

LAND AT CLYST HAYES, STRATHCULM ROAD, HELE, DEVON

(NGR SS 9898 0216)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Mid Devon District Council planning ref. 15/00038/FULL

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CENTRED ON NGR SS 9898 0216

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during October 2015 on land at, Clyst Hayes, Strathculm Road, Hele, Devon (SS 9898 0216). The site lies adjacent to Clyst Hayes house, which has 16th century origins.

The excavations exposed the remains of two probable structures which represented settlement of Late Bronze Age date. One of the structures was likely to have formed a post-built roundhouse that had evidence for a probable hearth and an internal division. An assemblage of associated finds was also recovered, comprising Late Bronze Age pottery, fired daub and a ceramic bead. Charred grains showed that wheat and barley were being cultivated. Other plant remains showed that hazelnuts were being collected and that a diverse range of other woodland resources were being used.

A field boundary ditch of likely medieval or post-medieval date was also investigated.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a horse ménage on land at Clyst Hayes, Strathculm Road, Hele, Devon (SS 9898 0216; Fig. 1). The work was required as a condition (no. 3) of planning consent (ref: 15/00038/FULL) granted by Mid Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigations were commissioned by the private owner and carried out by AC archaeology during October 2015.
- 1.3 The site lay 500m to the southwest of Hele on land extending to the southeast of Strathculm Road (Fig. 1). It comprised part of a roughly rectangular pasture plot to the north of the Clyst Hayes house and was formerly in use as a horse paddock. It was situated on a terrace above the River Culm that sloped gradually towards the southeast between 56m and 51m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises breccia of the Cadbury Breccia Formation (BGS 2020).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Clyst Hayes is the site of the Domesday Manor of '*Herstanhaia*' (Devon Historic Environment Record reference MDV1307). The current Clyst Hayes house is Grade II* Listed and comprises an early 16th century building with late 16th century and 19th century additions and alterations (National Heritage List for England reference 1106650).
- 2.2 The site lies in a wider area thought to contain prehistoric activity. This is based on a number of crop-mark features that have been interpreted from aerial photographs of the adjacent plots, with these located approximately 300m to the west. The cropmarks are considered to include a series of ring ditches that have the potential to represent features such as ploughed out barrows (MDV 55775, MDV79092, MDV79206, MDV79208 and MDV755774).

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The principal aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the project. This was with particular reference for the potential for prehistoric and medieval finds and remains to be present on the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2015). Groundworks comprised the creation of a level terrace, which consisted of the machine-excitation of soils initially onto the top of the natural subsoil for the majority of the area prior to subsequent deeper excavation. For the lower slopes to the southeast, stripping was limited to a depth that exposed just the colluvial subsoil. The area was then cleaned by hand to identify archaeological features, which were then hand excavated.
- 4.2 The work was undertaken with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2014) and in accordance with the AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. All plans were drawn at a scale of either 1:50 or 1:20 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. All site plans were surveyed using a Leica Net rover GPS accurate to 1cm and all levels have been related to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS (Plates 1-2)

5.1 Introduction (Plan Fig. 2 and section Fig. 3)

The groundworks exposed a total of 113 archaeological features that were cut into the natural subsoil (context 102). This consisted of a light brownish red silty sand with bands of light brownish-yellow clay and was exposed at a maximum depth of 1.37m below existing levels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty loam buried soil (151) that had moderately common charcoal inclusions. This was then sealed by two colluvial soils (150 and 101), which consisted of mid brown and mid reddish brown silty loams, respectively, and were overlain by topsoil (100). The archaeological features that were revealed principally comprised two groups of pits and postholes, designated for the purposes of this report as Structures 1 and 2. A ditch (F106), a further posthole (F109) and a pit (F111) were also exposed. These are described in detail below.

5.2 Structure 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 4 and sections Figs 5-7; Plates 3-8)

This was exposed towards the north of the stripped area. It was made up of 79 features consisting of structural postholes, a hearth arrangement, internal postholes and stakeholes, pits and other postholes.

Structural postholes (Sections Fig 4; Plate 5)

The structure was defined by a total of 11 probable structural postholes (F180, F183, F186, F189, F191, F194, F197, F292, F323, F325 and F329) that formed a subcircular ring measuring between 6m and 6.7m in diameter. On the southeast side of the ring were a further four postholes (F327, F331, F351 and F354), which may have formed part of an entrance arrangement.

The postholes were generally circular to oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and rounded bases. They varied in size between 0.22m (F183) to 0.54m (F323) in diameter and ranged in depth between 0.3m (F191) to 0.12m (F323). This variation in depth was likely to have been due to truncation on the NNE side. Posthole F329 was elongated in plan and probably represented more than one post setting.

The fills for these features were fairly consistent being mostly re-deposited natural subsoil. Many also had evidence of probable post-pipes (F180, F186, F191, F194 and F351), with these deposits (182, 188, 193, 196 and 353) comprising dark grey silty loams with abundant charcoal inclusions as well as containing a small quantity of burnt stone and flints. On the southwestern side of the ring, postholes F180 and F189 contained fired clay pieces totalling 2561g, many of which, if not all, represented fragments of daub including wattle impressions. Other finds recovered from these postholes consisted of: 94 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, 74 of which were derived from two fills of posthole F191; 8 pieces of worked flint; fragments of undiagnostic burnt bone; and, pieces of fuel ash slag. Palaeoenvironmental samples from the fills of posthole F180 recovered charred grains of wheat and barley, hazelnuts and charcoal from a diverse range of trees.

Internal features

The internal area of the structure contained a total of 55 features, with these consisting of a probable hearth (F208), 14 postholes (F199, F201, F203, F215, F285, F288, F290, F301, F307, F311, F313, F315, F319 and F321), 34 stakeholes and six pits (F294, F296, F303, F305, F309 and F317).

Hearth F208 was positioned in the southwest side of the structure. It measured 1.12m long, 1m wide and 0.12m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flattish base that was heat affected. It was filled with a mixed dark grey and mid yellowish brown mottled sandy loam fill (209). This was overlain by a dump of re-deposited natural subsoil (210). Three stakeholes (F205, F207 and F212) were closely associated with hearth F208, with F207 and F212 positioned opposite each other to the northwest and southeast and F212 inserted in its side. A further six stakeholes were exposed to the north of the hearth and may also have been associated with this feature. One piece of worked flint was recovered from hearth backfill deposit 210.

With the exception of F315, the internal postholes formed an approximately east to west alignment that spanned the internal area of Structure 1. These were generally circular with steep to vertical sides and ranged between 0.11m (F215) and 0.35m (F321) in diameter and 0.11m (F203) and 0.29m deep (F311). Each of the postholes contained similar mid yellowish brown silty loam fills, while posthole F285 contained a probable post-pipe (287) and redeposited natural subsoil backfill (286), with packing stone inclusions. A total of 13 sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from postholes F285, F315 and F319.

The stakeholes that were not closely associated with hearth F208 were arranged in a cluster to the north of this (Plate 6). These measured between 0.04m and 0.13m across and 0.04m to 0.2m deep. Each contained similar mid brown sandy loam fills, from which no finds were recovered.

Pit F296 was the largest of the internal pit features. It measured 1.01m long by 0.70m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained four mid reddish brown to dark grey dumped deposits (297-300). A fired clay bead and a sherd of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from fill 298. The remaining pits (F294, F303, F305, F309 and F317) comprised shallow features of unknown function that contained similar mid yellowish brown sandy loams, with the exception of pit F303, which contained a charcoal-rich fill (304). No finds were recovered from these features.

External features (Sections Fig. 7)

External to the post-ring, but closely related to Structure 1, were nine pits or postholes (F334, F336, F338, F340, F342, F344, F346, F348 and F356). These consisted of pit F334 and intercutting probable pits F336 and F338, with features F340, F342, F344, F346, F348 and F356 forming an approximately north to south alignment of possible truncated postholes. These features were mostly circular with steep sides and rounded bases and ranging from 0.31m in diameter and 0.12m deep to 0.44m long by 0.40m wide and 0.11m deep. This was with the exception of irregular feature F344, which measured 0.92m long, a maximum of 0.27m wide and 0.16m deep. This feature was interpreted as representing a possible line of intercutting stakeholes. Each of these features contained mid yellowish brown sandy loam fills. Finds recovered from these features consisted of three sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a piece of worked flint.

5.3 Structure 2 (Detailed plan Fig. 8 and sections Figs 9-10; Plates 9-11)

This was located along the southwestern side of the stripped area and consisted of a group of 31 features of variable dimensions forming an approximately oval cluster. These consisted of larger and deeper postholes, akin to structural features, smaller postholes, possible postholes, and pits. The arrangement represented by this group of features is likely to have represented structural remains, however, unlike Structure 1, there was no clear layout that could be conclusively interpreted. Therefore, for purposes of description, Structure 2 is divided into northeastern and southwestern portions.

Northeastern portion (Sections Fig. 9; Plate 9)

This portion of the Structure 2 grouping of features comprised ten postholes, possible postholes and pits (F113, F115, F117, F119, F121, F123, F125, F127, F131 and F133).

Features F113, F115, F117, F119, F123, F125, F127, F131 and F133 can be broadly described as small posthole features, being mostly circular with steeply-sloping sides and varied flat to rounded bases. They ranged in size from 0.36m (F133) to 0.13m (F117) across and 0.18m (F119) to 0.04m (F117) deep. The majority of the features contained similar mid reddish brown sandy loam fills, with the exception of F121 and F127, which contained dark grey silty loam deposits with common charcoal inclusions.

Features F121 and F133 represented probable pits. These measured 0.48m and 0.66m across respectively, and a maximum of 0.16m deep. They contained dark yellowish brown to dark brownish grey silty loam fills, respectively (114 and 122), which had moderately common charcoal inclusions.

No finds were recovered from these features.

Southwestern portion (Sections Fig. 10; Plate 10)

This portion of the Structure 2 grouping of features comprised 20 postholes and probable postholes (F129, F137, F139, F141, F143, F146, F148, F152, F154, F155, F158, F160, F162, F164, F166, F168, F171, F173, F176 and F178) and one pit (F135). The postholes were variable between those that were more clearly structural to those that only represented very shallow features. They ranged between 0.12m (F148) and 0.3m (F162) across and 0.04m (F146) and 0.33m deep (F155). The features were filled by mid greyish red to mid yellowish brown silty sand to silty loams, with some of the larger examples having evidence for stone post-packing. Posthole F158 also included evidence for a stake that had been driven down the side of the feature.

Pit F135 was oval in shape measuring 0.60m long, 0.45m wide and 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a mid brown silty sand.

Only two features in the Structure 2 grouping produced finds, with these consisting of a total of four sherds of Bronze Age pottery that were recovered from postholes F160 and F176.

