

HOMELEIGH, WINKLEIGH, DEVON

(NGR SS 63280 08002)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Torrige District Council planning reference  
1/0186/2014/LBC, condition 3

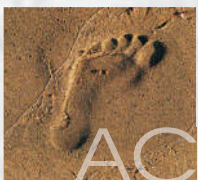
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Prepared by:  
Abigail brown

On behalf of:  
Iain Biddlestone

Document No: ACD956/2/0

Date: March 2015



archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Winkleigh, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 63280 08002	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Homeleigh, Winkleigh, Devon – Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0186/2014/LBC	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of North Devon, Barnstaple	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 191466	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS:2014.56	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD956	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 01 and 02 September 2014	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage and visibility splay, at Homeleigh, Winkleigh. The work was commissioned by Mr Iain Biddlestone.</p> <p>The site is located within the historic core of the medieval village of Winkleigh, immediately south of the church (Figs 1-2). Homeleigh is a Grade II listed building (National Heritage List no. 90946). It is described as a 17th century house with 20th century additions. Previous nearby archaeological investigations have exposed 13th- and 14th-century ditches to the west of Shute Lane (Devon Historic Environment Record MDV74208) and further medieval ditches have been recorded to the west of the site (MDV106308). These have been interpreted as part of a medieval field system. Historic maps depict the site, within the grounds of the house, as undeveloped.</p> <p><b>Results</b> (Figs 3-4; Plates 1-2) The ground works were undertaken with a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The area of the groundworks measured 7.10m long and 4.40m wide.</p> <p>The sequence of deposits consisted of light yellow-brown, compact shillet natural (101) which was present at approximately 0.70m below the ground surface. This was cut by a 1.32m wide and 0.30m deep foundation cut F114 for an <i>in situ</i> faced stone wall 113, which was 0.67m wide and survived up to four courses high. It was constructed with blocks measuring up to 0.20m x 0.16m x 0.12m with a rubble core, and bonded in a light yellowish-brown clay (111). Wall 113 was aligned with the rear elevation of the house, and was exposed on a N-S for a distance of 5.30m; it continued under the edges of excavation in both directions. Foundation cut F114 was filled with dark grey, stony, silty clay (112). Wall 113 was partially overlain by a layer of compact, grey clayey silt (110) that extended to the west; it was cut by two drains. Drain 115 was 0.32m wide and 0.26m deep, aligned NE-SW, and was filled with mid grey clay silt (105). Drain 104 was 0.43m wide, 0.30m deep, aligned E-W and contained a mid-grey stony fill (103). The features were sealed a stony grey clayey silt levelling deposit (109) which was cut by a 0.40m wide NW-SE aligned stone drain 108, a culverted continuation of drain 104, constructed of three courses of sub squared blocks measuring up to 0.60m x 0.40m x 0.09m and capped with thin stones measuring up to 0.60m x 0.40m x 0.05m. Drain 108 was filled by greyish-brown clayey silt (106). A grey levelling deposit (102) covered the entire site. This was overlain by dark brown, friable clayey silt garden topsoil (100).</p> <p><b>The Finds, by Kerry Kerr-Peterson</b> The assemblage contains 16 sherds of pottery (362g; see Table 1). A total of seven are medieval and consist of North Devon derived wares dating to c. AD 1200 – 1350, including a piece of thumb-pressed jug base from context (110). Two of these pieces are residual within levelling deposit (110). The remaining medieval sherds come from the fill (112) of the wall foundation cut F114. The other pottery, a total of nine sherds, is post-medieval in date. These are mostly North Devon wares and include a piece of North Devon sgraffito ware dish from context (100). There is one piece of South Somerset slipware dish from the construction of the culverted drain 108. These post-medieval sherds date to the 17th or 18th century.</p>		

Context	Context Description	Iron		Clay tobacco pipe		CBM		Medieval pottery		Post-medieval pottery	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100	Garden Topsoil			3	28					4	30
102	Levelling deposit									4	88
108	Stone culverted drain									1	141
110	Levelling deposit	1	5					2	17		
112	Fill of wall foundation cut F114					1	18	5	86		
Totals		1	5	3	28	1	18	7	103	9	259

Table 1: Finds quantified by material type. Weights measured in grams (g). CBM = Ceramic Building Material.

