

LAND ADJACENT TO SENTRY'S FARM, EXMINSTER, DEVON

NGR SX 9495 8701

Results of Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Investigations

Teignbridge District Council Planning Reference:
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Prepared by:
Ben Pears
and
John Valentin

With a contribution from:
Naomi Payne

On behalf of:
Bovis Homes

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archaeology

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(NGR SX 9495 8701)

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Planning appeal reference APP/P1133/A/14/22261 (Condition 16)

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Summary

Archaeological and geoarchaeological work carried out in advance of development on land adjacent to Sentry's Farm, Exminster, Devon (SX 9495 8701), was undertaken by AC archaeology during March, April and October 2015. The site occupies approximately 1.7 hectares of pastoral land to the southeast of Exminster. It has been subject to a previous archaeological evaluation which identified a small number of largely undated archaeological features alongside an early medieval pit.

The archaeological excavation comprised a 60m x 15m area, parallel with the southern boundary of the site. Overall the excavation area revealed the full extent of the early medieval pit found during the evaluation alongside a small linear feature, a cluster of largely undated pits and some naturally-formed vegetation features.

The geoarchaeological evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of a single 'T' shaped trench, totalling 49.5m in length and located in the east of the development area, between agricultural land and the edge of the Exe Estuary and was conducted to investigate the geoarchaeological potential of this marginal landscape. The trench contained a series of colluvial and alluvial layers, illustrating a long history of sediment accumulation in the prehistoric and historic periods as a result of intensive arable farming on the high land to the west and periodic flooding events from changing river levels to the east.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological and geoarchaeological investigations were undertaken by AC archaeology during March, April and October 2015 on land adjacent to Sentry's Farm, Exminster, Devon (centred on NGR SX 9495 8701; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Bovis Homes and was required as a condition of planning permission (ref. 13/02/02614/MAJ) by Teignbridge District Council following an appeal (ref. APP/P1133/A/14/22261; Condition 16), and as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET) for the construction of up to 65 dwellings, with associated highways, parking and public open space.
- 1.2 The development area occupies approximately 1.7 hectares of pastoral fields on the southeast outskirts of Exminster. The land has a predominantly east facing aspect, sloping moderately then steeply down towards the River Exe estuary, lying between 3m to 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying solid geology comprises sand and breccias of the Heavitree Formation, overlain by soliflucted sand, clay and gravel superficial deposits. Above these are a series of slightly acidic sandy soils of the Bridgnorth Association.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Manning 2010) and subsequent trial trench evaluation (Farnell and Salvatore 2010) for the site was previously undertaken by Exeter Archaeology. This revealed a low-density of mainly undated archaeological features, mostly linear ditches. However, charcoal from a pit in the southern part of the site was radiocarbon dated to 1150±35BP (AD770-980). Finds from the site included Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flint and Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval pottery, although most of these finds came from overlying deposits.
- 2.2 In the vicinity of Exminster there is a general potential for the presence of prehistoric activity, including a double-ditched enclosure c. 100m to the west of the site and four other known prehistoric or Roman sites within 500m. The minster of Exminster was founded in the eighth century, although there was almost certainly settlement existing in the area at the time, while Sentry's Farm is first documented in the early 14th century.

3. AIMS

3.1 The main aim of the investigation was to investigate and record any heritage assets with archaeological interest that may be present within the development site and will be affected by the construction works.

3.2 The site specific aims were to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- Establish if further features dating to the Early Medieval period are present within the site;
- Clarify the nature, function and extent of the localised buried soil layer sealing the Early Medieval pit;
- Establish if there is any evidence of buried soils, organic remains and/or palaeo-channels across the site;
- To establish the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any hitherto previously unrecorded archaeological remains;
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site; and,
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the site from archaeological remains encountered.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised an excavation area totalling 60m x 15m and the excavation of a trench (Trench 1) for geoarchaeological purposes (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (Valentin 2015) submitted to and approved by the Devon DCCHET prior to commencement on site. The geoarchaeological trench and open-area excavations were positioned using a Leica Viva GS08 Plus GPS with sub 10mm accuracy. The removal of soil overburden was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitting with a 1.8m wide grading bucket and working under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.

4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard 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* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

Within the 60m by 15m excavation area a small number of archaeological features were present and these are discussed in detail below. The overlying soil layer sequence comprised 0.25m of topsoil (context 100) above 0.55m of agricultural subsoil (101). This sealed a 0.20-0.25m thick upper colluvial deposit (102) and a lower colluvium (144) between 0.12-0.20m thick. A degraded sand and breccia natural subsoil was exposed across the excavation area. Detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 2-3 and photographs as Plates 2-5. Finds were recovered and are discussed below in Section 7.

5.2 Early medieval pit F121 (Detailed plans Fig. 2a-b, section Fig. 2d; Plates 3-4)

The pit identified during the evaluation stage of works was fully defined and excavated during this phase of work. It had a sub-circular shape in plan, measuring 1.37m across by 0.46m deep. The feature had a symmetrical profile, with moderate to steep sides and fairly sharp breaks of slope on to a concave, yet slightly irregular base. It contained five fills, with the lowest of these (122 and 123) present on the eastern side of the pit only and measured 50-70mm deep. They

had a mid-brown to yellowish brown colour with a silty loam consistency with rare charcoal flecks. Above these was a well-defined charcoal rich deposit (124) which measured 80mm thick and had a mid-greyish brown colour and a silty loam texture, containing frequent charcoal flecks and fragments. This fill contained a fragment of iron and also a whetstone. Above this was a thin 60mm thick mid grey silty loam with rare sub-angular sandstone pebbles and charcoal (130). The upper fill (125) comprised a 310mm deep mid reddish brown sandy silt loam with a soft consistency and inclusions of rare, small sub-angular pebbles alongside rare charcoal flecks and fragments. The deposit also contained a piece of worked flint.

5.3 Pits F104, F109, F111, F113, F115 (Detailed plans Fig. 2a and c, sections Fig. 3a-d)

A cluster of five small pits was present in the northwest corner of the excavation area. Pit F104 was the largest, measuring 1.05m in length by 0.53m wide and 0.38m deep. It had an ovoid shape in plan and an asymmetrical profile with very sharp, steep eastern side and a shallower western side onto a rounded irregular base. The feature contained a single fill (105); a deep grey brown silty sand with a soft to firm consistency and very rare, small sub-rounded stone and charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Pit F109 measured 0.68m by 0.63m and just 0.10m deep, with a circular shape in plan, with a symmetrical profile and smooth sides and breaks of slope onto a flat base. It contained a single fill (110) which had a dark grey brown sandy silt texture and a soft consistency with sparse inclusions. A single flint waste flake was recovered.