5.4 Other features (Sections Fig. 11)

Ditch F106 (Section Fig. 11a; Plate 12)

This extended northwest to southeast across the site. It measured a maximum of 1.94m wide and 0.54m deep with a moderately steep sloping southwest side, a steeply sloping northeast side and a flattish base. It contained a gravel-rich basal fill (104), which was overlain by a mid brown sandy loam accumulation deposit (105). Two sherds of prehistoric pottery, a piece of worked flint and fragments of animal bone were recovered from the ditch.

Posthole F109 (Section Fig. 11b)

This was positioned adjacent to ditch F106. It measured 0.32m across and 0.15m deep with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base and contained a mid reddish brown sandy loam fill (110). No finds were recovered.

Pit F111 (Section Fig. 11c)

This was located to the northeast of the cluster of features that formed Structure 2. It measured 0.52m across and 0.11m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a mid yellowish brown silty sand fill (112) that was undated.

6. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne and Henrietta Quinnell with contributions from Charlotte Coles and Imogen Wood*

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site during the archaeological investigations were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They were then quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage was scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The excavation produced an unusual assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery, along with burnt and fired clay, burnt stone, worked flint, animal bone and fuel ash slag. The finds are summarised in Appendix 1.

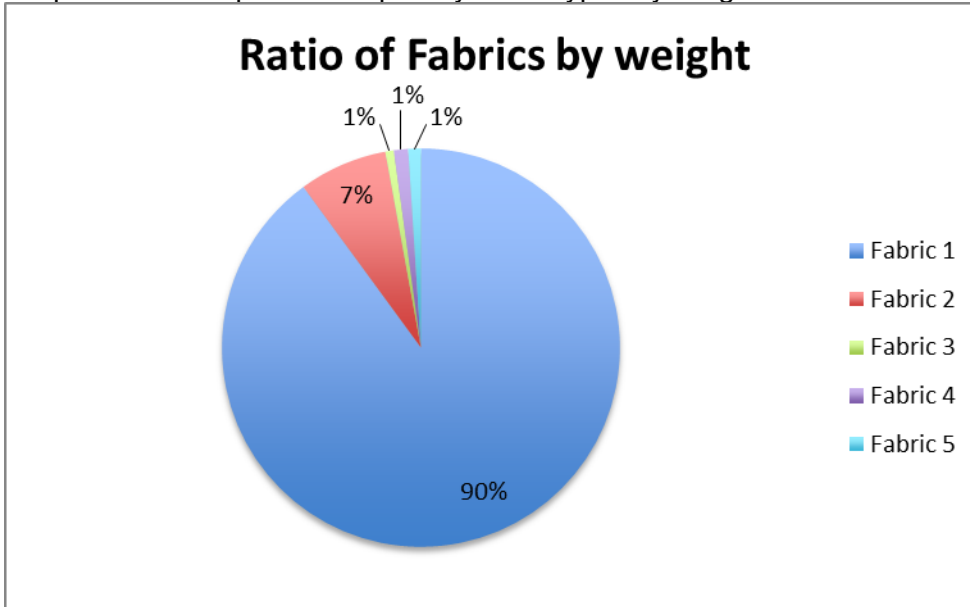
6.2 Prehistoric pottery *by Henrietta Quinnell*

130 sherds (1739g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from 20 contexts. This material is detailed in Table 1.

6.3 *Fabrics* *by Imogen Wood*

The fabrics strongly suggest the use of clays derived from red sandstone, that in the case of F1 have been tempered with vesicular volcanic rock fragments, and possibly organic material in F5. The origin of F3 is clearly the Gabbroic clays of the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall, with the addition of Basalt and grey mudstone containing microfossils; most of these elements could derive from clay deposits in the Culm River valley. The origin of the clay used for F2 and F4 is mostly likely an area where the Red Sandstone deposits and small amounts of Aeolian sand from the Helsby Sandstone formation have accumulated to which Vein Quartz has been added as temper. The ratio of fabric types in the assemblage is presented in Graph 1.

Graph 1: Ratio of prehistoric pottery fabric types by weight



Fabric 1 (P2) (192) Volcanic and sandstone Temper 20-25%

Red sandstone, dominant, rounded, 7mm-2mm<. *Volcanic rock* fragments with vesicular texture with occasional white coating to the voids, Frequent, angular – sub-angular, 8mm-4mm. *Fe*, frequent, sub-rounded to rounded, 5mm-1mm<. *Feldspar*, few-rare, sub-rounded, 1mm<. *Quartz*, opaque crystal, rare, sub-angular 1mm<. *Comments*, Fine silty clay rich in Fe pellets and sandstone derived quartz. The Volcanic rock, Basalt and Red Sandstone are commonly found in the Thorverton sandstone formation, Credition Breccia and Cadbury Breccia. P3 is Fabric 1 but a softer matrix.

Fabric 2 (287) Vein Quartz Temper 10%

Vein Quartz, frequent, white, angular 6mm-1mm<. *Quartz crystal*, rare, polished, well-rounded 1mm<. *Fe*, black, rare, well-rounded, 1mm<. *Comments*, sandy silty fine clay with FE pellets and water-rounded quartz possibly from the local Helsby Formation. Vein quartz has been used as a tempering material.

Fabric 3 Gabbro (345) Temper 20%

Feldspar, dominant, sub-angular, 1mm<. *Basalt*, few, white and reddish brown flecked appearance 2mm. *Fe Limonite* dark red, common, sub-rounded 1mm<. *Quartz*, few, crystal, rounded, 1mm<. *Mudstone rock*, very rare, light grey composed of spherical microfossils (not calcareous), angular, 3mm. *Comments*, silty feldspar and limonitic rich clay typical of the Lizard peninsula, which has been tempered with locally derived Basalt and Grey Mudstone.

Fabric 4 (P5) (353) Temper 15%.

Dark Red sandstone, very few, sub-rounded, 7mm. *Fe pellets*, few dark red and soft, well-rounded, 2mm-1mm<. *Quartz* opaque, rare, sub-angular, 1mm. *Comments*, sandy quartz rich micaceous clay with common well-rounded polished quartz grains possibly Aeolian sand grains from the Helsby sandstone Formation nearby.

Fabric 5 (P1) (193) Temper 1%

Sandstone, rare, buff colour, angular, 3mm-2mm. *Organic material* possibly wood, rare, 3 examples visible as voids and one with relic charcoal still present, 6mm-3mm. *Comments*, silty sandy clay

slightly micaceous, mudstone–sandstone derived with possible organic temper, but could equally be accidentally included.

6.4 **Form and embellishments** by Henrietta Quinnell

The assemblage contains sherds from at least nine vessels. There are six vessels with slightly biconical sides and simple rims, some slightly inturned: they range from closed to open jars (P1, P4). P5 is one of two vessels with a neck. There is no decoration. There are a number of slightly different small lugs (e.g. P2), one (P4) set just below a simple rim. Uniquely there are sherds of a 'platter' P3. Several base angles have slight external expansions, something of a feature of this period (Woodward 1990, 138). The vessels are of irregular manufacture and it is not possible to relate base angles to upper vessels. Many of the sherds have one or more edges heavily abraded, probably a bioturbation feature and a number of the body sherds have split along coil breaks, suggesting standard of potting poor.

Table 1: Pottery by sherd numbers, weight in grams and Fabrics.

Context	Details	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	Totals
161	Fill posthole F160	1/18					1/18
177	Fill posthole F176	3/63					3/63
182	Secondary fill of posthole F180	2/5					2/5
190	Fill posthole F189	1/5					1/5
192	Fill posthole F191	56/1026 P2-3					56/1026
193	Fill posthole F191 P1	17/159				1/17	18/176
196	Fill posthole F194	7/65					7/65
287	Fill posthole F285		8/112				8/112
298	Fill pit F296	1/9					1/9
316	Fill posthole F315	2/8			2/6		4/14
320	Fill posthole F319	1/2					1/2
324	Fill posthole F323	2/16					2/16
328	Fill posthole F327	2/57					2/57
333	Fill posthole F331	1/1					1/1
337	Fill pit/posthole F336	1/1					1/1
345	Fill pit/posthole F344			1/12			1/12
349	Fill of posthole F348		1/8				1/8
353	Fill of posthole F351 P4-5	9/81			1/13	1/1	11/95
355	Fill of posthole F354	4/24					4/24
u/s		4/25	1/5				5/30
Totals		114/1564	10/125	1/12	3/19	2/18	130/1739

P1 (Fig. 12) (193) lower fill posthole F193 Rounded slightly inturned rim 110mm diameter from closed jar.

P2 (Fig. 12) (192) upper fill posthole F193 Irregularly shaped lug, probably from medium sized vessel.

P3 (Fig. 12) (192) upper fill posthole F193 Two rim sherds from low sided platter, not conjoining, diameter 160mm; the base has a range of random grooves and scratches. This may have split off a jar type vessel due to poor coil joins and subsequently been used. Platters have not so far been

found in LBA Plain Ware contexts from the South West, being absent from large assemblages at Brean Down in Somerset (Woodward 1990) and Higher Besore, Truro, in Cornwall (Quinnell forthcoming a).

P4 (Fig. 12) (353) fill of posthole F351 Slightly rounded rim 150mm diameter with small roundish lug below.

P5 (Fig. 12) (353) fill of posthole F351 Everted rim 130mm diameter from necked vessel.

6.5 *Affinities by Henrietta Quinnell*

SUERC-87142 2889 +/- 24 BP, calibrates to 1192 – 1029 BC (2.2%), 1161 – 1144 cal BC and 1131 – 997 cal BC (90.9%) on charred hazelnut from (181) fill posthole F180 and provides a good date for this assemblage. The basic slightly biconical jars with simple rims are typical of Late Bronze Age Plain Ware, although lugs do not usually occur and the platter P3 has not otherwise been recognised. This style, dating broadly to the 11th - 9th centuries BC, is still not well understood in Devon, the largest published assemblage being from Beacon Hill on Lundy (Quinnell 2010). The much larger assemblage from Brean Down in Somerset forms the baseline for ceramic studies of this period in the South West (Woodward 1990). A comment for Devon, illustrated by a distribution map, has recently been published (Quinnell forthcoming b).

6.6 *Worked flint by Henrietta Quinnell*

The small assemblage of some 16 pieces consists mainly of hard hammer cortical flakes of both waterworn chert and flint nodules. The only exceptions are a damaged scraper on a flint pebble from (151) and a fragment with invasive working from (210). These two pieces come from contexts without ceramic associations. The assemblage as a whole however could well relate to simple tool production at a date contemporary with the ceramics which made use of local drift/stream sourced materials.