The other finds include one piece of an iron nail from context (110), three pieces of clay tobacco pipe from context (100) including one plain stem fragment and two bowls dating to c. AD 1700-1770. There is one undiagnostic piece of medieval ceramic building material from context (112).

### Discussion

The groundworks exposed a sequence of archaeological structures and deposits. A N-S aligned wall 113 was identified which, based on the 13th/14th-century pottery within the fill of its foundation trench is almost certainly medieval in origin. This date ought to be contemporary with that of other known medieval archaeology south of the historic core of the village, in the form of the medieval field system to the south of the site. This field system is approached from Shute Lane, itself regarded as medieval in origin (MDV62467), and which is a continuation of the lane immediately to the east of the site. The alignment of wall 113 and that of Shute Lane match the orientation of the field system and indicate that the wall, at the very least follows this medieval pattern. The function of the wall itself was not established, but given the lack of other walls or significant amounts of domestic finds is most probably a boundary wall rather than the foundation for a building.

Three drains were also exposed, including one with a culvert. These post-date the wall and are all likely to be post-medieval in date; the pottery associated with the culverted drain indicates that it is contemporary with the known construction of the present house.

**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**

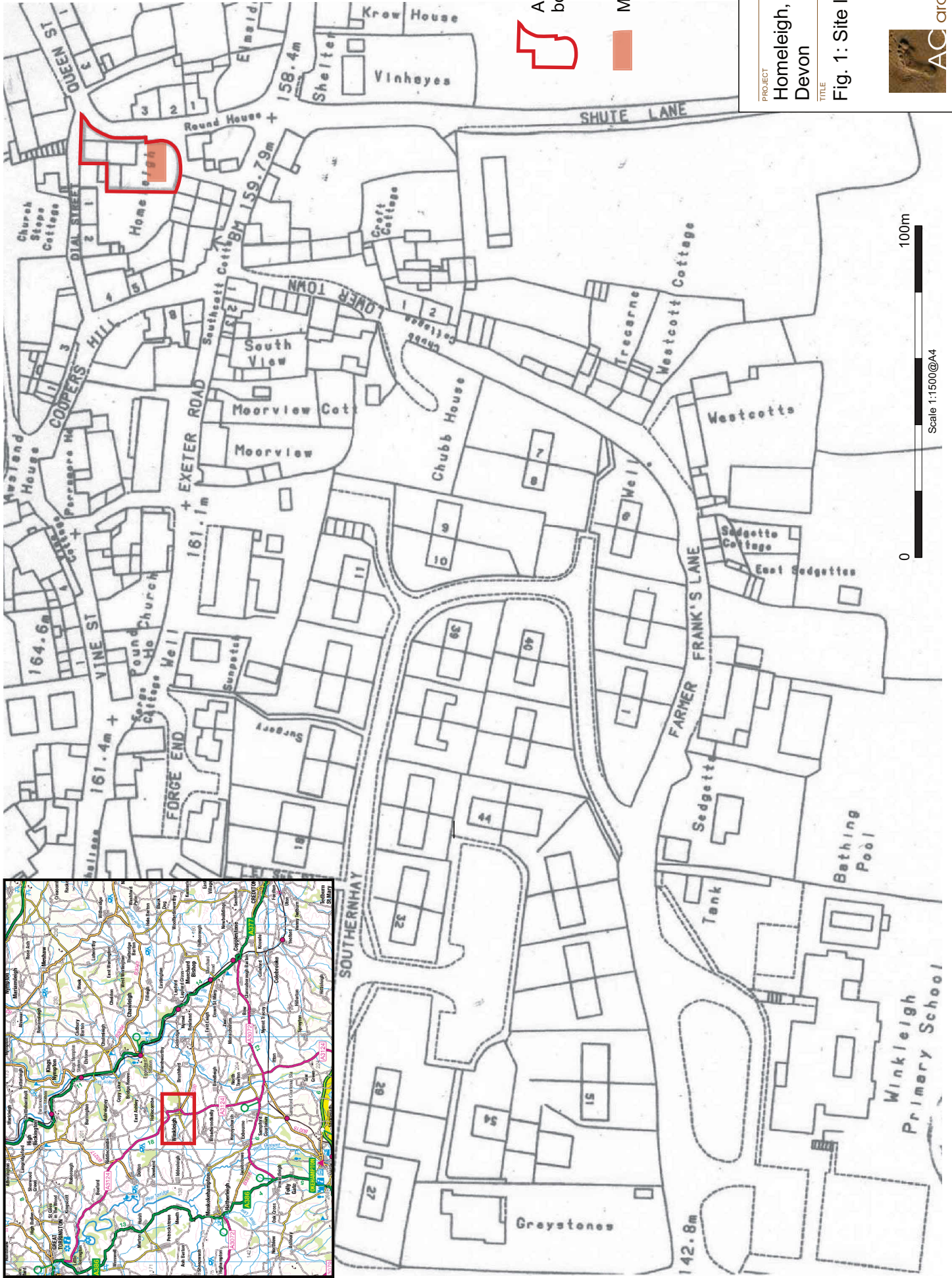
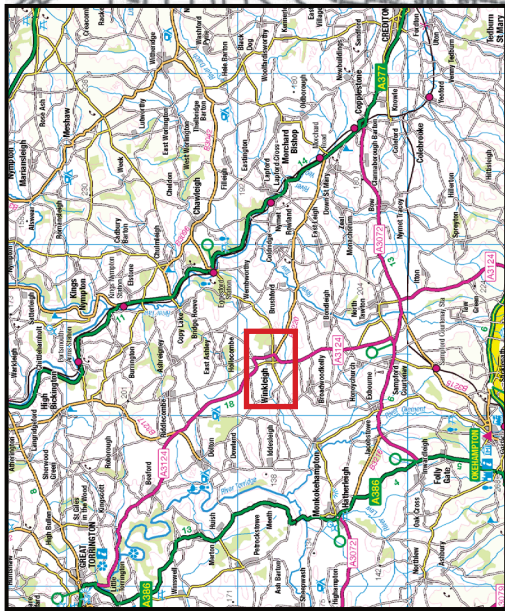
**Recorder:**

