

# LAND ADJACENT TO CHUDLEIGH ROAD, ALPHINGTON, EXETER, DEVON

NGR SX 92012 89319

## Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

---

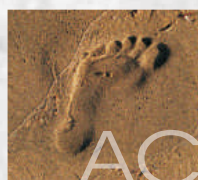
Prepared by:  
William Smith and Paul Rainbird

With contributions from:  
Naomi Payne and Henrietta Quinnell

On behalf of:  
NPS South West Ltd

Document No: ACD668/1/0

Date: May 2013



AC archaeology

---

# LAND ADJACENT TO CHUDLEIGH ROAD, ALPHINGTON, EXETER, DEVON

(NGR SX 92012 89319)

## Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

---

### CONTENTS

	<i>Summary</i>	1
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	The finds	8
7.	Discussion	11
8.	Conclusions	14
9.	Archive and OASIS	14
10.	Acknowledgements	14
11.	References	14

### List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site  
Fig. 2: Location of trenches in relation to geophysics results  
Fig. 3: Trench 1, plan and sections  
Fig. 4: Trenches 2 and 3, plan and sections  
Fig. 5: Trenches 4 and 5, plans and sections  
Fig. 6: Trenches 7 and 8, plan  
Fig. 7: Trenches 7 and 8 sections, and Trench 9 plan and sections  
Fig. 8: Trenches 10 and 11, plans and sections  
Fig. 9: Trench 13, plan and sections

### List of plates

- Plate 1: Trench 1, section of ditch feature F103  
Plate 2: Trench 1, section of ditch F111  
Plate 3: Trench 5, section of ditch features F504, F506 and F508  
Plate 4: Trench 5, double ditch and bank features F504, F506 and F508  
Plate 5: Trench 7, section of linear F704  
Plate 6: Trench 8, section of linear F804  
Plate 7: General view of Trench 12  
Plate 8: General view of Trench 14

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a forthcoming planning application for residential development on land adjacent to Chudleigh Road, Alphington was undertaken by AC archaeology during April 2013. The site occupies approximately 13.7 hectares of mixed pasture and arable fields either side of Chudleigh Road, on the southern outskirts of Alphington. The site has been subject to a previous desk-based assessment, which included fieldwalking and geophysical survey of the site, as a component of a wider-scale assessment for the Land Southwest of Exeter Development Masterplan Area.*

*The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 16 trenches totalling 530m in length, with each trench measuring 1.60m wide. These were positioned to target and characterise the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey and cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.*

*Archaeological features recorded during the evaluation largely confirm the results of the geophysical survey and aerial photography. Features recorded predominately consisted of linear and recti-linear ditch and gully features most likely associated with pre-modern field systems. At the north-eastern end of the site evidence of two ring ditches of ploughed out barrows of possible Bronze Age date, together with a possible prehistoric circular enclosure were recorded.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Chudleigh Road, Alphington, Exeter, Devon (centred on NGR SX 92012 89319; Fig. 1), and that was undertaken in support of future planning applications for residential development. It was commissioned by NPS South West Ltd. Guidance on the scope of works was provided by Exeter City Council's Archaeology Officer (ECCAO).
- 1.2 The site covers an area of approximately 13.7ha and is on the southern outskirts of Alphington on what are currently mixed pasture and arable fields either side of Chudleigh Road. The site lies between 37m and 18m aOD on ground that slopes away gradually to the north from a ridge that extends along its southern boundary. The underlying geology comprises Breccia of the Alphington Breccia formation.

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

- 2.1 The site has been subject to a previous desk-based assessment, which included fieldwalking and limited geophysics for part of the site, as a component of a wider-scale assessment for the Land Southwest of Exeter Development Masterplan Area (Hughes and Valentin 2010). This work identified a general potential for prehistoric activity across the site. Immediately to the south is the scheduled Bronze Age linear round barrow cemetery at Castle Park (SM10625) and archaeological work to the southeast at Matford Barton recorded pits containing prehistoric pottery (Tyler 2009). To the southwest of the site, parts of several possibly rectilinear enclosures have been identified from aerial photographs and geophysical survey with further cropmarks thought to represent prehistoric activity recorded on Knowle Hill to the northeast. Finds recovered from the eastern plots as part of the previous desk-based assessment comprised worked flint flakes, cores and a transverse arrowhead.
- 2.2 A full geophysical survey of the site identified a number of linear features and small circular enclosures that potentially related to buried archaeological remains (Fig. 2).

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the 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 results of the work will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation and whether or not their significance and state of survival is great enough to influence the layout of the proposed development should planning consent be obtained.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 16 trenches totalling 530m in length, with each trench measuring 1.6m wide. Trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified during the initial geophysical survey, and were positioned using a Topcon GMS2 GPS, with sub-metre accuracy. The removal of soil overburden was undertaken under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.
- 4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology proforma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

### 5. RESULTS (figs 3-9; Plates 1-8; Appendix 1)

#### 5.1 Introduction

Due to issues surrounding access, Trenches 15 and 16 were omitted from this phase of the work. Therefore the total length of trenching in this phase of work was 530m. All trenches are summarised in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figures 3-9, and photographs as Plates 1-8.

The recorded layer sequence observed across the site generally comprised between 0.19-0.31m of topsoil, overlying between 0.06-0.56m of agricultural subsoil, onto the natural subsoil below. The depth of the subsoils across the site was highly variable, with greater depth occurring in natural undulations in the underlying topography and above some archaeological features. In some trenches no subsoil layer was visible with the topsoil sitting directly on the natural geology. This is likely to be due to the mixing of the topsoil and subsoil by the action of modern ploughing. An additional buried soil horizon (903) relating to an earlier land surface was recorded in Trench 9. Archaeological features were present within 12 of the trenches (Trenches 1-11 and 13) and are discussed below.

#### 5.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and sections Figs 3b-f; Plates 1 and 2)

This trench measured 30m long and was aligned NNE-SSW to target two circular geophysical anomalies. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.52m below ground level onto natural subsoil (102) consisting of a light reddish pink silty clay containing alternating bands of mixed gravels and clays. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.28m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil (100), over 0.21m of light reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (101). Five linear or curvilinear ditch features were recorded (F103, F107, F111, F122 and F126).

##### Linear features

Ditch F103 was recorded at the northernmost end of Trench. This shallow, wide ditch (1.59m wide x 0.45m deep) contained an initial fill of slumped material (104) overlain by redeposited natural material (105) along its southern edge. The formation of these deposits is suggestive of the weathering-in of an internal bank or mound. These deposits were sealed above by a series of low-grade silt deposits that developed after the ditch had fallen out of use.

Ditch F111 was another wide ditch feature (2.39m wide x 0.98m deep). The fills of this feature suggest a period of stabilisation after construction of the feature (112-115)) followed by low-grade silting of the feature (116, 117 and 118). Fill (117) contained a probable early Bronze Age flint core fragment and three conjoining pottery sherds of possible later Iron Age date.

Ditch F107 represents the cut of an E-W aligned ditch feature. This feature may represent a small drip gully or minor field boundary.

Ditch F122 was an E-W running linear feature located approximately halfway along the trench. The fills of this feature (123-125) suggest that after being maintained for a period of time the ditch was allowed to naturally silt up once it had fallen out of use. Context (125) produced an early Bronze Age flint flake with retouch along one edge.

Ditch F126 is a curvi-linear ditch. The ditch fills appear to show a similar deposition pattern to those found in cut F111 to the north.

### **5.3 Trench 2 (Detailed plan Fig. 4j and sections Figs 4a-e)**

This trench was aligned SW-NE, measured 50m in length, and together with Trench 3 was located in order to target possible enclosures and circular structures identified on the geophysical survey. It was excavated to a depth of 0.5m onto a natural subsoil (202) that varied between bright red silty sandy gravel and a bright red silty sand clay. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.24m of mid-dark brown clayey silt topsoil (200) over 0.26m of reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (201). Two sherds of possible Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this subsoil. A total of three linear features (F203, F209 and F211) and three small pit or posthole type features (F205, F207 and F213) were recorded in this trench.

#### **Linear features**

Ditch F203 is a shallow ditch or gully located approximately 15m from the northern end of the trench. The feature contained a single fill (204) of clayey silt material deposited during the gradual silting up of the feature. Six fragments of fired clay, possibly loom weights, were recovered from this fill.

Ditch F209 represents the terminus of a shallow ditch feature that enters the trench from a NE direction. The depth of the feature is very shallow (0.07m) and its original function is unclear. This feature contained a single fill (210) caused by a gradual build-up of silt within the feature.

Ditch F211 is an E-W running linear ditch located 13m from the southern end of the trench. The feature was reasonably wide but rather shallow (1.25m wide x 0.19m deep) and contained a single fill (212) caused by natural silting up of the feature.

#### **Pit features**

Pit F205 is a pit or posthole in the ditch feature F203. Unfortunately the feature was not visible on the surface prior to the excavation of F203 so relationship between the two features is not completely clear. The purpose of the feature is also unclear. The composition of the fill (206) suggests that it is unlikely to be a refuse pit. The feature may be best interpreted as an undefined pit or a possible large posthole.

Pit F207 is an isolated pit type feature oval in plan. The feature contained a single fill (208) caused by natural silting. The archaeological origin of this feature is uncertain and its form is consistent with having been caused by the roots of a shrub.

Pit F213 is an isolated pit or posthole type feature. There is no evidence of any packing material within the feature to suggest it once held a post, although this may have been removed. The feature contained a single fill (214) caused by the natural silting of the feature.

#### **5.4 Trench 3** (Detailed plan Fig. 4j and sections Fig 4f-h)

This trench measured 25m long, was aligned approximately WNW-ESE adjoining Trench 2 approximately halfway along its length. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.30m below ground level onto natural subsoil (302) consisting of dark reddish brown gritty Breccia derived material. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.20m of dark brown sandy loam topsoil (300), over 0.10m of mid red brown sandy silt subsoil (301). Two linear features (F306 and F310) and two possible pit or posthole features (F304 and F308) were recorded towards the SE end of the trench.

##### **Linear features**

Ditch F306 is a N-S running linear ditch feature. No finds were recovered from the feature and it appears to have naturally silted up (305). The archaeological origin of this feature is uncertain and it may represent a geological fissure (or frost-wedge) commonly found on this type of geology.

Ditch F310 is the terminus of another N-S running linear ditch feature. Again no finds were recovered from this feature and it appears to have been allowed to naturally silt up after abandonment (309). Three pieces (2g) of charcoal were retrieved from this fill.

##### **Pit and posthole features**

Pit F304 is a small pit feature located at the eastern end of Trench 3. No finds were recovered from the feature which contained a single fill (303) suggesting it was allowed to naturally silt up after abandonment.

Pit F308 represents the cut of a steep-sided, conical based posthole located on the western edge of F306. It has a single fill (307) of dark brownish red sandy silt.

#### **5.5 Trench 4** (Detailed plan Fig. 5a and section Fig. 5b)

This trench measured 25m long, was aligned NE-SW and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m below ground level onto natural subsoil (402) consisting of light brownish red sandy clay with small sub-angular gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.30m of mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (400) over up to 0.56m of light brownish red sandy clay subsoil (401) with occasional sub-angular pebbles. A single linear ditch feature F404 was recorded in the trench.

##### **Linear feature**

Ditch F404 is a linear ditch feature 1.73m wide x 0.44m deep and is shown running perpendicular (NW-SE) to the trench in the geophysical plot. The ditch contained a single fill of slumped material (405) and natural sedimentation (403) that had been allowed to fill the ditch after it had fallen out of use. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of bottle glass were recovered from the upper fill (403).

#### **5.6 Trench 5** (Detailed plan Fig. 5c and sections Figs 5d-e; Plates 3 and 4)

Trench 5 measured 50m in length and was positioned in order to target a series of linear features shown on the geophysics running at right-angles to the feature recorded in Trench 4 (F404). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.70m below ground level onto natural subsoil (502) consisting of light brownish red sandy clay with small sub-angular gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised up to 0.35m of brown sandy silt topsoil (500), over up to 0.30m of light brownish red sandy clay subsoil (501) with occasional sub-angular pebbles. The depths of the topsoil and subsoil were quite variable across the length of the trench. A total of five linear features (F504, F506, F508, F511 and F513) together with the remnants of two possible banks (509) and (514).

### **Linear features**

The features recorded in this trench are best discussed in two groups, the first consisting of ditches F504, F506, F508 and bank (509) and the second of ditches F511, F513 and bank (514).

Ditch features F504 and F506 represent two parallel ditches located at the NW end of trench 5. F504 is much wider than F506 (3.14m compared to 0.86m) but both features are of a similar depth (0.30m and 0.26m respectively). Between these two ditch features the remnants of a ploughed out bank (509) were recorded. This material is similar to the surrounding deposits and is likely to be the up-cast from the cutting of the ditches. The easterly ditch of this hedgerow feature was truncated by another ditch on the same alignment F508 along its eastern edge. It is not clear whether the cutting of this ditch represents the maintenance and re-cutting of the ditch associated with the hedgebank feature or the construction of another boundary along the same alignment.

Ditch features F511 and F513 represent two more ditches that run parallel to the previous group. These are similar in nature to those described previously although the widths of the ditches associated with this boundary feature are more uniform in their size (both are between 3 and 3.4m wide). Remnant bank material (514) similar to that recorded in the previous hedgebank feature was also recorded. The ditches of both hedgebank features (and the possible re-cut ditch F508) all contained fills that suggested they had been left to naturally silt up.

The fills of hedge bank ditches F504 and F511 produced small quantities of late 18th- and 19th-century industrially-produced ceramic wares. The fill of F508, a re-cut hedge bank ditch, contained a pottery sherd of probable late 17th century date. The remnant bank material (514) produced a rim sherd from a 17th or 18th century earthenware jar. A clay pipe stem fragment, post-medieval in date, was recovered from fill (512) of the hedge bank ditch F511.

### **5.7 Trench 6 (Fig. 2)**

This trench measured 50m long and was aligned parallel to Trench 5 to target the same linear anomalies shown on the geophysics. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (602) consisting of mid reddish brown to mid orange yellow silty clay with dispersed patches of sub-angular gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.22m of mid brown silty clay topsoil (600), over 0.32m of light reddish brown silty clay loam subsoil (601). Two pieces of flint of possible early Bronze Age date were recovered from the topsoil layer in this trench (600). All features recorded in this trench relate to the continuation of the same two double-ditch hedgebank features recorded to the north in Trench 5. These features were unexcavated and only recorded in plan.

### **5.8 Trench 7 (Detailed plan Fig.6 and sections Figs 7a-d; Plate 5)**

This trench measured 30m long and was aligned NE-SW, and together with Trench 8 was positioned to target one linear and one rectilinear anomaly identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below ground level onto natural subsoil (702) derived from the weathering of the Breccia bedrock. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.31m of dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil (700), over 0.17m of mid brown silty clay subsoil (701) containing occasional gravels derived from the weathering of the natural subsoil. Two linear features associated with geophysical anomalies (F704 and F709) were recorded along with the terminus of one linear feature (F713) and one posthole (F706).

### **Linear features**

Ditch F704 is a linear ditch running in an E-W direction. The feature had maximum dimensions of 1.18m wide x 0.22m deep and contained a single fill (705) caused by natural silting up of the ditch. This feature represents the more northerly of the two anomalies shown on the geophysics.

Ditch F709 is the more southerly of the two linear anomalies recorded in the geophysics. The feature contained three fills (710, 711 and 712). Two fills (710) and (711) are caused by the weathering of the edges of the feature during its life-span and these are sealed by (712), which represents the natural silting of the feature after it had fallen out of use.

Ditch F713 is the cut of the terminus of a linear feature running SE-NW and entering the trench from the SE. The ditch itself is up to 0.19m in depth and shallows out into a rounded terminus. The feature contained two fills. Fill (714) was a light yellowish brown sandy clay caused by weathering of the natural into which the feature is cut. This was sealed above by (715), a deposit formed during the silting up of the feature. It is likely that this feature represents another small boundary type feature.

### **Posthole feature**

Feature F706 represents a potential posthole on the southern edge of ditch cut F704. It is cut by the later ditch feature F704. However, an archaeological origin for F706 is debatable and the feature may be an undulation in the underlying natural subsoil that has subsequently silted up.

## **5.9 Trench 8** (Detailed plan Fig. 6 and sections Figs 7f-j; Plate 6)

This trench measured 30m long and was aligned NW-SE, and adjoined Trench 7. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m below ground level onto a purple-ish red Breccia derived natural subsoil (803). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.22m of dark-brown silty clay loam topsoil (801) over 0.23m of reddish brown silty clay subsoil (802) with occasional Breccia derived gravels. Two linear features associated with geophysical anomalies were recorded (F804, F806) together with one posthole (F808) and one shallow pit (F810).

### **Linear features**

Ditch F804 is the continuation of linear ditch F704 (this ditch was also recorded in Trench 13, see below). Fill 805 consisted of a mid brown silty clay and was found along the southern edge of the feature, consistent with the weathering-in of bank material from this side. One flint scraper of possible early Bronze Age date was recovered from the subsoil (802) that had developed and infilled the upper part of the feature.

Ditch F806 represents a NE-SW running linear ditch feature. This feature is likely to be the return of the rectilinear feature recorded on the geophysical survey (see Fig. 2), the other part of which was picked up in Trench 7 (F709). No evidence of any associated bank material was recorded, and the feature appears to have been allowed to silt up naturally after falling out of use.

### **Pit and posthole features**

Pit F808 is a sub-circular posthole feature located approximately 3m from the NW end of trench 8. There was no evidence for any sort of packing material within the feature. The posthole contained a single fill of mid brown silty clay that contained small flecks of charcoal, suggesting possible human activity in the vicinity at the time of the silting up of the feature.

Pit F810 is the cut of a shallow pit feature located at the SE end of Trench 8. The feature contained a single fill of natural silting material (811). The purpose of this feature is unclear.

## **5.10 Trench 9** (Detailed plan Fig. 7j and sections Figs 7k-l)

Trench 9 measured 25m long and was aligned SW-NE and was positioned to investigate a possible enclosure as shown on the geophysics. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.72m below ground level onto natural subsoil (902) consisting of light brownish red sandy clay with small sub-angular gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.30m of mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (900) over up to 0.56m of light brownish red sandy clay subsoil (901)



with occasional sub-angular pebbles. Below the subsoil layer there was a layer of buried soil (903) consisting of a mid greyish red sandy silt with moderate small to medium sub-angular gravels that represents a previous land surface. One single gully F905 was recorded in this trench.

#### **Linear feature**

Ditch F905 was a single shallow gully or ditch running in a N-S direction. The ditch contained a single fill (904) of naturally accumulated sediments. No finds were recovered from the feature. The feature may be some sort of small drainage ditch.

### **5.11 Trench 10** (Detailed plan Fig. 8a and sections Figs 8b-d)

This trench measured 50m long and was aligned NW-SE, positioned to target linear anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1002) consisting of weathered Breccia derived material. The overlying layer sequence comprised up to 0.25m of dark reddish brown silty clay topsoil (1000), over 0.17m of light reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1001). A total of three linear features were recorded (F1003, F1004 and F1007).

#### **Linear features**

Ditch F1003 was aligned N-S and measured 2.24m wide by 0.20m deep, with sharp shallow sides and a flat base. Through the centre of this cut and on the same alignment was a modern land drain. It is possible that the feature pre-dates the land drain although the possibility that they are contemporary remains high. A single wrought iron nail, three sherds of post-medieval pottery and three fragments of slag were recovered from the fill (1005) of this feature.

Ditch F1004 was aligned N-S and measured 0.8m wide by 0.19m deep. The ditch contained a single fill (1006) of naturally accumulated silts. This feature may represent a possible field boundary.

Ditch F1007 is a linear boundary feature measuring 1.3m wide by 0.78m in depth and running in a N-S direction. The ditch contained three distinct fills ((1008), (1009) and (1010)). Fills (1009) and (1010) are likely to derive from natural weathering of the surrounding deposits during and after the life-span of the feature. The uppermost fill (1008) may represent a final deliberate back-filling of the feature with material of a high organic content. F1007 probably represents a field boundary and matches an angled linear anomaly on the geophysics plot.

### **5.12 Trench 11** (Detailed plan Fig. 8e and sections Figs 8f-g)

This trench measured 25m long, was aligned SW-NE and was positioned to target a linear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.53m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1102) consisting of light brownish red sandy clay with small sub-angular gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.24m of mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (1100) over up to 0.21m of light brownish red sandy clay subsoil (1101) with occasional sub-angular pebbles. One curvi-linear gully (F1105) and a linear gully (F1107) were recorded in this trench.

#### **Linear features**

Ditch F1105 is a curvi-linear gully measuring 0.5m wide by 0.23m deep with a primary fill (1104) of naturally accumulated light yellowish brown silty clay sediments sealed by a secondary fill deposit (1103) of mid yellowish brown silty clay. This feature has the potential to be a possible ring gully of an undefined date although whether the feature is just slightly curved, rather than circular, is difficult to tell due to its position in relation to the trench (see plan Fig. 8e).

Ditch F1107 is a small linear gully measuring 0.61m wide by 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill of naturally accumulated sediments (1106) and may be some sort of minor field boundary or drainage channel.

#### **5.13 Trench 12 (Plate 7)**

This trench was 18.5m long, was aligned N-S and was positioned to investigate a potential archaeological anomaly on the geophysics. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1202) consisting of a dark reddish brown silty sandy gravel containing rare sub-angular stones. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.3m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (1200), over 0.1m of mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1201). The trench uncovered an area of modern building rubble associated with the recent renovation of the adjacent property.

#### **5.14 Trench 13 (Detailed plan Fig. 9a and sections Fig. 9b-c)**

This trench measured 25m long was aligned N-S and joined with Trench 14 halfway along its western side to investigate linear anomalies shown on the geophysics. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.58m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1302) consisting of dark pinkish red silty sand with occasional gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.19m of dark reddish brown silty clay topsoil (1300), over 0.39m of dark reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1301) with moderate stones and gravels. Two linear features (F1303 and F1306) were recorded.

##### **Linear features**

Ditch F1303 was aligned broadly E-W and measured 1.9m wide by 0.45m deep. A sudden steepening of the cut along the southern edge suggests that it may have been re-cut.

Ditch F1306 is another E-W running linear feature measuring 1.55m wide by 0.45m deep. This feature is a continuation of the same linear feature recorded to the east in Trench 7 and Trench 8 (F704 and F804). No datable material was recovered from this section of the feature.

#### **5.15 Trench 14 (Plate 8)**

This trench measured 25m long and was aligned E-W and joined Trench 13 at its eastern end. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below ground level onto natural subsoil (1402) consisting of dark pinkish red silty sand with occasional gravels. The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.15m of darkish brown silty clay topsoil (1400), over 0.25m of dark reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1401) with moderate stones. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.

#### **5.16 Trench 17 (Fig. 2)**

This trench measured 24.5m long and was aligned NE-SW. The trench was excavated to the natural at 0.85m in depth. It had no archaeological deposits.

#### **5.17 Trench 18 (Fig. 2)**

This trench measured 25m long and was aligned NW-SE. The trench was excavated to the natural at 1m in depth. It had no archaeological deposits.

## **6. THE FINDS by Naomi Payne, with a contribution from Henrietta Quinnell**

### **6.1 Introduction and methodology**

All finds recovered on site during the evaluation were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They were then quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage was scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. A total of eight of the 16 evaluation trenches produced finds. The material comprised small assemblages of prehistoric pottery and worked flint, as well as post-medieval or undated finds including pottery, fired clay, iron, clay pipe, ceramic building

material, bottle glass, animal bone, fuel ash slag and charcoal. The finds are summarised in Tables 1 and 2, below.

Context	Context Description	Iron	Prehistoric Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Worked Flint/Chert	
		No	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
117	Secondary fill of linear F111		3	9			1	4
125	Fill of linear F122						1	3
Tr 2 spoil	Trench 2 spoilheap						1	11
201	Agricultural subsoil		2	25				
204	Fill of F203							
300	Topsoil				1	47		
401	Agricultural subsoil				1	36		
403	Upper fill of ditch F404				2	12		
501	Agricultural Subsoil						2	8
503	Fill of ditch F504				1	1	2	9
507	Fill of F508				1	82		
510	Fill of ditch F511				4	3		
512	Fill of ditch F511				1	1		
514	Layer of material between F511 and F513				1	5		
600	Silty clay topsoil						2	56
802	Agricultural Subsoil						1	20
1005	Fill of F1003	1			3	7		
Totals		1	5	34	15	194	10	111

Table 1: Summary of iron, pottery and flint finds by context (weights in grams)

## 6.2 Iron

A single wrought iron nail was recovered from context (1005), the fill of F1003. The nail is unusually long at over 15cm, with a square shank and round domed head. It is most likely 19th or early 20th century in date.

## 6.3 Worked flint

A total of 10 pieces (111g) of worked flint were recovered from seven contexts within five trenches. Most are topsoil or subsoil finds, but both of the circular ditched features in Trench 1 produced a piece of worked flint. Context 117, the secondary fill of linear F111, contained a probable core fragment with some possible retouch along a concave edge. Context 125, a fill of linear F122, produced a flake with retouch along much of one lateral edge.

A flint flake was also recovered from Trench 2. This has some possible and rather uneven retouch along part of one lateral edge. There were two further waste flakes from the agricultural subsoil in Trench 5, and two incomplete flakes from context 503, a fill of hedge bank ditch F504. The larger of these has been retouched unevenly at the proximal end and along both lateral edges, although this is not especially clear due to breakage and edge damage. Trench 6 topsoil produced a multi-platform Portland chert core and a side-and-end scraper, which has been made from an incomplete primary flake. This has been abruptly retouched along much of one lateral edge. The retouch continues around the distal end to form a blunt point. Context 802, agricultural subsoil in Trench 8, produced another side-and-end scraper.

Although this is a small assemblage, all of the flint was found towards the eastern end of the site, suggesting that it is more than just a background scatter. The high percentage of retouched pieces also supports this assertion. None of the worked flints are characteristic of a particular period, but taken as a whole, the variation in size and quality of the pieces suggest an early Bronze Age date for the assemblage.

#### 6.4 Fired clay by Henrietta Quinnell

Six fragments (26g) of fired clay were recovered from the fill of F203 within Trench 2. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. The six fired clay fragments have a fairly well-worked fabric, some with a well-finished surface. This suggests they come from artefacts such as clay weights, sometimes referred to as loom weights, which become common in the Middle Bronze Age, and subsequently with changes in shape are found throughout later prehistory.

#### 6.5 Prehistoric pottery by Henrietta Quinnell

Five sherds (34g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from two contexts in Trenches 1 and 2.

From Trench 1, three conjoining body sherds were recovered from context 117, the secondary fill of feature F111. They are featureless body sherds. The character of the fabric, with only inclusions/temper of very small size, and with an even and very dark reduction, indicates a date in the 1st millennium BC and more likely from the later Iron Age, from c. 300 BC onward.

Context 201, agricultural subsoil within Trench 2, produced two much abraded conjoining sherds. They form a girth sherd with a horizontally pierced lug in an Exeter volcanics fabric. The inclusions are generally 3mm in size or larger. Both the formal characteristics and the fabric indicate broad affinities with Trevisker ceramics and a date in the 2nd millennium BC. Without a context it is impossible to be more precise, but lugs of this type occur on Trevisker and related ceramics in the Early Bronze Age c. 2000-1500 BC and in domestic contexts such as houses and field ditches in the Middle Bronze Age c. 1500-1000 BC.

Context	Context Description	Fired Clay		CBM		Clay Pipe		Animal Bone		Slag		Glass		Charcoal	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
204	Fill of F203	6	26												
309	Fill of linear terminus F310													3	2
403	Upper fill of ditch F404											2	32		
501	Agricultural Subsoil			1	24	3	9								
510	Fill of ditch F511							1	4						
512	Fill of ditch F511					1	3	1	1						
1005	Fill of F1003									3	12				
Totals		6	26	1	24	4	12	2	5	3	12	2	32	3	2

Table 2: Summary of other finds by context (weights in grams)

#### 6.6 Post-medieval pottery

15 sherds (194g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from nine contexts within four trenches.

Trench 3 topsoil produced a rim and handle sherd from a 17th century North Devon gravel-free Type 2B jug. In Trench 4 there were three post-medieval sherds. From the agricultural subsoil there was an 18th or 19th century coarse earthenware base sherd with a streaky manganese glaze. The other two sherds were both from the upper fill of ditch F404, a possible post-medieval field boundary, and included a base sherd from a small refined earthenware bowl or

saucer of late 18th or 19th century date, and an undiagnostic body sherd of coarse glazed earthenware.

The fills of hedge bank ditches F504 and F511 produced small quantities of late 18th and 19th century industrially produced wares. The fill of F508, a re-cut hedge bank ditch, contained a sherd from a South Somerset line sgraffito bowl of probable late 17th century date. Context 514, a layer of possible remnant bank material between hedge bank ditches F511 and F513, produced a rim sherd from a 17th or 18th century North Devon Gravel Free earthenware jar.

Context 1005, the fill of F1003, a wide shallow linear containing a modern land drain in Trench 10, produced three further post-medieval body sherds, including a sherd of late 18th or early 19th century creamware, an 18th or 19th century coarse glazed earthenware sherd and a transfer-printed sherd of probable 20th century date.

The post-medieval pottery is consistent with manuring from with nearby settlement.

### **6.7 Clay pipe**

Four fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from two contexts within Trench 5. They have no diagnostic or datable features. Three of the stem fragments were from context 501, agricultural subsoil, and the other was from context 512, a fill of ditch F511, the north-west cut of the second double-ditched hedge bank.

### **6.8 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

A single fragment (24g) of abraded CBM was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 5. This cannot be closely dated but is most likely of post-medieval date.

### **6.9 Slag**

Three fragments (12g) of fuel ash slag were recovered from context (1005), a fill of wide shallow linear F1003, which contained a modern land drain. Slag of this type is produced during a reaction shared by many pyrotechnical processes and is therefore undiagnostic.

### **6.10 Glass**

Two fragments (32g) of English green bottle glass were recovered from context 403, the upper fill of ditch F404, a possible post-medieval field boundary.

### **6.11 Animal bone**

Two pieces (5g) of animal bone were recovered, both from fills of hedge bank ditch F511, within Trench 5. The animal bones comprise a tooth of a medium-sized mammal and an incomplete long bone from a small mammal.

### **6.12 Charcoal**

Three pieces (2g) of charcoal were retrieved from context 309, the fill of ditch terminus F310.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

**7.1** The evaluation has identified the presence of a large number of archaeological features distributed across the site. The majority of these features closely correspond to the anomalies identified from the geophysical survey. Other features recorded were not picked up by the geophysical survey. Of the 16 trenches excavated, features were present within 12 of these. These include a number of medieval/post-medieval field boundaries or drainage gullies, several undated pits/postholes, two possible ring ditches of ploughed out barrows, and a possible prehistoric enclosure with evidence of potential occupation activity, and one other possible ring-gully.

## 7.2 Major Field Boundaries

Many of the features picked up on the geophysical survey and recorded on this excavation relate to the boundaries of pre-modern landscape, almost all of which seem to have been left to silt up after going out of use. A number of these features associated with these field boundaries are best considered when grouped together.

The double ditched hedgebank features recorded in Trench 5 and Trench 6 can be seen on the geophysical survey plot to be on the same alignment as F1003 recorded in Trench 10 located approximately 140m west. The two sets of hedgebanks recorded in Trench 5 and Trench 6 can also be seen on the geophysics plot joining with another linear feature recorded in Trench 4 as F404. Although beyond the extent of the survey area it is possible that the linear ditches F1003 and F404 may potentially have met underneath an area that is now modern housing. It is therefore likely that the linear features recorded in these trenches may relate to the same field system and are probably post-medieval in date. The linear ditch in Trench 2 (F211) can also be seen on the geophysics plot to match this pattern of field boundaries and is therefore probably contemporary.

Two features recorded in Trench 7 and Trench 8 (F709 and F806) represent two sides to what is shown on the geophysical survey as a probable rectilinear anomaly. There is the possibility that these features once formed part of a small field system or formed the enclosure around a dwelling of some sort (possibly located beyond the area of the survey to the south). This rectilinear enclosure is on a different alignment to the nearby hedgebank features described above and is therefore likely to relate to a separate period of enclosure. F1007 in Trench 10 probably represents another field boundary whose orientation on the geophysics plot suggests that it may be contemporary with the rectilinear feature identified in Trenches 7 and 8. The lack of finds from these features precludes the dating of this phase.

The linear feature recorded in Trench 7, Trench 8 and Trench 13 (F704, F804 and F1306) is on a different alignment to the two groups of features previously described. The feature is shown on the geophysical survey as having a relationship with both the recti-linear enclosure and the double-ditch hedgebank features although investigation of these relationships was beyond the current limits of excavation. The fact that the line of this linear feature cuts across the present course of Chudleigh Road suggests that this feature may pre-date the road. A flint scraper of possible Bronze Age date recovered from the upper fills of F804 and may suggest a prehistoric date. Linear feature F1303 was located approximately 13m south of F1306, running parallel to it and on the same alignment and may form part of the same phase of land division.

Feature F1004, located towards the western end of Trench 10 is also likely to represent another field boundary. Its relationship to other field boundaries recorded is less certain, although its N-S alignment is similar to other features that have been recorded.

## 7.3 Minor Field Boundaries and Gullies

There were a number of features recorded across the site that have been interpreted as potential minor field boundaries or possible drainage gullies (F107, F203, F209, F211, F310, F713, F905, F1004 and F1107). This interpretation is largely based on their smaller size in comparison to those features described above. The similarities in some of the alignments between some of these features with those described in the previous section may suggest that they form part of contemporary field systems although the absence of finds recovered from these features makes assigning an exact date difficult although they are likely to be post-medieval in date.

## 7.4 Pits and Postholes

A total of four pit features were recorded across the site (F205, F213, F304 and F810). These ranged in size between 0.42-0.55m in width by 0.09-0.35m in depth. No finds were recovered from these features and their date and purpose remains uncertain.

Three features interpreted as postholes were recorded across the site (F308, F706 and F808). These features ranged in size from 0.17-0.38m wide by 0.12-0.33m in depth. None of these features contained any evidence for post-packing within them, nor were any finds recovered from the fills.

It is difficult to establish a relationship between the majority of these pit and posthole features and other features found during this evaluation. However, a number of these features (F213, F304 and F308) are grouped together within a possible enclosure feature described below.

## **7.5 Circular Enclosure**

A possible circular enclosure showed as a geophysics anomaly and was investigated in Trenches 2 and 3. On excavation the evidence was slight and probably consists of the linear ditch features F203, F209 and F310, which appear to coincide with the geophysics and share a similar size, profile and depositional history. Two of these features appear to have terminal ends and perhaps indicate that the enclosure had multiple causeways or has been damaged by plough activity. The excavated section of the ditch F203 appears on plan to be curved in the wrong direction and the evidence that this enclosure has been identified in excavation is inconclusive. A natural origin, with some of the features being parts of ice wedges, is also possible. The internal diameter of the enclosure would be approximately 20m.

A concentration of the pit and posthole features described above (F213, F304 and F308) are located within the area that could be enclosed by this ditch, suggesting this circular feature may enclose an area of human activity. The excavated section of the ditch F203 contained baked clay fragments which may be weights for a loom and this feature was cut by a posthole. Ditch section F310 contained fragments of charcoal in its fill (309).

## **7.6 Ring ditches**

Two adjacent possible ring ditches for ploughed out barrows were identified as geophysical anomalies.

The first of these ring ditches was identified at the northernmost end of Trench 1 by two sections (F103 and F111) dug through the ditch that would have surrounded the barrow. The area enclosed would be approximately 8.5m in diameter. It is worth noting however, that the recorded profiles of the two sections differ in both size and shape, as do the deposition of fills within them. For example F103 measured 1.59m+ wide (not fully excavated as it extended beyond the trench edge) by 0.45m deep and had evidence for the weathering-in of an internal mound or bank. F111 however measured 2.39m wide by 0.98m deep and showed no evidence of any weathering-in of material from the interior. Prehistoric pottery and a worked flint recovered from an upper fill (117) of F111 may indicate that the ditch is a prehistoric feature. The differences between the two sections of ditch may be explained by differences in subsequent activity on the site that have created differential preservation but this is something that would need to be investigated by further excavation.

The second of these ring ditches was recorded as features F122 and F126 and was located in Trench 1 approximately 9m south of the ring ditch described above. The two sections of the circular perimeter ditch show a reasonably uniform size (1.06-1.35m wide by 0.39-0.50m in depth) and a similar record of deposition of fills within them (some minor sedimentation caused by weathering of edges before being allowed to silt up completely). The internal diameter of the ring ditch is approximately 9m.

The possibility remains that the ditch F107, which has the appearance of a small field boundary, may be associated with the northernmost ring ditch as it is situated between the two excavated sections, but identifying any relationship was beyond the scope of the current excavation. There was no evidence of a central burial pit or other contemporary features within

the areas of the ring ditches excavated or between them. However, the possibility of such features within or in the vicinity of the ring-ditches remains.

## **7.7 Other features**

One deposit of buried soil was recorded in Trench 9 (903), however no archaeological features were recorded in association with the deposit. A number of other features of a non-archaeological origin were also recorded during the evaluation. F207 is a possible 'shrub-bowl' or of some other biological origin. F305 is a linear feature of possible geological origin.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

**8.1** This evaluation has revealed many archaeological features across almost the entirety of the site. The majority of these features probably relate to former land divisions and field boundaries and associated agricultural features (such as drainage gullies) that once existed across the area. These features can be broken down into a number of different phases as described above. How these phases relate to one another in a chronological sense is unclear. The main bulk of these features are on generally similar alignments to the existing field systems, appear to respect the location of Chudleigh Road and are likely to be post-medieval (or perhaps medieval) in date. The exceptions to this are the linear feature picked up through Trench 7, Trench 8 and Trench 13 that appears to cut across the line of the present road and may therefore predate it, and the possible enclosure or boundaries investigated in Trenches 7, 8 and 10. The possibility of prehistoric dates for these should not be excluded.

**8.2** The main area of interest highlighted by this evaluation is the area investigated by Trenches 1-3 towards the north-eastern corner of the site. This area contains a number of prehistoric features that could include the remains of two barrows of Bronze Age date, and a nearby circular enclosure, which shows potential evidence of human occupation activity. The presence of prehistoric activity on the site fits in with the wider understanding of the prehistoric landscape to the south-west of Exeter that includes Bronze Age barrows at Castle Park to the south, crop-marks thought to relate to prehistoric land use on Knowle Hill immediately to the north-east, pits containing Neolithic pottery at neighbouring Matford Barn (Hughes and Valentin 2010), and another ring ditch of a ploughed out prehistoric barrow recorded at Balls Farm Road, Alphington approximately 1km north-west (Caine and Valentin 2011).

## **9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS**

**9.1** 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, prior to deposition under a museum-allocated accession number at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

**9.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier 150006, which includes a digital copy of this report.

## **10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

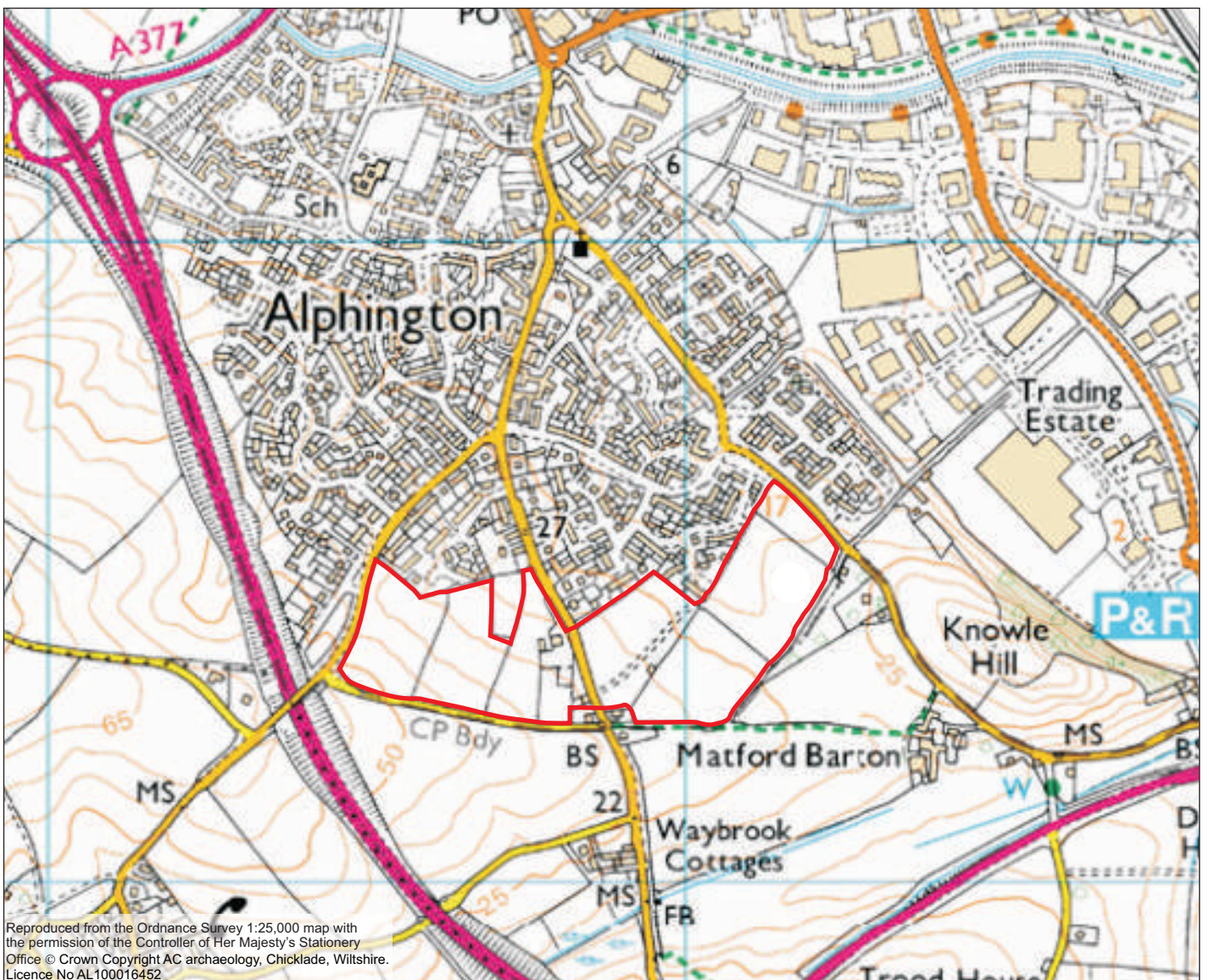
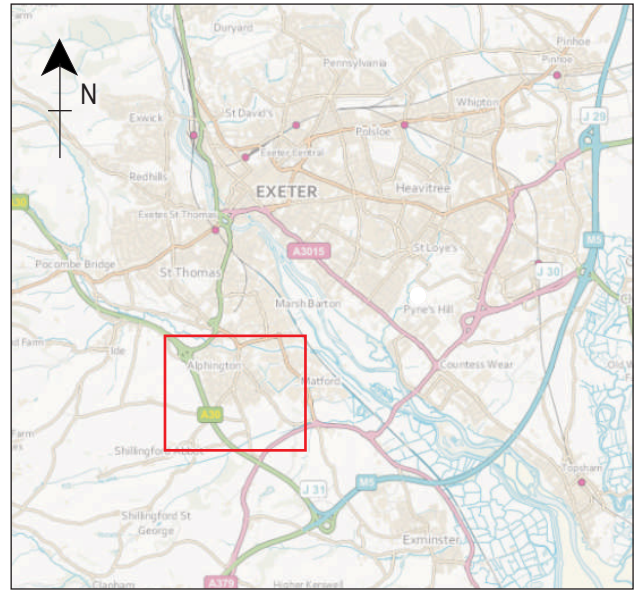
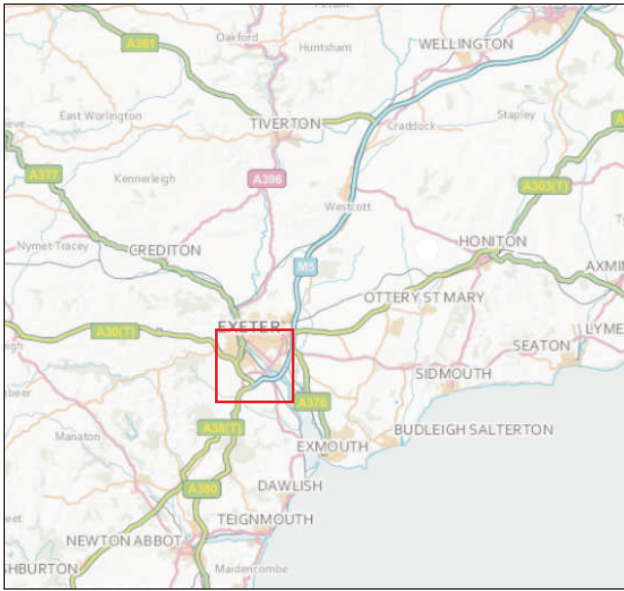
**10.1** The evaluation was commissioned by NPS South West Ltd. The site work was undertaken by Dan Brace, Simon Reames, Chris Caine, Ben Pears, Jon Hall, Will Smith and Arleen Fadden. The illustrations were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore and Elisabeth Patkai. The collaborative role of Andrew Pye, Exeter City Council Archaeology Officer is duly acknowledged.

## **11. REFERENCES**

Caine, C., and Valentin, J., 2011, 'Part of a prehistoric ring ditch and two post-Roman corn drying ovens on land at Oaklands, Cowick Lane, Exeter', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **69**, 95-112.



- Hughes, S. and Valentin, J., 2010, *Land Southwest of Exeter Development Masterplan Area: Archaeology and cultural heritage assessment, fieldwalking and geophysical survey*. AC archaeology report, ref. **ACD114/2/0**.
- Tyler, K., 2009, *Archaeological Excavation at Matford Barton, Exminster, Devon*. Exeter Archaeology report no. **09.37**.



0 500m  
Scale 1:10,000@A4

 Site location

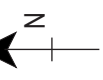
PROJECT

Chudleigh Road, Alphington, Exeter

TITLE

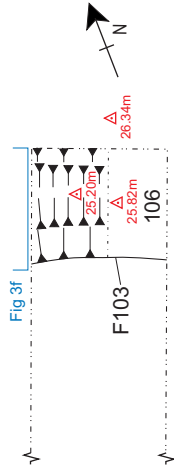
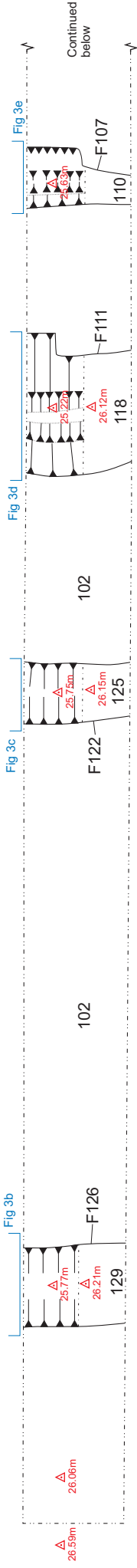
Fig. 1: Site location



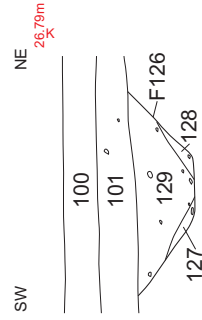


Tr 17

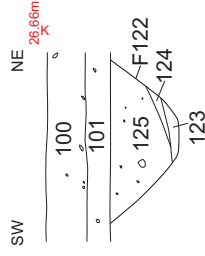
a) Trench 1, plan



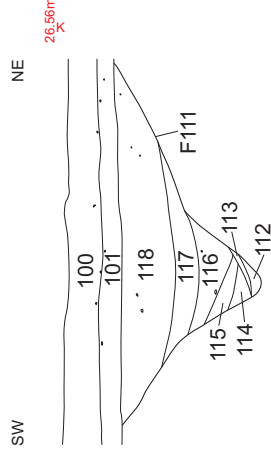
b) Section of F126



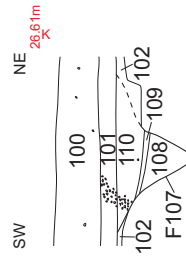
c) Section of F122



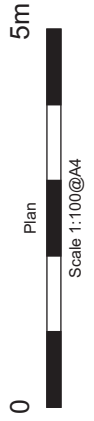
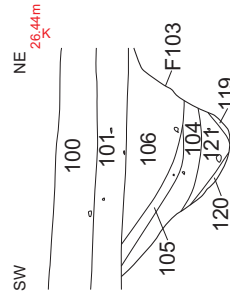
d) Section of F111



e) Section of F107



f) Section of F103



PROJECT

Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

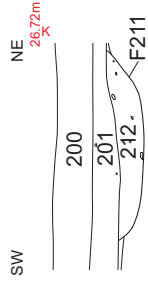
TITLE

Fig. 3: Trench 1, plan  
and sections



ACI archaeology

a) Section of F211



b) Section of F209



c) Section of F213



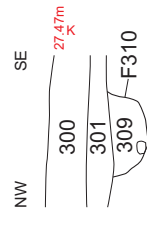
d) Section of F207



e) Section of F203



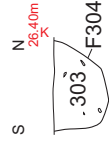
f) Section of F310



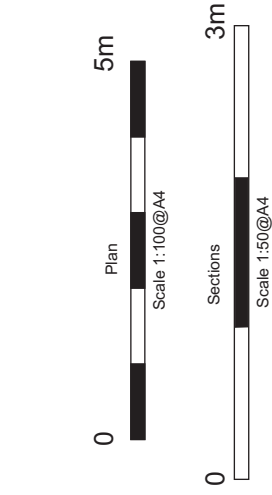
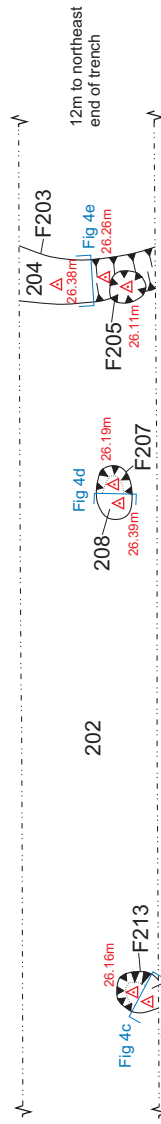
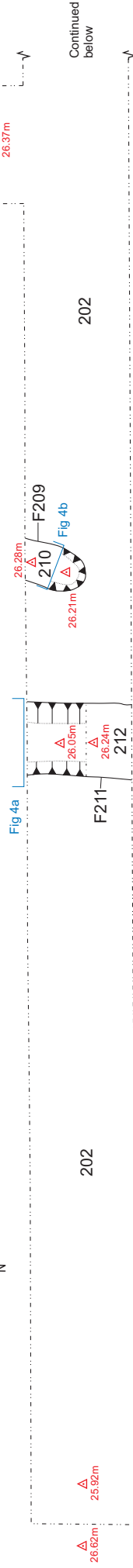
g) Section of F308



h) Section of F304



j) Trenches 2 and 3, plan



PROJECT  
Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 4: Trenches 2 and 3,  
plan and sections

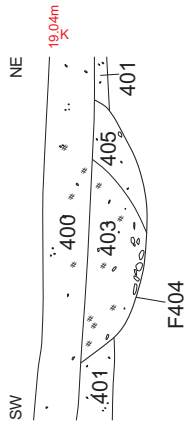


AC archaeology

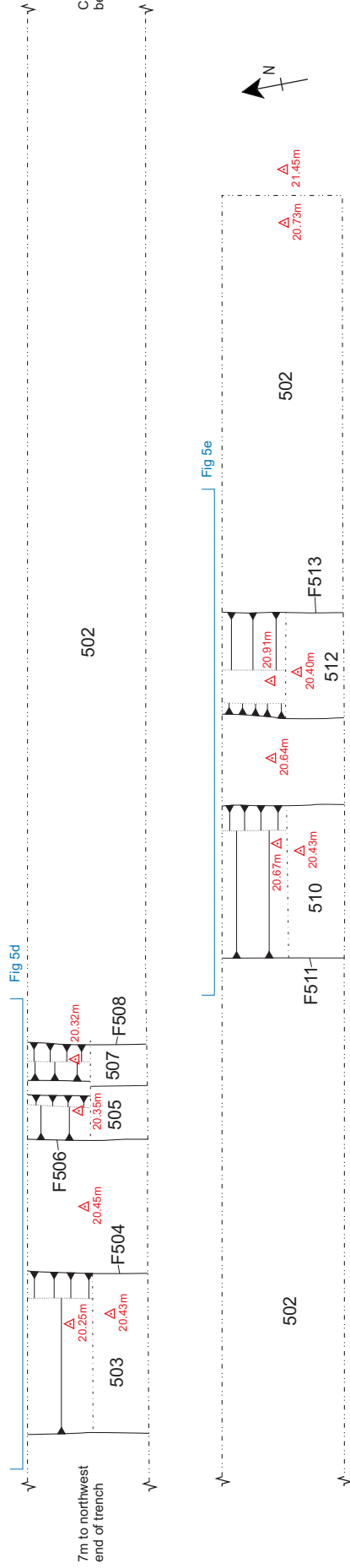
a) Trench 4, plan



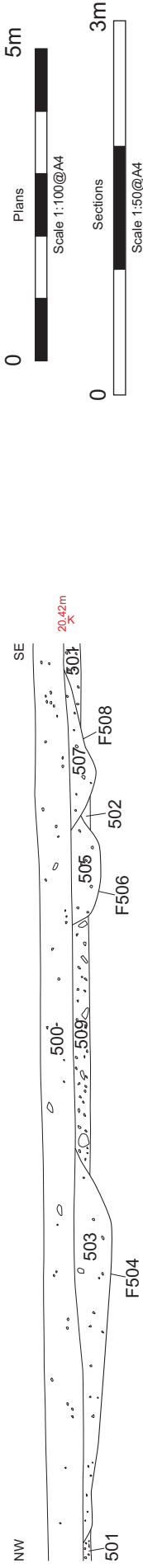
b) Section of F 404



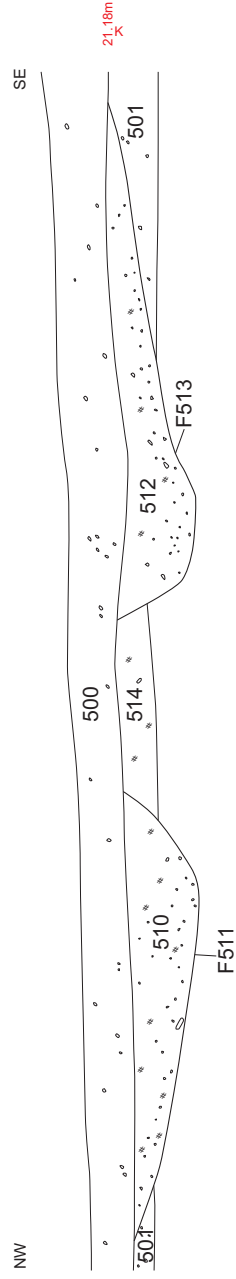
c) Trench 5, plan



d) Section of F504, F506 and F508



e) Section of F511 and F513



PROJECT

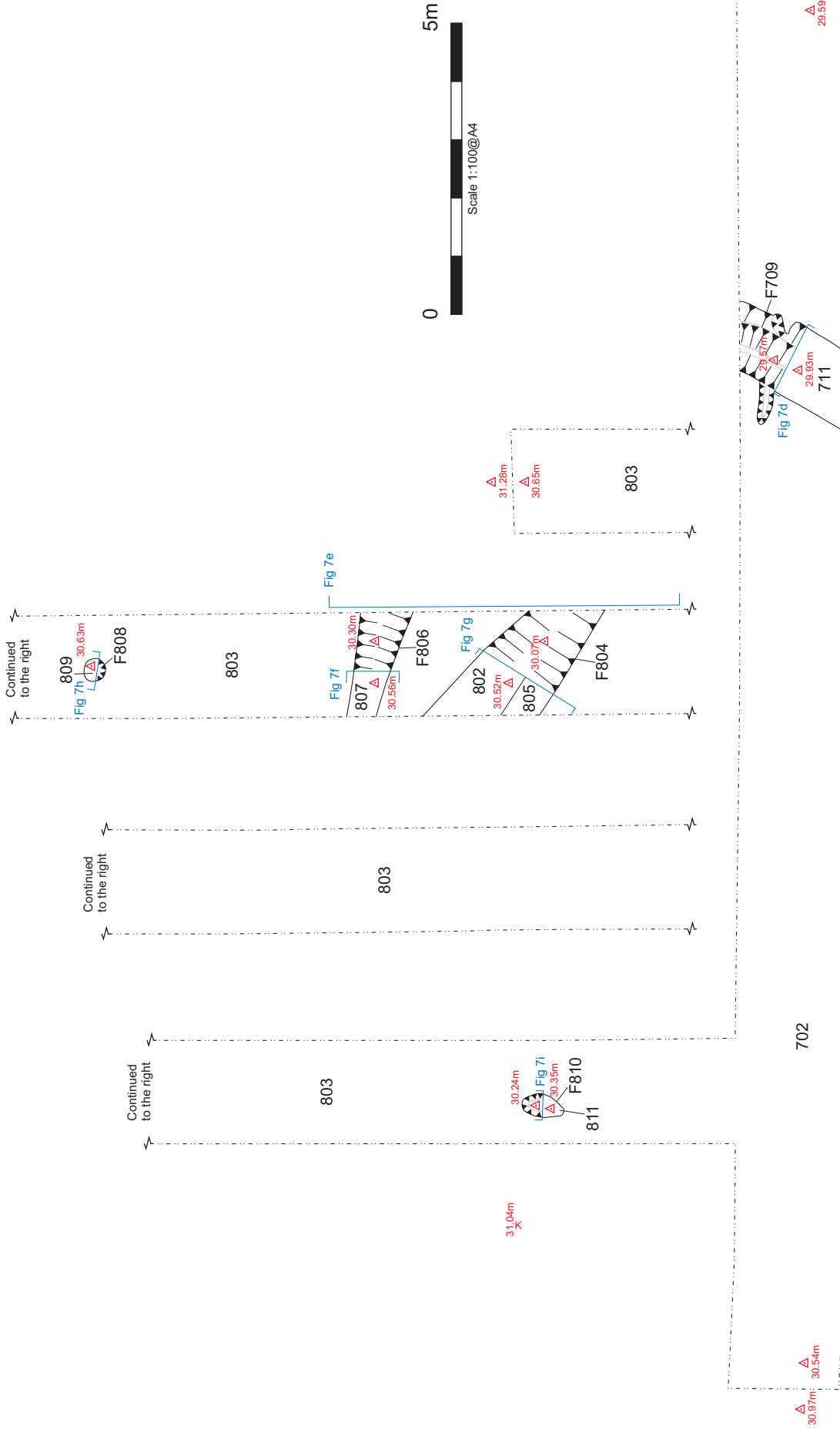
Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 5: Trenches 4 and 5,  
plans and sections



AC archaeology



PROJECT

Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

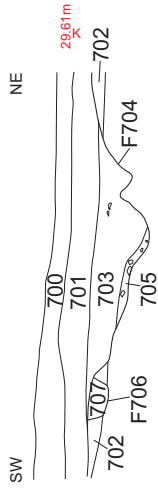
TITLE

Fig. 6: Trenches 7 and 8,  
plan

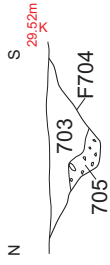


ACI archaeology

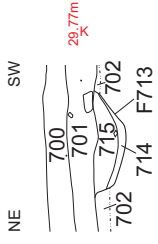
a) Section of F704 and F706



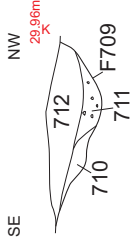
b) Section of F704



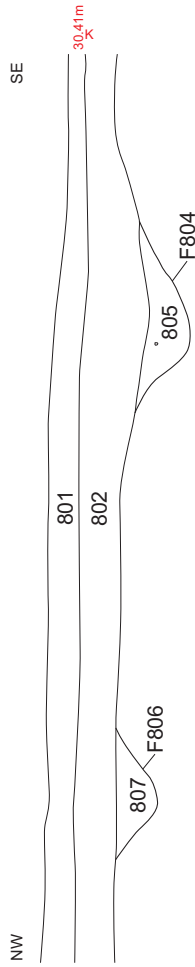
c) Section of F713



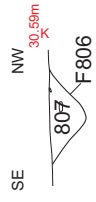
d) Section of F709



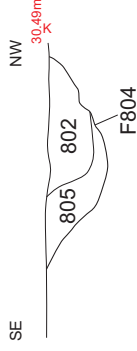
e) Section of F804 and F806



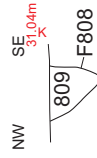
f) Section of F806



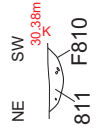
g) Section of F804



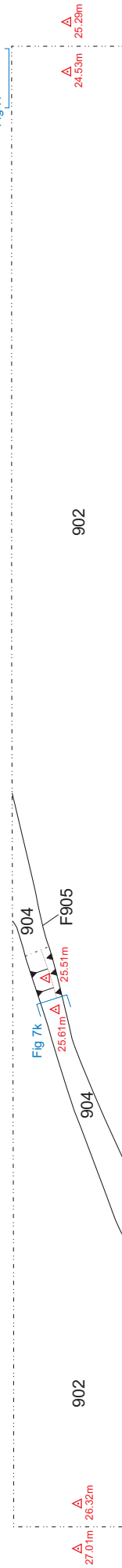
h) Section of F808



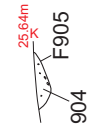
i) Section of F810



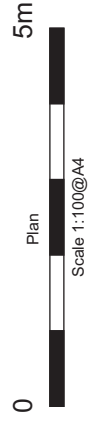
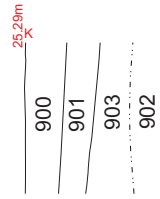
j) Trench 9, plan



k) Section of F905



l) Representative section



PROJECT

Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 7: Trenches 7 and 8  
sections, and trench 9  
plan and sections

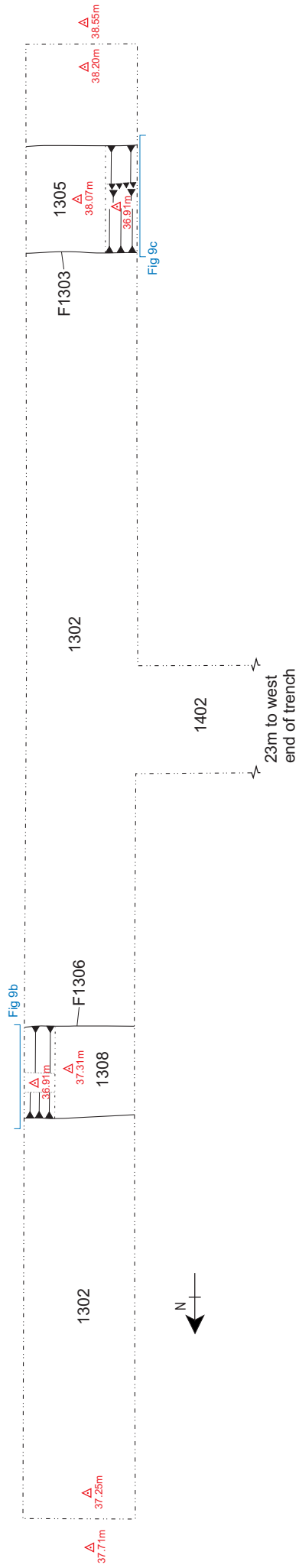


archaeology

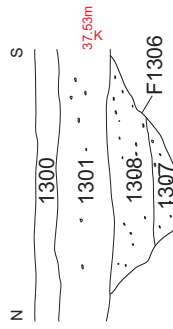




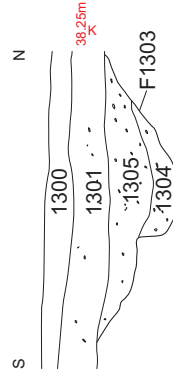
a) Trench 13, plan



b) Section of F1306



c) Section of F1303



PROJECT

Chudleigh Road,  
Alphington, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 9: Trench 13, plan  
and sections



ACI archaeology



Plate 1: Trench 1, section of ditch feature F103, view from the east (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Trench 1, section of ditch F111, view from the east (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 5, section of ditch features F504, F506 and F508, with trenches 2 and 3 in the background, view from the southwest (scale 2m)



Plate 4: Trench 5, general view of double ditch and bank features F504, F506 and F508, view from the southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Trench 7, section of linear F704, view from the northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Trench 8, section of linear F804, view from the east (scale 2m)



Plate 7: General view of Trench 12, view from south (scale 2m x 1m)



Plate 8: General view of Trench 14, view from west (scale 2m x 1m)

# Appendix 1

Context descriptions

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		Length 30m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Dark Brown Clayey Silt, friable, rare to occasional sub-angular gravels. Modern ploughsoil	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
101	Light reddish brown clayey silt, loose, rare sub-angular gravels	0.28 - 0.49m	Subsoil	
102	Light reddish pink silty clay, firm, contains alternating bands of sands and gravels	0.49m+	Natural subsoil	
103	Cut of shallow wide ditch 1.59m wide x 0.45m deep, variable sides and a sloping base	0.49- 0.95m	Cut of linear feature, possible barrow ditch	
104	Mid-dark brown clayey silt, loose	0.86-0.95m	Fill of linear F103	
105	Light red clayey silt, loose	0.79-0.86m	Fill of linear F103	
106	Mid brown clayey silt, loose	0.41-0.79m	Fill of linear F103	
107	Cut of E-W running ditch, moderately steep sides, u-shaped base, 1.14m w by 0.45m d	0.49-0.99m	Cut of linear feature	
108	Grey brown clayey silt, loose	0.79-0.99m	Fill of F107	
109	Light red/ pinky brown, silty clay	0.73-0.79m	Fill of F107	
110	Mid brown clayey silt, loose	0.54-0.73m	Fill of F107	
111	Cut of ditch on E-W alignment, straight moderately sloping sides, rounded base, 2.38m w by 0.98m d	0.49-1.47m	Cut of linear feature, possible barrow ditch	
112	Dark reddish brown silty sand clay, loose	1.40-1.47m	Fill of linear F111	
113	Light yellowy red clayey sand	1.36-1.40m	Fill of linear F111	
114	Mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt	1.24-1.36m	Fill of linear F111	
115	Yellowy brown clayey sandy silt, loose	1.12-1.24m	Fill of linear F111	
116	Light reddish brown clayey silt, loose	0.99-1.24m	Fill of linear F111	
117	Mid brown clayey silt, loose	0.83-0.99m	Fill of linear F111	
118	Mid reddy brown clayey silt, loose	0.48-0.83m	Fill of linear F111	
119	red silty clay, loose	0.92-0.95m	Fill of linear F103	
120	Red silty clay, loose	0.91-0.95m	Fill of linear F103	
121	Light reddy brown clayey silt, loose	0.71-0.91m	Fill of linear F103	
122	Cut of E-W running ditch, moderate to steep sides, flat base, 1.06m w by 0.5m d	0.49-0.99m	Cut of linear feature, possible barrow ditch	
123	reddy brown sandy clay silt, loose	0.91-0.99m	Fill of linear F122	
124	Browny red sandy clay silt, loose	0.86-0.91m	Fill of linear F122	
125	Mid brown clayey silt, loose	0.46-0.86m	Fill of linear F122	
126	Cut of curvi-linear ditch on E-W alignment, straight moderately sloping sides, flat base, 1.35m w by 0.39m d	0.49-0.78m	Cut of curvilinear feature, possible barrow ditch	
127	light red clayey sandy silt, loose	0.70-0.78m	Fill of curvilinear F126	
128	Light red clayey sandy silt	0.69-0.78m	Fill of curvilinear F126	
129	Mid brown clayey sandy silt, loose	0.31-0.70m	Fill of curvilinear F126	

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 2			Length 50m	Width 1.80m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
200	Mid-dark brown clayey silt, loose, rare sub-angular stones, modern ploughsoil	0-0.24m	Topsoil		
201	Mid reddy brown clayey silt, loose, rare sub-angular stones	0.24-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil		
202	Dark red silty sandy gravel, varies between more gravelly to more sandy consistence across trench	0.50m+	Natural subsoil		
203	Cut of shallow gully or ditch, shallow concave sides, concave base, 0.55m w by 0.12m d	0.50-0.62m	Cut of shallow gully or ditch, possible enclosure boundary		
204	Light brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.62m	Fill of F203		
205	Cut of pit in Northern half of trench, steep straight sides, concave base, 0.43m diameter by 0.28m deep	0.50-0.78m	Cut of pit feature, unknown purpose		
206	Light brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.78m	Fill of pit F205		
207	Cut of ovoid shrub bowl, steep concave sides, concave base, 0.47m dia by 0.22m deep	0.50-0.72m	Cut of shrub bowl		
208	Mid-orange brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.72m	Fill of F207		
209	Cut of ditch terminus, southern end of trench, 0.71m w by 0.07m d	0.50-0.57m	Cut of ditch terminus, possible enclosure boundary		
210	Light brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.57m	Fill of F209		
211	Cut of E-W running linear in southern end of trench, moderately sloping straight sides, flat base	0.50-0.69m	Cut of linear, possible field boundary		
212	Mid-dark brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.69m	Fill of F211		
213	Cut of small circular pit or post-hole, steep straight sides, concave base, 0.55m dia by 0.25m deep	0.50-0.75m	Cut of pit or posthole, unknown purpose		
214	Dark brown clayey silt, loose	0.50-0.75m	Fill of F213		

Trench 3			Length 25m	Width 2.0m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
300	Dark brown loamy sand	0-0.20m	Topsoil		
301	Red sandy silt	0.20-0.30m	Agricultural subsoil		
302	Breccia derived natural subsoil	0.30m+	Natural subsoil		
303	Dark red brown sandy silt, angular gravels and small stones	0.30-0.65m	Fill of pit F304		
304	Ovoid pit feature, steep sides, rounded base, 0.55m dia by 0.35 deep	0.50-0.65m	Cut of pit		
305	Red brown sandy silt	0.30-0.75m	Fill of linear F306		
306	N-S linear ditch, steep sides, undulating rounded base, 0.75m w by 0.43m d	0.30-0.73m	Cut of Linear, possible paeleo-channel		
307	Dark Red brown sandy silt with stony inclusions	0.30-0.55m	Fill of small pit/posthole F308		
308	Cut of small pit or posthole, very steep sides, conical (v-shaped) base, 0.17m w by 0.25m deep	0.30-0.55m	Cut of small pit/posthole		
309	Dark red brown sandy silty clay	0.30-0.70m	Fill of linear terminus F310		
310	Cut of linear terminus, gently sloping sides, rounded base, 0.65m w by 0.40m deep	0.30-0.70m	Cut of linear terminus, possible enclosure boundary		

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 4		Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular gravel, occasional small charcoal and coal flecks, Ploughsoil	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
401	Light brownish red sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.30-0.54m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Light yellow – light brownish grey sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.54m+	Natural subsoil	
403	Mid reddish brown sandy clay, firm, moderate very small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.54-0.98m	Top fill of ditch F404	
404	Cut of NE-SW linear, moderately sloping sides, rounded base, 1.73m w by 0.44m d	0.54-0.98m	Cut of linear, possible post-medieval field boundary	
405	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.62-0.98m	Primary fill of F404	

Trench 5		Length 50m	Width 1.90m	Alignment SE-NW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular gravel, occasional small charcoal and coal flecks, Ploughsoil	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
501	Light brownish red sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.28-0.51m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Light yellow – light brownish grey sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.51m+	Natural subsoil	
503	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable, occasional small to medium sub-rounded gravels	0.51-0.81m	Fill of ditch F504	
504	Cut of ditch, shallow-moderately sloping sides, sharp BOS, rounded base, 3.16m w by 0.30m d	0.51-0.81m	NW Cut of double ditch hedgebank together with F506	
505	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable, occasional small to medium sub-rounded gravels	0.51-0.74m	Fill of ditch F506	
506	Cut of ditch, shallow-moderately sloping sides, sharp BOS, rounded base, 0.86m w by 0.23m d	0.51-0.74m	SE Cut of double ditch hedgebank together with F504	
507	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable, occasional small to medium sub-rounded gravels	0.51-0.76m	Fill of ?re-cut of F506	
508	Cut of linear, moderately sloping sides, rounded base, 1.26m w by 0.26m d	0.51-0.77m	Possible re-cut of F506	
509	Mid reddish yellow, clayey sand, firm, frequent small to large sub-angular gravels	0.36-0.51m	Layer of remnant bank material between F504 and F506/508	
510	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable, occasional small to medium sub-rounded gravels	0.51m-1.0m	Fill of ditch F511	
511	Cut of ditch, shallow-moderately sloping sides, sharp BOS, rounded base, 2.94m w by 0.49m d	0.51m-1.0m	NW Cut of double ditch hedgebank together with F513	
512	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, friable, occasional small to medium sub-rounded gravels, small lime flecks	0.51-1.12m	Fill of ditch F511	
513	Cut of ditch, shallow-moderately sloping sides, sharp BOS, rounded base, 3.41m w by 0.61m d	0.51-1.12m	SE cut of double ditch hedgebank together with F511	
514	Mid reddish yellow, clayey sand, firm, frequent small to large sub-angular gravels	0.32-0.51m	Layer of possible remnant bank material between F511 and F513	



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 6		Length 50m	Width 1.60m	Alignment ENE-WSW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Mid brown silty clay, soft, occasional sub-angular-rounded gravels, ploughsoil	0-0.22m	Topsoil	
601	Light reddish brown silty clay loam, soft, small sub-rounded gravels	0.22-0.72m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Mid reddish brown-mid orangey yellow silty clay/marl, dispersed patches of sub-angular gravels	0.72m+	Natural subsoil	
603	Remnant bank material, SE hedgebank, not excavated	0.53-0.72m	Remnant bank material between 604 and 605	
604	Ditch feature, probable continuation of F513, not excavated	0.9m wide	Probable continuation of F513	
605	Ditch feature, probable continuation of F511, not excavated	0.9m wide	Probable continuation of F511	
606	Ditch feature, probable continuation of F504, not excavated	2.7m wide	Probable continuation of F504	
607	Ditch feature, probable continuation of F506, not excavated	1.68m wide	Probable continuation of F506	

Trench 7		Length 30m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Dark grey brown silty clay loam, friable, occasional small mixed stones, occasional modern bldg material	0-0.31m	Topsoil	
701	Mid brown silty clay, friable, frequent small angular Breccia derived gravels	0.31-0.48m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Red-reddish brown, weathered Breccia, friable, mod-freq mixed rounded-sub-angular, occasionally tabular mixed small stones	0.48m+	Natural subsoil	
703	Dark reddish brown, Silt sandy clay, friable, moderate small angular mixed gravels	0.48-0.71m	Upper fill of linear F704	
704	Cut of linear feature, gentle BOS, moderately sloping sides, rounded base, 1.18m wide x 0.43m d	0.48-0.91m	Cut of linear boundary feature (same as F805, F1306)	
705	Reddish brown silty sandy clay, friable, moderate mixed angular small gravels, occasional sub angular mixed pebbles	0.71-0.91m	Primary fill of F704	
706	?Circular post-hole, 0.22m dia by 0.12 deep	0.48-0.60m	Cut of posthole, possible natural feature	
707	Mid brown sandy silty clay, friable, occ small mixed gravels, very occasional sub angular pebbles	0.48-0.60m	Fill of F706	
708	VOID	VOID	VOID	
709	Linear feature, moderate BOS, moderately sloping side (E edge more irregular) rounded base, 1.28m w x 0.36m d	0.48-0.74m	Cut of more southerly of linear features on geophysics (probably same as F806)	
710	Mid red -brown (mottled) sandy clay, friable, very occasional small charcoal flecks	0.48-0.55m	Primary fill in F709	
711	Reddish brown sandy clay, friable, occasional sub-angular mixed pebbles	0.48-0.65m	Primary fill of F709	
712	Mid brown sandy silty clay, friable, occasional angular and subangular mixed pebbles	0.48-0.72m	Upper fill of F709	
713	Linear terminus, Moderate BOS, shallow sides, rounded base rising into gentle terminus, 0.66m w x 0.19m deep	0.48-0.67m	Terminus of linear feature, not shown on geophysics	
714	Light yellowish brown sandy clay, friable, occasional sub-angular pebbles	0.63-0.67m	Primary fill of F714	
715	Mid Brown sandy silty clay, friable, very occasional angular/tabular sandstone	0.48-0.63m	Upper fill of F714	

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 8		Length 30m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
801	Dark Brown silty clay loam, friable, occasional sub-angular mixed gravels, occasional mixed modern pot, CBM	0-0.22m	Topsoil	
802	Mid reddish brown silty clay, friable, occasional mixed sub-angular pebbles, occasional mixed sub-angular gravels	0.22-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil	
803	Purple-ish red/ yellowish brown, weathered Breccia bedrock/light sandy patches, frequent mixed angular/sub-angular/tabular pebbles	0.45m+	Natural subsoil	
804	Linear, moderate BOS, moderately sloping sides, flatish/slightly rounded base 1.4m w x 0.39m deep	0.048-0.87m	Cut of linear boundary feature (same as F704, F1306)	
805	Mid brown silty clay, friable, very occasional sub angular mixed pebbles and gravels	0.57-0.87m	Fill of ditch F804	
806	Linear feature, NW-SW, gradual BOS, gently sloping sides, 0.6m wide x 0.25m deep	0.48-0.73m	Cut of linear feature, possible same as F709	
807	Reddish brown silty clay, sticky, occasional medium sized pebbles	0.48-0.73m	Fill of ditch F806	
808	Cut of post-hole, subcircular, eastern half= sharp BOS, very steep sides, western half = more moderate BOS, more moderately sloping sides, 0.38m dia x 0.33m deep	0.48-0.81m	Cut of posthole	
809	Mid brown silty clay, friable, very occasional small charcoal flecks terminus, 1m wide by 0.25m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	0.48-0.81m	Fill of posthole F808	
810	Cut of oval pit, straight shallow sides, concave base, 0.42m dia x 0.09m deep	0.48-0.57m	Cut of shallow pit or shrub bowl	
811	Mid brown clayey silt, loose, rare sub-angular gravels	0.48-0.57m	Fill of pit/shrub bowl F810	

Trench 9		Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular gravel, occasional small charcoal and coal flecks, Ploughsoil	0-0.22m	Topsoil	
901	Light brownish red sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.22-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil	
902	Light yellow – light brownish grey sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.72m+	Natural subsoil	
903	Mid greyish red sandy silt, firm, moderate small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.40-0.72m	Buried soil horizon, sealed beneath agricultural subsoil (902)	
904	Light brown, sandy silt, friable, moderate small to medium sub-rounded pebbles	0.72-0.81m	Fill of ditch F903	
905	Linear, sharp BOS, very shallow sides, rounded base, 0.38m w x 0.09m deep	0.72-0.81m	Cut of shallow gully or ditch, possible for drainage	

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 10			Length 52m	Width 1.90m	Alignment W-E
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1000	Dark brown to Reddish brown silty clay loam, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular mixed pebbles	0-25m	Topsoil		
1001	Light reddish brown coloured silty clay, similar inclusions as above	0.25-0.42m	Agricultural subsoil		
1002	Degraded Breccia	0.42+m	Natural subsoil		
1003	Linear, sharp sides, sharp top and bottom BOS, flat base, 2.24m w x 0.20m deep	0.42-0.62m	Wide shallow linear feature, modern lain drain runs through middle, possible modern feature.		
1004	Linear, sharp edges and BOS, irregular base, 0.8m w x 0.19m deep	0.42-0.61m	Cut of possible N-S running boundary feature		
1005	Dark grey to greyish brown, silty clay, soft, small mixed sub-angular to sub-rounded stones, occasional organics and charcoal inclusions	0.42-0.62m	Fill of F1003		
1006	Light grey to greyish yellow, sandy silt, loose, occasional small pebbles and sub-rounded quartzite inclusions	0.42-0.61m	Low organic fill of F1004		
1007	N-S running linear, sharp but irregular edges, sharp BOS, flat but irregular base, 1.3m w x 0.78m deep	0.42- 1.2m	Large linear feature, probable boundary ditch		
1008	Dark grey to greyish brown silty clay, loose, occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded mixed stones, occasional organics and charcoal	0.42-0.53m	Upper semi-organic fill of F1007		
1009	Light grey to light yellowish orange, silty clay, stoney consistency, occasional sub-rounded quartzite and sandstone, occasional organics	0.87-1.2m	Main fill of F1007		
1010	Light yellow to grey yellow silty sand, very occasional large rounded stones	1.05-1.2m	Primary fill of linear feature F1007		

Trench 11			Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1100	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, friable, moderate small sub-angular gravel, occasional small charcoal and coal flecks, Ploughsoil	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
1101	Light brownish red sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.25-0.46m	Agricultural subsoil		
1102	Light yellow – light brownish grey sandy clay, firm, occasional small sub-angular gravels	0.46m+	Natural subsoil		
1103	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, firm, frequent small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.46-0.66m	Upper fill of F1105		
1104	Light yellowish brown silty clay, firm, frequent small to medium sub-rounded gravels	0.52-0.66m	Primary fill of F1105		
1105	Curvi-linear, moderately sloping sides rounded base, 0.5m w x 0.23m deep	0.46-0.69m	Cut of curving ditch, possible ring-gully feature		
1106	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, firm, moderate small sub-rounded gravels	0.46-0.69m	Fill of F1105		
1107	Linear, Sharp BOS, moderately sloping sides, rounded base, 0.61m w x 0.22m deep	0.46- 0.68m	Cut of ditch or gully, possible for drainage.		

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 12			Length 50m	Width 1.60m	Alignment NNW-SSE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1200	Dark brown silty clay, occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	0-0.30m	Topsoil		
1201	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	0.30-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil		
1202	Dark brownish red silty sandy gravel	0.4m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 13			Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1300	Mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	0-0.19m	Topsoil		
1301	Dark reddish brown silty clay, soft, very occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	0.19-0.56m	Agricultural subsoil		
1302	Dark pinkish red silty sand with gravels	0.56 +	Natural subsoil		
1303	Linear ditch, gradual BOS, concave sides, possible signs of re-cutting 1.9m x 0.45m deep	0.56-1.01m	Cut of linear boundary feature		
1304	Dark red brown clayey silt, soft/plastic, common small gravels and stones	0.81-1.01m	Fill of F1303		
1305	Dark reddish brown clayey silt, soft, very occasional stones and gravels	0.56-0.86m	Fill of ditch F1303		
1306	Cut of linear, gradual BOS, concave and fairly regular sides, concave to flatish base, 1.55m w x 0.45m deep	0.56-1.01m	Cut of linear boundary feature (probably same as F704, F804)		
1307	Dark reddish brown clayey silt with sand, plastic/soft, common small sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels	0.84-1.01m	Fill of F1306		
1308	Dark reddish brown clayey silt with sand, soft friable, very occasional stones and gravels	0.56-0.84m	Final fill of F1306		

Trench 14			Length 10m	Width 1.60m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1400	Mid dark brown silty clay, soft, occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones	0-0.15m	Topsoil		
1401	Dark reddish brown silty clay, soft to firm, occasional sub-angular and angular stones	0.15-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil		
1402	Dark pinkish red, silty sand with gravels, firm with patches of sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels	0.40m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 15			Length 25	Width 1.60m	Alignment NE/SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
	Not excavated due to access restrictions				

Trench 16			Length 50	Width 1.60m	Alignment WNW-ESE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
	Not excavated due to access restrictions				

## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Trench 17</b>			<b>Length</b> 30m	<b>Width</b> 1.60m	<b>Alignment</b> NE-SW
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>		
1700	Mid brown clayey silt, loose, occasional sub-angular stones, modern ploughsoil	0-0.23m	Topsoil		
1701	Light brown clayey silt, loose, common sub-angular stones, mixture of sub-soil and colluvium	0.23-0.82m	Agricultural subsoil		
1702	Light red silty clay, firm, occasional sub-angular stones	0.82m+	Natural subsoil		

<b>Trench 18</b>			<b>Length</b> 30m	<b>Width</b> 1.60m	<b>Alignment</b> NW-SE
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>		
1800	Mid brown clayey silt, loose, poorly sorted sub-angular stones, modern ploughsoil	0-0.26m	Topsoil		
1801	Light brown clayey silt, loose, occasional sub-angular stones, poorly sorted	0.26-0.52m	Agricultural Subsoil		
1802	Light reddish brown clayey silt, loose, occasional sub-angular stones, colluvial subsoil found in the lowest end of the trench	0.52+m	Colluvial subsoil		
1803	Bright reddish purple silty clay, firm , common sub-angular stones	0.52+m	Natural subsoil		

### 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](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)