The smallest most ephemeral pits within the cluster were F111 and F115. These measured between 0.15-0.17m by 0.27-0.31m in plan and 0.07-0.09m deep, with sub-circular shapes and distinctive 'u' shaped profiles and rounded bases. Both these features contained single fills composed of dark brownish red silty sands, with few inclusions and no artefacts.

The most defined of the pits, F113, measured 0.50m by 0.35m in plan, 0.39m deep and had an ovoid shape, with a symmetrical profile, very sharp sides and rounded breaks of slope onto a rounded base. It contained a single fill (114), a dark brown sandy silt with a friable consistency and sparse stone and charcoal inclusions.

5.4 Ditch F131 (Plan Fig. 2a, sections Figs 3e-g; Plate 5)

A single north-south orientated linear ditch was identified during the excavation and was investigated in three interventions ([107], [117] and [132]). The feature ranged in width from 0.44-0.66m wide and 0.17-0.38m deep and generally had a symmetrical profile, with moderately sharp sides, irregular to sharp breaks of slope onto an irregular concave base. It was filled with a mid-reddish brown sandy silt loam to sandy clay, with a friable to soft consistency and rare sub-rounded breccia fragments. The ditch varied considerably in width as well as depth and this is consistent with the description of the same feature identified during the original trench evaluation. Neither stage of works recovered any dating evidence from the feature, although the alignment, orientation and stratigraphic position suggests that the feature is likely to form part of the more recent historic field pattern.

5.5 Hedgebank F141

In the northeast part of the excavation area a northwest to southeast aligned hedgebank was present measuring over 15m in length by 5m wide at the base and approximately 1.20m high. The feature was composed of a clearly constructed bank (context 143), a light grey yellow brown silty loam with a firm consistency and inclusions of small, sub-rounded quartz, breccia and stone fragments. In the top of this was the remnant of the highly vegetative core of the hedgebank (142). This consisted of a dark brown to dark reddish brown silty clay loam with a loose to friable consistence and a mixture of small to very large sub-rounded breccia, quartz and modern stone waste inclusions, alongside frequent large roots derived from the removed hedge on and around the bank.

The hedgebank was clearly constructed upon a light yellow to grey silty loam colluvial deposit (144), with a firm to friable texture and very few mineral or organic inclusions. This may well correspond with the lower colluvial deposit identified in Trench 1, which may well date to the late prehistoric or Romano-British period (see below). The hedgebank also shows that intensive arable cultivation appears to have continued in the historic period, as on the southwest side the depth of deposits (1.20m) is considerably deeper than on the northwest side (0.70m) as a result of colluvial build-up from the medieval period onwards.

5.6 Natural features 119 and 135

Two natural tree throws were also present in the excavation area. They were both irregular in plan and profile and filled with a range of redeposited natural sand, decayed humic contexts and highly organic deposits. Each of these features was cutting the natural sand and breccia and were overlain by all subsequent layers and therefore, may well be associated with a pre-agricultural landscape.

6. GEOARCHAEOLOGY RESULTS (Plan Fig. 4, Profiles Fig. 5; Plates 6-7)

6.1 A single 'T' shaped trench measuring 27.5m by 22m was excavated in the eastern part of the site in order to determine the geoarchaeological potential between the agricultural farmland to the west and the estuarine lowlands of the Exe Estuary to the east .

6.2 In the E-W orientated trench a distinctive series of alternating marine and terrestrial deposits was present. At the top of the sequence was a dark brown silty clay loam topsoil (200) which was between 0.24-0.26m thick and contained fragments of post-medieval and modern pottery. Below the topsoil was a colluvial subsoil (201), which varied considerably in thickness from 0.20m at the west end to 0.66m to the east. It consisted of a reddish brown silty sand clay with a firm consistency and inclusions of small to medium quartz and sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks. The deposit also contained post-medieval pottery in its upper part, suggesting the later stages of deposition occurred recently. Beneath 201 was layer 202, a 0.25-0.47m thick light grey to light yellow grey, blue silty clay alluvium with a plastic consistency and inclusions of small quartz mineral inclusions and frequent iron and manganese staining. The presence of this water-lain deposit indicates a period of marine inundation across the lower parts of the site. Below the alluvium at the west end of the trench a second colluvial deposit (203) was identified and was between 0.25-0.26m thick with a dark reddish grey brown silty clay loam colour and texture with a soft consistency, with inclusions of very small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz fragments. At the east end of the trench a similar colluvial deposit was identified (209) which ranged from 0.10-0.29m thick and had a dark yellow to grey brown sandy silt loam colour, with a firm to moderately firm consistency and inclusions of small to very small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and sandstone, alongside small charcoal flecks. Sherds of Romano-British pottery and a prehistoric flint core was recovered from this layer. At the east end of the trench the degraded breccia geology (210) was identified approximately 1.80m below the ground surface and this was a light yellow, reddish pink silty sand deposit with a hard consistency and inclusions of small to medium quartz and sandstone fragments, alongside frequent iron staining.

6.3 In the N-S aligned part of the trench a second alluvial deposit was found (204). This deposit had a light grey, yellow silty clay loam texture with a hard to firm consistency and no mineral inclusions, except iron and manganese nodules and staining.

6.4 The trench also contained two linear features. The first of which (F205) was a modern drain orientated N-S and measured +20m long by 0.30m wide with a regular, square profile, very steep sides and a flat base. This was filled with 206, a reddish brown silty clay. The second feature, F207, was a NE-SW orientated ditch measuring 10m+ in length by 1m wide and 0.10m deep. The feature has a symmetrical profile with broad, shallow sides and breaks of slope onto a rounded base. It contained a single fill (208); a pale grey brown clay silt with a firm to friable

consistency and inclusions of small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and sandstone. The fill also contained post-medieval pottery.

7. GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

The geoarchaeological work comprised the assessment of a monolith sample taken through a number of key horizons in the excavation area (Plate 8, Table 1), as well as a review of the sample analysed from pit F121 during the initial evaluation. All the soils and sediments identified were recorded and analysed for Munsell colour, texture, mineral and organic inclusions to determine the geoarchaeological potential across the site, these are discussed below.