Abigail Brown

**Date sent to HER:**

4 March 2015





Application boundary



Monitored area

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Homeleigh, Winkleigh,  
Devon

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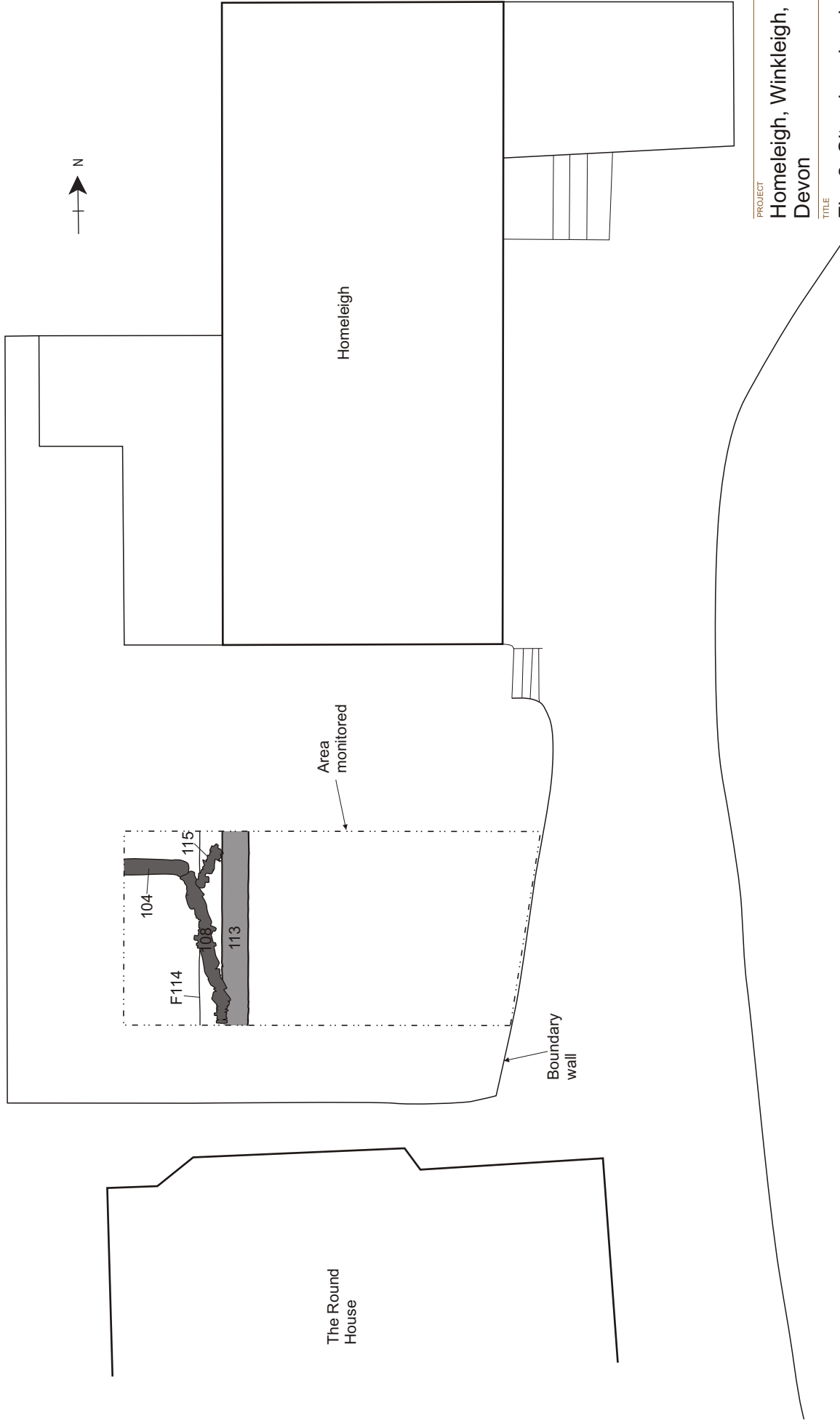
Fig. 1: Site location



