Land to the south of Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

(NGR SY 2449 9047)

Results of archaeological trench evaluation, excavation and watching brief

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes and Andrew Passmore

On behalf of:
Cavanna Homes (South West) Ltd

Document No: ACD385/1/1

Date: January 2013

AC archaeology

LAND SOUTH OF COURT LANE, SEATON, DEVON

(NGR SY 2449 9047)

Results of archaeological trench evaluation, excavation and watching brief

---

CONTENTS

List of figures

List of plates

Summary

A phased programme of archaeological works was carried out by AC archaeology between March and November 2011 on land to the south of Court Lane, Seaton, Devon (NGR SY 2449 9047*). The site occupies 0.3 hectares of land on the northwest side of Seaton, in a general area where finds dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods have been recorded.*

The works comprised the machine excavation of 18 evaluation trenches, two open area hand excavations, and a watching brief on selected parts of the development.

Localised archaeological features were exposed in three main areas under a thick consistent subsoil layer. These comprised a probable two-phase hearth with in situ burning, ditch terminals, and a number of small pits. Based on finds recovered and position in the layer sequence, these are likely to be prehistoric, probably Bronze Age in date.

The bulk of the finds recovered comprises prehistoric worked flint and chert, mainly recovered from the overlying subsoil layer. The probable hearth yielded two conjoining sherds of middle to late Bronze Age pottery. Analysis of the lithics indicates that in situ flake production was taking place, mostly in the early Bronze Age, but with some evidence for later Bronze Age industry. Overall, there was no evidence for domestic or agricultural activity.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1; Plate 1)

1.1 A staged programme of archaeological works was undertaken by AC archaeology between March and November 2011 prior to and during construction of a residential development on land to the south of Court Lane, Seaton, Devon (SY 2449 9047; Fig. 1). This document presents the results of three stages of archaeological investigations – phase 1 archaeological trench evaluation (ACD284), phase 2 archaeological trench evaluation and open area excavation (ACD335), and phase 3 watching brief (ACD385). The work was commissioned by Cavanna Homes (South West) Ltd and was required by East Devon District Council as a condition of planning consent, as advised by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCHET).

1.2 The site occupies approximately 0.3 hectares of land on the north side of the historic core of Seaton. Prior to development it comprised a grass and bramble-covered field which was generally level (Plate 1) at a height around 14.5m aOD. The underlying solid geology is Upper Keuper Marl.

1.3 The new development comprised the construction of 12 dwellings, together with associated roads, garages and infrastructure works.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A settlement and harbour is likely to been have been present in the area around Seaton during the Romano-British period and a Roman coin has been found to the north of the site (DCHER ref. 37220). Other finds from the vicinity include a prehistoric handaxe to the north (54283), as well as a worked flint scatter to the south (14051). Recent excavations as part of the Manor Road extension to the south produced 13th century pottery (S. Reed pers. comm.).

2.2 The Seaton and Beer parishes tithe map of 1840 shows that, with the exception of houses alongside Fore Street frontage, most of the land both within and adjacent to the site was under agricultural use. The site occupies parts of four rectangular fields, with the accompanying apportionment of 1839 naming these as Foxford's Orchard, Long Orchard, Back Orchard and Paul's Orchard. These were in various ownership.

2.3 The Ordnance Survey 25-inch first-edition map of 1888 shows few changes, with the exception that a small building is shown towards the southeast corner of the site. This had been removed by 1903. In 1936, the 25-inch revision does show development in the area, with the majority of the site depicted as allotment gardens.

3. AIMS

3.1 Phase 1 trench evaluation

The aim of the first phase trial trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The evaluation comprised six trenches located within the gardens of the proposed development. The results of the work was to be set out in a report (Hughes 2011) that would be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation as a second stage of archaeological works.

3.2 Phase 2 trench evaluation and open area excavation

During this phase a further 12 evaluation trenches were excavated, targeting the house plots, access roads and garages. The aim of the this trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the areas to be disturbed by groundworks. A further two areas of gardens were fully excavated. These targeted areas where the phase 1 trench evaluation had identified the presence of archaeological features. The aim was to fully investigate these areas, and excavate and record any archaeological features exposed.

3.3 Watching brief

In light of the results of the phase 2 evaluation three areas of development – two house plots and a length of road – were targeted for monitoring during groundworks. The aim of this phase of works was to excavate and record any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks.

4. METHODOLOGY (Figs 2-3)

4.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2011) approved by DCHET prior to commencement. The phase 1 trench evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of six trenches totalling 90m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. This represented an approximate 5% sample of the total site area. The phase 2 trench evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 12 trenches, 6 cross shaped, totalling 205m in length, again with each trench 1.6m wide. The two phase 2 open area excavations measured 8 by 8m (Area 1) and 7.5 by 6m (Area 2). During the phase three watching brief, the foundations of three houses (7 and 8, and 12) and a length of the internal road were monitored. The locations of all these observations are shown on Fig. 2 and a summary of the results on Fig. 3.

4.2 All excavations were carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.

4.3 All features and 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 1.* Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and all site levels related to Ordnance Datum. Finds were recovered from all excavated contexts (where present), and all spoil heaps were scanned for displaced finds.

Trench numbers, and therefore context numbers, were duplicated during the two phases of evaluation, and retained during the initial post-excavation analysis. To distinguish between them, for this report, evaluation trenches and associated contexts are preceded by the relevant AC archaeology project number.

5. PHASE 1 TRENCH EVALUATION RESULTS (Figs 4-6; Plate 2)

5.1 Trench 284/1 (Detailed plans Fig. 4a-c, sections 4d-f; Plate 1)

This trench was 10m long, located in the southwest corner of the site and excavated to a depth of 0.76m onto natural subsoil (284/102), which comprised a light brownish red silty-clay with common gravel inclusions. The natural subsoil was below a homogenous light brownish-red silty-clay agricultural subsoil (284/101) and a dark grey silty-loam topsoil (284/100). The trench contained a circular probable hearth feature (F284/103) and a terminal of a linear feature (F284/109), which were both sealed by subsoil layer 284/101. Layer 284/101 yielded 57 pieces of worked flint/chert, as well as small quantities of post-medieval pottery.

Feature F284/103 was 1.02m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a slightly heat-affected flat base. The primary fill (284/107) within the feature comprised a 0.06m thick *in situ* burnt deposit of dark grey silty clay with abundant charcoal pieces and moderate small gravel inclusions. Deposit 284/107 was below a heat-affected light red clay (284/106). This deposit lined the perimeter of the hearth and over which a dump of sub-angular burnt stones (284/108) were positioned in the base of the feature overlying charcoal fill 284/107. Beneath 284/108 was a further deposit of charcoal rich dark grey silty-clay (284/105) of *in situ* burnt material. This deposit was 0.09m thick and was overlain by a final deposit of light reddish-brown silty-clay (284/104).

Two sherds of middle to late Bronze Age pottery from the same vessel were recovered from fill 284/105. In addition, 28 pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 284/105, three from 284/107, one from 284/106 and one from 284/104.

To the north of hearth F284/103 was approximately east to west aligned probable ditch terminal F284/109. This was 0.79m wide and 0.26m deep, with a steep north side, a moderately steep south side and a concave base. It contained a fill of mid brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stone inclusions (284/110). No finds were recovered.

5.2 Trench 284/2

This trench was 15m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m onto natural subsoil (284/202), which comprised a light yellowish-red silty-clay with common gravel inclusions. This was below subsoil (284/201) and then topsoil (284/200) layers. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. A total of 58 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 284/201.

5.3 Trench 284/3 (Plan Fig. 5a, sections 5b-c)

This trench 15m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m onto natural subsoil (284/302), under subsoil (284/301) and topsoil (284/300) layers. A total of 20 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 284/201. The trench contained two probable pit features (F284/305 and F284/303).

F284/305 was below layer 284/301, was 0.71m wide and 0.22m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a mid brown silty-clay fill (284/306), which contained common charcoal pieces and heat-affected clay fragments. A total of four worked flint pieces was recovered.

F284/303 cut through subsoil layer 284/301 and was 1.05m long and 0.5m wide. The probable pit was filled by a dark grey clayey-silt (284/304) that contained fragments of modern window glass (not retained). The feature was not excavated.

5.4 Trench 284/4 (Plan Fig. 5d, sections 5e-g)

This trench was 20m long and excavated to a depth of 0.9m onto natural subsoil (284/409), which was under a light reddish-brown silty-clay subsoil (284/402), a buried topsoil (284/401) and a dumped layer of dark grey clayey-silt with abundant 20th-century brick fragments, stone chippings and mortar fragments (284/400). The trench contained what was interpreted as an approximately east to west aligned curving linear feature (F284/408) sealed by subsoil layer 284/402. Layer 284/402 yielded 71 pieces of worked flint/chert, as well as small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

F284/408 was 5.25m long and had a maximum width of 0.6m towards the east. Two segments were excavated across the feature (284/405 and 284/407), with these establishing steep sloping sides and a concave base in the east and moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base in the west. The feature contained a basal fill of mid yellowish-brown silty clay (284/404), overlain by a mid brown silty clay (284/403) in segment 284/405 and a mid reddish-brown silty clay (284/406) in segment 284/407. One piece of worked flint was recovered from fill 284/406.

5.5 Trench 284/5

This trench was 10m long and excavated to a depth of 1.2m onto natural subsoil (284/504), which comprised a light reddish-yellow clayey-sand with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a light brownish-red silty-clay subsoil (284/503), a dark grey silty-loam buried topsoil, a layer of light red re-deposited natural subsoil (284/501) with modern brick fragments and stone chippings, and finally, a root-disturbed topsoil (284/500). The trench contained no archaeological features. A total of 16 pieces of worked flint and one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil layer 284/502.

5.6 Trench 284/6 (Plan Fig. 6a, sections Fig. 6b-d)

This trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (284/603), which was present at a depth of 1.15m under a light red sandy-clay subsoil (284/602), a buried topsoil (284/601) and a mixed layer of dumped topsoil, stone chippings, sand and modern brick fragments (284/600). Two northeast to southwest-aligned linear terminals were present (F284/604 and F284/607), which were sealed by subsoil layer 284/602. Layer 284/602 yielded 102 pieces of worked flint/chert.

F284/604 was 0.89m wide and 0.34m, deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid brownish-red silty-clay basal fill (284/605), which was below a dark reddish-brown silty-clay upper fill (284/606). Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 284/606.

F284/607 was 0.63m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid red silty-clay basal fill (284/608) and a dark reddish-brown silty-clay upper fill (284/609). Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 284/609.

6. PHASE 2 TRENCH EVALUATION AND OPEN AREA EXCAVATION RESULTS (Figs 7-18; Plates 3-6)

6.1 Trench 335/1 (Plan Fig. 7a, section Fig. 7b)
This trench was 22m long and excavated to a depth of 0.58m onto natural subsoil (335/102), which comprised a light-mid yellow-grown sandy-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a subsoil layers (335/102 and 335/101) of mid yellow-brown clayey-sand, and a layer of dark grey-brown clayey silty topsoil (335/100). A total of 14 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/101. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.2 Trench 335/2 (Plan Fig. 7c, section Fig. 7d)
This trench was 9m long and excavated to a depth of 0.80m onto natural subsoil (335/203), which comprised a mid red-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid red-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/202), a mid brown clayey silt cultivation subsoil (335/201), and a dark grey-brown clayey-silt topsoil (335/200). A single piece of worked flint was recovered from subsoil layer 335/201. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.3 Trench 335/3 (Plan Fig. 7e, section Fig. 7f)
This trench was 13m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.95m onto natural subsoil (335/305), which comprised a mid reddish-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid brownish-red silty-clay subsoil (335/302), a mid reddish-brown clayey-silt cultivation subsoil (335/301), and a mixed layer of dark greyish brown clayey-silt topsoil (335/300). A total of 20 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/101.

The trench contained a single northwest to southeast aligned linear feature (F335/304) that was partially exposed at the east end of the trench as cutting through cultivation soil (335/301). It contained a mid yellowish-brown clayey-silt fill (335/303). One piece of worked flint was recovered from fill 335/303. This feature was not excavated.

6.4 Trench 335/4 (Plan Fig. 8a, sections Fig. 8b-c)
This trench was 14m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.92m onto natural subsoil (335/403), which comprised a dark orange-brown sandy clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid brownish-red silty-clay subsoil (335/402), a modern levelling deposit of light grey-brown silty-clay (335/401) containing abundant mortar and clinker inclusions, and mid grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (335/400). A total of 28 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/402. The trench contained a linear feature (F335/405) and a possible terminal of a ditch (F335/407).

Ditch F335/405 measured 0.9m wide by 0.56m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It cut through subsoil layer 335/402, and contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/404) that produced two sherds of glass, a fragment of a hand-made brick and four sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Possible rounded ditch terminal F335/407 measured 0.44m wide by 0.17m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/406) that that was sealed by subsoil 335/402. Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 335/406.

6.5 Trench 335/5 (Plan Fig. 8d, section Fig. 8e)
This trench was 18m long and was excavated to a depth of 1m onto natural subsoil (335/503), which comprised mid red-brown clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain

by a series of deposits that comprised mid red-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/502), a mid brown clayey-silt cultivation subsoil (335/501) and dark grey-brown clayey-silt topsoil (335/500). A total of 12 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/501. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.6 **Trench 335/6** (Plan Fig. 9a, section Fig. 9b)
This trench was 8.50m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.84m onto natural subsoil (335/602), which comprised mid red-brown clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid brown clayey-silt cultivation subsoil (335/601), and dark grey-brown clayey-silt topsoil (335/600). A total of 7 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/601. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.7 **Trench 335/7** (Plan Fig. 9c, sections Fig. 9d-e)
This trench was 11m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.70m onto natural subsoil (335/704), which comprised mid orange-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/703), a mid orange-brown silty-clay cultivation subsoil (335/702), a mid-dark grey-brown silty-clay cultivation soil (335/701), and a mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil (335/700). A single piece of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/703. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.8 **Trench 335/8** (Plan Fig. 10a, sections Fig. 10b-d)
This trench was 22m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m onto natural subsoil (335/803), which comprised mid orange-brown clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/802), a mid reddish-brown sandy and gravel levelling layer (335/801), and mid grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (335/800). The trench contained three possible terminals of linear features (F335/806, F335/811 and F335/815) and a probable small pit (F335/817) that were all sealed by subsoil 335/802.

Probable ditch terminal F335/806 measured 1.11m wide by 0.33m deep, and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill of light reddish-brown silty-clay basal fill (335/805) that was overlain by a dark reddish-brown sandy-clay (335/804). No finds were recovered from the fills of 335/805.

Possible rounded ditch terminal F335/811 measured 1.11m wide by 0.17m deep, and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a light reddish-brown sandy-clay basal fill (335/810) that was overlain by a dark greyish-brown sandy-clay fill (335/808). No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.

Ditch terminal F335/815 measured 0.58m wide by 0.1m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a light reddish-brown sandy-clay fill (335/814) that was cut by F335/813. Re-cut F335/813 measured 0.31m wide by 0.1m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a dark greyish-brown sandy-clay fill (335/812), from which one piece of worked flint was recovered.

The small pit F335/817 measured 0.4m across by 0.07m deep with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/816).

6.9 **Trench 335/9** (Plan Fig. 11a, sections Fig. 11b-c)
This trench was 19m long and was excavated to a depth of 1m onto natural subsoil (335/904), which comprised mid orange-brown silty clay and abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid orange-brown silty clay subsoil (335/903),

a dark grey-black-brown silty clay cultivation subsoil (335/902), a modern levelling layer of mid orange-grey-brown silty clay containing mortar and brick fragments (335/901), and dark grey-brown silty-clay-loam topsoil 335/900). The trench contained an irregularly-shaped possible pit or natural hollow feature (F335/906).

F335/906 measured 1m long, 0.75m wide by 0.14m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay (335/905) from which four pieces of worked flint/chert were recovered.