Horizon Depth (m)	Cumulative Depth (m)	Horizon Type	Context No.	Description
0.22	0.22	Subsoil	101	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown silty loam (15-60-25%) with a friable to soft consistency and inclusions of small, sub-rounded, degraded quartz and breccia inclusions c.2-10mm at <2% occurrence. Also contains small charcoal flecks and fragments and infrequent, degraded organic material. Indistinct boundary to (102).
0.31	0.53	Colluvium	102	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown silty clay loam (5-60-35%) with a soft consistency and inclusions of very small, sub-rounded, degraded quartz and breccia inclusions c.<2mm at <1% occurrence. Also contains very small charcoal flecks and infrequent, degraded organic material. Distinct boundary to (144).
0.12	0.65	Colluvium	144/209	7.5YR 5/6 strong brown and 7.5YR 5/4 brown silty clay loam (10-50-40%) with a soft consistency and inclusions of very small, sub-rounded, quartz and breccia inclusions c.<2mm at <1% occurrence. Contains no charcoal or organic remains but did include a single worked flint artefact. Clear boundary to (103).
+0.05	0.70	Degraded natural	103	2.5YR 5/8 red to 2.5YR 6/8 light red loamy sand (80-10-10%) with a compact consistency and inclusions of small, common sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and breccia fragments c.2-20mm at +15% occurrence. No organic or artefactual evidence.

Table 1: Geoarchaeological summary of monolith sample

7.2 Results

Analysis of the monolith sample from the excavation area revealed two distinct colluvial deposits with subtly different physical characteristics, but which clearly illustrate two periods of agricultural activity across the site. Beneath subsoil layer 101, the uppermost deposit (102) had a yellowish brown colour and silty clay loam texture, with small mineral inclusions alongside degraded charcoal and organics. In comparison, the lower colluvial deposit (144) had a strong brown to dark brown colour with very few mineral or organic inclusions, but did contain a fragment of worked flint. At the base of the sequence the degraded breccia had more frequent mineral inclusions.

The lower colluvial deposit (144) has also been identified beneath hedgebank F141 and further downslope in the geoarchaeological work as layer 209, which contained a number of sherds of Romano-British pottery and therefore most likely represents a fairly intensive period of arable cultivation at this time. This layer was cut by most of the archaeological features identified during the excavation phase, including pit feature F121, which contained the early medieval radiocarbon date.

The upper colluvial horizon (102) had a slightly higher organic and charcoal content and sealed the early medieval pit (F121) and abuts the hedgebank F141 on the southwestern side and therefore most likely represents a second period of intensive arable activity in the medieval period, although no direct dating evidence was recovered.

7.3 Palaeoenvironmental potential

The geoarchaeological analysis of the monolith has illustrated a number of key horizons associated with intensive historic arable activity across the site. The nature of the deposits, however, has provided sparse organic remains and therefore the palaeoenvironmental potential for the deposits is therefore low.

7.4 During the initial evaluation undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (Farnell and Salvatore 2010, Appendix 2) a sample was processed from pit F121 (then context 1006). Charcoal from alder and willow was recorded, but no plant macrofossils were noted.

8. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne*

8.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The finds include a small quantity of worked flint, Romano-British pottery, two iron objects, a whetstone and a number of post-medieval artefacts. These are summarised in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

8.2 Romano-British pottery (Table 2)

Ten sherds (24g) of highly degraded Romano-British pottery were recovered from the lower colluvial context 209 within Trench 1. At least four of the sherds are of South Western Black Burnished 1 typology. Two of these are base sherds and the other two, both of which have traces of black slip, are from everted rim jars. Two of the other sherds are in South Devon ware fabric, but unfortunately none of the sherds can be closely dated.

8.3 Worked flint (Table 3)

Six pieces (66g) of worked flint were recovered from five contexts in Trench 1 and the excavation area. The assemblage includes a number of waste flakes, a retouched flake and a crude scraper. All of the material is certainly residual, with the exception of the waste flake from the fill of pit F109. This feature did not produce any other dating evidence, so it could potentially be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Context	Context Description	Roman pottery		Worked flint/chert	
		No	Wt	No	Wt
209	Lower colluvial deposit same as context 144	10	24	1	46
		10	24	1	46

Table 2. Artefacts from Trench 1

Context	Context description	Comment
209	Colluvial deposit	Large, crude scraper
100	Topsoil (excavation)	Secondary waste flake, nodule cortex Tertiary waste flake
110	Fill of pit F109	Secondary waste flake , pebble cortex
125	Fill of early-medieval pit F121	Broken waste flake
144	Colluvial deposit	Broken retouched secondary flake

Table 3. Summary of worked flint

8.4 Worked stone (Plate 9, Table 4)

A near complete whetstone (172g) was recovered from context 124, a fill of the early-medieval pit F121. The whetstone measures 114mm by 29mm by 24mm and is made from a fine-grained red sandstone. It has a broadly cuboid form with clear facets and it narrows at both ends, one of which is broken.

8.5 Iron objects (Table 4)

Two iron objects (21g) were recovered from two contexts. A modern nail or bolt was identified within the topsoil and a flat iron rod, measuring approximately 40mm in length, was found within fill 124 of pit F121, and markedly tapered at one end. An x-ray showed the tapering end to be rounded. It is just possible that this object is an early medieval strap-end, however, the x-ray did not clearly show the wider end, which would be split with rivet holes if the strap-end identification was correct.

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery		Worked flint/chert		Worked stone		Glass		CBM		Iron	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
(100)	Topsoil	5	143	2	14			1	2	2	5	1	17
(106)	Same as (101) subsoil	1	10										
(108)	Fill of ditch F107	1	3							1	3		
(110)	Fill of pit F109			1	4								
(124)	Fill of pit F121					1	172					1	4
(125)	Fill of pit F121			1	1								
Totals		7	156	4	19	1	172	1	2	3	8	2	21

Table 4. Artefacts from excavation

8.6 Other finds (Tables 4 and 5)

Both the topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) deposits from the excavation contained industrially-made post-medieval ceramics dating from AD1750 onwards. A sherd of this date was also present within context 108, the fill of ditch F107. This is a glazed red earthenware fragment most likely of South Somerset Ware and produced in the 17th or 18th century. Additional post-medieval finds in the topsoil included a roof tile fragment, two small pieces of brick and a small body sherd of clear vessel glass. A number of other post-medieval and modern ceramics, brick/tile and glass artefacts was recovered from Trench 1 but not retained (Table 5).

Context	Context Description	Type and date
(200)	Topsoil	Post medieval and modern
(201)	Upper colluvium	Post medieval and modern
(206)	Fill of drain F105	Modern
(208)	Fill of drain F107	Post medieval to modern

Table 5. Artefacts not retained from Trench 1

9. DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The excavation area contained a small number of additional archaeological features, as well as the early medieval pit (F121) identified by the previous trench evaluation. Ditch F131 is on the existing field pattern alignment, likely to have been established during the medieval period. Finds recovered from this date to around the middle of the 18th century, probably indicating the time at which this particular ditch went out of use.
- 9.2 Pit cluster F104, F109, F111, F113, and F115 was located in the NW corner of the site, some distance from F121. These features were much smaller in size and profile than F121 and were largely undated, with the exception of a piece of prehistoric worked flint recovered from pit F109. The excavation of the remainder of pit F121 produced an iron object (possibly an early medieval strap-end), as well as a near-complete whetstone and a single piece of residual worked flint. The remaining features present are likely to have been naturally-formed as either tree throws or root activity.
- 9.3 The geoarchaeological work has illustrated a complex history of deposition across the site resulting in cyclical deposition of layers deriving from arable cultivation, downslope soil movement and alluvial deposition from marine transgressions.
- 9.4 Artefacts recovered from the colluvium suggest that after an initial deposition of alluvium (204) downslope deposition of colluvium (144/209) probably began in the early historic period, with an intensification of farming activity. This was followed by a second marine transgression and deposition of more alluvium (102). Although undated, it is probable that this was occurring during the late Romano-British period or early medieval period. More intensive arable activity returns to the local landscape possibly in the medieval and certainly in the post medieval periods, however, with the accumulation of more colluvium.
- 9.5 The detailed geoarchaeological analysis of the monolith sample taken from the excavation phase has shown that the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the colluvial deposits is poor and therefore unlikely to shed further light on the cultivation environment. Buried organic deposits in the lower reaches of the estuarine environment to the east and beyond the site are far more likely to be present and would contain evidence of the localised pre-cultivation and cultivation environment.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The combination of archaeological and geoarchaeological work across the development area has illustrated a complex history of deposition associated with long periods of arable cultivation alongside marine inundations throughout the historic period. The lack of archaeological features identified during the excavation phase confirms that the area was not extensively utilised for settlement, although the early medieval pit and cluster of mostly undated examples were recorded.

11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 11.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of ACD1089. The finds and paper archive will be offered to Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, but if these are not accepted they will be dealt with under their current accession policy. The digital archive will be held until it is established and whether the creation of a digital archive for deposition at the Archaeology Data Service is required.
- 11.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **230926**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

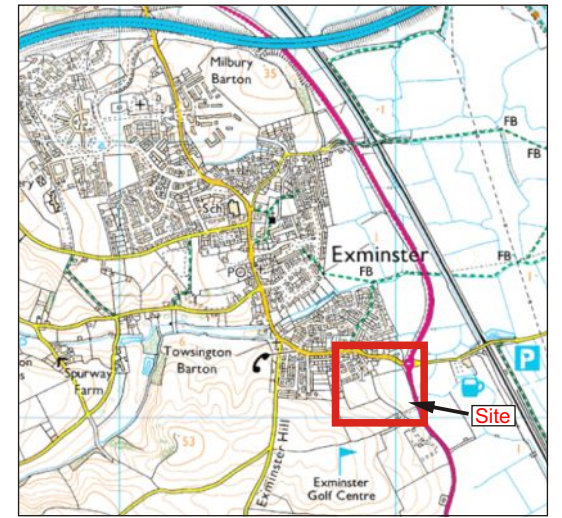
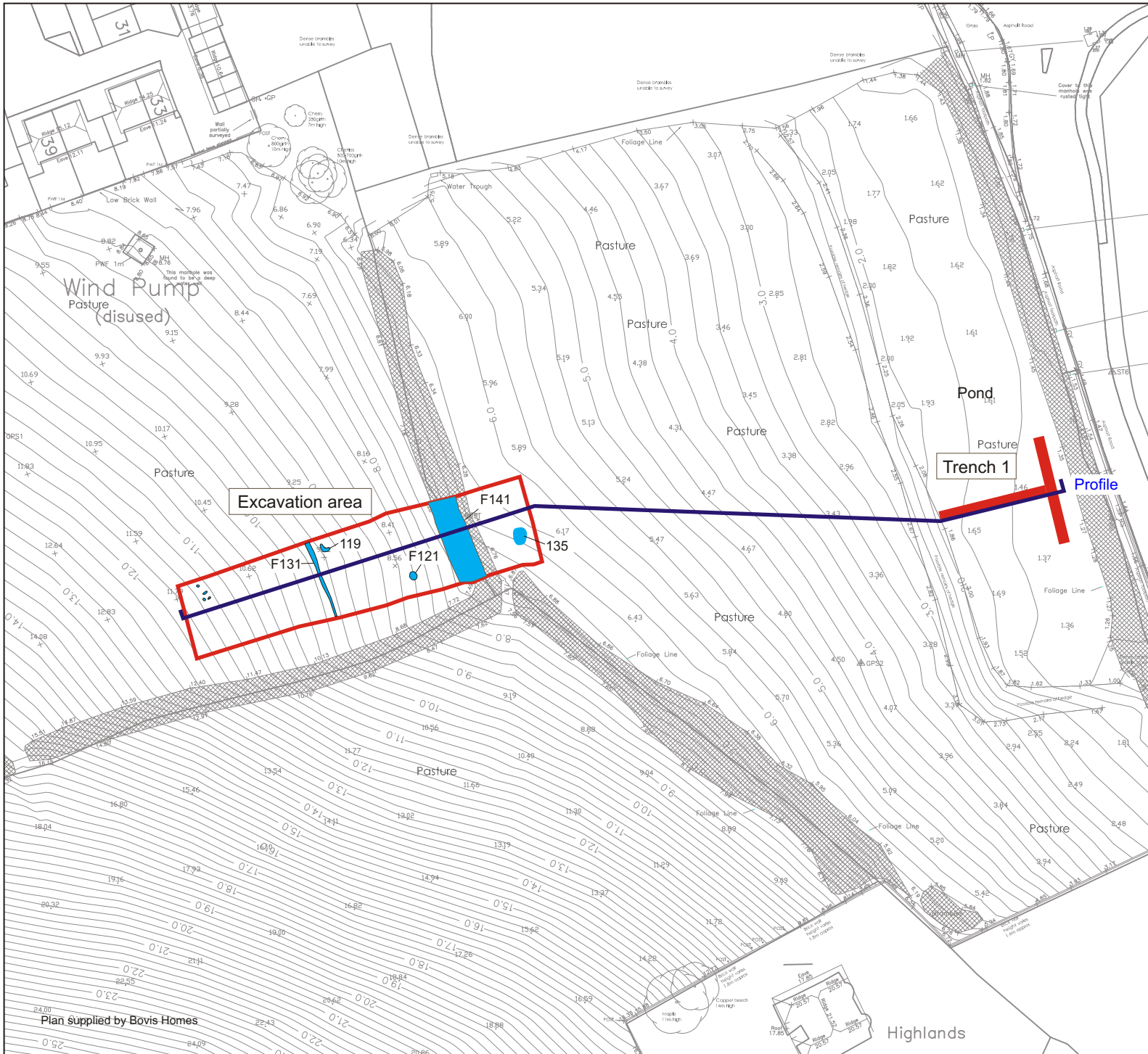
- 12.1 The evaluation was commissioned by David Russell and Neil Blackmore of Bovis Homes. The site work was directed by Dr Ben Pears and Alex Farnell, assisted by Jon Hall, Naomi Kysh, Paul Cooke, Stella De Villiers, Laura McArdle, Sean Johnson and Lewis Ernest, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The collaborative role of Stephen Reed, DCCHET Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

13. REFERENCES

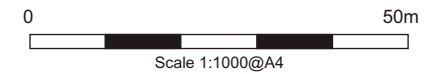
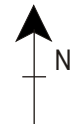
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Archaeological and natural features identified

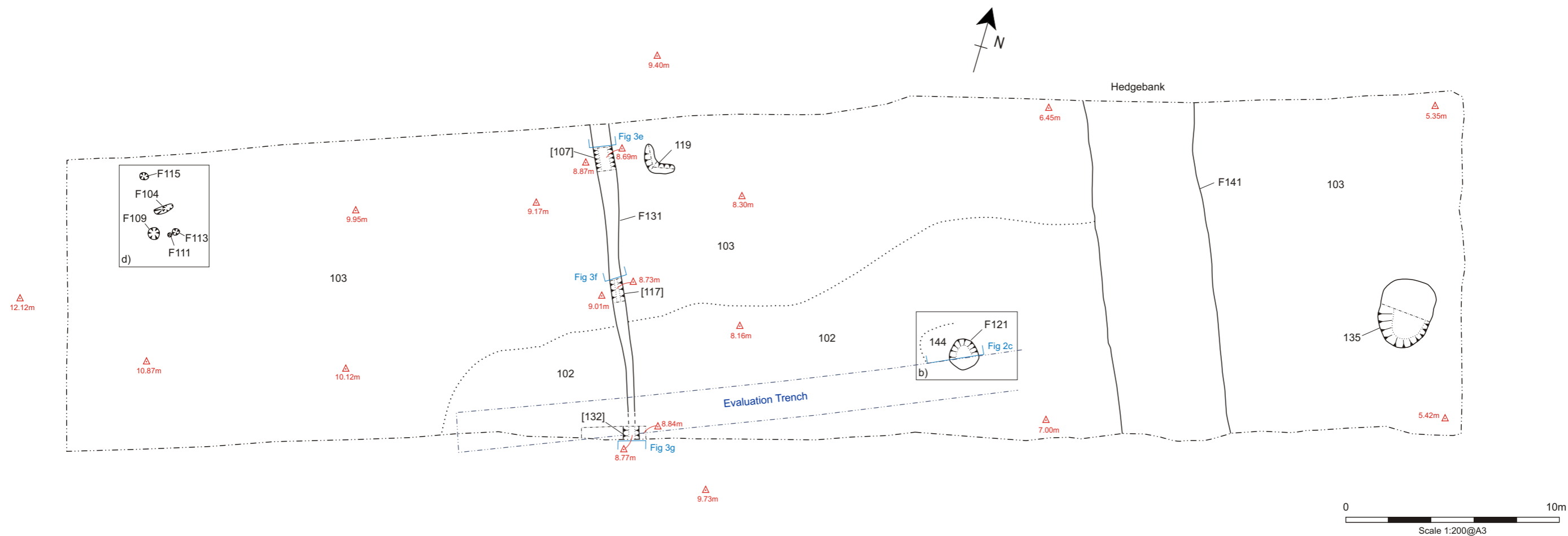


PROJECT
Land adjacent to Sentry's Farm,
Exminster, Devon

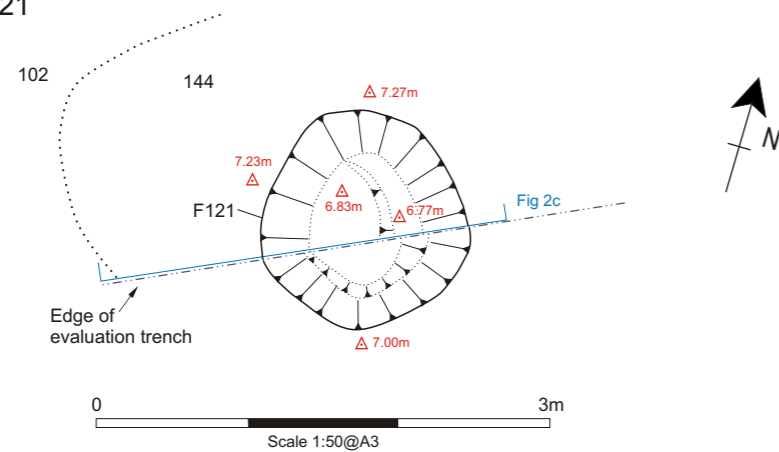
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Fig. 1: Location of site, excavation area and Trench 1



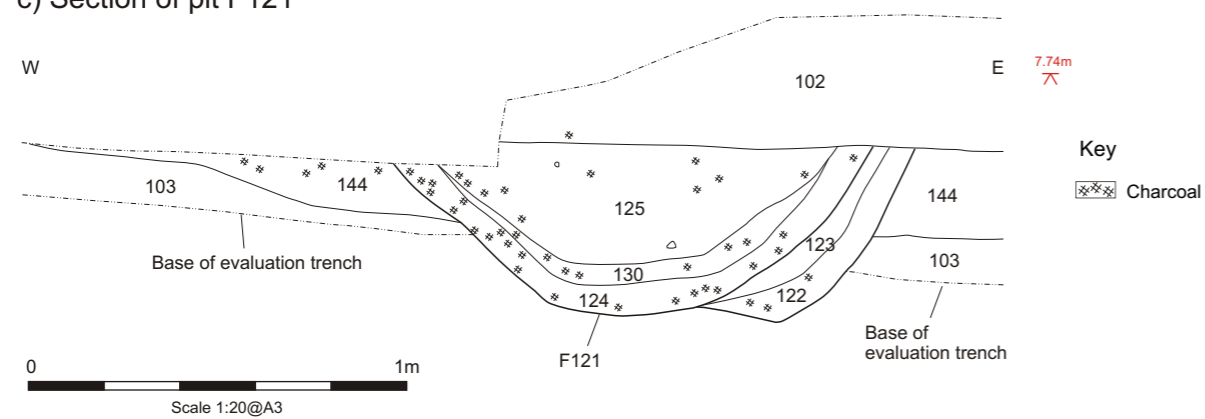
a) Plan of excavation area



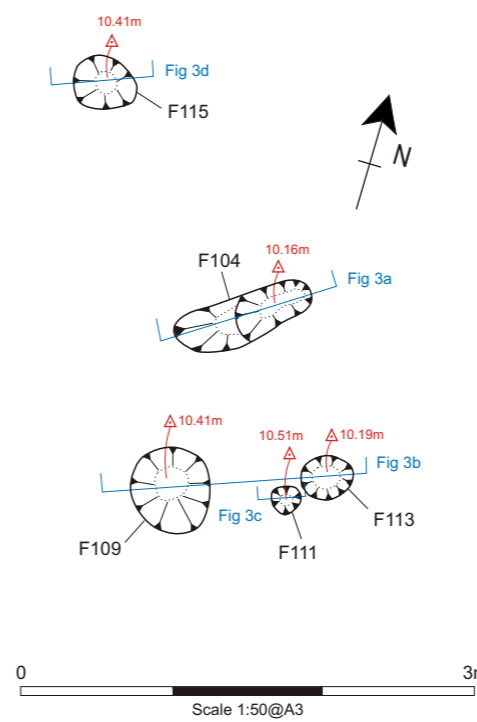
b) Plan of pit F121



c) Section of pit F121



d) Plan of pits F104, F109, F111, F112 and F115



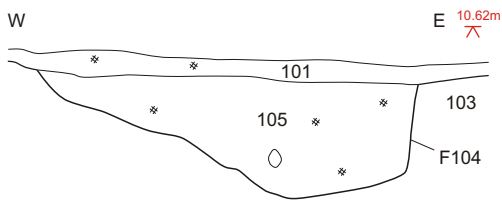
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Fig. 2: Plan of excavation area and detailed
plans and section

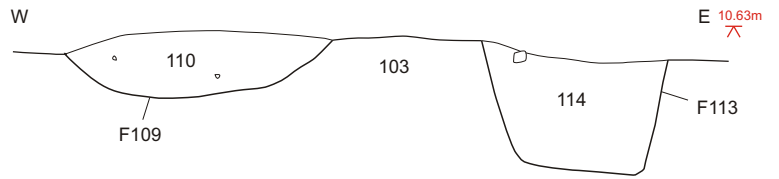


Sections of pits

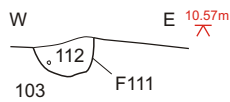
a) Section of F104



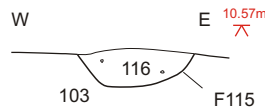
b) Section of F109 and F113



c) Section of F111

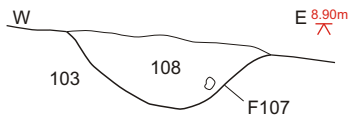


d) Section of F115

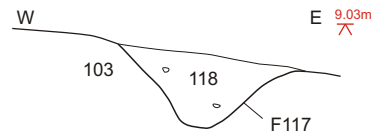


Sections through ditch F131

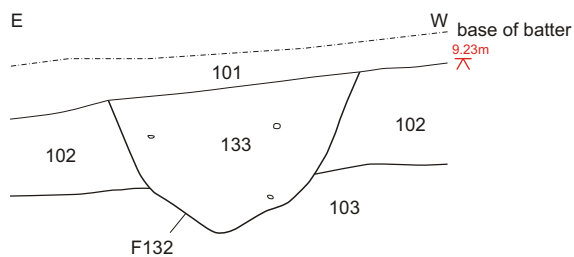
e) Section of F107



f) Section of F117



g) Section of F132



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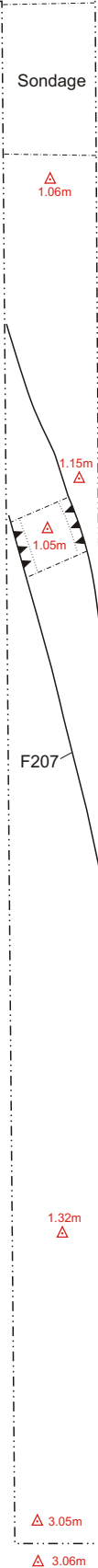
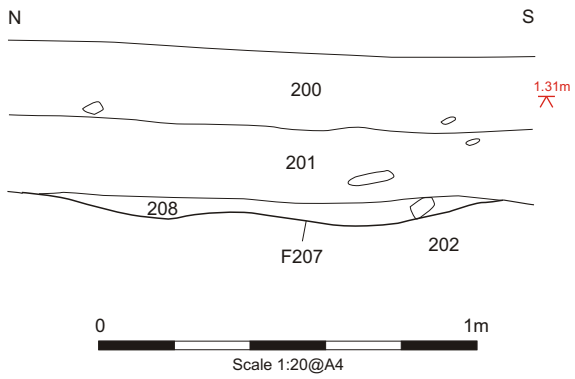
TITLE

Fig. 3: Sections of small pits and
ditch F131

a) Trench 1, plan



b) Section of ditch F207

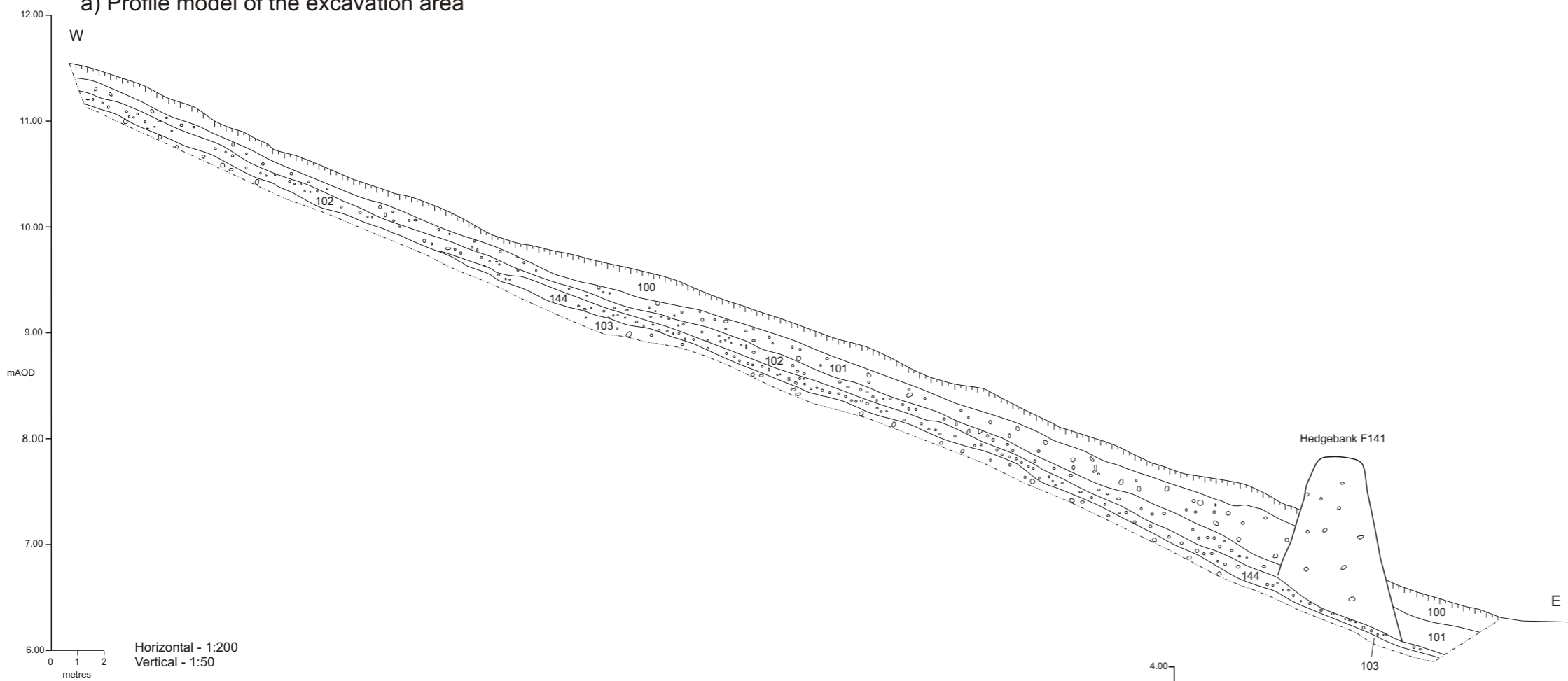


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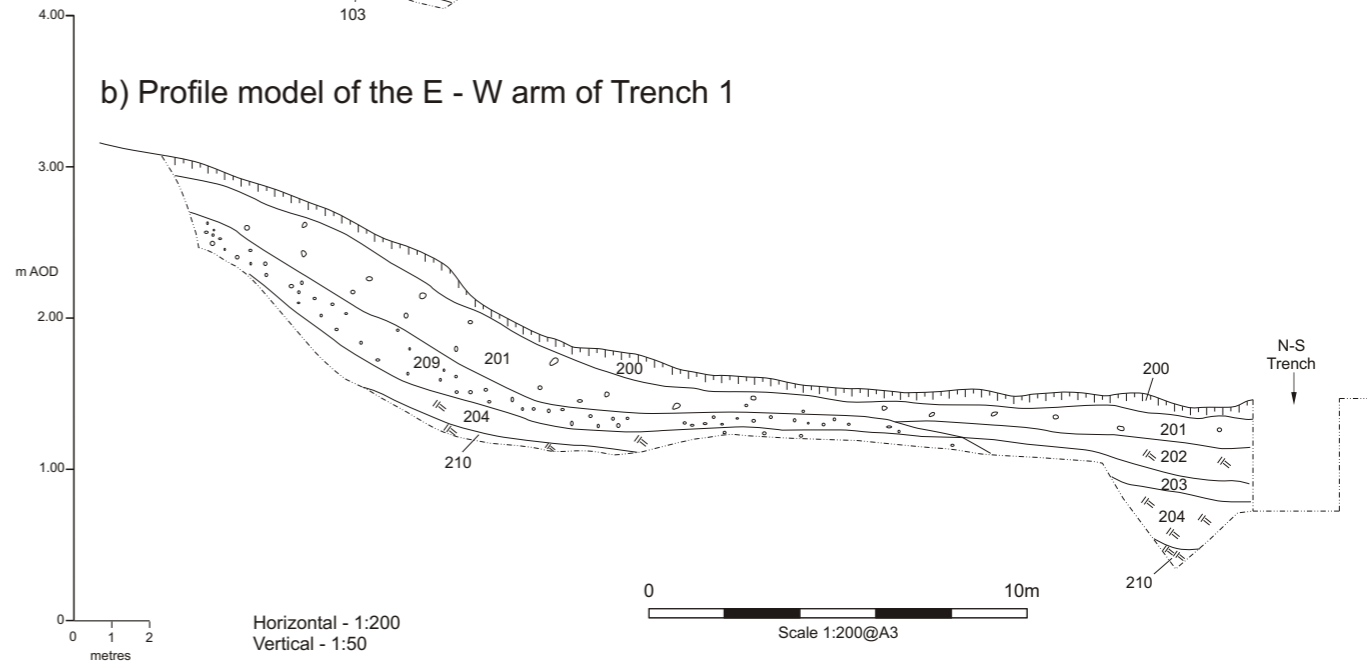
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Fig. 4: Plan of Trench 1



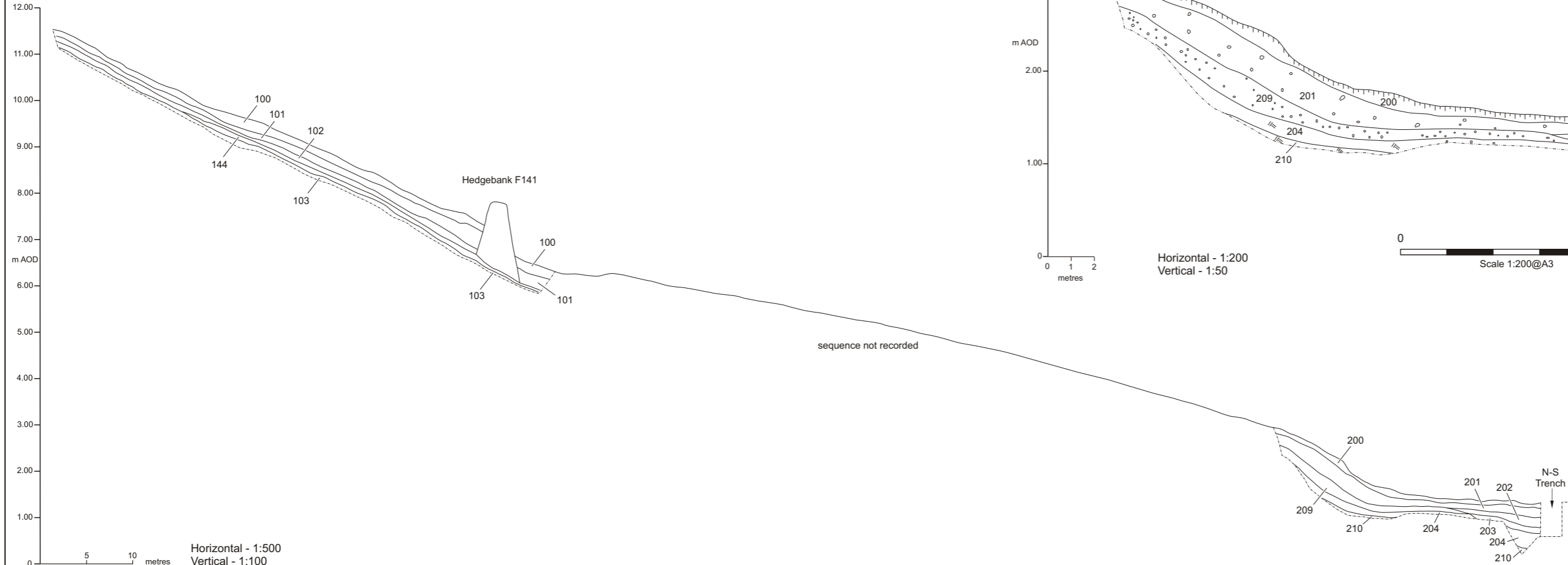
a) Profile model of the excavation area



b) Profile model of the E - W arm of Trench 1



c) Profile model of the excavation area and Trench 1



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**Fig. 5: Profile model of deposits
 across the excavation area and
 Trench 1**



Plate 1: General view of site, looking northeast



Plate 2: Excavation area in progress, looking north



Plate 3: Section of pit F121 within excavation area, looking northwest (scale 0.50m)



Plate 4: Pit F121 fully excavated, looking northwest (scale 0.50m)



Plate 5: Ditch F131 within excavation area, looking southeast (scale 0.50m)



Plate 6: Overlying layer sequence within Trench 1, looking southeast (scale 1m)

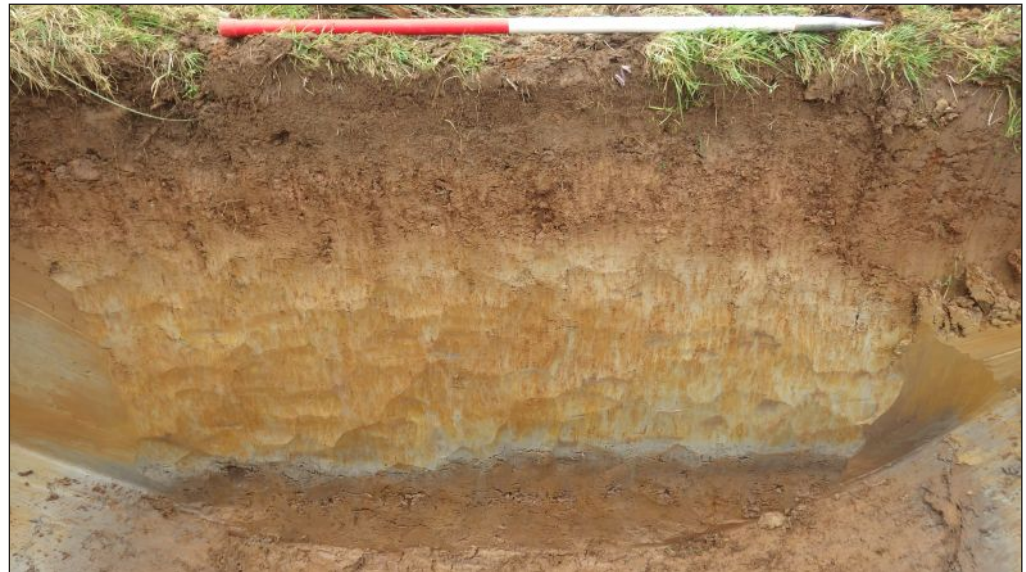


Plate 7: Estuarine and alluvial layers within Trench 1, looking south (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Monolith sample (scale 0.50m)



Plate 9: The whetstone from pit F121 (scale in centimetres)

Appendix 1

Context Descriptions from Geoarchaeological Trench 1



Appendix 1: Context descriptions from geoarchaeological Trench 1

Trench No. 1			
Dimensions – 27.5m and 22m x 1.60m			
Orientated – N-S and E-W			
Context	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
(200)	0.24-0.26	Dark brown silty clay loam (30-30-40%) with a friable consistency and inclusions of very small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and sandstone fragments c.5-10mm at 5-10% with frequent fresh organics and post medieval and modern pottery.	Topsoil
(201)	0.20-0.66	Reddish brown silty sand clay (30-30-40%) with a firm consistency and inclusions of small to medium quartz and sandstone fragments c.5-15mm at 5-10% with occasional degraded organics and charcoal flecks. Post medieval pottery present towards top of sequence.	Colluvial subsoil
(202)	0.25-0.47	Light grey to light yellow grey, blue silty clay (20-80%) with a plastic consistency and inclusions of small quartz mineral inclusions c.5-10mm at <2% occurrence. Frequent Fe and Mn staining.	Alluvium
(203)	0.25-0.26	Dark reddish grey brown silty clay loam (30-30-40%) with a soft consistency and inclusions of very small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz fragments c2-5mm at <2mm. No organics but small degraded charcoal flecks c.2-5mm at <2%.	Colluvium
(204)	0.15-0.22	Light grey, yellow silty clay loam (40-40-20%) with a hard to firm consistency and no mineral inclusions save Fe and Mn nodules and staining.	Alluvium
F205	0.25	Linear feature measuring +20m in length by 0.30m wide and orientated N-S. Feature has a regular, square profile with very sharp steep sides and a flat base. Filled with (106).	Modern drain cut
(206)	0.25	Reddish brown silty clay (40-60%) with a firm to friable consistency and very rare mineral inclusions.	Fill of F105
F207	0.10	Linear feature measuring +10m in length by 1m wide and orientated WSW-ENE. Feature has a symmetrical profile with a broad, shallow sides and breaks of slope down to a rounded base. Filled with (108).	Boundary ditch
(208)	0.10	Pale grey brown clay silt (40-60%) with a firm to friable consistency and rare small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and sandstone inclusions c.<5mm at <2% occurrence. Also contains post medieval pottery.	Fill of F107
(209)	0.10-0.29	Dark yellow, grey brown sandy silt loam (30-40-30%) with a firm to moderately firm consistency and inclusions of small to very small sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and sandstone inclusions c.5-10mm at 2-5% alongside charcoal flecks and Fe and Mn nodules. Roman pottery and a prehistoric flint core also identified.	Colluvium
(210)	+0.10	Light yellow, reddish pink silty sand (30-70%) with a hard consistency and inclusions of small to medium quartz and sandstone fragments c.10-35mm at 5-15% occurrence. Fe nodules and staining common.	Degraded sandstone and breccia geology

Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581

Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk