

Priddy Circle 1, Priddy, Mendip Hills, Somerset
Scheduled Monument 29037, UID 1015498

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Report on the results of archaeological trial pits and
trenches in Autumn 2013

Prepared by:
Catriona Gibson

With contributions by:
Zoë Hazell, Ruth Pelling
and Julian Richards

On behalf of:
English Heritage

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AC archaeology

**SCHEDULED MONUMENT 29037, UID 1015498
REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL PITS AND
TRENCHES IN AUTUMN 2013**

Summary

Following a first phase of archaeological investigations associated with repairs to the Priddy Circle 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument after criminal damage in 2011, and an evaluation undertaken by English Heritage field staff, AC archaeology Ltd undertook a further phase of investigation in accordance with an agreement with English Heritage, under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

This assessment report documents the results from this final phase of mitigation. The work comprised nine hand-excavated trial pits across the centre of the monument to identify the extent and nature of damage caused by a recent unauthorised trackway. Two hand-dug trenches were also opened over the external ditch of Priddy Circle 1 in an attempt to assess, characterise and date deposits within it. The fieldwork was undertaken between 16th September and 5th November 2013. This assessment report incorporates the assessment of pollen and some flotation samples not included in the earlier English Heritage excavation report.

The trial pits were able to determine the extent of damage caused by the recent trackway and levelling of sections of the monument. In addition, it was possible to undertake limited research to ascertain whether anomalies identified through the geophysical survey related to possible internal features within the monument and an entrance along the southern circuit of the bank.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This report sets out the results of archaeological trial pits excavated following damage to the monument of Priddy 1 in June 2011.
- 1.2** This document has been prepared by AC archaeology Ltd. on behalf English Heritage.
- 1.3** The first phase of the landowner-funded mitigation work was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd in April-May 2013, and consisted of shovel trial pit transects designed to assess the nature and extent of recent infill across the site, particularly within swallet holes and the Priddy Circle 1 monument ditch. In parallel with this mitigation work funded by the landowner, English Heritage undertook their own archaeological work during April 2013, partly under the auspices of the National Heritage Protection Plan. Three small hand-dug trenches were excavated to evaluate the level of preservation of archaeological deposits and features in the damaged southern bank area, as well as to assess damage caused to archaeological deposits and features in the central part of the enclosure by a new trackway.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The four Priddy Circles are a group of circular henge-like earthworks with external banks and internal ditches, arranged in a broadly NNE-SSW alignment over nearly 1.2km (Fig. 1). They have been viewed as rather enigmatic monuments by researchers in the past. Three circles share the same alignment and spacing, being approximately 60m apart from one another; whilst the fourth circle appears to have never been completed, and is offset from the axis of the other three and located some 320m further to the north. They are conventionally numbered 1-4 or I-IV from south to north, Priddy Circle 1 being the southernmost example. All four are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (NMR 29037, UID 1015498), with the northernmost circle subject to separate Scheduling.
- 2.2** The circles range from 180m and 194m in diameter, each perhaps originally with just a single entrance. Priddy Circle 1 is 190-194m in diameter, with an external ditch up to 6m wide and 0.65–1.20m deep, and an internal bank up to 7m wide, surviving to a height of 1-2m (English Heritage Scheduling 1997; Lewis and Mullin 2011, 138). Five gaps in the circuit of Priddy Circle 1 have been recognised, the one to the NNE possibly an original entrance (Fig. 1). Priddy Circles 1 and 2 were subject to geophysical survey in 1994, and Priddy Circle 1 was surveyed in detail in 2009 by Sarah Baker of the University of Worcester and Elaine Jamieson of English Heritage (Lewis and Mullin 2011, 135–136, fig. 2). This earthwork survey also identified several small sub-rectangular enclosures on the western side of Circle 1. It has been suggested that the gap between the third and fourth circles respected a prehistoric routeway (Lewis 2007).
- 2.3** Some limited excavations were undertaken at Priddy Circle 1 by the Taylor family in the 1950s (Taylor and Tratman 1956; Tratman 1967). These established that the bank of Circle 1 was constructed of stone, turf and clay, revetted with timber posts. No finds or dating evidence were recovered, but the excavations did establish that the NNE gap in the bank was associated with a causeway between two ditch terminals, and that this was probably the original entrance (Tratman 1967, 107–109).
- 2.4** The University of Worcester re-excavated some of Taylor's trenches on the eastern side of Priddy Circle 1, as part of a research project in 2008. This work was undertaken on the eastern side of the drystone boundary wall and in the field adjacent to the damaged section of the monument. This work established a more detailed stratigraphic sequence that indicated the monument was originally a double timber circle with a low bank in between, the bank later being rebuilt with a turf and stone bank (Lewis and Mullin 2011, 158). The timber posts were then removed, and a turf bank with clay facing was constructed across the circuits of postholes. It was not clear when the ditch was dug, however. The recent investigations also recovered worked flint, including a Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead from an upper ditch fill. Radiocarbon dates obtained from charcoal in ditch fills suggest a date for the ditch between 2870–2580 cal BC (ibid, 154–155). A radiocarbon date of 5310–5200 cal BC was also obtained from charcoal within a buried soil sealed beneath the bank, indicating Late Mesolithic activity in the vicinity. Narrow blades and a retouched back blade from the spoil of the Taylor's old trenches may be of Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.
- 2.5** Rather than comprising a henge, it appears that Priddy Circle 1 belongs to a recently identified group of earlier circular monuments including the first phase of Stonehenge, and monuments at Llandegai A in Gwynedd and Walton Court, Powys (Lewis and Mullin 2011, 158). These have

been termed 'formative or proto-henges' (e.g. Burrow 2010), as the ditches are external rather than internal to the enclosing banks. The area around the Priddy Circles appears to have retained ritual significance through to the Bronze Age, and continued to act as a focal point for subsequent funerary and associated activity. A spectacular concentration of Early-Middle Bronze Age barrows, many of them forming elements of large linear cemeteries, have been noted located around them, particularly to their south and west. A possible disc barrow was identified from aerial photographs of 1925 within Priddy Circle 3, and the unfinished Circle 4 is meant to have been associated with five possible round barrows (Somerset HER), although only three could be confirmed in recent aerial photographic and LiDAR survey analysis (Truscoe 2008, 27). The Ashen Hill linear barrow cemetery (locally known as Priddy 'Nine Barrows'), comprising nine large roughly circular upstanding monuments, is situated 300m to the south of Priddy Circle 1 (Fig. 1).

- 2.6** The area around the Priddy Circles contains a large number of swallet holes, and it might be that this led to the construction of the circles being halted (Stanton 1986, 356), and/or the change in alignment and spacing of the fourth circle. It is also feasible that the presence of the swallet holes in the area led to the construction of the henges and the later round barrows, the natural depressions with their unusual properties perhaps being considered by prehistoric people to be entrances or portals into a chthonic underworld (q.v. Pollard 2012, 99; Tilley 1999). One of these swallet holes was excavated and augered as part of the 2008 University of Worcester investigations. This work recovered one further piece of worked flint and burnt flint, but also recorded a lengthy though undated palaeo-environmental sequence (Allen and Scaife 2011, 150–152). The analysis of the buried soil from beneath the bank of Priddy Circle 1 suggested that it may have been constructed in a predominantly open, largely grassland landscape (ibid, 148). A soil micromorphology slide of this buried soil was prepared by Dr Mike Allen, and awaits further analysis (M. Allen pers. comm.). Dating the monument and linking palaeo-environmental sequences to features and deposits relating to monument construction, use and disuse is a key priority of the English Heritage-funded research at Priddy Circle 1 (see below).
- 2.7** There are several springs nearby, including one within Circle 3. There are also numerous anthropogenic hollows and mounds within Circle 1 in addition to the other Priddy Circles and the area surrounding them, many of these created by medieval and post-medieval lead mining. A definitive earthwork survey was undertaken by Jamieson in 2009, and again in 2011 to record damage to the monument. These surveys form the baseline survey for proposed activities.

3 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Priddy 1 is sited on land at an altitude of approximately 275 metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD), in rolling countryside on the Mendip Hills in Somerset, south-west England (Fig. 1). The land is currently short-grass pasture. Post-medieval and early modern field boundaries comprise mainly straight post-Enclosure drystone walls and hedges, built across the line of four similar earthworks including Priddy Circle 1, which are on different properties held by different landowners. Approximately two thirds of the site is on land belonging to Mr Roger Penny, with a north-west to south-east orientated stone wall extending across the earthworks. The site is bordered to the south by the line of the B3135 road, and to the north and west by modern fences. There is no open public access to any of the four Priddy Circle monuments.
- 3.2** The Mendip Hills are an elevated Carboniferous Limestone plateau with occasional deposits of Upper Old Red Sandstone and Triassic Dolomitic Conglomerate with a maximum height of just over 300m OD, rising steeply from the low-lying Somerset Levels to the west (Truscoe 2008, 14).

The limestone geology means that there are no rivers on the Mendip plateau, but permeating ground water forms springs at the base of the scarp which give rise to the rivers Yeo, Lox, Cheddar Yeo and Chew. This 'karst' landscape consists of outcropping crags and steep-sided gorges, Cheddar Gorge being the most dramatic of the latter. It also contains thousands of dolines, natural depressions where the ground has collapsed into underlying solution hollows. These are locally termed swallet holes. There are also numerous linear rakes and hollows associated with past lead extraction, such landscapes being known locally as 'gruffy ground'.

- 3.3** Free-draining silty clay loam soils are found across the Mendip limestone areas (Smith 1976, 37). There are also thinner, more alkaline soils derived from the limestone on the steeper slopes (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Although the majority of the Mendip Hills are currently under semi-permanent grassland pasture, they have been extensively ploughed during the medieval and post-medieval periods as evidenced by ridge and furrow and strip lynchets (Truscoe 2008). Slight traces of cultivation furrows surviving within the interior of Priddy Circle 1 and around the monument, were recorded by an English Heritage topographic survey in 2009.

4 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 4.1** There has been a long-term history of degradation of the Priddy Circles caused by post-medieval and early modern lead mining and ploughing, with further ploughing within and surrounding the circles and the construction of horse jumps taking place during the 1980s. Substantial damage was caused by contractors in 2011 to Priddy Circle 1, involving the bulldozing of the south-eastern portion of the bank, and infilling of the southern and western ditch circuit, in addition to the dumping of material and infilling of hollows within Circle 1. A large rutted trackway also developed through the site, with substantial wooden gate posts inserted on the northern field boundary, partly through the northern edge of the monument bank. A pile of rubble was also dumped close to that boundary. Following a criminal investigation and conviction in Taunton Crown Court, a programme of reinstatement was agreed with English Heritage under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, comprising a staged scheme of geophysical survey, archaeological excavation and recording, and monument reinstatement work.
- 4.2** A provisional programme for the site works was provided to English Heritage in November 2012, which set out the sequence of proposed activities to meet the requirements of the Section 17 agreement. The scope and extent of the preferred mitigation strategy and archaeological work has been agreed with Taunton Crown Court and English Heritage. The first phase of the landowner-funded mitigation work was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd in April-May 2013, and consisted of a magnetometer survey (Sabin and Donaldson 2013), followed by shovel trial pit transects designed to assess the nature and extent of recent infill across the site, particularly within swallet holes and the Priddy Circle 1 monument ditch (Chadwick 2013; Cox and Chadwick 2013). The magnetometer survey produced some interesting results regarding the form and construction of the monument, and highlighted the areas that had been disturbed. In parallel with this mitigation work funded by the landowner, English Heritage undertook their own archaeological evaluation work during April 2013, partly under the auspices of the National Heritage Protection Plan (Leary and Pelling 2013).
- 4.3** Nine shovel-test transects were excavated during 22nd April-10th May 2013, a total of 124 pits. The greatest depth of deposits occurred in the centres of the large swallet holes in the north-western quadrant of Priddy Circle 1 and within the small swallet hollow south-west of the monument, where the 2011 turf levels were up to 0.62m below the present ground surface

(Chadwick 2013). This material became thinner towards the edges of the swallet holes. The top of probable ditch fill deposits was also identified around the southern extent of the monument, at depths of 0.08m-0.44m below the present ground surface. Some of the re-deposited material within the outer ditch at the southern and western extent of the monument may have been derived from bulldozed bank deposits, and several worked flints, including two flakes, were recovered (see Section 8.1).

- 4.4** The English Heritage team excavated three hand-dug trial trenches (Trenches A – C, Fig. 2). Trench C, located along the recent track near the centre of Priddy Circle 1, recorded two large parallel ruts from vehicle wheels and did not reveal any prehistoric archaeological features or deposits. Trench B at the south of the monument identified that the bank had been completely bulldozed away, with no *in situ* bank material or old ground surface surviving (Leary and Pelling 2013, 25). Trench A was located at the south-east part of the monument, where the truncated bank was visible in section. Remnants of the bank, including turf material and the old ground surface, was present within the trench, and worked flint, including a possible Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic blade and part of a transverse arrowhead, were also recovered.
- 4.5** Following the results of the AC archaeology Ltd and English Heritage archaeological work in April and May 2013, separate to the mitigation work required to remove dump and infill deposits and to rebuild the bank, a further programme of English Heritage work funded by the National Heritage Protection Plan was proposed, (English Heritage, 2013a), and was accompanied by a Project Design written by AC archaeology Ltd for Stage 1 of this additional work (Cox and Chadwick, 2013).

