

LAND ADJACENT TO BUTTS ROAD, OTTERY ST MARY, DEVON

Centred on NGR SY 1044 9600

Post-excavation assessment report on the results of
archaeological investigations, with proposals for further
analysis, publication and deposition of archive

Planning Reference: East Devon District Council
12/0277/MOUT

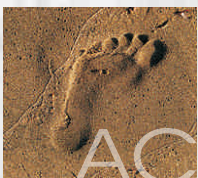
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archaeology

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Summary

Archaeological investigations, comprising a trench evaluation, targeted excavation and watching brief, were carried out by AC archaeology between April 2013 and August 2014 on land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon (NGR SY 1044 9600). The site occupied an area of approximately 4.6 hectares over four plots of agricultural land.

The work established the presence of two areas containing pits of Early Neolithic date, some of which contained deliberately placed pottery and stone artefacts. At least three pits are likely to represent structural post-pits of similar date, perhaps landscape markers. In addition, ditches relating to two phases of land division were present, with the earliest likely to be Bronze Age and the most recent, post-medieval.

This document assesses the archaeological potential of the site and proposes a programme of post-excavation; this will lead to publication of the results in the journal Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society, deposition of some of the finds at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter and uploading the digital archive onto the Archaeology Data Service.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The main aims of this report are to summarise the results and assess the potential for further analysis of all information recovered from an archaeological trench evaluation, open-area excavations and watching brief carried out on land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon (NGR SY 1044 9600). The work was undertaken in advance of and during groundworks associated with a residential development comprising the construction of up to 130 houses, together with associated works. The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2** The work was carried out as a condition to outline planning permission (Ref: 12/0277/MOUT, condition no. 11) required by East Devon District Council as advised by Devon County Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCHET), and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of the site owners Redrow Homes (South West). The investigations were undertaken by AC archaeology between April 2013 and August 2014.

Site conditions

- 1.3** The site occupied a total area of approximately 4.6 hectares and comprised four arable fields situated on the north-eastern outskirts of Ottery St Mary. It lies on elevated ground which gradually sloped to the north above the River Otter at around 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and was bounded by houses to the west, a cemetery and allotments to the south, a playing field to the north, and agricultural land to the east.
- 1.4** The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Otter Sandstone Formation. The overlying soils consisted of typical brown earths of the Bromsgrove Association (Soils of South West England 1983).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site has been the subject of a previous desk-based assessment (Pugh 2012) which established that, although there were no known sites within the proposed development area, there was considered to be a general potential for prehistoric activity based upon prehistoric worked flint artefact finds from 50m to the south, together with known prehistoric activity within the wider area.
- 2.2** The site lies within what is likely to have been medieval strip fields extending from the historic core of Ottery St Mary some 650m to the southwest. The Ottery St Mary parish tithe map

depicts the site as then comprising of eight fields. Subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping shows the opening up of these into the layout comprising four plots.

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character, and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results of the evaluation were reviewed on site and used to inform the subsequent phases of excavation and watching brief required by DCHET.

More specific aims of the excavation were to:

- Establish the presence/absence of additional pit features of possible Early Neolithic date;
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any hitherto previously unrecorded archaeological remains encountered with specific reference to pits of possible Early Neolithic date;
- To establish the nature of the activity of any hitherto previously unrecorded archaeological remains;
- To recover any environmental evidence from archaeological features;
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of any hitherto previously unrecorded archaeological remains; and
- To provide further information relating to the archaeology of the Early Neolithic period of Devon from any archaeological remains encountered.

4. METHODOLOGY

Scope of works

4.1 The initial evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2013). It comprised the machine excavation of 23 trenches totalling 1080m in length with each trench 2m wide, representing an approximate 5% sample of the site area. The location of trenches is shown on Fig. 1. The removal of soil overburden within the trenches was carried out under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.

4.2 All features and deposits revealed during the evaluation 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 and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.3 The scope of the works required after the evaluation was agreed following the discovery of Early Neolithic pits and after consultation with Stephen Reed, DCHET Archaeology Officer. The works comprised the excavation of an area surrounding evaluation Trenches 5, 7 and 8 within the southern half of the middle field (Area 1) and the excavation of a small area surrounding the southern end of Trench 23, within the southwest corner of the eastern field (Area 2). The location of the two excavation areas is shown on Fig. 1 with general photographs included as Plates 1-2.

4.4 The evaluation highlighted the potential for structured (deliberately placed) deposits and therefore all features and deposits relating to the Early Neolithic pits exposed during the subsequent excavation phase were excavated and recorded to a particular methodology. This included the numbering of individual finds, a description of the position of the finds within the pit and their orientation (internal or external surface upwards) and all finds were planned *in situ*, photographed and had levels taken. Bulk samples were taken from all features containing

pottery and flint, as well as from a representative sample of all other features. This methodology will allow a detailed analysis of the assemblage exactly as it was found on site.

5. ARCHIVE

5.1 The paper and digital archive has been prepared using the site codes ACD667 (Evaluation), ACD698 (Excavation) and ACD790 (Watching Brief). The contents are summarised in Tables 1-3 below.

File no.	Description	Format	No.
1	Index to archive	A4	tbc
1	Trench Summary	A4	24
1	Context Index	A4	1
1	Context Record	A4	125
1	Continuation Sheets	A4	3
1	Levels Register	A4	11
1	Graphics Register	A4	5
1	Object Register	A4	1
1	Digital Photographic Register	A4	12
1	Sample Register	A4	1
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A4	5
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A3	21

Table 1: ACD667 Archive contents

File no.	Description	Format	No.
3	Index to archive	A4	tbc
3	Context Index	A4	6
3	Context Record	A4	158
3	Continuation Sheets	A4	21
3	Levels Register	A4	39
3	Graphics Register	A4	10
3	Object Register	A4	51
3	Digital Photographic Register	A4	26
3	Sample Register	A4	4
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A4	22
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A3	48
4	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A1	9

Table 2: ACD698 Archive contents

File no.	Description	Format	No.
3	Index to archive	A4	tbc
3	Watching Brief Record	A4	25
3	Context Index	A4	1
3	Context Record	A4	12
3	Graphics Register	A4	1
3	Digital Photographic Register	A4	7
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A4	4
2	Graphics generated during fieldwork	A3	1

Table 3: ACD790 Archive contents

6. EVALUATION SUMMARY

6.1 Archaeological features and deposits were exposed in Trenches 3, 5, 7, 8, 9-16, 18-20, and 22-23, and these are described in **Appendix 1**, along with tabulated context descriptions for negative trenches and relevant plans, sections and photographs. There were variations in the depth of the ploughsoil and subsoil across the site, as well as the presence of colluvial and alluvial deposits within some of the trenches. Following initial investigation and identification of

Early Neolithic pit, Trenches 5, 7, 8 and 23 were not fully recorded as part of the initial evaluation phase, but were recommended for further investigation as part of a phase of excavation works at the request of Stephen Reed, DCHET Archaeology Officer. These trenches are not discussed further here, as the results are recorded within the excavation discussion below (see Sections 7 and 8). Artefacts recovered from the evaluation are also described within this main text and itemised in **Appendix 2, Table A**.

6.2 The evaluation established the presence of buried archaeological features within the central and eastern fields of the proposed development site. Within the far eastern field the trench evaluation revealed a series of linear ditches which appear to share common alignments, and most likely represent evidence for prehistoric field division. Post-medieval ditches were also exposed within this field and are consistent with boundaries shown on the 1840 Ottery St Mary Tithe Map. Two large pit features (F1304 and F2005) were also exposed during the evaluation within this field, but as these features contained sterile fills their date remains unknown. Two small features of unknown, but probable natural origin, were exposed within the far western field of the proposed development site.

7. RESULTS: EXCAVATION AREA 1

7.1 Introduction

Excavation Area 1 was located within the southern half of the middle field and concentrated around Trenches 5, 7 and 8. Thirty-eight pits and four linear ditches were exposed within this area. All features cut through the natural geology (102) which was sealed by subsoil (101) and overlain by ploughsoil (100). A plan showing all features exposed is included as Fig. 2, with photographs included as Plates 1-16.

7.2 Pits with deliberately-placed Early Neolithic artefacts (Plan Fig. 2; Plates 1 and 3-14)

Pit F103

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.85m long, 0.79m wide and 0.34m deep, having steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (105) comprised a dark reddish brown fine silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and common inclusions of sandstone. A total of 29 objects was recovered from the fill, including eight sherds of pottery and 20 pieces of worked flint.

Pit F104

This was a broadly circular pit measuring 1.06m long, 0.90m wide and 0.26m deep, having steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (106) comprised a mid brown fine sand, with patches of light brown sand throughout, occasional fragments of charcoal, nutshell and common small stone inclusions. Seven sherds of pottery and 27 pieces of worked flint were recovered.

Pit F107 (Section Fig. 4a; Plate 3)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.68m long, 0.73m wide by 0.20m deep, having a sharp break of slope at the top, steeply sloping sides, then a sharp break of slope on the southwest and northwest sides and a more diffuse break of slope on the eastern side into a rounded base. The pit contained a basal fill (212) of mid reddish brown very fine silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional large sub-angular stones, and which contained five sherds of pottery and two pieces of worked flint. The upper fill (108) was composed of a dark reddish brown silty clay with common flecks of charcoal and hazelnut shell, as well as occasional stone inclusions of up to 50mm diameter. This fill lay predominantly on the southwest and central part of the pit and contained a large and very dense concentration of finds including 106 sherds of pottery, 28 pieces of worked flint, two pieces of worked stone and a piece of burnt flint.

Pit F109 (Plate 4)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.58m long, 1.03m wide, and 0.13m deep. It had a sharp break of slope with steep sides on the south and east slopes, a diffuse break of slope and shallow sides on the north and west sides, with a flat base with some undulations as a result of root disturbance. The pit contained a basal fill (142) of a mottled mid yellow and reddish brown silty sand with common flecks of charcoal and occasional small fragments of sandstone and pockets of clay. Two sherds of pottery and 13 pieces of worked flint were recovered from this. The upper fill (110) was composed of a dark reddish brown very fine silty sand with occasional small sandstone inclusions and common flecks and fragments of charcoal. This contained 48 sherds of pottery, 38 pieces of worked flint, nine pieces of worked stone and one piece of burnt flint.

Pit F113 (Plate 5)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.83m long, 0.71m wide, and 0.10m deep, with very diffuse gently sloping sides and an undulating, irregular base. The fill (114) was composed of a mid to dark greyish brown very fine silty sand, disturbed by root action, with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional small fragments of sandstone. The pit contained 23 sherds of pottery and six pieces of worked flint.

Pit F128 (Plates 6 and 12)

This was an oval pit measuring 1m long, 0.78m wide and 0.32m deep. It had steep almost vertical sides, with a shallow break of slope on the southwest edge and a moderately steep break of slope on the northeast edge into an irregular base. The basal fill (164) consisted of a mid-reddish brown soft loamy sand with occasional small stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. This was overlain by 163, a mid yellowish grey loamy sand with common small stone inclusions, and which contained 15 sherds of pottery, six pieces of worked flint and a single fragment of burnt stone. This was overlain by 132, a mid greyish brown sandy silt loam with red/yellow hues and common small stone inclusions. This fill produced 47 sherds of pottery, two pieces of fired clay, 44 pieces of worked flint, six pieces of burnt stone and 26 fragments of burnt flint. The upper fill of the pit (131) consisted of a mid-brown soft silty loam from which two pieces of worked flint and three pieces of burnt flint were recovered.

Pit F145 (Plate 7)

This was a circular pit measuring 1.95m long, 1.68m wide and 0.70m deep, with steep almost vertical sides, a moderate break of slope, then into a flat base with evidence of root disturbance throughout. The basal fill of the pit (153) was composed of a mid-reddish brown friable sand with common flecks of charcoal. The upper fill (149) comprised a very dark brown friable silty sand with common angular chert fragments and common flecks of charcoal, with small fragments of wood and nut shells distinguishable within it. The pit contained 15 sherds of pottery, 19 pieces of worked flint, one piece of worked stone, two pieces of burnt stone and 17 pieces of burnt flint.

Pit F161 (Plate 8)

This was a large circular pit measuring 1.75m in diameter and 0.34m deep. The pit had a moderate break of slope at its top on the southeast edge with a steep side, a more gentle profile on the northeast edge, then a moderately steep side into a gentle break of slope into a flat base. The pit contained two fills. The lower fill (166) consisted of a light greyish red friable sand with very common large fragments of ironstone and abundant evidence of root disturbance throughout. A single piece of worked flint was retrieved from this fill. This was overlain by a mid-greyish red slightly silty sand (162) with common large fragments of ironstone, common medium sized river gravels and occasional flecks of charcoal. The majority of the finds recovered from this fill were concentrated on the northwest side of the pit and include three sherds of pottery and 12 fragments of worked flint.

Pit F171 (Plate 9)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.42m in diameter, and 0.36m deep, with a sharp break of slope at top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a fairly flat base. The pit contained a single fill (172), comprising a light grey friable silty sand, with common small sub-rounded and rounded flints along with frequent flecks of charcoal, within which there was a dense concentration of finds. It produced 46 sherds of pottery, 56 pieces of worked flint and four pieces of burnt flint. This pit cut pits F167 and F173.

Pit F192

This was a broadly circular pit measuring 0.69m long, 0.59m wide and 0.14m deep, with a moderate break of slope at the top, short concave sides and a wide undulating base. The feature contained a single fill (191) composed of a mid yellowish grey sandy silt with common sub-angular stones and rare flecks of charcoal throughout. Seven sherds of pottery, 22 pieces of worked flint and two pieces of burnt flint were recovered.

Pit F198

This was an oval-shaped pit measuring 1.10m long, 0.97m wide and 0.40m deep, with a moderately steep side on its western edge and a gently sloping side on its eastern edge into a concave base. The pit contained a single fill (197) composed of a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. It produced 18 pieces of worked flint and a single piece of worked stone.

Pit F213

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.70m long and 0.23m deep, which was first exposed within evaluation Trench 7. The pit had a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a fairly flat base. The pit contained a single fill (218) composed of a mid-greyish brown friable sandy clay with occasional small angular stone inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Seven sherds of prehistoric pottery and 29 pieces of worked flint were recovered.

7.3 Possible pits/vegetation features with Early Neolithic finds (Plan Fig. 2; Plate 10)

Pit F111 (Plate 10)

This was a circular pit measuring 0.80m long, 0.76m wide, and 0.24m deep, with steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into an irregular base. The fill (112) was composed of a mid brown friable silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions and common chunks of charcoal at the top of the deposit. A small number of finds was recovered from the fill including three sherds of pottery and a single piece of worked flint.

Pit F116

This was a sub-oval pit measuring 1.32m long, 0.50m wide and 0.19m deep, with a shallow profile on its western edge and varying levels of steepness on all other sides, ranging from shallow to almost vertical sides, into a slightly rounded base. The primary fill of the pit (122) was located on its eastern side and consisted of a light reddish brown very fine silty sand with rare flecks of charcoal and occasional small stone inclusions. A single piece of prehistoric pottery was retrieved from this fill. The upper fill of the pit (117) consisted of a mid to dark greyish brown very fine silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and small stone inclusions. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this.

Pit F130

This was an irregular shaped pit measuring 1.9m long, 1m wide and 0.30m deep. It had a short steep edge to the east and a shallow edge to the north, into a flat base. The pit contained a

single fill (134) composed of a mid brown sand with rare flecks of charcoal and frequent small stone inclusions. Four worked flints, a burnt stone and a burnt flint were retrieved from the fill.

Pit F138

This was a sub-oval shaped pit measuring 3.04m long, up to 1m wide and 0.47m deep, with moderately steep, undulating sides and an irregular rounded base. The pit contained three fills. The lowest fill (151) consisted of a dark greyish brown compact sandy silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded stone inclusions. This was overlain by a pale yellowish red compact sandy silt (150), with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stone inclusions and located on the southwest edge of the pit. The upper fill (139) consisted of a mid reddish brown compact sandy silt with common small and medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. Six pieces of worked flint were recovered from this upper fill.

Pit F140

This was a sub-oval shaped pit measuring 2.61m long, 1.03m wide and 0.36m deep with a sharp break of slope at the top, irregular sides, then a gentle break of slope into a gently undulating base with evidence of root disturbance throughout. The pit contained a basal fill (152) of light yellowish brown very soft sand with very rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular to sub-rounded stones. No finds were recovered from this fill. This was overlain by a mid reddish brown very fine silty sand (141) with regular large sandstone and flint inclusions and common flecks of charcoal. This fill contained 17 sherds of pottery, one piece of fired clay, 22 sherds of worked flint and three pieces of burnt flint.

Pit F159

This was an irregular shaped pit measuring 1.72m long, 1.68m wide and 0.29m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides, then a moderately steep break of slope into a fairly flat base. The pit contained a single fill (160) composed of a mid yellowish brown fine sandy loam with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. Three pieces of worked flint were recovered.

Pit F165

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.50m long, 1.47m wide and 0.22m deep with a moderate break of slope at its top, moderately steep sides, then a gentle break of slope into an undulating base. The pit contained a single fill (168) composed of a light reddish brown loose sand with common medium and large sub-rounded stone inclusions. The finds recovered were concentrated near the northwest edge of the pit and comprised six sherds of pottery and a single piece of worked flint.

Pit F167

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 2.70m+ long by 0.98m wide and 0.22m deep, with a sharp break of slope at its top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a fairly flat base. The pit contained a single fill (175) composed of a light greyish brown loose sandy silt with common large rounded to sub-rounded flint inclusions. Seven pieces of worked flint were recovered. This pit was cut by pit F171 and ditch F156.

Pit F182

This was an irregular shaped pit measuring up to 1.70m long, up to 0.90m wide and up to 0.23m deep, with steep sides and an undulating and irregular base. The pit contained a single fill (170) composed of a light reddish brown loose sand, from which a single sherd of pottery and two pieces of worked flint were recovered. A smaller lens of dark greyish brown friable silty sand (169) was recorded on the edge of the pit, but is likely to have formed as a result of root disturbance. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this.

Pit F201

This was a sub-oval pit measuring 1.50m long, 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides and an uneven irregular base. It contained a single fill (202) composed of a greyish brown friable silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions. Two sherds of pottery, 23 pieces of worked flint and a single fragment of clay tobacco-pipe were recovered from the fill. The latter is likely to be intrusive.

Pit F209

This was a sub-oval pit measuring 3.20m long, 2.13m wide and 0.63m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a wide concave base. The pit contained a single fill (208) composed of a reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. A single sherd of pottery and 12 pieces of worked flint were recovered.

7.4 Pits or vegetation features with no artefacts (Plan Fig. 2; Plate 11)

Pit F118

This was a circular feature measuring 0.84m long, 0.73m wide and 0.16m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (119) composed of a mid brown firm very sandy silt with common medium sized stone inclusions, which showed evidence of disturbance from roots.

Pit F120 (Plate 11)

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 2.86m long, 1.54m wide and 0.44m deep, with irregular moderately steep sides and an irregular slightly undulating base. It contained a fill (124) of mid brown compact silty sand against its eastern edge, which was overlain by a mid reddish brown compact silty sand with rare charcoal fragments (121).

Pit F123

This was an irregular shaped feature measuring 2.04m long, 1.28m wide and 0.41m deep, with steep sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill (127) composed of a dark yellowish brown compact loamy sand with common fragments of angular to rounded flint and rare flecks of charcoal.

Pit F125

This was an irregular shaped feature measuring 2.36m long, 1.52m wide and 0.34m deep, with undulating moderately steep sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill (126) composed of mid brown loose sandy silt with common medium sized stone inclusions.

Pit F173

This was an irregular sub-oval shaped feature measuring 2.20m+ long, up to 0.80m wide and up to 0.22m deep, with a sharp break of slope at its top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into an irregular undulating base. It contained a single fill (174) composed of a light greyish yellow loose sandy gravel and common large fragments of rounded to sub-rounded flint. This feature was cut by pit F171.

Pit F176

This was an irregular shaped feature, roughly sub-circular in plan measuring 3.27m long, 2.28m wide and 0.32m deep with moderately steep irregular sides onto a wide undulating base. It contained a single fill (177) composed of a pale greyish yellow sandy silt loam with patches of darker mid greyish brown and mid brownish red throughout, occasional angular to rounded small gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal.

Pit F183

This was a sub-circular shaped feature measuring 1.3m long, 0.85m wide and 0.33m deep with irregular sides that were moderately steep near the top break of slope and became almost vertical into an irregular base. It contained a single fill (184) composed of a dark reddish brown silty sand with common sub-angular stone inclusions and very rare flecks of charcoal.

Pit F185

This was an irregular shaped feature measuring 2.4m long, 2.26m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderately steep but irregular sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill (186) composed of a mid brownish red loamy sand with common sub-angular to rounded medium sized stone inclusions.

Pit F187

This was a sub-oval shaped feature measuring 1.38m long, 0.85m wide and 0.19m deep, with gently sloping sides and a narrow concave base. It contained a single fill (188) composed of a mid reddish brown loamy sand with angular to sub-rounded gravel inclusions.

Pit F190

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 1m long, 0.60m wide and 0.19m deep, with a moderately steep break of slope and moderately steep edge on its eastern side and a gentler break of slope and edge on its western side into a slightly undulating base. It contained a single fill (189) composed of a mid greyish brown firm silty sand with rare small and medium sized stone inclusions.

Pit F193

This was a sub-circular feature measuring 1.65m long, 1.61m wide and 0.60m deep with a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (194) of mid brownish red soft loamy sand with common sub-angular to rounded gravel inclusions and evidence for root disturbance throughout.

Pit F195

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 0.97m long by 0.72m wide and 0.13m deep, with undulating gently sloping sides into a narrow concave base. It contained a single fill (196) composed of a mid brownish red sandy loam with common sub-angular to rounded small stone inclusions.

Pit F199

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 1.65m long, 1.04m wide and 0.33m deep, with moderately steep irregular sides and a wide slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (200) composed of a mid reddish brown sandy silt loam with common sub-angular to rounded gravel inclusions and evidence of root disturbance.

Pit F215

This was a sub-oval feature 1.52m long, 0.85m wide and 0.24m deep, with a moderate break of slope at the top, moderately steep but irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill (216) with common sub-angular to rounded gravel inclusions and evidence of root disturbance along its eastern edge.

7.5 Pit/post-hole (Plan Fig. 2; Plates 12 and 13)

Feature F129 (Plates 12 and 13)

This was a sub-circular feature measuring 0.43m long, 0.42m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep almost vertical sides and a moderate break of slope into a flat base. It contained a single fill (133) composed of a mid reddish grey sandy silt loam with common medium sized stone inclusions. The feature had a regular shape in plan and the concentration of stones within the

fill possibly represent the collapse of packing material following the removal of a post. No finds were recovered.

7.6 Prehistoric linear feature (Plan Fig. 2; section Fig. 4b; Plate 14)

Ditch F156

This linear feature was broadly E-W aligned and was located within the far northeast corner of the excavation area. It measured 2m in width, 0.63m in depth and was exposed for a length of approximately 15m. The ditch had a symmetrical profile with moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a rounded base. It contained four fills (154, 155, 157 and 158). The primary fill (158) was composed of a dark reddish brown compact sandy gravel with common large rounded and sub-rounded flint gravel inclusions. This was overlain by (157) which was concentrated on the northern edge and comprised a dark yellowish red loose sand, which is likely to represent a natural accumulation of material on the edge of the ditch as a result of weathering. Fill 155 comprised a dark greyish brown compact silty sand with common sub-rounded to rounded flint, quartz and ironstone inclusions. The upper fill of the ditch (154) consisted of a dark to mid greyish brown compact silty sand with common inclusions of small sub-rounded flint, quartz and ironstone. Six sherds of abraded Neolithic pottery, 27 pieces of worked flint and two pieces of burnt flint were recovered from the upper ditch fill (154), whilst five pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 155. No finds were recovered from either of the two basal fills (157 and 158).

