer sequence in Trenches 3 & 4 does suggest that despite the apparent good preservation of Enclosure 1, there has been significant disturbance of the earthworks by later agricultural activities and groundworks associated with the construction of the new barn.
- 10.8 The majority of the finds from the excavation comprise sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD, which were recovered from occupation layer 404 in Enclosure 1. Several sherds of 2nd century Samian pottery were also present in this assemblage, suggesting that there was ongoing trade between this part of the southwest coast and the Central Gaulish region during this period. A fragment of copper alloy bracelet and a number of iron hobnails/nails were also recovered from this layer. Evidence for earlier activity is represented by a small Neolithic/early Bronze Age assemblage of worked flint, which was recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2 & 3 and occupation layer 404. The latter are clearly intrusive. The date of the assemblage and the tools present appear to be typical of the area.
- 10.9 A number of pebbles were also recovered from occupation layer 404 within Enclosure 1. The antiquarian Peter Orlando Hutchinson is known to have been intrigued by the large numbers of pebbles (which he describes as 'sling stones') he frequently found in association with Bronze Age features such as barrows during his investigations at Blackbury Castle, Hembury Castle and Sidbury Castle. He describes these 'sling stones' as being dispersed across the sites, and therefore different to the discrete collections of what were clearly Iron Age sling stones. No evidence of *in situ* Bronze Age activity has been identified within or immediately adjacent to Enclosure 1 (despite evidence from the broader study area), with the majority of the pebbles retained being beach derived chert considered too

large in size for sling stones. All were found distributed evenly though out the Romano-British occupation layer (404) and not as discrete clusters or piles. The inference is therefore that the bulk of the pebbles was collected locally and perhaps used to create a cobbled surface within the interior of the Romano-British enclosure, which has yet to be identified or has been removed by ploughing.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The archaeological investigations have established the presence of well-preserved earthwork remains, but relatively little in the way of associated sub-surface features. The main enclosure has clearly been eroded by later ploughing, and where present in Trench 4 was partly sealed by an occupation layer containing quantities of Romano-British pottery and other finds. The presence of this layer indicates that *in situ* settlement must be nearby and within the enclosure. The other earthworks (eg. the field system remains) are also only present as surface features.

12. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

12.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the site code ACD333. The contents are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Paper and digital archive contents

File no.	Description	Format	No. of sheets
1	Index to archive	A4	2
1	Context index	A4	1
1	Context Record	A4	14
1	Trench Records	A4	5
1	Level Register	A4	2
1	Graphics Register	A4	1
3	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A3	11
1	Special Find Registers	A4	1
2	Context Find Records	A4	6
1	Photographic Register	A4	2
2	Sample Register	A4	1
2	Sieving Register	A4	1
ACD333/photos	Digital Photographs	TIFF	67

12.2 The archive will continue to be stored under controlled conditions at the offices of AC archaeology in Bradninch, but will ultimately be deposited under the relevant accession number at the RAMM, Exeter, at the earliest in 2013 when the current museum non-acceptance policy will be reviewed. A temporary reference number has been obtained from the museum, which is **RAMM: 11/20**.

12.3 The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 113179.

13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

13.1 The archaeological investigations were commissioned by Joanna Bowry on behalf of the South West Coast Path Team. The earthwork survey was carried out by Mark Corney, the aerial photographic transcription by Cain Hegarty and the geophysical by Ross Dean of Site Scan. The targeted trench excavation was carried out by Chris Cain, Kerry Dean and Paul Jones, and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Cain Hegarty. The finds were assessed by Kerry Dean (unless otherwise stated). The advice and collaboration of Bill Horner, the Devon County Archaeologist is duly acknowledged, Pete Young and Phil Planel from East Devon AONB. Finally we would like to give thanks to the volunteers who were a big help on site and comprising Gillian Cobley, Trevor Dymond, Sue Dymond, Phil Planel, Amanda Sachell and Cressida Whitton.

14. SOURCES CONSULTED

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Historic maps

Beer and Seaton tithe map and apportionment, 1840

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25-inch Devon Sheet 83:14: surveyed 1888, published 1889; Sheet 95:3: surveyed 1888 published 1889 and Sheet 95:2: surveyed 1888, published 1890

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25-inch Devon Sheet 83:14: surveyed 1888, revised 1903, published 1904, Sheet 83:15: surveyed 1887-88, revised 1903, published 1904 and Sheet 95:2: surveyed 1888, revised 1903, published 1904

Internet sources

British Geological Survey online www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience



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89

88

SY

22

23



Extent of site

PROJECT

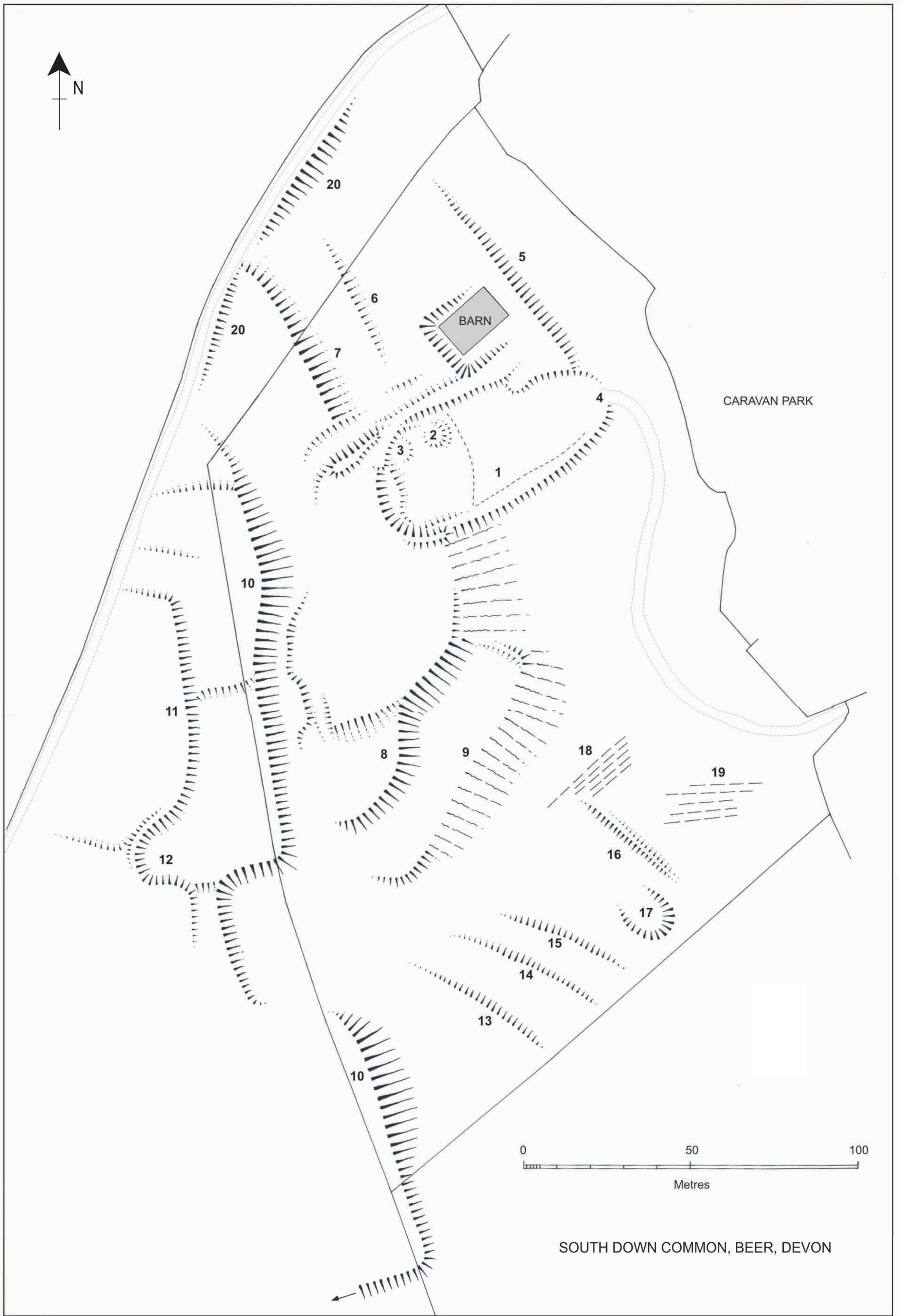
South Down Common, Beer, East Devon

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site and survey area



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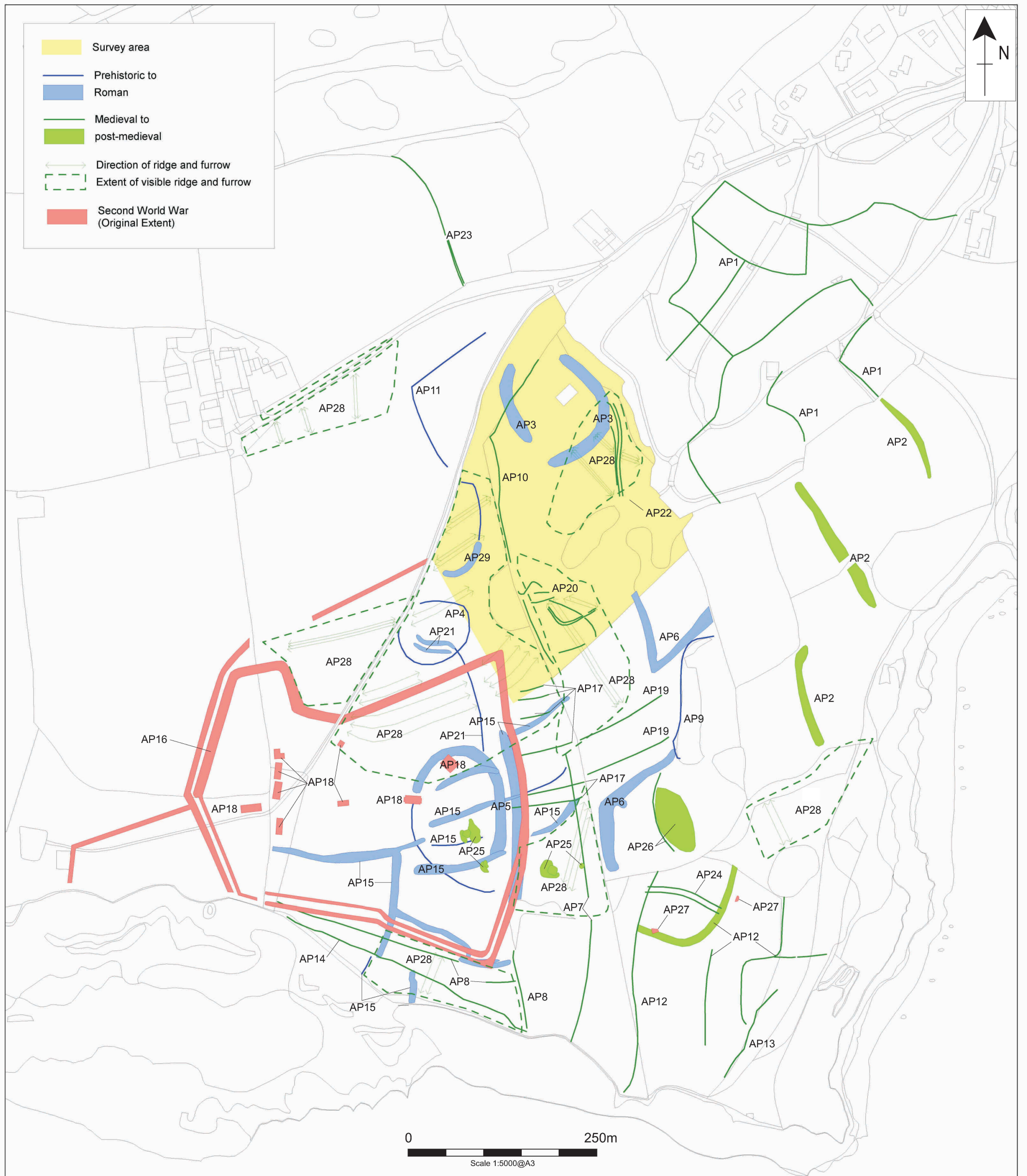
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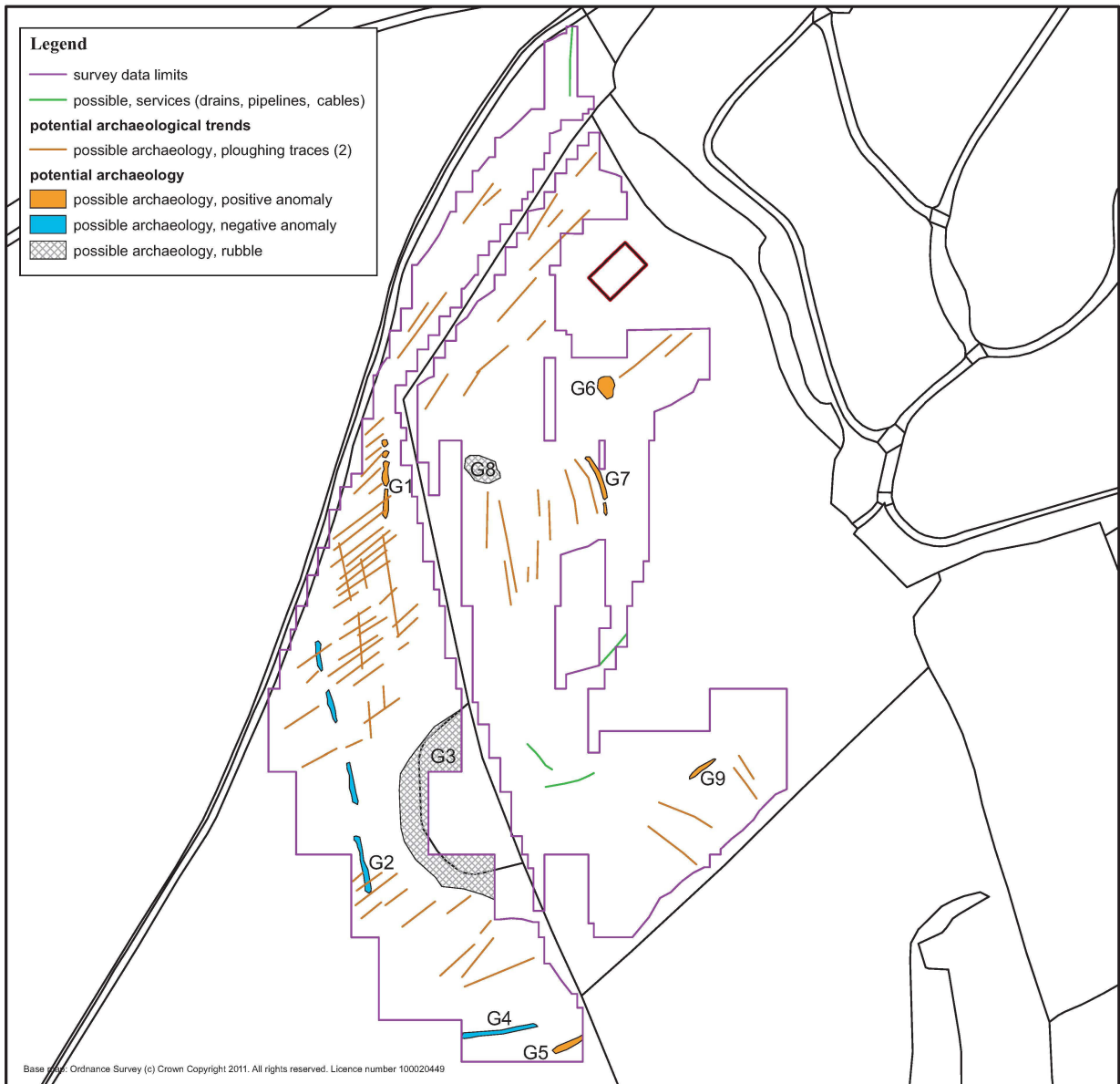
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TITLE

Fig. 2: Earthwork survey results





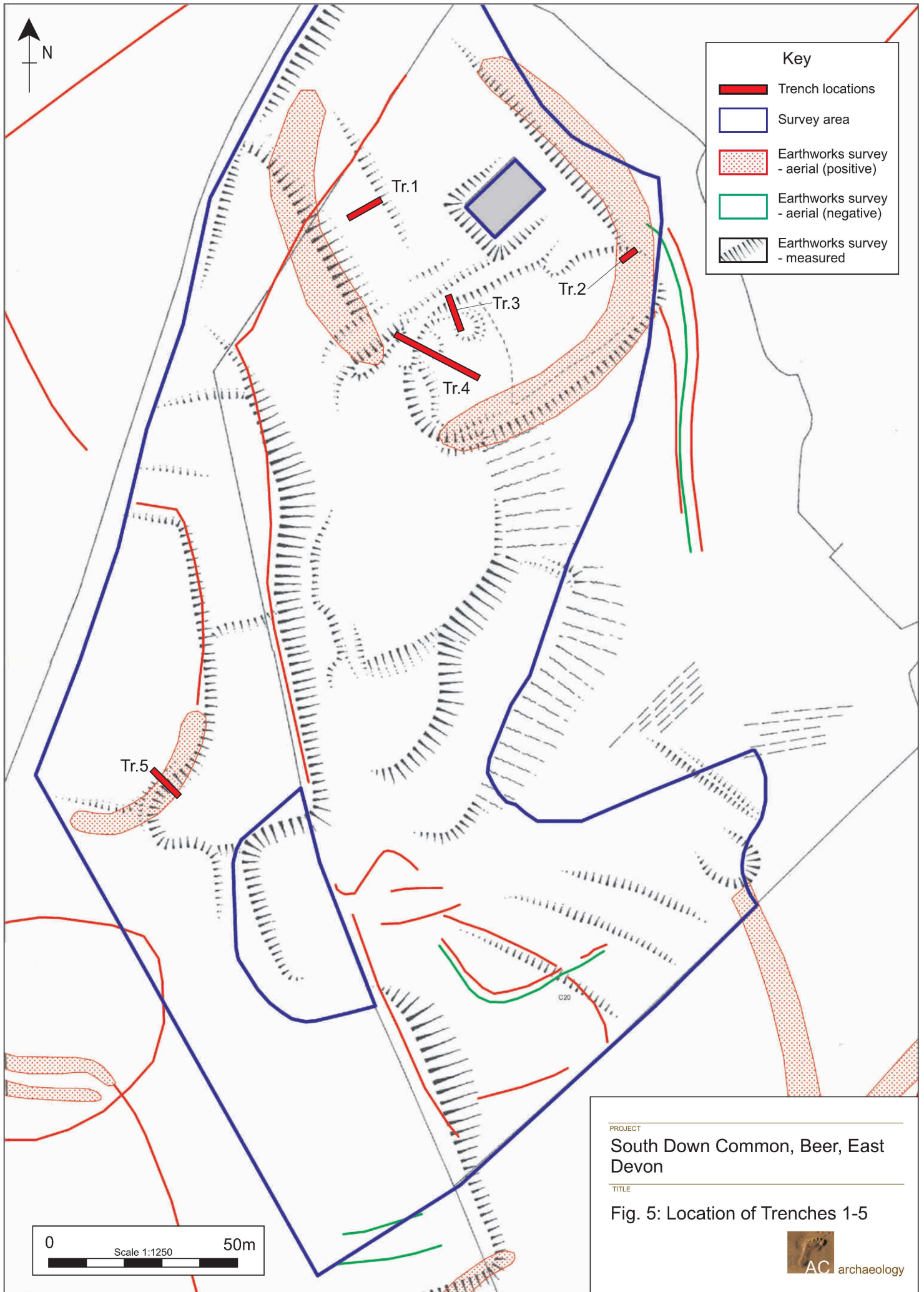


PROJECT

South Down Common, Beer, East Devon

TITLE

Fig. 4. Geophysical survey (gradiometer) results




Key

- Trench locations
- Survey area
- Earthworks survey - aerial (positive)
- Earthworks survey - aerial (negative)
- Earthworks survey - measured

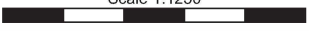
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South Down Common, Beer, East Devon

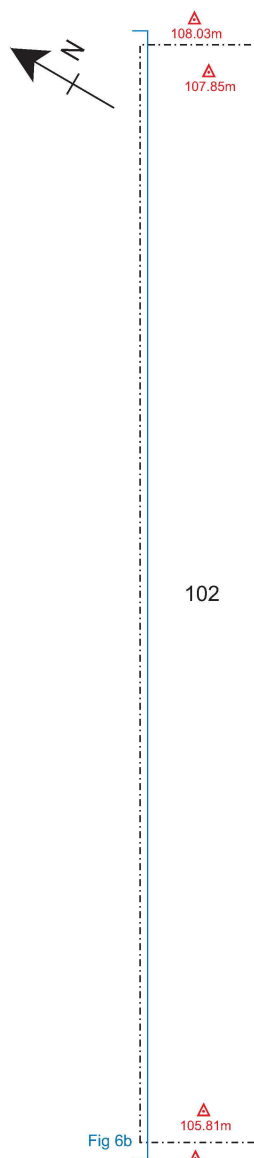
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Fig. 5: Location of Trenches 1-5



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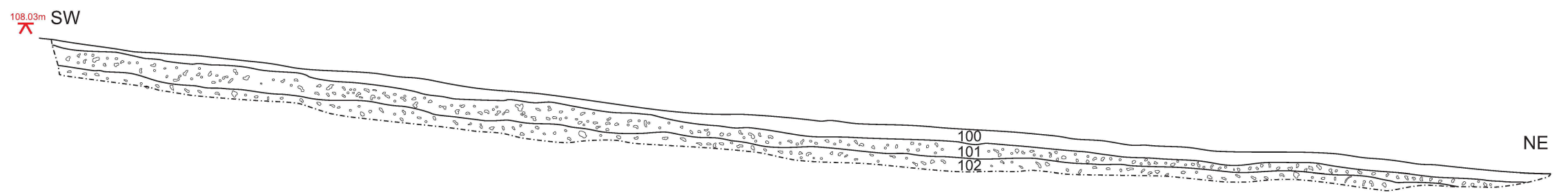
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a) Plan of Trench 1

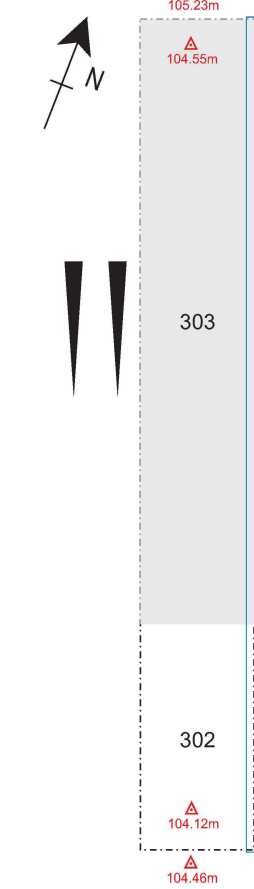
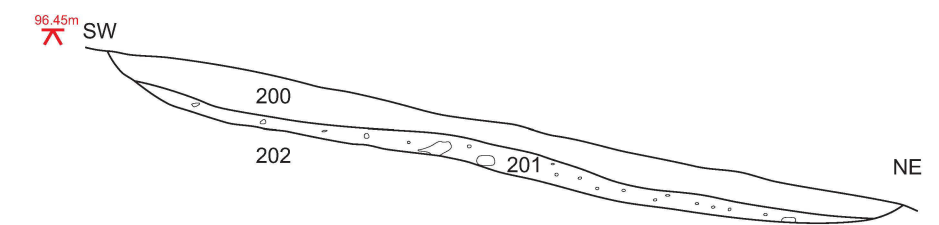
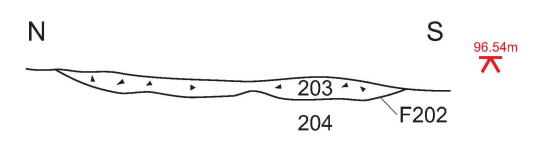
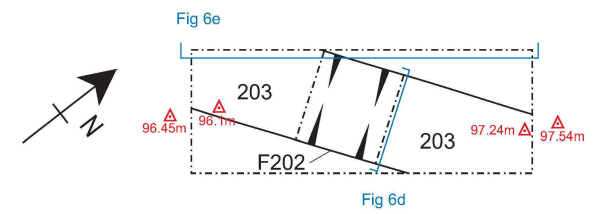
b) Section of Trench 1



c) Plan of Trench 2

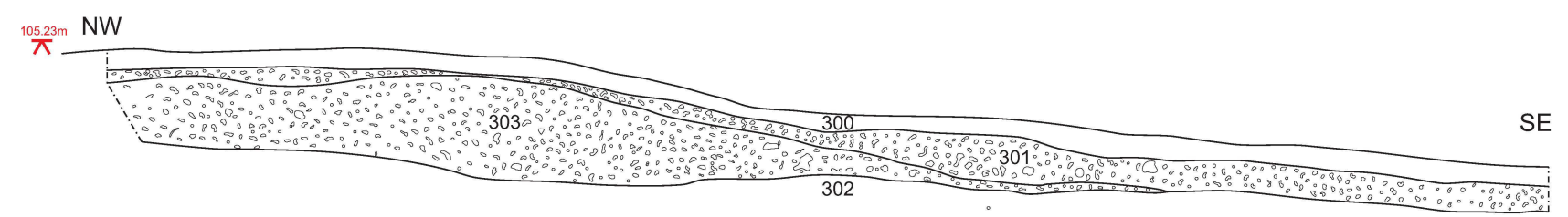
d) Section of feature F202

e) Section of Trench 2



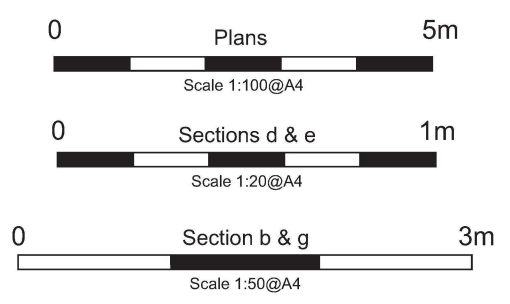
f) Plan of Trench 3

g) Section of Trench 3



Key to plans and sections

- Flint
- Extent of visible bank in section



PROJECT
South Down Common, Beer,
East Devon

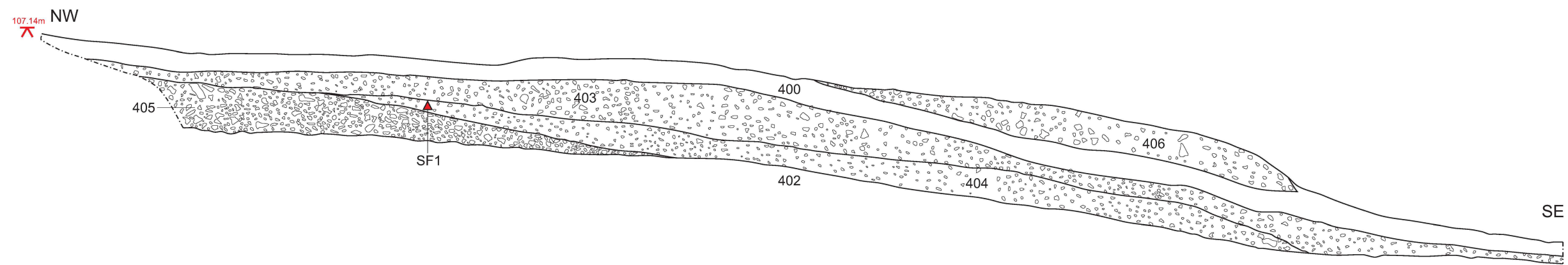
TITLE
Fig. 6: Plans and sections,
Trenches 1-3



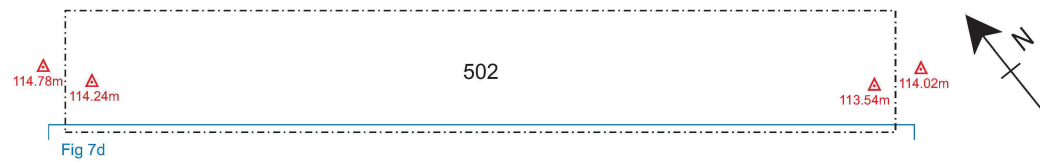
a) Plan of Trench 4



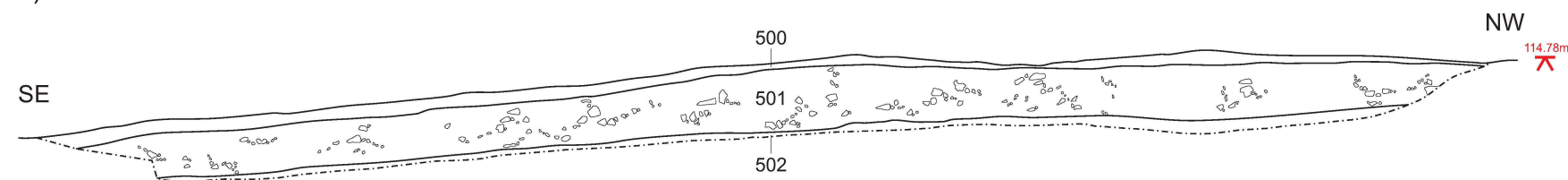
b) Section of Trench 4



c) Plan of Trench 5



d) Section of Trench 5



Key to sections



0 Plans 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 3m

Scale 1:50@A4

PROJECT
South Down Common, Beer,
East Devon

TITLE
Fig. 7: Plans and sections,
Trenches 4 and 5





Plate 1: General view of site from Trench 4, looking to the west



Plate 2: West facing section of linear feature F202 – view from the northeast (Scale 1m)



Plate 3: South facing section of Trench 3 – view from south (Scales 1m)



Plate 4: Southwest facing section of Trench 4, view from southwest (Scales 1m)

Appendix 1

Summary of features identified on aerial photographs



Appendix 1: Summary of features identified on aerial photographs

Site no.	Form	Description/Interpretation	Grid ref	Air photograph ref	Date
1	Levelled earthwork	Former field boundaries, extant in 1946, levelled post 1946 for creation of caravan park	SY 2265 8867	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Medieval
2	Levelled earthwork	Former field boundaries, to south of caravan park	SY 2275 8855 SY 2269 8844 SY 2265 8830	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Medieval
3	Earthwork	Sub-circular enclosure	SY 2242 8858	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Iron Age/ Romano British
4	Earthwork	Possible oval enclosure	SY 2231 8837	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Iron Age/ Romano British
5	Earthwork	Possible oval enclosure	SY 2230 8820	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Iron Age/ Romano British
6	Earthwork	Former field boundaries	SY 2251 8834 SY 2248 8821	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Iron Age/ Romano British
7	Earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2245 8804	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Medieval/ Post Medieval
8	Earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2239 8803	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Medieval/ Post Medieval
9	Earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2254 8831	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946	Iron Age/ Romano British
10	Earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2236 8855	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946, DAP HF14A	Post Medieval
11	Earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2229 8859	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946, DAP HF05	Iron Age/ Romano British
12	Earthwork	Relict field boundary	SY 2249 8804 SY 2256 8805 SY 2262 8807	DAP HF14A	Medieval/ Post Medieval
13	Earthwork	Field boundary	SY 2260 8800	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946, DAP HF14A,	Medieval/ Post Medieval
14	Earthwork	Footpath/trackway	SY 2228 8805	DAP HF10	Post Medieval
15 15 15	Earthwork	Former field boundaries	SY 22341 88238 SY 22346 88209 SY 22335 88175 SY 2228 8816 SY 2234 8815 SY 2243 8819 SY 2239 8820 SY 2242 8819 SY 22418823 SY 22418829	DAP HF10	Iron Age/ Romano British

Appendix 1: Summary of features identified on aerial photographs

Site no.	Form	Description/Interpretation	Grid ref	Air photograph ref	Date
16	Structure	See 18 below	SY 2223 8821 SY 2248 8796	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946 (extant); DAP HF09	Iron Age/ Romano British
17	Earthwork	Parallel linear earthworks, positive and negative; cut ridge and overlies ridge and furrow; similar in arrangement to rifle range butts but less substantial	SY 2241 8826	DAP HF09 & 10 (not apparent on 1940s)	Post Medieval
18 18	Structure	Visible remains of Second World War [radar] Station. Former probable military coastal structure	SY 2223 8821 SY 2248 8796	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946 (extant); DAP HF09	Modern/20th century
19	Earthwork	Two parallel linear features (bank and ditch); possibly drains? Possibly same as/associated with Site 17	SY 2248 8828 SY 2249 8825	DAP HF10	Post Medieval/ Modern
20	Earthwork	Probable relict field boundaries, lynchets and trackways; SW-SE part probably associated with Site 10	SY 2243 8838	DAP HF09, HF10	Medieval/ Post Medieval
21	Earthwork	Possible relict field boundary and trackway	SY 2232 8836 to SY 2236 8826	DAP HF09, HF10	Iron Age/ Romano British
22	Earthwork	Probable relict trackway	SY 2248 8854	DAP HF05, HF06	Medieval/ Post Medieval
23	Levelled earthwork	Former field boundary	SY 2232 8874	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946 (extant)	Medieval/ Post Medieval
24	Earthwork	Former possible trackway	SY 2254 8812	DAP HF09, HF10, HF11	Medieval/ Post Medieval
25	Earthwork	Four pits or former quarries	SY 2234 8818 SY 2236 8815 SY 2242 8815 SY 2245 8815	DAP HF5, HF6, HF09, HF10, HF11, C14A	Medieval/ Post Medieval
26	Earthwork	Possible area of terracing	SY 2253 8819	DAP C14A	Medieval/ Post Medieval
27	Earthwork	Two pits, probable Second World War slit trenches	SY 2252 8809 SY 2259 8812	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946 (extant), DAP HF05	20th century

Appendix 1: Summary of features identified on aerial photographs

Site no.	Form	Description/Interpretation	Grid ref	Air photograph ref	Date
28	Earthwork	Ridge and furrow – all areas	SY 2221 8857 SY 2247 8852 SY 2235 8834 SY 2223 8836 SY 2245 8835 SY 2244 8815 SY 2266 8821	RAF 106G/UK/1412 3207-8 13-APR-1946 (extant)	Medieval/Post Medieval
29	Earthwork	Possible oval enclosure	SY 2235 8845	DAP C14A, DAP HF9, HF10	Iron Age/Romano British

Appendix 2

Finds quantification

Appendix 2: Finds quantifications (weight is in grams)

Context	Description	Romano-British Pottery		Worked flint		Worked stone		Pebbles		Animal bone		Fired clay		Ceramic building material		Glass		Iron objects		Copper alloy objects	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
Unstratified	Unstratified	4	53									2	2					2	19		
100	Topsoil trench 1			3	40									1	82						
200	Topsoil trench 2			2	4																
300	Topsoil trench 3	1	8	5	15							4	6								
400	Topsoil trench 4															1	179				
404	Occupation Layer in Trench 4	133	854	8	131	2	153	17	-	8	29	52	99					12	61	1	0.6
Totals		138	915	18	190	2	153	17	-	8	29	58	107	1	82	1	179	14	80	1	0.6

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