5 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1** The general aims of the project as outlined in the English Heritage Stage 1 Project Brief were:
- To enable English Heritage and local landowners to better manage this and other similar monuments by providing them with an enhanced understanding of the site;
 - To mitigate the impact of the criminal damage by offsetting the harm done through research investigation repair damage caused to the Site from unauthorised works undertaken in 2011;
 - To characterise the damage and the effect it has had on the monument.
- 5.2** Management objectives include:
- To assist English Heritage decision making, particularly that of the Development Management and Heritage at Risk teams, when considering the management and intervention on other 'at risk' monuments of this type and period.
- 5.3** SHAPE (English Heritage, 2009) requires projects seeking English Heritage funding to identify a Primary Driver from those listed in *Making the Past Part of Our Future* (English Heritage Strategy 2005-10), and an Activity Type, Research Programme and Sub-Programme from those listed in SHAPE. The Primary Driver for the Priddy Circle 1 Stage 1 project is Aim 1: Help People Develop their Understanding of the Historic Environment, more specifically Aim1D: Develop new approaches which improve understanding and management of the historic environment (English Heritage 2009, 87, Appendix 1). The Activity Type is 1. Research; and the Research Programme is A1: What's out There?: Defining, characterising and analysing the historic environment. The relevant sub-section is 18144.150 Offsetting Loss through Knowledge Dividend.

5.4 Another relevant document is the *National Heritage Protection Plan Framework 2011-2015* (English Heritage 2013b). Here, Section 8A5 Offsetting Loss through Knowledge Dividend states that “Where protection is simply not practically possible, English Heritage and some other organisations also offer funding of last resort to ensure that such loss is offset for the public benefit by increased understanding through investigation and recording.”

5.5 The English Heritage funded Stage 1 project has the potential to address priorities laid out in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Webster 2008: 282-292). These include:

- Research Aim 17: Improve the quality and quantity of environmental data and our understanding of what it represents;
- Research Aim 38: Widen our understanding of the extraction, processing and transportation of minerals, stone and aggregates;
- Research Aim 39: Understand better the relationships of Neolithic and Bronze Age people to plants;
- Research Aim 49a: Improve knowledge of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age social life, and;
- Research Aim 54: Widen our understanding of monumentality in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

5.6 A series of Research Goals or Research Questions are also expressed in the English Heritage Project Design and Stage 1 Project Brief (English Heritage 2013b; Leary et al. 2013: 8). These research questions include:

- What is the evidence, if any, for the introduction of non-local materials to the monument in the prehistoric period? In particular, can we relate stone and/or soil used in the bank to nearby North Hill? (addresses SWARF Research Aim 18e);
- Is there any evidence that standing stones were once located within the enclosure? (addresses SWARF Research Aims 54a and b);
- Can we improve the dating for the origin and use of this monument? (addresses SWARF Research Aims 16 and 54);
- If present, what can material culture, pottery in particular, tell us about the date and nature of the monument? (addresses SWARF Research Aim 49a);
- What is the evidence for pre-enclosure activity? (addresses SWARF Research Aim 54), and;
- What is the character, nature and provenance of the flint used at the site? (addresses SWARF Research Aim 38c).

5.7 In addition, two more specific Research Objectives are outlined in the English Heritage Stage 1 Project Brief, namely:

- To locate, record and date archaeological deposits within two sections across the external ditch in order to better understand the nature and chronology of this and, by extension, other monuments;
- To characterise and define any archaeological features or deposits within nine trial pits across the centre of the enclosure in order to better understand any activity within the enclosure, as well as the impact of the recent unauthorised trackway on any surviving archaeological remains.

5.8 Additional specific Research Objectives that could be addressed include:

- Past excavation suggests that Priddy Circle 1 was built or evolved in a series of phases. The magnetometer survey indicates that the bank had varied characteristics at different points around the monument. Was the ditch circuit also a product of different phases of activity?
- The magnetometer survey indicates a possible gap at the south of Circle 1. Was this gap an entrance, and if so, how might it relate to the other possible entrances/gaps identified?
- Around the inner Circle 1 bank in the northern half of the monument, a curvilinear feature evident on the earthwork and magnetometer surveys is possibly a gully or slot filled with rubble. Is this feature prehistoric, perhaps relating to the earlier prehistoric phases of monument construction and use; or does it post-date this activity and reflect later activity? The recent unauthorised track appears to intersect or truncate part of this feature;
- The geophysical surveys have identified several linear features within Circle 1, which may reflect agricultural activity of unknown date. Again, the recent unauthorised track appears to intersect or truncate one of these features.

6 PROJECT SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

- 6.1** The scope of the AC archaeology Ltd project is outlined in the English Heritage Stage 1 Project Brief (English Heritage 2013a). The site works were undertaken in accordance with the Project Design for archaeological investigations (Cox and Chadwick, 2013) submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, prior to the commencement of works. In order to minimise any potential adverse effects of the site works, all excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 6.2** Two trenches (TP165 and TP166 respectively), one 4m long and 3m wide, and the second, initially 6m long and 2m wide (but extended to 7m to expose the full width of the ditch after consultation with English Heritage), were hand-excavated across the enclosure ditch of Priddy Circle 1. The western trench, TP166, was positioned over the external infilled ditch of the monument, while the southern one was targeted over a geophysical anomaly that suggested a possible break in the ditch (Fig. 3). A transect of nine trial pits, each measuring 3m x 3m, were also excavated across the centre of the enclosure along the course of the unauthorised, rutted trackway. While the majority of these were spaced equidistantly (c. 20m apart), two (TP156 and TP162) were targeted over geophysical anomalies; one trial pit was positioned to intersect with a possible curvilinear feature near the inner face of the bank, while the other was located to intersect with one of the possible linear features (Figs 2-3).
- 6.3** Soil from all the hand-excavated trenches was sieved through a 10mm mesh to ensure maximum recovery of finds, in particular lithics. Due to the high clay content of the soil, this comprised a minimum of 50% of the soil from the nine test-pits along the line of the trackway and up to 60% of the soil recovered from the infilled ditch. If archaeological potential was noted in any of the trial pits (e.g. as with trial pits 156 and 162), this sample was increased to 100%.
- 6.4** Flotation samples of 8 to 39 litres volume were taken from all identified cut features (for sampling details and assessment results see Section 9, below). Samples were processed by mechanical water flotation by GeoFlo (Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services), with flots collected onto a 0.25mm mesh sieve. Monolith samples were taken from the exposed ditch section face in

TP166. Pollen was extracted from block samples taken during these excavations and from the buried turf layer beneath the bank section investigated by English Heritage (see Section 9, below).

7 RESULTS

Modern wheel ruts

- 7.1** The modern wheel ruts were recorded in trial pits 156–164 inclusively. These ruts resulted from the creation of the recent trackway, aligned NNW – SSE across the eastern side of the monument (Fig. 2). They were filled with modern and disturbed deposits, generally comprising compact dark brown silty clays with occasional small pebbles and clinker; frequent modern organics were also encountered. The impact of the rutting was most severe in the northern part of Priddy Circle 1, particularly adjacent to the new gate, where boggy conditions prevailed. In some of the trial pits (156, 162), they were observed as two separate wheel ruts, but in other trial pits (e.g. 157, 158, 159) they were revealed as a series of braided and intercutting modern intrusions.
- 7.2** In trial pit 156, two ruts were revealed. The eastern rut **F15602** was 0.6m wide and 0.35-0.5m deep and the western rut **F15604** was 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep. Three braided ruts were noted. In trial pit 157, three ruts were noted. The eastern rut (**F15705**) was 0.2m wide and 0.26m deep, the central rut (**F15706**) was 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep and the western rut (**F15708**) was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. They were all irregular in plan with diffuse edges and were filled with modern bioturbated dark brown silty clay topsoil. In trial pit 158, three ruts were observed. The eastern rut (**F15804**) was 0.4m wide in the north side of the trench but increased to 0.8m in the southern side. The central rut, (**F15805**) was 0.6m wide and the western rut, (**F15606**), was 0.52m wide. They were all shallow in this trial pit (no deeper than 50mm) and petered out on excavation, indicating that the recent trackway had not significantly impacted underlying horizons in this part of the monument.
- 7.3** In trial pit 159, multiple criss-crossing ruts and churning were identified, probably as a result of the boggy nature of this part of the site and the presence of a swallet hollow to its south-east. These were simplified into two principal ruts, both of them quite wide and deep. The western rut (**F15903**) was 0.65m wide and 0.45m deep, while the eastern rut (**F15901**) was 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep, indicating the modern trackway had a greater impact on underlying deposits in this area. Two shallower but wider wheel ruts were noted in trial pit 160. The western wheel rut (**F16002**) was 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep, while the eastern rut (**F16004**) was 1.2m wide and 0.26m. Two relatively narrow and shallow ruts were noted in trial pit 161. The western rut (**F16104**) was 1.2m wide and 0.15m deep, while the eastern rut (**F16102**) was 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep.
- 7.4** Trial pit 162 also revealed only two narrow and shallow ruts. The western wheel rut (**F16205**) was 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep, while the eastern wheel rut (**F16203**) was 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep. Trial pit 163 also revealed two shallow and narrow wheel ruts. Both western and eastern wheel ruts, (**F16304** and **F16302** respectively) were 0.35m wide and 0.2m deep. In trial pit 164, the western rut (**F16405**) was 0.35m and 0.12m deep, while the eastern rut (**F16407**) was 0.85m wide and 0.12m deep.
- 7.5** In trench 165, the recent vehicular use of this part of the Scheduled Monument had resulted in more extensive disturbance and much of the upper mixed subsoil horizon (16501) was heavily compacted. Two wheel ruts, aligned roughly east-west, relate to the recent trackway created around the south-western quadrant of the external ditch of the monument in this trench. As this

was established over a naturally boggy area, the ruts in this trench were wider and deeper than in most of the other pits excavated, except perhaps for trial pit 156. The southern rut, **F16513**, was 1m wide and 0.25m deep and the northern rut, **F16515**, was 1.25m and 0.23m deep. Only a single rut (**F16621**) was identified in trench 166, and this was more accurately described as a compacted, disturbed area on the western side of the ditch. It was 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep.

Trial pit 156 (3.5m by 2.5m)

7.6 Trial pit 156 was placed at the northern end of the trackway adjacent to the modern unauthorised gate. A 1x1m trial pit had been opened previously against the gatepost to assess the extent of damage to this part of the monument and a possible pit was noted in the section. As it was only partially revealed, one aim of this trial pit was to position it in order to reveal the full extent of the potential archaeological feature; it was subsequently identified as a deep bracken root. The dimensions of this trial pit were changed slightly in an effort to retrieve maximum information about this area of the monument. It was located on the possible denuded bank, where significant damage and wheel-rutting had resulted in the levelling of any positive features.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
15600	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-120mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
15601	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert	c. 120-240mm	Subsoil
15616	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium sized gravel and flint	c. 350mm+	Natural geology

Table 1: Trial pit 156. Depositional layer sequence

Possible buried soil 15606 (Fig. 4b, Plate 1)

7.7 Beneath the modern ruts a series of archaeological horizons were revealed. The latest deposit noted in the sequence was 15606, a dark brown compact silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded gravels. As this had a high organic content, it was thought to relate to a buried soil or ancient turf line. This layer had a maximum thickness of 100mm, and a single flint flake was recovered from it.

Degraded turves 15608 and metalled surface 15607/15610/15612 (Fig 4a)

7.8 Layer 15606 sealed 15608, which comprised several degraded turves in a matrix of re-deposited subsoil, with a maximum thickness of 20mm. These were only preserved in the centre of the trial pit, where the rutting had not impact this horizon. Removal of 15606 and 15608 revealed layer 15607, which was an informal cobbled or metalled surface aligned north-south in the centre of the trial pit and continuing across its full extent. This slightly irregular surface was between 1.2 and 1.4m in width and 20mm in thickness. It comprised abundant small and medium sub-rounded stones (30-100mm in diameter) set within a compact matrix of dark brown silty clay. An earlier cobbled surface (15610/15612) was revealed beneath 15607 (Plate 2). The stones within this underlying surface were slightly larger and more irregular than those within 15607 (ranging from 50-200mm in length), and the metalled area was narrower (with a maximum width of 0.6m), perhaps implying it formed the foundation horizon for surface 15607. The metalling was situated in an area just to the west of a possible break or terminus of the bank of the circuit of Priddy 1, although caution must be given to such an observation, due to the more recent disturbance and levelling along this section of the monument. If this is the case, however, it may indicate the

presence of a short length of a metalled path/trackway in the entrance area. Patches of iron pan (15611) were noted on either side of 15607, implying that this was a boggy area, with pockets of standing water; a zone of metalling would thus help alleviate wet conditions.

Possible denuded bank 15613

- 7.9** In the south-eastern corner of the trial pit, remnants of a possible slightly mounded bank deposit (15613) were noted. A flotation sample of this deposit identified small quantities of oak charcoal (Sample 16, see Table 13). Again this had been truncated by more recent damage associated with the creation of the modern trackway, and only survived over an area of 0.65m by 0.55m, with a maximum thickness of 0.22m thus making interpretation difficult. It comprised a greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal.