6.10 Trench 335/10 (Plan Fig. 11d, sections Fig. 11e and 12a-e; Plate 3)
This trench was 30m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.94m onto natural subsoil (335/1006), which comprised mid-light orange-brown silty clay with abundant gravel. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a light orange-brown slightly silty-clay subsoil (335/1005), a mid orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/1004), a dark orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/1003), a dark grey-brown silty-clay levelling layer (335/1002) of demolition rubble, a mid orange-brown silty-clay stony levelling later (335/1001), and dark black-brown silty-clay topsoil (335/1000). A total of 10 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 1004. The trench contained a north-south aligned ditch (F335/1008) and three possible pits (F335/1010, F335/1012 and F335/1014) that were all sealed by subsoil 1003.

Ditch F335/1008 measured 1.14m wide by 0.23m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/1007).

At the east end of the trench was possible pit F335/1010, which measured 1.22m wide by 0.26m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill 335/1009.

Possible pit F335/1012 measured 1.62m wide by 0.26m deep and had gradually-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish brown silty-clay fill (335/1011), from which a single worked flint was recovered.

A further possible pit F335/1014 measured 0.73m wide by 0.12m deep and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/1013).

6.11 Trench 335/11 (Plan Fig. 13a, section Fig. 13b)
This trench was 18m long and was excavated to a depth of 1.12m onto natural subsoil (335/1105), which comprised mid orange silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a light orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/1104), a mid orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/1103), a dark grey-brown silty-clay buried topsoil (335/1102), a light grey-brown silty-clay layer of stony levelling (335/1101), and mid grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (335/1100). A total of 9 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from subsoil layer 335/1103. The trench contained no archaeological features.

6.12 Trench 335/12 (Plan Fig. 14e, sections Fig. 14d and 15a-e; Plate 4)
This trench was 21m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.78m onto natural subsoil (335/1204), which comprised reddish-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of deposits that comprised a mid reddish-brown silty-clay subsoil (335/1203), a dark brown-black silty clay buried topsoil (335/1202), a mid-light brown silty-clay levelling later (335/1201) with modern demolition rubble, and dark brown-black silty-clay topsoil (335/1200). A total of 4 pieces of worked flint/chert was recovered from the topsoil 335/1200. The trench contained a sequence of an intercutting possible pit and possible ditch terminals (F335/1207, F335/1205 and F335/1210) as well as a further possible pit (F335/1217).

Possible ditch terminal F335/1207 measured 1.2m wide by 0.59m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. The feature contained a sequence of five fills (335/1209, 335/1216, 335/1208, 335/1215 and 335/1214). These comprised gravel-rich silty-clay primary fills (335/1209 and 335/1216) that were overlain by mid greyish-brown to mid brown silty-clay upper deposits (335/1208, 335/1215 and 335/1214). A total of 26 pieces of worked flint/chert were recovered from fill 335/1208.

Feature F335/1207 was truncated on its north side by a sub-round possible pit F335/1205. This feature measured 1m long, 0.74m wide by 0.32m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a mid brown silty-clay fill (335/1206), from which five pieces of worked flint/chert were recovered. Feature F335/1207 was cut on its west side by a possible terminal of a ditch (F335/1210), which measured 0.5m wide by 0.4m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The feature contained a dark reddish-brown silty-clay main fill (335/1211) that had abundant gravel inclusions and was overlain by an upper fill of mid greyish-brown silty-clay (335/1213). A single worked flint was recovered from fill 335/1211.

To the northeast of possible pit F335/1205 a further possible pit F335/1217 was partially exposed. This feature measured 0.7m across by 0.28m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (335/1218).

6.13 Area 1 excavation (Plan Fig. 15a, sections Fig. 16a-j and 17a-f; Plates 5-6)
This area measured 9 by 8m and was excavated to a depth of 1.01m onto natural subsoil (1304) that comprised a mid reddish-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a sequence of deposits that comprised a mid reddish-brown silty-clay subsoil (1303), dark brown-black silty-clay buried topsoil (1302), a mid orange-brown silty-clay levelling layer (1301) containing demolition material, and dark brown silty-clay topsoil (1300). Feature F284/407 recorded during the phase 1 evaluation was not identified. The excavation area did however contain a total of seven individual pit features (F1334, F1336, F1338, F1340, F1341, F1345 and F1346) and four groups of intercutting pit features (F1308, F1305, F1311 and F1314, F1323 and F1328, F1317 and F1320 and F1352 and F1350). Pits F1346 and F1305 may have been misinterpreted as F284/407 during the evaluation. Two further features were also present on the site and were recorded as natural features (F1327 and F1331). These are not discussed further.

Sub-circular pit F1334 measured 0.6m across by 0.08m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-clay fill (1333).

Elongated pit F1336 measured 0.94m long, 0.4m wide by 0.15m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a dark reddish-brown silty-clay fill (1335).

Oval-shaped small pit F1338 measured 0.5m long, 0.4m wide by 0.15m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid yellowish-brown clayey-silt fill (1337), from which a single worked flint was recovered.

Round possible pit F1340 measured 0.35m across by 0.05m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid yellowish-brown clayey-silt fill (1339).

Oval pit F1341 measured 1.65m long, 0.75m wide by 0.2m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. The feature contained a mid greyish-brown gravel-rich primary fill (1342) that was overlain by an upper fill of mid reddish-brown silty-clay (1343).

Partially exposed possible pit F1345 measured 0.87m wide by 0.2m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a dark reddish-brown silty-clay fill (1344).

Elongated pit or short linear F1346 measured 3.05m long by 0.48m wide with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid greyish-brown gravel-rich primary fill (1347) that was overlain by a main fill of mid reddish-brown silty-clay (1348).

Intercutting pit group consisted of features F1308, F1305, F1311 and F1314 and was located towards the middle of the excavation area. The primary feature in the sequence was probable pit F1308 that measured 0.6m across by 0.19m deep and had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a primary fill of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with abundant gravels (1309) that was overlain by a mid reddish-brown silty-clay upper fill (1310). A single worked flint was found within 1309.

Pit F1308 was cut on its southeast side by pit F1305 that measured 1m long, 0.7m wide by 0.23m deep, and had steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a primary fill of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with abundant gravels (1306) that was overlain by a mid reddish-brown silty-clay upper fill (1307), from which a single worked flint was recovered.

Oval pit F1314 measured 0.7m long by 0.16m deep and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a primary fill of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with abundant gravels (1315) that was overlain by a mid reddish brown silty-clay upper fill (1316).

Pit F1311 was cut into the fills of pits F1305 and F1314. It was round and measured 1m across by 0.28m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a primary fill of mid greyish-brown clayey-silt with abundant gravels (1312) that was overlain by a mid reddish-brown silty-clay upper fill (1313).

6.14 Area 2 excavation (Plan Fig. 15b, sections Fig. 18a-d)

This area measured 8 by 6m and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m onto natural subsoil (1402) that comprised a redish-brown silty-clay with abundant gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a sequence of deposits that comprised a mid-light brown silly-clay subsoil (1401), and dark brown silty-clay topsoil (1400). The excavation area contained two pits (F1404 and F1409) and a ditch (F1411). A tree throw (F1405) was also present but is not discussed further. A single worked flint was recovered from one of its fills (1406).

Pit F1404 measured 0.90m long, 0.50m wide by 0.16m deep, and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a fill of light grey-brown silty-clay with occasional small stones (1403), from which two worked flints were recovered.

Pit F1409 measured 0.75m long, 0.45m wide by 0.35m deep, and had steeply-sloping sides and abroad flat base. It contained a fill of mid brown silty-clay with occasional stones (1410).

Ditch F1411 represented previously excavated feature F284/109. A 1.15m length of the ditch was exposed, and fully excavated.

7. PHASE 3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

7.1 House plots 7 and 8

No archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the footings on this plot. A large area of modern disturbance was however noted along the western side of plot 7. The deposit sequence was as recorded in trench 335/8.

7.2 House plot 12

No features were observed during the excavation of the footings on this plot. The deposit sequence was as recorded in trench 335/12.

7.3 Road between house plots 8 and 12

Ditch F335/1008, recorded in the trench 335/10, was barely perceptible, being visible north of trench 10 where it was recorded as being 0.08m deep. Otherwise, the deposit sequence was in general to that previously recorded in trench 335/10, including topsoil (385/100) from which 21 worked lithics, 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery and an iron nail were recovered.

8. THE FINDS, by Emma Firth, Naomi Payne and Julian Richards

8.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds were then quantified according to material type within each context and then scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is briefly discussed below. Finds totals by material type from each phase are presented in Tables 1-3 respectively.

Context	Context description	Prehistoric Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery		Worked flint/ Chert		Burnt Flint/ Chert		Fe (Iron)	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
284/100	Trench 284/1, topsoil					1	16						
284/101	Trench 284/1, subsoil	1	10			4	12	57	877	3	8	1	9
284/104	Upper fill of hearth F284/103							1	0.7				
284/105	Secondary charcoal fill of hearth F284/103	1	57					28	816.3	1	9		
284/106	Clay lining of hearth F284/103							1	1				
284/107	Primary charcoal fill of hearth F284/103							3	1.2				
284/200	Trench 284/2, Topsoil					2	33						
284/201	Trench 284/2, subsoil							58	695	5	41		
284/301	Trench 284/3, subsoil							20	287	1	18		
284/402	Trench 284/4, subsoil	2	7	4	29	3	11	71	1087	4	68	1	3
284/406	Fill of ditch F284/408, segment 284/407							1	10				
284/502	Trench 284/5, subsoil			1	4			16	197				
284/602	Trench 284/6, subsoil							102	1500	3	5		
284/606	Upper fill of ditch F284/604												
284/609	Upper fill of ditch F284/607												
	TOTALS	**4**	**74**	**5**	**33**	**10**	**72**	**358**	**5472.2**	**17**	**149**	**2**	**12**

Table 1. Summary of finds from ACD284 – phase 1 evaluation (weights in grams)

Context	Context description	Worked flint/ chert		Glass		CBM		Medieval pottery		Post-Medieval pottery	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
335/101	Trench 335/1, subsoil	14	355								
335/201	Trench 335/2, subsoil	1	63								
335/301	Trench 335/3, subsoil	20	488								
335/303	Fill of ditch F335/304	1	11								
335/402	Trench 335/4, subsoil	28	509								
335/404	Fill of ditch F335/405	20	131	2	33	1	113			4	6
335/406	Fill of terminus F335/407	2	70								
335/501	Trench 335/5, subsoil	12	323								
335/601	Trench 335/6, subsoil	7	151								
335/703	Trench 335/7, subsoil	1	9								

335/802	Trench 335/8, subsoil	6	74								
335/812	Fill of terminus re-cut F335/813	1	106								
335/905	Fill of pit F335/906	4	28								
335/1004	Trench 335/10, subsoil	10	176					1	3		
335/1011	Fill of pit F335/1012	1	4								
335/1103	Trench 335/11, subsoil	9	207								
335/1200	Trench335/ 12, topsoil	4	64								
335/1206	Fill of pit/possible posthole F335/1206	5	112								
335/1208	Fill of probable ditch F335/1207	26	675								
335/1211	Fill of gully F335/1210	1	1								
1307	Upper fill of pit F1305	1	1								
1309	Primary fill of pit F1308	1	1								
1337	Fill of pit F1338	1	2								
1403	Fill of probable pit F1404	2	124								
1406	Fill of tree throw F1405	1	3								
1500	unstratified, topsoil and subsoil	91	1597								
	TOTALS	**263**	**4890**	**2**	**33**	**1**	**113**	**1**	**3**	**4**	**6**

Table 2. Summary of finds from ACD335 – phase 2 evaluation and excavation (weights in grams)

Context	**Context description**	**Post-medieval pottery**		**Worked flint/chert**		**Iron**	
		No	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**
385/100	Topsoil	2	14	21		1	5
	TOTALS	**2**	**14**	**21**	**170**	**1**	**5**

Table 3. Summary of finds from ACD385 – phase 3 watching brief (weights in grams)

8.2 **Worked flint/chert from ACD284** by Julian Richards

The lithic assemblage from the evaluation consists of 355 pieces of worked flint and chert, of which 310 (87%) was recovered from subsoil deposits within individual trenches. The assemblage was sorted into conventional categories based on a lithic reduction sequence (cores/flakes/whole/broken/retouched) with individually diagnostic tools separated out and allocated special finds numbers within their individual context. The results of this sorting, during which un-worked material was counted and discarded, are presented in Table 4.

Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Burnt Wkd	Tools		Chips	Rej	**Total**
	Flake	Blade	Frags	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret		Scraper	Other			
284/101	3	1		23	17	3		1		2	1		3	*4*	**54**
284/104					1										**1**
284/105	2			8	4	2				1	2		10		**29**
284/106					1										**1**
284/107													3		**3**
284/201	1		1	23	10	6	3			5				*1*	**49**
284/301	1			12	3			1		7				*1*	**24**
284/306				2									2		**4**
284/402	5		2	32	18	3	1			6			6	*2*	**73**
284/406			1												**1**
284/502			1	9	5	1									**16**
284/602	4			52	18	10	2			2	1	2	3	*2*	**94**
284/606				3											**3**
284/609					2	1								*1*	**3**
Totals	**16**	**1**	**5**	**164**	**79**	**26**	**6**	**2**		**23**	**4**	**2**	**27**		**355**

Table 4. Catalogue of worked flint/chert from ACD284

Condition
The condition of the material examined is unpatinated (corticated) and fresh, although some material from subsoil contexts appears to show slight signs of rolling.

Raw material
The majority of the raw material employed is dark flint, most likely derived from the nearby sources in the vicinity of Beer/Seaton. There is however a small number of pieces utilising a coarse-grained chert ranging in colour from very pale to orange.

Assessment
The small proportion of stratified material and the almost complete absence of associated dating evidence makes this assemblage difficult to define, There are very few individual pieces, blades for example, that suggest early (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) activity. The few blades (defined by proportion) that were identified may be an accidental product of a flake industry rather than deliberate blade production. The one highly unusual piece is the single platform chert blade core from context 284/101.

Overall both cores and core-derived material suggest an emphasis on flake production and all stages of reduction are present, from wholly cortical to wholly non-cortical flakes. Flaking does not appear to involve consistent platform preparation which, together with a high proportion of squat flakes, hinge fractures and evidence for miss-hits, may suggest a Bronze Age industry. Overall tools and identifiable retouched material represent *c.* 11% of the overall flake/blade population (32 pieces out of 283), suggesting an overall domestic component with a concentration of such activity in Trench 6.

Within the stratified material one group, from context 284/105, stands out. Although there are only 29 pieces (and of these 10 are chips from sieving) these include 2 well-made scrapers and a number of large and very fresh flakes. The two sherds of pottery from this context appear to be middle-late Bronze Age in date.

Conclusion
This comparatively sizeable assemblage suggests that there is *in situ* activity taking place in the earlier part of the Bronze Age, utilizing readily available local raw material to produce a flake based industry and a range of simple flake tools.

8.3 **Worked flint/chert from ACD335** by Julian Richards

The assemblage of lithics from the excavation consisted of 273 pieces of worked flint and chert. The assemblage was sorted in the same way as the material from phase 1 (see above). The results of this sorting, during which un-worked material was counted and discarded, are presented in Table 5.

Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Burnt Wkd	Tools		Chips	Rej	**Total**
	Flake	Blade	Frags	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret		Scraper	Other			
335/101	3			4	4	3									**14**
335/201	1														**1**
335/301				11	5		1							*3*	**17**
335/303				1											**1**
335/402	1		2	15	4		1	1				1		*3*	**25**
335/404				11	4		1	1					2		**19**
335/406	1				1										**2**

335/501	2			6				1							*3*	**9**
335/601				3	2						1				*1*	**6**
335/703			1													**1**
335/802				2	1	1								1	*1*	**5**
335/812		1														**1**
335/903	1		1	2												**4**
335/905															*4*	**0**
335/1004				6	1			1			1				*1*	**9**
335/1011	2			7					1							**10**
335/1200					2	1					1					**4**
335/1206	1			1	2										*1*	**4**
335/1208				13	5									5	*2*	**23**
335/1211	1			1												**2**
1307				1												**1**
1309														1		**1**
1337					1											**1**
1401			1	8	5			1				1		2	*2*	**18**
1404				2												**2**
1406				1												**1**
1500	6		3	50	20	5	3		1		1			3	*1*	**92**
Total	**19**	**1**	**8**	**145**	**57**	**10**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**0**	**4**	**2**	**14**			**273**

Table 5. Catalogue of worked flint/chert from ACD335

Condition
The condition of the majority of the material examined is unpatinated (un-corticated) and fresh, although there is evidence of mechanical edge damage to some pieces.