Scale 1:1500@A4

100m

0



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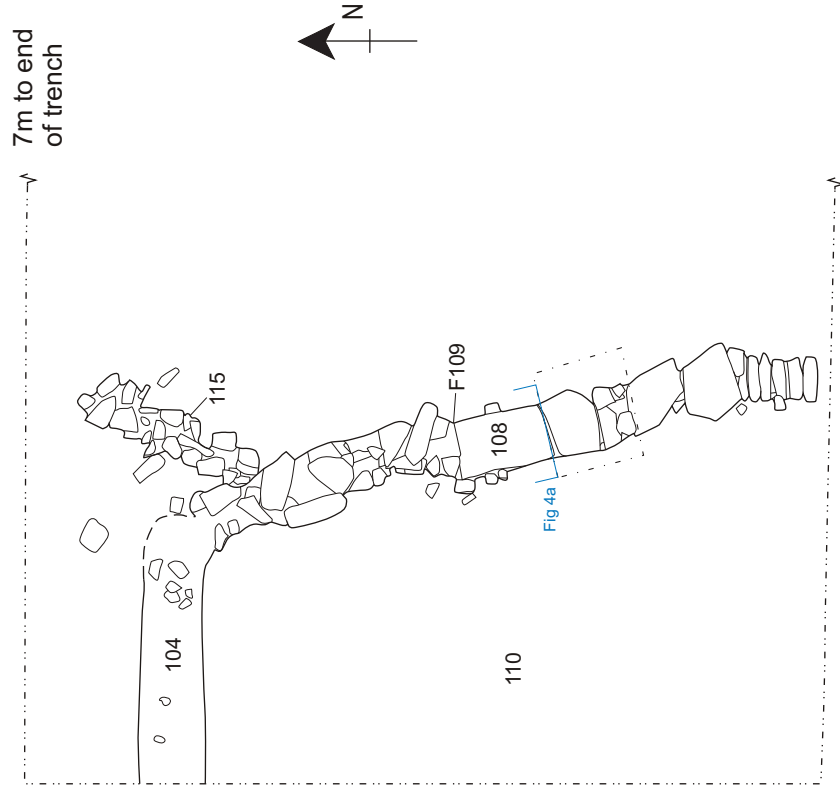
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Fig. 2: Site plan showing  
the area monitored

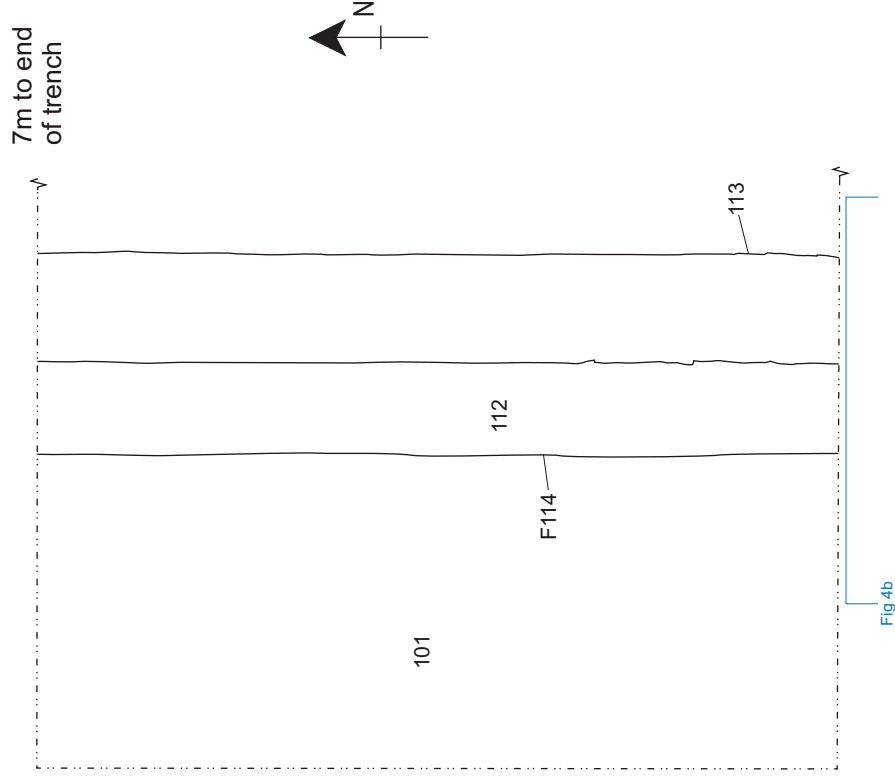


ACI archaeology

a) Plan of drains 104, 108 and 115



b) Plan of wall structure 113



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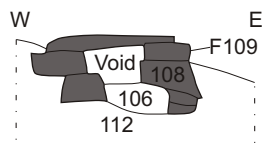
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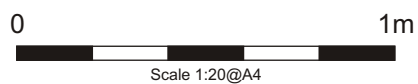
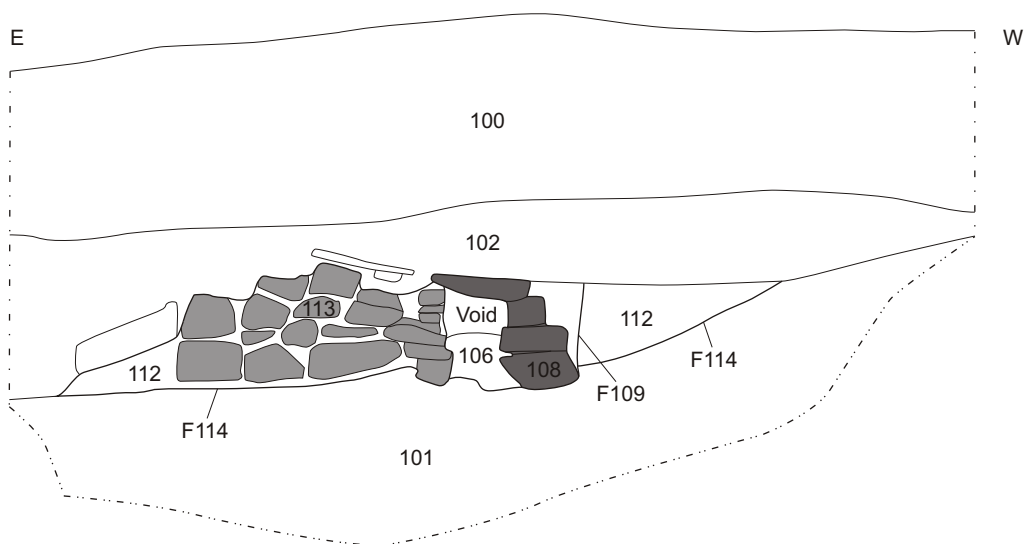
Fig. 3: Plans



a) South-facing section of drain structure 108



b) North-facing section of drain 108 and wall 113



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Fig. 4: Sections





Plate 1: View of stone wall 113, looking south (scale 1m)



Plate 2: View of stone drain 108 overlying wall 113, looking south (scale 1m)



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