Trial pit 157 (3m x 3m)

- 7.10** Trial pit 157 was situated 15m to the south-south-east of trial pit 156 on the line of the modern rutted trackway. A maximum depth of 0.3m was removed down to natural geology. Three separate north-south aligned wheel ruts (**F15705**, **F15706** and **F15708**) were noted, but no archaeological features or finds were identified in this trial pit.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
15700	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-30mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
15701	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation	c. 30-120mm	Subsoil
15702	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium sized gravel and flint	c. 120-350mm+	Natural geology
15704	Dark brown silty clay with organic material	c.200-350mm	Modern re-deposited topsoil associated with ruts – upcast from the rutting

Table 2: Trial pit 157. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 158 (3m x 3m, Plate 3)

- 7.11** Trial pit 158 was opened 40m to the south of the northern end of the modern wheel rutted trackway, and a maximum depth of 0.45m of soil was removed on to natural geology. Again three ruts were identified in this trial pit, all irregular in plan and section, and all shallow. When these superficial ruts were excavated, a linear feature (**F15808**) was identified cutting into the natural geology. It was also oriented north-south, and was 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep. It was also filled with modern topsoil and likely represents another rut that cut more deeply on this side. No archaeological features or finds were recovered in this trial pit.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
15800	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-140mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
15801	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation	c. 140-300mm	Subsoil
15802	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium sized gravel and flint	c. 300-450mm+	Natural geology

Table 3: Trial pit 158. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 159 (3m x 3m)

7.12 Trial pit 159 was placed 60m south from the northern end of the modern trackway and a maximum depth of 0.42m of soil deposits were removed prior to encountering the natural geology. The natural was deeper in the south-eastern corner of the trial pit, associated with a lens of iron panning, indicating the former presence of standing water in this area. Multiple overlapping and criss-crossing wheel ruts were identified, which were simplified into two broad ruts with associated churning (**F15901** and **F15903**). The rutting was wider and deeper in this area, and may corroborate with the evidence from the iron panning to indicate a boggy zone in and around this trial pit. Although no archaeological features or finds were noted, the sloping ground surface and iron panning could indicate it was situated on the edge of a previously-unrecorded swallet hollow that lay to its south-east. There is no evidence for this, however, on the geophysical survey.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
15900	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-230mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
15905	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation and mixing	c. 230-380mm	Mixed subsoil
15906	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium sized gravel and flint	c. 380-420mm+	Natural geology

Table 4: Trial pit 159. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 160 (3m x 3m)

7.13 Trial pit 160 was opened 80m to the south of the northern extent of the modern trackway. Two shallow wheel ruts were noted, and a maximum depth of 0.30m of soil deposits were removed prior to encountering the natural geology. Two distinct areas of iron panning were noted in its north-western and south-eastern corners. Although a series of possible stake-holes were revealed in the centre of the trial pit, they formed no coherent plan. Excavation confirmed that they had been created by bracken roots, and had irregular, rather than vertical, profiles. No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trial pit.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16000	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-50mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16001	Topsoil-derived upcast from wheel ruts. Very mixed dark brown silty clay	c. 50-290mm	Mixed topsoil derived and disturbed deposit
16006	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation and mixing	c. 50-300mm	Banded and re-deposited subsoil with small angular stones
16007	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium sized gravel and flint	c. 300mm+	Natural geology – note in places very bioturbated with evidence of iron panning and quite stoney

Table 5: Trial pit 160. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 161 (3m x 3m)

7.14 Trial pit 161 was located 100m to the south of the northern end of the modern trackway, and c. 15m due south of the English Heritage trench C (excavated in May 2013). A maximum depth of 0.25m of soil deposits were removed prior to revealing the underlying natural geology. Again two shallow and narrow ruts were identified, but no archaeological features or finds were noted in this trial pit.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16100	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-50mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16101	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation	c. 50-150mm	Mixed topsoil and subsoil disturbed deposit
16106	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium-large sized gravel and flint and cobbles (Harptree Beds)	c. 150-250mm+	Natural geology – note in places very bioturbated and quite stoney

Table 6: Trial pit 161. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 162 (3m x 3m, Plates 4)

7.15 Trial pit 162 was situated c. 118m to the south of the northern extent of the modern trackway and was targeted over an east-west oriented linear anomaly recorded in the geophysical survey (Sabin and Donaldson 2012). A maximum depth of 0.15m of soil deposits was removed prior to encountering natural geology. Two shallow and narrow wheel ruts were noted, but no evidence for the archaeological feature suggested by a geophysical anomaly, was identified. The presence of iron panning and a number of natural stone cobbles in this trial pit may account for this linear anomaly. It should be noted that English Heritage trial pit C, c. 40m to the north of this trial pit, was targeted over a similar linear anomaly but also revealed only ruts. Although no archaeological features were identified in this trial pit, two flints were recovered. The first, a flint chip, came from 16204, the fill of eastern rut **F16203**, and the second (SF1) was a barbed and tanged arrowhead from 16206, the fill of the western rut **F16204**. The discovery of a complete arrowhead in good condition (Plate 3), albeit from a disturbed context, may indicate the presence of activity of Beaker/Early Bronze Age date in the vicinity.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16200	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-100mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16201	Buried turf and subsoil – dark brown mixed stoney and cobbly silty clay	c. 10-140mm	Mixed subsoil and buried turf disturbed deposit
16106	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium-large sized gravel and flint and cobbles (Harptree Beds)	c. 140-150mm+	Natural geology – note in places very bioturbated and quite stoney

Table 7: Trial pit 162. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 163 (3m x 3m, Fig. 4c)

7.16 Trial pit 163 was opened 140m south the northern edge of the modern trackway, and a maximum depth of 0.2m of soil was removed prior to encountering natural geology. It should be noted that a large concentration of medium-sized cobbles and flat stones were noted in this **trial pit**, overlying the natural geology. While there was no structure evident within this **general** 'rubble', they might relate to a disturbed stone structure in the vicinity. Again, two relatively shallow wheel ruts were noted. Two possible features – a posthole and a nearby stakehole – were revealed and excavated in the north-western corner of the trial pit. The posthole (**F16307**) was roughly circular and measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. It had irregular sides and an undulating base. Possible stakehole (**F16309**) was more irregular in plan and profile and was 0.15m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. The irregular nature of both these features implies that they are likely natural and may be root holes. No finds were retrieved from either of these features but a flint flake (SF 7) was recovered from the 16303; the fill of the eastern wheel rut.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16300	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	0-100mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16301	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation	c. 100-200mm	Mixed topsoil and subsoil disturbed deposit; very bioturbated
16305	Light orange-yellow silty clay. Compacted with common small and medium-large sized gravel and flint and cobbles (Harptree Beds)	c. 200mm+	Natural geology – note in places very bioturbated and quite stoney; also iron panning evident

Table 8: Trial pit 163. Depositional layer sequence

Trial pit 164 (4.5m x 4m, Fig. 4d-e, Plate 5)

7.17 Trial pit 164 was located c. 20m south of trial pit 163 and c. 12m due north of the south-eastern bank circuit of Priddy 1. Originally it was opened as a 3m by 3m trial pit, but after consultation with English Heritage, it was subsequently enlarged. A dense concentration of stones was encountered, and thus it was extended to the south, west and east respectively, in order to characterise this possible structure more clearly. This resulted in a stepped trial pit with maximum dimensions of 4m (north-south) by 4.5m (east-west). A maximum of 0.12m of soil was removed in this trench, but natural geology was not encountered as the stone structure/stone spread (**F16403**) which overlay this was not dismantled and removed.

7.18 The extensive stone spread (**F16403**) was revealed immediately below the topsoil and turf. The stones were less dense in the southern extent of the trial pit, and they petered out in this direction. Many of the stones were likely *in situ*, but others had been scattered and disturbed, which is hardly surprising given that they were sealed by a relatively shallow topsoil deposit. Their disturbance was not only a result of the creation of the recent trackway, but likely related to previous agricultural activity. The principal concentration was in the northern and western half of the trial pit where the edge of a possible structure may be identified. It continued beyond the northern and western limits of the trial pit, but may represent a denuded cairn measuring at least 2.2m east-west and 2m north-south (Fig. 4d). It is difficult to discern its exact form, but the extent exposed indicated it may be sub-rounded in plan. Two further smaller concentrations of stones in the north-eastern and central-eastern parts of the trial pit may represent small roughly circular cists. The first possible cist (**F16409**) lay c. 1m to the east of **F16403** and comprised a series of

medium and large stones, two of which were set vertically as orthostats. These defined a sub-circular structure 0.6m in diameter. Another possible cist, **F16410**, lay c. 1m south of **F16409**. This was smaller and more irregular in form, but again comprised three large stones set on their edge as orthostats. These were surrounded by smaller packing stones, defining a possible cist 0.5m north-south by 0.4m east-west. Other scattered stones in the vicinity likely represent denuded elements of these structures.

7.19 Of interest is that the geophysical survey did not highlight the presence of potential stone structures in this area, although the bank appears wider in this zone. Three flint flakes (including SF5, a possible thinning flake) were recovered during stone cleaning (layer 16400). No other finds were identified, but it should also be acknowledged that the relatively large quantities of stones noted in trial pit 163, c. 20m to the north, may indicate that this stone structure was originally quite extensive, or else that elements relating to it have been scattered quite widely.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16400	Cleaning layer – similar to 16402; situated between the stones	100-120mm	Cleaning layer – removing soil between stones to define structure
16401	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	c. 0-50mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16402	Dark brown silty clay deposit similar to 16400 but above stones	c. 50-100mm	Deposit above stones – mixed topsoil and subsoil
15402	Mottled orange-brown silty clay with medium sub-angular limestone and chert; frequent bioturbation	c. 100-120mm+	Subsoil

Table 9 – Pit 164. Depositional layer sequence

External Ditch

Trench 165 (4m x 3m, Fig. 4f- h, Plate 6)

7.20 Trench 165 was targeted over the external ditch along its southern circuit at a point where the geophysical survey had identified a possible break in the ditch. This trench, 4m long (north-south) and 3m wide (east-west), was positioned carefully to ascertain whether an entrance into the monument may have originally existed at this location. Once the turf and topsoil had been removed, two wheel ruts, aligned roughly north-south, (**F16513** and **F16515**), were revealed. These related to the modern vehicle access track created immediately over the outer ditch of the monument, on its south-western circuit. Two shovel pits dug during the earlier phase of investigation in March/April 2013 were also noted in the east (**F16502**) and west (**F16504**) facing sections of the trench; both were 0.3m wide and 0.25m deep.

7.21 Once the recent disturbed deposits and subsoil had been recorded and removed, the underlying deposits indicated that the geophysical anomaly represented the presence of a natural sinkhole at this point along the ditch circuit. This swallet hollow (**F16512**) was not fully revealed in the trench but was at least 3.1m long, 2.4m wide and 1.4m deep (full depth not reached for Health and Safety reasons). It was sub-circular in plan, with an irregular profile (Fig. 4f and h). At its southern and northern sides, the break of slope was gradual and concave at the top, but at 0.6m down, the edges of the feature became steeper and more irregular. Only the western extent of

this feature was revealed in the trench and it forms part of a much larger natural depression that seemingly was deliberately incorporated into the external ditch of Priddy 1.

7.22 A series of four water-derived deposits were evident within the sinkhole. From earliest to latest these were 16511, a mottled grey-pink / grey-black clayish silt, with a high organic component. This had a maximum thickness of 0.18m and had washed in around large boulders. The flotation sample taken from this deposit (Sample 9) contained a small quantity of oak charcoal, along with large quantities of roots. Above this was a 15610, a 0.7m thick orange-brown clay loam layer with small quantities of medium-sized cobbles (50–150mm). This may be contemporary with deposit 15609, a 0.15m thick orange-brown silty clay that had been washed into the southern side of the feature. In turn, these deposits were sealed by a 0.35m thick water-lain deposit, 16508; a sterile well-sorted grey-brown silty clay. No finds were retrieved from any of these deposits, but two flints (SF9 and S10), a flake and a blade respectively, were recovered from the topsoil. As this sinkhole was covered by a fairly substantial subsoil layer, it had become fully infilled at some point in the more distant past. It is clear that the feature had once been very active, as the large boulders exposed towards the lower part of the excavated feature had been heavily eroded from water action. At least two stones exhibited quite deep channelling and grooving, and may imply that perhaps during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, running water had flowed around them, at least intermittently.

7.23 It should be noted that only natural geology was encountered to the west and north of the swallet hollow in trench 165. No evidence for the continuation of the ditch was identified, and thus it is likely that the solution hole marked one side of an original entrance into Priddy Circle 1 on its southern side.

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16500	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	c. 0-150mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16501	Mixed and mottled grey-brown silty clay with occasional large boulders and cobbles, and abundant organic content	c. 150-300mm	Mixed and disturbed subsoil
16506	Dark brown silty clay deposit similar to 16501 but less disturbed	c. 150-300mm	Subsoil
16507	Mottled pale orange-brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel,	c. 300mm+	Natural geology

Table 10: Trench 165. Depositional layer sequence

Trench 166 (7m x 2m, Fig 5, Plate 7)

7.24 Trench 166 was opened over the western side of the external ditch to characterise the nature of the ditch circuit in this area, which had also been impacted upon by the recent trackway. It was originally opened as a 5m long (east-west) and 2m wide (north-south) trench, but it was subsequently extended a further 2m to the east to expose the entire ditch section.

7.25 Once the topsoil and modern rutting/compaction had been removed, the external ditch was revealed as a curvilinear feature within the trench. As excavation proceeded, it became clear that the southern and northern ditch sections exhibited distinct stratigraphic sequences, although this was not evident in plan. Thus both ditch sections were recorded separately. Monolith samples were taken from both ditch sections, along with a series of flotation samples.

