

LAND AT PYDE DROVE, NEAR WOOLAVINGTON, SOMERSET

Centred on NGR ST 3531 4299

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation and auger
survey

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CgMs Consulting

Document No: ACD806/2/0

Date: December 2013



AC archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation and auger survey carried out on land at Pyde Drove, near Woolavington, Somerset (centred on ST 3531 4299), was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2013. The proposed development area occupies approximately 18.2 hectares of pastoral land on the Somerset Levels.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches totalling 100m in length, with each trench 1.60m wide. These were positioned to target a large anomaly 20/25m in diameter identified in a previous geophysical survey. A total of 21 cores were augered at the base of the trenches. A large saltern (briquetage mound) associated with salt production was identified, but not excavated. The mound was composed of briquetage, burnt stone, ash and charcoal, on a buried peat land surface. The discovery of Roman pottery indicates an occupation date in the Romano-British period.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation and auger survey on land at Pyde Drove, near Woolavington, Somerset (centred on ST 3531 4299), was undertaken by AC archaeology during 20 and 21 November 2013. The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application for a new solar farm and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of clients.
- 1.2 The site is situated on pasture at Pyde Drove approximately 1.1km north of Woolavington on the Somerset Levels (Fig. 1). The site encompasses three fields extending over an area of 18.2ha. The application area lies at approximately 5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the underlying solid geology comprises mudstones of the Langport Member, Blue Lias Formation and the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. Overlying this are a number of superficial clays, silts and sands dating to the Holocene. Overlying these are distinctive estuarine soils of the Allerton Series, consisting of alkaline loamy clays within wet brackish meadows and areas of mixed agricultural landuse (Findlay 1965).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to a previous desk-based assessment (Durham University 2013a) and geophysical survey (Durham University 2013b). The assessment established that while there were no recorded archaeological sites present, there was the general potential for preserved organic material, in the form of early trackways, timbers within peat, alluvial and estuarine deposits. In addition, evidence for Roman salt-making has been identified in the vicinity.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey results indicated the presence of a series of meandering anomalies probably relating to naturally formed palaeochannels. In the northwest of the assessment area a large c. 25m diameter circular anomaly was identified.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the trench evaluation and auger survey were to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation

and whether or not the significance and state of survival of any archaeological remains on the site is great enough to influence the layout of the proposed development should planning consent be obtained.

4. METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

4.1 The evaluation was undertaken with reference to the *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeology Handbook* (Somerset County Council 2009), in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists 2009 document *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2013). The evaluation comprised two machine-excavated, 1.6m wide trenches totalling 100m long (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to target the large circular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and were positioned using a Topcon GMS2-GPS, with sub metre accuracy. The removal of soil overburden within the trenches and the auger survey 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, plans and transects were produced at a number of relevant scales and all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS (Plan and core sections, Figs 2-3; Plates 1-4)

5.1 The investigation revealed a saltern mound (F203) of which a single deposit (context 204) was exposed.

5.2 The overlying soil sequence comprised 0.16-0.18m of a dark grey to very dark grey brown clay loam topsoil. Underlying this was a thin 0.02-0.04m layer of dark blue grey subsoil. Trench 2 crossed Trench 1 with a staggered junction, 1.5m apart, and following the removal of the overlying layers the deposits were tested by augering for cores in two transects (1 and 2). The water table was reached at the base of the overlying layers.

5.3 Removal of the overlying layers revealed a 6.5m area across the middle of the trenches which was occupied by deposit 204. This comprised a light yellowish brown grey to yellowish red silty clay with a high grit component and high quantities of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone and iron pan material.

5.4 In order to determine the character and form of the saltern F203, deposit 204 was sampled by 21 cores taken along the two trenches at 2m intervals outwards from the central point. The cores showed that the feature was sub-circular in shape and extended from 6.5m diameter at the top to 12-19m diameter at the base, with the latter corresponding well with geophysical survey results. The maximum depth of F203 was identified in cores 7, 13, 14 and 18 where c. 1.45m of deposit 204 was found.

5.5 The mound is located on a buried land surface composed of peat (206). In the central area (cores 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15) the peat has a thickness of between 0.50m to 1.0m. On the margins of mound F203 the peat was considerably thinner and not identified at all in cores 6, 12, 16 and 21. In these locations Blue Lias clay was revealed indicating a marine or estuarine depositional environment.

5.6 There was clear evidence, external to the highest point of the saltern, of a secondary marine transgression following the formation of mound F203. This flooding event was represented by deposit (102/205) of light brownish grey to brownish yellow silty clay. This deposit ranged in

thickness from 0.14m around the centre of mound F203 (core 2) to 1.35m at the outer extremities around cores 10 and 11.

5.7 The most recent feature identified was a drainage gully F104 that cut across the evaluation area.

6. **THE FINDS**, by Dr Naomi Payne

6.1 **Introduction**

All of the finds came from the top of deposit (204) of mound F203. They are summarised in the table below:

Context	Roman pottery		Animal bone		Briquetage	
	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)
204	12	90	1	7	34	625

6.2 **Roman pottery**

13 sherds (93g) of Roman pottery were recovered. The assemblage includes seven sherds of South East Dorset Black Burnished 1 pottery, four of which are oxidised/burnt, two sherds of possible South Western Black Burnished 1 ware, three sherds of Norton Fitzwarren ware, two of which are rim sherds from everted rim jars, and a small body sherd of an oxidised coarseware. One of the SE Dorset BB1 sherds is from a plain-rimmed dish dating from c. AD150 or later in the Roman period and one of the oxidised/burnt sherds of SE Dorset DD1 is decorated with obtuse-angled lattice indicating a date after c. AD 250.

6.3 **Animal bone**

A single animal bone fragment (7g) of a small to medium sized long bone.

6.4 **Briquetage**

The fabric of the briquetage is an oxidised, fine silty, slightly micaceous clay fabric, which varies from various shades of buff, reddish-yellow, pink, brown and grey with many having abundant chopped organic temper, which results in a more porous fabric. Large, coarse grits were noted in two pieces, while another two had common iron ore (<1mm) inclusions. The assemblage is in good condition and those with organic temper also have organic impressions on their surfaces. Four of the organic tempered pieces have 'surfaces' on two sides and these could represent vessel walls, varying from between 12mm and 24mm in thickness. The largest of these is a probable base fragment. The remaining fragments are amorphous and undiagnostic lumps. No residues were noted on any pieces and there are no rims present.

7. **DISCUSSION**

7.1 Mound F203 is a large saltern deposit (also known as a briquetage mound) associated with salt production (Went 2011). It is sub-circular in plan and measures a maximum diameter of 12m by 19m and at its maximum extent 1.45m high. The mound comprised residue from the salt production process (e.g. Leech 1977, 40, Leech *et al.* 1983). The saltern was established on a ground surface of peat (206), which as present or only survived under the mound. At East Huntspill the excavation of a Romano-British saltern revealed hearths and floor layers (Leech *et al.* 1983); features such as these were not identified in the augering of mound F203.

7.2 The discovery of a saltern in association with Romano-British ceramics in the Somerset Levels is not uncommon and until recently 167 saltern sites had been recorded with the majority in the area around Gold Corner and the River Cripps in the east of Huntspill parish (Rippon 1997,

69). These sites are located to the northeast of Woolavington and the current site is on the southern edge of the densest distribution.

7.3 The presence of a secondary marine transgression deposit (102/205) is most probably associated with a known post-Roman inundation of the levels in the 4th to the 9th centuries AD (Rippon 1997, 124-7 and 2006, 80).

7.4 Evidence for later reclamation of the site could be determined by the presence of the small drainage gully F104 which cut across the top of the evaluation area.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The archaeological trial trenching and auger survey identified the presence of a large saltern (briquetage mound) associated with salt production.

8.2 The Roman pottery supported by the depositional context indicates a date for the saltern's use in the Romano-British period.

8.3 The buried peat horizon at the base of the mound has very good potential for the preservation of secure palaeoenvironmental evidence.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

9.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. A museum-allocated temporary reference number of TTNCM 116/2013 has been obtained from the Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton.

9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier 165869, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Will Bedford on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The site works were carried out by Ben Pears, Vince Simmons and Stella De Villiers. The illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore.

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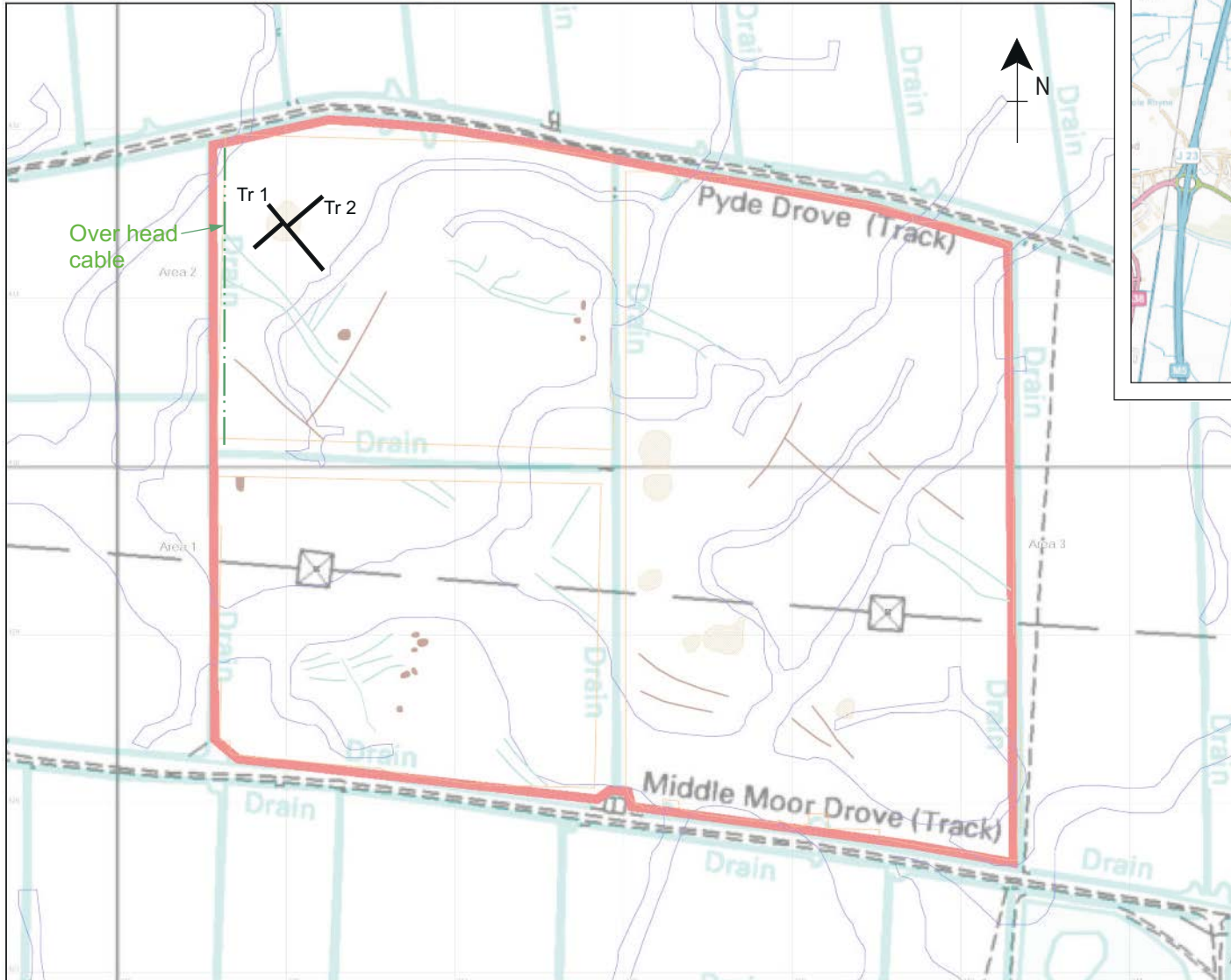
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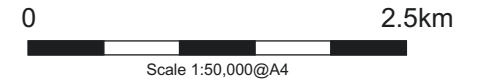
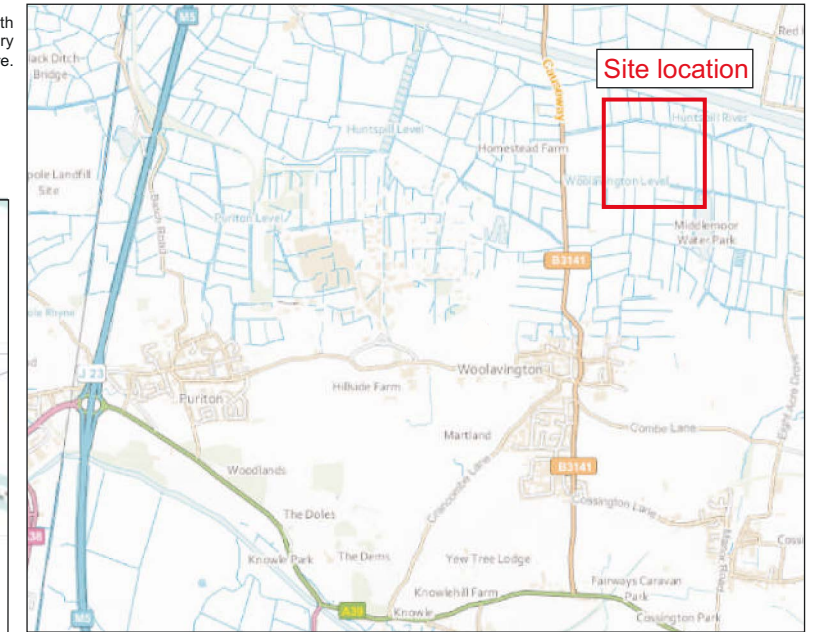
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Not to scale



PROJECT

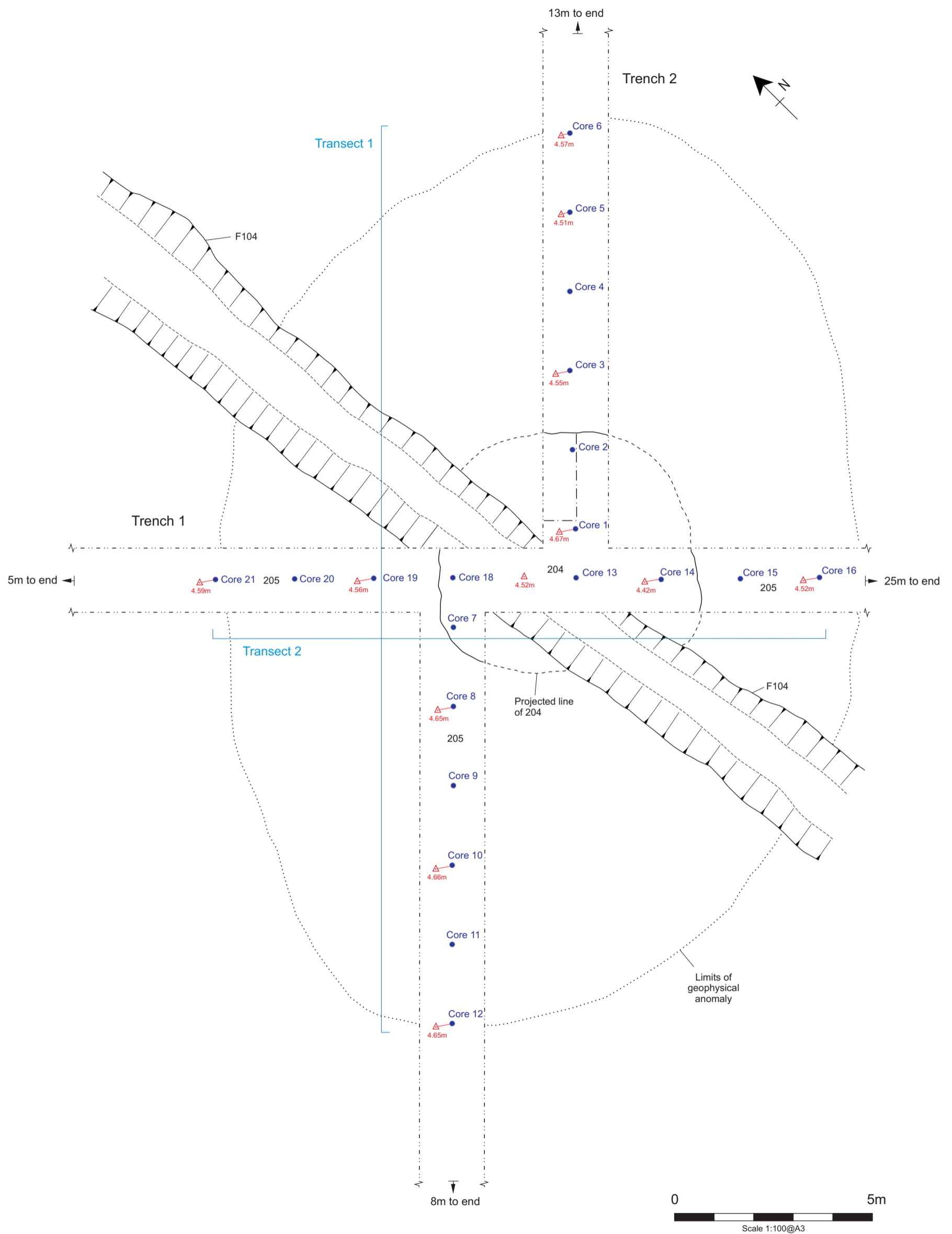
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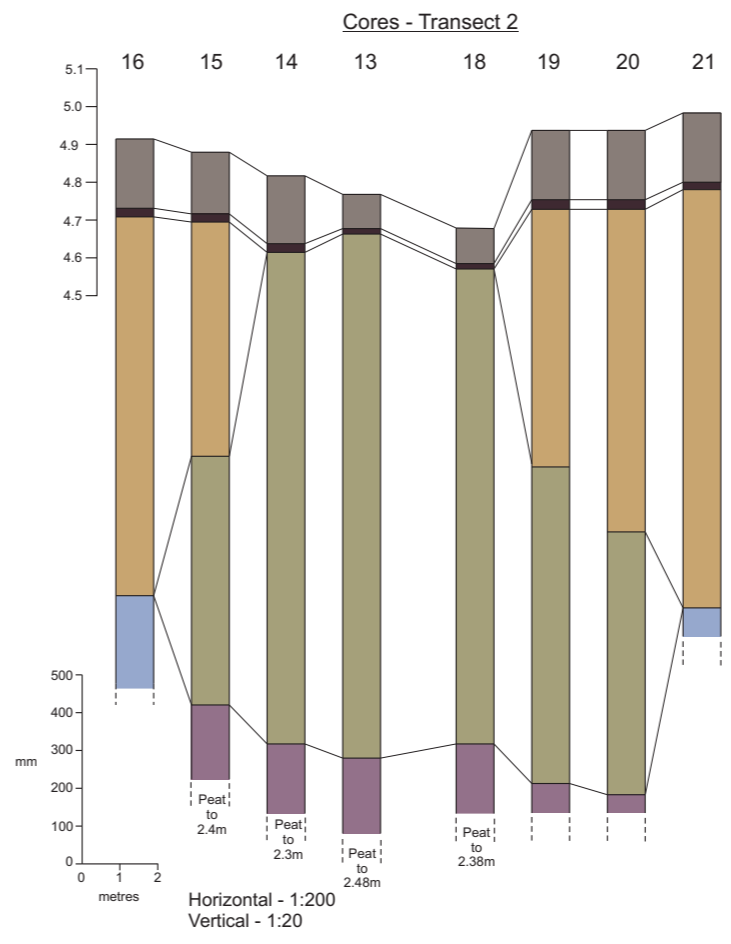
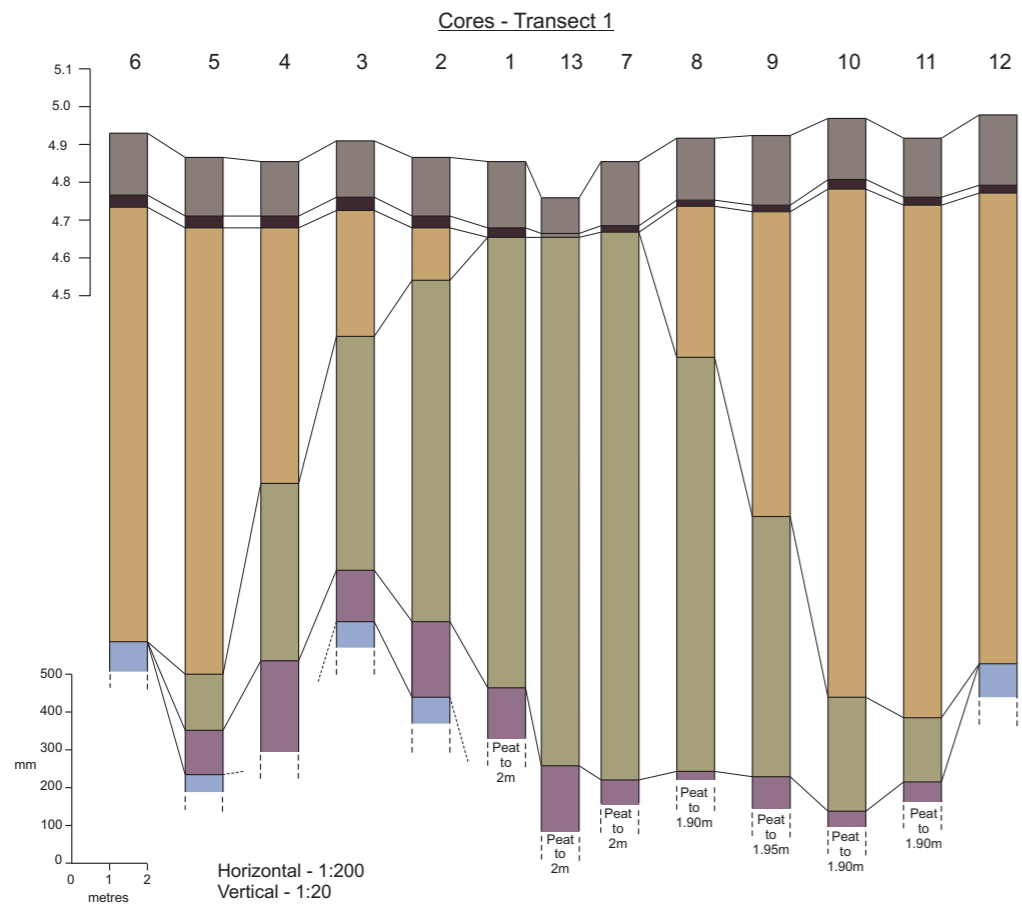
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Fig. 1: Location of site

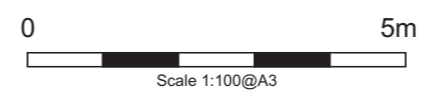
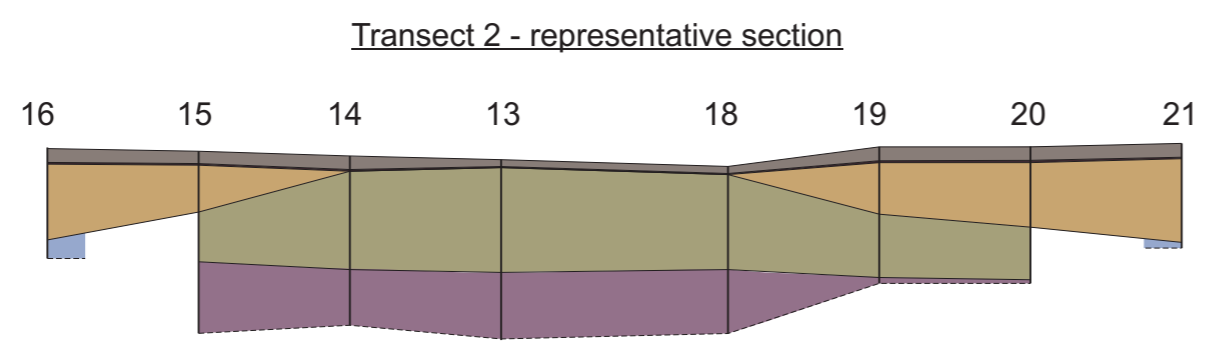
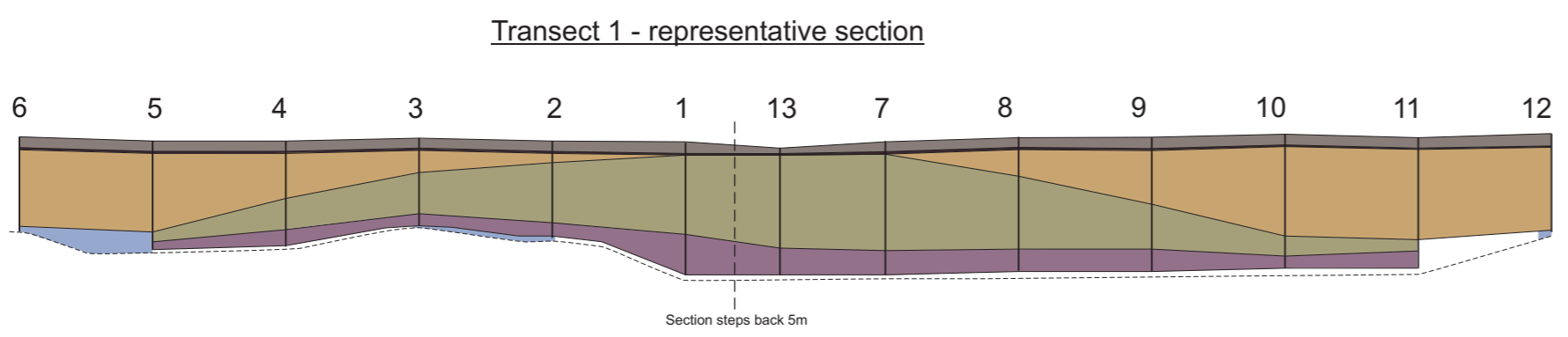


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- Key**
- Topsoil
 - Subsoil
 - Marine clay (102/205)
 - Saltern deposit (204)
 - Peat deposit (206)
 - Blue lias clay (202)



PROJECT
Land off Pyde Drive,
Woolavington, Somerset

TITLE
Fig. 3: Core samples





Plate 1: General view of the site from the northwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, work in progress, viewed from the northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 2, work in progress, viewed from the southwest



Plate 4: Core 13, deposit (204) (scale 0.25m)

Appendix 1

Trench and core descriptions

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Trench No. 1			
Dimensions – 50m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NW-SE			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.08	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.30+	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
103	0.08	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with a moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material. Same as (100).	Fill of F104
104	0.30	Linear drainage ditch feature, +40m long by 2.5m wide, orientated N-S seen as a surface earthwork with moderately steep sides, rounded breaks of slope and a rounded base. Filled with (103) and (100).	Drainage ditch

Trench No. 2			
Dimensions – 50m x 1.60m			
Orientated – NE-SW			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.08	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
202	0.30+	Light bluish grey (GLE7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay
203	1.40	Sub circular shape in plan measuring Ø6.50m at the top to c.Ø12-19m at the base. Feature composed of (204), sits directly upon peat land surface (206) and almost entirely covered by deposit (205).	Saltern feature
204	1.40	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
205	0.30+	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
206	0.30+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Auger Core Data

Core No. 1 Top 4.86m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
204	0.20-1.39	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.39+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 2 Top 4.87m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.16-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.18-0.33	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.33-1.23	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.23-1.42	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat
202	1.42+	Light bluish grey (GLEY7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 3 Top 4.91m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.15	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.15-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.18-0.51	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.51-1.13	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.13-1.22	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat
202	1.22+	Light bluish grey (GLEY7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Core No. 4 Top 4.86m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.15	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.15-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.18-0.85	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.85-1.32	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.32+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 5 Top 4.87m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.15	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.15-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.18-1.36	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	1.36-1.51	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.51-1.63	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat
202	1.63+	Light bluish grey (GLEY7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Core No. 6 Top 4.93m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.16-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.20-1.34	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
202	1.34+	Light bluish grey (GLEY7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Core No. 7 Top 4.86m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.16-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
204	0.18-1.62	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.62+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 8 Top 4.92m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.16-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.18-0.58	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.58-1.67	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.67+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 9 Top 4.93m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.20-1.00	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	1.00-1.69	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.69+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 10 Top 4.97m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.16-0.19	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.19-1.53	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	1.53-1.83	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.83+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 11 Top 4.92m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.15	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.15-0.17	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.17-1.52	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	1.52-1.69	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.69+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 12 Top 4.98m aOD Transect 1 Trench 2			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
201	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
205	0.20-1.49	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
202	1.49+	Light bluish grey (GLEY7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 13 Top 4.76m aOD Transects 1 and 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100/200	0.00-0.10	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101/201	0.10-0.11	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
204	0.11-1.50	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.50+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 14 Top 4.82m aOD Transect 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
204	0.20-1.50	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.50+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 15 Top 4.88m aOD Transect 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.16	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.16-0.18	Dark blue grey (GLEY5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.18-0.80	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.80-1.46	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.46+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 16 Top 4.92m aOD Transect 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.20-1.20	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
202	1.20+	Light bluish grey (GLE7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Core No. 17 Top 4.94m aOD Transect – Not Illustrated Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.20-1.36	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
202	+1.36	Light bluish grey (GLE7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

Core No. 18 Top 4.68m aOD Transect 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100/200	0.00-0.10	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101/201	0.10-0.11	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
204	0.11-1.50	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.50+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Appendix 1: Trench and core descriptions

Core No. 19 Top 4.94m aOD Transects 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.20-0.89	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	0.89-1.72	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.72+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 20 Top 4.94m aOD Transects 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.20-1.06	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
204	1.06-1.76	Mottled light yellowish brown (10YR5/4), grey (10YR5/1) to yellowish red (5YR5/6) silty clay with high grit component. Gravelly to sticky consistency with inclusions of briquetage, ash, charcoal, small stone material and iron pan material.	Saltern mound material
206	1.76+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) to very dark brown (10YR2/2) and occasionally black (10YR2/1) peat material with a soft compaction and no mineral inclusions but high quantities of degraded organic material.	Peat

Core No. 21 Top 4.99m aOD Transect 2 Trench 1			
Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.18	Dark grey (10YR4/1) to very dark grey brown (10YR3/2) clay loam (40-60%) with moderate compaction and no mineral inclusions but large quantities of degraded organic material.	Topsoil
101	0.18-0.20	Dark blue grey (GLE5/1) clay with no inclusions. Sporadic across site.	Subsoil
102	0.20-1.30	Light brownish grey (10YR6/2) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6) coloured silty clay (20-80%) with very small quartz inclusions <10mm at 5-10% occurrence and no organic inclusions.	Marine Clay
202	1.30+	Light bluish grey (GLE7/1 and 8/1) grey clay with a compact, plastic compaction and very few, very small mineral inclusions <10mm at <5%. No organic inclusions.	Blue Lias Clay

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