6.7 *Burnt stone by Naomi Payne*

11 pieces (1151g) of possible burnt stone were recovered from two contexts. Seven pieces (921g) were from context 193, a fill of structural posthole F191. The remainder was from context 353, a fill of posthole F351. Both contexts also contained prehistoric pottery and burnt clay.

6.8 *Burnt and fired clay by Naomi Payne and Henrietta Quinnell*

291 pieces (2642g) of burnt and fired clay were recovered from six contexts, all of which formed part of Structure 1. The majority of the burnt clay (184 pieces; 2505g) was derived from a single context, 190, fill of structural posthole F189. 11 fragments weighing 742g have clear impressions of circular-sectioned rods with extrapolated diameters of between c. 15 and 40mm (Plate 13). This is likely to be burnt daub. There are also three small pieces (26g) which appear to have one flat surface. The remainder of the material is almost all amorphous and featureless, but falls into two groups. The first group comprises 116 angular and sub-angular fragments (609g) made in a moderately soft, fine, oxidised fabric. There are also ten pieces (11g) in a similar reduced fabric. The second group includes 44 sub-rounded fragments (1117g) with bumpy surfaces. The fabric is again broadly similar but these pieces have a distinctive appearance. Four pieces (431g) have possible circular-sectioned rod impressions.

Four other postholes produced smaller quantities of burnt or fired clay. Structural posthole F180 produced 100 pieces weighing a total of 56g. These are small and more varied in their fabric and firing and as such they do not have the appearance of having been deliberately deposited, unlike the group from F189. Structural posthole F191 produced two rather larger pieces weighing 51g.

These are both in a sandy fabric. They generally appear featureless, but the larger piece has a perforation, suggesting this piece is a much abraded fragment of something larger.

A single piece of burnt clay was recovered from context 333, fill of posthole F331 and three further fragments from context 353, a fill of posthole F351. The two postholes possibly relate to an entrance.

6.9 Ceramic bead *by Henrietta Quinnell*

(298) fill posthole F296 with a single ceramic sherd. Part of an oblate ceramic bead 12g 35mm across with a fairly regular biconical profile and a perforation 45mm across (Fig. 12; Plate 14). This was broken across before deposition but has also a very recent break. It appears to have been made as a bead, and not cut out from a sherd. Petrography: Imogen Wood reports that the bead is Fabric 2 but with less vein quartz and more Red Sandstone rich clay.

Beads of all materials tend to be infrequent in Late Bronze Age sites generally and certainly no parallel from the South West appears to have been identified. The only other Bronze Age beads known so far from Devon are those from the Early Bronze Age necklace from the Whitehorse cist on Dartmoor (Jones 2016). However a similar bead has also been identified from a late Iron Age ring gully at Newcourt Drive, Exeter (Quinnell 2019). This was identified by Roger Taylor as of sandy clay from the Exeter area or just possibly East Devon. Several beads, made of gabbroic clay but of similar spherical or oblate shapes, come from sites in Cornwall, one from the cliff castle at Trevelgue Head, three from the settlement at Boden, St Antony in Meneage, and one from a settlement at Park en Venton, Mullion. All these however are possibly post-Roman rather than Later Iron Age in date (Quinnell 2018, with references). It may be that there was an extended period over which ceramic beads were made and used in the South West.

The presence of a small quantity of gabbroic sherds, with petrology indicating a mix of materials indicating that clay rather than finished pots was moved up from Cornwall, is something of a surprise. No previous Late Bronze Age Plain Ware assemblages with gabbroic fabrics have been found outside Cornwall.

The closest known location for another site with this Plain Ware is Shortlands, Cullompton, where a typical simple vessel was found in a structural context (Quinnell and Taylor 2014): this vessel was in an Upper Greensand Derived fabric. Most of the assemblage from the enclosed roundhouses at Hayne Lane, Honiton (Laidlaw 1999) can now be identified as Late Bronze Age Plain Ware (author pers. com.). The largest assemblage so far known from Devon, 664 sherds (4431g), from Stowford Rise, Sidmouth, awaits publication: this includes both small lugs and also everted rims (Quinnell 2016). It may be that the presence of lugs in these ceramics in Devon represents an influence from the preceding Trevisker style where lugs are fairly frequent. The simplicity of forms of LBA Plain Ware Groups in Devon makes confusion with other forms of local ceramics easy.

6.10 Animal bone *by Charlotte Coles*

A total of 93 bones was recovered from eight contexts. The majority of these are very small unidentified burnt bone fragments. Only four pieces are identified including several pieces of cattle humerus shaft from context 104, fill of ditch F106 and a burnt part of a distal end of a sheep/goat metapodial from context 355, fill of Structure 1 posthole F354. This is from an adult animal.

6.11 Slag *by Naomi Payne*

169 pieces (40.6g) of fuel ash slag were recovered from three contexts. All of this material is from features associated with Structure 1, including structural postholes F180 and F191, and context (300), a fill of internal pit or posthole F296. Fuel ash slag is derived from reactions between alkaline fuel ashes and the silicates present in soils. The slag is not diagnostic.

7. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

7.1 Charred plant remains *by John A. Giorgi*

In total 14 samples were assessed for environmental potential and further work was recommended on the charred remains from the primary (181) and secondary fills (182) (sample 5) of posthole F180, Structure 1. All potentially identifiable charred plant remains were sorted from the flots and residues and examined using a binocular microscope (with a magnification of up to x40) together with modern and charred reference material and manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006).

Results

The charred plant remains from the two fills of posthole F180 are shown in Table 2. Taxonomic order for the wild plants following Stace (2005) also used for ecological data together with Hanf (1983) and Wilson *et al.* (2003).

Table 2: The charred plant remains

	feature	POSTHOLE	
	feature number	F180	
	context type	PRIM FILL	2ND FILL
	context number	181	182
	sample number	6	5
	vol sample (l)	8	8
	vol flot (ml)	103	175
LATIN_NAME	ENGLISH		
Cereal grains			
<i>Triticum/Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	wheat/barley		4
cf. <i>H. vulgare</i>	?barley		2
Cerealia indet.	indet. cereal (estimate)		3
Cereal chaff			
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	hulled wheat spikelet base	1	1
Other plant/weed seeds			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel nut shell fragments	5	6
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> Gray	redshank		1
<i>Persicaria</i> spp.	knotweed		5
<i>Fallopia convulvulus</i> (L.) A Love	black bindweed		3
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	dock	4	27
Polygonaceae indet.	knotweed	3	6
<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>spinosa</i>	?sloe/blackthorn		1
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> spp.	vetch/tare/vetchling (whole/cotyledons <2mm)		33
Fabaceae indet	small round cotyledons	1	6
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	ribwort plantain		3
<i>Galium</i> spp.	bedstraw		9
Poaceae indet.	wild grass (small seeds)		13
<i>Sparganium erectum</i> L.	branched bur-reed		1
indeterminate	rhizome fragments	1	1
	total nos of items	15	125
	item density (per litre of processed soil)	1.9	15.6

Both samples produced identifiable charred plant remains, mainly from the secondary fill (182) of the posthole with only a small charred assemblage being found in the primary fill (181). The remains consisted of a small amount of cereal debris with poorly preserved grains, two of which were tentatively identified as barley (cf. *Hordeum vulgare*) while several grains may be from either barley and/or wheat (*Triticum*). The definite presence of wheat, however, was confirmed by single hulled wheat spikelet bases in both fills of posthole F180 although it was not possible to establish whether this chaff was from emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and/or spelt wheat (*T. spelta*).

Potential evidence for the gathering and consumption of wild foods from hedgerow/shrub habitats was represented by a few charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut shell fragments in both samples and a fruit stone fragment, possibly of sloe/blackthorn (*Prunus cf. spinosa*) in fill (182).

Most of the charred plant remains in the large assemblage from fill (182) consisted of wild plant/weed seeds from a range of species mainly found growing in disturbed (including cultivated) ground and waste places. Potential arable weeds included *Persicaria* (knotweed), *Rumex* (dock), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain) and *Galium* (bedstraw), that may have been incidentally harvested with the cereals growing in the free-draining loamy soils around the site, the presence of *Persicaria maculosa* (redshank) possibly pointing to the use of damper soils perhaps closer to the River Culm. Another common cereal weed, *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed), may be indicative of the spring-sowing of crops. There were a fairly good number of legume seeds broadly identified as *Vicia/Lathyrus* (vetch/tare/vetchling) in fill (182) although the very small size of these seeds (<2mm) suggests that they probably represent wild plants/weeds rather than the residues of cultivated pulses. Other charred remains included a single seed of *Sparganium erectum* (branched bur-reed), a plant found by ponds, lakes, slow rivers and marshy fields and ditches (Stace 2005), which may have been incidentally collected along with other wild vegetation from the nearby floodplain for various uses on site including as fuel.

Discussion

The charred plant remains in the two fills of posthole F180 provide only limited information on agricultural and human activities at the site during the Late Bronze Age. Evidence for cereal cultivation and grain use is limited to traces of hulled wheat and barley. The charred plant assemblages consisting of a mix of cereal remains and wild plant/weed seeds represent the residues of activities associated with the final stages of crop-cleaning and food preparation/cooking.

Hulled wheat (both emmer and spelt) and hulled barley appear to have been the main crops cultivated during the Bronze Age in southern Britain (Greig 1991, 302) with evidence to suggest that spelt appears to have become the dominant hulled wheat towards the latter part of this period (Campbell *et al*, 2003, 15). Other Bronze Age sites in Devon have produced similar results; for example barley from excavations at Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton near Exeter (Fairbairn 2000, 19) and emmer/spelt and barley from sites further to the south-west at Station Road, Chudleigh (Giorgi forthcoming) and Hood Hill, Rattery (Cobain 2014). The presence and use of wild food resources, notably hazelnuts, has also been noted at other Bronze Age sites in Devon including the three listed above.

7.2 Charcoal by Dana Challinor

The two samples from posthole F180, forming part of Structure 1, were submitted for charcoal analysis. Standard procedures for identification were followed, with the charcoal mounted in a sand bath for examination at high magnification (up to X400), and according to criteria observed in modern reference material.

Table 3: Charcoal identifications

Context no.	182	181
Sample no.	5	6
<i>Quercus</i> sp. - oak	++ (h)	+
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - hazel		+
<i>Prunus</i> sp. - blackthorn/cherry	+	+
Maloideae - hawthorn group		++

<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L. - ash		+
Key: +=present; ++=frequent; h=heartwood		

Results

Quantities of identifiable charcoal were very low in both samples and the material was highly fragmented. The presence of five taxa was positively confirmed (Table 3): *Quercus* sp. (oak), *Corylus avellana* (hazel), *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn, wild/bird cherry), Maloideae (hawthorn, apple, pear, whitebeam/rowan etc.) and *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash). No roundwood was observed, but this was limited by the small size of the fragments, which were frequently less than one growth ring. A single fragment of oak exhibited multiple tyloses, indicating heartwood.