7.7 Medieval and post-medieval features (Plan Fig. 2)

Feature F203

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 1.25m long, 1.2m wide and 0.07m deep, with gently sloping sides and a fairly flat base. It had a basal fill (207) of dark grey silty loam with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions. The upper fill (204) was composed of a mid-greyish yellow sandy silt loam with rare angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions. A single sherd of medieval pottery, an iron object, and a single worked flint were recovered.

Feature F205

This was a sub-rectangular feature measuring 1.78m long and 1.07m wide; the feature was not fully excavated. It had a noticeably darker fill compared to that encountered elsewhere on the site and contained numerous finds of post-medieval date.

Ditches F146 and F148

Linear feature F146 was NW-SE aligned and ran parallel with the western boundary of excavation Area 1. The linear ditch had an irregular but generally asymmetrical profile, with a deeper eastern side which lay adjacent to a smaller linear feature F148. The ditch contained two fills (143 and 144). Fill 143 comprised a dark greyish brown friable silty sand with inclusions of sub-rounded to rounded stones and common fragments of charcoal and coal. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery, eight sherds of post-medieval pottery, one fragment of glass, three fragments of clay tobacco-pipe and four fragments of brick/tile were recovered from this fill. Upper fill 144 comprised a light to mid brownish grey loose silty sand with small sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery, a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and three fragments of brick/tile were recovered from the fill. The ditch is likely to be a ploughed out field boundary, possibly medieval in date but certainly post 1750 as marked on historic maps. The presence of prehistoric pottery is likely to be the result of ploughing carried out within this area over many years.

Linear feature F148 was NW-SE aligned and was situated to the northeast of linear F146. It measured between 0.58-0.70m wide and 0.28-0.36m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a narrow concave base. The ditch contained a single fill (147) composed of a light to mid brownish grey loose silty sand with

small sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill. The composition of this fill was very similar to that of adjacent linear feature F146 and it is therefore considered likely that these features are contemporary in date.

Ditches F179 and F181

Two parallel NE-SW aligned linear features were exposed at the southern end of excavation Area 1. Linear feature F179 measured 1m wide by 0.12m deep and had a moderate break of slope at the top, moderately steep but irregular sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill (178) composed of a yellowish grey compacted clayey silt with occasional small unworked flint inclusions. F181 was located to the south of this and measured 0.86m wide by 0.15m deep, with a gentle break of slope at top, gently sloping sides and a wide flat base. It contained a single fill (180) composed of a yellowish grey compacted silty clay with small stone and ironstone inclusions. The orientation of these linear ditches matches the alignment of a field boundary depicted on the Ottery St Mary Tithe Map of 1840, but is not shown on the later historic maps indicating that it had gone out of use prior to 1889.

8. RESULTS: EXCAVATION AREA 2

8.1 Introduction

Excavation Area 2 was located within the southwest corner of the eastern field and comprised an area surrounding the southern end of Trench 23. Nine pits were exposed in plan and cut through the natural geology (602) which was sealed by subsoil (601) and overlain by ploughsoil (600). A plan showing all features exposed is included as Fig. 3, with photographs included as Plates 15-16.

An arc of eight pits (F603, F605, F617, F619, F621, F623, F629 and F632) was exposed at the centre of Area 2. These formed a semi-circular arrangement which measured c. 9m wide by c. 7m long, with an opening to the west. The pits were generally circular in plan and measured between 0.61m-1.64m in length, 0.65m-1.44m in width, and 0.09m-1m in depth. An additional pit (F607) was exposed within the NW corner of this area. The individual pits are discussed in greater detail below.

8.2 Pits with deliberately-placed Early Neolithic artefacts (Plan Fig. 3; Plates 15 and 16)

Pit F603 (Plate 15)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.44m long, 1.07m wide and 0.23m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a gently undulating base. The pit contained seven fills which were noticeably darker than those of the surrounding features and are described below in further detail.

Fill 641 was concentrated on the northeast side of the pit and was composed of a light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional small sandstone inclusions. The fill contained a single sherd of pottery, a piece of worked flint and a single piece of burnt flint. Fill 642 was located on the southwest edge of the pit and consisted of a mottled deposit of light yellowish brown and light reddish brown silty sand with rare flecks of charcoal and occasional small sub angular sandstone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this. These two fills were overlain by basal fill 640, which consisted of a mid reddish brown silty sand with small patches of clay throughout, common flecks of charcoal, and common small sandstone inclusions. Four sherds of pottery, one piece of fired clay and five pieces of worked flint were recovered from this fill. This was overlain by a charcoal rich fill (626) composed of a mid reddish brown soft silty sand with abundant flecks of charcoal and common medium stone inclusions. This contained 28 pieces of pottery, 39 pieces of worked flint and three pieces of burnt flint. This was overlain by fill 613, which was concentrated near the southwest side of the pit and was composed of a very dark brownish black silty sand with common sub-angular sandstone inclusions and very abundant flecks of charcoal. This fill contained 30 sherds of pottery, 34

pieces of worked flint and nine pieces of burnt flint. This was overlain by fill 604, which was concentrated near the northeast side of the pit and consisted of a mid to slightly darker greyish brown soft silty sand with common flecks of charcoal, common small stone inclusions and fragments of sandstone. This fill contained 17 sherds of pottery, 25 pieces of worked flint and two pieces of burnt flint. Upper fill 612 was composed of a light yellowish brown friable silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and common small sub-angular stone inclusions. The fill was concentrated on the southwest side of the pit, and three sherds of pottery, two pieces of worked flint and three pieces of burnt flint were recovered.

Pit F607 (Section Fig. 4c)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.99m long, 0.89m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep irregular sides, then a sharp break of slope into a wide fairly flat base. There was evidence that the pit had been heavily truncated on its northern edge by later ploughing. The pit contained a single fill (608) composed of a dark greyish brown friable silty sand with small inclusions of sub-rounded to rounded stone inclusions, and common flecks of charcoal. It contained 40 sherds of pottery and 16 pieces of worked flint.

Pit F617

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.72m long, 0.68m wide and 0.13m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides and a wide concave base. It contained a single fill (618) composed of a mid reddish brown sandy silty loam with red and yellow hues, and common inclusions of angular to sub-rounded flint and ironstone and charcoal. Eight sherds of pottery, 24 pieces of worked flint and six pieces of burnt flint were recovered.

Pit F619

This was a circular pit measuring 0.80m long, 0.65m wide and 0.28m deep, with a moderate break of slope at the top, moderately steep sides and an irregular base. The eastern side of this pit had been exposed and excavated within Trench 23 as part of the evaluation phase. The base of the pit had a central depression which may either represent the location of a possible stakehole, or perhaps more likely disturbance from roots. The pit contained a single fill (620) composed of a light greyish brown friable sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Eight sherds of prehistoric pottery and seven pieces of worked flint were recovered from this fill.

Pit F621 (Plate 16)

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 0.80m long, 0.77m wide and 0.15m deep, with a moderate break of slope at its top, then moderately steep sides into a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (622) composed of a light reddish brown very sandy clay with common small and medium sub-rounded stones. Four sherds of prehistoric pottery and six pieces of worked flint were recovered.

8.3 Pits or vegetation features (Plan Fig. 3)

Pit F623

This was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.07m long, 1.06m wide and 0.09m deep, with a moderate break of slope at its top, then moderately steep sides into a slightly undulating base. It contained a single fill (624) of reddish brown compact clayey sand with common small stone inclusions. A single piece of worked flint was recovered.

Pit F629

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 1.64m long, 0.77m wide and 0.32m deep, with a sharp break of slope, steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a fairly narrow, slightly undulating base. It contained a single fill (630) composed of a mid reddish brown compact silty sand with common medium and large stone inclusions and evidence of root disturbance. No finds were recovered. The sterile nature of the fill and the lack of finds from this feature indicate

that it most likely represents a vegetation feature, located on the southern edge of a semi-circle of pit features that all contain numerous finds of pottery and flint.

8.4 Pits or post-pits (Plan Fig. 3; Section Fig. 4d; Plates 17 and 18)

Feature F632 (Plate 18)

This was a circular feature measuring 1.10m wide by 1m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, steep almost vertical sides, then a sharp break of slope into a flat oval base. It contained seven fills, all of which were formed of re-deposited natural soils with no evidence for organic material or artefacts. This feature was not initially visible in plan, but was revealed during excavation of pit F605 which cut it on its eastern side.

Feature F605 (Section Fig. 4d; Plates 17 and 18)

This was a sub-oval feature measuring 1.60m+ long, 0.61m wide and 0.77m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, vertical sides, then a sharp break of slope into a flat circular base. The feature contained five fills. This pit was initially excavated as part of the evaluation phase, within Trench 23.

The basal fill of the pit (615) was concentrated at the centre and was composed of a dark blackish brown soft slightly sandy silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions and frequent fragments of charcoal. Four pieces of burnt stone and four pieces of burnt flint were recovered from this fill. This was overlain by a dark reddish brown to greyish brown loose silty sand (627) with large stone inclusions and occasional fragments of charcoal. No finds were recovered from this fill. Above this was fill 625, a light yellowish brown compact silty sand with small sub-rounded stone inclusions and common fragments of charcoal. This was overlain by a mid brownish grey sandy silty clay (614) with abundant large angular and sub-angular stone inclusions and smaller angular and sub-angular stones, with common fragments of charcoal. A single sherd of pottery, three pieces of worked flint and a piece of burnt flint were recovered from this fill. The upper fill of the pit (606) was composed of a mid greyish brown compact silty sandy clay with moderate sub-angular and angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal, from which five pieces of worked flint and a single burnt stone were recovered.

The large concentration of stones at the centre of fill 614, together with the steep vertical sides and flat base indicate that this feature may have been used as a post-pit, with the stones possibly representing the remains of post packing. There is no evidence for a post surviving within the section, indicating that these stones may have collapsed into this position following the removal or *in situ* rotting of a post. This pit cut earlier pit F632 which is situated on its western edge and contained seven fills of compact re-deposited natural. Pit F605 may represent a re-cutting or redefining of this pit for a post, perhaps acting as a landscape marker.

9. RESULTS: WATCHING BRIEF (Plan Fig. 5; Sections Fig. 6a-b)

9.1 Introduction

The watching brief was carried out between October 2013 and August 2014 and was undertaken following consultation with the DCHET Archaeology Officer, Stephen Reed. The watching brief aimed to target those areas that had not been investigated as part of the evaluation or excavation phases. This included the monitoring of trenching for footings and services, as well as stripping for roadways.

The overlying ploughsoil and subsoil sequence for the site, where surviving, was consistent with that previously recorded during the evaluation and excavation phases. From these deposits an additional quantity of worked flint has been retained to add to those recovered from the previous phases of work. A small number of features of archaeologist interest were identified and recorded as part of the watching brief. These comprise a pit (F113) recorded to the northeast of the excavation areas and one (F100) recorded in the road strip to the east of excavation Area 1.

9.2 Pits (Plan Fig. 5; sections Fig. 6a-b)

Pit F100

Pit F100 was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 1.09m long, by 1.05m wide and 0.33m deep. It had a moderate break of slope at the top with steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a flat base. It contained two fills; basal fill 101 was composed of a yellowish brown friable sandy silty clay and is likely to represent a natural infilling at the base of the feature. Upper fill 102 was composed of a brown compact sandy clay with rare sub-angular flint gravels. No finds were recovered.

Pit F113

Pit F113 was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.57m wide by 0.34m deep. It had a moderate break of slope at the top, steeply sloping sides and a wide concave base. It contained two fills (114 and 115). The basal fill (114) comprised a dark grey compact silty clay with occasional small gravel inclusions. The upper fill (115) consisted of a light mid brown loose sandy loam with occasional large gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.

10. THE FINDS

By *Henrietta Quinnell*

10.1 Early Neolithic pottery

A total of 549 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery was recovered from all phases of investigation. The assemblage derives mainly from the pits and comprises seven different fabrics as follows:

Fabric 1: Sparse vein quartz, more chert, some ferruginous material, other material. Very much the most frequent fabric, and all material not otherwise described is currently assigned to this fabric. This appears very similar to the principal fabric identified during an excavation at High Peak, Otterton (see Rainbird *et al.* 2013) in 2012.

Fabric 2: Coarse sand of various components. Some sherds include large pieces of flint.

Fabric 3: Gabbroic from the Lizard in Cornwall, with added vein quartz.

Fabric 4: Gabbroic, from the Lizard in Cornwall.

Fabric 5: Large inclusions, some rock fragments, some water worn but including obvious flint fragments; may be a coarse version of Fabric 2.

Fabric 6: Inclusions all appear to be vein quartz. Could be Carboniferous Vein Quartz fabric which is the principal fabric at the causewayed enclosures of Raddon and nearby Hembury. This fabric is thought to originate somewhere west of the Exe.

Fabric 7: No chert or vein quartz inclusions apparent, some surface voids. A similar fabric was found at Pixie's Parlour near Ottery St Mary.

The two gabbroic fabrics (3 and 4) only come from three contexts, pits F171, F603, F619/2309. Gabbroic is a regular but small component in Devon assemblages and is found at Hembury and High Peak. There may be some degree of overlap between all the presumed local fabrics, 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

Condition

Most of the sherds are in a fresh condition. There is some potential for conjoins within contexts but work between contexts is unlikely to be useful.

Context

The pottery comes from some 25 pits, with a small number of sherds from tree throws/vegetation features and ditches. On the assumption that sherds found in different pits will all come from different vessels, the minimum number of vessels present is c. 70, which is a very large number from open pit sites in the West Country, though not in parts of eastern England.

Forms and decoration

The pottery all belongs within the Hembury or South Western group of Early Neolithic pottery. This pottery style is very plain; the slight decoration on the rim SF28 (fill 108 of F107) and on the carination angle SF99 (fill 112 of F111) is fairly unusual. The general date range of this style is 3900- 3400 ca/ BC in Devon. Forms in this pottery style are simple bag-shaped vessels, carinated bowls, straight-sided open bowls and bowls with slightly incurving rims.

The presence of an outer black coating, black 'paint' as in pit F171 (172) and pit F607 (608) is of occasional occurrence on this style in Devon.

Lugs are a regular feature in this style. 'Trumpet' lugs, tubular with slightly expanded ends, are typical of the Hembury style and not generally found elsewhere in Britain. Trumpet lugs, not that common in Devon, occur in Fabric 4 gabbroic SF837 (fill 172 of F171) and Fabric 7 SF165 (fill 110 of F109). Other forms of lug occur on seven separate vessels; these vary from narrow and sloping to broad projecting forms set horizontally. Some of these lugs have perforations.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
(105)	Fill of pit F103	8	325	Possible C14 dating residue. SF138 Fabric 6 thick rim carinated vessel, also SF105. SF143 Fabric 7 but without voids. Remainder Fabric 1. Most sherds thick. Minimum vessels 3.
(106)	Fill of pit F104	7	61	All Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(108)	Fill of pit F107	106	1218	SF35 Fabric 6, SF885, 876, 918, 887 all Fabric 5. SF909 Fabric 1 but appears to include 'pellets' of same fabric. SF28, SF16, SF14 all rims, probably from different bag shaped vessels Fabric 1: SF28 uniquely has v fine slashes on outer rim angle. SF42, SF15, SF40 rims of open bowls Fabric 1, probably though not certainly different vessels. The remainder of the sherds probably come from these six Fabric 1 vessels. Considerable potential for conjoins. Minimum vessels 9.
(110)	Fill of pit F109	48	467	SF21 three joining sherds Fabric 7 rim from carinated bowl. SF165 c 12 sherds Fabric 7 all probably from same vessel as SF165, conjoins, trumpet style lug: SF199 may belong. SF164 Fabric 1 but v sparse inclusions c 9 sherds, some joining, from upper part of probable carinated vessel, rim, horizontal sloping lug with vertical perforation, also rim SF19. SF183 rim of closed vessel, sparse version of Fabric 1. Most if not all other sherds belong to these three vessels. Context has considerable potential for conjoins. Minimum vessels 4.
(142)	Basal fill of pit F109	2	12	SF233 Fabric 7 same carinated vessel as SF21.
(112)	Fill of pit F111	3	25	SF99 Fabric 1 but very fine inclusions, carination sherd, exaggerated angle with slashed decoration. Minimum vessels 1.
(114)	Fill of pit F113	23	250	SF109 Fabric 1 simple upright rim, F86 very thick out-turned rim. SF126 Fabric 5, SF127 3 sherds SF124 2 sherds Fabric 6. Minimum vessels 4.
(122)	Fill of pit F116	1	3	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(132)	Fill of pit F128	47	469	SF314 open bowl sherd Fabric 1, SF383 slightly different Fabric 1 open bowl rim. SF349 Fabric 7 sherd, SF374 Fabric 7 carinated bowl rim. SF385 carinated bowl thick rim Fabric 1. SF224 Fabric 1 very sparse inclusions, inturned wide bowl rim. SF382 SF450 Fabric 1 sparse inclusions, bowl rim. SF292 residue C14. SF419 fired clay with no inclusions. Minimum vessels 6.
(141)	Upper fill of pit F140	17	25	SF412 SF321 Fabric 2 body sherds. SF306 very sandy version Fabric 1 rim. Otherwise Fabric 2. Minimum vessels 2.
(143)	Upper fill of linear F146	2	2	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(144)	Fill of linear F146	1	3	Fabric with coarse sand, probably not Neolithic.
(149)	Fill of pit F145	15	153	SF334 Fabric 6 Rim with possible projecting lug and deep impression. SF275 325 Fabric 1 bowl rim joining sherds. SF270 SF302 thicker Fabric 1 bowl rim sherds. Minimum vessels 3.
(154)	Upper fill of ditch F156	6	25	Abraded Neolithic sherds.
(162)	Fill of pit F161	3	22	SF435 Fabric 6, SF436 rim sherd Fabric 6 carinated bowl. Minimum vessels 1.
(163)	Middle fill of pit F128	15	125	Fabric 1 occurs with common inclusions which are extremely visible, as in SF468, SF467: SF468 is simple upright rim. Fabric 6 rim sherd from carinated bowl.
(168)	Upper fill of pit F165	6	17	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.

(170)	Fill of pit F182	1	9	SF713 Slightly expanded rim Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(172)	Fill of pit F171 (Pit 811 in evaluation)	46	1174	SF172 Fabric 4? Part of large carinated bowl with everted rim. SF836 Fabric 4 large sherd from carination angle, black paint: SF837 trumpet lug probably from bowl with SF836, SF802 sherd from same carination. Fabric 4 gabbroic SF802, SF936, SF835, SF808, SF650, SF927, SF942, SF943 could all be from this bowl but there does not appear to be a rim. SF778 Fabric 4 is probably from a 3rd carinated gabbroic bowl. Fabric 1 SF786, SF903, SF834 are rims from different vessels, probably bowls. SF937, very small comminuted inclusions, is from a large straight sided vessel. Fabric 2 SF795 Simple rim from large straight sided vessel. Fabric 5 SF843, SF806, SF841. Minimum vessels 9.
(202)	Fill of pit F201	2	2	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(208)	Fill of vegetation feature F209	1	4	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(212)	Primary fill of pit F107	5	24	Fabric 1 variant with a lot of small inclusions. Minimum vessels 1.
(191)	Fill of pit F192	7	116	SF852, SF818 Fabric 6, remainder Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 2.
(608)	Upper fill of pit F607	40	314.5	Mostly Fabric 1 SF rim 734 joins SF546. SF544? Same non-joining rim, open bowl. SF550 tiny rim from different vessel. Fabric 2 weak carination angle, possible black paint SF572. Minimum vessels 3.
(604)	Fill of pit F603	17	133	SF603, SF558 Fabric 3 from vessel with SF657, SF601 probably rim from this vessel. SF750, SF577 Fabric 6. Minimum vessels 2.
(612)	Fill of pit F603	3	20	All Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(613)	Fill of pit F603	30	236	Mostly Fabric 1. Rim SF634 same vessel as 734? Three other rims, one of bag-shaped vessel. Fabric 3? SF512. Minimum vessels 4.
(626)	Fill of pit F603	27	259	SF657, 658, 686, 759, 764 from Fabric 3 vessel, closed bowl with slightly rolled rim, vertical slightly slanting lug, some sherds join. Fabric 1 sherds include rims from 2 different vessels SF626 and 722, and body sherd with large depression. SF723 oval horizontal lug on fabric could belong to rim SF722. Minimum vessels 3.
(641)	Fill of pit F603	1	9	Rim Fabric 2 SF740? Same vessel as SF572. Minimum vessels 1.
(640)	Fill of pit F603	4	15	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.
(618)	Upper fill of pit F617	8	60	SF681 sandy version Fabric 1 rim from open bowl. SF680 sherds Fabric 1 with common inclusions. Minimum vessels 2.
(620)	Fill of pit F619 (Pit 2309 in evaluation)	8	67	All Fabric 1 including bowl rim SF576. Minimum vessels 1.
(622)	Fill of pit F621	4	14	Fabric 1. Minimum vessels 1.

Table 4: Pottery from excavation Areas 1 and 2

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
(704)	Fill of pit F703	9	91	Fabric 5 rim with slant-set cupped oval lug below. Only 3 sherds present. Minimum vessels 1.
(813)	Fill of pit F811 (Pit 171 in main excavation)	1	76	Fabric 5 rim, bag shaped vessel, long projecting oval lug below. Same vessel as sherds in main excavation 171.
(1901)	Subsoil	1	25	
(2308)	Fill of pit F2309 (Pit 619 in the main excavation)	16	245	Rim bowl Fabric 1, rim bag shaped vessel Fabric 1, very narrow 'token' lug Fabric 1, carination angle Fabric 1, body sherd from gabbroic bowl Fabric 4. Remaining sherds Fabric 1, one or two Fabric 5. Fabric 1 sherds probably from same vessel (s) as in main excavation 619. Minimum vessels 2.

Table 5: Pottery from the evaluation

10.2 Early Neolithic lithics: Excavation Areas 1 and 2

Worked lithics were recovered from a range of feature and deposit types, including pits, ditches and overlying soil layers.

Materials used

The assemblage comprises mainly dark grey flint, broadly 'Beer' quality, with slightly waterworn chalk cortex suggesting that source was not Beer but probably clay-with-flints: a few pieces with clay-with-flint cortex are of very poor quality grey. A few pieces are iron stained, with occasional old detachments, and may have come ultimately from river gravels: those from context 202, pit F201 and 139, pit F138 are heavily patinated suggesting a different date to the remainder. Between 5% and 10% of the assemblage is chert, also deriving from clay-with-flint.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
(106)	Fill of pit F104	27	171	Pot present. SF9 pale grey chert, broken usewear flake. SF128 damaged denticulate scraper. Small convergent scraper on cortical flake SF129. Six other pieces have usewear, one blade, one broken bladelet, one large broken flake, three flakes. One core fragment.
(105)	Fill of pit F103	20	194	SF4 core, SF142 and 112 large blades with knife-style usewear. 1 chert SF96.
(108)	Fill of pit F107	29	178	SF951 Apparent blade end of flint axe, probably about 1/3 original length; the surviving end appears finished to form a cutting edge but it is very narrow and could just possibly be the butt. Mottled light grey flint, the usual flint for Devon axes, Beer-type flint is not apparently used for this. The axe had broken and the break used as striking platform for a few removals before disposal. The remaining pieces from this context are mainly very small flakes/blades/chips with a few unused flakes/blades. SF984 side scraper, broken. SF981 piercer with retouch also at proximal end. SF33 chert flake.
(110)	Fill of pit F109	38	738	2 cores.
(132)	Fill of pit F128	70	273	SF387 scraper.
(139)	Fill of pit F138	6	13	Poor quality flint as (202).
(141)	Upper fill of pit F140	25	79	1 chert SF353.
(147)	Fill of linear F148	1	63	Large crude piercer/graver.
(149)	Fill of pit F145	36	118	SF339 and 254 scrapers. SF356 and 335 parts of same long-tipped ogival arrowhead.
(154)	Upper fill of ditch F156	29	285	1 scraper, 1 awl. 3 chert.
(155)	Fill of ditch F156	5	15	Notched flake.
(163)	Fill of pit F128	6	38	SF458 fabricator pale grey flint.
(172)	Fill of pit F171 (Pit 811 in evaluation)	60	229	2 cores.
(178)	Fill of linear F179	2	12	Scraper.
(191)	Fill of pit F192	24	218	Microdenticulate SF827, 3 scrapers SF828, 858, 811. 5 chert SF822, 812, 817, 861, 814.
(197)	Fill of pit F198	18	329	SF980 large water worn nodule. All other pieces from working of similar poor material. Note no pot.
(202)	Fill of pit F201	23	100	SF1000 and 1007 heavily patinated worked poor quality flint, possibly much older than remainder.
(604)	Fill of pit F603	25	147	SF487 scraper, SF505 knife, SF606 and 497 flake cores.
(608)	Upper fill of pit F607	16	99	SF535 scraper.
(613)	Fill of pit F603	43	305	SF492 flake core SF523 core fragment.
(614)	Fill of pit F605	4	65	
(100, 101, 102, 600, 601)	Topsoil, subsoil layers, Area 2 surface.	60	589	3 cores, denticulate scraper, 3 scrapers.

Table 6: Diagnostic lithics from excavation Areas 1 and 2

Comment on individual contexts: Excavation Areas 1 and 2

Contexts are listed in Table 6 above for tools, cores and any other significant features. Where relevant, Special Find (SF) numbers are given.

Comment on the condition and production of the assemblage

All are in very fresh condition which makes assessment of use-wear (as visible to naked eye) easy. The presence of cores and of numerous cortical flakes with a large amount of cortex indicates that flint was being worked from nodules brought to the site and not prepared elsewhere. The presence of tiny spalls from retouch also shows that implements were being

shaped/reshaped. The assemblage contains a mixture of blades and flakes, which is appropriate for the Early Neolithic period. A large number of these are now broken. There are insufficient complete flakes/blades in any one context to negate any prospect of refitting.

A large number, around half of the assemblage, of the pieces are either small fragments or small chips/flakes. A good proportion of the pieces are burnt, especially the small chips/flakes.

Tool types present

Flint axe re-used as core: context 108, pit F107.

Single leaf arrowhead: burnt fragments of ogival variant from context 149, pit F145.

Scrapers: commonest tool type, different variants but not described below.

Piercers/awls: fairly frequent.

Knives: surprisingly only one good example.

Microdenticulates: a few.

Notched flakes/blades: a few.

Pieces with retouch which do not fall into regular tool categories: quite a number.

Overall the assemblage is fairly poor in tool range and types.

10.3 Early Neolithic lithics: Evaluation

The assemblage type is generally as main excavation, but very much on the large end of the size range, indicating a potential Bronze Age date. Groups of struck pale grey chert and orange chert in some trenches suggest a degree of variation in the materials used over the area, but the chert pieces are generally Neolithic in type.

Most of the pieces are core preparation flakes/chunks, large flakes/blades. A number appear to have retouch but in many cases this is obscured by damage which may be usewear but is more likely to have occurred during working of the soil. Pieces which fall into the categories listed for the main excavation are listed below:

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
(704)	Fill of pit F703	29	186	Core, scraper.
(812)	Fill of pit F811 (Pit 171 in main excavation)	1	2	Core, core fragment.
(813)	Fill of pit F811	1	2	Flake
(1105)	Fill of ditch F1104	1	22	Scraper.
(1515)	Buried soil layer	1	25	Rolled cortical flake, with subsequent retouch. Material very much as (202) main excavation.
(1805)	Fill of ditch F1803	4	48	Piercer.
(2308)	Fill of pit F2309 (Pit 619 in main excavation)	17	125	Includes group of unused blades.
Various	Topsoil, subsoil	-	-	Finds from contexts (100) (200) (201) (300) (301) (400) (500) (600) (700) (800) (801) (900) (1000) (1100) (1200) (1300) (1400) (1500) (1600) (1700) (1800) (1900) (1901) (2000) (2001) (2100) (2101) (2200) (2202) (2300): 5 scrapers, scraper/knife combined, 2 large piercers, some very large pale grey chert flakes, 2 cores, several large core fragments.

Table 7: Diagnostic lithics from the evaluation

10.4 Early Neolithic worked stone

Excavation Areas 1 and 2

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
(149)	Fill of pit F145	1	71	SF377 Corner of sedimentary cobble, burnt, one smooth surface just possibly from a rubbing stone or muller.
(606)	Fill of pit F605	1	384	SF530 Burnt part of ? quartzite cobble probably used as a rubbing stone and possibly as a hammer.
Various	-	-	-	12 fragments of burnt stone present, either as (149) or chert.

Table 8: Principal worked stone from excavation Areas 1 and 2

Evaluation

Two pieces described as worked stone come from topsoil contexts. Both are broken fragments and do not appear to have significant use wear.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE SELECTION, PROCESSING AND ASSESSMENT

By Cressida Whitton

11.1 Sample selection

Environmental sample selection was prioritised for archaeological features containing artefacts, in both Areas 1 and 2. Pit and post-pit/hole features containing Early Neolithic deliberately-placed pottery sherd and worked flint artefacts, were 100% bulk sampled. Environmental samples were recovered incrementally during spit excavation, following the removal of artefacts. Sample volumes were variable and depended on the size of each pit.

Smaller bulk samples of between 20 and 40 litres were retrieved from features containing only worked flint artefacts. A spatially representative selection of vegetation pits were also sampled for comparison with archaeological features.

11.2 Sample processing

Sub-samples of between 6 and 60 litres were processed at AC archaeology (Devon), using standard flotation/sieving methods in a siraf-type tank. Flots (250 and 500 micron) and sieved residues (5.6mm/ 2mm and 500 micron), were oven-dried and the flots/residues were scanned for environmental potential using an illuminated hand-lens. The sandy-substrate of the site increased the general risk of contamination from root/animal bioturbation and additional sub-sample material was processed from features found to be either charcoal/ecofact rich and/or archaeologically significant; larger volumes being likely to be more statistically representative. Following the initial assessment of potential, samples were selected for specialist assessment of charcoal and/or charred plant (macrofossil) remains (see below).

Of the 67 bulk samples recovered from the site, 29 sub-samples were processed, of which 28 were assessed for charred plant remains and 25 assessed for wood charcoal. Two further sub-samples (Samples 30 and 67) were processed, but not submitted for specialist assessment.

The Sample Assessment Selection Table (**Appendix 3**) lists samples and sample volumes which were selected for sub-sampling and further selected for environmental assessment by specialists. The results of environmental assessment, along with recommendations, are presented within Sections 12 and 13 below.

12. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

By Julie Jones

12.1 Introduction and methodology

For the assessment stage 27 samples from pit fills and 1 tree throw/vegetation feature were processed by AC archaeology, to a minimum mesh size of 500 microns for the floats. The dried floats from six of these pit fills were then scanned by the author for preservation of charred plant macrofossil remains. Some sorting of material had already been undertaken from other pit fills with the aid of an illuminated hand lens by Cressida Whitton at AC archaeology and the extracted material was forwarded with the sample floats for identification (these are recorded as 'extracted material' in **Appendix 4**). Preservation was by charring and the condition of the macrofossil remains was very good. There were occasional modern seeds, but these were easily distinguished from the charred remains. The results are shown on a scale of abundance in **Appendix 4** which also records an estimate of charcoal fragments >2mm, a size suitable for species identification. The assemblages recovered from the pits were fairly consistent with hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut fragments, apple (*Malus* sp.) endocarp (core) fragments (including quite substantial portions) and occasional apple pips. There was also charred hulled wheat (*Triticum* sp) grain with occasional chaff, plus barley (*Hordeum* sp) grain and occasional weed seeds.

12.2 Results

Area 1

Ten sample floats and 11 jars with extracted material were assessed from 15 fills of 12 pits plus one tree throw/vegetation feature.

Pit F145 (context 149/sample 23).

The floats from 60 litres of sample (separated into six sample floats of 10 litres each) were scanned. These all contained charcoal fragments with similar macrofossil assemblages of between 50-150 hazel nut fragments and fragmented apple cores, with occasional pips. There are several examples of half cores with the pips retained within the core, as well as other large fragments and preservation is exceptional. Other amorphous small fragments in all of the sub-samples are also likely to be apple core. There are also between 20-50 hulled wheat grains, with occasional glume bases and spikelet forks. There are only occasional charred seeds including cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), typical arable weeds, plus some as yet unidentified macros (?possibly tubers) in all samples, worthy of further examination.

Pit F128 (contexts 132/sample 13, 163/sample 28 and 164/sample 29)

Hazelnut fragments are less frequent in these fills, with amorphous fragments likely to be apple core in context 132. Cereal grain is, however, more abundant with between 10-200 hulled wheat and 20-30 barley grains, although with a low abundance of wheat chaff and weed seeds.

Pit F129 (context 133/sample 14)

Only hulled wheat and barley grain were noted amongst charcoal from the single fill from this feature.

Pit F107 (context 108/sample 63), Pit F140 (context 141/sample 20), Pit F165 (context 168/sample 49)

In addition there are three samples where no further analysis is recommended, due to the low number of plant remains, although it is suggested that the assessment results are included in the discussion at the full analysis stage.

Pit F111 (context 112/sample 2), Pit F116 (context 117/sample 5), Pit F138 (context 139/sample 21), Pit F161 (context 162/sample 25 and context 166/sample 26), Tree throw 193 (context 194/sample 55), Pit F195 (context 196/sample 58), Pit F198 (context 197/sample 60)

No further analysis is recommended on these eight samples which had sparse macrofossil remains or unidentified fragments from the extracted material.

Area 2

One sample float and 10 jars with extracted material were assessed from 11 fills of five pits.

Pit F605 (context 614/sample 35)

The float from this pit fill is the only sample from Area 2 worth further analysis. This contains a small assemblage of hazelnut fragments, occasional hulled wheat and barley and a few weed seeds.

Pit F605 (context 606/sample 33)

Low level results and no further analysis.

Pit F605 (context 625/sample 40, context 615/sample 41)

Low concentration of charred remains. Record results in full analysis.

Pit F603 (context 613/sample 32, context 626/sample 43, context 640/sample 46, context 641/sample 48)

Low concentration of charred remains. Record results in full analysis.

Pit F607 (context 608/sample 34)

Low level results, no further analysis.

Pit F617 (context 618/sample 44)

Low concentration of charred remains. Record results in full analysis.

Pit F623 (context 624/sample 38)

Low concentration of charred remains. Record results in full analysis.

12.3 Discussion

Some of the pits sampled from this site, particularly in Area 1, have produced rich assemblages of charred plant remains which are unusual for the Early Neolithic period. While wild resources like hazelnut fragments are generally well represented in early deposits, finds of apple, especially such exceptional preservation as in the core remains from Pit 145 are rarer. Remains of cultivated cereals are more often found in low concentrations with relatively sparse evidence from the South West of England. The presence of up to 200 hulled wheat grains in some of the fills of pit F128, likely at this early period to be emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*), is also rare.

The charred plant remains recovered here will provide good material for radiocarbon dating where appropriate and this should be a priority from a selection of the pit fills before further analysis is carried out. The results from this site will provide a significant addition to current knowledge for the Early Neolithic period. In view of this it is also recommended that selected unprocessed samples from other pit fills containing deliberately-placed artefacts should be assessed and/or analysed during the next stage of work to allow full consideration to be made of the distribution of groups of plant remains across the site.

The following samples listed below are therefore recommended for further analysis.

Summary of samples for full analysis

Pit F145 (context 149/sample 23). All floats from the 60 litres.

Pit F128 (contexts 132/sample 13, 163/sample28 and 164/sample 29)
Pit F129 (context 133/sample 14)
Pit F605 (context 614/sample 35)

This second group of samples have much lower concentrations of remains and it is felt worthwhile recording the results from the assessment in the final report.

Samples to record results from assessment but no further analysis

Pit F107 (context 108/sample 63)
Pit F140 (context 141/sample 20)
Pit F165 (context 168/sample 49)
Pit F605 (context 625/sample 40, context 615/sample 41)
Pit F603 (context 613/sample 32, context 626/sample 43, context 640/sample 46, context 641/sample 48)
Pit F617 (context 618/sample 44)
Pit F623 (context 624/sample 38)

13. CHARCOAL ASSESSMENT

By Dana Challinor

13.1 Introduction

Twenty-five flots were submitted for the assessment of the wood charcoal, following processing at AC archaeology. The samples were taken from a series of pits of Early Neolithic date in Areas 1 and 2, and a couple of possible tree throw holes/vegetation features from Area 2. The assessment aimed to provide a dataset from which to evaluate the potential for further analysis which included: an estimated quantification of the identifiable charcoal in each sample; an initial (provisional) species list; probable taxonomic diversity in individual samples; and potential for radiocarbon dating.

13.2 Methodology

Flots were sieved, if necessary, to provide an estimate of abundance for the identifiable (>2mm) charcoal. The samples were scanned under a binocular microscope at up to x45 magnification with charcoal fragments randomly extracted, fractured (if necessary) and examined in transverse section. This method is usually reliable for the identification of ring porous taxa (e.g. *Quercus* and *Fraxinus*), but the diffuse-porous taxa should be considered as 'type' and require confirmation. Fractured fragments were bagged according to taxonomic type, but non-fractured fragments were left in the main sample. The presence of suitable fragments for radiocarbon dating (roundwood and/or shorter-lived species) was recorded.

13.3 Results

Although all 25 samples produced fragments of technically identifiable charcoal, several contained mere flecks of oak charcoal, which is readily recognisable even in small or poor material. Modern rootlets were also common. Condition was generally fair to poor; some with anatomical characteristics obscured by a covering of sediment and many with small to mid-sized fragments (i.e. most material caught in the 4-2mm fraction). Six taxa were provisionally identified at this stage (Table 9); *Alnus/Corylus* (alder and/or hazel), *Fraxinus* (ash), Maloideae (hawthorn group), *Prunus* (blackthorn/cherry), *Quercus* (oak) and *Ulex/Cytisus* (gorse/broom). Several of these identifications require further examination at high magnification to distinguish them from taxa with similar anatomical distributions, or to confirm which genus/species is present. Three samples, <32>, <43> and <44>, produced good-sized assemblages, with better preservation: although all were dominated by oak, there is the possibility that other taxa would be revealed if more fragments were examined. Only one sample, <32> (613), contained visible roundwood stems. The maturity in oak was not generally recorded unless tyloses were readily visible in the assessment, which leaves the possibility that oak sapwood might be identifiable if required for dating.

Sample No	Context No	Feature	Quantity	Provisional identifications
2	112	Fill of pit F111	++/+	<i>Quercus</i> (?s)
5	117	Fill of pit F116	+	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>
20	141	Upper fill of pit F140	++	<i>Fraxinus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Maloideae</i>
21	139	Upper fill of pit F138	+	<i>Quercus</i>
23	149	Fill of pit F145	++/+	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> r-w, <i>Quercus</i>
25	162	Fill of Large pit F161	+	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i> , <i>Ulex/Cytisus</i> rw
28	163	Medium fill of pit F128	++/+	<i>Fraxinus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i>
29	164	Basal fill of Pit F128	++	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Fraxinus</i> , <i>Maloideae</i>
32	613	Fill of pit F603	+++	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> r-w
33	606	Fill of pit F605	++	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>
34	608	Upper fill of pit F607	+	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Maloideae</i> type
35	614	Fill of pit F605	++/+	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i> , <i>Prunus</i>
38	624	Fill of pit F623	+	<i>Quercus</i>
40	625	Fill of pit F605	++	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i>
41	615	Fill of pit F605	++/+	<i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i>
43	626	Fill of pit F603	++++	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>
44	618	Fill of pit F617	++++	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>
46	640	Poss interface with natural in pit F603	++++	<i>Quercus</i>
48	641	Sandy fill of pit F603	++/+	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>
49	168	Upper fill of pit F165	++	<i>Fraxinus</i> , <i>Quercus</i>
55	194	Fill of vegetation feature F193	+	<i>Quercus</i> (h-w)
58	196	Fill of pit F195	+	<i>Quercus</i>
60	197	Fill of pit F198	+++	<i>Quercus</i>
63	108	Fill of pit F107	+++	<i>Maloideae</i> type, <i>Quercus</i>
64	172	Fill of pit F171	++/+	<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i>

Table 9: Results of the charcoal assessment

13.4 Implications

The most common taxa identified in the assemblage are oak and alder/hazel, with many samples dominated by oak. Given the strong presence of hazelnut shells in many of the samples, it is likely that much of the non-oak charcoal will be hazel, and this is consistent with the predominant oak-hazel woodland of the Neolithic landscape of Devon and the South West region (Wilkinson & Straker 2008). Taxonomic diversity within individual samples is low, which inhibits potential for further work, although it must be considered that further analysis would, nonetheless, increase the species list. Limited evidence for clearance might be inferred from the resource utilisation (use of gorse, for example), but there is no potential for the investigation of issues such as woodland management.

There are some potential areas in which the charcoal assemblage might offer some interesting insights with further investigation, though these depend, to a large extent, on post-excavation analysis and phasing:

- Context-related variation, if discrete activities can be defined for separate areas/features.
- Changes of fuelwood selection practices within the Neolithic period, if such sequences are recorded.

Finally, if further soil were available for processing from selected pits containing deliberately-placed artefacts, this might produce some additional material for analysis.

13.5 Recommendations

The charcoal from Ottery St Mary is consistent with a growing body of data indicating the exploitation of native oak-hazel woodland, so further work on these samples is limited. However, assemblages of Neolithic date are of importance, and a record should be included in the final publication. As a minimum, it is recommended that some minor additional work is undertaken in order to confirm the identifications at high magnification (this would also be

required for dating selection) and to produce a report largely based upon this assessment. If discrete activities relating to the pits or a closer sequence of phasing can be established during the post-excavation analysis, then there may be some scope for additional analytical work on the charcoal.

14. BONE

By Charlotte Coles

- 14.1** A single fleck of burnt bone was recovered from context 131, Feature F128. It is not possible to determine if this is animal or human bone. Several other very tiny pieces of unburnt bone (<1g) were retrieved from context 614, pit F605. It is again not possible to determine if these are animal or human.

15. DISCUSSION

15.1 Evaluation

The evaluation trenches located beyond the excavation areas identified mainly linear ditches, probably relating to two phases of land division of prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval date. Those that are on a different alignment to the present field pattern (ie on a NW-SE or NE-SW alignment) are likely to relate to the earlier phase, possibly Bronze Age in date.

15.2 Excavation Area 1

Following the evaluation, two areas of the site were targeted for further work as part of an excavation phase. A large area (Area 1) was opened around Trenches 5, 7 and 8 within the southern half of the middle field and revealed 38 pit-type features and four linear ditches. There was a noticeable variety in the shape and size of the pits, as well as in the quantity of finds they contained. Some of the pits were little more than a shallow spread of material, although many of these features still contained an abundant quantity of finds. Of the 38 pits exposed within this area 12 pits contained a significant number of artefacts which are characteristic of structured deposition.

Some of the pits had steep sides and regular profiles indicating that they had been deliberately dug, while others had fairly diffuse and undulating profiles. For some of the pits this may be a result of the sand geology into which they were cut, as well as the subsequent effects of root disturbance, whereas others are likely to have originated as vegetation features formed through natural processes associated with the collapse or uprooting of a tree or shrub. There was no apparent uniformity in profile between the 12 pits containing the largest concentration of artefacts. Fourteen of the excavated vegetation features did not contain any finds, but had a similar colour and consistency of fills, as well as similar shape in plan to many of the other pits excavated within this area, indicating that they are likely to have been contemporary. A further 11 features of this nature contained sherds of Neolithic pottery and worked flint. Two pits within the southern part of this area proved to be of medieval/post-medieval date.

Pit F129 had a noticeably different profile to the other pits within this area. The feature had steep almost vertical sides and a flat base, while no finds were recovered from the fill. The contrast in profile of this feature compared to the surrounding pits indicates it may have served a different function, possibly as a posthole, although there was no further evidence for additional postholes within this area indicating it is unlikely to relate to a wider structure.

Out of the four linear features exposed in this area, three represented the remains of former land division ditches that had been identified on the 1840 Ottery St Mary Tithe Map, while the other was a ditch of 11 prehistoric date, most likely a continuation of the linear ditches identified within the eastern field.

15.3 Excavation Area 2

A smaller area (Area 2) was excavated around the southern end of Trench 23, within the southwest corner of the eastern field. The pits exposed within Area 2 had a similar composition of fills and shape in plan to those exposed within Area 1, but appeared to be set within a more formal arrangement. A total of eight pits were exposed within Area 2. The three pits on the eastern edge of the semi-circular arrangement (F617, F619 and F621), together with the single pit within the far northwest corner of Area 2 (F607) were generally shallow pits that were sub-circular in plan and contained a single fill. F603 is the exception to this as it contained seven fills with evidence of burning within a number of these fills. These features also contained a significant quantity of prehistoric pottery and worked flint. F629 was located on the northwest edge of the semi-circular arrangement and is likely to represent a vegetation feature with no finds. The form and profile of pit F623 was similar to that of the other pits within the eastern part of the semi-circular arrangement, but only a single piece of worked flint was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Pits F605 and F615 had a noticeably different profile to all of the others within this area, with steep almost vertical sides and a flat base. The pits were also deeper than any of the other features on the site. It is possible that these features may represent two phases of post-pits, supporting posts that may have acted as marker posts within the landscape.

15.4 Watching brief

Two pits were identified during the watching brief phase, both of which were undated.

15.5 Comparable sites

Although not all of the pits excavated within Areas 1 and 2 contained evidence for structured deposition, the density of features exposed within these areas and similarity between their shape in plan and composition of fills, shows the site to be of significance within the Neolithic landscape, especially when compared to other known sites within the vicinity that contain evidence for Neolithic pits. Early Neolithic pits have been recorded on other sites in the South West, but normally in smaller clusters of up to eight pits as opposed to the 45 pits excavated within Areas 1 and 2 at Butts Road. In geographical terms, the closest known site containing evidence of Early Neolithic activity is at Pixies Parlour, Ottery St Mary, where features ranging in date from the Early Neolithic through to the post-medieval period were exposed. A single pit of Early Neolithic date was excavated on this site and contained 57 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and 56 pieces of worked flint. The pit appeared to have been truncated by a later post-medieval feature (Joyce and Mudd 2014, 16).

Evidence for Neolithic pits has been exposed at two sites in Cullompton, approximately 14km to the northwest of the site. A large number of pits of likely Neolithic date were excavated by South West Archaeology at Tiverton Road, Cullompton in 2011. A total of 12 inter-cutting pit groups was exposed by the excavation. Only one of the pits, which formed part of a complex inter-cutting group comprising 14 pits, contained pottery of Neolithic date (South West Archaeology 2014). A single pit containing four sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, five worked flint fragments and occasional flecks of charcoal was excavated by Foundations Archaeology on a site at Willand Road, Cullompton in 2006 (Hood 2010, 61-84).

A single tree-throw was excavated at Waylands, Tiverton by Exeter Archaeology in 2007 (Leverett and Quinnell 2010). The feature contained Early Neolithic pottery, lithics and a rubbing stone. The lower deposit of the feature contained 60 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and 33 worked flints (*ibid.* 1). The shape in plan of the feature is comparable with some of the pits found at Ottery St Mary, while the freshness of the material suggests working of flint within its vicinity.

Other sites relatively nearby containing evidence for Neolithic pits include several found on a river terrace on the adjacent sites of Hayes Farm and Project Dixie, Clyst Honiton by Cotswold

Archaeology (Hart *et al.* 2014). Finds from these pits included Early Neolithic pottery, flints, baked clay objects likely to be loom weights, burnt animal bone and charred plant remains (*ibid.* 7). A single pit containing Early Neolithic pottery and three pieces of flaked stone was exposed during excavations at Long Range, West Hill (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, 138), while two pits containing flint and pottery of Neolithic date were excavated by South West Archaeology at the Donkey Sanctuary, Trow Farm, Salcombe Regis (Gillard 2012, 50). Additional pits of unknown date were also exposed within the immediate vicinity of the pits at the Donkey Sanctuary, and it is therefore considered possible that these may prove to be contemporary in date.

16. CONCLUSIONS

- 16.1** The large concentration of pits present in the excavation areas show this site to have been of importance within the Neolithic landscape. The act of digging a pit and subsequent deposition of artefacts in the Neolithic period was a way of assigning significance to a location (Thomas 1999, 72). Although there are a number of sites within the local area which have produced evidence for pits of Early Neolithic date, there are no close comparisons within the South West in terms of the quantity of pits exposed.
- 16.2** Many of the pits excavated within Areas 1 and 2 were shallow features with diffuse edges. It is possible that this is the result of them having been left open and therefore susceptible to weathering, but as the features are cut into the sand geology it is considered more likely to be a result of later water movement and plant disturbance. Following the initial stripping of the ploughsoil and subsoil from these areas by machine, a number of artefacts were visible within the top of these pit features. It is therefore considered possible that a number have been affected by ploughing and therefore only the very base of the features survive within the archaeological record.
- 16.3** Many of the pits containing artefacts at Butts Road have proved to have similarities in their colour and composition of fills indicating that these may reflect a prompt backfilling following the deposition of artefacts. A number of the pits contained evidence for burnt wood and charred plant remains within their fills, but there is little evidence to suggest *in situ* burning has taken place.
- 16.4** A possible post-hole and two possible post-pits were exposed by the excavation. The small quantity of post-pits on the site indicates that they are unlikely to relate to a larger post-built structure, and it is therefore considered that they may have supported marker posts that allowed this location to be revisited during the Early Neolithic period.

17. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 17.1** The investigation has established the presence of Early Neolithic activity, as well as evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval land division on the site.
- 17.2** The following broad aims for further analysis have been identified:
1. To produce an integrated and synthesised report on the results of the investigations, to be achieved by further analysis to an appropriate level of data recovered from the site.
 2. To create a fully ordered and indexed research archive.

Further analysis and publication of the results of these excavations will also aid fulfilling some of the aims of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF), these are:

Aim 2: Encourage works of synthesis within and across periods, settlements, monuments and areas.

b. Archaeological frameworks for all the earliest prehistoric periods need development and refinement (as appropriate), acknowledging regional and sub-regional patterning in the South West. Such work is heavily (although not exclusively) dependent upon the re-assessment, dating and discovery of stratified sites.

Research Aim 3: Address apparent “gaps” in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge.

b. Our knowledge of the region’s Neolithic and Early Bronze Age archaeology is inevitably uneven, not least because of the huge disparity that exists in levels of archaeological investigation... Overall, there has been an undue emphasis on uplands, with little attention so far being paid to river valleys, coastal plains and lowlands in general.

d. Apparent gaps in Neolithic-Early Bronze Age settlement across landscapes need testing. Which areas have had work carried out under PPG16? Which have been the focus for research-based fieldwork?

h. Are there regional traditions of pit digging and deposition, and what might these tell us of residency, settlement duration, composition, social relations and relations with places and other agencies?

j. How do the ceramic sequences and types of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age differ across the region and what are the overlaps?

Aim 17: Improve the quality and quantity of environmental data and our understanding of what it represents.

b. A range of context types should be sampled for plant macrofossils...For example, sampling only obviously rich deposits misses evidence for crop processing and leads to mis-interpretation of site function and plant use.

Aim 28: Improve our understanding of Neolithic settlements and landscapes.

a. A greater focus needs to be placed on the landscape surrounding Neolithic sites. Although such an approach has been applied to some areas of Wessex (such as Cranborne Chase, Stonehenge, Durrington Walls etc) there are many areas where sites are studied in isolation.

b. The potential of “small-scale” evidence such as pits and stake-holes needs to be realised. While individually not seemingly significant, will cumulative patterns emerge?

d. More attention should be paid to tree-throws and other “natural” features within which occupation debris occurs.

In addition, the following site-specific aims have been identified:

- To provide further evidence for the environment of the site;
- To provide more precise dating of a selection of pits using radiocarbon method; and,
- To explore evidence for structured deposition through the analysis of finds within the pits, their position and deliberate placement.

17.3 Recommendations for further work and publication

Publication

Based on the significance of the results it is considered that the site does merit wider dissemination of the results via publication. It is therefore proposed that this is done via the Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society, with a broad synopsis outlined in the following sections.

Site descriptions

The aim of this section of a proposed published report will be to produce a revised integrated text outlining the results of the work and to more fully establish the chronology, function and nature of the site. The publication text will concentrate fully on the more important components of the site comprising the Early Neolithic features and ditches associated with the probable prehistoric field system. This will comprise the following:

1. Detailed descriptions of site stratigraphy to be prepared by phase in chronological order.
2. Relevant plans (including placement of artefacts within pits), sections and photographs will be prepared by phase, feature type and group.
3. Parallels will be sought and further analysis will be undertaken to confirm the nature and function of the prehistoric activity.

Finds

It is recommended that all artefacts recovered, including pottery, lithics and worked stone, are subject to detailed analysis with the particular aim of assessing the assemblage for evidence of structured deposition, as well as a comparison between the artefact assemblages present within each of the pits. This should also include an analysis of sherds suitable for conjoins, as well as petrological analysis of selected sherds of pottery. The position of artefacts from selected pits will be reconstructed based on the detailed site recording methodology and plans depicting this will be included as part of the publication.

Palaeo-environmental remains

After discussions with specialists and based on the presence of good survival of palaeo-environmental remains and/or quantities of artefacts, samples from the following pits have been selected for further processing and analysis: F109 (context 110), F128 (132), F605 (614) and F607 (608).

A suite of charred plant remains is recommended for analysis (see **Section 12**), to be added to based on the results of the above. Likewise, wood charcoal from selected contexts is recommended for analysis (see **Section 13**).

Following advice from specialists, a series of five radiocarbon samples are recommended to be submitted for dating to comprise the following:

- Pit F103, context 105 *residue from pottery*
- Pit F128, context 132, SF292 *residue from pottery*
- Pit F128, context 163 *charred plant remains*
- Pit F145, context 149 *charred plant remains*
- Pit F605, context 614 *charred plant remains*

Discussion and conclusions

This section will provide synthesis and discussion, drawing on the individual stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental reports, and any other background reports. It will attempt to create an understanding of the archaeological content of the site, with a particular emphasis on confirming function and chronology.

18. STORAGE AND CURATION

18.1 The archive

The aim will be to create a synthesised and ordered archive containing all primary records and results of subsequent analysis. The end result must be usable and easily accessible for anyone carrying out subsequent research on this or other comparable sites.

In line with DCHET requirements, agreement will be reached with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter concerning the deposition and long-term storage of the artefacts. It is expected that RAMM, in accordance with their current collection policy, will require deposition of all prehistoric artefacts, with later material (ie the small number of medieval and post-medieval finds) to be discarded. The temporary museum reference number for the project archive is **RAMM: 13/19**. The archive will be prepared with reference to the Historic England 2015 document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

It is anticipated that a digital archive will be required and will thus be compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards and guidelines. It will consist of:

- All relevant born-digital data (photographs, images, survey data, site data collected digitally etc.); and,

- Digital copies made of all other relevant written and drawn data produced and/or collected during fieldwork and as part of the subsequent post-excavation analysis phase.

18.2 The digital archive will be deposited with the ADS within three months of acceptance of the publication draft for all stages of fieldwork.

18.3 Storage

All artefacts and samples are currently stored at the offices of AC archaeology. All finds are packaged in accordance with *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1984).

18.4 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **253682**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

19. TASK LIST AND RESOURCES

19.1 Table 10 below lists the main tasks involved in achieving the project aims and objectives. It also states the personnel and time required to complete each task.

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION
Prehistoric pottery, lithics and worked stone and radiocarbon dates	Henrietta Quinnell, Freelance regional prehistoric finds specialist	Fixed quotation
Petrology and thin sectioning	Roger Taylor and Imogen Wood	Fixed quotation
Artefact illustrations	Jane Read, Freelance artefact illustrator	Fixed quotation
Further processing and sorting of selected pit samples	Cressida Whitton, Environmental Supervisor, AC archaeology	5 days
Palaeo-environmental remains	Julie Jones, freelance specialist	Fixed quotation
Charcoal analysis and selection for C14	Dana Challinor, freelance specialist	Fixed quotation
C14 dates	SUERC	5
Preparation of site narrative, including reconstructing layout of artefacts from selected pits	Fiona Pink, Project Officer, AC archaeology	8 days
Site Illustrations, including production of detailed plans depicting the layout of artefacts within selected pits	Sarnia Blackmore, Graphics Officer, AC archaeology	5 days
Synthesis and Discussion	Fiona Pink, AC archaeology	3 days
Editing	John Valentin, Director, AC archaeology	1 day
Archive preparation and deposition	AC archaeology, in house deposited at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter and online at Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	-
Publication	<i>Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society</i>	50 pages

Table 10: Task list and resources

20. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

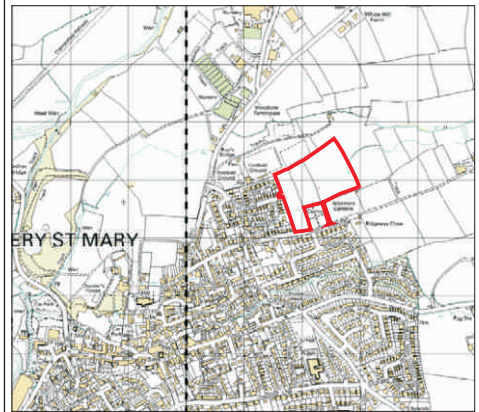
20.1 The investigations were commissioned by Steven Weaver of CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Redrow Homes. The site works were carried out by Fiona Pink, Dan Brace, Paul Cook, Nick Crabb, Stella De-Villiers, Jon Hall, Gareth Holes, Naomi Hughes, Rebecca Hunt, Paul Jones, Kerry Kerr-Peterson, Mary Lutescu-Jones, David Knight, Andrew Passmore, Elisabeth Patkai, Ben Pears, Paul Rainbird, Will Smith, Sophie Thorogood and Frances Ward. The illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore, Stella De-Villiers and Elisabeth Patkai. The collaborative role of Stephen Reed, DCHET Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.



21. REFERENCES

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Base plan supplied by client



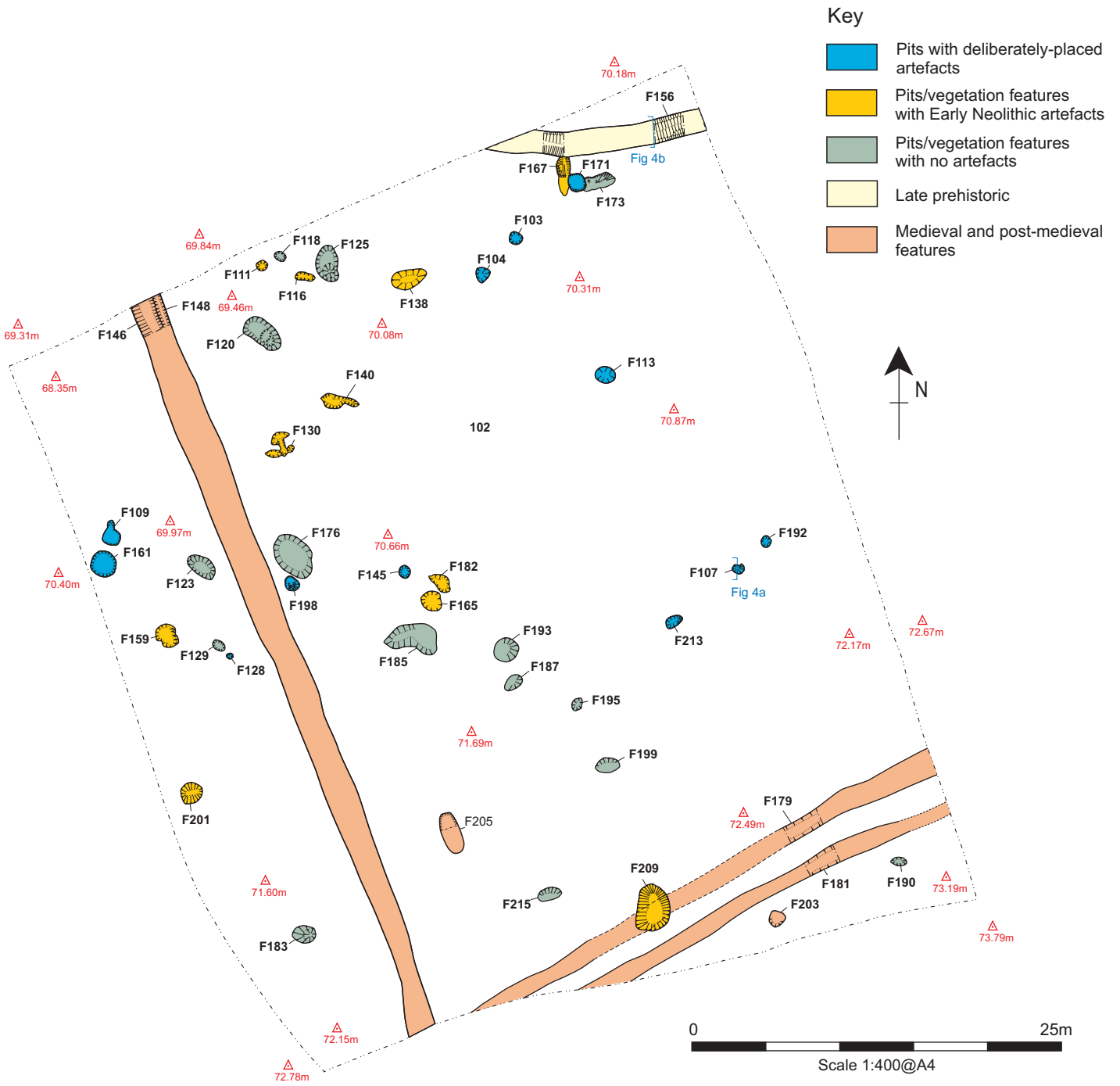
-  Trial trenches showing archaeological features
-  Excavation areas

PROJECT
**Land adjacent to Butts Road,
 Ottery St Mary**

TITLE
**Fig. 1: Location of site,
 trenches and excavation areas,
 with archaeological features
 shown**



a) Plan of excavation Area 1



PROJECT

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon





TITLE

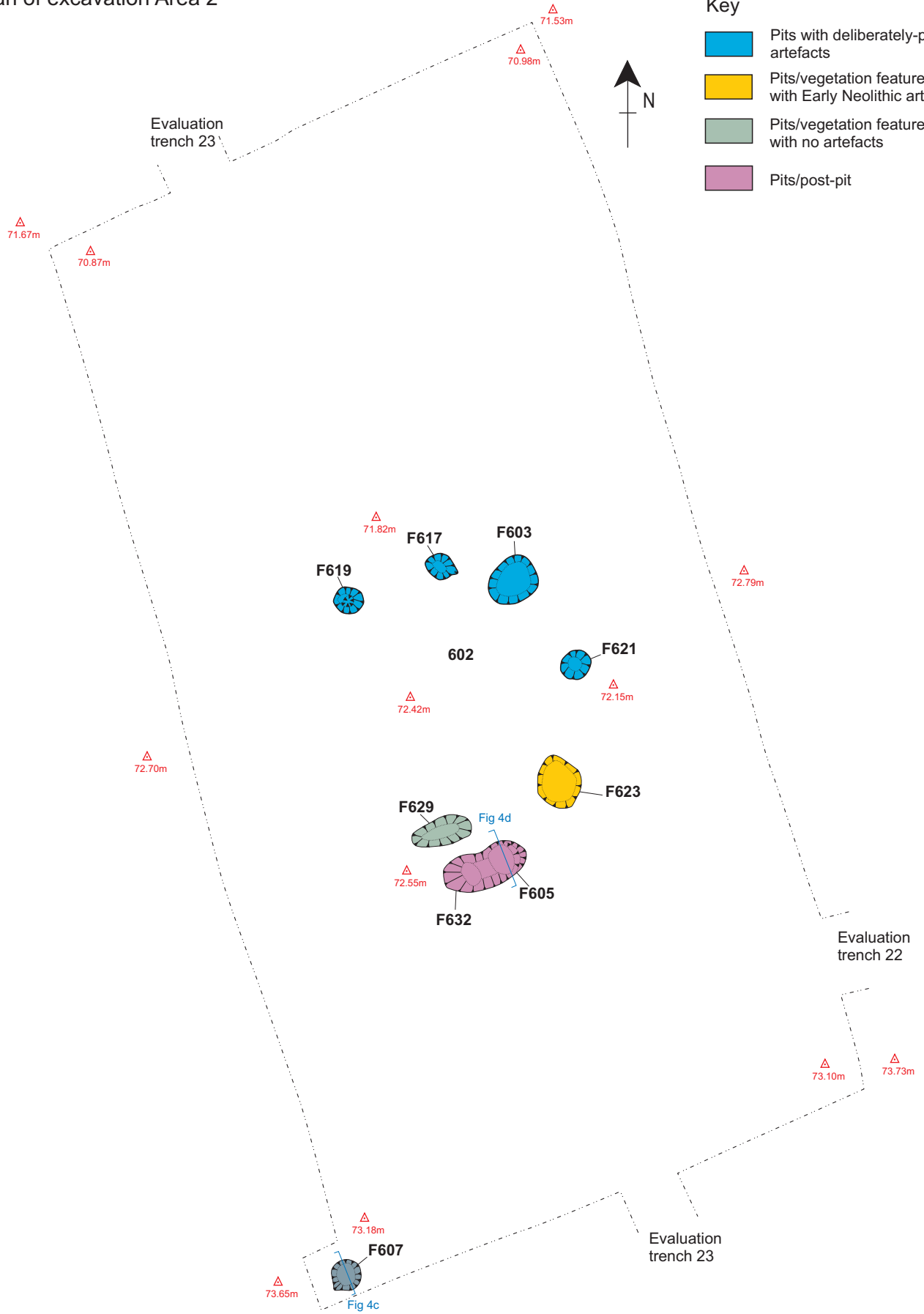
Fig. 2: Plan of excavation Area 1



a) Plan of excavation Area 2

Key

-  Pits with deliberately-placed artefacts
-  Pits/vegetation features with Early Neolithic artefacts
-  Pits/vegetation features with no artefacts
-  Pits/post-pit



PROJECT

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon

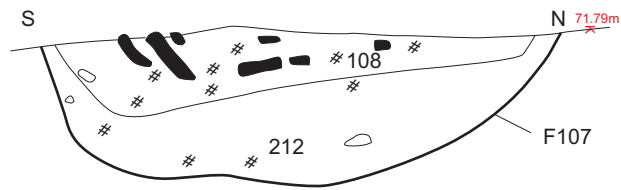
TITLE

Fig. 3: Plan of excavation Area 2

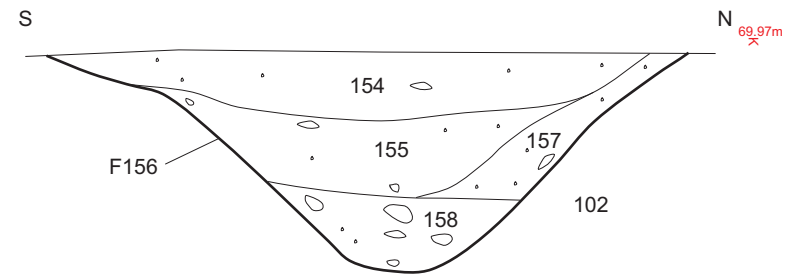


Area 1

a) Section of pit F107

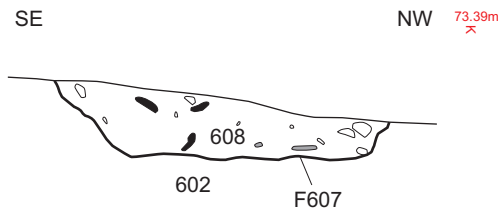


b) Section of ditch F156

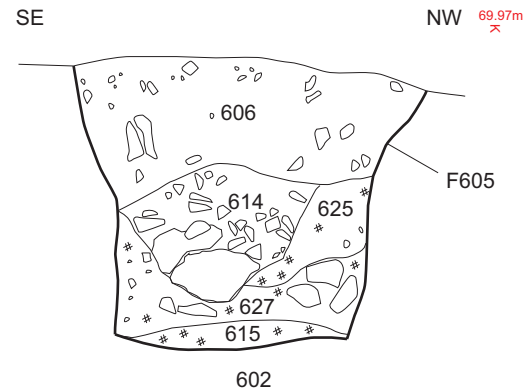





Area 2

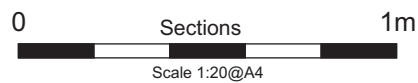
c) Section of pit F607



d) Section of pit/post-pit F605



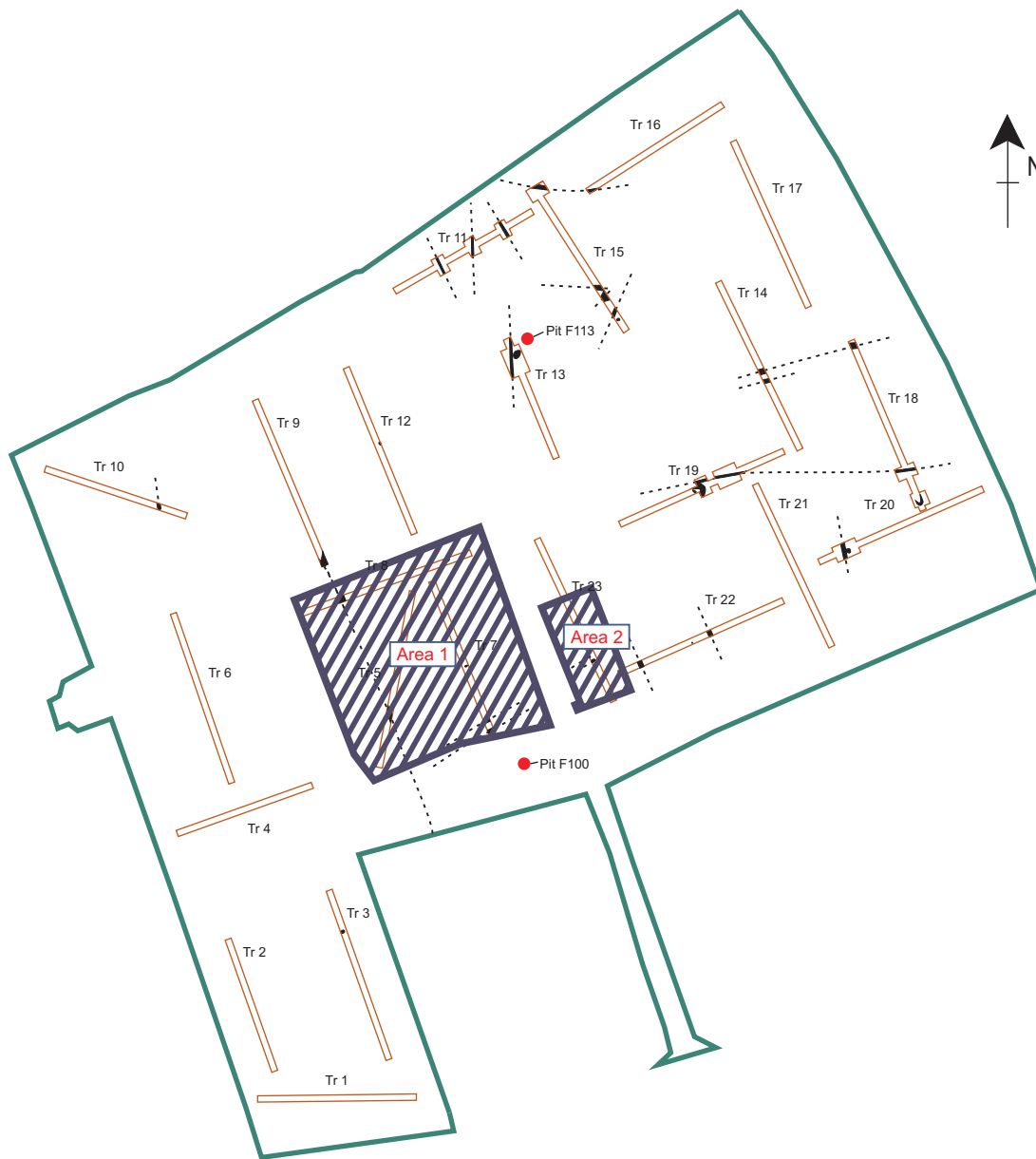
-  Pottery
-  Charcoal flecks
-  Flint






PROJECT
Land adjacent to Butts
Road, Ottery St Mary,
Devon

TITLE
Fig. 4: Selected sections,
Areas 1 and 2





Legend

-  Excavated areas
-  Evaluation trenches
-  Location of features



PROJECT

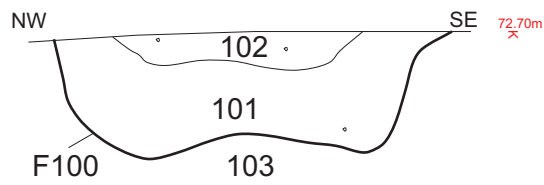
Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon

TITLE

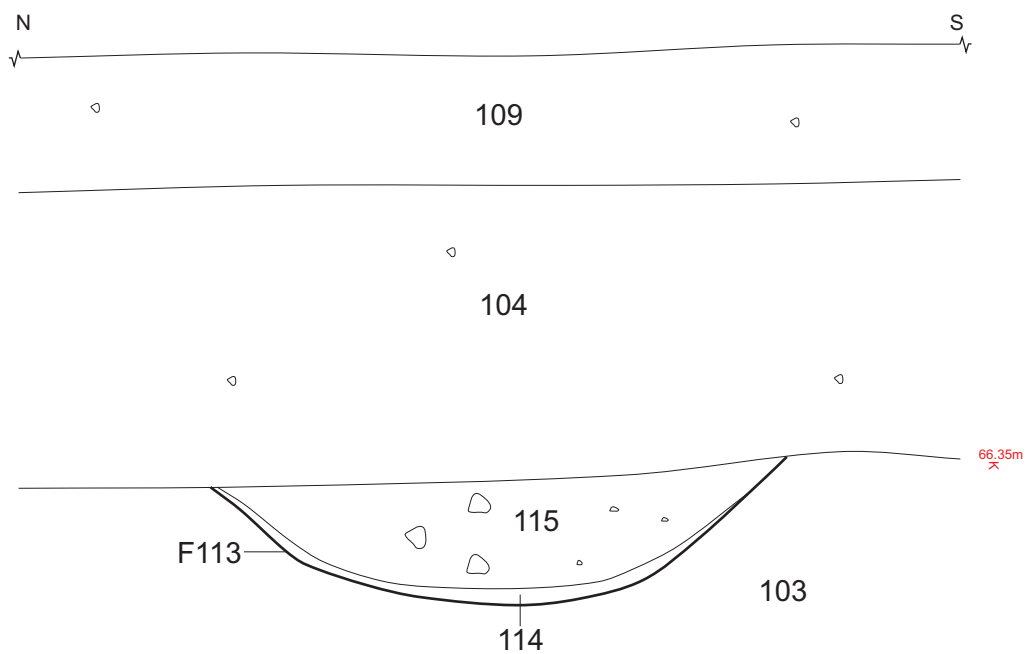
Fig. 5: Location of features identified during the watching brief



a) Section of pit F100



b) Section of pit F113



PROJECT

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary,
Devon

TITLE

Fig. 6: Sections of features
identified during the watching
brief





Plate 1: General view of Area 1, looking southeast



Plate 2: General view of Area 2, looking southwest. (Scales 2m)



Plate 3: Artefacts within part-excavated pit F107, looking to the northeast. (Scale 0.2m)

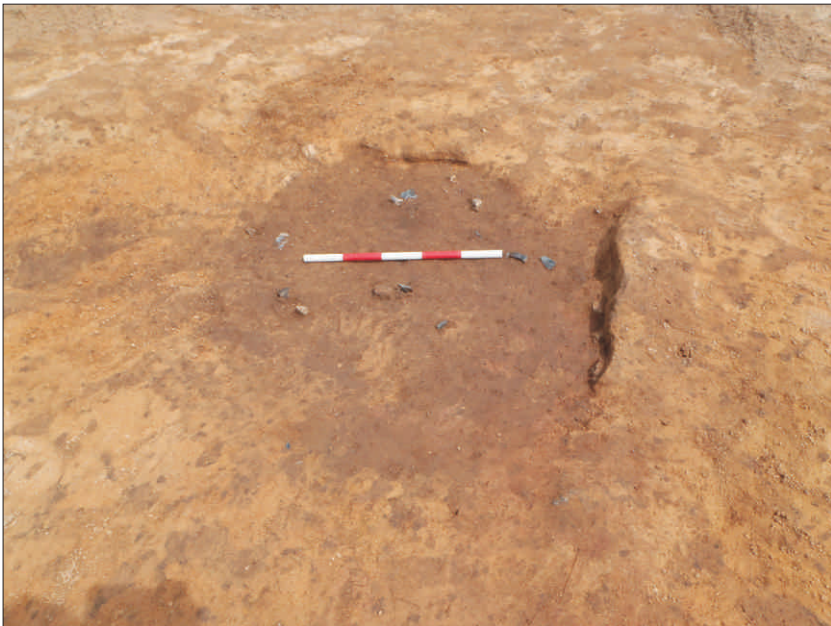


Plate 4: Distribution of artefacts within pit F109, looking to the east. (Scale 0.5m)

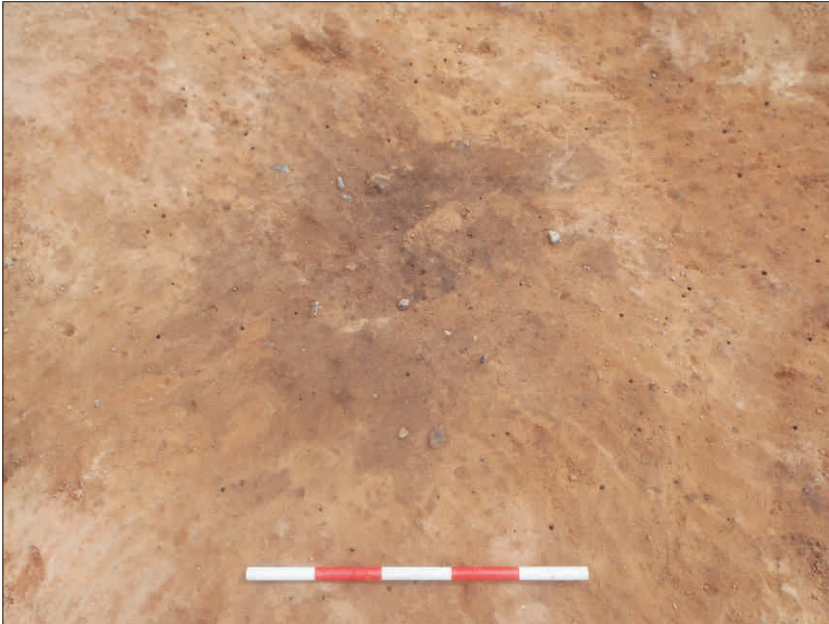


Plate 5: Pit F113 prior to excavation, looking to the east. (Scale 0.5m)



Plate 6: Artefacts within part-excavated pit F128, looking to the southeast. (Scale 0.5m)



Plate 7: Artefacts within part-excavated pit F145, looking to the southeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 8: Fully-excavated pit F161, looking to the southwest. (Scale 1m)



Plate 9: Pottery and flint within part-excavated pit F171, looking to the south. (Scale 0.4m)



Plate 10: Half-sectioned pit F111, looking to the northwest. (Scale 0.5m)

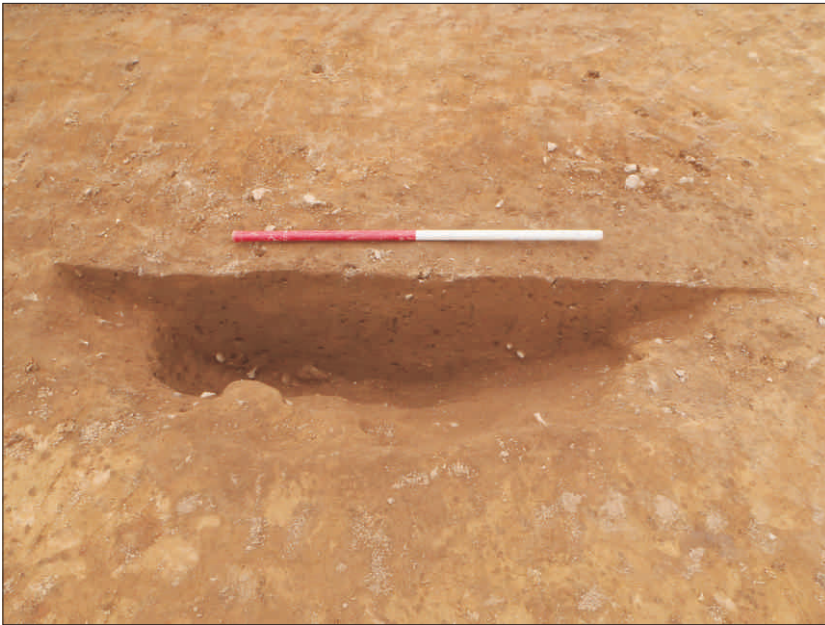


Plate 11: Half-sectioned pit F120, looking to the south. (Scale 1m)

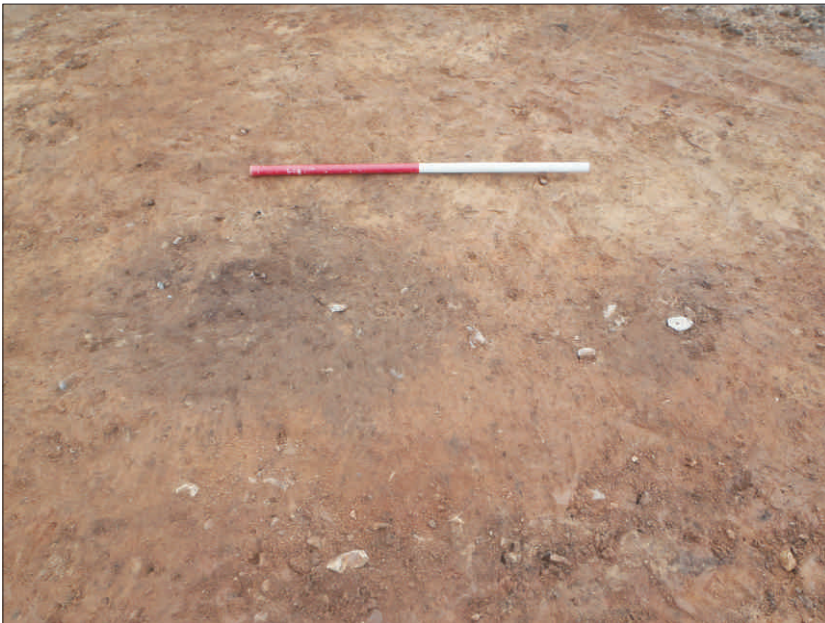


Plate 12: Pits F128 and F129 prior to excavation and artefacts on surface, looking to the southeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 13: Half-section through pit/posthole F129, looking to the southwest. (Scale 0.4m)



Plate 14: Section through linear ditch F156, looking to the northwest. (Scale 1m)



Plate 15: Fully-excavated pit F603, looking to the southeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 16: Half-section of pit F621, looking to the southwest. (Scale 0.5m)



Plate 17: Half-section of pit/post-pit F605, looking to the northwest. (Scale 1m)



Plate 18: Fully-excavated pits F605 and F632, looking to the west. (Scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Results of Initial Trial Trench Evaluation

LAND ADJACENT TO BUTTS ROAD, OTTERY ST MARY, DEVON (Centred on NGR SY 1044 9600)

Appendix 1: Results of initial trial trench evaluation

Planning reference: East Devon District Council 12/0277/MOUT

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- Fig. 6: Sections, Trench 15
- Fig. 7: Plan and sections, Trench 16
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- Plate 10: Trench 20, pit F2005 with linear feature F2003 beyond, looking to the west

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeological features and deposits were exposed in Trenches 3, 5, 7, 8, 9-16, 18-20, and 22-23, and these are described below and shown on Fig. 1. Due to the variations in the depth of the ploughsoil and subsoil across the site, as well as the presence of colluvial and alluvial deposits within some of the trenches, the deposit sequence for each will be discussed individually. Following initial investigation and identification of Early Neolithic pits, Trenches 5, 7, 8 and 23 were not fully recorded as part of the initial evaluation phase, but were recommended for further investigation as part of a phase of excavation works at the request of Stephen Reed, DCHET Archaeology Officer. These trenches are not discussed further in this appendix, as the features identified are described within the excavation results as part of the main text of the report (see Sections 7 and 8).

2. RESULTS

2.1 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 2a; section Fig. 2b)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, measured 50m in length and was located on a north-facing slope within the southwest corner of the site. The layer sequence consisted of 0.20m of a dark brownish grey sandy clay loam ploughsoil (300) with occasional small rounded stone inclusions, overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (301) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. The natural geology (302) varied throughout the trench, comprising patches of sands and gravels and was encountered from a depth of 0.48m at the southern end of the trench and 0.86m at the northern end. A small number of post-medieval pottery sherds and pieces of worked flint, together with fragments of clay tobacco pipe were retrieved from the ploughsoil layer 300, while a single piece of worked flint was recovered from the subsoil layer 301. A single small feature (F303) was present at the northern end of the trench.

Pit or terminus F303 was aligned broadly E-W and measured 0.90m wide by 0.39m deep. Within the excavated section its edge was steep on the southern side, with a more gradual break of slope on the northern side, into a shallow, broad concave base. It contained a single fill (304) of mid to light grey silty sand with occasional angular and sub-angular stone inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

2.2 Trench 9

This trench was approximately NW-SE aligned, measured 50m in length and was located on a north facing slope, parallel within the western boundary of the central field. The layer sequence within the trench consisted of 0.25m of a mid greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil (900) with occasional small stone inclusions, overlying a subsoil layer (901) of mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. A colluvial deposit (903) composed of yellowish brown sandy silty clay was also identified within the centre where the trench was at its deepest, but was not visible within section at either the far NW or SE ends. The natural geology (902) consisted of a reddish brown sandy clay with variable stone inclusions and patches of gravel and was encountered at a depth of 0.52m at the SE end of the trench, 1m at the centre of the trench, and 0.64m at the NW end. Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from the ploughsoil layer (900).

A single linear feature (F904) was exposed at the far SE end of the trench, on a NW-SE alignment. The feature was not excavated as it represented a continuation of the post-medieval boundary previously investigated within Trench 8 immediately to the south. A single piece of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the feature during cleaning.

2.3 Trench 10 (Plan Fig. 2c; sections Fig. 2d-e)

This trench was NW-SE aligned, measured 40m in length and was located within the far northwest corner of the site at the bottom of a gentle north facing slope. The layer sequence within the trench consisted of 0.30m of a dark brownish grey sandy clay loam ploughsoil (1000) with rare small sub-rounded stone inclusions, overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (1001) with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded small stone inclusions. The natural geology (1002) was variable, but largely consisted of a reddish brown fine silty sandy clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded small to large gravels with some patches of sand, and was encountered from a depth of 0.72m. Finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, worked flint, and clay tobacco pipe were recovered from ploughsoil layer 1000.

A probable linear feature terminus (F1003) was identified near the SE end of the trench on a N-S alignment, which measured 1m in width, 1.8m+ in length and 0.33m in depth. Within the excavated section the feature had a moderate break of slope at its top, moderately steep sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill (1004) consisting of a mid brown silty

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon

Appendix 1: Results of initial trial trench evaluation

clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels. The colour and composition of this fill was very similar to the surrounding natural geology and, although it appeared to have a regular profile in the recorded section, the irregular nature of the sides and base of the feature indicate that it may be of natural origin. No finds were recovered.

2.4 Trench 11 (Plan Fig. 3a; sections Fig. 3b-f; Plate 1)

This trench was NE-SW aligned, measured 40m in length and was located within the northwest corner of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of up to 0.30m of a dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (1100), with common sub-angular to well-rounded stone inclusions, overlying a mid yellowish brown loamy sand colluvial layer with frequent sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions (1101). An additional layer (1103) of mid greyish yellow silty loam was identified beneath the colluvium and may represent a possible buried soil or an alluvial deposit. Natural geology, consisting of a dark red sand, was encountered at a depth of 0.96m at the NW end of the trench; the remainder of the trench was machined to the top of layer 1111, which consisted of a mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions, likely to represent an alluvial deposit overlying the natural sand geology. A sherd of post-medieval pottery and a worked flint were recovered from the ploughsoil layer (1100), while a piece of medieval pottery was recovered from colluvial layer 1101.

Three linear features were exposed within the trench. Only a small number of finds were retrieved from these features, while the alignments all vary slightly but the colour and composition of the fills of these three features are all very similar indicating that they are likely to be contemporary. Investigation of the trench sections revealed all three linear features to be cut through layer 1103. The trench originally measured 50m in length, but was slightly extended within three areas to allow the excavation and recording of the features.

Linear feature F1104 was located at the NE end of the trench and was on a broadly NW-SE alignment. Within the excavated section the ditch had steep concave sides and a flat to slightly concave base. It contained two fills (1105 and 1106). Fill 1105 consisted of a mid grey sandy clay loam with brown and yellow hues, with common sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions, from which a single flint flake was retrieved. This was overlain by fill 1106, which consisted of a mid to dark yellowish grey silty loam with brown hues and common sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions. The colour and composition of this fill was very similar to the overlying subsoil, indicating that it had been derived from the same process, most likely as a result of hillwash.

Linear feature F1108 was located in the SW part of the trench and was on a broadly NW-SE alignment. Within the excavated section the ditch had steep sides, a moderate break of slope onto a broad slightly undulating base. It contained a single fill (1107) consisting of a mid to dark brown silty loam, with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions and common flecks of charcoal. A single piece of worked flint was recovered.

Linear feature F1109 was located near the centre of the trench and was on a broadly N-S alignment. Within the excavated section the ditch had steep concave sides and a shallow concave base. It contained a single fill (1110) which consisted of a dark yellowish brown silty loam with grey hues and common angular to rounded stone inclusions. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from the fill and a small sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the top of the deposit during the cleaning of the trench edge.

2.5 Trench 12 (Plan Fig. 4a; sections 4b-c; Plate 2)

This trench was NW-SE aligned, measured 50m in length and was located at the northern end of the middle field, on a slight north facing slope. The layer sequence within the trench consisted of 0.30m of a mid greyish brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1200) with occasional small

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon

Appendix 1: Results of initial trial trench evaluation

stone inclusions, overlying a subsoil layer (1201) of mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. A colluvial deposit (1203), consisting of light reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions, was identified at the centre and the northwest end where the trench was deepest, but was not present at the shallower southeast end. The natural geology (1202) consisted of reddish brown sand and gravels and was encountered from a depth of 0.62m at the SE end of the trench, 0.80m at the centre, and 0.85m at the NW end of the trench. Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and pieces of worked flint were recovered from ploughsoil layer 1200. Two features (F1204 and F1206) were exposed near the centre of the trench.

Terminus F1204 measured 0.65m in width, 0.65m in length and 0.40m in depth. Within the excavated section the feature had moderately steep sides and a moderate break of slope into an uneven base. It contained a single fill (1205) consisting of a mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fragments. This fill was cut by posthole F1206. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F1206 measured 0.13m in diameter and 0.15m in depth and was cut into the fill of terminus F1204 at its far western end. The feature had steep sides, with a moderate break of slope into a concave base and contained a single fill (1207) consisting of a mid to dark greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

2.6 Trench 13 (Plan 4d; sections 4e-f; Plate 3)

This trench was NW-SE aligned, measured 40m in length, and was located near the northwest corner of the eastern field. The deposit sequence consisted of 0.30m of a dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (1300) with occasional sub-rounded to angular small and medium stones, overlying a mid yellowish brown loamy sand subsoil (1301) with occasional sub-rounded to angular medium to very large stones. The natural geology (1302) varied throughout the trench, but principally consisted of a red to reddish brown sandy clay. Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from ploughsoil layer 1300. A linear feature (F1303) and a large pit (F1304) were exposed at the far northwest end of the trench. The trench was extended at this end to allow the excavation and recording of these features. The southeast end of the trench was not fully machined as the skeletal remains of a recent cow burial were present within the subsoil.

Linear feature F1303 was N-S aligned and measured 1.23m in width, 0.65m in depth and was cut into the natural geology (1302). It had a sharp break of slope at the top, steep sides and a moderate break of slope into a very narrow base. It contained two fills (1308 and 1309) which were sealed by the overlying subsoil (1301). Lower fill 1309 was composed of a mid brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions and some gravel on the southern side of the base. This was overlain by a fine reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions (1308). A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill.

Possible pit or vegetation feature F1304 measured 2.13m in diameter, 0.55m in depth and was fully exposed within the extension to the trench. The pit was oval in plan and had steep sides and a wide undulating base. It contained three fills (1305, 1306 and 1307). Fill 1306 was against the northwest side at the base of the pit and was composed of a fine mid brown sandy silty clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions. Fill 1307 was against the southeast side at the base of the pit and was of a similar colour and composition to 1306 indicating that they both represent the natural accumulation of weathered material at the base of the pit. These fills were overlain by 1305, which was composed of a fine brown sandy silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones and contained common flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon
Appendix 1: Results of initial trial trench evaluation

2.7 Trench 14 (Plan Fig. 5a; section Fig. 5b; Plate 4)

This trench was aligned NW-SE, measured 50m in length and was located near the centre of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.33m of a dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (1400) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions, overlying a mid yellowish brown loamy sand subsoil (1401) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. This subsoil was very shallow at the centre of the trench, but became deeper towards the northern and southern ends, following the natural topography of the field. The natural geology (1402) consisted of a mixture of brown to pale yellow and reddish purple sand with patches of gravels and clays and was encountered at a depth of 0.57m at the northern end of the trench, 0.50m at the centre and 0.64m at the southern end. A piece of worked flint, a sherd of medieval pottery and fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from ploughsoil layer 1400. Two ditches (F1403 and F1406) and associated bank material were exposed within the trench.

Ditch F1403 was broadly E-W aligned and measured 1.67m in width and 0.20m in depth, with an irregular shallow break of slope on its northern edge which gradually descended into a narrow concave base, and a more moderate slope on its southern edge. Remains of bank material were present on the southern edge of the ditch (1408 and 1409), sealed beneath the ploughsoil. The ditch contained two fills (1404 and 1405) which were sealed by the subsoil (1401). Fill 1404 was a mottled mid brown silty sand with patches of pale yellow and yellowish-red throughout and rare sub-angular stone inclusions. This was located at the base of the feature and also extended to the south where it overlies bank material 1409, indicating that it represented a deposit of slumped bank material. This was overlain by a mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular and angular stone inclusions and fragments of charcoal (1405). Finds of glass and small chunks of brick/tile were recovered from the fill confirming that it represented a post-medieval boundary visible on the mid 19th century Tithe Map.

Ditch F1406 was also broadly E-W aligned and measured 0.80m in width and 0.10m in depth with a very irregular profile, likely to be the result of root disturbance. This linear ditch ran parallel, and was located immediately to the south of ditch F1403. The ditch contained a single fill (1407) composed of a mid reddish brown sandy silt with rare sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill. This fill was sealed by bank material (1408) indicating that this linear ditch predated F1403.

2.8 Trench 15 (Plan Fig. 5c; sections Fig. 6a-h; Plates 5 and 6)

This trench was aligned NW-SE, measured 50m in length and was located at the northern end of the eastern field. The SE end of the trench was located on a high point within the field, with the ground dropping away to the north at the NW end. The layer sequence consisted of 0.32m of dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil with common small stone inclusions (1500), overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil with abundant stone inclusions (1501). An additional colluvial layer was identified at the NW end of the trench and consisted of a mid yellowish brown loamy sand with frequent sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions (1513). A single piece of medieval pottery and a piece of slag were recovered from this layer. This is consistent with the colluvial deposit identified within Trench 11 (1101). The natural geology (1502) consisted of a yellowish red fine sand and gravels and was encountered from a depth of 0.55m at the SE end of the trench, but was not exposed at the NW end of the trench where the archaeology was cut into alluvial deposits 1514 and 1515. A single piece of worked flint, three sherds of medieval pottery and fragments of brick/tile were recovered from ploughsoil 1500. Four linear features (F1504, F1506, F1508 and F1511) and a posthole (F1510) were exposed within the trench.

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Appendix 1: Results of initial trial trench evaluation

Linear feature F1504 was NE-SW aligned and measured 0.71m wide by 0.22m deep. The ditch had a moderate break of slope at top with moderately steep sides, a moderate break of slope at base into a fairly flat base and contained a single fill (1503), composed of a light reddish brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature F1506 was NW-SE aligned and measured 1.42m wide by 0.35m deep, with a sharp break of slope at its top, moderately steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a fairly flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (1505) which was composed of a yellowish grey very sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Two pieces of worked flint were recovered.

Linear spread F1508 was NE-SW aligned and measured 2.41m wide by 0.17m deep, with a moderate break of slope at its top, shallow gently sloping sides, then a gentle break of slope into a shallow but uneven base. The feature contained a single fill (1507) which consisted of a pale yellowish red very sandy clay with rare small stone inclusions. A single piece of worked flint was retrieved from this fill. The shallow nature of this feature indicates it may represent a spread of material or the infilling of a natural depression. It was cut by NW-SE aligned ditch F1506.

Posthole F1510 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.46m in width by 0.39m in depth, with a sharp break of slope at its top, steep sides, then a moderate break of slope into a narrow slightly concave base. The posthole contained a single fill (1509) which was composed of a light reddish brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature F1511 was E-W aligned and measured 2.05m in width and 0.74m in depth, with a sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides, then a moderate break of slope into a shallow concave base. The ditch contained a single fill (1512) which was composed of a mid brownish yellow silty loam with common sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions. A single piece of flint was recovered from the fill. This ditch cut through layer 1515, which consisted of a mid greyish yellow silty loam and may represent a possible buried soil or an alluvial deposit, consistent with that identified within Trench 11 (1103). A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this layer.

2.9 Trench 16 (Plan Fig. 7a; sections Fig. 7b-c)

This trench was NE-SW aligned, measured 50m in length, and was located within the northeast corner of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.27m of a dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil with rare small stone inclusions (1600), overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil with rare stone inclusions (1601). An additional colluvial layer was identified at the NE end of the trench and consisted of a mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (1603). The natural geology (1602) consisted of a friable reddish brown silty clay with common small to large angular and sub-rounded gravels. Nine pieces of worked flint and two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from ploughsoil layer 1600. A single linear ditch (F1604) was exposed within the trench.

Linear ditch F1604 was located at the far SW end of the trench on an E-W alignment and measured 0.62m in width and 0.31m in depth with a sharp break of slope at top, moderately steep sides and rounded base. The ditch represents a continuation of that identified at the NW end of Trench 15, immediately to the west, and contained a single fill (1605) composed of a mid brownish yellow sandy silty clay with rare flecks of charcoal and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. The ditch cut into the natural geology and no finds were recovered.

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2.10 Trench 18 (Plan Fig. 8a; sections Fig. 8b-e; Plates 7 and 8)

This trench was NW-SE aligned, measured 50m in length and was located near the southeast corner of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.25m of dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (1800) with common small and medium stone inclusions, overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (1801) with abundant stone inclusions. This layer became very thick towards the SE end of the trench (up to 0.81m) and is likely to represent a colluvial deposit. Pieces of worked flint, post-medieval pottery and fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from both ploughsoil layer (1800) and from subsoil layer (1801). The natural geology was composed of mid to light yellowish brown sand (1802), which was exposed from a depth of 0.50m at the NW end of the trench and 1.38m at the SE end. An additional alluvial deposit (1813), composed of a mid reddish brown compact sandy clay with common small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions, was identified overlying the natural geology at the SE end of the trench. A linear ditch (F1803) and a curvilinear feature (F1806) were cut through this deposit. The trench was extended at this end to allow the excavation and recording of these features. A length of the post-medieval boundary ditch recorded within Trench 14 was also identified at the far NW end of this trench.

Linear ditch F1803 was E-W aligned and measured 0.82m in width and 0.53m in depth. Within the excavated section the ditch had a sharp break of slope at its top, steeply sloping sides, then a moderate break of slope into a slightly rounded base. The ditch contained two fills (1804 and 1805). Primary fill 1804 was composed of a mid to light brown clayey silt with occasional angular stone inclusions, while the upper fill (1805) was composed of a dark greyish brown clayey fine sand, from which four pieces of worked flint were recovered.

Curvilinear feature F1806 was identified at the far SE end of the trench and covered an area 1m wide, by 1.30m long. Slots were dug through the two termini ([1807] and [1811]) and at the centre of the feature ([1809]). Segment [1807] targeted the northwest terminus and measured 0.38m in width by 0.15m in depth with sharply sloping edges to the NE and SW onto a fairly flat base, which rose gently to the terminus to the north. Segment [1809] targeted the centre of the feature and measured 0.25m in width and 0.24m in depth with steep sides and a fairly flat base. Segment [1811] targeted the southwest terminus and measured 0.67m in width and 0.34m in depth with a steep side on its northern edge, a more undulating eastern edge and a moderately steep rise to the terminus. Each of the slots contained identical fills (1808, 1810 and 1812) consisting of a dark brown moderately compacted clayey fine sand. No finds were recovered.

2.11 Trench 19 (Plan Fig. 9a; sections Fig. 9b-f; Plate 9)

This trench was NE-SW aligned, measured 50m in length and was located near the centre of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.55m of dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (1900) with common small and medium stone inclusions, overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (1901) with occasional small stone inclusions. This deposit is likely to represent a colluvial layer. An alluvial layer (1905) of mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions was identified at the centre of the trench, overlying the natural geology, but was not present at the far NE and SW ends. The natural geology (1902) was very variable throughout the trench and consisted of a reddish brown fine sand and numerous patches of gravels which were encountered from a depth of 1m. Two linear ditches (F1903 and F1906), a substantial curvilinear ditch (F1908) and an additional possible feature (F1912) were identified within the trench.

Linear ditch F1903 was E-W aligned and measured 0.60m wide by 0.28m deep. Within the excavated section the ditch had a sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides, then a moderate break of slope into a slightly rounded base. It is probable that this represents a continuation of linear ditch F1803 from Trench 18 to the east. The ditch was cut through alluvial layer 1905 and contained a single fill (1904), composed of a mid to dark reddish

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brown sandy silt with common small to medium stone inclusions. Six pieces of worked flint were recovered.

Curvilinear feature F1906 was exposed near the centre of the trench, and measured 0.50m in width and 0.36m in depth. Within the excavated section the ditch had a sharp break of slope at its top, steep sides and a narrow concave base, with a single fill (1907) composed of dark brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. The feature appeared clear in plan, but excavation showed it to sit within part of a larger curvilinear feature (F1908). F1906 was not identified within the north facing section of this larger feature, indicating that it may have terminated by this point.

F1908 measured 1.21m wide by 0.70m deep and within the excavated section the feature had a sharp break of slope at its top, a steep SW edge and moderately steep NE edge. The curvilinear contained a very sterile fill (1909) which was composed of mid brownish red silty sand with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. Context 1911 on its western edge was composed of a light yellowish brown slightly silty sand with rare small stone inclusions. This context extended beyond the trench edge and it was therefore not possible to determine whether it represented a sterile archaeological fill or an additional alluvial layer. This was also overlain by a small deposit (1914) of dark brown very silty sand with rare small stone inclusions which also extended beyond the edge of the trench. The SW end of the trench was investigated, but there was no evidence for a return of curvilinear feature F1908 within this area.

F1912 measured 1.20m in length, 0.40m in width, and 0.11m in depth and was located to the west of F1908. The feature was roughly oval in shape, with very uneven edges and a shallow base. It contained a single fill (1913) composed of a light brownish red very slightly silty sand with common sub-angular small stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. The feature most likely represents a natural depression that has naturally infilled with material similar to the overlying subsoil (1901).

2.12 Trench 20 (Plan Fig. 10a; sections Fig. 10b-c; Plate 10)

This trench was NE-SW aligned, measured 50m in length and was located within the southeast corner of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.25m of dark brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (2000), overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay colluvial layer (2001). This overlay an alluvial layer (2002) of mid reddish brown compact sandy clay with common small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions similar to that identified within Trench 18 to the east. A linear ditch (F2003) and an elongated sub-circular pit (F2005) were cut into this layer.

Pit F2005 was located near the SW end of the trench and measured 1.20m+ in length, 1.22m in width, and 0.30m in depth. The excavated section had moderately steep sides and a gentle break of slope into a slightly rounded base. The pit contained a single fill (2006) composed of a mid greyish brown clayey silt, which was cut on its NW edge by linear F2003. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature F2003 was N-S aligned and measured 1m wide by 0.62m deep. Within the excavated section the ditch had a sharp break of slope at the top, steeply sloping sides into a narrow rounded base. It contained a single fill (2004) composed of a mid greyish brown clayey fine sand with occasional small stone fragments. Three pieces of worked flint were recovered.

2.13 Trench 22 (Plan Fig. 10d; sections Fig.10e-g)

This trench was NE-SW aligned, measured 50m in length and was located near the southwest corner of the eastern field. The layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of dark

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brownish grey sandy silty loam ploughsoil (2200) with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions, overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay colluvium deposit (2001). An additional layer of colluvium (2209) composed of a reddish brown fine sandy clay with rare small stone inclusions was identified within the centre of the trench where it overlay the natural geology (2202). This deposit was not present at either the NE or SW end of the trench. The natural geology (2002) was variable within the trench and was composed of a red, yellow, and reddish brown sandy clay with areas of gravels, encountered from a depth of 0.60m. Two linear ditches (F2205 and F2207) and a possible posthole (F2203) were present within the trench.

Possible posthole F2203 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.28m in diameter by 0.21m in depth, with a steep almost vertical side on the SE edge and an irregular edge on the NW side into a narrow base. It is possible that the irregular nature of the SE edge was formed during the removal of the post. The posthole contained a single fill (2204) composed of a greyish brown silty clay with moderate small flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

Linear ditch F2205 was broadly NW-SE aligned and measured 1.15m wide by 0.24m deep. Within the excavated section the ditch had gently sloping sides into a broad fairly flat base. It contained a single fill (2206) composed of a mid brown fine sandy silty clay with rare sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Linear ditch F2207 was broadly NW-SE aligned and measured 2.58m wide by 0.30m deep. Within the excavated section the ditch had gently sloping sides and a broad, undulating base. It contained a single fill (2208) of mid brown fine sandy silty clay from which one sherd of medieval and one of post-medieval pottery were recovered, along with part of a clay tobacco pipe.

2.14 Negative trenches

Trench 1		Length 40m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Dark brown sandy clay loam, containing very occasional angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels.	0-0.40m	Ploughsoil	
101	Mid brown sandy clay loam, containing occasional medium-large gravels.	0.40-0.74m	Subsoil	
102	Light reddish brown sandy clay and gravels.	0.74m+	Natural	

Trench 2		Length 40m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Dark brown sandy clay loam, containing occasional small charcoal flecks, and very occasional angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels.	0-0.24m	Ploughsoil	
201	Mid brown sandy clay loam, containing occasional medium-large gravels.	0.24-0.59m	Subsoil	
202	Light reddish brown sandy clay and gravels.	0.59m+	Natural	

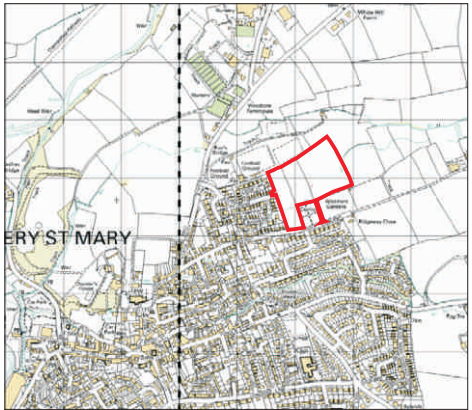
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Trench 4		Length 40m	Width 2m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Dark brown sandy clay loam, containing very occasional angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels.	0-0.28m	Ploughsoil	
401	Mid brown sandy silty clay, containing occasional medium sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels.	0.28-0.58m	Subsoil	
402	Light reddish brown sandy clay and gravels.	0.58m+	Natural	

Trench 6		Length 50m	Width 2m	Alignment NNW-SSE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Dark brown sandy clay loam, containing very occasional angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels.	0-0.38m	Ploughsoil	
601	Mid brown sandy silty clay, containing occasional medium sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels.	0.38m-0.76m	Subsoil	
602	Light reddish brown sandy clay and gravels.	0.76m+	Natural	
603	Yellowish brown fine sandy silty clay, containing occasional angular and sub-angular small gravels. Present at the NNW end of the trench.	0.57-0.76m	Colluvium	

Trench 17		Length 50m	Width 2m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1700	Dark brown silty clay, containing occasional sub-rounded small and medium gravels.	0-0.25m	Ploughsoil	
1701	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with common angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions.	0.25-0.42m	Colluvium	
1702	Light brown and yellow sand with occasional patches of reddish purple clay, containing rare angular stone inclusions.	0.58m+	Natural	
1703	Light reddish brown silty sand with rare sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.42-0.58m	Interface between colluvium and natural	

Trench 21		Length 50m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
2100	Dark brown silty clay, containing occasional sub-rounded small and medium gravels.	0-0.20m	Ploughsoil	
2101	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with common angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions.	0.20-0.40m	Colluvium	
2102	Light reddish brown silty sand with rare sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.40m+	Natural (alluvial deposit)	



 Trial trenches showing archaeological features

PROJECT
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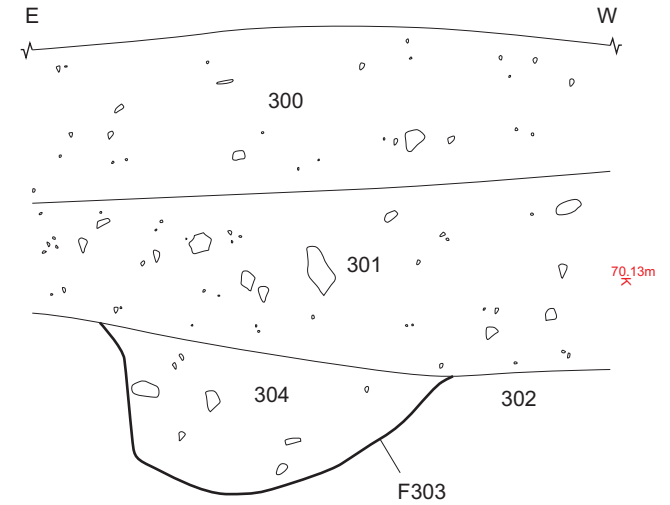
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Fig. 1: Location of site and evaluation trenches



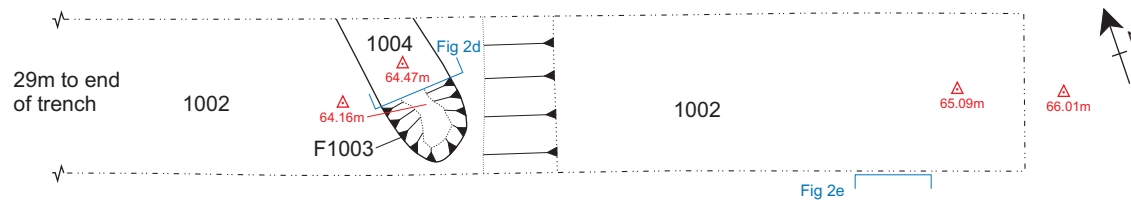
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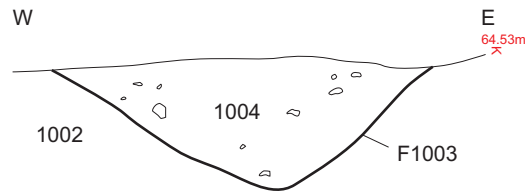
b) Section of F303



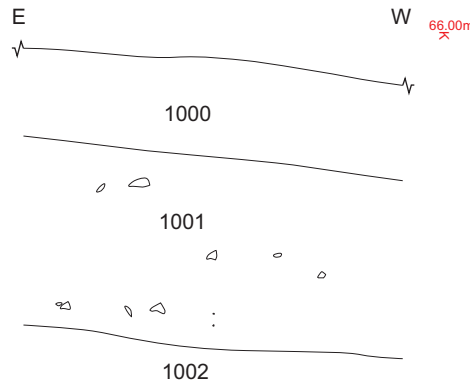
c) Plan of Trench 10





d) Section of F1003



e) Representative section

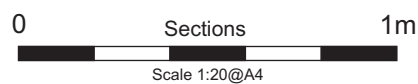
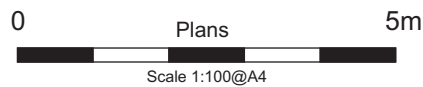


Key to all sections

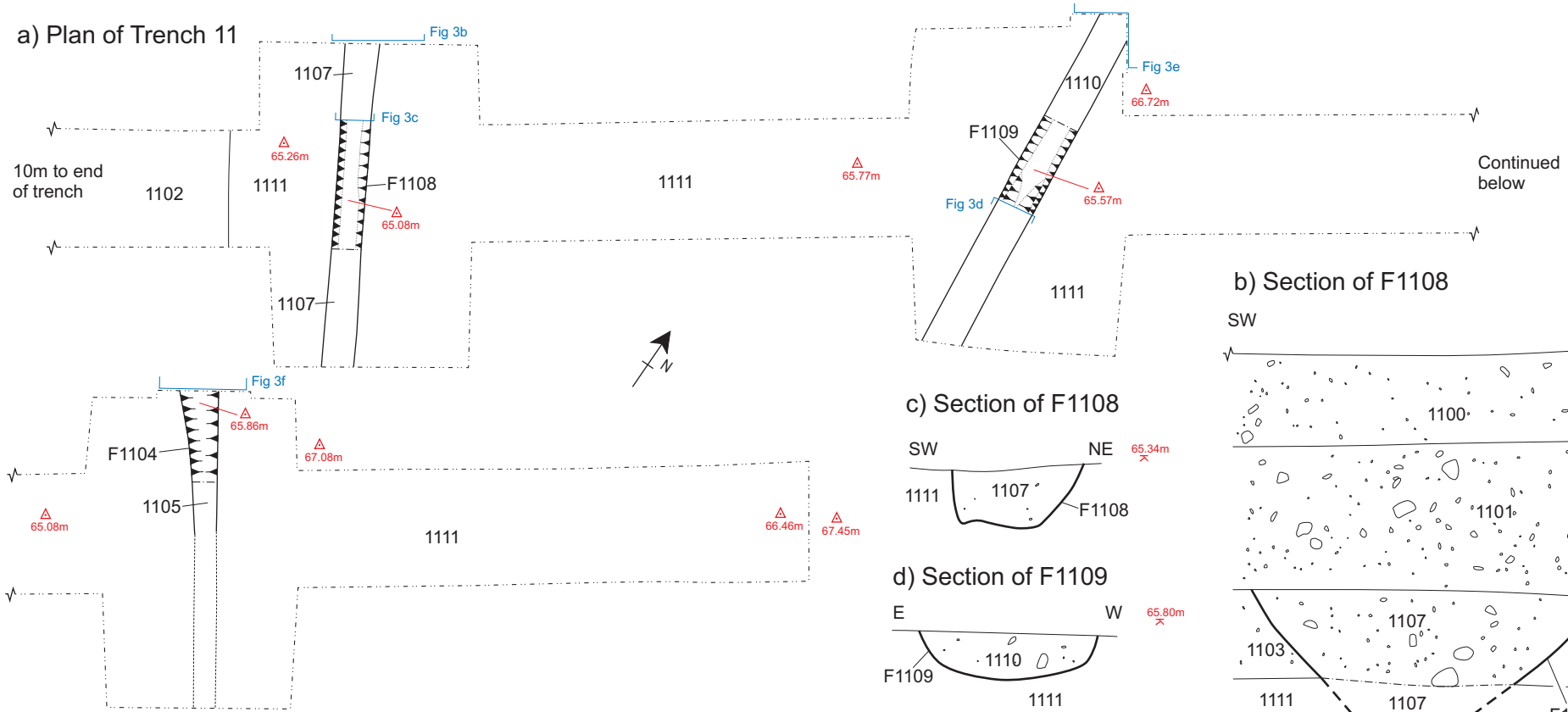
-  Brick
-  Charcoal flecks

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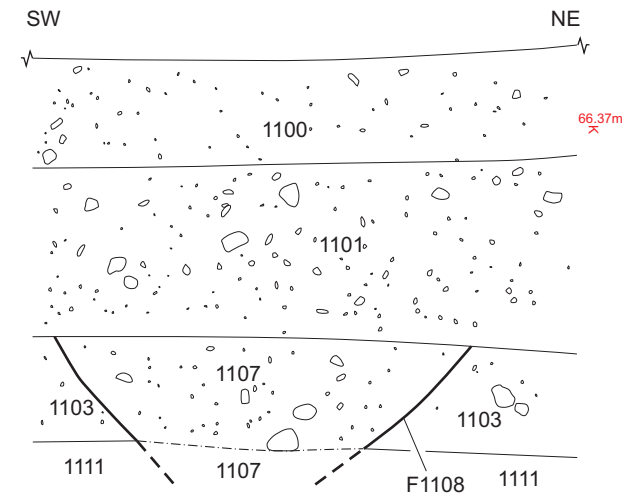
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Fig. 2: Plans and sections,
Trenches 3 and 10



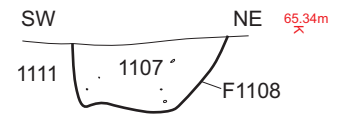
a) Plan of Trench 11



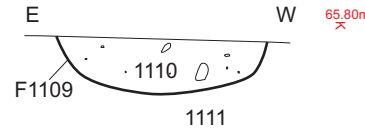
b) Section of F1108



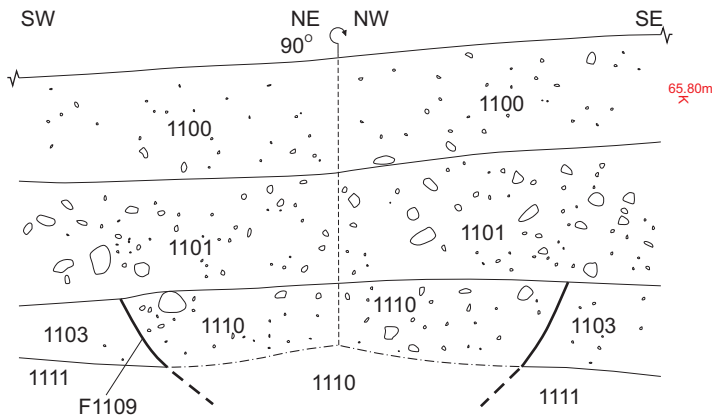
c) Section of F1108



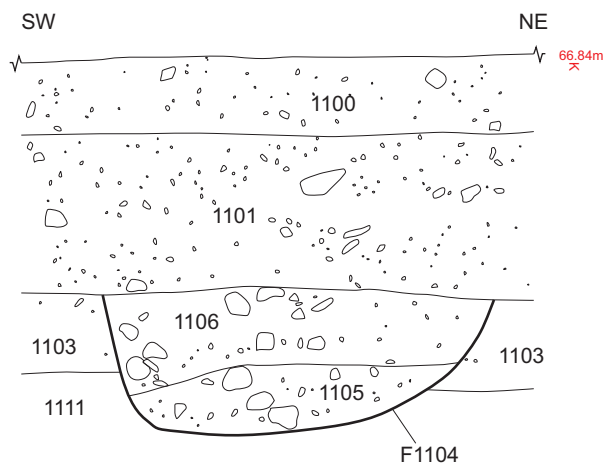
d) Section of F1109



e) Section of F1109



f) Section of F1104



0 Plan 5m



Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m



Scale 1:20@A4

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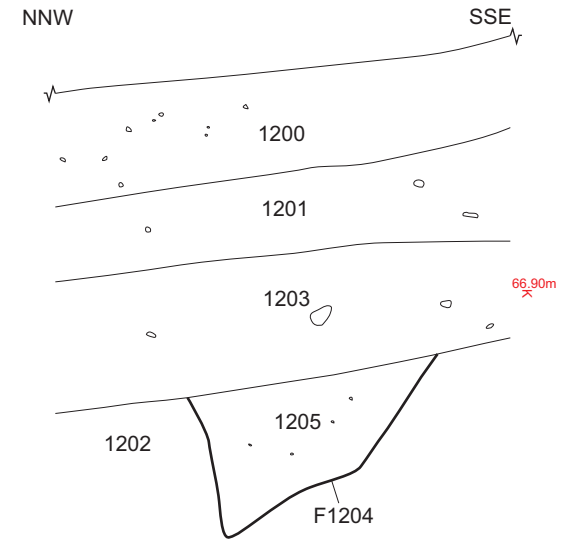
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Fig. 3: Plan and sections,
Trench 11



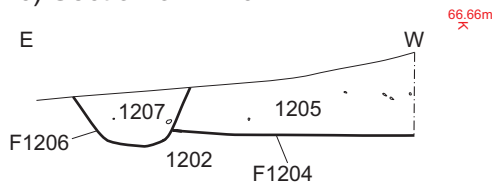
a) Plan of Trench 12



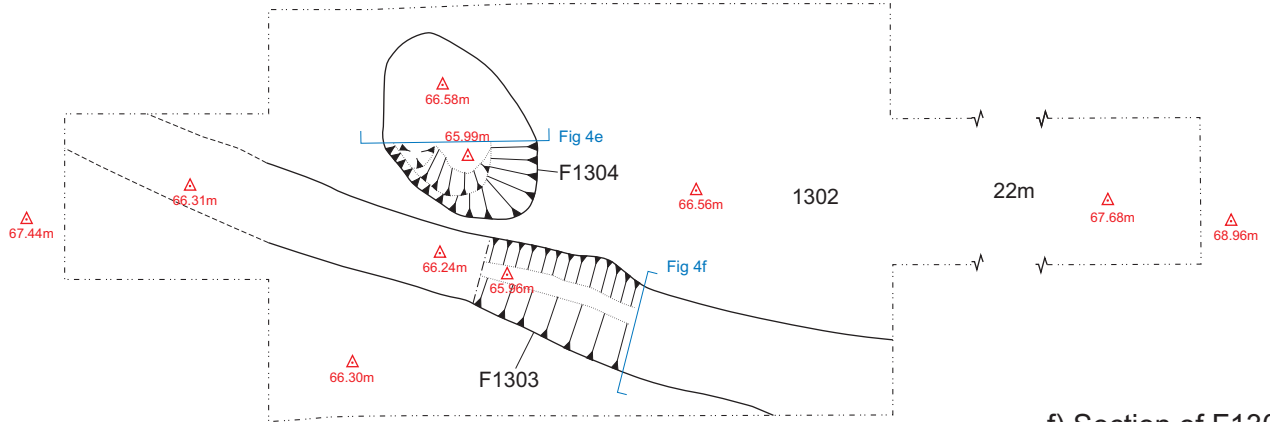
b) Oblique section of F1204



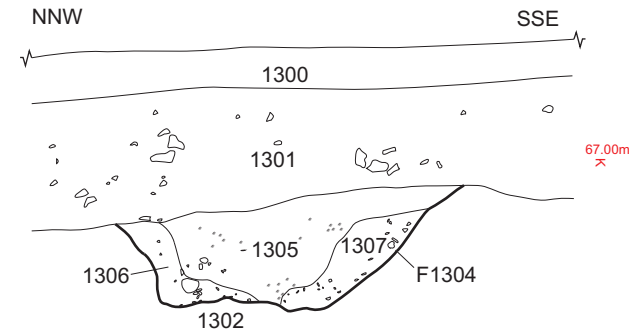
c) Section of F1204



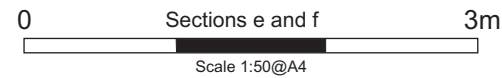
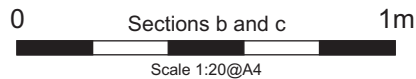
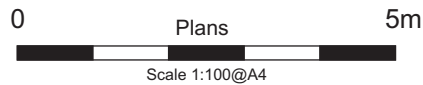
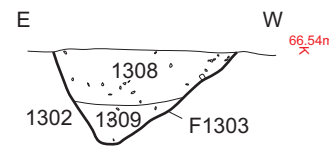
d) Plan of Trench 13



e) Section of F1304



f) Section of F1303

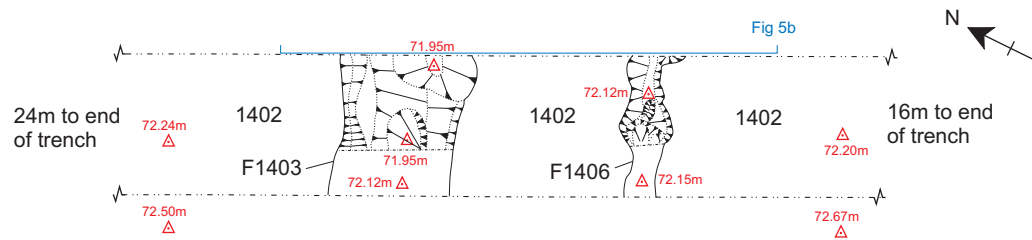


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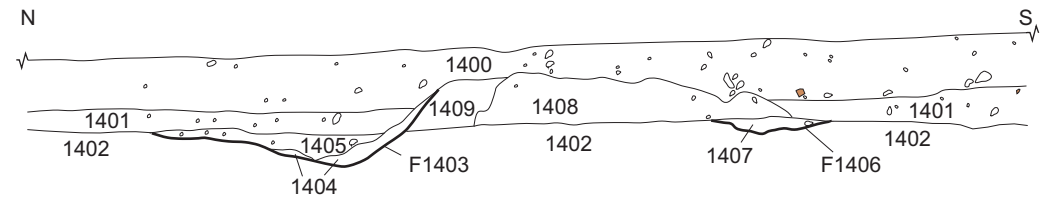
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Fig. 4: Plans and sections,
Trenches 12 and 13



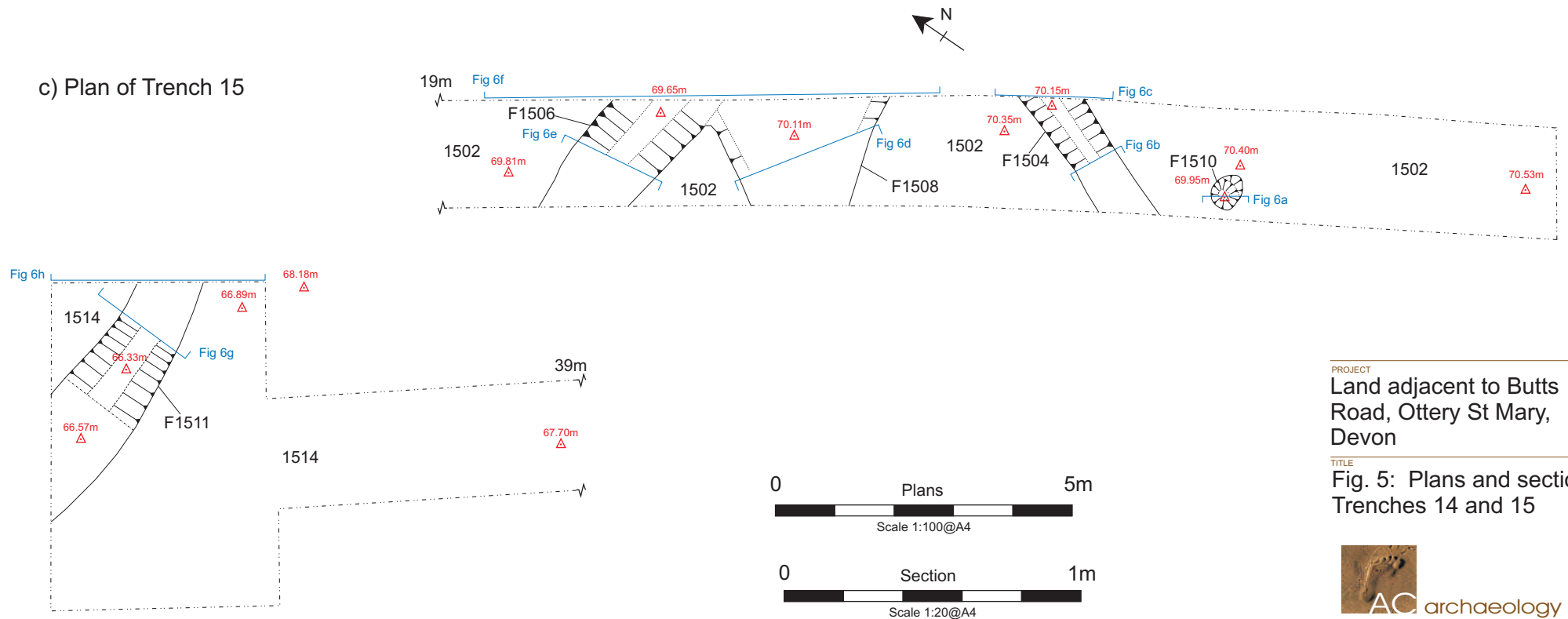
a) Plan of Trench 14



b) Section of F1403 and F1406



c) Plan of Trench 15

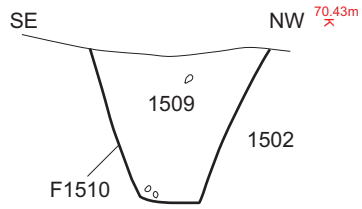


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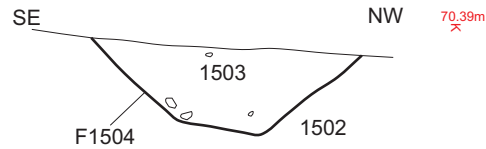
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Fig. 5: Plans and section,
Trenches 14 and 15



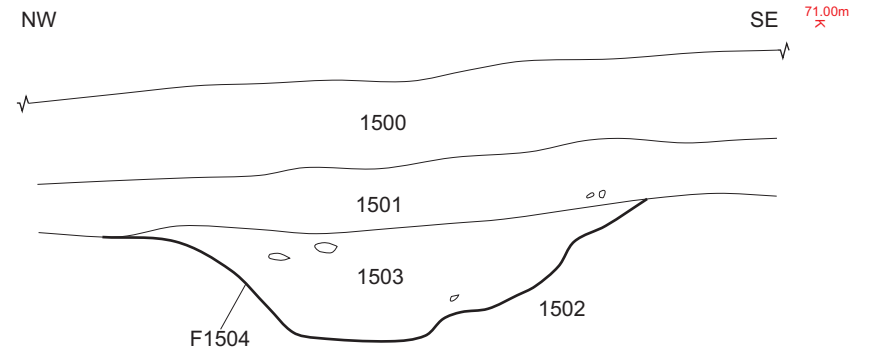
a) Section of F1510



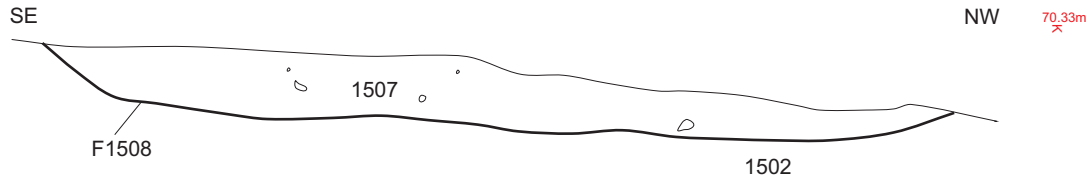
b) Section of F1504



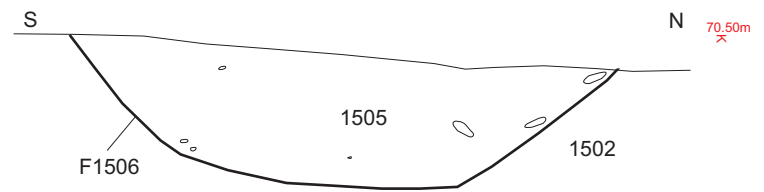
c) Oblique section of F1504



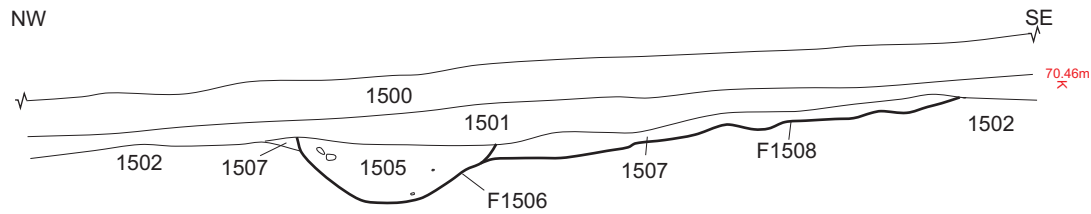
d) Section of F1508



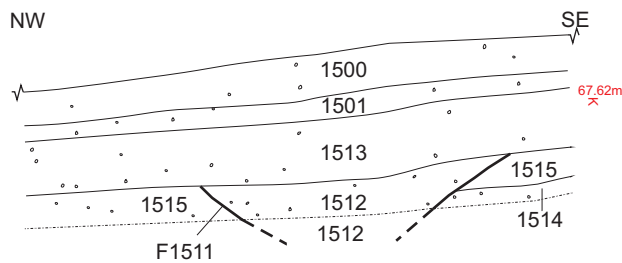
e) Section of F1506



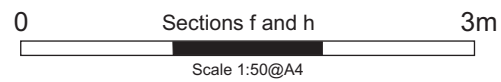
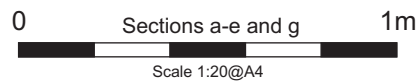
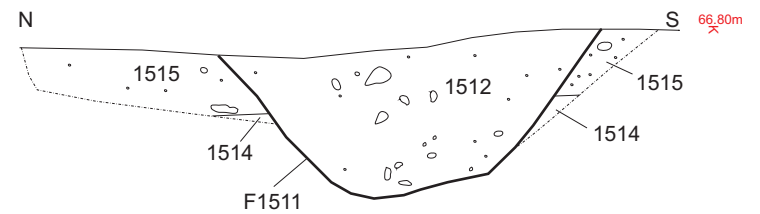
f) Oblique section of F1506 and 1508



h) Oblique section of F1511



g) Section of F1511

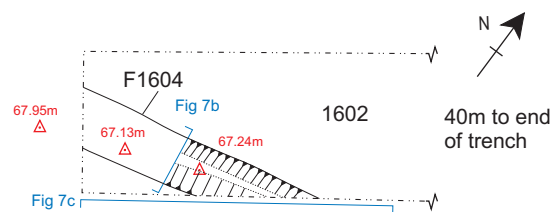


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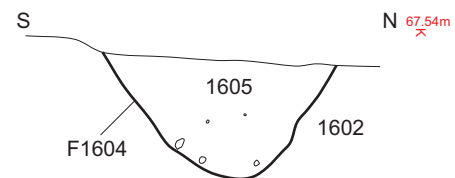
TITLE
Fig. 6: Sections,
Trench 15



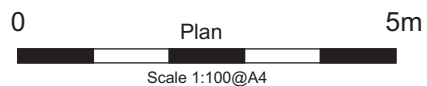
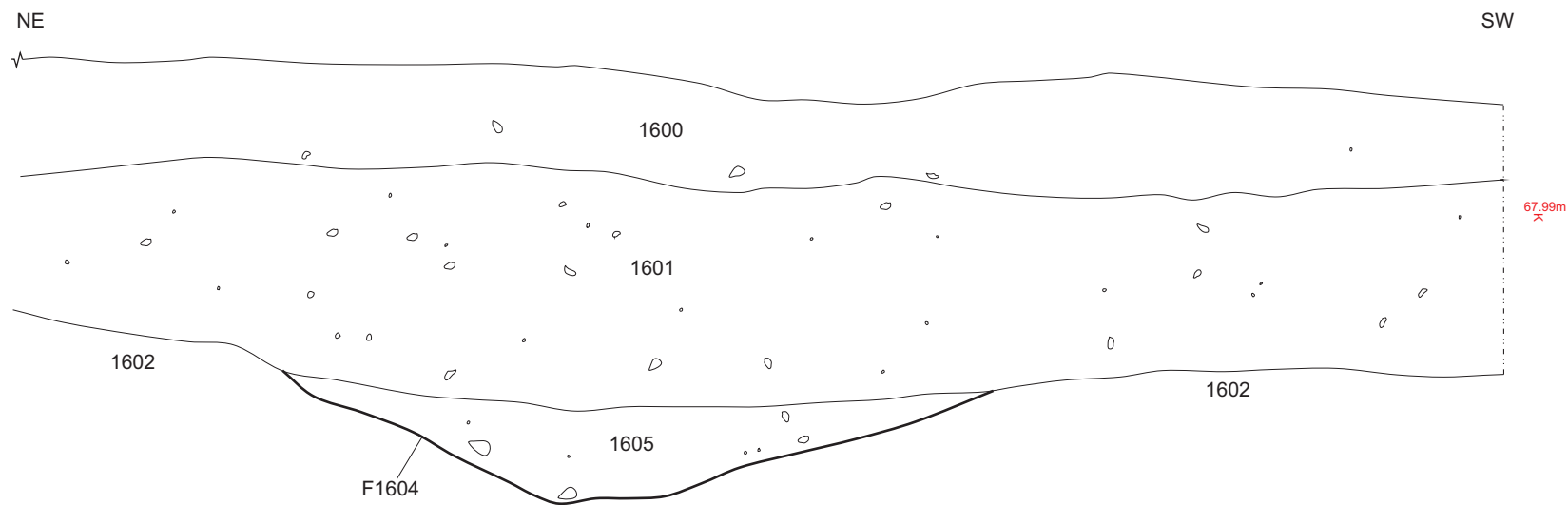
a) Plan of Trench 16



b) Section of F1604



c) Oblique section of F1604

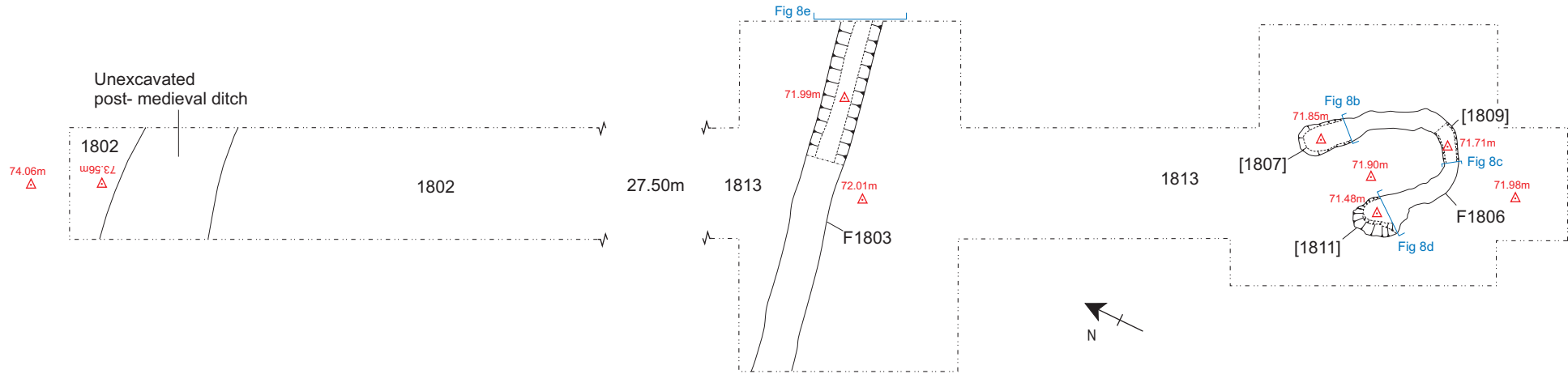


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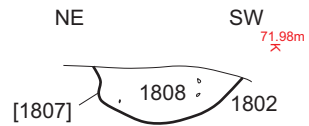
TITLE
Fig. 7: Plan and sections,
Trench 16



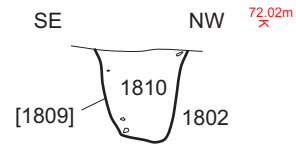
a) Plan of Trench 18



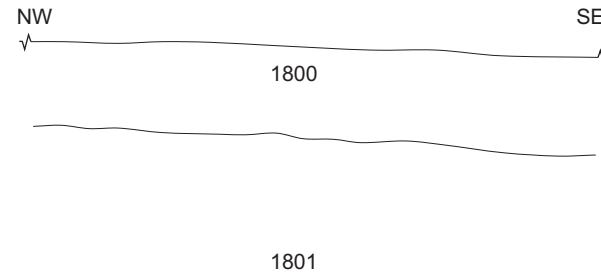
b) Section of [1807]



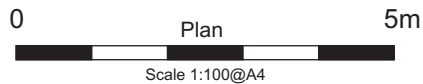
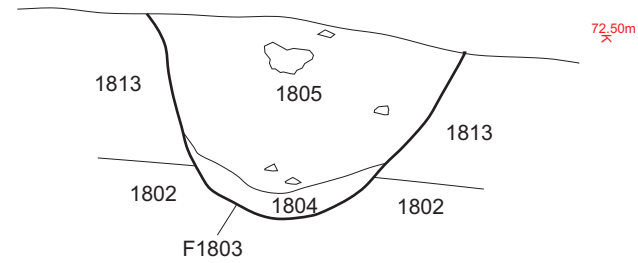
c) Section of [1809]



e) Section of F1803



d) Section of [1811]



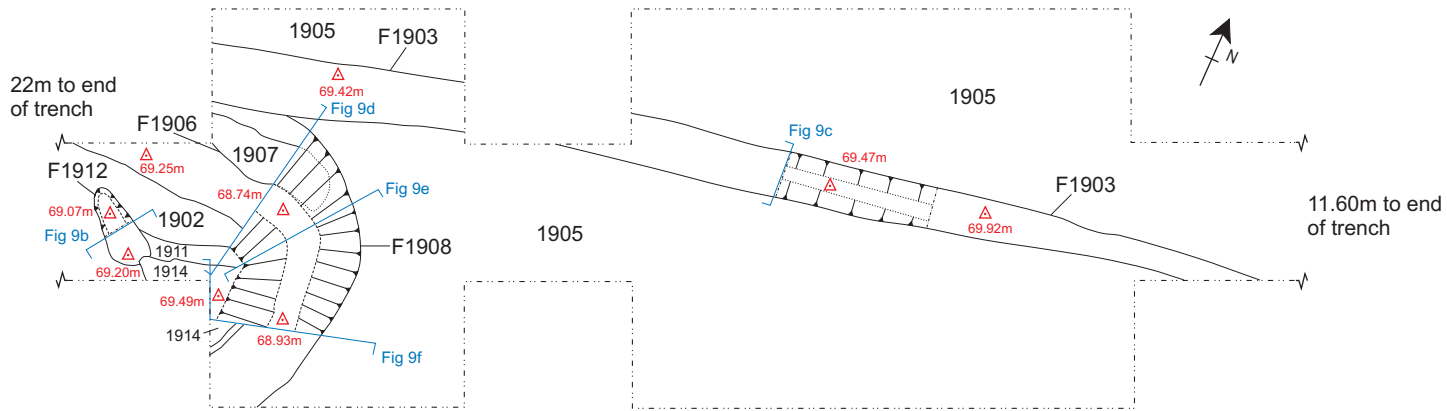
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Fig. 8: Plan and sections,
Trench 18



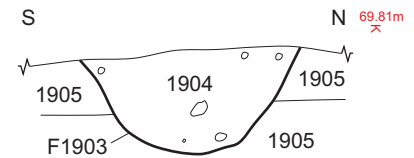
a) Plan of Trench 19



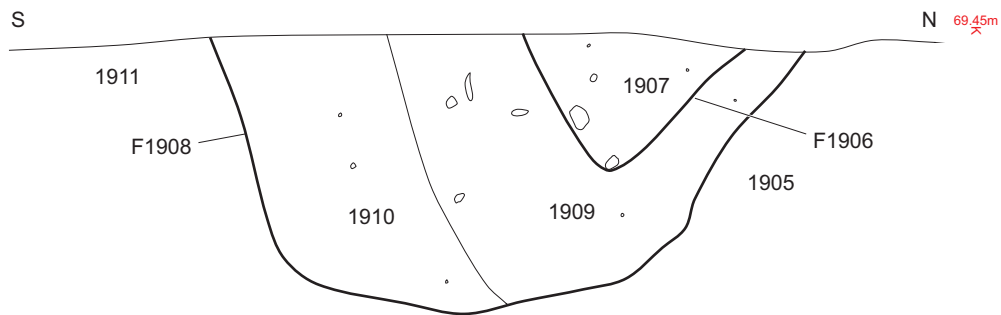
b) Section of F1912



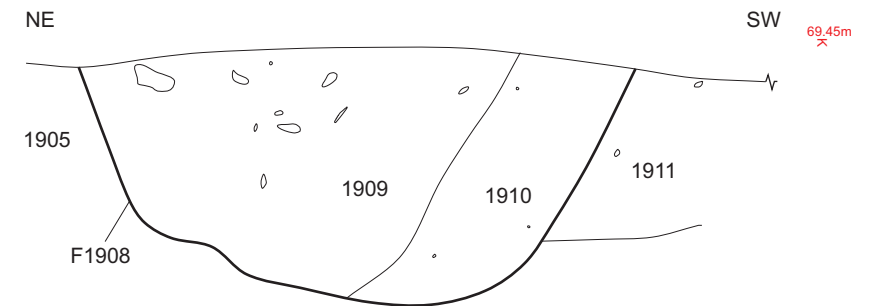
c) Section of F1903



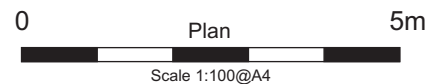
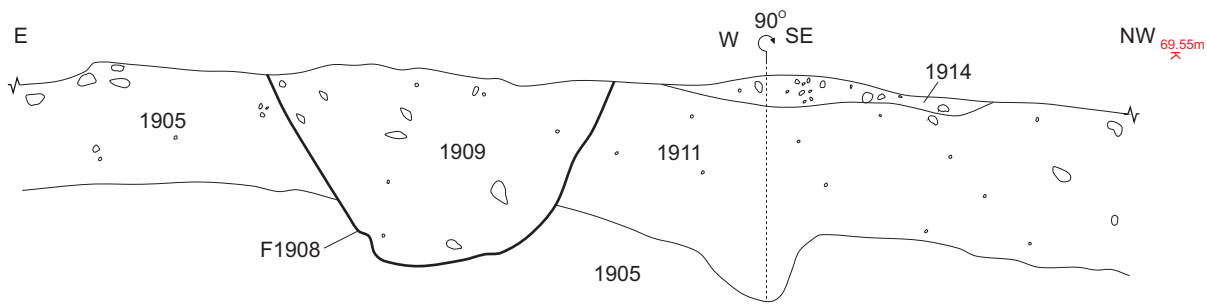
d) Section of F1906 and F1908



e) Section of F1908



f) Section of F1908 and deposit 1914

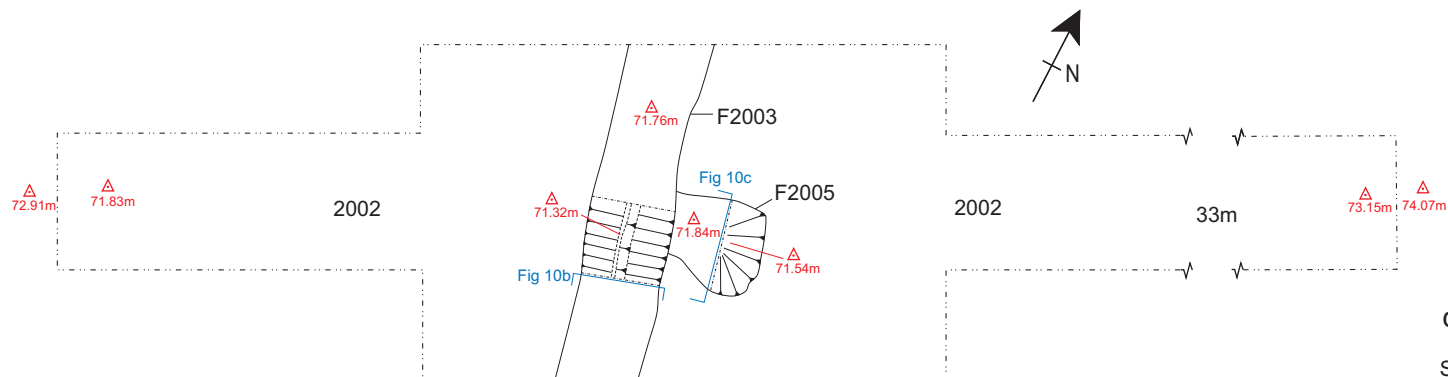


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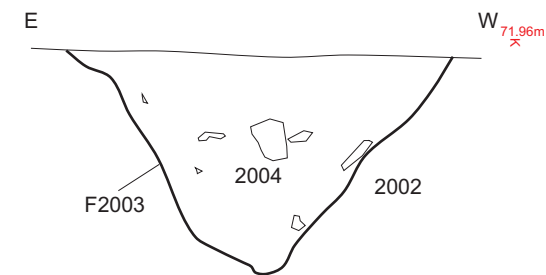
TITLE
Fig. 9: Plan and sections,
Trench 19



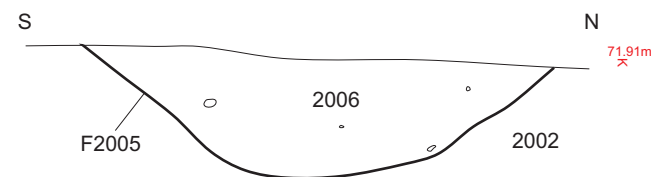
a) Plan of Trench 20



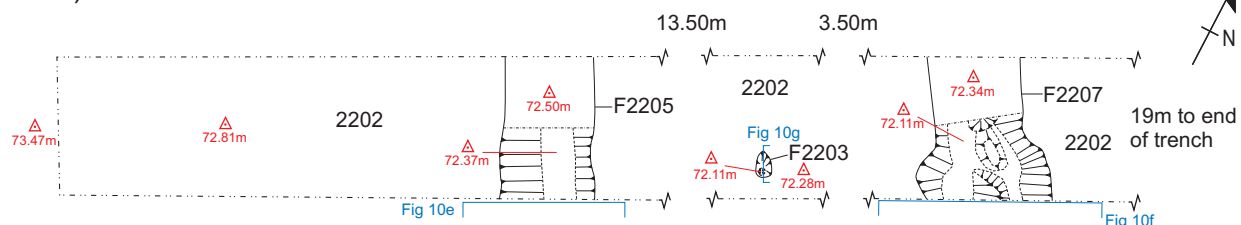
b) Section of F2003



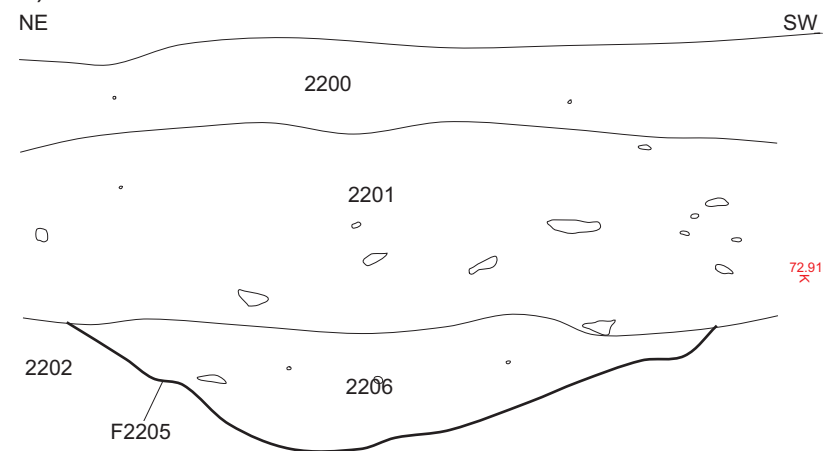
c) Section of F2005



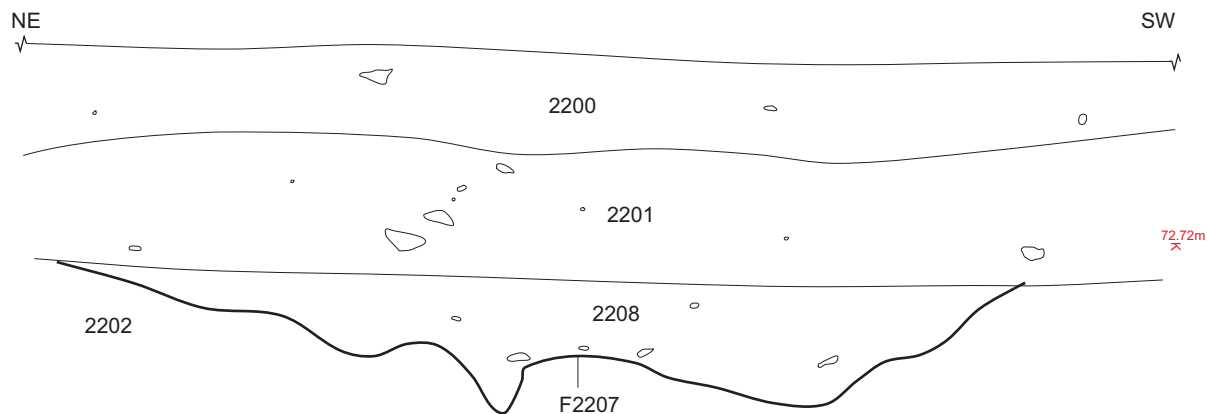
d) Plan of Trench 22



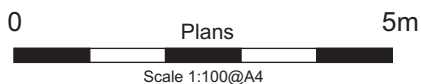
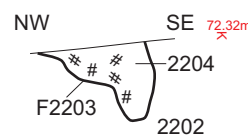
e) Section of F2205



f) Section of F2207



g) Section of F2203



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Fig. 10: Plans and
sections,
Trenches 20 and 22





Plate 1: Trench 11, linear feature F1108, looking to the west. (Scale 1m)



Plate 2: Trench 12, section of F1204, looking to the northwest. (Scale 0.5m)



Plate 3: Trench 13, linear F1303, looking to the south. (Scale 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 14, linear features F1403 and F1406 and banks 1408 and 1409, looking to the east. (Scale 1m)



Plate 5: Trench 15, linear feature F1504, looking to the northeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 6: Trench 15, general view with linear feature F1511 in the foreground, looking to the northeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 7: Trench 18, linear feature F1803, looking to the east. (Scale 0.5m)

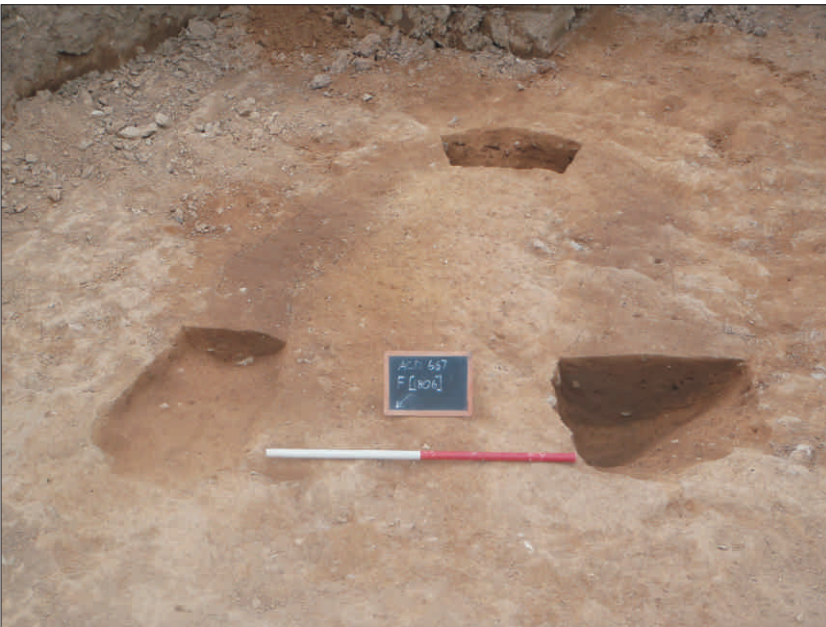


Plate 8: Trench 18, curvilinear feature F1806, looking to the southeast. (Scale 1m)



Plate 9: Trench 19 curvilinear features F1906 and F1908, looking to the northeast. (Scale 2m)



Plate 10: Trench 20, pit F2005 with linear feature F2003 beyond, looking to the west (Scale 1m)

Appendix 2

Finds Quantifications

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary
Appendix 2: Table B Finds quantification, excavation

Context	Context Description	Early Neolithic Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Iron		Fired Clay		Worked Flint/Chert		Worked Stone		Burnt Stone		Foreign Stone		Burnt Flint Unworked and Worked		Glass		Clay Tobacco-Pipe		CBM		Animal Bone		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Area 1 U/S	Area 1 unstratified finds											1	10																	
Area 2 U/S	Area 2 unstratified finds											6	44																	
100	Topsoil	5	6	3	19	5	60					47	410									1	32	1	5					
101	Subsoil											1	11																	
105	Fill of pit F103	8	325									20	194					1	8											
106	Fill of pit F104	7	61									27	171																	
108	Fill of pit F107	106	1218									25	177	2	13					1	0									
110	Fill of pit F109	48	467									38	738	9	5					1	4									
112	Fill of pit F111	3	25									1	1					1	9											
114	Upper fill of pit F113	23	250									6	26																	
117	Fill of pit F116											1	8																	
122	Fill of pit F116	1	3																											
131	Fill of pit F128											2	1							3	0.1									
132	Fill of pit F128	47	469								2	13	44	163			6	164			26	110								
134	Fill of vegetation feature F130											2	2			1	27			1	5									
137	Basal fill of pit F135											1	0.2							1	0.4									
139	Upper fill of pit F138											6	13																	
141	Upper fill of pit F140	17	25								1	0.4	22	78						2	1									
142	Basal fill of pit F109	2	12									13	17																	
143	Upper fill of linear F146	2	2			8	109															1	4	3	7	4	47			
144	Fill of ditch F146	1	3			1	32																			3	69			
147	Fill of ditch F148											1	63																	
149	Fill of pit F145	13	142									18	88	1	71	2	59			13	27									
154	Upper fill of ditch F156	6	25									27	283							2	2									
155	Fill of ditch F156											5	15																	
160	Fill of pit F159											3	2																	
162	Fill of pit F161	3	22									12	117																	
163	Middle fill of pit F128	15	125									5	37			1	24													
166	Lower fill of pit F161											1	12																	
168	Upper fill of pit F165	6	17									1	3																	
169	Fill of posthole F182											1	0.4																	
170	Fill of pit F182	1	9									2	0.3																	
172	Fill of pit F171	45	1173									54	224							4	3									
175	Fill of vegetation feature F167											7	30																	
177	Fill of vegetation feature F176																					1	0.7							
178	Fill of ditch F179					2	34					2	12							1	0.5									
191	Fill of pit F192	7	116									22	212							2	6									
197	Fill of pit F198											18	329	1	4															
202	Fill of pit F201	2	2									23	100											1	4					
204	Fill of pit F203			1	5			1	26			1	1																	
206	Fill of ditch terminus F205					1	19					4	83									2	4					1	35	

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary
Appendix 2: Table C Finds retrieved from samples

Context	Context Description	Early Neolithic Pottery		Worked Flint		Burnt Flint		Fossil	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
108	Fill of pit F107			3	0.7			1	0.9
141	Upper fill of pit F140					1	0.2	1	4
149	Fill of pit F145	2	11	1	1	4	1		
163	Fill of pit F128			1	0.1				
172	Fill of pit F171	1	1	2	2				
604	Fill of pit F603			4	3				
613	Fill of pit F603			3	2				
614	Fill of pit F605	1	2	1	2	1	1		
615	Fill of pit F605					4	7		
618	Upper fill of pit F617	1	1	2	0.8	1	0.1		
626	Fill of pit F603	1	3			1	0.5		
Total		6	18	17	11.6	12	9.8	2	4.9

Appendix 3

Sample Selection Assessment

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon
Appendix 3: Sample assessment selection

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature	Sample volume recovered (litres)	Sample volume processed (lt.)	Samples selected for wood charcoal assessment (Y/N)	Samples selected for charred plant remains assessment (Y/N)
2	112	Fill of pit F111	70	10	Y	Y
5	117	Fill of pit F116	30	10	Y	Y
13	132	Fill of pit F128	140	10	N	Y
14	133	Fill of pit F129	30	10	N	Y
20	141	Upper fill of pit F140	310	10	Y	Y
21	139	Upper fill of pit F138	20	10	Y	Y
23	149	Fill of pit F145	220	60	Y	Y
25	162	Fill of pit F161	210	10	Y	Y
26	166	Basal fill of pit F161	20	10	N	Y
28	163	Middle fill of pit F128	26	13	Y	Y
29	164	Basal fill of pit F128	6	6	Y	Y
32	613	Fill of pit F603	40	10	Y	Y
33	606	Upper fill of pit F605	30	10	Y	Y
34	608	Upper fill of pit F607	70	10	Y	Y
35	614	Fill of pit F605	60	40	Y	Y
38	624	Fill of pit F623	20	10	Y	Y
40	625	Fill of pit F605	20	10	Y	Y
41	615	Fill of pit F605	9	9	Y	Y
43	626	Fill of pit F603	70	10	Y	Y
44	618	Fill of pit F617	40	10	Y	Y
46	640	Fill of pit F603	80	36	Y	Y
48	641	Fill of pit F603	39	9	Y	Y
49	168	Fill of pit F165	20	10	Y	Y
55	194	Fill of pit F195	20	10	Y	Y
58	196	Fill of pit F195	20	10	Y	Y
60	197	Fill of pit F198	90	10	Y	Y
63	108	Fill of pit F107	20	10	Y	Y
64	172	Fill of F171	150	10	Y	N

Appendix 4

Assessment of Charred Plant Remains from Early Neolithic Features

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon
Appendix 4: Assessment of charred plant remains from Early Neolithic features

Sample	Context	Feature	Sample size (litres)	Float size (ml)	Charred plant remains	Full analysis
AREA 1						
63	108	Pit 107	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> v.freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ Cereal indet (grain) occ Charcoal occ Weed seeds occ	X record
2	112	Pit 111	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) occ Indet frags occ	x
5	117	Pit 116	Extracted material		Highly charred amorphous fragments, some ?Malus freq Charcoal occ	x
13	132	Pit 128	10	50	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) freq <i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) freq ?Malus core occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) abund <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal abund Weed seeds occ	✓
28	163	Middle fill Pit 128	10	65	<i>Corylus avellana</i> freq <i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) freq <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) abund Charcoal abund	✓
29	164	Basal fill Pit 128	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> occ <i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) occ	✓
14	133	Pit 129	10	5	<i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq Charcoal occ	✓
21	139	Upper fill Pit 138	Extracted material		Amorphous fragments freq	x
20	141	Pit 140	Extracted material		c.f. <i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ Charcoal occ Amorphous fragments freq	X record
23 (bag 1)	149	Pit 145	10	50	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) abund (plus 1 half shell) Malus sp (pip) occ ?Malus (core) freq frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) v.freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal freq Weed seeds occ Indet plant material occ	✓
23 (bag 2)	149	Pit 145	10	70	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) v.freq (plus 2 half shells) Malus sp (pip) occ ?Malus core half core + freq frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq Charcoal freq Weed seeds occ Indet plant material occ	✓
23 (bag 3)	149	Pit 145	10	50	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) v.freq Malus sp (pip) occ ?Malus core occ frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal freq Weed seeds occ Indet plant material occ	✓
23 (bag 4)	149	Pit 145	10	50	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) abund (plus 1 half shell) Malus sp (pip) occ ?Malus core freq frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal freq Indet plant material occ	✓
23 (bag 5)	149	Pit 145	10	45	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) v.freq Malus sp (pip) occ ?Malus core half core + freq frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal freq + 2 pieces of roundwood Weed seeds occ Indet plant material occ	✓

Land adjacent to Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, Devon
Appendix 4: Assessment of charred plant remains from Early Neolithic features

Sample	Context	Feature	Sample size (litres)	Float size (ml)	Charred plant remains	Full analysis
23 (bag 6)	149	Pit F145	10	50	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (nut) v.freq <i>Malus</i> sp (pip) occ ? <i>Malus</i> core 3 large frags + occ smaller frags <i>Triticum</i> sp. (hulled grain) freq <i>Triticum</i> sp (chaff) occ Charcoal v.freq Weed seeds occ Indet plant material occ	✓
25	162	Pit F161	Extracted material		<i>Lathyrus/Vicia</i> spp occ Amorphous fragments occ	x
26	166	Lower fill Pit F161	10	11	Charcoal freq Amorphous fragments rare	x
49	168	Upper fill Pit F165	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> occ <i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ	X record
55	195	Tree throw F193	Extracted material		Indet fragments occ	x
58	196	Pit F195	Extracted material		Indet fragments occ Charcoal occ	x
60	197	Pit F198	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> occ Indet fragments occ Charcoal occ	x
AREA 2						
32	613	Pit F603	Extracted material		c.f. <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) occ Charcoal occ	X record
43	626	Pit F603	Extracted material		<i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ	X record
46	640	Pit F603	Extracted material		<i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Pisum sativum</i> occ	X record
48	641	Pit F603	Extracted material		<i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ Cereal indet (grain) occ <i>Quercus</i> sp (bud) occ Charcoal occ	X record
33	606	Pit F605	Extracted material		Amorphous fragments occ	x
35	614	Pit F605	10	43	<i>Corylus avellana</i> occ <i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) occ Charcoal abund Weed seeds occ	✓
40	625	Pit F605	Extracted material		<i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ	X record
41	615	Pit F605	Extracted material		<i>Hordeum</i> sp (grain) occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) occ Charcoal occ Weed seeds occ	X record
34	608	Upper fill Pit 607	Extracted material		Amorphous fragments occ	x
44	618	Pit F617	Extracted material		<i>Corylus avellana</i> occ <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain) occ Charcoal occ	X record
38	624	Pit F623	Extracted material		<i>Triticum</i> sp (grain) occ Charcoal occ	X record

Scale of abundance: occ: <10 items; freq: 10-20 items; v.freq: 50-100; abund: 100+

Plant remains

Hordeum sp

Barley

#

Triticum sp

Wheat

#

Corylus avellana

Hazel

HSW

Lathyrus/Vicia

Pea/vetch

DG

Malus sp

Apple

HSW

Pisum sativum

Garden Pea

#CD

Habitats:

C: cultivated, D: disturbed, G: grassland, H: hedgerow; S: scrub; W: woodland

cultivated/of economic importance

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