

FORMER CULLOMPTON UNITED CHARITIES LAND, KNOWLE LANE, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

NGR ST01267 07151

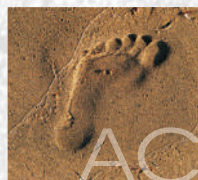
Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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On behalf of:
David Wilson Homes Ltd

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archaeology

FORMER CULLOMPTON UNITED CHARITIES LAND, KNOWLE LANE, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

(NGR ST 01267 07151)

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Planning ref. Mid Devon District Council 11/01533/MFUL

CONTENTS

Summary

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims of the work	1
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	The finds	2
7.	Discussion	3
8.	Archive and OASIS	4
9.	Acknowledgements	4
10.	References	4

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site
Fig. 2: Location of trenches
Fig. 3: Sections of trenches 1, 4 and 5

List of plates

- Plate 1: General view of site, looking to northwest
Plate 2: General view of Trench 1, looking northeast
Plate 3: Representative section, southwest end of Trench 1, looking northwest
Plate 4: General view of Trench 4, looking northwest
Plate 5: Representative section, southeast end of Trench 4, looking northeast
Plate 6: General view of Trench 5, looking southwest
Plate 7: Southwest end of Trench 5, looking to west
Plate 8: Representative section, southwest end of Trench 5, looking northwest

Appendix 1: Tabulated trench descriptions

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation on land on land formerly belonging to the Cullompton United Charities (CUC), Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon (NGR ST 01267 07151), was undertaken by AC archaeology during May 2012. The site occupies approximately 0.8 hectares of land, which at the time of the work was a playing field. Previous archaeological investigations adjacent to the site had identified evidence for Neolithic and early Romano-British settlement, as well as a post-medieval brickworks and iron working site.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of eight trenches totalling 205m in length, with each trench 2m wide. Trenches were positioned to target a linear anomaly interpreted from an earlier geophysical survey, as well as a number located in what were thought to be 'blank' areas.

No evidence for in-situ archaeological activity was identified during the work, although overlying deposits at the northern end of the site are likely to represent waste 'dumped' layers from the industrial activity recorded immediately to the north.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out in advance of residential development, on land formerly belonging to the Cullompton United Charities (CUC), Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2012. The work was commissioned by Genesis Town Planning on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd and was required by Mid Devon District Council as a condition (5) of planning consent, as advised by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (hereafter DCHES).
- 1.2 The site occupies approximately 0.8 hectares of land to the south of the Cullompton to Tiverton road, and north of Knowle Lane (Fig. 1). The current land-use is a playing field and the land is generally level at around 65m OD. The underlying solid geology of the area is lower sandstone of the Permian or Triassic period. The soil is assigned to the Bromsgrove association, described as well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils.
- 1.3 The new development will comprise the construction of 24 dwellings, together with associated roads and infrastructure works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A settlement at Cullompton is recorded as early as 880 AD, when it was known as 'Columntune'. Throughout most of the medieval period it was a royal holding. The present parish church dates to the 15th century, but is probably on the site of an earlier minster church dating to the late Saxon period.
- 2.2 Excavations by AC archaeology in 2011 on land surrounding the site identified evidence for Neolithic and early Romano-British settlement to the west and a post-medieval brickworks and iron working site to the north (AC archaeology in prep.).

3. AIMS OF THE WORK

- 3.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results as set out in this report will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation as a second stage of archaeological works.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2012), submitted to and approved by DCHES prior to commencement on site. The work comprised the machine-excavation of eight trenches (Fig. 2) totalling 205m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. The presence of a compound in the southern part of the site meant it was not possible to excavate trenches in that area. A linear anomaly identified during a previous geophysical survey (Sitiescan Archaeological 2007) was targeted during the work.
- 4.2** The site was recorded in accordance with the *AC archaeology pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and with reference to AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1** The majority of the trenches were excavated onto natural subsoil, which comprised a mid brownish-red clayey-sand, was present at a depth of between 0.32m and 0.39m below ground level. This was beneath a mid reddish-brown sandy loam ploughsoil. In the north part of the site the natural subsoil comprised a light red sandy-clay, which was exposed in Trench 5 and the northeast end of Trench 4. No archaeological features were exposed in any of the trenches. The trenches are described individually and in tabulated form in Appendix 1, with representative sections included as Fig. 3 and photographs as Plates 1-8.
- 5.2** The only variation to the simple sequence recorded across the majority of the site was in Trench 5, where overlying the natural subsoil towards the southwest end of this trench was a mixed light brownish-red sandy-clay (502) layer that had inclusions of cinders and mortar fragments. This layer was overlain by a dark greyish-brown silty loam subsoil (501), with inclusions that included iron slag, clinker and cinders.
- 5.3** The linear geophysical anomaly targeted in Trenches 1 and 8 was not encountered.

6. THE FINDS by Kerry Kerr-Peterson

6.1 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 has been scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented, with this information briefly discussed below. Finds totals by material type are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Finds quantification (weight is in grams)

Context	Medieval pottery		Post-Medieval pottery		Clay pipe		Glass		CBM		Animal bone		Worked flint/chert		Slag		Clinker	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100			5	22							2	43			1	16	1	1
200			4	19														
400			5	9			1	10	1	7			1	1			2	10
500													1	2				
501	1	1	2	16														
502			2	9										4	74			
600			3	13										1	22			
800			5	28	2	11	1	0.4						1	40	1	12	
Totals	1	1	26	116	2	11	2	10.4	1	7	2	43	2	3	7	152	4	23

6.2 Pottery

One small abraded sherd of medieval pottery (1 gram) was recovered from context 501. This is a sherd of North Devon gravel-free coarseware.

The rest of the pottery assemblage, a total of 26 sherds (116 grams), is mainly 19th- to 20th-century date and consists of pieces of industrial white-ware, cream-ware, blue and white transfer printed ware, lead-glazed earthenware and a stoneware ink pot.

6.3 Clay pipe

Two fragments of probable 19th century plain clay tobacco pipe stem (11 grams) were recovered from context 800.

6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

A single piece of ceramic building material (7 grams) was recovered from context 400. This is an industrially produced red tile dating to the 19th or 20th century.

6.5 Glass

A total of three modern fragments of glass (10.4 grams) was recovered. These comprise two clear bottle glass fragments and a clear glass rim of a drinking glass.

6.6 Animal bone

Two fragments of animal bone (43 grams) were recovered from topsoil context 100. These are likely to derive from a domestic animal such as a sheep or a pig and one of the pieces shows signs of butchery in the form of a cut mark.

6.7 Slag & clinker

A total of seven fragments of slag (152 grams) was recovered. These pieces are iron tap slag from the smelting process. Four pieces of clinker (22 grams) were also recovered.

6.8 Worked flint/chert

There were two pieces of worked flint/chert (3 grams) from contexts 400 and 500. The piece recovered from context 400 is a waste flake of dark grey flint. The fragment from context 500 is a broken waste flake in a light grey chert. These are undiagnostic to period, but are likely to be late prehistoric, probably Bronze Age date.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 There were no archaeological features exposed in any of the trenches, including those targeting a single linear anomaly identified from the previous geophysical survey. A small quantity of finds were recovered, which are mainly 19th century in date, although two prehistoric flint/chert flakes were also recovered from overlying soil layers. These pieces are likely to represent a general background scatter.

7.2 The sequence of deposits exposed in Trench 5 dates from the 19th century and includes industrial waste such as iron slag fragments and clinker. The position of this trench immediately to the south of the industrial activity recorded during earlier excavations, suggests that the deposits recorded are associated with this and may be 'dumped' waste layers from this activity. The earlier excavations had identified evidence for both brickmaking and ironworking (AC archaeology in prep.).

7.3 Based on the results of this work it is considered unlikely that groundworks associated with the development will impact on any significant *in situ* buried archaeological remains.

8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1** The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ.
- 8.2** 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. The archive will be amalgamated with those from the excavations on the adjoining site (Project Codes ACD244 and ACD262), and deposited under the overall accession number 190/2010.
- 8.3** The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 128164.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

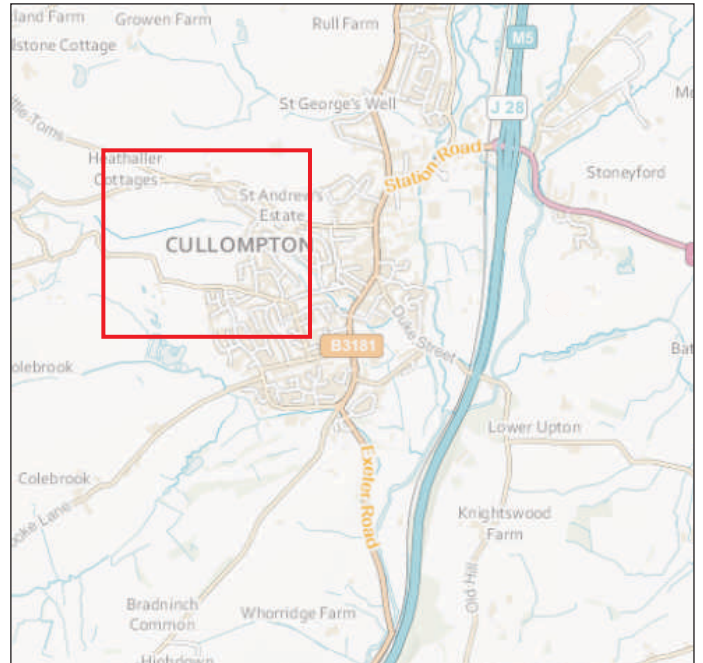
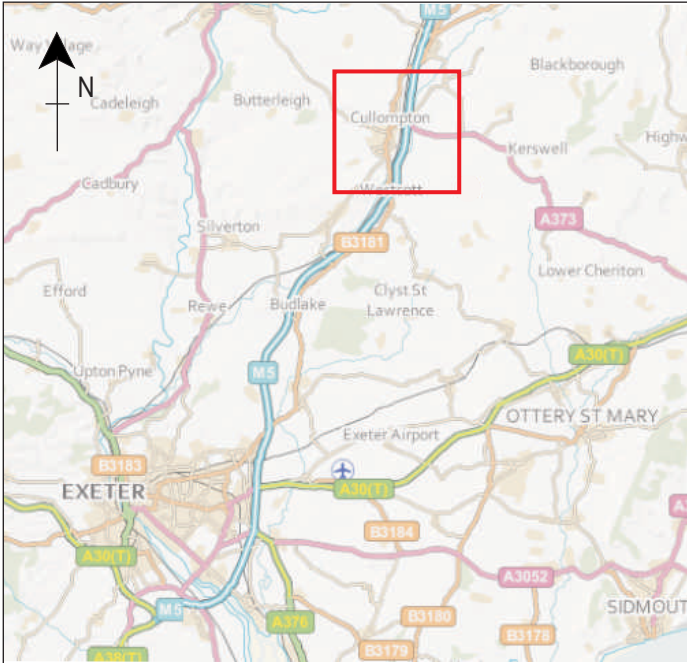
The evaluation was commissioned by Alex Graves of Genesis Town Planning on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd. The site trial trenching was carried out by Simon Hughes, Elizabeth Patkai and Clive Meaton, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Elizabeth Patkai. The helpful advice of Stephen Reed, Devon Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

10. REFERENCES

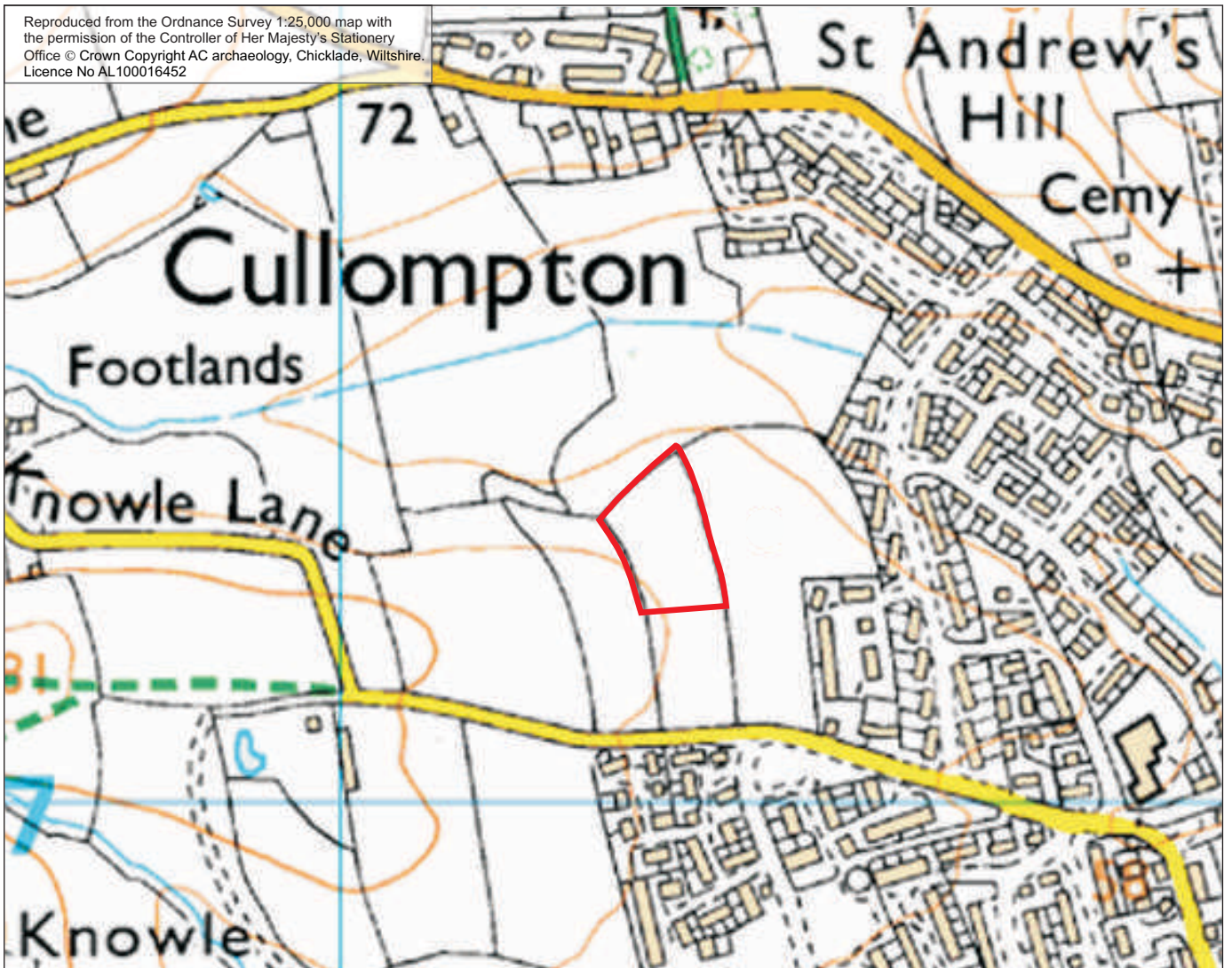
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Sitescan Archaeological, 2007, *Report on a geophysical survey (Magnetometry) carried out at Knowle Lane, Cullompton*. Unpublished document, ref. EA/01/KL

Valentin, J., 2012, *Former Cullompton United Charities Land, Knowle Lane, Cullompton: Project Design for a staged programme of archaeological works*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. ACD484/1/0



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Scale 1:5000@A4



Application area

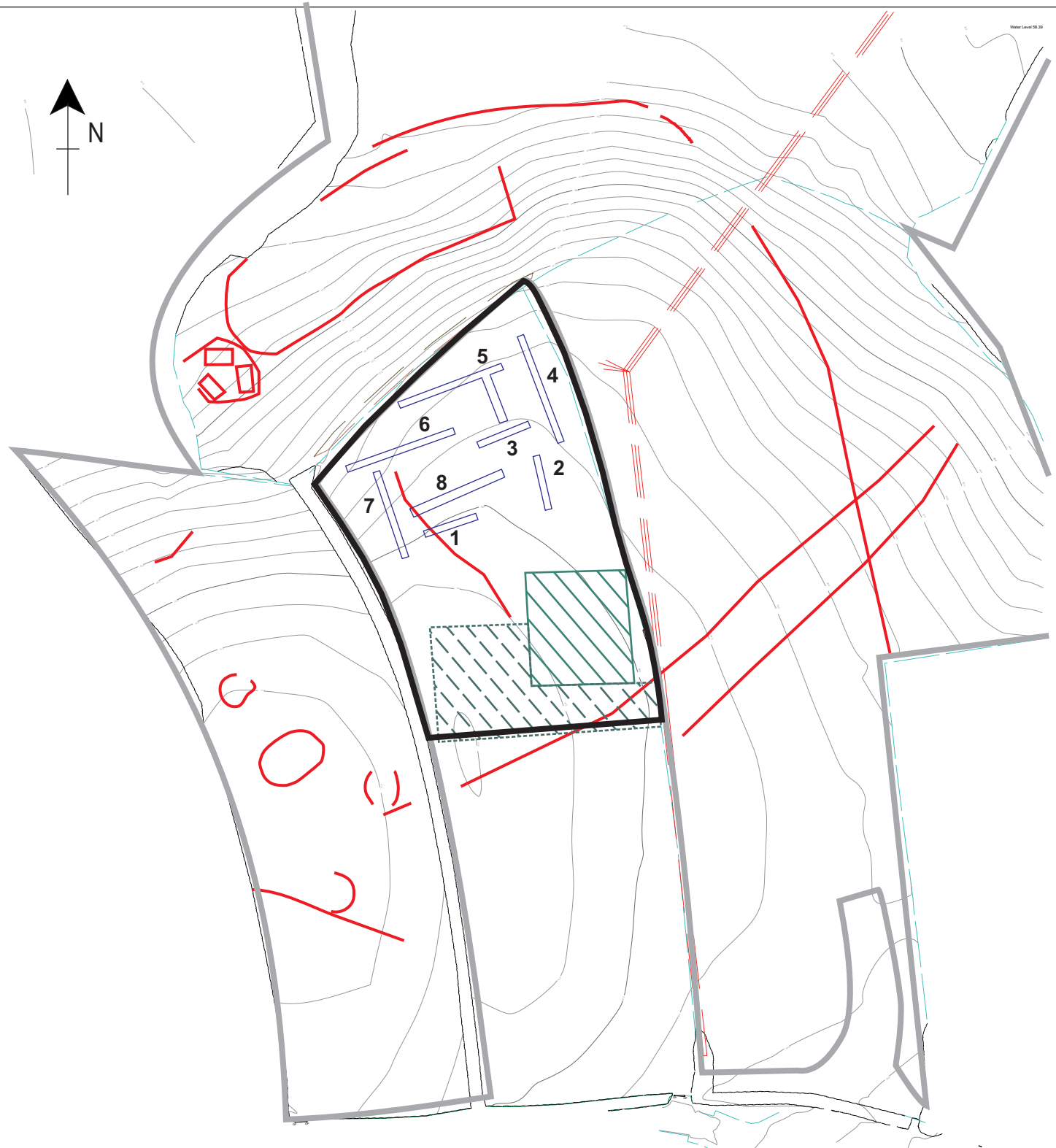
PROJECT




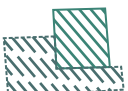
Former CUC Land, Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





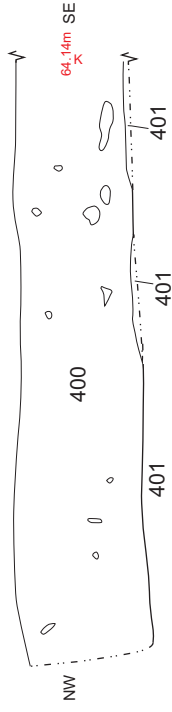
-  Application area
-  Anomalies identified by geophysical survey
-  Trench location and number
-  Site compound and car parking area

PROJECT
 Former CUC Land, Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon

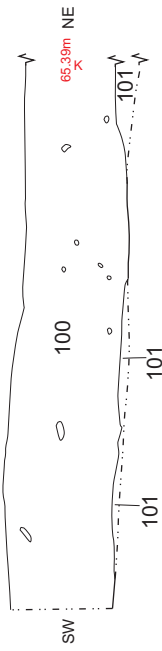
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 Fig. 2: Location of trenches



b) Trench 4, representative section NW end



a) Trench 1, representative section SW end



c) Trench 4, representative section SE end



Stones

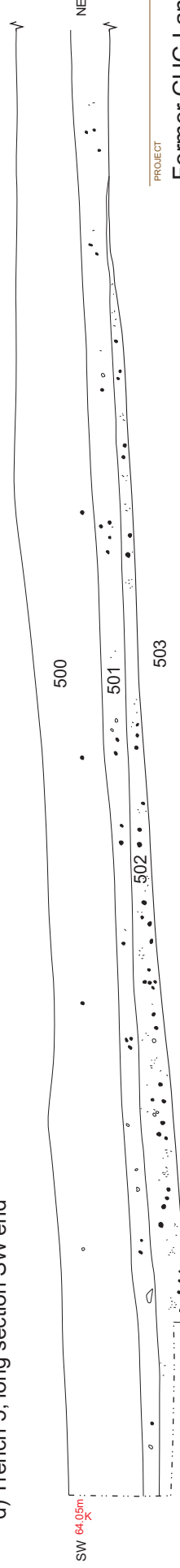


Clinker/slag



Mortar

d) Trench 5, long section SW end



PROJECT

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Fig. 3: Sections of trenches 1, 4 and 5



AC archaeology



Scale 1:25@A4



Plate 1: General view of site, looking to northwest



Plate 2: General view of Trench 1, looking northeast
(scale 1m)



Plate 3: Representative section, southwest end of
Trench 1, looking northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 4: General view of Trench 4, looking northwest
(scale 1m)



Plate 5: Representative section, southeast end of Trench 4, looking northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 6: General view of Trench 5, looking southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 7: Southwest end of Trench 5, looking to west (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Representative section, southwest end of Trench 5, looking northwest (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Trench Descriptions

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 – Section Fig. 3a; Plates 2 & 3			Length 15m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
100	Mid reddish-brown friable sandy loam with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.35m	Ploughsoil		
101	Mid brownish-red clayey-sand with common gravel inclusions	0.35m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 2			Length 15m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
200	Mid reddish-brown friable sandy loam with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.34m	Ploughsoil		
201	Mid brownish-red clayey-sand with common gravel inclusions	0.34m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 3			Length 15m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
300	Mid reddish-brown friable sandy loam with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.32m	Ploughsoil		
301	Mid brownish-red clayey-sand with common gravel inclusions	0.32m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 4 - Sections Fig. 3b-c; Plates 4 & 5			Length 30m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
400	Mid reddish-brown friable sandy loam with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.39m	Ploughsoil		
401	Light red sandy-clay to mid brownish-red sand with gravels	0.39m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 5 - Section Fig. 3d; Plates 6 & 8			Length 45m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NE-SW & NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
500	Dark brown friable sandy loam with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
501	Dark greyish-brown silty loam with moderately common clinker and cinder inclusions and occasional gravel inclusions	0.3m-0.38m	Dumped deposit from adjacent brickworks site		
502	Light brownish-red sandy-clay with moderately common cinder and mortar fragment and gravel inclusions	0.38m-0.5m	Dumped deposit from adjacent brickworks site		
502	Light red sandy-clay with patches of gravels	0.5m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 6			Length 30m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
600	Dark brown friable silty-sand with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.35m	Ploughsoil		
601	Light brownish-red clayey-sand with moderately common gravel inclusions	0.35m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 7			Length 25m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
700	Mid reddish-brown friable silty-sand with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.34m	Ploughsoil		
701	Mid brownish-red clayey-sand with common gravel inclusions	0.34m+	Natural subsoil		

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 8		Length 30m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid reddish-brown friable silty-sand with occasional small gravel inclusions	0-0.35m	Ploughsoil	
801	Mid brownish-red clayey-sand with common gravel inclusions	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

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