Discussion

There was notably more oak, including mature wood, in context 182 (sample 5) which came from the post-pipe fill, and could represent the practice of deliberately charring the post-tips of structural posts to promote preservation. It is likely that the assemblage from context 181 (sample 6) represents wind-blown, accumulated fuel waste from activities occurring during the lifetime of the building. This assemblage was quite diverse, indicating a range of deciduous woodland trees and scrub/hedgerow types were utilised as firewood; this is consistent with the type of fuelwood commonly used in Late Bronze Age domestic fires.

8. RADIOCARBON DATING by Paul Rainbird

- 8.1 The evidence from the pottery indicated a Late Bronze Age date but confirmation was required. There was only a limited amount of material in the sampled fills that was regarded as secure and suitable for radiocarbon dating. A date was obtained from the primary fill (181) of posthole F180, Structure 1. The dated sample was assessed as suitable short-lived material and submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre.
- 8.2 The AMS radiocarbon date result is given in Table 4. Calibration of the results has been performed using the data set published by Reimer *et al.* (2013) and performed using the program OxCal4.3.2 (on-line at: c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/oxcal.htm).

Table 4: Radiocarbon dating results (calibrated to 95.4% probability)

Material	Context	Lab no.	Result BP	δC13 (‰)	Cal BC/AD
Hazelnut shell: <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Primary fill (181) of posthole F180	SUERC-87142 (GU51465)	2889 ± 24	-23.2	1192 - 997 cal BC

9. DISCUSSION by Paul Rainbird

- 9.1 The features exposed on the site represent two probable structures, one which is very clear (Structure 1) and one which is unclear (Structure 2). These have been dated to the Late Bronze Age. In addition, a ditch of probable late medieval to early post-medieval date was revealed.

9.2 Structure 1

The defining feature of Structure 1 was the post-ring of generally larger and deeper postholes, forming a slight oval, with a maximum diameter of 6.7m; this compares well with the pair of probably Late Bronze Age (see Quinnell 2011, 85-6) roundhouses at Hayne Lane, East Devon, which had post-ring diameters of 6.8m and 7.2m (Butterworth 1999). The evidence from the burnt clay indicates

that the outer wall was probably of wattle and daub type and the charcoal from the post-pipe of structural posthole F189 suggests that oak was used for the main posts. No floor surfaces survived. It is probable that the post-ring supported the main structural posts and that the outer wall was concentric with these, perhaps adding some further 2m to the overall diameter of the house, meaning that it was more in the order of 10m in diameter. The ephemeral material used in the outer wall means it is more susceptible to truncation and less likely to survive when compared with the structural postholes (Guilbert 1981).

Post-built roundhouses from the Late Bronze Age onwards typically have an entrance arrangement of large posts to support a porch. The entrance to Structure 1 was on the east side where structural postholes for a probable porch were located. A southeast-facing entrance appears to be preferred as this date, but a general easterly orientation is typical of roundhouses in later prehistory (Sharples 2010, fig. 4.4; Quinnell 2011). The cluster of pits outside the entrance perhaps further supports the suggestion that the entrance was in this position, and that the pits are largely contemporary with the use of the roundhouse.

Examples of post-built Bronze Age roundhouses are known from a pair at Hayne Lane (mentioned above), one at Blackhorse and a pair at Patteson's Cross, all on the route of the A30 in East Devon (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999), a single example at Langage, Plympton (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011), and although with an Early Iron Age date, but having a sherd of pottery of Late Bronze Age type, the roundhouse at Brownie Cross in West Devon (Taylor *et al.* 2014).

Features internal to the post-ring provide a rare glimpse in lowland sites of the separation of activities more typically identified in upland settlements of Bronze Age date (Fitzpatrick 1999). These activities may be divided into areas for living and cooking and those for sleeping. Despite feature F208 having some evidence for burning, there was perhaps less charcoal than would have been expected in its deposits if it was a hearth. Although the feature may have been cleaned out or had been truncated, thereby losing these deposits, its interpretation as a hearth is therefore not entirely conclusive. Nevertheless, F208 remains a good contender for such a feature in being positioned off-centre and having associated stakeholes, a characteristic that is consistent with recently-recorded remains in Roundhouse 1 at Tremough, Cornwall (Jones *et al.* 2015). The small amount of fuel ash slag (also known as cramp) from other features in Structure 1 may have derived from cooking, but is also known in Bronze Age contexts as part of pyre material from cremations.

The stakehole cluster to the north of the probable hearth area may relate to cooking or fire related activities where objects such as cooking pots or skins for drying need to be suspended near the fire. A larger internal posthole, F315, to the east of F208 could be an additional support for the roof or entrance arrangement or part of a fixture.

To the north of the cluster of stakeholes was a rough line of smaller postholes potentially indicating the line of an internal partition. This partition appears to mark a division between cooking and living areas to the south and perhaps a sleeping area to the north; a division which has been proposed at several other sites (Chadwick Hawkes 1994; cf. Webley 2007). The density of the features that formed this partition, some of which were overlapping or cutting through earlier pits, suggest both that this division was maintained and that the structure was used for some period of time with posts for the partition moved or replaced. Sadly, the lack of floor surfaces and a general paucity of domestic artefacts means that this proposal is not further supported by the distribution of finds, although the majority of the pottery was recovered from features in the area of the probable entranceway. The pottery from the site, although of rare Late Bronze Age type, is typically thought to have had a domestic function and petrology has shown that it was locally produced; the use of gabbro clay from Cornwall in one sherd indicates a level of connections beyond the local area.

Abandonment

There is evidence to indicate that the end of the life of the building may have involved some burning of its elements. Furthermore, following the removal of the post in posthole F189 on the south side of the post-ring the void was deliberately filled with fired daub derived from the demolished outer wall. Indeed, many other postholes contained charcoal-rich deposits, while posthole F191 contained a quantity of pottery, suggesting that these too had been removed following a probable fire. Such abandonment activity at late prehistoric roundhouses has been identified elsewhere in southern England, but the reasons given for the filling of postholes has ranged from ritual (cf. Webley 2007) to functional, with ApSimon and Greenfield (1972, 353), while not ruling out symbolism, suggesting that it may simply be 'a measure to prevent cattle getting their feet trapped'.

9.3 Structure 2

Calling this disparate collection of postholes and pits a structure may be a misleading, as it is not clear that they actually represent a building. Although there seems to be some circular arrangement in their concentration, there is no definitive relationship with deeper structural postholes that could delineate structural elements from internal or external associated features. Finds were limited, and the few small sherds of pottery which were found came from only two features (F160 and F176); at opposite sides of the group. The function of many of the features remains unclear, being shallow depressions or small postholes; they could indicate an ancillary structure, small secondary enclosures or linear or curvilinear alignments of posts, with the probability that these continue beyond the limits of the exposed area.

9.4 Late Bronze Age settlement

In general, Structure 1 had an associated quantity of Late Bronze Age Plain Ware pottery with several forms and different inclusions, which, along with the support of the radiocarbon date, allow us to say with some precision that the structure dates to the 11th to 9th centuries BC. Undoubtedly, we are dealing with a settlement of one or more dwellings situated on a gently sloping southeast-facing terrace overlooking a wide floodplain of the Culm. It appears unlikely that the site was enclosed by a bank and ditch, and it is clear from the excavations on the line of the A30 in east Devon that both enclosed and unenclosed settlements were present in Devon during the Late Bronze Age (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999). The charred grains show that wheat and barley were being cultivated and other resources such as hazelnuts were being collected. The charcoal shows that a diverse range of other deciduous woodland trees and scrub/hedgerow types were being exploited for building and firewood.

9.5 Medieval or post-medieval field boundary ditch F106

The most recent feature exposed was the late medieval to post-medieval ditch F106; a date based on the presence of animal bone in a state of good preservation. This perhaps relates to the existing 16th century listed farmhouse on the site and is a field boundary or drainage ditch within the fields of the long-lived farm. It has an alignment which matches the extant historic field pattern, but it is not marked on the Silverton tithe map of 1842 or subsequent maps.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1** The archaeological monitoring and recording exposed an area of Late Bronze Age settlement which included the remains of at least one roundhouse, with a separate cluster of small pits and postholes likely to have been associated with another structure or related activity. The remains have allowed for an interpretation of the structural layout of the roundhouse as well as some indication of its internal division of activity. A final phase comprising the probable burning of elements of the

roundhouse and the deposition of artefacts has provided some information on activity associated with its abandonment.

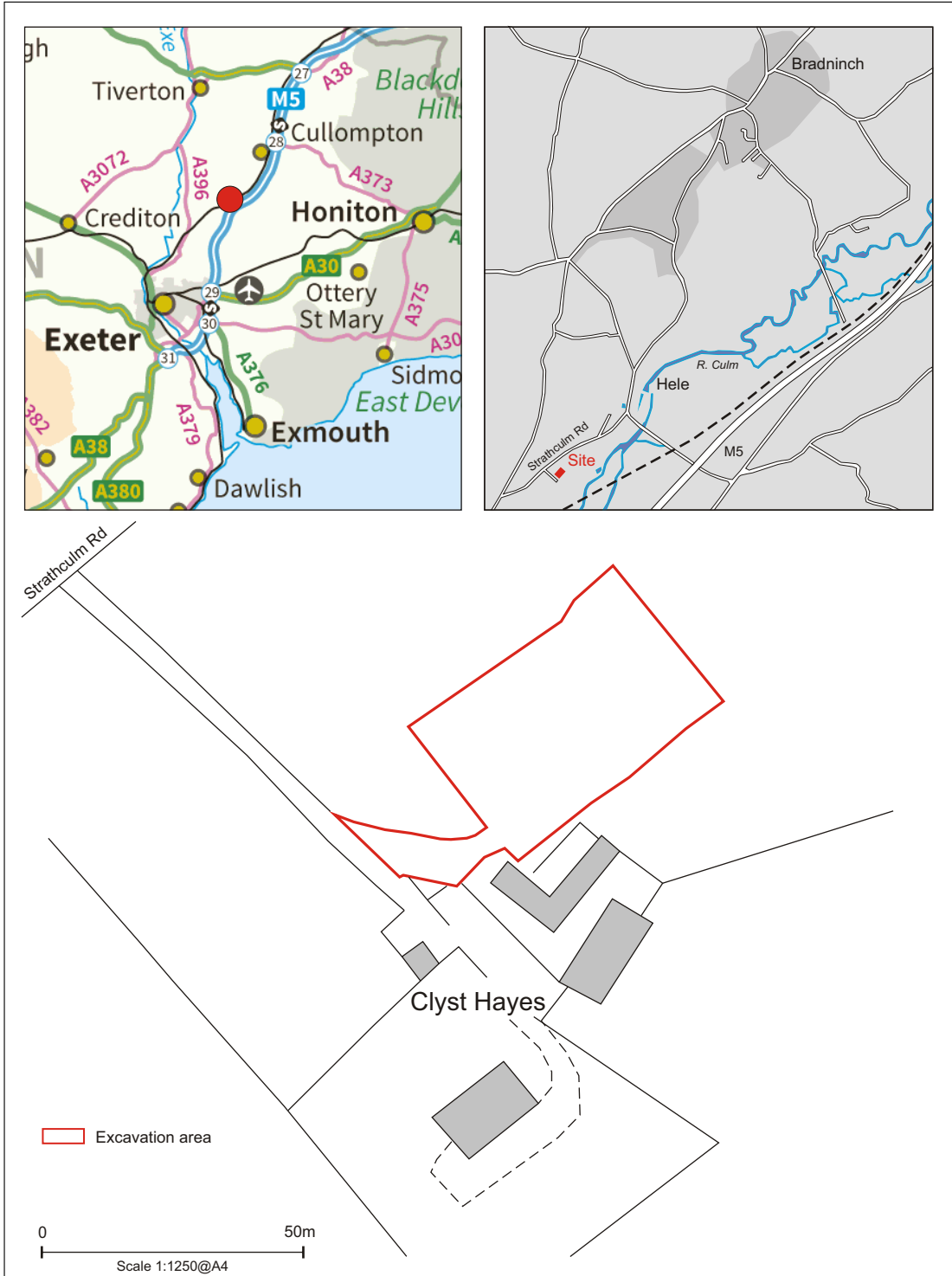
11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

- 11.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1158**. It will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under temporary accession number **RAMM 15/28**, but if they are unable to accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy.
- 11.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **214970**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

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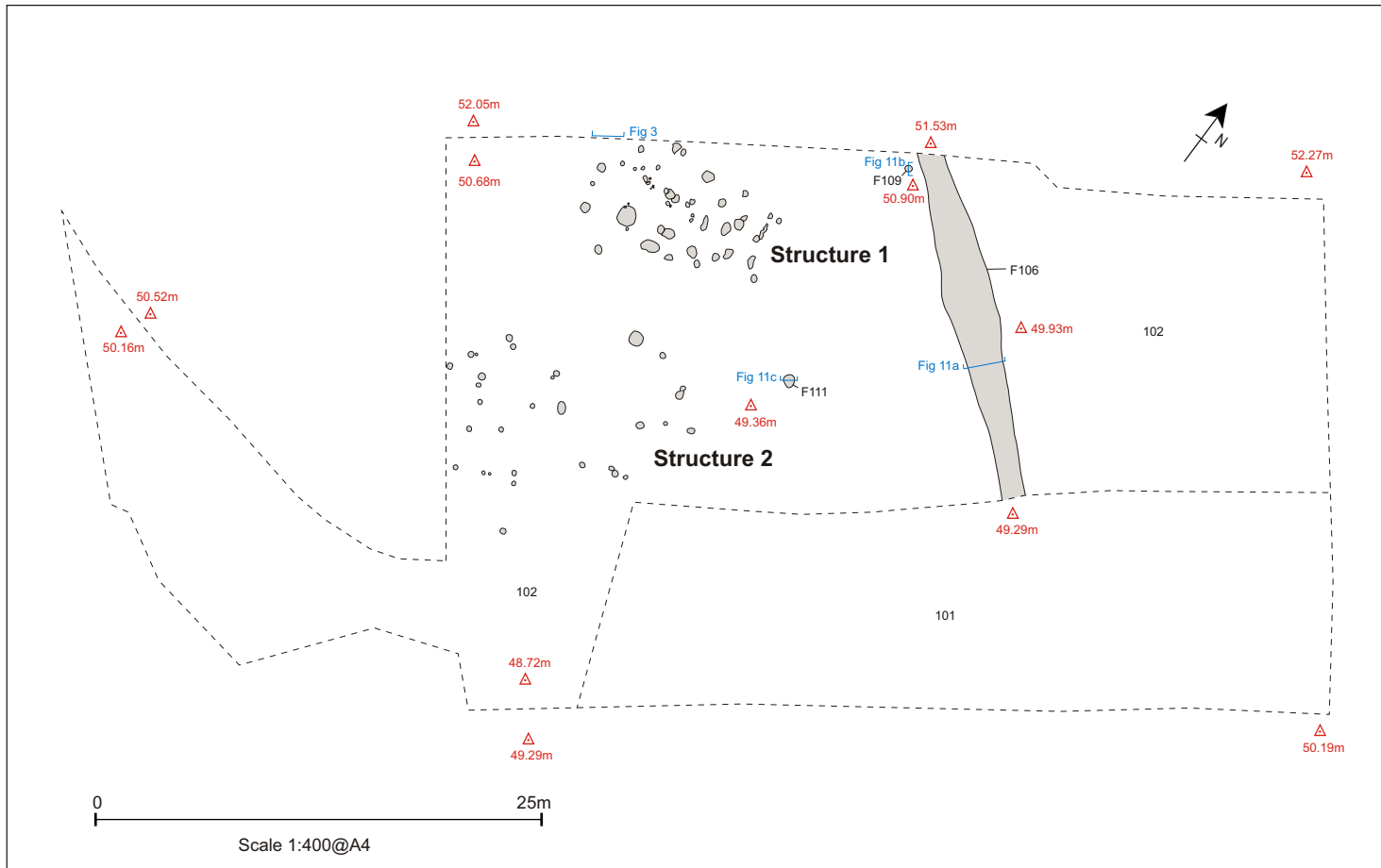
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TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



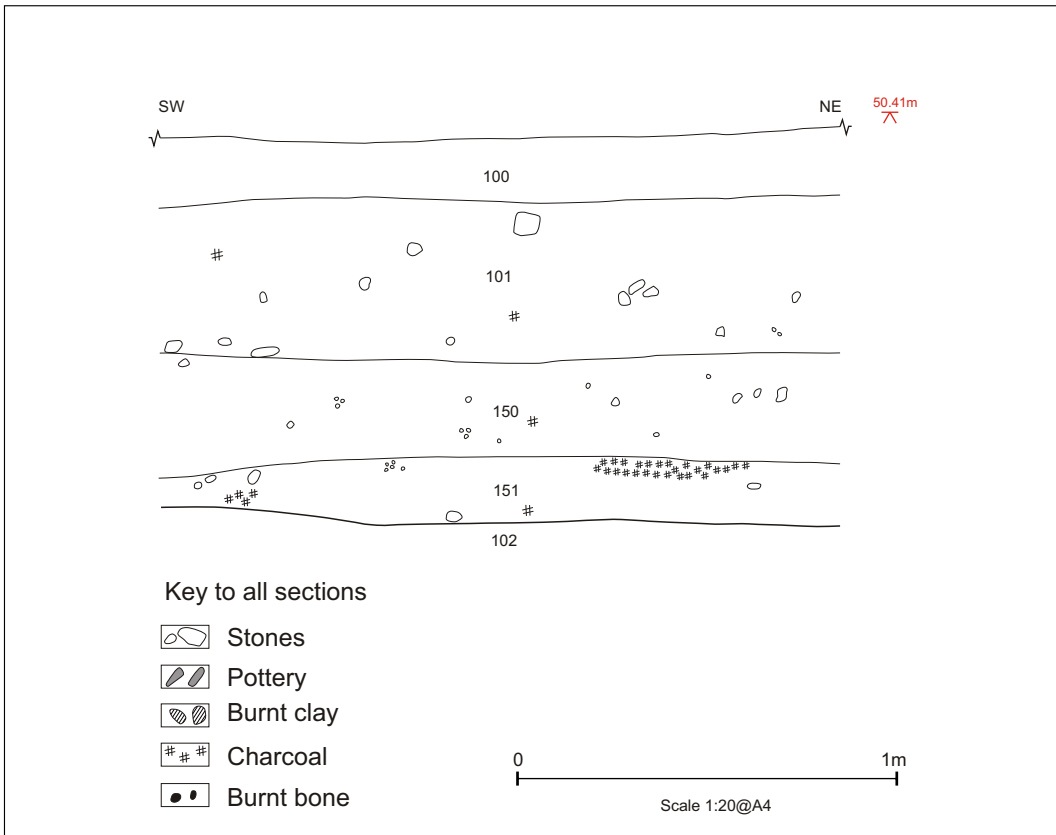


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Fig. 2: Excavation area, plan

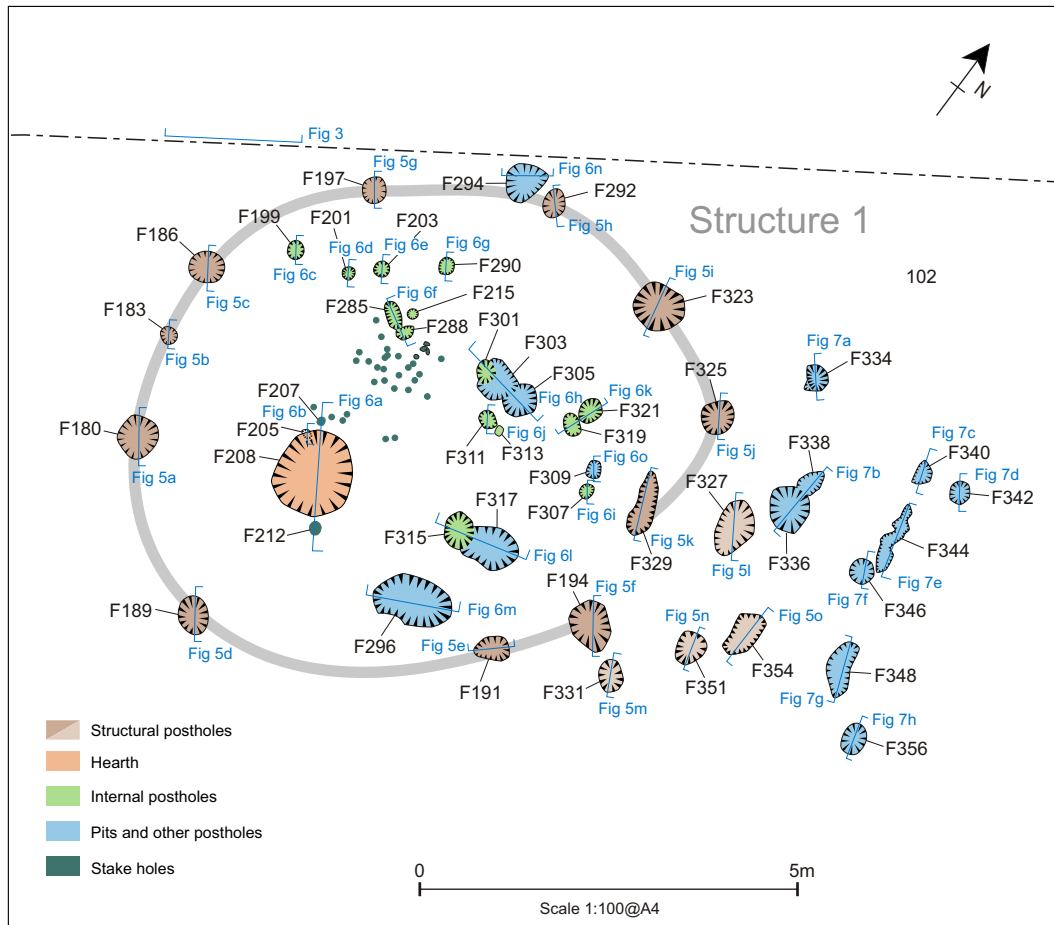


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Fig. 3: Section of overlying
soil sequence

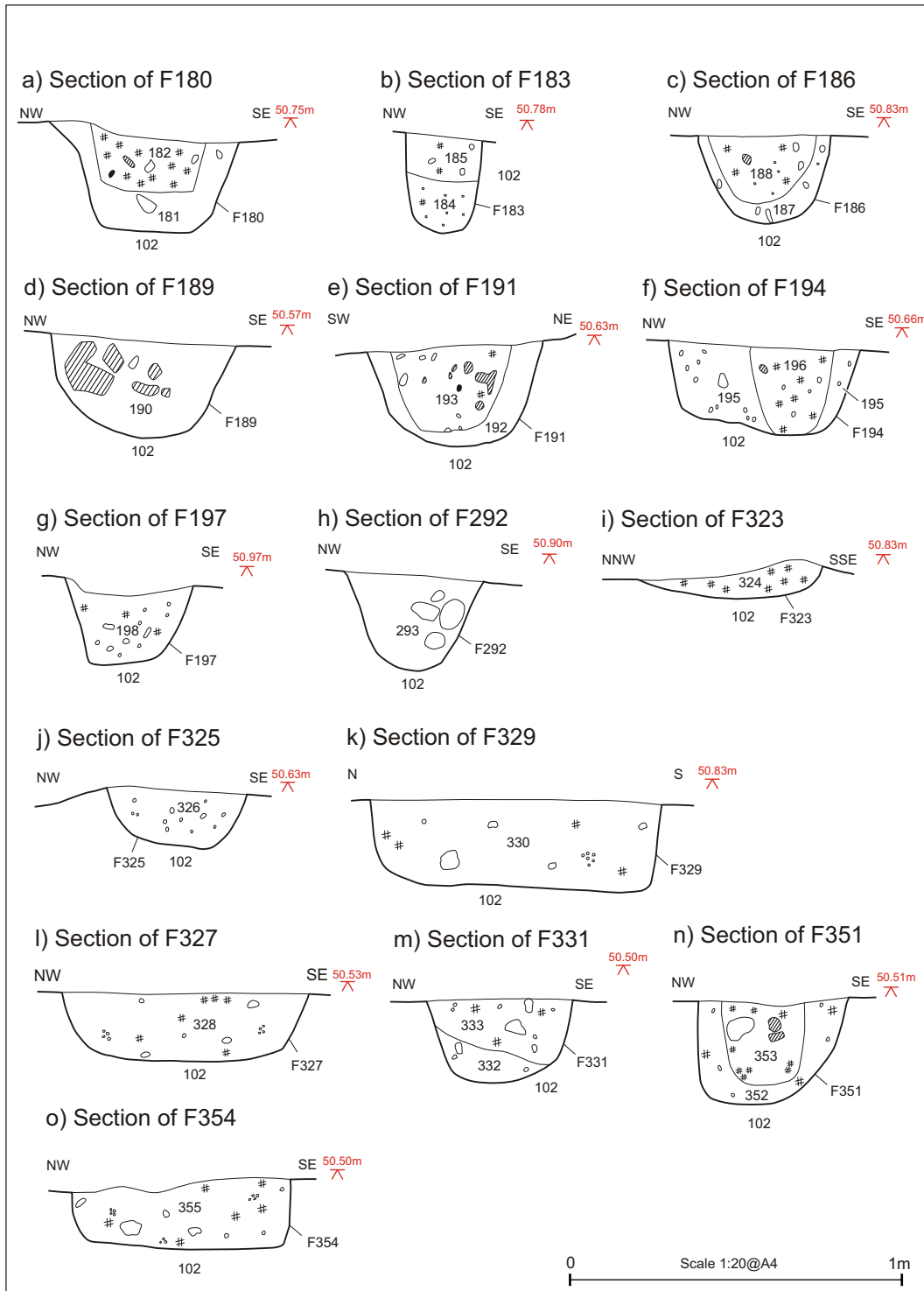


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Fig. 4: Structure 1, plan

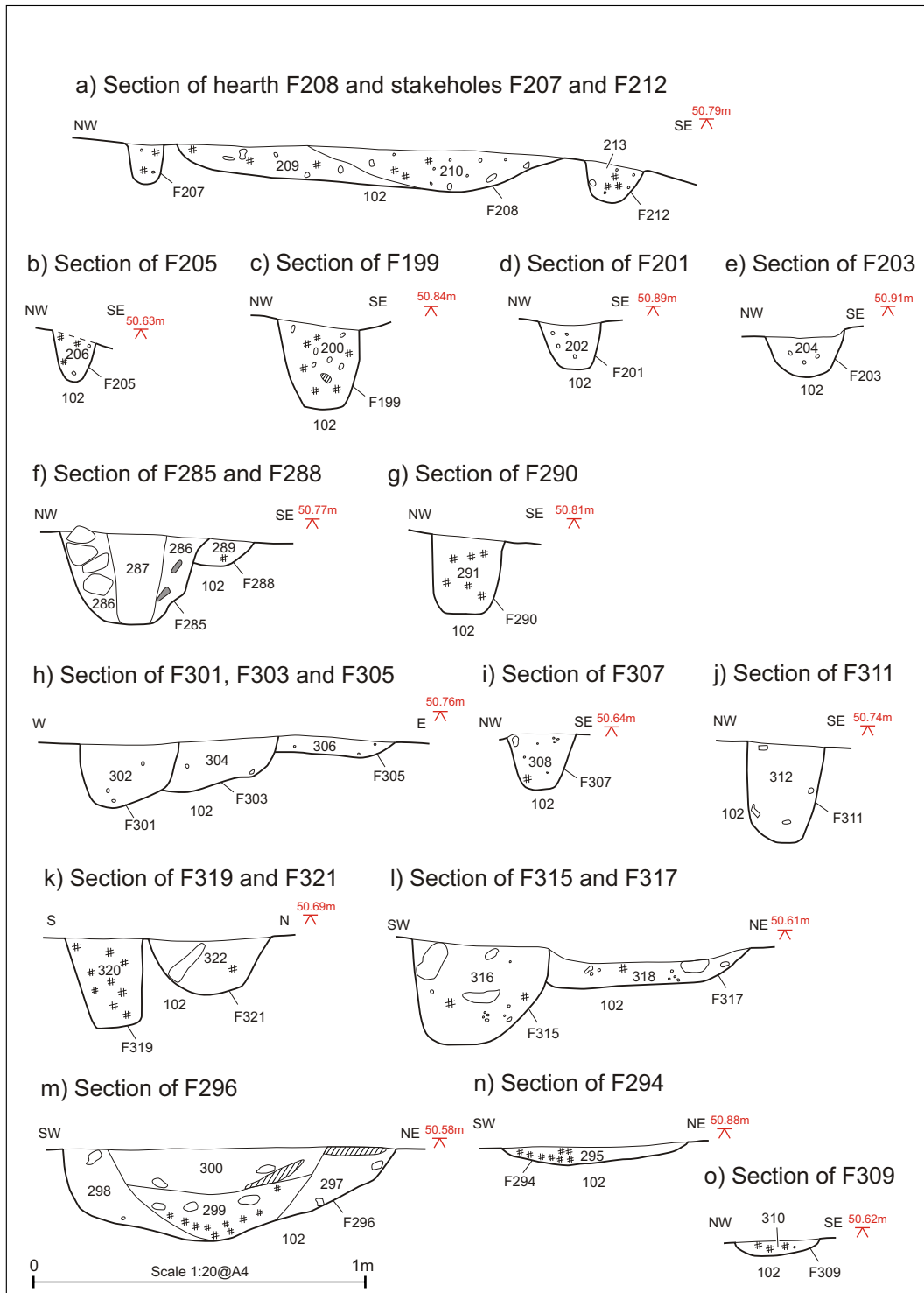


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Fig. 5: Structure 1, sections of
postholes

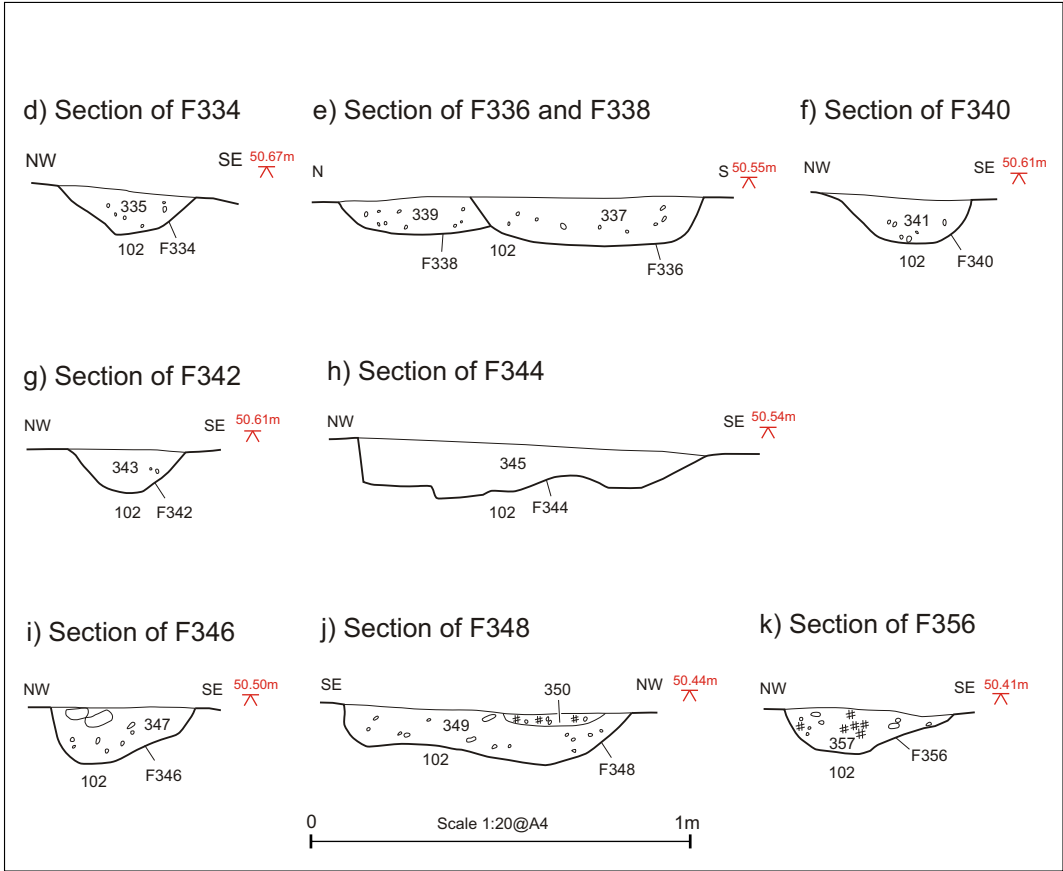


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Fig. 6: Structure 1, sections of
internal features



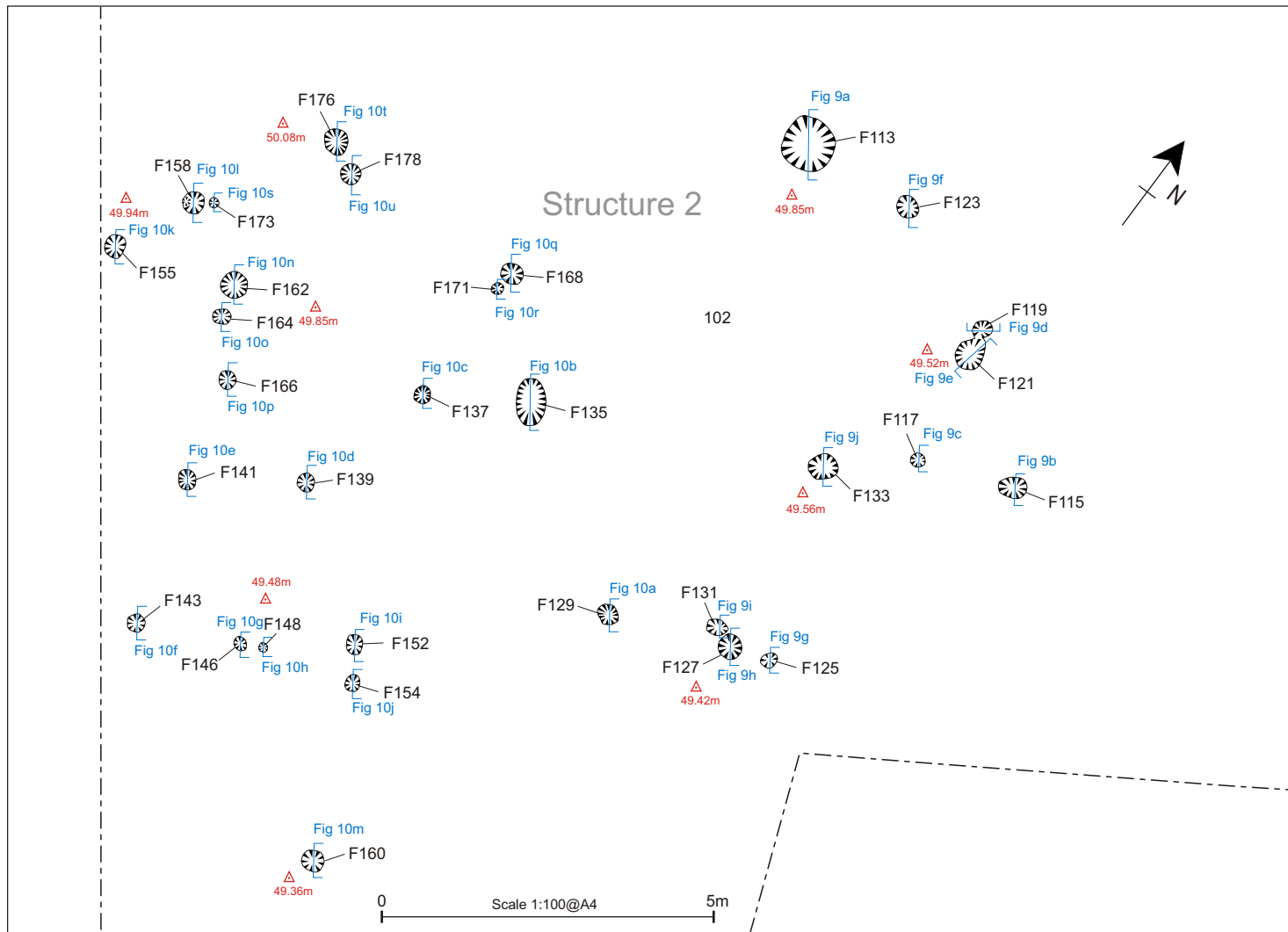
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Fig. 7: Structure 1, sections of
external features



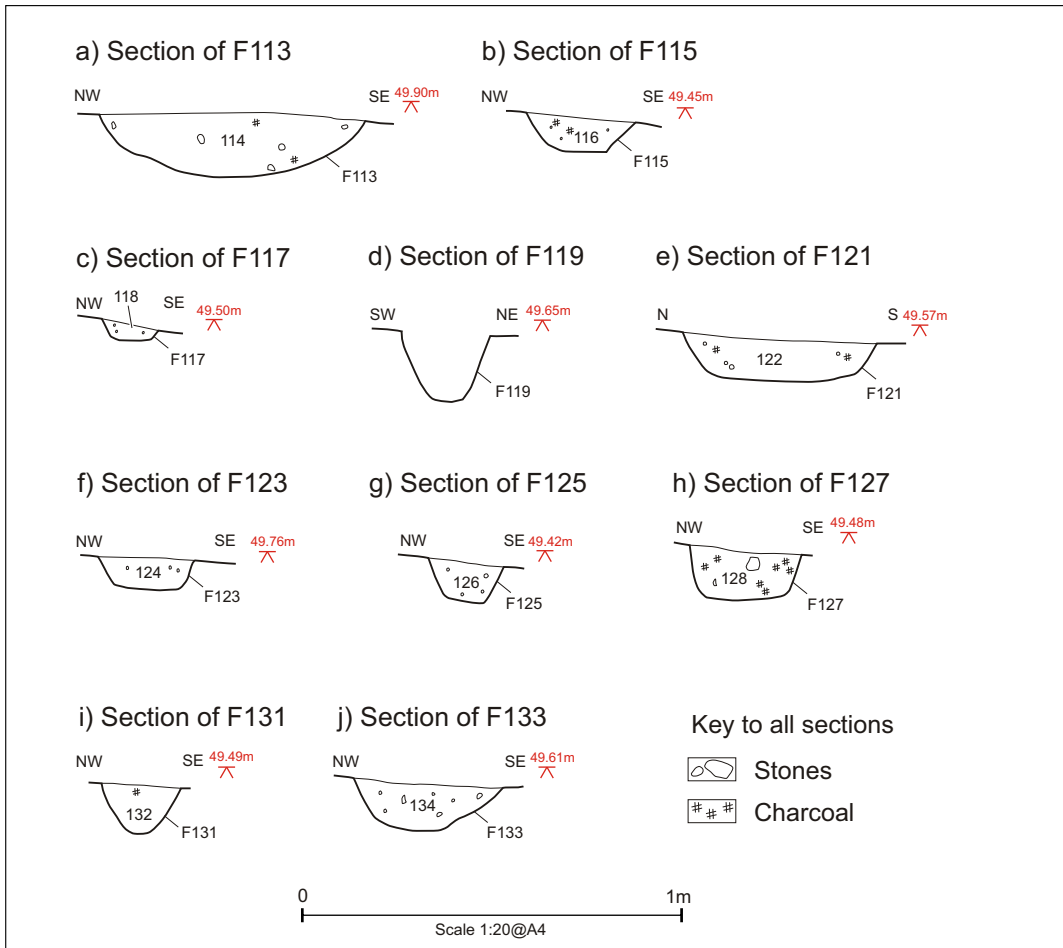


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Fig. 8: Structure 2, plan



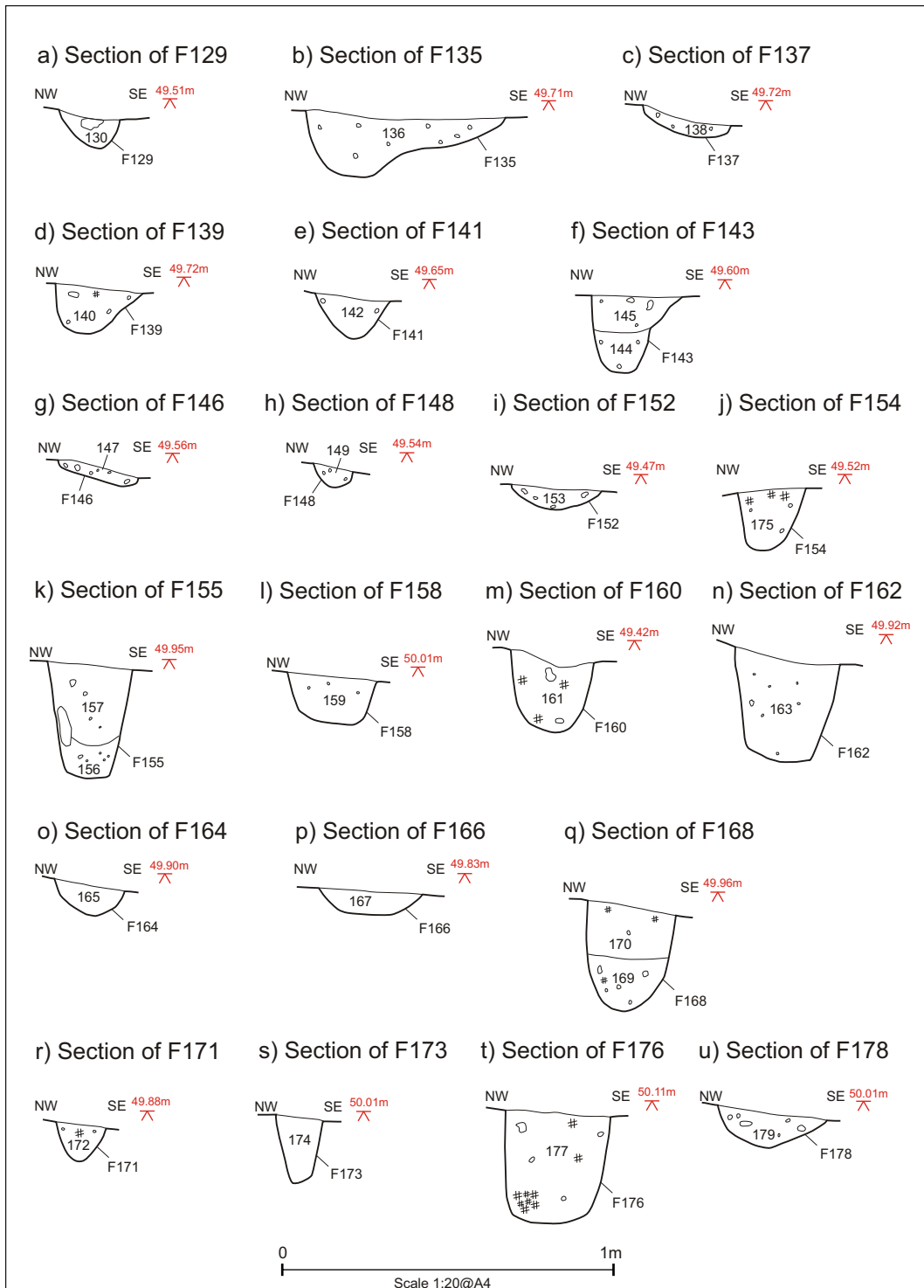
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Fig. 9: Structure 2,
 northeastern half, sections



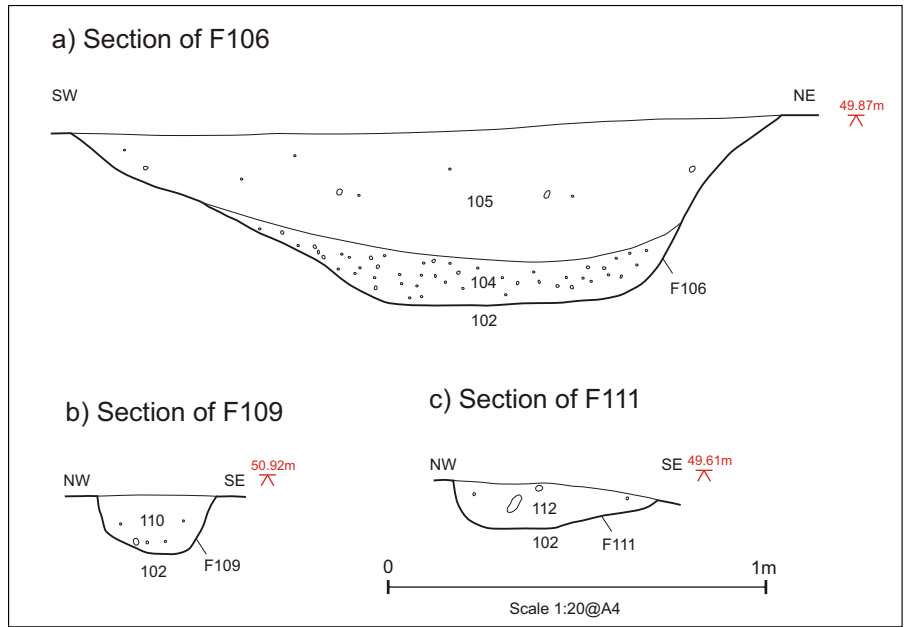


PROJECT

Land at Clyst Hayes,
Strathculm Road, Hele, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 10: Structure 2,
southwestern half, sections

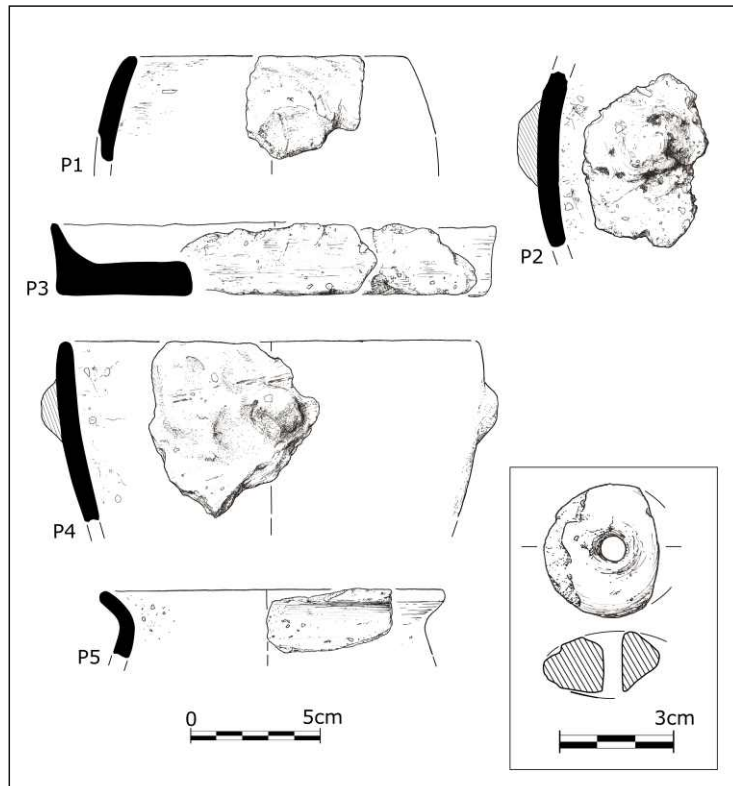


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TITLE

Fig. 11: Section of ditch F106,
posthole F109 and pit F111



PROJECT

Land at Clyst Hayes,
Strathculm Road, Hele, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 12: Late Bronze Age Plain
Ware P1-5. Scale 1:3.
Ceramic bead. Scale 1:2.
(Drawn by George Scott)



Plate 1: View of site, work in progress, looking southeast



Plate 2: View of site, work in progress, looking southwest



Plate 3: Pre-excavation view of Structure 1, work in progress, looking south



Plate 4: Structure 1, work in progress, looking ENE



Plate 5: Structure 1, work in progress, looking southwest



Plate 6: Structure 1 stakeholes, looking east (scale 1m)



Plate 7: Structure 1, looking east (scale 2m)



Plate 8: Structure 1, looking northwest (scale 2m)



Plate 9: Northeastern half of Structure 2, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 10: Southwestern half of Structure 2, looking northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 11: Structure 2, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 12: Ditch F106, southeast facing section (scale 1m)

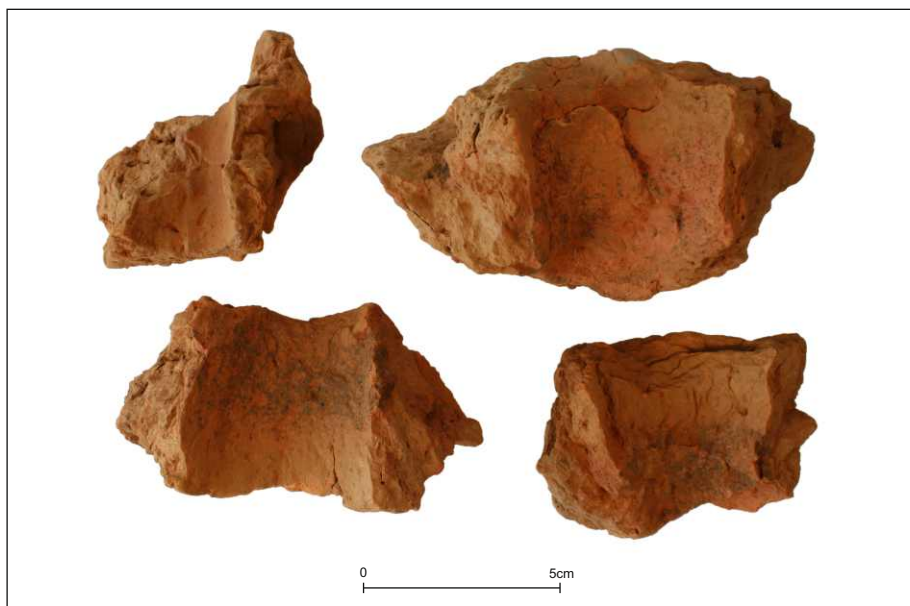


Plate 13: Impressions of circular-sectioned rods in burnt clay, from fill (190) of posthole F189



Plate 14: Ceramic bead from (298) fill of posthole F296

Appendix 1

Summary of finds by context

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF FINDS BY CONTEXT

Weights in grams

Context	Context Description	Slag		Worked flint/chert		Burnt flint		Burnt stone		Burnt/fired clay		Prehistoric pottery		Animal bone		Burnt Bone	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
U/S	Unstratified											5	30				
104	Fill of ditch F106													9	69		
105	Fill of ditch F106			1	6												
150	Colluvial soil			2	13												
151	Buried soil			1	16												
161	Fill of posthole F160											1	18				
177	Fill of posthole F176											3	63				
181	Fill of posthole F180			1	2											3	0.3
182	Fill of posthole F180	6	3	5	181	7	48			100	56	2	5			53	5.6
190	Fill of posthole F189			2	12	1	0.3			184	2505	1	5				
192	Fill of posthole F191											56	1026				
193	Fill of posthole F191	160	37	1	15			7	921	2	51	18	176			6	1.2
196	Fill of posthole F194											7	65				
210	Fill of hearth F208			1	2												
287	Fill of posthole F285											8	112				
298	Fill of pit F296									1	17	1	9				
300	Fill of pit F296	3	0.6														
316	Fill of posthole F315											4	14				
320	Fill of posthole F319											1	2				
324	Fill of posthole F323					1	1.3					2	16			2	0.1
328	Fill of posthole F327											2	57				
330	Fill of posthole F329															1	0.2
333	Fill of posthole F331									1	2	1	1				
337	Fill of pit F336											1	1				
345	Fill of feature F344											1	12				

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF FINDS BY CONTEXT

Context	Context Description	Slag		Worked flint/chert		Burnt flint		Burnt stone		Burnt/fired clay		Prehistoric pottery		Animal bone		Burnt Bone	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
349	Fill of pit F348			1	2							1	8				
353	Fill of posthole F351			1	0.5			4	230	3	11	11	95			17	7.6
355	Fill of pit F354											4	24			5	1.2
Totals		169	40.6	16	249.5	9	49.6	11	1151	291	2642	130	1739	9	69	87	16.2

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