South facing section of the ditch (Fig. 5b)

- 7.26** The south facing section was more straightforward. This revealed a ditch cut (**F16603**) that was 3.4m wide and 0.65m deep. On both ditch sides, the break of slope began at a moderate angle at the top, becoming more steeply concave halfway down, and reaching a slightly irregular, flat base. On this side, six silting fills were identified, and the upper fills had been root-affected while the lower ones had suffered from animal (rabbit) burrowing. From earliest to latest these were as follows. The initial deposit was 16604, a 0.13m thick primary silting deposit of sterile re-deposited natural (orange-yellow silty clay). This was sealed by 16605 which was 0.23m deposit of compact yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and rare sub-angular Harptree Beds stones. This fill had silted in from both sides of the ditch as had the underlying primary fill, and a core rejuvenation flake (SF6) was recovered from it. The flecks of manganese may indicate the presence of standing water. A flotation sample from this layer (Sample 8) recovered only tiny flecks of charcoal, along with modern seeds and insect remains, and may relate to intrusive material from rabbit burrowing. Above this, in the centre of the ditch, fill 16606 had silted in as 0.13m layer of light brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and manganese flecks. Again the flotation sample from this layer (Sample 4) indicated some modern contamination, but included charred plant remains of the *Prunus* species (blackthorn, plum, cherry). A grey chert flake (SF8), possibly sourced from Portland, was also retrieved from this layer. This in turn was sealed by 16607, a 0.16m thick slow-silting deposit that had been derived from the eastern side of the ditch, perhaps thus relating to the denudation and slumping of its internal bank. Two flint flakes (SF2 and SF3) came from this layer.
- 7.27** Above this, layer 16608 was a 0.12m thick compact orange-brown silty clay deposit that again had derived from the side of the internal bank. This may represent a stabilisation horizon within the ditch and was a relatively level deposit; a large core fragment (SF4) was recovered from it. The upper ditch fill, 16609, again likely indicating bank slump, filled the ditch completely and comprised a 0.15m thick dark brown silty clay.

North facing section of ditch (Fig. 5c)

- 7.28** The north facing section indicated a more complex series of ditch events, including two later recuts. The original ditch cut (**F16610**) had a different profile to the south facing one, with a moderate concave break of slope at the top, moderate concave sides, and with a slightly irregular flat base. On this side the ditch was 3.10m wide and 0.62m deep. The earliest cut (**F16610**) contained four fills – 16611, 16612, 16613 and 16614 prior to being recut. The primary fill (16611) comprised a 0.12m thick deposit of sterile re-deposited natural that had been derived from the external side. This was followed by a more substantial deposit (16612; 0.35m in thickness) that comprised yellowish-brown silty clay material that had likely slumped down from the internal bank. Two further silting deposits (16613 and 16614; both light brown gritty clay layers, together with a maximum thickness of 0.38m) had then slumped in from the external side of the ditch prior to it being recut. Flotation samples from deposits 16611 and 16613 (Samples 6 and 7) found only intrusive material, again likely derived from rabbit burrowing.
- 7.29** Recut **F16615** was 1.90m wide and 0.55m deep and represents a clear-out of the ditch as deposits had seemingly rapidly slumped into this particular section. Layer 16612 may indicate a relatively dramatic collapse of bank deposits, possibly due to its unstable nature in this part of the ditch circuit. The recut was shallower and narrower than the original ditch cut, but followed a

similar moderate concave profile, although the base was now concave not flat. Two fills, again both derived from the side of the bank (16616 and 16617) were noted within this recut, both brownish-yellow layers of re-deposited natural with charcoal flecks. Both these deposits were truncated by a second recut (**F16618**) so their full extents are unknown.

7.30 The second recut (**F16618**) was wider and shallower than **F16615**. It was 2.50m wide and 0.49m deep with a moderate concave side on the eastern side and a steeper concave side of its western side with a sharper break of slope leading on to a concave base. The shallower western profile may have been an intentional design feature in an attempt to reduce the quantities of soil slumping in from the internal bank side. If so, this result was achieved, as neither of the lower two fills (16619 and 16620) were derived from this direction. In fact, 16619 appears to have been a 0.22m deliberate backfill deposit concentrated in the centre of the ditch. It may seem anomalous that a ditch would be partially infilled soon after it had been recut, but since this deposit of yellowish-brown silty clay was noted only in the centre of the cut, clearly it had not silted in from either side. It was sealed by a 0.22m thick mottled brown silty clay deposit (16620) that had silted in from the external side of the ditch and formed the upper fill of the ditch.

7.31 None of the ditch fills identified on the north-facing section contained finds, but some of the ditch fills on both sides could be related. Although no recuts were identified on the south facing section, fill 16605 was very similar to 16612. Furthermore 16606 (north) equates to 16619 (south), and 16607 (north) is the same as 16620 (south).

Context Number	Description	Depth/Thickness	Interpretation
16600	Brown silty loam with small to medium sub-angular limestone and Harptree Bed	c. 0-100mm	Topsoil and turf (mixed and bioturbated)
16601	Mixed and mottled mid brown compact silty clay with rare sub-angular stones (Harptree Beds) and fragments of modern CBM and clinker	c. 100-400mm	Disturbed subsoil mixed with levelling material
16602	Mottled pale orange-brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel and weathered bedrock	c. 400m+	Natural geology

Table 11: Trench 166. Depositional layer sequence

8 FINDS

Worked stone report by Julian Richards

8.1 The material from both trial pit and subsequent excavation has been examined as one assemblage. The worked stone was sorted into conventional categories based on a lithic reduction sequence (cores/flakes/whole/broken/retouched). The results of this sorting are presented in Table 12, Appendix 1.

8.2 The assemblage consists of 26 pieces of worked stone, the majority of which is flint, derived, on the basis of small amounts of surviving cortex, from rolled gravel nodules. Non-cortical pieces do, however, exhibit some variation which suggests a number of potential sources. An interesting exception is one piece, SF 8 from context 16606, which is of a fine-grained, mid grey chert of Portland type.

8.3 The condition of the worked stone is mainly fresh and un-patinated (corticated). A few pieces show some signs of rolling and there is occasional ochreous colouring. The small size of this assemblage does not allow for many meaningful observations to be made. All stages of reduction appear to be present but individual flakes vary from squat examples with multiple bulbs (SF 7, context 16603), suggesting expedient working, to evidence of blade production, core rejuvenation (SF 6 context 16605) and thinning (SF 5 context 16400) indicating possible core tool production. On this basis this assemblage may contain individual pieces that date from the early Neolithic through to the earlier Bronze Age.

8.4 The only individually diagnostic piece is the barbed and tanged arrowhead from context 16206 (SF 1). The length is 26mm, maximum width 18mm and maximum thickness 5mm. It has an asymmetric profile, flat on one face where a small area of original (? ventral) flake surface remains and pronouncedly convex on the other face where only a very small area of original flake surface remains. The retouch is extensive and invasive, reaching across the entire convex face. The tang and one barb are neatly defined. The other barb is shorter and stubbier but shows no sign of having been broken. The arrowhead is of Green's Green Low type (Green 1980) and can be considered to be of Beaker/Early Bronze Age date.

Further work

8.5 No further work on this small sample of finds is necessary.

9 ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Ruth Pelling and Zoë Hazell

Introduction

9.1 Previous sampling for organic and geoarchaeological evidence at Priddy One has provided a useful indication of the vegetation background of the site and evidence for site formation (Tratman 1967; Allen & Scaife in Lewis & Mullin 2011; Leary & Pelling 2013) and has also provided a useful indicator of survival of organic material. Pollen has been recovered from the buried soil sealed beneath the bank, although not in large quantities compared to fern spores (Dimbleby in Tratman 1967; Allen & Scaife in Lewis & Mullin 2011). Plant macrofossils have been extremely scarce and likely intrusive, providing no indication about plant use on the site. The presence of occasional fragments of charcoal indicate that the absence of plant macrofossils is likely to reflect activity at the site and that crop processing activities involving fire were not taking place or were extremely rare or small scale. Molluscs and bone have not survived in the acidic soils, confirmed by the excavations in May 2013 (Leary & Pelling 2013). The sampling methods adopted by AC Archaeology in November 2013 were designed with previous knowledge in mind. Large flotation samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains from cut features, while monolith tins were taken through the profile of two sections of ditch, the lowest of each sampled basal silts from which it was hoped further pollen would be recovered. Pollen was also examined from the buried soil where it was exposed in the bank section in May 2013 to establish a comparison for previous investigation of the buried soil at different points on the site and establish if a marked deterioration in pollen preservation had occurred since the landowner damage.

- 9.2** Given the known lack of preservation of bones and mollusc, the sampling during excavations by AC archaeology in November 2013 focused on pollen and charred plant macrofossil remains following advice from Vanessa Straker.

Flotation sample collection and processing

- 9.3** Ten flotation samples were taken from the lower fills of the 'henge' ditch from the western most trench (trench 166), a posthole (context 16308, trial pit 163) and from bank deposit including possible turves, situated between the wheel ruts in trial pit 156. Sample volume was limited by available deposit, therefore the preferred 40 litre samples size was rarely achievable. Sample volume ranges from 8 to 39 litres. Sampling was conducted at the discretion of the archaeologists with advice from the English Heritage South West Regional Science Advisor and Senior Archaeobotanist. Sample processing was conducted by GeoFlo (Southwest Geophysical and Flotation Services). A double floatation method was adopted with no pre-treatment, and flots were collected onto a 0.25 mm mesh sieve. Residues were collected on a 1mm sieve.
- 9.4** A small number of samples taken during the English Heritage excavations were included in the current assessment: one large flotation sample (20 litres) from bank material exposed in plan and a number of small flotation samples (ranged from 1 to 4 litres) from the bank section. The samples were processed at Fort Cumberland. The small samples were floated by bucket flotation by hand, while the large sample was pre-soaked in a sodium carbonate solution and processed by mechanical flotation. All flots were caught on 0.25mm mesh. A small sample of possible charcoal from beneath the remnant bank (sample 503, context 018) was carefully wet sieved by hand, but found to contain only small indeterminate flecks of charcoal and recent worm eggs and seeds.

Flot Assessment

- 9.5** All flotation flots were assessed under a binocular microscope at x10 to x40 magnification. Each flot was first put through a stack of graded sieves to break it into visibly manageable fractions. Flot size, character and contents including intrusive modern material were recorded. The volume of charcoal present in the 2mm and 4mm mesh sieves was estimated and randomly selected samples were examined under the microscope in tangential section (TS) for ring porosity. A moderately large piece of charcoal from sample 507 (English Heritage excavation) was examined in radial and tangential section in order to confirm the identification. Any charred plant remains other than charcoal were identified and quantified. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf 2000 for cereals and Stace 1997 for wild herbaceous and tree flora.

Results (all following tables are included in Appendix 2)

- 9.6** Sample details and assessment results are shown in Table 13 (AC Archaeology excavations) and 14 (combined results of all samples taken during the EH excavation). Almost all the samples from both excavations were dominated by modern rootlets, while modern seeds and insect fragments including fly pupae were noted including within flots from samples taken from the lower fills of the 'henge' ditch and the bank deposits excavated by English Heritage. Disturbance of even the most deeply buried deposits on the site is clearly an issue and would need to be taken into consideration during any interpretation of radiocarbon dates or botanical material including pollen. The disturbance is not unexpected given the obvious animal burrows on the site and is likely to have been independent of the landowner damage in 2011. Conversely, no obviously intrusive material other than rootlets was noted in the samples taken from the buried bank and

tures in trial pit 156. This raises the possibility that these particular deposits were relatively undisturbed prior to the 2011 damage.

- 9.7** Charred plant remains other than charcoal were present in three samples. A single fragment of charred *Prunus* sp. (plum, bullace, sloe) stone was recovered from ditch fill 16606 (sample 4). There was insufficient of the stone preserved to enable identification to species, but the surface texture was more typical of *Prunus domestica* (plum/bullace) type, a late Iron Age or Roman introduction, rather than *P. spinosa* (sloe). A fragment of *Corylus avellana* (hazelnut) and a single seed of *Galium* sp. (goosegrass type) were recovered from ditch fill 16619 (sample 5), the primary fill of a re-cut of the henge ditch (cut 16618). A fragment of possible *Corylus avellana* nut shell was present in sample 508 (context 022) from the bank section. All three samples contained evidence of intrusive material and it is therefore not possible to establish if these remains derive from Neolithic activity unless they are dated.
- 9.8** Charcoal was present in all samples, although consisting of flecks only in most samples. Three samples contained more notable quantities of charcoal. Approximately 35 ml of charcoal greater than 2mm was present in the upper ditch fill 16620 (sample 3), consisting entirely of *Quercus* sp. Sample 5 from ditch fill 16619 produced approximately 23ml of >2mm charcoal, most of which was identified as *Quercus* sp., while a small number (<5) of twig fragments were also present. The twig fragments examined showed no evidence for growth rings suggesting them to be less than a year in age. A sample from the remnant bank material 15613 (sample 16) produced a lot of slightly different character, in which over 50 ml of *Quercus* charcoal was present, but most of it fragmented and collected in the 2mm mesh sieve. Very little charcoal was held in the 4mm sieve. A much smaller quantity of charcoal (4ml of >2mm charcoal) was present in sample 4 from ditch F16603, fill 16606, the only sample from the AC Archaeology excavation to contain charcoal which was not derived from *Quercus* sp. (although most of the charcoal present was clearly *Quercus*). Of the samples examined from the English Heritage excavations one from the bank section (sample 507, context 005) produced a single fragment of charcoal bigger than 4mm which was identified as *Corylus avellana* (hazel); the bar thickness and spacing within the scleriform perforation plates was more typical of *Corylus* than *Alnus* (alder), and the spiral thickenings (which do not appear in alder) were present. A single fragment of *Corylus/Alnus* charcoal was also noted in sample 501 examined as part of the English Heritage assessment (Leary and Pelling 2013).

Discussion

- 9.9** The paucity of charred plant material other than charcoal at the site of Priddy Circle 1 is consistent with other finds evidence from the site. It would appear that post-construction use of the site was either limited or such that it left little physical evidence. Some burning of mostly oak wood occurred, possibly during the construction of the bank. The presence of hazel in the landscape in the past is also confirmed, which supports the pollen evidence (see para 9.16; Dimpleby in Tratman 1967; Allen & Scaife in Lewis & Mullin 2011). The fragments of fruit stone or nutshell may derive from discarded food debris, although they could equally derive from the burning of scrub vegetation. There is no evidence of significant consumption of food plants, wild or cultivated. The recovery of such material can, however, often be a matter of chance and it is possible that any consumption of food plants and subsequent burning of refuse was taking place within the interior of the monument but excavation has not happened to locate it.

Sediment Sampling and Pollen

- 9.10** The archaeological interventions (carried out by English Heritage and AC Archaeology) included sampling the sediment profiles of i) bank (Fig. 6; Plate 8) and ii) ditch features (Plate 9) in order to assess their palaeo-environmental potential, with particular relevance to a) a 'buried soil'/'old ground surface' deposit c 0.90m below ground level within the bank section, and b) the primary silting of the ditch. The sediment descriptions and pollen from both phases of excavation are discussed here.

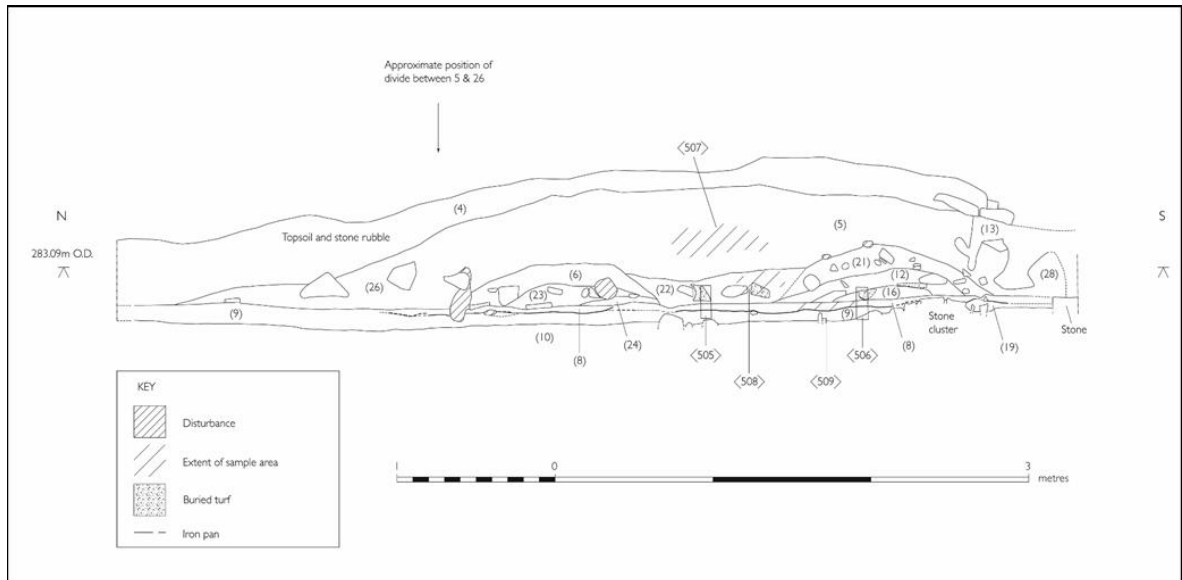


Fig. 6: Diagram of Trench A; the west-facing section through the bank, showing the sampling locations of sampling tins <505> and <506> and their included contexts (from Leary and Pelling, 2013: 15). © English Heritage

Field sampling

- 9.11** Sediment samples were recovered from the open, cleaned trench faces using metal sampling tins (Plates 10 and 11, see Tables 15 and 16 for their descriptions).

Laboratory methods

- 9.12** An assessment of the subfossil pollen was undertaken to determine its presence (abundance and diversity) and condition, and whether samples would be suitable for full analysis.
- 9.13** 1cm³ of sediment was sub-sampled from each level by displacement of water. Pollen preparations were carried out by QUEST (University of Reading) (see Branch *et al* 2005: 126). An exotic spore marker (*Lycopodium*) was added. The samples then underwent: **deflocculation** (using Sodium pyrophosphate), **microsieving** (125 and 10 µm sieves), **density separation** (using Sodium polytungstate at a specific gravity of 2.0g/cm³) and **acetolysis**. They were then stained with safranin and mounted on slides in glycerol jelly.
- 9.14** Slides were examined at magnifications of x100, x200 and x400. For this assessment, the pollen was counted until 100 *Lycopodium* were reached. After this, the remainder of the slide was scanned at x10 to record the presence of any other pollen types. For the latter, the following categories were used (Table 17). Identifications and terminologies follow Bennett *et al* (1994), Moore *et al* (1991) and Stace (1997).

Results

- 9.15** The pollen types seen are listed in Table 18 and their common names explained in Table 19.

Buried soil sediments

- 9.16** The samples from tins <505> and <506> were generally similar, both consistently containing pollen/spores of *Corylus*, *Alnus* and *Polypodium*. The upper samples, both from the 'old ground surface' contained mostly *Corylus*, together with fern spores (mostly *Polypodium*) and rare *Alnus*, Poaceae and *cf* Dipsacaceae. The lower sample from <505> (from the buried sub-soil) contained fewer occurrences of the same taxa, but with *Pteropsida* [Filicales] monolete undiff present and no *Alnus* or Poaceae. The equivalent sample from <506> contained almost no pollen/spores.

Ditch fill samples

- 9.17** From tin <12>, the upper sample had the highest pollen concentration of all those assessed from this site. It was also the most diverse. This was in contrast to the lower sample that contained very little pollen; only *Polypodium* with a single *Plantago*.
- 9.18** The samples from tin <15> contained either no, or almost no, pollen. Only rare fern spores (including of the more resistant *Polypodium*) and abundant fungal spores were present on the slide. Of the rare *Corylus* pollen grains, one was in good condition, suggesting that this could have been more-recent contamination. This is a likely explanation, given the presence of apparently disturbed sediment (possible rabbit burrow material) at the base of the tin.

Previous pollen studies at Priddy

- 9.19** Dimpleby (1967) and Allen and Scaife (2011) have both analysed pollen from a profile through the bank and buried soil of Circle 1. They had similar findings, supported by the findings of this assessment: i) overall low abundance of pollen, ii) dominance of fern spores, and iii) low taxa diversity. Although the samples here appear to be less diverse, it is likely to result from the difference in methodologies; the previous studies counted more grains per sample.

Conclusions

1. Pollen and fern spores were recovered from the sediments.
2. Results concur with previous studies at the site.
3. Fern spores, particularly of *Polypodium*, were present in all the samples. In terms of tree/shrub/herb pollen, *Corylus* was the most well-represented overall (being most abundant in the upper sample from <12>). Occurrences of the remaining taxa were rare.
4. Overall, however, pollen preservation was poor; in terms of abundance, diversity and preservation condition – most grains were either: degraded, folded or broken.
5. The consistent presence of the more-resistant *Polypodium* spores suggests that differential preservation has occurred at the site.
6. The poor pollen preservation could result from the shallow nature of the features; undergoing enhanced aeration, microbial activity and washing down through the sediment. The site is also within an area of calcareous geology, typically not conducive to good pollen preservation.
7. There was also evidence of sediment disturbance by rabbit burrowing (see sample <15>).

9.20 No further work on the pollen or botanical samples is merited. The quantity of charred plant remains recovered was small and all items were identified fully. The assessment results should be incorporated in the final publication report including reference to the obvious disturbance to the deposits. The fragments of fruit and nut stone or shell and the charcoal offer the potential for dating. A bread wheat type rachis identified in the English Heritage assessment is most likely to be recent given the good preservation and paucity of free-threshing wheat in the Neolithic. A radiocarbon date would confirm its more recent origin. Oak charcoal is not ideal for dating due to the longevity of the tree, although the hazel charcoal and the twig wood are useful. Any interpretation of the dates must take the likely contamination into account, which might include both more recent contamination introduced particularly by burrowing animals as well as root penetration, but also historic residual contamination. Mesolithic activity in the immediate landscape is indicated by the presence of flint blades. It is possible that charcoal within the turf layer may also have been much earlier in date than the monument, its inclusion within the bank being the result of the use of turves in the construction.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Henge monuments, by their prominent nature, were frequently re-activated and re-used in later periods. Initially many attracted Bronze Age barrows and ring-ditches around or occasionally within them (Last 2011, 7). The internal areas of henge monuments tend to be relatively empty, and kept deliberately clean. In support of this interpretation, most of the trial pits opened along the modern rutted trackway lacked archaeological features and finds. It was only in the areas close to the banks of Priddy 1 where evidence for later prehistoric activity was identified. The small quantity of finds, restricted to 26 fragments of worked stone, is in keeping with previous investigations at this monument. A much larger excavation area was opened by both Taylor and Tratman and Lewis and Mullin. Lewis and Mullin found a total of 51 worked flints, but most were unstratified or from Taylor and Tratman's backfill (2011, 142-3).

10.2 The trial pit opened over the denuded northern bank of the monument (156) was able to confirm that considerable damage had been inflicted on the earthworks in this area. Thus, only tentative conclusions regarding the nature of the deposits in this zone can be proposed at this stage. Slight evidence for the terminus of a bank was identified in this area, highlighting a break in the bank at this point. It is not possible to determine whether this represents an original or later entrance into the monument, although the presence of an informal cobbled surface could be Late Neolithic in date. Modern contamination by bracken roots and other disturbance, and the ephemeral nature of the bank material revealed occlude radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the samples in this trial pit.

10.3 On the southern side of the monument, trial pits 163 and 164 highlight the presence of a possible substantial stone structure erected just inside the monument. Provisionally this has been interpreted as a later burial monument, potentially a stone cairn of Early Bronze Age date. The discovery of a barbed and tanged arrowhead in trial pit 162, just to the north, may have been associated with this funerary activity. These are more commonly found as grave goods rather than casual finds and sometimes form a component of the Beaker burial 'package'. The arrowhead was in good condition, and the stone spread noted in trial pit 164 in particular, indicates the structure had been extensively denuded and reworked as a result of ploughing and other

activities. Two smaller stone structures may represent satellite cists; their small size would have held unurned or urned cremations, not inhumations, if indeed they are funerary structures. Although Early Bronze Age burial monuments are known in the vicinity of the Priddy Circles, with the exception of a possible disc barrow inside Priddy 3, no burials or barrows have been noted within their interiors. This barrow was identified from aerial photographs only, so remains unconfirmed. If this stone structure is a burial cairn, it provides an important new strand of evidence. It suggests that Priddy Circle 1 was re-used or continued to be used during the Early Bronze Age, now focused towards funerary rather than strictly ceremonial activity. At the time of the excavation, it was felt reasonable to extend the trench to reveal more of the possible cairn. It is conceivable that a full excavation of the feature may reveal further evidence of a funerary function, but this was considered beyond the current brief.

- 10.4** It is significant that a swallet hollow was noted along the southern ditch circuit of Priddy 1, in trench 165. It is likely that this swallet hole was deliberately incorporated into the terminus of the ditch, as no continuation of the external ditch was identified to its west and north; only natural deposits (16507) were encountered. The topography indicated that another filled depression lay c. 10m to the west of trench 165, and together these may have been used to frame either side of the southern entrance way. Perhaps this formed part of a deliberate design, whereby access into the monument was associated with sinkholes where water and other substances disappeared (possibly noisily or violently) into the ground. The topographical survey indicates that the banks of the western and eastern sides of Priddy Circle 1, along with both Priddy Circles 2 and 3, were also incorporated into existing swallet holes, as demonstrated on the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). These may have physically and metaphorically connected the henge monuments with the underground (spiritual and magical) world, associated with chthonic deities.
- 10.5** The ditch sections revealed in trench 166 were slightly different in both profile and silting sequences to those recorded by Taylor and Tratman (1956, 15, plates 5B and 5C) and Lewis and Mullin (2011, 141, fig. 7). In both these instances, the ditch was drawn with a regular U-shaped profile, and was filled with a series of slow silting fills after an initial primary fill. It should be noted that Lewis and Mullin re-excavated Taylor and Tratman's ditch section, and thus it is unsurprising that the two are very similar. There was no evidence for any recuts, major slump deposits or deliberate infilling events. Material silted in equally from both external and internal sides of the ditch.
- 10.6** The northern and southern ditch sections recorded in trench 166 were distinct from one another, with evidence for two later recuts noted on the north facing one. In profile, the north facing section was also more irregular and stepped as a result of this recutting. The lower fills suggested the presence of waterlogging, and at certain times of the year the ditch may have contained standing water, creating a moat-type effect. In this area, the bank had partially slumped and collapsed into the ditch, shortly after it had been constructed, and this helps explain why it was recut. The second recut is less easy to justify, especially as it was then seemingly backfilled soon after. The complicated stratigraphic sequence may indicate that this section of the monument was later remodelled, and perhaps the ditch was infilled to create a new entrance way. It has been amply demonstrated in recent years that later prehistoric monuments, such as long barrows and henges, are not constructed in a single event and remain unchanged from that moment on. Rather they are subject to modification and restructuring at distinct intervals (e.g. see Bailey and McFadyen 2010). Perhaps the recutting and infilling episodes evident along the western side of the ditch at Priddy 1 provide evidence for such an act of later alteration, thus reflecting the dynamic nature of this monument.

11 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK

- 11.1 The 2013 investigation at Priddy Circle 1 has provided new strands of evidence to enhance our current understanding of this monument. The trial pits have also demonstrated that fortunately the recent modern trackway that cut across the monument had not impacted severely on underlying archaeological deposits with the exception of its northern extent at the fenceline and modern gate. The other track that followed the outer southern and western edge of Priddy 1 had resulted in more damage. This was in a boggy area, as this was created over the external ditch in places.
- 11.2 One aim of this project was to recover further environmental samples where feasible particularly to aid with dating this monument more precisely. Three radiocarbon dates already exist, and suggest the monument was constructed some time before 2870 cal BC (Marshall 2011, 154–155). These were taken from oak charcoal, however, which suffers from the problem of ‘old-wood’. Unfortunately, due to the general shallow and disturbed nature of the deposits, coupled with deep and penetrating bracken roots and rabbit burrowing, the samples from the ditch and possible bank deposits all contained modern contamination. A bread wheat type rachis segment identified during the 2013 English Heritage investigation is thought most likely to be intrusive, although if found to be ancient it may help to refine the monument’s chronology. The *Corylus* charcoal and twig wood recovered from the first phase of excavations may provide more useful dates.
- 11.3 No further work on the finds, pollen or botanical samples is merited. The results of this investigation should be combined with those of the previous trial pit and trench evaluation by AC archaeology Ltd and English Heritage respectively, and written up as a short article for the local journal.

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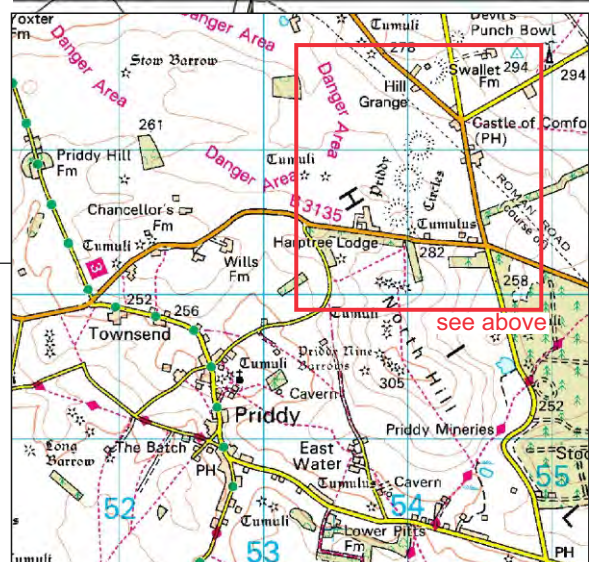
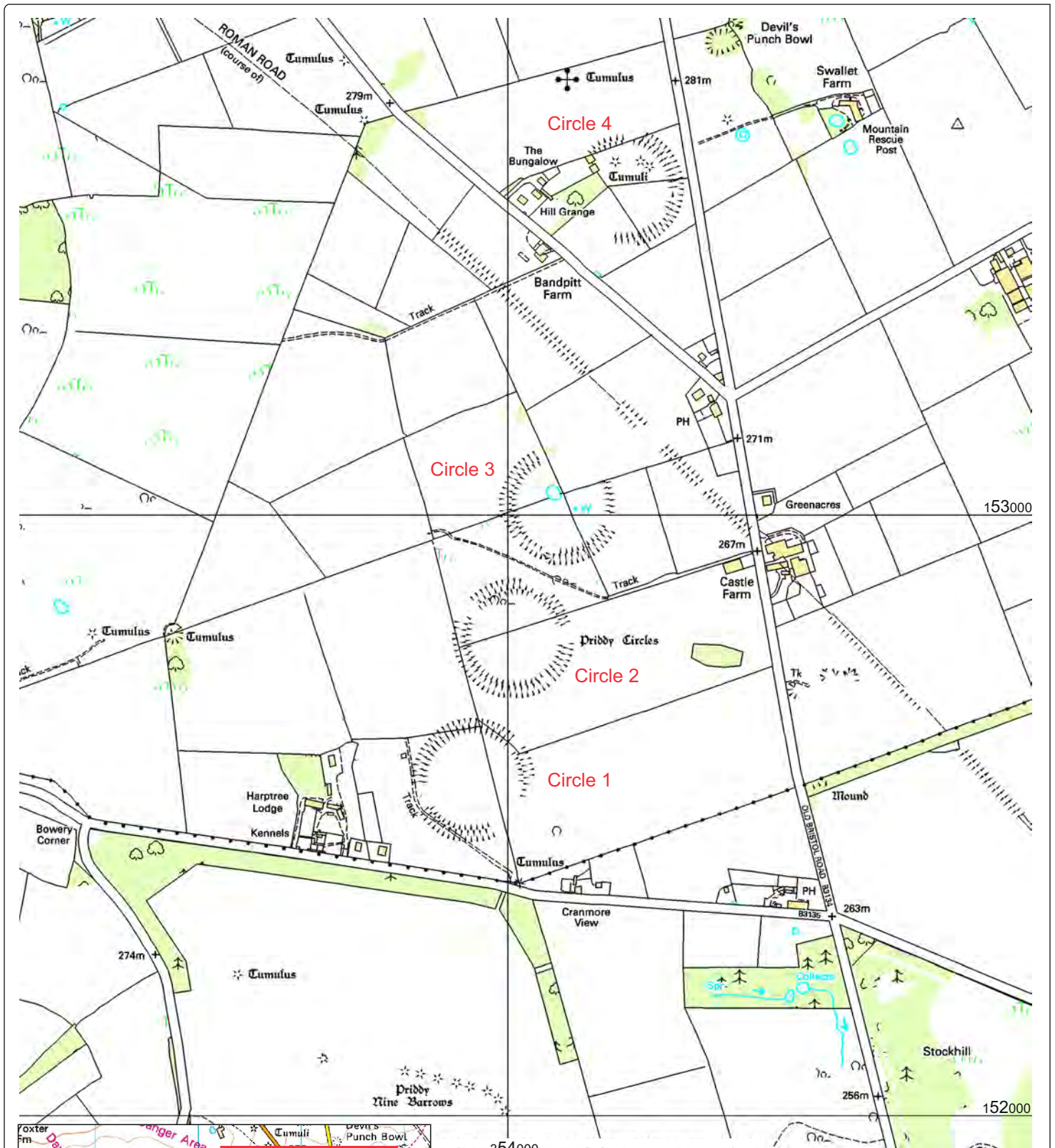
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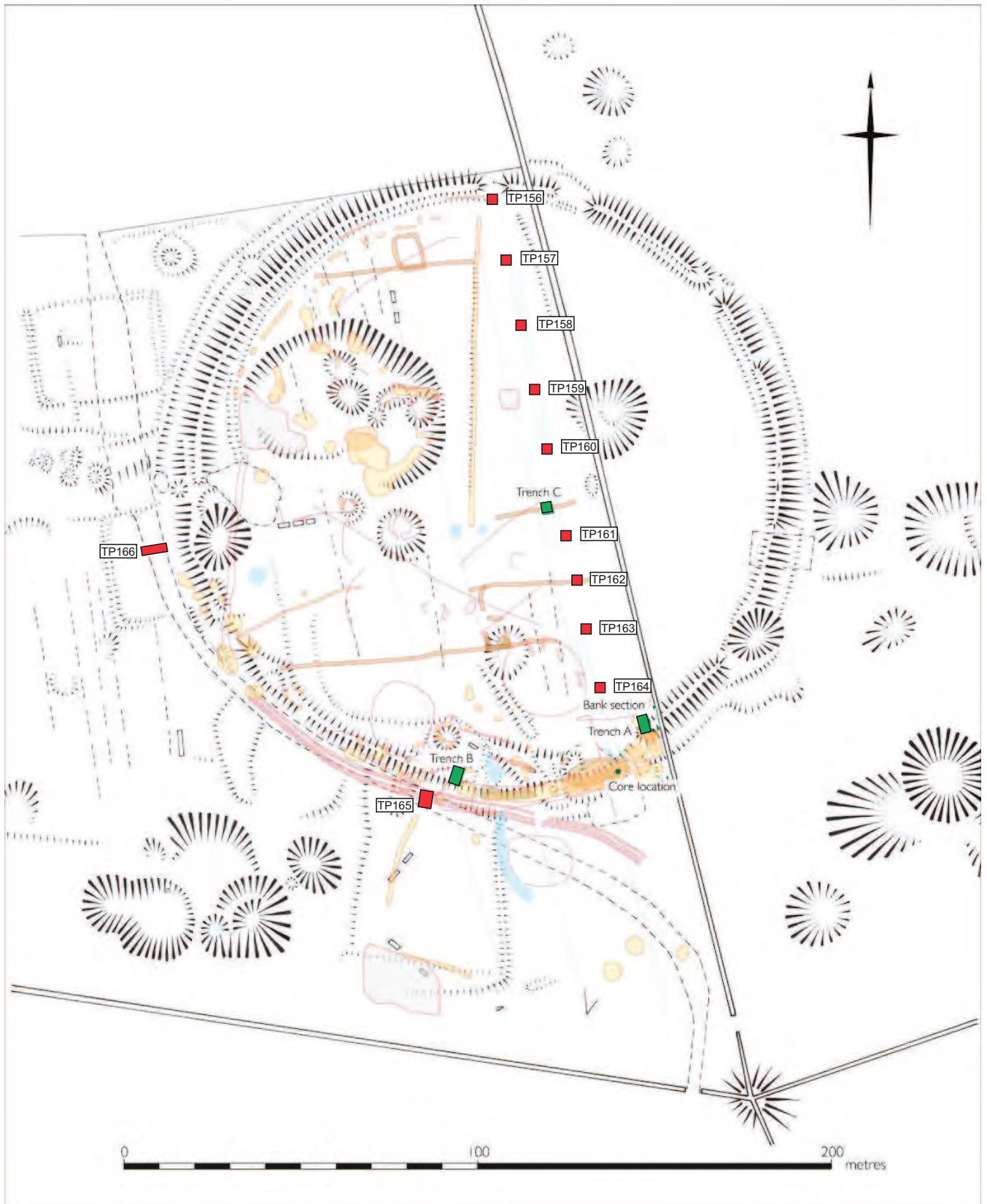
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PROJECT
ACW563 Priddy Circle 1

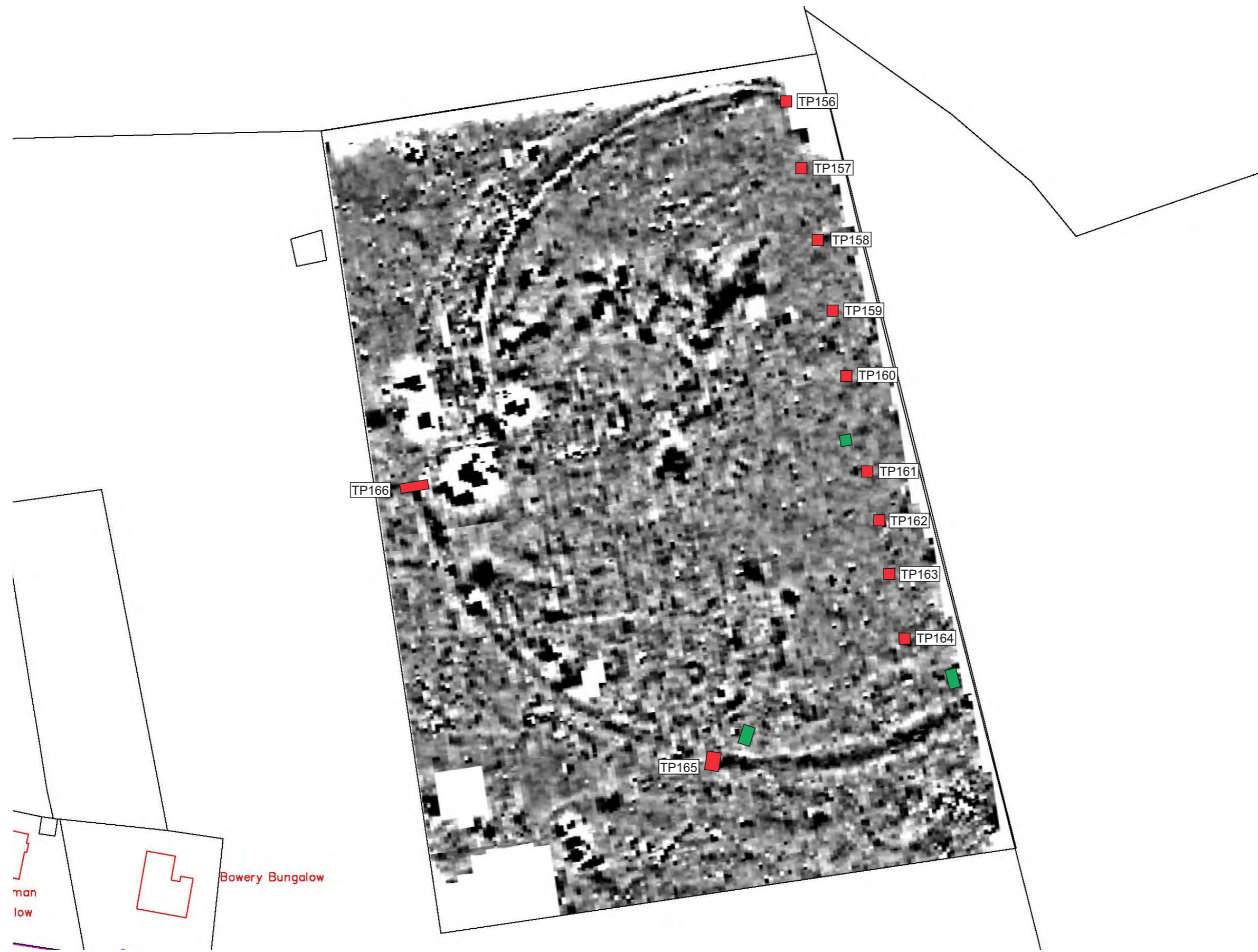
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**Fig. 1:
 Site location**



Key

- Previous trench
- Proposed evaluation trench

Fig. 2: Trenches and trial pits in relation to surveyed features



Key

- Previous trench
- Proposed evaluation trench



PROJECT

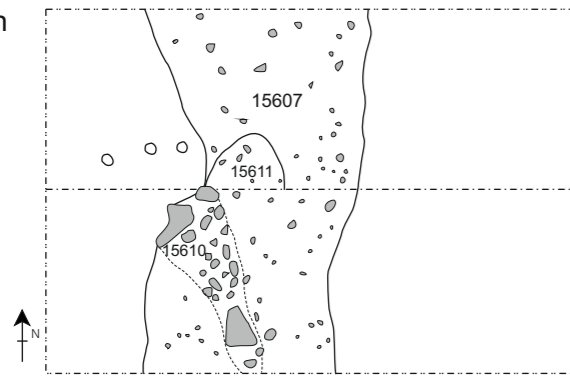
ACW563 Priddy Circle 1

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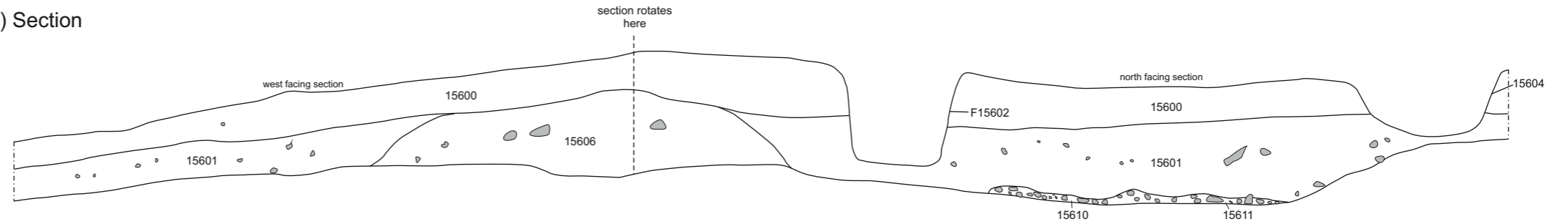
Fig. 3: Trenches and trial pits in relation to magnetometer survey

Trial Pit 156

a) Plan

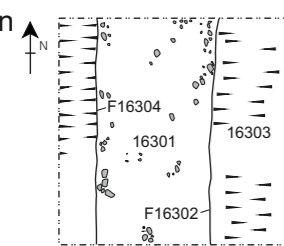


b) Section



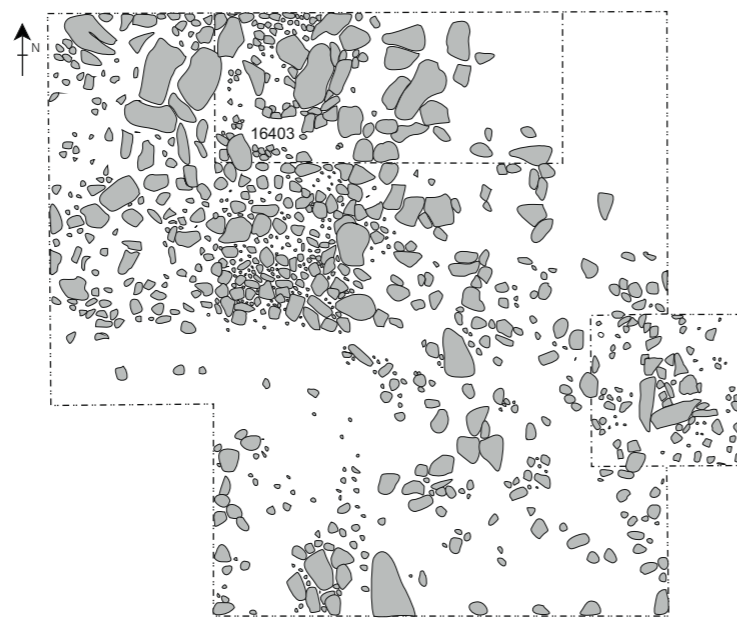
Trial Pit 163

c) Plan

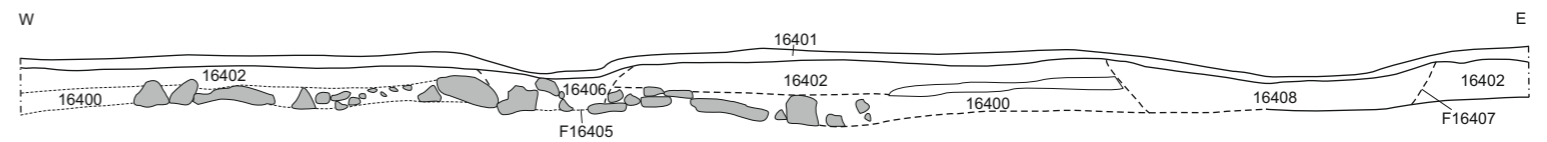


Trial Pit 164

d) Plan

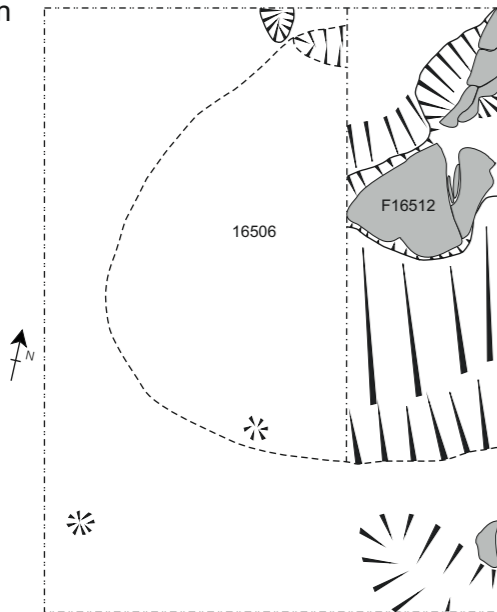


e) Section

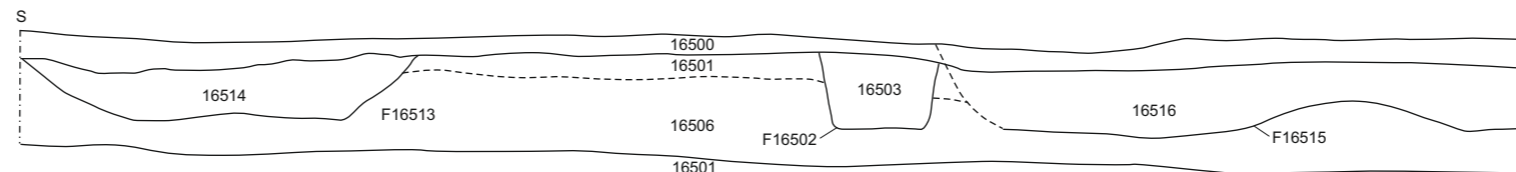


Trial Pit 165

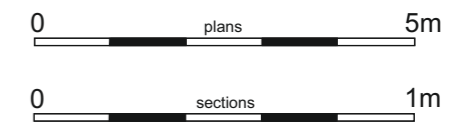
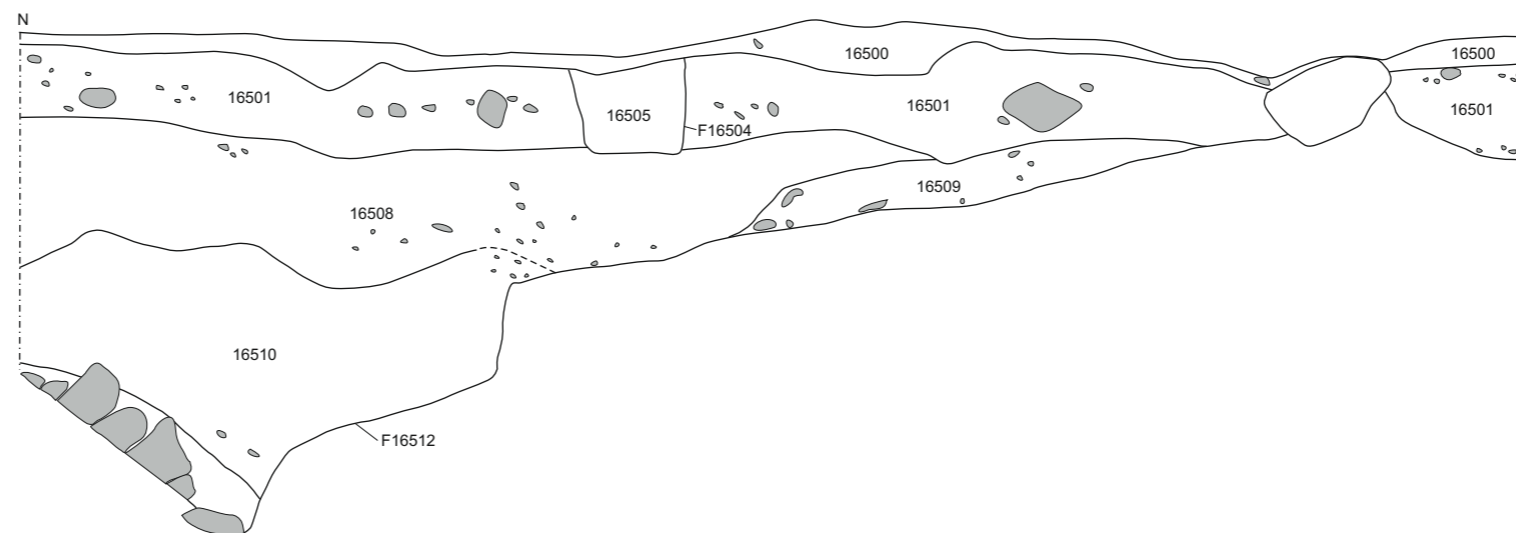
f) Plan



g) Section



h) Section

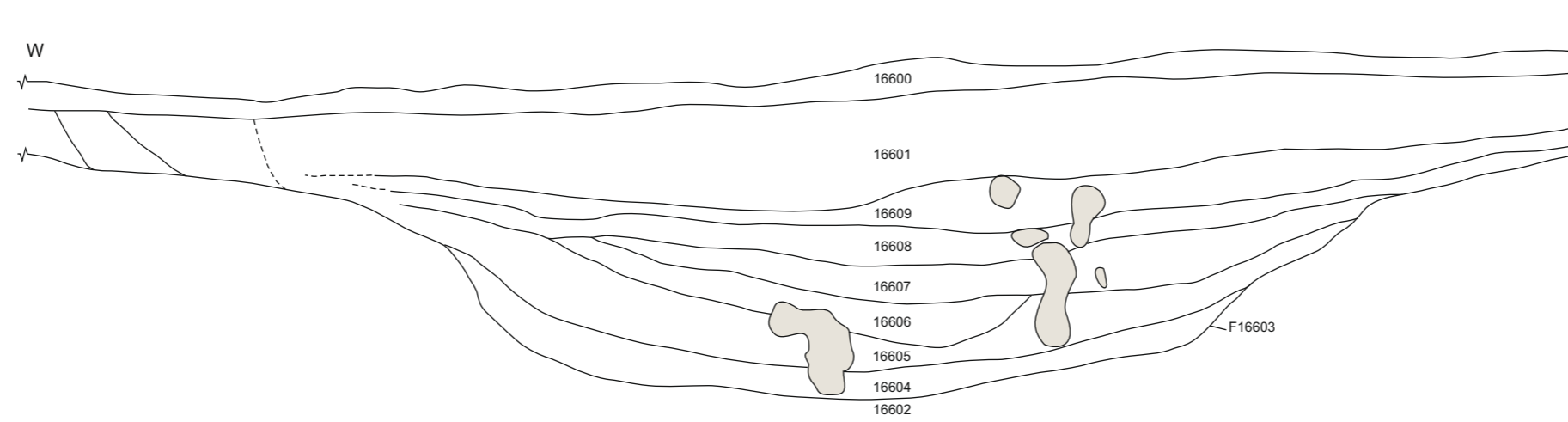


a) Plan

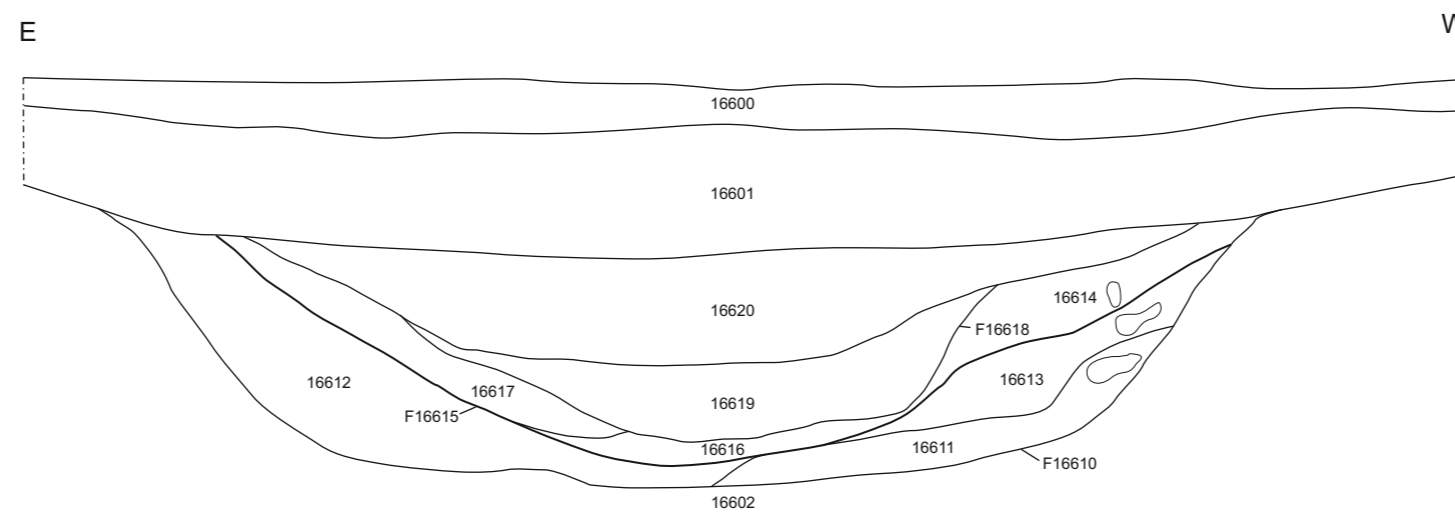


Rabbit burrow/bioturbation

b) South facing section, F16603



b) North facing section, F16610



PROJECT



ACW563 Priddy Circle 1

TITLE

Fig. 5: Plans and section, Trial Pit 166



Plate 1: North facing section of TP156 showing possible buried soil 15606 (scales 2x1m)



Plate 2:
Cobbled surface 15610/15612 within
TP156 (scale 0.5m)



Plate 3: Plan view of TP158, viewed from the north (scales 2x1m)



Plate 4: Plan view of TP162, viewed from the north (scales 2x1m)



Plate 5: Plan view of TP164, viewed from the north showing stone spread F16403 (scale 2m)



Plate 6: Plan view of TP165, viewed from the north showing swallet hollow F16512 (scale 2m)



Plate 7: Plan view of TP166, viewed from the southeast (scale 2m)



Plate 8: West facing section through the bank, Trench A (from Leary and Pelling, 2013:17)
© English Heritage



Plate 9: TP 166 showing sample tin <15> lowest in the profile (scale 2m)



Plate 10: Sample locations from <505> (left) and <506> (right). © English Heritage



Plate 11: Photographs showing sampling locations from <12> (left and ,15> (right).
The measuring tape shows the depth within the tin © English Heritage

APPENDIX 1: Finds table

Table 12: Chipped stone assemblage from Priddy (ACW 458 and ACW 563)

Sub	Context	Cores		Flakes	Blades			Burnt	Tools	Other	Chips	Pat	Cond	Rej	Comment	Total
		Frag	Whole	Broken	Whole	Broken	Ret	Wkd	Scraper	Other						
TP 90	1002		1					1				U	F		Non cort. Mottled flint	2
Spit 1															? Edge damage	0
TP 90	1002		1									U	F		Small part cort flake	1
Spit 2																0
TP 91	1002		1									U	F		Cort. Removal of lump off gravel flint nodule	1 0
TP 140	1008			1								P	F		Distal end of thin flake ?blade	1
Spit 1																0
TP 143	1002													1	Natural rolled gravel frag	0
																0
TP 162				1								U	F		Non cort flake - distal break	1
TP 164	U/S	1				1						U	F		? Blade seg in dark ?chert	2
TP 156	15606			1								U	F		Partly cort flake	1
TP 162	16204									1	U	F				1
TP 162	16206									1	U	F		SF 1. Barbed and tanged AH		1
TP 163	16303			1								U	F		SF 7.Squat flake, Gravel cort	1
TP 164	16400		2									M	M		Mixed condit/pat	2
TP 164	16400		1									U	F		SF 5. ? thinning flake	1
TP 165	16500		1									P	R		SF 9. Partly cort. Chalk flint?	1
Tr 165	16500				1							U	F		SF 10. Blade proportions	1
Tr 166	16601	2		1				1				M	M		Mixed condit and pat	4
Tr 166	16605		1									U	F		SF 6. Core rejuv flake.	1
Tr 166	16606			1								?	R		SF 8. grey chert ? Portland	1
Tr 166	16607			1								P	R		SF 2. 'Grainy' flint	1
Tr 166	16607		1									P	R		SF 3. 'Grainy' flint	1
Tr 166	16608	1										U	R		SF 4. Large core frag	1
	Total	4	9	7	1	1	0	2	0	1	1			1		26

APPENDIX 2: Environmental samples and tables

Table 13: Assessment results from AC archaeology excavations, November 2013

Sample	Context	Feature/ Cut	Context type	Sample vol (l)	Flot vol (ml)	% roots	Charred plants	Q-Charcoal (ml) >4/2mm	Charcoal id	Notes
1	15608	-	poss degraded turves - part of bank?	20	220	95		-/<1		Rootlets and larger roots. Sample from area between wheel ruts
2	16308	16301	poss post-hole fill	18	150	90		<1/<1	<i>Quercus</i>	Occasional tiny coal frags. Recent worm capsules
3	16620	16603	upper ditch fill	16	170	50		20/15	<i>Quercus</i>	Recent seeds
4	16606	16603	ditch fill - visible charcoal	15	25	75	<i>Prunus</i> sp. frag x1	2/2	<i>Quercus</i> , other, tree bud	Recent fly pupae (large) + <i>Ranunculus</i> .
5	16619	16603	ditch fill	10	50	20	<i>Corylus</i> frag x1 <i>Galium</i> sp. x1	8/15	<i>Quercus</i> Indet twig	Recent seeds
6	16611	16603	primary ditch fill	30	20	95		flecks only		Recent coleoptera elytra, and weed seeds
7	16613	16603	secondary ditch fill	15	15	95		1/<1	<i>Quercus</i>	
8	16605	16603	lower ditch fill	16	20	95		flecks only		Recent coleoptera elytra, worm capsules, large fly pupa and recent seeds
9	16511	16512	Fill around boulders of weathered limestone; lowest fill of swallet hole/sinkhole	39	25	80		<1/1	<i>Quercus</i>	Recent worm capsules and seeds
16	15613	NB Probably SA 15608	?bank material	8	130	10		5/50	<i>Quercus</i> - fragmented	Roots. No modern intrusive material.

Table 14: Assessment results from English Heritage excavations, May 2013

Sample	Context	Context Description	Sample Vol (l)	Flotation method	Flot vol (ml)	% roots	Charred plants	Q-Charcoal (ml) >4/2mm	ID charcoal	Notes
501	003	remnant of bank excavated in plan	50	machine	400	90	Triticum sp hexaploid rachis x1	-/<1	Quercus, Corylus indet roundwood	Modern weed seeds (+++)
502	003	remnant bank excavated in plan. Spot find of poss charcoal	30	wet sieved	13			Flecks	Indet	
503	018	buried soil/turf layer beneath bank	20	machine		90		Flecks/<1	Indet	Recent Rubus, fly pupae.
504	020	buried soil/turf mound – bank construction	50	Machine	30	90	Carex sp. x1	-/<1	Quercus	modern chaff
507	005	bank make up (deposited from ditch cut).	4	Hand	25	90		+/1 frag	Quercus, Corylus avellana	One good sized piece of Corylus charcoal – good for dating? Modern seeds, worm capsules, insect frags.
508	022	bank make up. Visible turves	2	hand	20	90	cf Corylus nutshell fragment x1	-/<1	Indet	modern roots, Sambucus, Rubus, insects, hawthorn leaf.
509	008	turf layer at base of bank	1	hand	10	95%		<1/1	not-Quercus	One good sized charcoal piece –dating?.

Table 15: Monolith tin descriptions. * as per the original labelling on the tin

Trench	Monolith tin	Depth below turf line (m)	mOD	Feature	Monolith description	Tin size (m)	Sampled by
Trench A	<505>	-	282.97-282.77	Bank	Lower part of bank exposed in west facing section. Through buried turf layer (008) and (009) (buried sub-soil?), plus bank make up (022) including upturned turves.	0.20x 0.065x 0.05	English Heritage
Trench A	<506>	-	282.95-282.75	Bank	Lower part of bank exposed in west facing section. Through buried turf layer (008) and (009) (buried sub-soil?), plus bank make up (016) and (012). Contained upturned turf in upper part of monolith.	0.20x 0.065x 0.05	English Heritage
Trench 166	<12>	0.57-1.08*	-	Ditch	(See Table 11 for Context descriptions).	0.50x 0.085x 0.085	AC Archaeology
Trench 166	<15>	0.28-1.03	-	Ditch	(See Table 11 for Context descriptions).	0.75x 0.085x 0.085	AC Archaeology

Table 16: Sample Descriptions

Monolith tin	Depth within monolith tin (m)	Context number	Context/layer description	Interpretation
<505>	0.12-0.13	(008)	From the middle of the buried soil above the iron pan layer.	Buried soil
	0.155-0.165	(009)	Below iron pan layer	Underlying subsoil
<506>	0.075-0.085	(008)	Within buried soil, above iron pan. Grey brown clay.	Buried soil
	0.12-0.13	(009)	Below the iron pan. Orange brown sediments.	Underlying subsoil
<12>	0.44-0.45	(16612)	Yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and rare small sub-angular Harptree Bed stone.	A slump deposit, possibly from the adjacent bank.
	0.49-0.50		0.35m thick. Very compact and dense. No finds	
<15>	0.66-0.67	(16604)	Yellow silty clay with frequent manganese flecks. 0.13m thick. Dense deposit.	Possible primary fill relating to the initial slumping within the ditch.
	0.74-0.75			

Table 17. Abundance categories

Abundance counts	Group name
0	Absent
<5	Rare
5-10	Occasional
11-25	Frequent
26-50	Common
50-75	Abundant

Table 18 Pollen assessment results

Those in bold are the most abundant within that count. Indet = indeterminate (not readily identifiable), undiff = undifferentiated, cf = possible. The totals presented as 'X per 100 *Lycopodium*' include fragment counts of *Polypodium*. The same totals do not include fungal spore counts. * = possible contamination as well preserved grain.

Monolith	Depth within monolith tin (m)	Taxa present for 100 <i>Lycopodium</i>	Concentration	Taxa seen whilst scanning the rest of the slide	Overall condition	Suitable for further analysis?
<505>	0.12-0.13	Rare indeterminate pollen grains and cf <i>Corylus</i> (total = 6).	Low	Frequent cf <i>Corylus</i> . Occasional <i>Polypodium</i> (complete/fragments) Rare <i>Alder</i> , cf Dipsacaceae and fungal spores undiff.	Mostly degraded or broken.	No
	0.155-0.165	Rare <i>Pteropsida</i> [Filicales] monolete undiff , cf <i>Corylus</i> and cf Dipsacaceae (total = 4).	Low	Rare <i>Polypodium</i> (complete/fragments) and indeterminate pollen grains.	Mostly degraded or broken.	No
<506>	0.075-0.085	Rare cf <i>Corylus</i> , <i>Polypodium</i> (fragment) and Poaceae (total = 4).	Low	Occasional cf <i>Corylus</i> . Rare <i>Alder</i> and <i>Polypodium</i> (complete)	Mostly degraded.	No
	0.12-0.13	Absent pollen (total = 0).	None	Rare <i>Polypodium</i> (complete).	Mostly degraded.	No
<12>	0.44-0.45	Rare cf <i>Corylus</i> , <i>Polypodium</i> (complete), <i>Pteropsida</i> (trilete) undiff and Poaceae (total = 8).	Low	Frequent cf <i>Corylus</i> , <i>Pteropsida</i> [Filicales] monolete undiff and <i>Polypodium</i> (complete/fragments). Rare <i>Alder</i> , cf/Poaceae, Asteraceae (Lactuceae) undiff, Ericaceae undiff and indeterminate pollen grains.	Mostly degraded, broken or folded.	No
	0.49-0.50	Rare <i>Polypodium</i> (fragment) (total = 1).	Very low	Occasional <i>Polypodium</i> (complete). Rare <i>Plantago</i> sp.	Mostly degraded.	No
<15>	0.66-0.67	Rare fungal spores undiff. Absent pollen (total = 0).	None	Abundant fungal spores undiff. Rare cf <i>Corylus</i> * and <i>Polypodium</i> (fragment).	Mostly degraded.	No
	0.74-0.75	Rare fungal spores undiff. Absent pollen (total = 0).	None	Frequent fungal spores undiff. Rare <i>Pteropsida</i> (trilete) undiff)	Mostly broken.	No

Table 19: Plant types represented in the pollen and spore record, including their Latin and common names, and vegetation type

Vegetation type	Taxa	Common name
Tree	<i>Alnus</i>	Alders
Shrub	<i>Corylus</i>	Hazels
Herb	Poaceae	Wild grasses
	Ericaceae	Heather family
	Asteraceae (Lactuceae)	
	Dipsacaceae	Teasels
	<i>Plantago</i>	Plantains
Ferns	<i>Polypodium</i>	Polypodies
	<i>Pteropsida</i> (monolete)	Fern (monolete spore)

Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk