

LAND AT COLLEEN FARM, BLACKAWTON, DEVON

Centred on SX 7972 5316

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

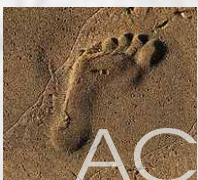
Prepared by:
John Valentin
and
Will Smith

With a contribution from:
Charlotte Coles

On behalf of:
Bowler Energy

Document No: ACD979/2/0

Date: November 2014



AC archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Colleen Farm, Blackawton, Devon (centred on SX 7972 5316), was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2014. The site comprises three fields totalling c. 6.5 hectares in area and located on agricultural land to the north of Blackawton and east of Halwell, on the northern side of the A3122 road. A previous geophysical survey had identified the presence of a number of linear anomalies, as well as three sides of a possible square enclosure.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of nine trenches totalling 322m in length, with each 1.60m wide. These were positioned to target a number of the geophysical anomalies. A probable square enclosure as identified by the geophysics was confirmed to be present which, based on a very small quantity of pottery recovered, is likely to be of Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British date. Elsewhere on the site probably two phases of former land division was identified in the form of a series of linear features, as a well as a large but undated quarry pit.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig 1; Plate 1)

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Colleen Farm, Blackawton, Devon (centred on SX 7972 5316), was undertaken by AC archaeology during November 2014. The evaluation was undertaken to provide supporting information for a planning application for a new solar farm (ref. 22/1610/14/F) and was required by South Hams District Council, as advised by the Archaeology Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET).
- 1.2 The application area comprises three fields (Fields 1-3), totalling around 6.5 hectares in extent and located on agricultural land on the northern side of the A3122 road, east of the village of Halwell and north of Blackawton in South Hams. It is situated at a height of between 178-190m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on land sloping gently down from west to east. The underlying solid geology comprises interbedded Devonian sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Staddon Formation (British Geological Survey online mapping).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of a Historic Environment Impact Assessment (Meaton and Lutescu-Jones 2014) and geophysical survey (Dean 2014). The assessment established that there were no previously recorded heritage assets within or immediately adjacent to the application area. However, there are a number of assets in the surrounding landscape. These include the village of Collaton, some 350m south of the survey area, which is documented as a medieval settlement (MDV 58476), Halwell Camp Hillfort, a sub-circular univallate hillfort lies approximately 900m west of the proposed development site (Scheduled Monument No. 1019237), and also two probable Bronze Age bowl barrows forming part of the Bickleigh Brake linear barrow cemetery (Scheduled Monument No. 1019238), approximately 1km to the west.
- 2.2 The subsequent geophysical survey identified a number of linear, enclosure-type and possible curvilinear anomalies across the site. The majority of these were located in the easternmost field and comprised a possible square enclosure, together with a series of linear anomalies possibly relating to early land division.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were 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, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation as a condition of planning permission, if granted.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of nine trenches totalling 322m in length, with each trench 1.60m wide (Fig. 2). The trenches were located using a Leica Net rover GPS unit accurate to within 1cm. They were positioned to test features identified by the geophysical survey results. The removal of soil overburden by mechanical excavator 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 and 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

5.1 Introduction

Archaeological features were present in six of the nine trenches excavated (2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9). These are discussed in detail below. In trenches where no archaeology was present it was established that the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey corresponded to variations within the natural subsoil, for example bands of gravels within the natural clays. Detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 3-7 and photographs as Plates 2-5). Context descriptions by trench are included as Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench 2 (Plan Fig. 3a, section Fig 3b)

This trench was located towards the centre of Field 1 and targeted a segmented linear geophysical anomaly, which was present towards the centre of the trench as F202. The trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (201) present at a depth of 0.33m below ground level. The natural subsoil was immediately below topsoil (200).

Linear feature F202 was NE-SW aligned, 1.55m wide (partly removed by machine so maximum width in section) and up to 0.35m deep. It had a moderate to sharp upper break of slope with slightly flared edges, then moderately steep straight sides onto a rounded base. It contained a single fill (203) consisting of a dark brownish grey silty clay loam, with common angular gravels. No finds were recovered.

5.3 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 3c, section Fig. 3d)

This trench was located in the SE corner of Field 3 and targeted a segmented linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (302) present at a depth of 0.42m below ground level. This was overlain by a 0.12m of agricultural subsoil (301) and 0.30m of topsoil (300). Towards the centre of the trench a linear feature (F303) was present below the agricultural subsoil. A probable tree throw (F305) was located towards the SE end of the trench.

Linear feature F303 was broadly NE-SW aligned and 0.68m wide by 0.27m deep. It had a moderate upper break of slope, then moderately steep sides onto a rounded base. A small

animal burrow was recorded in the base of the feature against the SW trench edge. The feature contained a single fill (304), consisting of a mid grey brown/mid brown (mottled) loamy clay with sparse angular mudstone gravels. No finds were recovered.

Feature F305 was a probable tree throw, irregular but broadly sub-circular in plan and with irregular sides and base. It contained a single fill (304) of mid brown silty clay loam with sparse angular gravels, frequent charcoal and sparse burnt gravels. No finds were recovered.

5.4 Trench 5 (Plan Fig. 4a, sections Fig. 4b-d; Plate 2)

This trench was located in the NW corner of Field 3 and was positioned to target two segmented linear geophysical anomalies. The trench was excavated onto natural subsoil (502), which was present at a depth of 0.55m below ground level. This was overlain by 0.20m of agricultural subsoil (501) and 0.35m of topsoil (500). The trench located a linear feature (F505/F506) that corresponded with a geophysical anomaly at the NW end of the trench, together with two small probable gullies (F508 and F510) and one possible pit (F512).

Linear feature F505 was N-S aligned, c. 2.5m wide and 0.50m deep. It had irregular, moderately sloping sides and a broad irregular base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill of reddish brown silty clay (503) with occasional gravels. A probable smaller re-cut (F506) was recorded on the western side, which was 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep, with steep sides onto a u-shaped base. It contained an upper fill (504) consisting of red clayey silt with sparse angular gravels, above a secondary fill (507) consisting of a pale reddish brown clayey silt with common gravels. No finds were recovered from the fills of either feature.

Linear feature F508 was broadly N-S aligned, 0.92m wide and 0.26m deep, with moderate concave sides and a rounded base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (509) consisting of medium reddish brown silty loam, containing occasional pebbles and rounded gravels. No finds were recovered.

Possible gully terminus F510 was 0.50m wide by 0.55m deep and extended into the trench from the southern edge for 0.50m before terminating. It had very steep sides and a flat base and contained a single naturally accumulated fill (511), consisting of reddish brown silty clay with sparse gravels. No finds were recovered.

Possible pit F512 was 0.90m wide by 0.30m deep and extended into the trench from the southern edge by 0.36m. It had shallow sloping concave sides and a shallow, rounded base. It contained a single fill (513) consisting of reddish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles. No finds were recovered.

5.5 Trench 7 (Plan Fig. 5a, sections Fig. 5b-f)

This trench was located in the NE corner of Field 3 and targeted three segmented linear geophysical anomalies. It was excavated onto natural subsoil (702), which was present at a depth of 0.67m below current levels. This was overlain by 0.19m of agricultural subsoil (701) and 0.48m of topsoil (700). The trench contained two probable ditches (F704 and F714), three probable gullies (F706, F708 and F712) and a single posthole (F716).

Probable ditch F704 extended NE-SW for at least 2m and was 1.30m wide by 0.53m deep. It had an asymmetric profile with a gradual slope on the southerly edge and a steep straight side to the north, with both breaking evenly onto a flat base. A single fill was present (703), consisting of reddish brown silty clay with occasional fine gravels. No finds were recovered.

Parallel probable gully F706 was aligned NE-SW and 0.68m wide by 0.49m deep, with steep sides and a sloping base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (705), consisting of reddish brown clayey silt with common gravels. No finds were recovered.

Probable gully F708 was aligned NE-SW and 0.50m wide by 0.23m deep, with shallow concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (707) consisting of a reddish brown clayey silt with common angular gravels. No finds were recovered.

Probable gully F712 was E-W aligned, 0.50m wide by 0.16m deep and extended into the trench from its western edge for 1.5m before terminating. It had a concave profile and contained a single reddish brown clayey silt fill (711) with occasional gravel. No finds were recovered.

Probable ditch F714 was aligned NE-SW and measured 0.90m wide by 0.26m deep, with moderately sloping sides onto a rounded base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (713), consisting of a reddish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F716 had a diameter of 0.25m and cut natural subsoil (702) to a depth of 0.17m. It was sub circular in plan with steep sides and a conical base. The feature contained a single naturally accumulated fill (715) consisting of dark red brown clay silt with sparse charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

A geophysical anomaly recorded at the southern end of the trench was found to contain a modern water pipe heading in the direction of a bungalow on the adjacent property. The same anomaly also passed through the northern end of Trench 6.

5.6 Trench 8 (Plan Fig.6a, sections Fig. 6b-d)

This trench was located towards the centre of Field 3 in order to target a number of linear anomalies interpreted from the geophysical survey. It was excavated onto natural subsoil (802) at a depth of 0.67m below ground level. This was overlain by 0.30m of agricultural subsoil (801) and 0.37m of topsoil (800). The trench contained three linear features (F804, F807 and F812) and one probable quarry pit (F810).

Linear feature F804 was aligned NW-SE and 0.78m wide by 0.20m deep. It had an asymmetric profile, with the SW edge having a sharp upper break of slope and steep straight side, while the NE edge had a moderate break of slope with more moderately sloping sides. The both broke evenly into a rounded base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (803) consisting of a mid brown clay loam with sparse poorly sorted angular gravels and pebbles. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature F807 was NW-SE aligned and 0.55m wide by 0.50m deep and extended into the trench for 1.75m before terminating. It had steep sides and a rounded base and cut into the fill of probable quarry pit F810 (see below). It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (808) consisting of a dark mid brown clayey silt, with occasional gravels and charcoal flecks. It also cut through the overlying agricultural subsoil deposit (801).

Linear feature F812 was E-W aligned and 1.25m wide by 0.54m deep. It had an even profile, with moderate to steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (811) consisting of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular gravels. The feature was cut from the level of the agricultural subsoil (801). No finds were recovered.

Probable quarry pit F810 was approximately 8m wide by up to 1.10m deep. Due to the size of the feature it was not possible to obtain its full profile, but it did have an irregular and undulating base. It contained a single naturally accumulated fill (809) consisting of a pale mid brownish red clayey silt. The fill of the feature was cut by ditch F807. No finds were recovered.

5.7 Trench 9 (Plan Fig. 7a, sections Fig. 7b-d; Plates 3-5)

This trench was located in the SE corner of Field 3 and was positioned to target a possible square enclosure as indicated by the geophysical survey. It was excavated onto natural subsoil (902) present at a maximum depth of 0.50m, which was below 0.35m of agricultural subsoil (901) and 0.15m of topsoil (900). The trench exposed two lengths of ditch which corresponded with the enclosure anomaly (F906 and F912), one possible post pad (F905) and one shallow gully feature (F904).

Linear feature F906 was NE-SW aligned, 1.40m wide by 0.82m deep and had a slightly asymmetric profile of steep straight sides and a flat base. It contained two primary fills (907 and 908) consisting of dark reddish brown silty clay loams. These were sealed by an upper fill (909) consisting of a light reddish brown silty clay loam. Two conjoining sherds of Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery were recovered from the upper fill.

Linear feature F912 was NW-SE aligned, 1.80m wide by 0.80m deep, with moderately sloping sides onto a rounded base. It contained a primary fill (911) consisting of a light reddish brown silty clay, which was sealed by an upper fill (910) of mid reddish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

F905 was the base of a possible post pad, consisting of two large, flat, angular slabs of shale, surrounded by a number of smaller similarly shaped shale slabs lain directly on the natural subsoil (902). There was no apparent cut.

Probable gully F904 was approximately NE-SW aligned, 0.38m wide by 0.07m deep and extended into the trench for a length of 5m before terminating. It had shallow sloping sides onto a rounded base and contained a single naturally accumulated fill (903), consisting of mid reddish brown silty clay. In section it was noted that this feature cut through the agricultural subsoil (901). No finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS by *Charlotte Coles*

- 6.1** Two conjoining sherds of pottery were the only finds recovered from the site. These were from the upper fill of enclosure ditch F906 (context 909) and weigh 2g. They are very small, abraded and undiagnostic to form, but are in a South Western micaceous fabric and are therefore likely to be Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British in date.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The evaluation has established that a number of the anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey correspond with either archaeological features, changes in the superficial geology covering the site and at least one modern water pipe. There were also a small number of archaeological features present which were not recorded on the initial geophysics.
- 7.2** Clearly the main archaeological interest is the small square ditched enclosure present in Trench 9 on the western side of Field 3, with an assumed extent of c. 35m across; the western side of this was not identified by the geophysics, but it is likely to be located in area where it was not possible to carry out the survey or is beneath the present hedgebank. The enclosure ditch was hand-excavated in two locations and showed comparatively good survival, being 1.4-

1.8m wide and 0.8-0.82 deep. The recorded profiles were slightly different, being wider on the southern side and more steep and regular to the east. There was no evidence for an associated bank, but subsequent ploughing will have removed any traces of this. Although only two conjoining sherd of pottery recovered from the upper fill on the eastern side, its fabric indicates a Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British date. The geophysical survey indicates an entrance to the enclosure on its eastern side, just south of F906. However, a ditch was not present where expected on its north side, although when re-examining the greyscale image from the geophysics (Dean 2014, Fig. 2), there are hints of a break in the ditch where the trench was located. Evidence for internal occupation was limited to a slate possible 'post-pad' (F905) and, other than this, there were no other features such as post-holes pits or ring gullies to suggest a building within the enclosure.

- 7.3** Small square enclosures of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date are not uncommon in Devon, with unexcavated examples being located at Bigbury c. 13km to the southwest (HER ref. MDV50109) and Dawlish (MDV105492), 29km to the northeast, although both are a little bit larger than the one here. Recently excavated examples are at North Tawton (AC archaeology in prep.) and on the outskirts of Exeter (Rainbird 2013). The investigation at North Tawton comprised an open area excavation, which established that the enclosure there was c. 20m across and had no evidence for internal occupation. It was therefore interpreted as a small livestock enclosure of Romano-British date. At Monkerton on the outskirts of Exeter, trial trench evaluation identified a much smaller square enclosure at c. 10m across, but it did contain a post-built roundhouse of probable Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British date.
- 7.4** Other archaeological features on the site had been clearly impacted upon by ploughing, with many being very shallow in depth. Some are likely to relate to linear features from former land division, with those sealed by an intermittent agricultural subsoil layer (eg. F303, Trench 3 and those in Trench 5), likely to be early in date and possibly contemporary with the square enclosure, while those directly below the topsoil (eg. F807, F812 and F904) are later and of probable post-medieval date. Both phases are, however, on a broadly NE-SW and NW-SE alignment. Possible settlement-type features were recorded in Trench 7, albeit undated.
- 7.5** In Trench 8 a probable large quarry pit was recorded, seemingly not corresponding with any geophysical anomaly. This was cut by a probable post-medieval ditch and was below the agricultural subsoil, so is likely to be 'early' in date. It was c. 8m wide and 1.1m deep and whether it was excavated for the extraction of clay or of shale is not certain.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The evaluation has been effective in establishing that the main interest in the site is the probable Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British square enclosure in Field 3, present below c. 0.40m of overburden. It has also confirmed that a number of the geophysical survey anomalies relate to archaeological features, while others correspond to geological banding and a modern water pipe. There was only limited evidence for internal occupation of the enclosure, although it may have been used for animal stock rather than settlement. Other archaeological features recorded on the site probably relate to two phases of land division, while a large quarry pit remains undated.

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, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and whether the creation of a digital archive for deposition at the Archaeology Data Service is required.
- 9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **196711**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Suzanne Love of Bowler Energy on behalf of clients and co-ordinated for AC archaeology by John Valentin. The site works were carried out by Will Smith, Jon Hall, Naomi Kysh, Chis Caine and Lluís Bermudo, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The collaboration of Graham Tait, Devon County Council Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

11. REFERENCES

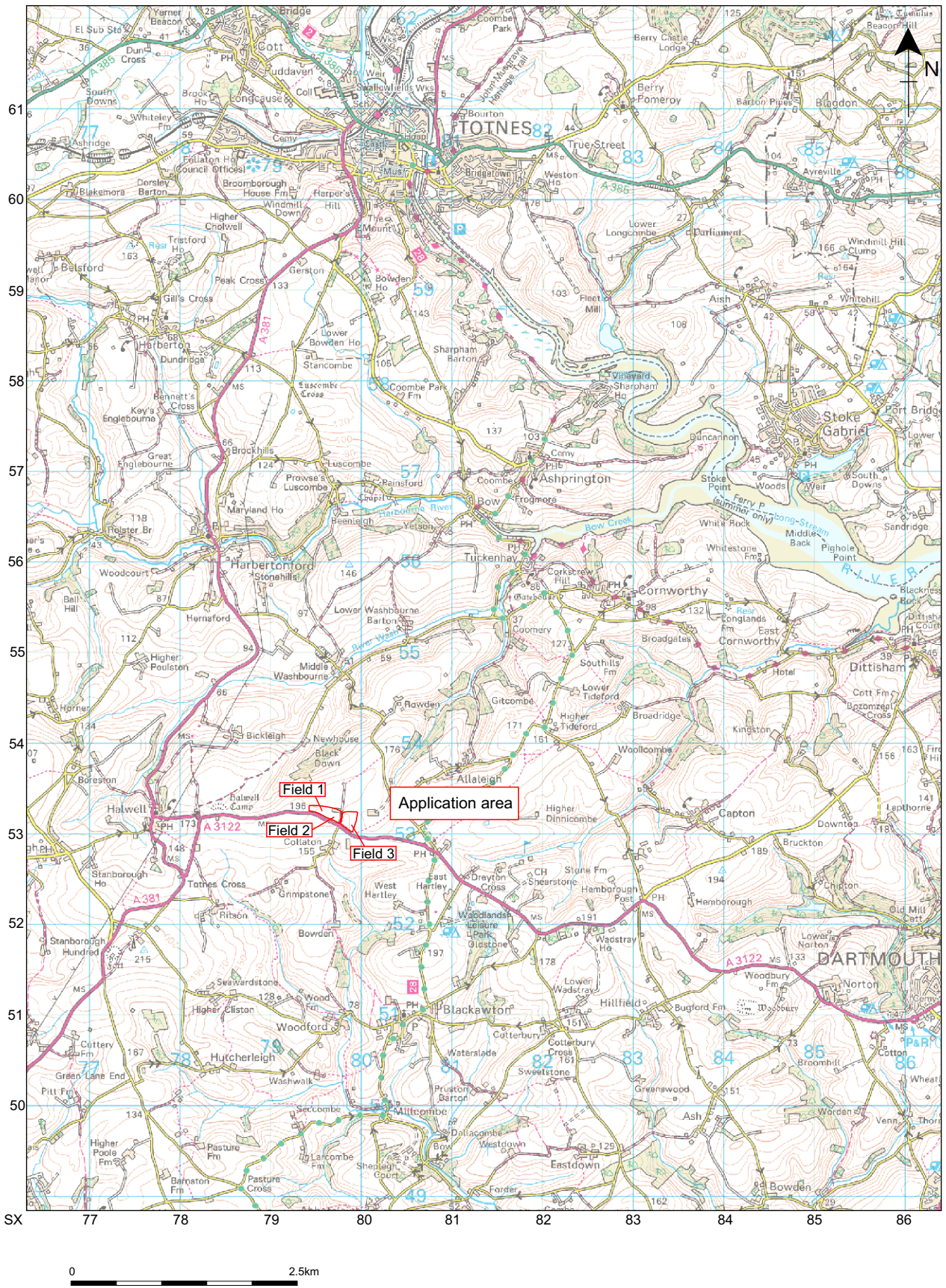
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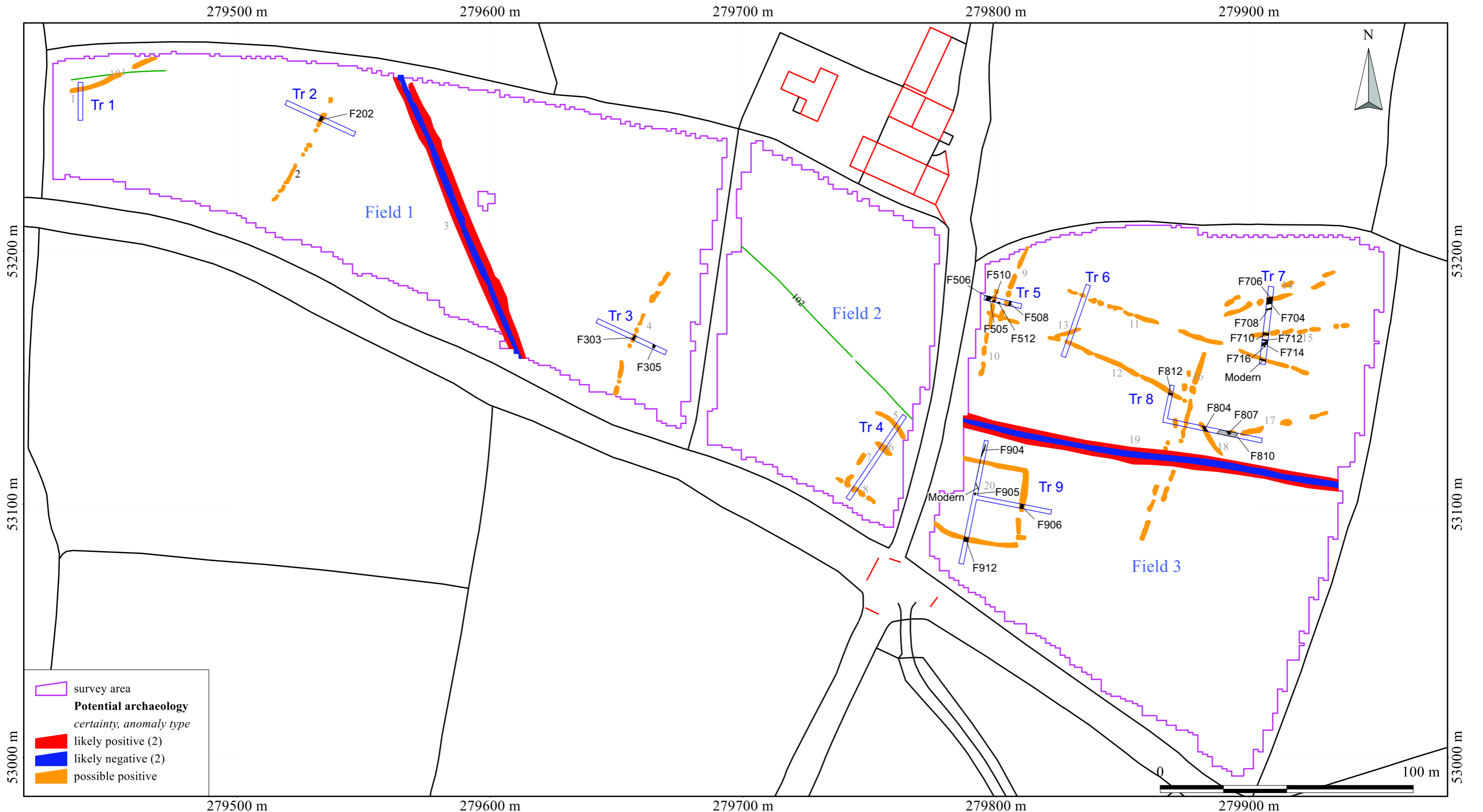
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PROJECT
Land at Colleen Farm, Blackawton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site Location



British Grid
 centre X: 279697.03 m, centre Y: 53137.38 m

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Legend

Trenches showing archaeological features

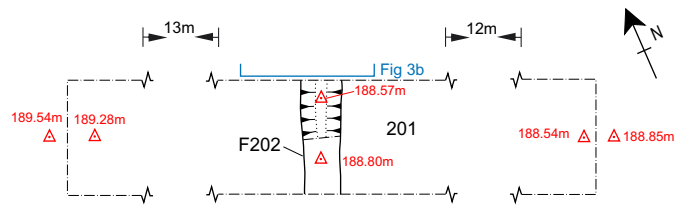
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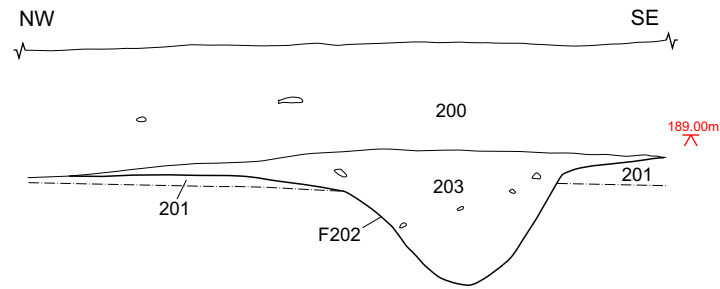
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 Fig. 2: Trench locations in relation to geophysical results

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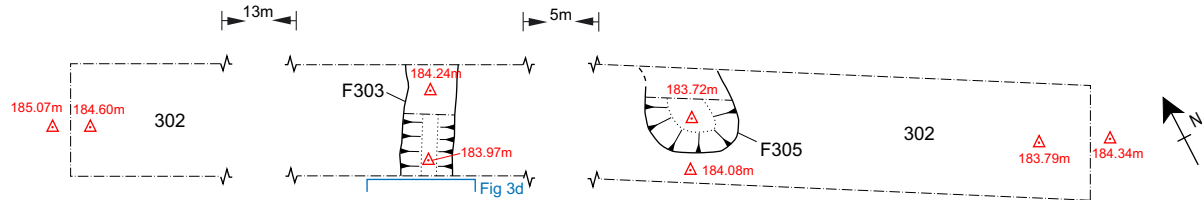
a) Plan, Trench 2



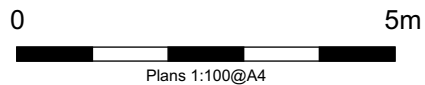
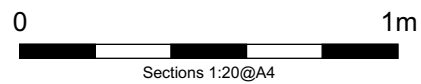
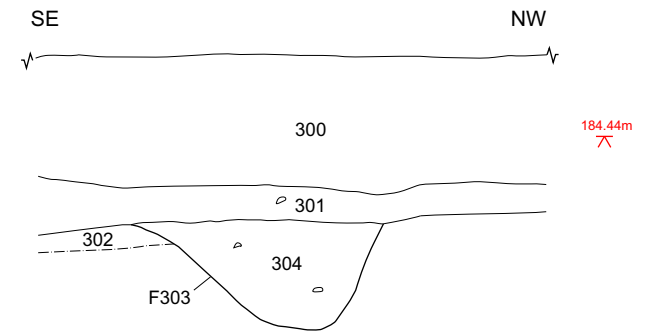
b) Section of F202



c) Plan, Trench 3



d) Section of F303



Key

Stones

Charcoal

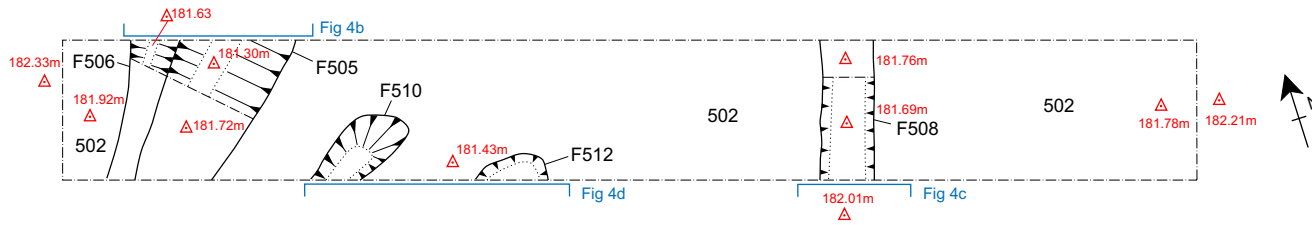
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Land at Colleen Farm, Blackawton, South Hams, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 3: Trench 2, plan and section and Trench 3, plan and section

a) Plan, Trench 5



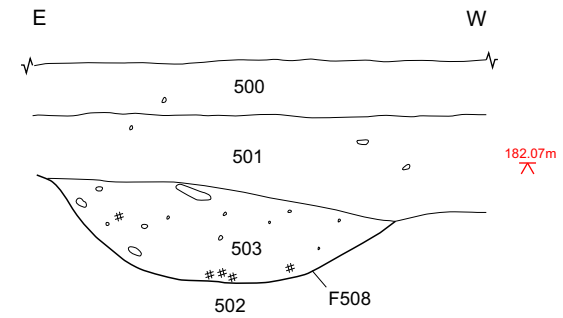
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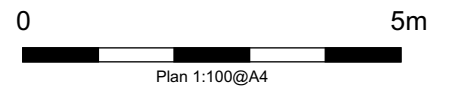
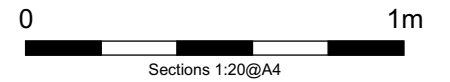
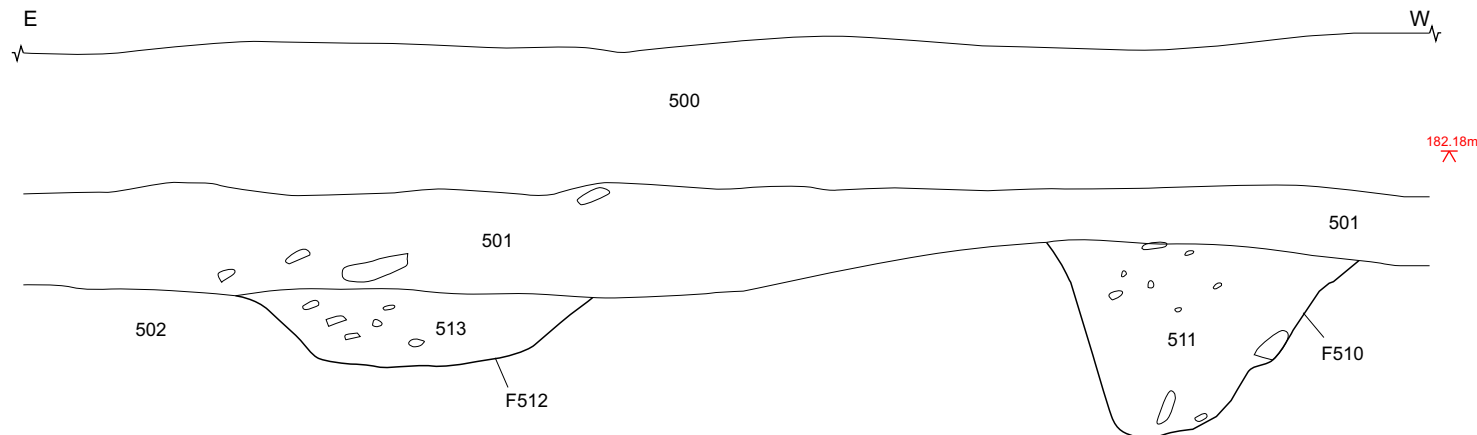
b) Section of F505 and F506



c) Section of F508



d) Section of F510 and F512



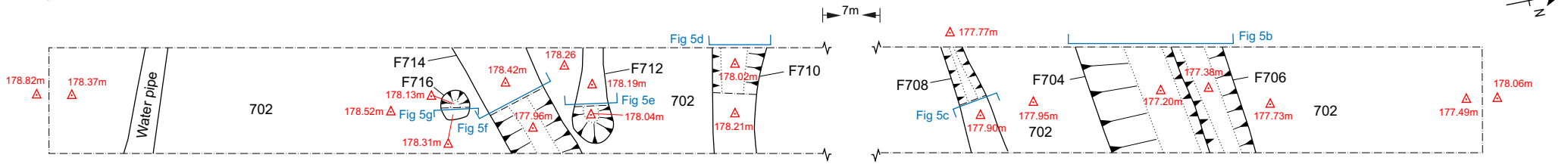
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South Hams, Devon

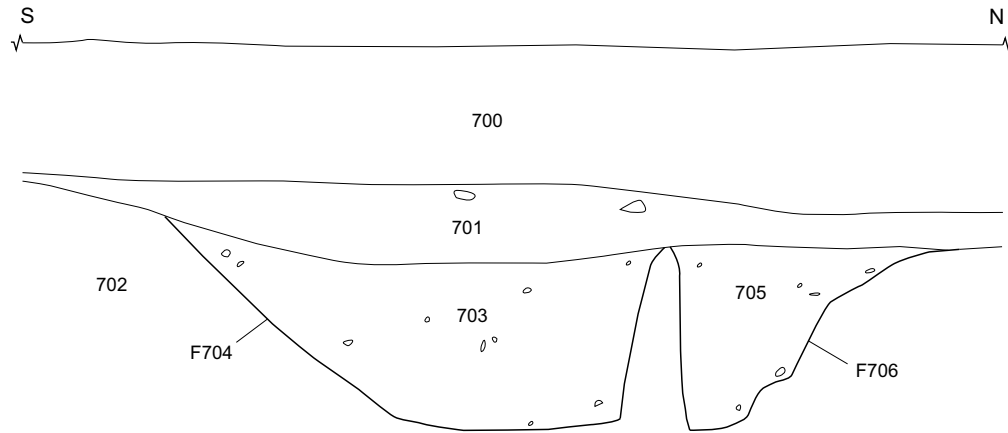
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Fig. 4: Trench 5, plan and sections

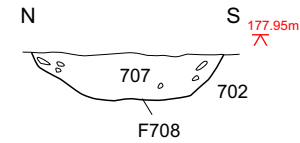
a) Plan, Trench 7



b) Section of F704 and F706



c) Section of F708



Key

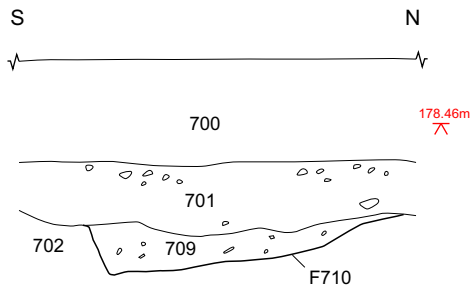


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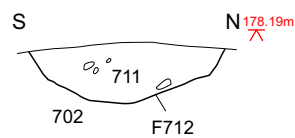


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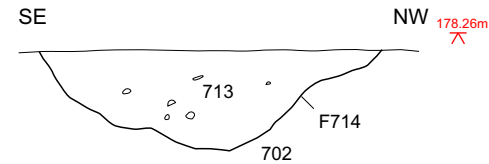
d) Section of F710



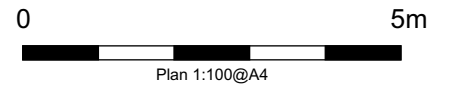
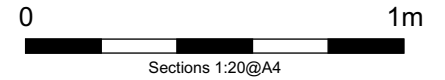
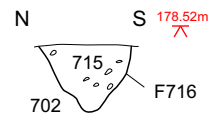
e) Section of F712



f) Section of F714



g) Section of F716



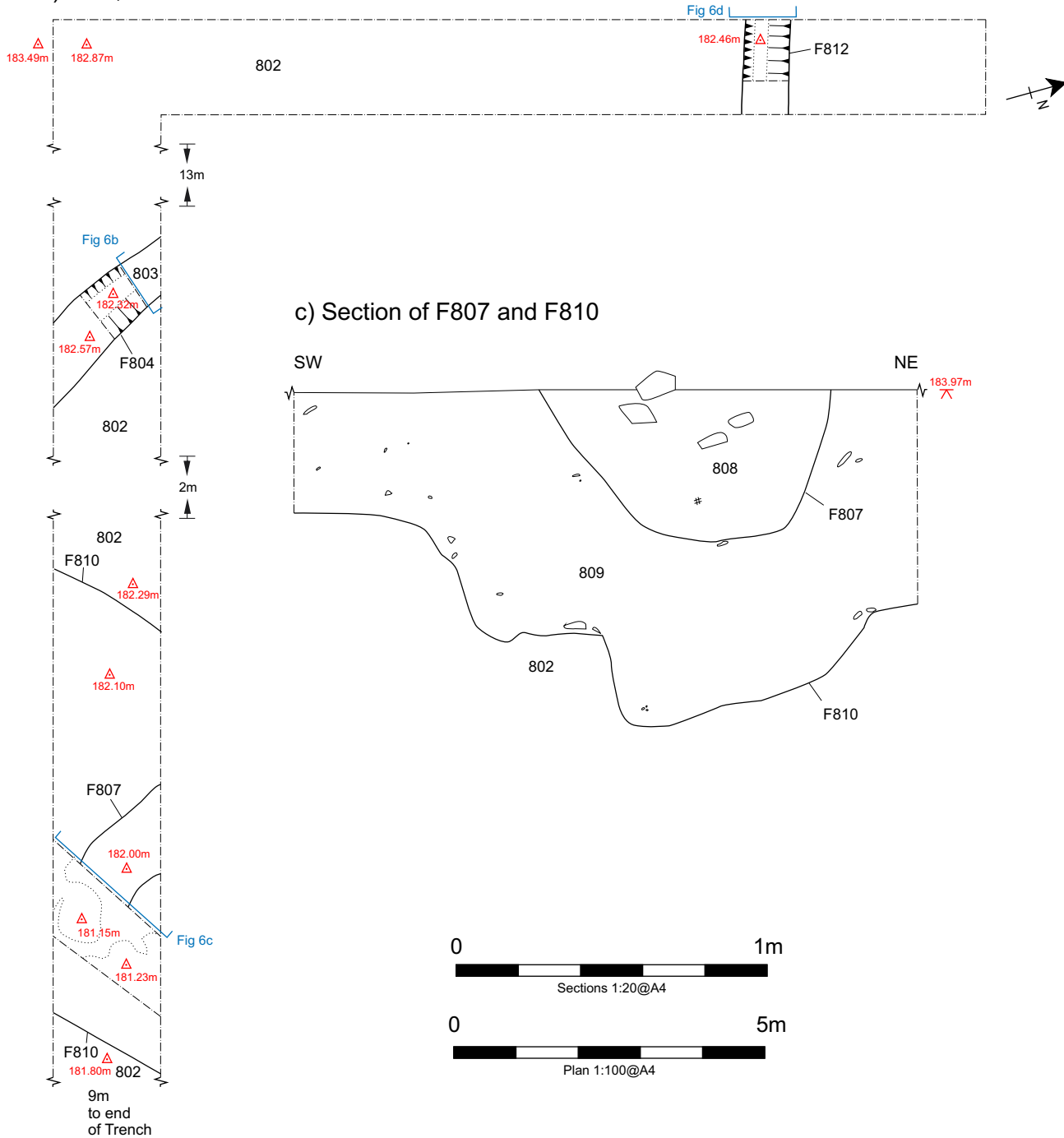
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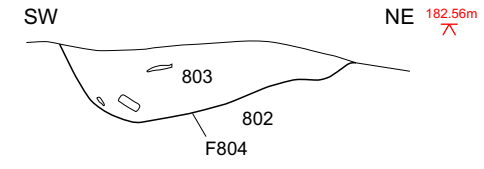
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Fig. 5: Trench 7, Plan and sections

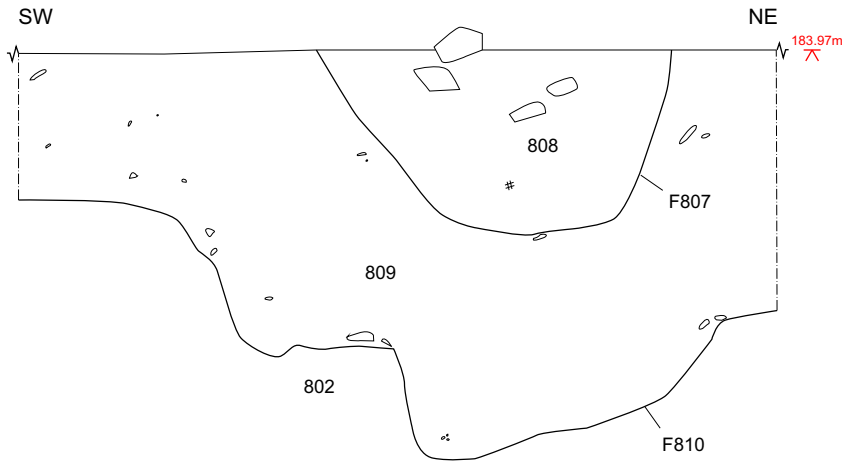
a) Plan, Trench 8



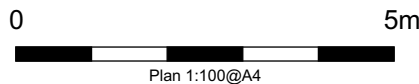
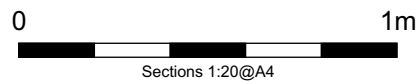
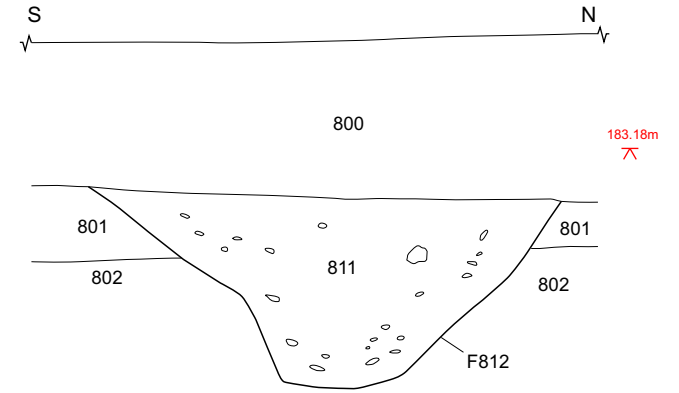
b) Section of F804



c) Section of F807 and F810



d) Section of F812



Key

Stones

Charcoal

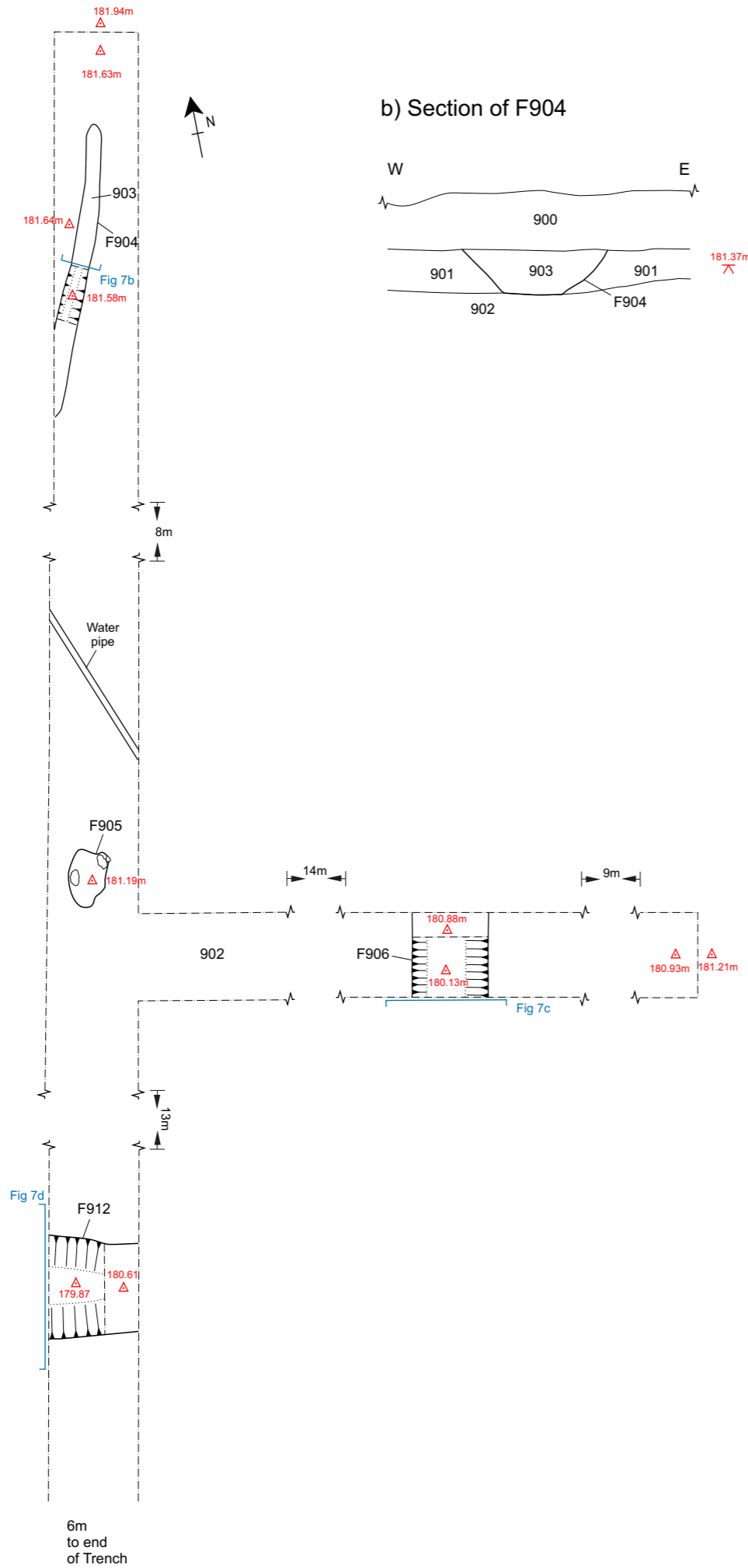
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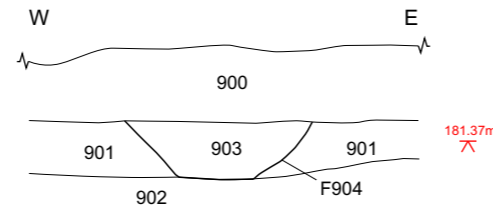
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Fig. 6: Trench 8, Plan and sections

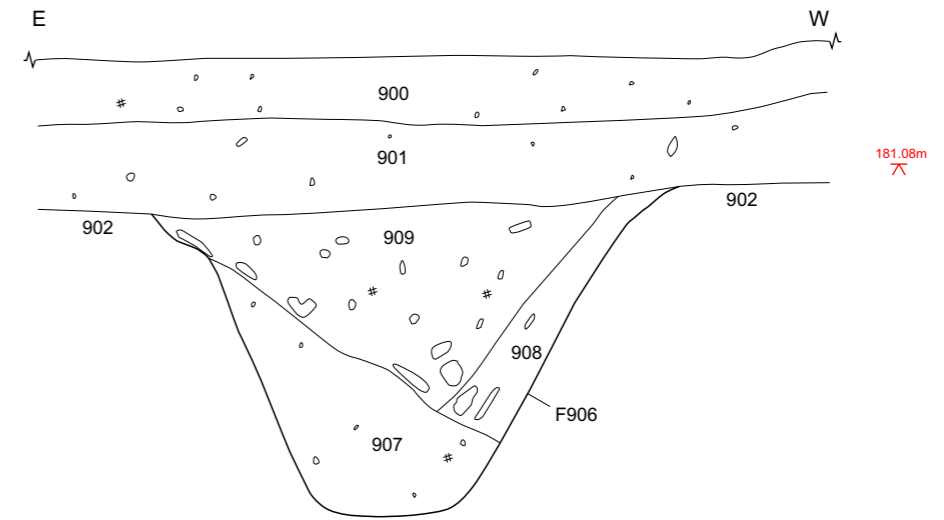
a) Plan, Trench 9



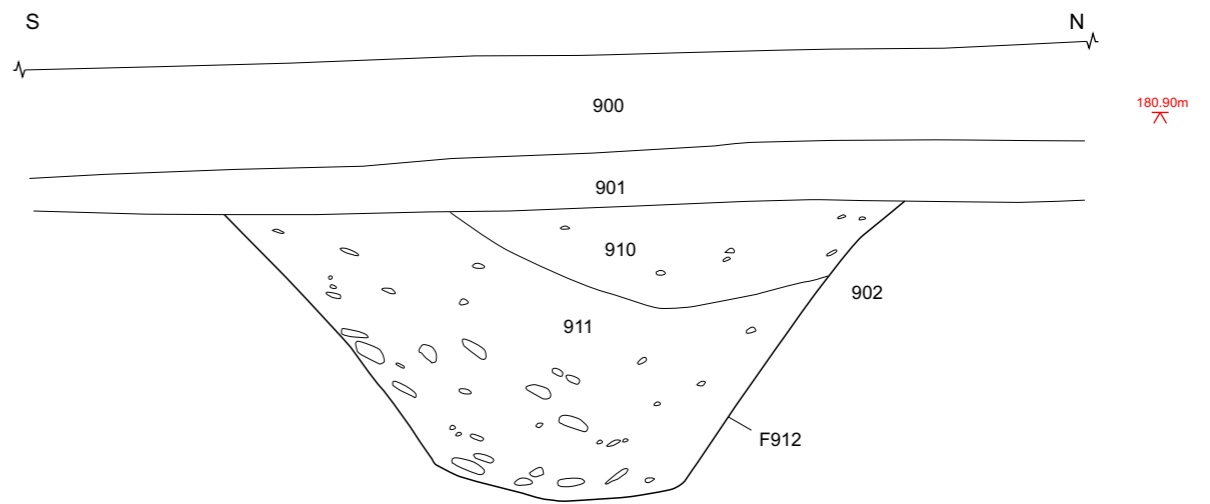
b) Section of F904



c) Section of F906

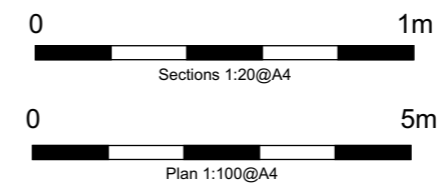


d) Section of F912



Key

- Stones
- Charcoal



PROJECT
Land at Colleen Farm, Blackawton,
South Hams, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 7: Trench 9, plan and sections



Plate 1: General site view towards location of enclosure, looking south



Plate 2: Ditch F505 and re-cut F506, Trench 5, view to north. Scale 1m



Plate 3: Enclosure ditch F906, Trench 9, view to south. Scale 1m



Plate 4: Enclosure ditch F912,
Trench 9, view to west. Scale 1m



Plate 5: Possible post-pad F905,
Trench 9, view to west. Scale 1m

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		Length 15m	Width 1.60m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
100	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.46m	Topsoil	
101	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm)	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 30m	Width 1.60m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
200	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.33m	Topsoil	
201	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm)	0.33m+	Natural subsoil	
F202	Linear cut, moderate to sharp upper break of slope, slightly flared edges at top, becoming moderately steep and straight, slightly rounded base	0.33-0.68m	Probable ditch	
203	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam, moderately compact, common moderately sorted, platy angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.33-0.68m	Fill of F202	

Trench 3		Length 30m	Width 1.60m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
300	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
301	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.30-0.42m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.42m+	Natural subsoil	
F303	Linear cut, moderate upper break of slope, moderately steep straight sides, breaking evenly onto rounded base	0.42-0.69m	Shallow ditch	
304	Mid grey brown to mid brown (mottled) clay, soft, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>30mm)	0.42-0.69m	Fill of F303	
F305	Sub circular in plan, filled with mid brown silty clay loam with sparse angular mudstone gravels, abundant pockets of charcoal	0.42-0.80m	Probable tree throw	

Trench 4		Length 40m	Width 1.60m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
400	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
401	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.32-0.54m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.54m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 5		Length 15m	Width 1.60m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
500	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.35m	Topsoil	
501	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.35-0.55m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.55m+	Natural subsoil	
503	Red brown silty clay, compacted, occasional shale gravels	0.55-1.05m	Fill of F505	
504	Red silty clay, compacted, occasional shale gravels	0.55-0.95m	Fill of F506	
F505	Linear cut, moderate steep sides, wide u-shaped base	0.55-1.05m	Probable ditch	
F506	Linear cut, steep sides, U-shaped base	0.55-0.95m	Probable ditch	
507	Pale reddish yellow silty clay, friable, common shale chippings	0.55-0.85m	Fill of F506	
F508	Linear cut, sharp to moderate break of slope, moderate to steep sides, rounded base	0.55-0.81m	Gully feature	
509	Mid reddish brown silty loam, moderately compact, moderate angular platy shillet gravels and pebbles	0.55-0.81m	Fill of F508	
F510	Terminus cut, very steep sides, flat base	0.55-1.10m	Possible ditch terminus	
511	Red brown clay silt, soft, occasional shillet gravels	0.55-1.10m	Fill of F510	
F512	Sub-circular, shallow sides, u-shaped base	0.55-0.85m	Cut of possible pit	
513	Red brown clay silt, soft, moderate shale and quartz gravels and pebbles	0.55-0.85m	Fill of F512	

Trench 6		Length 30m	Width 1.60m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
600	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.30m	Modern topsoil	
601	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.30-0.60m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.60m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 7		Length 30m	Width 1.60m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
700	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.48m	Modern topsoil	
701	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.48-0.68m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.68m+	Natural subsoil	
703	Reddish brown silty clay, soft, common small shillet gravels	0.68-1.21m	Fill of F704	
F704	Linear cut, asymmetric profile, gradual slope to south, step slope to north, broad flat base	0.68-1.21m	Probable ditch	
705	Reddish brown clay silt, soft, common small shillet gravels	0.68-1.17m	Fill of F706	
F706	Linear cut, steep sides, rounded base	0.68-1.17m	Gully feature	
707	Reddish brown, clayey silt, soft, common small shale gravels	0.68-0.91m	Fill of F708	
F708	Linear cut, shallow sides, flat base	0.68-0.91m	Probable ditch	
709	Reddish brown, clay silt, occasional shale gravels	0.68-0.83m	Fill of F710	
F710	Linear cut, asymmetric profile, steep side on south, more gradual on north, concave base	0.68-0.93m	Gully feature	
711	Reddish brown, silty clay, soft, common shale gravels	0.68-0.82m	Fill of F712	
F712	Linear cut, shallow sides, shallow u-shaped profile	0.68-0.82m	Gully terminus	
713	Reddish brown silty clay, soft	0.68-0.94m	Fill of F714	
F714	Linear cut, steep sides, rounded base	0.68-0.94m	Shallow ditch feature	
715	Dark red brown clay silt, friable, sparse charcoal flecks	0.68-0.85m	Fill of F716	
F716	Sub-circular steep straight sides, conical base	0.68-0.85m	Post hole	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 8		Length 52m	Width 1.60m	Alignment E-W/N-S
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
800	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.37m	Modern topsoil	
801	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.37-0.67m	Agricultural subsoil	
802	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.67m+	Natural subsoil	
803	Mid brown clay loam, moderately firm, sparse poorly sorted angular mudstone gravels and pebbles (20-60mm)	0.67-0.87m	Fill of F804	
F804	Linear cut, SW edge steep straight side; NE edge moderate straight sides; both break moderately into slightly rounded asymmetric base	0.67-0.87m	Gully or small ditch feature	
F807	Linear cut, steep sided, rounded base, shallowing to SE	0.67-1.17m	Ditch terminus	
808	Dark mid brown clayey silt, friable, occasional shale gravels	0.67-1.17m	Fill of F807	
809	Pale to mid reddish brown, clayey silt, soft	0.67-1.77m	Fill of F810	
F810	Linear cut, edges beyond extent of excavation, undulating and irregular base	0.67-1.77m	Cut of possible quarry pit	
811	Mid reddish brown silty clay, friable, occasional small to medium sub angular shale gravels	0.67-1.21m	Fill of F812	
F812	Linear cut, moderate to steep sides, rounded base	0.67-1.21m	Probable ditch	

Trench 9		Length 80m	Width 1.60m	Alignment N-S/E-W
Context	Description	Depth below ground	Interpretation	
900	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable, moderate small to medium sub angular shale inclusions	0-0.15m	Topsoil	
901	Mid reddish brown, loamy clay, moderately firm, sparse angular mudstone gravels (>35mm)	0.15-0.50m	Agricultural subsoil	
902	Dark reddish brown to reddish brown clay, well compacted, common to abundant angular mudstone inclusions (40-150mm) and pebbles	0.50m+	Natural subsoil	
903	Mid reddish brown silty clay, friable, occasional small to medium angular shale gravels	0.50-0.57m	Fill of F904	
F904	Curvilinear cut, shallow sloping sides, breaks into rounded base	0.50-0.57m	Shallow gully	
F905	2x large flat angular shale slabs with smaller shale slabs	0.50m	Possible post pad	
F906	Linear cut, steep straight sides, rounded base	0.50-1.32m	Enclosure ditch	
907	Dark reddish-brown, silty clay loam, loose compaction, rare sub-angular stones (>20mm), sparse shillet fragment (>10mm)	0.70-1.32m	Fill of F906	
908	Dark pink/yellow brown (mottled), silty clay loam, moderately compact, frequent mudstone and shillet inclusions	0.56-0.70m	Fill of F906	
909	Light reddish-brown silty clay loam, moderately compact, frequent angular mudstone pebbles (>110mm), sparse angular shillet pebbles (>40mm)	0.50-1.05m	Upper fill F906	
910	Mid reddish brown silty clay, friable, occasional small to medium sub angular shale gravels	0.50-0.78m	Upper fill F912	
911	Mid brownish red silty clay, friable, moderate small to large sub angular shale gravels	0.51-1.29m	Primary fill F912	
F912	Linear cut, moderately sloping sides, rounded base	0.50-1.29m	Enclosure ditch	

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