Raw material
The majority of the raw material employed is dark flint, most likely derived from the nearby sources in the vicinity of Beer/Seaton. There are, however, a small number of pieces utilizing a coarse grained pale chert.

Assessment
The assemblage viewed as a whole suggests an emphasis on flake production, with very little evidence of systematic core preparation. As a result there are many squat flakes, hinge fractures and wide angles of platform to bulb, all indicators of a late (i.e. Bronze Age) industry. There are very few individual pieces (e.g. blades) that suggest early (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) activity. Context 1500 is unusual in that it contains three blades in a cherty flint, one a core rejuvenation flake. The use of chert at an early (possibly early Neolithic) date fits with the single platform chert blade core from context 285/101 in the phase 1 evaluation.

All stages of reduction are present, from wholly cortical to wholly non-cortical flakes. Context 335/1208 contains several large, fresh, wholly or partly cortical flakes resulting from the primary stage of nodule reduction.

Retouch on some pieces is difficult to assess due to what appears to be subsequent edge damage. There are few identifiable tools: four scrapers, the example from context 335/1004 well-made and possible later Neolithic, a well-made borer from context 335/402 and a crude possible core tool (possibly an adze) from context 1500.

Conclusion
This assemblage suggests that there is *in situ* activity taking place utilizing readily available local raw material, both flint and to a lesser degree chert. The product appears to be flakes, some utilised for a range of simple domestic tasks relating to hide preparation. The relatively unsystematic nature of the reduction suggests that the majority of this activity is taking place during the Bronze Age. Further, metrical analysis of this assemblage would, most probably, simply serve to confirm its unsystematic nature.

8.4 Worked flint/chert from ACD385 by Julian Richards

The assemblage of lithics from the watching brief consisted of 21 pieces of worked flint and chert. The assemblage was sorted in the same way as the material from the earlier phases (see above). The results of this sorting, during which un-worked material was counted and discarded, are presented in Table 6.

Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Burnt Wkd	Tools		Chips	Rej	Total
	Flake	Blade	Frags	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret		Scraper	Other			
385/100				9	8	3	1								**21**
Totals				**9**	**8**	**3**	**1**								**21**

Table 6. Catalogue of worked flint/chert from ACD385

Assessment
This material fits comfortably with the assemblages from the earlier phases, indicating a flake based industry taking place in the earlier part of the Bronze Age.

8.6 Prehistoric pottery

A total of three sherds (58g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered during the evaluation. A single rim sherd of later Iron Age date was found in subsoil in Trench 284/1. The other two sherds were recovered from the secondary charcoal fill of hearth F284/103 (fill 284/105). Both sherds derive from a single middle to late Bronze Age vessel. The fabric is a sandy micaceous clay, tempered with poorly sorted calcined flint. The sherds, though large, are in poor condition, and the external surfaces are abraded. Their size would suggest they derive from an urn, though whether a bucket or barrel urn is not known.

8.7 Medieval pottery

A total of 13 sherds (86g) of medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil contexts within evaluation Trenches 284/1, 284/4, 284/5 and 284/6. Seven of the sherds are from jugs and the other six are from jars. The jug sherds date from c. 1250-1400. They are locally-made fabrics with flint and chert inclusions. The assemblage includes one rim sherd and one sherd from a slashed handle. One of the body sherds is decorated with impressed combing. The two jar sherds from context 284/402 contain dark glistening inclusions (probably mica) indicating a south Devon origin. The other jar fabrics are local (East Devon) types. Two conjoining sherds from a jar with a low sloping shoulder were recovered from the subsoil, context 284/602, in Trench 284/6. The sherds are fully oxidised with thick walls, and were possibly wheel-thrown. This vessel was most likely kiln-produced.

A single sherd (3g) from a jar was recovered from context 335/1004. The sherd is from a slightly everted rim with a lid seat. The fabric is micaceous with moderate very small chert temper and is likely to have been made in the Plymouth/Totnes area.

The medieval pottery assemblage dates from the later 13th to the 14th century, and whilst it is reasonably small, the quantity and preservation of the sherds suggests settlement of this date was located reasonably close by.

8.8 Post-medieval pottery

A total of six sherds (60g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1 and 2, and subsoil contexts in trenches 284/1 and 284/4. The assemblage contains red earthenwares from south Somerset, including Donyatt types, the kilns of which are some 30km to the north. Forms include a rolled rim from a small crock and a slipware plate. The dating of the assemblage ranges from *c*. 1500-1800.

A total of four small post-medieval sherds (6g) was recovered context 335/404. The three body sherds and one rim are also red earthenwares, three most likely from South Somerset, but also one sherd with a different micaceous fabric. The rim sherd is from a small bowl with an internal light brown glaze of 18th-century date.

The watching brief produced two sherds (14g) of post-medieval pottery, both from the topsoil. One is a body sherd from a slipware dish of probable 18th-century date. The other is a very small undiagnostic glazed body sherd.

8.9 Iron objects

An iron nail was recovered from subsoil 284/101 in trench 284/1 and an unidentifiable lump (probably a nail head) was recovered from subsoil 335/402 in trench 335/4. Neither object is dateable. During the phase 3 watching brief a near complete square-sectioned iron nail was recovered from the topsoil (385/100) in the road excavation. Its good state of preservation and topsoil context suggest that it is modern in date.

8.10 Ceramic building material

A fragment of hand-made brick (113g) was recovered from context 335/404. This is a hard, coarse buff-pink and is likely to date from the 18th century.

8.11 Glass

Two heavily oxidised body sherds of post-medieval bottle glass (33g) were recovered from context 335/404.

9. SOIL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

9.1 A total of five bulk 10 litre samples from five features exposed during the phase 1 evaluation has been examined to assess the potential for palaeoenvironmental survival and the retrieval of artefacts. The residues have been scanned using a hand-lens and the results itemised by material type and quantity in Table 7 below.

Sample No	Context No.	Context description	Charcoal potential	Flint/chert	Snail shell
1	284/406	Fill of ditch F408	-	-	Present
2	284/606	Upper fill of ditch F604	-	-	Present
3	284/306	Fill of pit 305	+++	4 pieces 4.2g	Present
4	284/105	Secondary charcoal fill of hearth F103	++++	18 pieces 81.3g	-
5	284/107	Primary charcoal fill of hearth F103	+++++	3 pieces 1.2g	-

Table 7. Results of soil sample scanning – phase 1 evaluation.
Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = several, ++++ = frequent, +++++ = numerous

A total of four bulk 10 litre samples from four features exposed during the phase 2 evaluation has been examined to assess the potential for palaeoenvironmental survival and the retrieval of artefacts. The residues have been scanned using a hand-lens and the results itemised by material type and quantity in Table 8 below.

Sample No	Context No.	Context description	Charcoal potential	Flint/chert	Slag	Snail shell
1	335/1206	Primary fill of a pit	+	1 piece 5g	Present	-
2	335/1208	Secondary ditch fill	+	2 pieces 2g	Present	-
3	335/804	Ditch fill	+	-	-	Present
4	335/805	Ditch fill	+	2 pieces 8g	Present	present

Table 8. Results of soil sample scanning – phase 2 evaluation and excavation.
Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = several, ++++ = frequent, +++++ = numerous

9.2 The results of the scanning are mixed. Deposits from pit F284/306 and particularly from hearth F284/103 contain quantities of charcoal that would be suitable for radiocarbon dating and species identification, perhaps establishing the function of the feature, whereas little or no charcoal is present in the other sampled features. However, there is no carbonised grain or seed present. The snails have the potential to provide information on the local environment during the prehistoric period, although the quantities are very low. The chips of worked flint and chert recovered have been added to the overall totals presented in section 8 above. The small quantity of slag provides some evidence of metalworking, although none has been recovered from primary industrial deposits and their context is unknown.

10. DISCUSSION

10.1 The investigations have established the presence of localised *in situ* prehistoric activity and industry, sealed by a broadly consistent agricultural subsoil layer that was present across the site. A large quantity of prehistoric worked flint and chert was recovered from this layer, with material of similar character recovered from a very small number of the *in situ* features. The majority of the lithics date to the Bronze Age, although a minute quantity of Neolithic material is present within the topsoil and subsoil. Despite the presence of the agricultural soil layer, many of the features were shallow, and must have been truncated through historic ploughing.

10.2 The majority of the features are represented by pits or features described at the time of excavation as ditch terminals. Some of these were only partially exposed within the excavated areas, and full interpretation is not possible. However, some of the 'ditches' exposed in earlier phases were not further located in other locations during subsequent phases, and may therefore be large pits.

10.3 The probable hearth recorded F284/103 contained *in situ* burning and evidence of re-modelling. The circular pit cut contained a primary layer of charcoal (F284/107) on the base with some evidence of scorching on the underlying natural subsoil. The scorching was only limited, indicating that high temperatures were not required as part of its primary use.

The subsequent re-modelling of the feature represented by the clay lining (284/106) and stone deposit (284/108) indicates a second phase of use, with the stones and clay heat affected and these beneath a charcoal deposit (284/105). The final deposit (284/104) comprises post-use accumulation or backfilling. Worked flint flakes and the sherds of pottery recovered from secondary charcoal layer 284/105 suggest a middle to late Bronze Age date for the feature. There were no seeds, charred grains or industrial residues recovered from the soil samples to suggest a definite function.

10.4 Few of the features contained any or significant quantities of finds to allow dating to be achieved; the datable features contained Bronze Age flints. The presence of charcoal and heat-affected clay within the fill of pit F284/305 indicates nearby burning. It is likely to be of prehistoric date based on its stratigraphic position and the recovery of worked flint finds. Similarly, pits F335/906, F335/1012, F335/1207, F335/1205, F308, F1338 and F1404 also contained worked flint finds, and are also probably of prehistoric date.

10.5 Ditch terminal F284/109, curving ditch F284/408 and parallel ditch terminals F284/604 and F284/607, as well as ditch F335/407, F335/815, and F335/1208 are also likely to be prehistoric based on their stratigraphic position and the recovery of worked flint and chert from their fills.

10.6 As noted in section 10.2 above, few of the potential prehistoric 'ditches' recorded during the first phase of evaluation were observed in more than one location, and some may therefore be larger pits. Ditch F335/1008 was observed in the subsequent watching brief and is likely to be a prehistoric boundary. Ditch F284/109-1404 adjacent to hearth F284/103 extended westwards outside the excavation area, and may also be a boundary.

10.7 None of the ditches or larger pit-type features could be positively identified as forming part of enclosures or structures. In addition, no post- or stake-holes that would normally be expected for structures of this date were located during any phase of the investigations. Despite this, the features are clustered, mainly in three groups and in each of these locations are is some degree of intercutting indicating some chronological depth. Analysis of the lithics concluded that there was *in situ* activity taking place utilizing readily available local raw material, both flint and to a lesser degree chert. The product appears to be flakes, some utilised for a range of simple domestic tasks relating to hide preparation. A very limited quantity of slag has also been recovered from the fills of a ditch and a pit, although there is no other evidence to indicate that metalworking was actually taking place on site.

10.8 In summary, the character of the features indicates that the archaeological evidence relates to some form of open 'settlement', as opposed to an enclosure settlement or farm. The finds assemblage indicates that flint production was taking place in the Bronze Age, mainly in the early Bronze Age, although the limited ceramic evidence and some of the flints point to continued activity in the middle to later Bronze Age. There are no features or finds that indicate substantial domestic activity. This is corroborated by the general lack of environmental material, which is in comparison to other Bronze Age sites in East Devon (cf Fitzpatrick *et. al.*, 1999).

10.9 Later activity

There is a hiatus in activity between the later Bronze Age and the medieval/early post-medieval period, with no finds or features present for the intervening eras. This is notable in view of Seaton's known Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology. The prehistoric features were present under a thick layer of subsoil. Medieval pottery was exclusively present within the subsoil, although some post-medieval pottery was also recovered from subsoil contexts, as well as from the topsoil. The quantity and preservation of the later 13th to the 14th century pottery suggests settlement of this date was located reasonably close by.

The extensive subsoil and topsoil deposits indicate extensive historic cultivation on the site, which continued until the 20th century. Although the land use was recorded as an orchard in the mid 19th century, it is clear that extensive ploughing occurred prior to that land use, and afterwards (presumably when the former orchards were converted into allotments). The only significant historic feature was ditch 335/304-335/405.

11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

11.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ, 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.

11.2 The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for the phase 1 investigations is 98935. The number for the phase 2 and 3 investigations is 138065.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The investigations were commissioned by Michael Newman on behalf of Cavanna Homes (South West) Ltd. The fieldwork was supervised by Simon Hughes, who was assisted by Kerry Kerr-Peterson, Fiona Pink, Jerry Austin, Kerry Tyler, Chris Caine, and Richard Sims. The report was prepared by Simon Hughes, the illustrations drawn by Cain Hegarty, Elisabeth Patkai and Sarnia Blackmore, and edited by Andrew Passmore. The finds were quantified and assessed by Emma Firth, Naomi Payne, Julian Richards and John Allan.

13. REFERENCES

Devon County Historic Environment Record
Entries for Seaton centred on Court Lane

Devon Heritage Centre
Seaton and Beer tithe map, 1840 and apportionment, 1839

Printed Sources

Fitzpatrick, A.P., Butterworth, C.A., Grove, J., 1999*, Prehistoric & Roman Sites in East Devon: the A30 Honiton to Exeter Improvement DBFO Scheme, 1996-9*, Wessex Archaeology Report No. **16**.

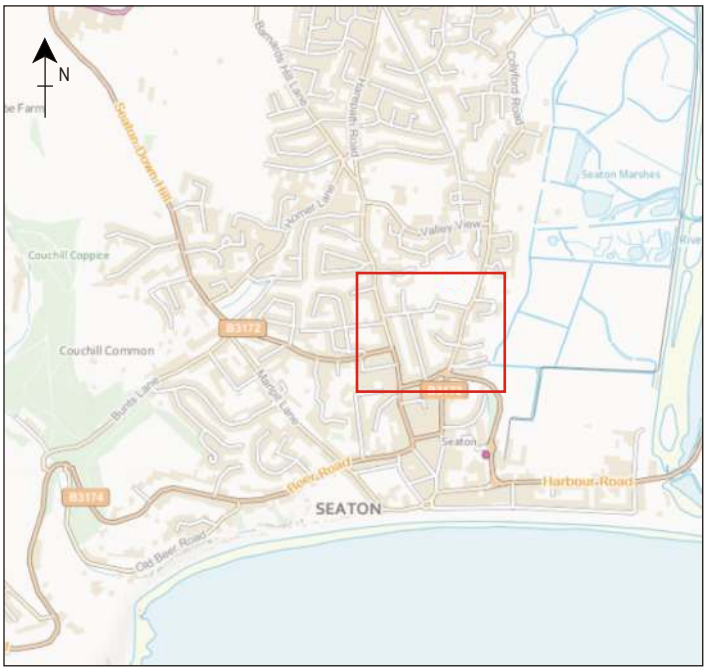
Hughes, S. 2011, *Land South of Court Lane, Seaton, Devon NGR SY 2449 9047 Results of an archaeological trench evaluation*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD284/2/0**.

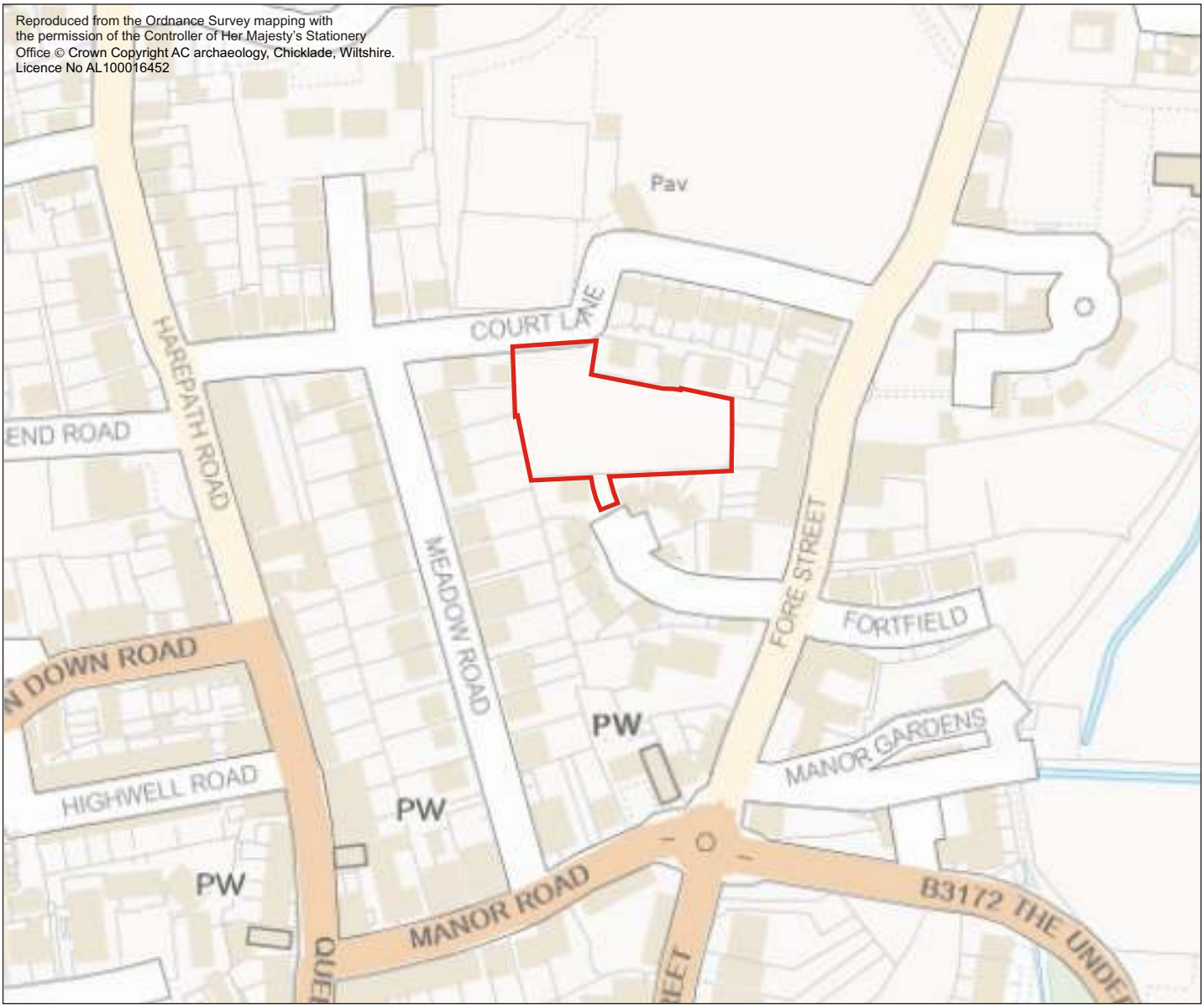
Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire map sheet 83.11, surveyed 1888, published 1889,

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire map sheet 83.11, revised 1903, published 1904

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire map sheet 83.11, 3rd revision published 1936-37

Valentin, J., 2011, *Land south of Court Lane, Seaton, Devon: Project design for a staged programme of archaeological works*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD284/1/0**.





0 100m

Scale 1:2500@A4

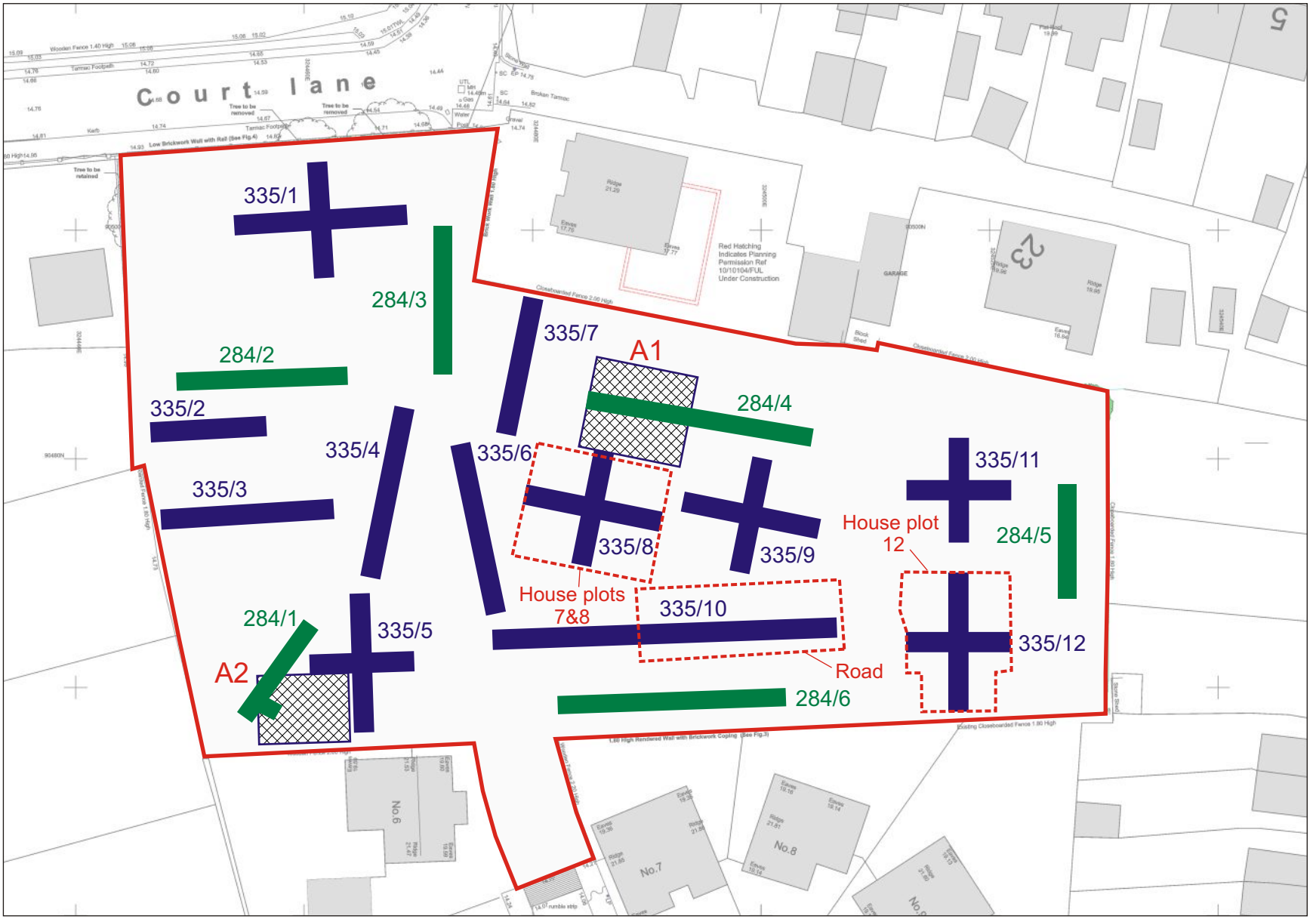
PROJECT

Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

AC archaeology



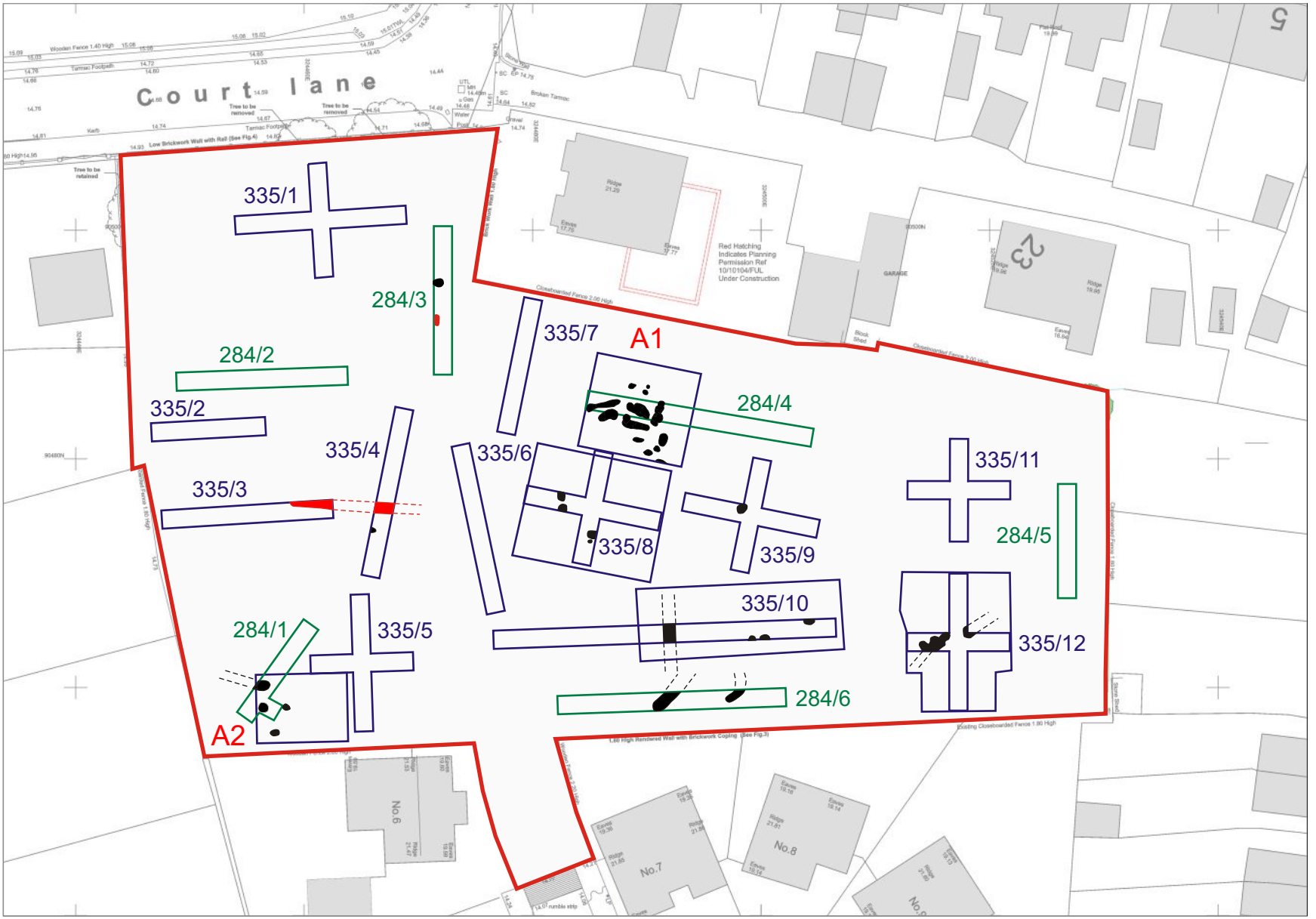
PROJECT

Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of investigations

AC archaeology



PROJECT

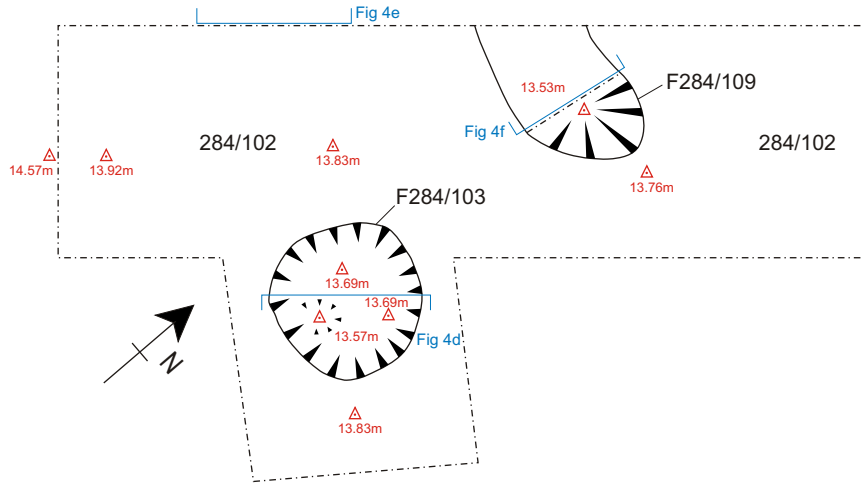
Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

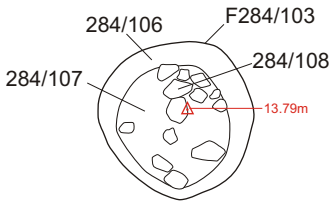
Fig. 3: Summary results

AC archaeology

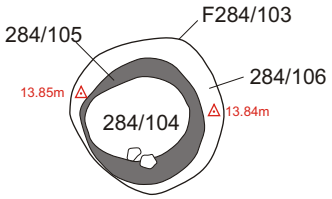
a) Post-excavation plan of Trench 284/1



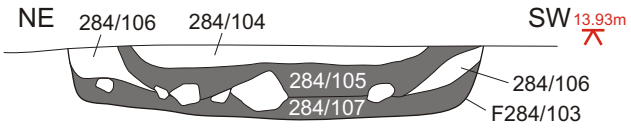
b) Mid-excavation plan of hearth F284/103



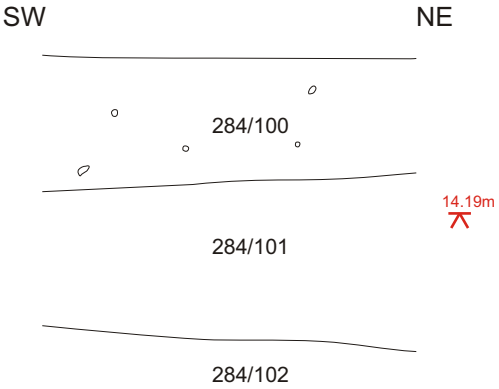
c) Pre-excavation plan of hearth F284/103



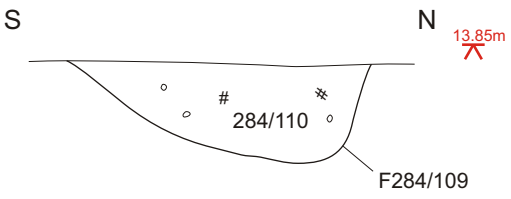
d) Section of hearth F284/103



e) Sample section of Trench 284/1



f) Section of feature F284/109



Flint/chert

Charcoal layer/flecks

0 Sections 1m

0 Plans 3m

PROJECT

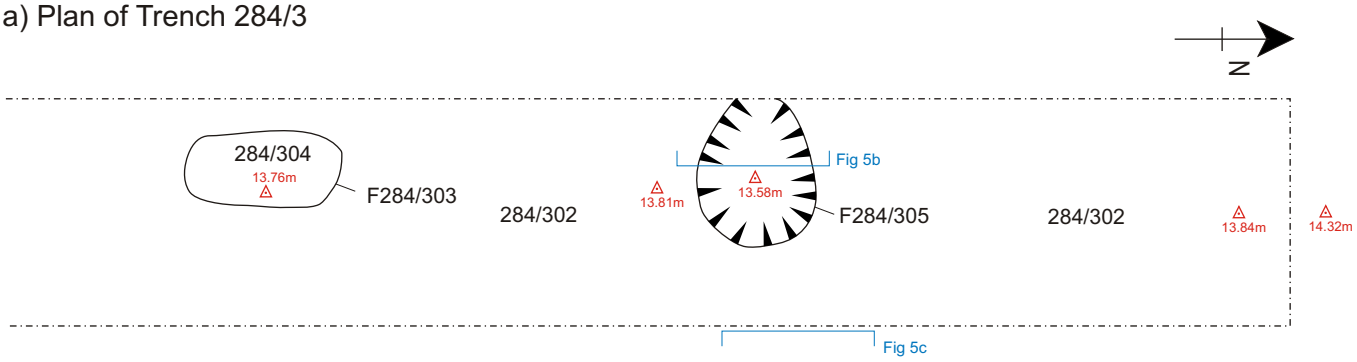
Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

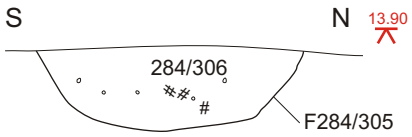
Fig. 4: Trench 284/1, plans and sections

AC archaeology

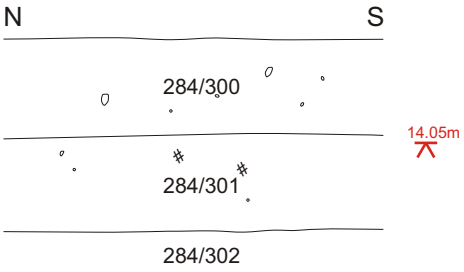
a) Plan of Trench 284/3



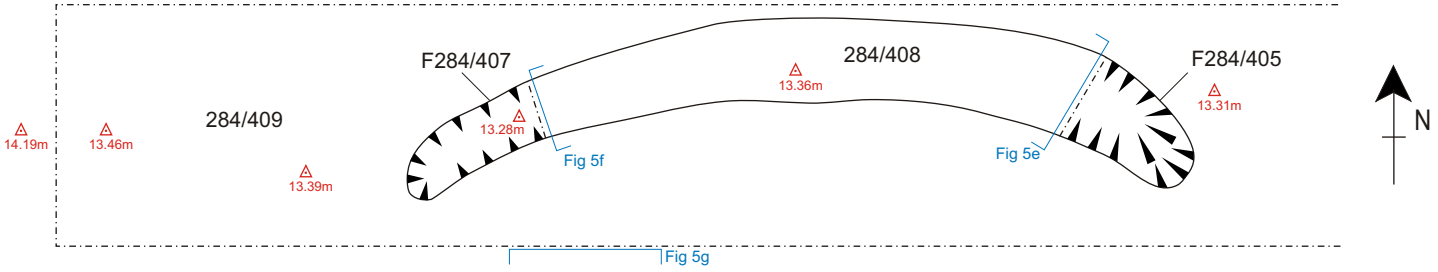
b) Section of feature F305



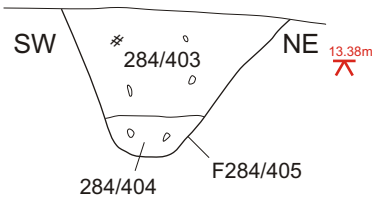
c) Sample section of Trench 284/3



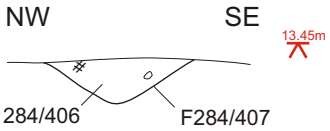
d) Plan of Trench 284/4



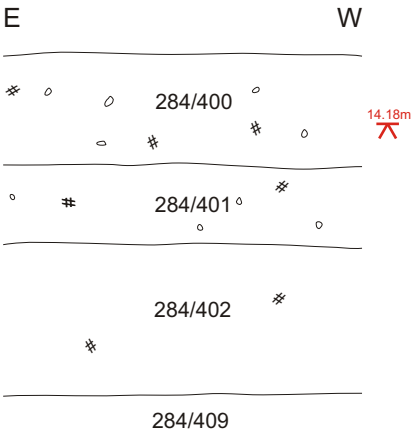
e) Section of segment F284/405

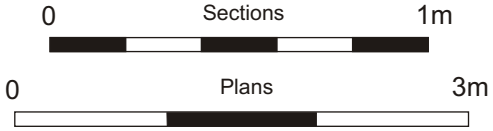


f) Section of segment F284/407



g) Sample section of Trench 284/4





PROJECT

Court Lane, Seaton

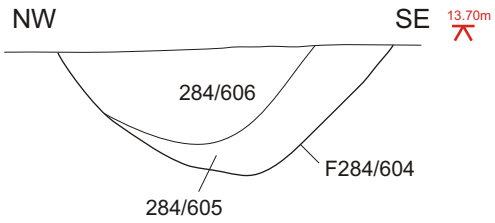
TITLE

Fig. 5: Trenches 284/3 and 284/4, plans and sections

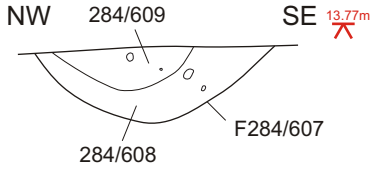
AC archaeology

a) Plan of Trench 284/6

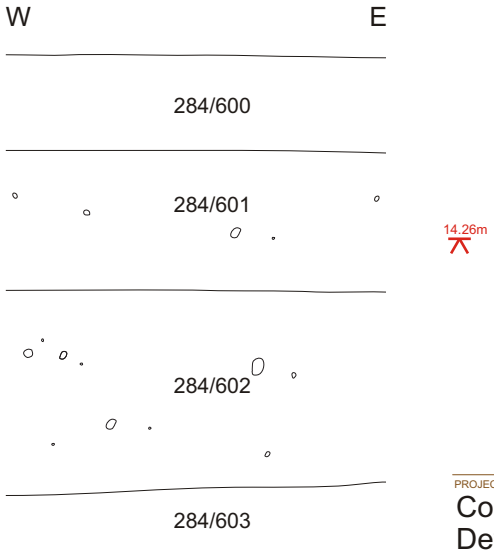
b) Section of feature F284/604

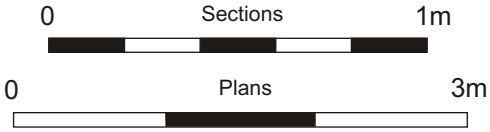


c) Section of feature F284/607



d) Sample section of Trench 284/6





Flint/chert

Charcoal

PROJECT

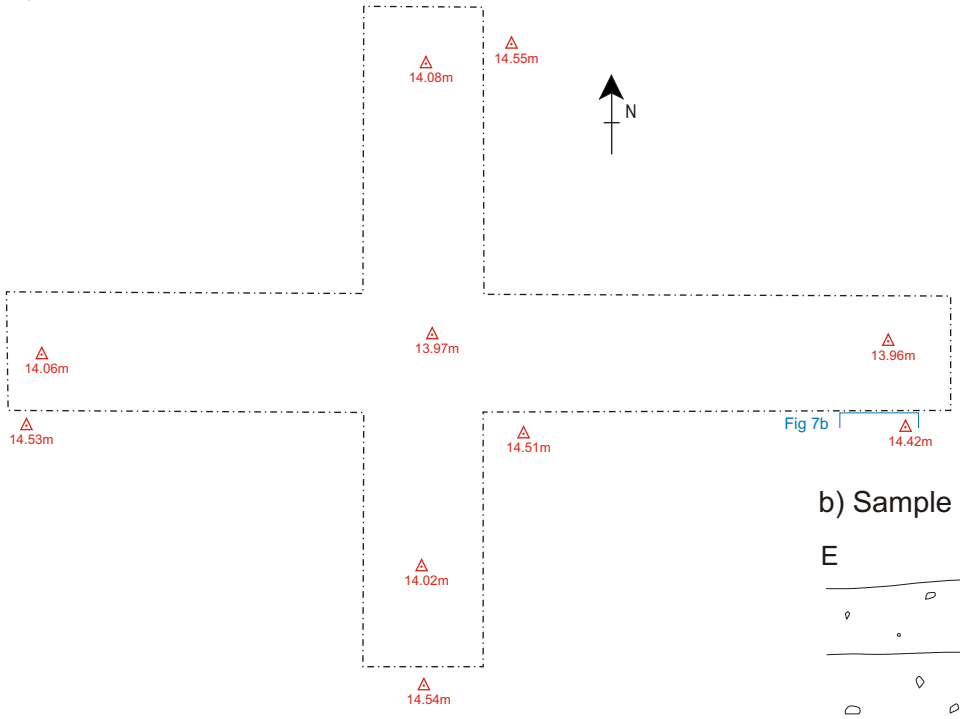
Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

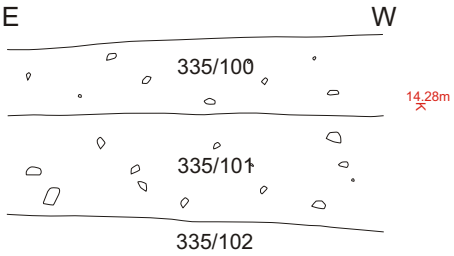
Fig. 6: Trench 284/6, plan and sections

AC archaeology

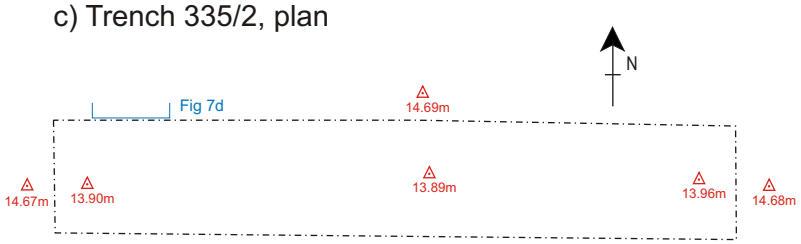
a) Trench 335/1, plan



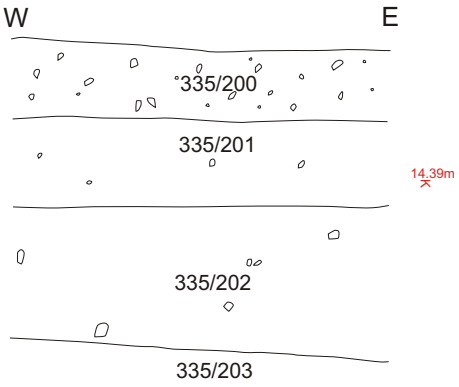
b) Sample section of Trench 335/1



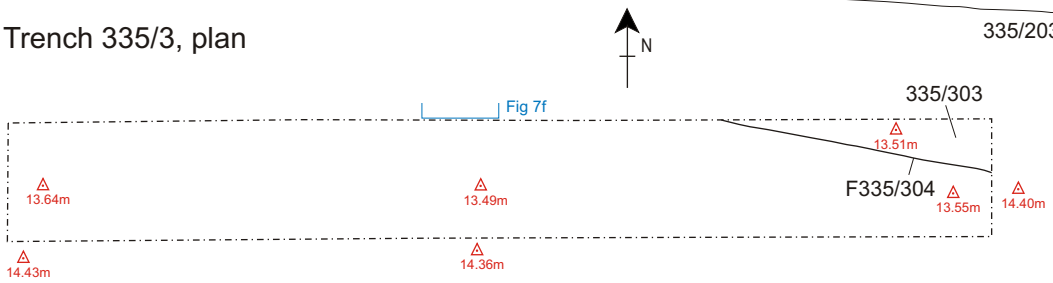
c) Trench 335/2, plan



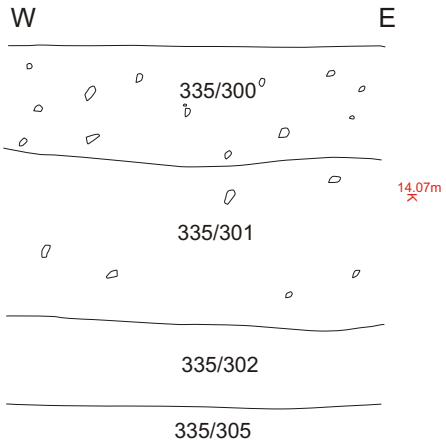
d) Sample section of Trench 335/2

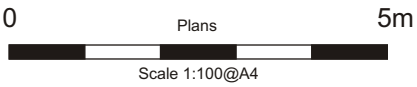


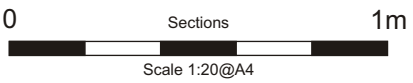
e) Trench 335/3, plan



f) Sample section of Trench 335/3







PROJECT

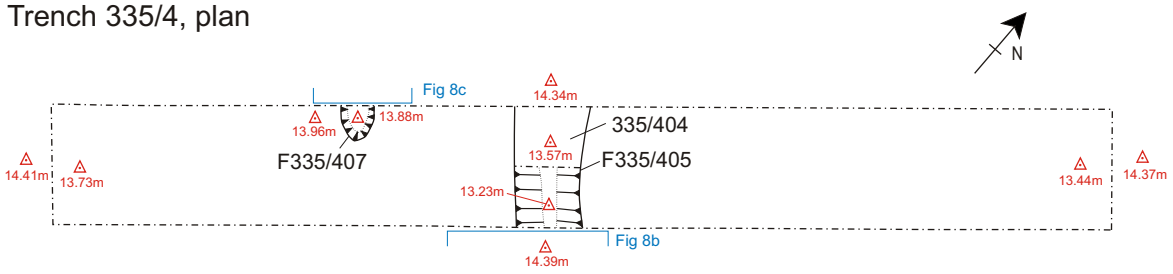
Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

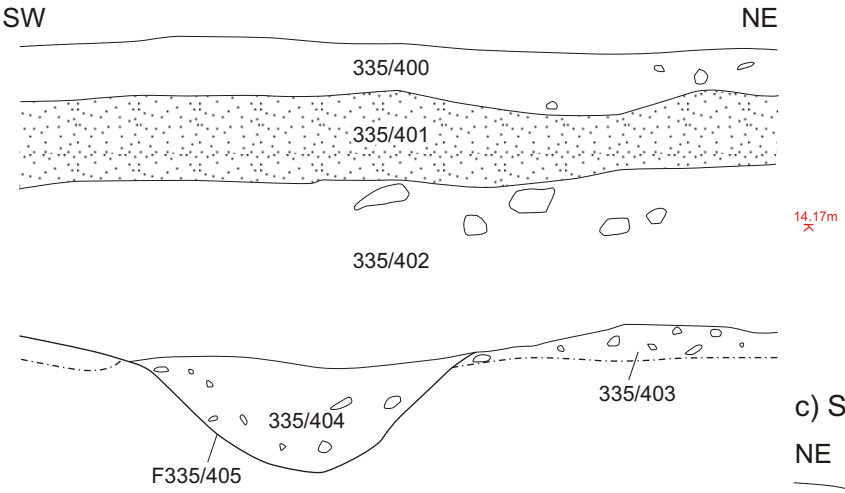
Fig. 7: Trenches 335/1,335/2 and 335/3, plans and sections

AC archaeology

a) Trench 335/4, plan

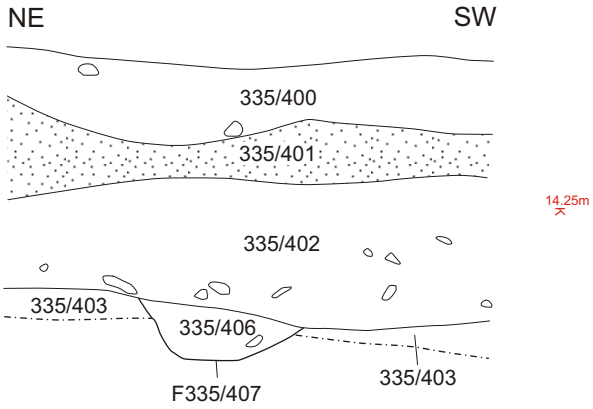


b) Section of F335/405

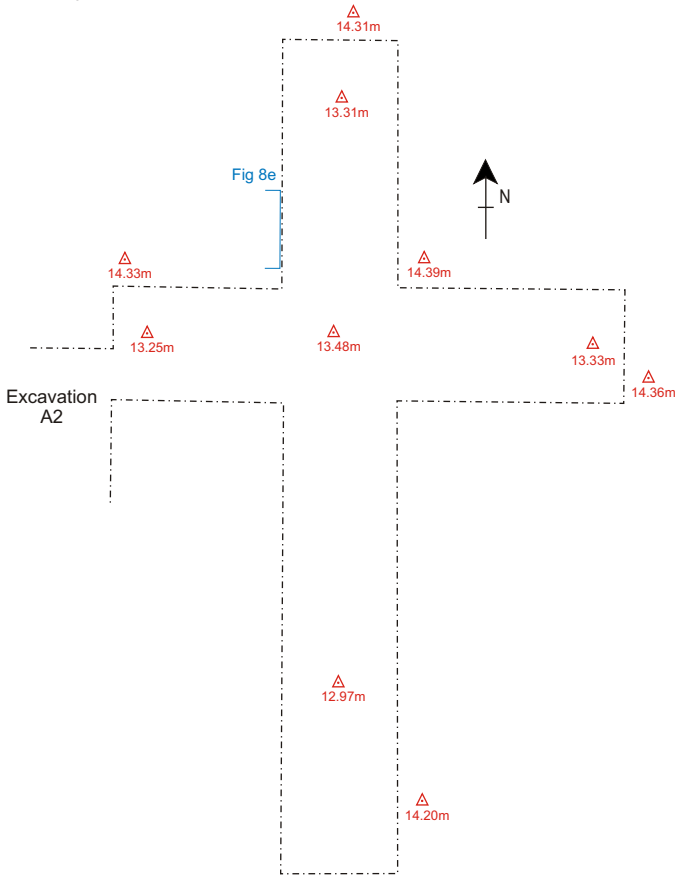


Key to all figures

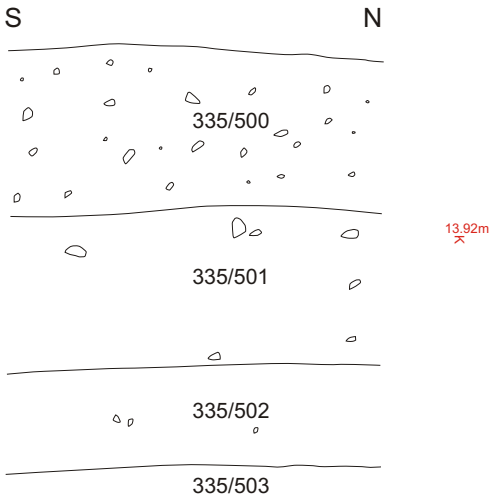
c) Section of F335/407



d) Trench 335/5, plan



e) Sample section of Trench 335/5



0 Plans 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

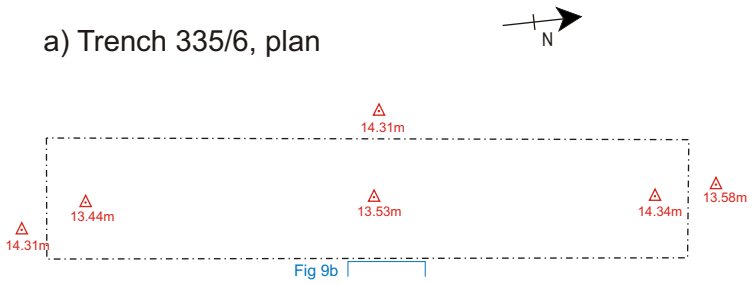
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

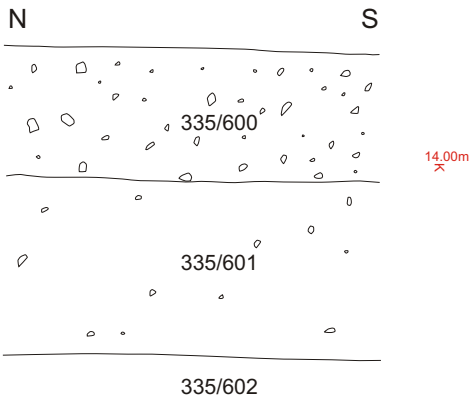
Fig. 8: Trenches 335/4 and 335/5, plans and sections

AC archaeology

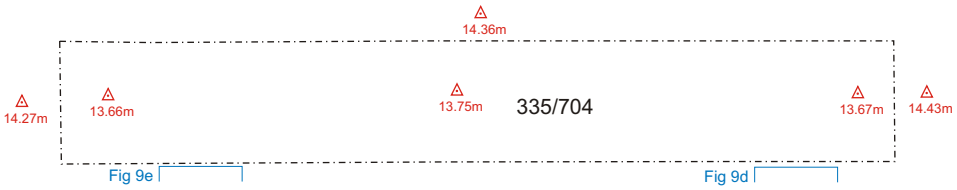
a) Trench 335/6, plan



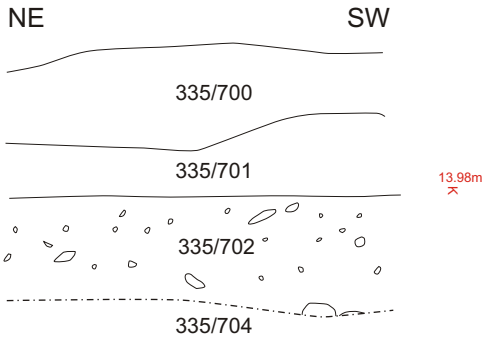
b) Sample section of Trench 335/6



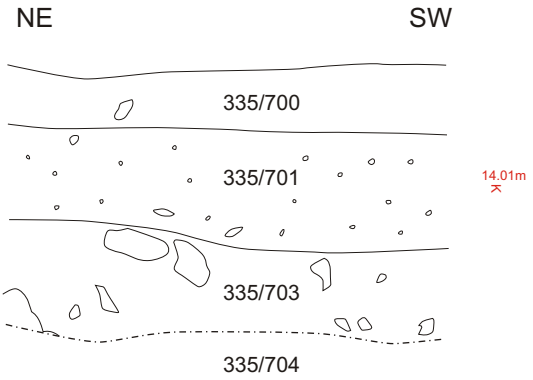
c) Trench 335/7, plan

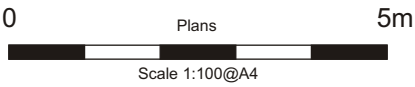


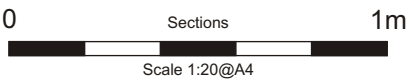
d) Sample section of Trench 335/7, North end



e) Sample section of Trench 335/7, South end







PROJECT

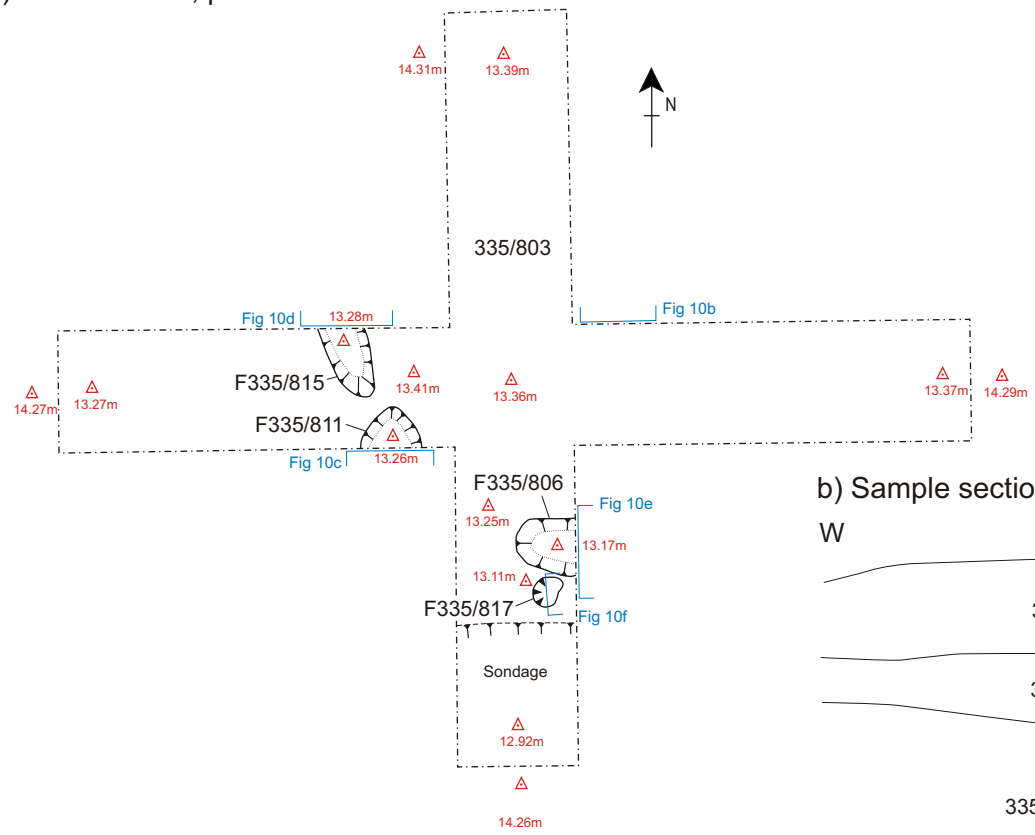
Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

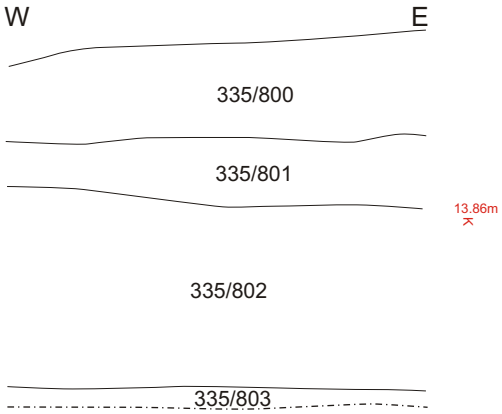
Fig. 9: Trenches 335/6 and 335/7, plans and sections

AC archaeology

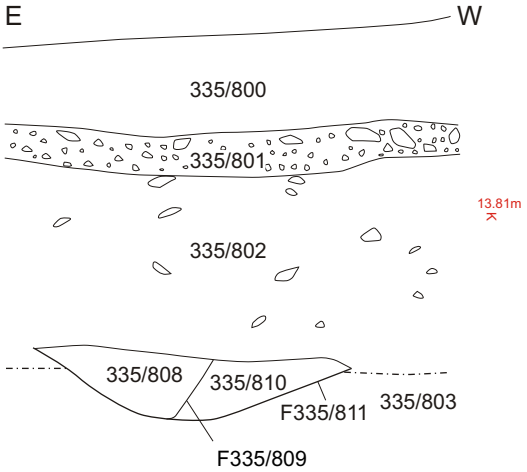
a) Trench 335/8, plan



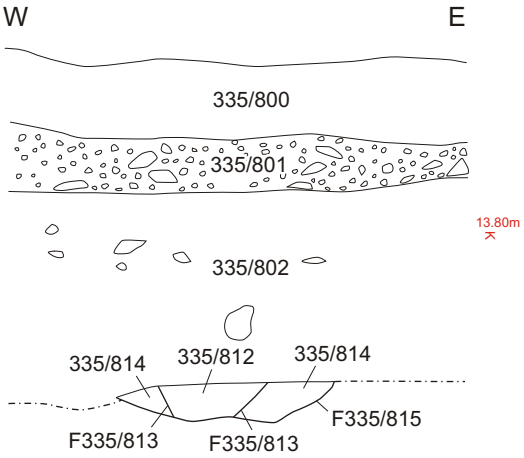
b) Sample section of Trench 335/8



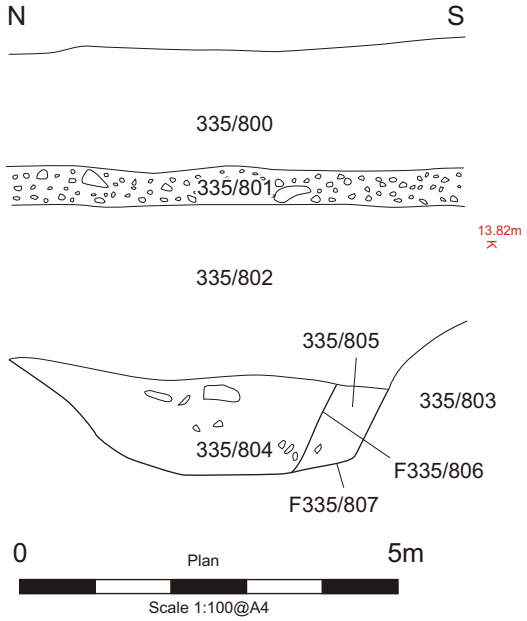
c) Section of F336/809 and F335/811



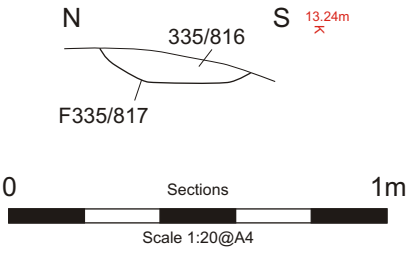
d) Section of F335/813 and F335/815



e) Section of F335/806 and F335/807



f) Section of F335/817



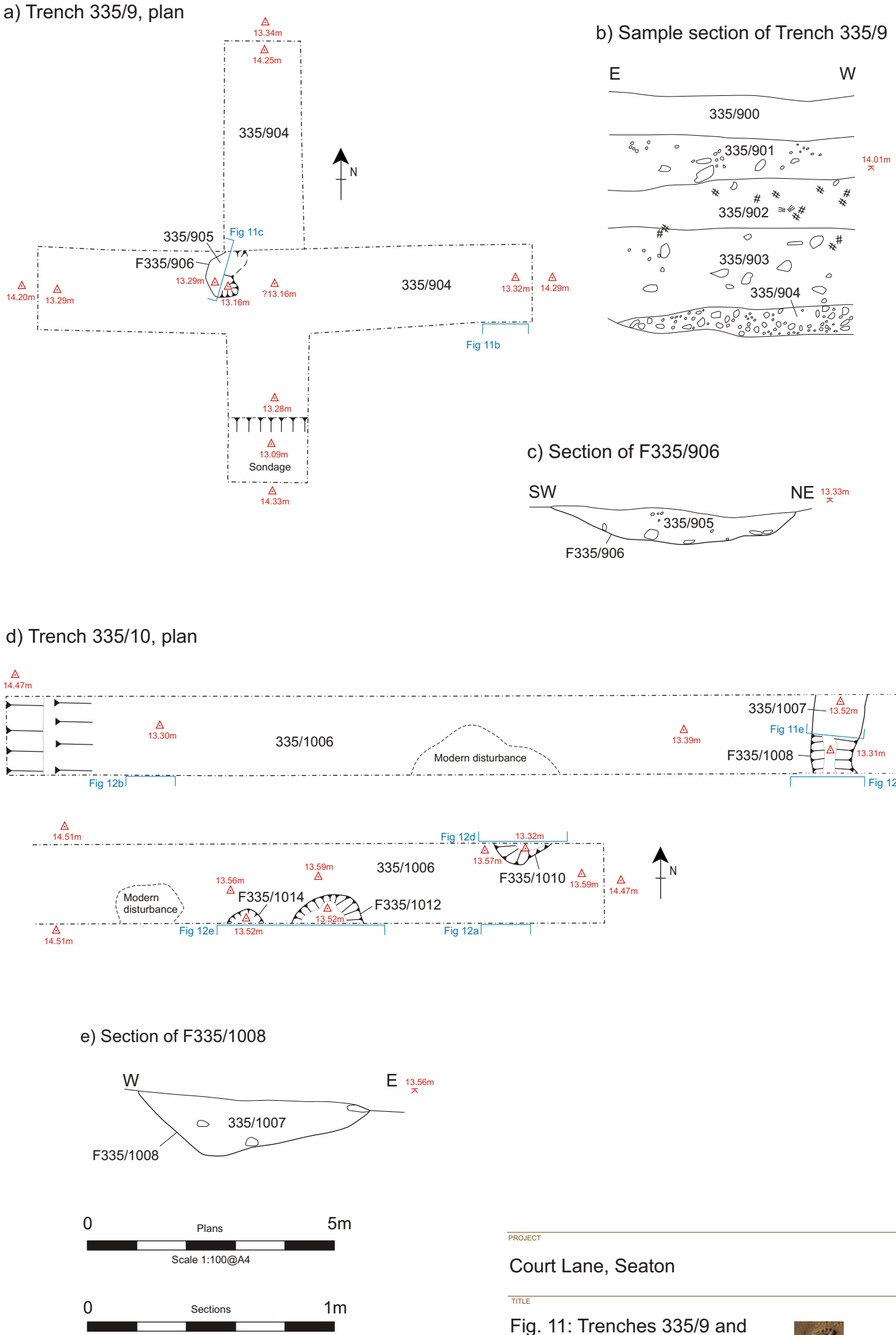
PROJECT

Court Lane, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 10: Trench 335/8, plan and sections

AC archaeology



PROJECT

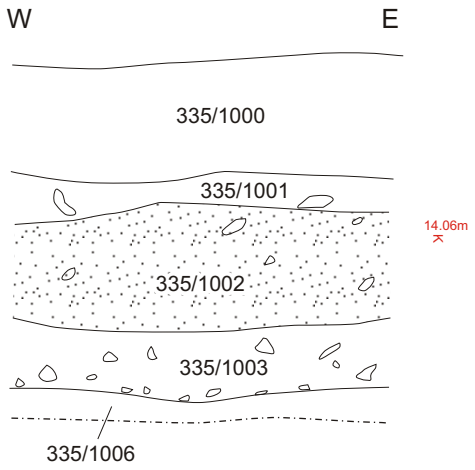
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

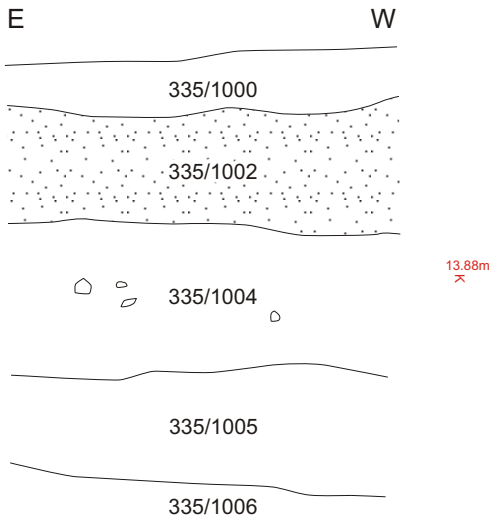
Fig. 11: Trenches 335/9 and 335/10, plans and sections

AC archaeology

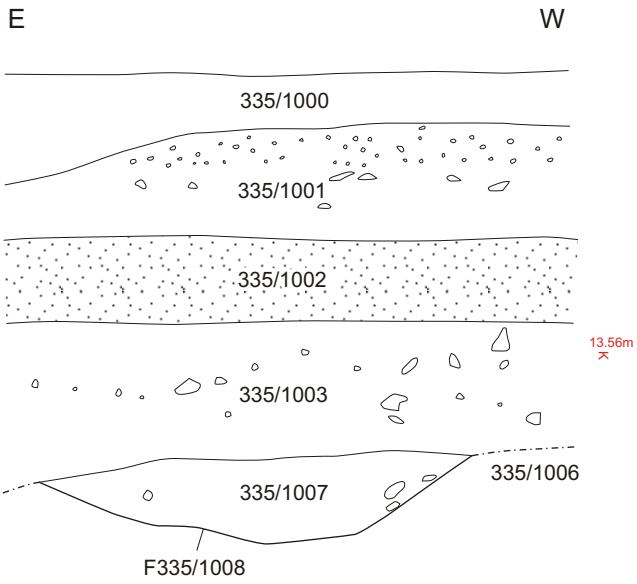
a) Sample section of Trench 335/10, East end



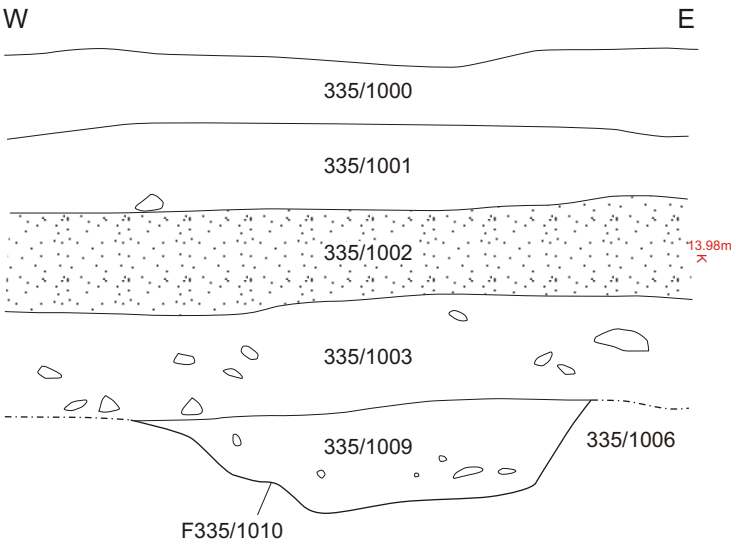
b) Sample section of Trench 335/10, West end



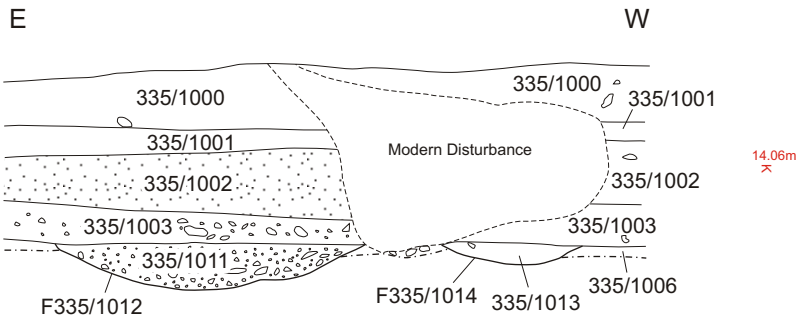
c) Section of F335/1008

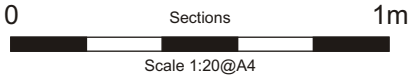


d) Section of F335/1010



e) Section of F335/1012 and F335/1014





PROJECT

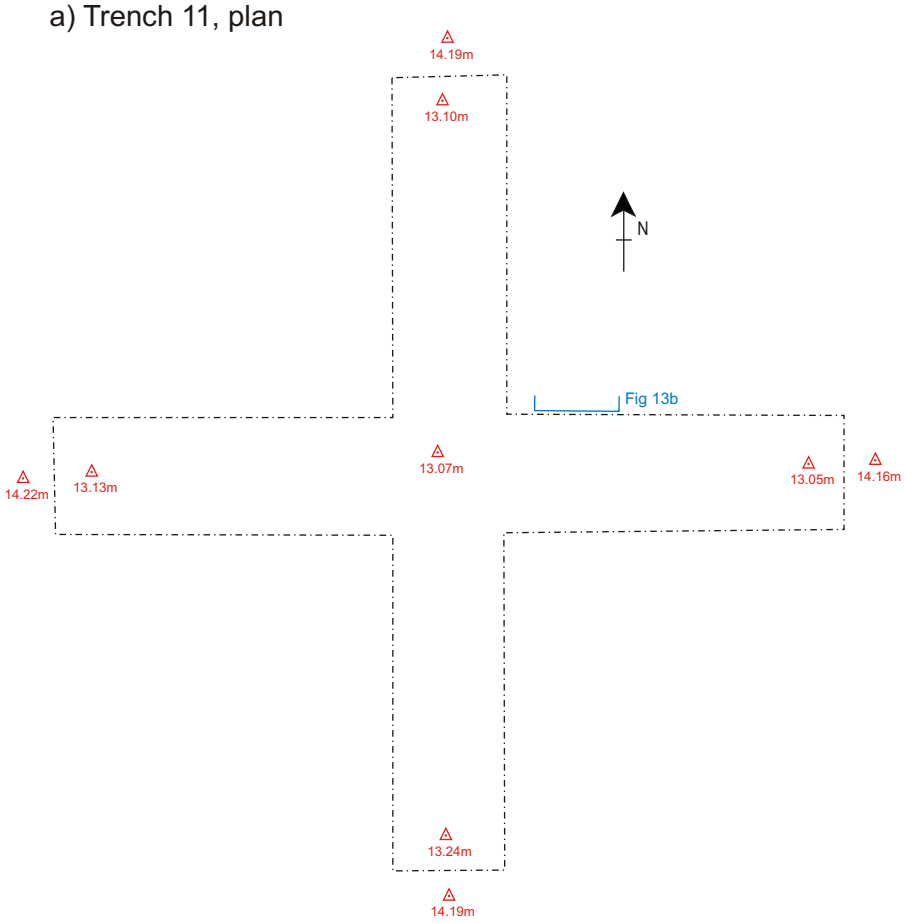
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

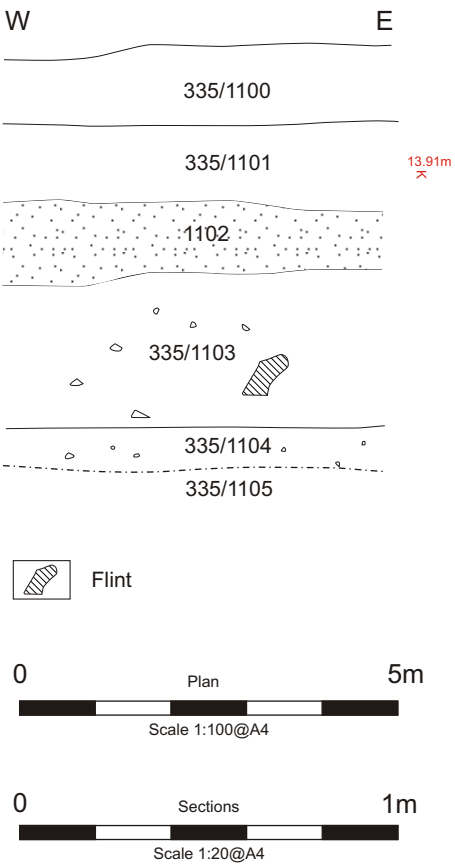
Fig. 12: Trench 335/10, Sections

AC archaeology

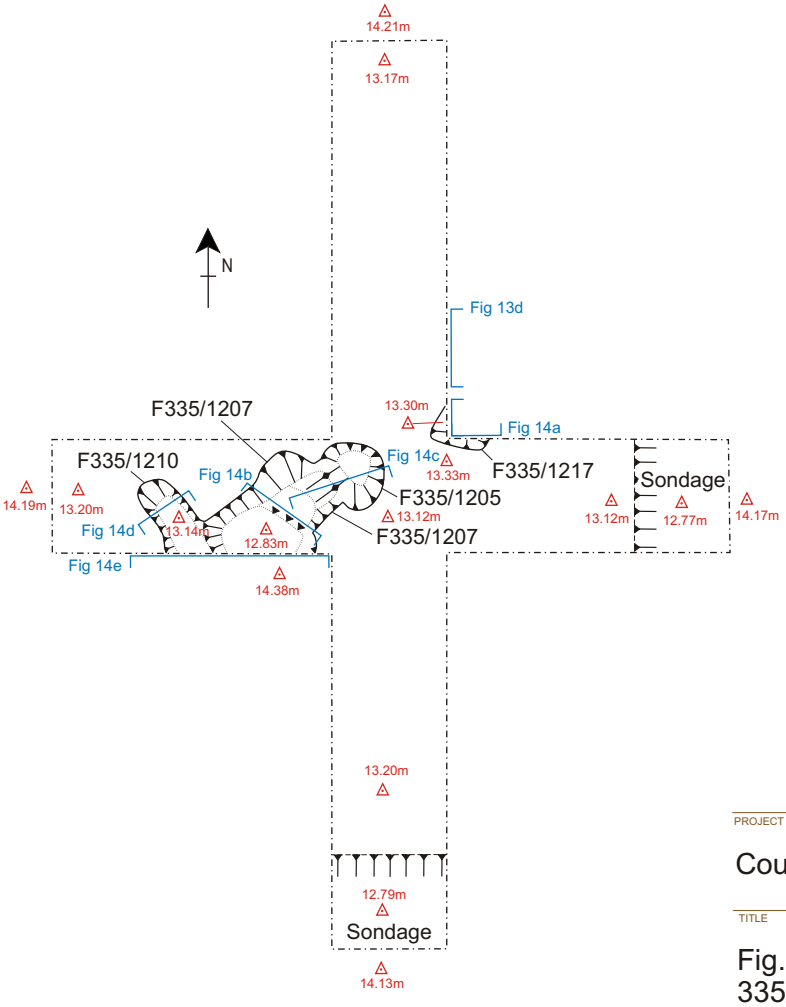
a) Trench 11, plan



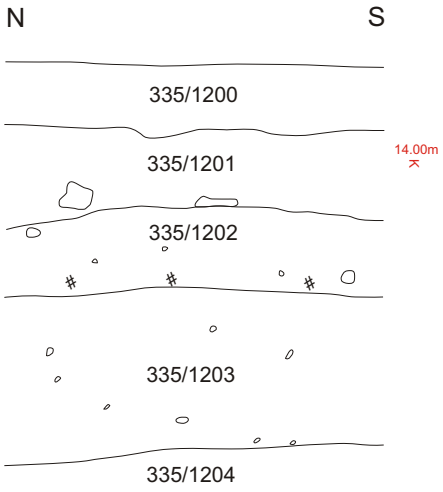
b) Sample section of Trench 335/11



c) Trench 12, plan



d) Sample section of Trench 335/12



PROJECT

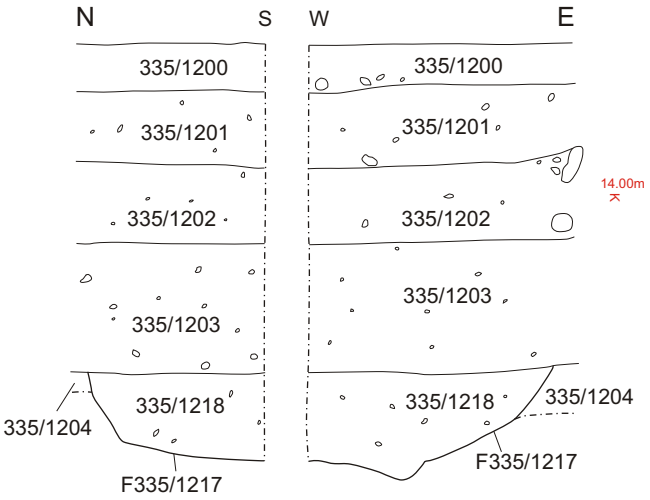
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

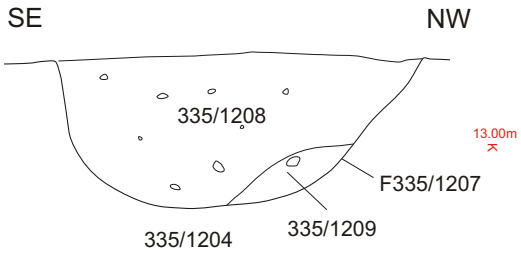
Fig. 13: Trench 335/11 and 335/12, plans and sections

AC archaeology

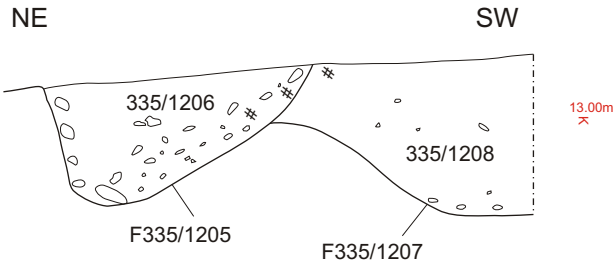
a) Section of F335/1217



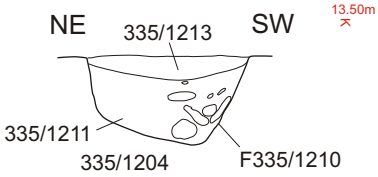
b) Section of F335/1207



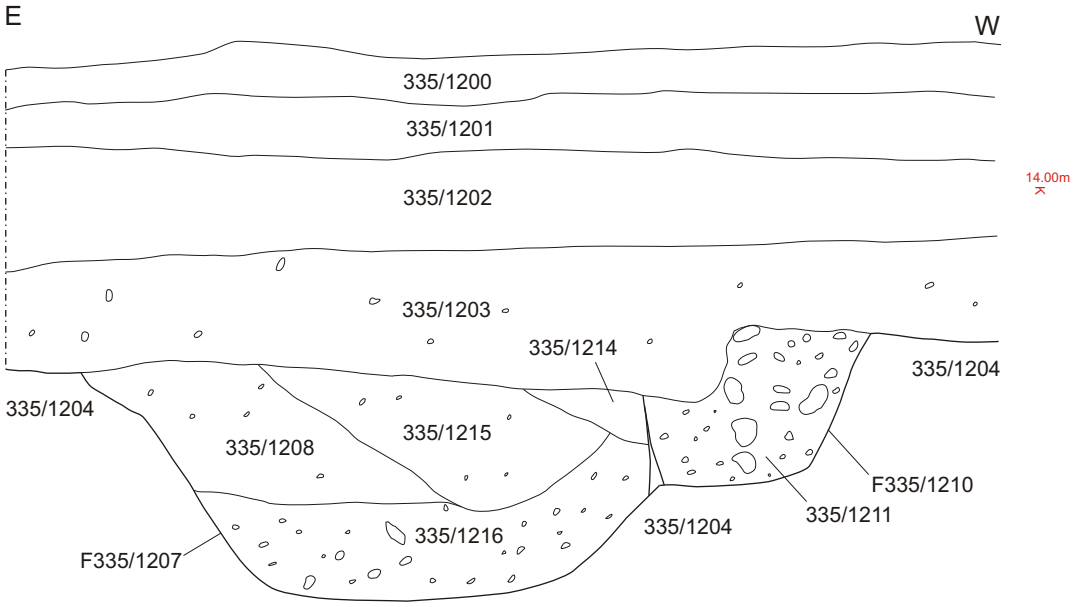
c) Section of F335/1205 and F335/1207



d) Section of F335/1210



e) Section of F335/1207 and F335/1210



0 Plan 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

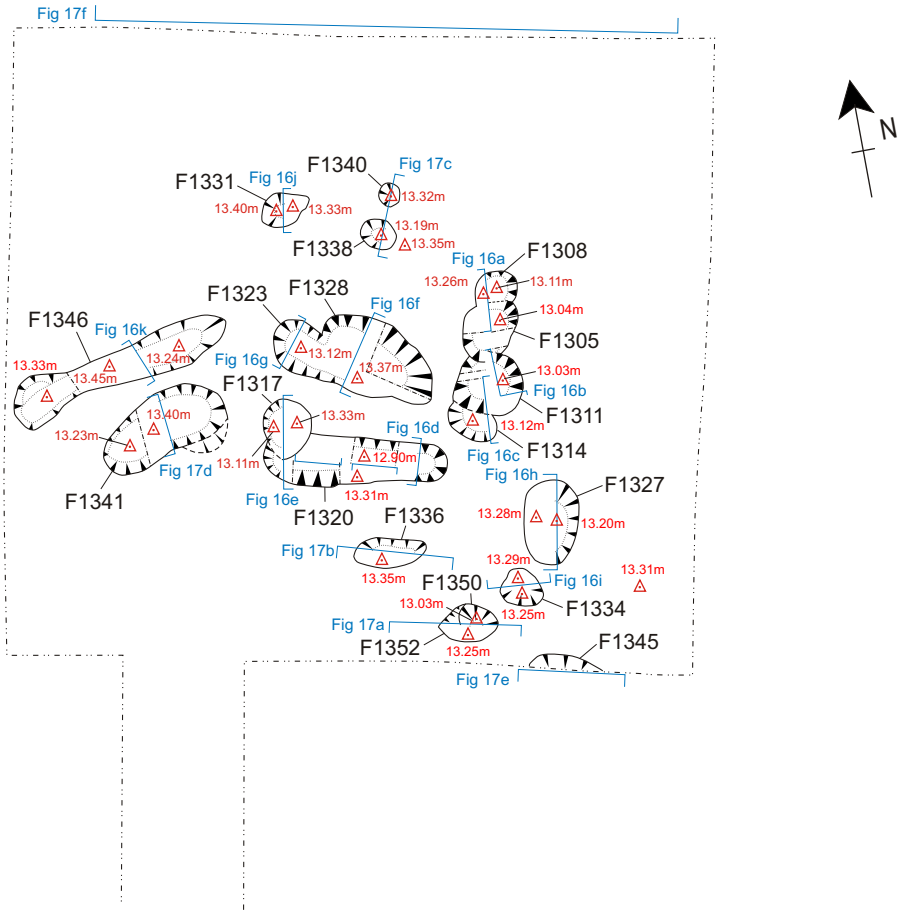
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

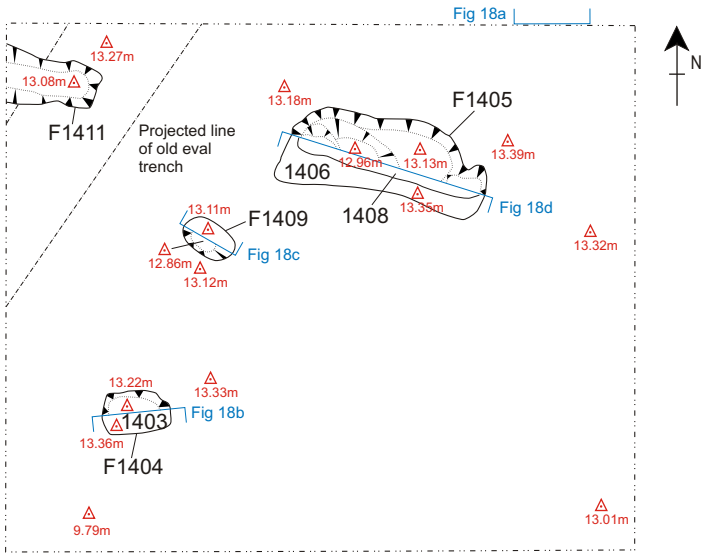
Fig. 14: Trench 335/12, sections

AC archaeology

a) Area 1, plan



b) Area 2, plan



0 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

PROJECT

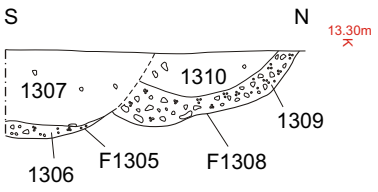
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

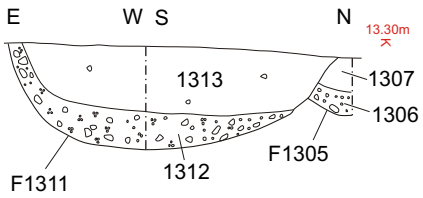
Fig.15: Areas A1 and A2, plans

AC archaeology

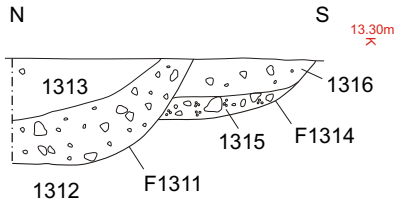
a) East facing section of pits F1305 and F1308



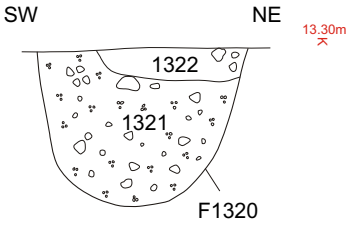
b) North and east facing sections of pits F1305 and F1311



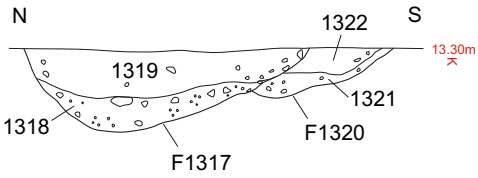
c) West facing section of pits F1311 and F1314



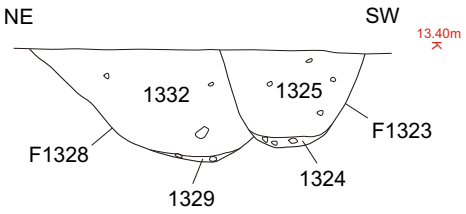
d) Southeast facing section of pit F1320



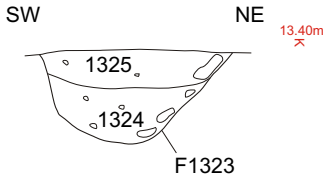
e) West facing section of pits F1317 and F1320



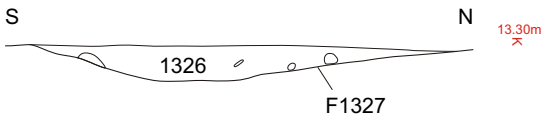
f) Northwest facing section of pits F1323 and F1328



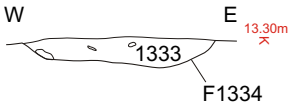
g) Southeast facing section of pit F1323



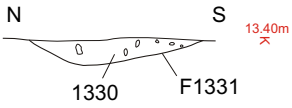
h) East facing section of pit F1327



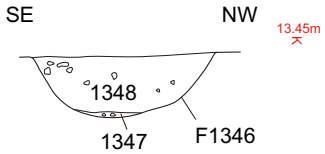
i) South facing section of pit F1334



j) West facing section of pit F1331



k) Northeast facing section of F1346



PROJECT

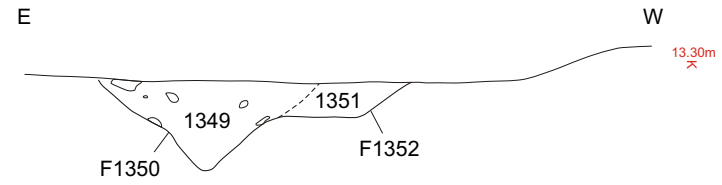
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

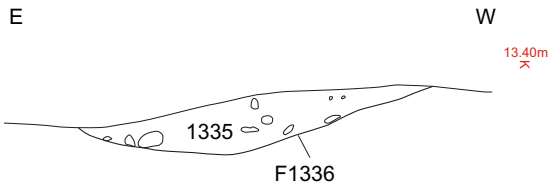
Fig.16: Area A1, sections

AC archaeology

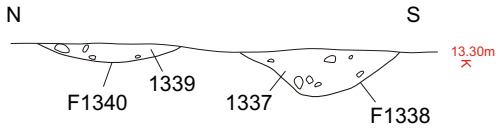
a) North facing section of possible postholes F1350 and F1352



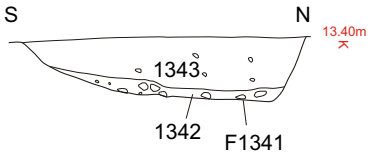
b) North facing section of pit F1336



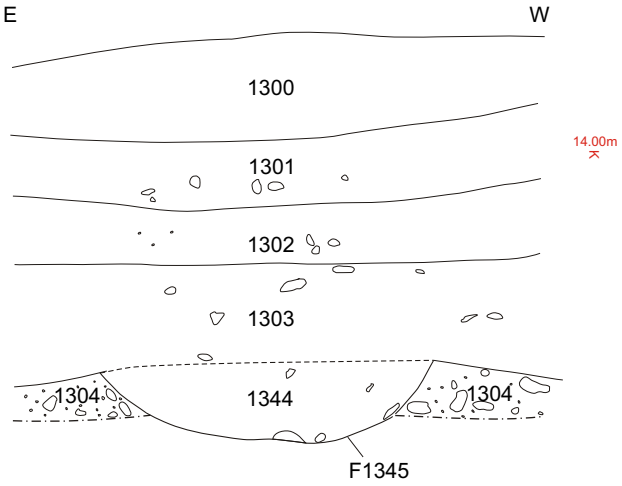
c) West facing section of F1338 and 1340



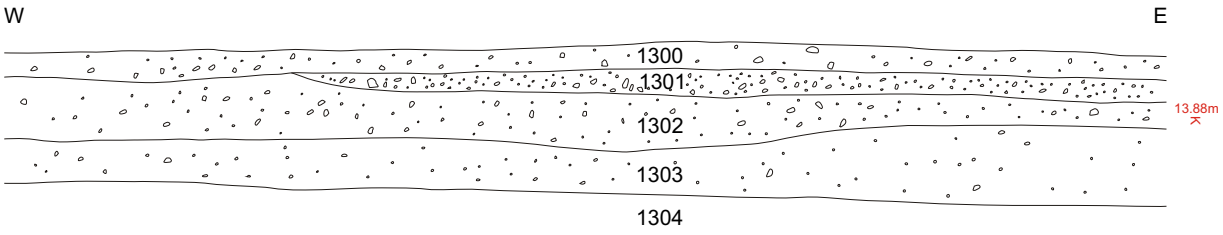
d) East facing section of F1341



e) North facing section of possible pit F1345



f) South facing section



Figs a; b; c; d & e 1:20@A4

Fig f 1:50@A4

PROJECT

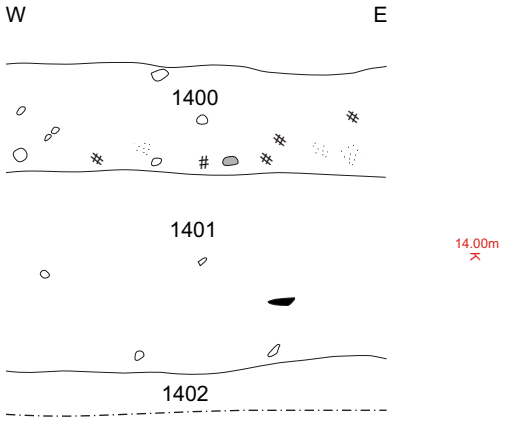
Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

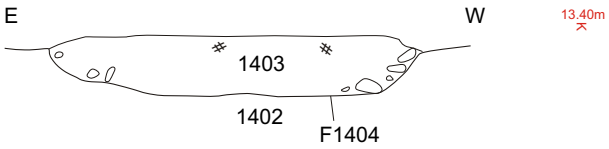
Fig.17: Area A1, sections

AC archaeology

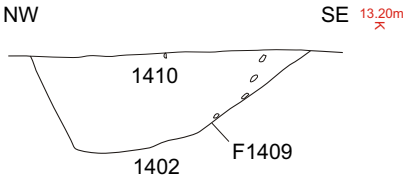
a) Area 2: south facing sample section



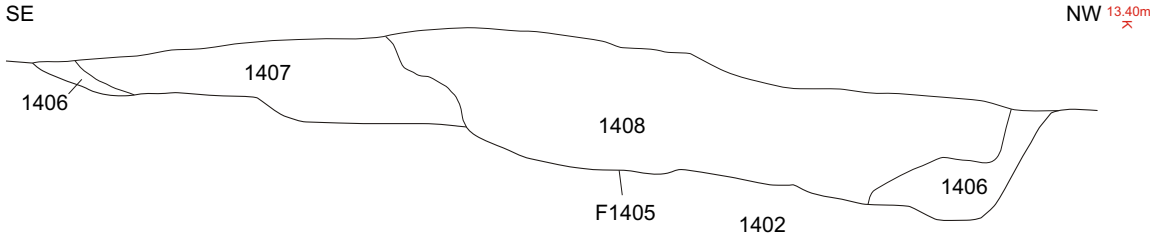
b) North facing section of F1404



c) Southwest facing section of F1409



d) Northeast facing section of F1405



Key

- Mortar and clinker flecks
- Stones
- Coal
- Flint

0 1m

Scale 1:20@A4

PROJECT

Court Lane, Seaton

TITLE

Fig.18: Area A2, sections

AC archaeology

Plate 1: General view of site, looking northeast

Plate 2: Trench 284/1, F284/103, deposits 284/106 and 284/108 over charcoal 284/107, view to southeast

Plate 3: Trench 335/10, F335/1008, view to north

Plate 4: Trench 335/12, F335/1205 and F335/1207, view to west

Plate 5: Area 1, post-excavation view, looking west

Plate 6: Area 1, post-excavation view of F1331 and F1340, looking east

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk